



In Their Words

VOICES FROM THE COUNTY

Department heads and county leaders on their favorite thing about or to do in Glynn County.

Big enough, small enough

"I love the size of it. It's big enough to have everything you need, small enough to raise a family. It's close to the interstate, close to Jacksonville or Savannah, in between there, and now we're getting more and more: First Fridays, local pop-up bands, food trucks. When I first moved here, the place shut down after five o'clock on a Friday. Compared to the bigger cities it's still pretty laid back here. That's what I like."

— DAVID WEST

Around the water

"I love just being around the water. I'm not a big boater, and our family goes to the beach some, but just living by the water and having that coastal experience is what I like so much. I love our trees, the live oaks on the mainland and St. Simons, and the Spanish moss, and I also love the city of Brunswick and the squares. A lot of it for me is the aesthetic aspect of Glynn County. People here are friendly and welcoming. I've lived a lot of different places (Vermont, New York, Idaho, Kansas, and Florida), and this is one of the places I've enjoyed living the most."

— STEFANIE LEIF

Our recreational facilities

"Well, it used to be when I was a little bit younger playing for the rec department, softball for myself and then coaching for my kids. That has changed over the years since they have grown up. Now I have grandkids that are starting to get older... So I'm going to get back into that... Our recreational facilities is probably a big asset for this county. And lately I haven't used them as much, but I have in the past and I will be, with the grandkids getting a little bit older."

— DAVE CARVER



Gascoigne

"I go to Gascoigne a lot. I always say Gascoigne is where I want my ashes spread. I think it's the prettiest place in Glynn County, probably in the state of Georgia. It's just a beautiful spot, so I spend a lot of time there and disc golf there."

— JASON HAGEN

Detach and go to Jekyll

"Each year, either Jekyll or St. Simon's... especially Jekyll because we have some projects on St. Simon's that remind me of work. So it helps me to detach to go to Jekyll, and it makes me realize, wow, this is like 20 minutes from here in the office, and it doesn't seem real, and it makes you just really appreciate the landscape that Glynn County has to offer, and it helps you relax and get some stress out, and that's my favorite thing to do here."

— JASON HARTMAN

Family, faith, doing nothing

"I'm a family man. I've always compartmentalized things in my business. You set parameters, and I believe the strongest thing you can do is set parameters. As a commissioner I set them deliberately, because I don't want anything to infringe on the time that matters most. My favorite thing is sometimes doing absolutely nothing with my wife. It fills you up. We enjoy eating out, and we do it often. It comes down to family and friends."

I'd be remiss if I didn't add the importance of church and a life of faith. That's what fills me and rejuvenates me, day in and day out. I've said over the years that nothing can happen to me today that God and I together can't get through, and I live my life that way. Keeping those priorities in order is an important component of what makes everything else right. Life is a series of priorities, and you have to choose what's important to you."

— CHAIRMAN NEAL

A family-friendly community

"Sleep. That's terrible. Why I live here is I think it's a family-friendly community. So I think it's a great place for my kids to be able to grow up down here, you know? I think you're on the beach, you know? You get to, we're a little different, so my wife also works here. I mean, so there's, it's a little, it's fine, because we're both here, but yeah, and we get to see the, and you said outside of work, but I mean, I'm fortunate enough to have full confidence in what these guys are doing at the county management level. So I trust what they're doing. I truly believe in the mission. So outside of that, you know, so having faith in them, but just, you know, it's beautiful down here. Yeah. I mean, there's so much to do, so."

— ANDY LEANZA

Jekyll Island

"My favorite place is Jekyll Island. I love going there; I love the peace and the beauty. Just the beautiful nature we have here and the beaches. It's a beautiful place. So outside of work, sitting on the beach there reading a book is probably my favorite thing."

— TAMARA MUNSON

Out over the marsh

"For me, it's not necessarily the beach. I drive every day over the Sidney Lanier Bridge to and from work, looking out over that marsh and out to the islands. That's just a unique, beautiful view that you tend to take for granted."

— DANNY SMITH

Hands down, the fishing

"Hands down, the fishing. If you like trout, redfish, flounder, this is where it's at. But growing up here (the Golden Isles, the marsh), it's beautiful. ... That's what's so great about fishing around here."

— SEAN ROBINSON

Can I say eating out?

"Can I say eating out? I love... there's just so many restaurants here, you can't try them all... We have great local farms, and we have awesome seafood. Probably Fiddler's is probably my favorite place ever on the island... I love Marsh Side, I love Grumelli Brothers Pizza... It's just a very fun, southern, idyllic southern shore town. People are cool. It's where we live, so it's awesome."

— TONYA MORAN

What makes Glynn County unique

"I think Glynn County is unique in the community. We've got the port. We've got FLETC. We've got a huge tourism industry here. I think that's what makes Glynn County unique, just all the different inputs, all the different people, and how that evolves and develops. You can see it every day, just our projects alone, just the wide range of projects."

— RESDEN TALBERT

Out on the water

"Just the outdoors, the water. I grew up here. When I was a kid I was skiing on the Altamaha River, trying to surf in the ocean, riding a jet ski. I love being out on the water and outdoors. We live in a beautiful part of the country. I've driven across the country a few times, and every time I think I didn't see many places between here and there that compare. It's a good, diverse community, too."

— BRYAN SIPE

Living on the coast

"I just love living on the coast. The first thing would be the people. If you're asking my favorite thing about work here, it's definitely the people. But outside of work, I'd say just living on the coast. It's a great place to live, living near the water. I see all my old friends come through because of FLETC being here. Can't beat the recreational activities we have."

— BILL FALLON

Time with my grandkids

"My favorite thing to do in Glynn County, and the reason I moved here, is to spend time with my grandkids, because they live here. But in terms of things to do, it would probably be camping at Life Island Campground. I know it's just 15 minutes from my house, but I go there and it's a completely different world."

— JUDY DUNNAGAN

Kayaking, period.

"Kayaking, period. We go camping, kayaking, ride ATVs, very outdoorsy. ... They have canoe trails in the back. If you cross the lake and go to the back, you can go up through these little canoe trails and be quiet. I've seen all kinds of animals. I've had a deer right on the bank while I'm in the water. It's really awesome."

— CRISTEE KINSTLE

Boating, fishing, crabbing

"Boating, fishing, crabbing when I'm not working. My husband is retired and has gotten into our little farm: corn, peanuts, watermelons, tomatoes. Spending time with him, my pups, my friends on Black Island. Home projects, yard work. I'm practicing for my second career in landscaping."

— LISA GURGANUS

Brunswick is my home

"Beyond just staying home and enjoying my backyard with my dog, I really do like being downtown. I first came here when I turned 23 and I have not left. Downtown used to be a desert, and now it's so nice to see it getting its due... I love Brunswick. I don't like going to St. Simons that much, but Brunswick is my home."

— BRITTANY DOZIER

Ride a fire truck

"It's when I get to ride a fire truck. That's the best part, that's at play. But ... I enjoy the beach. ... I enjoy our location between Savannah and Jacksonville. If you want to go to the city, you drive an hour and you're there. It's a beautiful area with a lot to offer, especially for those who like to be out in nature, with the rivers, the marshes, the fishing, the ocean, and the beach."

— VINNY DICRISTAFALO