Operation Christmas Child

First Baptist Port St. John will be a drop off location for shoeboxes again this year! Never heard of Operation Christmas Child? OCC is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

You can use and fill any shoebox you have or we will have a limited supply of shoeboxes available at the church. National Collection Week will be November 15-22.

For $25 you can build a box online and that includes shipping it overseas! I’ll have the link for that next month.


Congratulations to new Varsity Softball Head Coach Donna Nero! Donna is already known to many of us as a great shortstop and home run hitter for years in the Port St. John Housewives Softball League, 25 year member of the PSJ Christmas parade and Thunder Over the Indian River committees, and a great mom. And likely the coach of the team that wins state this year!
St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care Reveals “Renewal” At Meeting

When St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care employees returned to the first in-person staff meeting since the pandemic, they were presented with a custom piece of artwork in their honor. Titled “Renewal,” the specially commissioned artwork by artist and Brevard-native Jay Bonadio signified St. Francis’ gratitude for its staff, many of whom remained on the front lines during the pandemic.

Bonadio, who is also known as “The Unsigned Artist,” created the custom piece with shattered glass overlaid on an image reflecting perseverance and progress in nature. The artwork carries tremendous symbolism, with butterflies representing transformation; ripples of water illustrating reach in the community; and magnolia trees as a strong reminder of endurance, beauty, and health. “Renewal” will hang in the lobby of the organization’s main office in Titusville, at 1250-B Grumman Place.

“The pandemic shattered our lives in ways we never could have anticipated,” said Angie Aviles, Human Resources Manager, who oversees the HR needs of nearly 300 employees. “But through it all, our team stayed together and stayed focused. St. Francis Reflections provides critical services to our community, and I am so proud of how our team showed up every day – for our patients and each other.”

The idea for the piece was brought forward by Kristie Henry-Roling, St. Francis’ new employee engagement manager. While Henry-Roling has been with the organization since 2015, the position is new for the more than 40-year-old nonprofit. In her role, Henry-Roling is responsible for ensuring staff feel appreciated and engaged. In addition to staff, St. Francis utilizes the support of more than 130 volunteers.

“Our team met the challenges of the pandemic with grace, resilience, and compassion,” said Henry-Roling. “This artwork demonstrates the beauty in that struggle. We hope it continues to be a reminder to our team of how strong they are.”

St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care was founded in 1977 and licensed in 1990. St. Francis is Brevard’s longest-serving, not-for-profit as well as independent, interfaith provider of hospice, palliative care, and grief support services.

For more information about St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care, please visit: ReflectionsLSC.org, or follow on: Facebook @StFrancisReflections

Kristie Henry-Roling, Angie Aviles, Jay Bonadio
Photo credit: Courtesy of St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care

Randy Rodriguez - Realtor
Cell: 321-863-7499
Office: 321-799-0221

SOLD
1 Day

4 Bedroom/2 Bath 2-Car Garage
$260,000

This is a HOME, not just a house! Beautiful custom pool with hot tub is ready to make summer wonderful! Country kitchen has lots of countertop and storage, including pantry. New paint outside. Sprinkler system is on a well and pump. Yard has several fruit trees, an orchid tree, several pineapple plants, jasmine, avocado tree, more! Roof done in 2015.

COLDWELL BANKER REalty

3 Bedroom/2 Bath w/Loft $315,000

Your dream home is here. One of a kind custom-built with front and rear upstairs balconies, stone fireplace in vaulted great room, huge kitchen with island, lots of cabinets and pantry, spiral stairs to the upstairs bedrooms, formal dining room with built-ins, 6 sets of French doors, 28’ screened porch, privacy fence, sprinkler system, leaf gutter system. New AC in 2020. Downstairs bed and bathroom would make great mother-in-law quarters. Landscaping is lush and beautiful. 2-car garage. New Roof in June, 2021!
PSJ Community Center Schedule - September, 2021
The center is open Mondays–Thursdays from 10 AM to 7 PM, Fridays from 9 AM to 6 PM, Saturdays 10 AM-2 PM Schedule is subject to change. For latest information or to register, call 633-1904.

Mondays
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m - 7 p.m.
Game Room/Computer, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Zumba (adult class with Jackie), 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m - 7 p.m.
Game Room/Computer, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesdays
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m - 7 p.m.
Game Room/Computer, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
8th & 22nd - Petit Chef 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Must Pre-register. For Preschool ages 3 – 5. ($12.00 per child, accompanying adult free)

Thursdays
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m - 7 p.m.
Game Room/Computer, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Advanced Level line dance class 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Fridays
Outside Basketball, 9 a.m - 6 p.m.
Game Room/Computer, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Billiards, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturdays
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m - 2 p.m.
Game Room/Computer, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Zumba Classes With Jackie - A total workout, combining all elements of fitness - cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility, boosted energy and a serious dose of awesome each time you leave class.
Details about my class - We social distance with flair! * Bring your water bottle* Bring your towel* Bring a buddy* Only $5 for an hour of fun while you work out and torch the calories! ~ Jackie Lewis

About Kel’s Kitchen:
The “Petit Chef” program provides hands-on culinary lessons for preschoolers (3 – 5 years old). An adult must attend with the child/children and you must pre-register. Lessons are scheduled Wednesday, Sept 8th and the 22nd. We will be “digging in” to a simple, tactile cooking experience each week and Chef Kelly will have a short read to share relating to the subject. Cost is $12.00 per child/adult pair. Register at www.floridakelskitchen.com. Call Chef Kelly for more information (321) 506-1682.

New Advanced Line Dance Class
This is an Advanced Level line dance class. You should have 1-2 years of line dance experience to enjoy this level of dancing to Country, Cha-Cha, Latin and many popular and current songs. Starting Thursday Sept. 2nd - Thursdays- 4:30pm – 6:30pm. $5.00 per class.

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”
- Thomas Jefferson
Good Day! by Maureen Rupe
SpaceX vs. Blue Origin
For all you space buffs, there’s quite a bit of competition between SpaceX and Blue Origin. Blue Origin seems to be trying to make up being way behind SpaceX in their race to space. Be sure to read Blue Origin letter at https://www.blueorigin.com/news/open-letter-to-administrator-nelson.

Human Landing System Timeline
• 4/16 - NASA awards $2.9B Human Landing System (HLS) contract to SpaceX.
• 4/26 - Blue Origin and Dynetics file protests with GAO against NASA’s decision to make SpaceX the sole winner to build the lunar lander for NASA’s Artemis program.
• 4/30 - NASA suspends HLS contract with SpaceX due to Blue Origin and Dynetics protests with the Government Accountability Office (GAO). NASA issued a stop work order until GAO resolves the issue.
• 7/26 - Open Letter to Administrator Nelson - Blue Origin offers money to close NASA’s near-term budgetary shortfall and produce the lander system to go to the moon.
• 7/31 - GAO denies Blue Origin and Dynetics protests of NASA lunar lander contract.
  The following is a link to the open letter Blue Origin sent to NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. It didn’t seem to work as you can see above; GAO denied protests to the lander contract anyway. https://www.blueorigin.com/news/open-letter-to-administrator-nelson
  • Blue Origin will bridge the HLS budgetary funding shortfall by waiving all payments in the current and next two government fiscal years up to $2B to get the program back on track right now. This offer is not a deferral, but is an outright and permanent waiver of those payments. This offer provides time for government appropriation actions to catch up.
  • Blue Origin will, at its own cost, contribute the development and launch of a pathfinder mission to low-Earth orbit of the lunar descent element to further retire development and schedule risks. This pathfinder mission is offered in addition to the baseline plan of performing a precursor uncrewed landing mission prior to risking any astronauts to the moon. This contribution to the program is above and beyond the over $1B of corporate contribution cited in our Option A proposal that funds items such as our privately developed BE-7 lunar lander engine and indefinite storage of liquid hydrogen in space. All of these contributions are in addition to the $2B waiver of payments referenced above.
  • Finally, Blue Origin will accept a firm, fixed-priced contract for this work, cover any system development cost overruns, and shield NASA from partner cost escalation concerns.

After all this, as of 8/13/2021, and after the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) denied Blue Origin protests on 7/31/2021, Blue Origin now has sued NASA for giving the contract to a single contractor - Space X. Details about the lawsuit are not publicly available because the documents were sealed after Blue Origin was granted a protective order on 8/16/2021. Blue Origin did say its lawsuit is "an attempt to remedy the flaws in the acquisition process found in NASA’s Human Landing System." Blue Origin also believes "the issues identified in this procurement and its outcomes must be addressed to restore fairness, create competition and ensure a safe return to the moon for America."
Who knows where this is going. To the moon.

Port St. John Special District Planning & Zoning Board

Our PSJ Special District P&Z Board didn’t have a quorum four times in seven years. Due to this fact, plus the fact our board doesn’t have alternates in place, Commissioner Rita Prichard brought up changes to avoid delay in future requests. It has been changed to skip our board if a quorum is not present, and any issue will go straight to the Brevard County Planning & Zoning Board, which has a majority of developers appointed to that board. Our board was denied alternates, which would have solved the problem, and we were told, “not at this time.”

St Johns River Water Management District
SJRWMD Meeting August 10, 2021:
Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvement Grant Program Update.

The Legislature set $25 million for the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) during Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Indian River Lagoon Water Quality (IRLWQ) Improvement Grant.

To date, $24,776,790 has been awarded, leaving $223,210 available. Two additional projects were selected by staff and given from the $25 million IRLWQ Improvement legislative appropriation. The total funding amount for these two projects is $223,210. These projects were the highest-ranked unfunded projects remaining from the FY 2020-2021 grant application process.

Convair Cove Low Impact Development (LID) and Living Shoreline; applied for by City of Cocoa Beach.

Water quality improvement project type(s): Stormwater treatment, in-lagoon project, and low-impact development (LID).

The project includes the construction of LID elements and living shoreline. Work includes the installation of permeable pavers, underground rain tanks, bio-activated media bioswales, mangrove and emergent grass plantings, as well as oyster beds in the Banana River between State Road 520 and Pineda Causeway.

Estimated nutrient load reductions to the IRL: approximately 170 lbs./yr. total nitrogen (TN) and 20 lbs./yr. total phosphorus (TP).

Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Septic to Sewer (non-profit organization)
Project Applicant: Environmental Learning Center, Inc. (ELC).

Water quality improvement project type(s): cont., next page
Good Day!, cont.

Septic to sewer conversion.

Abandonment and replacement of existing ELC septic tank with connection to Indian River County’s (IRC’s) Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The ELC expects to add additional facilities to the campus that would need wastewater service, and this project includes providing wastewater infrastructure on campus so future facilities can be added to IRC’s wastewater system. The ELC is located on Wabasso Island in the Indian River Lagoon at the Wabasso Causeway.

Estimated nutrient load reduction to the IRL: 24 lbs./yr. TN (current septic system proposed for abandonment – no available information at this time regarding potential build-out TN load reduction [i.e., sewer instead of septic for future facilities]).

The District has executed contracts for 23 projects. The Convair Cove and ELC projects will be added for a total of 25 projects in the district’s portion of the IRL. Currently, 14 projects are under construction (including Convair Cove and ELC) and one project has been completed.

Reference:

Forever Chemical Update

A recent article in The Guardian, titled, “PFAS: fears over lax US standards prompt bill on beauty products’ safety,” gave a good overview about a new 2021 study in the U.S. and Canada that found over 50% of 230 cosmetic products contained PFAS, which can affect the reproductive system, disrupt child development, weaken immunity, and increase your chances of getting cancer.

Due to these findings, Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) again introduced the Personal Care Products Safety Act, to require companies to disclose product ingredients and force companies to register their goods with the FDA and prove their products safety.

The same bill failed in 2015, but with all the concerns now with forever chemicals, they are bringing back the bill with the backing of Procter and Gamble, Revlon, Unilever, the Estée Lauder Group, Beautycounter, as well as Johnson and Johnson.

The article quoted, “PFAS are pervasive in beauty products, including sunscreen, shampoo, nail polish, hair styling products and shaving cream. And women tend to be more at risk. EWG research indicates that, on average, women use 12 personal care products each day, thereby exposing themselves to 168 chemical ingredients. Men use about half as many products as women, but still expose themselves to 85 different chemicals on a daily basis.

One of the biggest problems that the Feinstein-Collins bill aims to address is the FDA’s ability to pull products off the shelf. Currently, if a product is found to have unsafe ingredients, such as a high concentration of PFAS, the FDA cannot tell the company to stop selling...
it. This bill would give the FDA more authority to decide what can and cannot be sold, and how ingredients have to be disclosed to the public.”

Fixing personal care products is apparently only a drop in the bucket to our exposure to forever chemicals. The article went on to say, “Even if PFAS were removed from all cosmetics and personal care products, however, consumers in the US would probably still be exposed to these “forever chemicals,” which do not break down easily.

Experts estimate that more than two-thirds of Americans, or 200 million, could be drinking water contaminated with PFAS.”

Reference:

Care Givers

We have all been affected or infected by the pandemic that appears to be trying to wipe us out. So why are a great many of us still alive and to what do we owe our lives if we were struck by this infection?

As a Board of Director member of Parrish Medical Center for the last 24 years, I know it is because of our doctors and nurses are putting your lives before their own. They are tired in a way not many of us know - both mentally and physically. To continually nurse seriously ill and dying patients has taken a lot from their ability to enjoy life. I am in awe of these selfless people. Please treat them with the respect and love they are giving you or your loved ones. What on earth would we do if they walked off their jobs?

Cheerio,
Maureen Rupe
rupe32927@earthlink.net

Parks & Recreation Meeting

The North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, September 9th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Brevard Room at 518 S. Palm Ave. in Titusville. The public is invited to attend.

For questions, contact Jeff David, North Area Parks Operations Manager at 321-264-5105 or by email, jeff.davis@brevardfl.gov.

Child Passenger Safety Seminars

In need of a car seat? Want to learn how to install one correctly? We have you covered! Join us at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Cocoa to learn all about child passenger safety. These seminars are free to attend and are available on select dates from August through December.

Parents in need of a seat will be able to purchase a convertible car seat at a reduced cost at the end of the class. Parents must present proof of enrollment in WIC, Medicaid, Florida Access Benefits or Healthy Start services to receive a seat.

Pre-register for free on Eventbrite: https://bit.ly/36VVR95. Currently these are the available dates:
September 20
October 15
November 10
December 7

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~ Cary Troxel & family

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Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Bus Route

Parts of Port St. John and Canaveral Groves now have a new bus on our bus route. Allstate Insurance in Port St. John now graces the bus, as always supporting our community.

The route connects the Cocoa Commons Shopping Center on 524 in Cocoa and Grissom Blvd., the Social Security office in Canaveral Groves, Fay Blvd. and U.S. 1, and Parrish Healthcare Center on Port St. John Parkway and stops on both the front and back of Port St. John. I hope this is just a start. I am sure many others have a significant walk to any stop: Map and Stop schedule shown adjacent. Other county routes can be accessed from the Publix Shopping Center at Clear Lake Road and Grissom Blvd. I hope we can give feedback on this route in the future.

Stops for the new route are at:
1 - Cocoa Commons Plaza on 524
2 - Grissom Pkwy. & Canaveral Groves Blvd.
3 - Canaveral Groves Blvd. & Godke Ave.
4 - N. Cocoa Blvd. at Riverside Apartments
5 - N. Cocoa Blvd. (US 1) & Fay Blvd.
6 - Kings Hwy & Fecco St.
7 - Grissom Pkwy. & Curtis Blvd.
8 - Corsica Blvd. & Golfview Ave.
9 - Port St. John Pkwy. at Parrish Healthcare
10 - Grissom Pkwy. & Canaveral Groves Blvd.
Back to Stop 1 at Cocoa Commons

Visit https://321transit.com/ and search for Route 11 or Port Saint John (have to use the long Saint) to get route times and a larger map. The Saturday schedule is different from the weekday schedule.

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**St. Patrick’s Anglican Church**
4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John 321-802-1311

**Service Times**

**Sunday:** 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Eucharist
9:00 AM Adult/Children Sunday School
(starting Sept. 12th) Acts of the Apostles
(Adults) - Creation/Bible Heroes (Children)
10:00 AM on Facebook Live
www.facebook.com/StPatrickspsj/

**Wednesday:** 6:00 PM Eucharist

**Veterans & First Responders Breakfast**
Last Saturday of the Month:
Saturday, September 25th, 9:00 AM

October 2nd 5:00 pm is our annual “Blessing of the Animals” Service in honor of St. Francis. December 11th 9:00am-12:00pm is our annual “Cookie Walk” - local Port St. John vendors are invited to participate (we only have a limited number of spaces and for 2021 these spaces are free and must be registered for.

For more info: www.stpatrickspsj.org
I like to, but my Pool Paddling Pals are always up
dive in (so to speak) nearly as much as I would
I seem to have failed retirement, I'm not able to
or less) in splashing and visiting sessions. Since
than I would like and join kids my own age (more
sure to be able to don much less stretchy fabric
beautiful birds tread water together.
It seems to be needed more lately.
entially toward those who have di-
though of and prayed for. To all of us, please pull
this terrible illness, please know you are being
More so, I was appalled when a young, pretty
Walmart employee rolled her eyes and turned
her back when my six-year-old great-grandson
accidently spilled small parts of a game and a
gray haired, ‘fluffy’ lady joined her young, emb-
arrassed partner in searching for tiny fish while
trying not to be trampled.
A couple of years ago a friend confided she
once had an almost overwhelming urge to force
feed a chocolate shake to a young, thin waitress
who snorted at her lunch choice. I’m not sure
why that particular thought crossed my mind at
that particular moment, but I’m glad my young,
impressionable partner (who would probably
squeal to his mother) was by my side.
A heavy sigh from a big-bellied, bearded
person behind me as the older gentleman in front
of the line had a problem verbalizing his choice
of McBurger or McFries somehow had such a
strange effect on me that I tried to order a flame
broiled burger and asked for the explanation why
I couldn’t get it. I gave up when I saw the belly
head out the door. It’s a good thing restaurant
doors can’t slam. When my time comes I figure
the Big Guy will take into account that not only
did I help a nasty human cut calories and exercise
a little, but I gave the befuzzled kid behind the
counter something good to share with cowork-
ers the next time they have a Crazy Customer
Conference.
I know about CCC’s because we used to have
them all the time when I was the world’s worst
brokest car hop. Getting the orders wrong
and totaling the bill to more than the value of
the car they are sitting in tends to make people
less tip-ish.
I would never encourage the fanning of
flames of exasperation, especially these days, but
anytime you see an older guy who just needs a
moment, a small child who needs a sympathetic
smile and a helping hand, or a ‘Fluffy’ lady has
more huffs and puffs than uplifting motion and
you can lend a hand or a long pause in lunch
order - have some fun… I think The Big Guy
will understand.

Have a little fun.
It’s really not fair that just when we thought
the light at the end of the tunnel was getting
brighter, we get hit with another strain. Like most
everyone I’ve spoken with, I’m feeling a little
bitter and almost betrayed. But there is no alter-
native to just putting our shoulders to the wheel
and standing our ground with the knowledge
that we did it before and we’ll do it again… a la
Rosie the Riveter.

To those of you who have been affected by
this terrible illness, please know you are being
thought of and prayed for. To all of us, please pull
out an extra dose of kindness and patience, espe-
cially toward those who have different views…
It seems to be needed more lately.

While it’s true that birds of a beautiful feather
flock together, it’s also true that some of these
beautiful birds tread water together.
In these hundred-degree days it’s a true plea-
sure to be able to don much less stretchy fabric
than I would like and join kids my own age (more
or less) in splashing and visiting sessions. Since
I seem to have failed retirement, I’m not able to
dive in (so to speak) nearly as much as I would
like to, but my Pool Paddling Pals are always up
for a cheerful, “Good Morning, how are you?”
and, “The waters fine, come on in!” It took me
only one carefree jump in the deep end to real-
ize one person’s ‘Fine Water’ is another person’s
“Crap! That’s cold!” I now practice toe and foot
dipping prior to leaping.
I began my forays into the tiled lagoon as soon
as I was able to hobble from car to pool after
foot surgery and was then, as now, warmed by
the concern and friendliness of everyone I met.
I am certainly not smart enough to be called
a philosopher, but with very few exceptions I
have noticed a dramatic shift in the kindness and
patience axiom of the public in general in the last
few weeks. I have experienced more than the
usual horn honking the second the light changes,
vehicles seemingly attempting to climb into my
trunk on Grissom and impatience in grocery lines.

A heavy sigh from a big-bellied, bearded
Chinese Acupuncture
Deep tissue
Hot stone
Relaxation
3770 Curtis Blvd. Ste 710
Port St. John
mm 41217
Call for an appointment
321-507-4030
Walk-ins Welcome!
2021 is predicted to be an active storm season. Be prepared!

Specific for 2020, make sure you have face masks and protective equipment stored. You may still need to go out for gasoline for the generator, make repairs to wind or rain damage, or to help friends and family.

Get a 30-day supply of necessary medications! If you are taking prescription medications and normally purchase them from your local pharmacy, try to have a 30-day supply on hand. This is not as easy as it sounds — many insurance companies will not authorize the filling of additional days or months worth of a medication unless ordered by the state to do so in emergency situations, such as natural disasters.

Make your medication plan now. This plan should include speaking with a health insurance representative, pharmacist or your physician about options to acquire extra medications, one of which may include paying cash for your 30-day supply.

If you are on dialysis, call your dialysis center to make a plan of action for your care. Don’t count on them being open. Power outages may happen. Do not miss a treatment prior to bad weather and make sure to follow your doctor-ordered diet very closely. Read the patient care information provided to you by your doctor. It includes medical information to assist you and phone numbers to the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network. Only your doctor can recommend if it is medically safe for you to miss treatments and can advise you on whether or not you should be admitted to a hospital during a hurricane. Special needs shelters do not offer dialysis and some centers may be closed during a hurricane. When the storm passes, contact your dialysis center for further instructions or go to your hospital for short-term care if your center is closed.

The hospital is not a county shelter. County shelters are designated throughout the county, mostly in elementary schools. The hospital is not a designated shelter and does not take evacuees. For more helpful information visit www.brevardcounty.us/emergencymanagement/preparedness/shelters.

Make shelter arrangements if you are oxygen dependent.

You may be eligible for care at a special needs shelter, based on your medical needs and availability. If you are an oxygen-dependent person, be sure to get your oxygen tanks filled. You should try to have two days worth of oxygen on hand. Also make shelter arrangements now.

If you do not plan to evacuate, contact the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management at 321-637-6670 for more information on how to register for special needs shelter. If you wait until a hurricane hits to make shelter arrangements, it will be too late.

General Preparation for a Hurricane: For complete information on what you can do to prepare for a disaster or hurricane, go online to the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management Web site at www.brevardcounty.us/EOC. You will find valuable information to help prepare your home and family before a hurricane strikes.

About the COVID-19 Virus

The spike in COVID-19 cases in Brevard County is attributed to the highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus. Delta is twice as contagious as the original COVID-19. What is a coronavirus Variant? If COVID-19 spreads enough, it mutates. Some of the mutations are more dangerous than others. Some "Variants of Concern" (according to the CDC) include: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta

Are variants normal? All viruses mutate and create variants... unless we eliminate them. And yes, viruses can be eliminated. The best way to stop variants is to stop spread. The best way to stop spread is vaccination.

Can COVID-19 be controlled? Thanks to vaccinations, the following diseases are no longer run rampant in the US. We can do the same with COVID-19!


Currently, the CDC recommends that anyone ages 12 and older get a vaccine. Vaccinations and testing for COVID-19 are available through urgent care centers, local pharmacies and likely through your personal physician. All of the vaccines are effective against Delta.

Can vaccinated people spread Delta? Yes. Even if a vaccinated person might not show symptoms or get sick, they can still spread Delta. Getting vaxxed doesn’t guarantee you won’t get COVID 19, but it drastically reduces your chances of severe illness, hospitalization and death. Please continue to wash your hands frequently, social distance, use facial covering and get vaccinated.
Monthly Tax Update

Fresh from the IRS Small Business and Criminal Divisions: The division has made the statement they will hire thousands of Auditors by September. This was made available by President Biden and the House Appropriations Committee to provide an additional $1.7 billion for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the fiscal year 2022 budget.

Quote, The IRS SB/SE co-commissioners De Lon Harris and Darren Guillot spoke to the conference. “We’re going to be ready to go, as soon as that budget hits... to start bringing in what could be double the number of folks that we are looking at bringing in this year, just for exam alone.”

They noted that they plan to hire 1,300 field revenue officers, 400 tax compliance officers who will be available for "in person audits" (formerly called "office audits"), and 518 automated collection system (ACS) phone representatives. Guillot said that after taxpayers receive an IRS notice threatening to garnish wages or levy property, “... you expect when you call the ACS phone number that we’re going to answer,” he said.

He also reminded all entities with employer identification numbers (EIN), you must update responsible party contact information within 60 days of any change. You will use Form 8822-B, Change of Address or Responsible Party – Business to update your information. It’s critical the IRS has accurate information in cases of identity theft or other fraud issues related to EINs or business accounts.

Oh, just so you don’t feel like we are being singled out, he also said they expect their largest ACS call center will be located in Puerto Rico by the end of 2021 and they value the ability of employees to be bilingual, which will provide benefits both in Puerto Rico and across the United States. They expect to increase collection personnel in Puerto Rico from 57 to as many as 400 by the end of 2021. Your taxes may not be raised, but the audits will most likely result in substantial additional tax funds from you for President Biden.

On a similar thought, the IRS and its Security Summit partners recently kicked off their annual summer campaign. This year’s theme, Boost Security Immunity: Fight Against Identity Theft. You are urged to step up your efforts to protect your personal information. An Identification Pin (PIN) is a valuable tool for you and will be offered to anyone who can verify their identity. A PIN is a six-digit number to help prevent your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number from being used to file fraudulent federal income tax returns. This number helps the IRS verify a taxpayer's identity and accept their tax return. To get a PIN you are required to go through a rigorous authentication process. Taxpayers should review the Secure Access requirements before they try to use the “Get An IP PIN” tool located at irs.gov.

For security reasons, tax pros can’t get an IP PIN on behalf of clients. Tax pros who experience data theft can help clients by urging them to get a PIN quickly. Even if a thief already filed a fraudulent return, a PIN would still offer protections for later years and prevent taxpayers from being repeat victims of tax-related identity theft.

More things taxpayers should know about their PIN: It's a six-digit number known only to the taxpayer and the IRS. The opt-in program is voluntary. The PIN should be entered onto the electronic tax return when prompted by the software product or onto a paper return next to the signature line. The PIN is valid for one calendar year. For security reasons, enrolled participants get a new PIN each year. Spouses and dependents are eligible for a PIN if they can verify their identities. PIN users should never share their number with anyone but the IRS and their trusted tax preparation provider.

The IRS will never call, email or text a request for your PIN.

Currently, taxpayers can get a PIN for 2021, which should be used when filing any federal tax returns during the year including prior year returns. New PINs will be available starting in January, 2022. Taxpayers who are unable to validate their identity online and have income of $72,000 or less, can file Form 15227, Application for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number. The IRS will call the phone number the taxpayer provided on Form 15227 to validate the taxpayer’s identity. However, for security reasons, the IRS will assign a PIN for the next filing season and the taxpayer cannot use their PIN for the current season.

This is a very brief overview. For details and specific assistance in applying the general information in this article, call us at your earliest convenience or contact your tax advisor.

Provided by Tracey C. Higginbotham, E.A., (321) 632-5726, a member of the National Society of Accountants.

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**LIFE • HEALTH • ANNUITIES**
Out On the Town
Frankie’s Wings, Titusville

My wife and I have been wanting to try out the new Frankie’s wings in Titusville since they opened. We went a few weeks ago on a Monday, but got there too early since Monday is the only day they don’t open till 4 pm.

We used to love going to Frankie’s back in the early 90’s when they were located at the port. Later on, Frankie’s even had a take-out location in Port St. John somewhere around the mid 90’s in the plaza behind the Kangaroo. I was so disappointed when these two locations closed down, so when I heard the news that Frankie’s had opened up in Titusville, I knew we had to try it out. I’ve always considered myself a wing connoisseur, and have eaten enough wings in my lifetime to know what makes a great wing. So, what’s the criteria for great hot wings? They must be a decent size, at least 3” long and plump with meat. The skin must be crispy, but the meat must still be moist and juicy and the sauce must be to the heat level of your choice with a little vinegary tang.

We arrived at Frankie’s on a Sunday afternoon. The place was fairly empty, but we were there between the lunch and dinner hour. First thing we noticed was the floor was filthy with food scraps and it was obvious it wasn’t swept or mopped for some time. You could tell the tables were wiped, but appeared to be wiped with a dirty wash cloth. Normally we would have left right then and there, but really wanted to try the wings.

Before entering, we did see a sign on the window that stated; ‘Due to the shortage of chicken wings, Pricing is market value”. You have to ask yourself, why is there a chicken wing shortage? Are chickens dying of COVID, or is this just another excuse to raise prices just like everything else nowadays. Why isn’t there a chicken shortage at Walmart? The chicken section at the grocery stores are overflowing with chicken and most stores sell chicken wings in large styrofoam trays loaded with wings.

I ordered the wing basket that came with fries, but my wife ordered a hamburger with fries because the wings were way too expensive. And we both ordered a side salad to go with our meal. The salad was really good, just the right size and all the ingredients tasted fresh. My wife said the hamburger was pretty good and we both liked the fries since they were made from real potatoes and not these chemical laden fabricated battered fries that most restaurants are serving these days.

When I ordered my wings, I had to pay more to get them wet. Since when did this trend start where you have to pay more to get them wet when a traditional chicken wing comes wet? Frankie’s never charged extra for this back in the day. Now everyone is onboard with this so-called up-charge for the sauce.

When the waitress sat the basket of wings down in front of me, I know my wife could see the look of disappointment come across my face. I said to her, did these wings come off a pigeon? The biggest wing in my basket wasn’t no more than 2 inches long. I felt really ripped off. The sauce was really good, but the wings were not crispy. They were still juicy on the inside, but the skin was still rubbery if you know what I mean.

At a point during our visit, we both visited the restroom. My wife said the women’s room had the paper towel dispenser ripped off the wall and was in a state of needing a good cleaning. The men’s room was also dirty and had graffiti on the walls. It was a good thing the place wasn’t busy, because they only have a one holer for both the women and men. I hate to see the lack of care in this place we had such high hopes for. Hopefully they can get a grip on this and make some improvements before it’s too late.

As a wing connoisseur, I will order wings at any restaurant that has them on the menu. If you want good wings, I recommend Victorio’s in Mims. Their wings have been consistently good since they opened back up in their new building. – Ken Carson

Coronavirus Information

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Coronavirus Information

www.parrishhealthcare.com/coronavirus
https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/
For information about vaccination plans for Brevard, the COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 at 1 (866) 779-6121 or email COVID-19@fhealth.gov.
For important updates from the Florida Department of Health, text FLCOVID19 to 888-777.
Tech Upgrades For 211 Brevard Help Residents With COVID-19 Related Issues

A “chatbot” on 211 Brevard’s website and a new automated text messaging service give Brevard County residents two more ways to get help with concerns related to COVID-19.

Visitors to 211brevard.org may interact with the “bot,” which will guide them to resources about testing and vaccines, food pantries, financial assistance for rent and utilities, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.

The same types of questions are addressed by texting 211NOW to 898211.

“While we had already added live text to the options for reaching our 24/7 helpline staff, the marathon of high demand for information in the pandemic encouraged us to look for additional, efficient platforms for helping more people,” said Libby Donoghue, Executive Director for 211 Brevard.

The local nonprofit has provided telephone-based support for more than 50 years and operates the Community Information Hotline in partnership with Brevard County Emergency Management, most often in response to hurricanes.

In March, 2020, the hotline was activated for the COVID-19 crisis and received almost 70,000 calls and 8,000 texts in a year, which represented a 50 percent increase for the period.

“On some days, our staff and volunteers were faced with 500 percent increases in calls and texts,” Donoghue said. “We rose to the challenge, but we also knew we could help more people more quickly with more methods of delivery that didn’t take staff time.”

Both 211 Brevard technology upgrades were funded through a federal CARES Act allocation proposed by District 2 County Commissioner Bryan A. Lober and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

"As the Space Coast recovers from the ongoing impacts of COVID, Brevard County remains on the lookout for opportunities to help the community recover,” Lober said.

The county’s support for the one-time expenses for these projects will allow 211 post-COVID-19 to repurpose the technology to address other possible community challenges, such as hurricane, wildfire or widespread flooding, Donoghue said.

“This is an investment that will pay off immediately and potentially for years to come in better access to information for residents” she said.

For live interaction with 211 specialists, residents may call 2-1-1 or text their ZIP code to 898211.

Staffing increases since the onset of the pandemic have been funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families and FEMA.

Hurricane season is here and it’s been a busy one so far. Keep 211 in mind for information and resources.

Get local help with your Medicare questions.

I’m William Chaney, a licensed sales agent in Brevard County. When it comes to Medicare, it’s important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I’m ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs.

It’s time to take advantage.

William Chaney
Licensed Sales Agent
Major, USAFR Retired, 20 years served
321-917-9831, TTY 711
wchaney51@gmail.com
UHCMedicareSolutions.com

Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies, a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan’s contract renewal with Medicare. ©2020 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

Elective Surgeries Postponed Until Further Notice

As the coronavirus continues to resurge in Brevard and the number of COVID positive patients needing hospitalization and visiting the emergency room, it has become necessary to postpone elective surgeries until further notice. This will allow the hospital to devote its staffing resources to its emergency department, ICU and inpatient care units.

“Our care partners, doctors, nurses, therapists, everyone throughout our healthcare system have worked tirelessly since the onset of this pandemic and continue to do so with a level of dedication and resilience to be commended,” said President/CEO George Mikitarian.

“The only way we will get this virus under control is through more people becoming vaccinated” said Mikitarian.

Current COVID positive cases at Parrish Medical Center is 40, which is double the cases from last week and nearly four time the number of cases from a month ago.

For information about COVID testing and vaccination visit parrishhealthcare.com and click on the COVID informational banner at the top of the page.

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.” - Plato
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Alcoholics Anonymous meets on Sundays at 5 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM.
Women’s AA meets on Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM. Both AA Groups meet at St. Patrick’s Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd.
Overeaters Anonymous - Due to Covid-19 we are meeting on Zoom. For meeting times or contact info, please visit oaspacecoast.org.
Nar-Anon: Support group for those affected by someone else’s addiction, meets on Mondays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM at St. Patrick’s Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd. - www.naranonfl.org.

9-1 American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 359, President Valerie Helmer at 321-268-1632. General Membership Meeting on the 1st of each month, 6 PM at the Post Home, 7260 S. US 1, just north of PSJ. Call President Valerie Helmer at 321-268-1632.

9-6 Labor Day

9-6 Rosh Hashana Starts
9-7 Compassionate Friends Support Group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 PM in Cocoa Beach at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 525 Minuteman Cswy. west of A1A, Fellowship Hall. Call 610-7875 for info.
9-10 Brevard Women’s Connection meets at Space Coast Convention Center (Holiday Inn Express) on Hwy. 520 from 11 AM until 1 PM on the second Friday of each month. The program includes a luncheon plus an inspirational speaker. For more information, call Pam at 321-752-6896 or e-mail bwc0020@gmail.com.

9-11 Patriot Day
9-12 Calling all Christian authors! Dynamic writers group in Cocoa offers training, critiques, and paid writing opportunities (2nd Sundays 2-4:30 PM at Cocoa Library). Contact D.P. Clarke at 1royaldy@gmail.com for more information. Print “Writers Group” in Subject.
9-12 Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meets on the 2nd Sunday each month (except Mother’s Day & Nov.), 2 PM, Cocoa Library.

9-15 American Legion Post 359 meets at the Post Home at 7260 S. US 1 in Bellwood, (2 miles north of PSJ), 6:00 PM. All Legionnaires and new members are welcome. The Post meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please contact the Post at 321-268-1632 for assistance with your membership or information.
9-17 PSJ Business Connections Luncheon, sponsored by the Titusville Chamber of Commerce, meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at 12:00, PSJ Library on Carole Ave. Call Dennis Watkins at 267-3036.

9-20 Sukkot Starts
9-20 Moonport Modelers RC Club meets at 6:30 PM, 3rd Monday each month at the N. Brevard Library, 2121 S Hopkins Ave., Titusville. For more info, call Wayne Mendez, 505-2361.

9-22 Grandparents Day
9-25 Veteran’s Breakfast, 9:00 at St. Patrick’s Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., PSJ on the last Saturday of each month.
9-28 Moonlight Quilters Guild meets at the North Brevard Library in Titusville, 2121 Hopkins Ave. on the 4th Tuesday of each month (no meeting April or December). Meet and greet and refreshments at 6:00 pm, meeting at 6:15 pm, usually followed by show and tell or a guest speaker. Email Moonlight.Quilters@yahoo.com for more information.

Congratulations to:
Cooper Campbell turns 15 on the 1st.
Sheila Grenet has a Heavenly day on the 2nd.
Liz Montes has a party day on the 2nd.
Tori Bynum gets kisses on the 2nd.
Corabeth Ridgely turns 18 on the 3rd.
Derek Rickard turns crazier on the 3rd.
Mary Hornsby is still the Queen on the 4th.
Diane Sangalang turns hotter on the 10th.
Michelle Walker turns wilder on the 16th.
Shane Orend turns 26 on the 16th.
McKenzie Mounts turns 12 on the 17th!
Jayme Hannon gets kisses on the 18th.
Jennifer Brunet - Love from Roger and the girls on the 18th.
Mitchell Hannon turns cooler the 20th.
Carol Drabek turns prettier on the 20th.
Teresa Higginbotham is a Queen on the 21st.
Cloyd Manuel will be a hot 75 on the 21st.
Belinda Crouse turns cuter on the 21st.
Lincoln Unrue turns 5 on the 22nd.
Naomi Beasley turns more lovely on the 22nd.
Vance Gaddy and Charles Samples have a party day on the 22nd.
Kyle Troxel turns buffer the 24th.
Kathy Patterson dances all night on the 24th.
Brooke Brunet turns 15 on the 27th.
Henry Snively turns 9 on the 28th!
William Taylor turns 73 on the 28th.
Colton Orvis turns 24 on the 30th.
Sam & Keri Weeks celebrate 27 happy years this month.
28 happy ones for Sandy & Joe Thomas on the 4th. And a late Happy 53rd to Joe!
Ronni & John Hansen celebrate 29 happily married years on the 5th.
Jim & Dolores Scott celebrate 48 on the 15th.
Steve & Lisa Sweeney celebrate their 23rd anniversary on the 19th.
Aaron and Sharon Highower celebrate their 35th anniversary on the 20th.
Olivia and Ryan Brackin celebrate their 5th anniversary on the 23rd!

We have lots of room for more good news. Email your inputs to happenings1@att.net.
Titusville Playhouse 57th Season

The Titusville Playhouse, Inc. is located within the Historic Emma Parrish Theatre on Hopkins Ave. (US1 southbound), providing professional quality entertainment on the Space Coast. The MainStage theatre includes a 150 seat orchestra section and a 124 seat Balcony Section. Orchestra seating normally includes either round cocktail tables or a counter table. The new-in-2021 Shuler Stage is open air across the street.

MainStage Shows:


Based on the iconic 1969 rock concept album, The Who’s Tommy is an exhilarating story of hope, healing and the human spirit. This five-time Tony Award-winning musical is a high-energy, theatrical event that has amazed audiences for more than 40 years. After witnessing the accidental murder of his mother’s lover by his father, Tommy is traumatized into catatonia. When his mother finally breaks through his catatonia, he becomes an international pinball superstar.

Special Event – CULTober ™


Special Event – CULTober ™

Evil Dead, The Musical – Rated R. October 8 - 17, 2021

SPLATTER ZONE UPGRADE AVAILABLE!

Special Mainstage Event – CULTober ™

TWO MIDNIGHT PERFORMANCES!


Friday, Saturday, and Select Thursdays at 8:00 pm
Sunday And Select Saturdays at 2:00 pm

Lobby Doors open 30 minutes before showtime. For tickets, more information, times and dates for shows and information/prices for next season’s shows, visit https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/home/.

COVID adjustments - Temperatures are taken at the entry door. Patrons are required to wear masks and keep them on during shows. As more and more people get vaccinated and the risk of contagion is controlled, the pandemic adjustments will be removed.

The concessions have opened again. The lobby has a full liquor bar and dessert concessions for patrons.

Shuler Stage Showtimes are:

Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 3:00 pm
Doors open 30 minutes before showtime.

Keepin’ It Kinky, Cabaret, Comedy Series:

$20 VIP Seating*(No Discounts)
$15 General Admission* (No Discounts)

Shuler Stage


There’s a new tenant at Armadillo Acres—and she’s wreaking havoc all over Florida’s most exclusive trailer park. If you love A Tuna Christmas or Menopause the Musical you won’t want to miss the hilarious musical comedy about when Pippi, the stripper on the run, comes between the Dr. Phil–loving, agoraphobic Jeannie and her tollbooth collector husband.

MTI’s All Together Now, November 12 – 13 2021.


Comedy Series: Various Dates throughout the Season

Join Titusville’s own hilarious Greg Coleman as he invites friends to join him onstage for a comedy experience unseen in Titusville. A laugh out loud experience that you will not want to miss.

Cabaret Series: Various Dates throughout the Season

Join some of Titusville Playhouse’s favorite performers in an evening of song and stories. Dates and artist will be announced soon.

Hunter Safety Class

Join us to complete your Hunter Safety requirements! This class will be held in person at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Cocoa on August 28, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This class is for students who have completed the online portion of the course. Students will receive the classroom portion, written exam and shooting qualification to complete their Hunter Safety requirements. Students need to bring their online completion certificate and note-taking materials. Youth under 18 need a signed parent permission form, and those under 16 need to be accompanied by an adult. There are no fees for this class. Register online here: https://bit.ly/3i5EYPQ

For more information, please contact Gus Koerner at (321) 633-1702 ext. 52320 or email him at gkoerner@ufl.edu.
Walter Butler Community Center
September 2021
Bernice G. Jackson Park, 4201 North US Hwy. 1, Sharpes

The center is open Monday–Thursday from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Schedule is subject to change. Call 321-433-4448 for latest information.

**MONDAYS – FRIDAYS**

- **Picklesball, 11 am – 2 pm**
- **Open Computer Lab, 11 am – 2 pm & 6 – 8 pm**
- **Kids in Motion, 2 pm – 6 pm**
- **S.T.E.M. Program (3rd to 6th grade), 3 – 4 pm**

**TUESDAYS**

- **Picklesball, 11 am – 2 pm**
- **Open Computer Lab, 11 am – 2 pm & 6 – 8 pm**
- **Kids in Motion, 2 pm – 6 pm**
- **S.T.E.M. Program (K to 2nd grade), 3 – 4 pm**
- **Volleyball Fundamentals, 5 – 8 pm**

**WEDNESDAYS**

- **Picklesball, 11 am – 2 pm**
- **Open Computer Lab, 11 am – 2 pm & 6 – 8 pm**
- **S.T.E.M. Program (3rd to 6th grade), 3 – 4 pm**
- **Volleyball Fundamentals, 5 – 8 pm**
- **ZUMBA - Let It Move You!** There are a lot of ways to lose weight. Some are just more fun. Join the ultimate dance-fitness party that beats a boring old workout any day! Classes are every Tuesday, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Half the class is Zumba Toning, the other half is Zumba. Cost is $5 per class or $15 for the month. Adults of all ages/fitness levels are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers and be prepared to dance! Bring a towel and water. For more information, call Debbie Kowaleuski at (321) 403-6918.

**THURSDAYS**

- **Picklesball, 11 am – 2 pm**
- **Open Computer Lab, 11 am – 2 pm & 6 – 8 pm**
- **S.T.E.M. Program (K to 2nd grade), 3 – 4 pm**
- **Volleyball Fundamentals, 5 – 8 pm**

**FRIDAYS**

- **Open Gym, 9 – 11 am**
- **Open Computer Lab 9, am – 2 pm**
- **Picklesball, 11 am – 2 pm**
- **Open Game Room, 10 am – 2 pm**
- **Youth Basketball League, 10 am – 2 pm**
- **Youth Basketball League, 10 am – 3 pm**

**SATURDAY**

- **Open Computer Lab, 10 am – 2 pm**
- **Open Game Room, 10 am – 2 pm**
- **Youth Basketball League, 10 am – 2 pm**
- **Youth Basketball League, 10 am – 3 pm**
- **Storytime for Young Readers, Thursdays at 10:00am. Ages 6-12.**
- **Little Listeners storytime, Fridays at 10:00am. Ages 2-5.**
- **Master Gardener visits are currently on hiatus.**

**Dinner and A Prayer Service**

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., come enjoy a free dinner and prayer at Walter Butler Community Center on US 1, just south of Port St. John across from Fairglen Elementary School.

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**Meet your neighbors and stay informed of Events & Community Happenings!**

**CANAVERAL GROVES HOMEOWNERS INC.**

If you’d like to join and support our Homeowners’ group, just cut out and fill out this form and mail with a check for $15 to cover the current year’s membership dues.

Mail to: CGHI, P.O. Box 675, Sharpes, FL 32959

**Name______________________________**

**Address____________________________**

**E-mail______________________________**

**Phone___________________________** May we include your phone number on our membership roster to CGHI members? Yes ☐ No ☐

**Won’t you join us? Visit www.CanaveralGrovesHOA.com for information**
As I sit tip-tapping on this small device that keeps us all connected, the back of my mind is still churning with prayers for all of us who have been touched by this terrible illness, now myself included. I’m joining a multitude of others saying prayers of thanks for those who don’t have to be hospitalized and prayers of grace for those who are being cared for in an institution. For those people and their families, please know you are not alone and many are continually conversing with The Big Guy for you.

I’m dating myself, but years ago when Fred Flintstone and I first visited Silver Springs Park there was another tourist stop called Six Gun Territory right down the street. Growing up in and around the salt water rivers and the ocean, our heroes were fishermen and hunters. Cowboys and gunfighters were only on T.V. It was a great show, but nothing compared to Silver Springs. As exciting as it was then, it’s so much bigger and better now.

Admission is $8.00 per car, regular glass bottom boat tours are $12.00 for adults, $11.00 for kids and seniors, five and under are free. There are also extended tours for a larger charge. Canoes, kayaks and paddleboards start at $20.00 and have a full day option, also. You can bring your own canoes, kayaks and paddleboards with a small launch fee.

A short hour and forty-five-minute drive taking I-95 to Daytona Beach, then west on highway 40 through some of the prettiest areas of central Florida brings you right into the parking lot. The gates open at 8 am. I would advise to get there early to beat the heat and give you time to explore and admire the beauty of the grounds. The flowers and greenery are amazing.

The famous glass bottom boats begin running at 10 am and the mullet, brim and whatever other finny denizens are at the ready to show off. The guides are very knowledgeable of the area and the history including all the movies that have been filmed in and around the park. Some titles will surprise you. Our guide’s sharp eyes caught a large gator seemingly sleeping, totally camouflaged in the dappled sunlight, but it sprang into the water at lightning speed as the boat neared.

The also famous monkeys are still swinging from tree to tree and the forest is so beautiful you really do expect to see Tarzan joining them. They are adorable, but are still wild animals and have to be respected as such. Feeding and molesting them in any way is prohibited.

There are canoes, kayaks and paddleboards available for rent by the hour or the day. You can choose a self guided tour assisted by the map up and down the many small spring feeders to the river. The ‘trail’ is also well marked. You can also opt for the company of a friendly guide eager to show off their waterways.

I haven’t seen them, but I’m told the experience of paddling a clear kayak is almost surreal. The resturants and shops have not been able to reopen yet, but there are a couple of food trucks stationed in various places, vending machines and picnic tables.

The museum is only open Friday through Sunday and numbers are limited, but it’s well worth the wait. From full Mastodon skeletons to stuffed panthers, everything came from right in this area.

The Cracker Village consists of real old buildings, tools and equipment. Some are fixed a little but not refabricated. You’ll want to give yourself an hour or so to wander and try to imagine what it must have been like to live there. The homes and other buildings are open and there are actors demonstrating and answering questions twice a month. Kids find the riflemen especially interesting.

Hiking the five trails takes you through different elevations, different flora and fauna of the area, and if you keep a sharp eye out, you’ll see racoons, possums and armadillos are watching you, also. Insect spray and sunscreen are necessary even if the sun is playing peek-a-boo.
Fruit From The Groves

Well, we are now in the the most active part of Hurricane season. We all need to be prepared.

There have been a number of complaints about the driving out here in the Groves. They include the following: speeding, passing a double yellow line to pass, failing to come to a full stop at a stop sign. There was even a report of a car passing a school bus that was slowing with it's yellow lights on. Luckily a child was not running late to get to the bus.

If you see a traffic violation, call the Sheriff's Office on the non-emergency number so they know what is happening and when they can do extra patrols. If it is a dangerous violation, call 911.

Brevard County Fire Station 29, "Guardians of The Groves," have been busy on medical calls, fires and traffic accidents here in the Groves, as well as responding to mutual aid calls.

Brevard County Sheriff's Office Animal Services and Enforcement have been out here in the Groves for animals running at large. Please try and keep your animals secured for their safety and others. If a dog is found, call them. They can check if it has a chip so it can be returned to the owner.

North Pine Street was repaved (tared). A couple of area street signs and stop signs were fixed or replaced due to being hit or damaged.

Canaveral Groves Homeowners at this time is planning to have a meeting in November unless one is needed sooner.

- Ed Silva

Career Opportunities with Brevard County Parks and Recreation

Brevard County Parks and Recreation has job and career opportunities for individuals interested in working in a diverse organization supporting a variety of leisure and recreation activities. Open positions include recreation, park maintenance, land management and more. Employment with Parks and Recreation allows you to enjoy the many unique and wonderful features of the Space Coast while providing many employment benefits and opportunities for advancement, training and education. Brevard County is an Equal Employment Opportunity and Veterans Preference employer.

Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for currently advertised positions. If you would like to view all of the current positions being advertised, please click on the “County Jobs” link located on this webpage: http://www.brevardfl.gov/.

Florida Master Naturalist Program Habitat Evaluation Course

Are you interested in conservation and Florida's natural wildlife? Then consider enrolling in the Florida Master Naturalist Program's Habitat Evaluation course! This course is designed to provide training in commonly used techniques for evaluating wildlife habitats.

This four-day in-person course is from September 17-25, 2021, and includes classroom instruction at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Cocoa. There are also hands-on activities at Turkey Creek Sanctuary and St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park. The registration fee starts at $160 per person. Registration closes at 10 a.m. on September 10, 2021.

To register and learn more, please visit: https://bit.ly/37PQx7Y

FUMC Events

Our service is 10 a.m. every Sunday in person and on Facebook Live streamed at Facebook.com/fumcpsj and on YouTube: FUMC Port St. John.

Our current series, “Produce - Living out the fruit of God’s Spirit, runs through September 12. On 9/19 a new series begins, “Family Values - as we look at what it means to live on mission for Jesus” it will run for 5 weeks.

Also mark your calendars for: Pumpkin Patch, October 9-27, Flea Market on November 6, and Community Walk Through Bethlehem, December 17,18 and 19.

We look forward to worshiping and fellowship if with you.

First United Methodist Church of Port St. John, 1165 Fay Blvd., Port St. John.
Call 321-631-0183 for more information.

Central FL Accordion Club

The Brevard Chapter of the Central Florida Accordion Club (CFAC) holds its regular meeting the last Sunday of every month. Members and guests are invited to play accordions or other instruments.

Shows are held on the last Sunday of each month, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Elks Lodge #1532, 315 Florida Ave., Cocoa. The event is open to the public. Admission is free.

CFAC is a Not-for-Profit Florida Corporation, and is tax exempt under Section 501c4 of the Federal Tax Code. The club is dedicated to promoting the visibility and value of the accordion as a multi-cultural musical instrument in Central Florida.

For more information, contact Rod Hall, 866-455-2322.
4-H Club Virtual Open House
Are you looking for extracurricular activities to get your kids involved in this school year? Why not try 4-H? Join us for our virtual Open House event on September 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to learn more about our program and clubs!

This virtual open house is free to attend, will be held over Zoom, and is for all families in Brevard County. After a general presentation, you will have the opportunity to meet with and explore our different clubs. There will also be a Q&A session at the end for any questions you may have. To register and learn more, please visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/164029708273

My Brevard Yard Site Visits Are Now Available
Sign-ups for My Brevard Yard Site Visits are now open! Learn how to build your soil's health to grow a healthy lawn, ornamental plants and edible plants without harming our waterways.

During our visit, we will take soil and water samples for testing. You will receive a copy of your test results along with a fertilizer recommendation, as well as additional suggestions to help your lawn and plants grow healthier.

A site visit costs $50. Once your ticket is purchased, you will receive a survey and be contacted to set up an appointment.

Sign up for a site visit today on Eventbrite: https://bit.ly/3C5oEGK.

“Fused Glass Jewelry Making” Class at Studios of Cocoa Beach
The Studios of Cocoa beach is hosting a 4 session class on “Fused Glass Jewelry Making” with Jamille Haddad. The class runs from 6 to 8 pm on consecutive Wednesdays, September 8, 15, 22 and 29. Jamille will guide you through the process of creating fused glass! The first week will cover selecting glass for jewelry projects, cutting glass for fusing and some basic knowledge of kiln work. During week two, students will work on designs for projects and begin cutting glass. Week three will continue cutting and assembling projects to be loaded into the kiln, and the fourth week will unload the fired pieces and apply jewelry findings.

Jamille has been designing and producing stained glass and fused glass art in the central Florida area for over 40 years. "I strive for beautiful craftsmanship while pushing the material to its limits in creating art to enhance our living and working environments."

Fee for the class is $100 plus $25 for materials. For more information about the workshop content, contact Jamille at 407-718-3304 or heat-waveglass@cfl.rr.com.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.studiosofcocoa-beach.org. Student should bring closed toe shoes, safety glasses, and hair tied back. The Studios of Cocoa Beach is located at 165 Minuteman Causeway in downtown Cocoa Beach.

PMC Updated Hospital And Health Care Setting Visitor Protection Measures
Our top priority is always the safety and well-being of our patients, visitors, and employees. The continued surge in COVID-19 cases within the community and resulting surge in hospitalizations and emergency room visits has made it necessary to again adopt a no-visitor policy within Parrish Medical Center. This decision is not made lightly, but is necessary to assure a safe, healing healthcare environment for everyone.

Effectively immediately, visitors will not be allowed inside the hospital except in certain situations, such as:

- Pediatric patients (< 18 years of age): one (1) designated parent/legal guardian per day.
- Laboring and post-partum patients: one (1) visitor/partner-in-care.
- Patients with altered mental status who require a partner-in-care for support: one (1) visitor per day.
- Hospice/end-of-life patients: permitted visitors at the discretion of the healthcare team.

Video visitation will be arranged upon request. If you would like to arrange a video visit with a hospitalized loved one, please contact Parrish’s patient experience team at (321) 268-6357.

Historic Cocoa Village Monday Market
1st Monday of every month through September
11am - 3pm

Having another Manic Monday? Come on down to Historic Cocoa Village! Check out our many unique shops! Grab a bite to eat & enjoy a refreshing beverage at any of our local restaurants & pubs.

Live Music! Store Specials!
Bring your kids! Bring your pets! All are welcome in Historic Cocoa Village!

For EACH $10 spent at a participating merchant, you will receive a raffle ticket which enters you into a monthly drawing to win $50 in Village Bucks.

For more information call 321-631-9075 or visit our website: https://VisitCocoaVillage.com

My Brevard Yard Site Visits Are Now Available
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Brevard Strong!

Parrish Healthcare wants to extend its appreciation to the Florida Department of Health in Brevard County, Health First, Steward Health Care, City of Titusville First Responders, Brevard County Fire & Rescue, and all of our health care heroes for the extraordinary work they’re doing to care for our community during this pandemic.