

Rental fire truck ensures uninterrupted service



The Palatka Fire Department has a new white truck temporarily. The department received a rental tower fire truck after the department's tower was damaged while being serviced in Ocala. The truck was hit by a vehicle and received more than \$90,000 in damage.

The cost of the rental is being covered by insurance, ensuring uninterrupted service for the Palatka.

The department wasted no time in putting the rental to use. On the day of delivery, the tower truck responded to a fire at the Georgia Pacific paper mill, demonstrating its immediate value to the department and the community it serves.

While repairs to the original tower truck continue, the department is happy to have the tower, ensuring that public safety remains their top priority.



Mary Jean Batts Honored as Unsung Hero



Mary Jean Batts and Commissioner Will Jones

At the last City Commission meeting, Mary Jean Batts was recognized with the City's Unsung Hero Award for her unwavering dedication and service spanning decades to Palatka.

Nominated by Commissioner Will Jones, Batts has a long history of service to the City and community.

The daughter of the late Myrtice L. Davis and Wilbert McCoy Sr., Batts is a pillar of strength in her family and beyond.

As the fifth oldest among 12 siblings, a mother of two daughters, and a grandmother of seven, Batts' nurturing spirit extends far beyond her immediate family. At Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, where she is an active member, she serves as the President of the Usher's Ministry and co-leader of the Food Service Ministry.

Her commitment to community outreach is evident through her coordination of numerous food drives, including aid sent to Haiti.

Batts' impact transcends the church walls.

She has a rich history of community involvement, from owning My Place Cafe to her roles within the Putnam County School Board District.

Recognized as a team player and awarded "Associate of the Year" multiple times, her dedication to

education and youth empowerment shines through.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Batts remains deeply engaged in community organizations, including the Crescent City Women's Civic Association and the Putnam County Anti-Drug Coalition.

Her commitment to uplifting others earned her recognition from various groups, including the Putnam County Anti-Drug Coalition and Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Pi Eta Omega Chapter.

But Batts' service isn't confined to formal roles. She actively participates in initiatives like the Youth Training program in Hawthorne, delivering food to the sick and shut-in around Putnam County.

Her compassion extends to ensuring the well-being of her brother and providing assistance to individuals in need, offering rides to doctor appointments and ensuring they have access to necessities.

Through it all, Batts' faith remains central. She shares her favorite quote with her grandchildren, reminding them to prioritize faith and perseverance in all they do.

Mary Jean Batts exemplifies the essence of community service, embodying the spirit of compassion, generosity, and resilience and is a true Unsung Hero.

City of Palatka Students of the Month



Congratulations to the City of Palatka's Students of the Month for February. The students were recognized at the City's commission meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22.

Fayelee Wise, Hillcrest Academy
Ar'Terrian Godfrey, Palatka High School
Logan Carmichael, Browning-Pearce Elementary School
Naomi Solana, Children's Reading Center Charter School
Ilee McGibbon, Hillcrest Academy
Ta'Niah Colay, James A. Long Elementary School
Laken McKinney, Kelley Smith Elementary School

A'nylgia Davis, Mellon Learning Center Pre – K
Mia Norris, Mellon Learning Center K-12
Juelz Norris, Moseley Elementary School
Zaminion Thomas, Palatka High School
Alyssa David, Putnam Academy of Arts & Sciences
Shanley Jenkins, Peniel Baptist Academy

Palatka Business Networking Event

Staff members for the City of Palatka Community Affairs and Planning Departments, the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, TD Bank, Capital City Bank, Ameris Bank, and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) came together for a networking event aimed at discussing business opportunities in the Community Redevelopment Agency's Business District at an event held last week at the Azalea City Brewery in Palatka.

The event aimed to increase awareness of the CRA, attract new businesses, retain existing ones, foster relationships and support between businesses, city officials, and departments, and enhance networking opportunities for small businesses.

Speakers at the event included Rick Paul, University of North Florida's Small Business Development Center business consultant, Palatka Mayor Robbi Correa, and Palatka Assistant City Manager Jonathan Griffith.

For more information on the Small Business Development Center, visit www.unf.edu/SBDC.



Mayor Robbi Correa speaks at networking event aimed at discussing business opportunities



Planning for the future of Palatka

Last Tuesday, the City of Palatka invited residents who cared about the community to come together in the Ravine Gardens State Park's Roy. E. Campbell Civic Center for the second public forum to discuss the future of Palatka. The event, which was held by the City of Palatka and the Northeast Florida Regional Council, was a chance for people to give input into what they would like their city to look like in 10 to 20 years. Citizen input was part of the effort to write the City of Palatka Comprehensive Plan for 2045.

"The Northeast Florida Regional Council was thrilled with the amount of community support and input at the Stakeholder Committee Workshop last Tuesday," said Monica Dominguez, Economic Development Program Manager.

To take the Palatka Vision Plan Survey online visit www.palatka-fl.gov/survey.

The next in this series of meetings will be Thursday, March 7, at 5:30 p.m. on the St. Johns River State College's Palatka campus.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Make a Difference Volunteers needed for City of Palatka Advisory Boards

The City of Palatka has the following vacancies on Advisory Boards

- Police Officers' Pension Board - 1 vacancy
- Firefighters' Pension Board - 1 vacancy
- Putnam County Library Board - 1 City appointment
- Putnam County Better Place Plan Oversight Committee - 1 City appointment
- Zoning Board of Appeals - 3 vacancies
- Planning Board - 2 vacancies
- Palatka Gas Authority - 2 upcoming vacancies

For more information or to apply please visit Palatka-fl.gov, call (386) 329-0100 or follow the QR code below



Be Part of Positive Change for Palatka!

CITY of *Palatka*
FLORIDA

Players under 18 years old must have signed parent permission form.

ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL

FRIDAY
NIGHT
LIGHTS

FLAG FOOTBALL



7 VS 7
UP TO 10 PLAYERS

6 GAME SEASON PLUS CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON STARTS 3/15/24
CONTACT CITY OF PALATKA
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
386-329-0100 EXT323

REGISTRATION
\$30 PER PLAYER

Registration ends March 1st

League begins March 15th

Register online or at the Community
Affairs office, located at 1100 N 19th
Street.
386-329-010 ext323



Join Our Team - Career Opportunities

The City of Palatka has job openings available for the following positions. If you are interested in any of the following roles, please consider applying:

Community Affairs Administrative Assistant

Under the direction of the Operations Manager coordinates and performs a variety of skilled administrative functions; answers, screens and directs incoming calls to appropriate departments; opens, dispatches, and closes out work orders; provides administrative support to personnel; updates and maintains records and files; orders supplies and uniforms; responds to inquiries and complaints; and performs other related duties as assigned.

Aviation Administrative Assistant

This is a part-time position which provides direct support to the daily operation of Palatka Municipal Airport through customer service and operations assistance. The primary responsibilities include supporting the Administrative/Operations Assistant in maintaining administrative records to ensure operational and financial requirements of the airport are met.

Aviation Operations Assistant

This is a full time position in support of the daily administration and operation of Palatka Municipal Airport providing customer service and administrative assistance.

Water Plant Superintendent

This position oversees the day-to-day operations of the City's Water Treatment Plant

Firefighter:

We are seeking dedicated firefighters to join the City of Palatka's Fire Department and contribute to the safety and well-being of the community.

Police Officer:

Join the Palatka Police Department as an officer and play a crucial role in maintaining law and order within the city.

Facilities Superintendent

This is a full-time position that reports to the Public Works Operations Manager. This position performs by providing general direction, organization, monitoring, and supervision to facility maintenance operations; performs a variety of technical tasks relative to facility maintenance; provides technical assistance to the Public Works Operations Manager. Duties may fall into a variety of trades, including carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, energy management, life safety and keys/security systems.

Facilities Laborer

The Facilities Maintenance Assistant performs a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled tasks to maintain the City's

portfolio of facilities, grounds and infrastructure in a safe and effective working condition

Utility Maintenance Worker-Trainee:

This position involves semi-skilled work in constructing, installing, maintaining, and repairing water mains, water services, fire hydrants, sewer mains, sewer laterals, manholes, force mains, and valves.

Grants Administrator

This highly responsible position plans, organizes, and manages grants, programs, and special projects; initiates and manages procurement compliance for the City, particularly for larger projects and initiatives; assists management staff (i.e. City Manager, Finance Director, General Services Director) with implementation of the capital improvement program and strategic planning efforts for the City.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Mechanic Trainee

Under general supervision, performs skilled and semi-skilled work in the installation, maintenance, and repair of plant and/or lift station equipment and electronic components. Provides leadership and limited supervision of junior personnel.

For more information or to apply for any of these positions, please visit Palatka-fl.gov.



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to City of Palatka Clerk Sunni Krantz for being chosen as the City's employee of the month for February. Sunni was nominated by City Attorney Jane West, who calls her the most fiercely loyal person to this City that she has ever met and for helping every new members of the City staff when they start with the City.



Palatka Clerk Sunni Krantz

New City Employees in February



Bryce Ellis
Fleet Mechanic



Ben Parrish
Facilities



Wallace Tripp
Sanitation



Lorenzo Aghemo,
City Planner



Kierra Kaymore
Records Clerk



Cody Bockheim
Community Affairs