

ARTS IN BREVARD FULL STEM AHEAD



VISION

VOL. 16
ISSUE 5

ISSN 2688-9358





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VISION

PRESIDENT

Todd Pokrywa

VP OF MARKETING

Lauri Duda

EDITOR

Stephanie Byrd

STAFF EDITORS

Carmen Vastola, Laurie Widzowski, Todd Pokrywa, Ben Wilson, Scott Miller

SENIOR WRITERS

Maria Sonnenberg, Lyle Smith, Sue DeWerff Panzarino, Carmen Vastola, Stephanie Byrd, Laurie Widzowski

DESIGN

Christina Geiger, Mikki Holtzhauer

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos provided by subject unless otherwise noted

PUBLISHER

The Viera Company

ADVERTISING SALES

Stephanie Byrd

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Shawn O'Keefe, Jennifer Swan, Laurie Widzowski

LEGAL

Jay Decator, Ben Wilson

DISTRIBUTION

Don Gust, All Service Graphics

Viera Vision is the official publication of



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The Avenue Viera
Viera, Florida 32940

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CHANGE

When the season changes, it can be a feast for the eyes and the soul. Can we use the seasons as a way to bring some positivity back into our daily routine? The answer is yes. We can all make an attempt at “flipping the script,” as they say, on how we might see something differently or do something unexpected.

The next three months will bring endless ways to cook, craft, laugh and enjoy moments with family and friends. As you read through this magazine you will learn about all the ways growth is still happening as we collectively move forward. Many businesses and services are adapting to protocols and establishing new norms when you arrive. How can we help our most beloved store, restaurant or theater? They are working harder than ever to accommodate you, their customer, so they can survive. Create some positive energy and let them know you care by contacting them even if you are not able to visit in person.

I wanted to honor the administration and staff of Viera High School by featuring a photo of the most recent graduation and the class of 2020. They flipped the script and created a graduation that still allowed rules to be followed during the pandemic and gave our loved seniors a moment they had been working towards for over 13 years.

The parents were able to see their children walk across a graduation stage and the seniors were able to experience the most unique ceremony in the history of the school. They modified and adapted aspects to a ceremony in order to keep something in our culture that is revered and celebrated at the end of a long and occasionally stressful journey.

All our lives have changed but imagine a way to alter a tradition, maybe by keeping it sweet and simple or making it completely different, but allowing it to be different. The changing seasons push us to accept this in life. Each one still has the traditional customs but it can also entail growth or change by adapting a custom or creating a new one. The moments are there for the taking no matter how big or small.




Stephanie

#VIERAVISION

Arts IN Brevard

PANDEMIC STYLE



THE PANDEMIC HAS NOT BEEN KIND TO THE ARTS, BUT THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR NURTURING BREVARD'S LUSH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ARE A RESILIENT BUNCH, AND THE NECESSARY POSTPONEMENTS, RESHUFFLING AND CANCELLATIONS HAVE BEEN MET WITH FEVERISH PLANNING, FERVENT HOPE AND MORE THAN A FEW SERIOUS PRAYERS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE FORCED HIBERNATION HAS CHALLENGED THE LOCAL ART SCENE, BUT THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE READY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PANDEMIC.



THE ARTS FEED OUR SOUL AND WILL PROVIDE THE BANDAGE THAT WILL HELP HEAL THE WOUNDS OF COVID-19 AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE."

KAREN WILSON, DIRECTOR OF THE KING CENTER'S THEATRE FOR YOUTH AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

A large part of the charm of the Space Coast is a small-town atmosphere that blends with a big city attitude towards the arts. There is something for every culture vulture, be they fans of watercolor, sculpture, bluegrass, jazz, theater and everything in between.

Brevard's most prominent cultural landmark, the King Center, is forging ahead with its 2020-2021 season sporting a new look, new management and a robust schedule of performers. The Melbourne performing arts venue recently completed a \$3.6 million makeover to enhance the experience of patrons.

"Since its opening in 1988, the Center has hosted a diverse schedule featuring many high-profile shows," said Bob Newman, President and CEO of ASM Global, the King Center's new management firm and a national leader in presenting live entertainment.

"We look forward to building on the strong foundation in place and adding rich cultural entertainment in live music, comedy and theatrical performances for many years to come."

Upcoming shows run the gamut from a "Bruce in the U.S.A." tribute show to "The Boss" and comedian Ron "Tater Salad" White to the New York Bee Gees, the most extravagant Bee Gees show a fan can experience.

Brevard Music Group utilizes the King Center's intimate Studio Theatre to bring jazz and blues to

the Space Coast. Among the concerts slated for the 2020-2021 season are five-time Blues Music Awards winner Tab Benoit and his "Whiskey Bayou Review" and the 30th Anniversary Tour of three-time Grammy-winning guitarist Shawn Colvin.

The stage for many local performing arts groups, the King Center welcomed back the Brevard Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's "Pastoral". The Symphony also offers "BSO at Home," an online venue with recordings of its musicians.

The King Center may be the main entrée in Brevard's cultural buffet, but there are plenty of options to feed the soul. Crave a heaping helping of bluegrass? JT's Bluegrass Concert Series never disappoints with top-name artists performing at the intimate 220-seat Stage 12 venue in Titusville.

Promoter JT Shealy already has seven bands under contract through February of 2021.

"We are hoping for the best," said Shealy.

Slated to perform in the series is Sideline, 2019 IBMA Song of the Year band; Grand Ole Opry performer and 2019 Grammy nominee, Po Ramblin' Boys; The Gibson Brothers, 2012-2013 IBMA Entertainers of the Year; Grand Ole Opry performers Jeff Parker and Colin Ray; 2019 IBMA Entertainer of the Year Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Bluegrass Today number one on the Chart Appalachian Road Show, and the 10th Annual Roy & Lizzy Show.

Jazz aficionados need not worry about a dry spell of their favorite musical genre, for Heidi's Jazz Club, the Cocoa Beach jazz icon that draws enthusiasts from throughout

Central Florida, offers a musical stable of top-notch local talent, plus guest artists from around the world.

If your musical tastes run more on the classical or show tunes side, you have plenty upon which to feast. Even if COVID-19 continues plaguing the country, the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, like many Brevard arts groups, is ready to engage virtually.

"We have a great program called "Musicians at Home" on our website featuring video performances from our incredible musicians," said Aaron Collins, Symphony's Artistic Director and Conductor.

"Patrons can enjoy these virtual performances and "tip" the musicians online if they'd like."



Eastern Florida State theatre instructor, Jeanine Henry with retired EFSC instructor and community theatre veteran, Arlan Ropp.



WE HAVE A GREAT PROGRAM CALLED "MUSICIANS AT HOME" ON OUR WEBSITE FEATURING VIDEO PERFORMANCES FROM OUR INCREDIBLE MUSICIANS."

AARON COLLINS, SPACE COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Collins is determined to keep the Symphony playing one way or another.

"We will be experimenting and doing our best to create safe and exciting performances," he said.

This summer, the Symphony orchestrated three fun "drive-in" concerts at the parking lot of The Avenue Viera and may continue with this outdoor format into the Fall, if needed.

"We will not let this pandemic sideline our love of sharing music with the community," said Collins.

At Eastern Florida State College, a Zoom performance of the "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is in the works.

"We hope to share that one soon," said Jeanine Henry, Director of Theatre Arts.

"We will find creative, innovative approaches to performances."

Despite the major headaches of the pandemic closures, Brevard's community theaters have forged ahead with their 2020-2021 seasons.

All community theaters are taking social distancing seriously and are currently operating at reduced capacity, often coupled with clever ways to allow for more elbow room, such as the modular plexiglass partitions Titusville Playhouse installed to add further distancing between different parties.

"It gives the audience more peace of mind," said Executive Artistic Director, Steven Heron.



The New Cocoa Village Playhouse Auditorium

Titusville's upcoming season includes The Who's rock opera, "Tommy," "Kinky Boots," "The Rocky Horror Show," "Annie," "A Tuna Christmas," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Dreamgirls," "Legally Blonde, the Musical" and "BKLYN, the Musical."

At 96 years young, the Historic Cocoa Village Playhouse remains spry and ready to pivot, as it had to this year when the theater was among the first to reopen. After sewing and distributing over 5,000 facemasks to distribute free to the community, the Playhouse team adapted to the new normal in creative and innovative ways that further the theater's reputations as a cultural mainstay.

The Playhouse's 31st season truly has something for everyone, including six "Broadway on Brevard" shows such as "9 to 5: the Musical," four children's productions and a plethora of "Spotlight Series" artists ranging from ballet to rock concerts.

One of the unique aspects of the Playhouse is its commitment to live vocals and instrumentation. As more and more venues are turning toward recorded music and pre-recorded vocals citing cost effectiveness, the Playhouse continues to bring live music to Brevard.

"Music is such an integral part of live theater, it would be a disservice to our audiences not to showcase the local talents and musicianship of our performers and orchestra members," says Dr. Anastacia Hawkins-Smith, CEO and Artistic Director.

Galmont Ballet, the Playhouse's resident ballet company, was ready to pirouette at a moment's notice and was back onstage in June. The troupe, which includes visiting professional dancers, delights with several performances during the year, including a unique Victorian American version of "The Nutcracker."

Space Coast Ballet also imports acclaimed dancers from around the world to join the rising dance stars of the Space Coast in an annual production of "The Nutcracker" that



Robin Hood, Surfside Playhouse



Eliza Dopira, Brevard Community Chorus

features costumes and sets straight from the legendary Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.

At Melbourne Civic Theatre on the south end of the county, there will be “A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking” to launch the 68-year-old community theater’s new season. “Dr. Cook’s Garden,” “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” “Beau Jest,” “Out of Order” and the Pulitzer Prize winning tale of an imaginary 6-plus-foot rabbit, “Harvey,” should satisfy audiences.

In Cocoa Beach, Surfside Playhouse plans on “Red, White and Tuna,” “Always Patsy Cline,” “Bus Stop,” “Camelot,” “Up” and “Dracula Fractured,” but there is a caveat, as there is with all performing arts groups these days.

“Surfside will remain flexible when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Director Bryan Bergeron.

“Turning the ghost light on and off more than once may be the way forward, but we learn and adapt.”

After reopening with a revival of “Grease” to mark the end of the 2019-2020 season, the Henegar Center in downtown Melbourne presents “Elf, the Musical” in November. The shows must go on with “The Rocky Horror Show,” “Godspell,” “La Cage aux Folles,” “Hedwig and the

Angry Inch,” “The Irish Curse,” “Mary Poppins” and “The Full Monty.”

“To accomplish social distancing, we are re-opening the theater at 50% capacity, and adding Saturday matinees to allow more space,” said Henegar spokesperson Doug Lebo.

“Theater provides an important part of recovery and healing from stress. At some point we will all be ready to get back to laughing and enjoying a night out with each other. The Henegar will be ready for that day!”

Despite the pandemic, the historic Henegar was even able to continue with its theater summer camps for students from first through 12th grade.

Other youth groups, while still on hiatus, anticipate returning asap.

“We miss our students and were saddened not to have been able to present our final season performance in May,” said Rebecca Simons, Executive Director of the Space Coast Symphony Youth Orchestra.

“We are looking forward to presenting our 2020-21 season in a manner that is safe for our students, conductors, and parents. Now more than ever, our students need music to help them process the changing world around them.”

Dr. Robert Lamb, Professor of Music at



Beauty and the Beast at The Henegar Center in downtown Melbourne.



MELBOURNE MUNICIPAL BAND AND SWINGTIME ARE MAKING TENTATIVE PLANS TO START OUR CONCERTS AT THE BEGINNING OF 2021."

STACI ROSBURY, CONDUCTOR

Eastern Florida State College and Director of the Brevard Community Chorus, intended to go on sabbatical next year, but has postponed plans so he can be part of the Chorus' "grand re-opening" in spring.

"We're going to have a 20-21 season, but it won't look exactly like years past," he said.

"We don't have less to say as artists, it is just that how we say it has changed briefly. We will find a way to keep expressing. Of that, I have no doubt."

Also scheduling a spring rebirth is the Brevard Chorale.

"The plan is to resume rehearsals in January, 2021, and pick up where we left off preparing our program "Classic Pop," said Director Jim Boyles.

The Melbourne Municipal Band and all of its ensembles, including the Concert Band and the 22-piece jazz ensemble, Swingtime, are anxious to return to performing, and some of its groups, such as the Adagio Sax Quartet, are already onstage, albeit in unusual open air venues that include the parking lot of Suntree Grace Brethren Church, where the Quartet held a concert in July.

"MMB and Swingtime are making tentative plans to start our concerts at the beginning of 2021," said Conductor Staci Rosbury. "We are also considering hosting livestream performances on Facebook by Swingtime Lite, the Oh Golly! Dixieland Band and the Adagio Sax Quartet." The Indialantic Chamber Singers were one weekend away from its Spring 2020 concerts when they were forced to cancel because of the pandemic. The Singers are in the wings, monitoring the situation.

"We feel we will have enough time to get the word out about the concert, once we feel it is safe to practice together," said Artistic Director Beth Green.

The Creative Arts Foundation, which nurtures young artists with grants and opportunities for performances, expects to go forward, with or without large audiences.

"We'll see if we can resume with our musical competition, even if we don't have a large audience," said founder Marshall Frank.


"I think we will all recover and be back full steam ahead helping and promoting talented kids in music. Question is: When? Soon, I hope."

Most Space Coast art galleries flung open their doors as soon as it was safely possible. Stop in at Art Gallery of Viera, Downtown Gallery in Melbourne, the Studios of Cocoa Beach, Art Oasis in Satellite Beach, Florida Tech's Foosner Art Museum and the Eau Gallie Arts District's Eau Gallery and Fifth Avenue Art Gallery for a dose of the visual arts. Opening receptions are unfortunately curtailed until further notice, but there is plenty of beauty to be experienced, such as the painting of the mighty Viera Oak by award-winning Viera artist Lolly Walton, a member of Eau Gallery.

Art shows such as the unique ArtWorks, which every November welcomes thousands to the Eau Gallie Arts District, remain on the planning stages and hopefully will again celebrate artists at work.

"There is nothing like a dream to create the future," once said Victor Hugo, of "Les Miserables" fame. Brevard's many arts groups are impatient to make their dreams of once again engaging with the community part of their not-too-distant future.

"As we face the impact and the effects of all of this, the phrase "We're in this Together" has never meant so much," said Aaron Collins of the Space Coast Symphony.

"We hope our community will continue to sustain all the incredible arts organizations here in Brevard. Arts are so vital." 

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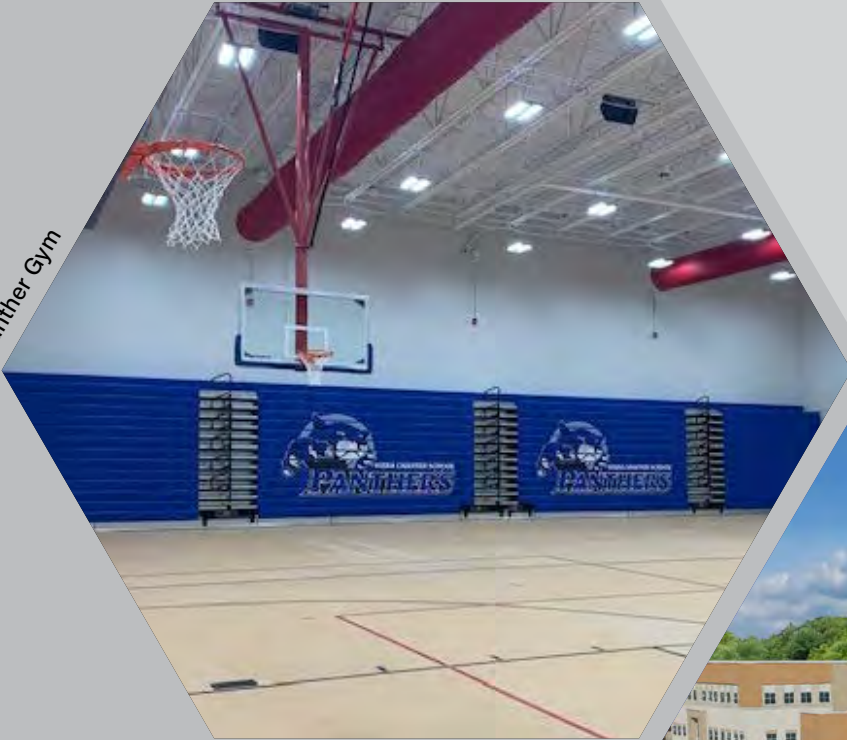
MICHELLE NORCROSS' DAUGHTER, NATALIE, HAS BEEN PART OF THE STUDENT BODY AT VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL SINCE SHE ENTERED KINDERGARTEN, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THE SAME YEAR THE SCHOOL OPENED IN 2013. AS NATALIE GREW, SO DID THE SCHOOL. IN THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR, WHEN NATALIE AND HER CLASSMATES ENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL, VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL WILL WELCOME THEM WITH A BRAND-NEW BUILDING TAILOR-MADE FOR THE OLDER STUDENTS.

The story of Viera Charter School is one of success from the time it opened with 648 students and a 900-student waitlist. It earned an "A" rating during its first year, a rare achievement. "We have grown steadily over the last seven years and are projected to have 1,375 students enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year, with almost 300 students on our waitlist," said Dr. Julie Cady, Viera Charter School Principal.

"Most of our students come to us in kindergarten and graduate eighth grade, spending nine years with us. Through partnership with their parents, we nurture them, educate them, guide them, and help them develop into responsible young citizens. We are a team that works together to provide a learning environment that adapts to the needs of our learners."

Selecting Viera Charter School for her daughter was a no-brainer for Michelle Norcross. "I chose Viera Charter School because of their personalized learning plan for the students and their great academic performance," she said. "The school makes every student feel like they are part of a family. The teachers are so dedicated to their students and truly care about the students' needs and their success."

Panther Gym



STEM Classroom



Rendering of new building



AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY, WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ALL THAT WE DO!

DR. JULIE CADY, VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

I also loved the fact that she could be there from kindergarten through eighth grade.”

Along with the new Viera Charter School’s middle school building comes a gymnasium, cafeteria and athletic track and fields, plus a renovation and expansion of existing facilities that will now be dedicated to the lower grades. The former cafeteria has been transformed into multi-purpose rooms that include a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) Lab, Media Center and Technology Room, and a new Art Room and Media Center are also making their debut.



(L-R) Viera Elementary Principal
Adrienne Schwab and Vice
Principal Jessica Mostowski

“While we currently have two science labs, the addition of a lab dedicated to STEAM is going to be wonderful,” said Cady.

Although Viera Charter School teachers already incorporate STEAM activities to their weekly lessons, the addition of a STEAM Lab will afford students additional time and resources to explore cool concepts, overseen by a dedicated coach. “The secret to getting children excited to learn is to make it fun and to have them solve authentic real

Approximately 400 students will be the first to enjoy the 125,000 square-foot state-of-the-art school with plenty of elbow room. “We’ll grow every year,” promised Principal Adrienne Schwab.

Each of the 54 classrooms features a Promethean interactive white board that encourages student engagement. “It’s like a giant iPad,” said Schwab.

Taking the kids to school will be easy and efficient, thanks to the new golf cart loop that Schwab anticipates will be extremely popular. The school’s design was planned with student safety in mind.

“The only door is the front door and visitors will have no access to the hallways unless they’re buzzed through,” explained Schwab. “There will be a lot of open space and our classrooms are huge,” said Schwab, who will rely on the school system’s Focus software if students cannot safely return in-person.

life problems, problems that make them think out of the box, make them long for more and inspire them to make a difference,” said Cady.


The new STEAM Lab will feed into middle school electives such as robotics and coding. “I have so many ideas, and I cannot wait to see what our students are capable of doing when they imagine and collaborate with their friends,” said teacher Rose Dedrick, who will lead the STEAM Lab.

Viera Charter School’s rapid yet well-executed growth mirrors the popularity of its hometown, which will also this academic year witness the opening of Viera Elementary School, the latest addition to Brevard public schools.

Given the nature of the pandemic, they are prepared to handle whatever COVID-19 has in store, whether in-school or through distance learning. “For the 2020-2021 school year, we will focus on two educational delivery options: A return to a traditional school environment with safety practices in place, and an eLearning option,” said Cady.

Viera Charter School will use the RISE Plan (Restarting through Innovative Sustainable Education), created by Charter School Associates, the school’s award-winning management company. “RISE incorporates the best of what we know to be effective practice in mitigating the spread and exposure to COVID-19 in schools,” said Cady. “We have worked diligently to enhance the distance learning experience, taking into consideration the varying needs of our students. Our distance learning platform is more robust, and the curricular offerings has been expanded and enhanced.

Dr. Cady nails the reason why schools such as Viera Charter School are so popular with families.

“As a learning community, we strive for excellence in all that we do,” she said. 



The Care Full Way

CAMPAIGN

VISITING MODEL HOMES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

“NEW NORMAL” IS A PHRASE THAT’S BEING TOSSED AROUND QUITE A BIT SINCE MID-MARCH WHEN THE COVID-19 CRISIS STARTED TO TAKE SERIOUS HOLD IN AMERICA.

But what it means is different for just about every industry. The short answer revolves around face masks, hand sanitizer, social or physical distancing of at least six feet, frequent hand washing, and trying very hard to not touch things when you’re out and about.

Bars and restaurants have specific challenges. Schools have gone through an ongoing series of planning meetings to deal with every eventuality. Sporting events, cinemas and other places that attract large gatherings are all working through what it looks like to stay in business during the time of COVID-19.

In real estate, specifically new construction, there are a variety of factors that may not be ignored, and The Viera Company is taking the lead in creating a The Care Full Way campaign that aligns with CDC guidelines, highlighting the builders in Viera and what additional steps they take to keep staff, clients, and visitors safe during this time.





The basics of the The Care Full Way program include:

1. CDC guidelines will be followed
2. Employees will wear a mask and request that visitors do the same
3. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned
4. Limited number of visitors in each home & social-distancing with touring

Each builder may have additional protocols to follow along with items 1-4 listed above

With that in mind, we took a little bit of time to speak to the builders to see how each of them are interpreting these guidelines for their specific customers and what they might be doing that's unique to them.

Each builder has incorporated their own specific operational procedures for visiting guests based on the type of home they have in each of their specific neighborhoods and subdivisions.

JOYAL HOMES

Whenever you visit a Joyal model home in Viera, you'll be greeted with a posted sign instructing you on what is expected during a tour.

Face masks are required at all times and guests are instructed to please not touch things while touring the model. Of course, 6-foot distance is observed at all times.

"In the past, we've wanted people to touch things and experience the home themselves," said Kerrie Kunde, Marketing Director for Joyal homes. "Times are different now."

Joyal is providing hand sanitizer throughout each model and sanitizing at increased intervals during the day.

At the moment, they remain open to the public, but if traffic increased, they are prepared to shift to scheduled tours only.

"We're offering private tours," Kunde said. "All one has to do is call and set up an appointment."

In addition to the standard precautions, Joyal, like many other builders, is tracking visitors by use of a sign-in sheet, which will help in the event of any visitor testing positive.

Kunde is quick to point out the value of hand-picked builders in Viera who work well together.

"We are friendly with all the other builders in Viera," she said. "It's all part of the culture that helps us unite together. Viera is a community where the builders all get along. It's a tight-knit community."



WE'RE OFFERING PRIVATE TOURS, ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS CALL AND SET UP AN APPOINTMENT."

KERRIE KUNDE, MARKETING DIRECTOR FOR JOYAL HOMES

The Care Full Way *Process*

HOUSE

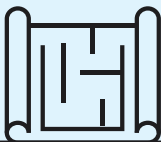
The builders in Viera have been authorized by The Viera Company to showcase their products to new buyers.



-



+



FLOOR PLAN
Variety of plans include duplex, townhome, single family, multiple family, age targeted and others.



LOCATION
New home and resale communities all reside in the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) for all those who call Viera, Florida home.



- +



SEARCH
Virtual tours allow for a safe pre-screening of both builder and home style. Visit viera.com/ Virtual-tours to see the model before you visit.



PROPERTY
Viera, Florida has remained on many national lists as one of the top masterplanned communities in the U.S.



+



REALTOR PRESENTATIONS
Local Realtors and brokerage companies are given a formal presentation by staff members at the Viera Discovery Center so they know the most recent development projects in the community.



-



DEAL
Builder agents provide answers to any questions and additional resources are provided for final decisions.

x



CONTRACT
Document signing in a safe and secure method during the public health crisis.



WE KEEP THE FRONT DOOR LOCKED TO HELP MANAGE TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THE PROPERTY.”

KAREN KICINSKI, LIFESTYLE HOMES MARKETING DIRECTOR, LIFESTYLE

LIFESTYLE HOMES

According to Karen Kicinski, LifeStyle Homes Marketing Director, LifeStyle is trying hard to make the shift away from handshakes. “It’s an odd situation,” she says, “but it connects directly to the CDC social distancing guidelines to keep people as safe as possible.”

“We keep the front door locked to help manage traffic in and out of the property,” Kicinski said. “And we’re not allowing any more than 2 families at a time into the models.”

When you visit a LifeStyle model, you’ll see branded masks and hand sanitizer and an effort to set up appointments rather than walk-up visits as in years past.



WE’RE TRYING TO BE AS RESPONSIBLE AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL NOT SLOWING DOWN OPERATIONS.”

STEPHANIE MORGAN, CHRISTOPHER BURTON HOMES REPRESENTATIVE

CHRISTOPHER BURTON HOMES

While the Burton model in Adelaide remains open 7 days a week, they are strongly encouraging appointments rather than walk-ins, says representative Stephanie Morgan.

“We post the Florida Realtors property showings rules,” she said. “And any other instructions from the selling agent.”

All the sales people are wearing face coverings and the company’s models are being sanitized as much as possible in between showings.

“I like to say I don’t wear a mask for me, I wear it for you,” Morgan said, emphasizing the idea that the company is learning and adjusting as details develop. “We’re trying to be as responsible as possible while still not slowing down operations.”

VIERA BUILDERS

For their part, Viera Builders is embracing the change as an opportunity.

While safety measures are being embraced by the company, they are also being understood as a new way of operating that may separate them from other builders in Central Florida.

Like most local builders appointments are encouraged. It’s a simple way of managing traffic through their public spaces.

Viera Builders is emphasizing the frequency of cleaning across all of their offices, models, and showing properties, including use of Wepak® Lemon Disinfectant, a bacterial application that lives on surfaces for an extended period.

Traffic control has become a priority with visitors at all properties now, parking in numbered spaces and waiting for admission rather than stepping into a “general admission”



WHY WOULD WE RETURN TO NORMAL WHEN WE CAN MOVE FORWARD?”

MARY MEAD, VIERA BUILDERS VP OF SALES

situation that may be less controllable from a health exposure standpoint.

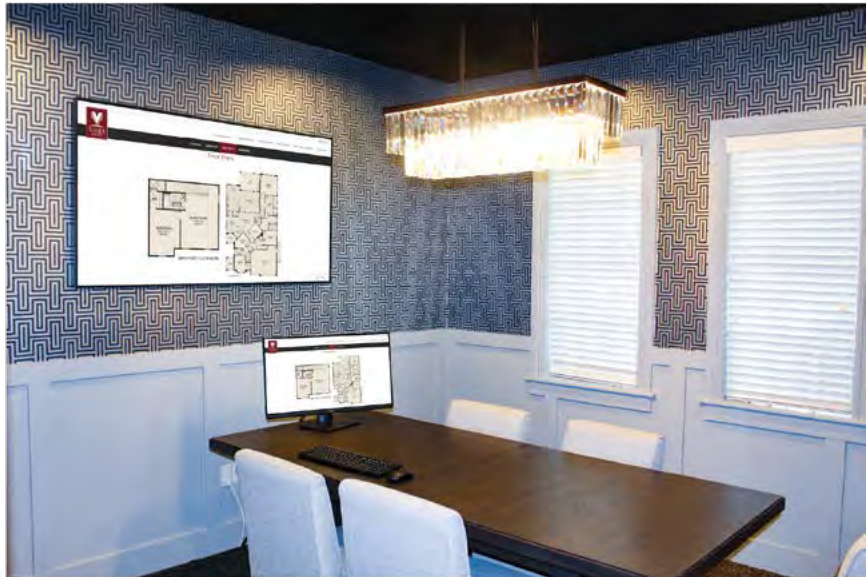
Viera Builders VP of Sales, Mary Mead, pointed out all of these processes, but specifically pointed to their efforts at traffic control including partnering with NterNow®, a keyless entry system provider that scans your driver’s license in exchange for an entry code.

Beyond all of these approaches, Viera Builders has also created an online catalog making its design and studio products available on the desktop enabling most design appointments to be completed virtually.

“Why would we return to normal when we can move forward?” Mead said.

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Full STEM Ahead

IT IS NO SURPRISE BREVARD COUNTY IS NAMED THE SPACE COAST, FOR WE LIVE AND BREATHE TECHNOLOGY. YOUNGSTERS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GROW UP IN BREVARD WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AMAZING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH, ALL OF WHICH PREPARE STUDENTS FOR HIGH-DEMAND TECH JOBS NEEDED IN OUR COMPLEX WORLD.

“STEM education creates critical thinkers and is preparing the next generation of innovators for high tech jobs on the Space Coast and across the globe,” said Brevard Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Mark Mullins, of the district’s intense interest in STEM.

Local corporate giants—companies such as L3Harris, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and The Viera Company—eagerly support Brevard Public Schools’ robust STEM curriculum. “STEM education is vital to ensure we are developing the next generation of innovators,” said Janice Kershaw, CEO and President of the Brevard Schools Foundation.

Working hand in hand with the schools and local businesses, the Foundation fills educational funding and opportunity gaps at the 83 Brevard schools that comprise the 10th largest public school system in Florida. The Foundation, recognized as one of the top 25 education foundations in the nation, channels funds from private contributions, corporate support, endowments and public matching funds to support curriculum innovation that changes young lives.

“Brevard Schools Foundation helps engage local tech companies in STEM education, whether financially, through volunteerism, mentorship or sponsorships,” explained Kershaw.

STEM programs at Brevard public schools reach across all grade levels and are enhanced for both students and educators through supplemental educational activities made possible through funds from the corporate sector.

“Many school robotics teams, FUSE labs and Maker Spaces or even district-wide STEM programs depend on community support for our students to have these robust STEM experiences,” said Kershaw.

“Local businesses like The Viera Company are formal partners with schools in their area to help ensure students benefit from enhancement and innovative opportunities they might not get otherwise.”

The Viera Company, one of the area’s most committed advocates of STEM education at every grade level, typically directs 30 percent of its annual charitable giving to the Schools Foundation and to individual schools. “When The Viera Company donates to the schools in our community, we are making an investment in our future,” said Todd Pokrywa, President of The Viera Company.





This year, the Supply Zone for Teachers received a grant from Northrop Grumman to develop a STEM section. This ensures that teachers and students in low income schools can access the supplies they need to bring STEM subject to life in their classrooms.

“We know we are providing funding for programs that tax dollars do not cover and helping schools to undertake special projects not otherwise financially supported. We believe the Viera community is made stronger when we invest in our students and educational opportunities.”

Like The Viera Company, other corporate players in the area step up in support of STEM education through their time, talent and treasure. Earlier this year, the L3Harris Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Foundation to provide learning opportunities in STEM for students, as well as related instructional practice activities for teachers. “L3Harris has long been a champion for education in our community and their commitment to improving the quality of education in our community should be the gold standard for corporations in every community,” added Kershaw.



L3Harris engineer, Daniel Ramirez engages with students during the Brevard Innovation Games held in March 2020.

“With the COVID-19 crisis deepening the achievement gap, especially the digital divide, these additional opportunities are needed now more than ever. Our students and teachers need extra resources and new programs to keep up with this challenging environment.”

Michelle Ferro, Elementary Science Content Specialist for the school system, knows from first-hand experience the positive impact programs such as the annual Elementary and Secondary Science and Engineering Fairs and Super Science Saturdays—which receive financial help from L3Harris—can have on students.

“Last school year, we were able to provide Super Science Saturdays to 375 students and their teachers, which offered time beyond the school day to participate in engaging hands-on science investigations,” said Ferro.

“Through the L3Harris grant, we will be able to immerse more students in STEM opportunities at an early age.” The grant also helps to fund the L3Harris Stem Challenge, STEM Engagement Series, the Superintendent Leadership Summit, the ABC Awards to outstanding faculty, staff and volunteers in the school system, the Take Stock in Children mentoring and scholarship program and Destination Space. Like L3Harris, the Boeing Company also provided a grant for Destination Space, which allowed more than 5,600 sixth graders in the school system to participate in an experiential field program at Kennedy Space Center.

“Providing students with hands-on experiences where they can learn to think critically and analytically, collaborate well with others, be creative and communicate effectively is how we will prepare the next generation to make the next giant leap to Mars,” said Ingrid Piedrahita, Boeing Global Engagement Community Investor.

Every sixth-grade student in the district has participated in Destination Space since the program, originally known as Space Week, was launched in 2003 by the schools in partnership with the Brevard Schools Foundation. Destination Space was developed using the expertise of NASA personnel, along with other local businesses and educators. This year’s program theme was “Living and Working in Space - Destination Mars,” with the intent of getting students to consider careers involved in getting humans to Mars to establish colonies there. Educators received training and teaching guides for the program to use in pre- and post-trip lessons and the students had access to their own Destination Space website to supplement classroom learning, as well as the study trip at Kennedy Space Center.

Educators such as Kathryn Caruso, STEM teacher at Quest Elementary in Viera, consider Destination Space heaven-sent.

“My STEM students love to see the real-world connections with Destination Space,” said Caruso. “When working on engineering design challenges related to Destination Space, they apply what they’ve learned in

that program and brainstorm possible solutions through collaboration and communication. The critical thinking demonstrated is inspired by their participation in the Destination Space program.”

Among other initiatives under the Foundation’s programming is Destination Mars, a stand-alone program which this year was funded by a \$120,000 grant from the Boeing Company. Destination Mars engages 5th and 6th graders from across Brevard in a lively day-long competition



As part of Destination Mars and Innovative Games (2019) students were tasked with building a computer, programming the computer and coming up with a smart gadget that humans could use when we colonize Mars.

and is the culmination of a year-long effort by the students. The pandemic posed a challenge for this year’s event, but Destination Mars prevailed through an online platform. Students were even able to meet a Boeing test pilot astronaut, virtually, of course.

Teams of 12 students throughout the school system tackled one of four STEM projects, planning and executing them in class and in after-school STEM clubs at the “Destination Mars Virtual Event,” when professionals representing the Boeing Company, Brevard Public Schools and other organizations judged the students’ solutions to the challenges.

This year’s challenge projects encompassed Mission Base Camp, Mission iWear, Mission Robotic Rover EV3 and Mission Bio-Dome.

With Mission Base Camp, the students identified issues pioneers on Mars might face in living and working at the Red Planet and proceeded to design a base camp pod that would solve the problem. The teams additionally built and programmed Piper Computer Kits to simulate a warning system that would be integrated into their pods.

Students who focused on Mission iWear designed a wearable device to assist pioneers with maintaining homeostasis—the stability necessary for survival—on Mars.

Other teams programmed the LEGO Mindstorm EV3 Rover using block programming for the Mission Robotic Rover EV 3, and the Minecraft Education Edition was used by some students to design and build a Martian Bio-Dome to maintain homeostasis on Mars.

Beyond the STEM lessons, Destination Mars provides another educational bonus.

“The most positive impact of Destination Mars was the collaboration and teamwork the students demonstrated,” said Holly Mentillo, Vista Teacher at Ocean Breeze Elementary School.

“There was a lot of arguing, debating, compromise, leadership and supporting others, but most of all, there was learning to work together to complete the missions. A very valuable lesson!”

The exploration of space is only one of the STEM subjects augmented by the school district’s relationship with local businesses and the Schools Foundation.

The L3Harris Super Science Saturdays, for example, provide STEM lessons to students in high poverty, low performance schools. During three-hour sessions held over the course of four Saturdays, “cadre,” or more experienced, teachers meet with host school teachers to model best practices in STEM instruction. Host school teachers in turn replicate these lessons with fifth to seventh grade students with the goal of exposing all students to high-interest STEM lessons.

The Bright Ideas Classroom Grants, many of which focus on STEM areas, present teachers with the opportunity to develop innovative classroom activities at all grade levels. “They are usually very hands-on learning opportunities,” said Tracy Steele, Marketing and Community Engagement Manager with the Brevard Schools Foundation.

Subjects for these grants run the gamut from using drones to study the ocean to sound wave research and the development of a Maker Space area.

The Brevard Schools Foundation Supply Zone for teachers also provides classroom materials to enhance the



CHRISTOPHER J. FERGUSON - Boeing Test Pilot Astronaut & CST-100 Starliner Director of Crew and Mission Systems for Boeing's Commercial Crew Program participated in our 2020 Virtual Destination Mars program. Students were able to “virtually” meet this real astronaut! The event was virtual this year due to COVID.

learning experience. Earlier this year, the Supply Zone unveiled a new STEM section, thanks to the generosity of Northrop Grumman. Although not directly associated with STEM, other initiatives supported by the private sector augment the schools’ educational reach.

Applauding Brevard’s Champions, or ABC Awards, is the official recognition program for Brevard Public Schools, hosted and presented by Brevard Schools Foundation. Held annually in January, the program salutes outstanding teachers, school staff and administrators such as Sarah Robinson, currently Principal at Viera High School, who was selected as Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year for the past academic year.

The Foundation also administers the Take Stock in Children program, which matches hard-working students from low-income families with volunteer mentors, many from the local business community. Mentors commit to spending time with the student weekly at school, beginning in middle school and continuing through high school and the transition into college. Graduates of the program receive 60-credit college scholarships.

“Our program is based on the principle that, given extensive support, motivation and accountability, children will work hard to ensure that they graduate from high school and attain a college degree,” said Kershaw.

“We fund our college scholarships and student services through a unique public-private fundraising model, and our mentors generously volunteer their mentoring services to our children.”

Part of the schools for almost a quarter of a century, Take Stock in Children numbered 239 student scholars and 56 graduates this year. For all scholarships, funds for half of the scholarship is raised locally from Brevard County residents and half is matched dollar for dollar by the Stanley Tate Project STARS Foundation, for a total value of approximately half a million dollars.

Take Stock in Children creates winners and is itself a winner. This year, Brevard’s Take Stock in Children program received the statewide “Big and Bold Award” as tops in the state for excellence and innovation, as well as the Luminary Award for exceeding all key performance indicators for the year.

Our community’s long-standing and dynamic support of Brevard Schools Foundation and the students it serves proves that, particularly along the Space Coast, it definitely takes a village to raise a child. 🇺🇸



6th grade students visit KSC



6th grade student at the Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit at KSC. Part of Destination Space.

FOOTGOLF!



Photo by: Sue Dewerff Panzarino

FootGolf Comes to Duran

A HYBRID OF SOCCER AND TRADITIONAL GOLF, DURAN'S NEW COURSE THAT DEBUTED IN JULY AT DURAN GOLF CLUB'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT THE PAR 3 COURSE, IS NOW ATTRACTING COUPLES AND FAMILIES ALIKE.


Played with a soccer ball, usually in groups of four, FootGolf holes are typically about 60 to 120 yards long. Rules and scoring are similar to the traditional golf game, with pars (three kicks to the hole) being the ultimate goal. The game takes about 90 minutes, and begins from a set of tee markers where the ball is kicked towards the enlarged hole. The course does not permit cleated shoes but appropriate closed-toe shoes are required.

John Madden, coordinator of a new couples tournament FootGolf league that debuted in August, said he was extremely pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm at the inaugural event.

"It's fun. Something any age can do. It's not very strenuous and makes a great "date night" out," he said. The league, planned to be held once a month, costs \$29 per couple and includes a free beverage and use of ball. Various prizes, including gift cards, are awarded for best combined scores, individual scores and closest to the pin shots.

"Now that we have added this option to our par three course, it's possible to have a family out here where the Dad may be playing traditional golf, the kids FootGolf, and Mom might be playing Smash Golf (the golf/tennis hybrid)," said Duran Golf Pro, Matt Morrison. "It's all the same price; \$13 for adults, \$8 for kids."

Nicole Latner, Duran's Marketing and Events Coordinator, said plans are being made to offer corporate events and fundraisers, as well as birthday party packages for the new FootGolf platform.

Reservations can be made via Durangolf.com or for more info call 321-504-7776. 

FOOTGOLF BASIC RULES:

1. FIGF and Local Rules Govern Play.

2. Your ball must be easy to identify.

3. Review the scorecard and wait for your turn. Make sure your kick will not interfere with other players.

4. Play the ball from where it lies: You are not allowed to move the ball or remove permanent objects. (You are not allowed to break branches or pull plants.) Exception: You may mark the spot and lift the ball when it may obstruct the other players kick or ball in any way.

5. The ball must be played in a single movement. Your foot should be set separate from the ball, clearly behind, before the kick. Touching the ball with the bottom of your foot is not allowed at anytime.

6. Wait to play until the ball has completely come to rest.

(It is not legal to stop the ball from rolling with the wind.)

7. The player farthest from the hole, is the first to kick the ball.

8. Kick off your ball from a position behind the tee markers. The order is established based on the score of the previous hole. The player with the best score will be the first to kick off on the next hole followed by the second, etc.

9. Cleaning the Ball. Only between the Holes may the ball be picked up and cleaned.

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HOLY TRINITY *Scores*

WITH SHAH FAMILY FIELDHOUSE

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL ACADEMY'S TIGERS ONCE HAD THEIR SPARTAN ATHLETIC LOCKER FACILITIES INCONVENIENTLY POSITIONED FOR FIELD SPORTS. THINGS WERE NOT MUCH BETTER FOR TIGER FANS WITH RESTROOMS IN A SMALL BUILDING AUGMENTED BY A PORTABLE RESTROOM TRAILER.

That was then. Behold now the 13,000-square-foot Shah Family Fieldhouse, the newest addition to the Melbourne prep school's campus near the Pineda Causeway.

There is plenty of locker room for Holy Trinity and visiting athletes alike, plus more, in the new building, which also houses concessions, outdoor patio seating, strength and conditioning facilities, athletic trainer facilities, office and meeting spaces and an outdoor dining pavilion. Oh, and there is also an abundance of restrooms.

"I think our students and families were amazed," said Academy president Dr. Katherine Cobb.

"We have not had our student body on campus collectively since March, before the slab was poured."

The facility furthers the school's goal to educate the whole student in mind, spirit and body. School curriculum includes physical education classes for all students and approximately 90% of the student body participates in 50 athletic teams.





I THINK OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WERE AMAZED!

DR. KATHERINE COBB, ACADEMY PRESIDENT




More than 15 years have passed since Holy Trinity built the Scott Center for Worship and the Performing Arts, the last major addition to the upper school campus. The dry spell is over, for the fieldhouse is part of the Tiger Athletic Complex, funded by a \$5.5 million capital campaign. When finished, the Athletic Complex will include an NFL-quality synthetic turf field to be used by both physical education classes and field sports, the Kelly Automotive Stadium, additional parking and sidewalks, plus a track featuring the Plexitrac® Accelerator polyresin all-weather surface, the latest for the safest possible running surface.

The Tiger Athletic Complex should provide a perfect pick-me-up after the uncertainty of the last few months.



“It was something to celebrate!” said Colleen Middlebrooks, director of advancement. Regardless of how the school year plays out with the pandemic, Tiger athletes and their families will have plenty of time in the future to enjoy their sleek Athletic Complex.

“We know these vital improvements to our athletic program will stand the test of time and will be here for students for many years to come,” said Cobb. 

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WILDLIFE *Rescues*



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EAVEN MUST HAVE A SPECIAL SPOT RESERVED FOR WILDLIFE RESCUERS, THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO SAVING MOTHER NATURE'S INJURED OR ORPHANED CHILDREN. THEY FREELY GIVE THEIR TIME, THEIR MONEY AND EVEN THEIR HOMES FOR THE CAUSE. THEIR WILD PATIENTS WON'T THANK THEM, BUT THAT IS FINE, SINCE FOR THE RESCUERS, RETURNING WILD CREATURES BACK TO NATURE IS THANKS ENOUGH.

At 3 a.m. one night, Heather Pepe-Dillon, Chief Operations Officer of WILD Florida Rescue, got a call requesting help with a raccoon with a paw caught on somebody's roof. Pepe, together with fellow WILD Florida Rescue co-founder Matthew Buice, rushed over and were able to disentangle the distraught little fellow.

A day in their lives may entail disentangling pelicans from fishing line, helping a coyote caught on fence wire, reuniting baby squirrels with their moms, rushing a crane injured by a car to the hospital and crafting a new nest for owl babies.

Pepe-Dillon and Buice created WILD Florida Rescue to provide emergency transport for injured wildlife. Donations allowed the purchase of two small vehicles reminiscent of European ambulances. The little vans are outfitted with everything from a kayak for water rescues, nets and carriers to catch the animals, to oxygen to calm them down.

"We're emergency first responders for wildlife," said Pepe-Dillon.

Brevard's Animal Services, which is geared to domestic animals, works with WILD Florida Rescue with urban wildlife cases. Florida Fish and Wildlife agents will also call on them for help.

The rescue team transports injured animals to Florida Wildlife Hospital in Palm Shores, to individual rescuers such as Crystal McClung, or to organizations such as Brevard Zoo. While many of the stories end happily, unfortunately all too many do not.

"It is very painful to see an animal that has been injured by a car and you know that it is beyond hope and will have to be euthanized," said Pepe.

Florida Wildlife Hospital, admitted more than 5,500 wildlife patients last year, but it is worth it when the animals can be returned, healthy again, to their original habitats.

Since 1973, Florida Wildlife Hospital has rescued, rehabilitated and released thousands of wild creatures great and small, most of them suffering from injuries caused by humans. The only facility of its kind in the area, the hospital depends on fundraisers and private donations to exist, since it receives no government funds.

COVID-19 has severely impacted the hospital in several ways.

"We've seen a spike in cases, but we've had to postpone or cancel fundraisers because of the virus," said Tracy Frampton, the Hospital's Executive Director.

Like Heather Pepe-Dillon, Crystal McClung of Crystal's Critter Care and Rescue gets her share of middle-of-the-night wildlife emergencies.

There are not many like McClung, happy to give her time, house and finances to help the 200 or more animals a year she rescues. Caracaras, baby skunks, gopher tortoises, you name it, and McClung has done her best to nurse them back to health. She keeps the creatures fed and medicated with her income from working several jobs, plus a few donations from the community.

"I always loved animals," she said.

Streams of raccoons, squirrels, opossums and other species owe their lives to her.



WE'RE EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS FOR WILDLIFE"

HEATHER PEPE-DILLON, COO OF WILD FLORIDA RESCUE



Take Simon, the opossum. McClung was called by police to come help Simon, who had been hit by a car around midnight.

“Simon was brought back to the house, given pain meds and antibiotics for the night and then I took him to work in the morning,” said McClung, who works at Malabar Country Veterinary Clinic.

With a fractured skull and ruptured cornea, Simon was in sad shape and would need surgery to remove the eye. It turns out Simon was a marsupial trooper.

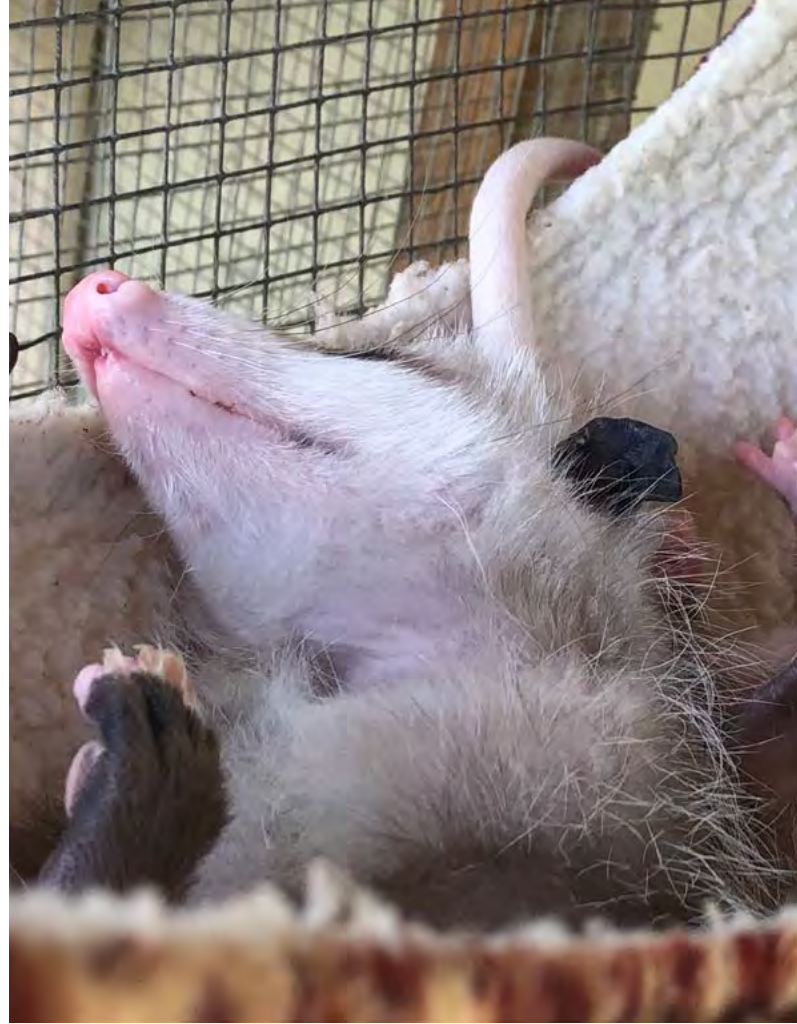
“He would rather sit on your shoulder than growl at you,” said McClung, who believes the animal was raised by humans who later turned him loose.

Although Simon’s injuries make releasing unfeasible, he still has a good life ahead.

“Once he is healed, we will find a facility that would like a sweet opossum as an educational ambassador,” said McClung.

BEYOND URBAN WILDLIFE

Creatures of the deep also get an assist from local wildlife groups. Brevard’s seashore, among the world’s most important nesting sites for sea turtles, attracts scores of the marine reptiles, many of which are found injured from boat accidents or interaction with fishing line and plastic debris. For more than 30 years, the all-volunteer Sea Turtle Preservation Society has worked to protect sea turtles in Brevard through education and conservation programs.



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STPS administers a 24/7 hotline for sea turtle emergencies and has teams to transport sea turtles who need help. Last year, STPS responded to 153 strandings, saved more than 250 hatchlings, and made 141 trips to get sea turtles to an organization or to a veterinarian for assistance.

In partnership with the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, Brevard Zoo operates the 2,400-square-foot Sea Turtle Healing Center, which provides quick and local treatment for the creatures. For years, the closest rehabilitation facility was 90 miles away.

Brevard Zoo has always been a champion of conservation in all its facets. In late February, the Zoo's curator of animals, Lauren Hinson, became foster mom to Brody, a weeks-old black bear cub abandoned by his mother at Ocala National Forest.



Because he was abandoned at such a young age, Brody the bear cannot be released, so he will live out his life as an ambassador for his species at Brevard Zoo.

Mahatma Gandhi once remarked that “the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

If that gauge is used for the Space Coast, Brevard County is great indeed. 🐾



i

Wildlife rescue groups can always use donations, but even more during the pandemic, when fundraising events have been cancelled. Many also welcome volunteers. Please consider helping these big-hearted people.

WILD Florida Rescue for Wildlife Emergencies
321-821-7881

Florida Wildlife Hospital
321-254-8843 or floridawildlifehospital.org

Crystal's Critter Care and Rescue
321-426-5489 or see facebook.com/crystalscrittercare

Brevard Zoo
321-254-9453 or brevardzoo.org

Sea Turtle Preservation Society
321-206-0646 or seaturtlespacecoast.org

Photographs by: WILD Florida Rescue, Brevard Zoo

Citizens Academy

By Carmen Vastola, Senior Ambassador,
Viera Discovery Center

I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN UF/IFAS'S BREVARD COUNTY CITIZENS ACADEMY CLASS, HELD PRIMARILY AT THE UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE IN COCOA, BUT WITH "FIELD TRIPS" TO SEVERAL COUNTY FACILITIES, SUCH AS THE COCOA LIBRARY AND THE FIRE RESCUE BUILDING IN ROCKLEDGE. THE COURSE DESCRIPTION READ, IN PART: COME LEARN ABOUT YOUR COUNTY IN THE COOLEST CIVICS CLASS YOU WILL EVER TAKE! LEARN HOW THE COUNTY DEVELOPS A BUDGET, PAVES ROADS, TRAINS EMPLOYEES, MAINTAINS PARKS, CARES FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SO MUCH MORE!

I was hooked right from the beginning, and they certainly delivered!

After nine 5 to 6 hour weekly classes, the attendees took away a great deal of information about the Brevard County management process. The general consensus among the attendees was that every graduating senior in Brevard County should have to take this class, and that Planning and Zoning was without a doubt the most interesting session! After sitting through that particular session, most of us were just amazed at the wildly unsafe structures and additions people erect, many without proper permitting. The pictures shared by the P & Z team left us shaking our heads.

We learned that Brevard County Government Services is comprised of a wide variety of departments, addressing all areas of County functions. There were so many a-ha moments as one learned how mosquito control really operates, or why we have such robust Parks and Recreation services. These topics were quite engaging as described by the department manager, and these services and programs exist because of the hard work and dedication of an efficient staff of County workers.

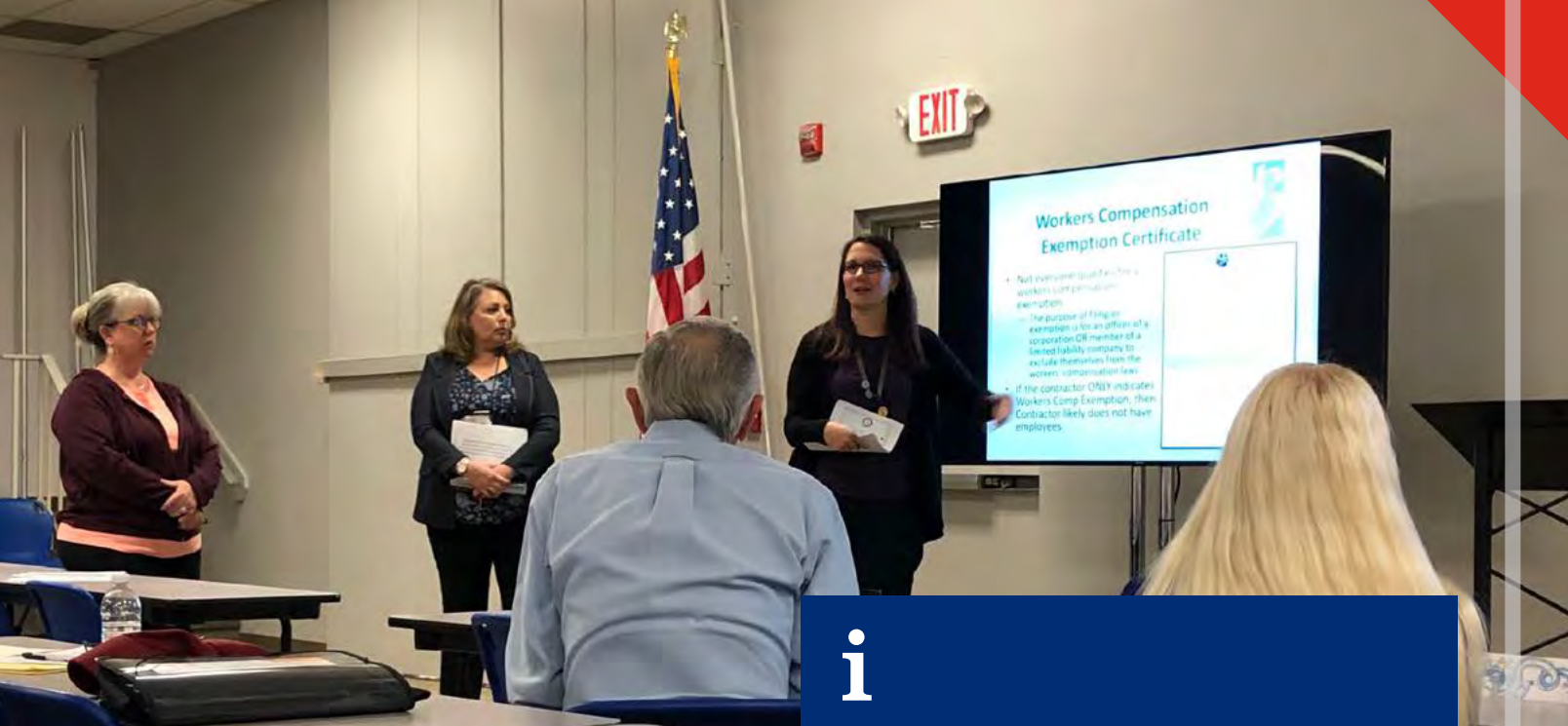


Photos by: Stephanie Byrd

The first handout we received was the Brevard County Government Organizational Chart. At the very top was a box with the words Citizens of Brevard and then below it, a row of our elected or appointed officials, where you can see the role each plays in our County government structure.

For instance, underneath the Development and Environmental Service Group are seven sub-groups: Mosquito Control, Planning and Development, Solid Waste Management, Natural Resource Management, Public Works, Utility Services, and Valkaria Airport. The assistant county manager oversees these groups, and along with the respective directors/manager of each one, supports their functions so things run to keep things running smoothly!

The other main groups under which more specific departments fall are: Support Services Group, Public Safety Group, and Community Services Group. We enjoyed hearing each department head speak so passionately and




knowledgeably about his or her department. We also learned that Brevard County Government offers its employees opportunities for advanced learning, including Lean Six Sigma and Executive Leadership training.

The statistics they shared were enlightening: Were you aware that that Parks and Recreation volunteers contribute 615 hours of their time daily, and on the payroll there are 54 p/t and 271 F/T staff? We learned that there are 700 members of the Brevard County Fire Rescue team which includes 9-1-1 dispatchers, Fire and EMS personnel, Fire Prevention, and support personnel. There are approximately 100 seasonal lifeguards and roughly 75 volunteers and reservists, although some of these numbers may vary from year to year. Fire trucks cost roughly \$500K and ladder trucks \$750K to \$900K, and last up to 20 years.

Why is all this important? Because, as taxpayers, we pay for these services, and let's face it, we expect things to run smoothly, for trash to be picked up on time, for buses to run on schedule, and so on, so it helps to know how these processes work. After attending this class, I am much more grateful for the abundance of services we, as a community, are fortunate to have. Waste Management, Transportation, Human and Natural Resources, and many more, all contribute to making our lives much easier, with services not necessarily found in many places on this planet.

So what exactly does UF/IFAS stand for? University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services, which is a partnership between UF/IFAS, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Brevard County Government. They work together to provide educational programs such as this citizens academy, based on the latest research and technology.

For anyone who wants to be in the know about the workings of our County government, this class is highly recommended. You may find yourself saying the same thing many of the other attendees said throughout the course: I didn't know that! 

i

For more information or to enroll in an upcoming course, please contact:

Susanne Majusiak, Secretary
 UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County
 Ofc: 321.633.1702, ext. 52314
smajusiak@ufl.edu



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Around TOWN

1. The Great American Celebration

Viera's annual 4th of July fireworks were provided by the Viera Community Institute and The Viera Company. Local sponsors included USSSA (live video) and the Brevard Symphony Orchestra (pre-recorded music) created an uplifting experience celebrating the national birthday.



1



2

2. Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 17th

Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux & Bar is coming to Viera! The franchise was named the #1 brand in Entrepreneur's 2019 Franchise 500® ranking.

3. Viera High School Graduation, Class of 2020

a. Viera High School seniors, who remain a close contact group, pose on graduation day. Photo by Taryn Aebli.

b. Local graduates pose for a photo: Victoria Pugliese and Emily Hyde. Photo by Morgan Ogden



3a



3b

4. Drive-Through Giveaway

On August 8th the Brevard School Foundation hosted a drive-through giveaway event for families facing economic hardship. They provided free backpacks, school supplies, books, food and smiles. The Viera Company is one of the local sponsors of this yearly event.



4



4

5. Olea Viera

The new Olea at Viera apartment complex is taking shape and the members of their executive staff gave the Viera Vision team a wonderful tour of the new facility.



5



4

6. Explorers Academy

During a recent tour, the team at the Viera Vision was able to tour the new facility and experience the innovative designs in the classrooms and the play areas of the new school.



6



Art Gallery of Viera presents
AvantMask
 An artistic facial covering expression
 EXHIBITION & COMPETITION

MUSIC

- 1. BSO at Home:** Gustav Holst's *The Planets*
 Brevard Symphony Orchestra
BrevardSymphony.com
- 2. Musicians at Home**
 Space Coast Symphony Orchestra
Spacecoastsymphony.org/musicians-at-home/
- 3. First Friday Drive-Up Concert Series**
 Dates: October 2nd & November 6th
 Location: AMC Theaters parking lot,
 The Avenue Viera
AvenueViera.com
- 4. Sunday Jazz in the Park**
 Dates: September 13th - October 11th
 (5 Sundays)
 Location: Central Park, The Avenue Viera
AvenueViera.com

THEATRE



- 1. A Halloween Trilogy of Plays,**
 featuring the works of
 Edgar Allan Poe
 Dates: October 9th – 11th
 Location: CocoaVillage
 Playhouse, Cocoa
CocoaVillagePlayhouse.com

- 2. GREASE**
 Dates: October 23rd – November 8th
 Location: Henegar Center, Melbourne
Henegar.org



ART GALLERY

- 1. AvantMask Exhibition**
 Dates: October 9th – November 1st
 Location: Art Gallery of Viera
ArtGalleryofViera.com

THE AVENUE
Viera

FUNDRAISERS

- 1. Jazzoo**
 Date: November 7th
 Location: Brevard Zoo, Viera
BrevardZoo.org



SEASONAL FAVORITES FOR KIDS

- 1. Boo At The Zoo**
 Dates: October 10th – 31st
 Location: Brevard Zoo, Viera
BrevardZoo.org

CHARITY WALK/RUN EVENTS

- 1. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**
 Date: October 24th
 Location: The Avenue Viera
Facebook.com/MSABCBrevard
- 2. Ghostly Gecko 5K**
 Date: October 24th
 Location: Melbourne, FL
RunningZone.com





TODD POKRYWA, PRESIDENT

THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN UNIQUE IN VIERA; HOWEVER, OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY COMMENDABLE DECISIONS AND ACTIONS BY LEADERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OTHER LAUDABLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. THESE LEADERS HAVE BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ASSIST AREA BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN THE MIDST OF VERY CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES. ALL OF THE LEADERS IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN NAVIGATING UNCHARTED WATERS WITH OUR COMMUNITY'S BEST INTEREST IN MIND AND THEY HAVE TOGETHER CONTRIBUTED TO THE REJUVENATION OF THE ECONOMIC MOMENTUM WE HAVE HAD HERE IN VIERA AND ON THE SPACE COAST FOR MANY RECENT YEARS.


Brevard County Government has been administering the CARES Act grant-funding program for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Brevard Public Schools has altered the available modes of delivery for education to provide a menu of options for classroom and virtual instruction. It is also notable to highlight the work of the Space Coast Area Chambers of Commerce (i.e. Melbourne Regional Chamber, Cocoa Beach

Regional Chamber of Commerce, Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce, and The Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce) as the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) has collectively recognized them as Communicator of the Year. The Chambers have quickly pivoted to support local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic with virtual programming and the dissemination of information about vital connections, resources and grants available at a time when their support is most needed by our business community.

The residential builders in Viera have implemented safety precautions for those visiting model homes in Viera. The Care Full Way campaign is underway and conveys the CDC guidelines and protocols followed in new home models to help keep visitors safe.

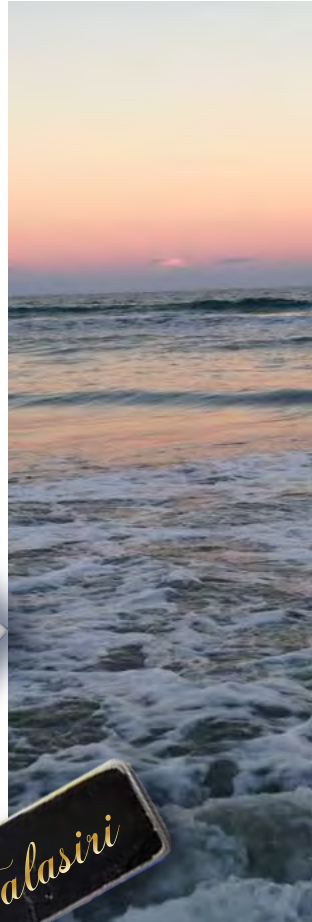
The Viera Company has also been hard at work over the summer with the construction of new roads, expanding future housing options, and developing infrastructure to help facilitate new locations for businesses to consider locating their office or headquarters, hotels, retail stores, and restaurants in such mixed hubs as Borrows West at I-95 and Viera Boulevard, Viera Town Center and the Pineda Interchange area.

The recent groundbreaking of Walk On's Bistreaux & Bar on Napolo Drive, east of Lake Andrew Drive, is an exciting new restaurant that will open in 2021 and will be added to the long list of growing hospitality offerings in our community. Congratulations to Nate and Courtney Fowler for making a significant investment in bringing this new business to Viera.

As I finish writing this letter, the temperature outside is still registering about 95 degrees but fall is around the corner with cooler temperatures, slightly modified arts and culture offerings, and thrilling prospects for new residential and commercial development that will continue to deliver the Viera lifestyle. 

**THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS
IN VIERA HAVE IMPLEMENTED SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS FOR THOSE VISITING MODEL HOMES
IN VIERA. THE CARE FULL WAY CAMPAIGN IS
UNDERWAY AND CONVEYS THE CDC GUIDELINES
AND PROTOCOLS FOLLOWED IN NEW HOME MODELS TO
HELP KEEP VISITORS SAFE.**

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