



BREAKERS

FLAGLER COUNTY

the biggest waves and greatest raves

FLAGLER COUNTY GEARS UP FOR NEXT CITIZENS ACADEMY

Do news stories make you wonder about how it is that government employees and elected officials make the decisions they do to keep Flagler County running efficiently and well?

Twenty-five residents will have the opportunity to slip on someone else's shoes and find out what it is really like to plan for the day-to-day lives of the more than 100,000 people who live in Flagler County during the next Citizens Academy, which will begin at 9 a.m. on February 17.

"This is a civics class about Flagler County," said County Administrator Craig Coffey, who will speak during the first session. "Most people don't realize the scope of all the work that we do."

The free course ends with a mock County Commission meeting and round-table discussion with Flagler County's five seated commissioners as its ninth session. The meeting is likely to include elements of Florida's Sunshine Laws, budget constraints and property rights.

As preparation, the first eight weeks of the Citizens Academy are spent learning about Flagler County government, its Constitutional Offices, public safety, community services, technology, communications, growth and land management, as well as general services, the airport, finance, tourism, and economic development.

"This course provides a very good overall picture of Flagler County Government," said Joe Mayer, Community Services Director.

For more information, go the Flagler County's website, www.flaglercounty.org, and click on the box at the lower right announcing the academy.

Questions can be directed to Mayer at 386-313-4007.



Flagler County hosted a ribbon cutting recently at the Princess Place Stables. Caleb and carriage, below, made an appearance from the Florida Agricultural Museum.



News **Splash!**

Flagler County celebrates historic preservation at Princess Place stable

Flagler County celebrated the historic restoration of the Livery Stable and bath houses at Princess Place Preserve in holiday style.

"The stable has been restored to its original appearance," said Heidi Petito, Flagler County General Services Director. "Using old photos we have recreated the north portion of the stable, which had been removed before the county took ownership of it."

DiMare Construction, a company that also does restoration work at Flagler College, was contracted to complete the work. Kenneth Smith Architects Inc., a Jacksonville company specializing in historic restoration, provided the architectural services. Staff from both were in attendance.

While Senator Travis Hutson could not be in attendance, he sent a letter that was read during the ceremony.

"Thank you for your dedication in the historic restoration of the beautiful Princess Place Preserve also known as Cherokee Grove," he wrote. "We are so fortunate to have a spectacular piece of Flagler County on the National Registry of Historic Places."

Hutson recognized Flagler County's "innovative use" of the state preservation grant and tourist development revenues, without which "the continuation of the County's efforts to restore and enhance this historical site wouldn't be possible."

"The effort you put into restoring the historic riding stables shows your dedication to the legacy of the Princess," Hutson said. "I am proud of all the work put into the Princess Place Lodge as reflected in the State Award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation."

SUPPORT FOR GOV. SCOTT'S REFORM FOR ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Flagler County officials endorse reforms recommended by Gov. Rick Scott for Enterprise Florida.

Both the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners and the Flagler County Economic Opportunity Advisory Council have taken action to formally support proposed economic reforms for Enterprise Florida, including the creation of a \$250 million Florida Enterprise Fund.

"These reforms will further your mission and allow Florida to be competitive in today's challenging market," Commission Chair Barbara Revels said in a letter to Scott, informing him of the county's support. "Therefore, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners is proud to support the creation of the Florida Enterprise Fund and the improvement of the economic development process."

One goal of Scott's proposed reforms is to streamline Florida's approval process for businesses and ensure that no tax dollars leave the state trust fund until companies meet the specific job creation goals spelled out in their contracts. The reform would also require any deal over \$1 million to be approved by the Speaker of the House and Senate President, as well as the Governor.

"The Flagler County EOAC members understand that in order for the State of Florida and Flagler County to be competitive in our ability to create high wage jobs and expand and diversify the state's economy, an effective economic toolkit is necessary," said Nate McLaughlin, Flagler County Commissioner and Economic Opportunity Advisory Council Chairman. "This initiative will provide the advantage needed when competing with other states to attract major companies and create jobs," he said.

For more information about Enterprise Florida, [click here](#).



Title III Services Manager Gloria McKay, left, is preparing for gift distribution.

Below: The volume of gifts provided seniors with plenty of holiday cheer.



Flagler County shares holiday spirit with seniors

Gifts and holiday cheer were spread to seniors throughout Flagler County thanks to collective community support spurred by a project called "Be a Santa to a Senior."

Workers from a company called Home Instead Senior Care – Joyce Fenstermaker, Terri Mullis and Bebe Kelly – on December 18 made a trip to the David I. Siegel Day Center with gifts in hand for day center participants.

"They are wonderful," said Joanne Hinkel, senior services program manager. "We had to make two trips to their office with our van to retrieve the rest of the gifts collected for seniors enrolled in Flagler County's Senior Services programs."

Senior Services finished making deliveries on December 23 to those who receive Meals on Wheels and other homebound seniors, as well as those who participate in the congregate meal program at the George Wickline Senior Center.

Deborah Ronson, general manager for Home Instead Senior Care, has recruited the help of the three Palm Coast Walgreens, thanks to their managers: Marco Garcia, Tom Rekas and Brian Fisher.

"They have done this for the past several years," Hinkel said. "We provide a holiday wish list focusing on those seniors living alone or known to be going through difficult times. Trees are stationed at the Walgreens stores with ornaments sharing the wishes of the seniors."

Home Instead's staff – with the help of Palm Coast Girl Scout Troop #215 – wrap the hundreds of gifts to make them ready for Santa's helpers to deliver to their destinations by Christmas.

"The community's support in sharing their holiday spirit with seniors in Flagler County is outstanding," said County Administrator Craig Coffey.

Flagler County Senior Services offers subsidized services to county residents 60 years old and older and includes: congregate dining and activities at the George Wickline Center; Meals on Wheels; and in-home services like home-making, personal care, respite and adult day care. Energy assistance is also offered to qualifying residents.

Senior Services is funded in part by the Federal Older Americans Act and State General Revenue through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs via ElderSource (Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging) and locally funded by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners.



Flagler County is ready

Flagler County continues its tradition of maintaining its “StormReady” status – something it has had since December 1999 when it became the first county in the state of Florida to carry the designation.

The latest recognition through the National Weather Service is good until December 13, 2018. It started in Oklahoma in 1998 as the “StormWise” program but the name changed in 1999, and the National Weather Service included in its strategic plan for 2000 the goal of recognizing 20 StormReady communities in the nation.

“We were already doing the things required to become StormReady when the program came out, so we were a shoo-in,” said Emergency Management Technician Bob Pickering, who also serves as the county’s weather specialist.

Flagler County has to demonstrate that it has procedures in place to ensure that information about the weather would flow between it and the National Weather Service. Additionally, Flagler County Emergency Management has to show that it has warning systems in place, as well as an active Skywarn storm spotter program.

“Counties that are StormReady have gone to extensive measures that they have multiple ways to receive weather information, and that they have multiple ways to disseminate that information,” said Angie Enyedi, assistant warning coordination

meteorologist. “It puts me at ease to know the county has a plan in place. No county is storm proof, but being StormReady means the county is ready to mitigate loss of life and property.”

Since becoming StormReady, Flagler County has trained more than 1,000 people as Skywarn Storm Spotters, many of whom are part of local volunteer organizations that used amateur radio and social media to relay severe weather reports.

The application to become StormReady is thorough and involves a site inspection with visit with someone from the National Weather Service, like Enyedi, an emergency manager from a neighboring county and a representative from the Florida Department of Emergency Management.

“The essence of it is to create partner agencies,” Enyedi said. “We put out the information to empower (residents) to react appropriately.”

Businesses and schools can become StormReady Supporters. For more information, contact Enyedi at angela.enyedi@noaa.gov.

“We recommend that everyone sign up for CodeRED,” said Kevin Guthrie, Flagler County Public Safety Emergency Manager. “It is a free service that will notify you when a severe weather warning is issued for your local area.”

[Click here for CodeRED](#)



HOPE GARDEN TO FEED COMMUNITY

Dozens of Flagler County officials, local business professionals and students cut the ribbon at the newly expanded HOPE Garden and will then plant healthy vegetables during a special ceremony honoring the public and private collaboration that created it.

“This project is a perfect example of what a community can do when there is true collaboration,” said Commission Chair Barbara Revels. “Not only are we providing for an improved quality of life, we are witnessing the partnership of multiple public and private entities. We are seeing team building at a resident level, reaching adults and children.”

HOPE (Helping Others Provide Encouragement) Garden is located at the intersection of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street and South Bacher Street on Housing Authority Property that formerly housed large, concrete supports and propane tanks. The garden was created through a public and private collaboration that was seeded by the Flagler Economic Enhancement District’s (FEED) Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfields grant for environmental assessments and reuse planning.

The project evaluated the environmental condition of the property, planned for the redevelopment of the site, promoted healthy land use, and initiated improved public health of the residents who live there. Educational programs on the importance of diet and nutrition and the encouragement of physical activity are components of the project that will continue to promote a healthy lifestyle.



Help prevent the spread of Norovirus

The Flagler County Health Department is asking residents to take measures to help prevent the spread of Norovirus, also known as “stomach bug.”

It is the leading cause of outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhea in the United States, and it spreads quickly. Norovirus particles are extremely small and can float through the air and then settle on surfaces, spreading contamination.

The best way to prevent the spread is to keep surfaces clean and disinfected.

Start by cleaning frequently touched surfaces with warm, soapy water and rinse thoroughly with plain water. Dry the surface with paper towels, and dispose of those towels afterward.

Don’t stop there; germs can remain on surfaces even after cleaning.

Use a chlorine bleach solution to disinfect surfaces. Mix 1/3 cup of bleach with a gallon of water for a concentration of 1,000 ppm. Apply to surfaces and allow them to air dry IF they are UNLIKELY to have food or mouth contact. If not, rinse surfaces with plain water before use.

As always, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Please note that people can transfer norovirus to others for at least three (3) days after being sick.

For more information, click [here](#).



We Are Flagler County!

Anita Stoker moved to Flagler County 11 years ago from the Washington D.C. area.

“I visited Palm Coast a year before I moved here in December, and I was able to go to the beach every day,” Anita said. “I love the weather and the quality of life here.”

Anita first worked for the city of Bunnell before accepting a job with Flagler County as the Benefits and Wellness Manager.

“I love being able to help employees with everything and anything they need. I am the go-to person for all things benefits,” she said. “I ensure that they are able to maximize their benefits.”

Additionally, Anita promotes wellness initiatives for employees that include an on-campus gymnasium and classes, and an annual health fair.

When she’s off work, Anita enjoys time with her family boating or fishing.

“I so love and appreciate the ocean,” she said. “Even after 11 years, this has not gotten old to me.”

Anita’s eldest, Jase, shipped off recently to Cape May, New Jersey, for boot camp with the U.S. Coast Guard.

“I am so proud of him,” Anita said. “I want everyone to know what he is doing.”

Anita’s daughter, Rylie, is a sophomore at Matanzas High School.

“She really loves dance yoga,” Anita said. “This is very tough stuff; it’s not the hold-a-pose type of yoga. It’s her passion right now.”

Flagler County Adult Care partners with TRAIL

It would be tough to say who benefits the most – those who regularly take advantage of Flagler County’s Adult Day Care services, or the two young men who receiving vocational training through a transition program.

Damon Smith and Justin VanSoest participate in TRAIL, the short acronym for the long-titled “Transitioning youth with disabilities into Real vocational opportunities through Action planning and Individualized Learning.” TRAIL is an outcome-oriented program whose focus is to assist 18- to 22-year-old students with disabilities find meaningful jobs that are appropriate for their individual abilities.

“I like interacting with the clients,” VanSoest said during his second day on the job. “I like helping others. I am able to see what needs to be done and fit right in.”

Those “needs” include helping with lunch preparations and clean up, calling BINGO and visiting with the 20 regular Adult Day Care participants.

“This frees up the time of the nurses so they can attend to the health and personal



Damon Smith

care needs of the clients,” said Doctor Kimberli Halliday, transition coordination at Flagler County Public Schools.

Smith and VanSoest will work shifts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday through the end of December.

“We are happy to have Damon and Justin working with us,” said Adult Day Care program manager Janet Jensen, R.N.

Both VanSoest and Smith are very nurturing and well-suited to their work.

“I like helping people,” Smith said. “I like to be busy. I like carrying on a conversation (with the clients).”

Halliday will “fade support” as VanSoest and Smith continue their work at Adult Day Care.

“This is a really good place to be,” VanSoest said. “I’m learning to be independent and get out on my own.”

Alerts critical during El Niño years

Flagler County officials are encouraging residents to sign up for the CodeRED weather warning notifications because El Niño weather conditions set the stage for severe thunderstorms and the tornadoes that often accompany them.

“It is in your best interest to not only sign up for the CodeRED weather warning notification system, but to pay particular attention to them when weather warnings are issued,” said Public Safety Emergency Manager Kevin Guthrie. “El Niños are not the cause of violent tornadoes, but they are the cause for the environmental conditions which become more favorable for them.”

All of Florida is likely to experience a wetter and stormier winter, Guthrie said. Tornadoes during an El Niño tend to be stronger, with faster wind speeds, and are more likely to occur at night.

The last tornado twisted through Flagler County in December 2013. It was classified as an EF 1 based on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, which means the wind speeds ranged between 86 and 110 mph. The tornado traveled east from Espanola, jumped over Interstate 95, continuing into the eastern portion of Palm Coast – causing \$7.2 million damage to some 241 homes.

The National Weather Service in Jacksonville reported this morning that on today’s date in 1983 an F2 tornado with winds between 113 and 157 mph touched down, causing an estimated \$250,000 in damages. It traveled three miles and had a width of 50 yards.

Twenty-five known tornadoes have hit Flagler County since 1970.

“That’s just the known tornadoes,” said Emergency Management Technician Bob Pickering. “There have probably been more but if they hit in a wooded area and felled trees only, we might not know about them.”

Know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A watch means that conditions are favorable for severe weather. Regular activities can continue, but it is important to receive up-to-date weather reports.

A warning means that severe weather has been sighted.

If a tornado warning is issued, seek shelter immediately in a small interior room of a strong building. Use pillows and blankets as a protection from flying debris. Cars and mobile homes are not considered “substantial shelter.”

[Click here for CodeRED](#)



Find everything you need here: flaglercounty.org