

HAPPENINGS

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SERVING PORT ST. JOHN & CAVERAL GROVES

HAPPENINGS
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*** PSJ Christmas Parade Results! ***

The 31st annual Port St. John Christmas Parade took off under clear skies, and cool enough to feel like winter time (in Florida, anyway). Last year's parade champion, Cub Scout Pack 704, did not return to defend their title and Best Overall was won by Port St. John Pirate Bar with a dazzling float and lots of imagination and hard work to build it.

Our Grand Marshall this year was our own Hometown Heroes, the people who kept our stores and essential businesses running in spite of the pandemic. We didn't have many of them because - of course - they were working! Because of them we've been able to buy groceries, get medical care and treatment when needed, emergency services have continued and our youngsters could continue their education and we have persevered. A BIG THANK YOU to all the workers who have stayed on the job and made our lives tolerable through this pandemic.

With the threat of Covid, the schools opted for maximum safety and did not participate this year, but we still had a lot of new entries and a lot of happy spectators out to see the parade. It



turns out there's a PSJ Golf Cart Club and Batman showed up along with Batwoman.

As always, a VERY BIG THANK YOU goes out to our wonderful sponsors who make the parade possible: Parrish Medical Center, Happenings, Maureen Rupe, Higginbotham Companies, Freedom Air Conditioning, Sweeney's Auto Repair, Shirt Shack, Allstate Insurance, Dogs 'R Us, All Air and Heat, Inc., Shipping Depot, Space Coast Panthers, Port St. John Auto Repair, All Brevard Air & Heat and Sam's Mart. We are not a county-funded parade, so please remember

these businesses and people who give back to make our community a wonderful place to live.

And of course, a BIG THANK YOU to the Christmas Parade Committee and our newest volunteers, many of whom miss the parade every year working at Challenger 7 Elementary staging the entries to create the parade and the Judges' Stand. YOU ARE AWESOME!

Lots more photos, courtesy of Kathy Camick, are inside.

~ Randy Rodriguez

Christmas Parade Winners:

Best Overall

- 1st Place Creativity
- 2nd Place Creativity
- 1st Place Spirit
- 2nd Place Spirit
- 1st Place Theme
- 2nd Place Theme
- 1st Place Musical:
- 2nd Place Musical
- 1st Place Marching Non-Musical:
- 2nd Place Marching Non-Musical:

Port St. John Pirate Bar

- Fierce Dance & Fitness
- All Brevard Air & Heat
- PSJ Golf Cart Club
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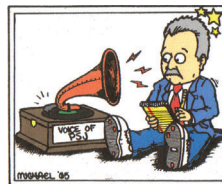
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HAPPENINGS

Randy Rodriguez

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Cell: 863-7499

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**

Homes are going fast this year in spite of the pandemic. The Space Coast is living up to our name and we have new neighbors coming every day.

If you would like to sell your home, give me a call. I've been helping and guiding residents of Port St. John and Canaveral Groves for over 30 years.

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PSJ Community Center Schedule - January 2021

The center is open Mondays–Thursdays from 10 AM to 8 PM, Fridays from 9 AM to 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM–2 PM Schedule is subject to change. For latest information or to register, call 633-1904.

Port St. John Community Center has a new playground! If you have bored kids at home and need a place for them to have fun and burn some energy, the Community Center is ready.

This 5.48-acre community park features a Community Center with a large activity room, kitchen and stage popular for rentals and youth programs. The center also includes two activity rooms which consist of two pool tables, a Ping Pong table and Foosball table. There's also a computer room that is open to the public for use.

Outdoors, the playground and basketball court are neighborhood favorites. Summer camp, Boys and Girls Scout clubs are run and offered as well at the facility. Meetings are suspended at this time for safety, but information is available.

When COVID restrictions ease up, if you are looking to get in shape or just want to get that heart rate up, fitness classes such as Zumba are available.

Parks & Recreation Meeting



The North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, January 14th, 2021, at 5:00 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 264-5105.

PMC Announces Temporary Covid-19 No-Visitor Policy

To further assure a safe, healing healthcare environment for everyone, Parrish Medical Center is again implementing a temporary no-visitor policy effective Friday, December 4 at 5 p.m. until further notice. This is necessary due to the spike in COVID-19 cases in Brevard County. Visitors will not be allowed inside the hospital except in certain situations, such as:

- Scheduled Outpatient Appointment or Scheduled Elective Procedure*

*Persons requiring assistance during a scheduled appointment may be allowed one partner in care.

- Hospice/End of Life
- Pediatric Care (parent only)
- Maternity/Labor and Delivery (one visitor)*

*Spouse/partner is limited to visitation from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and will be required to stay in the room with mom/baby until the conclusion of their visit.

- Emergency Department (no visitors)*
- *No visitors except in cases of Hospice/End of Life or Pediatric Care (parent only)
- All approved visitors will undergo a pre-screening, including temperature check. Masks/face coverings are required at all times while on premises.

· Video visitation (mobile device required) with patients is available by contacting PMC's Patient Experience team at 321-268-6357.

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Good Day! by Maureen Rupe

Titusville Mall Rumors

Per the Titusville Talking Points, page 16, “Property owner looking to make big changes to Titusville Mall. California Retail Properties Corporation, the real estate development firm that owns the 22-acre Titusville Mall retail property, is currently weighing plans to create a mixed-use development at the mall site, one that would involve a residential component along with new, open-air retail and lodging space.

According to company CEO Jesse Wright, the redevelopment of the existing mall – built in the early 1970s and known for many years as the “Sears Town Mall” – could exceed \$20 million. The company is currently working on design elements with the Orlando-based architectural firm Cuhaci & Peterson, the same group that designed another Titusville retail center, Titus Landing.”

Rodney Honeycutt has a proposal to tear down and rebuild the Sears Mall and build an Urban Village with two parking structures 5 stories tall, a 5 story hotel, 326 residential units, a sports center and commercial on these 22 acres. More to come as things are found.

Reference:

<https://www.titusville.com/572/Titusville-Talking-Points>

Florida Marine Life Harmed Most By Plastic Than Any Other State

In an article by Ian Carey on OneGreenPlanet.org titled, “Marine Life Harmed Most By Plastic In Florida Than Any Other State,” it cited “Florida as having more incidents of wildlife being harmed by plastics in the ocean than anywhere else in the United States.”

The report from the International Oceanic Advocacy Group, Oceana listed 1,800 different marine life they found that had swallowed plastic or gotten entangled in plastic, and 55% were sea turtles, manatees and other marine life found off of Florida’s coasts, with the majority (88%) of them being endangered or threatened. The current administration’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it is caused by other countries, not the United States. “Sixty percent of the world’s marine litter comes from six Asian countries, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler said from the White House in 2019. The EPA also released its

plan to address marine pollution. The plan stated they would be looking to prevent other countries from “making our oceans into their landfills.”

Co-author of another recent report and director of Ocean Conservancy’s Trash Free Seas program Nick Mallos stated the United States isn’t innocent. “The United States generates the most plastic waste of any other country in the world, but rather than looking the problem in the eye, we have outsourced it to developing countries and become a top contributor to the ocean plastics crisis,” said Mallos. “The solution has to start at home. We need to create less, by cutting out unnecessary single-use plastics; we need to create better, by developing innovative new ways to package and deliver goods; and where plastics are inevitable, we need to drastically improve our recycling rates.”

We need to start by cleaning up our own act. I’m as guilty as anyone by the use of plastic grocery and garbage bags, drinking from disposable water or soda bottles, and a hundred other uses pretty much every day. We can at least start using reusable grocery bags and water bottles. We need to all do better.



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Reference:

<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/marine-life-harmed-most-by-plastic-in-florida-than-any-other-state/>

Florida Next to Last in Paying Unemployment

In a Tampa Bay Times story by Lawrence Mower, titled, "Florida Next To Last In Paying Unemployment Benefits During The Pandemic," it stated only 36% of Floridians received their first check within 3 weeks of filing for unemployment benefits this entire year. The only state worse than Florida was Hawaii. The first three months after the start of the pandemic, the Florida unemployment system pretty much crashed. As unemployment rose during April, May and June, the state could only pay 28% of unemployment claims on time.

DeSantis placed most of the blame on Deloitte Consulting, the company that built CONNECT in 2013. He blasted Deloitte in news conferences and ordered an investigation into the company's contract with the state, which was signed in the early months of former Gov. Rick Scott's term.

Both New Mexico and Massachusetts had the same CONNECT system, but those two states have done a lot better as both those states made improvements to the system while Florida, since their initial contract ended in 2015, despite repeated warnings from auditors that repairs to the system were needed, did not. The Department of Economic Opportunity is going to ask lawmakers next year for potentially tens of millions of dollars to either shift CONNECT into the cloud or replace the system, something that should have

been done years ago.

Reference:

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2020/12/03/florida-next-to-last-in-paying-unemployment-benefits-during-the-pandemic/>
100 Kids a Day are Baker Acted in Florida

According to an article in WLRN Public Radio and Television in South Florida, by Lynn Hatter titled, "Committed: How A 6-Year-Old Revealed Florida's Dysfunctional System of Baker Acting Kids," "Each day in Florida about 100 kids are involuntarily committed for psychiatric exams under the state's Baker Act." I was shocked.

In Florida, every year 36,000 children are committed under the Baker Act. Many children are taken in the rear seat of police cars, and parents can't do anything although they are sup-
cont., next page



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Good Day!, cont.

posed to under state law. Many times, it seems to do more harm to the child than it does to help. Nothing in the Baker Act shows any difference to whether it's kids and adults, and the Baker Act wasn't even designed with the ability to do anything different if children are involved. Children make up the fastest growing group being sent for involuntary psychiatric evaluation and the number of children being Baker Acted have doubled since the state started tracking how many have been committed in 1997. We should all be ashamed.

Reference:

<https://www.wlrn.org/news/2020-12-14/committed-how-a-6-year-old-revealed-floridas-dysfunctional-system-of-baker-acting-kids>

EPA Gives Dep Approval To Take Over Wetland Authority

On December 17, 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted the state assumption of the 404 program (the federal permitting program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands and other waters of the United States). As I've written before, the environmental groups were adamantly opposed as the DEP seems to approve things too fast prior to specially allowing development.

DEP's fast approvals are part of the reason our Indian River Lagoon is having issues with fish kills. Filling in our wetlands causes more runoff to go to our rivers and lagoons as the runoff has to have a place to go if the wetlands are filled in. The DEP says their process is science based to protect our wetlands, but if that is the case, why is the process so much shorter and our rivers and

other waterbodies so much more polluted?

Draft PSC Rule Costs Us All

In a 12/16/20 Florida Phoenix story by Laura Cassels, titled, "Critics Aim To Reshape Utilities Rule They Say Negates Energy-Saving Goals, Keeps Bills High," the Public Service Commission (PSC) that regulates Florida Power & Light Co., Duke Energy Florida, Tampa Electric Co., Gulf Power Co. and Florida Public Utilities Companies are letting these companies keep Florida "...almost dead last in state rankings for capturing energy savings" through outmoded practices.

"After nearly 30 years, Florida has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize its energy efficiency rules," said Forest Bradley-Wright, energy efficiency director at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE).

"It is ridiculous for Florida's utility regulators to propose energy efficiency standards that are three decades old," said Earthjustice attorney Bradley Marshall. "We live in a state that is already feeling the effects of flooding from rising seas and global warming. We should be a leader in energy efficiency goals."

The PSC will have a public hearing on the draft rule on Jan. 14th:

January 14, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Call-in Number: 1-866-899-4679

Conference Code: 658-171-845

Reference:

<https://www.floridaphoenix.com/2020/12/16/critics-aim-to-block-utilities-rule-they-say-negates-energy-saving-goals/>

<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/2020/13530-2020/13530-2020.pdf>

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AFB, California. We had already been stationed on MacDill AFB in Tampa, and I loved Florida and was thrilled to get back. I have friends who have asked for a long time about my early life in England, as they say they know about me in Brevard.

I was born in Northhamptonshire, England in 1944. My father was an ornithologist (professor of birds) and all-around naturalist, and I was brought up to love and respect the Natural World. My parents had been married for 22 years before I was born and they had a life of travel in the United Kingdom to visit and study the environment and help in Environmental Issues. While they now had a baby and I went with them.

I remember going to my first rally; I was five and it was protesting fox hunting. I loved it and my parents had to stop me from continually shouting about the poor fox, as my parents were always peaceful. I had found my voice and could be found at rallies in Trafalgar square in London for Ban the Bomb or the Cuban Missile Crisis in the 60's. I had a public argument once with Princess Anne. That's another story and I have many.

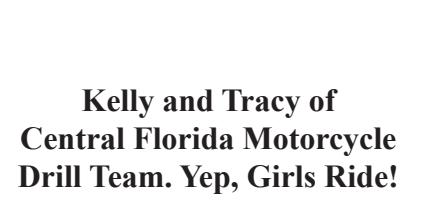
I hope this short bio will do, I can't reveal all my escapades of youth as my grandchildren would never stop laughing.

I hope everyone had a Happy and Safe Holidays. Hopefully things will be better in 2021.

Cheerio
Maureen Rupe
rupe32927@earthlink.



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Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick

As I sit this morning torturing my poor keyboard, I'm watching the latest on the wait for those in charge of such things to OK the Covid vaccines. As we all are, I'm praying all goes well and by the time you are reading this, the horrible-ness of the past year both physical and spiritual will be quickly sliding into oblivion.

Anyone who has read more than one of my scribbles knows the act of obediently following instructions was simply not built into my hardwire. But being forewarned multiple times by multiple well dressed and well educated persons pointing to various places on various maps on TV, I braved the coldest night of the year so far to wrestle pillow cases over my most tender plants. (Yes, I could have done it before the moon came up, but why the heck does it come up so darn early these days? Some of us have major problems deciding to do or not to do!)

I was glad I listened to the tails side of the quarter the next morning when I stepped out to fill the bird feeder and padded barefoot across the yard, crunching the frosted grass. Except for the whole mountain thing and the yard falling off about 200 feet exposing my neighbors roof and frozen pillow cases standing like very short ghostly soldiers, my back yard was akin to my memories of my time in North Carolina, a dusting of white on the ground and light fog softly rising.

Once again thanking The Big Guy for providing me with a warm and safe home, I grabbed my coffee, a blanket and gave my Constant Canine Companion the choice of following me or going back to bed, awwwwing when he followed me out the door to settle on the wicker porch couch.

Snuggled and sipping, I realized I couldn't remember the last time I carved a moment out to just sit and enjoy anything. As I watched a tiny sparrow cautiously approach the feeder, find the perfect seed and flutter off, I remembered the pact my sister and I made, (yes, we are waaayy old to be doing such things, but if not now, when?), to do something new or something we haven't done in a long time every day. A line from Darius Rucker's song 'When's the last time you did something for the first time?' being the impetus for said pact, explaining who Darius Rucker is being the impetus for a long, Google assisted

conversation with my sister.

One previous 'Doing something new' found us strolling down the main street of a small town we've driven through many times and discovering a wonderful old hotel, complete with a linen tablecloth restaurant in one of the 1920's ballrooms and an elevator that an operator hand cranked up and down. Of course, us being us we made our way upstairs and were able to explore the had-to-be-haunted hallways before being sternly informed we were not allowed past the first floor. I'm sure there is something disconcerting to passers-by about a couple of 'Vintage' ladies giggling their way out of the back door of a vintage hotel.

On another day, giggling was also a large part of what we were doing when my daughter found us still in the driveway, punching buttons on the GPS system an hour after we told her we were leaving for Savannah. My attempt to explain the silly thing wouldn't go past the Florida state line brought a head shake and directions to "Get on I-95, head north and turn right when you see the sign that says Turn Here To Get To Savannah."

Getting ourselves into 'situations' is just as do-able these days, albeit it takes a tad more planning and includes hand sanitizers, distancing and masks, but giggles penetrate all mask fibers and are very contagious.

I heartily invite everyone reading this to please make the effort to make the same pact and follow through at every opportunity. The rewards are sooo well worth it, especially if part of the reward is driving your children almost as crazy as they did you when they were teenagers!

Parks & Recreation Meeting



The North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, January 14th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

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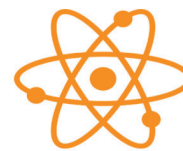
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Monthly Tax Update

Happy New Year! 2020 is gone and everyone is getting ready for 2021. I would like to thank our real heroes helping us to fight the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes the septic employees, to the garbage collectors, to the convenience stores clerks, to the front-line personnel and even your tax advisors.

2020 was a rough year for our economy. Hitting rock bottom with government restrictions on businesses to prevent the epidemic's spread and our children studying from home was really tough. 2021 will be a better year, since we learned how to deal with COVID-19, in our life and work.

This year will bring many changes and you need to be updated with the new tax laws. Among the highlights from last year, one of the significant concerns was the Economic Impact Payment (EIP), better known as the stimulus check. The government released the funds in advance, during the pandemic last year, and will affect most taxpayers, whether you received the funds or not.

I have good news, if you didn't get the stimulus check in 2020, you will receive it when you file your 2020 tax return. Be aware, the payment will be reconciled on your 2020 tax return, even though it won't be taxable to you.

Next, for itemizers. IRS has a temporary change on Charitable Contributions made in 2020. Qualified contributions made during 2020, will be allowed up to 100% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Also, nonitemizers with qualified contributions will be allowed up to a \$300 deduction, per tax return.

Now, we'll cover some information for the businesses. It is crucial for employers to file the Forms W-2 and other wage statements before February 1, 2021, to avoid penalties. This year IRS Form 1099-MISC is no longer reflecting nonemployee compensation. Instead, these contractors will receive the new Form 1099-NEC, which employers must also file before February 1, 2021, to avoid penalties and interest.

Furthermore, the government provided an incentive for companies to defer some of the Social Security tax payments. Many employers did the deferral without understanding the results. The paychecks from September 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, for a qualified employee may be included. Many companies thought it was great

and deferred social security taxes, expecting tax relief from the government where they wouldn't have to pay it back. But, it doesn't look like it will be forgiven. The condition of the deferral Social Security taxes requires repayment of the deferral between January 1, 2021, to April 30, 2021. It is essential to consult your tax advisor to avoid interest and penalties occurring on May 1, 2021. If you can't repay the deferral by April 30, 2021, arrangements may be made with the IRS, still subject to penalties and interest.

Now, briefly about the PPP loan and EIDL. Under current legislation, subject to expected change, these loans have specific requirements to qualify for loan forgiveness. You could be eligible for loan forgiveness without repayment requirements. Moreover, the loan forgiveness is not income. That sounds great, but many people don't realize the loan forgiveness doesn't permit you to deduct expenses paid by any loan forgiveness. This will decrease your expenses resulting in higher unexpected income as a result under current legislation.

Keep alert to upcoming legislation for potential additional relief. I recommend early preparation is necessary to avoid unexpected results when filing your taxes. Not necessarily filing

early, but preparation so you are prepared for available options without surprises.

As always, you should consult with your tax advisor about your situation. Our office wishes you a Happy Holiday and wonderful 2021 year!.

This is a very brief overview. For details and specific assistance in applying the general information in this article, call us at your earliest convenience or contact your tax advisor. Provided by Tracey C. Higginbotham, E.A., (321) 632-5726, a member of the National Society of Accountants.



Post 359 - American
Legion Riders presents
Bike Days at the Tiki
Saturday, January 2nd
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Good food on the grill with Fixin's, \$6.

Listen to live music by Love Valley.

Drawings, 50/50. All proceeds to benefit veterans and veterans' families.

7260 S. US Hwy. 1 Bellwood (just north of Port St John), 321-268-1632.

Contact Joe Marino, Events Coordinator, American Legion Riders Post 359 at info@alr359.org or visit our website, alr359.org, for more information.

**TAX APPOINTMENTS
WILL BE SET SOON.
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**A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE PORT ST. JOHN
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WISHING EACH AND EVERYONE A
HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!!!**

Every Year A Group of Volunteers Goes to Challenger 7 Elementary And Builds Lanes to Stage Vehicles And Floats for A Christmas Parade, Then Miss the Parade the Next Day. This Year Was the 31st Year for Some of Them. Why?



2020... Not So Bad After All!



As we roll into a New Year full of hope, a lot of us look back on 2020 and think what a horrible year. I have to agree that it definitely had its moments and many we would like to forget. The moments I am choosing to focus on are the ones that that made 2020 a year full of love and compassion.

Space Coast Jr./Sr. High, Port St John community and Business Partners joined forces and helped families during those tough times. The pandemic had more families in need than ever.

I reached out to our community to help these families and the response was overwhelming. Hoping to receive 14 Thanksgiving dinners for those in need, we received 50! Because of this great response, we were able to take care of our families for the Holiday season.

The community and school continued once again to rise to the occasion when another need presented itself. Our community rallied together and adopted families that would not be able to supply gifts for their children. I am thanking our staff, clubs and academies for their support and kindness! I couldn't have done the angel tree without them.

We had 28 angels adopted! Because of their generous hearts, these students will have a special holiday.

What makes me most proud of being a Viper

and a Port St. John resident is this generosity that takes place year round. This would not be possible without our amazing faculty, staff and Business Partners.

Please visit our website and support all of our local business partners who help us make a difference in our community. <https://www.brevardschools.org/SpaceCoastJRSR>.

~ Keri Weeks



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Alcoholics Anonymous meets on **Sundays** at 5 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM.

Women's AA meets on Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM. **Both AA Groups meet at St. Patrick's Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd.**

Overeaters Anonymous - Due to Covid-19 we are meeting on Zoom. For meeting times or contact info, please visit oaspacecoast.org.

Nar-Anon: Support group for those affected by someone else's addiction, meets on Mondays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM at St. Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd. - www.naranonfl.org.

1-1 Happy New Year!

1-5 Compassionate Friends Support Group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 PM in Cocoa Beach at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 525 Minuteman Cswy. west of A1A, Fellowship Hall. Call 610-7875 for info.

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

1-6 PSJ Startups & Founders Club, a group for new business owners and entrepreneurs, meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Port Java in Fay Plaza. We'll begin our program at 8 AM. The Port St. John internet site

can be viewed at www.meetup.com/Port-St-John-PSJ-Startups-Founders-Club/.

1-7 Orthodox Christmas

1-7 Canaveral Groves Homeowners, Inc. meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Room of Discovery Christian Church, 3925 Grissom Pkwy. in the Groves.

1-8 Brevard Women's Connection meets at Space Coast Convention Center (Holiday Inn Express) on Hwy. 520 from 11 AM until 1 PM on the second Friday of each month. The program includes a luncheon plus an inspirational speaker. For more information, call Pam at 321-752-6896 or e-mail bwc0020@gmail.com.

1-10 Word Weavers Space Coast, a critique group for Christian writers, meets the 2nd Sunday at 2:00 PM at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Visitors are always welcome. Email angelagardnerwrites@gmail.com for info.

1-10 Calling all Christian authors! Dynamic writers group in Cocoa, Fla. offers training, critiques, and paid writing opportunities (2nd Sundays 2-4:30 PM at Cocoa library). Contact D.P. Clarke at 1royaldy@gmail.com for more information. Print "Writers Group" in Subject.

1-10 Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meets on the 2nd Sunday each month (except Mother's Day & Nov.), 2 PM, Cocoa Library.

1-14 Orthodox New Year

1-15 PSJ Business Connections Luncheon, sponsored by the Titusville Chamber of Commerce, meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at 12:00, PSJ Library on Carole Ave. Call Dennis Watkins at 267-3036.

1-18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day

1-18 Moonport Modelers RC Club meets at 6:30 PM, 3rd Monday each month at the N. Brevard Library, 2121 S Hopkins Ave., Titusville. For more info, call Wayne Mendez, 505-2361.

1-20 Inauguration Day

1-20 American Legion Post 359 meets at the Post Home at 7260 S. US 1 in Bellwood, (2 miles north of PSJ), 6:00 PM. All Legionnaires and new members are welcome. The Post meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please contact the Post at 268-1632 for assistance with your membership or information.

1-21 National Hug Day

1-23 National Pie Day

1-26 Moonlight Quilters Guild meets at the North Brevard Library in Titusville, 2121 Hopkins Ave. on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meet and greet & refreshments at 6:15, meeting at 6:30 usually followed by show and tell or a guest speaker. Call 321-720-6232 or 321-720-1584 for more info.

1-27 Tu Bishvat Begins

Congratulations to:

Brandi McGann turns more beautiful on the 1st.

Nathan Weimer turns **13TEEN** on the 1st.

Brandon Crissman turns **45** on the 1st.

Angie Crissman turns prettier on the 3rd.

Mack Grenet gains one on the 3rd - Happy Birthday Bro! Love, Sis.

Haley Higginbotham turns **21** on the 4th.

Karissa Davis turns **25** on the 4th.

Brittney Parks turns **28** on the 4th.

Craig Taylor turns **The Big 4-0** on the 4th.

Michelle Parks turns prettier on the 5th.

Lisa Sarivola dances till dawn on the 5th.

Tom Hunt turns better on the 5th.

Carl Anderson IV turns **20** on the 5th.

Lucha Hunt turns cuter on the 6th.

Natalee Prentis turns **27** on the 7th.

RaeLynn Weathers is the queen on the 12th.

Michael Cox turns **17** on the 14th.

Mark Walters turns **23** on the 16th.

Lanny Grenet gains one on the 16th - Happy Heavenly Birthday Daddy!!!

Jack Woerner turns **24** on the 22nd.

Makylie Taylor turns **14** on the 24th.

Joe Casey turns cooler on the 25th.

Brittanie Grenet turns prettier on the 31st.

Dylan Carmichael turns **15** on the 31st

Brittanie Grenet turns more lovely on the 31st - Happy Birthday Britt!! Love, Mom.

Rob & Cheryl Wratchford celebrate their 38th anniversary on the 29th.

The Christmas Parade Committee for a Great Job on Dec. 19th. Well done, team!!

We have lots of room for more good news.

Email inputs to happenings1@att.net

Important Phone Numbers

County Commissioner -	264-6750
Sheriff: Non-Emergency -	633-7162
Fire Station 26 (Port St. John)	633-2056
Emergency Operations Center	637-6670
Waste Management -	636-6894
Port St. John Library	633-1867
PSJ Community Center -	633-1904
Florida Power & Light -	723-7795
City of Cocoa Water Dept. -	433-8400
Parrish Medical Center	
Port St. John -	636-9393
Titusville -	268-6111
Atlantis Elementary School -	633-6143
Challenger 7 Elementary -	636-5801
Enterprise Elementary School	633-3434
Fairglen Elementary School -	631-1993
Space Coast Jr/Sr High School -	638-0750

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

Lena Penna, Director

(321) 633-1867

PSJ Library Is Open

The Port St. John Library is now open with limited hours. The library's hours are currently 9 am-5 pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 12-8 pm on Wednesdays and we are back to being open on Saturdays 10 am-2 pm.

We will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday.

We are still unable to have any in person programming like we normally would at the library but groups are starting to return!

The Florida Master Gardeners come to provide gardening assistance and plant identification help every Monday from 2-4pm.

~ Mary Lena Penna

Library Director

Port St. John Library

6500 Carole Ave.

(321)633-1867

All libraries still offer curbside pickup for library holds even if the library is open to the public. Place a reserve in the computer, or call your local library, and they will contact you as soon as the items are ready to be picked up.

Please Note: Do not exit your car if the library is depositing your items in your trunk. If the library is leaving the items on a table outside, wait for the staff member/s to put the books outside and return to the library. Then you may retrieve the items and take them home. They will already be checked out to you.

All of our electronic resources and e-books are available to enjoy at any time, including online video story times. Visit <https://www.brevardfl.gov/PublicLibraries/home> for more information.

If you do not have a library card, call your local library. They have permission to issue library cards via phone with proper identification. You will need your driver's license when you call. The physical card may be picked up after the libraries re-open. We want all of our patrons to stay safe and healthy and we are doing as much as we can to assist you in that endeavor. We hope to see you soon!

Please call your local library with questions during open hours, Monday through Friday.

The Electoral College Has Voted

All 538 electors voted Monday in the Electoral College, formalizing President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election. Their votes will next be sent to Washington to be counted by Congress on January 6. Hawaii's four electors voted shortly after 7 p.m. to make the final tally 306 Electoral College votes for Mr. Biden to 232 for President Trump.

Mr. Biden spoke Monday night after the count had concluded, urging Americans to move forward after the election. While he struck a unifying tone toward the end of his speech, he also highlighted some of Mr. Trump's many legal challenges and his refusal to concede, calling it an "assault on democracy."

President Trump's last-ditch legal attempts to overturn the results have been quashed in the courts. On Friday, the Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton that sought to stop electors in four key battleground states from voting Monday.

The U.S. Code says that if any state has enacted procedures to settle any controversies over electors before Election Day and if the results have been determined six days before the electors meet, they qualify for "safe harbor." Congress is required to consider those results as "conclusive." This date is known as the "Safe Harbor" deadline.

What exactly happened on Monday?

Federal law dictates the electors meet on the Monday in December that follows the second Wednesday, which in 2020 fell on December 14.

There are 538 electors. The number from each state is based on population and is equal to the number of members of Congress the state has in the House and Senate, meaning the minimum any state can have is three. The state with the most electors is California, with 55.

All but two states, Maine and Nebraska, give all their Electoral College votes to the candidate who got the most votes in the state.

The electors will cast ballots individually and on paper, for president and vice president. The electors count the votes and then sign six certificates, known as the Certificates of the Vote. The certificates are paired with the Certificates of Ascertainment provided by states' governors

and are signed, sealed and certified.

The six copies are then sent via registered mail to the president of the Senate (Vice President Mike Pence); two are sent to the Secretary of State of the state in which the electors met; two are sent to the archivist and one is sent to judge of the U.S. District Court of the district in which the electors met.

Electors are not necessarily bound by law to vote according to the state's results, and there were 10 "faithless electors" in 2016. But most states have laws that nullify the votes of "faithless electors," and the Supreme Court ruled in July that states can punish them. FairVote found that since the founding of the Electoral College, there have been 167 faithless electors.

Can President Trump still challenge the results after the electors vote?

It is possible for Congress to challenge the results in a state that did not meet the December 8 deadline. Congressman Mo Brooks of Alabama has said that he plans to challenge electoral votes for Mr. Biden when Congress reconvenes on January 6. He would need to be joined by one senator and present his objection in writing, and then both houses of Congress would debate the objections and vote on whether to sustain them, according to The Associated Press.

In a statement last week, attorneys for the Trump campaign quoted the dissenting opinion in the 2000 Supreme Court Bush v. Gore ruling that January 6 is the date of "ultimate significance."

What are the next major dates?

December 23: All copies of the electors' votes must be delivered to the recipients.

January 6: Congress will count the votes of the electors. Procedure calls for Vice President Pence to open each state's "certificate of ascertainment" — documents prepared by the state after it has completed its vote count and ascertained the official results.

He will then present the certificate to four "tellers" who announce result tallies. Once a candidate reaches 270 Electoral College votes, Vice President Pence will declare the winner.

And no matter who is declared, that should be the time to get back to being Americans.



Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick

Brevard County Beaches

While we are all hoping and praying the new vaccine will finally bring some freedom from the terribleness of 2020, the medical community are advising we still be cautious for a while longer. We all need to know there are still prayers and good wishes to all of you who have had to deal with illness personally or just have been hanging in there, but hopefully they won't be as needed sometime soon.

Going to a movie or being shoulder to shoulder yelling at a favorite, or very not favored game player, may not be a good idea right yet but there are still ways to get out in the fresh air and enjoy our little piece of paradise.

The beaches of Brevard County are some of the cleanest and best in the state, are just a short drive away, and except for some access streets

in Cocoa Beach are free for the enjoying. Most of the U.S. would not even consider going to a beach in January, but we are blessed with weather enabling us to put toes in the Atlantic if we wish.

Rolling up our jeans and sinking into the sand is a very different experience when the sand is 70 degrees or less. Most of the critters that we find in the summer have not left on cruises when cooler weather hits and are actually easier to spot and point out to younger members of the adventurers. There are different shells to be found and sometime more 'Popper' seaweed to enjoy. Since the beach would probably be fairly empty, just running, doing back flips and playing with Frisbees or footballs are much easier when there are no suntan oiled bodies to trip over.

Cheri Down Park in Cape Canaveral has two access ramps and a boardwalk with pavilions on each end. From the beach, you can see and perhaps walk to the jetties to the north and the pier to the south. There is a multi-person shower, a covered pavilion with picnic table and grill, bathrooms and fairly large parking area.

Many of the side streets in Cape Canaveral are access points and have ramps over the dunes. Some have showers, none are metered. There are also quite a few side streets with access and ramps over the dunes in Cocoa Beach, includ-

ing the pier, but most are metered and the pier charges for parking.

Alan Shephard Park at the eastern end of SR 520 in Cocoa Beach has a charge for parking, backs up to a great restaurant and is right across the street from Ron Jon's and Cocoa Beach Surf Company.

Heading south there are more side street access points, some metered and some not.

Canova Beach Park is the only park that I know of that allows dogs onto the beach and into the water. The dogs that I saw on the beach seemed to be really enjoying the sand and splashing in the waves. The dog shower is totally separate from human showers and there are several boxes of bags for cleaning up after Fido, and please do so. All dogs must be on a leash at all times...children and parents may run free.

The ride south on A1A gives peeks of beautiful new condos and just as beautiful old houses that attest to the history of the area. Many unique and diverse diners and restaurants with outdoor dining and carry out line both sides of the road, which makes enjoying lunch in the sun and fresh air most enjoyable.

As always, whenever or wherever you choose to visit, please take only pictures (except for our beautiful sea shells) and leave only foot prints. Read all the informative panels to learn more about our great area and be kind and cheerful to all you meet.

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US Clears Moderna Vaccine for Emergency Use for COVID-19

The U.S. added a second COVID-19 vaccine to its arsenal Friday, boosting efforts to beat back an outbreak so dire that the nation is regularly recording more than 3,000 deaths a day. Much-needed doses are set to arrive Monday after the Food and Drug Administration authorized an emergency rollout of the vaccine developed by Moderna Inc. and the National Institutes of Health.

The move marks the world's first authorization for Moderna's shots. The vaccine is very similar to one from Pfizer Inc. and Germany's BioNTech that's now being dispensed to millions of health care workers and nursing home residents as the biggest vaccination drive in U.S. history starts to ramp up. The two work "better than we almost dared to hope," NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins told The Associated Press. "Science is working here, science has done something amazing."

Early results of large, still unfinished studies show both vaccines appear safe and strongly protective, although Moderna's is easier to handle since it doesn't need to be stored at ultra-frozen temperatures. A second vaccine represents a ray of hope amid despair as the virus continues to spread unabated even before holiday gatherings that are certain to further fuel the outbreak.

The nation is scrambling to expand vaccinations as rapidly as Moderna and Pfizer can churn out doses. Moderna's is for people 18 and older, Pfizer's starts at age 16. It's just the beginning of "what we hope will be a big push to get this terrible virus behind us, although it will take many more months to get to all Americans," Collins said.

Moderna expects to have between 100 million and 125 million doses available globally in the first three months of 2021, with 85-100 million of those available in the U.S.

Even with additional candidates in the pipeline, there won't be enough for the general population until spring, and shots will be rationed in the meantime. And while health workers are enthusiastically embracing vaccination, authorities worry the public may need more reassurance to ensure more people get in line when it's their turn.

To try to help instill confidence, Vice President Mike Pence received the Pfizer-BioNTech shot on live TV Friday, along with Surgeon General

Jerome Adams.

"What we want to always remember is one size does not fit all. We want to have options," said Dr. Paul Duprex of the University of Pittsburgh.

Moderna has about 5.9 million doses ready for shipment set to begin over the weekend, according to Operation Warp Speed, the government's vaccine development program. Injections of health workers and nursing home residents continue next week, before other essential workers and vulnerable groups are allowed to get in line.

Both Moderna's and Pfizer-BioNTech's shots are so-called mRNA vaccines, made with a groundbreaking new technology. They don't contain any coronavirus – meaning they cannot cause infection. Instead, they use a piece of genetic code that trains the immune system to recognize the spike protein on the surface of the virus, ready to attack if the real thing comes along. Their development less than a year after the coronavirus first emerged set a speed record, but Collins stressed that shouldn't worry people. The speed was due to billions in company and government investments paired with years of earlier scientific research, not any cut corners.

"The rigor of the analysis of these vaccines is unprecedented," Collins said. "We're not done with this but hope is on the way, and the hope comes from this scientific brain trust that has pulled out all the stops."

Experts are hoping the two vaccines together will "break the back of the pandemic" when combined with masks and other precautions. The FDA's main messages:

--Both the new Moderna vaccine and the

Pfizer-BioNTech shot require two doses several weeks apart. The second dose must be from the same company as the first.

--In a study of 30,000 volunteers, the Moderna vaccine was more than 94% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in people 18 and older. It also strongly protected older adults, who are most vulnerable.

--The inoculated can't throw away their masks as it's not yet clear either vaccine prevents silent, symptomless virus spread. But there was a hint that Moderna's shot might provide some protection against asymptomatic infection.

--The Moderna study uncovered no major safety problems. Like with the Pfizer-BioNTech shot, expect sore arms, fever, fatigue and muscle aches, which are signs the immune system is revving up.

--Both vaccines carry "a remote chance" of causing a severe allergic reaction. Moderna's study turned up none of these, though a handful were reported in Britain and Alaska as the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccinations got underway. The vaccines' ingredients aren't identical. Still, after any COVID-19 vaccination, people should stick around for 15 minutes – or 30 minutes if they have a history of severe allergies – so if they do have a reaction, it can be treated immediately.

--Both vaccines remain experimental, and the government is closely monitoring safety in case rare problems crop up.

--Additional studies are needed to tell if the vaccine should be used by pregnant women and children. Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should discuss whether to get the vaccine with their doctor.

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 _____ May we include your phone number on our membership

roster to CGHI members? Yes No

**Won't you come join us? We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at Discovery Church,
3925 Grissom Pkwy. at 7:00 PM. www.CanaveralGrovesHOA.com**

SLEEPY HOLLOW



Fruit From The Groves



The next meeting of the Canaveral Groves Homeowners will be on January 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Discovery Church. This meeting is very important because it is for the nominations and elections of officers

for 2021. It will also be the meeting that plans for the future of the group and what the goals are.

The 2021 association dues are due. They are \$15.00 a year. An application can be found here in the Happenings. These dues help pay the state fees and other things that are needed since the HOA is a non-profit and the last few years there have been no fundraisers.

There is still no information on where the "booms" are coming from that happen at different times. They are not coming from the train construction because they have been happening for years and they are not blasting. They are nerve wracking, but do not call 911. All that does is tie up the emergency lines.

Brevard County Sheriff's Office has been out in the Groves doing extra patrols and enforcing the traffic laws.

Even with the flashing warning signs on Adamson and Coconut, people still drive off the road and into the ditch. People need to slow down when driving. There are reasons for the speed limits. They are what the roadway can handle, line of sight for vehicles pulling out on to the roads, and what a vehicle can safely handle.

There have been a number of sightings of bobcats and coyotes out here in the Groves. Please keep your animals safe and do not leave their food out at night. Do not give wild animals a reason to come on to your property.

I want to say thank you to the people who came out and cleaned up the north end of Pine

St. going into the woods. There are now trash barrels there that need to be used.

Boy Scouts are always taught that you packed your trash out and leave the place better than you found it. I wish more people would also do it.

Lastly, I want thank Brevard County Fire and Rescue, and Brevard County Sheriff's Office for the great job they do out here in the Groves protecting us.

Ed Silva

Canaveral Groves Homeowners Assn.

Oversight Committee Seeks Volunteers with Real Estate/ Tech Experience

The Board of County Commissioners seeks qualified applicants for volunteer appointments to represent Real Estate and Technology expertise on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by:

- Demonstrating expertise and experience in real estate or technology fields.
- Providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds.
- Having knowledge of the water quality issues and major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon.
- Participating in monthly meetings
- Reviewing project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality.
- Assessing project cost-effectiveness.
- Hearing questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the plan.

The application may be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/SOIRLCO>.

Email completed applications to Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Brevard County's Natural Resources Management Department at Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov by 5pm, January 6, 2021.

Child Care During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Child care is an essential part of our economy, preparing children for the future and enabling parents and caregivers to work, all while employing a large workforce. The impact of the pandemic on child care has already been extensive—from fully closed programs, to programs operating to meet the needs of essential workers, to those trying to stay open with reduced enrollment while doing everything they can to ensure that the children and staff remain healthy—the system is struggling to survive. It is now more important than ever to invest in child care to ensure that, when we come out on the other side of all of this, all families who need it are able to find high-quality affordable child care and the essential contribution of child care workers is valued.

The country needs child care, especially to weather and recover from an economic downturn. Child care is an essential support that helps parents and caregivers enter and stay in the workforce. Without significant support now, the child care industry will not be able to survive this crisis and will struggle to bounce back, leaving families and communities at a loss.

Child care is an essential part of racial, gender and economic justice. Child care isn't just about supporting the economy—it provides critical stability for children's health and wellbeing that is essential during uncertain times such as these.

Fewer child care programs after the pandemic will have implications for both parents' choices as well as the ability to find culturally competent care. In times like these, finding a Child Care Center that will meet your household needs and assure the best care for your child/children is fundamental for a reassuring peace of mind.

~ Melissa Johnson

Frontline Child Care Center

Aspire to Inspire Before You Expire.

I hope you didn't miss this adorable float rider...



We had a great time bringing you a Christmas parade when this year has been so challenging..



See You Next Year!



3 generations of Nero-Baums

How do you reach 12,000 homes in Port St. John & Canaveral Groves? Happenings has prices for every budget. Call Randy at 633-7499 We take VISA & MasterCard

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