



HAPPENINGS of PORT ST. JOHN Inc.

Weekly Edition
September 11, 2026

Blue Origin Won A Contract To Build NASA's Next Mars Orbiter

NASA announced this month that it has selected Jeff Bezos' spaceflight company to develop the \$700 million Mars Telecommunications Network (MTN), which is expected to be up and running at the Red Planet by 2030. "The award marks a milestone in NASA's strategy to expand communications and navigation services beyond Earth and the moon, establishing the foundation for sustained exploration of Mars in the coming decades," NASA officials said in a statement on September 1.

As its name suggests, the MTN — previously known as the Mars Telecommunications Orbiter — will primarily serve to aid NASA science missions rather than gather data of its own.

The MTN is "a next-generation communications system that will enable reliable, high-bandwidth communications and navigation services for current and future Mars missions," NASA officials said in the statement. The need for such a data-relay craft is expected to become acute in the coming years as NASA's fleet of current Mars orbiters ages and the agency works to prepare the Red Planet ground for crewed missions in the late 2030's or early 2040's.

At the moment, just two NASA orbiters relay data and commands between the agency's Curiosity and Perseverance Mars rovers and their handlers on Earth. Mars Odyssey and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter are both 20 years old. European Space Agency's Mars Express and Trace Gas Orbiter spacecraft also help out. All four of these orbiters are gathering science data of their own, however. The MTN will not have a split focus; it will be a dedicated communications craft.

NASA got \$700 million for a Mars telecom orbiter in July 2025, when Congress passed a budget reconciliation bill. The agency laid out requirements for the spacecraft in February of this year, then issued a request for proposals in May.

Blue Origin and Rocket Lab were viewed as the front-runners for the contract and both pushed hard for it. Blue Origin was selected as the winner of the contract.

Blue Origin will base MTN on its Blue Ring spacecraft platform, which it describes as, "an all-in-one, high-powered hybrid solar electric and chemical propelled spacecraft that provides unmatched mission maneuverability, versatility and capacity at dramatically lower profile costs." Blue Ring has not flown a mission yet, but a prototype version of it went to space on the first-ever launch of Blue Origin's powerful New Glenn rocket in January 2025.

The newly announced NASA contract calls for Blue Origin to "design, develop, integrate, launch and operate" the Mars telecom mission. The contract also calls for Blue Origin to deliver the spacecraft to NASA no later than Dec. 31, 2028.

**MUSIC IN
THE FOREST**

Saturday, September 19
6:00pm - 8:30pm

FEATURING:

6:15pm Indian River Flute Circle
Native American
Flute and Drums

7:15pm Possum Bluff Road Band
Bluegrass

Enjoy a beautiful evening in the forest with music,
friends and family. Free admission. Light
refreshments compliments of the Friends of the
Enchanted Forest, Inc.

ENCHANTED FOREST
SANCTUARY

ENVIRONMENTALLY
ENDANGERED
LANDS
PROGRAM

Friends of the
Enchanted Forest, Inc.

Parrish Medical Group Welcomes Board-Certified General Surgeon Geoffrey Roelant, MD, MS, FACS

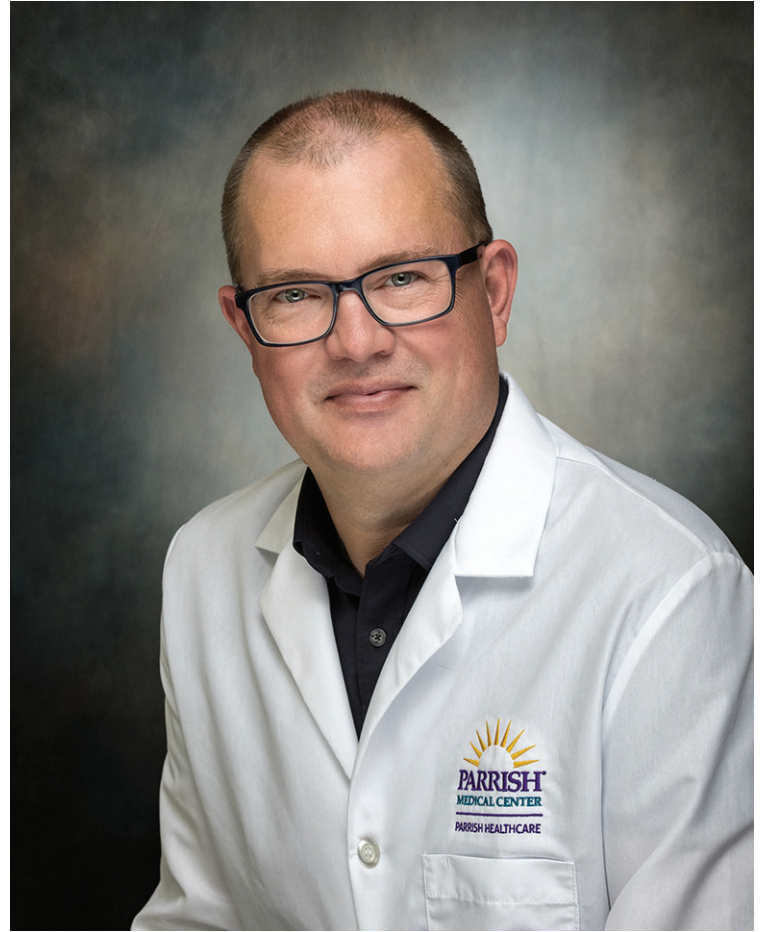
Parrish Healthcare and Parrish Medical Group (PMG) are pleased to welcome board-certified general surgeon Geoffrey Roelant, MD, MS, FACS, to the North Brevard community. With nearly two decades of surgical experience, Dr. Roelant is recognized for providing comprehensive surgical care with an emphasis on minimally invasive and robotic techniques. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS), a designation that reflects his commitment to professional standards, surgical education, ethical practice and excellence in patient care.

Dr. Roelant specializes in minimally invasive robotic surgery and is an experienced Da Vinci-approved proctor, helping advance the use of robotic surgical technology and supporting the education of other surgeons. He takes a personalized approach to surgical care, tailoring each surgical method to the individual needs and circumstances of his patients.

His areas of expertise include anti-reflux and foregut surgery, complex abdominal wall reconstruction and the repair of complex, recurrent and large hernias, including abdominal, ventral, inguinal, incisional and umbilical hernias. He also provides surgical care for gallbladder conditions and a wide range of general surgical needs.

In addition to his clinical expertise, Dr. Roelant brings extensive leadership experience from his service as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. His military leadership background includes building high-performing teams, developing clinical programs and driving strategic initiatives. These experiences have reinforced his commitment to collaboration, continuous improvement and excellence in patient care. Dr. Roelant is also dedicated to mentorship and education, with a focus on integrating advanced technology and innovative surgical approaches to help improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Roelant earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from University of Maryland School of Medicine located in Baltimore, Maryland and his Master of Science in Chemical Engineering degree from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. He completed his General Surgery Residency at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. With a combination of advanced surgical training, robotic surgery expertise, engineering education and military leadership, Dr. Roelant brings a multidisciplinary perspective to modern surgical care.



Dr. Roelant will be conveniently located at Parrish Healthcare Center North Titusville, located at 490 North Washington Avenue, Titusville, Florida. To schedule an appointment, please call 321-268-6868. To learn more about Dr. Roelant, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/Roelant.

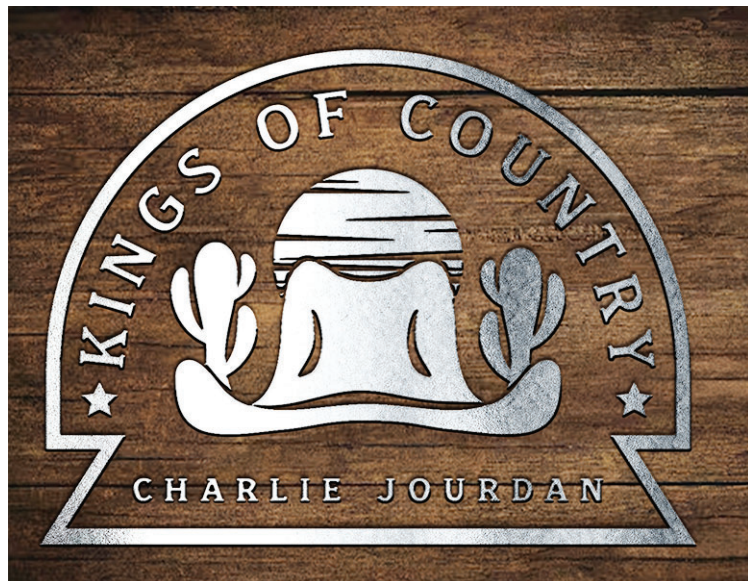


Vipers Win Again!

On Friday, September 4th, the Space Coast Varsity Boys Football team won their game against Celebration High School by a score of 48-0. That brings the team to 3-1 for the season.

The Offensive Player of the Game was Kadyn Thomas and the Defensive Player of the Game was Javier Shivers.

The next three games are away, then two home games on October 9 and 16. Go Vipers!



Kings of Country September 25–26, 2026

“Diamonds & Cash” co-creator/performer Charlie Jourdan returns to the Titusville stage bringing Country Music’s most successful performers to life in “Kings of Country.” Country music has its roots deep in the soil of America. Since the 1920’s with Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family it’s blended together folk, gospel, bluegrass and honky tonk. Each era had their breakout stars that set the tone, from Hank Williams to George Jones to Merle Haggard to Garth Brooks. Put on your jeans, grab your cowboy hat, slip into your boots and get ready for some toe tappin’, knee slappin’, yee-haw-ing country tunes!

Titusville Playhouse Stage 2 Concert Series

Stage 2 is located in an outdoor, but covered pavilion. Performances will occur rain or shine. The gates are located at 316 Soauth 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/>.



See What's New in the Brevard Discovery Garden

The UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension and Brevard County Master Gardener program are offering a new series of Workshops in the Garden at the Brevard Discovery Garden. These hands-on workshops provide practical, University of Florida research-based information to help you grow, garden and create a more Florida-friendly landscape. From starting seeds and supporting pollinators to creating wildlife habitat and making your own succulent garden, there is something for gardeners of all experience levels.

Upcoming Classes:

DIY: Make Your Own Screech Owl Nesting Box — September 11 at 10:00 a.m.: Learn how to create a nesting box to provide habitat for Eastern Screech-Owls. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/diy-screch-owl-nesting-box-tickets-1988626837403?aff=oddtcreator

Make & Take Succulent Garden — September 18 at 10:00 a.m.: Create your own succulent garden while learning how to select and care for these easy-to-grow plants. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/make-take-succulent-garden-tickets-1988628052036?aff=oddtcreator

Save the Date! The next Brevard Discovery Garden Plant Sale — October 24: Shop for plants, local vendors, and find inspiration for your own Florida-friendly landscape.

Self-Guided Garden Tours — Self-guided tours are now available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00–11:00 a.m. Explore the Brevard Discovery Garden at your own pace while learning about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles. Tour markers throughout the garden include QR codes that allow you to access the tour map on your phone as you explore.

All workshops are held at the Brevard Discovery Garden, located behind the UF/IFAS Brevard Extension, located at 3695 Lake Drive in Cocoa.

For more information about all of our classes and programs, visit the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Eventbrite page for updates on future offerings. Consider subscribing to our monthly classes' newsletter: brevardextension.substack.com/?utm_campaign=profile_chips

Port Readers Book Club

Join the group at the Port St. John Library, 6500 Carole Ave. on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting, we will discuss *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden. Pick up October’s book club selection at the reference desk.



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

Kids' D&D: Wednesdays, 4:00 & 4:30 p.m. Ages 8-13. Space is limited.

Read Your Way to K:

Little Laptime: Mondays, 9:30-10:00 a.m. On 9/21, 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.

Teen Takeover: Junk Journaling: September 16 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Ages 13-17.

Story Time with Ms. Jo: September 21 from 9:30-10:00 a.m. Ages 5 and under.

ADULTS:

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

Community Support Advocate: Mondays, September 14, and 28, 1:30 - 5 p.m. The Community Support Advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources. Appointments and walk-ins are accepted. See the Reference desk for details.

Port Readers Book Club: Wednesday, September 16th, 6:30 p.m. At this meeting, we will discuss *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden. Pick up October's book club selection at the reference desk.

Adult Dice and Dragons: Wednesdays, September 16 and 30, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Role playing adventures with characters and dice.

FAMILY

Spice Travelers Spice Club: September 16. Come in and pick up this month's featured spice.

Garden Program: Saturday, September 19, 11 a.m.

At this garden program we will paint terra cotta flower pots. Family fun.

Bookmark Bedazzle Bling-out: Wednesday, September 23, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Ages 12+ with adult supervision. In this program we will use shiny beads to bling-out bookmarks, books and any other special object. This a relaxing and meditative process. Bring a bookmark or a book or choose from one provided.

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

• Surgical Scrub Techs

• Nursing Assistants

• Medical Assistants

• Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (CVIS)

• Paramedics

• Pharmacists

• EMTs

• Surgical First Assistant

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!**

**We honor and mourn the victims
and heroes of 9/11 and their
families, who lost their loved ones.
WE WILL NEVER FORGET!**

*The weekly digital edition
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