



EMICA COMMUNITY NEWS

East Merritt Island Association Since 1963



November 12th speakers are:

Trish Bass, Debbie Fisher and Alexis Gragg. They will be here to discuss Medicare, ACA Marketplace Health Insurance along with senior living placement / home services. Trish & Debbie will highlight some of the basics of health insurance and share local resources that are available to Brevard residents. Alexis will share information on Care Patrol, which helps families with various levels of care for aging mom and dad..... for seniors when they need to consider their options for additional care. Whether that is finding the right assisted / independent living facility or receiving personal care at home.

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Warning: Issues ahead!

As we mentioned last month, we have a lot going on around our community. Port growth, beachside development, new hospital, and additional train station will bring about issues of increased traffic, road improvements, commercial projects, aquarium development, and continued spotlight on the marine health of our lagoon. Hopefully these issues and more will be hashed out with civil debate among our community residents and decision-makers. As residents, how can we be a part of these important discussions?

We believe the essential concern is awareness. Through our monthly meetings, newsletter, & website, EMICA seeks to inform, educate & when appropriate, advocate to decision-makers viewpoints that concern our immediate community. For us to be more successful, we ask for your support by attending our monthly meetings. Also consider becoming a volunteer for our newsletter, website and/or membership activities. For anyone interested, you can contact any of the folks listed on our Board for more information.

In closing, we wanted to clarify our last month's article about the Oak Tree & Veterans Memorial Park. The Tree is alive & well in the city of Cape Canaveral, & is not at the Merritt Island's Veterans Memorial Park.

We hope you can visit both!

-- Richard Cripps



EMICA EAST MERRITT ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Please join our facebook group for all the up-to-date information & interactive discussions among our community

Join us at our monthly meetings (excluding June, July, August & December)

MEETING TUESDAY, NOV 12th @ 7pm, Lighthouse Church, 1250 N Banana River Dr

NOVEMBER 2024



EMICA

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STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION



Brevard County has initiated storm debris removal operations. We ask that residents have patience, as the majority of resources are engaged in operations in areas that have suffered more damage than Brevard. This will be a single-pass debris cleanup operation that concentrates on vegetative material.

PLEASE Separate the different types of debris to ensure a pickup with less wait time. Set it on the public right-of-way **OFF** the roadway avoiding trees, mail boxes, water meters, or overhead wires. Containerize loose vegetative debris and Cut up trees and limbs into 4' lengths. Neatly stack construction and demolition debris.

Contractors hired by a homeowner for tree trimming, fence repair/replacement, or construction are responsible for hauling away all yard waste, fencing & construction materials.

Please be aware that all debris generated from named storm events, or from construction, re-modeling or demolition activity are **NOT INCLUDED** as part of the normal solid waste collection services provided by Waste Management.

Residents may choose to deliver their storm debris with no charge to the County's Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa. - Brevard County Solid Waste website.

RECYCLE CAMPAIGN SIGNS AFTER NOV 5TH

Brevard County Solid Waste, League of Women Voters and Recycle Brevard are collaborating to **COLLECT** and recycle corrugated campaign signs instead of discarding them after the election. Please reach out to any of these organizations if you are helping any candidate collect their signs after we vote on November 5th. Chapter 106 Section 1435 instructs candidates to remove their campaign advertisements after elections.

UPDATES ON FDOT PROGRAM FOR EMI

FDOT is planning to **RESURFACE** State Road 528 from West of Sykes Creek to SR 401. The purpose of this project is to repave a segment to maintain the roadway surface. Work will include resurfacing all travel lanes, shoulders and the ramps at North Banana River Drive. Bid Letting 12/2026.

Another project involves widening State Road 528 from four to six lanes from east of SR 3 (North Courtenay Parkway) to SR 401 (Port Canaveral interchange) by adding a lane in each direction in the median. The project also plans to reconstruct the interchanges at Banana River Drive, SR 401 and George King Boulevard and reconstruct the bridge over the Banana River.

Right of way acquisition will be needed (has already started for the project west of SR 3) & is expected to begin in summer 2025. Construction is not yet funded. Permitting is noted as complete. A shared-use trail is also planned on the north side of SR 528 east of SR 524 (Industry Rd) to east of SR 3.

The purpose of the SR 520 Causeway Vulnerability Study is to evaluate the resiliency of SR 520 from US 1 to SR A1A. A vulnerability assessment of the corridor will be conducted to develop mitigation alternatives that address environmental & engineering hazards involving storm surge and sea level rise.

- Florida Dept of Transportation website

BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW AMPHITHEATER

On Tuesday, October 29th the Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center hosted a groundbreaking for their new Amphitheatre at 400 South Sykes Creek Parkway in Merritt Island. The event was held adjacent to the Amphitheatre construction site.

The 6,000-square-foot amphitheater stage is planned at Veterans Memorial Park. The facility will accommodate a 1,721-square-foot bathroom and concession building. Additional plans include a tiered lawn viewing area with a capacity of 2,350 people, and an additional lawn area for events, with the potential to accommodate over 5,000 people in all.

(Cont'd on page 4)

CAPE MARINA IS ESSENTIAL TO BOATERS

Cape Marina, occupying approximately ten acres at the Port, is the result of fifty years of pursuing Jerry Seaman's American Dream. For three generations, his family has carried on his dream to support the needs of both recreational boaters and commercial fishermen.

The Port Commission has put forth a plan, the Request for Proposal (RFP), that could displace the marina and erase all that this family has built. The marina has proposed a different plan that would support the cruise lines and space industry, but also meet the needs of the local boating community by transforming it into a modern facility that serves both the present and future needs of the Port.

If the Port renewed its lease today, with the requirement for redevelopment, the marina would have a new facility by 2026, ensuring a smooth transition for all customers. Bluepoints could close as intended, and the Port could begin immediate work on a southside terminal with little to no displacement. This is a common-sense solution that so far, the Port has rejected.

Cape Marina is asking the Port Canaveral Commission to:

1. Forego the unnecessary RFP process and work directly with Cape Marina to expedite the redevelopment.
2. Renew CPE Marina's lease immediately with a firm requirement for redevelopment so it can begin construction of the new facility.
3. Recognize the importance of Cape Marina to the local community and the role it plays in supporting state priorities as well as the cruise and space industries.

To support the marina and learn more about the proposal, please sign its petition by opening the QR code below

By Laurie Crooks



**Our Next Meeting
is NOV 12th
At 7PM**

f EMICA
East Merritt Island
Community Association

NOVEMBER 2024

f EMICA

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BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER & PARK



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(Amphitheater Groundbreaking cont'd from pg 2)

MIRA was successful in obtaining a \$1.3 million grant from the Brevard County Tourist Development Council, matched by a \$1 million investment from MIRA to complete the amphitheater project.

The park and its amenities, including the amphitheater, will be operated by Brevard County Parks and Recreation. This capital project is supported by the Brevard County Board of Commissioners and the Space Coast Office of Tourism.

- Brevard County Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency

INFORM • EDUCATE • PROTECT

Annual Membership Form \$15/family

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Bring application with cash or check to the Meeting or Mail with check to:
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