



HAPPENINGS of PORT ST. JOHN Inc.

ISSUE NO. 436

August 2026

SERVING PORT ST. JOHN & CANAVERAL GROVES



Submissions for publication are due by the 18th of each month. For more information, call 321-633-7499 or visit www.happenings.net

Downtown Art Gallery Hosts Reception for Scholarship Winner Andrew Diskin

The Downtown Art Gallery is proud to announce a special exhibition and reception celebrating Andrew Diskin, the 2026 North Brevard Art League Scholarship recipient and a gifted emerging artist. His artwork will be on view from August 10 through August 31, with a public reception in his honor on Friday, August 14 from 5 to 8 p.m.

A recent graduate of Edgewood Jr/Sr High School, Andrew has distinguished himself through exceptional creativity, dedication and award-winning work in both oil painting and graphic design. He will use his scholarship at Florida State University where he will pursue a Bachelors of Fine Art in Studio Art.

Andrew is an outstanding overall student. In addition to dual enrollment and AP classes, he tutored math, volunteered with Matthew's Hope and used his design skills to create products for Cocoa Village Main Street, the Edgewood PTO and more.

What makes him even more amazing is that Andrew has significant visual impairment. Instead of rejecting a career in visual art, this



only makes him more determined to succeed. His detailed representational oil paintings often reflect and explain his unique view of the world.

Marisa Flint, who teaches art at Edgewood says, "It's been an honor to have Andrew as my art student for 4 years and to watch him grow as an artist and a person. He worked tirelessly to develop amazing technical

skills. But just as impressive is his ability to conceptualize work that engages people. Andrew is the student that teachers are lucky to have once in a career and I expect to hear wonderful things about him in the future."

The Downtown Art Gallery invites the public to experience his work, meet Andrew in person and learn more about the mission of the North Brevard Art League, which awards this annual scholarship to a graduating senior pursuing a future in the visual arts. NBAL, a nonprofit organization, is committed to supporting local artists and fostering creativity in the community. Its scholarship program is made possible through a grant from Parrish Healthcare.

The Downtown Art Gallery, located at 400 Orange Street in Titusville's historic district, is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, call 321-268-0122 or find them on social media.

To learn more about the North Brevard Art League, visit northbrevardartleague.com.

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Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick

Tomato Anyone?

It seems like the world all around us gets more and more crazy, and turmoil is such a daily occurrence that we just want to give up. When we feel like there's just nothing that we can do is when we need to stand up, take a deep breath and hit our knees. Our everyday grievances bog us down so badly that adding the world crazies seems too much. Just know you're not alone and there is always a better time coming.

A very wise lady once told me that people don't change, times do. I'm not too sure that still holds true, but it brings to mind a totally true story of one of the exploits of some anonymous kids who still managed to grow up to be respectable patriarchs.

It seems several neighborhood boys told several sets of parents they were staying overnight at each other's homes and took the unsupervised opportunity to roam the neighborhood looking for mischief. After an hour or so of searching for that mischief and not finding anything that would not hurt or cause trouble for adults, they came upon Old Man Griffis' garden. Old Man Griffis was a mullet fisherman and used the cleanings of his catch to fertilize his sizable vegetable plot and was well known for the biggest and best veggies. He harvested more than enough green beans, squash, collard greens, 'maters and 'taters to feed his family and anyone else who would like some.

These boys knew he kept a Rock Salt Sally - some kind of BB shooting type gun that he filled with rock salt to keep racoons

and other critters out of the vegetables - by his back door, but he enjoyed revivals and one was happening that night. They were in the process of loading their pockets with tomatoes so they could find something to pelt with them when the light came on, the back door opened and Sally roared. Old Man Griffis had dead aim and peppered each seat as the four thieves high-tailed it over the fence and off for home.

Going from house to house the next morning, he explained to each parent what happened. Two of the kids acted incensed to be accused and told their moms they would never do anything like that. Whereupon Old Man Griffis asked them to sit down...

The story goes that each kid then apologized profusely, was assigned replanting and weeding duties in said garden for a month and one mom bought all the rest of the tomatoes that were not destroyed, and guess what that kid had for breakfast, lunch and dinner for as long as they lasted (which he swore was at least a year, but was probably more like a couple of weeks)?

I would never reveal an identity...but my Best Beau could never be cajoled, begged or dared into eating a tomato from his 13th birthday on.

New District 1 County Commissioner Appointed

Governor Ron DeSantis appointed former Commissioner Rita Pritchett as the Brevard County District 1 Commissioner on July 17, 2026. She fills the vacancy left by Katie Delaney, who resigned in May to relocate out of state. Pritchett will serve until a permanent successor is elected in November.

You can find contact information and further details on the Brevard County Commission District 1 page: www.brevardfl.gov/CountyCommissioners/District1

The District 1 seat is up for election this November, but Ms. Pritchett's name won't be on the ballot since the qualifying period has closed. Four Republicans, one Democrat, one Libertarian and one write-in candidate are running for the seat.

Parrish Healthcare Open Interviews

Parrish Healthcare hosts open interviews every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Parrish Medical Center, 951 N. Washington Ave., Titusville.

• Registered Nurses (RN)

- Emergency Department, Med/Surg
- Charge Nurses
- Cardiac-Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Rapid Response
- Discharge
- Labor & Delivery

• Technologists

- CT/MRI
- Radiology

• Surgical Scrub Techs

• Nursing Assistants

• Medical Assistants

• Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (CVIS)

• Paramedics

• Pharmacists

• EMTs

• DI Cardio PACS Specialist

• Surgical First Assistant

• Sterile Processing & Transport Technician

For additional information regarding open positions within Parrish Healthcare, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/careers.

Be A Part of Something Special.

Be a Parrish Care Partner!

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

NARFE Space Coast Chapter 1137 meets monthly on the second Monday of each month.

Our new location is the Red Lobster, 215 E Merritt Island Causeway, (SR 520), Merritt Island. The August meeting will be on the 10th.

New members and guests are always welcome. You are invited to join us for lunch at 11:30 and an interesting speaker at 12:15.

The website address is www.NARFE.org/Chapter1137.

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation Announces Annual Gala

BOOTS & BOWTIES

Benefiting the Advancement of Healthcare Technologies and Services

Saddle up for an unforgettable evening of giving at Jess Parrish Medical Foundation's (JPMF) annual fundraising gala, Boots & Bowties, North Brevard's most anticipated philanthropic event of the year. Drawing more than 300 guests annually, this year's Western-themed celebration will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at Brevard County's newest event venue, the Valiant Air Command Event Hangar.

Where refined elegance meets rugged frontier charm, Boots & Bowties promises an evening infused with rustic sophistication, warm hospitality and the enduring spirit of the West. Guests will enjoy a memorable night featuring Western-inspired décor, live entertainment, gourmet cuisine, exciting auctions and opportunities to support a meaningful cause while celebrating with friends, community leaders and healthcare advocates.

Returning as the gala's presenting sponsor is Zumpano Patricios, whose generous support helps make this signature fundraising event possible. "Strong communities are built on access to exceptional healthcare," said Joseph I. Zumpano, Managing Shareholder of Zumpano Patricios. "We are proud to continue our partnership and support the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation and Parrish Healthcare as they continue to expand services, advance technology and make a lasting difference in the lives of those they serve throughout North Brevard."

Guests are encouraged to embrace the evening's Western-chic theme by pairing their finest boots with black-tie flair. From

cowboy hats and boots to bowties and elegant Western attire, the event promises a unique blend of sophistication and frontier style.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the enhancement of healthcare services and technology at Parrish Healthcare, advancing its mission: Healing Experiences for Everyone All the Time®.

"We are incredibly thankful to Zumpano Patricios for their continued generosity," said Melissa Lugo, Chair of the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation Board of Directors. "Their support, along with that of our numerous community partners, enables us to bring life-changing care and services to those who need it most. We look forward to welcoming our guests for a truly special evening that celebrates community, compassion and the spirit of giving."

Serving as event co-chairs are Judy Allender, Winnie Brewer, Kelley Broome, Mary Coleman and Britt Diaz.

Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500 and individual tickets are available for \$150 each. Seating is limited. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, purchase tickets or secure chance drawing entries, please contact the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066 or visit parrishmedfoundation.com/gala.



HAPPENINGS of
PORT ST. JOHN Inc.

HAPPENINGS was born in June, 1990 as a one page paper that covered the news in the Port St. John and Canaveral Groves areas that seemed to never be covered by the Florida

Today or the Titusville paper. We had youth sports, community events (done by the PSJ Jaycees, never the county) and elementary school events. Then came the chance to get a Community Center, Fay Lake Wilderness Park and the Sports Complex in Canaveral Groves. We kept on growing.

HAPPENINGS went to full color and added a website in 2005. It's time for an update. Our new website and Facebook site just launched this month.



DEAR EVAN HANSEN - PG-13

July 24–August 30, 2026

Don't miss the Tony Award-winning sensation, Dear Evan Hansen — the groundbreaking musical about connection, belonging, and facing the challenges of the digital age! When one small lie spirals out of control, Evan Hansen is given the chance to finally be seen — but the truth soon forces him to confront who he really is. With an unforgettable score and a story that speaks to our times, Dear Evan Hansen is a must-see theatrical event that reminds us we are never truly alone.

Titusville Playhouse

The Titusville Playhouse, Inc. is located within the Historic Emma Parrish Theatre, 301 Julia St., (corner of 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. There is no elevator. Balcony seats are only accessed by walking up a flight of stairs.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit titusvilleplayhouse.com/ or call 321-268-1125. Season tickets are available.

Be Prepared For Hurricane Season

The early forecast for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season suggests it will be lighter than usual, with only 3 reaching Category 3 status



or stronger. What we don't know is where or when a storm may impact our area and it only takes 1 to destroy your home.

Over the past 7 years, hurricanes and many tropical systems have wreaked havoc on local communities with far reaching impacts. The adage "the calm before the storm" has never been more true – now is the time to prepare your workplace, your family and your home! It's always a good reminder to know your risks, build a kit, make a plan and stay informed.

Know Your Risks - Do you live in an evacuation zone or a flood-prone area? Do you live in a mobile or manufactured home? If any of those are the case, ensure that you have a plan in place for yourself and your family by visiting www.brevardcounty.us/EmergencyManagement

Preparedness - Does a friend or family member have special medical needs, including electricity? Have them register for a special needs shelter at web.brevardcounty.us/SpecialNeeds/Registration.aspx.

Build a Kit - Your kit should contain enough non-perishable food, water, and medications to support yourself, your family and your pets for at least three days. Don't forget a solar, portable or automotive cell phone charger, in case your home loses power; gas for your car and generator; and cash. Consider these things: www.ready.gov/build-a-kit.

Make a Plan - Create your personal disaster plan at www.floridadisaster.org/family. Don't wait until an emergency is occurring, and you are under pressure.

Stay informed - Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter, like "Brevard County Emergency Management" on Facebook, and/or sign up for text messages (Text Follow BrevardEOC to 40404). For more information, visit www.brevardcounty.us/EmergencyManagement

Hurricane Season Medical Reminders

Hurricane Season continues until November 30. Parrish Healthcare urges our community to be prepared and stay safe. Your health and safety remain our top priorities before, during and after any storm. Following are a few important medical reminders to help you be prepared.

Get a 30-Day Supply of Necessary Medications: If you are taking prescription medications, we encourage you to have a 30-day supply on hand. It is important to 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. **Please note:** Florida Law allows for early prescription refills in the event the Governor issues an executive order declaring a state of emergency.

Call Your Dialysis Center for a Temporary Plan of Care: If you are on dialysis, please call your dialysis center to create a plan of action for your care. 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 whether you should be admitted to a hospital during a hurricane.

Please note: 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: A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation. There are three types of evacuation shelters: Primary Evacuation Shelters, Special Needs Shelters and Pet-Friendly Shelters. Shelters are designated throughout the county.

Please note: Parrish Medical Center (the hospital) is not a designated shelter and does not take evacuees.

For more helpful information regarding Brevard county shelters, please visit: www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared/Step3HaveAPlan/Shelters.

If Oxygen Dependent, Make Shelter Arrangements: Individuals who are oxygen dependent may be eligible for a Special Needs Shelter. Eligibility is based on medical needs and availability. If you are oxygen-dependent, be sure to fill your oxygen tanks. At a minimum, we encourage you to have two days' worth of oxygen on hand. 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 a Special Needs Shelter. Making prior arrangements for a Special Needs Shelter is essential.

General Preparation for a Hurricane: For additional information on what you can do to prepare for an emergency such as a hurricane, please visit the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management website at www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared. Here, you will find valuable information to help stay prepared and resources during an emergency situation.

Should a hurricane impact operations and services available within Parrish Healthcare, we will advise the community via our website, social media platforms and by distributing press releases to our media partners.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Port St. John

Saint Patrick's Church

4797 Curtis Blvd. - East off Grissom Pkwy.

Sunset Group Meeting

(C) Sunday 5:00 p.m. Closed topic

Alcoholics Anonymous meets on:

Sundays at 5 p.m. and

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Women's AA meets on:

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m.



St. Patrick's Anglican Church
4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John
321-802-1311
Classical Christians engaging the word

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As summer draws to a close and families prepare for a new school year, August is a wonderful time to reconnect with friends, strengthen our faith and prepare for the busy fall season. At St. Patrick's Anglican Church, we invite our community to join us as we continue to worship together, serve our neighbors, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Blessing of the Backpacks - On Sunday, August 9th, during our 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service, we will offer a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Students, teachers, school staff and homeschool families are invited to bring their backpacks, book bags or briefcases as we pray for God's guidance, protection, and wisdom throughout the coming school year.

First Friday Family Fun Night - Our monthly First Friday Family Fun Night will be held on Friday, August 7th, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. This free community event offers games, crafts, refreshments, and fellowship for all ages. Whether you're new to the area or looking for a welcoming church family, we'd love to have you join us.

Ladies Fellowship & Craft Night - The Ladies Fellowship & Craft Group meets on Monday, August 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring a craft project—or simply come to enjoy conversation, light refreshments, and Christian fellowship. New participants are always welcome.

Veterans & First Responders Breakfast - Our monthly Veterans, Veteran Spouses, Families and First Responders Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 9:00 a.m. This complimentary breakfast is our way of honoring those who have faithfully served our country and community.

Community Spaghetti Dinner - September 12. Mark your calendar now for our Community Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, September 12, from 6:00–8:00

p.m. This special fundraiser will benefit Mike and Lee Brady, who recently lost their home in a devastating fire and were without homeowners insurance. Tickets are \$20.00 and everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious meal while helping a local family begin the journey of rebuilding their lives.

St. Patrick's Anglican Church offers opportunities for worship, prayer, and Bible study throughout the week.

Holy Communion

- Sundays – 8:00 a.m. (Traditional Service – No Music)
- Sundays – 10:00 a.m. (With Music & Facebook Live)
- Wednesdays – 6:00 p.m. (In Person & Facebook Live)
- Morning Prayer
- Monday through Friday – 8:00 a.m. on Facebook Live

Adult Bible Study

- Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
- Current Study: The Gospel of Matthew with Fr. Michael Kerouac

Whether you are searching for a church home, exploring the Christian faith, or simply looking for a welcoming community, we invite you to visit us or visit www.stpatrickspsj.org.

Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - August 12th - at 7:00 p.m. in the club house on Merritt Island Airport.

If you have a passion or interest in aviation, then EAA 724 will bring you closer to the action. You don't have to be a pilot or aircraft owner to enjoy our group. Our chapter is a mixture of pilots, wannabe pilots and non-pilots. If you like aircraft and aviation, you are welcome. Each month we have an interesting speaker and lots of hangar flying.

The airport is approximately 2 miles south of SR 520 on Courtenay Parkway. Turn off Courtenay onto the airport and then bear right. For more information, call 321-514-9456, email watersdwayne@yahoo.com, or visit the website at www.eaa724.org.

Tails3Amigas Hosts Exclusive Speakeasy Fundraising Event

Tails3Amigas, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting K9s, animal rescue groups and the communities that love them, is thrilled to announce its upcoming charity fundraiser: A Trip Back in Time. This exclusive speakeasy-themed event will be held at The Vault, 114 Harrison Street, Cocoa Village, on August 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with only 100 raffle tickets available to purchase.

Inspired by the glamour and intrigue of the Roaring 20's, guests are invited to dress in their finest speakeasy attire — think feathers, fedoras and flair — for an evening of cocktails and community. Each \$100 ticket provides entry for two guests and includes one themed cocktail or mocktail per ticket and light bites throughout the evening.

"This event is about more than a night out — it's about giving animals a second chance and strengthening the bonds between communities and the rescues that serve them," said Pam Shaia of Tails3Amigas.

Adding to the excitement, the evening will feature prizes when the 10th, 25th and 75th tickets are drawn. The grand finale draws the last ticket — and that lucky winner takes home \$1,000 in cash. With only 100 tickets sold, every attendee has a meaningful chance to win.

All proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to Tails3Amigas and its mission to support K9 working dogs, local animal rescue organizations and the communities that depend on them. The organization works to provide resources, advocacy and financial support to the animals and the people who care for them.

Call Pam Shaia Tails at the Barkery, 321-305-4584, for more information.

Want to reach 12,500 homes in PSJ and Canaveral Groves?
Visit our website for Ad Prices or email happenings1@att.net.
www.happenings.net

Brevard Zoo Scares Up New Halloween Event

Treats by day, haunts by night – Brevard Zoo is scaring up some new Halloween fun this fall! While the Zoo's longstanding Boo at the Zoo event will continue offering family friendly trick-or-treating and Halloween activities during the day, it will be joined by a new experience: Beware the Night, a separately ticketed evening event with spookier family friendly experiences.

"We want to offer our community two ways to enjoy Halloween this year," said Alysia Ross, VP of Marketing. "Boo at the Zoo has become a beloved tradition for many families. With the addition of Beware the Night, we're bringing a whole new element of engagement, with the goal

of attracting not only our core audience but the tween and teen audiences as well. There is so much to see and do this Halloween season, and it is all here at Brevard Zoo."

At Beware the Night, guests will be able to stroll dimly lit pathways lined with glowing jack-o-lanterns, foggy forests and larger-than-life Halloween displays. This event kicks off on September 10 and will be held 6-10 p.m. on select Thursdays and Sundays through October 25, and then daily from October 26-31.

Aside from the tricks, guests will be able to enjoy some tasty treats at both Halloween events – a specially themed food menu that includes turkey legs, macaroni and cheese garnished with dried crickets and specialty drinks. Certain special activities will be available at both Halloween events as well, like our Boo Choo Train, an opportunity for guests to enjoy a ghost story brought to life. "Scary fun" music will play throughout the Zoo as well.

The spookiness doesn't stop there. An even scarier experience will open in October as a special included bonus to Beware the Night on Fridays and Saturdays. Guests looking for a thrilling, interactive way to celebrate Halloween can take on River's Revenge – a behind-the-scenes trail filled with jump scares, mazes and scary creatures. This experience will be included as part of a Beware the Night ticket purchase on Fridays and Saturdays and is recommended for ages 13 and up.

"There's something for everyone this Halloween at Brevard Zoo, from families looking for candy and entertainment to adults looking for a real scare!" Ross said. "Locals and visitors to the Space Coast don't need to travel to Orlando for that kind of entertainment this year – we're offering it all here at Brevard Zoo."

Early bird tickets are now on-sale for Beware the Night – and prices are the lowest price of the season. For more information, visit BrevardZoo.org/Boo-And-Beware.

Please visit BrevardZoo.org for more information.



Grand Opening Celebration Arogya Health, Inc.



HONORING
BANSIBHAI & REKHABEN PATEL

*"One community,
one family, and
one life at a time."*

We carry the spirit of
service forward to create
a living legacy of equity
and leadership in
healthcare.



Date:
August 8th, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Location:
895 Barton Blvd., Suite B,
Rockledge, FL 32955



Our Mission

Arogya Health, Inc. was founded on a simple, powerful conviction: healthcare is a fundamental right. We are dedicated to providing accessible, comprehensive care to all, removing barriers and serving those who need it most.



Free Community Clinic

Our work is profoundly dedicated to our neighbors who cannot afford care. We provide 100% free services because financial status should never be a barrier to health. Your health, your dignity, and your life matter.

100% FREE CARE – NO CHARGE – EVERY PATIENT, EVERY VISIT



Free medical consultations, diagnostics, and essential medications.



Please RSVP
by calling 732.715.1125
or emailing kevatbpatel@gmail.com



Friends of the Port St. John Library



**CELLAR
BOOK CLUB**

Cellar Book Club

Come join us at PSJ Cellar Restaurant, 3870 Curtis Blvd., PSJ on the last Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. On August 31, we will be discussing *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* by Kristen Harmel. All interested readers are welcome! For current book selection, visit the Reference Desk at the PSJ Library.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Alcoholics Anonymous meets on **Sundays** at 5 p.m. **Women's AA** meets on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. **Both AA Groups meet at St. Patrick's Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd.**

8-1 Bike Days at the Tiki, 1 - 5:00 PM, First Saturday of each month. 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), 321-268-1632. Contact Wayne Fowler, Events Coordinator, American Legion Riders Post 359 at 321-307-1450 or visit their website, alr359.org.

8-2 Friendship Day

8-2 National Sister Day

8-4 Compassionate Friends Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Cocoa Beach at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 525 Minuteman Cswy., west of A1A, Fellowship Hall. Call 610-7875 for info.

8-5 American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 359, General Membership Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Post Home, 7260 S. US 1, just north of PSJ. Call President Valerie Helmer at 321-268-1632.

8-5 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting- 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

8-9 Word Weavers Space Coast, a critique group for Christian writers, meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Visitors are always welcome. Email angelagardnerwrites@gmail.com for info.

8-13 Amvets Ladies Auxiliary 2415 General Membership Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. President Theresa N. Anderson. 321-208-7897.

8-14 Brevard Women's Connection meets at Space Coast Convention Center on Hwy. 520 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., 2nd Friday of each month. Call Pam at 321-752-6896 or e-mail bwco020@gmail.com.

8-15 SAL Rib Day Ticket sale 1 p.m. Band 1-5 p.m. at the Tiki every 3rd Saturday of the month at American Legion Post 359.

8-17 Moonport Modelers RC Club

meets at 6:30 p.m., 3rd Monday of each month at the N. Brevard Library, 2121 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville. For more info, call Wayne Mendez, 321-505-2361.

8-19 American Legion Post 359 meets at the Post Home, 7260 S. US 1, 2 miles north of PSJ, 6:00 p.m. All Legionnaires and new members are welcome. The Post meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Contact Commander Michele Aaron at 321-289-2880 for more information.

8-24 St. Bartholomew

8-25 Mawlid Un Nabi

8-25 Moonlight Quilters Guild meets at the First United Methodist Church, 206 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville on the 4th Tuesday of each month (no meeting in April or December). Meet and greet refreshments at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 6:15 p.m., usually followed by show and tell or a guest speaker. Email Moonlight.Quilters@yahoo.com for more information.

8-29 Veterans & First Responders Breakfast - Last Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. at Saint Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John. This is open to all veterans, spouses of veterans and all first responders.



Post 359 - American Legion

8-1 Bike Days at the Tiki - 1st Saturday of the month, 1 - 5 p.m. presented by American Legion Riders. Good food on the grill with fixin's, \$10. Listen to live music, take part in drawings, 50/50. All proceeds to benefit veterans and veterans' families.

8-5 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

8-10 Sons of the Legion- 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

8-15 SAL Rib Day Ticket sale 1 p.m. Band 1-5 p.m. at the Tiki every 3rd Saturday.

8-16 American Legion Riders General Membership Meeting - 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Call 2nd Vice Director Janice Anderson, Director, at 321-210-6234.

8-19 General Membership Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

If you are a veteran and would like to visit the Post or more information about American Legion, contact Commander Michele Aaron at 321-289-2880. The Post is located at 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), or call 321-268-1632.

Congratulations to:

Roman Arieux turns **12** on the 3rd.

Jamie Hagar turns **34** on the 3rd.

Chase Turner turns **24** on the 4th.

Amber Santoso turns **28** on the 4th.

Cindy Kolonich is prettier on the 4th.

Cher Turman is more lovely on the 7th.

Nicholas Moore turns crazier on the 8th

Laura Davis turns **20** on the 9th!

Toyia Nguyen turns hotter on the 10th.

Mason McGann turns **20** on the 11th!

Riley Arieux turns **13** on the 11th.

Brittany Osburn the Queen on the 12th.

Dillon Devane turns **24** on the 12th.

Angie Anthony parties wild on the 12th.

Kensli Davis turns **5** on the 14th!

Marty Grinstead turns **64** on the 15th.

Sally Blum turns **33** on the 16th.

Austin Travis turns **43** on the 16th.

Kyle Maxwell turns **22** on the 16th.

Chase & Alex Turman turn **27** on the 18th.

Terri & Tera Nguyen both rock the night on the 20th.

Marty Kline rules the world on the 25th.

Tommy Nguyen turns wiser on the 28th.

Ashley Mae turns **21** on the 31st.

Randy & Cathy Rodriguez celebrate **50** years on the 1st.

Louis and Deborah Pierce celebrate **53** years on the 18th.

Charlie and Debbie Dimaria celebrate **40** years on the 19th!

Scott and Trisha Orend celebrate **33** years on the 28th.

Brett and Patty Benoff celebrate their **27th** on the 30th.

We have room for more good news.

Email inputs to happenings1@att.net.

AUGUST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

Parrish Healthcare offers a variety of support groups as a free service to the community

A.W.A.K.E. Sleep Support Group

Meets the second Monday monthly, 6-7:30 PM
Parrish Healthcare Center, Manatee Conference Room
5005 Port St. John Parkway, Port St. John
Contact our Sleep Support Team at 321-268-6408

Cancer and Survivor Support Group

Meets the third Wednesday monthly, 4-5:30 PM
Parrish Healthcare Center, North Titusville
490 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Shannon Luker at 321-268-6111, ext. 3544

Caring for Caregivers Support Group

*Meets the second and fourth Thursday monthly,
9:30-11:30 AM*
Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Decoding Diabetes Class

Meets the fourth Monday monthly, 2:30-4:30 PM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Josh Garsow at 321-268-6111, ext. 6265

Early Steps Community Play Date

Meets the fourth Wednesday monthly, 9-10:30 AM
The Children's Center
5650 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Mary Cancel at 321-292-1370

Fearless Café

Presented by St. Francis Hospice and
Parrish Healthcare
Meets the first Wednesday monthly, 10-11 AM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Mom's Support Group

Meets Mondays, 10-11 AM
The Children's Center
5650 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Heather at heather.focht@parrishmed.com

Stroke and Heart Survivors Support Group

Meets the third Tuesday monthly, 2-4 PM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Tools to Quit Smoking Now

Meets the last Tuesday monthly, 5:30-7:30 PM
Parrish Medical Center, Conference Room 6
951 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville
**Facilitated by Jennifer Wolowitz, Tobacco Free Florida
407-889-2292, ext. 102**

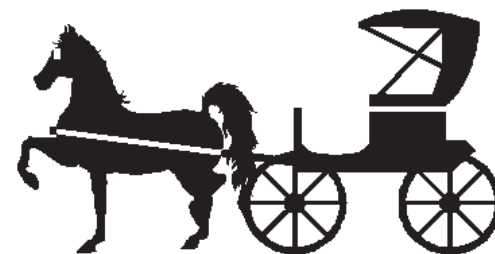


*Visit parrishhealthcare.com/supportgroups
to learn more and to register*



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Fruit From The Groves



Four Communities Fire Department Turns 75 Years Old!

In 1951, a group of area residents got together to form a fire department to become known as Four Communities Fire Department. They had been using spray trucks and tankers that were used in the Groves and other places in the area to fight brush and structural fires. They also used pickaxes, shovels and fire extinguishers to control fires

Charlie Williams donated the land where the station sits on US1 and River Rd. People donated so that the building could be bought. Later on, additional land was purchased. This station was built without the use of any Brevard County funds. A fire district was issued by the State of Florida. The response area was from the Indian River to the St. Johns River, to south of where State Road 528 is now. The north boundary was just past where Kings Hwy. in Port St. John is currently.

Four Communities became part of District One Fire Control. In 1984, Brevard County Fire Dept. became a county wide agency with Four Communities and other volunteer agencies that were still separate entities, but were a part of the county system.

In 1984, there was a fire station built in Port St. John (26). In 1993, the Canaveral Groves station 29 was built. These stations were added due to the area expansion.

Over the years, many people have volunteered in helping the community and many of them became volunteer firefighters.

Four Communities fire department still has to respond to calls as needed. They also assist Brevard County Sheriff's Office with refilling their dive tanks.

Stop down any Tuesday night and you will be able to see them training. And if you are interested, please volunteer your services. There is no better feeling than saving people's property and lives.

- Ed Silva

Canaveral Groves Homeowners Inc.



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Randy Rodriguez
Realtor

Cell: 321-863-7499
Ofc: 321-799-0221



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

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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 238143, Cocoa, FL 32923

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Won't you join us?





3500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

LIBRARY HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

Tabletop Game Night: Wednesdays, 5:00–7:00 p.m. The library provides a variety of board games and card games for all ages. Simply visit the Youth Services Desk to borrow a game, then settle in and play at the library. Bring your family, invite your friends, or meet new people while enjoying an evening of fun, friendly games. No registration required; just drop in and play!

Kids' Dice & Dragons: Sundays, 1:00 & 1:30 p.m. A staff-led, tabletop role-playing adventure where players create characters, roll dice and collaboratively tell a fantasy story for children ages 8–12. Space is limited; kids will be split into parties of five for 30-minute sessions. Adult supervision required at all times.

Family Movie Night: Mondays. 4:00–6:00 p.m. Have fun watching G or PG-rated movies. Popcorn is provided. All ages welcome. Adult supervision required.

- 8/3 Hoppers (2026)

- 8/10 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)

- 8/17 101 Dalmatians (1961)

- 8/24 Lady and the Tramp (1955)

- 8/31 Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse (2023)

Sensory Playtime: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. A sensory-friendly play event for ages 3 and up, featuring hands-on activity bins with kinetic sand, rice, beans, and more. Adult supervision required.

Read Your Way to K:

Little Laptime: Mondays, 9:30–10:00 a.m. Short stories and nursery rhymes for babies ages 1 and under. Adult supervision required.

Little Movers & Groovers: Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30–10:00 a.m. A fun movement program for toddlers five and under. Adult supervision required.

Toddler Story Time: Thursdays & Fridays, 10:30–11:00 a.m. For children ages 3–5. Adult supervision required.

Playdate: Thursdays & Fridays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For babies and toddlers five and under. Adult supervision required. No class on 7/3.

Spanish Bilingual Story Time: Monday, August 17, 10:00-10:30 a.m. Join us for a fun and educational event! Children will learn basic Spanish vocabulary, sing songs, make a craft, and listen to stories in English and Spanish. This event is for ages 3-5, and adult supervision is required.

TEENS

Teen Dice & Dragons: August 9 & 23, 3:00 – 4:45 p.m. A staff-led, beginner-friendly tabletop role-playing adventure where players create characters, roll dice and collaboratively tell a fantasy story. This event is for ages 13-17. Adult supervision required.

ADULTS

Adult Dice and Dragons: Sundays, August 2, 16, 30, 3 – 4:45 p.m. Role playing adventures with characters and dice.

Yarn Group: Fridays in August, 1 - 3-30 p.m. Yarn Group of PSJ Library is a group of adults who enjoy knitting and crocheting. They are happy to help you learn. All levels are welcome. They donate projects and meet every Friday.

Book Worms Book Club: Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m. Join the group for a lively discussion of Killing the SS by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard. Pick up September's title Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.

Port Readers Book Club: Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting, we will discuss The Buffalo Hunter Hunter by Stephen Graham Jones.

Community Support Advocate will be at the Port St. John Public Library Mondays, August 3, 17, and 31, 1:30 – 5 p.m. The community support advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources. Appointments and walk-ins are accepted. See the Reference desk for details.

Port Saint John Dependent Special

District Board meets Wednesday, August 12, 6 p.m. This is a public meeting. As established by Ordinance 96-30, the Port St. John (PSJ) Dependent Special District Board is a volunteer, unpaid member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The PSJ Board serves as the recommending body for the Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency, and the Board of County Commissioners for requests within the Dependent Special District Area of Port St. John. Visit the Brevard County website for available Port St. John Dependent Special District Board.

FAMILY EVENTS

Cards with a Purpose: Tuesday, August 11, 10 -11 a.m. Make a custom personal card as well as a card for charity to brighten someone's day. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month. All ages welcome with adult supervision.

Bookmark Bedazzle Bling-out!: Wednesday, August 26, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Ages 12+. In this program we will use shiny beads to bling-out bookmarks. Bring a bookmark in or choose from one provided.

Spice Travelers Spice Club: August 19. Come in and pick up this month's featured spice: Shichimi Togarashi.

Garden Program: August 8, 11 a.m. Planting carrots and taking home some seedlings as we learn about Florida gardening from month to month. This is a family event ages 6 and up adult supervision required.

Car Shows In PSJ

First Baptist Church of Port St. John will be hosting a Car Show each month. The Dixie Cruisers will be at our church the first Friday of every month from 5 to 7 p.m. You are welcome to come and view the cars on display. There is no entry fee. It's all about fellowship and fun. If you need further information or have any questions, please call the church office at 321-636-5455 weekdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or visit www.firstbaptistpsj.org.



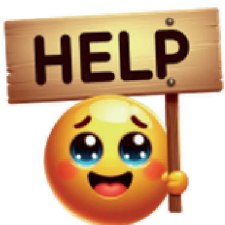
First Baptist Church of Port St. John is located at 3900 Fay Blvd. See you there!

Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Business Directory

Important Phone Numbers

Parrish Healthcare Center	
Port St. John -	321-268-6868
Titusville -	321-268-6868
Sheriff: Non-Emergency -	321-633-7162
Fire Station 26 (PSJ) -	321-633-2056
Emergency Operations Center	321-637-6670
Waste Management -	321-636-6894
SCAT Bus Information -	321-633-1878
Port St. John Library -	321-633-1867
PSJ Community Center -	321-633-1904
Florida Power & Light -	321-723-7795
City of Cocoa Water Dept.-	321-433-8400
Atlantis Elementary School -	321-633-6143
Challenger 7 Elementary -	321-636-5801
Enterprise Elementary School	321-633-3434
Fairglen Elementary School -	321-631-1993
Space Coast Jr/Sr High School -	
	321-638-0750
County Commissioner -	321-607-6901

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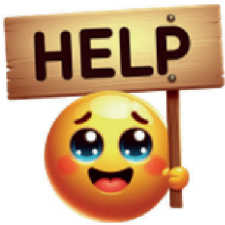
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Monthly Tax Update

This month, I will bring some updates. The IRS announced on July 13th, 2026, the optional standard mileage rates for substantiating the costs of operating an automobile for business, medical or moving purposes. The IRS made the change in 2026 to reflect rising fuel costs. These revised rates are effective beginning July 1st, 2026.

For tax year 2026, we will have two mileage rates: the first from January 1st, 2025, through June 30th, 2026, and the second from July 1st, 2026, through December 31st, 2026. This Announcement modifies previous rates. Here are the guidelines: For the period January 1st, 2025, through June 30th, 2026, the standard mileage rate is 72.5 cents per mile for all business miles. For the period July 1st, 2026, through December 31st, 2026, the standard business mileage rate is increased to 76 cents per mile.

The mileage rate for moving and medical expenses also increased from 20.5 cents per mile to 23.5 cents per mile. The charitable mileage rate is fixed by statute at 14 cents per mile and has not changed. Nevertheless, these rates apply to fully-electric, hybrid-gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

It is important to remember that moving expenses are limited exclusively to active-duty members of the Armed Forces. General civilians cannot deduct moving expenses. Moreover, when a company relocates employees to another city or state, the reimbursement or paid amount for their moving expenses will be treated as taxable income and is subject to tax withholding on their W-2s. Employers should update the proper mileage rate they will pay for the period at issue.

Next, the IRS announced a new automatic process to provide penalty relief for taxpayers with a history of filing and paying on time, reducing the need for them to request assistance. The new Automatic Exemption from Penalty (AEP) will be transitioning to replace the First Time Abate during this summer, and will be applied to original tax returns beginning with tax year 2025 and 2026 quarterly returns, as well as future tax periods. Taxpayers qualify if they have a history of timely filing the return and paying any tax due in the three prior years. When taxpayers qualify, penalties are not assessed during processing for failure to file, failure to pay and failure to deposit. While AEP prevents the assessment of certain penalties, taxpayers must still pay any tax and interest due, as well as any penalties not eligible for relief. Lastly, if you don't qualify for AEP,

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TAX MASTERY: TURNING COMPLEXITY INTO SIMPLICITY CALL TODAY!

you may still request penalty relief based on reasonable cause.

More good tax stuff next month. Remember, this is a very brief overview. It is your responsibility to discuss any tax and financial changes with your professional advisor for assistance in evaluating your situation.

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 Pedro L. Baldeon, E.A., 321-632-5726, a member of the National Society of Tax Professionals.

Editorial articles in HAPPENINGS express the views of the author and not necessarily the views of Happenings Bridge Publishing.

Amvets Post 2415 Schedule



8-5 Sons of Amvets 2415

General Membership Meeting
-1st Wednesday of the month at
6:30 p.m. Commander Chuck
Harrington, 321-208-7897.

8-8 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415 General
Membership Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the
month at 12 noon. President Mike Brayman.
8-8 Bike Day! 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd
Saturday of the month at the Post.

8-12 General Membership Meeting-
2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.
Commander Larry Lonneville, 321-208-7897.

8-13 Amvets 2415 Ladies Auxiliary
General Membership Meeting - 2nd Thursday

of the month at 6 p.m. President Annette
Norris.

Karaoke every Friday, 7-10 p.m. Open to
the public.

Bingo - Members - Sundays 1 p.m. -?

Show Me the \$\$ - every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Post 2415 is located at 688 West Ave.,
(adjacent to Hwy. US 1), Port St. John. If
you are a veteran or family member of a
veteran, stop by and visit the Post to get more
information about Amvets. Thank you for
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Car Show at Titus Landing Space Coast Cars and Motorcycles

Bring your kids, bring your family and friends and come out and enjoy the Space Coast Cars and Motorcycles Show on August 22nd, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Titus Landing, 2520 S. Washington Ave. Titusville.

Admission to look and admire is free to the public. Registration for a car or motorcycle to be in the show is only \$5 and 100% goes to JPMF (Jess Parrish Medical Foundation) for Medical Scholarships.

Bring your cars, motorcycles and good vibes — let's make it a great community event!



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(In front of Canaveral Groves)

On the Road With Rose



Marine Science Center

100 Lighthouse Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL

Phone 386-304-5545

www.marinesciencecenter.com/

The Marine Science Center does not get nearly the attention it should! There are lots of places, especially here in Florida, that rescue and teach about sea and sky creatures, but MSC takes it a step above.

The entrance fee is only \$8.00 and below, pets are not allowed...but children are encouraged.

The Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation

Sanctuary is a fully functioning animal hospital. They treat around 1,100 sick and injured birds every year. They try to release every one they can, but some would not make it on their own and can be viewed as you stroll the boardwalk.

The staff is very knowledgeable and adept at rescuing turtles, tortoises and most other wild life, (visit the website for phone numbers to call if you find an injured or sick animal), and also have included the ones that cannot be returned to the wild in the many things there are to see and do.

Myself and everyone I've spoken to did not know there is an artificial reef less than a mile off Daytona Beach! How great...

MSC has a 5,000-gallon salt water tank filled with reef dwellers so us non-divers can view those beautiful creatures up close. They also have training sessions for volunteer divers to learn to identify sea life and collect data.

MSC has rescued and cared for more than 27,000 sea turtles, hatchlings freshwater

turtles and snakes. Many of these and more are available for viewing and touching in the touch tank, with feedings throughout the day; feedings in the natural reef tank, including seahorses and lionfish, jetty and estuary exhibits. I loved watching a couple of little ones seeing live colorful fish and actually touching a live ray for the first time. I'm still smiling and I hope they are, too.

There is so much to see and do! My intrepid adventure buddy and I enjoyed much more time than we had planned, so I would advise setting aside a whole morning, (I would say afternoon, but it IS Florida in the summertime), just to meander. There are most exhibits that allow you to escape the sun and still enjoy wildlife.

The drive is a short hour and very well worth it. You can finish up the day with the return trip down U.S. 1 and a stop for ice cream... a perfect day.

As always, please take only pictures, leave only footprints. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent just in case.



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