



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

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**ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC WORKS
AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT TO RETIRE**

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Sept. 29, 2011) – Dr. Larry Thacker, Jr., assistant county administrator for the Marion County Public Works and Growth Management Division, is retiring. His last day with Marion County is Sept. 30, 2011.

“During my 50 plus years of managing and supervising employees, Marion County has the finest employees that I have ever had the privilege of working with,” Thacker said. “The citizens are extremely fortunate to have the benefit of their services.”

Thacker joined Marion County government in 2004 as the county’s bureau chief for public works. During his seven-year tenure, he oversaw the county’s airport, MSTU, transportation, solid waste and utility operations, and later the building and growth management departments.

Under his leadership, the county updated its emergency operations plans and established safety training programs for all departments. Thacker was also instrumental in coordinating the local public works response to the devastating hurricane season of 2004; his work helped the county save taxpayers \$29 million by recovering nearly 100 percent of the local funds expended in hurricane recovery activities, more than any other Florida county, through Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements.

In 2009, County Administrator Dr. Lee Niblock promoted Thacker to assistant county administrator. In his new position, Thacker continued to focus on streamlining department activities as well as improving staff productivity and internal communication.

“I appreciate Larry’s contribution to improving Marion County,” Niblock said. “During his tenure, he contributed greatly to a more efficient organization and more effective services for our citizens.”

County Engineer Mounir Bouyounes, P.E., will take over Thacker’s assistant county administrator duties at no additional taxpayer expense.

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