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VIERA DISCOVERY CENTER
2261 Town Center Ave. #105
The Avenue Viera
Viera, Florida 32940
(321) 253-2800
VIERA.com

Viera Vision is the official publication of

PRESIDENT
Todd Pokrywa
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Lauri Duda
EDITOR
Stephanie Byrd
STAFF EDITORS
Carmen Vastola, Laurie Widzgowski, Todd Pokrywa, Ben Wilson, Scott Miller
SENIOR WRITERS
Lyle Smith, Stephanie Byrd, Sue DeWerff Panzarino, Laurie Widzgowski
DESIGN
Christina Geiger
PHOTOGRAPHY
Cathy Heinz, Stephanie Byrd, Kate Schnake, Carmen Vastola Mikki Holtzhauer
PUBLISHER
The Viera Company
ADVERTISING SALES
Lauri Duda, Stephanie Byrd
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Mikki Holtzhauer, Shawn O’Keefe, Jennifer Swan
LEGAL
Jay Decator, Ben Wilson
DISTRIBUTION
Don Gust, All Service Graphics
I usually do not mention any form of pop culture in these letters but these last few months have been extraordinary when it comes to our collective anticipation to see how plotlines continue or how several stories end. This spring we watched Marvel Studios’ *Avengers* and HBO’s *Game of Thrones* with an edge-of-your-seat excitement. The escape we find from the magic of the cinema (in all its forms) allows us to follow our heroes and heroines and possibly relate in some small way in an ever-complicated modern world.

Our thirty-year success as a community has not been due to one moment but many individual moments all building together towards a continued growth and progression. Like most journeys it starts with the first, sometimes profound, leap of faith. The origin story (the background narrative) for Viera starts with a family’s faith in their ideas about a planned community development for families and business to grow and thrive. It would not be sold off as individual segmented parcels but become a welcoming master planned development to buy a home, raise a family, grow a business, work, or retire. The decision to call the community Viera, which means faith in the native family language of Slovak, sounds poetically similar to many current novels of yesterday and today. The young family who traveled halfway across the world to build a new life in America found their success in Florida building and developing a nationally recognized agricultural and real estate business.

In this issue we provide a few stories of success and growth, but the main feature highlights all the present and future local heroes and heroines in our Brevard schools. The individuals behind the scenes and all the students who are front and center, continuously achieving, may not believe they are making things happen in a very profound way, but they do every year. They are each part of an origin story. It may not be due to an achievement listed on the pages ahead because their story may begin next year or sometime in the future. No matter when it happens, one thing is for sure, we never achieve anything profound or great without an interaction from others along the way. It can be a parent, a coach, a mentor, a friend, sibling, or a teacher. All these individuals can be found each day during our school year alongside our students. We sincerely thank them for their continued efforts and their devotion of time, resources, knowledge and persistence to help our students grow and achieve greatness.

Like the end credits in a motion picture, we have listed places to access more information on all those that make a difference in many origin stories each day. Enjoy your summer adventure — you earned it!
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ACTUAL CLIENT PHOTOS
As a community of more than 25,000 residents with about 11,000 homes and with the 30th anniversary year of its groundbreaking in August, the business of Viera is not, strictly speaking, 100% business.

One of the top 25 master planned communities in America, with more than 3,000,000 square feet of currently occupied business space and significant additional space in the plan, ongoing business opportunities throughout Brevard County are integral to the vision of growth for Viera.

We had a chance to sit down recently with The Viera Company’s President, Todd Pokrywa, and the V.P. of Sales and Community Management, Scott Miller, to discuss where Viera stands as compared to the original plan and check in on the status of the latest development outlook in the area.

“The vision has become reality and it’s really just beginning,” Pokrywa said. “We’re not even halfway through. We have a lot of runway ahead of us.”

That statement is an understatement considering there is up to 4,000,000 more square feet of retail and office space planned to be developed over
the coming years. Not to mention up to 20,000+ more residential units over time. By 2050, the vision could include more than 70,000 residents living in more than 31,000 residences working and shopping in some 7,000,000 square feet of business space, as well as more than 25,000 jobs created in the community.

This aspect of economic development is paramount to success. In order to build a community, economic opportunity for businesses is as important as it is for individuals. Pokrywa explains the formula as generating at least one job for every one residence developed in the community as a requirement to success.

“Because a vibrant mixed-use and master planned community needs the right balance of jobs and housing,” Pokrywa said, “our commercial efforts aim to create an environment attractive to established businesses for relocation as well as a diverse and prosperous local economy with a myriad of options for retail, entertainment, and entrepreneurial businesses.”

To understand the scale of the plan and put that 7,000,000 square foot number into perspective, that’s almost 146 football fields worth of business space in Viera proper.

It’s the balance of all that development among business opportunity, attractive, peaceful living and easy navigation that requires serious thought, according to Miller. He points to the time when the Duda family began planning out Viera, the area in which we’re living now was the heart of a thriving agricultural business. And while it’s an oversimplification to say the master plan was just a colored map, until a community begins being built, much of the plan is just that… words on paper.

“If you look at the original map, most of the elements are still here,” Miller points out. “They’re moved around a bit, but they’re all still here and the market will continue to dictate how and when we develop.”
The current leadership at The Viera Company recognizes the intensity of the historical plans with a dedication to the original intent in scope and style while being flexible enough to respond to the needs of the market as well.

And it is when they walk us through the next infrastructure projects it becomes clear they are equally dedicated to forethought as it pertains to the growth of the region as well.

Infrastructure is what makes the engines run in any community. From the logistics of getting to work and school to the needs of businesses for delivery and shipping. From the smooth travel between home and shopping to the easy access to rest and recreation, it’s the roads and trails that drive the way we live, work and play.

The Viera Company has maintained a cooperative relationship with both the county and state as three roadway projects and the much talked about Viera Town Center continue to develop and transform transportation through the community and beyond.

LAKE ANDREW DRIVE
A construction project is just beginning that will extend Lake Andrew Drive from Viera Boulevard southward to the existing terminus between the Viera Regional Park and Viera High School. The project will also include a connection to Stadium Parkway and involve the installation of new traffic signals at both Porada Drive/Stadium Parkway and Viera Boulevard/Lake Andrew Drive.

The new roadway will make another connection between the Viera Town Center and the new I-95 access at the new Viera Boulevard/I-95 Interchange (expected to be completed by June/July 2019) and open access across the community and beyond.

PINEDA EXTENSION
The design of the project to extend access to the Pineda Causeway directly from Viera (on the west side of I-95) is under way and will make access to U.S. 1, the Indian River and the beaches much easier and more direct than ever before. Turning a meandering route to the sea into a direct, easy and smooth ride will make Viera even more conveniently coastal and give residents and visitors easy access to many of the things people identify with as part of Florida’s DNA.

VIERA BOULEVARD EAST WIDENING
The widening of Viera Boulevard East from two lanes to four, designed to alleviate traffic flow issues and provide access to several new businesses at the eastern end of Viera, is under way and should be completed by mid-summer 2019. The $2.3M project included a new traffic signal installed at Viera Boulevard and Holiday Springs Road.

VIERA TOWN CENTER
Several prominent development projects along Lake Andrew Drive across from The Avenue Viera are attracting attention, but what’s in the plan for the space they are surrounding is what’s truly exciting for the community.

This section of Viera will become the Viera Town Center and is projected to include a town green, walkways with water views, easy access to retail spaces, open space for family enjoyment, and community events like concerts, farmers markets, and other gatherings.

“This is the image hopefully people think of,” Miller said. “This is where we go to enjoy a concert. To stroll. To linger. To enjoy being in the center of things.”

...THE MARKET WILL CONTINUE TO DICTATE HOW AND WHEN WE DEVELOP.”
SCOTT MILLER, THE VIERA COMPANY V.P. OF SALES AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
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HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE BREVARD ZOO

After twenty-five years, there is still a profound awareness of how remarkable the journey has become since more than 16,000 volunteers combined their talents, knowledge and passion to assist in the creation of building of the Brevard Zoo in Viera, Florida.

Perhaps the most significant factor in this journey has been the zoo's reflection of this community's core identity. “Witnessing residents who took part in the initial construction of the zoo, hammering nails, digging holes, even mixing concrete—from young children to the elderly—was mindboggling,” Peter Cunningham remembers. “Not many facilities can trace their beginnings back to this kind of community-wide effort”.

One of 300 founders who led the charge to create the massive project, Cunningham, a retired airline executive who has served as a board member since and generously contributed financially, said he always knew the Brevard Zoo would become one of the best.
and most respected in the nation. What he couldn’t have predicted back then was just how large or top-rated it has become!

**RANKINGS, RIBBONS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Recently named among the top 30 zoos in the nation by US News and World Report, the attraction, which originally traced its roots to a 1984 Melbourne roadside exotic-animal stand, owned by a citrus farmer named Frank Houser, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit attraction continues to be the Space Coast’s biggest community project.

“We’ve been able to be entrepreneurial and independent through community involvement and innovation,” said Keith Winsten, Executive Director. “We are proud of this fact.”

Since the initial ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 26, 1994, when about 20 full and part time employees staffed the initial opening of the original Paws On and the Latin American animal loop, it has been the hundreds of volunteers and community members that have continued their support. Five years ago the staff crossed the 200 worker plateau and has since consistently been bolstered by more than 400 active volunteers. “These volunteers, who do everything from horticulture, animal care, education, to HR, have remained steady,” Winsten said.

What was once a vast acreage of wetlands and forest donated by The Viera Company back in 1991, is now home to more than 900 animals, representing 195 species. From meerkats, to exotic birds, a tiny antelope, giraffes, and jaguars—the animals that live at the Brevard Zoo are as diverse as the habitats they are showcased within.

The addition of kayaking tours during the past several decades have given the Brevard Zoo bragging rights as the only zoo in the nation where a guest can paddle around an animal exhibit just several feet away.

The Treetop Trek Aerial Adventure, a zip line and ropes course, added in 2011, allows viewing of the birds and animals from the canopy with a whole new perspective. You can climb and swing in the trees alongside various monkeys and exotic birds.

From the engagement of marine restoration projects, to spearheading the passage of the ¼ cent sales tax to clean up the Indian River Lagoon, to leading innovative educational programs and pioneering new techniques supporting wildlife conservation, the depth and breadth of the zoo’s impact in the community and the state are immeasurable. The proximity to the ocean and our lagoon offers a perfect natural setting for many future projects for the Brevard Zoo.

**LARGE PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON**

Targeted for a November 2019 opening, the newest exhibit, *Rainforest Revealed* will be constructed within the borders of the current La Selva loop. The outdoor rainforest will mimic the natural system found in the Amazon. Through the sky trail system, spider monkeys and jaguars will enjoy multiple places to live and roam, sharing spaces just as if they were in the wild. New species of enormous Arapaima fish, venomous rainforest snakes and giant river otters reaching up to six feet in length will make their homes here. Guest will be able to enjoy demos and programs conducted by Florida Tech students at the Rainforest Cognition Center. “In keeping with our guiding principle and central to everything the Brevard Zoo stands for, *Rainforest Revealed* will graphically demonstrate interconnectedness and interdependence of every animal that is a part of it. This has been our most ambitious on-premise project yet. It will be the largest exhibit in our history,” said Winsten.

Always remaining engaged about the health and conservation of the ecosystems here, it was not a surprise when the Brevard Zoo officials announced their biggest proposal yet last year—a offsite...
venture to build an aquarium at Port Canaveral. The design, now in the hands of an architecture firm, won the endorsement of an initial $10 million dollar commitment from the Tourist Development Council last September. The revenue, which will come from the current 5% tourist development tax, will be part of a projected $70 to $100 million needed to fund what Winsten is calling a “front porch to the Indian River Lagoon.”

The proposed space for the Indian River Lagoon Aquarium and Restoration Center, envisions a 130,000 sq. ft. space that would showcase the ecosystems and aquatic animals of Florida, using interactive displays, kid-friendly exhibits, and a conservation hub. “The hub will be a place researchers from area universities can share collaborative workspaces and help tackle the lagoon’s issues,” Winsten said. “We would commit to donating $1.00 per paid admission to go towards conservation programs.” The anticipated site, located on 14 acres of undeveloped land off St. Road 528 and George King Boulevard, would be a lease agreement.

As part of the 25th year anniversary celebrations, the zoo plans to build a new monument near the main entrance. In keeping with the number 16,000 (those original volunteers that took part in the original construction), space for that same number of names to be engraved on its pillars will be offered at a donation of $25 each. According to Andrea Hill, Marketing Director, the monument will represent and commemorate the critical role the community has played in the zoo’s history.

Other projects nearing completion this summer are extended parking sites along the service road, new bathrooms and new food service.

“We have been fortunate to keep growing our zoo here. It’s sometimes been a challenge, but great fun,” Winsten said. “We solved the problems back then and with the help of this community [we] look forward to great things in our future.”
THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE SIMPLY ASTOUNDING AND WE TOOK EVERY EFFORT TO RESEARCH AND DETAIL EVERYTHING WE COLLECTED. THE EFFORTS MADE BY EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FAR EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS.

From the tearful moment of a new parent dropping off their child for the first time to the overwhelming joy of watching a son or daughter walk across a graduation stage, the long hours are rewarded in everyday moments and in many other extraordinary ways. The parents and families of these students are also behind every moment (doing what they can) to assist in the encouragements and support to keep achieving and advancing toward their goals.

One moment stands out among all the others. A program called Hanging with the Hawks allows high school students (juniors and seniors) the opportunity to meet weekly with sixth graders at Quest Elementary. The meetings are not formal, just a moment to simply talk and listen, play a game, or lend a supportive ear. These mentor moments have been a positive influence on the students and a way to enhance a life of learning between them.

We proudly present the 2019 Bragging Rights list.
Viera High School – A Rated

- 27 Principal Scholars (4.0 GPA)
- Total estimated scholarship award amounts for ongoing seniors $2.5 million
- 22 Advanced Placement courses offered with the addition of AP Environmental Science and AP Computer Science this year
- New Health and Wellness CTE program
- Industry certifications include: MOS Bundle, Serve Safe, Early Childhood Education, TV Production, and Adobe Illustrator

VHS Thespian Troupe 7083: 18 Superiors & 18 Excellent awards at the District Festival, 5 Superiors and 3 Excellent awards at the State Festival including two scholarships

- Student Government Program: National Student Council Gold Council of Excellence Award and raised over $16,000 for local charities including Orlando Health’s Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children
- Academic Spanish Club team members won 1st Place at the Florida State Spanish Conference
- VHS Chorus: Placement in All-State Reading Chorus, performance at EPCOT Candlelight Processional, Superior ratings at District and State levels

VHS Television Academy: 3 Best of the Best Awards and 6 All-Florida Awards at the Florida Scholastic Press Association; 1st Place, 3rd Place and 3 Honorable Mentions at the State Competition; and 4 category winners at the 2019 Brevard Student Film Festival

- Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Winds: Superior rating at State Music Performance Assessment
- 32 students selected by audition and performed in the following concerts: All-National Concert Band, Florida All-State Ensembles, Brevard All-County Concert Band & Symphony Orchestra
- Health Occupations Student Affiliation (HOSA) Florida State Competition for the Dental Academy: 20 top three award placements in 13 categories including Dental Terminology and Medical Law and Ethics; one student will compete in the upcoming international competition
- National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team placed in the top 20 out of 350 teams across the nation
- Two wrestling students advanced to the Wrestling State Finals
- Academy of Business and Finance: VHS Seniors placed 2nd at the 2019 Entrepreneurial Competition. Each student will receive a renewable $10,000 Scholarship to Florida Institute of Technology
- Received the 2019 National 1st Place High School Families First Award
- 1st Place Individual Scenario Writing, 2nd Place Group Scenario Writing, and 5th Place win for the Future Problem Solvers Team at the Presentation of Action Plan State Competition
- FCCLA State and National Awards: 5 top award placements in 5 categories including 4 National Competition finalists
- 2 regional wins for our two Odyssey of the Mind teams
- Student Government Association (SGA): A VHS student was elected as a board member
in the role of Vice President for District 3 in the Florida Association of Student Councils; won the 2019 Gold Medallion Council Medal at the Florida Association of Student Councils Conference; named a Florida Association of Student Councils 2019 Council of Merit; and named a National Student Council’s 2019 Gold National Council of Excellence

• 1st Place and Merit Award in ceramics from the Annual Brevard County School Board Art Show
• Rookie Inspiration Award at the regional competition for the Hawks Robotics Team and strong finish at the South Florida Regional Competition
• State Science Fair: Manatee Regional STEM Award, 4th Place in Biomedical and Health Sciences, 2nd Place in Earth and Environmental Science, one of two students who received NOAA’s Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award
• International Travel Club had a successful trip to Italy
• The Army JROTC Drill Female Team and Female Dual Rifle Exhibition Team won 1st Place at the regional and district competition, 1st Place regional competition and 2nd Place district competition wins for the Solo Female Rifle Exhibitions and Solo Male Rifle Exhibitions, 7 JROTC Cadets received 7 ROTC Scholarships and 1 Cadet received acceptance to the United States Air Force Preparatory School

2018-19 VIERA ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Winner of the Barbara Caywood Cape Coast Conference All-Sports Award
• Boys Bowling District Champions, State Final Four
• Girls and Boys Cross Country District Champions
• Football District Champions (5th consecutive District championship)
• Girls Golf Cape Coast Conference Champions, District Champions (11x)
* Girls Swimming Cape Coast Conference Champions, District Champions (6x)

• Boys Track and Field, Cape Coast Conference Champions, District Champions
• Girls Track and Field District Champions
• Boys and Girls Tennis District Champions
* Girls Lacrosse District Champions
• Girls Softball District Champions

SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

ALEX HARRIS – UCF PEGASUS GOLD SCHOLARSHIP FOR A VALUE OF $14,000 OVER FOUR YEARS. ONE OF FIVE STUDENTSawarded this scholarship.

JADA JONES – FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP FOR A VALUE OF $84,000 OVER FOUR YEARS.
McNair Magnet Middle School – A Rated
- 1st Place, Earth and Environmental Science at the Brevard Intracoastal Science Fair
- 3rd Place at the district level for the Odyssey of the Mind Team
- Placements at All-State Honors Band, 23 superior assessment ratings in band, orchestra, chorus and theatre

Quest Elementary – A Rated
- Science Fair winners represented us at the District Level
- Students involved and supporting the Sunshine State Book Program through the summer
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) had 10 improvements achieved in the areas of academics, classroom environment, discipline, and others
- Staff and PTO formed a united mission and raised the most funds ever to support technology in the school
- Record involvement in after school programs run by our teachers; Book Club, Drama, Junior Honor Society, Running Club, Cross Country, and Art Club
- Increased 1:1 digital devices for students
- Band, Orchestra, and Chorus included more musicians than ever before, adding the Ukulele Club

Kennedy Middle School – A Rated
- 3 winners in the Patriot’s Pen Writing Contest
- Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Band earned all Superior ratings
- Girl’s Track earned the Brevard County School Championship
- 100% pass rate in the Industry Certifications and Digital Information

DeLaura Middle School – A Rated
< Spanish Teacher Ms. Heather Haskett was presented with the Building Bridges Award by Brevard County School Board Member Tina Descovich
- 1st Place, Algebra and Math2 Teams Math Bowl
- Guest lecture from New York Times Best-Selling Author Jennifer Nielsen
- Student-led newspaper called The Scottie Sunrise

Manatee Elementary – A Rated
- Ms. Tabby Best, our PE teacher was named Florida Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- 6th Place at the state level for the Odyssey of the Mind Team
- 763 students participated in evening musical performances throughout the school year
Ralph Williams Elementary
– A Rated

- 1st place at the Innovation Games
- School of the Month Environment Award by Keep Brevard Beautiful
- New student produced yearbook, led by teacher Kellee McCluney and our media assistant Jana Doss
- New Drone Club with Mrs. Huoton (Media Specialist) and Mrs. Watts (6th Grade)

> New programs:
  - Character Program
  - Reflective Fridays

Viera Children’s Academy

- Since their expansion in 2015, the Viera Children’s Academy has successfully graduated more than 200 VPK children and they added more to that number at their 13th Annual VPK Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Many of their graduates are speaking Spanish and are reading at a second grade level based on the continued hard work of the teaching staff.

> Ms. Trisha Wray-Clemmings, Ms. Glenda Ogden, and Ms. Whitney Wiseman, of the administrative staff have been a part of VCA’s continued success. These dedicated administrators contributed to the overall accomplishments of the student body.

- The new summer programs offer breakout workshops and continues to be a huge success.

> As the reins of Viera Children’s Academy are transitioning to a new owner, Mrs. Florence Walker – Hunter passes on the legacy of a solid foundation to her “little people.” She firmly stands by her philosophy that “every child, regardless of race or creed, deserves a quality education.”

Viera Charter School

- The Brevard County Bar Association (BCBA) awarded VCS four of its six prizes in the 2019 Law Day poster, essay, and curriculum design contest
- Placed 1st in 3D Art (8th Grade), 2D Art (6th Grade) and Honorable Mention 2D Art (2nd Grade) from Brevard County School District Visual Arts Program
- 2nd Place Brevard County School Spelling Bee
- Middle School Cheerleaders won 1st place at the Regional Championship

> Both VCS elementary and middle school teams won first place in the Brevard County School District Book Bash

- VCS Teacher of the Year Corey Power launched the Houses of Character program that places even greater emphasis on Character Education, a core focus for the school
- New VCS SRO Cpl. Kearns won a lifesaving award from BCSO Sheriff Wayne Ivey for saving a student from choking
Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy

- 28 of the 99 seniors earned all collective 41 AP Capstone, STEAM and Global Citizenship diploma recognitions
- National Merit Scholarship Finalists (4), National Hispanic Scholars (2), National Merit Commended (4)
- Placed 1st Scripps Regional Spelling Bee (8th Grade) and will compete at National Spelling Bee

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Boston College, Brown University, Case Western University, Clemson University, College of William and Mary, Cornell University, Davidson College, Elon University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida State University, Furman University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, North Eastern University, Stanford University, Tulane University, University of California Los Angeles, University of California San Diego, University of California Davis, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Illinois, University of Miami, University of N. Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Richmond, University of Southern California, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2018-2019

- High School Heisman State Winner, the only nominee or winner in Brevard County
- FHSAA State Champion: Girls Cross Country
- Girls Tennis Regional Champion
- 3 FHSAA Regional Finalists: Volleyball, Boys Tennis, Girls Cross Country
- 7 FHSAA District Championships: Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Track and Field, Girls Tennis, Boys Tennis
- 11 Varsity Teams advanced to Regional Playoffs: Volleyball, Girls Golf, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Football, Girls Track and Field, Boys Track and Field, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, Boys Tennis
- Space Coast Christian Athletic Association champions: Junior High Volleyball, Junior High Basketball, 6th Grade Girls Basketball, Division A/6th Grade Flag Football, Division B/5th Grade Flag Football

Pacemaker Finalists in Florida and a Silver Crown from Columbia Scholastic Press Association

- “The Growl” student newspaper earned a Gold rating from the Florida Scholastic Press Association; three members received All-Florida distinction
- Academic Team placed 2nd out of 15 teams in the County tournament; two HT seniors (of the 6 members of “Team Brevard”) competed on the Brevard County State Academic Team, winning 4th in their division
- Assessment Superior Ratings: Orchestra, band, choral, and theatre programs
- A student research paper was published in a leading medical journal
- Placements at the Brevard County Arts and Science Fair
- Student organizations donated to dozens of charitable causes in Brevard and the nation

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU AND MANY OTHERS ON AN AMAZING SCHOOL YEAR! WE SINCERELY WISH WE HAD MORE ROOM TO INCLUDE EVERY NAME AND EVERY SCHOOL IN BREvard. HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER HOLIDAY.
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TAKES
YOU

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If you haven’t experienced one of Brevard’s best firework shows underwater, now is the time to book your adventure!
Beginning at dusk during our local summers, beneath the warm and dark waters of the Indian and Banana River Lagoons, a natural, yet peculiar phenomenon exists. Affectionately called bioluminescence—thousands of tiny marine organisms (dinoflagellates) generate white illumination through an internal chemical reaction similar to fireflies. The organisms, though too small to see, are excited by water movement, causing them to light up and project glowing hues of fluorescent blue-green colors in the dark.

During peak season, June through September, an evening kayaking adventure is the best way to enjoy this unique laser-like show beneath the sea. “It’s a magical once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Dylan Chatman, of BK Adventures.

He and colleague, Max Gavin, tour guides who launch the trips at two Space Coast locations, Kelly Park in Merritt Island and Haulover Canal, at the northern end of Brevard in Titusville, agree the experience is one of nature’s best marine biology educational opportunities for all ages.

Because the plant-like organisms operate on an internal clock (circadian rhythm), they photosynthesize during the day, rest, and bio illuminate at night. Overall, dinoflagelletes plankton are most abundant in the summer months because of longer daylight and other factors including the water salinity, PH and turbidity, all of which are more ideal during this season. According to Chatman, the momentum in the water from paddling causes a reaction that produces the powerful illuminations from the microorganisms hundreds of times greater than their actual size. “Coupled with the various marine creatures swimming beneath the water; including huge manatees, dolphins, and other fish, the sights are incredible,” he explained. “Many times the manatees moving down under resemble a giant glowing ghostlike effect.”

“Kayaking in darkness can be scary, for sure, but at the same time nature is stranger than fiction, and there is nothing more breathtaking,” he added. “Though bioluminescent kayaking in the state of Florida is not unique to the Space Coast, the area’s lack of development means less water and light pollution that affords a greater visibility of the many illuminated tiny organisms here.”

BK Adventures provides multiple vehicle options for their tours. Guest can choose tandem kayaks (some with glass bottoms) as well as six- to eight-person life rafts, for those who are disabled or too young to paddle. The company also offers sunset kayak trips, day excursions, and other year-round hiking and bicycling adventures throughout Brevard and the Orlando area.
Sobe Surf and Paddle, one of the longest running kayak and paddle board tour operators in the county, departs from Brevard Veterans Memorial Park. Specializing in small group tours, as well as individual single and tandem kayak and paddleboard instruction, owner Girard Middleton, has a wealth of knowledge about the area. Middleton, a pro SUP (Stand Up Paddle Board) athlete, offers personalized tours that take guests in and around Sykes Creek, venturing deep into the multiple coves that exist in the bio-diverse Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

“My favorite thing about bioluminescent kayaking trips is watching the reactions of folks when they witness the hundreds of small fish, mostly mullet, scatter when crossing over them. It’s a light show that resembles shooting stars,” said Middleton. “It’s possible to witness a combination of bioluminescent phenomena during the changing of seasons, as Comb Jellyfish are abundant in the cooler months, typically between November and December. But they can be found well into the month of May many times.”

The jellyfish, called Ctenophora, resemble a walnut of goo. The pre-historic creatures have been around nearly 500 million years. Though their life span is short, they are considered an important part of the eco-system. Unlike other jellyfish, they are non-stinging, made up of 95 percent water and have eight rows of cilia (combs) that give off a glow similar to the plankton.

Lindsay Bannister, tour guide at A Day Away Kayak Adventures, describes the bioluminescent tours as nothing short of awe-inspiring. The company launches trips at various sites on both the Banana and Indian River. “The darker the sky, the easier it is to view this incredible illumination, so a new moon is usually better but it can be seen even with the full moon,” Bannister said. “During the Comb Jellies excursions, it is possible to catch and hold the glob-like jellys. Since they do not sting it is safe, but they do give off a strange odor.”

A Day Away Kayak Tours also offers an exclusive ‘Mondo Bio Tour,’ a three hour excursion that launches in daylight, makes a stop at a birding island, and culminates with the evening bioluminescent tour. “This tour showcases everything nature has to offer via a kayak here on the Space Coast. It is best to call in advance for reservations ahead for any of our trips, as they do book up quickly in the summer months,” Bannister added.

Tour prices vary per company for the bioluminescent kayaking adventures but most tour lengths are approximately 1.5 hours. Guides recommend bringing water shoes, towels, quick dry clothing, insect repellent and snacks.

For more info visit:
A DAY AWAY KAYAK ADVENTURES: ADayAwayKayakTours.com
BK ADVENTURES: BKAdventure.com
SOBE SURF & PADDLE: SobeSurf.com
A couple of years ago, Allan Gair threw on a Santa Claus suit and began rounding in the Emergency Department of Health First’s Holmes Regional Medical Center.

“I walked past room 63, and there was a mother there with a little boy,” the hospital’s Auxiliary President recalled. “She said, ‘Can you come in and talk to him?’”

Gair did, and on the way out, the boy’s mother thanked him. “She said, ‘You made his day,’” a teary eyed Gair said. “And I said, ‘No – it’s the other way around.’”

Health First is looking for more Allan Gairs.

Each of the four hospitals in the Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) hosts an auxiliary, with volunteers helping to create a compassionate, high-quality environment for patients. The auxiliaries have contributed millions of hours of valuable service, as well as raised money to help finance hospital building projects, funding scholarships for students in the healthcare field, purchasing new equipment and sponsoring community healthcare-related programs.

Marcia Phillips, Manager of Volunteer Services and Customer Experience at Holmes Regional, described the Auxiliary as a “phenomenal gift to the organization.”

“I can tell you, there are times we look around and say if our volunteers were not here, we would be in a world of hurt,” Phillips said.

Volunteers can give as little as three to four hours of their time a week. Anyone interested is encouraged to call the volunteer coordinator. “This group brings the best of humanity to all we serve every single day,” said Leonne Sherr, Manager of Volunteer Services at Health First’s Cape Canaveral Hospital. “Their positive impact on our customers, patients and staff is priceless.”

Joelle Boccabella, Manager of Volunteer Services at Health First’s Viera Hospital and Palm Bay Hospital, said volunteers are important to security, food services, maintenance and more.

“If you have a passion for helping others or desire to give back to the community, we have a place for you,” she said.

Want to Volunteer?

Visit hf.org or directly call:

- Cape Canaveral Hospital Auxiliary: 321.799.7167
- Holmes Regional Medical Center Auxiliary: 321.434.8519
- Palm Bay Hospital Auxiliary: 321.434.8076
- Viera Hospital Volunteers: 321.434.9365
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Health First's Board-Certi/fied Pediatricians and Pediatric Specialists deliver the highest level of quality health care to patients. Our goal is to improve the wellness and health of Brevard families from infancy through adolescence. In addition to featuring Brevard's most extensive Pediatric Inpatient Unit, our providers focus on preventive care and patient education.

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THE RULE OF ATTRACTION

EXPLORE THE UNDENIABLE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF OUR CONVENIENTLY COASTAL LIVING

SO WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO FLORIDA? LIVING IN A COMMUNITY MADE UP OF SO MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE MIGRATED, TRANSFERRED, RELOCATED OR WHATEVER SIMILAR VERB YOU CHOOSE FOR PICKING UP ROOTS AND MOVING YOUR FAMILY, IT’S NOT AN UNFAMILIAR QUESTION.

It’s true, the state of Florida has the second fewest native residents of any state in the union.

But what brings us here? Sometimes it’s work. Sometimes it’s family. But almost without exception, the answer to the question brings the conversation around to weather, climate, and access to the water.

Here in Brevard County, we have a comfortable average annual temperature range between 65°F and 80°F. Over the course of the year the beaches will experience some variations of surface temperature with the average (June - October) above 80°F while during the cooler months (December – April) it lowers to 73°F.

So our residents and visitors, many of whom hail from the northern climes of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Ohio, the upper Midwest, and even Canada, are some of the most enthusiastic practitioners of coastal, fair weather activities.

So what’s there to do that’s fun in our conveniently coastal community? Maybe you’re a new resident who didn’t know about all the things Brevard has to offer? We have a quick list to get you thinking about coastal fun this summer.
**KAYAK**
With dozens of places for experienced paddlers to rent or buy kayaks, to formal guided kayak tours of the rivers and bays in our region, it would take a lifetime to glide it all along the water. There are tours in Merritt Island and Titusville focused on the unique bioluminescence experience (see p. 19) and adventure kayak tours running from Cocoa Beach that focus on seeing the native wildlife both during the day and evening hours. And whether you’re new to the sport or an experienced hand, the Brevard Zoo offers the only kayak “in exhibit” tour in North America (see p 9).

**PADDLE BOARDING**
Whether you’re just interested in getting up on a stand-up paddle board and cruising the waterways or you have an interest in an Eco-Tour, there are no fewer than a dozen businesses offering paddle boarding lessons and tours for you and your family.

**BOATING**
From Jacksonville to Key West, Florida is known as a national boating Mecca, but you don’t have to own your own boat to get out to enjoy the waterways here. There are numerous places to rent boats for the day, book fishing expeditions or even join a club that allows you to take out any craft in the fleet whenever you want.
**SPACE SHOTS**

Nothing beats watching a rocket launch from the beach, and with more than 70 miles of Atlantic coastline in the county, just about any spot affords a clear view of what’s become a common occurrence here on the Space Coast. NASA, SpaceX, United Launch Alliance, soon Blue Origin, and more private space companies are set to explore the great beyond from right here and it’s not uncommon to find hundreds, if not thousands, of people walking the sand, gazing skyward to catch a glimpse of history. Launch schedule: SpaceCoastLaunches.com/launch-schedule/

**BEACH COMBING**

From the seemingly untouched Cape Canaveral National Seashore in the north to the inviting blue hues of Sebastian Inlet in the South, Brevard County boasts some of the best and least crowded beaches around. Explore the beaches during the day and enjoy the famous Florida sunshine or call the Sea Turtle Preservation Society in Indialantic for something you can’t get just anywhere else, a guided “Turtle Walk.” Or if you just want to extend your beach time into the evening and beyond, you can get a single permit from either Satellite Beach or Melbourne Beach (during the non-nesting season) to have a beach bonfire or book a spot to camp waterside at the Sebastian Inlet.

**SURFING**

Long known as the surfing capital of the east, it’s common to see enthusiasts of all ages catching a wave in the early morning at almost any beach access point along A1A. And while Cocoa Beach is home to the famed Ron Jon Surf Shop open 24/7, its next door neighbor and rival Cocoa Beach Surf Company is just one of the dozens of shops in virtually every beachside town in the county where you can get outfitted in a wetsuit, pick up a board for rent or purchase and get out onto a wave. If you’ve never tried it, but always wanted to learn, this is the place for it. Many surf shops also provide summer surf camps for all ages.

These are just a few of the many opportunities living conveniently coastal offers. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination and there are more hidden gems here (SpaceCoastHiddenGems.com) than you can count. Get out there and find some of your own! 📚
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Now Building in Valencia at Addison Village in Viera!
The relationship with a home builder is a personal one. Early in the process there will be several discovery moments when life’s details become important and everyday moments have more weight and meaning to the outcome of the final product. Details like flooring and grout become focal points ultimately emulating how you might live in your new home.

The Viera Builders Design Studio opened its doors in 2016 in Viera. The team at the studio works diligently with the sales staff and each customer with specific timing and details to make the process easy and enjoyable. “The mission of the Viera Builders Design Studio is to provide every Viera Builders’ customer with a fabulous personal experience showcasing the latest trends offered in a variety of options and price points to meet their design needs and budgets for their new home,” said Alicia Faessen, the general manager of the studio and the design manager for Viera Builders. “Every day the studio provides us with a wonderful opportunity to meet our new Viera neighbors. Our objective is to
understand and appreciate the minutia of detail that goes into the importance of how they will live in this new space. Although we provide guidance during the selection process, we want our clients to feel included; personalizing a new home should be an exciting and fun experience!"

**PREVIEW DAY**
The Studio hosts a Preview Day every Monday from 11AM to 7PM (excluding holidays) and it allows both potential customers and those already under contract with an opportunity to explore the design studio and not feel pressured by the overwhelming visuals on display throughout. On this Preview Day, customers are given a design document to organize their creative ideas and begin the thought process including a deep-dive research questionnaire on personal taste and style. Questions may include: What are your plans for your new home (entertaining, snow birds, etc.)? Are you considering a new style of furnishings or coordinating with your current furnishings, and

"**THE MISSION OF THE VIERA BUILDERS DESIGN STUDIO IS TO PROVIDE EVERY VIERA BUILDERS’ CUSTOMER WITH A FABULOUS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE SHOWCASING THE LATEST TRENDS OFFERED IN A VARIETY OF OPTIONS AND PRICE POINTS TO MEET THEIR DESIGN NEEDS AND BUDGETS FOR THEIR NEW HOME,**"

*GENERAL MANAGER OF THE VIERA BUILDERS DESIGN STUDIO AND DESIGN MANAGER FOR VIERA BUILDERS ALICIA FAESSEN.*
finally, does your fabric choice contain patterns or bright colors?

“Our process includes a significant amount of interaction with customers as our goal is to know them as homeowners, not just as a customer ‘picking colors’. We approach each design appointment with an open mind towards a customer’s ideas and perception of their home. Our studio showcases a plethora of options [which we review], however, we strongly encourage them to ask questions,” said Faessen. “We can provide guidance on a style that is familiar or assist with a brand new look.”

The staff at the Design Studio continually sees a very diverse group of home buyers. In some cases it is their 20th home. “When they arrive, they know exactly what they want, but are open to new ideas. We also have clients purchasing their first home and for some their last [new] home. In either instance, we understand the importance of their decisions throughout the appointment. Additionally, we strive to continually set expectations throughout the selection process, ‘This will provide a monochromatic palette’ or ‘This tile has significant variation in color and pattern.’”

THE DESIGN TEAM

Who are these talented design coordinators helping lead the way to ideal grout and flooring choices? Alicia is proud of her design team with their background, experiences, and a strong focus on customer service. “During appointments we advise clients that our focus is their home and not just the samples in front of them. We recognize that it’s our job to truly listen to their ideas and vision,” she said. “Share your Houzz and Pinterest accounts, swatches, and magazine clippings. Those images are the shared language of describing ‘…this is what I like…” and provides our team with a visual understanding of their style and expectations. Being open-minded and informative is integral to a successful creative process.”

Each year the leaders in multiple departments at Viera Builders travel to the International Builders Show. They walk the exhibit floor, meet with vendors and talk to trade representatives about current and future potential materials and finishes based on customer feedback and industry trends. “We always strive to improve the process and product,” says Faessen. “Sometimes it is just a ¼ turn. A small adjustment can make a world of difference.”

“EVEN IF A BUYER STATES, “I WANT IT JUST LIKE THE MODEL” WE WILL STILL WALK THE CLIENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE DESIGN PROCESS AND COMPREHENSIVELY REVIEW ALL OF OUR AVAILABLE OPTIONS. A CUSTOMER CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH THE MODEL BUT MAY BE UNAWARE OF THE NUMEROUS OTHER OPTIONS WHICH ARE NOT DISPLAYED [IN THE MODEL],… WE WANT TO ENSURE EVERYONE RECEIVES A COMPLETE EXPERIENCE DURING THEIR 4-HOUR APPOINTMENT,”

GENERAL MANAGER OF THE VIERA BUILDERS DESIGN STUDIO AND DESIGN MANAGER FOR VIERA BUILDERS ALICIA FAESSEN.

IT’S MORE THAN JUST A DOOR HANDLE

The staged vignettes are artfully done at the studio and showcase the options, upgrades and unique personalization a new homebuyer can expect throughout their new home. The two kitchens showcased in the studio reflect opposites in the same way the average buyer thinks about design. They focus on ways to emulate movement with patterns and color. One is very modern with a quartz countertop, dark cabinet finishes, heavy molding, sleek drawer and cabinet handles, and 3x12 glass tiles to tie it all together. The second provides the side-by-side comparison with a more adventurous tile pattern, lighter cabinet finishes, and softer overall feel.

You will see staircase railings, flooring displays, cabinet finishes, the aforementioned door handles, molding, sinks,
and other fixtures of every size and shape to choose from for both the interior and exterior of the home. The studio invites you to stand next to the shower display and see the different elements all come together. The design coordinators can help you navigate through all the colors and styles that will reflect a style or taste that is truly your own.

Any option in the studio for preview can be used for any to-be-built home except when it is specific to architecture (like exterior and roof materials) or a spec home. If the home is purchased as an inventory home it will depend on the stage of purchase and you may not have all the same options as the to-be-built home.

**PAINTING A FOCAL POINT**

One time, Alicia had a client with experience in homebuilding and they had a new painting that they insisted on using during the design process. No other element was more important to them than allowing this painting to take center stage in their new home. “The client loved the colors in the painting and it was truly a showcase piece. We utilized the painting during the entire selection process,” said Faessen. “Flooring, cabinetry, paint color and their furniture elements were all selected to coordinate with the piece. At the time of their granite appointment, they selected a slab with unique color and veining that complemented [the painting] perfectly. It was the ideal finishing touch. She was ecstatic and we couldn’t be happier for her!”

The design team will never start with assumptions. “We never want to assume what is important to our customers or allow our personal sense of style to sway their selections. The painting example was a perfect lesson for us. One should never approach an appointment with pre-conceived notions; I’ve learned that flexibility is key,” said Faessen. “Even if a buyer states, “I want it just like the model” we will still walk the client through the entire design process and comprehensively review all of our available options. A customer can fall in love with the model but may be unaware of the numerous other options which are not displayed [in the model], like a pot-filler over the stove or radiant barrier insulation. We want to ensure everyone receives a complete experience during their 4-hour appointment.”

“This experience is also fulfilling for our team as we watch their homes being built and kids growing up. We are very fortunate to have second and third time homeowners with Viera Builders. Building a home is one of the most important and significant purchases in one’s life and for customers to choose us for their third home is very humbling; we are truly appreciative of their trust. It’s fascinating to see how their style has evolved over the course of their time building with us.” said Faessen. “We learn a lot about ourselves too. In addition to experience, patience, integrity, empathy, and a sense of humor are also characteristics I look for and appreciate in our employees.”

The design coordinators at the Viera Builders Design Studio appreciate the trust their clients bestow upon them and they enjoy helping homeowners make their dream home exactly the way they imagined it - even down to the smallest detail.
SUMMER DISHES WITH FULL FLAVOR

Chicken Paillard with Sweet Corn Salata

ingredients:
For the chicken
3 chicken breasts
4 Tbsp. olive oil
Juice of 1 lemon
Cracked pepper and salt

For the salata
2 cobs Dandy® Sweet Corn
2 stalks of Dandy® Celery
¼ cup Dandy® Radish Coins
¼ cup cherry tomatoes, halved
Juice of half a lemon
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
¼ cup coarsely chopped parsley, divided into ¼ cup measurements
Cracked pepper and salt
1 can pepitas

make it
1. Filet chicken breasts open by using a sharp knife and cutting halfway through chicken.
2. Marinate chicken with pepper, salt, ¼ cup of chopped parsley, olive oil, and juice of one lemon. Let marinade from 20 minutes – 2 hours.
3. Grill chicken on hot grill pan or outdoor grill until fully cooked, about 6-8 minutes per side.
4. Shuck and strip 2 cobs of corn into a bowl. Add remaining chopped parsley.
5. Roughly dice celery and add to corn mixture. Toss in radishes and tomatoes then drizzle with vinegar and juice of half of one lemon.
6. Stir salata to combine. Top chicken with salata and pepitas and enjoy!
As a Cardiologist, it is apparent Dr. Hany Guirgis has a big heart for the residents of Viera. With an easy smile and approachable disposition, Dr. Guirgis greets everyone he meets with kindness and humbleness. His journey to Viera was a long and rewarding one.

Born and raised in Egypt, Dr. Guirgis spent his childhood living with the Great Pyramids of Giza practically in his backyard. Starting medical school at just 15 years old, he dedicated nearly his entire life to medicine. Dr. Guirgis completed his medical education at Cairo University, one of the earliest medical schools established in the world. Upon graduating with the encouragement of his supportive parents, he decided to move to the United States to continue his training.

First studying in New York and then California, Dr. Guirgis finally landed at Marshall University in West Virginia. With many specialties to choose from, he felt a calling to follow the long and rewarding road of cardiology. “I elected to pursue cardiology as I have the opportunity to impact human lives on a daily basis,” he said.

From an internship to an Internal Medicine Residency to a Cardiology fellowship, he enjoyed 10 valuable years at Marshall University of Medicine. During this time, he also met his beautiful wife, Alexandra, and they started their family together. Wanting to raise their three young children in warmer weather, in 2011 the Guirgis’ made the decision to move to Viera.

Besides the Florida sunshine, they felt drawn to Viera because it “…is a booming community with extreme potential for growth and prosperity. The rapid development of the whole area is very attractive to my family,” says Dr. Guirgis.

In 2014, Dr. Guirgis decided to take advantage of the opportunities in Viera and opened his own clinic, Prestige Cardiology Consultants. Every day since he has tackled the busy and fast-paced work days with a team of talented and invaluable staff right by his side.

Dr. Guirgis finds his job most rewarding when he promptly treats a patient who has suffered a heart attack and then is able to witness them walk out of the hospital after receiving care. “I have dedicated my time at work to my patients because I feel this is my calling,” says Dr. Guirgis.

However, when the work day ends, Dr. Guirgis’ focus shifts to his beloved family. “In our crazy house, as I like to call it, there is never a dull moment. I have one rule, which is: upon my arrival home from work, my kids have to leave whatever it is they are doing to come and give me a kiss on the cheek,” he says. Spend any amount of time with Dr. Guirgis and it is evident how important his family is to him. Being with his family is his favorite hobby which is one of the main reasons he is currently in the process of building a brand-new office closer to home in Viera. "I believe spending time with family is the most rewarding activity in life. It is the currency we cannot replace and cannot bring back," he says.

Not only is Dr. Guirgis building a new office in Viera, just a few months ago his family moved into their newly finished home in Adelaide. He and his wife thoroughly enjoyed being part of the process in building their own home. “We were part of every decision and planning. Though it took some time, it really was worth the time to see our vision become a reality,” says Dr. Guirgis.

It was important for him and his wife to find a home where they could feel a part of the community as a family and have space for the kids to play outside. Adelaide hit all the marks for the Guirgis family. “Adelaide offered the land with the promise of quality homes and great exposure to the community. I also like that I am not far from the hospitals,” says Dr. Guirgis.

“I would like to end with what I tell my kids every day: although hard work is not a guarantee to succeed, it sure is a necessity for success. My wish is for my kids to cherish their time in our house and in our community,” says Dr. Guirgis.

With his new home in Adelaide and his new office space in the works, Dr. Guirgis is truly living out the Viera mantra of Live. Work. Play.
Returning for the second year, Flight of the Raptor brought their birds of prey for all to enjoy. Sharron Montgomery-Peña, Falconer and Educator, shared her extensive knowledge of these birds with the crowd, as well as showcased how these birds perform during flight in their natural habitat.

Raleigh Berry and his volunteer Wetland Rangers once again provided environmental and educational tours and classes by way of golf carts and walking tours throughout the weekend. These tours are especially popular each year and looked forward to by all who take part in them.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Viera Wetlands Nature Festival on April 13th and 14th brought a wide array of new and returning exhibitors and vendors to the Viera Wetlands this year. Sixteen exhibitors and four vendors, all eco-friendly and environmentally based, were present during this 2-day weekend event sharing their knowledge and expertise with all who came out to this community event.

The event was one of the most successful to date.

Exhibitors
- Animal Love Inc.
- Blue World Research Institute Inc.
- Brevard Zoo Sea Turtle Preservation
- Brevard Zoo Education and Information
- Canaveral National Seashore
- Florida City Gas
- GFWC Viera Woman’s Club
- Florida Wildlife Hospital
- Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute
- Judi’s Butterflies
- Recycle Brevard
- Save the Manatee Club
- Save Our Indian River Lagoon
- Sea Turtle Preservation Society
- Space Coast Audubon

Vendors
- Hat Mamas Art
- Hugging Heart Soapery
- Hydrowise
- Palm Frond Art

A special feature each year is the showcasing of art and presentation of awards for the Charlie Corbeil Student Art Contest. Jill Gaines of Viera Voice is the host of this portion of the weekend. An art table was set-up for children’s crafts and painting on Saturday and was attended to by not only Jill and her team, but Charlotte Corbeil, as well.
THE FIRST EVER PET FEST IN VIERA WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 4TH AT THE NEW VIERA TOWN CENTER PARK LOCATED BEHIND CENTRE POINTE APARTMENTS. IN HONOR OF THE 145TH RACE OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS KENTUCKY DERBY, A DERBY DAY HAT CONTEST WAS HELD FOR ALL PETS THAT WERE REGISTERED IN THE EVENT.

It was a beautiful morning for this inaugural event where all participants showed off their Derby Day hats in style! Each participant chose among three categories to enter:

» Classic
» Colorful
» Most Outrageous

The winner within each category won a custom-designed, hand-painted hat stand, category show ribbon and gift certificate provided by Viera Petworks. In addition, a Best of Show winner was chosen from these 3 category winners and won a Derby Day Trophy filled with red roses and a gift basket (valued at $150) provided by Viera Petworks.

Complimentary items were provided by the sponsors to all spectators and participants that attended the event: Viera Petworks, Island Animal Hospital, Viera Voice and Centre Pointe Apartments. Thank you to the sponsors, participants, spectators and volunteers who made this event such a success. We can’t wait for next year’s Pet Fest | Derby Day Hat Contest!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT AND TO SEE ADDITIONAL PHOTOS, PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: FACEBOOK.COM/VIERACOMMUNITYINSTITUTE/
SNAPSHOTS AROUND TOWN

EAT MY CRUST 5K The never-miss running event each year is the local Eat My Crust 5K run/walk and the event numbers were staggering. The race has grown to over 1,100 participants and donated $25,000 this year for the Viera High School Athletic Department’s fundraising efforts for a new track. It is also the Space Coast “Runner of the Year Series” finale.

URBAN AIR ADVENTURE PARK OPENING Urban Air Adventure Park, Viera’s first indoor trampoline and entertainment center opened March 16th in Viera featuring a full-length bowling alley, laser tag, and dodgeball courts.

ADDY AWARDS The Viera Marketing Team wins another silver ADDY® for their Viera Vision cover design at the Local American Advertising Federation Space Coast ceremony in Rockledge.
**EMERALD CITY 5K**  
Kathi Ridner poses as Glenda for Family Promise of Brevard’s Emerald City 5K run to raise awareness and funds to end family homelessness. Wesche Jewelers in Viera donated an emerald valued at $2,000!

**A TRUE COMMUNITY WEDDING**  
Cheryl Graybeal and Don Safford, servers at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC), invited every resident of the club to their wedding on April 15th. Over 600 residents attended and the reception included seating with 47 picnic tables, a potluck lunch, and over 400 cupcakes. Congratulations to you both!

**GASTRO PUB**  
28 North Gastro Pub is a smash hit for local owner Chris Coneen. The new hot-spot uses locally sourced food including edible flowers.

**REELING PARK KICK OFF**  
Viera Builders’ sales associates Suzy Haughwout and Edgar Cobos take a quick moment for a photo with Mary Mead, Vice President of Sales at their Reeling Park Kick-Off event.

**HBCA PARADE OF HOMES | REALTOR TOUR**  
The Viera Discovery Center hosted a two-day breakfast for local Realtors® during the 2019 Home Builders and Contractors Association Parade of Homes®.
SUMMER CAMPS

Viera Regional Park & Recreation Center
DATE: May 31st – August 9th
LOCATION: Viera Regional Park, Viera
CONTACT: (321) 433-4891

2019 Duran Academy of Golf Summer Camp
DATE: June 3rd – July 26th
LOCATION: Development Center, Duran Golf Club, Viera
CONTACT: HTTPS://CLIENTS.USCHEDULE.COM/JUSTINBLAZERGOLF/BOOKING/EVENT

Brevard Zoo
DATE: June 3rd – August 5th
LOCATION: Brevard Zoo
CONTACT: BREVARDZOO.ORG/EDUCATION/ZOO-CAMPS/

JUN
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SUMMER CAMPS

VENUE

SUMMER CAMPS

JUN
JUL
AUG

2019 Duran Academy of Golf Summer Camp
DATE: June 3rd – July 26th
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Brevard Zoo
DATE: June 3rd – August 5th
LOCATION: Brevard Zoo
CONTACT: BREVARDZOO.ORG/EDUCATION/ZOO-CAMPS/

FUN FOR ALL

Great American Celebration 2019 Fireworks Show
DATE: July 4th
LOCATION: USSSA Space Coast Stadium, Viera
CONTACT: VIERACOMMUNITYINSTITUTE.COM

ACTIVE EVENTS

Running Wild 5K
DATE: June 29th
LOCATION: Wickham Park, Melbourne
CONTACT: RUNNINGZONE.COM

Tailgate 2 Miler
DATE: August 18th
LOCATION: The Avenue Viera, Viera
CONTACT: RUNNINGZONE.COM

APOLLO MOON LANDING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Kennedy Space Center Apollo Summer Celebration
DATE: Various events all summer/July
LOCATION: Kennedy Space Center
CONTACT: KENNEDYSPACECENTER.COM

Apollo 50th Gala
DATE: July 16th
LOCATION: Kennedy Space Center Complex
CONTACT: APOLLOS0THGALA.COM

JAZZ

Louis Armstrong’s Wonderful World
DATE: June 28th - 30th
LOCATION: Cocoa Village Playhouse
CONTACT: COCOAVILLAGEPLAYHOUSE.COM

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- **Ranked A TOP 25 Master Planned Community**
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- **Business ready in a business friendly state**
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Graduation ceremonies have concluded and the 72 miles of Atlantic Ocean beaches are beckoning us for some rest and relaxation. For me and my wife, Cyndi, summertime means long bike rides through the many trails Viera has to offer, followed by a leisurely lunch at one of our many fine restaurants, and scheduling some serious beach and pool time.

Summer is not only a time to rest and recharge, but also to celebrate the hard work of our students and faculty throughout our community as they take a much needed break from their studies and lesson plans from the previous school year. We are very blessed in Viera to be home to three elementary schools, a charter school and a high school; these are A-rated learning organizations that foster all aspects of educational and social growth of our children and youth. Our local businesses lend a helping hand to our schools and students through various fundraising events throughout the academic year, parents give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that students are afforded every opportunity for success in a safe environment, and the Viera community is always there to bolster our children and youth by supporting the myriad of activities in which they are involved.

Vacation travel destinations are once again the focus of our attention, too, and arriving at those treasured locales will soon be a bit easier. Just in time for that long awaited trip, the new ramps for the diverging diamond interchange at I-95 and Viera Boulevard will offer a time-saving route to get us on our journey. The widening of Viera Boulevard to the east of Murrell Road toward US-1 will also make accessing this new point of ingress/egress a bit more relaxing. Even if your travel is local, you will no doubt appreciate the time savings and efficacy these new additions will provide.

If you are planning a stay-cation this summer, you will want to schedule a visit to the Viera Wetlands. Cyndi and I had the fortunate opportunity to visit recently during the 10th Annual Viera Wetlands Nature Festival and we were very impressed with the many observational choices the Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands in Viera has to offer. Located to the west of I-95, between the Brevard Zoo and the River Lakes Conservation Area, there is something for everyone at the Viera Wetlands. Photography, bird-watching, and hiking trails are abundant. Over 210,000 people visit the Viera Wetlands each year for the spectacular views and plentiful wildlife in residence here. It truly is a destination in our own backyard.

Speaking of wildlife, also highly recommended for any local vacation or weekend itinerary is a trip to the Brevard Zoo. Cyndi and I recently attended Safari Under the Stars, an annual fundraising event to help raise funds used to care for the growing animal population at the Zoo, and had the pleasure of meeting Jack Hanna, the keynote speaker and featured guest of the event. He told us we had one of the most beautiful and unique Zoo habitats he has ever visited, but we already knew our Brevard Zoo was a world-class facility and has recently been recognized as such by U.S. News & World Report. Stop by one day this summer and see all the new changes and new additions.

Whether you choose to fly away to some magical attractions, visit our local destinations for some summer adventures, or simply soak away the summer days at the pool or on the beach, from all of us here at The Viera Company, we hope you have a fun, relaxing, and safe summer season!
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Look East of the USSSA Space Coast Complex

Visit the Viera Community Institute Facebook page for updates

VieraCommunityInstitute.com  VieraCommunityInstitute  VieraVision