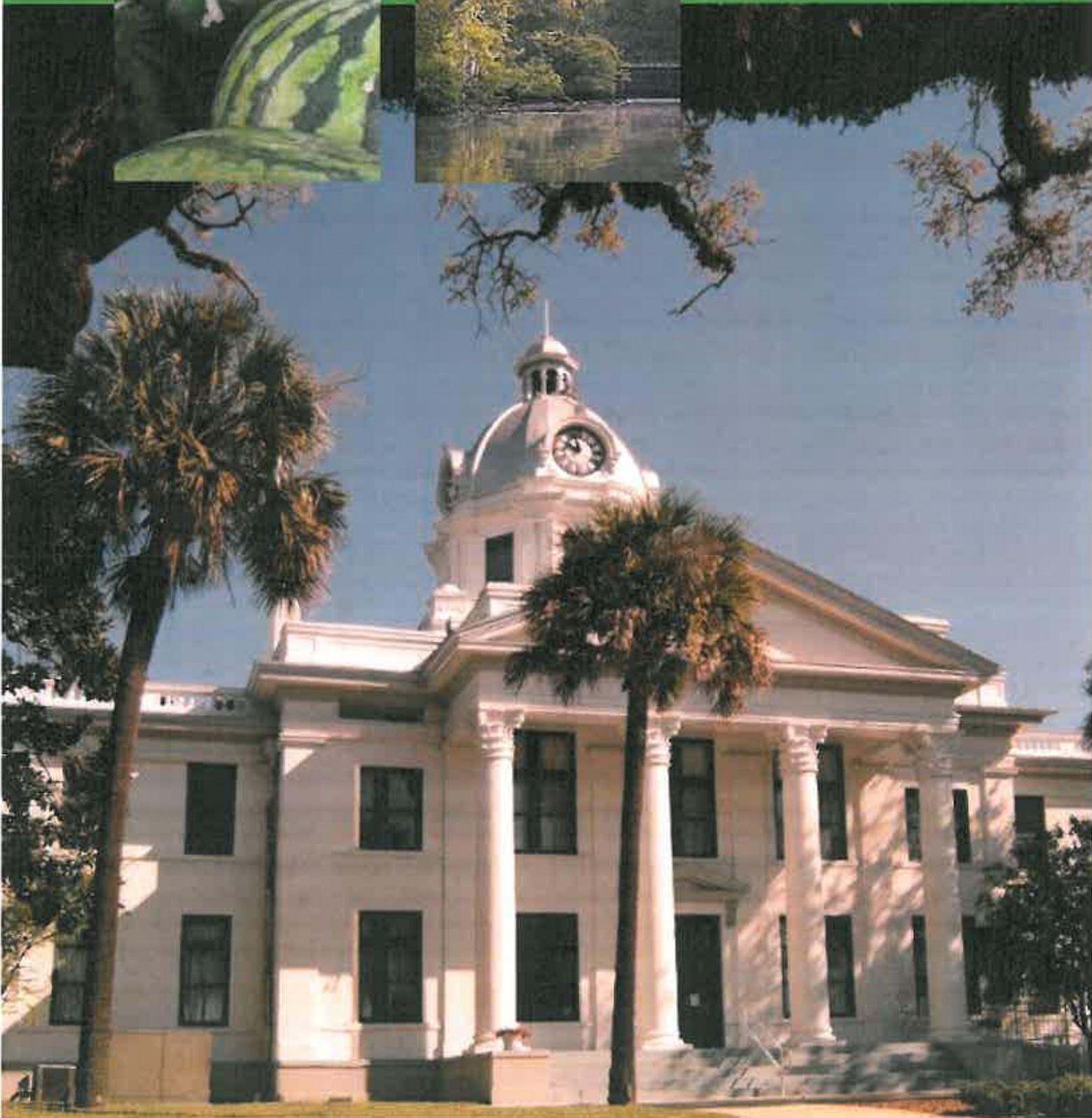


JEFFERSON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY COORDINATOR



Please join our team in reflecting on work we've accomplished over the past year, and looking ahead to achieve future goals and objectives established by the Board of County Commissioners for the new fiscal year. I would like to personally thank our Commissioners for their work in spearheading our projects and who continually serve the citizens of Jefferson County with passion and integrity every day.

In 2015, our mantra of "doing more with less" remained in place as we focused on being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Despite the constraints of a limited budget, our dedicated staff continued to deliver outstanding projects and programs to our citizens. In the past year, we constructed numerous miles of newly paved roads, stabilized several more miles of dirt roads, constructed new facilities for our emergency services personnel and solid waste program along with revamping our library and solid waste service areas, improved community parks and continued to grow jobs through new construction of business in the industrial park. This is just a sampling of what we've achieved, and we will review, in more detail, the year's significant accomplishments in the pages ahead.

The challenge in 2016 will once again be how to address immediate needs within the limits of existing resources. Staff will continue to be creative in their solutions to stretch available dollars. This year will once again give us an opportunity to provide the quality services that contribute to the extraordinary quality of life Jefferson County residents and visitors have come to expect.

I am truly grateful to the public for placing their faith in us, and we will continue in our mission to provide innovative and cost-effective services.

G. Parrish Barwick, County Coordinator
pbarwick@jeffersoncountyfl.gov



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jefferson County is governed by the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, with one county commissioner elected from each of the five districts. Each commissioner serves a four-year term and is chosen in a partisan election by voters from the district in which the commission candidate lives.

The board meets in the Courthouse Annex at 9 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, and at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.



Benjamin "Benny" Bishop
District 1
bbishop@jeffersoncountyfl.gov



Gene Hall - Vice Chair
District 2
ghall@jeffersoncountyfl.gov



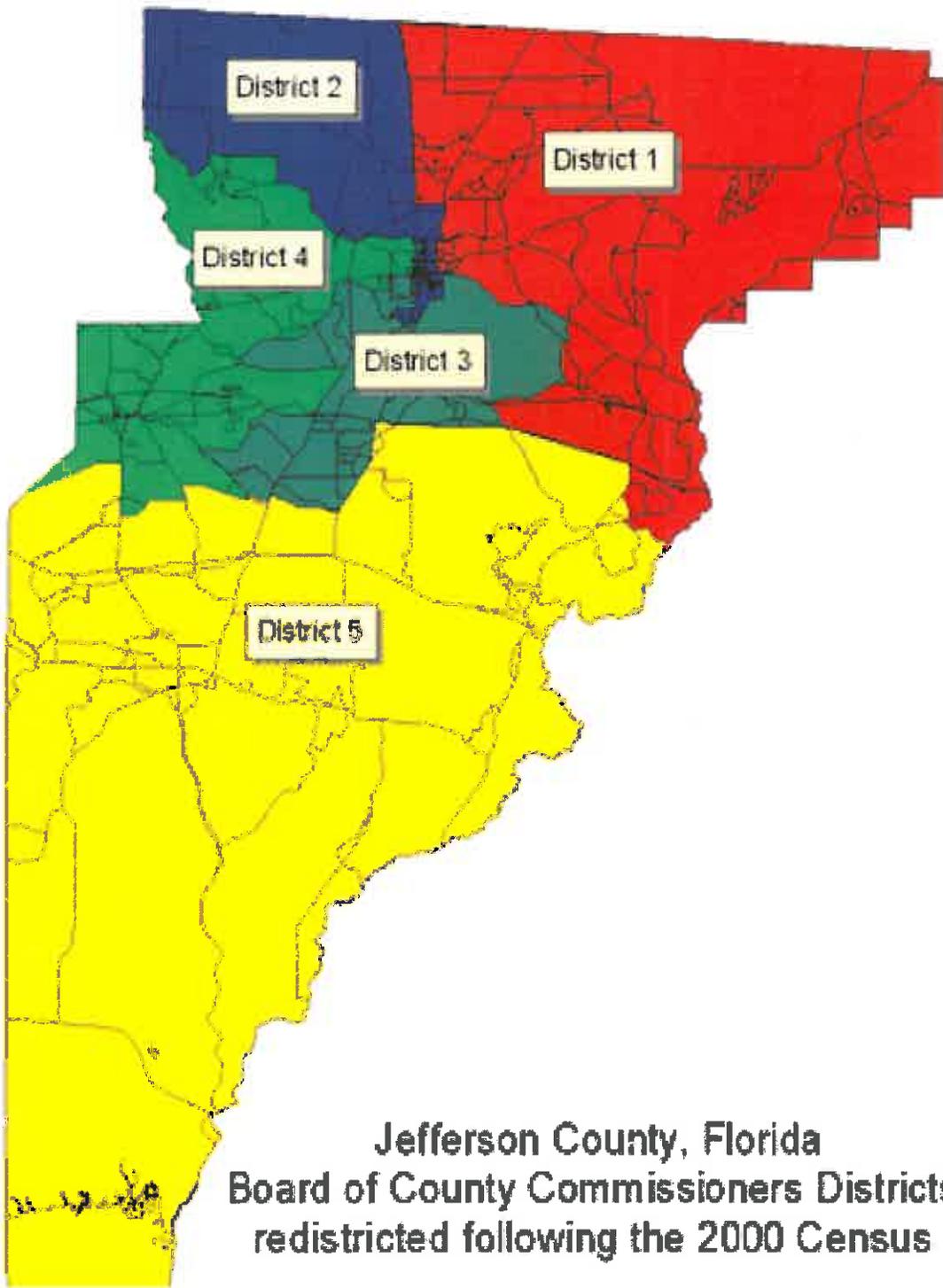
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Stephen Walker - Chair
District 5
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**Jefferson County, Florida
Board of County Commissioners Districts
redistricted following the 2000 Census**



EXTENSION OFFICE



The Jefferson County University of Florida IFAS Extension Service is a partnership between county, state and federal governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. Specifically, the Jefferson County Extension works with the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, the University of Florida, Florida A&M University and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide education to its citizens. It helps people identify and solve problems and to improve their quality of life by providing practical, research-based information designed to address the issues facing individuals, families, and communities—real answers for real life.

The Jefferson County Extension strives to provide county residents with the latest research-based information in agriculture, family and consumer sciences and 4-H Youth Development through the work of their Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and 4-H Development Agent. Their services are delivered through classes, computer networking, consultation, demonstration, educational materials, field days, meeting and workshops.

EXTENSION PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENT AREAS:

County-Wide Client Satisfaction:

QUALITY — 93.9% of residents who used Extension Services and were satisfied with the service provided.

EFFECTIVENESS — 78% of clients who had an opportunity to use the information received, and 72% said it solved their problem or answered their questions.

LEVERAGE — 75% of clients shared the information with someone else.

2015 Jefferson County Extension:

Program Clientele Contacts:

1218 —phone and email consultations

1309 —field and office consultations

4449 —participants at group learning events

2015 Extension Volunteers:

Number of volunteers — **147**

Hours contributed — **3412**

Dollar value of volunteer hours — **\$78,544.24**

EXTENSION OFFICE

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT

The Family and Consumer Sciences Agent provides educational programs in nutrition, food safety, food preservation and storage, wellness, financial management, consumer education, hurricane preparedness, mold and mildew prevention, maintaining a healthy home and/or parenting.

Major County Programs:

- *Individual/Business/Community Economic Success*
- *Individual/Family Healthy Lifestyles*

Group Learning Participants

for Programs:

The 4-H Agent conducted 13 professional presentations with 667 participants.

Creative Works and Publications

Developed to Support Programs:

- 3 fact sheets*
- 1 displays*
- 3 newspaper articles*
- 5 other publications*
- 1 educational game*

Impact:

During discussion on eating habits, 95% of students revealed their favorite foods and restaurants. In talking about their favorite foods, only 1-percent mentioned vegetables. After the lesson, 95-percent reported they learned several vegetables and fruits they should include with their meals, and will ask parents to purchase them.



EXTENSION OFFICE

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

The Jefferson County 4-H Youth development agent provides diverse, enjoyable experiences through leadership, citizenship, teamwork, and hands-on learning opportunities. The agent develops the whole person by meeting the diverse needs of individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds to build a dynamic 4-H youth program.

Major County Programs:

- *Enhancing Volunteer Leadership*
- *Enriching Successful Life Skills for Youth*
- *County Extension Director and Leadership*

Group Learning Participants

for Programs:

The 4-H Agent conducted 111 professional presentations with 5862 participants.

Creative Works and Publications

Developed to Support Programs:

- 7 educational multi-media presentations*
- 3 fact sheet*
- 5 displays*
- 3 newspaper articles*
- 2 web-based communications and teaching tools*
- 1 educational game*

Impact:

A homeschool parent wrote a thank letter to the 4-H Staff because her child attended her first-ever 4-H Camp. She wrote to everyone who worked on 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, "I just want to thank you so much for all you did for the campers and their families. My two children had a wonderful time at camp and are they making plans for next year. I know how much hard work, dedication, perseverance, and love has to go into this. As for me, I truly appreciate all the fundraising you did to make this an affordable option for my family. I am forever thankful."



EXTENSION OFFICE

2015 4-H Notable Accomplishments:

- Jefferson County 4-H had the highest attendance of overnight campers statewide and received special recognition at the Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF) Conference for this accomplishment.
- Jefferson County 4-H adult volunteers were recognized at the Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference for highest attendance participating in “Making a Difference Monday” volunteer series training.
- John Lilly, 4-H Youth Development Agent, received the following awards at the 2015 EPAF Conference:
 - Excellence in Teamwork Award, Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents*
 - Denise Miller 4-H Innovator Team Award, Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents*
 - Program of Excellence Team Award, Florida Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Agents*
- Enrolled 513 4-H youth between the ages of 5-18
- Established the “Mighty Warriors” 4-H Community Club

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AGENT

The Jefferson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent plans, develops, and teaches education programs related to forages, livestock (horses, cattle, and small ruminants) and wildlife. These programs include feed and forage production and habitat management. The agent is also responsible for programs and support for producers developing alternative agricultural operations as well as natural resources conservation including conservation tillage and cover crop usage for row crop producers. The Jefferson County Extension provides onsite evaluations of pasture quality and identification of weed pests, as well as invasive and toxic species. Youth programs include leadership for animal-based experiences and field teaching of natural resource topics and concepts.



EXTENSION OFFICE

Major County Programs:

- *Livestock & Forages*
- *Natural Resources and Small Farms*
- *4-H and Other Extension Activities*

Group Learning Participants

for Programs:

The Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent conducted 37 professional presentations with 1888 participants.

Creative Works and Publications

Developed to Support Programs:

- 9 educational multi-media presentations*
- 8 newspaper articles*
- 6 abstracts*
- 4 web-based communications and teaching tools*
- 3 fact sheets*
- 3 displays*
- 3 newspaper articles*

2015 Notable Accomplishments:

- Held educational trainings on organic vegetable production and farm financial planning
- Established an online business, cattle marketing, pecan production and pesticide applicator training
- Won a National Association of County Agents Communication Award – state and regional winner and a national finalist
- Gave a presentation at National Association of County Agents Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Gave three selected presentations at the Extension Professionals Association of Florida Annual Meeting
- Collaborated with Jefferson County Vision Action Plan Stakeholder Group to integrate Extension programming with other county groups, including NGOs
- Walker and Sons Farms was recognized as Agricultural Innovators in Jefferson County



EXTENSION OFFICE

Success Story:

At the Winter Grazing Variety Trial and Field Day, the agent compared 30 varieties of cool season annuals in a grazing trial by working with a local cattleman, IFAS forage specialists, the local representative of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences' Department of Agricultural Water Policy, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Board. A total of 33 varieties of cool season annuals in one-tenth acre plots were planted to evaluate their performance in real life conditions. The test plot was part of one of eight rotationally grazed plots. The groups were able to compare grazed and ungrazed growth across varieties. Temporary electric fence was installed to exclude cattle from grazing the last two rotations before the field day. More than 40 grazers from Jefferson, Taylor, Leon and Thomas counties attended the field day to learn the strengths and weaknesses of each variety. The ranch owner was able to share his experience with the varieties from planting through grazing stages, and the forage specialist discussed the background of their usage. The 2015 series of trial forages has been planted on the same ranch, and a field day will be held in late spring 2016.





FIRE & RESCUE

STATS:

- Responded to 517 fire calls and 2,732 EMS calls
- Provided fire prevention and safety information to more than 400 children
- Installed 15 smoke detectors in low income households
- Participated in three church health fairs, where emergency medical situation and fire prevention and safety information was provided
- Performed 19 required fire safety inspections at various businesses and churches for either state licensure or insurance purposes
- Performed 91 free blood pressure and/or blood sugar checks for citizens
- Moved into a new station location
- Replaced all the self-contained breathing apparatuses for the county station as well as the Monticello, Lloyd and Wacissa volunteer departments and replaced the breathing air compressor and fill station through a five-year lease purchase.
- Funded and assisted in the training of four volunteers for Firefighter 1 and Emergency Medical Responder certification.
- Collected \$780,931.75 in EMS fees resulting in \$35,931.75 more than what was anticipated in the budget. Additionally it was \$43,617.46 more than collected in the previous year.

SIGNIFICANT PURCHASES:

Through a 75% State EMS Grant, the JC Fire Rescue was able to purchase a \$124,000 **ambulance**. This new ambulance provides a safer and more reliable transportation for our residents having replaced an ambulance that was 12 years old and had more than 300,000 miles. JC Fire Rescue was also able to secure a 95% Federal AFG Grant for the purchase of a \$234,321.00 **tanker** that is capable of hauling 3,000 gallons of water and able to pump 750 gallons per minute. Along with this new truck and our fire engine, JC Fire Rescue is now able to have 4,000 gallons of water on the scene of a structure fire for the initial attack. This new truck will be of invaluable service to Jefferson County, especially in those areas with limited water supply.



FIRE & RESCUE

JC Fire Rescue also purchased **two new stretchers** at a cost of \$15,000 per stretcher to replace two older ones. One stretcher was purchased through a 75% State EMS Grant while the other one was purchased using funds from our annual EMC County Grant from the State that does not require matching funds. These new stretchers will enable us to provide quality care and comfort to the residents of Jefferson County.

Three new cardiac monitors/defibrillators were purchased through a 90% State EMS Grant at a cost of \$90,497.05 replacing units that were more than eight years old and no longer supported by the manufacturer. These new monitors, along with our highly trained paramedics, are capable of monitoring a patient's cardiac rhythm for signs of a heart attack or other abnormalities, act as a pacemaker for patients to induce a stable heart rhythm, shock patients with an unstable heart rhythm, perform and monitor blood pressure, and monitor the oxygen and carbon monoxide saturation levels in the blood. Although it is very expensive, this lifesaving equipment is used in some form on every patient we transport.

Lastly, the JC Fire Rescue secured a 100% grant in the amount of \$10,000 from Firehouse Subs for the purchase of a **thermal imaging camera**. This camera is designed to be carried into a burning structure allowing the fire fighter to see the different temperatures of the objects and people in the room giving a real-time picture of the inside structure. Without this equipment, fire fighters can see no more than a foot in distance due to thick smoke. The camera will help locate people or the main fire in buildings much faster greatly increasing our ability to save lives and property.

"I have been with the Jefferson County Fire Rescue since the Department began. I can tell you that with the help of the Board, county coordinator, residents and the department's dedicated employees, Jefferson County Fire Rescue has moved forward more this past year than in all our past 27 years. It's been very rewarding for me to see this and be a part of it."

Chief Mark Matthews



HEALTH

The Department of Health in Jefferson County (DOH-Jefferson) seeks to promote, protect and improve the health of Jefferson County citizens by preventing epidemics, protecting against environmental hazards, encouraging healthy behaviors, preparing for and responding to disasters and assuring the quality and accessibility of health services. Jefferson County citizens can visit the DOH-Jefferson Clinic to receive a number of services, including immunizations for children and adults, prenatal care and comprehensive dental services for children. DOH-Jefferson also protects Jefferson County's environment through surveillance, inspection and permitting services. In addition, throughout the year, DOH-Jefferson organizes and hosts community events and activities to educate and encourage safe and healthy lifestyles and behaviors among Jefferson County citizens.



NOTABLE EVENTS:

Bike Rodeo and Raffle

To promote physical activity and bike safety among children in Jefferson County, DOH-Jefferson sponsored a Bike Rodeo in conjunction with the Jefferson County Sheriff, Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners and City of Monticello. The rodeo, geared toward children ages 4 to 14, took place at the Advanced Auto Parts parking lot on April 9, 2015. Through hands-on experience, 35 children learned safety practices, rules of the road and hand signals. They also learned how to ensure proper helmet fit and how to do a bike check. A bike drawing was held at the conclusion of the event, and 16 children won refurbished bikes donated by Doug and Kathy Kirk. The couple resides in Kalamazoo, Mich., but spends the winter season in Monticello after discovering Jefferson County while participating in a Florida bike tour.



“Health in All Places Tour” highlighting the Wacissa Springs and River

To support the Healthiest Weight Florida initiative that focuses on helping Florida’s children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living, DOH-Jefferson hosted the State Surgeon General’s “Health in All Places Tour” at the Wacissa River Head this past August 21, 2015. Elected officials, community organization representatives and residents attended the event, which featured the newly renovated Wacissa Springs Park. The Chamber of Commerce provided healthy snacks throughout the event. County officials received a recognition award for their efforts toward achieving Healthiest Weight benchmarks, including having all parks in the county provide active facilities and installing a seven-mile mountain bike loop into unused lanes. Also, Officer Ryan Menard gave the audience a kayak safety presentation, and David Ward hosted a guided tour of the Wacissa Spring source with participants trying out kayaks and canoes.

Guns and Hoses Basketball Games

To encourage healthy lifestyle choices among Jefferson County’s youth, DOH-Jefferson partnered with Jefferson County Middle High School to host a community basketball game between the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office (Guns) and the Jefferson County Fire Rescue (Hoses). The event promoted tobacco-free lifestyles and abstinence. The athletic department ran public service announcements throughout the event to increase attendee awareness of the tobacco-free facility and to encourage tobacco users to vacate premises when using tobacco products. The 100 attendees pledged to support tobacco-free youth sporting events. Gold medalist track and field athlete Maicel Malone gave a motivational speech to youth on how to include healthy decisions as part of reaching their fullest potential.



LIBRARY

In continuous operation since 1905, the Jefferson County R.J. Bailer Public Library (JCPL) has been serving the information needs of the people of Monticello and Jefferson County for more than 110 years. A “beacon” for North Florida’s rural libraries, our goal is to provide every Jefferson County resident with access to the cultural products of society in order to promote reading, love of literature, informed citizenship and community spirit. We offer an outstanding collection of books, critically acclaimed DVDs, audiobooks and eBooks. Recently renovated, the library offers peaceful reading rooms, a state-of-the-art computer lab and free WiFi.

The library also serves a community center, providing access to social services, e-government, free meeting rooms, job assistance, classes and more through our network of community partnerships.

JCPL is a member of the Wilderness Coast Public Libraries consortium. It shares a catalog and other resources with two other rural library systems: the Franklin County Public Library and Wakulla County Public Library. With JCPL’s daily courier service, books from these libraries are available for pick up in just a few days.

Library cards are free to Jefferson County residents and \$10 annually for visitors from outside the county. Tourists and visitors may use the Internet without charge.

Library Accomplishments:

- As part of a major renovation, the library established a teen room for the first time. The teen room offers a safe, quiet place for teens to go after school. Featuring improved access to a collection of young adult books and a place to do homework, assistance also is available from librarians. This is the first time the library has offered teen and young adult services in a separate area. According to national surveys, separate areas for different age groups is one of the strongest desires of library patrons.

During the day, when most teens are at school, the teen room is used as meeting and activity space, as well as a place to offer social services like job counseling and tax preparation.

Renovations also included all new, state-of-the-art computers in the computer lab; modernizations such as charging stations and outlets in the floor; a revitalized community room; and a reorganization to make sure books are easy to find.

The renovation was funded through a combination of local funding, state aid and private donations.



LIBRARY

- The library formed new partnerships with Career Source North Florida (formerly Workforce) and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). DCF assists people with applying for temporary financial assistance, reemployment aid, and food aid, while Career Source provides job counseling to assist unemployed and underemployed people with a return to full employment. These integrated services improve the chance of success for the unemployed and those in poverty, and by providing the services at the library, instead of a separate office, helps save taxpayer money.
- The library circulated more 21,100 items to 10,800 registered patrons during the fiscal year, not including eBooks and other digital resources.

Photo credits: Joe Rondone, 2015. Used with permission.



PLANNING

The Jefferson County Planning Department is committed to providing the citizens of Jefferson County prompt and courteous service at all times. Staff members assist and provide information regarding planning and land development issues, and they work closely with the Building Department to expedite construction and development permitting.

The Planning Department is involved in most code enforcement issues, since they are usually evaluated and reviewed as a joint staff effort that may involve the code enforcement officer, planning official, planning attorney, building official, and, if necessary, the fire chief and/or county coordinator in efforts to achieve compliance with county codes.

Planning Department staff are involved in issuing 911 addresses, reviewing building permits and fielding citizen questions both in person and via the telephone regarding all types of general planning related questions. While a significant amount of questions are related to the permit forms found on the county's website, staff handles a variety of questions. Staff communicates issues that might affect property usage, such as wetlands setback, flood information, as well as home business questions. The Department plans to continue providing more information through its website for quick and easy access. Although permits cannot be obtained online, citizens are able to find almost all permit applications required by the Planning Department and the location of other permits outside the department through its webpages.

Planning Department efforts over the past several years came to fruition in 2015 as results stemming from two changes that were approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

- **Resolution 2015-06022015-1** was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners resulting in a new fee schedule which reduced many fees that contributed to the "up-front" costs of new homes and non-residential structures construction. The most significant change was the Development Permit fee reduction for a single-family residence being reduced to \$200. The dollars saved obtaining the permit will be utilized in construction improvements, which will translate into higher property values and corresponding taxes. Ultimately, the county and its citizens will find the reduction helps encourage construction, as well as provide jobs and better housing opportunities.
- The most important change was in the Board's adoption of the **2015 Land Development Code (LDC)** that will result in long-term improvement of the development process. Historically, comprehensive plans and land development codes have been in existence since 1972; however, they are not stagnant documents and processes have changed dramatically through the years. Our current comprehensive plan was adopted in 2012, and the adoption of the 2015 LDC is the culmination of an evaluation and appraisal report that started in 2007. The LDC adopted in October 2015 is the result of revisions that started in March 2012 to have the LDC be in full compliance with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan

PLANNING

while being reorganized to function as a development manual as well as a regulatory document. The document is now more user-friendly, easier to understand and allows more design flexibility than not only its predecessor, but those of other cities and counties. It will serve our county well.

ANNUAL REPORT - F.Y. 2014-2015 (10.01.2014-05.30.2015)				
PERMIT TYPE ↓	PERMITS ISSUED	Base Fee	# Lots or Bldg. Sq.Ft.	Total Fees
Zoning Verification Letter	2	\$75.00	N/A	\$150.00
911 Address (new)	37	\$100.00	N/A	\$3,700.00
Driveway Permit	11	\$53.00	N/A	\$583.00
Commercial Building	1	VARIES	?	\$2,237.84
Accessory Structures - Sheds, Workshop, Barns, etc.	49	VARIES	?	\$8,829.64
S.F. Residence (includes modular)	21	VARIES	N/A	\$15,669.69
Swimming Pool	2	\$50.00	N/A	\$100.00
Mobile Home Placement	13	VARIES	N/A	\$2,595.00
Subdivision -Family	2	\$100.00	?	\$200.00
Subdivision – Lot Split	5	\$100.00	10	\$500.00
Variance	1	\$200.00	N/A	\$200.00
Emergency Medical Impact - Residential	20	\$61.86	N/A	\$1,237.20
Fire/Rescue Impact Fee - Residential	20	\$48.16	N/A	\$963.20
Totals (Old Fee Schedule)	184			\$36,965.57
ANNUAL REPORT - F.Y. 2014-2015 (06.01.-09.30.2015)				
PERMIT TYPE ↓	PERMITS ISSUED	Base Fee	# Lots or Bldg. Sq.Ft.	Total Fees
Business Permit (New)	13	\$100.00	N/A	\$1,300
Business Permit (Renewal)	86	\$50.00	N/A	\$4,300.00
911 Address (new)	22	\$30.00	N/A	\$660.00
Driveway Permit	8	\$53.00	N/A	\$424.00
Accessory Structures - Sheds, Workshop, Barns, etc.	15	\$25.00	4419	\$595.95
Site-Built/Modular Residential (includes Duplex)	6	\$200.00	N/A	\$1,200.00
Swimming Pool	2	\$50.00	N/A	\$100.00
S.F. Residential Building Addition	2	\$25.00	N/A	\$50.00
Mobile Home Placement	5	\$100.00	N/A	\$500.00
Subdivision – Minor (2-5 Lots), Minor Replat, Lot Split, Family	3	\$75.00	8	\$600.00
Emergency Medical Impact Fee - Residential	12	\$61.86	N/A	\$742.32
Fire/Rescue Impact Fee - Residential	12	\$48.16	N/A	\$577.92
Totals (New Fee Schedule)	186			\$11,050.19
Combined Grand Totals	370			\$48,015.76

RECREATION

The Jefferson County Recreation Department administers all recreation programs and maintains all public recreational facilities within the county, including its main facility, a recreation park located on Mamie Scott Drive. The Mamie Scott location includes playground areas; tennis, basketball and racquetball courts; baseball and softball fields; covered picnic area; a paved walking/running/jogging/exercise path and restrooms. Park facilities are open to the public daily and provides scheduled youth and adult activities throughout the year.

Recreation Accomplishments:

- The Jefferson County Recreation Park made visible improvements in several areas its park. A multi-purpose baseball-softball field, a project initiated five years ago, is nearing completion. By leveling the ball field and substantially increasing its depth from 120 ft. to 300 ft., the ball field, making it the longest field available for adult softball recreation. Additionally, this field is multi-purpose allowing for use for t-ball, girls softball, Little League and Babe Ruth League. Included in the project was new sod and an irrigation system along with lights for evening play. The field is projected for completion in 2016. Additional improvements are schedule for current playing fields and irrigation, sod and surface leveling will be completed for more competitive fields that all levels of play can utilize.
- Dugouts also are being enlarged for the two older adult softball/football fields to accommodate 11-12 men at one time.
- This past year, the Recreation Park also added a concrete parking pad for handicap parking with sidewalk access to the restrooms. The parking was located next to the machine-pitch field. This was done next to our Machine-pitch field so that those with Handicap stickers wouldn't have so far to go to get to this field.

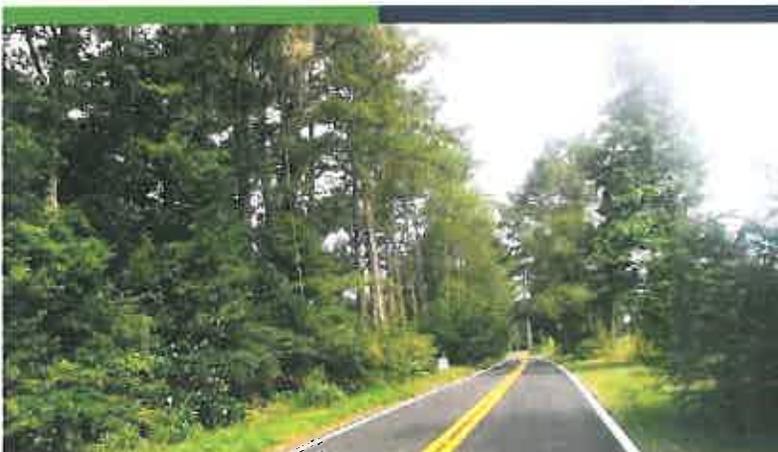


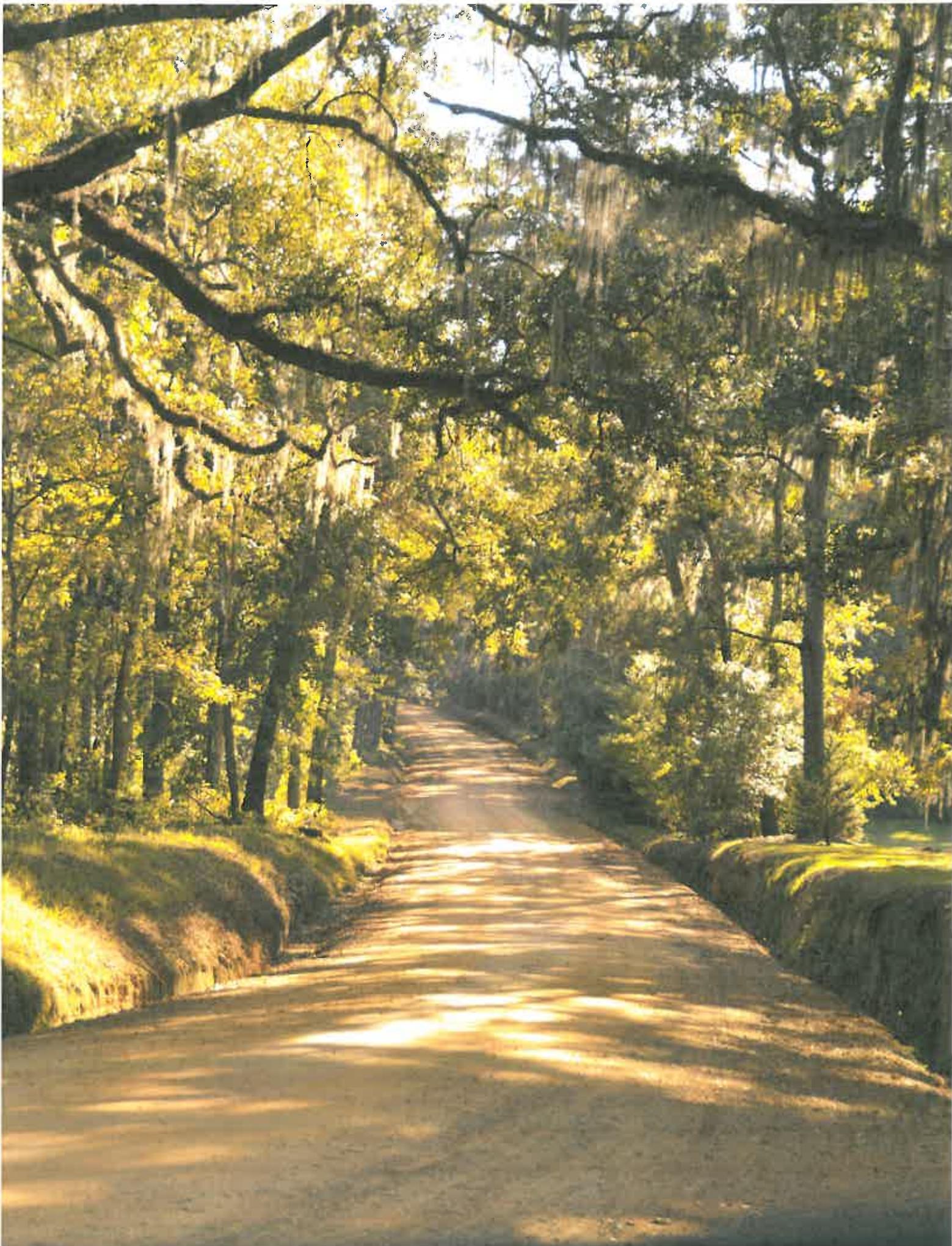
ROAD

The Jefferson County Road Department is responsible for 279 public roads which includes maintenance of paved surfaces, limerock stabilized surfaces and dirt roads. Each roadway requires some type of maintenance which includes grading dirt and stabilized roads, drainage pipes, grass mowing, bush mowing vegetation to keep drive surfaces clear of limbs and growing debris, filling of pot holes and damage to paved surfaces, street signs and roadside informational/directional signs for traffic safety. The overall goal of the department is to make the county's roadways better, safer and more attractive.

Road Accomplishments:

- The county completed one of the more aggressive road improvement plans ever witnessed with more than 40 miles of dirt roads being transformed into asphalt-surfaced paved roads. The Road Department hauled, placed and prepared road-base materials to allow the paving of numerous roads for the county's citizens.
- The Wacissa Springs Project is an example of how the Road Department also contributes to several other departments during the year that have work product and budget restraints. Working with the engineering consultant and community project committee, the Road Department completed shoreline debris removal, stabilization and improved access to the beach areas. It also provided assistance with the canoe launch ramp, and made parking lot, spacing improvements and grounds improvement for the public.





SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has benefited from additional staff support this past year that has allowed for additional projects and accomplishments for the citizens of Jefferson County.

Soil and Water Conservation District Accomplishments:

- Through the NRCS Environmental Quality Improvement Program, 10 contracts were designated to Jefferson County landowners totaling more than \$305,921 for conservation projects.
- 2015 Annual Association of Florida Conservation Districts Conference – The two-day conference, held July 24-25 in Ocala, provided district board member training and district employee training.
- Ecology Field Day – On May 8, 2015, the Monticello Field Office for the Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Jefferson SWCD hosted more than 120 third graders from Jefferson Elementary School and Aucilla Christian Academy at the University of Florida – IFAS Campus in Monticello. The event provided students with hands-on opportunities to learn about aquatics, forestry, wildlife, bees, soils and agriculture. They also learned how to make a bird feeder using natural materials.
- 2015 State Land Judging Contest – Held at the Dixie Research Plantation on March 27, 2015, SWCD hosted more than 200 high school juniors and seniors and their leaders. Other support at this event included the Natural Resources Conservation Services, Jefferson County Extension Office, Office of Ag Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Jefferson and Madison Counties' Farm Bureau, local businesses and many Florida Conservation Districts.
- Legislative Reception at Capital Jefferson SWCD was represented at a Legislative Reception held at the Capitol – More than 250 people were in attendance
- Winter Forage Field Day @ Mac Finlayson's Place – More than 50 people were in attendance



SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

The Solid Waste and Recycling Department has 14 employees ranging in tenure from less than one year to 25 years of service. The employees work hard to ensure the Department exceeds citizen expectations. These individuals work in the following areas managed by the Department.

Solid Waste Collection Sites

Jefferson County has twelve solid waste collection sites strategically placed throughout the county, with 11 collections sites that are paved for easy access. Three of the 12 sites are manned daily, which includes the main office. The Tyson Road Tree Debris Collection Site is a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permitted site that is available for citizen use.

Commercial Accounts

The Department currently has 85 commercial accounts providing the following commercial services:

- Dumpster rental with garbage pickup
- Bulk pick-up with grapple truck
- Roll-off construction container rental
- Recycling containers

Recycling

The Department started its recycling program in 1991 and depends on inmate labor from Jefferson Correctional Institution to sort items as they are received from the collection sites.

- More than 272 tons of recyclables were kept out of the landfill in the 2014-2015 fiscal year
- Additionally, 2,250 gallons of used oil was recycled during this same time period

Hazardous Waste

Jefferson County has a year-round drop off for hazardous waste at its main office location, which is funded by the Cooperative Collection Household Hazardous Waste Grant. As a condition to receive grant dollars, the county coordinates Amnesty Day events for Wakulla and Madison counties. The Department also accepts medication and used supplies for proper disposal. The drop off area has a "Swap Shop" to promote the reuse of household products, such as paint, furniture polish, plant fertilizers, etc.



SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Adopt-A-Road Program

Operating the county's program, eligible roads must be at least one mile long, with roads generally adopted in two mile segments. A total of six new segments of roads were adopted.

Code Enforcement

The Department has been unsuccessful in seating a full Code Enforcement Board, and will be submitting a proposal to the Board of County Commissioners for a Special Magistrate.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year:

- Received 10 code enforcement complaints
- Six complaints were resolved successfully, with four ongoing, but progressing well

Animal Control

Animal Control was added to the Department's responsibilities in 2005 to assist the Sheriff's Department with aggressive animal situations. The Department has three employees who are properly trained and licensed to perform animal control duties. Its main office site has 16 kennels that are used by both the city and county animal control. An Interlocal agreement between Jefferson County and the City of Monticello went into effect January 2016.

Animal Control receives many calls about lost or missing pets, mostly dogs. The owner and animal information is recorded and emailed to veterinary offices, animal rescues and animal lovers in the county. Recorded information has allowed staff to effectively assist the Sheriff's Department in a dog-aggression situation.

The Sheriff's Department tracked 800 nuisance/stray calls in 2014-15. Animal Control is tracking the numbers for 2015-2016.

For the 2014-2015 FY, Animal Control responded to 47 calls from the Sheriff's Department and handled a total of 91 animal cases. Of the 91 animal cases:

- Returned to Owner: 34
- Adopted: 11
- Holding (open neglect case): 4
- Euthanized: 22
- Unable to locate¹: 17
- Snakes: 2

¹ Florida Highway Patrol dispatch calls Jefferson County Animal Control to respond to calls of animals on the interstate, due to the high probability that they will cause a wreck.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce is the frontline advocate for the Jefferson County community. Supporting activities that encourage economic growth and prosperity while protecting the community's natural, historic and cultural resources, it partners with area organizations to market a positive and progressive image of the community.

Chili Challenge – February 2015

The Annual Chamber of Commerce Chili Challenge gives area businesses an opportunity to compete for the best chili. This event raises awareness of local businesses and brings the community together for an enjoyable evening. This year's 6th annual Chili Challenge was held downtown at the Opera House. It was a lively, well-attended scene where community friends and neighbors gathered to sample savory chili and dance to the music of the popular local band, **The Chaotics**.

Monticello Bike Fest – March 2015

This Inaugural event brought 138 cyclists, their families and friends to Jefferson County to ride our beautiful rolling hills and canopied roads. It put Jefferson County on the map for cyclists all over the region and brought business to Monticello's shops, restaurants, hotels, and bed and breakfasts. Cyclists bring attention to Jefferson County as a destination for healthy outdoor activities.

66th Annual Watermelon Festival – June 2015

The festival featured 175 vendors and drew a record crowd of 6,000-8,000 visitors to downtown Monticello, where they shopped, ate and stayed in Jefferson County businesses. More than just a festival with a parade and vendors, there was a Rotary BBQ, kick-off dinner, pageant and the Bed Race. All these events boost awareness for businesses and service groups in our community.

Jefferson's County Fair & BBQ Cook-off – November 2015

Designed to showcase the area's talent for southern cooking as well as draw more attention to the charms of Jefferson County, this inaugural event was drew six BBQ teams and more than 500 residents to sample and savor the efforts of the talented teams.

There were plenty of activities to include the whole family with everything from face-painting, a bouncy house, a greased pig contest to vendor booths and live bands. The crowd went from booth to booth sampling delicious southern cooking and buying wares from area businesses.





ENGINEERING

Engineering Accomplishments :

- **Tecumseh Road**

This project included the resurfacing of 0.76 miles of Tecumseh Road, from CR 142 (Lake Road) to SR 57 (US 19) in Jefferson County, through the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)

- **Wacissa Springs**

The project included removal of vegetation, silt and debris. Also included in project was shoreline stabilization and improved access. The project was funded by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

- **North Barber Hill Road**

This project included the widening and resurfacing of 1.0 mile of North Barber Hill Road from SR 20 to CR 257B in Jefferson County, through the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)

- **St. Augustine Rd Widening and Resurfacing**

St. Augustine Road is a 1.9 mile stretch of rural collector road. This project required widening, resurfacing and ditch line improvements as well as several cross drain replacements.

- **Watermill Road Reconstruction**

Watermill Road is a 1.9 mile stretch of rural collector road. This project involved the total reconstruction of a dirt road, cross drain replacement, guardrail construction and the paving of the entire length of roadway.



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Understanding the importance of small businesses to the local community and economy, Jefferson County sponsors the Small Business Development Program (SBDP). The SBDP assists individuals seeking to create, expand or improve upon a business in the county. Its goals are to support the creation of new jobs for local residents, keep current jobs in place by helping existing businesses be strong, ensure the availability of needed goods and services for those who live here and contribute to the kind of economy that will sustain the community long-term.

One-on-One Client Support

From shopkeepers to inn-keepers to consultants to construction contractors to health care providers to mail order marketers to restauranteurs to farmers and other businesses of wide variety, the SBDP supports the success of local businesses. It offers a diverse range of services of uncommon scope and quality for a program its size. Professional support services are provided at no charge to individuals and companies with a business idea or plan and a commitment to business goals.

SBDP services include: business concepts and plans evaluation; business plan development assistance; financial evaluations and planning; lender request support; market analysis; marketing plans and strategy; location assistance; strategic communications; operational improvements and other varied support. Services are tailored to the needs of individual businesses. The SBDP also supports nonprofit organizations that help build the local economy.

Business Training Services

Professional development is an important part of keeping businesses sharp and strong while also helping entrepreneurs prepare for launching their new businesses. **In the past year, the SBDP presented six training events, planned for others in the coming months and created dozens of reports to assist local entrepreneurs on specific topics related to their business ventures.** Workshop examples range include: “How to Get Your Small Business Funded,” “Social Media Marketing for Small Businesses,” “Home-Based Business Needs & Solutions,” “How to Get & Stay Motivated and Effective,” and “Understanding Local Permitting & Land Use Policies Affecting Small Business.”

Community Awareness & Outreach

Accomplishing goals depends on connecting with community members, particularly those in the business sector. The SBDP provides information through newsletters, its website, social media (Facebook, YouTube and a blog) and providing a column on timely topics in the *Monticello News/Jefferson Journal*. Staff also speaks at local forums and participates in local events.

Accessibility of Services

The SPDP appointments are available in person, by phone or online adapting to the individual needs of the client.



Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners

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