

From: Florida City and County Management Association <fccma@flcities.com>
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 8:00 AM
To: Carol Russell
Subject: FCCMA February 2026 Newsletter

News and Updates



February 27, 2026

President's Message

Congratulations to the **City of Cape Canaveral**—winner of the FCCMA Annual Photo Contest! Thank you to all who participated and shared your incredible images. This year's submissions highlighted the beauty, diversity, and unique character of our Florida communities. Our runners-up, the **Town of Longboat Key**, the **Village of Palm Springs**, and the **City of Oviedo**, also submitted outstanding photos that truly showcased the spirit of local government.



We speak so often about the current divisiveness in our communities. You won't want to miss our next free coaching webinar, "**Staying Centered in Divided Times**," on March 5 at 2:00 p.m. This session will address the growing challenges of public incivility and offer practical strategies for maintaining organizational stability. The discussion will focus on balancing transparency with the need to support the mental and physical well-being of public staff. To register, use the link provided [here](#).

The next Onsite Training, **AI for Local Governments: Challenges and Opportunities**, will be held on Friday, April 3, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at

Florida Gulf Coast University. City and County Managers from across Southwest Florida will share insights on AI implementation, its challenges, and the opportunities it presents. This will be an informal, interactive discussion designed to strengthen collective learning. **Register [here](#).**

Are you looking to get more involved and contribute to FCCMA? Sign-ups for the **2026–2027 FCCMA Committees** will open next month. Participating in a committee is a great way to connect with colleagues, share your expertise, and help shape the future of the Association.

And finally, please save the date for the **FCCMA 2026 Annual Conference**, scheduled for May 27–30 at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway. We look forward to bringing our members together for another year of learning, collaboration, and professional growth. Registration will open in mid-March.

Thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening our profession and your communities. I appreciate all you do each day to support effective, ethical local government in Florida.

Sincerely,

Sarah



MAY 27-30, 2026

FCCMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Registration opens in mid-March.

MANAGEMENT IN **MOTION**
Spotlighting city and county success

CITY OF OLDSMAR

Two hurricanes, three award recognitions. The City of Oldsmar has been recognized for its hurricane preparedness and recovery efforts through three formal honors: the Florida League of Cities' Municipal Achievement Award in the category of Local Action, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Future of the Region Award for Community Preparedness and Resiliency, and Special Congressional Recognition by Senator Ashley Moody. These recognitions reflect the City's emphasis on proactive planning, clear communication, and strong community partnerships, including initiatives such as the Pledge to Evacuate campaign developed in partnership with Mike's Weather Page and the formation of the Oldsmar Support Alliance to coordinate post-storm assistance.

Together, these awards highlight Oldsmar's commitment to building a resilient community and continuously improving its emergency management and recovery practices. For more information about Oldsmar's preparedness and recovery programs, visit www.oldsmarstrong.com.

Member News and Updates

The following membership applications have been received:

- **Edward Badamo**, District III, Regional Director, American Medical Response, Corporate Member
- **Elizabeth Jones**, District III, Strategic Performance Manager, City of Sanford, Affiliate Member
- **John Andrew "Andy" LaFear**, District II, VP - Government Deposits, Fiserv, Corporate Member
- **Richard Levey**, District III, Managing Director, Levey Consulting, LLC, Corporate Member
- **Jo Laurie Penrose**, District I, Master of Arts in Public Interest Communications, University of Florida, Student Member
- **Quentin Pough**, District V, Assistant City Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale, Full Member
- **Roger Omenhiser**, District VI, Assistant City Manager, City of Venice, Full Member
- **Nicole Rissler**, District VI, Assistant County Administrator, Sarasota County, Full Member
- **Liliya Sablukova**, District VI, Chief Financial Officer, Lakewood Ranch Inter-District Authority, Affiliate Member
- **Joseph Taylor**, District II, Town Manager, Town of Orange Park, 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.

As a part of the FCCMA Professional Management Matters initiative, the City of Longwood's District Mayors, City Council, and City Manager were recognized for 40 years of the Council-Manager form of government by Senior Advisor George Forbes.



Pictured left to right: City Manager William Watts, District 1 Deputy Mayor Abby Shoemaker, District 5 Mayor Brian Sackett, District 2 Commissioner Tony Boni, District 3 Commissioner Matthew McMillan, and District 4 Commissioner Matt Morgan.

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Call for Entries: 2026 Florida League of Cities Municipal Achievement Award



Is your city leading the way in innovation, sustainability, or community engagement? The **Florida League of Cities Municipal Achievement Award** program highlights innovations and excellence in municipal government. The deadline to submit nominations is **March 27**. [Learn More](#) | [View Brochure](#)

Submit your entry and gain well-deserved recognition for your city's achievements. For more information, contact [Eryn Alcorn](#).

ICMA Cities4Cities Partnership Opportunities

ICMA's strategic ally, Cities4Cities, is offering U.S. communities the chance to participate in virtual, peer-to-peer partnerships with Ukrainian cities. These partnerships require no financial support and focus on sharing best practices, exchanging ideas, and building connections between local government leaders.

Several collaborations have already formed following last year's ICMA Annual Conference in Tampa, including Hillsborough County with Lviv, the City of Monterey with Shabo, and Bozeman, Montana, with Kopychyntsi. Additional Ukrainian cities are now seeking partners.

Partnerships are flexible, with timelines determined by the cities involved.

[Read More](#)

Remember the MITs

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](#).



Nominate a Life Saver: Recognizing FCCMA Members Who Hire Members-in-Transition

Are you a Member-in-Transition (MIT) who has been hired by an FCCMA member, or do you know an FCCMA member who has hired an MIT? If so, consider nominating them for the prestigious Life Saver Award!

Since 1993, FCCMA has been dedicated to supporting full members who have separated from their local government. A key part of this effort is encouraging FCCMA members to hire MITs for special projects and/or interim positions whenever possible.

The Life Saver Award recognizes FCCMA members who have made a significant impact by hiring an MIT, helping to provide them with the opportunity and support needed during their career transition.

If you know an FCCMA member who has hired an MIT since June 2025, please email FCCMA staff at FCCMA@flcities.com to submit a nomination.

Let's celebrate those who play a crucial role in supporting our members in transition!

The FCCMA Podcast

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.

- **#209 Developing Leaders from Within Coral Springs**
Dale Pazdra, Deputy City Manager, Coral Springs, and Kathy Reul, Director of Human Resources, Coral Springs
- **#208 Focus, Growth, and Leading with Purpose in Local Government**
Ryan Leak, Motivational Speaker and Author
- **#207 Building Culture and Promoting from Within in North Lauderdale**
Michael Sargis, City Manager, North Lauderdale

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

Perspectives

Hear Florida's local government leaders discuss the ways they stay connected with the everyday experiences of their residents.



Featured Member



Meet Alfred Battle, Assistant City Manager, City of Clearwater

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

I joined FCCMA after starting with the City of Clearwater in May 2025.

Are you an ICMA member? How long have you been a member?

I am an ICMA member. I have been a member since 2018.

Please describe your areas of

formal/advanced education.

MPA, Certified Economic Development Finance Professional, Certified Housing Finance Development Professional, Graduate of Executive Leadership Institute – National Forum for Black Public Administrators

Why did you select a career in public service?

Working as a student intern in local government as a college student provided the opportunity to work in the public sector in economic development.

[Read More](#)

Events and Trainings

March 5, 2026

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[FCCMA Coaching Webinar](#)

April 3, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[FCCMA Onsite Training](#)

Florida Gulf Coast University

Upcoming Webinars

Save the date for future webinar offerings!

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

Jobs

Below is a list of active FCCMA job advertisements accessible on our website.

[Click here](#) for details.

AZLE, TX – City Manager
COLUMBUS, GA – City Manager
DANIA BEACH – Public Services Director
FARMERSVILLE, TX – City Manager
FLORIDA NON-PROFIT HOUSING – Self-Help Specialist
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Network Engineer
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Senior Oracle HCM Cloud Technical Analyst
HOMESTEAD – Assistant Director of Procurement & Contracts
HOMESTEAD – Assistant Director of Solid Waste
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH – Communications Manager
JACKSONVILLE – Chief Executive Officer – Kids Hope Alliance
LA VISTA, NE – City Administrator
LAREDO, TX – Human Resources Director
LARGO – Director of Information Technology
LIVE OAK – Public Works Director
MARCO ISLAND – City Manager
MIAMI – Budget Administrator

NEW PORT RICHEY – Assistant Public Works Director
PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY – Accountant
PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY – Sr. Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis
PLAINVIEW, TX – Director of Finance
PORT ORANGE – Purchasing Manager
SARASOTA COUNTY – Director – Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources
SARASOTA COUNTY – Environmental Permitting Manager (Manager II)
SARASOTA COUNTY – Fiscal and Compliance Consultant III - Housing and Community Development Programs
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY – School Board Attorney
STAYTON, OR – City Engineer
SUWANNEE COUNTY – Grants and Projects Manager
TAMPA – Risk Manager
TEMPLE, TX – Director of Planning & Development Services
WARRENTON, OR – City Planner
VALDOSTA, GA – City Manager

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