

The background of the cover is a photograph of a scenic waterfront. In the foreground, a large, multi-tiered fountain with several water jets is in operation. The fountain is surrounded by a paved walkway and some greenery. In the background, a calm body of water (likely a lake or bay) stretches to the horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A small boat is visible on the water. To the right, there are palm trees and other tropical vegetation. A black lamppost stands on the left side of the fountain.

PALATKA

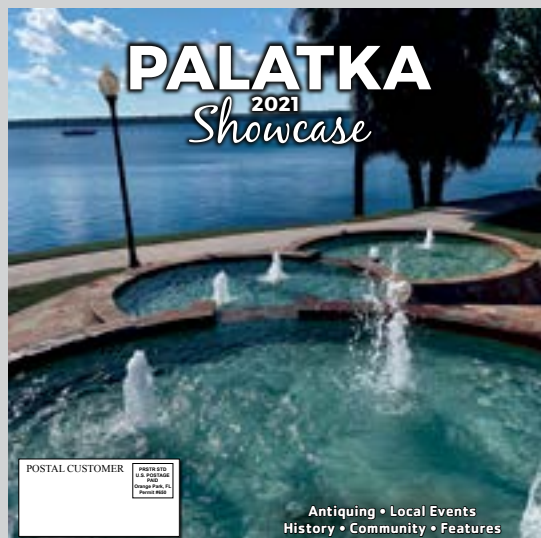
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Living in Palatka gives residents a feel of hometown charm, rich history and a feel of a healthy future with a growing economy. Palatka has much to offer residents as well as out of towners that come and frequent this beautiful area. The St. Johns River is at the heart of Palatka and offers much enjoyment on and off the water. The St. John's River Center is a must visit to families across the state and located right downtown along the riverfront!

The Ravines State Park may be the #1 destination for a relaxing walk, picnic or event. The beauty of the ravines is well worth the visit. Historical attractions including the Murals all around town make for a fun walk while sopping in the downtown area, Riverfront Park, the Bronson-Mulholland House, the David Browning Rail Museum and of course the Palatka Welcome Center.

“PEOPLE TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE TO EAT AT MANY OF THE LOCAL RESTAURANTS IN PUTNAM COUNTY”

Eateries in Palatka and East Palatka and also exceptional with dozens of local mom and pop restaurants as well as national chain eateries. From Bradley's Seafood and Steaks to the Mariachiles Mexican Grill, Angel's Dining Car to Pizzaboy's Pizza you just won't go wrong. Across the river into East Palatka Musselwhite's Seafood and Grill and Corky Bell's at Gator Landing are among restaurants people travel to from across the state for a delicious lunch or dinner.

The rich history in the area allow many antique shoppes to showcase items from the city and region to interested patrons. Rusty Duck's antique and vintage Bakery offers tasty treats as well as beautiful collectables to visitors and Elsie Bell's Antique Mall are among several across the area that just make Palatka special.

If you live or work in Putnam County or in Neighboring County always remember to check in with the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce to find out about anything you have questions about. The Chamber can connect you to local businesses of outstanding reputation for any products or services you may be in need of as well as help you with any questions about the county events and “things to do”. They can be reached at 1100 Reid Street in Palatka or by phone at 386-328-1503 or at www.putnamcountychamber.com



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A man of “Distinctive Excellence”

Carl was born (1940) and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. He recently passed away and the community honors him for his commitment to Putnam and surrounding Counties for years and years. His passing will greatly impact our area. Carl was a consummate businessman. Experienced in real estate and international travel, many would say, he was a man of the world. Carl was the owner of numerous auto dealerships in Southern Illinois. Hal Magee, with Beck Ford actually worked with Mr. Beck and came to Florida to help with the Florida properties. Hal said, “Carl loved people and had a keen sense of business and customer service, Beck has operated auto dealerships in Palatka and St. Augustine and Central Florida for over 30 years. He enjoyed helping young people get started in business and helped many young business people in the Palatka, Florida area. He received numerous business and community awards for his work in Palatka and St. Augustine Florida. Carl was involved in numerous civic organizations and was a regular member of St. Monica Catholic Church, where he was a regular member. While involved and helped with numerous non-profits, he was involved as the past President of Palatka Kiwanis Club, a member of Palatka Elks and Moose lodges. He was also a trustee of St. Johns River State College, Carl had a great love of animals, especially his dogs which were his constant companions, thus his involvement with the Putnam County Humane Society as well as many other animal shelters. He gave to so many charities, “Many of the donations, contributions and scholarships and sponsorships that Carl Beck supported – no one knew but him and God,” Pastor Carl Flagg, longtime Palatka friend said. Wayne McClain, a close friend, co-worker with the Beck Automotive Group said, “He’s given millions of dollars to this community, He’s touched the lives of about everybody in Putnam County.” Breck Sloan, president and his brother Brad Sloan, current owners of the Beck Automotive Group agree, “Carl urged his employees and friends to give back to the community and not to merely take from the community”. Obviously, well known throughout the world, people in Palatka knew Carl Beck. While he helped those in dire need with mortgages or other financial needs, he also rubbed shoulders with County Commissioners, Community leaders and helped with the revitalization of downtown Palatka in a major way. Carl loved to travel and had been to over 120 countries around the world. He was an avid auto race fan, attending over 50 Indy 500’s, and many NASCAR races and was a sponsor of several NASCAR drivers. Carl loved being with his friends, pets, family and enjoyed all his nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. By his giving he loved Palatka and will leave his special feeling for this community and a Legacy of giving back to everyone he knew and best to the businesses in Palatka he build and grew over the years. When you think of Beck, you can think of a business with a love for our community, said Craig Alexander, close friend and business associate at the Beck Automotive Group.

Carl C. Beck, Jr.
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JAMES AND CATHERINE FOERSTER LEAVING A LEGACY

Catherine Foerster lives a life full of family, love and the sound of music. Jim Foerster always tried to use logic when approaching what we are dealt with in life. As a youngster, he had a rough life. He wanted more than that for today's kids who love and are interested in music and wanting to learn more. These Putnam County residents are leaving an endowment for scholarships to the Salvation Army Music Camp in Keystone Heights, Florida.

For Mr. Foerster, music became an outlet and an escape. Under the direction of a wonderful and caring band instructor in high school, he became a state champion musician on both trumpet and French horn.

Without much parental support, he competed successfully in high school band competitions while working multiple jobs to pay for music lessons and his own clothes. Following high school and showing early signs of his unique skills, he came to the conclusion that music was his passion but would not "pay the bills" for the life and family he hoped to have.

Engineering, especially electrical, came about as an act of fate when he found a concentrated program that would yield a degree for him in 30 continuous months. Packing up his few belongings, he set off for Fort Wayne, IN. Carrying a hefty course load at Indiana Technical College (now known as Indiana Institute of Technology), he went to work full time in the coil winding department at General Electric Co. on the second shift, to pay all his tuition and living expenses. There was no scholarship, no taxpayer subsidized grants or student loans and unfortunately no family financial support. During this time he met his future wife, Catherine, and they were married in November 1953. He graduated college with a BSEE in May, 1954, and was hired for a potential career-making position with General Motors in Dayton, Ohio.

However, he received his Draft Notice for the U.S. Army. As an Army Private with an engineering degree, after Basic Training he was sent to Ft. Monmouth, NJ, to study meteorology. After that he was sent to Ft. Huachuca, AZ to wait for assignment and finally to the Dugway Proving Ground, Utah to play an active role in chemical weapon testing. His wife accompanied him on these moves. Discharged from the Army in 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Foerster headed back to Fort Wayne, Indiana. He obtained an engineering position in the coil division at

General Electric and they settled into life. While at G.E., he learned more about the fundamentals of magnetic design, coil design, and coil construction. He was laid off from G.E. In 1957 and he went to work for Wabash Magnetics in the same geographic area, where he learned about UL certifications and transfer molding. (Simultaneously, children started to arrive - Laura, Andy, Lisa, Thom, Sarah.)

Leaving Wabash in 1966, he began his own company, J4 Electro-Magnetics. He started in a rented garage in Fort Wayne with near junk yard equipment. (This company endured until 2002 and defined who he was and shaped who and what most of their children became.)

By 1972, three more children - Jamie, Sam, and Cathleen - had arrived. The family then lived on a 160 Acre farm with the business also located there near Columbia City, IN. The Foersters sometimes struggled to juggle company, farm, and family. As Indiana taxes increased, plans were made to join Mrs. Foerster's older brother, Beau Bodenhorn, in Florida.

The farm was listed for sale. Property was obtained in Pomona Park, FL, and the

family moved south in 1974. The population of Pomona Park, FL swelled 2% simply with the arrival of the Foerster clan! Mr. Foerster taught high school math at Crescent City High School for a year while the house was being built around the family and the company. J4 Inc. was moved to a new building on land obtained on Perry Street in Pomona Park. The whole family was put to work one way or another. Mrs. Foerster went back to college to finish her degree in nursing. Children dared not get into trouble at school (both Mom and Dad would have none of that). Everyone learned: how to cut grass, how to paint a house, how to lay irrigation pipe, how to make a coil, how to run electrical wire, how to build things out of wood and metal, how to pour concrete, how to cook and clean house and how to enjoy summer vacations working at J4.

Eventually, all eight children graduated with honors from both high school and college. Mr. Foerster retired and turned the business over to his sons and then pursued long deferred interests. Community art classes and community orchestras (St. Augustine and Palatka) became weekly staples. Upon retirement, he also became interested in fitness training and he and his wife joined the "Y" then located on Union





Jim Foerster

Avenue in Crescent City, FL. When the “Y” closed, he and another active member decided to open a non-profit Fitness Center (501c3) in south Putnam County. Mr. and Mrs. Foerster donated the then empty J4 property on Perry St., Pomona Park, FL to establish the new Fitness Center in 2012. Due to lack of community support, the center closed late in 2019. It was stated in the By-Laws of the Center that

after all debts were paid, all remaining funds (if any), contents of the buildings (if any), and the buildings and property would be donated to the Salvation Army of Putnam County, Florida, as requested by James A. and Catherine F. Foerster.

The property was then sold and closed on January 30, 2020. The

check was made out to The Salvation Army, Florida Division Head Quarters on March 16, 2020. This donation has established The James A. Foerster Endowment. The endowment will be used to give scholarships to musically talented and interested teens to attend the Music Camp provided by the Salvation Army in Keystone Heights Florida. Scholarships will be available to promising music students recommended by their music teachers in both Putnam and Clay Counties. It was Mr. Foerster’s desire that other young people would be encouraged and helped in their desire to change the direction of their lives with music. His life was changed for the better and put on an upward path by a caring music teacher and band director many years ago.

Mr. Foerster also donated his much beloved professional French Horn and music before his passing in October, 2019, so that it could be used in one of the Salvation Army’s bands. Both Mr. and Mrs. Foerster have long admired The Salvation Army and all their good work to help communities. He and some of his musician friends greatly enjoyed visiting the Salvation Army Brass Band presentations every summer.

Families with children with music interests can reach out to Laura Slaback for more information regarding the scholarships available for the Camp Keystone Music Camp.

She can be reached at 352-502-9700 or email laura.slaback@uss.salvationarmy.org



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Festivals in Palatka

Locals attend on a regular basis along with visitors who come from near and far!

Trot for Hope

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving Day SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Pre-Race Packet Pick Up/Registration: Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 12 - 4 PM at Hope FM, 3419 St. Johns Ave, Palatka, FL 32177 Race Day Packet Pick Up/Registration: Thursday, November 25, 2021, 8:00 - 9:00 AM at Riverfront Park. Kids Fun Run start - 9:00 AM; 2 Mile Race start immediately following, likely 9:15 AM

BENEFICIARY Proceeds from the race will benefit the ministry of WHIF 91.3 Hope FM. WHEN Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 25, 2021 - 9:00 AM Registration and check-in begins at 8:00 with coffee provided by Better Beans of Florida. WHERE Riverfront Park 100 Memorial Parkway Palatka, FL 32177 Trot, walk, jog, or run 2 Miles... It's all for fun! PRESENTED BY Beck is our presenting sponsor. Also sponsored by: Southern Air, First Coast Community Credit Union, 1st Coast Recycling, Byrd's Sales, Douglas Law Firm, Solaris, Better Beans of Florida, Johnson Overturf Funeral Home, Tire Outlet, KB Cabinetry, Corky Bell's, Edith Aldrich State Farm, Open Door Church of God, Masters Funeral Home, Susie's Dog House, Raybon Pediatrics, Office Furniture Outlet, Palm Florist, Ronnie Singletary of iHeart Realty, Conkey's Outdoor, CrossRoad Community Church. In the event of inclement weather, emergency or a natural disaster, Hope FM and Race-Smith reserve the right to cancel or postpone the race. In the event of cancellation or postponement, there will be no refunds. AWARDS The Trot for HOPE will be a non-competitive, non-scored, fun, festive holiday event; be sure to look at the display clock when you finish, for your time. All finishers will receive a finisher's prize! TEAM COMPETITION Sign up with your church, school, business, club, or family to be eligible for the team competition. A plaque will be awarded to the team with the most participation. AMENITIES T-shirt, goody bag, post-race refreshments. Availability and size of t-shirts only guaranteed to those who register by November 5, 2021.

Trot For HOPE
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Palatka Porchfest Music Festival

Saturday, December 4, 2021

17 Bands playing a wide variety of music genre on beautiful porches throughout the South Historic Neighborhood with food, drink, and cottage industry vendors.
429 Kirby Street Palatka, FL 32177



Putnam County Fair

3/18 - 3/26/2022

Annual Putnam County Agricultural Fair Food, Games, Livestock, Rides! Fun for all ages.
118 Fairgrounds Road, East Palatka, FL 32131



PUTNAM COUNTY FAIR

The Putnam County Fair has been a county tradition since 1950. The fair prides itself on being fun for the whole family with children's activities, music, livestock competition, rides and more.

The Putnam County Fair is an annual tradition taking place in March. Preparations for the upcoming fair in March 2022 have already begun, and fair manager Amy Poupore says there's a lot to look forward to.

"The 2022 Putnam County Fair continues to grow and evolve based on attendee, exhibitor and volunteer feedback. This year the community will experience a new ticketing system to help alleviate the long lines we saw last year with the increased attendance," said Poupore.

With adjustments needing to be made for the 2021 fair, Poupore believes it was one of the greatest fairs they have had.

"This past year was a record year for us. I think the community was ready to come out to a safe, fun family experience. In comparison to past fairs we increased our sanitizing efforts, encouraged social distancing with prominent signage and hand sanitizing stations, as well as increased security presence," said Poupore.

While the fair has been enjoyed by members of the local community for years, Poupore believes that the Putnam County Fair has a lot to offer visitors to the area.

"Visitors to the Putnam County Fair can experience a variety of exhibits and fun. The rides are always a huge hit, and who doesn't love Fair Food like funnel cakes, deep fried oreos, cotton candy, fries loaded with everything? Whether you like seeing all the animals, enjoying the youth showing off their hard work, watching the whip cracking contest on Sunday afternoon, listening to local entertainment or just wandering around and admiring the handiwork of quilters, woodworkers, artists, and more, there is something for everyone," said Poupore.

With the Putnam County fair being a cherished part of community life for over 60 years now, with this passionate staff dedicated to providing fun for the whole family, it is easy to see why the Putnam County Fair is an important part of the community.



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If you like older items that are desirable and appear to be authentic and in really great condition you might like to take a stroll down memory lane at one of the many antique stores in Palatka.

When you find an antique that catches your eye, you've probably found an item that's likely to be unique to your personal appeal and appear to be something that would appreciate in value as the years go by then you've found your precious gem!

Sometimes it's nice to find something that feels and looks like it might be a rare find. What constitutes a rarity? If none of your friends owns one, you know that it's possibly worth something. Even if the value is not incredible, if you like it, buy it!

Of course, something might be rare because it just didn't make it back in the day, when it was being sold. The item might be too big, too crazy or too odd. Still, if you like it, well, this aspect of a rare item works for you and just do it. Friends that come to your home are going to ask where you bought that and ask what it is and that's half the fun of buying antique items.

Lastly, you might see something that you had, or your mother or grandmother had, and you re-

member it from years ago. That warm feeling you have when you pick it up, hold it and remember times from long ago that were easy, simple and heartwarming are also rare. This also means buy it. Bottom line is that Palatka has a fine collection of shoppes with antiques, collectables and many thrift shops that might just tickle your fancy. This makes a great day of fun along with a trip to one of many local restaurants.

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Wayne McClain

“Any time that you live in a small and close community like this you feel a sense of pride and want to take ownership in your community, you want to do what you can to improve the community and make it the best that it can be and that’s how I look at it,” said McClain.

Wayne McClain has been a resident of Putnam County for over 20 years. McClain is a former chairman of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, and throughout his years as a community member, has been very

driven in making the community better.

McClain knew that his role was important to the thriving businesses of Putnam County and that the businesses of the community relied on the chamber of commerce’s work. “The position was volunteer-based, and it would change every year, basically we would take a strategic plan that we had and we would use it to support the business climate at the bottom line,” said McClain.

McClain first arrived in Putnam County in 1999, and ever since he has taken great pride in the community that he now calls his home. “Any time that you live in a small and close community like this you feel a sense of pride and want to take ownership in your community, you want

to do what you can to improve the community and make it the best that it can be and that’s how I look at it,” said McClain.

McClain considers volunteer work an important part of being a community member. McClain is a member of the rotary club and serves as a member of the board of directors for the Putnam County Medical Center.

Among McClain’s various volunteer endeavors, he is particularly fond of his work with The Ride Solution. The Ride Solution is an organization located in Palatka that is dedicated to improving the mobility and economic stability of Putnam County. The Ride Solution provides safe and efficient transportation to those who need reliable transportation in Putnam County who may otherwise not be able to have such reliable transportation.

McClain is a proud and dedicated member of the Putnam County community. Throughout his various official roles in the community and his volunteer work, he is firmly focused on doing what he can do to make Putnam County the best community that it can be.



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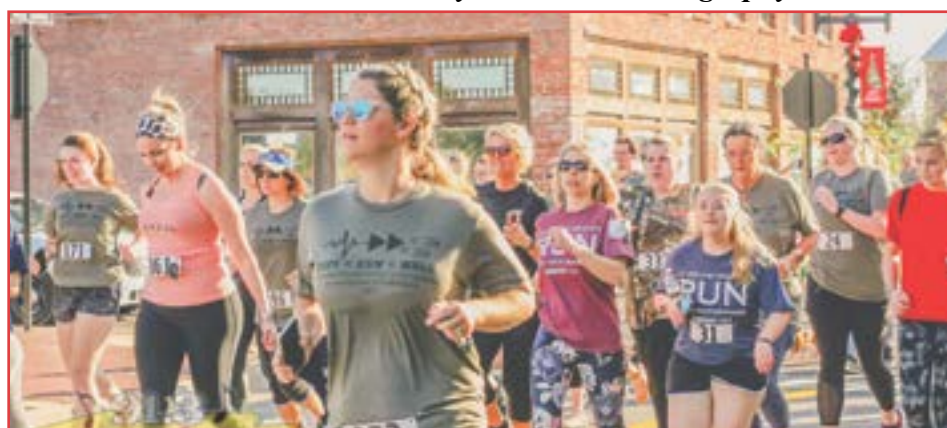
91.3 Hope FM in Palatka

a listener supported ministry

“When someone came to us with an idea for a fundraiser, we were intrigued”, said Robin Robinson, manager of the Hope FM radio station. They told us that Thanksgiving Day is the most popular day for races in the country. The listener wanted to put together a fun run to benefit the Hope FM radio ministry on Thanksgiving Day to see if it would be a success, and it absolutely was! That was 2013 and it’s become an annual tradition for local listeners and community. That first year event had about 150 participants on a freezing cold morning, and it’s grown each year since. Even the year that participants and volunteers all got drenched in rain, people still came out for the event! The last event was in 2019 and had well over 400 participants! With the generosity of businesses and churches that sponsor the Trot for Hope, it has been a successful fundraiser each year. There is also a short run for the kids called the Tiny Tot Turkey Trot, and they each get a ribbon for crossing the finish line. The 2-mile event is for all ages, and finishers receive a medal for their efforts. This year, the top five male and top five female finishers will win a JamNation Membership for the Winter Jam concert in Jacksonville in January. Cost to register in advance is \$20 and includes a goody bag and t-shirt. People can register in groups such as churches, workout friends, workplace teams, etc., and the largest group will win a prize. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen, too. For anyone that wants to sign up to volunteer or participate, there’s a link at whif.org. Photos from previous events and plans for this year can be found on our Trot for Hope Facebook page.



Photo credit Paula Joy Broadcast Photography



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**PALATKA HISTORIC ROOTS
RUN DEEP AT RAVINE
GARDENS STATE PARK**



Ravine Gardens State Park is a 59-acre Florida State Park in Palatka. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The park was constructed by the Works Progress Administration, with cypress buildings, rock gardens and fieldstone terraces. Near the park entrance is The Court of States and a 64-foot obelisk dedicated to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Activities include viewing the thousands of plants and shrubs, picnicking, jogging, hiking and biking. Amenities include interpretive exhibits, picnic areas, gardens, hiking trails, a 1.8-mile paved perimeter loop road, and a parcours trail. Visitors can rent a large covered pavilion, auditorium and meeting rooms.

Ravine Gardens State Park is one of the nine New Deal-era state parks in Florida. The park has two ravines up to 120 feet deep with steep banks at 45-degree angles.

Unlike common gullies, trenches or sinkholes caused by temporary flooding, the steephead ravines are a permanent feature with a spring-fed creek that never dries up, called Whitewater Branch. The underground water bubbling up cuts into the bank and carries the sand and soil downstream to the St. Johns River.

Over thousands of years, the ravines have widened and deepened to what you see today.

In 1933, the ravines were transformed into a dramatic garden by the federal Works Progress Administration. Some of the original landscaping still exists as formal gardens and a unique system of trails.

Numerous picnic sites, equipped with tables and grills, are available to visitors. The Roy E. Campbell Civic Center complex features a large covered pavilion, auditorium and meeting rooms that are available for rent. Contact the park office at 386-329-3721 to obtain a quote on facility rentals and outdoor events.

The garden's peak flowering period is azalea season, January to March.

The hundreds of remaining azaleas have a "rolling bloom" and top out with about 50% to 60% of the plants blooming simultaneously. A recent survey documented 18 different types of azaleas. The season is variable based on weather conditions.



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HALLIE'S LANDING



Hallie's Landing sits right on Lake Stella in Crescent City. The venue offers a unique recreational experience for people.

When you arrive at Hallie's Landing you can expect a family friendly environment as people of all ages come to rent pedal boats and embark on their own small adventure on the lake.

At the front of Hallie's Landing is Captain Loyd. Loyd has been with the place since the beginning and attributes it to the community and staying true to themselves for the success of Hallie's Landing.

"What people really like here is that they can come in and rent their own pedal boat and take it out on the lake here, what a lot of people like is how we've kept our rental rates the same price for close to 30 years now, and we plan to keep it cheap," Said Loyd.

In addition to pedal boats, Hallie's Landing offers visitors the chance to go on the only semi-submarine in the state of Florida.

"(Semi-submarines) are tour boats that have lead in them so they sink to a certain depth where the windows are underwater where the rest of it stays above the water. People who come on the tour climb down a ladder and they can look through the port holes and see underwater, The Coast Guard refers to these as SSVs, Semi-submersible vessels," Said Loyd.

Hallie's Landing also features a full food and ice cream menu, which people can enjoy in addition to their boating experience. Captain Loyd specifically cited the burgers that kitchen serves as one of the most prominently-loved features of Hallie's Landing from visitors, even if his personal focus is less on burgers and more on boats.

Whether you're looking for a pedal boat rental for a family day on the lake or a one of a kind tour of a semi-submarine, you can find plenty of nautical fun at Hallie's Landing in Crescent City. Located right on Lake Stella, Hallie's Landing is a highlight of the community.



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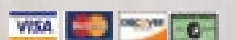
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Improving Our Workflow: Georgia-Pacific Mill Reduces Water Use by 40% in 10 Weeks

The processes for making paper have evolved over hundreds of years, but one ingredient has stayed the same: water. The precious natural resource is vital to creating every sheet of paper in existence, from napkins to notebooks to cardboard boxes.

At Koch Industries' Georgia-Pacific mill in Palatka, Florida, the papermaking process starts with wood chips, which are first cooked at a high temperature to turn it into pulp, then washed and stored in large storage towers. Water is then added to the pulp in another step for ideal consistency as it makes its journey to the paper machine.

"By the time it gets to the paper machine, it is about 99% water," says Bob Blankenship, a shift capability leader at the Palatka mill.

He's seen how technology has automated many of the steps in making paper and changed the resources needed. Historically, traditional papermaking processes use lots of water, but the Palatka mill wanted to look for ways to reduce those amounts. Bob led a fresh water reduction project at the mill that was recognized last year with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® Top Project award.

"We have a certain amount of fresh water allocated to us for use in papermaking each year," Bob says. "Increasing that amount requires use of additional natural resources that we want to avoid."

The Palatka mill was preparing to install a new machine in 2019 that would increase production and efficiency, but would exceed the mill's fresh water allocation. Having been in the business of making paper for 45 years, Bob was asked to spearhead the initiative to reduce Palatka's fresh water usage in its kraft papermaking process. His strategy: reuse the water from the papermaking process instead of releasing it.

Bob selected two team members from the mill operations staff, Matt Branch and Bill Murray, to comprise the team. The two work on the wet and dry ends of the kraft paper machines, respectively, and each provided different viewpoints of the process to solve the challenge. Quickly, they decided to engage an unconventional strategy: They would start at the end where the water use was complete and work backwards.

The team looked at charts of water pressure and pipe sizes to determine how much water flows through the pipes around the department to pinpoint the areas they could capture to save water. They monitored drainage flows and looked deep into water piping to understand where the water was going and how best to capture for reuse.

Bob says operators on the floor were also very helpful in sharing insights

about where water could be recycled.

"They would tell us, 'We're using some water over here that I don't think we need to use.' So we would go investigate that. We had the whole team on board as far as the crews," Bob says. "We identified the areas where we saw opportunities to reduce water usage, and then we went back and traced the fresh water coming in and how much we were using at certain points."

After Bob had a full overview of water usage and how to use it more efficiently, he and his team developed and built a solution to capture and treat the used water so it could be cycled back into the papermaking process — replacing the use of fresh water.

"For the highest usage points, we were able to recycle that water back into the system," he says.

But it didn't end there. The team also set up a digital solution to monitor how and where water is used in real time throughout the mill.

"We took the inputs from that and put it into our system using an easy-to-understand interface," Bob says. "Everyone in the department can now monitor water usage in real time."

Each operator has their own screen

showing when a valve was open or closed, and whether water was flowing automatically or through a manual process. The digital solution alerts the operators of increases in usage so they can quickly investigate why and whether they need to turn off a valve. It can also signal that a pump is not functioning, causing water not to return.

In just 10 weeks, the Palatka team saw huge results. They reduced water usage by 40% — cutting it nearly in half. However, Bob says the work is only just beginning.

He credits a culture of environmental stewardship and teamwork at the mill for empowering the team to identify more opportunities to reuse water.

"This project showed the possibilities of what you could do with the water that you already have and not having to add fresh water to it. I believe we can reduce it even more," he says. "All three of us are still really focused on this."

Moving forward, Bob says he plans to share these learnings with other Georgia-Pacific mills to inspire more thinking around how to incorporate a closed water-reuse loop in other mills.

"There's nothing more satisfying than to be able to pass knowledge on to someone else and see them actually benefit from the knowledge you have, because once you give them knowledge of how a process works or how something actually flows, then they add their spin and knowledge to it," he says. "It just gets better from there."



CRESCENT CITY



Crescent City is a small city located in between two lakes in southeast Putnam County. With an area of just over two square miles, the quaint city offers a unique experience in Putnam County.

"Crescent City is nestled between two beautiful lakes, Lake Stella and Crescent Lake, in a picturesque location with a beautiful oak tree canopy. We have one of the few historic downtowns in the county and the only one with a lake on each end of the

downtown district," said Crescent City City Manager Charles Rudd.

The historic aspects of Crescent City is something the residents pride themselves on. With many citizens sharing historic photos on a Facebook page dedicated to the city's history. "The pride our citizens take in the history of the city is evident in the concern residents have for preserving our historic resources, in the pride taken in restoring their historic homes, in the designation of a National Register Historic District in the city, and in the dedication shown by our Historical Society," said Rudd.

In addition to the historic nature of the city, the community thrives off of numerous city-planned events held. From organized art festivals to holiday events, citizens of Crescent City consistently can look forward to events held by the city.

"Events bring people together to celebrate being a community and bring people into the downtown to further strengthen the feeling of pride in our community and our unique setting. Events reinforce the notion of downtown as the heart of the community," said Rudd.

City manager Rudd would also say that visitors to Crescent City would enjoy the sunrise over Crescent Lake and the sunset over Lake Stella as well as kayaking, fishing and other lake-related activities to be enjoyed by visitors and residents alike.

Rudd would describe Crescent City as "a quaint little town tucked away in Southeast Putnam County that is starting to wake up to its potential," and that "We are uniting, as a community, to redevelop and polish this community to a beautiful shine."

With a rich historical presence and strong feeling of community, the quaint city between two lakes is a unique gem of Putnam County.





**PUTNAM COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**

**PUTNAM COUNTY
HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY**

601 College Road
Palatka Public Library
Palatka, FL 32177
386-329-0126

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BOSTWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

125 Tillman St., Building #2
Bostwick, FL 32007
386-326-2750

Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Thursday: 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Friday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

CRESCENT CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

610 North Summitt
Crescent, FL 32112
386-698-2600

Tuesday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

INTERLACHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

133 North County Road 315
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386-684-1600

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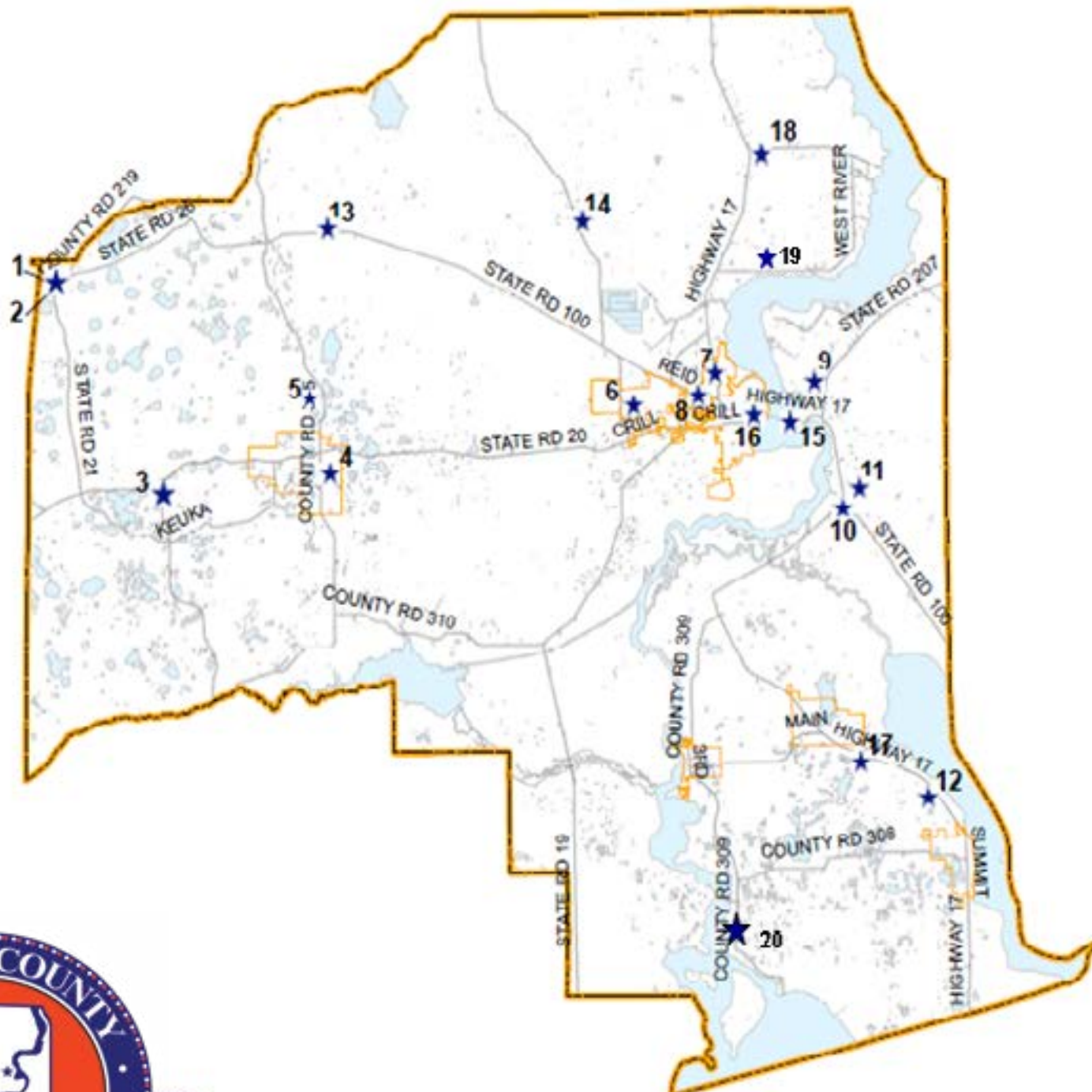


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PARKS



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PARKS

1. Melrose Heritage Park

204 Pearl St. Melrose

- Green Space Area
- Playground
- Gazebo
- Veterans Memorial
- Unisex Restroom

2. Melrose Youth Sports Complex

421 State Rd. 26 Melrose

- Adult Baseball Field
- Youth Baseball Field
- Youth Softball Field
- 2 Multipurpose Fields
- 2 Sand Volleyball Courts
- Concessions/Restroom Building

3. Johnson Community Park

151 S. County Rd. 21 Hawthorne

- Adult Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Sand Volleyball Court

4. West Putnam Recreation Complex

170 County Rd. 315 Interlochen

- Mary Wisham Softball Field
- Multipurpose Field
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Pavilion with Tables
- Skate Park
- Band Shell & Amphitheatre
- Playground
- Restroom

5. West Putnam Sports Complex

127 SE 3rd Ave. Interlachen

- 1 Adult/2 Youth Baseball Fields
- Youth Softball Field
- Restroom/Concessions Building

6. Francis Youth Sports Complex

8012 St Johns Ave. Palatka

- 2 Adult/4 Youth Baseball Fields
- Playground
- Dog Park
- Basketball Court
- Restroom/Concessions Building

7. John Theobold Complex

120 Carter Rd. Palatka

- 4 Adult Softball Fields
- Full Size Football/Soccer Field
- Project P.L.A.Y
- Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- Basketball Court
- 2 Concessions Stands
- 2 Restrooms

8. John Theobold- Ryan Property

161 Carter Rd. Palatka

- 2 Multipurpose Fields

9. East Palatka Community Park

223 Putnam Co. Blvd E. Palatka

- Adult Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- 2 Horseshoe Pits

10. San Mateo Community Park

164 Currie Rd. San Mateo

- Youth Softball Field
- Multipurpose Field
- Playground

11. Woods Road Park

131 Woods Rd. San Mateo

- Basketball Court
- Multipurpose Field

12. South Putnam Sports Complex

280 Union Ave. Crescent City

- Adult Baseball Field
- Adult Softball Field
- 3 Multipurpose Fields
- Restrooms

13. Florahome Community Park

151 Michigan St. Florahome

- Adult Softball Field
- Tennis Court
- Basketball Court
- ADA Accessible Playground
- Trailhead Restroom

14. Etoniah Community Park

620 Bardin Rd. Palatka

- 2 Picnic Pavilions
- Playground
- Multipurpose Field
- Basketball Court

15. Veterans Memorial Park

111 S. Highway 17 East Palatka

- Picnic Tables

16. Rotary Park

800 Laurel St. Palatka

- Youth Softball Field

17. Lake Como Park

147 Euclid Ave. Lake Como

- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Shuffleboard Courts

18. Bostwick Community Park

125 Tillman St. Palatka

- Youth Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- ADA Accessible Playground

19. Tanglewylde Nature Park

299 West River Rd. Palatka

- Picnic Pavilion
- Vaulted Restroom
- Soft Launch
- Walking Trail 1/3 mile

20. Georgetown Riverfront Park

1415 County Rd. 309 Georgetown

- Toddler Playground
- Picnic Pavilion
- Multipurpose Field with Soccer Goals
- Volleyball Court
- Horseshoe Pits

PALATKA CITY COMMISSIONERS

Meetings

The City Commission meets:

- 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- City Hall, Commission Meeting Chambers
201 N. 2nd St., Palatka, FL 32177

Agendas, Minutes & ePackets

Agendas are available prior to the meetings. Minutes are available following approval.

About the Commission

Palatka City Commission performs such duties as passing the city fiscal year budget, setting the millage rate, and approving ordinances and resolutions. It is a policy-making body. Palatka was officially chartered by the State Legislature on January 8, 1853.

Contacting the Commission

The City Clerk is responsible for keeping a public record of all commission proceedings including certification of all ordinances and resolutions.

The City Clerk's Office can help you with information concerning municipal records, boards, City Commission meetings, the city charter, elections, and city government, or to submit a request to be placed on the City Commission's Agenda.

The deadline to submit a request to be placed on a City Commission Agenda is the Friday two weeks prior to the next meeting. Agendas are published on the Friday prior to the following Thursday's meeting.

You may contact the City Clerk's office at 386-329-0100.



Terrill Hill
Mayor/Commissioner



Tammie McCaskill
Commissioner Group 1



Justin Campbell
Commissioner Group 2



Will Jones
Commissioner Group 3



Rufus Borom
Commissioner Group 4

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Dr. Steve Chapman is originally from Mayfield, Kentucky. After graduating high school, Dr. Chapman attended Murray State University. Dr. Chapman continued his education at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. He graduated with a D.M.D. in 1975. He then served in the United States Navy for two years as a Naval Dental Officer before pursuing specialty training in orthodontics. He completed his specialty program at the University of Florida in 1979. Dr. Chapman was the first dentist to complete the orthodontic residency program at the University of Florida.



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- Palatka Welcome Center, 900 St. Johns Ave., Palatka • Graphics II, 623 St. Johns Ave.
- Palatka City Hall, 200 2nd Street.

Mail or return application to: Sam Deputy - 623 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, FL 32177.

Deadline for lineup purposes is Monday, November 22. Applications are taken up to parade time if space is available. Call 386-312-6266. You may fax registration to 386-329-9842.

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High-profile angling events have become a fixture on the St. Johns River but Bassmaster Elite Series season opener on Palatka's riverfront is set for an eighth tournament in 11 years.

The 2022 Bassmaster Elite Series at St. Johns River is scheduled for Feb. 10-13. It's Bassmaster's fourth consecutive season opener in Palatka.

The organization managed to host events in Palatka in 2020 and 2021 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Competitive fishing is pretty spaced regularly, but the organization did distance crowds and anglers during weigh-ins in 2021. To top it off, fog delayed Day 1. However, the next three days went off without a hitch and Belmont, North Carolina native Bryan New took first place in the competition. His four-day total was 79 pounds, 7 ounces.

The St. Johns River is a familiar Elite Series venue and 2022's event is the 24th top-level B.A.S.S. tournament held on the river. The first Putnam County event was held in 1973.

"Of course, Palatka is a fantastic venue and we look forward to have the Elite (Series) there again," Bassmaster Communication Manager Emily Harley-Reid said.

Bassmaster is run by B.A.S.S, or the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, which is the country's organizing body for competitive bass fishing. B.A.S.S officials welcomed a return to "The Gem on the St. Johns."

"We're proud to have the kind of schedule that allows fans from so



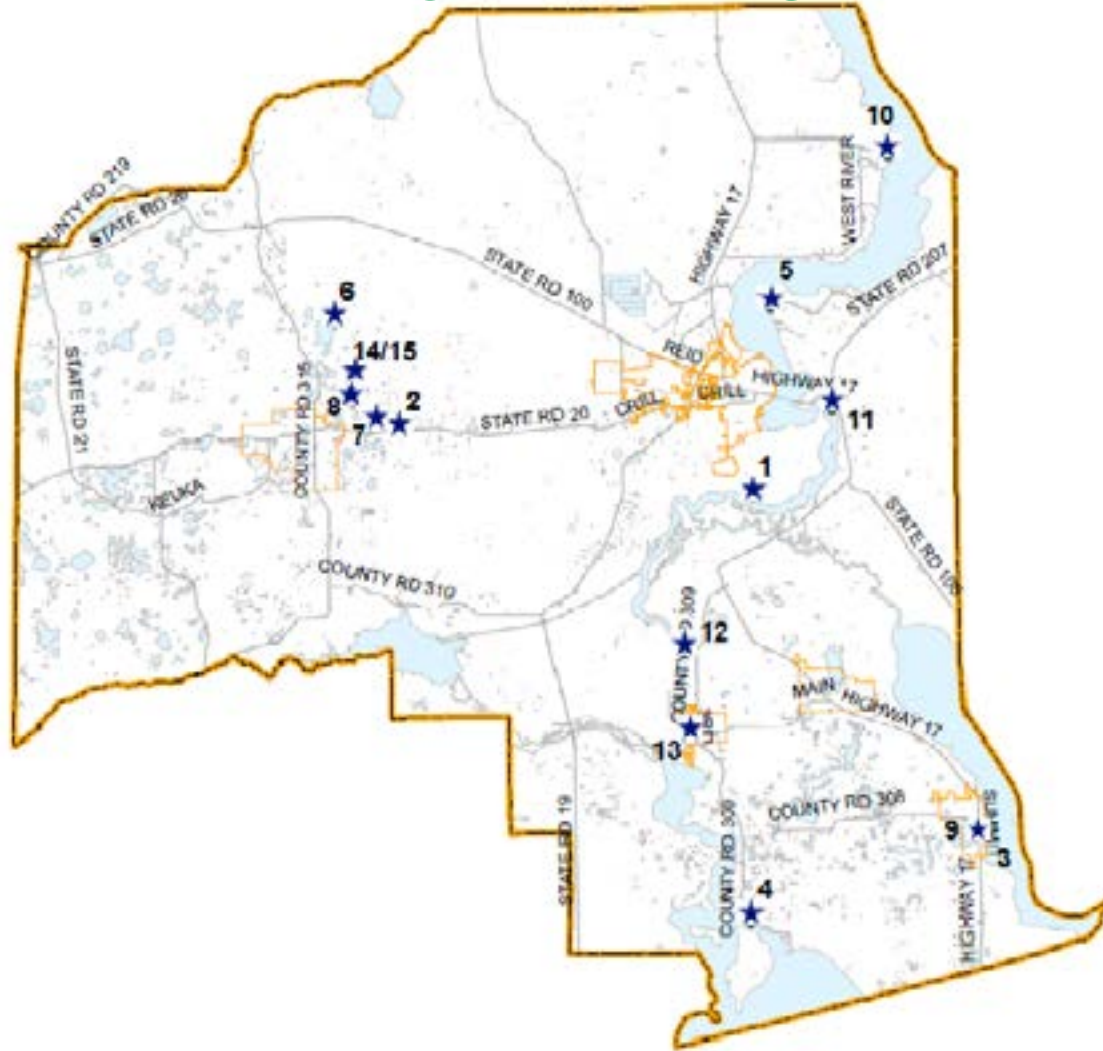
many areas to enjoy and celebrate the great sport of professional bass fishing," said B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. "With events in seven states from Florida, north to New York, and west to South Dakota, it will be a true test of our anglers' ability to compete on all types of fisheries."

Palatka is also featured as a playable area in the Bassmaster Fishing 2022 video game released Oct. 28. The Palatka event will be shown on FOX Sports and schedules for the 2022 season will be released at a later date.

"(The schedule) will also provide an incredible variety of entertaining scenarios for our fans, both in attendance and watching live on the multiple platforms that are now available to them," Akin added.



BOAT RAMPS



1. Brown's Landing Boat Ramp

4065 Brown's Landing Road
Palatka, FL 32177

2. Boll Green Boat Ramp

150 Pidgeon Street
Interlachen, FL 32148

3. Crescent Lake Boat Ramp

1 Central Avenue
Crescent City, FL 32112

4. Drayton Island Ferry Boat Ramp

122 Drayton Island Ferry Road
Georgetown, FL 32139

5. Elgin Grove Boat Ramp

138 Magnolia Avenue
East Palatka, FL 32131

6. Lake Grandin Boat Ramp

137 Walker Drive
Interlachen, FL 32148

7. Lake Ida Boat Ramp

127 Ida Blvd.
Interlachen, FL 32148

8. Lake Jewell Boat Ramp *

139 Kitty Avenue
Interlachen, FL 32148

9. Lake Stella Boat Ramp

519 Central Avenue
Crescent City, FL 32112

10. Palmetto Bluff Boat Ramp

126 Boat Ramp Road
Bostwick, FL 32177

11. Pico Road Boat Ramp

135 Pico Road
East Palatka, FL 32131

12. Shell Harbor Boat Ramp

162 Shell Harbor Road
Satsuma, FL 32189

13. Welaka Boat Ramp

9199 Elm Street
Welaka, FL 32193

14. Church Lake Access Site

221 Kitty Avenue
Interlachen, FL 32148

15. Violet Lake Access Site

220 Kitty Avenue
Interlachen, FL 32148
(No boat access)

***Ramp accessibility subject to water level/weather conditions.**

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPROVE THE WORLD OF EDUCATION



Rick Surrency is currently serving as the superintendent of Putnam County School District, a position he has held since 2016. Surrency has revitalized the district and made drastic improvements to the educational system. For Surrency, improving Putnam County schools is a personal endeavor.

Prior to becoming the superintendent of Putnam County Schools, Surrency had

served as a teacher and administrator with the very district for a total of 22 years in his over 40 year career in education. Surrency credits his time in the district as the inspiration for coming out of retirement as an administrator to run for superintendent.

"I had citizens in our community approach me about running," said Surrency. "They felt that the prior administration had not really been making gains, especially in the graduation rate and making our school system a vital district," said Surrency. With the support of the people of the community, Surrency became superintendent of the district he has called home for over 20 years.

Surrency's time as superintendent has proven successful. Putnam County Schools had a graduation rate of 54.9 percent in 2015, and after Surrency took over, the graduation rate had risen to 90 percent. "We enacted a five year graduation rate initiative and we partnered with the University of South Florida to put in place research based measures," Said Surrency.

Surrency does not intend to rest on previous success, he wants to continue to improve the world of education for Putnam county. Surrency plans to implement a revitalization plan, a plan that entails the building of nine new schools in ten years.

"If we can build the state of the art schools our students deserve, it will provide an economic incentive for other people and businesses to come to our county and revitalize our entire county," said Surrency.

With Surrency focused on the long-term future of Putnam County Schools, the district can look forward to someone with a deep personal connection to the district. Surrency has been a beloved member of the community through the school district for many years, and Surrency wants nothing short of the best for Putnam County.



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