PARTICIPATE IN ‘TELL THE TPO’ SURVEY CAMPAIGN

The River to Sea TPO is seeking your input to better understand how transportation can better serve you as we plan transportation improvements for the metropolitan planning area (MPA), which includes Volusia County and portions of Flagler County.

INDIVIDUALS: Please fill out the Tell the TPO Survey at www.TelltheTPO.com.

EMPLOYERS: Please email the www.TelltheTPO.com link to your employees, clients, and contact lists.

ORGANIZATIONS: Please include this information in your next newsletter and/or email the www.TelltheTPO.com link to your members and contact lists.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: Please put the www.TelltheTPO.com link on your website, in your newsletters, and/or in emails to your employees and stakeholders.

All responses received by May 31, 2016 will be placed in a drawing for a chance to win an iPad Mini!

Florida Ag Museum on the move, Flagler County helps

Florida Agricultural Museum has been on the move – or at least two of its buildings – and Flagler County’s General Services Department helped with the preparations.

“We widened the road to 24 feet, and to remove about 60 pines to accomplish that,” said Mike Dickson, Assistant Director of General Services. “We will also be installing 2,000 feet of new fence for the horse pastures.”

It’s not the only assistance Flagler County has provided to the Ag Museum. Flagler County Engineering and Road and Bridge departments have moved a lot of dirt to create a larger formal entrance and 200 parking spaces, including ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) accessible. In addition to creating a new roadway loop.

“The reason all of this has happened is because the County Commission’s efforts and support,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “They really want to see the museum brought up to the next level.”

Flagler County in 2014 secured $500,000 in state money for the Ag Museum, and county staff is helping the museum get the most for that money.

Planted pines were harvested for timber to make way for both the parking area as well as for horse pastures to support the equestrian uses of the property. Stumps were pulled and sod was laid.

Asphalt was laid for the front entrance.

“Flagler County has been a wonderful partner,” said Florida Agricultural Museum Executive Director Andy Morrow. “The county has really helped us achieve our vision, and I think it will have a big impact on the community well into the future.”
The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners

and the

Veterans Advisory Council

Invite you to attend a Memorial Day Ceremony starting at 10 a.m., Monday, May 30

The ceremony will take place at the Flagler County Government Services Building 1769 East Moody Boulevard (State Road 100 East) Bunnell, Florida

The ceremony will feature Army Major Thomas K. Hall, the Senior Army Instructor and Rifle Team Coach at Matanzas High School.

Major Hall served as the Secretary of the General Staff for the Assistant Commandant of the US Army Command and General Staff College. He was a Battery Commander in the 1st Battalion 77th Field Artillery which was in direct support of the 194th Armor Brigade.

His awards include graduating from Air Assault School, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and he was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Barbara, who is the Patron Saint of the Field Artillery.

Besides placing a memorial wreath at the Veterans Monument in front of the Government Services Building, Golden Sands, the local chapter of the Girl Scouts of America will place a Daisy Wreath at the monument. A Flagler Palm Coast High School student will sing the national anthem.

The Memorial Day event is sponsored by the Flagler County Commission and the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council. Veterans groups to participate include: American Legion Post 115, Amvets Post 113, DAV Chapter 86, Italian American War Veterans Post 7, Jewish War Veterans Post 300, Marine Corps League 876, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Flagler County Veterans Service Office, VFW Post 8696, and the Knights of Columbus 2264 Color Corps.
Florida native Matt Dunn reappointed to National Association of Sports Commissions

Though he was born in Washington D.C., Matt Dunn considers himself a Florida native. He was recently appointed to the board of the National Association of Sports Commissions.

“My dad had already accepted a position with the University of Florida, so we moved to Gainesville when I was 2 weeks old,” Dunn said. “Florida is home.”

However, Flagler County has only been home to Dunn since 2014 when he was named vice president of tourism for the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce. Since then the Tourist Development Office has become a Flagler County Department – Dunn is the executive director.

The National Association of Sports Commissions provides educational opportunities to its members to protect the integrity of the sports tourism industry.

It is Dunn’s second appointment to the board, but his first full three-year term – he replaced a board member who left mid-term the first time around. He is the chairman of the National Association of Sports Commissions Membership Committee.

“It’s the only education-based sports tourism association in the United States,” Dunn said. “It’s an honor to serve on the board of directors with my peers from across the country for three years.”

Dunn has a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management and a Master of Science in Athletic Administration from Florida State University. He has worked in the sports and tourism industries for 20 years.

Additionally, Dunn has earned the designation Certified Sports Event Executive. He also serves on the board of directors of the Florida First Coast of Golf and the North Florida Hotel and Lodging Association.

“Flagler County is very fortunate to benefit from Matt’s knowledge and experience,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “He is doing a great job bringing tourism to our county.”

Dunn lives in Palm Coast with his 9-year-old Weimaraner, Charlie. When he’s not working, Dunn enjoys surfing, golf, kayak fishing, trail biking and reading about historical figures.

He was a competitive swimmer for many years, including at Florida State University when he was a member of the only regular season undefeated team in the school’s history. At one time he held the Florida Junior Olympic record in the 500 freestyle.
Senior Services connects resident with roofer

The efforts of Flagler County Senior Services Manager Joanne Hinkle cleared the path for free roof repair for a senior in need.

“That Ms. Hinkle is fantastic,” said Dorothy Moore, who worked as Flagler Beach city clerk for 17 years though retired for two decades. “I needed help finding a roofer, and a good one. There are people who will take advantage, but she provided me with the name of this fine man.”

That man is Dave Waddell with R&K Roofing. He and owner Ken Reed split the cost of the materials to reroof a section of Moore’s home that had been leaking for more than two years.

“When I met her, I just fell in love with her,” Waddell said. “She is such a sweet-heart, and she’s had some rough times. This was something (R&K Roofing) could do for her that would really improve her life.”

During his visit to determine the scope of the work that needed to be done, Waddell and Moore bonded over their love animals – she has three birds, two dogs and a fish, while he has two dogs, a parrot, an iguana and a bearded dragon – and the fact that they are both originally from Michigan.

“When he called me back and said he would do this for me, I just couldn’t believe it,” Moore said. “I cried – tears of joy you know. I couldn’t believe that someone would be so kind to do this for me for free.”

Waddell is now family.

“A roof is a major thing, especially with hurricane season coming,” he said as he reached down to scratch Kela, Moore’s Doberman Pinscher, the 12th she’s owned. “She’s a great lady with a great spirit. She deserved a break.”

His words brought more tears.

“T’m just a big cry baby,” Moore said. “His kindness just makes me so happy.”

Florida City & County Management Association training held at EOC

Flagler County recently hosted Florida City and County Management Association training for a group of more than 50 government employees from throughout the state of Florida.

Ron Holifield – founder and chief executive officer of the Texas-based Strategic Government Resources, a company that specializes in facilitating collaboration among local governments – was keynote speaker of the half-day training held April 29 at the Emergency Operations Center.

Regardless of delivery, Holifield stressed that the duty of government is to provide understanding to the residents.

“We are in the business of being taken for granted,” he said. “A good day for us is when no one in the community really notices us. We need to focus more on understanding so that we can tell the story of the value residents are getting.”

Customer service is also part of that duty.

“There are skills you can teach but there are other things that you can’t,” Holifield said. “You want to have a staff that has great listening skills plus empathy, and sometimes you don’t find those hires through traditional hiring methods.”

It’s the two-way street of providing both listening and understanding that creates a sense of community.

“There is an increasing disconnection with social structures (because of technology), but there is an increased hunger for a sense of community,” Holifield said. “When you create a sense of community, you engage with the community.”

The training session ended with a panel discussion made up of Sanford City Manager Norton Bonaparte, New Smyrna Beach City Manager Pam Brancaccio, and St. Lucie County Administrator Howard Tipton.

“We were very fortunate to have hosted such a distinguished group of speakers,” said Flagler County Deputy County Administrator Sally Sherman, who is also Florida City and County Management Association District II Director.

FCCMA is a member-driven, ethical, inclusive organization dedicated to the council-manager form of government, dedicated to effective partnerships with elected officials, devoted to the advancement of excellence in professional management of local government in the State of Florida and determined to provide quality service to its membership and the cities it serves.