



August 2014

2013/2014 St. Johns County Accomplishments, Accolades, and Recognitions

Board of County Commissioners and Office of the Administrator

- Recognized by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in a report on statewide health rankings as the healthiest county in Florida for the second consecutive year.
- Florida Department of State's 2013 Florida Main Street Awards presented the Vilano Beach Main Street program with two Honor awards and one Merit award for Outstanding Florida Main Street Private-Public Partnership, Outstanding Florida Main Street Special Event, and Outstanding Local Florida Main Street Supporter categories.
- 2013 U.S. Census figures showed that St. Johns County has Florida's highest household income at more than \$61,000.
- Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, Florida Action for Healthy Kids, and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents recognized St. Johns County as having a Florida Healthy School District and awarded them the Silver Level.
- *Jacksonville Business Journal* recognized St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners as one of the Top 2013 Healthiest Employers.
- *Florida Trend Magazine's* 2013 Economic Yearbook acknowledged St. Johns County's success in business growth and economic development.
- Florida Section of American Water Works Association selected St. Johns County as winner of the Region II Annual Best Drinking Water contest for the 3rd time in 10 years.
- Florida Beach Patrol Chief's Association awarded St. Johns County with the 2012 Beach Patrol of the year award.
- For the second consecutive year, the Sunshine Review, a nonprofit organization, honored the County with a Sunny Award for having one of the most transparent websites in the nation.
- Health and Human Services property sold for \$8.41 million to Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. The future Lowe's will be a \$24 million project and will create 125 new jobs.

- In coordination with the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of the County Attorney, Utility Services agreed to a \$725,000 settlement relative to franchise payment methodology from the Jacksonville Electric Authority through contract mediation.
- Municipal Service Benefit Unit established to assist 424 Treasure Beach homeowners with funding a \$3 million dredge project for the development's 5.5 miles of canal.
- Authorized an additional Homestead Tax Exemption of up to \$249,999 for eligible low-income senior citizens who have owned their homestead for 25 years.
- Supported the Council on Aging Transit Center Solar Energy System and Security System Upgrade
- Funded the new regional Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Continued to work with the City of St. Augustine to jointly support funding initiatives for the extension of water and sewer infrastructure in the West Augustine Community Redevelopment Agency.

Office of the County Attorney

- Drafted, reviewed, and negotiated in excess of 650 contracts for St. Johns County.
- Facilitated the expansion of the Citizens Dispute Settlement Program to St. Johns County. The program provides no-cost mediation services to local citizens to aid in resolving a wide range of civil disputes. Over 25 citizen disputes were mediated and resolved.
- Successfully litigated and negotiated with Summer Haven residents to achieve a favorable settlement avoiding in excess of \$25,000,000 of costs to the County.
- Successfully litigated and negotiated with the State of Florida to achieve a favorable Medicaid settlement saving the County over \$383,000.
- Drafted and advised the Economic Development Agency in negotiating an Economic Development Grant Agreement with Northrop Grumman to provide incentives related to the construction of a 368,565 sq. ft. building and the creation of 400 new jobs within St. Johns County.
- Preparation and development of the Sheriff's Career Service Act Ordinance for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners to provide for transition of employees, suspension or dismissal of employees, an appeal process for disciplinary actions, as well as other administrative personnel actions.
- Preparation and development of the No Wake Zone Ordinance for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners to provide greater public safety near the Vilano Pier.

- Preparation and development of the Hazmat Cleanup Ordinance for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Preparation and development of the Candy Flavored Tobacco Ordinance to regulate its availability to minors.
- Drafted and negotiated numerous Tourist Development Council events grant contracts.
- Assistant County Attorney Rebecca Lavie was recognized by Jacksonville Area Legal Aid for her contribution of more than 300 hours of community service pro bono hours.
- County Attorney Patrick McCormack received the Florida Association of Counties President's Award for Service on local government issues.
- Identified numerous ordinances that have been superseded by statute or that are outdated, redundant, or no longer in the public interest and then recommending to the Board of County Commissioners to remove them from the County Code.

Agriculture Center

- Hosted the Sixth Annual Datil Pepper Festival and Cook-off.
- The St. Johns County 4-H Horticulture Team placed first in state horticulture competition in Gainesville.
- Forty-seven 4-H youth who completed the St. Johns County 4-H Clover Award application were recognized and awarded \$1,875 in summer camp scholarships. The primary impact of this 4-H recognition program has proven to be a financial benefit to parents of the 4-H youth who are willing to fulfill the recognition awards application requirements.
- As indicated in the 2013 4-H ES237 enrollment report, 4,759 youth took part in one or more positive youth development experiences with the St. Johns County 4-H programming effort including 4-H Club and Project members, 4-H Summer Day and Residential Camps, 4-H in the Classroom, and 4-H Special Interest Groups.
- St. Johns County 4-H Volunteers provided 7,288 hours, valued at \$18.85*, for an in-kind total of \$1,373,788 for services rendered. The 4-H Extension Agent provided 123 hours of training for 4-H youth and adult volunteers, which not only assisted them with their 4-H volunteer role, but also helped develop skills needed in the workplace.
- St. Johns County Master Gardeners volunteered more than 18,000 hours to help educate local residents on sound horticultural practices. Additionally, St. Johns County Master Gardener volunteers donated, installed, and maintained more than 6,000 annuals and 400 trees and shrubs on the grounds of the St. Johns County Agriculture Center to beautify the area and educate the public on what plants can be grown in St. Johns County.

- St. Johns County 4-H youth earned top honors in team and individual placings at the State Horticulture Identification and Judging Contest, National Junior Horticulture Contest, State Forest Ecology Contest, and the State Marine Ecology Contest.
- On Florida Arbor Day, St. Johns County Master Gardeners gave more than 1,500 tree seedlings to local residents. This program helped to inform residents on the value of trees to watersheds, wildlife, and property values.
- 4-H families volunteered to participate in a clean-up project for the West Augustine Pinehurst and San Sebastian cemeteries spearheaded by Isaac Turner and his mother and funded through 4-H grants. The cemeteries are nestled off Pearl Street in West St. Augustine and are said to be the oldest African American cemeteries in St. Johns County, Florida. World War I vets, railroad workers, and many others were buried there at a time when African Americans had to be segregated, even in the grave. The tombstones date back at least 173 years.
- The St. Johns County Extension Office provided Green Industries Best Management Practices training to more than 80 individuals to help bring them into compliance with the St. Johns County Fertilizer Ordinance. This program teaches them to protect the local environment while performing sound landscape maintenance practices.
- Extended the agreement with University of Florida to pay 40% of the salary and benefits for the County Extension Director through March 31, 2018.

Animal Control Services

- The St Johns County Animal Control Division responded to 4,623 citizen complaints, conducted 3,950 animal intakes, returned 389 pets to their owners, and facilitated 1,102 pet adoptions or rescues in 2013.
- During a Canine Respiratory Disease outbreak at the Pet Center's dog kennel in November, the Pet Center partnered with the Communications Division to conduct an emergency adoption and rescue effort that prevented more than 50 dogs from euthanasia due to the bacteria outbreak.
- The Pet Center actively worked with 56 rescue organizations to improve the County's live-release rate, resulting in 280 pets being released to rescue organizations in 2013. More than 150 volunteers provided a total 1,755 volunteer hours in 2013, an increase of 200 additional hours from the previous year.
- Animal Control Division staff hosted two "Seniors for Seniors" adoption events at the River House and implemented new reduced senior citizen adoption fees.
- Seven Animal Control and Pet Center employees completed FEMA Emergency Animal Courses, resulting in 90 percent of the department's staff being trained and certified to establish and maintain emergency shelters to house animals in the event of a local or regional emergency, including weather events, Hazmat spills, or acts of terrorism.

- Assisted with the “Careers on Wheels” event highlighting career options in the animal management.
- Continued to improve caller response times with the addition of a second shift/weekend Animal Control Officer.
- Upgraded to a new computer software system to unite both the Pet Center and their Field Services for better communication and tracking capabilities. This improvement will also be carried over into the Animal Control Vehicles for mobile computer capabilities and efficiency.
- Organized and hosted three Occupational Dog Bite Safety Courses for St. Augustine City employees, and St. Johns County Code Enforcement and Road and Bridge divisions.
- All division employees were certified in *Small Animal Emergency Sheltering* through Florida Animal Control Association.
- All Animal Control Officers attended SJSO’s *Meth Lab Identification* course.
- Four Animal Control Officers completed euthanasia certification course, and two Animal Control Officers completed the Animal Control Officer Certification course.
- Animal Control Manager Paul Studivant received the 2013 SART Responder Award in recognition of exceptional service to the State Agricultural Response Team and the State of Florida in emergency agricultural planning.
- Animal Control Assistant Manager Ed Martin received the “Abe Schneider” Award for aiding law enforcement in the performance of their duties.
- Air filter renovations were completed to pump cleaner air for humans and animals into the Pet Center building while ventilating out contaminated air.
- Consolidated two separate ordinances into a single, more comprehensive Animal Control Ordinance regulating leashes, and dangerous dogs and cats.

Beach Services

- Replaced pier parking lot lighting with sea-turtle-friendly fixtures and solar powered downward-facing LED lights. Accomplished through a partnership with the City of St. Augustine Beach through a \$250,000 Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant, this change resulted in a reduction of 697 metric tons of carbon greenhouse gas.
- Improved Mickler’s Beach access, with new showers, restrooms, bike racks, donated benches, and a nearby sidewalk.
- Completed a new walkover that crosses SR A1A from the parking lot of North Beach Park in Vilano Beach to the beach.

- Completed beach walkovers Countywide.
- Completed Pier Park Pavilion Roof Replacement.
- Completed St. Augustine Beach Pier Park Restroom.
- Completed Vilano Beach Ramp Bulkhead Repairs and walkover replacement.
- Completed refurbishment of the Solana Road beach access in Ponte Vedra Beach as a joint effort between the County and the Ponte Vedra MSD that included a ramped walkover, landscaping, and brick pavers.

Building Services Division

- Installed the EasyLobby Visitor Management Software System to improve security in the County Administration building.

Communications Division

- Launched five digital E-Newsletters, one for each County Commissioner District. Distributed on a quarterly basis, the newsletters provide residents and business with timely information about St. Johns County programs, initiatives, and programs.
- Instituted the Administrative Media Archive, providing an archival media clipping service for St. Johns County elected officials and employees.
- Developed and instituted the Board of County Commissioners Action Items Report, a bi-weekly document outlining actions taken by the Board at each meeting for the public and media.
- Launched a new multi-platform video streaming and archiving service on the County website to provides live streaming of GTV and a book-marked archive that allows viewers to watch on-demand meeting agenda items on most mobile devices and platforms.
- Established an AT&T U-verse channel for GTV, providing county information and meeting broadcasts for a segment of the population previously without access to the channel.
- Expanded live meeting coverage of some board and commission meetings, and increased the rebroadcast schedule, to provided additional transparency and governmental meeting content on GTV.
- Redesigned the GTV bulletin board to provide additional content and a more modern and aesthetically pleasing design that includes contact information, event coverage, public meeting information, community messaging, and video content.

- Redesigned artwork for each live meeting production to improve overall aesthetics and quality of GTV broadcast and DVD archive.
- Streamlined County's communication process regarding general projects and programs for all Board of County Commissioners departments in order to increase media coverage and ensure consistency and accuracy throughout all internal and external communication tools including press releases, GTV, social media, and the website.
- Expanded social media usage for a variety of departments and divisions including Beach Services, the Fire Department, the Family Integrity Program, and the St. Johns Golf Club to provide residents and businesses with an additional means in which to receive the departmental information of their particular interest.
- For the second consecutive year, the Sunshine Review, a nonprofit organization, honored the County with a Sunny Award for having one of the most transparent websites in the nation.
- Produced, scripted, filmed, and edited four public service announcements for GTV covering several St. Johns County Departments including Health and Human Services, the Library, the Pet Center, and the Golf Course.
- Collaborated with the City of St. Augustine to enhance the broadcast partnership and increase coverage and rebroadcasting of City board and commission meetings.
- Streamlined and increased the County's media relations program, including redesigning the standard press release, creating a comprehensive media contact list, and implementing a centralized point of contact, with the goal of increasing coverage of St. Johns County initiatives and programs and ensuring the release of accurate and timely information.

Construction Services

Managed the following projects through completion:

- 800 Megahertz communication system
- Anastasia Island Library book drop
- St. Johns County Animal Control Air Conditioner replacement
- Bird Island Park sidewalks
- COA Transit Center solar energy system and security system upgrade
- Cornerstone Park parking lot repaving
- Courthouse chimney and Courthouse railing replacement
- Department of Juvenile Justice fencing and landscaping
- Pier Park Pavilion roof replacement, restroom renovations, new restrooms
- Security system upgrades for Property Appraiser's Office
- Vilano Boat Ramp bulkhead repairs
- Vilano Boat Ramp dredging
- Vilano Fishing Pier repairs
- Vilano pedestrian walkover

Economic Development

- Northrop Grumman Corp. is under construction on their 368,565 square foot manufacturing facility which will serve as their new Aircraft Integration Center of Excellence. The \$80 million Hawkeye aircraft manufacturing plant expansion is expected to add 400 new jobs in St. Johns County during the next 4 years. For this project, the County Commission approved its largest incentive package of \$2.9 million in support of one of the largest private employers in St. Johns County, the largest manufacturer in the County, and the third largest manufacturer in northeast Florida.
- Ideal Aluminum announced in April 2014 that they selected St. Johns County to relocate their headquarters and manufacturing operation from Deland, FL and will create 120 new jobs at an average wage of \$40,000. The company is investing \$6.5M in the purchase of a vacant 145,000 sq. ft. facility at 3200 Parker Drive and associated renovations and equipment, and anticipates occupying the new facility in 4th quarter 2014.
- Defenshield announced in April 2014 that they will relocate their ballistics protection equipment headquarters and manufacturing operation from New York to St. Johns County, eventually employing 15-20 skilled workers.
- Frontier Airlines initiated new passenger service from Northeast Florida Regional Airport in May 2014 to Trenton, NJ flying three flights/week. Later that month, they announced new service from St. Augustine to Washington D.C. (Dulles) with five flights/week beginning in September.
- County's unemployment rate is averaging 5%, but hit lowest pre-recession level since June 2008 in April 2014, of 4.6%. Average County labor force has increased 6,000 since December, 2013 and now at 108,000. (Recent figures June 2014 are at 5.1%).
- Advanced Disposal Services relocated to the County in 2012, expanding its headquarters in the Nocatee area of Ponte Vedra. They have begun creating an additional 85 new jobs at an average wage of \$112,000 to grow their headquarters employment base to 125 in St. Johns County.
- New Incentive Ordinance approved in June 2014 that allows more flexibility for economic development projects to be considered for incentives to assist in the expansion of existing businesses, recruitment of new businesses and development of speculative space in St. Johns County.
- Redevelopment of Seabridge Square retail center brought new retailers to St. Johns County in the former K-Mart location. Among those new retailers are PetSmart, Ulta, Aldi and Chipotle Tex-Mex Restaurant generating more than 100 new jobs.
- Helped obtain a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant award for the Silver Creek Assisted Living Facility that is expected to generate 190 jobs and a \$31.5 million facility.

- Economic development incentive grant to 1st Place Team Sales, an existing business, to construct a new corporate headquarters (and manufacturing facility) and add 30 jobs.
- Continued support for the University of North Florida Small Business Development Center assisting new and existing small businesses in the County. Past years support has resulted in over 200 new jobs in the County.
- Updated the fiscal-year 2014 Chamber of Commerce contract to better reflect programs and activities of a more balanced economic development program and include additional areas of focus such as business retention and expansion, workforce development, business networking activities, and business education and training programs. For the first time, the contract also recognizes the County's significant investment into the Chamber to benefit economic development efforts.
- D.R. Horton, one of the Nation's largest homebuilders, opened a \$3 million, 35,000-square-foot regional headquarters on Race Track Road. The new commercial office building houses more than 80 employees in St. Johns County and the company has projected growth of up to 270 employees within the next three to five years. The project is a relocation from Jacksonville that also includes space for a home design center, homebuilding operations, and mortgage and title offices. D.R. Horton was founded in 1978, currently operates in 28 states, and has constructed more than 1,140 communities.

Emergency Management Division

- St. Johns County Emergency Management has partnered with the St. Johns County School District to provide funding for Enhanced Hurricane Protection Areas in the new K-8 School the District is building. Specific areas of the school have been designed to meet shelter standards including the gymnasium, locker rooms, kitchen, and dining/multipurpose room. The new facility will provide 500 additional shelter spaces during hurricane evacuations. Local mitigation funds were used to upgrade the school to a hurricane shelter.
- Began using Twitter in 2013 to better engage residents and public safety partners, as well as further public outreach and educational programs. Social media offers a new and constantly emerging range of opportunities for networking, collaborating, and information-sharing. It also provides another set of tools to help Emergency Management accomplish our mission of ensuring emergency preparedness by development and implementation of comprehensive disaster planning, mitigation and response capabilities to protect the lives and property of the residents of St. Johns County.
- When Tropical Storm Arthur threatened our coast as the first storm of the 2014 Hurricane Season, Emergency Management was able to quickly disseminate information through Twitter. Much of the information posted to the official St. Johns County Emergency Management Twitter account was then re-tweeted by partners and followers exponentially expanding the broadcast of our public safety messages. We invite everyone to follow St. Johns County Emergency Management on Twitter @StJohnsEOC.

- Emergency Management, in partnership with the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, has expanded our outreach to the hearing and visually impaired residents within our community. For the first time we have Hurricane Preparedness Brochures available in Braille format for the visually impaired and NOAA Weather Radio alert attachments for the hearing impaired.
- Organized and conducted the 2014 Annual St. Johns County Disaster Preparedness Exercise – Hurricane Dora, 50 years later. This year’s Exercise focused on the last land-falling hurricane St. Johns County experienced, Hurricane Dora. The exercise examined how a storm similar to Dora would affect St. Johns County in 2014. We had a 135 participants which included St. Johns County, Municipal, State, and Federal Partners.
- Expanded Incident Command System Training by hosting and conducting G-191 ICS – EOC Interface a one day course examining in the interface between ICS field operations and the EOC. Emergency Management, in collaboration with SJC Fire Rescue, also conducted G-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents, a 2½ day training course focusing on the Incident Command System. The course included participants from agencies and organizations around the state.
- Created and implemented new Evacuation Zones for St. Johns County. The new Evacuation Zones are the result of the newly released Northeast Florida Regional Evacuation Study. This study provided updated storm surge information allowing Emergency Management to refine evacuation zones and better plan for the evacuating population.

Engineering, Transportation, Public Works, Solid Waste, Utilities

- Public Works Fleet and the County’s Office of Management and Budget departments worked collaboratively to advance the County’s award-winning alternative-fuel program. Via a regional partnership with the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), the County evaluated Compressed Natural Gas as an alternative fuel option for the County fleet, and as a result, will replace over 130 gasoline and diesel based vehicles with compressed natural gas vehicles. The initiative showcases the County’s ability to produce and use alternative fuels at a cost effective price as more than \$700,000 in fuel savings are estimated.
- Obtained a \$1,690,364 Transportation State Grant (TRIP) to help complete the design for adding lanes to CR 210 from the I-95 interchange. The improvements include the widening of CR 210 to accommodate dual lefts and dual through lanes and ultimate six-lane configuration.
- Public Works Engineering received the APWA Environmental Project of the Year award for the Fox Creek Regional Stormwater Pond. This is a 30 acre pond in West St. Augustine, constructed at a cost of \$10 million that will reduce flooding and provide water quality for the 1114 acre upper Fox Creek Basin. Future roadway improvements will be able to tie into the pond for stormwater attenuation.

- Public Works Fleet Maintenance achieved its best budgetary performance in the past eight years. More than \$200,000 in net annual operational savings was accomplished. Savings were attained due to restructuring, operational efficiencies, and ability of the division to service an increased workload from the Sheriff's fleet.
- More than 11 miles of roadway was stabilized with two-foot shoulders, and more than 6,000 feet of deteriorated culvert pipe was replaced, by using in-house resources.
- Public Works Road and Bridge continued its pursuit of finding low-cost alternate-roadway material to provide for budgetary savings. In fiscal-year 2013, expenses were reduced by \$80,000 by utilizing FDOT-approved shell rock in place of conventional lime-rock.
- By re-evaluating and retooling ditch cleaning operations, Public Works Road and Bridge was able to save more than \$220,000 with lower-cost equipment selection. The new equipment also provides for recurring annual fuel and maintenance savings over past practices. Purchases of new pipe TV cameras will allow pipe inspection and substantially reduce labor hours compared to past practices, which required exploratory digging.
- The Public Works Department has had great success utilizing the City Works Project Manager tool to organize and manage various projects, manage expenses, and boost efficiency. This management tool allows the department to manage all costs and document essential details about a project. The department's Key Performance Indicator implementation provided a quantifiable means to measure each division's progress and provide a metric to analyze performance trends.
- The Public Works Information Systems group continues to provide Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems guidance to the St. Johns County School District's Career Academies. The group played a vital role in the Academy of Environmental and Urban Planning at Creekside High School to achieve the national distinction as a Model Career Academy, the highest designation awarded by the National Career Academy Coalition.
- With the goals of showcasing Public Works accomplishments; communicating future transportation, solid waste, and water quality needs; and understanding community needs related to transportation and solid waste services, Public Works developed a "State of Public Works" presentation that was made available to various community and business groups within the County and Region.
- Public Works Solid Waste coordinated ten Community Collection Days throughout the County to give residents an opportunity to drop off household hazardous waste, waste tires, and obsolete electronics. The events had no additional cost and provided a more convenient location for the resident. All events were advertised on GTV, radio, newspapers, the County website, and County annexes and libraries.
- Public Works Solid Waste division secured a State grant in the amount of \$50,000 to provide household and small business hazardous waste services to underserved neighborhoods.

- Public Works Solid Waste coordinated twelve Community Collection Days throughout the County to give residents an opportunity to drop off household hazardous waste, waste tires, and obsolete electronics. The events had no additional cost and provided a more convenient location for the resident. All events were advertised on GTV, radio, newspapers, the County website, and County annexes and libraries.
- Public Works Solid Waste hosted free Super Community Collection Days at Flagler Estates, Murray Middle School, 7200 CR 208, Trout Creek Park, Pedro Menendez HS, North Beach Park, St. Johns County Fairgrounds, Bartram Trail HS and Elwood collecting 310,000 pounds of hazardous waste.
- Public Works Solid Waste hosted two free Super Community Collection Days at the TPC parking lot in Ponte Vedra Beach allowing 1,366 residents to drop off hazardous waste totaling 106,000 pounds.
- Public Works Traffic Operations Division continued to implement the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) as an outreach service useful in identifying and proposing traffic-calming measures on local and collector streets that will reduce excessive speeds and cut-through traffic.
- The Public Works Department continues to improve the overall safety and welfare of the Community through the Countywide Sidewalks program, Traffic Calming program, and Corridor Studies that identify safety needs and improvements. Three corridor studies including Wildwood Drive, Old Moultrie, and Roberts Road were completed. The studies identified improvements to drainage, roadway safety, and road capacity.
- The Public Works Department worked with area homeowners' associations to construct a beautification project to include the installation of plants and trees at the CR 210 and Micklers Road roundabout. The project has received significant positive feedback from the community.
- The Public Works Department is coordinating with the Friends of State Road A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway to assist in identifying historical monuments and locations along the road in both Flagler and St Johns counties. The partnership between St. Johns County, Flagler County, and the Florida Department of Transportation will encompass and preserve historic recognition of the roadway.
- The County Public Works Department secured a grant to plant wildflowers along County roadways with the Florida Wildflower Foundation's La Florida, Land of Flowers Community Grant Program. The project encompassed beautification along County roadways with wildflowers that showcased different blooms and improved County Road 13 ambience. The project was also intended to reduce the maintenance of these roadway rights-of-ways.
- Purchased old dilapidated homes within the West Augustine Community Redevelopment Agency for the widening of Volusia Street. The improvements included twelve foot-

travel lanes, bike lanes, and sidewalks intended to improve the safety and viability of the West Augustine Community.

- Obtained a \$205,706 Water Quality Grant for construction of Bishop Estates Road Outfalls thereby reducing nutrients discharged into Julington Creek.
- Entered into a cost share agreement with St. Johns Water Management District in accordance with federal and state mandates in which the District would contribute \$2.6 million toward a total \$2.8 million for the Master's Regional Stormwater Facility, which includes a pump station, an intake, a wet pond, a littoral shelf, and site grading to reduce nutrients discharged into the Lower St. Johns River.
- Entered into a \$500,000 cost share agreement with St. Johns Water Management District in accordance with federal and state mandates for improvements that will reduce nutrients discharged into Deep Creek and the Lower St. Johns River.
- Broke ground on new Northwest Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. This \$30 million dollar project will treat wastewater in the growing N.W. sector of the county's service area and is designed as a 100% reuse facility.
- Our water and wastewater professionals maintained regulatory compliance on eight water treatment plants and ten wastewater plants. Through on-going staff development and training, our state-certified operators have successfully managed our facilities through constantly changing and challenging environmental regulations.
- This year we held stakeholder meetings to kick off our 25 year Integrated Water Resource Plan. This process is an inclusive approach to water supply planning that involves extensive public input and looks beyond traditional sources to lay out a roadmap for water supply strategy for the next 25 years, and beyond.
- Initiated major meter change out program in Ponte Vedra. Installation of approximately 8,000 new meters with state-of-the art technology to greatly enhance meter accuracy and customer service.
- To reduce demand at our CR 214 Water Treatment Plant, a new water transmission main (3.5 miles) was installed along SR 16 west of I-95 to interconnect the Northwest Water Treatment Plant with portions of CR 214 Water Distribution System. Connecting these systems adds redundancy and will positively impact water supply and water quality.

Environmental Services

- St. Johns County upheld conditions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit for continued public access on our beaches through two volunteer programs: the Sea Turtle Patrol Program and the Washback Program. The data collected from both programs allows the County to manage the beaches for continued public access and for the protection of environmentally sensitive species listed under the endangered species act.

- In 2013, volunteers recorded 753 sea turtle nests, the second highest nesting season on record since 1983. In addition, more than 200 volunteers participated in the sea turtle patrol program during sea turtle nesting season, May 1 – October 3, and logged approximately 54,240 volunteer hours. The washback program was accomplished by the volunteer efforts of approximately 230 individuals logging up to 32,096 hours of time, collecting 1,038 pounds of trash, 3,597 cigarette butts, 10 live and one washback post-hatchling sea turtle.

Fire Rescue

- The \$24.5 million Motorola ASTRO 25 Intergovernmental 800 MHz Communication System was put into operation, with the intent to offset future system costs by leasing space/access to third party communication providers for co-location, capping a multi-year project of improving public safety communications countywide.
- The Marine Rescue Division received the Beach Patrol of the Year award, the highest honor given by the Florida Beach Patrol Chief's Association.
- Marine Rescue program completed the 2013 beach season fully staffed with 0 drownings while protecting an estimated 1.1 million beach patrons.
- A community outreach Initiative was implemented through the website, GTV, and social media, including Facebook and Twitter, where more than 2,000 followers are now using Fire Rescue social media outlets, with six to eight thousand community contacts received per week through these media.
- Completed \$80,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for installation of Mobile Data Terminals in frontline firefighting apparatus.
- St. Johns County Fire Rescue received a grant for its Home Safety program and community smoke alarm installation.
- Service level improved with addition of new Engine 3, which can serve rural areas and has the capabilities of carrying 1,500 gallons of water, and the addition of two new ALS rescue units.
- Public Education programs provided approximately 34,000 total hours of training and included Fire Prevention Month, extinguisher training, station tours, etc.
- Fire Rescue personnel completed more than 63,000 training hours including fire fighting, fire prevention, marine rescue, emergency response, and first responder medical training.
- Fire Rescue Communications processed more than 30,000 calls for assistance including medical emergencies, marine rescue requests, traffic accidents, and structure fires.

- An emergency call-back and information-notification Incident Management Software (IMS) software program was implemented that includes all fire rescue personnel, the Sheriff's Office, and County Administration.

Growth Management, Land Management, and Housing

- Nocatee development was recognized as the sixth best-selling community in the country for the first half of 2013, and was on pace to sell 900 homes.
- St. Johns County was ranked the fourth highest county (out of 67) in the State for permitting single family homes.
- The Land Development Code was amended to incorporate additional commercial uses with design standards defined for each as development conditions.
- Extended the Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant for acquisition of bank-owned foreclosure properties to be sold or rented to income-eligible households.
- Continued funding the Foreclosure Intervention Program through St. Johns Housing Partnership to assist qualified residents with mortgage modifications. Received \$76,938 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation as unanticipated State Housing Initiative Partnerships funds.
- Growth Management continued to promote the County's economic development interests in 2013 by working with stakeholders to develop a series of Land Development Code amendments that streamlined overlay reviews, provided for broader commercial use options (especially for auto service centers), and worked with several applicants in conjunction with the Director of Economic Development to assist in new projects that will provide for new jobs in the County.
- Promoted the community's health, safety, and welfare in 2013 as the County Building Division received the evaluation results of the Insurance Services Office regarding our Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. Since the last evaluation in 2009, the County's high classifications were maintained and improved. This is a direct result of the Board's investment in competent, trained, and certified County staff to administer these programs.
- The County's ISO Class 3 rating was regained for 1 and 2 family residential property and improved from a Class 3 to a Class 2 for commercial property. This is an exceptional rating for both categories not only statewide, but nationally as well. The Class 2 rating in particular is very rare. To the best of our knowledge this is the best overall rating the County has ever received, and could provide substantial insurance savings for homeowners.
- The Growth Management Department participated in the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida policy review and report on sea-level rise. A Regional Action Plan was approved by the Northeast Florida Regional Council this fall, and implementation

steps are beginning. The County also participated with the NE Florida Regional Council on the update to the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, which was also adopted by the Regional Council.

- The Growth Management Department processed a record number of planning, zoning, and building permits in 2013, which reflected a true recovery from the recession of 2008. These permits were reviewed for their compliance with local regulations and policies, and state building codes to ensure a continued high quality of life.
- The County successfully managed the Habitat Conservation Program after another record breaking turtle-nesting season. The environmental division also assisted in managing the County's mitigation banks. Additionally, the installation of low impact design plantings of the County's on-campus retention ponds were designed and are continually managed, acting as both a demonstration project for developments and enhancing the habitat of these areas for the many fish and wildlife that use them.
- Working toward the goal of enhancing community beautification and appearance, the Growth Management Department manages the five overlay boards who review new development along the coastal region of the County for design and aesthetic quality.
- Growth Management works in conjunction with the West Augustine community leadership to develop a streetscape plan for West King Street to promote community beautification in this neighborhood. This department also continues to review and enforce the County's tree and landscaping ordinances, and protect and ensure preservation of scenic and development edges through the development review process.
- The Growth Management Department continued emphasis on, and participation in, community redevelopment through support of the Vilano Town Center, through the Design Review Board. The department also assisted the new West Augustine Nuisance Advisory Board, which has a goal to improve and enhance that Community Redevelopment Agency.
- The Growth Management Department enhanced County communication initiatives and outreach efforts and increased formal communication with the community by maintaining the Neighborhood Bill of Rights Ordinance, maintaining a log of current applications for public hearings, and maintaining them on the County website.
- The department also created the Development Tracker program and developed it with the County's Geographic Information Systems staff. This web-based tool is now a feature of the County's website and allows citizens to view all active public hearing applications using a map tool.
- Completed a \$410,000 Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund (DREF) program in cooperation with the County Engineering Division to provide Ravenswood, Hastings, and Flagler Estates drainage improvements.
- Directed Development of Regional Impact (DRI) negotiations for affordable housing impacts for \$150,000 at Durbin Crossing, Rivertown NOPC considerations, World Commerce Center NOPC considerations, and 45 moderate affordable units in Woodlawn

PUD. Continue negotiations with Ashford Mills DRI and other planned residential developments.

Health and Human Services

- The Family Integrity Program earned accreditation by the Council on Accreditation.
- The Florida Department of Children and Families report card recognized St. Johns County as #1 in the State for its Community Based Care Lead Agencies.
- The Social Services division earned accreditation by the Council on Accreditation, which distinguishes a limited number of County-operated programs.
- Health and Human Services was a recipient of the Emergency Solutions Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Grant to provide housing stabilization and case management to those individuals and families who are at-risk of being homeless or are currently homeless. This grant will provide \$104,500 to assist residents of our County.
- Social Services experienced a 52% increase in the number of people served since the March 2013 closure of the State Department of Children and Families Office.
- Health and Human Services provided specialty care for more than 15 of our most vulnerable uninsured clients with cancer in the community.
- Assisted in planning and creating a Women's Health Day in partnership with Good Samaritan Health Centers, Flagler Hospital, and Pink Up the Pace where 57 women received free mammograms and other health related services. In addition, the division successfully partnered to secure a \$26,000 grant to fund Breast and Colon Cancer Education in St. Johns County.
- Through a partnership with area businesses and another non-profit, the County was able to coordinate the gift of a car to a struggling client and her children who were without transportation.
- Successfully enhanced the General Assistance Program to expand the range of emergency services available to our clients and increase the number of assisted residents.
- New Community Outreach Program, implemented to provide information to the community and recruit volunteers, has proven to be very successful and informative for residents throughout all areas of the County.
- The Family Integrity Program was ranked the #1 Community Based Care Agency in the State as measured by the Florida Department of Children and Families Scorecard.
- The Family Integrity Program Prevention unit successfully kept 106 children safely in-home with their families, diverting them from the child welfare dependency system.

- All youth receiving support through the “In the Road to Independence Program” have achieved either a high school diploma or a G.E.D. and are now enrolled full-time in a vocational school or college.
- The Adoptions Unit within the Family Integrity Unit exceeded the set goal of 23 adoptions for the state fiscal year. There were 38 adoptions finalized in St. Johns County, exceeding the goal by 65%.
- The Foster Care Licensing Unit within the Family Integrity Program exceeded the goal of newly licensed homes by 57%
- The Family Integrity Program partnered with the Betty Griffin House to create a specialized position to provide domestic violence expertise within the child welfare program.
- Application, administration, and implementation of \$750,000 for Community Development Block Grant for drainage improvements and sewer connections in West Augustine CRA.
- Supported economic development projects to include a Dollar General Store in Flagler Estates and Family Dollar Store in West Augustine.
- Designated Referral Agent for 17 Extremely Low Income (ELI) rental units by collaborating with County Social Services for administration and implementation.
- Assisted Habitat for Humanities for application, administration, and implementation of \$800,000 mortgage settlement funds for housing replacement and housing restoration.
- Assisted Alpha Omega Miracle Home for application, administration, and implementation of \$465,000 Florida Housing Finance Corporation funds for four units of permanent supportive housing.
- Assisted Northeast Florida Community Action Agency with the application, administration, and implementation of a Support Services for Veterans Families grant and collaborated with County Veterans Services.
- Habitat for Humanities completed construction of 30 planned homes, and the County Housing Finance Authority completed construction of 27 planned homes, as part of the \$5 million Community Workforce Housing Innovative Pilot program.
- Completed a \$2.7 million grant-funded acquisition, rehabilitation, and disposition of 23 Neighborhood Stabilization Program homes. One pending acquisition is designated for a special needs housing pilot project.
- Housing and Community Development was designated as a co-sponsor for the West Augustine Career Fair, the Armstrong Rails to Trails event, and the Flagler Estates CRA Fall Festival program.

- Participated in Fair Housing activities and Landlord/Tenant Law presentations for Health and Human Services' Community Outreach.
- Benjamin Coney, Manager, St Johns County Housing and Community Development, was recognized as Florida Association of Community Action's Volunteer of the Year.

Land Management Services

- Created an improved iMap application for the Internet and Intranet that allows the user to search for parcels, addresses, street names, parks, and other points of interest.
- Developed the Report of Maintenance and Obligations for County Facilities and Infrastructure to address the County's deferred maintenance.
- Created and published the 2013 Edition of the St. Johns County Road Atlas. The more than 130 page color Road Atlas was updated and new specialty maps were added since it was last printed in 2008.
- Assisted with the implementation of a new mapping application (MapFlex), which is being used in the 911 Communication Centers for Emergency Response personnel.
- Surveyed and acquired properties throughout the County for current and future construction of transportation and related infrastructure, including preparation and finalization of road maintenance maps.
- Continued work on the topographic survey for the Countywide Stormwater Model Project, which will allow the County to establish design criteria for future development to prevent future drainage problems.
- Implemented and managed co-locate lease program for County owned towers and property.
- Coordination and implementation of the Municipal Service Benefit Unit Program for St. Johns County residents.
- Geographic Information Services (GIS) received the GIS Award for the Best Web-based Application at the 2013 ESRI Southeast User Conference.
- Created the Treasure Beach Canals Municipal Service Benefit Unit to dredge canals that have again filled in and assess associated property owners. More complete thought
- Facilitated Sheriff's new complex/land acquisition for a shooting range/training facilities

Library Services

- The Public Library System's 17 branches hosted 1,037,328 visits and maintained a database of 101,438 registered patrons in 2013. The system offered patrons 405,961 print items, 21,527 electronic books, and 70,559 audio and video materials. In addition, the various branches hosted 3,329 programs that were attended by 104,267 patrons. The library system's website logged 516,028 visits and the online catalogue registered 2,219,796 logins.
- Relocated the book drop location at the Anastasia Island Library to improve traffic circulation and eliminate congestion.
- Held a "Meet Your Local Superheroes" event at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library introducing County police and firefighters to residents and visitors.
- Held the third annual Toddler Fest at the Anastasia Library for children with ages ranging from 1 to 5 years and their families.
- Implemented the Veterans History Project that allows U.S. veterans an opportunity to record their first-hand armed forces experience.
- Teamed up with the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants to offer a free Teen Financial Literacy Series seminar at two branch libraries.
- Announced availability of One Click Digital from Recorded Books, an online service that allows patrons to download a wide range of audio books.
- Expanded Teen Gaming Nights program to all branch libraries and the bookmobile.
- The holiday Food for Fines Program yielded more than 21,000 food items gifted to the County Food Closet.

Medical Examiner

- The National Association of Medical Examiners presented the St. Johns County Medical Examiner's Office with accreditation recognizing the agency for meeting or exceeding national performance standards. As a state-mandated, county-administered agency, the St. Johns County Medical Examiner's office provides expertise for the civil and criminal justice system and serves St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties.
- Seven of the 24 Medical Examiner Districts in Florida have received accreditation, and only 65 agencies throughout the United States have accomplished the goal.

Office of Management and Budget

- Received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 21st consecutive year, and our budget document also received GFOA special recognition for "Outstanding as a Communication Device". The Office of Management and Budget Director Doug Timms continues to serve as a GFOA Budget Reviewer where he has reviewed government budget documents on a national scope for more than 10 years.
- Participated in the implementation of a new County market-based pay plan, changing from a step plan to a range plan that is more in line with business practices.
- Participated in a countywide identification and report of deferred maintenance in order to plan strategically for addressing deferred maintenance in future County budgets.
- Mediation efforts with JEA resulted in over \$1.5 million in additional franchise fees to the County and an improved interlocal agreement.
- Participated in the refunding of 2004 Sales Tax Bonds and 1998 and 2004 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds that resulted in a combined \$9.3 million net present value savings for the County.
- Participated in the financing plan for the new Health and Human Services building, which utilizes \$8.4 million, or greater than 60% of the new building funding, from the sale of the former Health and Human Services building to Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. This arrangement saved the County \$4.5 million.
- Participated in the evaluation of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a lower cost fuel alternative for the County fleet once converted to CNG vehicles.
- Participated in quarterly management reviews of the Cultural Events Division, which includes the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, in moving the Division closer to break-even operations.
- Concluded a countywide telecommunications audit (cell phones, data lines, etc.) that will produce initial savings of \$160,676 per year.
- Concluded review of countywide credit card service fees resulting in a change in procedures that will save the County's General Fund over \$67,000 per year.
- Participated in a management review of the County Golf Course, which resulted in minimize operating losses and reduced expenses by more than \$300,000 per year during the current difficult economic conditions.
- Assumed management supervision of the County Purchasing department, producing a cost savings of over \$74,000 in 2013.

- Participated in mediation efforts with the Agency for Health Care Administration that saved the County \$508,268 in Medicaid payments for 2013.

Personnel Services and Risk Management Services

- Successful implementation of inaugural year roll-out for Personal Health Assessments for employees with a 96% participation rate by Board of County Commissioners employees.
- Health Fair, Safety Expo, and multiple outreach events resulted in the most significantly successful year for sharing the values of St. Johns County “road to great health.”
- Facilitated successful Safety Expo, with 911 Commemoration Ceremony, and record vendor and employee participation.
- Open Enrollment for benefits offered with a record 95% employee participation rate up from an estimated 39% in 2012.
- Revised countywide Confined Space Entry Policy, communicated to all departments, and began training with Ponte Vedra Utilities Staff on site.
- Began the transition to GHS (OSHA’s Globally Harmonized System for Hazard Communication). All high risk employees were trained in the County Auditorium, and low risk employees were required to complete the training online.
- Revised and updated the County’s Defensive Driving Class and trained new instructor Dane Walton (Fleet Maintenance employee) to provide continued support.
- Coordinated pulmonary function tests, conducted Respiratory Training and Fit Testing for over 24 employees.
- Assisted with the revision of New Hire Orientation for Safety and Risk Management.
- Assisted Traffic Division in developing and communicating an Aerial Lift Policy and Job Safety Analysis; recommended it as a two-person operation on behalf of Risk Management.
- County Safety Officer served as the 2103 President of the NE Florida Safety Council.
- Pre-project review and post-project analysis process implemented utilizing Six Sigma methodologies allowing team to improve and enhance processes for cost saving and better customer service.
- Streamlined health claims process for effectiveness and savings of labor costs.
- Transitioned to new Dental Services carrier for an overall savings to the County’s self-funded health benefits plan.

- Electronic records management implemented for all aspects of hiring personnel and managing volunteer documents.
- Supported Fire Rescue in developing Auxiliary Program including application and boarding process for first class of 16 new Auxiliary Firefighters.
- Significant updates to employment forms and clean-up of outdated formats.
- Implemented first three phases of new market based compensation and classification system in order to establish a competitive range based pay plan and move towards a pay for performance structure.
- Safety Officer received the “Safety Professional of the Year” Award for 2012 on behalf of the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers.
- County recognized as Northeast Florida’s sixth Healthiest Employer by the Jacksonville Business Journal recognizing County’s health and wellness program initiatives.
- Personnel Services implemented an “entry interview” program to compliment the County’s current, long standing “exit interview” process. Now, in addition to contacting employees that are separating from the County, we are enhancing our outreach to proactively contact employees during their first six months of employment. This offers the opportunity to solicit ideas, gather feedback on the employees’ first few months, answer questions, and identify any concerns or issues the new employee may encounter.

Recreation and Parks

- Repaved the Cornerstone Park parking lot.
- Received a \$75,000 grant for the design of the Armstrong Park Trailhead, which will provide a welcome center, restroom, and parking lot for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The Bird Island Park Organization donated \$46,000 to add sidewalks in the Bird Island Park which were completed.
- Received \$250,000 Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant for Plantation Park sports lighting retrofitting that will also help reduce energy costs.
- The Palatka-to-St. Augustine State Trail became part of the East Coast Greenway, which stretches 3,000 miles from Maine to Key West. With 8.5 miles complete, the eventual 19 mile trail will be part of the 260-mile St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop that travels through multiple Florida counties.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre

- The Amphitheatre set a record in 2013 with more than 100,000 tickets sold, up from 84,000 tickets in 2012. The Amphitheatre's season began with a sold out show by the legendary Hall and Oates and ended with a performance by Grammy nominated band Alabama Shakes. Other sell out shows included Matchbox 20, Styx, REO Speedwagon, Ted Nugent, Bob Dylan, Imagine Dragons, Steely Dan, and The Lumineers.
- Named "Best Place to Attend a Concert" by Folio Weekly in Best of Jacksonville edition
- Named the "Best Live Music Venue" in the Best of St. Augustine edition of the St. Augustine Record and ranked as "The #1 Concert Venue in the 904" by Void Magazine.

Tax Collector

- Donate Life Florida presented the St. Johns County Tax Collector with a certificate of recognition for leading the State in organ-donor recruitment for three consecutive years.
- Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles presented the St. Johns County Tax Collector the Inaugural Safety Award for restoring the driver education program to local high schools.

Tourist Development Council/Cultural Events Division

- Developed a marketing plan to increase St. Johns County tourism exposure within the Georgia market, particularly Atlanta.
- St. Johns Cultural Council worked with Jacksonville-based Shepherd advertising agency to build a new tourist destination brand for the County for its golf, beaches, and 450 years of America's history campaign.
- Utilized \$50,000 from Category III for the construction of an artificial reef to improve fishing in partnership with the City of Jacksonville, the St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District, and Flagler County.

Veterans Service Office

- Awarded the Col. George E. Taylor Award which recognizes an organization or individual that has gone far above the required or expected to serve St. Johns County veterans.
- The Veterans Service Office assisted veterans and their dependents in preparing claims which in turn granted them compensation and pension benefits in the amount of \$7,460,202.
- Successfully enhanced the Community Outreach Program and maintained communications with local nursing homes and assisted living facilities to assist veterans/widows in filing claims throughout St. Johns County.

- Assisted Northeast Florida Community Action Agency in providing Supportive Services for Veterans Families.
- Organized a Homeless Veterans Stand Down with the Department of Veterans Affairs to clothe, provide showers, haircuts, registration for VA benefits, food and personal hygiene items for 38 veteran/spouses and 125 non-veterans. More than 40 volunteers assisted.
- Completed 75 intake forms for Vets-4-Vets that resulted in veterans receiving emergency assistance for rent, utilities, food, gas and emergency shelter totaling \$14,827.