



Message From The Mayor

Melissa Holland



Public safety is the most important function of a local government, and the City Council and I consider safety and security with every decision we make. Two topics residents ask me about most often are streetlights and sidewalks.

The City installs streetlights and pedestrian pathways (large sidewalks) whenever we tackle new projects such as road widenings. Some years back we started erecting streetlights on our major roadways. But when the recession hit, revenues dropped and we had to cut the budget.

In the past year, with the economy much improved, the City Council resurrected our Continuous Roadway Lighting Program. The No. 1 priority was Lakeview Boulevard, and I'm pleased to report that we've just completed a new 1-mile pathway on Lakeview, and Florida Power & Light is putting up 43 streetlights now.

The City Council has adopted a new Master Plan to install streetlights on all our major roadways in the coming years. The order is based on factors such as nighttime crash rates, traffic volume and the distance to destinations such as a school.

Our next priority is finishing Belle Terre Parkway, which will be lit up in phases over the coming year. Lights will be installed on the segment from Palm Coast Parkway to Pine Lakes Parkway first, and then two more phases will yield streetlights all the way to U.S. 1.

The City has no up-front capital costs for streetlights, but we do pay a monthly fee for each light once they're operational. Our annual streetlight bill is \$731,000, and that will grow as we expand the system.

If you're curious about your own street, I encourage you to go to the City website for the criteria to request a streetlight at an intersection or bus stop, or to get information on installation of an FPL security light at your home.

Regarding sidewalks, this spring we're also building the remaining pathway section in the Seminole Woods area - on Sesame Boulevard. It isn't possible to add sidewalks along existing residential streets because of our swale system, which is a critical part of our stormwater drainage system. But we've put in more than 125 miles of sidewalks on most of our major streets to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and we'll continue to examine where additional sidewalks are needed to connect with existing pathways.



Delight in the Movement at Our New Adaptive Rec Programs



Some days are simply made for playing. This is true for males, females, older and younger people, those with disabilities and those who are more mobile. Palm Coast Parks & Recreation is celebrating those with disabilities by offering new adaptive recreation programs that use therapeutic fun. The dancing and movement can produce emotional and physical benefits, helping people stay happier and healthier longer because they are doing things that are simply exhilarating.

Move to Groove is a free class that incorporates a little Zumba and a lot of dance party moves, inviting third- through eighth-graders to let loose and show their free spirit. This program begins at 5pm Friday, March 15, at the Community Center. Chair Zumba works on strength and flexibility for teens, adults and seniors. It's free and begins at 9am Friday, April 12, at the Frieda Zamba Swimming Pool classroom.

For military personnel, a new weekly Crafts for Veterans program provides free creative kits and instruction in leatherwork, woodwork or artistic projects to help our vets heal inside and out. These therapeutic craft kits help veterans take their minds out of the past and off their pain. Classes are offered on Wednesdays at 9am at the Community Center.

Everyone needs some time to play and laugh. The new adaptive recreation programs gives residents a positive spirit in a welcoming and inspiring manner. Check out more information in the Winter/Spring Activity Guide available at all City facilities or online at www.palmcoastgov.com/recreation. Register online for Parks & Rec programs at www.parksandrec.fun/wellness.



CITY DESK

About Recreation Events Coming Soon:

Art Exhibition and Show: A two-hour display of multi-generational designs created by children and adults attending the City's new ART programs. Flagler School children will also exhibit their gifted talents on Fri., Apr. 26, 5-7pm at the Community Center.

Egg'Stravaganza Event: The hunt is on for 10,000+ candy- and toy-filled eggs for children 2-11 on Sat., Apr. 20, 10am-1pm in Central Park. Enjoy games, music and photos at this magical event.

Historical Society Lecture Series: The Palm Coast Historical Society and Florida Humanities Council will present speakers through May who will discuss local history, politics and culture. Free lectures are held at the Community Center on Sat.mornings. www.palmcoasthistory.org

About Daylight Savings Time Watering Restrictions:

Our standard landscape irrigation policy for Daylight Savings Time goes into effect in 2019 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 two days per week
2. Odd-numbered residential addresses irrigate on Wednesday and Saturday
3. Even-numbered residential addresses irrigate on Thursday and Sunday
4. Non-residential (businesses) irrigate on Tuesday and Friday.
5. Users of private irrigation wells may irrigate at any time on their designated day except between the hours of 10am and 4pm
6. Users of the City's water system for irrigation may water only between midnight and 10am on their designated day
7. Irrigation is limited to 3/4 inch of water per irrigation zone and to no more than one hour per irrigation zone
8. Hand-held hoses equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles and drip systems/bubblers are allowed at any time
9. The use of reclaimed water is allowed at any time, but when reclaimed water is available, the use of private irrigation wells is not authorized. Restrictions and exceptions can be found on the City of Palm Coast website at www.palmcoastgov.com. Search for "watering restrictions."



About the Flagler Parade of Homes:

The 25th Annual Flagler Parade of Homes, presented by the Flagler Home Builders Association, will take place Mar. 23-31. New models and building innovation will be highlighted as you tour homes created by the County's best builders. Homes will be open 10am to 5pm from Monday through Saturday and noon to 5pm on Sundays. Visit www.FlaglerParadeofHomes.com.



About Temporary Modification of Water Disinfection Treatment Procedures:

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 Feb. 6-26, 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 Customer Service, 386-986-2360, with any question.



Visit www.palmcoastgov.com for more information



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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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How Will Your Stormwater Fees Be Used?

Palm Coast's stormwater drainage system was built by ITT in the 1970s and '80s, when the population was a 1/10th of its current size. Now, after years of growth, an aging infrastructure and two hurricanes that put a spotlight on drainage issues, the City has embarked on an enhanced, more aggressive stormwater management plan.

"Up until now, much of our focus has been more on short-term solutions, such as addressing swales," said Don Schrager, the City's Construction Site Supervisor. "But swales are a very small portion of the whole system."

"It comes down to being able to move the water," Schrager said. "The benefits of swale work are localized to the properties where the work is performed. If we devote those same resources to improving the entire system's ditches and canals, allowing the water to move better, the benefits will be seen across neighborhoods everywhere. It's a much better return on investment."

The new approach will take a big-picture look at the swales, ditches, canals, water control structures, pipes, and drainage basins and how they work together to protect homes and businesses from flooding. The City is currently developing a City-wide Master Plan that will consider all aspects of the drainage system and focus more on the ditches and freshwater canals. These new solutions will have a greater long-term impact on improving the drainage system across Palm Coast.

LiDAR, a high-resolution surveying and mapping technology, and the latest stormwater computer modeling technology are being used to help develop the Master Plan. The City's consultant and our staff will submit a comprehensive report to City Council by August. Recommendations will likely include freshwater canal dredging and improvements for conveyance, storage and water quality.

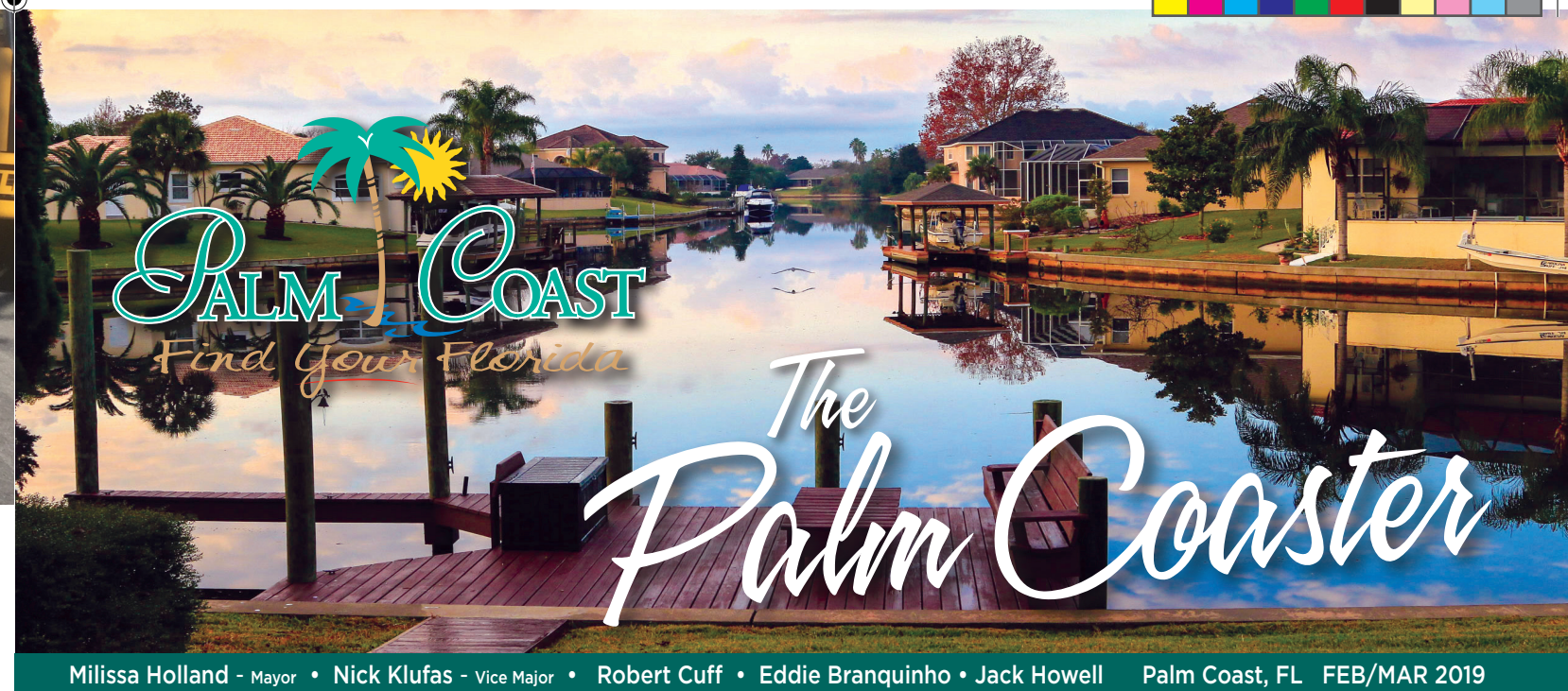
Projected costs will be provided, and the computer modeling will identify the most cost-effective options. The enhanced stormwater management program will be funded by revenues from the stormwater fee, which was increased last fall.

To jumpstart the planned improvements, this spring the City will begin operations to better manage excessive aquatic vegetation in the freshwater ditches. Cleaning the ditches will allow stormwater to flow more easily from swales to ditches to canals. The City also will quickly address some immediate localized flooding issues in the E, W, F, and R sections, as well as reassess the swale maintenance program.

For more information on the stormwater system and how you can keep the swale in your yard working efficiently, go to www.palmcoastgov.com/stormwater.

Did you know?

If every Palm Coast resident spends \$25 at a local business or restaurant just one time, it infuses **\$1.462 million** into our local economy! That's called the 'multiplier effect.'



This Animal Tale Will Warm Your HEART

The injured pit bull was sprawled on the shoulder of I-95 with what turned out to be a leg fracture, broken elbow and a BB gun pellet lodged into her frame. One day last December, fate must have stopped a car that was driven by a Palm Coast resident along the highway near the weigh station. She spotted the frightened dog and pulled over to call for emergency support. Palm Coast Animal Control Officer Kasey Hagan rushed over for assistance. Recognizing the urgency at the scene, he cautiously trapped the dog for transport to the Flagler Animal Hospital.

Unfortunately, the diagnosis was poor. Hospital staff medicated the pit bull, but she needed immediate surgery by an animal orthopedic specialist at a cost of \$5,000. The Flagler Humane Society tried desperately to find donations to help, so they put out a call on

Facebook for a Go Fund Me campaign. But efforts took too long, and the dog was in terrible pain and needed immediate surgery to survive.

Miraculously at the same time, a local family was scanning the Humane Society Facebook pages, looking for a dog to possibly adopt. The injured pit bull story instantly touched their hearts, so they raced to see the dog and immediately fell in love with her. Just 15 minutes before she was scheduled to be euthanized, guardian angels Doris and Julian adopted little 'Josie' and offered to pay all of the vet bills to heal her.

Today, Josie is peacefully recovering alongside her brand new mom and dad. This story reminds us how our pets bring us such joy, optimism and happiness. It also tells us that the City's Animal Control Division is persistent when assisting our community with mistreated or abandoned animals. So often they manage precarious situations to protect citizens, enforce laws and statutes which protect both people and animals, with a goal to encourage adoption of strays that need loving homes.

With the team of the Flagler Animal Hospital, the City of Palm Coast, Flagler Humane Society, and the love from a new family, Josie gets the new start on a life she so deserves. The family shares a happy home together, now including a newly adopted cat, Freya. **And remember: when you are looking for a pet, giving a home to an abandoned animal means so much. Adopt, don't shop.**

