

A busy weekend in Palatka



The 75th anniversary Florida Azalea Festival on St. Johns Avenue in Palatka on Saturday

Palatka saw a flurry of activity over the weekend as residents and visitors came to the city for days of events, including the 75th Florida Azalea Festival, an antique car show, and a bass fishing tournament on the St. Johns River.

The weekend started with a reception hosted by Palatka Mayor Robbi Correa at City's the Larimer Arts Center.

The Florida Azalea Festival, celebrating its 75th anniversary, showcased the city's vibrant floral heritage

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The Azalea Region Antique Car Club of America's car show in Palatka's Riverfront Park.



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with stunning displays of azaleas in full bloom. Visitors were treated to activities including live music, arts and crafts vendors, delicious food offerings, and guided tours of the city's historic district. The festival, which ran from Saturday to Sunday, attracted large crowds from across the state, cementing its status as one of Palatka's premier annual events.

Meanwhile, automobile enthusiasts reveled in the sights and sounds of the antique car show held in the City's Riverfront Park. Classic cars spanning decades of automotive history lined the river bank, drawing admirers who marveled at the pristine condition and timeless beauty of these vintage vehicles. The Azalea Region Antique Car Club of America held the event.

Adding to the weekend's excitement was the Florida Bass National tournament, which took place on the waters of the St. Johns River. More than a hundred boats from across the region competed for top honors, showcasing their angling skills as they navigated the river in search of the biggest catch. The tournament not only provided a platform for anglers to showcase their talent but also highlighted the importance of conservation efforts in preserving the natural beauty

of the St. Johns River.

As the weekend came to a close, organizers and attendees alike reflected on the success of the events and looked forward to future celebrations in the charming city of Palatka. With its rich cultural heritage and picturesque surroundings, Palatka continues to be a destination of choice for those seeking unforgettable experiences and cherished memories.



Palatka Mayor Robbi Correa, left, addresses the crowd Friday at the annual Mayor's Reception while City Manager Troy Bell, center, and Commissioner Justin Campbell listen.

Meet the Manager

New Palatka City manager Troy Bell had a busy few weeks as he works to get to know the residents of Palatka. Bell's Get to Know tour included stops at local radio stations HOPE FM and WIYD and spending Saturday and Sunday at the Azalea Festival. If you would like to meet Bell, he can be reached at (386) 329-0100 or at TBell@palatka-fl.gov.



City Manager Troy Bell is interviewed by WIYD's Marcia Lane and Susan Player.



City Manager Troy Bell is interviewed by HOPE FM's Robin Robinson.



City Manager Troy Bell, right, stands with Palatka Police Officers Sgt. David Lazo, Ofc. Fallon Gentry, Det. Makewzie Kesner and Lt. DJ Johnson during the Azelea Festival.

Visit www.palatka-fl.gov/bell for more information about Troy Bell

St. Johns Avenue



Downtown Palatka, Inc. president Sam Deputy takes to fellow downtown business owners at the organization's welcome center, 900 St. Johns Ave., during a meeting last week with City Manager Troy Bell and staff to discuss the City and County's project to resurface St. Johns Avenue. The City will be scheduling a public meeting to discuss the project in the coming weeks. More information on St. Johns Avenue and other projects can be found at www.palatka-fl.gov.

Palatka's Business



Palatka Mayor Robbi Correa and commissioners Justin Campbell and Rufus Borom were on hand on Saturday to help celebrate the opening of Perfect Wax Studio, 210 Saint Johns Av. The full-body waxing studio is owned by Ty'Kierria Session, who moved her business to Palatka from St. Augustine.

"I came to Palatka because I see downtown has moved past the point where you can say it is growing to where you can say that it is thriving," said Session, a Palatka native and a 2016 graduate of Palatka High School.

Perfect Wax Studio is open by appointment and can be reached by calling (386) 244-9089 or at www.perfectwaxstudio.com.



Congratulations to Palatka Attorney Charlie Douglas on purchasing local Palatka radio stations WIYD and WPLK from local business owner and former Putnam County Commissioner Skeet Alford.

Skeet Alford, Charlie Douglas
and City Manager Troy Bell

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CITY OF PALATKA

SPRING BREAK KICK OFF

FARM SHARE @ 8:30 A.M. EVENT @ 10 A.M.

MARCH 16TH

MUSIC, FOOD & GAMES Palatka Recreation Department's Community Fun Day

Come to the Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Community Center, 1100 North 19th St, for a spring break kick-off event featuring music, food, bounce houses, photobooth, and games.

Starting with a food giveaway sponsored by Farm Share, the event will filled with celebration and community spirit.

Also on hand will be representatives of the City's utility assistance program and new City Manager Troy Bell.



Palatka City Commissioners



**Robbi Correa,
Mayor**
RCorrea@Palatka-fl.gov



**Will Jones,
Commissioner**
WJones@Palatka-fl.gov



**Tammie McCaskill,
Commissioner**
TMcCaskill@Palatka-fl.gov



**Rufus Borom,
Commissioner**
RBorom@Palatka-fl.gov



**Justin Campbell,
Commissioner**
JCampbell@Palatka-fl.gov

Learning about Public Safety

Kindergarten students from the Children's Reading Center Charter School spent a morning last week on field trip to the Palatka Fire and Police Departments.

The young students toured the fire department and listened as the firefighters explained their roles, demonstrated their equipment, and even allowed the students to explore the fire trucks up close. Assistant Chief Chad Branford talked to the children about fire safety and handed out red and pink plastic fire hats.

The next stop on their trip was the Palatka Police Department. The children were fascinated to see the police station and learn about the importance of law enforcement in keeping their community safe. They were given a glimpse into the daily life of a police officer, from understand-



ing their uniforms to exploring the patrol cars. The officers took the time to answer the children's questions, fostering a sense of trust and admiration for those who serve and protect.

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!

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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:

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.

Refuse Collector

This position performs routine manual refuse collection work in the city refuse collection and disposal program. Works under direct supervision of a refuse collection driver.

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.

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.

