

# JUNE/JULY 2016 Shore News

South Patrick Residents Association  
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## HOME SECURITY EVENT

Our well-attended April 11th meeting with the Sheriff's Crime Prevention staff offered excellent information about the home security survey, neighborhood watch program and the COP program. Wanda and Pam were well-informed, and the attendees clearly benefited from the presentation. Residents can have their homes inspected inside and out by these crime prevention experts, who will identify potential security concerns. Residents may contact them at the Crime Prevention Unit, 321-264-7755.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Five sign locations were identified for placement within Area 2: the east and west ends of Ocean Blvd., the east end of SE 1st St., and the east and west ends of Sea Park Blvd. The signs have been installed using inmate labor, and the signs, posts and labor were provided at no cost extra to our community. A huge "Thank You" goes out to Sheriff Wayne Ivey and his professional staff.

## WELCOME TO NEW AREA 2 DIRECTOR

SPRA volunteer Chris Davis is our new Area 2 Director. SPRA welcomes her enthusiasm and the new ideas that she is bringing. SPRA also thanks Ben Hayner, who served as Area 2 Director for several years and was instrumental in placing the Ocean Blvd sign at SR A1A.

## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON HEALTH – A Call To Action

Much of what you will read in this issue of the Shore News relates to the Lagoon's health, how it impacts us, and what we can do to help. This means we need to become involved in any number of ways, either by quietly doing what works, sharing expertise about what can help with others in our community, or by directly working with government officials and county staff. The time is well past to just sit and do nothing.

## IS THE INDIAN RIVER DOA?

*By Ayn Marie Samuelson, Florida Today Guest columnist*  
Some 20 years ago, FLORIDA TODAY's headlines informed readers that our Lagoon was sick. Over two

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  
lwalko@spranews.com

PET DATABASE  
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lhilliard@spranews.com

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decades later, despite good intentions at all levels of government, the diagnosis is grave. Why? Because the layers of government and their bureaucracies, from the federal and state, to the counties and cities, have failed to properly diagnose and treat the "patient".

No coordinated, legitimate plan for recovery has been crafted yet. More accurately, the political and bureaucratic functions of government have become collaborators in failure, ultimately leading to taxpayer desperation and distrust. For example, after the most recent fish-kill, the county's response has been to suggest a property tax increase, without first having proposed a plausible plan of action that identifies the lawful responsibilities and the available resources at each level of government. We know from experience that higher taxes will not activate quality decision-making.

Instead of a well-researched, coordinated plan of action that assesses both costs and benefits, and efficient allocation of our limited resources, residents encountered more government resolutions, committees and task forces. This occurred despite federal, state, and local laws that require government to ensure the public health by providing citizens with clean and safe water through proper government accountability.

**Take practical steps.** At the federal level, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was recently reauthorized, which could be one source of funding for the estuary. Further, the federal government has the authority to promote cooperation and streamlining among bureaucratic agencies, who are often prone to repetitiveness, proprietary tendencies and permitting nightmares.

*Continued on Page 2*

**SPRA Community Meeting • Monday, June 13, 2016, 7:15 p.m.**  
**All Welcome • David Schechter Center • No July Meeting**

By Ayn Samuelson

*Continued from Page 1*

Florida Statutes also reference several state responsibilities for clean and safe water. For example, ss. 153 and ss. 403 specify adequate pollution control and sanitary sewer systems, setting forth state accountability to protect residents from sewage and stormwater runoff toxins. Amendment 1 allows legislative discretion to help fund infrastructure upgrades, with the objective of producing cleaner runoff into the IRL by minimizing noxious inputs. Technology is currently available to reduce such inputs.

Florida's counties and cities should focus on maintenance and upgrades to the sanitary sewers and stormwater infrastructure, reduction of fertilizers, the use of street sweepers, and reasonable septic checks upon sale of a property, without adding burdensome regulations. In addition, government must minimize, and eventually

eliminate, dumping untreated or semi-treated sewage into the lagoon system.

**Dredging really best?** Unfortunately, dredging/demucking appears to be the most acceptable method employed by governmental decision-makers, even though it has the potential to remove both living and dead creatures from the creeks and canals, as well as to stir up solids and toxins into the waterways, impacting both wildlife and humans.

Why not allocate dredging dollars to fund a less costly and more environmentally friendly methodology? Empirical evidence points to other technologies that can be less disruptive to the environment, and less costly than the demucking process, while cleaning up the ailing Lagoon system.

Can government be trusted to lead toward the best solution in term of costs and benefits, or must residents



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take the lead? We lack confidence that government "doctors" can deliver, as our beloved IRL "patient" is on its last legs and may soon be dead on arrival.

#### **RAW SEWAGE SPILL: Sea Park Retention Pond**

##### **A description of our Sea Park detention pond area:**

"The Brevard County Watershed Management Program purchased the abandoned Sea Park Sewer Plant and worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to create a two-acre regional detention pond, soccer fields, a park and a playground. Water stored in the pond is used to irrigate the soccer fields. This pond serves a drainage basin of 61 acres of residential area providing detention of pollutants prior to effluent outflowing to the Banana River." This is a pleasant and idealized concept of what role the pond should play. The reality is that there are legitimate concerns about the health and safety of our community.

**May 2016 Sewage Spill:** In May, a 20 year old pipe broke on South Patrick Drive in Indian Harbour, and

1 million gallons of raw sewage was sent into a canal leading to the River. In addition, the county pumped nearly 700,000 gallons of raw sewage into the Sea Park pond, located across from Sea Park Elementary, next to our Community Park and Fire Station 62. Brevard Utilities stated that their ability to store/haul the raw sewage was exhausted. A recent communication from them stated: Tankers are used to transport sewage to another area and remove the burden for the system under repair. This method has worked successfully on numerous occasions. Like all things, there are limitations based on the number of available tankers, driver time, endurance of County personnel, and tanker loading pumps. If a repair ever goes too long, these limitations come into play. When this happens, the best option to protect public health and limit damage to personal property is to divert sewage to the retention pond. Retention ponds are designed to reduce the amount of stormwater contaminants discharged to the lagoon. We are well aware that sewage is not stormwater, but the pond has



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provided backup on occasion and prevented, or limited, the amount of contaminated water discharged into the lagoon. The treatment of sewage is a natural process. We treat the sewage at the treatment plant using natural processes – we just enhance and accelerate them. Treatment in a retention basin is the last choice, but it is viable in an emergency. The B-19 lift station adjacent to the Sea Park retention pond pumps over a million gallons a day – holding one day's flow would require thirteen tanks 30' x 30' x 12'. It is easy to see on that basis why the retention pond was chosen as the most viable alternative for emergency releases. The money required to build tanks would be better spent to correct the force main issue. I would expect that conditions would return to normal in the pond within a few days of a sewage release."

**Other sewer line breaks:** In 2012, a spill occurred in the same area along South Patrick Drive. At that time, 60,000 gallons of sewage was discharged into the same canal, when a pipe failed. In summer of 2007, there was

a critical sewage spill into the Lagoon, as well as into the Sea Park detention pond. This spill was also due to a sewer pipe failure, along South Patrick Drive near Pinetree in Indian Harbour. After this spill, I requested the following from the County: "SPRA is requesting the Sea Park detention pond be 'restored' to its original condition, like it was prior to the raw sewage dump. That should include a new pump and 'fountain', as well as any cleaning appropriate to expedite restoration of the pond." The County did expedite these requests.

#### **County Response to Sewage Spill by Stockton Whitten, County Manager**

A recent break in the sewer line at South Patrick and Anchor drives has prompted much discussion regarding the County's aging infrastructure. Here are the facts:

- There are more than 26 projects completed, underway or currently scheduled Beachside, between Pineda Causeway, south to Eau Gallie Boulevard. It's within this corridor that a 20-year-old wastewater pipe recently ruptured. Repairs and upgrades were already in the

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*Area*  
Director reports

works, with completion on all of the projects targeted within the next six years. Projects include replacement and rehabilitation of lift stations and rehabilitation and relining of wastewater pipes.

- The Beachside projects are included among \$134 million in water/wastewater upgrades scheduled countywide over the next decade. The projects were approved for funding by the Board of County Commissioners in December 2013. Nearly \$67 million of these projects will be funded through utility revenue bonds and low-interest loans. Some will be funded on a pay-as-we go basis.

- None of the upgrades are being financed from the County's general fund, or taxes of any sort, as Brevard County Utility Services is an Enterprise Fund and cannot receive general tax dollars. All upgrades are funded by user fees, through a series of rate adjustments approved by the Board of County Commissioners beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

## AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS: June-July 2016

### AREA 1 ►

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

- Please slow down, as children are now out of school.

### AREA 2 ►

CHRIS DAVIS • cdavis@spranews.com

- The Neighborhood Watch program is in full swing with the new signs.

- SPRA Community Park kiosk is getting a new lock and keys for residents to post issues that affect the well-being of the neighborhood.

- Area 2 held a meeting in May at the fire station #62. Residents made and donated an above-ground garden box that has been placed in the front of the fire station. The next meeting for Area 2 will be in fall of 2016.

- An area that needs our attention runs along the east side of the park. This is a path that children and residents use, but it is overgrown. A work party will be created to cleanup the area.

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### AREA 3 ►

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

RICK MARIANI • rick.mariani@yahoo.com

- The street light that is out on Exeter and 4th has been reported to FPL and is on its schedule to be fixed. It usually takes about one week to be repaired.
- Residents area should be careful of their small dogs and cats outside after dark. Coyotes have been spotted in our area. Please do not feed them, and there is a fine for doing so.
- Thank you to all our Veterans everywhere who have served our country to keep us free.
- Lawn of the month nominations are welcome. Please provide names and addresses.

### AREA 4 ►

MARILYNN COLLINS • 773-8490 • mcollins@spranews.com

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

- Clippings, leaves, boards, branches, and other debris have collected up in the eastern portion of Lake Shepard. Please keep all cut vegetation out of the water, including mangrove hedges and grass blown off of docks.
- Lake Shepard residents collected 4,000 of dead fish during the kill.
- There continue to be complaints about residents parking along the east side of Coral Reef, as this leaves ruts in the grassy area, erodes the edge of the road, and limits space for walkers and bikers.
- Please send us nominations for yard of the month.

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### AREA 5 ►

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

- To nominate a yard of the month, please contact me with residents' names and addresses.
- If you would like me to include an issue in the area report, please contact me.
- Skylark residents: Please volunteer to "Adopt My Median" in front of your home.

### AREA 6 ►

CLYDE BERRY • 779-3129 • cberry@spranews.com

- Mark Ekdahl, an area 6 resident who owns the company "Roots an Culture", did an outstanding job of landscaping at the Sleepy Lagoon entranceway.
- SPRA contributed \$750 to the re-landscaping project.



### SPRA BEAUTIFICATION

Ayn Samuelson met with County Landscape Manager Jason Kelly in May. They toured SPRA to examine several areas that are in need of some new plantings for beautification. Mr. Kelly stated that he would create a few drawings of these locations to give us plant suggestions that would add color, be low maintenance, and require minimal watering.

### FOOD NOT LAWNS by Dawn Maletzke Area 2

The recent fishkill and precarious health of the Lagoon and the Sea Park detention pond at South Patrick Community Park, have prompted residents to make changes. Several of us who live in Area 2 were interested in growing and eating organic food, and that interest, coupled with considering how to reduce the amount of nutrients and chemicals we add to stormwater run-off from our lawns, led us to start a local chapter of the international Food Not Lawns. The three main tenets are:

- Help each other turn lawns into gardens.
- Host events to share seeds, plants, skills, tools, land and information.
- Educate and advocate for communities that want to take back control of their food sources.
- We will be hosting our first annual seed swap this summer and will have opportunities for community involvement in several neighborhood work parties. Join



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the movement at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/foodnotlawnsbrevard/> and at <http://foodnotlawnsbrevard.blogspot.com/>. Also, join our group on Facebook called South Patrick Shores Families at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthPatrickShores/>

#### NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS by Tamara Vena Area 2

There are options for beautifying, renewing, and encouraging the health of our local pond at South Patrick Community Park by using native aquatic plants. Native plants can help the small pond cope with the amount of runoff from local neighborhood lawns and help purify the returned wastewater. According to FWC, aquatic plants growing in around a pond provide many benefits, including maintaining water quality by reducing erosion and absorbing nutrients. They draw up excess nutrients, filter out contaminants, and improve water clarity. They also provide habitat and shelter to birds, turtles, and fish. Several native plant species have

been used successfully throughout Florida and have provided excellent restoration results. These plants are pickerelweed, sand cordgrass, duck potato, golden canna, among others. We also are calling for the re-establishment of our fishery in the pond, since almost all of the fish have died in response to the sewage spill. The cleanup, repair, and restoration of our pond is of utmost importance to our community. <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/recreation/pond-management/>

#### LAKE SHEPARD INITIATIVE by Dixie Vaughn-Wynn Area 4

A simple, low-cost action by individual homeowners can help Lake Shepard and the Lagoon. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/329196050565250/> A two page flyer has been distributed to Lake Shepard residents. We also want to include neighbors who live on adjoining canals, as we are all interconnected to help our estuary,

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one house at a time. We hope this encourages other waterfront communities to adopt this approach. No resident is being asked to contribute money, and participation is voluntary.

#### **SINK YOUR GUTTERS by Dixie Vaughn Wynn Area 4**

The sink your gutters project will prevent hundreds of gallons of runoff per home from entering the Lagoon, and it can be done by most homeowners themselves. We sunk four downspouts into our yard to direct the huge amount of water that runs off our roof during rainstorms. Instead, our runoff is mainly absorbed by our yard, rather than running directly into the lagoon. We dug four trenches leading away from our foundation at each downspout. Each trench was about 10' long, 1' wide, and 1' deep. Then, 10' lengths of flexible, corrugated, perforated 4" pipe were laid in each trench. One end of

the perforated pipe was connected to a downspout with a downpipe adapter. The other end of the perforated pipe was connected to a 6" round catch basin with a 6" round grate cover. The top of the catch basin should sit at ground level to allow for overflow into the yard during extra heavy downpours, and it should be low enough so that the lawnmower will pass over. All parts are available at Lowe's and Home Depot, where garden staff can give further explanation. For each gutter, you will need a 6" round catch basin @ \$9.99; a 6" grate cover @ \$5.99; a downpipe adapter @ \$4.99; and a 4" X 10' pipe @ \$7.30. We sunk 4 drains for a total cost of \$113.08, plus tax.

#### **FLORIDA STATE HIGHLIGHTS:**

**(1) State Attorney Phil Archer: Beware of Vacation Scams.** The Florida Department of Agriculture and

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Consumer Services issued a consumer alert warning Floridians of the ongoing scam offering fraudulent promotional vacation packages. Be cautious when receiving unsolicited phone calls or emails saying you won a "free luxury vacation," even if the vacation package looks to be offered by a legitimate travel agency such as Expedia, Travelocity, TripAdvisor. Protect yourself against travel and vacation scams with these tips: Go directly to the legitimate travel company's website and contact their customer service department to confirm the promotion. Verify if any complaints have been registered against the travel agency. Never give out credit card or checking account numbers over the phone unless you initiated the call and are certain of the company's credentials. Read the entire contract thoroughly, ask questions, and do not sign it if you have any concerns. **(2) Gas Pump Skimmer Update: Wiggle Your Card.** Criminals can easily capture your credit and debit card

information with small devices called skimmers. These devices read the magnetic stripe as the card is inserted, so give the card a bit of a wiggle as you put it in. The reader needs the stripe to go in a single, straight motion in order to be read correctly. Wiggling the card as you enter it in the slot won't interfere with your transaction, but will foil the skimmer. The chances of getting hit by a skimmer are higher on the weekend since it's harder for customers to report suspicious activity to their bank. Criminals typically install skimmers on Saturdays or Sundays and remove them before the banks reopen on Monday.



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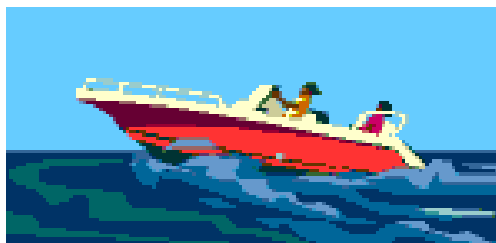
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**Please contact your Area Director to nominate a yard for Yard of the Month.**



~ AREA 6 ~

**Sleepy Lagoon Entranceway**

**June/July 2016**

**Area 1:** Bill & Cathy Farina, 228 NE 3rd Street

**Area 2:** Ryan Clapper & Kerry Soltis, 340 Sea Gull Dr.

**Area 3:** Bill & Linda Hudson, 372 Berkeley Street

**Area 4:** William & Marie Smith, 438 Atlantis Drive

**Area 5:** Susan Engleton, 479 Sandpiper Drive

**Area 6:** Sleepy Lagoon Entranceway

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