

OCT/NOV 2016 Shore News

South Patrick Residents Association www.spranews.com

OCTOBER 10th SOLAR ENERGY SPEAKERS Solar for the Space Coast

A program on residential solar energy introducing FLSUN (Florida Solar United Neighborhoods) will be presented at the SPRA monthly meeting on Monday October 10th at 7:15 p.m. at the David R. Schechter Center.

FLSUN's goal is to expand rooftop solar by making it more affordable through group purchasing power, while at the same time building a community of solar supporters to strengthen Florida's solar policies. The cost of solar installation has dropped dramatically over the last eight years, and along with reducing their energy bills, citizens will also be reducing their carbon footprint. FLSUN was created through a partnership by the League of Women Voters of Florida and Community Power Network (CPN), a DC based solar non-profit network. CPN's network consists of local, state and national organizations working to build and promote locally based renewable energy projects and policies. There are SUN Programs in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and Washington, DC.

Our guest speakers for the evening are Lorraine Koss and Mike Antheil. Lorraine Koss is an environmental policy and communications professional. She has more than 25 years experience working in D.C. with national non-profit organizations for water quality policy, most recently as Deputy Director for the US Water Alliance. Lorraine has a masters degree in Environmental Management from Duke University. Currently, she heads up the FL SUN initiative on the Space Coast.

Mike Antheil is the Florida Director of Market Development for Renovate America. He is a renewable energy policy and finance expert and most recently served as executive director of both the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association and the Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy. Mike graduated from Jacksonville University with Geography and Sociology degrees and is a founding member of Floridians for Solar Choice, a ballot initiative to promote rooftop solar.

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VOTE NOVEMBER 8, 2016

General Election Day is November 8, 2016, and the last day to register to vote in this election is October 11, 2016. Military and overseas ballots will be mailed out on September 23rd, and all other mail ballots will be sent on October 11th. The Early Voting period begins on October 24th and ends on November 5th. For more information or to request a mail-in ballot, visit the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections at their website www.votebrevard.com. You will also find information about candidates and amendments that will appear on the ballot.

SANTA'S RIDE VOLUNTEERS

Do your children look forward to Santa's ride throughout our SPRA area in December? Then you are just the person who can volunteer to help get Santa rolling this year. SPRA is looking for eager volunteers for the annual Santa's fire engine ride. Last year, the hard-working committee rebuilt the sleigh and added new reindeer and LED lights. This year, help is needed to set up the decorations at our local Fire Rescue Station 62 located on Sea Park Blvd across from Sea Park Elementary. Please contact Bill Davis @ AVITToys@gmail.com to join the fun.

President's Message

SEWER MAIN BREAK: On September 20, 2016, a major sewer main break at South Patrick Drive and Banana River Drive occurred near Doubles, and raw sewage spilled into the roadway. This affected both residents and businesses in the area. A Code Red was then issued: "Due to a sewer main break, Brevard County Utilities is requesting that you restrict

SPRA Community Meeting • Monday, October 10, 2016, 7:15 p.m.
SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM • David Schechter Center

By Ayn Samuelson

the amount of water that is sent down your drain." There were some CodeRed errors, and Emergency Management stated that the County is switching to a new system as of October 1st that should resolve some of the issues that have occurred. Utility Services Director Jim Helmer sent repair crews and tanker trucks to the site. The County is also using a retention pond at the B-20 Lift Station for the overflow, and likely used Sea Park Pond for overflow. The state DEP was notified.

SPRA Email to Commissioners: "Our beachside community is beginning to resemble a third world country with regard to sanitation. We have a recurring crisis that directly impacts the health and safety of our residents, business operations, and County Utility Services employees, who clean up the mess. It is not prudent to wait any longer for this main sewer line to be replaced, but only government has the authority and the responsibility to ensure the functionality of the sanitary sewer system. When is the last time you drove through raw sewage, complete with toilet paper on a state road? When was the last time you "filled" your commode throughout the day, waiting to flush and trying to be a good steward to the employees working on the lines and to the Lagoon? All of this continues to occur, just as the County residents prepare to vote on a sales tax referendum to secure funds for demucking and cleaning up our Lagoon. Meanwhile, E. coli bacteria, once again, was released into the

lagoon system, adding significantly to IRL pollution. This is not a matter of blame, but it is a critical matter of the responsibility for local governments to accept responsibility and to move forward, today, to act and to alleviate this recurring problem that impacts the health of citizens and of our Lagoon system."

Where Does Our Sewage Flow? The South Beaches Wastewater Treatment Plant in Melbourne Beach serves residents and businesses in the cities of Satellite Beach, Indian Harbor Beach, Indialantic, Melbourne Beach, as well as South Patrick Shores. If you have any questions, you may call the Utility Services Department at (321) 633-2091. The department's director is James Helmer who can be emailed at jim.helmer@brevardcounty.us

NEW LAGOON PLAN

The IRL Plan presentation at the August 9th County Commission meeting detailed the proposed \$303 million dollars worth of projects of the new Plan. After the presentation, Ayn Samuelson sent an email to the Natural Resources Department, Commissioners and US Rep Bill Posey regarding a few concerns. Parts of that email are included as follows:

An issue that has not been fully discussed is the concern that governments along the Lagoon system have sent untreated and/or partially treated wastewater into the lagoon due to equipment, line failures and even under-capacity. Individuals and institutions must demonstrate a shared responsibility to reduce the IRL



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inputs, and now is not the time to debate the fact that this type of discharge directly impacts the health and safety of our residents.

The federally owned properties along the lagoon, Kennedy (NASA), Cape Canaveral and PAFB, even though they are located within Brevard, are not under county government purview. I have been in contact with US Rep. Bill Posey regarding who has the oversight and responsibility for stormwater runoff and for their treatment plants. Who has the oversight and takes responsibility for cleaner stormwater runoff and ensuring the tertiary/wastewater treatment facilities are operating properly and have the proper capacity to handle the waste products? These facilities need to become better partners and share the responsibility for inputs into the Lagoon system. Also, the county and municipalities must take more responsibility for their share of untreated and partially treated sewage sent into the lagoon. These spills should be dealt with more effectively.

In addition, within the new IRL Plan, WWTF (wastewater

treatment facilities) discharges include funding allocation for upgrades for reclaimed water for Palm Bay and Titusville, and funding for septic system conversion. However, there was no mention in the project list of WWTF upgrades for facilities within the cities and the county that would increase their capacity or substantially upgrade these facilities. A concern exists as to where the additional sewage from the converted septic systems will be pumped and what effect this will have on existing WWTF operation in various location and the sewer lines themselves. These questions and the responsibility to act responsibly also involve Brevard Utilities and other departments, but surely coordination of all responsible entities must be considered to ensure the best results for restoring the lagoon. Proven results and the flexibility to add new methodology/technology are also essential for success. (Ayn Samuelson email)

U.S. Congressman Bill Posey's Office Provided this Response from NASA: "Kennedy Space Center (KSC) collects the domestic wastewater it produces



CHERYL ALYEA
President



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and transmits it to the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is operated under the authority of the U.S. Air Force 45th Space Wing. This facility then discharges the treated effluent to upland percolation basins, where it is absorbed into the area groundwater. There is no discharge of treated effluent to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) system. Regarding stormwater controls, there are over 80 permitted stormwater management systems that treat and attenuate stormwater runoff from improved areas at KSC. These stormwater systems are found throughout the approximately 6,000 acres of developed property within KSC. KSC is a continuing participant and stakeholder in the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) for both the IRL and the Banana River Lagoon, implemented as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. The TMDL Program, administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provides a systematic approach to establish how much pollution surface water bodies can assimilate while still meeting water quality standards that protect human health and aquatic life. TMDLs must be developed and implemented to reduce pollutants and clean up water bodies. The BMAPs provide for phased implementation of strategies necessary to ultimately achieve TMDL standards for water bodies that have been identified as "impaired" for particular pollutants of concern, such as the IRL (for levels of nitrogen and phosphorus). KSC is meeting or exceeding its objectives in support of Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen reduction goals required under the BMAPs for the Center's project zones. Through its participation in the TMDL Program,

as well as an array of ongoing KSC efforts in areas such as seagrass research, significant reduction of fertilizer use, facilities demolition (which results in reduction of impervious stormwater runoff area), and stormwater controls, KSC is committed to maintaining the health and sustainability of the Indian River Lagoon."

STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Stormwater Improvements: The August 23rd Board of County Commission meeting included a consent agenda item for the South Patrick Drive Force Main Replacement (Fiscal Impact: \$167,888.00). "The county has identified the need to rehabilitate or replace certain wastewater facilities identified as the South Patrick Drive Force Main Replacement. The limits of the project are from Desoto Parkway to Banana Rive Drive in Indian Harbour Beach. This force main has experienced intermittent failures and is in need of replacement." When this main sewer line breaks, the sewage flows into the street and ultimately into the lagoon system. In addition, the sewage backups to the Sea Park lift station and flows into the detention pond across from Sea Park Elementary. The County is in the process of a design plan for replacement of the entire 20-year-old, 1.1-mile PVC section of pipe, a project the County is trying to speed up as much as possible due to several recent breaks in the line. When the design is complete, the project will be put out for bid for replacement. The County is looking at ways to expedite that plan.

Infrastructure Asset Evaluation: The approved Capital Improvement Program for the County's Sanitary Sewer system is now posted on the Brevard

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Utilities Department's homepage, along with dates for the listed projects. <http://www.brevardcounty.us/docs/default-source/utility-services-documents/coffee-table-book-july-2013.pdf?sfvrsn=2> If you scroll to schedule of expenses on page 3, you see that the projects are front-loaded to the first 5 years (2014-2019) of this 20 year plan. The County hopes this will "begin to allay concerns about the Save Our Lagoon Plan excluding these actions to avoid duplication". South Beaches Sewer and Reclaimed Water System detailed project list begins on page 25.

NORTH GRAND CANAL MUCK PROJECT

The North Grand Canal de-mucking project is separate from the new IRL Plan. Funding has already been allocated toward the project, which, according to Brevard Natural Resources project manager Matt Culver, is in the processing of securing permitting. The next step will be to send RFP's to secure proposals for contracting out the actual work on the project. Once the contract is awarded, Mr. Culver suggested

that the contractor should come to speak with SPRA membership.

BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

(1) Lagoon Sales Tax Referendum: Here is the wording of the county referendum as it will appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot for the proposed sales tax to fund the new IRL Plan:

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum: To restore the Indian River Lagoon through financing, planning, constructing, maintaining and operating capital improvements and capital maintenance projects and programs designed to improve water quality, fish, wildlife and marine habitat, remove muck and reduce pollution, shall an ordinance be approved levying a half-cent sales tax for 10 years, and requiring deposit of all revenue to a Save Our Lagoon Trust Fund solely for such projects, with citizen committee oversight and annual independent audits?



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The County says that it has developed a plan to access state and federal funds. But first, they state that the county needs to demonstrate it is committed by putting money on the line. It is said that the County needs a "local, sustainable and reliable funding source, dedicated to lagoon restoration" to get a match to receive state Amendment 1 dollars and federal funds. Lagoon restoration projects include: muck management, water treatment facility upgrades, septic tank removal, living oyster breakwater reefs, education, and monitoring programs.

Questions: Will oversight be reliable to ensure the best use of taxpayer dollars? Is there a guarantee that the state and the feds will allocate matching funds once the county commits? Will other counties also step up to aid the Lagoon system? What will be the cost of borrowing money? Will local governments assume better responsibility for discharges into the

IRL waters? Will federal installations along the Lagoon also be helpful partners in cleaning up the lagoon system?

(2) Firefighter's Union Files Lawsuit: The Brevard County's firefighters' union has filed a lawsuit against the County claiming the charter cap referendum passed in 2008 limiting county property tax revenue increases is unconstitutional. They state that the existing cap limits the County Commission in crafting a budget that would benefit staff and residents, adding that the county loses firefighters and other staff to jobs in other communities that have higher pay scales.

This cap on tax revenue increases was passed by voters after the state legislature approved a special law, specifically on behalf of Brevard County. Our county charter cap limits revenue increases from property taxes to no more than 3 percent from the

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previous year or the percent change in Consumer Price Index, whatever figure is lower. This computation does not include any new construction revenue. Since the state legislature created a law that supports the voted revenue cap, should the union sue the state rather than the county? Are there other ways for firefighters to secure pay raises rather than to seek to strike down a constitutional cap which was voted for by 73% of the voters in 2008?

Since the County must defend itself against the lawsuit, the county attorney suggested hiring an outside attorney for \$290 per hour to represent the county. However, the county attorney's office could represent the county commission in court, by defending the cap. He felt that the current claim could be beaten, although some commissioners also publicly support the charter cap removal. That begs the question as to whether the County will vigorously defend the charter amendment cap.

STATE OF FLORIDA HIGHLIGHTS

Florida Supreme Court: With Justice James Perry's recent announcement that he will retire at the end of this year, Gov. Rick Scott will select a new justice for the seven-member Florida Supreme Court. Justices face mandatory retirement at the age of 70 years, but based on the timing of their birthdays, they can serve out the remainder of their current six-year terms. Perry, who is 72, had been a Central Florida circuit judge when he appointed to the high court by former Gov.

Charlie Crist in 2009. He has spent sixteen years on the Florida Supreme Court. Choose wisely, Governor.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

Senate Everglades Restoration Passed: On September 15th, the U.S. Senate passed, in a 95-3 vote, Everglades restoration and water quality improvement legislation known as the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Senator Rubio, who fought for the passage of this legislation, as it is vital to the long-term plan to restore the Everglades and protect our coastal estuaries, including the Indian River Lagoon. CEPP will specifically focus on restoration of more natural flows into and through the central and southern Everglades, restoring more natural water flow, depth and durations into and within the central Everglades by accomplishing three objectives: increase storage, treatment, and conveyance of water south of Lake Okeechobee; remove canals and levees within the central Everglades; retain water in Everglades National Park and protect urban and agricultural areas to the east from flooding.

Lagoon Quote:

"In our half of the lagoon, stormwater runoff, wastewater treatment discharges, septic systems and excess fertilizer applications flood the lagoon with these harmful nutrients and sediments. In addition, a noxious mix of past sediment have piled up in the deeper parts of the lagoon in a form known as muck." Keith Winsten, Brevard Zoo Director, FL TODAY 08/13/2016



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AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS: Oct-Nov 2016

AREA 1 ►

KREATHA HASTON • 536-5137 • khaston@spranews.com
• The Ocean Blvd. and SR A1A medians are filling in with the foliage that was planted a few months ago. There is more greenery to come in the near future. Thanks to Area 2 volunteers for beautifying the area shared by Area 1 and Area 2 residents, as well as the entire community.

AREA 2 ►

CHRIS DAVIS • cdavis@spranews.com
• Thanks to the rain and the many efforts by our local residents, the 2 islands on Ocean Blvd are looking good! We have a very active group who has volunteered to pick weeds and do clean up on the islands to assure no spraying or pesticides are used on the islands. If you want to assist in any way please reach out or join us on South Patrick Shores Families to learn more about our events and updates. Once again, we are urging all residents to join SPRA by logging onto South Patrick Residents Association – Home or www.spranews.com. Here you can pay your dues of \$15.00 per year to be part of our influential association. Through this membership we are able to do many types of improvements, such as the median beautification.
• Area 2 is holding a meeting on October 8th at 10:00 am at the Sea Park Pavilion behind the fire station on

Sea Park. If it rains, we will hold the meeting inside the fire station. Therefore, this is a rain-or-shine meeting. Please join us and become part of a growing group of hands-on- neighbors who focus on safety, health and beautification. We want to hear from you! Join us!

• Area 2 is holding a work day on October 29th from 7:00 am-11:00 am between SE First and Sea Park. We are working on trimming up the dead branches on the walkway to the SPRA Community Park/Sea Park Elementary. Please come out with equipment and gloves and work together to make this area more attractive. Stay tuned for other future events!

• We have a very generous neighbor who also owns his own tree business, who is also a fire fighter with Brevard County Fire Rescue. His name is Jacob Smith with Final Cut Tree Works. He has volunteered to clear branches and do pick up following the trimming. Since we are so grateful for him and stepping up to the plate, we want to be sure to let you know that he does a great job and is reasonably priced. More importantly, he cleans up after the work and leaves customers pleased with the job. Jacob knows what customer service truly means. Please contact him for your tree trimming or tree removal needs. He can be reached at 321-368-0496.

• I met with the South Precinct of the Brevard County Sheriffs Office, and they are very interested in hearing from residents if they have any concerns, as they cannot help you if they are not informed. If you want to contact them, or if you have concerns about



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something in the neighborhood, please reach out to them on their non emergency line at: 321-253-6683.

AREA 3 ►

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

RICK MARIANI • rick.mariani@yahoo.com

• Brevard County Landscape Manager, Jason Kelly, is greatly appreciated for this attention to our SPRA area, and we value his expertise and dedication. His report regarding Area 3: The irrigation repairs have been made to Berkeley Street and the system is fully operational. Chris Herrnkind replaced the timer, 5 solenoids, and a breaker in the panel, probably due to a lightning strike. We have added additional time and days to the watering program to help the turf and plants come back, and we will change the schedule back to normal time and days in a couple of weeks. As for the breaker panel, I am currently working on getting a contractor to come out and look at all of the breaker panels in SPRA. Most of them have deteriorated and need to be replaced. This process will take a month or two before we can get them all repaired.

• There is a pothole on Berkeley for which a call will be placed to Road & Bridge for repair.

AREA 4 ►

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

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

• Shepard Lake residents are sharing ideas on to how to aerate Lake Shepard in hopes of forestalling another fish kill. On the south side of the lake, a resident has

installed an expensive "bubbler" to create oxygen in the water of her dock. One person is experimenting with ideas for a dock aerator, much like those in fish tanks. So far, he has had to eliminate the quietest (and least expensive) compressor because it does not have sufficient power to move the air, so he will use his noisier workshop compressor during the day until he can build a baffle box to quiet it, or finds a better solution. The idea of a fountain in the middle of the lake might be impractical as it would require local funding and might obstruct the flow of boat traffic.

• Allied Group USA was contacted for their feedback as to what can be done, to deal with both the costs and benefits of adding a DO (dissolved O2) installation that is quiet, produces tiny bubbles and is effective, without stirring up solids or creating additional excessive noise. A proposal is forthcoming..

• A truck along Coral Reef Dr. was burglarized the night/early morning hours of July 30th and on the morning of July 31st. Tools and a business checkbook were stolen. The thieves tried to cash checks at two beachside Publix stores, and they were on camera with their IDs. The male subject attempted to cash checks on the evening of Aug. 7th; the store alerted the police, and he was caught. If any neighbors had similar experiences, they should report it to the Sheriff.

AREA 5 ►

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

• Questions came up at our last SPRA meeting on how we can improve the medians along Skylark Blvd. The



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county does not fix the sprinkler systems, nor do they apply pesticide or fertilizer. None of those are part of the maintenance contract. Their duties including mowing and edging, and some tree trimming. So, we are asking the residents along Skylark Blvd. to "Adopt My Median" in front of their home. One suggestion is when Skylark residents treat their lawns, they could also treat their median. Another is to help keep the sprinklers working. If you need any help getting started with adopting your median, please contact me, and I'll be happy to get you started.

- The first order of business to improve the entranceway is to have the irrigation line moved so that other plantings can be made. The County Landscape Manager stated that he would move this line to accommodate a few plantings. This will likely be done in late October.

- Nominations for Yard of the Month are needed. Show your neighbors that you appreciate them improving or keeping their yard nice by nominating them for YOM. Be sure to email me both their name and address.

AREA 6 ►

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

- Please nominate a neighbor for the yard of the month. There are many well-landscaped yards from which to choose. Email me their name and address.

SATELLITE HIGH SCHOOL AUTO MECHANICS CLASS COMPETITION

Satellite High School Auto Mechanics Class is in a competition and needs our votes. To empower the next generation of auto technicians, we invited schools across the country to compete in restoring clunkers into certified hot rods, on a small budget. This year's ride? A fourth generation edition of the muscle-car that started it all: The Ford Mustang. We put these kids through the wringer with six weeks of challenges, get-your-hands-dirty learning, and auction experience to put their passion to the test. They get help from expert judges Tommy Pike of Tommy Pike Customs and actor, producer and car enthusiast Sung Kang of The Fast and the Furious films. The Challenge Phase begins on October 11th and continues through November 20th where online voting decides which team is the Best in Class. Go to the website www.quakerstate.com/bestinclass and then go to "Orlando" and find "Satellite High School" and VOTE. Lucky for you, the kids won't have all the fun. When you vote for your team, you can also enter the Voter Sweepstakes Prize for a chance to win an RC Truck customized by Tommy Pike, an \$800.00 value.



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



~ AREA 1 ~

Dennis Beek, 219 Ocean Blvd.

Oct/Nov 2016

Area 1: Dennis Beek, 219 Ocean Blvd.

Area 2: Robert & Virginia Dorn,
192 SE Second Street

Area 3: AL & Joyce Fussell, 25 Dorset Street

Area 4: Marlis Newman, 335 South Lakeside Dr.

Area 5: Nominations Needed

Area 6: Katherine O'Rourke,
400 Tortoise View Circle

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