Arbor Day
Branches Out This Year

There are simply more enjoyable earth-friendly things to anticipate this year at the City’s Annual Arbor Day event! This spectacular annual celebration of nature promises more excitement and unique educational opportunities on Saturday, May 4th from 9am to 2pm. So get ready and keep reading.

- Board a quaint trackless family train for an adventurous journey
- Take a challenge to pull yourself up a rock climbing wall to see Arbor Day from above the trees
- Have photos taken of yourself with family and friends in a cool photo booth
- Join a brand new QR Code Scavenger Hunt set up for guests to scan codes for clues with a smart phone to solve puzzles and win prizes
- Give ‘Rae Rae’ a big hug, the PBS Network’s official red panda who stars in Enviro-Pals, a green program for kids ages 4-8

These activities are awesome, but remember the genuine focus of our Arbor Day event is to celebrate trees and the beauty that lives in Palm Coast. Free three-gallon trees will be distributed in exchange for canned good donations. Everyone’s favorite butterfly release will flutter across the sky in Central Park. Local students will present their favorite green projects. Nature’s little bunnies, goats, chickens and ducks will scoot around a petting zoo enclosure. Pathways will fill with green crafts and products to be sold. Casual walkers or serious runners will gather early in the Park for the Annual 5K Root Run or the One Mile Flutter Foam Run (yes – that’s ‘foam’ – cross the finish line in a lane full of suds and bubbles dispensed from a foam machine! Imagine how fresh, fun and fabulous this will feel!). The start gun fires at 8am, with prizes awarded for overall men/women and age category winners.

Boot up your computer, smart phone or tablet, type in the City of Palm Coast website and be amazed at how easy it is to find precisely what you’re looking for. Blending creativity and common sense, the new re-organization and re-design of palmcoastgov.com will help meet your needs more quickly, finding answers to your City questions or helping you to contact staff by sending you promptly to the page you’re looking for. Navigation through the City’s new website is intuitive, descriptive, straightforward and uncomplicated. How?

Three simple words will get you to where you want to go. I Want To... 

Apply for (jobs, service on a City Board, permits, programs)
Contact (staff members, records, inspectors)
Learn About (parks, streets, trash)
Locate (maps, fire stations, park locations)
Pay for (utility bills)
Register for (animal licenses, garage sales)
Report (code violations, citizen or neighborhood-related issues)
Request (recycling information, permit inspections)
Sign Up For (recreation activities)

With more mobility in today’s society, we’ve learned that a growing number of visitors to palmcoastgov.com are using smart phones or tablets. In 2012, 473,000 people made computer visits, with 76,000 (14%) accessing portably. This is a 126% increase from 2011. The upgraded website accommodates mobility, adjusting to what you want and fitting it to your screen on the go.

The City of Palm Coast staff is proud to introduce the new palmcoastgov.com, designed with your requirements in mind. Check it out this coming spring.
It was just a few decades ago that Palm Coast was known as a small rural town in north Florida with just a scattering of stoplights and a few basic stores. Fast forward to the present and you’ll find that our City has swiftly grown up. According to an analysis of the 2010 National Census, Palm Coast became the most populated City in the newly designated Palm Coast/Daytona Beach/Port Orange Urbanized Area. And, under Federal Law, this distinction has generated a seat for us on the regional TPO board.

Our participation in this TPO, or Transportation Planning Organization, gives Palm Coast a forum to identify and voice our own priorities for improvements to various modes of transportation—roadways, bridges, pedestrian walkways/bike paths and even mass transit. The group’s mission is to provide safe and accessible regional mobility in a fiscally-responsible, energy efficient and environmentally compatible manner.

The key word in this mission statement is ‘regional’. Our transportation planning will now be of a more regional nature, integrating with our Volusia County neighbors to more cohesively plan within and beyond our own borders. For example, we can help to determine if roads should extend from one county to another. Or, we can strive to keep the number of lanes on various roads consistent when crossing county lines. We can research new funding opportunities to help plan, design and extend bike trails across our Flagler County borders or provide for roadway safety improvements.

Our TPO participation is brand new for Palm Coast, so TPO membership is an opportunity to learn about a wider regional perspective, looking at growing transportation systems from one community to another as we join this collaborative partnership to form a larger regional entity. TPO membership is brand new for Palm Coast, so cooperative ideas and plans are still developing. To promote cohesiveness, the group is considering several suggestions for new names for what was the ‘Volusia TPO’—possibly something like ‘Move 386’ with a new logo that could reinforce their cooperative spirit. As a player in the Palm Coast/Daytona Beach/Port Orange Urbanized Area we can now participate in decision making that affects our transportation destiny rather than asking others to address our priorities. Stay tuned for more information as we navigate this untraveled road.