

HAPPENINGS

ISSUE NO. 411

JULY 2024

SERVING PORT ST. JOHN & CANAVERAL GROVES

HAPPENINGS
BRIDGE
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Submissions for publication need to be in before the 18th.

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

Thunder Over the Indian River 2024

Thunder Over the Indian River will be held on Saturday, July 6th at the OUC Canaveral plant, corner of Kings Hwy. and US1, again this year. **The gate to the compound where all the shows, demonstrations and food will be is on Kings Hwy.,** right across from Capron Rd. The gate at Kings Hwy. & Capron Rd. will open at 4:00 p.m. with music and fun.

Enjoy an evening including inflatables, DJ, demonstrations, BBQ Competition, food/dessert trucks, raffles and of course the best fireworks show in Brevard County! Fireworks usually start about 9:15. Weather conditions may cause the fireworks to be a little early or late to avoid rain.



Randi Sims

You can pre-order t-shirts at portstjohncommunityfoundation.com

on the Foundation website! First Come, First Served! The BBQ contest participants will start serving at 5:00. You'll want to have your wristband before that!

TOIR staff will be inside the spectator compound to help you park in an order that will make

it much easier to exit after the fireworks show. There will be some spaces designated for handicapped parking. Plan accordingly. They fill up early.

No fireworks or alcohol are allowed on the plant property. You are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on, insect repellent and sun block. It's Florida in July!

To hold this event, the Port St. John Community Foundation (PSJCF) needs volunteers and sponsors to help make this the great event it has been in the past. Businesses and residents are invited to join planning meetings and participate for all or any event.

For more information on Thunder Over the Indian River, visit our Facebook site; PSJ Community Foundation (@psjcf); Instagram: psjstrong; or go to www.portstjohncommunityfoundation.com for the entire schedule.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially Parrish Medical Center, Freedom Air and Heat, Higginbotham Companies, Inc. and HAPPENINGS for making our Independence Day celebration possible.



If you would like to compete in the Annual BBQ Competition the registration form is ready

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Brevard County, FL

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Judith Siron, APRN

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PSJ Community Center Schedule - July, 2024

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

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

Summer Camp 2024

Monday-Friday / 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. /
May 28 - August 9 / Children Ages: Completed
Kindergarten – 6th Grade / Cost \$100.10 per
week or \$33.37 per day (additional fees apply for
fieldtrips, camp activities & t-shirt). Please contact
the center for more information.

Mondays

Summer Camp 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesdays

Summer Camp 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesdays

Summer Camp 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursdays

Summer Camp 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Seniors At Lunch, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Gentle Yoga 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Fridays

Summer Camp 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Seniors At Lunch, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

About Kel's Kitchen (starting in August)

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. \$20.00 per child. Adult must accompany child and you must preregister at www.floridakelskitchen.com

About Dancing Little Stars (starting in August)

Dancing Little Stars- Professional Ballet, Tap and Hip-Hop classes for boys and girls, ages 2-7. Classes focus on rhythm, concentration, memory and balance... while having fun! Our full-scale dance recital is held at the end of the dance season in May. Enrollment is open through February. Tuition is \$60 per month with the recital costume included with tuition. Register online at www.dancinglittlestarsbrevard.com <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.

Brevard Burn Ban Lifted

Due to the recent rains, the current mean average Drought Index for Brevard County has fallen below 450. As a result, the ban on open burning and the use of fireworks is no longer in effect.

Though the KBDI has dropped, there is still a potential for wildfires to develop. Brevard County Fire Rescue urges citizens to be aware of their surroundings when burning yard waste or using fireworks.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) runs from zero, which is totally saturated, to 750-plus, which is desert-like conditions. The Brevard County KBDI dropped under 450 on June 13. The Board of County Commissioners, Brevard County Fire Rescue officials, Brevard County Emergency Management and the Division of Forestry will continue to monitor conditions to determine the need for further bans.

In order to reduce the risk of being affected by wildfire, residents are encouraged to create a defensible space of at least 30 feet around their homes by keeping grass mowed regularly and cutting away vegetation. Before burning, please check the forecast weather conditions first and never burn on days for which high winds or low humidity are forecast.

Classified Ads

We BUY Cars, Trucks, RV Don 321-508-7895.
For Sale - Delta 10" Table Saw, \$50; Brush Guard for Honda Ridgeline, \$100; Budweiser bar light, \$15. Call 321-863-7499.

Classified Section - \$7.00 per line - 45 characters per line (including spaces). Classified ads must be paid in advance. Ads must be submitted in writing no later than the 18th of the month for publication the following month. Happenings reserves the right to reject any advertisements not meeting its standards. Liability for errors shall not exceed the cost of the ad.

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Kids, Discover Local Art At The Downtown Art Gallery

Summer's here and school is out. Parents if you're looking for a fun field trip with the kids, check out the Downtown Art Gallery, 400 Orange Street in downtown Titusville.

The gallery hosts the work of 20 local artists, everything from painting and photography to baskets, jewelry and pottery. The staff would love to introduce your kids to art, explain the different techniques that the artists have used, and answer any questions. Plus it's inside where it's cool!

While you're there, we can also point out other fun things to do in the downtown area. Summer hours for the gallery are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 am to 4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

For information call 321- 268-0122



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TOOTSIE

JULY 26–AUGUST 18, 2024

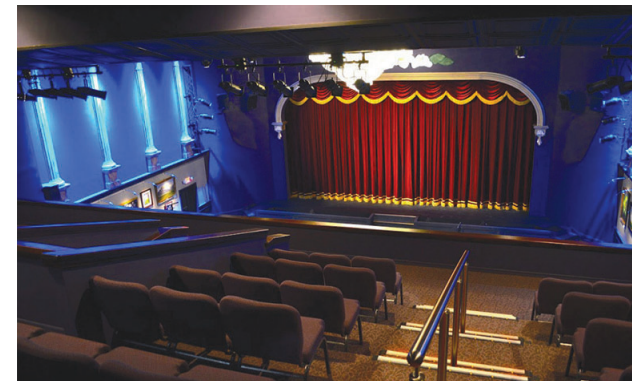
Michael Dorsey will go to any length for his career in this award-winning musical. Based on the hit comedy film starring Dustin Hoffman and ranked as one of the best comedies of all-time, Tootsie has had audiences rolling in the aisles in what was hailed as “Broadway’s funniest new musical!” The New York Post. Michael Dorsey is a skilled actor with a talent for not keeping a job. Desperate and out-of-work, Michael makes a last-ditch effort at making his dreams come true...by disguising himself as actress Dorothy Michaels. In a meteoric rise to Broadway stardom, Michael (disguised as Dorothy) soon has audiences enamored while falling for his co-star, Julie. It isn’t long before Michael realizes that maintaining his greatest acting success is going to be much harder than he expected.

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Titusville Playhouse

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.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/> or call 321-268-1125. Lobby Doors open 30 minutes before show time.

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Live Local Act

Florida's Live Local Act has been dubbed by many as the largest investment in housing in Florida history. The Live Local Act was voted in and signed by Governor DeSantis in 2023 and was modified in 2024. The Act is very beneficial for property developers operating in Florida. The three key elements that positively impact developers are:

- 1) Exceptions to zoning laws
- 2) Tax exemptions
- 3) Opening up funding option

The Live Local Act is designed to increase the availability of affordable housing opportunities for Florida's residents. The Act will allow 40 apartment units per acre at heights equal to whatever code allows within a mile of the development, as long as the development includes 40% affordable housing and has a commercial component. It pre-empts local governments' requirements regarding zoning, density and height to allow for streamlined development of affordable multifamily rental housing in commercial, industrial and mixed-use zoned areas under certain circumstances. From a local government perspective, the act:

- 1) Removes a local government's ability to approve affordable housing on residential parcels by bypassing state and local laws that preclude such development, while retaining such right for commercial and industrial parcels.
- 2) Removes provisions allowing local governments to impose rent control, pre-empting rent control ordinances entirely.
- 3) Requires counties and cities to publish an inventory of publicly owned properties appropriate for affordable housing.
- 4) Requires local governments to maintain a public written policy for expediting building permits and development orders for affordable housing.

Affordable housing is currently defined by Florida law as:

- 1) Restricted to households that do not make more than the specified percentage of the area's median income.
- 2) Costs no more than 30% of the tenant's monthly income for rent & utilities.
- 3) 60% of housing must meet items 1 or 2 to be considered affordable housing.

In short, this is probably the worst thing that could happen to us. There is no public hearing for Live Local projects, just an administrative hearing by staff to ensure the project meets state guidelines. No one is notified what projects are being evaluated or approved. That is, no one except county or city staff will have any idea of what is being evaluated or what has been approved anywhere until you see the bulldozer plowing the fields near you.

The Act makes no provision whatsoever for the environmental consequences of the development. This is probably horrible for the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and many other water bodies around the state. For example, U.S.1 goes along the IRL for the entire length of Brevard County and most other counties south of us, and is within throwing distance for most of it. Commercial, industrial and mixed-use zoned areas are along most of the length. This increased density is going to cause a massive additional runoff into the lagoon, causing more harm to the IRL when we are trying to repair the damage already done to it in the last 50 years.

Titusville's Live Local ordinances (Chapter 29, Article X West Titusville Overlay) was written by Kimberly Horn Consultants, who were hired as the City's consultant. This same firm is used by developers to conduct their concurrency test and engineer the extremely dense developments in Titusville. These ordinances were discussed at the Titusville 06/05/2024 Planning & Zoning Meeting where there was a large number of questions, but in the end, the Committee just voted to recommend approval with no changes. I hope the legislature figures out what they've done before more dead fish or dead manatees are floating along our shores.

Ref: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2023/html/3068>

Titusville's Right To Clean Water (TRCW)

Advocates for TRCW spoke at the May 28th Titusville City Council meeting to ask the 3 council members to reconsider their stance to now take their suit to a higher court, such as the Florida Supreme Court. I pointed out that 82% of voters of Titusville voted for the Amendment to be in the Titusville Charter. Two judges in the courts had ruled it must go in the Charter. The Speak Up Titusville group has pointed out this is costing taxpayers over \$100,000 already, whereas

Speak Up Titusville is having to ask for donations to fight the City for what their citizens chose. The three council members are still voting to fight the citizens from putting in the RTCW amendment to the Charter with claims that lawsuits over pollution could bankrupt the City. They want to send it to a higher court. If that is the case, why has the city done nothing to rectify the problem? How long before the national newspapers and TV stations are knocking on your door because of the absurdity of it all? This fight will not end well for the City Council. Please reconsider and join the Mayor and Vice Mayor to allow it on the Charter. There is something very wrong about this and wrong is no man's right.

Reference: <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/environment/2024/05/03/right-to-clean-water-legal-battle-seen-as-accountability-issue-for-titusville/73538775007/>

Florida Congressman Wants Congress To OK Killing Rare Rice's Whale

The Rice's whale lives only in the Gulf of Mexico and is numbering somewhere between 51 and 100. BP's Deepwater Horizon accident killed 17% of their population and 22% of the females that survived were unable to produce healthy live calves. When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proposed adding them to the Endangered Species list, the oil industry objected as it may change how they do things. Fortunately, the whales made it on the list. The whales have been hanging off of Florida as it's quieter due to not having as many oil wells. Eglin is a major weapons test location occupying the panhandle of Florida, and one place they test is over open water in a 120,000 square mile Test Range. Eglin is cautious in harming the Rice's Whale as its protected under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Representative Matt Gaetz (R-Venmo), whom talk has him running for Governor soon, last year wrote, "A serious nation would not sacrifice national security for the sake of accommodating whales." Twice he has drafted language in the defense bill to invoke a national security exception to the federal Endangered Species Act so they can bomb without mercy. The first-time language was removed and he has submitted it again in the latest version.

As a note, Eglin AFB officials have been work-

ing with NOAA to make sure the whales and dolphins are protected, which has been renewed until 2030. When whales or dolphins are observed, they move to another location in their huge test range.

Ref: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/06/06/florida-congressman-matt-gaetz-wants-congress-to-ok-killing-rare-whale/>

Viera Roundabout

The Viera Roundabout is the smallest I have ever seen. They are widely used in Britain and Europe, and are great for keeping traffic flowing without stoplights. They save time and accidents if you know the rules. They are not complicated at all and all I can say is, if you don't get it, please don't go to the United Kingdom or Europe and rent a car to get your sightseeing done.

Insurance & Burglar Bars

We have had burglar bars on our windows and doors for 36 years. This year we have been told by the insurance company they will not insure us unless all the bars on the windows have hinges installed, as it is a fire hazard. We only had them on the windows large enough for us to crawl through.

Consequently, we are having the bars removed and installing High-Impact Windows at quite an expense. Whilst this is a great addition for hurricanes and storms as these will take a 40 cal. bullet, they are expensive. But you can't leave them open or burglars can enter, unlike with our burglar bars on our current windows.

Cheerio,
Maureen Rupe
rupe32927@gmail.com



Amvets Post 2415 Schedule

7-3 Sons of Amvets 2415 General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

7-10 General Membership Meeting- 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

7-11 Amvets 2415 Ladies Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Contact President Theresa Nikki

Anderson, 321-208-7897, for more information.

7-13 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415 General Membership Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the month at 12 noon. Pres. Steve Carman, 321-446-3394.

7-13 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.

Introducing Vita Prep Academy

Vita Prep Academy, a new school committed to giving kids the skills to lead fulfilling lives, will have their first classes commencing this August. The school will have an 11 month schedule with the June session being optional, but also a 6 week summer and 3 week Christmas break. The full academic calendar is on the website (below).

The school is founded by Kali, Founder and Lead Guide, who brings over a decade of experience teaching students with unique learning needs. Kali has consistently demonstrated that students can achieve remarkable success when given the freedom to explore and learn in ways that resonate with them.

Kali is supported by her husband, Phil, and their two boys, Henry (6) and Logan (2). The family lives in Port St. John.

Vita Prep Academy believes in individualized learning and emphasizes student-led education. Unlike traditional schools, the curriculum allows students to progress at their own pace. If a student masters a skill quickly, they can move on to more challenging tasks without waiting for their peers. Conversely, students who need more time to develop mastery receive the necessary support through small group and individual instruction from our dedicated teachers.

Enrolling at Vita Prep Academy is quick and easy. Interested families can visit the website, click "Apply Now," and fill out a short initial application. Their target student population includes students who prefer learning beyond the confines of a traditional classroom and are motivated to develop the skills needed for a fulfilling life. Vita Prep still has a few

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Magic and Dog Show

Does your dog know tricks? Attend the most adorable event of the year on Saturday, July 20th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Magic Dove Magic Shop in Historic Cocoa Village and help raise money for Schnauzer Love Rescue, Inc. Your dog could be the 2024 Magic Dove Dog of the Year!

Enter your dog in a friendly dog competition and show off your dog's tricks and skills. Each dog performance will have three minutes on the Magic Dove stage. Award winning magician Marvelous Megan and her talented friends will entertain you with magic acts in between the dog performances. Trophies will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. In addition, Tails at the Barkery, specializing in fresh baked treats, tail bites and designer wear, will be providing gift basket prizes to each of the winners.

Tickets to attend the Magic and Dog Show are \$20 per person. You can register your dog to perform for an additional \$5. All performances must pre-register. Register in person at Magic Dove Magic Shop or call them at 321-433-1130.

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

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.

Contact: Schnauzer Love Rescue, Inc., www.schnauzerloverescue.net/ or Tails at the Barkery, 321-305-4584 or Magic Dove Magic Shop, 321-433-1130.

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- **WORK TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR POLICE AND FIRE/EMT/PARAMEDICS HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

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Random Acts of Kindness At Work

Do you remember the two young men who were trying to graduate from Space Coast Senior High School? With the inspiration and guidance of Mrs. Keri Weeks, Guidance Clerk at Space Coast High School, they did it!

“These two students were so far behind to begin the school year, that it was going to be difficult to graduate on time. They were 18 and 19 credits from graduating. They did not even know each other when the school year began and they pushed each other to accomplish their goals,” Mrs. Weeks said.

Demontay Lewis said, “Mrs. Weeks pushed

us hard, she checked on us all the time and motivated us to finish what we started. We are so fortunate to have her in our lives! Gavin and I are motivated to continue our education. I want to go to college or be a truck driver and Gavin wants to go to trade school and then become a pilot. We became lifelong friends and we still help each other out. We are grateful for Mrs. Weeks and Sam Patel from The

Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness, who bought us laptops to help us with school.”

“You never know when one small random act of kindness can change the course of someone's future. These two young men are respectful, mo-



Keri Weeks, Gavin and Demontay

tivated and we can not wait to see what the future holds for them,” said Sam Patel, the Founder of The Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness.



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Project Graduation 2025

Project Graduation is an exciting night of fun, food, music and prizes in a safe environment. The goal of Project Graduation is to keep our new graduates and our community safe by providing a sensational, substance-free evening that every graduate will want to attend.

Viper Project Graduation 2025 Booster Club, Inc. extends its heartfelt gratitude to our incredible community for their unwavering support at our first fundraiser. At the 2024 graduation, we sold water, all of which was generously donated.

We would like to express our appreciation to the following businesses and individuals who made this possible: Port Java, Lowe's Rockledge, Beef O'Brady's PSJ, Publix Super Market at Indiavista Center, Altman's Air, Sheila Pinter, Nesara Whitman, Lisa Cullen, Marsha Brown and Ericka McComb. Your contributions have truly made a difference. Thank you for your support!

Visit the Viper Project Grad tent at TOIR on July 6, 2024. If you are interested in sponsorship or volunteering with Viper Project Graduation, email us at scviperspg@gmail.com.

Viper Project Graduation 2025 Booster Club, Inc. is a parent-run organization and is not affiliated with Space Coast Jr/Sr High School or Brevard Public Schools.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

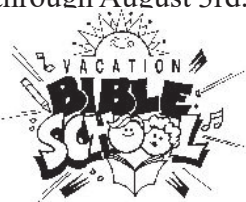
NARFE Apollo Chapter 1137 meets monthly on the second Monday of each month. Our meeting place is Kay's BBQ Restaurant, 1552 W. King St., Cocoa.

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

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

Dinner And Bible School

Historic St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church at 414 Pine St. in Titusville is holding a Vacation Bible School from July 29th through August 3rd. Families are invited to come with their children for dinner at 5:30, followed by crafts, games, Bible study and fun until 8:00 for the children.



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

Classical Christianity Engaging the World

St. Patrick's Anglican Church is hoping everyone is enjoying and staying safe during this very hot summer. Please don't forget our four-legged friends during these hot months, with shade and plenty of water.

On July 4th we will have our Annual 4th of July Celebration Service at 5:30 p.m., followed by our church picnic at 6:00 p.m. RSVP if you plan to attend.

I know it seems that the school season is a long way off, but we will start gathering school supplies in July for distribution the first week of August. If you have school supplies that you would like to donate to our children in need in Port St. John, please drop them off at the church or call the church office at 321-802-1311.

Please check out our Ladies Fellowship and Craft Group on the third Monday in July – July 15th at 6:00 p.m. Bring a craft to work on and join us for a great fellowship and a light snack.

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

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

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

Adult Bible School and Student Sunday School are on hiatus for July. Student Sunday School will restart on Sunday, August 18th at 10:00 a.m. and is open to students in 1st to 8th grade. Please contact the church for more information: stpatrickspsj@gmail.com or 321-802-1311.

Are you interested in finding out more about the Anglican Church and St. Patrick's Anglican Church? If so, feel free to contact us at: St. Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St.

John, 321-802-1311 or stpatrickspsj@gmail.com.

Updated event information and services are available at <https://stpatrickspsj.org>.

Mental Health First Aid Training Available

Why Mental Health First Aid? Stress in the workplace. Family obligations. Negative memories you can't let go of. Everyone faces personal challenges and their journey to recovery and healing. Sometimes it is hard to know what to say or do to provide support or even where to turn if you are struggling, but anyone can be the one to make a difference in the life of someone with a mental health or substance abuse challenge – if they know what to do and what to say.

That is why UF/IFAS Extension is offering the Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course. Just as CPR helps even those without clinical training assist an individual having a heart attack, the MHFA course familiarizes people with the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and teaches participants a five-step action plan to support someone experiencing a mental health crisis. It also identifies the importance of self-care and how to plan when we need self-care the most.

In just 12 years, Mental Health First Aid has become a full-blown movement in the United States — more than 2.5 million people are certified Mental Health First Aiders, and that number is growing every day. This course will be held at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Cocoa (3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa) on July 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. All participants will need to complete a 2-hour, self-paced online assignment prior to attending the course. On the day of, participants will attend a 5.5-hour, in-person instructor-led training. Registration starts at \$65.

To learn more and register for the program, visit: <https://loom.ly/Firuzdw>.

If you have any questions, please call us at 321-633-1702 or email Brevard@IFAS.UFL.edu.

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office at Brevard@IFAS.UFL.edu or (321) 633-1702 at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick



Don't Care!

Once again we are watching the terribleness in too many parts of the world and craziness in our own back yard take the very decency out of our lives. It seems every time we think there's a light at the end of the tunnel, it's just another oncoming train. It takes great effort to have faith that our prayers are being heard and someday this, too, shall pass, but we have to believe it's worth the effort.

Neither Kathy nor I learned to water ski. Our respective husbands did, and all of our kids learned by age six. Nearly every weekend, holiday and summer day used to find us at Kiwanis Island, with our little old 16 foot Cobia. Our kids grew up with a great appreciation of the outdoors, and many great memories. I do wish they would forget most of the ones about their mother's attempts at water-skiing, or at least stop laughing so hard they collapse into a lump of teary hiccups.

It's not that we didn't have advice or demonstrations. We heard, "Straighten your legs out!" "Bend your knees!" "Hunch over a little!" "Hold your head up!" "Pull the rope in to your chest!" "Let the rope pull you!" "Mom! She hit me again!" at least 1,000 times.

The outcome was always the same. I could hang on long enough to pull the upper half of my body out of the water, but for some reason as soon as my derriere left the water, I fell over to the right, my left ski winding up behind my right shoulder. I became quite expert at detangling myself in the same amount of time it took for my husband to stop laughing.

Kathy usually got about the same percentage of body mass out of the water as I did; only she always fell forward, many times forgetting to let

go of the tow rope. Her husband nearly drowned himself laughing as he swam out to help her. He was the designated lifeguard.

After we provided the entertainment for a while, the kids would ski one by one, exclaiming, "Did you see? It's easy!" "I went all the way around! Twice!" "Raymond didn't even have to help me get up this time!" "Is lunch ready?"

Then of course, our husbands just had to demonstrate how it's done. If wishes could come true, both sets of male legs would have shrunk to six inches in length and both sets of male hands would have become glued to the tow rope.

One bright summer day, Kathy was finally able to get all her body parts out of the water, hanging on to make almost a whole circle! She was elated but exhausted and not able to pull herself into the boat. My husband, being ever helpful, leaned over, grabbed one arm and one leg, and hauled her in as one would a big fish. The maker of her bathing suit must have neglected to include extra strength for fish hauling when he designed the top strap. She ended up head down, arms tightly crossed over her chest, legs straight up.

My husband, not knowing there is a problem, suggests she should upright herself, to which Kathy suggests he immediately test the water himself.

Meanwhile, back at my little corner of the river, I am in waist deep water struggling to put skis on. To their credit, my kids are yelling encouragement... I think. "Come on Mom, if Kathy can do it, you can too!" "Don't forget to let go!" "Watch out for sharks!" "She's touching me!" "She touched me first!"

Warmed by their emotional outbursts, I was able to force a foot into the whatchamacallit on one ski. Noticing that ski waving in the wind, me trying vainly to balance on the other foot and push my head above water long enough to catch a breath, Kathy's husband waded over, pulled my head above water, asked if I needed help.

When I nodded yes, he dropped my head, grabbed my ski-less foot, shoved it into the whatchamacallit and hurried off to grab his fishing pole, mumbling something about scaring the fish, to which I suggested a place he could put the fishing pole.

So what-- Kathy and I cannot ski, and.... WE DON'T CARE!!

Post 359 - American Legion Riders
presents



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

Good food on the grill with Fix-in's, \$10. Listen to live music, take part in drawings, 50/50. All proceeds to benefit veterans and veterans' families.

7-3 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

7-8 Sons of the Legion, 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

7-17 General Membership Meeting- 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), 321-268-1632. Veterans can contact Commander Michelle Aaron at 321-289-2880 for more information.

7-21 American Legion Riders General Membership Meeting- 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Director Wayne Fowler, Director, 321-307-1450 or visit our website, alr359.org.

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

Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the



2nd Wednesday of each month - July 10th this month - at 7:00 p.m. in the club house on Merritt Island Airport.

If you have a passion or interest in aviation, then EAA 724 will bring you closer to the action. You don't have to be a pilot or aircraft owner to enjoy our group. Our chapter is a mixture of pilots, wannabe pilots and non-pilots. If you like aircraft and aviation, you are welcome. Each month we have an interesting speaker and lots of hangar flying.

The airport is approximately 2 miles south of SR 520 on Courtenay Parkway. Turn off Courtenay onto the airport and then bear right. Across from the Fire House is the club house with the EAA logo on the end of the building.

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

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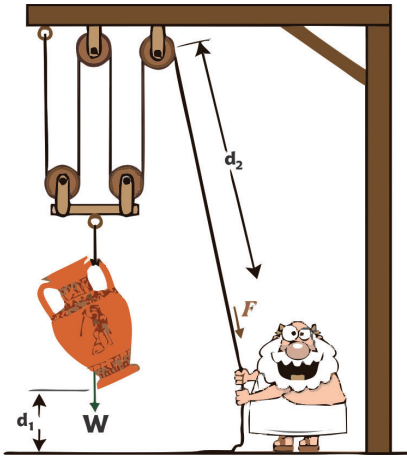
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July 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27

Building the Pyramids, skyscrapers, or simply pulling a car out of a ditch, we use simple tools called Pulleys, Gears, and Levers to increase our strength and ability. This month we will discuss how and why they work, and then do some hands on experiments applying these tools. This will be a very UPLIFTING class!!!

The workshop will be offered at 10:00, 12:00 and 2:00 each of the above listed days. Registration is NOW OPEN!!!

Be sure to register soon at <https://spacewalkoffame.org/register> to reserve a spot, as class sizes are limited to 12 students per class time, for children grades 1-6, but older students are welcome as well.

For more information, please contact the American Space Museum at 321-264-0434. The address of the museum is 308 Pine Street in Titusville.

It will be lots of fun, as well as educational and it's FREE!

Please be sure to park in the FRONT parking lot and enter through the REAR of the building at the door by the grey trailer. Thank you.

Professor Darin contact information is Education@americanspacemuseum.org or text at 727-809-0926.

\$1 Movies At Wednesday Summer Kids Series

Experience the thrill of affordable family entertainment this summer at Epic Theatres with their Summer Kids Series!

Every Wednesday at 10 am, enjoy some of cinema's finest kids' movies for only \$1. Titles include Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie, Minion: Rise of Gru, Teenage Mutant Turtles: Mutant Mayhem and Shrek.

For more information, visit www.epictheatres.com/dollar1-summer-kids-series/.



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Monthly July Tax Article

Happy Fourth of July to everyone. This past tax season many people had to pay more taxes than usual, and sometimes the spouse has been affected by the other spouse's prior back child support or IRS debt. Sometimes new couples are married without knowing their new spouse must pay back this debt and their refund will be applied to this debt.

For taxpayers filing Married Joint with prior year tax liability to pay, there could be an opportunity to receive some of your refund by filing Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. While filing a joint return may be advantageous, issues can arise when refunds are recaptured to pay debts of the other spouse, or unpaid liabilities linger after their previous marriage dissolves. Depending on the taxpayer's scenario, they may be eligible for relief as either an innocent or injured spouse. Innocent spouse relief can relieve you from paying additional taxes if your spouse did something wrong on your joint tax return and you didn't know about the errors. Innocent spouse relief is only for taxes due on your spouse's income from employment or self-employment and you didn't sign an offer in compromise with the IRS. It is important you request the innocent spouse relief within 2 years of receiving an IRS notice of an audit or taxes due because of an error on your return. The only downside is that the IRS will take up to 6 months or more to review and complete your request.

Now, under the injured spouse relief, you may reclaim your share of a federal tax refund applied to your spouse's taxes or other debts by the injured spouse. The injured spouse is the one not owing any debts such as past due child support, debts to federal agencies, state income tax obligations or state unemployment compensation over payments. You may be eligible for injured spouse relief if you filed a joint return with your spouse, your tax refund was

applied to your spouse's past debts and you weren't responsible for the debt. File your request within 3 years from the date the return was filed or 2 years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later. If you didn't file a return, you must file within 2 years of the date the tax was paid. Nevertheless, it could take up to 8 weeks to process your request and get an answer from the IRS.

Next, for our seniors, you need to be more alert than ever to the rising threat from IRS impersonation scams. These scams are targeting older adults by pretending to be government officials, aiming to steal sensitive personal information and money. By posing as representatives from agencies such as the IRS or other government agencies, these fraudsters use fear and deceit to exploit their victims. Scammers often target seniors, attempting to steal personal information through phone calls, emails or text messages by pretending to be from the IRS or other agencies or businesses. If an individual receives an unexpected call from someone claiming to be from the IRS but they have not been notified by mail about any issues with their IRS account, they should hang up immediately. The call is likely from a scammer. Do not return the call using the number provided by the caller or the one displayed on their caller ID. If taxpayers are uncertain about the legitimacy of IRS communications, they can contact IRS customer service for verification at 800-829-1040,

or for the hearing impaired, TTY/TDD 800-829-4059. Remember, the IRS will never request credit, debit or gift card numbers over the phone, demand payment without allowing opportunities to dispute or appeal the amount owed, threaten to involve local police or other law enforcement agencies.

More good tax stuff next month. Remember, this is a very brief overview. It is your responsibility to discuss any tax and financial changes with your professional advisor for assistance in evaluating your situation. For details and specific assistance in applying the general information in this article, 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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Parrish Healthcare Community Support Groups - July



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

Parrish Healthcare Mom's Support Group

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

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

Parrish Healthcare's Fearless Café

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

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

Parrish Healthcare Diabetes Support Group

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

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

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

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

- When: Monday, July 8, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Where: Manatee Conference Room, 5005 Port

St. John Pkwy., Port St. John

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

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

Parrish Healthcare's Caring for Caregivers Support Group

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

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

Parrish Healthcare Stroke and Heart Survivors Support Group

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

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

Early Steps Community Play Date

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

- When: Wednesday, July 24, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Where: The Children's Center, 5650 S. Washington Ave., Titusville
- Facilitated by Mary Cancel, Family Resource Specialist
- For additional information, visit parrishhealthcare.com/EarlySteps.

Parrish Healthcare Cancer and Survivor Support Group

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

- When: Wednesday, July 17, 4-5:30 p.m.

• Where: Heritage Hall, 931 N. Washington Ave., Titusville

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

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

Tools to Quit Smoking Now

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

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

Parrish Healthcare's Amputee Support Group of Titusville

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

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

Kidney Smart Class

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

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

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

Parrish Medical Center Board Of Directors Receives Stellar Results From Independent Review Of Operating Performance As A Florida Special District

At the June 3, 2024, Board of Directors meeting of the North Brevard County Hospital District (d/b/a Parrish Medical Center) (the District, Parrish, and/or PMC), Chairman of the Board Robert Jordan received what he described as stellar results from an independent review of PMC's operating performance. PYA, P.C. (PYA) Principal, Strategic Planning Services Leader Brian Fuller and PYA Manager, Strategic Planning Services Dwight Tarwater prepared and presented the review. Following is the executive summary of the report.

In 2021, the Florida Legislature passed the Uniform Special District Accountability Act (s. 189.0695, F.S.) (the Act) which mandated all Florida Independent Special Districts (FISD), including public special district hospitals, conduct reviews of their operating performance as defined by the Legislature in the Act, utilizing independent, objective third parties experienced in the evaluation of hospital/health system operating performance.

Parrish Medical Center engaged PYA, P.C. (PYA), a national healthcare advisory and accounting firm, to evaluate its operating performance in accordance with the directives of the Act. PYA conducted a thorough review of available data and analyses related to the District's operating performance against established, best practice metrics and criteria, both over time and relative to defined peer organizations. In addition, PYA interviewed a number of District stakeholders to ensure it understood and was able to represent PMC's operating performance in the context of historic and current market realities.

PYA evaluated the District's operating performance against its own historic trends, as well as relevant peer organizations, across the following, industry standard domains:

- Quality
- Access
- Community Benefit
- Cost
- Financial Performance

Highlights associated with the evaluation performed by PYA are summarized below.

Findings

• PMC excels in delivering safe, high quality care to its community. Quality improvement is a primary focus of PMC leadership. PMC has achieved marked improvement in quality over the years within those areas where PMC has invested its focus and resources. Most notably, according to the Leapfrog Group, PMC has moved from a C safety grade in Fall 2023 to an A grade by Spring 2024, a grade consistent with PMC's pre-pandemic safety performance levels.

• From an access perspective, PMC provides a broad set of services for a community the size of North Brevard County and is making investments to improve upon the access to care within the community. Specifically, PMC

has added over 50 new healthcare providers and over 30 new programs since 2020. Further demonstrating its commitment to North Brevard County, PMC has invested over \$221 million through charity care, community building, and other benefit initiatives over the past decade.

• Even though PMC can tax its community, the Board of Directors, in its desire to not burden local taxpayers, has chosen not to seek tax support as a means of supporting hospital operations for the past 29 years. Since 2017, FISD hospitals have levied \$2.3 billion in ad valorem taxes collectively. Over the past 29 years, PMC, in its decision to not levy taxes on the community, has forgone \$42 million in potential tax revenue.

• Like most hospitals nationally, PMC faces a set of challenges that management has identified and is working to improve. Some examples include longer than desirable wait times in the emergency department (ED) and select areas of financial performance. These challenges were largely exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but are also the product of local market realities, including socioeconomic disadvantages inherent in the community and the state's historic underinvestment in community health infrastructure and capabilities. PMC management recognizes the challenges associated with being an FISD in an economically challenged, highly competitive /regional healthcare marketplace and actively initiates mitigation and/or contingency plans when performance is not meeting expectations.

Recommendations

Based upon our 40 years of relevant industry experience, deep familiarity with the state of Florida and the analysis detailed herein, PYA believes the District is mission-oriented, actively managed by an experienced, professional team, dedicated to the service of the residents of North Brevard County and demonstrates a reasonable recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we offer no statutory and/or budgetary recommendations to improve PMC's program operations at this time.

"PMC will showcase each domain the review covers with pride and transparency to the public as part of a robust communications campaign," said Parrish Medical Center Chairman of the Board Robert Jordan.

"While I, and my fellow board members, never waiver in our confidence of the deep commitment that we, as the governing body, or that of every Parrish Care Partner has to our mission and to the community we serve, this excellent independent review is a welcome validation. We are, and will remain, Parrish proud," added Jordan.

A full copy the study PYA prepared for PMC, titled "Independent Special District Operational Performance Review," is available online at parrishhealthcare.com/pmc-performance-review.



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Food For Thought

Small Changes, Big Impact

“Oh, I need your help!,” “Can you give me a diet plan?,” “What do you think about this new supplement that helps with weight loss?” These are all common questions I get as a dietitian. From casual conversations to messages on social media, people are always reaching out, desperately looking for ways to lose weight. I get it, we all want to feel better in our clothes, have more energy and all that, but we should accept that weight loss does not always equal healthy. How about getting into a mindset of thinking, “I want to be healthier.” Now that I can get behind.

You don't need to approach a healthier life by going on the watermelon juice and olive oil diet your friend was raving about last week (I wouldn't be surprised if this was already some diet concocted by a “health guru”). There's something about going on a diet that makes us feel like we are actually doing something. Who could blame us? We are constantly bombarded with trendy diets circulating in the media promising quick weight loss. We seek a secret food, drink, supplement, diet or prescription drug to simplify something that is not going to be achieved without effort and consistency. Good thing dietitians are not trying to win a popularity contest, because the secret is healthy eating and exercise. I know, so unoriginal.

As humans, we tend to overcomplicate a lot of things, and healthier eating is one of them. My number one tip is kicking sugar-sweetened beverages to the curb. This includes sodas, juices, sports drinks and anything else that has added sugar on the nutrition facts label. No matter how healthy the label makes it seem, don't question it. Brands have gotten extremely good at tricking consumers into thinking a product is healthy when it's not. Having a sweetened beverage occasionally is totally fine, just as long as it doesn't become a habit. “Life's short, eat the cake.” Well, don't eat the cake every day. Save cakes and other desserts for special celebrations, so it's truly a treat. Next time your co-worker brings in cupcakes on a random Monday, just say no. Now, when it's your birthday, eat the cake and enjoy every bite without guilt!

It's hard to get motivated to exercise. It's estimated that only about 28% of

people get the recommended amount of physical activity per week. But exercise is truly important for all aspects of health. It can aid in the prevention and reversal of chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. It boosts your mood and increases your energy levels. Exercise improves balance needed as we age so we are less prone to accidental injuries. The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommend 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity and two days of muscle-strengthening exercise. Think of aerobic activity as anything that elevates your heart rate to the point you are breathing heavier. This is not the same for everyone. Walking, jogging, swimming, etc. can all be great forms of aerobic activity if you are putting in enough effort to increase your heart rate.

Simple changes like these can make a big impact on your overall health. Every step you take, no matter how small, brings you closer to your goals and proves that you are capable of change. So, keep embracing the power of making small changes.

Interested in growing a community garden? Contact me! amandamahaleris@yahoo.com

Amanda Mahaleris, MS, RDN, LDN
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The Foundation For Random Acts of Kindness

On Sunday May 19th, The Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness held their 4th Annual Golf Fundraiser. With the proceeds, they started 19 Life/Education Funds for our local children.

have partnerships with some local businesses. The Foundation does not receive any government grants or aid. Each child receives \$2,500 and they open a UGMA account to invest in their future.



“We started 13 funds with the money raised from the golf event. Those children are Jagger, Logan, Bane, Maddox, Hailey, Raylan, Andrew, Cambrie, Ellie, Jacob, Reed, Danica and Teagan. We started funds for Octavia and Kean from our partnership from the American Legion Post # 359. Mr. Danny Johnson, an original founding member of the American Legion Post # 359, was there to present the checks.”

“We also received a blessing from Mr. Samir Patel, owner of Sam's Mart and Liquor. He donated \$10,000 to sponsor 4 children from Port St. John. Camden, Olivia, Charlotte and Justin received a Life/Education fund. We were happy Samir came to the event to present the checks,” said Neesha Patel-Peters, President, Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness.



The most asked question the Foundation gets is, “How does my child apply?” They have a program with Enterprise Elementary School which helps selecting the children. Various sponsors have recommendations and they

“My wife and I truly love our community and we support The Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness because every dollar they receive goes towards a child's future. We will gladly work with them every year



and on future projects,” Samir Patel, Owner of Sam's Mart and Liquor shared.

The Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness will have a Casino Day Fundraiser on Victory Cruise Lines in the summer and a special limited raffle for a Les Paul Gibson guitar. We'll bring more information when plans are complete. For more information, follow them on Facebook or visit their website, www.foundationforrak.org.

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.**

7-6 Bike Days at the Tiki, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

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

7-2 Compassionate Friends Support Group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in Cocoa Beach at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 525 Minuteman Cswy. west of A1A, Fellowship Hall. Call 610-7875 for info.

7-3 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting- 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

7-3 American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 359, General Membership Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Post Home, 7260 S. US 1, just north of PSJ. Call President Valerie Helmer at 321-268-1632.

7-4 Independence Day

7-6 Thunder Over the Indian River

7-7 Islamic New Year

7-11 North Brevard Parks and Recreation meets at 4 p.m. at 518 South Palm Ave., Titusville. For questions, call Jeff Davis at the North Area Parks Office, 321-264-5105.

7-11 Amvets Ladies Auxiliary 2415 General Membership Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of

each month at 6 p.m. President Theresa N. Anderson. 321-208-7897.

7-12 Brevard Women's Connection meets at Space Coast Convention Center on Hwy. 520 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., 2nd Friday of each month. Call Pam at 321-7

7-13 Amvets Riders meeting, 2nd Saturday at 10 a.m. Call President Craig Doan, 321-208-7897. 52-6896 or e-mail bwc0020@gmail.com.

7-14 Word Weavers Space Coast, a critique group for Christian writers, meets the 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Visitors are always welcome. Email angelgardnerwrites@gmail.com for info.

7-14 Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meets on the 2nd Sunday each month (except Mother's Day & November), 2 p.m., Cocoa Library.

7-15 Moonport Modelers RC Club meets at 6:30 p.m., 3rd Monday each month at the N. Brevard Library, 2121 S Hopkins Ave., Titusville. For more info, call Wayne Mendez, 505-2361.

7-16 Ashura Starts

7-16 North Brevard Republican Club meets 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. at the Police Hall of Fame, 6350 Horizon Dr., Titusville. All are welcome.

7-17 American Legion Post 359 meets at the Post Home at 7260 S. US 1 in Bellwood, (2 miles north of PSJ), 6:00 p.m. All Legionnaires and new members are welcome. The Post meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Contact Commander Michelle Aaron at 321-289-2880 for more information. .

7-17 Amvets Post 2415 General Membership Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Larry Lonneville, 321-208-7897.

7-23 Moonlight Quilters Guild meets at the First United Methodist Church, 206 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville on the 4th Tuesday of each month (no meeting in April or December). Meet and greet refreshments at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 6:15 p.m., usually followed by show and tell or a guest speaker. Email Moonlight.Quilters@yahoo.com for more information.

7-26 Summer Olympics Start

7-27 Veterans & First Responders Breakfast - Last Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. at Saint Patrick's Anglican Church, 4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John. This is open to all veterans, spouses of veterans and all first responders.

Congratulations to:

Emma Grenet turns **7** on the 1st!

Allan Woerner turns **30** on the 2nd.

Katarina Spears will be 7 years old on July 3

Rick Harmon turns wilder on the 3rd.

Talan Turner turns **16** on the 3rd.

Tyler VanSiclen turns **26** on the 4th.

Lori Ebbensgard turns hotter on the 4th!

Brayden Engelson turns **18** on July 4th.

Chris Fogarty turns cooler on the 6th.

Jim Smith turns **61** on the 6th.

Kim Brown turns prettier on the 7th.

Denise Brown turns more lovely on the 8th.

Jill Hill turns prettier on the 8th

James Bowen turns crazier on the 8th.

Brittani Davis turns **28** on the 9th.

Kelly Messer dances till dawn on the 9th.

Nancy Taylor is the Queen on the 10th.

Nick Brown rules the world on the 10th.

Michael Turner turns **17** on the 10th.

Jonathan Benoff turns buffer on the 10th.

Brittany Harmon turns **32** on the 11th.

Jack LaPorte parties wild on the 11th.

Logan Helms turns **19** on the 13th.

Charlotte Divine turns **6** on the 17th.

Connor Smith turns **20** on the 19th.

Isabella "Bella" Orvis turns **9** on the 20th!

Eamon Wright is the King on the 23rd.

J.D. Carnell turns **27** on the 24th.

Savannah Bowen is **24** on the 24th.

Kathy LaPorte has a party day on the 25th.

Sarah Hannen turns **28** on the 26th.

Sydney McGann turns **19** on the 26th.

Conor Henderson turns **18** on the 26th.

Greg Messer rules the course on the 26th.

Brett Benoff turns wiser on the 27th.

Madi McGann turns **21** on the 28th.

Roger Brunet Happy B-day on the 29th!!

Love, Jennifer and Brooke.

Happy 14th Anniversary to **Kari & Marty Grinstead on the 1st.**

David & Doreen Erickson celebrate their **28th** on the 2nd.

Jack and Kathy LaPorte celebrate **42** years of marriage on the 16th.

Donny Roberts and Linda Carlton celebrate their **11th** on the 20th.

Lori & Rich Ebbensgard celebrate their **11th** anniversary on the 23rd.

Tim and Karrson Unrue celebrate their **6th** wedding anniversary on the 24th.

Email your inputs to happenings1@att.net.

Important Phone Numbers

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

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

321-633-1867

Shelley Macon, Library Director

New 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 Thursday, July 4th.**

Youth

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

Wednesdays

- **7/3 2 p.m.: Big Event: Animal Adventure:** Join the youth services staff for an outdoor worm race! This event is intended for children ages 6-12. Please register at the youth services desk. This event will be held weather permitting.

- **7/10 2 p.m.: Big Event Superhero Costume Parade:** Wear your most super outfit and take part in a parade around the library! Supervillains are welcome, too! There will be prizes! This event is intended for children ages 6-12. Please register at the youth services desk.

- **7/17 2 p.m. Big Event: Bookiémon Catching Event:** Join the youth services staff as we try to catch them all in a creature catching game! There will be prizes! This event is intended for children ages 6-12. Please register at the youth services desk.

- **7/24 2 p.m. End of Summer Reading Pizza Party:** Join us to celebrate the end of summer reading with a Pizza Party! There will be lots of prizes and free gifts! This event is intended for children ages 6-12. Please see youth services for registration, accommodations and information.

Thursdays

- **7/11 3-4 p.m. Summer Craft: Superhero Mask:** Come make your own superhero mask! This event is intended for children ages 6-12. Registrations required as space and supplies are limited. Please register the week before the craft to reserve your seat. Please see the youth services desk for more information.

- **7/18 3-4 p.m. Summer Craft: Virtual Adventure:** Come make a virtual block creature craft! This event is intended for children ages 6-12. Registrations required as space and supplies are limited. Please register the week before the craft

to reserve your seat. Please see the youth services desk for more information.

Fridays

9 -10 a.m.: Baby Storytime. Ages 3 and under. Songs, short stories and surprise activities!

10 -11 a.m.: Early Bird Toddler Storytime. Ages 3-5. Songs, short stories and a craft!

11:15-11:45 a.m.: Later Gator Toddler Storytime. Ages 3-5. Same songs, short stories and craft as the early storytime, just later!

Family:

Monday, 7/8 2-4 p.m.: Cyanotype alternative photography family craft program. There will also be a fun crayon rubbing printmaking craft for the little ones.

Adult:

Wednesday, 7/3 6:30 p.m.: Bookworms Bookclub. See the Reference desk for monthly book selection.

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

Monday, 7/1 and 7/15 2-4 p.m.: Adult Summer Reading Program recent reads discussion group. Come join us to discuss your latest adventure in a recent read.

Monday, 7/8, 7/22 from 1 to 5 p.m.: Community Support Advocate: The community support advocate provides assistance with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources.

Thursday, 7/18 2 p.m.: Spice Travelers Spice Club! Pick up a kit including this month's featured spice. Join us at 2 p.m. for the Spice Club meeting to discuss and share recipes. Spice kits for August will be available at this meeting.

Friends of the Library:

The Friends of the Library are looking for people to join and participate in their activities that help grow and support the Port St. John Public Library. Membership fees are \$5 a year for adults.

Meeting rooms are available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis.

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

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

More Independence Day Events

Great American Celebration 4th of July

Fireworks in Viera

Thursday July 4, promptly at 9:00 p.m., (weather permitting). Admission is FREE.

Plan for fireworks at 6091 Stadium Pkwy. in Viera in honor of the Great American Celebration! Look for the vibrant display of lights filling the night sky just east of the USSSA Space Coast Complex in Viera.

For more information, visit <http://vieracomunityinstitute.com/great-american-celebration/>.

Symphony Under the Stars with Brevard Symphony Orchestra & Fireworks

This free, family-friendly concert will be performed by your Brevard Symphony Orchestra on July 4th at Cocoa Riverfront Park, beginning at 8 p.m. with fireworks following at 9:15 p.m. The park will open early with food available for purchase, so bring your lawn chairs and a blanket to celebrate Independence Day. Admission to the park is absolutely FREE.

The City of Melbourne is planning Mel-BOOM, a "blast" of an event for the Fourth of July celebration fireworks display, on July 4th at Front Street Park (2210 Front Street).

Fireworks start at 9:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Food trucks will open at 4 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to park at Melbourne Auditorium - 625 Hibiscus Blvd. - and use a free shuttle service to Front Street Park. Three buses will run continuously from 7 until 8:30 p.m. Bus service will resume after the fireworks show and will run until 11 p.m. An ADA accessible bus will be available at the Melbourne Auditorium.

The boat ramp at Front Street Park will be closed at 5 p.m. on July 3 and will reopen at 9 a.m. on July 5.

In the event of rain, the fireworks display will be rescheduled to July 5. There will be no bus service or skydiver performance on the rain date.

Red, White & Boom 2024

Thursday, July 4, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. at Chain of Lakes Park, 2047 E Jay Jay Rd., Titusville.

Grab your blankets and picnic baskets for Red, White & Boom! There is plenty of space for family picnics! Enjoy vendors, fun activities, food trucks and a DJ! A pyrotechnic display will be at 9:15 p.m. **Admission is Free!**

For more information, call 321-383-5775.



Fruit From The Groves

On June 13, 2024, there was a meeting of the Canaveral Groves Homeowners Association. There was discussion about the amount of trash and large items being left on the sides of the roads. Please remember to call Waste Management at 321-636-6894 so they'll pick up household items that are being discarded. They also need to be called for piles of trees and yard waste.

There were concerns raised about the speeding as well as reckless driving in the Groves. It was also brought up that the east-bound guard rail on the Citrus Blvd. bridge has been hit.

There are numerous spinouts at intersections and other areas. It must be really nice to have plenty of money to waste tires.

At the meeting, we would like to welcome Billy Van Doren as the new Vice President of CGHA. He has lived in the Groves for many years.

We are now in hurricane season. Before one comes, remove or secure all items that may blow around causing damage. Make sure the ditches are clear of trash and other items that may cause a blockage to avoid flooding.

Please check on your neighbors before and after a storm. Remember, during a storm emergency services maybe delayed or not at all. After a storm

they may be overloaded with calls, and calls will be dispatched with the greatest need.

As part of the meeting, that everyone was invited to as always, there was a Candidate Forum. All six candidates for District One County Commissioner were present. The candidates introduced themselves and discussed what their plans would be for the future of District One.

Note that this meeting was posted numerous times over several months.

Following all the candidate's presentations, they met with the residents of District One to answer their questions.

It's a shame that more residents didn't show up for this important meeting This would have been one of the only ways to meet all the candidates prior to voting in November.

- Ed Silva. President

Canaveral Groves Homeowners Association

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Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

Florida's second 2024 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins on Saturday, August 24 and ends on Friday, September 6. During these sales tax holiday periods, tax is not due on the retail sale of eligible items related to disaster preparedness. Sales tax holidays do not apply to:

- Commercial purchases of pet evacuation supplies.
- Sales within a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment or airport.
- The rental of any of the eligible items listed below.



Sales price of \$20 or less:

- Reusable ice (reusable ice packs)

Sales price of \$40 or less:

- Any portable, self-powered light source* (powered by battery, solar, hand-crank, or gas):
- Candles • Flashlights • Lanterns

Sales price of \$50 or less:

- Any gas or diesel fuel container, including LP gas and kerosene containers Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only (excluding automobile and boat batteries):
- AAA-cell • AA-cell • D-cell
- 6-volt • C-cell
- 9-volt Portable Radios* (powered by battery, solar, or hand-crank)

Meet your neighbors and stay informed of Events & Community Happenings!

CANAVERAL GROVES HOMEOWNERS INC.

If you'd like to join and support our Homeowners' group, just cut out and fill out this form and mail with a check for \$15 to cover the current year's membership dues.

Mail to: CGHI, P.O. Box 675, Sharpes, FL 32959

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Won't you join us?



Sales Tax Holiday, cont.

- Two-way
- Weather band
- * Eligible light sources and radios qualify for the exemption even if electrical cords are included.

Sales price of \$60 or less:

- Coolers and ice chests (food storage; non-electrical)

- Portable power banks

Sales price of \$70 or less:

- Carbon monoxide detectors
- Fire extinguishers
- Smoke detectors or smoke alarms

Sales price of \$100 or less:

- Bungee cords
- Ground anchor systems
- Ratchet straps
- Tarpaulins (tarps)
- Tie-down kits
- Visqueen, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths and other waterproof sheeting

Sales price of \$3,000 or less:

- Portable generators used to provide light or communications, or to preserve food in the event of a power outage

Eligible Pet Evacuation Supplies

Sales Price of \$10 or less per can or pouch (or the equivalent if sold in a box or case):

- Wet cat or dog food

Sales Price of \$15 or less per item:

- Cat litter pans
- Collapsible or travel-size food or water bowls

- Hamster or rabbit substrate
- Manual can openers
- Pet waste disposal bags

Sales Price of \$20 or less per item:

- Collars
- Muzzles
- Leashes
- Pet pads

Sales Price of \$25 or less per item:

- Cat litter weighing 25 lbs. or less

Sales Price of \$40 or less per item:

- Pet beds

Sales price of \$100 or less per item:

- Bags of dry cat or dog food weighing 50 lbs. or less
- Pet carriers
- Portable kennels
- Over-the-counter pet medications



Camping in Brevard County

In these days that it seems the whole world has lost it's collective mind, just when we think things can't get any worse, then they do...please know none of us are alone. If you have loved ones or even just friends, let them know that prayers are being sent.

With summer not quite here, last day of school finally arriving and the big blow season still on the horizon, this month is a great time to drag out the old tent and equipment needed to really enjoy Mother Nature's best here in our tiny slice of paradise.

I've been lucky enough to camp in most of the parks around Brevard with my kids and then grandkids. I've done a little research and found some of the more well known.

My favorite has always been Manatee Hammock Park, just north of PSJ on US Hwy. 1, 321-264 5083, brevardfl.gov/ParksAndRecreation/Campgrounds/ManateeHammockCampground. This is a county park with facilities for both tents and RVs. There is a pool, shuffleboard courts, fishing pier, canoe and kayak launch, fenced dog park and plenty of open space to play volley ball or fly a kite, bathrooms and showers. Old oaks and hickory trees provide ample shade and a couple of old orange trees left from grove days can be found. Each tent and RV site are allowed 6 people and 2 cars. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed at all times. Manatee Hammock is one of the best places in Brevard for rocket watching. Rates can be found on their website.

Jetty Park in Cape Canaveral, 321-783-7111, portcanaveral.com/jpc. This park has an area set aside for primitive tent camping, partial upgrades for both tents and RVs, full amenities for RVs and there are 8 fully furnished cabins. It boasts the longest (and possibly the best) fishing pier in Brevard, a wide sandy beach, playground, pavil-

ions with BBQ, some shade and a walking trail. The cruise and military ships slip by almost close enough to touch. A snack and bait shop, bathrooms and showers are the base for a topside observation deck. Pets are allowed in the RV area, but must be leashed at all times. Rates can be found on their website.

Wickham Park in Melbourne, 321-255-4307, brevardfl.gov/ParksAndRecreation/Campgrounds/WickhamPark. The entire park covers 391 acres, has many tent and RV full hookups, two swim at your own risk lakes and several fishing ponds, archery, disc golf, large playground and several pavilions with BBQ grills. Large old trees complete with Spanish moss provide lots of shade and there are many walking paths and open places for volleyball or kite flying. Rates can be found on their website.

Sebastian Inlet State Park, 321-984 4853, floridastateparks.org/Sebastian-Inlet. This park sits on the lagoon side of the beautiful Sebastian Inlet and has 10 primitive sites for either tent or RV parking, plus 57 full hookup sites for either tent or RV. The many places to swim include 3 miles of white sand beaches, several places in the Indian River Lagoon and a great tidal pool shallow enough for small children to enjoy safely. We spent many afternoons wading in those waters discovering all kinds of small sea life from crabs to seahorses. The fishing pier is one of the best in Florida and just going over the bridge is an experience in itself.

Long Point Park, 321-952-4532, brevardfl.gov/ParksAndRecreation/ParksByCity/ParksInMelbourneBeach/LongPoint. This park is an 84 acre conservation area with many pristine waterfront sites on the Indian River Lagoon very close to the Sebastian Inlet. The fishing is great, there's a boat ramp and miles of great places to explore with boats, kayak or canoe, and a dock with a fish cleaning area. There aren't any pavilions, but each site has a picnic table. There are walking paths throughout and a smaller island for totally primitive camping. Swimming is at your own risk and there's a nice playground.

As always, please take only pictures and leave only footprints (except for many fresh fish!)

Pack lots of sunscreen and mosquito repellent for your stay no matter which park you choose. It's still Florida.



Health Care for the Whole Family

In the 60-plus year history of Parrish Medical Center | Parrish Healthcare, we've delivered three generations of babies—and cared for their parents and grandparents. We've grown with Brevard County, starting out as a 28-bed hospital and evolving into a national leader in providing healing health care environments and providing high-quality, compassionate care.

Parrish Healthcare is your gateway to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions. We are your advocates and guides for your care. We are *your* Care Partners.

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Parrish Medical Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.



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- Electronic access to medical records, appointments, bill paying and more through MyHealth Portal



parrishhealthcare.com



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