Green Can Be Gold for Developers

If you’re a developer/contractor who wants to build in Palm Coast, think seriously about becoming a role model for environmental stewardship. Also, value resource conservation and sustainable practices in your construction. These virtues just might earn you some generous incentives.

In December, the City Council adopted a two year extension for construction-based incentives for those contractors, architects or developers who wish to construct green homes or commercial buildings in Palm Coast. This innovative voluntary Green Development Incentive Program encourages the enhancement of sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices for building homes or commercial structures in the City. A development approach should go beyond conventional practices by integrating environmental stewardship, resource efficiency, sensitivity to existing and past culture and community. The program’s ultimate goal is to recruit participation by offering attractive incentives and ultimately change the culture of the local development industry.

For any contractor seeking Green Development Program certification, the following incentives will be available:

1. Permit Fees – To effectively encourage participation and establish sustainable building, the City’s Building Division will waive 100% of the permit fees for applicants who participate.

2. Fast Track Development Review – Development services submitted for Green Development Program projects will be given priority over others, provided that the applicant presents proof of sustainable building certification. Additionally, the City will provide one optional no-cost certification service per applicant specific to the Florida Green Building Coalition Certification standards for a new home and/or new commercial building.

3. Recognition – The City will promote the Program Project through recognition on the City website or by other means.
A Message From The
Mayor
Jon Netts

Wouldn't it be refreshing to read some positive local business news for a change? Well, I've got some really interesting ideas to pass on to you. The Palm Coast Business Center is expanding its free services to customers to include three new programs that will help business owners invest more money in their businesses, will allow them to offer health insurance options to employees and promote and pre-permit shovel-ready sites suitable for new businesses to move into the area.

Look at a take at these steps to business success:

1. GAP Program – In order to help local businesses raise sufficient capital to maintain success, the BAC has partnered with local banks to develop a Small Business Loan Guarantee Assistance Program to guarantee lines of credit from local banks to qualifying businesses. The loan guarantee may be used for expansion needs, working capital or establishing a further line of credit.

2. Business Ready Program – Using the Internet, marketing and signage, the BAC will collaborate with local landowners to promote various commercial parcels across the city for quick occupancy. The program also includes pre-permitting to allow a company to begin construction in 30-60 days. This program indicates to perspective business owners that Palm Coast is a willing partner in business development.

3. BAC Health Care Access Partnership – The BAC can now assist businesses with purchasing discount coupons for local health care clinic services through a Mediquick Urgent Care alliance. This program extends access to vital health care for uninsured local employers and employees – a benefit not always available for local small business owners.

Business Desk

We've Got Something for You to See at Our Utility Offices

Paying your water bill isn't the only thing you can accomplish at the City's Utility offices. Stop and take a look just outside the front door: you'll find an eye-catching Florida Water Star™ exhibit that will educate you on worthwhile ways to conserve water. Engaging and interactive, the demonstration displays user-friendly ideas on how to establish and maintain beautiful and healthy outdoor landscaping. Visitors recommend ways to group plants based on annual maintenance requirements, how to choose grass and how and when to monitor and control irrigation.

The exhibit vividly draws special attention from the Florida Planning & Zoning Surfcost Chapter. The FPZA awarded Palm Coast and recognized its Water Star™ program, the St. Johns River Water Management District, with the 2011 Outstanding Development Award acknowledging the exhibit’s unique project-centered location outside the City’s Utility offices.

Here’s something else you should know about Water Star™: the St. Johns River Water Management District offers residents and commercial and community developments a voluntary certification program that encourages installation of an aesthetically pleasing landscape that has a relatively low-water requirement – specifically designed to increase water efficiency in landscapes and irrigation systems. In addition, the program establishes criteria for indoor appliances and fixtures for a more complete comprehensive approach to water conservation.

The program establishes the highest expectations for resources efficiency in structures, using criteria specifically designed for water efficiency in Florida. Earning a Florida Water Star™ designation for your property is truly an achievement. If you are interested, log onto www.floridawaterstar.com for more info call: 386-445-9399

City Desk

News From City Departments

About Rock N Rib Fest, 2012:

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 14th when the City of Palm Coast will host the 3rd Annual Rock N Rib Fest. The smell of tasty, hickory-scented smoke will waft across Central Park in Town Center, tempting everyone to stop during their visit on Saturday. Live musical entertainment and a Kids Carnival will round out your day of fun from noon to 10:00pm. Watch for top name entertainment to be announced.

About Purchasing a Foreclosed Rehabbed Home:

The City continues to accept applications from qualified individuals wishing to purchase the home of their dreams. Rehabbed foreclosed homes will be sold with up to $30,000 in available financial assistance available through the National Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Go to www.home.palmcoastgov.com for an application, inventory of available homes and other information about the program. Don't miss this great opportunity!!

About Enhancing our Parkway East Neighborhood:

To help preserve values in our neighborhoods, protect economic vitality in our commercial districts and promote Palm Coast as a great place to live, work and play, City staff will be developing a series of Master Plan assessments in various neighborhoods across the community. The first efforts continue the City’s Parkway East District, Palm Coast’s very first neighborhood that has some of our oldest homes, businesses and infrastructure. The Parkway East District Master Plan addresses reemergence and preservation at sites such as European Village, the former Players Club Tennis Center, the former Harborside location, the Palm Coast Community Center and Fire Station #21. Staff will be meeting with stakeholders within this area to focus positively on our neighborhoods, a main objective for the City’s Prosperity 2021 initiative to grow our local economy.

About A Few Fun Upcoming Parks & Recreation Programs:

- Enjoy a two-day (March 22-24) excursion to Savannah and let our Parks & Recreation Department do all the organizing! The trip includes round trip bus from the Community Center, entertainment, hotel, tours, dinner cruise and more. Enroll your 5th-6th graders for Spring Break Camp, April 2-6, 9am-3pm at the Community Center.
- Attend a Teddy Bear Picnic for 2-4 year olds and parents on Tues., Mar. 6th, 10am at the Community Center.
- Discover beauty at Ll Nature Nut for parents and 2-4 year olds, from Mar. 10-Apr. 21, 10am in Linear Park.
- Rock at a Friday Night live free concert at European Village on Friday, March 23rd at 7pm. Great free entertainment for the whole family.

Call 386-986-2323 for information about all of these programs.

About Hosting the Florida Youth Soccer Association Tournoy:

Palm Coast will be hosting our very first U11 Boys Region B Cup Soccer Tournament in February, bringing 40 teams and their families from across northwest Florida to spend money in our community.

The Association chose Palm Coast because of our beautifully renovated Indian Trails Sports Complex.

About Our Temporary Modification of Disinfection Treatment of your Water:

In order to maintain the reliability of the water distribution system serving our customers, the Palm Coast Utility Department will temporarily change the disinfection process for the Palm Coast potable (drinking water) water supply. From February 20 through March 26, we will disinfected the water with free chlorine rather than combined chlorine/ammonia (chloramines). This change will also affect residents and customers of the Flagler County Utilities. This conversion to chlorine (which is a stronger disinfectant) from chloramines (which is a longer-lasting disinfectant) allows us to perform a water distribution system purge as recommended by the Department of Environmental Protection for water utilities using chloramines as their primary disinfectant. After this process is completed, we will revert to disinfection by the chloramines method.

During this period, customers may experience a slight increase in the taste and odor of chlorine. Customers on dialysis who use a proportioning machine to prepare dialysate are advised to contact their physician to obtain the appropriate steps to accommodate the change in water disinfection. Customers who have fish tanks or aquatic species are advised to contact a professional aquarist to avoid any problems associated with chlorine. Customers are asked to call the Utility Department’s Customer Service number – 386-986-2360 with any questions.