

OCT/NOV 2017 Shore News

South Patrick Residents Association
www.spranews.com

RESIDENT CONCERNS – Q & A

Your Questions & Answers

Residents have asked for a “Question & Answer” or Q & A portion in the Shore News to pose questions or solutions to issues and concerns. Residents may contact their area directors to pose their questions and solutions.

• Q: What can be done about irresponsible pet owners who don't pick up after their animals?

A: It is a serious responsibility to clean-up after your pets, as they can't do it for themselves. First, the law demands that people clean up after their pets in public places. Second, thousands of tons of pet waste find their way into the lagoon system through run-off, taking E. coli and other bacteria with it. Third, walkers and bikers don't like to step in smelly dog waste left behind that they then must clean off of their shoes. Maybe it's time to ask people face-to-face to be responsible in cleaning up after their pets.

• Q: What can be done about drivers who speed through our residential neighborhoods, endangering our kids?

A: Speeding in residential areas is dangerous to children and to pedestrians, who may not see these vehicles coming at fast speeds. Speed humps are expensive and difficult to put in place, even if they really are needed in certain areas. Calling the non-emergency number for the our south precinct at 321-952-6371 to report speeding cars in your area is one option. If the offender is a regular offender, you can always take down the plate number when you report it. The Sheriff's office can

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send a patrol car to your area if it is deemed necessary to ticket those who speed through our residential areas. Once again, the real solution comes down to people being responsible members of the community.

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 again 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 chairman Bill Davis on his cell at 321-890-7474 with your offer to help Santa visit our neighborhoods.

President's Message

BREVARD COUNTY BUDGET

The power to tax is an awesome power and a serious responsibility. The Brevard County operating and capital Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 has increased with more tax revenues for the upcoming fiscal year that began October 1st.

Property assessments have increased significantly overall due to increased sales prices of property, and in addition, for their part in the budget process, a majority of our commissioners voted to increase their tax dollar revenues by choosing to adopt a millage rate that, when multiplied by the taxable value of property in Brevard, will bring in approximately 10.9% additional revenue into the county coffers. On the other hand, they could have adopted a roll-back millage rate that, when multiplied by the taxable value, would have brought in the same amount of revenue as last fiscal year. So, when you hear any commissioner say that they reduced taxes, either they are repeating a partial truth that leaves out part of the total budget responsibility, or they just don't understand the actual taxation process.

The process is really a simple two part process with the Appraiser's office first reporting the total taxable value of the county, an aggregate value of taxable property in the county, and then the commissioners choosing a millage rate, which is multiplied against each \$1000 of taxable property value.

The taxable property value from the Appraiser is up more than 8% over last year's valuation. In July, the county first

SPRA Community Meeting • David Schechter Center
Monday, October 9, 2017, 7:15 p.m.

By Ayn Samuelson

tentatively adopted a lower total budget number, and that was an updated to a final increase of 10.9% in taxable revenue for FY 2017/2018, with the commissioners' selection of the aggregate adopted millage rate of 6.3268. Simply stated, the bottom line is the property tax revenue that the county will collect from taxpayers is up significantly over last fiscal year's adopted budget.

There was plenty of discussion about how homestead properties would be impacted, but virtually no expressed concern as to how the impacts of this increased tax revenue would impact residential rentals or businesses, as that is where the brunt of the tax increase impact will fall. These businesses must pass their tax cost onto their renters and their customers, many of whom can ill afford such increases. How can these groups so conveniently be ignored in the discussion?

What should stick out in voters minds is that many candidates for office throughout the past several years have not lived up to their campaign promises. And while taxpayers can understand that additional information can bring a change in focus on some issues, many believe there has been a lack of sincere dialogue with residents who have legitimate concerns.

BREVARD UTILITIES LIFT STATION UPDATE

Mark Reagan from Brevard Utilities attended the August 14, 2017 SPRA meeting regarding the location of the proposed lift station along Ibis in North Waterway Estates and the impact of the construction and location on the residents in

the area. We had been informed that the lift station could be relocated in the area east of the sidewalk on Ibis, away from residents' homes, but other information about who owns and controls the usage of the property to the east of Ibis came to light to potentially derail this location.

Florida Senator Mayfield's staff has been working to help find the proper contact person at the state level to create a "public purpose transfer" and/or "rights of greenway" that would promote a direct benefit to the public/residents through a cooperative agreement with the state. Unfortunately, a difficult scenario has occurred with the county, the state and federal property and staff in the mix. Sorting through administrative law and policies, as well as understanding who controls the property, takes time and effort, and success is not guaranteed. This issue also affects another lift station that is planned to be relocated within the Moorings subdivision, presenting similar conflicts of interest and potential negative impacts. Both lift stations need to be replaced due to age and failing infrastructure.

SPRA sent a letter to Senator Mayfield as follows, and it shows how we can work with some of our elected representatives to get things done on behalf of our community: "Dear Senator Mayfield:

We are writing to address a serious issue in District 17 with relation to the much needed upgrade by Brevard County Utility Systems of LS S-04 that will impact our residents in the unincorporated area on the beachside. This is a concern



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for several hundred residents who will be effected by this decision.

In November 2014, I first met with Brevard County engineers to express critical concerns regarding placement of a new septic lift station (LS S-04) along Ibis Lane in North Waterway Estates. We all came to a reasonable agreement for the best location of the lift station that would be both most cost effective for the county's resources and most compatible for our community. All design demands and requirements for easement approval from Patrick Air Force Base (PAFB) were diligently followed. The easement application was granted; however, it was then discovered that the land had been deeded to the county and that the County had subsequently relinquished their "rights of greenway" to FDOT.

A permit (#2017-H-590-19) was then filed seeking FDOT permission to place the new lift station in the extensive greenway, that would be located some 50+ feet west of SR 513, to the east of Ibis Lane and to the east of the existing residences. The permit process was progressing well, until it reached Tallahassee. There, a FDOT engineer reported that

the Utility Accommodation Manual (UAM 4.3.9) will not allow placement of an underground lift station of greater than 80 cubic feet within FDOT right of way, as no lift station can or should be built under a roadway.

Brevard County Utilities staff has been working diligently with residents to ensure the best use of resources and community compatibility, but they hit an impasse with the Utility Accommodation Manual (UAM 4.3.9) requirements. Through research, we have found that this problem is easily solvable. FDOT can relinquish their "rights of greenway" back to Brevard County, in order to allow sufficient easement for placement of the new LS S-04.

It is also important to note that Brevard County and FDOT have no plans for additional SR 513 road expansion, as it underwent reconstruction several years ago, adding sidewalks on both east and west sides and adding a center turn lane. In addition, the current greenway area on the west-side of SR 513 serves as an important runoff and recharging area for rainfall prior to its entry into the IRL system.

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and desire to ensure that it remains as such. To this end, we are seeking your input, guidance, and assistance in this crucial matter. Please be advised that this is a time sensitive issue, with concerns about the failure of the existing sewer lift station that has reached the end of its useful life span. We must have a resolution prior to November 2017 in order to ensure the best use of our resources and the well-being of our residents.” Respectfully, Ayn Samuelson, SPRA

BREVARD TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

As a result of Brevard County Traffic Engineering’s safety review and field investigation, it was determined that a single “No Parking from Here to Corner” sign was justified along Ibis Lane near the pedestrian walkway just south of Skylark Blvd. in North Waterway Estates. It was placed approximately 8 feet in advance of the sidewalk connection to ensure that pedestrians have a clear line of sight of oncoming vehicles. SPRA thanks Traffic Engineering for their work in helping to ensure the safety of our residents.

IMPACTS OF IRMA

Governor Scott declared a state of emergency in anticipation of IRMA’s destruction. A local State of Emergency was declared for Brevard County on September 6th in response to the pending threat of Hurricane Irma, as the storm edged toward Florida. The decision was also made to close County government offices and cease non-essential operations on Friday. Brevard County announced a mandatory evacuation order that started at 3 PM Friday. This order was for Evacuation Zone A, (<http://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/>

Have A Plan/Evacuation) and included the barrier islands, Merritt Island and some mainland low-lying areas along the Indian River Lagoon. In addition, those who live in mobile or manufactured homes or in other flood-prone areas were also vulnerable, whether on the mainland or the barrier islands. The evacuation order was effective at 3 PM Friday so that residents and visitors had a minimum of 24 hours in which to prepare their homes and take shelter before the arrival of tropical storm-force winds, which arrived overnight on Saturday night.

SPRA MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

All area directors have a copy of the annual SPRA maintenance contract. For their specific area. The county selects our SPRA contractors on the basis of cost and performance. A very brief summary of the contract, which varies for each area, depending on the specific work to be performed. Is found below. If you questions about maintenance in your area, contact your area director.

- The Contractor shall provide complete lawn maintenance of thirty-six (36) cuts to the lawns, medians and roadside shoulders including sidewalks and medians within the South Patrick Residents Association Areas 1-6 in the Satellite Beach area (SR 513) to include the following:
- Mowing to include shoulders, medians, and vacant/underdeveloped lots
- Shrub and groundcover maintenance
- Trimming of palm trees, hedges, pruning, thinning, hedging, removing suckers and cutting back wood line
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BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

(1) Preliminary Digital Flood Maps: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed its restudy for coastal Brevard County and released preliminary Flood Insurance Rate maps. New storm surge modeling will result in changes to flood zone areas on the Barrier Island and Merritt Island. Some areas will have revised flood elevations, which will impact annual flood insurance premiums, both positively and negatively. Some areas not currently in flood zones will change and be included, which will then require mandatory flood insurance for a mortgage.

Find out whether your property is impacted, how a change may affect you, how securing flood insurance coverage before a change can save you money, and how to appeal a change either before or after the fact. The public was invited to view and comment on the preliminary maps and data by attending one of the previously scheduled FEMA Open House meetings, which were then canceled due to Hurricane IRMA. They will be re-scheduled at a future date. Frank Scarvelas is the Floodplain Administrator in Public Works @ 617-7202. <http://www.brevardfl.gov/PublicWorks/Floodplains>

(2) IRMA's impact on electrical power was substantial. In

Brevard County, 86% of FPL customers (307,600) were initially without power. FPL received help in restoring power from other power company employees during the emergency.

(3) Garbage pick-up versus IRMA storm debris pick-up: Post-Hurricane Irma storm debris collection is underway, but don't get confused by what your regular waste hauler will collect versus what can be hauled away by the County's storm debris collection contractors. Here are tips on how residents can help ensure your storm debris and other related materials don't get left at the curb.

- Garbage, recycling, and hurricane debris need to be separated at curbside.
- Carted garbage, carted recycling, and containerized yard waste will be picked up by Waste Management or a municipality's solid waste contractor.
- Vegetative debris, construction/demolition (building materials), appliances, and electronics need to be separated as well.
- Debris contractors will pick up the vegetative and construction/demolition debris.
- Appliance or electronics collection: residents will need to call Waste Management to schedule pick-up.
- The County's Hurricane Irma-related storm debris collection will cover all unincorporated areas of Brevard County and several municipalities that have joined Brevard County Government in an interlocal agreement. Storm debris collection is managed by the county or city will be performed by contractors other than Waste Management, per FEMA. Debris pick-up schedules and



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requirements will vary by city and unincorporated areas. Follow these guidelines:

- Debris must be set out on the public right-of-way to be collected; do not place storm debris in roadway.
- Separate your debris. This is extremely important for efficient collection.
- Keep all household garbage and recycling in the carts provided by Waste Management;
- Containerize loose vegetative debris (leaves, grass clippings, pine needles or shrubbery cuttings)
- Cut up trees and limbs into 4' lengths
- Neatly stack construction and demolition debris (drywall, roof shingles, siding, carpet, fencing and docks).
- Never place any debris beside utility poles or transformers, under power lines, on top of water meters, on storm drains, by fire hydrants, near vehicles, next to mailboxes or fences.
- Hidden electrical hazards can injure or kill collection personnel.
- Do not place debris on other people's property.

Storm debris includes any of the following, generated as a result of the storm:

- Construction and Demolition Debris – building materials, carpet, drywall, furniture, lumber, mattresses, and plumbing
- Hazardous Household Waste – cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemicals, oils, oil-based products and

stains, and pesticides (www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw)

- Electronics – computers, radios, stereos, televisions, and other devices with a cord (www.epa.gov/smm-electronics/basic-information-about-electronics-stewardship)
- Appliances and White Goods - refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, heat pumps, stoves, washers, dryers, and water heaters
- Vegetation – leaves (**do not put in bags**), logs, plants, tree branches

(4) A “water conservation request” for beachside residents that was issued during Hurricane Irma’s trek through Brevard County remained in place until September 25t, while ongoing repairs and monitoring of force mains continued. Beachside residents south of the Pineda Causeway were asked to reduce water usage as a result of a major lift station that lost power during IRMA. Residents are asked to reduce water usage, especially flushing toilets, doing laundry and long showers, as limiting water usage helps reduce the chances of backups into residents’ homes, streets and the river. The County noted that in a hurricane, such events can happen and that the only other alternative to the dump was to let it back up into people’s homes. Although, many residents did not receive any notification about these events until after the fact.

The system was temporarily kept operational with the use of generators until power was fully restored. However, Brevard Utility Services reported the main line remained full from

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storm water, which has caused overflows of manholes and resulted in sewage backup in some residences. Lift stations help wastewater flow from lower to higher elevations, making them imperative to areas on the barrier island below sea level, so when the main force line is full, it prevents smaller force main lines from feeding into it, potentially causing backups. After the water conservation request was rescinded on 09/25, a "water warning" was issued on September 26th for residents in the South Patrick Drive and Anchor Drive area, where other sewer main issues and sewage dumps into the lagoon have occurred in the past. Due to heavy flow in the sewer system, wastewater was discharged to a canal along South Patrick Drive and Anchor Drive. Even though the sewer system was reported to have returned to normal operations, residents in these locations were advised not to use the canal behind their homes for swimming, fishing or wading until further notice,

as well as to keep pets away.

Florida Today reported that some 507,000 gallons of sewage was pumped into the canal along Anchor Drive on September 13th and 14th, which flows to other canals and the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. After the initial sewage discharge, Brevard County estimated that at least another 11 million gallons of sewage, diluted with storm flow and groundwater that infiltrated the system, were also pumped to the canal. As we know, these sewage discharges send pathogens, nitrogen, and phosphorus that can encourage the growth of algae blooms. Signs about the contaminated water were posted along Anchor Drive, and will be posted until water tests once again show normal bacteria levels. During the storm, the damaged lift system kept power through use of a generator, but the main wastewater line, which is filled by smaller lines coming from the barrier island, filled to capacity of 10 to 12



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million gallons per day, beyond the nine million gallons for which it is built to handle, which resulted in both the backup of stormwater and wastewater. Utility workers trucked some of the overflow to the Viera South Central Wastewater Facility. The overflow forced its way through manholes and flowed into homes, streets, and canals, which are connected to the Banana River and the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem.

NATURE CALLS

Mullett Fish:

The mullets or grey mullets are a family of ray-finned fish found worldwide in coastal temperate and tropical waters, and some species are found in fresh water. Mulletts are distinguished by the presence of two separate dorsal fins, small triangular mouths, and the absence of a lateral line organ.

The two most commercially harvested species of mullet fish in Florida are the striped mullet and white mullet. The striped mullet is commonly called a black mullet, gray mullet or jumping mullet and the white mullet is called a silver mullet. Mullet are found worldwide in tropical and subtropical waters including the bays and estuaries on Florida's Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Mulletts have served as an important source of food since Roman times, and the primary commercial fishery area in Florida is along the Gulf Coast. The body of the mullet fish is elongated and rather stout. The color is a dark bluish on the top and silver along the sides. It has a small mouth with

closely set teeth and widely separately dorsal fins. The large scales along the sides of the striped mullet consist of a dark center giving a distinct illusion of horizontal stripes. The average weight is 2 to 3 pounds, but can be in excess of 6 pounds.

Mullet swim in large schools and are commonly seen jumping out of the water, hence the name jumping mullet. This makes it easy for fishermen to spot the fish even in the dark. Mullet feed on aquatic plants and algae found floating, attached to the bottom or mixed in with surface sediments. The mullet is considered a vegetarian and is the only fish that has a gizzard, much like a chicken, that is used to grind up and digest plant material. Commercial harvesters use a cast, beach or haul seine net to catch mullet.

A common noticeable behavior in mullet is the tendency to leap out of the water. There are two distinguishable types of leaps: a straight, clean slice out of the water to escape predators and a slower, lower jump while turning to its side that results in a larger more distinguishable splash. The reasons for this lower jump are disputed, but have been hypothesized to be in order to gain oxygen rich air for gas exchange in a small organ above the pharynx.



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AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS

AREA 1 ►

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

- Hope everyone is safely recovering from Irma.

AREA 2 ►

CHRIS DAVIS • cdavis@spranews.com

- The rain barrel seminar held at the South Patrick Community Park on August 30th was phenomenal. Each resident walked away with up to two barrels. I was happy to see the number of individuals in attendance, and nearly all spots were filled.
- With hurricane Irma, and the wake of clean up, it is difficult to put into words the amount appreciation I have for all those that stepped up to help others. Thanks to all those that helped and chipped in on community preparedness and clean-up. I am also thankful for the crews, FPL, and the communication from various sources that kept us informed.

- We had more individuals wanting to be part of our South Patrick Shores Families Facebook Page than ever! We were announcing all information in real time. I believe many were sharing our posts with their friends and families, and this is excellent! We were glad to be the spot to go for real news and updates.

- We did observe unfamiliar vehicles trying to sell their clean-up services, that were not licensed or insured. If you see this, please be aware. Also, if you see a senior citizen needing reassurance, support or guidance, please help them to not become a victim.

- Moving forward, we should continue to monitor our car speeds in our community and demand lower speeds from others. Please be sure to report anything suspicious by calling 911 or contacting the Brevard County Sheriffs Office non-emergency number.

- We have worked with the crews who trim and cut the bike



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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.

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path, and they have been doing much improved job dealing with the foliage.

- Dog piles left behind and clean-up in the area will continue to be important to remind owners about.
- Additionally, please be aware of how garbage cans should be placed on the curb/road/driveway. Note: do not over-fill, so that they do not spill into the roadway. Also, I observed a resident fill their yard waste with brick and dirt and place a bit of grass on top, while expecting a WMI employee to be able to lift it. Please be mindful of our actions and of those around us.
- We welcome the new members of Area 2, and I welcome ideas and suggestions from any of our residents. Feel free to contact me anytime with a question or a solution!

AREA 3 ►

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

- While Hurricane Irma has passed on, she left her mark on many homes with the usual downed trees, fences, damage to roofs and to plants. We are fortunate that we didn't experience catastrophic damage as happened in other places.
- "Thank You" to the men and women who work through the hurricanes to assure our safety and well-being. We do not thank you enough for the long hours and for putting your safety aside to assist us. We appreciate you and Bless You for your service.

AREA 4 ►

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

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

- Please be sure and look out for little trick or treaters on October 31st to help keep them safe.

AREA 5 ►

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

- Nominations for Yard of the Month are needed. Show you neighbor you appreciate them keeping their yard nice by nominating them. Please provide me with their name and address when nominating.
- Hope every one had a great summer.
- Praying that everyone stays safe during this hurricane season.

AREA 6 ►

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

- We are all thankful for the restoration of our power, water services, and the cleanup being carried out by the hands of folks from all over the country. We still have a way to go, but we will get there. Crews have started straightening the fallen trees along the walkway. Hopefully they will survive and grow strong.
- Please note that we still have two residents in Area 6 advertising short term rentals on Airbnb. Short term rentals are prohibited by county code in our residential subdivision areas. The county ordinances are very clear about which areas can accommodate such rentals, which are predominately located along and near the oceanfront.



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



~ AREA 1 ~

**Phil & Brenda Cline,
229 NE 3rd Street**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER YOM:

Area 1: Phil & Brenda Cline, 229 NE 3rd Street

Area 2: The Cantrell Family, 196 SE 4th Street

Area 3: Robert Prisco, 308 West Dover Street

Area 4: Pat & Hazel Martin, 412 South Waterway Dr

Area 5: Cheryl Collen & Richard Martin,
466 Sandpiper Drive

Area 6: Donald & Sharon Emery,
413 Lighthouse Landing Street



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