

County Connection

Issue No. 4 | April 19, 2022

p. 1 of 6



Photos of our very first Okaloosa County-Exclusive Career Fairs. [March 30](#) in Fort Walton Beach and [April 12](#) in Crestview.

Recruiting Efforts

We tried something new and we are seeing positive results! The County has hosted the first-ever county-exclusive career fairs.

Thanks to the efforts of our human resources team, the dedication of departments in need of candidates, public information initiatives and our partnership with CareerSource, the efforts can be viewed as a success. In about two months, we planned, prepared, informed and held 2 separate career fairs, one in Fort

Walton Beach on March 30, the other in Crestview on April 12. We additionally, partnered with OCSO at our Crestview career Fair.

Between the two events, our team interviewed 56 applicants and made 15 on-the-spot employment offers. I'm looking forward to the continued recruiting efforts needed to fill vacant positions.

News media, radio, social media, directional signage and countywide digital signage were all used to generate awareness.



John Hofstad
County Administrator

Turkey Creek Bridge in Niceville scheduled to be resurfaced next week

The Turkey Creek Bridge on College Boulevard in Niceville is scheduled to be resurfaced the week of April 18, according to Okaloosa County.



The bridge will be reduced to a one-lane bridge, flagging operations will be in place, and a follow me (pacer) vehicle will be used, while crews resurface the bridge. Motorists should expect delays, or avoid that route if possible, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Back in February, the bridge was closed to allow work crews to mill and clean up the asphalt on the bridge. After that, there may be additional lane closures. Click [HERE](#) for the full article.

Mosquito Schedule Published

Click [HERE](#) for details



Meigs Park Closure (Beginning Monday April 18)



Sand has filled in the channel from Lake Vivian to the Choctawhatchee Bay. County staff is scheduled to remove the material next week. In order to safely do so, we will be closing Meigs Park. The project is expected to take a week.

Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners Chairman, Mel Ponder cleans the beach with YLC

Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners Chairman, Mel Ponder recently spent time with the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) cleaning the beach.

We appreciate the efforts of these students and the opportunity to partner with Okaloosa County School District. Thank you!



Learn more about this initiative and other community environmental initiatives at myokaloosa.com/bcc/leavenotrace

Annual County and ARPA Nonprofit Funding

There are 2 different funding options for nonprofits in Okaloosa County

The DEADLINE for both applications is May 2 but don't wait until the last minute.

Resources are in place now to assist with the application process. All can be found at <https://myokaloosa.com/nonprofitfunding>. Here's a breakdown:

ARPA FUNDING (Federal funds)

The Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners has approved \$1.5 million in ARPA funding to assist nonprofit organizations operating within Okaloosa County in their efforts to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or address its negative economic impacts.

- Learn the steps to apply: <https://myokaloosa.com/nonprofitfunding>
 - Application portal: <https://myokaloosa.com/arpa>
 - Watch the Webinar that addresses who is eligible and how to apply: <https://youtu.be/JwWX-WqVYZ0>
- ?QUESTIONS: email budget@myokaloosa.com

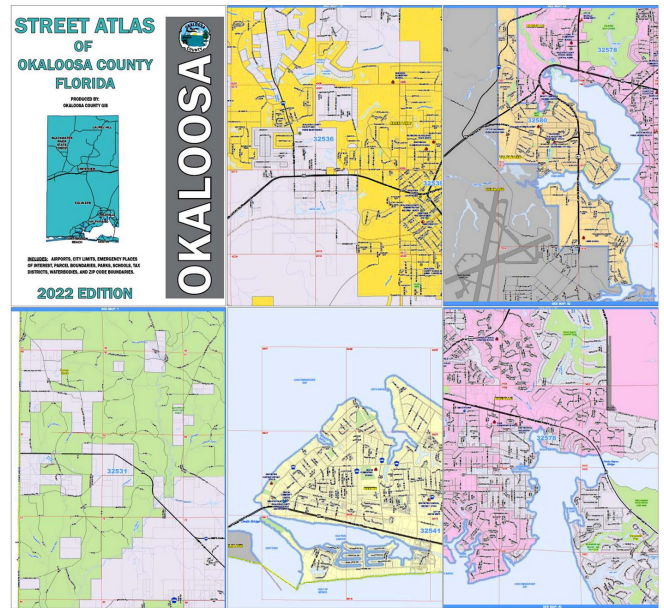
ANNUAL FUNDING (County funds)

- See if your nonprofit qualifies: <https://myokaloosa.com/nonprofitfunding>
 - Apply: Applications and attachments requesting assistance from the County through the annual nonprofit assistance cycle must be emailed to budget@myokaloosa.com
 - Watch the Webinar that addresses who is eligible and how to apply: <https://youtu.be/JwWX-WqVYZ0>
- ?QUESTIONS: email budget@myokaloosa.com

Okaloosa County 2022 Street Atlas is Available Now

Be prepared! - Tired of your phone leading you astray on the road? DOWNLOAD - PRINT - SAVE TO YOUR PHONE - this FREE map resource from the County GIS department.

Visit https://www.myokaloosa.com/gis_maps to download the 2022 Okaloosa County Street Atlas.



Okaloosa County is BIG and this quick & easy download can help sort it all out from city limits, unincorporated areas, emergency facilities, airports, schools and more.

This is only a drill >> You may have noticed a convoy of medic units and administrative vehicles traveling from HCA Fort Walton-Destin Hospital to Crestview Airport yesterday earlier this month. Not to worry....



The Florida Region 1 Infectious Disease Team was practicing for the potential of real-world scenarios. The Infectious Disease Transport Team is housed in Okaloosa County and Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services Division houses the IDTT for the Region. Click [HERE](#) for more.

TWO NONPROFIT FUNDING OPTIONS

myokaloosa.com/nonprofitfunding



If your nonprofit was affected by COVID-19 you might be eligible for federal funds that were provided to the County.

DEADLINE MAY 2

FOR BOTH APPLICATIONS



The Board of County Commissioners accepts applications from eligible Nonprofits in conjunction with the annual budget development and approval process.

What Has the Convention Center Been Up To?

Slammedenstuff Car Show



Tiger Rock Annual Martial Arts Tournament



- [Slammedenstuff Destin 2022 March 4 - 6 \(VIDEO\)](#)
- **What's the Impact?** 240+ room nights at the Island Hotel
- **Event Schedule:**
 - Friday 03/04: Official Pre-Meet at "Ricks on the Island" Restaurant presented by Deviant.
 - Saturday 03/05: 5:00-7:00PM "Auto Lounge" VIP Car Show on The Beach presented by Deviant.
 - 7:00PM-10:00PM Official Party on the Island Green presented by Deviant, BattleGang, LEP Automotive, & NIA.
 - Sunday March 6th, 2022 1pm-7pm Location: Destin Fort Walton Beach Convention Center – car show in garage and north lot, vendors and sponsors inside the Convention Center

More Recent Events:

- **Pepsi** – hosted a 2 day meeting with room nights.
- **Tiger Rock** – annual Martial Arts tournament from Pensacola area
- **CAI** - North Gulf Coast Chapter of Community Association Institute – education and networking event for community association managers (CAM's)
- **Focus on Change** – hosted by Florida Rural Water Association – 30 room nights
 - Water and wastewater employees came from all over the state at 6 different locations to take advantage of being able to catch up on regulatory updates straight from the Department of Environmental Protection! Each District was there to update attendees of changes that affect their day to day operations. Topics included the Lead and Copper Rule, Lead Testing in Schools, the AWOP Program, updates to Water Tracker, Collection System, Rule Update for Direct Potable Reuse, BioSolids, and Updates on Sanitary Sewer Overflows and reporting them.

Staging for Sea Oat Planting Volunteers



Up and Coming

Earth Day is approaching this Friday, April 22. The community traditionally celebrates with volunteer efforts and community engagement opportunities for a clean Okaloosa. You'll find a collection of events at myokaloosa.com/bcc/leavenotrace, notably [Earth Day Fort Walton Beach](#) | [Earth Day Beach Clean Up](#) | [Keep Crestview Beautiful](#) | [Vacated FWB Homeless Camp Cleanup](#)



Free!!!
Earth Day Beach Clean Up
Saturday, April 23, 2022
8-10 am

Keeping our beaches & parks beautiful!
This free family-friendly event includes: clean up contests with prizes, a post-clean up participant breakfast at select locations, and an event t-shirt (limited quantity)!
(limited number of breakfasts, secure yours & register on-line)

Clean Up Locations:

FORT WALTON	DESTIN	MIRAMAR BEACH
The Boardwalk/Newman C. Brakin 1450 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Fort Walton Beach, Florida <small>Post-Clean Up Breakfast at: The Crab Trap, Okaloosa Island</small>	Norriego Point, Destin Paddle and Beach Cleanup hosted by WET, Inc. 1 Gulf Shore Drive Destin, Florida Mattie Kelly Park & Joe's Bayou 825 Beach Drive, Destin, Florida Henderson Beach State Park 17000 Emerald Coast Pkwy., Destin The Crab Trap/James Lee Park 3500 Scenic Hwy. 98, Destin, Florida <small>Post-Clean Up Breakfast at: The Crab Trap, Destin</small>	The Surf Hut 551 Scenic Gulf Drive, Miramar Beach, Florida <small>Post-Clean Up Breakfast at: The Surf Hut, Miramar Beach</small>

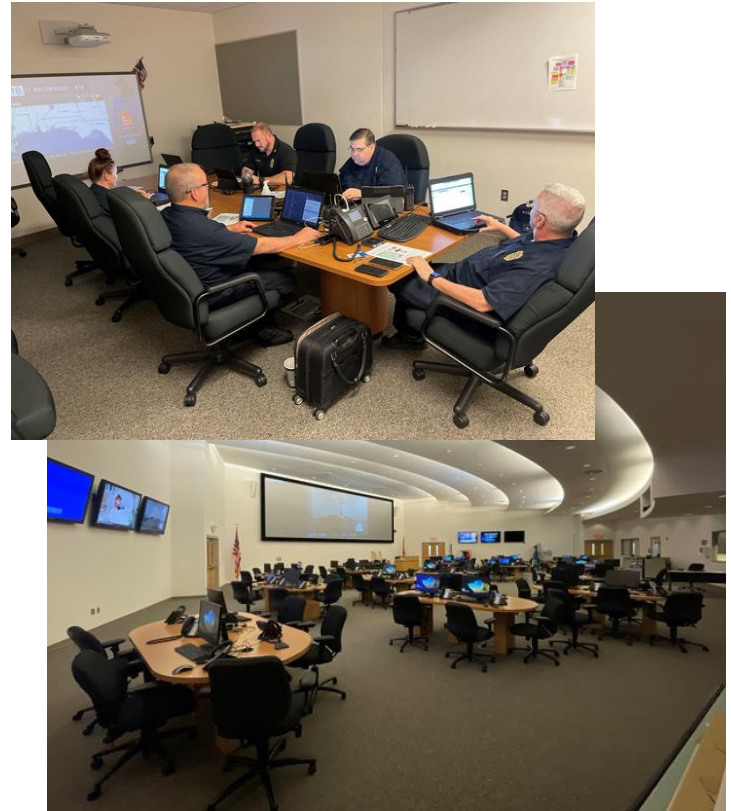
Prizes for the most cigarette "butts" collected at all locations

Scan QR Code for Registration

**** Pre-Registration Now Open ****
B.Y.O.B (Bring Your Own Bucket), Mesh bag, Reusable Gloves, & Trash Pickers
Visit EVENTBRITE.com and search: 2022 Earth Day Beach Clean Up
must select your desired location



EOC Hurricane Simulation Exercise



A simulated hurricane strike exercise will take place on Friday, April 22 at 9 am at the Emergency Operations Command Center in Niceville. Emergency Management, municipal and county leaders will practice assigned responsibilities in the simulation exercise. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of County Commissioners Meeting takes place Tuesday, April 19 2022, in Shalimar at 8:30 am. We anticipate proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention, Take Stock in Children Month, and Distinguished Young Women's Day. A public hearing for the Waterway Rental Safety Ordinance will take place and in Department Business, County Administrator John Hofstad will request approval of proposed settlement of opioid litigation, Growth Management will request approval of the SHIP Local Housing Assistance Program and request direction regarding construction standards in Coastal A Flood Zones and Public Works will request approval of a task order associated with the South Annex Ag Extension Facility and will request approval to apply for the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund. [READ AGENDA](#)

(Left) Following a Monday Airport Advisory Committee meeting, committee members were taken on a tour of Concourse C at Destin - Fort Walton Beach Airport to see the progress of the construction where Allegiant will have five new gates to enhance passenger experience when people come to visit our beautiful area. View photos of this tour as well as artist renderings of what some of the vendor areas will look like... May 2022!



Employee Spotlight

County Employees are making a splash in all sorts of ways this month!

Okaloosa County Career Fair

**March 30, 2022 9am - 1pm at CareerSource
409 Racetrack Rd. NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547**

**TURN YOUR PASSION INTO A CAREER...
THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**



**Emergency Medical Services
Correctional Officers
Lifeguards
And More!**



We'd like to thank Nikki Hatten (Corrections), Shelby Serna (Beach Safety) and Andrew Kindle (EMS) for representing Okaloosa County in the Okaloosa County Recruiting campaign and career fair advertisements!



Chairman Mel Ponder and Coastal Resources Manager Alex Fogg, at the distribution center for the sea oat planting volunteers on Saturday, April 16. Nearly 500 volunteers planted nearly 200,000 sea oats on a 3-mile stretch of Okaloosa Island



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mar. 30, 2022



Congratulations to JEFFREY HYDE!!

Jeffrey has earned his NIGP-CPP certification.

To date, there are 822 NIGP-CPP leaders across North America, representing 41 U.S. States and 5 Canadian provinces. Way to represent Jeffrey.

Okaloosa County Purchasing Manager, Jeffrey Hyde was recently recognized by the Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement for earning his NIGP's Certified Procurement Professional designation (NIGP-CPP) for current and aspiring leaders in the public procurement profession.



Public Safety Director, Patrick Maddox presented to the Emerald Coast Crisis Team, a 30,000 ft. view of Crisis Response.

Month of April Milestones

While, recruiting is certainly important, retention is pertinent to a healthy workplace. Congratulate these monthly milestones when you see them or send them a note of appreciation. We're fortunate to have you on the team!

Congratulations to these dedicated team members celebrating a milestone anniversary!

Years of Service	Name	Position
35	Deborah Angerman	LAW LIBRARY PARALEGAL
25	James Medford	PARTY CHIEF
10	Steven Peacock	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (ROAD)
5	Shannon Clowes	HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
5	Jane Evans	GRANTS & RESTORE MANAGER
5	Jason Nohrenberg	SHOP SUPERVISOR