“Old Cabbage Head” Photo by Phaedra Dolan, Historical Resources. Built by Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia, PA in 1913, “Old Cabbage Head” gets its name from the shape of its smoke stack. Because it has a wood burning boiler, a bulbous smoke stack is needed to catch burning embers that fly out of the engine. The engine was built for Taylor County Lumber Company in North Florida and was used for hauling timber. It is a narrow gauge engine that originally had a wooden cab. It stayed in North Florida until its arrival in Manatee County in 1948 at the Manatee Noccasee Crate Mill Company. In 1952, the Crate Mill went out of business and the train was slated for the scrap heap until residents raised $900 for its purchase. For decades visitors to Bradenton were greeted by Old Cabbage Head with “Welcome to Bradenton” painted on the tender car. In 2002 it was moved to Manatee Village Historical Park and reconditioned.

“The Shade” photo by Andrea LoPiccolo, Child Support Program. The structure which houses the Manatee County Agricultural Museum was once the City of Palmetto’s original firehouse, jail and public works building. In 1995 the community effort began to transform the building into a museum to preserve the area’s rich agricultural history. After years of planning and fundraising, the Manatee Agricultural Museum opened its doors in 2002. The Museum is also home to the Manatee County Agricultural Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is a permanent exhibit that showcases the men and women who have made a significant impact on the agricultural community of Manatee County.
Since its establishment in 1855, Manatee County has had three different county seats and eight different courthouses. The first courthouse was built in 1860 at the cost of $700 on land donated by Josiah and Mary Gates, who were the first permanent settlers of the Village of Manatee. All government activities for the sprawling 5,000 square mile county took place in this courthouse. Today, the 1860 Manatee County Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a part of the Manatee Village Historical Park, where visitors can learn about the lives of Manatee County pioneers.

The Historical Resources Department of the Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court's Office promotes the preservation and protection of Manatee County's past. Working with a variety of not for profit historical organizations and government agencies, we operate two historical villages – Manatee Village Historical Park and Palmetto Historical Park, two museums - Manatee County Agricultural Museum and Florida Maritime Museum, and the first county historical archives in the state, developed in 1978 at the 1914 Bradenton Carnegie Library. Whether restoring historic buildings, collecting artifacts, cataloguing archives, collecting folk ways and culture or designing exhibits and programs to educate our county's residents and visitors, the Historical Resources Department seeks to make the past come alive.

Why is history and historic preservation so important to Manatee County and its residents? That's simple - for the same reasons as it is important to all other communities. Historic Preservation keeps our community beautiful, vibrant, and livable, and gives people a stake in their surroundings. Newcomers exposed to our community's past are more likely to feel a part of the community and become civically engaged. Understanding our community's past also gives us insight into how and why our community developed the way that it did. The character of historic buildings in our landscape sets our community apart from our neighbors, makes us unique and creates a sense of cultural identity.

Key to community building, historic preservation also gives us a shared experience and a place to begin community dialog about the past and the future. Preserving and sharing our local history also provides a sense of stability and a tangible link to the past. Through its Historical Resources Department, the Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller is honored to play an important role in preserving our local heritage for the benefit of Manatee County, its citizens and our visitors.

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Collected in excess of $30 million in child support for the children of Manatee County.

The Violence Protection division aided in the filing of 916 injunctions for protection, commonly referred to as “restraining orders,” for victims of domestic, repeat, sexual, stalking and dating violence during the past fiscal year.

The Department of Financial Recovery (DFR) collects fines and court costs legally owed this fiscal year. Since its inception in July, 2004, the DFR has collected in excess of $16.4 million in fines and courts costs which may have gone uncollected.

278 children ages 10 to 17 participated in Teen Court and Teen Court Too and contributed over 4,673 community service hours to the community. Additionally, 156 youth volunteers donated over 2,543 hours of volunteer time to the community.

1,721 Manatee County students participated in the on-site educational programs offered at the Manatee Village Historical Park, the Florida Maritime Museum, the Palmetto Historical Park and the Manatee County Agricultural Museum. Historical Resources staff served 19,189 visitors in person and provided outreach programs to 14,403 people throughout 2022.

Volunteers at the Manatee Village Historical Park, Florida Maritime Museum, Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum donated over 2,700 hours of community service.

Received our 43rd consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for our 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Received our 24th consecutive GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for our 2021 Popular Report.

The Division of Inspector General issued 2 audits, 6 projects and 2 investigations. The Division also provided approximately 825 consulting and project hours in the form of assistance to other departments and agencies. In addition, the Division provided 328 hours in assistance to the external audit firm in performing the annual audit of the County's financial statements, thereby reducing the cost of the audit services.

Kept minutes at 123 meetings and work sessions for 11 Boards or Committees.

"1918 Carnegie Library" photo by Phaedra Dolan, Historical Resources.
A Message from Angelina “Angel” Colonnese
Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

I am pleased to share with you the 2022 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for Manatee County. This document will help you understand our county’s financial performance and well-being for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 in a valuable, summarized format that every resident can use. Our stewardship of the county’s investments, on behalf of our citizens, is a responsibility we take very seriously.

Growing up in Manatee County, I was privileged to be surrounded by tangible pieces of our community’s past. Historic farms, buildings and landmarks were a daily part of the landscape. One of my favorite childhood memories is of climbing up onto “Old Cabbage Head” to play. Playing on this 1913 Baldwin steam locomotive and piece of local history was a rite of passage for kids visiting the Bishop Planetarium, on the banks of the Manatee River. Little did I know back then the tremendous effort that went into preserving these touch points to the past, which anchored me to my hometown - Nor did I know the part I would play in continuing this important work.

As a young adult, when I first worked under my predecessor, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, R.B. “Chips” Shore, I was aware that he had a deep appreciation for our local history. I loved looking through the old maps and hand-written records at the Historical Records Library of our office. When I was a child, this structure had been the main library downtown. Every time I walked in, I couldn’t help but recall the day when my dad took me to get my first library card at the Bradenton Carnegie Library. I still do!

Years later, through my work with the Clerk’s Office, I would discover that this wonderful collection of old documents was actually the very first county historical archive in the State of Florida, thanks to Mr. Shore’s innovation and passion for historic preservation. I would also learn that this first-of-its-kind archive was only the beginning – The beginning of a tradition of historic preservation that I am so proud to continue along with our many community partners.

As you look through the pages of this financial report, you will see images of our historical parks and read the stories of historic structures that have been carefully preserved through public-private partnerships led by the Historical Resources Department of our office over the past forty-plus years.

Within the pages of this year’s PAFR, we have provided an explanation of the County’s finances. Should you desire more information, the Finance Department of the Clerk of Circuit Court’s Office also produces the more detailed Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR meets stringent governmental accounting standards and is evaluated by rating agencies to assess Manatee County’s financial stability, leading to favorable interest and insurance rates.

It is also with great pleasure that I can report that for the 43rd year, our 2021 ACFR received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. While the responsibility for the accuracy of the data lies with me, the recognition of receiving this prestigious award goes to our Finance Department. All five financial reports prepared by this office; this Popular Report, the Manatee County ACFR, the Port Authority ACFR, the Manatee County Public Utilities System Annual Financial Report, and the Manatee County Annual Debt Report are available online at www.manateeclerk.com. These reports are available by contacting our Finance Department at (941) 749-1800, Ext. 6102. In addition, this Popular Report and the Annual Debt Report are available in hard copy and available in many locations throughout the county, including this office and the public libraries.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Manatee County’s financial strengths. If you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve our Popular Report, please contact my office at (941) 749-1800 or visit our website at www.manateeclerk.com.

Respectfully,

Angelina “Angel” Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Manatee County, Florida for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.
ABOUT THIS REPORT

THE POPULAR REPORT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF MANATEE COUNTY:
Board of County Commissioners and Port Authority
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Property Appraiser
Sheriff
Supervisor of Elections
Tax Collector

This report also provides an overview of the areas of responsibility for each county department and the Constitutional Officers.


Our Popular Report includes condensed information from its statement of net position and a condensed statement of activities with previous year comparative data as well as an overview of county functions and historical data. This Popular Report, because of its summary nature, does not conform to generally accepted accounting principles and associated reporting standards set forth by applicable governing bodies.

The presentation reflects county operations divided into two major categories:

Governmental activities are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as libraries, emergency medical services, law enforcement and transportation. The governmental category can be further subdivided between operations and capital activities. Capital project activities are dollars spent to construct, acquire or improve major facilities of the government.

Business-type activities offer goods and services of the County for sale and are intended to be self-supporting. Examples are SeaPort Manatee and the County’s water and sewer system.

"Cortez Rural Schoolhouse" photo by Tori Chasey, Historical Resources. Once at the core of civic life in Cortez, the 1912-built schoolhouse stands as a lasting symbol of the community’s perseverance. Community and government organizations raised funds to renovate the schoolhouse and grounds. Today this strong old brick building houses the museum’s main exhibits. Boat models, tools, and other fishing equipment tell a story of Florida’s rich maritime history. The museum shares these meaningful stories and offers a snapshot of old Florida through the lens of the Cortez Commercial Fishing Village.
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller share in the fiscal responsibility of Manatee County. The Commissioners and the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller are separately elected constitutional officers and vested with separate powers, according to Florida law. This separation of power provides checks and balances within the county government to help safeguard the assets of the County.

• The Board of County Commissioners are responsible for adopting an annual budget for all departments under the commissioners. The budget, prepared by the Department of Financial Management and presented to the commissioners for approval, governs expenditures by the departments. It is illegal for department managers to exceed their budget.

• The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is responsible for safeguarding Manatee County assets and is personally liable for any losses due to illegal payments. A key part of this responsibility is the control of county funds. Only the Clerk can disburse funds. Before monies are disbursed, all expenditures go through a rigorous pre-audit process. The Clerk must ensure that all expenditures are legal, budgeted and in compliance with county policies and procedures. As an extension of these responsibilities, the Clerk’s office also prepares the financial statements of the County.

• The County’s Utility System bonds have been assigned a AAA rating by Fitch and an Aa1 rating by Moody. These ratings indicate that the County is likely to meet its debt obligations with a low probability of default. As a result, the County will generally have a lower cost of borrowing funds for capital projects.

Manatee County is a non-charter county established under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida. The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative body for Manatee County and is made up of seven residents elected by county voters. The commissioners’ offices are in the County Administrative Center where public meetings are held. The commissioners also serve as the Port Authority board.

In addition to the seven County Commissioners, voters elect five constitutional officers: Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and the Tax Collector.

Encompassing 740 square miles, Manatee County has six incorporated cities within its borders, each governed by city councils elected by residents of the respective city:

• Anna Maria
• Bradenton
• Bradenton Beach
• Holmes Beach
• Longboat Key
• Palmetto

“1887 Church” photo by Nancy Dunning, Records Management. The 1887 church took two years to build due to an outbreak of yellow fever. It was originally the home of the Union Congregation, which later became the Methodist-Episcopal Church South. When the congregation outgrew this structure 1975, it was moved one block south to vacant land, where it was restored as a project to celebrate America’s Bicentennial. This was the beginning of Manatee Village Historical Park. Over the years, this hidden gem has grown to occupy nearly four acres in East Bradenton, where visitors can explore fourteen restored and replica structures and other points of interest to learn about Manatee County’s pioneer past.
The following graphs provide comparative government-wide information, giving a broad overview of Manatee County’s financial position for both its governmental and business-type activities. The values are computed under similar financial rules as private sector financial statements.

- **Governmental activities** are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as public safety, transportation, human services and general government.

- **Business-type activities** offer goods and services for sale and are intended to be self-supporting through the charges for those goods and services.

Components of the County’s financial positions include:

- **Current and other assets** are assets that one can realistically expect to convert to cash, sell, or consume within one year.

- **Capital assets** include the County’s long-term investments in land, buildings, equipment, improvements, infrastructure, and construction in progress. These assets are used to provide services to the community and are not available for future spending.

- **Deferred outflows of resources** represent a consumption of net assets that relates to a future period.

- **Long-term liabilities** represent debt obligations that exceed more than one year. These include pension liability, compensated absences, other post-employment benefits, closure liability; as well as, bonds, notes, and loans payable that are used to finance large projects and equipment purchases.

- **Other liabilities** include debt obligations due within one year. These are also made up of the debt obligations similar to long-term debt, but also include accounts and claims payable, accrued payroll, unearned revenue, and deposits.

- **Deferred inflows of resources** represent an acquisition of net assets that pertains to a future period.

Total net position is comprised of three categories:

- **Net investment in capital assets** is the value of all of the County’s capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and any debt outstanding that is associated with their purchase or construction.

- **Restricted net position** are those assets that have a restriction placed on them, typically by third parties; unspent bond proceeds and related debt and funds set aside for the payment of debt are good examples of these asset types.

- **Unrestricted net position** makes up the last component of net position, representing the resources that are available to finance the County’s on-going operations.

Changes in net position over time are an indication of an improving or deteriorating financial position. Governmental activities’ net position increased by $176,653 and business-type net position had a $104,753 increase in total net position from September 30, 2021 to 2022, reflecting a positive and stable fiscal position for the County.

In the below graphs depicting the changes in net position for governmental activities, we can see the $139,185 increase in capital assets, net of depreciation and the $119,440 increase in net investment in capital assets. These are mostly the result of donated public domain infrastructure, park improvements, transportation projects, and the addition of the Bishop Animal Shelter. Both the $381,025 increase in long-term liabilities and the $160,047 decrease in deferred inflows of resources reflect the large changes related to pension.

Continued on next page...

### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current &amp; Other Assets</th>
<th>Capital Assets</th>
<th>Deferred Outflows of Resources</th>
<th>Long-Term Liabilities</th>
<th>Other Liabilities</th>
<th>Deferred Inflows of Resources</th>
<th>Net Investment in Capital Assets</th>
<th>Restricted Net Position</th>
<th>Unrestricted Net Position</th>
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<td>$1,056,240</td>
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</table>

**Governmental Activities (Amounts expressed in thousands)**

**Business-Type Activities (Amounts expressed in thousands)**
The business-type activities of Manatee County show significant differences in various categories from the prior year’s amounts. The increase of $71,738 in capital assets is due to continuing increases by the utility system for capacity enlargement, donated public domain infrastructure and improvements at SeaPort Manatee. The increase in net investment in capital assets of $66,765 is reflective of an increase in capital assets and less outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The $37,928 increase in unrestricted net position reflects positive balances from continued growth within the County in its tax base and charges for services that may be used to meet ongoing obligations.

The following comparative, government-wide Condensed Statement of Activities and related graphs present the revenues, expenses and changes in net position. Increasing revenues which outpace increased expenses suggests that Manatee County is continuing to experience an increase in overall growth, coupled with controlled spending. Components of these condensed statements include:

- **Program revenues** consist of charges for services, operating grants (grants for daily business activities), capital grants (grants for capital projects and assets) and contributions.

- **General revenues** consist of property taxes, other taxes, state revenue sharing, interest income, miscellaneous revenues and intergovernmental transfers.

- **Other expenses** for governmental activities consist of physical and economic environment, human services, culture and recreation functions, interest payments on debt and intergovernmental transfers.

Overall:
- Revenues increased by around $90 million in the current year and expenses increased $18 million over the prior year’s levels, compared to $120 million and $43 million increase in revenues and expenditures, respectively, between fiscal years 2021 and 2020.
- In the program revenue category, a $35 million increase in charges for services is due to the growth of the local economy, both in residents and tourists.
- Expenses for governmental activities increased $14 million largely due to increases in personal services and pension expense. The prior year also saw increased expenditure activity of $29 million largely due to personal services and operating supplies related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic offset by a decrease in pension expense.
- An increase of $22 million in the current year and $3 million decrease in the prior year are for business-type activity charges for services. Port Authority continued to see an increase in waterborne activity and Water and Sewer recovered this fiscal year compared to the major reduction in consumption by wholesale customers in the prior fiscal year.
Reflected in the spending, the County continues to be committed to providing basic governmental services and public safety expected by its citizens, balanced with those functions whose costs can be managed in the near term with increasing revenues. The County continues to monitor its workforce in order to continue to provide high levels of customer services. Spending for general government, public safety and utilities activities accounted for 72% of the expenses in the current year.

“Heritage Chapel” by Lucretia Rupert, Historical Resources. Of the six structures located in Palmetto Historical Park, only one is a replica of a historic building – or actually three historic buildings. After searching for an original chapel to add to Palmetto Historical Park, it was decided in 1999 to build a replica chapel. The City of Palmetto and the Palmetto Historical Commission worked together to come up with a design for this Heritage Chapel. The church design was based on the designs of the first three churches in Palmetto. It is also built to be approximately the standard size of the original churches, with traditional construction methods and materials.
Governmental funds are used to account for tax supported activities. The classifications of certain financial transactions are recorded per fund accounting requirements. The primary differences between the government-wide statement of revenues and expenses on the preceding pages and the governmental fund statistics on this page are:

- **Government Fund Revenues** include all proceeds from the sale of capital assets, but exclude donations, net revenue of internal service funds and certain deferred revenues.

- **Government Fund Expenditures** include capital outlays for the acquisition of new assets, expenditures for the repayment of principal of long term debt, but exclude deferred expenses and annual depreciation and amortization charges.

### Revenues

**For fiscal year 2022:**

- Revenues in the general government funds increased by approximately $2.1 million from the prior fiscal year; $19.6 million from an increase in ad valorem due to increasing assessed property values, $12.4 million in other taxes due to an increase in tourism, and $11.1 million in charges for services related to ambulance demands.
- These increases were offset by a decrease of $47 million in intergovernmental revenues mainly attributable to the ending of CARES Act funding and a decrease in interest income of $5.1 million.

**For fiscal year 2021:**

- Revenues in the general government funds increased by approximately $119.8 million from the prior fiscal year, with

<table>
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<th>2022</th>
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<th>2020</th>
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<td>$296,105</td>
<td>$276,464</td>
<td>$258,156</td>
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<td>Other taxes</td>
<td>92,500</td>
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<td>Licenses and permits</td>
<td>62,873</td>
<td>54,409</td>
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<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>119,206</td>
<td>166,269</td>
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<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>64,462</td>
<td>53,305</td>
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<td>Fines and forfeitures</td>
<td>9,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>(4,081)</td>
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<td>8,668</td>
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<td>Assessments</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>8,613</td>
<td>6,994</td>
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**Total Revenues:**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$651,742</td>
<td>$649,610</td>
<td>$529,810</td>
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**Percentage Breakdown:**

- **Ad valorem taxes** 45.4%
- **Other taxes** 14.2%
- **Licenses and permits** 9.7%
- **Intergovernmental** 18.3%
- **Charges for services** 9.9%
- **Fines and forfeitures** 1.4%
- **Contributions** 0.4%
- **Miscellaneous** 1.3%
- **Interest income** -0.6%
$77.3 million attributable to an increase in intergovernmental revenues, mainly from CARES Act and ARPA grants, as well as state revenue sharing distributions, and $18 million from an increase in ad valorem taxes due to increasing assessed property values.

- These increases were offset by a decrease in interest income of $7.6 million.

**Expenditures**

**During fiscal year 2022:**
- Expenditures increased $28.2 million from the prior fiscal year. The Capital Projects’ increase of $30.3 million is largely attributable to transportation projects, and the $22.8 million increase in Public Safety expenditures related to personal services and operational expenditures.

- These increases were offset by a decrease of $20.9 million in economic environment expenditures due to COVID-19 grants distributed by Manatee County in the prior fiscal year.

**During fiscal year 2021:**
- Expenditures increased $96.7 million from the prior fiscal year. Economic environment expenditures increased $35.3 million largely due to COVID-19 grants distributed by Manatee County.
- The Capital Projects’ increase of $23.4 million due to transportation projects and the Central County Complex project, and the $17.8 million increase in Public Safety expenditures is largely due to the COVID-19 impact on personal services and operating supplies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General government</td>
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<td>Physical environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$34,368</td>
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<td>Economic environment</td>
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<td>Culture and recreation</td>
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<td>Intergovernmental</td>
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<td>Debt service</td>
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<td>Capital projects</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$610,915</td>
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The office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller (Clerk), an elected public trustee, was established by the Florida Constitution over 180 years ago. Responsible for nearly 1,000 separate duties, the Clerk is accountable to the citizens of Manatee County, not to any elected official, thereby creating a system of “checks and balances” at the county level that has served the public well.

The Clerk oversees a complex organization that performs a wide range of record keeping, information management and financial management in the judicial system and county government. The Clerk serves as the:

- Chief Financial Officer, accountant and auditor to the Board of County Commissioners, and Port Authority.
- Custodian of public records, public funds and public property.
- Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts 12th Judicial District.
- Collector and distributor of court fines and fees, child support and alimony payments and statutory assessments.
- Custodian of court records and ensures that the courts’ orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law.

**Finance**

The Finance Department is responsible for carrying out the Clerk’s duties as the County’s Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller for the Board of County Commissioners and Port Authority. Those duties include:

- Pre-auditing disbursements made on behalf of the County.
- Processing payroll for the Board of County Commissioners, Supervisor of Elections and the Clerk.
- Managing the County’s investment portfolio.
- Maintaining the records and conducting annual physical inventories of capital assets for the Board of County Commissioners, Clerk, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector.
- Preparing financial reports.

Each year, the Finance Department produces the County’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, the Public Utilities System Annual Financial Report, the Manatee County Port Authority Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, the Popular Report, the Annual Debt Report as well as individual statements and reports for the Clerk.

The Clerk is the official record keeper of all instruments required by law to be recorded. Official records are documents such as deeds, leases, mortgages, tax warrants, evictions or other documents relating to the ownership, transfer or encumbrance of real or personal property. Official record documents are electronically scanned, indexed and made available on the Clerk’s website, www.ManateeClerk.com, upon being recorded.

**Inspector General**

The purpose of the Division of Inspector General is to provide independent and objective assurance and consulting engagements designed to add value and improve operations of Manatee County.
Government. As a service to management and the taxpayers of Manatee County, and in fulfilling the Clerk’s role as county auditor, the Division of Inspector General:

- Measures and evaluates the operational efficiency and effectiveness of various Manatee County departments and agencies.
- Evaluates internal controls as well as compliance with a complex environment of federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- Reports to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and the public on how well Manatee County departments comply with these rules.
- Provides consulting services to Manatee County departments that include independent analysis, review, and recommendations for new and continuing processes upon management’s request.

The Division of Inspector General is also staffed with Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs) who can professionally investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, irregularities, employee misconduct, and other illegal acts within Manatee County Government’s operations. Employees reporting suspected wrongdoing are protected by the Whistle Blower’s Act from retaliation by management and other employees. Reporting can be done anonymously using the Division’s fraud hotline at (941) 742-5938, or by using an on-line fraud reporting form.

Courts
The Florida Constitution charges the Clerk with the responsibility of maintaining the records of both the circuit and county courts, and ensuring that the court’s orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law. The Clerk’s office does this by:

- Processing new cases
- Preparing court dockets
- Attending all criminal proceedings and recording disposition of cases
- Determining indigence
- Collecting criminal fines
- Pursuing financial recovery, and
- Preparing and recording judgments.

The Clerk is required by law to summon jurors who are needed in trial courts and pay the jurors for their service. Criminal, civil and traffic court case management information is available on-line on the Clerk’s website, www.ManateeClerk.com.

Windmill Shadow on Agricultural Museum, Photo courtesy of Historical Resources.
**PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

**CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM**
Child Support Program began operation under the Clerk in 1985, when collections were approximately $5,000 per month. That figure has grown to over $2 million per month. Staff attorneys represent the Department of Revenue in civil litigation involving paternity establishment, establishing and modifying child support, and taking action to help parents comply with child support orders.

This department handles cases in which the person owing support or the person due support lives either in Manatee County, Florida, another state, or a foreign country where reciprocal agreements exist for child support services. By law, these services are provided to parents or caregivers who receive public assistance, Medicaid and/or food stamps for the child in their care. Parents or caregivers not receiving such assistance may request child support services free of charge.

Enforcement of Child Support orders for non-compliant parents can be done through several methods such as:
- Drivers' license suspension
- Wage withholding
- Passport denial
- Credit reporting
- Interception of Internal Revenue Service refunds, Reemployment Assistance benefits, lottery winnings and other income sources.
- Court action

Court-ordered child support payments are processed through the State Disbursement Unit.

**TEEN COURT & TEEN COURT TOO**
Teen Court and Teen Court Too were established by the Clerk to provide early intervention of young offenders to prevent a pattern of criminal behavior. Children, ages 10-17, who meet certain criteria are referred to the programs by the Juvenile Assessment Center, the State Attorney’s Office, law enforcement agencies, juvenile court and school resource officers.

Teen Court and Teen Court Too volunteers, who are in elementary, middle and high school, perform the roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys, clerks, bailiffs and jury. Local attorneys, who volunteer their time, act as the judge and are the only adults directly involved in the proceedings. Offenders accept the consequences of their acts through community service, serving on jury duty for other Teen Court cases and any other disciplinary measures sanctioned by the Teen Court jury.

**VIOLENCE PROTECTION**
The Clerk’s Violence Protection Advocate division provides assistance to victims of domestic, repeat, dating, stalking and sexual violence. They help victims by explaining the procedures involved in filing a petition, processing the temporary injunction, attending the hearing for final injunction and requesting modifications, reporting violations of injunctions and assisting in the criminal prosecutions.

**HISTORICAL RESOURCES**
The Historical Resources Division is responsible for the management of some of our most important historical preservations:
- Visitors to the Manatee Historical Village Park experience the lifestyles of pioneer families. The park includes the first county courthouse, a sugar cane mill, a pioneer farm, a boat works, a schoolhouse, a steam train, a blacksmith shop and a church as well as the Wiggins General Store.
- The Manatee County Historical Records Library, the first archival library of its kind in Florida, was opened in 1979. It is housed in a 1918 Carnegie Library. Deed books, marriage licenses, probate files and County commission records, as well as court minute books, are archived there for use by historians and genealogists.
- At the Palmetto Historical Park, visitors experience life through the eyes of local pioneers. They can visit Palmetto’s first post office and library, do a lesson on the slates in the one-room schoolhouse, and even experience old-fashioned chores in the turn-of-the-century cottage. The park also features a military museum and a re-imagined chapel.
- The Manatee County Agricultural Museum highlights the important role agriculture has played in our community. At the museum, visitors can explore the past through photographs, machinery, exhibits, slides and video presentations.
- The Florida Maritime Museum is housed in the restored 1912 Cortez Schoolhouse. The museum is dedicated to the gathering, presentation and interpretation of Florida’s maritime heritage, with special emphasis on the historic fishing village of Cortez.

**PUBLIC ACCESS**
The Public Access Department centralizes the everyday public records requests and provides access to the public for electronic records searches. They also review all electronically filed documents and perform necessary redactions of confidential information pursuant to Florida law. Public Access completed 6,201 phone, email, postal mail and walk-in record requests during fiscal year 2022.
Support services encompasses the following departments:

**Board Records** maintains the records of the official actions of 11 boards and committees in Manatee County, including the Board of County Commissioners. This includes taking minutes of the board meeting and keeping the official records, as well as files and exhibits of official actions. Board Records keeps electronic minute books, scans documents, and offers on-line verification of those minutes and documents, improving the on-line availability of the records to the public. The Board Records Department also takes on the role of administrator for the Value Adjustment Board and Tax Deed Sales.

**Clerk’s Technology Services (TSD)** plans, assembles, secures, and maintains the information systems needed to support the duties of the Clerk in a timely and efficient manner. The department’s Director of Technology Services, Deputy Director, administrators, analysts, programmers and technical support staff ensure that the Clerk’s computer systems and software applications fulfill present and future need. TSD is also responsible for the storing of data and the oversight of records management tasks including records retention, as approved by law, for the entire Clerk’s office.

**Human Resources (HR) Department** is responsible for all typical human resource functions within the Clerk’s Office. From recruiting new employees to training and supporting staff, HR maintains productive working relationships with Clerk employees, while also administering policies, programs and benefits packages, looking for new approaches and innovative practices in all areas of HR management to help develop the Clerk’s employees’ full potential for serving the citizens of Manatee County.

**OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

**PROPERTY APPRAISER • CHARLES E. HACKNEY**
- Annually appraises over 206,600 parcels, including 4,400 new homes added to the tax roll for 2022
- Annually appraises over 12,600 tangible personal property accounts
- Maintains current property ownership records for assessment purposes
- Maintains the county section maps and aerial photos
- Administers all property tax exemptions
- Analyzes and approves all new homestead applications, including 11,172 in 2022
- Produces the ad valorem tax roll annually
- Provides data updates at: www.ManateePao.gov

**SHERIFF • RICK WELLS**
- Provides law enforcement services to Manatee County
- Responsible for all county inmate care, custody and control
- Provides bailiffs and security for court system

**Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller**

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**PROPERTY APPRAISER**

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transactions (i.e. Craigslist)
• Provides daily information to the public, including crime prevention tips and feature stories about the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office, through a variety of social media
  • www.ManateeSheriff.com
  • Facebook.com/ManateeSheriff
  • Twitter.com/ManateeSheriff
  • Instagram.com/ManateeCountySheriff

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS • MICHAEL BENNETT
• Educates and registers voters and maintains accurate voter registration files
  • Registered voters as of September 30, 2022: 279,777
  • Eligible voters in the last primary election (August 2022): 276,298
• Conducts all national, state, local and special taxing district elections
• Uses the state certified optical scan voting system
• Equips all precincts with disability compliant voting equipment
• Provides electronic poll book at all precincts and early voting sites
• Expanded website at: www.votemanatee.gov

TAX COLLECTOR • KEN BURTON, JR
• Collects ad valorem taxes and tourist taxes
• Registers and titles vehicles, boats and mobile homes
• Issues concealed weapon licenses, hunting and fishing licenses and disabled parking permits
• Provides Florida driver license services, including driving tests, and transfers of valid out-of-state driver licenses
• Pre-registers driver license customers to vote in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act
• Performs high speed remittance processing of utility bills for Manatee County Utilities, City of Bradenton, and City of Dunedin and assists in payment processing for EMS.
• Returned $4.7 million in unused revenue to the County
• Various service links are available on www.taxcollector.com

Board of County Commissioners
KEVIN VAN OSTENBRIDGE, CHAIRMAN
VANESSA BAUGH
JAMES SATCHER
REGGIE BELLAMY
MISTY SERVIA
GEORGE KRUSE
CAROL WHITMORE

The Board of County Commissioners governs Manatee County. It has seven members: one elected from each of five districts and two elected at-large for alternating four-year terms. The members select their chairman and vice-chairman for one-year terms.

Board meetings are held Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and are open to the public. The Commissioners also sit as the Manatee County Port Authority and elect officers separately for that entity.

The board makes policy decisions, which are implemented by an appointed county administrator who directs the activities of employees.

The Board of County Commissioners budgets and provides funding for the various county departments and the operations of the constitutional officers. Fees collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller and the Tax Collector provide funding for the budgets of those offices.
ADMINISTRATION
The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to implement the Board’s policies, budget and programs. The Administrator oversees all county staff and departments and is responsible for managing county programs, facilities and services to residents. Intergovernmental relations, legislative affairs, long range planning, impact fees, records management, courier, Manatee 3-1-1, and information outreach are managed through the County Administrator’s Office.

Building & Development Services
The Building and Development Services Department is responsible for maintaining the County’s Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan for unincorporated Manatee County, as well as monitoring and regulating construction to protect public health and safety. The Building/Regulation Compliance program consists of permitting intake, contractor licensing, plans review, floodplain management, inspections, and administrative functions. The Planning and Development program provides land development information and requirements to developers and citizens.

Convention and Visitors Bureau
The Convention and Visitors Bureau promotes our destination to prospective tourists both nationally and internationally. It also manages the Bradenton Area Convention Center, the Powel Crosley Estate, and the Premier Sports Campus, which facilitate hundreds of events annually.

County Attorney
The County Attorney’s Office functions as an in-house law firm providing legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners and its various operating departments. The County Attorney’s Office also represents the Board in state and federal courts and in administrative law settings. The Risk Management Division of the County Attorney’s Office works to reduce the County’s exposure to liability and to enhance the operational safety of county employees and of the general public. Risk Management administers the County’s self-insurance program by evaluating and adjusting claims against the County. The County Attorney reports directly to the Board of County Commissioners.

Financial Management
The Financial Management Department (FMD) develops, reviews and implements the county budget, capital improvement plan and related county policies and financial analytics which contributes to the County’s strategic planning. They work closely with county departments, the county administrator and the Board of County Commissioners in all areas of financial management. FMD provides procurement services for county departments and other agencies. Budget and procurement documents are available online at www.mymanatee.org/departments/financial_management.

Human Resources
The Human Resources Department (HR) administers the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Personnel policies of the Board of County Commissioners; provides employment services, including recruitment, onboarding, orientation, employee retention and retirement programs; provides employee career development and training programs; administers the County’s performance management and merit pay programs; administers the drug free workplace program; provides labor relations services; and provides workforce planning and job classification services. HR also administers the County’s employee health benefits program, including medical, dental, prescription, deferred compensation, life insurance, long term disability, health care spending accounts and wellness programs and services.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
The Information Technology Services Department (ITS) promotes the successful day to day business of Manatee County Government. Under the direction of the County Administration, ITS collaborates and partners with other county departments, Constitutional Officers, and the Courts. The Department manages services that offer and support Applications and Systems, county fiber network, Telecommunications, Radio Repair, Network Infrastructure, Security, and Customer and Business Services.

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NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
The Neighborhood Services Department is made up of four divisions:
- The NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS division identifies, connects, works with, and provides resources to the neighborhoods to guide neighborhoods who are willing to help themselves become a better place to live. Additionally, this division assists with the revitalization of existing or aging neighborhoods by awarding small neighborhood improvement grant funds. Opportunities are provided to residents to voice concerns regarding their area in-person and via the Neighborhood Connections Magazine.
- The LIBRARY SERVICES division, Florida's Library of the Year in 2016, provides resources, services and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) based programs and critical literacy initiatives. They provide engaging programs for all ages, serve as community centers and provide access to meeting rooms, maker spaces (crafts and hobby-type classes), and computers and technology. The Library makes available a large, relevant collection of physical books and unique family resources, as well as digital content featuring eBooks, eAudio, streaming music and movies and full text articles for the educational and recreational pursuits of every age.
- The HUMAN SERVICES division encompasses various sections, who oversee programs designed to assist vulnerable and/or at-risk youth and disabled, elderly or economically/socially disadvantaged individuals to meet the most basic of human needs.
- Veterans Services is charged with the delivery of services for the County’s nearly 50,000 veterans as well as their dependents. These benefits encompass healthcare, disability compensation, long-term and low-income pension as well as housing and education.
- Aging and Eligibility Services provide programs and resources to senior citizens and adults of Manatee County designed to foster emotional and physical stability with the ultimate goal of allowing clients to achieve their greatest level of independence.
- Criminal Justice staff work closely with the Public Safety Coordinating Council. The group is comprised of law enforcement, state attorney, public defender and probation staff, local non-profits and the judiciary. They work to identify and then address criminal justice issues affecting our community.
- Each year, the Children’s and Health Care Services staff evaluates comprehensive risk factors and indicator data to determine the ongoing and emerging needs of the children and families in our community. Funding through use of the Children’s Services Dedicated Millage is recommended by the Children’s Services Advisory Board. These contracted agency programs provide community-based services specifically for children.
- On an annual basis, the Board of County Commissioners provides Non-profit Agency funding to adult and health care agencies providing community-based services. Grant revenues and contracts are employed for several federal and state mandated health and human services programs that focus on services for seniors, caregivers, prescriptions, burials, indigent behavioral and physical health, drug court, and pre-trial screening.

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<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Services</th>
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PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
The Parks and Natural Resources Department is a diverse department that oversees and administers a multitude of recreational, athletic, and nature opportunities throughout our public parks and natural preserves system including beach renourishment projects for Anna Maria Island. They also support the Board of County Commissioners for federal legislation and appropriations initiatives.
- The RECREATION division manages over 40 parks and facilities where staff supervises, coordinates and implements county aquatic, athletic, fitness and racquet sport programs and rentals to the public, enhancing the quality of life for over 500,000 participants annually.
- The NATURAL RESOURCES division manages nearly 30,000 acres of conservation lands for the protection of natural resources, maintenance of the ecosystem services they provide to our community, and to provide nature-centered recreation. Water access and waterway management, including the inspection and installation of aids to navigation, design and administration of County-owned boat ramps and artificial reefs, are also essential functions of this division.
- The ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION division protects natural systems (air, water, soil, and habitats) through regulatory and management programs related to water quality sampling and testing, storm water, air pollutants, fertilizer application/landscaping, pollutant storage tanks, hazardous materials, water well permitting, and phosphate and mineral mining.
- The AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION SERVICES division provides educational programs which brings the resources of the University of Florida to Manatee County to solve local problems, provide educational opportunities, promote economic enhancement and improve the quality
of life for all. Examples of programs include school and community gardens education, environmental sustainability, diagnostic services for commercial agriculture production, shellfish aquaculture and commercial fisheries education, pesticide safety and education, 4-H youth development, human health and relationship classes, Florida Friendly Landscaping, the Master Gardener volunteer program and many more.

- The PROGRAMMING, V olunteer AND EDUCATION division hosts a variety of interpretative hands-on education programs, passive recreation activities, and volunteer service opportunities in Manatee County’s parks and preserves, serving over 10,000 participants while providing over 500 programs annually. This team is also responsible for permitting special events within the parks and preserves as well as hosting regular signature events attended by thousands of residents and visitors.

- The ECOLOGICAL SERVICES division designs and implements large scale landscape restoration projects to improve environmental quality and habitat values in addition to providing guidance to other divisions and departments with restoration and mitigation projects.

**Parks & Natural Resources**

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**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**
The Property Management Department consists of six unique divisions:

- **BUILDING MANAGEMENT** maintains and manages county facilities providing electrical, air conditioning, plumbing and maintenance services; monitors the condition of assigned County facilities and develops and manages renewal and replacement projects.

- **CONSTRUCTION SERVICES** plans and designs renovation projects in County owned structures. Manages vertical and major construction projects for all County departments and constitutional offices.

- **PROPERTY ACQUISITION** manages the acquisition and disposal of real property for the County.

- **ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY** implements energy efficient measures to promote sustainability county-wide.

- **SURVEY** provides survey services for county departments and ensures compliance with State and County rules and regulations for recorded plats.

- **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE** provides maintenance to over 50 parks and over 40 non-park areas, beach facilities, Board of County Commissioner and Constitutional Officers’ facilities and monitors landscaping and general grounds maintenance.

**Expenditures**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**
The Public Safety Department’s mission is to serve and protect its community with compassion, honor and commitment.

- **ANIMAL WELFARE** enforces state and local animal control statutes and ordinances, shelters impounded animals, promotes responsible pet ownership through education of owners on spay/neuter and leash rules, and facilitates adoptions through its own programs and those of its animal rescue partners in the community.

- **CODE ENFORCEMENT** responds to complaints and conducts inspections to ensure compliance with Property Maintenance and Structural Standards ordinances and investigates unlicensed contractors.

- **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC/911)** processes 911 calls from the community, dispatching and coordinating fire, emergency medical services resources and law enforcement agencies throughout the county.

- **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** plans for and assists in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for countywide disasters, including training, public awareness, and technical assistance for disaster plans and procedures.

- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)** comprises EMS Billing, Field Staff of EMS Operations, Community Paramedicine, and the Health Services staff of the county. Providing comprehensive basic and advanced life support treatment, transport services, and access to healthcare to county residents through healthcare planning, healthy living initiatives, and contract funding to ensure efficient and cost-effective healthcare assistance.

- **BEACH PATROL & WATER SAFETY** is responsible for protecting our residents and visitors while they visit our public beaches and aquatic centers. More than just lifeguards, Beach Patrol provides basic life support and advanced life support emergency medical services to our beaches ensuring life-saving measures are being performed before an ambulance arrives. Our Water Safety Lifeguards protect the aquatic centers while providing lap swimming and water recreation for all ages.

**Public Safety**

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**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
The Public Works Department is comprised of three support sections with twelve divisions along with three operational business centers:

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:**

- **ADMINISTRATION** provides clerical support to the Public Works Director and Deputy Directors.

- The **EMPLOYEE RESOURCE CENTER** coordinates personnel matters, safety/training and acts as an emergency liaison with the County Emergency Operations Center.

- **FISCAL OPERATIONS** supports the financial management of Public Works cost centers and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

**ENGINEERING SERVICES:**

- **STORMWATER ENGINEERING** is turning emphasis to the creation of a 20-year Stormwater Master Plan in conjunction with House Bill (H.B.) 53 requirements. Stormwater Master Planning involves long-term identification and prioritization of restoration/rehabilitation and capacity/betterment projects in conjunction with basin management plans. The
Division is actively modernizing Watershed Management Plans (WMP) through intricate drainage modeling. The Division utilizes a network of thirty (30) near-real time rain and stream gauges to calibrate and verify drainage modeling, in addition provide hydrologic data to Emergency Management and the National Weather Service (NWS) with respect to flood incidents. The Division is pursuing Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) Grants with respect to resiliency, sustainability, and innovation with regard to critical infrastructure, flood assessment, and flood forecasting. The Division oversees the design, permitting, and management of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) through stormwater master planning. The Division is also responsible for the design, permitting, and management of outfall sediment removal projects. The Division prepares compliance reports for EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) certification. The Division assists other Public Works Department Divisions with design and permitting drainage matters which may include Southwest Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permitting, and United States Army Corps of Engineers permitting. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) section of the division is responsible for editing and maintenance of geodatabase systems utilized throughout Public Works Department for asset management and service request tracking using “Cityworks” software. Staff perform reconnaissance both on foot and with aerial drones of drainage systems and roadway infrastructure.

CIP DESIGN AND REVIEW provides professional engineering services for Manatee County infrastructure projects including, but not limited to, roadways, intersections, sidewalks, bridges, potable and reclaimed water, and wastewater. The division provides design and review services for conceptual and final designs, project analysis, cost estimating, construction certification, utility conflict resolution, and origination of infrastructure standards and specifications.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW reviews all residential and commercial development plans within Manatee County related to transportation, stormwater, and utility infrastructure for conformance with the Manatee County Land Development Code and Code of Ordinances, and Public Works standards. This includes review of master plans, preliminary plats, site plans, construction plans, and final plats. The Division reviews easement requests from the County’s Property Acquisition Division. The Division coordinates with the Infrastructure Inspection Division through the construction and certification process. The Division works with the Manatee County Health Department and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to ensure compliance with all regulations and design standards for County utility infrastructure. The Division responds to citizen requests related to roadways, access, permitting and utility extensions. Responsible for day-to-day coordination and overall satisfaction of the County’s development community.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING works with other departments and stakeholders to establish and update the project scopes, schedules and preliminary cost estimates for Capital Improvements Projects related to transportation, stormwater, and utility infrastructure. Infrastructure Planning also provides master planning related services to determine utility system requirements for new development and future build-out. This group also reviews, manages, and processes agreements from developers for Board execution.

INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS inspects all horizontal commercial, development and CIP construction projects.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT provides oversight to support the planning, design, land acquisition and construction elements for the transportation, stormwater, potable water, wastewater, and solid waste capital improvement programs. Recently completed and continuing notable projects this year include:

- Extension of 44th Avenue East, over the Braden River and over I-75 to Lakewood Ranch Boulevard
- Fort Hamer Road extension
- Moccasin Wallow Road from US 41 to I-75 and from I-75 to US 301
- Completion of SWWRF New Headworks project and nearing completion of the WTP Ultrafiltration project and SCADA system upgrade.
- Intersection improvements along Lakewood Ranch Blvd and surrounding area

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING responsibilities include planning for the County’s multi-modal transportation needs, engaging the public in County transportation planning efforts, implementing and maintaining the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan, prioritizing proposed capital projects, determining road right-of-way needs, ensuring transportation concurrency implementation and compliance, undertaking traffic study reviews, preparing transportation-related development orders, and maintaining concurrency records for transportation, school, and utility infrastructure.

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING manages traffic signal system timing and coordination for over 100 traffic signals around the County and operates the Traffic Management Center (TMC) for the County-maintained portion of the traffic signal system. The TMC works with FDOT and provides real-time travel-related information through the SMART TRAFFIC website, @941_traffic Twitter account, and Waze. Operating the TMC includes support activities such as Advance Traffic Management System (ATMS) data analysis to proactively address traffic issues and efficiently implement signal timing changes in response to traffic incidents, special events, and planned construction activities. The team monitors signal health/performance and maintains 4 dynamic message signs, 122 miles of fiber optic cable communication and over 490 intelligent transportation system devices. The team also reviews development applications, capital project plans & temporary use permits, and provides design support for traffic signal, signing, and pavement marking projects. They maintain and manage the County crash database, manage the County’s Traffic Calming program, conduct over 800 traffic studies per year in response to citizen requests, and collect traffic counts at over 300 locations throughout the County.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS provides maintenance for 250 State and County signalized intersections, 4,845 streetlights, 373 flashing beacons along State and County roadways, 56,769 traffic signs, 1,116 linear miles of long line pavement markings, and 14,729 transverse pavement markings on County roads.
**FIELD OPERATIONS SERVICES:**
- **FIELD MAINTENANCE** maintains, repairs and improves approximately 1,479 miles of paved and unpaved roadway and related rights-of-way. They maintain over 186 miles of canals, an estimated 36,309 stormwater inlets, all roadside ditches, retention ponds, stormwater pipes and off-road pipes and associated structures. The Field Maintenance Division also manages over $2.5 million in contracted maintenance and repairs for countywide street sweeping, pond mowing/spraying, ROW mowing, sidewalk repair, tree removal, tree trimming, and shell road rebasing.
- **FLEET SERVICES** operates a county-wide fleet asset management program with 1,859 assets of various types and classes. The Fleet Division has four full-service maintenance facilities, each with a parts distribution center. The fleet team also collects and analyzes vehicle repair, utilization, and life cycle data while managing the asset replacement process to maintain a safe and efficient vehicle fleet.
- **FUEL/INVENTORY OPERATIONS** maintains inventory used by all Public Works’ divisions and disposes of county-wide surplus items. Staff manages fuel and distributes over 1.8 million gallons of gasoline and diesel annually. Customers include all county departments and several outside agencies including the Sheriff’s office and Fire Rescue Departments.

**REDEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DEPARTMENT**
The Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Department (REO) was created in October 2016 to focus County efforts on the redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas of the county and to create greater economic opportunities for residents and businesses through housing, community and economic development projects and programs. This includes a strong emphasis on job retention and creation through working with local businesses, implementing redevelopment strategies in the Southwest District (SWD), and providing opportunities for affordable rental and homeownership projects. The department consists of three programs:
- **The REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** encompasses the Southwest County Improvement District, commonly referred to as SWTIF or SWD, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on June 3, 2014. This tax increment district became effective October 1, 2014 with a 30-year life span. In the district, 50% of tax increment revenues are directed to support redevelopment, economic development, and infrastructure improvements that attract investment, increase the tax base, create jobs, improve infrastructure connections, and brand the district.
- **The ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** promotes and facilitates economic prosperity county-wide by creating and implementing strategies that encourage private sector investment, create jobs providing higher than average wages, diversify the economy, and generate tax revenue. The Division administers the Manatee County Economic Development Incentives program which currently includes a portfolio of 47 active projects proposed to make $745M in capital investment and create 2074 new jobs through 2027. We manage three Tax Increment Finance Districts – Southwest District, Port Manatee, and the Parrish Area Improvement District – focusing a portion of their tax revenue on infrastructure and other improvements in those districts to improve development potential. Several other business and community programs such as workforce development, entrepreneurship, small business retention and expansion, and placemaking initiatives work together to achieve the county’s goals of improved quality of life with better economic opportunities for residents and businesses.
- **The COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** administers over $10 million in grant program funds from the state and federal governments for affordable housing and community development activities for low to moderate-income residents. These programs include the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. These programs work together to realize the County’s goals of a diversified economic tax base and improved quality of life with better economic opportunities for residents and businesses.

**Redevelopment & Economic Opportunity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$1,712</td>
<td>$1,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$763</td>
<td>$651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BCC COURT FUNDING**
The Board of County Commissioners funds various costs to assist in the support of the state court system in addition to those costs expended by the Clerk of Circuit Court, including court costs, court administration costs, Public Defender and State Attorney costs.

**BCC Court Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$3,968</td>
<td>$3,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$3,695</td>
<td>$3,345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“1912 Manatee County Courthouse” photo by Phaedra Dolan, Historical Resources. In 1912, the County Commissioners began planning a new courthouse and jail south of Manatee Avenue in downtown Bradenton. The existing wood framed courthouse, built in 1894, was insufficient to meet the needs of the growing county. County Commissioners felt it was important to build a new and modern county seat during a period of economic growth and prosperity. The new courthouse would join several other newly constructed brick buildings changing the face of downtown Bradenton. Today, the exterior looks much as it did over one hundred years ago.
The County provides utility services through various operational and fiscal management divisions under a number of county departments. In 1991, the County combined its existing Water and Wastewater Systems, Solid Waste System and Stormwater Management System into one public utility.

- **UTILITIES DEPARTMENT** operates the County’s water, wastewater and solid waste systems.
  - The Water Division operates, maintains and monitors the County’s drinking water supply, water treatment facility, laboratory and distribution system including meter reading and water conservation efforts.
  - The Wastewater Division manages pumping stations, gravity and force main lines and three regional treatment plants that process wastewater into effluent usable for urban and agricultural irrigation.
  - The Solid Waste Division operates and maintains the Lena Road Landfill, scalehouse and recycling program.

The Utilities Customer Service and Billing Collections division provides services to system customers.

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**, through the efforts of the Field Maintenance Division and Stormwater Engineering, maintains and ensures the flow carrying capacity of the Stormwater drainage system and develops and implements the Stormwater Management Plan. The department also provides engineering services for utilities projects, reviews construction plans, and provides survey locations and record support services for the Utilities System.

- **INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT** develops and maintains a digital base of geo-referenced information about the County’s public utilities infrastructure and produces graphic displays of the information.

- **AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT** administers the water conservation education program for the County Utilities System.

The Public Utilities System’s capacity to pay the principal and interest due on its bonds is referred to as “revenue bond coverage.” Although the system is required to maintain revenue bond coverage of at least 115%, the coverage during the current fiscal year was 419%.

**CONVENTION CENTER**
The Bradenton Area Convention Center provides meeting space for trade shows, sporting events, exhibitions, conferences and private parties. The Powel Crosley Estate provides conference space and an indoor/outdoor venue for both public and private events. These facilities are managed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau and facilitate hundreds of events annually.

**TRANSIT SYSTEM**
The Manatee County Transit Division, through the Manatee County Public Works Department, operates fixed-route/fixed schedule public transportation services throughout Manatee County and into neighboring counties, including Sarasota County and Pinellas County. Fixed-bus routes generally operate Monday through Saturday, from 5:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating and non-operating revenues</td>
<td>$ 217,036</td>
<td>$ 201,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>82,421</td>
<td>52,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>(164,192)</td>
<td>(166,867)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenues over expenses</td>
<td>135,265</td>
<td>86,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>(35,178)</td>
<td>(33,315)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$ 96,881</td>
<td>$ 48,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONVENTION CENTER</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating and non-operating revenues</td>
<td>$ 1,906</td>
<td>$ 1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>(2,435)</td>
<td>(2,469)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenses over revenues</td>
<td>(529)</td>
<td>(1,246)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Tourist Development</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Motor Pool</td>
<td>(55)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(254)</td>
<td>(259)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$ (38)</td>
<td>$ (905)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSIT SYSTEM</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenues and interest income</td>
<td>$ 1,104</td>
<td>$ 867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>10,218</td>
<td>13,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>(16,447)</td>
<td>(13,901)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenses over revenues</td>
<td>(5,125)</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Transportation</td>
<td>4,615</td>
<td>4,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(3,199)</td>
<td>(3,033)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$ (3,709)</td>
<td>$ 2,057</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A trolley service is provided on Anna Maria Island (i.e., AMI Trolley), and operates 6:00 AM until 10:30 PM, 365 days a year. The Transit Division also operates a demand-response paratransit service (i.e., Handy Bus) for persons with disabilities who cannot use the fixed-route bus service. Emergency transportation service to area shelters during emergency events is also a core function of the Transit Division operation.

SEAPORT MANATEE

SeaPort Manatee is the closest U.S. deepwater seaport to the Panama Canal, serving bulk, breakbulk, container, heavy lift, project and general cargo customers. The port generates more than $5.1 billion in annual economic impact for the local community, while supporting more than 37,000 direct and indirect jobs, without the benefit of ad-valorem taxes. In fiscal year 2022, a record 177,108 twenty-foot-equivalent container units crossed SeaPort Manatee docks, up 30.6 percent from moves of 135,660 TEUs in the preceding 12-month period. SeaPort Manatee also achieved a record in total cargo tonnage in fiscal 2022, with 10,777,140 short tons handled, up 6 percent from the prior fiscal year 2021.

A few of the Port’s ongoing projects:
• Ongoing access control systems upgrades include a comprehensive update of port-wide security systems.
• Warehouse 6 improvements are in the process of negotiating the design-build contract. A complete renovation of both the interior and exterior are planned.
• The newly expanded intermodal container yard continues to grow, with an additional 16.56 acres of additional cargo-handling space and a new access road. Construction is planned to commence in 2023.

The Port Authority has loans and revenue bonds payable outstanding, which are secured by and are solely payable from pledged revenues of the Port, primarily net operating revenues and investment earnings. The Port Authority has committed in its bond authorization resolution to maintain certain financial ratios while these bonds are outstanding. The Port Authority was in compliance with its covenants for the year ended September 30, 2022. For more detailed information about the Port, see the Port Authority Financial Schedules at www.manateeclerk.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEAPORT MANATEE</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenues and interest income</td>
<td>$28,010</td>
<td>$22,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>5,483</td>
<td>13,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>(15,293)</td>
<td>(14,576)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenues over expense</td>
<td>18,200</td>
<td>22,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of sales tax revenue</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(5,910)</td>
<td>(5,485)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$12,737</td>
<td>$17,119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“1914 Palmetto Carnegie Library” Photo courtesy of Historical Resources. Palmetto’s Carnegie Library was one of the first libraries built in South Florida. Andrew Carnegie contributed $10,000. The City of Palmetto gave $1,000 and the land. The Ladies’ Library Association gave all the books, library materials and furnishings. In order to access Carnegie Foundation funds, the library was required to have a basement. Mr. Carnegie required a basement in all buildings bearing his name. Hence the second floor is the main floor accessible by the front door, and the first floor considered a basement.
During fiscal year 2022, the County's investment portfolio ranged from $1,185 to $1,545 million. Although most of this money is obligated to various projects, it is invested to provide interest income that is budgeted as a revenue source. The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller invests this money according to a written investment policy approved by the Board.

This policy dictates how the County's money or portfolio can be invested and it:

- assures that any investments are of a minimum risk. Although sometimes higher interest rates are bypassed to do this, the primary concern is to prevent any principal being lost through unsafe investments.
- assures liquidity, or that cash will be available as needed to pay any bills.
- considers yield or interest rate. If risk and liquidity are the same for different investments, the final selection will be based on the highest yield.

The Clerk invests frequently, diversifying the portfolio to generate the highest yield possible. During fiscal year 2022, the investments made by the Clerk earned an average of .6460% and generated $9.1 million in investment earnings. The chart below is a breakdown of the portfolio at fair value, by types of investments.
## PRINCIPAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAXPAYER</th>
<th>ASSESSED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Power and Light Company</td>
<td>$1,229,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropicana Products, Inc.</td>
<td>323,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosaic Fertilizer LLC</td>
<td>208,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace River Electric Co Op, Inc.</td>
<td>136,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>134,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfstream Natural Gas System LLC</td>
<td>126,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Coast Factory Shops</td>
<td>111,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publix Super Markets Inc</td>
<td>92,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93 FLRPT LLC</td>
<td>88,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMG Academy LLC</td>
<td>87,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,538,680</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## ASSESSED VALUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Net Assessed Value</th>
<th>Tax Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$23,257,910</td>
<td>$154,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$24,156,807</td>
<td>$160,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$25,951,635</td>
<td>$172,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$28,219,084</td>
<td>$187,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$30,541,289</td>
<td>$202,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$33,338,703</td>
<td>$221,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$36,030,205</td>
<td>$239,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$38,935,813</td>
<td>$258,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$41,693,993</td>
<td>$276,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$44,939,699</td>
<td>$295,714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PROPERTY TAX RATES 2018-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>School Board</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Unincorporated MSTU</th>
<th>FISCAL YEARS 2022-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.3621</td>
<td>6.3826</td>
<td>6.8760</td>
<td>0.4926</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.4818</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>6.9720</td>
<td>0.4663</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.6580</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>7.1350</td>
<td>0.4795</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.8694</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>7.3310</td>
<td>0.4949</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.1319</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>6.6080</td>
<td>0.4804</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Economic Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Federal Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Population vs Residents per Government Employee

![Graph showing population and residents per government employee from 2013 to 2022]
How to Contact Manatee County Government

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Manatee County Courthouse
1115 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateeclerk.com
(941) 749-1800

Other Clerk Services Locations:

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM
1115 Manatee Avenue West
2nd floor
Bradenton, Florida 34205

CHILD SUPPORT HEARINGS
Judicial Center
1051 Manatee Avenue West
3rd Floor
Bradenton, Florida 34205

HISTORICAL RECORDS LIBRARY
(Carnegie Library)
1405 Fourth Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK
1404 Manatee Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 34208

PALMETTO HISTORICAL PARK
Palmetto Carnegie Library
515 Tenth Avenue West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

FLORIDA MARITIME MUSEUM
AT CORTEZ
4415 119th Street West
Cortez, Florida 34215

MANATEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM
1015 6th Street West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Administration Building
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.mymanatee.org
(941) 748-4501

PROPERTY APPRAISER
915 Fourth Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateepao.gov
(941) 748-8208

SHERIFF
600 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateesheriff.com
(941) 747-3011

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
600 301 Boulevard West
Suite 108
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.votemanatee.com
(941) 741-3823

TAX COLLECTOR
819 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.taxcollector.com
(941) 741-4800

Other Tax Collector Services Locations:

Driver License Office
904 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Lakewood Ranch
6007 111th Street East
Bradenton, Florida 34211

North River
4333 U.S. Highway 301 North
Ellenton, Florida 34222

First Manatee South County Tag Agency
5756 14th Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Self-service kiosk locations at Publix grocery stores:

Beachway Plaza
7310 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton

Lockwood Commons
4240 53rd Avenue East, Bradenton

Parkwood Square
9005 US Highway 301 North, Parrish