

# FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER · SEPTEMBER 2024 · VOLUME 3 · ISSUE 12

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL 2024 CITIZENS' ACADEMY, SIZE LIMITED

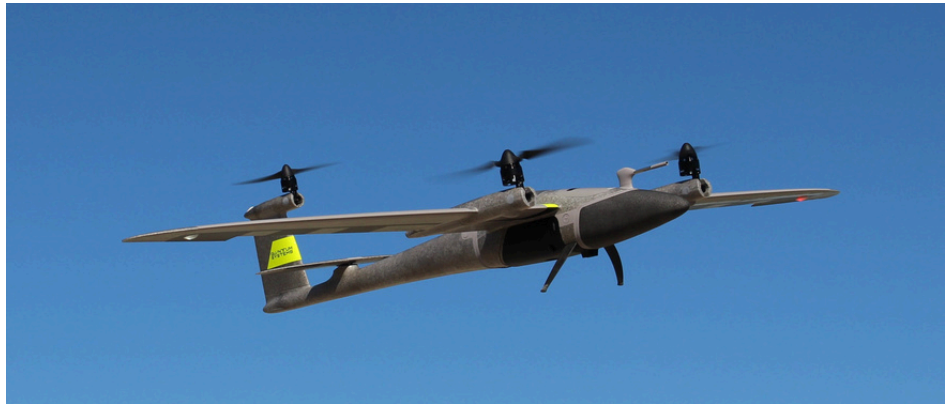
Registration is open for the upcoming Flagler County Citizens' Academy that will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning October 8, and officials invite residents to treat themselves to an educational endeavor. The course is designed to introduce participants to the day-to-day operations of county government, inclusive of its elected Constitutional Officers.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for residents to learn about the responsibilities and operations of our county departments. Classes are held at a variety of county facilities so participants experience first-hand the broad range of resources and capabilities that Flagler County provides," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "Local governments that encourage resident participation in its citizens academies are essential to foster a deeper understanding of civic responsibilities, governance, and the policymaking process."

The academy will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and it will wrap up with a 13th session – a Monday afternoon Board of County Commissioners Roundtable at 4 p.m. November 18, followed by graduation at the regular BOCC meeting that begins at 5 p.m.

To register for the academy, go to [www.FlaglerCounty.gov/Academy](http://www.FlaglerCounty.gov/Academy).

Registrants are accepted on a first come, first served basis for those who are able to attend all sessions.



## FLAGLER COUNTY AWARDED FAA 'BEYOND VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT' WAIVER THAT ENABLES LONG-RANGE DRONE FLIGHTS OF COASTLINE,

Flagler County received long-awaited word from the Federal Aviation Administration that it was awarded a "Certificate of Waiver" – effective through July 2028 – for its "small, unmanned aircraft system," or drone, operations that afford the county the ability to fly long-range monitoring missions of the coastline and other public safety monitoring missions.

"This will be huge for Flagler County, as it will allow us to really maximize the use of the new fixed wing drone for any other public safety or environmental monitoring missions we need to accomplish," said UAS Program Coordinator Bruno Luna. "We had multiple flights planned to do some post storm (Hurricane Debby) assessments, but with the new waiver granted it will only take one flight."

The UAS (drone) Program Division is significant in Flagler County and is used for a variety of essential support tasks: emergency response, infrastructure inspections, and public safety operations. Improving the efficiency and safety of the program helps reduce costs and enhances service delivery across the county.

In total, the newest drone cost \$275,000 that includes the drone itself, training, the LiDAR payload (remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances to earth), and thermal payload (essential for spotting heat signatures not visible by the naked eye). By contrast, Flagler County in the past paid for coastal LiDAR scans – per flight – to the tune of \$33,000 for an engineering consultant to fly manned aircraft and between \$22,000 and \$72,000 to contract with a drone consultant to collect this same data.

"This milestone positions us as possibly the first county government agency to achieve this status, underscoring our commitment to innovation and technological advancement," County Administrator Heidi Petito said. "This approval will enhance our capabilities in various sectors, including emergency response, infrastructure inspection, and environmental monitoring, ultimately contributing to the safety of our community, enhancing our operations and to continue delivering exceptional service to our residents."

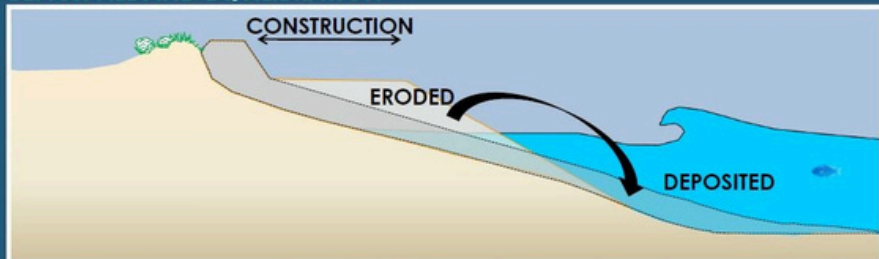
## 'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 3: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.  
SEPTEMBER 4: PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL AT 9 a.m..  
SEPTEMBER 4: BOCC BUDGER HEARING AT 5:01 p.m.  
SEPTEMBER 16: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.

### **LIVE STREAM**

[www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live](http://www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live)

### BEACH FILL AND EQUILIBRATION



Waves and currents will reshape the constructed beach fill over time to a more natural "equilibrated" shape by transporting sand from the dry beach and depositing it offshore within the active beach profile to help dissipate wave energy and provide the intended coastal storm risk management benefits. This process begins immediately after construction, with full adjustment of the beach shape typically requiring many months or multiple significant wave events.

The initial equilibration process may appear to dramatically decrease the width of the dry beach, but the beach is operating as designed. Once the beach has reached an equilibrium condition, the beach is expected to recede at a slower rate.

## NEWLY PLACED USACE SAND SERVES ITS FUNCTION TO PROTECT IMPROVED PROPERTY

Though Flagler County was spared most of the effects of Hurricane Debby, the Atlantic Ocean churned and created a scarp – or small "cliff" in the sand – as a result. The sand was in a normal process of the beach profile equilibrating (adjusting) with the wave conditions.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) de-scarped these areas as soon as wave conditions and the inclement weather subsided.

"The USACE will do post-storm surveys to see how much sand volume was removed from the template," Coastal Engineering Administrator Ansley Wren-Key said. "We just need to remember that the sand is not lost, and it just moved slightly offshore (as seen in the above graphic)."

The sand will be returned to the beach during fair weather conditions.

"As the waves are larger and more erosive along the coast, the sand will be transported slightly offshore to break the waves further away from the coastline," Wren-Key said. "It is a natural process of how the beach protects the dunes and infrastructure behind it."

## 'DO DATE' EVENTS

09/24/24

**Master Gardener Plant Clinic | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Flagler County Public Library -- Palm Coast**

2500 Palm Coast Parkway NW

Presented through a partnership with the UF Extension Office in Flagler County

## BREAKERS

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING BEGINS EVENINGS ON SEPTEMBER 24

Learn basic disaster and emergency response skills for the things likely to impact Flagler County. This includes disaster preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, and team organization – all taught through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) nationally-certified training program, which begins on September 24. It's free.

"The program is an invaluable partnership between the community and professional first responders," said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord. "CERT provides a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization. Previous experience is not necessary – just a desire to learn and help others."

Registration – which is required for this 30-hour course that meets 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Emergency Operations Center through October 24 – can be accessed by going to [www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency](http://www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency) and then selecting "Volunteering & Training" from the menu. The course concludes on October 24 with a disaster simulation and graduation.

Flagler County CERT is made possible through a partnership between Emergency Management, Fire Rescue, and the nonprofit Flagler Volunteer Services.

"It is a way to improve countywide preparedness by providing members of our community with additional knowledge and tools to get ready for and respond to emergencies and disasters," Lord said. "When our residents are trained in these basic disaster skills, it allows neighbors to help each other while our first responders are focusing on the most critical needs in a disaster."

The Autumn 2024 CERT program will educate residents about topics such as: team organization; disaster medical skills; disaster psychology; fire safety and utility controls; light search and rescue; and, terrorism.

Registration is required. Participants will receive a T-shirt and disaster kit upon completion of the program.

For more information about CERT training, select "Volunteering & Training" at [www.flaglercounty.gov/emergency](http://www.flaglercounty.gov/emergency), or for those without Internet access, call 386-313-4200 for assistance.