

POPULATION: 40,895 • SQUARE MILES: 1,186

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Hendry County is an outstanding rural community in which to live, work, raise a family and enjoy life by creating an economic environment where people can prosper.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emma Byrd *District 1*

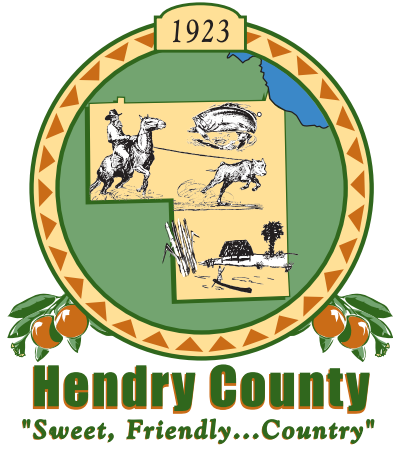
Emory "Rowdy" Howard *District 2*

Mitchell Wills *District 3*

Ramon Iglesias *District 4*

Karson Turner *District 5*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



2023 ANNUAL BUDGET: \$98,495,804

WHERE THE \$98M COMES FROM...

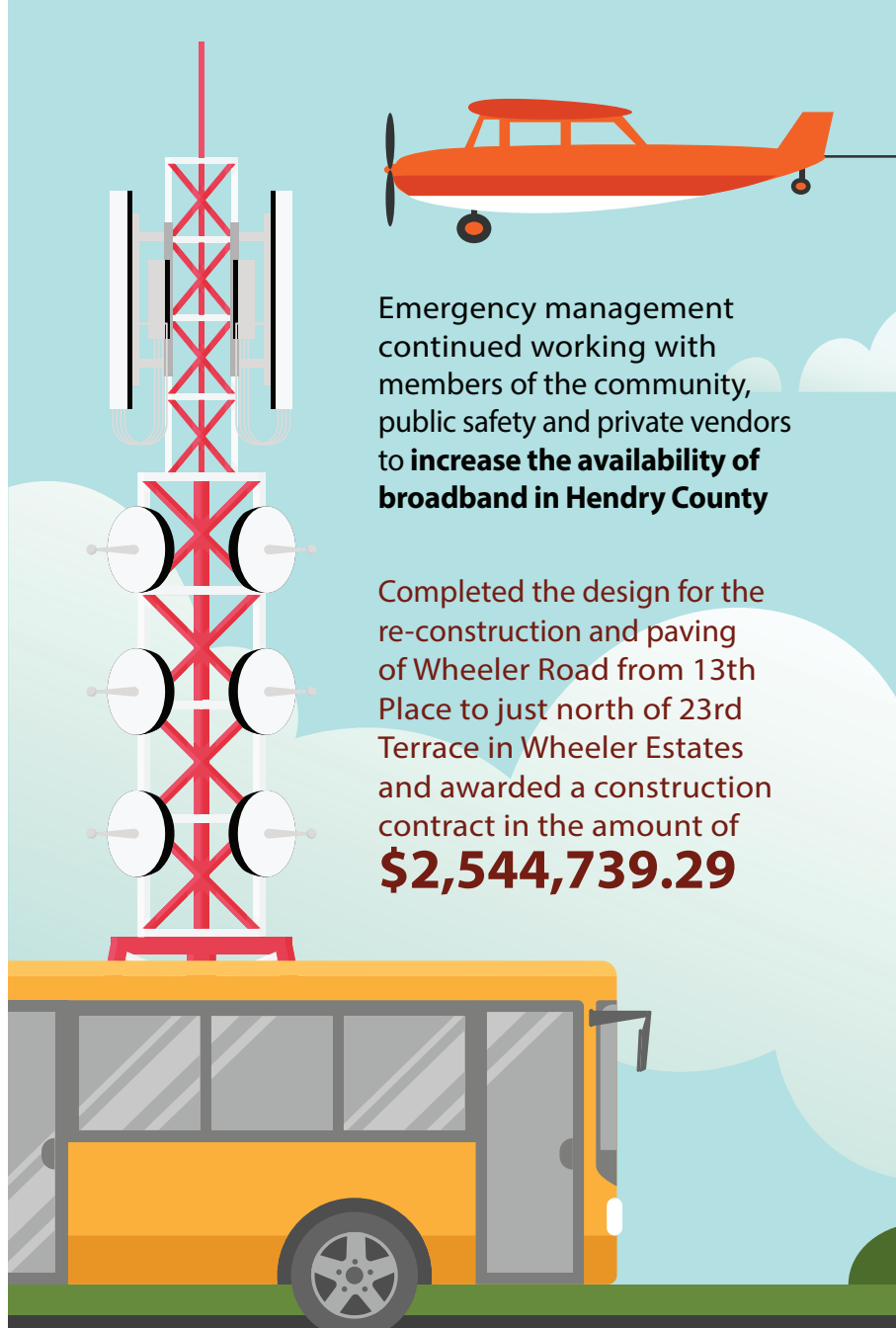


- 29% Intergovernmental Revenue
- 22% Ad Valorem Taxes
- 19% Balances / Reserves / Net Assets
- 13% Sales & Use Taxes
- 9% Charges for Services
- 5% Interfund Transfers
- 2% Miscellaneous Revenue
- 1% Licenses & Permits

HOW THE \$98M IS UTILIZED...



- 26% Public Safety
- 25% Transportation
- 14% Physical Environment
- 13% General Government
- 12% Balances / Reserves / Net Assets
- 5% Interfund Transfers
- 3% Human Services
- 1% Court Related Expenditures
- 1% Recreation
- 0% Debt Service



Emergency management continued working with members of the community, public safety and private vendors to **increase the availability of broadband in Hendry County**

Completed the design for the re-construction and paving of Wheeler Road from 13th Place to just north of 23rd Terrace in Wheeler Estates and awarded a construction contract in the amount of **\$2,544,739.29**



Increased ridership on the fixed route service (STREAM) by 102% in 2023 serving 3,459 passengers



35 children attended the YMCA Program in Harlem held from May 30- August 4

25 children attended Pioneer Plantation Summer Camp



Harlem Library hosted more than **25 programs** for patrons on **educational opportunities, financial literacy, cultural arts and American Sign Language**

Celebrated Hendry County's Centennial - May 11, 2023

Assisted veterans in receiving a total of **\$273,320.88** in retro payments

\$118,106.98 provided to residents for housing rehabilitative emergency assistance

\$95,980 provided to residents for housing rehabilitative assistance

2,237 Building Permits issued

Added a **6th** ambulance on the road daily

Stationed an ambulance in Glades County just north of the Hendry County line to service North LaBelle

Commenced construction of the County Road 835 curve safety project which consisted of safety upgrades to all five curves for a construction cost of \$5,210,280.50

Commenced construction of the **Harlem Sidewalk** projected for sidewalks along Florida Ave from 7th St to 10th St and along Carolina Avenue from 11th Street to 13th Street - project cost \$994,390

Executed a construction contract for the resurfacing of County Road 78 from Ft Denaud Bridge Way to Kirby Thompson Road which included repairs to the bridge over Jacks Branch in the amount of **\$2,294,191**

Hendry County received **\$14 million** as part of the **23-24 State budget** for the following projects:

Port LaBelle Utility System Wastewater Plant Expansion Design - **\$1 million**

Port LaBelle Utility System Gravity Sewer Expansion Design - **\$4.3 million**

Port LaBelle Utility System Gravity Sewer Expansion for Unit 1 Design, Permitting and Construction - **\$7.5 million**

Fort Denaud Swing Bridge Rehabilitation Design - **\$1.2 million**

Added **539** homes to the County Waste program

303 new water connections including **74** in Banyan Village



OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

ENGINEERING

- Completed construction of the Tangent Safety Improvements project on County Road 833, County Road 835 and County Road 846 for a final construction cost of \$5,705,403. Total project cost including design, construction, and construction engineering inspections services was \$6,555,403
- Completed the construction plans for the Pathways Parking Area for Helms Road
- Completed the culvert replacement project on Cowboy Way in Port LaBelle

PORT LABELLE UTILITY SYSTEM (PLUS)

- 51 Leaks repaired
- Digitized PLUS collections and distribution systems maps
- Began design phase for central sewer in Unit 1
- Replaced 5 fire hydrants in Country Village

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- James Mason Pool was open June 5th - October 29th
- Supplied snacks and games for Pioneer Summer Camp held from June 1 - June 30
- Participated in the 13th Annual Call of the Wild field trips with Hendry County & Glades County Elementary Schools at the LaBelle Nature Park with Florida Forestry Service, 4-H, Hendry County Extension Office, Dr. Susan and Scott Cooper and the Hendry/Glades Audubon
- Mosquito Control Services ran May - November

SOLID WASTE

- Amnesty Days in April netted 36.58 tons. The 2023 August Amnesty Week netted 38.03 tons. The total Amnesty amount for the year was 74.61 tons of debris disposed of for \$5,682.05
- Claw truck pickup in June netted 6.89 tons
- Disposal costs were \$1,157,518.59 resulting in 14,396.18 tons of debris being removed from Hendry County
- Recycling costs were \$10,349.09, with 998.54 tons sent to the Lee County Material Recycling Facility
- Materials processed at the Lee County Material Recycling Facility produced a revenue of \$27,920.77
- Recycling Participation is at 15.13%
- The Household Hazardous Waste Center collected and recycled 6,697 lbs. of hazardous materials

BUILDING & ZONING

- 2,454 Applications received
- 632 Certificates of Occupancy
- 21,162 Inspections (including private providers and engineers)
- 78 Mobile homes and modular units
- 517 New Residential
- 8 New Commercial

PLANNING

- 2 Comprehensive plan amendments
- 7 Rezones
- 37 Lot splits
- 12 Site Development Plans
- Rehabbed sewer lines and replaced 5 fire hydrants in Country Village

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- 223 Postings
- 217 Cases Opened
- 207 Cases Closed
- 271 Cases Presented to Special Magistrate
- 128 Liens Granted and Recorded

GRANTS

- \$34,980.90 for Hendry County Sheriff's Office Upgraded Laptop Computers
- \$33,609.10 for Clewiston Police Department Computers and 3 Portable radios
- \$786,812.00 for Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Hendry County Sheriff's Office
- \$8487.50 for Bullet Proof Vest Program for Hendry County Sheriff's Office
- \$28,486.85 for PPE for Montura and Pioneer volunteer fire departments

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

- Received a historic \$566,034.47 in Tourist Development revenue from 3% hotel tax
- \$173,207.67 in expenditures to sponsor tourism related events such as rodeos, fishing tournaments, festivals and local organizations that actively promote Hendry County

HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES

- 2 applications were approved for SHIP first time homebuyer assistance
- 2 homebuyer orientations held
- 21 applications received for SHIP emergency rehabilitative assistance
- 14 projects were completed under emergency assistance program
- 8 homes went out to bid for SHIP rehabilitative assistance
- 8 Emergency Housing Vouchers issued - 7 were housed
- 14 Housing Choice Vouchers issued - 12 were housed
- 13 applications were approved for cremation assistance
- Hendry County's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) met twice in 2023 and provided an annual report to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 5,576 EMS calls
- 2,726 EMS transports
- Stationed an ambulance in Glades County just north of the Hendry County line to service North LaBelle
- Purchased a BadBoy UTV for festivals, rodeos and other special details
- Montura and Pioneer volunteer fire departments were awarded PPE grants from the state of Florida and passed safety inspections
- Began a stipend program at all 3 volunteer fire departments - Felda, Montura & Pioneer - with an average coverage of 10 days a month among the 3 departments

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Held 34 separate training courses, including CPR/First Aid/AED, for local public safety personnel and the community
- Addressed 153 new parcels per the NENA (911) standards
- Continued upgrading of the Hendry County 911 system
- Applied for and received 7 grants totaling \$294,378 through the State of Florida and Federal Government for the 9-1-1 system and GIS mapping system
- Added solar security lighting to the EOC premises
- Began the process of upgrading the public safety communications network
- Upgraded the Audio/Visual equipment for the classrooms in the EOC

VETERANS SERVICES

- Subtotal of Monthly payments: \$54,336.61
- Survivor pension retro \$9,749.45
- Total for the year on payments \$355,296.17

AIRPORTS

Airglades Airport

- Sold 32,635.98 gallons of 100ll fuel
- Sold 56,970.58 gallons of Jet A fuel
- There were 24,990 total landings/takeoffs

LaBelle Airport

- Sold 61,969.81 gallons of 100ll fuel
- Sold 27,933.37 gallons of Jet A fuel
- There were 27,082 total landings/takeoffs
- Commenced construction of a 12-unit t-hangar structure at LaBelle Airport in the amount of \$2,389,475.30
- Commenced construction for the Replacement of the Runway and Taxiway Lighting at LaBelle Airport in the amount of \$1,116,015
- Completed the construction of the Taxiway B Extension (Phase 1) project at LaBelle Airport for a final construction cost of \$1,466,412. Total project cost including design, construction, and construction engineering inspections services for this project was \$1,305,470

TRANSIT

- Increased paratransit, door-to-door service ridership by 15% in 2023 providing 8,955 trips
- Increased ridership on the fixed route service by 102% in 2023 serving 3,459 passengers

FLORIDA B. THOMAS LIBRARY

- The YMCA visited the library 2 times a week during the summer for activities and crafts correlating with the state's curriculum theme
- Patrons participated in their first annual 'Night of Elegance In Black' event. This formal dinner gave patrons a chance to explore and learn about community and county history.
- Student field trip to visit the Morikami Japanese Garden and Museum to explore and appreciate cultural differences

