



BREAKERS

FLAGLER COUNTY

the biggest waves and greatest raves

Fire Prevention Week through Saturday

Fire Prevention Week is October 4 through 10. This year's message from the National Fire Protection Association is "Hear the beep, where you sleep."

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, in addition to outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of multi-story homes. Fire Prevention Week runs through Oct. 10.

"Most new homes already have this standard in place, but older homes only have smoke alarms outside of bedrooms," Fire Marshal Joe King said.

Flagler County Fire Rescue can help residents change their smoke alarm batteries.

"If you have the batteries, we can help you change them," King said. "High ceilings can make it difficult for some residents. We are happy to come out and change the batteries."

Firefighters do not have the replacement batteries, but will provide the labor.

"We want our residents to be safe," said Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito. "This is one small thing we can do that can make a big difference in someone's life."

Questions should be directed to King at 386-313-4258.

[\(click here\)](#)

**EVERY BEDROOM
NEEDS A WORKING
SMOKE ALARM.**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 4-10, 2015**

firepreventionweek.org

News **Splash!** Nine graduate Flagler County Drug Court

Nine residents celebrated 3,084 total clean days at their graduation from Flagler County Adult Drug Court.

"I don't call it an addiction but an affliction," said Circuit Judge J. David Walsh. "Drug court is for non-violent felony offenders. They must want the treatment."

Drug Court offers nonviolent offenders struggling with addiction the chance to receive treatment while resolving their criminal cases. The program involves regular court appearances, close supervision, treatment and counseling, and random drug testing.

There is no set length of time for participation; it varies based on the individual and how much time each needs to get better. The recent graduating class was involved in the Flagler County Drug Court anywhere from 50 to 116 weeks.

Participants are also required to work or attend school, to ensure they have the skills to lead sober, productive lives.

"It is a carrot-stick approach," Walsh said. "The carrot is the reduction or removal of charges. The stick is the possibility of jail time."

Keynote speaker Elbert Tucker, city of Bunnell commissioner, spoke of life's reference points and second chances, which he called "deer trails and bent nails."

"We know where we've been and we know where we want to go," Tucker said. "Likewise, you don't want to throw these lives away. You want to give them a place to go."



Circuit Judge J. David Walsh

All of the graduates expressed thanks for the life-changing opportunities afforded them through the Drug Court program, which is funded through Flagler County's General Fund. Some \$91,163 is budgeted for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

"Instead (of justice) I found mercy," said graduate Vincenzo C.

Nancy H. put in 293 hours of community service as she went through Drug Court.

"I want to thank Judge Walsh and the Drug Court team for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself," she said.

Dylan L. thanked his mother for being there for him throughout his struggles.

"I love you with all my heart," he told her. "I'm sorry for all I've done."

Standing next to Walsh, Dylan addressed the courtroom.

"I never thought I'd make it this far," he said. "I thought I'd be dead or in prison."

But Drug Court works.

Drug Courts started in Florida more than 25 years ago and the Flagler County program began in 2006. Sixty-five percent of graduates have no new criminal charges. Eighty-seven percent have no new drug charges.

"Society benefits from reduced jail costs and more healthy and productive citizens," Walsh said.

The graduates' sense of accomplishment was evident.

"It's a beautiful view from this side of the podium," said Richard J. "Usually, I'm facing the other way. I've always wanted to say this: 'Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I rest my case.'"

\$500 GRANT COMPLETES BROWNFIELD TO GREEN GARDEN TRANSFORMATION

Seeds and wheelbarrows are on order following the award of a \$500 grant through the UF/IFAS Farm to School program that will transform a brownfield into a green garden for the residents in south Bunnell.

This grant, as well as the \$600,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant, was awarded to the Flagler Economic Enhancement District (FEED) Coalition – a collaborative effort between Flagler County, Palm Coast and Bunnell. The project was developed to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Katrina Austin, project manager for the Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity, oversees the project and the grants that are funding it.

“I was so excited to learn that we got this grant,” Austin said. “This \$500 grant from the UF/IFAS Extension Services is enough to pay for the seeds, wheelbarrows and more. We are on track with this program.”

Raised boxes are currently under construction in the former propane tank storage lot on Bacher Street that supports the 132 units owned by the Housing Authority. Environmental Land Services donated the time and equipment to remove the 22 concrete cradles and footers in August to allow for the plant boxes.

Once delivered, the seeds will be distributed to agronomy students at Buddy Taylor Middle School germinated for planting.

“Our community has been supportive of this project too,” Austin said.

Dennis Ross, of Ross Excavating Inc., has committed to donate the top soil that will be used to fill the boxes. The agriculture students of Bunnell Elementary are donating plants and volunteering to help construct and plant the garden. Students of the 13 Tech Academy have designed a planting schematic for placement of the plants.

“The project still needs volunteers and donations of gardening tools, mulch and fertilizer,” Austin said.

Anyone who would like to contribute time or materials should contact either Mia Gerber or Susan Gipson at the Housing Authority, 386-437-3221.



Flagler County hosts compressed gas training for firefighters

Flagler County hosted an 8-hour compressed gas training class that was offered free of charge to participants.

Len Ensalaco, Flagler County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Training Division Chief, arranged for the training through the Northeast Florida Regional Council Local Emergency Planning Committee.

“The process took about a year, but we were able to provide a \$3,000 training class for free to the first responders in our region,” Ensalaco said.

Ron Gore, president of Safety Systems and the Florida co-founder of the first Public Safety Haz Mat team in the United States, taught the daylong class on Monday at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center. It focused on the safety procedures that are used when gases under pressure are exposed to “ignition sources.”

Firefighters from Nassau, Clay, St. Johns, Ferdinando Beach, the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, as well as two deputies from the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and two industrial businesses – Praxair and EB (Environmental Business) Partner – attended the training.

“Sometimes circumstances will dictate procedures,” Gore said.

Compressed gases discussed include: propane, chlorine, bromine, anhydrous ammonia, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide and hydrogen fluoride among others.

“Propane trucks are on our highways all the time,” Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito said. “There hasn't been an accident recently, but the value of the training is to be prepared for an incident that could happen at any time.”

This class was the first in a two-part series.

“I would like to host the second part next year,” Ensalaco said. “It is a similar class, but dealing with much larger tanks.”

He and Petito would like to see Gore return to teach that class.

“There isn't just one way to do things,” Petito said. “Ron came in and showed us 20 ways to handle things. It was an excellent class.”



Flagler County trains with National Guard at Camp Blanding



Members of Flagler County's Fire Rescue Light Technical Rescue Team and an Emergency Management all hazards incident management team trained with the Florida National Guard at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke.

The training, dubbed "Operation Integration," involved statewide deployment of urban search and rescue teams from across the state for a unified operation with the Florida National Guard.

"This is wonderful training for the members of our Light Technical Rescue Team (a resource within the state of Florida)," said Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito. "We had one of the largest teams present with 15 people attending, so large that we divided into two teams."

The scenario for the training is something that could easily happen in Florida during the summer and fall months: a hurricane with spinoff tornadoes that closed roads and bridges closed in a given area. Instead of live actors pretending to be injured, dummies were used as simulated victims.

Teams were flown into the area on Huey and Chinook helicopters with the limited equipment they were able to carry without weighing down the aircraft.

"Our teams were required to work for 12 hours without any additional help," said Fire Rescue Lt. John Keppler, who also serves on the Light Technical Rescue Team. "We had to find and extricate victims using only the equipment we brought with us."

Lightweight stokes baskets were used instead of stretchers. Rooftop victims

had to be lowered to the ground with ropes instead of using staircases.

"We had to search a wide area of 30 to 40 acres in the woods," Keppler said. "Some (simulated) victims were in the trees. It was very realistic."

Teams also had to assess for the typical hazards found when a tornado wreaks havoc on a community, including downed electrical wires and asbestos.

Several members of the Flagler County Emergency Management staff participated as part of an all hazards incident management team – the behind-the-scenes planning that takes place during the rescue and recovery of natural disaster that was simulated for training.

Laura Nelson served as the planning section chief during the training.

"For the exercise, we were called in to run the incident, because in the scenario Clay County Emergency Management had a flood event they were working," Nelson said. "We met with Clay County and they handed over the operation to us. "It was a great team environment and it was really helpful to us to use the (documentation) forms and planning the meetings that are required."

Flagler County Public Safety Emergency Manager Kevin Guthrie said field training like this validates the classroom instruction.

"It's wonderful anytime we have the opportunity to exercise elements that will be used when managing an event," Guthrie said. "The classroom is great, but at some point you have to be able to apply what you have learned."



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3 Employees deployed to South Carolina

Three Flagler County employees deployed to South Carolina to provide assistance to the state Emergency Operations Center in Columbia.

Laura Nelson, an Emergency Management planner, along with Mike Bazanos, Fire Rescue operations chief, and Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Richard Bennett are part of the eight-person Northeast Florida Incident Management Team that made the trip early Sunday morning as the area received an historic amount of rain.

South Carolina made an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4. Nelson, Bazanos and Bennett are helping to find and fill additional resource needs from neighboring states for South Carolina.

"They are looking for ambulance strike teams and water rescue personnel," Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito said. "Mike Bazanos reported that there are 300,000 people without water and six hospitals without water."

There are two-week deployments for responding agencies. The incident management team is also working on plans to reroute traffic.

"There have been (portions) of major interstates shut down, including I-95, I-20 and I-26. They are managing swift water rescues; dams have been breached. There is a lot going on up there," County Administrator Craig Coffey said. "We know the importance of providing support to communities during their time of need. We have a great team to provide that help."

The Town of Marineland

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A Weekend of Food, Fun & Friends!

Friday, Saturday & Sunday • Nov 13th-15th
Across the street from Marineland Dolphin Adventure

PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
<p><i>Friday, Nov 13th, 5pm</i> <i>Remembering the Past</i></p> <p>Watch the movies filmed in Marineland: Terzan (1935) and Reverbs of the Creature from the Black Lagoon (1955). Followed by a bonfire and late-night live music. Bring the entire family, blankets and your lawn chairs.</p>	<p><i>Saturday, Nov 14th, All day</i> <i>Celebrating the Present</i></p> <p>Town of Marineland Time Capsule Ceremony • Family Fun Day at Marineland Dolphin Adventure Live Music • Beer Garden • Seafood Festival • River to Sea Nature Walks Volleyball Tournaments • Cornhole Horseshoes • Games Fireworks!</p>	<p><i>Sunday, Nov 15th, All day</i> <i>Looking to the Future</i></p> <p>Live music • Surf Competition Beach Cleanup • Salt Air Farmer's Market and Native Plant Sale Alternative energy show Time Capsule Ceremony Raffle and Live Auction</p>

Dear Friends of Marineland: The town of Marineland turns 75 this year and we are reaching out to our friends and neighbors to celebrate with us! We are planning a three-day event focused on highlighting the past, present, and future of our town the weekend of Nov 13th-15th, 2015. We'll kick off the festivities Friday night with an outdoor screening of two films shot in Marineland. Saturday we will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate Phase II of construction on the Marineland Marina and host a Seafood and Music Festival. Oh yes, and there will be fireworks! Sunday's festivities will showcase our weekly Salt Air Farmer's Market and will include a native plant sale, alternative energy show, and a raffle/live auction. Please let us know how you can help. We hope to make the seafood and music festival a recurring event; your participation this year will ensure a great turnout in the future!

Sincerely,
Leslie S. Babonis, PhD
Mayor, Town of Marineland



We Are Flagler County!

Kris Collora has been an employee of Flagler County for nearly a dozen years. She started in the Public Works Department but transferred to Financial Services within a year of being hired. For the past nine years, Kris has worked in the Purchasing Department, now as Manager.

“I like my job because I ensure that the taxpayers dollars are being well-spent,” she said. “We are always looking for ways to save money, without sacrificing anything we need – quality or quantity.”

Kris was born in New Jersey, but has called Flagler County home for 26 years. She is a graduate of Flagler Palm Coast High School, and lives in Palm Coast with her 14-year-old daughter, Ariyonne.

“I advise her to stay focused,” Kris said. “She wants to work in the medical field, so I encourage her to keep her grades up. I remember so much about what it was like to be her age and all the memories of middle school and high school. I want her to do well and be successful, but I also want her to enjoy her youth.”

Kris and her daughter enjoy family time, which includes spending time with Kris’ newly-married brother and her parents.

“We also like to spend time at the beach and shopping,” Kris said. “I guess that is part of why I am good at my job. I really love what I do.”



Find everything you need here: flaglercounty.org

Bunnell patrons bid librarian farewell

While libraries are typically thought to be subdued, the Bunnell Branch Library was anything but that when patrons came in droves to say farewell to librarian Linda Crego during her retirement party.

Library Director Holly Albanese had a special chocolate cake made for Crego, who began her career with Flagler County 20 years ago driving the bookmobile. It was decorated with a bookmobile and the National Library Symbol. Beside it sat a bouquet of flowers, balloons and “happy retirement” decorations.

Patrons brought in cards and gifts and shared remembrances, hugs and an occasional tear.

Henry Hodge, an avid reader, moved to Flagler County three years ago and immediately met Crego.

“She helps everybody. She gives her heart and soul to her work and the people she meets,” Hodge said. “She always remembered my name and that made me feel right at home.”

Robert Martin gave Crego a big hug, and said it’s not just names that Crego remembers.



Linda Crego

“I like adventure and science-fiction,” he said. “She would always point me to new books and movies.”

Though it was Crego’s last day of work and she was surrounded by well-wishers, it was business as usual when a class of students from the neighboring First Baptist Christian Academy filed in for reading materials. She got them settled in the appropriate stacks of books before returning to talk with those who came to see her off.

“Don’t worry. I’ll still be coming in to get my books,” she said. “I’m the kind of person who will take a book home, read the whole thing and return it the next day. It takes a lot to keep me busy.”

Flagler County ‘salad club’ offers food for thought

What started as a simple offer to share lunch one day has turned into a full-fledged salad club co-op that is saving its participants time and money while providing a nutritious meal.

Sally Sherman, Christie Mayer, Luci Dance and Julie Murphy take turns weekly buying the ingredients and preparing a hearty salad to be shared. They concur that the results have been outstanding.

“It makes healthy eating easy,” Dance said. “The salads are always different, so it’s not like eating the same thing every day.”

The costs per week to make sharable-sized salads for five days range from \$40 to \$50, depending on the personal preferences of the chef. That makes the monthly lunch budget, per person, under \$2.50 per meal.

Salad Club is a time saver, too. Each individual is only responsible for meal preparation one week a month. All that is required the other three weeks is an appetite.

“We all have busy lives, so it is really nice to have something prepared for you,” Sherman said. “And it’s a wonderful sur-

prise each day to find out what you will be having for lunch.”

Participants have expanded beyond the typical salad fare and regularly try new and healthy things. Leafy greens of all varieties make an appearance, but the club members have found a new favorite – kale’s humble cousin, cabbage.

“We like eating local,” Murphy said. “Cabbage is one of Flagler’s major crops.”

Current studies find that cabbage is itself a super food that helps reduce cholesterol and prevent cancer. Cabbage prevents bile from absorbing fat, which lowers the amount of cholesterol in the body. It also contains “glucosinolates,” which are anti-carcinogenic.

The website, <http://www.tossed.com/design-your-own>, though created for the “Tossed” chain food restaurant, provides an idea of the calories, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrates, fiber and protein contained in each item or collectively as the entire salad.

“It has been fun to share new foods and flavors with coworkers,” Mayer said. “We often enjoy meals together. It’s a nice way to spend the lunch hour.”