

# Synopsis of Mims Community Group Meeting on April 16, 2019

Thank you to everyone who attended. Good to see you.

We had two speakers who addressed important problems in our area: Kathleen Roath-Algera, founder of *Food & More*; and Andrea Bolitho, Recycling Coordinator for Brevard County Solid Waste Department.

Kathleen explained that *Food & More* is a non-profit, all-volunteer group established in May 2017. Its mission is to feed the mind, body and soul of children and provide support to families that reside in North Brevard County. They are a 501C(3) organization under the umbrella of *Hope for North Brevard, Inc.*

*Food & More's* initial programs were mostly focused on the needs of Mims Elementary school and Madison Middle School. During the summer of 2018, they created a pilot summer feeding program for East Mims and Scottsmoor. Additionally, *Food & More* obtained 10,600 new books and teaching materials from the Molina Foundation. These books were distributed for free to four Title 1 schools and eleven other groups

For 2019 they have expanded the summer feeding program to include all North Brevard County and ALL children. The program will operate Monday through Friday from June 3rd to August 9th. Parents will be notified of the distribution point closest to their address and the time when lunches will be available.

*Food & More* needs many volunteers to help this summer. They need delivery drivers to bring lunches to the distribution sites, drivers to pick-up bread, and kitchen staff. Some drivers may be both a delivery driver and a distributor at a specific location. These drivers will be required to pass a background check and fingerprinting.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Roath-Algera at 321-759-5787. Also, you can visit their website at [www.foodmore.org](http://www.foodmore.org).

Our second speaker, Andrea Bolitho, presented interesting information on current rules of recycling. Brevard County Solid Waste Department manages the county's landfill and solid waste collection centers as well as the Household Hazardous Waste collection centers. Additionally, the Department manages Bulk Recycling at the collection centers (large items such as tires, yard debris, large metal items, and clean concrete). The Department contracts out the actual work of picking up items in your recycling containers and yard debris containers.

Next, Andrea discussed Single-Stream Recycling, where all your recyclable materials are comingled into a single cart and then collected by a truck to be later sorted into separate commodities.

She explained problems that disrupt the recycling process. Big and heavy items cannot move through the sorting system properly. These items cause jams and breaks to the machinery leading to downtime at the plant. Also, plastic bags and other tangles (such as strings of Christmas tree lights) get tangled in the machinery and cause down time. Another problem is contamination. Food soiled or wet materials are hard to process and must be discarded. Bagged recyclables will just be thrown away, since recycling personnel cannot safely determine the contents of the bag. Currently, the contamination rate of potentially recyclable items is 28% in Brevard County. This means that one quarter of the items sent to to recycled end up in going to the dump instead. That's a waste.

Finally, she reminded us which items can be recycled: Empty and clean plastic bottles, jugs, jars and tubs; empty and clean aluminum and steel/tin cans; clean and dry paper; and clean and dry flattened cardboard. Rinse out all containers and leave the lids on. Take Styrofoam egg cartons and plastic bags to Publix to recycle them. Heavy items (such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.) can be recycled by calling the contractor, Waste Management Customer Service for North Brevard at (321) 636-6894.

Here is the website for recycling information: [www.brevardfl.gov/SolidWaste/RecyclingHome](http://www.brevardfl.gov/SolidWaste/RecyclingHome). This website will give you a list of recyclable items that are typically found in various rooms of your house.

Below is a copy of the label that comes with your yellow top recycling cart. You can copy and paste this picture into a Word document, in landscape format, then glue it to the top of your recycling cart to remind you what goes in there.



If you no longer wish to receive the Community Newsletter or you would like to start receiving the newsletters, please e-mail. You may forward this e-mail to friends and family who would be interested in attending the meeting and/or interested in receiving future newsletters.

Regards,  
Ron Bartcher  
President, Mims Community Group