

APRIL/MAY 2018 Shore News

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There's still time to renew your \$15 membership or become a new member of your South Patrick Residents Association. SPRA is an "all-volunteer" non-profit 501 (c) (4) community association that deals with government policies, gives you information, and works to make real improvements right where we live. Thank you for being an important part of our community! SPRA, PO Box 372357, Satellite Beach FL, 32937

AREA 2 DIRECTOR

Thank you to Chris Davis for serving as Area 2 Director for two years. She was enthusiastic in her approach and involved other residents in the community. Welcome to newly elected Area 2 Director, Rick Dorminy.

BREVARD COUNTY SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

by School board Member Tina Descovich, D3

In the wake of the horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, public focus on school security measures is understandably high. I would like to address what we are doing to keep our students safe in Brevard Public Schools.

- We are continuing to use a portion of the half-cent sales tax revenue to install 6-foot fences, security cameras and remote-controlled locks at all of our 82 schools. All schools will have only one point of public entry, and every visitor must check in at the front office and present a driver's license before entering the school.
- We continue to have armed School Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to our middle schools and high schools, as well as some elementary schools. SRO's are sworn law enforcement officers provided by city police departments or the sheriff's office. We recently committed \$834,000 to hire even more SROs and campus monitors.
- Students and parents are urged to speak up immediately if they notice threatening or scary behavior by sharing concerns with trusted adults, peers, resource officers or the anonymous SpeakOut Hotline at 800-423-TIPS (8477).
- The Brevard County Sheriff's Office led by Sheriff Wayne Ivey has proposed a four-point plan that the school board will consider in the near future. The four points include: education and awareness; hardening schools; hiring more SROs; and

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his proposed school marshal program titled STOMP (Sheriff Trained Onsite Marshall Program).

STOMP Program Explained: Sheriff Ivey's STOMP Program would allow select school employees to be trained and serve as armed Deputy Marshalls on campus. The program would be completely voluntary for school district employees and excludes classroom teachers, unless they have prior law enforcement or military experience. If the school board approves the STOMP Program, participants would have to meet the following requirements: current concealed carry license holder, complete background and psychological evaluations, drug test, panel review board, 176 total hours of FDLE Certified Training which includes 80 hours of firearms training, quarterly training and annual certification, mental health awareness training, diversity training, first aid, trauma and much more.

The STOMP Program meets and substantially exceeds the criteria the state has laid out for the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program recently signed last week by Governor Scott as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School Safety Bill. The bill also includes funds to add several more School Resource Officers to Brevard Schools, to assist in hardening of schools and some annual recurring funds for mental health outreach in our schools. This bill also addresses gun control, strengthens threat laws against schools, establishes a safety commission and creates the Office of Safe Schools at the state level.

At our March 13th school board meeting, we asked the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to supply the school district with a written proposal for consideration. We heard from many public speakers on the topic and as discussion continues

SPRA Community Meeting • David Schechter Center
Monday, April 9, 2018, 7:15 p.m.

By Ayn Samuelson

on these issues, we want to hear from the public. I want to assure you the safety of our students is our number one priority and we will continue to research and implement new safety strategies in our effort to ensure students can feel safe in their schools. We are grateful for our strong Brevard community and for all their support. I welcome your input and feedback. I can be reached at descovich.tina@brevardschools.org.

President's Message

PROPOSAL FOR SANITARY SEWER LINE UPGRADES

By Ayn Marie Samuelson MS; MPA

This Proposal was sent to each county commissioner to review for their feedback and as a call to action. Commissioners have the opportunity to achieve positive results with their power to tax and spend.

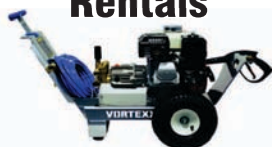
It is critical that residents partner with the county government to reduce toxic inputs into the lagoon system. This means that we must take our proper responsibility to ensure that we are doing our part, starting with our own property. Maintenance, repair, and replacement of sanitary sewer lines on our property, up to where they connect with county sewer lines, is the responsibility of each owner. Many of our sewer lines are 50 plus years old, which means there is a very high probability that these lines are leaking. They leak into the ground water, surrounding properties, the lagoon system, and in times of significant rainfall, overload the wastewater treatment plants with a mixture of groundwater and untreated sewage, leading ultimately to the spillage of millions of gallons of sewage into the IRL. The time for replacement of many of our sewer lines is past due, but the question remains as to how to pay the cost of the needed replacement. The following plan describes how

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mass sewer line replacement can be financed in order to get a big job done as quickly as possible.

• **IRL Report:** Residents need direct access to the IRL report update to review the condition of our waterways. The data recently presented shows unacceptably high concentrations of E. coli. Government must show they are taking active steps to improve the IRL, and to inspire residents, who also share responsibility for immediate and decisive action.

• **PAFB:** Has the County included PAFB as an integral partner to reduce inputs into the IRL? Information as to the direct impacts of federally-owned property is a critical component to the plan.

• **Responsibility:** The importance of reducing E. coli inputs into the lagoon, especially due to leakage from old sewer lines on public and privately-owned property, cannot be overstated. Similar to replacement of roofs and other maintenance on our properties, we are also responsible for the proper functioning and condition of sewer lines located on our properties. Many lines in our SPRA area were installed in the 1960's and are pre-PVC lines, similar to other locations throughout the County.

• **Old Sewer Lines on Private Property:** It is critical to assess which homes were built before PVC pipe was the standard used for sewer lines and then to identify those homes where new PVC pipe has not yet been installed. A "sewer line fund" can be created from the dollars collected from the sales tax that can be used to loan money to property owners who cannot afford the cost outright, to install new PVC sewer lines on their property. Then, the amount received, which would depend on each property's unique dimensions and characteristics (length and depth), could be added to their tax bill to be repaid in equal annual installments over a 7-10 year period. There would be an option to pay the entire cost at the time of installation by a contractor of choice or to pay the cost over several years through the fund. The focus is to make this replacement step a requirement, a responsibility, to get our failing sewer lines replaced. In addition, the County would have to be ready to upgrade their connection at the street as well, as the need arises. This would be a fair and responsible manner in which to handle critical upgrades throughout the county, including within the municipalities and the unincorporated areas. (It

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is also important to remember that this fall, voters will be casting ballots on whether to grant an additional homestead exemption of 25K, which will have an impact on reducing the taxes on homestead properties, {even as other properties may be negatively impacted}. This is good timing for a discussion, as far as homesteads are concerned.)

- **Septic Conversion:** This approach to funding and responsibility of property owners should also include the conversion of septic systems to sewer, as this is analogous to the replacement of old sewer lines with new PVC lines. If the County plans to reduce or eliminate impact fees for septic-to-sewer line conversion, then that can be considered a reasonable approach, but if the County expects taxpayers to approve using funds from the sales tax to subsidize or pay outright for new lines on private property in a septic conversion, then this would institute an inequitable approach. All new PVC sewer lines must be included under the same fund-based program, making it simple and fair. It is important to note that if a septic system is well-maintained and functioning, then attention should first be drawn to the replacement of leaking sanitary sewer lines which themselves are part of the already existing larger, sanitary sewer system. In order to assess which septic systems should be converted, they could be rated on a scale of risk, such as: high risk, medium risk, and low risk with regard to their location, type, soils data, and depth-to-groundwater. This would provide a clearer picture of which septic conversions are critical.

- **Increased Load to Treatment Plants:** The importance of not adding additional impact on the sewer system and wastewater treatment plants until we are certain that the impacts will not

lead to other spills into the IRL is of paramount importance. Impact fees alone, unless they are also applied toward legitimate, increased capacity at the treatment facilities, will likely be insufficient and may even work against the IRL cleanup.

- **Tropical Storms & Treatment Plant Capacity:** The discussion about the wastewater treatment facilities that we are told have sufficient capacity, except when there is a tropical event with heavy rainfall, is a critical component to the plan as well. Since tropical storms and hurricanes are experienced on a regular-occurring basis in Florida, shouldn't our treatment plants have a built-in factor that will require an accounting for increased capacity for tropical events? Citizen-taxpayers should be assured that infrastructure will be sufficient to handle these storm events and that there will be significantly fewer overflow discharge events that negatively impact the lagoon system.

WHEN NATURE CALLS – ALGAE & DEADLY ALGAE BLOOMS

Brown algae have adapted to a wide variety of marine ecological niches, including the tidal splash zone, rock pools, the whole intertidal zone and relatively deep near-shore waters. They are an important constituent of some brackish water ecosystems, and they play an important role in marine environments, both as food and as habitats. Brown algae growing in brackish waters are almost solely asexual.

But what happens when there is overgrowth of brown algae? It can kill fish by the thousands, and it is blooming once again in our lagoon system. Brown algae was responsible for

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the 2016 fish kills, and it is growing at similar toxic levels again. The algae cell concentrations recorded in February are similar to the concentrations back in 2016, when algae cell concentrations depleted the dissolved oxygen in the water and suffocated fish by the thousands.

Tracking the “brown tide” algae began in January 2018, and its appearance is a warning sign that another large-scale fish die-off could be imminent, especially when temperatures in the lagoon waters increase, helping to promote the exponential growth of algae. Isolated fish kill events occur most often during the spring and summer, as temperatures are on the rise and dissolved oxygen levels are low in the water. Algal blooms, like the brown tide blooming in the Indian River and throughout the Banana River, consume oxygen at night and during cloudy days, and this leaves insufficient oxygen for fish and other marine life.

These algae particles in the water can clog the gills of fish and shellfish, like oysters and scallops, and use up the oxygen in the water, thereby suffocating marine life. During daylight, algae produce oxygen through photosynthesis, replenishing oxygen levels in the water; while at night and on cloudy days, algae consume oxygen. This, along with the normal demand for oxygen from fish, crabs, and marine life, can cause serious drops in dissolved oxygen in the lagoon. Large sewage spills during and after Hurricane Irma, along with heavy rains during and after the hurricane, (20 million gallons spilled in our area) added nutrients to feed the algae. Algal blooms are also fed by excess nutrients, such as from fertilizers, leaking septic tanks and sewer pipes, and organic muck on the lagoon bottom and they also contribute to these devastating blooms.

SMOKE TESTING – Locating Leaks in Sewer Lines

What is smoke testing? A smoke test is a standard procedure that can benefit the property owner by alerting whether or not the sewer system is in good working order. The smoke is blown into a manhole and smoke becomes visible exiting from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground. Smoke testing is conducted within the public portion of the sanitary sewer system to find points of inflow and infiltration that could lead to high flows during storm and flooding events. The results of these tests can include potential points of inflow and infiltration and points of groundwater or surface water intrusion into the sewer due to cracks and breaking of existing piping, cross connections between sanitary sewers and storm drains, of defective sewer connections that could allow sewer gases into a building. Smoke testing can help locate the following:

- Points of groundwater or surface water intrusion into the sewer
- Cross connections between sanitary sewers and storm drains
- Defective sewer connections leading to sewer gases entering a building

How does smoke testing work? During smoke testing, field crews blow air and smoke into the sanitary sewer system through manholes in the street to monitor where smoke escapes the system. The smoke will fill the main line and any lateral connections and then follow the path of any leak to the ground surface, revealing problems. Smoke will be seen coming from roof vents on homes. This is normal and indicates that smoke has filled the sewers. Smoke may be seen coming from building foundations, manhole covers, or yard clean-outs.



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What does it mean if smoke enters my house? If smoke enters your home during the test, it may indicate there are deficiencies in the plumbing that may allow potentially dangerous sewer gas to enter. If this happens, you are encouraged to contact a plumber to identify appropriate repairs. Sewer gases can cause health problems for building occupants. Plumbing fixtures in your home or business are connected to the sanitary sewer system and, therefore, there is the potential for the smoke to enter if the drains are not connected properly. A few reasons for this could be:

- The vents connected to your building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective or improperly installed
- The traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective or improperly installed
- The pipes, connections or seals in the wastewater drain system in and/or under your building are damaged, defective, have plugs missing or are improperly installed

Is the smoke harmful to me or my pets? No. The "smoke" is not true smoke, but rather a mist that is highly visible at low concentrations. The smoke is not harmful to your health, nor will it leave a stain, and will disappear rapidly without leaving an odor. Direct contact with the smoke may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people.

What are the benefits of smoke testing? Smoke testing is an efficient and cost effective way to locate and identify

leaks in the sewer system and locate areas within the sewer system that need improvement. Smoke testing is also helpful in identifying plumbing leaks in buildings. Smoke testing is becoming more common for locating water infiltration problems that are negatively impacting the ability to properly treat wastewater.

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT – MONTHLY RATES

Florida Power & Light (FPL) stated that savings from the new federal tax overhaul will allow it to not bill customers for their \$1.3 billion cost of repairs after Hurricane Irma. FPL planned to start billing customers in March 2018 for these restoration costs, but the federal tax cut plan, approved in December 2017, put the increase on hold.

FPL said an agreement that set the utility's base electric rates allowed it to use the tax savings to deal with the Irma's costs and pass the tax savings along to their customers, as utilities are typically allowed to recoup storm costs from customers, as approved by the Florida Public Service Commission. FPL also stated that the federal tax overhaul might allow it to continue operating for an additional two years under the 2016 base-rate agreement. That agreement has been scheduled to expire in 2020. In addition, FPL had been collecting costs from customers since March 2017 to cover costs from Hurricane Matthew, which caused extensive damage in 2016 along parts of Florida's east coast. Those extra charges, which topped \$300 million, were slated to end in February 2018.

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FPL said customers will see decreases in typical monthly bills. A residential customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a month would see a \$3.35 reduction starting in the March 2018 billing period.


FLORIDA STATE HIGHLIGHTS

State Representative Randy Fine

(1) House Bill 7087: Concerned over Brevard County's dumping of 22,782,439 gallons of raw sewage into the Indian River Lagoon system, in 21 separate releases from September to October 2017, Rep. Randy Fine, chairperson of the Brevard County Legislative Delegation, worked to give the county the opportunity to allocate more dollars to fix its infrastructure, so that these spills never happen again. House Bill 7087 makes various changes in the Tourist Development Tax statute. The Florida Legislature approved changes proposed

by Rep. Randy Fine to provide flexibility as to how tourist development tax dollars can be spent. The bill creates new uses for tourism tax dollars, specifically infrastructure, that would have a direct impact on tourism. The bill inserts the words "lagoon," "estuary" and "channel" to the Tourism Development Tax statute. This Bill was opposed by members of the Brevard County Tourist Development Council. They believe the Bill will result in reduced spending on advertising and marketing that are needed to promote the Space Coast to tourists. Tourism is a \$2 billion dollar per year industry in Brevard, and it supports about 26,137 jobs, while benefiting hotels, restaurants, retail stores and local attractions.

The Bill creates new uses for tourism tax dollars, specifically infrastructure, that would have a direct impact on tourism such as: additional expenditures of tourist taxes to be spent on lagoon projects, and the money could be allocated toward



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roads, sidewalks, bike paths, boardwalks, drainage projects, solid waste facilities and other projects that directly impact tourism. This would also allow Brevard County commissioners to use tourist tax money to pay for lagoon restoration projects. Fine noted: "Saving the Indian River Lagoon is the greatest governmental challenge facing Brevard County today."

(2) Sewer Overflows & DEP: Brevard County would be compelled to spend \$12 million on sewage system repairs, under a consent order prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Fine asked DEP to "drop the hammer" on local politicians to ensure they carry through on their responsibilities to the residents for adequate infrastructure as follows: • Brevard County agrees to complete three specific projects totaling more than \$12 million by the end of 2020. These projects are designed to help "limit the occurrence of future sanitary sewer overflows." • Brevard County agrees to pay the DEP \$14,237 to settle the case, which includes \$13,737 for civil penalties and \$500 for expenses incurred by the DEP for its investigation. • Instead of making a cash payment of \$13,737 in civil penalties, the county can implement a project involving an environmental enhancement, restoration or capital improvement. Under the consent decree, the Commission must complete three projects by the end of 2020: the completion of 3.5 miles of force main on North Riverside Drive between Eau Gallie and Oakland Avenue in Indialantic; complete \$1.9 million of clay pipe rehabilitation in seven collection basins in the South Beaches; and complete smoke testing of sewage pipes in Satellite

Beach. The Commission would have to report its progress to DEP.

State Senator Debbie Mayfield

The House and Senate reached an agreement on the 2018-2019 budget for our state. A final vote passed the budget which officially ended the 2018 Legislative Session, and Gov. Rick Scott signed the new \$88.7 billion state budget, eliminating only \$64 million in spending and projects, the lowest total of his seven-plus years as governor.

(1) CS/CS/SB-858 Daylight Savings Time establishes Daylight Saving Time as the year-round time zone for the state of Florida. Rather than "falling back" next November, we would keep the time we "spring forward" to this March. In other words, Daylight Saving Time would be followed the entire year. Now that this bill has passed through both the Florida House and Senate, a memorial must be sent to the U.S. Congress requesting to change Standard Time to Daylight Saving Time, and to ask that Florida be exempt from observing the time changes that occur twice a year.

(2) Digital Preliminary Flood Hazard Maps for Brevard County Ready for Public Viewing Residents and property owners in Brevard County can see the draft, preliminary flood insurance rate maps for coastal areas. Flood hazard maps show the extent to which areas are at risk for flooding. When updated maps become effective, they help determine flood insurance and building requirements.

(3) CS/CS/HB-21, Controlled Substances limits the



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prescription for a Schedule II opioid to alleviate acute pain to a three-day supply, or a seven-day supply if deemed medically necessary by the prescriber. The bill excludes pain related to cancer, terminal illness, palliative care, and serious traumatic injuries from these prescribing limits.

(4) CS/SB 7026: Public Safety Citing this act as the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act”; authorizing the awarding of grants through the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund for student crime watch programs; establishing the Office of Safe Schools within the Department of Education; providing that each sheriff may establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program and appoint certain volunteer school employees as school guardians; prohibiting a person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or been committed to a mental institution from owning or possessing a firearm until certain relief is obtained; prohibiting a person younger than a certain age from purchasing a firearm; prohibiting specified acts relating to the sale and possession of bump-fire stocks; creating the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement, etc. Appropriation: \$400 million.

BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Residents Urged to Report fish Kills in the Lagoon: Brown tide conditions in the Indian River Lagoon have prompted a reminder for residents to report any sighting of fish kills to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This state agency administers a toll-free Fish Kill Hotline (1-

800-636-0511) for reporting the locations of fish kills and/or diseased fish.

When reporting an incident, the following additional information is considered helpful:

- 1) Condition and species of the fish
(include pictures as feasible)
- 2) Date and time the incident was noted
- 3) Location of the incident
- 4) Water color abnormalities

Reports can also be submitted on the FWC website. If calling after hours or on the weekend, a biologist will return your call on the next business day. There is also an FWC phone app where the fish kills can be reported: <http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2018/february/19/sighting-app/>

Residents can play a role in helping avoid fish kills. That includes keeping leaves and grass clippings off the streets, canals and out of storm drains; following local fertilizer ordinances; preventing over-irrigation; maintaining septic systems; and repairing leaky sewer pipes. Brevard County residents voted to impose a half-cent sales tax to fund a 10-year plan to cleanup and restore health to the IRL. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan is updated annually and posted online at <http://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon>. To date, six projects have been completed and over 60 projects are scheduled to begin this year.

“Todd is highly motivated, very ambitious and is constantly going the extra mile...always serving his clients with their best interest in mind!”

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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 1 ►

KREATHA HASTON • khaston@spranews.com

- Nominations for yard of the month are greatly appreciated.

AREA 2 ►

RICK DORMINY • 912-223-9020 • rdorminy@spranews.com

- The yard of the month for Area 2 goes to Gina & Kim Harden at 200 Pelican Drive. They have done a great job of fixing up the house and yard!
- I need nominations for the next YOM. Include both the address and names of you nominee.
- Please remind homeowners to try not to park on the street, if possible, and especially not to park on the street directly across from another parked vehicle. It blocks the street so that emergency vehicles can't get by, as well as impedes Waste Management from picking up our garbage.
- Also remind homeowners to regulate their irrigation so that so much water doesn't run into the road and into the stormwater drains that lead to the lagoon. Some residents have complained that they have to drive through large, standing puddles to get home and that the edges of yards become muddied.
- It's great to see more and more houses being renovated!

AREA 3 ►

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

- Please nominate a neighbor's yard that has greatly improved or always looks great as yard of the month. Also include both the address and names of you nominee.
- A Happy Easter to all who celebrate this event.

AREA 4 ►

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

KREATHA HASTON • khaston@spranews.com

- Please nominate your neighbor's well-kept yard for the yard of the month.

AREA 5 ►

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

- Residents have inquired about what can be done to upgrade and beautify the Skylark Median. I will bring this up for discussion at the next SPRA meeting. All interested residents are encouraged to attend.
- We also have a landscape plan that has been approved by the County Landscape Mgr. for which bids can be put out to interested contractors. If anyone has a recommendation for a bidder, please notify SPRA.
- I am getting calls about various code and parking violations. I have suggested residents leave a note, and if that does not work, then they will have to call code enforcement, who have been very responsive. Our code enforcement officer is Steve Novak @ 321-633-2086, Ext. 52781. If you want to be anonymous, make that very clear to Code in your phone call.
- Yard of the Month was nominated by Nance Burroughs. New Lawn of the Month nominations are needed. Be sure to provide both the address and names of you nominee.

AREA 6 ►

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

- Please nominate a yard of the month in Area 6, which includes, Sleepy Lagoon, Lighthouse Landing, and The Moorings. Please include both the address and name of you nominee.



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



~ **AREA 4** ~

Chris & Amanda Cockrell
101 Coral Reef Drive

APRIL/MAY 2018 YOM

AREA 1: Keith & Liz Alward; 213 NE First Street

AREA 2: Gina & Kim Harden; 200 Pelican Drive

AREA 3: Carol & Mark Glisson; 535 Fourth Avenue

AREA 4: Chris & Amanda Cockrell; 101 Coral Reef

AREA 5: Christy Kopp; 421 Cardinal Drive

AREA 6: Ronald & Maureen Aldridge; 416 Tortoise View Circle



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