

# Scenic Watch



Covering  
News From  
Jan  
2019

Commercial Litter in Public Spaces:  
"South Walton group wants 'ghost  
chairs' to vanish"



Photo: WJHG.com News 7

"Empty beach chairs won't occupy large swaths of the prime Walton County coastline next tourist season if the South Walton Community Council has its way.



Fun  
Festivals  
and Events

Central

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22  
Artisan Alley Farmer's  
Market and More on  
Georgia, Deland

The council, represented at Tuesday's County Commission by John Reichenbach, wants to see some pretty drastic changes to the way beach vendors conduct business.

"We think it's critical we get behind a managed beach vendor program," Reichenbach told commissioners.

Among the changes proposed by the Community Council is a regulation that would "eliminate ghost chairs" by requiring vendors to set up their chairs only after a beach-going customer arrives and remove it when they leave.

Although he came to the meeting prepared for discussion, Reichenbach will have to wait until next year for a public hearing on beach code revision recommendations.

Before he even stood to speak, commissioners voted to postpone any discussion Tuesday and schedule a forum for Jan. 9 to debate what will likely be a long series of beach management proposals...

Walton County has heard complaints for years about vendors taking up too much beach space by setting up chairs that nobody sits in. They've also heard that vendors are too aggressive or that they set up dozens of chairs in prime locations along the water early in the morning before locals and visitors can claim a spot.

Like many other things along the beaches of South Walton, the vendor issues were exacerbated this year by the implementation of House Bill 631, which led to squabbling over customary use of the beach and private property rights.

Along with its call to eliminate ghost chairs, the South Walton Community Council also recommended that the number of beach vendor permits be limited and that a code enforcement officer or paid beach monitor be employed to watch for ordinance violations."

Feb 2-3  
Brevard Renaissance  
Fair, Melbourne  
Feb 1  
Jazz Friday at Foosaner  
Museum of Art,  
Melbourne  
Feb 2  
Three Tenors Plus One -  
A Tribute to Andrea  
Bocelli, The Villages  
Feb 2  
Art Stroll and Gallery  
Walk, New Smyrna Beach  
Feb 2  
First Saturday Jam,  
Barberville  
Feb 2-3  
The Mount Dora Arts  
Festival, Mount Dora  
Feb 2-3  
Anna Maria Island Holmes  
Beach Art and Craft  
Festival, Holmes Beach  
Feb 8-9  
Old Florida Outdoor  
Festival, Apopka  
Feb 8-9  
Celtic Family Jamboree,  
Brooksville  
Feb 8-10  
Wine Fest, Clermont  
Feb 8-17  
Osceola County Fair,  
Kissimmee  
Feb 9  
DeLand Craft Beer  
Festival, DeLand Feb 9-  
10  
Downtown Sarasota  
Festival of the Arts,  
Sarasota  
Feb 9-10  
Downtown Dunedin Craft  
Festival, Tampa Bay  
Feb 9-17  
Speedweeks, Daytona  
Beach  
Feb 15-17  
Silver Spurs Rodeo,  
Kissimmee  
Feb 16  
Art Walk, Sanford  
Feb 16  
Ozello Chili Cook-Off and  
Craft Show, Crystal River

-- Tom McLaughlin, NWF Daily News

[Read entire article](#)

[Read additional WJFG article on possible regulations](#)

## Commercial Litter in Public Spaces: Dockless scooters and bicycles left on Florida's streets and sidewalks

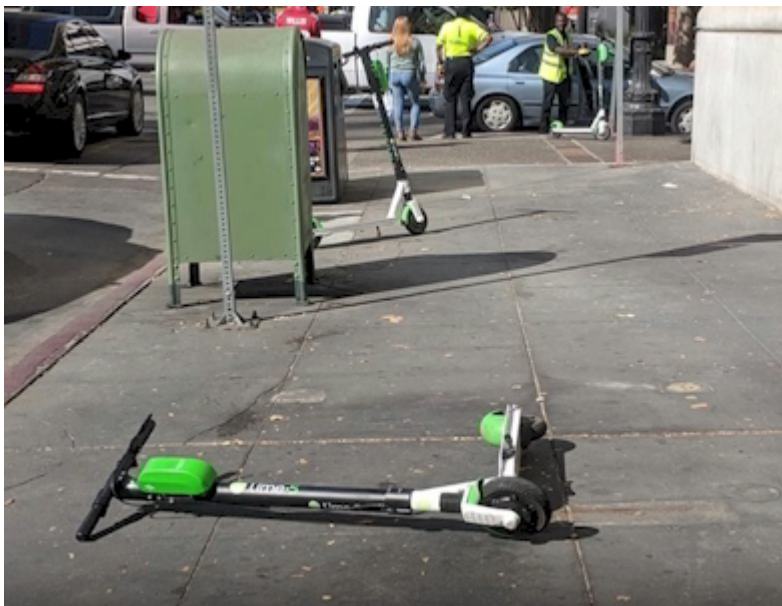


Photo: Robyn Beck/AFP/Getty Images in Forbes

### Legal:

"The Rise of Electric Scooter Regulations - U.S. cities grapple with the regulatory challenges posed by electric scooter sharing programs."

Feb 16

Beer, Bourbon and BBQ  
Festival, Tampa

Feb 16-17

Coconut Point Art  
Festival, Estero

Feb 16-17

Siesta Key Craft Festival,  
Sarasota

Feb 18-24

Pasco County Fair, Dade  
City

Feb 23-24

46th Annual Pioneer Days  
Festival, Orlando

## South

Thr Feb 3

Plaza Suite by Neil  
Simon, Stuart

Thr April 28

Lightscaapes, Davis

Feb 1-2

Dance Film Speak, Boca  
Raton

Feb 2-3

Pigeon Key Art Festival,  
Marathon

Feb 2-3

ArtFest Fort Myers, Fort  
Myers

Feb 2-28

Visual Arts Center  
Exhibit; ACSWF Winners  
Circle, Punta Gorda

Feb 3

JM Lexus Sunday Jazz  
Brunch at Riverwalk, Fort  
Lauderdale

Feb 4-10

Winter Star Party,  
Florida Keys

Feb 5-6

Weekday art and craft  
festival at Ave Maria, Ave  
Maria

Feb 8-10

Everglades Seafood  
Festival, Everglades City

Feb 9

Everglades Day Festival,  
Boynton Beach

Feb 9-10

20th Annual South  
Florida Garlic Fest, Lake



Photo: The Regulatory Review

"Cities across the country have been invaded by flocks of Birds. But these Birds do not have wings—they have wheels.

Bird is the largest of several electric scooter share companies operating in cities worldwide. Scooter users download an app to locate and unlock the motorized scooters, then rent them by the minute. The scooters are dockless and tracked by GPS, so users can park them anywhere at the end of a ride instead of returning them to a designated location.

In theory, these programs are similar to bike shares like Indego, Divvy, and CitiBike, which offer short-term bicycle rentals within certain cities. But the sudden rollout of motorized scooters on city sidewalks—sometimes without warning—has demanded rapid regulatory responses from city officials.

In Los Angeles, where Bird unexpectedly launched last fall, many residents eagerly adopted motorized scooters as a short-distance transportation option. But the city government also received immediate complaints.

According to scooter share companies, users are supposed to ride scooters in bike lanes and park them near bike racks. But in practice, riders often zoom along sidewalks. Users also park scooters

Worth  
Feb 9-18  
Edison Festival of Light  
Junior Events, Fort Myers  
Feb 10-11  
ArtsFest, Stuart  
Feb 13  
Sweetheart Express with  
Murder Mystery, Fort  
Myers  
Feb 13-19  
Palm Beach Jewelry, Art  
and Antique Show, West  
Palm Beach  
Feb 14-18  
2019 Progressive  
Insurance Miami  
International Boat Show,  
Miami  
Feb 15-16  
Annual Historic House  
Tours, Key West  
Feb 15-24  
Delray Beach Open,  
Delray Beach  
Feb 16-17  
Sanibel Arts and Crafts  
Fair, Sanibel Island  
Feb 16-18  
Artigras Fine Arts  
Festival, Jupiter  
Feb 21  
Downtown Gallery Walk,  
Punta Gorda  
Feb 25-March 3  
The Honda Classic, Palm  
Beach Gardens  
Feb 20-24  
Food Network South  
Beach Wine and Food  
Festival, Miami  
Feb 22-24  
Greek Fest Fort Myers,  
Fort Myers  
Feb 23-24  
Swamp Cabbage Festival,  
LaBelle  
Feb 23  
Punta Gorda Wine and  
Jazz Festival, Punta  
Gorda  
Feb 23-24  
Stuart Art Festival,  
Stuart  
Feb 23-24  
Old Island Days Art

where they block pedestrian traffic, frustrating other residents.

Los Angeles issued a cease-and-desist letter to Bird in June 2018, demanding it to 'remove any and all vehicles' from the city. But the letter also stated that the city had a 'pending regulatory process for permitting scooters' which, if adopted, would allow Bird—and similar companies such as Lime and Spin—to operate scooter shares legally.

Since then, Los Angeles City Council approved a city-wide dockless vehicle pilot program. The program invited Bird and other companies to establish scooter shares by following new rules about permitting, parking, and maintenance. The regulations include a requirement for companies to have a 24-hour contact person available for 'emergency removals' of scooters.

Other cities have also regulated scooters, including Washington, D.C. The city began a formal pilot program for dockless vehicles last year to test the popularity of scooter and bike shares. According to Washington's Department of Transportation, the program logged more than 625,000 rides since its start date through June 2018.

Due to the high demand for dockless scooter and bike sharing, Washington extended its pilot program to the end of 2018 and plans to launch a new city-wide permitting process in 2019...

Electric scooters...are more popular and affordable than the Segway. In most cities, Bird charges a dollar to unlock a scooter and only 15 cents per minute of riding. This makes scooters available to users who cannot or do not want to pay hundreds of dollars to purchase their own scooter. The widespread popularity of shared electric scooters has made calls for their regulation far more pressing than those raised by Segway.

Despite the scooter wave that has swept through cities worldwide, one major city has held out—New

Festival, Key West  
Feb 23-24  
Annual Upper Keys  
Gigantic Nautical Flea  
Market, Islamorada  
Feb 24-25  
Street Painting Festival,  
Lake Worth  
Feb 28-March 10  
Southwest Florida and  
Lee County Fair, North  
Fort Myers

## North

Thr Feb 3  
Old Town Trolleys  
Famous Nights of Lights  
Tour, St Augustine  
Feb 1  
First Friday Art Walk, St  
Augustine  
Feb 1  
First Friday at Railroad  
Square Art Park,  
Tallahassee  
Feb 1-3  
Hoggetowne Medieval  
Faire, Gainesville  
Feb 2  
Double Bridge Race,  
Pensacola  
Feb 3  
Tallahassee Marathon  
and Half Marathon,  
Tallahassee  
Feb 7-8  
ChangeVille Music and  
Arts Festival, Gainesville  
Feb 9  
Cattle Drive and Cowboy  
Round-Up, Ocala  
Feb 9  
Artrageous Artwalk,  
Fernandina Beach  
Feb 15-17  
Olustee Festival and  
Craft Show,  
Olustee/Lake City  
Feb 16  
Dance Love Life,  
Jacksonville  
Feb 16-17  
St Augustine Art and  
Craft Festival, St  
Augustine



York City. This is in part because the state of New York completely prohibits the use of motorized scooters, defined as 'a device with a motor attached and a handlebar for a standing rider.'

Scooter companies have so far been unwilling to launch in New York City. But growing demand for affordable, convenient transportation—and the potential to alleviate automobile traffic and parking challenges—has inspired city officials to pave the path for scooters. Two New York City Council members, Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and Ydanis Rodriguez, introduced a package of legislation that would allow electric scooter shares in the city..."

-- Kate Mancuso, The Regulatory Review

[Read entire article](#)

## "Standing Electric Scooters: Study Shows How You Can Get Injured"



Photo: Chesnot/Getty Images in Forbes

"Love hurts. So can crashing while riding on a standing electric scooter. Or being hit by such a scooter. Or tripping over such a scooter.

While many people seem to love cruising along on these scooters, a study just published in JAMA Network Open showed how such accidents could

Feb 16-17  
Five Points of Life Race  
Weekend, Gainesville  
Feb 22-24  
PensaCon, Pensacola  
Feb 22-24  
Dancing with the GODS  
Weekend, Gainesville  
Feb 23  
Oh Florida! book signing  
by author Craig Pittman,  
Gainesville  
Feb 23-24  
Jacksonville Landing  
Music Festival,  
Jacksonville  
Feb 23-24  
World of Nations  
Celebration, Jacksonville

[For many more events  
and details please visit  
the Orlando Times Travel  
Calendar here](#)



wheelie, wheelie hurt and raised questions about whether the risk of riding such scooters is being taken seriously enough...

To ride such a contraption, all you have to do is use a smartphone app to unlock the scooter, stand on the narrow platform, engage the handlebars, and begin scooting along at speeds that can go up to 15 miles per hour. After finishing your ride, shedding the scooter is simpler than getting rid of disposable underwear. You can just drop the scooter off at your destination, regardless of where that may be...

Gee whiz, what could possibly go wrong when people are riding among pedestrians on motorized scooters without wearing helmets or following traffic laws?"

-- Bruce Y. Lee, Forbes

[Read entire article](#)

## Breathing Mannequin Bus Shelter: "See the bus stop ad that's creeping them out"



Video: Fox 35, Orlando

"The very lifelike naked mannequin is an ad for Netflix's "Altered Carbon"

A squishy, gooey, breathing advertisement is drawing double-takes even in too-cool West Hollywood.

On a Santa Monica Boulevard bus shelter, the plastic pouch containing a very lifelike naked mannequin is an ad for Netflix's sci-fi drama "Altered Carbon."

Those who dare to poke it find a creepily lifelike fleshy texture. Gel-like goo oozes around the body, which breathes..."

-- Bay Area News Group, The Mercury News

[Read entire article](#)

[Watch Video on Fox 35, Orlando](#)

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