

# HAPPENINGS

## Weekly Edition

May 16, 2025

### The Brevard Parks and Recreation Department Will Participate in the Summer Break Spot Program

The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department (BCPRD) will be participating in the Summer Break Spot Program beginning Monday, June 2, until Friday, August 8. During summer break when school breakfasts and lunches are not available, nutritionally balanced meals will be provided to any child aged 18 or younger can receive a meal.

#### Conditions:

Meals will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The child must be present to receive the meal and must consume the meal onsite.

Children are permitted take with them one meal component, i.e.: a single grain, fruit or vegetable.

The following BCPRD sites will be participating in the Summer Break Spot Program. Please verify meal distribution times by calling the phone numbers provided below.

Cuyler Park Community Center, 2329 Harry T. Moore Avenue, Mims, 321-264-5045

Isaac Campbell Community Center, 701 South Street, Titusville, 321-264-5040

Port St. John Community Center, 6650 Corto Road, Port St. John, 321-633-1904

Sandrift Community Center, 585 North Singleton Avenue, Titusville, 321-264-5037

Walter Butler Community Center, 4201 North Cocoa Boulevard, Cocoa, 321-433-4448

Cocoa West Community Center, 230 South Burnett Road #4000, Cocoa, 321-633-1987

Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center, 415 Stone Street, Cocoa, (321) 633-1872

McLarty Park Community Center, 790 Barton Boulevard, Rockledge, 321-633-1870

Travis Park Community Center, 2001 Michigan Avenue, Cocoa, 321-633-1871

Woody Simpson Community Center, 1590 Schoolhouse Street, Merritt Island, 321-455-1379

Max K Rodes Community Center, 3410 Flanagan Avenue, West Melbourne, 321-952-3215

South Mainland Community Center, 3700 Allen Avenue, Micco, 772-663-8748

Meals are served Monday through Friday, From Monday, June 2 to Friday, August 8. There will be no meal distribution on Friday, July 4.

### Brevard County Burn Ban Lifted

Due to the recent rains, the current mean average Drought Index for Brevard County has fallen below 450. As a result, the ban on open burning and the use of fireworks is no longer in effect.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KB DI) runs from zero, which is totally saturated, to 750-plus, which is desert-like conditions. The Brevard County KB DI dropped under 450 on May 12. The Board of County Commissioners, Brevard County Fire Rescue officials, Brevard County Emergency Management, and the Division of Forestry will continue to monitor conditions to determine the need for further bans. Though the KB DI has dropped, there is still a potential for wildfires to develop. Brevard County Fire Rescue urges citizens to be aware of their surroundings when burning yard waste or using fireworks.

In order to reduce the risk of being affected by wildfire, residents are encouraged to create a defensible space of at least 30 feet around their homes by keeping grass mowed regularly and cutting away vegetation. Before burning, please check the forecast weather conditions first and never burn on days for which high winds or low humidity are forecast.

### Decoupage Framed Art Craft Class

The Port St. John Public Library will host a FREE Decoupage Framed Art Craft Class on Saturday, May 24th at 2:30 p.m.. The event is open to the public. Space is limited, so please sign-up by Saturday, May 17th at the Reference Desk. The library is located at 6500 Carole Ave. in PSJ and can be reached at 321-633-1867.

*Behind every great dad is a kid  
rolling their eyes...  
Until they grow up.*

**Happy Father's Day, dads!**

## Parrish Healthcare Honors Extraordinary Nurses; Announces First DAISY Award Recipient, Perioperative Services Nurse Melissa Hamlin

Parrish Healthcare, in partnership with the DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Foundation™, is proud to announce our first DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses Honoree, Perioperative Services Nurse Melissa Hamlin.

The DAISY Award®, an international recognition program embraced by more than 6,000 healthcare facilities across 39 countries, was established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 of complications from an autoimmune disease, Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). The DAISY Award honors the exceptional and compassionate care nurses provide every day.

Parrish Healthcare first partnered with the DAISY Foundation in January 2025 and immediately began accepting nominations from patients, patients' families and fellow Care Partners (employees, medical staff members and volunteers). On Thursday, May 8, 2025, during National Nurses Week, Parrish Healthcare Chief Nursing Officer Lisa Dickerson presented the DAISY award to Hamlin during a special inaugural ceremony. Adding to the significance of the moment, Hamlin's husband, Tyler, made a surprise appearance to be a part of the celebration.



*Nurse Melissa Hamlin embraces a fellow Care Partner after being announced as Parrish Healthcare's inaugural DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence Honoree.*

Since January, Parrish Healthcare's DAISY Award Committee received more than 70 nominations. Hamlin received nominations praising her exceptional clinical skills, compassion, outstanding leadership and commitment to mentoring others.

During the ceremony, all nurses who received a nomination were recognized and awarded a DAISY certification of recognition and signature DAISY pin. DAISY Award nominees included: Allan Beach, Allie Maya, Amanda Baker, Amanda Puffer, Amanda Vento, Amie Walker-Black, Andrew Martin, Anna Bahr, Autumn Galloway, Axelrave Dominguez, Bailey Hamilton, Bethis Washington, Bridget Sauve, Cassandra Butler, Cindy



*From left to right: Robert Jordan (Chairman of the Board of Directors at Parrish Healthcare), Lisa Dickerson (Chief Nursing Officer at Parrish Medical Center), Commissioner Katie Delaney, DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence Honoree Melissa Hamlin, Tyler Hamlin, Titusville City Mayor Andrew Connors and George Mikitarian (President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare).*

Driver, Cory Jordan, Christina Garcia, Cynthia Sluka, Dana Layne Dembowski, Denise Covert, Ellen Wright, Embily Smith, Emily Hurley, Erin Eckart, Faith French, Giovanni Luna, Haley Goehring, Heather Focht, Heather Sexton, Jackie Oliveri, Jen Hellweg, Jessie Vulpius, Jodi Lowe, Jodi May, Kaitlyn Neal, Kalob Vaughn, Kathy Julien, Kayla Schneerer, Krystal Valdes, Laurah Shaffer, Liberty Casteel, Lisa West, Lorraine Cuniff, Mandy Cockshutt, Maria Eliza Talplacido, Melissa Hamlin, Michele Rodriguez, Mona

Smalls, Rebecca Blickley, Samantha Johnson, Sammantha Zarzycka, Sarah Streat, Shane Joseph, Shawanda Lacey, Yadira Wilbanks and Zarina Quintinita.

Brevard County District 1 Commissioner Katie Delaney and City of Titusville Mayor Andrew Connors attended the inaugural ceremony. Each took a moment to share heartfelt remarks, expressing their deep gratitude and admiration for the extraordinary compassion and dedication demonstrated by nurses. During his remarks, Mayor Connors presented an Official Proclamation in honor of National Nurses Week, recognizing the outstanding contributions of nursing professionals. Other speakers included Robert Jordan, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and George Mikitarian, President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare.

Awarded quarterly, the next DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence will be presented in August. To nominate a nurse at Parrish Healthcare, or to learn more about the DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence, please visit [parrishhealthcare.com/daisyaward](http://parrishhealthcare.com/daisyaward).

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***You are what you do, not what you say you will do.***  
***- Carl Jung***



# Public Hearing and Meeting Scheduled for Brevard County's CDBG and HOME Programs

Brevard County Housing and Services Department will hold a public meeting to receive community input on its Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan, as well as to review the performance of its 2023-2024 housing and community development programs. Residents, organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend and provide feedback on local needs and funding priorities.

This Public Meeting hosted by the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Advisory Committee:

Date: May 20, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Florida Room, 3rd Floor, Building C, Viera

The purpose of these meetings is to gather public input regarding:

- Housing and community development needs
- Priority non-housing community development needs
- Development of proposed activities
- Review of program performance

Each year, Brevard County develops an Annual Action Plan to allocate funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) initiatives.

The CDBG Program supports the development of viable communities through decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities—primarily for individuals and families of low to moderate income. Based on historical allocations, Brevard County expects to receive approximately \$1,386,307.00 annually over the next five years. These funds may be used for infrastructure, public services, demolition, and public facility improvements.

The HOME Program focuses on the creation and sustainability of affordable housing. Funds are allocated to the Brevard HOME Consortium, which includes Brevard County and the cities of Titusville, Cocoa, Melbourne and Palm Bay. For Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the consortium anticipates receiving \$1,082,067.44, plus any available program income. The projected funding breakdown is as follows:

Brevard County: \$428,427.29

Titusville: \$115,968.41

Cocoa: \$63,255.50

Melbourne: \$253,021.99

Palm Bay: \$221,394.24

These funds may be used for acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing, purchase assistance, and direct assistance to renters.

Individuals, community groups, and service agencies are strongly encouraged to attend and participate. Your input helps shape the programs and services that directly impact local housing and development efforts.

For more information, visit:

[www.brevardfl.gov/HousingAndHumanServices](http://www.brevardfl.gov/HousingAndHumanServices).



## Room Guardians

The Space Coast Weavers & Fiber Artists meets on Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Merritt Island Public Library, 1195 N Courtenay Pkwy. Katherine Chapman will present a program on "Creating Room Guardians." These art dolls may be based on real animals, folklore or fantasy creatures from your imagination.

Katherine starts with a sculpted face made of clay or other sculpture material. This is attached to an armature/skeleton made of wire, pipe cleaners or jointed plastic which allows the creature to hold a pose. Then you bulk out the armature by wrapping it with scrap fabric or batting. After stitching this first layer in place, you can add pom poms, plush fabric or any number of textiles to create the creature's pelt. Katherine has been making these creatures for over a decade and will demonstrate the process from start to finish.

Following the meeting, there will be a hands-on class. Katherine will provide most of what is needed, but asks that you bring scissors, glue, needle and thread. There is a \$5 supply fee. If you want to take the class, please register at [katchapman99@gmail.com](mailto:katchapman99@gmail.com).

Since 1983 SCW&FA has been Brevard's go-to guild for fiber arts: spinning, weaving, basketry, rug hooking and more. The guild helps fiber artists, beginning or advanced, learn through workshops and the informal exchange of ideas. They also work to educate the public about the fiber arts. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, call Jeanie McCormack at 321-266-1610 or visit <https://www.spacecoastweaversandfiberartists.org>.

***The mind is like a parachute...  
it works much better when it's open.***

# Parrish Medical Center Reaffirms Stroke Care Excellence During National Stroke Awareness Month

May is recognized as National Stroke Awareness Month, and Parrish Medical Center proudly reaffirms its dedication to stroke prevention, rapid treatment and recovery—backed by national recognition as a certified Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission and the American Stroke Association.

Parrish Medical Center earned re-certification in January 2024, receiving The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark—symbols of the hospital's continued excellence in stroke care and patient safety. This distinguished certification followed a comprehensive on-site review, during which experts evaluated the hospital's compliance with rigorous, evidence-based standards focused on time-critical stroke care, advanced treatment protocols and continuous improvement.

"Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability in Florida, but with swift, specialized care, outcomes can greatly improve," said George Mikitarian, President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare. "This certification is more than an honor—it's a reflection of our unwavering commitment to healing experiences for everyone we serve."

Parrish Medical Center first earned Primary Stroke Center designation in 2004, becoming the first hospital in Brevard County and third in the state of Florida to achieve this level of certification. Every two years since, Parrish Medical Center has been successfully re-evaluated and certified, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to exceptional care.

"Being a certified Primary Stroke Center means our team is prepared 24/7 to provide rapid, lifesaving care," said Ericka Jacobs, MSN, RN, Director of Emergency and Women's Services at Parrish Medical Center. "When experiencing a stroke, every second counts. Patients can trust they're receiving the highest level of coordinated care when it matters most upon being admitted to our hospital."

Parrish Medical Center's Stroke Program includes a designated stroke unit equipped with a team of neurologists, cardiologists, radiologists, therapists (occupational, speech, respiratory and physical) and ICU, ER and stroke unit nurses who have undergone extensive training to become certified in stroke assessment, treatment and rehabilitation.

During National Stroke Awareness Month, Parrish Medical Center reminds the community that every second counts when experiencing a stroke. Early recognition and rapid treatment can save lives and drastically improve recovery outcomes.

Be sure to learn and share the signs of stroke using the acronym BE FAST:

- **B - Balance:** Is there a sudden loss of balance or coordination?
- **E - Eyes:** Is there sudden blurred or double vision or persistent vision trouble?
- **F - Face:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop? Is it numb?
- **A - Arm Weakness:** Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S - Speech Difficulty:** Is speech slurred, are they unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "the sky is blue." Is the sentence repeated correctly?
- **T - Time:** Remember the time the symptoms started. If the person shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get them to the hospital immediately.

Parrish Healthcare also offers a handful of free, online assessment tools to provide awareness and information about your risk for various health conditions, including stroke. To take the short online assessment for stroke risk, visit [parrishhealthcare.com/strokeaware](https://parrishhealthcare.com/strokeaware). To learn more about stroke services at Parrish Medical Center, please visit [parrishhealthcare.com/stroke](https://parrishhealthcare.com/stroke).

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## Parrish Healthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. Reach New Multi-Year Contract Agreement

Parrish Healthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. (BCBS) are pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached. The new multi-year agreement keeps Parrish Healthcare in network with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. through February 29, 2028. "Our priority remains to safeguard patients in our care and to ensure that they receive the low-cost, high-quality care they deserve with insurance coverage that provides the greatest amount of protection for their health," said Michael Moehring, MBA, CPA, Chief Financial Officer at Parrish Healthcare.

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***You're not too old to start over.  
You're too old to keep doing what isn't working.***

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edition of  
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is sponsored by  
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