



Weiss Words

GREGG K. WEISS

Palm Beach County Vice Mayor, District 2

NEWS FLASH

JANUARY 2022

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In this newsletter

- Vice Mayor Weiss delivered the State of the County Address to the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.
- PBC Days in Tallahassee.
- Learn about the steps to homeownership and how to obtain an affordable mortgage.
- Need help filing your taxes? Take advantage of this free service.
- It has been a busy couple of weeks for Vice Mayor Weiss. We're sharing some pictures of events he attended.



Gregg K. Weiss, Vice Mayor



January 17, 2022

STATE OF THE COUNTY



Vice Mayor Gregg Weiss was the keynote speaker at the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches' monthly breakfast on Jan. 6, where he delivered the State of the County address. He spoke to a room full of local business leaders about how the county is doing.

Despite the ongoing challenges from COVID-19, Vice Mayor Weiss said the county is in a strong position, with a 6 billion dollar budget and a triple-A bond rating.

He said that although Omicron is surging, with the knowledge we have gained, the development of vaccines, boosters and

therapeutics, we are in a fundamentally better place now than we were at the start of the pandemic.

He asked for a moment of silence for the people we've lost.

Then, he highlighted some of the county's accomplishments, focusing on the six strategic priorities:

1. Economic Development: Real estate values are booming, unemployment is near all-time lows, with jobs exceeding the number of job seekers.

2. Housing & Homelessness: Through the county's workforce and affordable housing programs thousands of units have been built and rehabbed in the past decade. The county is also continuing its efforts in dealing with homelessness, adding another homeless resource center in central Palm Beach County.

3. Environmental Protection: The Department of Environmental Resources Management has been doing a terrific job in the Lake Worth Lagoon, building islands that improve water quality while creating a habitat for birds and sea life.

4. Infrastructure: The county continues to invest in maintaining and expanding its road network with an increasing emphasis on safe walking and biking.

5. Public Safety: He praised our first responders and Community Services staff who have done a great job in dealing with the impacts of the pandemic that affected so many of our residents.

6. Substance Abuse & Behavior Disorders: The county continues to use innovative methods to address behavioral and substance abuse disorders, like the one-of-a-kind addiction stabilization unit the county created, together with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and JFK Medical Center.

Vice Mayor Weiss stressed the gains that the county has made in advancing these priorities, though he said more work is needed, especially when it comes to affordable housing and water resources.

He expressed gratitude to his fellow commissioners and stated that although they do not always agree, they do work jointly for the betterment of this place that we call Paradise – our home, Palm Beach County.

PBC DAYS IN TALLAHASSEE



Palm Beach County Day 2022 was held Jan. 11-12, in Tallahassee. This year’s theme was “Back Together, Stronger Together,” which signified coming back together after last year’s Palm Beach County Day was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holding Palm Beach County Day at the beginning of the legislative session is an excellent opportunity to keep the county’s legislative priorities in front of lawmakers all session long.

For more information, visit <http://www.pbcgov.com/pbcdays>.

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER?



Learn about the steps to homeownership and how to obtain an affordable mortgage in **Palm Beach County** by attending the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension First-Time Home Buyer workshop.

The class is provided by the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension, a local agency approved by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The course is HUD-approved and is an 8-hour, pre-purchase, homebuyer workshop that meets the homebuyer education requirement for workforce

housing and down payment assistance programs. Participants must attend two 4-hour sessions or one 8-hour session for successful completion of the 8-hour program.

Classes are \$10 per individual/couple.
A scholarship is available to those who qualify.
The sessions are offered online via Zoom in English and Spanish.

Workshop Dates in English:

Jan. 24 & 25 (Monday and Tuesday)
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (two sessions)

Feb. 18 & 25 (Fridays)
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (two sessions)

Feb. 17 & 24 (Thursdays)
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (two sessions)

March 18 & 25 (Fridays)
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (two sessions)

Workshop Dates in Spanish:

Feb. 8 & 15 (Tuesdays)
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (two sessions)

To purchase tickets, visit:
<https://homebuyerred.eventbrite.com>

For more information, please contact:
Cyndi Longley at clongley@pbcgov.org or 561-233-1744

NEED HELP FILING TAXES?

TAXES FILED FREE CAMPAIGN

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Available if you earned \$68,000 or less in 2021

You may be eligible for up to \$6,728 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

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Virtual and socially distanced tax preparation provided at select sites, **by appointment only**.

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MyFreeTaxes.com - It's simple, secure and support is available via a toll free helpline or web chat.

All options are SAFE & SECURE and are supported by IRS-certified **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** volunteers.



To make an appointment scan the QR code, visit TaxesFiledFree.org or call 2-1-1.



Documents needed to get your Taxes Filed Free!

- 2019 and 2020 tax return
- Social Security cards and correct birth dates for all family members
- All W-2 wage and tax statements for 2021
- Form 1098 - mortgage interest, property taxes
- Form 1099 - DIV, G, INT, MISC, Q, R, RRB, SSA for 2021
- A photo ID (you and your spouse, if filing jointly)
- Joint returns require both filers to be present to sign the return
- A voided check and/or savings account number for direct deposit
- Letter 6475, 2021 Economic Impact Payment
- Letter 6419, Total Advance Child Tax Credit Payments

** Even if you meet the income level, complex returns may be considered out of the guidelines for the VITA Program*



For Dependent Care Credit you need:

- Name, address, tax ID or social security number of care provider



For Education Credit you need:

- 1098-T or 1098-E
- Amount paid for qualifying education expenses



For Premium Tax Credit you need:

- 1095-A

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VICE MAYOR WEISS IN THE COMMUNITY



MLK CELEBRATION

Vice Mayor Weiss, Senator Bobby Powell and numerous county and community leaders gathered to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coordinating Committee (MLKCC) provides cultural activities to honor Dr. King and to enable people to reflect on his life and teachings.

Photo Credit: Carol Porter

LIBRARY REDEDICATION



Vice Mayor Weiss joined Dewey the Owl, Commissioners Kerner and Bernard, and other county leaders at the Rededication Celebration for the newly reopened Lantana Road Branch!

Fun Fact: Dewey the Owl is the mascot of the Palm Beach County Library System, named after Melvil Dewey, the inventor of the Dewey Decimal System.



THE PROMISE FUND

The Bridge Lighting and Pink Boots on the Ground celebration kicked off a month-long symbol of breast and cervical cancer awareness at the Royal Park Bridge that connects Palm Beach and the West Palm Beach communities.

The Promise Fund of Florida aims to prevent the unnecessary progression of breast and cervical cancer for uninsured and underinsured women of Palm Beach County.



GROUNDBREAKING

Vice Mayor Gregg Weiss was part of the groundbreaking for **Palm Beach County Fire Station 40** on White Feather Trail in Boynton Beach.

This is the 50th fire station established by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Services.

This has been a collaborative effort between the county and the community to ensure compatibility with the surrounding neighborhoods while providing the lifesaving protection our residents expect.

Visit [Commissioner Weiss' Facebook page](#) for more photos and stories.
Make sure to follow him!



Ideas, suggestions, concerns?

Contact Us!

We are here to help you!

Niels Heimeriks

Constituent Issues

NHeimeriks@pbcgov.org

Office: 561-355-4966 Cell: 561-371-1089

Virginia Savietto

HABLO ESPANOL

VSavietto@pbcgov.org

Office: 561-355-2209 Cell: 561-324-9621

Paul Razza

Scheduling & Constituent Issues

PRazza@pbcgov.org

Office: 561-355-2202

Website: www.pbcgov.com/D2

Email our office: district2@pbcgov.org

GREGG K. WEISS

Vice Mayor

www.pbcgov.org/d2

