

# HAPPENINGS

ISSUE NO. 430

FEBRUARY 2026

SERVING PORT ST. JOHN & CANAVERAL GROVES

HAPPENINGS  
**BRIDGE**  
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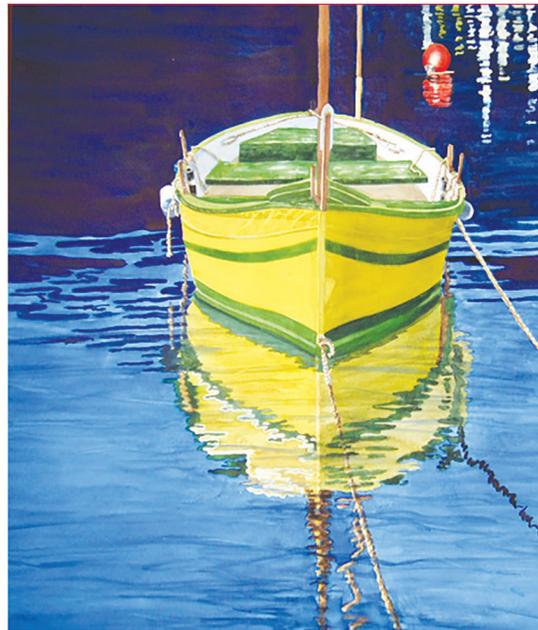
Submissions for publication are due by the 18th of each month. For more information, call 321-633-7499 or visit [www.happenings.net](http://www.happenings.net)

## Splash of Watercolor Art Show



Splash! of Watercolor Art Show 2026 is the Brevard Watercolor Society's annual member show, with original watercolors by local artists, marketplace, demonstrations, raffles and a silent auction. See this amazing exhibit of talent and join the fun Valentine Day's weekend at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne. The show takes place on Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Splash! includes watercolor paintings on display and for sale by local artists, a juried art show, artist showcase, People's Choice awards, student exhibition, an artists' marketplace where you can shop for unique works of art, themed gift basket raffles, a silent auction, 50/50 raffles, healthy food



and informative demonstrations all weekend long.

Demonstrations by our member artists fill the weekend. A highlight is the popular Paint-Around demonstration (Saturday, 10

a.m. to noon), where five artists collectively work on five paintings. Each artist comes up with an initial concept for one painting and has about fifteen minutes to start it off. Every fifteen minutes the paintings are passed to the next artist until they come back to the original artist who has the last fifteen minutes to finalize the painting.

There is plenty of free parking and admission is free. Lunch is available for purchase.

Brevard Watercolor Society, Inc. (BWS) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to spreading an appreciation of watercolor painting and the visual arts, to enrich the quality of life throughout the Space Coast by workshops, education, and exhibitions.

To learn more about BWS and all it has to offer, please visit [brevardwatercolorsociety.org](http://brevardwatercolorsociety.org). For more information, contact Kimber Musacchio, Publicity Chair, at 321-446-9437 or email [bwspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:bwspublicity@gmail.com).

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## Put Your Heart in the Best Hands

Whether you need routine checkups, diagnostic testing or specialized treatment, Parrish Healthcare's experienced team of cardiologists offer personalized treatment plans and compassionate care to keep your heart healthy!

[parrishhealthcare.com/cardiovascular](http://parrishhealthcare.com/cardiovascular)



# PSJ Community Center Schedule - February 2026

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.  
Dancing Little Stars-Ballet/Tap Combo Classes, 10:45 a.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 - 4:45 p.m. / 5 - 5:45 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.  
Home School Class P.E., 10:00 – 10:45 a.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.  
Community Cares Aftercare, 1:30 - 6 p.m.  
**SENIORS AT LUNCH** - Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 1 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** - Mondays 10:45 a.m. & 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](http://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](http://www.psjyoga.com) for further information.

**HOME SCHOOL CLASS P.E.** Thursdays, 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. This is a great opportunity to exercise and socialize in a fun nature. Price is \$2 per class. Call 321-603-2118 for more information.

## **Food For Thought**



### **Easy Ways to Incorporate Beans into Your Diet**

For some, just hearing the word beans may bring to mind a familiar melody and some random fact about heart health. Indeed, beans are great for the heart. However, they have many additional health benefits that are often overlooked. Beans are a complex

carbohydrate, as they are a great source of fiber and also contain antioxidants. They're also considered a lean plant-based protein source. That's right, protein! Another great benefit? Beans are great for meals on a budget. Essentially, beans are the whole package. Some people love them, while others avoid them at all costs.

So how can you add (or sneak) a few extra beans into your diet so you can start receiving all their healthy benefits? There are so many beans to choose from: kidney, pinto, great northern and garbanzo, just to name a few!

This time of year, soups are often a very popular and easy go-to lunch or dinner. Try adding a can of your favorite low-sodium beans to your big pot of minestrone or chowder. Chili is another easy way to sneak some beans into the pot or slow cooker.

On the next Taco Tuesday, try adding black beans or pinto beans to your taco. If you're eating out at your favorite taco bar, ask for a side of black beans to top your taco. Another easy option is red beans and rice. Try using brown rice to bump up the nutritional content and even more protein.

Just one 1/2 cup serving of beans can provide roughly 8 grams of protein. If you're in the mood for a burger and fries but want a healthier alternative that won't weigh you down, try making a black bean burger and baking some homemade sweet potato fries!

If you're using canned beans, to help offset the sodium and unpleasant GI symptoms, drain your beans and give them a thorough rinse before adding them to your favorite dish. Did you know the main ingredient in hummus is a bean? That's right! Some call them garbanzo beans, others call them chickpeas, but either way you say it, they're what gives hummus its hearty texture. Try snacking on some hummus and veggies or baked pita bread and you'll be getting those wonderful beany benefits.

Just one serving of beans a day can provide you with fiber, antioxidants and protein. So grab that unopened can in the back of the pantry (check the expiration date first!) and give them a try! The possibilities are endless.

Sarah Kelly, Dietetic Intern

# Fran Gerrett Memorial Golf Classic

The Fran Gerrett Memorial Golf Classic returns on April 10 with Zumpano Patricios returning as Title Sponsor.

The two-course tournament is expected to draw more than 200 golfers, with proceeds benefiting The Children's Center (TCC), a service of Parrish Healthcare, and comprehensive childhood development resource offering a safe and healing environment for both special needs and/or typically developing children to learn and grow, along with an array of health, education and human services in one location.



Tournament players can choose between two premier golf courses: Indian River Preserve Golf Club and The Great Outdoors. Indian River Preserve Golf Club features scenic, rolling fairways designed by Perry Dye and LPGA champion Jan Stephenson, while The Great Outdoors Golf Club showcases the natural beauty of the St. Johns River wildlife refuge. Course selection is first-come, first-choice basis upon paid registration.

Event registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The event will be played in a four-player scramble format and will include multiple on-course contests, as well as a chance drawing for a \$1,000 cash prize; drawing will take place at the event. Those purchasing tickets for the chance drawing need not be present to win. An awards ceremony will follow play to recognize top-performing teams at each course.

"Zumpano Patricios is honored to partner with Jess Parrish Medical Foundation for the twelfth consecutive year as title sponsor of the Fran Gerrett Memorial Golf Classic," said Joseph I. Zumpano, managing shareholder

of Zumpano Patricios. "It is our privilege to help advance the mission of The Children's Center and ensure continued access to essential programs and services for children and families throughout North Brevard."

The tournament commemorates Fran Gerrett, who dedicated 24 years of service as the director of Materials Management at Parrish Medical Center. Fran passed away in 2012, but his legacy lives on through the annual event benefiting The Children's Center, a cause close to his heart.

Leigh Spradling serves as the tournament's event chair, supported by a planning committee that includes Santi Bulnes, Anita Currie, Vaneesha Greco, Tammy Hebert, Nadine Itani, Kathy Myer, Joe Rodriguez, Kathy Simonsen, Greg Sparkman and Kristina Weaver.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available starting at \$500. To learn more about the tournament, sponsor opportunities or to purchase chance drawing tickets, visit [www.parrishmedfoundation.com/golf](http://www.parrishmedfoundation.com/golf) or call Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066.

## Post 359 - American Legion



**2-4 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting** - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

**2-7 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.

**2-9 Sons of the Legion** - 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

**2-15 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.

**2-18 General Membership Meeting** - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

**2-21 SAL Rib Day** Ticket sale 1 p.m. Band 1-5 p.m. at the Tiki every 3rd Saturday.

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.



## I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE

February 13-22, 2026 - Rated PG-13

Laugh your heart out this Valentine's Day at I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE, a rib-tickling celebration of love and the hilarious quirks of romance! This delightful revue dives into the truths and myths of modern relationships, exploring the journey from awkward first dates to the blissful chaos of marriage. Witness the rollercoaster ride of dating and waiting through the uproarious realities of in-laws, newborns and memorable family road trips. With clever sketches and catchy songs, this show pays tribute to everyone who has experienced the highs and lows of love-perfect for those who dare to ask, "Say, what are you doing Saturday night?" A night of unforgettable entertainment that will leave you feeling relieved, grateful, and pleasantly surprised, just like the best blind date!

### Titusville Playhouse Stage 2

STAGE 2 is located in an outdoor, but covered pavilion. Performances will occur rain or shine. The gates are located at 316 South Palm Avenue and open 30 minutes before your show. Please dress and be prepared for the weather. For show times, more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/>.

# Good Day!

~ by Maureen Rupe

## Florida Legislature:

The Florida Legislative Session starts on January 13, 2026. Bills can be filed until January 9th to be considered in this session.

H499/S718: Titled Water Management are preemption bills prohibiting counties and municipalities from adopting laws, regulation, rules or policies relating to water quality or quantity, pollution control, pollutant discharge prevention or removal, or wetlands, giving this regulation to the state; repealing a provision relating land management review teams. etc.

H239/S558: These bills concern and requires all municipalities to use DOT standards for Stormwater Systems.

H1019/S1058: These bills about Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances would, at a certain date, prohibit the sale or purchase of substances containing these compounds and would provide for testing of biosolids for the presence of them.

S934 Areas of Critical State Concern: This bill, if passed, would allow low income housing in Areas of Critical State Concern. This is important locally because we have the fairly new area in Melbourne Beach that was designated as an Area of Critical State Concern 3 years ago. It also is on a barrier island and low-income housing is generally denser development than the infrastructure (water, roads and waste) could handle.

Reference: [legiscan.com/FL/pending/senate-environment-natural-resources-committee/id/3777](https://legiscan.com/FL/pending/senate-environment-natural-resources-committee/id/3777)

## Property Taxes:

The Florida House advanced a series of proposals designed to cut non-school property taxes, which could change how local governments fund services and manage local finances. The proposals include a measure to eliminate the taxes immediately, and another to phase them out over 10 years.

It sounds like the bills will not affect safety services such as the County Sheriff's office, local police departments, fire departments and emergency medical services (EMS). Unfortunately, this would have heavy

consequences here in Brevard on things like our county parks, road maintenance, sidewalks, street lighting and drainage/stormwater systems; upkeep of our parks, community centers and recreational facilities; County libraries and their associated programs; environmental initiatives and mosquito control programs; as well as bonds for major capital projects, such as new facilities or large road improvements.

I read that it would take \$43 billion dollars to replace property taxes across the state.

Reference: [www.ramseysolutions.com/taxes/florida-property-tax?srsId=AfmBOo003C5ijbLXR9Q8K88TAYoIHUetshdUtf6mLC-a-NLAPykfcAG9](https://www.ramseysolutions.com/taxes/florida-property-tax?srsId=AfmBOo003C5ijbLXR9Q8K88TAYoIHUetshdUtf6mLC-a-NLAPykfcAG9)

## Blue Origin Waste Water Permit Extension:

Florida and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station have allowed Blue Origin to keep discharging almost 500,000 gallons a day of water that starts as drinkable, gets used for rocket-component testing and cooling systems, and after use is classified as "industrial wastewater." Before it ends up running into the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), this water flows into a pond about the size of seven football fields. Since the Indian River Lagoon is brackish, and the amount of development throughout the county and Space Operations, any fresh water can be disastrous to the IRL, killing seagrass and disturbing the environment due to the 50 plus years of various pollution of the Lagoon.

Blue Origin has not had a good history of the following:

1. Sampling & Inspection Failures: for not collecting industrial wastewater samples at required locations and missing monthly inspections;
2. pH Exceedances: documented violations for pH levels in its discharge reports;
3. Unpermitted Discharge: fined for conducting static fire without the necessary permit for their water deluge system.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will conduct a public meeting on Blue Origin's permit on January 30, 2026.

At a recent meeting at the County Commission meeting, a lady asked why

the best minds in the nation who send our Astronauts to space and beyond can't come up with steps to prevent destroying the IRL's environment. A Very Good Question!

Reference: [www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2025/11/26/florida-draft-permit-would-let-blue-origin-send-rocket-wastewater-to-indian-river-lagoon/](https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2025/11/26/florida-draft-permit-would-let-blue-origin-send-rocket-wastewater-to-indian-river-lagoon/)

## Florida Leads Nation in Environmental Job Cuts:

Florida cut 394 jobs, or 19% of full-time positions, at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from 2010 to 2024 and cut environmental spending by 7% during the same time period. Florida has been rolling back regulations, cutting back on inspections and enforcement, and ignoring the impacts of climate change even as the state has been battered by severe storms that caused record flooding.

Reference: [instagram.com/p/DSIDpCWef6\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/p/DSIDpCWef6_/)

## North Merritt Island Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Plant:

At the December 10, 2025 Port Canaveral meeting, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation & BHE GT&S made a presentation to have a LNG Plant at 1350 Sea Ray Drive, just across S.R. 528 from hundreds of homes near North Banana River Drive. Their arguments were the lack of facilities close to Port Canaveral, the huge amount of LNG needed for the Port, and that from a safety standpoint, LNG is the best, as it's non-toxic, non-corrosive and non-explosive, becomes liquid below -260° F becoming a liquid, which reduces in volume 600:1 for easy storage, transportation and fueling. Good arguments from a business perspective. HOWEVER:

Because of accidents in the past and the vicinity of this plant to hundreds of homes near this location, North Merritt Island residents say there is a petition on Change.org to conduct the following:

1. Refrain from approving any sale of land for an LNG facility without a transparent and comprehensive public review process.
2. Commission an independent environmental and safety analysis prior to any land conveyance.

3. Consider alternative locations outside of sensitive waterways and nearby residential communities.

4. Conduct properly advertised public hearings before any disposition of land is approved.

The Port seems to be between a rock and a hard place. Due to the number of ships currently using or converting to LNG and the use at Canaveral Space Force Station, the need for a close LNG Plant is definitely real. On the other hand, the LNG plant's proximity to S.R. 528 and hundreds of homes within 1,000 feet makes implications of any leak or other major accident to a large number of residents and the possible closing of S.R. 528 risky.

There was a 2013 request for an LNG plant to be just north of Port St. John just north of the Orlando Utilities Plant on King's Highway, and it was shut down due to North Merritt Island residents' concerns for barging the LNG through the canal through Merritt Island to the Port.

Reference: [https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3778500/Canaveral\\_Port\\_Authority\\_\\_LNG\\_Presentation\\_12.10.25\\_FINAL.2dePAN1QgLeZT59efyhFOZUTSkw\\_aem\\_kioBeODvVOYeEjwftmJpgw](https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3778500/Canaveral_Port_Authority__LNG_Presentation_12.10.25_FINAL.2dePAN1QgLeZT59efyhFOZUTSkw_aem_kioBeODvVOYeEjwftmJpgw)

### Coming Soon:

The importance of the Indian River Lagoon 1/2 Cent Sales Tax, and the discussions going forward until the 2026 Election Day in November.

Cheerio,  
~ Maureen Rupe  
rupe32927@gmail.com

*This article expresses the views of its author.*

## Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - February 11th - 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](mailto:watersdwayne@yahoo.com), or visit the website at [www.eaa724.org](http://www.eaa724.org).



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

February leads us into the holy Season of Lent—a time of prayer, repentance and renewal as we prepare our hearts to walk with Christ to the Cross and the joy of Easter. We invite you to join us for worship, fellowship and learning throughout the month.

### Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be held Tuesday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall—an evening of good food and cheerful fellowship as we prepare for Lent. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 18, with services for the Distribution of Ashes at 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

### Lenten Devotions & Study

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be offered on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., followed by Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. We also plan to offer a Lenten Study (details to be announced).

### Parish Life & Fellowship

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30–11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall, offering encouragement and support to grandparents raising grandchildren. This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3.

Beginning Bridge will continue on Thursdays from 1:00–3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, a relaxed and friendly setting

for beginners or those wanting to refresh their skills.

Families are invited to our First Friday Family Fun Night on Friday, February 6, from 6:00–8:00 p.m., featuring an outdoor interactive movie with popcorn, hot dogs, cookies, and drinks.

Our Veterans, Veteran Spouse and First Responder Breakfast will be held Saturday, February 28, welcoming those who serve—and their families—for fellowship and gratitude.

Ladies Craft and Fellowship will continue on the third Monday of the month in the parish hall from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Fellowship, Crafts, and Light Snacks. Bring a craft project to work on.

### Learning & Formation

Adult Bible Study meets Sundays at 9:00 a.m., and Student Sunday School is offered during the 10:00 a.m. service for students in 3rd–8th grade. (At this time, we do not have a dedicated nursery.)

### Worship Schedule

Sunday Holy Eucharist: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Stations of the Cross: 5:30 p.m. (during Lent)

Wednesday Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist: 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. on Facebook Live

For confidential recovery support, the Brevard Intergroup is available 24/7 at 321-724-2247.

## Cellar Book Club

Due to spacing issues at The Plant Shack, Ink and Ivy Book Club could no longer let them meet inside.

Come join us at PSJ Cellar Restaurant on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a diverse range of books covering different genres courtesy of the Friends of the Port St. John Library. All are welcome! For the current book selection, visit the reference desk at the Port St. John Library.

PSJ Cellar Restaurant & Bar is located at 3780 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John.



## Parrish Emergency Medicine Experts Urge Flu Season Precautions to Avoid Trip to Hospital Emergency Department

With flu in 2026 causing more than 180,000 hospitalizations and 7,400 deaths across the country, Parrish Medical Center's Emergency Department Medical Director, Christopher Rajan, DO, is urging people to take symptoms seriously and use precautions to help prevent flu's spread.

"This year's flu strain is particularly hard on the elderly with preexisting conditions such as heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and on the very young," says Dr. Christopher Rajan. "Since October, we've seen more than 200 flu cases in our emergency department. There was a significant spike in flu cases in December and January is currently on track to surpass our December flu case numbers."

By scheduling a same-day or next-day appointment with a primary care provider or visiting a local urgent care center, individuals can receive care quickly while helping preserve emergency services for those whose flu cases are putting them in danger.

"Seeking care early before symptoms become serious will save you from a trip to the Emergency Department," he said.

The figures of 180,000 hospitalizations and 7,400 deaths are preliminary data from the U.S. Center for Disease Control, which estimates more than 15 million people have been sickened by flu this season.

Dr. Rajan notes that flu symptoms such as fever, cough, body aches, sore throat, fatigue and others can often be managed with rest, hydration and antiviral medications, when appropriate, as well as care through an individual's primary care provider.

He said emergency care should be sought when flu-like symptoms signal a potentially serious complication. For children, some of the warning signs to seek emergency help include trouble breathing, bluish lips or face, chest pain or a fever above 104 degrees not controlled by fever-reducing medication. For adults, emergency warning signs may include persistent pain or pressure in the

chest or abdomen, seizures or worsening of pre-existing chronic medical conditions.

Parrish Medical Group and Space Coast Health Centers provide same-day or next-day medical appointments. Urgent care centers are also good alternatives for needs occurring after-hours or on weekends, Dr. Rajan said.

To schedule a same-day or next-day primary care appointment with Parrish Medical Group, please call 321-268-6868. Or contact Space Coast Health Centers, located on Parrish Medical Center's first floor, by calling 321-268-6836.

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## 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](http://parrishhealthcare.com/careers).

**Be A Part of Something Special.  
Be a Parrish Care Partner!**



## Art Show & Sale

The Central Brevard Art Association is presenting their annual Winter Art Show & Sale at the Cape Canaveral Library showcasing the unique talents of local artists. Dozens of local artists will be displaying and selling a variety of original fine art and prints, photography, jewelry, fibers, sculptures, mixed media and much more!

Gift Baskets will be raffled with 100% going to the CBAA scholarship fund.

The Cape Canaveral Public Library is located at 201 Polk Avenue, Cape Canaveral.

Admission and parking to the show are free.

Show Hours:

- Thursday, February 5th, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- Friday, February 6th, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- Saturday, February 7th, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Central Brevard Art Association (CBAA) is a not-for-profit organization of local artists serving Brevard County for over 65 years. It was created to promote community appreciation of visual arts, provide educational opportunities in visual arts to the local community and support our members through education, instruction, encouragement and promotion. Through community support, CBAA also provides an annual scholarship award to a local graduating high school senior who wishes to pursue a college education in art and sponsors a scholarship at Eastern Florida State College for students pursuing the arts. Visit [www.cbaaartists.com](http://www.cbaaartists.com) or call 321-806-8065 for more information.

**How do you reach 12,500 homes in Port St. John & Canaveral Groves?**  
Happenings has prices for every budget.  
Call Randy at 321-633-7499

## 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.**

**2-2 Tu Bishvat**

**2-2 Groundhog Day**

**2-3 Lailatul Barat**

**2-3 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.

**2-4 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.

**2-4 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting-** 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

**2-7 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.

**2-8 Super Bowl**

**2-8 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.

**2-12 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.

**2-13 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.

**2-14 Valentine's Day**

**2-16 Presidents Day**

**2-16 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.

**2-17 Mardi Gras**

**2-17 Chinese New Year**

**2-18 Ash Wednesday**

**2-18 Ramadan Begins**

**2-18 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.

**2-21 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.

**2-24 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.

**2-28 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.

## Martin Andersen Senior Center Dances

Martin Andersen Senior Center will host Singles/Couples Ballroom Dances on Saturday, February 14 and Saturday, February 28. Music will be provided by Janice and Rene.

For both dances, doors open at 6:30 p.m. and dancing begins at 7:00 p.m., ends at 10:00 p.m. Free snacks, BYOB. Adults of



all ages are welcome. The cost is \$8; \$7 for members.

Adults of all ages are welcome to our dances. MASC is located at 1025 S. Florida Ave., Rockledge. Call Martin Andersen Senior Center at 321-631-7556 for more information.

## Congratulations to:

**Cooper Sanchez** turns **5** on the 2nd.

**Kara Scott** turns **15** on the 2nd.

**Kyle Davis** turns **32** on the 3rd.

**Jack Bray** turns bolder on the 3rd.

**Cheyenne Marquez** turns **22** on the 4th!

**Drake & Madison Rowell** are **29** on the 7th.

**Amethyst Crawford** turns **25** on the 7th

**Cassidy Michonski** turns **28** on the 7th!

**Hunter Osburn** turns **20** on the 7th.

**Jennifer Wilson** turns **34** on the 9th.

**Nicolas Wagner** turns **21** on the 11th.

**Segunda Leach** turns cuter on the 11th.

**Jamey Blevins** turns **21** on the 11th.

**Joshua Wilson** turns **31** on the 14th.

**Missy Crawford** turns cuter on the 18th.

**Samantha Hurst** turns **27** on the 23rd

**Cely Sanchez** turns wilder on the 25th.

**Jason Sanchez** turns **26** on the 26th.

**Laura Wagner** parties wild on the 27th.

**Kobi Ragan** turns cooler on the 27th.

**Ashlee Rickard** turns **19** on the 27th.

**Amber Baum** is the Queen on the 29th.

**Jack & Sue Bray** celebrate their **46th** anniversary on the 1st.

**Noah and Sophia Kelderhouse** celebrate their **5th** anniversary on February 6th!!

**Adam & Dawn Niehoff** celebrate their **20th** anniversary on the 4th.

**Michael & Helen Lapardo** celebrate their **39th** anniversary on February 14th!!

**Joe & Stephanie Hilde** celebrate their **8th** on the 17th.

**Tom & Laura Wagner** celebrate their **25th** wedding anniversary on the 17th.

**Derek & Leslie Rickard** celebrate their **22nd** anniversary on the 21st.

**Karissa & Joel Smith** celebrate **5** years on the **22nd**.

*We have lots of room for more good news.*

Email inputs to happenings1@att.net.

## Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick



### Wags

Just when we thought a glimmer of light was showing through the darkness, we get hit with another layer of terrible...I'm increasing prayers for this old world and invite everyone to increase their conversations with their Higher Power.

"I'll do the feeding, walking and bathing. You won't even know he's here." How many times have we all heard these words? ... But from a 67 year-old-man?!

He went on to explain how he was lonely when I worked and thought a dog companion would be good for his mental health. Knowing he was an expert spreader of bovine excrement, I knew it was my mental health that would get pinged...and...we both knew how this conversation would end.

The bedraggled little terrier mix stole our hearts immediately and he checked all our boxes...most importantly that the dog wasn't so big that he could pull my husband off his scooter should he try to run, but big enough to have a good warning bark as my husband spent many hours alone in the workshop. We changed his name to Wags because his tail never stopped, but we quickly learned he didn't care what you called him as long as there were treats involved.

Unfortunately, he was very afraid of loud voices and would position himself directly behind me and very close to my legs if he thought he might be in trouble. Turning exactly as I turned made it virtually impossible to reach him...Sad but brilliant!

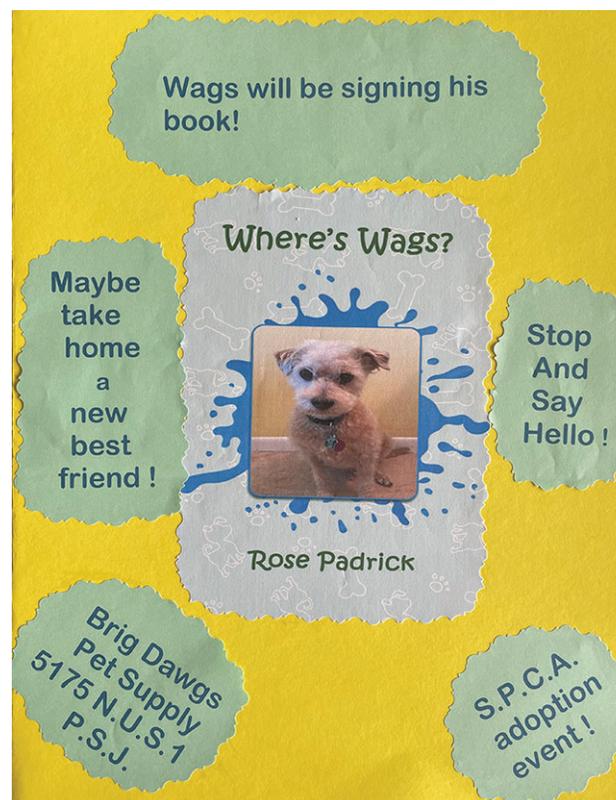
Wags figured out how to walk on a leash next to my husband's scooter on the first attempt, turning and sidestepping with the grace of a

ballerina when necessary. The unlikely pair made the rounds of the neighborhood every morning, my husband stopping to speak with neighbors he had never met pre-Wags, while the dog sat patiently waiting.

I came upon the idea of Wags becoming my replacement "Please hand me..." after one of my husband's falls off the scooter while reaching for something he dropped. Within one hour Wags had learned to pick up most anything we pointed to, from tiny screwdrivers to large hammers. I taught him the command was "Pick it up," but by the end of the day he had learned my husband's "#@\*&\*" meant the same thing.

After my husband passed away, Wags became my constant companion, although somewhat morosely. Never leaving my side, he looked so miserable. I wracked my brain to come up with something to get him back to his old active self and luckily remembered how he enjoyed learning new things. The hours spent teaching him to jump through a hula hoop, roll over, play mortally wounded, (he never quite grasped the concept of 'play dead' and wouldn't lay his head down), and more was therapeutic for both of us.

When the doctor said I could no longer delay surgery, Wags fell into a caretaker roll.



Recuperating on the couch, I had a constant furry weight on my legs, a head to rub and a 'Please hand me...' for all the dropped Kleenex boxes, books and those darn little pillows. Not to mention an attentive listener to me bemoaning my fate and arguing with Dr. Phil.

I've had several dogs throughout my life but, none as instinctively kind or learning new things nearly so fast, much of the time figuring things out for himself.

I wouldn't tell my husband, but maybe hornswoggling does work out sometimes.



### "Men on Fire" 2026

First Baptist Church of Port St. John is hosting their 5th Annual Men's Conference. "Men on Fire" 2026 "Guard Your Heart" will be Saturday, February 7 from 8 a.m. -2 p.m.

All men over the age of 16 are encouraged to attend this powerful outreach. Come join us in Christian Fellowship.

You can pre-register at [firstbaptistpsj.org](http://firstbaptistpsj.org). First Baptist Church of Port St. John is located at 3900 Fay Blvd., Port St. John.

### Central FL Accordion Club

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



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

CFAC is a Not-for-Profit Corporation. The club is dedicated to promoting the visibility and value of the accordion as a multi-cultural musical instrument in Central Florida. For more information, contact Rod Hall, 866-455-2322.

# SLEEPY HOLLOW



## Fruit From The Groves



The annual Homeowners' meeting was held on January 8, 2026. Officers were elected to manage the not-for-profit corporation Canaveral Groves Homeowners Inc. (CGHI). This organization is not a homeowners association, but an organization established to support the community by bringing residents together to discuss community issues and to provide a forum for open discussion. The board is comprised of six members. Five of the members retained their positions; Ed Silva – President, Kathy Rooney – Secretary, Theresa Kroning – Treasurer, Rudy Bizyak and Richard Thomson – Directors. Paul Kroning was selected as the new Vice President.

After normal business was conducted, there were two items of concern that were discussed between the board and members who attended. The first item concerns the development located beyond the southwest area of Canaveral Groves. This area surrounded by SR528, Interstate 95 and Canaveral Groves properties has been annexed by the city of Cocoa. Originally unincorporated Brevard County, Cocoa acquired this property with the support of the Brevard County Commissioners. Unfortunately, this was not well advertised nor were the plans for the property.

The plan is now to develop this land into a 350 home gated community. Access to the area is limited and the plan is to connect the development to our community via Osage and Bahia Streets. Osage St., now separated from Angelica St. by a drainage canal, will be connected together and the two streets will be modified to handle the large influx of traffic. Plans include completing the path to connect with Grissom Pkwy., but access to the Canaveral Groves roadways will

not be restricted. Unfortunately, the light residential traffic on Osage and Angelica Streets will become major roadways for this new, very dense Cocoa community. During peak times, traffic issues will most likely be seen throughout the area and with current delays at Canaveral Groves Blvd. and Grissom Pkwy., this new community will exacerbate the current problems. Construction has already begun modifying Osage and Angelica Streets. If you have any concerns or wish to obtain any additional information, you can contact our District 1 Commissioner's office at 321-607-6901.

A second order of business was brought to the meeting concerning several variances posted to properties on Oneida St. These properties are zoned General Use (GU). In 1975, GU requirements changed from 1 to 5 acres with minimum frontage width increasing to 300 feet. According to the official at the zoning office, these properties have been grandfathered in and the variances will likely be approved, accepting the properties for construction in the as-is configuration.

These and other items can be discussed at our next meeting scheduled for March 12, 2026. Hope to see you there.

Paul Kroning, VP  
Canaveral Groves Homeowners Inc.

## Amvets Post 2415 Schedule



**2-4 Sons of Amvets 2415**  
General Membership Meeting  
-1st Wednesday of the month  
at 6 p.m. Commander Chuck  
Harrington, 321-208-7897.

**2-11 General Membership Meeting-** 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

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

**2-14 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415**  
General Membership Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the month at 12 noon. President Steve Carman, 321-446-3394.

**2-14 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** - 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m.

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.

Post 2415 is located at 688 West Ave., (adjacent to Hwy. US 1), Port St. John.

You do not have to be a resident of Port St. John to join the Post.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Won't you join us?**





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**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.**

#### ADULT EVENTS

#### Seed Library - Coming Soon to Your PSJ Library

A Seed Library is sprouting at the library! Check out seeds each month to grow your own food or flowers at home. Enjoy affordable, sustainable gardening, donate seeds to share with others, and return often for new seasonal varieties and planting tips. Check back with us for more details soon!

**Gardening Event** – Family event on Saturday, February 14 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Shake off winter and dig in at our FREE February Seed Planting Event, a fun, family-friendly, hands-on workshop for all experience levels where you will learn late-winter seed-starting tips and take home your own seedlings. Supplies are provided, so come plant, learn and grow with us!

**Community Advocate** - Monday, February 2nd and 16th, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. The community support advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare, insurance and senior resources.

**Spice Club** - Friday, February 20th at 3:30 p.m. This February, Spice Club features ground fennel. Grab a spice kit from the Reference Desk, try it in a favorite or traditional recipe, and join us to share dishes, recipes and learn about its cultural roots.

**Port Readers Book Club** - Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting, we will discuss *What Moves the Dead* by T. Kingfisher, and then pick up the book for March: *The Broken Road* by Richard Paul Evans.

**Book Worms Book Club** - Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30 p.m. Join the group for a lively discussion of *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult and pick up the book for March: *Twice* by Mitch Albom.

**Port St. John Dependent Special District Board** - February 11 at 6 p.m.

**Free dynamic presentation of the Flagler Railroad** - February 28 at 1 p.m. The PSJ Library and Historian Christopher Daley present: In this dynamic lecture, journey back to the Gilded Age and discover how Henry Flagler, co-founder of Standard Oil, transformed Florida's coasts with his bold vision. His Florida East Coast Railway did not just build tracks—it built cities, from Palm Beach to Miami and all the way to Key West. You will hear how Flagler's crews overcame hurricanes, swamps, and engineering challenges to connect the Sunshine State. Learn how alliances with figures like Julia Tuttle helped turn Miami into a booming city. Flagler's grand hotels and infrastructure helped shape Florida into a winter retreat and global destination.

#### YOUTH SERVICES

**Family Movie Night** - Join us every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Free popcorn and family-friendly fun with G or PG-rated movies. Adult supervision required.

2/2: Luca (2021) • 2/9: The Lorax (2012) • 2/16: The Incredibles 2 (2018) • 2/23: My Little Pony: The Movie (2017)

**Kids' D&D Adventures** - Sundays, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. An exciting hour of Dungeons & Dragons for children aged 8 to 12. 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.

**Saturday Morning Cartoons** - Saturdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Cartoons and movies at the library. Bring blankets, drinks and snacks! Ages 12 and under; adult supervision required.

**Sensory Playtime** - Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. A sensory-friendly play event for ages 3+, featuring hands-on activity bins with kinetic sand, rice, beans, and more. Adult supervision required.

**Valentine Craft** - Monday, February 9 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. A craft for ages 6–12. Kids can make their own personalized Valentine's Day card. Adult supervision required.

#### Read Your Way to K Programs:

**Toddlers Story Time** - Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. For ages 3–5. Adult supervision required. No class on February 19.

**Playdate** - Thursdays and Fridays, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. For babies and toddlers five and under. Parent or adult supervision required. No class on February 19.

**Baby Story Time** - Fridays, 9:30–10:00 a.m. For ages 0–3. Adult supervision required.

**Little Movers and Groovers** - Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.. A fun movement program for toddlers five and under. Parent or adult supervision required. No class on February 19.



#### 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 February 28th, 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 Jess Parrish Medical Foundation for Medical Scholarships.

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

#### National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

NARFE Apollo Chapter 1137 meets monthly on the second Monday of each month (February 9th). Our meeting place is Kay's BBQ Restaurant, 1552 W. King St., Cocoa. 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](http://www.NARFE.org/Chapter1137).

♥ FEBRUARY ♥  
**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 and fourth Thursday monthly,  
9:30-11:30 AM*  
Heritage Hall, 931 North 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 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
**Contact Casey Hodgkin at 321-268-6111, ext. 7668**

**Early Steps Community Play Date**

*Meets the fourth Wednesday monthly, 9-10:30 AM*  
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**

*Meets Mondays, 10-11 AM*  
The Children's Center  
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville  
**Contact Melinda at melinda.hodges@parrishmed.com**

**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 last Tuesday monthly, 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](http://parrishhealthcare.com/events)  
for information and to register*



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# Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Business Directory

## Important Phone Numbers

Parrish Healthcare Center	
Port St. John -	321-268-6868
Titusville -	321-268-6111
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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## Monthly Tax Update February 2026

Here we are in the second month of the year and ready for tax season. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) started accepting and processing tax returns electronically on Monday, January 26th, 2026.

It is important for taxpayers with health insurance through the marketplace. If you didn't get your Form 1095-A by mail, you need to log in to their accounts on [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Then you will be able to download and print your Form 1095-A from check messages.

This year is something new: the IRS strongly recommends that taxpayers establish a bank account to receive their tax refunds via direct deposit, because the IRS is phasing out paper tax refund checks due to the executive order, Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account.

Next, ask your tax preparer about enrollment in a Trump account for your child born in 2025. It's a pilot program contribution of \$1,000 for children born between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028 who are U.S. citizens with a valid Social Security number. The federal government will deposit into a special IRA account. During the growth period, no distributions will be allowed from a Trump account before January 1 of the calendar year in which the account beneficiary attains age 18. Perhaps distributions from a Trump account are subject to the rules that apply to distributions from a traditional IRA, including that a distribution may be subject to 10% additional tax on early distributions if an exception does not apply with respect to the account beneficiary, such as for distributions for qualified higher education expenses, first home purchases or distributions made after age 59½. Parents, guardians and any other authorized person must elect to create the individual retirement account for their children at the time of filing the tax return for 2025.

It is crucial for taxpayers claiming the Child Tax Credit and Other Dependents to file their tax returns before the middle of February, when the IRS starts processing those returns. Filing your tax return before

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the middle of February will prevent someone else from claiming your dependents on their tax returns before you.

Last, for interest paid on new vehicle loans during 2025 through 2028, there are some restrictions on the allowable deduction, which is up to \$10,000 annually for personal use. It is subject to an income limit based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income: \$100,000 for singles and \$200,000 for married filing jointly. The requirements are as follows: new cars, SUVs, minivans, pickup trucks or motorcycles weighing less than 14,000 lbs. and must have final assembly in the United States.

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.

## Alcoholics Anonymous

Port St. John

Saint Patrick's Church

4797 Curtis Blvd. - East off Grissom Pkwy.

### Sunset Group Meeting

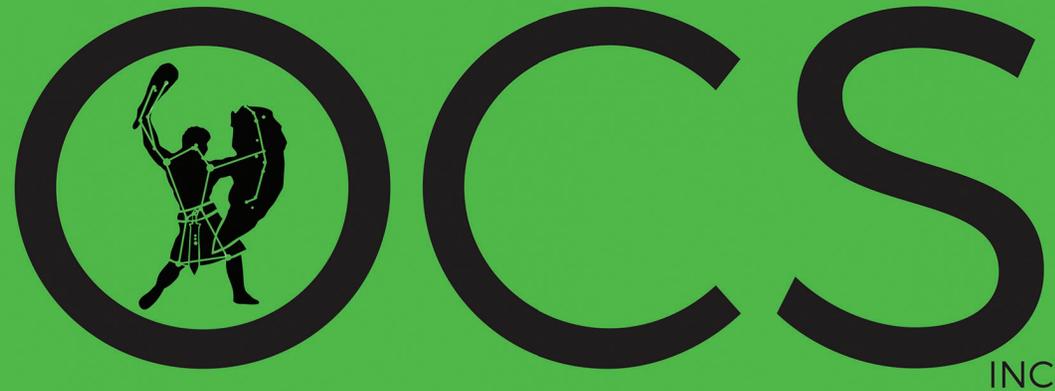
Meets on **Sundays** at 5 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 pm.

**Women's AA** meets on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.

*It is never too late to be what you might have been."*

*- George Elliot*

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