

News and Updates



September 30, 2024

President's Message

Save the date for the 2024 Ethics Fall Symposium. It will be held virtually on November 21, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Details will be available soon.

Each month, we release new episodes of the FCCMA Podcast. If you have not had an opportunity, please take a moment to listen [here](#). If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in a future podcast, please email their name and contact information to FCCMA staff at fccma@flcities.com.

FCCMA dues invoices will be sent this week. Please let FCCMA staff know if you do not receive your invoice.

The 2024-2025 FCCMA Membership Directory, which features the winner of our recent photo contest on its cover, will be available soon and sent to each member.



Don't miss our upcoming Free Coaching Webinar on October 3 on Maximizing Efficiency in Government through Digital Leadership. [Register](#) today to secure your spot.

Registration will open mid-October for our 2025 FCCMA Winter Institute, which will be held January 30-31 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in the beautiful City of Clearwater. The theme will be "What Keeps Managers Up at Night in 2025."

I enjoyed seeing everyone in Pittsburgh for the 2024 ICMA Annual Conference. A very special THANK YOU to those who were able to attend the FCCMA social event. Last, but absolutely not least, congratulations to Lee Feldman on receiving the Distinguished Service Award, and to Judie Zimomra for receiving the Academic Award in memory of Stephen B. Sweeney.

You matter!

Mark

Future Managers Virtual Bootcamp

Through this video series, future managers will have the opportunity to hear from seasoned professionals about what it is like to be in the Manager role. These accounts are meant to inspire professional development beyond this video series by helping our viewers to self-discover areas they need to strengthen as they pursue this amazing career.

From preparing for commission meetings to managing emergencies, this video series is meant to inform, encourage, and inspire the next generation of city and county managers. Please share these videos with your network and help us in our mission to strengthen professional management.

[Access Video Series](#)

Member News and Updates

The following membership applications have been received:

- **Lauren Bush**, District I, Master of Health, Florida State University, Student Member
- **Brian Dean**, District II, Safety Education Liaison, Sunshine 811, Corporate Member
- **Harrison Netburn**, District VII, ICMA Fellow, Pinellas County, Student Member
- **Brittney Sandoval**, District VIII, Town Administrator, Town of Lake Hamilton, Full Member
- **C. Howard Smith**, District VIII, Executive Director, City of Bartow, Affiliate Member
- **Mark Sohaney**, District II, Captain, U.S. Navy, Affiliate Member
- **Thomas St John**, District I, Strategic Innovation Consultant, City of Tallahassee, Affiliate 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 of O. Sam Ackley

FCCMA is saddened to announce the passing of Ollie Sam (O. Sam) Ackley. He passed away on August 25, 2024.

O. Sam Ackley leaves behind his best friend and wife Diane Ackley; his five beloved children Amon, Ryan Sr., Eris, Nathan, and Kristen; their spouses, Renee, Shannon, and Raj; and his grandchildren Alana, Ryan, Ben, Kyle, Riley, and

Charlotte.

He graduated from the American University in Beirut, and served in local Florida government for more than a decade before entering private business.

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

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 [Carol Russell](#).

The FCCMA Podcast

A promotional graphic for the FCCMA Podcast. On the left is a photograph of a woman with dark curly hair wearing white earbuds and looking at her smartphone. The right side features a white background with a green microphone icon and the text 'FCCMA PODCAST' in green and black. Below this is the text 'Tune in to learn from the public servants in your communities.' and a green bar with the text 'Streaming now on all major podcast platforms.' At the bottom left is a circular logo with a map of Florida and the text 'FCCMA'. At the bottom right is the hashtag '#FCCMAPODCAST' in green.

 **FCCMA**
PODCAST

**Tune in to learn from the public
servants in your communities.**

Streaming now on all major podcast platforms.

 **#FCCMAPODCAST**

Listen to the Latest News on FCCMA Podcasts

Each month, Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) produces four podcasts featuring FCCMA members, strategic partners, and other important staff from state agencies. These podcasts are a great way to learn about initiatives that are working in certain cities and counties, important changes that could impact your community, and more about your fellow FCCMA members.

This month we are re-releasing the emergency management series:

- **Disaster Preparedness**, William Whitson, FCCMA Past President
- **It Only Takes One Storm**, Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, Florida Municipal Electrical Association (FMEA)
- **Mutual Aid is the Most Critical Piece**, Steve Langley, Electric Utility Director, City of Mount Dora
- **Tallahassee's Tornado Recovery Efforts**, Mike Crow, Assistant General Manager, City of Tallahassee Utilities

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

Perspectives

Municipal and county leaders across Florida share lessons learned on the job they think others should know.



Featured Member



Meet Jerome Adams, City Administrator, City of Oak Hill

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

Since 12/20/23. I joined so that I could learn from the seasoned professionals in the organization and become better at my job. I want to be of service to the community and eventually assist new members to become better themselves.

Please describe your areas of formal/advanced education.

I have a Master of Public Administration degree from Barry University.

Why did you select a career in public service?

I have always felt a need to serve my community. I believe it's because my father was a public servant, so I learned from him. I do get great joy from helping my fellow man.

Have you always been in the public sector, or have you had experience in the private sector?

Most of my career has been in the public sector, albeit in the area of Information Technology. I had a short stint in the healthcare industry.

Please tell us about your current position and give a brief job description.

I am the City Administrator for the City of Oak Hill, FL. It is a small city with about 2,200 residents and a staff of six. Besides overseeing all the staff, I am also the City Clerk. I prepare the agendas and attend all meetings. I enact policies created by the Commission, work with vendors, review contracts, get quotes, and do Accounts Payable. I also do all Human Resources functions. Being such a small staff, I am involved in almost everything.

Please describe your typical day.

My day consists of reading/responding to emails and requests, researching issues, preparing reports, and meetings with vendors, staff, the public, and city or county officials.

[Read More](#)

Member Article



Hurricane Response Strike Teams Strategy

By Stephen Stepp, Deputy City Manager, and John Boehm, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Palm Beach Gardens

The City of Palm Beach Gardens has implemented a comprehensive plan for emergency management response. As part of our best practices for responding to hurricanes, the City has created emergency response strike teams. The teams are housed at our six fire stations strategically located across the city. Each strike team is comprised of a double shift of firefighters/paramedics, a squad of police officers, public works crews, and building inspectors. The purpose of these strike teams is to have a diverse group of highly skilled and equipped personnel prepositioned across the city, allowing for faster response after hurricanes to more effectively save lives, protect property, and restore the community.

At the start of a hurricane, the strike teams work to assist the public until the weather makes it unsafe to travel, at which time they hunker down in the reinforced fire stations for food and rest. As the winds subside, crews take to the field to render aid. Public works crews utilize a front loader and other equipment to start clearing the roads to ensure a minimum 12-foot clear path for emergency vehicle response and to provide access to local hospitals. This approach helps resolve road blockages and prevent flat tires that can be caused by debris. In a moderate storm, police and fire units will respond to calls by priority as individual units, while building inspectors begin damage assessment and public works crews work on debris removal, stormwater, and traffic signal generators.

The strike team's unique value is evident in the case of a major hurricane or catastrophic damage. The strike team stays together as a unit to respond to neighborhoods in a caravan. The front loader goes first to clear the roads, followed by 4WD trucks with debris and stormwater equipment, including chainsaws, winches, pumps, generators, and miscellaneous tools. Next are police and fire/rescue units to save lives and protect property. Simultaneously, building inspectors assess structures while rapidly submitting initial damage reports and photos to the EOC electronically. This allows for situational awareness in the EOC and the ability to coordinate a large area assessment. This information helps determine additional resource allocation and requests while enabling us to provide real-time updates to the County and State.

[Read More](#)

From Our Partners

With Hurricane Debby damage assessments still underway, and in preparation for the next event, the Florida Division of Emergency Management would like to remind you of FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Policy FP 104-009-13, which provides essential guidance on assessing and documenting damage to public roads submerged or impacted by floodwaters due to a disaster. This policy is crucial for determining eligibility under the PA program and ensuring accurate initial damage assessments, Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments, and project development.

The policy outlines key requirements for damage assessment, reporting timelines, and necessary documentation for road damage claims.

[View FEMA Policy FP 104-009-13](#)

Events and Trainings

FCCMA Short-Form VIDEO SHOWCASE



Email fccma@flcities.com to confirm
your participation by **Monday, September 30**

What makes your city or county resilient?

FCCMA wants to help celebrate and share
what sets your community apart.

Let others virtually experience the resiliency of your community through the second annual FCCMA Short-Form Video Showcase by crafting a 60-second video highlighting the resiliency of your city or county.

Email fccma@flcities.com to confirm your participation
by **Monday, September 30, 2024**.

The deadline to submit the video is **Monday, December 2, 2024**.
The videos will be shared on FCCMA's social media sites.



Maximizing Efficiency in Government through Digital Leadership
October 3, 2024
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

ICMA Practice Areas: 4, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 13

Program Summary:

This webinar will provide attendees an understanding of what efficiencies are possible in government through process improvements with modern technology and concepts. Cities and counties must be agile in responding to community needs while utilizing digital and human resources. Managers set the approaches that can allow adoption of new methods with expanded capacity, and our panelists will discuss use cases where this has worked.

Moderator:

- Tamecka McKay: Chief Information Officer, City of Fort Lauderdale

Panelists:

- Ed DeSeve: Coordinator, Agile Government Center, National Academy of Public Administration, and Executive Fellow, IBM Center for Business in Government
- Sukumar Ganapati: Professor of Public Policy and Administration (Cyber Security/Agile Government), Florida International University
- Nigel Jacob: Co-Founder, Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, City of Boston

[Register Here](#)



FCCMA ONSITE TRAINING SESSION REGISTER TODAY

**Local Government Budgeting: Trends and Strategies for
Florida Local Governments for the Next Five Years
October 18, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET (lunch included)
Florida Gulf Coast University, Cohen Center, Room 214
10501 FGCU Boulevard South, Fort Myers
ICMA Practice Areas: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14**

Program Summary:

Experienced city and county managers in southwest Florida will be discussing external factors (i.e., mandates and funding/program changes at the federal and state levels) that impact local government revenues and operational costs, as well as the challenges and opportunities/strategies to address these and other factors, in order to prepare their agencies for budget preparations over the next five years. This is an excellent opportunity for local government professionals to attend an informal discussion with a panel of local government managers representing diverse communities in Florida.

Panelists:

- Terry Atchley, County Manager, Hardee County
- Hector Flores, County Administrator, Charlotte County
- Ed Lavallee, City Manager, Venice
- Jonathan Lewis, County Administrator, Sarasota County
- Olivia Minshew, City Manager, Wauchula
- Amy Patterson, County Manager, Collier County
- Dana Souza, City Manager, Sanibel
- Terry Stewart, City Administrator, Arcadia

[Register Here](#)

**Cyber Florida Workshop for Florida's Critical Infrastructure
October 29, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET
Tampa Palms Country Club**

This exclusive event is designed to help organizations strengthen cyber resilience

and reduce risks while implementing Florida Statute 282.318.

The workshop will include:

- An in-depth overview of **Cyber Florida's no-cost cybersecurity solutions** and services.
- Actionable **recommendations for improving cybersecurity** within your organization.
- A hands-on **tabletop exercise** hosted by **NUARI**, offering valuable insights into managing cyber incidents.
- Networking opportunities with other industry leaders.
- **Complimentary lunch provided for all attendees.**

[Register Here](#)



**Announcing the
Florida City and County
Management Association (FCCMA)
2025 Richard (Dick) Simmons
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Each year, the FCCMA recognizes leaders in the profession who have demonstrated professionalism and service within the field of public administration. Award recipients are nominated and selected by their peers and recognized during the annual conference.

Award Categories

The **Richard (Dick) Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award** is awarded to an exemplary individual who has served the profession or the FCCMA with steadfast dedication, innovation and the highest standard of excellence. This award is a memorial to Dick Simmons – a pioneer in the profession, past FCCMA President, range rider emeritus and a 60+ year FCCMA member. To be eligible for consideration for this prestigious award, an individual must be nominated by a full or life member of the FCCMA and meet the following criteria:

- ▶ A minimum of 30 years working in local government, with at least 15 years at the level of Assistant City/County Manager or higher. Working in local government includes employment by a higher education institution providing relevant training to local government employees.
- ▶ A member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and FCCMA, in good standing.
- ▶ Demonstrated member of ICMA and commensurate state management association(s) for at least 20 years.
- ▶ Demonstrated active participation in state management associations over his or her career.
- ▶ Made contributions over one's lifetime in the likeness of Richard (Dick) Simmons.

Nominees for the award must submit a completed application, cover letter and any supporting materials by **5 p.m. ET on December 2, 2024**. For specific selection criteria and required documentation and to complete the application, please visit [fccma.org](https://www.fccma.org). For questions, please contact staff at fccma@flicities.com.

[Nomination Form](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Save the date for future webinar offerings!

October 3, 2024	Agile Leadership for a Digital Age
November 7, 2024	Legislative Relationships
December 5, 2024	AI Will Not Take Your Job, But Someone Using It Might
January 9, 2025	Creating Robust Strategic Plans for Local Governments; Ensuring Impact, Measuring Success, and Framing Your Story
February 6, 2025	Affordable and Accessible Housing for Aging Populations

Jobs

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

ALACHUA COUNTY – Child Advocate Manager

ALACHUA COUNTY – Parks & Open Space Manager

BARTOW – IT System Administrator

BARTOW – Utilities Director/City Engineer

BOCA RATON – City Attorney

BROWARD COUNTY – Budget and Management Analyst

BRYAN COUNTY, GA – Director of Fire and Emergency Services

CAMDEN COUNTY, GA – Chief Information Officer

DADE CITY – City Manager

ESTERO – Assistant Community Development Director

FRUITLAND PARK – City Manager

GULF SHORES, AL – Planning & Zoning Director

NICEVILLE – Senior Planner

NORTH PORT – Police Legal Advisor

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER

DISTRICT – Engineering Manager

PARKLAND – Human Resources Generalist

PINELLAS COUNTY – Director of Housing and Community Development

PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT

AUTHORITY – Community Affairs Specialist

RALEIGH, NC – Director of Urban Affairs

SARASOTA COUNTY – Construction Project Manager/ Administrator I, II or III

SARASOTA COUNTY – Infrastructure

Project Manager – Resilient SRQ

SARASOTA COUNTY – Senior Talent

Acquisition and Compensation

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Solutions Architect (ServiceNow)

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Veterinarian

JACKSONVILLE – Attorney II – Regulatory

JACKSONVILLE – Attorney III – Transactional

JOHNSON COUNTY, KS – Assistant County Manager

LAKE COUNTY – Budget Analyst

MARCO ISLAND – Planner II

Specialist

SARASOTA COUNTY – Senior Transportation Manager – Public Works

SARASOTA COUNTY – Talent Acquisition & Compensation Specialist

SARASOTA COUNTY – Workday System Administrator

SOUTHWEST RANCHES – Deputy Town Administrator

WILTON MANORS – Senior Accountant

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