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## Belle Glade Branch Library and Civic Center a County Collaborative Effort

**For immediate release: March 20, 2013**

**Contact: Edward W. Lowery, Director Dept. of Economic Sustainability  
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Residents of Belle Glade will enjoy a new civic center facility along with a new library, thanks to a collaborative effort of the county departments of Economic Sustainability (DES), Libraries, and Facilities Development & Operations (FDO).

The 17,000-square-foot library and civic center facility is located on a city-owned site formerly occupied by the Belle Glade Civic Center on NW 4th Street. The former center was destroyed by Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Originally, the county and the city of Belle Glade had planned to develop the site as a county library only. Additional funding of more than \$700,000 became available through the state's Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Initiative 3 (DRI3) Program, and plans were expanded to demolish the old facility and rebuild the civic center along with the new library.

The DRI3 program, administered by Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity and implemented locally by DES, was developed to assist communities severely affected by natural disasters, specifically Hurricane Wilma.

Construction of the \$7 million project was funded primarily through the Library Taxing District and implemented by FDO.

City and county officials and the general public will celebrate the completion of the library/civic center facility at a ribbon-cutting ceremony this Saturday, March 23, at 10 a.m.

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