

AUG/SEP 2017 Shore News

South Patrick Residents Association
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FREE RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

South Patrick Community Park

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Pre-registration required & space limited!

Please e-mail or call

To ensure all materials are
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Carolina.Alvarez@brevardfl.gov

(321) 633-2016, ext. 56472

Collecting rainwater for use during dry months in rain barrels is an ancient practice. Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as 2,000 years ago. With the rising price of municipal water and drought restrictions now facing us, more homeowners are turning to harvesting rainwater to save money and protect this valuable natural resource. Rainwater is considered a renewable natural resource, but many aquifers are being “mined”. This means that communities are drawing out more water than the aquifer naturally receives by rainfall to recharge it. As drought and aquifer mining begin to call attention to an increasing water crisis, people are seeking ways to minimize impact on their municipal water supplies. Rain barrels are part of the solution. Just look outside your window the next time it rains and imagine all the water that’s running off your roof and down your driveway being put to beneficial use at your home. <http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/>

SUMMER FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

The Brevard County summer fertilizer ordinance bans phosphorus and nitrogen fertilizers from June 1st through September 30th. The County states that the long term success of reducing fertilizer inputs into the IRL is dependent on increased awareness of the impacts of some of the components of fertilizer, as well as the adoption of fertilizer application “best management” practices.

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Fertilizer reduction is just one part of the process to reduce excess nutrients entering the Indian River Lagoon and to help restore ecosystem health. It is also crucial for the County to ensure that our communities have the proper utility infrastructure to reduce sewage spills and seepage into the Lagoon system. While understanding the science behind the decision-making is important, it is also relevant for our county and city governments to also accept responsibility for the underlying infrastructure and to ensure that aging infrastructure remains in good repair. All parties carry a responsibility to do their part.

What is Blue Life?

Residents play their part in helping to protect and restore the Indian River Lagoon in our community. The Blue Life program is designed to inform individuals about practices that can damage the Indian River lagoon (IRL), to promote pollutant load reduction, and to provide environmentally safe choices to reduce our impact, which will ultimately improve water quality.

Minimizing pesticides and using the proper fertilizer for your soil and plants is critical. Residents can contact the Brevard County Agriculture Extension at 321-633-1702 for more information, or visit their website for information, and for a small fee, you can have your soil tested to determine exactly what your lawn and garden need to thrive. This can save money, as well as promote a healthy yard and marine environment. For example, using a 16-0-8 fertilizer formulation is recommended, as well as applying no fertilizer within 15 feet of the water. Fertilizer with no phosphorus and the use of a 50% slow release nitrogen is recommended for mature lawns.

SPRA Community Meeting • David Schechter Center
Monday, August 14, 2017, 7:15 p.m.

By Ayn Samuelson

Decoding Fertilizer Numbers

The first of the three prominent numbers found in fertilizer formulations represents Nitrogen (N), the second Phosphorous (P), and the third Potassium (K). These numbers are percentages of the ingredients in the bag. For an example, let's use a fertilizer formulation with an NPK rating of 21-7-14. Nitrogen has the highest concentration at 21%. It is 3 times the amount of the Phosphorous, listed at 7%, is half of the Potassium amount listed as 14%. This would also be termed a 3-1-2 ratio. The remainder of the ingredients are filler, or inert ingredients, which are there mostly included to help disperse these chemicals.

What do each of these ingredients do for plant/grass growth? Nitrogen encourages foliage growth, producing lush, green foliage/leaves. Slow release is an excellent choice that can be applied in smaller feedings and that can also be given more frequently. Nitrogen is also easily flushed through the soil. Here are some trade words that ID slow release nitrogen fertilizer: Timed-Release, Slow Release, Controlled Release, Nitroform, Ureaform (UF), Water Insoluble Nitrogen, Isobutylidene Diurea (IBDU), Sulfur, Polymer, Plastic or Resin-Coated Urea.

Phosphorus contributes to the rooting of plants and promotes development of flowers, fruits, seeds. Unless you have a newly seeded area, you may not need to use phosphorus and can apply a phosphorus-free fertilizer. A label with "0" as the middle number indicates that the fertilizer is phosphorus-free,

which also supports a healthier Lagoon.

Potassium contributes to the overall health of plants. It helps build strong cells within the plant tissue. In turn, the plants can withstand various stresses, such as heat, cold, pests, and disease. It leaches from the soil, but not as fast as does Nitrogen.

Established Lawns vs Stressed Lawns

Established lawns primarily need Nitrogen, and since grass is not producing fruit or flowers, you won't need a formula that has high phosphorous or potassium content. Nitrogen is also the least expensive of the nutrients.

When a lawn is being prepared for winter or extreme heat, it generally needs more potassium.

If your yard has stressful conditions to deal with, applying potassium can help prevent problems from developing and/or curtail their duration.

Over-Watering Causes Problems

Watering your mature, healthy lawn every day or every other day is over-watering your yard. Grass plants do not need, and cannot efficiently use, this much water.

- Over-watering drowns the plants' roots. The soil is composed of particles of sand, silt, clay and pore spaces. When it rains, water fills the pore spaces pushing out the air. Daily watering keeps the pore spaces filled with water instead of oxygen, and



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the roots can suffocate and die, leaving the plant with a shallow and vulnerable root system. While you generally see the grass plant's leaves, the health of the root system determines how the leaves really look and the health of the grass.

- Shallow rooted plants are easily stressed, which makes them more susceptible to disease and damage by insects. Minor disease and insect problems can easily become major lawn disasters when the lawn is shallow-rooted.
- Over-watered lawns generally have more weeds and more of the stubborn types of weeds to control. This is most noticeable on a lawn that has been over-watered for more than two years.
- Over-watering wastes water and money. Ground water is a precious resource. Putting it on plants that do not need it does not make sense, and pumping water that is not needed wastes electricity. Established lawns do not die in a drought, instead, they go dormant and start growing again when it rains.
- Over-watering also contributes to groundwater pollution. Fertilizer applied to over-watered lawns is washed past the roots before it can be used by the plant, resulting in nitrate pollution of the ground water and the lagoon.

- More fertilizations will be needed. Since the fertilizer is washed through the root zone, the lawn loses color faster. Homeowners respond inappropriately by making additional or heavier applications of fertilizer.

The Blue Life organization is available to assist you, and it is available to attend special events, homeowner association meetings, civic organizations, school functions, environmental fairs, and more. For questions, comments, or bookings please contact us. In addition, volunteers are needed and appreciated. As a volunteer in your community, you can help us conduct education programs, host special events, participate in storm drain markings, and assist in clean ups. Contact information: <https://brevardzoo.org/conservation-programs/blue-life-florida/> ; www.bluelifefl.org ; Lisa@BlueLifeFL.org 321-345-6258; Brevard County UF IFAS Extension Service 321-633-1702, ext. 224.

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY LOOKING GREAT

Residents have expressed concerns about lawn care maintenance, with grass not being cut, as well as grass growing over sidewalks and into the roadway. The County does not cut the grass in front of your home that grows over the sidewalk or into the street, as that is each resident's responsibility to keep those areas clear of grass and debris. Please keep those areas trimmed and in good repair.

Residents have also mentioned that some garbage receptacles are left out at the roadside for many days past the actual pick-up day in their area. Please store your garbage receptacles out of the street area. Let's work together to ensure our community looks great.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES – PARKING

Sec. 62-2117. Parking, locating and storing of recreation vehicles

Several residents have expressed concerns about the parking and storage of recreational vehicles, especially watercraft. Helpful information to follow is included below.

Recreational equipment means any vehicle, vessel or equipment designed for outdoor recreational use. Such equipment may include, boats (including airboats and jet-boats), personal watercraft (jet-skies and the like), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, go-karts, golf carts, low-speed vehicles.

Stabilized area means an area constructed of aggregates, concrete, asphalt, gravel, masonry, road base, or other similar type materials utilized to support the storage of recreational vehicles and equipment. The term stabilized shall not include

a grassed area or an area that is only cleared of vegetation or mulched.

Recreational vehicles and recreational equipment. Recreational vehicles and recreational equipment may be parked, located or stored at developed single-family or multiple-family residential properties (not on vacant properties) under the following conditions:

- Owned or used by the property owner, occupant or guest.
- For the personal off-site recreational use of the owner, occupant, or guest.

Number and location. The maximum number and location of recreational vehicles and recreational equipment allowed where the property is ½ acre or less:

- Not more than one recreational vehicle or recreational equipment shall be permitted in the front yard area. The recreational vehicle or recreational equipment shall be parked in a driveway area, shall observe the side/side street setback requirement, but not less than five feet, and shall be parked perpendicular to the street upon which the driveway is accessed. The interior edge of the driveway may be expanded to accommodate the parking and storage where the required side setback cannot otherwise be met without widening the driveway area.
 - The side yard areas may be used for the parking and storage of the recreational vehicle or recreational equipment, provided that said vehicle or equipment is parked/stored behind the front building line of the primary structure.
- The rear yard area may be used for the parking and storage of recreational vehicle or equipment.
- A boat that must be transported by trailer shall be stored on

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a trailer.

- Empty boat trailers and jet-ski trailers may be parked or stored in the five foot front-side property line setback.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY UPDATES

Florida Today has kept citizens up-to-date on community redevelopment agency (CRA) concerns over the past several months. It was recently reported that another municipality has run into difficulties with the financial operation of their CRA. The Palm Shores town council voted to dissolve their CRA and approved a plan to repay over \$100 K of taxpayer funds to the Brevard County general fund to resolve a conflict within their CRA. The town council agreed that it is in the best interest of the public to return the CRA funds to the county.

Commission Chairman Curt Smith stated that the County needs to move forward, but that this issue also “points out the need for CRA oversight.” The Palm Shores CRA issue comes at a time when the County is re-examining the future of CRAs in Brevard. In that spirit, the Commission backed a proposal to allow the county to conduct internal audits of Brevard CRAs, and a few months ago, the County Commission asked the county manager to negotiate new interlocal agreements with these CRAs.

Our tax dollars collected in the South Patrick Shores area are divided among the funds dedicated to improvements in our area, as well as to the general fund. Because we do not have a CRA, any increase in the assessments that create more tax dollars go into the county general fund, and are not specifically spent in our local area. A CRA, on the other hand, gets to “keep” those increased assessment dollars (TIF) and spend

them in their designated CRA geographic area, according to their plan and the wishes of their CRA boards.

Questions: What if every neighborhood created a CRA, how would that impact the general fund, whose dollars can be used county-wide for infrastructure or other uses as determined by law and the county commission? The impact on the County budget would be immediate and impactful. Further, CRA boards, through their decision-making power, help shape their community by choosing who receives grants and other perks, essentially choosing “winners”, often without sufficient oversight, transparency, and accountability. Can this create an serious inequity when the dollars in the general fund can also be distributed to these same CRA areas, even though their contributions to the general fund were limited by their CRA designation?

GARBAGE COLLECTION COSTS INCREASE TO FUND RESERVES

Incremental annual increases over several years for the non-ad valorem solid waste collection assessments in unincorporated Brevard County have been proposed. Brevard County is expected to raise garbage collection fees by 4.8% for hurricane reserves, which show up as non-ad valorem assessments on the November annual tax bill. It was stated that this is necessary in order keep sufficient funds in the Solid Waste Management Department’s hurricane reserve fund for debris clean-up, partly because this reserve fund was depleted by costs associated with Hurricane Matthew clean-up costs from 2016.

Brevard County commissioners voted this week to send the



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required letters to 100,000 residences in order to notify them of the proposal and of the upcoming required public hearing to be scheduled in August. The Solid Waste Management Department indicated the letters would be sent in early August to notify of the upcoming public hearing later that month. Residents can attend or email commissioners on this matter. The BOCC will vote on the proposal after the public hearing is held.

The original assessment plan was reworked to provide for annual, incremental increases over several years. Our current \$128.21 annual assessment would increase to \$134.36, a total of \$6.15, in the upcoming fiscal year that begins October 2017. In each of the next five years, the annual increase would equal the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with the maximum annual increase of 3 %. It is expected that the rate would increase to \$156 by fiscal year 2022/23 budget year. Proposed maximum annual increases from the current rate of \$128.21 are as follows:

- 2017-18: \$134.36 (+ 4.8%)
- 2018-19: \$138.40 (+ 3%)
- 2019-20: \$142.55 (+ 3%)
- 2020-21: \$146.82 (+ 3%)
- 2021-22: \$151.23 (+ 3%)
- 2022-23: \$155.76 (+ 3%)

Waste Management Inc. (WMI) stated that the proposed

assessment increase takes into account only Brevard County's hurricane reserve fund, and not WMI services. Their current 10 year contract, signed in 2013, provides for trash, recyclable and yard waste collection throughout unincorporated Brevard. Residential collection rates have increased by less than 1%, based on the CPI, since the contract inception. The fact that gas prices have decreased, as well as the fact that more efficient trucks have been placed in service by WMI helps account for the stabilized costs.

Solid Waste Management's storm reserves were \$4 million when Hurricane Matthew impacted Brevard in October 2016. Contractors were paid to collect storm debris such as yard waste, fences, and docks. The County is still waiting for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which would add an additional funds to the reserves. About 90 percent of the emergency debris collection costs are commonly reimbursed by FEMA and the state.

In addition to the proposed increases for the hurricane reserve fund, the county also decided to reallocate two \$50,000 per year payments that WMI currently makes to Brevard to go directly to the Solid Waste hurricane reserve fund. The \$100,000 per year addition to reserves will help reduce the overall rate increase for the upcoming 2017/18 fiscal year to 4.8 %.

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Community news

STATE OF FLORIDA HIGHLIGHTS

(1) Brevard Delegation Meeting. The annual Brevard Delegation meeting that was originally scheduled for September 21, 2017, will now be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The meeting will take place in the Brevard County Commission Chambers, located at 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way (Building C) in Viera from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

The purpose of the annual delegation meeting is for local government entities, businesses, organizations, and citizens to have the opportunity to share issues with the delegation that are important to them. Please note that this is the only scheduled meeting of the delegation before the 2018 Legislative Session, which will begin on January 9, 2018. The first portion of the meeting will be limited to presentations by local governments

and those requesting local bill submissions. The second portion of the meeting is for organization and citizen presentations.

If you are interested in addressing the Brevard Delegation, please contact Kayla Bailey in Senator Mayfield's Melbourne office. She will provide the Appearance Request Form, as well as answer any questions you have about this event. kayla@flsenate.gov; 321-409-2025; 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, Melbourne, FL

(2) Education Funding. The FEEP education bill signed by Governor Scott raises the amount of money designated to the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to \$11,673,261,717. The bump in this allocation results in \$7,296.23 in total funds per student, which is an increase of \$100 per student over last fiscal year.

(3) Solar Power Plants. Florida Power & Light (FPL) is constructing eight new solar power plants in our state, three of



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which are on the Treasure Coast. One recent development was the ground breaking for FPL's solar power plant in Vero Beach. FPL's solar power plants represent more than just affordable clean energy, as they demonstrate FPL's commitment to clean energy in our state. FPL is definitely expanding their solar footprint here in Florida.

BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

(1) Community Redevelopment Concerns

The County commission spared back and forth regarding concerns about the Palm Shores CRA, specifically with the issues of legal questions and payments to the CRA director. Some of the concerns about CRAs that have come to light should encourage the BOCC to review how to ensure better accountability, transparency, and conformity to state laws.

(2) Brevard County Budget - Public Hearings on County & School Budgets

In accordance with the requirements of Florida Statutes, Chapter 200.065, notice concerning the dates of the scheduled public hearings on the ad valorem tax rates and budgets of the Brevard County School Board and the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners for their upcoming fiscal years has been given.

The Brevard County School Board will hold a public hearing on its ad valorem tax rates and budget for their 2017/2018 fiscal year on September 7, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the school board meeting room

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners will

hold public hearings on its ad valorem tax rates and budget for the 2017/2018 fiscal year that begins October 1, 2017, on September 12, 2017 at 5:30 pm and September 26, 2017 at 5:30 pm. You may call the Brevard County Budget Office at 633-2153 if you have any questions about the time and dates.

NATURE CALLS

Hérons

The great blue heron is a large wading bird from the heron family Ardeidae, and is common near the shores of open water and in wetlands over most of North America and Central America, as well as the Caribbean and the Galápagos Islands. An all-white population found only in the Caribbean and in Florida was once treated as a separate species known as the great white heron.

Whether poised at a river bend or cruising the coastline with slow, deep wing beats, the Great Blue Heron is a majestic sight. This stately heron with its subtle blue-gray plumage often stands motionless as it scans for prey or wades belly deep with long, deliberate steps. They may move slowly, but Great Blue Herons can strike like lightning to grab a fish or snap up a gopher. Their very slow wing beats, tucked-in neck and trailing legs create an unmistakable image in flight.

Size & Shape

Largest of the North American herons with long legs, a sinuous neck, and thick, dagger-like bill. Head, chest, and wing plumes give a shaggy appearance. In flight, the Great Blue Heron curls its neck into a tight "S" shape; its wings



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are broad and rounded and its legs trail well beyond the tail. Despite their impressive size, Great Blue Herons weigh only 5 to 6 pounds thanks in part to their hollow bones, a feature all birds share.

Color Pattern

Great Blue Herons appear blue-gray from a distance, with a wide black stripe over the eye. In flight, the upper side of the wing is two-toned: pale on the forewing and darker on the flight feathers. The pure white subspecies occurs in coastal southern Florida.

Behavior

Hunting Great Blue Herons wade slowly or stand statue-like, stalking fish and other prey in shallow water or open fields. Watch for the lightning-fast thrust of the neck and head as they stab with their strong bills.

Habitat

Look for Great Blue Herons in saltwater and freshwater habitats, from open coasts, marshes, sloughs, riverbanks,

and lakes, to backyard goldfish ponds. They also forage in grasslands and agricultural fields. Breeding birds gather in colonies or "heronries" to build stick nests high off the ground. Listen to the Heron's voice: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/id

Satellite Beach Public Library Events

Adults

Mondays @ 10:00-12:00 – Master Gardeners meet in the lobby to answer your gardening questions.

Tuesdays @ 12:30pm-3:00pm – SHINE Medicare/Medicaid counseling. One-on-one help with health insurance for seniors and disabled. Program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Call 321-426-0261.

Mondays, August 7 & 28 @ 1:00pm – Barbara's Book Chats. My Italian Bulldozer by Alexander McCall Smith and Pachinko by Min Jin Lee.



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Todd moved here from Minnesota and has been serving the citizens of Brevard County for 20 years with high energy hard work and his unique way with people. His vast knowledge of the many neighborhoods and communities in the area, interest in real estate and willingness to go above and beyond for his clients is a winning combination for either buyers or sellers!

He specializes in marketing unique properties and water properties by using a professional photographer to capture the most beautiful pictures that attract buyers from all around the world. He also has the experience and knowledge to help ANY seller that wants an agent that is hardworking trustworthy and goes the extra mile to handle each of his clients on a "one on one" basis.

Overall he has single handedly closed over 300 transactions which equals well over 125 Million Dollars of Real Estate since starting in 2007/2008. This stature has made him one of the preferred agents in the area and landed him in the "Top 1% of Brevard County agents!" but the most important thing is that all his clients are happy!

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AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS

AREA 1 ►

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

- Please nominate a yard of the month to be featured in the Shore News.

AREA 2 ►

CHRIS DAVIS • cdavis@spranews.com

- Residents can find the Shore News and other community news at the South Patrick Community Park kiosk. Visit and enjoy our park.
- Please be sure to pick up your dog's waste at the park and at the beach, as such waste can foul the waters and the beach area. Thank you.
- We are waiting to hear back from the county about the walkway/path on the east-side of the park, as to who is responsible to keep that pedestrian walkway in good repair.
- All is quiet in Area 2

AREA 3 ►

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

RICK MARIANI • rick.mariani@yahoo.com

- Thanks to all who make our area a beautiful, clean, and safe place to live.
- If you would like to nominate someone for Yard of the Month, please call me.
- Have a wonderful summer, and remember to stay hydrated and cool.

AREA 4 ►

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

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

- Remember to park your recreational vehicles, including your boats, according to the county codes to help make our area look great and keep your property looking neat.
- Please nominate a neighbor for yard of the month.

AREA 5 ►

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

- There has been an ongoing discussion of sprucing up the North Waterway entrance way. The irrigation lines in the front median have already been moved, so that a few palms can be planted ion the median. The county created a landscape plan for the front entrance way, and after the next few summer months, some estimates can be solicited for making these improvements.
- Yard of the month nominations are needed. Please provide both the name and address for your nominee.
- Enjoy the summer months.

AREA 6 ►

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

- Please nominate your neighbor's beautiful yard for YOM.



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~ AREA 6 ~

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 421 Tortoise View Circle

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Area 3: Hamilton Family, 130 Clairbourne Street

Area 4: Gordon and Patricia Barnett,
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Area 5: Paul & Jan Thompson, 488 Cardinal Drive

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