



Message From The Mayor

Milissa Holland



Driving down I-95 last week, I exited at Palm Coast Parkway, turned east and decelerated along the canopies of the century-old oaks that line our Parkway. The road felt like it was cut out of a forest. As I approached, leaves blew open to allow the late afternoon sun to shine on me. As I marveled in this simple act of driving home, it struck me that I'd found the perfect topic to share with you for my first newsletter column as your Mayor.

What is it that inspires people to want to live, work and play in a City like Palm Coast?

How did we get to this point in time when we have so much beauty and peace to preserve around us? In Palm Coast, our history is not too distant. We know that in the 1970's, ITT Corporation purchased these forests, waterways and estuaries and built a planned community with homes, roads, utilities and recreational amenities. How lucky we are that our founding fathers laid out our community with so much of what we value today, including miles of hiking/biking trails, tennis and golf clubs, waterways and a marina for fishing, kayaking and boating.

These amenities drew visitors and residents who began fueling our economy. Executives and businesses started to locate here and we became a magnet for active retirees and young families. We swiftly grew from about 10,000 to 80,000 residents, so many attracted to our City by a vision of what a community can be when quality of life considerations are the heart of its soul. This is perhaps what I love most about Palm Coast – the very thing that gives us all a sense of place here.

I often think strongly about how I want to do my part to make this a great place to call home not only for the present, but also for future generations. The decisions we make to support our natural resources and quality of life contribute to the well-being for everyone. I believe community-wide involvement is needed to help reach this goal. Citizen, business and government leaders all have important contributions to make together.

I see positive development ahead for Palm Coast. Our City continues to expand green spaces and parks. We are assisting students to develop skills for high paying jobs by offering them internship opportunities in our departments. We see new cultural arts venues coming to town as we open the Palm Coast Arts Foundation's fabulous new outdoor music venue in Town Center. We continue to expand our miles of nature trails.

Now it is my turn to step forward as your Mayor and help solidify our community's commitment to managing our vibrant growth while protecting all of the natural beauty we hold so close.

Our sense of place in Palm Coast matters to all of us and I want our upcoming generations to look back on this time and say it is their good fortune that we preserved this rich community experience for each of them.



Price for Paradise LOSS OF TREES IN STORMS

Living in our Florida paradise can come with a price. Palm Coast paid a heavy price on October 7 when Hurricane Matthew caused destruction of thousands of our magnificent trees. To protect your trees that survived the storm and keep them healthy, here is some helpful information:

1 Always hire licensed professional arborists to properly prune, trim or remove dead limbs. Workers who don't know what they're doing can make your trees more vulnerable to storms.

2 Even after experiencing high winds, many trees can be restored. To be a good candidate for restoration, a tree should not have cracks in major limbs or the trunk, decayed wood, or bark inclusions. Roots should not be exposed or lifted out of the soil.

3 Trees that lose all or some of their leaves in hurricanes are not necessarily dead. A tree may be only temporarily unable to photosynthesize (produce food) and store energy. With time, a tree can produce new leaves which is a sign of recovery. Most trees will leaf out again in a few months. If a tree does not grow new leaves by the spring or early summer following a hurricane, it is not likely to recover.

4 Pines may show no immediate visible damage after hurricanes but they may decline over a period of six months to a year after a storm. Some may remain green for a year or more, and then suddenly turn yellow and quickly progress to brown needles. Weakened pines may be more susceptible to beetles and diseases.

CITY DESK

About Summer Interns: If you're looking to explore opportunities for a future professional career, the City of Palm Coast is accepting applications for at least ten paid summer intern positions. Occupations will include landscape architecture, communications and marketing, human resources, finance, IT, recreation and several others. Internships help students build resumes, expand knowledge in career responsibilities and establish networking skills. For more information, visit the City's website at www.palmcoastgov.com/internships or contact Kim Trettner at 386-986-3747.

About Holiday Trash Pick-Up: Trash pickup schedules will be altered to accommodate the upcoming holidays. Waste Pro will collect trash one day later on each day of the Christmas holiday week: Mon., Dec. 26 – no pickup. Mon.'s schedule moves to Tues; Tues. to Wed.; Wed. to Thurs.; Thurs. to Fri.; Fri. to Sat. The same schedule will run during the first week of the new year.

About Upcoming Community Events:

Jack Frost-ivities Holiday Break Camp – K-8th graders will love games, crafts and hiking at this camp held during the holiday school break. Choose Dec. 26-30 and/or Jan. 2-6 for only \$15 per day at the Community Center. Extended Care before and after camp is available for an additional fee. Registration is required 48 hours prior to your session choice. More info: 386-986-2323.

Christmas Tree Recycling Event – Recycle your Christmas tree and receive a free 3-gallon evergreen tree in exchange. This event will be held on Sat., Jan. 7, 8am-1pm at the 22 Utility Dr. Fuel Depot. You can also recycle old electronics (no TVs; computers or micro-waves, please). Trees collected will be chipped into mulch to use for city landscaping projects.

Men's Futures Tennis Tournament – The Palm Coast Tennis Center will once again host this prestigious tournament showcasing professional tennis stars of the future. Competition opens on Fri., Jan. 28 with singles qualifying rounds and ends on Sun., Feb. 5 with singles finals. During the event's two weeks, fans can join Kids Day on Sat., Jan. 28 and a Pro Am event on Mon., Jan. 30 to meet and play with pro players. More information is available at www.palmcoasttenniscenter.com or 386-986-2550.

Birds of a Feather Fest, 2017 – Bird aficionados will descend on Palm Coast Fri-Sun, Feb. 10-12 for three full days of 'bird-centric' events. Activities will include workshops, presentations and a 'Meet the Experts' social at Canfields Restaurant with free appetizers. More information is available at www.birdingfest.com

Junior Tennis Camp – 7-13 year-olds can learn skills during holiday break, Wed.-Fri., Dec. 28-30 at the Palm Coast Tennis Center. Fees are \$40 per day, \$99 for all three sessions. Pre-register by Dec. 21 at 386-986-2550.

Starlight Parade and Holiday Event – Saturday, Dec. 10, 4pm in Central Park in Town Center. Santa, games, music, refreshments and a holiday parade! The Annual Parade kicks off at 7pm.





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Council Members

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Customer Service
386-986-2360

Utility billing, garbage pick-up, streets, maintenance for city signs, street lights, sidewalks, potholes; swales and drainage, driveways/culverts, resurfacing; Code Enforcement, mowing, tree/fire mitigation, property maintenance, vehicle parking, trash on private property, irrigation ordinance, noise/pet issues.

Community Development
Planning. 386-986-3736
Building Permits . . 386-986-3780

Fire & Rescue 386-986-2300
Parks & Recreation . 386-986-2323
Finance/Budget 386-986-3723
City Clerk 386-986-3713
Communications/
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Published by the City of Palm Coast
Design by CurleyTailDesign.com



NICK KLUFAS: I'm lucky, I found what I love to do early on in life. I'm passionate about technology and began programming at age 13 on a Commodore 64. After graduating college I was fortunate to find an opportunity with ACI, a local software company that specializes in building real-estate appraisal technologies. We are owned by First American Financial, which is a Fortune 500 company and a Forbes-rated Top 100 company to work for. I've been with ACI for over 5 years, and my official title is Senior Development Engineer. I'm privileged to work with a great team, building enterprise level software solutions.

What about your community involvement?

MILISSA HOLLAND: I serve on the Board of Directors of the prestigious organization 1000 Friends of Florida, which promotes healthy urban and natural places by wise management of growth change. I served a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Museum of Florida History from 2010-2012. I also founded the James F. Holland Foundation, named after my father. The mission of the Holland Foundation is to "Grow Hope in the Children of Flagler County" and our focus is to raise funds and initiate programs that benefit the children and youth of Flagler County through the formation of partnerships with local, state and national agencies and organizations. I also spearheaded the annual "Feed Flagler" initiative that provides free Thanksgiving dinners for thousands of residents each year. I am a member of the Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709.

ROBERT CUFF: I served as a member of the City's Planning and Land Development Review Board from 2009 until August 2016, helping oversee major commercial and residential developments in our community. I'm active in a number of community organizations including Rotary Club of Flagler County, Flagler Education Foundation (past president), Flagler Humane Society, Flagler Senior Services, the Flagler Bar Association (past president), Flagler County Drug Court Foundation, the Boy Scouts of America Golden Eagle Dinners and Flagler Habitat for Humanity, which I helped found.

NICK KLUFAS: My wife and I love to take advantage of all the spectacular amenities our City has to offer. I'm a member of the Flagler Runners Group and participate in the majority of our local charitable 5K/10K/15K runs. I'm involved with youth athletic leagues and am a huge proponent of summer technology programs that empower our youth.

What is most important for residents to know about you?

MILISSA HOLLAND: Looking back, I believe it may have been my destiny to become Mayor of the City of Palm Coast. When you make your life-long friends here, attend school here, learn how to give back to your community here (based on watching the accomplishments of my father), raise your own children here – there is something special about living out my life in the beautiful growing city that always spoke to my heart and told me my fortune was to serve others in my community.

ROBERT CUFF: I came here to work for ITT long before there was a City of Palm Coast. That shapes my historical perspective on how this area came to be developed the way it is and how the City came to be. I understand the planning and vision for Palm Coast's land development and Code enforcement, and I have a deep understanding of how the City and County work together.

NICK KLUFAS: I'm a major proponent of the amenities that make Palm Coast special – our running trails and sports amenities. I'm a runner, and I especially love Graham Swamp. I'm committed to maintaining a high quality of life and keeping our integrity high as the City Council makes decisions about the future of Palm Coast.

If you could determine your own eventual legacy as a City Council Member, what would it be?

MILISSA HOLLAND: My family and I have a long history of public service in Flagler County, and I am excited to become Mayor. I treasure our natural resources and quality of life and have a strong vision for building on what we already have to add more jobs, expand cultural arts opportunities, and bring residents, businesses and government leaders together to make our community even better. Please read my first column in this newsletter for more information on my vision.

ROBERT CUFF: A lot of very smart and very dedicated people spent a lot of time not just thinking about what Palm Coast should be but actually making that plan a reality. The original planning reflected "state-of-the-art" community planning in the '60's and '70s. While much of it is still valid today, we have to be willing to adapt those earlier visions and plans to our modern realities. But while we do that, we need to remember this isn't just some accident that happened. The City and its residents will be best served if we are able to continue this kind of deliberate planning into the future. That's what I hope to bring to the Palm Coast City Council.

NICK KLUFAS: I'm extremely passionate about technology. I hope to lead the way to provide new career opportunities for young families by attracting high-tech, clean industry to Palm Coast and by expanding the City's FiberNET service to help grow business. I believe we can expand our broadband access through FiberNET and partner with other companies to strengthen our economic base. I'd also like to be a part of the solution for bring improved cell service to Palm Coast. So, in a word, I hope capitalizing on "technology" would be my legacy.



A New Era in Palm Coast: Meet your New Mayor & Council Members



Milissa Holland

Robert Cuff

Nick Klufas

Milissa Holland (Mayor), **Robert Cuff** (District 1) and **Nick Klufas** (District 3) have been elected to serve alongside Council Members Heidi Shipley and Steven Nobile on the Palm Coast City Council. They recently answered some questions to help our community to get to know them better.

Tell us about your roots and how you Found Your Florida in Palm Coast.

MILISSA HOLLAND: I was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1971 and moved here with my family in 1987 when I was a teenager. My father, James Holland, was a member of the inaugural Palm Coast City Council. I've lived and worked here my entire adult life and have three children.

ROBERT CUFF: I grew up in Holbrook, Massachusetts, and came to Florida to attend the University of Miami in 1968 to be America's answer to Jacques Cousteau. When I found out how little celebrity underwater explorers made, I moved permanently to Miami in 1972 to attend law school at University of Miami, graduating in 1976. After living and working in Miami for another six years, my family and I moved to Palm Coast in 1983 when I took a position in the legal department of ITT Community Development Corp, the original developers of Palm Coast.

NICK KLUFAS: I spent the first 16 years of my life in Sullivan County, New York, which is about 2 hours north of New York City. My parents had lived in Miami earlier on in life and were determined to eventually return to Florida. We moved as a family to Palm Coast in 2006, and I fell in love with the Floridian lifestyle and the amazing quality of life.

We'd also like to hear about your professional career.

MILISSA HOLLAND: I was elected to the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners in November 2006 and made history as the Board's first female Commissioner. I was selected as Commission Chair in 2008 and was re-elected without opposition in 2010. We adopted the Flagler County Strategic Plan while I was Chair. I also served on the Flagler County Future Committee to re-write our County's Comprehensive Plan. I was the County Commission's representative to the Northeast Florida Regional Council and its Legislative Committee and also to the Workforce Development Board of Flagler and Volusia County. I also Chaired the Tourist Development Council (TDC).

ROBERT CUFF: I worked in the City Attorney's offices at Hollywood and Hallandale from 1976 to 1980 and then at a small law firm (Howard Brawner and Lovett) in downtown Miami from 1980 until 1982. I started in the legal department at ITT in 1983, and I was general counsel during the company's last several years of operations in Palm Coast. After ITT closed its onsite operations in 2000, I became a shareholder with the firm of Rogers, Towers, P.A. I opened my own law office in Palm Coast in 2010, and I represent clients in the areas of real estate, business formation, land use, estate planning and probate.

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