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#### On the Cover:

Keep Brevard Beautiful and the County are working to assemble a corps of volunteers to clean up one of the dirtiest roads in Brevard County

## CONTENTS

Major General John Cleland  Memorial Bridge Dedication4
Keep It Clean6-8
Public Works Spearheads Giant Truss10
Perseverance Sets Out For A New Journey11
Mosquito Control Halloween Drive-Thru Event12-13
New Beach Trolly Unveiled14-15
"Ride With Jim" Events Concluded15
Utility Services Capital Improvements16

Space Coast Office of Tourism  Get Out and Explore	17
IRL Combating Polluted Groundwater & Updates	18-19
Brevard County Libraries Best Seller Plan & Updates	20-21
Upcoming Events	22-24
Kennedy Point Park Reopened	25
BrevardCares Grants	28
Citizens Academy 2021	30

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## **BREVARDELIVERS**

A quarterly publication keeping you informed on projects throughout our County. Brevard Delivers is an additional way for Brevard County Government to continue building confidence through transparency.



Brevard Delivers is posted each quarter at www.brevardfl.gov/BrevardDelivers.

Printed copies are available at the Government Center in Viera, local libraries and offices of the County Commissioners.

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## **Major General John Cleland Memorial Bridge Dedication**



people turned out for the dedication of the Major General John Cleland Memorial Bridge,

formerly known as the Pineda Overpass. The \$23 million project, which spans 24 feet above the Florida East Coast Railway tracks between U.S. 1 and Wickham Road, is expected to be completed later this winter, but lanes have already been opened for motoring traffic.

Cleland, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 92, served in the U.S. Army for 37 years, engaging in combat in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, and earning the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Combat Infantryman Badges for all three wars and two Purple Hearts, among numerous other medals. He was inducted into the U.S. Army Infantry Hall of Fame.

After retiring from the military in 1983, Cleland spent more than three decades helping Brevard, Florida and his country through organizations ranging from hospital boards to the Military Officers Association of America. In 2013, he was part of the inaugural class of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame, whose focus is on the inductee's post-military contributions to the state.

Those in attendance included General Cleland's wife. Clara, and family members from all over the country. Guest speakers included District 4 Commissioner Curt Smith, Lt. Col. Tim Thomas of the Melbourne City Council, U.S. Congressman Bill Posey, 8th Congressional District, and Bruce Cleland, General Cleland's oldest son.

Based on the County's latest study, the traffic count for the Pineda roadway is approximately 33,000 vehicles a day. When finished, S.R. 404 and its bridge will offer two lanes in each direction to keep traffic flowing. It comes at an opportune time, since Virgin Trains USA is going full steam ahead with its plans to connect Orlando with South Florida through a route that parallels the Florida East Coast Railway. The commuter rail, which will add 10 more trains daily through the area, is expected to start service in 2022. Currently, an average of 14 freight trains pass through the area every day.

During storm season, keeping the traffic flowing in the area is particularly critical, since the Pineda Causeway serves as a major evacuation route for beachside communities.

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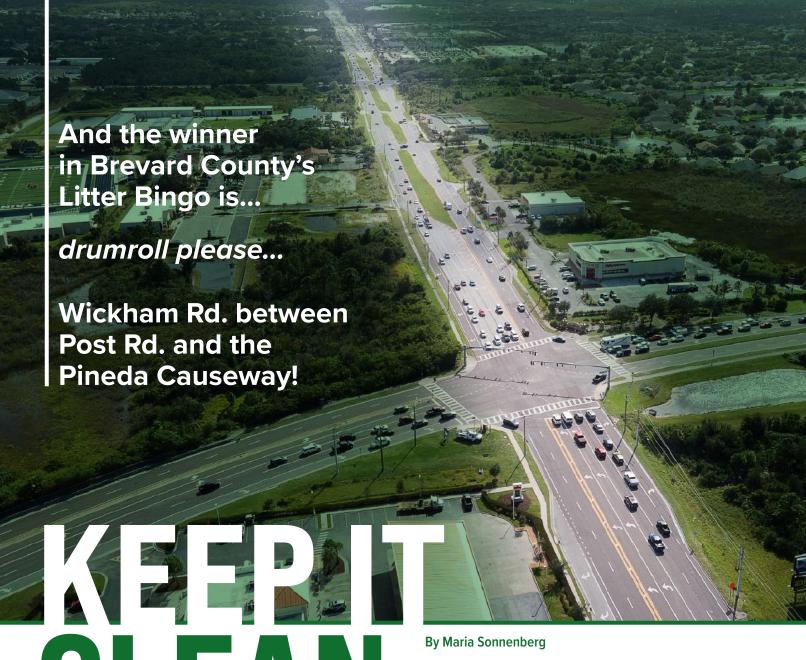




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# CLEAN

That six-mile stretch of asphalt is not just the road-you-love-to-hate for thousands of Space Coast motorists. It is also a roque's gallery of litter, from the ubiquitous cigarette butts and fast-food wrappers to straws and even the occasional dirty diaper. Ugh!

"It's pretty bad," said Bryan Bobbitt, executive director of Keep Brevard Beautiful, which is working with Brevard County Public Works to find a solution to the litter issue. "Wickham Rd. is one of the most littered roads in the county."

Motorists have become increasingly vocal about the unsightly mess they encounter along the road. "This is a hightraffic corridor and it generates a lot of complaints related to litter," said Don Walker, director of communications for Brevard County.

Not only is the rubbish an unwelcome sight, but it is also detrimental, for it can wind its way through the stormwater into the already beleaguered Indian River Lagoon. It can also hurt wildlife, deter tourism and erode the value of property. Litter attracts more litter and encourages vandalism. It is just plain nasty.

In December of each year, the County invites residents to "Speak Up" through its Citizens Effectiveness and



Efficiency Recommendations initiative and to reach out on various issues they believe will make positive change in the community. The people have spoken, and they've been talking trash. "One of the big complaints we receive each year is the amount of roadside litter," said Walker.

It is bad enough that some folks consider the area a giant trash can, but the problem unfortunately does not stop there. When mowing crews arrive, as they do on a regular basis, they compound the blight by mowing over the trash, devolving it into confetti from hell. "It turns one piece of trash into 30," said Bobbitt.

The answer seems obvious. Why not have the mowing folks pick up the trash before they start? Well, it is not that simple, or inexpensive, and would greatly increase the cost the county pays for mowing, a cost that eventually would have to be borne by taxpayers. "The mowing teams already continued on page 8







continued from page 7

pick up the large debris, but it would be too labor-intensive for them to pick up everything," said Jeanette Scott, the County's public works administrator. "We have to make the best use of limited resources. To deploy a litter control workforce would be cost-prohibitive and would deplete the district maintenance budget."

Upon hearing of the dilemma, District 4 Commissioner Curt Smith suggested partnering with Keep Brevard Beautiful. In addition to being a Brevard County Commissioner, Smith is on the Central Florida Expressway Board. "You don't see litter on CFX roads, because we have the policy to pick up litter before it is mowed into confetti that blows everywhere and detracts from the beauty of our roadways," said Smith. "In Brevard County, we don't have the budget to do that, so I thought, let's see if Keep Brevard Beautiful can help because they are masters at mobilizing the public to Keep Brevard Beautiful."

The County's Public Works and KBB immediately picked up the torch. Bobbitt and his team are working to assemble a corps of volunteers to scout the road for debris just before the mowing crews arrive. He envisions a dozen teams, each composed of several volunteers armed with provided grabbers, gloves and bags. These advance troops will agree to pick up debris ahead of the mowers.

On a regular year, it would have been easy-peasy for KBB to muster the necessary volunteers. However, 2020, as we all know, is not your regular year. "We've hit a big speed bump with COVID-19," said Bobbitt.

Eastern Florida State College, always an excellent source of volunteers eager to accrue community service hours, has temporarily suspended student participation in such projects due to the pandemic. Other volunteer sources are also equally as hesitant. "KBB is struggling to find volunteers at this time," said Scott.

In the past, KBB had also encouraged local businesses and retailers to "adopt" a stretch of the road and help to maintain it litter-free. The companies were rewarded for their efforts with signage that announced their participation in keeping medians and roadways clear of debris. Unfortunately, many of the signs were vandalized. Scott notes that banners on streetlights or signs on bus benches may prove viable alternatives and hopes that shops and businesses along the route will again take up the challenge of keeping the roadway clean.

Bobbitt is optimistic that the volunteer issue will be resolved so the cleanups can begin on a regular basis by early 2021. The Post-to-Pineda Wickham Rd. litter-busting project is just the beginning for Keep Brevard Beautiful, which hopes to institute similar initiatives around the country. "We're working with the Department of Transportation with the same issues on other roadways and would love to expand on this project," said Bobbitt.

Ultimately, cleaning the litter is only part of the answer. Educating the community is also a critical part of the project. "We want to focus on creating behavioral change, to change some people's perceptions that it is okay to throw things out the window of their cars," said Bobbitt. "They need to learn to properly dispose of their trash. We want to prevent litter from happening in the first place."

Keep Brevard Beautiful is looking for volunteers to help keep Brevard roadways, including Wickham Rd., and Brevard shores and waterways, litter-free and, well, beautiful. Call 321-631-0501 or visit keepbrevardbeautiful.org. ■



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## **Public Works Spearheads Installation of** Giant Truss at SR520 and Sykes Creek Parkway



**Prevard County Public Works and various agencies joined forces on September 22nd** for the installation of a 257-foot-long galvanized steel truss for traffic signals at the intersection of State Road 520 and Sykes Creek Parkway on Merritt Island.

This project is the first overhead signalization truss in Brevard County and is the result of a several years' effort including a feasibility study, final design, and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) permitting. Originally included with a FDOT project, the truss was ultimately completed by the County and replaces the existing twin span-wire signal supports and four prestressed concrete strain poles. The new signal truss system includes two steel upright poles 2' diameter that are 27'and 29' in height, and a 257'-long galvanized tri-chord truss weighing over 30 tons. The truss carries 15 signal heads, 2 overhead signs, CCTV camera and video detectors, and multiple

intelligent traffic monitoring devices.

The project required coordination between the County, the Engineer of Record (Atkins), Florida Department of Transportation, the contractor (Power Core Inc) and subcontractors. Various stages of construction required different amounts of manpower, but the most intense work required input from all groups on the team for the installation of the overhead truss. To minimize impacts to traffic, the truss installation and signalization updates could only be completed at night between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Most vehicle traffic was detoured to allow for the closure of the intersection. Two cranes were required to lift the truss and swing it into position. Once the truss was safely secured to the upright poles, work began on activating the new signals and removing the existing span wire and signals.

A majority of the work is completed. The remaining work is anticipated for completion by the end of the year.







## Perseverance (Vera) Sets Out for a New Journey



On Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020, Brevard County
Ocean Rescue assisted Brevard Zoo's Sea
Turtle Release Team to return Perseverance,
or "Vera," back to the sea at Lori Wilson Park.
Since July, the nearly 400-pound turtle had been
undergoing rehabilitation at the Zoo's Sea Turtle
Healing Center. Upon release, Vera—missing
one hind flipper—immediately trekked to the
water and disappeared among the waves, bound
for its newest journey.







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## Mosquito Control Outreach Team All the

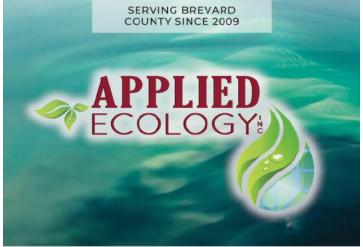
#### Buzz at Halloween Drive-Thru Event

On October 24, 2020, Mosquito Control participated in the Parks and Recreation Department's Drive Thru Halloween Event at Fox Lake Park in North Titusville. The event was intended for families to enjoy a socially distant haunted drive in the safety of their own automobiles. Mosquito Control's educational outreach team entered the event with a mosquito-themed haunted exhibit called "The Zika Zone!" Since community events have been scarce due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, Mosquito Control took this unique opportunity to go all out...









Environmental Specialist Christos McDowell seen touching up the neon paint at the entrance of the Zika Zone exhibit. The outreach team used neon and glow in the dark paint to ensure visibility throughout this nighttime exhibit.

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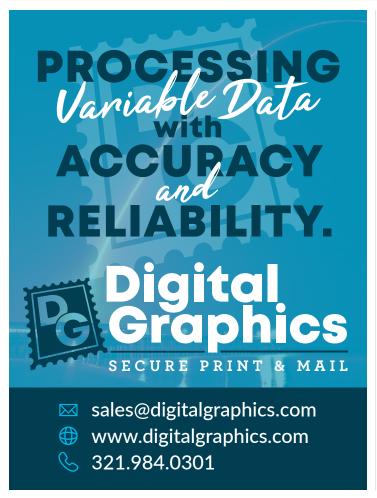
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The educational trail continues with the carefully placed props which represented each stage of the mosquito life cycle: eggs (in the bird bath), larvae, pupae, and blood-sucking adults. Customer Service Representative Linda Martin's daughter, Ashley Fischer, volunteered her time to assist the outreach team behind the scenes. Ashley used her unique arts and craft talents to create mosquitoes of each stage out of foam boards, and her attention to detail was absolutely amazing!





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## **New Beach Trolley Unveiled at Cocoa Beach City Hall**

#### Watch 10 days of Trolley on Facebook @321Transit

wo new beach trolleys were unveiled on October 30th at Cocoa Beach City Hall. The trolleys will serve Space Coast Area Transit's Route 9 on A1A. from Port Canaveral to South 13th Street in Cocoa Beach, from 6 AM to 11 PM Monday through Saturday, and 8 AM to 5 PM on Sunday. The cost to ride is \$1.50; seniors, veterans, students, and youth under age 18 ride at halffare. Children under age 5 and transfers are free.

"I think it's fantastic," said Cocoa Beach Mayor Ben Malik. "This is such a nice community asset and we're really proud to have it here. Public transportation is so important: it certainly lessens the traffic flow in our City." Malik said he appreciated the investment the County made in serving the beachside communities.

"They've got such a great vibe," said Brevard County Commission Chairman Bryan Lober. "It feels very beachy and tropical. Even more importantly, the new vehicles are durable, with an expected service life of 750,000 miles on the road."



"Once you get here, you can park your car and not worry about going from point A to point B," said Space Coast Office of Tourism Director Peter Cranis. "Tourists and residents can enjoy a restaurant, go to a bar, have a drink or two, and not concern themselves. I really like the state-of-the-art accessibility, bike racks, and the 'surfboards welcome' policy."

The 90-plus quests in attendance

at the Trolley Kick-Off included Eva Rey, Chairman of the not-for-profit organization Transit One. "The trolleys are a great opportunity for Cocoa Beach. As a transportation advocate, I am really excited about it!" Assistant Brevard County Manager Jim Liesenfelt said he loves the Beach Trolley. "It helps out tourism employees get to and from work and generates enthusiasm about riding transit." "It's the perfect transportation for our hotel quests," said Michelle Martindale, Director of Sales for Beachside Hotel and Suites.

A number of safety measures have been implemented on all transit vehicles, including the installation of plexiglass driver barriers, treating the buses regularly with a fogging agent, encouraging riders to wear masks, and having them available if a rider forgets to bring one. Also, within the next 60 days, a contactless fare system will be available to passengers who have a debit or credit card and a smart phone.

Transit Director Scott Nelson said Space Coast Area Transit is implementing



an "intelligent transportation system" phone app that will allow riders to view real-time bus location and arrival time information. "The real-time app, as well as an updated 321Transit.com high-tech website, will be unveiled in the first quarter of 2021," he said.

Additionally, a third trolley will debut in August of 2021, connecting Route 9 to Route 26 South Beaches. 10 short trolley videos are currently featured on www.facebook.com/321Transit, each highlighting a visit to a different hotel, restaurant, or attraction for an up-close trolley encounter. View video highlights of the kick-off event at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujWvicPEaLg. Download Maps and Schedules on 321Transit.com or on the 321Transit app at Google Play or the Apple App Store.

#### "Ride With Jim" Events Conclude

#### As Program Voted Most Innovate and Creative in State

Although the COVID Pandemic mandated an earlier-than-planned ending to the popular Space Coast Area Transit Ride With Jim program, it will continue to live on in

state-wide transit history.
On October 8th, the Space
Coast Area Transit received
the Innovative and Creative
Award for "demonstrating
innovative and creative
concepts that translated into
effective problem-solving
techniques for the entire
public transportation industry."
The annual award recipient
is chosen by representatives



from the Florida Public Transit Association, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Center for Urban Transportation at the University of South Florida.

Ride With Jim was created in 2017 to actively seek transparency in planning transit's future, by providing the general public and transit advocates an opportunity to share coffee & conversation with those who help shape Brevard County's Transit System. Co-sponsored by a local bagel shop, the quarterly events begin with a bus picking up preregistered participants at a designated location and driving them to a Bagel 13 restaurant for a chat over coffee with Assistant County Manager and former 20-year Director of Space Coast Area Transit, Jim Liesenfelt, current Transit Director Scott Nelson, and other transit staff members. In 2019/2020, the program was expanded to include other departments that Jim managed. A separately themed focus and discussion topic was discussed on one leg of the trip, while a transit focus remained on the return leg of the trip.

Transit Director Scott Nelson summarized the Ride With Jim Program by stating that it reinforced Space Coast Area Transit's commitment to increased staff empathy and courtesy as part of instilling a stronger service culture; supplied critical information on how to access transportation to jobs, education, and healthcare in Brevard; and contributed to increasing both ridership and relationships. "Although we will be creating a new program name and type of outreach in 2021, we are very appreciative to all the County employees that helped make Ride With Jim such an overwhelming success, and are forever grateful for the 'face' and unwavering support of Assistant County Manager Jim Liesenfelt," Nelson said.

The trolleys will serve
Space Coast Area Transit's
Route 9 on A1A, from
Port Canaveral to
South 13th Street in
Cocoa Beach, from
6 AM to 11 PM Monday
through Saturday, and
8 AM to 5 PM on Sunday.

- The cost to ride is \$1.50
- Seniors, veterans, students, and youth under age 18 ride at half-fare
- Children under age 5 and transfers are free.



#### **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)**

#### **Lift Station N-01 Replacement**

**District 1:** Project consists of conversion of existing wet well to a manhole receiving incoming flows, installation of new wet well, pumps, risers, valves, piping, valve pad, control panel, new associated electrical components, and new associated instrumentation and controls.

■ Projected Start Date: November 2020

**■ Estimated Cost:** \$ 390,370

■ Funding: Utility Services CIP Program

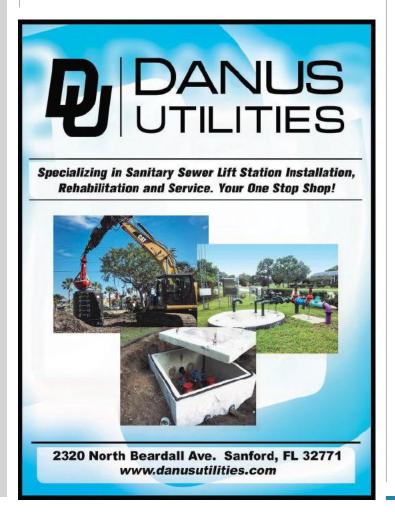
#### **ONGOING**

#### South Beaches WWTF E.Q. Basin Improvements

District 3: Replacement of non-functional isolation and control valves on the discharge side of the chlorine contact and equalization basins including new sluice gates with electric actuators on interior of basin.

■ Start Date: October 2020 **■ Estimated Cost:** \$330,000

**■ Funding:** Utility Services CIP Program



#### North Brevard WWTP Filter Gallery Valve & **Actuator Replacement**

**District 1:** Replacement of 9 existing butterfly valves and associated existing solenoid actuators with 9 new butterfly valves with associated new electrical actuators at North Brevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Filter gallery.

■ Start Date: November 2020

■ Cost: \$327,400

■ Funding: Utility Services CIP Program

#### North Riverside Drive PVC Force Main Replacement

**District 5:** Construction of 17.550 linear feet of 30-inch ductile iron force main, 103 linear feet of 24 inch ductile iron force main, removal of 17,653 linear feet of 28 inch HDPE force main and site restoration.

■ Start Date: March 2020 **■ Estimated Cost:** \$9,367,887 ■ Funding: FDEP SRF Loan Program

#### Lift Stations B-19 and B-20 Surge Tanks

**District 4:** Installation of two 7,000 gallon bladder style pressure surge tanks, associated piping, valves, fittings, site work, and restoration at both lift station locations.

■ Start Date: June 2020 **■ Estimated Cost:** \$664,698 ■ Funding: FDEP SRF Loan Program

#### North Courtenay Parkway Force Main and Reuse **Extension. Phase 3**

**District 2:** Installation and construction of approximately 5,700 LF of 6" PVC force main with 5,700 LF of 12" PVC Reclaimed water line, along west side of North Courtenay Parkway FDOT right-of-way.

■ Start Date: November 2020 **■ Estimated Cost:** \$ 912,730

■ Funding: Utility Services CIP Program

#### COMPLETED

#### Lift Station and Force Main C-01 Replacement

District 2: Conversion of existing wet well to a manhole receiving incoming flows. Installation of new wet well, pumps, risers, valves, piping, valve pad, control panel, associated electrical components, and instrumentation and controls. Installation of 6-inch force main from lift station to trunk line on North Courtenay Parkway which primarily serves Merritt Island High School. Project was completed without impact to the school.

■ Completion Date: October 2020

■ **Project Cost:** \$ 566,695

■ Funding: Utility Services CIP Program

## **Space Coast Office of Tourism**

#### Encourages Locals to Get Out and Explore

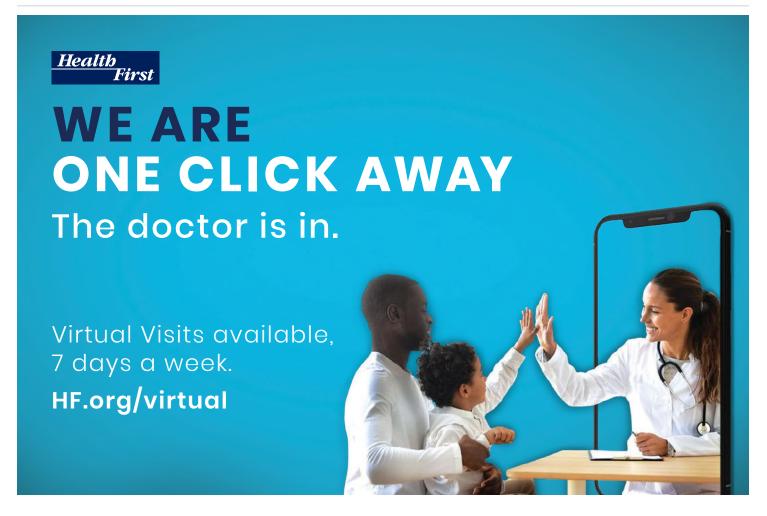
The Space Coast Office of Tourism has been working on some exciting initiatives within the state of Florida to encourage locals to get out and explore this destination close to home. Visit Florida has an in-state campaign specifically targeting Florida residents via social media,

display ads, and video. Content showcasing our beaches and attractions, and highlighting our cities, has been seen across the web as part of this endeavor. Alongside this, a program with Expedia and VRBO has begun targeting family travelers with an interest in beaches and outdoor vacations. Expedia has a dedicated Space Coast landing page, and Space Coast content is being used in display ads, videos, and email campaigns.

Across the state, 30+ Space Coast billboards have been replaced with fresh graphics and updated branding pointing the direction to specific cities and welcoming visitors and residents to the Space Coast. Keep an eye out next time you return from a trip out of Brevard.



The Tourist Development Tax collections for the fiscal year (October, 2019 – September, 2020) have come in at \$13.07 million. This is a 18.5% decline over the prior fiscal year. The year was a roller coaster with COVID-19 seriously interrupting and impacting tourism. From October to February, the tax collection was tracking to have its best year in history, up 14.6%, then as COVID struck, the losses mounted. March was down 48% and April was down 77% as hotels were ordered not to accept tourists. As businesses reopened, from May – August, the summer averaged down 33%. September matched up almost evenly with the prior September which experienced Hurricane Dorian over the Labor Day Weekend. The original budget for 2020/2021 year was \$16.6 million, but was revised in March down to \$11 million.



## **Combating Polluted Groundwater Before It Enters the Lagoon**





It's no secret, the Indian River Lagoon is fighting a tough battle. Algae blooms plague these waters nearly every year, harming seagrass beds, fish and wildlife. The water becomes too dark for seagrasses to grow and low oxygen suffocates fish.

But Brevard County has stepped up to the plate. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program (SOIRL), funded by the voter-approved half-cent sales tax initiative, is taking aim at major sources of water pollution.

Besides the obvious detractors of lagoon health (pollutant-oozing muck, stormwater, and fertilizer overuse) one contributor to the decline remains hidden below ground: Septic systems. While some septic systems pose little threat to the lagoon, those close to any open waterway and systems placed too close to groundwater are no good. The sandy soils beneath Brevard allow partially treated household wastewater to trickle down to the underground river of groundwater which eventually enters the lagoon.

#### So, what is the County doing about this covert threat?

"We've targeted the most polluting properties throughout the Lagoon watershed to connect to sewer or upgrade to advanced treatment septic systems," said Matt Badolato, the newest Environmental Specialist with Brevard County's SOIRL Program. "We're also looking into the use of passive nitrogen-reducing biofilters." Passive, in-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters, or INRBs, Badolato explained, are a layer of special material installed beneath septic drainfields that help reduce the amount of nitrogen that reaches the groundwater below. Nitrogen, it turns out, is a big problem.

"The lagoon is like a big version of your home fish tank," Badolato said. "If you have too much fish poop, uneaten fish food, or dirty gravel you'll start to see the water cloud up and grow algae along the sides. Well, a similar process plays out in the lagoon. Nitrates from the decomposition of human sewage—like their fishy equivalent—fertilize algae blooms in the lagoon."

Groundwater is essentially an underground river. The INRB layer interrupts the flow of nitrogen-rich sewage before it hits groundwater. Beneficial bacteria living in the INRB layer break down nitrate into harmless nitrogen gas. "At present, wood chips are the only certified material acceptable for use in these passive nitrogen reducing layers," said Badolato. "But wood chips tend to decay quickly

as their carbon is utilized by bacteria at work. We're working with the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and environmental businesses to certify INRB materials that will work for decades and not decay."

The goal is to create affordable ways for property owners to upgrade their current—possibly failing drainfields and septic systems to meet new guidelines for nitrogen reduction. If site plans allow the installation of an INRB layer, a property owner would be able meet nitrogen-reduction values at a lower cost than current advanced treatment septic systems which utilize pumps or aerators and require more maintenance. "We have installed six systems with these innovative drainfields and will be monitoring the groundwater for one year," Badolato said. "If the samples show a drop in nitrogen concentration as it passes through the layer, we'll certify new materials to use which will help the lagoon and help lower the cost for homeowners who must comply with septic restrictions. It's a win-win for the lagoon and the people who enjoy living near it."

For questions or more information about septic in Brevard or Brevard County's Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project, email Matt Badolato at matthew.badolato@brevardfl.gov.

#### Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Updates

Listed below are the projects that were either contracted, began construction or completed during the time period running July through September 2020. These Save Our Indian River Lagoon Projects will remove a total of 30,233 pounds of nitrogen and 2,968 pounds of phosphorus annually.



#### **SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON PROJECTS CONTRACTED**

■ No new contracts this quarter

#### **SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON**

#### PROJECTS THAT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION

- Sherwood Park Stormwater Quality Project.....\$392,108
- Roxy Avenue Septic Removal
- South Central Zone F......\$1,707,972
- Palm Bay North Region Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades ......\$3,636,900

#### **SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON PROJECTS COMPLETED**

**■** Cocoa Beach Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades ......\$954,000 ■ Basin 115 Carter Road Biosorption Activated Media ......\$62,510 ■ Basin 2134 Fleming Grant Biosorption Activated Media ......\$56, 588 ■ Basin 832 Broadway Pond Biosorption Activated Media ......\$42,864 ■ Basin 10 County Line Road Woodchip Bioreactor...... \$72,773 ■ Fisherman's Landing Living Shoreline Planting..........\$4,800

■ Rotary Park Living Shoreline Planting ......\$4,500

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## **Brevard County Libraries** Best Seller Plan Gets Popular Books to Citizens Faster



#### he past year has been difficult for all of us, and **Brevard Libraries have implemented a number of** service changes to improve safety and efficiency.

We know that change can be hard, but these changes both increase the speed at which we can satisfy citizen demand for popular materials, and reduces both transportation and acquisition costs. Under the leadership of the Assistant Library Services Director, Jeri Prieth, the library replaced the old loan periods (which included everything from two-day loans to three-week loans) with a simple, uniform three-week checkout period. At the same time, the "Stellar Seller" program, where best-sellers were only available on-shelf in individual libraries, and could not be reserved (placed on hold), and only checked out for one week, has been replaced with a new, "floating" collection of best sellers. This collection will be reservable and checks out for three weeks.

Library patrons will place reservations — holds — on popular books, and all copies of new popular books will

be used to fill these holds, increasing efficiency and fairness. And, when one of these books is returned to a library, it will be used to fill the next hold and sent to the library where that reader wishes to pick up the book. If there is no hold on the book, the staff simply puts the book on that library's new book shelf, eliminating the time and cost of transporting the book to its "home" library, because there is no "home" library. And, where in the past, when demand for a book is satisfied and many of the books purchased to meet that high demand are no longer needed, the excess copies were given to the local Friends of the Library organization to sell — for the benefit of the library — usually for \$1.00. Under the new program, the Library will lease these high-demand books, at a cost comparable to our current purchase

plan. The crucial difference is, once demand slacks off, instead of giving the excess books to the Friends of the Library to sell for \$1.00, the books are returned to the vendor for a \$7.00 credit.

We've had the plan in place for about a month now, and it is working as expected. Some of our long-time patrons were concerned that, with a three-week checkout, it would take longer to get a best-seller. It has not turned out that way. Not only is the average borrowing period about 10-11 days, we now are able to procure more copies of a book quickly to satisfy unexpectedly high demand.

We're happy to see how these changes have increased our ability to satisfy our citizens demand for bestsellers, simplified the process for the patron and the staff, reduced the transportation of items between libraries, and maximized the return on cost. We think you'll be pleased, too. ■

#### **Brevard County Small Business PPE Distribution**

Brevard County Libraries was pleased to serve as distribution centers for Brevard County's Small Business PPE Distribution. The initial distributions in August and October were very successful. Brevard Libraries are proud to help in this important effort to help our local small businesses operate during the pandemic.



Distribution Team at work at the Central Library handing out PPE to small business owners.

#### **Brevard County Libraries' New Mobile Library Coming Soon!**

Thanks to a generous gift, Brevard County Libraries will soon implement a new Mobile Library service. This new mobile library replaces the former version that had been donated to the library in 2006, courtesy of the Brevard Library Foundation. The original vehicle was retired in 2019. Its replacement was made possible by a generous gift from the now-defunct Brevard Library Foundation in 2017. The new vehicle, built by LTV on a Ford Truck underbody, will allow Librarians to do outreach to events, schools, and nursing homes.







## **Upcoming Events**



#### ■ Brevard County Parks and Recreation Winter Camp

**Locations:** All Brevard County Parks Community Centers

Date: Week 1 – December 21-24 &

Week 2 - December 28-31

**Camp Hours:** 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. Weekly Fees: \$72 | Daily Fees: \$30

Camp will include fun educational crafts, physical activities, and games and is available for children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade.

To register for winter camp and view available locations visit Registration.Brevardfl.gov.



#### ■ Annual Fox Lake Family Camp Out 2021

Location: 4400 Fox Lake Park, Titusville

**Date:** March 6 – March 7, 2021 Noon Saturday – 2 P.M. Sunday

Activity Cost: \$25 per family up to 4 (NO REFUNDS. In case of inclement weather, event is rescheduled) \$5 for each additional person (Only 6 people per family). Pre-registration required. Limited spots available. Registration will begin January 4, 2021.



Come out and connect with nature for a one-night camp out at Fox Lake Park! The Family Camp Out is tent camping only. Make fun memories under the stars with your family and friends. Activities include a star gazing party, games, crafts, Movie in-the Park, and a hike.

No alcohol or pets permitted. Access to bathrooms will be available, but no showers. Suggested items to bring: flashlights, mosquito spray and chairs.

For more information call Sandrift Community Center at 321-264-5037.

#### ■ Annual Fox Lake Spring Festival of Crafts

Location: 4400 Fox Lake Park, Titusville

Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 **Time:** 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. | Free

Now in its 15th year, the Fox Lake Spring Festival of Crafts features handcrafted artwork by 150 local artist and artisans. A great family activity with food trucks.

For more information call Sandrift Community Center at 321-264-5037.

## Upcoming Movies in the Park:

Tune your vehicle radio to [97.9 FM] for movie audio

#### ■ FREE! | Onward [PG] | Drive-In

Sand Point Park in Titusville
Saturday, January 23, 2021 | 7:30-9:15 P.M. • Feature
presentation will begin approximately at 7:30 P.M.
PG | 1h 42 min | Animation, Adventure, Comedy
Two elven brothers embark on a quest to bring their
father back for one day.

#### ■ FREE! | The Princess Bride (1987) [PG] | Drive-In

Sand Point Park in Titusville
Saturday, February 13, 2021 I 7:30-9:10 P.M.
Feature presentation will begin approximately at 7:30 P.M.
PG I 1h 38 min I Adventure, Family, Fantasy
While home sick in bed, a young boy's grandfather
reads him the story of a farm boy turned pirate who
encounters numerous obstacles, enemies and allies in
his quest to be reunited with his true love.

#### ■ FREE! | The Little Mermaid (1989) [G] | Drive-In

Sand Point Park in Titusville
Saturday, March 13, 2021 | 8-9:30 P.M.
Feature presentation will begin approximately at 7:30 P.M.
PG | 1h 23 min | Animation, Family, Fantasy
A mermaid princess makes a bargain with a sorceress in an attempt to become human and win a prince's love.

#### **EXHIBITORS, VENDORS & VOLUNTEERS:**

For questions or to find out how you can be a part of these events contact:

**Chris Clark** (North Area Parks Operations, Activities, Programs, Events & Services Coordinator)

321-264-5105 ext.42120 Chris.Fuentes-Clark@Brevardfl.gov

#### **WEATHER:**

To ensure safety for event attendees and staff, the event may be relocated and/or canceled in the event of high winds or in the event of severe inclement weather. Please keep up-to-date on event status by following our Events Page on Facebook.com/BrevardParks/Events or visit BrevardParks.com, Parks Calendar.

#### **HEALTH:**

We encourage & recommend individuals follow CDC guidelines when attending large gatherings.





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#### North Brevard Area Parks After Care Programs

The North Area Parks Operations (NAPO) After Care Program provides families living in North Brevard a convenient, safe, and fun environment for children and teens to participate in leisure and recreational activities after school or during holidays. Program availability dependent on location. Contact your local Community Center for more information.

- One Day Fun Day (Spring) | Cost: \$30 for the Day Saturday, March 12, 2021 | 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. North Brevard Community Centers
- Spring Break, Day Camp | Cost: \$90 per Week / \$30 per Day (M-F) March 15-19, 2021 | 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. North Brevard Community Centers



#### **Walter Butler Community Center**

4201 N Cocoa Blvd, Cocoa 321-433-4448

#### **Port St. John Community Center**

6650 Corto Rd, Port St John 321-633-1904

#### **Isaac Campbell Community Center**

701 South St, Titusville 321-264 -5040

#### **Sandrift Community Center**

585 N Singleton Ave, Titusville 321-264-5037

#### **Cuyler Community Center**

2329 Harry T Moore Ave, Mims 321-264-5045



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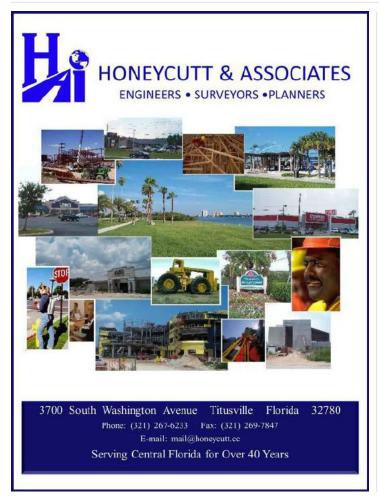


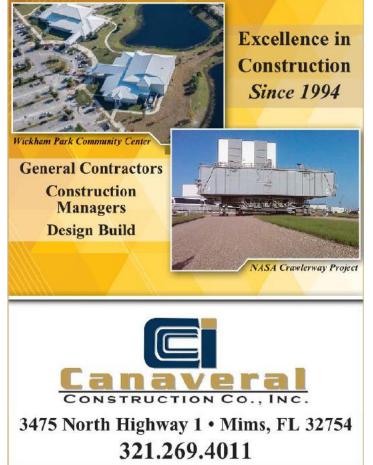


#### Construction Update Kennedy Point Park

Kennedy Point Park located at 4915 South Washington Avenue in Titusville reopened on September 4th.

The park experienced extensive damage to its seawall, sidewalk, and dock as a result of Hurricane Irma. A new seawall has been installed; a rock revetment and new sod was put in place to help protect the damaged shoreline; the damaged sidewalk was removed and replaced with a new sidewalk; the damaged dock was removed and replaced; and a five-foot dredge was done from the boat ramp to the channel.





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When in doubt, leave it out!



\*Please empty and puncture bottom of aerosol cans before recycling.

To learn more visit:

http://www.brevardfl.gov/SolidWaste/Recycling/home

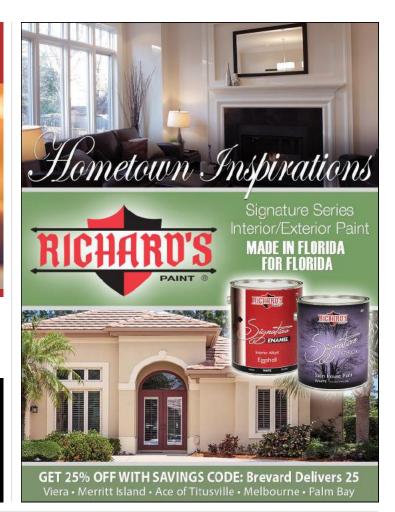


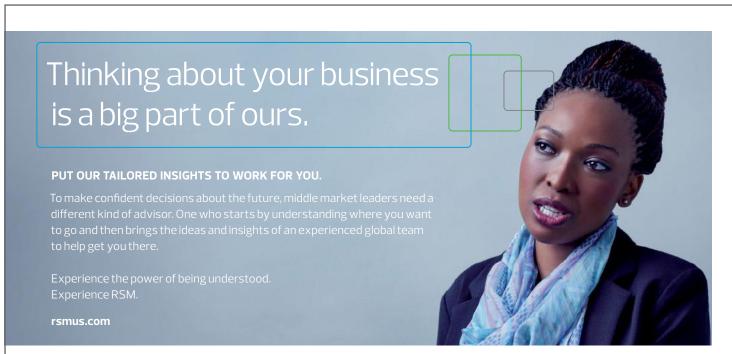
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## BrevardCARES Grants Provide Financial Relief to Small Businesses and Nonprofits Impacted By COVID-19

"I wish I could give you guys a big
hug... consider this a virtual hug!" That
was the reaction received via email
from Joseph Lang of Bare Bone Rides.

and this is just one o
love being in busines
Schirmer's business,
Rentals, is located in

Inc. after receiving word his Brevard County small business had been awarded a \$10,000 grant through the Brevard County Small Business and NonProfit Economic Relief program. Lang, who operates a custom motorcycle dealership and repair shop on Merritt Island, wasn't alone in his sentiment.

"Thank you so much for your help," wrote Carolyn Schmidt, who owns Baby's Breath Imaging Studio in Titusville. "This is going to help my business survive through this hardship. I want you to know that your hard work is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten." Michael Lipsky emailed the County to say, "I am in tears, literally!" after he was notified of a \$10,000 grant awarded to Sunburst Tanning Company, Inc. in Melbourne. And Kurt Schirmer wrote, "We appreciate the County helping small business owners in this crazy time

and this is just one of the reasons why we love being in business in Brevard County." Schirmer's business, Chairs for Affairs Party Rentals, is located in Melbourne and also received a \$10,000 grant.

These are just some of the many positive reactions received since applicants have been notified their grant applications have been approved. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners has allocated \$11.5 million in Coronavirus Air, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to assist Small Businesses and Nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Grants of up to \$10,000 are still available. These are grants, not loans, and therefore do not have to be repaid to the County.

"I want to thank the Board of County Commissioners for their leadership in initiating this program and I commend them for their support," said County Manager Frank Abbate. "I also want to recognize all of the County employees who have



"We appreciate the County helping small business owners in this crazy time and this is just one of the reasons why we love being in business in Brevard County."

Kurt Schirmer, Owner Chairs for Affairs Party Rentals

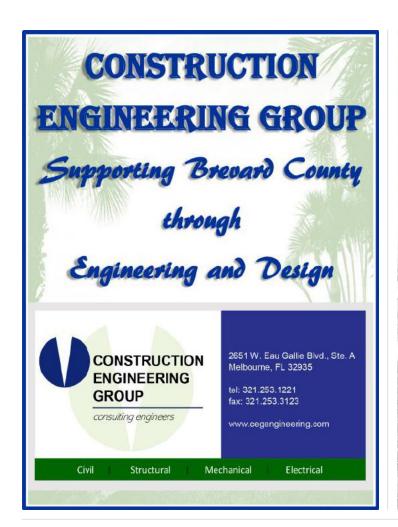
taken on the additional responsibilities to their jobs to review and approve these applications and for the support of the Clerk of Court's, County Finance to process these grant awards."

Along with assistance for small businesses and nonprofit organizations, other programs have been implemented that can assist individuals with rental and mortgage payments, utility and security deposits and food stability. These programs are available through the County's Housing and Human Services Department. Those eligible must be a resident of Brevard County, at or below 140 percent of area median income, and able to demonstrate assistance is required as a result of direct impacts from coronavirus. Applicants must also provide supporting documents related to income, need and other assistance received. The County has also allocated funding for food stability programs, and has distributed free Personal Protection Equipment kits, including masks, gowns, gloves and hand sanitizer, to small businesses, retailers and restaurants. The Board of County Commissioners has also allocated \$2.3 million and partnered with CareerSource Brevard for a Small Business and Nonprofit Organizations Workforce Recovery Program, which helps laid off or furloughed employees and provides staffing support to businesses.

## TO BE ELIGIBLE THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT ECONOMIC RELIEF PROGRAM, THE SMALL BUSINESS:

- Must be physically located in Brevard County
- Must have been in business as of January 1, 2020
- Must have 50 or fewer employees
- Must have been negatively impacted financially by the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Must be enrolled in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security E-Verify program
- Nonprofits must be a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6) or a 501(c)(19) as designated by Internal Revenue Code.

All applications, and answers to frequently asked questions about the County's assistance programs, can be found here: www.brevardfl.gov/BrevardCares. Information is also available Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., at 321-350-9194.



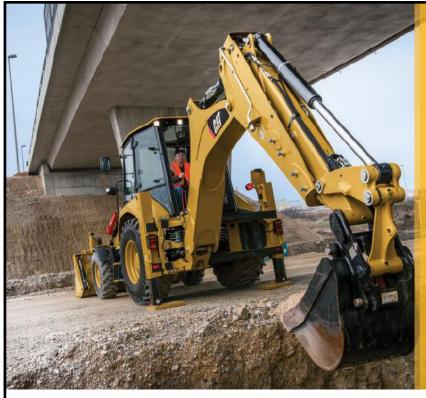


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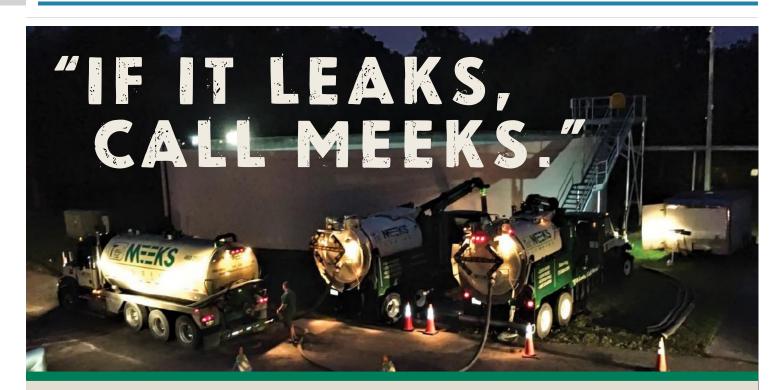


#### **Brevard County Citizens Academy 2021**

Come learn about your county in the coolest civics class you will ever take! Learn how Brevard County Government develops a budget, paves roads, trains employees, maintains parks, cares for our natural resources, and so much more! You will have the chance to ask staff and department directors about their department—what they do, how they get it done, and what the future holds. Classes meet at various locations throughout the county for nine Thursdays beginning Feb. 4 and ending on April 8, 2021. Class starts at 9 A.M. and ends no later than 3 P.M. Lunch will be provided on the last day/graduation day of class.



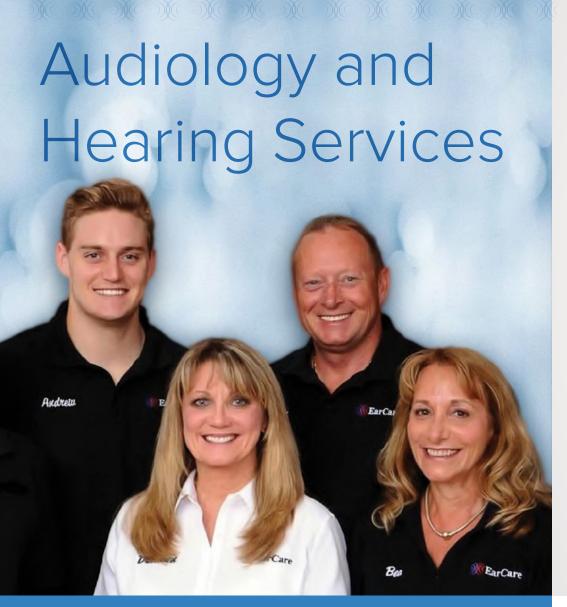
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