

2022

Annual Report

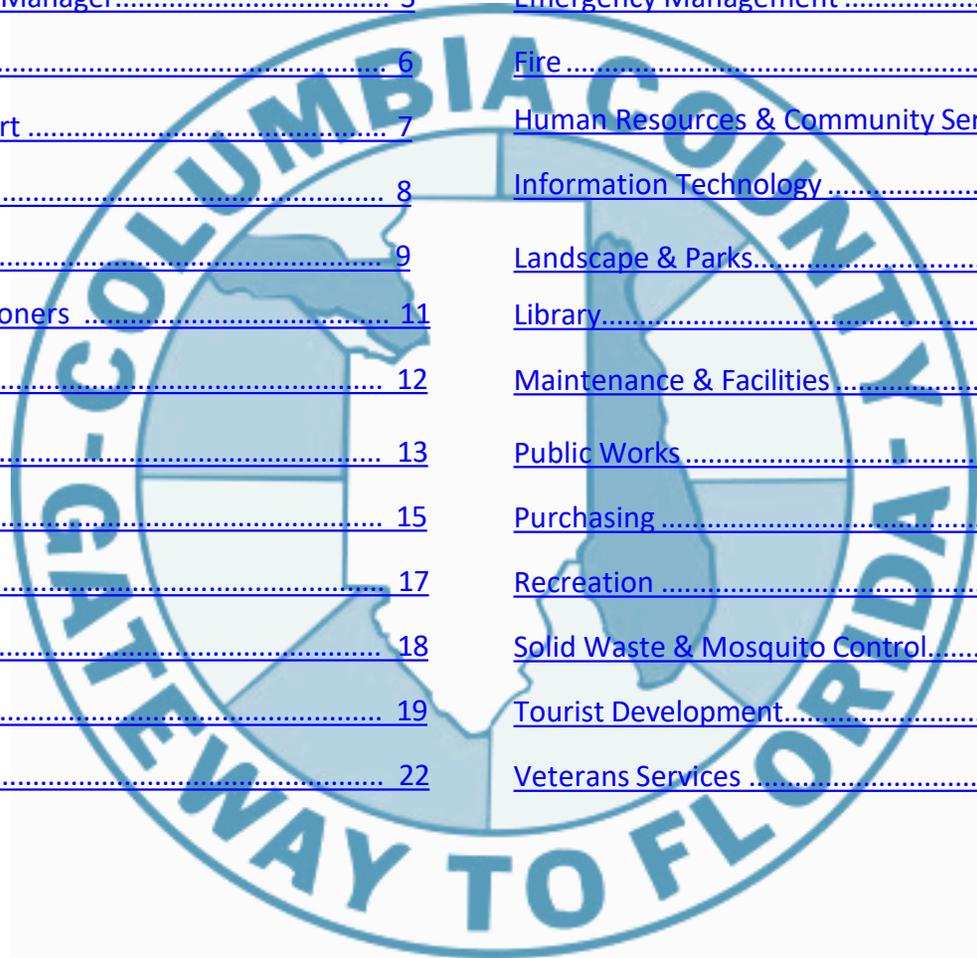
COLUMBIA COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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Message from the County Manager

David Kraus was appointed County Manager by the Board of County Commissioners in 2021. As head of the administrative branch of the county's government, Kraus is responsible to the Board of County Commissioners for the proper administration of all affairs of the County. He provides fiscal, strategic and operational leadership to the organization, as well as, sound analysis and professional implementation of the Board's policies.

This annual report is presented to the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners and its citizens to provide a state of the County, the work of the previous year, and any recommendations as to actions or programs the Manager deems necessary for the improvement of the County and the welfare of its residents in accordance with the Home Rule Charter for Columbia County, Section 3.3 (2).

Over the last fiscal year, Columbia County has continued making strides to ensure this is a great place to live, work, and play. This annual report highlights the Board's commitment to continue to improve the infrastructure of Columbia County and the services it provides to our residents. These improvements help to make Columbia County one of the greatest places in North Florida

Columbia County has several dedicated employees helping to provide the utmost service to residents and visitors of Columbia County. Our accomplishments included in the pages of this report could not happen without their commitment.



› Florida State Flag

David Kraus

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2022 Financial Review

The audit for the period ending September 30, 2022 has commenced and will be presented to the Board once completed.

FY 2022 began with \$632,073 in addition ad valorem revenue over the previous year. No new taxes were adopted. The adopted millage levy is 7.8150 mills (rolled-back rate is 7.2430 – 0.79% increase over the rolled-back rate). There were increases in fees for the fire assessment rates, and building and zoning fees. All other MSBU rates remained the same as last year.

2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Major Issues that Passed

- Increase in Funding for Rural Development Grants
- Additional Funding for SCRAP/SCOP
- NFMIP Parkway Appropriations Request
- Additional Support for Law Enforcement and First Responders
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund
- Broadband Funding
- Legal Notice Revisions

Major Issues that did not Pass

- Inclusion of Cities and Counties into Fiscally Constrained Offset Increase Homestead Exemption
- County and Municipal Officer Transparency
- Restructuring the Rural Economic Development Initiative
- Additional Fiscal Government Accountability Measures
- Major Land Use Planning Revisions
- Rural Community Investment Act
- Additional State Economic Development Incentive



2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to Hold Multiple Budget Workshops
- Continue moving forward with North Florida Mega Industrial Park (NFMIP) Utility Expansion
- Construct Community Center at Bethlehem Park
- Expand Accessibility Features at Columbia City Park
- Continue working toward consolidation of 911 Dispatch
- Create in-house Animal Control Services
- Connect water line from Ellisville to Fort White
- Create MSBU's for Infrastructure in Subdivisions (stormwater, roads, etc.)
- Improve public relations with Florida Gateway College and Chamber of Commerce
- Improve Veteran's Service Office Outreach in Community

• **2023 BUDGET ISSUES**

- Finance shortages in grant funded projects \$7-8 million
- Acquisition/Renovation Lake City Reporter Building ?
- Capital projects completion \$5 million
- Assist local vendors in expanding broadband in rural areas
- Replacing all water meters in Ellisville and Ft. White
- Upgrading utility billing system
- Project Illumination – FPL
- Industrial Park rail provider
- **County Reserves are being Maintained at a Healthy Level. Excess Reserves Continue to be Utilized to Fund Equipment Replacement Shortfalls and Make Capital Improvements**



About Columbia County

Median Household Income: **\$47,750**

Median Housing Value: **\$151,400**

Veteran Population: **6,626**

Established: February 4, 1832

Number of Districts: 5

18.3% in incorporated areas

81.7% in unincorporated areas

County Seat: Lake City

Congressional Districts: 2nd and 5th

Source: The United States Census Bureau

Estimated Total
Population

70,385

84.7 per sq. mi.



Male 51.9%



Female 48.1%

Total Area: 801 square miles

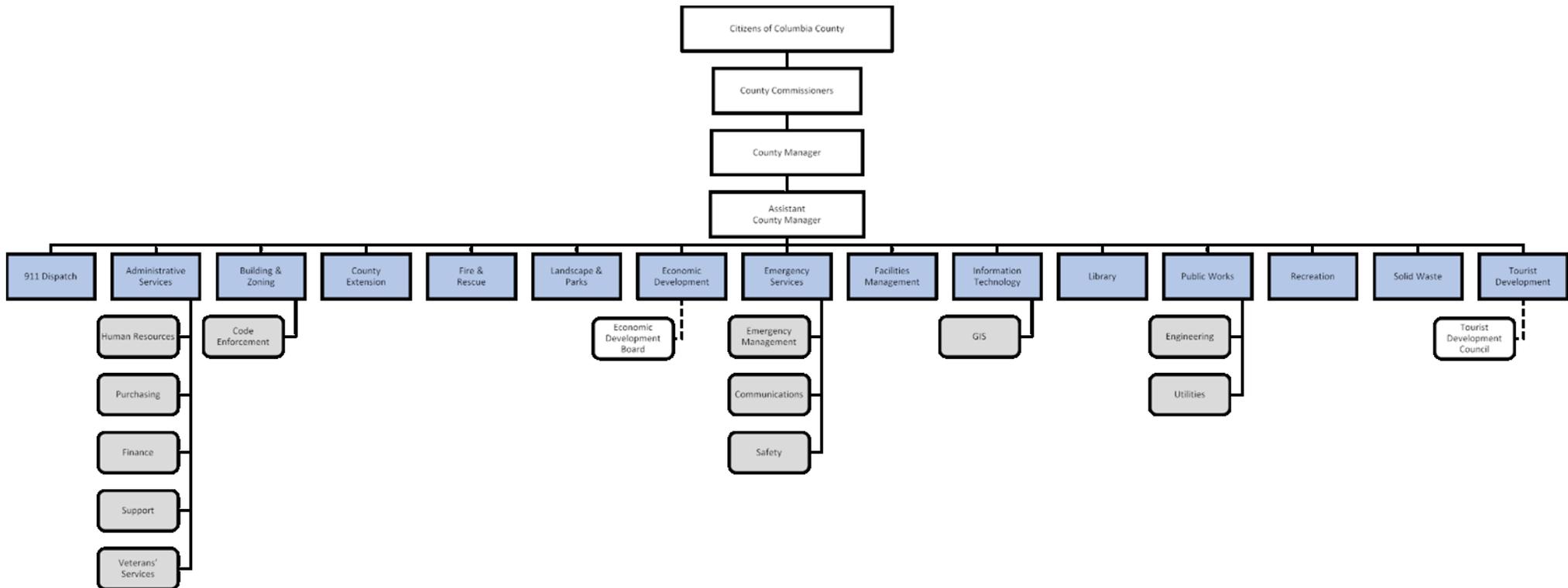
Land: 798 square miles

Water: 3 square miles



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County Organizational Chart



Constitutional Officers Budgets

\$1.5M

Clerk of Court



James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court &
County Comptroller

\$1.9M

Property Appraiser



Jeff Hampton
Property Appraiser

\$17.6M

Sheriff



Mark Hunter
Sheriff

\$1.2M

Supervisor of Elections



Tomi S. Brown
Supervisor of Elections

\$2.07M

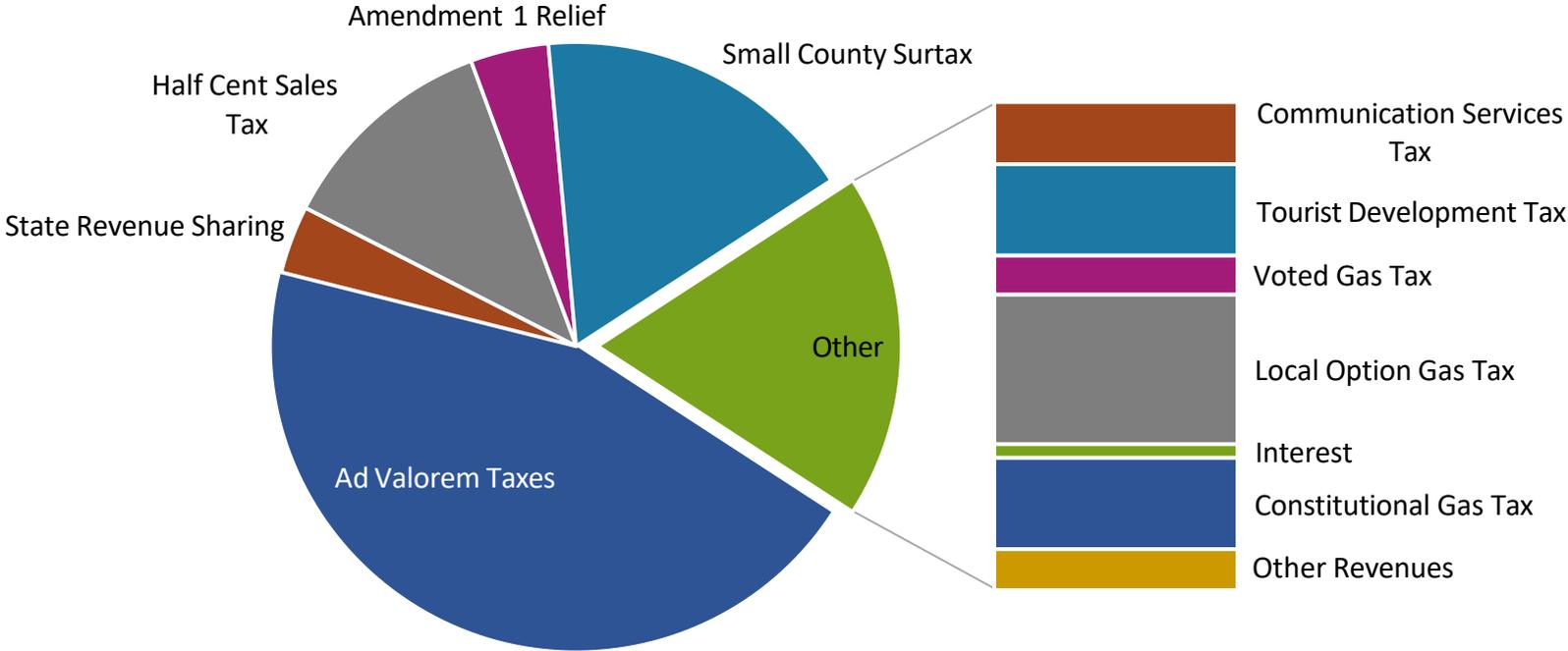
Tax Collector



Kyle Keen
Tax Collector



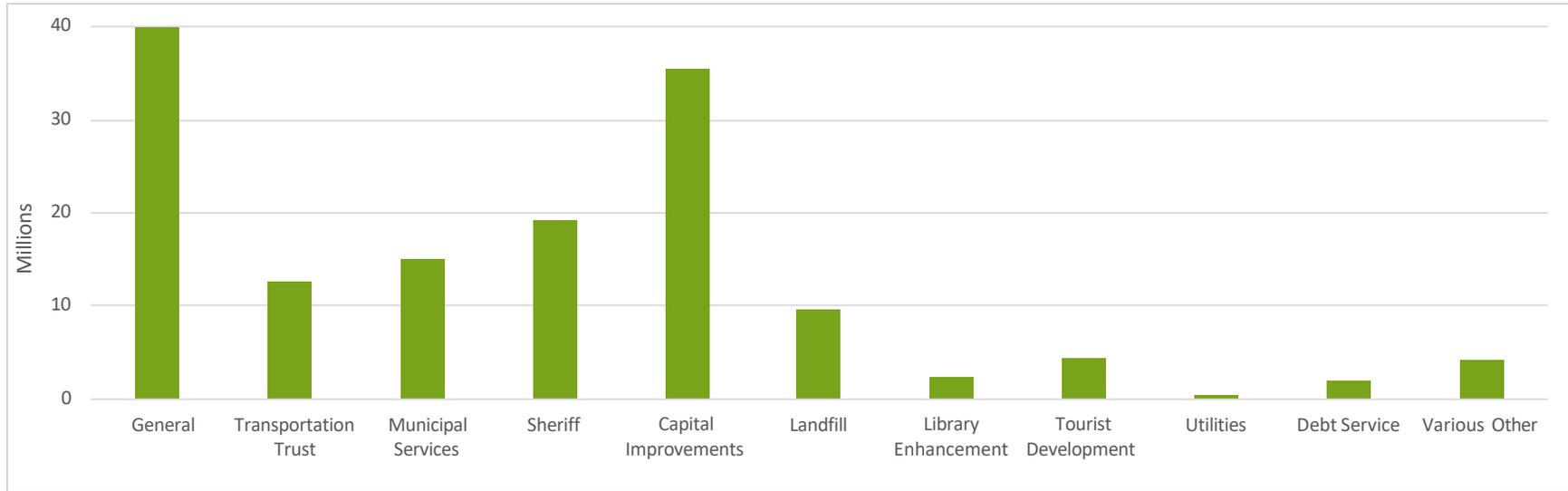
2022 Revenues and Beginning Cash



Columbia County generated \$168.6 million of revenue including beginning cash in the 2022 fiscal year. These revenues can be broken down into five categories:

- General \$60.7 million
- Special Revenue \$43.9 million
- Debt Service \$ 2 . 2 million
- Capital Projects \$39.2 million
- Enterprise \$22.6 million
(Landfill)

2022 Expenditures and Reserves



The State of Florida’s “Truth in Millage” (TRIM) requires the County to adopt a “balanced” budget annually by September 30th. Adopting an annual balanced budget is one the Board’s most significant actions taken each year. The annual budget safeguards the County’s financial stability and ensures all service requirements and debt obligations are fulfilled. The budget for FY 2022 totals \$168,592,952 which is broken down into the following:

- \$60.7 million General Fund
- \$16.4 million Transportation Trust
- \$16.6 million Municipal Services
- \$17.6 million Sheriff
- \$12.5 million Capital Improvements
- \$11.3 million Landfill
- \$2.6 million Library Enhancement
- \$2.9 million Tourist Development
- \$11.4 million Utilities
- \$2.2 million Debt Service
- \$14.4 million Various Other Funds



Board of County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners is a five-member board elected to represent the citizens of Columbia County. Each member represents a district and is elected by residents of the district. The Commission establishes policies and appoints a County Manager to implement the policies and manage the operation of the County. The Commission adopts the millage rate and annually approves the budget, which determines the expenditures and revenue necessary to operate all County Departments. The powers and duties of the County Commission are established by the County Charter as approved and amended by the citizens of Columbia County.



Ronald Williams
District 1



Rocky Ford
District 2



Robby Hollingsworth
District 3



Everett Phillips
District 4



Tim Murphy
District 5

BCC Regular Board Meetings

The Board of County Commissioners meet the 1st Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM at:

Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium

372 West Duval Street

Lake City, Florida 32055

911 Communications

2022 Accomplishments

- Purchased and installed Xybix workstations in 911 dispatch center
- Cleaned and sanitized dispatch room and console work stations to reduce spread of illness
- GeoComm GIS validation project grant funded \$78,000
- GeoComm 3-year contract to start upon completion of GIS assessment/correction project to update and validate GIS data, MSAG and ALI
- ADT now sending alarm calls via TEXT message to dispatch increasing TEXT to 911 calls received
- State E911 Board Rural Grant \$104,336.21 for annual maintenance of 911 call processing equipment

...c safety answering point (PSAP) for all citizens to access emergency service agencies in Columbia County, FL through 911. It serves 70,000 residence and 801 square miles of Columbia County. The Center provides direct dispatch services for:

- Columbia County Sheriff's Office
- Columbia County Fire Department
- Century EMS (Columbia County's EMS Provider)

The Center received a total of 180,496 combined calls. Of those calls, 49,396 were 911 emergency calls and 33,629 were administrative, non-emergency calls. In addition, the Center processed approximately 495,481 non-emergency County VoIP calls.

In addition to emergency calls, the Center does all F/NCIC entries of stolen articles, vehicles, missing persons, protection orders, etc. for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office with the exception of warrants & writs. The Center maintains records on all domestic violence protection orders issues in Columbia County. The Center also serves as the after-hours answering point for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office

administrative lines.

The Center is also Phase II compliant with various wireless companies providing a tower location or the GPS location coordinates for calls received.

Budget: \$2,258,137

Number of Employees: 31

Thomas Brazil

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Ongoing Projects

- Continue to move backup PSAP to City
- Grant funded upgrade of our 911 call Processing Equipment (CPE)
- Replacement of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) computers

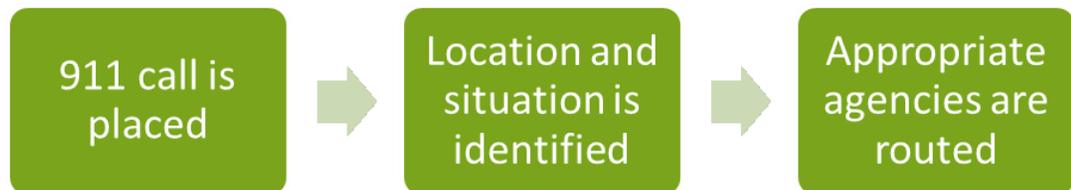
2023 Plans and Goals

- Employee retention, maintain current staffing levels retain existing experienced employees as well as recruit and train qualified personnel
- Maintain and keep current operational equipment in proper functioning order
- Move to an I3 ESI Net, SIP Trunking and hosted Core Services for 911 lines moving off the traditional copper telephone lines to a true IP based NEXT GEN 911 capable network which will be in compliance with the State E911 Plan
- Utilize grant funding to contract for GIS validation and update services along with the MSAG and ALI databases maintained AT&T

E-911 Public Education

The current focus of E-911 public education and public outreach is to educate the citizens of Columbia County on helping 911 help you. This campaign encompasses the following concepts:

- Call 911 only if you need emergency response from police, fire or medics. If non-emergency assistance is needed use non-emergency numbers listed in the telephone book for the appropriate agency for your need. Numbers such as the power company for power outages, 5-1-1 for travel information, the Crisis Hot Line for human services information, local police and fire agencies all be found in local telephone directory.
- Lock your wireless phone so that you don't accidentally call 911. Pocket and purse/bag dialing wastes time and resources. If you accidentally call 911, don't hang up until you have explained to the 911 operator that it was an accident.
- Know your location when calling 911. One of the first things you will be asked is, "911 what is the address of your emergency?" Awareness of your surroundings, such as street names, landmarks and mile markers, can be helpful in identifying your location.
- Promote the Center's ability to receive text to 911 with the "Call if you can, TEXT if you can't" campaign.



Administrative Services

2022 Accomplishments

- Completed compilation and submitted bi-annual EEO-4 to U.S. EEO Commission
- Responded to 644 Public Records requests
- Compiled and verified Financial Disclosure Information to State
- Completed FDLE Training and Testing for Level II background checks
- Completed employee eligibility to Worxtime for 1095-C and 1094-C forms
- Revised General and Collective Bargaining Pay Grade Schedules to reflect \$3.00 increase of minimum
- Administered the Employee Leave Buyback Program FY 2021-22
- Completed 2022 Minority and Physically Disabled Board Appointment Report to State
- Conducted Quarterly FDOT Commercial Driver's License Random Drug Testing
- Submitted Bureau of Labor Statistics/Occupational Employment Report
- Participated in FACT HR Round Table meetings
- Completed HR, and FRS audits, supervisor training, and Worxtime evaluation
- Administered Non Ad Valorem Assessment Adjustment Committee Meeting
- Facilitated Group Health Insurance Enrollment and Annual Employee Evaluations

The Department of Administrative Services is responsible for the coordination and development of the Board of County Commissioners and County Manager support functions including human resources, procurement, insurance and risk management, fiscal and grant oversight, and Veterans Affairs.

Within the Department of Administrative Services the following functions are performed:

- Personnel and Labor Relations, including administration of policies and procedures related to personnel management
- Administration of the Classification and Pay Plan
- Drug-free Workplace Act Policy Administration
- County Insurance/Risk Management Programs
- Compliance with County Purchasing Policies and related Florida Statutes
- Oversight of fiscal and grant management
- Veterans Affairs

Budget: \$1,237,565

Number of Employees: 9

Lisa K.B. Roberts

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2022 Accomplishments

- Issued purchase orders and field purchase orders
- Advertised, opened, and awarded bids, RFPs, and RFQs
- Declared 21 parcels of real property for sale
- Recruitment of qualified and diverse candidates for County Employment
- Affordable Care Act compliance
- Continue to participate in Career fairs
- Participated in Green Light for Veterans Campaign
- VA Employee Privacy and HIPPA Training Course through TMS
- VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior training through TMS
- Annual Employee Certification of Veteran Status and Veteran Relatives

Ongoing Projects

- Non Ad Valorem Assessments
- Recruitment of qualified and diverse candidates for County Employment
- Affordable Care Act compliance
- Continue to participate in Career fairs
- Continue to assist all County departments with procurement needs
- Continue filing claims for veterans and veteran family members

2023 Plans and Goals

- Identify, promote, and encourage career paths that cross job series and department lines
- Continue to encourage and support a diverse workforce
- Ensure efficient and effective operations of the department so access to information, programs, and services are provided to employees and the public
- Improve outreach services of veterans affairs

The Procurement function of the Administrative Services Department is to assist county departments with procurement needs

| Requisition Processed | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Purchase Orders | 353 |
| Field Purchase Orders | 7,232 |

| Bids/RFPs/RFQs | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Bids/RFPs/RFQs | 42 |
| Piggyback Bids/Contracts | 22 |
| Leases | 10 |

The Veterans Affairs function of the Administrative Services Department is to assist veterans and their families with services, benefits, and support. The office hours for the Veterans Service office is:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8 AM-2PM

Tuesday and Thursday 10 AM – 4 PM

Telephone Inquiries: 613

Office Visits: 141

Claims Filed: 54

Claims in Process: 40

The Finance function of the Administrative Services Department is responsible for monitoring various financial responsibilities of the Board of County Commissioners, including assisting in the budgetary process, grant administration, county insurance administration and budget amendments.

Insurance claims filed: 12

Purchasing Accounts Reconciled: 5 – Total Expended: \$137,165.53

Grant Projects Total Expended: **\$380,031.58**



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Building & Zoning

2022 Accomplishments

- Retained a Class 8 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), which grants flood insurance policy holders a 10% discount on premiums
- Improving online public search inquiries to include subcontractors
- Combined Building & Zoning and Code Enforcement under one department
- Hired a new inspector due to increase in City permitting and inspections
- Became a part of the 911 address process

Building Department Mission

To ensure a safely built environment through compliance with appropriate construction codes via permit issuance, plan reviews, inspections, use of automation technologies and training, all performed in an effective and efficient manner.

Zoning Department Mission

To preserve the character of our existing community and unique rural landscapes. To guide future growth and development through effective planning, zoning and data analysis to provide a sustainable community for the future.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement is responsible for investigating citizen complaints and verifying if an ordinance or LDR violation has occurred.

Building/Zoning and Code Enforcement Highlights

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| •Permit Applications | 2,725 |
| •Field Inspections | 7,933 |
| •Planning & Zoning Applications | 176 |
| •Code Enforcement Open Cases | 109 |

Budget: \$1,194,615

Number of Employees: 11

Troy Crews

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Ongoing Projects

- Continue to scan issued building permits
- Continue to review online permitting process and procedures for improvement
- Fill the Lead Permit Specialist position
- Fill Permit Specialist Position
- Implementing staffing changes and hiring to better serve the needs of the office and public

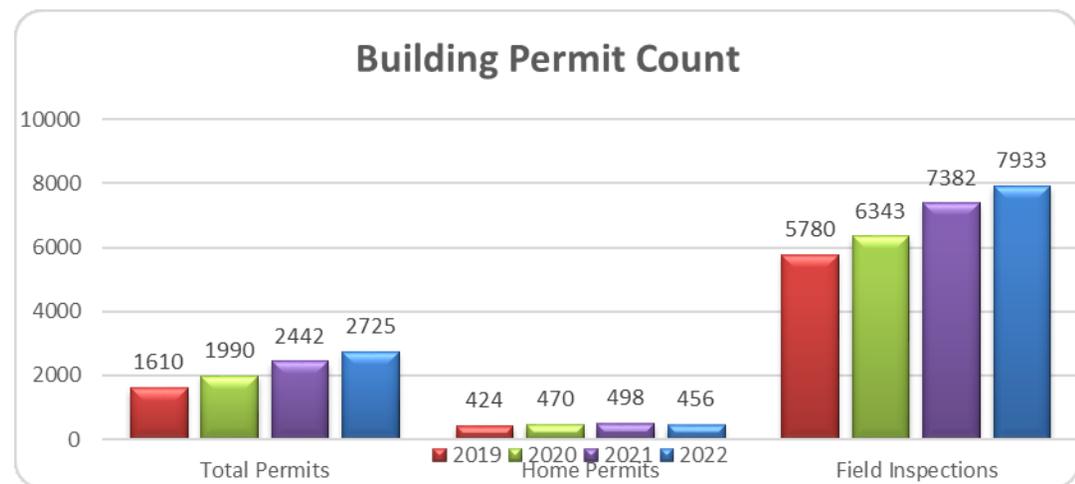
2023 Plans and Goals

- Continue negotiations with Lake City to conduct plan review, issue building permits, and complete building inspections within the City limits
- FPL-Staging Complex
- New Hotel
- Rib Crib & Sonic
- Ollie's Discount Store

The building trend has continued to rise with an overall increase in the total number of permits issued. Home permits including mobile homes, modular homes and single-family dwellings have decreased by 42 permits. Contractors are continuing to building spec houses and both the total square footage and cost of construction have increased from 1400 square foot to 2500 square foot for the average home footprint. Site built single-family homes alone have decreased, though field inspections have increased by 551 inspections.

Our in-house custom web-based software programs for permitting, inspections and development applications with the addition of credit card payments allows remote electronic permitting. Inspectors use tablets to log real-time results with inspection notes that gives builders online quick access to their results. Zoning applications are submitted electronically through our online upload site. We are constantly updating the public website by scanning documents and training the public on the benefits of using the Property Map Explorer to view land use, flood zones, contours and permit locations.

The intent of electronic permitting is to reduce permitting time, improve customer service and staff efficiency, enhance quality, and make operating funds more productive.



The Columbia County Code Enforcement Department is responsible for investigating citizen complaints and verifying if an Ordinance or LDR has occurred. The process begins with a Warning Letter and Timeframe. If compliance can't be met within that timeframe, then a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued with a specific timeframe for compliance. The property is then monitored for compliance on a continual basis. A last inspection is made at the due date for compliance, if no compliance, the case is placed on the docket for the Magistrate Hearing through a Notice of Hearing (NOH). Every citizen is given the opportunity for compliance and our office offers extended timeframes if the violator is working to resolve the matter and maintaining communication. Our greatest mission within the Code Enforcement Department is to gain voluntary compliance and educate citizens to help protect health, safety, and quality of life with Columbia County.

Open Case Summary 2022

| Type | Dist 1 | Dist 2 | Dist 3 | Dist 4 | Dist 5 | Total |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Accumulation of Junk and Debris | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 18 |
| Building Permit Issues | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Care of Premises | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 13 |
| Dangerous or Open-to-Entry Buildings | 11 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| Hazardous Conditions | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Health and Safety | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| Illegal Dumping | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Livestock Infraction | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| No Temp RV Permit | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Overgrown Property | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Residing in Shed/Unpermitted Structure | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Right-of-way Issues | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Untagged/Expired License Plate | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 |



Central Communications

2022 Accomplishments

- Managed installation of the Detention Facility and Courthouse Distributed Antenna System (DAS)
- Managed the Detention Facility and Courthouse DAS coverage testing in 40x40 square feet increments

Ongoing Projects

- Continue to manage and maintain the radio network

2023 Plans and Goals

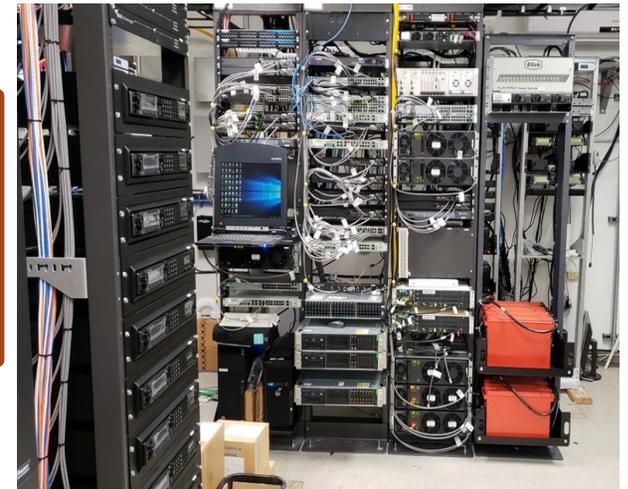
- Continue management of the 700MHz network
- Replace Franklin Street generator
- Install air condition monitoring and control
- Replace end of life WAVE server
- Assist School Board with DAS install

aintenance and repair of two-way radios, dispatch consoles, communications units, microwave radio systems, radio communications towers, and all other electronic communications and related equipment.

DID YOU KNOW?

There were over 17,520 combined P25 network and microwave operational hours.

- APX Subscribers Programmed 2,534
- APX Mobile Radio Installs 11
- APX Control Station Installs 01



› Network Primary Core

Budget: \$331,539

Number of Employees: 1

Lawrence Wilson

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County Extension

2022 Accomplishments

- Reached 19,685 county residents with research-based group trainings
- Trained and worked with volunteers to provide 2,445 in-service hours
- Engaged and reached 84,305 people through social media posts and videos
- 15 State Awards, 7 Regional Awards, 5 National Awards

2023 Plans and Goals

- Expansion of educational outreach in all program areas with innovative programming
- Solidifying office culture with a fully staffed office
- Strengthening communications plan for public outreach
- Increase of visibility of County Extension across all of Columbia County

UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County partners with the community and provide research-based expertise in response to local issues affecting Columbia County and relevant educational opportunities to enhance the lives of Columbia County citizens. Educational program areas include Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. These programs serve all citizens of Columbia County. Youth, farmers, businesses, families, we are here to serve the entire community.

Family & Consumer Sciences

The focus of the family and consumer science program has been on financial management, health, and nutrition in 2022. Through the financial management, we have offered VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and partnered with local agencies and businesses to offer financial education, saving residents over \$30,770 with education and service. This interjected an additional \$130,000 of tax returns back into the Columbia County economy. Over \$13,000 was brought back to the County through grants, in-kind support, and donations. The community has also received support in their health and nutrition through classes that offer healthy quick cooking options at home as well as support a change of their lifestyles to be able to sustain a healthier, more fulfilling life.



Budget: \$431,184

Number of Employees: 10

Heather Janney

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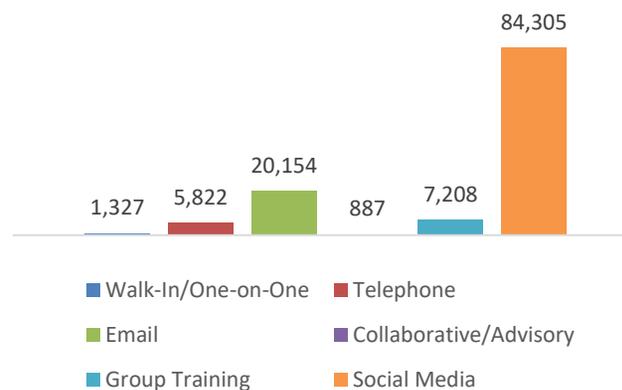
Horticulture

The horticulture program area strived to improve lives of Columbia County residents through programming focused on water quality, gardening, horticultural therapy, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, entomology, and pesticide safety and education. To achieve this, the program relies on the Master Gardener Volunteer program. In 2022, there were 22 active volunteers donating over 1,300 hours of horticulture-related education (\$37,008 in donated volunteer time). Over 100 classes were provided for residents and landscape professionals including fall vegetable gardening, beekeeping, weed identification and control, and fruits in the landscape.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Programs deliver timely, relevant educational programs so farmers and residents can use research based scientific knowledge to increase economic returns and sustainably manage our land and water resources. Some of the services provided to over 800 Columbia County residents included crop scouting, plant disease diagnostics, soil sampling and forage testing, educational on-farm trials, and enhancement of marketing for products. Educational programs provided include consulting over the phone, site visits, educational meetings, festival booths, and social media. Grants, in-kind, and donations over \$59,000 were received to promote soil sampling and forage testing, and demonstration plots for educating local producers and farmers with beneficial information to improve their operations. These programs provide best management practices to our agriculture producers and community residents to help them to further protect our County’s most important resources.

Programming Reach



Youth Development and 4-H

Youth development and 4-H is achieved with help from all of our program areas. In 2021-2022, over 13,500 County youth were reached with life skills through 4-H Clubs, in-school enrichment, speaking competitions, agricultural tours, classes, training events. Agricultural literacy and awareness were increased among students and faculty at several local schools through classes and consultations helping them grow commodities in fields and classrooms. Without the help of volunteers, the reach and service to clients would be limited. Over 50 4-H Volunteers donated upwards of \$31,000 by approximately 1,100 hours of labor to youth development in Columbia County. Through participation in the 2022 Farm to Table Event, \$15,000 was raised for scholarships and over \$9,000 for agriculturally based youth serving agencies in the County.

Economic Development

2022 Accomplishments

- Project #21-1, Florida Power & Light Storm Response Center, breaking ground 2023
- Project #21-19, Project Delight, International Distribution, leasing warehouse space
- Project #21-4, U.S. Cold Storage Phase II Expansion/Rail Spur addition
- Project #22-8, Project Redding, Robbins Manufacturing, local treated lumber product manufacturer expansion
- Project #22-20, Project Lineman, Equipment Distributor
- Project #22-26, Project Beehive, Short line Rail Partner (NFMIP)
- Project # 22-30, U.S. Cold Storage Phase III Expansion
- Project #21-32, Travel Center Expansion in Ellisville, breaking ground 2023

2023 Plans and Goals

- Encourage and promote economic development and capital investment
- Promote projects in brownfield areas
- Promote Qualified Target Industry Projects
- Promote commercial, manufacturing, and industrial projects

and commercial/retail businesses with our partners at all levels leads to the ability to promote support and provide confidence through integrity for our community.

Grants

June 2019: Awarded \$10,000 from Enterprise Florida through the Rural Florida Marketing & Education Grant to assist with both creating marketing materials as well as the registration, travel and hotel for multiple International Economic Development Council certified training courses.



› Gateway Solar Array

Budget: \$551,556

Number of Employees: 2 (1 vacant)

VACANT

Phone: (386) 758-1034

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Emergency Management

2022

- Director Shayne Morgan was awarded the Chad Reed Emergency Manager of the Year Award through Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) and appointed the first Historian for FEPA Association
- Reviewed 21 Assisted Living Facilities CEMPs
- Participated in various emergency drills; Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – a vehicle accident into a natural gas pipeline
- Served as facilitator for a medical reception center in Lake Butler
- Participated in mock crash at Fort White High School through the Traffic Safety Team
- Provided emergency management preparedness for Hurricane Ian (Category 5) and Hurricane Nicole

local, state, and federal partners to provide training, exercises, and response to any event that threatens the safety of the county.

Trainings

Virtual CIC and Shelter training provided to County employees. Incident Command G-300, active shooter planning, homeland security exercise, and rapid needs assessment and evaluation program training

Instructed various classes at FEPA Annual Meeting, Governor's Hurricane Conference, Franklin County and FEPA Intermediate Academy held in Flagler County

Director Shayne Morgan was appointed by Governor DeSantis to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to represent FEPA

Budget: \$185,264

Number of Employees: 1

Shayne Morgan

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Ongoing Projects

- Continue emergency weather shelter and CIC training
- Updating Local Mitigation Strategy
- Identifying specific trainings to build responders and partner agencies skills during disaster
- Identifying new technology for use during disaster response

2023 Plans and Goals

- Continue to provide training to county staff, partner agencies and volunteers (amateur radio) involving EOC activations process
- Develop plans and policies to ensure Columbia County's readiness in the event of man-made or natural disasters
- Continue to ensure Columbia County is recognized as a valuable partner statewide in emergency management

| Committee/Board | Position |
|---|--------------------------|
| Columbia County Traffic Safety Team | Chair |
| Florida Emergency Preparedness Association | Historian |
| Emergency Food and Shelter Board | Participant |
| FEPA Certification Commission | Commissioner/ Advisor |
| Local Emergency Planning Committee | Chair |
| Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group | Chair |
| North Central Florida Hazardous Materials Policy Board | Vice-Chair |
| Long Term Recovery Committee | Member |
| Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Regional 2 meetings | Member |
| State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) | Member |
| United Way Board Executive Committee | Liaison |
| United Way Board of Directors | Liaison |
| | |
| | |
| | |



Fire Rescue

2022 Accomplishments

- Purchased one Tanker
- Awarded one set of Edraulic Tools from Firehouse Subs Foundation grant
- Performed Community Risk Reduction through Educational programs to schools and adult groups
- Installed smoke detectors
- Provide fire extinguisher training
- Participated in community fundraisers and events

Ongoing Projects

- Construction of bay at Station 51
- Purchasing generators for Stations 51 and 44
- Purchase equipment according to equipment replacement plan
- Fill position vacancies

2023 Plans and Goals

- Remodel and upgrade Station 51 (Lake Jeffery Road), including purchase of generator
- Generator purchase for Station 44
- Purchase equipment according to equipment replacement plan

multitude of services to the citizens of Columbia County. These services include fire responses, motor vehicle accidents, advanced life support response to the north and south end of the county and basic life support response to all of Columbia County. CCFR also provides educational programs for community risk reduction to school and adult groups, truck demonstrations, smoke detector installations, fire extinguisher training, building plan reviews, building inspections and pre-fire plans.

Projects

We are constructing a bay and purchasing a generator for Station 51. Also purchasing generator for Station 44

Community Services

Fire responses, motor vehicle accidents, advanced life support response to the North and South end of County, basic life support to entire county. Responds to Hazmat incidents, Century EMS assist calls, provide paramedics to CCSO SWAT Team, and water rescues. Provided fire extinguisher training, fire building plan reviews, fire building inspections, and pre-fire plans.

Equipment

Purchased one tanker and awarded one set of Edraulic Tools from Firehouse Subs Foundation Grant.

Budget: \$6,590,059

Number of Employees: 80

Jeff Crawford

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| Incident | Events |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Fire Alarm Activation | 157 |
| Grass/Brush Fire | 126 |
| HAZMAT | 179 |
| Medical Calls | 2,752 |
| MVC's | 576 |
| Other Responses | 1,304 |
| Structure Fire | 76 |
| Vehicle Fire | 68 |



Life Safety

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|--------|
| Inspections: | 71 | Volunteer Training: | 255 |
| Plan Reviews: | 18 | In-House Training: | 12,660 |
| Pre-Fire Plans Reviewed: | 46 | Other Training: | 642 |
| Smoke Detector Installs: | 7 | Target Solutions Training: | 13,920 |
| Special Events: | 55 | | |

Information Technology

2022 Accomplishments

- Merged 911 addressing with IT Department
- Merged BCC GIS functions and Planning & Zoning GIS Functions with IT Department
- Deployed ESRI ARC-GIX web map fully functional with public access to the citizens of Columbia County
- Assumed IT responsibilities for Property Appraiser's office – 30+ desktop computer, laptops, and mobile devices
- Assumed IT responsibilities for Clerk of Court's office – 5+ desktop computers, 15 servers, laptops, and mobile devices
- Designed, planned, installed and maintain payment kiosk and camera security system at Rum Island Park
- Redesigned BCC server data center – moved all servers and network infrastructure from courthouse to new server room in Annex building
- Upgraded SAN storage
- Upgraded critical network infrastructure and fiber bandwidth for all remote locations
- Install and maintenance of camera security systems at Ft. White ballfields

2023 Plans and Goals

- Changed datacenter fire suppression from wet to dry gas system
- Upgraded Landfill weight scale server/software
- Installed HVAC system in datacenter

and control of the information technology services and resources of Columbia County. IT plans and coordinates maintenance activities for the County's computer, network systems and other information technology resources.

IT researches, analyzes and identifies needs and options for upgrades and improvements to computer, networks and other information technology resources for the County. IT coordinates and assists with the installation of new computer systems and software for the County, monitor and manage the County's intranet

911 Addressing

911 Addressing was merged with IT and is responsible for all mapping, enhanced 911 addressing, mapping support for BCC Departments and other constitutional offices.

Redesigned the procedures for obtaining 911 addresses by incorporating an online application portal, included Building and Zoning and the Property Appraiser to reduce turnaround time in acquiring an address and eliminating addressing errors.

Number of Employees: 4

Todd Manning

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Landscape & Parks

2022 Accomplishments

- Installed restrooms at Five Points Recreational Park and Lake Jeffery Practice Fields
- Installed playground at Annie Mattox Park
- Installed inclusive designed playground at Columbia City Park
- Replaced playground cover at the Alligator Lake Park Playground
- Installed ParkingBoxx gate at Rum Island Park
- Added 300 ft. softball field at South Columbia Sports Complex
- Cleared brush from dikes/trails at Alligator Lake
- Upgrades to River Rise Boat Ramp to correct erosion
- Completed renovations Rum Island Park

2023 Plans and Goals

- Improve parking at the Southside Sports Complex
- Renovate bike trail bridges on CR18
- Renovate and additional improvements at River Rise Boat Ramp
- Laser grade ballfields

Providing quality recreation opportunities for our residents and visitors. The services provided include, but not limited to, maintenance of county parks, community centers and various county facilities. The 146 acre Southside Sports Complex is also maintained by the department. The department was responsible for prepping the complex for the 36 tournaments this past fiscal year.

Assisted in providing venues for youth cross country events, weddings, birthday parties, local recreational league events, and tournaments and other various events at Alligator Lake Park.

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 6 | County Parks |
| 7 | Boat Ramps |
| 8 | Community Centers |
| 17 | Playgrounds |
| 25 | Miscellaneous Facilities |
| 48 | Ball Fields |
| 75 | Ponderosa Pavilion Rentals |
| 146 | Acre Southside Sports Complex |

Budget: \$1,193,587

Number of Employees: 16, 2 seasonal, 1 on-call

Clint Pittman

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Library

2022 Accomplishments

- Submitted State Aid to Libraries Grant Application resulting in state funding
- Filled seven vacancies in the library staff
- Filed for e-rate discounts, resulting in 90% discount rate on library Internet access
- Resurfaced parking lot at Main Library and updated handicap parking to improve accessibility
- 20 students awarded scholarships and 11 students earned high school diplomas and career certifications (95 total graduates) through the Library's Career Online High School program
- Administered Friends of the Library ARPA grant which provided \$50,000 to purchase additional digital content for the cloudLibrary platform
- Collected over 1,200 food items for local charities during the annual Food for Fines event
- Launched new monthly library program for kids ages 8-11 and tabletop games night for adults
- Hosted Youth Art Contest (52 entries) and Book Character Pumpkin contest (38 kids)
- Participated in numerous outreach events to promote the Library and its services
- Replaced HVAC in older half Main Library

es the public 63 hours per week across all three locations. There are a wide variety of different resources and programs available to the public including n i n e weekly children's programs, outreach services, summer reading, computer classes, adult literacy, public meeting facilities, e-government assistance, geneology resources, tax forms, volunteer and community service opportunities, and many more.



› Graduates of the Library's Career Online High School program celebrate at their graduation ceremony

DID YOU KNOW?

The Library circulated more than 271,611 items last year.

Budget: \$1,937,885

Number of Employees: 26

Katrina Evans

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2022 Accomplishments

- Assisted one of the Adult Literacy Program's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students in preparing for Citizenship test and interview - ESOL student became American citizen as a result
- Library staff members trained on various topics
- Partnered with various organizations to provide programs, services, and events
- Implemented wide variety of in-person children's programs
- Completed Children's Summer Reading Program 2022 with marine theme "Oceans of Possibility" with attendance of 2227 at 98 programs
- Resumed outreach programs and rotating deposit collections to 15 local childcare centers
- Added deposit collection of youth reading materials at the NorthStar Family Resource Center using funds donated by the Friends of the Library
- Eight Library employees worked in emergency shelters and CIC during Hurricane Ian
- Hosted a summer youth employment program worker June 13-July 21
- Participated in statewide pilot project circulating Real Florida Reader State Park passes for free admission to most Florida State Parks May 31-Sept. 12



Main Library



Fort White Branch



West Branch

Free Loan Material

- Books
- Newspapers
- VHS tapes
- Puppets
- e-books
- Magazines
- Audio CDs
- DVDs
- Seeds
- Audiobooks

Additional Online Resources

- Wireless internet
- OverDrive
- LearningExpress Library
- Ancestry Library Edition
- Heritage Quest
- cloudLibrary
- Driving-tests.org
- Florida Electronic Library
- eLibrary
- FastCase



2023 Plans and Goals

- Upgrade integrated library system software and library webpage software to improve user experience
- Continue to expand ebook and downloadable audiobook collections
- Implement StoryWalk project using funds donated and consider additional sites to expand project
- Add LEGO tables to the children's area in all three libraries using donated funds
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with local schools to increase library usage by students and teachers
- Continue facilities maintenance/improvements to all three library locations
- Continued reorganization of Library webpage for improved function
- Possibly begin offering classes to the public on various computer and technology topics at NorthStar Family Resource Center
- Subscribe to and implement online language acquisition product
- Implement sensory story time for children on the autism spectrum upon training of staff
- Incorporate statewide FLIN SHAREit platform to existing interlibrary loan workflow
- Consider regular library visits to local assisted living facilities to provide library services to residents



- › An entry in the Book Character Pumpkin Contest representing the Mouse from If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff



- › An entry in the Book Character Pumpkin Contest representing Paddington from A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond



- › Library volunteer tutor and ESOL student earning US citizenship



- › Winner of the Book Character Pumpkin Contest representing Rapunzel in her Tower from the fairy tale Rapunzel, recorded by the Brothers Grimm



Maintenance & Facilities

2020 Accomplishments

- Chiller tower repair at Courthouse
- Renovated EOC for training room and TDC break room
- Elevator repair at Courthouse
- Installed additional sinks and water heaters in concessions at Southside ballfields
- Roof repair at Public Works

Ongoing Projects

- IT server room fire suppression/cooling system
- Richardson generator install
- Jail E-section renovation
- Public Works Traffic OPSS building

2023 Plans and Goals

- Continue to provide a comfortable and safe working environment for all county employees
- Continue to develop a safe preventative maintenance plan for all county buildings

sanitation services of seven facilities and maintenance of over 50 facilities throughout the County.

Our goal is to provide safe and comfortable facilities for County staff as well as the public who use these facilities for business, sports, or recreational activities.

In 2020 the Maintenance and Facilities Department has replaced A/C units, painted, installed roll-up doors, key pad locks, outlets and cables, fencing, lighting, and doors, for various County departments and entities.

Maintenance Requests

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Building & Zoning - | 2 | Central Communications - | 7 |
| Citizen - | 10 | County Extension - | 63 |
| Economic Development - | 11 | Emergency Management/911 - | 27 |
| Fire Department - | 174 | Health Department - | 4 |
| Information Technology - | 42 | Detention Center - | 707 |
| Public Libraries - | 158 | Parks and Landscape - | 203 |
| Public Works - | 72 | Recreation - | 171 |
| Solid Waste Facility - | 77 | Supervisor of Elections - | 33 |
| Sheriff's Office - | 22 | Tax Collector - | 2 |
| Tourist Development - | 11 | Utilities - | 2 |

Did You Know?

Facilities & Maintenance responded to over 1,798 maintenance requests.

Budget: \$1,498,560

Number of Employees: 15

Donny DuPree

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Public Works

2022 Accomplishments

- Paving of Old Wire Road, Phase III
- Paving of Herlong Road, II
- Magical Terrace Drainage
- Paving of King and Mauldin Road
- High Falls Bridge Repair
- Troy Road Drainage
- Fire Station Improvements
- Bascom Norris Pond
- Paving of Moore Road
- Plantation Park Conversion to City Water

Ongoing Projects

- Eastside WWTF and Ellisville WWTF (2)
- Southside Recreation Parking
- Lake City Animal Shelter
- Petroleum Cleanup of Public Works
- Birley Road
- County Road 6
- Queen/Winfield/Chambria
- Parnell Hills
- High Dry Acres
- Academic
- Dirt to pave conversion: Cypress Lake/Charles

improvements wherever needed and whenever possible. This vast department is divided into two divisions:

- Maintenance Division oversees more than 600 miles of paved roads and 450 miles of dirt roads
- Transportation Division is responsible for the planning and construction of infrastructure and providing water and sewer services



| Services Provided | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Culverts Replaced | 30 |
| Culverts Cleaned | 35 |
| Miles Graded | 2,995 |
| Work Orders Completed | 2,690 |

Budget: \$11,236,462

Number of Employees: 86

Kevin Kirby

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Ongoing Projects

- Annual Resurfacing :
 - Old Wire
 - Mayo
 - Double Run
 - English/LM Aaron
 - Emerald Lakes Subdivision
 - Melon
 - Royal

Future Plans and Goals

- Obtain dedicated funding source for road maintenance
- Improve drainage in known problematic areas
- Replace aging equipment

Maintenance Division

- Operates 10 motor graders to maintain 450 miles of dirt roads on a rotating schedule
- Performs asphalt patching, drainage ditch maintenance, and culvert installation
- Maintains all county rights-of-way, retention ponds, urban mowing, guard rails, and sidewalks
- Repairs and maintains all heavy equipment

- Maintains all county road shoulders
- Installation and maintenance of all street signs, traffic signs, traffic signals, street lights and school zones
- Improve storm water run-off issues by improving water quality and flood reduction

Transportation Division

- Road Construction/Resurfacing
- Water and Sewer services

Raw Materials Utilized:

10,920 tons of lime rock

9,430 tons of dirt

1,920 tons of millings



Recreation

2020 Accomplishments

- Winter Blast Pickleball Tournament
- Youth Basketball League
- Hunger Fight Community Outreach
- Fort White Summer Youth Camp
- Public access Wi-Fi
- Co-Sponsor Back to School Supply Giveaway
- Annual Summer STEM Program
- Assist with CYFA Football and Cheer Programs
- Increased collaboration with UF/IFAS, Chamber of Commerce and Nutrien to provide youth programming
- Partnered with No Kid Hungry and FL Recreation and Parks Assoc. to provide underserved children with lunch and PM snack
- Partnered with Strong Families NorthStar Family Resource Center
- Meeting space for local organizations/partners
- Special Olympic programs
- Hart 2 hart sports programs
- Emergency Storm Shelter
- Voting Precinct 10
- Background screening clearinghouse for youth sports organizations

for diverse, affordable, professionally managed recreation programs for children and adults, while maintaining a safe and clean environment.

The Recreation Department is responsible for providing a diverse array of programs and activities to enrich the quality of life for all citizens of Columbia County. Our purpose is guided by the core values of accountability, fairness, service, quality, leadership, vision and making a difference.

- Plan, organize, coordinate, and evaluate a diverse array of social and human services and provide educational and recreational activities
- Maintain clean, safe, and attractive facilities and provide general services to patrons

The economic value, health and environmental effects, and social impact make our parks and recreation a beneficial service to our community.



Budget: \$455,202

Number of Employees: 3 FT, 3 PT

Mario Coppock

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2023 Plans and Goals

- Light outdoor sports courts (basketball, pickle ball, softball, tennis)
- Additional security for outdoor facility
- Become a certified member organization through National Alliance of Youth Sports
- Construct youth football practice facility
- Become coaching, training, and certification resource center for local youth sports organizations.
 - Columbia Youth Soccer Association
 - Columbia Youth Football Association
 - Girls Softball of Columbia County
 - Lake City Columbia County Youth Baseball
 - Babe Ruth Baseball Travel Baseball
- Construct indoor multi-use facility
- Kitchen certification through USDA
- Cleaning and painting of interior gymnasium
- Water fountain and restroom constructed at Richardson Playground



› Community Garden Project



› Rotary Club Assembling Garden Boxes



› Public WiFi Installation

Solid Waste & Mosquito Control

2022 Accomplishments

- Colored plastic implemented in recycling commodity stream
- Spotter Re-certification
- Sand Hauling for Cell 5 completed
- Class 1 – Cell 2 lift station repaired

2023 Plans and Goals

- Class 1 – Leachate Recirculation Project
- Implement New Paradigm Scale Software Program
- Class I and III Permit Renewal with DEP
- Landfill operator re-certifications
- Assistant Director obtain PHPC license
- National Night Out-Promoting Mosquito Prevention and Landfill/Recycling Education
- Attend Dodd Short Courses for CEU's
- Recruitment of vacant positions

County has adequate disposal capacity in place to serve the citizens and businesses of Columbia County, manage and dispose of waste in a manner that ensures health and welfare, protect and preserve natural resources, and meeting all state and local regulations while maintaining sound fiscal management.



› Class I Working Face

Mosquito Control provides integrated pest management for mosquito reduction around homes and neighborhoods to reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases. The department provides services utilizing the most effective techniques available and is accomplished by eliminating mosquito-breeding sites during the season that runs from May through October. The department is regulated through the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) F.S. Chapter 388 and F.A.C. Chapter 5E-13.

Provided Services

Solid Waste

- Commercial and residential solid waste disposal
- Household hazardous waste disposal
- Recycling

- Annual community-wide toxic round-up

Mosquito Control

- Surveillance
- Adulticiding
- Larviciding

Budget: \$4,490,467

Number of Employees: 16

Pam Davis

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Tourist Development

2022 Accomplishments

- Rebrand to Lake City, Florida's Springlands
- New Website: www.lakecityfl.com
- 500-acre park master plan
- Vacation guide reprint
- Distributed 200 appreciation certificates to tourism partners
- Hosted luncheon to celebrate tourism industry
- Launched media campaign
- Paid social advertising (Facebook/Instagram)
- Visit Lake City Florida
- Pinterest – utilized pins to target users in travel
- YouTube – utilized 15 videos
- Sojern targeted consumers in geos looking to travel from August to November
- Spotify programmatically ran audio across relevant family/parenting podcasts
- MobileFuse targeted those devices in parks, camp grounds, sporting shops, and outdoor activity locations
- Orlando Family reached family audiences in key market to build brand affinity. Tactics included a full page print ad, dedicated e-blast and Facebook ad

of the county which markets the area's tourist attractions and activities to increase the tax base through visitor spending that in turn bolsters the economy creating direct jobs at hotels, restaurants, services stations, and tourist attractions. Additionally, Columbia County Tourist Development Tax revenue is invested into events and youth sports venues to develop topnotch youth sports facilities. The enhanced facilities improve the quality of life for local citizens, as children of Columbia County are afforded the opportunity to play team sports at a first-class venue thanks in part to tourism.

Taxes Collected

| Total Collections | % Change |
|-------------------|----------|
| \$2,026,414 | -18.83 |

Hotel Occupancy

| | Data | % Change |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Occupancy | 64.7% | Up 4 |
| Rooms Sold | 437,349 | Up 4 |

Budget: \$3,665,663

Number of Employees: 4

Paula Vann

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www.springsrus.com

 www.facebook.com/visitcolumbiacounty

 @SpringsRUsFla

 springrus



2022 Accomplishments

Event Sponsorship

- Chamber of Commerce 4th of July Celebration
- Stephen Foster Festival of Lights – Polar Express
- Spirit of the Suwannee - Suwannee River Jam
- Columbia County Resources Fair and Rodeo
- Chamber of Commerce – Gateway City Beer and Wine Festival
- Stephen Foster Folk Festival
- Olustee Festival
- Lake City – Columbia County Museum
- Babe Ruth State Softball Tournament

2023 Plans and Goals

- Drive awareness and affinity as a year-round active lifestyle destination
- Keep the brand top of mind for target visitor groups, while keeping sustainability in mind
- Maximize the visitor economy and experience
- Increase in-market spend and economic impact
- Promoting tourism amenities that support the community
- Identify long-term vision and strategic roadmap focused on driving growth and improving partner relations
- Build relationships to expand sports tourism for short-term events and the long-term product development initiatives



› Historical Downtown Lake City

SPONSORED CONTENT

4 Great Fall Vacation Destinations

■ Experience Authentic, Unspoiled Florida

Lake City, Florida's Springlands is the perfect vacation destination for anyone who wants to experience authentic, unspoiled Florida. With endless crystal-clear springs and winding rivers to paddle on, dive into or fish in – along with miles of natural trails and outdoor recreation areas perfect for hiking, biking and camping – this is a place that your whole family will love to explore. So plan your visit to Lake City, Florida's Springlands soon. Because Happy Happens Here. Learn more at lakecityfl.com.

A photograph of people swimming in a clear, green spring or river surrounded by lush greenery. The water is crystal clear, and several people are seen wading and swimming. The surrounding area is filled with dense trees and vegetation, creating a serene and natural environment. The sky is bright, and the overall scene is peaceful and inviting.

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