

March 21, 2024

City Celebrates Spring



Spring Fest 2024

On Saturday, March 16, the City of Palatka's Community Affairs Department hosted a free community event at the Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Community Center at 1100 North 19th St. to kick off Putnam County's spring break. The event included music, food, bounce houses, a photo booth, and games for all ages. The event started with a food giveaway sponsored by Farm Share. Representatives from the City's new utility assistance program were also on hand. Residents also had the opportunity to meet the new City manager, Troy Bell, as well as City Mayor Robbi Correa and Commissioners Will Jones, Justin Campbell, and Rufus Borom, strengthening connections between local leadership and the community.

The event, sponsored by the City of Palatka's Community Affairs Department, offered residents a chance to come together, celebrate the start of spring break, and revel in the community spirit that defines Palatka. The next community event at the Jenkins Center will be the City's annual Easter Hippy, Hoppity, Boppity Easter celebration on March 30, from Noon to 2 p.m. During this event, children can meet the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs, and participate in other family activities.

See a Gallery of photos from the event at
www.Palatka-FL.Gov/photos

Utility Assistance



Christall Azcarate talks to a resident about the City utility assistance program.

Program to help residents with bills

Christall Azcarate, owner of Azcarate Consulting Group in Palatka, spent her Saturday morning at the City's Community Affairs Department's Spring Break Festival at the Robert Jenkins Community Center trying to help people catch up on their utility bills. Azcarate has the contract awarded by the Palatka City Commission to administer the effort to help Palatka residents catch up on their utility bills using the approximately \$155,000 in federal COVID-19 American Rescue Act Plan funding allocated to aid residents struggling with missed gas, light, or other utility payments.

"This program is to help City residents who got behind in their bills because of the pandemic," said Azcarate. Azcarate can assist with Florida Power & Light, Clay Electric Cooperative and Palatka Gas Authority, and City of Palatka water bills.

The program is only available to Palatka City residents and is income-based. Applicants must be at or below the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines to qualify. Palatka residents interested in the program should call or text (386) 546-5802, email azcarateconsultinggroup@gmail.com or visit the Palatka Community Affairs department at the Robert Jenkins Community Center, 220 N 11th St. in Palatka.

Residents need to provide a government-issued photo identification, such as a driver license, and proof of income and a copy of their past-due bills with an account number. Please contact Azcarate for more information.

"This program is very much needed for Palatka," Azcarate said. "I am here to make this as easy as possible for residents. If you think you qualify, please call. We are here to help you."

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

CITY of *Palatka*



Be Part of Positive Change for Palatka!

Hank Bryan Park Improvements



Grant pays for new exercise equipment

The City of Palatka Public Works Department recently completed installing nine outdoor pieces of exercise equipment in the City's Hank Bryan Park, 450 S 14th St, Palatka.

The equipment, three of which are wheelchair accessible, was paid for by a \$21,000 grant from the Florida Department of Health in partnership with the City of Palatka.

The equipment is part of an ongoing effort by the state health department to improve the overall health of Palatka and Putnam County residents by encouraging physical activity.

"The Health Department is working hard to reduce the rates of diabetes in Putnam County, and physical activity helps with that and a person's overall health," said Carol Kazounis, Director of Community Health Programs with the Health Department in Palatka.

Kazounis worked with the City to secure the grant money for the equipment.

According to Kazounis, public studies show that 62.5 percent of Putnam County residents are physically inactive compared to the statewide average of 56.7 percent.

The idea is to provide exercise equipment to community residents who may need transportation or don't have the economic means to visit a gym, continued Kazounis.

The installation of the equipment is part of a larger project to improve Hank Bryan Park, which has included upgrades to playground equipment, landscaping, and walkways in the park.

Future improvements include adding a restroom and upgrading lighting in the park.



New Trucks



Vehicles added to City fleet

This month, the City of Palatka's Sanitation Department took delivery of a new \$493,000 state-of-the-art garbage collection truck. The new vehicle replaced an obsolete truck in the City sanitation fleet of nine.

The truck is the first in the City's fleet that can service both residential and commercial garbage customers.

The new truck has an automated loading arm that can pick up trash cans from the side of the street. This will enable one person to run a residential route instead of the three that the city currently uses.

According to Palatka Public Works Director Del McMillen, this means that, in the future, the City will be able to offer more services to customers with the same level of staffing.

Currently, the truck is being used as a back-up to service commercial customers while a commercial truck is undergoing maintenance. Still, residents should expect to see the new truck in front of their property very soon.

At the Airport



After months of waiting, the City of Palatka received a brand-new 3,000-gallon airplane refueling vehicle. The truck costs approximately \$275,000, will be used to service jet aircraft customers at the Palatka Municipal Airport—Lt. Kay Larkin Field. The airport had previously been leasing a fuel truck for its jet customers.

City Commission



Congratulations to the Palatka Students of the Month for March

Jaeliana Burt, Browning-Pearce Elementary School
Dax Hathy, Children's Reading Center Charter School
Jassanie Garcia, Hillcrest Academy
Drew Hadden, James A. Long Elementary School
Kendra Lusk, Kelley Smith Elementary School
Bruce Palacios, Mellon Learning Center Pre – K

Marcus Wilson, Mellon Learning Center K–12
Chantravia Williams, Moseley Elementary School
Ymira Passmore, Palatka Jr./Sr. High School
Penelope Wells, Peniel Baptist Academy
Autumn Denoncour, Putnam Academy of Arts & Sciences

Finance Professionals

The Palatka City Commission passed a resolution at their last meeting acknowledging Government Finance Professionals Week, recognizing government finance professionals and the vital services that they provide to our state and our community. City Finance Director Marcia Carty, Finance Supervisor Jill Keiser, and Grants Accountant Jackie Pappas attended the meeting to accept the resolution.



Women's History

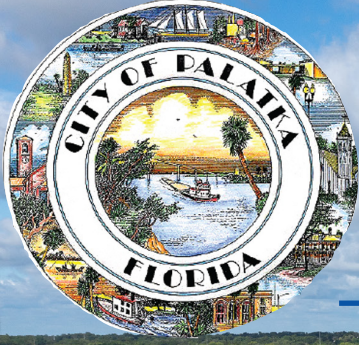
The Palatka City Commission has recognized March as Women's History Month, honoring the contributions and achievements of women throughout history and within the community.

During the last commission meeting, the Commission passed a resolution acknowledging women's invaluable role in shaping Palatka's rich cultural heritage and fostering its growth and development.

The proclamation emphasized the imprint of remarkable women who, with unwavering determination and unyielding spirit, have etched their names in history through groundbreaking contributions across a numerous area of science, politics, arts, education, and beyond; and the relentless pursuit of equality, justice, and empowerment by women throughout the ages has been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for transformation change, dismantling barriers, shattering stereotypes, and paving a path of progress for future generations to flourish and prosper.

Members of the Palatka Women's Club attended the meeting to accept the proclamation.





CITY of Palatka

Incorporated Jan. 8, 1853



www.Palatka-FL.Gov

From local festivals to community events, there's always something exciting happening right in your backyard. Dive into the rich tapestry of Palatka's history, explore charming neighborhoods, and support local businesses that make our city thrive. Join us in celebrating the spirit of the place we proudly call home. Pick Palatka and watch us go!

Regular City Commission meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Contact Your City of Palatka



Robbi Correa
Mayor/Commissioner



Tammie McCaskill
Commissioner



Justin Campbell
Commissioner



Will Jones
Commissioner



Rufus Borom
Commissioner



Troy Bell
City Manager

Administration - City Hall

386-329-0100

Troy Bell, City Manager
Jonathan Griffith, Assistant City Manager
Sunni Krantz, City Clerk
Virginia Jones, Human Resources Generalist
Jane West, City Attorney
Marcia Carty, Finance Director
Peter Willott, Public Information Officer

Planning and Zoning Department

386-329-0100

Lorenzo Aghemo, Planning Director

Palatka Police Dept.

386-329-0115

In any emergency, dial 911
Jason Shaw, Police Chief 386-329-0110

Community Affairs

386-329-0100

Includes Recreation, Cultural Arts and Code Enforcement
Eddie Cutwright, Community Affairs Director

Palatka Housing Authority

386-329-0132

Palatka Gas Authority

386-328-1591

Includes Water, Sewer & Sanitation Billing Department
Brett Dennis, General Manager

Palatka Fire Dept Downtown Station

386-329-0120

In any emergency Dial 911
Chief Chris Taylor
Deputy Chief Chad Branford

Palatka Fire Dept - Kay Larkin Station

386-329-0155

In any emergency Dial 911

Palatka Municipal Airport

386-329-0148

Yul McNair, Airport Manager

Palatka Golf Club

386-329-0141

Andy Heartz, Manager
Call for Clubhouse reservations and prices

Public Works Department

386-329-0107

Includes Cemetery Plot Sales
Del McMillen, Public Works Director

Water Treatment Plant

386-329-0144

Waste Water Treatment Plant

386-329-0146

Brian McCann, Superintendent

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.



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





CITY OF PALATKA

Hippity Hoppity Boppity

MARCH 30, 2024 | NOON - 2 P.M.

Come and meet the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs, and celebrate the season with music games and snow cones at the City of Palatka's Robert H. Jenkins Community Center, 1100 North 19th Street

