



Merritt Island

News & Views



HURRICANE SEASON - A WORD FROM THE COMMISSIONER

I urge you to formulate your own emergency plan now as hurricane season began June 1st and lasts through November 30th. If you live on the Barrier Island, in a manufactured home or in any area subject to flooding, evacuation plans are extremely important. Please put a weather radio at the top of your list to keep you informed.

To start preparation and to get informed visit the Brevard County Emergency Management Office at <http://www.brevardcounty.us/EOC/> where valuable information and links to other agencies are available. The Emergency Preparedness Information listed in the front of the AT&T Real Yellow Pages telephone book on pages 53, 54, 55 and 56 provides a "Ready Guide" of vital information needed to make informed decisions to protect your lives and minimize property damage.

You should be prepared to have enough food, water, bedding, medication, flashlights, first aid kits, etc. needed to survive for at least 3 days.

Before you leave, make sure you have done all the necessary things to minimize damage to your home and take valuable papers with you as you will need them for insurance purposes.

If you are disabled, handicapped or elderly and need assistance evacuating to a Special Needs Shelter contact Brevard County Emergency Management at 637-6670 to register.

Pet Friendly shelters are located at the Port St. John Community Center and the Viera Community Center; visit www.brevardanimalservice.com for more information.

Our first storm of the year will be named Ana with projections for as many as 14 to follow. However, it only takes one storm to impact our coast and our lives. So please be prepared. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 454-6601 and we will be happy to assist you.

Chuck Nelson, Commissioner, District 2

Community Projects

The Board of County Commissioners recently approved:

- ▶ A contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for cost-share funding of the Merritt Island Airport Pond Project proposed to improve drainage and reduce pollutant loads to the Banana River.
- ▶ Authorized execution of the Contract for Sale and Purchase for the Fortenberry Regional Stormwater Treatment Project to improve drainage infrastructure of surrounding areas.
- ▶ Authorized execution of the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront Grant for the acquisition of the Blue Crab Cove project site which will preserve the last remaining commercial working fisheries waterfront in Brevard County.
- ▶ Approved a contract with FDEP to provide financial assistance for the Sykes Creek and Banana River Water Quality Retrofit Project to treat run-off from 160 acres of roadway and residential land.

News and Views is independently produced for the citizens of Merritt Island and inserted into the Press Tribune as a public service

Island Pioneer Trail



Kings Lake located at Kings Park, Merritt Island

The Island Pioneer Trail, located at Kings Park between Chase Hammock and Hall Road, is a critical link in the proposed North Merritt Island Trail system that will connect communities to neighborhoods, parks, and conservation areas. Community residents and the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association in coordination with Brevard County staff designed the trail with amenities to include: a 10 foot paved trail, boardwalks, parking, pavilions, and kiosks. Full funding for design and construction was received through Transportation Enhancement grants administered by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Brevard County Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization. The recently received Transportation Enhancement Stimulus funding enables the paved trail and trailheads to be constructed within the same time frame. Brevard County staff anticipates finishing the design and permitting for the trailheads during the next several months and should begin construction by early fall of this year. When completed area residents can look forward to a trail system reminiscent of "old" Florida's unique natural environment that will provide an alternate transportation corridor, recreation, environmental, educational, cultural, and historic attractions for outdoor enthusiasts. For more information contact, Barbara Meyer, Brevard County Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization at 690-6890.

Through Brevard Safe Kids, the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) distributes bicycle helmets to children who cannot afford them. Contact TPO at 690-6890 for more information.



The Building Department recently added a feature to their website allowing citizens to access permit information. To find this information and more visit <http://www.brevardcounty.us/buildingcode/home/>