



# Flagler County Update

An electronic window on your county government

January  
2010



County Commissioner Milissa Holland presents a check to Assistant Superintendent of Schools Janet Valentine and Pastor Chares Silano for the Grace Community Food Pantry.

## A County That Cares

Everyone involved with the County project called Feed Flagler knew that Flagler County was a community that cares about their neighbor, but still they were surprised at the outpouring of volunteers and donations.

A total 100 turkeys were cooked, 50 hams and cases of vegetables. The meals went to an estimated 2,000 people and more than \$6,000 in additional donated funds went to two local food banks.

“It was the outpouring of support from all of Flagler County that really made the day a complete success,” Holland said. “Donations paid for all the food and we were able fund two food pantries in the county for the

upcoming holidays and nearly 400 people volunteered to help out.”

Holland presented a total of \$6,710 to the Flagler Resource Center and Grace Community Food Pantry.

Bette Rountree with Church Women United, the group that operates the Flagler County Resource Center Food Pantry in Bunnell was presented with a check. The Resource Center is funded by Flagler County.

Pastor Charles Silano, who operates the Grace Community Food Pantry in Palm Coast which is in partnership with the Flagler County School Board was also presented a check to purchase

food. The money was from donations left over after purchasing the food for Feed Flagler.

Jean MacAllister, who, coordinated the volunteers for the event, said that so many new people, not currently on volunteer lists, called in to offer their assistance for Feed Flagler and any future endeavors that she will be able to take advantage of a much larger pool of community volunteers.

The Flagler County Chamber of Commerce involved the business community and donations poured in from businesses with area food stores also assisting.

“It was refreshing to see the entire county come together and support their neighbors,” Holland said. “It was one of the most rewarding events I have been involved with.”

The committee put the event together in four weeks. It included representatives from Flagler County government, Palm Coast, Flagler Beach, Bunnell, Beverly Beach, the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce, the Flagler County School Board and a host of civic and community organizations.

District 1  
Alan Peterson

District 2  
Milissa Holland

District 3  
Barbara Revels

District 4  
Bob Abbott  
Vice Chairman

District 5  
George Hanns  
Chairman



**Boxes and boxes of food were delivered to volunteer working with the Flagler County Resource Center.**

## County Employees Lend A Helping Hand

Monday morning just before Christmas some 20 volunteers with the Flagler County Resource Center were

busy sorting a huge stack of food delivered by Flagler County Employees.



**County Genral Services personnel pose behind a table full of boxes of food that they gathered for the food pantry.**

The food was gathered by County government employees who collected a 150 boxes of non-perishable food for the community food pantry. The Flagler County Library's "Food for Fines" program garnered another 55 boxes.

In conjunction with its Feed Flagler campaign for Thanksgiving, County employees took on a challenge to gather as much food as possible to help replenish the pantry for the holidays this month. The results had to be transported by a flatbed truck and two pickup trucks to the Bunnell Methodist Church where the food is sorted.

"The entire County workforce got into this project," County Human Resources Director Joe Mayer said.

As a result of the economy, local food pantries are having difficulty meeting the need. Bette Rountree with Church Women United, the organization that operates Flagler County Resource Council's Food Pantry said the timing could not have been better.

"I am really pleased by the efforts of our County employees," County Administrator Craig Coffey said. "They recognized the need in the community and stepped up to help out."

The Flagler Resource Center is funded in part by the County. It operates out of the former Bunnell Police Department at 1510 Old Moody Blvd. Church Women United is a volunteer organization that operates the food pantry. In addition to a \$3,355 check from donations to Feed Flagler, the group benefited from the County's employee's efforts.

# U.S. Census Could Mean \$ For County Taxpayers

One of the most important events to occur in the coming year for Flagler County is the U.S. Census.

“It is something that will have an impact on Flagler County for the next decade,” Commissioner Milissa Holland said. “Grants, transportation and education funding, federal

funding for programs and elected representation in state and federal government all hinge on the U.S. Census.”

Population estimates done yearly by the University of Florida put Flagler County’s population at nearly 95,000. County officials want to make

sure everyone living in the county is counted and they are hoping for Census figures to be just over the 100,000 mark.

Federal funding for many programs including bus transportation are based on population. Flagler County is currently getting funding based on its last census which put the population at 50,000. With Census numbers higher than 100,000 the funding for the county’s bus system will increase dramatically.

The census is also important to individuals and their finances. Grants, state funds and federal funds all spare local tax money used on needed local services derived from property tax. Population figures also determine Congressional and State voting districts. A shift in population can mean Flagler County would get its own state legislator in Tallahassee. Plus, census data helps attract new businesses and jobs to the community.

Census forms will soon be arriving in mailboxes all over Flagler County and Holland and other county officials want residents to fill them out and mail them back.

“The information is secure, and it cannot be released,” Holland said. “It is important for everyone living in the county at the time of the U.S. Census be counted.”

One other reason for filling out the Census form. If you fill out the form and mail it in, a Census taker will not be knocking on your door later in the year asking questions.



**FLAGLER COUNTS**

*FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS - IT'S CONFIDENTIAL & EASY TOO!*

## County Prescription Cards Cut Costs

Have you heard the news? The Flagler County Prescription Discount Cards are here! This card, brought to you by the Flagler County Commission in conjunction with the National Association of Counties, can be used any time your prescription is not covered by insurance. This is open to all county residents, regardless of age, income or existing health condition. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. You can even use it for your pets! For more information on where to get your card, which pharmacies accept the card and other frequently asked questions, visit [www.FlaglerCounty.org](http://www.FlaglerCounty.org).

# Scenic Byway Improvements Dedicated

## Grants Pay For Park Improvements

Progress along the National Scenic Byway, better known to residents as S.R. A1A, was celebrated in November with the dedication of a gateway pavilion designed to look like the Coast Guard Towers that dotted the beach during World War II.

The pavilion and other amenities were part of a \$1.1 million grant for improvements along the roadway with more projects to come in the future for Flagler County's picturesque stretch of the beachside highway.

Byway advocates and county and state officials gathered for the dedication in November at the gateway to Flagler County in Marineland. A 72 mile section of S.R. A1A in St. Johns County and all the way through Flagler County was designated a National Scenic ByWay in 2001.

Although the project dedication was at Marineland, the grant was for a series of improvements all along the roadway. It paid for dune walkovers and picnic pavilions at the County's Mala Compra Park improvements and signage in Flagler Beach and picnic pavilions and other improvements in Bings County Park along S.R. A1A.

The County and advocates of the National Scenic Byway will continue to work with the state and federal government for grant funding to make more improvements to the National Scenic Byway.



**Above: County Commission Chairman George Hanns addressed the crowd at the ribbon cutting ceremony at the River To Sea Preserve. The dedication was for improvements to the National Scenic Byway. Below: Anne Wilson, assisted by the County Commission and Evie Shellenberger of the School Board cut the ribbon for the Coast Guard pavilion in Marineland.**



# Flagler County Gears Up To Battle The Flu

As H1N1 Flu began to spread across the country Flagler County's Health Department working in conjunction with the County Emergency Operations Center sprang into action.

Volunteers were drafted to assist in the dispensing of flu shots. Plans for mass vaccination clinic at Flagler Palm Coast High School were worked on and the County braced for what might have been an abnormal flu season.

Weekly phone conferences were conducted with the state Emergency Operations Center and the counties across the state. So far the worst case scenario that county crews were gearing up for has not occurred, but as Flagler County Health Department Administrator Patrick Johnson points out, we are just now heading into what is the usual flu season.

To date nearly 8,000



**Volunteers gather at the Emergency Operations Center to be briefed on what they will be working on for the county H1N1 vaccination clinics.**

Flagler County residents have been vaccinated against the H1N1 strain of the flu. All of Flagler County's health workers including the Paramedics who ride with Flagler County Ambulances have been vaccinated.

Johnson said the number of vaccinated

residents is still too low to be an effective deterrent from the flu spreading through the entire county, but the number of people who have contracted the flu has not increased to the level that was expected.

The flu shots are still available by appointment at the Flagler County Health Department. The shots are free, simply call the Health Department at 386-437-7350 extension 2261 and make an appointment. The vaccines have also been distributed to area doctors and some pharmacies. Johnson said the shots are manufactured in the same manner as the seasonal flu shots and every bit as safe.

Aside from vaccination, there are several things residents can do. First and foremost is to wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and avoid close contact with individuals who appear to be ill. Those with a cough should cover their mouth when they cough. More information is available at Florida Department of Health's Internet Site: [www.myflusafety.com](http://www.myflusafety.com).



**Flagler County Firefighter Paramedic Rebecca Hurley administers the nasal H1N1 flu spray to fellow Firefighter Paramedic Daniel VanDeusen**

# County Veterans Day Ceremony Gets Boost From Schools

Flagler County's Veterans Day Ceremony November 11 in front of the Government Services building was a fitting tribute to veterans.

School was in session on that day and the Flagler Palm Coast High School Band and the school's Chorus participated in the ceremony. They presented "Sea To Shinning Sea," "God Bless America, the National Anthem and other patriotic songs. The high school's Air Force JROTC and Daisy Troop 906 from Palm Coast participated in the ceremony.

Retired U.S. Army Chaplain Harry Gilman was the guest speaker. Gilman has 23 years of active duty and served in Germany and several areas of the United States including four years as chaplain of the Old Guard, at Arlington National Cemetery. Gilman retired to Flagler County but is still active



**Sal Rutigliano Flagler County Veterans Affairs Officer addresses the crowd at the Veterans Day Ceremony**

as an ordained Baptist Minister and has served area churches for the past 10 years.

Gilman's son Scott, is a Major in the U.S. Army currently serving in Iraq.

Then Chair of the Flagler

County Commission, Milissa Holland gave the opening remarks and welcomed guests. The ceremony was conducted with the participation of all of the Veteran's Service Organizations of Flagler County.



**FPC's Band Director directs the band through several patriotic marches during the ceremony.**

## Work Begins On Historic Courthouse Repair

Flagler County is putting new life back into a grand lady that has served Flagler County since 1926. The historic Courthouse is getting a new roof, termite treatment and the first floor annex is getting a new air conditioning and heating system as part of the County's restoration efforts.

The City of Bunnell and the Flagler County Sheriff's Office have expressed interest in occupying some of the

space. The County has budgeted \$450,000 for the repairs and to begin design.

In the fall of 2007 the courts and legal system moved into its new building, the Kim Hammond Justice Center and the old courthouse stood empty.

