~LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS—(March 30-April 6)--Fridays through April 13, 10:00 am-2:30 pm, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide prepares and e-files 2017 Federal tax returns (must bring Social Security card); Monday, 11:00 am, Story Time Sing & Learn (ages 0-5), start your toddlers on the road to reading and school readiness as they learn numbers, colors, and the alphabet through stories, music, and dance; Monday, 5:30 pm, Special Movie Presentation, Star Wars: The Last Jedi; Tuesday, 10:00 am-2:30 pm, S.H.I.N.E. Medicare Counseling (reserve an hour of help from a trained volunteer); Tech Tuesday, 3:00-4:00 pm, E-Book Help, talk with a librarian about library e-books (no repairs; no registration required); Wednesday, 4:00 pm, Rock Painting, relax with this fun new trend (materials provided); Thursday, 4:00 pm, Tail Waggin' Tutors, emerging and reluctant readers practice their skills by reading to Ziggy, a certified therapy dog (ages 5-15).

~UNDERWATER EGG HUNT AND SPRING FESTIVAL AT THE ST. PETE BEACH AQUATIC CENTER AND HORAN PARK—Dip and Dive for Easter eggs in the pool and stay to play afterwards. Don’t forget to check out all of the fun going on at the park next to the pool. Our Spring Festival will include inflatables, food, music and more. The event will be held at the St. Pete Beach Aquatic Center and Horan Park, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr., Saturday March 31 from 10am-12pm. The Underwater Egg Hunt costs $5 per child (includes re-entry to the pool after the event) and the Spring Festival is FREE to all. Children are encouraged to bring Mesh bags to gather their eggs. For more information on this event, contact the Aquatic Center at 727.363.9264 or visit www.spbrec.com.

~ MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—

Monday, April 2, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers
155 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

RE: Public Information Meeting for the upcoming construction project to re-pave Blind Pass Road from Gulf Boulevard to 75th Avenue. The project includes stormwater Drainage improvements, undergrounding of overhead utilities, sidewalks and bicycle Lanes. Construction is expected to begin this spring. There will be a question and answer session following the presentation.

MESSAGE FROM FDOT—Quinn Construction, INC., has been hired by FDOT to perform repairs on the bridge. Onsite construction is to begin April 2, 2018 and continue through September 2018. They anticipate full bridge closures in order to perform the roadway grating replacement as well the painting of the bridge. Full bridge closures will be done at night and the bridge will be opened at 6am each morning. They will close side of the bridge at a time allowing 2-way traffic over the bridge. They are expecting lane closures throughout the project and will maintain the open lane per FDOT standard MOT specifications. They do not anticipate any delay in the traffic flow during lane closure.

For more Information, during rehabilitation of the bridge, Quinn Construction contacts are as follows:

Office - 941.722.7722
After Hours - 941.527.6892
Emergency - 941.812.4739
- **SENIOR EXCURSIONS HOSTED BY THE ST. PETE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER**— The St. Pete Beach Community Center has new Senior Excursions on the schedule January-March. The excursions are a great way for local seniors to travel with friends. All excursions will depart from St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. All participants must pre-register the Wednesday prior to the excursion. Each trip is $15. Cost covers transportation only. All admissions or lunch are extra and the responsibility of the participants. For more information call the Community Center at 727.363.9245 or visit [www.spbrec.com](http://www.spbrec.com).

### Trip Schedule

- **March 31st** - Tampa Cuban Sandwich Festival

- **SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS AT ST. PETE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER**— Registration starts March 26th at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, for full and half day summer camps. Programs are being offered for children completed kindergarten through 6th grade. Our full day camp programs will keep kids entertained all summer long with weekly field trips, swimming and indoor/outdoor activities. If your child has more specific interest we are offering half-day specialty camps such as Archery, basketball, robotics and more. For more information, including registration paperwork, visit [www.spbrec.com](http://www.spbrec.com) or call 727.363.9245.

- **MESSAGE FROM PINELLAS COUNTY**— Coyotes they are here to stay in Pinellas County. Sightings of Coyotes—Pinellas County Animal Services does not trap or remove coyotes or other wildlife. However, Coyote reporting is informational and Pinellas County Animal Services gathers this data for confirmation of coyote locations. To report a coyote sighting in your area visit [http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/4coyote.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/4coyote.htm).


- **MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE**— Please lock your car doors and stow valuables out of sight. Check out the Sheriff’s website for access to programs and services to learn how to protect yourself, your family and your possessions. To contact our Community Policing Officers call 727-582.5721.

- **GENERAL PENSION BOARD VACANCY** - Volunteer position requires City residency and knowledge of financial investments/transactions. The board meets quarterly during regular business hours. A volunteer application and Pension Board information are available through the City’s website at [www.stpetebeach.org](http://www.stpetebeach.org) or by calling the Office of the City Clerk at 727.363.9201.

- **COMMUNITY EVENTS**
  - Sunday Market on Corey Avenue from 10am-2pm
  - Beach Goes Pop April 21st from 12-10pm
THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH

CITY COMMISSION

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE

PASS-A-GRILLE WAY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, PHASE 1

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018

10:30 A.M.

ON PASS-A-GRILLE WAY BETWEEN CABRILLO AND MARITANA

***RSVP to Rebecca Haynes, City Clerk at 727.363.9220 by 4/18/2019***
You are invited:

**Pinellas County Beaches Shorebird Workshop**

**Thursday, April 12th**

St Pete Beach City Hall, Commission Chambers, 155 Corey Avenue

9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Morgan Parks, Southwest Regional Shorebird Biologist

*Status, protections, and threats to beach-nesting shorebirds.*

Audubon Florida

Holley Short, Project Manager for Stewardship and Monitoring

*Nesting on Pinellas County beaches: locations, productivity, and onsite stewardship efforts.*

There is plenty of parking in the City Hall parking lot. Coffee and water will be provided.

All are welcome!
MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER TERRI FINNERTY ED. D., DISTRICT 1

Home Rule: The Florida constitution empowers citizens with the right of local self-government, or Home Rule. As the only form of voluntary government, Florida’s municipalities are the embodiment of this right. A city is created by its citizens to provide additional functions and services for the particular benefit of the community. Local citizens develop a charter to specify the form, functions and power of their city government. The incorporation and city charter are approved by voters in a local referendum.

Home Rule authorizes all governmental, corporate and proprietary powers necessary to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services. Home Rule is why not two cities are alike. City residents take pride in this diversity and responsibility. Strong Home Rule powers ensure that government stays close to the people it serves. Intrusion on Home Rule from the state or federal government undermines the constitutional right of citizens to govern themselves.

Last week on March 22nd Shahra Anderson, from Senator Bill Nelson’s office, sent the following information regarding bills for which Senator Nelson received funding. Many of them will help Floridians. Please do not forget, Senator Nelson’s contact information is at the end of this article, should you wish to discuss with him this legislation or any other issue you may be concerned about.

Dear Friends,

Early Friday morning, the Senate passed a spending bill that is great news for Florida - and our country. From increasing funding to address the opioid crisis, to making sure we have the right equipment to track hurricanes, to protecting Florida's citrus industry, this legislation will include funding for a number of projects I've been fighting for here in the Senate:

- $3.3 billion to fight the opioid epidemic and mental health crises. An estimated 2.6 million Americans suffer from opioid use disorder. In Florida alone, more than 5,200 people have died from an opioid-related event in 2016 - a 35 percent increase from 2015. I requested additional funding for treatment, prevention and research.

- $67.47 million in total funding for citrus greening research and the Citrus Health Research Program. As citrus greening has hurt growers across Florida, I’ve advocated for increased funding to study and address the problem to help our citrus industry.

- $895 million for Kennedy Space Center to modernize launch facilities, more than doubling what the center received last year. I requested the increased funding to bolster work on launch and processing infrastructure needed for NASA’s initiative to explore deep space.

- $121 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to purchase a reliable backup for its aging hurricane hunter jet. I've been pushing for a replacement since 2015. The funding comes in the wake of several incidents over the last two years when the jet NOAA uses to gather hurricane measurements was grounded during the hurricane season.

Pool Information:

- Water temp. always 82°!

Pool Hours:

- January 1st—April 2nd
- Adult Lap Swim:
  - Mon-Fri: 7a-11a
  - Tues-Thurs: 11a-12p (limited lanes)
  - Mon-Fri: 3-6p (limited lanes)

- Public Swim:
  - Mon & Fri: 11a-1p
  - Tues-Thurs: 11a-12p
  - Mon-Fri: 3p-6pm
  - Activity Pool Only
  - Sat: 10a-3p
  - Sun: Closed

Community Center Hours:

- Mon-Fri: 7a-8:30p
- Sat: 9a-1pm
- Sun: Closed

Upcoming Meetings:

- Held at City Hall
- Public Information Meeting
  - Blind Pass Road
  - April 2 @ 4p
- Historic Preservation
  - April 5 @ 3:30p
- Special Magistrate
  - April 9 @ 10a
- City Commission
  - April 10 @ 6p
- General Pension Board
  - Special Meeting
  - April 11 @ 2p
- Planning Board
  - April 16 @ 4p

Commission meetings replay on Ch. 642 on a continuous loop.

St. Pete Beach eNews
The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach
March 29, 2018
- $76.5 million in total funding to protect and restore the Everglades. The U.S. Army Corps budget was also increased, allowing additional funding for Everglades restoration.
- $82 million to repair the Herbert Hoover Dike. U.S. Army Corps budget was also increased, allowing for additional funding for dike repairs.
- $279.6 million, a 14-percent increase, in funding to support Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The four historically black colleges and universities in Florida - Florida A&M in Tallahassee, Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach and Edward Waters College in Jacksonville - prepare over 16,000 students for careers in STEM, aviation, law, nursing and other fields.
- $250 million in federal funding for positive train control grants. Positive train control technology will help prevent deadly crashes on our railroads. It's critically important for those railroads that carry passengers, like Sunrail and Tri-Rail. As the ranking member on the Senate Commerce Committee, I pressed for the funding to help passenger railroads meet a federal deadline to install the lifesaving technology.
- $100 million for research and development program for automated vehicles. The SunTrax facility at Florida Polytechnic University is a qualified proving ground and will have the opportunity to benefit from the program.
- Restored and increased funds to $35 million for democracy programs in Venezuela and Cuba. I requested Congress "redouble, not eliminate support for democracy and human rights" in Venezuela. The democracy programs support civil society organizations and promote human rights.
- $60 million for the Nonprofits Security Grant Program. The program helps certain nonprofits harden their facilities against attack, such as organization like the Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) in Orlando and Miami and elsewhere. I requested this funding after JCCs across Florida received a series of telephone bomb threats.
- Increased funding for the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program to $5 million. I requested $5 million in funding to provide long-term support and services for Holocaust survivors.
In addition to this critical spending, we also moved a little closer to turning the voices of these students who are demanding action on gun violence into policy. The spending package included several provisions I co-sponsored to address gun violence in Florida and across the country, including:

- **Fix NICS Act.** I cosponsored this bipartisan bill, which requires federal agencies and states to develop implementation plans to upload to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) all information prohibiting a person from purchasing a firearm, rewards states who comply with these plans through federal grant preferences, and reauthorizes and improves programs that help states share information on criminal records with NICS, among other things.

- **STOP School Violence Act.** I co-sponsored this bipartisan bill that would allow schools to access federal funds to invest in programs, training and technology to keep students safe.

- **CDC Gun Violence Research.** The spending package included language to clarify that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can conduct research on gun violence.

This bill is fantastic news for our state. And while these gun violence provisions are just steps, they are steps in the right direction and show just what we can do when we work together.

Bill Nelson

Below is a link to use to contact your legislators or any legislator, and let them know how you feel about their voting record with regard to Home Rule.

http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/advocacy/contact-your-legislator

Terri Finnerty, Ed.D.  
Commissioner District #1  
727-641-2314  
tfinnerty@stpetebeach.org
MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER TERRI FINNERTY ED. D., DISTRICT 1

I have been asked by residents to provide specific information about the legislators who govern St. Pete Beach. Please find those names and contact information below. I have added Governor Scott’s information since, as you know, he has complete authority to veto any of these bills if he believes they are not in the best interest of the residents of Florida.

State Representative District 69
Kathleen Peters
District Office
6798 Crosswinds Drive
Suite C - 105
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710-5477
Phone: (727) 341-7385
Email: Kathleen.Peters@myfloridahouse.gov

State Senator District 24
Jeff Brandes
District Office
9800 4th Street North
Suite 200
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone: (727) 563-2100
Email: brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov

US Congressman District 13
Charlie Crist
District Office
696 1st Avenue North
Suite #203
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: (727) 318-6770
Email: crist.house.gov (go to contact)

US Senator Florida
Bill Nelson
District Office
801 North Florida Avenue 4th Floor
Tampa, FL 33602
Phone: (813) 225-7040
Email: billnelson senate.gov

Governor
Rick Scott
Plaza Level Level 05, The Capital
400 S Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
rick.scott @eog.myflorida.com
Join us for a newly designed program for toddlers (ages 0-5) that teaches the alphabet, numbers and colors through music, stories and play!

Mondays at 11:00 a.m.

St. Pete Beach Library
365 73rd Avenue,
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
SPBLibrary.com
S.H.I.N.E. Medicare Counseling

Receive one-one-one private medicare counseling

Please bring your red white & blue medicare card and a list of your prescription drugs

Tuesday, April 3
Registration required

One hour appointments: 10:00; 11:00; 12:30; 1:30.

St. Pete Beach Public Library
365 73rd Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL
727-363-9238
SPBLibrary.com
Kidde Recalls Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm Due to Potential Safety Risk

Recall Summary

Brand Name, Model of Affected Product: Kidde Dual Sensor (Photoelectric and Ionization) Smoke Alarms – Models PI2010 and PI9010

Hazard: A yellow protective cap in limited instances may have been left on one of the two smoke sensors in affected products during the manufacturing process, which could compromise the smoke alarms’ ability to detect smoke.

Remedy: Replace affected smoke alarms that contain the yellow protective cap.

For additional details regarding the Kidde smoke alarm recall, please visit https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls

Review the below Identification Guide to help determine if you have an affected smoke alarm.
If your smoke alarm is affected, please register for a replacement at [https://kidde-smoke-alarm-recallusen.expertinquiry.com/vinylpage](https://kidde-smoke-alarm-recallusen.expertinquiry.com/vinylpage)

Do not attempt to take apart the alarm, open the casing, or remove the yellow cap. If a yellow cap is present, immediately contact Kidde. They can replace it with a properly functioning smoke alarm.

REMINDER: Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and batteries should be changed at least twice a year.
FACTS ABOUT IGUANAS

1. They are not indigenous. Considered to be more a nuisance than a threat.
2. Vegetarians – (favorite flower is hibiscus)
3. They can bite and will throw their tail if threatened.
4. They are more afraid of you and are extremely fast and they can swim long distances. They travel the Intercoastal.
5. Unfortunately, due to the mild winters many have migrated and survived our weather. Life expectancy in the wild 4 – 7 years; in captivity (if taken care of) 15 – 20 years.
Predators are hawks, birds, coyotes and humans.
6. They don’t make good pets and should not be released.
7. You will not get salmonella from an iguana swimming or defecating in your pool (unless you drink the water).
8. They breed once a year and the females lay “clutches” eggs after they burrow in the ground (usually they are not fertile).
9. Several of the local iguanas have been released in Fort DeSoto and have migrated to St. Pete Beach and surrounding areas.

What To Do If You See One

1. Don’t Feed it.
2. Don’t try to catch it.
3. If in your yard just hose it down and they will move on.
4. If you catch one, call Animal Rescue, Gulf Coast Iguana Sanctuary, or other animal rescues such as SPCA or PETPAL. They will find a reptile rescue to place them.
5. There are exterminators and hunters of iguanas. Make sure if you feel you need an exterminator that they are humane in their euthanization.
6. They will not come into your sewage system unless there is a major break in the line.
7. If you trap one do not release it as there are reptile rescues in Florida. Do not put your hands or face by their mouths and watch out for the tail whipping.

Tips to control your own backyard

1. Do not leave food out, unattended.
2. Rid your lawn of dropped fruit.
3. Keep a lid on garbage cans.
4. Do not leave pet food out.
5. Fill iguana holes.
6. Do not feed the iguanas.
7. Protect trees to prevent climbing.
8. Wire netting around plants.
9. Spray them with water.
10. Keep your yard clean.
Fun Facts About the Green Iguana

- Green Iguanas can survive a fall of 40-50 feet. This works out well since they live in trees (especially for the clumsy ones!).
- Green Iguanas are excellent swimmers and will dive into the water to avoid predators.
- Hawks are the most feared predators to green iguanas. Iguanas will often freeze and be unable to move at the sound of a hawk’s cry.
- Their tail can break off if grabbed, but it’s okay as they can grow a new one.
FAQ's ABOUT IGUANAS

Do they make good pets?

First of all an Iguana is not the type of lizard to make an ideal pet. They can grow to 5 or 6 feet long, can get aggressive during breeding season and need very exacting requirements...for more information read on!

Do they get bigger?

Iguanas can grow very quickly. In just a couple of years they can go from a few inches to 2 or 3 feet and can ultimately reach 5 or even 6 feet long!! This means you need to plan ahead as to space required now and space required soon!

How long do they live?

Iguanas can, if treated correctly and fed the correct diet, reach an age of 15 or even older! Look on it as a long term pet.

What do they eat?

Iguanas are vegetarians (Herbivores), no matter what you hear or read elsewhere, and should be fed a diet of mixed greens. An occasional treat of fruit or flowers, but definitely no meat!!

Can they eat Mice, Crickets and Cat Food?

As an opportunist feeder, an Iguana might try some of these if offered by the owner, but feeding animal protein of any sort can lead to an early death through kidney/liver failure. This means NO crickets, mealworms, dog or cat food, or baby mice EVER!! A lot of Iguanas have been dying at around 6 – 8 years old due to owners feeding animal protein. Any vet worth his salt will nowadays tell you this is outdated information for these Herbivores.

Do they need special lights?

If you have taken an Iguana into your care then you have a responsibility to ensure it gets the correct care. Assuming you do not live in a very sunny climate where your Iguana has access to outdoor
sunshine daily, you will need a proper 5% UVB tube light for reptiles (not the plant grow light type) which will require changing every 6 months, and a basking light to maintain a correct basking temperature.

Do they need water?

Iguanas must have a fresh supply of drinking water daily. You might not see them drinking regularly, but it needs to be there for when they do... and most also like to bathe in tepid water frequently. Dehydration can be a killer!

Do they need special temperatures?

They need a basking spot temperature of around 90 degrees (top maximum 98) with a drop to around 75 degrees for the other area (can be a little cooler at night). This is called a temperature gradient and is important in case the Iguana is too hot and needs to move to a cooler spot (this action is called thermoregulation).

What about a branch to climb on?

Iguanas are indeed arboreal (tree dwelling) in natural habitat and enjoy a branch or two to climb on in captivity. This can also enhance a bare habitat to a more pleasing effect, help relieve boredom and assist to maintain good muscle structure through exercise.

Can they get aggressive?

Iguanas are normally well behaved, even timid creatures mostly, but can become aggressive if suddenly startled and also during their breeding season (always be very careful near fingers or face just in case).

Do they have teeth?

Yes, Iguanas do have teeth. They are small, but razor sharp and are used to perforate the leaves they eat, which they can then just tear off like a postage stamp.

Do they vary in color?
Color is variable shades of green with black banding to a greater or lesser degree. Even the same iguana can vary at different times of day, depending on his mood, or if in the sun. They can also get shades of orangey brown during the breeding season and a greyish color when about to start a shed (shedding their skin).

Where do they originate from?

In the wild iguanas are mainly from the South American rainforests, with some populations in Central America and there are now wild feral populations in Puerto Rico and Florida!

What happens in breeding season?

When mature, iguanas go through a breeding season usually around the winter months. This can last about 6 weeks. They can act a little strange during this time and go off food, bite, get agitated, act skittish and have even been known to chase their owners.

What does shedding mean?

Iguanas as with most reptiles do not have the elasticity in their skin cells that for instance mammals have, and every so often during their growth they have to go through the process of shedding (Mammals and particularly humans shed almost unnoticeably in minute flakes as a continuous process). This is a normal activity and is just a way for the Iguana to grow new skin, which in turn probably means that it is eating and growing normally. This usually starts with the skin taking on a milky or grey appearance, and then starts to crack and peel away, but unlike snakes, Iguanas only shed in areas instead of all at once, so it may be the head and legs followed by the back and tail then the underside etc. until finished.

The Gulf Coast Iguana Sanctuary rescues and provides habitat for abandoned and lost iguanas in the State of Florida. Iguanas are a non-native species in Florida, and they cannot survive the cold temperatures outside during the winter months. Our mission is to provide public awareness through educational programs and rescue of this beautiful species.

Many of the iguanas come to us with pre-existing medical conditions. Therefore, a few of the iguanas in the habitat may seem to be unhealthy, tired and old. We do not refuse any Iguana and strive to rehabilitate and provide a comfortable habitat for them.

We maintain a local habitats to care for these beautiful creatures at the Science Center of Pinellas County.
Help us to provide safety, food and medical assistance for these non-indigenous reptiles by donating to the Gulf Coast Iguana Sanctuary. All donations are tax deductible.

Please follow us on Facebook or visit our website at:

www.iguanasanctuary.com
Living with **Raccoons**

**General information**

Raccoons are common throughout Florida in urban, suburban and rural areas. In Florida, they typically weigh 11-15 pounds and are most recognizable by their prominent black facial mask and a long bushy tail, striped with four to seven black rings. Raccoons are nocturnal but can be active during the day, which is not an indication of illness.

Raccoons are beneficial and help control populations of rodents and insects. They are commonly attracted to human areas by garbage, pet food, bird seed and gardens. Once accustomed to being fed, raccoons lose their natural fear of humans and move closer to food sources. Raccoons residing in your attic or outbuildings can be difficult to remove, so prevention is key.

**What can be done to prevent problems with raccoons?**

- **Never feed raccoons!** Placing food outside attracts wild animals and intentional feeding of raccoons is illegal as per Florida Statute 68A-4.001.
- Talk to your neighbors and children about not leaving out food or trash. The best way to prevent problems is to secure attractants.
- Remove fallen fruit, nuts and bird seed. If you have outdoor pets, place food dishes outside only for limited times.
- Secure garbage can lids with a ratchet strap. Store garbage in a garage, shed or caddy until pick-up.
- Supervise and leash dogs to reduce the risk of encounters. Healthy raccoons are unlikely to attack dogs unless threatened or cornered. Keep cats indoors to protect them from raccoons and other predators.
- Deter raccoons with water sprayed from a hose or motion-activated sprinkler. Enclose pools or try a visual deterrent such as a coyote or alligator decoy. Place a net over small ornamental fish ponds.
- Raccoons may enter structures via pet doors. Lock your pet door at night or install one that opens with an electronic pet collar.
- If a raccoon gets inside, stay calm and contain pets elsewhere. Close all doors to create a clear exit path. Gently nudge the raccoon using a broom or bang the broom on the ground to drive the raccoon towards the door. Never try to handle or corner a raccoon. Panicked animals may bite.
- Prevent denning under homes by securing entry points. To determine if an opening is an entry point, block the opening loosely with leaves or wadded newspaper. Items pushed out of place after several days indicate use.
- Raccoons may choose attics or chimneys as dens. Install chimney caps but first ensure no animals are present.
- To eliminate access, close off all but one entry. Evict raccoons using a combination of harassment techniques such as bright lights, loud noises and strong unpleasant smells. Toss ammonia-soaked rags into the space and continuously light the area with a flashlight. Play a radio loudly near the opening. After animals vacate, seal the access point using sheet metal, sturdy wire mesh or wood.
- Lethal control should be considered a last resort.
Legal status

The raccoon is a native species with a year-round hunting and trapping season in Florida. Hunting and trapping regulations can be found at MyFWC.com/hunting. A raccoon can be taken as a nuisance animal if it causes or is about to cause property damage, presents a threat to public safety, or causes an annoyance in, under, or upon a building, per Florida Rule 68A-9.010.

Legal options to take nuisance raccoon

Raccoons are beneficial because they control populations of insects, rodents and other animals. It is best to prevent problems with raccoons by securing attractants and deterring them from denning in residences. Removing one or more raccoons does not prevent others from moving into or using the same areas in the future. However, if a raccoon is a nuisance, the animal can be captured or taken as a nuisance animal using legal and humane methods.

- Nuisance raccoons can be shot on private property during daylight hours with landowner permission. Please check with the local police department or sheriff’s office for firearm ordinances before discharging a firearm.
- Nuisance wildlife, as defined in Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) 68A-9.010, may be taken using live traps or snares, or, where allowed, firearms during daylight hours.

Please note: All traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours. Captured non-target species are required to be released on site. All live-captured raccoons must be euthanized, released on-site, or released on a property within the same county of capture that is 40 acres or larger with written permission from the landowner.

If you have further questions or need more help, call your regional Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office:

Main Headquarters
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Farris Bryant Building
620 S. Meridian St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 488-4676

Regional Offices
Northwest Region
3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, FL 32409-1659
(850) 265-3676

North Central Region
3377 East U.S. Highway 90
Lake City, FL 32055-8795
(386) 758-0525

Northeast Region
1239 S.W. 10th Street
Ocala, FL 3441-0323
(352) 732-1225

Southwest Region
3900 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811-1299
(863) 648-3200

South Region
8535 Northlake Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
(561) 625-5122