



TOPICS:



CITIZENS
ACADEMY



ENDEAVOR
UPDATE



PROPERTY
ORD.



ROW
PERMITS



DEBRIS
GRANT



CITIZENS ACADEMY

Jackson County concluded the final session of Citizens Academy 2024 on September 4th with a full class. This year's program saw outstanding participation since April, with citizens eager to engage and learn about local government. Our staff enjoyed building meaningful relationships with the community, and we look forward to recognizing this year's participants at the second Board meeting in October. Enrollment for Citizens Academy 2025 opens in February, and we can't wait to welcome new faces!



ENDEAVOR UPDATE

The County recently opened bids for the selective demolition of the former cafeteria on the Endeavor Property, preparing for the future Endeavor Museum. This historic 10,144-square-foot building, damaged by Hurricane Michael, will undergo careful demolition to preserve its façade. The County also advertised bids for a concessionaire to manage the Endeavor Convention Center, formerly the old gymnasium, as construction nears completion, seeking qualified partners to operate it as an events venue.



REAL PROPERTY ORDINANCE

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing clear procedures for acquiring and disposing of county-owned real property. It outlines methods for declaring property surplus and disposing of it through competitive bidding, private sales, or other means, while ensuring transparency and fairness in handling county real estate for public benefit.



RIGHT-OF-WAY CONNECTIONS

The Board has been reviewing costs for in-house right-of-way connections, which were previously installed for free by the Road & Bridge department. Permit fees introduced in 2014 were removed in 2018, shifting responsibility to property owners. Recent estimates put in-house installation costs at \$1,325 per connection. Data from six Florida counties shows permit fees ranging from \$25 to \$125, plus additional charges. In 2023, over 80 permits for culvert connections were issued, potentially costing over \$106,000 if handled by the County. The Board voted to allow property owners to purchase pipe at cost, with Road & Bridge ensuring proper installation.



TORNADO DEBRIS GRANT AGREEMENT

The Board has approved an agreement with Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) that will allow the County to be reimbursed up to \$1,333,160.35 for expenses incurred during debris removal after the January 2024 tornado. This funding helps cover the costs of cleanup efforts and support our community's recovery from the storm's impact.