



# MAYOR CROTTY CONNECTION



## Welcome Message

October 23, 2009

Over the last few weeks during the Board of County Commission meetings we spent time discussing our legislative priorities and Florida's economy. To review the presentation by Dr. James Zingale and Mark Jeffries concerning the priorities watch the [video on demand feature on our website](#) or if you prefer watch a rebroadcast on [Orange TV](#) Saturday October 24 at 7:00 a.m. Brighthouse Cable Channel 199.

Even if the recession continues through the coming year, certain types of investments in the local economy will generate long-term benefits. Recognizing this, my budget preserves investments that create jobs and that promote economic diversity. For example, in 2008 we dedicated more than \$40 million to bring Burnham Institute to Orange County and to help link it to other biomedical and research organizations. We are standing by that commitment and already seeing dividends from it as we witness the growth of a medical city that will include Burnham, the UCF Medical School, a Nemours Children's Hospital, the MD Anderson Cancer Center, and a new VA Hospital. As a result, there will be thousands of new jobs created in Orange County in the very near future.

Another investment we have continued is the funding initiative I debuted three years ago called "Invest in Orange County: Our Children's Legacy." This initiative was designed to fund much-needed infrastructure and to purchase land for environmental preservation. Originally, this program was intended to allocate \$530 million to meet some of the most essential long-term needs of our community. However, because of property tax reform and the recession, the Children's Legacy program has been scaled back to just over \$178 million, but is still used as a blueprint for programs that are critical to our future.

Since its inception, the Children's Legacy program has spent or set aside \$32 million for environmentally-sensitive land, \$6 million for parks and gymnasium facilities, \$89 million for roadway projects, more than \$16 million for other community enhancements such as pedestrian safety, and \$35 million for commuter rail.

Orange County is also in the process of receiving and planning for the use of stimulus money from the federal government. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Federal government has made grants available to improve energy efficiency, enhance local infrastructure, assist with homeless issues, and to help deal with foreclosed real estate. The amount Orange County ultimately will receive is unknown, but these stimulus funds will be used to help us leverage all available resources to boost our economy in the short term. You can use the [Orange County Recovery](#) website to learn more about the economic recovery, including how the money will be used to help county residents and businesses.

Richard T. Crotty

### Hot Topics

- [The Grand Opening of the Office of the Medical Examiner District 9 Office](#) – October 23, 2009
- [Help Bring the World Cup to Orlando](#) – This is a "Call to Action" visit the website to learn more.
- [Neighborhood Stabilization Program](#) was created by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to respond to rising residential foreclosures and property abandonment. The main purpose of the NSP is to stabilize neighborhoods negatively impacted by foreclosures. Orange County will use NSP funds to acquire, renovate, and sell of foreclosed homes at affordable prices to eligible families.
- [ReNew Grants](#) and Funding for Neighborhoods offers various types of grant programs to assist with neighborhood improvement. Click on the link to find out details about specific funding opportunities.

### In Advance – Upcoming County Commission Agenda Highlights – Next Board Meeting October 27

For a complete listing of the Board's Agenda or to request an appearance before the Orange County Board of County Commissioners visit the [eAgenda](#).

### OrangeCountyFL.net Links

- [Mayor Crotty's Homepage](#)
- [County News](#) - Orange County Government is one of the largest public organizations in the region, with one of the fastest growing media markets in the country. County News is an interactive tool designed to keep you informed about major announcements and events in Orange County. County News includes a Video on Demand feature with live press conferences and board meetings.
- [Orange TV](#) and [Vision TV](#)- Orange TV, a government information channel, televises programming about government services, activities, and issues. Vision TV features locally produced programs that promote Central Florida events, performances, children's education, senior living, diversity, culture, the arts, safety and regional economic development.
- [OCALERT](#) – This new service will send out instant weather warnings and other Orange County emergency notices. Up-to-the-minute alerts will be sent to your personal text-based message devices, including cell phones, pagers and other wireless devices. [Sign up for OCALERT.net](#)