

# FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



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## WHAT WE DO:

Flagler County's administrative departments are operated under the purview of the County Administrator and include: Airport, Building, Community Services, Economic Development, Emergency Services, Engineering, Financial Services, Fire Rescue, General Services, Growth Management, Human Resources, Innovative Technology, Land Management, Library, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Social Services, Tourism, Transportation, and Veterans Services.

**More than two dozen unique services, i.e. not provided by its municipalities, support its residents and visitors.**

### The list includes:

911 Dispatch; Community Paramedicine; Countywide Ambulance; FireFlight Helicopter for wildfire suppression and Emergency Services support; Senior Center and Congregate Dining; Meals on Wheels; Adult Day Care; Indigent Health Care and Burial; Public Transportation; Library; Community Centers; Agricultural Extension Service; Housing Assistance Programs; Veterans Services; Airport; Tourism; Economic Development; Emergency Management; and 800 Megahertz Radio System for Emergency Services Communications.

### Funding includes:

Justice Center; Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller; County Jail; Tax Collector; Property Appraiser; Sheriff's Office; and Supervisor of Elections.



## FLAGLER COUNTY FIRE RESCUE LIEUTENANT CREATES SENSORY BOXES TO COMFORT SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS DURING CALLS FOR SERVICE

It was the personal experience of dealing with the special needs of his 4-year-old daughter that inspired Flagler County Fire Rescue Lt. Jon Moscovitz to create sensory boxes to comfort special needs patients during medical calls, which also helps them connect and communicate with paramedics. Every Flagler County emergency vehicle is now equipped with "Brookie Sensory Boxes," named for his daughter Brooklynn.

"It is my dream to have every fire department equipped with 'Brookie Sensory Boxes,' and potentially available to all school resource deputies as well," Moscovitz said. "My daughter may go several places with me or other family members, but no matter where she is, she is always in a firefighter's care, should the situation arise. I want first responders to know how to comfort and communicate with her if the need is ever there."

Moscovitz, along with his wife Cherish, created their Brookie Sensory Boxes with items touted for their ability to engage all five senses and limit sensory overload. Their inclusion on all rescue vehicles means that they are available for all patients who have a sensory processing disorder.

Each box includes toys and objects, such as touch-and-feel books, plush toys, fidget toys, and hearing protection. Boxes also contain dry-erase boards with markers to allow communication for those who are non-verbal.

Autism – a neurodevelopment disorder that causes a wide range of impairments in communication and restrictive and repetitive behaviors – is one common sensory processing disorder. April is "Autism Awareness Month," designated to raise awareness, acceptance, appreciation, and understanding of the disorder.

Autism affects one in 44 children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Florida Department of Education reports that statewide 47,667 children (kindergarten through 12th grade), are reported to have sensory processing disorders.

"This is a wonderful tool for our units to carry to assist children and adults who are having a hard time communicating," said Fire Rescue Chief Michael Tucker. "These boxes provide comfort items in a time of distress."

Those interested in assisting Moscovitz and his wife, or sponsoring a box, should contact them at [brookiesensoryboxes@gmail.com](mailto:brookiesensoryboxes@gmail.com).

## 'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

APRIL 4: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.  
APRIL 12: BOCC STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING AT 1 p.m.  
APRIL 18: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT 6 p.m.  
MAY 2: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.

### LIVE STREAM

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



## FIREFLIGHT TEAM RESCUES FOUR FROM PELLICER CREEK AS DAYLIGHT FADES

Daylight was waning, and a thunderstorm was fast-approaching when Flagler County's FireFlight helicopter was called into action to rescue four boaters from Pellicer Creek, including two in their 80s.

FireFlight in March was dispatched to help locate the boaters in distress, stuck in shallow water. Pilot Todd Whaley and Flight Medic Frank Mesta located the vessel, made contact with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer sent to assist in the Intracoastal Waterway, and guided an employee from the boat rental company (also struggling in the shallow water) to the location of the distressed boaters.

"Multiple factors came into play at this time: the sun would be setting within 30 minutes; there was a rapidly approaching thunderstorm front from the west; two of the elderly occupants of the vessel were in their 80s; and, the time delay for a requested airboat from St. Johns County was undetermined," Whaley said. "We (Whaley and Mesta) were in agreement that a helicopter evacuation would be the quickest and safest action to get the occupants to a safe location."

It took three trips to transport the four boaters to the accessible field.

"We first transported the two in their 80s, one at a time, secured appropriately on the med(ical) deck," Whaley said. "With rain and diminishing visibility and darkness rapidly approaching, I directed Flight Medic Mesta to assess the agility of the two remaining victims. We were able to airlift them together."

Mesta determined that further medical rescue was not required.

## 'DO DATE' EVENTS

04/08/22: COOKING SERIES w/ CHEF WARREN (3 p.m.)  
**Cajun and Creole Cuisine**  
Palm Coast Main Branch LIBRARY  
2500 Palm Coast Parkway Northwest  
[www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyPublicLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyPublicLibrary)

## BREAKERS

### CERT TRAINING BEGINS APRIL 25

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 April 25. It's free.

"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. 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 Mondays and Wednesdays at the Emergency Operations Center through May 25 – can be completed at [www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency](http://www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency) and then selecting "Volunteering and Training" from the menu.

Flagler County's program is provided through a partnership between the Emergency Management, Fire Rescue, and Flagler Volunteer Services.

For more information, go to [www.flaglercounty.gov/emergency](http://www.flaglercounty.gov/emergency) and select "Volunteering and Training" from the menu, or for those without Internet access, call 386-313-4200.

### ENHANCED MOSQUITO MONITORING

New arrangements with the East Flagler Mosquito Control District bring year-round monitoring to the communities of Espanola and Rima Ridge, enhancing the services provided to the residents that live there.

"Monitoring these traps provides data that will allow Mosquito Control to more proactively control mosquito populations for the comfort of our residents," said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord, who serves as the county's liaison with the district since the Summer of 2021.

Technologically advanced cameras utilize artificial intelligence to count the mosquitos collected by the traps. This information is recorded in real time 24 hours a day.

Contact [ww.flaglermosquito.com](http://ww.flaglermosquito.com) or 386-437-0002 for mosquito