

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition

April 4, 2025

April Events at the Enchanted Forest

Earth Day Festival-Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.- Join us at the Enchanted Forest for our Earth Day festival! This is a free family friendly event! There will be vendors, guest speakers, fun crafts for kids, live music and more!

Nature Storytime - Wednesday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - LIMITED SPACE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. **This is**

geared towards ages 5 years and under. Theme: Terrific Gopher Tortoises! Come have fun while learning about our amazing keystone species, the Gopher Tortoise. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Registration is required. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Sanctuary School - Wednesday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.-LIMITED SPACE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Go-Go Gopher Tortoise! Come learn about the huge impact that Gopher Tortoises have on Florida habitats! Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Registration is required. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Forest Funday - Sunday, April 20, all day! - Stop by to learn everything about the Gopher Tortoise through our grab-and go educational activities, and take-home crafts in the Discovery Room.

Yoga in Nature - Every Sunday in April 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Join local yoga instructors for a traditional class for all levels on the porch! Wear loose-fitting clothing and do not eat anything an hour before class. Bring water and a mat. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Registration required no later than the day before class, please call 321-264-5185. SPACE LIMITED.

Guided Hikes - Openings on Sundays at 10 a.m.- Please email teresa.nick@brevardfl.gov to inquire about availability. Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water and closed toe walking shoes. Registration required no later than the day before hike.

Photo of the Month! We are looking for photo entries from any of our EEL sanctuaries to be featured at the EFS nature center. For more information and to enter your photos, please email teresa.nick@brevardfl.gov.



Be sure to follow us on Facebook at: Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program to stay updated on upcoming events and more!

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary was created and managed under the Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program referendum. The referendum was established by voters in 1990 to protect and

preserve the rich biological diversity of Brevard County for future generations. The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary operates in partnership with the Friends of the Enchanted Forest, Inc. to provide hands on educational experiences for all visitors.

Admission to the Sanctuary and education center is free and open to the public on Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come out to visit soon.

Book Fest in Historic Cocoa Village

You are invited to the Annual Book Fest in Historic Cocoa Village on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a day of literary fun. Readers of all ages are welcome to meet writers, purchase some great books by local authors, and enjoy a book walk through Historic Cocoa Village. Stores throughout the Village will have guest authors for the day; providing you with some literary enjoyment while you shop.

At Tails at the Barkery, Touch of Grey Rescue will be showcasing their books, Farkle Finds His Furever Home, based on the true story of a special needs shelter dog; and, 'Twas The Night Before Dogmas,' both written by local author Wendy Johnson, President and Founder of Touch of Grey Rescue.

"Paw-signed" books will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to Touch of Grey Rescue, a 501c3 senior dog rescue founded in Brevard County in 2019.

For the safety of our animals and friends, all pets must be on a leash, or in appropriate carriers, and have current vaccinations and county tags. For more information, contact Touch of Grey Rescue, www.touchofgreyrescue.com/ or Tails at the Barkery, 321-305-4584.



Get Ready for a Sizzling Good Time at the 10th Annual Amateur Backyard BBQ Contest!

The Sharing Center of Central Brevard is thrilled to announce the return of 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, making this a fun and meaningful way to support the community.

We are currently seeking BBQ Cook teams for this year's contest. If you're interested, visit our event website at www.sharingcenterbbqcontest.com to download the registration form and BBQ Contest Rules. Don't wait too long, as the field fills up fast! For more information about the BBQ, please call David Brubaker at 321-631-4492.

Come join us for a day of delicious BBQ, community spirit and support for a great cause!

David Brubaker, President/CEO
Sharing Center of Central Brevard

Boost Your Laundry Energy Efficiency

Save up to \$160 a year on your energy bill with cold water. Switching to cold water for your laundry can save you up to \$.80 per load? Washing four loads a week in hot water over the course of the year adds up to \$160 in savings! It's a simple change that cuts down on energy costs while also helping preserve the life of your clothing.

Pre-treat stains to ensure effective cleaning. Wash full loads whenever possible. If you need to run smaller loads, adjust your water settings to save even more energy.

- Air-dry clothes to cut down on energy use and preserve fabric quality.

These small adjustments can lead to big savings and a smaller environmental footprint. - *Thanx to FPL*

Parrish Medical Group Primary Care Practices Achieve National Quality Recertification as Patient-Centered Medical Homes

Parrish Medical Group Primary Care Practices, with locations in Titusville and Port St. John, have once again been awarded the highest level of certification (level 3) as Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

The NCQA is the most widely adopted evaluation program in the United States and certification includes a rigorous review process. Parrish Medical Group has proudly held this distinction since 2015. The certification recognizes the exceptional quality of care provided and reaffirms Parrish Medical Group's commitment to offering superior patient care.

"NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "Recognition shows that Parrish Medical Group has the tools, systems and resources to provide its patients with the right care at the right time."

The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home program incorporates input from the American College of Physicians (ACP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and others. It assesses whether clinical practices are operating as medical homes and acknowledges those that achieve excellence in care delivery. The program's standards emphasize systematic, patient-centered, coordinated care that supports patient access, communication and involvement.

"As healthcare providers, the patient is always at the center and forefront of everything we do," said Parrish Medical Group Medical Director Kevat B. Patel, MD, JM, MS, CHCQM, FACP. "Earning the PCMH certification from the NCQA once again affirms our dedication to adhering to superior clinical and patient experience standards, ensuring that our patients receive the highest level of care they expect and deserve."

For more information about Parrish Medical Group, or to preview all primary care providers, please visit parrishhealthcare.com.

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Brevard County EMS Announces Operational Changes to Enhance Emergency Response and Patient Care

Brevard County EMS is adjusting its operational process to better serve the community. As part of this process change, EMS will coordinate with our long-standing partner, Coastal Ambulance Systems (CAS), to provide non-life-threatening patient transportation to the hospital effective Monday, April 7. What this means for residents:

- 911 calls may be triaged to ensure the correct resources are being dispatched for our patients
- Brevard County Fire Rescue may respond to a call, assess the patient and contact CAS to transport the patient to a local hospital for non-emergency cases
- Once Brevard County Fire Rescue has verified the condition is non-life-threatening and the CAS unit has been dispatched, the BCFR unit may leave the scene to ensure prompt response to emergency calls

We remind residents and visitors to use 911 for emergencies like heart attack, stroke, severe injuries, uncontrolled bleeding and life-threatening allergic reactions. If a loved one has a non-emergency medical condition, consider taking them to the nearest hospital or urgent care for faster and more efficient treatment.

Brevard County EMS appreciates the community's understanding as we implement this new process. We will continue to work with our medical partners throughout the County to ensure the health and safety of our patients and community.

Elevate Florida Program Application Deadline April 11

The Florida Division of Emergency Management's Elevate Florida program is available for Brevard County residents interested in mitigating their homes against natural hazards. Eligible residents must submit their applications by April 11 at 7 p.m. for:

- Structure Elevation: Lifting homes to prevent flood damage.
- Mitigation Reconstruction: Rebuilding homes to meet modern safety standards when elevation isn't feasible.
- Acquisition/Demolition: Voluntary buyouts and demolition for land conversion to open space.
- Wind Mitigation: Strengthening roofs, doors, and windows to withstand high winds.

Federal grants cover approximately 75% of the project cost—homeowners responsible for remaining project cost. You must be a U.S. citizen and the legal property owner. To apply, visit www.floridadisaster.org/ElevateFlorida, contact info@elevatefl.org or call 877-353-8835.



PORTSTJOHN-OPOLY

The PORTSTJOHN-OPOLY game is still available. Boards are on sale for \$20.00. You can see the layout and purchase your game at:

<https://portstjohncommunityfoundation.com/PORTSTJOHNOPOLY/>. This fundraiser will help support the many events and projects planned for our community. The Port St. John Community Foundation (PSJCF) is a 501(c)3 charity. Donations are tax deductible.

Events by the Port St. John Community Foundation could not be carried out without the donations of time, money, supplies and resources of this community and the surrounding areas. We appreciate and thank all the volunteers, businesses, partners and sponsors for participating in these community events.

Visit portstjohncommunityfoundation.com to read more about the Foundation and future planned community events. All members/volunteers donate their time and services to help raise money through fundraisers to hold community events - Thunder Over the Indian River, Fay Lake FestiFALL and the Christmas parade - and keep our community STRONG! It does not cost anything to join as a volunteer/member. The Port St. John Community Foundation encourages residents and storefront/home business owners to attend PSJCF meetings. Meetings are posted on our Facebook page and are usually held at the PSJ Beef O' Brady's and are posted on our Facebook site.





**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.**

Youth Services

Family Programs

Family Spice Travelers Spice Club - Friday, April 18th 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. It's fun for the entire family.

Game Day - Every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join us 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.

Recycling Creative Lab - Join us on Tuesday, April 22nd, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Large Conference Room for a creative family event! Combine art supplies, recycled items, and your imagination to make something amazing. This hands-on activity is perfect for families with children ages 12 and under. Come and let your creativity shine

Feathers & Focus - A Birdwatching Adventure with Becky Bolt, April 23rd 6-7 p.m. Join the Port St. John Library for an exciting birdwatching program with retired NASA ecologist and author Becky Bolt. Becky will give an educational presentation on local birds and birdwatching techniques. Afterward, participants can join in a hands-on birdwatching scavenger hunt outside the library. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about local wildlife in a fun, interactive setting!

Recycle Brevard - April 26th, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Pick up FREE reusable materials, Drop off your Terracycle, learn about the work they do, help separate materials received.

Adult

Community Advocate - Mondays, April 14 and 28, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. The community support advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources.

Florida Orchid Presentation - April 16th at 6 p.m. Join The Park Biologist Mike Owen in a very informative and exciting presentation on his knowledge and experience with the orchids of South Florida. Mr. Owen is featured in several books including The Orchid Thief by Jeff Klinkenberg. Check out Orchidswamp.org.

Paint Party at the Port St. John Library - Saturday, April 5th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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, April 2nd.

Yarn Group of PSJ Library - The yarn group is a group of adults that enjoy knitting and crocheting. They are happy to

help you learn. All levels are welcome. They donate projects and meet every Friday at the Port St. John Public Library from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Youth Programs

STEAM 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.

Library Egg Hunt— Kids five and under can participate in an egg hunt in the Port St. John Library's youth services section. Trade any eggs you find to the Youth Services staff for mystery prizes!

Read Your Way to K: Baby Story Time - 9:30 to 10:00 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 babies ages three and younger and always requires parent or adult supervision.

Read Your Way to K: Toddler Story Time - 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.

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.

4/6 - Feed-the-Bunny Game

4/13 - Egg Letter Match Game

4/27 - Bubble Wrap Beehive Craft

Teen Art League - On April 12th and 19th 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:

4/12— Bubble Wrap Pop Art

4/19— Garden Rock Painting

Saturday Craft Crew - Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join us on Saturdays for a fun, hands-on craft time designed for kids ages four and up. We'll explore a new project or activity each week, helping kids get creative with colorful materials and exciting themes! It's the perfect way to start your weekend with a splash of imagination and fun!

4/5— Nature Bunny

4/12— Box Bunny

4/19— Bunny Head Band

4/26— Spring Lily Handprint

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