HAPPENINGS of PORT ST. JOHN Inc.
Weekly Edition
October 23, 2026

Space Coast Flute Orchestra Fall Potpourri Concert



The Space Coast Flute Orchestra invites the community to celebrate the beauty of autumn and the joy of music at its upcoming Fall Potpourri concert on Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. The concert will be held at Suntree United Methodist Church, located at 7400 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne.

Designed to be family-friendly and accessible to everyone, this special musical event offers an enjoyable afternoon of flute music in a welcoming atmosphere. With free admission, Fall Potpourri is an opportunity for music lovers of all ages to gather, experience live music and celebrate the season together.

Community members are encouraged to attend and invite friends and family to enjoy this autumn afternoon of music. Although admission is free, donations are welcome to help support the orchestra and its ongoing musical endeavors.

The Space Coast Flute Orchestra is pleased to share its love of music with the local community through performances that bring people together and highlight the beauty and versatility of the flute.

For more information about the Space Coast Flute Orchestra, upcoming performances and opportunities to stay connected, community members can contact Jamie Woods at scfo.publicity@gmail.com for more information.



Join us at the Port St. John Public Library, 3500 Carole Ave., on Thursday, October 29, 12 - 1 p.m. for a silly and non-scary retelling of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow! Stevens Puppets brings this classic tale to life with beautiful wooden marionettes. This production is full of classical music and fun for the whole family!

The show will also be at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Public Library on Thursday, October 29, 4 - 5 p.m., West Melbourne Public Library on Friday, October 30, 11 a.m. - noon and the Cocoa Beach Public Library on Friday, October 30, 3 - 4 p.m.

Parrish Medical Group Welcomes Board-Certified Urologist Richard Silver, MD, JD, MBA, FAAP, FACS



Parrish Healthcare and Parrish Medical Group (PMG) are pleased to welcome board-certified urologist Richard Silver, MD, JD, MBA, FAAP, FACS, to the North Brevard community. Dr. Silver brings decades of clinical, academic and leadership experience in adult and pediatric urology, further strengthening North Brevard's access to specialized urologic care for individuals and families.

Dr. Silver is passionate about providing individualized care that addresses each patient's unique urological needs and supports improved quality of life. His areas of expertise include but are not limited to complex adult and pediatric urological conditions and congenital abnormalities affecting the urinary and reproductive systems, reconstructive urological surgery, kidney stone surgery and prevention, the evaluation and treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (enlarged prostate) and the diagnosis and treatment of genitourinary cancer.

Dr. Silver earned his Bachelor of Arts in Natural Science with honors from Johns Hopkins University and his Doctor of Medicine with honors from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed his general surgery internship and urology residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, followed by a fellowship in pediatric urology at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Among other professional organizations, Dr. Silver is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and a member of the American Urological Association. He is board-certified by the American Board of Urology.

In addition to his medical training, Dr. Silver earned a Juris Doctor from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City and a Master of Business Administration from American University's Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C. He is also a member of the New York State Bar. His diverse educational background provides a broader perspective on the legal, business and leadership aspects of health care.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Silver has held multiple leadership positions and academic appointments. He is also passionate about continued learning and has contributed to urologic research and medical education through a long list of clinical publications and professional presentations.

Dr. Silver joins Parrish Medical Group Urology, conveniently located on the third floor of Parrish Healthcare Center at Titus Landing, 250 Harrison Street, Suite 330, in Titusville. He is now accepting new patients. For more information about Richard Silver, MD, JD, MBA, FAAP, FACS, or to schedule an appointment, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/silver or call 321-268-6868.



Come out to the Fall Festival at First United Methodist Church Port St. John at 1165 Fay Blvd. on October 30th, 5 - 7 p.m. and enjoy a family friendly event with music, games, balloons, crafts, food and lots of FUN!

There will be a children's costume contest, Pre-K through grade 5, at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.fumcpsj.org.



CECELIA'S INVITATION

Interactive Touch Art Exhibition

The Central Brevard Art Association (CBAA), in partnership with the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library in Cocoa, is presenting an interactive touch art exhibition in support of the library's Talking Books program and Vision Fair, to be held October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Talking Books Library provides free audio materials and specialized services for residents with visual or physical disabilities that make reading standard print difficult.

At the center of the exhibition is "Cecelia's Invitation," an interactive touch concept created by CBAA artists Jan Bryant, an acrylic and watercolor artist, and Janet Bethay, an abstract/modern acrylic artist. The inspiration for "Cecelia's Invitation" grew from a desire to create a more intimate connection with art through touch and imagination. The installation consists of three large 48-by-60-inch abstract canvases that visitors are invited—and given permission—to explore through touch.

The exhibit takes its name from Cecelia, the visually impaired daughter of one of Bethay's friends. When Cecelia explored one of Bethay's paintings by tracing the movement and texture created by sweeping brush and broom strokes, she responded:

"WOW, I can feel the ocean."

Her interpretation was uniquely her own—and that is exactly the point. Visitors are intentionally given no instructions for how to interpret "Cecelia's Invitation." Instead, each person is encouraged to discover the artwork individually through texture, movement, imagination and personal experience.

The interactive exhibition will be on display and open to the public at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library through January 2027, featuring artwork created to encourage engagement through both sight and touch, offering a unique experience for visually impaired and sighted visitors alike.

Additional CBAA artists contributing works to the interactive exhibition include Priscilla D'Annibale, Judith Mammay, Judith Caruana, Cassandra Myer, Dawn Kelly, Karen D. Hollister, and Ashley Cooke.

The exhibition is open to the public at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library in Cocoa, Florida, October 2026 through January 2027.



The 37th Annual PSJ Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 19th, launching at 11:00 a.m. from Waterloo Ave. and going east on Fay Blvd. to Carole Ave. in Port St. John.

This year's theme is, "A Classic Christmas Movie." From timeless holiday favorites to unforgettable movie characters, we can't wait to see the creative ideas this theme inspires throughout our community! With:

- 85-100 parade entries
- More than 15,000 spectators
- Post-parade awards ceremony at Fay Park
- Lots of holiday spirit and community fun

For more information about becoming a sponsor or to enter a float or your group in the parade, use the QR code below or visit:
portstjohncommunityfoundation.com/ChristmasParade2026/index.html

You can also contact Parade Coordinator Jeremy Higginbotham at:
parade@PortStJohnCommunityFoundation.com

Parrish Medical Center to Host Regional Hospital Emergency Response Training

Regional emergency response training to prepare hospital professionals from nine Central Florida counties for life-endangering catastrophes will be held October 27-29, 2026, at Parrish Medical Center.

Called HERT (Hospital Emergency Response Team) training, exercises will include responding to hazardous materials incidents, chemical exposures, patient decontamination and other emergencies. The three-day train-the-trainer event is hosted by Parrish Healthcare, Parrish Medical Center's parent organization.

Participants will come from hospitals in counties within Region 5 of the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition (CFDMC) including: Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, St. Lucie and Volusia. The training is funded by the CFDMC and facilitated by Hot Zone USA, an emergency response, safety training and hazardous materials (hazmat) equipment provider.

"For the past decade, the annual medical surge exercise in Central Florida has highlighted the need for trained decontamination personnel at all hospitals," said Lynne Drawdy, Executive Director of the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition. "This was once again identified as an improvement opportunity in the 2026 exercise, and Central Florida hospitals expressed the need for a decontamination train-the-trainer program to close this gap. The three-day decontamination train-the-trainer program provides hospitals with a comprehensive plan to establish, train and maintain a decontamination team."

Through realistic scenarios and collaborative exercises, participants will practice essential emergency response skills, including the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), patient decontamination procedures, patient safety protocols and coordination among hospital emergency response teams.

"Preparedness is the single most important step we can take to protect our North Brevard community," said George Mikitarian, President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare. "Regional training underscores the importance of collaboration among healthcare organizations, emergency management professionals and community response partners," Mikitarian added.

"Emergencies don't stop at hospital boundaries, and neither should our preparedness," said Leigh Spradling, Senior Safety and Emergency Preparedness Specialist at Parrish Healthcare. "Training together strengthens our regional partnerships and ensures we are better prepared to protect our patients, staff and communities when it matters most."

During the training, people visiting Parrish Medical Center or driving past the hospital may see decontamination tents and equipment set up outside the building.

"These will be part of the planned training simulation, so we want to remind and assure everyone that there will be no reason for concern," Spradling said. "The training area will be clearly identified as part of the exercise."

Removing Burmese Pythons

When it comes to removing Burmese pythons, one snake does not equal another. A new study by researchers at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) offers agencies a tool to identify pythons with the greatest influence on future population growth and uses machine learning to determine when they are most likely to be detected. Researchers expect the approach will help agencies make better use of limited resources by allowing python removal efforts to target large reproductive females, the removal of which is likely to have the biggest impact on controlling the population.

The researchers developed the Weighted Removal Index (WRI), a demographic weighting system that assigns an ecological value to removing pythons that are more likely to survive and reproduce. "The idea is that a big female might be worth 100 arbitrary ecological points, while a little snake might be worth five," said Romer. Rather than treating every capture as equivalent, the researchers say evaluating removals throughout the WRI could eventually help managers structure removal efforts and incentives around the snakes most likely to influence population growth.

Burmese pythons are among the most significant invasive predators in South Florida. Their broad diet includes primarily mammals and birds, including species of conservation concern. Because they are highly cryptic and spend much of their time stationery and often submerged or concealed, their low detectability means that finding individual snakes is challenging, requiring substantial time and effort. Mature female Burmese pythons can produce dozens of eggs in a single clutch. The finding illustrates why researchers believe management decisions should account for who is being removed, not just how many are removed. The researchers tested three machine-learning models to predict when to find pythons and when those removals could have the greatest impact.

Autumn in Bloom Festival

The UF/IFAS Brevard Extension Office invites the community to the 2026 Autumn in Bloom Festival on Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Brevard Discovery Garden, located at 3695 Lake Dr., Cocoa. This free, family-friendly event celebrates Florida gardening, nature, education and community.

Visitors can explore the garden, shop for plants, meet local vendors and exhibitors, and enjoy family activities. The Brevard Discovery Garden Nursery plans to offer approximately 2,000 native and Florida-friendly plants, along with local vendors, food trucks and so much more. The Kids Zone will feature fun activities and special attractions for the whole family.

Admission is free; advance registration encouraged. Learn more about the event and RSVP on the 2026 Autumn in Bloom Festival Eventbrite page:

www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-autumn-in-bloom-festival-tickets-2000638094396

With questions about this event, please contact our office at 321-633-1702 or email Brevard@ifas.ufl.edu.

For updates in the Brevard Discovery Garden, education and more, visit:

facebook.com/BrevardDiscoveryGarden

3500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

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

YOUTH SERVICES

Sensory Playtime: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Ages 3 and up.

Tabletop Game Night: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All ages.

Family Movie: Mondays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. All ages.

Read Your Way to K:

Little Laptime: Mondays, 9:30-10:00 a.m. Class will begin at 10:00 a.m. Ages 0-1.

Little Movers & Groovers: Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30-10:00 a.m. Ages 0-5.

Toddler Story Time: Thursdays and Fridays, 10:30-11:00 a.m. Ages 3-5.

Playdate: Thursdays and Fridays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages 0-5.

ADULTS

Yarn Group: Fridays in October, 1 - 3:30 p.m. The yarn group is a group of adults who enjoy knitting and crocheting. They are happy to help you learn. All levels are welcome. The group donates projects and meets every Friday at the Port St. John Public Library.

Community Support Advocate: Monday, October 26, 1:30 – 5 p.m. The Community Support Advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources. Appointments and walk-ins are accepted. See the Reference desk for details. Don't forget to vote for your favorite scarecrow!

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 & Operating Room
  - Charge Nurses
  - Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
  - Rapid Response
  - Discharge
  - Labor & Delivery
- **Medical Technologists**
  - CT/MRI
  - Radiology
- **Certified Surgical Scrub Technicians**
- **Surgical Scrub Techs**
- **Nursing Assistants**
- **Medical Assistants**
- **Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (CVIS)**
- **Paramedics**
- **Pharmacists**
- **Pharmacy Technicians**
- **EMTs**
- **EMT - Paramedics**
- **Surgical First Assistant**
- **Clinical Systems Analyst**
- **DI Cardio PACS Specialist**
- **Respiratory Therapist**

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!

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PARRISH HEALTHCARE