

# DATELINE

Volume 1, Issue 2

Phone: (561) 355-2206

Belle Glade (561-996-4814

Email: mmckinlay@pbcgov.org

May 2015

## New Glades Offices Open for Business

The last few weeks have been jam packed with local and state legislative issues. We were successful in getting House Bill 369 on human trafficking passed and I've asked that local implementation of it be scheduled for discussion by the BCC soon. This bill will require the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, and certain employers to display human trafficking public awareness signs at specified locations; providing public awareness sign requirements; authorizing a county commission to adopt an enforcement ordinance; providing a penalty, etc. A scary statistic is that everyone lives within 10 miles of someone who is — right now — being trafficked. This law will place helpful info on how to get help in key locations where trafficking victims can see it.

The Legislature will be going into Special Session in June to hopefully hammer out Florida's budget. I will be in Tallahassee fighting to keep the appropriations for Palm Beach County projects.

The BCC chose our next county administrator on May 12th. Mr. Weisman is leaving some very large shoes to fill but I'm confident we will be in great shape as we have an



*The ribbon on the long-awaited new District 6 Commission office has been cut! Glades residents can now schedule meetings with their representatives at a convenient location on the second floor of the Glades office building at 2976 State Road 15 in Belle Glade. Lisa Wilson, Legislative Aide to Commissioner McKinlay will be in the office ready to help residents with their questions. Pictured above, left to right, are South Bay Mayor Joe Kyles, Belle Glade City Manager Lomax Harrelle, Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Pahokee Vice Mayor Diane Walker, Senator Joe Abruzzo's assistant Ben Durgan, Representative Kevin Rader's assistant Barbara Davis and Congressman Alcee Hasting's assistant Dan Liftman.*

excellent transition team in place to assist the selected candidate, Verdenia Baker.

Last week we cut the ribbon on our brand new District 6 Glades office and I am excited for Glades residents to stop by and visit. Lisa Wilson is on staff full time as our Glades legislative aide. I encourage residents to call her at (561) 996-4814 with their concerns or questions. Our ribbon cutting followed the grand opening of the new PBC Water Utilities Customer Service Office at the Glades Office Building. Glades residents can now go to one centrally located office to pay their water bill or get help with water utility issues.

As we approach the summer storm season in South Florida I would like to remind everyone to make their hurricane preparations now. Get your plan ready and make sure everyone in your family knows it.

Memorial Day is right around the corner and I want to invite everyone to join me on May 25th at 10am at the South Florida National Cemetery in paying tribute to those who paid the ultimate price for the many freedoms we enjoy every day. It would mean a lot for the families they left behind.

Until next time...



McKinlay



*After five years of operating out of trailers next to the water treatment plant, the Glades Water Utilities Department customer service center now has a new, appropriate and safe facility for residents to do business in the Glades Office Building located at 2976 State Road 15 in Belle Glade. With 14 County employees, this facility handles 10,000 accounts in Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay. Artist Kathleen Holmes created the beautiful artwork representing many visual amenities in the Glades Region from corn and sugar stalks to animals.*

palm beach county district six

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## McKinlay Receives Champion For Children Award from ChildNet



*Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay and ChildNet Executive Director Larry Rein.*

Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay received the inaugural Champion for Children award by ChildNet on Thursday. ChildNet Executive Director Larry Rein presented McKinlay with the award at the annual "Care For Kids" luncheon held at Frenchman's Reserve.

A former ChildNet board member, McKinlay was honored for her advocacy on behalf of children in foster care throughout the years such as volunteer service with the Junior Leagues of Florida, Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Boys & Girls Club, Guardian Ad Litem Program, the ReEntry Task Force and the 15th Circuit Juvenile Justice Advisory Board.

McKinlay, a single mother of three children, has previously been recognized for her work in the community with the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2011 from local firefighters, Junior Leagues of Florida Advocacy Award in 2009, the Girls Power Award in 2008 and the Child Advocate of the Year in 2006.

ChildNet's mission is to protect abused, abandoned and neglected children. They were chosen by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community Based Care lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach Counties. It is responsible for managing the local system of services and support for the communities' most vulnerable children using a family-centered, strength-based, needs-driven approach to promote appropriate services for the children and their caregivers.

## LPBC Seeking Civic Engagement Projects

Leadership PBC is seeking civic engagement project proposals for the 2016 program year. The Leadership Engage class will complete several projects during the program year, with project activities beginning in September 2015 and concluding by June 2016. If you represent an organization that is looking for a "think tank" to tackle challenges facing Palm Beach County, apply today! For more information and to download the RFP, please visit <http://www.leadershipbc.org/civic-engagement-projects>. Deadline for submission is **July 8 at 12 p.m.**

## Vietnam Traveling Memorial



*Commissioner McKinlay (orange shirt) ran in the Rooney Family Charity 5K Race on the morning of April 11th and then attended the opening ceremony for the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at the FAU Campus in Abacoa. Commissioner Valeche spoke about his experience and memories of the Vietnam War. Shown left to right are Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Driver/Operator and bagpiper Jon Fergerson, Commissioner Mary Lou Berger, Commissioner Hal Valeche, Commissioner Melissa McKinlay and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue District Captain and bagpiper John Flynn.*

palm beach county district six

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Pahokee Gets Nod for \$13K Soccer Field Lighting



The Board of County Commissioners granted Commissioner McKinlay's request to fund a one-time request from the City of Pahokee to repair the ball field lighting at their recreation department to allow residents use of the field for nighttime soccer, football, baseball and exercise activities. The St. Mary's Catholic Church Youth Group was on hand at the board meeting to support the city's request.

## Glades Area Wins USDA Award



CareerSource Palm Beach County Director Steve Craig (center) accepts the USDA 2014 Community Development Award presented by USDA State Director Richard Macheck (right) and U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings (left) on April 9 at CareerSource Palm Beach County's West Career Center. This national award is presented annually to recognize collaborative efforts in increasing employment and sustainable economic development in rural areas. One winner is recognized in each of USDA Rural Development's 47 regions. The Glades area of western Palm Beach County was named this year's winner for the USDA region that includes all of Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Way to go Glades!

## McKinlay Named to NACo's NextGen Network

Commissioner McKinlay has been named the South Region Representative of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Next Generation Network.



NextGen provides a forum for young county officials to network, become engaged in NACo programs, and help develop a new generation of NACo leaders. The network identifies and serves the unique educational and professional development needs of young officials and draws on their talent and expertise to form NACo's strategic plan and programs and services for the future.

"I look forward to representing the next generation of elected leaders throughout the southern region of the United States and NACo. It is important that we work together to develop our potential as the new leaders of tomorrow," said Commissioner McKinlay.

The National Association of Counties represents 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs throughout the United States.

palm beach county district six

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Don't Forget! Pre-Hurricane Season Maintenance

All major cutting of vegetation (i.e., tree removal) should be completed long before June 1st, the beginning of the hurricane season. The Solid Waste Authority (SWA) strongly recommends you do all major cutting/tree removal from December 1st through April 30th. SWA arranges for removal of debris from routine yard maintenance (up to 6 cubic yards per week) throughout the year. Whether you are using a private contractor or doing major cutting yourself and you exceed the 6 cubic yard limit and want all debris removed immediately, you can ask your contractor to include the price of debris removal as part of their service, contact SWA for a contracted special service rate or contact any private hauler listed in the Yellow Pages under "Rubbish Removal" for their removal price. Debris from major cutting or tree removal will need to be transported to the SWA landfill or any SWA permitted facility; There is a fee for disposal.

- Arrange to cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings.

- Have your foliage thinned so wind can flow freely through the branches, decreasing the chance that trees/plants will be uprooted.

- Place vegetation material from routine maintenance

(up to 6 cubic yards - equivalent to 3 standard size refrigerators) at the curb on your regular scheduled collection day and follow the 6/50 rule (each piece cannot exceed 50 lbs in weight or 6 ft in length.)

- Containerize small pieces of vegetation such as pine needles leaves, twigs, etc., in bags or cans that weigh less than 50 lbs when full and place at the curb on your scheduled day.

- Clean your yard of any items that could pose a danger to you or your neighbors in hurricane force winds

such as old lumber, broken lawn furniture, etc. and place curbside on your bulk waste collection day.

For more information or debris removal please call SWA customer service at (561) 697-2700.

### Farm Share Event Scheduled

Commissioner McKinlay, Senator Joe Abruzzo and Representative Kevin Rader have organized a Farm Share event on Friday, June 12, from 10:00am - 1:00pm at the "Loading Ramp" on Avenue D, between SW 5th and 6th streets in Belle Glade. Food for 500 families will be distributed for free.

Farm Share's mission is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by recovering and distributing fresh and nutritious food to those who need it most.

For more information contact Kelley Burke at [kburke@pbcgov.org](mailto:kburke@pbcgov.org)

## FDOT to hold Public Hearing on SR7 Extension



Florida Department of  
**TRANSPORTATION**

[Home](#) [About FDOT](#) [Contact Us](#) [Maps & Data](#) [Offices](#) [Performance](#) [Projects](#)

### SR 7 Extension

SR 7 Extension / Public Notices

### Public Notices



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is holding a **public meeting** regarding the SR 7 Design Project.

**Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Place: South Florida Fair Grounds**

**Expo Center, Gate 8, Building 10**

**9067 Southern Boulevard**

**West Palm Beach, Florida 33411**

The meeting will follow an open house format. The purpose of this meeting is to present the design concepts for this project to the public. There will be no formal presentation. Representatives from the FDOT and the project team will be available to answer questions. Maps, drawings, and other information will be available.

palm beach county district six  
**IN THE COMMUNITY**

**May 4-10 National Correctional Officers/Employees Week**



Commissioner McKinlay presented correctional officers and employees of the West County Detention Center a proclamation on May 7 declaring May 4-10 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Palm Beach County.

The presentation was followed by a tour of the facility in Belle Glade.

*L-R: PBSO captains Rob Tutko and Ruby Starks, Commissioner McKinlay, PBSO Chief Deputy Mike Gauger and Major Alphonso Starling.*

**Leadership Palm Beach County  
 Corn Gleaning in Belle Glade**



*Commissioner McKinlay volunteered with Leadership Palm Beach County to glean cornfields at Hatton Farms on May 9. More than a dozen area agencies will receive the locally-grown corn including the homeless initiative at the local Veterans Hospital, senior citizen centers, sober houses, pantries and the migrants at St. Mary's in Pahokee. Primary partners in the gleaning were CROS Ministries and the Feed the Hungry pantry. Pictured with Commissioner McKinlay are (left) Owen O'Neil, Executive Director of Clinics Can Help and (right) Dan Shorter, Interim Executive Director of Leadership Palm Beach County.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
 PBSO/Glades Tri-City  
 2015 BASKETBALL CAMP**

Participants will be chosen to train with  
**Former NBA Players**  
 during the "BallStars Youth Camp"

▪ SPACE IS LIMITED ▪

**DATES**  
 June 8<sup>th</sup> - August 14<sup>th</sup>

**TIMES**  
 8:00 am - 12:00 pm (Ages 8-12)  
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch served  
 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm (Ages 13-18)

**LOCATIONS**  
 Glades Central Comm. High School  
 Bill Bailey Community Center

**CONTACTS**  
 Kenneth Torrence - "Coach T" (561) 282-7106  
 Carla Starling (561) 876-8868  
 Tammy Bunting (561) 992-1261

**Gain Excellent Basketball  
 & Personal Skills!**

**H E Hill Foundation, Inc.**  
 "AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR WORKING FAMILIES"

palm beach county district six

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Meet PBC's Next County Administrator, Verdenia Baker



Baker

Verdenia Baker will assume the County Administrator position in August, replacing long-time Administrator Bob Weisman.

As a Certified Government Financial Manager, Verdenia is responsible for assisting the County Administrator in the management of activities necessary to insure the efficient and effective operation of county government with a budget of approximately \$4

billion, 6,300+ employees and a population of over 1.3 million. In 1987, Verdenia began her career with Palm Beach County as a Budget Analyst, and in November 2000 to present she serves as Deputy County Administrator and second in command of county government overseeing the daily management of county departments and agencies funded by the Board of County Commissioners.

Verdenia holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Rehabilitative Services, a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration, both from Florida State University, and is a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. WPB Chapter.

She has affiliation with several professional and community organizations and her volunteer efforts are notable. In April 2013, Verdenia was sworn in as president of the *National Forum for Black Public Administrators*; Former President of American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Treasure Coast Chapter; Member of the Board of Directors of Black Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County; Member of the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Hospital; Member of Deaconess Ministry and Youth Ministry of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church; Mentor for the Women of Tomorrow Mentor. She has received numerous national, regional and local professional and civic awards.

Verdenia lives in Royal Palm Beach with her husband, Joe and daughter Jasmin.

## McKinlay Holds Roundtable for District 6 Chambers & Managers

Commissioner McKinlay held a roundtable meeting with the District 6 municipal managers and chamber of commerce executives on April 2nd. The meeting was hosted by the Village of Wellington and provided an opportunity for the exchange of priorities and concerns.



Pictured l-r are: Art Ivester, Pahokee interim city manager, Chandler Williamson, Pahokee city manager, Beverly Scott, assistant to the Belle Glade city manager, Lomax Harrelle, Belle Glade city manager, Jim Stiles, director of PBC Water Utilities and Commissioner McKinlay.

palm beach county commission action

# DATABANK

May 5, 2015

**Financial report** – received a presentation from the Clerk and Comptroller's Office on the Palm Beach County comprehensive annual financial report. At the conclusion of the report, Clerk Sharon Bock thanked retiring County Administrator Bob Weisman for his wisdom and guidance in helping to manage the county's finances.

**Tourist development** – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on May 19 an ordinance providing for the transfer of funds from the first cent of the bed tax and the amendment of the Tourist Development Plan which provides for the expenditure of one cent of bed tax revenues to be used for one or more of the authorized uses.

**Criminal Justice Commission** – adopted a resolution in support of Stepping Up, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses housed in local jails. Statistically, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illness that require interventions compared to inmates who do not have those treatment needs.