Newsletter for May 2017

In addition to a new, online format for our Breakers Newsletter, there's also a redesigned County [website to explore](http://flaglercounty.org). Or follow Flagler on social media - just click on the icons below.

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

Visit our redesigned website: [flaglercounty.org](http://flaglercounty.org)

Featured content for May:
Be Firewise!

May is Older Americans Month - Live Out Loud
Each May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads our nation's celebration
This year's theme is **Age Out Loud**, to give aging a new voice one that reflects what today's older adults have to say.

This theme shines a light on many important trends. More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things and engaging in community. They're taking charge, striving for wellness, focusing on independence and advocating for themselves and others.

**Watch this video** - produced by Flagler County's Senior Services office, with ElderSource, the Northeast Florida Agency on Aging - to hear what some Flagler County residents are advocating... Out Loud.

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**Flagler County receives 2,000 acres for future park**

Flagler County has received 2,000 acres for a park from U.S. Capital Alliance, the developers of Hunter's Ridge. The future park, located north of SR 40 and west of I95, is earmarked for passive pursuits similar to those offered at Princess Place Preserve.

This property is encumbered by permit to St. Johns River Water Management District, because it was used as wetland mitigation by the developer, said Public Lands and Natural Resource Manager Tim Telfer.

Telfer went on to share that after addressing invasive species, and wildfire mitigation through prescribed fire, the property will be in a much more natural state. But that will have to wait for a future time when conditions are right.

In the meantime, property-management measures will include installing
The only visitation center of its type in Flagler County, Sally's Safe Haven Center was established in conjunction with a number of community partners such as the Children's Home Society, Family Life Center, Domestic Abuse Council, Flagler County Courts, Flagler County Sheriff's Office and the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Sally's Safe Haven - or 'The Center' - provides safe, affordable, age- and activity-appropriate, supervised visitation and exchange services for children whose families have been involved in cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.

The formal evaluation was conducted by the Council on Accreditation, which assessed the facility based on best-practice standards.

Since opening in December 2014, the Center has been very successful in meeting the needs of the community. According to Christie Mayer, Flagler County program coordinator, the Center has received over 155 referrals for eligibility interviews, resulting in 263 services provided.

"Visitation centers are a critical part of helping families develop strong, healthy bonds and this remarkable distinction recognizes our stellar commitment to ensuring only the highest quality of care and service for our children and families." Said Children's Home Society of Florida, Buckner and North Coastal Divisions, Executive Director Kymberly Cook. "It is our pleasure and honor to partner with Flagler County to provide such a life-changing service to our community."

From its inception to the present, Sally's Safe Haven has been funded by a $400,000 Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women grant. Flagler County's contribution to the program has been the renovation of the space which previously housed the Guardian ad Litem.

County staff, with Board of County Commissioners' approval, recently submitted a new grant-application to the Office on Violence Against Women, 2017 Justice for Families Grant Program. The County will be notified of the outcome by September 30. Funds would directly support the operation of Sally's Safe Haven Center, and training for court-based and court-related personnel.

The Center, located in Bunnell, serves all of Flagler County.

386-263-8771
Flagler County's annual Memorial Day Ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 29th

Join us to remember all who have served and sacrificed and to honor former county resident and Bunnell High student, Private First Class Jonathan Nathaniel "Nat" Spicer United States Marine Corps Posthumously Awarded Navy Cross - Courage Under Fire Vietnam War - March 8, 1968

Guest Speaker- Navy Veteran, Dr. Tracy Hejmanowski, PhD Jacksonville Naval Hospital

Followed immediately by the UNITED WE STAND 2K Run/Walk
Event supported by Flagler Sheriff Police Athletic League

Wear a patriotic red, white and blue outfit AND complete the 2K to be eligible for a prize in the Best Outfit Contest!
Gift card prizes for multiple age groups offered by Veterans Organizations and local businesses. Every participant is eligible for a free Wendy's Frosty.
Flagler County graduates its first Mental Health First Aid class

In April, Flagler County graduated its first Mental Health First Aid class. Salvatore Gintoli of Stewart-Marchman-Act (SMA) Behavioral Healthcare taught the 8-hour course, which can be compared to a CPR course or Emergency First Aid course, in that, it prepares the participants to interact with a person in crisis. It teaches a five-step action plan to support someone developing signs or symptoms of an emotional crisis, or mental illness. Mental Health First Aid is considered an evidenced based practice, and is a globally recognized training.

Organized for the County by Commission Chair Nate McLaughlin who discussed the need for such a class at the Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting, and by Deputy Administrator Sally Sherman, the course was presented by SMA Behavioral Healthcare. Class participants came from the Clerk of the Circuit Court, CareerSource, and Flagler County staff.

"This training has been proven to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and substance-use disorders, to make participants more knowledgeable about those disorders, and to increase the participant's comfort with approaching and assisting a person who is having a behavioral health crisis," said Ivan Cosimi, CEO of SMA. "We are thrilled our community partners have joined us in being better prepared to serve our community."

The next opportunity to participate in a class will be this Fall.

Flagler County's Centennial Celebration
1917-2017
If we missed you at the April 29 celebration of Flagler County's Centennial, there are still some events you can add to your calendar!

- July 4th Parade float, fireworks and sand sculpture
- July 12, 2017 ~ Screening of the Creature from the Black Lagoon
And there will be ongoing Geocaching events, as well as the chance to win monthly gift cards if you're the one to Find the Hidden Potato
To learn more - visit our Centennial webpage or call 386-313-4001

Board of County Commissioners speak on priorities & projects

Commissioner Donald O'Brien recently addressed the Rotary Club, providing members with an update of projects recently completed and still underway within Flagler County jurisdiction. He also provided information on future projects, such as the status of the dunes repairs.

All of Flagler County's commissioners are available to provide these types of updates. Any group interested in hosting a meeting like this can make arrangements through the Administration office; call 386-313-4001.

Hurricane Preparedness:
Do you live or work in an Evacuation Zone?

If you've been following the National Hurricane Preparedness events, you know it's critical to "Know Your Zone" and Have a Plan.
Flagler County has put up a link to the FL Division of Emergency Management's easy-to-use search tool: http://bit.ly/2pwa3OV
Just plug in your address and follow the 'how to' hints.
Know your zone, and share with neighbors.
Next step: Make your plan. Visit the ready.gov Hurricane page

Wildfire Preparedness: Countywide Burn Ban is in effect until further notice

Flagler County's ban prohibits the following:
- The sale, use and discharge of fireworks
- Open burning, including the use of fire pits and containers
- Charcoal-burning barbecue grills - including those at Flagler County Parks and Recreation facilities
- Throwing matches or cigarettes (or other burning materials) from car windows
- Parking vehicles with catalytic converters in high grassy areas

Flagler County permit activity, single-family home starts on the rise

 Permit applications are on the rise in Flagler County, and the numbers include new single-family homes.
"This is wonderful news," Commission Chair Nate McLaughlin said. "It is a clear signal that Flagler County's economy is rebounding."

Development activity in the first half of the current fiscal year, which begins each October 1, has topped the yearlong activity of the previous fiscal year.

Some 373 permit applications have been submitted to the Growth Management Department for review over six months: between October 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017.

Compare that number to just 351 permit applications submitted for the entire twelve months prior: October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.
"The increase has been steady," County Administrator Craig Coffey said. "It is evident when you compare the numbers to what we were doing the same month last year."

For example: there were 249 applications made in April 2017 compared to the 182 made in April 2016.

Single-family home starts have increased from a low of 25 in 2008 to 125 in the first
six months of 2016/17 fiscal year. If the trend continues, the county can expect to top last year's total of 210 permits for single-family homes, with room to spare.

"This is also a testament to our staff," Coffey said. "At our peak, the 2007/08 fiscal year, we had 27 employees working in Growth Management and a $3.44 million budget for that department. We are currently operating with 15 employees and a $1.78 million budget."

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**Land Management, Parks and Recreation, and FPCHS Future Problem Solvers working together: UPDATE**

You may remember from an earlier article that Flagler's Land Management Department and Parks and Recreation Department staff assisted 'The Pandemic Project', a group of Flagler Palm Coast High School's Future Problem Solvers, in their efforts to install bat houses. Since then, the team of students has gone on to win Grand Champion at the Florida Future Problem Solving State Competition and will be moving on to the International level. And the county has also assisted with some additional bat house installations.

Have you noticed one of these at Lehigh Trail, or seen the most recent addition at Princess Place Preserve?
You can watch the Pandemic Project videos to learn more about their mission - which is to aid in the prevention of vector borne diseases, such as Zika- and also to hear from County Health Director, Robert Snyder as he answers questions about the virus and its prevention.

Flagler County 4-H

Congratulations to our young growers!
The Tri-County 4-H Potato Project of Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties held their Harvest Day on April 29.
In addition to starting their own potatoes, the youth participated in the planting and now the harvest of about 18,000 pounds of potatoes - at the UF/IFAS Hastings Agricultural Extension Center.
The program (created in 2015) has a lot to offer Flagler youth "interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), who may not know about STEM-related careers in the agriculture industry."
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.

May 29 * Memorial Day 2017 Ceremony | Government Services Bldg.
May 29 * United We Stand Honor 2K Run - Walk | Government Services Bldg.

June 8 * World Oceans’ Day | UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County Office

FLAGLER COUNTY JOB POSTINGS
Links will remain active until position is filled.

Firefighter / Paramedic
Transportation Driver (Part Time)
Utility Maintenance Technician II

You can view the complete and most up to date list on the County's job postings webpage.