

# News and Updates

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October 31, 2025

## President's Message

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It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the **ICMA Conference in Tampa** this month. Having the conference here in Florida was a great opportunity to showcase the innovation and dedication of our local governments and to reconnect with colleagues from across the country.

Mark your calendars for the **free coaching webinar**, "*AI Utilization in Local Government*," which will be held on **November 6**. This session offers a comprehensive overview of how artificial intelligence can be applied in local government operations. Register [here](#) to secure your spot.



**Registration is now open** for the **Fall Symposium**, which will be held **virtually on December 11, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This year's theme, "*Ethics in Public Finance*," promises engaging discussions and valuable insights. The Symposium is an excellent opportunity to meet your four-hour ethics training requirement. To register for the Symposium, click [here](#).

The **FCCMA Directory Photo Contest** opens for submissions on **November 3**. The winning photo will be featured on the cover of next year's directory—showcasing the places and people that make Florida's communities unique.

FCCMA is now **accepting nominations for the 2026 Awards Program**, which recognizes outstanding leadership, professionalism, and service in public administration. These peer-nominated awards will be presented at our 2026 Annual Conference. In addition, applications are open for **Academic and Conference Scholarships**. If someone in your organization qualifies, please encourage them to apply. For more information, click [here](#).

**Registration for the 2026 Winter Institute** opens in early November. The event will take place **February 26–27, 2026, at the Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach**, with the theme *"Finding Opportunity in Uncertain Times."*

Finally, a reminder that **dues invoices** were sent electronically on **October 1**. If you did not receive your invoice, please contact [FCCMA staff](#).

Thank you for your continued commitment to FCCMA and to the profession of local government management. Your leadership and dedication make a lasting difference in the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Sarah

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**MANAGEMENT** IN **MOTION**

*Spotlighting city and county success*



Sarasota County's Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Conversion to Advanced Wastewater Treatment is a landmark project driven by a desire to protect water quality following a severe and persistent red tide event in 2018 that harmed the environment, disrupted tourism, and strained the local economy. These events highlighted the role of nutrient loading in coastal waters and galvanized the community to take action. The project will increase treatment capacity by 50% and install Florida's largest membrane bioreactor, along with biological nutrient removal basins, to achieve advanced treatment standards and significantly reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges. Once complete, the facility will achieve 100% reuse of treated water, conserving potable supplies and creating future opportunities such as aquifer recharge. Designed to withstand Category 5 hurricane loads and supported by redundant power, automated monitoring, and elevated construction, the project ensures reliable operation even during extreme weather. Recognized with an Envision Gold award from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, the Bee Ridge project demonstrates how Sarasota County transformed environmental challenges into a long-term investment in water quality, community resilience, and sustainability.

# Member News and Updates

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The following membership applications have been received:

- **Thomas Bonfield**, Life Member
- **Kirsten Buckland**, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University of Montana, Student Member
- **Michael Fowler**, District II, Interim City Manager, City of Daytona Beach Shores, Full Member
- **Frank Giddens**, District VI, Fire Chief, City of Venice, Full Member
- **Jessica Heinz**, District IV, Master of Public Administration, University of Central Florida, Student Member
- **Elijah Hooks**, District I, Bachelor of Public Administration, Florida A&M University, Student Member
- **Kassandra Lindsay**, District V, Chief of Staff, City of Miramar, Affiliate Member
- **Lewis Loebe**, Vice President, HR Green, Corporate Member
- **Joseph Mahoney**, District II, City Manager, City of Edgewater, Full Member
- **Armando Martinez**, District IV, City Manager, City of Fellsmere, Full Member
- **William McKannay**, District VI, Town Manager, Town of Fort Myers Beach, Full Member
- **Wes Mullins**, District III, Assistant City Manager/Police Chief, City of Cocoa Beach, Full Member
- **Sean Naughton**, District VI, Master of Public Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Member
- **Jessica Pierre-Dweck**, District III, Master of Public Administration, University of Central Florida, Student Member
- **Tristan Sommer**, District VII, Intergovernmental Liaison, Pinellas County, Affiliate Member
- **William Watts**, District III, City Manager, City of Longwood, Full Member

If no current member comes forth with a reason why these applicants should not be approved as members, he/she will be approved for membership.

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## In Memoriam of Ronald Schutta

FCCMA is saddened to announce the passing of Ronald "Ron" Schutta, a member from 1989 to 1993.

Ron was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 31, 1938. He came to Florida in 1952. He graduated from Lake Worth High School in 1956, Palm Beach Junior College in 1958, and the University of Florida in 1961 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was employed by the City of West Palm Beach in 1961, where he served as a Civil Engineer, Director of Traffic and Transportation, Director of Engineering, and completed his career as its City Manager when he

retired in 1993.

[Read More](#)

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This photo is of Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise in Clearwater Beach. The image was taken by Bruno Rivera, Video Project Coordinator for Pinellas County, and submitted for the 2025/2026 FCCMA Photo Contest. The 2026/2027 Photo Contest will open in November 2025.

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## **From Our Partners**

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## FY 2026 FEMA Assistance Threshold Updates

**FEMA Public Assistance (PA) per capita indicators and project thresholds,**  
effective October 1, 2025:

- Statewide per capita indicator: increase from \$1.89 to \$1.94
- Countywide per capita indicator: increase from \$4.72 to \$4.86
- Maximum PA Small Project threshold: increase to \$1,093,800
- Minimum PA Project Worksheet amount: increase to \$4,100
- Florida's statewide PA threshold: \$41,784,082.78 for FY 2026

Additionally, FEMA has announced updated Individuals and Households Program (IHP) maximum assistance amounts, also effective October 1, 2025:

- Maximum IHP assistance amounts: increase from \$43,600 to \$44,800
- Serious Needs Assistance: increase from \$770 to \$790

If you have any questions, please contact your Recovery Regional Coordinator, or contact the Recovery Bureau at [fdem-recovery-questions@em.myflorida.com](mailto:fdem-recovery-questions@em.myflorida.com).

## Multiple Country Comparative Survey on Digital Transformation

This is a comparative survey looking at the USA, South Korea, Colombia, Spain, and Italy on the digital transformation that's happening in our local governments. This survey would be best done by someone in a leadership role who knows about the municipality's technological development and long-term priorities.

Ratna Dougherty, Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida and FCCMA member, is responsible for encouraging US municipalities to participate and share their best practices. [Ratna](#) would be more than happy to share the aggregate results of where we stand in comparison to the other countries! <https://application.qsoftware.net/user/DavideT/> - Click on the "USA\_Research on the determinants of digital transformation".

Please note that as the survey was created in Italy, your municipal browsers may block the webpage. You can either allow the webpage to open at the top right of your browser or open the link on a personal device.

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## Remember the MITs

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### Members-in-Transition (MITs)

Please take a minute to show support for the MITs by emailing or calling the members of your district. A phone call or an email can go a long way to help someone temporarily out of work. You can also help if you have any job opportunities or special projects available for which one of our MITs may be qualified.

With current technology, the project could even be done from the MIT's home. Some of the MITs have provided their resumes and indicated their areas of expertise. The resumes and areas of expertise are now available on the [FCCMA website](#). Also, please keep FCCMA staff informed of any FCCMA members who may be eligible for MIT status. You can email [FCCMA staff](#).

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## The FCCMA Podcast

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Each week, the Florida City and County Management Association releases a podcast featuring a professional in local government. Tune in to discover success

stories, leadership insights, innovative local initiatives, and more to keep you informed.

- **#194 Building Talent Pipelines Through Local Government Internships**  
John Boehm, Assistant to the City Manager, Palm Beach Gardens
- **#195 Leading Green Cove Springs with Purpose and Practical Growth**  
Steve Kennedy, City Manager, Green Cove Springs
- **#196 Supporting the Soul of City Management: Well-Being and Innovation**  
Kathleen Gunn, former Deputy Village Manager, Miami Shores
- **#197 Rethinking Governance, Language, and Community Engagement**  
Lee Feldman, FCCMA Past President

[Click to Hear the Latest FCCMA Podcasts](#)

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## Perspectives

Hear local government leaders share advice they'd give to those aspiring to enter public service.



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## Featured Member



## **Meet Ashley Stathatos, Assistant City Manager, Lakeland**

### **How long have you been an FCCMA member, and why did you join?**

I am a new FCCMA member. I joined FCCMA for the training and professional development opportunities the organization provides and to be a part of a network of professional managers that support each other in activities that make our communities stronger.

### **Are you an ICMA member? Why did you join, and how long have you been a member?**

I am a new ICMA member. I joined ICMA to share information, collaborate with peers, and keep up with the latest trends in local government. ICMA allows me to expand my horizons and learn about new and innovative ways cities are serving their communities. I am also a big supporter of ICMA's efforts to advocate for professional local governance.

[Read More](#)

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## **Member Article**

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## **Constructive Lessons for City Management from Education Service #1 (3-Dimensional School Communication App)**

***By Troy Bell***

School systems across the country are currently using communication apps to handle proprietary communication throughout:

- The district (staff, schools, parents)
- The individual schools (within and between schools – teachers and parents)
- Within each classroom (between parents and teachers)

As a result of the effectiveness experienced with such a 3-dimensional School Communication App – with personnel, with constituents, and between participants – to ensure validated information is disseminated and dialogue is encouraged and facilitated between constituents and staff, and (in prescribed cases) between participants or participating organizations, our city explored the use of such an app on a city-wide basis.

[Read More](#)

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# **Professional Management Matters**

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On Friday, October 3, 2025, FCCMA held an on-site training at Florida Gulf Coast University on Local Government Housing Issues in Florida. Students and local government employees learned how local officials explored practical approaches to housing challenges and learned how communities across Florida are creating innovative solutions to support residents at all income levels.

## Events and Trainings

**November 6**  
**2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
[FCCMA Coaching Webinar](#)

**December 11, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
[Fall Symposium](#)

**Deadline to submit**  
**January 12 at 5:00 p.m.**  
[2026 FCCMA Awards Program](#)

**Deadline to submit**  
**February 9 at 5:00 p.m.**  
[2026 FCCMA Academic Scholarship](#)

Deadline to submit  
December 1  
[2026 Internship Program](#)

Deadline to submit  
February 9 at 5:00 p.m.  
[2026 FCCMA Emerging Leaders  
Conference Scholarship](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars

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Save the date for future webinar offerings!

November 6, 2025	AI Utilization in Local Government
January 8, 2026	Emergency Certification 101
February 5, 2026	From Planning to Progress: How Cities Build Buy-In and Deliver Long-Term Strategic
March 5, 2026	Staying Centered in Divided Times
April 2, 2026	Legislative Session Roundup
May 7, 2026	Hot Topics in HR
June 11, 2026	ADA Compliance
July 9, 2026	Rebuilding Trust
August 6, 2026	Municipal Charter Revamp
September 3, 2026	Requirements from the State

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## Jobs

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Below is a list of active FCCMA job advertisements accessible on our website.  
[Click here](#) for details.

**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Clinical Supervisor (OPUS)  
**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Clinical Data Management Supervisor  
**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization, Executive Director  
**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Outreach Library Specialist  
**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Program Manager (Foster Grandparent Program)  
**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Program Specialist (Foster Grandparent Program)  
**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Tourist Marketing Coordinator  
**DAYTONA BEACH SHORES** – City Manager  
**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS** – Finance Director  
**DELRAY BEACH** – Purchasing Agent  
**DUNDEE** – Administrative Utilities Manager  
**DUNDEE** – Finance Director  
**ESTERO** – Deputy Village Manager  
**FORT MEADE** – City Manager  
**HARDEE COUNTY** – Procurement Coordinator/Buyer  
**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** – Solutions Analyst (.NET Developer)  
**JACKSONVILLE** – Attorney II – Labor and Employment  
**JACKSONVILLE** – City Magistrate  
**JUPITER INLET COLONY** – Police Chief  
**LAKE COUNTY** – Management & Budget Director  
**MADISONVILLE, TX** – City Manager

**OCALA** – Recreation and Parks Director  
**OLDSMAR** – Director of Public Works  
**PALM COAST** – Utility Asset Manager  
**PALM COAST** – Utility Assistant Director, Planning & Engineering  
**PALM COAST** – Utility Development Engineer  
**PALM COAST** – Utility Project Engineering & Construction Manager  
**PINELLAS COUNTY** – CRA and Economic Development Coordinator  
**PINELLAS COUNTY** – Director, Vertical Construction Services  
**PINELLAS PARK** – Assistant Administrator, Management and Budget  
**PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY** – Project Manager II  
**PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY** – Marketing Coordinator  
**PLANT CITY** – Director of Procurement  
**RICHARDSON, TX** – Assistant Director of Engineering – Capital Projects  
**SAFETY HARBOR** – Executive Assistant to the City Manager  
**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Assistant Fire Chief of Operations  
**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Compliance Coordinator - HERO Program  
**SEMINOLE COUNTY** – County Engineer  
**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Fire Dept. Business Operations and Administration Manager  
**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Fire Dept. Quality and Clinical Coordinator

**MAITLAND** – Risk Management & Human Resources Analyst  
**MARIANNA** – Main Street Executive Director  
**MELBOURNE BEACH** – Town Manager  
**MIAMI BEACH** – Facilities and Fleet Management Director  
**NEW SMYRNA BEACH UTILITIES** – Finance Director  
**NORTH MIAMI BEACH** – City Manager  
**NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT** - Director of Planning

**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Program Coordinator - Homeless & Poverty System  
**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Senior Housing Coordinator  
**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Warehouse Supervisor  
**SILVERTON, OR** – Public Works Director  
**ST. PETE BEACH** – Director of Human Resources  
**WACO, TX** – City Manager  
**WESTLAKE** – City Manager/Chief Administrative Officer

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