

Scenic Watch



News from
June
2022

"Green Gables nonprofit receives grant to buy, save Melbourne historic house"



Photo: Tim Shortt, Florida Today

"Constructed as a cutting-edge showpiece mansion in its era, Melbourne's aged Green Gables estate has slowly structurally deteriorated over the generations — within the looming shadow of a wrecking ball.

Volunteers have spent the past dozen years fundraising and trying to strike a deal to buy the six-bedroom, 1896-vintage American Four Square/Queen Anne house — which features a distinctive octagonal porch — to refurbish as a public asset.

Finally, their historic-home quest has proven successful.

A \$482,500 Florida Division of Historical Resources matching grant to help buy Green Gables has been approved in the state budget, said Nicole Hu, historic preservation grants specialist...

Marion Ambrose, president of the preservation-minded nonprofit Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village Inc., described her reaction as “stunned.”

'I believed we would get it. I was sure we could get it. After all this time, to actually have it happen was pretty mind-numbing. But I'm very excited,' Ambrose said.



Photo: Tim Shortt, Florida Today

The initial goal: Stabilize the home's foundation, which has sunk a few inches near the octagonal porch. She said volunteers will also partner with the Marine Resources Council to plant mangroves and install oyster beds along the lagoon shoreline."

-- Rick Neale, Florida Today

[Read entire article](#)

Littering:

"4th-grader works to educate others on the issue of cigarette butts littering Florida beaches"



Video: Orlando News 13

"Shells and sand aren't the only things you'll see on Florida's beaches — cigarette butts are also a common sight.

According to a 2021 report from Ocean Conservancy and International Coastal Cleanup, cigarettes were the number one trash item found at beaches in 2020, with 964,521 recorded. Plastic bottles followed with 627,014 recorded and 573,534 food wrappers found.

It's an issue fourth-grader Robert Dhingra wanted to do something about. Dhingra, who lives in Cocoa Beach, said he really began noticing all the cigarette butts back in January, which bothered him, especially because he didn't see places for people to dispose of them safely.

'There should be receptacle cans for cigarettes too because if you put them in the

regular trash cans, the trash could catch fire,' Dhingra said.

He and his mom, Mina Sharma, started going out once a week on the beach near their apartment and picking up butts for an hour or more at a time.

But when he kept noticing them, Dhingra decided just cleanup wasn't enough. He wanted to call attention to the issue. So, the then third-grade student penned an op-ed for a local newspaper...

He also created a presentation, which he showcased at his elementary school for the teachers and students.

During the 2022 legislative session, Republican State Sen. Joe Gruter introduced a bill that would allow counties and municipalities to establish bans on smoking in both state parks and on public beaches, which was signed into law and will go into effect on July 1."

-- By Will Robinson-Smith Brevard County, Orlando News 13

[Read entire article](#)

Tampa's Bob Buckhorn to speak at Scenic Jacksonville's 2022 Great Cities Symposium



GREAT CITIES SYMPOSIUM 2022

Date: **WED, OCTOBER 12 | 5:00 - 8:00pm**

Location: **GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE**

Speaker: **BOB BUCKHORN, former mayor of Tampa**

Tickets: **\$100 per person | tickets go on sale June 1**

The evening will include a social hour with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres, our speaker program with Q & A, followed by cocktails, dessert and conversation.

"Jacksonville, FL (June 7, 2022) - Scenic Jacksonville is pleased to announce that

former Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn will be its guest speaker at the 2022 Great Cities Symposium on Wednesday, October 12th from 5 until 8 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue. Tickets are \$100 per person and are on sale at www.scenicjax.org.



Guest Speaker: BOB BUCKHORN

Buckhorn presided over the rapid growth and increased vibrancy of Tampa's urban core during his two terms as mayor of Tampa (2011-2019). With a focus on community engagement, infill development, business partnerships and the previously underutilized Hillsborough river, Buckhorn led Tampa's transformation into what is now a top city for corporate business, private equity and start ups, with a thriving young professionals economy.

Among his many accomplishments as mayor are the completion of the 2.4 mile Tampa Riverwalk, the West River redevelopment plan with the 25 acre Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, the redevelopment of Armature Works and the Tampa Heights neighborhood, and the \$3 billion Water Street mixed use development, currently underway. He also created a Stay and Play initiative for underserved youth, and worked to streamline the way the city does business.

The evening's activities will begin with a cocktail social hour and silent auction from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. featuring beer, wine, a signature cocktail and hors d'oeuvres from Biscottis. The program will be held from 6:15 - 7:30 to include remarks from Buckhorn, discussion and Q & A. Desserts and cocktails will be served from 7:30 - 8 p.m. along with the conclusion of the silent auction.

The Great Cities Symposium is an annual fundraiser hosted by Scenic Jacksonville for the purpose of bringing inspired examples of leadership and peer city solutions to the people of Jacksonville. The program aims to inform, entertain and engage citizens with continuing discussions of how we can continue to improve our city for

the benefit of future generations. It is the primary fundraiser for Scenic Jacksonville to further its mission.

Scenic Jacksonville wishes to thank its sponsors which make the event possible. Gold Sponsors are FIS, Foley & Lardner, the Brinton family, Barbara and William Harrell and all sponsors are displayed on the event web page. We welcome additional sponsorships and in-kind donations. Information available on the website at www.scenicjax.org."

-- Scenic Jacksonville

[Please visit Scenic Jacksonville for more information here](#)

Growing Problem? The market for artificial turf is rapidly growing partially driven by extreme draught conditions in much of the country...artificial turf coming to Florida too!



Photo: PRweb.com

"This August, Turf Distributors is opening a new distribution center in Davie, Florida. This new facility will significantly speed up deliveries across the East Coast. Artificial grass dealers and distributors operating in the Florida area can now expect to receive shipments within 48 hours of placing their order! The hub will also bring quality jobs to Davie."

-- PRweb.com

[Read entire article](#)

Fernandina Beach Commissioners dive into tree protection controversy and go ahead with vote to

protect six Heritage Trees



Photo: Shown in Fernandina Observer

"Amelia Island's trees are beloved by its residents, and problems with protecting those trees will go before the Fernandina Beach City Commission at the Commissioners' workshop in a couple weeks. The issue drew a number of people to this week's Commission meeting to press their concerns that real damage is ongoing to the tree canopy...

One of the problems is in development.

"You all saw the Amelia Bluff tree protection zones," Vice Mayor Len Kreger said. "This is a major — I think there's probably six or seven houses out there — not one of them had a tree protection zone. There was garbage, there was cinder blocks, there was everything."

It's crazy, he said, that there are all these tree protections that don't seem to be carried out because of improper maintenance.

'We're out there planting hundreds of trees, we have a tree management plan ... 17 pages, there's like five lines devoted to tree maintenance,' Kreger said.

He intends to reintroduce a proposal for the city to adopt tree construction procedures from an international arborist standard.

'We lose more trees during construction — we'll have to plant a thousand trees,' Kreger said. 'Remember, our canopy's 37%. We're never going to be able to maintain it.'

It's a management issue they need to do better on, he added.

The discussion came on the same night as the Commission voted to protect six trees within the city as heritage trees..."

-- Wes Wolfe, FloridaPolitics.com, Suanne Z. Thamm, Fernandina Observer

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