

HAPPENINGS

ISSUE NO. 428

DECEMBER 2025

SERVING PORT ST. JOHN & CANAVERAL GROVES

HAPPENINGS
BRIDGE
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Submissions for publication are due by the 18th of each month.

For more information, call 321-633-7499 or e-mail www.happenings.net

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!

Our 36th Port St. John Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 20 at 11 a.m. The parade route will be along Fay Blvd., starting at Waterloo Ave. and go east to Carole Ave. in the eastbound lane. The floats face the south side of Fay Blvd., so viewing will be best on the sidewalk on the south side. The theme of this year's parade will be, "A Winter Wonderland."

Fay Blvd. will be closed from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. from 11:00 until 12:30 when the parade ends.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Prime Sponsor, Parrish Medical Center, our Diamond sponsors, Freedom Air & Plumbing, HAPPENINGS, Higginbotham Companies and Orion Connectivity, and our Platinum sponsor, Englemann State Farm Insurance. We are not government operated or funded. These companies make the parade possible, along with the other sponsors and our amazing volunteers who work to make the parade happen.

There will be candy at the parade this year! Please be thoughtful of the residents along Fay Blvd. and do not litter their yards with candy wrappers and cups.



Bring a bag for your youngsters' treasure troves of candy and/or trash, it helps a lot.

Any questions, suggestions, problems or needs should be directed to Jeremy Higginbotham, 321-576-2818 or Jhigginbotham@orionconnectivity.com or Jamie Hermes, 321-271-7161..

There are other holiday events inside, so look for the Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale, Meet Santa at the PSJ Library, Light Up Port St. John, the Cookie Walk, holiday worship services, the Holiday Bike Parade in Cocoa Village and more. And of course, the holiday parade schedule for other parades here in Brevard County is inside.

The Port St. John Community Foundation and HAPPENINGS wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Good Kwanzaa and joy, good health and peace to your family.



or current resident

Resident
Brevard County, FL

PRSRST STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
COCOA, FL 32922
PERMIT NO. 53

ECRWSS




PARRISH
MEDICAL CENTER
PARRISH HEALTHCARE

Presenting Sponsor
Josh & Laura Norris
All proceeds benefit
Jess Parrish Medical Foundation

Gift of Light

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH
5:00-7:30 PM

Join Parrish Medical Center for our FREE annual holiday community celebration!

For more information visit parrishhealthcare.com/giftoflight

Honor a loved one by placing a light on our 50-foot holiday tree! To purchase a light, please call 321-269-4066 or visit parrishmedfoundation.com/donate

PSJ Community Center Schedule - December 2025

The center is open Mondays – Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For latest information about any of these programs and rentals, call the Center: 321-633-1904.

Mondays

Outside Basketball, dawn to dusk
Pool Tables, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
Zumba 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Tuesdays

Outside Basketball, dawn to dusk
Pool Tables, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
Dancing Little Stars-Ballet/Tap Combo Classes
4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Outside Basketball, dawn to dusk.
Pool Tables, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
ESPORTS Club, 6 – 8 p.m.

Thursdays

Outside Basketball, dawn to dusk
Pool Tables, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
Gentle Yoga, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Fridays

Outside Basketball, dawn to dusk
Pool Tables, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Home School Class P.E., 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 1:30 - 6 p.m.
SENIORS AT LUNCH - Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Seniors at Lunch is held every weekday and provides hot meals and activities for Seniors 60 years and older. Please call 321-410-9185 for more information.

ZUMBA - Mondays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

A Zumba class is a high-energy dance fitness program that combines Latin and international music with choreographed dance moves. It's designed to be a fun and effective workout, suitable for various fitness levels. \$6 per session.

DANCING LITTLE STARS - Tuesdays, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m./5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Check their website for classes & times. Ballet, Tap and age appropriate Hip-Hop classes for boys and girls, ages 2-7. Classes focus on rhythm, concentration,

memory and balance... while having fun! Our full-scale dance recital is held at the end of the dance season in May. Enrollment is open. Tuition is \$65 per month with the recital costume included with tuition. Register online at www.dancinglittlestarsbrevard.com

ESPORTS CLUB - Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. LEARN, PLAY, HAVE FUN! \$10 (one year membership), Please call 321-603-2118 Ext. 42118 for more information.

GENTLE YOGA WITH DIANE - Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Relax, rejuvenate and enjoy yoga that meets you where you are! Appropriate for beginners, all body types with alternatives offered to accommodate physical conditions. All that is needed is a yoga mat and water bottle. We recommend not eating two hours prior, but a small fruit snack is okay. Price is \$7 per class. Visit www.psjyoga.com for further information.

ABOUT HOME SCHOOL CLASS P.E.

Fridays 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. This is a great opportunity for exercise and socialize in a fun nature. Price is \$2 per class. Call 321-603-2118 for more information.

START SMART SPORTS - Fridays 3 – 4 p.m. Instructional program for children ages 3-5 years of age to develop basic skills such as throwing, catching, kicking and batting. Price is \$30 per child/registration cost. Child must be age 3-5 on the first day of class. Parents must be present during the class.

Please call 321-603-2118 for more information.

Holiday Parade Registration

The PSJ Christmas Parade will take place on December 20th at 11 a.m. in Port St. John. The theme of this year's parade will be "A Winter Wonderland." The entry fee is \$30 for any entry which advertises a business. Non-profit community support groups and public schools are \$15.

Visit portstjohncommunityfoundation.com/ChristmasParade/ for information and to enter the parade! Please enter early.

For more information call Jeremy Higginbotham, 321-576-2818, or email parade@portstjohncommunityfoundation.com.

Brevard County Parks and Recreation is now taking registrations for the Merritt Island and Cocoa/Rockledge Holiday Parades. This year the theme for the parades is 'Rockin' Around the Holidays'. Mindy from 'Mindy and Company' on Lite Rock 99.3, an iHeartMedia station, will emcee the parades.

The Merritt Island Holiday Parade will be held Saturday, December 6, with step-off at 10:00 a.m. The parade will travel from Grove Boulevard at Merritt Island High School, south on Courtenay Parkway (SR-3) to Edgewood Junior/Senior High School on Merritt Avenue.

The Cocoa/Rockledge Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, December 13, with step-off at 10:00 a.m. The parade will travel north on Florida Avenue at Rockledge High School to Brevard Avenue and conclude at Lee Wenner Park.

For additional information about the Merritt Island or Cocoa/Rockledge parades, please call the Central Area Parks Operations office at 321-633-1874 or email Delinda Griffis at delinda.griffis@brevardfl.gov. Registration also available online at <https://registration.brevardfl.gov>.

Amvets Post 2415 Schedule



12-3 Sons of Amvets 2415

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

12-10 General Membership

Meeting- 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

12-11 Amvets 2415 Ladies Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. President Theresa Nikki Anderson, 321-208-7897.

12-13 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415 General Membership Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the month at 12 noon. Pres. Steve Carman, 321-446-3394.

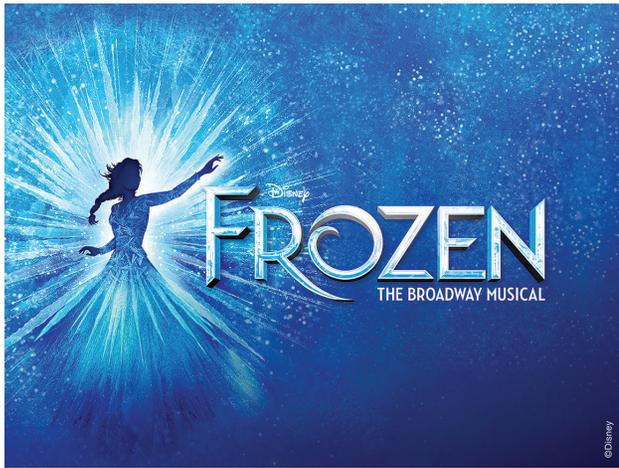
12-13 Bike Night! 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Post.

Karaoke every Friday, 6-10 p.m.

Bingo - members - Sundays 1-?

Bingo - Public Welcome - 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Post 2415 is located at 688 West Ave., (adjacent to Hwy. US 1), Port St. John. If you are a veteran and would like to visit the Post or would like more information about Amvets, contact Commander Larry Lonneville at 321-208-7897.



FROZEN, the Musical

Rated G

Still Showing Now - December 21, 2025

Fall under the spell of Disney's worldwide phenomenon at Disney's FROZEN! For the first time in forever, experience the awe-inspiring journey of sisterhood and love that has captivated audiences around the globe. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated film, this stage adaptation features all the beloved songs by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus brand-new music just for the stage! Join Princess Anna as she bravely ventures into the beautiful, yet icy realm of Arendelle to find her estranged sister, Elsa, who has inadvertently unleashed a magical winter! With the help of the rugged ice harvester Kristoff, his trusty reindeer Sven, and the charming snowman Olaf, Anna embarks on an unforgettable adventure filled with humor, heart and magic. Don't miss your chance to witness this powerful tale of sisterhood, acceptance and discovering the true meaning of love – it's a must-see for all ages!

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. Balcony seats are only accessed by walking up a flight of stairs. There is no elevator.



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

“Whazzup” at FUMCPSJ:

4th Annual Light Up PSJ

Friday, December 5 starts at 6:00 p.m.

- * School choirs
- * Food trucks and concessions
- * Face painting and balloon creations
- * Crafts for kids
- * Santa
- * Tree lighting

Christmas Movie Night

Saturday, Dec. 13,
5:00-8:00 p.m.

- * All ages welcome
- * Popcorn, hot dogs, hot chocolate
- * Wear your favorite pj's and bring your favorite blanket!

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Port St. John
1165 Fay Blvd. Phone: 321-631-0183



Happy Holidays to everyone from all of us at HAPPENINGS!



HOLIDAYS IN SPACE 2025

Like You've Never Seen It Before

See the sky sparkle this year during Holidays in Space! An all-new nightly drone show takes you on a journey beyond our orbit and through NASA's greatest programs, from Apollo and Shuttle to Artemis. Take a look and see what else is new and upcoming for the most wonderful time of the year at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

Get more information to plan or book your visit at www.kennedyspacecenter.com/landing-pages/holidays-in-space/.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
5135 N Highway 1, Cocoa, FL · (321) 632-6333

Christmas Tree Sales

Friday, November 28th—Tuesday, December 23rd

Mon—Fri
3pm—7pm



Saturday
9am—7pm

Sunday
12pm—6pm

ALL proceeds go to: KofC Charities which include:

Habitat for Humanity, Brevard County Special Olympics, Food for Families, VA “Home at Last” project, and Educational Scholarship Programs

Good Day!

~ by Maureen Rupe

Hidden Seduction of Dark Money:

I went to a League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Panel Discussion on “The Hidden Seduction of Dark Money.” It was an interesting discussion on the United decision and the explosion of Political Action Committees (PACs) who fund each other so you can’t trace who is really donating to any particular election. The speakers and their websites:

Ben Wilcox, Research Director of ‘Integrity Florida; <https://www.integrityflorida.org/>

Amy Keith, Executive Director for Common Cause Florida: <https://www.commoncause.org/florida/>

Alan Ross, Chairman of “We the People of Brevard” and South Beaches America First Conservative Coalition: <https://ultramegapatriots.com/blog/we-the-people-of-brevard/>

It concentrated on the Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizen’s United decision which allowed corporations, unions and political nonprofits to spend unlimited amounts of money to advocate for or against political candidates. The decision gives rise to unlimited difficult-to-trace “dark money” in politics and helped supercharge political vehicles such as super PACs. A national poll found that the majority of American’s are against the decision. The vast majority of Americans, no matter their partisan ID, say unlimited political spending weakens democracy and wealthy donors have too much power in elections.

Reference:

www.opensecrets.org/news/2025/10/most-americans-see-unlimited-election-spending-as-a-threat-to-democracy-poll/?emci=72e1a632-efb4-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&emdi=b2ff451a-a1b5-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&ceid=14500070

Blue Origin's Big Plans:

Blue Origin is adding a new rocket refurbishment facility and a payload processing facility at the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. Blue Origin has nearly 4,000 employees in Florida and invested over \$2.3 billion in partnerships with hundreds of local suppliers. This effort will help Blue Origin expand its overall launch capacity, with up to 16 launches per year expected from the new facility alone.

Reference:

<https://mailchi.mp/62f83747903c/spacereport-16536869?e=fe07b1cd51>

From Nov 10th SPACerePORT:

Russian Spaceport Fails to Pay Bills; Electric Company Turns the Lights Off

One of Russia’s most important projects has been the construction of the Vostochny Spaceport for Russia to fly rockets from their native soil. When construction started in 2011, the project had hunger strikes, claims of unpaid workers and the theft of \$126 million. Additionally, a man was arrested for embezzling \$75,000.

They had some progress, but there was the non-payment of sizable electric bills by the primary contractor building the spaceport, the Kazan Open Stock Company (PSO Kazan). Apparently the electric company cut off electricity supplies to the areas still under construction after Kazan racked up \$627,000 in unpaid energy charges.

Reference: <https://mailchi.mp/940279c0293a/spacereport-16536993?e=fe07b1cd51>

FPL Rate Deal has Strong Opposition from Florida Public Council:

A settlement proposal on Florida Power & Light’s ongoing rate increase case has strong opposition from the state’s public counsel, saying the agreement gives excessive shareholder profits and soaring electric bills for Floridians. The proposal follows FPL’s initial request to raise base rates close to ten billion dollars over four years, giving the company the largest rate hike in U.S. utility history.

The settlement reduces 10 billion to about seven billion dollars, but gives a shareholder return of 10.95%, which would still be the highest among major utilities in the United States, according to public council.

Reference:

<https://thebeatflorida.iheart.com/featured/florida-news/content/2025-11-10-florida-coBmer-advocate-challenges-fpl-rate-deal-as-unfair-to-residents/>

Happy Holidays to all our readers:

As we go towards a New Year, I sincerely wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Peaceful and Happy New Year!

Cheerio,

~ Maureen Rupe

rupe32927@gmail.com

Efficient Holiday Cooking



When hosting holiday festivities, energy conservation might not be the first thing on your mind. Yet, kitchen appliances can account for up to 20% of the average household's energy use. Here are five wallet-friendly, energy-saving tips this holiday season.

Be prepared: Thaw food overnight in the refrigerator and prepare it **before** heating your oven or stove. Usually, you only need 5 – 8 minutes to preheat your oven. This can reduce the time your appliance is on and in use.

Slow cooker magic: Opt for recipes you can prepare in the slow cooker. It uses less energy and delivers flavorful results.

No-bake delights: Eliminate the need for appliances (and energy!) while satisfying sweet cravings by choosing no-bake desserts like chilled cheesecakes and elegant fruit parfaits.

LED ambiance: Set the mood with energy-efficient LED candles and string lights. These charming alternatives create a cozy atmosphere and consume less energy than traditional lighting.

Don't peek: Avoid opening the oven door while cooking. Each time you open the door, heat escapes and warms your home, requiring more energy to return to the desired temperature for the oven and the AC. Instead, use the oven light to monitor your dishes and remember to turn it off after you look.



Car Shows In PSJ

First Baptist Church of PSJ, 3900 Fay Blvd., 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.

Food For Thought

Oranges: A Bright Addition to Your Holiday Table

With citrus season in full swing, oranges are at their sweetest, juiciest peak, just in time to brighten up our holiday cooking and baking. Packed with vitamin C, fiber and antioxidants, oranges offer a refreshing dose of nutrition during a season when heavier foods like creamy casseroles and sugary, yet delicious, pies often take the spotlight.

What I didn't know until recently and what many people are surprised to learn is that most of the oranges grown right here in Florida don't often make it onto our grocery store shelves. The majority of Florida's oranges are grown for juicing, not for selling as whole fruit. So, despite living in a state famous for citrus and whose state flower is literally the orange blossom, the oranges we casually toss into our shopping carts often come from places like California, where the fruit tends to have a thicker peel, a prettier appearance, and ships more easily. Apparently, even oranges have a glow-up when they're from California.

If you're hoping to experience a true locally grown Florida orange this season, one of your best bets is Produce Place of Suntree, a neat market known for carrying fresh, local produce. Purchasing produce from there is a great way to support local growers and offers a fun opportunity for families to taste the difference between locally grown and commercially distributed oranges. Try picking up a Florida-grown orange and comparing it with a supermarket orange. Notice the differences between size, color and sweetness.

In the kitchen, oranges are an easy way to add brightness and depth to holiday dishes. Go crazy. Try zesting an orange into cookie dough or muffin batter for a burst of citrus warmth. Add fresh slices to salads for color or squeeze the juice into homemade glazes for chicken, ham or roasted vegetables. Orange segments dipped in chocolate can make a festive, healthier dessert option. Let oranges do more than sit in a fruit bowl. Enjoy their flavor while reaping the health benefits. Toss them into your holiday dishes, zest them into something delicious or track down a Florida-grown one and taste the difference yourself.

Amanda Mahaleris, MS, RDN, LDN
Indian River Nutrition Services
dietitian@irnutrition.com



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..

HOLIDAY HOURS: Tuesday, December 23rd 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th CLOSED, Wednesday, December 31st 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

YOUTH SERVICES

Family Movie Night - Grab your free popcorn and join us every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for a fun-filled Family Movie Night! This event is perfect for families with kids and features G or PG-rated movies. Be sure to check with the Youth Services Desk to find out which film we'll be showing.

Kids ' D&D Adventures - Join us every Sunday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. for an exciting hour of Dungeons & Dragons! This event is ideal for children aged 8 to 12. Let your child explore the world of imagination, teamwork, and storytelling in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Read Your Way to K: Little Movers and Groovers - Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.. This fun and energetic event is designed for toddlers ages five and younger. Little ones will enjoy dancing and playing with props like scarves, parachutes, rhythm sticks, egg shakers, and more. Parent or adult supervision is required at all times; no class on 12/25.

Game Day - Every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Join us for an afternoon of board, tabletop, and card games in the main library area. All ages are welcome to this family-friendly event.

Plushie Sleepover - Join us on Monday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m. for a special event! Wear your pajamas, enjoy some cocoa and share popcorn with your favorite plushie at the library. We will be watching "The Polar Express." Leave your plushie at the library for a night filled with fun activities! You can pick it up the following day, along with a photo capturing all the exciting things your plushie did while it was here.

Santa at the Library - Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Come take a photo of your family with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The event will also feature a free raffle for presents

for children ages 1-16, Christmas crafts, free Christmas-themed book giveaway, games and activities for the whole family, live music with carolers, Christmas treat & beverage and more. We will also have a table where we will be gathering non-perishable food donations for the FBC of PSJ Food Pantry.

Read Your Way to K: Toddlers - Parents and children are encouraged to participate together for a fun, enriching family experience! Enjoy silly songs, rhythm sticks, circle-time rhymes, stories read by a librarian and a simple craft. Toddler Story Time is held at the Port St. John Public Library every Thursday and Friday from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. for children aged 3-5. Adult supervision is required at all times. No class on 12/25.

Read Your Way to K: Playdate - Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Join us in the Children's Department for a fun-filled playdate designed for children ages five and under! As part of our Read Your Way to K series, this drop-in event features toys, tents, tunnels, blocks and coloring activities for babies and toddlers. Parent or adult supervision is required at all times. No class on 12/25.

Read Your Way to K: Babies - A special lap-time for babies and their grown-ups! Join us for short stories, nursery rhymes and songs that introduce language, rhythm and new concepts; plus, a chance to meet new friends. Baby Story Time is every Friday from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room. For ages 0-3. Adult supervision is required.

ADULT EVENTS

Paint Party - with the Port St. John Library. Saturday, December 13th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Join us for a paint party every first Saturday of the month. During this class you will create custom wooden door hangers. Adults and teens ages 16+. \$40/per person. Payment is due at sign up. Deadline to register at the Reference Desk by Wednesday December 10th.

Community Advocate - December 8 & 22 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.. The community support advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance and senior resources.

Adult D&D - Come build a character and play a campaign! Wednesday, December 10th, 6:00 p.m..



**St. Patrick's
Anglican Church**
stpatrickspsj.org

6th Annual **COOKIE WALK**

Saturday, December 13

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Homemade cookies, vendors, gifts & holiday cheer!

Celebrate Christmas With Us

Christmas Eve – December 24

6:00 PM – Family Service

11:00 PM – Lessons & Carols

11:30 PM – Midnight Christmas Mass

Christmas Day – December 25

10:00 AM – Christmas Day Service



St. Patrick's Anglican Church

4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John

321-802-1311

Classical Christians engaging the word

December settles gently over St. Patrick's, and with it comes the quiet joy of Advent. As we prepare for the birth of Christ—God stepping close, bringing light and hope—we also celebrate joining the Anglican Catholic Church, a home that feels both familiar and welcoming.

The month opens with compassion on December 4th, when the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group meets from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Stories, encouragement and shared strength fill the Church Library.

On Friday, December 5th, First Friday Family Fun Night will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., featuring an intergenerational game designed to bring all ages together. For details, see our website.

The parish hall comes alive again on December 13th from 9:00 a.m. to noon for the 6th Annual Cookie Walk & Vendor Fair—tables of homemade treats, handcrafted gifts and the scent of Christmas everywhere.

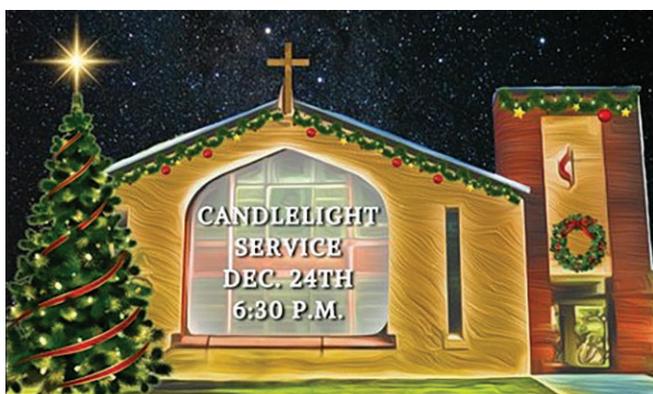
As Christmas approaches, our worship services draw us deeper into the heart of the season: the 6:00 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve, followed by Lessons & Carols at 11:00 p.m. and Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m. Christmas Day brings the stillness and beauty of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Before the month draws to a close, we gather for the Veterans & First Responders Breakfast on December 27th at 9:00 a.m. to express our gratitude over a shared meal.

Please note: the Ladies Fellowship & Craft Group will take a break in December and resume in the new year.

Our regular scheduled services are Sunday Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m. (no music) and 10:00 a.m. (with music), and Wednesday Evening Holy Communion, preceded by a short Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, we have Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m. on Facebook Live only.

This year instead of worrying about what's under the tree, be grateful for who's still here to be around it.



Celebrate with us this Christmas Eve!

First United Methodist Church

Titusville, FL

Experience the joy and wonder of Christmas at First United Methodist Church of Titusville. Come as you are and be part of a joyful, welcoming family as we celebrate the birth of Christ through traditional hymns, carols, candlelight, and the message of home and love.

YOU'RE INVITED!

December 24th @ 6:30pm

206 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville, FL

www.functitusville.com

Online and In-Person



Santa at the PSJ Library

The Port St. John Library will be hosting 'Santa at the Library' on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Come take a photo of your family with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The event will also feature a free raffle for presents for children ages 1-16, Christmas crafts, free Christmas-themed book giveaway, games and activities for the whole family, live music with carolers, Christmas treats & beverages, and more. We will also have a table where we will be gathering non-perishable food donations for the FBC of PSJ Food Pantry.



This event is geared for families and all ages of children from toddlers to teens. The library staff, as well as volunteers from Friends of the PSJ Library, welcome new and existing patrons to come out and enjoy the morning with us!

For more information, contact Terry Mazeika at 540-580-9514 or friendspsjlibrary@gmail.com.

***Live Simply. Love Generously.
Care deeply. Speak kindly.
Leave the rest to God.***

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.**

12-2 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.

12-3 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.

12-3 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting- 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

12-6 Bike Days at the Tiki, 1:00 - 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.

12-6 St. Nicholas Day

12-11 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.

12-12 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 bwc0020@gmail.com.

12-14 Hanukkah Begins

12-14 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.

12-15 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.

12-17 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.

12-20 PSJ Christmas Parade

12-20 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.

12-21 Winter Begins

12-23 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.

12-25 Merry Christmas

12-26 Kwanzaa Begins

12-29 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



12-6 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.

12-3 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

12-8 Sons of the Legion- 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

12-17 General Membership Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

12-20 SAL Rib Day Ticket sale 1 p.m. Band 1-5 p.m. at the Tiki every 3rd Saturday.

12-21 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.

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

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

NARFE Apollo Chapter 1137 meets monthly on the second Monday of each month. Our meeting place is Kay's BBQ Restaurant, 1552 W. King St., Cocoa. The December meeting will be on the 8th. 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.

Congratulations to:

David Fine turns **21** on the 1st.

Destiney Anthony turns **29** on the 2nd.

Mark Emr turns **35** on the 3rd.

Brayden Bryson turns **17** on the 4th.

Jennifer Giles is more lovely on the 6th.

The editor is more ancient on the 6th.

Ashley Neal turns **29** on the 6th.

Cherie Brown (Hardin) turns cuter on the 7th.

John Hansen turns **71** on the 9th.

Debbi Davis has a party day on the 10th.

Steve Velligan is THE MAN on the 12th.

Cary Troxel parties wild on the 12th.

Betty Couch turns more lovely on the 13th.

Jackie Jordan is the Queen on the 13th.

Kiera Ward turns **20** on the 13th!

Kathy Ridgely parties all night on the 15th.

Billy Treadway, Sr. turns cooler on the 18th.

Brianna Hardin turns **25** on the 18th.

Candace Sanchez rules the world on the 19th!

Teresa Miller turns hotter on the 20th.

Tommy Mattox turns **17** on the 20th.

Cody Hardin turns **30** on the 20th.

Jaxson Bryson turns **7** on the 20th.

Gary Flinchum turns **69** on the 20th.

Winter Erff turns **11** on the 23rd.

Ryan Erff turns **29** on the 23rd.

Deanna Wiedman gets spanked on the 26th.

Monika Williams turns **19** on the 28th.

Nathan Travis turns **19** on the 28th.

Paul Mann turns buffer on the 28th.

Bob & Lossi Lacoste celebrate their **57th** on the 7th!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Good Kwanzaa... Have a joyful holiday season!

Have an event or birthday to share?

Email to happenings1@att.net.

Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick



Holidays and Gullibility

Ready or not, the holidays are rushing at us once again. This is a terrible time for those of us who have lost loved ones or are in that process. A new book written by a loss survivor, 'Loosing Michele,' is the most helpful I have seen in a long time. If you or someone you know is facing loss, please know you're not alone and prayers are being sent.

I can't help but take a side trip down Memory Lane with each name on my Christmas list, and with my large family, that's a long journey. It would be so much easier if they all shared one personality, or at least all of the same age group BE the same. Picking up four remote control trucks and three baby dolls was quick and easy. But, nooooo... Each of my family members are totally their own people and we react to each other very differently.

The littler ones are the easiest... kinda'. I think the parents of the two newest little princesses may soon prefer Grammy stop buying adorable little dresses before they have a chance to (not gonna happen). The only two-year-old lady is so precious she loves anything. One almost four-year-old great grandson is quiet and laid back. Another almost four-year-old great grandson is a tornado. The four-year-old great-great grandson is a snuggly lover and the five-year-old great grandson is two tornados. I totally adore each of them, but am totally glad each of them have their own set of parents. I have reached the pinnacle of matriarchness; loving, spoiling, advising (whether asked or not) and returning said children to parents. Sooo... trucks, baby dolls and anything Taylor Swift it is!

Relationships with the little darlings' very individual parents is also loving and so much fun... for me.

My own offspring have learned to just offer rolled eyes, incredulous looks, comments like, "She needs to be closely watched," and "Go Mom!" Depending on the child. Conversations with my grown grandchildren can be much more fun. I love "Check on Gramma phone calls," especially when one speaks with me and immediately calls for help.

Last week for example: The first one who called was while I was enjoying my balcony and the latest Fannie Flagg book. She asked what the noise was. When I told her landscapers, she said it was to cool for me to be on the balcony. I told her I was enjoying the fresh air, but she said I should take my book inside, make a cup of tea and settle on the couch. Her sister immediately calls and when she asks about the noise I repeated the fresh air statement. In HER reply, she mentioned how well she knows me and I need to go inside and stop ogling the lawn man. Sometimes closeness begets truth. I guess it's not really a surprise that the male members of my grandkid clan mostly leave the 'Checking on Gramma' calls to the ladies.

I think each person in our lives is put with us for a reason. I am so blessed to have my DNA run through so many special veins, that we are so close that picking up a phone or knocking on a door unexpectedly is the norm.

I am also so blessed to have a few grandkids who are still gullible...

The Road Next: Preparing for the Future

The United Women of Faith invite the community to attend "The Road Next," a free, educational presentation by the Estate Planning and Elder Law Center of Brevard, held at First United Methodist Church of Port St. John, 1165 Fay Blvd. on Friday, January 9, 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This informative evening will help participants better understand essential topics in estate planning and elder law — including the differences between a Will, Trust, Lady Bird Deed, Power of Attorney, Health Care Surrogate, and Court-Appointed Guardian. Attendees will gain valuable insights into how proper planning can help avoid costly and time-consuming probate issues.

This event is strictly educational — no products or services will be sold. The purpose is simple:

to empower individuals and families with the knowledge they need before it's too late. Too many discover the importance of these legal tools only after a crisis. This session aims to help prevent that.

Bring your paper and pen, take notes, and come prepared to ask questions. Whether you're planning for yourself, your parents, or future generations, this is an evening you don't want to miss. For more information, call 321-631-0183 or visit fumcpsj.com.

Parrish Healthcare Open Interviews

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

- Registered Nurses (RN)
 - Emergency Department, Med/Surg, PACU and Perioperative Services
 - Clinical Coordinators
 - Charge Nurses
 - CVIS Nurses
- Technologists
 - CT/MRI
 - Radiology
- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Certified Medical Assistants
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (CVIS)
- Paramedics
- EMTs
- Coders
- Clinical Systems Trainer
- Care Coordination Navigator
- Pharmacists
- Pathologists

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

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SLEEPY HOLLOW



Fruit From The Groves



THERE WILL BE A MEETING FOR CANAVERAL GROVES HOMEOWNERS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH AT 7:00 P.M. IT WILL BE

LOCATED AT BREVARD COMMUNITY CHURCH ON GRISSOM PARKWAY. THIS WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING; IT WILL INCLUDE THE ELECTION OF OFFICES AND PLANNING FOR THE 2026 YEAR.

Please make sure that your smoke detectors have new batteries because this time of year is high risk with the holiday season. Remember we are now in the dry season, so it is much easier for outdoor fires to start so please be careful with all outdoor fires including cooking and holiday fires.

The Brevard County Sherriff's Office has been busy out here with trying to control traffic, however some people don't respect the area and continue to break the traffic laws.

There are still a lot of pets out here running at large and they need to be contained. The weather is getting colder so please make sure your animals have a warm and safe environment.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Ed Silva

Canaveral Groves Homeowners Inc.

Shopping Safely On Amazon

As the busy shopping season approaches, stay informed with these tips to help recognize impersonation scams - when a scammer pretends to be a trusted company and reaches out to try to get access to sensitive information like personal or financial information, or Amazon account details.

Tips to help stay safe:

- Always use the Amazon mobile app or website for all your shopping needs, including customer service, account changes, delivery tracking and refund status.

- Amazon will never ask you to make payments

or to provide payment information, (including gift cards or wire transfers), for products or services over the phone.

- Consider setting up 2-step verification when available to your online accounts to help prevent unauthorized account access. You can set up 2-step verification at amazon.com/2SV.

- Save time and stay secure using a passkey. It's a safer way to sign in than using passwords and it works with the same face, fingerprint, or PIN you already use to unlock your device. Set up a passkey at amazon.com/passkey.

- Scammers might try to create a sense of urgency to persuade you to do what they're asking. Be careful any time someone tries to convince you that you must act now.

Example impersonation scam tactics that you could receive:

- Fake messages claiming to be about delivery or account issues.

- Third-party social media posts and ads with deals that seem too good to be true. Shop directly on our website or mobile app for authentic offers.

- Messages through unofficial channels asking for your password or payment information.

- Unfamiliar links asking you to verify your account credentials through fake or phishing websites. Amazon will never send emails asking customers to verify their account credentials.

- Unsolicited phone calls claiming to be from

tech support or other agencies.

Visit amazon.com/scams to learn how to identify and report scams, access resources for scam prevention and understand Amazon's efforts to protect customers from fraudulent activities.

'Tis The Season To Shop Safely

Stay Safe from Cyber Criminals this Holiday Season. 'Tis the season of laughter, joy...and cyber scams. According to Cybersecurity Ventures, global losses from cybercrime in 2025 are forecasted to cost the world \$10.5 trillion USD.

With the rise of e-commerce retailers, quick shipping turnaround and digital banking, consumers are utilizing the web to complete their holiday checklist now more than ever. Unfortunately, with the rise of online shopping also comes the rise of new and inventive scams to steal money from unsuspecting consumers.

Launch Credit Union provides these tips to protect your personal finances and help you to remain unaffected by these scams. Stay safe from cyber criminals this holiday season with these five tips:

- Only download certified apps
- Shop on trusted retail websites
- Be wary of shipment notifications
- Monitor your bank account consistently
- Always verify information

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 238143, Cocoa, FL 32923



Name _____

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E-mail _____

Phone _____

Won't you join us?

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

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 Center team at 321-268-6408

Cancer and Survivor Support Group

Meets the third Wednesday monthly, 4-5:30 PM

Parrish Healthcare Center, North Titusville, Conference Room
490 North Washington Avenue, Titusville

Contact Shannon Luker at 321-268-6111, ext. 3544

Caring for Caregivers Support Group

*Meets the second Thursday (only in December),
9:30-11:30 AM*

Heritage Hall, 931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville

Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Early Steps Community Play Date

Not meeting in December

The Children's Center
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville

Contact Mary Cancel at 321-292-1370

Fearless Café

Presented by St. Francis Reflections Life Stages Care
and Parrish Healthcare

Meets the first Wednesday monthly, 10-11 AM

Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville

Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Mom's Support Group

*Meeting the first three Mondays (only in December),
10-11 AM*

The Children's Center
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville

Contact Melinda at melinda.hodges@parrishmed.com

Parkinson's Support Group

Meets the second Tuesday monthly, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Parrish Health & Wellness Center
3065 Columbia Boulevard, C-104, Titusville

*Contact Barbara Fradkin 321-345-1031 or
BrevardParkinsons.org
parrishhealthcare.com/parkinsonsupport*

Stroke and Heart Survivors Support Group

Meets the third Tuesday monthly, 2-4 PM

Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville

Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Tools to Quit Smoking Now

Meets the third Tuesday (only in December), 5:30-7:30 PM

Parrish Medical Center, Conference Room 6
951 North Washington Avenue, Titusville

*Facilitated by Jennifer Wolowitz, Tobacco Free Florida
407-889-2292, ext. 102*



*Visit parrishhealthcare.com/events
for information and to register*



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Parrish Healthcare Invites Community to Annual Gift of Light Celebration — A Beloved Holiday Tradition for Families

Parrish Healthcare and the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation invite the community to their annual Gift of Light community celebration, presented by Josh and Laura Norris. The event will take place on Thursday, December 4, from 5–7:30 p.m. at Parrish Medical Center located at 951 North Washington Avenue in Titusville.

This free, family-friendly event has grown from a simple tree lighting more than 30 years ago into one of North Brevard's most cherished holiday traditions, attracting thousands of attendees each year.

Holiday magic fills the air with the lighting of Parrish Healthcare's spectacular Christmas tree, followed by a breathtaking fireworks display sponsored by Injury Centers of Brevard. This annual event marks the joyful beginning of the holiday season.

Guests can enjoy an evening full of live entertainment, including festive stilt walkers and performances by Astronaut High School Jazz Band, Courageous Kicks Taekwondo, Jackson Middle School Choir, Keegan Performance Center Dance Studio, Titusville High School Orchestra and the Titusville Playhouse. The evening's master of ceremonies will be Steven Heron, Artistic and Creative Executive Director of the Titusville Playhouse.

Children and families will also have an opportunity to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus for a photo and to share their Christmas wishes, warm up with complimentary hot chocolate, explore Santa's Workshops with free crafts, a cookie decorating station, face painting, balloon art and more! The park will glow with market lighting and decorated tents, creating a magical winter wonderland. Food will also be available for purchase beginning at 4:30 p.m. from six local food trucks.

This event is made possible through the generous support of community partners, including Josh and Laura Norris, Dr. Nick and Jennifer Trastelis of Injury Centers of Brevard, Judy Housel of Deveraux Advanced Behavior Health, St. Francis of Hospice, Florida Healthcare Plans, Graphic Press Printing Services, Chris and Kelley Broome of Broome Law Firm and Coastal



The Gift of Light Christmas Tree against a cool evening sky.

Health System, among others.

Parrish Healthcare and the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation also thank the City of Titusville, Titusville Police Department and Titusville Fire Department for their continued presence and support of this annual event.

To honor a loved one by placing a light on the grand Christmas tree, please contact the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation by calling 321-269-4066 or visit their website at parrishmedfoundation.com/donate.

Parrish Healthcare also encourages attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to the event to support the North Brevard Food Pantry. The first 200 attendees who bring a non-perishable food item to the North Brevard Charities tent, located in the park at Gift of Light, will receive a festive holiday gift.

Come celebrate the season with family, friends and neighbors in our North Brevard community as we light up the night with joy, community and holiday cheer!

For additional information on Gift of Light, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/giftoflight or contact the event organizers by email at communications@parrishmed.com.

Pet Photos with Santa!

Bring your pet and children, too, and join Rescue Rebels by Cash 4 Canines, Inc., an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, for Photos with Santa! Sponsored by Tails at the Barkery, this event will help raise much needed funds for the animals Rescue Rebels rescues on Sunday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Myrt Tharpe Square (Gazebo), Cocoa Village. Their mission is to provide a better life and second chance for companion animals. Dedicated and devoted to saving dogs that are left abandoned in shelters, surrendered by their owners, and those that are abused and neglected, Rescue Rebels rescues them, gives them the care they need, and finds them loving forever homes.

For a \$10.00 donation, receive a goody bag and a framed 4x6 color photo with Santa. Photo Sign-In ends at 2:15 p.m. All pets must be on a leash, or in appropriate carriers, and have current vaccinations and county tags for the safety of our animals and friends.

For more information, contact Tails at the Barkery, 321-305-4584 or www.TailsAtTheBarkery.com, or Rescue Rebels, www.rescuerebels.org.

Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - December 10th - 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. Across from the Fire House is the club house with the EAA logo on the end of the building.

For more information, call 321-514-9456, email watersdwayne@yahoo.com, or visit the website at www.eaa724.org.

Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Business Directory

Important Phone Numbers

County Commissioner -	321-607-6901
Sheriff: Non-Emergency -	321-633-7162
Fire Station 26 (Port St. John)	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
Parrish Healthcare Center	
Port St. John -	321-268-6868
Titusville -	321-268-6111
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

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Monthly Tax Update

Finally, December is here and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This month I bring an IRS update for qualified tip deduction. The One, Big, Beautiful Bill proposed regulations to identify occupations that customarily and regularly receive tips and define "qualified tips" that eligible taxpayers may claim as a deduction.

First, the IRS includes a group of occupations divided into eight categories. Here are the following groups of occupations by category: Beverage and food service, entertainment and events (including gambling dealers), hospitality and guest services, home services, personal services, personal appearance and wellness (including barbers, hairstylists, manicurists and others), recreation and instruction, and transportation & delivery. Employees with a W-2 and self-employed individuals with a 1099-NEC who receive qualified tips must both be in an occupation on the list and receive qualified tips.

The proposed regulations provide a definition of qualified and not qualified tips which includes the following factors:

- Qualified tips must be paid in cash or an equivalent medium, such as check, credit card, debit card, gift card, tangible or intangible tokens that are readily exchangeable for a fixed amount in cash, or another form of electronic settlement or mobile payment application (excluding most digital assets) denominated in cash.

- Also, tips must be received from customers or, in the case of an employee, through a mandatory or voluntary tip-sharing arrangement, such as a tip pool.

- Tips must be paid voluntarily by the customer and not be subject to negotiation.

- Qualified tips do not include some service charges. For example, some restaurants impose an automatic 18% service charge for large parties and distribute that amount to servers, bussers and kitchen staff. If the charge is added without an option for the customer to disregard or modify it, the amounts distributed to the workers from it are not considered qualified tips.

Nevertheless, any amount received for illegal activity, prostitution services or pornographic activity is not a qualified tip.

Now, an update for people and businesses that

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process credit card payments with their clients will receive the Form 1099-K. The One, Big, Beautiful Bill retroactively reinstates the reporting threshold on Form 1099-K. For example, a seller on Amazon or eBay with a gross amount of reportable payment transactions to a payee that exceeds \$20,000, and the number of transactions exceeds 200.

Last, people with retirement accounts need to contact their financial institutions and withdraw their Required Minimum Distributions from their traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA and retirement plan accounts by December 31, 2025, and by April 2026 if they reach age 73 in 2025.

More good business 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.

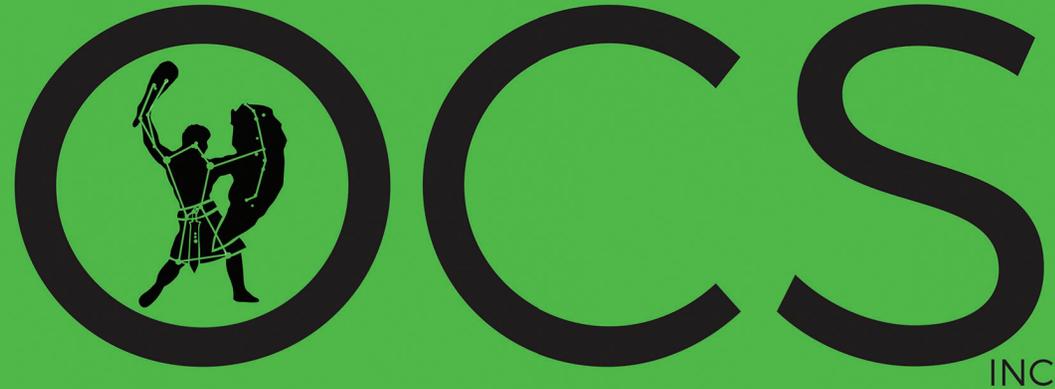
For details and specific assistance in applying the general information in this article, call us at your earliest convenience or contact your tax advisor. Provided by Pedro L. Baldeon, E.A., (321) 632-5726, a member of the National Society of Tax Professionals.

Holiday Craft Fair & Food Truck Event

Join us for the 12th Annual Holiday Craft Fair & Food Truck event on Saturday, December 13, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Edgewood JSHS in Merritt Island! There will be holiday crafts and decor, unique gifts, handmade jewelry, beachy decor, quilted items, handcrafted soaps, fused glass, Tupperware, Park Lane Jewelry, Scentsy, Color Street and much, much more! You can also enjoy some delicious food at one of the Food

Trucks! Proceeds support Edgewood Project Graduation 2026! For more details, check out our event on Facebook! www.facebook.com/share/17HSddSN4a/

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BATTLING THE MYTHS OF *Mammography*

It's expensive, it can be painful, and a few other misconceptions we wish to explore.



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BREAST CONDITIONS, EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS?

Shannon Luker, RN, BSN, Parrish Healthcare Oncology Navigator, is here to help.

Contact Shannon at 321-268-6111, ext. 3544.

Myth 1: Insurance won't cover it, or I won't be able to afford the co-pay/deductible.

"Mammography is usually covered under most health plans, including Medicare, once a woman reaches an age determined by the insurer," says Shannon Luker, RN, BSN, Parrish Healthcare Oncology Navigator.

If you have Medicare and are age 65 or older, Medicare pays for most of the cost of a screening mammogram every 12 months.

Myth 2: The test is too painful.

Yes, the test can be a bit uncomfortable, but most women don't consider it painful.

Compression helps hold the breast still, evens out the breast tissue and allows lower doses of X-ray to be used. If you feel pain, speak up. The technologist may be able to lower the compression and relieve some of the pressure on your breast. And remember that any discomfort is brief; the actual X-ray takes less than a minute.

Myth 3: I just don't have time.

From start to finish, the three-dimensional (3D) mammogram offered at Parrish Healthcare takes 30 to 45 minutes.

State of the art technology, such as this, makes it easier for providers to diagnose certain types of breast abnormalities, especially in women with dense breasts. The result? Early detection and better outcomes reduce the number of deaths from breast cancer for women ages 40 to 69, especially those older than 50.

Myth 4: Breast cancer only affects older women.

Breast cancer can occur at any age. Additional factors that may raise your risk include obesity, heavy alcohol consumption and a sedentary lifestyle.



Schedule your mammogram today!
Call 321-268-6150



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