

District One Fall News Blast

Happy Thanksgiving – God Bless America



Rita and Dan Pritchett and family

It has been a great 2018 and there is so much in our lives to be thankful. A special thank you to all the men and women who have served our great nation in the military, we honor you this Veteran's Day. I appreciate your support as we continue to gain momentum in this season of growth. We certainly are enjoying economic recovery in Brevard County. *It is a great day in Brevard County and especially District 1.*

Let's Talk - Space

We have worked hard to diversify our industries, but in light of this; the space presence in our community *is totally awesome*. It is wonderful to live on the Space Coast and be a part of the history and future of space exploration.

NASA informed us that there are four companies building manned space vehicles, SpaceX, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Blue Origin, *right here in our backyard*. SpaceX plans to launch every 13 days and will be launching a manned flight in March/April of 2019 followed by Boeing. *The smile has not left my face.*

Astro Pak facility on Grissom Parkway has completed reconstruction on their 38,000 square foot building. This facility will enable them to create 17 new jobs once it is fully operational. It is the industry leader in passivation, precision cleaning and testing, electro-polishing, and related metal surface treatment technology. In addition to Blue Origin's 750,000 square foot, New Glenn rocket assembly facility, they plan to build an additional rocket testing and refurbishment facility. The \$60 million facility will be on the same lot as their current rocket facility and will be the second largest building in Exploration Park. Blue Origin anticipates creating approximately 50 new jobs. Blue Origin has recently been selected by United Launch Alliance to provide the main engine for its next generation Vulcan launch vehicle.



Let's Talk - Environment

Lagoon: Our ½ cent sales tax at work. North Brevard Projects underway, which are in Canaveral Groves, Cocoa, Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmoor and Titusville. Projects include Living Shorelines (oyster beds), muck removal, septic to sewer conversions, numerous baffle boxes, and storm water projects. The Osprey Water

Reclamation Facility in Titusville received an \$8,000,000 nutrient removal upgrade from the lagoon funds. This project will significantly improve the removal of nutrients (nitrogen) from reclaimed water, which in turn will reduce the amount of nitrogen passed from ground water into the lagoon. Many lagoon projects are still in the beginning stages. Don't forget, each of us can help in this effort by watching what we put in our water. Don't fertilize in the summer when there is the highest rain, pick up after your dogs, and do not wash grass clippings into storm drains. Again, I am so proud of Brevard County and our great efforts to clean up our lagoon. We are the only county making a significant financial contribution toward this effort.



Nature: The north side of our causeway is a critical destination for spawning Horseshoe Crabs. As hard-armoring of the Indian River Lagoon's shoreline increases, sandy beaches will become ever more important for the survival of these ancient arthropods, which are among the oldest living creatures on earth. *Good News ...* The County is submitting an application for Tourist plus Lagoon Grant Funds to conduct a feasibility study for shoreline stabilization in this area. *Pictured are some of the nearly 250 Horseshoe Crabs that have been spotted on the beach at Parrish Park.*

Our 22nd Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival will be held January 23 – 28, 2019 at Eastern Florida State College North Campus in Titusville. This festival proudly hosts over 2,000 tourists in our community for a total economic impact for our area of \$957,124.00. Please make these Birders feel welcome in our community.

Solar News: In March the Brevard County Commissioners voted to waive permit fees for homeowners who install solar power generation equipment. This could save homeowners an average of \$175.00 per project.

Let's Talk - Economy

In our last news update we looked back at where we had been and how far along we had come since the economic downturn. As 2018 comes to a close we can be thankful for the 9% growth in property values and 53% increase in new construction throughout Brevard County. A monumental increase in commercial property values was here in North Brevard. Titus Landing saw a market value increase from \$6.73 million in 2017 to \$22.10 million in 2018. All of the 16 cities and towns in unincorporated Brevard County witnessed taxable values increase. Following West Melbourne at 13.2%, Titusville was recorded as having the second largest increase at 11.8%. In Titusville, the rate of new construction rose 129%. The increases in taxable value and new construction will translate into a broader tax base and hopefully lower the burden on homeowners. Currently under construction are three new hotels; Townplace Suites by Marriott, Extended Stay Hotel and Hyatt Place. Taxes for the second year in a row have remained stable. The Commissioners have been dedicated to keeping taxes low.

Last year the County exceeded the goal of resurfacing 55 miles of roads and was able to resurface 64.2 miles countywide, 14.7 of those miles were in North Brevard. Countywide 5.75 miles of road reconstruction on failing roads, 0.43 of those miles North Brevard. With the current budget, the goal this year is to resurface 61 miles countywide and 13.85 in North Brevard.

Let's Talk - Play

Water: Our Playalinda Beach and wildlife refuge has over a million visitors a year. Sea Turtle Festival and Bioluminescence kayaking also bring many tourists to our area.

Boat Ramps: Port St. John Boat Ramp survey work is complete and the purchase order for design has been issued then permitting followed by construction. Parrish Park Boat Ramp survey work is complete, design phase is underway and then permitting and construction. Scottsmoor Landing dredging and construction permitting is in progress. This is not a fast process but the County is moving forward with repairs.

Bike Trails: *We are a Trail Town!* North Brevard has four converging bike trails: Rails to Trails, Coast to Coast Trail, St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop, and East Coast Greenway which has already brought in over 600 cyclists on weekends. Titusville was recently designated a Trail Town by the Florida Department of Protection. Titusville is only the second town in Florida to receive this designation. Titusville is part of the Coast to Coast Trail that will connect Playalinda Beach to St. Petersburg Beach spanning 250 miles. The Max Brewer Causeway section of this trail is now under construction. Titusville will also be connected to the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop which connects Titusville to St. Augustine. This loop extends over 260 miles. The third and final trail connected to Titusville is the East Coast Greenway which extends 2,900 miles from Key West to Maine.



Libraries: The Mims/Scottsmoor Public Library celebrated a grand re-opening on July 28, 2018. The original building was a portable that dated back to 1988. The new space boasts 8000 sq. feet. Please find time to visit this beautiful new space. The Titusville Library recently underwent renovations thanks to a generous one million dollar donation left to the Library by a dedicated patron.

Children's Parks: A wheelchair swing has been purchased for Sand Point Park and will be installed in the coming weeks. I would like to give a "shout out" to Donna Scott for her role for calling our office and making this great suggestion.

USSSA: The Women's Baseball World Cup was held at the USSSA Space Coast Stadium in Viera from August 22 - August 31. This was the first time that this event was held on American soil and hosted 12 teams from 5 continents. Although the USA team was not victorious in bringing the title home, it was an honor for Brevard County to be the first host of such a prestigious event. Economic impact in Brevard from this event was estimated to be nearly \$7.3 million. Brevard County's own *Pride* women's pro-team won the National Pro Fast Pitch Softball title this year. Congratulations to our very own pro-team for winning the Nationals!

Let's Talk - New Business- Jobs Jobs Jobs

- **Praxair** the largest industrial gases company in North and South America has made a significant capital investment at its Mims facility adding 8 new jobs.
- **Woodgrain Distributing** a logistics company who delivers wood products is constructing a new 80,000 square foot distribution facility near Grissom Parkway in Titusville's Spaceport Commerce Park. New positions will be added once the construction is completed in spring of 2019.
- **Palm Point Behavioral Health Center** is now open. Once fully operational they will employ 150 medical technicians and support staff as well as be a great service to our community.
- **Space Tec** a technical education program started by the National Science Foundation relocated to Titusville.
- **Beachwave** retail store will open January 2020 and will be located at the corner of Indian River Avenue and Max Brewer Memorial Parkway. The store will include a bike shop, restaurant and roof top tiki bar.
- Cumberland Farms - Garden St.

- **Dunkin Donuts** - by I-95 on Garden St.
- **Sergio's Tacos** - by I-95 on Highway 50
- **Main Street Philly** - Main St, Titusville
- **Crescent Coffee Company** - Downtown Titusville
- **Chez Maxime** - Titusville Mall
- **Pier 220** - Opening soon at the Titusville Pier
- **Durango's Steakhouse** - Opening soon on Helen Hauser Blvd, Titusville
- **Erdman Automotive World** - State Road 524, Cocoa
- **Wal-Mart Distribution Center** with 550,000 square feet - State Road 524, Cocoa

Let's Talk - Upgrades and Improvements

- **Canaveral Groves:** Storm water project plan is being developed. Dirt road rehabilitation ongoing. Kumquat and Seville completed.
- **Dalehurst Ranches:** Phase One of the storm water project plan is complete, Phase Two will be completed in 2018-2019 and Phase Three in 2019-2020.
- **Port St. John:** Phase One storm water project plan is in progress. Brevard County Commissioners approved a small area study to be conducted in Port St. John. This study will provide a much needed detailed analysis to help with future planning and development in this growing community.
- **Windover Farms:** Phase One of the five phase maintenance plan is completed. Phase two should begin soon.
- **Mims:** Dirt road rehabilitation ongoing. Plumosa Drive West and Maebert Road completed.
- **Scottsmoor:** Right of way acquired and resurfacing project will begin after board approval on Coral Avenue. Resurfacing project on Sunset Avenue will be scheduled once right of way acquisition is completed and board approval.
- **Garden Street:** You should already see construction on upgrades to SR 406 (Garden Street) West of Forrell Avenue to Washington Avenue, SR 406 from FWCC Driveway to Merritt Island Refuge and Coast to Coast Trail east of Max Brewer Bridge to Merritt Island Refuge. Garden Street is on the schedule to be repaved in 2019.
- **Max Brewer Bridge...** Remodeling is almost complete at the old Cracker Jacks which will re-open as Pier 220, which will be a new restaurant with a new tiki bar. The Florida Department of Transportation has begun repair of the sidewalk and catwalk under the bridge. The causeway on the west side of the bridge is currently under construction with the bike trail and shortly the repair of the boat ramps.
- **NASA Causeway Bridge:** Project Development and Environmental Study funded by NASA is underway. A new bridge is priority to successful space business on the Space Coast.
- **SCAT:** We now have a bus route that goes to Scottsmoor stopping at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. All SCAT bus routes can be accessed through this link <https://321transit.com/>

Mark your calendar

Christmas Parade Schedule

December 1- Mims---10:30 am

December 8 – Titusville---6:00 pm

December 15 - Port St. John---11:00 am

January 23 - 28, 2018 Birding and Wildlife Festival

Launches

November 15 - TBA| Falcon 9v1.2

December 4 -1:38am| Falcon 9v1.2

December 15 - TBA| Falcon 9v1.2

The future is looking prosperous. We will continue to work hard and plan strategically into the future for the success of Brevard County. Thank you to all the existing businesses and new businesses who have contributed to the growing strong economy. Also, to our past and present leadership in our community.

We pray you will have a wonderful Thanksgiving/Christmas season. District One staff and myself are here to serve and we are thankful for each of you who are a part of this great community. Thank you for being involved and living in the Great County of Brevard! *I am one happy Commissioner. It is a Great Day in Brevard County.*

Thank you again!

Rita Pritchett,

Brevard County Commissioner District One