

Mayor
Brenda Ash

Commissioners
Donna Duncan
Adriane Elliott
Despina George
Donna Knutson



CITY OF APALACHICOLA

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Sheneidra Cummings

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City Manager Update - 15 May 2026

Mayor Ash and Commissioners –

- The Strategic Visioning undertaking is progressing and the commission nominated candidates are being contacted to confirm their availability for the June 3rd and 4th workshop. To ensure we solicit the greatest amount of community input, we will be setting up an email address so residents can offer comments/suggestions/input for consideration. This email address will be published after the workshop, so the results of the SWOT analysis and DRAFT goals are available for review.
- The City is hosting a Farewell and Thank You for Bobby Varnes (Police Chief) and Greg Harris (Public Works Supervisor) after the June 2nd commission meeting. This will start at 7:30pm and be a community event where anyone can pass on their thanks for Bobby and Greg's service to the community. Light refreshments will be provided.
- Thanks go out to the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve who included some city staff on a river trip earlier this week. Staff were able to learn more about what ANERR does and the delicate balance that is needed for the Apalachicola River and associated watershed.
- This went out yesterday, but I'm including it here....The Splash Pad is open! The Water/Sewer and Public Works folks completed their final tasks including repairing the sump drainage pump and replacing and rewiring all the actuators. The stairs on the playground were also repaired, and the entire structure and nearby water fountain were power washed.
- Out new Front Office Utility Clerk, Candace Burke started this week, and she hit the ground running. Colin Wefing, our new Special Projects Coordinator, starts the last week of the month, and we are looking forward to having him back as part of the city team. Colin previously worked as an operator at WWTF.
- I will be attending the annual Florida City County Managers Association (FCCMA) conference in Orlando from 26-29 May. FCCMA asked to speak as part of a panel on expectations for new City Managers and the Florida League of Cities invited me to record a Podcast pertaining to Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness.
- Our Code Enforcement Officer has been working on a door-to-door campaign to educate folks about Yard Waste and Debris. Waste One will pick these items up for residents if they adhere to their guidelines; garden and yard debris must not be mixed with household waste, construction debris, or other materials, piles must not exceed 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long, shrubs, trunks, or tree limbs must not exceed 6 inches in diameter, and all leaves must be bagged. We will be publishing this information out via Facebook, our website and our "Keep Informed" email distribution list.
- Our Grant, Compliance, and Procurement Director is putting together a "Project Update Town Hall" to be held on June 11th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Holy Family. This forum will provide the most recent updates on City projects and there will be presentations from various contractors, engineers, and firms pertaining to the Riverfront Revitalization, Hill Community Building, African American Museum, Avenues Stormwater Repairs projects, and more.