



August 12, 2005

Director of Growth and Environmental Management Leaves Leon County

After serving Leon County citizens for 12 years, Gary Johnson is leaving Leon County government, but he will continue his public service as the Deputy County Administrator in Marion County. Gary has served as the Director of Growth and Environmental Management for the last 10 years. County Administrator Parwez Alam noted this position is the most demanding in our organization and complimented Gary on serving the citizens of Leon County very well. Alam said, "He has worked hard to implement the Growth Management laws and to implement the Board policies and directions. We will miss Gary and wish him success in his new job. He will be an asset to the Marion County Government. Their gain is our loss."

VolunteerLEON Receives Communication Excellence Awards

The Points of Light Foundation and the National Network of Volunteer Centers awarded VolunteerLEON, the Leon County Volunteer Center, with two Communications Excellence Awards during last week's National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Washington D.C. "We are proud to have been recognized as one of the premier Volunteer Centers in the country effectively using communications to meet our organizational goals and promote our mission," said Jeri Bush, Director of VolunteerLEON.

The Volunteer Center Communications Excellence Awards recognize volunteer centers that demonstrate excellence in telling their story, whether through traditional printed materials or through a state-of-the-art website. Nominees are judged on overall quality, creativity and effectiveness in meeting the Volunteer Center's communication objectives and the impact the message has on the community. Out of 371 volunteer centers across the country, VolunteerLEON won the technology category for increasing

the number of visitors to the website www.VolunteerLEON.org, and in the brochure category for promoting VolunteerLEON as a full service Volunteer Center.

Congratulations to all the staff at VolunteerLEON for this outstanding accomplishment!

DROP Rollover to FRS Investment Plan Now Available

FRS Pension Plan members can rollover some or all of their DROP accumulation to the FRS Investment Plan, with the Senate Bill 1446 (Chapter 2005-253, Laws of Florida) that passed during the 2005 legislative session. This option allows DROP participants to keep their money in the FRS and take advantage of the low cost investment products offered in the Investment Plan. When a member decides to take a distribution of accumulated funds from the Investment Plan, multiple distribution options are available.

The new law was effective July 1, 2005. If you have any questions concerning this new opportunity, call the toll-free MyFRS Financial Guidance Line at 1-866-446-9377, Option 1, and speak to one of the unbiased financial planners. They can answer your questions about rolling your DROP accumulation into the FRS Investment Plan.

FRS Important Enrollment Deadlines for New Hires!

If Hired in this Month

March 2005
April 2005
May 2005
June 2005
July 2005
August 2005

Retirement Plan Choice Deadline is

August 31, 2005
September 30, 2005
October 31, 2005
November 30, 2005
December 30, 2005
January 31, 2006

All enrollment forms must be mailed directly to the FRS Plan Choice Administrator, CitiStreet.

In Case of Emergency, Dial "ICE"

Europe's emergency response initiative, "ICE," makes headway in Leon County. The concept of "ICE," In Case of Emergency, arose following the recent London bombings in order to enable paramedics to contact victims' families and friends. The idea is that residents save an emergency contact's phone number under the contact name "ICE" in their mobile phones and organizers. Multiple entries can be entered "ICE1," "ICE2,"

and "ICE3." This feature allows medical providers and first responders to easily access crucial information about a patient, which may otherwise remain unknown. Leon County Emergency Medical Services encourages residents to add "ICE" to their mobile phones and organizers—it may be the most important contact you have.

Leon County Engineering Awarded 2005 Professional Development Award

Florida Professional Engineers in Government section, Florida Engineering Society awarded Leon County Engineering the 2005 Professional Development Award during the 89th Annual Conference this month. Charles Wu, P.E., Chief Engineering Design, accepted the award on behalf of the County. Leon County Engineering was recognized for continuing their engineering education and enhancing the engineering profession with members and leaders in various organizations.

The Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and Human Resources were heralded for their support of progressive employment practices and policies that contribute to superb engineering staff and other Leon County Departments and Divisions. Tony Park, Director of Public Works, stated, "I appreciate the engineering staff's dedication and commitment to serve our community and the Public Works Department."

PIO Wants to Know

Time is running out. Don't forget to submit your "PIO Wants to Know" form found in "The Courier" and tell us about yourself. The information will be used in an upcoming Courier article. In an effort to get to know our co-workers better, we want to find out where people were born and raised before calling Leon County home.

Also, did you take an exciting vacation this summer? Did you take plenty of pictures? Remember to share your photos with the Public Information Office to be included in the Leon County Employee's Summer Vacation Photo Contest. Entries will be judged on the following categories: farthest traveled, most adventurous, most educational/enlightening, and most relaxing. The winners will be announced in the next edition of The Courier along with the winning photos. Send entries to pio@leoncountyfl.gov or through the interoffice mail. Call the PIO at 488-9962 for more information.