

# DEC/JAN 2018 Shore News

## South Patrick Residents Association www.spranews.com

### SANTA'S SLEIGH RIDE

SPRA's annual Santa's Ride will take place on December 11th, 12th, and 13th and will depart from Fire Rescue Station 62 on Sea Park Avenue. Santa will ride his sleigh atop the fire engine throughout South Patrick Shores, including Tortoise Island. Santa will leave Fire Station 62 at 6:00 pm. An exciting new addition to Santa's Ride is that members of the Satellite Beach High School Chorus will accompany Santa along his route to serenade residents!

Here's when you can watch for Santa and the Satellite Beach Chorus in your area:

- **December 11th - Area 1, 2, & 3:** NE 3rd to Exeter St. east of S. Patrick Drive; Arlington residences will view Santa at Berkeley & 3rd Ave.; Melody Estates residences will view Santa on Sea Park; North end of Melaleuca Dr. can view Santa at Sable Palm & Melaleuca.
- **December 12th - Area 4:** South Patrick Park; South Waterway; Tortoise View; & Tortoise Island
- **December 13th - Area 5 & 6:** Moorings; Sleepy Lagoon - Red Sail Way; Lighthouse Landing, North Waterway; Waterway Townhomes can view Santa at Ibis & Skylark

### CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE - DECEMBER 16th

The annual Christmas Boat Parade, sponsored by the Banana River Sail & Power Squadron, will held on December 16th. Free Registration for all boats is requested, and a cash prize of \$150.00 will be awarded to the best decorated boat in each of these three categories:

- Best Power Boat 30 feet LOA & under
- Best Power Boat 31 feet LOA & over
- Best Sail Boat of any LOA (length overall)

Registrants will be issued an identification number and additional instructions. Registration and participation is free to all. To register your boat, e-mail the following information to Ernst at [hofmanneg@juno.com](mailto:hofmanneg@juno.com):

- First and last name
- Complete address, telephone & email
- Boat type (power or sail)
- Boat name and LOA (from vessel registration)

Boats will assemble at the north end of the Grand Canal at 5:30 PM, and the Christmas Boat Parade will start at 6:00 PM. From there, boats will proceed south down the Grand Canal, circle Lake Shepherd clockwise, continue southward, exit the

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Grand Canal into the Banana River, proceed south past the Mathers Bridge, keeping close to Merritt Island, at Dragon Point head west and circle the Judge's boat counterclockwise, then ending the parade and disbanding. Courtesy of the Banana River Sail & Power Squadron, Inc; [www.bananariversps.org](http://www.bananariversps.org)

### RESIDENT CONCERNS - Q & A

#### Your Issues Posed to SPRA

• **Q: What can be done about commercial lawn companies who blow cuttings from driveways, sidewalks and gutters into the street, or anywhere where the clippings can get into the Lagoon?**

• **A:** Professional lawn care companies should certainly be aware of the problems with the Lagoon pollution. They, as well as property owners, should be blowing all clippings out of the streets, off the sidewalks and into the yards, not into the street where run-off water from sprinklers and rain carries them into the Lagoon system. Homeowners who hire companies should remind them to blow away from the street and stormwater drains.

• **Q: Are driving golf carts allowed anywhere in the SPRA area?**

• **A:** No, golf carts are not permitted in the unincorporated SPRA area. As per *Chapter 106, Article III, Sec. 106-73. - Operation of golf carts.* "Operation of a golf cart on any county road/street, sidewalk or trail in the unincorporated area which the county has not designated for the use or operation of golf carts, as provided for herein, is prohibited." The County code for the SPRA area does not allow golf carts as per the above. The Code does allow golf carts in other areas of the County that are specifically noted in this Article. Cities throughout the county create their own ordinances on this issue, since the state defers to other jurisdictions in this matter.

**SPRA Community Meeting • David Schechter Center**  
**Monday, January 8, 2018, 7:15 p.m.**

By Ayn Samuelson

## LAGOON CLEANUP FUNDING

At a recent County Commission meeting, the Brevard County Attorney stated that under current law, it would be illegal to use money from the local Tourist Development Tax to pay for sewer system upgrades, even though they would help limit sewage discharges into the IRL.

County Commissioner John Tobia wanted to ask the state legislature to change that. Therefore, he crafted a county resolution that proposes asking members of the Brevard legislative delegation to support amending some Florida statutes in order to allow the Tourist Development Tax to be used "to prevent and treat pollution within the Indian River Lagoon." Tobia noted that: The Indian River Lagoon is critical to tourism in the region and is a major attraction for people, and is a foundation for local tourism. Much of the degradation of the lagoon, is due to failing and inadequate infrastructure. Tobia sought to ask the Brevard legislative delegation to:

- Introduce an amendment to the Florida statute dealing with the tourist tax to add "estuaries" to the list of permitted expenditures
- Pass legislation to amend the statute to state that expenditures on infrastructure, that are designed to prevent and treat pollution within any tourist attraction area noted in the statute, would be allowed.

State Rep. Randy Fine informed the County Commission that he also wants the county to re-prioritize its spending, and to use tourist tax dollars toward infrastructure improvements,

especially in light of the raw sewage dumping into the Indian River Lagoon after Hurricane Irma. If the IRL not be restored, it is estimated that our local economy could lose nearly \$3 billion in tourism and recreation revenue. Florida environmental regulators issued a warning to Brevard County after Hurricane Irma, along with additional rainfall compromised the county's wastewater treatment plants and caused at least 19 million gallons (higher estimates were suggested) of wastewater discharges into the Lagoon system. Fine's House Bill 585 is dedicated to enhance the County's ability to use local tourist development taxes for environmental-focused infrastructure projects to help our Indian River Lagoon. Senate Bill 658 was also filed by Sen. Jeff Brandes to support this effort. According to *Florida Today*, only Tobia, who pushed for a supporting County Resolution, wanted these changes made at the state level. Chairman Smith stated that directing money away from tourism-related capital projects approved by the local Tourist Development Council would discourage tourists from coming to the Space Coast.

**Lagoon Question:** Is it beneficial for our local government jurisdiction to designate how our tax dollars are spent? Won't that allow us more freedom and more options as to how we can choose to apply our tax dollars toward projects that directly impact our daily lives and the tourist industry? Residents have resoundingly agreed that we all must come together now to positively impact the health of our Lagoon system. In earlier *Shore News* issues, SPRA was honest and bold enough to state



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that a large percentage of the pollution problem is related to the dumping of raw and diluted sewage directly into the Lagoon system, and that the greatest percentage of responsibility lies with the badly deteriorated sewer pipes and the failure to repair and replace them in a timely manner. Everything possible to correct this issue should be in play.

### LAGOON PROJECT PLAN UPDATES

#### 2017 Supplement to the Save Our Lagoon Plan

In order to accelerate recovery of Indian River Lagoon health, along with related economic benefits, County staff asked community partners to find shovel-ready projects that could proceed during the current fiscal year. Many project acceleration and project substitution opportunities were reviewed by the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee, earlier this year. In total, 42 substitute projects were recommended by the Oversight Committee for consideration by the County Commission. The 2017 Supplement to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan contains this first set of proposed project substitutions

and schedule accelerations, of which nearly half are ready to begin construction. These projects, added in the Supplement to the original Lagoon Project Plan, replace the least cost-effective of the previously planned projects, of the same type in the same sub-lagoon, thereby delivering comparable pollution reduction benefits sooner, and at a reduced total cost to taxpayers. To find more information about the plan, visit <http://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon/Home> and click to read the 2017 Supplement to the original IRL plan.

#### LAGOON DE-MUCKING/DREDGING UPDATE

Dredging the Grand Canal and feeder canals is moving forward with federal and state permitting in place, and with the dredging project getting ready to send out RFPs (requests for proposals) for the dredging work. Matt Culver, the County project manager, will be sending information about the progress of the RFP and about setting up a community meeting once the contractor is chosen. A newer development regarding Waivers that can be signed by waterfront residents, will allow dredging to get closer to their seawall areas, so that

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more muck can be removed than had been originally planned. Any potential hazards to docks and seawalls will be discussed before any Waivers are signed by residents.

It is also important to support the County's request for matching local funds from the state. Our Brevard legislative delegation can be asked by residents to support matching funds toward improving the quality of the Lagoon. When residents passed the ½ cent sales tax, voters were under the assumption that matching funds would be more readily available due to our local contribution and pledging our support through the increased sales taxes. However, last years' state legislative session produced no additional funds toward our IRL project plan. We are hopeful that SPRA residents can contact their local legislators to garner more state support for IRL projects.

Community News

### BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

**(1) CRA Accountability:** *Florida Today* reported that at the November 7th Commission meeting, Commissioner John Tobia questioned the use of CRA (community redevelopment agency) money by two local CRAs, alleging they may have "improperly used" about \$684,500 of city and county money for festival expenses. Tobia's concerns were based on Opinions of support from both the Florida Attorney General's Office and County Attorney Scott Knox. Tobia proposed that the Commission authorize performance audits of the CRAs to ensure proper expenditures, and while, Commissioners Isnardi and Tobia supported the audit proposition, the other three commissioners voted against the audits.

**(2) Brevard County Quarterly Report, *Brevard Delivers*:** The third edition of *Brevard Delivers*, Brevard County Government's quarterly report, is available online at <http://www.brevardfl.gov/BrevardDelivers>.

This is a County-published update on upcoming projects, projects that are underway, and projects that have recently been completed. This publication, which is available in the second, third and fourth quarters in electronic form only, also features in-depth information on major projects that the County is undertaking, including tax-funded restoration of the Indian River Lagoon. To subscribe and receive future editions of *Brevard Delivers*, please visit <http://apps.brevardcounty.us/PublicInformationReleases/> and be sure to click on *Brevard Delivers* under Public Information Release Categories.

**(3) Brevard Adopted Budget FY 2017/2018:** Comparison of the County operating budget with the prior FY 2016/2017 adopted budget and the newly adopted budget for FY 2017/2018 shows an increase of 12.1% over last year.

**(4) Ethics Code Requires Lobbyists to Register on County Website:** A Lobbyist Search and Registration Application, required under an Ethics Code ordinance and approved by unanimous vote by the County Commissioners is now available on the Brevard County website at [www.brevardfl.gov](http://www.brevardfl.gov) and [www.BrevardFL.gov/CountyCommission/Lobbyist](http://www.BrevardFL.gov/CountyCommission/Lobbyist). The new Ethics Code requires anyone engaging in lobbying activities with commissioners to fill out a registration statement form on the County's website. The form can be found at the top of the County's homepage, or by hovering over the Home tab on the

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main page and then clicking on the County Commissioners category. From there, a new set of tabs will appear on the left side of the web page, which includes a Lobbyist Search and Registration tab. Visitors who click on that tab can also click the Search button to find a lobbyist for a certain issue or click on the “View All Lobbyists” button to display all lobbyists who are actively registered. The lobbyist registration is one of several ethics code provisions that were part of the approved ordinance. It also stipulates penalties for failure to register as a lobbyist; implements a lobbying and employment ban on commissioners after vacating office; prohibits acceptance of gifts by County officials; establishes procedures for sending County Commissioners on out-of-state travel using County funds; and limits to no more than \$25 the value of any gift received in a calendar year by Commissioners from a lobbyist.

#### **(5) Emergency Management Resident Information:**

Here is the information for residents to sign up for notices from our social media department with regard to emergency information for the public. <http://staging.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/StayInformed>

**(6) Brevard County Solid Waste Department:** Many thanks to Euri Rodriguez, Director of Brevard County Solid Waste for communicating with SPRA over several weeks to get us the latest on FEMA pickups and to get that second FEMA sweep done throughout our area. Euri made certain that Waste Management got back on schedule for the yard waste pickup in SPRA. Some residents were concerned about when WMI would resume regular yard waste pickup, but FEMA

requirements had to be strictly followed, or the County would lose the federal funding.

#### **(7) County Policies Governing BOCC and Staff Expense Reimbursements:**

County Commissioners, staff and county employees submit expense information, and Clerk of the Court employees review submissions in Accounts Payable. Legitimate expenses would include expenses related to official business of the County. This could include tolls, mileage, food, and hotels as related to County business. The expenses to be reimbursed are first checked in the appropriate County Department, as the various supervisors know the details of who went where. Then the expense requests are sent back to the Clerk for a second check. Finally a check is cut for the expenses. Some of the policies that apply to County expenses are found in the following policies: BCC-29 relating to travel expenses; BCC-92 relating to reimbursement of costs for travel, mileage, lodging, registration fees, membership fees, and food costs expended by elected officials that are part of their official duties; BCC-08 relating to education assistance and licensing fees reimbursement/payment for County employees; and BCC-10 relating to tool reimbursement for County employees. Expense reimbursements are public record.

#### **BREVARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET**

The Brevard County School Board unanimously passed a \$942 million budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The final budget includes \$220 million for capital projects, which includes building repairs, buses and technology purchases;



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\$40 million for debt payment; and \$619 million for operating expenses, which includes employee salaries. Despite House Bill 7069's passage, the district does not have to share any property taxes with charter schools this fiscal year. View the full 2017/18 BPS District Budget Document

Overall, the FY 2017/18 School Board Adopted Budget decreased about 3.8% from the prior fiscal year. Currently the Board has two operating taxing authorities (required local effort and discretionary local levy) and one capital outlay taxing authority. These three taxing authorities each carry their separate millage rates that appear on our November Tax Bills. Local revenue that will be received from property taxes increased about 2.8% over last fiscal year.

## FLORIDA STATE HIGHLIGHTS

**(1) Senator Mayfield's Update: (a) Committee Meetings:** Legislators were in Tallahassee in November for the fourth and fifth weeks of interim committee meetings. Committee members debated legislation, such as SB-134, Concealed Weapons or Firearms, and SB-152, Sale of Firearms. Additionally, the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (JLAC) discussed a request for an Auditor General audit of the City of Palm Bay, as requested by Rep. Randy Fine.  
**(b) Phone Scam Update:** In general, it is never a good idea to make donations or provide financial information to any individual who calls or emails you, unless you can absolutely verify the authenticity of the caller or emailer. The Internet is

full of websites that are fake, fraudulent or a complete scam. The Internet has changed the way we shop, bank, and interact with the world around us, while at the same time, the Internet provides new means for criminals to con the unsuspecting.

**(2) State Attorney Phil Archer Update: (a) Public Wi-Fi Scams:** If you like to take advantage of free public Wi-Fi, double check before connecting. Scammers are using Wi-Fi to steal personal information and gain access to your accounts.  
**(b) Check Contractor Licensing:** Check the license and complaint history of contractors before signing a contract or agreeing to have anyone do work for you. Call the Department of Business and Professional Regulation at (850) 487-1395 or go to MyFloridaLicense.com. Do not sign an "Assignment of Benefits" form for a contractor if you have not been instructed to do so by your insurance company.  
**Assignment of Benefits (AOB) Explanation:** Assignment of Benefits is a legal agreement that a contractor may ask you to sign that transfers your insurance policy benefits/payments and rights to them. This allows a third party contractor to be paid for services performed for an insured, who would normally be directly reimbursed by the insurance company after making a claim. Most AOB agreements presented to the homeowner allow the contractor to "stand in the shoes" of the homeowner for insurance collection purposes. While hurricane deductibles are high, and contractors want to be certain that they will be paid for their work, some argue that this legal arrangement allows contractors with the option to over-inflate claim charges

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or submit improper claims, thereby causing potential legal battles between the contractor and the insurance company. Others state that AOBs can help property owners navigate the claims process, as homeowners become frustrated if it takes too long for claims adjusters to show up and inspect their property after a loss. But signing an AOB does not guarantee that an adjuster will show up more promptly, that the claim will be paid faster, or that the repair work done will be completed any faster or better.

While the AOB practice has been around for over 100 years and was originally designed to streamline the claims and repair process for property owners, it's been increasingly exploited, especially in Florida, over the last several years. In addition, insurers and regulators are warning owners that AOB costs submitted by some contractors and ensuing litigation costs are driving up insurance rates on policies in Florida, while not

necessarily getting the work done in a timely manner nor in a competent manner. Also, the homeowner could be liable to be named as a party in a lawsuit and could be sued for any unpaid repair costs or find that a lien has been filed in an attempt to collect. An insured in New Smyrna Beach signed an AOB with a roofing company, but they turned out to be unreliable. "Once they have that assignment of benefits, the policyholder is kind of out of the loop." But, insurance companies must also learn from these consequences, as it is critical that they do their part to ensure that prompt and fair claim service is given to their insureds after a loss.

#### MATHERS BRIDGE UPDATE

**Proposed Changes in Operation Schedule:** The US Coast Guard has proposed, at the request of some local residents who live nearby to move to an operation schedule of opening



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the bridge every ½ hour vs. the current operation of opening the bridge as requested and needed by local boat traffic. The public comment period was re-opened through 11/22/17, and many people commented, mostly in favor of keeping the current procedure of opening the bridge as needed, dependent on the actual boat traffic. This is the only south-bound access that boaters have to the Indian River and the Atlantic Ocean, and changing the schedule also presents a number of safety and environmental issues. Many of our residents are boaters and will be impacted by this schedule change. Tortoise Island HOA accessed social media and published flyers to pass the word along to our residents.

#### SEA PARK ELEMENTARY

Sea Park Elementary held its annual Veteran's Day Salute by honoring veterans at the 10th anniversary Take-A-Vet to school day event held on November 3rd. The Superintendent and the School Board officers were in attendance.

#### NATURE CALLS

##### Sheepshead: *Archosargus probatocephalus*

##### Appearance:

- Basic silvery color with 5 or 6 distinct vertical black bars on the sides; bars are not always the same on both sides
- Prominent teeth, including incisors, molars and rounded grinders
- No barbels on the lower jaw

- Strong and sharp spines on the dorsal and anal fins

**Habitat:** Sheepshead are an inshore species and are commonly found around oyster bars, seawalls, and in tidal creeks. They move nearshore during late winter and early spring for spawning.

**Behavior:** Sheepshead are fractional spawners (they only lay a portion of their eggs at a time) in inshore waters, typically in March and April. They are omnivorous, feeding mostly on crustaceans and small fish.

**Additional Information:** Sheepshead are an important commercial species. State Record: 15 lb 2 oz, caught near Homosassa; Fishing Tips and Facts: Use live shrimp, sand fleas or fiddler crabs on a small hook fished on the bottom. When cleaning, beware of the sharp gill covers.



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## AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS

### AREA 1 ►

KREATHA HASTON • khaston@spranews.com

• Everything is quiet in Area 1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### AREA 2 ►

CHRIS DAVIS • cdavis@spranews.com

• All is well in Area 2. Residents are out and about enjoying the nice temps and cool breezes. It is great to see people and families enjoying the reason we all reside beach side.

• ALL hands on deck! Our beaches are still in need of beach clean up of debris, plastics, and other matter. So please take a walk, bring a bag, and pick up debris while enjoying the scenery. We thank you in advance!

• Also, if you see it, say something. We have found animal piles on streets, walkways, and grassy areas near the road.

This is extremely foul and disturbing. Please say something to those you see being a poor animal owner.

• Several tanker trucks were observed at the Sea Park detention pond in late October. Brevard Utilities replied: "What you observed is tanker trucks assisting us with removing sewage from the pumping lift station and bringing it to another system due to us having to repair a pipe downstream. We had to shut the pumps off temporarily until the pipe was repaired."

• We wish everyone a very relaxing and cool November and December. Please let us know if you have ideas, suggestions for feedback. Do not forget to join us on Facebook: South Patrick Shores Families.

### AREA 3 ►

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

• Wishing all the residents in the South Patrick Area a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year. We are



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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!

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blessed.

• Let us thank the Veteran's who have protected this country and kept us free, those living, as well as those who gave their lives to keep us free. Also let us never forget those who serve us everyday such as our police force, fire fighters, and our first responders who help secure our safety and welfare. Thank You.

• Welcome to the new families who have moved into our area. Call your area directors with concerns, we will see what we can do for you.

• If anyone would like to nominate a yard of the month. Please call me at my number listed next to Area 3 in the newsletter.

#### AREA 4 ►

MARILYNN COLLINS • 773-8490 • [mcollins@spranews.com](mailto:mcollins@spranews.com)

KREATHA HASTON • [khaston@spranews.com](mailto:khaston@spranews.com)

• Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

#### AREA 5 ►

BOB CAHALL • 779-9282 • [bcahall@spranews.com](mailto:bcahall@spranews.com)

• As the holidays kick in to full gear, there are many community events happening, and these can be posted on our entranceway bulletin board. We ask they not be to large and that you take them down after the event is over to make room for others. Please remember no to post notices of garage sales, items for sale, and other non-related community items on the bulletin board. Lost and found notices for items or lost pets are welcome.

• I would like the next Yard of the Month nomination to be

selected on the basis of being the yard with the best Christmas decorations. Please contact me with the address and name of your nominee. Thank you to Tiffany Turk for this month's nomination.

• This years Christmas boat parade will be on December 16th. For more information read the article on page one of this news letter, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

• I want to thank Ed Zatoris, owner of EZ Property Maintenance, for his help with repairing the light house that was damaged during the hurricane.

• Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### AREA 6 ►

CLYDE BERRY • 779-3129 • [cberry@spranews.com](mailto:cberry@spranews.com)

• Wishing everyone a happy holiday season.

#### SATELLITE BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

##### Adults

December 4-8– Friends of the Library will hold a Children's Book Sale in the lobby. Purchase a gently used book for a special child. Hours may vary, check at the library.

Mondays, 10:00am-12:00pm – Master Gardeners in the lobby.

Tuesdays, 12:30pm-3:00pm – SHINE Medicare/Medicaid counseling. One-on-one help with health insurance for seniors and disabled. Call 321-426-0261.



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Yard of the Month winners are entitled to a FREE MOWER BLADE SHARPENING courtesy of A-1-A Lawnmower Shop. Be sure to bring the newsletter with you when you visit the shop.  
**Please contact your Area Director to nominate a yard for Yard of the Month.**



### ~ AREA 2 ~

**Ellen Kousouris; 173 SE Second Street**

### DECEMBER/JANUARY YOM

**Area 1:** Paul & Toni Frommann; 131 Ocean Blvd.

**Area 2:** Ellen Kousouris; 173 SE Second Street

**Area 3:** Bill & Melissa Favuzza; 300 West Dover

**Area 4:** Edward Kroen; 433 S Neptune Drive

**Area 5:** John & Sophia VanMoors; 412 Penguin Drive

**Area 6:** Hal & Mary Ann Sullins; 493 Red Sail Way



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Pastor Al Evans

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