

# SPRA FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS, OLD & NEW

To our old friends, thanks for being here. For our new neighbors, we invite you and your family to join our South Patrick Residents Association (SPRA) www.spranews. com and get involved in making our community a more influential, safer, and more enjoyable place to live.

**Remember to contribute your annual \$15 membership dues**, or more if you would like, to our SPRA fund, which pays for signage, improvements, the SPRA Newsletter and more. Please make checks payable to SPRA and mail to: PO Box 372537, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

We are asking everyone to **send us your e-dress**, along with name & phone number, so we can communicate with you between Shore News mailings for important information. We ask this even if you can't contribute. Please send your details to lwalko@ spranew.com or call 321.541.0442.

Our intentions with electronic communications are to:

- · communicate in the event of an emergency
- relate news or safety concerns on an immediate basis
- send invitations for upcoming community events
- connect friends and neighbors in our great community

We also want you to become part of our new Community Relations & Events Committee! We'll be the ones who make this a fun place to live by organizing community events each year, as well as planning some specialized events for the kids. We'd like someone from each SPRA area involved so we get a great cross mix of ideas from all our residents. So far, we've organized a couple of community pot lucks and started a cards group, but we need your ideas too! Right now, we're working on new informational signs for our community. So, if you have any "sign" connections, we'd love to speak with you.

Please come, be part of the fun & get involved. To help out, get information, or offer suggestions, please contact lwalko@spranews.com

#### WWW.Spranews.com P.O. Box 372357, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-0357

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**TREASURER** Mary Lou Coleman mcoleman@spranews.com

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## PET WASTE FOULS LAGOON Be A Responsible Pet-Owner

Pet owners need to pay attention to pet waste that adds to lagoon pollution. We can either be part of the problem or part of the solution for reducing pollution and adding to muck deposits, as pet waste is catastrophic to our waterways. Excess nutrients and organic matter in pet waste can cause algae blooms that block sunlight, kill underwater vegetation, and foul up the surface water. Decaying pet waste uses up oxygen in the water which can work to kill fish, oysters, and other aquatic species.

Pet waste enters our waterways in several ways:

- Directly disposing of pet waste in a pond, canal, or the Indian River Lagoon.
- Rain washes pet waste down into stormdrains when it is left on sidewalks, streets and grassy areas. The most common method pet waste enters our waterways is through stormwater drains without treatment.
- Often, pet waste is left in public, grassy areas before flowing directly into our local waters like the Grand Canal system that will soon be dredged.
- Pet waste can be dissolved by rain, which allows the bacteria and other contaminants to flow freely into local waterways.

• Taking responsibility for cleaning up after your pet can help prevent pollution of our watershed. Each pet-owner must step up to take proper responsibility, as not only is it the law, it is also the right thing to do. **Brevard County Ordinance 14-59 requires that "no animal shall be permitted to defecate or urinate on public property.** It shall be the responsibility of the owner or person in control of the animal to dispose of or remove excretions caused by the animal."

One pound of dog waste contains over 1.1 billion fecal coliform bacteria, as well as other bacteria and viruses. When left on the ground, pet wastes can be the source for up to 95% of fecal coliform bacteria in

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Monday, June 8, 2015 • Next SPRA Community Meeting 7:15 p.m. • David Schechter Center • No July Meeting

LAURA WALKO Community Relations/Events 541.0442 Iwalko@spranews.com

PET DATABASE Linda (Lin) Hilliard • 777.0927 Ihilliard@spranews.com

Layout and Printing by: Flamingo Printing flamingoprinting.com 723.2771



By Ayn Samuelson

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stormwater run-off. Flies and other pest insects can grow in population when pet waste is disposed of improperly. This not only creates a nuisance, but also adds another path for disease transmission. Remember our stormwater rates will increase 78% to help clean up the IRL while we are dredging the muck from our canals.

Pet waste also carries parasites and diseases that can make water unsafe for swimming and drinking. Some examples of infectious diseases carried by pet waste are:

Campylobacteriosis- a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.

Salmonellosis- the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans from animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. Toxocariasis- roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.

So, when you take a walk with your pet, take along a plastic bag in which to put your dog's waste. Then you may choose to flush the waste down the toilet or throw it in a trash can. Thank you for being a responsible pet owner.

#### **MUCK MEETING UPDATE**

Cleaning up the lagoon is a worthy goal, but how it is implemented is critical. Both common sense and sound science must be woven into the decision-making process. The April 13th SPRA Muck Meeting brought out some 175 people who wanted to learn about the North Grand Canal (NGC) dredging project and its impacts. It also provided the opportunity to ask questions of county staff. Jim Waymer from Florida Today attended





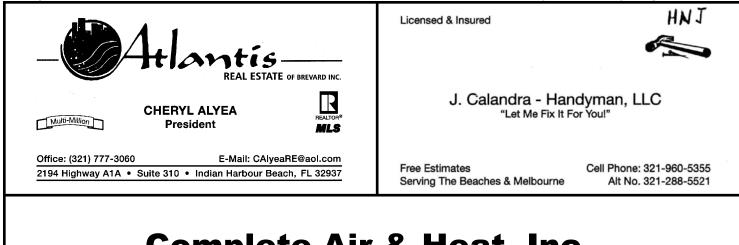
and wrote a piece for the newspaper referencing that the 10 acre deposition site at the north end of the GC is designated "public conservation". He also noted that our residents asked for reasonable assurances about the project. We need to be able to give future input and receive updates from the county.

Brevard County Natural Resources presented updates on the condition of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) system and what is proposed for the northern section of the Grand Canal and feeder canals, or the NGC project. Discussion about the 10 acre deposition/ sediment management site confirmed that the muck would be dredged, dried on site and then trucked from the site.

This 10 acre area at the north end of the Grand Canal appears to be the most cost effective site for material handling, and it would become a transfer area for the rapid treatment, de-watering, and removal of dredged sediments. The muck deposits would be "sucked" through pipes and deposited on the 10 acres where it will be dried and then transported. This would not be a long-term storage site for dredged materials, and no concentrated odors are expected.

The temporary use of this site requires a Temporary Use Agreement authorized by the County Commission as per Sec. 62-2131. "The board of county commissioners may consider a temporary use agreement for the temporary use of property, regardless of the zoning of the property, where such temporary use results in a direct public benefit ... in locations that are convenient to public improvement projects in such a manner that the temporary location would result in a savings to the public, but which would not necessarily be appropriate as a permanent use according to the comprehensive plan designation and zoning of the property. "

The NGC project area has been defined as the North Grand Canal and all associated finger canals from the north side of Samson's Island to the Pineda Causeway. The design phase will involve public meetings intended to inform the community of the project goals, develop



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time-frames and coordinate the project design and management with the residents. A preliminary project time frame is projected to include intermittent dredging and sediment management activities over a two (2) year period from start to finish. The project is not expected to include waterway closures but will most likely include restricted boating access in project areas during active dredging activities.

Anticipated project outcomes will include local improved water quality and fisheries activity within the Grand Canal system along with a "cleaned and maintained waterway system." As more phases are developed for dredging the more southern portions of the canal system, alternative sites will be sought through agreements with Satellite Beach and Indian Harbour Beach for sediment management within their jurisdictions. Otherwise, the 10 acres location, and possibly the Grand Canal itself would be disrupted over a much longer period of time with pipes and barges. A vegetated berm around the perimeter of the project area would be created to buffer the work site from the adjacent residential areas. It was indicated that invasive plant species will be removed, amid statements that the 10 acres will look decidedly better than it does currently. After dredging is complete, new vegetation will be planted to provide an enhanced buffer along the Pineda to protect residents from the sights and sounds of traffic and to improve the area with native species of vegetation.

In addition to muck dredging, Dr. John Trefry from FIT is leading the research efforts locally to improve the water quality of the IRL system. He stated: "Removing (harvesting) anything that has taken up nutrients from the lagoon such as algae (and even fish and oysters in reasonable numbers) is a positive step forward." New technologies can be utilized to achieve these purposes; however, the permitting agencies involved are slow to approve new technologies to help nurse the



The Area Director is the voice for your area Please report any questions or concerns directly to your Director.



IRL back to heath. Brevard County Natural Resources is trying to obtain a permit with the Florida Department of Natural Resources to harvest macro-algae from the lagoon. Much of the excess nutrients in the lagoon system resides within macro-algae biomass, making it the perfect organism to use as a bio-extractor of excess nutrients, and companies like Algae Collection Technology are trying to develop commercial utilization of the algae that could potentially offset the cost of its harvesting.

Brevard County residents will be paying higher stormwater utility fees beginning this November in their non advalorem assessments on their tax bills to improve lagoon health. Currently, the annual fee per residence is \$36, but this will increase over the next few years to \$64. Taxpayers hope that these additional funds, overall a 78% increase, will be put to good use to assist the intelligent cleanup of the IRL system.

After the SPRA Muck Meeting, Natural Resources

stated via email: "Thank you for organizing such a well attended meeting. I think the structure of your agenda worked well. We look forward to working with the community to make the project a success for everyone." SPRA looks forward to future discussions with Natural Resources as questions and comments arise. To learn more about the county-wide dredging projects, you may visit the Brevard County Natural Resources website and access the dredging projects at http://www. brevardcounty.us/NaturalResources/DredgingProjects

# ALGAE COLLECTION TECHNOLOGY Estuary Clean-up & Alternative Energy

Algae Collection Technology, LLC (ACT) conducted a macro algae harvesting demonstration for Florida permitting officials, in the IRL just east of downtown Melbourne. The successful demonstration was a major step toward securing harvesting permits that will allow excess harmful algae to be removed from estuaries





and then work with partners to convert the algae into commercially beneficial products, such as alternative energy sources. But issues with permitting agencies have not allowed this process to move forward. ACT's goal was to show that the environmental impact appeared negligible, so a permit could be issued to do a research pilot program. The research from the pilot would measure: the amount of harmful nutrients removed from the estuary when excess algae is removed, the impact and volume of any by-catch, the improvement of water quality by avoiding anoxic conditions created by decomposing algae, the impact on sea grasses and juvenile species, and the potential improvement in water clarity/quality. Algae acts like a sponge for runoff nutrients like phosphorous and nitrogen (fertilizers). When you remove algae, it takes the nutrients with it and keeps the estuary from simply adding more and more nutrients to the system. Algae grows into huge deposits that are often several feet thick. If they are not removed, those algae deposits die and create anoxic conditions where surrounding sea life dies. The cleanup process that removes the algae can be expensive, but there may be commercial value of the product that could lead to the estuary cleanup being financed by commercial partners with limited governmental expense.

# **MUCK PROJECT ASSURANCES**

SPRA expressed strong concerns that residents need to have several assurances to help lessen the impact of the muck dredging project and to ensure that the 10 acre sediment deposition site is returned to an excellent condition after the north Grand Canal project is completed. These are listed as follows;

**1. Sight/Visual:** Keep as large a buffer of vegetation around the periphery in place throughout the process. Provide architectural drawings/renderings of the project as viewed from N. Waterway and T. Island with design engineering drawings review to ensure they match the renderings.

**2. Noise:** The current buffer provides noise relief. Residents need a limit on decibel levels and assurances that they will not increase from current levels. A decibel survey prior to, during and post project will demonstrate compliance is met.

**3. Smell/Odor:** Actions should be taken to minimize odor.

**4. Restoration:** Plans for restoration will be important with community-approved landscape architectural renderings.

**5. Science:** Composition of the muck should be sampled for Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and



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RCRA metals from appropriate sampling locations, and sampled for herbicides/pesticides prior to dredging.

**6. IRL Future Health:** Similar problems will recur unless muck-producing inputs are reduced. This will require intelligent choices such as: a street sweeping program, stormwater system upgrades, replacement or slip-lining of sanitary sewer lines; stopping sewage dumps, and assessing industrial discharges into the IRL. FIT has been allocated a \$1 million grant for research for this purpose.



# AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS: JUNE/JULY 2015

### AREA 1 🗲

KREATHA HASTON • 536-5137 • khaston@spranews.com

The old bookstore site on Ocean Blvd. has opened its doors to a martial arts business. Work is progressing to remodel the entire location. Happy Mother's Day.

## AREA 2 >

- BEN HAYNER bhayner@spranews.com
- All is well with no issues to report.

### AREA 3 🗲

AL SKINNER • 773-6723 • askinner@spranews.com

Area 3 needs a co-director. There are no other issues to report.

#### AREA 4 🗲

MARILYNN COLLINS • 773-8490 • mcollins@spranews.com KREATHA HASTON • 536-5137 • khaston@spranews.com

 Have a safe and happy 4th of July. If you have any suggestions for area 4 please contact your area directors.

#### AREA 5 🗲

BOB CAHALL • 779-9282 • bcahall@spranews.com

- Hope everyone had a great Memorial Day and wishing all a wonderful and safe summer.
- We are looking for a volunteer to help make some new letters for the North Waterway entrance wall.



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All material costs will be reimbursed. Please contact me if you would like to work on this important task at our entranceway. I may have some materials I can donate.

- Now that children are out of school, please take extra care when driving. Parents and residents are asking every one to drive the correct way on Skylark Blvd. Children often don't look both ways and will dart out into the road not looking for cars traveling in the wrong direction. We need to politely remind offenders that, not only is it illegal and dangerous, but it is a poor example to teenage and other drivers. Thank you in advance for you help in this matter.
- A special thanks for people who pick up trash and do other things to help keep our community a better and cleaner place ion which to live.

#### AREA 6 🗲

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 Thanks to all for yard of the month recommendations. Hope you all have a great summer.

#### SPRA AGENDA May 11, 2015

- Call Meeting to order
- SPRA Muck Meeting Update: It was estimated that about 175 attended the muck meeting on April 13, 2015. There were many questions asked and answered. A list of assurances about the project and its outcomes will be presented to the County. Residents think the north grand canal project is important, but intelligent use of technology and resident health and safety must also be in place.
- Treasurer's Report sent to the SPRA Board

# Area Directors' Reports

- Area 1: No report
- Area 2: No report.
- Area 3: SPRA needs a co-director for Area 3.
- Area 4: All is well, with no issues to report.
- Area 5: (a) Repairs were made to the North Waterway light by Area Director Bob Cahall. The light is now working. (b) Bob Cahall has a jig saw





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to cut replacement letters for the North Waterway wall, as the letters are deteriorating. Bob needs a volunteer to help him cut these letters for this community. (c) Some residents continue to drive the wrong way on Skylark.

• Area 6: No issues to report.

# **Ongoing Business**

- SPRA Community Relations & Events Committee discussion regarding a contact list and funding for community meeting and event signs occurred. Chairperson Laura Walko will be looking into the costs and design for the signs. New committee members are welcome.
- Additional plantings without county approval is subject to removal by the county at its discretion. More plantings add to maintenance costs, as there are limited funds in the landscaping and maintenance

budget.

- The list of Assurances regarding the muck dredging project and projected outcomes will be published in the Shore News for June/July 2015.
- YOM and area director reports are due May 20th. The SN YOM photo is for Area 6.
- The next SPRA meeting is June 8th, and there is no July meeting.

### **BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS:**

(1) Fire Rescue Award - Brevard County Fire Rescue has been selected EMS Provider of the Year (2015) by the State of Florida Division of EMS. The Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Provider of the Year Award recognizes EMS organizations for outstanding commitment to EMS service delivery. The prestigious award honors a licensed EMS provider that has met the





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following criteria:

- participates in the Florida Pre-hospital EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS)
- accumulates no administrative action pending from the Department of Health
- assumed a leadership role in the Florida EMS system and community
- demonstrates outstanding initiative in the area of public education and/or training
- demonstrates excellence in the areas of quality assurance/improvement and medical control protocol development/implementation.

This is a statewide recognition of the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our EMS Division and of the commitment to the welfare, well being and safety of our community.

(2) Offenders Email Alert - Brevard County Sheriff's Office - This Offenders email Alert will notify residents

of Sexual Offenders who live in or near the SPRA area. You may register with the "notification address" of your residence to be notified of the presence of registered offenders.

Children are particularly vulnerable to offenders, and open communication between parents and children are vital to family safety. If a picture is available from your government Web site, show it to your family members. In general terms, tell your children that this person has hurt someone before. Explain to them they should stay away from this individual, but avoid scary details. The purpose behind community notification is to reduce the chance of future victimization by better informing the public, as nearly 80% of all sex crimes are committed by someone known to the victim.

This notification will assist you and your family in avoiding situations that may make you vulnerable.

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Yard of the Month winners are entitled to a FREE MOWER BLADE SHARPENING courtesy of A-1-A Lawnmower Shop. Be sure to bring the newsletter with you when you visit the shop. **Please contact your Area Director to nominate a yard for Yard of the Month.** 





~ AREA 6 ~
 Kim Paul-Lormier
 428 Lighthouse Landing Street

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Please remember that these people have served their sentences and are not wanted by the Sheriff's office at this time. Citizen abuse of this information such as threats, intimidation, or harassment of these offenders is prohibited by law. The email to contact to be placed on the offenders email alert list notification is as follows notifications@icrimewatch.net ~ AREA 1 ~ Helen Ahammer - 581 Sea Gull Drive

~ AREA 2 ~ Ben Hayner - 168 SE Fourth Street

~ AREA 3 ~ Randy & Karen Hawkins – 650 First Avenue

~ AREA 4 ~ Eleanor Davidson - 335 Coral Reef Drive

~ AREA 5 ~ Barron & Michelle Nelson - 339 Ibis Lane

~ AREA 6 ~ Kim Paul-Lormier - 428 Lighthouse Landing Street

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