

2024 MANATEE COUNTY YEAR IN REVIEW

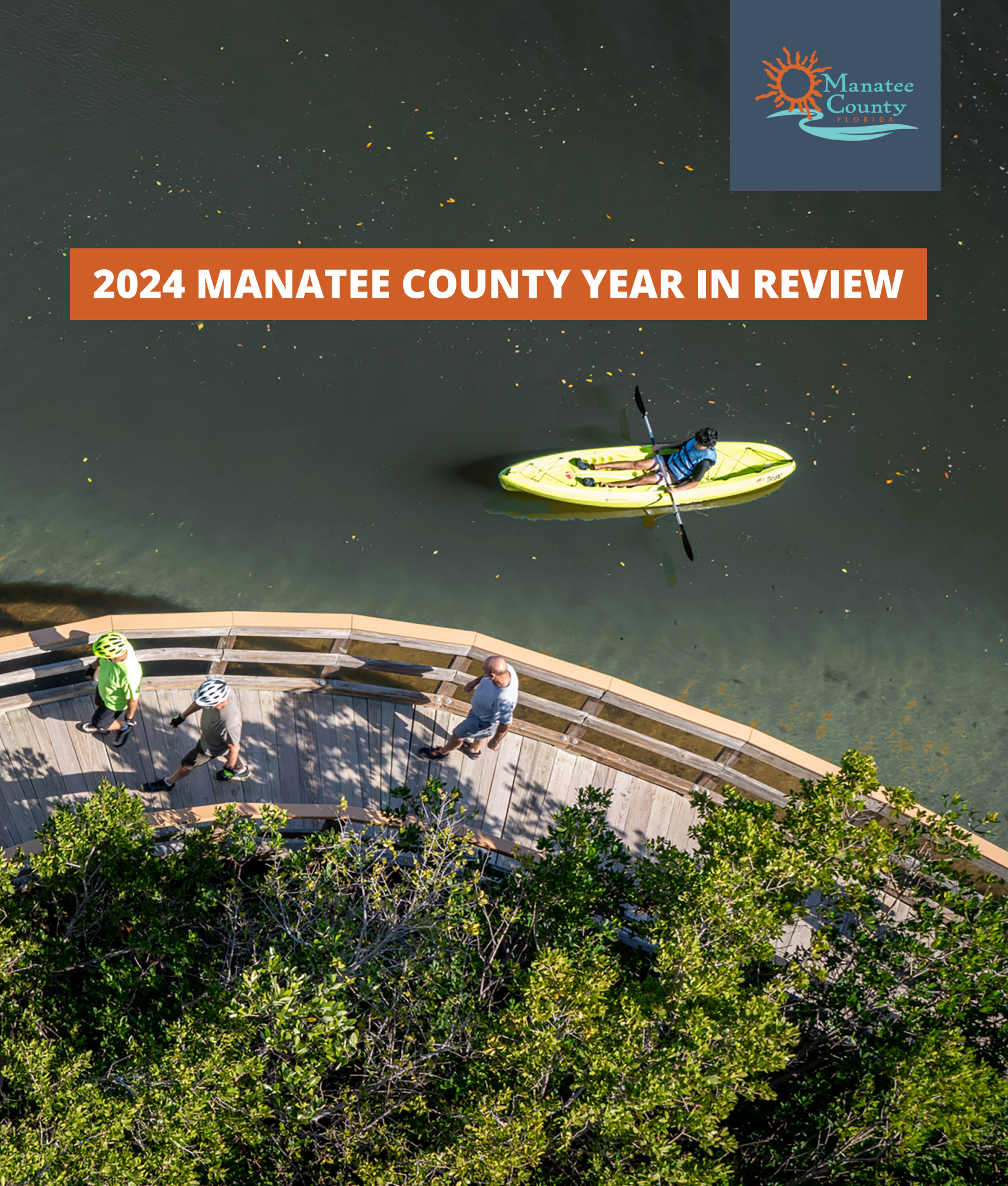




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2024 Team Awards & Accreditations From Outside Organizations

- American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Achievement Award
- National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award for Community Health Program
- Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS)
- International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Triple ACE Accreditation (third time in a row)
- National Community Development Association (NCDA) 2024 Audrey Nelson Award Partnering With Turning Points’ Project Smile Project
- National Extension Association Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Housing Outreach Award
- National Procurement Institute Achievement of Excellence (tenth consecutive year)

It Was the Best of Times; It Was the Worst of Times

While nearly half of 2024 was spent preparing for and recovering from three back-to-back hurricanes—an unprecedented hurricane season—the year was also marked by significant department-wide progress from dedicated team members who gave it their all. With a focus on enhancing internal processes and increasing efficiency, we achieved:

- Strengthened partnerships with agencies, HOAs and community leaders
- Improved response systems
- Adoption of best practices
- New ways to educate our community and promote our services

During the storm season, this was most evident in our beach clean-up and restoration efforts, centered on an innovative sand-sifting effort—leading to our beaches opening in record time. In addition, we were able to remove more than two million cubic yards of debris throughout all the neighborhoods in Manatee County.

And during the regular season, we implemented more centralization of services, reducing duplicative efforts, building consistent messaging and identifying unmet needs. This included:

- Creating a Government Relations Department and moving/restructuring existing positions
- Hiring a dedicated Grants Manager to actively pursue more funding
- Developing a Veterans Connection Program
- Establishing an addiction recovery center just for women

Manatee County's 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, along with previous years, can be found at manateeclerk.com.

Thank you to all team members who provided ongoing, unwavering support for our wonderful community. As always, we invite community feedback by reaching out to your commissioner, deputy county administrator, directors or me—all listed here in this report. And get our latest news by following us on social media @manateegov and signing up for our monthly newsletter by scanning the QR Code below.

Sincerely,
Charlie Bishop
Manatee County Administrator



Scan to sign up for NewsFlash



Image 1: AMI Pier Before the storm; Image 2: Rod & Reel after Helene (which was completely destroyed after Milton)

MANATEE BY THE NUMBERS

HEALTH & SAFETY



911 CALLS
MONTHLY AVERAGE
22,779



EMS DISPATCH
TO ARRIVAL TIME
8.19
MINUTES

COMPARED TO 2023:
↗ **8.25 MINUTES**



EMS INCIDENTS
TOTAL AMOUNT
59,599

INCREASE FROM 2023:
↗ **+1,401**



TRANSPORTS
TOTAL AMOUNT
38,575



CARDIAC
ARRESTS
610



COMMUNITY
HEALTH VISITS
6,320

RECREATION & ACTIVITIES



TOTAL BEACH
ATTENDANCE
VISITS PER BEACH*
COQUINA BEACH:
1,436,208

MANATEE BEACH:
973,475
CORTEZ BEACH:
373,502

*Only 10,000; 2,000; and 35,000
at Coquina, Cortez and Manatee,
respectively, in October



LINCOLN POOL
ATTENDANCE
TOTAL AMOUNT
24,501



FIELD
RESERVATIONS
17,239
ATHLETIC
PROGRAMMING
REGISTRATIONS
525,000



SIGNATURE
EVENT ATTENDEES
6,000 +
EVENTS
PERMITTED
300

RESIDENT & TOURIST FEES



IMPACT FEES
TOTAL AMOUNT
\$71,101,575



TOURIST
DEVELOPMENT TAX
TOTAL AMOUNT
\$30,200,284

QUESTIONS & INFORMATION



311 CALLS
TOTAL AMOUNT
213,728
PUBLIC RECORDS
REQUESTS
5,000

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



NEW VETERANS
OFFICE CLIENTS
1,817
VETERANS CLIENTS
WAIT TIME
FOR APPOINTMENTS
3-5 DAYS

COMPARED TO 2023:
↗ **4-6 WEEKS**



PETS CARED
FOR BY STAFF
4,643
TOTAL PET
ADOPTIONS
2,122

INCREASE FROM 2023:
↗ **10 PERCENT**



NON-PROFIT
FUNDING
FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024
CHILDREN SERVICES
\$14,924,069
ADULT SERVICES
\$663,196



PROBATION
OFFENDER WORK
PAYMENTS
\$115,660
OFFENDER WORK
PROGRAM SAVINGS
IN JAIL COSTS
\$272,282

DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS



STANDARD BUILDING
PERMIT APPLICATIONS
TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED
29,608
STANDARD BUILDING
PERMITS ISSUED
22,333



NEW COMMERCIAL
BUILDING PERMITS
TOTAL AMOUNT
492
NEW RESIDENTIAL
BUILDING PERMITS
TOTAL AMOUNT
5,561



EXPRESS BUILDING
PERMITS ISSUED
21,898
ENVIRONMENTAL LAND
ACQUISITION BOND
\$37,500,000



WEB MAPPING
APPLICATIONS
& EXPERIENCES
498
INTERACTIVE
GIS MAPPING
DASHBOARDS
130

2024 GENERAL SERVICES

ROADWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE



ROADSIDE
DITCHES CLEANED
141,194
LINEAR FEET

ROADSIDE SHOULDERS
REPAIRED
221,678
LINEAR FEET



SIGNS
REPAIRED
6,578

TRAFFIC
SIGNALS
REPAIRED
436



RIGHT-OF-WAYS
MOWED
14,642
ACRES

POTHoles
PATCHED
13,081



PIPES CLEANED
& CLEARED
144,679
LINEAR FEET

LIGHTS INSTALLED
IN NEIGHBORHOODS
210

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RIDERSHIP



BUSES
MONTHLY AVERAGE

173,202

PARATRANSIT BUSES
MONTHLY AVERAGE

5,353

TROLLEYS
MONTHLY AVERAGE

38,868

GROUNDS & FACILITY MAINTENANCE



PLAYGROUNDS
INSTALLED

8

PICKLEBALL
COURTS

6

BACKSTOPS
INSTALLED

7

VOLLEYBALL
COURTS

5



CANALS MOWED
694.74
ACRES

CANAL DITCH
CLEANING
46,043
LINEAR FEET



PIPES CLEANED,
CLEARED & FLUSHED
183,688
LINEAR FEET

STORM WATER TV
PIPES INSPECTED
9,249.53
LINEAR FEET



HERBICIDE &
INSECTICID SPRAYED
908.17
ACRES

LITTER REMOVED
100.51
TONS

BRUSH TRIMMED
27,381.8
LINEAR FEET



INLETS
CLEANED
2,697

STABILIZED
WASH OUTS
220



TREES
REMOVED
162

TREES
INSTALLED
385

GARBAGE, WATER & RECYCLING



DRINKING WATER
DISTRIBUTED

TOTAL GALLONS

17,895
MILLION

RECLAIMED WATER
DISTRIBUTED

TOTAL GALLONS

13,748
MILLION



UTILITY CUSTOMER CALLS

308,287



TONS LANDFILLED

468,193



OYSTER SHELLS COLLECTED

35.97
TONS

BY THE
NUMBERS
2024

MANATEE BY THE NUMBERS: SELECT STORM RELATED

Peak Storm Shelter Numbers

Helene:

- 373 evacuees
- 148 staff
- 3 open shelters (46 pets)

Milton:

- 11,592 evacuees
- 416 staff
- 17 open shelters (1,562 pets)

911 Calls: 23,769

311 Calls: 40,000



Sandbags: 551,952 (if laid end to end, they'd stretch over 104 miles!)

Cubic Yards of Debris Hauled: Over 2 Million (enough to fill the interior of Raymond James Stadium)

Cubic Yards of Sand Collected 3 Weeks After Milton: 19,000

Malfunctioning Traffic Control Signals: Over 100



Structural Damage Cost Estimates

Debby: Residential, \$57.2 M; Commercial, \$98,734

Helene: Residential, \$266.8 M; Commercial, \$4.4 M

Milton: Residential: \$361.6 M; Commercial, \$28.1 M

November 2024 Permits (% Change From November 2023)

Standard Building Permit Applications

Submitted: 59%

Express Building Permits Issued: 99%

Animal Welfare (AUG 3 to OCT 15)

- Intake Strays: 804
- Returned to Owner: 109
- Fosters: 417

Storm Dashboard*

Total Season: 540K users; 1.05 Million page views
(*All external users but includes multiple sessions)

Amount Raised by Lynyrd Skynyrd Hurricane Recovery Concert:

Over \$300K for hospitality workers on the Island (a partnership with the Convention & Visitors Bureau)



WEATHERING THE STORM

When there's a storm activation, each Manatee County employee's "blue sky" role transitions into a storm-specific ("gray sky") role. In addition, several divisions, shift their entire focus, such as our Property Management Grounds crews who shift from maintaining County-owned spaces we all enjoy to helping residents and businesses secure their properties by making sandbags. This approach enables us to remain agile to the needs of the community brought on by each unique storm—whether it be the record-breaking rainfall produced by Debby, the storm surge from Helene or the winds of Milton.

This flexible approach allowed us to quickly identify and implement real-time metrics monitoring, such as:

- Deploying the mymanatee.org/storm GIS Hub page, which received well over a million page views.
- Mapping out sandbag and shelter locations by our GIS teams before the storm to keep the public informed and safe with updates on road closures, points of distribution sites and disaster-recovery centers after the storm.
- Applying Survey123 to assess needs following the storm events, enabling leadership to make key decisions about recovery and resource allocation.

We also established a direct line of communication with our municipalities, minimizing ramp-up time for the two subsequent activations, keeping our island communities and work crews, along with our infrastructure, safe Working closely with the School District of Manatee County through blue-sky quarterly meetings resulted in quicker coordination of shelter volunteers, giving thousands of residents safe refuge during multiple activations. By maintaining alignment with the School District, we also streamlined the process of transitioning individuals out of shelters,



3 DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT STORMS

DEBBY:	Record Rainfall
HELENE:	Storm Surge
MILTON:	Sustained Winds



identified solutions for those still displaced after the storm and facilitated the return of students to school within days, rather than weeks.

Storm Response Achievements

- More frequent (3-4 an hour during peak times) social-media posts on all relevant platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor and Ring).
- Fifty percent more press conferences from the previous hurricane season with our Public Safety Director, Emergency Operations Coordinator and Administration.
- Working with HOAs and specific neighborhoods to have our stormwater maintenance crews pump down retention ponds in flood prone communities, expanding critical capacity to the storm system ahead of Helene and Milton.
- Providing evacuation transportation from Anna Maria Island and other vulnerable areas through our transit teams.

Storm Recovery Achievements

- Setting up Points of Distribution Centers, Disaster Recovery Centers, temporary housing, mobile medical unit and Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) in easily accessible locations for those residents most impacted.
- Organizing a community-wide volunteer effort to help fully assess our neighbors' human needs.
- Working with our Commissioners and their connections at both the local and state levels to set up a fuel site for citizens at Tom Bennet Park.



SAND SIFTING SAVES TAXPAYERS MILLIONS

Natural Resources Director Charlie Hunsicker developed an innovative solution to expediting the sand-removal process from our islands. Rather than sending unusable sand with glass and other debris to the landfill, he worked with island municipalities to divert unusable sand from the landfill to project sites to be repurposed for infrastructure materials. Not only were our beautiful beaches restored quicker, but over a million dollars in future road construction backfill costs were saved.

**Learn More
Scan QR Code**

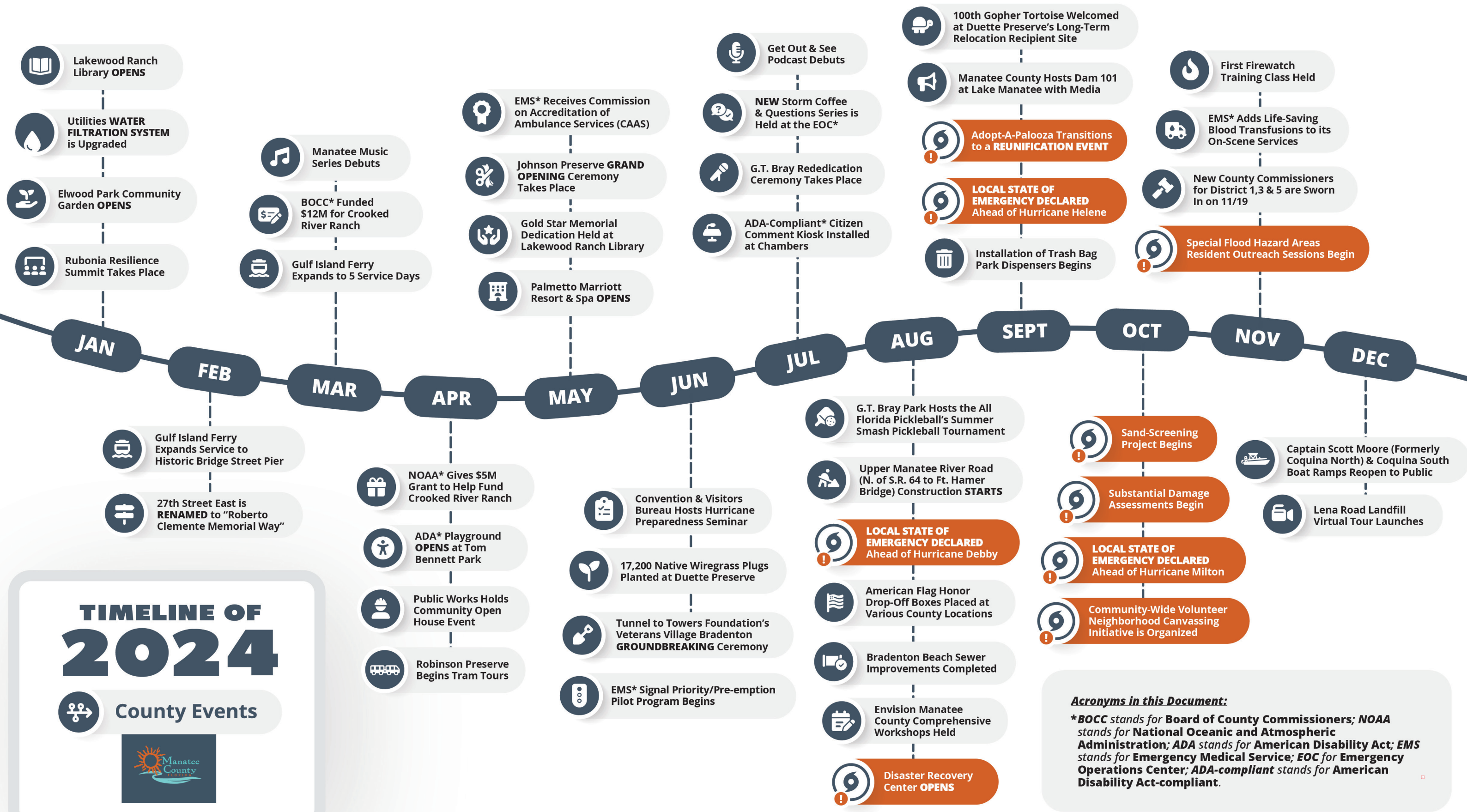


- Partnering with Manatee Chamber and the Bradenton Area Economic Development Council to get business back up and running quicker.
- Setting up temporary to 24/7 operations at our landfill and had 8 sites strategically placed throughout the County to expedite hauler drop-offs and waiving tipping fees.
- Managing the largest debris-collection operation in the county's history—1 Million Cubic Yards Hauled in 30 Days (drastic improvements over Ian's 104+ days) and 2M CY by the end of 2024
- Expediting FEMA reimbursements with the help of Haggerty Consultants, resulting in Manatee County being the first county in the state to receive early reimbursement of 23M for Hurricane Milton Debris removal.
- Gulf Island Ferries: Brought contractors, Island workers and resources to the Island community.
- Our Convention and Visitors Bureau team helped organize a Lynyrd Skynyrd concert that raised over \$300K for hospitality workers on the island.
- Transitioning the Annual Adoptapalooza Pet Adoption & Expo event into a Reunification event.

Preparing for the Next Storm

- Securing funding with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) for eight basin studies in 2025 to update the elevation maps and stormwater modeling for rain events.
- Developing an innovative method to divert unusable sand from our landfill to project sites to reuse for infrastructure.





MANATEE COUNTY IN ACTION: STORM RESPONSE & RECOVERY



NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES

Federal Funding

As part of the U.S. Senate and House \$460 billion 2024 spending package, Manatee County was approved for the following:

- \$3M for the design work associated with the Ft. Hamer Bridge project.
- \$1M to help plan, design, permit and construct a multi-modal regional trail segment of the Florida Gulf Coast Trail, which connects Hillsborough and Sarasota Counties.
- \$2.9M to help complete the planning and design work for permitting and construction of a gateway greenway in Lincoln Park in Palmetto.
- \$3.5M for early planning and design work associated with the 51st Street West Expansion.



State Funding

The State provided \$9.5M dollars to jump start SeaPort Manatee after suffering more than \$200 million in damages, keeping fuel, food and other key goods flowing through our port.

Grant Funding

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded Manatee County a \$5 Million grant to help fund its recent purchase of Crooked River Ranch (Parrish), acquired through the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee (ELMAC) which will protect and conserve 68 acres of native coastal habitat in perpetuity.

The Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (TBERF) awarded Manatee County \$172,709 for the Lake Manatee Watershed Improvement Project on



Duette Preserve, matching County funds in projects along the north fork of the Manatee River.

State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) Loan monies of \$138,026 were appropriated for SHIP program funding and program administration.

Commission-Approved Funding

Commissioners approved several important funding initiatives, including:

- Appropriation of \$2.5M of grant revenues from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in the Highway Capital Projects fund for design work on the expansion of the Ft. Hamer Bridge.
- \$2.1M to be added to the design and construction budget for segments of Manatee County's Gateway Greenway Multipurpose Trail system, a vital component of the multi-county, non-motorized Gulf Coast Trail, stretching from Hernando County to Collier County





- \$2,500,000 for equipping the Moccasin Wallow EMS station with a fuel site (June groundbreaking)
- Transfer of \$688,986 to purchase a new Advanced Life Support ambulance and associated medical supplies to be fully functional for the Emergency Medical Services Division (Parrish)
- Transfer of \$11,240,000 to fund the purchase of the Crooked River Ranch Property
- \$15,602,024 appropriation to fund the 97-acre Emerson Point Land Expansion acquisition conservation project
- Purchase of Triple Oak Preserve (formerly the Myakka Conservation Stewardship Area), a 105-acre parcel
- Initial plans and design work to establish a Memorial Park to salute Veterans on a 24-acre piece of County-owned property at 5431 Buckeye Road in Palmetto
- \$44.2 million for the 44,000 SF, state-of-the-art Athletics & Aquatics Center at Premier Sports Campus
- \$4 million GMP for the Hidden Harbor Park
- 2022 Bond proceeds from the for the construction to replace the pool at John H.



Marble Park with a new eight-lane pool at a cost of \$2.7M.

- \$13M purchase of the 8.8-acre Seafood Shack (Cortez) property, which is targeted to be developed as a public boating access facility
- Community & Veterans Services will receive nearly \$200,000 in interest income to augment Affordable Housing Funds.
- \$18.7M in retrofit and new lighting for Lakewood Ranch, Braden River, Blackstone, GT Bray,



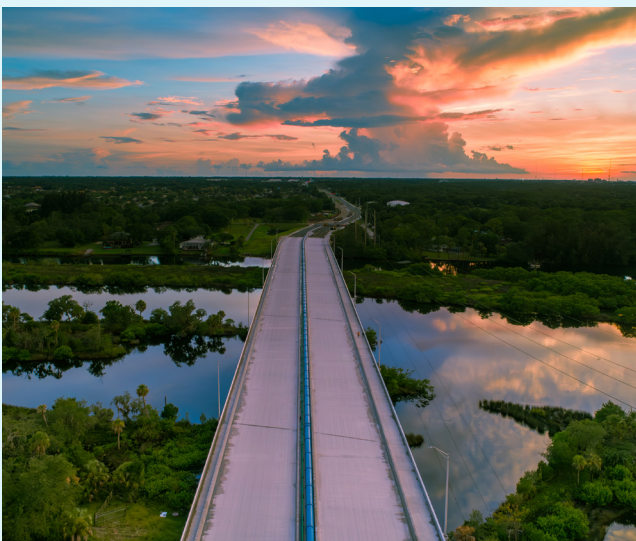


Buffalo Creek, Palma Sola, Greenbrook parks and Premier Sports Campus

- \$2.9M in funding for parking garage design at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, Premier Sports Campus and Manatee Public Beach
- \$2.2M with bond proceeds from the 2023 Revenue Improvement Bonds for construction of Braden River Park Baseball Field Improvements
- Bradenton Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau transfer of \$3.6M to fund FFE and additional construction costs for Multi-Purpose Room, along with \$900,000 transferred from reserves to Tourist Development Tax fund for Water Taxi

Manatee County's major projects were continuing at the end of December, including:

- 44th Avenue Extension project involving roadwork at the eastern end of the bridge over I-75 with an anticipated completion in the spring of 2026



- Construction of both Moccasin Wallow and 75th Street.
- Design Phase of Palmetto's Washington Park
- John H. Marble Renovation and the new Parrish Park stayed on track for completion by February and March, respectively, of 2025.
- Locker rooms, a soccer multi-use building and expanded parking at Premier Sports Campus
- Under One Roof Center, operated in partnership with local and national organizations, being developed into a transformational hub, providing women battling addiction and homelessness with comprehensive resources.

Process Improvements

Appointing a dedicated Grants Manager to actively pursue more funding.

- Developing a Veteran Connections Program to provide the over 40,000 Veterans and their families living in Manatee County with easier access to essential services, resources and opportunities.
- Envision: A cloud technology that enables residents to assess their needs and connect with the best local programs to equip and empower them towards economic mobility.
- Public Works is using \$173,500 from reserves in the Stormwater Management fund to engineer a Real-Time Flood Forecasting (RTFF) and Early Warning System for the coastal fringe areas of Manatee County.
- EMS Signal Priority/Pre-emption Pilot Project began, focusing on installing traffic lights along 24 intersections in the US 41/US 301 and SR 64

corridors, using \$300,000 of an allocated \$1M of Generational Impact funding.

- Veterans Mobile Hub was launched by MCAT, in partnership with Uber Rideshare Service and Veterans Services, where verified veterans have access to free, same-day transportation for medical and dental appointments.
- 210 lights installed in neighborhoods as part of the Light Up Manatee program.

New Initiatives

To build more awareness about services, several new initiatives were launched, including:

- Firewatch Training to recognize the warning signs of a veteran in crisis and provide support
- Annual Hurricane Summit, set up by Convention & Visitors Bureau, providing guidance for guest activation and business recovery assistance
- Bimonthly Community ADA Focus Groups
- Wrapping additional County Vehicles, including the Gopher Tortoise Relocation Vehicle
- Traffic Cabinet Wraps Project to help beautify urban infrastructure
- New County Mascot began prepping for a long list of community events being planned for 2025



NEW ADA INITIATIVE: CITIZEN COMMENT KIOSK

An ADA-compliant kiosk was installed near the BOCC Chambers, at a request of a Manatee resident, providing a larger and easier-to-navigate screen that can easily accommodate wheelchairs and chairs.



MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Manatee County welcomed four new commissioners who were sworn in on November 19 then hit the ground running by participating in a Regular Meeting. Meetings are live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. For a list of Board of County Commissioners meetings and agendas, please visit mymanatee.org.



Commissioner
Carol Ann Felts
District 1



Commissioner
Amanda Ballard
District 2



Commissioner
Tal Siddique
District 3



Commissioner
Mike Rahn
District 4



Commissioner
Dr. Bob McCann
District 5



Commissioner
Jason Bearden
District 6 - At Large



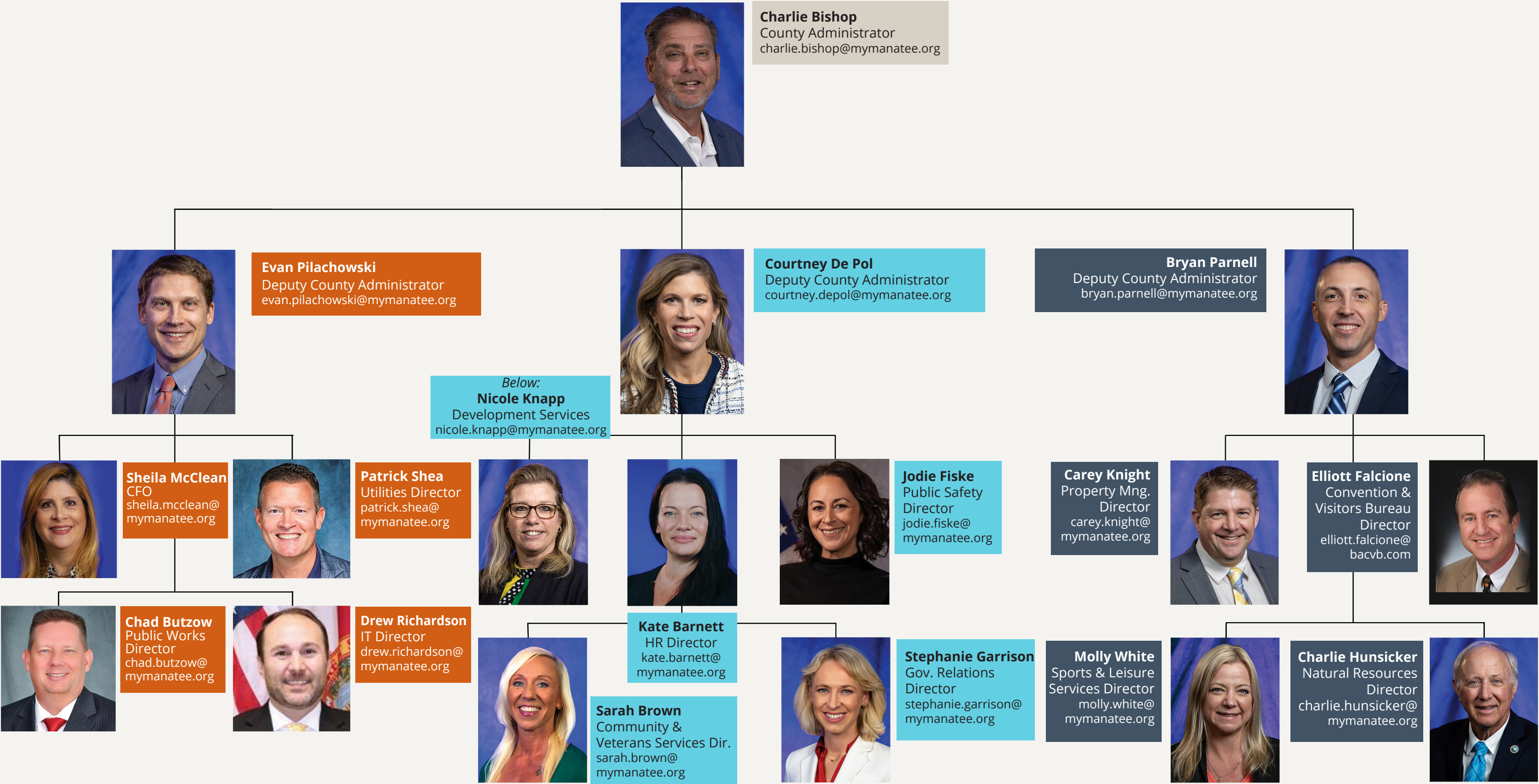
Commissioner
George Kruse, Chair
District 7 - At Large



Left to Right: Commissioners Tal Siddique (District 3), Carol Ann Felts (District 1), George Kruse (District 7 - At Large), Mike Rahn (Chair & District 4), Amanda Ballard (District 2) Jason Bearden (District 6 - At Large) and Dr. Bob McCann (District 5).

MANATEE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

ADMINISTRATION & DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS



Manatee County Government
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Bradenton, FL 34205
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mymanatee.org



**Download the 311 App to request
a service or report an issue**



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@MANATEEGOV

