

# FEB/MAR 2018 Shore News

South Patrick Residents Association  
www.spranews.com

## SPRA MEMBERSHIP MONTH

It's that time of the year to renew your membership or to become a new member of your South Patrick Residents Association. SPRA is an "all-volunteer" community association working for you in dealing with government policies, giving you important information, and working to make local improvements.

Inside this month's Shore News, you'll find your 2018 SPRA Membership Form and envelope. Your \$15 per household dues goes toward paying for printing and distribution of the Shore News, and to support projects, like signs, landscaping projects, safety issues, and Santa's fire engine ride. Join us at the SPRA meetings, and let your Area Director know your concerns, plus share your ideas about new community improvements. We need your support to promote safety and our quality of life. Thank you for being an important part of our beachside community!

## ELECTION OF 2018 SPRA VOLUNTEERS

SPRA election of officers and area directors will be held on February 12, 2018 at the SPRA monthly meeting. The proposed election slate is as follows, although members can nominate qualified member-candidates from the floor, where candidates can provide information about themselves at that time.

President:	Ayn Marie Samuelson
Vice President:	Rick Mariani
Recording Secretary:	Open
Treasurer:	Open – Mary Lou Coleman will serve as interim Treasurer
Area 1 Director:	Kreatha Haston – Need an Area 1 resident for the position
Area 2 Director:	Rick Dorminy
Area 3 Director:	Lillian Skinner
Area 4 Director:	Kreatha Haston & Marilynn Collins
Area 5 Director:	Bob Cahall
Area 6 Director:	Clyde Berry

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## UPCOMING MUCK DREDGING MEETING

Make certain that you read the article from Brevard County Natural Resources on page 2 entitled, "Grand Canal Dredging Project" by Walker Dawson. Our next step is to coordinate a meeting, either in **April or June** with the dredging contractor and Brevard County Natural Resources, so that residents can ask questions and learn more about the waiver proposal that is on the table. The County notes that waivers would allow more muck to be removed than had been originally planned. Residents will also want certain assurances about their dock and seawall structures with regard to the additional muck removal.

## RESIDENT CONCERNS – Question & Answer

**Q: Are farm animals permitted in our residential area?**

**A: County Code of Ordinance Sec. 62-2108. - Farm animals and fowl.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep upon any premises not zoned for agricultural use or otherwise excepted in accordance with this chapter, any of the following: bees, roosters, peacocks, horses, ponies, cattle, goats, pigs or other livestock, or more than one of the following: pigeons, chickens, ducks, or other fowl. In all single-family residential zones, on lots of at least one-half acre minimum, up to four chickens (no roosters or other fowl) may be permitted per one-half acre of land. All fowl are for the personal, non-commercial use of the occupants only. **Sec. 62-2133. - Administrative permit for a farm animal as a pet at a residence.** Any residential property owner on a GU zoned lot of at least one acre may request from the zoning official an administrative permit for a farm animal as a pet at a residence. The intent of this permit is to allow certain exotic or miniature species such as

**SPRA Community Meeting • David Schechter Center  
Monday, February 12, 2018, 7:15 p.m.**

By Ayn Samuelson

Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pigs or Pygmy Goats, which would otherwise be classified as farm animals under this regulation, to be permitted as pets. These animals are not permitted in our Residential - RU zoning areas.

#### SPRA'S SANTA SLEIGH RIDE

Thank you to all our friends and neighbors who came out to support our December SPRA Santa Ride. Santa appreciated the waves, cookies, and cheers from everyone. It was wonderful to see the families and parties outside waiting for us, along with so many of our neighbors gathering together to welcome Santa to the SPRA area. Please join us in thanking the managers at the Publix and Walgreens on A1A, and Sam's Club in Melbourne for their generous donations of an entire grocery bag full of candy each. Thanks also to Lowes for their generous donations for the necessary lights to update Santa's

Sleigh. Many thanks to the Elf Volunteers for their time and unending support of our SPRA community! Our dedicated Elfs - Larry, Scott and Lynne Lendo, Randy Pitts, Bill Hannel, Laura Walko, Walt Adams, Audrey Kressig, Jo Allyson and Kirra Cattaneo, Susan and Mike McBride and Bill, JoAnn and Sierra Davis, and thank you to Tortoise Island HOA for their annual donation of \$125 toward the community Santa event. A special thanks to Robert Schenkleberg and the entire fire station crew at our Brevard County Fire Rescue Station #62. Without Brevard County's support it would not be possible to make the Santa Fire Engine Run. One last thought: It's very important to remember that Santa will see you all next year once again, and always remember that he knows if you've been naughty or nice!

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## GRAND CANAL DREDGING PROJECT

Article by Walker Dawson, Brevard County Natural Resources

In the central and northern regions of the Indian River Lagoon, record setting algal blooms have caused the loss of over 40,000 acres of seagrass, and the deaths of manatees, bottlenose dolphins, and extensive fish kills. One major contributing factor is the extensive organic muck deposits created by decades of runoff, erosion and nutrient loading. Excess nutrients feed algae blooms. When algae die, they settle on the Lagoon bottom in a thick, black, decaying sludge known as Muck. These accumulated muck sediments contain significant "legacy" nutrients, which regularly flux into the water column, and recycle nutrients within the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) system. Muck sediments also negatively impact navigation, damage seagrass beds, impacts water clarity, water quality, biodiversity, fisheries abundance and can consume dissolved oxygen to create anoxic bottom conditions detrimental to all lagoon organisms.

The Brevard County Muck Dredging Project began through a series of appropriation from the Florida Legislature in 2014 through 2017, totaling over \$40M for the removal of muck deposits throughout the IRL in Brevard. The Grand Canal Muck Removal Project, from Sampson Island north to the Pineda Causeway, along with a majority of its feeder canals, is a major project initiated with that funding. In addition, the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRL) is underway, expecting to implement over 143 projects in a 10-year plan. The Grand Canal Muck Removal Project will be completed through the funding assistance provided under the SOIRL Project Plan. Completion of the Grand Canal project would not be possible without SOIRL funding.

Under the current project layout dredging must maintain a 10 foot buffer from any engineered structures, e.g. docks, seawalls, boat ramps, etc. County staff is currently assessing the viability of obtaining a permit modification to expand the current dredge area and allow for dredging to include areas within 5 feet of structures. This decreased setback will require

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authorization through **waivers** executed by individual property owners. The intent of allowing individual property owners to authorize dredging to within 5 feet of structures is to increase the effectiveness of muck removal and thus improve the benefits to water quality. Additionally, this decreased setback will allow for better access to the adjacent shoreline and docks by removing accumulated bottom sediments. Waiver forms will be distributed and a public meeting is tentatively planned for early 2018 to discuss the waiver process.

The project will remove over 620,000 cubic yards of muck from the Grand Canal system and is estimated to be out for bid in the spring of 2018 with dredging anticipated to start mid-2018. The project should take approximately 2 to 3 years to complete. Dredging activities will not occur each year from December 1st through March 15th in accordance with the issued permits for manatee protection.

The long-term success of muck removal is dependent on continued reductions in land-based sources of pollutants to prevent the continued build-up of muck in the lagoon. Muck removal is just one part of the entire process to reduce excess nutrients in the Indian River Lagoon and restore ecosystem health. You can help reduce your contributions to muck by keeping grass clippings, leaves, and other vegetation out of the canals and sweeping it off of hard services to prevent them from washing down storm drains. Also, only fertilize from October 1st - May 31st, using a slow-release nitrogen and zero phosphorous fertilizer to prevent feeding harmful algae which adds to the decaying vegetation on the bottom.

For additional information on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan go to <http://www.brevardfl.gov/>

SaveOurLagoon/ to view the entire plan, see progress updates, learn about upcoming Citizen Oversight Committee Meetings or view archived meetings. You can also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BrevardCountySaveOurLagoon/> and on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/saveourlagoon/> to keep up with news and announcements.

## FIVE STEPS TO A SMART WATER CYCLE

Article by Rick Mariani, VP SPRA

### Introduction

This is what smart waste-water management looks like:

- In the first step of cleaning waste water, large impurities such as kitchen leftovers, hygiene products or pieces of wood are removed with large rakes or sieves.
- In the second step, the water is moved to a large basin where sand, rocks and stones fall to the bottom. Fats and oils collect at the top and are siphoned off. Finally, the water is moved to the pre-clean basin, where the stream is slowed down. For approximately two hours, the water is allowed to "sit". Through this process, even more materials settle, as muck or slime on the bottom, that is then siphoned off and sent to the rotting/fermentation tower. In the reanimation basin, there is so-called "living slime", that is choked full of microorganisms. These microorganisms work to eliminate the organic contaminants. Phosphate, Nitrogen, and Phosphoric elements are removed from the water in this fashion.
- In step three, the water is released into the after-cleaning basin, where the living slime sinks to the bottom. The now clean water can be returned to rivers, creeks, and other waters and rejoin the water cycle.

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### Background

It sounds simple, right? We just need to clean and completely process the waste and return it to Indian River Lagoon, St. Johns River, or the underground aquifer. The remaining waste is then available to be sold as fertilizer or recycled raw materials. The problem is, that Brevard County and other stake holders, such as most municipalities, are not following the three-step process outlined in the introduction.

Instead, the current practice is to pay to have the partially processed solid waste removed to become someone else's ecological problem, and only partially cleaned water, or even uncleaned water and sewage is injected into the underground aquifer or dumped straight into an available body of water when the load exceeds the carry capacity. The technologies for complete cleaning and processing of waste water are tried, proven, necessary, and affordable. Nature has sent us several warnings. How many species will have to disappear from our Indian River Lagoon, before we are ready to get serious and be good conservators of our natural resources?

The current infrastructure strategy was reasonable and sufficient in 1950, when Brevard County had 23 thousand inhabitants. Currently Brevard County has over 530,000 inhabitants, and we need a sound plan to minimize the impact on the Indian River Lagoon and our aquifer. We need to insure only clean water gets sent into the lagoon and aquifer.

### The 5 Step Solution

- Educate the public on the effort and win public support.
- Accomplish the political coordination with all stake holders and Tallahassee, to take it from the planning stages to

construction and implementation, while still planning for any future growth.

- Adapt existing blueprints and technologies already in world-wide use, and implement a comprehensive modern, smart water cycle plan, involving all stake holders in the county and assuring the financing through a combination of user fees and state revenue sharing. This should be a model program, a prototype that lends itself to state-wide application, as Brevard County is not unique in Florida when it comes to water resource mismanagement.

- Require smart water cycle integration for all new residential and business districts.

- Reexamine existing areas of development in Brevard County to ascertain what can be done to lessen their negative impact on the water cycle and water resources, and then take action.

### Goals

- Process the solid waste completely and give or sell it to agriculture or place in landfills.

- Clean the water completely before returning it to the lagoon or the aquifer.

- Minimize the negative impact of human habitation on Brevard County water resources.

- Let nature work its healing magic.



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## BREVARD COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

### County Commissioners Vote to Increase Ambulance User Fees

Commissioners agreed to discuss a plan that could increase the fees clients pay for ambulance transports to area hospitals. They voted 4 to 1 in support of the increase, which could raise user costs by as much as 36 percent. A January 23rd public hearing will be held at which commissioners can discuss and modify the user fees for such ambulance service.

*Florida Today* reported that ambulance rates have not increased since 2009, and the current rate structure does not reflect the newer additional costs of salaries, employee benefits, maintenance, ambulances, as well as other equipment. In addition, Fire Chief Schollmeyer noted that the fire department needs upgrades to some of the county fire stations.

The proposed rates purportedly would generate about \$1 million per year in additional revenue as follows:

- The fee for basic life support care and transport would increase 36.3 percent, from \$501 to \$683. A call of this type might involve a fall at a patient's home in which there is no signs of major injury.
- The fee for advanced life support care and transport would increase 35.5 percent, from \$541 to \$733. A call of this type might involve the patient experiencing chest pains, including the administration of medications and medical testing.
- The fee for a higher level of advanced life support care and

transport, involving administration of additional medications and medical testing, would increase 28.1 percent, from \$627 to \$803.

- Mileage charges would increase 28 percent from \$9.18 per mile to \$11.75 per mile.

Under this proposed plan, all future rate increases would be tied to increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This would provide annual, gradual increases over time.

"From a business perspective, it's the right thing to do," Commissioner Barfield stated during the discussion of the proposed rate increases. "It's a fee. ... And your costs have gone up."

County Manager Abbate told commissioners that, even with the rate increase, revenue from the ambulance bills increase by a smaller amount because 56 percent of the calls are for Medicare patients and 12 percent are for Medicaid patients. Because the federal government sets the maximum rates for ambulance service for both Medicare and Medicaid, these rates are much lower than what Brevard County Fire Rescue can charge other patients. For example, the maximum payment for a basic life support transport runs about \$347 for Medicare patients and \$136 for Medicaid patients, even though the County's costs are much higher to provide these services. In addition, the county is not permitted to bill patients the amount Medicare and Medicaid do not pay. Therefore, the county's expenses far exceed the revenue in these circumstances.

The actual rate increases would impact about one-third of

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the total number of transported patients as follows: those 16 percent who have private health insurance, other than Medicare and Medicaid, along with the estimated 16 percent who are not insured. In addition, many of those without any insurance end up not paying their ambulance bills, leaving the the county to write off the losses. Since BCFR emergency medical services' operations are funded by a combination of the user fees for transports and a transfer of taxpayer funds from the county's general fund, this directly impacts the amount of revenue available in the general fund that can be used on behalf of other programs to benefit residents.

Chief Schollmeyer offered commissioners an alternative of raising fees by some 15.75 percent across the board, to match the cumulative increase in the Consumer Price Index since 2009, the last time transport fees were increased. That would increase revenue by about \$302,000 per year. But four of the

five commissioners decided in favor of the larger increase, which would reportedly bring transport rates near to the average charged by other Florida providers.

#### NATURE CALLS - MANGROVES

Mangroves are shrub and tree species that live along shores, rivers, and estuaries in the tropics and subtropics. Mangroves are remarkably tough. Most live on muddy soil, but some also grow on sand, peat, and coral rock. They live in water up to 100 times saltier than most other plants can tolerate. They thrive despite twice-daily flooding by ocean tides; even if this water were fresh, the flooding alone would drown most trees. Growing where land and water meet, mangroves bear the brunt of ocean-borne storms and hurricanes.

There are 80 described species of mangroves, 60 of which live exclusively on coasts between the high- and low-tide



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lines. Only 12 species live in the Americas. Mangroves range in size from small bushes to the 60-meter giants found in Ecuador. Within a given mangrove forest, different species occupy distinct niches. Those that can handle tidal soakings grow in the open sea, in sheltered bays, and on fringe islands. Trees adapted to drier, saltier soil can be found farther from the shoreline. Some mangroves flourish along riverbanks far inland, as long as the freshwater current is met by ocean tides.

#### **Survival**

How do mangroves survive under such hostile conditions? A remarkable set of evolutionary adaptations makes it possible. These amazing trees and shrub can do the following:

#### **Cope with salt:**

Mangroves are salt tolerant trees, also called halophytes and are adapted to life in harsh coastal conditions. They contain a complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope with salt water immersion and wave action. Saltwater can kill plants, so mangroves must extract freshwater from the seawater that surrounds them.

Many mangrove species survive by filtering out as much as 90 percent of the salt found in seawater as it enters their roots. Some species excrete salt through glands in their leaves. These leaves, which are covered with dried salt crystals, taste salty if you lick them. A third strategy used by some mangrove species is to concentrate salt in older leaves or bark. When the leaves drop or the bark sheds, the stored salt goes with them.

**Hoard fresh water:**

Like desert plants, mangroves store fresh water in thick

succulent leaves. A waxy coating on the leaves of some mangrove species seals in water and minimizes evaporation. Small hairs on the leaves of other species deflect wind and sunlight, which reduces water loss through the tiny openings where gases enter and exit during photosynthesis. On some mangroves species, these tiny openings are below the leaf's surface, away from the drying wind and sun.

#### **Breathe in a variety of ways:**

Some mangroves grow pencil-like roots that stick up out of the dense, wet ground like snorkels. These breathing tubes, called pneumatophores, allow mangroves to cope with daily flooding by the tides. Pneumatophores take in oxygen from the air unless they're clogged or submerged for too long. The roots also slow the movement of tidal waters, causing sediments to settle out of the water and build up the muddy bottom. They are adapted to the low oxygen (anoxic) conditions of waterlogged mud.

#### **Roots That Multitask**

Root systems that arch high over the water are a distinctive feature of many mangrove species. These aerial roots take several forms. Some are stilt roots that branch and loop off the trunk and lower branches. Others are wide, wavy plank roots that extend away from the trunk. Aerial roots broaden the base of the tree and, like flying buttresses on medieval cathedrals, stabilize the shallow root system in the soft, loose soil. In addition to providing structural support, aerial roots play an important part in providing oxygen for respiration. Oxygen enters a mangrove through lenticels, thousands of cell-sized



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breathing pores in the bark and roots. Lenticels close tightly during high tide, thus preventing mangroves from drowning.

### Ready-to-Roll Seeds

The mangroves' niche between land and sea has led to unique methods of reproduction. Seed pods germinate while on the tree, so they are ready to take root when they drop. If a seed falls in the water during high tide, it can float and take root once it finds solid ground. If a sprout falls during low tide, it can quickly establish itself in the soft soil of tidal mudflats before the next tide comes in. A vigorous seed may grow up to two feet (about 0.6 m) in its first year. Roots arch from the seedling to anchor it in the mud. Some tree species form long, spear-shaped stems and roots while still attached to the parent plant. After being nourished by the parent tree for one to three years, these sprouts may break off. Some take root nearby while others fall into the water and are carried away to distant shores. From the journey of a single seed, a rich ecosystem may be born.

Botanists believe that mangroves originated in Southeast Asia, but ocean currents have since dispersed them to India, Africa, Australia, and the Americas. As Alfredo Quarto, the head of the Mangrove Action Project, puts it, "Over the millions of years since they've been in existence, mangroves have essentially set up shop around the world." The fruits, seeds, and seedlings of all mangrove plants can float, and they have been known to bob along for more than a year before taking root. In buoyant seawater, a seedling lies flat and floats fast.

### How Mangroves Benefit Us

Mangroves also provide us with many other important benefits, more than many people may realize. For example, mangroves produce seafood, fruits, medicines, fiber, and wood. They stabilize shores by trapping sediments and building land. They improve water quality by filtering runoff and polluted waters. They protect the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide and reducing the amount of greenhouse gas. (*Excerpts from the American Museum of American History.*)



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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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- All is well in Area 1 with no critical issues in the area.
- Some homes are being renovated and updated, which is an improvement to the area.
- Please nominate a neighbor's yard for yard of the month.

**AREA 2 ►**

RICK DORMINY • [rdorminy@spranews.com](mailto:rdorminy@spranews.com)

- Many residents have participated in various beach clean up projects due to the large amounts of plastics that have recently washed ashore. Keep up the great work for our community!
- By the amount of surfers in the water, I think it is fair to say that the weather has been swell!
- We've seen some good looking "dinners" caught off the beach, so continue to get outside and enjoy the fishing
- Remember to be neighborly, and to help a senior citizen or neighbor, and simply smile! It is contagious!

**AREA 3 ►**

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- Nominating your neighbor's yard for YOM shows your appreciation.

**AREA 4 ►**

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

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

- Area 4 has been working on getting the yield sign properly placed at the entranceway in South Waterway to ensure that residents' safety. The county placed the sign, but there is an

ongoing conversation about the exact location.

- Please nominate a neighbor's yard for yard of the month.

**AREA 5 ►**

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

- Residents are being asked to follow parking codes and not block side walks when parking. Also residents are complaining about other car and trailer parking which is against code. Some residents have been calling code enforcement to help solve these violations. Every one is asked to help by parking according to code.
- Nominations for yard of the month are requested. Please show your neighbor you appreciate them by nominating their handiwork. Email or call me with their names and address. This month's YOM was nominated by neighbor Dan Bryan.
- SPRA volunteers do a huge amount of good within the SPRA community, often without residents even realizing what is getting accomplished behind the scenes. Please be sure to mail in your annual Membership Dues this month, and give us your feedback on issues that are important to you.

**AREA 6 ►**

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

- The Moorings HOA has been removing dead podocarpus along Jolly Roger that has died over several months time. The tentative plan is to replant to fill in the gaps in vegetation, when weather permits.
- Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you all for all the hard work to keep area six looking great!



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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 3 ~

**Mark & Kelly Santucci; 301 West Dover**

### FEB/MAR 2018 YOM

Area 1: Kevin & Lydia Jackson; 203 NE 2nd Street

Area 2: Walter Mendenhall & Ruth Ann Alibrando;  
 308 West Exeter Street

Area 3: Mark & Kelly Santucci; 301 West Dover

Area 4: Sarah Howard; 339 Coral Reef Drive

Area 5: Ayn & Jack Samuelson; 494 Sandpiper Drive

Area 6: Charles & Ingeborg Holland;  
 479 Port Royal Blvd.



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