



A Message from Marci

I am pleased to report the traffic switch to the new bridge on Palmetto Park Road over the El Rio Canal occurred on January 31, 2023.

The contractor will begin the demolition of the remaining existing bridge and begin construction on the new section by the end of Feb. The project is expected to be completed by August 2023.

This month I continued to tour county facilities including **Mounts Botanical Gardens, Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands** and **Delray Oaks Natural Area**. These facilities are open to the public and offer unique experiences. I highly recommend everyone to visit!

I also received a number of presentations from various departments including Youth and Community Services, Palm Tran, Environmental Resource Mgmt., and Parks and Recreation.

These presentations are key to understanding their functions and services, especially in support of our constituents. In future newsletters, we will highlight various county departments and the services they provide.

As always, I am here to assist, so feel free to email me at mwoodward@pbcgov.org or call 561-355-2204.

Also, please follow me on social media for regular updates and happenings in Palm Beach County.

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from Marci

Road Safety Improvements

Animals Desperately Need Homes

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We are here to



Touring the Delray Oaks Natural Area

help!

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Road Safety Improvements

The county's Engineering and Public Works Department recently conducted a study for a traffic signal at the entrance of Boardwalk at Boca Raton on SW 18th Street. This was in response to residents' concerns for their safety due to several tragic car accidents.

We are pleased to announce a traffic signal was warranted and recently approved by the commission. Construction is expected to begin in mid-March and will be completed within eight months.



Animals Desperately Need Homes

The County's Animal Care and Control Division (ACC) is currently experiencing an increase of dogs and cats in need of adoption. Many of these animals are being surrendered due to the financial hardship

of their owners.

Consequently, ACC is **offering \$14 adoptions on all pets during the month of February.**

Your new best friend will be spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and much more!

To preview adoptable pets, click [here](#) or call (561) 233-1200.



Touring the Animal Care and Control Facility with Executive Director Jan Steele and Division Director David Walesky



Firefighter for a Day



This month I had the opportunity to participate in Fire Ops 101 Training with the county's Fire Rescue (PBFR) Department at their training center in West Palm Beach.

From extricating a vehicle passenger with the "jaws of life" to responding to the scene of an active

Upcoming Meetings:

BCC Zoning Hearing
Feb. 23, 2023
9:30 a.m.

BCC Workshop
Feb. 28, 2023
9:30 a.m.

Residents may offer comments and/or concerns to the board by filling out a comment card (available in the chambers).

At the Feb. 7 BCC meeting the board took the following

shooter, I was carefully guided through a number of scenarios by seasoned emergency professionals.

This experience provided with a greater appreciation of the challenges faced by these brave men and women. I am proud to report we are in very capable hands with our first responders.

PBFR is one of the largest fire departments in the state of Florida. In addition to fire and/or medical emergencies, personnel are trained to respond to hazardous materials/conditions, plane crashes, aircraft emergencies, active shooter incidents, chemical and fuel spills and animal rescues.



Agriculture Reserve Public Meeting

In preparation for the upcoming Board of County Commissioners Agriculture Reserve Workshop on March 28, there will be a public meeting for interested parties on March 2 at 4:00 p.m. at the Vista Center Hearing Room Chambers (2300 N. Jog Road - 1st Fl.)

Anyone interested in this area's history and future development is encouraged to attend.



Billie Jean Cup



Congratulations to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission for winning the bid to host the prestigious Billie Jean King Cup at the Delray Beach Tennis Center on April 14-15.

I look forward to welcoming the best players from around the world, including

hometown player Coco Gauff.

We are proud of our sports commission for attracting sporting events and activities to the county that enhance economic impact, stimulate bed tax revenues and maximize utilization of county

action in District 4:

- Approved a grant agreement with the SWA for \$60,000 towards the demolition of the Caloosa Park racquetball courts. The county plans on demolishing the existing courts and constructing new ones in their place. [See more.](#)

Constituent Services:

- Community Outreach
- Economic Development
- Environmental Protection

facilities.

The Billie Jean King Cup is the world's largest women's international sports competition with more than 100 nations competing yearly.

[More information](#)



CFO Jimmy Patronis



I joined Florida Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jimmy Patronis at his press conference in Boca Raton where he highlighted the "Four Pillars of IRS Protection" that

safeguard local families and businesses from overreach by the IRS.

The four pillars include:

- Report IRS access to state-chartered banks and create a transparency report.
- Incentivize Floridians to fight back against the IRS by making them financially whole if discrimination is proven.
- Create protections for taxpayers from the IRS and Big Tech's \$600 shakedown.
- Establish penalties for discrimination by IRS agents targeting Floridians.



Nonprofit Spotlight

I recently attended the Habitat for Humanity Greater Palm Beach County Women Build Kick-off Reception that was held to encourage women to proactively serve their community.

Habitat for Humanity works in more than 70 countries and has helped over 39 million people improve their living conditions since 1976.

Their mission involves the collaboration of local

- Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Disorders
- Planning, Zoning & Building
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Community & Veteran Services

Additional Resources:

The Palm Beach County Guide to Services is a comprehensive guide providing brief descriptions and contact information for services provided by county, municipal, state and federal government

volunteers and partners focused on providing accessible, affordable and safe homes.

They also address policy reform to remove systemic barriers preventing low-income and historically underserved families from accessing adequate, affordable shelter.



Habitat for Humanity Greater Palm Beach County Women Build Kick-Off Reception at the Waterstone Resort & Marina in Boca Raton.

[More information](#)

offices and local agencies, including nonprofits.

It also includes an entertainment and leisure section and much more.

[More information](#)

Beach Accessibility: Our Parks & Recreation Department offers rubberized beach access mats at Phil Foster Park in Riviera Beach and state-of-the-art beach wheelchairs designed to float in the water.

Similar equipment is also available in other county beach parks including South Inlet Park, Carlin Park, Jupiter Beach Park and Ocean Cay Park.



Local Government 101

"So..., What Exactly is Palm Beach County's Comprehensive Plan?"

Palm Beach County's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) is a state-required legal document containing principles and strategies for our county's future development and land use.

The Board of County Commissioners meets quarterly to discuss the Comp Plan that provides a roadmap for future development of the county.

The Comp Plan identifies land as being used for purposes such as residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, agricultural and also conservation.

It also provides the maximum densities for residential areas and the allowable intensities of commercial and industrial areas.



I recently honored local resident Lisa Lynch for her advocacy supporting beach accessibility for individuals in wheelchairs and for donating a floating beach wheelchair to our parks dept.

[More information](#)

Another important component are the fifteen elements including future land use, transportation, coastal management, library services and more.

These sections reflect the goals, objectives and policies for implementation by the commission.

All development proposals must be found consistent with the Comp Plan in order to obtain approval from the commission.

If a proposed development is inconsistent with the plan, an amendment to the Comp Plan may be approved to ensure consistency. If a required amendment fails, the project cannot proceed as proposed.

Comp Plan hearings are publicly advertised, and the public is welcome to attend and speak.

The meetings are held at the Robert Weisman Palm Beach County Governmental Center, 301 N. Olive Ave., 6th floor, West Palm Beach, on the following dates:

- May 5, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
- August 30, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
- November 1, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any questions about the Comprehensive Plan, contact the Planning Division at (561) 233-5300.

[View the Comprehensive Plan here](#)

We welcome your feedback on our District 4 newsletter. Please let us know if you found this information helpful and what else you would like to know.



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