

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

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!

Our 35th Port St. John Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 21st at 11 a.m. The parade route will be along Fay Blvd., starting at Waterloo Ave. and go east to Carole Ave. in the eastbound lane. The floats face the south side of Fay Blvd., so viewing will be best on the sidewalk on the south side.

Fay Blvd. will be closed from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 when the parade ends.

The theme of this year's parade will be, "The Wonder of Christmas Morning." The entry form is inside and also available online as a pdf at www.happenings.net.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Prime Sponsor, Parrish Medical Center, our Diamond sponsors, HAPPENINGS, Higginbotham Companies and Orion Connectivity, and our Platinum sponsor, Englemann State Farm Insurance. We are not government operated or funded, so these wonderful companies make the parade possible, along with the other sponsors and our amazing volunteers who work to make the parade happen.



PORT ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS PARADE

It takes a village to put on a parade!

Our Parade Grand Marshal this year is Randy Rodriguez of HAPPENINGS, Inc., a Realtor in PSJ for 39 years and founder of the PSJ Christmas Parade and the Community Blast, which later became Thunder Over the Indian River.

There will be more candy at the parade this

year! Please be thoughtful of the residents along Fay Blvd. and do not litter their yards with candy wrappers and cups. Bring a bag for your youngsters' treasure troves. If you bring a plastic store bag for candy and/or trash, it would help a lot.

Any questions, suggestions, problems or needs should be directed to Jeremy Higginbotham, 321-576-2818, or Randy Rodriguez, 321-633-7499.

There are other holiday events inside, so look for the Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale, Meet Santa at the PSJ Library, Light Up Port St. John, the Cookie Walk, Jolly Days at the Brevard Zoo and other events, and of course, holiday worship services at several churches that are open to all.

If you like parades, the holiday parade schedule for other parades here in Brevard County is inside, including boat parades.

HAPPENINGS wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Good Kwanzaa and joy, good health and peace to your family.

or current resident

Resident
Brevard County, FL

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ECRWSS



Gift of Light

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
5:30-7:30 PM

Join Parrish Medical Center for our FREE Annual Holiday Community Celebration!

For more information visit
parrishhealthcare.com/giftoflight

PARRISH
MEDICAL CENTER
PARRISH HEALTHCARE

Honor a loved one by placing a light on our 50-foot holiday tree! Please call 321-269-4066 or visit parrishmedfoundation.com/donate

Good Day!

~ by Maureen Rupe

SpaceX Starship getting ready for Florida Launches

I've given an overview in the past on the gigantic SpaceX Starship. The reusable rocket is 397 feet tall, 29.5 feet in diameter, and can carry up to 150 tons (300,000 lb.). According to an article in the November 4th SPACePORT, in order to meet their goal of launching from Florida sometime in 2026, they are expanding their facilities at KSC and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

SpaceX is expanding its Roberts Road facility in Florida, including spreading out their footprint, new buildings and getting ready to produce Starships in Florida. Apparently SpaceX has already tried twice to bring Starship to Cape Canaveral, but both failed. They have already built a building, originally planned to be a Starfactory, that they plan to use for Starship production. They have cleared space for the first mega bay to stack starship parts.

They only have the foundation completed, so they are putting up a 40 x 40 meter tent (40 meters = 131.234 feet). This new tent will probably be used for various tasks like building tower sections or orbital launch mount components or maybe even the beginning of Starship production in Florida. The tent could also be used for building nose cones or stacking ring sections.

SpaceX Dumping Industrial Wastewater?

Another November 4th SPACePORT article stated about four dozen residents gave Texas Environmental Department complaints at a public meeting in Brownsville about a SpaceX request for a permit allowing them to dump hundreds of thousands of gallons of industrial wastewater into the sensitive wetlands around the Starship launch site. It also stated hundreds of residents also submitted written comments.

We can't afford doing the same here in Florida. Texas wetlands flow into the Gulf of Mexico, while ours would flow into the Indian River Lagoon, which has enough problems to deal with without adding a huge amount of fresh wastewater adding to the dilemma. SpaceX is planning to do hundreds of launches a year, so they could be dumping millions of gallons of wastewater instead of hundreds of thousands of gallons. Our Indian River Lagoon can't afford it.

Reference: <https://mailchi.mp/a26d4f7b240b/florida-spacereport-16534563?e=fe07b1cd51>

Chinese Copying SpaceX Starship?

The Chinese showed their latest Long March 9 design at the 15th China Air Show in Zhuhai, which looks like a copy of the SpaceX Starship. The Long March 9 space ship is being developed by the state-owned China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALVT). At least one version of the Chinese ship will be reusable, having two stages fueled by liquid oxygen and liquid methane both, just like the SpaceX Starship. The Long March 9 Space Ship is expecting to first launch sometime in 2033.

Reference: <https://www.space.com/china-long-march-9-spacex-starship-rocket>

Blue Origin New Glenn Rocket

Another SPACePORT story talked about the Blue Origin's New Glenn Rocket 1st stage rolling to Launch Complex-36 (formerly the Atlas Launch Pad). It stated due to the rocket's size, they had to take a longer route to the pad, so I decided to research this heavy lift vehicle.

According to the Blue Origin website, the first stage of the New Glenn Rocket will be reusable, being able to be used for 25 flights, and lands vertically. The rocket is 322 feet tall with a 23-foot diameter. The first stage is 189 feet long and the second stage is 77 feet long. The rocket will take 30,000 lb. to geosynchronous orbit, or 15,000 lb. to trans-lunar injection (TLI). TLI is used to send things to the moon. When testing is complete, the New Glenn will be the third heavy lift vehicle at Cape Canaveral along with SpaceX's Falcon Heavy and Starship vehicles. There are no regulations for atmospheric pollution from rocket exhaust.

Reference: www.blueorigin.com/new-glenn

Low Impact Development (LID) Conference
The Marine Resource Council (MRC) held their yearly LID Conference on November 6th and 7th. I have been on the MRC Board of Directors since the 1990's and have seen a great deal of excellent work that has been accomplished to save the Indian River Lagoon. The Conference has been held yearly for 2 days since 2021 and is open to the general public, engineering firms, and Federal, State, County, and City representatives or elected officials. The Conference is concentrated on Low Impact Development Best Management Practices using the latest scientific information. The Conference also included information on Flood Forecasting Systems and Master Planning to prevent stormwater drainage causing any fur-

ther pollution in the Indian River Lagoon or any of our other waterways.

One of the ways discussed was to stop any hard armoring of our Lagoon and incorporate natural areas like living shorelines. Living shorelines include at least 45% more organic material than seawalls that can contain little or no organic habitat. Using this green stormwater infrastructure can help to soak up runoff and help prevent damage caused by coastal storms. It also helps erosion control and to maintain habitat. Another green stormwater infrastructure design are Bee-Mats (living islands with the roots growing into ponds to soak up nutrients). There are also various living filter systems such as Biopod System, or Shelf filters, side-bank filters, vegetative filter strips or bioswales. There are also non-green systems that prevent nutrients and debris getting into the waterways by using things like baffle boxes.

In addition, the impacts of Climate Change cannot be ignored. We can see the impacts through lost coastal lands and the loss of waterfront homes due to flooding. These Green Stormwater Infrastructure requirements need to be incorporated into the counties' and cities' codes. We must have these various systems in place for detention, infiltration, treatment and harvesting to ensure we will eventually clean up the Indian River Lagoon.

Reference: <https://lovetheirl.org/education/low-impact-development/2024-mrc-low-impact-development-conference/>

Parrish Healthcare and Marine Resources Council Share Commitment to Restoring Indian River Lagoon and Protecting Public Health

Parrish Healthcare and Marine Resources Council (MRC) maintain a decade long community partnership that is a testament to their collective commitment to restoring and protecting the Indian River Lagoon.

The Marine Resources Council coordinates lagoon-wide efforts to save the Indian River Lagoon by holding government workshops, coordinating diverse stakeholder groups and working with businesses and individuals to encourage actions that will help in lagoon-saving efforts.

LagoonWATCH, MRC's signature citizen water quality monitoring program, currently monitors 42 sites covering the entire stretch of the Indian River Lagoon by collecting weekly data on a dozen water quality parameters including pH, salinity and dissolved oxygen levels to support restoration and preservation endeavors.

The Indian River Lagoon currently occupies 40% of Florida's East Coast and contains more than 4,400 species of plants and animals. Maintaining water quality is not only important to the lagoon's ecosystem, but also to protect public health. Water quality is essential to human life and the health of the environment.

Marine Resources Council Executive Director, Dr. Laura Wilson stated, "Parrish Healthcare has been a tremendous community partner to MRC. Our organizations overlap in their missions and the work we are able to do collectively in the community, environmental health impacts human health. Together, we can bring the Indian River Lagoon back to health."

"Parrish Healthcare is proud to support the Marine Resources Council and their continuous efforts to preserve the Indian River Lagoon; one of our most valuable community resources." said Maureen Rupe, member of the Parrish Medical Center Board of Directors. "The vital collaboration of our organizations is not only contributing to our mission—Healing Experiences for Everyone All the Time®, but also furthering our vision of Healing Families—Healing Communities® for

generations to come."

Since 2013, Parrish Medical Center has supported the work of the Marine Resources Council to protect, restore and promote the Indian River Lagoon, one of east central Florida's most valuable natural resources.

To learn more about the work the Marine Resources Council is doing to protect and restore the Indian River Lagoon, please visit HYPERLINK "http://www.lovetheirl.com" www.lovetheirl.com or email council@mrcirl.org.

Cheerio,
Maureen Rupe
rupe32927@gmail.com



December 6
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
1165 Fay Blvd.
Port St. John
Join us for the 3rd annual Light Up PSJ event hosted by First United Methodist Church of Port St. John.

This free event will include:

Lighting of a community Christmas tree, decorated trees, kids' choir, singing, snacks, crafts and fun for all!

There is no admission fee.

For more information about the event, visit FUMCPSJ.com/Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Friday, 11/29 thru Monday, 12/23

Monday thru Friday, 3:00 - 8:00

Saturdays 9:00 - 8:00, Sundays, noon - 6:00

At Blessed Sacrament on US 1

ALL PROCEEDS go to KofC

Charities, which include:

Brevard County Special Olympics

Habitat for Humanity

Food for Families

VA "Home At Last" project

and educational

scholarship programs.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

5135 US Hwy. 1, Cocoa



Planning has begun for the 35th Annual Port St. John Christmas Parade. The parade will take place on December 21, 11 a.m. in Port St. John. The parade route will be east along Fay Blvd. from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. We are planning for 70-80 entries this year. Due to the storm stopping many groups last year, the parade theme will again be, "The Wonder of Christmas Morning." Floats and decorations should be planned toward the theme. All entries will be judged and plaques awarded. Categories include Theme, Christmas Spirit, Creativity, Marching Musical and Marching Non-Musical.

Floats should be no more than 17' high to clear power lines, and be 8' wide or less to travel to and from the staging area. Marching groups should plan for a 20' wide roadway.

For everyone's safety, candy may not be thrown from the floats and vehicles.

There is a \$30 charge for any float or vehicle which advertises a business. The fee does not go up if there are multiple businesses on the same float. Nonprofit community support groups and public

schools are \$15, unless they display banners and logos for a business on their float or vehicle(s).

Call us to find out how to get your name on the parade shirts! Your business name will be added to all the Parade t-shirts, staff and public, for a minimum donation of \$75.00.

If there are noise considerations for your entry,

please let us know immediately. We will try to spread out the bands and musical participants.

Any questions, suggestions or needs should be directed to Jeremy Higginbotham, 321-576-2818 or Jhigginbotham@orionconnectivity.com or Randy Rodriguez, 321-863-7499 or happenings1@bellsouth.net.

Port St. John Christmas Parade Entry Form

NAME OF GROUP: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

CONTACT PHONE: _____

CONTACT ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Are you having music? Y N Type of music: Band Caroling Other _____

Music Volume: Loud ___ Moderate ___ Soft ___

Do you have animals? Y N Type & number: _____

Approx. number of marchers in group (include moms, coaches, etc.): _____

of vehicles (include follow vehicles): _____ Type: _____

Include or attach a description of your entry for the Parade Announcer.

Return to: HAPPENINGS, 4742 Brookhaven St., Port St. John, FL 32927

On the Road With Rose



Fort Christmas Historical Park

1300 N Fort Christmas Rd., Christmas

Phone: 407-254-9312

<https://nbbd.com/godo/FortChristmas/>

I pray that by the time this comes to print we have made more vigorous inroads to getting a better handle on the terribleness going on in the world and just as important, the mean disparities between us that have kept us almost prisoners for way too long. To those who have suffered either physically or emotionally, please know prayers are being sent your way.

At just a short 30 or 40 minute drive, Fort Christmas is truly a backyard gem. The drive on Highway 50 is most enjoyable itself, meandering through several eco-systems, into and out of several stages of the growth of Florida. Driving through swamps and wetlands, a sharp eye can catch massive prehistoric alligators sunbathing mere feet from the road where the newest modes of travel whoosh past. Coming close to civilization, you are passing homes built in the early 1900's standing next to those built during the space boom and those in recent years. It almost seems as if history is marching past.

The park is hosting their Historical Christmas on December 7th and 8th this year. There will be about 100 vendors. All types of gift ideas and foods will be available. Volunteers wandering in period costumes are happy to answer questions. There will be demonstrations scattered throughout the park.

Fort Christmas is open seven days a week 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., entry is free and parking is abundant. Pets are not allowed. The parking lot faces the reconstructed home that is now a museum staffed by friendly and informative workers. It's best to pick up a couple of pamphlets and a map, as the park is very large and there is much to see

and enjoy for young and old alike. Fort Christmas Historical Park's FREE Barnyard Banter Historical and Educational Programs are suitable for all ages and offered the third Saturday of the month. This month will be making butter.

Meandering toward the back area, you will pass several very large and screened pavilions, all of which are available for rental. There was a children's party being held on the day myself and cohorts made the trip in my daughter's midlife crisis purchase... (a canary yellow, rag top Camaro.) I envied the kids as they laughed and squealed their way over, around and through the many playground pieces. There are also quite a few picnic tables with BBQ grills, water, electricity, basketball and tennis courts, softball field and plenty of room to just run and play.

The actual fort is a very small, (in every way possible), but important part of the whole park experience. Construction began on Christmas day in 1837, hence the name of the fort and ensuing town. You'll want to take your time going through the fort. There's a lot to see and it's easy to miss something you would like to know. The fort has been reconstructed exactly to specifications of the time. It's not too much of a stretch to imagine how bad the living conditions must have been, not to mention the fear of being surrounded by unfriendly neighbors separated only by log buildings.

All of the houses have been lovingly cared for and really give a picture of what life was like for the men and women who pined a life out of the wilderness sometime during, but mostly after, the Seminole Wars. We toured every house, the informational plaques pointing out whatever we may have missed inside. One of which was the actual house where the sculptor Tex Wheeler grew up right in Christmas. He had moved by the time he sculpted Will Rogers and Seabiscuit.

My teenage grandson was genuinely interested in the farm equipment, smoke houses, barns, chickens and goats, but the highlight of his day was poking his head into a loft, finding several large dolls later characterized as 'creepy' posed staring at the stairs and not telling my friend who was standing right behind him.

The reason for the passé' phrase 'Woman's Work' is truly visible in the kitchen and laundry. I'm very sure the guys would much rather have

the plowing and hunting duties than attempt to make a meal using those instruments of torture.

I heartily recommend the Fort Christmas Park as a wonderful way to enjoy family, friends and great Florida weather. Once again, please take only pictures and leave only footprints.

Holiday Parades Are Coming!

The 2024 Mims Christmas Parade will be held December 7 at 10:30 a.m. Call 321-267-9652 for more information.

The 2024 Merritt Island Holiday Parade will take place on Saturday, December 7 from 10-11:30 a.m. The parade will begin at Merritt Island High School and end at Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School. The theme for this year's parade is "Snow Place Like the Space Coast". Mindy from Lite Rock 99.3 will be the emcee.

For more information or to register to be in the parade, please call 321-633-1874.

Merritt Island also hosts a Christmas Boat Parade on December 7 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. The parade features decorated boats, festive house parties, and holiday cheer. The best places to view the parade are Ulumay Bridge or Watts Park.

The 2024 Cocoa/Rockledge Holiday Parade will take place on Saturday, December 14, from 10-11:30 a.m. The parade will start at Rockledge High School and end at Lee Wenner Park. The theme for this year's parade is "Snow Place Like the Space Coast". Mindy from Lite Rock 99.3 will be the parade's emcee.

To register to participate in the parade or for more information, you can call 321-633-1874.

The 2024 Titusville Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 6 p.m. at Titusville High School. The parade's theme is "Winter Wonderland" and will feature festive floats and holiday cheer.

The 5th annual Cocoa Holiday Boat Parade will take place on December 13, 2024 on Riveredge Blvd. and SR 520.

For more information about participating in the parade, visit christmasparadeirc.com. The Port St. John Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 21, 11 a.m. and will travel east on Fay Blvd. from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. If you'd like to be in the parade this year, the entry form is at www.happenings.net or page 3 of this Happenings.

Food For Thought Protecting Yourself Against Cold and Flu Season

As the weather begins to change, we know that the unwelcome cold and flu season is quickly approaching. Handwashing, keeping surfaces disinfected and avoiding close contact with others will certainly help keep sickness at bay. However, boosting your immune system through nutrition can provide an extra layer of defense.

The vitamins and nutrients you consume during the cold season can impact your body's ability to fend off infections and recover more quickly. You can begin to incorporate more of these key nutrients in your diet now to help keep your health resilient against the germs coming your way.

Vitamin C is well known for its immune boosting, cold-fighting, germ-attacking powers, but does it deserve all of this praise during cold and flu season? The research is in, and it turns out that while vitamin C is an effective antioxidant, it's not so effective at preventing or treating common colds. Taking large doses may help shorten the time you spend sick, but it can also cause some not-so-pleasant stomach problems. For vitamin C to be most effective, eat vitamin C-rich foods all year long. Choose foods like citrus fruits, strawberries, broccoli and kiwi. Did you know that red bell peppers are the richest source of vitamin C? Not green or yellow, but red.

Zinc is an essential mineral found in many foods including meats, fortified cereals, beans and nuts. Unlike vitamin C, zinc has been shown to bolster immunity and speed up cold recovery by up to three times as fast. For most healthy adults, taking upwards of 100 mg of zinc per day may be what it takes to help you kick the common cold to the curb the quickest. Taking zinc on an empty stomach is not a great idea, so always take it after a meal to prevent an upset stomach and/or nausea.

Vitamin D isn't just essential for bone health, but is important for immunity as well. Vitamin D is one of the most common deficiencies, especially as we age. With decreased vitamin D levels comes increased susceptibility to catch common colds. Having regular blood work done is crucial to determine if you fall within this category and need supplementation to help your body fight off unwanted germs. However, most can get their vitamin D through exposure to sunlight and con-

suming foods like salmon, fortified cereals, dairy and mushrooms.

A combination of avoiding close contact with sick individuals, washing hands often, staying active and boosting immunity through a healthy diet should keep you cold and flu-free this season. Before stocking up on orange juice, consider supplementing with zinc when you start to feel a tickle in your throat. Check-in with your doctor to have routine blood work completed to make sure your health is up to par. Good nutrition alone may not completely prevent the common cold, but is essential for overall health, helping you bounce back more quickly and stay healthier all year long.

Amanda Mahaleris, MS, RDN, LDN
Lighthearted Nutrition
amandamahaleris@yahoo.com



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

Classical Christianity Engaging the World

December is upon us and we are putting the finishing touches on our month-long activities at St. Patrick's Anglican Church. Christmas's true heart and soul is Jesus first, then our family, then our country and our community.

Our 5th Annual Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, December 14th in front of the church from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. If it rains, we will be in the parish hall. Come and experience the "WALK" and start a new family tradition. Various Christmas cookies, traditional favorites, homemade and gluten-free cookies will be available. As usual, local vendors will be present selling homemade crafts, jewelry, plants, candy and more.

This year we will have Fork in the Road food truck with great coffee to keep up your energy while you're purchasing cookies and gifts. What a wonderful way to get your Christmas shopping done by buying handmade items and supporting Port St. John's small businesses.

In December, we will have our monthly Crafty Ladies get-together on the 3rd Monday of December (16th) from 6 - 8 p.m. Bring a craft or come and learn a craft (snacks and drinks provided). Come join us for great fun and fellowship.

During December we will put our Adult Bible Study on hold till January.

Our Veteran's and First Responder Breakfast will be on Saturday, December 28th at 9:00 a.m. All Veterans, Spouses of Veterans, Police, Fire, and EMTs are welcome.

The regular service schedule is Holy Communion Service – Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.. Morning Prayer Services are – Monday through Friday – 8:00 a.m. (available through Facebook Live only - <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj>).

Christmas Eve Services will be Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m., which is a Family Service with no Holy Communion and 11:00 p.m. will be our "Lessons with Carols" followed at 11:30 p.m. with our Midnight Holy Communion to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service on Wednesday, December 25th will be at 10:00 a.m..

Please see our website for service information (www.stpatrickspsj.org) or call our church office at 321-802-1311.



Jolly Days at Brevard Zoo

From December 21–23, 2024, you can enjoy festive activities, music, and watch the animals receive holiday treats.

Viper Project Graduation

We sincerely thank you for supporting Purse Bingo in November. Your participation helped make the event a success and we truly appreciate your contribution to the Viper Project Graduation.

Get Your Cruise Tickets! For a \$10 donation, enter to win a 3-night Royal Caribbean Oceanview cruise (valid for 2 years). Drawing in April 2025!

Victory Casino Cruise - Join us on February 1, 2025 for a fun-filled day at sea! Tickets are \$40 and include boarding, a meal voucher and \$20 in slot play.

Donate Shoes - Help support Project Grad by donating new or gently used shoes.

For tickets, drop-off locations or more info, email scviperspg@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook at Viper Project Graduation 2025 Booster Club Inc.

Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick



Office Christmas Parties

The avalanche of political ads attacking all areas of our consciousness are finally over and whether your candidate won or not, it behooves us all to come together and face those who wish to do us harm as a united family. While pecking out these meager words I can hear my television relentlessly droning on about how many people were hurt or worse in how many places around our wonderful planet. It saddens me to realize my short intense prayer for them gets repeated so many times throughout the day. I'm hoping and praying there's an end in sight and invite readers to join me. If you or a loved one has been affected, please know we care and are sending prayers.

'Tis the season most of us are facing with wide eyes and shallow breaths...department, big box stores and Amazon sales by the dozens...mountains of gifts to buy and wrap or box or build or order delivered...real or fake tree...pre-lit or traditional...travel to see family or host...gifts for relatives close or distant...neighbors...friends...every darling child for miles around collecting for some school project. I believe shopping sales and wrapping gifts are akin to labor and childbirth. The end results are pure love and life affirming, but you really don't want to begin the process until absolutely necessary.

But the almost-worst dreaded holiday event of all is THE OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Office parties are a whole 'nuther animal altogether. They say you can learn a lot about your co-workers at these shindigs. I don't know about that, but I would like to share a few pointers I picked up that you may find handy.

If you are enjoying a conversation with a co-worker while strolling, it's important to actually look up at the stick figures on the bathroom door

before opening it.

When you wear some kind of pants thing sporting four panels to kind of make a skirt that slides around while you're seated, every time anyone at the table moves a chair it will end up on one of the panels. You will not know this until you attempt to stand... as in being introduced to the boss's wife.

On the same vein, if you ask hubby to carry your lipstick, it's not a great idea to go fishing for it in his pocket while he's talking to the finance director.

Should you borrow a pair of shoes from your daughter and decide at the last minute they don't fit right so you go out and buy a new pair... remember which pair is supposed to go back to your daughter BEFORE arriving at the party.

Noticing a higher-up may be hitting the eggnog a time or two too many is the absolute best reason to acquire immediate amnesia and after checking that he/she has a DD, find something totally fascinating on the other side of the room. Dance your way over only if you have mastered balancing on the above-mentioned shoes.

If you're seated next to a person who can't seem to stop talking about his dogs' new litter of puppies, don't just smile and nod while listening to Proud Mary.

It is inevitable someone will take a picture of you and the beautiful little blonde dancing in the same vicinity...from the rear...so you might as well just dance and enjoy.

Stepping outside for a breath of fresh air is not an excuse to stand downwind from the smokers and inhale deeply if you recently put the habit to bed. You actually will wake the ugly thing up again.

I did learn a thing or two about my co-workers, though. We clean up real nice, are even more respectful and cheerful when all decked out and bad dancing knows no cubical placement boundaries.

I do admit to being a mite surprised upon discovering that deep grimacing growls are not really the only way male I.T. personnel communicate.

Christmas Eve Service

First United Methodist Church
Port St. John will have a Christmas
Eve Service at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24th.
1165 Fay Blvd., Port St. John
All are welcome!



In December at Stage 2 in Titusville

STAGE 2 is located in an outdoor, but covered pavilion. Performances will occur rain or shine. The gates are located at 316 South Palm Avenue and open 30 mins before your show. Please dress and be prepared for the weather.

For show times, more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/>.

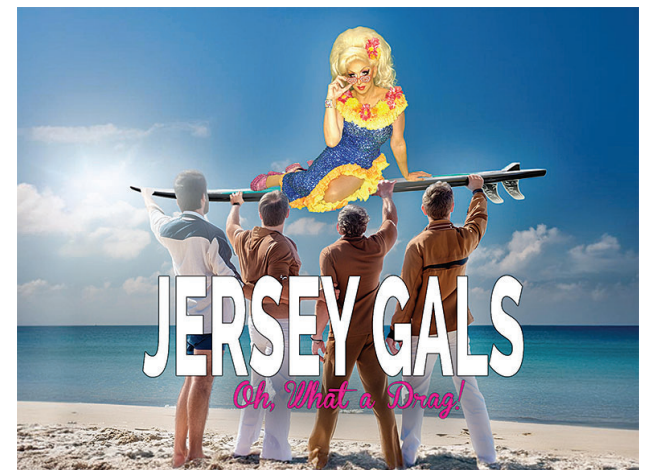


A CHRISTMAS CAROL

December 6 - 22 Rated G

Experience A Christmas Carol unlike any other—past, present or future. The timeless tale of Ebenezer Scrooge written by Charles Dickens comes to new life in an original, thrilling retelling as Patrick Ryan Sullivan plays over 30 roles in a virtuosic, master class of a performance that must be seen to be believed.

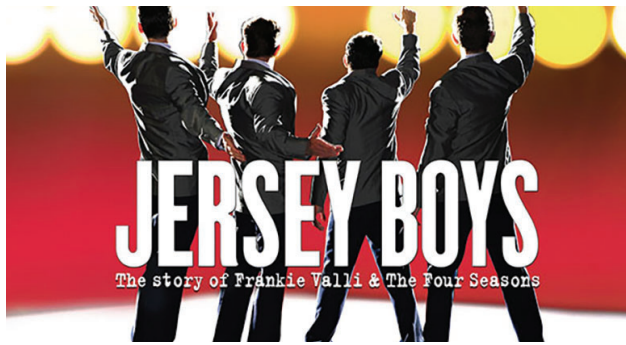
#AChristmasCarol



JERSEY GALS – Oh, what a drag!

December 17 & 18 Rated R

Two nights only! Join us after the Jersey Boys show at MainStage as the Queens visit the Jersey Shore!



JERSEY BOYS

JANUARY 10–FEBRUARY 23, 2025

They had a look, an attitude, and a sound like no other. Sure, they were born in Jersey. But they were made in America. Who knew four guys from New Jersey would turn the world upside down? With a unique sound that nobody had heard, but the radio couldn't get enough of, Jersey Boys is the Tony® Award-winning true-life musical of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. While their harmonies were perfect on stage, their offstage relationships were a different story.



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.

Show times are Friday, Saturday and select Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., Sunday and select Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/> or call 321-268-1125. Season tickets are available.



Start the season with holiday entertainment, spectacular tree lighting and dazzling fireworks! Join us for our FREE annual holiday community celebration! Honor a loved one by placing a light on our holiday tree. To purchase a light, please call 321-269-4066 or visit parrishmedfoundation.com/donate.

The Gift of Light celebration will be held at Parrish Medical Center, 951 N. Washington Ave., Titusville on December 5, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This annual and beloved event honors those we have loved and lost. This event is Free! The evening activities includes:

- 50-Foot Tree Lighting

- Free Hot Chocolate and Baked Goods
- Face Painting
- Kid-Friendly Holiday Crafts
- Spectacular Fireworks Display
- Musical Entertainment and Dance Performers
- Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Food Trucks (Available beginning at 4:30 p.m.)

This is a great way to honor friends and family members you have lost over the years.

Register at www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-signup/?Event=17167.

For more information, please call Community Services: Service and People Excellence at 321-268-6156.

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications for Students Pursuing Careers in Healthcare

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation (JPMF) has launched its 2025 scholarship application period and is now accepting applications from high school seniors and college undergraduate students who plan to pursue a career in a medical or healthcare field related to human health.

Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate students who reside in the Parrish Medical Center service area and are attending an accredited two or four-year college/university. Students must have a 3.0 grade point average or higher, based on a 4.0 scale. Students who have been awarded a JPMF scholarship in previous years may reapply provided they are continuing in a medical/healthcare field and have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average. Graduate students are not eligible to apply.

High school students who attend Astronaut High School, Space Coast Jr./Sr. High School and Titusville High School may obtain an application from the guidance office at their school. Others may obtain an application by calling the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066 or by visiting parrishmedfoundation.com/scholarships.

The number and amount awarded for scholarships will be recommended by the Foundation's scholarship committee with final approval by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 7, 2025. Scholarship award recipients will be announced in May 2025. To date, JPMF has awarded more than \$535,000 to 485 students, supporting future generations of healthcare professionals.

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.**

12-1 Advent Begins

12-3 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.

12-4 American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 359, General Membership Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Post Home, 7260 S. US 1, just north of PSJ. Call President Valerie Helmer at 321-268-1632.

12-4 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting- 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

12-6 St. Nicholas Day

12-6 LIGHT UP PORT ST. JOHN, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at 1st United Methodist Church, 1165 Fay Blvd. All are invited.

12-7 MEET SANTA at the Port St. John Library, 6500 Carole Ave., 10 a.m. - noon.

12-7 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.

12-8 Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meets on the 2nd Sunday each month (except Mother's Day & November), 2 p.m., Cocoa Library.

12-8 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 angelgardnerwrites@gmail.com for info.

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

12-13 Brevard Women's Connection meets at Space Coast Convention Center on Hwy. 520 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., 2nd Friday of each month. Call Pam at 321-752-6896 or e-mail bwc0020@gmail.com.

12-16 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.

12-18 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.

12-21 Winter Begins

12-21 PSJ Christmas Parade

12-24 Moonlight Quilters Guild meets at the First United Methodist Church, 206 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville on the 4th Tuesday of each month (no meeting in April or December). Meet and greet refreshments at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 6:15 p.m., usually followed by show and tell or a guest speaker. Email Moonlight.Quilters@yahoo.com for more information.

12-25 Merry Christmas!

12-25 Hanukkah Begins

12-28 Veterans & First Responders Breakfast - Last Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. at Saint Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John. This is open to all veterans, spouses of veterans and all first responders.



Post 359 - American Legion

12-4 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

12-7 Bike Days at the Tiki - 1st Saturday of the month, 1 - 5 p.m. presented by American Legion Riders. Good food on the grill with Fixin's, \$10. Listen to live music, take part in drawings, 50/50. All proceeds to benefit veterans and veterans' families.

12-9 Sons of the Legion, 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

12-15 American Legion Riders General Membership Meeting- 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Call 2nd Vice Director Janice Anderson, Director, 321-210-6234 or visit our website, alr359.org.

12-18 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.

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

If you are a veteran and would like to visit the Post or would like more information about American Legion, contact Commander Michelle Aaron at 321-289-2880 for more information.

Congratulations to:

David Fine turns **20** on the 1st.

Destiney Anthony turns **28** on the 2nd.

Mark Emr turns **34** on the 3rd.

Brayden Bryson turns **16** on the 4th.

Jennifer Giles is more lovely on the 6th.

The editor is more ancient on the 6th.

Ashley Neal turns **28** on the 6th.

Cherie Brown (Hardin) turns hotter on the 7th.

John Hansen turns **70** on the 9th.

Steve Velligan parties wild on the 12th.

Cary Troxel is the King on the 12th.

Betty Couch gets spanked on the 13th.

Jackie Jordan dances till dawn on the 13th.

Kiera Ward turns **19** on the 13th!

Kathy Ridgely rules the world on the 15th.

Billy Treadway, Sr. turns wilder on the 18th.

Brianna Hardin turns **24** on the 18th.

Candace Sanchez is the Queen on the 19th!

Teresa Miller parties wild on the 20th.

Tommy Mattox turns **16** on the 20th.

Cody Hardin turns **29** on the 20th.

Jaxson Bryson turns **6** on the 20th.

Winter Erff turns **10** on the 23rd.

Ryan Erff turns **28** on the 23rd.

Deanna Wiedman gets more kisses on the 26th.

Monika Williams turns **18** on the 28th.

Nathan Travis turns **18** on the 28th.

Paul Mann turns wilder on the 28th.

Bob & Lossi Lacoste celebrate their **56th** on the 7th!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Good Kwanzaa... Have a joyful holiday.

Randy Rodriguez - HAPPENINGS

Email to happenings1@att.net.

PSJ Community Center Schedule - December, 2024

The center is open Mondays–Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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 p.m. - 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

Home School Class P.E. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
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.
4th & 11th - Culinary Kids, 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.
Dancing Little Stars, 10 – 11:45 a.m. and 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Community Cares Aftercare, 1:30 - 6 p.m.
Zumba - Coming Soon - Every Monday 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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. This program runs every other Wednesday. The focus is on developing foundational skills to carry into your kitchen at home. \$22.00 per child. Adult must accompany child and you must preregister

at www.floridakelskitchen.com

About Dancing Little Stars - Tuesdays 4:00-4:45 p.m./5:00-5:45 p.m. & Fridays 10:00 – 10:45 a.m./10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Ballet, Tap and age appropriate Hip-Hop classes for boys and girls, ages 2-7. Classes focus on rhythm, concentration, memory and balance... while having fun! Our full-scale dance recital is held at the end of the dance season in May. Enrollment is open. Tuition is \$65 per month with the recital costume included with tuition. Register online at www.dancinglittlestarsbrevard.com <http://www.dancinglittlestarsbrevard.com>.

About Yoga With Diane -

Gentle Yoga - Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Gentle Yoga with Diane - 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.psjyoga.com for further information.

About Homeschool Class P.E.

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for exercise and socialize in a fun nature. Price is \$2 per class. Call 321-603-2118 for more information.

Holiday Craft Fair, Market and Food Truck Event

Come out and do some Christmas shopping, find some treasures and enjoy some good food while you're at it! The event will include handmade crafts & gifts, holiday items & decor, home sale vendors and Food Trucks!

The Fair event will be at Edgewood Jr/Sr High School on Saturday, December 14th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 180 E. Merritt Ave., Merritt Island. Free Admission, Free Parking! Everyone is invited.

Edgewood's Project Graduation will be hosting this event to support their graduating seniors. Get more information at EPGCraftFair2@gmail.com or email Clinita Lynch at Brevardschools.org.

Amvets Post 2415 Schedule



12-4 Sons of Amvets 2415

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

12-11 General Membership

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

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

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

12-14 Bike Night! 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. 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.

Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - December 11th 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.

SLEEPY HOLLOW



Fruit From The Groves

Hurricane season is finally over. That doesn't mean that there won't be other storms, so stay prepared.

It also means that we are now in the dry/fire season. Please review all prior safety plans and keep anything that could burn at least 30 feet from your dwelling. All driveways and access roads/paths need to be kept clear for firefighting.

Brevard County Sheriff's Office has been out here in the Groves enforcing traffic laws. People are still not obeying the traffic laws, which puts all of us in danger. There have been reports of people failing to stop for STOP signs, speeding and driving recklessly on the roadways, and reports of motorcycles/bikes doing wheelies on the streets.

This time of year is when the Canaveral Groves Homeowners Association dues are due. The dues are \$15 per year and has been the same for 40+ years. The Homeowners (HOA) is a nonprofit association that is out in the Groves to benefit the area. The Homeowners Association membership is voluntary. The dues cover all the expenses the Association is required to pay to the State of Florida. Over the past year, the Association incurred other expenses including replacing the signs on Canaveral Groves Blvd. and Coconut Street. No members receive any compensation for anything they do that benefits the Groves.

Canaveral Groves are the 500+ homes that

are located West of Grissom Parkway. Without financial participation, the organization may not be able to continue. On the bottom of the page in the Happenings is a form in which to pay dues. Dues can also be paid at the meeting in January which will be on the 9th, 2025 at 7 p.m. The location is at Brevard Christian Church on Grissom Parkway just South of Canaveral Groves Blvd.

The Canaveral Groves Homeowners Association Board wishes everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season.

Ed F. Silva
President of Canaveral Groves
Homeowners Association

Photos with Santa!

Bring your pet and children, too, and join Rescue Rebels by Cash 4 Canines, Inc., an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, for Photos with Santa! Rescue Rebels and Santa will be at Myrt Tharpe Square in Cocoa Village on Sunday, December 8th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to make pictures of you and your pet with Santa.

Sponsored by Tails at the Barkery, this event will help raise much needed funds for the animals Rescue Rebels rescues. Their mission is to provide a better life and second chance for companion animals. Dedicated and devoted to saving dogs that are left abandoned in shelters, surrendered by their

owners, and those that are abused and neglected, Rescue Rebels rescues them, gives them the care they need, and finds them loving forever homes.

For a \$10.00 donation, receive a goody bag and a framed 4x6 color photo with Santa. Photo sign-In ends at 2:15 p.m.

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.

For additional information, please visit Tails at the Barkery in Cocoa Village or call 321-305-4584 or visit Rescue Rebels, www.rescuerebels.org.

Merry Mimosas

You are invited to come out to the 5th Annual "Merry Mimosas" at the Downtown Art Gallery, Titusville's premiere art gallery and gift shop, on Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to enjoy a festive day of shopping and sipping!

Stroll to holiday themed mimosas stations throughout their new location at 400 Orange Street. They will be serving complimentary mimosas throughout the day.

Sample festive Peppermint Mimosas or Pomegranate with cranberries. Indulge in Tropical Passion Fruit Mimosas or tempting blue Jack Frost Mimosas! Instead of elves, the Gallery has artists and they have been busy creating beautiful things to fill six showrooms with great art! Plus special holiday creations perfect for gift giving.

For more information, call 321-268-0122, email tvillegallery@aol.com or follow them on Facebook.

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 _____

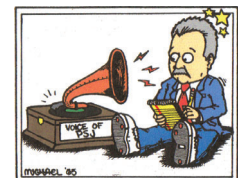
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Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., PSJ

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5 p.m. The Library will be closed on December 24-25.

Adult Programs:

Paint Party with the Friends of the Port St. John Library. Saturday, December 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Join the Friends of the Port St. John Public Library for a paint party every first Saturday of the month. During this class you will create custom wooden door hangers. Adults and teens ages 16+. \$40/per person. Payment is due at sign up. Deadline to register at the Reference Desk by Wednesday, December 4.

Community Support Advocate: Mondays, December 9 and 23 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.: The community support advocate provides assistance with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources.

Memory Kits - Brevard County Libraries are now offering Memory Kits available for check out at select locations. Memory Kits are specially designed activity kits that include resources and hands-on activities for persons living with dementia, Alzheimer's and other forms of cognitive impairment. Each kit includes curated materials such as interactive books, puzzles, arts and crafts, and guided discussion prompts for caregivers. Kits currently focus on three different themes: 1960s Nostalgia, Animals, and the Great Outdoors.

Family Programs

Spice Club: Friday, December 20 at 3:30 p.m.: Come to the meeting to pick up a spice kit and share food, recipes, and cooking adventures.

Meet Santa at the Port St. John Public Library on Saturday, December 7th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Photos with Santa Clause, crafts, gifts, and raffle for prizes. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Port St. John Library.

This month come visit the library and check out our community puzzle.

Youth Services:

Sensory Sundays: Every Sunday from 2:00-3:00 p.m., children can join the library staff for quiet time with sensory bins and activities. Sensory bin activities are exciting and engaging ways for kids to explore different textures, colors and materials. Designed for children ages 6-12, these activities help develop fine motor skills, encourage imaginative play and offer a hands-on learning experience. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

STEAM Activity Time: STEAM is every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Port St. John public library in the meeting room. Come build and make things with us! We will have activities centered around science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. This event is for ages 6-11 and requires parent or adult supervision at all times. **No STEAM on the 24th or 31st.**

Read Your Way to K: Babies: Baby story time at the Port St. John public library is from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for some songs, short stories and surprise activities. This story time is for babies ages 3 and under and requires parent or adult supervision at all times. **No story time on December 27th.**

Read Your Way to K: Toddlers: Toddler Story Time at the Port St. John public library is from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for songs, stories, and a craft. This story time is for toddlers ages 3 to 5 and is intended to prepare toddlers for preschool with active listening, group participation, developing fine motor skills, and socializing with others. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times. **No story time on Dec. 27th.**

STEAM kits are available in Youth Services!

Cookie Walk

Everyone is invited! Come join us at St. Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John for our annual Cookie Walk. Enjoy a large selection of homemade holiday cookies and treats! We will have local vendors participating as well. The Walk will be on December 14, 9 a.m. - noon. Visit stpatrickpsj.org for a map and information.

Come meet SANTA at the Port St John Library

Saturday, Dec. 7th
10:00am-12:00pm

**Photo with Santa, Crafts, Gifts,
and Raffle for Prizes**



Sponsored by the
Friends of the Port St John Library
6500 Carole Ave Cocoa FL 32927

 Follow Friends of the Port St John Library.

Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Business Directory

Important Phone Numbers

County Commissioner -	321-607-6901
Sheriff: Non-Emergency -	321-633-7162
Fire Station 26 (Port St. John)	321-633-2056
Emergency Operations Center	321-637-6670
Waste Management -	321-636-6894
SCAT Bus Information -	321-633-1878
Port St. John Library	321-633-1867
PSJ Community Center -	321-633-1904
Florida Power & Light -	321-723-7795
City of Cocoa Water Dept. -	321-433-8400
Parrish Healthcare Center	
Port St. John -	321-268-6868
Titusville -	321-268-6111
Atlantis Elementary School -	321-633-6143
Challenger 7 Elementary -	321-636-5801
Enterprise Elementary School	321-633-3434
Fairglens Elementary School -	321-631-1993
Space Coast Jr/Sr High School -	321-638-0750



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Monthly Tax Update

The IRS has issued tax information for 2025. These are the numbers that you'll use to prepare your 2025 tax returns in 2026. There will be seven (7) tax rates in 2025. They are 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% and 37%. Please contact my office to find out the breakdown for your applicable tax on your taxable income.

Your Personal Exemption Amount we used to have is still not separated, and included in your standard deduction. There is no limitation on itemized deductions for tax year 2025, as in tax year 2024 and preceding to tax year 2018. The standard deduction amounts will increase to \$15,000 for individuals and married couples filing separately, representing an increase of \$400 from 2024. Married couples filing jointly will see a deduction of \$30,00, a boost of \$800 from 2024, while heads of household will see a jump to \$22,500 for heads of household, an increase of \$600 from 2024.

For 2025, the additional standard deduction amount for the aged 65 or older or the blind is \$2,000 for single or head of household and for the aged 65 or older and the blind is \$4,000 for single or head of household filers. For married filing joint or separate filers with the aged 65 or older or the blind, the deduction is \$1,600, per person who falls into one category. For married filing joint or separate filers with the aged 65 or older and the blind, the deduction is \$3,200 per person who falls into both categories.

For 2025, the standard deduction amount for an individual who may be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer cannot exceed the greater of \$1,350 or the sum of \$450 and the individual's earned income (not to exceed the regular standard deduction amount).

The Kiddie Tax applies to unearned income for children under the age of 19, or a college student under the age of 24. Unearned income is income from sources other than wages and salary, like dividends and interest. Your child must pay taxes on their unearned income in 2025, but if that amount is more than \$1,350, but less than \$13,500, you may be able to elect to include that income on your return rather than file a separate return for your child.

Right now, the Child Tax Credit is a refundable child tax credit of \$1,700 in 2025, unless Congress makes a late change.

For 2025, the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) amount available is \$8,046 for married taxpayers filing jointly who have three or more qualifying children—it was \$7,830 in 2024 and again subject to the phaseout rules.

Capital Gains rates will not change for 2025, but the brackets for the rates will change. Most taxpayers pay a maximum 15% rate, but a 20% tax rate applies if your taxable income exceeds the thresholds set for the 37% ordinary tax rate. Exceptions also apply for art, collectible and section 1250 gain (related to depreciation).

The alternative minimum tax (AMT) exemption rate is also subject to inflation. The AMT ex-

emption amount for tax year 2025 for single filers is \$88,100 and begins to phase out at \$626,350 (in 2024, the exemption amount for single filers was \$85,700 and began to phase out at \$609,350).

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In 2025, the AMT exemption amount for married couples filing jointly is \$137,000 and begins to phase out at \$1,252,700 (in 2024, the exemption amount for married couples filing jointly was \$133,300 and began to phase out at \$1,218,700).

In 2025, the foreign-earned income exclusion amount is \$130,000, up from \$126,500 for tax year 2024. And, the federal gift tax exclusion will increase to \$19,000 in 2025, up from \$18,000 in 2024. In closing, myself and my staff wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season, with success and love in the New Year. God Bless!

This is a very brief overview. It is your responsibility to discuss any tax and financial changes with your professional advisor for assistance in evaluating your situation. For details and specific assistance in applying the general information in this article, call us at your earliest convenience or contact your tax advisor. Provided by Pedro L. Baldeon, E.A., 321-632-5726, a member of the National Society of Tax Professionals.

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