



THE GAMECHANGER

A Newsletter for the Employees & Volunteers of
PALM BEACH COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION



On YouTube

PBCPARKS.COM | JANUARY 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. - p1
- Mission, Vision, Core Services & Core Values - p2
- Palm Beach County Proclamations – Battle of the Loxahatchee and Florida Arbor Day - p3
- Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Cirillo Honored as a Community Giant - p4
- Tree Planting at Dyer Park - p5
- Peanut Island and Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens featured in Southern Living - p5
- Sunset Cove Amphitheater featured in Pro Rider Magazine - p6
- Glades District Parks Monthly Photo Contest - p6
- Archery at Westgate Recreation Center - p7
- In the News – Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens - p7
- County Cornerstones - p7
- Carlin Park After Dark - p8
- Legends on the Lawn - p9
- Onsite CAPRA Visitor Review - p10
- Employee Profile: Kevin Downes - p11
- Volunteer News & Spotlight - p11
- Your Health & Wellness - p13
- Safety First - p14
- Social Media Snippets - p15
- Employee & Volunteer Corner - p16
- W.E.C.A.R.E. Customer Service Standards - p17
- CharacterFirst: Honesty - p18
- Congratulations on Your Promotion! - p18
- Send Us Your Stories! - p18

Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc.



Front row: Al Zucaro (far right end); back row from L to R: Tom Ennis, Amy Kemp, **Jennifer Cirillo**, Tony Lofaso, John Gorski, **Paul Connell**, Ricky Wade (Not pictured: Jorge Avellana and Jessica Cecere)

At the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meeting on January 14, the commissioners approved the agreement with the Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County. The Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit independent entity established in May 2024, led by John Gorski and governed by a Board of Directors. Its goal is to seek and secure opportunities to enhance park assets, programs, and specifically identified initiatives, but not to fill the Department's budgetary shortfalls. Led by a dedicated Board of Directors, themselves influential

continued



PALM BEACH COUNTY



PARKS & RECREATION

"Best in the State"

"Best in the U.S.A."

We create opportunities for healthy, happy living!



Mission

To provide opportunities for healthy, happy living through award-winning parks, inclusive experiences and environmental stewardship.



Vision

As a nationally recognized parks and recreation leader we will connect people and parks by:

- Engaging all members of our diverse community,
- Ensuring safe, functional and innovative amenities now and in the future,
- Continually developing a professional, well-trained staff that is reflective of our community,
- Being a leader in outdoor recreation tourism,
- Forming strategic relationships to ensure local access to green and blue spaces,
- Meeting the national average of park land per capita with a focus on lowering barriers to access; providing environmental equity; advancing economic vitality; and championing community health,
- Continuously improving service delivery and business practices through the incorporation of new technologies and the creation of enterprising partnerships to deliver desired services.



Core Services

Ensure access to beaches and water bodies

Facilitate health and wellness opportunities

Provide for youth enrichment, sports/athletic programming and facilities

Promote stewardship of natural, archaeological and cultural sites

Provide for trails, open space and picnic facilities



Core Values

A culture of teamwork

Excellent customer service

Demonstrating a high level of integrity & pride

Fiscally responsible & accountable

leaders within Palm Beach County, the Foundation will pursue stewardship and philanthropic opportunities for self-sustaining support.

To benefit our residents and county as a whole, the Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. signature projects will address health and wellbeing, creating a greater sense of belonging, enhancing neighborhoods and experiences, economic vitality and destination tourism in parks, and fostering thriving communities. The Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County is dedicated to providing the much needed funding for park amenities and programs that are hard to fund with limited tax dollars, but which elevate your parks system to the exceptional level for all.

For more information about the Parks Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc., visit their website at <https://parksfoundationofpalmbeachcounty.org/>.

Way to go!!

*"We celebrated Helping Hands Around the World at this year's Arts4All Florida-Palm Beach County Showcase. In keeping with that theme, we experienced musical and vocal harmony during the performance. We hope and wish that you will continue to support the showcase year after year. No notes would be sung nor dance steps taken, were it not for your generous support. On behalf of Arts4All-Palm Beach County, I thank you and for your contribution of staff, time and transportation. Sixty different performers enjoyed sharing their talent with friends, family and the general public. Showcase 2024 introduced one new group who has already mentioned that they would love to return for Showcase 2025. Our host, Pam Triolo, added to the warmth and humor of the afternoon." – thank you letter to **Jennifer Cirillo** from Cindy Pijanowski*

Way to go!!

"On behalf of the Orange Bowl Committee, I want to extend a heartfelt THANKS to Mayor Marino, Vice Mayor Baxter, County Commissioners, County Administrator Baker and the entire Palm Beach County team for your longstanding partnership that we share!" – email from Eric Poms

Palm Beach County Proclamations – Battle of the Loxahatchee and Florida Arbor Day



*From L to R: Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director **Paul Connell**, Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists Board Member Dick Kazmar, Secretary Laurie Corry, President Derek Hankerson, Mayor Maria G. Marino, Parks and Recreation Department Director **Jennifer Cirillo**, Assistant County Administrator Tammy K. Fields, Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Programs Supervisor **Cliff Battles***

At the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meeting on January 7, Mayor Marino presented a proclamation recognizing the 187th Battle of the Loxahatchee. January 25, 2025, marks the 187th anniversary of the Second Seminole War. The Seminoles of Florida and free black militia cohorts were ordered to vacate their lands as per the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823, Indian Removal Act of 1830 and Treaty of Payne's Landing in 1832. In 1835, in preparation for war against the U.S. Army, black Seminole leaders recruited enslaved people from plantations along St. Augustine's east coast to resist removal. From 1835 to 1842, Seminoles and African Americans fought together against U.S. troops. To date, no peace treaty has ever been signed, and the war was declared over on August 14, 1842. The Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists strives to continue the preservation and unification of indigenous history at Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park as a testament to the commitment to honoring and safeguarding the rich cultural heritage embedded in the land.

continued



From L to R: Palm Beach County Library System Librarian Jayme Bosio, Cooperative Extension Director Ronald Rice, Environmental Resources Management Director Deborah Drum, Palm Beach County Office of Resilience and Sustainability Analyst Stessy Cocerez, Community Revitalization Senior Planner William Wynn, Vice Mayor Sara Baxter, Strategic Planning and Performance Management Division Director Keith Clinkscale, Strategic Planning and Performance Management Senior Strategic Planning Performance Analyst Marcela Millett, Environmental Resources Management Environmental Program Supervisor Matthew King, Parks and Recreation Department Environmental Manager **Tammy Burton** and Parks and Recreation Department Programs Supervisor **Cliff Battles**

At the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meeting on January 7, Vice Mayor Baxter presented a proclamation declaring January 17 as Florida Arbor Day in Palm Beach County. This year marks the 139th annual celebration of Florida Arbor Day, a statewide event that was initiated in 1886 to recognize the importance of trees and forests for the environment. The county is working to enhance climate resiliency and sustainability by promoting the planting and care of trees, integrating urban forestry into its climate action plans and incorporating community input that includes diverse needs and perspectives. The results of these efforts are being realized through the expansion of tree canopy coverage, achieved through community planting and residential tree giveaway events. Through the county's Strategic Planning and Performance Management Environmental Protection Cross-Departmental Team made up of

12 departments, environmental stewardship remains integral to the county's strategic priorities that aim to protect, preserve and enhance natural resources while fostering a sustainable, resilient community.

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Cirillo Honored as a Community Giant



From L to R: **Paul Connell, George LaCosta, Kirk Brooks, Jennifer Cirillo, Essie Knowles, Gladys Whigham, Eric Rein, Indira Persaud, Jackie Lambert; Kneeling: Donald Campbell**

On December 6, 2024, Inner City Youth Golfers, Inc. (ICYG) hosted its annual Community Giants Awards at Eastpointe Country Club in Jupiter, recognizing individuals who have made a meaningful impact on the lives of Palm Beach County's youth through golf and education. Among the honorees was Jennifer Cirillo, Director of Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation and a board member of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

"It's an honor to be recognized among so many dedicated individuals," said Jennifer Cirillo. "Golf is more than a sport—it's a gateway to mentorship, life skills, and community building. Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation is committed to creating opportunities for all children to discover where they belong, whether that's on the golf course, in nature, or in spaces where they can learn and grow."

Read the news release: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/Lists/NewsReleases/NewsDispForm.aspx?ID=804>

Tree Planting at Dyer Park



Dyer Park is now home to 111 new native shade trees after a tree-planting event in December 2024! This event was made possible thanks to a partnership with Community Greening, the Florida Forest Service & PBC Parks and Recreation, and of course all of the amazing volunteers – including Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss – that helped to plant despite the rain!

New gumbo limbos, live oaks, paradise trees, pigeon plums, red cedars, slash pines, and strangler figs are now lining the walking & biking trails and parking lots. These trees will not just beautify the park, but provide valuable shade, helping to cool temperatures and increase park usage.

View more photos on the Community Greening Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.571808935566170&type=3>

Peanut Island and Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens featured in Southern Living

"These special spots may be hidden, but they are a favorite for year-round residents in Florida for good reason. From secret gardens to quirky restaurants to wildlife havens, here are 20 must-visit secret spots in Florida." Peanut Island and Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens included in *20 Secret Places In Florida That Only Locals Know*: <https://www.southernliving.com/secret-places-in-florida-8765687>

Way to go!!



"Thank you for letting us know about the sand build up around the memorial benches [at Jupiter Beach Park]. We will have staff there tomorrow to clear off the pads and remove the access sand." – email to **Jenny Mahoney** from **Steve Achilles**

"Well done Steve as the project leader and well done team for making a huge improvement at Jupiter Inlet! The effort and results are impressive. Thank you so much." – email from Jenny Mahoney

Sunset Cove Amphitheater featured in Pro Rider Magazine



that made the 2024 season successful, including **Donald Perez** and **Rebecca Cruz.** Event at Sunset Cove Amphitheater was featured in Pro Rider Magazine article.

Glades District Parks Monthly Photo Contest

Submitted by **LJ Pearce**

In the Glades District, Parks Operations staff started a photo contest whereby staff submit photos of interesting, cool, funny, beautiful things they encounter while working in our parks. Each month, the staff votes on a winning photo. Check out the winning photo for January 2025:



An early morning rainbow frames the entrance to South Bay RV Campground – Photo by **Rene Nava**

Way to go!!

*“Awesome, great job guys! Thank you for sharing Rebecca [Cruz], it’s nice that you all have been able to create a great relationship with Billy. I’m glad he has continued to return to our facility for such a fun event.” – from **Diva Koon***

*“Thank you for sharing this information from Pro Rider Magazine. I’m thrilled to see that Sunset Cove Amphitheater is being recognized for hosting such a diverse range of events, and that both of you played a role in coordinating this successful event. Congratulations to you both!” – from **Indira Persaud***

“The 2024 Fizzle Racing HydroDrags World Championships took place at Sunset Cove Amphitheater in November 2024. This year’s event broke records in both racer turnout and spectator attendance – it was the biggest and best HydroDrags yet! I would like to thank those

Way to go!!

*“I am writing to thank you and express my appreciation for your choice of Park Ranger **Jean Turenne** (Park Ranger 139). His outstanding work on December 14 was instrumental and helping Animal Control and several others rescue a small dog that had been deserted at the dog park. He got out of the enclosure and was running through the park. Ranger Turenne’s kindness intelligence and resourcefulness were truly remarkable. I believe without him we would not have been able to catch the dog. Again, thank you.” – email to the pbcparcs inbox from Linda Turk*

Archery at Westgate Recreation Center



Submitted by **Luis Velasquez**

Archery for Beginners returns to Westgate Recreation Center in February! Our staff will instruct the class by teaching participants the archery fundamentals, including safety protocols, equipment familiarization, and basic shooting techniques. All necessary equipment will be provided. Program runs 10:00-11:30 a.m. and fee is \$10 per person.

- Saturday, February 8, 2025
- Saturday, February 15, 2025
- Saturday, February 22, 2025

Register in-person at the recreation center or online at <https://pbcparcsregistration.co.palm-beach.fl.us/WebTrac31/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/splash.html>.

Way to go!!

*"On behalf of myself and our Custom Fit Staff, I wanted to thank you and **Ralph Osgood** (Forklift Operator) for your fantastic help and patience with our fitting cart delivery. We couldn't have done it without you guys." – email to **George LaCosta** from **Juan Calderon***

In the News – Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

- The Japanese colony in Boca Raton named Yamato: How it started and how it ended | <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/news/local/boca/2024/12/22/yamato-the-story-of-a-japanese-colony-of-farmers-in-boca-raton/75337131007/>

*"Great work by our Curator of Japanese Art and exhibition team, Marketing Department and combined museum staff efforts." – from **Bonnie White LeMay***

*"It was a remarkable art exhibition. Congratulations to all on this stellar recognition!" – to Bonnie White LeMay from **Jennifer Cirillo***

- AKIRA selected as one of the 10 Best Miami Art Exhibitions of 2024 by the Miami New Times | <https://www.miaminewtimes.com/arts/best-miami-art-exhibitions-of-the-year-21976929>

County Cornerstones

Palm Beach County recognizes employees' years of service through monthly announcements under *My PBC News* on the *Team PBC* Intranet SharePoint page: <http://pbcportal.pbcgov.org/Pages/Default.aspx>.

The following celebrated anniversaries:

DECEMBER 2024

1 year: Anthony James, Daniel Mark, Darienne Koon, Engjell Troni, Jennifer Leger, Jovany Brunet-Naranjo, Keli'Jah Weston, Robyn Wood

5 years: Daniel Duenas

10 years: Chandler Brinkman, Robert Hamilton

20 years: Michael Steele, Peggy Hawks

25 years: Erik Littleton



PRESENTS

ARLIN PARK *After Dark* CONCERT SERIES



7:00PM-9:00PM

SEABREEZE AMPHITHEATER
CARLIN PARK

750 South S.R. A1A
Jupiter, FL 33477

OCTOBER 12, 2024 DURAN DURAN TRIBUTE

RIO RIO

DECEMBER 7, 2024 ABBA WONDERLAND

ROCK OF ABBA

FEBRUARY 8, 2025 CHICAGO TRIBUTE

SOLID BRASS

APRIL 12, 2025 CARS & AEROSMITH TRIBUTE

SHAKE IT UP & JADED

FREE
ADMISSION

Lawn Chairs
& Blankets
Welcome

Food &
Drinks
available
on site



Visit: www.pbcparcs.com
or contact 561.966.7043



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners



Owned and operated by

PALM BEACH COUNTY



PARKS & RECREATION

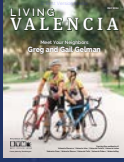
In accordance with ADA provisions, this document is available
in alternate formats. Please call 561-966-7043.

Activities will provide a safe and pleasurable outdoor music and entertainment environment
promoting life enrichment and community engagement at our outdoor amphitheaters.

2025 CANYON AMPHITHEATER

LEGENDS ON THE LAWN

Brought to you By Nostalgic America, Inc.



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

JANUARY 18

THE SMOKEBOSS MILITIA

BLUEGRASS

FEBRUARY 15

MOJITO LATIN BAND

LATIN MUSIC

MARCH 15

RELENTLESS BAND

80s/90s DANCE

APRIL 19

JAMBUSH

ROCK AMERICANA

MAY 17

DARK SIDE OF THE SOL

TRIBUTE BAND

7PM TO 9PM

SEPTEMBER 20

MARY WASHINGTON BROOKS

BLUES, SOUL

OCTOBER 18

SAMANTHA RUSSELL DUO

COUNTRY

NOVEMBER 15

SOUNDSATIONS

70s DISCO

DECEMBER 20

CHASE STITES AND THE LAST WORD

COUNTRY POP

FREE ADMISSION

EN ESPAÑOL



AN KREYÓL

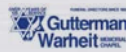
8802 BOYNTON BEACH BLVD • BOYNTON BEACH

PBCPARKS.COM • @CanyonAmphitheater • @PBC_Amphitheaters

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



RAYMOND JAMES®



THE WINSBERG



In accordance with ADA provisions, this document is available in alternative formats. Please call 561-966-7043.

Activities will provide a safe and pleasurable outdoor music and entertainment environment promoting life enrichment and community engagement at our outdoor amphitheaters.

SAVE THE DATES

ONSITE CAPRA VISITOR REVIEW

MAY 26 - 30, 2025



CAPRA AGENCY ACCREDITATION

Ask your supervisor how you can be prepared.

www.nrpa.org/CAPRA

SUPERVISORS - PLEASE POST



Employee Profile

2024 Aquatics Division Employee of the Year & Department Employee of the Year recipient:

Kevin Downes

Team member for 7 years part-time,
8 years full-time

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."



As an Aquatic Programs Coordinator, Kevin's job duties include supervising 3 year-round facility supervisors, directly supervising 3 seasonal facilities, and planning, coordinating and supervising the aquatic programming for 6 public swimming facilities to

include swim lessons, events, and public training.

His favorite part of his job duties? "The training of staff and the public for Lifeguarding or Water Safety."

Outside of work, Kevin enjoys going for long runs while listening to his audio books, playing videogames, playing with his dog, training Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and enjoying our PBC Parks!

Something about Kevin that would surprise co-workers: he is a current non-commissioned officer in the Army National Guard (15 years).

Way to go!!

*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Park Ranger **Jean Turenne** for going far and beyond the call of duty on December 14, to help rescue a puppy abandoned by his owner in the parking lot outside the Lake Ida Dog Park." – email to the pbcparcs inbox from Steven Veinger*

VOLUNTEER

News & Spotlight

NEWS



In December 2024, our Adopt-A-Park Partners hosted **10** cleanups with **349** volunteers, donated **724** hours of service and removed over **450** pounds of litter from our parks and beaches. Way to go!



Volunteer Anniversaries in January

1 Year

- **Michel Chartier** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Daniel Demers** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Kenneth Fielding** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **Abigail Frank** – Daggerwing Nature Center
- **Walter Parcheta** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Richard Wirth** – Morikami Museum
- **Celia Yale** – Daggerwing Nature Center

2 Years

- **Bunny Dodson** – Green Cay Nature Center
- **Sabeen Faquir** – Okeeheelee Nature Center
- **Diane Lemieux** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Robert Love** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Gilbert Mercier** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Gregory Nielsen** – Osprey Point Golf Course

3 Years

- **Jenna Bodin** – Okeeheelee Nature Center
- **Timothy Dawkins** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Sonny Katz** – John Prince Golf Learning Center
- **Andre Marleau** – Okeeheelee Golf Course

4 Years

- **Beverly Connolly** – Morikami Museum
- **John Dilorenzo** – Park Ridge Golf Course
- **Johnas Karlsson** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **Frederico Peguero** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Steven Romain** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **Lourdes Royce** – Okeeheelee Nature Center
- **Edward Selep** – Okeeheelee Golf Course

5 Years

- **Linda Badstibner** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **William Badstibner** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Erik Bakken** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **Lindi Cody-Solomon** – Okeeheelee Nature Center
- **Jeffrey Jones** – Park Ridge Golf Course
- **Tom Michon** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **David Petfield** – Okeeheelee Golf Course

6 Years

- **Glenn Fell** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Jim Melvin** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **Arunachalam Narendra** – Okeeheelee Golf Course

7 Years

- **Andre Harvey** – Okeeheelee Golf Course

8 Years

- **Karen Bath** – Green Cay Nature Center
- **Sarah Callinan** – Morikami Museum
- **Gary Lehman** – Osprey Point Golf Course
- **Andrea Ross** – Morikami Museum

9 Years

- **Arcade Duguay** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Michael Herbstman** – Morikami Museum
- **Barbara Ladd** – Green Cay Nature Center

10 Years

- **Ron Mattson** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Marge Randall** – Morikami Museum

12 Years

- **Rose Hajek** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **William Soletti** – Osprey Point Golf Course

16 Years

- **Scott Baker** – Park Ridge Golf Course

17 Years

- **Rudolph Cerbone** – Okeeheelee Golf Course
- **Steven Wertz** – John Prince Golf Learning Center

SPOTLIGHT



Meet **Pedro Rodriguez**, a dedicated volunteer who has become invaluable to our John Prince Golf Learning Center family. With his background as a retired officer from the NYPD and a former Palm Beach County school district employee, Pedro brings a lifetime of discipline, reliability, and a warm, approachable demeanor to every task he takes on.

Pedro is always ready to lend a hand wherever needed, whether it's assisting John Prince Golf Learning Center staff, assisting with the upkeep of the course, or ensuring visitors

continued

have a great experience. His enthusiasm for golf shines through in all he does, and his friendly nature makes him a favorite among staff and visitors alike.

For Pedro, volunteering is about more than giving back. It's an opportunity to stay active, immerse himself in the beauty of the outdoors, and connect with new people who share his love of the game. When he's not on the course, Pedro cherishes time with his family, especially caring for his grandchildren.

We're grateful for Pedro's hard work, good humor, and dedication. Volunteers like him make our community stronger and more vibrant!



YOUR HEALTH & Wellness

Interested in joining the Well-Read book club?

Now offering book club meetings at Government Center! Get a head start on your reading goals for 2025 with our newest book, *Elenaor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman. Government Center: Wednesday, January 29, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WellReadPBC> Complimentary books provided

There's no better way to start your week off than with fitness!

Join us for Bodyweight Bootcamp with Coach Damien on Mondays, January 27 – March 24, 5:45-6:30 p.m. This 45-minute, no equipment necessary class will have you moving! Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFPRGHW>

Best of Self-Care with Carine kicks off again

in 2025 on January 30 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Airport Center. Learn some self-care strategies and ways to prioritize your personal well-being throughout the year! Register: <https://pbc.pbcgov.org/TED>

The New Year means the start of your UHC medical benefits for 2025!

Complete your preventative care checklist and see what screenings are recommended for you at <https://www.uhc.com/health-and-wellness/preventive-care?msockid=24b18aa336d8637c075699d437486269>. Have questions about your medical coverage? We have support for you! Feel free to reach out to your Dedicated Service Account Managers, Evelyn (561-233-5474) and Leslie (561-233-5463)!

Way to go!!



"This morning, I read the article in the Sun Sentinel about the presentation of the 2035 Master Plan to the County Commission this week. I then read small portions and

skimmed many of the 263 pages of the 2035 Master Plan. It is a very impressive work and kudos to **Bob Hamilton** and **Daniel Duenas** who spearheaded the production of the 2035 Master Plan. You and your staff do a great job, and I wish you, your staff, and family all the best in 2025!" – email to **Jennifer Cirillo** from David Schulson

"Yes, Bob and Daniel did amazing work spearheading this project. I appreciate you acknowledging them. Happy New Year." – email from Jennifer Cirillo

Way to go!!

"Thank you (and your team) for hosting the Engage Class of 2025. Arts and culture day is such a vital part of educating local leaders about our sector and all the Palm Beaches has to offer. Morikami is a gem and I'm so glad you could share it with us! All the best." – thank you card to **Bonnie White LeMay** from Lauren Perry

SAFETY FIRST

This Month's Topic:

OFFICE SAFETY

Many workers think that the office environment is the safest workplace. But a safe office workplace requires hazard control, good housekeeping, and safe work practices.

- Arrange your office to allow clear walkways and aisles throughout the rooms and near exits.
- Close file cabinet drawers, file doors, and pull-out work tables when not in use.
- Prevent falls in the office by keeping walkways and floors clear of trash, cords, cables, and other items.
- Store supplies and materials properly to maintain a safe workplace.
- Use only approved electrical equipment in the office.

Periodic workplace safety inspections can keep your office safe. Report hazards to your supervisor quickly and make sure that they get corrected as soon as possible.

Be prepared for an emergency in your building. Know your building emergency procedures, evacuation routes, and assembly area. Know how to use a fire extinguisher and when it is safe to do so. Keep exits and aisle walkways clear to allow a quick evacuation.

Read more: www.safeatworkca.com/safety-articles/office-safety/

Palm Beach County's Safety Policy PPM/CW-O-005 provides guidance and basic requirements detailing the elements of the County's safety program and the responsibilities of all Palm Beach County employees to be aware of and use the personal protective devices required by their job. All staff should review this important PPM.

The department's safety committee, which represents staff across the divisions, meets on a quarterly basis to help promote safety across the department for both staff and the public. The committee has a folder on the department's SharePoint site where staff can access approved committee minutes, agendas, training schedules and other important safety related details.

Utility Truck Crane Training – Tuesday, December 17, 2024



Utility Truck Crane Training (every 3 years) is designed for staff who utilize cranes/crane trucks for their work functions to move heavy materials for their projects. This course reviews Safe Operating Procedures, Hazard Analysis and tips to guide you through maneuvering large items safely from one space to another. Attendees: **Michael Doria, William Eberhardt, Jaser Estrada, Dustin Johnson, William Kennedy, Carlos Morales, Christian Rocky, Larry Sheely, Celso Vega** and **George Welch**. Trainer: Mark Koop

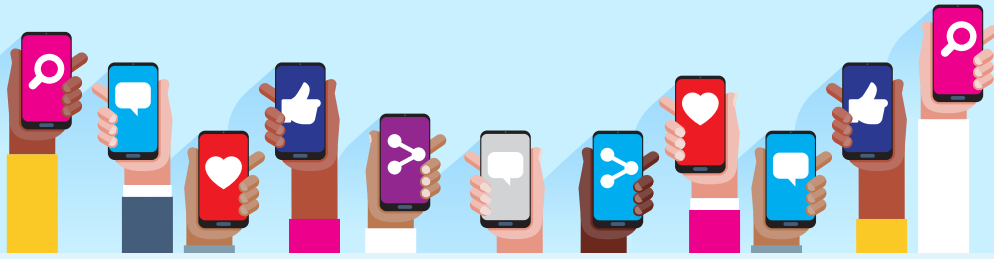


WORKPLACE SAFETY TIPS:

Safety Tip #1: Inspect your workplace area periodically for hazards and report any discoveries to your supervisor or take corrective actions as soon as possible.

Safety Tip #2: Prevent falls by keeping walk ways and floors clear of storage, debris, cords, and other hazards.

SOCIAL MEDIA SNIPPETS



FOLLOW

#PBCPARKS



PBC Parks & Recreation

Meet Oliver, our 15-year-old rehabilitated Eastern Screech Owl!

🌟 Oliver enjoys enrichment walks in the park with our naturalist, which help keep him healthy, active & curious. ❤️ Enrichment is a key part of animal husbandry—ensuring the well-being of our animal ambassadors by encouraging natural behaviors & providing mental stimulation. 🌿 Want to support our other educational animal ambassadors like Oliver? Visit www.pbcparcs.com to learn more about our programs and how you can help! #AnimalAmbassador #WildlifeConservation #NationalBirdDay



barbfernandezfla

Love this video! What a great way to show off this gem! I'll say hello to Oliver through the window soon!



hildekverneland

My son stops by to see him every time we go!



leaveittolina

That's so sweet!



leaveittolina

So cute!



PBC Parks & Recreation

Start 2025 strong on the .47-mile wheelchair exercise course at John Prince Park. Fresh air, fitness and nature await — let's make this year your healthiest yet! 🚲 #TrailsTuesday #pbcparcs



hildekverneland

My favorite local oasis!



Lorraine P.

Wow! I'll have to find out days and hours then see if my son can take me.

EMPLOYEE & VOLUNTEER CORNER



Have an accomplishment or big moment you want to share? We'd love to hear about it!

E-mail your news to parkmarketingrequest@pbcgov.org by the first Friday of each month and note *The GameChanger* in the subject line of your e-mail. No computer? Call 966-6664 or interoffice to Office of Public Engagement at the JPP Admin Building.

Florida Coast to Coast (C2C) Tour: A Journey Across the Sunshine State

This past month, **Mike Szakacs** embarked on an unforgettable adventure: the Florida Coast to Coast (C2C) tour. Spanning approximately 220 miles, this tour took him and 21 other cyclists from the vibrant city of St. Petersburg on the Gulf Coast to the serene shores of Titusville on the Atlantic.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this journey was that most of the route was on paved trails. These trails are part of a vast network maintained by various county and city parks and recreation agencies, ensuring a safe and scenic ride through Florida's diverse landscapes. The trails were wide and smooth, passing through both busy urban areas and remote natural settings.

The journey began in St. Petersburg, where they set off with high spirits and a sense of excitement. The first stop was the charming town of Tarpon Springs, known for its rich Greek heritage and picturesque sponge docks. From there, they pedaled through the rolling hills of Brooksville and Clermont, enjoying the scenic landscapes and friendly local communities. Next, they arrived in historic Winter Garden, just in time to see its Christmas parade. "It was like a scene out of a Hallmark Channel movie." The tour concluded in Titusville, where they celebrated this achievement with a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment.

The Florida C2C tour was not just a physical challenge but also an opportunity to connect with fellow cyclists and discover the hidden gems of our state. I feel blessed to have completed this incredible journey and look forward to more adventures on two wheels. Here's to many more miles and memories!

Bike Florida is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating bicycle tourism and tours across the state of Florida.

www.bikeflorida.org

Florida's rail trails have a rich history, particularly from the perspective of parks and recreation agencies. These trails are part of the broader Rails-to-Trails movement, which began in the mid-20th century to convert abandoned railway corridors into multi-use trails for public recreation and conservation.

continued



Parks and recreation agencies have highlighted the dual benefits of these trails: promoting outdoor recreation and preserving historical and natural resources. The Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail and the East Central Regional Rail Trail are prime examples of how these projects have revitalized communities, providing safe, accessible spaces for exercise and leisure while also conserving wildlife habitats and green spaces.

Today, Florida’s parks and recreation agencies continue to expand and maintain these trails, ensuring they remain valuable assets for public use. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and local government agencies work together to secure funding, manage trail maintenance, and promote the trails as key components of Florida’s outdoor recreation infrastructure.

These rail trails not only offer recreational opportunities but also serve as living museums, preserving the history of Florida’s railroads and the communities they once connected. Have you visited any of these trails? You may soon, as PBC Parks’ recent county-wide needs assessment identified “connectivity through nature trails” as one of its highest priorities for the public.

Way to go!!

*“I feel it is important for all to know that team member **Colleen [Kesich]** is an exceptional, professional, and a true team leader. I feel this way as my son and I experienced Colleen’s work ethic and purity within her professional and dedicated disposition today near the park. Colleen went above and beyond to fulfill her duties as a Park Ranger merely trekking on foot approximately 200 yards through brush, shrubbery and over rather large terrain to notify us that there was a call put in regarding noise. Upon my son and I respectfully giving Park Ranger Colleen our full attention, we followed Park Ranger Colleen’s message. My family and I follow the rules that are in place and steer clear from creating any and all situations that could manifest a problem. Colleen’s approach and delivery of message was a breath of fresh air. Proud to know that this park has Colleen as a team member.” – email to the pbcparcs inbox from Christopher Taylor*

W.E.C.A.R.E. Customer Service Standards



Character **FIRST**



HONESTY

"Being truthful in what I say and do."

- from the **Character Core Leadership Traits** pocket guide

Character: "The inward values that determine outward actions. It touches everything you do. It takes character to live with integrity, build healthy relationships, and improve your work and world."



Congratulations on your promotion!

Congratulations to **Brian Leidig** on his well-deserved promotion to Assistant Facility Manager at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center. Brian has been a valuable member of our Parks Operations Division, most recently serving as the Public Works Crew Chief for the North District. With his extensive expertise in facility maintenance and operations, Brian is well-equipped for this new role. His promotion reflects his dedication and steadfast commitment to our department.

Way to go!!



"A heartfelt thanks for your donations to our United Way Fundraiser. Greatly appreciate your support!"
- thank you card to **Jennifer Cirillo** from Whitney Carroll [Planning, Zoning & Building]

Way to go!!

"Many thanks to your staff at Peanut Island, Lake Lytal and the Nursery Operations Crew for their assistance in making this a great day [tree planting as part of Environment Day] for the [Palm Beach County] Leadership Group. The exposure we get from these programs to current and future leaders in Palm Beach County is invaluable. Your staff make these events a special experience for the participants." - email to **George LaCosta** from **Paul Connell**

Send us your
PHOTOS & STORIES!



continued

Send us your
PHOTOS & STORIES!



"Spotted during my visit to Green Cay on Christmas Day."
– taken by **Kimberly Krieger**



SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS

Email: parkmarketingrequest@pbc.gov
PBC Parks is on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, WordPress, and YouTube. The next time you snap a picture, send us your image and let us share it with the community! We post your images to encourage more people to take advantage of our amazing county park system.



SEND IN YOUR STORIES

E-mail your news to parkmarketingrequest@pbc.gov by the first Friday of each month and note *The GameChanger* in the subject line of your e-mail. No computer? Call 966-6664 or interoffice to Office of Public Engagement at the JPP Admin Building.

For distribution: if you want to receive the newsletter through your personal email, send it to us at parkmarketingrequest@pbc.gov or call 966-6664.



On YouTube PBCPARKS.COM



Parks and Recreation Department

Jennifer Cirillo, *Director*
Paul Connell, *Deputy Director*
Stephanie Surrena, *Editor*
Kimberly Krieger, *Graphic Designer*

Contributors

Jamilah St Juste & Katy Tobin:
Volunteer News & Spotlight
Jackie Lambert: *Your Health & Wellness*
Angela Kilgore: *Safety First*



**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners**

Maria G. Marino, Mayor
Sara Baxter, Vice Mayor
Gregg K. Weiss
Joel G. Flores
Marci Woodward
Maria Sachs
Bobby Powell Jr.

County Administrator

Verdenia C. Baker

Assistant County Administrator

Tammy K. Fields