

# ROBIN'S TOP 12 OF 2014

I've just finished my 6<sup>th</sup> year as your District 1 County Commissioner. I regularly find myself thankful for the trust you've placed in me to be of service to you. We've been working hard on some very large projects that are coming to fruition and I want you to know how much I appreciate you and how we work together for the good of our community. When asked how important the Miracle City Mall redevelopment project is, my response is **"Well, it's not life and death...it's more important than that!"** So before I get into my TOP 12, let me just start with what's been on everyone's mind... WHAT IS THE REAL DEAL?



Over the last 6 months I have been quiet about making any additional statements about the status of the mall, because we realized that everything we said or any date or comment we put out there we were being criticized for not making it. I was being held

accountable for the timelines of the project, regardless of why we were not meeting those time lines. I have purposely not responded to any hearsay or negative comments. I realized very early that a lot of people didn't know what they were talking about and most have had no clue how difficult this project is.

Exxcel Project Management and Allen Goins are not only financially committed to the success of this mall, but they have put their reputation on the line in making sure this deal happens. And there is no one more determined than I am to make sure this project materializes. So as we move into 2015 let me put some rumors to rest about the status of Titus Landing.

So here is the Real Deal on the Mall:

This has been an extremely difficult project. There are a lot of dynamics that go into putting a deal of this magnitude together. My office has worked constantly with the developer and the potential retailers. We have met with several top retailers in my County Commission Office such as representatives for Dick's Sporting Goods, Hobby Lobby, Beall's Department Store, HH Gregg Electronics, Ulta, Neighborhood Market, TJ Maxx, Home Goods, and Belk's just to name a few. We have attended conferences and tried to talk to every retailer you can imagine. Now that the economy is rebounding, several of the large retailers have finalized their growth plans for 2015. While Titusville was not a market that many retailers were looking at on their own, we have introduced them to our community and this project and have been working with them so they can understand this market and demographic. We have had to defend a lot of those demographics and the unique dynamics this community has faced over the last 5 years.

I am proud to say we have impacted how they feel about North Brevard. Because of my effort along with Holly Woolsey and Troy Post and the developer's team, there are some retailers now willing to take a chance on Titusville.

The developer has been granted demolition permits from the City of Titusville and you will see the safe removal of asbestos and other hazardous things being removed from the inside of the buildings. This is probably going to take 30 days or so! Then you will see more equipment gather on the site for the buildings to be demolished. I do not expect the first building to come down before mid-February.

Yes we still plan on having a mall demo party.

We always knew this project would be done in two phases, as of today we will be applying for Phase 1 engineering permits the Week of January 5th, that's if we do not get any more site plan changes from potential retailers. One of the challenging issues we are faced with is as our marketing efforts with the retailer start to materialize... we are asked to fit them on the site and that creates issues because we have to modify the site plan and engineering drawings multiple times. Each time

you make a change on the site plan, you have to recalculate the open space rule that the City has which is 25% and you have to meet new parking requirements. This is part of the reason it is taking so long to do this project. We were hoping to submit for permits 2 weeks ago. A new tenant has verbally committed and one tenant is asking for additional site plan changes so the engineers are back to the drawing board. This in a way is a first class problem, but it also causes delays.

Phase 1 will consist of about 2/3 of the entire redevelopment. We will be using 21 acres of the 32 acres for 190,000k sq. ft. of buildings. At this time you will see an investment of about 25 million dollars into our City. Once the City approves the building permits you will see a lot of positive movement towards a November Black Friday opening. If our marketing efforts continue, I think we could start phase 2 of this project right away.

We are not going to announce any tenants that have committed to the site until we have some permits in hand from the City and we are respecting the retailer's wishes as to when the appropriate time to make official announcements.

While some sit around and criticize who the tenants will be and what they don't like about the project, we will go back to work January 1 to make sure that we take the largest eyesore sitting at the heart of our community and do everything we can to redevelop that site.





## 1. Brevard Field of Dreams

Ten years ago, retired Atlantic City, New Jersey firefighter and longtime resident of Brevard County and now my friend, Jim Tapp realized that children and adults with disabilities in the community didn't have a place to play sports; and neither did the state. Tapp talked to me about his dream to bring an all-access, multi-sport park to the area and through the Commission, I initiated the transfer of the former Max Rodes Park land to the City of West Melbourne with a condition that a portion of the site be used for the Brevard County Field of Dreams. With the property committed I also set out to help Jim raise the funds necessary to make this project a reality. After meeting with Florida Speaker of the House, Steve Crisafulli and Senate President, Andy Gardiner – both of whom represent Brevard County in addition to their leadership roles - to discuss the project, Governor Rick Scott signed the state budget which awarded \$2 million and \$50,000 to the Brevard County Field of Dreams.

Along with the generous support of Waste Management, the Eckerd Foundation, the City of West Melbourne, Brevard County, Atkins, W&J Construction, Holeman Architects, HealthFirst, Brevard County Office and more everyday, the opportunity for with disabilities to play sports with their friends and family become a reality.

Phase one of the multi-phase construction project is underway. This phase includes an all-access soft-surface baseball field. Future phases will include basketball and soccer.



Sheriff's  
people  
is about to

## 2. Incredible Kids Make Great Entrepreneurs!

SO PROUD OF THESE KIDS! The Coffee Pit is in business for its second year. This enterprise is student owned and operated by our very own Titusville High School BLAST students! Stop by for your fresh, hot cup of coffee daily Monday – Friday 10 am – 2 pm in the lobby of our building (400 South Street, Titusville).

The students have expanded their product line to include beautiful hand dyed 100% silk scarves and a variety of hand shaped bendy pens. BLAST is Brevard Learners Achieving Successful Transition.

Way to go kids!



### 3. Animal Services



Earlier this year I invited Sheriff Wayne Ivey to have a discussion with me about Animal Services. Knowing what an animal lover he is, it didn't take much to convince him to take over Animal Services from the County. Although Sheriff Ivey didn't go looking for the added responsibility he was willing to step up and he's made great progress including graduating 12 members of the Animal Enforcement Unit from the Daytona State College Certification Program, initiating the "Pet Posse" volunteer program and encouraging generous community support such as Boniface Hiers Automotive Group and their annual contribution to provide all of the food and nutrient supplies for the animals in our shelters. "Animal control and animal services are vital parts of our community," Ivey said.

"By the end of next year, we want this to be a model for other agencies. I feel very confident in our team." Sheriff also added, "I will beware when I go to Robin's office and he locks the door and says ***We aren't leaving until we get a deal!***"

Thank you to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. No, seriously, thank you.

### 4. Parks & Rec

If you know me, you know one of my priorities is highest and best use of county facilities. That's why I'm especially pleased with the expansion and renovation of three of our North Area parks.

#### Sandpoint Park Renovations

This river front park was renovated last year to make it more "event friendly" and it is quickly becoming a popular venue for all types of events. The park continues as the location of choice for the Historic Indian River Festival hosted by the Greater Titusville Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, Hope for North Brevard hosted their first annual "Lights of Hope" Christmas lights festival providing a beautiful display and weekend entertainment for thousands of visitors. It even snowed! Just prior to that [Barefoot Productions](#) hosted the very first major music concert with a full line up of great bands and featuring the rock band "Fuel" – one of the biggest names in Alternative Rock! "The park, which is known as a prime viewing locale for rockets, never struck me as a fitting venue for rockers, but it turned out to be an ideal location," Cretin posted in his blog ([Rara's Farm's Rock Music Blog](#)) "the broad green expanse boasts a picturesque view along the Indian River, and it's the perfect size for an outdoor rock 'n roll celebration, and this inaugural event met all of my expectations and leaves me looking forward to more."





## Chain of Lakes Expansion

Parrish Health Village, at Parrish Medical Center, will soon extend to the east, and connect to Brevard County Chain of Lakes. Along the waterfront, a series of buildings will be constructed in 19th century-period architecture. The Chain of Lakes path extension and lake are complete making a beautiful destination for your daily walk or group gathering place perfect for family and community activities. Working together, Parrish Medical Center and Brevard County Parks and Rec are creating a pristine destination for outdoor recreation, health and nutrition education and outpatient services for seniors. I'm proud that the County is a true partner in this "Healing Environment".

## Statham Park Renovation

I bet you didn't know this about me... I ❤️ weddings ...

*...when we can earn revenue renting out a facility!*

Tom Statham Park is one of our most beautiful waterfront locations. This property boasts beautiful shade trees, a large open pavilion and an expansive wooden walkway overlooking the Indian River Lagoon. Park referendum funds are being used to update and renovate the existing community center into a "Old Florida" style event center with a 2,500 sq ft outdoor deck perfect for weddings and events. The landscaping has been pruned and the decking pressure washed all in preparation for a grand re-opening in time for the busy wedding season in the Spring of 2015.

*Here comes the bride (and her daddy's wallet)!*



## 5. Roads

On the road again! We are still continuing to pave roads... to date more than 455 roads in unincorporated District 1 have been resurfaced or paved. The total is approximately 133 miles and counting. Historically, county maintenance would pave 8 miles of roads per year throughout the entire county. In District 1 we've paved over 130 miles in the past four years! This includes roads that had not been resurfaced in 25-30 years. Thank you the Director of Public Works, John Denninghoff and Team for your diligence in accomplishing this unprecedented goal!



## 6. Indian River Lagoon

After reading an article in the Florida Today last year about the absence of aggressive political leadership in pushing for the cleanup of the Indian River Lagoon, I met with key stakeholders and proposed a community workshop. Over 300 people attended the workshop held at Marine Resources Council, whose organization, along with many others, has worked passionately at the heart of this issue. Brevard County has since embarked on an aggressive restoration strategy for the lagoon to **REDUCE** excess nutrient inputs, **REMOVE** the “Legacy Load” of muck, **RESTORE** the filtration system (oysters, clams and wetlands) and ensure the sound **RESEARCH** is the basis of the effort. So far, a total of \$23.4M in funding has been received throughout Brevard County towards these efforts. The solution will not be a result of government, or of corporations, or of individuals – it will take all of us. It is my commitment that your County Commission will be a part of the solution. I’ve appointed Commissioner Barfield to the Indian River Lagoon Counties Collaborative and Commissioner Smith to the Indian River Lagoon Natural Estuaries Program. My sincere request is that while we continue to organize on a county, regional and statewide level, that you, as an individual, will take personal responsibility and educate yourself on how you can lessen the negative impacts on the lagoon.

[www.mrcirl.org](http://www.mrcirl.org)



## 7. Raising Funds for Riverview Pilot Club



My grandmother will forever remain in my mind as an elegant and strong willed woman. My grandmother now suffers from Alzheimer’s and our family has seen first-hand the thievery of this disease. So when the Riverview Pilot Club approached me about being the target for their “Roast, Boast ‘n’ Toast”, a fundraiser for Aging Matters and other community projects, I could not refuse. Guess a lot of people wanted to see me roasted. The event sold out and raised more than \$20,000! Some of my best friends and family enjoyed (a little too much) telling old funny stories. I’m glad that making fun of me could help so many seniors.

Although a little painful, the pleasure was all mine.





## 8. Eckler Industries, Inc.

I was honored to speak and officially welcome Eckler Industries, Inc. to their relocated home just a short distance from where they've been for over 40 years in Titusville. Eckler's is a world-renowned provider of restoration parts and accessories for classic and enthusiast automobiles. I enjoyed the tour of their 180,000 sq ft international headquarters and parts distribution facility on a site along Grissom Parkway in Titusville. The \$9.5 million project solidifies the presence of a year presence in North Brevard's economy 150 existing jobs. The company also plans to 65 new jobs as it implements its growth plans over the years.



40+  
retaining  
create  
next four

## 9. Greater Titusville Renaissance

Placemaking is not just the act of fixing up a space, but rather a whole process that creates the kind of places where people want to work, live and play. Community input is essential to the placemaking process. The Greater Titusville Renaissance (GTR) is a grassroots, volunteer supported organization striving to promote health, happiness and wellbeing; encourage businesses and organizations to relocate and/or expand; and celebrate the uniqueness of our waterfront community. With the right strategy and implementation our citizens are working toward creating increases in property values, revenues and jobs. GTR has played a major role in helping people to realize we need to invest in ourselves and believe in ourselves in this great community! Evidence of such investments are redevelopment projects such as Shiloh's, Ron Norris, the Bob Fischer medical offices building on US1, Publix on SR50, and the demolition of the circa 1960's Howard Johnsons motel.

I don't know about you, but the prettiest sight I've seen lately is bull dozers!



## 10. Art & Algorithms

As we nourish local business and entrepreneurship we are also intentionally supporting and initiating events that awaken arts and culture. Our signature event, [Art & Algorithms](#), is the international digital art festival held in the heart of Historic Downtown Titusville in October. Just two years young, this innovative festival honors our science and engineering history while encouraging creativity in new digital mediums. More than 30 artists and 200 volunteers contribute their time and talent to this event, and we look forward to our continued success in years to come.

Want to volunteer at this event?

Learn more about the Greater Titusville Renaissance and how you can be involved: [www.greatertitusville.com](http://www.greatertitusville.com)



## 11. Growth at Port Canaveral Brings Jobs to Titusville Area

Port Canaveral is working to finalize a deal for warehouse space in Titusville at the 230-acre Titusville Logistics Center, being developed by Flagler Global Logistics, a subsidiary of Florida East Coast Industries. Port Canaveral Chief Executive Officer John Walsh said the building, scheduled for completion in 2016, would allow them to aggressively market and attract containers, working with distributors, exporters and importers. Robert Richter, vice president of business development for Flagler Global Logistics said, "We truly appreciate the partnership we are forming together, and the efforts at Port Canaveral to make the port and Brevard County a world-class destination for cargo, We fully support this initiative, and look forward to working with you to bring Port Canaveral and Brevard County onto the national and international stage as a logistics hub". [5 minute video](#)





## 12. And We Just Keep Growing. . .

In transportation and logistics, businesses are adopting new technologies and alternative fuels, and converting fleets. Titusville is a community that can help transform our local economy by being one of the first to host a small-scale alternative fueling facility – liquefied natural gas or LNG – production and distribution platform. Florida East Coast Industries is bringing over \$270M in DIRECT INVESTMENT in Titusville when they construct a 250,000 sq ft expanded logistics and warehouse facility at the Titusville Logistics Center, south west of the TICO airport. This will bring over 325 construction jobs and over 310 full time jobs combined and will spur new industries growing our economic base. LNG is a non-toxic, non-corrosive liquid that is safe and efficient for high fuel use engines and significantly reduces emissions actually improving air quality with diesel to natural gas fuel conversion.



*Thank you again for making my tenure as your Commissioner such a pleasure. Like you, I live here, and I am proud of how far we've come and excited about where we are going. Space is alive and well, check out my new Facebook page "Celebrate Space" for up to date posts. Not only are we back in so many ways, we are strong! And stronger together!*

*From our Family to yours...Happy New Year!  
2015 is our year!*

*Robin*



*...hold on...le' me take a selfie!*