

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
September 27, 2024

Health First and Parrish Healthcare Sign Health Plan and Cancer Center Agreements **Community to Benefit From Expanded Collaboration and Access to Care**



On July 17, 2024, Health First and Parrish Healthcare resolved their legal differences and established a new collaboration focused on expanding healthcare access across Brevard County. On Monday, September 17, the leaders of the two not-for-profit health systems have further committed to this collaboration by signing new agreements to enhance care options for residents.

These agreements include the integration of Parrish Healthcare system into the Health First Health Plans network, and conversely, the Health First system will participate within the Parrish Health Network. This extended partnership allows Brevard County residents to access two comprehensive networks, improving access to quality care throughout the region.

“With our two systems coming to an agreement, the community wins by gaining county-wide access to two high-quality comprehensive networks of care,” said Parrish Healthcare President/CEO George Mikitarian.

Left to right: Parrish Chairman of the Board Robert Jordan, Health First Chief Administrative Officer Paula Just, Parrish President/CEO George Mikitarian, Health First CEO Terry Forde

In addition, as part of this collaboration, Health First and Parrish Healthcare have signed a real estate agreement that will transfer ownership of the Health First Cancer Institute building in Titusville to Parrish Healthcare, effective by late 2025.

“Health First is committed to removing barriers to care and providing the Brevard community with access to a broad range of high-quality healthcare services. This partnership with Parrish Healthcare will help us achieve that goal by making care more accessible for everyone in the county,” said Paula Just, Chief Administrative Officer at Health First. “This partnership exemplifies Health First and Parrish Healthcare’s shared commitment to a healthier, stronger Brevard County.”

Port Canaveral Closes Some Operations This Weekend Due To Hurricane Helene

Port Canaveral officials have announced that due to weather predictions of sustained gale force winds from Hurricane Helene, the U.S. Coast Guard has set Port Condition "YANKEE." Cruise ships will not be allowed to transit in and out of the Port on Thursday. Port officials will be on the water early Friday to assess safety for ships to arrive or depart the Port. Ships scheduled to arrive will be delayed to Friday (today) at earliest.

These delays will also impact guest embarkation times and departures for outbound sailings on Friday and Saturday. **Anyone planning to sail from Port Canaveral on Friday, September 27 or Saturday, September 28 are advised to contact their cruise lines to confirm their embarkation and ship's departure time.**

Port Canaveral is open and conducting limited Port operations and preparing for the closure of waterside and vessel shore side Port operations. Vessel owners and operators should take immediate action to ensure the safety of their vessels, crews and/or facilities at the Port.

Hurricane Season Medical Reminders to Help You Be Prepared

Get a 30-Day Supply of Necessary Medications:

- If you are taking prescription medications, we encourage you to have a 30-day supply on hand. It is important to make your medication plan now. This plan should include speaking with a health insurance representative, pharmacist or your physician about options to acquire extra medications, one of which may include paying cash for your 30-day supply. Please note, Florida Law allows for early prescription refills in the event the Governor issues an executive order declaring a state of emergency.

Call Your Dialysis Center for a Temporary Plan of Care:

- If you are on dialysis, please call your dialysis center to create a plan of action for your care. Do not miss a treatment prior to bad weather and make sure to follow your doctor-ordered diet very closely. Read the patient care information provided to you by your doctor. It includes medical information to assist you and phone numbers to the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network. Only your doctor can recommend if it is medically safe for you to miss treatments and can advise whether you should be admitted to a hospital during a hurricane. Please note: Special Needs Shelters do not offer dialysis, and some centers may be closed during a hurricane. When the storm passes, contact your dialysis center for further instructions or go to your hospital for short-term care if your center is closed.

A Hospital Is Not a County Shelter:

- A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation.

SpaceX Crew-9 Launch Delayed Liftoff targeted for Saturday from LC-40

According to NASA.gov, NASA and SpaceX have shifted the Crew-9 launch to no earlier than 1:17 p.m. on Saturday, September 28 due to Hurricane Helene. As always in Florida, the time and date will be subject to the weather, especially what's left behind by Helene.

As part of Crew-9, NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, mission specialist, will join NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who arrived to the space station in June.

Meanwhile, aboard the International Space Station (ISS), Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko passed leadership of ISS Expedition 71 over to astronaut Sunita "Suni" Williams on September 22.

Kononenko and fellow cosmonaut Nikolai Chub and NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson returned to Earth on September 23 aboard the Soyuz MS-25 spacecraft. The voyage wrapped up over a year in space for the two cosmonauts and about six months for Dyson.

For Williams, taking command of the ISS adds to a list of unanticipated occurrences since launching to space.

There are three types of evacuation shelters: Primary Evacuation Shelters, Special Needs Shelters and Pet-Friendly Shelters. Shelters are designated throughout the county. Please note Parrish Medical Center (the hospital) is not a designated shelter and does not take evacuees. For more helpful information regarding county shelters, please visit: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared/Step3HaveAPlan/Shelters>.

If you are oxygen dependent, make shelter arrangements.

- Individuals who are oxygen dependent may be eligible for a Special Needs Shelter, eligibility is based on medical needs and availability. If you are oxygen-dependent, be sure to fill your oxygen tanks. At a minimum, we encourage you to have two days' worth of oxygen on hand. If you do not plan to evacuate, contact the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management at 321-637-6670 for more information on how to register for a Special Needs Shelter. Making prior arrangements for a Special Needs Shelter is essential.

General Preparation for a Hurricane

- For additional information on what you can do to prepare for an emergency, such as a hurricane, please visit the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management website at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared>. Here, you will find valuable information to help stay prepared and resources during an emergency situation.



HIRING EVENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

10AM-1PM AT COCOA CIVIC CENTER
430 DELANNOY AVENUE, COCOA, FL 32922

Parrish Medical Center is currently looking for exceptional candidates to fill the following positions and more! Join us for an opportunity to explore the benefits of being a Parrish Care Partner.

Light refreshments will be provided!

- Charge Nurse
- Registered Nurses
- CNAs
- Medical Assistants
- CT Technologist
- Social Worker
- RN Clinical Coordinator
- EMT
- Paramedics
- MRI Technologist
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist

Explore Current
Open Positions

SCAN ME!



Post 359 - American Legion Schedule



10-2 Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.

10-5 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.

10-14 Sons of the Legion, 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Post.

10-16 General Membership Meeting- 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 7260 S. US Hwy. 1, Bellwood, (just north of Port St. John), 321-268-1632. **10-20 American Legion Riders General Membership Meeting**- 3rd Sunday of the month, 10:30 a.m. Call 2nd Vice Director Janice Anderson, Director, 321-210-6234 or visit alr359.org.

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

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

Amvets Post 2415 Schedule



10-2 Sons of Amvets 2415 General Membership Meeting -1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Commander Chuck Harrington, 321-208-7897.

10-10 Amvets 2415 Ladies Auxiliary General Membership Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. President Theresa Nikki Anderson, 321-208-7897.

10-12 Amvets Riders Chapter 2415 General Membership Meeting - 2nd Saturday of the month at 12 noon. Pres. Steve Carman, 321-446-3394.

10-12 Bike Night! 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Post.

10-16 General Membership Meeting- 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Meat Shoot - 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. **Karaoke every Friday with Bone, 6-10 p.m.**

Bingo Sundays 1-?

Post 2415 is located at 688 West Ave., (adjacent to Hwy. US 1), Port St. John. If you are a veteran and would like to visit the Post or would like more information about Amvets, contact Commander Larry Lonneville at 321-208-7897.

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BAT BOY: THE MUSICAL

SEPTEMBER 20–OCTOBER 6, 2024

Bat Boy: The Musical is a ridiculous, heartfelt musical comedy/horror show about a half-boy, half-bat. Based on a June 23, 1992 “true story” in the Weekly World News about a half-boy, half-bat, dubbed “Bat Boy”, who grew up living in a cave in the West Virginia Hills, and then brought into the sleepy town of Hope Falls, which intrigues the inhabitants. Even though Bat Boy is taught to act like a “normal” boy, will his happiness be shattered when the town discovers the shocking secret of his unholy origin?

Stage 2. Please note this is an open-air pavilion with cushioned seating.

Stage 2

Stage 2 is an open-air pavilion with amphitheater-style seating located at 316 S. Palm Ave., Titusville.

Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Gates open 30 minutes before show time. NO late seating or at the discretion of the House Manager.

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

***I just got a full tank of gas for \$22.
Granted, it was for my lawn mower,
but I'm trying to stay positive.***

The weekly digital
edition of
HAPPENINGS
is sponsored by
Parrish Healthcare





Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

321-633-1867

Shelley Macon, Library Director

Library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

October is Library Card Sign-up Month: Come in to sign-up and get a Space Duck brag tag and a pack of Space Rocks Popping Candy.

Adult Programs:

Friends of the Port St. John Public Library Book Sale, October 1 - 5, in the main library.

Bookworms Book Club on Wednesday, October 2, 6:30 p.m. See the reference desk for this month's selection and the next meeting date. This month the book club will be discussing *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Come to the meeting to pick up the November selection: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

Paint Party with the Friends of the Port St. John Library on Saturday, October 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join the Friends of the Port St. John Public Library for a paint party every first Saturday of every month. During this class you will create custom wooden door hangers. Adults and teens ages 16+. \$40/per person. Payment is due at sign up. Deadline to register at the Reference Desk by Wednesday, October 2.

Community Support Advocate - Mondays, October 14 and 28 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, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. October's featured book is *The Kamogawa Food Detectives* by Hisashi Kashiwai. Books are available at the Reference Desk.

Family Programs:

Spice Travelers Spice Club - Friday, October 18 at 3:30 PM: Spice Travelers Spice Club! Pick up a kit including this month's featured spice at the Reference Desk. October we are featuring Nutritional yeast. This is a family program and all are welcome.

Community Puzzle - Spooky Night: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 5 to 7 p.m.: This event will take place at the library on Wednesday, October 30th from Join us for spooky décor, trick-or-treating through the library, and spooky mini golf!

Youth Services:

Sensory Sundays: Every Sunday from 2:00-3:00 p.m.,

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

Young Adult Book Club: Saturday, October 26th from 3 to 4 p.m. Teens ages 14 through 17 can select one or more of the books from the monthly Hoopla Young Adult Crossover digital book club titles and discuss their choice at the meeting. Snacks will be provided and all books are available as ebooks or audiobooks through the library's free Hoopla app.

STEAM Activity Time - Every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room. Come build and make things with us! We will have activities centered around science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. This event is for ages 6-11 and requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

Read Your Way to K: Babies: Baby Story Time at the Port St. John public library is from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for some songs, short stories and surprise activities. This story time is for babies ages 3 and under and requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

Read Your Way to K: Toddlers: Toddler Story Time at the Port St. John public library is from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for songs, stories, and a craft. This story time is for toddlers ages 3 to 5 and is intended to prepare toddlers for preschool with active listening, group participation, developing fine motor skills, and socializing with others. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

Science Fair Help with Bio Betty, Wednesdays 6 to 7 p.m. Do you have any questions about a science fair project? Are you looking for an idea for your science fair experiment? Ask retired science teacher Ms. Betty at the Port St. John public library on October 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. Want to RSVP? Call ahead at the youth services desk and reserve your 15 minute appointment!

NEW! STEAM kits are available in Youth Services!

NAPO Seeking Caretaker

Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department, North Area Parks Operations, is accepting applications for a Caretaker. Interested Law Enforcement are encouraged to apply. Application deadline is October 4. This is a non-paid contractual service.

A permanent home is located on site. Rent will be negotiated. Fox Lake Park – 4400 Fox Lake Road, Titusville

To request an application or for more information contact Melissa Renninger, Administrative Secretary, at 321-603-2111 or by email at melissa.renninger@brevardfl.gov.



Food Drive Car Show

First Baptist Church of Port St. John is hosting a Food Drive Car Show on Saturday, October 12th from 5 – 8 p.m. The Dixie Cruisers will be at the church. This event is free. There will be free parking, music and Food Trucks!

Please bring a canned or boxed food donation. All canned food donations benefit our local community through the First Baptist Church of Port St. John Food Pantry.

If you need further information or have any questions, please call the church office at 321-636-5455 weekdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Port St. John is located at 3900 Fay Blvd. Our website is: www.firtbaptistpsj.org.

Fire Prevention Event

The American Legion Post 359 is hosting a Fire Prevention Day on Sunday, October 6th, starting at 11 a.m. The event will have a county fire truck and fire fighters present, a Bounce House for the kids and a hotdog luncheon for... well, everyone! We invite the community come have fun and learn about Fire Prevention.

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



Parks & Recreation Meeting



The North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation will hold its next meeting on Thursday, October 10th, at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Brevard Room at 518 South Palm Avenue in Titusville. The public is invited to attend. The Brevard Room is located in a building on the north side of the parking lot behind the Brevard County Government Center–North.

For questions, call Jeff Davis at the North Area Parks Office at 321-264-5105.

Blessing of the Animals

Join us as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which honors the special role animals play in peoples' lives. Conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures, a procession of animals, from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, are welcome. Deacon Joseph A. Pecko of Church of Our Saviour, Cocoa Beach, will officiate this special ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals, on Sunday, October 6th, 1:00 p.m., at Myrt Tharpe Square (Gazebo), in Historic Cocoa Village.

Pet photos with Deacon Pecko will be taken immediately following the group blessings (\$5 donation). All donations will benefit the Florida Wildlife Hospital, Palm Shores, Florida, a nonprofit organization dedicated to Florida's wildlife in need. Since 1973, Florida Wildlife Hospital has rescued, rehabilitated, and released thousands of sick, injured, and orphaned animals in Brevard County. Special ambassadors from the Florida Wildlife Hospital will be in attendance for a unique meet-and-greet. These animals are permanent residents of the hospital that could not be released into the wild.

All pets are welcome on a leash, or in appropriate carriers, and must have current vaccinations and county tags for the safety of our animals and friends.

Hosted by Tails at the Barkery, 14 Oleander Street, Cocoa Village, 321-305-4584, www.tailsatthebarkery.com.

District 1 County Commissioner Seeks Applicants for Advisory Board Positions

District 1 Commissioner Rita Pritchett is seeking applicants to fill available seats on the following Advisory Boards:

- Audit Committee
- Investment Committee
- Citizen Budget Review Committee
- Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, Inc.
- North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation
- Port St. John Dependent Special District Board
- Fire Safety Professional to serve on the Contractor Licensing Board
- Roofing Contractor to serve on the Contractor Licensing Board
- Contractor Licensing Board (Alternate)
- Transportation Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee

Information about each board may be found at the following link: <https://brevardfl.granicus.com/boards/w/cbe4088b3c65a780/boards>.

Applications are available on the Brevard County website, <https://www.brevardfl.gov>, and by clicking on Advisory Boards listed under Frequent Searches.