

Pineda Causeway
Overpass Project

Indian River
Lagoon Updates

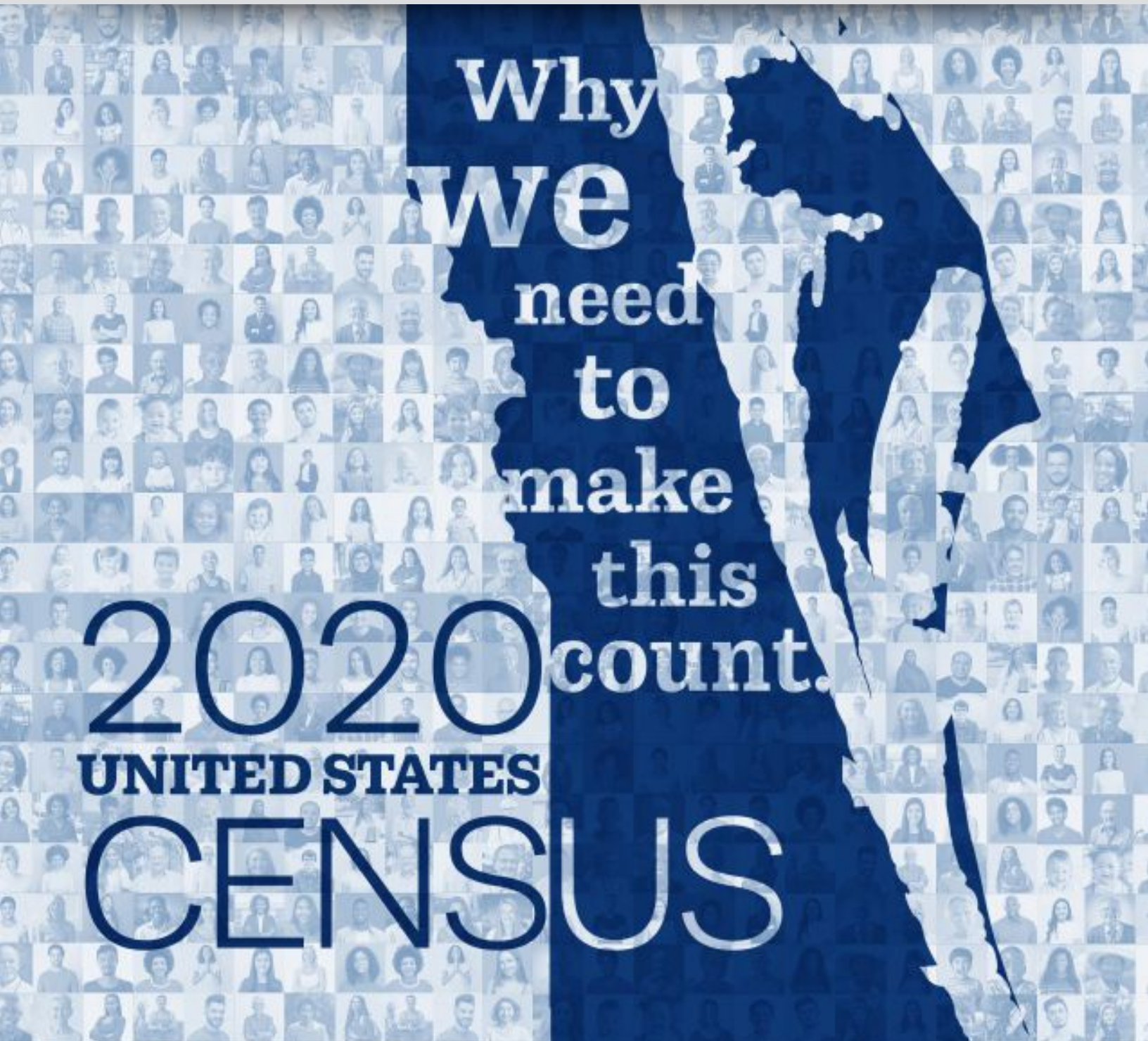
Florida Horseshoe
Crab Watch

Upcoming Local
Events

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BREVARD DELIVERS

FIRST QUARTER | 2020



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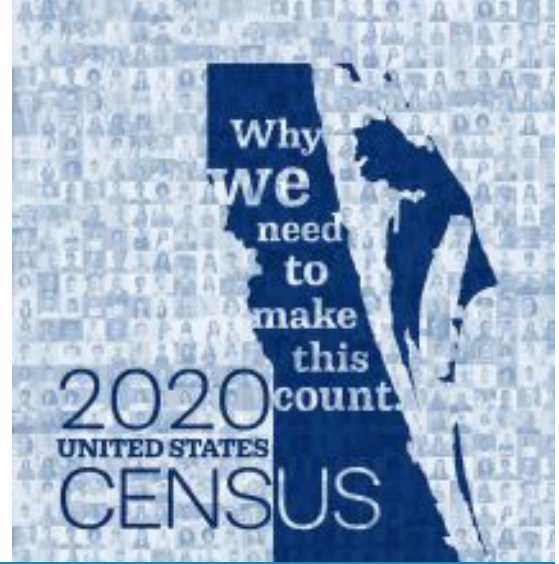
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On the Cover: Every 10 years, America takes a long, hard look at itself in the form of the census. This in-depth profile of the population is more than just an informational insight, for the U.S. Census can help a community thrive...as long as all of its residents take the time to complete the forms.



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BREVARDELIVERS

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



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

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

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Pineda Causeway Overpass Project

Looking “Up”



Things are looking “up” for the Pineda Causeway Overpass project, and that’s just our way of saying that the project is really beginning to take shape over the Florida East Coast Railway railroad tracks between U.S. 1 and Wickham Road.

The \$24 million project, now slated for completion next winter, will take motorists 25 feet over the railroad tracks near Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy. Sema Construction began construction in July 2018.

Here are the latest developments on the Pineda Causeway Overpass project:

1. Phase 1 construction of the bridge approach ramps on both the east and west sides of the railroad crossing are nearly complete, which includes a network of stormwater management components.
2. The permanent walls have been installed for this phase of the project adjacent to the railroad and wrapping around the south side of the overpass.
3. The bridge that spans the railroad has been constructed. The foundations, beams, bridge deck and approach

slabs are in place. The roadway base has been prepared for the paved driving surface.

4. It is anticipated that eastbound traffic will be routed over the new overpass in the near future. Until then, the existing roadways will remain in their current geometry.
5. The utility relocation work has been completed within the ground-level of the project area.

ONCE COMPLETED, —



the overpass will help eliminate potential traffic tie-ups for the future Virgin Trains track that will run through Brevard County toward Orlando International Airport.

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UNITED STATES CENSUS

2020

Why we need to make this count.

BY MARIA SONNENBERG

Every 10 years, America takes a long, hard look at itself in the form of the census. This in-depth profile of the population is more than just an informational insight, for the U.S. Census can help a community thrive...as long as all of its residents take the time to complete the forms.

Brevard County residents will begin receiving postcards on the census March 12 and reminders beginning March 16. April 1 is the official Census Day.

Filling out the census is not a particularly fun exercise, but the government is making it a little easier for us this year by putting it online for the first time. You can also respond by phone or mail, if you prefer.

Why do it? Participating is necessary to determine the level of funding the government will grant to everything from hospitals and libraries and fire stations to bridges, school lunches and Medicaid, so it behooves you to respond.

Census numbers also decide the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. With the 2020 Census, the Sunshine State, the third most populous

state in the nation, stands to garner two more representatives, probably in Central and South Florida.

Counting everyone living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) has already begun, since the official start for the census was Jan. 21 in Toksook Bay, located in southwest Alaska. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a non-partisan government agency. 2020 marks the 24th time the government has taken a census since 1790.

By April of 2020, every household in Brevard County will have received an invitation to participate in the census. Actually, it is more of a request than an invitation, since participation is required by law.

If you don't respond to the census, expect a visit from your friendly neighborhood census taker. Approximately 47 million households that did not mail back a census form by the deadline in 2010 were visited by census takers in person to ensure as complete a count as possible. The Census Bureau either received a form or attempted repeated visits to 100 percent of the identified housing units in the country.

What happens if you fail to respond? According to U.S. Code Section 224, non-response makes you liable for a penalty of up to \$5,000. In reality the government hasn't



actually prosecuted these “failures to respond” cases since the 1970 Census, but you may not be as lucky.

As participation goes, Brevard County does well with the census. “In 2010, Brevard had about a 79% response rate,” said Ian Golden, director of Brevard County Housing & Human Services Department and census coordinator for Brevard County Government.

That’s higher than the national average of 74 percent for 2010, but not as good as the 88 percent seen in Livonia, Mich., the city with the highest percentage of responses. Hialeah, with 82 percent, was the only Florida city to make it to the Top 20 census responders. Florida is unfortunately at the bottom as the third-worst state for census participation. It is estimated that 1.4 million residents were undercounted, representing about \$20 billion lost in federal funding.

Brevard County officials are hoping for 80 percent participation this time around. A lot of dollars — about \$700 billion — distributed by the federal government to the states are at stake with the census.

“Accuracy and a good response rate are incredibly important for Brevard County and Florida, because funding uses allocation formulas that rely on population statistics from the census,” said Golden. A low count will reduce the funds coming into the County for all types of services, including infrastructure of roads, drainage, etc., housing, FEMA, nutritional classes, and others.

WHY DO IT?

Participating is necessary to determine the level of funding the government will grant to everything from hospitals and libraries and fire stations to bridges, school lunches and Medicaid, so it behooves you to respond.

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BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH TRANSPARENCY | BREVARD DELIVERS | 7

A low count will reduce the funds coming into the County for all types of services, including infrastructure of roads, drainage, housing, FEMA, public transit, nutritional classes, and others.



“A Brevard-specific example are HUD funds to the Housing and Human Services Department,” said Golden. “Since the 2010 Census, Brevard has received \$22,847,260 in Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds that are directly tied to population.”

Another good example is Space Coast Area Transit, which received federal census-driven dollars equating to roughly \$4 per citizen who ride the bus. These funds were used for new buses and shelters and other operations

Kimberly Prosser, Emergency Management director, was the County coordinator for the census in 2010, and worked with county agencies, cities and nonprofit organizations to help get the word out about the importance of the census. “In terms of Emergency Management, census numbers determine how much federal funding we receive each year through the Emergency Management Performance Grant, which covers a chunk of our operating funds,” said Prosser.

“Census numbers are also important when it comes to federal disaster declarations, as the dollar amount of damage sustained due to a hurricane or other disaster must meet certain thresholds in order to qualify for federal reimbursement for what the county, school board and cities spend. It would be disappointing and frustrating to see other communities receive dollars, programs and services that would benefit our county, if only we had been able to prove that we were eligible.”

Because the 2020 Census is so critical for the County’s next decade, Brevard County is supporting the US Government by sharing Social Media (SoMe) posts put out by them through individual platforms and the media kit found on 2020census.gov. Brevard is also using its Public Information Network, or PIN, to disseminate information to all of the municipalities using nationwide data and Brevard-specific data. Additionally, a resolution in support of the census went before the Board of County Commissioners February 11.

Correct Count Brevard, a non-partisan

coalition, was created to ensure everyone living in the Space Coast gets counted in the 2020 Census. Counting everyone is no easy task, because some areas which may include lower-income residents, transients and non-English speakers are scattered around the county. Faith-based or school leaders and nonprofit agencies will play an important role in encouraging the residents of these areas to participate.

Unfortunately, with the census also comes the scammers. “In 2010, it was by using email, phone calls, and home visits to try and gain access to people’s personal information,” said Golden. “We tried to emphasize that if residents would just fill out the short form and return it, there would be no need for anyone to contact them, and they wouldn’t have to worry about whether those who did contact them were legitimate.” The County will post information and graphics to alert the public on scamming issues.

“We first want to let the community know that the census is coming and how to complete it,” said Golden. “Ideally, we will share the information significantly enough that residents will complete the census using the information provided on our SoMe before scammers can reach them. Starting in April, we will share details on how people can be more diligent in identifying scammers versus legitimate resources.”

The government assures participants that the information they provide is confidential. According to the Census Bureau, “responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).”

Put worries aside and fill out the census form as soon as you get it. It’s important as Ian Golden tells us in less than 30 words.

“The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, help earmark hundreds of billions in federal funding, and provide data that will impact communities, including Brevard County, for the next decade,” he said. ■



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PORT
CANAVERAL



2019 SUMMARY

Save our Indian River Lagoon

The Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program just completed its third year and you may wonder what progress has been made. The SOIRL Trust Fund has collected nearly \$130 million dollars since inception and is projected to collect a total of \$494 million at the end of ten years. As of the end of 2019, 22 projects have been completed, 18 projects are under construction, and 33 projects are in design. The completed projects cost a total of \$12,767,438 with \$4,186,813 allocated from the SOIRL Trust Fund. The projects that are in construction or design will cost a total of \$196,806,945, once complete, with \$140,292,765 being provided by the SOIRL Trust Fund.

The projects completed just this last year include South Street Baffle Box, La Paloma Baffle Box, St Teresa Baffle Box, Coleman Pond Managed Aquatic Plant System, Cocoa Beach

Phase III Muck Dredging, Interstitial Water Treatment of Mims Muck Dredging, Marina Isles Oyster Bar, Bettinger Oyster Bar, and Gitlin Oyster Bar. The projects currently under construction include bringing sewer service to six septic communities, treating ten stormwater outfalls to the lagoon, removing muck from two areas, and installing 37 oyster bars south of the Melbourne Causeway.

Included in the proposed 2020 Update to the SOIRL Project Plan are 43 new project applications. If this plan update is approved by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners it will increase the total number of individual projects in the plan to 242. In addition to the individual projects, there are 1,625 septic system upgrades and 876 septic quick connects to existing sewer lines planned. When all the projects are



WHEN ALL THE
PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED,
THEY WILL REDUCE AND
REMOVE A TOTAL OF
1.3 MILLION POUNDS
OF NITROGEN ANNUALLY
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2019 SUMMARY

Save our Indian River Lagoon

completed, they will reduce and remove a total of 1.3 million pounds of nitrogen annually from the lagoon.

The proposed 2020 update to the SOIRL plan will increase the total amount spent on human waste related projects by an additional \$42 million, including adding 400 septic system upgrades. Stormwater projects will increase by \$8 million, and muck removal and interstitial water treatment will increase by \$5 million.

The update will also add funding for a new stormwater project type, vegetative harvesting. This project type involves removing overgrown vegetation, like cattails, water lettuce, and hydrilla from stormwater ponds. These plants absorb excess nutrients that enter the pond. Machinery is used to cut and haul away the plants from these ponds, thus entirely removing the nutrients they've captured from the system.

The majority of projects that are currently in design are expected to begin construction later this year and dozens of new projects will start design and permitting over the coming year. You can follow the progress of the projects through the monthly progress reports, quarterly contract performance reports, and the story map found on www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon.

WHAT HAS THE LAGOON PLAN ACCOMPLISHED

Follow the SOIRL Plan progress at www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon



LET'S BE CLEAR...

MTN is committed to saving our lagoon.

We recognize the enormous value the lagoon brings to our community and are honored to be part of the solution. Our newly launched Lagoon Loyal program uses mercantile incentives to motivate positive actions that benefit the lagoon.

Join your neighbors and be Lagoon Loyal.



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On behalf of Lagoon Loyal • 321.779.1010

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The Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Trust Fund has collected nearly \$130 million of an expected \$494 million. Completed projects total \$12.8 million using \$4.2 million of SOIRL Trust Funds. Projects in construction and design total \$196.8 million using \$140.3 million of SOIRL Trust Funds

22 SOIRL Projects completed. 2019 projects completed include: South Street Baffle Box • La Paloma Baffle Box • St Teresa Baffle Box • Coleman Pond Managed Aquatic Plant System • Cocoa Beach Phase III Dredging • Interstitial Water Treatment of Mims Muck Dredging • Marina Isles Oyster Bar • Bettinger Oyster Bar • Gitlin Oyster Bar



18 Projects are currently under construction including bringing sewer service to 6 septic system communities, treating 10 stormwater outfalls to the lagoon, removing muck from 2 areas, and installing 37 oyster bars south of Melbourne Causeway. 33 Projects are under contract and in design, most expected to go to construction this year.

Since inception the SOIRL Plan increased funding to sewage related projects by \$110.8 million, stormwater treatment by \$37.8 million, outreach and education by \$0.5 million, and decreased muck dredging by \$89.9 million while increasing water treatment during dredging by \$47.0 million. The projects will reduce and remove 1.3 million pounds of nitrogen annually from the lagoon.



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MOVIES IN THE PARK

Throughout the year, the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department hosts movies in the park. Movies are family friendly and free to attend.

FRIDAY
MAR
20

Brevard County Central Area Parks presents **Aladdin**

McLarty Park in Rockledge

Feature presentation begins at 8 p.m.

PG | 2h 8min | Adventure, Family, Fantasy

A kind-hearted street urchin and a power-hungry Grand Vizier vie for a magic lamp that has the power to make their deepest wishes come true.

FRIDAY
MAR
27

Brevard County South Area Parks presents **October Sky** [1999]

Wickham Park in Melbourne

Feature presentation begins at 8 p.m.

PG | 1h 48min | Biography, Drama, Family

The true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the first Sputnik launch to take up rocketry against his father's wishes.

FRIDAY
APR
17

Brevard County Central Area Parks presents **Frozen II**

Kiwanis Island Park on Merritt Island

Feature presentation begins at 8 p.m.

PG | 1h 43min | Animation, Adventure, Comedy

Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven leave Arendelle to travel to an ancient, autumn-bound forest of an enchanted land. They set out to find the origin of Elsa's powers in order to save their kingdom.

SATURDAY
APR
25

Brevard County North Area Parks presents **Lion King**

Sand Point Park in Titusville

Feature presentation begins at 8:15 p.m.

PG | 1h 58min | Animation, Adventure, Drama

After the death of his father, a young lion prince flees his kingdom only to learn the true meaning of responsibility and bravery.

SATURDAY
MAR
21

3rd Annual **Touch-A-Truck**

Sand Point Park in Titusville
Event is Free • 9am — 2pm

Touch-a-Truck is a fun family-oriented event for children and for children-at-heart to interact, play, explore and discover more about awesome machines associated with agriculture, commercial logistics, construction, defense, emergency services and other one-of-a-kind vehicles.

It's exactly what it sounds like — gather a large assortment of awe-inspiring big rigs and unique vehicles in one place and let children learn and interact with them by sitting in the driver's seat, honking the horn, taking pictures and asking questions from the operators and representatives themselves.

For more information call Brevard County North Area Parks and Recreation at 321-264-5105.



FRIDAY
APR
10

Adult Flashlight **Egg Hunt**

Sand Point Park, Titusville
7pm — 10pm • Adults Only
Event (18 years and older)
Admission \$10.00 per Adult

Hunt for 4000+ Eggs at night with your flashlight under a full moon for a chance to win amazing prizes! Prizes include candies, tchotchkes, tokens, event tickets, and much more!!!

Regular eggs will score you some nice treasure but not all eggs are created equal, there will be 20 exclusive golden eggs. Fun activities and games and pizza and drinks are also included in admission.

Tickets go on sale starting in March. Entry is limited to the first 200 tickets sold. Purchase tickets online at <https://registration.brevardfl.gov/>; over the phone at 321-264-5105 or pay in-person at 475 N. Williams Avenue in Titusville.



RECYCLE RIGHT, BREVARD!

Single Stream Recycling is an automated sorting process designed to handle non-hazardous items from your **kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, office** and **mailbox**. However, non-recyclable items can slow down the process and risk good recyclables from being recycled into something new.

Recycle by Room and include only these items in your curbside recycling cart. **DO NOT** bag recyclables or include loose plastic bags in your recycling cart.



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*Aerosol cans
Cardboard boxes



MAILBOX

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Magazines
Cardboard boxes & tubes



OFFICE

Paper sheets & folders
Cardboard boxes & tubes



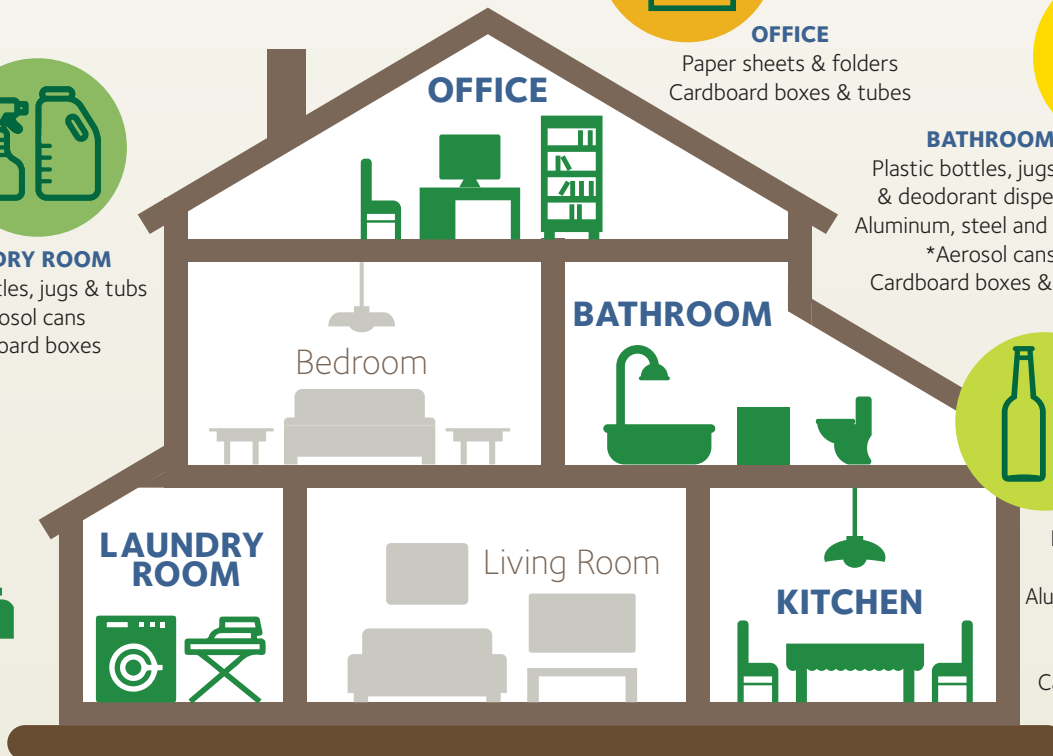
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Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs
& deodorant dispensers
Aluminum, steel and tin cans
*Aerosol cans
Cardboard boxes & tubes



KITCHEN

Plastic bottles, jugs,
jars & tubs
Aluminum, steel & tin cans
*Aerosol cans
Glass bottles & jars
Cardboard boxes, tubes
& drink cartons



When in doubt, leave it out!

Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) Push-In Ceremony



The push-in/wet down ceremonies for Engine 43 and Engine 80 occurred on January 10. The ceremony is a tradition for placing new fire vehicles into service that dates back to the days of horse drawn steam engines. Water from the old pumper is used to wash/wet down the new pumper, then dried off by the

crew and community. The pumper is then pushed into the apparatus bay by the crews and community signifying the new unit is now in service.

This tradition was brought back into BCFR's culture approximately 5 years ago. These 2019 Sutphen Corporation pumpers replace a 2007 and a 2006 American LaFrance pumper that will be placed into reserve status.

THE NEW PUMPERS FEATURE:

- A four-person cab
- 1000-gallon water tank
- 20-gallon foam pro system
- 2000 gpm pump
- Cummins ISL9 450 hp motor
- Allison Transmission
- American made in Ohio!

This new Sutphen pumers not only carry more water than the old unit, but the onboard foam system effectively doubles the water's extinguishing ability. The units will proudly serve the citizens on South Merritt Island and Suntree for years to come.



Holy Blast From The Past, Batman!

Fire Rescue's Engine 64 crew shown with former NFL football quarterback Doug Flutie's Batmobile. Flutie happened to be out in Engine 64's area, and the crew couldn't help but check out the caped-crusader's car.

Emergency Operating Center (EOC) Towers Replaced

On Jan. 19, workers completed the removal of a 400-foot radio tower at the Emergency Operations Center in Rockledge. The tower, one of two removed—the other one adjacent to DeGroot Public Library in Palm Bay—was part of the main infrastructure of the Public Safety Radio Network. Both towers were constructed in 1991, refurbished in 2004 following three hurricanes that year, and reinforced again in 2008. The towers were replaced to accommodate enhancements to the Public Safety Radio System, and to create additional tower space for leasing to cell carriers to enhance the revenue stream for operation of the radio system. Deconstruction of the old towers, and construction of replacement towers was funded through user fees of the 800 megahertz radio system at a cost of \$765,000.



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First**

Keith
Son of Hospice Patient

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We are Health First

More than 80 years ago, community members and clinicians joined together to make health care local. This tradition continues today with our more than 9,000 associates who are committed to improving the wellness and health of Brevard. In the past seven years alone, Health First has given \$967 million back to Brevard in charitable investments.

Space Coast Area Transit Updates Bus Fleet in 2020

In addition to providing over 2 million trips annually, Space Coast Area Transit is laser focused on upgrading their aging bus fleet. According to Transit Director Scott Nelson, “We are in various stages of multiple bus orders, including our first alternative fuel buses. All of them will be purchased with mostly Federal Transit Administration capital grants.”

Two new Old-Time Beach Trolleys will begin servicing Cocoa Beach Route 9 in the March–April timeframe. Additionally, a replacement program is in the works for 26 smaller Paratransit buses. Initially purchased in 2011–2013, the fleet’s mileage ranges from 170,000–250,000. “Although their intended lifespan is only 5 years, Space Coast Area Transit’s rigorous maintenance program allows us to keep the buses much longer,” Nelson said. The replacement

kicks off with 4 new thirty-foot Freightliners and 3 new twenty-four-foot Ford E-450 buses, all of which should be in service by April.

The Brevard County Board of Commissioners voted to fund 2 new Paratransit routes that started in October of 2019. The new funding provided increased service in the Suntree/Viera/ Rockledge area and both expanded and increased service in Southwest Palm Bay and adjacent communities.



2020 The Year of the Bus Shelter

After extensive planning, up to 16 bus shelters will become reality in the next 10 months leading Transit Director Scott Nelson to dub 2020 as The Year of the Bus Shelter. “While on the surface it may appear easy to construct and install bus shelters, the actuality is that it is a very tedious process that requires engineering, determination of shelter amenities such as bike racks, permitting, site preparation, and last but not least, funding,” Nelson explained.

A Federal Transit Administration Capital grant combined with \$120,000 from the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) will pay for the \$677,000 project cost. Funding from MIRA more than covered the cost of extra amenities they requested for the 4 shelters to be located on SR 3 and SR 520 corridors, where average daily traffic counts exceed 70,000 trips.



Other bus shelter locations for 2020 include

- Viera Government Center and Health Department
- 5 locations in Satellite Beach with an option for 2 more
- 1 in Rockledge at Career Source Brevard
- 2 in Melbourne on John Rodes Parkway

Get Out and About in West Melbourne & Palm Bay with Route 20

For many residents of Palm Bay and West Melbourne, Space Coast Area Transit's Route 20 Bus makes getting out and about accessible. Bus service runs regularly from some of the area's most densely populated neighborhoods to its most visited destinations—such as Melbourne Square Mall, Heritage High School, Hammock Landing, Promise in Brevard, the Goodwill Job Training Center and Fred Poppe Regional Park.

Access to reliable transportation helps make tackling the daily to-do list doable for locals and visitors alike. However, for many residents, driving or private ride services—like Uber—just aren't an option. For those without a car or driver's license, transportation access like this can be a game changer. The ability to get to and from places like the post office, grocery store, pharmacy, or bank is an essential part of day-to-day life.

With service connecting several schools and neighborhoods to local parks, playgrounds, sports fields, libraries, community centers, and even a skatepark—Route 20 can also serve as a sort of “School Bus 2.0”. For families with kids, transportation to sports practices, lessons and other recreational outlets plays an important role in helping to keep kids active and involved.

Beyond its function as an important tool of transportation and accessibility, Route 20 also provides service to some of the area's best destinations for shopping and dining.

“We’ve been receiving requests to provide transit service in this area for many years,” said Scott Nelson, Director of Space Coast Area Transit. “The support of the Brevard County Commission and FDOT allows

us to provide mobility options through Route 20 to non-profits, businesses, residents and high school students in this previously underserved Palm Bay-West Melbourne corridor.”



For maps and schedules, visit 321Transit.com or call the RideLine at 321-633-1878. Download the 321Transit app at the Apple App Store, or on Google Play. Connect via social media @321Transit.

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Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Celebrates 30 Years

The Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program was established in 1990 to protect the natural habitats of Brevard County by acquiring environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education. This was made possible by citizens who voted to tax themselves up to \$55 million dollars for the acquisition and maintenance of Brevard's natural areas. Residents reaffirmed the EEL Program in 2004 under a second referendum to protect the natural habitats within Brevard County by the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands through a willing seller program for the purpose of conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education.

The EEL Program preserves over 24,000 acres, including 21 habitats which are home to over 130 threatened and endangered species. The sanctuaries also provide opportunities for people to enjoy and connect with nature through passive recreation including hiking, biking, paddling, bird watching, horseback riding, wildlife observation, catch-and-release fishing and nature photography.

Want to go on a guided hike, attend a presentation, or do a family activity? Three management and education centers offer a variety of programs and events for all ages. These centers are the Enchanted Forest in Titusville, Sams House at Pine Island on Merritt Island, and the Barrier Island Center in Melbourne Beach.



Sams House at Pine Island

From Ice Age animals to Native Americans to early pioneers, Pine Island Conservation Area has a rich history. Mastodon tusks, pottery sherds, and 19th century farm tools found on site help piece together the story of this special place.

Come inside the oldest standing home in Brevard County, the 1875 Sams family cabin. Travel back in time here and along the paved trail where interactive exhibits highlight Pine Island's many past inhabitants.

Enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking through five different habitats and over six miles of trails. Wading birds, bald eagles, alligators, manatees, and bobcats are just a few of the animals that you may see. The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the St. Johns River Water Management District jointly own this over 880-acre site.



Barrier Island Center

The 34-acre Sanctuary offers visitors an invitation to explore the barrier island's diverse habitats through interactive exhibits at the center, and along a 1-mile hiking trail that winds from the ocean to the Indian River Lagoon.

Visitors will discover a modern educational facility with an interactive exhibit hall, auditorium, gift shop, classroom, office, restrooms, and observation deck—all meeting accessibility standards. The center schedules guided sea turtle walks in June and July, and year-round public programs. The center also serves as the primary visitor and education center for the Archie Carr Refuge, and is dedicated to increasing public awareness of this special place.

The barrier island is a unique place where the temperate climate of the north meets to sub-tropical climate of the south. This meeting of climates allows for a rich diversity of habitats, plants, and animals. From east to west, five habitats are found: near-shore, dune, and coastal strand, maritime hammock, intertidal lagoon, and subtidal lagoon.



Enchanted Forest

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is the first property that was purchased by the Brevard County EEL Program. This 470-acre forest is part of a sanctuary network that the EEL Program is working to establish in the county.

Located in the southern limits of the City of Titusville, the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary preserves a diversity of natural habitats. Several miles of hiking trails allow visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the region. Wildlife observation, nature photography, and hiking are popular recreational activities. A wonderful wealth of plant life also abounds as both temperate (northern) and subtropical (southern) species grow in the Sanctuary together. The Management & Education Center interprets the Sanctuary's unique natural features for visitors of all ages and abilities.

There are five basic habitat types found at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary: Oak scrub, mesic and hydric hammock, wet prairie, and pine flatwood. Wildlife species found here include the Eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub lizard, gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, and bobcat.



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BE ON THE LOOKOUT: FLORIDA HORSESHOE CRAB WATCH

TAG, YOU'RE IT! The UF/Brevard Extension Service is putting out an “All-Points Bulletin” to beachgoers who might come across “tagged” horseshoe crabs while enjoying a day on the shoreline.

Horseshoe crabs are strange animals. They are prehistoric-looking and have not changed in appearance in 200 million years. The oldest horseshoe crab fossil ever found was dated to 445 million years ago. Because they are so unchanged, they are widely known as “living fossils”.

However, they are not crabs at all (despite what their common name implies). They are actually more closely related to spiders. They are included in the group arthropods, which includes horseshoe crabs, insects, spiders, and other crustaceans. Horseshoe crabs are found in nearshore waters from Maine to Florida and across the Gulf of Mexico. They are often a common sight on sandy beaches. They come ashore to mate along beaches in the spring and fall months. You often see a larger female with one male attached and sometimes “satellite” males trying to attach themselves to her. They are waiting for her to lay her eggs in the sand so they can be the first to fertilize them. This behavior has evolved to encourage genetic diversity for the fertilized eggs, which hatch about two weeks later.

Horseshoe crabs are harmless to humans. In fact, you can thank horseshoe crabs for helping to prevent you from getting an infection. If you've ever had surgery, received a vaccine, or had fluids administered by a doctor, a horseshoe crab's blood has helped you. They have blue copper-based blood that reacts when it encounters bacteria. Horseshoe crab blood is used in the biomedical industry to ensure products placed inside the human body are sterile and won't cause infections.

Their behavior of coming ashore to mate makes studying them and their population numbers fairly easy because researchers can walk along beaches where they are nesting and count individuals. They can also be easily captured and tagged for mark-recapture studies. Unfortunately, we do not



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Horseshoe Crab Nesting Beach



Protect Horseshoe Crabs
Do Not Disturb

Report Tagged Animals



- Tag is a white disc attached to crab's left side. Do not remove tag.
- Copy tag number. Note date, location, and time of sighting.
- Report at www.fws.gov/crabtag or 1-888-LIMULUS

For more information see:
myFWC.com/HorseshoeCrabs



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small numbered disc, released back into the wild, and information about the crab is documented. Reports of tagged horseshoe crabs help track crab movements and reappearances on beaches.

This citizen science program started in Brevard County in 2019 and began its second season of sampling on February 1st. There are also coordinators and sampling programs in Volusia, Indian River, and St Lucie counties.

Slowly the Indian River Lagoon region is getting a better idea of the population of horseshoe crabs in the Lagoon. We are starting to understand their nesting behaviors and patterns and what causes them to come ashore to nest in the first place. In 2019, in Brevard County, twenty-eight committed volunteers completed 173 survey events at two monitoring sites and counted 18,472 horseshoe crabs. They also tagged and collected biological data from 198 horseshoe crabs. We are looking forward to sampling in 2020 and seeing what the results of these surveys will tell biologists.

If you see horseshoe crabs along the beach, please report these sightings to FWC via their website (<http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/crustaceans/horseshoe-crabs>) or through their FWC Reporter mobile app (<http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2018/february/19/sighting-app>).

have a good understanding of the status of their population in Florida. Nor do we have a lot of basic information about their abundance or movement patterns from one area to another.

Because of the lack of knowledge about the horseshoe crab population in Florida, the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch citizen science program was created. It was started in Cedar Key by the University of Florida (Department of Biology, UF IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station, and Florida Sea Grant) and FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in 2015. The program takes advantage of the beach nesting behavior of horseshoe crabs to collect valuable information. Volunteers (citizen scientists) walk a known section of beach at predetermined times and count the number of horseshoe crab mating groups observed. A small subset of those crabs counted are collected, tagged with a

If you have questions about the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch program, please contact Holly Abeels at habeels@ufl.edu or 321-633-1702 x52333.

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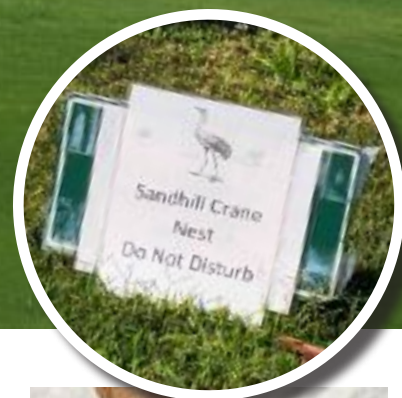
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Florida Golf Courses Provide Wildlife Haven In Face of Urban Sprawl



It's estimated that the population of Florida will reach 33.7 million people by 2020 with even more development likely to sprawl into the state's agricultural and natural lands. With urban sprawl proliferating, Florida land is shrinking, and it seems houses and development are growing faster than oranges and turfgrass. And, taking a major hit from urban sprawl are wildlife. The diverse habitats across Florida from the Panhandle down to the Keys are home to an impressive amount of wildlife -- From black bears, butterflies, deer, to panthers and bobcats, armadillos and turtles, and of course alligators, to the water birds along the riverbanks and shorelines of Florida's magnificent coasts. They need a place for shelter, food and water, and golf courses are becoming havens for wildlife in the face of urban sprawl. If managed carefully, golf courses can represent a compatible land for the state's native wildlife and help preserve the biodiversity of Florida's quickly shrinking lands.

So Why are Golf Course Ecosystems Good Habitat for Wildlife?

Golf courses are managed in a way that combines well-mowed turf with trees and abundant natural areas that provide a diverse environment that is attractive to many types of wildlife. Most courses are designed in a way that preserves a good amount of out-of-play areas that can be suitable for conservation areas. In addition, the high densities of golf courses that occur in Florida can create a network of complimentary and connecting natural patches. It also is notable that golf courses tend to be permanent landscapes during urban sprawl because they are less likely to get bulldozed.

Engage the Public

Wildlife conservation opportunities and initiatives should be communicated with golfers. Improving wildlife habitat on a course is an excellent way to engage the public with outreach activities and show the positive environmental impacts a course is making. Golfers will be choosing these courses as their place to get outdoors and have a peaceful reconnection with nature.



Your local UF/IFAS Extension office can help you implement natural resource education and outreach activities on your course, as well as with any other topics mentioned in this article. Visit this map to find county UF/IFAS Extension offices:
<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/find-your-local-office/>

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Gravity Sewer Infrastructure

Utilities is currently assessing the gravity sewer lines throughout the County. The lines will be graded on a 1 to 5 scale with 1 representing those in the best condition and 5 representing those in the worst condition. Those lines graded 3-5 are subject to inflow and infiltration; inflow occurs from direct connections to the gravity sewer system and infiltration occurs through cracks in the gravity sewer pipes and sanitary sewer connections from residences and businesses. Additional flows impact treatment plant power consumption, lift stations' capacity and can accelerate the possibility of sewer overflows and back-ups into customers' houses and businesses.

The contractor, RedZone, has completed all the lines they were able to access in the South Beaches Service Area and are working on cleaning the lines in that service area they were not able to assess.

Assessment of the lines in the Barefoot Bay Service Area are 50-60% completed and the Merritt Island Service Area is 40-50% completed. Assessments in Port St. John and West Cocoa Service Area are anticipated to begin later this year.

Once all of these areas are assessed, Insituform, the contractor will install a liner to any lines graded 3 to 5. ■

Sewer Line Force Main Replacement Targeted for North Riverside Drive

Construction for a \$9.7 million PVC force main replacement project on North Riverside Drive in Indialantic began in late February following the awarding of a contract to RIC-MAN Construction Florida Inc.

Some minor modification of pedestrian and motoring traffic along North Riverside Drive is in place.

Work has started on the south end of the 3.3-mile long project adjacent to the western end of Oakland Avenue in Indialantic. The project will extend across North Riverside Drive with the pipe to be installed along the western side of North Riverside Drive throughout the length of the project. The northern limit of the project ends in the middle of North Riverside Drive directly east of the Highland Mint, just south of East Eau Gallie Boulevard.

Completion of the project is expected in July 2021. ■



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Tourism Focusing on Miami and Toronto

The Tourism Development Office (TDO) launched 2 major campaigns in first quarter targeting the key source markets of Miami and Toronto. Miami is one of the top cities where tourists travel from to the Space Coast. The campaign begins before the Super Bowl and runs through March, encouraging travel during the Spring. Included in the campaign are TV, digital ads, and billboards reaching over 100 million impressions. This is our largest single campaign focused on a market with a \$1 million budget.

In Toronto, we are doing a “takeover” of the underground tunnels and Union Station train station with digital signs and video running throughout. The takeover will reach 75 million impressions and there will be digital advertising as well. It’s a perfect time to hit the Canadian market as they are deep in their winter and most people working downtown use the train station and tunnels to get around – it will be hard to miss the Space Coast images of warm beach scenes as it is freezing cold outside.



This is our largest single campaign focused on a market with a \$1 million budget.

THE AQUARIUM PROJECT IS UNDERWAY

Imagine having an immersive aquarium experience on the Banana River full of educational, family fun and the ability to learn about native marine species. That’s what the Brevard Zoo Aquarium Project is all about.

With a proven track record as a community and conservation partner, the Zoo is bringing together business leaders, educators, scientists and residents to build a world-class aquarium that is also home to scientific study of critical environmental concerns. The Tourist Development Council has committed \$10 million to the project.

Anyone who is interested in the project or would like to be a part of it is welcome. Spread the word, follow on social media, sign up for the email newsletter and get involved!

Visit theaquariumproject.org for details. **#DiveIn**

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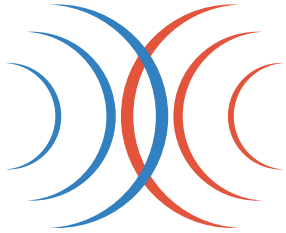
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