

**COUNTY MANAGER'S**  
**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**For 1999**

**On Your Investment  
In County Government**



**January 2000**

**BREVARD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**1999  
PROGRESS REPORT  
Brevard County Government**

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## **Introduction**

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and in accordance with the Brevard County Administrative Code this Progress Report is being provided on the work of County Government for 1999.

Many of the accomplishments for 1999 center around the County Commission preparing Brevard County for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Considerable emphasis and attention were placed on long range planning to ensure a desirable quality of life for residents for many years to come.

## **In Pursuit of Excellence**

- Sixty-three (63) criteria were established to monitor and measure the quality of life in Brevard. These criteria measure such quality issues as health care, crime levels, education, the economy, the environment and transportation.
- Under the leadership of the County Commission multiple agencies will participate in establishing and monitoring quality of life goals to ensure Brevard retains a quality lifestyle for its residents.
- An annual monitoring report on the status of Goals and Policies of the County's Comprehensive Plan has been established to ensure that progress is occurring. These long range quality issues include natural resources conservation, recreation and open space, housing, potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste management, housing, multi-modal transportation, coastal management, and land use.
- To ensure County agencies are planning for the future the County Commission directed County agencies to prepare ten (10) year visions for each agency. Agencies were also required to research and report on the "best practices" used by other local governments throughout the Country. These best practices will be considered for use here in Brevard.
- Continuous Improvement continued as a major initiative. The practices used in Continuous Improvement include: providing quality customer service, receiving customer input, measuring employee performance, enforcing employee accountability, emphasizing teamwork and employee training, empowering employees with responsibility and decision making authority, recognizing and rewarding outstanding employee performance, involving residents in identifying their needs and finding solutions, and using state of the art technology.

## Improving Community Appearance

- The County Commission has made landscaping of County roads a priority. All new road projects will include a landscaping component. Several Florida Department of Transportation grants have been sought to beautify major intersections in the County.



- An ordinance was adopted by the County Commission prohibiting new billboard signs on County roads.
- A proposed ordinance is being finalized requiring new on-premises business signs to be monument signs designed to coincide with the appearance of the buildings. The maximum size of these on-premises signs is also being reduced.



- The Permitting and Enforcement Department has initiated a proactive enforcement effort on illegal signs in the County, and is providing education to sign companies on how to comply with County sign regulations.



- Concerned about a proliferation of cellular and wireless telephone towers the County Commission adopted new regulations to encourage placement of new antenna and receivers on existing towers, power poles, and high rise buildings. Requests for new towers must now be subjected to an expanded technical review to confirm that they are actually needed.

## **Financial Management**

- Property taxes were reduced in Fiscal Year 1999 from the prior year.
- The County replaced its 20+ year old accounting system with a state of the art Financial Management Information System (FMIS) which provides the framework to greatly increase efficiency and reporting capabilities. This Countywide system was implemented primarily with in-house resources saving taxpayers several million dollars in implementation costs.
- The use of volunteers was expanded at many County facilities to avoid additional costs in serving customers.

## **Improving the Economy**

- The County Tax Abatement program assisted five new and expanding companies adding 305 new jobs to the local economy.
- To position Brevard to compete in the worldwide market place the County Commission in partnership with the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast is undertaking the following:
  - The competitive characteristics of the leading high tech communities in the U.S. have been identified, and plans are being formulated to ensure those qualities are available here in Brevard. These include a skilled labor pool, research centers and higher educational facilities, supportive public policy, industry networking groups, and the availability of venture capital.
  - An inventory of high tech characteristics and the status of high tech industry in Brevard are underway. This information will be used to develop a long range economic development strategy for Brevard which will be compatible with conserving and protecting our natural resources, as well as providing for the social, health, and education needs of Brevard's residents.
  - The County Commission is promoting regional economic development cooperation with other counties in Central Florida to compete in the world markets.

## Transportation

- A \$99 million, ten year roads improvement plan is being implemented using Gas Tax revenues to fund improvements.



- A Five-Year Mass Transit plan is being implemented to meet growing public transit needs.



- A consulting firm has been selected to begin planning for the establishment of a network of pedestrian Trails and Greenways for the entire County.



## Protecting Your Environment

- A Master Plan for making drainage improvements and treating water run off for the Upper Eau Gallie Basin was completed. A similar Master Plan for the West Port St. John area is underway.
- A \$3 million stormwater treatment plant was completed at Merritt Ridge on Merritt Island.



- Flood control projects were completed in North Merritt Island, West Cocoa, and Canaveral Groves areas.
- Two regional retention projects to treat stormwater were undertaken.



- The Barefoot Bay Water and Wastewater system was purchased and is now being managed by the Water Resources Department.
- Reclaimed water lines were expanded in Central Brevard.
- Four new potable water wells were established in North Brevard.

- After extensive analysis a site was identified for a new South County solid waste transfer facility to reduce the cost of collecting and disposal of trash in South Brevard.
- Significant progress occurred in the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Indian River Lagoon.
- Actions included (1) Additional treatment facilities for stormwater runoff into the Lagoon; (2) Acquisition of conservation areas along the Lagoon; and (3) Mapping of natural communities habitating the Lagoon and beaches.
- Code Enforcement staff has been increased by three staff members for improving the quality of neighborhoods. Funding has also been added to demolish unsafe, abandoned houses, and to mow overgrown lots.

## Public Safety

- A comprehensive response to Y2000 computer problems was developed for critical missions of County Government. County Government is 100% Y2K compliant for critical systems. The County also managed a community wide coordination of municipal governments and other major service providers to monitor community preparedness.



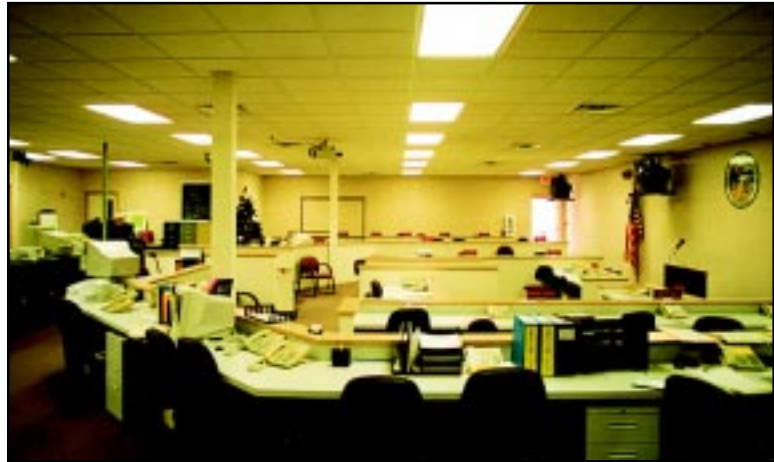
- Staffing on County fire trucks has increased from two to three Firefighters. This increases firefighter safety and improves emergency responses.



- The County has expanded paramedic and ambulance transport service into the South County area previously served by the Harbor City Volunteer Ambulance Squad. Two stations and crews were added to reduce response times; medical protocols were standardized Countywide to ensure the highest quality care, and advanced lifesaving equipment was added to the South County ambulance units.

- Fire stations in deteriorated condition are being repaired, and outdated and under-sized stations replaced. The fire truck fleet is being upgraded through voter approved referendum funding.

- In encountering one of the busiest hurricane seasons in recent years, emergency response staff benefited from having an expanded Emergency Operations Center. The original undersized E.O.C. is nearly 40 years old.



- Lifeguard coverage on Brevard's beaches was extended from Labor Day to October 31 for weekend coverage.

- Animal Services and Enforcement has been improved through the addition of four new field officers along with expanded hours of service. Three officers received National certification for investigating animal cruelty cases.

- Dog and cat owners are now notified by mail on the expiration of their animals' tags, and convenient retail sales points for animal tag sales are being established.

- A Feral Cat Management program based on similar nationally recognized programs was established. This program increases protection for feral cats and the public.

- Public education on the proper care and control of pets has been expanded to decrease neighborhood disputes.

- Video Teleconferencing has been acquired to link the Brevard County jail with the three courthouses in Brevard. Video teleconferencing will reduce the number of prisoners transported on buses and vans to and from the courthouses.



## Providing for Health and Social Needs

- Through a partnership with the State Department of Family and Children Services a Juvenile Assessment Center began serving the community. The J.A.C. is used to provide a cost effective and expedient assessment of juvenile offenders and their families. By delivering youthful offenders to the J.A.C. Police Officers are released to return to duty much sooner.
- A Juvenile Justice Planner has been added to coordinate a community effort to identify, coordinate, and prioritize services provided by numerous agencies in the juvenile justice system. The result will be a better-organized, more cost effective delivery of services.
- Additional County Commission funding to the Healthy Kids program in the amount of \$101,036 will result in an additional \$2.3 in Federal and State funding. This provides health insurance coverage to low income, uninsured youths in the community.
- Funding for nonprofit community based agencies was increased to \$500,000. Each agency receiving funding must provide a scope of services to be achieved with the funding received which is measured at the end of the year.
- First time homebuyers seeking financial assistance have benefited from revised regulations for assistance with down payments and closing costs. Affordable Housing dollars have also been used for rehabilitating low income residents' homes and reducing energy costs by weatherizing eligible homes.



## Leisure Services for Residents and Visitors

- New Parks & Recreation Community Centers were opened in Port St. John and Micco; and eleven parks were the recipients of major capital improvements.
- Parks & Recreation after-school childcare services were added to two new elementary schools.
- Master plans for four Environmentally Endangered Lands sites were completed. These sanctuary master plans include public access to the sites as well as nature centers for environmental education.
- There has been an aggressive effort to manage the habitats at the Environmentally Endangered Lands sites. Environmental burns have occurred at six sites, staff and volunteers have surveyed plant and animal species, and have removed some of the invasive exotics from endangered lands sites.



- The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library was opened in South Melbourne representing the final library project of the eight projects begun in 1993.
- Design is underway for new library facilities serving Suntree-Viera and South Beaches, and for expansion of the Port St. John Library.



- The Bill Gates Foundation awarded Brevard's public libraries \$130,000, to acquire specially designed computers for library patrons.

## **Public Information**

- Space Coast Government Television under the management of County Government went on the air November 1. SCGTV provides a way to communicate with residents on important local government meetings as well as information on the workings of local governments in Brevard.
- Most County agencies have established user friendly computer home pages to increase access to data and services.



## **Challenges for 2000**

Many of the initiatives begun in 1999 will continue over to 2000. We expect to see concrete results with many of these projects. Planning efforts to improve the quality of life in Brevard County will continue as well.

Our local economy is strong, and many new high tech companies are growing and expanding. Developing public policy that will support that trend, and working to provide the necessary support structure for quality economic growth will also be priorities.

Funding of infrastructure needs of the County continues to present the biggest challenge. These needs include:

- Additional road improvements
- Additional jail space
- South County Services Building and Sheriff's Precinct
- Courthouse/Justice Center expansion
- Additional Parks athletics facilities
- Animal shelter in North Brevard
- Expansion of the capacity of FMIS (Financial Management Information System)
- Improvements to senior centers
- Additional SCGTV broadcast capabilities
- Additional staffing for Code Enforcement and Animal Services & Enforcement
- Additional salt water boat ramps

## **In Closing...**

This Progress Report provides the highlights of the year's accomplishments. It is also important to recognize that the nineteen departments and offices under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners provide a wide range of quality services on a daily basis. Here are some examples of County Government "routine" activities:

- Gallons of wastewater treated: 5 million
- Gallons of wastewater reclaimed: 1.78 million
- Tons of garbage and trash disposed of at the landfill: 755,000
- Tons of yard trash mulched: 120,000
- Tons of garbage recycled: 213,000
- Miles of dirt roads graded: 163
- Miles of paved roads resurfaced: 4.3
- Miles of paved roads constructed: 4.3
- Miles of new sidewalk constructed: 6.5
- Acres of aerial and land mosquito spraying: 2.3 million
- Number of rezoning requests processed: 297
- Number of code enforcement cases: 3,726
- Number of building permits issued: 8,112
- Number of bus/van passengers: 843,918
- Number of 911 Fire Rescue responses: 47,000
- Number of books checked out from libraries: 3.5 million
- Number of animal enforcement requests for service received: 73,429
- Number of residents receiving information and training from Agriculture & Extension Services: 100,000
- Number of tourists visiting Brevard: 3.9 million
- Number of rounds of golf at County golf courses: 151,000
- Number of purchase orders issued: 4,218 totaling approximately \$35 million
- Number of new employees processed: 850

The elected officials and employees of County Government will continue our efforts to ensure and enhance the quality of life...today and always.





**A COMMUNITY WHICH EXCELS AND IS RECOGNIZED FOR...**

- ✦ PROVIDING FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS;
- ✦ PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES;
- ✦ SUSTAINING A STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMIC BASE TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT A QUALITY LIFESTYLE;
- ✦ CREATING COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND OUR RESIDENTS.

**OUR MISSION**

**CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCING AND ENSURING BREVARD'S QUALITY OF LIFE... TODAY AND ALWAYS!**

**OUR VALUES**

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| ✦ HONESTY        | ✦ LEADERSHIP |
| ✦ ACCOUNTABILITY | ✦ OPENNESS   |
| ✦ QUALITY        | ✦ INNOVATION |