**Escambia County Florida**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In an effort to promote good citizenship and to familiarize the communi­ty with the organization and operation of local government, the Pensacola Bay Area League of Women Voters is issuing this revised and updated edi­tion of *Escambia County Government: Structure and Services.*

Publication of this booklet was made possible through the public- spirited cooperation and financial support of the Frank E. Gannett Foundation under the auspices of the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund.

The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan organization whose basic purpose is to foster citizen involvement and develop leaders, to help people understand public issues and how government works, and to promote discussion of government policies.

At the local level, the Pensacola League promotes greater citizen par­ticipation by assisting the Supervisor of Elections in voter registration and by providing objective information on candidates and issues.

The League arrives at its positions through research, study, intensive group discussion and a process of member consensus which gives the League its unique force and credibility with government policy makers.

Cover Photo: Courtesy Richard Hammond “Pensacola Beach” 1983

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY
GOVERNMENT**

**STRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

PUBLISHED BY
PENSACOLA BAY AREA
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SEPTEMBER, 1983

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**BEYOND THE EIGHTIES**

Blessed with natural and people resources in a pleasing environment en­dowed with challenging potential, Pensacola and Escambia County of the 1980s are on the threshold of **New Discovery.** Florida’s westernmost harbor city and county emerge on the horizon of the sunbelt with vigor through revitalization of cultural, educational and commercial dimensions; it is ready for the opportunity to become one of the key Gulf Coast development areas.

With **New Discovery,** manifested by the realization of a 10,000 seat Civic Arena now under construction, the Pensacola Bay area is ac­celerating governmental and private investment partnerships with bay front utilizations, historical preservation and preparation for an expanding tourism economy.

With the 1960s and 1970s came a major beach conservation effort: Gulf Islands National Seashore, and bold, thoughtful movements toward strengthening city and county government and bringing harmony in the operation of public affairs. Pioneering work toward unification of local governmental services continues with city and county administrations fac­ing the responsibility of servicing an expanding urban area.

The **Economic Eighties** should project more and expanded com­merce in keeping with earlier community efforts to protect public beaches, reclaim historical structures and landmarks, and preserve our natural resources within a mushrooming, diversified environment. Ellyson Field Industrial Park and the Civic Arena are significant attractions to expanding business and industry. The Civic Arena should appeal to tourists and the convention market. Bay front reclamation and the many bold and inven­tive redevelopment projects advocated by the City of Pensacola can set the pace for the future; this burgeoning activity will diversify the Pensacola- Escambia economy and lifestyles already rooted in the United States Navy training mission and a variety of industrial payrolls.

The eighties and beyond will require thoughtfully planned, carefully ex­ecuted decision-making; the future needs bold, determined city and coun­ty leadership encouraged by an informed, involved electorate. It is impor­tant that Pensacolians and Escambians know and understand the political and governmental process. The future requires their involvement.

This publication is a guide and an encouragement for a better informed citizenry. Today’s decisions that meet tomorrow’s public needs rest with the enlightenment of those who share the bounty and the burden.

These pages are dedicated to that purpose.

J. *Earle Bowden*

*Editor*

*The Pensacola News-Journal*

**HISTORY**

Names, customs, and traditions of this community reach back to the sixteenth century, nearly fifty years before the London Company landed at Jamestown,Virginia. “Escambia” derives its' name from the Spanish meaning “to barter;” the Escambia River then was a place for trade (probably barter) between settlers and Indians. “Pensacola” is a com­bination of Choctaw words for “long hair,” describing the early Indians of this area.

Enterprising Spanish explorers such as Diego Miruelo, De Soto, and Tristan DeLuna at different times came upon our beautiful harbor so deep the ships could be unloaded directly onshore, safe from sea and winds, so they thought.

De Luna made the first attempt at permanent settlement in 1559 when he sailed from Mexico, bringing with him 500 soldiers and a retinue of “serving people” including soldiers’ wives, Indians, black men and women, and 150 horses. Under the Spanish flag they hoped to secure the territory for Spain. However, six days after their landing, a hurricane destroyed nearly all their fleet and much of their supplies. The resulting loss doomed the effort. After two years and despite help from friendly Indians, those stout hearts who had survived disease, hunger and other hardships abandoned the settlement. Then for more than a hundred years the area was left to the Indians and their tribal activities.

In the next two centuries, the area changed hands thirteen times under the dominion of five flags - Spain, France, England, the United States, and the Confederacy. During the seventeenth century era of exploration, the place called Ochuse by the Indians and Panzacola by the Spaniards, became the object of French and British imperialism because of its strategic value. In the ten years prior to the American Revolution, British colonist laid out the town plan and built the foundation for a viable com­munity. The two Florida territories, East and West, became the only Atlantic coastal colonies that remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution. After Bernardo de Galvez recovered West Florida from the British during the War in 1781, England traded the territory to Spain for Gibraltar.

Florida became a part of the United States when Andrew Jackson ac­cepted the new territory from Spain on July 17, 1821. Escambia County then extended from the Perdido River east to the Suwanee River; the re­mainder of the new territory was St. John’s County. In 1822 Pensacola (as territorial capital) served as the site *of* the first session of the legislature.

In recognition of the value of the harbor, Congress in 1825 voted to establish a Navy Yard here. As part of the military defense of the harbor, construction of Fort Pickens (1829-1834), Fort McRee (1831-1839), Fort Barrancas (1839-1844), and the beginning of the Barrancas Redoubt (1844) occurred. In January 1861 Confederate troops took control of the Navy Yard before Florida seceded from the Union, and the Federal troops occupied Fort Pickens. In February 1862 Confederate troops evacuated Pensacola and the city and county remained under Union con-

trol for the remainder of the Civil War. The Navy Yard was closed in 1911, to reopen in 1914, as the first aeronautic station in the nation, and today boasts many firsts in naval aviation training.

Until late in the nineteenth century most settlements hugged the coastline. With the completion of the railroad in the 1880s and the ex­pansion of the railroad in the 1880s and the expansion of the lumber in­dustry, more small towns developed in the northern part of the county. As land was “cut over,” more farmers settled in the northern areas. Far­ming, fishing, lumbering, and naval stores continued to provide for most residents until after turn of the twentieth centry.

**COUNTY PROFILE**

Escambia County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida whose legislature set its present boundaries in 1886. Located in the ex­treme northwestern part of the State, the County is bordered on the west and north by Alabama, on the east by Santa Rosa County, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. It has a geographical area of 673 square miles, 58 percent of which is forested uplands, 16 percent urban area, and 17 percent agricultural land, with the balance of the area classified as rangelands, wetlands and water. The 1980 census indicated a total population for Escambia County of 233,794, ranking it 10th in the state. Media age of residents is 27 years. In 1980 the racial distribution was 77.7 percent white, 19.7 percent black and 2.7 percent other.

There are just two incorporated municipalities in the County, the larger of which is Pensacola, the County seat.

The other incorporated town is Century in the extreme northern end ad­jacent to Alabama. In 1980 the town of South Flomation, which had been incorporated in 1945, annexed Century and adopted its name. The population of approximately 2,000 lives in an area of about five square miles. Century is governed by a mayor and five Council members who serve two-year terms.

**BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The military installations, industry, shipping, tourism and recreation, agriculture, health care services and retail trade all contribute to the County’s economic health. Because of this diversity our economy has been stable.

Manufacturing is dominated by the production of nylon, acrylic fibers, paper and chemicals. In the 1980-81 fiscal year the ten largest businesses and industries in the County contributed 23 percent of the property (ad valorem) tax.

Military activities are a large factor in the local economy. Navy and Air Force expenditures, including construction, account for nearly half the payroll in the Pensacola standard metropolitan statistical area, which includes both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

The Pensacola Naval Complex, since 1914 called “The cradle of Naval aviation”, >n 1971 became the headquarters for the Chief of Naval Education and Training. The base comprises a cluster of four smaller stations surrounding the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

The air station’s major industrial plant is the Naval Air Rework Facili­ty, where more than 3,000 civilian employees overhaul and repair air­craft, helicopters, aircraft engines and aircraft components.

Over 24,000 military and civilian personnel earn in excess of $297 million annually at the Naval Air Station.

Tourism contributed approximately $250 million to the local economy in 1980. An increase in tourism is expected during the next few years due to the establishment of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, the completion of interstate highways leading into this area, development of the Quayside District, and restoration of Pensacola’s Historic District.

Rail lines serve Pensacola and surrounding areas with scheduled freight service. Bus lines provide connecting service to all parts of the nation. The Pensacola Regional Airport is served by major airlines and intrastate com­muter lines.

Pensacola has deep-water port facilities with access to the Gulf of Mex­ico. The intra-costal waterway provides passage to the coastal areas of the Gulf.

**ESC?1-**

**COUN^**

**ORGANS**

**BOARDS BY**

**GOVERNOR**

**Century Memorial
Hospital Board**

**CM
Servlc e**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**INDEPENDENT BOARDS**

**Area Housing Commission**

**Fv County Utilities Authority**

**Governmental Center Authority**

**Pensacola Escambia Development Commission**

**West Florida Regional**

**Planning Council**

**Western Gate Council**

 *I*

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Admissions Board Esc Co Nursing Home**

**Board of Adjustments and**

**Appeals**

**Board of Gas. Electricity and**

**Plumbing Examiners**

**Construction Competency Bd**

**Esc. Co Extension Council**

**Human Relations Commission**

**Library Board**

**Perdido River Soil and Water**

**Conservation Board**

**Public Health Trust**

**Santa Rosa Island Authority**

**Subdivision Regulations Bd of**

**Adjustments Appeals and
Administrative Renew**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | • LJ\_ |
| **| CIRCUIT****I COURT 1 JUDGES** | **COUNTY COURT JUDGES** | **STATE ATTORNEY** | **PUBLIC DEFENDER** | **CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT** | **SHERIFF** | **BCM****COC****COMMS** |

**i COUNTY: )VERNMENT ONAL CHART**

**IS**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |   |  |  L\_ |
| c tas | **TAX COLLECTOR** | **PROPERTY APPRAISER** | **COMPTROLLER** | **SUPERVISOR****OF ELECTIONS** | **SUPERINTENDENT****OF SCHOOLS** | **DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** |

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**HUMAN SERVICES**

**Emergency Medical Services**

**Escambia County Nursing Home**

**Health Services**

**Environmental Health Serv.**

**Preventive Medicine**

**Social Services**

**Community Services**

**Employment Training Extension Services**

' 1

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**Planning & Engineering Serv.**

**Engineering**

**Inspections**

**Planning**

**Road Operations**

**Road Camp Prison**

**Roads**

**Solid Waste**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

title term salary duties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CountyCommissioner | 4-year staggered | Yearly $27,051 |
| Property Appraiser | 4-year | $43,360 | Assesses at full market price all property, maintains section maps and extends tax roll, maintains assessment rolls receives applications for homestead exemption, property transfers and field-evaluates property. |
| TaxCollector | 4-year | $38,375 | Sends out tax bills collects taxes, sells motor vehicle and boat licenses, hunting and fishing, state and county occupational licenses. |
| Supervisor of Elections | 4-year | $36,275 | Registers voters, conducts absentee voting, keeps registration books up-to-date, conducts elections, orders voting machines, assigns precinct workers. |
| Sheriff | 4-year | $43,220.51 | Chief law-enforcement officer in county and county courts, operates county jail, provides police protection in un­incorporated areas, issues warrants and court papers |

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

TERM SALARY DUTIES

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Comptroller | 4-year | $43,360 | Clerk for county commis­sioners, pays bills and salaries keeps minutes, is auditor and treasurer for county, pur­chases. sells documentary stamps, collects late taxes, is custodian of public records |
| SchoolSuperintendent | 4-year | $54,563 | Executive officer of school system. Serves as secretary to School Board. |
| School Board | 4-year staggered | $13,449 | Policy-making body for county schools; adopts budget, sets millage rate, has final say on personnel, final decision on school construc­tion and location. |
| Clerk of the Court | 4-year | $43,360 | Keeps record of county and circuit court proceeding. |
| CountyJudges | 4-year | $52,430 | Jurisdiction; misdemeanors, traffic cases, civil cases under $5,000 and violations of all local ordinances. |
| PublicDefender | 4-year | $53,500 | Serves indigents in both county and circuit courts. |
| State Attorney | 4-year | $56,710 | Prosecuting attorney in circuit and county courts. |
| CircuitJudges | 4-year | $56,710 | Jurisdiction: all juvenile cases, probate, competency, guardianship, capital cases, felonies, all civil cases of $5,000 or more, hears ap­peals from county court. |

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*"Few consider* how much *we are indebted to government, because few can represent how wretched mankind would be without it. ”*

*Joseph Addison*

The county is governed by a five-member Board of County Commi- sioners who serve four-year staggered terms.

By a recent federal court ruling, the electoral structure for choosing County Commissioners was changed to single member districts to give black voters more equitable representation. Each voter may now cast his/her ballot only for a candidate who resides in his/her district.

The Commission serves as the chief policy-making, legislative, appoin­tive and executive body in Escambia County; however, a county ad­ministrator appointed by it carries out these policies and monitors the day- to-day operations of the county departments. Department directors are appointed by the administrator and confirmed by the Commission.

The county is responsible for and maintains services inherent in the operation of a county government, including law enforcement, a county court system, road construction and maintenance, public health and safety protection, a county prison system and solid waste (garbage) disposal ser­vices.

The Board must approve financial obligations against the County and plats for subdivision. Other responsibilities include recreation facilities and programs and services for the indigent.

The Commission meets twice monthly, at 9 a.m., in the chambers on the third floor of the County Courthouse. The first meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month and deals with public hearings. The second Commission meeting is held on the last Tuesday of the month and takes up the Board’s committee reports.

The Board has three standing committees which handle administrative, finance and public service matters. They meet on the second and third Tuesdays and the second Thursday of the month, respectively. All Com­mission meetings are open to the public and citizens may voice grievances or comment on government operations during the public forum session.

The Commission is further authorized to plan development, establish zoning and business regulations, set the county tax millage, issue bonds and franchises and review rates charged for public services.

Since Escambia County has no charter, as does the City of Pensacola, Commissioners have traditionally had to act within the guidelinese enacted by the legislature in general law (law which applies to all of Florida) and special or local law (law which applies only to this county). With the adoption of a new state Constitution in 1968 and subsequent home rule legislation, the Commission can now pass ordinances (which do not apply within city lines), and enter into agreements with other govern­mental agencies.

**THE BUDGET**

The fiscal year for Escambia County is from October 1 to September 30. Prom department requests, the county budget officer prepare a tentative budget to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners by August 1. Also submitting budgets to the BCC are the offices of the clerk of the court, the county comptroller, the sheriff and the supervisor of elections. Budgets of the property appraiser and the tax collector are submitted to the Florida Department of Revenue for approval.

The BCC scrutinizes the tentative budget, making changes as deemed necessary to keep it in balance. After a budget figure is determined, a tax millage rate is set which will produce the needed revenue for that portion of the budget which is financed from property taxes.

Over half of all county revenue comes from ad valorem (property) taxes, with a maximum millage rate of ten mills set for county government and eight mills for schools. (A mill is equal to one dollar of each 1,000 dollars of assessed value of property.) The present County tax rate is 8.886 mills and School Board millage is 7.327. In addition, city residents pay an additional 1.9 mills and the Northwest Florida Water Management District receives .05 mills All homeowners receive a $25,000 ‘‘homestead exemption” on the home in which they reside, which means they are tax­ed $25,000 less than the total assessed valuation of their property. Addi­tional exemptions apply to widows and disabled citizens.

The 1982-’83 county budget reflects recent state law which provides for sharing half of a new fifth cent of sales tax with cities and counties. The county anticipates that 10.7 percent of budget revenues will be realized from this source.

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Escambia County Board of Commissioners has established the Department of Social Services to provide primary planning, coordination, administration and evaluation programs providing essential social services to residents of the County.

The Department of Social Services comprises three major divisions: Community Services, agriculture extension services and employment and training. With eighty-three staff members these programs provide direct services to 36,500 persons annually at a cost of $4,300,000.’

**COUNTY CORE
BUDGET REVENUES**

**1982-83
$44,789,303**

**$3,600,001**

**State Shared Revenues**

**Federal Revenue Sharing
$2,500,707**

**Licenses, Fees, Fines
 $1,675,256
Interfund Transfers
$2,134,175**

**Miscellaneous Revenues
$1,248,453**

**Fund Balance Forward
$3,783,584**

**Sales Tax
$4,792,899**

**Ad Valorem Taxes
$25,054,228**

**Millage:**

**Countywide**

**MSTU\* Combined •Municipal Services Taxing Unit**

**8.886 1.068- 9.954**

**(Unincorporated area)**

**COUNTY CORE
BUDGET EXPENDITURES**

**- 1982-83**

**$44,789,303**

**BCC OPERATING DEPARTMENTS**

**BCC Operating Departments**

Board of County Commissioners $270,732

County Admin/Budget Office 315.860

Management Support 1.500.853

County Attorney 180.338

Social Services 279,098

Road Operations 4,337,672

Planning and Engineering 651,169

Agricultural Services 202.902

Health 899.078

**Non-Departmental**

General Government Services

Internal Services

Public Safety

Physical Environment

Transportation

Economic Environment Human Services Culture/Recreation

Interfund Transfer & Reserves

2.332.705

1,367,500

1,015.391

222.000

861.794

150.000

4.108.956

532.794

4.186.710

**TOTAL $8,637,702**

**TOTAL**

**$14,777,850**

1,622,305

932,580

932,312

1,511,585

532.358

8.885,587

5.060.814

568.672

40.080

484.167

**$20,570,460**

**Elected Officials and Boards**

Property Appraiser Tax Collector Comptroller

Clerk of the Circuit Court Supervisor of Elections Sheriffs Department

Corrections Department
Court Administration
Medical Examiner
Civil Service Board

**TOTAL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Housing rental assistance, provided totally by Federal funding, is design­ed to provide financial aid to families for adequate shelter in existing private units. Locally more than 550 families are benefiting from this pro­gram with an expenditure in excess of $940,000.

A Community Development Block Grant amounting to more than $800,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides housing rehabilitation, elimination of severe drainage problems, street paving, fire protection, removal and clearance of deteriorated pro­perty and rehabiliation of community centers.

Neighborhood sevices provides social and recreational outlets to citizens through four centers for over 4,000 citizens at a general revenue cost of $72,000. Community services also assists veterans, widows and dependents of veterans in obtaining Federal, State and local benefits to which they are entitled. Five thousand persons are served in this program at a general revenue cost of $60,000.

The Court system is assisted through community services by a treat­ment alternatives program for minor offenders which provides pre-trial and post-trial screening, referral, criminal justice liaison, and monitoring for drug and alcohol-dependent individuals. More than 1500 individuals are served at a cost to state and local governments of $182,000.

Further aid to the Courts incorporates alternative supervision to misde­meanants placed on probation by the County Court system. Approximate­ly 8,000 persons are served by this program at a cost of $120,000. The entire costs are paid by the individuals served. Additionally, a juvenile ar­bitration program provides diversion of first offense misdemeanor com­plaints from the formal judicial process. More than 250 juveniles receive service annually from this State grant, valued at $20,000.

**AGRICULTURE (COOPERATIVE) EXTENSION SERVICES**

The Agriculture Extension Services provides education and technical assistance in livestock, agronomy, horticulture, soil analysis, home economics, nutrition, and 4-H Clubs in Escambia County. This service was created under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, serves more than 25,000 persons and receives $567,000 from Federal, State and local govern­ments. In recent years the Extension Service has expanded its scope to in­clude areas of interest to city people, such as food and nutrition and or­namental horticulture.

Eight professionals provide these services in Escambia County. After meeting state requirements for the positions, they must be approved by the Board of Regents. They are then officially hired by the county com­missioners. In addition, there is an Extension Council, composed of 17 volunteers, who plan educational programs and coordinate activities. They are selected by the Council for two year terms, subject to the ap­proval of the County Commission and the Dean for Extension at the University of Florida.

**EMPLOYMENT** and training

The division of employment and training provides job search, voca­tional education, work experience, on-the-job training and other employment-related services to more than 1,200 persons at a cost of $1,750,000, funded entirely by the United States Department of Labor.

In addition to direct services already discussed, the Department of Social Services has the major policy and administrative responsibility for emergency medical services, nursing home and hospital services, health department, indigent medical care and services provided by community agencies partially funded by County government This department also provides personnel support and equal employment opportunity services for employees and service recipients of the County.

**ROADS AND STREETS**

Escambia County’s road system is the responsibility of the road opera­tions department. Maintenance work is accomplished by Civil Service­employees with the assistance of convict labor. At present the road prison can provide 16 road crews from its 145 inmates. All new paving and re-surfacing of roads are accomplished by private contract, but are administered by the planning and engineering department.

In a recent reorganization, the road operations department assumed control of road maintenance, park and sign maintenance, mosquito and anthropod control, road prison,- solid waste, and mass transit. Neighborhood parks are assigned to the appropriate maintenance crews for routine upkeep.

Three are maintained by non-profit associations that use the parks on a regular basis. Three large parks acquired as surplus property from the Federal Government are being developed in accordance with conditions of their acquisition, and are maintained by the park and sign maintenance division.

Refuse is collected by private sanitation companies operating under franchise to the County. Participation by residents is voluntary.

**MASS TRANSIT**

The transit system is under the direction of the Escambia County Board of Commissioners, with daily operations administered by the American Transit Corporation through a management contract. All policy decisions regarding fares, route structure, and service changes are made by the Board of Commissioners. Since April 1981, the system has been operated from the new headquarters built with Federal, State and local funds and located at “L” Street and Fairfield Drive. The system is ac­cessible to approximately 91,000 residents of the City and County with 13 route covering more than 91 square miles, thus making accessible shopp­ing malls, schools, colleges and the Naval Station. Over 1.5 million passengers utilize the system annually. Photo identification cards, available for a nominal fee for senior citizens and the handicapped, allow them to ride for half the normal fare.

The transportation maintenance department services approximately 300 county vehicles, in addition to its fleet of buses. Income derived from the county maintenance contract offsets some operating deficit while sav­ing the county on costly outside repairs and service.

The transit system is presently involved in a work release program coor­dinated through the County Road Camp. This program allows trustees to work with skilled persons to learn a trade they may use when released. The Escambia Transit System is currently one of the most efficient opera­tions in the state. Fares collected cover more than 50 percent of the operating costs. The remainder is made up from Federal and local funds.

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

Escambia County Animal Shelter personnel, at 2930 North “L” Street, enforce the local control ordinance in both the City of Pensacola and Escambia County. Unwanted, lost or diseased animals are impounded at the facility. A twenty-four hour emergency service is provided for assisting injured animals or apprehending vicious ones. A night drop-box is available for individuals who wish to bring in unwanted animals when the shelter is closed. Animals may also be adopted at the shelter for a minimal fee.

The animal control ordinance requires that *all* dogs and cats be vac­cinated annually against rabies. A county license tag must be purchased each year and worn by the animal at all times. All dogs and cats south of Nine-Mile Road and in some designated areas north of Nine-Mile Road must be on leashes or in an enclosed area at all times. Individuals whose animals have been impounded may redeem them at the Animal Shelter. All impounded animals are held for five days. For licensed animals the redemption fee is $5 for the first impoundment, $10 for the second and $15 for the third, plus a $2 daily board fee. Unlicensed may be redeemed by the owner for a fee of $10 for the first impoundment, $20 for the se­cond and $30 for the third, plus a $2 daily board fee.

**HEALTH CARE**

The Escambia County Health Unit is a Division of District 1, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS). It has the responsibility of promoting the public health programs of District 1, HRS, and Supporting the Escambia Commission in providing preventive medicine measures for all Escambia County residents. In addition to its widespread role in Public Health Field Nursing Programs and Environmen­tal Health Programs the County health unit provides services in a number of clinics. Health Services are offered at the Escambia County Health Center in Pensacola (2551 N. Palafox St.) and at the clinical facilities in Molino. Century and Walnut Hill Business hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m.

Basic services provided are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vital Statistics: | Certified copies of birth and death certificates are provided for a fee. |
| Dental Services: | Consultations, screening, laboratory services, hospital services and specific treatment ser­vices, are provided to patients meeting finan­cial eligibility. A variety of services is available to the general public without regard to financial eligibility. |
| Health Education: | These services are provided on request to in­dividuals, groups and organizations. |
| Nutrition: | This division serves as a community resource for factual nutrition information. |
| Public HealthNursing: | Cardiovascular screening, family planning, Medicaid screening, immunization, well-baby and well-child care, venereal disease.services, and women’s profile services are provided. Ad­ditional clinic services, such as TB skin testing, blood testing for marriage license, and assessing patients with rashes or lice are available. |
| EnvironmentalHealth: | Nuisance complaints, encephalitis monitoring, recreational water surveys, public swimming pool inspections, septic tank inspections, and rodent control are just a few of the services in this area. |

**COUNTY NURSING HOME**

The County Commission, directed by state statutes to care for the in­digent, ill or aged, has the responsibility for the County Nursing Home which accepts public assistance patients, after approval by the Nursing Home admissions committee. This Committee consists of the ad­ministrator, his or her representative, the director of nurses or assistant, a licensed physician, Health Department representative and Family Services representative.

The facility, located at 3107 North “H” Street, Pensacola, is licensed for 155 beds. The budget for 1982-83 is $2,377,276, which is derived almost entirely from Medicaid funds.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Ambulance service for Escambia County consists of emergency medical services providing advanced life support to the entire county, with a staff consisting of emergency medical technicians and paramedics under the direction of a state-licensed physician. Seven of the twelve ambulances are furnished with advanced life-support equipment and drugs. The county provides both emergency and non-emergency coverage twenty-four hours a day with a transfer crew working Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and five crews providing advanced life support twenty-fours a day, seven days a week. Escambia County contracts with Atmore Am­bulance Service to provide emergency medical service to the Walnut Hill area.

In addition, Escambia County is extended emergency medical support service by Baptist«Hospital’s Life Flight helicopter for rapid transportation for critically sick or injured patients where time is a factor in the patient’s recovery.

This service is supported by user fees with indigent costs subsidized by the County.

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

University Hospital, 1200 West Leonard Street, is a 130-bed, acute care facility. For twenty-two years it has been the cornerstone of Escambia County’s health care system. University provides a full-range of medical care including: general and specialty clinics, surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatric services, and pain management.

In 1979 the Escambia County Board of Commissioners created the Public Health Trust, a nine-member multi-disciplinary board which assum­ed operational responsibility for the hospital. Later that same year, the Public Health Trust negotiated and instituted a management contract to provide for the day-to-day operation of the hospital. Currently the County pays the $330,000 for the annual contract with Universal Care of Louisiana.

Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners has allocated $1,820,000 for indigent care in the 1982-83 budget. It is expected that ap­proximately 19 percent of the hospital’s operating budget will come from these funds for the care of indigents. These patients are screened accor­ding to need and their ability to pay at least a portion of the total bill.

University Hospital and the Council on Aging operate “The Oaks”, a day health care center for the elderly, located behind the main hospital. “The Oaks”, offers a supervised environment for those who need some assistance but do not require nursing home care.

Uni-Care replaced University’s emergency room in March of 1982. Uni­Care is a new concept in ambulatory health care, offering an alternative mode of treatment for patients who are not victims of severe trauma. Uni­Care is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by qualified physicians and nurses around the clock to care for patients in a quick and efficient manner at a reasonable cost.

**LAKEVIEW CENTER**

Lakeview Center provides comprehensive mental health care, child, drug and alcohol counseling, and residential services to meet the mental health needs of the community. Located at 1221 West Lakeview Avenue, services are available to all Escambia County residents with charges based on family income and the number of family members. Many times assistance is available through private insurance coverage, Medicare and CHAMPUS (civilian health care program for the military).

Lakeview Center is a private, non-profit corporation funded through fees for services, contracts with the State Department of Health and Rehabilitation and other groups and organizations. Support from the Board of County Commissioners and Pensacola City Council has decreas­ed in recent years to $338,287 in 1981-82.

Services include: personal and family counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, evaluation and diagnostic outpatients services, child and 'adolescent treatment, psychiatric after-care, crisis intervention, therapeutic services for the elderly, education and training, residential care, and research and evaluation.

Over 8,00 persons receive counseling and other treatment services each year. An additional 20,000 are reached through education and prevention services; over 13,000 calls are received by Help Line, a twenty-four hour confidential suicide and crisis intervention service.

**SANTA ROSA ISLAND**

The Santa Rosa Island Authority administers the area of Santa Rosa Island known as Pensacola Beach. It is charged with the responsibility of beach maintenance, development of recreation facilities, and adoption and enforcement of rules, regulations and improvements.

The 1947 Florida statute establishing the Island Authority, directed that the County Commission retain the power and authority to issue bonds or certificates, acquire property by condemnation, and veto any action by the Authority. A recent state ruling directed that all privately leased property on Santa Rosa Island be placed on the tax rolls, thus cancelling exemp­tions allowed under the original leases.

The Authority is composed of six members, five of whom are appointed by individual Commissioners and serve a term concurrent with that of the Commissioner who made the selection. Any of these appointees may be removed by the Commissioner who made the appointment, with the ma­jority approval of the board. Legislation was passed in the 1983 session to provide for the sixth member to be elected for a four year term by the beach leaseholders and residents.

Although the members ot the board do not receive salaries, they are reimbursed for expenses incurred.

Island Authority budgets must be approved by the County Commission. Revenue is derived from lease rental payments and percentages received from gross receipts of business conducted on the island.

**CIVIL DEFENSE**

The County Civil Defense Agency, under the auspices of the County Commission, has the responsibility of serving the emergency needs of the County, with specific responsibilities in coordination during disasters. The City has an internal staff that serves under the umbrella of the Coun­ty agency during disasters. Certain funding for salaries and ad­ministrative expenses is supplied by the Federal government and allocated through the bureau of disaster preparedness at the State level. The County Civil Defense Director, who is the County Administrator, is charged with planning and for training and coordinating volunteers for duty during an emergency.

**CIVIL SERVICE BOARD**

In keeping with Federal policy for personnel standards based on merit principles, the Florida legislature in 1951 passed the Escambia County Civil Service Act, ratified by local referendum in the 1952 general election. This act provides for a centralized system of personnel administration under the direction of a five-member board appointed by the Governor, e^ch to be paid $250 per month for incurred expenses. This Board is responsible for the full scope of personnel functions; it in­sures that all promotions are based on individual worth and not on par­tisan advantage, political or otherwise. Funded by the county, the budget of the Civil Service Board was $484,167 for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

This body sets policy, adopts rules, makes investigations, and hears appeals from disciplinary or other administrative actions. It employs a director to carry out policies and administer the personnel system.

Public servants of the County not covered by civil service include elected and appointed officials and some professional, administrative and technical employees, numbering about 60 persons, expressly exempt by law from the Civil Service jurisdiction. There are also hundreds of in­structional and administrative persons in education, and all registered nurses who are not under the system.

**FIRE PROTECTION**

Escambia County residents are served by 15 volunteer fire depart­ments. Each of these departments is dispatched through the 911 emergency number. These volunteer groups are supported by contribu­tions from the communities served; however, the County Commission, upon request, contributes money for specific needs, such as the equip­ment for fire fighting in high rise buildings.

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY CIVIC CENTER**

Construction has begun on the Escambia County Civic Center, to be located at the terminus of I-110 in downtown Pensacola. The completion date is set for February 1985. This 20,000-square-foot facility, with seating for 10,000, will occupy twenty acres and will include parking for 2500 vehicles.

The Civic Center is truly a cooperative effort with the City of Pen­sacola donating the land for the Center, the State of Florida granting $12.5 million for construction and Escambia County issuing $6.3 million in revenue bonds (to be repaid from a 2 percent tourist tax) for the remaining costs.

**CITY OF PENSACOLA**

“Society *exists for the benefit of its members; not the members for the benefit of society. ”*

*Herbert Spencer*

The City of Pensacola, home of 57,600 of the county’s 234,000 population, grew naturally on the Gulf coastline as business was attracted by the beauty of the water and the excellent harbor.

In 1821, the first city organization was instituted with a mayor and six aidermen. At that time Provisional Governor Andrew Jackson established the city lines which remained until 1953. Three Commissioners comprised the city government in 1913 when Pensacola had a population of only 15,000.

The present council-manager government was established in 1931, and consists of ten council members elected for two-year terms. \* The mayor may be one of the council members , selected by the body, or as is more usual, he may be chosen from the community. Council members are paid $400 per month salary and $400 per month for expenses.

These elected officials act as a board of directors for the city’s activities. They make policy and hire the city manager to administer those policies. The manager in turn, as chief administrator, also makes recommenda­tions. Professional people who head the various departments are aD- pointed by the manager. Council members may not go directly to a depart­ment with a constituent’s request, but must work through the manager, so that services are not granted because of political pressure.

Pensacola government operates under a charter which sets forth the organization and the specified rights and powers of its officials, and allows it jurisdiction in areas not in conflict with general state law. Under recent municipal home rule legislation all previous special acts have become or­dinances. More self-determination is now possible without the interference of the legislature into city matters, except in some areas of personnel benefits. City residents may ask for a referendum on any issue by submit­ting a petition signed by at least 15 percent of the registered city voters.

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday evenings in City Hall, at 7:30 p.m. A public forum is a part of every Coun­cil agenda.

The 1982 city budget was $48.6 million. The millage rate was 1.9 or $1.90 for each $1,000 of assessed property value.

The city recently adopted a *Direction ’85* program with the goal of com­pleting a number of capital projects by the end of 1985. Among them are major improvements to recreation facilities and parks, a community swim­ming pool, Escambia Bay bluffs preservation and public access, a new city hall, downtown parking facilities and development of the urban water­front.

CITY OF PENSACOLA ORGANIZATION 1982

**General Government Departments | FINANCE |**

I **PERSONNEL** I

**Public Enterprise Departments**

**[ ENEJNTr SERVICES OF J-EnsaCOlA I NATURAL CAS I**

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

**| POLICE**

**LEISURE SERVICE**

\*In May of 1983, in settlement of a suit brought by black residents who claimed their voting rights were diluted by the at-large election system, a new election format was inaugurated with seven council members elected only by voters residing within their districts and three members voted on at large.

**THE CITY OF PENSACOLA
BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 82-83**

BEGINNING CASH

$800,000

REVENUES

General Fund

Sanitation Fund

Excise Tax Fund

Franchise Fee Fund

Utility Service Tax Trust Account

Cigarette Tax Fund

Utility System Revenue Fund

Utility Service Fees

Airport Revenue Fund

Port & Terminal Facilities

Revenue Fund

Interest Income

Insurance

$ 7,666,176 2,410,000 2.223,500 1,135,000 2,900,000 1,500,000 29,560,000

40,000 1,161,626

3,500,000 3,184,000 456,000

TOTAL AVAILABLE REVENUES

$55,736,302

**THE CITY OF PENSACOLA
BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 82-83**

$56,529,589

$ 6,713

APPROPRIATIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| General Fund | $23,832,774 |
| Utility System Fund | 24,032,784 |
| Sanitation FundUtility System Revenue & | 1,993,642 |
| Replacement Fund Airport Operation & | 520,257 |
| Maintenance FundPort and Terminal | 621,149 |
| Facilities Fund | 2,090,500 |
| Bond Sinking Fund | 3,438,483 |

TOTAL PROJECTED APPROPRIATIONS

ESTIMATED OPERATING RESERVE AS OF 9/30/83

**PORT OPERATIONS**

At the local port, the romance of ocean-going ships attracts tourists as well as local residents as the big vessels handle cargo vital to the economies of both exporter and importer.

The port is the essential conduit between ocean carriers and inland ship- pers/receivers for products discharged or loaded. Its facilities include more than 4,000 linear feet of docking area and five public transit sheds con­sisting of 332,000 square feet of cargo space. Bagged food products, scrap metal, sulphur and fuel oil lead the list of exports, while petroleum, chemicals and steel account for much of the imports.

The port is managed by an experienced director who oversees all opera­tions and administrative activities. As a result of the seaport operations in Pensacola, the local community realizes a significant benefit in the form of employment and economic activity. Recognizing this impact, the director is constantly striving to generate and develop additional business that will enable the community to grow and prosper.

Reconstruction of Berth 1, which is nearing completion, represents a significant portion of the development program currently under way. Port and City officials strive to expand shipping to ensure the city’s position among competing seaports and to strengthen its reputation as a conve­nient, full-service and efficient operation. Port maintenance,, operation and development activities are financially supported by user fees and the City of Pensacola.

**AIRPORT**

The Pensacola Regional Airport is a full-service facility providing for car­rier and general aviation activity serving an area which encompasses a population of over 510,000 between Mobile Bay on the west and Fort Walton Beach on the east. Over 500,000 passengers annually use the local air service provided by three major carriers and three commuter'lines.

The facility is wholly owned and operated by the city with revenue deriv­ed from tenant activities. Construction of certain parts of the airport is ac­complished through a combination of state, Federal and local funds. However, terminal expansion projects such as that completed in 1980 are funded entirely by the city. The City Council has commissioned an update on the airport master plan to guide future development.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Pensacola Fire Department is responsible for fighting all fires inside the city limits. The department serves city residents from six fire stations located throughout the city. In addition to firefighting the 145 city firemen conduct regular in-house training programs, provide free cardio-pulminary resuscitation and blood pressure checks, and conduct home safety surveys for residents.

The city fire department enjoys a Class 1 rating. It is one of only two U.S. cities included in this category. This classification results in lower fire insurance rates for the City of Pensacola.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Pensacola Police Department, numbering 128 officers who are sworn and 50 civilian personnel, provides law enforcement for the City of Pensacola. The Chief of Police is hired and terminated by the City Manager.

Community relations is an important objective with the department, as evidenced by the Neighborhood Watch Program visible in many areas.

**LIBRARY**

"We *all know that books burn, yet we have the greater knowledge that books cannot be killed by fire. People die, but books never die...No man and no force can put thought in a concentration camp forever."*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

The West Florida Regional Library system provides over 1,235,000 patron services per year in the form of books, magazines, newspapers, films, records, reference and information material, story hours, inter- library loans, microforms, art reproductions, programming, and summer reading clubs. The system also provides an Escambia County bookmobile and a two-county outreach program.

At a cost of $3.56 per user the West Florida Regional Library System is statistically the most efficient and heavily used public library in the south.

Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, the headquarters are in Pensacola at 200 West Gregory Street with branches at 4700 Bayou Boulevard and in the cities of Gulf Breeze, Milton and Jay.

The system’s operational costs are funded by Escambia County, the City of Pensacola, Santa Rosa County, the State of Florida and the Federal government. The city sustains costs of capital improvements and oversees the operation and administration of the system with a staff of forty-four.

The library system has an advisory boarfl of nine citizens who are ap­pointed, three each by the city and the two counties. Active Friends groups in Pensacola and Milton serve to promote the library and to help provide both financial and political support.

**OTHER SERVICES**

Energy Services of Pensacola distributes natural gas throughout the city and county. This profit-making operation of the City provides funds for the general revenue.

The Sanitation Department collects refuse twice weekly for city residents. The city has implemented the one-man automated collection system to improve service and reduce operating costs.

The Leisure Services Department offers a wide range of recreational and cultural opportunities designed for all ages. The system has over 85 parks totaling approximately 500 acres. A modern senior citizen’s center in Bayview Park provides a variety of activities. Enrichment classes are available at several community centers. The city also operates Osceola Golf Course, Roger Scott Tennis Center, the municipal auditorium and the recently restored Saenger Theatre.

**ELECTIONS**

*"Act as if the whole election depended on your single vote, and as if the whole Parliament (and therein the whole nation) on that single person whom you now choose to be a member of.”*

*John Wesley*

The rule of law is the foundation upon which the success of a free socie­ty depends; yet in many recent elections at the Escambia County polls, less than 25 percent of the registered voters has determined the direction the community would take on vital issues. The hour of responsibility is election day. Before each vote is cast, serious consideration should be given to the issues.

For election purposes the county is divided into precincts by the County Commission upon the recommendation of the Supervisor of Elections, Presently there are 96 precincts in Escambia County, with each citizen voting in the precinct where he lives. If a voter has not voted in two years, he/she must re-register.

Primary and general elections are equally important and should become more competitive under the growing strength of the two-party system in Florida. In order to vote in the primary, a citizen must be registered as a Democrat or Republican and vote his stated party preference. In­dependents may not vote in primaries. Voters are not required to follow anv Dartv lines in a general election.

Candidates for elective office are nominated by direct primary in which any quarfied candidate may participate, provided he pays the specified fee and takes «. n oath of loyalty to his party. The fee is three percent of the an­nual salary plus another two percent for the party executive committee. A candidate who cannot pay the filing fee without suffering an undue burden may have his/her name on the ballot by means of a petition signed by three percent of the registered electors of the party for which he/she seeks the nomination. A majority (at least one more than half) of the votes cast is required\* for primary nomination. If there is no majority the two leading candidates run in a second primary.

The major parties are governed by their state and county executive com­mittees elected by the registered voters of the respective bodies. (Present­ly there are 82,672 Democrats, 19,585 Republicans, and 3,581 in other parties in Escambia County). Each party executive committee is composed of one man and one woman from each precinct except in precincts of over 1,000 where two men and two women serve. Present committees were elected in 1980 for four years.

Delegates to the national political party conventions are named in the Presidential Preference Primary election in March of each presidental year. Candidates for delegates are voted for on slates under the name of the per­son they prefer for President. A slate of independent candidates may also appear on the ballot. Florida general elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even numbered years to select per­sons to fill all vacant Federal, state and county elective officers. Constitu­tional amendments are voted on by all registered voters.

When an elective office becomes vacant due to death, resignation or removal, the vacancy is filled by special election or appointment by the Governor. In the United States Senate, the appointment extends to the next election. For county or state offices, the Governor makes an appoint­ment when there is less than 28 months remaining in the term. Otherwise, there is a special election. However, vacancies in the state legislature and United States House of Representatives require a special election called by the Governor.

**SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

The Supervisor of Elections is a constitutional officer, elected for a four- year term. The Supervisor the chief election officer of the county, is the of­ficial custodian of the voting records, and has the exclusive control of mat­ters pertaining to registration of electors.

The responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections Office are as follows:

1 .Registration of Voters

1. Conducting national, state, county, and city elections that are held in the county, and certifying the results.
2. Maintain information pertaining to past or present elections.
3. Appointing and training poll workers
4. Designating polling locations.
5. Custody of the voting machines;

purchase and maintenance of voting equipment.

1. Qualification of county and city candidates; advising candidates

on election laws, particularly in the area of contributions and expen­ditures.

1. Maintain candidates’ contribution and expenditure reports
2. Maintain financial disclosure forms

1 0. Absentee voting

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

Any person eighteen years of age, upon proof of birthdate, who is a citizen of the United States and a permanent resident of Escambia County, in order to vote must register with Supervisor of Elections, fourth floor of the County Courthouse, 223 Palafox Place, or at specially designated locations made public by the Supervisor. Also, any qualified person who may. within 180 days preceding the election, pre-register with the Super­visor. After the initial registration, a card is mailed to the new voter giving precinct number and voting place.

The permanent registration roll is kept current by the Supervisor of Elec­tions who mails renewal cards in the fall, preceding general elections, to each elector who has not voted in the past two years. Names of those fail­ing to return their renewal cards are withdrawn from the records; those having voted within the two years are automatically carried on the rolls; however, when the books are closed for the primaries, party affiliation changes made will not become effective until after the primaries. The registration books close thirty (30) days before the elections.

Absentee ballots are available for any registered and qualified voter who will be temporarily outside the county on election day or who is unable without another’s assistance to attend the polls. Special elections may be called at any time. Nonpartisan elections for City Council are held every two years with only qualified city residents permitted to vote.

**EDUCATION**

*"Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave. ”*

*Henry Peter Brougham*

For the first centuries of Pensacola’s settlement, there were no formal schools in existence. When Florida became a part of the United States, the typically American concern with education began to demand the establish­ment of schools. In the early years, these schools were largely private ones; public schools were regarded as unnecessary luxuries for the poor.

This attitude was reflected in the constant shift *of* responsibility for public education. Before the first real education legislation in 1889, the sheriff, probate judge and county commissioners had at various times been responsible for the public schools. In 1889, a uniform state system was created with the powers and duties of school officials specified. The 1939 School Code modified the 1889 legislation, especially by providing for county school districts.

In 1939, Florida was still an underpopulated frontier state. World War II brought massive growth, resulting in overcrowded classrooms and teachers deserting low-salaried positions for more financially rewarding fields. In response to the crisis in Florida schools, the Minimum Foundation Program was enacted in 1947.

**FUNDING**

The Minimum Foundation Program was one of the first attempts to fund public education on a state-wide basis by providing a financial floor for rich and poor counties alike. It formed the framework for the public school system until the passage of the Florida Education Finance Plan (FEFP) by the legislature in 1973. The FEFP was landmark legislation that tied fun­ding of the school system to the individual student rather than the “teacher unit” of the Minimum Foundation Program. Funding levels varied with the cost of educating a particular category of student, with programs of special and vocational education receiving additional funds to reflect their higher costs.

Florida public education is funded primarily by state and local funds, although Federal funds are available for some purposes. The FEFP legisla­tion specified the method of funding, the sharing of costs between state and county and the formula by which state funds would be distributed. Funding is based on a complex calculation that incorporates program costs, the number of “Full Time Equivalent” students participating in each program and the cost of living index for a school district.

All school districts in Florida are, by law, congruent with county boun­daries and’operate under the supervision of the State Board of Education, which is composed of the Governor and Cabinet. The elected Commis­sioner of Education is a member of the State Board of Education and acts as Chairman in the absence of the Governor. The Commissioner is the head of the Florida Department of Education, which implements legisla­tion and policy, providing technical regulations.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

The school system of Escambia County is governed by the District School Board with assistance of the Superintendent and his staff. The School Board is composed of five members elected from single districts; it has broad responsibility for personnel appointments, approval of budget and expenditures and construction and maintenance of facilities. The School Board meets in regular session at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of each month at the Administration Building, 215 West Garden Street, Pen­sacola, and in special meetings as needed. All meetings are open to the public.

**ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

Board policy is implemented by the elected Superintendent, the chief administrative officer and Secretary to the Board. The Superintendent and his staff are responsible for the operation of sixty-nine schools and special centers enrolling, in 1982-83, 41,745 students in kindergarten through grade twelve and adults in vocational training and basic education. This number has declined substantially in the past ten years and is projected to decrease further as a result of the declining birthrate. A Community Schools program is operated by the District to utilize facilities after regular school hours and offers educational and enrichment activities to the general population. School facilities are being constantly upgraded as new schools are built; a district priority is air conditioning for all permanent in­structional buildings. The newest district school is Washington High School, one of eight fully accredited high schools.

District revenue in 1981-83 was over $85 million, of which 77.6 percent came from the state, .6 percent from Federal funds, 1.9 percent from transfers such as the sale of school property, and the remaining twenty percent from local school taxes, currently 7.327 mills on non-exempt pro­perty. Federal funds include payment for students residing on area military installations.

The Escambia School District is the nation’s eightieth largest system and ranks 10th in the state. The Superintendent administers the district with the aid of a staff of administrative and instructional assistant superintendents and supervisors. Schools are administered by principals who are specially certified in school administration and supervision and hold masters’ degrees. The system employs about 2,700 personnel classed as instructional, including principals, teachers, librarians and guidance counselors and approximately 1,600 non-instructional personnel, such as food service workers, teacher aides, bus drivers and maintenance employees. Non-instructional personnel are governed by County Civil Service regulations.

Instructional personnel must meet state certification standards; teachers are covered by a Master Contract negotiated with the Escambia Education Association. A single salary schedule is in force, with 1982-83 annual salaries starting at $11,654 for a first year teacher with a bachelor’s degree and reaching $20,814 with twenty five years of experience. A teacher with a master’s degree receives an additional $1,282 annually, with supplements for work outside the contract period of 190 seven-hour days. Teachers receive six paid holidays annually and district paid health insurance. Retirements and tenure provisions follow state law.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Florida law requires “regular attendance” by all children between the ages of six and sixteen. The school years consists of a minimum of 180 days. The legal age of kindergarten entry is five years old by September 1 of the school year; successful completion of kindergarten is required for admission to first grade. The school district is divided into attendance areas and children must attend the school serving their address unless an official transfer is granted by the School Board. Proof of age, a certificate of im­munization and a physical examination report are required by law before a child may be admitted to school.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

The instructional program in Escambia county emphasizes acquisition oi competence in the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics. Course offerings are designed to meet the differing needs of all students and in­clude both remedial and advanced programs. Art, music and physical education are an integral part of the instructional program, with specially certified teachers serving all grade levels. Vocational courses are offered in all high schools and at Beggs Vocational and Career Education Center. George Stone Vocational-Technical Center offers vocational training in three-hour daytime classes for high school juniors and seniors and adults, and evening classes for adults. A wide range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities to participate in science and history fairs, sneech and essay contests and musical groups broaden and enhance the basic cur­riculum.

A wide variety ot auxiliary services support the instructional program. Guidance counselors at both secondary and elementary schools work with students and teachers to resolve problems affecting achievement. Occupa­tional specialists at all high schools provide expert assistance in determin­ing career choices and training opportunities.

All schools have libraries directed by certified librarians and media specialists; a central Professional Library houses reference materials and journals for the use of district teachers and staff members.

Programs in Exceptional Education meet the needs of individual students in speech therapy, specific learning disabilities, academically talented and special learning needs from blind and vision impaired to pro­foundly mentally handicapped. A staff of school psychologists assists in stu­dent evaluations to determine proper placement. Students unable to at­tend school-based classes receive instruction from Homebound teachers who go to their home or hospital room. The Homebound program incor­porates the innovative Teleclass, a telephone hook-up that allows the equivalent of class discussion for as many as fifteen students at once.

The Visiting Teacher program is a major contribution to the effectiveness of the Escambia school system. Also called school social workers, visiting teachers work to reduce absenteeism and assist parents in finding resources for special needs, such as eyeglasses.

All schools offer hot lunches that meet United States Department of Agriculture standards. School cafeterias operate on a break-even basis, utilizing federal commodities and central kitchens to keep lunch prices as low as possible. Free and reduced-price lunches are available to students whose family income meets federal requirements.

Nearly three quarters of the district enrollment is transported daily to and from school in 250 district-owned and opeated buses. State funds are pro­vided for the transportation of elementary school students who live more than one mile from school, and for middle school students who live more than one and one-half miles from school. School bus drivers are civil ser­vice employees who must have a Florida chauffeur’s license and complete a training program.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

The Escambia school system participates in the Florida State Student Assessment Tests program, which measures performance in reading, writing and mathematics in grades 3,5, and 8, and grades 10 through 12. The state assessment program includes the Functional Literacy Test, ad­ministered to all students in grades 10 and above. Students who have not achieved the state designated performance level by spring of their senior year are not eligible for a high school diploma, but receive a certificate of completion. Special remedial classes are available to all students who fail- any part of the Functional Literacy Test.

Escambia students generally score as well as, or better than do Florida students as a whole. State assessment tests are “criterion-referenced”, which means that each student’s performance is reported in terms of the desired level of knowledge rather than compared with other students’ per­formance. The table below lists the results of the 1982 State Assessment Tests and provides the percentage of students who achieved mastery levels on the tests.

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade 3 | State | District |
| Communications | 93 | 94 |
| Mathematics | 89 | 90 |
| Grade 5 |  |  |
| Communications | 91 | 91 |
| Mathematics | 85 | 85 |
| Grade 8 |  |  |
| Communications | 90 | 89 |
| Mathematics | 84 | 85 |
| Grade 10 |  |  |
| Communications | 95 | 96 |
| Mathematics | 78 | 81 |

The California Achievement Tests, given each February to grades 4 and 7, are nationally standardized tests which measure language (including reading), reference and mathematics skills. The percentile ranking represents the percent of students throughout the nation whose scores fall below those of Escambia County students. The 50th percentile is average.

Grade 4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1982 | Communications Mathematics | 57.7 percentile62.0 percentile |
| 1983 | CommunicationsMathematics | 58.7 percentile64.0 percentile |
|  | Grade 7 |  |
| 1982 | CommunicationsMathematics | 55.0 percentile69.0 percentile |
| 1983 | Communications Mathematics | 55.0 percentile68.0 percentile |

**PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE**

Pensacola Junior College is composed of three campuses:the Pensacola campus in the Northeast section of Pensacola adjacent to the Municipal Airport; the Warrington campus in West Pensacola adjacent to the Naval Hospital: and the Milton Center located approximately twelve miles nor­theast of Pensacola.

Serving an enrollment for 1981-82 of 27,786, all three campuses offer adult education, vocational-occupational, university transfer, and non­credit continuing education courses for citizens of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Sports programs for PJC are centered around the Pen­sacola campus.

PJC has an “open door” policy on admission and is committed to meeting the needs in attaining educational, career and life goals for students of all ages and backgrounds.

The College is governed by the Board of Trustees composed of citizens from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. These nine individuals are ap­pointed for four-year terms by the Governor.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**

One of a nine-member State University System. The University of West Florida admitted its first students in 1967. The upper division university currently enrolls juniors, seniors and graduate students’ in three colleges--Arts & Sciences. Business and Education

The student body, still fewer than 6,000, may choose from a variety of majors leading to bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Small classes guarantee individual and personalized instruction by a faculty which has a higher percentage of earned doctorates than any other Florida university. Those same faculty members serve as academic counselore.

The University offers a comprehensive schedule of day and evening classes in winter, summer and spring sessions, an inter-institutional degree program with Okaloosa-Walton Junior College at Eglin Air Force Base in Okaloosa County, and a number of courses at other off-campus locations.

The main campus library is staffed by 15 professional librarians and has holdings of 370,000 volumes and more than half a million microform pieces. Its special collections area contains a wealth of information on West Florida history which attracts researchers from throughout the world.

’Under new legislation authorizing expansion to four years, the University will admit its first freshman and sophomore class in the fall of 1983.

After-class activities include music and theatrical events, social and ser­vice clubs, intramural and varsity sports. UWF fields championship quality teams in baseball, tennis and women’s softball and basketball. Wooded trails for joggin9 anc^ nature walks and a bayou perfect for canoeing make the 1 000 acre campus bordering the Escambia River an ideal place to be st leisure.

**THE COURTS**

*“He is next to the gods whom reason and not passion impels;*

*and who, after weighing the facts, can measure the punish­ment. with discretion. ”*

*C/audian*

Circuit and county court judges are elected within their respective ter­ritorial jurisdictions in non-partisan elections for terms of six years and four years respectively. Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of District Courts of Appeal are appointed by the Governor. They may qualify for retention in office by a vote of the electors in the general election.

**COUNTY COURT**

The jurisdiction of the county court covers misdemeanors, traffic cases, civil cases involving less than $5,000 exclusive of interest and attorney’s fees, and any violation of local ordinances.

All county and circuit courts are located in the Judicial Building, 190 Governmental Center. Court Session is also held in Century each Friday at 9:30 a.m. for miscellaneous minor charges and alleged traffic violations. The five county judges are paid by the state.

**CIRCUIT COURT**

The circuit court serves all of District I which comprises Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and part of Walton counties. The eight circuit judges are elected by District I, but are paid by the state. The chief circuit judge, who is responsible for the administrative supervision of all circuit and county judges of the area, has the power to assign a judge to any court of the district which has a temporary overload of cases, circuit judges hear juvenile, probate, guardianship and competency cases, felonies and civil cases involving more than $5,000.

Juvenile cases are heard by two judges of the circuit court, who deal with problems of young people through the age of seventeen, in the Juvenile Justice Center located at 1800 St. Mary Street, Pensacola.

A plaintiff who is not satisfied with the decision handed down in the county court may appeal to the circuit court; from there to the District Court of Appeals, and then to the Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee.

**JURIES**

All persons accused of a felony or a misdemeanor are entitled to counsel and a trial by jury. Citizens are chosen for jury duty by random computer selection of registered voters. The size of a jury in circuit court is six, called a petit jury, except in murder trials or condemnation cases which require twelve-member panels. A grand jury of 18 persons conducts investigations of suspected crime in the community and decides whether to issue indictments.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

The public defender, elected at the general election for a four- year term, represents persons who have been determined by the courts to be indigent. The public defender serves Escambia, San­ta Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties which make up the First Judicial Circuit.

In accordance with state law, the public defender and his staff represent indigent criminal felony and misdemeanor defendants. He also represents indigent persons who are sought by petition to be involuntarily hospitalized as mentionally ill or mentally retarded. Funds for operation are provided annually through the state legislature.

**STATE ATTORNEY**

The office of state attorney is filled by District I election tor a four-year term. His principal duty is to serve as prosecutor in both county and circuit courts and to conduct investigations when requested by officially con­stituted authorities. As counsel to the grand jury, he represents the state in cases in which it is a party.

**MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Working with the courts in cases calling for medical expertise is a district medical examiner appointed by the Governor from nominees who are practicing physicians in pathology. Salary and fees are established by the county commissioners in the four counties of the First Judicial Circuit. The examiner performs autopsies for the entire circuit in cases where: a person dies from criminal violence; by accident in a prison or police custody; in suspicious circumstances; by poison; by disease which may constitute a threat to public health; or when a body is brought in­to the state without proper medical certification. The examiner may appoint a qualified substitute to conduct investigations if he is not immediately available.

**CORRECTIONS**

**SHERIFF**

The sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer and works under the supervision of the Governor as do all constitutional officers. He is responsi­ble for enforcing all state laws and county ordinances, and is custodian of all prisoners in the county jail. He also executes orders issued by the courts, such as serving subpoenas, warrants and processes that require citizens to appear in court as witnesses or jurors. While the sheriff s authori­ty extends over the county, the Pensacola Police department handles all matters inside the city limits. The city and county law enforcement officers cooperate in solving major crime problems.

Escmbia County has 502 employees in the Sheriffs department; 207 are classified as sworn officers (those with general arrest powers); 149 are non-sworn; and 146 are corrections officers.

**ADULT DETENTION**

Built in 1954, the old county jail at 1770 West Leonard Street is now the jail annex with a capacity for 240 minimum security prisoners in multi-inmate cells. The new jail, built nearby and completed in 1982, ac­comodates 240 additional prisoners. It is a maximum security facility with inmates housed in single cells.

Eighty-seven percent of the inmates are awaiting trial or sentencing. Those who have been sentenced serve their time at the County Jail, the County Road Prison in Cantonment or at a state or Federal correctional facility.

The jail has a self-contained twenty-five bed infirmary to pro­vide medical care for inmates. A doctor under contract to the county supervises medical treatment and heads up the medical staff of five registered nurses and five licensed practical nurses/paramedics.

The Florida Department of Corrections operates a work release program' at 3050 North “L” Street. Inmates who are serv­ing the latter part of their sentences and are judged to be ready for re-entry into society are given an opportunity for employment. These inmates are employed by local businesses and/or govern­ment agencies, are paid at least minimum wages, but must pay room and board and income taxes. They may keep $25 each week for their personal use, with the remainder used to help support their families and/or placed in a bank account until completion of their terms. Release inmates receive individual and group counseling on a weekly ^asis and are encouraged to participate in community-based resource programs sponsored by volunteers and structured around the inmates’ work time. The program relieves, to some degree, the burden of the taxpayers and local welfare programs, while providing the inmate with a well struc­tured adjustment period prior to completion of his term.

**PROBATION HOUSING**

Pensacola Probation and Restitution is housed in a co-ed residential facility, at 51 East Gregory Street this diversionary progiam of the Florida Department of Corrections deals with selected adult probajoners needing close supervision. Most are youthful offenders convicted of property crimes. With regular employment, offenders are motivated to accept responsibility and to make restitution to their victims as well as to contribute

Most are youthful offenders convicted of property crimes. With regular employment, offenders are motivated to accept responsibility and to make restitution to their victims as well as to contribute to court costs and their room and board. A point system also helps motivate these individuals toward completing their probation status without further incident.

**JUVENILE DETENTION**

Escambia County is fortunate in having a modern juvenile justice system which provides specialized programs for both delinquents and dependents (those with less serious problems) in the 14-17-year-age group. Should the juvenile court judge decide that detention is required, the individual is placed in the custody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS), which has the responsibility of determining the program best fitted to his or her needs.

Pensacola Boys’ Base located at Corry Field In facilities donated by the United States Navy, serves thirty boys from throughout Florida who have been committed to custodial care. Funded by HRS, services include schooling, rehabilitation and reality therapy.

Serving some fifty juveniles yearly, the “New Pride” program located at the Lakeview Center, 1200 West Avery, provides an alternative to adult incarceration for those who have committed three or more serious of­fenses. The program offers schooling, comprehensive counseling, voca­tional counseling and job placement. Major funding is provided by the Federal government aided by additional local support.

The Ninety and Nine Bovs’ Ranch, located on Chemstrand Road near Cantonment, serves up to sixteen boys who have been adjudged depen­dent. Funding is provided by Health and Rehabilitative Services and United Way.

The Lakeview Youth Shelter, operating under contract to Health and Rehabilitative Services, provides shelter, tutoring and counseling for four­teen juveniles who are runaways or are un-governable or who have suf­fered abuse and neglect. After an average stay of fourteen days, these twelve to seventeen-year-olds are placed in foster homes or returned to their families.

**AREA AGENCIES**

*“In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the rights of peo­ple with whom we do not agree; and whom in many cases, we may not like. If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own.”*

*Harry Truman*

**UTILITIES AUTHORITY**

The Escambia County Utilities Authority was created by the Florida Legislature in 1981 to finance, own, manage, promote, improve and ex­pand the water and wastewater (sewer) systems in Escambia County. The Authority replaced the separate systems of the city of Pensacola and Escambia County. Decisions of the Authority, including the fee structure, are made by an appointed seven-member board. However, 1983 legisla­tion provides that the Board will consist of five members, one elected from each of the five county commission districts, who will serve 4-year stag­gered terms. Each member will receive a salary of $300 monthly, with $100 monthly for expenses. The effective date of the legislation is 1984 with the full Board to be elected by the fall of 1986. The Board is sup­ported by a staff of 267 employees and an annual budget of approximately $20 million.

In addition to a unified water system for the metropolitan area, a goal of the Authority Is the gradual phaseout of existing county wastewater plants. The recent expansion of the Main Street treatment plant has resulted in a waste-water capacity of 20 million gallons per day (mgd). Currently the plant receives flows of 12 mgd. The excess capacity can easily accomodate additional expansion of the system.

**REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

The West Florida Regional Planning Council, located in Pensacola, is an association of local governments formed to provide West Florida citizens with policies, plans, and data to guide development and use of resources in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay counties. The Plann­ing Council’s voting members are local elected officials and Governor ap­pointees from the five counties and twenty-four cities comprising Florida’s Planning District I.

Working as a unified body, the Regional Planning Council develops policies to guide orderly growth and to ensure the protection of our region’s valuable natural resources.

A professional staff coordinates plans dealing with the regional issues of transportation, water quality, land use, housing, criminal justice, economic development and energy and makes them available to Planning Council members, local agencies and interested citizens. Other Planning Council programs include grants assistance, reviews of grant applications and large developments and an extensive mapping department.

The West Florida Regional Planning Council is supported by funds froi participating counties and cities as well as grants from state and federt agencies. The budget for 1982-83 was $319,256.

**DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In 1967 the Florida Legislature created the Pensacola-Escambia Development Commission. It assumed the functions of promoting tourism and advertising the area, heretofore handled by the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce. The Pensacola-Escambia Development Commission was reorganized in 1980 and expanded from a five-member board to nine members. Two are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, two by the City Council; one is appointed from higher education, one from the news media, two from industry, and the ninth member, the president of the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce. Funding for Pensacola- Escambia Development Commission is 50 percent from the county and 50 percent from the city, each contributing a minimum presently set at $250,000 per year. The small professional staff of the Development Com­mission is headed by an executive director selected by the board. In addi­tion to advertising, promotion of tourism and convention activities, Pensacola-Escambia Development Commission is also very actively seek­ing new industry for the area, expansion of existing industries and development of Ellyson Industrial Park, a former naval air station in the area of the University of West Florida.

**WESTERN GATE COUNCIL**

The Western Gate Council is a five-member inter-local government review board composed of two County Commissioners, two City Council members and one at-large member selected by the first four. The Western Gate Council provides a forum for discussion and makes recommenda­tions on city/county matters of mutual interest and concern. The Western Gate Council is jointly funded on a matching basis by city and county. Staff services are provided on a contractual basis by the Governmental Center Authority.

**GOVERNMENTAL CENTER AUTHORITY**

With the completion and dedication of the new Judicial Building and the “Chappie” James State Office Building, the Governmental Center Authority (GCA) administers lease agreements, architectural and building maintenance, parking and payments on bonded indebtedness. The GSA is composed of two County Commissioners, two City Council members and a member at-large nominated by the other four members. Funding of a small staff and administrator is shared equally by city and county. The GCA staff also provides assistance to the Western Gate Council.

**HOUSING COMMISSION**

In 1980, following enactment of enabling legislation by the Florida Legislature, the City of Pensacola and Escambia County created an Area Housing Commission (AHC) composed of five members, two appointed by the city, two by Escambia County, and the fifth selected by these four. A salaried executive director and staff are responsible for implementing the policies established by the commission.

The AHC is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for low income individuals and families throughout Escambia County. This includes administering and improving existing public housing units as well as creating additional units through new construction. The operating budget for 1983-84 is $1.2 million and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

In 1967 the Florida State Legislature approved an act creating the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board (HPPB), the purpose and func­tion of which is ”to acquire, restore, preserve, maintain...and operate...for the education, recreation...and general welfare of the peo­ple of this state and nation...historic landmarks, objects of antiquity...in order to properly interpret and understand the history of the State...” and “to draft a historical plan for the creation of a historical district”.

Following the adoption of the boundaries of this historic district by the Pensacola City Council, a master plan was prepared in 1969 defining the long-range plans and goals of the HPPB. The development of the thirty- one block section within the nationally registered Historic District in downtown Pensacola is well under way. The aim is to combine publicly and privately owned commercial and residential restoration with a varie­ty of interpretive (museum) facilities for educational, recreational and cultural activities. Its purpose is to help fulfill the need for the conserva­tion of cultural and physical resources, and provide a learning environ­ment in which the visitor is stimulated to learn about the past.

The museum bureau performs one of three basic board activities-the other two being research and publication and administrative services. The museum has been open to the public for eleven years and is now maintaining eight public facilities.

The staff of the museum bureau includes a bureau chief, curator of education, two curators of local and regional history, a museum preparator and one guide. Operational support is provided by volunteer docents, part-time instructors/guides and contract employees.

The historic facilities include: Hispanic building 200 E. Zaragoza St., where general exhibits give an overview of regional cultural history and the interaction between culture and environment; the transportation building where there is a full-scale recreated Pensacola streetscape, circa 1830 to 1920; also Clara Barkley Dorr House 311 S. Adams St., an ex­ample of classical revival architecture with some local modifications. Like the elaborate homes built a little later in what is now the North Hill Preser­vation District, the Dorr House is a result of Pensacola’s burgeoning lumber industry. The Charles Lavalie House, Church and Barrancas Streets, built around 1810, is an excellent example of a “Gulf Coast cottage”, reflecting the designs and traditions of French artisans of the Mississipi Valley. Julee Cottage, circa 1805, represents the history and economic importance ot early Pensacola’s black community. When the cottage is restored, it will house an exhibit about black history in Pensacola. Piney Woods Sawmill draws attention to the importance of the lumber industry in Pensacola’s history. Neither the mill nor the adjacent four-car logging train is in operating condition.

**GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE**

The Gulf Islands National Seashore stretches over 150 miles along the coast of Florida and Mississippi from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, to Ship Island, Mississippi, encompassing almost 140,000 acres.

Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish the seashore in 1971; it is now supervised by the National Park Service. In our immediate area, Fort Pickens comprises fourteen miles of beach; Perdido Key has eighteen miles of beach; the Santa Rosa area has sixteen miles; the Naval Live Oaks (along U.S. 98 east of Gulf Breeze) has seven miles; and there is some Park acreage with little or no beach in Okaloosa and Pensacola forts.

Popular activities include beach use, fishing, boating, diving, camping, picnicking and touring historic structures. Nature trails, lifeguarded beaches, interpretive programs and concessions are also provided.

The most outstanding recreational resources of these islands are their wide, gently sloping beaches of unusually fine white sand and clear blue­green water coupled with a mild subtropical climate. The marine vegeta­tion supports a substantial fish population that is harvested by both com­mercial and sports fishermen.

**PENSACOLA ARTS COUNCIL**

*“Such is the strength of art, rough things to shape, And of rude commons rich enclosures make.”*

*James Howells*

The Arts Council contributes to the Pensacola Museum of Art, Sym­phony Orchestra, Oratorio Society and the Little Theatre. Community members include Gulf Islands National Seashore, the Pensacola Junior League, Music at Christ Church program, Pensacola Artists, Inc., Com­munity Concerts Association, West Florida Regional Library and the American Association of University Women.

Associate members include representatives from Pensacola Junior Col­lege, the University of West Florida and the fields of drama, historic preser­vation, dance and broadcast media.

The Council sponsors major‘projects including the Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival in November, and the April “Arts Alive” auction. They also issue a newsletter and calendar of arts events.

The Pensacola Symphony Orchestra Association presented five scheduled performances in 1981-82 in addition to appearances at shopp­ing malls and local high schools. The Museum of Art, 407 South Jeffer­son, hosts thousands of visitors each year for both art and classic film ex­hibitions. The Oratorio gives two performances each year by 125 volunteer members. The Pensacola Little Theatre, 186 North Palafox Street, presents five plays per season, ranging from high drama to comedy and musicals. Volunteers are always welcome to join the Arts Council pro­jects.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

*“Men resemble the gods in nothing so much as in doing good to their fellow creatures.”*

*Cicero*

*A* variety of community services is provided by agencies outside govern­ment, most of which are supported by a combination of government and private funding, e.g., United Way.

**RETARDED CITIZENS**

Over 300 mentally retarded citizens were served in 1982 at the Pollak and Pearl Nelson Centers. The Pollak Training Center offers h£lp for adults in vocational, academic and social skills. Group living homes are also available. The Pearl Nelson Center serves high-risk infants from birth to three years of age and developmentally delayed children, ages three through five who receive language and physical therapy. All retarded citizens can participate in a variety of recreation including dances, field trips, barbecues, swimming, bowling and an afternoon summer program.

**BOYS’ CLUBS**

Four boys’ club centers in downtown Pensacola, Warrington, Ensley and Englewood provide educational and cultural trips, classes and counseling. Opportunities for physical fitness, games and contests include swimming and weight training. Community service projects are also part of the program. The average boy is educationally disadvantaged and from a family receiving welfare. Both city and county participate in the funding.

**DRUG ABUSE**

Established in 1971 under the Department of Health and Rehabilitative services, the City-County Drug Abuse Commission sponsors and monitors school programs, juvenile justice and community programs dealing with drug abuse. These include information, education, intervention and alter­native help.

The Alpha Program serves children in grades three, four and five who exhibit behavior problems that could lead to drug abuse. The Escambia Drug Education Program provides information for elementary, middle and high schools. These two programs are funded by Health and Rehabilitative Services. Med-Ed offers information on the proper use of medication for the elderly population, while a Family Drug Awareness Program seeks to involve the family in drug prevention by promoting communication, understanding and sensitivity to people’s needs. For youths who are con­sidered to be high drug risk, Project Challenger provides maritime ex­periences and skills in sailing. In addition to governmental funding, dona­tions of services, money and materials are made by community organiza­tions and individuals.

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

The Escambia County Council on Aging, 23 North “A” Street, is a private, non-profit agency which provides services for persons 60 years of age and older. The general goal of all the agency’s programs is to help older citizens remain independent as long as possible.

kThe following services are specific helps by the Council on Aging: adult day/health care service for the functionally impaired; congregate nutrition program of well-balanced noon meals at several community locations; meals on wheels, a front-door delivery of hot dinner and cold snack sup­per to the homebound; homemaker service provides in-home assistance with homemaking tasks; twenty-four-hour homemaker service, a tem­porary live-in service after hospitalization; home maintenance through minor home repairs; transportation to health facilities and other destina­tions; recreation and education through various activities at meal sites and throughout the community; retired senior volunteer program (RSVP) that recruits seniors for placement in meaningful volunteer positions; “Goodies by the Oldies” gift shop, provides an outlet for handcrafted items made by senior citizens.

In addition to participant donations and private contributions, the Coun­cil programs are funded by federal, state, county, and city governments.

**DAY CARE SERVICES, INC**

Escambia County Day Care Services, Inc. (ECDCS) is a private non­profit corporation providing child care service and information concerning child care to families living in both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. This community coordinated child care agency is interested in insuring that quality child care service is available to all children regardless of the child’s age, race, religion and family income. ECDCS is a United Way Agency and receives funding and support from local governments in addition to contracting with the Florida Subsidized Child Day Care program funded in part by the state. Fees for service are established based on the family size and gross income of adults living in the home. Fees range from zero to $15.60 per week for one child enrolled in care. The agency also contracts

with the Florida Department of Education to sponsor the Child Care food program. Nutritious meals which meet U.S.DA. Standards are provided in all programs .

At times, children are referred to ECDCS for prevention of abuse or neglect. Referrals are accepted from community social service agencies working with children and families to encourage quality child care ar­rangements for all children. Community coordinated child care serves as a resource on licensing requirements. Also, information for professionals in­terested in providing child care is offered. Trained staff who are experienc­ed in emergency care, health, safety, and nutrition, in addition to child development and educational experiences for preschool children,are employed by all facilities.

Child care programs sponsored or operated by ECDCS enroll infants over age three months and preschool children. Limited care for school- aged children is available after school hours and during summer months. ECDCS operates child care centers and a network of homes through their central office located at 810 North Palafox Street, Pensacola. The agency also contracts with child care centers meeting required standards in order to provide service at convenient locations in the community. Parents should apply for service at the central office and are then offered a choice of child care arrangements. Contact the ECDCS central office at 438-6094 or 434-6984 for further information concerning service locations and eligibility requirements.

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

The Escambia-Pensacola Human Relations Commission has been in operation since 1974. The Commission comprises 14 members of the community selected by the Pensacola City Council and the Escambia County Board of Commissioners. The mandate of this commission is to assist the citizenry in matters pertaining (but not limited) to discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and/or unfair employment practices.

The role employed by the Human Relations Commission is one of a mediator or liaison between the claimant and respondent, thus encourag­ing resolution of issues before referral to federal agencies. The Commis­sion also holds workshops in order to better educate citizens in their rights as employees, employers and lessees or lessors, publishes a fair employ­ment business and referral listing and conducts workshops for public assistance. The $55,000 budget for the Human Relations Commission is supported jointly by the City of Pensacola, Escambia County and the fair housing portion of the Community Development block grant.

**PENSACOLA-ESCAMBIA CLEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION**

The Pensacola-Escambia Clean Community Commission was establish­ed in November, 1978. PECCC is jointly funded for operations by the Ci­ty, County, Santa Rosa Island Authority and the business community. A paid staff of one coordinator and one secretary-assistant is retained by the PECCC Board.

PECCC is one of a national network of Clean Community Systems cer­tified by Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and serves as the community’s only catalyst for involving the citizenry in litter reduction and improvement pro­grams. PECC works to get people to take the responsibility for a cleaner community and to channel the public and private resources for sustaining cleanliness. Additionally, PECCC provides awareness and education on recycling.