How Much Time Do You Spend Having Fun?

If you live until you are 85 years old, you'll have 4,420 weekends to enjoy your recreation and relaxation. Have you taken advantage of these days off to figure out ways to slow down and have some fun? Palm Coast is known as a recreational paradise so each weekend in July we're celebrating Recreation & Parks Month with a few healthy, pleasurable choices so you can enjoy your life.

Saturday, July 5 – Red/White/Blue Day at the Frieda Zamba Swimming Pool, celebrating with Independence Day. 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 10 – Free ice cream social at Ralph Carter Park, adjacent to Rymfire School, 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, July 12 – Splash & Dash Swim and Run Challenge for kids at the Frieda Zamba Swimming Pool, 9-11 a.m., also free community day at the Palm Coast Tennis Center.

Saturday, July 19 – Tour de Palm Coast bike ride through beautiful Linear Park to learn about nature's exotic animals and plants, 8-10 a.m. Also, nine holes of golf at the Palm Harbor Golf Course will cost only $20 plus tax if you play any time after noon. Fees include a hot dog and soft drink for lunch. Call 386-886-GOLF.

Sunday, July 20 – Summer Splash with games, waterslide and DJ at the Frieda Zamba Swimming Pool, 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, July 26 – Free Tennis Open House, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Palm Coast Tennis Center will include drills with tennis staff, round robin tennis and cookout. Call 386-886-5700.

During the entire month of July, court fees will be discounted at the Palm Coast Tennis Center, Mon-Thurs after 11 a.m. and all day Fri/Sat/Sun.

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Still Proud to Work Together on Recycling, Household Hazardous Pickup

Recycling prevails as one of Palm Coast’s most popular, environmentally-effective community programs. Since the rollout of our new recycling rewards program in June, 2012, residents have recycled over 7,918 tons of bottles, paper, magazines, glass jars, plastic containers, newspapers, junk mail, cereal boxes, phone books and flattened cardboard (numbers available through Dec., 2013).

The more you recycle, the more often your name will be entered in a city-wide quarterly rewards drawing to win valuable prizes and coupons from local businesses. Congrats to those winners of our most recent drawing: David Estrin, Linda Clyde, Robert Perham, Jay & Debra Levin, Alice Hernandez, Jack Griffith, James Darlington, Christopher Metz, Stephen Kayworth, Charles Modica.

And please don’t forget our Household Hazardous Waste program for residents to empty their garages of old paint, motor oil, antifreeze, household batteries, pesticides and chemicals. Waste Pro will pick up these products right at your garage door once a month. Call 386-886-0800 for more information.

Please Fulfill Your Civic Duty

It soon will be time to go to the polls for our local government election. As one of your ballot options, the City of Palm Coast will be asking you to choose City Council Members to represent District Two and District Four. City elections are non-partisan and at large. This means if you are a registered Palm Coast voter, you can vote in both elections for each open seat. Now is the time to make any name or address changes or to update your voter registration record signature. To be eligible to vote in each election, you must be registered to vote by book closing, which is 29 days prior to each election.

Voting is one of the most important civic duties you can perform, so we’d like to make sure you have all the facts about how, when and where to vote:

Primary Election – (Last day to register to vote is July 28) Tuesday, Aug. 26, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your assigned polling location. Early voting is scheduled from Aug. 11-23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at locations listed below.

General Election – (Last day to register to vote is Oct. 6) Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your assigned polling location. Early voting is scheduled from Oct. 20-Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at locations listed below.

Absentee (Vote by Mail) Ballots – Requests for absentee (mail) ballots should be made through the Supervisor of Elections by visiting www.FlaglerElections.com. You can also stop by the Government Services Building, 1769 Moody Blvd., Bldg. 2, Suite 101, Bunnell or call 386-313-4170. The application deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 20 for the primary and Wednesday, Oct. 29 for the general election. Mail ballots do expire, so renew your request today to prevent interruption in delivery of your mail ballot.

Early Voting Only Locations – Voters who cast ballots on election day will be required to vote at their assigned polling locations. You can find your location information on your Voter Information Card, call 386-313-4170 or visit www.FlaglerElections.com. This is the first year the City of Palm Coast will NOT have a stand-alone election. Our two Council seats will be listed on the County ballot.
A Message From The Mayor

Jon Netts

This November, you will have the opportunity to elect two citizens to serve on the Palm Coast City Council. These two individuals will join the other three elected officials in leadership roles for (at least) the next four years. As you make your selections, you might want to consider, “What exactly does it mean to be a leader?” Perhaps the most significant characteristic of a leader is someone who has a vision with goals and objectives for our community. Remember the old cliché, “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there.”

Since April 6, 2004, Palm Coast has been guided by a Comprehensive Plan that expresses our vision and goals. The Plan does not talk about ‘what is’, but rather ‘what should be’. It was adopted following an eighteen month series of community town meetings jam-packed with Palm Coast residents and City staff. They discussed and debated goals and policies to:

- Protect vital resources
- Enhance community character
- Preserve and enhance the natural environment
- Identify needed services and revenues based on projected population and employment growth
- Meet community expectations and needs

When Palm Coast residents voted on their final determination and the Comprehensive Plan was created, the final document focused on these elements for City growth and development:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Future Use of Land
- Recreation & Parks
- Infrastructure
- Coastal Conservation Management
- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Capital Improvements
- Public School Facilities

Comprehensive plans are not set in stone. Periodically, we need to review them to determine what makes sense or what needs to be amended. Consistently addressing our City’s needs assures that our elected leaders must align our Comprehensive Plan with the high quality of life that continues to draw new residents to our City and meets the expectations of both longtime residents and newcomers.

Assuring that Palm Coast residents are safe and prepared for a natural disaster is top priority for your City staff. Wildfires and hurricanes are manageable if we all work together to stay organized and ready for anything that may occur. Here are some suggestions we recommend:

- Determine your safest eventual plan of action, whether it be evacuating or remaining in your home, based on whichever emergency arises
- Create an emergency kit with water (one gallon per person per day for 3-7 days), non-perishable food, pet supplies, clothing, toiletries and hygiene items, first aid kit, prescription drugs (pharmacies may not be open), cash, extra set of keys, flashlights, tools; important documents such as insurance, medical records, social security cards and bank information.
- Make arrangements for emergency communications between yourself and your family; including your children’s schools, your job and out-of-state family/friends to contact.
- Consider modifications to protect your home and review your insurance coverage. You may need to purchase separate flood insurance.

About What’s In Your Tree:
If you’ve wondered about unusual ‘stuff’ growing in Palm Coast’s trees, please know that much of what you see are ‘air plants’ (Spanish or Ball moss), native plants that are closely related to a pineapple. A symbol of the south, they can be found hanging from tree limbs such as Live Oak and Cypress. You may see more air plants on trees that are weakened or damaged because of stress, but know these are not the cause of poor tree growth. The foliage may become thinner, but trees most likely are not killed by Spanish or Ball moss. For more information about Florida trees, go to solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu

Wildfire / Hurricane Season Blows In Again

About Construction Updates:
- Widening Palm Coast Pkwy: Installing stormwater pipes and utilities and building a concrete barrier along the I-95 bridge
- Royal Palms Pkwy: Constructing new paved shoulders from Belle Terre Pkwy to Rymfire Pkwy; adding a left turn lane at Rickenbacker Dr; adding a right turn lane onto Belle Terre Pkwy; completing safety improvements for a pedestrian crossing at Rymfire Dr
- Long Creek Nature Preserve: Constructing for a fishing pier, seawall, kayak/canoe launch, parking area and pathway system should be completed this summer

About Our New CSI Camp for Youths:
3rd-6th graders can have some ‘Fun in the Sun’ this summer at the City’s June 9-August 8 summer camp (no camp on July 4th). Crafts, sports, theme-day activities and swimming are on the Mon-Fri, 9am to 4:30pm agenda each day at the Palm Coast Community Center. Early drop off and after hours pick up are also available. Call 386-986-2323 for details.

About Summer Camp for Your Kids:
Kindergartners through 8th graders will glimpse the fascinating world of criminal forensics this summer, identifying and processing clues to solve a crime scene. Camp runs July 7-11, 8:30-11:30am at the Frieda Zamba classroom. Call 386-986-2323 for details.

About Youth Tennis & Golf Camps:
Young people will learn the national game of tennis and golf at Palm Coast sports summer camps. Tennis opens June 16 at Belle Terre Park for three sessions, Mon-Fri from 8:30-11:30am. Additional classes will be held on the clay courts at the Palm Coast Tennis Center, beginning June 23. Call 386-986-2323 or 386-986-2530 for tennis. Golf begins June 9 for two sessions from 9am-1pm at the Palm Harbor Golf Course. Golf information is available at 386-986-GOLF

About Food Truck Tuesdays:
No cooking dinner on Tuesdays, June 17, July 15 or August 19! Catering trucks will roll into Town Center from 5-8pm for the City’s Food Truck Tuesday event, with delicious appetizers, main course American/BBQ/Latin dinner menus and yummy desserts. Enjoy!

About Cool Pool Fun During this Hot Summer:
Your favorite family movies will be shown on Dive-In Movie Nights this summer at the Frieda Zamba Pool. Stop by at 8pm on Fri, June 27, July 25 and August 29 for $1 admission and hours of fun.