CONGRESSMAN TED S. YOHO, DVM



## PROJECT PUTNAM

QUARTERLY REPORT

**July 2018** 

## DEAR FRIENDS,

I am inspired by the progress we have made with Project Putnam over the past two quarters. The dedication and collaboration between every facet of Project Putnam has brought our vision to new heights. My team and I are very thankful for each person involved in this project, and we are excited to keep moving forward.

Project Putnam is a three year economic development plan to improve the economic, social, educational and overall development of Putnam County. With your participation, support, and input we can make this project a reality. Our plan consists of five main pillars: Recovery, Stability, Growth, Accountability, and Engagement



- The **Recovery** pillar's mission is to recover FEMA funds from the devastation of Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, debris cleanup, and accomplish A-G projects throughout the country.
- The **Stability** pillar encompasses education, infrastructure, and industry. Educational goals include increasing graduation rates, expanding school and community resources, and creating new educational opportunities. Infrastructure and industry focuses on needs such as waste water treatments and broadband, while also striving to more efficiently use industry resources to grow Putnam County's current industry.
- The **Growth** pillar focuses on economic development through industry clusters and niche infrastructure projects. It also strives to boost tourism and housing development by recognizing new opportunities and investing in them.
- The **Accountability** pillar will identify action items via participating partners, and establish tangible goals to report quarterly progress on.
- The **Engagement** pillar looks to establish stakeholder priorities and persuade them to adopt Project Putnam as the most effective resolution. Engagement also includes consistently open internal communication between partners.

Using these five pillars effectively, we hope to fulfill and exceed our vision for Project Putnam. Project Putnam's economic development will change lives in ever-increasing ways. Our vision is to create a stable, growing development situation in Putnam County that will foster community, culture, education, and investment. As economic development improves, individual lives overwhelmingly improve. The opportunity for socio-economic security for every person is a tangible, necessary goal for Putnam County's continued growth and success. We want to create that opportunity because this prosperity breeds further positive investment in industry, infrastructure, and society as a whole.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of Project Putnam. I know that through determination and teamwork Putnam County can become an exceptional community full of progress and opportunity. If any of you have any questions or comments about any of these programs, I encourage you to contact our office at 352-505-0838 or visit my website at Yoho.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ted S. Yoho, DVM Member of Congress

Proudly Serving Florida's 3rd District



## FEDERAL UPDATE

### **Putnam County Meetings**

#### April 1, 2018

Congressman Yoho met with law enforcement officers and county school superintendents across the congressional district to discuss school safety. Putnam County Sheriff, School Superintendent and Chiefs of Police were present and gave their input on how to address the issue.

#### April 4, 2018

Congressman Yoho and State Representative Bobby Payne had the opportunity to spend time with the employees of Seminole Electric. They were also given the opportunity to tour the improvements and expansion plans. These future plans for Seminole will guarantee future operational and job sustainability.

#### April 9, 2018

Congressman Yoho met with members of the Small Business Development Center and UF IFAS to discuss the idea of a Food Innovation Center. The purpose the Food Innovation Center would be to provide immediate economic benefit to the Tri-County Agriculture Area (TCAA) of Putnam, St. John's, and Flagler counties, and additional benefits to the remainder of the seven-county northeast Florida area (Clay, Duval, Nassau, and Baker counties) in the form of job creation, increased farm revenues from new crops, and improvements in workforce skill. The Congressman identified and presented a grant that would fund initial activities of the project.

Congressman Yoho met with Putnam County's Director of Public Works Press Tompkins to discuss county development, employee retention and grant opportunities.

#### April 14, 2018

Congressman Yoho attended the Putnam County American Legion Post 45's Open House where he presented lapel pins, medals and challenge coins to our Vietnam era veterans.

Congressman Yoho visited the Putnam Community Medical Center and discussed the issues facing the facility and county which included the transportation to and from medical services, drug shortage and provider recruitment.

#### April 28, 2018

Congressman Yoho's staff attended Freedom Fest hosted by Hillcrest Baptist Church at the Putnam County Fairgrounds.

Over 400 veterans attended with their family and friends.

#### May 30, 2018

Congressman Yoho's staff met with the Putnam Forward group to discuss school safety with Sheriff Deloach, Chief Shaw, Superintendent Surrency and School Board Chairwoman Jane Crawford. Additional topics that were covered are Project Putnam and Putnam County improvements.

#### May 28, 2018

Congressman Yoho participated in a Memorial Day lunch with American Legion Post 45 in Palatka.

## FEDERAL UPDATE CONT. Additional Putnam County Meetings

June 15, 2018

Congressman Yoho and his staff led the charge to change the name of the Interlachen Post Office as a memorial for Medal of Honor recipient Robert Jenkins. Congressman Yoho introduced the necessary legislation to the House of Representatives in September of 2017 and it was officially changed to the "Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Post Office" in March 2018.

June 21, 2018

Congressman Yoho's Deputy Chief of Staff met with members of Northeast Florida Education Consortium to discuss education legislation, updated scores for schools and region and options for new programs to be implemented in Putnam County. Action items include exploration of new vocational/technical IT programs for low income individuals and more.

Congressman Yoho's Deputy Chief of Staff met with members of the Putnam County School District to discuss grant needs, future program ideas and implementation and current accomplishments.

Congressman Yoho's Deputy Chief of Staff met with UF IFAS member David Dinkins to discuss the Food Innovation Center and the needs to move forward with its implementation. Alternative funding mechanisms were discussed and will be explored.

Congressman Yoho's Deputy Chief of Staff met with Putnam County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development representative to discuss the current state and needs for further development. The discussion revolved around current projects and projected ideas for the future. Together, our respective offices are targeting industries and companies to bring to Putnam County. Additional support for prospective capital investment project was offered from Congressman yoho's office.

June 27, 2018

Congressman YohoYoho met with the Army Corp of Engineers in Washington D.C. to discuss the modernization effort and the improvement of the water supply system in Putnam County.

## Q2 Project Accomplishments

Hurricane Irma FEMA Public Assistance – The goal of this project is to reimburse the County Funds expended for the response and recovery efforts. The estimated reimbursement is \$5, 591,820.93. FEMA has announced a **\$2.3** million reimbursement for debris removal in May 2018.

#### **Putnam County Housing Authority**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced on May 22nd that the Palatka Housing Authority was awarded with a \$1.1 million Capital Fund formula grant.

#### **Army Corp of Engineers**

In addition to a letter of support, Rep. Ted Yoho met with the Army Corp of Engineers in Washington D.C. to discuss the modernization effort and the improvement of the water supply system in Putnam County.

## FEDERAL UPDATE

#### **Letters of Support**

Congressman Yoho wrote a letter of support for the SOAR (Stem Oppurtunities for all Rural Students) Grant. SOAR is an initiative that aims to bring qualified, experienced college professors together with high school students via a virtual teaching platform so that high school students from rural communities that have traditionally have no access to teachers with professional training have an outlet to learn about a lucrative career option and are better prepared to earn a college degree. This would improve teacher quality, increase STEM applications in local industries, and better prepare students to succeed in college. If granted in Putnam, it would benefit over 200 students and 30 teachers district wide.

Congressman Yoho wrote a letter of support for the **MakerMinded program**. MakerMinded is a project that allows for students to learn about STEM fields via a virtual platform. The educational experiences immerse students in STEM and manufacturing-related careers in the hopes that students will enter these rewarding industries where there are ever-increasing shortage of qualified applicants.

Congressman Yoho wrote a letter of support to the **USDA Rural Development** to request grant funds to purchase firetrucks for the city of Palatka. The new firetrucks would replace older and unreliable trucks that are becoming a financial burden with repairs.

#### **Requesting Letters of Support**

Our office is happy to assist with letters of support from Congressman Yoho to government and private organizations in Putnam County seeking grant funding and project support. We encourage inquiries to be sent to Congressman Yoho's Deputy Chief of Staff Kat Cammack at Kat.Cammack@mail.house.gov or 352-505-0838.

In making your request, please provide:

- The name of the organization requesting the letter.
- The name and title of the person requesting the letter on behalf of the organization and that person's contact phone and email.
- A deadline date for the letter of support.
- A brief summary of your program including its history, its successes, and how it would benefit the constituents of Congressman Yoho's 3rd Congressional District, the region, etc. Please include any benefits such as job creation, unique aspects, etc.
- The location where the letter of support, once completed, should be sent, such as a mailing address, an email address, or a fax number.



# STATE UPDATE







Rep. Bobby Payne

#### **State Appropriations & Projects**

East Palatka Fire Station Water Expansion. This project is supported by Senate Appropriation Form 2250 and House Bill 3297. These funds will be used to extend the Putnam County water lines to the new Fire Station in East Palatka. This will provide a potable water source to the new fire station and surrounding residential sites. During last year's budget cycle, Putnam County received \$1 million to build the new Fire Station in East Palatka. Putnam County Board of County Commissioners is currently working on this project. The project was awarded \$850,000 and the county is awaiting funding agreement from State with anticipated design to begin this year.

Communications Equipment Upgrade. This project was supported by House Bill 3295 and State Senate's last legislative session. These funds will upgrade the Putnam Safety Radio System, by procuring new dispatch consoles and integration services. The project was awarded \$790,232 and the county is awaiting funding agreements and drafting RFP for a Communication System consultant to assist with planning and procurement of new dispatch consoles and systems integration services.

**Putnam County School District Advanced Manufacturing**. This project was supported by Senate Appropriation Form 2316 and House Bill 3271. These funds will assist in preparing for technical and vocational skills for local industry jobs. The funds are to purchase equipment and to renovate existing rooms. The project was awarded \$250,000.

**Putnam County Animal Shelter.** Additionally, \$500,000 was included in the Department of Economic Opportunity's budget for the Putnam County Animal Shelter. These funds will replace an inadequate facility and will include spay and neutering and adoptions areas, all under one roof. The site is selected and soil borings have been taken. Design discussions are underway and the county anticipates construction to begin this year.

**Economic Opportunity Investment Zones.** Senator Perry, Rep. Payne, and Rep. Yoho recommended to the Governor to designate eight census tracts in Putnam County as Economic Opportunity Investment Zones under the new tax reform. In June, Governor Scott announced three census tracts are designated in Putnam County. These areas will receive federal funds for streamlined regulation, infrastructure projects, and other means to promote economic development.



## PUTNAM COUNTY UPDATE



County Administrator Terry Suggs

The focused initiatives strive to alleviate problems specific to Putnam County. After the completion of Project Putnam, the goal is that Putnam County will continue to thrive and grow for the benefit of its residents.

#### **Federal Legislative Meetings**

## Putnam County Representaives conduct meetings in Washington D.C.

On May 23rd and 24th, Putnam County Representatives convened 3 separate meetings with Staff from our Congressional Delegation (Abby Tinsley, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Senator Bill Nelson; Wes Brooks, Legislative Assistant, Office of Marco Rubio; and Jeff Sands, Legislative Policy Advisor, Office of Representative Yoho) to discuss a variety of priorities that are major concerns.

- Congressional and Army Corps of Engineers support for the Water Resources Infrastructure Project, which is authorized in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, that would provide the much-needed upgrades to our aging central water system and facilities; and supply clean and safe drinking water to a significant population of Putnam County residents.
- Seeking Federal Assistance via grant programs from the United States Department of Homeland Security which provides technical assistance and resources through their Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the County's Waste Water System Expansion Project.
- Seeking Federal assistance via grant programs through the Environmental Protection Agency & the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Program, to help complete the County's Water System Expansion Project.
- Seeking Congressional and Federal Assistance via grant programs from the following federal agencies: Army Corps of Engineers, Departments of Transportation and Commerce to help commence the County's Barge Port Development Project which will initiate the dredging and infrastructure improvement phases.
- Seeking Federal Assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Community Connect Grant Program, to help expand and improve broadband service and deployment into rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service.

## PUTNAM COUNTY UPDATE

#### **Continued Federal Legislative Meetings**

**United States Forest Service** - On May 24th, Putnam County Representatives met with United States Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen and staff to discuss the road maintenance issue within the Ocala Forest. Chief Christiansen understood the County's concerns and wants to work in unison to seek an amicable solution to the maintenance issue within the Forest. Appointed staffer to oversee the road maintenance issue and wants to develop a rapport with the County to ensure the Forest Service and County can work in partnership to resolve future discrepancies in a swift manner.

Army Corps of Engineers - On May 24th, Putnam County Representatives met with Ryan Fisher, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works Division, at the Pentagon to discuss the Army Corps of Engineers Authorized Provision in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which provides federal assistance to Water Resource Facilities and Projects in Putnam County, Florida. Mr. Fisher recognized and acknowledged the authorization initiated by former Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Mica; and understood the County's concerns and need to commence the water project in the County. Mr. Fisher agreed that the Authorization Provision is still active and is not on the Army Corps of Engineers Deauthorization List. Mr. Fisher will contact officials at the Jacksonville District and HQ Offices to get a status on the project; and agreed to work with the County to provide funding to the Authorization in the 2007 WRDA Bill.

#### **FEMA**

**Hurricane Matthew FEMA Public Assistance-** The goal of this project is to reimburse the County Funds expended for response and recovery efforts. The County has received \$160, 804.23 in the General Fund and \$1,061,753.33 in the Sanitation Fund. The county is working on recovery efforts of Veterans Park.

Hurricane Irma FEMA Public Assistance – The goal of this project is to reimburse the County Funds expended for the response and recovery efforts. The estimated reimbursement is \$5, 591,820.93. FEMA has announced a \$2.3 million reimbursement for debris removal in May 2018.

#### St. Johns River Management District

Waste Water Expansion Project- Paradise Point to Gilbert Road – The goal of this project is to install wastewater lines and lift stations to mitigate septic tank flooding near the St. Johns River. The request was for \$2 million and it was awarded. The project is underway and construction is 30% complete.

**Wastewater Expansion Project-** Pico Road and Elsie Drive – The goal of this project was to install water lines and lift stations to mitigate septic tank flooding near the St. Johns River. The request was for \$462, 304 and it was awarded. The county is finalizing funding agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District and anticipates design commencement this year.

Wastewater Expansion Project – Horse Landing Road- The goal of this project was to install water lines and lift stations to mitigate septic tank flooding near the St. Johns River. The request was for \$656, 996 and it was awarded. The county is finalizing funding agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District and anticipates design commencement this year.

## PUTNAM COUNTY UPDATE

## State of Florida Legislative Appropriations

**East Palatka Fire Station Potable Water Expansion** – the goal of this project was to extend the Putnam County potable water lines along the S/R 207 Corridor to include a fire station. The request was for \$850,000 and it was awarded. The county is awaiting funding agreement from State with anticipated design to begin this year.

Communications Equipment Upgrade (700 MHZ) – the goal of this project was to update the Public Safety Radio System in a phased approach to a P25 Communication System. The request was for \$790, 232, and it was awarded. The county is awaiting federal agreement and drafting RFP for a Communication System consultant to assist with planning and procurement of new dispatch consoles and systems integration services.

Animal Shelter Facility- the goal of this project was to replace the shelter which was damaged during Hurricane Irma. It would also include a house pet adoption and spay neuter program. The request was for \$500,000. It was awarded through a private/public partnership. The county has a site selected and soil borings have been taken. The design discussions are underway and construction is anticipated to begin this year.

**East Putnam Drainage and Flooding Mitigation**- the goal of this project was to mitigate 17 miles of drainage canals/ditches to enhance the stormwater system and significantly reduce flooding. The request was for \$800,000 and it was not awarded. Additional funding streams are being researched through federal partners.

**Multi-Use Education and Livestock Facility-** the goal of this project was to provide a facility for youth and agriculture education, large animal shelter during storm events and an upgrade to fairgrounds. The request was for \$290,000 and it was not awarded. Additional funding streams are being researched through federal partners.

**Pico Road and Elsie Drive Wastewater Expansion Project-** the goal of this project was to install waste water lines and lift stations to mitigate septic tank flooding near St. Johns River. The request was for \$750,000 and it was not awarded. Additional funding streams are being researched through federal partners.



## Putnam County Sheriff's Office Updates



Putnam County
Sheriff "Gator" Deloach

#### **Crime Rates Decrease**

#### From the Desk of the Sheriff Deloach

According to the FBI and Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Uniform Crime reporting, crime in Putnam County dropped by double digits in 2017.

Crime in Putnam County fell by 17.9%, this represents the second largest county decrease in the state.

Violent crime in Putnam County decreased by 31.5% in 2017.

Property Crime decreased by 15.2% in 2017.

The crime rate in Florida is 2989.5 crimes per 100,000 residents. The crime rate in Putnam County is 2548.6 crimes per 100,000 residents, making Putnam County safer than the State of Florida as a whole.

In 2017, Putnam County had the largest drop in crime than any of our contiguous counties.

In comparison, Putnam County has a lower crime rate than Alachua and Marion Counties.





## COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES





Putnam County Superintendent Rick Surrency



St. Johns River State College President Joe Pickins

#### **Grants and Programs**

- Jobs for Florida Graduates Grant: Jobs for Florida's Graduates (JFG) is a school-to-career program designed to help young people graduate, thereby building the confidence to move onto gainful employment or postsecondary education. This program is an affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Putnam County School District has been approved for another year with this program.
- SOAR (Stem Oppurtunities for all Rural Students) is an initiative that aims to bring qualified, experienced college professors together with high schoolers via a virtual teaching platform so that high schoolers from rural communities that have traditionally have no access to teachers with professional training have an outlet to learn about a lucrative career option and are better prepared to earn a college degree. This would improve teacher quality, increase STEM applications in local industries, and better prepare students to succeed in college. If granted in Putnam, it would benefit over 200 students and 30 teachers district wide.
- MakerMinded is a project that allows for students to learn about STEM fields via a virtual platform. The
  educational experiences immerse students in STEM and manufacturing-related careers in the hopes that
  students will enter these rewarding industries where there are ever-increasing shortage of qualified
  applicants.



## COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES



#### **Graduation Rates Increase**

#### From the Desk of Superintendent Surrency

The Putnam County School District implemented our Graduation initiative in 2016 to strategically improve our school and district graduation rates. We have improved 17.3% in two years from 54.9% in 2015 to 72.5% in 2017. While the 2018 graduation rates will not be officially released until the fall, our proejections for this year show another increase. We believe we will exceed our district target once again and reach a rate of 80%. This will bring our district close to the state average.

The increases in our school and district graduation rates have been accomplished through the collaboration of our school leaders, counselors, and graduation coaches. Our students, however, deserve the most credit for working hard to meet graduation requirements and graduate on time with a standard diploma.

We appreciate your continue support for our district and county.

#### **District Graduation Rate Targets and Outcomes**

Historical Data 2014-15		Baseline <b>2015-16</b>	Year 1 2016-17	Year 2 2017-18	Year 3 2018-19	Year 4 2019-20
	Target	60.0%	66.0%	72.0%	76.0%	80.0%
54.9%		63.6%	54.9%			
		+8.7%	+8.6%			
		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			
		+8.7%	+17.3%			

### **Cresent City, Florida**

## CITY UPDATES









**City Manager Patrick Kennedy** 

#### **Grants and Appropriations**

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Technical Assistance Grant to update and expand our Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The stated, narrow purpose of the expansion of the Community Reinvestment Act is to provide tax increment financing for much-needed water, sewer, roads and broadband infrastructure. It will not solve these issues by itself but will be one tool in the toolbox that can help us leverage other funding sources. The CRA Plan updates under this Department of Economic Opportunity's grant also provide the specific plans for improvement in the Central Avenue corridor. Among the commitments in the plan proposals is a redevelopment plan for a hotel and retail space on Central Avenue at the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Summit Street. With the help of the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning and its Center for Hydro-Generated Urbanism, we have developed and are in the process of adopting a plan that gives the City specific guidance to pursue these efforts.

The CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant was awarded to Crescent City which will allow us to make paving and drainage improvements in our low-income neighborhoods to the west, to improve their quality of life and improve their property values.

FDOT M-SCOP Grant to pave on Walnut St.

Florida Boating Improvement Grant from Florida Fish and Wildlife to complete shoreline and pier improvements (with boat slips) for Sunrise Park on Crescent Lake. This facility will improve access to and from Crescent Lake and is identified for future improvements under the CRA Plan discussed above for full service marina facilities.

### **Cresent City, Florida**

## CITY UPDATES

#### **Grant Applications**

Crescent City submitted a grant application to the Florida Department of Transportation under it Municipal S.C.O.P. program for the resurfacing of Central Avenue, which includes re-establishment of the road base, new pavement, new striping and new curb and gutter work. Central Avenue is a primary east/west commercial district in the center of town with access to our two most valuable assets: Crescent Lake and Lake Stella. It is our intention to make this effort part of a larger effort to the streetscape, upgrade water utilities and improve storm water management and treatment in this corridor.

The above described is the only recent application for funding put forward by the City; however, we anticipate submitting for funding from the Water Management District for innovated drainage improvements and waterline upgrades as part of the larger effort for this area. The application cycle does not open until September, but we are rescheduling pre-application meetings now in an effort to take advantage of the synergy between this program and the M-SCOP program for improving the Central Avenue business district.

#### **Other Project Putnam Projects**

After speaking with Commissioner Hardy at a League of Cities event, the city started a conversation with Thayer Power and Communications about what is necessary to bring broadband to Crescent City. Thayer agreed to provide a "10,000 ft" view of the infrastructure and estimated cost for such a project. In the spirit of cooperation with the County, we brought the County's IT director into our meetings with Thayer and Thayer also provided an approach that includes County assets. A copy of the preliminary analysis related to the City is attached.

Crescent City has started its own Broadband Internet Committee to stay on top of efforts to bring true high-speed fiber-based internet to Crescent City. This group met with Kat Cammack, Congressman Yoho's Deputy Chief of Staff, to discuss the preliminary findings.

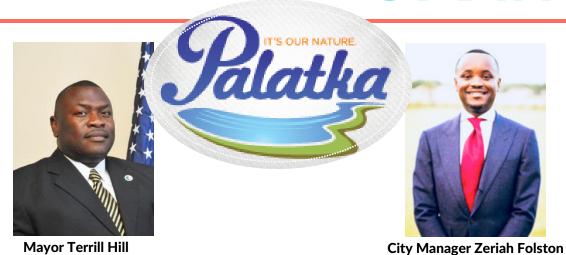


Congressman Yoho's office agreed to identify possible agency contacts which she provided and we will endeavor to drill down on this issue, exploring all possible solutions.

Staff has also contacted some fiber companies already involved in putting fiber in the US 17 corridor through Crescent City from north and south and has an appointment to explore possibilities of taking advantage of their efforts.

### Palatka, Florida

## CITY UPDATES



**Urban Service Area Map-** The City County joint meeting occurred in June. A proposed urban services area map has been developed.

**Upgrades to six lift stations** with the addition of back up pumps and power. A \$350,000 project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Beneficial Reclaimed Water Improvements –A \$1.2 million cost share project awarded by the St. Johns River Water Management District to upgrade the filtration system at the Moseley Avenue holding pond, to create a secondary holding pond on Brown Landing Road along with a 200-/+ acre spray field, and to connect the beneficial reclaim water line to an additional spray field off Lundy Road.

Water Line Replacement Project- A \$1.3 million project underway in Palatka's historic areas replacing water lines dating back to 1886. The City is working with FDEP and DEO to secure a 80%loan/20% principal forgiveness in excess of \$2.5 million and \$750k in CDBG funds to continue aging water line replacement project.\$500,000 was secured from the St Johns River Water Management District. \$700,000 complete with \$1.1 million set to be complete by Spring of 2019

**Riverfront Park and Downtown Commercial Area Improvements-** An \$800k project enhancing the existing Riverfront Park and Downtown Commercial Area. This project involved stormwater, parking, streetscaping and park improvements.

**Recreation Enhancements-** A \$300k in improvements are in progress at six existing parks. Improvements include ballfield renovations, playground construction, lighting, walking paths and other recreation amenities.

Road and Stormwater Improvements- The City and the County have partnered on improvements to St. John's Avenue. Plans include drainage enhancements to mitigate flooding, resurfacing areas of St. John's Avenue within the City limits and roadway expansion from SR 19 West. Portions of this project are in the planning phase with the County taking the lead. Funding has not been secured for all aspects of this effort.

## PILLAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## RECOVERY

Hurricane Matthew FEMA Public Assistance- The goal of this project is to reimburse the County Funds expended for response and recovery efforts. The County has received \$160, 804.23 in the General Fund and \$1,061,753.33 in the Sanitation Fund. The county is working on recovery efforts of Veterans Park.

Hurricane Irma FEMA Public Assistance – The estimated reimbursement is \$5, 591,820.93. FEMA has announced a \$2.3 million reimbursement for debris removal in May 2018.

## **STABILITY**

Putnam County Representatives convened 3 separate meetings with Staff from our Congressional Delegation to discuss a variety of priorities that are major concerns.

East Palatka Fire Station Water Expansion. The project was awarded \$850,000 in state appropriations and the county is awaiting funding agreement from State with anticipated design to begin this year.

Communications Equipment Upgrade. The project was awarded \$790,232 in state appropriations and the county is awaiting funding agreements and drafting RFP for a Communication System consultant to assist with planning and procurement of new dispatch consoles and systems integration services.

Putnam County Animal Shelter. The site is selected and soil borings have been taken. Design discussions are underway and the county anticipates construction to begin this year.

Economic Opportunity Investment Zones. In June, Governor Scott announced three census tracts are designated in Putnam County. These areas will receive federal funds for streamlined regulation, infrastructure projects, and other means to promote economic development.

## PILLAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **GROWTH**

Jobs for Florida's Graduates (JFG) is a school-to-career program designed to help young people graduate, thereby building the confidence to move onto gainful employment or post secondary education. This program is an affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Putnam County School District has been approved for another year with this program.

The Putnam County School District implemented our Graduation initiative in 2016 to strategically improve our school and district graduation rates. We have improved 17.3% in two years from 54.9% in 2015 to 72.5% in 2017.

According to the FBI and Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Uniform Crime reporting, crime in Putnam County dropped by double digits in 2017. Crime in Putnam County fell by 17.9%, this represents the second largest county decrease in the state.

Senator Perry, Rep. Payne, and Rep. Yoho recommended to the Governor to designate eight census tracts in Putnam County as Economic Opportunity Investment Zones under the new tax reform. In June, Governor Scott announced three census tracts are designated in Putnam County. These areas will receive federal funds for streamlined regulation, infrastructure projects, and other means to promote economic development.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Publishing Quarterly Report** 

Established tangible goals and initiatives with separate stakeholders and groups

## **ENGAGEMENT**

Scheduled meetings for the following quarter

Regular communication between partners, elected officials, and administrators

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN Q3

## **Project Putnam Vision**

#### **Federal**

Plan additional meetings with stakeholders and county/city officials. Continue to garner federal support for key projects within the County. Heavily promote Putnam County as a key area for investment and growth. Address the emergency management communications system that is critically needed for Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement. Finally, continue to garner feedback from the community as to the direction of Project Putnam.

General Body Meeting: Congressman Yoho will host a General Body meeting on July 27th at 9 a.m. in the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners chamber.

Regional Rural Broadband Meeting: Congressman Yoho will host a Regional Rural Broadband meeting on September 10th to discuss the infrastructure, funding and technological needs of bringing broadband to the rural areas of the congressional district.

#### State

Continue to support the goals for Putnam County by providing opportunities for economic growth.

#### **County & Cities**

Begin and complete infrastructure projects, and continue to meet with officials that will bring broadband throughout the county.

#### **Schools**

STEM opportunities have been expanded across the board with the creation of robotics clubs, a 3D printer club, and increased MakerSpace resources.

A scheduled second meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

#### **Stakeholders**

Continue to grow within Putnam County and help Putnam grow as a whole.

## GET INVOLVED!

Do you have some ideas for Project Putnam? Share them on our website at Yoho. House. Gov or on our Facebook Group page called "Rep. Yoho's Project Putnam." Following our website or Facebook page will also keep you updated on events and meetings happening with Project Putnam.

## CONTACT US!



www.Yoho.House.Gov



352-505-0838



@yohoprojectputnam



ProjectPutnam@mail.house.gov

Thank you