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COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

N A T U R A L C H O I C E S



LAKE HARNEY WILDERNESS AREA

BOARD
OF COUNTY
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District 5
Commissioner



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Amy Lockhart
District 4
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District 3
Commissioner

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LETTER FROM
THE COUNTY MANAGER

Residents and Businesses of Seminole County,

It is with great pride that we present the 2024 Annual Report, themed **Natural Choices**. This year's theme reflects our commitment to making thoughtful, sustainable decisions that benefit both our environment and our community. Whether it's preserving green spaces, enhancing infrastructure, or driving economic growth, Seminole County continues to lead with a vision for the future.

Our progress this year builds on strong partnerships and a shared mission to serve our residents and businesses. From the renewal of the Penny Sales Tax to the completion of pivotal projects like Seminole Forever and the SunRail expansion, every effort is aimed at ensuring Seminole County remains an unparalleled place to live, work, and play.

We also celebrated milestones like the Fire Department's 50th anniversary and earned reaccreditation for our Parks and Recreation system—recognitions that highlight our dedication to excellence. Meanwhile, we've taken steps to bolster public safety, enhance communication technology, and expand our commitment to environmental stewardship.

This report provides a snapshot of the incredible work achieved by our Seminole County Ambassadors, who embody the spirit of service. Their efforts ensure that Seminole County remains a beacon of opportunity, innovation, and natural beauty.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve. Together, we will continue to make natural choices that sustain and uplift our community.

Darren S. Gray
County Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION

SEMINOLE FOREVER: PROTECTING LAND, PRESERVING SUSTAINABILITY

In December 2024, Seminole County proudly introduced the Seminole Forever Land Acquisition Program, a transformative effort to preserve the County's natural resources and promote long-term environmental stewardship. This initiative focuses on acquiring lands to protect vital ecosystems like wetlands and forests while enhancing green spaces across rural and urban communities.

Funded through the County's General Fund, Seminole Forever may also leverage partnerships

with local cities, nonprofits, and alternative funding sources—all without requiring additional taxes on residents.

These conserved areas may feature passive recreation amenities such as pavilions, restrooms, and playgrounds. By safeguarding these valuable lands, Seminole County strengthens its dedication to sustainability and reaffirms its role as Florida's Natural Choice for future generations.



YARBOROUGH PROPERTY

ROOTED IN HISTORY, PROTECTED FOR THE FUTURE

The conservation of the historic Yarborough property is a monumental achievement for Seminole County and the State of Florida. In 2024, the State completed the purchase of this environmentally significant land, safeguarding 2,400 acres within the Big Econlockhatchee Drainage Basin and Geneva Freshwater Lens.

Seminole County played a key role in this effort, working closely with state agencies to identify the land's ecological and historical importance.

By providing detailed environmental assessments and historical documentation, the County ensured the Yarborough family's ranching legacy was recognized and preserved.

In addition, the Ed and Imogene Yarborough Nature Center was renamed to celebrate Imogene Yarborough's contributions to environmental education in Seminole County. These actions highlight the County's commitment to protecting natural resources while honoring its deep-rooted history.



SANLANDO PARK

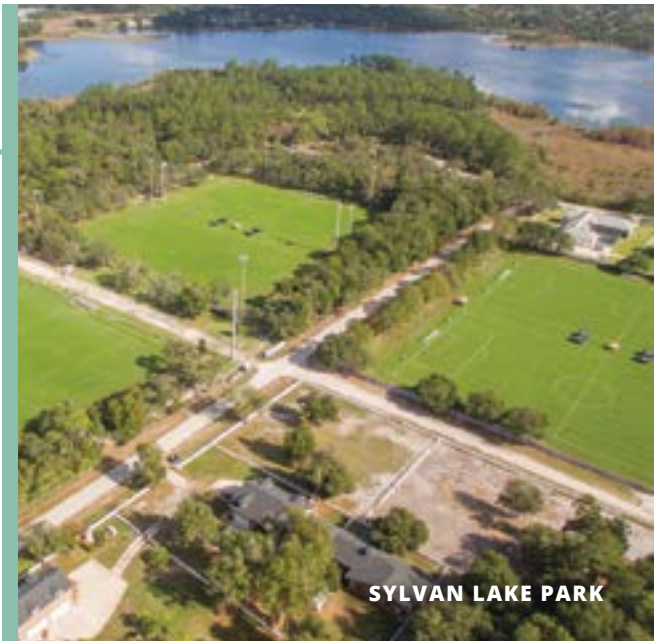
PARKS AND RECREATION

REACCREDITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN RECREATION

The Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department earned reaccreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). By meeting all 154 Standards of Excellence, this achievement marks the department's third reaccreditation since its initial recognition in 2009, highlighting its ongoing commitment to excellence in parks and recreation services.

Park System Master Plan: Shaping the Future of Outdoor Spaces

In February 2024, Seminole County approved its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a comprehensive 10-year strategy to enhance the County's park system. The plan prioritizes the development of new trails, nature areas, and parks. The plan also recommends expanding the Sylvan Lake Park sports complex by adding more multi-purpose fields to accommodate the growing number of youth and adult leagues. The plan was shaped by extensive community input, including surveys that highlighted the importance of outdoor recreation, youth activities, wellness programs, and senior services. This initiative aims to create a more connected and accessible park system for all.



SYLVAN LAKE PARK

Enhancing Safety with High Visibility Crossings

As Florida's Natural Choice, Seminole County is dedicated to enhancing the safety and connectivity of our extensive network of trails. The County is installing high visibility crossings along the Cross Seminole and Seminole Wekiva Trails. These bright green crosswalks increase visibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The initiative, funded by the One Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax, or Penny Sales Tax, is part of a 2022 safety study aiming to reduce trail conflicts. The benefits include increased driver awareness, safer crossings, and greater encouragement for biking and walking on the trails.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ALL WATER IS ONE WATER

As Florida's Natural Choice, Seminole County prioritizes the protection of water resources. In 2024, staff presented the Board of County Commissioners with a draft Holistic Water Policy, meeting a key strategic priority to safeguard and preserve water resources. The policy promotes sustainable, long-term solutions to water challenges through a "one water" approach, recognizing the interconnection between groundwater, potable water, wastewater, reclaimed water, surface water, and stormwater. In 2025, staff will collaborate with stakeholders to refine the draft policy, presenting findings and recommendations to the Board for further action.

Restoring the Little Wekiva

One of the largest watershed restoration projects in 2024 was along the Little Wekiva River. This \$4.3 million project spanned multiple departments with Environmental Services leading the charge to improve water quality, preserve habitats, fortify riverbanks, and restore the natural flow of this vital tributary. Invasive vegetation, sediment, and debris were removed, and native species were planted to stabilize the banks.



Recycling Beyond the Bin

Seminole County's Solid Waste Division continues to emphasize the importance of recycling, highlighting its commitment to both environmental sustainability and economic benefits. Understanding the do's and don'ts of curbside recycling is a small way for residents to contribute to a healthier future for our community.

Additionally, Seminole County continues to expand its approach to recycling, thinking beyond traditional curbside collection by hosting recycling drives for items such as campaign signs, shoes, cooking oil, e-waste and tires.

RECYCLING Highlights

2,000 ton increase in FY 23-24

One of the lowest contamination rates in region



FIRE DEPARTMENT

50 AND FIRED UP!

This past year marked the Seminole County Fire Department's (SCFD) 50th Anniversary, celebrating five decades of service and safety. At a commemorative event held at the Fire Training Center, current and retired firefighters swapped stories and talked about SCFD's evolution since 1974. From one station to a network of 21, the department's history is a testament to Seminole County's unwavering dedication to public safety.



Natural History

October 1, 2024, marked 50 years since the Seminole County Fire Department was formed. Starting with just 56 personnel, the department faced a surge of calls in its first year alone.

Take a look back at the Department's origins:



New Home, Same Heart

The Seminole County Fire Department opened its newest state-of-the-art facility: Station 11. Located in Altamonte Springs, this 10,300-square-foot fire station replaces the original 40-year-old building and features modern safety enhancements, energy-efficient systems, and expanded capacity to better serve the community. The ribbon-cutting event in February and open house in March welcomed neighbors and highlighted SCFD's mission to grow with Seminole County.



Department Achieves Dual Accreditation

In February 2024, SCFD earned international accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), becoming one of only a handful of agencies nationwide to hold both CFAI accreditation and an ISO Class 1 rating. This prestigious dual designation places Seminole County among an elite group of fire agencies, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in fire prevention, emergency response, and community safety.

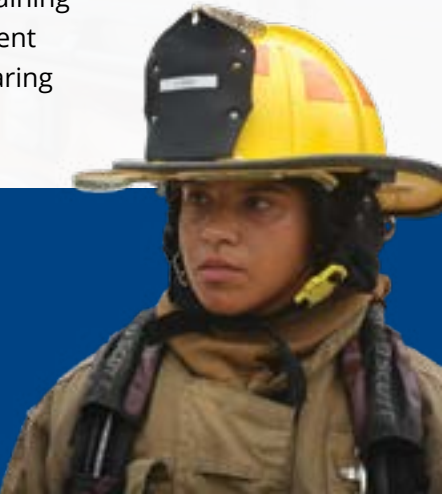
The CFAI recognizes agencies that continually self-assess, embrace improvement, and maintain transparency through a rigorous third-party evaluation. Achieving this milestone was a two-year effort involving all 574 SCFD personnel, underscoring a collective dedication to serving the community.



Igniting the Future

The Seminole County Fire Department continues to attract top talent with innovative recruitment efforts. This year's campaigns emphasized career growth, diversity, and community impact, resulting in dozens of new hires. With a world class training center in Longwood, the Department remains a national leader in preparing the next generation of heroes.

I chose SCFD because of the special classes and teams offered. As a resident of Seminole County myself, I hope to uphold their high standards.
– Firefighter Carrina Ross





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PREPARED, PROVEN, PROUD

The Seminole County Office of Emergency Management successfully secured the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) five-year recognition once again. First accredited through EMAP in 2014, Seminole County is one of only 10 agencies accredited in Florida. This accreditation reflects Seminole County's commitment to excellence in emergency management and its ability to respond effectively to disasters, safeguarding the community.

Translating Text

In 2024, Seminole County's 9-1-1 Administration received over 4,800 texts to 9-1-1. They have been working diligently to improve the experience for those who need to text in an emergency. The newly launched text translation feature enables real-time, automatic translations from any language into English for dispatch personnel, who can respond back in the sender's language.



Adoption Successes

With overwhelming animal intake numbers in 2024, Seminole County Animal Services prioritized adoption events and community campaigns to boost support and engagement. These efforts included the second annual Paws & Claus event, the Home for the Holidays and Pawlympics campaigns, and a highly successful Kitten Baby Shower.



A record-setting 46 animals were adopted in one day during the Kitten Baby Shower.



RESPONDING TO MILTON

In October 2024, Seminole County was hit by Hurricane Milton. Only two years removed from the devastating flooding of Hurricane Ian, Seminole County took proactive measures to prepare. The Office of Emergency Management, alongside partner agencies and other County departments, worked to open emergency shelters, provide sandbags and recovery items, reinforce stormwater systems, and collect debris post-storm.

STORM SEASON BY THE NUMBERS



**3,500
CITIZEN'S
INFORMATION
LINE CALLS
TAKEN**

**285,000
SANDBAGS
PROVIDED**



**700
PEOPLE AND
ANIMALS
PROTECTED IN
EMERGENCY
SHELTERS**

**165,000
CUBIC YARDS
OF DEBRIS
COLLECTED**



**1,400
MOSQUITO
SERVICE
REQUESTS
PROCESSED**

**46,000
ACRES TREATED
FOR MOSQUITOS**



**154,000
RECOVERY ITEMS
PROVIDED TO
AFFECTED
COMMUNITIES**

**310
COMMUNITY NEEDS
MET THROUGH
VOLUNTEER
PARTNERSHIPS**



**LEARN
MORE**



PUBLIC WORKS

EXPANDING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Seminole County is dedicated to enhancing regional connectivity through multimodal transportation improvements, with a focus on transit, biking, and walking. As part of the transition of SunRail funding, Seminole County, alongside Volusia, Orange, and Osceola counties and the City of Orlando, authorized \$65.3 million in funding for operations in 2025. This initial phase of the transition keeps SunRail under the Florida Department of Transportation's operation while local governments prepare to take full control by 2027.

Ridership on SunRail continues to grow, with 1.2 million people using the system in 2024, a 12% increase from the previous year. Seminole County is also advancing projects to expand bike lanes and pedestrian pathways, ensuring seamless integration with SunRail stations. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to create a sustainable, efficient transportation network that enhances mobility, supports economic growth, and fosters environmental stewardship across the region.



On the Road to Improvement

The completion of the Wymore Road Improvement Project in 2024 enhanced one of the County's busiest corridors by adding bike lanes, improving drainage, and constructing sidewalks and mid-block crosswalks. The project addressed flooding, improved traffic flow, and enhanced safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Funded by the One Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax, also known as the Penny Sales Tax, the \$16 million investment reflects the County's commitment to infrastructure development.

Enhancing Resilience and Safety

In 2024, eight major projects throughout the County addressed erosion damage caused by Hurricane Ian. Many of the projects were located along Howell Creek and involved the gabion wall installation to stabilize soil, manage water flow, and prevent further erosion. Funded by the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, initiated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this effort improved the areas' ability to handle larger water flows, offering increased protection to nearby residents during future storms. These coordinated projects reflect the County's commitment to repairing critical infrastructure and defending its communities against the impacts of severe weather events.



Projects and Progress

The Department of Public Works accomplished the following projects and improvements in FY 23-24:



Design/Study Projects Started: 12



Design/Study Projects Completed: 23



Construction Projects Started: 15



Construction Projects Finished: 83*

*Many Public Works projects stretch over several years



Sidewalk Projects Completed: 9



Linear Feet of Sidewalks Constructed: 21,840



Bridges Constructed: 2



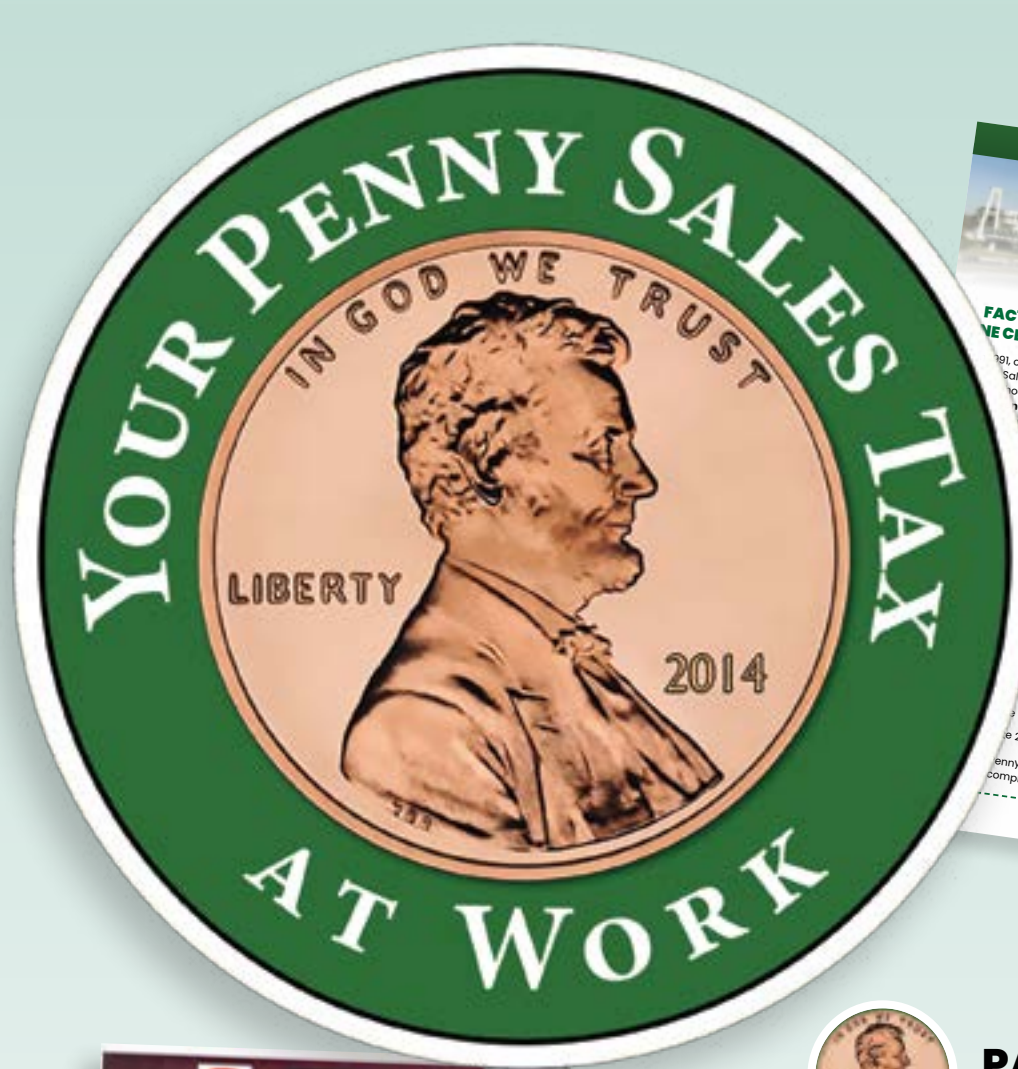
Roadway and Bridge Projects Completed: 34



Miles of Roadway Resurfaced: 59



Linear Feet of Ditch and Canal Cleaning: 18,412



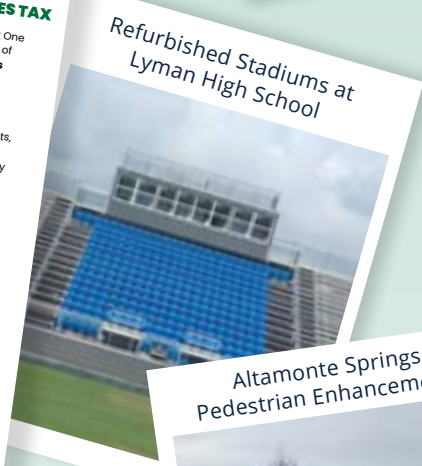
Lake Mills Park Boardwalk



Midway Elementary New Early Learning Center



Midway Trail Improvement Project



Refurbished Stadiums at Lyman High School



Altamonte Springs Pedestrian Enhancements



Goldsboro Elementary Classroom Renovations



Lake Monroe Wayside Park Boat Ramp



Intersection of C.R. 46A and Rinehart Road



Red Bug Lake Park



Longwood's Reiter Park



PRESENT: Unprecedented Support

In 2024, Seminole County voters renewed the Penny Sales Tax with over 73% approval—the highest percentage of support in its history. This overwhelming mandate reflects the community's trust in the program's accountability and success. The Third Generation of the tax funded vital projects, including road expansions, drainage improvements, and trail extensions, enhancing transportation, water management, and recreational opportunities. With this strong endorsement, the County and its partners are ready to continue addressing critical needs while maintaining transparency and fiscal responsibility.



PAST: A Legacy of Investment

Since 1991, the One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax, commonly known as the Penny Sales Tax, has funded essential projects across Seminole County, including pedestrian paths, road improvements, stormwater systems, utilities, parks, and trails. It has also supported local schools with safety upgrades and classroom additions, as well as city initiatives like streetscapes and downtown enhancements. Over three decades, the tax has united the County, seven cities, and schools in a shared vision of progress, improving residents' lives and ensuring lasting value.



FUTURE: Building the Fourth Generation

The Fourth Generation of the Penny Sales Tax promises to expand its legacy, addressing critical needs with innovation and accountability. Upcoming projects include improvements to the S.R. 427/S.R. 434 intersection, safety upgrades to S.R. 46 in Geneva, and mast arm replacements. Regional parks, such as Red Bug Lake Park, will see upgrades, while trail extensions like the Kewannee Trail will provide greater connectivity. The Deer Run Golf Course redevelopment and Howell Basin drainage improvements reflect a continued focus on safety, sustainability, and quality of life. Together, these initiatives will solidify Seminole County's reputation as a thriving, well-connected, and forward-thinking community.



Deer Run Park Improvements



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

CUSTOMER-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Development Services Department streamlined processes to make them more accessible and user-focused, including appointing a dedicated Development Review Committee (DRC) liaison.

These updates have made navigating the development process easier for residents and businesses alike, creating a more efficient, customer-friendly experience.

Preserving Rural Roots

Seminole County reaffirmed its commitment to preserving rural character through the Rural Enclaves Small Areas Study. This initiative focuses on protecting suburban and rural areas by balancing thoughtful growth and conservation, ensuring the County's distinct landscapes remain integral to its identity.

The study examines three proposed Rural Enclave subareas within the urban boundary: Orange Boulevard, Lazy Acres, and Oak Hollow. Rural enclaves serve as a planning tool to manage growth while safeguarding areas with cultural, historic, or environmental significance. They ensure development aligns with the community's vision, maintaining a sense of place while supporting balanced infrastructure and conservation goals.



LAZY ACRES RURAL ENCLAVE

Amendments that Matter

In November, Seminole County voters overwhelmingly supported two Charter Amendments that preserve cherished natural lands and protect the County's Rural Boundary for future generations.

The first amendment, requiring a supermajority vote by the Board of County Commissioners for the sale or repurposing of designated natural lands, passed with over 84% of the vote. The second amendment, which received more than 82% support, now requires a supermajority vote to remove property from the County's Rural Area. This provides additional protection, ensuring changes to the Rural Boundary require a higher level of consensus among County Commissioners.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

LEADING TO A POINT

In June 2024, Seminole County and Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka celebrated the opening of Leadership Point, a new six-home subdivision in Sanford. This housing project was made possible by an initial investment from Seminole County with funds from the American

Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Proceeds from the sale of these homes will be reimbursed to the County and reinvested, establishing a revolving line of credit to continually support the creation of affordable housing within the community.



Supporting Those Who Served

Seminole County continues to focus on supporting those who have served their country by aiding veterans and their dependents in gaining full access to all available benefits, including federal and state claims, healthcare assistance, education benefits, and more.

Over the last two years, Seminole County Veterans Services has secured more than \$10 million in backpay for veterans filing claims

through the Department of Veterans' Affairs. (VA). This money is in addition to any monthly payments the veterans will receive moving forward.

Seminole County Veterans Services also expanded their reach into the community, opening new office space, as well as hosting the first Veterans Stand Down event since 2019, serving homeless and veterans facing housing instability.



FLEET AND FACILITIES

JUSTICE JAMES E.C. PERRY COURTHOUSE ANNEX OPENS



In April 2024, Seminole County celebrated the opening of the Justice James E.C. Perry Courthouse Annex, a key milestone in the ongoing Five Points Master Plan. The 104,000-square-foot annex houses critical services, including the State Attorney, Public Defender, and Clerk of Court.

The Courthouse Annex honors the legacy of Justice James E.C. Perry. As the first African American appointed to Florida's Fifth District Court of Appeal and later to the Florida Supreme Court, Justice Perry's career exemplified a steadfast commitment to fairness, justice, and public service.



Advancing the Five Points Master Plan

Seminole County made significant progress on the Five Points Master Plan, a long-term initiative to centralize government operations and enhance service delivery in Sanford. The Courthouse Annex complements recent projects, including the parking garage, central chiller plant, and utility upgrades, while paving the way for future facility consolidations and site enhancements.

In 2025, a two-and-a-half-year renovation of the Seminole County Criminal Justice Center will consolidate civil and criminal courts into a single building at Five Points. The project will add new offices and courtrooms while upgrading the building's security and communications systems.



UTILITIES

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Seminole County's Utilities Department initiated in 2024 the development of the first-ever comprehensive Utilities Master Plan, a strategy to guide the future of water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services across the County. This forward-thinking initiative aims to ensure sustainable, reliable, and efficient utility services to meet the needs of a growing population while safeguarding natural resources.

The Utilities Master Plan will assess the County's existing infrastructure, identify future demands, and establish a roadmap for strategic investments in the water and wastewater systems. By addressing aging infrastructure, increasing regulatory requirements, and anticipated population growth, the plan will provide a proactive framework to maintain and improve service quality.



Ensuring Safe and Reliable Water

In 2024, the Utilities Department continued its proactive efforts to maintain high water quality standards by addressing updates to the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). A key focus has been identifying and assessing older water service lines to plan for any necessary upgrades, ensuring long-term safety and reliability.

The County also launched a community outreach program to provide residents with helpful resources about maintaining water quality at home and explain ongoing infrastructure improvements. The Utilities Department remains committed to delivering clean, safe water to every tap while protecting public health and safeguarding natural resources for the future.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT: BOOSTING SEMINOLE COUNTY'S ECONOMY

In 2024, the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners approved the creation and operation of Tourism Improvement Districts (TIDs). This framework provides a pathway for collaboration between the County and local tourism stakeholders, allowing hotels and lodging providers to pool resources and strategically invest in enhancing the tourism industry.

A TID could enable the County to expand its sports tourism programs, attract diverse sporting events—from youth tournaments to professional showcases—and invest in facilities that accommodate a wide range of athletic activities. With the County already hosting more than 2 million visitors annually, the TID provides an avenue for sustained growth in this key economic sector.

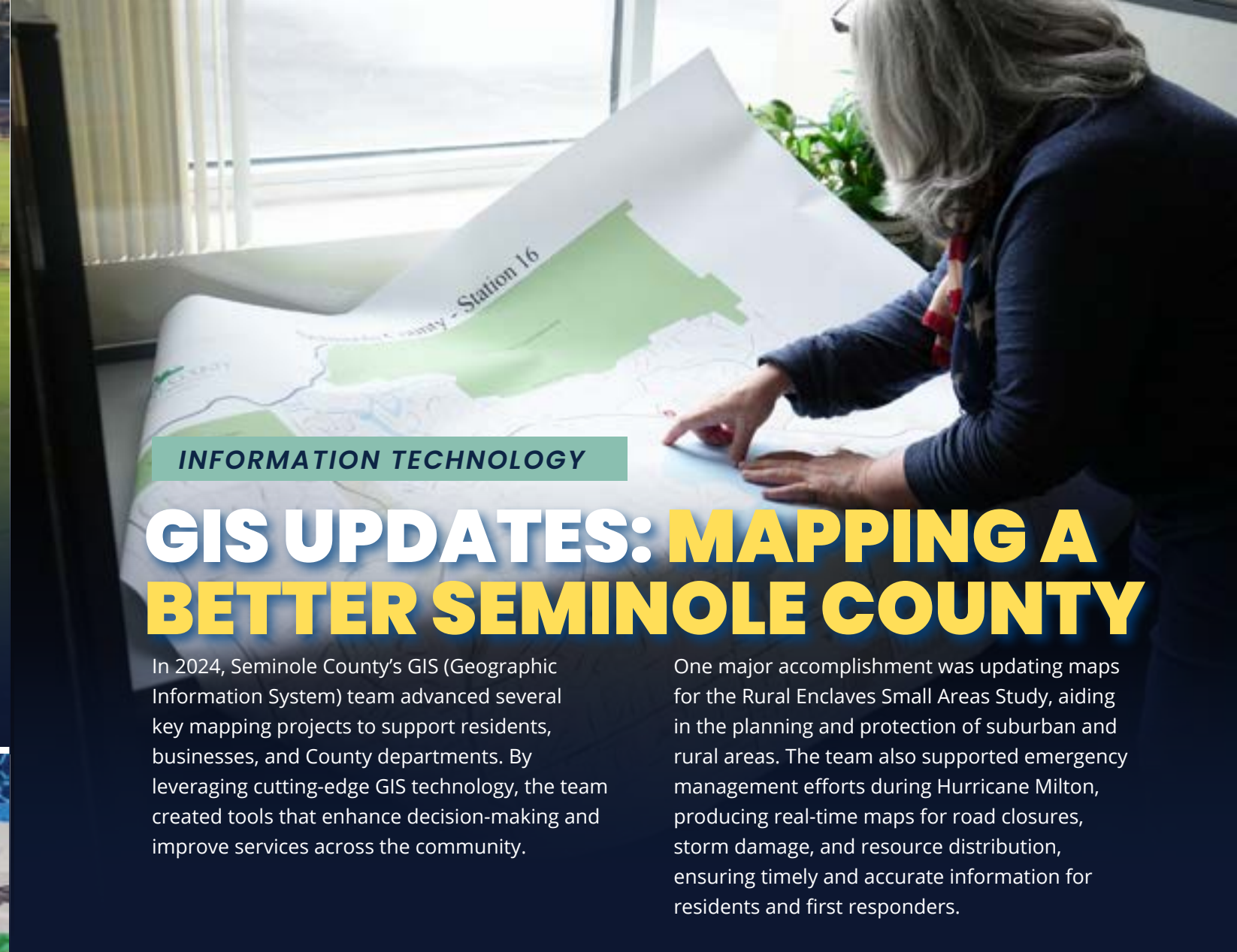
Economic Development Hub: A One-Stop Resource for Business Growth

Seminole County celebrated in October 2024 the opening of its Economic Development Hub, a one-of-a-kind facility designed to serve as a central resource for businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors. The Hub provides comprehensive support for local businesses, offering support such as permitting assistance, workforce development resources, and access to business-friendly programs. Partnerships with organizations like the National Entrepreneur Center and Prospera enhance its services, including workshops, networking events, and mentorship opportunities.



Expanding Horizons

In 2024, BNY Mellon announced a major expansion in Lake Mary, unveiling plans for a 300,000-square-foot unified facility. The project includes the creation of over 100 new jobs, modernized office spaces, and enhanced amenities, underscoring Seminole County's collaboration with the Orlando Economic Partnership to drive business growth and innovation.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GIS UPDATES: MAPPING A BETTER SEMINOLE COUNTY

In 2024, Seminole County's GIS (Geographic Information System) team advanced several key mapping projects to support residents, businesses, and County departments. By leveraging cutting-edge GIS technology, the team created tools that enhance decision-making and improve services across the community.

One major accomplishment was updating maps for the Rural Enclaves Small Areas Study, aiding in the planning and protection of suburban and rural areas. The team also supported emergency management efforts during Hurricane Milton, producing real-time maps for road closures, storm damage, and resource distribution, ensuring timely and accurate information for residents and first responders.

Dashboard Development: Data at Your Fingertips

In 2024, Seminole County's IT team made significant strides in empowering informed decision-making through the development of new data dashboards. These interactive tools illustrate key County metrics and services.

One of the year's flagship projects was the launch of the Budget Transparency Dashboard, offering a clear, real-time view of County spending, revenue sources, and project updates. The Animal Services Dashboard, developed in response to overcrowding at the Animal Shelter, provides up-to-the-minute updates on shelter capacity, adoption opportunities, and resource needs.



Managing the County’s Budget with Transparency and Precision

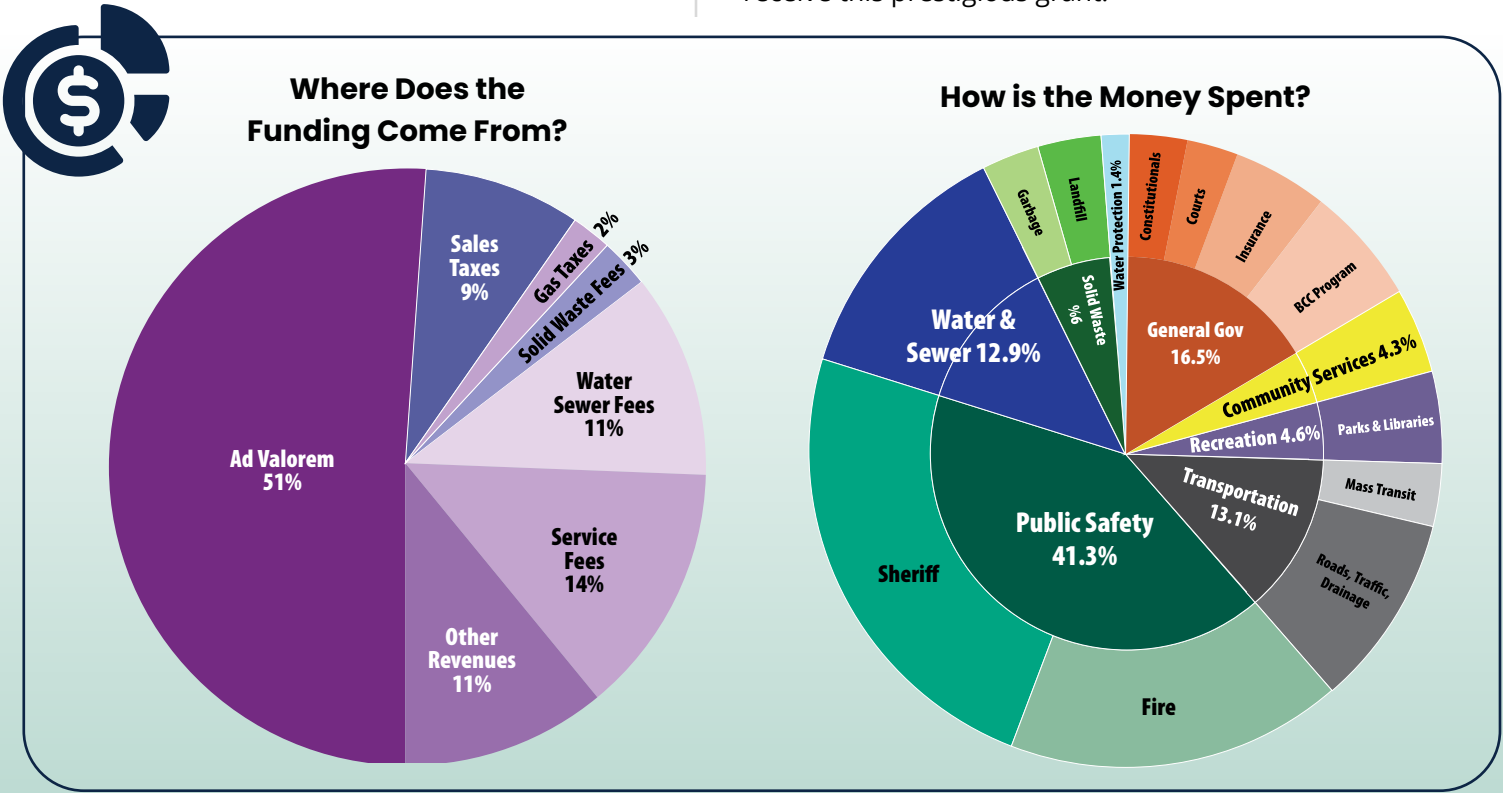
In 2024, Seminole County maintained its reputation for fiscal responsibility by delivering a balanced budget that prioritizes infrastructure, public safety, and community services. The County’s budget breakdown highlights a commitment to smart investments and sustainable growth, ensuring every tax dollar is spent effectively to serve residents.

Additionally, the unincorporated County millage rate, which includes countywide, roads, and fire services, remains one of the lowest in the region, reflecting Seminole County’s dedication to minimizing tax burdens while maximizing value for its residents and business community.

Grants Administration: Powering Progress Through Strategic Funding

Seminole County’s Grants Administration program has had a remarkable year, securing over \$45 million in grant funding to enhance County services and programs. This team supports County departments by identifying, securing, and managing external funding opportunities, enabling innovative projects that benefit residents.

One recent grant highlight is a two-year, \$190,000 Pool Safety Grant awarded by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Seminole County Fire Department, the Gunner Martin Foundation, and the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office Community Foundation are using these funds for pool safety education, training, and enforcement, aiming to save lives and prevent drownings. Seminole County was one of just eight jurisdictions nationwide to receive this prestigious grant.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH JOB FAIRS

In 2024, Seminole County’s Human Resources Department hosted a series of successful job fairs, connecting local talent with a diverse career opportunities. These events drew hundreds of attendees, with representatives from departments such as Public Works, Fire, Utilities, and Parks and Recreation on hand to showcase available positions.

The job fairs played a vital role in addressing the County’s workforce needs while strengthening community ties. Many attendees praised the one-on-one interactions with hiring managers and the convenience of on-the-spot interviews, leading to over 200 hires.

The thing I enjoy most about my job is the opportunity to help protect public health in the community where I grew up.

– Stephanie Sutton

Mosquito Control Technician, Hired March 2024



Celebrating Employee Excellence

Seminole County celebrated its hardworking staff at quarterly Employee Recognition Events, recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions across all departments. Awards were presented for innovation, leadership, teamwork, and years of dedicated service, highlighting the invaluable role employees play in maintaining the County’s high standards.

Notable honorees included teams that spearheaded critical projects, such as hurricane response efforts, trail expansions, and innovative technology rollouts. Individual awards also recognized employees who went above and beyond to serve residents and improve County operations.





COMMUNICATIONS

The Office of Communications won 21 public relations awards in 2024, including two national Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Silver Anvil Awards for the coordination and promotion of Seminole County Animal Services' Paws & Claus adoption event.



Enhancing User Experience

The Office of Communications is collaborating with Information Technology (IT) on a website redesign aimed at enhancing the user experience by improving navigation, accessibility, and overall functionality, ensuring that residents can easily access important information and services. This project reflects the County's commitment to providing a more user-friendly and efficient online platform for the community.

Right to Your Inbox

In May 2024, Seminole County launched an email newsletter to provide residents with key information directly in their inboxes. The newsletter quickly gained traction, tripling in subscribers in just a few months.

Special editions were created following significant events, including Hurricane Milton and the 2024 election, ensuring residents received timely updates and important information during critical times.



SIGN UP NOW!

[SEMINOLECOUNTYFL.GOV/NEWSLETTER](https://seminolecountyfl.gov/newsletter)



IN THE MEDIA

In 2024, the Office of Communications hosted over 70 media outreach events, proactively keeping Seminole County in the media spotlight and ensuring the community remained informed about key initiatives and milestones. Press conferences, ribbon-cuttings, animal adoption events, and environmental initiatives highlight the County's accomplishments and keep citizens engaged.

SEMINOLE COUNTY AMBASSADORS: CHAMPIONS OF SERVICE

At the heart of Seminole County's success lies a dedicated group of individuals who go above and beyond to serve their community—our Seminole County Ambassadors. From first responders and public servants to volunteers and community

leaders, these ambassadors exemplify professionalism, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to making Seminole County a better place to live, work, and thrive.

Lt. Marcus Gombs, Fire Department

The Rotary Club of Lake Mary awarded the 2024 Community Excellence Award to Lt. Marcus Gombs. For the past eight years, Lt. Gombs has organized SCFD's annual Toy Drive, which donates more than 1,000 toys to local children for Christmas. He also is involved with SCFD's annual Back-to-School Bash, providing school supplies to Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Seminole County.



Sara White, Library Services

This year, Youth Services Senior Librarian Sara White won the Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award. The Florida Library Association recognized White for her innovative Teen Cosplay Workshop series, which encouraged teens to make their own costumes and participate in a celebration of creativity.



Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS Extension Services

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent Tina McIntyre earned national recognition for an educational video and a podcast feature that both won Bronze Awards from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. The video helps educate both consumers and retailers on proper fertilizer use.



Andy Wontor, Communications

Public Information Division Manager Andy Wontor received the Florida Public Relations Association Orlando Chapter's ImpPress Award for Professional Achievement. The award recognizes her extraordinary career milestones and lasting contributions to the Central Florida community.



Alan Harris, Emergency Management

Alan Harris, Seminole County's Emergency Management Director, received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congressman Cory Mills for his leadership during hurricanes Helene and Milton, recognizing his exceptional disaster response efforts and commitment to the safety of Seminole County residents.

Gui Cunha, Economic Development and Tourism

Director Gui Cunha was honored as one of the Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award recipients. His leadership continues to elevate Seminole County's economic and tourism initiatives while fostering community growth.



Abbey Matre, Environmental Services

Seminole County's Irrigation Evaluation Program led by Abbey Matre earned the "Best in Class for Single Program Highlight" from the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association Fall Conference. The program conducted over 1,000 evaluations last year, optimizing irrigation systems and saving water across the County.



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