

Free dirt? ‘Real solutions’ needed on drainage

New program would limit each resident to 5 cubic yards of dirt per resident and residents would also be required to move and place the dirt themselves.

SIERRA WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER



Palm Coast resident Jeremy Davis is one of many residents who says he has drainage issues because a neighboring home was built higher than his own. **Image screenshot from Palm Coast City Council livestream**

Palm Coast could use repurposed dirt to help city residents struggling with drainage issues.

The idea stems from the city's Residential Drainage Advisory Committee, which established in February by the Palm Coast City Council. The committee was formed in response to an outcry from Palm Coast residents who said neighboring new build homes that were built higher than their own was causing flooding on their properties.

The dirt would be cleaned, screened surplus dirt from various city projects, which can then be used by residents "to make improvements on their private properties," city documents state.

"We're not certain that there's going to be a big demand for this, but at least we wanted to put the ask through to you," Donna Stancel said, the committee chair.

This program would limit each resident to 5 cubic yards of dirt. Deputy Stormwater Director Lynn Stevens said that amount of dirt could easily be loaded into the back of a pickup truck for transport.

Residents would also be required to move the dirt themselves, both transporting it to their homes and placing it in their yards, Stevens said. And if they need machinery to place the dirt, those residents would be required to get a city permit for regrading. A lot regrading permit could cost \$82, according to the city's website.

The committee's proposed solution is not one-size fits-all, Stancel acknowledged. For one, the dirt would legally

"That's not going to help me. This is a waste of my time."

JEREMY DAVIS, Palm Coast resident

Davis has been one of the council's most vocal critics on how the council and city has responded to residents' drainage issues. He has told his story multiple times: Ahouse was built in the empty lot next to his at a much higher height and since then, he said he has had water coming on to his property and even in his home that was never there before.

Davis called the 5 cubic yards offered "hilarious." "That's not going to help me," Davis said. "This is a waste of my time."

Davis said it would be equally unfair for residents like himself to be required to pay for a permit to fix a problem caused by city staff and builders approving a home built higher than existing homes.

"Come up with real solutions," Davis said. While the council agreed this was a good first step, Danko said he hopes the committee continues looking for more solutions.

"I think some of these homes are going to require a much bigger fix," Danko said. "An expensive fix, probably, but we just can't let people hang out there."

Stancel and Stevens said the committee has been working on educating residents on what programs are available to help homeowners, like the county's and city's Community Development Block Grant programs. These programs do have limited funding, though, as well as income and other restrictions.

"We're still looking for other solutions, but this is what we have so far," Stancel said.

advisory committee to begin brainstorming solutions to help impacted residents.

At the same time, the city's building and stormwater departments made several changes to the city's technical manual. Previously, the city did not have a height limit on how high the new, infill-lot homes could be built, just that they had to be a minimum of 12 inches above the crown of the road.

The technical manual also did not have any regulation about how much higher than a neighboring home the new build could be. Since November 2023, the city has updated its technical manual: New homes cannot be more than 22 inches above the crown of the road, and there can be no more than a 10-inch height elevation between the floor elevation of neighboring homes.

Ideally, the change to the requirements will prevent this from happening again, Stevens said in the Nov. 12 meeting. But the updates do not help residents who already had neighboring homes built higher than their own.

Some Palm Coast residents in attendance at the council meeting said that amount of dirt would not be enough.

"I'm telling you right now, this is not going to work," resident Celia Pugliese said.

P Section resident Jeremy

FREE DIRT

Surplus Dirt Availability: A maximum of 5 cubic yards of dirt will be available per household.

Pickup Location: Dirt can be collected from the city's dirt screening operation on North Old Kings Road.

Pickup Schedule: Residents will be able to pick up dirt on specific dates and times, to be announced soon.

Eligibility: Palm Coast residents can use the dirt to make improvements on their private properties.

have to be available to all Palm Coast residents, not just residents with these specific drainage issues.

She said the committee is still working on other potential solutions for residents who have drainage problems because of neighboring lots.

In the fall of 2023, residents banded together to ask the council for a building moratorium until the situation was resolved. A moratorium proposed by council member Theresa Carli Pontieri was shot down, but Vice Mayor Ed Danko later proposed the

FIRST INSERTION

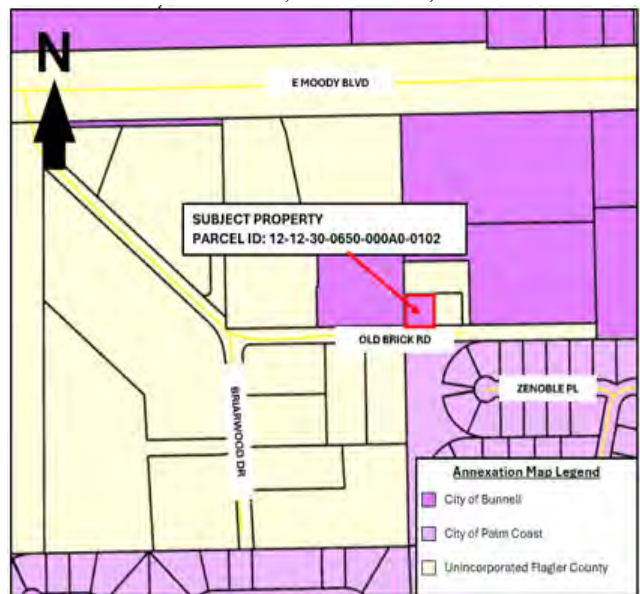
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA will hold a Public Hearing as authorized by law at 7:00 P.M. on the 25th day of November 2024, for the purpose of Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-22, before the City Commission, in the Chambers Meeting Room of the Flagler County Government Services Building (GSB) located at 1769 East Moody Blvd, Bunnell, Florida 32110.

ORDINANCE 2024-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA, ANNEXING BY VOLUNTARY PETITION CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TOTALING 0.23± ACRES LOCATED AT 325 OLD BRICK ROAD, BEARING PARCEL ID: 12-12-30-0650-000A0-0102 WHICH IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY OF BUNNELL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION PROVISIONS OF SECTION 171.044, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND OTHER CONTROLLING LAW; REDFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL TO INCLUDE SAID PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD THE ORDINANCE WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, WITH THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF FLAGLER COUNTY AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; PROVIDING FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND A MAP; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR NON-CODIFICATION AND THE TAKING OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE as may be legally permitted on the day of the meeting. Instructions on how to participate by electronic or other means, if legally permitted, would be found on the City of Bunnell's website at www.bunnellcity.us on the homepage. The public is advised to check the City's website for up-to-date information on any changes to the manner in which the meeting will be held and the location. The failure of a person to appear during said hearing and comment on or object to the proposed Ordinance, either in person or in writing, might preclude the ability of such person to contest the Ordinance at a later date. A copy of all pertinent information this ordinance can be obtained at the office of the Bunnell Customer Service Office, 604 E. Moody Blvd. Unit 6, Bunnell, FL 32110. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to attend this proceeding should contact the Bunnell City Clerk at (386) 437-7500 x 5 at least 48-business hours prior to the meeting. **NOTICE:** If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission on this matter a recording of the proceeding may be needed and for such purposes the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)



Nov. 14/21

24-00426F

FIRST INSERTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA will hold a Public Hearing as authorized by law at 7:00 P.M. on the 25th day of November 2024, for the purpose of Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-23 before the City Commission, in the Chambers Meeting Room of the Flagler County Government Services Building (GSB) located at 1769 East Moody Blvd, Bunnell, Florida 32110.

ORDINANCE 2024-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY OF BUNNELL 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR THE SMALL-SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP IN THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RELATIVE TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY CONTAINING 0.76± ACRES, OWNED BY RANDALL AND PENELOPE BUCKLES, BEARING PARCEL ID: 10-12-30-0850-02500-0040 LOCATED AT 305 NORTH BAY STREET IN THE CITY OF BUNNELL LIMITS FROM THE "SINGLE FAMILY-LOW DENSITY (SF-L)" DESIGNATION TO THE "INDUSTRIAL (IND)" DESIGNATION; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR ASSIGNMENT OF THE LAND USE DESIGNATION FOR THE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR RATIFICATION OF PRIOR ACTS OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF MAPS BY REFERENCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND DIRECTIONS TO THE CODE CODIFIER AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Nov. 14

24-00431F

BRIEFS

Palm Coast Starlight Parade returns Dec. 14

The Starlight Parade is returning to Palm Coast after a four-year hiatus on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The parade — originally canceled because of COVID pandemic restrictions and canceled again in 2023 because of weather conditions — will begin at 6 p.m. in Central Park in Town Center, a city press release said. The parade will travel through Central Avenue, Park Street, Lake Avenue and Bulldog Drive.

"Families, friends, and neighbors are invited to come together to experience the joy and excitement that this

beloved parade has brought to Palm Coast for nearly two decades," the press release said.

The 2024 theme is "Winter Wonderland," and will transform the parade into a magical holiday celebration filled with community spirit, vibrant floats, and seasonal cheer.

Though the parade will not begin until 6 p.m., the city will have a multitude of pre-parade activities at Central Park beginning at 3 p.m. Residents will be able to enjoy food trucks, entertainment, and family-friendly activities, including photos with Santa inside Santa's Village.

The line for photos with Santa will close at 5 p.m.

To participate, visit www.palmcoast.gov/events/home/details/starlight-parade. It is free to register and the deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 2.

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ORDINANCE 2024-24

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY OF BUNNELL 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR THE SMALL-SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP IN THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RELATIVE TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY CONTAINING 5.63± ACRES, OWNED BY HAMBLY CONTRACTING INC., BEARING PARCEL IDS: 03-12-30-0650-00110-0011 AND 03-12-30-0650-00110-0030 LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 40± FEET NORTH OF GRAND RESERVE DRIVE IN THE CITY OF BUNNELL LIMITS FROM FLAGLER COUNTY "AGRICULTURE & TIMBERLANDS" AND CITY OF BUNNELL "SINGLE FAMILY-LOW DENSITY (SF-L)" DESIGNATIONS TO CITY OF BUNNELL "INDUSTRIAL (IND)" DESIGNATION; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR ASSIGNMENT OF THE LAND USE DESIGNATION FOR THE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR RATIFICATION OF PRIOR ACTS OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF MAPS BY REFERENCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND DIRECTIONS TO THE CODE CODIFIER AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Nov. 14

24-00432F

FIRST INSERTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA will hold a Public Hearing as authorized by law at 7:00 P.M. on the 25th day of November 2024, for the purpose of Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-25 before the City Commission, in the Chambers Meeting Room of the Flagler County Government Services Building (GSB) located at 1769 East Moody Blvd, Bunnell, Florida 32110.

ORDINANCE 2024-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUNNELL, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY CONTAINING 5.63± ACRES, OWNED BY HAMBLY CONTRACTING INC., BEARING PARCEL ID: 03-12-30-0650-00110-0011 AND 03-12-30-0650-00110-0030 LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 40± FEET NORTH OF GRAND RESERVE DRIVE IN THE CITY OF BUNNELL LIMITS FROM FLAGLER COUNTY "AC, AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT" AND CITY OF BUNNELL "PUD, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT" TO CITY OF BUNNELL "L-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT"; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR THE TAKING OF IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF MAPS BY REFERENCE; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR NON-CODIFICATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Nov. 14

24-00433F

