



Message From The Mayor

Melissa Holland



We're embarking on a new era of wireless technology in Palm Coast – with construction of our first new cell phone tower since 2010 and the promise of several more towers in the coming months!

The new 150-foot tower on Palm Coast Parkway, west of the Palm Coast Library next to Heroes Park, is the first major project of City Council's plan to improve cell service for residents and businesses city-wide. Council really dug into the problem about two years ago as we focused our priorities on innovation and technology.

We partnered with Diamond Communications to manage our wireless infrastructure and then amended our City ordinance to pave the way for more modern cell tower designs preferred by cell carriers. But we were careful to do it in a way that allows the City to maintain control of future development. The new towers are being built on City properties, and 35 potential sites have been selected for future cell towers.

AT&T Wireless has antennas on the new tower on Palm Coast Parkway, and several other cell providers can be added there, as well. Additional cell towers will go up soon at the Palm Coast Tennis Center on Belle Terre Parkway and at Fire Station 24 on Palm Harbor Parkway. These new towers will improve service dramatically, and there will be great public safety benefits as we continue to grow as a community. We know you rely on your cell phones!

An added bonus is that Diamond is responsible for all of the costs of construction and maintenance. The City will receive 40 percent of all lease proceeds from the wireless providers that rent space on the towers. In addition, Diamond is managing wireless carrier activities on three City-owned towers and the City's water tower on A1A.

This provides additional long-term revenue to support other City projects. City Council is leading several technology initiatives for our community, to foster an environment of innovation and stay on the cutting edge of technology advancements. Technology will not only improve City services but also help grow the local economy.

A big one is the expansion of our fiber optic network for high-speed internet and data services. FiberNet already covers 60 miles to connect City buildings and Flagler County School District facilities. Now we want to expand the fiber network so it's more accessible to residents and businesses – and to help us attract high-tech businesses to Palm Coast.

Our new broadband business plan was finalized last fall, and now we're seeking a public-private partnership to help us with our FiberNet expansion. We've hired an expert in the field, Magellan Advisors, to connect us with a new private partner by this summer.

We're optimistic about the future of technology in our community!



Keep Your Sewer NEWER

Under our streets, a system of pipes and pumps collects wastewater from our homes and businesses and transfers it to Palm Coast's two treatment facilities. We always count on keeping the waste flowing and the equipment running properly. What can you do to help maintain our sewers?

Who assumes responsibility for maintaining the sewer system?

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the sewer lines from cleanout lines in the street right-of-way. Basic maintenance includes repairs to broken pipes and replacement of broken or missing cleanout caps. The Utility Department will replace these cleanout caps at no cost if you call to report a damaged cap. (This refers ONLY to the two cleanout caps located near your house – one located at the point of connection to the utility service lateral and the other located near the street – not the actual service line from the house to the street.) The City is responsible for maintaining sewer pipes, manholes, pump stations and pumps located in the City rights-of-way, easements and City property. The City also owns and operates the Pep System and is responsible for all service, repairs and replacements.

What causes backups?

Problems arise when there is an obstruction or blockage such as roots from vegetation, cooking grease, toys, construction debris, excessive rainstorms or power outages.

What should you do if you have sewer problems?

Immediately stop using water and flushing, and call the Utility Department before you call a plumber! Technicians may be able to determine the possible cause, who is responsible and what action is needed to correct the problem. There is no charge for a Utility Department visit. Call Customer Service at 386-986-2360 – 24/7.

Are your sewers insured?

It is important that you contact your homeowner's insurance agent regarding your coverage. In most cases, a special endorsement or rider may be required, as standard policies often do not cover incidents relating to sewer or drain backup. Flood insurance is not the same thing; flood insurance does not typically cover damage caused by sewer backups. A good source of information is the Insurance Information Institute at iii.org.

CITY DESK

Summer Camps – Sign Up Now!

Whether you're looking for a camp for your kids all summer long – or just a week or two of adventure, Parks & Rec has great options! We have new specialty camps this year, plus options for teens and toddlers.

Fun in the Sun: June 3-Aug. 9, grades K-5, 7:30a.m.-4:30p.m., with extended care available 'til 6p.m. Games, hiking, swimming, art and field trips.

Munchkin Mini Camp: Tuesdays & Thursdays June 4-Aug. 1, ages 3-5, 10:30a.m.-noon. This is a child-with-parent program. Stories, crafts, games and playground time.

Adventure Camp: June 10-21 or July 15-26, grades 6-9, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Offers eight exciting field trips (rock climbing, zip-lining, trampoline park, etc.) plus swimming.

Counselor in Training: June 3-Aug. 9, grades 8-10, 7:30a.m.-4:30p.m. Learn to be a leader in this work-oriented volunteer program.

Firefighter Kids Camp: June 24-28, grades 3-5, 8:30-11:30a.m. Learn all about firefighting at Fire Station 25.

Mountain Bike Camp: July 8-12, ages 11-18, 8:30-11:30a.m. Explore off-road mountain biking at various trails in our community.

Soccer Camp: July 22-26, ages 8-12, 8:30-11:30a.m. Improve your soccer skills!

Robotics Camp: June 24-28, grades 6-8, 8a.m.-5p.m. Learn to code and compete through challenges with robots.

All Sports Camp: July 8-12, grades 6-8, 8a.m.-5p.m. football, soccer, kickball, dodgeball, ultimate frisbee and more.

Art Camp: July 8-12, grades 6-8, 8a.m.-5p.m. Drawing, sketching, painting and more.

Golf Camp: June 10-12, June 24-27 or July 8-11, ages 6-16, 9a.m.-1p.m. Short game, full swing, putting, golf etiquette and friendly competition.

Tennis Camp: June 10-14, June 24-28, July 8-12 and July 22-26, ages 6-13, 9a.m.-4p.m. Tennis and swimming.

Junior Lifeguard Camp: June 29-30 or July 20-21, ages 11-15, 8a.m.-noon. Step-by-step lifeguard skill development.

Daytona Tortugas Youth Baseball Clinic: June 4, ages 7-13, 8:30a.m.-noon. Improve your ball game at this clinic taught by the Daytona Tortugas!

Register for camps at parksandrec.fun/camps or get an application for scholarships at palmcoastgov.com/camps.

About Temporary Modification of Water Disinfection Treatment Procedures:

In order to maintain reliability of our water distribution system, the Palm Coast Utility Department will temporarily change the disinfection process for its potable (drinking water) water supply. From May 8-28, 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 at 386-986-2360 with any questions.

Enter the 2019 Find Your Florida Photo Contest:

In a photograph, share what makes Palm Coast special! Examples include active lifestyle, nature, parks and family fun. New this year: a "Special Events" category. Submit via our website and/or on Instagram. To enter on Instagram, use #PCpics2019 and include the photo location (where in Palm Coast) in the caption. More than \$500 in gift cards will be awarded, and your photos will be used for public relations purposes. Submit by July 6. palmcoastgov.com/photocontest.



Take the Pledge:

The month of April is the time to take or renew your pledge to manage water resources more wisely by taking part in the annual National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. We placed 18th in the nation for cities our size last year!

Take the pledge at mywaterpledge.com.

Visit www.palmcoastgov.com for more information





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Customer Service
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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. 386-986-2300

Parks & Recreation 386-986-2323

Finance/Budget. . . 386-986-3723

City Clerk 386-986-3713

Communications/
Newsletter 386-986-3708

www.palmcoastgov.com

Published by the City of Palm Coast
Design by CurleyTailDesign.com



New Name – New Swim Season



Welcome to the 2019 swim season at the Palm Coast Aquatics Center! The newly renamed Aquatics Center on Parkview Drive is still home to Frieda Zamba Swimming Pool, but it's so much more – with fitness classes, special events, classroom for rentals and more aquatics programming than ever. The new name for the complex more closely matches the City's other recreational facilities.

The Palm Coast Aquatics Center opens April 1 for the season, with weekend hours starting May 25. Swimming lessons, Aqua Zumba, Dive-In Movies, Pool Safety Day and other favorites will continue. And we're adding much more – a new Youth Swim Team, a Masters Swim program, Fitness on the Water classes, and a Mermaids Class! Our first-ever Log Rolling Tournament is set for Aug. 3.

So ready, set, jump into a new swim season at the Palm Coast Aquatics Center! Daily admission and annual pass prices are available at palmcoastgov.com/pool. A full list of activities and registration is available at parksandrec.fun/aquatics. Call 386-986-4741 for details.



Be 'Firewise' this Wildfire Season



Palm Coast knows all too well the devastation of wildfires. Spring is our most vulnerable wildfire season, so it's important to take steps to reduce the risks to your home and property. A great way to reduce wildfire risk is to participate in the Firewise USA program, which teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses.

More than 100 communities across the nation are recognized as Firewise USA sites – including Cypress Knolls, Grand Haven and Ocean Hammock locally. When residents take ownership in preparing and protecting their homes against wildfires, they increase the chances of their homes surviving a wildfire. **Visit firewise.org for more information.**

Under the City of Palm Coast Wildfire Mitigation Ordinance, vacant property owners are responsible to underbrush mow any vegetation deemed a fire hazard that is within 30 feet of an adjacent structure. Additionally here are some helpful hints on how you can help protect your home from wildfires:

- Store firewood, propane tanks or gasoline as far away from the house as possible.
- Clean gutters and roofs of leaf litter and pine needles.
- When planting foundation plants, keep a clear space at plant maturity of at least 2-3 feet from the sides of the house. Use fire-resistant plants as much as possible, excluding saw palmetto, gallberry, wax myrtle and cedar. Refer to firewise.org for more information on the types of plants that burn more readily.
- Do not dispose of yard waste trimmings or dead plants on vacant lots.



The Palm Coaster

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

Palm Coast, FL APR/MAY 2019

Arbor Day for the Love of Trees



To experience majestic beauty, simply look up! The tree canopy along Palm Coast Parkway, over the trails on St. Joe's Walkway and through Graham Swamp, and on the walkway at Long Creek Nature Preserve is universally treasured in Palm Coast.

Some residents have told us they picked Palm Coast as their home *because* of the tree canopy! And "natural habitat" was rated No. 1 as our greatest asset in the recent Citizen Survey.

"We love our beautiful trees and tree canopies and know the value of what trees provide to our community," said Carol Mini, the City's longtime Urban Forester.

Palm Coast has been a Tree City USA since 2006. Each spring we celebrate our love of trees and commitment to the natural environment at Arbor Day, a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care.

Arbor Day 2019 will be held 9a.m.-2p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Central Park – featuring a tree give-away, butterfly release and tent, entertainment, paper-shredding service, and fun activities for all ages. It's all free; refreshments and products from vendors will be available for purchase.

Attendees can exchange canned food or pet food items for a free three-gallon native hardwood tree (while supplies last). The native butterfly release will be at 11 a.m. at center stage. Some other highlights include birds of prey shows, green vendors, expert advice from a Master Certified Arborist, entertainment by VertiFit Aerial Arts and DJ Vern, a bigger-than-ever butterfly tent, petting zoo, crafts, a visit from the Daytona Tortugas mascots and free professional paper-shredding. Participants who completed the Mayor's 90/90 Challenge for fitness will be recognized. Back by popular demand will be performances by the City's Recyclasaurus and Velocirappers dinosaurs! And new this year are Star Wars-themed Green Technology demonstrations featuring drones. **Go to palmcoastgov.com/arborday for details.**

"We are truly rooted in nature and our commitment to trees is worth celebrating," Mini said. "As a Tree City USA we provide high levels of tree care, and it shows in our parks and trails, in our environmental education programs, in our public landscaping and in our efforts to protect trees when new houses and businesses are built."



Join us at Arbor Day on May 4 – for the love of trees!