



Annual Report

2021
A YEAR IN REVIEW

Leadership
DRIVEN

Community
FOCUSED

Growth
MINDED



Report Contents.



01

WELCOME MESSAGE

County Administrator Dr. Scott Hopes reflects on a year of accomplishments and resilience during a time of great change at Manatee County Government.



02

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Meet the seven commissioners elected to represent the people of Manatee County, setting policy and making decisions to help achieve our mission and vision.



03

ACHIEVING RESULTS

In 2021, our 13 departments pursued ambitious goals and achieved incredible progress while focusing on leadership, community and growth.



04

CIP PROJECTS

Manatee County is growing, with a multitude of major projects happening across the county to improve infrastructure, facilities and services for our residents and visitors.



05

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Doing "Work That Matters" brings recognition, and many dedicated Manatee County staff earned awards for their excellence in serving our community.



Administrator's Welcome.

The 2021 Annual Report reflects our organization-wide response to the pandemic, the uninterrupted provision of essential services, along with the unrelenting commitment, adaptability and innovation of Manatee County employees over the past year.

It also demonstrates the importance of having a clear vision and a culture built upon our core values and practices. Because of this, we were able to realize real progress in 2021 -- despite the unprecedented challenges we faced -- to produce results and deliver on ambitious targets and bold goals for the organization and the community.

Manatee County is an organization of dedicated professionals. Together, we responded quickly to the event at Piney Point, working closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The rest of the year offered more challenges, from the ongoing pandemic to red tide and a busy storm season. Through it all, Manatee County continued to adapt and innovate to better serve our residents and visitors.

Our unrelenting dedication to doing Work That Matters is what motivates County staff and leadership to meet each challenge head-on, to pursue ambitious goals, and to achieve incredible progress in 2021.

Manatee County is more resilient than ever, making bold strokes as an organization that is **leadership driven, community focused** and **growth minded**.

Over the past year, we saw again and again the value of demonstrating great leadership, of engaging our communities, and of fostering the kind of growth that benefits us all, from improving roads to creating affordable housing.

We've remained committed to the long view, completing major infrastructure projects that protect our environment and enhance our community.

There are so many exciting projects underway that will

not only enrich the quality of life in our county but make this an even more ideal place to live.

MANATEE COUNTY IS AN ORGANIZATION OF DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS. ”

As you make your way through the 2021 Annual Report, allow yourself time to review the supplemental links to videos and other materials that will bring these achievements to life.

I'm so proud of what we've accomplished, and I look forward to the great things still to come. Thank you to the 1,900-plus Manatee County Government employees who make it all possible!




Dr. Scott Hopes
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

We are **Manatee County.**



Mission STATEMENT SHARED Vision

Manatee County Government is committed to providing quality service with an emphasis on Accountability, Civility and Ethics.

Manatee County Government's mission is to provide efficient, effective, responsive government that is always mindful of our sensitive natural environment while achieving the Commission's vision for the County: a premier place in which to live and work and play.

Leadership DRIVEN

Displaying bold, responsive leadership is critical to tackling challenges, achieving our goals, and providing exemplary service to the public.

Community FOCUSED

Building and supporting exceptional communities enriches our lives and fosters strong connections among our residents.

Growth MINDED

Cultivating meaningful growth ensures Manatee County remains a beautiful, dynamic place to live, work and play.



Meet your County Commissioners.



District 1
COMMISSIONER
JAMES SATCHER



District 2
COMMISSIONER
REGGIE BELLAMY



District 3
COMMISSIONER
KEVIN VAN OSTENBRIDGE



District 4
COMMISSIONER
MISTY SERVIA



District 5
COMMISSIONER
VANESSA BAUGH



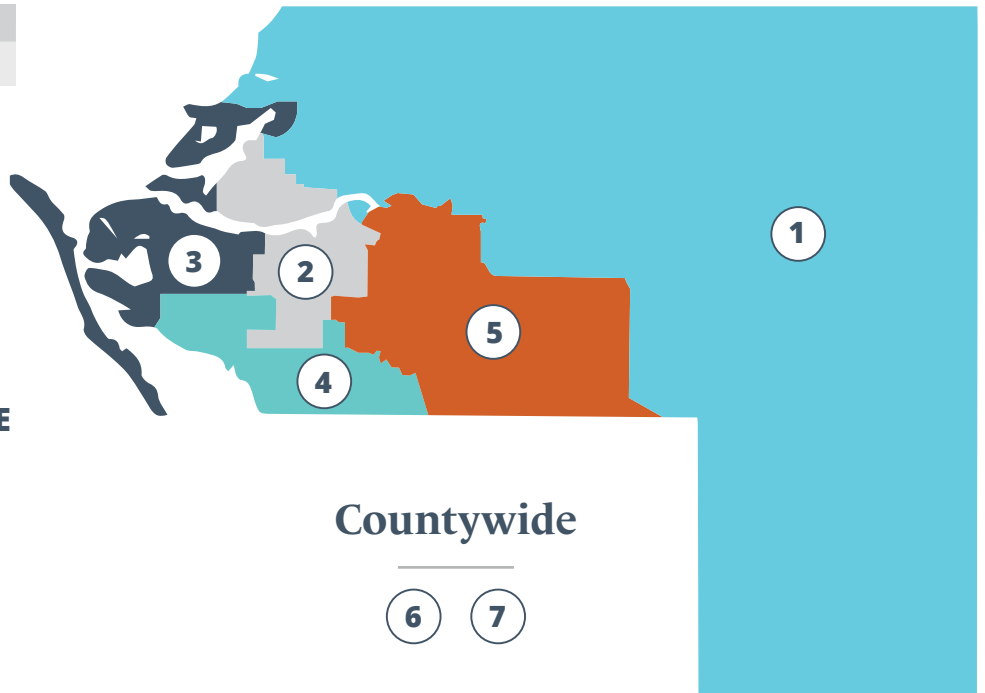
At-Large
COMMISSIONER
CAROL WHITMORE



At-Large
COMMISSIONER
GEORGE KRUSE

LEGEND:

- ① District 1
JAMES SATCHER
- ② District 2
REGGIE BELLAMY
- ③ District 3
KEVIN VAN OSTENBRIDGE
- ④ District 4
MISTY SERVIA
- ⑤ District 5
VANESSA BAUGH
- ⑥ At-Large
CAROL WHITMORE
- ⑦ At-Large
GEORGE KRUSE



Countywide



For the latest Commission District Map, go to:
mymanatee.org/bcc

BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Serving a Growing Community.

The construction industry continued to meet the demands of a growing community as Manatee County's population grew by 9,000 people in 2021. Our Building and Development Services Department met that demand by completing a staggering 39,041 building permits and 152,981 inspections. Despite the impacts the pandemic continued to have on the commercial building industry, commercial building permits issued for new businesses in unincorporated areas increased by almost 25% from 2020.

25% More
PERMITS THAN 2020

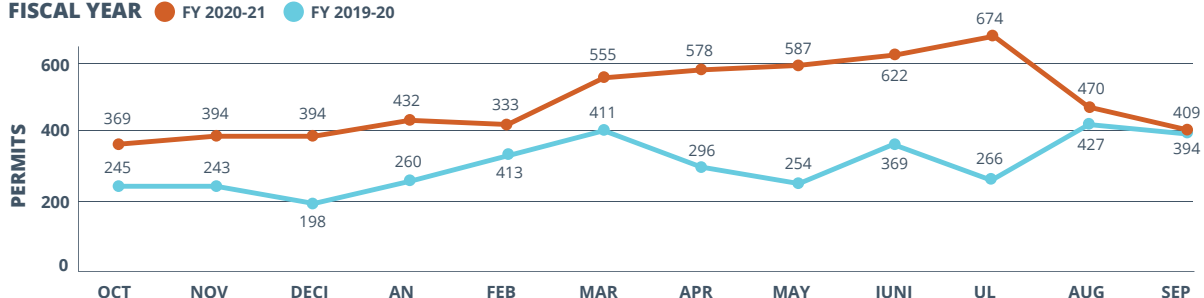


17% More
INSPECTIONS THAN 2020

Keeping pace with new technology, our exceptional Building Services team introduced a Digital Plan Room in early 2021, bringing an enhanced digital review tool configured within our Accela software system. This eliminated staff troubleshooting during plan review, reduced approval turn-around time, and helped improve customer satisfaction. Our team also implemented Atlas Insight and Locations to assist with managing inspections with real time inspector location data.

Residential Building Permits Issued By Month

FISCAL YEAR ● FY 2020-21 ● FY 2019-20



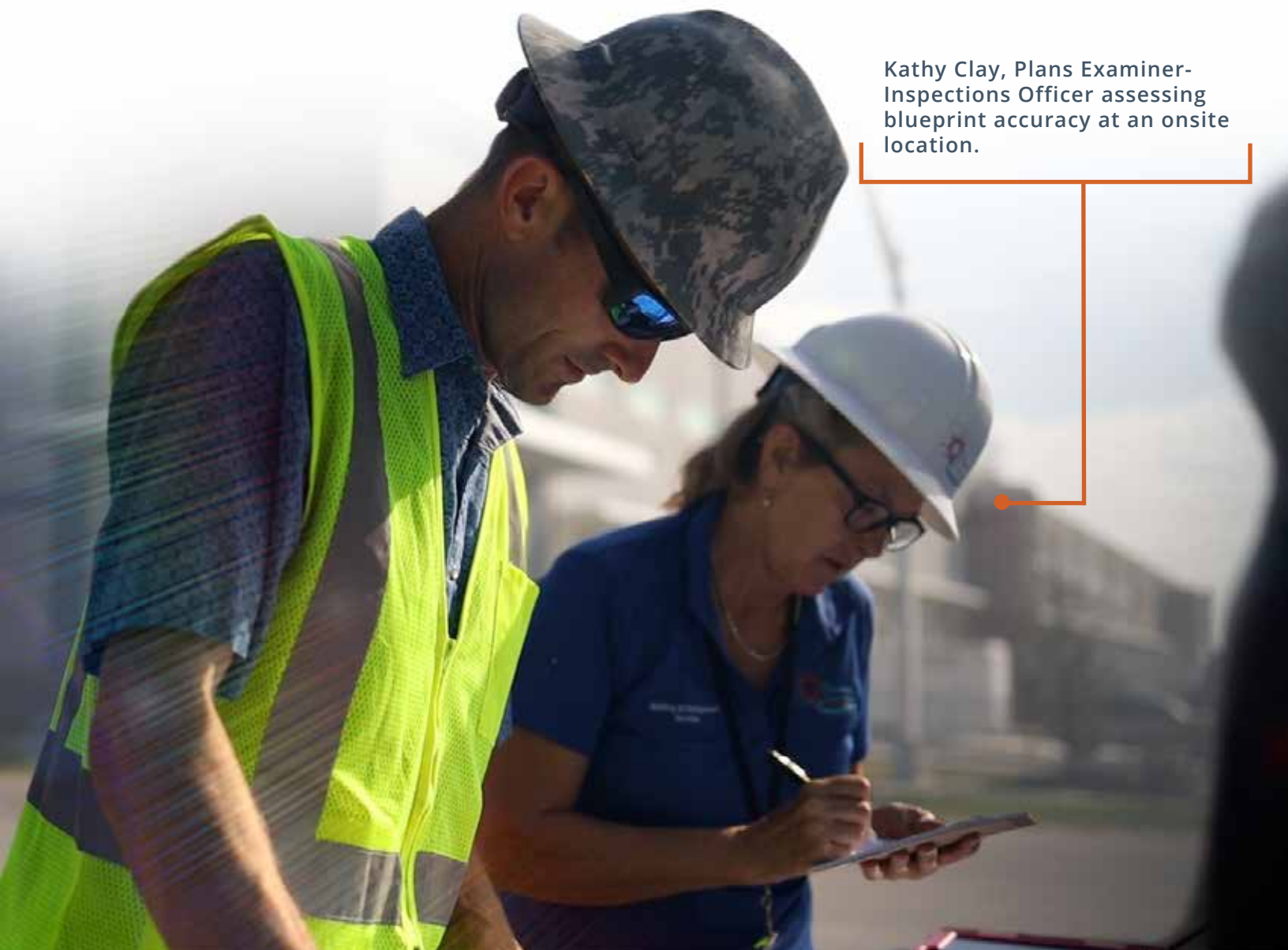
For the latest report information, go to: mymanatee.org/reports

Planning *and* Development.

Our Comprehensive Planning section led the adoption of the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance in August after years of extensive partnering with staff, local community and the Board of Commissioners. They also staffed the adoption of a new Property Rights Element into the Comprehensive Plan.

They continued to refine a streamlined process for submitting planning applications, including detailed instructions for submitting each application type, how to submit online, and what is required for each application to be compliant with the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan.

The Development Services division processed an astonishing 839 administrative applications and 215 public hearing applications, almost 40% more applications than 2020, despite several vacancies in key positions. They handled over 1,100 reviewer-on-call communications, ranging from simple questions to assistance with complex issues.



Kathy Clay, Plans Examiner-Inspections Officer assessing blueprint accuracy at an onsite location.



Record-Breaking Tourism Growth.

Tourism to our area resumed its record-breaking pace in 2021 after a temporary slowdown in 2020 due to the pandemic. Nearly 600,000 more people visited the Bradenton Area in 2021 than the prior year. Those increased visitor numbers translated to an economic impact of more than \$1.5 billion in 2021 — nearly **\$400 million more** than in 2020.

Our partners at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport have even more statistics that illustrate the record-breaking visitation numbers to our area. In December, 347,268 passengers passed through SRQ Airport, an increase of 191.5% compared to the previous year. For the year, the airport reported 3,163,543 passengers a 155.7% increase over 2020 and a 57% increase over 2019. Put simply, Sarasota Bradenton International Airport is the fastest growing airport in the world. The huge demand to travel through SRQ also brought the arrival of two new airlines: Southwest and Avelo.



Powel Crosley Estate

The Crosley hosted 103 events in 2021. Crosley was the Gold Winner in the 2021 Best of SRQ Magazine Local Event Venues. Here Comes The Guide also featured Crosley as one of the Best Unique Wedding Venues in Florida.

Pictured Left: Michelle Stewart, Kelly Clark



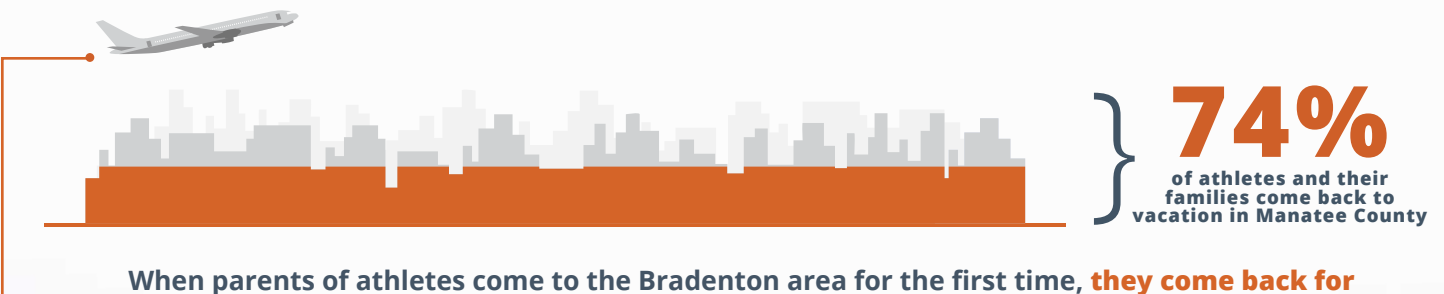
The Bradenton Area Convention Center hosted **more than 120 events over the past year** - equivalent to 4 months of continuous events! The Convention Center hosted several public meetings with plenty of space to gather safely within social distancing guidelines.

Becoming a Sports Tournament Destination.

The American Cornhole Organization (ACO) held its March Majors tournament and World Championships at the Convention Center, bringing hundreds of competitors from across the country and generating more than \$1 million in economic impact to Manatee County.

Over the summer, Premier Sports Campus attracted 300 teams and 13,000 spectators for the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) Girls National Championship. The venue also hosted the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships, the country's most prestigious soccer tournament for athletes 19 and under. More than 100 teams and 2,300 players competed in the event, bringing an estimated \$4 million in economic impact to the Sarasota-Bradenton area.

The Pinnacle National Football Championships, hosted by Prospects by Sports Illustrated, took place at Premier Sports Campus in December. Teams from across the United States competed to claim the national title, and it was televised on Sports Illustrated TV.



When parents of athletes come to the Bradenton area for the first time, **they come back for vacation 74% of the time.** The average daily spend for out-of-state youth and adults is **\$215.**





Making Government **More Efficient.**

For the County Administration department, 2021 was a year of transition and action. A new County Administrator was appointed, making strategic moves to reorganize and rejuvenate the department.

This included the appointment of three new Deputy County Administrators, each assigned to oversee several departments. The Records Management division also joined County Administration, encompassing Records, Mail Services, Copy Center, and now the Information Outreach team.

In 2021, County Administration – which also includes Impact Fees, Agenda Management, executive assistants and commissioner aides – focused on improving efficiencies. Agenda Management added a new team member and moved to a new online agenda management system, streamlining the process to build agendas for Board meetings.

The Impact Fee division created two new online submittal forms, saving time for both staff and applicants. This, along with other efforts, led to a 50% reduction in the time it takes to process an application to use impact fee credits and to review building permit applications. The division also amended the Impact Fee Ordinance and the Administrative Procedures Manual to improve businesses processes and become consistent with Florida Statute.



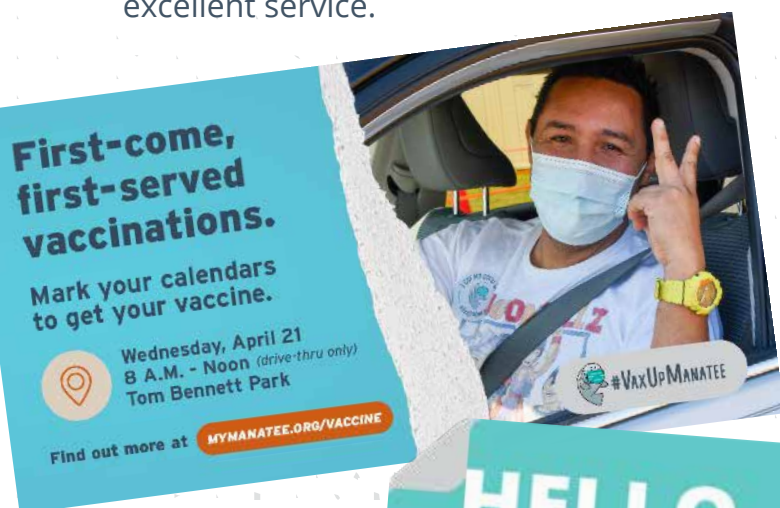
Communicating With The Public.

Information Outreach welcomed a new Graphic Designer, Video Specialist and Information Outreach Manager in 2021. The team collaborated with various departments to promote major initiatives, ranging from housing and rental assistance programs to the County's Hiring Expo. They also launched two new initiatives: **Manatee on the Move**, a video series where County Commissioners showcase important projects in their communities, and **MCG Voices**, a blog where Manatee County staff share their knowledge and expertise with the public. The County's annual calendar was also designed completely in-house for the first time. The calendar was a stunning reflection of everything Manatee County has to offer and showcased the talent of the Information Outreach team.

Manatee County's website, managed by Information Outreach, saw a 46% increase in visitors over an already significant increase in 2020, due to the County's continued role as a central location for COVID-related information. The County's COVID-19 Vaccination Information page alone received over 1.37 million visits. Manatee County also saw a 22% increase in followers on its primary social media accounts, serving as trusted sources of official information for the public during the ongoing pandemic, as well as major events like Piney Point and Hurricane Elsa.

When vaccines first became available in early 2021, Information Outreach partnered with Public Safety and IT to develop a registration system, processing more than 140,000 submissions in the first month. The team worked closely with Public Safety to communicate vaccine updates to the public. As vaccination rates slowed, Information Outreach led a community-wide **Vax Up, Manatee campaign**, targeting youth and minority audiences that showed a hesitation toward vaccination.

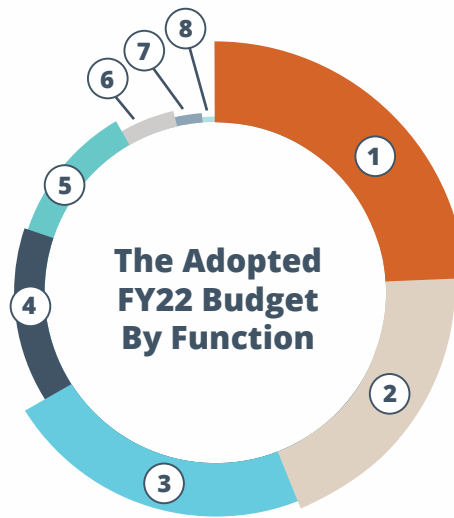
Manatee County Administration will continue to guide, engage and inform the citizens of Manatee County, through proactive planning, rapid response, targeted messaging and excellent service.



Funding County Priorities.

The budget process is a complex, nine-month effort that involves multiple departments' budgets, constitutional officers' budgets and the capital improvement plan and a full analysis of funding sources and uses.

In 2021, Financial Management's Budget division successfully completed the Biennial FY22 Adopted and FY23 Planned Budget Year for a gross total of \$2.1 billion. The Adopted FY22 Budget prioritizes several areas, including public safety and transportation infrastructure improvements, as well as parks, libraries and general government buildings, and service to our citizens.



For the latest budget, go to: mymanatee.org/budget

Investing in Facilities and Infrastructure.

The department also completed a \$1.8 million budget for the FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan, which includes the new East County Library project and renovations to several County libraries; adding pickleball courts, soccer fields and a new aquatic center at the Premier Sports Complex project; improvements to Lincoln Park; sidewalk projects to accommodate needed safety improvements; and transportation road improvements projects, such as Canal Road, Erie Road, Lena Road and Lorraine Road projects.

Ensuring

Transparency and Efficiency.

Recognizing the value of transparency, Financial Management continued to enhance its financial reporting efforts through business intelligence reporting tools such as Power BI and Cognos Systems. The department also developed several publications to help explain the budget, including the Citizens Budget in Brief, Fiscal Fact Card and Budget in Brief publications.

The Procurement division also developed several internal and external videos to educate staff and vendors to improve efficiency in doing business with Manatee County.

Constitutional Officers



The Procurement Division won the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) award from the National Procurement Institute, Inc. (NPI), as well as the Award of Excellence in Public Procurement & Best Practices Award from Florida Association of Public Procurement Officials, Inc.



HUMAN RESOURCES



Streamlining Human Resource Processes.

Providing Human Resources services to an organization of over 1,900 employees is no easy task. From time and attendance tracking to the Employee Performance Evaluation (EPE) process, the staff in HR worked hard to evaluate and improve technology and practices in 2021.

To simplify and reducing paper-based processes, HR and the Employee Health Benefits team digitized more processes, including COVID-19 Reporting and Qualifying Events for employees. HR also rolled out a new EPE process, implementing best practices to make EPEs more effective. More than 95% of staff completed EPE trainings on the new process, designed to ensure more meaningful reviews. Several employees reported they were having better EPE discussions with their supervisor than in the past.

Cultivating Leadership and Skills.



Strong leadership is essential, so it's important for supervisors to feel confident and equipped with the necessary skills to perform their jobs.

Training & Development completed two pilot supervisor programs in 2021, components of which will be incorporated into new supervisor leadership programs and workshops in 2022. More than 60 employees participated in the County's Supervisor Leadership (SLP) and Emerging Leadership (ELP) programs, and nearly 20% of ELP participants were promoted.



Altogether, the team offered a range of virtual and in-person training opportunities, including 40 instructor-led workshops, three leadership programs, two new supervisor workshops, and multiple Drug-Free Workplace Reasonable Suspicion for Supervisors and EPE trainings.

Staying Competitive As An Employer.

To ensure compliance with the state’s new minimum wage law, HR implemented the first phase of a plan to incrementally increase Manatee County Government’s minimum wage each year, which is already \$2.35 higher than the state minimum. The department also conducted its third annual market study to ensure salaries are competitive with the local labor market and to make compensation adjustments where necessary.

As wages increase, the County has also found opportunities for savings. Through a market check, Employee Health Benefits was able to negotiate the equivalent of \$6 million in savings with pharmacy benefits provider Optum over the next three years.



Human Resources provided **\$48,826.85** in **Tuition Reimbursement** payments to employees in 2021.



For current openings, go to: mymanatee.org/jobs

**HUMAN
RESOURCES
FILLED
555
POSITIONS
IN 2021**





Focusing on **Cyber Security.**

Cyber threats continue to pose a persistent risk to government. Information Technology Services (ITS) continues to make progress on cyber security initiatives, to a large extent focused on protecting the County against ransomware threats. Along with our vulnerability management program, the team enhanced the protection of client devices used throughout the organization in 2021.

To assist in an ongoing goal to educate employees about what to look for when opening emails that may be a threat to our network, and to obtain an overall baseline for identifying areas for improvement, ITS initiated multiple phishing exercises across the organization and will continue to market and provide access to security trainings for all County staff.

Enhancing Emergency **Radio Communications.**

As the newly installed Motorola P25 Communications System continues to evolve, our focus to assure first responders can communicate with each other effectively during emergencies continues. The ITS Radio Division implemented many subscriber and infrastructure improvements to the system, including the implementation of a Public Safety Enhancement Policy that enables communication coverage for first responders inside buildings with hindered radio signal. This effort required collaboration and planning with multiple departments and external stakeholders.

Many upgrades continue in the areas of mutual aid communications, microwave backbone upgrades, station alerting upgrades, as well as a continued rollout of redundant systems. These upgrades are vital to the integrity of communication services during times of emergency.

Supporting Our Citizens.

In early 2021, ITS staff was asked to jump into the high priority vaccine distribution effort in conjunction with other departments. Given the volatility of the situation and the immediate response required, staff quickly built a complete 311 software solution to handle the massive number of calls from the public regarding vaccine distribution.

Data from this effort was used to develop a COVID-19 dashboard and heat maps to relay important information to the public regarding the status of COVID-19 cases and illustrate local impact in the early stages of the pandemic.

ITS also provided support to the Board of County Commissioners and their consultant as they navigated the redistricting process. This included the creation of multiple maps and supporting demographics, as well as an interactive mapping application to share relevant information with the public.

In 2022, ITS looks forward to a large refresh effort in our two data centers, a significant upgrade to our unified communications core, upgraded Internet connectivity, and new campus networking for a better Wi-Fi experience.





Distributing **CARES Funding.**

A CARES Act Funding Agreement, executed between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Manatee County, enabled the disbursement of over \$16 million to non-profit organizations and programs to protect the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring adherence to Federal and State COVID-19 orders and CDC Guidelines.

Of the 400+ applications received, funding was used in the following categories: Food distribution, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), COVID-19 staffing, healthcare services, virtual learning, housing assistance, COVID-19 education, school safety, childcare and other services related to the mitigation of COVID-19.

CARES funding was provided to Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee, Feeding Tampa Bay, Mayor's Feed the Hungry Program and a myriad of local food pantries, often affiliated with local churches, to provide nutritious food and meal supplies to the hungry in Manatee County.

Pictured Right:
Audrey Bennett (Front), Janice Dunbar-Smith (Back)



Offering a **Helping Hand.**

Nearly 300 households had their electricity turned back on or avoided having it shut off through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP). Our Aging Services Division processed a record number of applications for the program due to an increase in state funding, combined with \$51,518 in CARES Act funding.

Our Veterans Division held the first of several meetings with stakeholders to begin laying the foundation of a Transitional Housing project for homeless Veterans. The project involves the conversion of the former Manatee County Jail in Downtown Bradenton. The committee is looking into the possibility of bringing a comprehensive list of services under one roof, such as step-down care from hospitals to transitional care, through third parties.

A total of \$69,000 in Neighborhood Enhancement Grants were awarded to eight neighborhoods as matching funds for various projects related to beautification, environmental protection and neighborhood health and safety.

Expanding **Access to Libraries.**

A partnership between Manatee Libraries and the School District of Manatee County gave enrolled K-12 students an All-Access Pass to connect to the libraries' vast online resources from anywhere. One of the most popular resources has been tutor.com, where a student can get homework help in over 60 subjects with a live expert in English or Spanish.

A big step in the County's five-year capital improvement plan was made on December 15 with the groundbreaking ceremony of the East County Library. A Phase I Premier Campus Project, located at 16410 Rangeland Parkway, the library will occupy the first floor of the 50,000 square-foot building, which will include a rooftop terrace overlooking the planned Premier Park. The project is anticipated to be completed by 2024.

Access your Library resources at: mymanatee.org/library



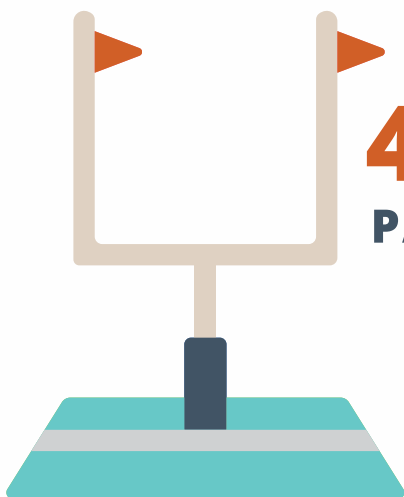
Expanding **Recreational Facilities.**

Parks and Natural Resources (PNR) continues to provide active programming across Manatee County in all aspects involving aquatics, athletic programming, fitness activities, racquet sports, conservation land management, and public and volunteer outreach.

Working with the Property Management department, 2021 was a banner year for expansion of recreational facilities and operations. The County broke ground for a brand-new pool and aquatics center at Lincoln Park and made improvements at GT Bray Park, including upgrades to baseball, soccer and football support buildings, and construction on a state-of-the-art, tournament-ready pickleball complex.

This, in addition to other significant improvements at Buffalo Creek and Lakewood Ranch parks, amounted to over \$17 million in recreation investments funded by the voter-approved infrastructure sales tax and impact fee charges on new developments across Manatee County.

These recreational facilities play an important part in keeping Manatee healthy, with over 70 varieties of fitness classes offered weekly at GT Bray alone.



ATHLETIC
475,089
PARTICIPATION



66
TOURNAMENTS



16,876 **FIELD**
RESERVATIONS

Connecting with the Community.

With the return to in-person events and programs in 2021 – while still maintaining virtual opportunities – Parks and Natural Resources saw significant participation in public programs and special events.

The Volunteer Education and Programming Division provided 524 public programs, involving 11,629 program participants, and over 3,000 volunteer hours in our parks and preserves. In one project, more than 100 volunteers planted over 10,000 plants along the once bare shoreline of Robinson Preserve.

The Ag & Extension Division educated over 60,000 adults and youth on agricultural, natural resources and family resource topics, reaching 7,000 individuals with one Residential Horticulture virtual program.



GT Bray's annual Halloween and Christmas events saw attendance numbers as high as 3,500 people.

Protecting Our Environment.

The Environmental Lands Program has been working on implementing the community-initiated Conservation and Parks Projects Referendum that was approved by voters in November 2020, authorizing up to \$50 million in tax proceeds for the acquisition, improvement, and management of land to protect water resources, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, and provide parks.

Environmental Protection Services completed Phase I of the project design for the \$175,000 Lake Manatee Watershed Improvement Grant Project, which will address water quality improvements, protect Manatee County's drinking water, and restore habitat quality.



\$10,753,769
total grant support for environmental restoration, beaches, and boat ramps



3,500 acres treated for invasive plants

Testing our capabilities for emergency response, the Environmental Protection division played an active role in continuous monitoring and water quality sampling for pre- and post-emergency discharges at the Piney Point facility. The division took a leadership role in collaborating with other organizations to coordinate sampling events and disseminate information.



Monitoring **Piney Point.**

Property Management was actively involved in providing situational awareness for the Piney Point crisis in early April, utilizing the County's drone program for support. The Property Management team was key in organizing and strategizing how drone operations would provide real-time awareness of the event.

Over Easter weekend, Property Management's certified drone pilots were sent out to support and back up a vendor providing a 24-hour live stream of the Piney Point site. Working together, at least one drone was always in the air. When operations expanded, Property Management recruited the help of other certified pilots in the County's drone program.



Responding to Red Tide.

In 2021, red tide blooms peaked earlier by starting in July. For more than a month, Property Management provided drone reconnaissance and information to “on-the-ground” and “in-the-water” teams to help direct clean up response before or as soon as debris reached the shore.

The drone flights included five primary launch points, determined for their high visitation, location amid changing currents and ecological sensitivity. There were also another 11 sites that drone teams captured when reports came in of increased debris along the shore.

Property Management’s beach staff assessed red tide intrusion every day by utilizing drones to locate debris along the coastal beaches. Staff raked and removed debris from Bean Point Pass down to Greer Island. The diligent care for our beaches allowed all residents and visitors to enjoy continual beach access.



Enriching Community Facilities.

After many years of planning and designing, the Lincoln Park Pool and Splash Park began construction. The project consists of a 25-yard competitive swimming pool with lane markers, lane lines, starting blocks, a separate zero depth entry recreation pool, locker rooms, restrooms, parking, shaded pool deck and picnic pavilions. The pools will have pool and deck lighting. The setting will dovetail into the existing splash pad area.

This facility will provide opportunities for recreational and competitive swimming, swim lessons and other aquatic activities not currently available in this area. Construction will be completed in May 2022.

See the progress on the Lincoln Park Pool on our [YouTube Channel](#)





Responding to **Emergencies.**

Manatee County Public Safety was once again put to the test in another challenging year of combatting COVID-19 while operating two vaccine drive-thru sites, mitigating the leak at Piney Point and keeping residents informed during a Tropical Storm.

The team began the year distributing a total of 150,636 COVID-19 vaccines between the two Manatee County run sites at Tom Bennet Park and the Public Safety Center.

It was all-hands on deck when a leak was detected at Piney Point. All Public Safety divisions quickly sprang to action to evacuate residents that could've been affected by the potential spill. They also coordinated with federal and state officials to mitigate the threat to our residents.

Serving Our **Community.**

When the Emergency Operations Center wasn't activated, our Emergency Management division partnered with local, state and federal officials to promote how Manatee County residents and visitors can take precautions and stay safe during hurricane season. Congressman Vern Buchanan, Senator Jim Boyd and Representative Will Robinson met with Public Safety Officials before hurricane season to talk about best practices for hurricane preparation efforts.

Manatee County Animal Services (MCAS) had a lot of firsts this year. They hosted three successful vaccine, microchip and licensing clinics free of charge for pet owners in Manatee County. MCAS was also able to return 535 pets to their owners and had over 1,400 adoptions for the year.



Saving Lives.

Manatee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) had an extremely busy year with over 53,000 calls, 61% of which were transported to an emergency room. Our Community Paramedics, a division within EMS, also helped combat the COVID-19 pandemic by administering 532 COVID-19 vaccines to residents.

First responders dispatched to these lifesaving calls wouldn't have been able to find where the emergency was if it weren't for our headset heroes at the Emergency Communications Center (911). Our 911 telecommunicators had an annual total of 506,336 calls, answered in 10 seconds or less.

The lifeguards in our Beach Patrol division play a critical role in ensuring a safe environment for our beachgoers. Manatee County Beach Patrol was awarded best beach patrol in the state of Florida for 2021. They saved a total of 85 people in water rescues and assisted over 3,900 beach visitors during medical emergencies.



Congressman Vern Buchanan, Senator Jim Boyd and Representative Will Robinson met with Public Safety Officials before hurricane season to talk about best practices for hurricane preparation efforts.



Manatee County Paramedic Carlos Santos & Joe Savasta were recognized for their heroic actions after they worked together to disarm a driver that pulled a gun on them.



Governor DeSantis visited the Public Safety Center for a briefing on Piney Point with County Administrator Dr. Scott Hopes and Public Safety Director Jacob Saur.





Earning National Accreditation.

The Public Works Department submitted and received accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the first time, providing the community an added layer of confidence in the department's work. Work that continued to move quickly, despite staffing challenges brought on by the ongoing pandemic.

Providing Essential Services.

Public Works field teams served the community by keeping ditches free from debris, filling potholes, removing litter from the roadside, and completing other maintenance tasks. The Fleet Services Division continued to maintain all of Manatee County's equipment and vehicles, including those of first responders. Meanwhile, MCAT and the Transit Division served as a vital resource for many County residents and enhanced service frequency along two essential transportation corridors, thanks to matching grant funds from FDOT.



APRIL 2021



Improving Critical Infrastructure.

The department started several critical infrastructure projects in 2021, many of them focused on improving transportation throughout the county. Some notable transportation projects that kicked off in 2021 included Ft. Hamer Rd. Segment C, Memphis Area Sidewalks, and turn-lane improvements at 26th Street West and 30th Ave West. New, critically needed traffic signals were installed at Lorraine Rd. and White Eagle Blvd., Lorraine Rd. and SR 70, Lockwood Ridge Road and Publix Shopping Center (just south of SR 70), US 301 at Canal Rd., and Post Rd. at SR 70.

Another long-awaited infrastructure project underway in 2021 is the Rubonia Water Quality Improvement Project. The project aims to improve drainage and pedestrian safety in the historic neighborhood. Once completed, newly built sidewalks in Rubonia will connect residents with US 41 via the currently under-construction Bayshore Rd. sidewalk.

88,142.8 LINEAR FEET

 **4X THE LENGTH OF THE
LAS VEGAS STRIP**

of roadside shoulders were repaired
on County maintained roads.

103,018.6 LINEAR FEET



of pipe was cleaned.

11,387 MILES



of streets were swept.



REDEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Revitalizing Our Communities.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity department accomplished several milestone projects in 2021, fulfilling its objectives of focusing efforts on the redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas and creating greater economic opportunities for residents and businesses with housing, community and economic development programs.

Bolstering Affordable Housing.

In the Community Development division, staff received Board approval for six single family homes and two subdivision homeownership developments under Livable Manatee – resulting in a leverage ratio of \$9.5 to \$1 for the single-family homes and a total of 42 affordable units. Another 10 HOME-assisted units and 15 single family homes have been rehabilitated and are now housing families using CDBG, SHIP and HOME funds.

The division, aided by temporary employees, did an incredible job in 2021 in getting much-needed assistance to thousands of Manatee families. CARES Act funding assisted 682 families with a total of \$3.3 million through the Housing Assistance Program. Another \$4,051,550 for emergency rental assistance was disbursed into the community, assisting 494 households.



 Sandpiper Place
COMMUNITIES

Creating Jobs and **Supporting Businesses.**

The combined economic development and redevelopment efforts of the department resulted in an equally illustrious year. Leveraging Southwest District's tax increment financing tool, the Economic Development division attracted a 200,000 SF Amazon last mile facility by partnering with the private sector. This P3 deal resulted in increased tax base of \$33 million and almost 400 new jobs. Employing the County's hallmark Rapid Response business assistance, while leveraging \$1.35 million of TIF, clinched the attraction of this major facility.

The County Commission approved a total of \$980,985 in economic development incentives to seven companies, creating a total of 329 quality jobs and fresh capital investment of \$42.5 million. Additionally, 90 Rapid Response projects were assisted, representing a total of 1,325 jobs and additional capital investment of \$93.2 million.

The Economic Development team, together with a temporary staff, created and administered the CARES Act funded Safety First Small Business Grant Program, which provided much-needed assistance to 1,335 local small businesses, covering a total of \$20 million in losses. Manatee County received its first ever Excellence Award from the International Economic Development Council for its innovative approach in assisting small businesses during the pandemic.





Enhancing **Our Water Facilities.**

Utilities continued work on several major projects in 2021. The department's upgrade to the water treatment filtration process is expected to be completed in 2022. This project is the first of its kind in Florida, replacing aging surface water treatment filters with submerged ultrafiltration membranes.

Another ongoing project is the capacity improvement project at the Southeast Regional Water Reclamation Facility, which will increase capacity from 11 million gallons a day to 14 million gallons a day through the addition of another basin, eliminating the need for in-situ grit removal. The Water Division continued to implement the new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system with several process areas up and running.



Meeting and Exceeding Goals.

A major achievement for the Utilities Department was reaching a recycling rate goal of 65%. This rate puts Manatee County in the top four of all counties in Florida and in the top two if you remove waste-to-energy facilities from the list. This goal was accomplished through enhanced education and outreach in promoting the commercial and residential sector recycling programs.

The Lift Station Section of the Utilities Wastewater Division was awarded the 2021 FWEA Environmental Stewardship Award for our Corrosion and Odor Control Project. As part of this project, we implemented a blended treatment strategy throughout our entire collection system utilizing the products of two vendors. Our target was to reduce hydrogen sulfide below an average of 20 parts-per-million, and we accomplished this goal throughout our master station collection systems.

Offering Solutions for Piney Point.

The Utilities Department was also part of the team that worked to preempt a catastrophe at Piney Point early in 2021. The department accepted hauled wastewater from the plant into its treatment system. As part of the long-term solution, the department secured a permit for a deep injection well that will receive treated wastewater from the facility.

Planning for the Future.

In 2021, Utilities began preparing major projects such as the replacement of the customer information system and the bid solicitation for new contracts with solid waste haulers. The contracts for these projects are anticipated to be awarded in 2022.

The Wastewater Division put into place plans for the next five years with the adoption of two Master Plans: the Biosolids Master Plan and the Manatee County Master Reuse System, Reclaimed Water. The Solid Waste Division began working on the siting of a new landfill with identification of potential sites and developing a site criteria evaluation checklist.



See where your water comes from by visiting our [YouTube Channel](#)

What projects are In The Works.

COMPLETED • UNDER CONSTRUCTION • FUTURE



DISTRICT 3

G.T. BRAY PICKLEBALL COURTS

✓ COMPLETED

Construction of Facility:
An additional eight courts were added. Four courts were upgraded to USTA regulation, allowing for tournaments. Shaded seating was also added, along with upgraded court lighting.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT HERE



DISTRICT 2

LINCOLN PARK POOL

△ UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction of Facility:
Contains a 25-yard competitive swimming pool, locker rooms, restrooms, parking, shaded pool deck, picnic pavilions, lesson plunge pool, and slide.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT HERE



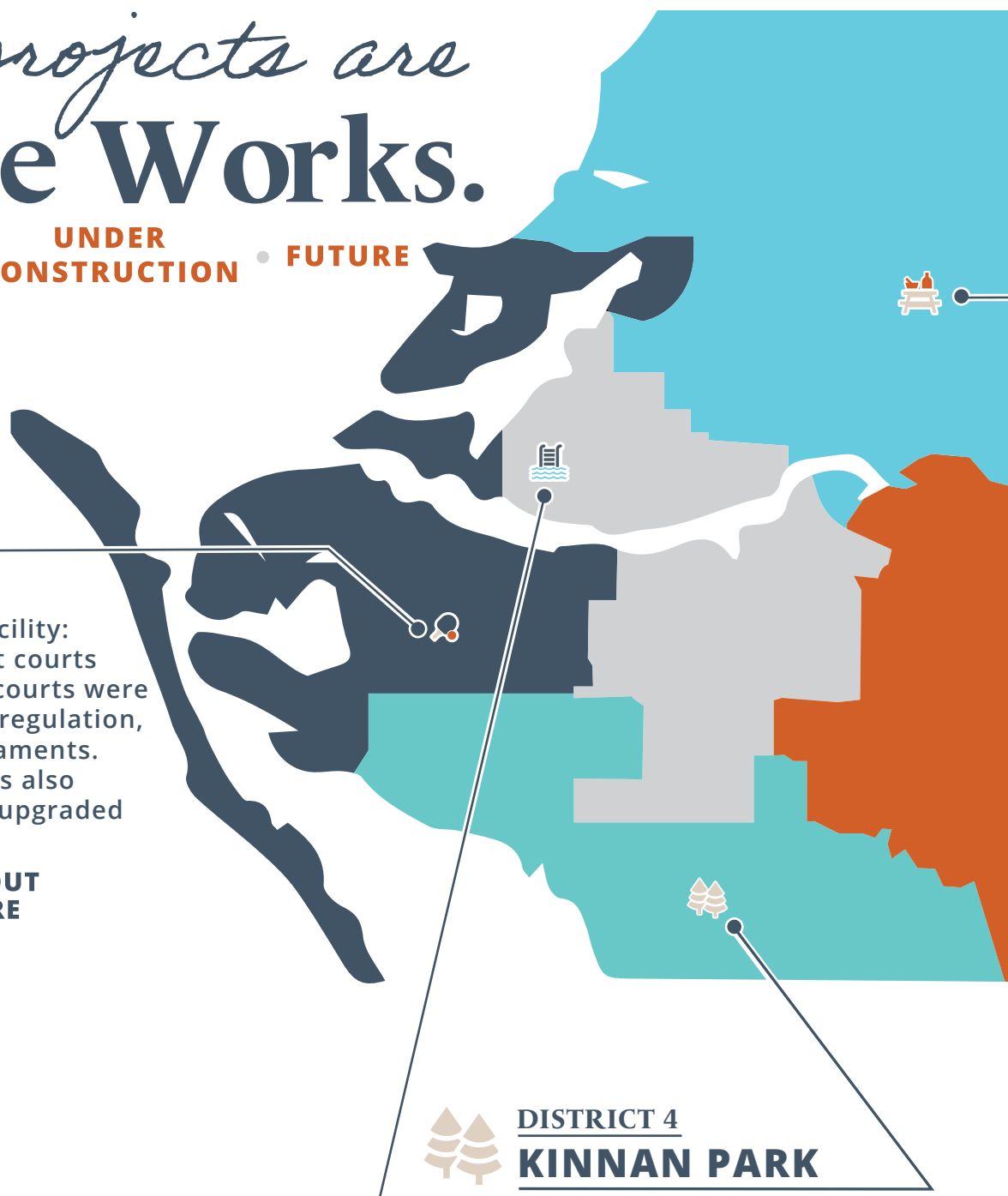
DISTRICT 4

KINNAN PARK

★ FUTURE

Construction of Facility:
A build out of a fitness trail, dog park with shade structures, two pickleball courts, and parking lot with improved access to trail.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT HERE





DISTRICT 1

**PARRISH
COMMUNITY PARK** 

★ **FUTURE**

Construction of Facility:
A park that includes a performance pavilion, picnic pavilions, restrooms, parking, walking trails, 20 fitness stations with equipment, boardwalk, festival seating, park playground, and splash pad.



DISTRICT 5


**PREMIER CAMPUS
& EAST COUNTY
LIBRARY** 

 **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Construction of Facility:
Contains a 50,000 square foot facility that includes a library. There will also a future Aquatic Center, Racquet Center, and parking within this space.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
THIS PROJECT HERE**



 = Projects with this icon means that your hard earned tax dollars are at work! This project was partially or fully funded by the

 *Half Cent Well Spent*

infrastructure sales tax within our county!

SEE THE FULL LIST OF HALF CENT PROJECTS:

[**mymanatee.org/halfcent**](http://mymanatee.org/halfcent)

SEE THE FULL LIST OF CIP PROJECTS:

[**mymanatee.org/CIP**](http://mymanatee.org/CIP)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Employee of the Year

Patricia Adams | PUBLIC WORKS

Patricia Adams has been a Transit Operator with Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) for nearly 15 years.

A welcoming smile, friendly wave, and consistently courteous and respectful demeanor are some of the traits her coworkers say set Patricia apart from the crowd. Patricia has won multiple state awards, including 2021 Transit Operator and 2013 Paratransit Operator of the Year. Still, that's not what earned Patricia this well-deserved award.

While driving a bus or trolley is Patricia's job on paper, she is rarely ever seated. She helps passengers board, properly secures wheelchair devices, and answers customer questions about the service area, routes, and travel destinations. She even drags out garbage and recycling bins on the assigned day if MCAT Handy Bus customers cannot.

Patricia takes the time to get to know her riders, and they truly become an extension of her family. Her many positive customer comments and willingness to always assist passengers further solidify that she has a heart of gold.



ACE Coin Winners

SETH SCOTT
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

JOHN SHARP
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THOMAS KITCHEN
PUBLIC SAFETY

TRISTAN MORATH
PUBLIC SAFETY

JOEL RICHMOND
PUBLIC SAFETY

SHEILA MCLEAN
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

SUSAN FORD
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

LEE WASHINGTON
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

JACOB ERICKSON
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

JENNIFER YOST
REDEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

RUTH BUCHANAN
REDEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

DENISE THOMAS
REDEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



TEAM AWARDS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In May 2021, members of GIS, Public Safety, and Information Outreach received the Teamwork Award for their work related to Manatee County's COVID-19 response. Consideration for this award was based upon the incredible teamwork across multiple departments. As a result, a COVID-19 dashboard and heat maps were available early in the pandemic.

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

In September, the Bradenton Area CVB team attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism where the Flagler Awards for excellence in destination marketing were presented. The BACVB won two awards for its Love it Like a Local campaign: a bronze for television advertising and a silver for sustainable tourism marketing.

The BACVB team attended the Florida Sports Foundation 2021 Sports Summit and was recognized twice: first for the 30th anniversary of hosting the Florida Senior Games in 1992-1994, and second for our resilience in the COVID-19 pandemic and our ability to continue hosting major sports tournaments in a safe environment for participants.

PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCES

Manatee County Extension Agents achieved high honors through professional associations totaling 17 awards collectively at state, national and international levels distinguishing the Manatee County Extension Program as a leader in the State in promoting and supporting Extension's services to the residents of Manatee County.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Children's Services won Drug Free Manatee's Government Sect or Champion of Prevention Award during the Red Ribbon Experience in October, part of a national campaign to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage substance misuse prevention. The award was presented for the team's part in helping to ensure that County funds are allocated to promote healthy lifestyles and choices as well as prevent substance abuse, criminal activity and child abuse and neglect.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2021 Technician of the Year Award

Chase Snyder | FLEET TECHNICIAN



PUBLIC WORKS FLEET

The Fleet Division was awarded for top performance including the APWA Top 50 Leading Fleets, Top 100 Fleets in the Americas, and the Association of Equipment Management Professionals Technician of the year award for the second year in a row.

PUBLIC WORKS TRANSIT

In 2021 Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) received six awards from the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (FCTD).



TRANSIT AWARD WINNERS



★ **Patricia Adams** | *Transit Operator*
2021 FPTA Transit Operator of the Year

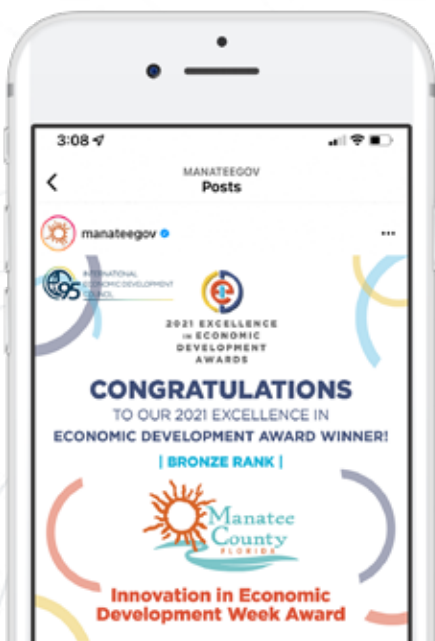
★ **Benita Zarr** | *Operations Superintendent*
2021 FPTA Leadership Development Program

★ **Farrah Goff** | *Operations Dispatcher*
2021 FCTD Paratransit Dispatcher of the Year

★ **Elliott Waters** | *Fleet Technician*
2021 FPTA Paratransit Technician of the Year

★ **Janine McDonald** | *Transit Operator*
2021 FCTD Paratransit Operator of the Year

★ **MCAT Team** | *Keeping Manatee Moving Video*
2021 FPTA Marketing Award



REDEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Manatee County received its first ever Excellence Award from the International Economic Development Council for its innovative approach in assisting small businesses during the pandemic.

An aerial photograph of a sandy beach. In the upper portion, a large teal brushstroke graphic contains white text. Below the graphic, a person is sitting on the sand, and a dog is visible in the lower left. Two blue and white striped beach umbrellas are open, with wooden chairs nearby. The sand shows various tracks and patterns.

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411,000 Residents
741 Square Miles
150 Miles of Coastline

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