

FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



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SERVING FLAGLER COUNTY VETERANS



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INTENTIONAL OUTDOOR RELEASE OF BALLOONS, SKY LANTERNS BANNED IN FLAGLER COUNTY

It's now local law that anyone who intentionally releases, or organizes the release of, balloons or sky lanterns into the atmosphere is in violation of the Flagler County Code of Ordinances.

The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting unanimously approved amending its ordinance to make it unlawful to release even a single balloon outdoors.

"It doesn't prohibit balloons; it doesn't prohibit celebrations with balloons, indoors or even outdoors," said Flagler County Assistant County Attorney Ronni Moore. "It does prohibit the intentional release of a balloon outdoors."

Moore stressed that even the balloon consortium of manufacturers do not approve of releasing balloons outdoors into the environment.

Flagler County's amended balloon ordinance is more restrictive than Florida Statutes, which prohibit an individual from releasing 10 or more balloons within a 24-hour period as part of state efforts "to protect Florida's beauty, environment, and economy."

Moore said there are bills currently in the Florida House and Senate to amend the state statute by removing the words "10 or more."

"Even a single balloon can wreak havoc in the environment, especially of the creatures that may ingest it," she said.

Flagler County will enforce the ordinance in the same manner as other littering issues, which is a civil citation with a fine of up to \$500.



Within days of the ordinance amendment going into effect in April, Public Lands & Natural Resources Manager Michael Lagasse found mylar balloon remnants in the woods, miles from the nearest roadway.

CITY OF PALM COAST
8 a.m. Heroes Memorial Park
2860 Palm Coast Parkway NW

FLAGLER COUNTY
10 a.m. Government Services Building
1769 E. Moody Boulevard

CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH
1 p.m. Veterans Park
105 S. 2nd Street

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

MEMORIAL DAY

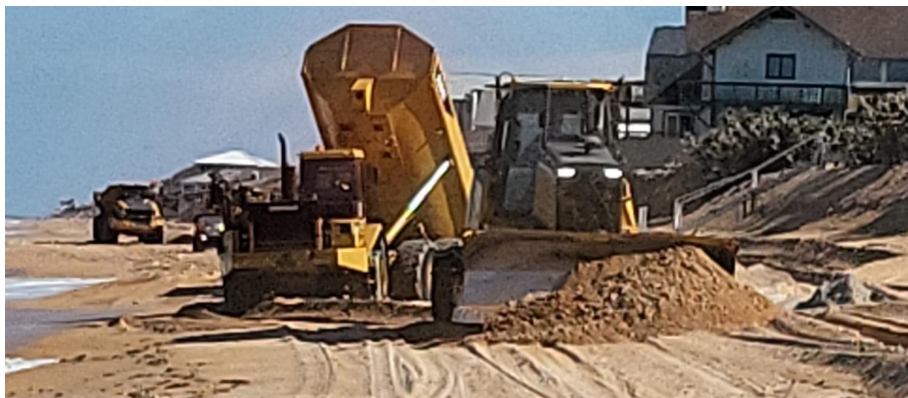


'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

MAY 1: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.
MAY 9: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT 6 p.m.
MAY 15: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.
JUNE 5: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.

LIVE STREAM

www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live



NEXT 10 WEEKS OF DUNE RESTORATION TO EXTEND FROM BEVERLY BEACH TO VARN PARK

Dune restoration work for the next 10 weeks – weather permitting – will extend from Beverly Beach to Varn Park as part of Flagler County's ongoing emergency sand operations.

"The contractor is staging operations from Varn Park, but the work they will be conducting will start at the southern project end and progress north," said County Engineer Faith Alkhatib. "There will be a steady stream of dump trucks and heavy equipment in the park, so the park is closed to allow us to keep the job site as safe as possible."

Beachgoers are asked to be particularly cautious in that roughly 2.6-mile area when trucks are in the area moving and shaping sand.

Beachfront residents are asked to remove debris – large and small – from in front of their properties.

"We are not allowed to cover large debris," Alkhatib said. "Additionally, in order to avoid any damage to private walkovers, the contractor will be placing sand next to any that appear to be unstable. Property owners will be allowed to spread and grade the sand underneath and around the walkover and stairs."

Alkhatib noted that this project is for emergency sand only, and that the Engineering Department is working on a larger dune and beach restoration project that will be designed and permitted to rebuild the beach and dune in the future.

'DO DATE' EVENTS

05/05/23: Flagler Spring Fling Outreach (1 to 4 p.m.)
FREE food & haircuts - social services providers
Cattleman's Hall at the Flagler County Fairgrounds
150 Sawgrass Road, Bunnell (off County Road 13)
www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyGovernment

BREAKERS

FLAGLER, TPO RECEIVE \$320K GRANT

Flagler County and its grant application partners, River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization and Volusia County, will receive \$320,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Safe Streets & Roads for All" program that is funded by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure law.

"It is very important for Flagler County to work together with these regional partners to develop a 'Comprehensive Safety Action Plan' for implementation through future Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation grants," said County Engineer Faith Alkhatib.

The local funding match for Flagler is \$20,000 – 25% of the total local match. Volusia County will contribute the other \$60,000.

"A single fatal crash is one too many," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "Safer roads benefit everyone – from drivers to cyclists, pedestrians to public transit users. This opportunity ensures that no one is left behind in our efforts to build a transportation system that prioritizes safety and accessibility."

Flagler County had 93 fatal crashes between 2016 and 2020, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Motor Vehicle Crash Data Querying and Reporting.

RELIEF AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS WITH A 'HOME ENERGY CRISIS'

Assistance is available for Flagler County seniors experiencing a "home energy crisis" through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program.

Eligibility is determined by gross household income, family size and one member of the household must be 60 years old or older. Senior applicants must be a citizen of the United States, or a permanent legal resident who is eligible for federal benefits. Household eligibility may be considered when at least one member meets the citizenship/alienage requirements.

A home energy emergency may result from a delinquent utility bill, lack of fuel, or the receipt of a shut off notice.

For more information and or to apply for benefits, call Flagler County Social Services Senior Services Division at 386-586-2324, ext. 3623.