

District 5 News



Commissioner James Campbell

Phone:
850.651.7105

Email:
jcampbell@co.okaloosa.fl.us



Connecting Communities!

Co. Radio Show: 3rd
Thurs. WFTW 1260,
7:30 AM

Focus on Okaloosa
Show, Cox Channel 6
Watch Board of
County Commission
meetings Cox 6 &
online.
www.okaloosaf1.com

Co. Administrator James Curry recognizes Sherry Reed's hard work on the Community Rating System, along with Growth Management Dir. Elliot Kampert, Engineer Jason Autrey, & Public Works Dir. John Hofstad, who all worked to bring the costs to citizens to a record low.



A Message From Your Commissioner

What does Growth Management do anyway? As the liaison of this department, the short answer is the department consists of a Planning Division, Building Inspections Division, and Code Enforcement Division.

The primary concern of the **Planning Division**, the Okaloosa County Comprehensive Plan, has three parts: a Technical Document, a Policy Document and a Map with existing and future land uses, as well as zoning which is part of the Land Development Code adopted to implement the Comprehensive Plan. **These goals, objectives, policies, and procedures are adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and serve as the basis for all land use and growth decisions.**

The **Planning Division** is instrumental in working with other departments as well as state and federal agencies to keep our flood insurance rates low, by coordinating the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. Through this effort, Okaloosa County receives a 25% discount on flood insurance rates – a discount that is passed on to its citizens. The Planning Division also heads up the Tri-County Eglin AFB planning initiatives, which are intended to **help maintain Eglin's viability** and status as one of the nation's premier military installations.

The **Building Inspections Division** works with property owners, professional contractors, property managers, developers, and anyone involved with the building industry to provide a friendly and efficient permitting and inspection process while ensuring that all regulated structures built in Okaloosa County comply with the Florida Building Code. The Division also implements a contractor licensing program that requires would-be contractors to pass standardized tests and demonstrate competency in running a business.

As its name implies, the **Code Enforcement Division** serves as the enforcement branch of the Department, ensuring that property owners and contractors alike, adhere to the County's Comprehensive Plan, zoning regulations, building codes, as well as laws and programs adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. While the Code Enforcement Division has the authority to issue citations, it is the goal of the **Code Enforcement Division to work with people to bring them into compliance with the code before resorting to sterner measures.**

The Transit and Grant Administration Section is responsible for administering numerous federal and state grants that help fund transportation programs, housing, and infrastructure improvements, to include:

Okaloosa County Transit (a private company with whom the County has a service contract) to provide limited fixed route bus service and paratransit service countywide.

Okaloosa Community Development Corporation's (CDC) use of federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds through which the CDC (another private company with whom the County contracts) provides high quality rental housing at affordable rates to qualified, economically challenged households.

The section also administers two Community Development Block Grants that are providing water and road upgrades in the Sylvania Heights area.

**Wishing all our residents a successful year,
Commissioner James Campbell**

Jan. 17, 2012 Public Hearing on Beach Restoration held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center.



Commissioner James Campbell receives a gavel plaque from 2012 Chairman Don Amunds in appreciation for serving as 2011 chairman.

