



# Putnam County NEWS & NOTES

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## COMMISSIONERS ELECTED TO 2003-2004 SMALL COUNTY COALITION

Many of Florida's counties were represented at the 2003 Small County Coalition (SCC) meeting last week in Tallahassee. Putnam County Commissioners Linda Myers and Brad Purcell and County Administrator Rick Leary were in attendance for the three-day conference. Some of the topics discussed at this year's meeting included the impact of the State's budget on small counties, agriculture, transportation, land stewardship, economic development and training for volunteer firefighters. Lt. Governor Toni Jennings was the keynote speaker for Thursday's box luncheon.

The election of the 2003-2004 Officers and Executive Committees was held on the last morning during the Annual Business Meeting. Commissioner Linda O. Myers was elected as an Officer in the position of Secretary and

*Continued on page 2*



## USDA PRESENTS COUNTY WITH MUCH NEEDED FUNDS

In a ceremony attended by local dignitaries, Deputy U.S. Agriculture Secretary Jim Moseley signed a check for \$7,268,000 in federal and state rural development loans and grant money. The money will be used to build the planned East Putnam Regional Water System. The system will help meet the needs of residents and businesses by providing quality water service at a reasonable cost. "This project has been on going for 11 years," said Putnam County Commission Chairwoman Nancy Harris. There have been problems with well water and septic tanks leaking in the East Palatka area for a long time," she said. "We're trying to come up with a way to help the people of Putnam County."

### *INSIDE THIS ISSUE*

- 1** *Commissioners Elected to 2003-2004 SCC*
- 1** *U.S. Department of Agriculture Visits Putnam*
- 2** *Solid Waste & Recycling Collection*
- 2** *Employment Opportunities*
- 3** *Employee of the Quarter*
- 3** *What is an MSBU?*

Continued from page 1

Commissioner Brad Purcell was elected to the Executive Committee.

The SCC is a statewide alliance of commissions in small and rural counties. Its purpose is to provide increased visibility and support to the issues of primary concern to these counties. In addition, the group assists the counties in working effectively with state agencies and addressing legislative issues from a small and rural perspective. The Coalition also establishes priorities, promotes legislation, and coordinates meetings with State leaders and staff.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency Vehicle  
Technician Equipment Operator II - Public  
Works Landfill Attendant - Crescent City, FL  
Equipment Operator IV Grader - Public Works  
Maintenance Worker  
Recreation Supervisor  
Senior Planner

Contact Human Resources  
at 386.329.0221  
for additional information.



## Solid Waste & Recycling Collection

Waste Management is the company contracted by Putnam County, which currently collects solid waste, yard trash and recyclables.

### Collection Calendar

**Solid Waste – Pick up is weekly on the same day of each week.**

**Yard trash – Pick up is every other week.**

**Recyclables – Pick up is every other week on the same day as Solid Waste.**

The City of Palatka picks up its own garbage and yard trash and Crescent City contracts directly with Waste Management for garbage and yard trash collection.

For information regarding collection in the county please contact Waste Management at 328-5445 or 1-800-852-6132. If you are not satisfied with their response or performance, please call the Putnam County Sanitation Department at 329-0395 or 1-800-826-1437.

**Board of County Commission  
September Meetings**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2003  
8:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, September 23, 2003  
8:30 a.m.**

**COUNTY SELECTS EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

Scott Lemmon is the County's most recent selection for Employee of the Quarter and received a recognition certificate and one hundred dollar U.S. Savings Bond. Mr. Lemmon has been an employee of the County for greater than ten years and works in the Information Technology Department as a Programmer Analyst and Software Application Designer. In addition to these responsibilities, he also performs system and database administration. When asked about being chosen Mr. Lemmon stated, "I was a bit surprised by it actually - there's so many other dedicated people working for the County. Still, I'm honored to have been selected."

The employee recognition program was established less than two years ago as a means for fellow employees to nominate coworkers they felt were providing commendable service to the citizens and performing their duties in an exemplary manner. An anonymous five-person committee is chosen at random by the County Administrator to serve a one-year term. This committee evaluates and selects an employee from the nominations provided.

Those selected as Employees of the Quarter are then eligible for the Employee of the Year designation. A plaque and cash gift of five hundred dollars is given to the Employee of the Year at the Board of County Commission meeting in December. The County's Employee of the Year for 2002 is the Department of Planning & Developments Senior Planner Ray Spoffard. A plaque with his name and place for future employees hangs in the County Administration building.

**What are MSBU's and how can they be used to pay for road improvements?**

A Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) is a method to fund an improvement such as road paving or road maintenance through a non ad valorem assessment.

The process for initiating an MSBU is as follows:

1. The County Commissioners may propose a specific project or a petition signed by a majority of property owners stating an interest in implementing a paving or maintenance MSBU for a specific road or area of roads is needed.
2. The deadline for the MSBU application is October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
3. Once cost estimates have been established and informal meetings have been held to establish feasibility, then public hearings are scheduled. These hearings are held in June and July of each year.
4. If the proposed project is approved following the public hearing, the assessment will be on the November tax bill.

Assessments are prepared on a "per lot" basis. In unplatted areas the maximum number of assessments per unplatted parcel is two (2), because a parcel can only be divided one time. Property owners that receive the benefit of the improvement are assessed.

Paving Projects

- Have a ten-year payback with annual assessments on the tax bill.
- Prepayments can be made on or before August 1 following approval of the project. Balances may be paid any time thereafter as long as there are no delinquent taxes.
- Begin in approximately 12 months from the time of project approval.

Maintenance Projects

- Have an annual assessment until such time the project is converted to a "paving" project.
- Begin between February and May of the year following approval.
- A citizen's advisory board is appointed to oversee the work done by an independent contractor.

Funds derived by the MSBU assessment are held by the County to ensure that such funds are used to provide the services for which they were imposed.