Recognizing my soon-to-be retirement, many fellow Palm Coast citizens have asked me to evaluate my years of service to our community... to share them about some of the things I've learned along the way. My August column in the Palm Coast newsletter summarized the City’s most significant accomplishments over the past 16 years I’ve served. I thought it would be appropriate for my final column to give you some words of wisdom that I’ve found to be relevant along the way. Although I claim neither authorship nor ownership of these aphorisms, I believe them to be representative of what my service as Mayor has taught me.

- If you’re talking to someone you don’t know well, you may well be talking to someone who knows way more about whatever you’re talking about than you do.
- Behind every face on the street is a story every bit as interesting and compelling as yours.
- Those who complain the most, accomplish the least.
- An apology carries more weight than an excuse.
- Blame is the favorite pastime of those who dislike responsibility.
- Everyone you meet is better than you at something.
- Problems are rarely as painful as the experience of worrying about them.
- Ignoring the truth does not change the facts.
- Opportunities are never lost; the ones you pass up are usually taken by someone else.
- Being in the majority doesn’t mean you’re right; it just means that you’re part of a group that thinks alike.
- If you can’t see the bright side of life, polish the dull side... and my two all-time favorites:
  - If you don’t care where you’re going, it doesn’t matter which path you take.
  - Even if you’re on the right path, you’ll get run over if you don’t keep moving.

My heartfelt thanks goes to all of you for the support you’ve shown over the past 16 years. May God bless the Palm Coast community.

Student energy saturated several City Departments this year as Palm Coast High School graduates explore ways to apply their skills to their chosen professions, working on City initiatives that can serve as a pipeline to establish themselves right here in this community. The Internship experience is an advantage for both the students and the City: Palm Coast provides real-world experience and industry contacts essential for landing a perfect career position. The students bring an influx of fresh knowledge and outlooks. Skilled young talent stays right here to make our community a great place to live, work and play.

The 2016 interns established a structure to expand this program in 2017, looking for at least 15 new interns for Palm Coast. More information is available at www.palmcoastgov.com/internships

- Water Conservation Policy:
  - About Irrigating Your Landscaping This Winter: During Eastern Standard Time (November 8, 2016- March 12, 2017), residents can irrigate according to the City’s Water Conservation Policy.
    1. Irrigation is limited to one day per week: Odd-numbered addresses on Saturday; Even-numbered addresses on Sunday (businesses) on Tuesday.
    2. Irrigation is allowed between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. for users of private irrigation wells, on your designated days.
    3. Residents using city water may irrigate only between midnight and 10 a.m., on your designated days.
    4. Hand-held hoses equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles are allowed at any time.
    5. Micro irrigation (drip systems and bubblers) are allowed at any time.
    6. Reclaimed water usage is allowed at any time, but when reclaimed water is available, the use of private irrigation wells is not authorized.

These restrictions apply to water withdrawn from ground or surface water, from a private well or pump or from a public or private water utility. They do not apply to irrigation using reclaimed water or storm water. Additional information is available in the water restriction section at www.palmcoastgov.com.

- About Upcoming Community Events:
  - Annual Pink Army Run: Sun., Oct. 16, 7-9:30am at Florida Hospital Flagler. Participating in this 5K will raise funds to help support mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies for qualified local patients. Register at www.palmcoastgov.com/pinkarmy3k.
  - Halloween Boo Bash: Fri., Oct. 21, 5-8pm at Belle Terre Park, 339 Parkview Dr. School-age kids are invited for safe and fun holiday games and costumes. Admission is free.
  - Annual Halloween Hall of Terror: Thurs/Fri/Sat, Oct. 27-29 at Fire Station #21, 9 Corporate Dr. Free admission includes all the gruesome Halloween scares you can possibly imagine for ages 10+. Hours are 7-9pm Thurs, 7-10pm Fri, 7-11pm Sat. Call 386-986-2300.
  - Food Truck Tuesday: Oct. 18 & Nov. 15, 5-8pm in Central Park at Town Center. Feast on delicious gourmet goodies and enjoy free entertainment, with proceeds going to benefit local non-profit organizations. Call 386-986-2323.
  - Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony: Thurs. Dec. 1, will help light up your holiday season with Santa and the Rotary Club of Flagler County’s fabulous Fantasy Light displays, illuminated and open for business at 6:30pm at Central Park in Town Center.
  - Annual Starlight Holiday Parade, Sat., Dec. 10, gathering at 4pm with a 7pm start for the annual parade in Central Park. The entire community will celebrate the holidays together at a colorful, exciting parade complete with marching bands and floats.

- About Thanksgiving Trash Pick-Up: During the Thanksgiving weekend, trash pick-up schedules are altered just a bit. Instead of the Thanksgiving Day, Thurs., Nov. 24 pickup, Waste Pro will collect trash on Fri, Nov. 23. Friday’s usual pick up will then be moved to Sat, Nov. 26.

- About Temporary Modification of Water Disinfection Treatment

In order to maintain reliability of our water distribution system, the City of Palm Coast Utility Department will temporarily change the disinfection process for our potable (drinking water) supply. From Sept. 21 through Oct. 24, we will disinfect the water with free chlorine rather than combined chlorine/ammonia (chloramines). This helps to ensure the quality of the drinking water in the distribution system. During this period, customers may experience a slight increase in the taste and odor of chlorine. Customers on dialysis who use a proportioning machine to prepare dialysate are advised to contact their physician to obtain the appropriate steps to accommodate the change in water disinfection. Customers who have fish tanks or aquatic species are advised to contact a professional aquarist to avoid any problems associated with chlorine. Call the City’s Customer Service number, 386-986-2360, with any questions.

"Palm Coast residents bring an influx of fresh ideas and energy to our community. They are a testament to the fact that our community is growing and thriving.

As we look to the future, we must continue to prioritize education and workforce development. The Internship Experience is an advantage for both the students and the City: Palm Coast provides real-world experience and industry contacts essential for landing a perfect career position. The students bring an influx of fresh knowledge and outlooks. Skilled young talent stays right here to make our community a great place to live, work and play.

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From Classroom to Career

Message From The Mayor

Jon Nets

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My heartfelt thanks goes to all of you for the support you've shown me through the years. May God bless the Palm Coast community.

Student energy saturated several City departments this year as Palm Coast welcomed six summer interns to assist with various projects. The new intern experience was launched to help Palm Coast students make a credible transition from classroom to career. As Matanzas and Flagler Palm Coast High School graduates explore ways to apply their skills to their chosen professions, working on City initiatives can serve as a pipeline to establish themselves right here in this community. The internship experience is an advantage for both the students and the City: Palm Coast provides real-world experience and industry contacts essential for landing a perfect career position. The students bring an influx of fresh knowledge and outlooks. Skilled young talent stays right here to make our community a great place to live, work and play.

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Have a Voice. Make a Choice!

Your vote in the upcoming 2016 General Election gives you a voice in how you wish to direct the future of Palm Coast and Flagler County. You will need to know the following information in order to make sure your voice is heard:

• The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at voting precincts indicated on your voter card. Hours will be 7am-7pm.

• Early voting is scheduled from Mon., Oct. 24 to Sat., Nov. 5 from 10am to 6pm. Voting will be held at the Flagler County Library, 2300 Palm Coast Pkwy NW; the Palm Coast Community Center, 305 Palm Coast Pkwy NE; the Supervisor of Elections Office, 1769 Moody Blvd. in Bunnell.

• You can also vote by mail by contacting the Supervisor of Elections office, 1769 Moody Blvd. Ballots can be mailed to you from Sept. 29 through Nov. 2. From Nov. 2-7, you will need to go in person to the Supervisor’s office and pick up your ballot to ensure the Elections office registers your vote on time. Call 386-313-4170 for more specific information.

City of Palm Coast Election Specifics

The City is honored to welcome our new Mayor, Milissa Holland, and our new District #1 City Council Member, Robert Cuff to our Palm Coast family. In our next issue, we will introduce them both, alongside our District #3 Council Member who will be elected on November 8.

Here is some information about the City component of the November 8 election:

• Palm Coast residents will be asked to elect a City Council Member representing District #3. Candidates are Nick Klulas and Pam Richardson.

• Palm Coast’s elections are ‘At Large’, meaning that any registered Palm Coast voter may vote for the Council Members in any District. Elections are also non-partisan which means there is no designation of a political party on the ballot.

For more information about the City election, please contact the Palm Coast City Clerk’s office at 386-986-3713.