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If You're Proud to Be Local, Buy Local



So many of us have come to live in Palm Coast from somewhere else and we did so because we love the beauty and quality of life we experience here every day. Now there's one specific thing we all can do to show our pride in keeping our City safe and attractive.

It's simple. Do your shopping here in Palm Coast. There's a connection between the dollars you spend here and those dollars being utilized right here. The money you spend in our local stores, restaurants or at the gas pumps comes right back to our City coffers to build, upgrade or maintain our amenities and infrastructure. That's because a portion of the sales tax collected returns back to Palm Coast to fund public projects and keep our property taxes down. Last year, the City received \$7.6 million from sales taxes.

Examples:

- 1.) Ms. G. purchased stacks of bird supplies this fall at a store near her C section home. Her choice to spend locally helps the City add new elements to the new Holland Park Splash Park.
- 2.) Mrs. A. who lives in the W section received a gift card from a friend for her favorite local restaurant. When she dines on a delicious meal, our City receives additional more funds to repave streets.
- 3.) Mr. L. drove from his P section home to a local shop to purchase books for his grandchild in Pennsylvania. His purchase could rehab a canal bridge in Palm Coast.

When cash registers ring in our City, your family, our local business owners and employees all benefit. Funding our local projects keeps us from having to raise property taxes or cut other essential services. And the City can subsidize these projects without having to borrow a single penny.

Watch your tax dollars at work – the following projects are on the City's 2019 schedule:

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: Holland Park Phase II; Sesame Blvd. Path; Long Creek Nature Preserve facility design

STREETS IMPROVEMENT FUND: Citation Blvd. improvements; Lakeview Path from Lamanha to London

TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE FUND: Seminole Woods turn lane; Whiteview safety improvements

Choosing which **items** you want to buy can often be complex. Choosing which location should be easy. **Be Local, Buy Local.**



Milissa Holland - Mayor • Robert Cuff • Nick Klufas • Eddie Branquinho • Jack Howell

Palm Coast, FL DEC/JAN 2019

Meet Your New Council Members

Welcome to Col. Jack Howell (District 2) and Eddie Branquinho (District 4), who have been elected to serve alongside Mayor Milissa Holland and Council Members Robert Cuff and Nick Klufas on the Palm Coast City Council. The new Council Members' four-year terms officially began Nov. 20.



Col. Jack D. Howell II

Jack Howell is Aviator President and Chief Executive Officer of Teens-In-Flight, a local charity to help children whose parents were killed or injured in the line of duty, as well as teens who are considered at-risk. He served 25 years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, and is a combat-wounded veteran who retired with the rank of Colonel.

He also is a retired high school teacher, former child protective services investigator and former supervisor of Ocean Rescue for the City of Jacksonville.

Howell's priorities for the City of Palm Coast include swale and road maintenance, the addition of street lights, a forensic audit of the books, fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Originally from Lakewood, New Jersey, Howell is a graduate of Monmouth College. He and his wife Samantha have lived in Palm Coast since 1991. Combined, they have six children and nine grandchildren. He is active in civic life as a member of many professional, military and social organizations.



Eddie Branquinho

Eddie Branquinho is a retired police detective commander in Newark, New Jersey, who has lived in Palm Coast since 2010. He has been active in sports and civic leadership for more than four decades. A past president of the Portuguese American Cultural Center of Palm Coast, Branquinho is active with the Portuguese Honorary Consulate, in charge of the Structural and Administrative Departments. When he lived in New Jersey he served as a commissioner of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Branquinho's priorities for the City of Palm Coast include public safety, fiscal responsibility and preserving the community's high quality of life to attract more people to move here. He plans to hold regular open hours at City Hall to meet with his constituents about any issues they'd like to discuss. He is married to Dina, and they have two grown sons and two beautiful little granddaughters.

City Charter Amendments

Voters also approved three amendments to the City Charter – to update outdated and to clarify ambiguous Charter provisions, to revise the Charter review process to include an Advisory Charter Committee, and to revise how to fill a vacancy in the office of a Council Member.



Message From The Mayor

Melissa Holland



Close your eyes and visualize: sleek offices abuzz with software engineers and small-batch manufacturing entrepreneurs overlooking the lake in Central Park; young professionals and retired neighbors sharing coffee in the sun on the patio next door; medical researchers testing advancements in knee replacement surgery, just a mile down the road; high school students participating in a hack-a-thon in partnership with a top university.

This is our vision for Town Center and the future of our City being a part of something truly wonderful.

All across the United States, cities and smaller, suburban areas are having success with a new model known as an Innovation District – a fusion of business incubators, hospitals, schools and colleges and high-tech companies. These creative firms and workers crave proximity so that ideas and knowledge can be transferred quickly and seamlessly. They are highly wired and share space supported by coffee shops and restaurants, public parks, clean industry, nearby housing and retail shops.

Our Town Center has the perfect ingredients to join this movement – over 1,600 acres of high-quality development area near the interstate, healthcare facilities, high-performing schools and a master developer eager to help us realize our vision. Palm Coast has attributes that many in the high-tech, innovation world are looking for: easy access to the beach, amazing weather, exceptional quality of life and affordability.

Our City-owned fiber network, FiberNet, already connects many public facilities and is ready for expansion to fully serve our new Innovation District. And we're upgrading our wireless infrastructure and exploring Smart City applications to make us even more attractive.

Your City Council has taken this concept and developed a strategy to realize this vision. We've taken the first steps, and we're ready to move quickly. The Council has officially established an Innovation District to serve as a catalyst for growth. We have a new Kick Start Program and have been designated as an Opportunity Zone to attract new investment.

Last month we formed an Innovation Advisory Council – with representatives from high-tech companies, developers, real estate, education, health and wellness, legal, financial and cultural arts. These leaders have been the stakeholders in Town Center, and they are prepared to serve as trailblazers helping us accomplish your City Council goals for creating and expanding firms and jobs in our City, across all sectors and disciplines.

Now I ask you – my fellow residents – to not only share this new vision, but also help create it. History has shown when our community works together, extraordinary things happen. Thus, I look forward to our creative collaboration and the future of our downtown.

Hatching a Four-Day Bird Fest



Learn about the pecking order of events when Palm Coast hosts a four-day Birds of a Feather Fest in 2019.

The Fifth Annual Fest is scheduled to run from Thurs-Sun, Feb. 7-10, focusing on social events, photography, workshops and family activities for people of all ages and experiences. New this year: National Audubon Society's David Ringer will inspire bird aficionados at a FREE keynote event; the popular PeaCee's Classes on the Go, a series of free, family-friendly classes focused on Florida, its environment and how we can enjoy and protect it together.

Other highlights will include:

- Birding at Circle B-Bar Preserve, an old converted cattle ranch
- Bird photography at Orlando Wetlands Park
- Trip to the Ocala National Forest for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers
- Matanzas Inlet excursion to view gulls and shorebirds
- Bird Walk in the Pelicer Creek Conservation Area
- Birding at Princess Place
- Learn how to DIY a Big Year
- Meet and Greet bird experts
- Owl Prowl at the St. Joe Walkway Waterfront Park
- Birding at Sweetwater Wetlands
- Free Beginner Birding Walks
- Trip to Merritt Island
- Photography Boat Eco Tours

Go to www.birdingfest.com



CITY DESK

About Upcoming Community Events:

About our Christmas Tree Recycling Event – Recycle your Christmas tree, free of charge at the City's Utility Department Depot on Sat., Jan. 5. You can also recycle your old electronics such as DVD and CD players, keyboards, cell phones, expired holiday lights and monitors (no TV's, microwaves, computer monitors please). Stop by 22 Utility Dr., between 8am and 1pm. Your tree will be recycled into mulch for landscaping across Palm Coast.

Jack Frost-ivities Holiday Break Camp – Kids, grades K-8, will love games, crafts and hiking at this camp held during the school holiday break at the Palm Coast Community Center. Choose Dec. 21, 27, 28, 31 and/or Jan. 2-4 for only \$25 per day. Extended Care before and after camp is available for an additional fee.

Go to www.parksandrec.fun/camps

Winter Break Tennis Camp – Your kids, ages 6-13, will love playing games, learning skills and sharing activities with friends at our Winter Break Tennis Camp at Belle Terre Park. Dates are Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 2-4 from 9am-4pm.

Register at: www.parksandrec.fun/camps

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 Mon., Jan. 21 with the qualifying rounds and ends on Sun., Jan. 27 with the finals. Other activities include Net Generation Kid's Day to meet and play with pros and a Pro Am event.

More information is available at www.palmcoastgov.com/tennisfutures

About Holiday Trash Pick-Up: Trash pickup schedules will be altered to accommodate the upcoming holidays. Waste Pro will collect trash one day later than normal during the entire holiday period. There's no pick-up on Tues., Dec. 25 and the regular Tues. schedule will be picked up on Wed., and so on. There's also no pick-up on Tues., Jan. 1 so the rest of the week's collection will be pushed forward each day.

About ALERTPalmCoast: The City has switched its emergency notification system from CodeRed to **AlertPalmCoast**. This is a no-cost service for residents to receive immediate emergency alerts on a cell phone, land-line, email or downloadable app. Whether you've already enrolled in CodeRed or you are new to the area, you will need to register by going to www.palmcoastgov.com/emergency.

About the Dog Park: Dogs love Holland Park! The City wants to be sure you have a good experience, so if you take your dog to the dog park, follow these safety tips:

- Go only if your dog is healthy and up-do-date with vaccinations. Ask your vet if any additional vaccinations might be recommended since your dog enjoys the dog park.
- Pick up your dog's waste and bring a bowl for fresh water. Parasites can be spread through feces and shared water bowls.
- Remember, any freshwater bodies in Florida can cause illnesses. So if your dog plays in the water, be sure to wash down at the rinse station at the entrance. You can bring your own shampoo if you'd like!
- Remove your dog's leash as soon as you enter the dog park. Leash aggression is common when one dog is on a leash and the others aren't.
- Be sure to stick to the appropriate side of the dog park – for large or small dogs. And understand that dog parks are meant for pets that are well-socialized.
- Watch your dog at all times. At any sign of a problem, such as growling or aggressive behavior, call your dog over for a break.



AlertPalmCoast



Visit www.palmcoastgov.com for more information