

# Scenic Watch



Covering  
Sept  
2015

## Breaking Legal News:

### "Federal Appeals Court Hears Oral Arguments In Landmark Digital Billboard Case"

"On September 25, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration issued a so-called Guidance Memorandum to its Division Offices.

The Guidance reversed a long held position of the Headquarters Office as to the prohibition on intermittent lighting.

This prohibition is found in nearly all Federal-State Agreements.

FHWA headquarters opined that changes in messages through lighting every 4 seconds were not intermittent, and therefore not prohibited.

This implied that digital billboards operating in such manner were consistent with customary use in 1965.

Exactly eight years later - September 25, 2015 - the question of customary use and the legality of the Guidance were before a three judge federal appeals court in Washington, D.C."

[Hear the oral arguments from court website](#)

Note: The court's site may be slow when downloading the .mp3

## International Coastal Cleanup Day

### Massive Efforts Across Florida

September 19 was a big day in Florida. The news media is full of reports about volunteers who were out collecting trash along the coast and in our waterways across our state. The final numbers take a while come in on exactly how much trash was collected statewide, but it's clear that this was a massive effort. Here's just a few places that are much more scenic as a result of the efforts.

## Bradenton Beach



## Fun Festivals and Events

### Central and West

Oct 1-4  
Port Orange Family Days, Port Orange  
Oct 3  
Central Florida Fall Harvest and Peanut Festival, Williston  
Oct 3  
Children's Cane Pole Fishing Tournament, DeLeon Springs  
Oct 3, 24  
Oktoberfest, Casselberry  
Oct 9-11  
MusicFest, Winter Garden  
Oct 9-11  
Daytona Blues Festival, Daytona Beach



Photo: Grant Jefferies, Bradenton Herald

"Dozens of volunteers worked to pick up about 120 pounds of trash along Coquina Beach on Saturday morning as part of the kickoff for the Keep Manatee Beautiful event, which is part of the 30th annual International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to clean up beaches, lakes and rivers.

No strangers to volunteer work, Girl Scout Troop 705 came to help with the beach cleanup.

'There's a lot more trash than I thought there would be, and bones. I never pictured there to be bones on the beach,' said Annabelle Martin, 12, a seventh-grader at State College of Florida Collegiate School, which requires community service.

Cigarettes butts were the most abundant find, she said.

'You can throw away your own cigarette butts. There's a place just for them or you can put them in the normal garbage,' Annabelle said.

Fellow Girl Scout Katelyn Roundy, 12, and a seventh-grader at Nolan Middle, helped sort the finds.

'I thought it was very useful and fun,' she said. 'The place looks a lot cleaner than it did before.'

The girls and other volunteers helped sort the trash collected so it could tracked and included in an annual index of global marine debris. The data will be collected worldwide and released after the International Coastal Cleanup concludes in October..."

-- Jessica De Leon, Herald



Photo: Traci Moyer, News Leader

## Miami

- Oct 9-11  
Bicycle Festival, Mount Dora
- Oct 10-11  
Winter Park Autumn Art Festival, Winter Park
- Oct 2-31 (select nights)  
A Petrified Forest, Altamonte Springs
- Oct 9-11  
Oktoberfest, Port St Lucie
- Oct 9-11  
Necronomicon, Tampa
- Oct 10-11, 17-18, 24-25  
Pumpkin Festival, Bradenton
- Oct 11  
Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cookoff, DeLand
- Oct 10, 24  
Gamble Jam, Flagler Beach
- Oct 10-11  
Vintage Venture at Lakeridge Winery, Clermont
- Oct 15-18  
Ringling International Arts Festival, Sarasota
- Oct 15-18  
Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Clearwater

## South

- Sept 24-27  
Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival, Marathon and Lower Keys
- Sept 26  
Conch Life Scramble, Islamorada
- Sept 26-27  
PalmCon 2015, West Palm Beach
- Oct 2-3  
Oktoberfest, Oakland Park
- Oct 9-11  
Pirate Festival, Fort Myers Beach
- Oct 9-11  
Summerset Regatta, Fort Myers Beach
- Oct 1-11  
Oktoberfest, Coral Gables
- Oct 1-4  
Bird Festival, Coral Gables
- Oct 2-4  
West Palm Beach Antiques Festival, West Palm Beach
- Oct 2-4  
Mizucon, Miami
- Oct 3  
Rock'n Ribfest, Homestead
- Oct 3  
Harvest Fest, Jupiter
- Oct 3-4  
Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival, Delray Beach
- Oct 10  
Key West Marathon, Key West
- Oct 11  
Miami Carnival Parade and Festival, Miami

## North

- Sept 24-26



Photo: Caitlin Granfield, Miami Herald

"During the 30th annual International Coastal Cleanup Day, about 2,400 volunteers of all ages Saturday helped beautify more than 30 miles of coastline at 40 sites in Miami-Dade County — by picking up 10 to 12 tons of trash and recyclable materials..."

-- Caitlin Granfield, Miami Herald

[Read entire Bradenton Herald article here](#)

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## Jacksonville: "Finally Action on Snipe Signs"



Drawing: Scenic Jacksonville

"Since 2014, more than 4 tons' worth of signs have been eliminated through two highly successful "Snipe Sign Buyback" events

But for too long, proposed legislation to further discourage the explosion of snipe signs — by gradually increasing the fines imposed on repeat offenders — hasn't been able to get beyond the blight panel's desk to final approval by the entire City Council.

- Florida Heritage Book Festival & Writers Conference, St Augustine  
Sept 24-26
- Quiltfest, Jacksonville  
Sept 25-26
- Florida Catfish Classic, Wewahitchka  
Sept 25-26
- Oktoberfest, Niceville  
Sept 25-26
- Second Annual Chasin' the Sun Music Festival, Panama City Beach  
Sept 25-27
- Pensacola Seafood Festival, Pensacola  
Oct 2
- First Friday Art Walk, St Augustine  
Oct 3-25
- Corn Maze at Sykes & Cooper Farm, Elkton  
Oct 8-11
- Amelia Island Jazz Festival, Fernandina Beach  
Oct 10
- Artrageous Artwalk, Amelia Island  
Oct 10-12
- Annual Greek Festival, St Augustine  
Oct 15-18
- Blast on the Bay Songwriter Festival, Port St Joe  
Oct 16-18
- Suwannee River Quilt Show and Sale, White Springs

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



The reason for this gridlock?

There has been torturous fretting about endless hypothetical scenarios and potential 'unintended consequences' that might arise by making snipe sign violators more accountable for littering the city.

For instance:

'Oh, what if this affects the Westside grandmother who happens to put up a handwritten sign on her oak tree on a Sunday morning, hawking her homemade honey?'

Answer: It won't. The legislation is largely designed to deter repeated snipe sign offenders who flood neighborhood corners and blocks with their seemingly endless supply of signs.

Or:

'Gosh, what if a Southside hardware store happens to print some signs for someone who then tacks them on telephone poles — and they're taken down for being snipe signs. Couldn't that possibly lead to a convoluted chain of events where Mr. Friendly Hardware Store Owner has to close down his business?'

Answer: No. Come on, now. No.

All this handwringing has left the effort to drive through snipe sign legislation in a puzzling state of limbo.

"We just can't seem to get to where we want to go on this," said Councilman John Crescimbeni, a blight committee member who has been leading the effort to toughen the fines on snipe sign offenders, during a recent panel session...

Crescimbeni's frustration is understandable. And one reason is because other communities have been able to figure how to make repeated snipe-sign violators pay a heavy price for plopping their eyesores across neighborhoods.

St. Petersburg, for example, has a robust ordinance that allows it to fine chronic violators up to \$500 per snipe sign for cluttering up the community with their tacky junk.

And at last look, there's been no reports from St. Petersburg of honey-selling grandmas being taken away in handcuffs for signs stuck to oak trees.

Or corner hardware stores across the city putting up "Closed — Forever" signs in their windows...

And the current members on the city's blight-fighting committee should do what's necessary to make that [legislation] happen..."

-- Editorial Staff, Florida Times-Union

[Read entire article here](#)