

# HAPPENINGS

## Special Weekly Edition Friday, August 20, 2021

### Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Sites Opened

A state-run monoclonal antibody therapy treatment site for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 or considered high risk if infected has opened at Kiwanis Island Park on Merritt Island. The location has the capacity to serve more than 300 patients per day, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. To make an appointment, visit [www.patientportalfl.com](http://www.patientportalfl.com). Walk-ins are also being accepted at this time.

There is also a new monoclonal antibody therapy treatment site in Orlando at Camping World Stadium. This location has the capacity to serve more than 300 patients per day and will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The state plans to continue to open these sites throughout the state and hope awareness about the treatment continues to spread.

The antibodies help the immune system recognize and respond effectively to the virus. According to treatment guidelines, they should be administered as soon as possible after diagnosis.

Monoclonal antibody treatments can be prescribed by

health care providers to individuals 12 years of age and older who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are at high risk for severe illness and hospitalization. However, there is currently a standing order in Florida signed by the State Surgeon General that allows patients to receive this treatment without a prescription or referral if administered by an eligible health care provider. Such referrals are not required at any of the State of Florida monoclonal antibody treatment sites and treatments are available at no cost to patients.

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is committed to increasing access to monoclonal antibody therapy statewide. Monoclonal antibodies have been used in medicine for decades and have the ability to protect the human body from viruses.

To find locations to receive monoclonal antibody treatments around the entire state, please visit [floridahealthco-vid19.gov](http://floridahealthco-vid19.gov).

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### Elective Surgeries Postponed Until Further Notice

As the coronavirus continues to resurge in Brevard and the number of COVID positive patients needing hospitalization and visiting the emergency room, it has become necessary to postpone elective surgeries until further notice. This will allow the hospital to devote its staffing resources to its emergency department, ICU and inpatient care units.

“Our care partners, doctors, nurses, therapists, everyone throughout our healthcare system have worked tirelessly since the onset of this pandemic and continue to do so with a level of dedication and resilience to be commended,” said President/CEO George Mikitarian.

“The only way we will get this virus under control is through more people becoming vaccinated” said Mikitarian.

Current COVID positive cases at Parrish Medical Center is 40, which is double the cases from last week and nearly four times the number of cases from a month ago.

For information about COVID testing and vaccination visit [parrishhealthcare.com](http://parrishhealthcare.com) and click on the COVID informational banner at the top of the page.

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### Stormwater Improvements on Homestead Avenue Will Prompt Detours in Port St. John

Detour routes will be posted on Homestead Avenue in Port St. John beginning Monday, July 19, to allow for stormwater improvements on the roadway between Edison Street and Akers Street.

The project, consisting of replacement of three 72-inch metal pipes with a concrete box culvert, will take an estimated 69 calendar days to complete. Aspects of the project include box culvert installation, excavation and embankment, utility relocation, drainage, roadway reconstruction and maintenance of traffic. Work will be performed 10 hours per day, six days per week.

The planned detour route is to direct traffic to Golfview Avenue to the west of Homestead Avenue. Variable message boards and signage will also be in place to direct traffic in the project area.

It's odd that the project will take place during hurricane season instead of before, but it's work that needs to be done and we're well ahead of the 2022 and beyond seasons.

## Vaccine Booster Shots

U.S. health regulators have authorized an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccines in people with weakened immune systems to better protect them from the virus. The FDA approved booster shots for organ transplant patients, cancer patients, those with HIV and people with weakened immune systems.

CDC recommends that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

CDC does not recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time.

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised make up about 3% of the adult population and are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness. Studies indicate some immunocompromised people don't always build the same level of immunity after vaccination the way non-immunocompromised people do, and may benefit from an additional dose to ensure adequate protection against COVID-19. In small studies, fully vaccinated immunocompromised people have accounted for a large proportion of hospitalized "breakthrough cases," and that suggests immunocompromised people are more likely to transmit the virus to household contacts.

Currently, CDC is recommending these people receive an additional dose:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

For people who received either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine series, a third dose of the same mRNA vaccine should be used. A person should not receive more than three mRNA vaccine doses. If the mRNA vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered.

There is limited information about the risks of receiving an additional dose of vaccine, and the safety, efficacy, and benefit of additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine continues to be evaluated. As with the two-dose series, serious side effects are rare, but may occur.



Post 359 - American  
Legion Riders presents  
**Bike Days at the Tiki**

Saturday, September 4th  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Listen to live music.

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

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

Contact Joe Marino, Events Coordinator, American Legion Riders Post 359 at [info@alr359.org](mailto:info@alr359.org) or visit our website, [alr359.org](http://alr359.org), for more information.

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## Florida Master Naturalist Program Habitat Evaluation Course

Are you interested in conservation and Florida's natural wildlife? Then consider enrolling in the Florida Master Naturalist Program's Habitat Evaluation course! This course is designed to provide training in commonly used techniques for evaluating wildlife habitats.

This four-day in-person course is from September 17-25, 2021, and includes classroom instruction at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Cocoa. There are also hands-on activities at Turkey Creek Sanctuary and St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park. The registration fee starts at \$160 per person. Registration closes at 10 a.m. on September 10, 2021.

To register and learn more, please visit: <https://bit.ly/37PQx7Y>

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## Career Opportunities with Brevard County Parks and Recreation

Brevard County Parks and Recreation has job and career opportunities for individuals interested in working in a diverse organization supporting a variety of leisure and recreation activities.

Open positions include recreation, park maintenance, land management and more. Employment with Parks and Recreation allows you to enjoy the many unique and wonderful features of the Space Coast while providing many employment benefits and opportunities for advancement, training and education.

Brevard County is an Equal Employment Opportunity and Veterans Preference employer.

Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for currently advertised positions. If you would like to view all of the current positions being advertised, please click on the "County Jobs" link located on this webpage: <http://www.brevardfl.gov/>.

# Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

Mary Lena Penna, Director

(321) 633-1867

## PSJ Library Has New Hours

Our new hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am-5 pm. Wednesday 12-8 pm and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm.

Meeting rooms are now 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 and wireless printing.

8/26 3:30pm : Storytime for School-Age Kids

8/28 10am-12pm : Port St. John Pokemon League - all ages

Ongoing : Adult and Teen Book Bingo with prizes (See Reference). Weekly take-home craft bags for kids.

Master Gardener visits are paused for the summer.

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## FUMC Events

Our service is 10 a.m. every Sunday in person and on Facebook Lived streamed at Facebook.com/fumcpsj and on YouTube: FUMC Port St. John.

Our current series, "Produce - Living out the fruit of God's Spirit, runs through September 12. On 9/19 a new series begins, "Family Values - as we look at what it means to live on mission for Jesus" it will run for 5 weeks.

Also mark your calendars for:

Pumpkin Patch, October 9-27

Flea Market on November 6, and

**Community Walk Through Bethlehem**, December 17,18 and 19.

We look forward to worshipping and fellowship if with you. Call 321-631-0183 for more information.

First United Methodist Church of Port St. John, 1165 Fay Blvd., Port St. John.

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## Experimental Aircraft Meeting

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 724, Merritt Island (EAA724) holds regular scheduled gatherings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the club house on Merritt Island Airport at 7:30 pm.

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 to join us for fun and fellowship. Each month we have an interesting speaker and lots of hangar flying.

The airport is approximately 2 miles south of SR 520 on Courtney Parkway. Across from the Fire House is the club house with the EAA logo on the end of the building.

For more information, visit the website at [www.eaa724.org](http://www.eaa724.org).

- Dwayne Waters, President

## About the COVID-19 Virus

Currently, the CDC recommends that anyone ages 12 and older get a vaccine. Vaccinations and testing for COVID-19 are available through urgent care centers, local pharmacies and likely through your personal physician.

The spike in COVID-19 cases in Brevard County is attributed to the highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus. Delta is twice as contagious as the original COVID-19. Here are some FAQs on Delta:

What is a coronavirus Variant? If COVID-19 spreads enough, it mutates. Some of the mutations are more dangerous than others. Some "Variants of Concern" (according to the CDC) include:

Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta

Are variants normal? All viruses mutate and create variants... unless we eliminate them. And yes, viruses can be eliminated. The best way to stop variants is to stop spread. The best way to stop spread is vaccination.

Can COVID-19 be controlled? Thanks to vaccinations, the following diseases are no longer run rampant in the US. We can do the same with COVID-19!

Polio, Tetanus, Flu, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Rubella, Hib, Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumococcal, Rotavirus, Mumps, Chickenpox, Diphtheria. (source - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/forgot-14-diseases.html>)

Do vaccines work against Delta? Yes. All of them are effective against Delta.

Can vaccinated people spread Delta? Yes. Even if a vaccinated person might not show symptoms or get sick, they can still spread Delta.

Please follow CDC recommendations: wash your hands frequently, social distance, use facial covering and get vaccinated.

Getting vaxxed doesn't guarantee you won't get COVID 19, but it drastically reduces your chances of severe illness, hospitalization and death.

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## Central FL Accordion Club

The Brevard Chapter of the Central Florida Accordion Club (CFAC) holds its regular meeting the last Sunday of every month. Members and guests are invited to play accordions or other instruments.



Shows are held on the last Sunday of each month, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Elks Lodge #1532, 315 Florida Ave., Cocoa. The event is open to the public. Admission is free.

CFAC is a Not-for-Profit Florida Corporation, and is tax exempt under Section 501c4 of the Federal Tax Code. The club is dedicated to promoting the visibility and value of the accordion as a multi-cultural musical instrument in Central Florida. For more information, contact Rod Hall, 866-455-2322.

## Parrish Healthcare Offering COVID vaccinations

Parrish Healthcare is now offering community COVID-19 vaccinations to all members of the community ages 12 and older. Vaccinations are being given by appointment only. Appointments to receive your vaccine can be made through our online registration system at:



**vaccine.parrishmed.com.**

Vaccines are being administered at the Parrish Health and Fitness Center located at 2210 Cheney Highway, Titusville. At this time, all appointments currently available are for either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Any individual under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at the time of vaccination and is only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

To register, visit [vaccine.parrishmed.com](https://vaccine.parrishmed.com) or call our COVID-19 vaccine hotline at 321-268-6311.

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## Alcoholics Anonymous

Port St. John

**Saint Patrick's Church**

4797 Curtis Blvd. - East off Grissom Pkwy.

### Sunset Group Meeting

- (C) Sunday 5:00 BIG BOOK
- (C) Tuesday 6:30 12 STEP
- (O) Thursday 6:30 Beginners Mtg

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## Coronavirus Information

[www.parrishhealthcare.com/coronavirus](https://www.parrishhealthcare.com/coronavirus)

<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

The COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 at 1 (866) 779-6121 or email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

For important updates from the Florida Department of Health, text FLCOVID19 to 888-777.



For additional information about public vaccination plans for Brevard County, call 1.866.779.6121 or email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

## More Vaccine Site Options

The COVID vaccine is now readily available in many places for people who are 12 or older, and several local grocery stores and pharmacy stores in our area are doing walk-in vaccination shots. Here's some updated info on where to find it.

You can visit <https://myvaccine.fl.gov/> to register and your place in line will be held as more vaccine becomes available. You can search for locations by county or city.

Florida seniors who cannot leave their homes but in need of a COVID-19 vaccine have a new way to sign up for an appointment. Email [HomeboundVaccine@em.myflorida.com](mailto:HomeboundVaccine@em.myflorida.com) with your name and phone number and someone will get back to you about setting up an appointment.

Walgreen's has COVID vaccine. Visit [Walgreens.com](https://www.walgreens.com) to schedule a vaccine or test.

Publix is also giving vaccinations on a walk-in basis, or you can register for an appointment at <https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine/florida>.

To schedule with Winn-Dixie, visit <https://www.winndixie.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine>. The Port St. John Winn Dixie is doing them on a walk-in basis now.

CVS is also doing walk-ins, or you can visit <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>. A pop-up will give you a link to "Schedule an appointment now."

With the state having expanded COVID-19 vaccination eligibility, Brevard County's two health care systems—Parrish Healthcare and Health First—are collaborating to encourage area residents to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to ensure residents know when, where, and how its hospitals are receiving and administering the vaccines.

### Appointments can be made online at:

- Parrish Healthcare: [vaccine.parrishmed.com](https://vaccine.parrishmed.com)
- Health First: [HF.org/staywell](https://www.hf.org/staywell) (Register now for Vaccine Interest List and we will reach out to community members directly next week to schedule an appointment. Direct scheduling will open Tuesday.)

For Walmart or Sam's Club, to check availability and schedule an appointment, visit [www.walmart.com/COVIDvaccine](https://www.walmart.com/COVIDvaccine) and [www.samsclub.com/covid](https://www.samsclub.com/covid) (whether you're a SAM's member or not).

Additional information is also available through the FL Department of Health; visit [floridahealthcovid19.gov](https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/).

To make your appointment with Parrish Healthcare, use the QR code below:

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