

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
Friday, September 24, 2021

Brevard School Board Extends Mask Mandate

At the meeting on Tuesday night, Brevard County School Board members voted to extend the mask mandate for students through October 29th. New to the mandate, students will be allowed to remove masks in their classroom if social distancing can be maintained. That exemption will go into effect on Sept. 29th, but otherwise students will be required to wear masks. Students can opt out of wearing a mask with a documented medical condition.

Several parents spoke out on both sides of the issue during the meeting.



The mandate was put in place earlier this year after the district reported 500 coronavirus cases. The newly reported numbers are low for this school year, only 85 cases. Although that might seem to some that it's reason to remove the mandate, it clearly demonstrates the masks have been effective.

The issue of whether it should be a parent's choice or the right of the School Board to enforce the mandate for the safety of all students and staff, it's very hard to argue with the lower number of students, teachers and staff affected by COVID.

Downtown Art Gallery Celebration

Join the Downtown Art Gallery as they celebrate 19 years serving Central Florida with gorgeous local art, picture framing and vibrant culture! This special event will be held on Saturday, September 25th from 10 am to 6 pm at the Gallery, 335 S. Washington Ave. in downtown Titusville. Enjoy delicious sparkling mimosas in the morning and come back for sexy sunset sangrias in the afternoon! Nibble on tasty hors d'oeuvres as you leisurely explore the art gallery's five beautiful showrooms.

"We've watched our area grow over the years and we love helping people fill their homes with gorgeous art created by local artists and inspired by our beautiful and unique natural environment. We love living in north Brevard. We also love helping families frame their special keepsakes," said Heidi Thamert, owner with her husband Jeff.

The Downtown Art Gallery's artists will help host the event. Diane DeShong Cannon, Linda Krupp, Olivia Pickering and Laura Kucharyson will take turns demonstrating several painting mediums. Barbara Evans is bringing her new collection of jewelry with its usual tropical flare. Fonda Haddad will show basketry techniques on gourds and Jim Boland will have a slideshow history of his nature photography to view.

This event is free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are encouraged. You can find out more on their Facebook event page or by calling 321-268-0122.

Parrish Medical Center Offers Monoclonal Antibody Treatments to Eligible Community Members

Parrish Medical Center Infusion Center offers Monoclonal Antibody (MAB) treatments by appointment only. PMC's Infusion Center opened its MAB treatment clinic on February 2, 2021 and has provided more than 140 treatments to-date.

The treatment is administered through IV infusion. Total treatment time is 2 hours.

MAB is used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19. MAB should be given as soon as possible after a positive COVID-19 test and within 10 days of symptom onset.

MAB may speed recovery time, decrease the risk for hospitalization and/or decrease the duration of COVID-19 symptoms. It is an investigational drug that continues to be studied, but early data suggests it is safe and reduces the risk of being hospitalized.

MAB is not administered in the Emergency Department or on a walk-in basis. For more information, screening and appointment scheduling please call the Parrish Medical Center Infusion Center at (321) 268-6730 or visit parrish-healthcare.com/MAB.



Fall Art & Craft Festival

Come out and do some early Christmas shopping or just find some unique holiday decor in Historic Cocoa Village.

Saturday, Oct. 16th 10 am-5 pm

Sunday, Oct. 17th 10 am-4 pm

Over 200 unique artists and crafters! Two days of fabulous Art & Crafts! Fantastic street food and live entertainment throughout the grounds. **Free admission! Kid & pet friendly!**

This event will be compliant with all City mask and COVID-19 ordinances in place. The layout is doubled in size for social distancing.

For more information, call 321-631-9075 or visit our website: VisitCocoaVillage.com.

Sustainable Living

Do you want to learn how you can lead a more sustainable lifestyle? Then consider signing up for our Sustainable Living and Leadership Series! You will be able to explore issues of energy, water, food and more. We will also teach you about sustainable living actions that you can take in your home and community.

This will be a virtual course that meets online every Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. from October 6th to November 17th. The class fee is \$120. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Course participants will also have optional local sessions for residents in counties from Brevard south to Monroe. These optional sessions will meet online every Thursday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. from October 7th to November 18th.

During the local session, you'll hear from local guest speakers working on sustainability principles and measures, and there will be virtual field trips.

To register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3jI45rD>. To apply for a scholarship, email your request to Bethany Prykucki at prykucki@msu.edu.

FUMC PSJ Events

Our service is 10 a.m. every Sunday in person and on Facebook Live streamed on Facebook.com/fumcpsj and on YouTube FUMC PSJ.

Our current series, "House Rules - We Value," then on 10/24 a new 5 week series, "God Cares More About Your Money Than You Do," begins.

Holiday Season is here!

Mark your calendars for **Pumpkin Patch**, October 9-27.

Harvest Vendor Fair will be November 6, 9-2. For more information and to sign up to have a spot, go to our Facebook page- FUMCPSJ: <https://forms.gle/cuNSL5jzx-hDHfoww5> must be manually typed in to get to the link for the application for a spot.

Walk Through Bethlehem, a Port St. John tradition, will be December 17,18 and 19.

Brevard County Parks & Recreation, North Area Parks Operations will be hosting a movie at Fay Lake Wilderness Park, 6300 Fay Blvd., Port St. John.

Join us on Saturday night, September 25th for Movies in the Park! Bring a blanket or chair and set up under the stars for a family movie night. The movie will begin at 8:30 PM. The movie is FREE and we will have free popcorn available. The movie will be **Big Hero 6**, rated (PG-13), 8:30 PM – 10:10 PM

We are keeping an eye on the weather and we ask that you do, too. In the event of cancelation, we will notify everyone via <https://www.facebook.com/BrevardParks/> and will consider rescheduling for another date. For more information, contact Chris Fuentes-Clark, NAPO Youth Programs & Special Events Coordinator, at (321) 264-5105 x42120 or email Chris.Fuentes-Clark@BrevardFL.gov.

Exhibitors, vendors & volunteers:For questions or to find out how you can be a part of this event, contact North Area Parks Operations, (321) 264-5105 (Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM).

#BrevardParks | #MoviesInThePark

SAT, SEP 25, 2021
8:30 PM – 10:10 PM

BIG HERO 6

PG

Fay Lake
Wilderness Park
6300 Fay Blvd
Port St. John, FL 32927

FOR MORE DETAILS & UPDATES
VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE:
[Facebook@BrevardParks](https://www.facebook.com/BrevardParks/)

*Movies in the Park is FREE to attend!

Event may change or be canceled in the event of severe weather or other unforeseen circumstance
We encourage individuals follow CDC recommended guidelines when attending large gatherings



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EXPLORE & DISCOVER MORE AT
www.BrevardParks.com



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

Saturday, October 2nd, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Good food on the grill with Fixin's, \$6. Listen to live music, take part in drawings, 50/50. All proceeds to benefit veterans and veterans' families.

7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), 321-268-1632. Contact Joe Marino, Events Coordinator, American Legion Riders Post 359 at info@alr359.org or visit our website, alr359.org, for more information.

Sign Up Today for Beekeeping

Join us for a beekeeping short course on October 9th, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During this course, you will learn about the nature of honeybees as well as the art and science of beekeeping! The topics we will be covering include, but are not limited to, the equipment needed to get started with beekeeping, site selection, queens, installation, stressors, and more.

The cost of this course is \$50 and will be held at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Cocoa. Please bring a bee suit and veil, and wear closed-toed shoes. Virtual viewing (minus the hands-on demo) is available, the cost is the same. Please email Bonnie Wells at bcwells@ufl.edu if you would like to participate virtually.

To register, please visit: <http://bit.ly/BrevardBees>.

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John,
(321) 633-1867

Lena Penna, Director

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.

9/25 10am-12pm : Port St John Pokemon League for all ages
10/6, 6:30pm : Bookworms Bookclub, see Reference for monthly book selection

10/9, 10am-12pm : Port St John Pokemon League for all ages

10/11, 5:30pm : Port St John Library Advisory Board Meeting

10/23 10am-12pm : Port St John Pokemon League for all ages

Storytime for Young Readers, Thursdays at 3:00pm. Ages 6-12.

Little Listeners storytime, Fridays at 10:30am. Ages 2-5.

Master Gardener visits are currently on hiatus.

COVID-19 Vaccinations Help Prevent the Virus from Spreading/ Mutating

All three major hospital systems in Brevard County are reporting near capacity levels of patients with COVID-19 symptoms. The vast majority of those patients are unvaccinated.

According to covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/, 76.6% of the US population has had at least one shot, 56.3% of Florida and 62.2% of Brevard County is vaccinated.

"We have seen about a 98 to 99 percent non-vaccinated rate among our patients admitted with COVID related illness and disease," said Dr. Nik Moradi with Steward Health Group. "I think that a lot of us have noticed, let's say we go



shopping at Publix or somewhere, it's clearly stated with signs on the doors that say if fully vaccinated, masks are voluntary. If not fully vaccinated, masks are mandatory, and yet when you look around, maybe one or two percent of people are wearing masks, but only 50 percent are vaccinated. Well, to me, those numbers don't add up. So people aren't playing by the rules and that might be partially contributing to the breakout we have."

While it's being described as a pandemic of the unvaccinated, the threat is still a concern for those vaccinated, medical experts said. "That's going to be a concern if we don't have more people vaccinated," said Barry Inman, epidemiologist with Florida Department of Health-Brevard (DOH-Brevard). "The virus can continue to replicate and replicate and it's going to get more efficient at attaching to our cells, our respiratory cells, and other cells for that matter in our body, so that's a concern. We also have to be cognizant that this is a small world and I think in the world we have just over a billion people that may be vaccinated. There are seven billion people on this planet, so we've got a large task in front of us. The best thing we can do is try to reduce the onset of other variants is to get vaccinated."

Vaccines are available throughout Brevard County. The Pfizer vaccine is suitable for ages 12 and older; Moderna and Janssen are suitable for ages 18 and older. Ample supplies of vaccine are also available at area pharmacies, urgent care centers and from your private physician.

All major hospitals - Parrish, Rockledge Regional, Cape Canaveral, Holmes, Viera - offer vaccinations. CVS, Publix, Sam's Club, Walgreens, Walmart and Winn-Dixie also provide the COVID-19 vaccine at specific locations throughout Brevard County for those eligible. Call or visit their websites for an appointment.

Battling the Barriers and Myths of Mammography

There are no sure things in medicine, but mammography comes close. Regular mammograms have been proven to find breast cancer at its earliest stages, when treatments are most effective. But many women fail to take advantage of these powerful, potentially lifesaving tests because of unfounded fears. If you're one of them, let's break down the barriers and uncover the myths.

Barrier 1: "I'm afraid insurance won't cover it or I won't be able to afford the copay/deductible."

Mammography is usually covered under most health plans, including Medicare, once a woman reaches an age determined by the insurer. In the case of Medicare, a woman is allowed one breast cancer screening every twelve months at no cost to her if the doctor accepts the assignment. If you have Medicare and are age 65 or older, Medicare pays for most of the cost of a screening mammogram every 12 months. If needed, Medicare will pay for a diagnostic mammogram at any time.

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (FBCCEDP) provides testing services, including clinical breast exams and mammograms, to women eligible.

Barrier 2: "The test is too painful."

Yes, the test can be a bit uncomfortable, but most women don't consider it painful. During mammography, your breast is placed on a special platform and compressed with a plastic paddle. Compression helps hold the breast still, evens out the breast tissue and allows lower doses of X-rays to be used.

Because there is pressure on the breast, the American Cancer Society recommends you schedule the procedure one week after your period, when your breasts are least tender.

If you feel pain, speak up. The technologist may be able to lower the compression and relieve some of the pressure on your breast. Remember that the actual X-ray takes less than one minute.

Myth 1: Breast cancer only affects older women.

FALSE. Breast cancer can occur at any age. To age 39, one woman in 231 will get breast cancer (less than a 5 percent risk); from ages 40 to 59, the risk is 4 percent; from ages 60 to 79, the risk is one in 15 women, or nearly 7 percent.

Myth 2: I'm at high risk for breast cancer and there's nothing I can do about it.

FALSE. Women at high risk can take steps to reduce, although not eliminate, their chances of getting the disease. These include lifestyle changes (stop smoking, exercise regularly), medication and, in cases of very high risk, a preemptive mastectomy.

Nomi Health is Now Offering COVID Testing at Parrish Medical Center

As part of Brevard County's efforts to expand COVID-19 testing opportunities, Nomi Health is now offering a Brevard County COVID-19 testing site in the Parrish Medical Center south parking lot located at 921 North Washington Avenue, Titusville.

This Nomi site offers both rapid antigen and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen COVID-19 testing is available seven days a week from 8 am – 6 pm and PCR COVID-19 testing also is available seven days a week from 8 am – 5 pm.

All COVID-19 testing offered at this site is available by appointment only and requires pre-registration. To register for a COVID-19 test, please visit <http://testing.nomihealth.com/signup/fl> and type 32796 in the zip code search bar. Scroll down to Parrish Medical Center and select the date and time, then click "schedule" to begin the scheduling process.

Coronavirus Information

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.

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.

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