

# 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

## 2025 Starts Strong With Space Exploration



Blue Origin's New Glenn launched for the first time ever, rising off a pad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on January 16th. The rocket's upper stage reached orbit — the main goal of the test flight, which the company called NG-1. Blue Origin also tried to land New Glenn's reusable first stage on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean, nicknamed Jacklyn after company founder Jeff Bezos' mother. The booster did not stick the landing. The company had stressed that this was a secondary goal that was unlikely to be achieved.

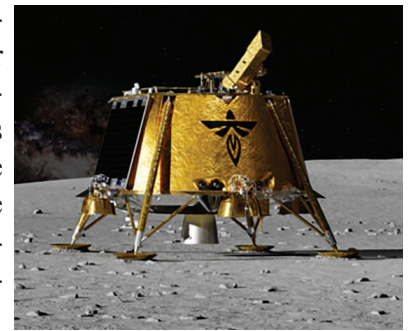
Flying aboard the New Glenn mission is a test version of Blue Origin's upcoming "Blue Ring"

spacecraft. This demonstrator is designed to validate Blue Ring's communications, in-space data collection, tracking and command systems while still attached to New Glenn's second stage, Blue Origin wrote in a NG-1 mission description in December. Blue Ring will function as a platform for other satellites, capable of carrying about 6,600 pounds across 13 different payload adapters. It will be able to transport payloads to geostationary orbit, orbits close to and around the moon, and even interplanetary orbits, according to Blue Origin.

Firefly Aerospace is a private company that NASA contracted to take science payloads to the moon. The Blue Ghost mission launched from KSC on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The company has dubbed mission number one Ghost Riders in the Sky. The lander is aiming for Mare Crisium, a dark plain you can see with the unaided eye on the right edge of a full moon. Blue Ghost will deliver 10 NASA CLPS science payloads to Mare Crisium that will provide invaluable data to the lunar science community by addressing topics like regolith behavior, interior composition and more.

The mission will spend about 45 days getting to the moon. For the first 25 days, Blue Ghost will orbit Earth. Then it will head toward the moon, where it will orbit for 16 days. Once on the surface, it will operate for 14 days. On the moon, it takes 14 Earth days to go from sunrise to sunset, then another 14 Earth days from sunset to sunrise. When night descends on the lander, Firefly expects it to operate for the first five-plus hours of darkness before its solar-powered batteries run out.

Some of Blue Ghost's task will be to take soil samples, drill below the surface and capture images of the lunar sunset. NASA will also be testing a computer designed to withstand high doses of radiation, measuring the solar wind's interaction with Earth's magnetosphere and analyzing the lunar dust that adheres to everything.

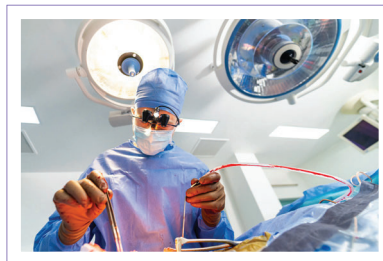


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# PSJ Community Center Schedule - February, 2025

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.**

## **Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

### **SENIORS AT LUNCH**

Seniors enjoy Bingo and visiting with each other before their lunch is served by Aging Matters.

For more information, please call 321-410-9185.

### **Mondays**

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

Outside Basketball, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Game Room, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.

### **Tuesdays**

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

Outside Basketball, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Game Room, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Billiards, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Community Cares Aftercare, 2:30 - 6 p.m.

Dancing Little Stars-Ballet/Tap Combo Classes, (ages 3-6) 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. & 5:00 - 5:45 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.

### **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.

**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) <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](http://www.psjyoga.com) for further information.

### **About Homeschool Class P.E.**

Tuesdays, 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.

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## **Food For Thought**

### **What To Do When Taste Fails You**

While cruising through the golden years, we experience many aspects of health taking us for a loop. Suddenly, things are looking a little fuzzy, getting out of bed feels like a workout, and we consult Alexa anytime our memory fails us. While these things creep up on us way too fast, they are somewhat expected with age. But what about losing your sense of taste? Faltered taste is one thing we don't typically expect until over time we begin to realize our dinner tastes like cardboard.

Allergies, cancer treatments and certain medications are linked to dysgeusia- that's just fancy talk for saying things taste like a dirty sock - but as we age, our taste buds start turning against us. During our younger years, while everything works as it should, our taste buds are capable of regenerating in a matter of weeks. So, when unfortunate events like burning your tongue happen, that annoying sensation is able to quickly fade. However, as we age, this regeneration occurs less frequently and, in some cases, may stop altogether. Couple your buds decreased number with shrinking in size and you have a recipe for altered taste.

Loss of taste can lead to diminished quality of life, unintentional weight loss and malnutrition. If you or someone you know struggles with this, there are ways to bring flavor back to bland food. Before reaching for the salt shaker, know that increased salt intake contributes to other health conditions like hypertension. Turn to herbs instead and spice things up with salt alternatives. Oregano, basil, dill, garlic, ginger and non-salt seasoning blends sold in most grocery stores may help bring your foods back to life without increasing harm to your health.

Enhance flavors by adding an acid. A squeeze of citrus fruit or sprinkle of vinegar can make those muted flavors pop once again. Lemon, lime, apple cider and balsamic vinegar or tart fruits like green apples are known for their sour kick. Add your choice of acid toward the end of cooking or on an already prepared meal for best results.

Prepare meals that feature a variety of flavor components and mix up your bites. Consuming too much of one item can quickly become monotonous. This can be easily achieved by experimenting with various spices and discovering the flavors you prefer. Accompany each meal with a side of fresh fruit to refresh your palate between bites, ensuring that the flavors remain enjoyable.

The experience of losing our sense of taste can impact not only our own lives, but also the lives of those we care for. As we take on the responsibility of looking after our loved ones, we may witness how diminished taste can affect their appetite. By being attentive and creative, we can help rekindle the enjoyment of food and mealtimes for ourselves and others.

~ Amanda Mahaleris, MS, RDN, LDN  
Lighthearted Nutrition

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## **New Year, New You Community Health Fair**

Join us for a day of health, wellness and education at our upcoming Community Health Fair. This event is FREE and open to everyone! Talk to healthcare professionals and get ready to take charge of your health in the new year.

February 12, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Titusville YMCA, 2400 Harrison St. Titusville.

This event is organized by Titusville YMCA and Parrish Healthcare.





## JIMMY BUFFETT'S ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE

JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 16, 2025

This amazing hit is a musical comedy featuring the most-loved Jimmy Buffett classics, including “Cheeseburger in Paradise,” “Margaritaville,” “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere,” “Fins,” “Volcano,” and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia (“My Name is Earl,” “Raising Hope”) and Emmy nominee Mike O’Malley (“Survivor’s Remorse,” “Shameless”), this hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you’ve been waiting for!

### Stage 2

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 minutes before your show. Please dress and be prepared for the weather. For show times, more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/>.



Saturday and  
Sunday  
February 22-23  
10 a.m. -6 p.m.

## Key Lime Pie Festival

The Space Coast Key Lime Pie Festival is a weekend, outdoor, family festival designed to create an environment for people to enjoy affordable, healthy and wholesome fun. Our outdoor celebrations are fun & unforgettable. Our people are, too.

All tickets include festival admission. Individual fair ride tickets and unlimited ride armbands available inside. Adult tickets are \$7 per person, per day. Children under the age of 2 receive FREE admission.



## Encaustic Painting

Start the new year immersed in the ancient art of encaustic painting! From January 20 to February 15, the Downtown Art Gallery presents, “Exploring Encaustic Painting with Linda Krupp.” Encaustic painting, a centuries-old technique using beeswax, damar resin, and pigments, comes alive with Linda’s modern twist—layered textures, transferred images, and embedded objects.

A celebrated artist with 30 years of experience, Linda is known for her finely detailed oil paintings and dynamic palette knife techniques. Splitting her time between Florida and North Carolina, her work captures a range of subjects, from lush tropics to rustic landscapes.

A passionate educator with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, she taught at Merritt Island High and worked in faculty development at Brevard Community College. Linda now teaches painting at her home studio in Titusville and in Asheville.

Discover artist Linda Krupp’s unique art at the Downtown Art Gallery, 400 Orange Street, Titusville, Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. For details, call 321-268-0122 or check out their Facebook page.

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## Public Urged To Report Invasive Asian Swamp Eel Species

The University of Florida, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies, encourages the public to report sightings of the invasive Asian swamp eel, first detected in Florida’s waterways in 1997. Scientifically known as *Monopterus albus*, the Asian swamp eel is a unique, air-breathing fish native to Southeast Asia, thriving in muddy, stagnant waters. The species has established in numerous parts of the country, including Hawaii and Georgia. There is increased concern about their population growth throughout the southeast, particularly Florida.

People in Florida’s waterways are urged to report through the USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species website, EDDMapS website or App or FWC’s 888-Ive-Got-1 hotline.

For more information about the Asian swamp eel, please see the attached news release. To speak to an expert, please email Meredith Bauer, University of Florida, at [meredithbauer@ufl.edu](mailto:meredithbauer@ufl.edu) or Lourdes Mederos at [rodriguezl@ufl.edu](mailto:rodriguezl@ufl.edu) or 954-242-8439.

## Viper Nation Supply Station

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



# Good Day!

~ by Maureen Rupe

## Port St. John Wastewater Treatment Facility Update

There has been a development in the new PSJ Wastewater Plant the federal and county governments' need for the ability to serve Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. It is now in black and white on what they want in that plant. I read the following in the Brevard County Commission's 2025 Legislative Initiatives:

### "Utilities:

Port St. John Wastewater Treatment Facility

SUPPORT funding for a new Advanced Wastewater Treatment facility to serve the Port St John service area. This new facility may serve as the treatment facility for future wastewater flow from Space Florida and potentially other wastewater utilities requesting to transfer their flows from the barrier islands to a mainland facility.

The new wastewater treatment plant will operate using Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT). AWT is the highest treatment technology available. AWT provides the highest removal of nutrients. This project's disposal will utilize 2 deep injection wells. In order to transfer wastewater flows from the barrier islands to a new facility in Port St John, a new force main transmission will need to be constructed going underneath the Indian and Banana Rivers.

Estimated construction cost is \$625 million."

The Sykes Creek plant is at capacity. I know Titusville and Cocoa don't want a large new sewer plant in their cities, I'm sure Brevard County is also still thinking of future sewer in Port St John and Canaveral Groves, even for the areas not within the Indian River Lagoon watershed. It would be time well spent to read the entire Legislative Priorities in the reference link below. There is no telling what else they may have planned. It looks like the county taxpayer is expected to pay for the benefit of having SpaceX and other Space Contractors in the county. Why aren't these contractors paying at least a portion? Why don't they just rename this facility to the Space Force Station Wastewater Facility?

Reference:

<https://brevardfl.legistar.com/Legislation-Detail.aspx?ID=7047493&GUID=1E9402BB-7836-49C8-A6B7-2BC04830FF4A&Options=&Search=>

## Space Force Infrastructure Plans

I told you about plans to build a regional wastewater facility near Port St John. I've found in the December 23 issue of SPACEReport that Space Force is planning to spend billions on infrastructure projects at both Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Vandenberg Space Force Base. Brig. Gen. Kristin L. Panzenhagen stated there are currently 192 projects across both coasts. "The projects run the gamut, including: Burying power lines at Cape Canaveral, expanding roads to accommodate larger rockets, wastewater treatment facilities to handle the large amount of water used for deluge operations, electrical and HVAC generators and systems that corrode faster in the humid, salty conditions along the coasts, and developing more land and relocating administrative facilities and warehouses so that they won't be inside the 'clear area' that people need to leave while rockets are fueled."

The same issue stated \$65 million is allocated to a project known as "Project Hinton." The company hasn't been told, but the money is for a high-volume production facility, high bay and launch infrastructure at Cape Canaveral.

Reference: <https://mailchi.mp/8ac380530e10/spacereport-16534847?e=fe07b1cd51>

## Orlando Utilities Commission Facility On Kings Highway

In January 2023, Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) announced they were working with Massachusetts-based Malta Inc. to build an "energy storage power plant" at the site of the old OUC natural-gas plant on U.S. 1. It sounded neat. This sodium storage plant would take electricity generated by an OUC solar plant in Orange County and it would be converted to thermal energy and stored in molten salt and coolant. Then whenever it's needed, a generator would take the stored thermal energy to power a generator and return the electricity to their grid. There was a story in the Orlando Sentinel in the same month, and Florida Today had a short story in February and a detailed story in March concerning this new plant.

I hadn't heard anything concerning this project

in over a year, so I called OUC and was told that I needed to send an email to their Customer Service email address so management could answer my questions. I sent the following:

Good Day,

On January 5, 2023 OUC put out an announcement on their website and the Orlando Sentinel newspaper that OUC was collaborating with Malta Inc. to put in a sodium electric storage facility at the Indian River plant. There were additional stories in the Florida Today in February and a very long Florida Today story in March that your company was in the final approval for a deal that would tear down the Indian River OUC plant and put in a Sodium Electric Storage Battery in that location. The Brevard County Commission even sent a letter of approval for the project.

I write environmental articles for the Happenings newsletter for Port St. John and Canaveral Groves here in Brevard County and I hope to write any progress on your project. I know the residents of Port St. John are very concerned with the dilapidated state of your Indian River plant and hope this eyesore will be eventually replaced. My deadline for the newsletter is November 16, and if I don't hear from you by then, I will report what I know as of now. I hope I can put in some good news to our residents.

Thank you,

Maureen Rupe

Well, it's been two months now and they haven't answered. I assume the project fell through, but I'm unsure why they wanted to ignore me unless they didn't want to give excuses why their dilapidated eyesore of a building still stands just north of Port St. John. I'm sure there are loads of bad chemicals they have to protect our residents from if and when it's finally taken down, and they probably want to put it off as long as possible.

Reference: <https://www.ouc.com/about-ouc/news/2023/01/05/malta-ouc-collaborate-on-long-duration-energy-storage>

## Common Weed Killer Chemical Threatens Manatees

An article on WMNF Radio talks about a University of Florida study that indicated that glyphosate, which is commonly found in weed killers, reduces immune activity in manatees by more than 27%. This could compromise this threatened species' ability to fend off disease.



Glyphosate is widely used in agriculture to control aquatic weeds. So if you are spraying for weeds in your yards, you need to make sure it doesn't eventually run into the Indian River Lagoon or water body that support manatees.

Note: WMNF is volunteer-powered, listener-supported, commercial-free radio serving the Tampa Community.

Reference: <https://www.jackwallington.com/17-reasons-to-avoid-fake-lawns-how-bad-is-artificial-grass-for-the-environment/>

Cheerio,

~ Maureen Rupe

[rupe32927@gmail.com](mailto:rupe32927@gmail.com)

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## Ride It Down

### “Pedaling Through Time”

**Saturday, February 22, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for the Ride it Down Bike Ride of a Decade! The theme for this year's event is “Pedaling Through Time,” and participants are invited to dress themselves and decorate their bicycles in the iconic styles of their favorite decade. This family friendly bike ride has always been about fun, laughter and creating cherished memories. This year we've added a nostalgic twist. Each decade themed comfort station has its unique flair, from the roaring 20s to the groovy 70s and beyond. It is a chance to celebrate the timeless joy of biking while paying homage to the eras that shaped us.

The Pedaling Through Time adventure starts at the Titusville Welcome Center, 419 S. Hopkins Ave., and rides the iconic Coast to Coast, East Coast Greenway and St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trails north. Participants can choose their own ride distances up to 40 miles round trip!

Riders are invited to a pre-ride mix and mingle Friday, February 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Whiskey's Bar and Lounge in Historic Downtown Titusville to pick up their Ride Goody Bags, t-shirts, meet fellow riders and check-in for Saturday's festivities. Event day, riders can enjoy a light grab and go breakfast, lunch, comfort stations along the route (with complimentary water) and family fun on the trail, PLUS, a family fun Downtown Decades Party in the Downtown District with music, vendors and more!

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. and riders will be released starting at 8:15 a.m. and every 10 minutes after based on your desired ride distance.

## Brevard Humane Society Hosts "Mardi Gras Paws in the Park" to Benefit Homeless Animals

The Brevard Humane Society, a no-kill shelter dedicated to finding loving homes for homeless animals, is thrilled to announce its upcoming event, "Mardi Gras Paws in the Park," taking place from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on February 23, 2025 at Riverfront Park in Cocoa Village, 401 Riveredge Blvd., Cocoa.

This family-friendly event, inspired by the festive spirit of Mardi Gras, promises a day full of fun, entertainment and activities for animal lovers and their furry companions. The event will feature a lure course, food trucks, pet contests, a silent auction, local vendors, a pet parade, a pet psychic and live music in the spirit of Mardi Gras celebration.

The Mardi Gras-themed event will raise crucial funds to support the Brevard Humane Society's mission of rescuing and rehoming animals in need. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the organization, helping them continue to provide shelter, medical care and adoption services to homeless animals.

Guests can look forward to a vibrant atmosphere complete with pet/companion look alike, best pet trick, best pet costume and King & Queen of the Park pet contests, food and entertainment. Whether you're interested in watching the adorable pet parade, testing your pup's agility on the lure course, or exploring the various vendor booths, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Attendees can also bid on unique items in the silent auction, interact with the pet psychic for a fun and lighthearted experience, and enjoy the day with your pet.

For more information on the event, including vendor opportunities, sponsorships and ticket details, visit [www.brevardhumanesociety.org](http://www.brevardhumanesociety.org).

All proceeds from the event will support the Brevard Humane Society's efforts to find loving homes for homeless pets in the community.

“We are so excited to bring the community together for a fun and meaningful event,” said Theresa Clifton, Executive Director of the Brevard Humane Society. “Mardi Gras Paws in the Park is not only a celebration of animals but a way to raise essential funds for our ongoing mission to

rescue, rehabilitate and rehome pets in need. We hope to see everyone there to support this wonderful cause as all our efforts are done at not cost to the tax paying community.”



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Classical Christianity Engaging the World

February brings us ever closer to spring. After our January cold days and hopefully warmer February, we may start thinking about planting flowers or vegetables to feed our senses and brighten our homes and gardens. I always get my seed catalog in the middle of January and start dog-earring the pages for vegetable and flower seeds I hope to plant for in the spring.

This yearning for new growth and getting over winter is like our spiritual lives. We just finished Christmas and celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ as our Savior, and we are in Epiphany nearing Lent, but we have the promise of Easter to look forward to. The best way to prepare the soil of your lives and souls is through regular church attendance and bible study, both plant the seeds that enrich the growth of our soul and the yearning for the peace that is Jesus Christ.

I invite you to attend one of our Sunday or mid-week services or bible study at St. Patrick's Anglican Church. We have two communion services on Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., and a mid-week service on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday we offer Morning Prayer through Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj> at 8:00 a.m. On Sundays from 9:00 – 9:40 a.m., we have an Adult Bible Study on the Book of Psalms taught by the Reverend Canon Michael Kerouac.

Mark your calendars for the following annual upcoming events: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on March 4th at 6:00 p.m., Ash Wednesday Services at 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on March 5th, St. Patrick's Annual Traditional Irish Dinner with all the fixings on Saturday, March 15th at 6:00 p.m.

We continue to support our community with meetings for AA Space Coast: Sunset Coed Group on Sundays at 5:30 p.m., We Care Women's Group on Mondays at 10:00 a.m., Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

## Rose's Room

~ Rose Padrick



### Different Loves

Wouldn't it be wonderful if some countries' leaders could somehow accept old Saint Valentine's agenda and love humanity instead of what we have now? Prayers are constantly being sent for those in the path of all the horribleness.

Heart and chocolate season is upon us, attacking from all sides in all shapes. Heart shaped boxes of chocolates, chocolate in the shape of hearts, heart shaped chocolate cake, chocolate roses, roses with chocolate, rose shaped chocolate pie... my own heart goes out to diabetics and those allergic to chocolate (is there such a thing?)

While hearts, chocolate and even wine is a wonderful way to show love and appreciation for your soul mate, I personally have had my own wish list.

As a young first-time mother, oh so sleep deprived, shower deprived, covered in more bodily excretions than a tiny eight-pound body should be able to manufacture, my husband's, "You're beautiful, I love you," brought a tear to my eye (not hard to do in the midst of that particular hormone hurricane). Had he added, "Let me take the baby while you take a nap," I would have attempted a back flip.

Walking in the front door after abandoning my baby to that big yellow bus on the first day of kindergarten, he didn't have to say anything. A big hug and murmurs of understanding would have said so much more than his, "Want me to make bacon?"

Always interested in said child's well being and education, he almost volunteered for PTA duty while I fought a terrible flu, only pulling back into the driveway twice to ask room number again and if Mrs. McEllrath (the teacher who tied his shoelaces to his chair to keep him in it in 6th

grade) was still teaching. (She was.) He trembled, I laid my fevered brow down with a snicker.

Year fifteen of this cherubic child's life brought forth something akin to the spawn of Beelzebub. Going to bed one night with a, "Good night darling mother and father," she awoke spewing, "I hate you! I hate school! I hate my clothes! I hate my hair! I hate my life!" at full voice between sobs and hiccups. Having three sisters and a wife, dear old dad snuck out the back door and came back with a bag containing feminine products, headache pills and matching mother-daughter chocolates. Said chocolates would have been so much more enjoyable had he remembered he was supposed to take 'Child of Darkness' to school.

Given a choice between hearts, flowers, chocolates and romantic dinners or hearing the words "beautiful and love" at my ugliest time, breaking an emotional moment into giggles with an offer to cook, facing his fear to take my place and attempting to curb the teenage insanity to come, I'll take comfortable and dependable every time.

Of course, should he somehow be reminded (by note absent-mindedly left on the bathroom mirror) that February 14th means bring your wife hearts and flowers, it would have been rude of me to refuse them.

### Amateur Backyard BBQ

Get ready for a sizzling good time as The Sharing Center of Central Brevard brings back its 10th Annual Amateur Backyard BBQ Contest! Mark your calendars for April 5, 2025, and head over to F. Burton Smith Park in Cocoa from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to indulge in some of the best local BBQ around.

Amateur BBQ teams from across the county will compete for the coveted title of Amateur Champion Griller in three mouth-watering categories: beef, pork and chicken. Each team will provide samples of their delicious BBQ for you, the public, to vote for the People's Choice Champion Griller. While the serious competitors are sweating it out, attendees can soak up the rays, enjoy great food, cold drinks and live entertainment.

The event's proceeds will benefit The Sharing Center's hunger relief programs, including the Children's Weekend Feeding Program, which empowers families with children by providing access to healthy food on weekends during the

school year. Additionally, the Emergency Food Program, which distributes thousands of pounds of food monthly to individuals and families in need, and the Community Kitchen Program, which feeds the hungry 365 days a year, will benefit from the event.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$20 each, which includes entry, one BBQ dinner and samples from the BBQ teams. Enjoy live music by Classic Jurassic, participate in 50/50 raffles and stand a chance to win great prizes, including a Traeger Pellet Smoker!

Don't wait until the last moment to get your tickets! Starting February 10th, tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

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

Tickets will also be available on the day of the event. Come join us for some great BBQ and help support our hunger relief programs. For more information, visit [www.sharingcenterBBQcontest.com](http://www.sharingcenterBBQcontest.com).



### Literacy for Adults

Literacy for Adults in Brevard (LAB) is a non-profit organization that teaches literacy skills to adults so they may reach their full potential in their families, jobs and communities. More than 16% of Brevard County residents cannot read a simple sentence and approximately 20,000 residents are not proficient as English speakers. LAB matches a trained tutor with each individual learner to achieve the learners' goals, whether it is to improve reading, writing, English skills, obtain a better job or feel comfortable participating within their community. All learner tutoring is free of charge and takes place at a county library.

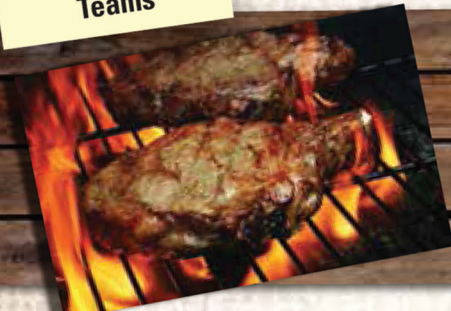
If you know someone who could benefit from weekly reading or English lessons, please have them call 321-301-4496.

Would you like to be a LAB tutor? Contact Literacy for Adults in Brevard at [https:// www.labfl.org/get-involved](https://www.labfl.org/get-involved). You could experience the satisfaction of helping an adult gain the skills and information they need to meet their personal goals.



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**APRIL 5**

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## 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.**

### **2-1 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.

### **2-2 Groundhog Day**

**2-4 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.

**2-5 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.

**2-5 Sons of Amvets 2415 Meeting**- 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. 688 West Ave., PSJ. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

### **2-9 National Pizza Day**

### **2-9 Super Bowl**

**2-9 Word Weavers Space Coast**, a critique group for Christian writers, meets the 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Visitors are always welcome. Email angelagardnerwrites@gmail.com for info.

### **2-12 Tu Bishvat Begins**

**2-13 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.

**2-14 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.

### **2-14 Valentine's Day**

### **2-14 Lailatul Barat Begins**

**2-17 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.

### **2-19 Random Acts of Kindness Day**

### **2-19 Presidents Day**

**2-19 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.

**2-22 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.

**2-25 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.

## **Amvets Post 2415 Schedule**



**2-5 Sons of Amvets 2415** General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

**2-8 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415** General Membership

Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the month at 12 noon. Pres. Steve Carman, 321-446-3394.

**2-8 Bike Night!** 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Post.

**2-12 General Membership Meeting**- 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

**2-13 Amvets 2415 Ladies Auxiliary** General Membership Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. President Theresa Nikki Anderson, 321-208-7897.

**Karaoke every Friday, 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.

*Please don't ride with me if you're going to grab the dash or scream every time we run off the road. It makes me nervous.*

## **Congratulations to:**

**Cooper Sanchez** turns **4** on the 2nd.  
**Kara Scott** turns **14** on the 2nd.  
**Kyle Davis** turns **31** on the 3rd.  
**Jack Bray** turns wilder on the 3rd.  
**Cheyenne Marquez** turns **21** on the 4th!  
**Drake & Madison Rowell** are **28** on the 7th.  
**Amethyst Crawford** turns **24** on the 7th  
**Cassidy Michonski** turns **27** on the 7th!  
**Hunter Osburn** turns **19** on the 7th.  
**Jennifer Wilson** turns **33** on the 9th.  
**Nicolas Wagner** turns **21** on the 11th.  
**Segunda Leach** turns prettier on the 11th.  
**Jamey Blevins** turns **20** on the 11th.  
**Joshua Wilson** turns **30** on the 14th.  
**Missy Crawford** parties wild on the 18th.  
**Samantha Hurst** turns **26** on the 23rd  
**Cely Sanchez** turns cooler on the 25th.  
**Jason Sanchez** turns **25** on the 26th.  
**Laura Wagner** dances all night on the 27th.  
**Kobi Ragan** turns mo' better on the 27th.  
**Ashlee Rickard** turns **18** on the 27th.  
**Amber Baum** turns hotter on the 29th.  
**Jack & Sue Bray** celebrate their **45th** anniversary on the 1st.  
**Noah and Sophia Kelderhouse** celebrate their **4th** anniversary on February 6th!!  
**Adam & Dawn Niehoff** celebrate their **19th** anniversary on the 4th.  
**Michael & Helen Lapardo** celebrate their **38th** anniversary on February 14th!!  
**Joe & Stephanie Hilde** celebrate their **7th** on the 17th.  
**Tom & Laura Wagner** celebrate their **24th** wedding anniversary on the 17th.  
**Derek & Leslie Rickard** celebrate their **21st** anniversary on the 21st.  
**Karissa & Joel Smith** celebrate **3** years on the **22nd**.

*We have lots of room for more good news.*

Email inputs to happenings1@att.net.





**NEW LIBRARY HOURS:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

#### Family Programs:

**Family Spice Club:** Friday, February 21st at 3:30 p.m. This is a family event. Come to the meeting to pick up a spice kit and share food, recipes and cooking adventures. Family Fun for the entire family.

**Game Day:** Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join us every Sunday to meet other game enthusiasts for an afternoon of board, tabletop and card games in the main library area. Use one of the library-provided sets, or bring your own! All ages are welcome to this family-friendly event.

**Read to a Pet Valentine's Day Contest** — February 1st-13th. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library! Children ages 17 and under can submit a photo of themselves reading to a pet to the Friends of the Library with their contact information to be entered in a drawing for a special prize! See youth services for details. The winner will be chosen on Valentine's Day at 11:15 a.m.

**DIY Valentine Workshop** --Thursday, February 13, from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. Kids ages three and up are welcome to attend this create-your-own Valentine's Day card workshop! Kids can create one-of-a-kind, handmade cards for their friends and family.

**Haiku Origami Birds**--February is National Haiku Writing Month. Come in and pick up a haiku writing/bird origami kit. Write a haiku on the back of the origami bird and bring one back into the library for display. Several will be chosen for a Port St. John Public Library haiku chapbook.

#### Adult Programs:

**Community Advocate:** Monday, February 3 and 17 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.

**Port Readers Book Club:** Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. February's title is available at the reference desk. We will be reading "Magpie Murders" by Anthony Horowitz.

**Bookworms Book Club:** Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. Book discussion. See the reference desk for this month's selection and the next meeting date. This month the club will be discussing "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate.

**Memory Kits.** Brevard County Libraries is 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.

#### Youth Services

**STEAM Activity Time**-- Every Tuesday afternoon from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the meeting room for children ages six through twelve. We have activities centered around science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

2/4— Sphero Car Robot Maze

2/11— Kinetic Sand

2/18— Solar-Powered Robots

2/25— Lego Building Contest: Forts and Castles

**Read Your Way to K: Babies:** Fridays, 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room. We invite babies, young toddlers, and their caregivers to join us for stories, songs, and activities. This storytime is for babies ages three and younger and always requires parent or adult supervision.

**Read Your Way to K: Toddlers:** 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Friday in the meeting room. We invite babies, young toddlers, and their caregivers to join us for stories, songs, and activities. This storytime is for toddlers ages three to five and always requires parent or adult supervision.

**Teen Art League:** Saturday, February 8th and 15th 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Teens ages 13 and up can join other creative minded individuals for some time to chill and work on your personal art projects. Various art supplies will be provided by the library, but you are welcome to bring your own supplies. Staff will have optional creative projects to work on if you need some inspiration!

**Sensory Sundays**—Every Sunday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., children can join the library staff for sensory bin activities. This event is for ages

six and up and always requires parent or adult supervision.

2/2—Play dough chocolate and sensory bins with cocoa powder, flower petals and red and pink beads.

2/9—Marbled heart craft and sensory bins with shaving cream, kinetic sand, and beans.

2/16—Valentine's love bug craft and sensory bins with toilet paper rolls, tissue paper and cotton balls.

2/23—Cranberry frozen heart activity and sensory bins with cranberries ice, and salt.

**Teen Art League**—On February 8th and 15th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., teens ages 13 and up can join other creative-minded individuals for some time to chill and work on their personal art projects. The library will provide various art supplies, but you can bring your own. Try new projects with staff:

2/8—Scrapbooking

2/15—God's Eye Yarn Weaving



## Post 359 - American Legion

**2-1 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.

**2-5 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting** - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

**2-10 Sons of the Legion**, 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

**2-16 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.

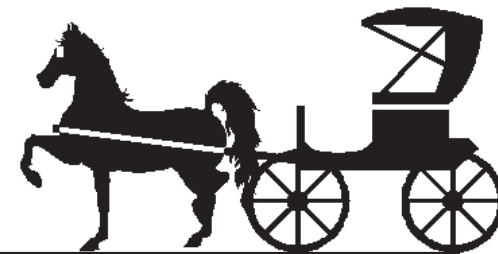
**2-19 General Membership Meeting**- 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

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.

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



# SLEEPY HOLLOW



## Fruit From The Groves



On January 9th, there was a meeting of the Canaveral Groves Homeowners Association. First, let me say I was glad to see new members show up at the meeting and some old ones return. Elections were held and the same members kept their positions. Let me again say unequivocally, that we are NOT the typical HOA. We enforce NOTHING and are here only for the good of the community. The dues are only \$15 per year.

At the meeting, there were discussions about the noise coming out of the Cocoa Commercial area that is disturbing residents and possible solutions.

There were also concerns about all the construction that is going on around our area, as well as the growing traffic problems in the Groves. Concerns were also brought up about the ongoing speeding and traffic violations in our area. That can be handled by calling the Sheriff's Office and letting them know what is going on and in what area.

At some intersections and on the roadways, there seems to be trash building that has been coming out of vehicles. Let's try to clean up the Groves and make it a clean and safe place to live.

On March 13th there will be a meeting of the

Canaveral Groves Homeowners Association at Brevard Christian Church on Grissom Parkway at 7 p.m. At this time, we are trying to confirm a special guest for the meeting.

Ed Silva  
President, CGHOA

## Art Show And Sale

At the Cape Canaveral Public Library  
February 6th through February 8th

The Central Brevard Art Association's Annual Winter Art Show and Sale will be at the Cape Canaveral Public Library. The unique talents of dozens of local artists will be showcased in this popular annual event. Artists will be displaying and selling a variety of original fine art and prints, photography, jewelry, silks, clay, wood, sculpture, mixed media and much more! Perfect gift giving ideas for Valentine's Day!

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

The Cape Canaveral Public Library is located at 201 Polk Ave., Cape Canaveral. Admission and parking are free. Show hours are:

Thursday, February 6th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, February 7th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 8th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

To learn more, visit [www.cbaaartists.com](http://www.cbaaartists.com) or call 321-806-8065.



You are invited to the 35th Bark Brew Fest presented by Tails at the Barkery and the Dirty Oar Beer Company on Saturday, February 22, at the Dirty Oar Beer Company from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Historic Cocoa Village.

Play Bingo to win fabulous prizes! Bring your canine companion, sip your favorite libation, enjoy delicious food from 56@, and join us for an evening of fun, including raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing.

All proceeds to benefit golden retrievers and golden retriever blends rescued by Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, a nonprofit, whose ongoing mission is saving, protecting and rehoming golden retrievers and blends that have lost their home and family. Serving our community since 1991 and supported by an all-volunteer staff, donations and foster homes, GRRMF provides intervention, medical care, a home-based foster care environment, adoptions and community education.

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 more information, contact:

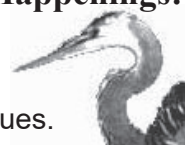
Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, [www.grrmf.org](http://www.grrmf.org), or:

Tails at the Barkery, 321-305-4584 or Dirty Oar Beer Company, 321-301-4306.

### 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



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## On the Road With Rose



### Rainy Day Stuff To Do

As winter in our paradise wanes, I find myself wishing this world's terribleness would please wane with it. It is not to be at this time, but we can keep praying for an end. If you or yours are affected by natural or manmade horribleness, please know you're not alone and prayers are being sent.

Even in our piece of paradise rainy and cool days can pop up occasionally, and inside stuff is necessary for continued sanity (young and old - mostly old). My travel buddy (intrepid partner in crime) and I did some research to hopefully give some ideas, still keeping the budget in mind.

Movies pretty much abound in our area and they all have discounted days and times. Epic Theaters in Titusville, 321-222-9434, has the best seats I have had the pleasure placing body parts in. Ticket prices are very affordable and members can access tickets all day Tuesday at a big discount. They have kids' boxes containing candy, popcorn and drinks every day.

Premiere Theaters in Melbourne, 321-953-3388, offers Matinee Magic, popcorn, candy and soda until 6 p.m. \$5.00 Tuesdays, Flashback Cinema from 2 to 7 p.m. for \$5.00, offering everything from Bogart to Harrison Ford.

AMC theaters in Viera, 321-775-1210, and CMX theaters in Merritt Island, 321-459-3737, also have discounts and specials, but I was not able to contact anyone to verify. You have to call and ask for what they have available.

To get youngsters up and moving (and tired), there are several trampoline parks around the county. Sky Zone in Viera, 321-265-5867, does Glow parties with DJ Friday and Saturday nights, rock walls for big and little, trampoline basketball, lots of pits and swinging and specials on birthday parties.

I went to a youngster's birthday party at Defy Trampolines in Palm Bay, 321-953-0284, and it

was well worth the drive. There were some older kids jumping and playing basketball, but the little ones had my heart. Laughing and screeching, they ran back and forth covering the whole floor that's made of various trampolines with foam pits here and there. The staff served cake, popcorn and soda for the birthday party and did all the cleanup.

There are more arcades and indoor playgrounds and please don't forget our own library, 321-633-1867, has different Story Times for young and toddlers, Teen Art days and game days. The Port Saint John Community Center, 321-633-1904, offers pool tables, a Ping Pong table and Foosball table. There's also a computer room that is open to the public.

Hopefully I have helped to alleviate the "I'm booorreddddd" for an afternoon without having to remortgage the house.

Scaring the bejeebers out of a daughter with a short, "Just want to let you know Judy and I are at the ice-skating rink," followed by a quick hang up before she declared once again that Judy and I should not be out and about unsupervised really helped to alleviate any boredom I may have had!

### Publix Florida Marathon Weekend + 1/2 MARATHON, Sunshine State Lager 10K + 5K

Located in Melbourne, the Publix Florida Marathon & 1/2 Marathon makes for a perfect warm winter running destination for runners of all ages and levels. It is held a month after the Disney Marathon. Like a Rock-n-Roll marathon, our event includes up to 12 musical acts along the course of the half and full marathon and half a dozen on the routes of the Sunshine State Lager 10K & 5k.

#### Sunday, February 9 is Race Day

Start Times:

Marathon: 6:10 a.m.

Half Marathon: 6:30 a.m.

10k: 7 a.m.

5K: 7:10 a.m.

A very scenic route awaits and includes four bridge crossings for the full and two for the half-marathon. The course twice takes marathoners to the beach side barrier island and back to the mainland before concluding at the riverfront Front Street Park in downtown Melbourne. The awards ceremony follows with a party featuring

yet another live band.

Pacers will be provided for the marathon and half marathon events. There is a 7 hour time limit on the marathon course. Half marathoners have 5 hours to complete the event. The half marathon, 10k and 5k are walker friendly.

Race Hats with our logo to all runners.

Post-race concerts both race day.

Brews courtesy of Carib Brewery to runners.

Free finisher pictures to all finishers.

Gatorade, water and Gels along the course.

We compost, recycle, reuse and are one of the worlds most sustainable running and endurance events. To continue our sustainability efforts and to avoid hundreds of leftover shirts, we will continue to sell shirts seperately.

Start and finish areas near Melbourne's beautiful Riverside Front Street Park! No race day parking will be allowed at Front St. Park or boat ramp.

This is a Boston Marathon qualifying race. "One of America's Top 10 Bucket List Waterfront Races," says Runners World Magazine.

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- Phlebotomist
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- Paramedic
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Athletic Trainer

Main Hospital: 951 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville

Career Site: [www.Parrishhealthcare.com/careers](http://www.Parrishhealthcare.com/careers)

# 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

Here we are again and tax season under way since the IRS started processing tax returns on January 27th. Now, shortly after January 31st, everyone should receive your tax Forms 1099-INT, 1099-R, W-2, and 1099-NEC, and by the end of February, your Forms 1099-S, 1099-DIV, and 1099-B.

Next, an important reminder for taxpayers with health insurance through the Marketplace: go online at Healthcare.gov, log in to your account, download your Form 1095-A, and provide the form to your tax preparer. Many tax returns have been rejected because Form 1095-A was not reconciled in the return.

Also, for taxpayers with a qualified child under 14 years old, don't forget to pick up your yearly statement from childcare, which will be used to claim the childcare credit.

In addition, taxpayers claiming Earned Income credit (EIC), child tax credits (CTC) and additional tax credits should file their tax returns before February 15th, 2025.

The Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement accounts each year; from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, Simple IRA and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 73. Participants in a workplace retirement plan (for example, 401k or profit-sharing plan) can delay taking their RMDs until the year they retire unless they're a 5% owner of the business sponsoring the plan. If you reach age 73 in 2024: Your first RMD is due by April 1, 2025, based on your account balance on December 31, 2023, and your second RMD is due by December 31, 2025, based on your account balance on December 31, 2024.

Update for business in 2025: The IRS increased the standard mileage rate for automobiles driven for business. It will increase by 3 cents in 2025, while the mileage rates for vehicles used for other purposes will remain unchanged from 2024. Beginning January 1, 2025, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be 70 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3 cents from 2024. Also 21 cents per mile driven for medical purposes, the same as in 2024. And 21 cents per mile driven for moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, unchanged from last year. The rate will be

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, equal to the rate in 2024. The rates apply to fully electric and hybrid automobiles, as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

For a leased vehicle, taxpayers using the standard mileage rate must employ that method for the entire lease period, including renewals.

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.

## 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. 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](http://www.NARFE.org/Chapter1137).

## Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724 holds regular scheduled gatherings for fun and fellowship on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - 12th 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](mailto:watersdwayne@yahoo.com), or visit the website at [www.eaa724.org](http://www.eaa724.org).

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## George the Antique Nomad Is Coming To Titusville

Curious how much that family heirloom is worth? Or do you just want to meet George Higby, Certified Appraiser and YouTube personality George the Antique Nomad?

The Dusty Rose Antique Mall, 1101 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, will be hosting an appraisal fair featuring George on Saturday, February 22. Bring the item to be appraised and visit us in Titusville from 1-5 p.m. (first come first served). Limit one item per person with a nominal \$5 fee.

For days and hours of Mall operation or more information about the event, call Dusty Rose Antique Mall, 321-567-4580.

## Cost Management For Cold Weather

Cold temperatures can have a big impact on your energy use. Use these tips to keep your energy costs low:

Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Every degree below 68 saves you 5% on heating costs.

Seal doors and windows properly.

Use electric blankets or space heaters to keep warm in small areas. Turn them off before you leave the room. Keep children and pets at least three feet from heaters.

Avoid increasing your thermostat by more than two degrees at a time if you have a central electric-based heating system to prevent acciden-

tally turning on auxiliary heat. Using auxiliary heat for more than 12 hours a day can add up to \$15 per day, depending on your home size.

## Men's Conference

First Baptist Church of Port St. John, 3900 Fay Blvd., is hosting their Annual Men's Conference. "Men on Fire 2025 - Men Mentoring Men" will be on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A free breakfast and BBQ dinner will be served. A love offering will be collected.

All men over the age of 16 are encouraged to attend this powerful outreach. Come join us in Christian Fellowship. You can pre-register at [firstbaptistpsj.org](http://firstbaptistpsj.org) or call the church office at 321-636-5455 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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