

Building Better Together



Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

2024 Year in Review

www.ocfl.net/YearinReview



WHEREAS, on December 29, 1824, Mosquito County was established in the central highlands section of Florida, with many lakes and ponds within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in 1845, the county name was changed to Orange due to the thriving citrus industry, which served as the area's primary source of income; and

WHEREAS, in 1850, Orange County's population soared to 466 people, and its boundaries consisted of present-day Volusia, Brevard, Osceola, Lake, and Seminole counties; and

WHEREAS, Orange County experienced steady growth, primarily driven by the cattle ranching and agriculture industries. However, during the winter of 1895-1896, the citrus growers and all agriculture were devastated by a crippling freeze; many of the growers welcomed land speculators creating a land boom; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, Florida experienced a devastating hurricane, and in 1929, the stock market crash destroyed the American Banking industry, followed by the Great Depression of the early 1930s; and

WHEREAS, by the late 1930s, steady growth fueled Orange County as people began to rediscover Central Florida's beauty, taking on a "boom town" appearance; and

WHEREAS, in early 1965, cartoonist, filmmaker, and visionary entrepreneur Walt Disney began quietly purchasing large tracts of land in Central Florida and, in 1971, opened Walt Disney World, the first and still centerpiece of the Disney Complex, which made Orlando and Orange County a household name worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners established a historical commission to carry on the work leading to the 1976 opening of the Orange County Historical Museum in Orlando's Loch Haven Park, a precursor to the History Center, which opened its doors in 2000 to critical acclaim and national awards; and

WHEREAS, today, Orange County is the fifth-largest county by population in Florida, with world-famous attractions, one of the nation's largest convention centers, excellent educational institutions, a robust economy, vibrant arts and culture, and a diverse and thriving community.



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Letter from Orange County Mayor

Jerry L. Demings



Greetings!

It's that time of year to reflect on and celebrate the many triumphs Orange County achieved in 2024. Building Better Together was not merely a slogan we created for the year; it is a reminder of the unity that binds us to our commitment to building a prosperous tomorrow together.

The spirit of connection has never been stronger than in 2024. We have demonstrated that through our daily actions we collectively hold the power to shape the future of Orange County. Whether you volunteer at a community center, support the arts, visit the wondrous park system, participate in hurricane clean-up, or voice your opinion at community meetings, your participation matters. This is true now and has been for the last two centuries as Orange County transformed from a sparsely populated region to a thriving community, I am proud to call home. I applaud those who embrace our vision of connection, inclusivity, and collaboration.

With growth also comes both challenges and opportunities. As I mentioned in my state of the county address, Orange County will continue to vigorously address such issues as the affordable housing crisis, transportation improvements, and environmental challenges. We will focus resources on smart development, and the pillars of our economy including tourism, agriculture, simulation and technology, and life sciences and medical technologies.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism because of you. Just remember, we each have a vital role to play in ensuring our county continues to flourish. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you, as we build something extraordinary – one day at a time.

Once again, thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of leading this amazing county. It is truly an honor, and I am humbled every single day by the opportunity to serve. I look forward to what we can achieve together in 2025 and beyond. I hope you will take the time now to browse our 2024 Year in Review.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry L. Demings". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

Community Engagement

Orange County is a vibrant community that celebrates its diversity, innovation, and collaboration. We are proud to highlight a few of the community engagement events we hosted this year.



- 1 Mayor Demings held his first Citizens Academy with 50 residents learning more about Orange County's operations and services
- 2 Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 3 Mayor Demings Annual Women's History Month Forum
- 4 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration
- 5 Orange County Mayor's Veteran Advisory Council Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony
- 6 Mayor's Orange County MLK Initiative celebrates Juneteenth
- 7 Celebrating Pride Month and the Historic 93 Section Sea to Sea Flag
- 8 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- 9 Diwali - The Festival of Lights

Board of County Commissioners



Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor



Nicole Wilson
District 1



Christine Moore
District 2



Mayra Uribe
District 3



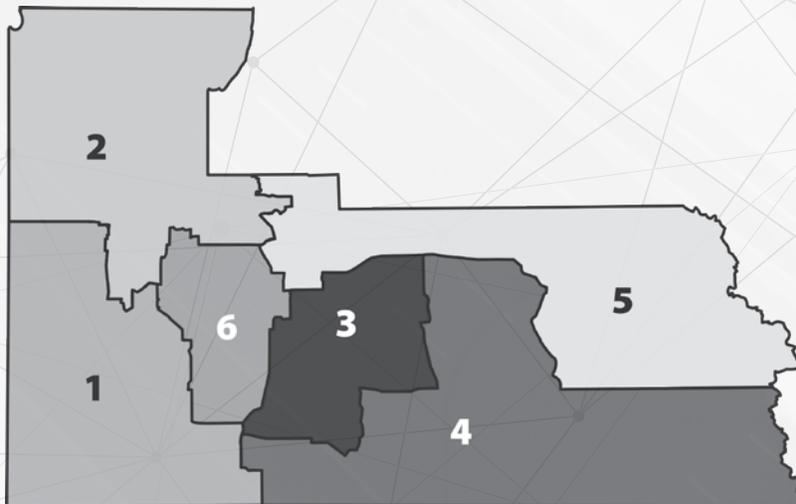
Maribel Gomez Cordero
District 4



Kelly Martinez Semrad
District 5



Michael "Mike" Scott
District 6



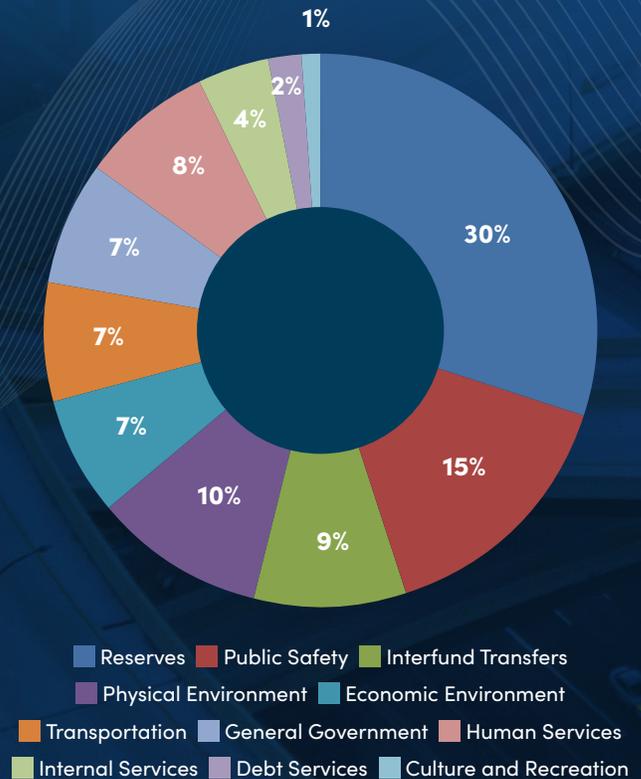
– By The Numbers

Orange County encompasses a wide variety of lifestyles, demographics, and socioeconomic communities.

Orange County continues to receive Fitch’s highest triple-A credit rating, a testament to our sound financial management and prudent decision-making.

The FY23-24 budget adheres to the following strategic objectives:

- Public Safety and Health – By engaging federal and state resources, the budget allowed Orange County to provide essential services that protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare.
- Sense of Community – By working with community partners, the budget funded programs and initiatives that reflect community priorities.
- Economic Development – The budget used common vision and direction to help Orange County become a more economically vibrant and sustainable business community.
- Infrastructure – The budget permitted investment in critical infrastructure where needed.



\$6.7 B
Total Adopted Budget

1,457,940
Population

\$203B
Assessed Value

5,946
Lane Miles Maintained

903.4 sq. miles
Land Area

113
Parks

45
Fire Stations

14
Community Centers

26.1*
Water Produced for Consumption
*In billions of gallons

Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Department provides essential support to the operating divisions and constitutional offices of Orange County to enable them to deliver services that meet the demands of the customers they serve. Support services include building design and construction, maintenance, building security, property leasing and acquisition, fleet management, procurement, fiscal and operational support, and business development.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

\$42,899,261

payments for work by M/WBE firms



FLEET MANAGEMENT

Over **2,000** vehicles maintained

Over **2,200** off-road heavy equipment assets maintained



CAPITAL PROJECTS

350 projects managed
\$825M project costs



REAL ESTATE

1,301.45

acres acquired

426.4

acres under contract

1,649.5

acres in active negotiation under GreenPLACE program



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

535 buildings maintained



PROCUREMENT

\$1,023,077,970

Total encumbrances inclusive of all spend categories

Community & Family Services

Embodying its slogan, “Where Joy Lives, Hope Grows, and Help Happens,” the Community and Family Services Department oversees much of Orange County’s human and social services programs. Community and Family Services provides vital programs, resources and services to some of our County’s most vulnerable residents, as well as unique educational and recreational experiences for all Central Floridians.

In 2024, the department launched a comprehensive strategic management plan to guide its mission for years to come. It established the Orange County Financial Empowerment Center, offering free one-on-one financial counseling to everyone who lives and works in the County. The department also continued to lead the implementation of the Mayor’s Citizens Safety Task Force recommendations — the region’s most expansive youth-focused public safety initiative in recent history — and introduced Central Florida’s most ambitious medical-debt relief effort.

Citizen Resource and Outreach

More than **\$45 million** in COVID-era federal aid was distributed through the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** from 2020 until the program’s conclusion in 2024.

At the conclusion of ERAP, the division reestablished its traditional aid programs: Crisis Assistance, Family Resource and Eviction Prevention in the Community.

The division offers guidance for Orange County’s more than **71,000 U.S.** military veterans through Orange County Veterans Services.

Citizens’ Commission for Children

Through the Citizens Review Panel — an annual call for proposals to Orange County-based nonprofit organizations — the division contracts with more than **90 agencies** that have established over **180 unique programs** targeting targeting critical needs.

The division manages Orange County’s **13 Neighborhood Centers** for Families, which provide residents with many valuable services within their communities.

After School Zone — a

unique school-based program offered in more than **30 Orange County public middle schools** — celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2024.

Community Action

In 2024, the Community Action Division — part of a nationwide network of Community Action organizations — **celebrated its 60th national anniversary.**

The division oversees Orange County’s nine Community Action Centers, strategically placed facilities that serve the unique needs of local communities with a wide range of programs, resources and services. Annually, the centers host more than **200,000 collective site visits.**

Community Action manages Orange County’s distribution of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which annually aids more than **13,000 Orange County residents** in managing their cooling, heating and utility costs.

Cooperative Extension

The Cooperative Extension collected **5,065 pounds of peanut butter** for the 2024 Peanut Butter Challenge, an annual

statewide donation drive that benefits local homeless shelters during the holiday season.

The extension oversaw a **9 million-gallon water usage** reduction Countywide through targeted education on water conservation, smart fertilizer usage and integrated pest management — enough to supply more than 100 households for an entire year.

Head Start

Orange County Head Start enrolled **1,500 local children** between the ages of 3–5.

1,500+ volunteers participated in Guest Readers Month, an annual early childhood literacy campaign inviting local residents to deliver book readings in Head Start classrooms.

Mental Health and Homelessness

This division continues to lead the implementation of recommendations from the Orange County Mental and Behavioral Health System of Care Analysis — widely considered the most comprehensive mental health assessment in Central Florida’s history.

The division also secured an additional **\$10 million**

in funding to spearhead new, innovative initiatives to battle Central Florida’s homelessness crisis.

Youth and Family Services

This division delivers an integrated network of programs and services that provide a vital safety net for children and families across Orange County.

In 2024, Great Oaks Village — Florida’s oldest and largest residential foster care group home — celebrated its centennial anniversary, providing a home for nearly 200 youth throughout the year.

More than **250 youth** participated in the Changing Adolescent Perspective (CAP) Program, which aims to curb the self-destructive behaviors of youth who have become justice-involved.



Parks & Recreation

This year marked the 100-year celebration of Orange County Parks with the first park opening in 1924.



15.3 million
park visitors



113
parks, trails
and facilities



15,000
*acres of land
maintained



12
recreation
centers



2
senior
recreation
centers



13
dog parks



11
boat ramps



6
splash pads



1
pool

* Including 88 specialty turf athletic fields on 130 acres

Some FY2024 numbers:

- **1.5 million** – web page hits
- **12** – monthly e-newsletters with **150,540** opens
- **10,824** – campground reservations at Clarcona Horse Park, Kelly Park, Magnolia Park, Moss Park and Trimble Park
- Summer Camp Scooter at 12 locations: **426** youth (ages 5-10), and afterschool and holiday camps: **300** youth
- **3,356** – youth memberships (ages 8-17 and allowed to use the game room and gym in six recreation centers)
- **1,958** – fitness center memberships (**1,033** seniors ages 55+ and **925** adults ages 18-54)
- **1,800** – number of guests at the 13th Annual Mayor's Jazz in the Park at Cypress Grove Park (a record number!)
- **1,600** – students and teachers who attended the Florida Living History Festival at Fort Christmas Historical Park
- **4,500** – kids who participated in multipurpose sports partnerships
- **2,500** – kids who participated in the diamond sports partnerships (Little League and Babe Ruth League)
- **374** – kids who participated in the Annual Fish4Fun (**817** fish caught!)
- **14** – movie events (**12** Movies in the Park; **2** Movies at the Trail)
- **9** – grand opening, groundbreaking, ribbon-cutting and dedication events

Orange County Regional History Center



4,000

issues of
Reflections
magazine



2,899

new items
added



24,369

catalog
records
updated



16%

increase in
research
library requests
fulfilled



1,330

members
enjoyed
Trick or Treat
Safe Zone



8,483+

hours of
volunteer
support for our
community

Exhibitions

- *The City Beautiful: Scenes of Downtown Orlando* (January 13, 2024 – March 30, 2024)
Showcased skillfully created paintings of yesteryear Orlando by Central Florida artist Jim Quinlan.
- *Highwaymen Kids* (April 20, 2024 – May 12, 2024)
Over 400 young artists created Florida landscapes inspired by The Highwaymen for this annual competition.
- *FIFA World Cup 1994* (April 20, 2024 – June 30, 2024)
Commemorated the event that sparked The City Beautiful's love affair with The Beautiful Game.
- *Home Away from Home: Historic Hotels of Central Florida* (July 13, 2024 – October 13, 2024)
Fascinating ephemera from hotels that have supported the Central Florida tourism juggernaut we know today.
- *Cover Story: Celebrating Watermark's 30 Years* (August 24, 2024 – December 15, 2024)
Recognized the singular accomplishment of this local LGBTQ+ publication through its covers.
- *Brownie Wise: Tupperware's Poly-T Powerhouse* (November 1, 2024 – January 19, 2025)
Showcased the visionary business leader who made Tupperware a household name in the 1950s.

Highlights

- The History Center continued collaborating with Opera Orlando with *Magic, Myths, and Music: A Florida Take on Rusalka*. The program gave insight into Opera Orlando's production of *Rusalka* with historical comments by the History Center and the Art and History Museums of Maitland.
- Honoring Black Heritage & Culture during Black History Month showcased participants' work in our Cultural Sustainability and Legacy Planning for Craft Artists project, which was conducted in collaboration with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and Craft Emergency Relief Fund.
- The History Center partnered with Rollins Museum of Art to bring an element of history to their exhibition *Nostalgia for My Island: Puerto Rican Painting from the Museo de Arte de Ponce*. Visitors entered a booth to listen to oral histories from the History Center's Patricia Silver collection, which documents the people who moved to central Florida from Puerto Rico and recorded their mini-oral history. Those visitor self-recorded histories are now part of the History Center's collection.



Planning, Environmental and Development Services

PEDS

Launched PEDSWEB, a monthly virtual Professional Development and Training program for all PEDS employees.

Began work on a new Strategic Management Plan for PEDS to discuss opportunities, priorities and goals over the next 3-5 years.

Organized the first-ever **Team 400** conference. The multi-departmental event brought together all Orange County employees who play a role in the permitting and development process.

Updated the Public Notification Process, the first update since 2012.

Planning Division

Successfully launched **Ready Set Orange**, a new program that encourages the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and single-family starter homes by providing pre-designed floorplans. Since its launch in mid-August, the program has garnered 235 applications.

Launched a new website for **Vision 2050 + Orange Code** to make our pending comprehensive plan and development rule changes easier to understand.

Zoning Division

Implemented a new ordinance that requires better protection of trees around new development. The ordinance received awards from The Florida Urban Forestry Council and Tree City USA.

Building Safety Division

79,000 - building permits issued

283,000 - inspections performed

3,152 - solar permits issued

\$1.2 billion - total development value for newly permitted projects

2,133 - multifamily units permitted

1,774 - single-family units permitted

Environmental Protection Division

539 - environmental permits issued

14,211 - total commercial, residential and development plans reviewed

4,505 - total environmental inspections conducted on wetlands, industrial facilities, petroleum storage tanks, private landfills, construction sites and more

289 - volunteers at EPD contributing **2,973 hours**

Acquired **23** properties for the Green PLACE program, adding **1,356.5 acres** and bringing the total acres of natural lands protected in Orange County to nearly **25,500**.

In January, the Green PLACE program received the Executive Award of Regional Significance from the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for its commitment to land conservation.

Visitors to the Johns Lake Conservation Area can now get the most out of their birdwatching experience at the County's newest bird blind.

Updates to the County's wetland code approved in 2023 by the Board of County Commissioners went into effect this year, enabling EPD to take an innovative approach to permitting that encourages applicants to limit wetland impacts.

After being offline for seven years due to I-4 highway construction, the region's ambient air monitoring station located on Division Avenue resumed operations to monitor vehicle emissions.

In partnership with Orange County Public Schools, EPD launched a student slogan contest, with Evans High sophomore Myron Divers earning the award for his slogan:

"Breathe life into our future! Act now for cleaner air!"

Housing and Community Development Division

Orange County made its largest Affordable Housing Trust Fund Allocation in September, awarding **\$19 million** for five multifamily projects totaling **573 affordable housing units**.

Housing Division

193 - households received tenant-based rental assistance

2,127 - households received other types of rental assistance

42,627 - people benefited from public facilities and/ or infrastructure improvements paid for by CDBG funds

2,087 - persons received overnight shelter assistance

\$219M - received in CDBG-Disaster Recovery grant funding

Neighborhood Services Division

Successfully demolished Lake Downey Mobile Home Park, a **52-unit site** plagued by neglect and a series of major fires.

Conducted more than **33,200** Code Compliance inspections across **16,000+** cases. Effectively addressed **3,600** property maintenance cases, **5,900** nuisance cases and **6,000** zoning cases.

Awarded **\$401,820** in grants to 35 neighborhood associations for beautification and sustainability projects, enhancing entryways and common areas.

Attended more than **380** community meetings to educate citizens about resources such as grants, workshops and community cleanups.

Assisted more than 1,000 Orange County residents with consumer affairs matters, facilitating more than **\$145,000** in refunds returned to consumers.

Fiscal and Operational Support

Successfully launched the Onsite Fast Track Support Team, providing homeowners and construction professionals face-to-face assistance.

555,097 - development records downloaded (by the public via FastTrack)

\$45.7 million - impact fees collected

Health Services



Animal Services

- 91%** – live release rate for dogs
- 88%** – live release rate for cats
- 14,854** – domestic animal impounds
- 31,483** – requests for citizen response handled
- 66,517** – shelter visitors
- 330** – volunteers
- 402** – foster parents
- 127** – rescue groups
- Enforcement**
- 31,483** – activities handled
- 1,462** – citations issued
- 2,668** – bite reports
- 530** – wildlife and pocket pets relocated
- Clinic**
- 17,314** – vet exams performed
- 7,436** – spay/neuter surgeries
- 629** – x-rays taken
- 222** – pets sponsored for heartworm treatment
- Kennel**
- 6,798** – dog impounds
- 7,786** – cat impounds
- 14,557** – behavior observations logged
- 15,681** – volunteer hours
- 8,702** – community service hours
- Communications**
- 8,086** – pet adoptions
- 1,234** – pet reclaims
- 354** – pets fostered by Animal Services staff

MAT Health Services

Health Services has made a conscious effort to increase access to services for justice-involved individuals and uninsured residents with substance use disorders. In September 2024, the Orange County Medical Clinic established a Medication-Assisted Treatment Program (MAT) for

addiction, as data shows access to MAT is a robust protective factor against overdose deaths. To date, **488** clients have taken advantage of MAT services at the Orange County Jail and at the Orange County Medical Clinic.



Medical Clinic

- \$1.78 million** – in free medications received year to date from the drug manufacturer’s Patient Assistance Programs
- 76** – community outreach events held by the County Outreach Awareness Community Health Team
- 762** – patients screened for cardiovascular disease and received education on reducing risk factors and healthy lifestyles
- \$1.1 million dollars** – in donated specialty care services through the Volunteer Healthcare Provider Program
- 1,361** – volunteer hours donated to patient care through the Volunteer Healthcare Provider Program
- 1,355** – patient visits
- 254** – new patients cared for by the Internal Medicine Residency Clinic
- 1,602** – new and returning patient visits by the Internal Medicine Residency Clinic (fiscal year to date)

Mosquito Control Division

The Mosquito Control Division, in partnership with Orange County Government’s Planning and Environmental Development Services GIS Team, finalized the design and commenced testing of a new GIS-based data management system. This system will serve as the division’s new central platform for recording and managing all geospatial data related to mosquito control activities within the County.

- 306,585** – acres sprayed for the control of adult mosquitoes.
- 2,885** – acres of water treated for the control of mosquito larvae.
- 2,829** – service request calls received from the public.
- 84** – cases received intensive control operations for active mosquito-borne disease.

Office for a Drug-Free Community

- The Orange County Drug-Free Coalition sponsors six volunteer committees representing youth, parents, guardians, faith leaders, law enforcement, health professionals, treatment providers, youth-serving organizations, state and local government agencies, and businesses.
- The Coalition’s goal is to work with schools, students and parents to prevent drug use before it starts. It also works with law enforcement to support efforts to decrease the drug supply, work with substance abuse treatment agencies to reduce drug demand, and support organizations that assist individuals in recovery from substance-use disorders.
- In 2024, the Coalition initiated the Florida Collaborative Opioid Recovery (CORe), a partnership between hospitals, social service agencies and treatment providers that enhances access to treatment and recovery efforts.

Office of the Medical Director/EMS

- In partnership with the Orange County Fire Rescue Department, successfully implemented a prehospital whole-blood program for patients in shock from acute blood loss.
- Introduced a new trauma protocol to address the specific needs of the geriatric population.
- Published and implemented new clinical patient care protocols systemwide.

Administration & Fiscal Services

Arts and Culture

15 - public art exhibitions: Sculpture on the Lawn, Art in the Chambers, Art in the Atrium, Art in the Multicultural Center, and Orange County Convention Center Highwaymen Collection

6 - public art commissions
10,227 - subscribers to weekly Arts & Cultural Affairs Update
100+ - cultural heritages given a platform at FusionFest

7 - artist spotlight videos

7 - Artfully Orange interviews

1 - International Sculpture Day Artist Talk

32 - citizens engaged in Arts & Cultural Affairs advisory councils, boards and committees

41 - public meetings regarding Arts & Cultural Affairs in Orange County

Launched the Planning Process for CANVAS: A Cultural Plan for the City of Orlando and Orange County

27 - members on the Steering Committee

12 - meetings with elected officials

14 - listening sessions

4 - Steering Committee meetings

2 - discussion workshops

800 - responses to community survey

Arts & Cultural Affairs Grant Programs Impact

Cultural Tourism Grants: **40** funded,

5 new, **12** BIPOC-led, or-serving

Cultural Facilities: **4** funded

Venue Subsidies: **42** funded organizations for **126** events

11 - new collaborations for DEI and Sustainability projects

2 - Blockbuster and Special Events grants awarded

Economic Impact of Arts & Culture in Orange County from the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP6) Study

\$264.9 million - money spent by organizations and audiences

4,943 - arts and culture employment opportunities

2.8 million - in-person attendees

41.5% - attendees who were nonlocal

\$50.3 million - arts and culture-related revenue returned to the government

Office of Professional Standards

2,670 - background Investigations Completed

56 - misconduct Investigations

Risk Management

980 - claims processed

62 - ergonomic studies completed

1358 - employee training classes conducted

842 - contracts reviewed

Office of Management and Budget

\$6.7 billion - total proposed budget

\$203,925 billion - assessed Value

Population

903.4 - square miles of land

113 - parks

45 - fire Stations

5,966 - lane miles maintained

26.1 billion - gallons of water produced for consumption

Office of Management and Budget Recognitions

- Received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada distinguished budget award for the 38th consecutive year.
- Received Truth in Millage (TRIM) compliance certification from the State for FY 2023-24.
- Continued to successfully monitor and manage the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Local Recovery funding in the amount of \$270 million.
- Implied General Obligation Credit Rating AAA Fitch Rating Kroll Bond Rating Agency Moody's Investors Services (AAA).



Public Works

Making Our Roads Safer And More Accessible

In 2024, Orange County Public Works continued its commitment to making roadways safer and more accessible for all under the Accelerated Transportation Safety Program.



12

miles of new sidewalks constructed and roadway lighting installed along key corridors



59

radar speed signs installed



109

speed humps installed



109

school zones upgraded

Our teams also successfully implemented intersection safety projects and managed the construction of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, including the Alafaya Trail Pedestrian Safety Project and multiple roadway lighting installations across the County.

The Highway Construction Division oversaw major roadway and drainage improvement projects, including Pine Hills Road Safety Improvements, Shingle Creek Regional Trail Phase 3 and the Lake Lawne Weir Retrofit. Additionally, to ensure ADA accessibility across the County, the division constructed more than 970 new curb ramps.

The Roads & Drainage Division paved 259 lane miles of roadway,

replaced 7,500 feet of stormwater pipes and completed critical drainage projects that mitigated localized flooding in several communities. **The Stormwater Management team** successfully rehabilitated major stormwater infrastructure, including the Long Lake Outfall Pipeline and the Lake George Drainwell at Barber Park, enhancing flood protection in vulnerable areas.

The Public Works Engineering Division completed the design of bridge replacements for Bates Road and Buck Road, supporting long-term infrastructure sustainability. Roadway improvements advanced across major corridors such as Avalon Road, Reams Road and Kennedy Boulevard.

Additionally, major roadway projects, including Alafaya Trail and Corporate Boulevard, Dean Road and University Boulevard, and Powers Drive and North Lane, progressed in design and construction, improving traffic flow and safety for residents.

The department completed the Orange County Benchmark Project, improving floodplain management and infrastructure planning through precise elevation data mapping. **The Transportation Planning team** worked on electrification initiatives and long-term mobility strategies, including leading efforts for advanced air mobility planning and the County's EV Fleet Transition Plan.



Hurricane Milton Debris Cleanup

2,300

miles of roadway cleared

200,000+

cubic yards of storm debris cleared (enough to fill 80 Olympic-size swimming pools)

35

hauling units utilized

Thanks to the dedication of our contractors and crews and the patience and cooperation of residents who placed debris curbside, this massive cleanup effort was a huge success.

Orange County Convention Center

189

Total Events

\$2.99 billion

Total Economic Impact

1.7 million

Total Attendance

Top 5 Events

AAU Jr. National Volleyball Championships 2024

300,000

Attendees

\$385,050,000

Economic Impact

MEGACON Orlando 2024

160,000

Attendees

\$205,360,000

Economic Impact

Open Championship Series 2024

69,500

Attendees

\$89,203,250

Economic Impact

NPE 024 2024

200,000

Attendees

\$256,700,000

Economic Impact

Sunshine Volleyball Classic 2024

160,000

Attendees

\$205,360,000

Economic Impact

Economic Impact Study

According to a study completed by PFM Group Consulting (PFM) on the Orange County Convention Center's event activity, its total economic impact was \$3.9 billion, including direct, indirect and induced impacts.

Additional findings, according to the study, include:

- **28,100 individuals** are employed both directly and indirectly due to activity at the OCCC.
- An estimated **1,200 local businesses** depend in full or in part on the OCCC's event activity.
- Facilities directly supported by Convention Center activities, such as hotels, restaurants, offices, etc., generate approximately **\$28.9 million in tax revenue** for Orange County Public Schools.
- Each event attendee generates **\$2,536** in economic impact.
- OCCC events account for more than **2.7 million** occupied hotel room nights per year.

Orange County Corrections

The Orange County Jail is the 4th largest jail in the State of Florida.



35,313

people booked into the Orange County Jail



3,111

average daily jail population



In October 2024, the Community Corrections Division of Orange County Corrections hosted a Community Resource Fair, which featured more than 50 vendors, nonprofits and employers. Its objective was to assist recently released inmates, offenders on community supervision, the homeless and anyone in need. More than 200 individuals attended, including a few who were hired on the spot.

Earlier in the year, the department held an internal resource fair for inmates with a release date of 90 days or less. The fair connected inmates with community partners that assist with creating a more stable environment upon release in areas such as employment, educational resources and affordable housing.

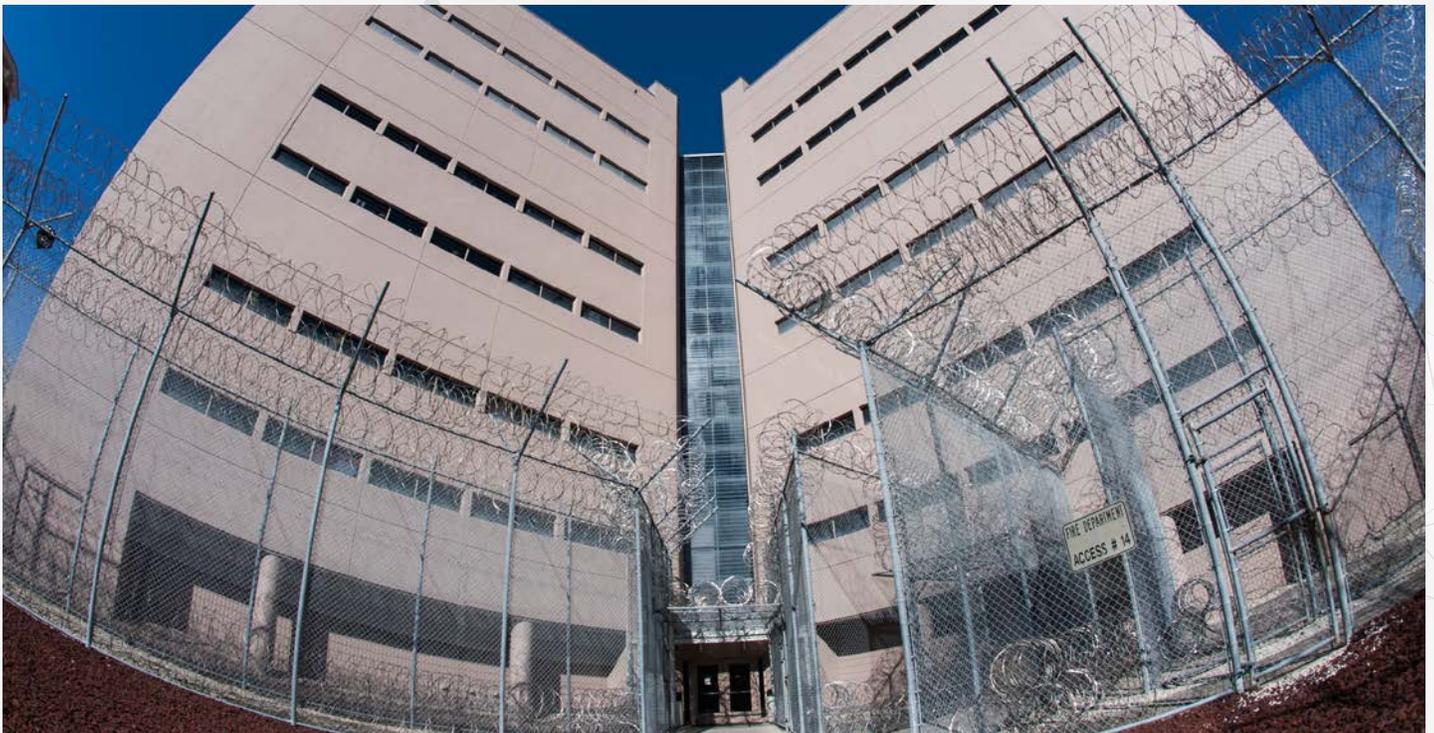
Since 43 percent of inmates have a mental health diagnosis, improving mental health among the inmate population is an ongoing goal of Orange County Corrections. The New Start program includes yoga and other self-care strategies. It also has a creative

arts component, which yields many benefits, including mindfulness, stress reduction, improved mood and increased self-esteem.

The Orange County Jail continues to offer various educational, self-help and substance abuse programs. Providing these resources is essential because 96 percent of inmates return to the community, and these programs are designed to help reduce recidivism.

In November 2024, the jail graduated its 21st class from the Inmate Construction Program. The six-week program, offered in partnership with Valencia College, provides students with the skills to succeed in construction. Since the program started, 313 students have graduated. Of those, 211 have secured full-time employment, and 178 work in the construction industry. This is significant, as research shows gainful employment is key to reducing recidivism.

Also in 2024, the department implemented a drone detection system to protect our facilities from drone contraband delivery.



Orange County Fire Rescue



100

new firefighters graduated



5

new transport units



7

new tandem boats



1

new high water vehicle



5

new pumpers, 2 additional aerial trucks and an Air Truck



4

new Battalion vehicles



3

new Captain trucks

Training

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) renovation project was completed in February 2024 with new workstations, technology upgrades, and enhanced security throughout the building, the EOC and the 911 centers.

- **\$4.1 million** – CIP Project Cost
- **\$1.1 million** – cost for lobby renovation and security upgrades with some funds provided by ARPA
- **126** – new seating workstations, including breakroom and conference rooms
- **88** – workstations on the main EOC floor

Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Program

On March 21, 2024, Orange County Fire Rescue launched the Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Program, a first-of-its-kind program in Central Florida that enables first responders to provide blood transfusions to trauma patients at the scene of an incident before hospital arrival. Less than 1% of all fire departments in the United States have this program.

Dispatch Activity

- **114,304** – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls
- **19,164** – Fire calls
- **5,932** – Miscellaneous calls



Sustainability

\$1 million grant

for developing regional Climate Action Plan

Two Wheels, One Program

The new micromobility program in Orange County debuted in the summer of 2024, with e-bikes and e-scooters available to rent.

293 cases of paper saved

\$13,500 savings

with new Electronic Meeting Agendas for the Board of County Commissioners

22 Earth Day events

13 staff members

earned their LEED Green Associates Accreditations

1 new mobility recharge hub opened

Orange County Convention Center recharge mobility hub sign unveiling
(Note: This doesn't make sense. It's two separate things not separated by punctuation. Need to clarify with Office of Sustainability.)

4 Level 2 energy audits

Project is in place to complete four ASHRAE Level 2 energy audits on some of the most energy-intensive County buildings.



Utilities

In 2024, Orange County Utilities continued its focus on sustainability, resilience and innovation while providing safe and reliable water resources and solid waste recovery services.

Population Served



668,000

curbside
garbage and
recycling services



855,000

water service
across 474
square miles



415,000

reclaimed
water service



1,118,000

wastewater
service across 667
square miles

Operations

71 million gallons of water per day

62 million gallons of wastewater
treated and beneficially reused
per day

4,864 miles of underground pipe,
including 701 miles of reclaimed
water lines

12,180 fire hydrants maintained

8,000+ commercial, subdivision
and roadway development plans
reviewed

48.7 million garbage, recycling,
yard waste and large-item
curbside collections

1.37 million tons of waste
landfilled

2.76 million water meter readings

12,928 walk-in/drive-thru
customers

267,850 customer calls

The Power of Solar

In a big step forward to support the Mayor's Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan, Orange County Utilities brought two solar arrays online in 2024.



Floating Solar Array Ribbon Cutting March 14, 2024

The largest floating solar array in the southeast is located at the Southern Regional Water Supply Facility. More than **2,200 floating panels** across the **3.6-acre pond** reduce the water treatment plant's energy costs by **25 percent**. In its first 10 months of operations, it produced **1,300 megawatt hours of energy**, and more than **663 metric tons** of CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions were avoided.

The department's pilot ground-mounted solar array is at the Northwest Water Reclamation Facility. This is the

largest County facility array at two megawatts, and it takes **10 acres** to hold its **4,056 panels**. This system generates up to 60 percent of the facility's power while saving more than **\$400,000 annually**. So far, it has produced **4,000 megawatt hours of energy**, and almost **2,000 metric tons** of CO₂ were avoided.

Empowering the Next Generation

The Board of County Commissioners recognized the second class of the H₂O Pipeline program in April 2024, and the third class began in August 2024. This classroom-to-career workforce development initiative is a collaborative program between Orange County Utilities and Orange County Public Schools that answers a need in the utility industry and creates career opportunities for seniors right out of high school. The students can become certified water or wastewater treatment operators through classroom study and hands-on training.

In the first two years, 18 students completed the program, eight were accepted as interns, and six were hired. Currently we have the largest H₂O Pipeline class with 21 students enrolled.

Hurricane Response

During the busy 2024 hurricane season, Orange County Utilities teams assisted communities impacted severely by the storms. Fourteen employees went to Cedar Key, Tallahassee and the Suwannee Water/Sewer District to support operations after Hurricane Helene. Additionally, eight employees supported Hillsborough County Utilities after Hurricane Milton.

Human Resources

Human Resources is committed to increasing business efficiency, agility and productivity across the County and providing employees with professional development opportunities.



1,350
job postings



67,594
applications
screened



33,787
applicants qualified
and routed



1,581
applicants hired



36
job fairs
attended



2
hiring
events

927 – applicants hired utilizing the Sign-on Incentive Program

115 – applicants hired referred by current County employees

19% increase – in applications received

14% reduction – in job vacancy rate

45% reduction – in time spent on the online application process due to resume parsing

19 – job assessments converted to an online format

693 – hours of labor saved by eliminating manual job assessment scoring

1,008 – employees recognized for service award milestones

\$69,100 – monetary service awards distributed to eligible employees

352 – County employees graduated from the Professional Development Passport Series

1,002 – County employees registered for the Corporate 5k



Communications

The Office of Communications promotes clear and effective external communication. Committed to transparency, the office assists departments and divisions in their role as stewards of the County's tax dollars and overall reputation.



1,435

news media inquiries

9

major news events

State of the County
Emergency Operations Center Media Tour
Hurricane Helene
Hurricane Milton
Transportation
Mayor's Toy Drive
Broadband for All
Kaleo Ministries
Hot Cars and Pets

Social and Digital Media

15,522,159

impressions across social media platforms

4,796

posts published on social media platforms

101

stories published in the newsroom

153

news releases published in the newsroom

506,021

total visits to the newsroom

9,642,376

total visits to ocfl.net

Orange TV

Orange TV is available on Spectrum channels 488 and 492, Comcast channels 9 and 98, and WSWF channels 10.2 and 10.3. Viewers can also watch on streaming devices such as ROKU and Amazon Fire TV, or online at ocfl.net/orangetv.

- **2 million** impressions on YouTube
- **1,000** hours of live broadcasts
- **200** unique video projects
- **Upgraded equipment** to ensure efficient communication with Comcast cable
- **Updated cameras in the BCC Chambers** to new higher quality, IP-based technology to allow control of cameras from anywhere within the Orange County network.
- **Installed a new assistive listening system** with wireless devices available upon request in BCC chambers. This service can also be accessed using Wi-Fi on personal devices.
- **Added live closed captioning in BCC** chambers accessible on personal devices by scanning a QR code. The captions are also available in Spanish and Creole with downloadable transcripts. Viewers at home can also access this feature on their personal devices or computers.

Leadership Team – Mayor’s Office



Roseann Harrington
Chief of Staff



Carol Burkett
Deputy Chief of Staff



Simone Babb
Chief Innovation and Emerging
Technologies Officer



Kelley Teague
Director of Legislative Affairs



Jeff Williamson
Director of Communications



Dennis Holste
Administrator Economic
Development



Ronda Robinson
Special Assistant to the Mayor



Shally Wong
Special Assistant to the Mayor



Marc Espeso
Special Assistant to the Mayor



Marthaly Irizarry
Special Assistant to the Mayor

County Administrator Office



Byron Brooks, AICP
County Administrator



Jon Weiss P.E.
Deputy County Administrator



Danny Banks
Deputy County Administrator



Carla Bell Johnson
Deputy County Administrator



Lisa Snead
Assistant County Administrator



Mark Tester
Executive Director
Convention Center



Chief Louis Quinones
Orange County Corrections



Chief Jim Fitzgerald
Orange County Fire Rescue



Carrie Black
Chief Sustainability &
Resilience Officer



Anne Kulikowski
Director of Administrative
Services



Venerria Thomas
Director of Community &
Family Services



Dr. Raul Pino
Director of Health Services



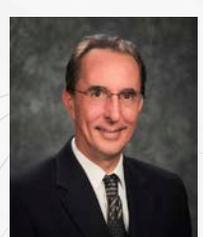
Yvette Best
Director of Human Resources



Rafael Mena
Director of Information
Systems & Services



Ed Torres
Director of
Orange County Utilities



Joe Kunkel P.E.
Director of Public Works



Tanya Wilson, AICP
Director of Planning,
Environmental &
Development Services



Kurt Petersen
Director of Office of
Management & Budget



**John Petrelli, CPCU,
AIC, ARM, AICM**
Director, Risk Management
and Professional Standards



Resident Resources

Mayor Demings' Digest - www.ocfl.net/mayor

311 - www.ocfl.net/311

Orange County Website - www.ocfl.net

The Source - www.ocfl.net/thesource

Connect With Orange County

Facebook - @OrangeCountyFlorida

Twitter - @OrangeCOFL

YouTube - OrangeTVFL

Instagram - @OCFL

