

May 2013

# Santa Rosa County District 1 Newsletter



## *A Message From Your Commissioner*

District 1  
Commissioner  
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the mail.

Here we are at the beginning of May. It's hard to believe one third of the year has already gone by.

Santa Rosa County continues to face many challenges. We still need a new courthouse and we need to give employees a raise. We all hope the economy gets better so we can meet those needs, but due to the madness in Washington and at the state level, we have our doubts. It's a shame we don't have public servants that work for the good of the people instead of politicians who work for the lobbyists and their own personal gain.

We are blessed in Santa Rosa County to have a balanced budget and employees who continue to provide excellent service to the taxpayers of our county.

As we continue to work together I pray that God will continue to bless Santa Rosa County.

Thanks to everyone for allowing me to serve as your District 1 Commissioner.

Jim Williamson  
District 1 Commissioner

### Sidewalks Coming to Spencer Field

The Spencer Field Road/Benny Russell Sidewalk project has finished the design phase and is expected to begin construction this summer. The sidewalk will provide a safe four mile loop around the helicopter field for walkers and joggers.

The sidewalk is a Transportation Enhancement project funded by the federal government through the FDOT Local Agency Program. Application for this project was first made in 2001 with the idea to connect Norris Road with Berryhill Road via West Spencer Field Road. The costs associated with obtaining the right-of-way needed from North Spencer Field Road on to Berryhill kept the project low on the list. The decision was made in 2007 to change the route of the sidewalk and to go around Spencer Field on all four sides, which would tie Norris Road and Pace High School to Benny Russell Park. FDOT approved this route change and funded the design by Santa Rosa County Engineering staff in the fall of 2012.

Design work on the project has included not only laying out the route of the sidewalk, but providing crosswalks for access to Spencer Oaks, Hamilton Bridge Road, Thousand Oaks, Maranatha Way, and Adams Road. There will be crosswalks at the intersections at all four corners of the helicopter field as well. It is expected that construction bids will be received this summer with construction beginning shortly after. The project is targeted to be finished in the spring of 2014.

### East Spencer Field Safety Improvements Made

The construction of safety upgrades to the intersection of East Spencer Field Road and U.S. Hwy. 90 in Pace were completed in April.

Safety improvements to the intersection include the replacement of the existing plastic delineator posts with a permanent lane divider, improved drainage and resurfacing of the southernmost 600 feet of East Spencer Field Road. The project cost \$155,410 funded by Santa Rosa County.



# Santa Rosa District 1 News

## District 1 Public Works Projects

Santa Rosa County has an ongoing program to pave county maintained dirt roads and resurface county maintained paved roads. New pavement is constructed by a contractor, but County Road and Bridge employees are involved in the preparation prior to paving and shoulder work after paving in order to reduce the cost of paving projects. Residents with questions about paving are encouraged to call the Road and Bridge Department at (850) 626-0191 or email at public-works@santarosa.fl.gov.

The following residential roads were recently resurfaced in working district one:

- Jenny Circle
- Santa Villa Drive (south of Jenny Circle)
- Landmark Lane (Highland Blvd. to Pace Lane)
- Regency Drive (west end)
- Patriot Drive
- Compass Court
- Blackwater Street (west end)

The following dirt roads were recently paved in working district one:

- San Pablo Street (Avalon Blvd. to N 32nd Ave.)
- North 32nd Avenue (San Pablo St. to San Juan St.)
- North 37th Avenue (south of Delmonte St.)
- North 34th Avenue (south of Delmonte St.)
- North 30th Avenue (San Pablo St. to San Juan St.)
- North 35th Avenue (south of Delmonte St.)
- North 24th Avenue (Delmonte St. to Santa Monica St.)
- Santa Monica Street (N 24th Ave. to N 28th Ave.)

Wood Duck Drive was recently approved for resurfacing in working district one and should be completed by May 31.

The following dirt roads were recently approved for paving in working district one and should be completed by September 30:

- Pearson Road (northern end)
- Harrison Street
- Bonfire Drive (Tuscaloosa St. to Santa Cruz Blvd.)

Benny Russell Park located at 5417 West Spencerfield Road, has recently undergone a few changes. In a joint effort with Leathers and Associates, 22 employees from the Public Works Department completed a renovation that has improved safety, increased the life of existing structures, encourages creative play and helped reduce overall future maintenance. Renovation costs are estimated at \$110,500.



## Tennis at Benny Russell in the Works

Since 2010, the Pace Area Tennis Association has been working with commissioners Salter and Williamson to develop a plan to improve access to tennis facilities in Pace by utilizing undeveloped space at Benny Russell Park.

The project layout, design and permitting are approximately 95 percent complete and it is anticipated to be ready to submit to the board of county commissioners for approval this summer. The next step would be to seek construction services sought through a competitive bid process. Plans include four 78 foot courts, four quick start courts without lights, a 2,000 square foot building to house restrooms, offices, concessions, walkways and additional parking.

If approved by the board, the facility would be funded through PATA donations and District 1 and District 3 recreational funds.

## Five Points Project Nears Completion

Construction on the Five Points intersection improvement project, which began in July of 2012, is essentially complete. Roadway shoulder work, minor roadway striping and basic job cleanup continued through the month of April. The project, which began in July 2012, will greatly improve safety and traffic flow to the area. Project improvements include realigning Berryhill Road from Ashmore Lane to Chumuckla Highway. The realignment moved the intersection approximately 500 feet to the north and created a two lane roadway section north of Berryhill Road connecting to Chumuckla Highway. Other project features included creation of a new retention pond and widening of the right turn and merge lanes on both Quinette Road and Chumuckla Highway.

The Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners approved the project in January 2011. The project is estimated to cost \$1.9 million and will be funded 50 percent, not to exceed \$1 million, by the Florida Department of Transportation for construction, engineering and inspection. The county will match 50 percent of project costs.



# Santa Rosa District 1 News

## Priton to Bring 200 Jobs to Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa County is proud to welcome Priton, LLC to the Santa Rosa Industrial Park. Priton is the manufacturer of "MyHouse" affordable homes primarily for the international housing market. The company recently purchased the former 84 Lumber location and has committed to hiring 200 employees over three years. The Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioner's Economic Development Office assisted Priton in the application process for three performance-based incentive programs totaling \$3.45 million aimed at increasing high-skilled, high-wage jobs in Florida.

The average wage for the new positions is \$35,110 or 115 percent of the average county wage rate of \$14.68. Along with the 200 workers hired directly, the new company is estimated to indirectly create an additional 380 new jobs with an impact over six years of approximately \$51.5 million. The company is eligible to receive \$2.35 million from the Industry Recruitment, Retention & Expansion Fund Grant Program, \$600,000 in the state's Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund, and a \$500,000 Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund as it meets predefined job creation and retention benchmarks. This is the first IRREF grant to be awarded in Santa Rosa County.

Priton, LLC is currently establishing an in-factory based manufacturing company that produces excessively strong wall panels that will be used to build "MyHouse." Based on engineering testing, these houses will have overall strength performances more than three times greater than the minimum performance required by Miami-Dade code approvals. The Priton plant will load containers with the manufactured panels and will also include everything needed to build and occupy the house including doors, windows, appliances, cabinets, roof, floors, plumbing and electrical wiring. Customers will be able to occupy the home in seven days or less. Sales for these houses are currently in Caribbean countries, Central America, Mexico and South America. Priton has employed the management team as well as the first phase of manufacturing personnel and are currently hiring additional select positions through [www.employflorida.com](http://www.employflorida.com).

In late 2012, Priton began looking for a new manufacturing plant location based on its current sales focus geography and close proximity and access to container shipping ports. After exploring several locations, the company selected the Santa Rosa County Industrial Park site as the best location for its manufacturing and shipping operations. The availability of skilled personnel and veterans in the area was also a major consideration in the selection process.

According to Jeff Selph, Priton Director of Operations and Partner, "The senior management and plant location team for Priton, LLC wants to complement the Santa Rosa EDO



*A MyHouse home by Priton.*

staff, especially Shannon Ogletree, for all the capable assistance, key resources and information provided. This group not only helped us make the decision to locate here but also has made our start up and transition proceed seamlessly."

The Industry Recruitment, Retention and Expansion Fund Grant Program, or IRREF, is administered by the University of West Florida. Senator Don Gaetz authored S.B. 2156, of which the Oil Spill Recovery Act was an important component. The act allots \$30 million for a three-year period to eight Northwest Florida counties for the purposes of research and development, commercialization of research, economic diversification and job creation.

Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund, also known as QTI, is an incentive available for companies that create high wage jobs in targeted high value-added industries. Pre-approved applicants who create jobs in Florida receive tax refunds; the amount is based on the number of jobs, average annual salary, and location. Santa Rosa County contributes 20 percent of the refund as part of this program. A resolution for the county's portion, or \$120,000, of the incentives was passed by the Santa Rosa Board of County Commission on Dec. 13, 2012 as "Project Breeze."

Additionally, the company qualified for a Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund of \$500,000. The Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund is available to encourage redevelopment and job creation within designated brownfield areas. A pre-approved applicant may receive a tax refund equal to 20 percent of the average annual wage of the new jobs created in a designated brownfield area up to a maximum of \$2,500 per new job created. Refunds are based upon taxes paid by the business, including corporate income, sales, ad valorem, intangible personal property, insurance premium, and certain other taxes.



# Santa Rosa District 1 News

## Special Election Information

Santa Rosa County Supervisor of Elections Tappie Villane announces important information regarding the special election to fill the current vacancy in House District 2.

### Absentee Voting

An absentee ballot may be obtained by:

- Visiting [www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections)
- Calling the elections office at (850) 983-1900
- Visiting the Supervisor of Elections Office located at 6495 Caroline Street, Suite F in Milton



Wednesday, May 8 is the last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you for the Tuesday, May 14 Republican Primary.

### Early Voting

Early voting will be available Saturday, May 4 through Saturday, May 11. Voting hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sunday, and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the following locations:

- Supervisor of Elections Main Office, 6495 Caroline Street, Suite F, Milton
- South Santa Rosa Service Center, 5841 Gulf Breeze Pkwy., Gulf Breeze

### Primary & General Election

On Election Day, May 14, the primary will be open only to registered Republicans in Florida House District 2. The general election on June 11 will be open to all voters living in the boundaries of House District 2, regardless of party affiliation. To find out if you live in House District 2 please visit [www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections) or call the elections office at (850) 983-1900.

Florida is a closed primary state, which means in primary elections you may only participate in the primary of the party in which you are registered. Since only one Democrat qualified, there will be no Democratic primary. The Democratic candidate automatically advances to the June 11 election to face the winner of the Republican primary.



## Two Down, Two to Go on Avalon Boulevard Multilane Projects

Construction crews have completed two sections of roadway widening work on State Road 281 or Avalon Boulevard in Santa Rosa County.

The Florida Department of Transportation recently completed a 1.4-mile section of Avalon Boulevard from just south of Admiral Road to U.S. 90 and a .9 mile portion from north of the CSX railroad bridge to south of Commerce Road. Both projects included road reconstruction from a two lane to four-lane urban roadway, drainage upgrades, sidewalks, mast arm signal systems, new signs, pavement markings and minor side road improvements.

The two remaining sections from south of the Moors Lodge to the CSX Railroad and from I-10 to south of the Moors Lodge are estimated to be completed winter 2014.

Construction activities are weather dependent and may be delayed or re-scheduled in the event of inclement weather. For more Florida Department of Transportation District Three information follow us on twitter @myfdot\_nwfl.

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*It's Party Time!*  
*For Girls of All Ages*

*Pace Library*  
*May 17*  
*3:30-4:30*



*Pink is Perfect*

*Come dressed in PINK*  
*Enjoy PINK refreshments*  
*Hear PINKALICIOUS stories*

