



Weiss Words

GREGG K. WEISS

Palm Beach County Commissioner, District 2

Newsletter

May 29, 2024

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In this newsletter:

- What Gregg's Been Up To
- Storm Preparedness Info From Florida Power & Light
- Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday
- AI Outlook
- Gregg In The News
- Commish In The Community
- Elections 2024

What Gregg's Been Up To

☐☐ **We hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day holiday, and thanks to all who serve or have served in our nation's military!** ☐☐

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and, as you know, this is one of Gregg's priorities. He believes that, just like with our physical health, we need to take care of mental health, and access to services are vital. Prompted by the belief that as a community we are better off when we can keep mentally ill people out of the criminal justice system, he convened a series of meetings with stakeholders last year to find ways to expand mental health court. At a May 15 luncheon hosted by the Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Gregg had an opportunity to address the group and learn about the successes of the court in keeping people out of jail and getting them into treatment.

Last week the County Commission held a workshop and heard from a county advisory committee how they'd like to see the county spend the monies it will receive from opioid settlement funds. Several opioid manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies who played a role in the epidemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans have settled various lawsuits, resulting in billions of

dollars that are being distributed to states and counties. Palm Beach County is set to receive more than \$100 Million over the next 18 years as part of this settlement. You can read about it in the newspaper when you check our Gregg in the news section.

June is the start of Hurricane Season, and it promises to be a doozy. Ocean temperatures are at record highs, meaning storms can grow massive and intensify quickly. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) expects an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane season, with up to 25 named storms, and a dozen hurricanes including a handful of major ones. As with every year in May, this year emergency managers from all over the state gathered at the Convention Center for the annual Governor's Hurricane Conference (GHC). The GHC is the largest conference focused on hurricane planning, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. It allows professionals to learn from the successes of others, identify best practices AND learn what mistakes to avoid BEFORE it's too late. Gregg sat on a panel and talked about how elected officials can work effectively with professionals. Here's the takeaway: let the pros do their job, and support them wherever you can. The professionals tell us we all need to be prepared, so we are urging you to do just that: please check out the resources in this newsletter!

As an avid boater who sailed the world, Gregg knows about the importance of being prepared in order to be safe and secure. On May 17, he presented a proclamation to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary declaring May 18-25 National Safe Boating Week. Florida leads the nation in boating accidents and fatalities. Human error is the leading cause of most boating accidents, and wearing a life jacket could prevent 86% of fatalities according to the Coast Guard. So if you plan to go out on the water, make sure you're safe!

Last Monday Gregg traveled to D.C. for a Jewish Community Leaders Briefing at the White House, where he heard from the President and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff. [Here's a read out of the remarks.](#)

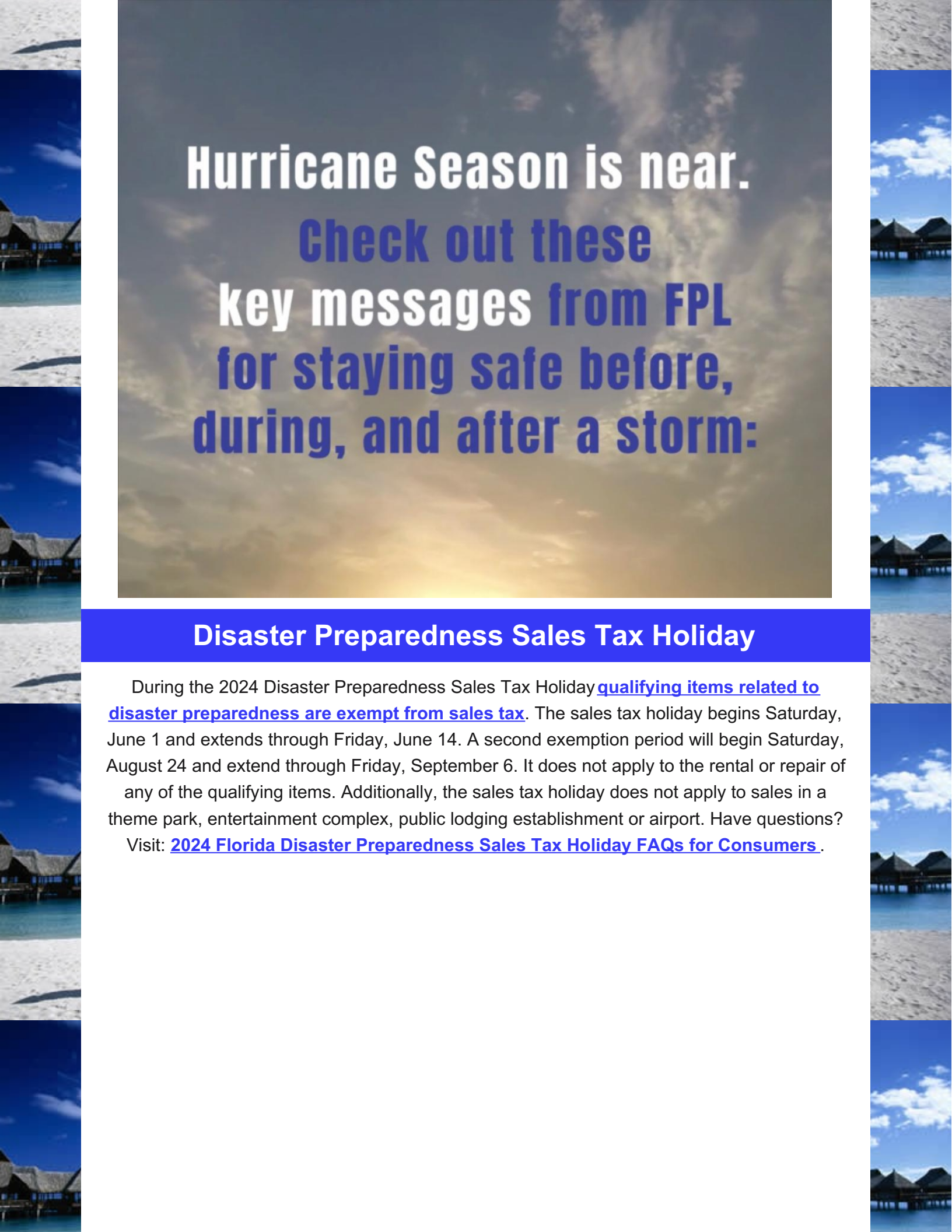
Thanks for being a reader!

Storm Preparedness Info From Florida Power & Light

Florida Power and Light (FPL) does a lot to prepare for hurricane season. It has already conducted its [annual mock hurricane drill](#) to prepare for what's expected to be a very active hurricane season: June 1 - November 30. And it has put together [this graphic](#) to explain how FPL restores power. Also, you can get tips on how to prepare by [clicking here](#).

To stay connected and informed just text "App" to MyFPL (69373),
or download the FPL app: [App Store](#) | [Google Play](#)

Click here or the image below for
video



Hurricane Season is near.

**Check out these
key messages from FPL
for staying safe before,
during, and after a storm:**

Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

During the 2024 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday [qualifying items related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax](#). The sales tax holiday begins Saturday, June 1 and extends through Friday, June 14. A second exemption period will begin Saturday, August 24 and extend through Friday, September 6. It does not apply to the rental or repair of any of the qualifying items. Additionally, the sales tax holiday does not apply to sales in a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment or airport. Have questions?

Visit: [2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday FAQs for Consumers](#).

Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

\$10 or less

- Wet dog or cat food if sold individually or the equivalent if sold in a box or case

\$15 or less

- Manual can openers
- Collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls for pets
- Cat litter pans
- Pet waste disposal bags
- Hamster or rabbit substrate

\$20 or less

- Reusable ice
- Leashes, collars, and muzzles for pets
- Pet pads

\$25 or less

- Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds

\$40 or less

- Portable self-powered light sources
- Pet beds

\$50 or less

- Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, or weather-band radios
- Gas or diesel fuel tanks
- Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
 - AA-cell
 - AAA-cell
 - C-cell
 - D-cell
 - 6-volt
 - 9-volt

\$60 or less

- Nonelectric food storage coolers
- Portable power banks

\$70 or less

- Smoke detectors or smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Carbon monoxide detectors

\$100 or less

- Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting
- Ground anchor systems
- Portable pet kennels or pet carriers
- Dry dog or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds
- Over-the-counter pet medications

\$3,000 or less

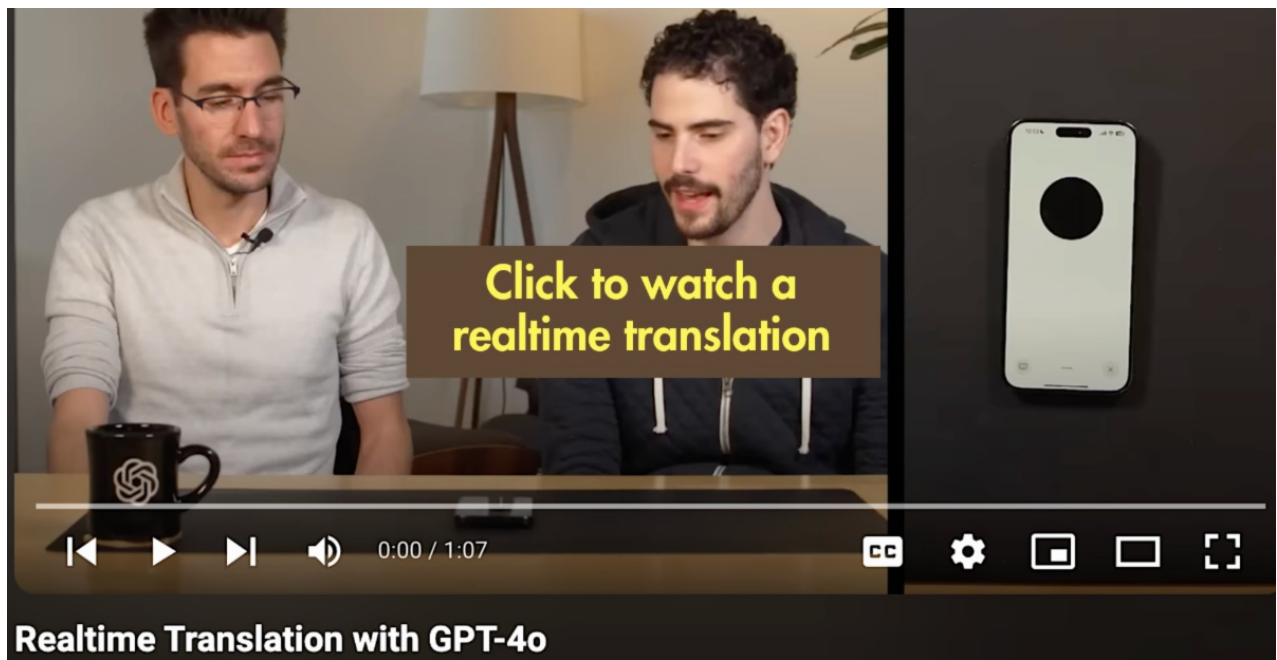
- Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

June 1-14, 2024
August 24-September 6, 2024
Visit floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep



AI Insights

Exciting news for fans of ChatGPT, especially if you don't have a subscription and are using the free version: OpenAI just announced the release of GPT-4o (short for GPT omni), which has many of the same features as Chat's paid version. GPT-4o will be free for all users through ChatGPT, even non-subscribers, but paying subscribers will get ahold of it first. It's faster, chattier, and even understands and reacts to emotions, making interactions more human-like. [Read about the announcement of GPT-4o](#), and [watch a video review](#). If you've never used ChatGPT and want to get started [click here to sign up for free](#).

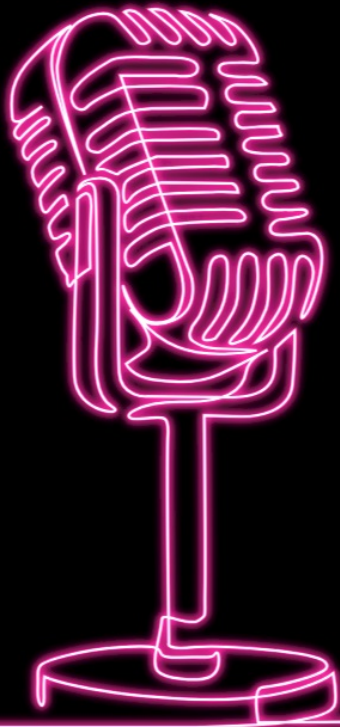


AI You Can Use



Hey everyone! Jana here. If you like keeping up with the news I've got a nifty new resource for you: it's an interactive AI tool called Chatter, and it's basically a podcast that you can steer in the direction you want it to go. Here's how it works: when you [open up the app](#) and click the "Start" button, Chatter will start speaking with the news headlines of the day (thought bubbles will appear, like what you see when you send a text message). You can interrupt it at any point by saying something like, "Wait - instead of giving me the news overall, just tell me the latest news in the world of tech." Or, "What were the big announcements in sports this week?" You get the idea. You can sit there and have a conversation with Chatter, cutting in with questions any time, and it will respond to your questions. Click [here](#) or the image below to try it out!

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



Chatter

An interactive podcast experience

Start

By starting a conversation, I accept Hume's [Terms of Use](#) and acknowledge the [Privacy Policy](#).

AI Calendar

Note: Not all events listed are open to the public

5/29/2024 @ 9:30 AM: AI presentation at Valencia Sound Clubhouse in Boynton Beach. Contact Megan Blanchette for more information.

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

6/28/2024 @ 11:30 PM: AI presentation at Golden Lakes Village Phase A, in West Palm Beach. Contact Pamela Avalos for more information.

7/10/2024 @ 12:00 PM: AI Lunch and Learn at the The Buena Vida Community in Wellington. Contact Pamela Avalos for more information.

7/11/2024 @ 3:00 PM: AI presentation at the Villa Borghese Community in Delray Beach. Contact Pamela Avalos 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:

Opioid settlement money would target recovery-based care under Palm Beach County plan

Palm Beach County commission moves to rein in hate speech following anti-Semitic rant

County to Highland Beach: Milani Park is coming to town whether you like it or not

OUTSFL:

All Hail The Queen of Queens Melissa St. John

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.



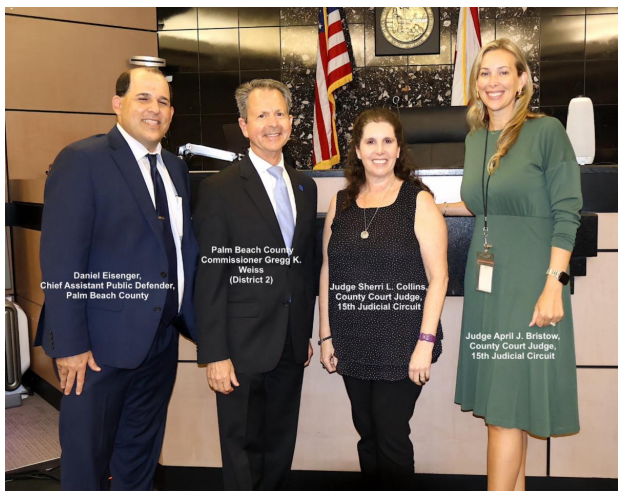
National Safe Boating Week

The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents, and that life jackets could prevent nearly 86% of boating fatalities. That's why boating safety is critical. Having spent several years (safely!) sailing around the world, Gregg was honored to present a proclamation on May 17th to members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary declaring May 18-25, 2025 National Safe Boating Week in Palm Beach County.



Governor's Hurricane Conference

Hurricane planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation were the focus of this year's Hurricane Conference held on May 15th at Palm Beach County (PBC) Convention Center. Gregg joined fellow PBC leaders at this critical event where the general Session moderator was WPTV Chief Meteorologist Steve Weagle.



Expanding Mental Health Court

Gregg believes that as a community we are better off if we can keep mentally ill people out of the criminal justice system. This is what prompted him last year to convene a series of meetings between stakeholders to find a way to expand mental health court. On May 15th, he spoke at a lunch hosted by the Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers about how the county's T2 court has been able to keep more people out of jail and in treatment, thanks to collaboration between the state attorneys, public defenders, law enforcement, mental health providers and the judiciary.

[Visit Gregg's Facebook Page](#)

Elections 2024

Voters wishing to vote by mail in the 2024 elections are required to

make a new **Vote-by-Mail Request** for all elections. You can make a request for a specific election or for all elections through December!

[Click here to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot](#)

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.)

Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you:
5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2024

Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot to Supervisor of Elections Main Office:
7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2024

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.)

Deadline to register to vote: Monday, October 7, 2024

Early Voting: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., October 21, 2024 - November 3, 2024

Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you:
5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024

Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the Supervisor of Elections Main Office:
7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Have You Registered To Vote?

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

**Ideas? Suggestions? Concerns?
Contact us!**

We're here to help you!

Main Office: 561-355-2202

Website: www.pbc.gov/D2

Email our office: district2@pbc.gov

Jana Panarites

Constituent Issues

JPanarites@pbc.gov

Office: 561-355-1910 Cell: 561-267-0215

Niels Heimeriks

Constituent Issues

NHeimeriks@pbc.gov

Office: 561-355-4966 Cell: 561-371-1089

Virginia Savietto

HABLO ESPAÑOL

VSavietto@pbc.gov

Office: 561-355-2209 Cell: 561-324-9621

GREGG K. WEISS
PBC Commissioner
www.pbc.gov/D2



Gregg K. Weiss, County Commissioner | 301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor | WPB, FL 33401 US

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