

FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



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REGISTER NOW FOR 2024 CITIZENS ACADEMY

Flagler County invites residents to participate in its upcoming Citizens Academy that will be held on Wednesday mornings beginning January 31. The course is designed to introduce participants to the day-to-day operations of all aspects of Flagler County government.

“Supporting and encouraging resident participation in a citizens academy for local government is essential for a deeper understanding of civic responsibilities, governance structures, and the policymaking process,” said County Administrator Heidi Petito. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for residents to learn about the responsibilities and operations of our departments and because the classes are held at a variety of facilities, participants experience first-hand the broad range of resources and capabilities that Flagler County provides.”

The academy will be held on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and it will wrap up with an 11th session – a Monday afternoon BOCC Roundtable at 4 p.m. April 15, followed by graduation at the regular BOCC meeting that begins at 5 p.m.

“By actively involving residents in educational initiatives, we empower them to contribute meaningfully to their community, making informed decisions that positively impact the local landscape,” Petito said. “This academy provides a platform for citizens to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of local government.”

For information and to register, go to www.FlaglerCounty.gov/Academy.



DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER ANDY DANCE VOTED BOCC CHAIR, DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER LEANN PENNINGTON VOTED VICE CHAIR

The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners at its last regular meeting voted for District 1 Commissioner Andy Dance to the position of chair and District 4 Commissioner Leann Pennington to serve as vice chair.

Pennington was elected in 2022 for a term that ends in 2026. Dance has served on the Board of County Commissioners for three years in a term that ends in 2024.

The chair presides over board meetings, signs legal documents, and appoints commissioners to various committees. The chair is the official representative of the board and retains a vote (one of five equal votes) on all items and issues.

Dance represents District 1 that is located within Palm Coast and includes the “E” section, “R” section, parts of the “W” section and Town Center. Dance currently has five committee assignments where he serves as the designee, as well as five committees where he serves as alternate. He serves on the following committees: Canvassing Board; Early Learning Coalition of Flagler & Volusia County (Governor appointee); Family Life Center; Flagler County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee; School Planning Oversight Committee; and, as an alternate for the Flagler County Tourist Development Council; George Washington Carver Center Governance Board; Northeast Florida Regional Council; River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization; and, the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board.

Pennington is the newest member of the Board of County Commissioners and represents District 4, which includes the City of Bunnell and the areas west of U.S. 1. Pennington serves on five committees: Department of Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Council; Flagler County Cultural Council; George Washington Carver Center Governance Board; Heritage Crossroads Committee; and the Value Adjustment Board. She also serves as an alternate on three committees: Department of Juvenile Justice Council; Family Life Center; and the Workforce Development Board of Flagler and Volusia County.

New committee assignments will be made Monday, December 4.

'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

DECEMBER 4: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.
DECEMBER 12: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT 6 p.m.
DECEMBER 18: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.
JANUARY 8: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.

LIVE STREAM

www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live

LOCAL FLAGLER COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHER LORI VETTER BOWERS WINS SPOT ON FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (FAC) 2024 CALENDAR

Flagler County will be featured in the Florida Association of Counties 2024 calendar "Skylines of the Sunshine State" for the month of November with a stunning image of the canals in Palm Coast that was shot by Lori Vetter Bowers, a member of the Flagler Beach Photography Club.

Dozens of photographers, both amateur and professional, provided photographers to Flagler County for the contest, all of which were submitted.

"There are many talented photographers here in Flagler County, and we appreciate their willingness and effort to help us showcase the county," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "Congratulations to Lori Vetter Bowers. Your lovely photograph shows the beauty of the City of Palm Coast."



More than 580 photos were submitted to the FAC from 52 counties, though the contest was open to all 67 Florida counties. The winners were announced on November 17 during the FAC's Legislative Conference that was held in Hillsborough County.

"We decided to showcase the skylines of Florida counties because it highlights the beauty and diversity from the most rural to the most urban areas," said Bill Truex, FAC President and Charlotte County Commissioner. "Among the 580 submissions, ranging from downtown cityscapes to historical landmarks, the selection of the 15 counties featured in this publication was not easy, but highlights the incredible variety Florida's counties have to offer."

View winning pictures at <https://www.fl-counties.com/2023-24-calendar/>.

'DO DATE' EVENTS

12/12/23

Holiday Family Movie Night | 4:30 p.m.

Flagler County Public Library -- Palm Coast

The Muppets rendition of Charles Dickens's tale
Popcorn and refreshments provided
2500 Palm Coast Parkway NW, Palm Coast

BREAKERS

FLAGLER BOCC APPROVES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH CAPTAINS BBQ

The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners approved a landmark settlement agreement with Captain's BBQ that paves the way for the construction of a new restaurant within the county's scenic Bings Landing Park. The settlement agreement also assures stakeholders – which includes the public, employees, customers, and investors – that a master plan for this legacy property that fosters an environment conducive for sustained growth and prosperity for the future of Flagler County.

"After months of negotiations, both parties reached a consensus that not only resolves the legal disputes but also fosters collaboration to enhance the community's recreational and dining experience," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "Through the intricate dance of negotiating, we found harmony in compromise and turned the page on a chapter that once held uncertainty."

Key elements of the settlement include the allocation of a designated space within Bings Landing for the construction of a state-of-the-art Captain's BBQ restaurant that will include design elements of coastal Old Florida architecture. This development is anticipated to contribute positively to the local economy, create job opportunities, and become a focal point for residents and visitors alike. It represents a cooperative effort between Flagler County and Captain's BBQ to address and resolve the issues that have arisen during their dispute.

"This settlement reflects our commitment to fostering partnerships that benefit the community as a whole," said then Commission Chair Greg Hansen. "We believe that Captain's BBQ, a beloved establishment in our community, can play a pivotal role in enhancing the recreational offerings at Bings Landing while contributing to the overall vibrancy of our county."

The owners of Captain's BBQ, through their attorney Jay Livingston, before the meeting thanked Petito and her staff for their efforts in negotiating the settlement and said they look forward to working with the county to enhance the Bings Landing experience for its customers and all of the residents of Flagler County.