Feast, Run, Tidy Things Up
THIS SUMMER

There’s never a dull moment in this town! We’ve got a few recommendations for you to add to your summer calendar:

Saturday, August 10 – Sprint across the cart paths at the Palm Harbor Golf Club or the Annual four-mile Summer Shotgun Run, beginning at 7:30am.

Saturday, August 31 – The Second Annual International Food & Wine Festival will be held in Central Park from noon-6pm. Celebrate our rich cultural heritage with exotic music, dance and cuisine representing our multiple countries of origin. Admission is free.

Saturday, September 14 – The Autumn Trails 5K starts at 8am at the Community Center across from Linear Park and continues through the St. Joe Walloway. Both runs award overall first, second and third place medals in all age categories. A Kids Fun Run follows each main race.

Saturday, September 7 – Bathers and walkers can clean and protect Palm Coast’s treasure, watersways and adjacent trails from 8am-1pm. Information and supplies will be distributed at 8am at Holland Park. Pre-registration begins on August 1st.

For more information about each of these events, visit discoverpalmcoast.com or call the Parks & Recreation Department at 386-986-2323.

Their Pictures are Worth a Thousand Words.

Congratulations to the winners of the City’s recent Find Your Florida Photo Contest!
The Palm Coast Beautification & Environmental Advisory Committee selected these talented photographers for recognition, among a total of 217 submissions:

Grand Prize – Ilya Ellerin

CATEGORIES:
ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
Amy Higgs – First & Third Place
Keri May – Second Place

NATURE
Ilya Ellerin – First & Third Place
Daniel Moll – Second Place

FAMILY FUN
Amy Higgs – First & Third Place
Michael Payne – Second Place

HOW YOU FOUND YOUR FLORIDA
Mary Thompson – First Place, Priscilla Stoldt – Second Place,
Priscilla Sutcliffe – Third Place

Add your comments by emailing ipicaw ortho@palmcoastgov.com

First place photographs will be displayed at City Offices at 160 Cypress Point Parkway
Go to discoverpalmcoast.com/photo contest to view all the winning photos.

And the Winner Is… the team players, families and coaches; sports league management; city hotels, restaurants and shops; the entire Palm Coast community.

When athletic tournaments come to play in Palm Coast, everyone wins. Regional sports tournaments continue to take shape in our City. They are critical to the economic success for all of us, attracting visitors who will play on our well-manicured fields, sleep in our welcoming hotels, dine in our appetizing restaurants and shop in our eclectic stores.

Our local Palm Coast Sports Alliance members (representing soccer, hockey, horseback riding, swimming, lacrosse, flag football, baseball, golf and tennis) and the Tourism Development Council are teaming with the City to create opportunities to promote and expand new events in our area that will have a promising economic impact on our residents and businesses. Adding to our ongoing regional lacrosse, soccer and gymnastics events, these include:

- Adult Flag Football
The Florida Flag Football League is so impressed with the Indian Trails Sports Complex facility, they’ve already booked their sought-after 2014 tournament right here.

- Just4Keepers International Goalkeepers Academy Camps
This International Academy trains and prepares amateur soccer goalkeepers to become professional players. The Academy selected Palm Coast for its national residential camp.

- Junior USSA Golf Tournament for youth players
The Mizuno United States Specialty Sports Association tournament was held in June with youth players ages 9+ competing at the Palm Harbor Golf Course.

One reason event numbers continue to increase is Palm Coast’s commitment to high quality maintenance of our eight-field Indian Trails Sports Complex. Playing on these fields at no cost to non-profit organizations has persuaded the Players Development Academy of Florida to work with Palm Coast to construct five new soccer fields along US1 between Palm Coast and Matanzas Woods Parkways. Sports events make Palm Coast one of the most attractive sports hubs in the northeast region of the US . . . a genuine win-win situation for everyone.
Driving in the northern part of Palm Coast recently it occurred to me that the directional transportation needs of our community have changed over the years. I was following along the Forest Grove Drive curvatures, thinking about the old days when ITT Corporation first constructed our roads. Not many people lived here; Matanzas High School didn’t exist and Forest Grove was pretty much the furthest north boundary for homes or people.

Population and the need for new traffic patterns unquestionably have us re-thinking and planning. Palm Coast shows enduring residential growth and tourists and sports tournament visitors continue to fill our roads. Hundreds of students attend the new high school. And we will eventually be the recipient of a new on/off interchange at 1-95 and Matanzas Woods Pkwy. How do we prepare for these modifications?

The City proposes to extend both Palm Harbor Parkway and Old Kings Road North to connect at Matanzas Woods Parkway for easy access to the soon-to-be I-95 interchange. The extensions will also eliminate streams of cars in front of the high school (thus increasing safety for students), serve as a quicker route for residents to evacuate in a disaster and allow for law enforcement and fire personnel to arrive more swiftly to emergency situations.

Construction at the north end of Palm Harbor Parkway should begin at the end of this year. The road will be realigned from Fernmill Lane, on a straight line connecting to Matanzas Woods Pkwy at Old Kings Road, north of the high school. The Old Kings Road north extension will be constructed and completed in the near future. It will carve through vacant land to the west of the high school and reconnect with both Matanzas Woods and Old Kings Road North. Because much of the construction will be extended through empty property, disruption to drivers is expected to be extremely minimal.

It is Council’s goal to have these two roadway extensions completed in about the same time frame as the completion of the new interchange.

23 colossal and shiny new Waste Pro trucks are now gathering your trash/recycling materials across Palm Coast, each equipped with new green Compressed Natural Gas motors. Contract stipulations in 2012 between the City and Waste Pro called for not only increased recycling opportunities and a doorstep hazardous waste program but also cleaner truck emissions. All three provisions have now been completed.

Compressed Natural Gas is a fossil fuel substitute for diesel, widely considered a more environmentally clean alternative. The fuel helps operate quieter vehicles with fewer maintenance issues. CNG also costs less. Diesel fuel has been running close to $4.50 per gallon while the Compressed Natural Gas equivalent is priced around $1.30.

These cost savings are now being passed onto Palm Coast’s solid waste customers, with monthly charges being dropped from $18.77 to $18.62.

Waste Pro’s Compressed Natural Gas facility in our area is located west of US1 in Bunnell. It is their third station constructed in Florida, the first two being located in Ft. Pierce and Daytona Beach. Trucks can be ‘slow filled’ overnight at this location, making it easier to begin early service each morning.

Who are the true green giants in Palm Coast? Are they the residents who value living in a healthy environment? Are they the City Council Members who respect the will of the community and resolve to make environmental awareness a habit and not a hobby? Or are they the shiny new CNG garbage trucks that are collecting recyclables and trash throughout our area?

The answer is ‘all of the above’. Being a green giant is HUGE in Palm Coast.