

HAPPENINGS

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SERVING PORT ST. JOHN & CANAVERAL GROVES

HAPPENINGS
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Call 321-633-7499 or e-mail to happenings1@att.net.
www.happenings.net

ShuttleFest III Comes To North Brevard

The American Space Museum will host ShuttleFest III on Saturday, April 13th, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Hyatt Place Titusville, 6299 Riverfront Center Blvd.

The public is invited to this annual event.

With the theme, “More than Just Astronomy Missions,” the event will feature space workers (and possibly astronauts) who participated in the STS-35 & 67 Astro 1 & 2, the STS-41 Ulysses (Sun orbit) and the STS-34 Galileo (Jupiter orbit) missions. These astronomy missions had some drama involved; Ulysses and Galileo had controversial radioactive power sources and were to be launched from the Shuttle payload bay by a liquid fueled Centaur rocket. The Astro 1 mission was almost terminated in orbit because of a communications problem with the telescopes that was solved in a unique way.

ShuttleFest III will include panel discussions such as “Art in Space” headed by world-renowned artist Chris Calle. A “Look to the Future” panel will end the event with key members of private companies and NASA.



Friday Evening Special Agenda, 7 to 9 p.m. – Reception for VIPs. Special ticket needed.

Saturday Agenda (Tentative)

8:00 to 9:00 – Event open and fellowship

9:30 Panel: STS-35 ASTRO 1 & 2: STS-35 & STS-67 led by Scott Vangen, NASA electrical engineer. How “Blue Suit” lint created a first-time protocol for Shuttle communications.

25th Anniversary events & Restoration Project Celebrating Astronaut Sam Durrance
11:00 Presentation: Shocking Discoveries By Space Telescopes

Astronomer Dr. Eric Pearlman of Florida Institute of Technology explains the more we know, the more puzzled we are about the universe.

1:00 Panel: Two Tales Of Centaurs & RTGs led by Mikey Haddad, NASA electrical engineer; the controversy over nuclear power and the liquid-fueled booster rocket proposed for both STS-41, Ulysses to the Sun, and STS-34, Galileo to Jupiter.

STS-34, Oct. 18-23, 1989 Discovery

STS-41, Oct. 6-10, 1990, Discovery

2:30 Panel: Art In Space

Artist Chris Calle, photographer Mark Usciak, patch artist Tim Gagnon and painter Ron Woods share their introspective.

3:15 Panel: Rocket Renaissance

Discussion with NASA, Vaya Space, and others “Looking to the Future” of spaceflight.

Contact Mark Marquette, marq@americanspacemuseum.org, 321-264-0434 for information.

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PSJ Community Center Schedule - April, 2024

The center is open Mondays–Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Schedule is subject to change.**

For latest information about any of these programs or to register, call 321-633-1904.

Mondays

Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Game Room, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.

Tuesdays

Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Game Room, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
Dancing Little Stars-Ballet/Tap Combo Classes (ages 3-6) 5:10 - 5:55 p.m.

Wednesdays

Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Game Room, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
10th & 24th, Culinary Kid's 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Thursdays

Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Outside Basketball, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Game Room, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
Gentle yoga, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Fridays

Outside Basketball, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Game Room, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Billiards 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dancing Little Stars - Tiny Tots (ages 1-3) (Parent Participation), 10 - 10:45 a.m.
Dancing Little Stars - Beginner Ballet (ages 2-4), 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 1:30 - 6 p.m.

Coming soon on Monday evenings:

Zumba Fitness with Diana

I will take the "work" out of workout by mixing low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Once the Latin and world rhythms take over, you'll see why we call Zumba exercise in disguise. Super effective? Check. Super fun? Check and check.

*Bring your water bottle *Wear close-toed tennis shoes *bring a small towel * Bring your smile *Bring a friend!! Only \$8 per class.

About Kel's Kitchen - Culinary Kids—Every other Wednesday at 4:30-6:00 p.m. A special program for the child who has a keen interest in all things culinary. The focus is on developing

foundational skills to carry into your kitchen at home. \$20.00 per child. Adult must accompany child. Please register at www.floridakelskitchen.com.

About Dancing Little Stars - Professional Ballet, Tap and 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 through February. Tuition is \$60 per month with the recital costume included with tuition. Register online at www.dancinglittlestarsbrevard.com.

About Yoga With Diane - 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. Recommend not eating two hours prior, small fruit snack okay. Price is \$7 per class. Visit www.psyyoga.com for further information.

~Diane Coben~

Parks & Recreation Meeting

The North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, April 11th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.



The meeting will be held in the Brevard Room at 518 South Palm Avenue in Titusville. The public is invited to attend. The Brevard Room is located in a building on the

north side of the parking lot behind the Brevard County Government Center–North.

For questions, call Jeff Davis at 321-264-5105.

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Port St. John Housewives Softball League



and Thursday nights at Fay Park.

This is a great way to make friends and get some exercise. You do not have to live in Port St. John to join our league.

We are also accepting applications for sponsors and experienced umpires.

For more information, call: Veronica Ordner, President, at 321-698-3863; Amanda Howell, Vice-President, at 321-368-9890; Angie Burris, Treasurer, at 321-480-1052; or Joan Sottoriva, Secretary, at 321-537-9605. You can also find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/PSJHSL.

Amvets Post 2415 Schedule



4-3 Sons of Amvets 2415

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

4-10 General Membership Meeting-

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

4-11 Amvets 2415 Ladies Auxiliary General

Membership Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. President Theresa Nikki Anderson, 321-208-7897.

4-13 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415 General Membership Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Pres. Steve Carman, 321-446-3394.

4-13 Bike Night! 3:00 - 7:00 on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Post.

Meat Shoot - 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 2-4 p.m.

Karaoke every Friday with Bone, 6-10 p.m.

Bingo Sundays 1-?

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

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Parrish Medical Center Update

House Bill 739 would have dissolved the current Board of Directors, have the Governor appoint a five-member board and directed the hospital and all assets to be sold. The bill passed the Florida House of Representatives but didn't make it to the Florida Senate floor for a vote, so we should be safe at least this year. Representative Randy Fine also co-sponsored a bill in the Florida House to sell all public hospitals in Florida. Randy Fine doesn't want anything government owned, not just hospitals. The good thing about public hospitals is they pay for care of our uninsured and low-income families.

I have been a member of the Parrish Hospital Board for 23 years and Parrish has always been a first-rate hospital with great service and first-rate doctors and nurses. If it wasn't, I would be the first to shout it all over Brevard.

Bad Florida Bills Governor DeSantis Should Veto

Senate Bill 7014: "Ethics." This bill would destroy ethics enforcement in Florida's state and local government. The bill would require citizens who file sworn complaints to base them "upon personal knowledge other than hearsay." People with "personal knowledge" of misconduct are usually only those who commit the crimes. This bill also allows attorneys to hide conflicts of interest under the pretext of lawyer-client confidentiality.

House Bill 601: "Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers." Only allows civilian review boards to review policies and procedures. Doesn't allow local civilian review boards to review actions by officers or correction officers accountable to public other than through lawsuits.

House Bill 433: "Employment Regulations." This bill prevents local governments' ability to pass protections for workers in extreme heat. This is a terrible bill when climate change has caused record temperatures every year.

House Bill 1645: "Energy Resources." Discourages electric vehicle purchases and doesn't allow local input and review on gas pipelines. The bill also removes clean renewable energy grants and bans wind energy along our coasts.

House Bill 1347: "Consumer Finance Loans." This bill is a direct assault on low income people. The bill raises consumer loan interest ceilings

from 24% to 36% for loans of \$10,000 or less. The maximum interest rate is raised from 24% to 30% for loans up to \$20,000 and the bill raises interest to 24% instead of 18% for loans exceeding \$20,000.

House Bill 87: "Taking of Bears." HB 87 allows people to kill as many black bears as required to protect their property and safety. This bill does require residents to not leave out attractants, like having open trash that might take care of the problem. You cannot bait bears with food such as candy or cookie bits sold for that purpose. This bill shouldn't be creating an unlicensed year-round bear hunting season.

SpaceX Starship Environmental Impact Statement and Importance

The Department of the Air Force is working on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SpaceX Super Heavy and their Starship. The goal of the EIS is to determine if the Air Force will have a lease agreement for an existing Space Launch Complex 37, develop a new Space Launch Complex 50, or not have an agreement at all.

There have been three Open-House Meetings held on March 5 (Cocoa), March 6 (Titusville), March 7 (Cape Canaveral) and a virtual event on March 12. During the in-person open-house meetings, instead of having speakers explaining the aspects of the program's environmental impact, there were Space Force, Federal Aviation Administration, NASA and Coast Guard representatives available to answer questions at the various tables with placards describing the where, why and next steps in the environmental impact evaluation process.

I attended the Titusville March 6 event and was interviewed by Channel 6 WKMG. I know selecting reusing Launch Complex 37 is a lot better than starting a new Launch Pad, as they would have to clear 120 – 200 acres. This alternative would remove critical habitat and impact protected endangered species which must be on these 120 acres as previously documented in EIS for the previous launch systems at Launch Pads 13, 36, 40 and 41. This new alternative acreage couldn't be much different from the previous launch systems. The March 12 Zoom meeting only lasted twenty minutes. They presented the slides and closed the meeting. For all the meetings, comment cards were available and had to be

mailed in by March 22, 2024.

The EIS is exploring the impacts to airspace and maritime resources, air quality, climate change, noise, cultural resources, biological resources, water resources, hazardous materials and wastes, land use, infrastructure and utilities, geology, socioeconomics, environmental justice, safety and occupational health, and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Besides that, they are also looking at impacts to historical sites and Native American sites close to the studied Launch Complex.

Why were these meetings so important? SpaceX's Starship will be the most powerful rocket in history. They will carry humans and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon and even Mars. The lower booster stage has 33 Raptor engines. The combined Starship and Super Heavy booster with 33 Raptor engines stand 394 feet tall and will generate more than 16 million pounds of thrust. The Saturn 5 Moon Rocket was 363 feet and generated only 8 million pounds of thrust. The new NASA Space Launch System stands 321 feet high and only produces 8.8 million pounds of thrust. No matter how much sound suppression is used, Starship will make everyone, and everything, notice. It will be very loud and it will shake your house.

A draft EIS will be published in December 2024, and a final EIS will be published in the summer of 2025. They will publish their preferred launch site alternative at that time. This is assuming additional launch pads will not be required, but SpaceX has said they will eventually have hundreds of Starship launches per day, so one or two launch pads will not be enough, IF they limit launches to Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

Reference:

<https://www.SpaceForceStarshipEIS.com>

https://spaceforstarshipeis.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SpaceX_Starship_VirtualMeeting_-12March24.mp4

Environmentally Endangered Lands in Brevard County

After the Brevard County Commission bought land for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) program, I had quite a few people ask me how much land we have bought, so I researched it. Brevard County does not own it all, as you will see below.

EEL Property by Title Holder

North Region—

- Dicerandra (44.00 acres) State holds title; County paid \$200,963.50 toward acquisition.
- Fox Lake Sanctuary (2568.00 acres) - County title.
- Indian Mound (85.00 acres) - County title with Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant. The FLC receives approximately 21% from the sale of Florida Forever bonds for purchases of properties.
- South Lake (155.00 acres) - County title, mitigation donation.
- Enchanted Forest (462.00 acres) - State holds title to 393 ± acres- County paid \$3,262,117.50 toward acquisition of this portion; County holds title to 69 ± acres.
- Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary (1521.66 acres) - All County title.
- North Indian River Lagoon (413.78 acres) - State holds title to 342.36 ± Acres; County holds title to 71.42 ± Acres.

Central Region----

- Cruickshank (160.62 acres) - State holds title to 149.02 Acres; County paid \$1,132,000.00 toward acquisition of this portion; County holds title to 11.6 ± Acres.
- Thousand Islands (338.00 acres) - County title.
- Utama Sanctuary (295.42 acres) - County title.
- Capron Ridge (21.00 acres) - County title mitigation donation.
- Johnson (99.20 acres) - County title.
- Kabboord Sanctuary (502.00 acres) - County title.
- Pine Island Conservation Area (872.21 acres) - Joint title with SJRWMD - County paid \$2,395,637.33 toward acquisition.

South Region----

- Grant Flatwoods/Micco Scrub - State holds title to 2,776.27 ± Acres; County holds title to 1,548.16 ± Acres in Grant Flatwoods and Micco Scrub combined - County paid \$4,862,481.57 total.
- Jordan Scrub Sanctuary (749.49 acres) - State holds title to 354.42 ± Acres; County paid \$704,931.70 towards this portion; County holds title to 395.07 ± Acres.
- Malabar Scrub Sanctuary (579.19 acres) - State holds title to 570.34 ± Acres; County paid \$3,086,676.10 of this portion; County holds title to 8.85 ± Acres.
- Crane Creek (22.64 acres) - County title.

South Beach Region —

- Barrier Island Education Center (34.22 acres) - County title.
- Washburn Cove (39.13 acres) - State title; County paid \$898,503.50 toward acquisition Maritime Hammock (166.71 acres) - State title; County paid \$1,649,026.02 toward acquisition.
- Coconut Point (61.58 acres) - State title; County paid \$972,500.00 toward acquisition.
- Hog Point (20.18 acres) - State title; County paid \$524,769.31 toward acquisition.
- Hardwood Hammock (35.78 acres) - State title.
- Ocean Ridge (11.41 acres) - State title.

Cheerio,

~ Maureen Rupe, rupe32927@gmail.com

Don't Fall Victim to Tax Scams

With tax season in full swing, be on the lookout for scammers trying to steal your money and personal information. This tax season, remember:

- Never give your personal information out over the phone
- The IRS will never demand immediate payment
- Don't click suspicious links in your email about your tax return

All legitimate tax preparers will have a Preparer Tax Identification number. Before you hand over your social security number and financial information, you want to know if you selected a legitimate Tax Preparer.

You can look at www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/faqs-directory-of-federal-tax-return-preparers-with-credentials-and-select-qualifications. The directory is an IRS site and contains only certain federal tax return preparers. It contains those with an active preparer tax identification number (PTIN) who are also one of the following:

- Enrolled Agent
- Certified Public Accountant
- Attorney
- Enrolled Retirement Plan Agent
- Enrolled Actuary
- Annual Filing Season Program Participant

If you've been contacted by someone who is not on any of these lists, you might want to keep your information safe and contact a preparer who is on one of the lists. Recovering money lost in a scam is hard to recover when you provided the information to the scammer.

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Parrish Healthcare First in Brevard to Use VELYS Robotic-Assisted Solution Technology

Parrish Medical Center is excited to share that Orthopedic Surgeon Matthew Musto, DO, is the first in Brevard to use and offer the VELYS™ Robotic-Assisted Solution—advanced technology designed for digital precision and accuracy in total knee replacement.

Every knee is different, as is every patient requiring a knee replacement procedure. Patients are often looking for the latest technology as they aim for improved outcomes, increased movement and shortened recovery time. The VELYS™ Robotic-Assisted Solution technology helps surgeons perform a knee replacement with the use of data that's tailored to each patient's anatomy. This technology helps ensure predictable results to improve outcomes, increase mobility and help patients recover faster.

Dr. Musto, who currently serves as Parrish Medical Center's Director of Total Joint Replacement, completed his orthopedic fellowship training at the Minnesota Center for Orthopedics. Dr. Musto was the first surgeon to be accepted for the one-year fellowship, and it was here that he gained experience in robotic-assisted total knee replacement.

"Advanced technologies in joint replacement surgery have been growing quickly in the past few years," exclaims Dr. Musto. "The addition of advanced imageless robotic technology is a powerful tool that allows me improved precision and to make adjustments in half of a millimeter increments. This also allows me to personalize a surgical plan for each patient, all without the need for expensive, time consuming advanced imaging prior to surgery. This



also cuts down on radiation exposure for the patient."

Dr. Musto earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree with honors at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He also holds a Master's degree in Medical Science and Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Dr. Musto has offices conveniently located in Port Saint John at 5005 Port St. John Parkway, Suite 2200, Port St. John, and Titusville at 250 Harrison Street, Titusville. New patients are welcome and most insurance plans are accepted. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Musto, please call 321-433-2247.

For more information about the VELYS™ Robotic-Assisted Solution, Dr. Musto or Parrish Medical Center, visit Parrish.VELYSRobotics.com.

Port & Cities Job Fair

Wednesday, April 3rd, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Canaveral Port Authority, 445 Challenger Rd #301, Cape Canaveral. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/port-and-cities-job-fair-registration-857140138227?aff=oddtcreator



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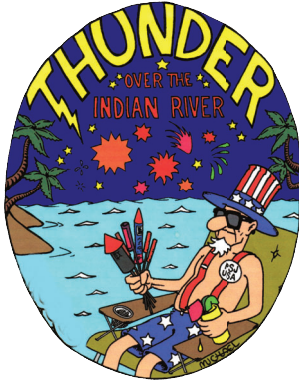


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Thunder Over Indian River Golf Classic

Our Sixth Annual Charity Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, April 20th at Indian River Preserve Golf Club. The cost is \$75 per person or \$280 per team and includes greens fee, cart, lunch, range balls and on-course contests. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. with the tournament's shotgun start officially starting at 8:00 a.m.

Afterwards, please join us for lunch, awards and raffle at about 12:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Port St. John Independence Day events and fireworks.



In addition to prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, there will be two "long drives," and two "closest to the pin" challenges, along with a putting contest. A hole-in-one wins \$25,000 toward the purchase of a new vehicle sponsored by Ron Norris Buick/ GMC, a 15 SEER A/C system sponsored by Freedom Air and Plumbing, or a Hybrid Water Heater provided by Freedom Air and Plumbing.

Anyone who does not play golf can still participate by sponsoring a golf hole for \$125 or attend the awards luncheon for \$20.00. For an application or additional info, email PSJCommunityFoundation@gmail.com or visit <https://portstjohncommunityfoundation.com/>.

The deadline to register is April 5th.



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Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick



While sitting here pecking at the little black box that replaced my trusty old Underwood, I've been privileged to have a front seat to maneuvers over the river by a very large, very old airplane. I know absolutely nothing about planes, (except I really don't like sitting in them), but this one was large and gray. I didn't see any markings.

I'm mentioning this because, like some of you, I'm old enough to stand a little prouder and feel a little protected at the sight and rumble of anything U. S. military. While watching the slow turn and dip, it occurred to me how terribly frightening this sight and sound is for those in harm's way in other lands. If you're reading this and have loved ones in harm's way, please know this terribleness is on our minds constantly and prayers are being sent.

By the time you are reading my little contribution to our own bastion of mass journalism, Easter will have already flown past...(can Christmas be far behind?) I guess the old adage that time quickens with each passing year is true. I'm still second thinking my decision about New Year's Eve.

I could - and have - ranted and raved about how this old world is being taken over by mass marketing gurus, that someone will have a 60% off sale on bikinis should the day of reckoning come before we have bought everything ever made.

Likewise, I'm not the only one who gets crazy when the mere mention of Easter brings forth images of brightly colored baskets filled to the brim with chocolate bunnies, marshmallow chicks, some kind of fake grass stuff that will be tangling vacuum brushes from under couches and beds for months (until Christmas tree tinsel takes its place) and plastic eggs filled with yet more candy. Since this wonderful holiday always falls on a Sunday, I'm very surprised teachers all over this great

land of ours have not marched on every candy manufacturer, captured the owners and held them hostage in first grade classes full of sugar-filled children the Monday after.

When my kids were young, dying hard boiled eggs and making cookies were some of the bright spots associated with the day. I took advantage of having all my offspring and some of my neighbor's offspring in one place at one time to recount the story of the real meaning of Easter while they were elbow deep in vinegar scented greens, yellows and blues. I've been lucky enough to be able to continue the tradition with grandkids and hopefully will do the same with great grands soon.

I've been told how old fashioned I am to continue to dye and hide the eggs, add toys, coloring books and crayons, and keep the baskets small to cut back on sugar, and I gladly plead guilty. Pilfering jelly beans and chocolate rabbit ears while my darlings sleep is a totally deniable offence.

Looking back from this side of the empty nest, I'm glad I was able to squeeze time out to spend on what some consider frivolous moments. Especially when we reminisce and I could mumble "I told you so" one more time to the child who positively would not believe me when I told him every year that his egg would turn out olive green if he dipped it in every color...and it did every year. Although not mine, this child was a special part of our lives and I miss him.

Holidays aside, there are those among us who especially yearn for the days when they were surrounded by their short loved ones and fondly remember family dinners where everyone recounted their days over home made meatloaf and mashed potatoes.

Like 99% of us, Ozzie and Harriett never made a stop at my house...My kids know if I start voicing such utterances they should up or discontinue my medications... recounting our days usually quickly became a tattling free for all and the meat loaf came stamped Mrs. Smith.

A wise mother once told me children are like an un-ordered chocolate pudding cake with chocolate rum frosting - you may not have asked for them, but you need to enjoy them to the fullest - they will soon be gone.

That's a beautiful hallmark statement, however she was wrong about the chocolate pudding cake with chocolate rum frosting; it's still on my hips.

Cocoa Station for Brightline?

In a statement, Brightline said it believes "the time is now to finalize a plan" for a new station, which would be located near State Road 528 and U.S. 1. Cocoa Mayor Michael C. Blake said city officials have met with Brightline executives and are ready to move forward with negotiations.

"A Cocoa in-line station represents a significant infrastructure investment and will have great economic impact on our community, with the goal of improving connectivity and accessibility for residents and visitors to the Space Coast," Blake said in a statement.

The CEO of Port Canaveral also expressed his support for the new Brightline station. "We're projecting over seven million passenger movements this year and we are thrilled that our guests will have another transportation option to embark on a cruise from Port Canaveral," said Capt. John Murray in a statement.

Details about the total cost of the station or its estimated opening date are not known. The city's communications director, Samantha Senger, said the city will also seek state and federal funding.

Post 359 - American Legion Riders presents



Bike Days at the Tiki Saturday, April 6, 1 - 5 p.m.

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.

4-3 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

4-8 Sons of the Legion, 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

4-17 General Membership Meeting- 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), 321-268-1632. Contact Commander Michelle Aaron at 321-289-2880 for more information.

4-21 American Legion Riders General Membership Meeting- 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Director Wayne Fowler, Director, 321-307-1450 or visit our website, alr359.org.

The Post is located at 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), or call 321-268-1632.



St. Patrick's Anglican Church
4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John
321-802-1311

Classical Christianity Engaging the World

Welcome to Spring! Here at St. Patrick's Anglican Church, we are now past Easter and looking forward to returning to our regular scheduled events for April and May.

April is a very quiet month for us, but please check out our Crafty Ladies on April 15th and May 20th – bring a craft to work on and join us for great fellowship and a light snack.

In May we will hold our annual Cinco de Mayo Potluck Dinner on Saturday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Veterans' and First Responder Breakfast will be Saturday, April 27th and May 25th in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. This is open to all veterans, spouses of veterans, police, fire and emergency services individuals.

Regular Service Schedule is: Holy Communion Service – Sunday 8:00 a.m. (no music), 10:00 a.m. (In Person and Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj>) and Wednesday 6:00 p.m. (In Person and Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj>)

Morning and Evening Prayer Services are – Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. (available through Facebook Live only at <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj>) and Friday 6:00 p.m. (In Person and Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj>).

Are you interested in finding out more about the Anglican Church and St. Patrick's Anglican Church, feel free to contact us at: St. Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John, 321-802-1311 or stpatrickpspj@gmail.com.

Updated event information and services are available on our website; <https://stpatrickpspj.org>.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Saint Patrick's Church, Port St. John

4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John

East off Grissom Pkwy.

Sunset Group Meeting

(C) Sunday 5:00 Closed topic

(Alcoholics Anonymous meets on Sundays at 5 p.m.

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

Food For Thought

Vegetable Fried Rice: Recipes to Prevent Food Waste

Ok, let me set the stage. It's Thursday night and you're standing in front of the fridge thinking to yourself, "What should I make for dinner tonight?" You pick up the zucchini that's a day past prime, looking shriveled and neglected. The open pack of mushrooms are beginning to brown and those carrots just don't look quite right. Another week of tossing the produce that's beginning to rot away in the crisper drawer. I don't know about you, but food waste is a pet peeve of mine. Before you get to that point, here is a simple solution; vegetable fried rice!

Vegetable fried rice is a simple and versatile dish that can be cooked up in under 30 minutes and is packed full of nutrients. To do this, you'll want to grab whatever produce you have in your fridge that needs to go. Do some haphazard chopping (safely, of course) and voila! In my recipe, I used zucchini, mushrooms, carrots, onion and edamame to get the job done. Remember, this dinner solution is about using what you have on hand, so don't get too caught up in following any recipe to a T.

To save time, use leftover rice that you might already have in the fridge. When possible, opt for brown rice. It contains more dietary fiber and protein than white rice. Don't skip out on the sesame oil. While much of this dish can be adjusted to whatever you have on hand, sesame oil has a unique flavor you don't want to miss. A little bit goes a long way and makes a world of

difference. Vegetables do contain protein, but to increase the protein content of the meal, add in some lean protein sources. This is another great way to repurpose leftovers. Or keep this completely plant-based by adding edamame.

- Amanda Mahaleris, MS, RDN, LDN

Vegetable Fried Rice

Prep Time: 5 minutes - Cook Time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4 Calories: 269

Ingredients:

2 cups cooked brown or white rice

4 cloves garlic minced

½ tbsp. ginger minced

½ large onion

1 1/3 tbsp. sesame oil

1 cup mushrooms chopped

1 cup edamame

½ cup carrots chopped

1 cup zucchini chopped

2 tbsp. soy sauce

Instructions

1. Prepare rice according to the directions on the package.

2. Sauté garlic, ginger, onion, and 1 tsp sesame oil in a non-stick skillet on medium heat until onion is slightly brown.

3. Add mushrooms, edamame, carrots and zucchini to a skillet and sauté on medium-high heat for 5-10 minutes.

4. Put sautéed vegetables in a separate dish and set aside.

5. Add remaining oil to a non-stick skillet and fry rice on high heat until brown.

6. Mix in vegetables and soy sauce to rice. Serve.



You are invited to the 32nd Bark Brew Fest presented by Tails at the Barkery and the Dirty Oar Beer Company on Saturday, April 20th at the Dirty Oar Beer Company from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Historic Cocoa Village.

Play Bingo to win a fabulous Prize! Wear your Aloha wear, bring your canine companion, sip

your favorite libation, enjoy delicious food from the Soul Hibachi Food Truck and join us for an evening of fun, including raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing.

All pets must be on a leash, or in appropriate carriers, and have current vaccinations and county tags for the safety of our animals and friends.

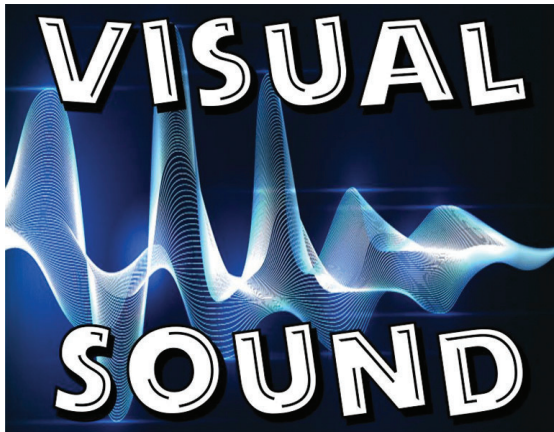
All proceeds to benefit Schnauzer Love Rescue, Inc., an all-volunteer, nonprofit rescue devoted to finding homes for all Miniature Schnauzers who are unwanted or have been abandoned.

Contact Schnauzer Love Rescue, Inc., www.schnauzerloverescue.net/ or Tails at the Barkery, 321-305-4584 or Dirty Oar Beer Company, 321-301-4306, www.tailsatthebarkery.com/.



American Space Museum & Space Walk of Fame

ASM Build-A-Brain Presents



Visual Sound

Ever wonder what Sound looks like? This month we will be seeing what a standing wave-form looks like, what kinds of patterns we can make with changing frequencies, and more crazy ways to interact with soundwaves.

April 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27

Registration is now open.

It will be lots of fun, as well as educational and it's FREE. **Please note: Students will need to be able to read and use a keyboard for this class.**

The workshop will be offered at 10:00, 12:00 and 2:00 on each of the above listed days. Be sure to register soon at <https://spacewalkoffame.org/register> to reserve a spot, as class sizes are limited to 12 students per class time, for children grades 1-6.

Please remember to park out front and enter through the back door. Thank You.

The museum is open for public tours Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact the American Space Museum at 321-264-0434. The address of the museum is 308 Pine Street, Titusville.

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



CABARET - Rated R

April 19 - May 12, 2024

In here, life is beautiful!

It is 1929, a time when the world is changing forever, there is one place where everyone can be free... Welcome to the Kit Kat Club this is Berlin. Relax. Loosen up. Be yourself. One of the most successful musicals of all time, this production features the songs Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, Mein Herr, Maybe This Time, Money and the title number Cabaret.



Titusville Playhouse 2023-24 Season

The Titusville Playhouse, Inc. is located within the Historic Emma Parrish Theatre 301 Julia St., (corner of Hopkins Ave. - US1 southbound), providing professional quality entertainment on the Space Coast. The MainStage theatre includes a 150 seat orchestra section and a 124 seat Balcony Section.

Balcony seats are only accessed by walking up a flight of stairs. THERE IS NO ELEVATOR.

MainStage Show:

Show times are Friday, Saturday and select Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., Sunday and select Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Lobby Doors open 30 minutes before show time. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/> or call 321-268-1125. Season tickets are available.



PORTSTJOHN-OPOLY

The PORTSTJOHN-OPOLY game is here. Boards are on sale for \$25.00. You can see the layout and purchase your game at: <https://portstjohncommunityfoundation.com/PORTSTJOHN-OPOLY/>.

This fundraiser will help support the many events and projects planned for our community. The Port St. John Community Foundation (PSJCF) is a 501(c)3 charity. Donations are tax deductible.

Events by the Port St. John Community Foundation could not be carried out without the donations of time, money, supplies and resources of this community and the surrounding areas. We appreciate and thank all the volunteers, businesses, partners and sponsors for participating in these community events. All members/volunteers donate their time and services to help raise money through fundraisers to hold community events and keep our community STRONG!

To read more about the Foundation and future planned community events, visit our website; portstjohncommunityfoundation.com. It does not cost anything to join as a volunteer/member.

The Foundation encourages residents and storefront/home business owners to attend PSJCF meetings. Meetings are posted on our Facebook page and are usually held at the PSJ Beef O' Brady's and are posted on our Facebook site.



Monthly Tax Update

There are many concerns for this month. If you received a letter from the IRS, you are not alone. Many taxpayers and businesses received those letters in March. This has been one of the biggest concerns for many people receiving letters with only the total balance due in prior years, including they may levy your assets if you don't resolve the balance due as soon as possible.

The first step is to consult with a tax professional. The tax professional will evaluate the letter and could reduce the tax liability by filing an amended return if any expenses on prior tax returns were overlooked or missed, especially with small businesses filing Schedule C on their personal tax returns.

That reminds me, for businesses claiming the standard mileage rate of 65.5 cents per mile, the IRS requires that you must substantiate business mileage in a contemporaneous log, with each trip's starting and ending points, date and business purpose. The standard mileage rate allows for separate deductions for parking and tolls.

Other expenses that require substantiation by the IRS are business meals; these meals need to record the date, individuals participating and business purpose.

Next, the bank statements and related records are insufficient to prove the business payments were ordinary and necessary business expenses. The debit card purchases generally identify to whom payments were made, but not exactly what was purchased or the business purpose of the purchase. Records of checks with only the check number and amount paid, but no annotations for any goods or services purchased will be not enough to define between personal and business

expenses.

Last, this is a reminder to pay your taxes by April 15th, or pay as much as you can and file an extension by April 15th. This gives you six months to file the return - until October 15th, 2024. Any unpaid taxes after April 15th will incur an approximate 1% per month, or part of the month of the tax liability, assessed penalty and interest.

There is maybe another way to help lower your tax liability and save money for your retirement. Ask your tax preparer if a contribution to a traditional IRA (Individual Retirement Accounts) will be beneficial to reduce your taxes. Contributions made to the traditional IRA are with pre-tax dollars. Remember you will pay taxes on all growth from this account when you withdraw the money from the IRA. These contributions will lower your income for the tax year of contribution and will result in less tax liability.

The IRA contributions are limited by the lesser of your earned income, or \$6,500 if you are under 50 and \$7,500 if you are 50 and older for 2023. In the case of a married couple, you may duplicate your contributions. Perhaps there is a threshold limit if you are already on a retirement plan at work. If you are single, the full deduction is on \$73,000 or less of your MAGI (Modified Adjust Gross Income) and \$116,000 or less of your MAGI

if you are married and filing jointly. You have until April 15th to make your contributions for the tax year 2023. That means by April 15th, 2024, you can contribute for your 2023 tax year, up to \$6,500 or \$7,500, if you are 50 and older.

Also, from January 1st, 2024, through April 15th, 2025, you can contribute \$7,000 or \$8,000, if you are 50 and older.

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, you may contact our office at your earliest convenience or contact your advisor. Provided by Pedro L. Baldeon, E.A., (321) 632-5726, a member of the National Society of Accountants.

*The best things in life are
the people you love, the
places you've seen and
the memories you've made
along the way.*

**TO ALL OUR CLIENTS...
THANK YOU
FOR ANOTHER BANNER SEASON!!!**

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Parrish Healthcare Community Support Groups - April

Parrish Healthcare offers a variety of support groups as a free service to the community.

Parrish Healthcare Mom's Support Group

A group for mothers with babies ages birth to six months. During this time, moms will be able to discuss topics such as infant feeding, sleeping, milestones, car seats, play, development, postpartum care, birth control, post-partum depression, dietary needs and much more. Space is limited.

- When: Mondays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10-11 a.m.
- Where: The Children's Center, 5650 S. Washington Ave., Titusville
- For additional information and to register, visit parrishhealthcare.com/Moms.

Parrish Healthcare's Fearless Café

A collaboration with St. Francis Reflections Life Stages Care, this group shares a casual discussion about advanced directives, power of attorney, wills, living wills and all of the often scary conversations about death and dying.

- When: Wednesday, April 3, 10-11 a.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Janet Rooks, MA, CDP
- For additional information, please contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800.
- To register, please visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/FearlessCafe.

Parrish Healthcare Diabetes Support Group

This support group is for anyone age 18 and older with diabetes. Join us for tips to live better with this disease.

- When: Monday, April 8, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Peggy McLaughlin, BSN, RN, CDCES
- For additional information, please contact Peggy McLaughlin at 321-268-6699.
- To register, please visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/DiabetesSupport.

Parrish Healthcare A.W.A.K.E Sleep Support

This group is dedicated to exchanging information and increasing awareness of sleep, sleeping disorders, and related health concerns. Everyone with an interest in sleep and health is encouraged to attend.

- When: Monday, April 8, 6-8 p.m.
- Where: Manatee Conference Room, 5005 Port St. John Pkwy., Port St. John

- Facilitated by Kristina Weaver, Sleep Center Director
- To register, please visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/SleepSupport.

- For additional information, please contact the Sleep Center at 321-268-6408.

Parrish Healthcare's Caring for Caregivers Support Group

Care giving is a rewarding, yet demanding labor of love. Join us to learn how to care for yourself while you care for your loved one.

- When: Thursdays, April 11, 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Janet Rooks, MA, CDP
- For additional information, please contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800.
- To register, please visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/CaregiverSupport.

Parrish Healthcare Stroke and Heart Survivors Support Group

If you've experienced a diagnosis or event, or are caring for someone living with heart disease or stroke, our community is here to support you.

- When: Tuesday, April 16, 2-4:00 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Janet Rooks, MA, CDP
- For additional information, please contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800.
- To register, please visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/StrokeandHeartSupport.

Early Steps Community Play Date

A special play date for children five and under and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

- When: Wednesday, April 17, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Where: The Children's Center, 5650 S. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Mary Cancel, Family Resource Specialist
- For additional information, visit parrishhealthcare.com/EarlySteps.

Parrish Healthcare Cancer and Survivor Support Group

This group is for cancer patients, cancer survivors and anyone touched by the disease. Enjoy refreshments and talk with others sharing similar situations and experiences.

- When: Wednesday, April 17, 4-5:30 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave.,

Titusville

- Facilitated by Shannon Luker, RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN

- For additional information, please contact Shannon Luker at 321-268-6111, ext. 3544.
- To register, please visit www.parrishhealthcare.com/CancerSupport.

Tools to Quit Smoking Now

We know quitting tobacco isn't easy, but finding help should be. Parrish Healthcare has partnered with Tobacco Free Florida to offer this free class which equips those who use tobacco with tools and services to quit.

- When: Tuesday, April 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Where: Parrish Medical Center, 951 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- For more information and to register, visit parrishhealthcare.com/quitsmoking.

Parrish Healthcare's Amputee Support Group of Titusville

A safe and supportive environment for individuals living with limb loss or limb difference as well as their family. Join us for resources, education, fellowship, refreshments, and snacks on the second Tuesday of every month.

- When: Tuesday, April 9; 3-4:30 p.m.
- Where: Manatee Conference Room, Parrish Healthcare Center Port St. John, 5005 Port St. John Pkwy, Port St. John
- For more information and to register, visit parrishhealthcare.com/amputeesupport.

Kidney Smart Class

Take control of your kidney health by attending a 90-minute, no-cost Kidney Smart class led by expert educators in your community. You'll learn about chronic kidney disease and its causes, diet and nutrition, benefits of employment and managing insurance, and treatment choices that may be available to you.

- When: Thursday, April 25; 1-2:30 p.m.
- Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville
- For more information and to register, visit parrishhealthcare.com/kidneysmart.

For more information about available classes, support groups and events, visit parrishhealthcare.com/events.



Researchers Find More Effective Treatment For Invasive Grass

It's invasive and abrasive. It's creeping and sneaking. And finding a fix to root out this problem can be a headache. It's cogongrass. Cogongrass is one of the most widespread invasive plant species in the southeastern United States, said Luke Flory, a UF/IFAS agronomy professor. "It alters habitats and ecosystems and reduces biodiversity. It also changes how fire spreads. More targeted herbicide solutions are needed to manage this invasive species and preserve native plants."

A new study from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) agronomy department revealed that some herbicides target cogongrass better than more conventional, popular sprays – such as glyphosate – and the herbicides can actually help restore native plants.

Introduced unintentionally in Alabama via shipping in the early 1900s and intentionally in Florida in the 1930s, cogongrass was initially used as packing material and forage. It was also used as erosion control before residents realized the pervasive and detrimental effects of the invasive grass on the native environment, according to the USDA. When cogongrass spreads, it chokes out native species, threatening ecosystems by changing how fire spreads and changing habitats by infesting forests and hunting grounds.

Traditionally, the herbicide of choice for getting rid of cogongrass has been broad-spectrum chemical applications like glyphosate – often known by its brand name, Roundup – but Flory and a team of researchers showed there is a better method. Instead of using glyphosate, which kills all plants, his research recommends grass-specific herbicides.

Using grass-specific herbicides means you'll give native species the chance to survive and thrive in that landscape, rather than unintentionally killing native species when spraying with a broad-spectrum herbicide. The grass-specific herbicide Flory and his team tested was fluazifop-P-butyl, which is sold under various brand names, such as Fusilade 2000, Horizon, and Tornado.

Five applications of fluazifop-P-butyl proved as effective as three applications of glyphosate for removing cogongrass for at least one year following the herbicide application, according to the study published in Restoration Ecology.

"Cogongrass is common throughout much of Florida," said Flory. "You shouldn't be using broad spectrum herbicides if you can afford it. You get a lot more preservation and recovery of native species and just as effective cogongrass control with only two extra herbicide applications."

- by Meredith Bauer

Martin Andersen Senior Center Dances

Martin Andersen Senior Center will host Singles/Couples Ballroom Dances on Saturday, April 13th and Saturday, April 27. 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.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

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

The April meeting will be on the 8th. You are invited to join us for lunch at 11:30 and an interesting speaker at 12:15.

The website address is www.NARFE.org/Chapter1137.

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 Florida Corporation, and is tax exempt under Section 501c4 of the Federal Tax Code. The club is dedicated to promoting the visibility and value of the accordion as a multi-cultural musical instrument. For more information, contact Rod Hall, 866-455-2322.

An Evening With the Stars Calling All Book Lovers — Meet Dozens of Best-Selling Authors for a One-Night-Only Event!

Florida Star Fiction Writers is proud to sponsor An Evening With the Stars, a one-of-a-kind free reader event featuring more than 35 bestselling and award-winning authors that's perfect for your book club outing, date night or a fun-filled girls' night out. Fans of romance, cozy mysteries, thrillers, women's fiction and other popular genres will have an opportunity to mix and mingle with some of their favorite authors in an intimate meet-and-greet setting.

An Evening With the Stars will feature goody bags stuffed with book swag for the first 125 attendees, complimentary desserts, a cash bar, a photo booth with fun props, raffle baskets and a pick-your-favorite book cover contest with prize drawings. Guests will have the opportunity to buy books and get them signed by the authors.

Admission is free. Registration is not required; however, if you register via Eventbrite, you will receive a complimentary raffle ticket for a chance to win a fabulous raffle basket. You can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-the-stars-2024-tickets-798912046437>.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center at 8298 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, on Friday, April 5, 2024, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information on the event and to see a complete list of participating authors, please visit our website at: <https://www.floridastarwriters.com/an-evening-with-the-stars/>

The event is being held in conjunction with Florida Star Fiction Writers' conference Writing for Success, April 5-7, 2024. See details at floridastarwriters.com.

Maturing is realizing your mom was right, but she could've used some work on her tone.



Viper Nation Supply Station

The Viper Nation Supply Station is always in need of food. They have families that shop there on a regular basis. And students go every Tuesday and Thursday. Contact Keri Weeks at 321-638-0750, ext. 27009 or weeks.keri@brevardschools.org to help.



CBAA Spring Art Show

The Central Brevard Art Association, a not-for-profit art association in Rockledge, announces its Annual Cocoa Central Library Spring Art Show and Sale will be at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Reference Library, 308 Forrest Ave, Cocoa, to be held April 25-28. Show hours are Thursday Preview, April 25th, 6 8 p.m.; Friday, April 26th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, April 27th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, April 28th, 1 - 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

Join us 'in the stacks' inside the Cocoa Library where local artists will be showcased and sell a variety of original fine art and prints, photography, jewelry, silks, clay, wood, sculpture, mixed media and much more! Perfect gift giving ideas for Mother's Day & your favorite graduate.

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

CBAA is a not-for-profit organization of local artists serving Brevard County for over 61 years.

For more information, call 321-806-8065 or visit www.cbaaartists.com.

Floridian Flora & Fauna

Artwork by Pete Steenland

Pete Steenland holds his fourth exhibit with the Studios of Cocoa Beach this April. His work is typically defined by his love of nature, and it is evident he has an acute appreciation for the intricacy within all



living things. Since his early childhood, he has been inspired by nature's intense beauty even in the smallest plants, including weeds and marine diatoms, on into the magnificence of the greatest of subjects. Exhibition will be from April 1 to April 28 with the Reception on April 5th starting at 6:00 p.m. at The Studios of Cocoa Beach, 159 Minutemen Causeway, Cocoa Beach.

Pete holds an AA degree in Art and Biology, and a BA from University of West Florida in Studio Art with an emphasis in Marine Sciences with special focus in scientific illustration of marine and aquatic organisms. In addition to Pete's educational background, he spent thirty-two years working on the seas as a licensed Merchant Marine Captain and as a Master of Vessels up to 3,000 gross tons for freight and towing.

In this new series, Pete departs from ocean images and delves hip deep into the everglades (literally). His new work is a part of a larger expanding project emphasizing abstraction of his aesthetically realistic style, a process that continues to evolve and is evident in his past works. He most often creates large images and uses any combination of watercolor, gesso, oils, acrylics, Conte-crayon, India ink and any other unexpected media he may decide to play with.

To help manage Pete's art business, Donna Steenland, Pete's wife, plays a major role. The two of them "share in a unified fellowship of art," dedicating their energies to "sharing the many ways of reflecting the wonderful aspects of God's unlimited Grace" with others ultimately resulting in Pete's art that vibrates with love for life, love for nature and love for God.

For more information, visit www.studiosofcocoa-beach.org, email studiosofcocoa-beach@gmail.com or call 321-613-3480.

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LIFE • HEALTH • ANNUITIES

Sharing Center

of Central Brevard



The Sharing Center of Central Brevard 7th Annual Amateur Backyard BBQ Contest is back. On April 6, 2024, come out to F. Burton Smith Park, in Cocoa, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. to sample some of the best local BBQ around.

Amateur BBQ Teams from across the county will vie for the title of Amateur Champion Griller in three categories: beef, pork and chicken. Each team will be providing samples of their delicious BBQ for you, the public who will be voting for the People's Choice Champion Griller. While serious competitors are sweating it out, we will be soaking up the rays with great food, cold drinks and live entertainment.

The event's proceeds will benefit the Sharing Center's Children's Weekend Feeding Program, a program designed to empower families with children by providing access to healthy food on the weekends during the school year.

Tickets for the event are \$20.00 each. This includes entry to the event, 1 BBQ dinner and samples from the BBQ teams. Come enjoy live music by Classic Jurassic, 50/50 and great raffles including a Traeger Pellet Smoker and more!

Don't wait until the last moment to get your tickets! Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

- Sharing Center's Thrift Store at 113 Aurora Street, Cocoa
- Jennifer Neuman Dicandio's Allstate Insurance, 950 Fay Blvd., Port St. John
- Sharing Center's Thrift Store at 95 E. Merritt Island Causeway, Merritt Island

Tickets are also available the day of the event. Come join us for some great BBQ and help feed hungry kids here in our own community. For more info, visit www.sharingcenterBBQcontest.com.

\$1500 PRIZE
to
Winning BBQ Teams

Sharing Center
of Central Brevard
presents



Featuring Live Music by
Classic Jurassic

BBQ • BEER • MUSIC

AMATEUR BACKYARD BBQ CONTEST

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SHARING CENTER'S
CHILDREN'S WEEKEND FEEDING PROGRAM

\$20 TICKETS

BBQ SAMPLES 'N DINNER

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

RAFFLES & 50/50'S

321-631-0306

BBQ@SHARINGCENTER.ORG



**SATURDAY
APRIL 6
11AM - 5PM**

**F. BURTON SMITH PARK
7575 W KING ST, COCOA, FL 32926**

SPONSORED BY THE SHARING CENTER. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HOW TO BE
A CONTESTANT PLEASE CALL, EMAIL OR VISIT US ONLINE TODAY.

sharingcenterbbqcontest.com

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.**

4-2 Compassionate Friends Support Group meets the first Tuesday of every 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.

4-3 Port St. John Zoning Board meets at PSJ Public Library, 6 pm.

4-3 American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 359, General Membership Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Post Home, 7260 S. US 1, just north of PSJ. Call President Valerie Helmer at 321-268-1632.

4-3 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting- 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

4-5 Laylat al-Qadr

4-6 Bike Days at the Tiki, 1:00 - 5:00 PM
First Saturday of each month. 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), 321-268-1632. Contact Wayne Fowler, Events Coordinator, American Legion Riders Post 359 at 321-307-1450 or visit their website, alr359.org, for more information.

4-9 Eid al Fitr / Ramadan ends

4-11 North Brevard Parks and Recreation meets at 4 p.m. at 518 South Palm Ave., Titusville. For questions, call Jeff Davis at the North Area Parks Office, 321-264-5105.

4-11 Amvets Ladies Auxiliary 2415 General

Membership Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. President Theresa N. Anderson. 321-208-7897.

4-12 Brevard Women's Connection meets at Space Coast Convention Center on Hwy. 520 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., 2nd Friday of each month. Call Pam at 321-752-6896 or e-mail bwc0020@gmail.com.

4-13 Amvets Riders meeting, 2nd Saturday at 10 a.m. Call President Craig Doan, 321-208-7897.

4-14 Word Weavers Space Coast, a critique group for Christian writers, meets the 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Visitors are always welcome. Email angelagardnerwrites@gmail.com for info.

4-14 Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meets on the 2nd Sunday each month (except Mother's Day & November), 2 p.m., Cocoa Library.

4-15 Tax Day! - Taxes are due.

4-15 Moonport Modelers RC Club meets at 6:30 p.m., 3rd Monday each month at the N. Brevard Library, 2121 S Hopkins Ave., Titusville. For more info, call Wayne Mendez, 505-2361.

4-16 North Brevard Republican Club meets 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. at the Police Hall of Fame, 6350 Horizon Dr., Titusville. All are welcome.

4-17 American Legion Post 359 meets at the Post Home at 7260 S. US 1 in Bellwood, (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 Michelle Aaron at 321-289-2880 for more information. .

4-17 Amvets Post 2415 General Membership Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Larry Lonneville, 321-208-7897.

4-22 Earth Day

4-23 Moonlight Quilters Guild meets at the First United Methodist Church, 206 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville on the 4th Tuesday of each month (no meeting in April or December). Meet and greet refreshments at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 6:15 p.m., usually followed by show and tell or a guest speaker. Email Moonlight.Quilters@yahoo.com for more information.

4-26 Arbor Day

4-27 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.

Congratulations to:

Tanner "TanMan" Fine turned **10** on March 14.

Brianna Romans turns **29** on the 1st.

Michiyo Hall parties till dawn on the 1st.

Jeremy Rausch turns **22** on the 1st.

Vickie Wiedman is more lovely on on the 2nd.

Jennifer Maxwell rocks the house on the 3rd.

April Staner parties wild on the 3rd.

Bobby Hudspeth turns cooler on the 5th.

Lydia Hudspeth turns **25** on the 6th.

Bill Aglitz turns **56** on the 8th.

Dylan Thomas turns **25** on the 9th.

Madison Thomas turns **19** on the 9th.

Lori Johnson rules the world on the 9th.

Jason Wolfe turns **22** on the 10th.

Amanda Hosler turns the Big **3-0** on the 12th.

Ryland Travis turns **12** on the 12th.

Dawne Parker gets spanked on the 14th.

Joel Smith has a party day on the 14th.

April Blake turns hotter on the 16th.

Jamie Kline turns more lovely on the 16th.

Christina D'Amico turns **29** on April 18th

April Higgs turns **33** on the 19th.

Donnie Crouse turns wiser on the 20th.

Dusty Stricker turns **30** on the 24th.

Pamela Mann turns classier on the 25th.

Kolby Davis turns **31** on the 26th.

Wanda Daugherty turns prettier on the 27th.

Sharon Hightower is the Queen on the 28th.

KC, Happy Birthday on the 28th! Love, Joe.

Elizabeth Blum turns **23** on the 29th.

Jaden Travis turns **19** on the 29th.

Sonny & Gayle Wardlow celebrate **44** on the 14th. It's Party Time!

Randy & Michele DeVane celebrate their **28th** on the 14th.

Paul and Sarah Bennett celebrate their **10th** wedding anniversary on the 5th!!

Brenda and Bill Townley celebrate their **26th** wedding anniversary on the 5th.

Michael & Cheryl Rausch celebrate their **39th** on the 17th.

James and Jennifer Maxwell celebrate their **20th** anniversary on the 26th.

Gary & Holly Turner celebrate their **46th** anniversary on the 28th.

We have lots of room for more good news.

Email inputs to happenings1@att.net.

Important Phone Numbers

County Commissioner -	321-607-6901
Sheriff: Non-Emergency -	321-633-7162
Fire Station 26 (Port St. John)	321-33-2056
Emergency Operations Center	321-637-6670
Waste Management -	321-636-6894
Port St. John Library	321-633-1867
PSJ Community Center -	321-633-1904
Florida Power & Light -	321-723-7795
City of Cocoa Water Dept. -	321-433-8400
Parrish Medical Center	
Port St. John -	321-636-9393
Titusville -	321-268-6111

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

321-633-1867

Mary Lena Penna, Library Director

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, 12-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

4/1, 4/15 & 4/16 1:30-5 p.m.: Community Support Advocate office hours. Can help with Housing Assistance, SNAP Benefits, Social Security/Medicare Benefits and more.

4/3 6:30 p.m.: Bookworms Bookclub, see the Reference desk for monthly book selection.

4/4 10 a.m.: One-On-One Tech Help. See Reference for information and to sign up.

4/6 10:30 a.m.: Painting & Craft class. St. Patrick's Day sign and gnome. \$40 fee due at signup. See Reference Desk for more information and to sign up.

4/11 10 a.m.: North Brevard Public Library Advisory Board Meeting.

4/12 3-4 p.m.: Earth Day Recycling Craft with special guest! Ages 6-12 recommended, no registration required.

4/18 2:00 p.m.: Spice Travelers Spice Club! Pick up a kit including this month's featured spice at the Reference Desk beginning 4/1. Join us on the third Thursday at 2 p.m. to discuss and share recipes.

4/25 9:30 a.m.: Children's Craft class. Ages 6+ Homeschool groups welcome! Sign ups encouraged, see Youth services.

Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m.: STEAM time. Ages 6-12. Come build & make things with us! Activities centered around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics.

Thursdays 1-3 p.m.: SHINE Medicare assistance through the Senior Resource Alliance of Brevard.

Fridays 9:30-10 a.m. Baby Storytime. Ages 3 and under.

Fridays 10:30 a.m. Toddler Storytime. Ages 3-5. Meeting rooms are available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis.

Computers are available and we also offer scanning, wireless printing and faxing.

More information on services offered, how to get a library card and events for all the Brevard County libraries can be found at brevardfl.gov/PublicLibraries.

On the Road With Rose



Fort? Hotel? Last Outpost? ...

Ruins in New Smyrna Beach

115 Julia Street, New Smyrna Beach.

Things in our world are certainly not idyllic, but I believe there just might be a tiny light in the darkness. We have felt for so long that as soon as we solve one problem, another pops up and it gets overwhelming. For all who are suffering or have loved ones suffering from the world's problems, health issues or whatever else, please know you're not alone and prayers are being sent.

My intrepid fellow adventurer and I took the hour and fifteen-minute ride via I-95 to beautiful New Smyrna Beach, finding the Old Fort Park and the ruins very easily. Driving home via U.S. 1 took just a little longer, but that's the only way to get to a great seafood restaurant.

On the eastern side of Old Fort Park near downtown New Smyrna Beach sits one of Florida's own mysteries. Several names have been bestowed on the 40 by 80 rectangle of coquina blocks and mud reminiscent of St. Augustine's Castillo de San Marco.

Dug fairly deeply into the large fort mound, built of the same material and design as Saint Augustine's fort, some historians have dated it around the 1600's. Some trains of thought have it being a fort that was deserted when malaria, unfriendly Native Americans and just plain heat drove settlers to head to Saint Augustine. Others think a large hotel was built on the site and still others think it was a warehouse to accommodate the ships unloading supplies on the nearby inter-coastal waterway.

I find all the above ideas very interesting, except when you are standing on the edge looking down you will notice there are no doors, windows or the little openings made to put a rifle through.

Walls nearly three feet thick, if you are standing on the edge looking south to north, there are

three long, fairly narrow 'rooms' dug deepest into the ground. West to east, there are three sets of more square 'rooms' dug a little less deep, with no doors or windows to connect them. Long narrow L-shaped 'rooms' grace the four corners and contain stairs leading down.

I have visited several old forts in my time, but nothing resembling this one. I can fully understand smart business people of the day using the pre-built and very strong site to build a store, hotel, warehouse and boarding house, as is local lore - but its origin is what intrigues me.

Circling the ruins looking for hints of its original use, you will notice several areas where the city has carefully tried to reconstruct the walls as they were. I really appreciate when organizations take care to conserve the past.

My intrepid fellow adventurer and I have different ideas as to the origin of the ruins. I think the only possible use of underground rooms without doors and windows would be a dungeon...She doesn't. I'm also at odds with family members, each having a different opinion. So I am putting a plea out to my readers. If you have the opportunity to take the short drive to try to unravel the puzzle, please let me know your thoughts at rosepadrick@gmail.com.

The park itself is a nice place to spend an afternoon, perhaps a picnic. There's plenty of room for kids to run and play, but please hold little ones' hands when approaching the ruins. There are no fences to keep curious eyes on the level walls.

Pets are allowed and there are clean up stations with the little plastic bags. If you take Fido with you, please clean up after him.

It's also very easy to spend several hours wandering the wide sidewalks, window shopping the little shops. All kinds of restaurants abound. Many have outside seating where dogs are welcome.

About three miles southwest are the Sugar Mill Ruins, another coquina structure dating back to the early 1800's. Other historical sites in the area include the Eldora House, located about 12 miles southeast of New Smyrna, and Dummit's Tomb on Canova Drive, the above-ground gravesite of one of the town's first settlers. The New Smyrna Museum of History is at 120 Sams Ave., about one block from Old Fort Park

As usual please take only pictures and leave only footprints. Sunscreen is advised.

SLEEPY HOLLOW



Fruit From The Groves

ON JUNE 13, 2024 CANAVERAL GROVES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HOSTING A MEETING TO "MEET THE CANDIDATES" FOR DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER. THIS MEETING IS GOING TO BE HELD AT BREVARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH LOCATED AT 3925 GRISSOM PARKWAY IN COCOA. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:30 P.M. SHARP. ALL RESIDENTS IN DISTRICT ONE ARE INVITED.



Waste Management has requested that barrels be at least 3 feet apart. If you have yard waste or large items, please contact them at 321-636-6894 and advise them as to what you need. Remember NOT to let any of your yard waste or trash extend onto the roadway.

Ed Silva, President
Canaveral Groves Homeowners
Association

Lifeguard Course Offered

Central Area Parks and Recreation will be offering two lifeguard courses this year at McLarty Park Aquatic Center, 790 Barton Blvd. in Rockledge. The first course will be April 5-6 and the second will be May 3-5. Course details and information can be found below:

Lifeguard Course 1

- Call 321-302-1658 to schedule a swim test.
- April 5, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- April 6, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- April 7, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Lifeguard Course 2

- Call 321-302-1658 to schedule a swim test.
- May 3, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- May 4, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- May 5, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Participants will need access to the internet as this course has online components. All classes must be attended.

The cost is \$278.13 and must be paid upon successful completion of a skills test. Those who commit to working for Brevard County Parks and Recreation this summer can qualify for a reduced fee. Class size is limited. Pre-registration is recommended with a minimum of five participants to hold the class.

Interested candidates must be at least 15 years of age, able to swim 300 yards nonstop (front crawl and breaststroke), complete a timed 10-pound brick retrieval, and tread water for two minutes using legs only.

Upon successful course completion, participants will receive American Red Cross certification in Lifeguard, First Aid and CPR for Professional Rescuer.

For additional information, please call Debbie Bowling at 321-302-1658 or email debbie.bowling@brevardfl.gov.

I have received some complaints of traffic violations including passing a school bus when its lights were flashing. Parents need to make sure that the students are in a safe zone when waiting for the bus and listen to the bus driver. If you see a violation and/or someone that is continuously speeding, then give the Sheriff's office a call with the time and make of the vehicle. They can be contacted at 321-264-5100. The Sheriff's Deputies have been out here issuing traffic violations.

Brevard County Station 29 "Guardians of the Groves" have been busy responding to calls.



5370 US-1, Cocoa FL 32927

321-305-5440

Hours: 11 am - 10 pm

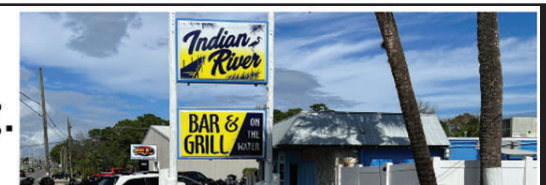
Wednesday - Monday



Waterfront Dining in PSJ! Pet Friendly out door seating.

Let our friendly staff
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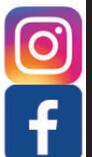
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New Compost Standards, Practices In Florida

Food waste is one of the main drivers in Florida's dependence on landfills, which fuel greenhouse emissions and promote climate change. Food is the most common material sent to landfills, comprising 24.1% of municipal solid waste in the United States, according to the EPA. When yard trimmings, wood and paper/paperboard are added to food, these organic materials make up 51.4% of municipal solid waste in landfills. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), landfills contribute annually up to 14 percent of emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas, and are a major contributor to global warming.

Despite efforts to keep public recycling programs open, fewer exist. Programs are cutting back on their availability to accept materials or shutting down altogether because they have no more room and cannot continue due to costs, or they are overwhelmed due to the inability to keep up with demands. This creates a situation where recyclable items end up in landfills. For this reason, Florida needs other alternatives for food waste removal. Composting programs, some with and without curbside pick-up services in San Francisco, Portland, Colorado, Vermont, Virginia and a handful of other municipalities have proven to be successful and an economically viable solution and practice when infrastructure is put in place.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is on a mission to seek alternatives that will encourage Florida residents and business people to steer food waste, grass clippings and more away from landfills by composting these items. That is why UF/IFAS Extension agents, scientists and administrators are leading the charge and joining forces with compost industry professionals and organizations, federal sustainability officers, policy makers and funding organizations to establish the UF/IFAS Compost Consortium. The goal is to encourage funding organizations, city and county sustainability officers and elected officials to join in developing science-based standards and a Florida compost model to divert the effects of landfills and eliminate the continued dependence on them.

On March 27, the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center will host the initial

UF/IFAS Research Compost Consortium Conference from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free event is a call to action inviting Florida's city, county and state decision makers, agriculture and horticulture producers and compost industry services to come together. Lunch is provided and registration is required to this free program.

The goal is to collaborate with the Florida Composting Council to explore economic, policy and environmental research needs for compost. Other efforts to explore include developing incentives to improve capacities for industry partners to guide and assist municipalities in implementing robust environmentally viable, and resourceful compost programs.

As a locally produced resource, compost can be implemented into production and landscape industry practices. Some examples include use of compost by plant, vegetable and tree growers as well as for landscape design.

Mica McMillan, assistant professor at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, and Liz Felter, a UF/IFAS regional specialized agent (RSA) and commercial production horticulture agent are bringing these groups together to make composting a universal and established approach in the Sunshine State.

Compost has many uses that go beyond serving as homeowner potting mix and topsoil for gardens. It can be implemented into production and landscape practices, said McMillan. "After a hurricane, what happens to all the green waste? What about landscape waste? There are companies and municipalities working together, collecting clippings and green waste and bringing material to a compost service, which then transforms it into organic growing media that can potentially be

used for landscaping and commercial production for growers. On a community scale, this can be accomplished," said McMillan.

"Imagine if most property owners composted their food waste and either used it for their own garden amendment or allowed it to be picked up by a compost service led by a city or county established program for environmental and economic well-being purposes," she explained. "We can make this the norm rather than the exception in Florida. We've been talking about this for decades, let's now do it."

By Lourdes Mederos, rodriguezl@ufl.edu

Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - April 10th this month - at 7:00 p.m. in the club house on Merritt Island Airport.



If you have a passion or interest in aviation, then EAA 724 will bring you closer to the action. You don't have to be a pilot or aircraft owner to enjoy our group. Our chapter is a mixture of pilots, wannabe pilots and non-pilots. If you like aircraft and aviation, you are welcome. Each month we have an interesting speaker and lots of hangar flying. The airport is approximately 2 miles south of SR 520 on Courtenay Parkway. Turn off Courtenay onto the airport and then bear right. Across from the Fire House is the club house with the EAA logo on the end of the building.

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

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 675, Sharpes, FL 32959



Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Won't you join us?

Reducing costs. Improving healthcare across the system.



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by participating in select ACS Quality Programs.

