

FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



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STATE OF FLORIDA TWO WEEK 'SALES TAX HOLIDAY' BEGINS JUNE 1

The State of Florida is offering disaster preparedness assistance with its Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday that begins June 1, in conjunction with the Atlantic Hurricane Season, and ends on June 14.

"We want our residents to be ready for the upcoming season," said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord. "Like last year, there is a second period right before the peak of hurricane season, August 24 through September 6."

Qualifying items this year include a number pet supplies tax free, as well as generators up to \$3,000 in addition to radios, batteries, flashlights, and the like. A full list is available at the state's website: floridarevenue.com/disasterprep.

"As with food, water, and medications, we recommend having seven days' worth of supplies at the ready – not just for hurricanes, but all emergencies," Lord said. "Use this sales tax holiday to buy essentials as your first step in preparedness."

Remember to shop locally.

"Another thing we would ask residents is to do now is to sign up for emergency notifications at www.FlaglerCounty.gov/AlertFlagler," Lord said. "If you know someone with special medical needs, such as someone who requires electricity, refrigeration for medication, or oxygen – or someone who would require transportation assistance to evacuate – encourage them to enroll in our Special Needs Registry."



CONTACT CONSEQUENCES - DON'T FEED ALLIGATORS (OR OTHER WILDLIFE) IN FLAGLER COUNTY PARKS

The temptation to engage with wildlife by feeding them is real – especially for children – but the consequences for the animals, and the public, can be dire.

"Feeding wildlife can reduce their fear of humans which may result in aggression and the need for the animal to be removed or killed in order to protect public safety," according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website. "In some cases, feeding wildlife is illegal in Florida. Species with rules related to feeding include bears, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, pelicans, alligators, crocodiles, sandhill cranes, and wild monkeys."

Additionally, the Flagler County Code of Ordinances, Sec. 13-2(7) prohibits feeding wildlife on public land.

A Flagler Beach resident contacted the county after seeing a social media post of children feeding an alligator at Wadsworth Park.

"The real issue is that people feel safe on the boardwalk over the pond, but the majority of the pond is open and accessible to people walking in Wadsworth Park," said General Services Assistant Director Michael Lagasse. "People are naturally drawn to water features. We don't want them to approach the pond and end up with an unwelcome, potentially dangerous interaction."

Flagler County Parks and Recreation staff immediately installed additional alligator warning signs.

Lagasse investigated and reported that the 5-foot gator swam towards him – likely responding from "food conditioning" and probably won't leave the area on its own.

"Food conditioning is dangerous for animals because it can lead to serious consequences like getting sick, starving, or even having to be killed if they become too aggressive," according to the National Park Service website. "Animals can lose their fear of people when they get used to eating our food."

Seeing alligators at Wadsworth Park is not a one-off. The three visible reviews on [Tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com) about the park talk about alligators.

For safety reasons, the alligator was removed by a licensed trapper.

'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

JUNE 3: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.
JUNE 3: BOCC WORKSHOP AT 1 p.m.
JUNE 11: PLANNING MEETING AT 6 p.m.
JUNE 17: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.

LIVE STREAM

www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live



COUNTY RECEIVES 'DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD' FOR 15 YEARS RUNNING

Flagler County is being praised for its annual budget presentations for the past two years by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Flagler County's 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal year budgets were rated in four categories: as policy documents, as financial plans; as operations guides; and, as communications devices.

"These two awards represent the 14th and 15th straight years the county has attained this honor showing the Board of County Commissioners' steadfast commitment to not only achieving, but maintaining, excellence in governmental budgeting," said Financial Services Director John Brower. "In addition, the budget award for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, includes receiving Special Recognition for our Capital Program. The budget award for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, includes receiving Special Recognition for our Strategic Goals and Strategies. This marks the first time in our county's history that we have received these enhanced distinctions."

These awards are the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and its attainment represents a significant governmental achievement, according to the GFOA.

Brower credits staff with pulling together the award-winning document including: Office of Management and Budget Analysts Michael Catalano, Brandy Allen, and Dan Nicholas; Senior Office of Management and Budget Analyst Amanda Gilbert; Office of Management and Budget Manager Brian Eichinger; and, Audio Video Production Coordinator Carlos Hernandez.

"This award is unique in many ways," Brower said. "It deeply involves input from every department across our organization, working with the Office of Management and Budget as they create and fine tune the most important, most visible, comprehensive tool we have to offer our citizens."

'DO DATE' EVENTS

06/22/24

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

FLAGLER COUNTY TO HOST GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR ARMY CORPS PROJECT 10 A.M. JUNE 17

Flagler County will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) "Coastal Storm Risk Management Beach Nourishment Project" – more than a decade in the making – at 10 a.m. June 17 at Veterans Park in Flagler Beach.

"We are ecstatic to finally see this project getting underway," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "There is an overwhelming sense of relief for our residents and businesses that a portion of our beach and dunes will be rebuilt with 90 cubic yards of sand per foot. That is 15 times the amount of sand that has been placed for the multiple 'emergency sand' projects we have completed following several damaging storms."

The Army Corps agreed in May 2023 to expand the original 2.6-mile project between South 6th Street to South 28th Street to add two Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects that take the project northward to North 7th Street and southward into the Gamble Rogers State Park for a total 3.5 miles. This expedites restoration of a larger section of beach and dunes around the Flagler Beach Pier in a more cost-effective manner.

"The project will provide a holistic, environmentally friendly defense against future storms once it is constructed," said Coastal Engineering Administrator Ansley Wren-Key. "This project will provide a wide recreational beach for our residents and tourists that supports the local economy. Simultaneously, it will protect AIA, homes, and businesses along this section of the Flagler coastline, while increasing coastal resiliency for faster and less expensive recovery after large coastal storms."

The benefit of having a federalized Army Corps of Engineers project, which is just the original 2.6 miles, is that a completed beach project that is washed away by future hurricanes and other significant storms will be rebuilt without additional local funding, according to USACE Senior Project Manager Jason Harrah. Emergency renourishment after declared storm events is 100% federally funded for 50 years within Army Corps project areas.