



Weiss Words

GREGG K. WEISS

Palm Beach County Commissioner, District 2

Newsletter

March 27, 2024

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What Gregg's Been Up To

His arm is still in a sling for a week or two, but Gregg is making a great recovery from his rotator cuff surgery! As a member of the Canvassing Board, he spent a fair amount of time at the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office to oversee the processing of votes of the March 19th municipal elections. Thanks to all who voted, kudos to all who ran, congratulations to all who were elected, and best of luck to those who made the runoff elections scheduled for April 2nd.

At the March 26th workshop Gregg gave a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners about Artificial Intelligence (AI) to talk about the different ways it can be used to streamline government operations. Commissioner Barnett called the presentation eye-opening, and it spurred a discussion among commissioners and staff about ways to expand the use of this technology. Towards the end of the meeting, under his comments, Gregg spoke out against the annexation of a 12.5 acre parcel by the town of Haverhill. He is opposed because the proposed annexation area would create a pocket that can only be reached by county roads and as such wouldn't become a unified whole with the rest of the town. On Thursday, March 28th, the town will have a public meeting which serves as the first step in this process. [Read in detail why Gregg is opposed.](#)

Safety concerns surrounding emerging modes of transportation and an apparent lack of record-keeping prompted Gregg to speak up at last month's meeting at the Palm Beach Transportation and Planning Agency (TPA). Electric scooters, e-bikes and golf carts are growing in popularity. They offer an alternative to driving a car, and can get you to work without sweating. As these mobility alternatives become more common, they bring to the forefront questions regarding safety and a need to regulate their use. Where are these vehicles allowed to go? How fast can they safely go? What safety devices (i.e., helmets, seat belts, lights, and blinkers) should be required? How safe are these things anyway?

The New York Times [recently reported](#) that bicycle deaths in New York City are at a 24-year high. Of the 30 cyclists who died in 2023, 23 were riding e-bikes, compared to seven who were riding traditional bicycles. In Palm Beach County we've seen a number of fatal crashes involving e-scooters, including just last year in Wellington and Greenacres, and within the last month the Sun Sentinel reported that two students were killed while riding, and one teenager was seriously injured when he was struck by a car. To get a better handle on the size and scope of the issue, Gregg, at the February 15th TPA meeting, asked if there are statistics on crashes involving golf carts, motor scooters and e-bikes. He was told that the TPA has not been tracking them. At that same meeting, Lake Worth Beach Commissioner Reinaldo Diaz talked about golf carts and drinking and driving: "It seems that a lot of people driving these vehicles seem to kind of push the boundaries on whether it's acceptable to operate them while impaired." [Joe Capozzi wrote about the issue.](#)

On March 14th Gregg gave a presentation on Artificial Intelligence at Golden Lakes Village. Less than a week later, he attended and gave remarks at the grand opening of Fire Rescue Station #40 in Boynton Beach. On March 24th, he was back in action attending the Lake Worth Beach Pride Parade. On the evening of March 25th, Gregg capped things off off by moderating a panel with Florida Atlantic University scientists at the Ibis community. More on that in Commish in the Community.

Let us know if you'd like to invite him to your event.

Thanks for being a reader!

Mental Health Family Day Camp

Applications due no later than April 12, 2024

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department – Youth and Family Counseling Program is accepting parent applications for its Mental Health Family Day Camp until April 12, 2024. The Mental Health Family Day Camp will offer a full day of therapeutic workshops and outdoor activities for families with children ages 5-17.

DAY CAMP DATE: May 18, 2024

TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION: Okeehetee Nature Center: 7715 Forest Hill Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL, 33413**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Topics covered at the event will include self-care, emotional management, communication, and social skills, among other family fun topics! Clinical therapists will conduct the therapeutic

workshops. Lunch and snacks will be provided to registered participants.

This event is part of a month-long [mental health awareness campaign](#) in May called “Get Your Green On” that aims to raise awareness by creating visible support and fostering safe spaces to talk openly about mental health and trauma. To show support, everyone in Palm Beach County is invited to “Get Your Green On,” and wear green on, Thursday, May 16, 2024 and all month long in May.

For more information, please email YSD-Yfc-4pts@pbcgov.org or call 561-242-5714.



YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELING PRESENTS

MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY DAY CAMP

May 18, 2024 9 am - 4 pm

Okeeheelee Nature Center

7715 Forest Hill Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33413

March Madness Adoption Event

Every team needs a mascot, find yours at Palm Beach County (PBC) Animal Care and Control!

[Stop into our March Madness Adoption Event](#)

on Saturday, March 30 from 12-4pm at PBC Animal Care and Control!

All standard adoption fees are waived!*

We have a lot of amazing dogs and cats at the shelter that are sitting here, waiting for someone to adopt them into their families! Stop in and meet these fantastic animals!

*Excludes pre-adoption fees.



Palm Beach County
Department of Public Safety
Division of Animal Care and Control

SATURDAY

MAR. 30

12-4PM

MARCH MADNESS ADOPTION EVENT

STANDARD ADOPTION FEES WAIVED!

LOCATED AT 7100 BELVEDERE ROAD, WEST PALM BEACH



AI Insights

AlterEgo was primarily built to help people with speech disabilities.

"While everyone is busy talking about how awesome Elon Musk's Neuralink is, and its first human implant, calling it Telepathy and whatnot, AlterEgo creator Arnav Kapur who **ordered a pizza** with just a thought five years ago, seems to have already surpassed its purpose.

Simply put, it's mind control without implants." **Story**

Here's how AlterEgo works



AI You Can Use



So you want to start a new business, but you can't decide what*kind* of business to start. A little outside advice would come in handy, hopefully without having to pay and arm and a leg for it. Enter **IdeaSpark** - an AI brainstorming partner that uses AI to come up with ideas for various industries and in multiple languages (including French, Chinese, and Spanish). To get started, just choose a language and an industry—you can also specify niches within that industry. Then, share your initial musings on the kind of business you're looking to start. Within seconds, IdeaSpark will generate a full business idea—complete with a brief description of its market fit, business model, pricing scheme, cost to build, and more.

Bonus: Already have a business idea? IdeaSpark can generate pitch decks, financial forecasts, market strategies, and risk assessments for you.

That's it for today. If you'd like us to write about a specific AI topic email us at district2@pbc.gov.



Ideaspark

AI Calendar

Note: Not all the events listed below are open to the public

4/3/24 @ 2:00 PM: AI presentation at Lakeside Senior Living. Contact Richard Leeds for more information.

4/9/24 @ 7:00 PM: AI presentation at The Groves Community in Boynton Beach. Residents can contact Pamela Avalos for more information.

4/11/2024 @ 12:00 PM: United Methodist Church at 900 Brandywine Rd. West Palm Beach. Contact Margie Yansura for more information.

5/8/2024 @ 9:00 AM: AI presentation for the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations (COBWRA) Safety and Security Committee.

6/1/2024 @ 11:00 AM: AI presentation at Lakeridge Falls Clubhouse. Contact Marsha Auster for more information.

If you would like to invite Gregg to give a presentation in your community on artificial intelligence or any other topic, just contact our office at: district2@pbc.gov or [561-355-2202](tel:561-355-2202)

Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss

in the

NEWS



Palm Beach Post:

Aging West Palm downtown Government Center dilemma: \$160M renovation or \$261M new building?

National Association of Counties (NACo):

FCC appoints county leaders to Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

Boca Raton Observer:

Caron Florida Gala Celebrating "Recovery For Life"

ByJoeCapozzi.com:

Despite calls to PBSO captain, LWB neighborhood leader slapped with golf cart DUI

District 2 News:

Commissioner Weiss Opposes Haverhill Annexation

6th Avenue Construction Project Nearing Completion

Commish in the Community

Celebrations, anniversaries, meeting with agencies, recognizing community leaders, joining neighbors' festivities and going to neighborhood meetings... Commissioner Weiss spends a LOT of time in the community.

"As an elected official, I want to be part of the community I represent," said Commissioner

Weiss. "I want to understand the issues in my district, and that's why I spend many evenings attending events to listen and learn."

If you'd like to invite Commissioner Weiss to your event, let us know.



Lake Worth Beach Pride

On March 23rd Gregg hit the road to walk with with fellow LGBTQ+ supporters for the annual [Lake Worth Beach Pride parade](#)! Hosted by Compass, the day's event at Bryant Park included live entertainment, youth activities, health screenings and a variety of vendors.



Opening of Fire Rescue Station #40

At the March 20th [opening of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Station #40](#) on White Feather Trail in Boynton Beach, a fire hose was uncoupled after the ringing of the station bell. Gregg's remarks at the event emphasized the heightened service level this station will provide, ultimately saving more lives. Station #40's journey, spanning several years, showcases the power of persistence and public-private partnerships.



Iron Horse Property Owners Association

Iron Horse Property Owners Association (POA) members gathered for a photo on March 20th after receiving a \$100K check from Florida Power and Light (FPL). In August residents had raised concerns about power poles erected near the community entrance. Despite limited options due to the project's advanced stage, Tom DeRita lobbied on behalf of the Association, leading FPL to settle the dispute with [a monetary settlement for community remediation](#). Pictured are: Iron Horse POA board members, FPL's Don Kiselewski (far right), Tom DeRita (middle), and Niels Heimeriks (far left) representing Commissioner Weiss's office.



League of Women Voters "Hot Topic" Event

Elections was the "Hot Topic" at the League of Women Voters' [March 20th luncheon](#). Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Wendy Sartory Link (pictured here with Gregg) gave attendees an update on the state of voting across the county. Gregg is a big supporter of the League, a non-partisan political organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend

democracy.



Bus Operator Appreciation Day

Fun time hanging with the hard-working bus operators of Palm Tran! On March 18th Gregg **stopped by** the West Palm Beach Intermodal Transit Center to show how much he appreciates these reliable drivers who keep us connected and move us around.



Caron Florida Gala Celebrating "Recovery For Life"

Bolstering mental health has long been a priority for Gregg, so he didn't hesitate to speak at the March 15th **Gala celebrating Caron's Treatment Centers**. Dedicated to treatment, research, prevention, and addiction medical education, the nonprofit Caron has been a behavioral healthcare leader for almost 70 years. The Gala raised nearly \$300,000, and all proceeds will fund treatment scholarships and quality, evidence-based treatment and recovery programming.



C-51 Reservoir

On March 15th Gregg was out at the C-51 Reservoir to celebrate the completion of Phase 1. By storing water in 36-foot-deep former rock pits, the reservoir creates water supply for utility companies along the southeastern coast. There's an environmental benefit to this because the water it stores would otherwise have been lost to tide and would have negatively impacted the Lake Worth Lagoon. The reservoir built in Phase 1 can store up to 16,000-acre feet of water. Once completed, Phase 2 will add an additional 45,000 acre-feet of water storage capacity.

[Learn more about the project here.](#)

Golden Lakes Democratic Club

On March 14th Gregg was invited to make a **presentation on artificial intelligence** (AI) at the Golden Lakes Democratic Club. The audience was lively and engaged, with many thoughtful questions, making for a great

discussion. Thanks to everyone who joined in!



Gramercy Park Neighborhood Center



At a **groundbreaking ceremony** on March 14th for the Gramercy Park Neighborhood Center, Gregg joined with officials, commissioners, and local community partners to celebrate the new approx. 11,000 sq. ft. community hub that will include a large multi-purpose room, classroom, kitchen, offices, landscaping, a mulch-surface walking trail and more. Construction is set to span 380 days and be completed in 2025.



Literacy AmeriCorps Luncheon

AmeriCorps Week (March 11-16) ended with a celebration on March 15th of the members of Literacy AmeriCorps who serve in Palm Beach County's Literacy Centers and two city libraries as ESOL teachers. Gregg **visited the Literacy Coalition** to thank the members and talk about the importance of education. Now 30 years old, AmeriCorps recruits and trains 30 members to serve as tutors, coaches and teachers throughout Palm Beach County.

[Visit Gregg's Facebook Page](#)

Elections 2024

**Municipal Runoff Elections on April 2, 2024:
City of Lake Worth Beach, City of Pahokee, and
Village of Wellington**

DETAILS:

On Election Day, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Voters can cast their ballot by mail or at their assigned polling place.

Voters can visit the **My Status** page at VotePalmBeach.gov or call (561) 656-6200 to check their registration status and verify their polling location.

Voters can pick up a Vote-by-Mail ballot at any of our four offices during office hours until 5:00 pm Monday, April 1, 2024.

Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received by our main office by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, to be counted.

Media Contact: Alison Novoa
(561) 946-5344 alison@votepalmbeach.gov

2024 Primary Election Information

Early Voting: Aug. 10-18, 2024 (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Election Day: Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024 (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

2024 General Election Information

Early Voting: Oct. 21, 2024 - Nov. 3, 2024 (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Have You Registered To Vote?

Check your voter registration status today by visiting “My Status” at <https://www.votepalmbeach.gov>

- **Note: the deadline to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot has passed.**

Ideas? Suggestions? Concerns?

Contact us!

We're here to help you!

Main Office: 561-355-2202

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Email our office: district2@pbc.gov

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