

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition

July 3, 2026

Thunder Over the Indian River

Enjoy an evening including inflatables, music provided by a DJ, demonstrations, food/dessert trucks, raffles and of course, the best fireworks show in Brevard County! Fireworks usually start about 9:15. Weather conditions may cause the fireworks to be a little early or late to avoid rain.

The event will be held on Saturday, July 4th at the OUC Canaveral plant, corner of Kings Hwy. and US1. The gate to the compound is on Kings Hwy., right across from Capron Rd. The gate will open at 4:00 p.m. TOIR staff will be inside to help you park. There will be some spaces designated for handicap parking, but they go quickly. Plan accordingly.

The Annual BBQ Competition has been canceled for lack of participants.

Our vendors are bringing fried chicken, burgers, brisket, wings, fish, shrimp, turkey legs, Italian beef, sausages, Chicago dogs, sourdough baked goods, hotdogs, pulled pork, nachos, walking tacos, snow cones, fresh squeezed lemonade, flavored ice, freeze dried candy, gem mining, stone carvings, a magician, face painting, books, t-shirts, totes, bottled water and Gatorade, and more.

No fireworks or alcohol are allowed on the OUC plant property. You are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on, insect repellent and sun block. It's Florida in July!

Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially Parrish Medical Center, Freedom Air and Plumbing, Higginbotham Financial Services, Inc., Orion Connectivity, Higginbotham-Baldeon Enrolled Agents, Inc. and HAPPENINGS for making our Independence Day celebration possible. To hold our events, PSJ Community Foundation needs volunteers and sponsors to help make these great events. Businesses and residents are invited to join, come to meetings, plan and participate for any or all events. For more information, visit our Facebook site with handle (@psjcf), on Instagram with handle psjstrong, or visit our website: www.portstjohncommunityfoundation.com



Firework Safety Tips from Parrish Medical Center

As America's 250th Independence Day approaches, Parrish Medical Center's Emergency Care team urges families to prioritize safety to avoid medical emergencies.

"Fireworks are a cherished tradition during July 4th celebrations; however, we have seen it time and again how improper use can instantly turn festive celebrations into medical emergencies," said Christopher Rajan, DO, Medical Director of Parrish Medical Center's Emergency Department. "The July 4th firework-related burns, hand injuries and eye trauma that we treat are preventable," said Dr. Rajan. "Even sparklers, the most seemingly benign of fireworks, burn at 2,000 degrees. Visits to the emergency room can almost always be avoided if people approach fireworks with caution," added Dr. Rajan.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says in 2025 fireworks caused 15 deaths and an estimated 13,000 emergency room visits. Emergency responder organizations cite the following Pillars of Fireworks Safety as a guide to prevent serious burns, eye injuries and other painful mishaps:

1. **Leave "Duds" Alone:** Never attempt to relight or pick up a firework that fails to detonate. Wait for at least 20 minutes. Soak it with a garden hose and place it in a bucket of water before disposal.

2. **Protect Your Eyes & Hands:** Never place any part of your body over a firework while lighting it and always wear protective safety glasses.

3. **Even Sparklers are Dangerous:** Sparklers burn at extremely high temperatures ranging from 1,200°F to 2,000°F. Never let young children handle them; safe alternatives are glow sticks or confetti

poppers.

4. **Prepare for Emergencies:** Never mix alcohol with firework handling. Always keep a garden hose or a large bucket of water nearby, and ensure spectators are positioned at a safe distance.

5. **Celebrate Safely:** Leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy public fireworks displays.

If a firework injury occurs, follow these first-aid tips:

• **For Minor Burns:** Run cool (not cold) water over the affected area for 5 to 15 minutes. Do not use ice. Gently clean the wound to remove any dirt and bacteria. Protect the wound by covering it with a

non-stick sterile dressing.

• **For Eye Injuries:** Do not rub, flush or apply pressure to the eye. Cover the eye gently with a clean, loose barrier and seek emergency medical care immediately.

• **When to Call 911:** Dial 911 immediately for severe burns, deep wounds, loss of consciousness or impaired vision.

“Your Parrish Medical Center Emergency Care team wishes everyone a safe 250th Independence Day. We hope you won’t need us, but we’re here, ready, if you do,” said Dr. Rajan.

Parrish Medical Group Welcomes Board-Certified Specialist in Pain Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) and Sports Medicine, Ruben Rivera, MD

Parrish Healthcare and Parrish Medical Group (PMG) are pleased to welcome Ruben Rivera, MD, a board-certified specialist in Pain Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) and Sports Medicine, to our North Brevard community.

With more than a decade of diverse clinical experience, Dr. Rivera specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions, sports-related injuries and pain disorders, utilizing both conservative and interventional approaches designed to restore function, reduce pain and improve overall quality of life.

Dr. Rivera graduated with honors from the University of Guadalajara School of Medicine in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. He completed his physical medicine & rehabilitation residency training at the VA Caribbean Healthcare System in San Juan, Puerto Rico and pursued advanced fellowship training in Sports Medicine at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, New York. Dr. Rivera’s clinical specialties include ultrasound evaluations to identify the source of pain or injury; image-guided injections for pain relief and healing; platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy and other regenerative treatments; minimally invasive procedures for back, neck, joint and nerve pain; advanced spine procedures including nerve blocks and radio frequency ablation; as well as peripheral nerve and spinal cord stimulation for long-term pain management.

Through a personalized approach to care, Dr. Rivera is committed to working closely with his patients to develop treatment plans tailored to their unique needs and goals. His focus is on helping individuals recover from injury, manage chronic pain and achieve improved mobility and overall well-being.

Dr. Rivera joins Parrish Medical Group’s Orthopedic



and Sports Medicine practice at Parrish Healthcare Center in Port St. John, located at 5005 Port St. John Parkway, Suite 2100, Port St. John, FL 32927.

He is currently accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, please call 321-268-6868. For more information about Dr. Rivera, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/rivera.

**The weekly digital edition
of HAPPENINGS is
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Parrish Healthcare**



July Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Please note events may be cancelled due to weather or staffing availability.

Regular Guided Hikes - Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water and closed-toe walking shoes. Please arrive at the education center by 9:15 a.m. Hike Opportunities:

- Sunday, July 5, 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, July 11, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, July 12, 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, July 18 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, July 19, 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, July 25, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, July 26, 9:30 a.m.

Nature Storytime - Wednesday, July 8 from 10-10:30 a.m. and 2-2:30 p.m. LIMITED SPACE. Geared towards ages 5 years and under. Theme: Seashells! Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Classes are first come, first served, with a limit of 20 children per class.

Sea Turtle Talks - Tuesday, July 14 and 21 at 3 p.m. Now that we are officially in sea turtle nesting season, join a ranger from Canaveral National Seashore to talk about the different turtles that call Brevard County beaches their homes.

Sanctuary School - Wednesday, July 15 from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. LIMITED SPACE. Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Seashells! Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Classes are first come, first served, with a limit of 20 children per class.

F.E.F. Ice Cream Social - Sunday, July 19 from 1-3 p.m. The Friends of the Enchanted Forest will be hosting a free ice cream social for old, current and perspective members. All are welcomed to come and meet our current non-profit board members, while enjoying a treat.

Lunch in the Forest - Wednesday, July 22 from 12-1 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy a special presentation by Jessica Yates, a Ph.D. candidate at UCF. She will be talking about invasive species found in Florida. We will enjoy lunch inside the Discovery classroom.

Nature Science Class - Wednesday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Introduce your little ones to the wonders of the natural world with our preK-4th grade Nature School, where each session blends education and exploration. This is a volunteer led program.

Yoga in Nature - Every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Join local yoga instructors for a traditional class for all levels on the porch! Bring water and a mat. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Classes are first come, first served. SPACE LIMITED.



New Firefighting Program Coming to Cocoa High School

On Monday, June 29, Governor Ron DeSantis signed a \$117.6 billion state budget, but also used his line-item veto power to cut projects in Brevard totaling \$9.8 million. Among the survivors, Brevard County will get \$5 million for a new animal shelter and \$640,000 to establish a new Firefighting Program at Cocoa High School. The new program will create a direct career pathway for students to learn a respectable future career. It's also one of Brevard County's - and also many counties all over the country - most critical and in-demand professions for first responders.

The new program will be just the second high school firefighting academy in Brevard County, expanding career and technical education opportunities while helping address workforce shortages among local fire departments and emergency response agencies across the Space Coast.

Funding will support the construction of specialized training space and the purchase of equipment necessary to launch the program. Students enrolled in the program will gain hands-on experience, industry-relevant training and opportunities to earn certifications that prepare them for careers in firefighting and emergency services after graduation.

The new firefighting program reflects Brevard Public Schools' ongoing commitment to expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities that connect classroom instruction with real-world career pathways. District leaders anticipate the academy will not only serve Cocoa High students but also attract students from across Brevard County who are interested in pursuing careers in public safety.

The Cocoa High School Firefighting Program is expected to begin following the completion of facility enhancements and equipment acquisition made possible through the state funding.



Port St. John Library Events

The PSL Library is closed July 3 and 4.

Bring the family and friends to the Port St. John Library at 6500 Carole Ave.

Beginners' Chess: Saturday, July 4, 10:00–11:00 a.m. A program for kids ages 6–12 to learn the basics of chess in a no-pressure environment. Adult supervision required.

Coffee-Ground Dinosaur Egg Activity: July 6, 10:00 a.m. Ages 3 and up.

Fossil Talk with Mr. Celli: July 8, 3:00 p.m. Ages 6-12.

Garden Program: July 9 & 16, 2 p.m. Week one Thursday, July 9. Create your own air dry clay garden accessories. Week two Thursday, June 16. Bring in your creations to paint and decorate. This is a family event ages 6 and up adult supervision required.

Game Day: Sundays, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Board, tabletop and card games in the main library area. All ages welcome. Adult supervision required at all times.

Kids' D&D: Sundays, 3:00 & 3:30 p.m. A staff-led, tabletop role-playing adventure where players create characters, roll dice and collaboratively tell a fantasy story for children ages 8–13. Space is limited; kids will be split into parties of five for 30-minute sessions. Adult supervision required at all times.

Brick Builders: Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. A free building session play event for ages 6-12, featuring building bricks and blocks. Adult supervision required.

Read Your Way to K:

Little Laptime: Tuesdays, 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.

No class on 7/3.

Toddler Story Time: Thursdays & Fridays, 10:30–11:00 a.m. For children ages 3–5. Adult supervision required. **No class on 7/3.**

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.**

Summer Feed and Read: Fridays, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Stop by the library to pick up a free, nutritious meal pack and a book! These resources are available to local youth every Friday at the Youth Services Desk. **No pickup on 7/3.**

Yarn Group: Fridays, 1 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 and ages are welcome. They donate projects and meet every Friday at the PSJ Public Library from 1 p.m.

Family Movie Mondays: Enjoy FREE popcorn and a movie sponsored by Friends of the Port St. John Library every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This event features G or PG-rated movies:

- 7/6 Toy Story (1995)
- 7/13 Beauty and the Beast (1991)
- 7/20 The Lion King (1994)
- 7/27 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)

Adult supervision is required.

Adults are also welcome to stay and enjoy some popcorn and a fun, family oriented movie. Wear something comfortable and be prepared to relax!

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, PACU and Perioperative Services
- Charge Nurses
- Cardiac-Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Rapid Response
- Discharge
- Occupational Health

• 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!**