

September 27, 2019

## **Brevard County, Florida District One Summer update 2019**



It has been a great summer in Brevard County and in District One. As a community we are making great progress bringing in upgrades to our community and new businesses. It's a great day in Brevard County and especially in District One.

The District One Office has a variety of **advisory board positions** for volunteers to serve. These boards meet regularly to receive updates on the specific nature of the board and members are given the opportunity for input on items the board is responsible for overseeing. This is a great way to become involved in your community. If you are interested in serving on a board please send your resume to [d1.commissioner@brevardfl.gov](mailto:d1.commissioner@brevardfl.gov) or if you would like more information or inquire about which of the boards currently have vacancies please call my District One office at 321-607-6901.

The **2020 budget** was approved and the tax rate is 7.65% below the aggregate of the current years' budget. The 2019-2020 budget includes increased funds going to the County Sheriff and Deputies to continue to keep our community safe. Thanks Sheriff Ivey! Property values continue to rise as the county's economy continues to grow. The approved 2020 Brevard County millage rate of 5.8447 remains lower than surrounding counties: Orange 6.6650, Seminole 6.9062, Indian River 6.1192 and comparable with Volusia 5.6944.

Brevard County's **population** has increased from 560,683 in 2016 to an estimated 596,849 in 2019 which is a 2.15% increase. North Brevard's growth is slightly higher than the overall county growth. In 2020 the United States Census will be taking place, this will give us more accurate numbers of the new population in Brevard County. Smart Growth.

In March 2019 collection of **tourist tax dollars** hit a record high. Which means more people are visiting Brevard County. The 5% tourist tax collected on hotel rooms and other short-term rentals generated \$2.1 million. This is more than a 6% increase from the same time last year. These funds go to projects that include maintenance, restoration and

construction of facilities that are designed to enhance the experience of visitors to Brevard County. The funds are also used for the promotion and advertising of Brevard County as a world class tourist destination. Tourism is vital to keep citizens enjoying lower taxes

**Boeing** is moving their space division headquarters from Arlington, Virginia to Titusville. Boeing's choice to move to the Space Coast has a lot to do with the momentum and energy currently taking place in Brevard County. They have a commercial crew based at NASA's Kennedy Space Center now in the former Space Shuttle hanger. The plan is to have a crewed test flight by the end of this year. The Starliner is the first ever commercial spacecraft built here in Brevard.

**Blue Origin** is investing more than one billion dollars, they have plans to double the size of the Blue Origin campus at Exploration Park. This site will work as both a manufacturing center and launch control for future missions. The plan is to launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station sometime in 2021.

**Lockheed Martin** held a traditional flag raising ceremony on July 30th to mark the transition of moving its Fleet Ballistic Missile Program headquarters from California to Titusville. The transition will create hundreds of job opportunities in North Brevard. Lockheed Martin has already moved 350 jobs to Titusville and has plans to invest \$40 million into the Titusville Campus.

**Brevard County Road and Bridge** has been hard at work in our community. The work continues on the phased work plan for Windover Farms, Port St. John, Dalehurst Ranches, as well as in all areas of District One. I would like to commend Susan Jackson, Assistant Public Works Director and her team for all of their substantial work on improving the drainage for our District One community. This summer compared to previous, we have seen less standing water due to this work. The water tables have been high, as past years, and the rain has been plentiful. Brevard County Public Works team's strategy is making a positive impact.

Brevard County is accelerating the process to improve the quality of the **sewer system** throughout the county to combat the sewer discharge into surrounding waterways from the inability to process stormwater. Recently, 68 miles of sewer lines were lined and 103 miles of gravity lines have been assessed for repair. Smoke testing has also been completed in sewers that connect to 10,000 homes. We need homeowners to fix these leaks. It is important that fats and grease are never put in drains; it is especially

important for restaurants and food processing plants to discard fats, oils and grease properly to prevent clogged drains. A revised process for streamlining the way restaurants and food processing plants discard these items is in final stages. Brevard County sewer customers currently pay approximately 20 to 30% less for utility services than surrounding water/sewer charges. These fees most likely will need adjusting in the future to fix failing infrastructure and increase capacity that is maxed out.

The **Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands** program has 8 sanctuaries in District One for residents to visit. These sanctuaries have 3 functions: conserve natural resources, offer educational services and provide an area for recreation that includes hiking, biking and horseback riding. The sanctuaries are a great place for families to spend time learning about protected plants and animals through exhibits, educational programs and guided tours for all ages. These sanctuaries offer a great Florida outdoor experience. In Titusville, you can visit the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary located at 444 Columbia Boulevard; Diceranda Scrub Sanctuary located at 4900 Melissa Drive; and Fox Lake Sanctuary at 4400 Fox Lake Road. In Mims, you can visit the South Lake Conservation Area at 4500 Lancaster Lane; North Buck Lake Conservation Area at 4077 Cinnamon Teal Drive; and Indian Mound Station Sanctuary at 4001 Parrish Road. Sanctuaries located in Scottsmeer are Scottsmeer Flatwoods Sanctuary at 6000 Magoon Avenue and Scottsmeer Flatwoods West Sanctuary at 500 Rose Marie Place. Hours of operation vary. Please visit <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EELProgram/home> to view the hours.

As part of the **Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project** Plan, oyster bars are being constructed in several locations to help improve the health of our lagoon. Oyster bars help filter excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous, they also promote the growth of good bacteria that breaks down the nitrogen releasing it from the lagoon. Although nutrient filtration is the main function of the oyster bars, the bars provide a place for many other species like mussels, snails, toadfish and marine worms to live. These species are a food source for fish that live in the lagoon. The bars can also act as a wave break which is essential in reducing shoreline erosion.

The **ballfields at Chain of Lakes** were fixed and upgraded prior to the start of the season. Five acres of the soccer fields are being re-sodded, new player benches were installed and the fields will be ready for the fall season. The Titusville Soccer Club has begun their season with approximately 500 participants and offers competitive and recreational clubs for all ages. Thank you to the Titusville Soccer Club for all that you do in North Brevard.

New **exercise equipment** was installed at Sandpoint Park in June and a **wheelchair accessible swing** was installed in July. Along with these additions, the exercise trail was widened from 5 to 8 feet and the parking area and main road was resurfaced. Thank you Parks and Recreation!

Scottsmoor Landing **boat ramp** opened this summer along with the Port St. John, Parrish Park and Mims boat ramps. Work is currently in progress at Kennedy Point Park, Rotary Park, Space View Park, Titusville Veterans Memorial and Tom Statham Park. We will keep you updated on the status of these projects and estimated completion.

New signage along the **Rail Trail** was added to give direction to the Harry T. Moore Cultural Complex, Cuyler Park and Chain of Lakes. The trails are a great biking experience and now offer access to the wonderful sites along the trail.

**Luna Trails apartment** complex is currently under construction, located at the corner of Sycamore Street and South DeLeon Avenue. When complete in January 2020 there will be 69 one-bedroom, 5 two-bedroom and 12 three-bedroom apartments on 6 acres. The project is focused on residents 55+ years old who have restricted incomes.

## **Launches 2019**

October 2019 | SpaceX Falcon 9 | Cape Canaveral | U.S Air Force navigation satellite.

November 2019 | ULA Atlas V | Cape Canaveral AFS | Boeings Starline Space Craft with Astronauts.

December 4 | Space X Falcon 9 | Cape Canaveral | 21st Dragon space craft to deliver cargo to ISS.

December 2019 | Space X Falcon 9 | Cape Canaveral AFS | Space X Falcon 9 rocket will launch third-generation navigation satellite for the Global Positioning System.

December 2019 | ULA Atlas V | Cape Canaveral AFS | Will carry Orbital Test Vehicle on 6th mission.

## ***It's a Great Day in Brevard County!***

Rita Pritchett,  
Brevard County, Florida - Commissioner District One