

Shore News 2022-2023

South Patrick Residents Association
www.spranews.com

2023 SPRA MEMBERSHIP ALERT

SPRA's fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31, and SPRA Membership Month begins at the start of the year. Positive involvement at our local community level is essential to maintain our unique way of life. We saw that clearly when the second Vacation Rental battle was won at the end of 2020. SPRA ignited the charge on the issue, but people throughout the County stood up to defend their homes and communities. This will not be our last battle to wage, and we must work together to preserve and improve our community. For example, SPRA continues to advocate to preserve Hightower Beach Park as an oceanfront public park, with the covenants in place for equitable access and conservation.

Now is the time to renew your SPRA Membership and to get involved in the issues that impact us. If you're not a SPRA member, please become one, as we have worked to represent residents' interests since 1965 as a volunteer, non-profit dealing with government policies, providing information to residents, and working to make local improvements. SPRA also strives to keep Members updated throughout the year with emails about issues that arise.

Your \$16.00 per household Annual Dues goes toward paying for printing and distribution of the Shore News and to support projects like signs, landscaping, safety issues, and Santa's fire engine ride, among other accomplishments listed on the **2023 Membership Form on page 7, which may be removed to cut and send the lower portion in the SPRA Membership Envelope, which is also included inside the Shore News.** Or you may pay your Annual Dues by using the PayPal option on the website at www.spranews.com.

Join us at SPRA meetings, and share your ideas about community improvements and concerns. Help support a safer community and our quality of life. Thank you for being an important part of the community!

SANTA'S SLEIGH RIDE: December 12th, 13th, & 14th

SPRA's annual Santa's Sleigh Ride will take place on December 12th, 13th, and 14th and depart from Fire Rescue

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SPRA is a 501 (c) (4) non-profit

Station 62 on Sea Park Avenue at 6:00 PM. Santa will ride his sleigh atop the fire engine throughout South Patrick Shores, including Tortoise Island. Watch for Santa in your area and enjoy the fun!

- **December 12th in 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 13th in Area 4:** South Patrick Park; South Waterway; Tortoise View; & Tortoise Island
- **December 14th in Area 5 & 6:** Moorings; Sleepy Lagoon – Red Sail Way; Lighthouse Landing, North Waterway; Waterway Townhomes can view Santa at Ibis & Skylark

The Santa Sleigh ride is sponsored and provided by SPRA and our Brevard County Fire Rescue Station #62. We provide volunteers for the event and pay for the fire engine decorations, as well as for Santa's candy and gift certificates for the fire truck drivers. Donations and support are always welcome. Contact Bill Davis at bill.d@im.solutions

CHRISTMAS 2022 BOAT PARADE: December 17th

On Saturday, the Banana River Sail & Power Squadron (America's Boating Club South Brevard) will sponsor the December 17, 2022 Christmas Boat Parade @ 6:00PM. All classes of boats are welcome to participate in the Parade. There is no registration and no fee.

SPRA Annual Community Meeting • David Schechter Center
Monday, February 13, 2023, 7:15 p.m.
SPRA, PO Box 372357, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

To begin the Parade, proceed to the staging area at the north end of the Grand Canal and fall into line in time to start by 6:00 PM. The Satellite Beach Patrol Boat will announce the start of the parade at 6:00 PM on VHF 71. The Satellite Beach Patrol Boat will lead the parade, followed by the Santa Claus boat, Story Time. Parade communications will be on VHF channel 71, and VHF channel 16 will be monitored.

The Parade route follows the Grand Canal SOUTHBOUND, circling Lake Shepherd CLOCKWISE. The Parade ends just north of the Mathers' Bridge in the Banana River. Participants are encouraged to: Obey all Rules of the Road; Maintain a safe distance between boats; Proceed in single file; and Maintain a speed of 4-5 mph, or as directed by the Patrol Boat. For more information call 321-220-7775.

SPRA ADVERTISERS: We seek to promote our local businesses. SPRA continues to feature business ads online on each website page at spranews.com, and with a cursor over an ad, the graphic enlarges, so that customers can view it. With a click of the mouse on an ad, a customer is linked to an advertiser's website. SPRA will also be featuring two advertisers per month online with submitted information about their business. Ads in the publication and on the website, will run for one year and will be included in the Shore News, which is mailed each year to over 4,000 addresses on the beachside. Because we have reduced the number of printed

issues, due to costs and other variables, the cost for ads has also been reduced as follows: a 1 business card size ad is \$95; a 2 business card size ad is \$150; a 3 business card size ad is \$250; and the 1/3 page size ad is \$300. Visit Advertising in the Shore News on our website for more information. SPRA looks forward to mutual support between our association and area businesses. Contact asamuelson@spranews.com with questions and to place your Ad.

HIGHTOWER BEACH COVENANTS: The public needs the Hightower Beach restrictive covenants to remain in place, along with the County's oversight to help ensure equal, public access to our oceanfront parks for all. The protections, found in the Interlocal Agreement that accompanied the 2012 deed, set a clear precedent, and should not be amended. State documents clarify that millions of grant dollars were dedicated to purchase the land, that the County's past involvement was crucial in that success, while park management agreements shall support conservation and equal access.

The covenants were designed to create oceanfront parks for the public, and the City became a caretaker of Hightower and Pelican park properties to provide public use without differentiation in fees or access. Hightower was deeded on a conditional basis, which ensured that listed public recreational and conservation components were part of the contractual covenants of this Interlocal Agreement with the County.

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The same user-based fees can legally be charged to all park visitors, as nothing prohibits them charging equal fees. But, ad valorem taxes placed into a special fund category are not the same as user fees. In addition, any amendment change sets a dangerous precedent for other County contractual agreements, especially when such agreements are advantageous to the public, freely entered into, and do not negatively impact the parties involved. Changing even a single covenant opens the door to future, unpopular modifications.

RESILIENT FLORIDA: Senate Bill 1954 was signed into law in 2021. This legislation was designed to support a coordinated approach to develop resilience coalitions to promote Florida's coastal and island resiliency. Future projects can enhance protection of inland waterways, coastlines, conservation lands, and reefs, which serve as natural defenses. Evacuating the barrier island in a timely manner is a concern all along our Brevard County coastline. The Pineda and Eau Gallie Causeways near the South Patrick Shores area have been diagnosed with critical evacuation deficiency that can imperil safe evacuation. The county and local cities can cooperate to work toward mitigating impacts, although different jurisdictions will likely have differences in how they rank various impacts. Informed discussions can move a reasonable plan forward. Space Coast TPO has been crafting a Transportation Resiliency Master Plan to identify elements that impact resilience in our communities. Sound data fosters smarter decision-making, and linking land use and transportation is critical for a cohesive and workable plan of action.

ST. JOHNS WATER DISTRICT & FLOODING: The St. Johns District operates and maintains 12 major water control structures/spillways, 76 minor water control structures, three navigational locks, one pump station, and some 115 miles of flood control levees that are part of the District's and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' federal flood protection. Some of the worst flooding in hurricanes can occur on the lagoon side of the barrier island, which is generally lower-lying. Although, most of the time, the lagoon's water level is driven by seasonal ocean levels, with rain accounting for about 10% of the variation. Residents can learn a great deal more about potential flooding by visiting www.sjrwm.com/localgovernments/flooding where you can watch a presentation on the impacts of Hurricane Ian in September 2022.

SR 513 UPDATE: SR 513 \$14M resurface/rehabilitation project is programmed for construction in FY 24/25 with upcoming public meetings addressing safety improvements during the design phase in FY 22/23. The public engagement component will work to program the project in line with the community's vision for SR 513. **SIDEWALKS @ SR 513 & SR A1A:** It is FDOT's decision as to who is responsible for repairs in their ROW along the SR 513 west side sidewalk that was damaged several months ago. However, safety repairs are critical for residents and children walking and biking to school, as well as in meeting ADA compliance. FDOT stated that their sidewalk maintenance contractor has been scheduled to repair sidewalk areas. In addition, SR A1A sidewalk improvements will accompany bus pads and are being designed as such. The

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Space Coast TPO has been working with FDOT to pinpoint A1A sidewalk gaps identified in the Bike/Ped Master Plan. Currently the following sidewalk project in our area is in the works along SR A1A: From Shearwater Parkway to the Pineda, as the Design is funded for FY 22.

BREVARD SPS REPAVING PLAN: The Brevard County paving plan for South Patrick Shores in FY 22/23 will include resurfacing the balance of the county roads to the east of SR 513, including selected gutter and pipe repairs.

MUCK DREDGING UPDATE: The handling and disposal of dredged muck material must follow State of Florida rules for chemical constituents and thresholds. As per the Sediment Sampling Plan required by the FDEP Environmental Resource Permit, the County tests the dredged material in the geotubes before it is loaded on trucks and transported for final disposal. If test results from the geotubes exceed the industrial clean-up target level, then the approach allows for disposal of the dredged material at a Class I landfill. The current completion date for the north Grand Canal Project is September 2024.

The contractor will begin shutdown of dredging near the week of Thanksgiving just south of the Moorings area. State and Federal permits require a “manatee closure period” from December 1st to March 15th each year. During this period no in-water work may take place. Then the DMMA site will then be demobilized for the season.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS) PROGRAM: The United States Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE) asked for rights-of-entry from those within and adjacent to the 52-acre Off-Base Disposal Area in order to evaluate the extent of potential Navy-related impacts. About 50% of FUDS disposal site residents have submitted the forms. Army Corps posted a video explaining the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study process for the Off-Base Disposal Area and the future path forward. To date, nearly 7 million dollars has been allocated toward this project.

The November 9, 2022 drop-in meeting to discuss the Off-Base Disposal Area Remedial Investigation and the fieldwork approach was canceled due to Tropical Storm Nicole. It is still urged that residents who have not yet signed the rights-of-entry forms do so as soon as possible, as USACE cannot guarantee that after they start the fieldwork, that such property will be included in the investigation. USACE ensures residents that, it is the contractor’s responsibility to leave the property in the same condition it was in prior to the contractor doing the investigation. Email contact: FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil; Website: www.saj.usace.army.mil/Banana; 1-800-710-5184.

45th Space Wing RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) by Rick Mariani

In FY22, a year of planning/preparing for upcoming work:

- Wrapped up an 8-year contract that covered management and cleanup at most of Patrick SFB sites. 16 separate sites at Patrick were cleaned up and closed out.
- Initiated a new 10-year (\$15M) contract to continue management and cleanup at existing sites across Patrick SFB. FY22 work focused on planning for many of these sites.



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- Awarded a \$3.5M contract for Phase I Remedial Investigation of PFAS at sites impacted by Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF). This will evaluate the “nature and extent” of the related environmental impacts; the planning process is underway.
- Contract to perform “Preliminary Assessment” of potential environmental impacts from non-AFFF PFAS sources at Patrick SFB was awarded as part of a contract in late Sept. This contract includes installations across the country, so installations will be prioritized and work at Patrick may not begin immediately.

In FY23, the expectations are to:

- Initiate implementation of “Phase II” cleanup at Patrick SFB bulk fuel storage area. This work will be initiated once the construction of the new tanks is completed. The north portion of the fuel storage area was remediated prior to new tank construction in Phase I. Phase II will complete petroleum cleanup activities in the south portion of the fuel storage area.
- Implement final treatment efforts (likely an injection) at small petroleum site; a series of treatment efforts were previously undertaken, but more groundwater treatment is needed to fully remediate the site.
- Proceed with cleanup efforts at the former practice Grenade Range. The initial phase of this process will involve finalizing the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and preparing a “Record of Decision” to document the remedy.

MELBOURNE UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS: Updates for improvements in the South Patrick Shores area are as follows: The Pineda Water Main Extension Project is on schedule to be completed in January 2023. Those streets currently at the end of the water system with dead-end lines in our area require more flushing, especially if the demand in an area is low. Once Pineda Extension is completed, the water mains will be looped and will have an additional feed from the north, which will help. Replacement of the water mains in some locations are expected after the new year.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS SKYROCKETED: Property assessments escalated this year for new home purchases and other properties. School district revenues increased substantially, as Florida Today reported that the Brevard School District budget increased nearly 17% over last fiscal year. Senator Mayfield reported that Florida has allocated additional millions of dollars toward teachers’ salaries throughout the State’s school districts. Even as the need for more affordable housing is discussed, residential renters have been especially hard hit with higher housing costs. If your property is a long-held homestead property, the maximum allowable annual total assessment increase is capped at 3% for the county, city, schools, and their accompanying taxing authorities. However, for non-homestead properties, there is no cap for school assessment increases provided.



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UNTAXED VACATION RENTALS: AIRBNB, like other businesses who collect state taxes from clients, should be responsible to ensure that their clients who offer short term/vacation rentals online, are licensed to do business, and that they collect and remit tourist and sales taxes directly through AIRBNB. This would be done in sync with state statutes and local ordinances to ensure vacation rentals are legally permitted and paying their share of taxes. As it stands now, our governments are losing out on the 5% tourist tax and the 7% sales taxes which are not being collected. These funds could be used to salvage our estuary and fund other projects.

HOME-BASED BUSINESSES: The State law for home-based businesses takes precedence over local laws. In addition, the law includes criteria that home-based businesses must meet to operate in areas zoned for residential use. This law does not supersede local laws, ordinances, or regulations related to transient public lodging establishments (vacation rentals) that are not preempted under ch. 509, F.S.

SPRA EARTH DAY COMMUNITY PROJECT 2023

April 8, 2023 - All Day Work Day from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Tree Planting-South Patrick Community Park across from Sea Park Elem.
- Bring shovels, gloves & water as needed
- Volunteer hours for students earned!

April 23, 2023 Fun Earth Day Celebration at 10:00 AM

- Earth Day Volunteer Celebration - Join us!
- BOUNCE HOUSE for children • Water/Lemonade • Tree Viewing • Special Guests Picture Taking • Bring Chairs
- We cannot make this happen without Volunteers & Donations!
- SPRA allocated \$1,000 to this Community Project
- www.spranews.com to donate via PayPal or send checks to SPRA, PO BOX 372357, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. Put TREES or EARTH DAY in memo line!
- With Questions and to RSVP for volunteering: Chris Davis: chris32davis@yahoo.com
- Thank you so much & See you there!

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2023 SPRA MEMBERSHIP FORM



South Patrick Residents Association www.spranews.com

Time to Rally Our Neighbors!

Our volunteer SPRA community association continues to be a powerful voice representing our interests in county and state government policies, as well as making improvements. We work to bring you the *Shore News* publication and other essential local projects, along with important updates online @ spranews.com to facilitate a community of informed neighbors.

SPRA consists of households in unincorporated Brevard County in South Patrick Shores, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Banana River, and from the Pineda to the City of Satellite Beach.

All are invited to attend SPRA Meetings.

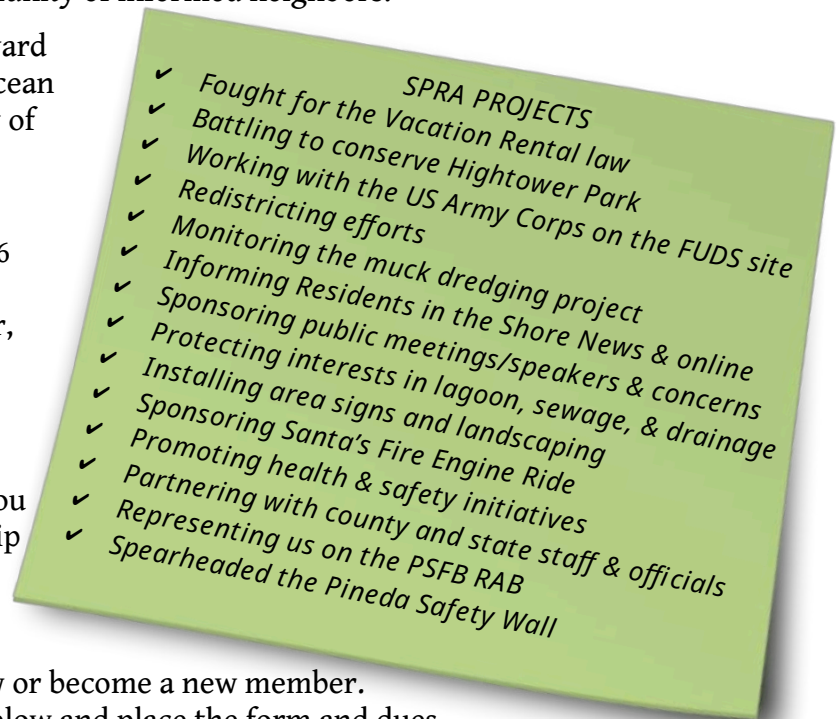
- Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month, 6 times per year.
- 7:15 PM @ David R. Schechter Community Center, 1089 S. Patrick Dr., North entrance.

SPRA Email Alert Database

The purpose of the database is to be able to contact residents regarding important matters that affect you and require your attention. Update your membership data below today to receive email alerts.

SPRA Membership Dues

Dues are only \$16.00 per household, so please renew or become a new member. Complete the short 2022 SPRA Membership Form below and place the form and dues in the envelope provided. Even easier - use PayPal online at www.spranews.com on the *SPRA Membership* page. All contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting your South Patrick Shores community.



2023 SPRA MEMBERSHIP FORM

SPRA neighborhood membership & participation are essential for our community!

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please write your check to SPRA & mail to PO Box 372357, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-0357

☐ Annual Dues \$16.00 per household ☐ Additional Donation

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SPRA AREA DIRECTOR

AREA 1 ►

ERIC WENSERITT • ewenseritt@spranews.com

AREA 2 ►

MARGARET STECIUK • msteciuk@spranews.com

- SPRA contributed tree plantings in South Patrick Community Park.

- Your Donations are also welcome!

AREA 3 ►

RICK MARIANI • rmariani@spranews.com

AREA 4 ►

MARILYNN COLLINS • mcollins@spranews.com

KREATHA HASTON • khaston@spranews.com

- Enjoy the holiday season!

AREA 5 ►

PATRICIA DUNHAM • pdunham@spranews.com

- SPRA allocated dollars for new lighting & lettering at North Waterway's entrance.

- The lighthouse was repainted in 2022.

AREA 6 ►

DONNA MORRIS • dmorris@spranews.com

SPRA & RESIDENT CONCERNS:

- SPRA listens to residents in South Patrick Shores, to what they express and support. We respect differences and respectful debate.
- SPRA does not support annexation by any city. Residents do not need another layer of government or higher taxes.
- SPRA posts meeting agendas on the www.spranews.com website. People can attend meetings, and contact us to express concerns. Members have a right to be heard, but we don't send out ballots or poll each person as issues arise. The SPRA volunteer Board can make decisions on behalf of the organization, and they take this role seriously, weighing the pros and cons, and armed with what they know and learn from community input.