

JEFFERSON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY COORDINATOR



Please join our team in taking the time to reflect on accomplishments last year, and look ahead to achieving future goals established by the Board of County Commissioners in the new year. I wish to thank our Commissioners, who serve the citizens of Jefferson County with passion and integrity allowing us to serve you.

In 2015, our mantra of doing more with less remained in place as we focused on being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Despite the constraints of a limited budget, our dedicated staff continued to deliver outstanding projects and programs to our citizens. In the last year, we constructed additional miles of newly paved roads, stabilized more miles of dirt roads, constructed new facilities for our emergency

services personnel and solid waste program. Along with; revamping our library and solid waste service areas, improved community parks and continued to grow jobs through new construction of business in the industrial park. This is just a sampling of what we've achieved, and will review in more detail through the pages to follow.

The challenge in 2016-17 will once again be how to address immediate needs within the limits of existing resources. Staff will continue to be creative in their solutions to stretch available dollars. This year will once again give us an opportunity to provide the quality services that contribute to the extraordinary quality of life Jefferson County residents and visitors have come to expect. I am truly grateful to the public for placing their faith in us, and we will continue in our mission to provide innovative and cost-effective services.

G. Parrish Barwick, County Coordinator



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

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



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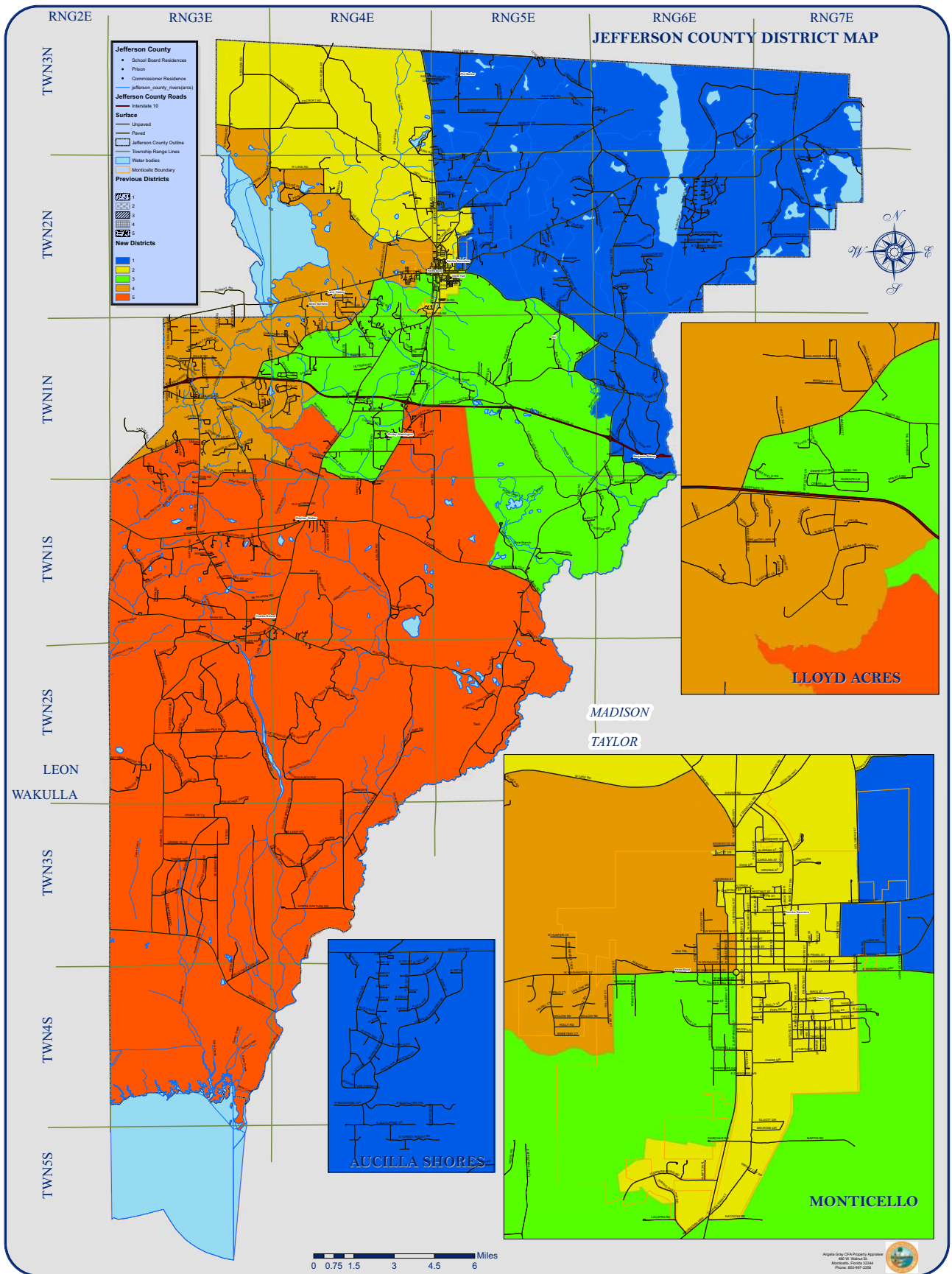
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BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The past year was a time of transition for the Building Department as it transitioned from the guidance of long time building official Wallace Bullock to Rick Anderson.

Through the transition, the Building Department maintained its high standard of quality in the support of owners, whose projects were located in this county, and the contractors, who built those projects here. The department's mission has always been to ensure all projects are built to at least the minimum standard the State of Florida adopted in the Florida Building Code through permitting, inspections and continuous education. Permitting funds, department operations and inspections guarantee code standards are met or exceeded. When problems are discovered, the department resolves the issue through code requirement education and the benefit to the owner or contractor.

A significant increase in the number of new residences built within the county and the SHIP and CDBG grant programs continue to benefit many owners of older homes when they qualify. Of course, more office and field work is required, but the department has managed to provide service with minimal disruption to customers with no increase in staff.

To be financially self-supporting through permit fees, the department continues to communicate with customers so they understand building codes are in place for the consumers' benefit. The county's buildings are safer, last longer and command a higher resale value since they are better built.

More change will come this year, including a potential revision to the building code. The department will adapt to the changes, help customers understand them and then build to the new requirements.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

BUILDING DEPARTMENT COMPARISON CHART-CURRENT YEAR/PREVIOUS YEAR													
2016											MONTHLY TOTAL		QUARTERLY TOTALS
	New Residential		Additions/Repairs		Non-Residential		Commercial		Mobile Homes				
JANUARY	3	\$2,485.37	37	\$3,653.50	2	\$160.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$585.00	44	\$6,883.87	\$19,972.01
FEBRUARY	4	\$1,869.64	38	\$3,182.00	10	\$1,574.50	0	\$0.00	1	\$155.00	53	\$6,781.14	
MARCH	1	\$648.00	38	\$3,799.00	7	\$1,400.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$460.00	48	\$6,307.00	
APRIL	2	\$1,302.00	36	\$4,347.50	3	\$903.58	1	\$375.00	5	\$1,095.00	47	\$8,023.08	\$34,950.72
MAY	2	\$1,242.00	61	\$4,843.00	3	\$305.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$585.00	68	\$6,975.00	
JUNE	3	\$1,701.00	51	\$8,271.64	9	\$2,700.00	2	\$6,720.00	2	\$560.00	67	\$19,952.64	
JULY	2	\$1,120.50	55	\$5,016.00	7	\$1,572.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$385.00	66	\$8,093.50	\$27,439.00
AUGUST	1	\$504.00	46	\$4,337.50	8	\$535.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$385.00	57	\$5,761.50	
SEPTEMBER	3	\$774.50	67	\$12,849.50	1	\$65.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$255.00	72	\$13,584.00	
OCTOBER	0	\$0.00	51	\$6,313.50	1	\$99.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$870.00	56	\$7,282.50	\$26,131.05
NOVEMBER	3	\$1,899.00	78	\$9,828.00	4	\$255.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	85	\$11,982.00	
DECEMBER	2	\$1,093.30	49	\$4,333.05	2	\$470.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$970.00	57	\$6,866.55	
ANNUAL TOTAL	26	\$14,639.31	607	\$70,774.19	57	\$10,039.08	3	\$7,095.00	27	\$6,305.00	720	\$108,492.78	\$108,492.78

2015											MONTHLY TOTAL		QUARTERLY TOTALS
	New Residential		Additions/Repairs		Non-Residential		Commercial		Mobile Homes				
JANUARY	1	\$630.87	39	\$4,173.00	7	\$1,344.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$560.00	49	\$6,707.87	\$18,655.25
FEBRUARY	3	\$1,490.94	39	\$3,371.00	6	\$1,183.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	48	\$6,044.94	
MARCH	0	\$0.00	49	\$4,657.44	7	\$555.00	0	\$0.00	3	\$690.00	59	\$5,902.44	
APRIL	0	\$0.00	54	\$5,520.85	3	\$235.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	57	\$5,755.85	\$14,286.75
MAY	0	\$0.00	35	\$3,581.50	2	\$95.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	37	\$3,676.50	
JUNE	1	\$513.90	44	\$4,210.50	2	\$130.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	47	\$4,854.40	
JULY	4	\$2,642.83	47	\$3,931.00	5	\$745.00	0	\$0.00	3	\$785.00	59	\$8,103.83	\$22,966.84
AUGUST	2	\$8,483.31	55	\$7,500.20	6	\$615.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$1,020.00	67	\$9,983.51	
SEPTEMBER	0	\$0.00	39	\$2,776.50	8	\$1,618.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$485.00	49	\$4,879.50	
OCTOBER	1	\$742.68	41	\$4,586.81	3	\$515.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$1,270.00	49	\$7,114.49	\$16,623.32
NOVEMBER	2	\$751.81	30	\$3,442.00	2	\$160.00	1	\$145.00	1	\$330.00	36	\$4,828.81	
DECEMBER	2	\$764.98	31	\$2,765.04	4	\$400.00	1	\$60.00	3	\$690.00	41	\$4,680.02	
ANNUAL TOTAL	16	\$16,021.32	503	\$50,515.84	55	\$7,595.00	2	\$205.00	22	\$5,830.00	598	\$72,532.16	\$72,532.16

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Chili Challenge – February 2016

The 7th Annual Chamber of Commerce Chili Challenge gives area businesses an opportunity to compete for the best chili. This event raises awareness of local businesses and brings the community together for an enjoyable evening. This year's annual event was held downtown at the Opera House, and was well attended. Community friends and neighbors gathered to sample savory chili and dance to the music of the popular local band, The Chaotics.

Monticello Bike Fest – March 2016

This second annual event brought cyclists and their families and friends to Jefferson County to ride our beautiful rolling hills and canopied roads. Each cyclist was given a \$5 coupon to spend in our local shops/restaurants. This event is developing into a premier event, where we show off our untapped cycling area and brings attention to Jefferson County as a destination for healthy outdoor activities.

66th Annual Watermelon Festival – June 2016

The festival featured 175 vendors and drew a record crowd of 6,000 – 8,000 visitors to downtown Monticello, where they shopped, ate and stayed in Jefferson county lodging facilities. More than just a festival with a parade and vendors, there was a Rotary BBQ, kick-off dinner, pageant and Bed Race. The rodeo was also brought back this year by Aucilla Christian Academy, and it saw a record number of fans. The festival's events boosted awareness for businesses and service groups in our community.

Jefferson's County Fair & BBQ Cook-off – November 2016

Designed to showcase the area's talent for southern cooking as well as draw more attention to the charms of Jefferson /county, this second annual BBQ drew 14 BBQ teams and more than 500 guests to sample and savor the efforts of the talented teams. There were plenty of activities for the entire family with everything from face-painting to bouncy houses to a greased pig contest to vendor booths and live bands. The crowd went from booth to booth sampling the delicious southern cooking and buying wares from area businesses.





ENGINEERING

Barrington Road

This project consisted of resurfacing an existing asphalt road that is approximately 2.25 miles in length, as well as improvements to cross drains and side drains. In addition, striping and signage will be replaced. Small County Outreach Program - (SCOP)

Big Joe Road

This project consisted of resurfacing, widening and paving shoulders on Big Joe Road, which is approximately 2.2 miles in length. Improvements to cross drains and side drains were constructed. In addition, the striping and signage were replaced to improve access to a major employment facility for Jefferson County and the surrounding area. (SCOP)



Piney Woods Road

This project consisted of resurfacing an existing asphalt road originally constructed with local funds that is approximately 1.8 miles in length, as well as improvements to cross drains and side drains. Piney Woods Road provides community access to many homes as well as farming activity; these improvements will be noticed for many years into the future. In addition, striping and signage were replaced. Small County Road Assistance Program - (SCRAP)

ENGINEERING

St. Augustine Road

This project consisted of resurfacing an existing asphalt road that is approximately 2.23 miles in length as well as some minor drainage work and new striping. Another example of Jefferson County utilizing State of Florida programs to update our transportation model. (SCRAP)



US 19 Landscaping

The project consisted of landscaping along US 19 in select areas from Monticello to the I-10 Interchange as designated but the plans changed. The work will consist of furnishing all labor, supplies, equipment and materials necessary to complete the successful planting of all trees, palms and shrubs to beautify the roadside areas of the I-10 interchange. Planting of the trees, palms and shrubs brought the need to irrigate and care for vegetation planned to beautify the area for decades to come.

JC Annex Parking Lot

This project consisted of constructing an 8,500 square foot parking lot with the associated storm water pond on approximately 0.5 acres on the west side of the Jefferson County Annex Building between the building and West Palmer Mill Road. The project also includes some electrical utility relocation coordination and stormwater drainage improvements needed for many years. The Jefferson County Community continues to grow and examples like additional parking facilities is another sign of future things to come. Reducing customer frustration is a thought out goal which we believe begins with arrival at the point of business; staff will be directed to additional parking allowing citizens better access to parking close to their destination.

ENGINEERING

Lamont School House

The project consists of installing a septic tank and drain field at the Lamont School House property in Jefferson County, Florida. The recent renovation added two toilets, two sinks and a drinking fountain. The design will include an option for a doubling of fixtures for a possible future outside facility if the need arises. This long time community educational facility will be returned to its former glory with new demands for the space. Time will show us the proper use where Jefferson County Citizens will benefit while memories are secured.



ENGINEERING

Wacissa Springs Restoration

This project consists of improvements to the parking lot, shoreline stabilization, addition of a boardwalk, bathrooms, picnic shelter and removal of exotic vegetation and sediment. This long time sleepy slice of Heaven has been discovered and a new future is all but certain. Each year of additional improvements bring more visitors which creates the need for even more new facilities. The Board of County Commissioners along with our Water Management District have been working with local volunteers to build a vision of access to another amazing natural resource located in our hometown; What a Blessing.



FIRE & RESCUE



- Jefferson County Fire Rescue responded to 531 Fire calls and 2,792 Ambulance calls last fiscal year.
- 438 children received fire prevention and safety information as part of our Fire Prevention and Safety Program.
- 205 smoke detectors were installed in the homes of residents in Jefferson County by JCFR personnel through a partnership with the American Red Cross.
- JCFR was invited to participate in a health fair for a church. Information was provided on what to do in emergency medical situations and on fire prevention and safety.
- 40 businesses received pre-fire planning and safety inspections.
- 20 fire safety inspections were conducted at the request of various businesses or churches that required an inspection for either state licensure or insurance purposes.
- 68 people came to the station for free blood pressure and/or blood sugar checks.
- \$789,167.59 dollars in EMS fees were collected. This is \$9,167.59 more than anticipated in the budget and \$8,235.84 more than the previous year.

FIRE & RESCUE

In February of last year, JCFR put the below 3,000 gallon Tanker in service that was secured with a 95 percent Federal AFG Grant. It has shown its value through several structure fires and one semi-truck fire.



LIBRARY

The Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library (JCPL) has been serving the information and educational needs of the people of Monticello and Jefferson County for more than 110 years. A “beacon” for North Florida’s rural libraries (*Tallahassee Democrat*), its goal is to provide every Jefferson County resident with access to the cultural products of society.

The library offers an outstanding collection of books, DVDs, audiobooks and ebooks, as well as free wifi and public access computers. Recently renovated, the library has peaceful reading rooms, a state-of-the-art community meeting area and a refurbished computer lab. Library cards are free to Jefferson County residents and are available for \$10 annually to visitors from outside the county. Tourists and visitors may use the computer lab and wifi without charge.

In addition to regular library services, the library has strong community partnerships that allows Jefferson County resident to access government and social services.

Library Services

- In FY 15-16, the library circulated 21,951 items to patrons. The year included increases in door count and book circulation, including a 50 percent increase in book circulation over the summer months and 50 percent increase in interlibrary loan (ILL) requests.
- The library’s Community Room is in constant use by government, nonprofit and community groups. In June 2016, the library opened an additional meeting room to meet increased demand.
- The Teen Room offers a safe, quiet place for teens to go after school. According to national surveys, different areas for different age groups is one of the strongest desires of library patrons.
- In spring 2016, the library opened a soundproof recording studio for recording podcasts, mixing music and recording public access announcements.
- The library offers cultural and educational programs for citizens from birth to old age, including Story Times, Senior Coffee, Teen Talk, Family Night, Community Concert series, guest speakers and one-on-one technology training.
- The library supports students through college, licensing and retraining by providing study space, entertainment for children, assistance with school and financial aid applications, technical support, graduate-level research support and test proctoring.
- In November 2016, the library began purchasing and maintaining Little Free Libraries, which offer “take a book, leave a book” services in different areas of the county. The first of these libraries was installed in December.

Focus of Early & Family Literacy

- After a year of preparation and research, the library kicked off the Jefferson county Literacy Alliance (JCLA), a three year \$500,000 project funded by private grants. Anchored by the library, the goal of the JCLA is to ensure every child in Jefferson County enters school ready to read.
- The JCLA supports a range of scientifically supported early literacy interventions for kids and families, including family programming, literacy support for new parents and literacy training for day care and Pre-K teachers.
- The JCLA will be providing each new baby born in Jefferson County with his or her first book, and continue to work with children and families until they enter kindergarten.

Community Partnerships

- The library serves as the local campus for the “Getting Ahead, Staying Ahead” program, an award-winning poverty intervention program that helps those in poverty investigate the causes, impact and solutions to poverty. After participating in Getting Ahead, 50 percent of graduates no longer require welfare or food stamps.
- The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides access to social services to county residents on a weekly basis. The library serves as the only office for DCF in Jefferson County.
- JCLA partners with the Jefferson County Extension Office to offer free tax preparation services from January through April.
- The Jefferson County Health Department offers free health screenings and health literacy classes at the library.
- Better World Books provides resale and recycling services to ensure that discarded books are used to continue to support the library and literacy initiatives.
- The library collaborates with the Jefferson county Elementary School (JCES) to ensure children have access to high-quality summer programming.

SOLID WASTE

The Solid Waste and Recycling Department had 13 full-time employees and one part-time employee, ranging in tenure from less than one year to 26 years of service. The employees work hard to ensure the department exceeds citizen expectations through its three areas:

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SITES

Jefferson County has twelve collection sites strategically placed throughout the county, one being the office location. All sites, with the exception of one, have been paved for easy access. Only one site, the Lloyd site, is manned when open. The Wacissa site hours have changed this year to being manned in the morning and afternoon hours and left open during the day. The remaining sites have an employee traveling from site to site to keep them in order. The Tyson Road Site is a Florida Department of Environmental Protection permitted site for tree debris only. This site is available for citizen use.

Commercial Accounts - The department provided services to 200 customers, which included:

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

The county and the city, as a whole, delivered the following tonnage to the Aucilla Area Landfill in the 15/16 FY:

- Class I: Household Garbage - 10,585.71 tons/1434 trips
- Class III: C & D - 312.74 tons/104 trips
- Class III: Yard Trash - 711.88 tons/47 trips
- Tires: 86.25 tons/33 trips

Recycling - The department started its recycling program in 1991 and depends on inmate labor from Jefferson Correctional Institution to sort items as they are received from the collection site and the city recycling route. The following was collected and recycled through the department:

- Aluminum Cans - 1,200 lbs
- Plastic - 15 tons
- Batteries - 1,291 lbs
- Used Oil - 1,940 gallons
- Cardboard - 169 tons
- White goods - 173.34 tons
- Newspaper - 18.85 tons

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

SOLID WASTE

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

Code Enforcement - The department has been unsuccessful in seating a full Code Enforcement Board, and has submitted a proposal to the Board of County Commissioners for a Special Magistrate, which was approved in the 16/17 FY.

During the 15/16 FY:

- Received nine code enforcement complaints
- Five complaints were resolved successfully, with four ongoing.

Animal Control - In the 2015/16 Fiscal Year, Jefferson County Animal Control responded to 67 calls from the Sheriff's Department and handled a total of 111 animals. Through the city we received and responded to 20 calls and handled 39 animals.

County 67 calls – handled 111 animals

- Returned to owner 55
- Euthanized 24
- Adopted 8
- Humane Society 16 kittens/14 dogs
- Unable to locate 5
- DOA 2
- Lost or Found 8

City 20 calls – handled 39 animals

- Returned to owner 14
- Euthanized 13
- Adopted 6
- Humane Society 12 kittens/3 dogs
- Unable to locate
- DOA 1
- Lost or Found
- Holding 1

Hurricane Hermine - Hurricane Hermine made landfall in Jefferson County on September 1, 2016. The Solid Waste employees picked up tree debris that the Road Department had cleared off the roadways. In the month of September, our department employees worked a total of **210** regular hours and **143** overtime hours on storm clean-up. The department has been approved through FEMA for reimbursement for hours worked as well as equipment hours. All employees involved in the storm clean-up went above and beyond the call of duty to get the citizens of Jefferson County back to normal operation as quickly as possible.



Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners
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