

# Scenic Watch



News  
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Legal: "Palm Beach County moves to expand ban on floating structures anchoring in county waters"



Photo: Allen Eyestone, Palm Beach Post

"...Palm Beach County is one step closer to expanding a local law that bans floating structures from anchoring in county waters, with some exceptions.

If passed, an update to the Cindy DeFilippo Floating Structure Ordinance will apply to floating structures anchoring or mooring in all waters within the county, including those under the jurisdiction of a city or town.

County commissioners will take a final vote on June 15.

A floating structure isn't a boat or other watercraft, which the state defines as a 'vessel' and requires registration.

Rather, it is a 'floating entity ... not primarily used as a means of transportation on water but which serves purposes typically associated with a structure or other improvement to real property,' according to the state. These can include functions such as a residence, restaurant or clubhouse. "

-- Hannah Morse, Palm Beach Post

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Legal: "New sign code could limit 'obscene language' in Punta Gorda"



Photo: Daniel Sutphin, Sun

"A new Punta Gorda law is in the works that could restrict indecent or obscene language on residential signs and flags — and even a person's clothes if worn in public places.

'We get complaints about people putting up — whether it's a flag or sign or (wearing) apparel, whatever — that has the F word on it,' said City Council Member Nancy Prafke...

The city began reworking its current sign code in January 2020 due to an abundance of Realtor signs in public areas.

During the 2020 U.S. presidential campaign, more issues came to light with residential flags and signs, the amount of them, and even the language some featured that could be deemed as offensive.

At Wednesday's meeting, the City Council approved the first of two readings of the city's new 'Sign Standards' code that would try to control some of these issues...

With the new code, however, the city plans to restrict offensive language, defining it as 'fighting words,' 'indecent speech' or 'obscene.'

The City Council also amended the new code to include apparel should a shirt, hat, or other piece of clothing display language in a public place that could be found to be in violation of those definitions.

'So, when you're driving down the street and someone has a sign (with offensive language) in their yard," said City Manager Greg Murray, "that can be enforceable but if it's inside a place like Fishermen's Village (it's not because) you're on private property.'

Murray went on to say that if a person was wearing an 'offensive' shirt in a public place like the city's Harborwalk along Charlotte Harbor, they would be in violation of the new code.

What are "fighting words?"

In the new code, the city defines this as words or graphics which 'by their very utterance' have a direct tendency to incite immediate breach of the peace by the person to whom, individually, the remark is addressed.

Fighting words include, but are not limited to, defamatory remarks made to private citizens; and epithets (or labels) based on the person's race, color, religion, disability, national origin, ethnicity or sex.

What is 'indecent speech?'

In the new code, the city defines this as language or graphics that depict or describe sexual or excretory activities or organs in a manner that is offensive as measured by contemporary community standards.

What is 'obscene' language?

In the new code, the city defines this as language or graphics that depict or describe sex or sexual organs in a manner appealing to, or intended to appeal to, the average viewer or reader's visceral sexual (prurient) interests, and taken as a whole, lacks any justification from a political, literary, artistic or scientific value.

What is a sign?

In the new code, a 'sign' is defined as any device, structure, item, thing, object, fixture, painting, printed material, or visual image using words, graphics, symbols, numbers, or letters designed or used for the purpose of communicating a message or attracting attention.

City Attorney David Levin told the City Council that this definition could 'arguably include something being worn.'

Mayor Lynne Matthews thought a more clear definition was needed.

'We should include something specific about apparel of any kind,' Matthews said. 'It needs to be added specifically because anything you leave to subjective opinion goes by the wayside.'

What's next?

The amended 'Sign Standards' ordinance still has to come back before the City Council at a future meeting before anything becomes official.

As far as how the new code will be enforced, Assistant City Manager told The Daily Sun that it is currently 'under staff review.'"

-- Daniel Sutphin, Sun

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"The Florida State Parks Foundation wants to plant ANOTHER 100,000 new pine trees"



Photo: Volusia Country

"It worked last year. Why not do it again?"

"Last week, the Florida State Parks Foundation reached its goal of raising \$100,000 in one year to plant 100,000 new longleaf pine trees in our state parks. So why not run it back? The foundation announced Thursday that it is launching a new

challenge to raise another \$100,000 for 100,000 more trees by Earth Day next year.

'This campaign has really resonated with the public, and so we have extended it for one more year with the goal of planting another 100,000 seedlings by April 2022,' foundation president Gil Ziffer said in a press release...

The country's longleaf pine population is now just a fraction of what it once was, because of development, the use of its wood for timber and storms. According to the foundation, the trees help support more than 30 endangered and threatened animal species..."

-- Cooper Levey-Baker, Sarasota Magazine

[Read entire article in Sarasota Magazine Long Leaf Pine Preserve](#)

UPDATE: "Official groundbreaking celebrated for Inlet Beach Underpass"



Photo: Walton County Public Information

"Ground was officially broken on March 26 for a project that had been years in preparation, the Inlet Beach Underpass.

Approximately 100 people attended the event hosted by the Walton County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to mark the start of construction on this \$5.6 million state Department of Transportation (DOT) project.

The lighted pedestrian underpass is to go under U.S. 98 on the east side of that highway's eastern intersection with CR-30A in Inlet Beach, providing for non-interrupted flow of pedestrian access across U.S. 98. Objectives of the project include increasing safety at this busy intersection and mobility of pedestrian and vehicular traffic...

The design will allow entry of pedestrians only, with cyclists able to walk their bikes through the underpass.

Partnering with DOT to make the underpass a reality have been the BCC, the Walton County Tourist Development Council, and Scenic Walton, a nonprofit organization composed of business owners and residents.

Plans are for Scenic Walton to partner with Walton County's Cultural Arts Association in order for art work to be provided to adorn the underpass when completed..."

-- Dotty Nist, Defuniak Herald

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"A pop of color on utility boxes in North Miami's Griffing Park:



Photo: City Of North Miami

"The colorful brushstrokes of local artist and once-North Miami resident Cavan Koebel now adorn utility boxes, benches and more at Griffing Park, part of the Community Redevelopment Agency's Art in Public Places Program.

Helmed by newly named Public Arts Program Manager Michelle McKoy, this project is one of many coming to the city. Murals and public art have been popping up around North Miami for quite some time.

'I'm looking forward to working with innovative artists and implementing public art that reflects the diversity of North Miami. Infusing energy on multiple levels is what art does, I'm fortunate for the opportunity to navigate this terrain using expressive art modalities,' said McKoy...

In total, Koebel's work is featured on four concrete benches, six utility boxes, one single-story concrete pavilion and two smaller single-story utility buildings... Koebel worked closely with the city in vinyl-wrapping the work at the park to ensure that the designs hold up to Miami's weather elements...

A formal Call to Artists (released in February) for the public art in Griffing Park garnered 23 applications. The North Miami CRA Board and Art Selection Committee chose Koebel with a commission of \$3,500 for his chosen design... Later down the road, they will work with private property owners along 125th Street to create



sustainability murals. Another upcoming project will involve painting fire hydrants in the community and will involve the Police Athletic League of North Miami.

A majority of the pieces are required to include a specially designed NoMi Heart to distinguish them as Art in Public Places Projects..."

-- Josie Gulliksen, Arftburstmiami.Com in Miami Herald

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"Friends of A1A launch campaign to fight litter: 'Pack It In, Pack It Out' "



"The Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway announced the program 'Be a Byway Sea Star - Pack It In, Pack It Out' launching on June 1.

The first pilot program location will be at the River to Sea Preserve along SR A1A, where trash receptacles will be removed from public spaces and visitors will be encouraged to leave no trace by taking their trash with them.

Based on the seven principles of the 'Leave No Trace' program used by agencies such as the U.S. National Park Service and municipalities across the nation, the

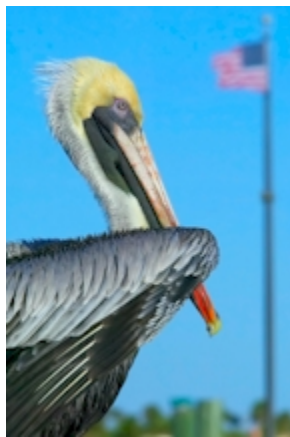
Friends of A1A are aiming to reduce litter along the A1A Scenic Byway coastal corridor's beaches and waterways...

The program is funded by the Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway and in part through a competitive grant provided by the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida...

Visit <https://scenica1a.org/pack-it-in/> for more details."

-- Danielle Anderson, Palm Coast Observer

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