

County Manager's Annual Report



**Seminole County,
Florida
Fiscal Year
2001/2002**



"Serving the Community to Improve the Quality of Life."

County Manager's Message



COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE



To the Citizens of Seminole County:

I am pleased to introduce the County's 2001/2002 Annual Report.

This report is intended to provide you with a snapshot of your county government and its programs, projects, and priorities.

Over the past year we have strengthened our commitment of service to the community. Some notable examples of our continuous improvement efforts include the grand opening of Kewannee Park and the Seminole Wekiva Trail, Phase II. The citizens of the County also approved the proposed Local Option One Cent Sales Tax referendum in September of 2001, which will result in a \$534 million construction program and greatly enhance the quality of life for our residents by addressing traffic congestion and expansion of schools. Also, planning efforts associated with the new Criminal Justice Center, renovation of the current courthouse, and the expansion of the Juvenile Justice Center remain on target.

We continue to reap the benefits from the economic prosperity that is prevalent in our County. This prosperity, along with a sharp business focus, has contributed to the financial stability that our County government has enjoyed in recent years. The result has been relatively low levels of debt, declining tax rates, and a credit quality rating that is among the highest in the State of Florida.

While we have enjoyed a great deal of success in improving the quality of life for County citizens, we are not complacent in our efforts. As your County government, we are strategically focusing our resources and energies on continuous improvement of our services. There will be challenges ahead for our County as we deal with the ever-increasing needs of our growing customer base. However, we are fortunate to have a forward thinking, business-principled Board of County Commissioners, as well as a talented and committed staff team. These resources, combined with a knowledgeable, engaged citizenry, will undoubtedly result in continued success for our County. In Seminole County we are proud to be ***"Serving the Community to Improve the Quality of Life."***

I hope you find this annual report to be a valuable resource.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kevin Grace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Kevin Grace
County Manager

Your Tax Dollars at Work

Property Tax on an Average Home in Seminole County

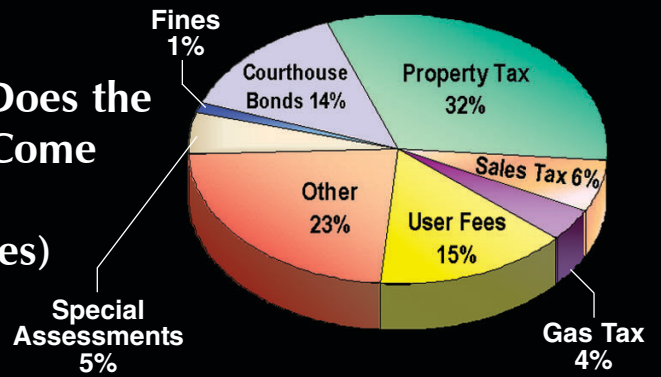
This graphic shows what an average homeowner pays in ad valorem taxes on a home in Seminole County valued at \$100,000 less a \$25,000 Homestead Exemption.



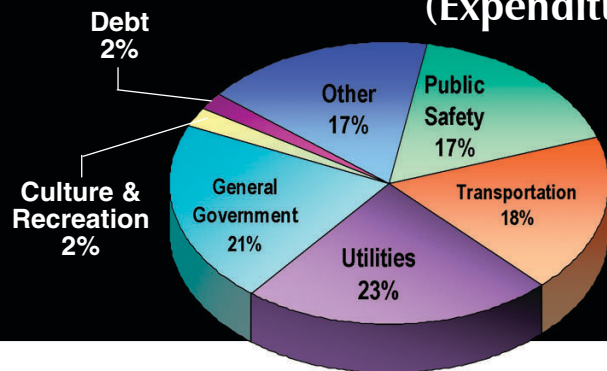
Seminole County Dollars at Work

\$568 Million Budget (Fiscal Year 01/02)

Where Does the Money Come From? (Revenues)



Where Does the Money Go? (Expenditures)



As evidence of the County's sound fiscal management policies, Moody's Investor Service and Standard and Poor's upgraded the County's bond rating to the AA category in the Fall of 2001. This upgrade took place despite an ailing national economy and concerns for the State's tourism industry.

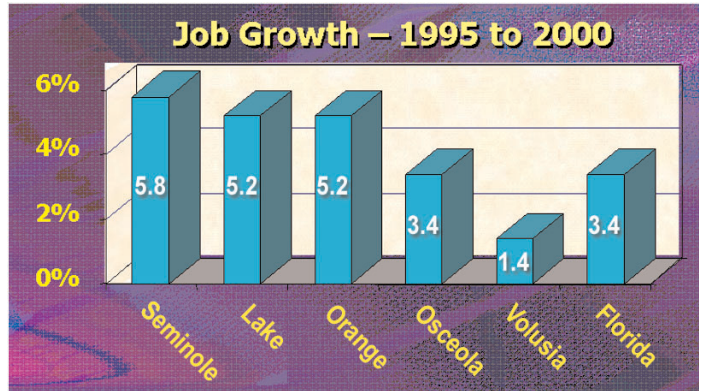
We currently rank among the top five counties in the State of Florida for our bond ratings. Higher bond ratings translate into lower interest rates the County pays for borrowed funds... and dollars saved for the taxpayers!



Economic Development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2002, the County remained a leader with its Economic Development Program. Due to its past successes, job creation in Seminole County has out-paced population growth consistently in the past decade. Private sector employment has grown by almost 47% since 1990. For the period between 1995-2000, Seminole County experienced the highest average annual increase in county job growth in the Central Florida region at 5.8%. This compares to an average annual population growth for the same time frame of 2.4%.



Almost 9,000 new jobs have been created by our Economic Development Program alone with an average wage of \$39,000. In addition, 16,000 spin-off jobs have been created. Unemployment for December 2001 was 4.5% compared to 5.1% for the State of Florida and 5.8% for the U.S.

The County's success in our Economic Development endeavors is supported by a median household income of \$49,326 (second in the state of Florida).



The I-4 corridor remains our economic development success story, having created a vast number of high tech jobs with \$200 million in capital investments.

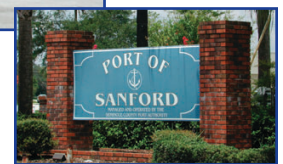
Overall, our economic development program has brought direct capital investment of over \$215 million to the County and has set the stage for other like companies to select Seminole County as their location of choice.

SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Our potential for small business success continues. Seminole County, in partnership with Seminole Community College and the Small Business Administration, supports a Business Incubation Program at the Port of Sanford.

The Central Florida/Seminole Technology Business Incubator assisted 68 business start-ups in 2001, and 400 clients received technical assistance from incubator staff.

Future plans to partner with the City of Sanford and Seminole Community College to establish a high tech business incubator facility at the Orlando Sanford



Airport will assist in the creation of "home-grown" high tech companies.

Effective Government

SAFETY AND SECURITY



From serving on a local domestic security task force to training citizens and businesses to assist in handling disasters, our Emergency Management Division is planning effective ways to be ready should the County need to quickly respond to

man-made or natural disasters. During the year, the division implemented chemical response training for city, County and airport personnel and developed a Domestic Terrorism Response Plan. The County is committed to having the latest resources and knowledge available to protect the public at a moment's notice.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

In March 2002, the Board of County Commissioners authorized the merger of the Seminole County Public Safety Department with the Altamonte Springs Fire Department. Cost savings over the next seven years are estimated at \$3.8 million for Seminole County and \$5.8 million for Altamonte Springs.

Both departments were successfully merged on October 1, 2002. The benefits of this merger include elimination



of duplicated services, better disaster response and lower costs associated with the efficiency of scale.

In addition, the City of Oviedo joined the County's first response program on October 1st. The first response program now benefits from 100% participation of all Fire/Rescue departments in the County.

SEMINOLE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION ENHANCEMENTS

Our ability to reach our citizens has expanded with the improved services of SGTV. The number of subscribers reached in our community in 2001 was 87,000. In 2002 Heathrow was added to the customer base. The number of subscribers that are anticipated for 2002 is 100,000. A few of the programming enhancements initiated in 2001 were:

- 76 live gavel-to-gavel County meetings
- Live coverage of Florida Legislature in session



- Live coverage of NASA launchings and landings
- 60 original SGTV productions

SGTV's programming guide is available on the Web at: www.co.seminole.fl.us/it/cabsched.htm

RECYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

The County has expanded its recycling program to include magazines, catalogs and a wider variety of plastics. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program was also expanded to accept old electronics, TVs and

CRTs. Seminole County is also one of the few counties that turns yard waste into mulch and provides it to County residents free of charge at the County Landfill located on East Osceola Road in Geneva.



Effective Government



EXPANDED WEB SERVICES

For the last year, Seminole County's internet site (www.co.seminole.fl.us) has averaged over five million hits per month. We recently created a new home page that was designed to be more user-friendly and easier to navigate. Menus are now provided for residents, visitors and businesses to quickly access needed information.

A few of the applications now available to our Web users:

- Online Permit and Inspection Lookup
- Water and Sewer Account Inquiry
- Online Pet Adoptions
- Interactive Maps
- Courthouse Updates
- Online Library Services
- Property tax value, bill, etc.

NEW CUSTOMER RESOURCE CENTER

For those who choose one-on-one service, we've improved customer service response in the Building Division. During the year, we:

- Streamlined the permitting process and reduced permitting time by 50% with no additional staff
- Developed the new Customer Resource Center to provide personal assistance to customers on accessing information and completing any of our applications and forms



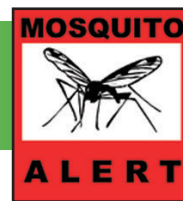
We also have access with links to the constitutional officers on our Web site such as:

- Clerk of the Court
- Property Appraiser
- Tax Collector
- Supervisor of Elections
- Sheriff's Office

County Purchasing staff has also implemented an On-line Vendor Notification system. Seminole County is the first local government to implement this concept. Our website allows potential vendors to register with the County and receive e-mail notification when the County has bid proposals pertinent to their business. This process increases competition which results in dollar savings while improving customer service.

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

Seminole County is responding to the need for new services. In 2001, Seminole County initiated the Mosquito Spraying Program based on mosquito borne virus alerts. This effort has continued in 2002 and expanded to include low-altitude aerial spraying in rural areas.



The Seminole County Health Department now provides dental services to needy residents at their Sanford and Casselberry locations.

Quality of Life

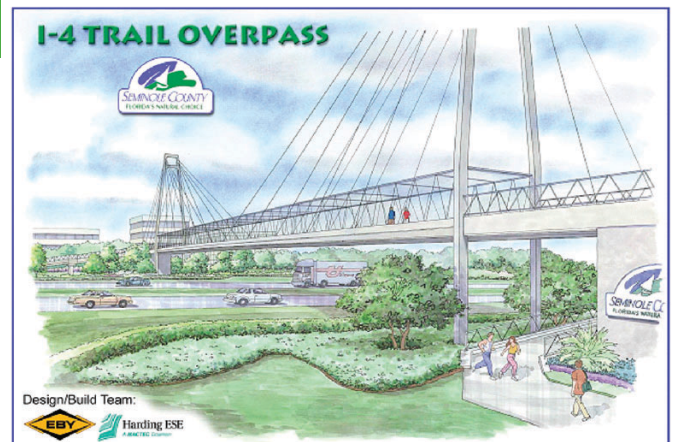
Seminole County is no longer described as the bedroom community to Orlando. Along with our seven partner cities, we offer a dynamic choice of diverse recreational, cultural and natural opportunities for young and old alike.



GREENWAYS & TRAILS PROGRAM

The County continues to move forward in its acclaimed trails and greenways program. In 2001, the County constructed 2.2 miles of trail. We have completed construction on an additional 6 miles in 2002. An additional 8.5 miles is planned for construction in the next year.

In addition, the Board of County Commissioners approved funding for a very unique suspension bridge over I-4 that ensures a continuous connection of the trail system. Located north of Lake Mary Boulevard, the bridge will connect the Rinehart Road Trail with the Seminole Wekiva Trail. Groundbreaking took place on June 18, 2002. The bridge is expected to be completed in May 2003.



For trails info go to: www.co.seminole.fl.us/trails/

THE NATURAL LANDS PROGRAM

During the year, our effort to preserve valuable natural resources continued. The original \$20 million referendum approved by voters in 1990 has resulted in the preservation of 5,600 acres of land.

- In 2000, the citizens of the County approved an additional \$5 million for natural land purchases.
- \$1.6 million was recently awarded to the County by the State to partner in purchasing additional natural lands.
- Significant recent purchases include Katie's Landing, the only canoe access property to the Wekiva River in Seminole County and Jetta Point, a proposed park facility near the Cross Seminole Trail.



PARK SYSTEM ADDITIONS

Seminole County's 22 parks offer diverse recreational opportunities from boat ramps and boardwalks to softball and soccer fields. 2001 marked the grand opening of Kewanee Park, a new community park facility located in the southeastern portion of the County.

Staff is also working on a partnership with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to create the Eugene Gregory Park named in honor of a Seminole County deputy slain in the line of duty. We also partnered with the City of Oviedo to purchase and develop Winter Miles Park, a 65 acre Community Park located in Oviedo on County Road 426.

Quality of Life



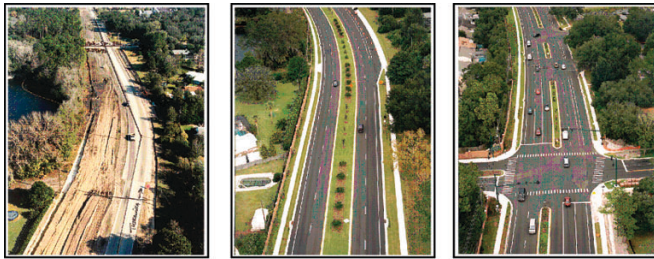
ROAD PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the County grows, our transportation infrastructure becomes more vital and directly affects our community's quality of life. Seminole County has been addressing our transportation/mobility needs in several ways.

Our road construction program is the most important aspect of improving the County's transportation system. In the past year, construction has been completed on Tuskawilla Road, CR 427 phase III and IV, CR 46A and the Markham Woods Road/Douglas Road intersection.

Construction is now underway on Airport Blvd, CR 427 phases I, V, and VI, Dodd Road, East Lake Mary Blvd and Wymore Road. Please check the County website for the progress of our road construction program at:

<http://www.co.seminole.fl.us/growth/pubwrks/engineering/schedule.htm>



Tuskawilla Road Construction and Intersection Improvements

Roads are not just a local issue. Seminole County has partnered with other counties and the State to accelerate construction of state road corridors that cross the County. Two examples of these successful partnerships are the recently completed SR 417 connection from Airport Boulevard to Rinehart Road and the construction of the I-4 bridge over the St. Johns River.

Alternative Surface Treatment Program

This is the last year of a three year \$7.5 million dollar program to surface 120 miles of unpaved roads in unincorporated Seminole County. In 2001-02, 171 roads have been paved for a total of 35.21 miles.



This program will save approximately \$700,000 per year in maintenance costs when completed.

The Board of County Commissioners remains dedicated to providing safe access to our streets for pedestrians and school children.

During the year, Seminole County has continued its aggressive sidewalk construction program and added 8.3 miles.



Derbyshire Rd/Oxford Rd/ Kewanee Trail

ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

In cooperation with the Federal Government, our Community Development Office has initiated a pilot program to reconstruct dilapidated homes and to provide downpayment assistance to working families to realize the American Dream of homeownership.

To continue to meet our housing needs, a new program has been implemented that is aimed at our senior and disabled communities. By the end of this year,



more than \$500,000 will be spent to improve access and to modernize housing.

Looking Toward the Future

The County has many challenges to face in the future. Continued population growth increases demands on current County services and resources. In order to remain efficient and effective, staff continues to monitor service demands and trends, and remains dedicated in shifting resources to meet the future needs of our citizens. Challenges we face during the next several years include:

ADDRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Due to the success of the 1991 extra penny sales tax referendum, voters elected to extend the program by approving the 2001 Local Option One Cent Sales Tax in September 2001. This united effort between Seminole County, the seven cities and Seminole County's School Board will provide funding for needed transportation and school construction projects for the next decade.



The new tax is anticipated to raise \$534 million over the next 10 years to upgrade 30 key County roadways, complete 37 city transportation projects, build 340+ miles of sidewalks

and provide funding to build new schools and renovate deteriorating facilities.

ENHANCING OUR JUDICIAL FACILITIES: A NEW COURTHOUSE

As our population continues to grow, a larger County courthouse has become a priority. The planning and programming phase associated with the construction of a new Criminal Justice Center (CJC) and the renovation of the existing Seminole County Courthouse is currently in progress. The CJC property, located on the corner of US Hwy 17-92 and Bush Boulevard, is in close proximity to the County Jail, thereby eliminating the need to transport prison inmates for trial. The design and permitting phase has begun, and the construction phase of this project begins in late 2002.



The New Criminal Justice Center Timeline

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Projected Due Date</u>
Construction Documents	May 2002 - Nov. 2002
Construction	Aug. 2002 - Jul. 2004
Occupancy	Aug. 2004

CENTRAL FLORIDA WATER RESOURCES

The availability of future water resources remains a concern not only for Seminole County, but for the Central Florida Region. The St. Johns River Water Management District reports that the Floridan aquifer will only support growth to the year 2020. Staff is studying viable alternatives, including the treatment of water from the St. Johns River and expanding the use of reclaimed water for irrigation. Seminole County is working closely with the Water Management District and other local governments to develop solutions for our long-term potable water needs.

For ideas on how to help conserve our water resources please check our website: www.co.seminole.fl.us/envsrvs/wcon.htm



Looking Toward the Future

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER EXPANSION/RENOVATION

The Juvenile Justice Center remains an integral part of the court system. A much needed expansion is underway to increase the building size from 12,000 to 32,000 square feet and renovate the current center. This expansion will relieve current overcrowding and includes additional courtrooms, holding areas and additional office space for staff.



© Southeast Elevations



US HWY 17-92 REDEVELOPMENT

US Hwy 17-92 is one of the key contributors to the County's economic engine. The County's partnership with the Cities of Sanford, Casselberry, Lake Mary and Winter Springs in the 17-92 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) continues to revitalize this important corridor.



Through tax increment financing, the CRA is able to maintain the 17-92 corridor's existing assets, promote its hidden assets, and improve or eliminate deficiencies within the targeted area.

Since its inception, the CRA has dedicated \$1.2 million toward construction of corridor improvements. US 17-92 remains a top priority for economic development, and the County has funded a coordinator to oversee this effort. Look for future improvements being made to the corridor in future months and years.

EMPLOYEES FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

At numerous times during the year, Seminole County employees have volunteered their own time and money to improve our community.

In March 2002, County employees contributed 1,380 pounds of food to Seminole Volunteer Enterprises, a food bank that serves the County. In July, construction started on a "Women's Build" home benefiting Habitat for Humanity.



In addition, employees' efforts at this Habitat House in Oviedo included fund raisers and construction labor to provide a home for a needy County resident.

SEMINOLE COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Where will Seminole County be in five, ten or even twenty years? What are the resources and capabilities that we will need to continue to provide effective government to our Citizens? During the past year, Seminole County's leadership team has been meeting on a monthly basis to communicate and come to consensus on these issues.

Seminole County's goal is to become one of the best communities to live, work and play in the Central Florida area. Our adopted mission statement "Serving the community to improve the quality of life" will drive our actions over the next several years.



Important County Phone Numbers

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911

Absentee Voting	407-665-7700	Information - General	407-665-0411
Affordable Housing	407-665-7384	Job Line (24-Hour)	407-665-7816
Animal Services	407-665-5110	Juvenile (P.A.Y.)	407-665-4670
Auto/Boat Tag/Title/ Registration	407-665-1000	Land Records	407-665-4409
Bid Information	407-665-7716	Libraries	407-339-4000
Budget Office	407-665-7176	Occupational Licenses	407-665-1000
Building Inspections	407-665-7484	Parks Information	407-788-0405
Building Permits	407-665-7050	Probation	407-665-4602
Clerk of the Court	407-665-4330	Property Appraiser's Office	407-665-7506
Code Enforcement	407-665-7434	Property Taxes	407-665-1000
Community Assistance	407-665-3270	Public Safety	407-665-8000
Cooperative Extension	407-665-5559	Purchasing	407-665-7116
County Commissioners	407-665-7219	Recycling	407-665-2260
County Manager	407-665-7219	Road Grading	407-665-5590
Courthouse	407-665-4330	Road Repairs	407-665-ROAD
Drivers License	407-330-6721	School Board	407-320-0000
Economic Development	407-665-7219	Septic Tanks	407-665-3605
Elections	407-665-7700	Sheriff's Office	407-665-6600
Employment	407-665-7816	State Attorney	407-665-6000
Environmental Health	407-665-3605	Street Lighting	407-665-7170
Garbage Accounts	407-665-2260	Storm Drainage Problems	407-665-5632
Garbage Complaints	407-665-2260	Tax Collector	407-665-1000
Health Clinic, Casselberry	407-665-3400	Tourism	407-665-2900
Health Clinic, Sanford	407-665-3000	Trash Drop-Off Locations	407-665-2260
Health Department	407-665-3000	Traffic Fines	407-665-4323
Historical Museum	407-665-2489	Traffic Violations	407-665-4387
Homestead Exemptions	407-665-7508	Water & Sewer Billing	407-665-2110
Human Resources	407-665-7944	Zoning	407-665-7441
Hurricane Information	407-665-8000		



www.co.seminole.fl.us