



Weiss Words Newsletter



GREGG K. WEISS

*Palm Beach County Commissioner
District 2*



June 17, 2025

Follow Us On Social Media



In this newsletter:

- The Word
- Hurricane Season Resources
- Free Saturdays at the Norton for PBC Residents
- AI Insights
- AI You Can Use
- Gregg in the News
- Commish in the Community
- Spotlight

The Word

The county has new administrator!

On Tuesday, after grilling the finalists from the dais, the Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners (BCC) selected Joseph Abruzzo as the next County Administrator. In the first round of voting Abruzzo, who currently serves as the County Clerk and Comptroller, received four votes, beating out the three other finalists: Deputy County Administrator Patrick Rutter, who received one vote, Assistant County Administrator Isami Ayala-Collazo, who received two votes, and County planner Keith Clinkscales. After the first round of voting, the Board took another vote, this time unanimously, to show their support for the new administrator.

This decision ends a months-long process that started when former administrator Baker announced her retirement in March. Following Baker's announcement, at the March 18 BCC meeting, Gregg had advocated for hiring a recruitment firm to perform a nationwide search, but a majority of his colleagues preferred to forego this process and instead advertise the job on several

websites. After the application deadline closed on April 28, more than 200 had applied, county HR staff narrowed the pool of applicants down to about half of that. A 7-person task force whittled down the pool of applicants to seven, three dropped out and that's how we ended up with the four finalists.

On Monday, the four finalists met individually with the commissioners for one-on-one interviews. Because of Gregg's commitment to transparency in government, we live streamed Gregg's interviews with the finalists through our Facebook page. You can watch these interviews [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). On Monday evening, the finalists participated in a public forum at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. For two hours, former news anchor Michael Williams [asked the finalists questions submitted by residents](#).

Prior to voting, Gregg explained his reasoning. Though he wasn't happy with the process chosen, he accepted that these were the choices at hand. He praised the candidates and mentioned that he thought it important that the next administrator be successful, and that he would support whoever a majority of the BCC would pick. The board then proceeded with each of the commissioners writing their choice on ballots, which were then collected by the clerk and read out loud, resulting in the selection of Joe Abruzzo as the new County Administrator.

In [our last newsletter](#) we told you about residents just outside of Boynton Beach along Nickels boulevard who were alarmed when they learned about the city of Boynton Beach's plan to sell of city-owned lands the locals refer to as Nickels Woods, or Nickels Forest. They were concerned because the 10-plus acre is home to gopher tortoises and other wildlife that they do not want to see displaced. Additionally, there were questions about the ownership history of the parcels and whether there are use restrictions that could prevent development of the property. Because of these concerns, we sent a letter to Boynton Beach city leaders requesting a pause while we research the chain of ownership.

We have since learned that there are, indeed, restrictions that prevent anyone from developing the land unless the county releases the restrictions. So we sent another letter to the city sharing our findings, and WPBF's Terri Parker [talked to Gregg about it](#).

Natalia, a second intern, will be joining our team this summer. Read about her in the spotlight section of this newsletter.

While we're on the topic of interns, at the June 10th meeting the BCC approved an agreement with CareerSource Palm Beach County to develop a centralized digital platform designed to connect teens and young adults with internship opportunities all throughout the county.

Thanks for being a reader!

Hurricane Season Resources

Hurricane season has arrived! Be prepared, stay informed, and keep your loved ones safe. Now's the time to review your emergency plan, gather supplies, and stay connected

to local alerts. Together, we can face the season stronger! Palm Beach County's Division of Emergency Management has all kinds of info and resources to help.

Visit: [ReadyPBC.com](https://www.readypbc.com)

[Download the county's Hurricane Planning Guide](#)

HURRICANE SEASON HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN!

PALM BEACH COUNTY — ARE YOU READY?



Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. Now is the time to prepare and protect your family, home, and pets.

- ✓ **Make a plan:** Know your evacuation routes and emergency contacts.
- ✓ **Build a kit:** Stock up on essentials like water, food, meds, and batteries.
- ✓ **Stay informed:** Follow local updates from Palm Beach County Emergency Management.

**Don't wait until it's too late—preparation saves lives!
Stay safe, stay ready.**

Free Saturdays at the Norton

Mark your calendar to join us for creative and fun activities at the Norton Museum of Art this summer! Palm Beach County residents can visit the Norton in West Palm Beach for FREE on Saturdays throughout the summer. Children under the age of 12 and Florida teachers can visit for free daily.

[Click here to learn more](#)

FREE Summer Saturdays for PBC Residents!



May 24 through August 30, 2025



AI Insights

Real talk: unless you're some kind of digital ninja, people could always figure out scary amounts of stuff about you online — where you live, shop, hang out, who you text. The catch? It used to take a whole team working overtime to piece it all together. Now AI can do that detective work in minutes. What used to need serious effort from multiple people is now basically child's play. And here's the kicker: AI needs way fewer clues to track down your entire life story. Yikes!

Read all about it: [AI can now stalk you with just a single vacation photo](#)

Summary of the Article



AI You Can Use



Hey all! Jana, here. Ever wish Google would just tell you the answer instead of making you click around? That's basically what Perplexity AI does. I use this tool often, and love that it provides links to citations to back up the answers it gives me - so I know it's not just making stuff up. Perplexity is like a super-smart search engine that talks to you, explains things clearly, and even shows you where it got the info. You can ask it anything, and it pulls fresh answers from the web—no guessing games. [Here's a brief explainer.](#)

And [here's a link to the tool](#)

Perplexity is better than Google!



perplexity



Commissioner
Gregg K. Weiss

in the

NEWS



Palm Beach Post:

Palm Beach County administrator position: A look at the salary, timeline and four finalists
After Boynton residents, Jessica Namath voice opposition, city halts sale of Nickels Forest
Palm Beach County, facing loss of \$600 million in grant funds, suspends DEI programs

WJHL:

[Alpert JFS Honors 100 Local Holocaust Survivors at Fifth Annual Holocaust Survivor Day](#)

WPBF:

[Palm Beach County commissioners narrowing down administrator search](#)

['It's shameful': Assisted living facility evacuated due to faulty AC](#)

[1961 deed could halt sale of Boynton Beach Nickels Forest to developer](#)

Stet News

[Decision day for county administrator \(scroll down page\)](#)

Stet News and WLRN:

[Emotion, outrage marks county's dismantling of DEI programs](#)

WPTV:

[Residents rally to save forest in Boynton Beach](#)

Yahoo!/Palm Beach Daily News:

[After Boynton residents, Jessica Namath voice opposition, city halts sale of Nickels Forest](#)

CW34 News:

[Palm Beach County denounces rising antisemitic hate; vows stronger preventative efforts](#)

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.

**Senior High School Students
Graduation & Scholarship Award
Ceremony**



For the 18th year in a row, exceptional Senior High School Students were honored with a Graduation and Scholarship Award Ceremony on June 14th. Gregg was happy to join in the celebratory evening with the high-achieving students and dinner hosted by the American Muslim Alliance of Florida.



Democratic Environmental Caucus

Sometimes instead of going out into the community the community comes to the Commish. So it was that on June 12th Gregg met with members of the Democratic Environmental Caucus to discuss projects around the county, environmental challenges and opportunities. Citing the Southland Water Resources project as an example, Gregg shared the process for how county projects get approved or denied and listened to Caucus members' concerns. Everyone agreed on the need for ongoing dialogue and education.



Holocaust Survivor Day Proclamation

At Temple Shaarei Shalom in West Boynton on June 11th, Gregg proudly presented a proclamation on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners recognizing June 11, 2025 as Holocaust Survivor Day. In his remarks Gregg noted that Holocaust Survivors represent the best of the human spirit, refusing to let their victimization define who they are, thus deserving a day of joy and celebration. Pictured here with the Commish is Alpert Jewish Family Service CEO Marc Hopin.

Spotlight

Natalia Van Horn

Following her return from a study abroad trip to Costa Rica, Natalia Van Horn will join our

team as a summer intern next week. A G-Star School of the Arts graduate who just completed her freshman year at UF, Natalia brings valuable prior experience from her time in our office. In her role this summer, she'll collaborate with fellow interns while providing oversight and guidance for their projects. Nat is intelligent, thoughtful, and fun, and she will make a wonderful addition to our team. We're thrilled to welcome her back. The photo shows her doing a handstand during her Costa Rica adventure.



VISIT GREGG'S FACEBOOK PAGE

**Ideas? Suggestions? Concerns?
Contact Us!**

We're here to help you!

Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss

Office: 561-355-2202

Website: pbcgov.com/D2

Email: 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
pbcgov.com/D2



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