

From: Florida City and County Management Association <fccma@flcities.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Carol Russell
Subject: FCCMA September 2026 Newsletter

News and Updates



September 30, 2026

President's Message

As we head into a new fiscal year, there are a lot of exciting things happening with FCCMA. The new fiscal year begins on **October 1**, and FCCMA dues invoices will be sent out this week. If you don't receive your invoice, please contact FCCMA staff at fccma@flcities.com.

We are also pleased to welcome **Ana Garcia and Steve Kennedy as FCCMA's new Senior Advisors**. We are grateful for their service and leadership and look forward to the experience and guidance they will bring in support of our members. Please join me in giving Ana and Steve a warm welcome.



FCCMA is now **accepting nominations for the 2027 Awards Program**, which recognizes outstanding leadership, professionalism, and service in public administration. These peer-nominated awards will be presented at our 2027 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](#).

One of FCCMA's most important responsibilities is helping prepare the next generation of local government leaders. Through our Next Generation Internship Program, FCCMA will provide **\$10,000 stipends to four local governments** to host interns during the summer of 2027. The program gives students meaningful project experience, mentorship, and opportunities to connect with professionals in our field. **Applications will open on October 5 and are due November 30.**

Looking ahead, **save the date for the 2026 Ethics Fall Symposium on December 10 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The virtual symposium will meet the **four-hour annual ethics training requirement**. More information will be available in October.

Our next free coaching webinar is **October 1 at 2:00 p.m.** and will focus on **Public Safety in Florida: Trends, Costs, and What's Coming**. I encourage you to [register](#) and join us for this timely discussion.

For those attending the **2026 ICMA Annual Conference in Long Beach, California, October 17-21**, I hope you'll join us for the FCCMA Networking Reception on **Monday, October 19, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at Parkers' Lighthouse | Queensview. The cost is **\$50 for non-corporate members and \$250 for corporate members**, and includes two drink tickets and heavy hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar will also be available. **Registration is [open](#) through October 5.**

Finally, the **2026 FCCMA Directory** was sent out earlier this month. This year's cover features the winning image from the **City of Cape Canaveral**, overlooking the Banana River Lagoon at sunset during a routine reef arches inspection. If you haven't received your directory, please contact [FCCMA staff](#).

As we begin a new fiscal year, thank you for your continued support of FCCMA. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the year ahead.

We're all in this together.

Terry Atchley



Resilient Ponce Inlet: A Long-Term Approach to Community Adaptation

By Patty Rippey, Principal Planner, Town of Ponce Inlet

The Town of Ponce Inlet is advancing long-term resilience efforts through its "Resilient Ponce Inlet Adaptation Plan," a strategic framework designed to guide future infrastructure investments, policy decisions, and community planning related to flooding, stormwater management, and sea level rise.

Supported by funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program, the plan builds on previous technical studies and infrastructure assessments. The process included collaboration with Town leadership, advisory boards, and community stakeholders to identify vulnerabilities and establish priorities for future action.

Key infrastructure recommendations include upgrading stormwater systems in flood-prone areas, expanding stormwater storage capacity, and improving riverfront and canal drainage systems to reduce flooding caused by tidal backflow and heavy rainfall. The plan also outlines policy initiatives such as exploring a stormwater utility, strengthening on-site stormwater retention requirements, and pursuing easement and property acquisition strategies to support future improvements.

In addition, the plan identifies potential state and federal funding opportunities to help implement resilience projects over time. By establishing both near- and long-term priorities, the Adaptation Plan provides a flexible roadmap to help Ponce Inlet adapt to changing environmental conditions while supporting sustainable community growth.

The Adaptation Plan and related resilience planning documents are available on the Town of Ponce Inlet's "[Resilient Ponce Inlet](#)" webpage.

Member News and Updates

The following membership applications have been received:

- **Maura Baker**, District VI, ICMA Fellow, Sun 'n Lake Sebring Improvement District, Student Member
- **Melissa Dickens**, District VII, Division Director, Hillsborough County, Affiliate Member
- **Ernest Dzomeku**, District VI, Master of Public Administration, Georgia Southern University, Student Member
- **David MacNeill**, District VIII, Master of Public Administration, University of South Florida, Student Member
- **Sandra McCready**, District V, Acting Town Manager, Town of Surfside, Full Member
- **Dr. James Poag**, District V, Full Member

- **Claudine Rydquist**, District II, Master of Public Administration, University of North Florida, Student Member
- **Denise Whitehead**, District VI, City Administrator, City of Okeechobee, 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.

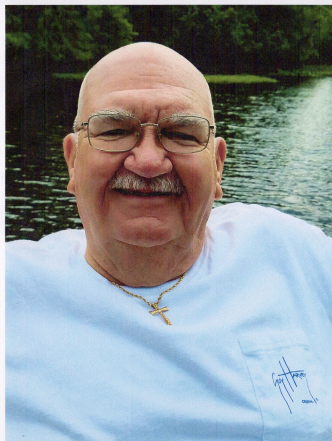


In Memoriam: Barry R. Evans

FCCMA is saddened to announce the passing of **Barry R. Evans**, a member since 1990.

He was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, and grew up in western Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. He graduated from Thiel College with a bachelor's degree in history in 1954 and from the University of Pennsylvania with a master's degree in governmental administration in 1956. From 1956 to 1958, he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia.

Click [here](#) to access his obituary.



In Memoriam: Richard Quigley

FCCMA is saddened to announce the passing of **Richard Quigley**, a member since 1977.

Richard Quigley, who served two years as Daytona Beach city manager in the early 2000s and in other local government roles for decades, died on Aug. 13 at age 83.

The Queens, New York native, who also grew up on Long Island before making his way to Florida, was married to his wife, Pat, for 64 years.

Click [here](#) to read more.

As part of the FCCMA Professional Management Matters initiative, the City of Winter Garden's Mayor, Commissioners, and City Manager were recognized for 65 years of Commission-Manager form of government by Senior Advisor Tom Harmer.



Pictured left to right: Commissioner Chloe Johnson-Brunson, City Manager Jon Williams, Mayor John Rees, Senior Advisor Tom Harmer, Commissioner Iliana Jones, and Commissioner Lisa Bennett.

As part of the FCCMA Professional Management Matters initiative, Osceola County's Chairman and Vice Chairwoman, Commissioners, and County Manager were recognized for 25 years of Commission-Manager form of government by Senior Advisor Tom Harmer and Senior Advisor George Forbes.

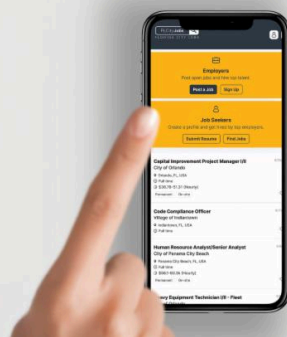


Pictured left to right: Vice Chairwoman Cheryl Grieb, Commissioner Viviana Janer, County Manager Don Fisher, Senior Advisor Tom Harmer, Chairman Brandon Arrington, Commissioner Peggy Choudhry, Commissioner Ricky Booth, and Senior Advisor George Forbes.

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Reminder: Local Government Financial Reporting Deadline Approaching

Sections 129.03 and 166.241, F.S., require counties and municipalities to annually submit certain budget and economic information to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR). The 2026 reporting deadline is approaching. **If your city or county has not already submitted its report, be sure to do so by October 15th.**

The report requires information related to government spending, debt, employee salaries and benefits, and affordable housing expenditures. EDR provides the required forms, instructions, and additional information for completing the report. [Click here for more information on the 2026 reporting material.](#)

For information on other mandatory reporting requirements and upcoming deadlines, visit the [FLC Reporting Requirements webpage](#).

ICMA | Coaching Program

[Career Compass No. 125: Navigating Through the Fog](#)

Do big challenges facing your organization and community create a lot of uncertainty and even conflict? How do you lead when you don't know the way? How do you navigate the fog? Click [here](#) for ten approaches to navigating the fog.

For more Career Compass Archives, [click](#) here.

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](#).

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.

- **#230 The Intersection of Strategy and Infrastructure in Key Biscayne**
Steve Williamson, Village Manager of Key Biscayne
- **#231 Turning Around a Divided City in Ferris, Texas**
Brooks Williams, City Manager of Ferris, Texas
- **#232 Prepare to Recover (FMEA Public Powercast Special Feature)**
Kevin Guthrie, former Executive Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management
- **#233 Storm Ready in Tallahassee (FMEA Public Powercast Special Feature)**
Mike Crow, Assistant General Manager for Power Delivery at the City of Tallahassee

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

Perspectives

Hear local government leaders across Florida discuss one thing about their community they feel other people should know about.



Featured Member



Meet Christella Jean-Pierre, Strategic Innovation Consultant, City of Tallahassee

How long have you been an FCCMA member and why did you join? Are you an ICMA member? Why did you join, and how long have you been a member?

I have been an FCCMA member since January 2026, and I am also an ICMA member, having joined around the same time. I pursued both memberships to deepen my understanding of local government, particularly in the areas of service delivery and operational management. These professional affiliations align closely with my role as a Strategic Innovation Consultant with the City of Tallahassee, providing valuable exposure to best practices, peer learning, and the exchange of ideas that strengthen effective local governance.

Please describe your areas of formal/advanced education.

I hold a Master of Social Work, which provided advanced training in community organizing, program development, policy analysis, and administration to address systemic challenges. I also earned a Master of Public Administration, which strengthened my capacity to lead public-serving organizations.

Why did you select a career in public service?

I was drawn to public service as a means to support stronger service delivery and improved quality of life because local government shapes residents' everyday experiences in very real ways. I selected this career path to gain a deeper understanding of local government while contributing to efforts that enhance community well-being and help create better outcomes for the people we serve.

[Read More](#)

Events and Trainings

October 1, 2026

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

[FCCMA Coaching Webinar](#)

October 19, 2026

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[2026 FCCMA Reception at ICMA](#)

Parkers' Lighthouse | Queensview

435 Shoreline Drive #1

Long Beach, California

October 30, 2026

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

[FCCMA Onsite Training](#)

Florida Gulf Coast University

November 5, 2026

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

[FCCMA Coaching Webinar](#)

Save the Date

December 10, 2026

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST

Fall Symposium

Upcoming Webinars

Save the date for future webinar offerings!

October 1, 2026

Public Safety in Florida: Trends, Costs, and What's Coming

November 5, 2026

Onboarding New Elected Officials – Building Trust Before the First Agenda Packet

January 7, 2027

Building an Effective Legislative Advocacy Program

February 4, 2027	Grant Opportunities – How to determine which grant could serve your project? Strategies for Securing Grant Funding
March 4, 2027	How to Handle Difficult Public Meetings
April 1, 2027	Funding the Future: Creative Collaboration Revenue Solutions for Cities and Counties Working Together
May 6, 2027	Employee Recognition That Doesn't Cost Much
June 10, 2027	Legislative Recap
July 8, 2027	Artificial Intelligence in Local Government: Opportunities, Governance, and Practical Applications: Making the Case in AI Municipal Implementation - Case Studies
August 5, 2027	Engagement That Matters: Inspiring Residents to Participate, Volunteer, and Lead, Which Can Include Your Community's Voice in Your Strategic Plan
September 2, 2027	Data Centers - Policy Development, Municipal Leadership Perspective

Jobs

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

BERKELEY, MO – City Manager
BOCA RATON – Recreation Services Director
CANBY, OR – Public Works Director
CARLSBAD, NM – Deputy Director of Utilities
FERNANDINA BEACH – Human Resources Director
FERNANDINA BEACH – Resiliency Coordinator
FORT PIERCE – City Attorney
GAINESVILLE – Director of Management & Budget

JACKSONVILLE BEACH – Police Chief
LAKELAND – Finance Director
LUBBOCK, TX – Director of Traffic Management
MAITLAND – Finance Director
MARICOPA, AZ – Deputy City Manager
MIAMI BEACH – Tourism and Culture Director
NORTH MIAMI BEACH – Technical Operations Manager
OKALOOSA COUNTY – Budget Director

GAINESVILLE – Employee & Labor
Relations and Compliance
Representative

GRAND JUNCTION, CO – Utilities
Director

HALL COUNTY, GA – County
Administrator

HALLANDALE BEACH – Public Works
Director

ORMOND BEACH – Public Works
Director

PORT ARTHUR, TX – Director of
Human Resources

ROSWELL, NM – Air Center Director

SAFETY HARBOR – Community
Development Director

SURFSIDE – Town Manager

WILLIAMSBURG, VA – Senior
Accountant

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