

# FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER · JANUARY 2022 · ISSUE 4 · VOLUME 1

## GREG HANSEN



Greg Hansen represents District 2 in northeast Flagler County – including the Hammock and areas bounded by Interstate 95 and the ocean, and north of Beverly Beach to the upper county line. He was recently appointed Vice Chair of the County Commission by his colleagues. Hansen was elected to his current term in office by the community in November 2018, after being appointed in January 2017 by then Governor Rick Scott as a successor to the vacated seat.

### BIOGRAPHICAL:

Commissioner Hansen is a retired U.S. Navy captain of 27 years, who commanded two warships and served as Congressional Liaison for the Secretary of the Navy. He earned his master's degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. He spent 11 years as a government relations administrator in the Washington D.C. area following his 1996 retirement from the Navy. Hansen serves on several committees including the Small County Coalition, Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byways and the subgroup PRIDE.

### OF IMPORTANCE:

"Fixing the entire 18 miles of beach and protective dunes in Flagler County is critical. There are two easements that are stalling the beginning of the Army Corps of Engineers project in Flagler Beach, which is key for the rest of the beach. Once that has commenced, we can start getting all of the remaining easements so we are ready when we get the Beach Management Plan together. The second phase is already planned and funded. We need to get firmly started on the northern 12 miles of beach in 2022."

Flagler County partnering with...



## JANUARY 11 RIBBON-CUTTING COMMEMORATES LONG AWAITED BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CENTER: FLAGLER ACCESS CENTER

Flagler County and its partners SMA Healthcare and Flagler Health+ are hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Flagler Access Center, which will provide an open door for education, screening, and connection to behavioral healthcare services in the area. The event will be held at 10 a.m. January 11, 2022.

"We are thrilled to be a partner in this initiative that will provide a connection for behavioral healthcare services for the citizens of Flagler County," said SMA Healthcare CEO Ivan Cosimi. "We have been looking for ways to expand our scope of services in the county, and we are confident this partnership will allow us to do just that."

Flagler County officials were notified in June that the state would fund its top legislative priority: \$245,000 to create a mental health access point. The Board of County Commissioners pledged to bolster the funding by \$300,000 with money made available by the federal government through the American Rescue Plan.

"Addressing behavioral health issues – including drug abuse and the suicide rate – have been a priority," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "This initial funding is allowing us and our private-provider partners to operate this new center without immediate concerns about grant writing or fundraising. This is a big first step to meeting our goals for the community."

All Flagler County residents are eligible to receive services from the Flagler Access Center. Individuals who come to the center will be screened and connected to appropriate services.

"Flagler County has been advocating for a project of this nature, and has stepped up to provide a convenient location for access to these much-needed services," Cosimi said, noting that SMA Healthcare will provide walk-in screenings, crisis response, care coordination, and linkage to the federal housing effort known as PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) immediately at this new location. "Flagler Health+ will provide services for its 'Be Resilient and Voice Emotions' (BRAVE) program, which encourages youth to engage with mental health services early on in their life."

The center will also utilize other social service providers within the county to provide a continuum of care.

A second phase of services will eventually be offered at the Flagler Access Center once licensure for the new facility has been obtained.

Those services – currently being provided at the SMA Healthcare facility on Justice Lane – include mental health therapy and substance use disorder therapy. Services for both are provided through individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, individualized treatment plans, and treatment plan reviews.

"This is an important milestone for Flagler County," Petito said. "This will allow us to better serve everyone in the community."

## 'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

JANUARY 10: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.  
JANUARY 11: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT 6 p.m.  
JANUARY 26: TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AT 9 a.m.  
FEBRUARY 7: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.

### LIVE STREAM

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



## FLAGLER COUNTY CHERISHES ITS SENIORS THROUGH HEALTH-GIVING SERVICES

Flagler County cherishes its seniors, quite literally, through the nourishing services provided through the Senior Services division. These services include congregate meals (at both the Senior Center and as part of Adult Day Care), Meals on Wheels, and the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank's Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is the newest of the programs that strive to meet seniors' nutritional needs. The Board of County Commissioners in 2017 entered into an agreement with the food bank to provide a commodities food delivery once a month to eligible Flagler County seniors. The program has grown to about 100 deliveries per month – about one ton of food products.

"We interview and qualify seniors' eligibility based on income and family size. We also maintain a fluid waitlist so deliveries move as quickly as vacancies occur," said Senior Services Program Manager Joanne Hinkel. "The food arrives in bulk and a crew of staff and volunteers immediately sort and prep delivery-ready packaging so there are same-day deliveries throughout the county."

Individual deliveries include: canned or bottled fruits and juices; canned vegetables; instant and ultra-pasteurized milk; canned meat, poultry and fish; plant-based protein; cereal; pasta and rice; and, cheese.

"The program provided added relief during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic because the deliveries continued with no need for worry or concern," Hinkel said. "Commodities would be on their way."

## 'DO DATE' EVENTS

01/28/22: MOAS LECTURE SERIES (2 p.m.)  
Florida history via Harper's Weekly Illustrations  
Palm Coast Main Branch LIBRARY  
2500 Palm Coast Parkway Northwest  
[www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyPublicLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyPublicLibrary)

## BREAKERS

### DEPUTY CHIEF PERCY SAYLES

Central Florida native Percy Sayles was recently named Deputy Chief for Fire Rescue and one thing stands out to him. Namely, Flagler County has a lot of "informal leaders" within the ranks who aren't afraid to jump in and figure out solutions.

This can-do attitude will help him meet one of his top goals, which is to ensure that all Fire Rescue staff members have ample opportunity to develop to their full potential.

"No one around here needs a title," said Sayles. "It's great. Everyone just does what needs to be done. There are many here who are hungry for leadership and professional development." Sayles – who has a bachelor's degree in Nursing and a master's degree in Public Administration in addition to his many fire credentials – worked for the City of Tamarac in South Florida from 1995 until November 19 (2021).

"His experience is stellar," said Fire Rescue Chief Mike Tucker. "He did a lot within the Tamarac Fire Rescue that added quality to the department for the good of the staff and the residents. I am thrilled that he chose to come to Flagler County."

### CERT TRAINING BEGINS IN JANUARY

Learn basic disaster and emergency response skills – such as disaster preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, and team organization – through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) nationally certified training program, which begins on January 19, 2022.

"The program as an important partnership between the community and professional first responders," said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord. "CERT allows our residents to train with subject matter experts."

Pre-registration is required for this 30-hour course that meets 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Emergency Operations Center through February 3. Registration details can be accessed at [www.flaglercounty.gov/emergency](http://www.flaglercounty.gov/emergency) and select "Volunteering and Training" from the menu.