



DRAINAGE for Whole Neighborhoods. . . It's Bigger than Just Swales

Everything we're doing points to focusing on the big picture for transporting water. Because Palm Coast often gets huge rainstorms and the water must be promptly drained from roadways and properties, our Stormwater/Engineering Department is expanding on long-term ways to more effectively discharge the water. While swale maintenance still remains an important part of the system, they've developed a new plan to methodically increase flow for whole neighborhoods instead of being pre-occupied with swales on individual properties.

"If we improve the canals, the ditches drain better; the swales drain better," says Don Schrager, Stormwater Operations Manager. "By devoting more resources to upgrade the entire system, the water will move better and the benefits will be realized across the whole community."

For those of you who aren't familiar with Palm Coast's drainage, here's a quick lesson: Those valleys in your front yards are called swales. Water in these swales drains methodically to our interconnecting pipe and ditch system, then to the freshwater and saltwater canal systems, through culvert pipes, water control structures and then finally out to the Intracoastal Waterway. Our City's Stormwater/Engineering Department is tasked with the ongoing maintenance programs and rehabilitation projects throughout this system.

The comprehensive Master Plan takes a big-picture look at all of our swales, ditches, canals, water control structures, pipes, and drainage basins and how they work together to protect structures from flooding. Strategies adopt the newest technology and engineering resources for areas that affect the most homes. Our pipe inspection and our pipe/ditch rehabilitation projects are receiving more complex evaluations. Tracking maintenance and updates for mapping our neighborhoods more rapidly is also being addressed.

Now that there's a more complete Master Plan, there's also a more complete Stormwater facility at 22 Utility Drive. We've located all of our 45 Stormwater personnel to work together at one new site to enhance collaboration between the field and office professionals. They've been renovating their own offices, meeting rooms and storage areas, feeling a powerful ownership and unity as a team, and are committed to coordinating their efforts to better serve the community. Our more sophisticated, automated Stormwater Division prevails at the forefront of progressive systems in Florida.

What's the outcome for residents? Continued maintenance and a strengthened program for our Stormwater infrastructure ensures safety for our residents and their properties.

Every Election is Determined by the People Who Show Up



2020 is a major election year, so please exercise your right to vote, both in the primary and general elections. The polls are open for the Primary Election on Tuesday, Aug. 18 and for the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7am to 7pm. You must vote at your assigned polling location on both Election Days. Polling location information is located on your Voter Information Card as well as at www.FlaglerElections.com. Acceptable photo and signature identification is required at the polls.

Florida is a closed Primary State, meaning you must vote the party for which you are registered in the Primary Election. However, all voters are eligible to vote in nonpartisan races in both elections. Locally, this includes City Council and Mayoral elections. COUNCIL MEMBER RACES (Districts 1 & 3) and PALM COAST MAYOR WILL APPEAR ON ALL BALLOTS FOR ALL CITY OF PALM COAST VOTERS.

All registered voters are eligible to vote early, vote by mail or vote at the polls on either election day. For more information, go to www.FlaglerElections.com or call 386-313-4170.

Locations for Early Voting, open Aug. 3-15 from 10am-6pm

1. Supervisor of Elections Office, 1769 Moody Blvd., Bunnell
2. Flagler County Library, Palm Coast Branch at 2500 Palm Coast Pkwy NW, Palm Coast
3. Palm Coast Community Center at 305 Palm Coast Pkwy. NE, Palm Coast

City elections are both non-partisan and at-large which means that Palm Coast voters can cast ballots for any Mayor and Council Member candidate(s) from any District.

CITY DESK



Town Center to Become MedNex Hub: The first university-based medical hub for the partnership of Palm Coast, the University of North Florida, Daytona State College and Advent Health will soon begin construction in Town Center. MedNex will link healthcare education and professions right here in the core of our City to form a medical nexus that will change our entire dynamic and economy. Watch for more details in our next newsletter.



Explore, Connect, Play:

Our Parks & Recreation Department invites you to explore the arts, parks and trails; to connect with the fun things that make you happy; to play your favorite games and sports. If you Explore, Connect and Play, you can best take part in all the recreation opportunities that Palm Coast has to offer. You can check out the latest updates from Parks & Rec at palmcoastconnect.com/s/parks-and-rec.



Help Clean our Waterways and Walkways:

Sat., September 12 marks our 13th Annual Intracoastal Waterway Cleanup. Due to Covid regulations, the event will look different this year and may be subject to change to keep our volunteers safe. Multiple days will be designated to pick up supplies to prevent a large gathering of people and the supply pick-up will be contactless. Watch for more specific details as we move into September:

- No refreshments will be provided to volunteers and prizes will be limited.
- Masks will also be provided to volunteers in addition to the usual garbage bags, gloves, and sanitizer.
- Event festivities will not be conducted at the Community Center. Staff will host a virtual celebration of the results and allow volunteers to connect. Citizens will be able to submit their pictures and pounds collected into Palm Coast Connect.



Did you know that every \$100 you spend in Palm Coast gives \$68 back to our community? Using the sales tax revenues they receive from the money you spend in local stores, your government upgrades and maintains City amenities. Our ongoing **Be Local Buy Local** initiative helps establish the foundation for our own powerful economy, so watch for a variety of new promotions that will remind you to think local and keep your business right here in our City!

Visit www.palmcoastgov.com for more information



Contact Information

Mayor Milissa Holland
mholland@palmcoastgov.com

Nick Klufas
nklufas@palmcoastgov.com

Council Members

Robert Cuff
rcuff@palmcoastgov.com

Col. Jack Howell
jhowell@palmcoastgov.com

Eddie Branquinho
ebranquinho@palmcoastgov.com

City Manager's Office 386-986-3702

Matthew Morton
City Manager
mmorton@palmcoastgov.com

Customer Service 386-986-2360

Utility billing, garbage pick-up, streets, maintenance for city signs, street lights, sidewalks, pothole, 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.....386-986-3738

Animal Control... 386-986-2520

www.palmcoastgov.com

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



Last Few Years... HURRICANES MATTHEW, IRMA, DORIAN

This Year, No One Knows

Over the last few years, Palm Coast has battled three swipes from Hurricanes: Matthew, Irma and Dorian. Each left behind just enough damage and anxiety to remind us of the importance of continual diligence and preparation to ensure the safety of our community.

Here's what's most important to know:

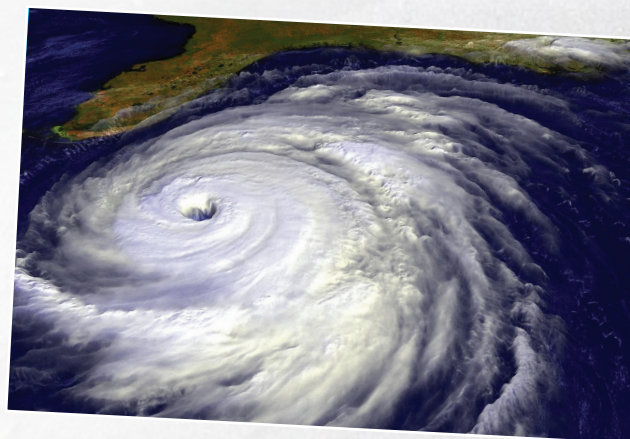
1. Palm Coast Connect is your first choice to communicate with the City. This online platform has completely transformed the way we connect with you. Using the Palm Coast Connect APP and website, you can tell us at any time, from anywhere about an issue you have - flooding, power outages, PEP alarms, broken signs or tree limbs. You can set up a case work order and you can track our progress and follow the status of your case, from inception to completion. Because of your reporting from your phones, tablets or computers, we're able to quickly determine your core issue and apply direct resources more efficiently. If you haven't yet used Palm Coast Connect, you can download it for free in the Google Play or Apple App store or go online to palmcoastconnect.com to register. Call 386-986-2360 for more information.

2. If mandatory evacuations are ordered, specific areas of Palm Coast will be evacuated based on zones identified by letters: A-red, B-orange, C- yellow, D-green, E-purple. **PLEASE DON'T BE CONFUSED: THESE LETTERS ARE NOT RELATED TO STREET NAMES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SECTIONS.** For example, residences in the C section of the City are located in Evacuation Zone B or homes located in the F section are located in Evacuation D. Color-coded Evacuation signs are located across Palm Coast posted underneath STOP signs in your area. To determine which Evacuation Zone you live in, consult our Disaster Preparedness Guide, available free for you at all City facilities.

You can also go to www.palmcoastgov.com

Here are other preparations you need to make NOW:

- Make a plan: where will you go and when will you leave. If your home is closer to water and is a larger flood risk, your decision will more likely be to leave. If your home is older, the same may be true.
- Create an emergency kit and fill it with supplies and copies of essential documents kept in water-resistant containers.
- Make advance arrangements for special medical needs for your family and also for your pets
- Have a disaster supply kit filled with one gallon of water per person per day for 5-7 days; non-perishable food; first aid kit; medicines; flashlights and batteries; NOAA weather radio; cash; extra keys; toys, books, games; pet care items
- Fill your car with gas
- Trim trees and clear debris from around your home



The Palm Coaster

Milissa Holland - Mayor • Nick Klufas - Vice Mayor • Robert Cuff • Eddie Branquinho • Jack Howell Palm Coast, FL AUG/SEPT 2020

All our lives have changed so much since I wrote my last newsletter column.

I've missed seeing all of you up close and I miss shaking your hands on our trails or giving you hugs at our events. A City Mayor thrives on connecting in person with a community. It's the natural thing to want to do and it's the core of whom I've always wanted to be as your Mayor.

During this pandemic, however, we've had to all communicate remotely. Even in this unnatural separation due to the coronavirus, your City Council and Palm Coast city employees have been more strongly determined to virtually connect with you more often than ever before.

It's ironic how we've actually become closer by actually being further apart. Thousands of you linked to our Virtual Town Hall meetings where we shared important pandemic information along with our county partners. We responded to thousands of questions you submitted, intending to give you the most accurate, up-to-date information. So we thank you for staying connected to us to keep yourselves and your neighbors safe.

Also, utilizing Palm Coast Connect, you asked us many questions and you reported many issues. Our newest communication platform worked impressively to keep us all in touch. Staff responded promptly and you were able to track our progress and follow the status of your case, from inception to completion.

Before the coronavirus health crisis, Palm Coast was succeeding soundly with our quality public services in a flourishing lifestyle and healthy economy. Our confrontation with Covid-19 challenged us to figure out how to act more efficiently to maintain the effective delivery of our priorities in a social distancing, healthy-minded culture.

So we became more creative. In the past four months, we reached out to you remotely and engaged together in so many new meaningful ways. Our "Rise Up" Palm Coast initiative allowed us to collectively online share social activities from local businesses and organizations. We danced, baked, practiced yoga and sang together on social media with Parks & Recreation. We launched a Feed Palm Coast campaign where together we collected food to feed 5,000 Palm Coast families and donated more than \$100,000 to aid our neighbors in need.

It's so important for me to once again take a moment to express my gratitude to all of our essential workers. On behalf of every single Palm Coast citizen, I know I can say that deep in our hearts, these workers are all loved and appreciated by our community. To our healthcare workers, first responders, government staff, pharmacists, grocery store employees, caregivers, trash pick-up folks and all who put others before themselves -- God bless each and every one of you.

Your courage and strength motivates City Council every day to work even harder to shape the future of our City.

As Palm Coasters, we rise together, we fall together and we pick ourselves back up together. So let's beat coronavirus together. Wash your hands often. Stay home when possible. Wear masks. Avoid crowds. This isn't always easy, but it's always necessary.



Message from the Mayor

Milissa Holland

