

2023 Annual Report

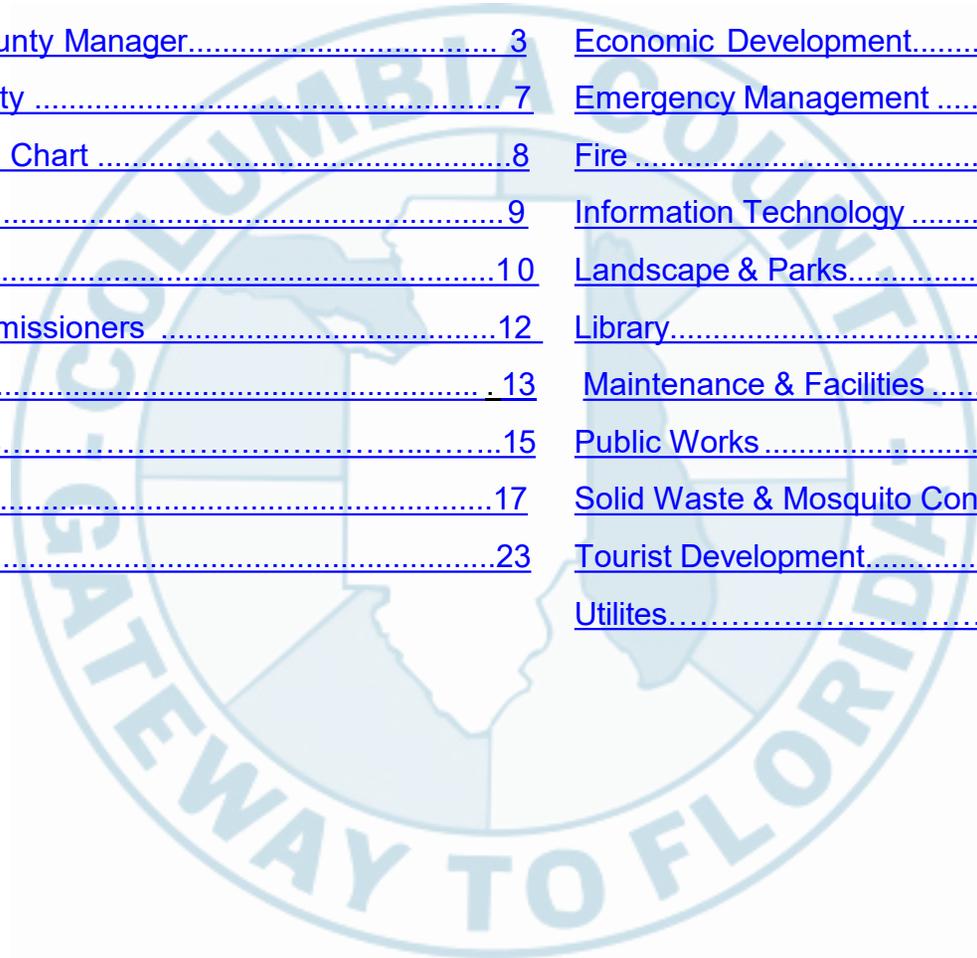
COLUMBIA COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Table of Contents

Message from the County Manager.....	3	Economic Development.....	25
About Columbia County	7	Emergency Management	26
County Organizational Chart	8	Fire	28
Constitutional Officers	9	Information Technology	31
County Budget	10	Landscape & Parks.....	32
Board of County Commissioners	12	Library.....	33
911 Communications.....	13	Maintenance & Facilities	36
Administrative Services.....	15	Public Works	38
Building & Zoning.....	17	Solid Waste & Mosquito Control.....	40
County Extension	23	Tourist Development.....	43
		Utilites.....	45



Message from the County Manager

David Kraus has worked for Columbia County since 2011 and was appointed 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 as a State of the County reflecting the work of the previous year (2023), 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 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 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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2023 Financial Review

The audit for the period ending September 30, 2023 has commenced and will be presented to the Board once completed.

FY 2023 began with \$2,932,739 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 7.1490 – 0.0931% 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.

2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Major Issues that Passed

- Continued Broadband Allocation
- Restructuring Rural Economic Development Initiatives
- NFMIP Parkway Appropriations Request
- Additional Support for Law Enforcement

Major Issues that did not Pass

- Electric Vehicle Surcharge Revenue
- Property Assessment on Agriculture Land Regarding Economic Development
- Wetland Permitting Reform

Legislative Appropriations Secured

\$5,700,000 – North Florida Mega Industrial Park Water Plant

\$1,237,500 – Bascom Norris Repaving from SR 47 to SW Faith Street

\$ 950,000 - Sheriffs Crime Lab, Evidence Room, and Maintenance Bay

\$ 950,000 – Fire Station 51 Replacement Project

\$ 475,000 – Bethlehem Community Center



2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to Hold Multiple Budget Workshops - **Held multiple Budget Workshops beginning in May**
- Continue moving forward with North Florida Mega Industrial Park (NFMIP) Utility Expansion – **Begin construction of WWTP and review 3 sites for future water wellfield**
- Construct Community Center at Bethlehem Park – **Begin design of a standard community center with plans to construct one in Bethlehem Park**
- Expand Accessibility Features at Columbia City Park – **Planned expansion but did not received grant funding**
- Continue working toward consolidation of 911 Dispatch – **on going**
- Create in-house Animal Control Services – **Added Animal Enforcement Department to FY 2023-2024 Budget**
- Connect water line from Ellisville to Fort White – **Completed design**
- Create MSBU’s for Infrastructure in Subdivisions (stormwater, roads, etc.) – **Adopted ordinance for new subdivisions**
- Improve public relations with Florida Gateway College and Chamber of Commerce – **on going**
- Improve Veteran’s Service Office Outreach in Community – **on going**

2024 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete Capital Projects Currently Scheduled
- Complete Consolidation of 911 Dispatch
- Continue moving forward with North Florida Mega Industrial Park (NFMIP) Utility Expansion
- Construct Community Center at Bethlehem Park
- Plan for Unanticipated Growth in South Columbia County
- Develop Multi-County Utility Agreements
- Identify One Water Recharge Project
- Improve public relations with Florida Gateway College and Chamber of Commerce
- Develop Phase I of 500 Acre Park
- Begin Renovation of the Lake City Reporter Building



[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

2024 ISSUES

- Funding for Fire Apparatus Replacement
- Utility and Infrastructure Funding to meet growth in County (Ellisville and NFMIP)
- Completion of existing Capital projects - \$33.8 million
- Funding for Construction of Phase I of the 500 Acre Park
- Increasing cost of insurance in State of Florida
- State mandated changes to FRS Retirement
- Instability in economy
- Operation of Animal Enforcement Department
- Consolidation of 911 Dispatch with Sheriff and City of Lake City
- Adoption of MSTU for the NFMIP to cover future debt service payments
- Cyber Security Upgrades
- Continued efforts to secure grant funding for projects
- Improve internal operations of the County
- Continue to expand community outreach efforts through the Library, Extension Office and the Veteran's Affairs Office.



About Columbia County

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

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

Veterans Population: **6,291**

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

71,908

87.4 per sq. mi.



 **Male** **51.2%**

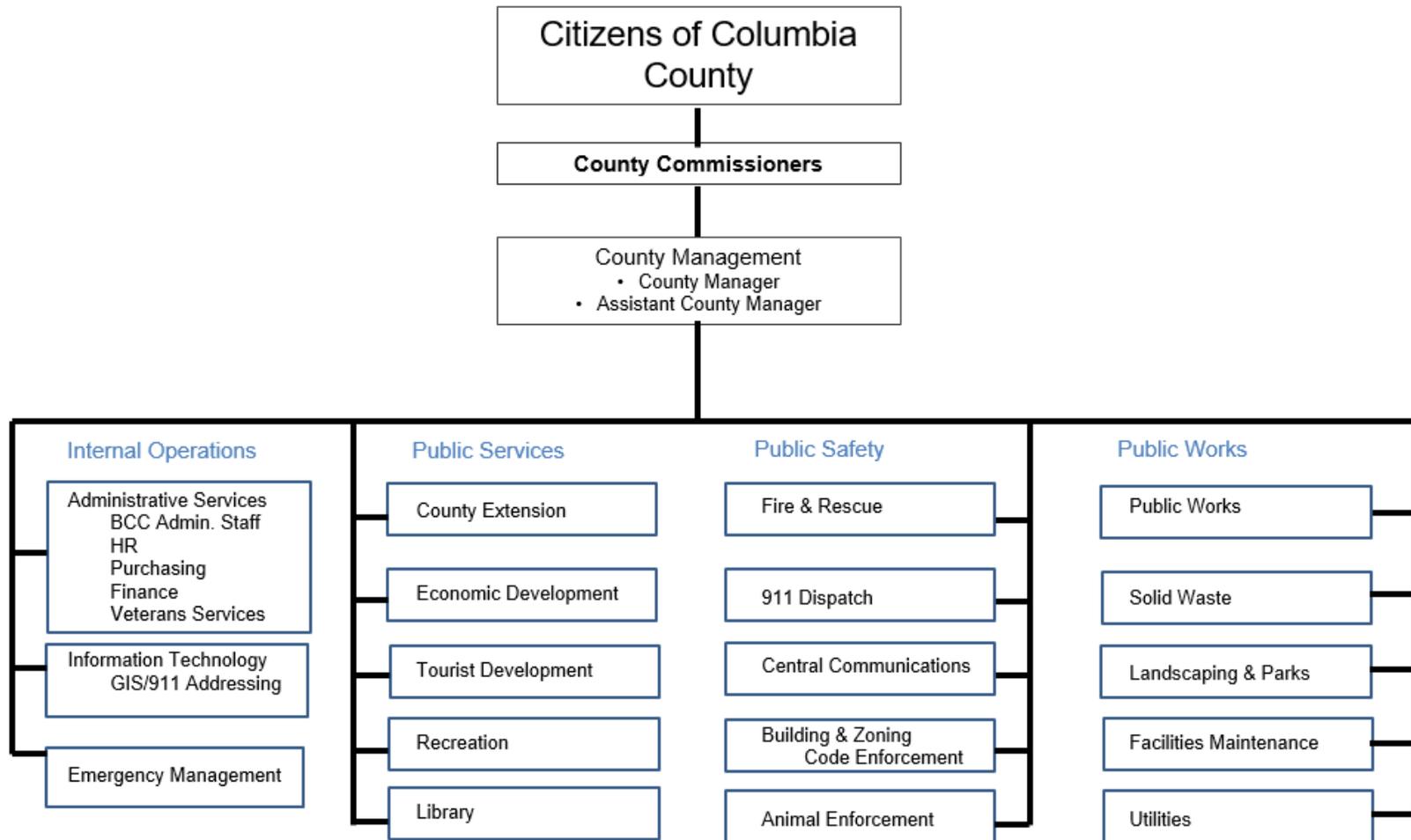
 **Female** **48.8%**

Total Area: 801 square miles

Land: 798 square miles

Water: 3 square miles

County Organizational Chart



Constitutional Officers 2023 Budgets

\$2.1M

Clerk of Court

\$2.1M

Property Appraiser

\$19.5M

Sheriff

\$1.2M

Supervisor of Elections

\$2.06M

Tax Collector



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



Jeff Hampton
Property Appraiser



Mark Hunter
Sheriff

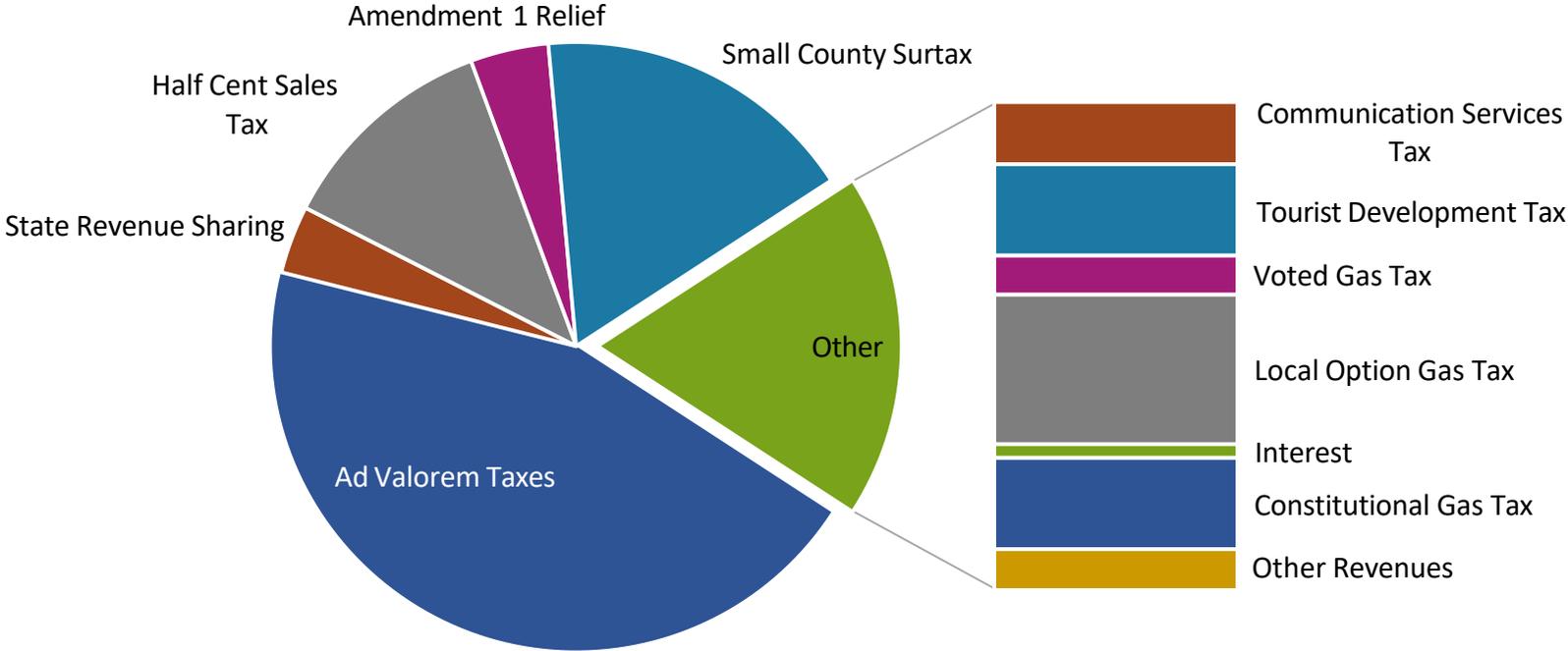


Tomi S. Brown
Supervisor of Elections



Kyle Keen
Tax Collector

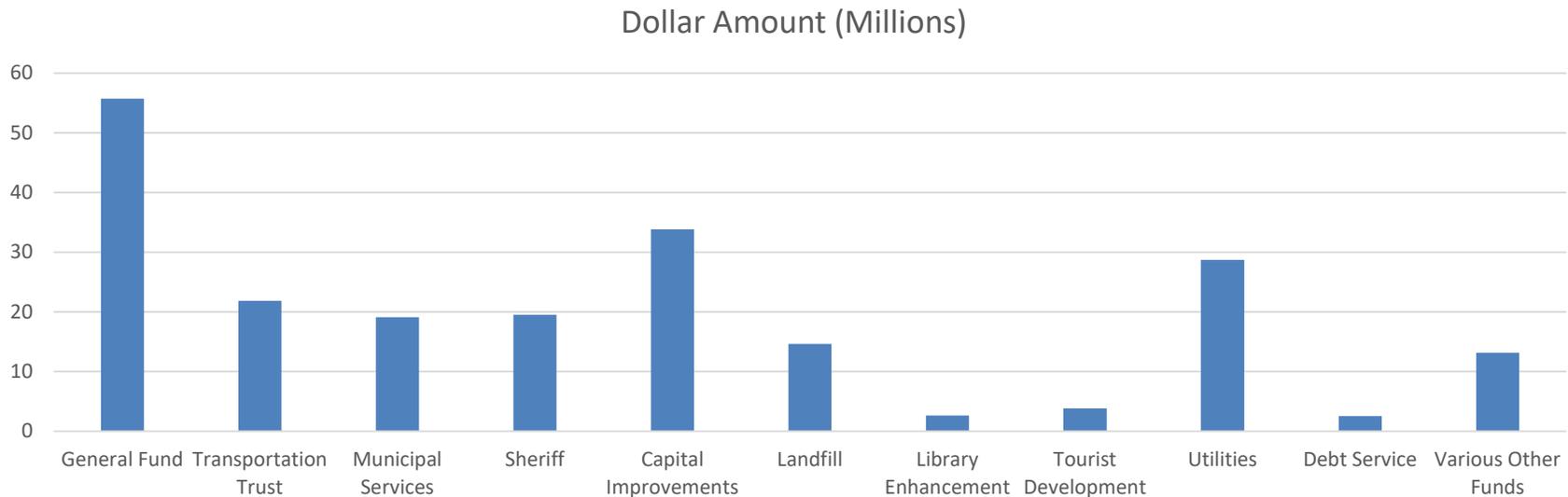
2023 Revenues and Beginning Cash



Columbia County generated \$215.2 million of revenue including beginning cash in the 2023 fiscal year. These revenues can be broken down into five categories:

- General \$55.8 million
- Special Revenue \$65.4 million
- Debt Service \$2.2 million
- Capital Projects \$48.4 million
- Enterprise (Landfill) \$43.4 million

2023 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 2023 totals \$215,270,635 which is broken down into the following:

- \$55.7 million General Fund
- \$21.8 million Transportation Trust
- \$19.1 million Municipal Services
- \$19.5 million Sheriff
- \$33.8 million Capital Improvements
- \$14.6 million Landfill
- \$2.6 million Library Enhancement
- \$3.8 million Tourist Development
- \$28.7 million Utilities
- \$2.5 million Debt Service
- \$13.1 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

2023 Accomplishments

- Received \$321,933.69 in State 911 Telephone Surcharge Funds
- Awarded various 911 Communication grants totaling \$244,900.30

Ongoing Projects

- Consolidation of 911 Center Dispatch and Lake City Dispatch
- Pending grant application for 5-year service agreement with INdigital to provide an ESI net and 911 Core Services moving Columbia County 911 off antiquated copper telephone TRUNK lines to a digital fiber based 911 call processing system. This will include Rapid SOS Premium, providing more accurate location information for 911 calls

2024 Plans and Goals

- Maintain and keep current operational equipment in proper functioning order
- Employee retention, maintain current staffing levels, retain existing experienced employees as well as recruit and train qualified personnel

The 911 Communications Center is the only designated public 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: \$2,367,617

Number of Employees: 31

Thomas Brazil

Phone: (386) 758-1388

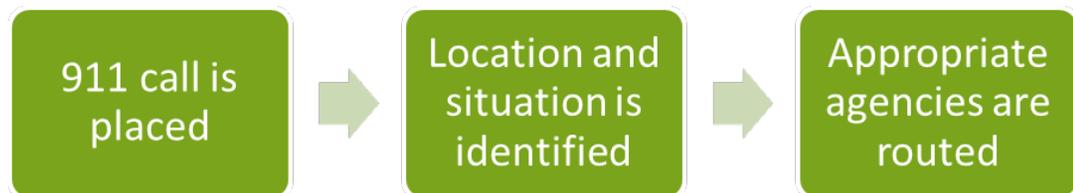
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E-911 Public Education

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

2023 Accomplishments

- Revised Fire Rescue Pay Grade Schedule to include Fire Officer I and II, and Live Fire Training Instructor certifications
- Revised Public Library Pay Grade Schedule to reflect pay adjustments for Library Branch Manager at all levels.
- Responded to 389 Public Records requests
- Compiled and verified Financial Disclosure Information to State and completed employee eligibility to Worxtime for 1095-C and 1094-C forms
- Administered the Employee Leave Buyback Program FY 2022-23
- Completed 2023 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
- Administered Individual and Business Assistance programs and oversaw Emergency Home Repair program .
- Completed HR audit and supervisory training and FDOT CDL Audit
- Implemented new electronic open enrollment for Group Health Insurance and facilitated Annual Employee Evaluations
- Implement new Utility Billing software and developed utility billing policies.

The Department of Administrative Services is responsible for supporting the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager 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
- Utility Billing and Collections

DID YOU KNOW?

Columbia County Received \$672,623.00 from the BCBS of Florida Pro-Share Agreement Ending 9/30/2023.

Budget: \$3,424,315

Number of Employees: 11

Lisa K.B. Roberts

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[Back to Table of Contents](#)

2023 Accomplishments

- County Received \$672,623.00 from BCBS of Florida Pro-Share Agreement
- Processed 363 applications and completed 210 interviews, hired 68 new employees and transferred 12 current employees to various positions
- Affordable Care Act compliance
- Participated in Career fairs
- Participated in Green Light for Veterans Campaign
- VA Employee Privacy and HIPPA Training, VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness training and Rules of Behavior training through TMS
- Relocated Veteran Service Offices to McFarlane Avenue and added a second 30 hr. per wk. VSO Officer position

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

2024 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

Requisitions Processed	
Purchase Orders	402
Field Purchase Orders	7421
Bids/RFPs/RFQs	
Bids/RFPs/RFQs	31
Piggyback Bids/Contracts	34
Leases	4

Veterans Affairs assists 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: 655
 Office Visits: 182
 Claims Filed: 83
 Claims in Process: 50

Finance assists in the budget process, monitoring of County expenditures, grant administration and county insurance administration.

Insurance claims filed: 20
 Purchasing Accounts Reconciled: 4 – Total Expended: \$169,984.60
 Grant Projects Total Expended: \$1,107,006

Administrative Services also provides for Utility billing and collections, Non Ad Valorem Assessments, BOCC Agenda preparations, Human Resources and Workers Compensation audits, and operation of the Lulu Community Center



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Building & Zoning

2023 Accomplishments

- Retained a Class 8 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), which grants flood insurance policy holders a 10% discount on premiums
- Streamlined on-line permitting submittal process, enhancing user-friendliness for public access
- Implemented automated permit issuance system upon payment
- Successfully recruited and on-boarded Permit Specialist, Lead Permit Specialist and County Planner
- Assumed responsibility for Code Enforcement
- Provided Building Inspection and Permitting services for the City of Lake City under an Interlocal Agreement

Ongoing Projects

- Expand the Designated Urban Development Area for the I-10 corridor and south Columbia county
- Continue digitization of issued building permits, with commercial records retained for the structure's lifespan and residential records preserved for 10 years
- Continual assessment and improvement of the on-line permitting process and associated procedures
- Preparation for new FL. Building Code (FBC) 2023, with enforcement scheduled to commence Jan. 1, 2024

Building Department Mission

To establish a secure built environment by enforcing compliance with pertinent construction codes. This mission is accomplished through meticulous permit issuance, comprehensive plans review, through inspections, adept utilization of automation technologies, and continuous training initiatives.

Zoning Department Mission

To steer future growth and development through strategic planning, judicious zoning practices, and data analysis. Adopting forward-thinking approaches, striving to facilitate sustainable community development that ensures a prosperous and harmonious future.

Code Enforcement

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

Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

The Special Assessment Inspector position performs inspections on parcels within Columbia County to ensure the assessment fees for fire protection and solid waste are verified for collection.

Building/Zoning and Code Enforcement Highlights

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| • Permit Applications | 2,700 |
| • Field Inspections | 10,846 |
| • Planning & Zoning Applications | 189 |
| • Code Enforcement | |
| • Open Cases | 116 |

Budget: \$1,215,091

Number of Employees: 11

Troy Crews

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[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Ongoing Projects

- Strategic staffing adjustments to align with evolving office needs, ensuring optimal service to public
- Ongoing inspection processes for two multistory hotels currently under construction

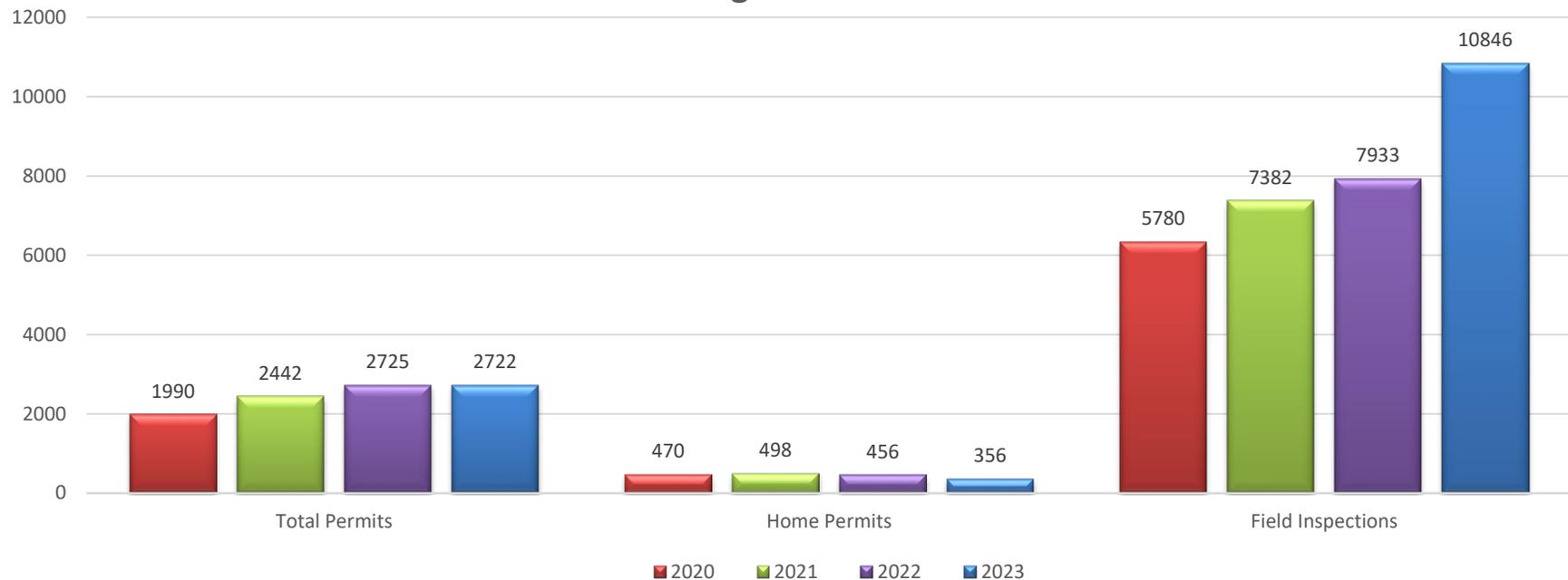
2024 Projects

- FPL-Staging Complex
- NFMIP developments
- Renovation of Lake City Reporter Building

The building trend has considerably declined in home building, while permit issuance has remained consistent. This correlation aligns with current economic conditions and increased interest rates, contributing to a slowdown in home construction.

Historical permit records are consistently reviewed, a process that is becoming more efficient with the transition to digital submissions. Improved office procedures and the implementation of electronic permitting have resulted in reduced overall permitting times, better customer notifications, increased staff efficiency, and a decrease in operating expenditures. Commitment to optimization is reinforced by ongoing enhancements to in-house software programs utilized by the Department.

Building Permit Count



On the technical front, Building Inspectors and building plan reviewers are tasked with conducting onsite inspections at every phase of construction projects. Their role involves ensuring strict adherence to the Florida Building Code, National Electric Code, and Accessibility Code. This multifaceted approach underscores our commitment to maintaining the highest standards in construction practices, regulatory compliance, and public safety within our community.

2023 Annual Permit Totals

Count of Permits	Column Labels						
Row Labels		1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total
Additions		6	4	5	6	5	26
Air Conditioner Replacement or Repair		17	20	34	15	22	108
Communications Tower		7	3	3	8	5	26
Culvert		10	13	31	34	9	97
Culvert Waiver		3	16	6	8	3	36
Demolition		3		1	1		5
Electrical Service	1	124	125	105	119	69	543
Mobile Home		32	79	36	49	15	211
Modular Building - Residential or Commercial			1	3			4
New Commercial Construction		5		8	4	2	19
New Residential Construction		6	30	44	35	24	139
Remodel		57	31	41	29	44	202
Roof Replacement or Repair		155	132	266	162	226	941
RV - Recreational Vehicle		4	8		2	1	15
Screen Enclosure				11	4	4	19
Signs - New or Existing		5		11	2	8	26
Solar Power System		20	16	49	15	15	115
Storage Building		14	44	21	31	21	131
Swimming Pool and Spa		1	6	9	6	15	37
Grand Total	1	469	528	684	530	488	2700

The Zoning Department serves as the central hub for all matters pertaining to land use, overseeing a spectrum of responsibilities that encompass land planning, comprehensive planning, and the implementation of Land Development Regulations (LDR). In addition to its core functions, the department is tasked with the judicious management of floodplains and the meticulous processing of development applications.

A pivotal role of the Zoning Department involves the administration of materials and presentations for both the Planning & Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustment. This includes coordinating and facilitating discussions, ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks, and presenting essential information to these governing bodies.

In essence, the department plays a vital role in shaping and regulating the physical development of land within our jurisdiction. Through its multifaceted responsibilities, the Zoning Department contributes to the harmonious and sustainable growth of the community by navigating the intricate intersections of planning, regulation, and decision-making processes.

Planning and Zoning Applications	Application Count	From 10/01/2022-09/30/2023
		Fee Amount
Alcohol License	12	\$900.00
Comprehensive Plan Amendment	6	\$10,500.00
Division of Land	1	\$500.00
Miscellaneous Zoning Application	1	\$750.00
Site Development Plan	22	\$9,400.00
Site Specific Amendment to the Official Zoning Atlas (Rezoning)	8	\$14,800.00
Special Exceptions	16	\$25,050.00
Special Family Lot Permit	20	\$1,000.00
Special Temporary Use	72	\$23,100.00
Statement of Land Use and Zoning	13	\$300.00
Subdivision	3	\$8,500.00
Subdivision Variance	1	\$950.00
Variances	14	\$13,300.00
Total	189	\$109,050.00



Code Enforcement

The Columbia County Code Enforcement Department is entrusted with the responsibility of addressing citizen grievances and ascertaining the occurrence of any violations of ordinances or Land Development Regulations (LDR). The procedural sequence commences with the issuance of a Warning Letter and Timeframe. Should compliance prove unattainable within the stipulated timeframe, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued, specifying a distinct timeframe for rectification. Subsequently, the property undergoes continuous monitoring for adherence to compliance standards. A final inspection is conducted on the compliance due date; in the absence of compliance, the case is scheduled for a Magistrate Hearing, facilitated by a Notice of Hearing (NOH).

Ensuring equitable treatment for every citizen, our office extends opportunities for compliance, providing additional timeframes when violators demonstrate concerted efforts to address and communicate their resolution strategies. The paramount objective of the Code Enforcement Department is to foster voluntary compliance and educate citizens, thereby safeguarding public health, safety, and the overall quality of life in Columbia County.

Open Case Summary 2023

Type	Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3	Dist 4	Dist 5	Total
Accumulation of Junk and Debris	1	4	6	2	6	19
Building Permit Issues	0	0	1	0	0	1
Care of Premises	3	2	3	9	7	24
Dangerous or Open-to-Entry Buildings	11	2	3	4	2	22
Hazardous Conditions	2	0	2	2	0	6
Health and Safety	6	1	0	2	1	10
No Temp RV Permit	0	3	0	1	1	5
Other	3	2	1	2	1	9
Overgrown Property	3	2	2	3	1	11
Residing in Shed/Unpermitted Structure	1	1	0	0	0	2
Substandard Housing	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	1
Untagged/Expired License Plate	0	1	1	0	0	2
Zoning Code Infraction	1	1	1	0	0	3
Total Open Cases	32	19	20	25	19	116

In fiscal year 2022-23, the Board of County Commissioners approved the full-time position of Special Assessment Inspector. This position is responsible for performing inspections on parcels within Columbia County to ensure the non-ad valorem fire protection services and solid waste services assessment fees are verified. Each parcel within the County, either by owner request or field audit, is inspected to capture the total number of building/structures used as dwellings for the non-ad valorem assessment and added to the tax records for collection.

(#1) ADD ON'S TO TAX ROLL = ADDITIONAL DWELLINGS								
Org # of Dwellings	Org Waste Assessment	Org Fire Assessment	Correted # of Dwellings	New Waste Assessment	New Fire Assessment	Original - Vs - Corrected	\$ Waste \$ Added	\$ Fire \$ Added
91	\$ 15,052.56	\$ 24,263.09	302	\$ 54,875.15	\$ 81,864.14	211	\$39,822.59	\$57,601.05
(#2) REDUCTIONS = Verified Solid Waste Removed / Reduce # of Dwellings								
Org # of Dwellings	Org Waste Assessment	Org Fire Assessment	Correted # of Dwellings	New Waste Assessment	New Fire Assessment	Difference	\$Waste\$ REDUCED	\$Fire\$ REDUCED
101	\$ 19,623.64	\$ 26,906.13	108	\$ 6,337.92	\$ 28,976.99	7	\$19,623.64	\$ 2,070.86
(#3) REDUCTIONS = Verified "VACANT Land Fee ONLY" (No Dwelling Structure)								
Org # of Dwellings	Org Waste Assessment	Org Fire Assessment	Correted # of Dwellings	New Waste Assessment	New Fire Assessment	Difference	\$Waste\$ REDUCED	\$Fire\$ REDUCED
23	\$ 4,555.38	\$ 6,464.57	0	\$ -	\$ 113.61	-23	\$ 4,555.38	\$ (6,350.96)
(#4) CAMPGROUNDS / MOBILE HOME PARKS = AUDITS								
Org Fire Fee	Org Waste Fee	New Fire Assessment	New Waste Collection	Org-vs-New "FIRE"Assessment	Org-vs-New "WASTE" Assessment			
\$ 99,925.68	\$ 2,018.12	\$ 139,473.36	\$ 1,188.36	\$ 39,547.68	\$ (829.76)			



County Extension

2023 Accomplishments

- Reached 12,738 county residents with research-based group trainings
- Trained and worked with 227 volunteers to provide 4,783 in-service hours
- Engaged and reached 148,958 people through social media posts and videos
- 7 State Awards, 3 Regional Awards, 4 National Awards
- Received in financial contributions \$415,000 and over \$53,000 in grants to support programming
- State and Federal Financial Support to Columbia County Extension \$795,888

2024 Plans and Goals

- Expansion of educational outreach in all program areas with innovative programming
- 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 2023. 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 \$75,000 with education and service. This interjected an additional \$112,000 of tax returns back into the Columbia County economy. 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.



UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Budget: \$506,660

Number of Employees: 10

Heather Janney

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)



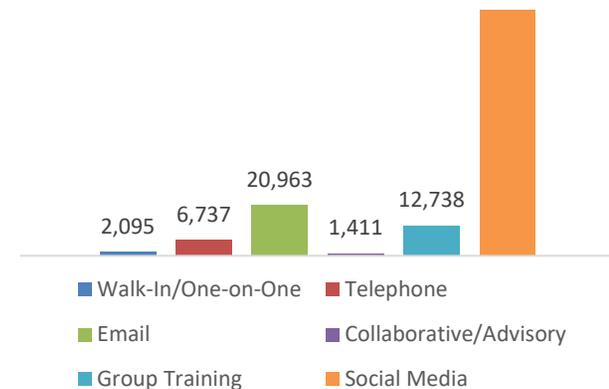
Horticulture

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 2023, there were 25 active volunteers donating over 1,500 hours of horticulture-related education (\$44,909 in donated volunteer time). Over 50 classes were provided for residents and landscape professionals including fall vegetable gardening, beekeeping, weed identification and control, and fruits in the landscape. Saved County budget over \$3,000 by providing pesticide license training and recertification to County Landscape & Parks Department.

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 3,500 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. 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 2022-2023, over 4,900 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. 100% of participants in mental health programming increased their wellness and over 1,000 youth increased their public speaking skills. Without the help of volunteers, the reach and service to clients would be limited. Over 190 4-H Volunteers donated upwards of \$92,000 defined by approximately 3,200 hours of labor to youth development in Columbia County. Thirty-five volunteers were trained in suicide prevention to help with the growing needs of mental health in Columbia County. Over 600 youth and adults were educated in the necessity to “turn of the tap” and help with water and conservation. Through participation in the 2023 Farm to Table Event, \$23,500 was raised for scholarships and agriculturally based youth serving agencies in the County.



[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Economic Development

2023 Accomplishments

- Hosted and attended Rural Counties Day
- Hosted quarterly North FL. Economic Development Partnership Board of Director and business meeting held at FGC Library
- Attended Florida Rural Economic Development Association conference and FP&L Illumination conference

Ongoing Projects

- Clear Sky Health – Specialized rehabilitative care hospital, creation of approximately 100 new jobs
- Equipment Share Rental - Under Construction on 6-acres – Hwy 90 E. across from Lake City Gateway Airport
- Agroliquid – Liquid fertilizer company, manufactures plant nutrition products and services crop operations across the U.S. and world - First company to break ground at NFMIP located on HWY 90E
- Price Creek Solar – Construction of first of five solar energy centers East of SR 100 and South of NFMIP
- Southeast Milk, Inc. Renovating building on SW Main Blvd. – Full service dairy cooperative operating across 6 states in the southeastern U.S.
- FPL Disaster Staging Complex

2024 Plans and Goals

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

The mission of the Columbia County Economic Development is “To foster a strong local economy and vibrant community by promoting a favorable business environment to attract private capital investment and employment opportunities.” Will continue collaboration with local business, educational, and civic partners .

Grants

\$9.5M appropriated by the Florida Legislature for various projects, including \$5.7M to construct WTP at NFMIP

\$65M awarded through Florida Commerce via the Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grant to develop Pre-Master Plan for Bell Road Distribution Center

\$5M awarded through Florida Commerce via Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) grant to construct a service road in Ellisville. The road will alleviate truck congestion on Hwy 41 South



› Gateway Solar Array

Budget: \$1,230,996

Number of Employees: 3

Jennifer Daniels

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[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Emergency Management

2023 Accomplishments

- Provided Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) reviews to all assisted living facilities.
- Activated County EOC for Hurricane Ian response October, 2022
- Attended the State Emergency Response Commission meetings
- Provided EOC, shelter, and CIC training and hosted various classes for EOC operations and planning, which had participants from across the region and state in attendance
- Provided support in the Leon County Emergency Operations Center during the Gubernatorial Inauguration
- Activated County EOC for Hurricane Idalia and worked with recovery efforts
- Attended annual meeting with Florida Power Light on critical infrastructure
- Developed the notification spreadsheet for use in the Everbridge notification system
- Renewed Storm Ready certification through National Weather Service Jacksonville
- Attended Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings
- Updated County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Administered the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Emergency Management (EM) Department collaborates year-round with local, state, and federal partners to provide training, exercises, and response to any event that threatens the safety of the county. Emergency Management provides plan review for local businesses for continuity of operations and emergency response. Serves as the chairman of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) committee and maintain the LMS project list.

During disasters, Emergency Management coordinates the response efforts for governmental and the community agencies that provide emergency support functions, operates shelters and the Citizen Information Center, supports State Emergency Management Division efforts, and participates in Long Term Recovery efforts.

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

Presentations:

- Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy
- Breakfast and Lunch Rotary Club
- FGC Nursing students

Director Shayne Morgan was appointed as the first Historian in FEPA history

Budget: \$188,664

Number of Employees: 1

Shayne Morgan

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Ongoing Projects

- Continue emergency weather shelter and CIC training
- Developing Richardson Community Center’s capacity to serve as a shelter in the City
- Updating Local Mitigation Strategy
- Identifying specific trainings to build responders and partner agencies skills during disaster
- Identifying new technology for use during disaster response
- Develop plans for additional Hazard Mitigation Grant funding and assess Mitigation Grant opportunities
- Continue annual Hazardous Materials inspections program in coordination with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

2024 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

2023 Accomplishments

- Purchased brush truck and leased two F-150 pickup trucks
- EMS grant award \$28,797 - purchased 2-lifeline chest compression devices
- FL. Firefighter Cancer Grant Award \$9,875 – purchased extractor
- Leary Firefighter Foundation Grant Award \$12,000 – purchased three thermal imaging cameras
- 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 new station – FL. Legislative Fund Award \$950,000
- Fill position vacancies

2024 Plans and Goals

- Design and permitting for Station 51 replacement building.
- Purchase equipment according to equipment replacement plan

Columbia County Fire Rescue provides a 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

CCFR added a bay and 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. Participates in community fundraisers and events.

Equipment

Leased 2-F150 Pickup trucks, purchased 2-Lifeline Chest Compression Devices, extractor, and 3-Thermal Imaging Cameras

Budget: \$8,742,572

Number of Employees: 80

Chief Jeff Crawford

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Community Event

Incident	Events
Fire Alarm Activation	172
Grass/Brush Fire	200
HAZMAT	216
Medical Calls	2,726
MVC's	539
Other Responses	1,408
Structure Fire	79
Vehicle Fire	68



New Brush Truck



New TIC-Leary Firefighter Foundation Grant



Description	1 st Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	4 th Qtr	Total for 22-23
Est. Original Prop Values	2,813,773	1,590,900	2,934,600	2,066,000	9,405,273
Est. Prop Value Losses	1,403,473	963,300	955,500	823,500	4,145,773
Injuries/Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Alarm Activations.	42	41	46	43	172
Grass/Brush Fire	73	58	36	33	200
HAZMAT	37	27	62	90	216
Medical Calls	651	616	722	737	2726
MVC's	139	134	148	118	539
Incident-Other	300	323	407	378	1408
Incident-Structure Fire	28	23	11	17	79
Incident-Vehicle Fire	23	22	10	13	68
Life Safety-CPR	0	0	13	0	13
Life Safety-Development Reviews	0	0	0	0	0
Life Safety-Inspections	18	15	28	9	70
Life Safety- Plan Review	20	12	13	11	56
Life Safety-Pre-Fire Plans	1	0	0	0	1
Life Safety-Smoke Detector Installations	3	2	2	1	8
Life Safety-Special Events	28	10	32	7	77
Staff Development- Volunteer Training	9	278	234	111	632
Staff Development- In-house Training	3,120	3,240	3,360	3,240	12,960
Staff Development-Other Training	168	315	640	160	1283
Target Solutions Training	2,496	3,888	4,032	3,888	14,304
Staff Development-Total Hours	5,793	7,721	8,266	7,399	29,179



Information Technology

2023 Accomplishments

- County wide network equipment overhaul completed
- GIS rewrite for CAD and County line border alignments
- Installed and monitoring of County Administrative Building security equipment
- Replaced existing Comcast leased fiber optics with ClearWave fiber optics, increasing bandwidth and enhanced redundancy in the event of network outages
- Installed network, VoIP services and security camera systems for new Animal Control Department
- Implemented enhanced email security and filtering applications
- Implemented enhanced network monitoring applications to aide in rapid network troubleshooting
- Implemented multifactor authentication for desktops, servers, and BCC virtual private network (VPN)

2024 Plans and Goals

- Install data/VoIP services in acquired Lake City Reporter building and leased Lake Shore Hospital Authority building for use by County offices
- Contract with and implement Arctic Wolf advanced network and server monitoring to aide the IT Dept. with future security/cyber threats

The IT Department is responsible for the management, operation 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.

IT Dept. received 2,389 help tickets with 2,771 resolved with an average in progress time of 1 hour and 16 min. Completion percentage is 98.7%

Number of Employees: 4

Todd Manning

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Landscape & Parks

2023 Accomplishments

- Completed laser grading ball fields at the yellow complex
- Renovated bike trail bridges on CR18
- Installed new parking lot at the Southside Sports Complex
- Completed landscaping at the Columbia County Animal Control Facility
- 38 tournaments
- 2 Cross Country Competitions at Alligator Lake Park
- 78 Ponderosa Pavilion rentals
- 1 FWC fishing event

2024 Plans and Goals

- Renovate bridges on the trails at Alligator Lake Park
- Renovate and additional improvements at River Rise Boat Ramp
- Renovate board walk at Falling Creek Falls Park
- Complete the court lights at Richardson Community Center
- Relocate RC Track facilities
- Launch Phase I of the 500 acre regional park

The Landscape and Parks Department is dedicated to 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.

Parks

Southside Sports Complex
 South Columbia Sports Complex
 Alligator Lake
 Falling Creek
 Rum Island
 Five Points Park
 Columbia City Park
 Bethlehem Park
 Lake Jeffery Road Practice Fields
 CR 18 Trail (O'Leno to Ichetucknee)

Community Centers

Deep Creek
 Lulu
 Mason City
 South Columbia/Fort White
 Springville
 Westside
 Winfield
 Richardson

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

Budget: \$1,656,685

Number of Employees: 16

Clint Pittman

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Library

2023 Accomplishments

- Submitted State Aid to Libraries Grant Application resulting in state funding
- Filled four vacancies in the library staff
- Filed for e-rate discounts, resulting in 90% discount rate on library Internet access
- Completed Express Reads Pilot Project for adult ESOL students
- 11 students awarded scholarships and 10 students earned high school diplomas and career certifications (102 total graduates) through the Library's Career Online High School program
- Subscribed to and implemented online language acquisition product, Pronunciator
- Launched weekly LEGO club for kids at Main Library
- Implemented a wide variety of in-person children's programs
- Hosted Youth Art Contest (35 entries) and Book Character Pumpkin contest (38 families)
- Participated in numerous outreach events to promote the Library and its services
- Installed StoryWalk project at Richardson Community Center
- Implemented sustainable shelves program through Baker & Taylor – allows vendor credit for recycling discarded and donated books
- Hosted Local Authors Book Fair (45 attendees)

Columbia County Public Libraries serves 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 nine 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 222,076 items last year.

Budget: \$1,937,885

Number of Employees: 26

Katrina Evans

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[Back to
Table of Contents](#)

2023 Accomplishments

- Hosted the Alzheimer’s Assoc. Brain Bus (30 attendees)
- Library staff members trained on various topics
- Launched monthly adult DnD program and cross stitch class
- Implemented library visits to Lake City VA Hospital and local assisted living facility to provide library services to patients and residents
- Partnered with various organizations to provide programs, services, and events
- Hosted 16th Annual Art Show in partnership with the Friends of the Library and the Art League of North Florida.
- Replaced HVAC in older half of Main Library and West Branch Library
- Hosted Summer Youth Employment Program worker – June 5th-July 14th
- 20 Library employees worked in emergency shelters and CIC during Hurricane Idalia
- Hosted visitors from State Library and federal Institute of Museum and Library Services touring selected Florida Public Libraries
- Held retirement reception, hosted by the Friends of the Library, for West Branch Manager Mary Williams who retired in December 2022 after more than 42 years of service at the Columbia County Public Library
- Completed children’s summer reading program 2023 with a travel theme “All Together Now, Around the World” with attendance of 4445 at 72 programs



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 | • Driving-tests.org |
| • OverDrive | • Florida Electronic Library |
| • LearningExpress Library | • eLibrary |
| • Ancestry Library Edition | • FastCase |
| • Heritage Quest | • Pronunciator |
| • cloudLibrary | |



2024 Plans and Goals

- Implement elimination of overdue fines commencing Oct. 1, 2023, as approved by BCC on April 6, 2023
- Upgrade integrated library system software and library webpage software to improve user experience
- Continue to expand ebook and downloadable audiobook collections
- Consider expanding Story Walk project to additional sites
- Continue to grow and strengthen partnerships with local schools to increase library usage by students and teachers
- Continued 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 and/or CareerSource Florida Crown
- Administer \$5,000 FINRA Investor Education Foundation Grant to purchase library materials on personal finance topic
- Implement sensory story time for children on the autism spectrum upon training of staff
- Consider adding regular library visits to additional local assisted living facilities to provide library services residents



Above: Columbia County Public Library participates in outreach events throughout the year. Pictured are Kate Duong at the O'Leno State Park 2023 Literacy Day in September (top left), Heather Blair and Katrina Evans prepare to visit Summers Elementary School as guest readers for Literacy Week in January 2023 (top right), Susan Kroh at the World's Greatest Baby Shower at Richardson Community Center in June 2023 (bottom).

Maintenance & Facilities

2023 Accomplishments

- Repaired/painted handicap ramp at Ft. White Lifestyle Enrichment Center
- Installed 2 sets entrance arms at Rum Island Park
- Installed roll up door operators at Fire Stations 42 and 45
- Replaced A/C at Main and West Branch Libraries
- Changed interior lights to LED at Health Dept. (Franklin St.)
- Assisted IT Dept. installing cameras at ball fields and health dept.
- Re-piped Mason City Community Center outside restrooms
- Installed ceiling fans in Main Library
- Completed 734 maintenance requests

Ongoing Projects

- Public Works equipment barn/traffic ops building construction project
- Animal enforcement offices and kennel construction project
- Richardson outdoor lighting installation
- Lake City Reporter building roof replacement project

2024 Plans and Goals

- Elevator door lock monitoring compliance installation
- Lake City Reporter building interior renovations

The Maintenance and Facilities Department is responsible for the 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 2023 the Maintenance and Facilities Department completed capital projects consisting of installation of generator at Richardson Community Center, constructed fire station #51 expansion, installed IT server room fire suppression system, and improvements to the Supervisor of Elections office.

Grant Funded special projects to be completed:

- 1) Bethlehem Park Community Center
- 2) Fire Department Administrative Offices
- 3) Old Richardson School Historic Renovation

Did You Know?

Facilities & Maintenance responded to over 782 maintenance requests.

Budget: \$2,099,009

Number of Employees: 17

Donny DuPree

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Maintenance Requests

County Extension -	22	Courthouse Annex -	06
Economic Development -	11	Emergency Management/911 -	27
Fire Department -	75	Health Department -	04
Information Technology -	42	Detention Center -	357
Public Libraries -	50	Parks and Landscape -	40
Public Works -	28	Community Centers/Recreation	48
Solid Waste Facility -	20	Supervisor of Elections -	06
Sheriff's Office -	20	IT Department -	20
Tourist Development -	06		



Public Works

2023 Accomplishments

- Paving of Old Wire Road
- Paving of Double Run Road
- Paving of Emerald Lakes
- Paving of Melon/Royal
- Paving of Academic

Ongoing Projects

- Eastside WWTF and Ellisville WWTF (2)
- Lake City Animal Shelter
- Petroleum Cleanup of Public Works
- Birley Road
- County Road 6
- Queen/Winfield/Chambria
- Parnell Hills
- High Dry Acres
- Traffic Study
- Dirt to Pave Conversion: Cypress Lake/Charles
- Annual Resurfacing :
 - Mayo
 - English/LM Aaron
 - Westwood Acres
 - Pine Knolls/Tinas
 - Spradley/Colvin/Menlo

Public Works maintains the infrastructure of Columbia County as well as makes 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	3
Culverts Cleaned	25
Miles Graded	2,995
Work Orders Completed	2,638

Budget: \$12,112,432

Number of Employees: 86

Kevin Kirby

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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:

8,400 tons of lime rock

6,760 tons of dirt

840 tons of millings



Solid Waste & Mosquito Control

2023 Accomplishments

- Class I and Class III Permit Renewal with DEP
- National Night Out Held 10/3/2023 Promoting Landfill/Recycling Education
- FDEP Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant-\$93,750 – Utilized to Assist in the Cost of Litter Removal from County Roads
- Landfill Spotter Certifications: Starlin Cochran, Hoyle Crowder, III, Steven Gamble-Jones
- Landfill Spotter Re-Certifications: Gary Roberts
- Landfill Operator Recertification: Pam Davis
- Operator Forklift Safety Certification: Samuel Robinson
- Landfill Operator Re-Certification: Jon Truesdale

Solid Waste ensures Columbia 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: \$4,297,120

Number of Employees: 22

Pam Davis

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

2024 Plans and Goals

- Excavating Future Cell 5 Utilizing Clay for Daily Cover of Class I and Class III
- Landfill operator Re-certifications
- Landfill Spotter Re-certifications
- National Night Out-Promoting Landfill/Recycling Education

SOLID WASTE TONNAGE	22/23	% Change from 21/22
Class I – Commercial Garbage	29,414	- 2%
Class I – Residential Garbage	31,080	+ 3%
Class I – Average Tons Per Day	221	+ 4%
Class III – Commercial C&D	21,087	+ 3%
Class III – Residential C&D	6,156	- 11 %
Class III – Average Tons Per Day	99	- 5%
Tires	593	+6%

MOSQUITO CONTROL

2023 Accomplishments

- PHPC & Director License Obtained: Evan Cox, Asst. Director
- Attended Director Caucus at Dodd Short Course: Pam Davis
- Attended Various Webinars Required for CEU’s to Maintain PHPC License: Pam Davis
- Hired New Mosquito Control Operator-Roy Tucker
- National Night Out – Promoting Mosquito Prevention/Awareness Education
- Obtained FDACS State Funding in the Amount of \$37,748.53 – Utilized in Conducting Arthropod/Mosquito Control Services on a Match Basis by the County

2024 Plans and Goals

- Continuing Education – Dodd Short Courses
- National Night Out-Promoting Mosquito Prevention/Awareness Education

MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

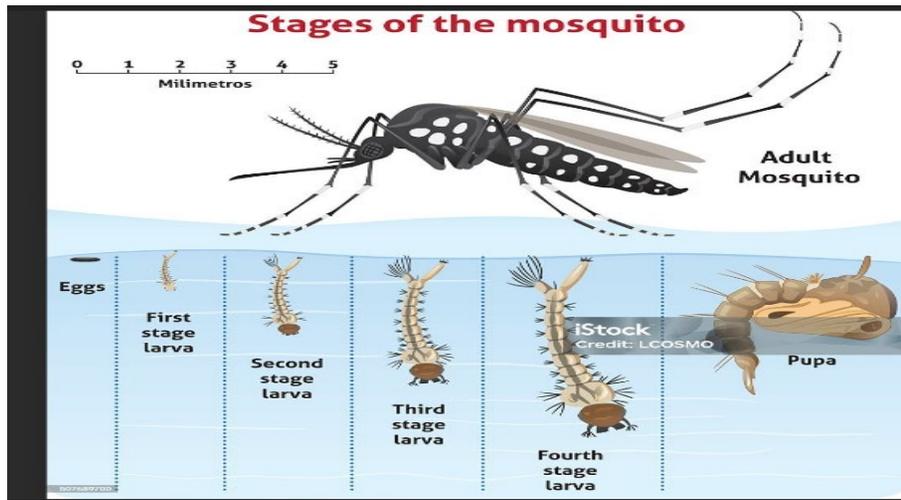
SURVEILLANCE:

Conducts adult mosquito surveillance in five (5) zones monthly by placing CDC Light Traps in those areas to gain information on the relative population density and species of mosquitoes to determine the most appropriate means of control; also drivers are required to perform Landing Rate Counts and record the data to meet the threshold to spray mosquitoes.

Visual Inspections of larval mosquito habitats are conducted to identify the presence of larval mosquitoes to determine what larvicide is required to treat the type of water source.

County partners with UF/Florida Dept. of Agriculture to identify mosquitoes that could pose a risk of transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.





MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

ADULTICIDING:

Provides spraying of the County using various chemicals to kill adult mosquitoes, and are generally applied using truck mounted ULV spray unit that are based on the trapping counts and/or landing rate counts recorded as per the rules and regulations.

LARVICIDING:

Provides for the chemical treatment of larval mosquitoes (either I-IV Instar) by applying chemicals to roadside ditches, swales, retention ponds, treatment ponds and small bodies of water, and man-made ponds.

Mosquito Application	22/23	% Change from 21/22
Truck Spray Request	10,426	+ 24%
Standing Water Treatment	68	+ 5%



Tourist Development

2023 Accomplishments

- Rebrand to Lake City, Florida’s Springlands
- New Website: www.lakecityfl.com
- 500-acre park master plan
- Vacation guide reprint
- Rack Card designed and distributed
- Certified as an Official Visit Florida Welcome Center
- Visit Florida Full Page Ad with Miles Partnership
- Organized and Executed Photo and Video Shoot with Paradise Advertising Agency
- TV Interviews –NBC and The Morning Blend
- Podcast – Erica Del Sorto
- Hosted Babe Ruth and USSSA Tournaments
- Signed with Airstream Adventures – Held First LaCrosse Recruiting Event
- 2023 Tourism Week Proclamation
- 1st County of 27 TDC’s to Participate in Visit Florida Rural DMO Photo/Video Shoot with Cycle Here Media
- Participated in Various Media Campaigns Targeting General Awareness and Education about Destination, Driving Traffic to Website, Geographic and Demographics Targeting, Competitive Sets, Audience, and Paid Social (Facebook/Instagram)

Columbia County Tourist Development is the marketing arm 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
\$2,118,453	+4.54

Hotel Occupancy		
	Data	% Change
Occupancy	62.9%	-4.1
Rooms Sold	317,752	-3.7

Budget: \$3,837,791

Number of Employees: 4

VACANT

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www.springsrus.com

www.facebook.com/visitcolumbiacounty

 @SpringsRUsFla

 springrus



[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

2023 Accomplishments

Event Sponsorship

- Chamber of Commerce –Gateway City Beer and Wine Festival
- Stephen Foster Festival of Lights – Polar Express
- Columbia County Resources Fair and Rodeo
- Stephen Foster Folk Festival
- Olustee Festival
- Lake City – Columbia County Museum
- Babe Ruth State Softball Tournament

2024 Plans and Goals

- Break Ground on Phase 1 of Regional Sports Park
- Recruit New Executive Director and Sports Marketing Director
- Drive Awareness and Affinity as a Year-Round Active Lifestyle Destination
- Keep 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.

Cont'd on page 18

A photograph of people swimming in a clear, green spring or river. The water is crystal clear, and the surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation. Several people are visible in the water, some standing and some sitting on the rocks.

Utilities

2023 Accomplishments

- Ellisville Wastewater – Expand the Treatment Plant to double the capacity
- Ellisville and Fort White Water systems – replaced meters throughout system upgrading to radio read meters
- Fort White Water Treatment Plant – Replaced 5000 gallon hydro-pneumatic tank that pressurizes the distribution system\
- Performed maintenance and improvements to Fort White system
- Revised Rate Schedule to unify rates between systems

Ongoing Projects

- North Florida Mega Industrial Park Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) construction
- North Florida Mega Industrial Park Water Treatment Plant (WTP) – Design and Wellfield location
- Finalize Water and Wastewater Master Plans

2024 Plans and Goals

- Ellisville/Fort White – complete 12-inch water main installation
- FDOT Rest Area WWTP – acquisition of system to add wastewater treatment capacity
- Ellisville Water Distribution – Seek funding to loop system near Interstate exchange (SRF/AWS)
- Ellisville WTP Improvements – Install flow-meter, and acquire an additional wellfield to improve water quality and redundancy.
- Work toward multi-county operations and maintenance agreement to control costs.

The County operates the water and wastewater systems in Ellisville, the water system in Fort White and is building a water and wastewater system at the North Florida Mega Industrial Park. In 2013, the County moved the Utilities into a separate Department for transparency.



Budget: \$ 28,700,309

Number of Employees: 4

Stephen Roberts,
Utility Director

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[Back to](#)

[Table of Contents](#)