Welcome to Flagler County news updates.

As part of our 2017 communication strategy, we've updated our Breakers Newsletter - focused on timely news, delivered in streamlined bites to your inbox.

We hope you like the format. Feel free to forward or share through social media. Please keep the feedback coming.

From left to right:
Commissioner O'Brien
Commission Chair McLaughlin
Commissioner Sullivan
Commissioner Hansen
Commission Vice-Chair Ericksen

Visit our redesigned website: flaglercounty.org

Today's featured content: Flagler County Resource Directory from Social Services Department

Good Fire- Flagler County has produced a video about the local use of prescribed fire
Almost all of Florida’s natural ecosystems evolved over time as a direct result of the natural occurrence of fire. But as humans expanded our reach into the natural areas, we traditionally extinguished fires as soon as they started. So human intervention has had an effect on the periodicity and intensity of fire. Instead of frequent burning off of small amounts of vegetative fuel every few years, natural areas build up dense stockpiles of burnable, organic fuels, creating the potential for larger, more intense and destructive wildfires.

Within the last 30 years scientists, citizens, and local and federal governments across the U.S. have come to recognize the public safety benefits that result from a rigorous and cautious application of fire to natural areas. As a region that has seen several seasons of intense and destructive wildfire since the 1980s, Flagler County, the City of Palm Coast, and other local municipalities identified prescribed fire as a tool for preventing wildfires, and maintaining the biological integrity of our citizen-owned wildland assets.

In addition to the video, you can also read more about our local program, our staff, the prescription, and safety requirements [here](#).
'Good Fire' was written and sequenced by Michael Lagasse, Land Management Coordinator for Flagler County since 2011. "Having grown up just up the road in Saint Augustine, and feeling the way I do about our unique natural resources, I'm thrilled that I'm able to play a part in Flagler County's effort to accomplish its stewardship goals for its truly top-notch natural areas and parks like Princess Place Preserve, MalaCompra Park, River to Sea Preserve, and Haw Creek Preserve."

**Centennial Celebration**

**Save the Date!**

**Flagler County Centennial**

**Main Event Day!**

**April 29, 2017**

**From 9am – 3pm**

The Centennial Celebration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 29 at the Flagler County Government Services Building, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell.

A fun run/walk for all ages and the start of a geocaching event will kick off the day's events, which includes the photo contest (with a $200 award for 'Best of Show'), a car show, music, a tour of the Emergency Operations Center, food trucks, crafts and kids-zone with free train rides. The afternoon will feature historical re-enactments of the first County Commission and School Board
meetings, a Henry Flagler re-enactor and a performance "The Three Wives of Henry Flagler."

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/flaglercountycentennial, or contact the centennial committee directly at centennialcommittee@flaglercounty.org

George Wickline Senior Group making a (fashion) statement

For county residents 60 years and older, who meet various eligibility requirements, Flagler's Senior Services department can assist in many ways: case management, congregate dining, counseling, Elderly Heat Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP), home delivered meals, homemaking, information and referrals, nutrition education, recreation, respite care, screening, and transportation.

These services are funded by grants from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs via Northeast FL Area Agency on Aging d/b/a ElderSource, the state's Community Care for the Elderly & Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, and the county's General Fund.

The George Wickline Senior Center, which is open weekdays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., is one such service. In addition to social (Bingo, billiards), fitness (yoga), and educational events (computer classes, guest speakers), seniors enjoy healthy meals daily. Weekly shopping trips to area department stores depart from the Center each Wednesday afternoon, and various outings are scheduled throughout the year to include local parks and eateries.

More than six thousand nutritious meals were served at the Wickline Center in 2016, while this year the program is on track to serve more than eight thousand meals.

The Center is located at 800 S. Daytona Avenue, Flagler Beach. For more information, contact Ms. Laparo-Colant at 386-517-2435 or click here.

Pictured: the Wickline Senior Group traveled out for a luncheon and the opportunity to model their hand-decorated Easter bonnets and Spring chapeaux.
Flagler County officials are asking residents to help remind guests and visitors that walking over the dunes and beach driving are prohibited.

"We've been getting reports that people are walking over the dunes, and worse, driving on the beach since we had to open some access areas so that work can be done to restore our ailing dune system," said Tim Telfer, Public Lands and Natural Resources Manager for the county. "We know residents are aware of the importance of protecting the dunes that were left frail after Hurricane Matthew, but we would appreciate it if everyone would help get the word out to others."

Flagler has been working diligently on a comprehensive design for the county's dune system and a long-term program intended to surpass pre-storm conditions along the 18 miles of beach within the county.

Varn Park reopens ahead of schedule, after two months of Hammock Dunes restoration work

The Department of Environmental Protection issued a permit to the Hammock Dunes Owners Association to assist with its restoration efforts. While the permit remains in effect until May 1, the private work in that area has been substantially completed.

"We know this has been an inconvenience for those
who enjoy this park. We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding and are happy to reopen it,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said.

Additional projects are expected in the near future and that will likely require additional temporary beach closures in other areas from time to time. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

The Spring 2017 Flagler County Citizens Academy class received Certificates of Completion on April 17. Held twice a year, the next Academy will be in the fall of 2017. The ten weekly sessions are held at different County facilities -- include the 911 call center, air traffic control tower, Board chambers, and a county preserve-- so that participants can experience first-hand the broad range of resources and capabilities that Flagler County provides.

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS AND NOTABLES
Flagler County is proud to showcase some of its special programs and the annual events that it supports. Click on the links for more information.
April 26 - May 15 * Free Legal Clinics | Kim C. Hammond Justice Center

Closes April 26 * George Washington Carver Foundation Online Auction

April 29 * Centennial Celebration | Government Services Bldg

May 9 * Age Out Loud: Advocacy & Aging | Palm Coast branch, Flagler County Library

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