

FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



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DONALD O'BRIEN

Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Chairman representing District 5, which includes the northern area of Palm Coast and mostly west of Interstate 95. He is serving his second term after initially being elected in November 2016.

BIOGRAPHICAL:

Commissioner O'Brien is Chief Financial Officer and Account Executive with Hayward Brown-Flagler, a locally owned insurance agency. He serves on the boards of the Flagler Home Builders Association, Advent Health-Palm Coast Foundation Board, and the Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties. Commissioner O'Brien is a Rotarian and a member of the Palm Coast-Flagler Regional Chamber of Commerce. In addition to his service in Flagler County, he serves on the board of the Florida Association of Counties and the Executive Committee of the Florida Small County Coalition.

OF IMPORTANCE:

"Looking forward to the evolution of the County government's leadership under Administrator Heidi Petito. Flagler County faces many challenges and opportunities tied to our rapid growth in population and housing. Mrs. Petito will be leading us in the development of a new strategic plan that will guide us over the ensuing years. I look forward to participating in the planning process, especially in the formulation of our updated mission, vision, and values. Unlike in past years, the planning process will be staff driven with the commission setting the strategic direction. I believe this is the best approach and I look forward to getting to work."



CONTRACT MAKES IT OFFICIAL: HEIDI PETITO BECOMES FLAGLER'S FIRST FEMALE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners made history at its October 18 regular meeting when they voted 4-1 to approve the contract that makes Heidi Petito the first female County Administrator since its inception 104 years ago.

Petito, who has more than 30 years of experience working in governmental administration, and more than half of those in Flagler County, has already defined priorities for the coming year. "I believe there is always a way to become more effective and efficient. For Flagler County I would like to focus on strategic planning and visioning as we transition from a small to mid-size county; on customer service and community engagement; and on employee recognition," she said.

In the past year, Petito's role has changed from Director of General Services – managing the \$23 million budget of the county's largest department with 111 employees – to interim Chief of Staff last Fall, to interim County Administrator in June.

"I have worked for Flagler County since August of 2005, and have always loved my work," Petito said. "I am extremely honored that the Board of County Commissioners has placed their trust in me to guide the work of our departments to align with their vision for Flagler County."

Petito has the support of Deputy County Administrator Jorge Salinas, who was hired at the beginning of the calendar year, filling the number two position on the organizational chart. Together, they are already taking strides to map out a Strategic Plan for the county that will focus on operations and service levels that best meet the needs of residents, business community, and visitors – with consideration of current and future growth – and which will provide a measurable guide for continuous improvement.

"Heidi Petito is keen on seeing that the county works optimally – to the highest governmental standards – for the betterment of our community," Salinas said. "She's been building relationships since day one here in Flagler, and we've got a great team that is working well together."

Petito's contract will automatically renew on October 18 each year unless given 60 days written notice by the Board of County Commissioners.

"I have always believed in the importance and benefit of giving back to your community, which is why I have always chosen to live in the community in which I work, so that I can be involved and participate in local activities and events," Petito said. "I absolutely love our community and am proud to call Flagler County home."

'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 01: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.
NOVEMBER 02: BOCC WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING 6 p.m.
NOVEMBER 09: PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT 6 p.m.
NOVEMBER 15: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.

LIVE STREAM

www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live



HOLDIT LOCKERS PROVIDE 24-HOUR ACCESS TO RESERVED LIBRARY MATERIALS

Flagler County Public Library is amping up convenience for patrons with 24/7 contactless access to reserved materials at the Palm Coast main branch with the installation of secure, electronic HoldIT lockers purchased through a state CARES grant last year.

"We are so excited that these lockers are now in place and ready for use," said Library Director Holly Albanese. "There were some supply chain delays that slowed things down, but we are thrilled to have them so we can offer this expanded service to our residents."

Using the lockers, located outside the front door under the portico, is as easy as one two three:

1. Reserve items online using the "Library Catalog" tab from the left-hand navigation menu on the Library homepage <https://www.flaglercounty.gov/departments/library>.
 - a. Choose "Palm Coast HoldIT Lockers" as the pickup location.
 - b. Notification when the items have been secured (there is a four-day deadline for retrieval).
2. At the Library, scan the library card at the locker kiosk to remove the reserved items.
3. Don't forget to close the locker when finished.

There is a video demonstration on the Library's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyPublicLibrary.

For more information, call 386-446-6763 and select option 1.

'DO DATE' EVENTS

NOVEMBER 10: WHITE TABLE CEREMONY AT 12 p.m. (noon)
Palm Coast Main Branch LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT 10 a.m.
Government Services Building FLAGPOLE

BREAKERS

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SESSION

The Flagler County Leadership Academy – now in its third session – has further extended its professional career development offerings to include additional staff of its constitutional officers and municipalities.

The 18 participants in the program include staff members from Flagler County Government, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, Flagler Schools, Tax Collector's Office, and the Supervisor of Elections' Office in addition to the cities of Palm Coast, Flagler Beach, and Bunnell.

The benefit is that participants learn strategies and practices to enhance their effectiveness, efficiency, and customer service provided to residents while strengthening partnerships across agencies.

The Flagler County Leadership Academy was honored in May with a National Association of Counties (NACo) 2021 Achievement Award.

FIRE RESCUE PINNING CEREMONY

Flagler County Fire Rescue held a "Pinning Ceremony" on November 1 for its hires since January 2020, and the promotion of three of its own to lieutenant.

"As firefighters we are called to be the people who stand in the gap for others when they themselves cannot," said Fire Chief Michael Tucker. "Today is the day that we officially recognize them as being part of this noble profession and the Flagler County Fire Rescue family."

Hires: Tyler Allesee, Xavier Awe, Breonna Banks, Ryan Bowling, Adrian Brands, Kevin Brunelle, Charles Cook, Joseph Davis, Nathan Edwards, Christopher Ellis, Ethan Epperson, Tracy Farmer, Michael Ginn, Christopher Gonzalez, Jaevon Jones, Nathaniel Karr, Jerod Krueger, Christopher Largent, Daniel Ledesma, Manuel Matute, Logan Phipps, Conlan Pottinger, Joshua Puttick, Jimmy Sanchez, Jaden Sellers, Dominick Senatrot, Carson Sloan, and Roberto Zerbino.

Promotions: Lt. Jake Gonzalez, Lt. Jon Moscowitz, and Lt. Dylan Pontorno.