

VOTE AUGUST 30, 2016

The Brevard County Supervisor of Elections website at http://www.votebrevard.com/ provides information on candidates for offices in the primary election. When you visit the website, access the drop-down menu and select "2016 Candidates" to view the offices that are up for election. You can follow the links to find the candidates and descriptions of those offices.

For our South Patrick Shores area, there are several offices up for election in 2016. Visit their websites, and call or write the candidates if you have any questions. It is important to compare what incumbents have accomplished relative to what they promised to accomplish when they first ran for elective office and to research qualifications. These offices are up for election:

• State Representative, District 52, two-year term. There are four qualified candidates. (Write-ins not included)

• State Senator, District 17, four-year term. There are four qualified candidates. (Writeins not included.)

• Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, and Supervisor of Elections are all qualified and unopposed for four-year terms.

• Clerk of the Circuit Court, four-year term. There are three qualified candidates.

• School Board District 3, four-year term. There are four qualified, nonpartisan candidates.

• County Court Judges: Some are unopposed and other races have competing qualified candidates. PRESIDENT Ayn Marie Samuelson • 773.8167 asamuelson@spranews.com

RECORD SECRETARY Tania Hanlin • 759.3215 thanlin@spranews.com TREASURER

Mary Lou Coleman mcoleman@spranews.com

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR Ayn Marie Samuelson asamuelson@spranews.com LAURA WALKO Community Relations/Events 541.0442 Iwalko@spranews.com

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

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President's Message INDIAN RIVER LAGOON UPDATES

New IRL Plan: There has been much written and discussed regarding the deteriorated condition of the IRL over the past several months. Currently, residents are awaiting the new IRL plan for which there is expected to be a list of priorities and associated costs for helping the Lagoon. Citizens must be assured that the methodology used will be scientifically sound in reducing inputs and in demucking, and that dollars will be allocated to produce the most beneficial results. After all, we will likely be voting this fall to tax ourselves with a one mil property tax and the objective of achieving results to help restore the lagoon system. (Also, over the past few years, our non advalorem stormwater fees increased 78% to pay for upcoming improvements.) A well-coordinated IRL plan is expected to be in place for implementation and will include expected costs and priorities. This is anticipated to be a legitimate, executable plan and should be available for public viewing by the August 9th County Commission meeting.

Government Leading the Way: Government should lead the way by

Continued on Page 2



Continued from Page 1

actively demonstrating that they are also good stewards of our environment. Yet, government from Titusville to Palm Bay have sent untreated and/or partially treated wastewater into the lagoon far too often. Reducing this major nitrogen source to the IRL through improved management and upgrading wastewater treatment plants are important variables to consider. And, as has been stated by water quality experts, human waste is a source of nutrient loading into the IRL. This generates a series of guestions.

• Are the wastewater treatment plants overcapacity?

• Is there adequate back up when lift stations fail?

• Are there sufficient plans in place to minimize environmental impacts?

• Are there other effective treatment methodologies that can be implemented? Water quality experts Roy and Mary Spalding

wrote in *Florida Today*, "Nutrient loading has occurred in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) for decades and has adversely impacted its water quality and ecology. The commonly acknowledged first step for remediation of any contaminated water is control and elimination of sources." They noted that fertilizers and human waste are two major sources of nitrogen-loading into the IRL. Yet, those can be reduced by more effective treatment management, and technology exists to take septic tank effluent to main sanitary sewer lines with minimal disruption to property and streets. Existing wastewater treatment plants can also make upgrades to tertiary treatment.

Muck Composition: John Trefry Ph.D. from FIT is a muck expert. Muck, which he call black mayonnaise, has been determined to be 85%-95% water, by volume, and dry muck is 10%-20% organic matter and 60%-80% soil and sod. The IRL natural sediment, on the other hand, is composed of 90% sand and shell, 8% silt and clay, and about 2% organic matter. Muck depth and composition also varies within the lagoon system. Reduction of muck deposits through other means like aeration (O2) depends on the amount of





organic matter. The more organic matter there is, the greater degree of success there is using aeration.

A critical point about muck is that it continues to be the biggest source of nitrogen and phosphorus in the IRL, because it stores and continues to release the nutrients over time. Those nutrients then become available to algae, and fuels algae blooms. Muck accumulatespollutants, is readily resuspended and depletes oxygen in the water, and only bacteria lives in muck. Muck's impact on the lagoon appears to be significantly greater than runoff nutrients, which was a surprising funding. [Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution Seminar: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=BxjjOappyN8]

Toward a Healthy Lagoon: Dr. Trefry has

been diligently conducting research and working with other agencies to pragmatically deal with lagoon health. He recommends the following to benefit lagoon health:

• Prioritize muck dredging in the IRL where it will do the most good.

• Eliminate inputs into the Lagoon by rerouting direct runoff by using ponds, wetlands, treatment pipes and baffle boxes.

• Reduce fertilizers inputs, yard waste inputs, septic tank leaks and use street sweepers.

• Secure proper funding (to be used properly to ensure results).

• Aeration systems, such as emergency portable aeration systems (EPAs) can be placed where increased oxygen is needed, as indicated by existing sensors in the lagoon.





• Research needs to continue to ensure that progress is being made and to investigate other methodologies.

• Remediation can focus on oyster mats and reefs, seagrass planting and wetland restoration after inputs and demucking are addressed.

Bacteria in the IRL: Very warm waters, and one case of a potentially deadly flesh destroying bacteria in Brevard County, have prompted Florida health officials to urge the public to avoid exposure to the rare bacterial infection Vibrio vulnificus. This is a potentially deadly saltwater bacteria that can infect humans. The bacteria occurs in warm, stagnant inshore waters, rather than in the ocean, where it can't tolerate high salt levels. This makes the lagoon a welcoming habitat for the bacteria. Vibrio infections tend to occur between May and October, according to the CDC. Warm water and moderate salt levels can also increase the number of V. vulnificus organisms in shellfish. Be cautious over the summer months.

BREVARD COUNTY BUDGET

http://www.brevardcounty.us/Budget/ Budgets/ProposedBudget

The County manager has proposed a tentative \$1.05 billion budget with tax/millage rates that exceed what currently is permitted under the cap in the county charter. The tax cap referendum was approved in 2008 by 73% of Brevard County voters. The county



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



charter cap stays in place, unless county commissioners vote by at least a supermajority of 4 to 1, to declare that certain events can be described as "emergency or critical needs." Otherwise, the charter cap does not allow County revenue from property taxes to increase by more than 3 percent from the previous year or the percent change in CPI, excluding any revenue calculated for new construction.

Because property values overall are 8 % higher than last year, the money raised from property taxes would increase, and this is where the tax cap comes into play. Overall tax rates for the FY 2016-17 budget year would still be expected to decrease, even if the BOCC voted the millage rates as emergency

or critical. Some critical needs cited were defined as: pay raises, road maintenance, bus service, expanded veterans' services and an increase in funds for the Supervisor of Elections for election costs.

Budget Details: The proposed aggregate operating tax rate for the next budget year is \$6.59 per \$1,000 of taxable value, down from the current budget year tax rate.

The proposed general fund tax rate is \$4.36 per \$1,000 of taxable value, down from this current year.

The proposed \$1.05 billion budget is 3.6 percent below the current budget of \$1.09 billion. Commissioners approved a \$1.04 billion budget last September 2015, but it was adjusted to \$1.09 billion, a 4.8 percent





increase, by amendment over the current fiscal year. Some budget details:

• The proposed budget includes additional funding of \$1.26 million for maintaining 23 miles of roads.

• Listed among "ongoing challenges" are finding money for the Indian River Lagoon (a one mil tax to be voted on this fall); employee retention; facility improvements and repairs; vehicle and equipment maintenance and replacement; and technology.

• County employee raises: a 1.5 percent cost-of-living raise for county employees under the management of the BOCC.

Sheriff's Office employees: a 3 percent

pay raise for civilian employees, and step increases and adjustments averaging 3 percent for deputies and sworn employees. Commissioners will discuss the budget proposal, and initially vote on the proposed property tax rates at the July 26 meeting. Budget hearings are scheduled for September 13th and 27th, when Commissioners will cast final votes on the tax rate and county budget for FY 2016/17.

Also in play is the Brevard County Professional Firefighters Local 2969 who has filed a lawsuit seeking to eliminate the voter approved, charter tax cap, as they maintain it violates the Florida Constitution.



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RESORT RENTAL **ORDINANCE:** From Section 62-1102 of the County Code, a resort dwelling means "any single family dwelling or multifamily dwelling unit which is rented for periods of less than 90 days or three calendar months, whichever is less. For the purposes of this chapter, a resort dwelling is a commercial use. For the purposes of this definition, subleases for less than 90 days are to be considered separate rental periods." The County's zoning regulations only apply to resort dwellings. Such rentals are subject to local zoning regulations and can be investigated by Code Enforcement staff.

Short-Term Rental Tax: As per Section 102-124 of the County Code, a property owner who rents living quarters for a period of 6 months or less or operates a vacation rental must pay a Tourist Development Tax to the Tax Collector. By definition vacation, resort or transient rentals are, living quarters that include, but are not limited to, any private residence or private housing rented out for monetary or other consideration for a period of less than six months. Rental periods for more than 6 months are not considered short-term, transient or vacation rentals and are not subject to the tourist tax.

RENTING DOCK SPACE: According to County Code, a dock is an "accessory use" to a single family residence. Its use, therefore, is limited to the residents of the residence, but it cannot be rented out to the benefit of anyone who does not actually reside on the property.

AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS: June-July 2016

AREA 1 >

KREATHA HASTON • 536-5137 • khaston@spranews.com • Ocean Blvd. Median plantings are a welcome addition to the area.

AREA 2 🗲

CHRIS DAVIS • cdavis@spranews.com

• Residents installed a sign in the park bulletin board to bring awareness to the community of things that are changing and being updated in Area 2. Hopefully, this will also encourage more membership in the South Patrick Residents Association, as the website





is also listed to promote our community.

• We purchased native plants from Maple Street Natives to plant in the median/islands on Ocean Boulevard at SR A1A. Muhly grass, coontie, dune sunflower, indian blanket, red sage, and seaside goldenrod were planted in July. Thank you to the volunteers who planted together.

• Residents asked the county not to spray fertilizer or weed spray, as Area 2 has opted to self-weed and fertilize. The county installed two hose bibs in the medians, so we can water on each island. Our choices in regards to plantings, and no fertilization or weed spray, is to show the community how we can keep our community beautiful without polluting the lagoon.

• Area 2 has many active homeowners volunteering for several improvements we are involved in, but we are seeking to do more.

• Recently we trimmed the trees along the walkway to the park between SE First and Sea Park. We will be planning another trimming in this area sometime this fall.

• Please join our Facebook group for updates and happenings on South Patrick Shores Families. Give us your ideas and suggestions.

• Please become a member of SPRA for the very minimal \$15 per year!

AREA 3 🗲

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com RICK MARIANI • rick.mariani@yahoo.com

 Residents who live along Berkeley St. have followed the County's strict process to secure approval for a speed hump. Residents had repeatedly called on Sheriff deputies to attempt to slow traffic, but this was not a permanent solution. The issue of safety has always held the highest value for both the state and the county, and the Berkeley Street situation demonstrated such a need. Some of our area's MSTU funds will used, and residents also took contributions from a few residents at the D4 Commissioner's request. It is hoped that the speed hump will produce a significant effect on lowering the speed along the road to create a safer street for residents and their families.

• The ditch on both sides of Berkeley @ South Patrick Dr. is in need of care.





• The County contractor is working on the irrigation pump at the Berkeley medians.

AREA 4 🗲

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

• Please remember to drive slowly and watch out for children, as school is starting soon.

AREA 5 >

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

• I hope everyone is having a great summer.

If you would like to volunteer and help make our neighborhood an even better place to live, then attend our monthly meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7:15 pm at the Schechter Center. There is no obligation if you attend, and the meetings are very informative and provide an opportunity to come together and share concerns and issues. Your ideas and opinions are valuable.
Yard of the month nominations are needed. Please email your nominee's name and address.

AREA 6 >

CLYDE BERRY • 779-3129 • cberry@spranews.com • A drive around the neighborhood reflects the huge effort folks have been putting into keeping their properties looking great!

• As a reminder, nowhere in our beachside areas can we rent our properties for less than 90 days. This is a Brevard County ordinance.

STATE & COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS State Attorney Phil Archer: 1) Facebook

Fake Pages: Recently, our office was contacted by a woman in the Virgin Islands asking when she could expect to receive grant funds she had applied for through our Facebook page. She had been scammed by someone who created a fake page to resemble the official State Attorney Phil Archer Facebook page. The victim had already sent the scammers several thousands of dollars before calling us. It was determined this victim received a "Phil Archer friend request" through a legitimate friend whose account had been compromised. While the investigation continues, it's a good time to remind everyone that if you find a fake Facebook page with your real name, report it immediately, as it could also be a sign of identity theft. To report a fake Facebook





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SATELLITE BEACH RECREATION DEPARTMENT www.satellitebeachrecreation.org

account that is pretending to be you: Go to the imposter profile, Click on the cover photo and select "Report," then Follow the on-screen instructions. 2) Chip Enabled Credit Cards, A False Sense of Security: Chip-enabled credit cards are more secure in theory, but not so much in practice. Less than 40% of merchants in the U.S. have chip-enabled terminals, meaning that most of us are using our high tech cards as plain old "mag stripe" cards. These new cards are as vulnerable as the magnetic stripe ones, leading to a false sense of security. Cards can still be compromised because so few terminals are chip-enabled. Don't become a victim:

• Monitor your transactions often and review statements for irregularities.

• For online purchases, use secure sites that have "https" at the beginning of their web address. The "s" stands for "secure."

• Sign up for text alerts from your card issuer so you can be notified immediately of suspicious charges.

SATELLITE BEACH LIBRARY

<u>Adults</u>

Tuesdays 12:30pm-3:00pm – SHINE insurance counseling. Help with health insurance for seniors & disabled. Florida Department of Elder Affairs. 321-426-0261.

Monday, August 15, 6:00pm – Turning 65 or retiring? Free Medicare education. Call Kim 321-305-2554.

Monday, August 29, 1:00pm – Barbara's Book Chats. Where Lilacs Still Bloom by Jane Kirkpatrick.

Children & Teens

Monday, August 1, 1:00pm – Meet the Space Coast Therapy Dogs! 5 & up.

Tuesday, August 2, 6:00pm – Teen Time. Book talks & games. 12 & up.

Monday, August 15, 3:00pm – Rave About Your Fave. Sunshine State Book Club (Grades 3-6). Discuss favorite SSYRA books over snacks.

NEED BOAT REPAIR?

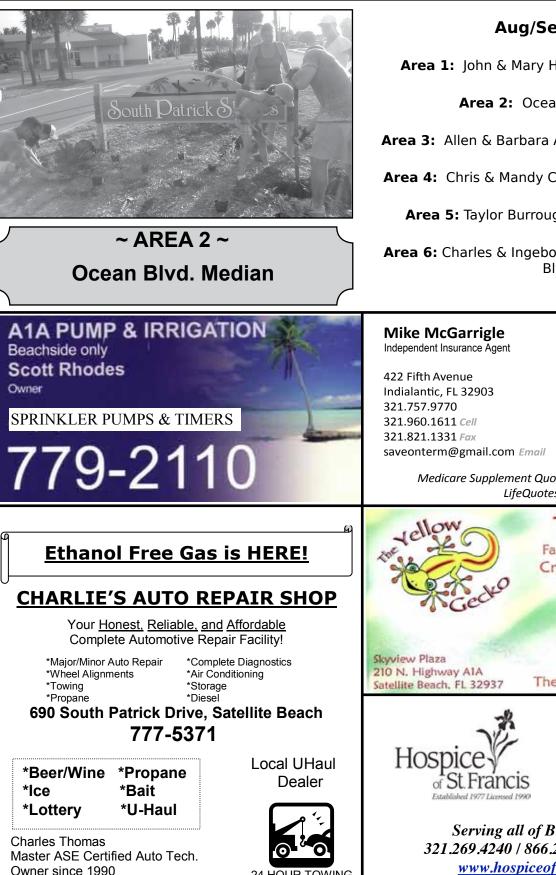
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Yard of the Month winners are entitled to a FREE MOWER BLADE SHARPENING courtesy of A-1-A Lawnmower Shop. Be sure to bring the newsletter with you when you visit the shop. Please contact your Area Director to nominate a yard for Yard of the Month.





Aug/Sep 2016

Area 1: John & Mary Hanlon, 243 Ocean Blvd.

Area 2: Ocean Blvd. Median

Area 3: Allen & Barbara Angy, 400 East 1st Avenue

Area 4: Chris & Mandy Cockrell, 101 Coral Reef Dr.

Area 5: Taylor Burroughs, 481 Cardinal Drive

Area 6: Charles & Ingeborg Holland, 479 Port Royal Blvd

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> Tue-Fri 10am-5:00pm Saturday 10am-4pm

Michelle, Owner 321.745.8903 TheYellowGecko@gmail.com

> Call us for a free consultation about our programs and services.

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