Rehabbed Homes
Bring Us Joy and Jobs

Palm Coast is a City that believes strongly in taking care of its residents. Whether it involves neighborhoods, infrastructure, businesses or recreation – so much has been done to create community pride and there is still so much more to do. The success of our Housing Rehabilitation Program is one very good example. Up to nineteen neighborhood homes will soon be rehabilitated, thanks to a government program that conveys a $750,000 grant from the State of Florida to homeowners in Palm Coast. These revitalized homes will help keep occupants safe, elevate neighborhood property values and make construction jobs more accessible to local carpenters, roofers, painters and general contractors.

The program goal is to assist homeowners on fixed incomes to address health/safety issues and code regulations for their aging homes. Improvements include constructing bathrooms and kitchens for handicapped-accessibility, exchanging archaic appliances with more energy-efficient models, removing carpeting for wood floors and wheelchair ramps for safer moving from room to room, replacing roofs that have deteriorated and swapping worn windows for hurricane-resistant panes.

“This is such a valuable and commendable effort,” says Beau Falgout, the Business Assistance Center’s liaison to the Federal program. “The best part is seeing the genuine gratitude from each of the homeowners who are so appreciative of our code regulations for their aging homes. Improvements include constructing bathrooms and kitchens for handicapped-accessibility, exchanging archaic appliances with more energy-efficient models, removing carpeting for wood floors and wheelchair ramps for safer moving from room to room, replacing roofs that have deteriorated and swapping worn windows for hurricane-resistant panes. This is such a valuable and commendable effort,” says Beau Falgout, the Business Assistance Center’s liaison to the Federal program. “The best part is seeing the genuine gratitude from each of the homeowners who are so appreciative of our support. We, too, feel their joy.”

Palm Coast’s Housing Rehabilitation program is available to City homeowners who fall within certain income limits and meet other grant requirements. Log onto home.palmcoastgov.com to learn more about the program and future application cycles when more grant funding will become available.

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS:
March 13th – Spring Break Tennis Camp at the Palm Coast Tennis Center; 986-2530
April 1st – Frieda Zamba Swimming Pool opens; 986-4741
April 12th & 13th – Palm Coast Rock ’N Rib Fest in Central Park

From beautifying medians and installing reclaimed water lines to designing ditches and building playgrounds, the City of Palm Coast utilizes in-house talent whenever feasible. The payoff last year was greater than ever, saving Palm Coast taxpayers approximately $2 million by having City employees handle jobs in-house.

“This is a philosophy we’re moving to more and more,” said City Manager Jim Landon. “It started a few years ago during the economic recession and quickly became a cost-saving strategy as City employees proved they could produce high-quality projects at a much lower price.”

One of the biggest savings realized each year is swale rehabilitation and maintenance, and that was one area targeted early on. It costs $8 per linear foot to maintain a swale with City crew and equipment – compared to a cost of $12 per linear foot to have the swales maintained by a contractor. That added up to a savings of $1.05 million for the 2012 fiscal year.

When the swale program first began, the City budgeted for 25 miles of swale rehabilitation and maintenance annually. In-house, that goal was quickly met and, in recent years, City staff has accomplished a rate of 40 to 45 miles each year. Another major project accomplished in-house in 2012 was the second phase of median beautification on Belle Terre Parkway, at a savings of $13,000.

Early successes led to exploration of other kinds of jobs that could be taken on by City employees. Today, the City evaluates every new project on the front-end to determine whether it makes sense for staff to do them or to hire out the job. Work done in-house includes new construction/design, maintenance/rehabilitation/renovation and technical work. City departments work together, taking a project from planning and design to actual construction to the maintenance phase.

In addition to saving money, in-house work gives the City greater control and flexibility and often results in a job being completed more quickly. Expect more to come in 2013! To read the report on this year’s in-house projects, visit www.palmcoastgov.com/inhouseprojects.
**A Message From The Mayor**

Jon Netts

With all the bargain shopping we do in a lifetime, there are occasions when we come across some big deals, some OK deals and some that turn out to be ‘not so great’. Shopping local in Palm Coast and Flagler County can be categorized as one of those very great deals. Think about it, because it simply makes sense.

Spending your money and making your purchases right here in our community helps take care of our own. It tells our entrepreneurs that we support their efforts to make a living in their hometown. It strengthens businesses that are job creators who employ our next door neighbors and friends. It keeps dollars circulating in our area. It enhances our economy and our quality of life.

Small local establishments know and understand their customers. They will do everything they possibly can to keep their patrons satisfied because their livelihoods depend on your coming back.

Just consider these numbers:

- Since 2007, the taxable sales in Palm Coast have grown 20% or $94 million.
- If every resident spends just $25 locally, over $1 million would stay right here in Palm Coast.

Thank you for your continued support for our Business Assistance Center’s drive for Small Business Saturdays. But shopping local is not a one day phenomenon. We are asking you to shop on Small Business Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, too. And if you do, you will be rewarded with some very good deals. Log onto www.waitprorewards.com and you’ll find a list of exceptional offers and sale items from participating small businesses. These are strictly for you: the loyal shoppers who believe strongly that patronizing our Palm Coast stores elevates our growth and prosperity. The more you shop, the more you save.

If you aren’t already purchasing locally, please keep in mind that if we unity in this effort, we can make a huge impact on the bottom line for our local business owners. It really becomes a big deal!

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**2,423 TONS of Recyclables and Growing**

That’s about four and one-half million pounds of newspapers, magazines, bottles, junk mail, plastics and telephones books we’ve collected from all of you over the last six months. Well done, Palm Coast: you’ve kept these millions of pounds of materials out of landfills.

Since June of last year when the City partnered with Waste Pro to offer a community recycling rewards program, participation has climbed to 62% of our households. These numbers are now double those of surrounding local communities.

The new program rewards residents for the frequency of their recycling and encourages them to recycle on a more consistent basis. Quarterly drawings for outstanding prizes and coupons are offered to those who participate. The more you recycle, the more often your name is entered into a quarterly drawing. Everyone benefits: residents, the City, local shops and of course, the environment.

Hats off to residents John and Joelle Fanelli, Rebecca Lee, John and Tanya Eidman, Frank Cufone, Pat and Joellen Pellicci who were recently presented with $100 Visa gift cards as winners of the first rewards drawing. The next one will be held in spring. Congratulations also go to Palm Coast resident Rochelle Gildar who won a brand new Apple iPad in a huge national drawing of active Reward’s Program recycler.

The success of our recycling rewards program has generated a prestigious Environmental Stewardship Honor for our City from the Northeast Florida Regional Council. Palm Coast was recognized for the program’s aggressive commitment to long-term protection and enhancement of natural resources and its ingenuity in promoting public awareness for recycling.

To join the recycling rewards program, go to www.waitprorewards.com or call 1-888-234-8211.

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**CityDesk**

News From City Departments

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**About the Palm Coast Community Garden:**

Gardens are especially calm sites that bring people together. Right here in Palm Coast, the City has designated a spot adjacent to the Community Center intended to attract residents to plant fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers. City Public Works staff energetically constructed fourteen framed plots on the south side of the building, scattering several hose bibs for convenient irrigation and spreading mulch. Broccoli, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce and more will be sprouting from the ground this spring as residents who’ve requested these 10x10 parcels start digging. If you’d like more information about our Community Garden, please call 986-2323.

**About an Overhaul of the City’s Website:**

**Question:** What is very informative, easy to navigate and mobile friendly?

**Answer:** The City’s brand new website! You’ll soon have simpler ways to contact staff, complete applications, learn about services, events, businesses and demographics. The new layout adapts to the size of any device you’re using. The re-design of www.palmcoastgov.com should be complete and online this spring.

**About Roadway Improvements on North Pine Lakes Pkwy:**

Residents will walk, bike and drive more safely along north Pine Lakes Pkwy as the City continues to work on improvements to 1.19-miles of the roadway from Palm Coast Pkwy north to Belle Terre. Re-paving, adding a 10-foot wide multi-use path, shoulders, streetlights and left turn lanes at Brookside and Brushwood Lanes is scheduled to be completed in September. The $1.3 million project is being funded by Palm Coast’s street improvement fund generated from the half-cent sales tax, local fuel tax and state sales tax.

**About the Unveiling of QR Codes at Waterfront Park:**

You’ll soon be able to scan QR Codes with your smart phone at Waterfront Park to learn more about manatees, birds and animals that live in the park, the history of the Intracoastal Waterway, and more. A March unveiling is scheduled, so watch local media for more specific information.

**About Daylight Savings Time Water Restrictions:**

Our standard landscape irrigation policy for Daylight Savings Time goes into effect from Sun., Mar. 10 to Sun., Nov. 3. Residential and business consumers may water lawns and shrubs according to the following provisions:

1 – Irrigation is limited to twice a week: odd-numbered resident addresses irrigate on Wed. & Sat.; even-numbered resident addresses irrigate on Thurs/Sun; businesses water on Tues/Fri.
2 – Users of private irrigation wells may irrigate at any time on their designated day except between 10am and 4pm. Users of the City’s water system may irrigate only between midnight and 10am on their designated day.
3 – Irrigation is limited to 3/4 inch of water per irrigation zone and to no more than one hour per irrigation zone.
4 – Hand-held hoses equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles and drip systems/bubblers are both allowed at any time.
5 – When reclaimed water is available, use of private irrigation is not authorized. Customers may irrigate with reclaimed water at any time.

Go to www.palmcoastgov.com for more information.