



HARDEE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019



**RETIRING COUNTY MANAGER
LEX ALBRITTON
HANDS OFF THE REINS**



**COUNTY GETS
NEW FUEL
SYSTEM
DETAILS ON
PAGE 51**



Meet the County Commissioners on Page 6

COUNTY DIRECTORY

ANIMAL CONTROL

773-2320

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

773-9430

BUDGET & FINANCE

773-3199

BUILDING & CODE ENFORCEMENT

773-3236

CENTRAL DISPATCH

773-4144

CIVIC CENTER

773-3419

CLERK OF COURTS

773-4174

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

773-6349

COUNTY ATTORNEY

773-5600

COUNTY EXTENSION

773-2164

COUNTY MANAGER

773-9430

COUNTY PROBATION

773-9323

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

773-0385

CRACKER TRAIL MUSEUM

735-0119

DRUG FREE HARDEE

767-0401

E-911

773-0222

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

773-6373

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

773-3419

FIRE RESCUE & EMS (Bowling Green)

767-8582

FIRE RESCUE & EMS (Wauchula)

773-4362

FIRE RESCUE & EMS (Zolfo Springs)

767-8585

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

773-2505

HARDEE LAKES PARK

767-8543

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

773-4161

HUMAN RESOURCES

773-2161

ITS & GIS

767-9655

LANDFILL

773-5089

LIBRARY

773-6438

MAINTENANCE SHOP

773-6430

MINING

773-0136

PARKS & RECREATION

773-3419

PIONEER PARK

473-5078

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

767-1964

PROPERTY APPRAISER

773-2196

PUBLIC DEFENDER

773-6758

PUBLIC WORKS

773-3272

PURCHASING

773-5014

SHERIFF

773-0304

SOIL CONSERVATION

773-9644

STATE ATTORNEY

773-6613

STATE PROBATION

773-4777

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

773-6061

TAX COLLECTOR

773-9144

UTILITIES

773-3465

VETERANS SERVICES

773-9853

WILDLIFE REFUGE

473-4892

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GENERAL INFORMATION



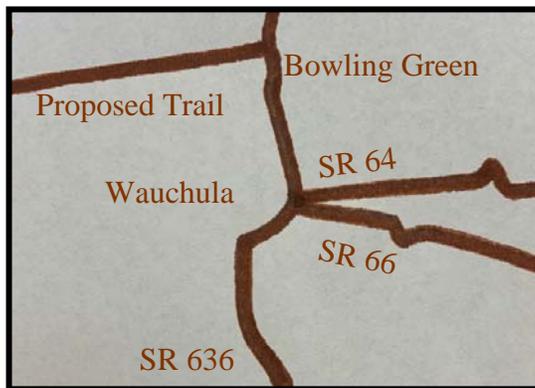
Hardee County is geographically located in the West Central Florida region with the County's boundaries encompassing some 637 square miles. The County's predominate economic base is attributed to agriculture businesses and flanked by the phosphate mining industry. The 2019 population estimate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 27,812.

Florida
Greenways & Trails
System
Plan

-  Land Trail Opportunities
-  Conservation Lands

LAND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Hardee County



An elected five-member Commission guides Hardee County as a political subdivision of the State of Florida. The Commissioners are chosen by partisan election to represent a specific district within the County. The Commission is the principal legislative and governing body of the County. The powers and duties of the Board are those prescribed by the State Constitution or by the Florida Legislature. The County Manager, a professional appointed by the Commission, is responsible to the Board for the execution of all Board policies and the preparation of the annual budget. The County contracts out the Attorney services. See the next page for the County Organizational Chart:

Hardee County Board of County Commissioners ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Hardee County Citizens

Board of County Commissioners

County Manager

County Attorney

Director of Public Works

Director of Utilities

Director of General Services

Director of Planning & Development

Director of Public Safety

Director of Budget & Finance

Animal Control

Vandolah Utilities

Community Development

Building & Code Enforcement

Emergency Management

Office of Budget & Finance

Facilities Maintenance

Wauchula Hills Utilities

County Probation

County Extension Services

Fire & Rescue Services

Support for all Agencies

Fleet Maintenance

Human Resources

Geographic Information Systems

Veterans Services

Parks & Recreation

Library

Information Technology Services

Solid Waste

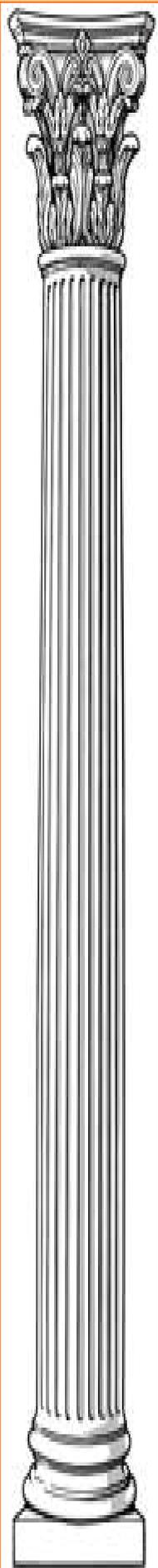
Procurement

Mining

Transportation Services

Planning & Zoning

Soil Conservation



**2018- 2019
HARDEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Colon Lambert
District I
Current Term: 2012 - 2020



Noey Flores
District II
Term: 2018 - 2022

Rick Knight

District III

Current Term: 2011 - 2020

Vice Chairman



Russell Melendy

District IV

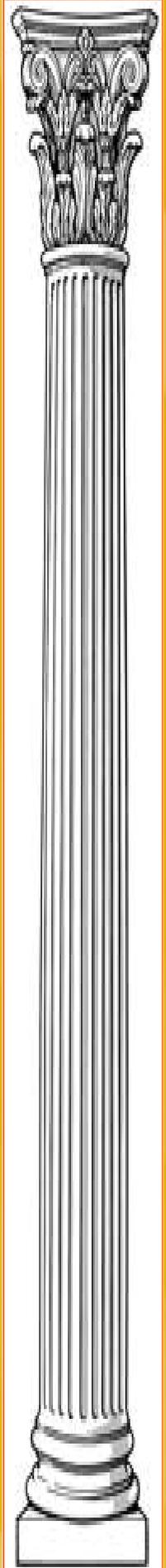
Current Term: 2014 - 2022

Mike Thompson

District V

Current Term: 2012—2020

Chairman



COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Citizens:

We are pleased to present the 2019 Hardee County Annual Report. It is the goal of this document to inform the citizens of Hardee County of the accomplishments of county government over the past year. In these pages, you can see what your government is doing for you and your neighbors.

Throughout the departmental pages of this report you will find descriptions and statistical data of the many tasks that staff performs daily. Our departments are working every day to support the needs of our citizens and to deliver the services necessary to help our community to grow, prosper and to become sustainable for the future and the wellbeing of our citizens.

Our Commissioners continue to remain steadfast in the support and collaboration with the Industrial Development Authority and the Economic Development Council to attract new businesses to our county. The pursuit of economic growth is a tough, arduous job. We have had some failures, but also some great successes. This process will continue and has become even more important now that our Citrus industry is struggling to survive the devastating impacts of Citrus Greening.

During this year, we have completed all of the repairs for the damages caused by Hurricane Irma. Staff have been working diligently to complete the voluminous amount of paper work necessary to receive reimbursement for the work. At the time this report was completed, the County had re-



Lex Albritton

ceived most all of the requested reimbursements.

As you review this report you can see depictions of much of the work that has been accomplished this year such as roads, bridges and utility infrastructure. However, what is not so evident is all the hours that our office staff have worked to support the activities that result in things you can see, touch and feel. As you read each department's section you will notice pictures of the office staff who support all the government functions that must occur to support the things you do see. Additionally, those not pictured are many of our support staff such as Public Works, Utilities, Parks & Recreation, Fire & Rescue that strive every day to provide a safe environment for all residents to live, work and play. I would like to thank each and every employee for all they do, day after day to keep this county operating efficiently.

I hope you will take the time to review the current Budget Document which can be found under the Home Page of the County Website by selecting from the Main Menu, County Departments H-W, Management/Budget; It is listed as "2019-2020 Adopted Budget.pdf". If you have any questions, you can speak to the staff in the Office of Management and Budget and they will be happy

to assist you. There is an enormous amount of data to back up the document. Staff welcomes the opportunity to discuss the details of this budget document with anyone desiring to do so. I also invite you to attend the Commissioners' Budget Workshops which are held the third week of July each year. In these workshops, Commissioners delve into every minuscule detail of each department's budget.

As you read this report, I hope you will be pleased by all your county staff have accomplished over the past year. By working together and staying focused, they will continue to ensure that the needs of the community are being met while maintaining the values that make Hardee County a great place to live and work.

As I write this report, I also bring to a close my tenure as County Manager for Hardee County. I have held the position for a little over eighteen years and the time has really flown by. Even though there are many things I would still like to see completed, I know there will never be a time when that is not so. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff, commissioners and the many citizens who have supported me over the years.

Sincerely,

Lexton H. Albritton, Jr.





Lex Albritton and Gordon Norris
In the Board Room 2005



Team Hardee
Main Street Wauchula Event



Team Hardee
Relay for Life Event



**LEXTON ALBRITTON, JR.
RETIRES AFTER OVER EIGHTEEN
SERVICE YEARS**





HARDEE COUNTY SERVICE MATRIX

This Service Matrix was developed to disclose the services provided or supported by Hardee County Board of County Commissioners. This matrix can be a very useful tool when investigating the strategic changes in services and operations that may be necessary when developing a budget. In addition, this matrix could assist in developing measurements that could grade the value and performance of the services provided. Explanation of the Matrix: **Services in Green type are 100% funded and under the direct control of the County Commission.** **Services in Blue are 100% funded, but under the control of other elected officials.** **Services in Orange are supported through the County Commission, but operated and managed by outside agencies.**

<p>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Clerk of Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Recorder Internal Auditing Recordkeeping for BOCC Recordkeeping for Courts <p>County Attorney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eminent Domain General Legal Services & Counsel Litigation <p>County Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Comp Plan Performance Auditors Set Policy & Directive <p>County Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Support to BOCC County Intergovernmental Representation County Legislative Representation Development of Legislative Programs Development of County Policies Provides Access to Legal Research Materials Targeted Process Improvements <p>Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant Recruiting & Screening Employee Record Maintenance Hearings of Discipline Appeals & Grievances Job Classification & Compensation 	<p>Payroll Processing</p> <p>Information Technology Services (ITS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Solutions/Services Communications Services Desktop Services Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Information Distribution & Data Management Services <p>Office of Budget & Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Reporting Audit Management Budget Analysis & Reporting Budget Preparation & Management Special Assessment Interim Collections <p>Planning & Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Planning Land Development Review & Inspection Land Use Counseling Zoning Administration (ULDC) <p>Property Appraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemptions Administration Real & Tangible Property Assessment TRIM Notice Administration <p>Purchasing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bidder Registration & Management Centralized Procurement Fuel System Administration Inventory Management 	<p>Purchasing Card Program</p> <p>Supervisor of Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer Elections Voter Registration <p>Tax Collector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill & Collect Property Taxes & Assessments Licenses Issuance (Hunting/Fishing/Driving) Motor Vehicle Registration/Title <p>PUBLIC SAFETY</p> <p>Building & Code Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Licensed Contractors Building & Code Inspections Building & Zoning Code Enforcement Building Plan Review Condemnation & Removal of Dangerous Structures <p>Emergency Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALF / Home Health Plan Review All Hazards Planning Disaster Response & Recovery General Population/Special Needs Shelter Management Hazard Analysis Site Visits NIMS Compliance <p>Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paramedic Services (Advanced Life Support) <p>Facilities Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custodial & Grounds Services Maintains Indoor Air Quality, (Heating, Ventilation, AC)
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Maintenance & Upkeep of all County Property (Land & Buildings)

Fire Control

Fire Inspections & Prevention

Fire Suppression

Plans Review

Training Services

Sheriff

Countywide 9-1-1 Database & Street Address Management

Countywide 9-1-1 Network Administration

Detention, Special Operations

Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

County Extension

4-H & Youth Programs

Agricultural Programs & Safety Training

Commercial & Residential Horticulture

Family & Consumer Science Program

Restricted Use Pesticide Licenses Training

Mining

Conducts Inspections of Clay Settling Areas

Conducts Water Sampling in Mining Areas

Coordinates with Regulatory Agencies

Ensures Compliance with County LD Codes

Inspects Reclamation Areas

Soil Conservation

Conservation & Environmental Education

Soil & Water Technical & Permitting Assistance

Solid Waste

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Solid Waste Collection Management

Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling

Utilities

Water & Wastewater Management

Ona Range Cattle Station

Beef & Forage Production Research & Education

TRANSPORTATION

Fleet Maintenance

24 Hour Emergency Coverage for Essential Vehicles

County Equipment Repair & Maintenance

Public Safety Equipment Repairs & Maintenance

Transportation

Capital Project Management

Develop, Monitor & Evaluate Transportation Systems

Engineering Design

Long-Range Transportation Planning

Maintain Database of Daily Work Logs & Citizen Request

Review & Permit Right of Way Utilization

Road, Bridge & Right of Way Maintenance

Storm Water Management

Transportation Plans, Programs, & Studies

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Office of Community Development

Affordable Housing Services (Rehab & Purchase Assistance) Mortgage Assistance (FL Hardest Hit Help Fund & Principal Reduction Program Advisor Agency), Legislative Appropriation Administration

Community Education Programs

Grant Administration, Coordination, Research, & Writing for BOCC, Sheriff's Office, Drug Free Hardee and County Health Department

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Participate in Planning Issues, provide technical services

Plan Activities for Transportation Disadvantaged

Chamber of Commerce

Support Business Growth

Increase Job Opportunities

Economic Development

Agriculture Industry Development

Business/Industry Development

Corporate Business Development

Employment & Training Workforce Board

Small Business Information Center

HUMAN SERVICES

Animal Control

Enforce State and Local Domestic Animal Regulations

Office of Management & Budget

HCRA, Indigent Burials & Medicaid

Indigent Health Care Board Management

Veterans Services

Counseling & Benefits Assistance to Veterans & Families

Alpha & Omega Ministries/Hannah House

Drug Addiction/Domestic Violence Shelter

Caring People Ministries

Provides alcoholism and drug addiction programs

Cutting Edge Ministries

Food Distribution for Disadvantaged

Drug Free Hardee

Promotes Positive Community Change

Hardee Help Center

Services for Indigent

Health Department

Health Care Services & Education for Indigent

MV Contract Transportation

Transportation for Disadvantaged

Medical Examiner

Cause of Death Determination & Disposition of Bodies

Nu Hope

Aging Services, In-Home Care, Nutrition

Peace River Center

Mental Health & Drug Addiction

Resthaven

Assisted Living Facility

CULTURE & RECREATIONAL

Library

Circulation Services, Citizen Action Center

Information & Reference Services

Parks & Recreation

County Park Maintenance & Grounds Keeping

Operate & Maintain the Wildlife Refuge



2018-19 End of Year Financial Report

Revenues that support the local government operation come from many different sources. Some revenues can be spent on any type of services provided by the local government (Unrestricted) and others can only be spent on a designated service (Restricted). The main source of unrestricted revenues and the largest source in the County is ad valorem taxes (property taxes). This past fiscal year the property taxes collected made up approximately 33% (\$14 million) of the total revenues collected. Other types of unrestricted revenues include sales taxes on goods and services imposed by both the local government and the state government.

The services most dependent upon unrestricted revenues are Public Safety and General Governmental Services. Public Safety accounts for 38% (\$16.5 million) of the County's total annual expenses. Public Safety consists of Law Enforcement, Detention, Buildings & Inspections, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire and E-911. These services generate approximately \$2.7 million per year and the balance must come from unrestricted revenue sources.

General Governmental Services are the management services necessary for operations of a local government and include the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager, Clerk of Courts, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, Procurement, Human Resources, Budget & Finance, Facilities, and Information & Technology Services. These departments account for

approximately 15% (\$6.3 million) of the County's expenses this past year and are almost entirely funded by unrestricted revenues.

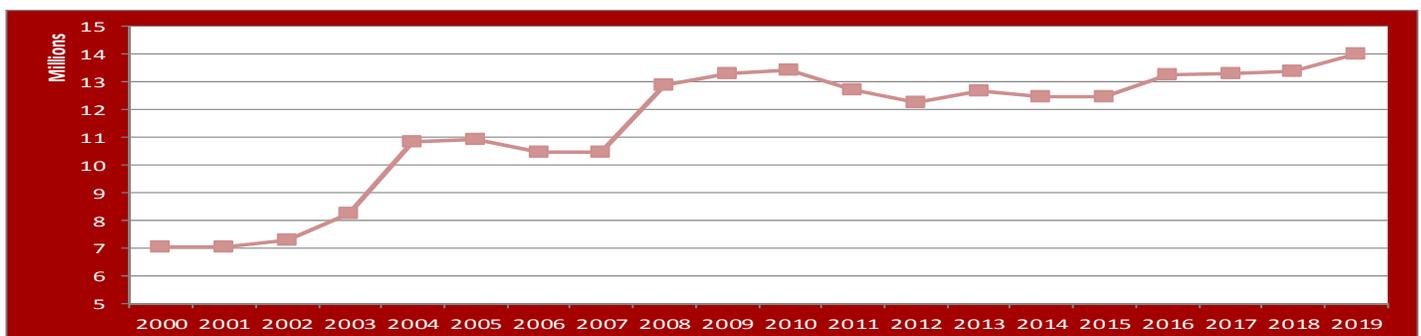
Fuel taxes imposed by both the state and local government are the main source of restricted revenues that support the repair and maintenance of the County's roads and bridges. Most of the capital improvements are funded by State DOT grants; however, the County has developed a small capital program that is funded by the local optional five cent fuel tax. This tax generates approximately \$500 thousand per year and is restricted to in-house capital improvements of County roads and bridges.

When it comes to those services that should be funded by the individuals that use them, the County relies on direct charges. In total, the County generated approximately 9% (\$3.8 million) in Charges for Services. Solid Waste earns the largest portion for commercial disposal services and Water and Waste Water Utilities comes in second for water and sewer services. We would also consider the Mining Department in this funding source, as it is funded 100% by charges for services paid by the mining industry as it's only customer. As a whole, these departments make up the expense category of Physical Environment and account for almost 9% (\$3.8 million) of the County's total expenditures. These facilities are highly engineered and designed to protect our County's environment.

The economics of being from a rural and lowly populated County often requires a higher charge for the services or providing a subsidy from unrestricted revenues to keep the service charge at a reasonable rate. There are many examples including Emergency Medical Services and Fire Control. We can charge a fee for ambulance services and commercial inspection fees are collected by fire control. However, these fees do not come close to covering the entire cost of the services that are provided County wide. Other departments that operate partially from service charges are the County's Library, Parks and Recreation, Civic Center and the Sheriff's Detention.

The County also utilizes Special Assessments as a source of revenue. These are charges to property owners for a specific benefit that they receive from the County. In our case, unincorporated residential home owners receive the benefit of household garbage collections and disposal. County residents and commercial businesses also receive the special benefits of having a professional Fire Control service and are charged an assessment on their property tax bill. The County collected a little more than \$2.8 million in Special Assessments this past year, which accounts for approximately 7% of the total revenues. This covers only a portion of both services. Fire Control is also funded by a small service charge for commercial inspections and General Fund subsidies. Solid Waste is also funded by a commercial tipping fee.

There are other sources of revenues that



support the County’s operations, al-though they are minimal in the amounts collected. These sources include: Court Related Revenues and Fines & Forfeitures that support a small portion of the court cost that the County is mandated to pay; Interest made on checking accounts, which is a very small unrestricted source; Facility Rental, which is dedicated to Facilities to help maintain the structures that are rented; Revenues from Disposal of Assets which come from the sale of surplus equipment and finally there are other miscellaneous revenues from unclassified sources.

You will see in the financial charts that there are Transfers In on the revenues side and Transfers Out on the expenditure side. Transfers are the monies that are sent back and to between the County funds. They are not actually new revenues generated, although they are added to the totals.

The County must often shift money between its funds for a couple of reasons. First, we may need to subsidize a fund that is not self-supported by restricted revenues and second, the County may need to pay back a fund that has performed a service that is not eligible under their restricted funding.

The County maintained a good fiscal position in Fiscal Year 2016-17 until the last month of that fiscal year when Hurricane Irma hit. The storm caused approximately \$3 million in damages essentially reducing the County’s contingency, reserves and fund balance by 50%. Throughout Fiscal Year 17-18 and 18-19 the County made strong efforts to restore those funds through the reimbursement process with FEMA and the State. At the end of Fiscal Year 18-19, the County had received half of the cost with final close out of the reimbursement process expected to occur in Fiscal Year 19-20.

In closing, the Board of County Commissioners continues to spend ample time reviewing the different sources and the options for funding County operations. Management is very proactive in their evaluations and they strive to improve and incorporate cost effective methods of providing better services to the citizens of Hardee County.

TOTAL REVENUES BY CATEGORY



Ad Valorem Taxes (33%) \$13,993,907; State Shared Revenues (18%) \$7,665,994; State Grants (16%) \$6,752,051; Charges for Services (9%) \$3,768,285; General Government Taxes (7%) \$3,056,673; Special Assessments (7%) \$2,893,867; Federal Grants (4%) \$1,631,083; Miscellaneous/Donations (2%) \$1,053,387; Other (4%) \$1,491,256

TOTAL EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Public Safety (38%) \$16,557,744; Transportation (31%) \$13,520,665; General Government (15%) \$6,363,775; Physical Environment (9%) \$3,880,360; Culture and Recreation (3%) \$1,268,693; Human Services (3%) \$1,204,542; Courts (1%) \$635,519; Economic Environment (1%) \$377,723





2018-19 End of Year Financial Report

ACTUAL REVENUE AND EXPENSE SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

REVENUES	GENERAL FUND	TRANSPORTATION TRUST	FINES & FORFEITURE	FIRE RESCUE	SPECIAL EVENTS	MINING	E-911
AD VALOREM TAXES	13,993,907.03	-	-	-	-	-	-
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TAXES	1,603,089.09	1,403,139.16	-	-	-	-	-
LICENSES, PERMITS, FEES	398,730.85	5,450.00	-	-	-	-	-
FEDERAL GRANTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STATE GRANTS	49,918.00	6,093,312.45	-	-	-	-	-
STATE SHARED REVENUES	4,222,499.53	2,928,002.38	-	4,866.98	-	-	262,031.07
LOCAL GRANTS	6,194.85	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	1,491,035.39	141,973.98	23,822.00	9,760.13	-	260,505.74	-
FINES & FORFEITURES	3,186.38	-	192,726.17	-	-	-	-
INTEREST	116,680.45	48,224.60	4,210.04	24,235.64	384.52	1,341.37	5,145.55
RENTS & ROYALTIES	151,140.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
DISPOSITION OF ASSETS	7,920.00	41,630.00	-	-	-	-	-
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	-	-	-	1,867,937.85	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	606,694.22	192,723.64	377.15	2,807.00	3,406.54	-	-
TRANSFERS IN	1,500,849.67	475,528.77	400,000.00	227,255.00	-	-	-
LOAN PROCEEDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	24,151,845.46	11,329,984.98	621,135.36	2,136,862.60	3,791.06	261,847.11	267,176.62

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY	GENERAL FUND	TRANSPORTATION TRUST	FINES & FORFEITURE	FIRE RESCUE	SPECIAL EVENTS	MINING	E-911
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	6,329,948.57	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUBLIC SAFETY	13,652,216.28	-	-	2,620,587.80	-	-	206,615.00
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	192,921.24	-	-	-	-	271,184.85	-
TRANSPORTATION	-	13,520,664.56	-	-	-	-	-
ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	25,751.28	-	-	-	-	-	-
HUMAN SERVICES	1,001,533.21	-	-	-	-	-	-
CULTURE & RECREATION	1,173,621.01	-	-	-	31,563.92	-	-
COURTS	-	-	635,519.02	-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS OUT	632,640.00	-	-	129,030.00	14,363.34	40,300.00	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,008,631.59	13,520,664.56	635,519.02	2,749,617.80	45,927.26	311,484.85	206,615.00



2018-19 End of Year Financial Report

ACTUAL REVENUE AND EXPENSE SUMMARY BY CATEGORY (CONTINUED)

EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND	TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX	GRANTS	VANDOLAH UTILITIES	WAUCHULA HILLS UTILITIES	SOLID WASTE	SOLID WASTE CLOSURE	LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND	TOTAL
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,993,907.03
-	50,445.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,056,673.46
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	404,180.85
1,337,388.74	-	293,693.91	-	-	-	-	-	1,631,082.65
293,786.30	-	67,070.64	-	140,769.65	107,194.20	-	-	6,752,051.24
-	-	-	-	248,593.55	-	-	-	7,665,993.51
-	-	69,154.69	-	309,353.26	-	-	-	384,702.80
-	-	-	110,044.60	657,493.99	1,073,649.67	-	-	3,768,285.50
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	195,912.55
-	1,713.56	8,907.10	2,305.48	18,850.78	48,190.18	23,436.41	2,144.34	305,770.02
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151,140.00
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,550.00
-	-	-	-	-	1,025,928.79	-	-	2,893,866.64
-	-	61,157.50	-	7,674.34	120,186.59	-	58,359.62	1,053,386.60
-	-	5,385.00	-	-	206,387.39	100,000.00	-	2,915,405.83
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1,631,175.04	52,158.77	505,368.84	112,350.08	1,382,735.57	2,581,536.82	123,436.41	60,503.96	45,221,908.68

EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND	TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX	GRANTS	VANDOLAH UTILITIES	WAUCHULA HILLS UTILITIES	SOLID WASTE	SOLID WASTE CLOSURE	LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND	TOTAL
-	-	33,826.45	-	-	-	-	-	6,363,775.02
-	-	45,624.66	-	-	-	-	32,700.00	16,557,743.74
-	-	63,993.54	94,339.69	1,236,665.94	2,021,254.32	-	-	3,880,359.58
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,520,664.56
-	-	351,971.36	-	-	-	-	-	377,722.64
-	-	203,008.74	-	-	-	-	-	1,204,541.95
63,498.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,268,682.93
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	635,519.02
1,836,788.39	-	17,093.47	7,540.00	52,914.64	184,736.13	-	-	2,915,405.97
1,900,286.39	-	715,518.22	101,879.69	1,289,580.58	2,205,990.45	-	32,700.00	46,724,415.41



Purchasing provides procurement services to Hardee County government agencies; securing goods and services that meet performance and delivery requirements at the most cost effective price, while adhering to appropriate laws, regulations, and procedures.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

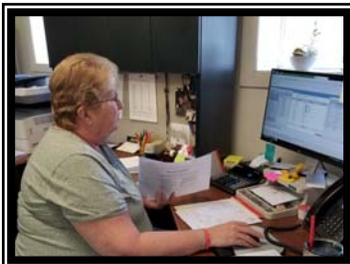
- * Received 1,557 Requisitions
- * Processed 6,316 Credit Card tickets, an increase of 9% from last year
- * Distributed 1,752 Purchase Orders
- * Processed and added new vendors to meet the needs of various departments
- * Completed the installation of shelving for archival of bids, contracts/agreements, purchase orders and other Purchasing documents
- * Re-organized and labeled stockroom items providing improved location identification
- * Analyzed current Uniform Policy to confirm all staff required to wear uniforms are outfitted comfortably, professionally and cost effectively
- * Issued 6 Invitations to Bid, 2 Requests for Proposals, and 1 Request for Quote
- * Monitored the fuel system usage and circulated fuel expenses consumed to the departments and agencies
- * Prepared the monthly fuel report for submittal to Florida Department of Revenue to obtain refund for taxes paid
- * Maintained the stockroom with a closing evaluation of \$182,748
- * Administered the Bank of America credit card program for small dollar purchases



Upgraded the Hanchey Road Fuel Station. See Capital Page 51 for more information.

LOOKING FORWARD:

- Initiate cross training to ensure efficiency and continuity of services
- Review of the Purchasing Manual to ensure all requirements and guidelines are current
- Weed old paperwork from storage area
- Explore the consolidation of Procurement Cards
- Re-organize upstairs storage area
- Move obsolete stock to auction



Melody Fields



Sheri Judah

Purchasing: Carmen Soles, Purchasing Director; 205 Hanchey Road, Wauchula, FL
 Phone (863) 773-5014; carmen.soles@hardeecounty.net



The Human Resources Department supports all programs, departments, and elected officials. In all of our relationships, we stand for integrity, problem solving, and equity. We do this to promote the accountability and empowerment of our employees. We ensure the employment practices and benefits are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- * Advertised 33 job openings for employment
- * Received 287 employment applications
- * Conducted 104 interviews for employment
- * Welcomed 43 new employees
- * Investigated and filed 28 worker's compensation claims
- * Investigated and filed 13 liability claims
- * Investigated and filed 5 auto accident claims
- * Investigated and filed 16 property claims
- * Successfully Negotiated Fire Rescue Union Contract
- * Scheduled and conducted the Hardee County annual health and benefit fair
- * Maintained personnel records for Board of County Commissioner's employees
- * Prepared bi-weekly payrolls for the Board of County Commissioner's staff
- * Reconciled monthly premiums of payroll deductions for payment i.e.: insurances, pre-paid legal, deferred compensation, and savings plans
- * Served as Chair Person to the Hardee County Insurance Committee
- * Served as Chair Person to the Hardee County Safety Committee
- * Served on the Hardee County Wellness Committee



Laticia Wilkins , Opal Wilkerson, Rita Zimmerman



**The Human Resources Department Values:
HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND TRUST**

We honor our commitments and conduct business in a manner that promotes fairness, respect, honesty and trust.

TEAMWORK

We encourage the diversity of thoughts, experiences, and backgrounds and celebrate participation and partnership in all of our endeavors.

LEADERSHIP

We lead by example and advocate equitable treatment in our behaviors, policies and practices.

QUALITY RESULTS

We believe those we serve deserve excellent service, a safe, productive and healthy work environment and quality results.

Human Resources: Opal Wilkerson, Human Resources Director; 205 Hanchey Road, Wauchula, FL
Phone (863) 773-2161; opal.wilkerson@hardeecounty.net



"The Management and Budget staff is dedicated to presenting the County's financial information in an understandable manner that demonstrates accountability, integrity, and prudent spending of public funds."

As has been stated in all past annual reports: The Office of Management & Budget's (OMB) predominant purpose is to assist the County Manager in overseeing the preparation of a balanced budget and to maintain a balanced budget while meeting the financial challenges that administration, departments and agencies may encounter throughout the year. The budget process must also maintain county policy and regulatory objectives to fulfill the County's statutory responsibilities. OMB must evaluate the effectiveness of department programs, policies and procedures, assessing, and documenting competing funding demands among the departments and agencies to allow for management decisions on funding priorities.

The annual budget is prepared and maintained in an effective and efficient manner that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board, and in accordance with State rules and regulations. This office coordinates the development of the budget process, reviews, and evaluates departmental plans, and monitors expenditures to ensure adherence to county policies and procedures or revenue source restrictions. Management and Budget assists all county departments with reviews of budgets, including forecasting future revenues. OMB has streamlined the budget process allowing more time to be spent on evaluating new revenue sources, analyzing legislation, rates, fees, and other financial related matters and research.

The Management and Budget staff is dedicated to presenting the County's financial information in an understandable manner that demonstrates accountability, integrity, and prudent spending of public funds.

While budget development and execution is the prominent process managed by this department, they are also responsible for many other functions. Those functions are typically listed in the goals and objectives of the budget documents. In keeping with the goals and objectives listed in the 2018-19 public budget document, Management and Budget has maintained, achieved, or made progress in the areas listed on the next page:

DEBT SCHEDULE FY 2019

DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	BEGINNING BALANCE	PAYMENT DUE	PAYMENT AMOUNT	ENDING BALANCE
Solid Waste	Expansion & Equipment	\$ 3,830,000	March 2019	\$ 350,000	\$ 3,480,000
Transportation Trust	CNG Fueling Stations (TECO)	\$ 20,000	September 2019	\$ 20,000	\$ 00
Emergency Medical Services	Two (2) Ambulances	\$ 126,499	September 2019	\$ 126,499	\$ 00
Fire/EMS and Sheriff	Public Service Radios	\$ 412,093	December 2019	\$ 206,046	\$ 206,047

Management and Budget

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Beginning in early January 2019; Management and Budget coordinated the budget process and worked with each county department to prepare a balanced budget for FY19-20. The process ended in late September of 2019 with an adopted, balanced budget certified in the Truth in Millage process and in accordance with all state laws and requirements.
- Prepared two budget documents; one line item detail for internal use and one summarized document which includes educational information, as well as, each department's mission, goals and objectives for public use.
- Maintained a balanced budget through out the year and met the needs of each department by processing 329 departmental transfers and 58 budget amendments.
- Effectively managed the County's debt schedule.
- Developed and adopted a balanced budget that was TRIM compliant for the Independent Indigent Health Care Board. Effectively, managed the budget and all monthly meetings held by this board, and received a clean audit for FY 17-18.
- Effectively maintained the tax roll for Solid Waste and Fire Control Special Assessments; as well as, evaluated and updated the County's rate schedule through the adoption of Resolutions 18-27, 18-29, 18-32, 18-33, 18-34 and 18-35.
- Effectively coordinated and provided all necessary documents for the Board of County Commissioners FY 17-18 audit.
- Provided indigent residents with income verifications and filing of claims under the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA). Processed 177 HCRA applications, resulting in \$23,816 In-County benefits and \$51,775 Out-of-County benefits.
- Provided \$565,789 Medicaid benefits. Provided \$392,950 Inmate medical benefits.
- Processed 51 hardship exemption applications in the month of May.
- Continued to process request for payments from FEMA for reimbursement of damages caused by Hurricane IRMA and track progress of closing out this disaster fund.
- Prepared, for the County Manager, a 65-page, magazine style, annual report touching on each County Department's achievements and progress throughout the past year.



OMB Team 2020
Diane Moore and Tabatha Byers



General Services Team 2020
Lorie Ayers, Dee Shackelford,
Carmen Soles, Yolanda Villarreal,
Janice Williamson, and Opal
Wilkerson

LOOKING FORWARD:

Management of General Services moved to the Office of Management and Budget shortly after the close of Fiscal Year 2019.

Office of Management and Budget: Janice M. Williamson, Budget, Finance and General Svcs. Director
412 W Orange St., Rm 204, Wauchula, FL Phone (863) 773-3199; janice.williamson@hardecounty.net



Nathan Mooney, IT Specialist, (pictured left) and Mason Stone, IT Technician, (pictured below) have been working diligently to improve the County's computer systems and network infrastructure. They also work with the City of Wauchula to provide IT services as provided in the contract agreement between the City and County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hardee County

- * New SCADA server installed
- * 2 High availability firewalls installed
- * Server room power management system replaced
- * 2 New servers rolled out
- * 4 Existing servers repurposed
- * 24 New workstations installed
- * 6 Workstations upgraded
- * 2 Lightning strikes repaired
- * Fuel management system deployed
- * Disposition and disposal of 50+ retired workstations
- * Over 100 web help desk tickets resolved

City of Wauchula

- * Fiber connectivity finished at warehouse
- * New network hardware installed
- * Domain servers optimized
- * New Network Attached Storage device installed
- * Comprehensive backup solution implemented
- * Upgraded computers and monitors as needed



Climbing the tower to perform repairs after lightning strike.



Mason Stone
Information
Technology
Technician



Hackers don't just target companies with sensitive data on their networks. Ransomware gives them the freedom to attack any organization that relies on computers.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Information Technology (IT) Department is to provide client access to network and internet resources to create a more efficient and productive work force.

Contact Us:

Nathan Mooney, ITS Specialist
110 South 9th Avenue
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone: (863) 767-9655
Fax: (863) 767-0360
ITSHelpdesk@hardeecounty.net

LOOKING FORWARD:

HARDEE COUNTY PROJECTS:

- *Cameras installed at landfill
- *Fiber Optic connection installed at landfill
- *Upgrade all devices affecting network and phone performance
- *Upgrade 20-25 workstations
- *Deploy additional fiber optics
- *Move on-premise data to cloud services
- *Deploy SharePoint Online for document management
- *Wireless Radio Upgrades: Vandolah Utility and Civic Center

CITY OF WAUCHULA:

- * Migration of Incode to new server
- * Connect City Hall to EOC via fiber optics
- * Replace workstations as needed
- *Install over 3000' of Fiber Optic Cable connecting multiple City Buildings



Bryan McCall, GIS Coordinator is pictured left. The department provides data collection, development and management activities, analysis and mapping functions in support of capital projects, corridor and environmental studies and asset management.

A geographic information system (GIS) lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns and trends. GIS benefits organizations of all sizes and in almost every industry. There is a growing interest in and awareness of the economic and strategic value of GIS.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hardee County

- * E-911 Audit, System upgrades, and Data updates
- * Pioneer Park Fiber installation
- * Website ADA compliance
- * Website employee directory updates
- * SharePoint Setup and Admin
- * VisitHardee outreach (Pioneer Park Days)
- * USGS Census 2020 local update census addressing (LUCA)
- * Developed an Emergency Management Damage Assessment App
- * Provided support to Emergency Management during Hurricane Dorian
- * Managed Mining overlay GIS data
- * Peace Trail project mapping and support
- * SSL installation increasing Server Security

City of Wauchula

- * Developed - Stop sign data collection field App
- * New GIS server deployment
- * Initiated ArcGIS Portal
- * Utilities data collection of Water/Wastewater, and Electric

Mission Statement:

The mission of the GIS Department is to provide access to GIS mapping resources to the community at large; providing the ability to view, question, interpret, and visualize relationships; analyze patterns, and anticipate trends.

Contact Us:

Bryan McCall, GIS Analyst
110 South 9th Avenue
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone: (863) 767-9655
Email:
Bryan.McCall@hardeecounty.net



LOOKING FORWARD:

- *New Hardee County website design
- *Hardee County GIS 10.6 "Server Enterprise," and "Portal" development
- *Emergency Management map suite, and related Web Mapping Applications
- *Utility Geometric Network and related Web Mapping Applications



Emergency Management will ensure, through coordination with County and Local stakeholders that the county is prepared to respond to, and recover from, all natural and man-made emergencies. This office will provide the leadership and support to reduce the loss of life and property through an all-hazards emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response and recover throughout Hardee County.

As we look back on 2019 and toward 2020, resiliency is the key term for our community. It is more than the newest buzzword; resiliency means that we are prepared for disasters before they happen so we can quickly recover after the community is impacted.

Working closely with our partners and stakeholders, we have increased our collaborative relationships to better respond to and recover from disasters. We meet several times per year with our colleagues, including law enforcement, schools/college, municipalities, health departments, nonprofit organizations and our regional partners, to plan joint training courses, collaborate on exercises and share emergency management information.

In the last half of our fiscal year 2019 budget year, our largest effort was responding to Hurricane Dorian that reached a category 5 hurricane. Dorian was a very slow moving hurricane that lasted for several days

that in the last moments was not a direct impact to Hardee County. Preparation before the storm was a strong focus for the County. The Emergency Operation Center began monitoring on 8/26/19 and raised to Level 2 (partial Activation) on 8/30/19 and back to Level 3 (Monitoring) on 9/3/19. Estimated cost of recovery from Hurricane Dorian was minimal with Hardee County BOCC's portion approximately \$42,000.

The strength of our preparedness comes not only from our own planning efforts, but also through the resiliency and preparedness of our community members – from individual households to neighborhood associations. Thank you for your support, and I highly encourage you to visit the Office of Emergency Management website for more information on staying prepared and ready.

The combination of high-risk hazard areas and a large number of out-of-state visitors who are unfamiliar with local conditions represent a unique emergency planning and response challenge. Hardee County

has experienced, or is threatened by, a wide array of natural disasters, such as: flash flooding, wild-fires, hazardous material incidents, hurricanes, extreme heat, winter storms, and severe thunderstorms.

Office of Emergency Management staff is on call 24/7 for disasters or hazards that occur in Hardee County. This year, we had several calls for service.

These included several hazmat calls that mostly refer to fuel spills, fertilizer spreader fire, trackhoe fire, severe weather incidents and motor vehicle crash assistance, along with assisting Hardee County Fire Rescue as needed.



Griffin Road was closed for several weeks in August 2019 due to flooding between Miller Road and River Lane.

Jill Newman, Emergency Management Director, 404 West Orange Street, Wauchula, FL 33873
 Phone: (863) 773-6373; Fax: (863) 773-9390; jill.newman@hardeecounty.net



Emergency Management

Hardee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has developed a comprehensive emergency management system, which has enabled the County to effectively protect its residents from the wide range of hazards that threaten the area. The success of this system is built on an all-hazards approach to emergency management and strong partnerships within the emergency management community. This community consists of federal, state and local partners; voluntary and other non-governmental and community-based organizations; and the private sector, such as utilities and medical service providers.



Pet Friendly Hurricane Shelter during Local State of Emergency

Hardee County now has a “pet friendly” hurricane shelter available at Bowling Green Elementary School at 4530 Church Avenue, where pet owners can bring their pets during declared emergencies and shelter in the facility. The shelter is specifically designated for pet owners who live in the county evacuation areas and who have pets that they wish to bring with them. Owners are required to show proof that they reside in the county and that their pets have up-to-date vaccinations and rabies shots.

Pre-registration is required.



SERVICES

- * Mitigation of and planning for large-scale, all-hazards emergencies and disasters
- * Coordination of large-scale emergencies and disasters
- * Incident monitoring
- * Development, maintenance and execution of the County’s Emergency Management Plan
- * Review disaster plans for various health facilities to help ensure procedures are in place for emergencies in their areas
- * Liaison to local, county, state and federal agencies and departments
- * Coordination and participation in multi-jurisdictional exercise and training
- * Management of resources to assist responders and the affected population
- * Administration federal and state grant funding
- * Conduct community education and training

EOC Engagement Provided:

- # Events: 7
- # People engaged: 400
- # Engaged hours completed: 13 hours

Plus radio, newspaper, and Facebook audiences



Daniel Noah, National Weather Service
Dave Osterberg, Fox 13 Meteorologist
Jill Newman, EM Director

During 2018-19, Office of Emergency Management hosted and/or participated in a variety of community engagement activities that included community meetings regarding preparedness; presentation to a variety of smaller groups/associations; attending public gatherings to talk with community members; coordinating the Health, Safety & Hurricane Expo event. OEM also works closely with the local media to ensure that preparedness education is readily available.



Emergency Management’s New SUV

LOOKING FORWARD:

The Legislature appropriated funds to provide planning and design grants for Emergency Operations Centers that do not meet minimum hurricane safety criteria. The funds shall be used for architectural and engineering planning and design services for a new emergency operations center.



Our fire department will bolster its mission by providing fire prevention and safety education to our schools and citizens a-like. Our emergency response shall be rapid with the deployment of highly trained, professional firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. Our department's dedication to the community extends to the mitigation of all emergencies using the most efficient and effective means available.

Hardee County Fire Rescue is a Fire and Emergency Medical Service; providing fire prevention/suppression, as well as, medical response and transport. It is the mission of Emergency Medical Services to provide a rapid response and highly professional care, with caring and highly trained emergency medical technicians and paramedics to all medical emergencies. Calls consist of emergency medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, brush, car and structure fires, mutual aid to surrounding counties, and service calls to the public.

FIRE STATIONS

There are three fire/rescue stations positioned in Hardee County consisting of Bowling Green, Wauchula, and Zolfo Springs. There is a total of 13 personnel per shift and 4 administration personnel. The crews work 3 shifts with 24 hours on and 48 hours off. The total line personnel is 39.



Fire Station #1	Fire Station #2	Fire Station #3
149 KD Revell Rd	104 W 5th St.	620 W Main St.
Wauchula	Zolfo Springs	Bowling Green
6 Personnel	5 Personnel	2 Personnel
1 Rescue	1 Rescue	1 Rescue
1 Engine	1 Engine	1 Engine
1 Brush Truck	1 Brush Truck	1 Brush Truck
1 Ladder Truck	1 Tanker	
1 Tanker		

EQUIPMENT

During the 2018/2019 budget cycle, Hardee County Fire Rescue placed into service new life safety ropes and hardware, and 40 new SCBA bottles. Additionally, six (6) new personnel armor systems (PAS) were placed into service bringing the total available to 9 (PAS), (consisting of a combat helmet, flack jacket, and armor plated bullet proof vest.) This PAS equipment helps to protect personnel during an active shooter situation.



SCBA Bottles inside Fire Rescue Air/Light Trailer

Hardee County received a new M1083 Medium Tactical Vehicle (MTV) on loan from the forestry division. The new vehicle has an automatic transmission making it easier to drive than the old one.

Hardee County Fire Rescue purchased three new commercial bunker gear washer/extractors. Allowing each station to have one available for use. The new gear washer at each station helps with cancer preven-

Joseph Walker, Public Safety Director/ Fire Chief, K. D. Revell Rd, Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone (863) 773-4362; joseph.walker@hardeecounty.net

Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services

tion. Cleaning of the gear is necessary after each fire to expel contaminants and toxins that build up from the heat of the fire. We also had gross decontamination buckets donated so we can get as much of the carcinogens off the gear and crews before getting back in the trucks.

TRAINING

Fire and Emergency medical training is part of the every day culture of Hardee County Fire Rescue; currently, our firefighters are required to complete a minimum of 2 hours per day of Fire training to meet the Insurance Service Organizations (ISO) rating to help lower the insurance ratings to the citizens of Hardee County. This equates to a minimum of 20 hours per month per firefighter. Hardee County Fire Rescue also has resurrected our "Pre-Fire Plan" Program; this enhanced ability, gives our fire officers and crews better knowledge and understanding of high target hazard buildings within our community. This program also falls in line with the ISO rating to help lower cost to the community.

On the Emergency Medical Services our Paramedics and EMT's train consistently to bring quality emergency medical services to our customers. This consists of a minimum of 2 hours per month to ensure qualifications and

meet standards set by the State of Florida Statutes (FSS 64-J). Paramedic and EMT certifications and renewals occur every 2 years with the State of Florida.

Hardee County Fire Rescue was awarded the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act certification last year, and the department continued to meet these standards in this fiscal year.

Hardee County Fire Rescue participated in an active shooter training exercise in conjunction with the Hardee County Sheriff's Office at FINR (Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation).

FIRE PREVENTION

Our Fire Prevention team is working hard to ensure fast turnaround and accurate interpretation of the Fire Prevention Code; to better protect our citizens, while working with the building departments and being receptive to our customers to provide quality service. We assist with new inspections, plan review, existing

inspections, collaborations, public education, and public relations events.

Hardee County maintains a very aggressive fire inspection division; to inspect all businesses, as well as, state mandatory structures.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Hardee County opened the new Fire Station in the City of Bowling Green in March 2018. The station is equipped with secure lockers for the fire fighters to store their belongings, and captains beds are provided with storage drawers underneath for overnight stays.

Hardee County Fire Rescue provides fire prevention presentations to schools, parks, and social groups as requested. Together we strive to make Hardee County a safer community.



EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

2990 Total Runs
 924 Fire Related Calls
 2066 EMS Related Calls
 15 Mutual Aid Given
 37 Mutual Aid Received

Lieutenant Simpson and Deputy Chief Sneider



LOOKING FORWARD:

Hardee County Fire Rescue plans to Purchase and install a new generator for the Zolfo Springs station and Bowling Green station, with a HMGP grant, enabling the crews to remain at their assigned stations to respond to emergencies in a timely manner, if we are hit by another hurricane.

Hardee County Fire Rescue is working on refitting an Air/Light Trailer into a Air/Light Truck, making the equipment more easily mobile and increasing the retrieval time when needed.

Hardee County Fire Rescue anticipates purchasing year a fire engine and an ambulance for the Zolfo Springs Station in the 2020 budget .



Hardee County Animal Control is committed to helping protect the health, safety, and welfare of both citizens and domestic animals in unincorporated Hardee County through regulation and enforcement of County Ordinances and Florida State Statutes.

Hardee County Animal Control provides a public service, with safety as its main goal! Animal Control is operated by four employees; (a Project Manager, Animal Control Officer, Kennel Attendant, and an Executive Assistant.) This department strives as a team, to keep both humans and animals safe daily.

SERVICE AND ENFORCEMENT

Animal Control responds to citizen complaints and animal related emergencies. This year Animal Control responded to 877 service calls, which included animal-related neglect, illnesses, strays, aggressive animals, nuisance, bite cases and loose cats and dogs; some of which, were impounded and brought to our facility for safe housing. While housed with Animal Control, the animals are either reclaimed by their original owner, adopted, transferred to other shelters, and due to circumstances that make the animal unadoptable, are occasionally euthanized.

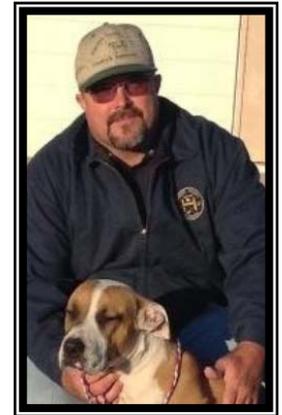
Animal Control educates the public of the laws regarding owning animals. Animal Control ensures these laws are enforced, by following up with the animal owners, giving warnings, and occasionally writing citations, when the laws are not being followed. Animal Control wrote a total of 139 citations this year, mostly for cats and dogs not being up-to-date on their rabies, which is required starting at 4 months of age, and for the owners allowing cats and dogs to roam free.

Animal Control is responsible for responding to bite cases and verifying rabies vaccinations on any animal involved. Sometimes this leads to a quarantine process, which must be in coordination with the Florida Department of Health, in order to provide health and safety to the victim and the animal. This year, Animal Control investigated 76 bite cases.

At the City’s request, this year the kennel agreement with the City of Wauchula was amended so that operational staffing is no longer shared. Cleaning and feeding tasks are now completed by County staff with a payment made by the City in leu of providing a City worker to assist.

PARTNERSHIPS

Animal Control has a budget that covers basic operations, but does not include extra treatments for the animals. Therefore, Animal Control partners with Hardee Animal Recue Team (HART) and Hardee Animal Clinic. Animal Control has taken in 667 animals, and of those, HART has pulled 427 and provided full veterinary care to them, before placing them into a foster home, their forever home, or other rescues. Due to our partnership with HART, the number of euthanized animals has stayed at a minimum and the animals housed with Animal Control are cared for and healthy!



**Scott Meeks
Animal Control Officer**



**Rachel Medicus
Kennel Attendant**

Scott Meeks, Manager; Animal Control/Solid Waste, 685 Airport Road, Wauchula, FL
Phone (863) 773-5089; scott.meeks@hardeecounty.net

Animal Control



Hardee County Animal Control Truck



Adopted Dog

ACTIVITIES

- 🐾 Care provided for 667 animals
- 🐾 Quarantined 45 animals
- 🐾 305 animals surrendered
- 🐾 189 warnings given
- 🐾 Provided public education
- 🐾 Attended monthly court hearings
- 🐾 Staff attended meetings
- 🐾 Promoted availability of review of impounded pets from our web-page
- 🐾 Provided cooperation and assistance for animal control services as outlined in the Inter-local Agreement between the City of Wauchula and Hardee County
- 🐾 Published adoptable animals to partner sites, such as: Adoptapet.com & Petfinder.com
- 🐾 Set up pet friendly shelter trailer for Hurricane Dorian



Adopted Cats

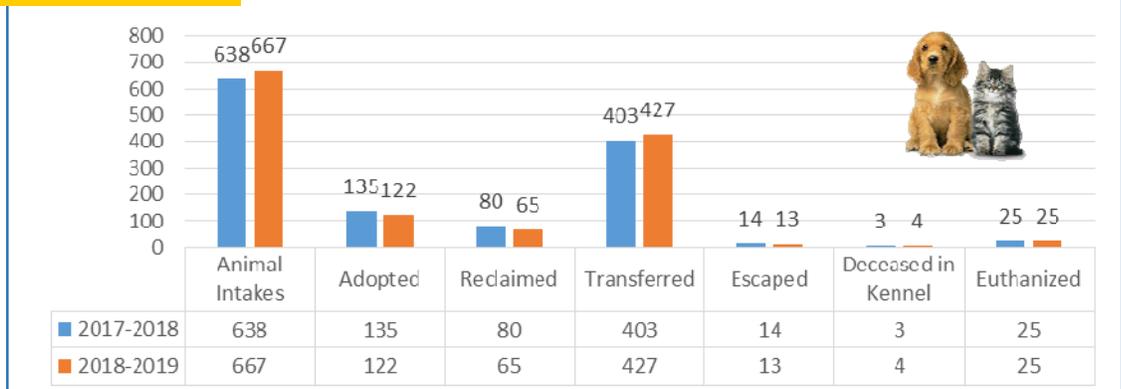


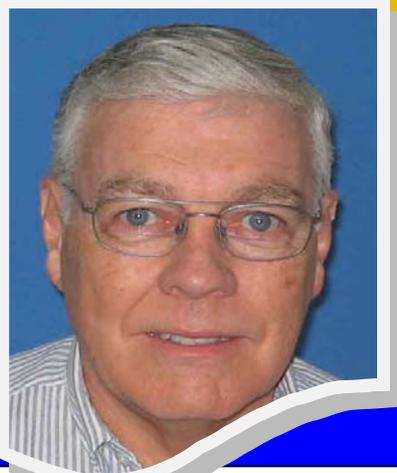
Hardee County Animal Control Kennels



Adopted Dog

ANIMAL INTAKE/OUTCOMES





The Road & Bridge Department strives to maintain and improve the County's transportation system of roads, bridges, right-of-ways, and storm water management systems, in an effort to provide safe roadways for all citizens and visitors, protect the investment in that infrastructure, plus to develop and provide an efficient and high level of service by properly planning, scheduling and completing all work tasks.

The Road and Bridge Department is the largest department within the County and is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, drainage, and right-of-ways in the County's road system. Within the County, there are 371.77 miles of paved roads and 121.76 miles of unpaved roads; as well as, 63 bridges. Out of the 63 bridges, there are 12 timber bridges.

The Sign Shop is part of this department and is responsible for fabricating, installing, and maintaining all roadway signage; as well as, maintaining four overhead flashing traffic lights, one overhead signal light, and seven flashing roadside lights. They also place Average Daily Traffic (ADT) monitors on county roads to allow staff to track traffic flow. This department also coordinates, reviews, and issues permits for all utilities and driveway connections/culverts being placed in the County right-of-way; in addition, to handling all

right-of-way inquiries and road closure requests.

The Public Works Director is the Department head and serves as the County Engineer. The County Engineer provides technical support to other County departments to ensure the County's infrastructure is safe and effective, and to review and ensure all development in the County is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners.

Constructed 9.50 miles of hard surfacing roadways. See chart to right for details. Closed portions of four roads. See chart below for details.

ROAD NAME	CLOSED
McClellan Rd; 1,584 Ft	From US 17 to US 17
Airport Rd; 1,981 Ft	From firing range to dead end
Owen Roberts; 6,268 Ft	From SR 64 to dead end
Bost Rd; 406.5 Ft	Westerly NS Leg

ROAD NAME	MILES HARD SURFACED
Unpaved to Paved/Chip Seal	
Alderman Road	1.70
Barkdoll Rd.	.50
Denver Ave (BG)	.09
Hansch	1.21
Lambert Road	.36
Methodist Church	.40
Monroe Str (BG)	.49
Peeples Lane	.30
Tom Bryan	.75
Resurface with Hot Mix/Asphalt	
Hanchey	1.00
Stenstrom	1.00
Sims	.22
Resurface with Chip Seal	
Baptist Church	.61
Methodist Church	.87
SCOP/SCRAP Per Grant Project	
Reconstruct CR665	13.80

Ken Wheeler, Public Works Director/County Engineer, Road & Bridge, Public Works
205 Hanchey Road, Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone: (863) 773-3272; ken.wheeler@hardecounty.net

PUBLIC WORKS

ACTIVITIES

Activities and accomplishments of the Road and Bridge Department for FY 2018-2019 include the following:

- Conducted routine inspections and maintenance of all bridges throughout the year
- Reviewed numerous site development plans in conjunction with the Hardee County Planning Department
- Did not acquire any additional Right of Way acres
- Closed portions of four roads
- Constructed 9.5 miles of hard surfacing roadway
- Issued 68 utility permits and 47 culvert/driveway connection permits
- Submitted 83 utility locate requests
- Provided 3,512 sandbags to County residents
- Performed weekly bulk waste pickup which collected a total of 169.88 tons of bulk waste throughout the county
- Completed the Jack Jones Road bridge replacement and George Marsh Road bridge replacement projects. See Capital Page 52 and 53 for more details.

Fleet Management Department (Maintenance Shop) Rick Taylor, Shop Supervisor



The Fleet Management Department (Maintenance Shop) is responsible for providing and maintaining safe and dependable equipment to all county departments. The Department is funded under Transportation Trust and is reimbursed for all parts and labor costs for work performed on vehicles and equipment from other county departments. Service priority is given to emergency vehicles operated by the Fire/Rescue Department and the Sheriff's Department.

The Maintenance shop is also tasked with inspecting new vehicles and equipment that is delivered to the County. Shop mechanics are Automotive Standard of Excellence (ASE) certified and some are Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certified.

Activities and accomplishments of the Maintenance Shop for FY 2018-2019 include: 377 road calls, 2 overtime service calls, and 2,056 work orders.





The Solid Waste Department provides for the proper management and disposal of all solid waste generated within the borders of Hardee County; using practices that ensure the sanctity of the county's environment and are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Solid Waste Department operates the County's local landfill and recycling facility. Staffing for the landfill consist of eight employees; (the Director, an Executive Assistant, Administrative Assistant, two Heavy Equipment Operators, Two Equipment Operators and one Resource Recovery Operator.) The landfill is located on approximately 100 acres east of Wauchula, off of State Road 636, on Airport Road. The landfill's operating hours are Monday thru Friday 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM and Saturday 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM and opened on most holidays to coincide with the franchise and commercial waste haulers.

The facility operates under permits issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The permit authorizes for the operation of a Class I landfill including a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, Leachate Storage Tank System, Yard Trash Processing Facility, Scrap Metal and White Goods Storage Area. The FDEP permit imposes strict conditions that must be followed for the intake and management of all municipal solid waste along with the environmental monitoring and various routine testing. The Solid Waste Department holds various service agreements for groundwater and surface water monitoring, leachate and methane gas testing, household hazardous waste collections and disposal, treatment of leachate and classification/verification inspections and training. These service agreements result in information that is used for quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports to FDEP.

The Solid Waste Department provides Hardee County residents with several programs. One such program is the Sharps program. This program provides residents a safe and proper method to dispose of unwanted needles. The program greatly reduces the risk of a needle stick for sanitation workers at the landfill and any unsuspecting individuals that might handle garbage. Contaminated needles are of great concern for waste management personnel and worldwide because of injuries to people and the spread of deadly and sometimes fatal infectious diseases.

Another program provided to residents by the Solid Waste Department is the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. This program holds quarterly events and offers residents of the county the opportunity to bring household hazardous waste to the landfill so that it may be properly diverted and recycled. This program had a total of 217 county residents participate in the fiscal year 18-19. The total collected for processing was 8.17 tons at a total cost of \$27,673.22 for the quarterly events.



Hazardous Waste Collection

In addition, the Solid Waste Department holds an inter-local agreement with Glades County to host an annual household hazardous waste collection that is funded through the Department of Environmental Protection. Hardee County staff travel to the neighboring County, Glades County, and host the one day event. All costs for this event are covered by FDEP and Glades County, with Hardee County receiving \$10,000.00 for administering the event.

The Solid Waste Department also has an inter-local agreement with the City of Wauchula for the treatment of leachate. Leachate is storm water that has percolated through the solid waste in the landfill. This water is collected from the bot-

Marissa Alexander, Director; Animal Control/Solid Waste, 685 Airport Road, Wauchula, FL
Phone (863) 773-5089; marissa.alexander@hardeecounty.net

Solid Waste



RECYCLE BARN



LANDFILL EMPLOYEES



BULLDOZER COVERING WASTE

tom of the liners and hauled off site for treatment. The total amount hauled for processing during FY 18-19 was 2,256,000 gallons at a total cost of \$21,833.82 paid to the City of Wauchula for the treatment.

During the second half of the fiscal year, the Section I portion of the Phase II landfill cell was filled and completed, at which time an assessment of the leachate collection system was conducted and determined that a more cost effective method for the management of leachate could be acquired. The Solid Waste Department with the consent of the FDEP received approval for the installation of a leachate spray field that provides for evaporation of the liquid. This future project is scheduled for completion during the 19-20 Fiscal Year.

The Solid Waste staff is responsible for the collection of tipping fees, daily accounting of cash customers, monthly invoicing of deposit account customers and collections; as well as, other record keeping responsibilities. The total tipping fees collected for the fiscal year totaled \$659,868.70. Solid Waste staff also receives and proficiently resolves complaints from unincorporated Hardee County residents who receive garbage pickup. Residents who reside in the unincorporated areas of Hardee County and are eligible may request a special pickup for bulk waste. This waste is removed by the Road & Bridge Department and then transported to the landfill for processing. This fiscal year's total bulk removal for county residents was 104.33 tons. The Solid Waste staff also applies for and manages the Small County Consolidated Grant. This year the state awarded \$90,909; which can vary from year to year.



LEACHATE TANKS



LANDFILL CELL CLOSED

TOTAL PROCESSED TONNAGES FISCAL YEAR 18-19		
Residential	9,049.90	Tons
Commercial	10,013.53	Tons
C & D	2,202.47	Tons
Wood & Yard	1,364.94	Tons
Scrap Metal	112.59	Tons
Tires	163.37	Tons
TOTAL	22,906.80	TONS



SCALES

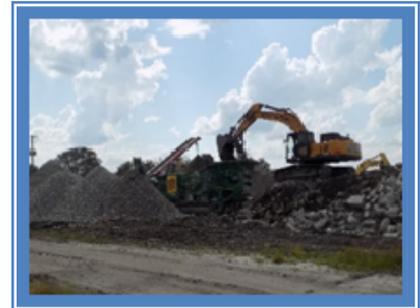
Solid Waste



RECYCLING TIRES



RECYCLING BINS



RECYCLING CONCRETE

2018-2019 RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

The recycling portion of the Solid Waste Department is responsible in the marketing and pursuit in the most beneficial and cost effective recyclables available in the market. The department made several favorable changes to the recycling process in past years. One such operational change in recycling included the final removal of the old larger baler, which was replaced with a smaller more efficient baler. This modification has given the recycling center additional space for the storage of a larger volume of product and added savings in the reduced usage of electrical energy. Renovations for the placement of 10 large bunkers began in mid-March of this year and were completed with the joint effort of staff and the work squad. These bunkers were built with old bridge timbers and placed in the recycling center to provide for the separation and segregation of recyclable commodities. There is no market for mixed plastics; however, there is a market for separated plastics and the bunkers provide for separation and storage. Most post-consumer plastics are bottles and it takes approximately 40 cubic yards of plastic bottles to make one 700-pound bale. These changes are in hopes to give both the added quality and quantity in our recycling products along with increased revenue. Staff will continue its efforts in the search for the best operational efficiencies available and the most profit in the reuse of certain waste.

Additional recycling efforts being executed is the acceptance of waste concrete for free. This material is collected and crushed by a contractor. The contractor removes all steel from the concrete which is placed in the metal pile for recycling. Then the concrete is processed into road base and erosion control materials that is used by both the Solid Waste and the Road & Bridge Departments for various road and drainage work. A total of 7,682.08 tons of concrete was taken in for processing. Also being accepted at no charge is the waste asphalt. This material is processed into milling size material and then mixed in a pug mill with emulsion and / or water containing detergent to produce material used on county roadway projects. A total of 481.52 tons of chunk asphalt was taken in this year for processing, that is additional to the millings obtained and stored on site by the Road & Bridge Department. The continued public interest for the resale of recycled timber, post and planks persisted throughout this fiscal year, this approach to recycling has diverted a total of 37.54 tons of debris from the waste stream and added \$210 in recycling revenue.

The Solid Waste Department remains in partnership with Desoto County for the acceptance of their recyclables. Although Desoto County still struggles with the issues of contamination and the available staffing for oversight on their designated dumpsters, a total of 3.44 tons were taken for recycling.

The County contracts with the Hardee Correctional Institution to provide an on-site work squad for 5-days a week with 5-8 inmates most weeks. The squad performs many tasks including, but not limited to, processing recycled waste, help with the mowing of the site, litter control and the weekly cleaning of heavy equipment.

TOTAL RECYCLING TONNAGES FISCAL YEAR 18-19		
Aluminum	5.44	Tons
Cardboard	33.91	Tons
Plastic	16.35	Tons
Scrap Metal	273.96	Tons
Timbers / Post	37.54	Tons
Tires	219.92	Tons
TOTAL	587.12	TONS



Facilities Management is committed to maintaining buildings and facilities that ensure a safe and pleasant environment for County employees and the public by providing professional and efficient maintenance and repair service to all County buildings and facilities.

Facilities Management is responsible for providing a clean, safe, and comfortable work environment for all county and public facilities owned by the County. This includes performing all maintenance of the facilities and adjusting accommodations to meet the needs of the occupants. This department also constructs new facilities, as needed, or oversees the contracted resources used for new construction.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- * Finished courthouse restoration from damage caused by bats
- * Installed new carpet on the third floor of the courthouse
- * Finished painting courthouse
- * Installed landscaping lights around courthouse
- * Started State building elevator renovations
- * Remodeled bathrooms at Hardee Park in the Carlton Complex
- * Replaced the generator at Resthaven
- * Installed landscaping at Pioneer Park Entrance
- * Demolished old Tri-County Building adjacent to the BOCC parking lot



Installed landscaping at Pioneer Park Entrance



Demolished old Tri-County Building adjacent to the BOCC parking lot.

Daniel Weeks, Facilities Director, Facilities Management and Public Works
 205 Hanchey Road, Wauchula, FL 33873; Phone: (863) 773-3419; danny.weeks@hardeecounty.net



Hardee County Utilities Department's (HCUD) main objective is to improve county resident's quality of life by ensuring health and safety of provided water and wastewater treatment; as well as, encouraging economic development through the on-going expansion of water and wastewater infrastructures. This department includes the Vandolah Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Wauchula Hills Water, and the Wauchula Hills Wastewater Treatment Facilities..., as well as four other contracted water and wastewater plants.

The Hardee County Utility Department (HCUD) is responsible for all facets of management and operational safety of the County-owned or assigned water/wastewater service area treatment plants, and their associated collection, distribution, transmission, reuse, and disposal systems. Additionally, HCUD is responsible for facility requirements planning, construction, customer service, billings, collections, operation, and maintenance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HCUD continued this past FY 2018-2019 to establish and improve procedures and protocols toward the goal of operational excellence in customer and environmental health, safety, and welfare. To this end, HCUD once again was found "in compliance" in all FDEP inspections throughout the year. (Note: As produced annually by all water suppliers in accordance with US EPA requirements, one should consider

looking at their published Consumer Confidence Report, if interested, to understand regulatory water standards and determine the supplier's water quality.)

With the receipt of additional capital funding, primarily from Legislative Appropriations to leverage local HC Economic Development Agency awarded grant dollars, the HCUD fortunately continues to enable an expanding number of Hardee County residents to realize improved quality of life by central connection to clean, potable water and environmentally safe sewer disposal means. Other related and noteworthy HCUD milestones and system expansion or regional support during the past year includes:

- * To meet increasing regulatory mandates and further improve operating efficiencies toward public safety, three exceptional management initiatives toward increased cost reductions continued from past, to include: Operation and Management

Software and Geographic Information System databases for all utility facilities component tracking expanding; automatic meter reading system is installed for over 99% of services; and facilities Supervisory Control & Automated Data Acquisition (SCADA) system refinements and other plant/site security and operational improvements continue.

- * On the heels of the Wauchula Hills S/D Phase 4 highly successful infrastructure expansion (completed on-time in September 2017, 25% under budget) HCUD has been awarded Legislative Appropriation funds leveraged by awarded HC EDA infra-



Leaks equal Dollars Out

Park S. Winter Jr., Utilities Director, 2428 Commerce Court, Bowling Green, FL 33834
Phone (863) 773-3465; park.winter@hardeecounty.net

Utilities



Rainbow over Field

structure grant funds totaling over \$4.6M the past couple years. These funds, along with other fiscally constrained or restricted use funds are dedicated to the design, permitting, bid and construction activities associated with infrastructure improvements and service connections planned in Phase 5 (Old Bradenton Rd expansion of water & sewer west of Rainey Blvd, south of the HC IDA proposed Hardee County Commerce Park Phase 2) & Phase 6 (Bostick/Barkdoll water main loop, Torrey Oaks vicinity water services, and the Village Green Estates infrastructure expansion). Also, following re-evaluation of waste water Pre-Treatment Facility specifications, return on investment and projected customer base the HC IDA-supported facility leveraging HC EDA-awarded grant funding has been scaled to a head works mechanical screening & disposal system. This system was completed end of CY2019 and will provide sufficient function within foreseeable future until growth necessitates more extensive pre-treatment.

- * Completed fourth full budget year of responsibility for Bowling Green Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities operation and maintenance management. Initiated May 24, 2015 under emergency request by City Manager and formalized by inter-local agreement between City Council and BoCC by mid-July 2015. (City retains two general maintenance employees to perform HCUD-assigned tasks and pays HCUD monthly base service fee to leverage advantage of County professional management and licensed operators). During the past year, Bowling Green City Council initiated parallel construction of their engineer's designed new treatment plants for replacement of the existing obsolete and failing plants. HCUD has provided throughout the construction phase technical assistance, invaluable cost saving advice, and in many examples critical operational activities to mutually support County and City objectives to the advantage of citizens. The City's engineers and plant contractors are expected to finalize Florida Department of Environmental Protection certificates of completion for placement into full operation by early-CY2020.



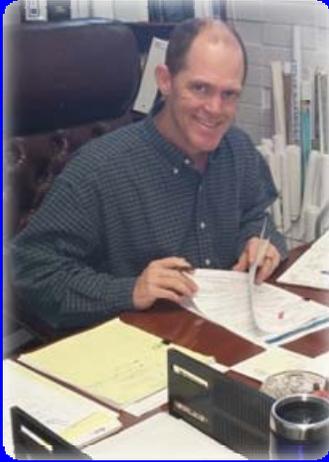
Replacing a Fire Hydrant

- * Over course of the year, HCUD provided extensive assistance to Bowling Green's Public Works personnel with trouble-shooting and repairs to citywide water/sewer distribution/collection system components and expanded Bowling Green's equipment capacity to perform utility operations. Also of particular note, HCUD management of treatment facilities and other support has leveraged hundreds of thousands of cost savings over that which Bowling Green would have paid, as well as, saved over \$70,000 of in perpetuity annual expenses through operational improvements and best management practices.
- * HCUD also has responsibility for both the Hardee Lakes and the Resthaven Water Treatment Plants/Potable Water Systems. A complete rebuild, during June 2019, of the Hardee Lake's Plant and minor improvements to Resthaven's well point system this past year was accomplished in coordinated teamwork with the Facilities Management Department.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Phase 5: Water & sewer mainlines for Old Bradenton Rd segment west of Rainey Blvd, south of the proposed Phase 2 of Hardee County Commerce Park

Phase 6: Bostick/Barkdoll water main loop, Torrey Oaks, vicinity water services, and the Village Green Estate infrastructure expansion



The Planning and Development Department will maintain the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing appropriate land use categories, protection of natural resources, and assuring financial feasibility of capital improvements through maintenance and amendment of the Hardee County Comprehensive Plan, implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, and development of rules to assure a quality built environment through the Hardee County Unified Land Development Code, and enforcement of the Plan and Code; and enforcement of the Plan and Code through provisions in the Code and other applicable codes and ordinances.

The Planning and Development Department administers the Hardee County Comprehensive Plan and the Hardee County Unified Land Development Code. This responsibility involves reviewing and making recommendations on all land development proposals before the Hardee County Planning & Zoning Board and the Board of County Commissioners.

In addition to administering and enforcing the land development regulations of the County, the Department coordinates with other local, regional and state planning and regulatory agencies. The Department prides itself on maintaining excellent customer relations while providing professional, fair and equitable public service.

SERVICES

Planning and Development Department staff have worked diligently throughout the past fiscal year to successfully accomplish their goals and objectives. In doing so, staff have developed approximately 415 Zoning Information Sheets to help guide residents through the development and permitting process; assisted over 900 visitors with questions about improving their land; and received over 1,700 calls with questions from developers and residents regarding land development, building, permitting and code enforcement issues.



Hazel Hastwell- Planner II



Shanda Clark, Planning Technician

Todd Miller, AICP, Planning Director, 110 South 9th Ave., Wauchula, FL 33873
 Phone (863) 767-1964; todd.miller@hardeecounty.net

Planning & Development

Planning and Development staff have attended multiple local and regional meetings regarding transportation, legislative matters, floodplain management, and issues facing the County, State, and the Heartland region. Staff is an active member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Heartland Regional Transportation Organization, provides support staffing for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, as well as, ongoing floodplain management services to the Town of Bowling Green and the Town of Zolfo Springs, coordinates with the Emergency Management Department and sits on the Local Mitigation Strategy Board.

Planning and Development staff proudly serve Hardee County in all land use and development matters in order to ensure the public health, safety and welfare, and to promote smart, sustainable development that protects the County's unique heritage while encouraging growth and economic development.



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The Building and Code Enforcement Departments' mission is to protect the life, health, safety, and property of Hardee County's residents, business owners and guest. We ensure that all permitted work is progressing in compliance with provisions of the Florida Building Code, National Electric Code, Florida Fire Prevention Code, Florida Statutes and the Hardee County Land Development Code.

The Building and Code Enforcement Departments have six full time employees who are trained, licensed, or certified in their respective fields as required by Florida Law. As a team, we work together with the Fire Department to help provide a safe place to live and work. We try to ensure that the questions and needs of county residents and visitors are responded to as quickly and completely as possible.



**Constructed
New Circle K**



**Colonial Arms
new H2A Housing Project**



**Remodel and Opening of
new Save a Lot**

Over the past fiscal year, the Building Department oversaw the construction, renovation or completion of many projects, including the following: Remodel Kentucky Fried Chicken, New Construction of Circle K, New Construction of Colonial Arms H2A housing project, Remodel and Opening of the new Save a Lot, Completed Cobb Apartments, and began new construction on Taco Bell.



Remodel Kentucky Fried Chicken



Began construction on Taco Bell



Completed Cobb Apartments

Thomas Fisher, Chief Building Official, Building and Code Enforcement, Tom.Fisher@hardeecounty.net
401 West Main Street, Wauchula, Phone (863) 773-3236 , Fax (863) 767-0360

Building Inspections & Code Enforcement

This Department works to accomplish our goal by carefully examining all permit applications and plans. We verify current product information for the project to insure that it meets the wind zone where the project is being built. Once the permits have been issued, we complete timely inspections. Where there is need for assistance with understanding the codes, the building official discusses, reviews and works with each individual as needed. There were 37 new single family residence permits issued and 2 Commercial Building permits issued, during the FY2018-2019.

We are responsible for the timely reporting of information to the Property Appraiser's office for certificates of occupancy (CO's)



Wesley Wells, Shyanne Rivera, Bobby Green, Ladonna Perry, Tom Fisher, and Guadalupe Flores

issued. We have issued 21 New Single Family Residence Certificate of Occupancies and 31 Manufactured homes have been issued final Certificate of Occupancies, during the FY2018-2019.

We are responsible for the monitoring of unsafe and unsanitary living conditions in our community. Once these are noted they are required to have corrections completed to meet minimum life safety conditions.

We are involved in the first response assessments completed after a disaster to help determine the extent of damage our community received.

We answer daily questions about properties that are being purchased, traded, refinanced and just basic questions starting out with "what if I wanted to do this"...This Department completes its work daily, as does the Fire Department, in an effort to prevent issues from happening. If the structures are built correctly to the code there should be fewer problems and maybe life rescue will not be called for something that should have been prevented from a building perspective.

This past fiscal year, the Building and Code Enforcement Departments have been busy continuing the trend started last fiscal year. Although the overall numbers of permits declined, our revenue increased.

This year's revenue is \$394,052, compared to last year's revenue of \$357,086.

Measureable Activities

Phone Calls 10,743
Visitor Signed-In at Counter 4,725

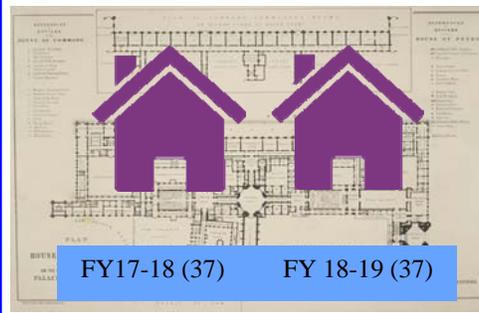
Building Department

Building Inspections 3,574
Permits Issued 1,291
Single Family Res. Permits 37
Single Family Res. Completed 21
Commercial Buildings Permitted 2
Commercial Buildings Completed 5
Customers requesting the ability to pay with credit card 159

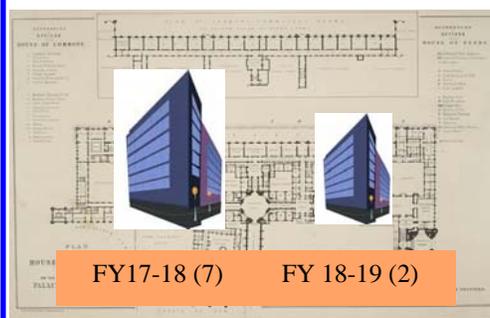
Code Enforcement

Site Visits Completed 2,307
Letters Mailed Out 909
Code Cases Open 585
Code Cases Closed 511

Single Family Residence Permits Issued



Commercial Building Permits Issued



LOOKING FORWARD:

We are anticipating a number of new residential and commercial projects that will bring new homes and businesses to Hardee County.

M I N I N G



Our mission is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of Hardee County while safeguarding the quality of our land, water, and air; and help ensure long-term ecological, social, and economic benefits. The Mining Department also promotes coordination with other State and Federal agencies to assure timely and quality reclamation through the regulation of the phosphate mining industry.

Mining Department staff includes: West Palmer, Mining Coordinator; Deb Butler, Permitting Specialist II; and Shanda Clark, Planning Technician. Mining Department staff conducted reclamation inspections and attended site visits with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Southwest Water Management District (SWFWMD) at all Mosaic projects. Mining Department staff attended training courses for environmental permitting, water use permitting, and gopher tortoise management.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- * Conducted water quality sampling at each designated sampling location and reviewed each monthly water quality monitoring report.
- * Worked closely with Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC to ensure timely and accurate reporting of monitoring results.
- * Worked closely with other regulatory agencies during inspections and review of monitoring reports and reclamation activities/progress.
- * Conducted monthly dam inspections on all Clay Settling Areas in Hardee County and has reviewed each monthly dam inspection report submitted by Mosaic.
- * Reviewed reclamation approval applications and conducted reclamation approval inspections in accordance with County regulations. This process makes it possible to determine if each required criteria for each area has been met. Staff also attended all release inspections with FDEP staff and other regulatory agencies.



West Palmer, Mining Coordinator, 220 South Ninth Ave., Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone (863) 773-0136, Fax (863) 767-0360; west.palmer@hardeecounty.net

Mining



Topsoil relocation into a reclamation area



Relocated trees in a reclamation area

- * Ensured that each monitoring report, as required by the Hardee County Mining Ordinance, and any approved Development Order from Mosaic has been submitted. Staff has reviewed each report.
- * Staff has coordinated with State and Federal Agencies on all projects and activities related to mining projects.
- * Continued regulation of the phosphate industry using the improved Mining Ordinance. The revisions and additions to the mining ordinance have proven to be more efficient and effective.

- * Currently reviewing the South Fort Meade Mine — Eastern Reserves application and will present the project to the Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of County Commissioners. The proposed project will be approximately 4,280 acres if approved.
- * Staff continued to coordinate with the GIS Department to ensure accurate mapping of reclaimed land, mine owned land, and project specific land.



Deb Butler, Permitting Specialist II



Reclaimed Wetlands

LOOKING FORWARD

The Mining Department will continue to conduct inspections and application activities on the proposed South /Fort Meade Mine—Eastern Reserves mine. We will coordinate the required public hearings for consideration of the mine by the Board of County Commissioners and The Hardee County Planning and Zoning Board.

The Mining Department will continue to coordinate with other regulatory agencies and Mosaic to ensure compliance with all Hardee County regulations.



Community Development's mission is to provide an integrated system of resources, services, and opportunities to help people improve their lives, the lives of others, neighborhoods, and the total community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Development is a part of Economic Environment and offers affordable housing services, grant research, writing and coordination of grants to include: grants through Legislative Appropriation, Board of County Commissioners, Hardee County Sheriff's Office, Hardee County Health Department, Hardee County Fair and Drug Free Hardee; as well as, community education programs.

- * Continued a public-private partnership with Drug-Free (DF) Hardee, in conjunction with an award of a five-year Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grant in the

amount of \$125,000 per year (grant program to end 9/30/2020). Drug Free Hardee's primary goal is to reduce substance abuse among youth and over time among adults.

- * Administered Legislative Appropriation grants for Wastewater and Regional Potable Water for the Wauchula Hills Service Area.
- * Received an award of \$200,000 for the preliminary architectural design and engineering for a new Emergency Operations Center.
- * Prepared grants for the Sheriff's Office where the Board of County Commissioners is the named

recipient; including the Drug Task Force, Taser Program, Bulletproof Vest Program, Small County Alien Assistance Programs, and the E911 Grants.

- * Successfully received and acted as fiscal agent on a mosquito control program in the amount of \$41,288; which includes a County cash match of \$5,385 and a donation from the City of Wauchula in the amount of \$2,500. Donations of \$367.58 each were received from the City of Bowling Green and Town of Zolfo Springs. We received an allocation increase in the amount of \$2,005. Addi-

Photographs depict a home benefiting from the rehabilitation program. Specifically replacement windows, new kitchen cabinetry and new appliances. Additional work on the home was also completed, but not shown.

Before



After



Lorie Ayers, Community Development Director, 412 West Orange Street, Room 201, Wauchula, FL
 Phone (863) 773-6349; lorie.ayers@hardeecounty.net

Office of Community Development



OCD Team 2019
Sandra Vasquez, Shanda Clark,
Janet Gilliard, Shelly Massey, and Esther Bragg

tional funding was provided from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$30,000 designated for ZIKA Response. The mosquito control program is administered through partnership with the Health Department.

- * Expensed funds awarded and designated for SHIP Counseling.
- * Administered the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) allocation in the amount of \$350,000 per fiscal year, in addition to remaining SHIP funds awarded from the previous year. SHIP provides assistance with purchase assistance and housing rehabilitation to include special needs and/or handicap accessibility features in homes.
- * Administered the Housing Preservation Grant in the amount of \$71,718.23 to further assist with housing rehabilitation.
- * Awarded and Administered the Community Development Block grant funds in the amount of \$750,000 to further assist with housing rehabilitation/replacement.
- * Collected \$61,157.50 on defaulted liens to ensure continuity of the housing assistance programs by assisting other income eligible families.
- * Monitored approximately 439 deferred payment loan agreement liens until satisfaction.
- * Continued budget management and regulatory compliance reporting from Local, State,

and Federal levels regarding affordable housing, recreation, and wastewater infrastructure grants.

- * Provided free credit counseling in the area of homebuyer preparation for potential Hardee County purchase assistance applicants.
- * Fair Housing information/training was presented during a BOCC regular meeting. Further, information was displayed on bulletin boards at the public library and OCD office, and handouts were distributed at the Hardee County Fair. Fair Housing information is continuously provided to the general public by link on the county website: www.hardeecounty.net
- * Partnered with the Hardee County Fair, Inc., to administer an appropriation award of \$111,479 for construction of a poultry barn, rabbit barn and grooming lean-to additions; as well as, installation of large fans at the Cattlemen's Arena (the BoCC is the land owner).
- * Administered and Awarded the Soil Conservation grant to fund a full time Soil Technician position to implement Agricultural Best Management Practices among local farmers.
- * Administered and Awarded the Supervisor of Elections Security Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$33,775 and 37,306 for enhancing building security and other election safety measures.
- * Awarded Florida Boating Improvement Program grant funds in the amount of \$160,000 for the replacement of floating docks at Hardee Lakes.
- * Awarded Emergency Management Program As-

sistance in the amount of \$105,806 and Emergency Management Program Grant in amount of \$40,290 in preparation for all hazards.

- * Awarded the Emergency Services Grant in the amount of \$6,161 to provide protective equipment to Fire Fighters.



After almost 30 service years, Janet Gilliard retired a few weeks after the close of Fiscal Year 2019.



LOOKING FORWARD:

Community Development plans to replace several homes that are beyond repair by combining grant funds from SHIP and CDBG programs to offer low income customers in need the maximum benefit. Replacement homes provide a safe and secure residence, as well as, increase our community's property tax base.

Further, we plan to continue providing Hardee County with the best possible community development service through grant searching, writing, and implementation, and customer service and community support.



The mission of the Hardee County Public Library is to provide quality materials and services to fulfill educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs of the county residents. The Library is a center of the community for our county.

The Hardee County Public Library is a focal point of our community, meeting the lifelong learning needs of all people. Our commitment is to provide exceptional service, materials, and programs to meet the needs of the community. Exceptional customer service is a must. Our focus must be on delivering services that meet community needs and ensure continued community support. The Library must be engaged in the life of our community through programs. We must challenge our children to become lifelong readers.

Hardee County Public Library continues to partner with the Heartland Library Cooperative, which includes four other counties (Desoto, Highlands, Okeechobee and Glades). We offer a digital collection from e-books and online audio books to online genealogy search resources. Print books still comprise the bulk of materials borrowed; however, the growth of e-books, tablets and smartphone apps has motivated the cooperative to keep adding more digital resources.

The transformation of our Library is a continuing effort. Transformation by definition is: "A thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance." Over the last few years, we have made sure to continue transforming, not just through moving books, but asking for the best out of staff and volunteers. Transformation this past fiscal year is apparent through the moving of the study area and our young adult section. Over the next few years this area will become a welcoming spot for our local teens. Transformation also allows a person to experience adventures through reading, and learning. We expect a person to be able to experience new and wonderful things at our library, giving them the knowledge to continue reading and learning. We transform our children too, remember your first Library card, the joy you had checking out books, knowing you were old enough to get a card. Adventure awaited you at the turn of every page. The happiness in learning and experiencing new journeys — this is how we are transforming our children's lives.

The Library offered 195 programs through out the fiscal year, with over 2,400 attending. Movies, cooking, reading, and rock painting were just a few programs offered through the year. We have now been doing Cookies and Milk with Santa for over 7 years and it continues to be a hit with the community.

This summer, we didn't have large programs but chose to keep programming more focused on the children who attended. This year, Danielle hosted a Youth Book Club for 6-12 grade students, and featured three books over the course of the school year. The Book Club challenged the students to read classics as we read: Where the Red Fern Grows, Journey to the Center of the Earth and a Wrinkle in Time. The Book Club was a success.



Alyssa Purdy, Rhonda Bodiford, Dee Shackelford and Danielle Guzman



The children's area got a makeover as students painted the endcaps of book shelves. Two more endcaps in the adult section of the library were also completed, and a third has been started.



Teams competed via internet for the NASA Rover Challenge. Team Luna won the Challenge.

Dee Shackelford, Library Services Manager, 315 N. 6th Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone (863) 773-6438; dee@myhlc.org



LIBRARY

A highlight of the summer was being chosen to compete in the NASA Rover Challenge. USF in partnership with NASA brought to the library four 3D printed rovers. We had 12 students (3 teams) come in, learn to program them, and about 5 weeks later via the internet the Rovers were placed on an artificial landscape of the moon at NASA. They were given 10 minutes to complete a course dotted with small barrels, (each barrel had a code on it, and they wrote the codes down as they found them.) Then, scores were totaled. There were two other counties that participated and Hardee County Public Library had the Winning team.

KOHA is now in full swing and is web based which will allow us more opportunities for outreach by being able to issue Library cards onsite at any event (as long as we can connect to wifi). It has been challenging learning the new system and staff has adapted extremely well.

Numbers continue to be a big part of State grant requirements, following are some numbers compared to last year: 78,080 patrons were served, compared to last years' 56,374. Another big number was the addition of lots of new youth books which saw circulation jump to 16,138 checkouts from last year's 8,699 books. The purchase of books increases the numbers checked out. We are so excited to see these numbers continue to grow at our Library. In FY 2018-2019, the library circulated 32,730 items, served 78,080 patrons and had 118,773 people visit the Library Facebook page.

The Staff of the Hardee County Public Library are proud to serve our community.

PIONEER PARK DAYS



The Hardee County Board of County Commissioners sponsored and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Annual Pioneer Park Days in 2018. Pioneer Park Days drew over 15,000 people to the event at its peak of popularity. However, attendance has waned in recent years. The event came under scrutiny by the Commissioners since it has not generated a profit in some years. During 2019, the commissioners passed the torch on to Visit Hardee and the Tourist Development Council.

Citizens are encouraged to volunteer at the event, donate funds to the event, and participate in the event. Pioneer Park Days is an enjoyable and memorable experience for all. The Board of County Commissioners hope the event continues.

Next year's Pioneer Park Days is scheduled for February 27, 28, and 29th, 2020.



UF/IFAS Extension/Hardee County Extension Service is an equal opportunity institution, providing research based educational information and services in the areas of agriculture, family, and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development.

Our goal is to develop partnerships with local grass-roots organizations for the viability of our community. Our programs foster 4-H youth development and promotes education in the following areas: agriculture, family & consumer science, and food & nutrition.

SERVICES

- *Provide educational classes for the agriculture community such as improving beef cattle and livestock production, worker protection standards, pesticide handling, pesticide licensing, and farm safety for producers and laborers
- *Provide workshops for Hardee County residents on the topics of vegetable gardening, hydroponic production, honeybee production and other topics
- *Conduct classes on food & nutrition for youth and adults in the community
- *Partner with the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Environmental Specialist who provides technical and financial assistance to farmers adopting best management practices that conserve and protect our water quality

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The agriculture agent collaborated with other extension partners providing consulting services, educational presentations and hands-on training for various groups throughout Florida. Some of these groups included the Central Florida Livestock Agent’s Group, the South Florida Beef and Forage Program, private companies, and grass roots organizations. The agent delivers innovative and specialized programs based on a needs assessment, designed to empower our citizens, improve the use of local resources, and promote social and economic growth of Hardee County farms and families.

UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County continued to offer innovative programs for Hardee County citizens, agriculture enterprises, and grassroots organizations. Our faculty and staff offered several workshops, classes, and licensing opportunities for our agriculture citizens, as well as, providing a vehicle for pesticide license renewal for private and commercial pesticide handlers.



Embryology in the Classroom at Bowling Green Elementary School. Students learned about the chicken life cycle and respect for animals.



Career Day at Zolfo Elementary. County Extension Agents Jonael Bosques and Jose Zayas talked to youth about what agriculture agents do.



Heartland Cool Season Forage Field Day. Program participants learned about potential cool season forage crops that could be used to feed cattle during winter months.

Jonael Bosques, Agricultural Agent/ County Extension Director, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula, FL
Phone: 863-773-2164; jonael@ufl.edu

County Extension Office

ACTIVITIES

Hardee County Demonstration Plot – During 2019, we started our second phase in developing our teaching area. This area now has a green house and a cold season forage plot that will also be utilized for producing warm season grasses, vegetable, and other demonstrations throughout the year.

Youth Development through 4-H— Hardee County 4-H has a membership of 299 youth, 15 clubs, and 27 adult volunteer leaders. We offered workshops, camps, activities in schools and volunteer trainings. Projects included: Cabbage growing contest; continuation of vegetable gardening project; started an afterschool 4-H program at Zolfo Springs Elementary to increase 4-H visibility in the schools; in our summer programs we added a week long Art Camp and Ag Camp.



4-H STEM Day at camp. Youth learned about circuits, robots, and more.

Hardee County Extension Apiary—A beehive set-up at the Extension office was used to teach youth and adult potential beekeepers. This was used at the 4-H Ag Camp during July to teach 4-H youth about beekeeping, and biology.

Workshops—During 2019, we developed and presented ten agriculture workshops for farmers, citizens and youth. As a result of attending these programs, participants were able to increase their knowledge of beef cattle nutrition, backyard poultry production, careers in agriculture, pollinator protection strategies, cool season forages, pesticide handling and farmworker protection. These programs improve the viability of farms, protect local wildlife, provide youth with more career choices for their future and help farmers stay in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Radio—We collaborated with the local radio station WAUC in a morning program discussing different agricultural topics along with 4-H information.

YouTube—We developed seventeen agriculture videos for educational purposes, and plan on continuing this effort throughout 2020. Some of the produced videos were geared towards our Spanish speaking population. To access some of these videos, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVSXlvUNkb4JoNtyjfxJaLQ>.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Hardee County provides the administrative services for the Soil & Water Conservation District.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services administers the Soil and Water Conservation Law (FSS Chapter 582). Together this partnership's goal is to protect and restore the soil and water resources, and to assist private landowners in using best conservation practices. This is achieved by providing technical and administrative assistance, to develop and implement a plan to address resource concerns. Through a locally led consensus process, priorities are determined for conservation programs. The partners then work to implement programs that provide assistance to landowners, agricultural producers, and local residents.

The Soil and Water Conservation Office provides assistance to citizens in preparing grant applications for wetland reserve programs, conservation stewardship programs, and wildlife habitat incentive programs. The grant is a cost-share program with up to 75% reimbursements for qualifying projects. Also, assistance was provided to individuals in obtaining permits from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Martha Rowan, Soil and Water Conservation, 316 North 7th Ave., Suite 101, Wauchula, FL
Phone: 863-773-9644; Fax: 863-773-5757; martha.rowan@hardeecounty.net

Carlton Complex



This is the County's sports complex with several fields for softball and baseball, an Olympic size swimming pool, racket ball courts, playground equipment, and soccer fields. This facility along with the cattlemen's arena and civic center is the site of the County's annual fair. A new entranceway, ticket booth, welcome porches, restrooms, poultry barn, rabbit barn and a 40' x 100' arena addition have been added in the last few years. This area also features Hardee Park, a natural area with a wooden bridge, fishing pond, picnic tables, and restroom.

Hardee Lakes Park



Hardee Lakes Park is Hardee County's largest park which includes 1,200 open and wooded acres with wildlife galore, four fishing lakes, fishing docks, boat ramps, horseback riding trails, hiking trails, handicap accessible hiking trails, bike trails, picnic areas, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, boardwalks, restrooms, camp store, and camping.

Hardee Lakes has a board walk that winds around the lakes and through the woods, with an observation tower to view wildlife. In addition, there is a recreation building with a fire pit next to the building available for rent.

Due to customer demand, park hours were extended during the summer time.

The first annual Tiny House event was held at Hardee Lakes Park November 9, 2018.

ANNUAL PASS AVAILABLE \$65
INCLUDES ADMISSION TO:
HARDEE LAKES
PIONEER PARK MUSEUM
PIONEER PARK WILDLIFE REFUGE



Pioneer Park and Museum



This County owned park is on 115 acres bordered by the Peace River. The park offers 62 grassy campsites. There is a museum, wildlife refuge, hiking trails, playground, picnic area, Baldwin locomotive, Hart primitive cabin, Post Office open during Pioneer Park Days, a boat ramp to the Peace River, and fishing.

The Facilities Department replaced the wood fence around the Park with a heavier style of wood fencing, 6x6 posts and 2x6 railing. New landscaping and signage have been added to the double drive entranceway.

Wildlife Refuge



Located within Pioneer Park, the Wildlife Refuge, is home to approximately 40 animals and has a 1200-foot long elevated boardwalk that winds among the trees, providing an attractive area for visitors to view the animals in environments similar to their natural habitats. There are viewing nodes constructed along the boardwalk that contain information kiosks to provide the visiting public with educational information and facts about the various animals who have sanctuary here.



Human Services

The Hardee County Board of County Commissioners participates in allocating county funds to various non-profit organizations that are established within the County. These organizations are thought to be a great benefit to the residents and they help to improve the physical and mental state of residents in need. They provide many needed elderly services, as well as, promoting the economic strength and community environment that is necessary for a healthy community.

The following organizations received funding from the County:

Alpha & Omega
 Caring People Ministry
 Cutting Edge Ministry
 Hardee County Health Department
 Hardee Help Center
 Peace River Center
 Hope of Hardee (Nu-Hope) Elder Services
 Rest Haven Assisted Living Facility
 MV Transportation Disadvantaged



Human Services also includes funding that is mandated by the Florida State Statute to fund for HCRA (Health Care Responsibility Act), Medicaid and Indigent Burials.

Veterans Services



The mission of the Veteran's office is to provide services with the highest level of sensitivity, compassion, and understanding to veterans and their families. To assist Hardee County Veterans and their families, by providing counseling and assistance, in order to establish VA benefits under Federal and State laws which may result in monetary gain and medical care.

When you visit the office, you will work with an accredited Veterans Service Officer. Our goal is simple—to understand the problems you may be confronted with and to guide you through the process of resolving them with the best possible results.

You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are:

-  A Veteran
-  A Veteran dependent
-  A Surviving spouse or child of a deceased Veteran
-  A member of the Reserves or National Guard
-  An active duty service member

As a Veteran you served your country honorably, and your local County Veterans Officer wants to say "Thank You", by ensuring you obtain all of the benefits that are entitled. Veterans Affairs has an excellent web site: www.va.gov that can provide assistance also.

The Veteran's Office assisted with the following:

- 314 Walk-ins
- 57 Appointments
- 61 Health enrollments
- 59 Death notification letters
- 293 Active files maintained

Assistance is Available for:

- Service connected compensation
- Non-service connected pension
- Health care
- Education
- Home loan guarantees
- Burial benefits
- Dependent/survivor benefits
- Lost military records
- Property tax exemption
- Third-party referrals to agencies that assist veterans with an array of services including legal and housing

Larry Pelton, Veteran's Services Officer, Curtis Ezelle Complex, 307 N. 6th Ave., Wauchula, FL 33873-2319
 Phone (863) 773-9853; Fax: (863) 773-0667; OPEN 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Only



The Probation Department provides supervision services to the court system for misdemeanor cases in Hardee County. These services are provided in such a manner as to ensure compliance with court ordered obligations. Probation staff assists defendants with being productive, law abiding citizens thereby enabling them to live in the community and contribute to society without imposing extra burdens on the jail and social service system.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Case Load

Under the authority of recently retired Judge Jeff McKibben and newly elected Judge David Horton, a monthly average of 105 probationers were supervised with various sanctions outlined in each court order. This year, 98 cases were successfully terminated with all sanctions completed in a timely fashion. Revocations of probation were issued in 30 cases as a result of noncompliance.

Community Contributions

1,088 hours of community services were completed by probationers at Hardee Lakes Park, Pioneer Park, and Paynes Creek State Park. Under the supervision of county and state park employees, probationers completed land beautification and construction projects. Calculated at \$10.00 an hour for time worked, a significant in-kind amount of \$10,880.00 was added to state and county budgets. Other community not-for-profit agencies like local churches and service providers also gained in-kind contributions by allowing community service hours to be completed at their location.



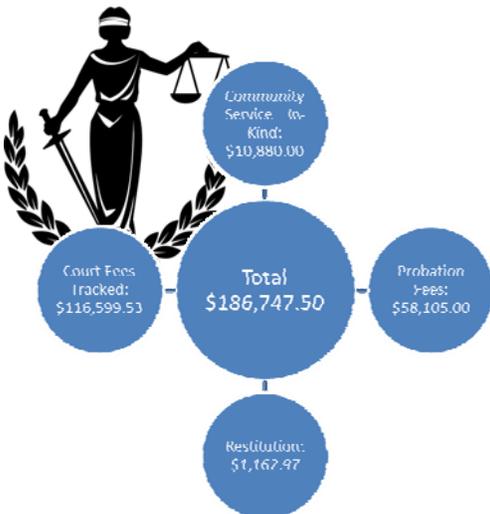
Shujwana Lamy
Probation Assistant

Financial Contributions

Each probationer is required to pay \$50.00 each month for cost of supervision fees throughout the probation period. This year, \$58,105.00 was collected. Unfortunately with many crimes, victims suffer a loss. As a way to help bridge the gap of victimization, this office returned approximately \$1,162.97 in restitution paid directly to victims.

In addition to collecting supervision fees and restitution, the County Probation office monitored and tracked the collection of approximately \$116,599.53 paid to the Hardee County Clerk of Court for fine and court cost.

Total funds collected and tracked: \$186,747.50.



Yolanda Villarreal, Probation Director, 417 West Main Street, Room 121, Wauchula, FL
Phone (863) 773-9323; yolanda.villarreal@hardeecounty.net



CAPITAL PROJECTS

FUEL SYSTEM TRANSPORTATION TRUST

New Fuel Master Fuel System



New Fuel System Pumps
With Fuel Tanks in Background

In mid-July of 2019, Road and Bridge replaced The Phoenix 8000 Fuel System with the Fuel Master Fuel System. Installation was completed and operational in late July. The new Fuel Master System is also used by the US Military and Federal Government.

Benefits from the new system include:

- More secure system.
- More user friendly.
- More accessible via modern technology.
- Expandable so we can eventually connect to the CNG Pumps (natural gas).
- Potentially able to track fuel that is being carried out to the equipment in the field.

The old system was on the county yard since 1997, was obsolete and replacement parts were hard to find, prompting the need for the new updated system.



New Fuel System Pumps



CNG Pump Station
(Installed in 2014)



CAPITAL PROJECTS

COUNTY FUNDED ROAD WORK PROGRAMS

Jack Jones Road Bridge Replacement Project



The old Jack Jones Road Bridge was a single 25' span concrete structure that was destroyed by Hurricane Irma. Staff designed, permitted and constructed the replacement structure with two 120" aluminum pipes, two 84' aluminum pipes and concrete headwalls having a span of 49'.

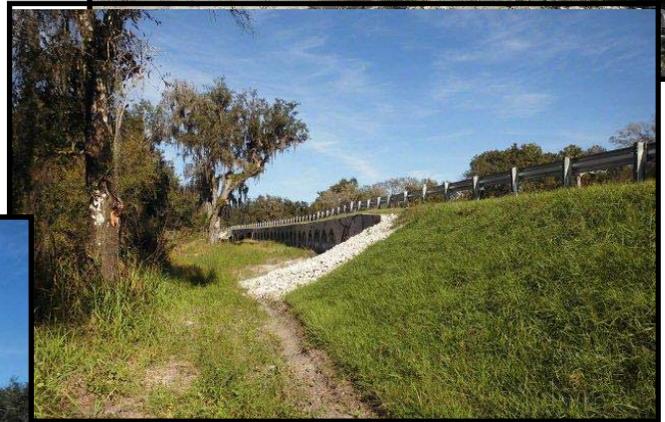




CAPITAL PROJECTS

COUNTY FUNDED ROAD WORK PROGRAMS

George Marsh Road Bridge Replacement Project



The old George Marsh Road Bridge was a one-lane timber structure with a 75' span that was subject to flooding and road closure. Staff designed, permitted and constructed the replacement structure that raised the driving surface 5.2' using sixteen aluminumized steel 6' diameter, one aluminum 8' diameter culverts and three aluminum box culverts on concrete piers set on wood piling. The arches included two with a space of 20' and one with a space of 30', and all with concrete headwalls having a total span of 255'.



Help Keep Hardee County Beautiful! Consider the Adopt-A-Road Program!

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

ROAD AND BRIDGE



Claw Truck - 2012 Freightliner



Dump Truck
2012 International 7400



Cab Truck - 2014 International Prostar Day
New Dump Body (16' Bed);
New Dump Body Aprons

The Road and Bridge Department's FY 2018-2019 budget contained \$398,000 approved for the purchase of equipment, and was later amended to \$469,650. Following is a list of equipment purchased: 2012 Freightliner M2 Claw Truck \$69,900; 2012 International 7400 Dump Truck \$38,145; (4) 2014 International Prostar Day Cab Trucks \$66,000; (4) New Dump Body (16' Bed) \$94,000; New Dump Body Aprons \$4,000; 2017 Sterling Semi Truck \$20,975; (5) Used Trucks \$26,024; 1987 Etnyre K Chip Spreader \$35,000; 1988 Deere 570B Grader \$24,800; Used Gradall 3WD \$18,000; Gradall Claw Attachment \$5,000; 2003 LeeBoy Vibratory Roller \$5,792; Other Equipment \$12,360.



Semi Truck - 2017 Sterling



Vibratory Roller
2003 LeeBoy



Grader -1988 Deere 570B



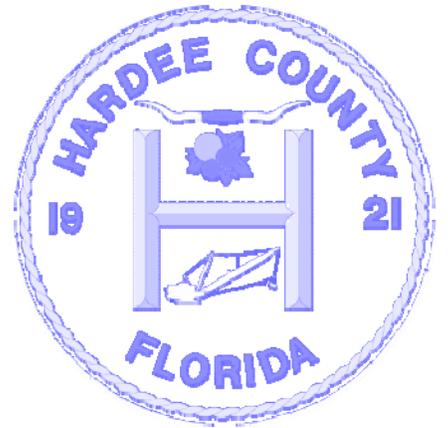
Chip Spreader - 1987 Etnyre K

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

LANDFILL



Ford F250 -2008 4X4



Operations of a Solid Waste Landfill requires special equipment, trained staff and environmental safe guards, all of which are needed to comply with Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit conditions. Capital equipment purchases for the FY 2018-2019 totaled \$20,048. Purchases included: a used 2008 Ford F250 4x4 at a cost of \$13,000; a Generac 16,000 Watt generator at a cost of \$3,995; and a 1979 Ford Tractor for a cost of \$1,200. The 1979 Tractor purchase allowed for the parts to be used to refurbish a 1978 Ford Tractor. A 72" cut mower was then purchased at \$1,499 to be paired with the refurbished tractor.



Generac -16,000 Watt with 200 amp transfer switch for Office / Scale house



Ford tractor -1978 Refurbished
Finish Mower— Nor Trac 3-PT PTO 72" cut

CAPITAL PROJECTS

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

After enduring a number of years where State legislative funding streams for various capital expansion efforts dried up, the last several years have seen water and sewer infrastructure expansion opportunities revitalized for Hardee County citizens. On the heels of the Wauchula Hills S/D Phase 4 highly successful infrastructure expansion (completed on-time in September 2017, 25% under budget through innovative construction), HCUD has pursued and due to increasing construction cost estimates and design delays the past two years, to compile sufficient funds estimated at over \$4.6M to proceed with the next expansion phase. Coincidentally during that needed delay engineering design and permitting of both the next two phases was nearly complete and construction for both expected for completion by end FY19/20.

As described in past, following the mantra “complexity of preparation, simplicity of execution”, extensive preliminary design, modified by best available cost estimating under the limits and constraints of Legislative Appropriations and HC EDA grant funding, the next HCUD construction projects are now scheduled for completion in CY2020. Phase 5 (water & sewer mainlines and lift station for Old Bradenton Rd segment west of Rainey Blvd proximate to Lost Acres and McDonald roads, south of and operationally contingent upon the proposed infrastructure of the Hardee County Commerce Park Phase 2 CY2020 expansion) is planned for bid award before end CY2019. Phase 6 (Bostick/Barkdoll water main loop, including Torrey Oaks area water extension and Village Green Estates infrastructure expansion) is planned for bid award by the CY2020 new year. These projects are primarily structured to open and stimulate vast areas of developable land to potential commercial/industrial activities and perhaps supporting economic development residential opportunities, however there is expected immediate quality of life improvements for those residences and business enterprises connecting to the central water and/or sewer expansions.

The Wauchula Hills Waste Water Treatment Plant head works mechanical screening & disposal system project was completed by the end of CY2018. This scaled system will provide sufficient debris reduction function (down to 2mm) within foreseeable future until a triggering development or growth necessitates more extensive pre-treatment facility installation.

And lastly HCUD in conjunction with Facilities Management completed June 2019 a complete rehab of the Hardee Lakes Water Treatment Plant to improve system process and potentially enable further park expansion of serviced camp slots. Also, some mid-year operational improvements to the HCUD-managed Resthaven water facilities are expected to provide more reliable service to their residents and staff.



Wauchula Hills Waste Water Treatment Plant
Headworks Auger and Controls, Installed in late CY2018

CAPITAL PROJECTS

GRILL BARN HARDEE LAKES PARK



A new grill barn was constructed at Hardee Lakes Park during the Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The funds for the construction were donated by the Hardee County Friends of the Park.

The new building is 620 square feet, and was completed in early May 2019. Features include a refrigerator, stainless steel counter and sink, and bathroom facilities. At the date of this publication, the grill and grill hood for the building are being developed.



WELLNESS PROGRAM



Participants Pioneer Park 5k Event

Hardee County launched a wellness program during the 2019 fiscal year. County employees participated in a biometric health screening March 20th and 21st, 2019. The goal of the screening was to help the participants understand their health numbers and what they may mean to their overall health. Their health numbers may help them start making more informed decisions that might lead to better health. Participants may review their results with their doctor to begin an individual treatment plan, if necessary. Participants received a wellness bonus through the on-line simply engaged wellness program.

Results from the screening revealed the following health risk factors in our employee group: High Body Mass Index (BMI), Elevated Triglycerides, and High Blood Pressure. To help combat these conditions, the wellness committee hosted a 5k run, walk or crawl event. Walking will help with weight management, helps lower triglycerides, and helps decrease blood pressure. The event was held Saturday, July 13, 2019 at Pioneer Park. Participants received a Wal-Mart gift card as a wellness bonus.

Through out the year employees were encouraged to participate in the on-line simply engaged wellness program. Each employee could choose goals and once completed received gift cards and rally points. The on-line site gives the employee access to their health benefits and provides status of bill payment and progress toward deductibles.

Hardee County will strive to make our work force more healthy and health conscience in the next year. Employees are encouraged to log on to MYUHC.Com and review the information presented on the web-site and participate in Healthy Behaviors to earn rewards and wellness bonuses.



Complete Healthy Behaviors and Earn Rewards
MYUHC.COM
Earn up to \$200 by completing a combination of
healthy activities

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Construction Industry Licensing Board

Sam Albritton (C)	Electrical Contractor
Stephen Heine (VC)	Commercial Loan Officer—WSB
Douglas Battey	Air Conditioning Contractor
Lavon Cobb	Building Contractor
Michael Gillispie	Air Conditioning Contractor
Benjamin Hash	Building & Plumbing Contractor
Harold Howze	Residential Contractor
Jimmy Jernigan	Building Contractor
Travis Maldonado	Building Contractor

Hardee County Parks & Recreation Board

Sheri Judah	Hardee County—Purchasing
Diane Moore	Hardee County—Management and Budget
Debbie Romeo	N/A
Cali Ward (VC)	Mosaic Industries
Diane Smith	Hardee County — Supervisor of Elections
Andrew Tate (C)	Wauchula State Bank
Alfred Morris	Truck Driver/COW
Daryl Cook	Retired
Sandy Scott	Retired

Economic Development Council Board/ Industrial Development Authority

Thomas Watkins C)	Owner—C R Melear Corp.
Denise Grimsley (VC)	Advent Health
Gene Davis	Auto Sales—Alan Jay
Courtney Green	South Florida State College
Cali Ward	Mosaic Community Relations Manager
Justin Smith	Realtor/Dept. of Revenue

Planning & Zoning Board

Roger Conley (C)	Owner—Conley Grove Service
Rafael Arce (VC)	Construction Industry
Karen Gustinger	HS Teacher
JoAnn Harlan-Wilson	Tax Accountant
Renee Wyatt	Dental Assistant/Office Manager
Cody Gullatt	PRECO
Tammy Pohl	Principal— Zolfo Springs Elem.

Hardee County Library Advisory Board

Melanie Bond	Retired Zoologist
Kay Crews	Teacher
Donna Hixson	Retired
Jan McKibben	Teacher
Gary McWhorter	Ace Hardware
Maria Pearson	Drug Free

Hardee County Independent Indigent Health Care Board

Judith George (C)	Retired
Jana Thorpe (VC)	Retired
Olga Torres	Central Florida Healthcare
Sandy Scott	Retired
Terri Svendsen	City of Wauchula

There is always an opportunity to serve on one of these boards. You can download an Advisory Board Informational Data Form from the Hardee County website under County Boards and Committees or contact the County Manager's Office to apply.

(C) Chairman (VC) Vice-Chairperson

2018-19 RESOLUTIONS



<u>RESOLUTION</u>	<u>ADOPTED</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
2019-01	11/01/2018	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNTY GRANT AWARD
2019-02	11/01/2018	TO CLOSE AND VACATE MCCLELLAN ROAD
2019-03	11/01/2018	TO CLOSE AND VACATE A PORTION OF AIRPORT ROAD
2019-04	11/01/2018	TO CLOSE AND VACATE OWEN ROBERTS ROAD
2019-05	10/18/2018	ADOPTING A POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS ENGAGEING IN NON-VIOLENT CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS
2019-06	01/03/2019	STAFF TO PREPARE LEGISLATIVE PACKET
2019-07	11/20/2018	AUTHORIZE SIGNATURES FOR BANKS
2019-08	12/06/2018	ANNUAL BUDGET AMMENDMENTS
2019-09	01/03/2019	AMENDING RESOLUTION 1996-35 TO INCLUDE THE GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008 GINA
2019-10	02/07/2019	AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE FDOT
2019-11	03/21/2019	AUTHORIZING JANET GILLIARD TO ACT AS PROJECT MANAGER
2019-12	03/16/2019	ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017-2018 FOR MOSAIC FERTILIZER LLC FORT GREEN SOUTHERN RESERVES
2019-13	03/16/2019	MOSAIC FERTILIZER LLC SOUTH FORT MEADE MINE
2019-14	03/16/2019	ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017-2018 MOSIAC FERTILIZER LLC SOUTH PASTURE MINE
2019-15	04/04/2019	TO CLOSE AND VACATE A PORTION OF BOST ROAD
2019-16	04/18/2019	SEMI-ANNUAL BUDGET AMMENDMENTS
2019-17	04/18/2019	SUPPORTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE U.S CONSTITUTION
2019-18	04/18/2019	SUPPORTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE U.S CONSTITUTION
2019-19	06/06/2019	AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRAL FL HEALTH CARE AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2019-20	06/06/2019	ADOPT—A—ROAD

2018-19 RESOLUTIONS



<u>RESOLUTION</u>	<u>ADOPTED</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
2019-21	07/18/2019	ONE TIME INCREASE OF STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) PROGRAM
2019-22	09/10/2019	FEEES AND CHARGES RELATED TO SPECIFIC SERVICES I.E. BUILDING PERMITS, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT, FACILITY RENTALS, PARKS
2019-23	09/10/2019	ASSESSING AND DETERMINING TENTATIVE SOLID WASTE COST AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY
2019-24	09/10/2019	ASSESSING AND DETERMINING TENTATIVE FIRE RESCUE COST AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY
2019-25	09/24/2019	ASSESSING AND DETERMINING FINAL SOLID WASTE COST AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY
2019-26	09/24/2019	ASSESSING AND DETERMINING FINAL FIRE RESCUE COST AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY
2019-27	09/10/2019	TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1ST 2019 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH 2020
2019-28	09/10/2019	TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1ST 2019 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH 2020
2019-29	09/24/2019	FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1ST 2019 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH 2020
2019-30	09/24/2019	FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1ST 2019 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH 2020
2019-31	09/05/2019	2020 LEGISLATIVE PACKET
2019-32	08/01/2019	EXTENSION OF THE 2019 TAX ROLL
2019-33	09/05/2019	AMENDING DEVELOPMENT ORDER FOR THE MOSAIC SOUTH FORT MEADE MINE
2019-34	09/05/2019	2019-2020 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNTY GRANT AWARD
2019-35	08/30/2019	DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR HURRICANE DORIAN

2019 COUNTY ORDINANCES

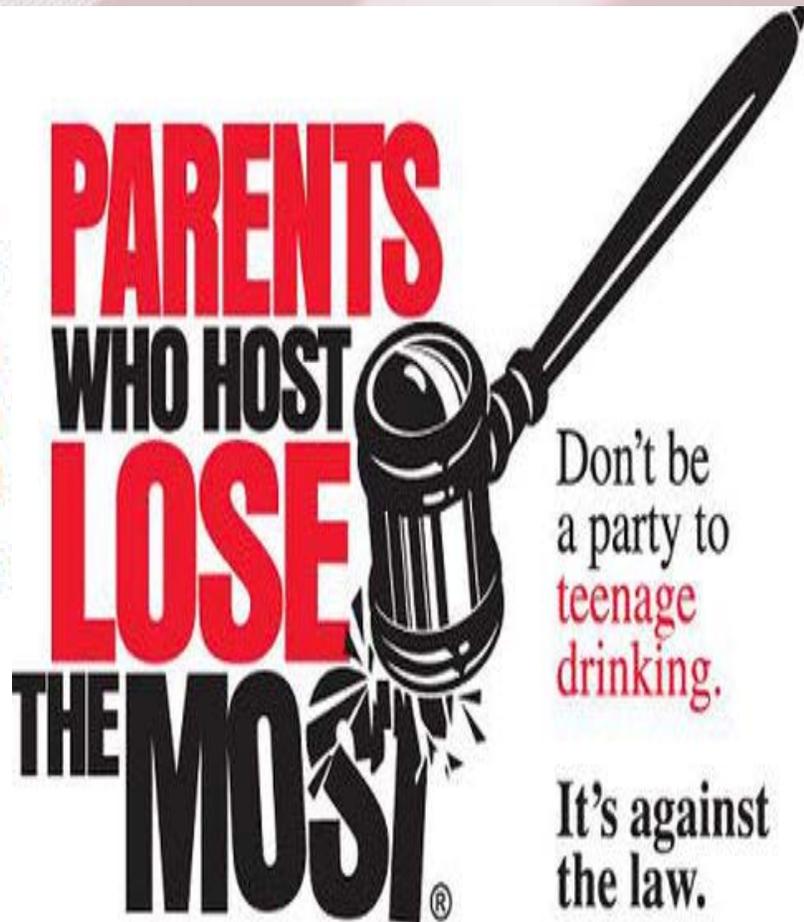


<u>ORDINANCE</u>	<u>ADOPTED</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
2019-01	3/21/2019	REZONING OF PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MINING OVERLAY MAP
2019-02	3/21/2019	MINING OVERLAY MAP
2019-03	5/16/2019	PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT—SHADOWLAWN LLC AND MOONEY FAMILY LLC



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Drug Free Hardee
 303 West Main Street, Suite 1
 Wauchula, FL 33873
 Phone: (863) 767-0401
www.drugfreehardee.com



2020 BOCC MEETING SCHEDULE & COUNTY HOLIDAYS



2020 COMMISSION MEETINGS

First Quarter

January 02nd and 16th
February 06th and 20th
March 05th and 19th

Third Quarter

July 02nd and 16th
August 06th and 20th
September 03rd and 17th

Second Quarter

April 02nd and 16th
May 07th and 21st
June 04th and 18th

Fourth Quarter

October 01st and 15th
November 05th and 19th
December 10th

All meetings at 8:30 am

PLEASE NOTE THESE MEETING DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE;
HOWEVER, ANY CHANGES WILL BE ADVERTISED.

2020 PLANNING SESSIONS

January 10th
February 14th
March 13th
April No Planning
May 15th
June No Planning

July 10th
August 14th
September 11th
October 09th
November No Planning
December No Planning

2020 HOLIDAYS

NEW YEAR'S DAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
GOOD FRIDAY
MEMORIAL DAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY (observed)
LABOR DAY
VETERAN'S DAY
THANKSGIVING DAY
& DAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS EVE (observed)
CHRISTMAS DAY (observed)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Monday, January 20, 2020
Friday, April 10, 2020
Monday, May 25, 2020
Friday, July 3, 2020
Monday, September 7, 2020
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Thursday, November 26, 2020
Friday, November 27, 2020
Thursday, December 24, 2020
Friday, December 25, 2020



HARDEE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Hardee County, Office of Management and Budget
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