

# About Town



The Official Newsletter of the City of Rockledge

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Summer 2016

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*City offices and departments will be closed on July 4 in observance of the holiday*

## CITY EXPLORES DEVELOPMENT OF “CIVIC HUB” ON BARTON BOULEVARD



*Site for proposed Barton Blvd. "Civic Hub"*



*Preliminary conceptual plan*

In October 2015, the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners approved, and recommended approval by City Council, the acquisition of vacant property located on Barton Boulevard directly east of City Hall. This 1.69-acre property is zoned Redevelopment Mixed Use, and its acquisition is highly desirable because of its close proximity to City Hall. City Staff envisions developing this property into a “Civic Hub,” where the City could conduct special events and other activities. When not being utilized for a specific event, the Hub will provide a venue for residents and visitors to relax and unwind. Discussions are in the preliminary stages, but features are anticipated to include a bandshell/stage area and permanent spaces where vendors can set up, rendering the locale ideal for the annual Rockledge Art & Craft Show and the Rockledge Farmers Market. If the project proceeds, the design phase could occur in the latter part of 2016 and early 2017, with construction to ensue in late 2017. Stay tuned!

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Be sure to mark your calendars for these fun and exciting City events!**

### ◆ BOOK SALE!

Fri, July 15 & Sat, July 16 ◆ 10 am to 5 pm  
Community Resource Center ◆ 123 Barton Blvd.

### ◆ National Night Out!

Tues, October 4 ◆ 4 pm to 7 pm  
McLarty Park ◆ 790 Barton Blvd.

### ◆ Hot Rockin' Nights!

Sat, October 15 ◆ 3 pm to 9 pm  
Barton Blvd. ◆ Between Huntington & Elm

Visit our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/cityofrockledge](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrockledge), for all of the latest details!

## 2016 GENERAL ELECTION – NOV. 8

The current terms for the following positions will expire in November:

**Council Seat #1** – currently filled by Councilman  
Joe Lee Smith

**Council Seat #2** – currently filled by Councilman  
Richard K. (Dick) Blake

The following Candidates have declared their intent to run for office on November 8, 2016:

**For Council Seat #1** ~ Joe Lee Smith  
**For Council Seat #2** ~ R. Shaun Ferguson

The candidate qualifying period begins at noon on Tuesday, August 16, and ends at noon on Friday, August 26. More information is available from the City Clerk's page on the City's website [www.cityofrockledge.org](http://www.cityofrockledge.org).

## CITY DEDICATES PARK FEATURES IN HONOR OF LONGTIME EMPLOYEES



Congratulations are extended to Betsi Beatty Moist and Don Griffin on their recognition as long-serving, committed employees of the City of Rockledge! On May 24, Lake Betsi, named in honor of longtime City Clerk Betsi Moist, was officially dedicated. Upon her retirement from the City this coming November, City Clerk Moist will have devoted over 40 years of service to the City. Also dedicated was the Don Griffin Recreational Trail, the namesake of former Planning Director Don Griffin, who retired in March of this year after 27 years of service.

Both Lake Betsi and the Don Griffin Recreational Trail can be found at The McKnight Family Sports Complex at the north end of Cogswell Street, and entry can be gained from the north end of the Park. The 12-foot wide, 2.37-mile trail, which surrounds Lake Betsi, is ideal for walkers, runners and cyclists. Wildlife abounds in the preservation areas, and of course fishermen are welcomed! Although no motorized boats will be permitted in the lake, boats with electric trolling motors will be allowed when the boat ramp is completed. The City, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the Recreational Trails Program of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided funding for the project.



## RETIREMENTS PAVE THE WAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES

In December 2015, City Council recognized City Clerk Betsi Beatty Moist for having completed 30 years of service to the City of Rockledge. In total, however, Betsi has 39 years of service with the City, as she served as the Secretary to the former City Manager from 1971 to 1980 prior to departing for a five-year hiatus. In 1985, Betsi returned as Administrative Secretary to the City Manager, where she served until being named as City Clerk. Continuing to serve in that capacity, Betsi's contributions have been numerous, especially during the technological transition, and she has always guided the Council and



*Betsi Beatty Moist & David Henderson*

Staff toward professionalism and accountability. Betsi has also been immersed in the community as a former Little League Official, as well as scorekeeper for the Rockledge High School Baseball team. When Betsi retires in November 2016, she will have 40 years of distinguished service.

In August 1974, David Henderson became employed with the City as a Firefighter/EMT and served in that capacity until April 1980. At that time, David left the City to pursue his education in Public Administration at the University of Central Florida, then returning in October 1982 as the Staff Accountant. David would soon assume the position of Finance Director and subsequently be named as Assistant

City Manager/Treasurer, where he has served for the past 28 years. With more than 38 years of total service to the citizens of Rockledge, David has been responsible for the financial stability of the City, practicing sound accounting principles and keeping City spending within the resources allocated. As a Rockledge High School Band Booster, Rotary Club member and performer at Cocoa Village Playhouse, David's involvement in the community has been noticeable. On September 30, 2016, David will retire, having dedicated over 39 years of total service to the City. The new road that extends north off of Barnes Boulevard and serves the Space Coast RV Park and Indian Oaks will be known as "David Henderson Way" in recognition of his many years of devoted service.

Some readers may already be familiar with Betsi's successor, Lisa Nicholas, because she is the City's current Redevelopment Coordinator. Having been employed with the City for nearly six years, Lisa is originally from Pennsylvania, where she worked her entire career with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the areas of communications and legislative and policy analysis. Lisa has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and, since relocating to Florida, has served as a Legislative Aide for the Florida House of Representatives and as a Public Relations and Government Affairs Specialist for the External Relations Directorate at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.



*Lisa Nicholas*



*Matthew Trine*

Incoming Finance Director, Matthew Trine, CPA, brings with him extensive financial experience. Prior to joining the City in June, Matthew served as Shareholder/Director for 10 years with the firm Davies, Houser & Secrest, CPA, P.A. Before that, Matthew worked in the area of retail management while pursuing his extensive education, which includes Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and in Finance, as well as an MBA. Originally from Ohio, Matthew has resided in Brevard County for more than 30 years.

The City extends heartfelt congratulations to Betsi and David on their retirements and best wishes to Lisa and Matthew on their new roles with the City!

## STREET-SWEEPING SCHEDULE

The street-sweeping schedule for the City of Rockledge for the remainder of 2016 is as follows:

### ◆ OCTOBER

Mon, October 3 / Fri, October 7

### ◆ NOVEMBER

Tue, November 1 / Mon, November 7

### ◆ DECEMBER

Thu, December 1 / Wed, December 7

## GET CERTIFIED in CPR WITH RFD!

The Rockledge Fire Department is offering American Heart Association CPR classes! Interested parties can contact Fire Station No. 1, 321.690.3968, for additional details.

## SIGN UP FOR NIXLE!

The Rockledge Police Department is pleased to announce the implementation of Nixle, a **FREE**, user-friendly and easy way for Rockledge residents to receive notifications from the Rockledge Police and Fire Departments, which include advisories and emergency information, as well as information on City events! You can opt in or out of receiving notifications at any time.



Sign up **now** so that you can be in the know! To join:

- ◆ **Text** 32955 to 888777.
- ◆ **Visit** [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and create an account.
- ◆ **Go to** [www.cityofrockledge.org](http://www.cityofrockledge.org), navigate to the PD's page and fill out the sign-up form.

It's that easy! The service is free, but standard text-messaging rates may apply.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT MOVES TO RPD

The City's Code Enforcement Officer, Maddie McDonald, now works out of the Rockledge Police Department. Responsible for not only investigating complaints of Code violations she receives, Maddie also proactively patrols the City and addresses Code violations she observes. A primary goal of Maddie's is to facilitate voluntary compliance with City Codes, saving both time and money for all parties involved. Typically, complaints are handled within two to five working days of receipt. Emergency situations that may constitute a safety threat to the community are handled immediately. Maddie plays a critical role in maintaining the quality of life for residents, as well as the appearance of the City, and RPD would like to encourage residents to contact Maddie with any questions, comments or concerns regarding code enforcement. Maddie can be reached by phone at 321.690.3984, or via email at [codeenforcement@rockledgepolice.org](mailto:codeenforcement@rockledgepolice.org).

## FERTILIZER BAN

The Fertilizer Ban is in effect until September 30. During the ban, it is unlawful to utilize any form of fertilizer that contains nitrogen and/or phosphorus. Please be sure to follow the regulations. For additional information, contact the City of Rockledge Planning Division at 321.690.3978, or visit the City website, [www.cityofrockledge.org](http://www.cityofrockledge.org).

## BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS

All businesses operating in the City of Rockledge are required to obtain a Business Tax Receipt (BTR). Businesses currently holding a valid BTR will be sent a renewal notice in early August. Renewals are due by October 1, and penalties apply if payment is received after that date. If you are currently operating a business without a BTR, please apply in person at City Hall or download the form online at [www.cityofrockledge.org](http://www.cityofrockledge.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Building Division at 321.690.3984.

## ROCKLEDGE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT



*Mr. Sparkle Car Wash, 565 Barton Blvd. (before)*

The City of Rockledge and the Rockledge Community Redevelopment Agency recently completed an innovative adaptive reuse project, which will enhance safety and improve the visual appeal along Barton Boulevard. A grand opening and ribbon cutting was held on June 10, 2016, to commemorate the occasion.

In 2014, the defunct Mr. Sparkle Car Wash, 565 Barton Boulevard, was listed for sale. In the hopes of being able to acquire the eyesore and transform it into something of benefit to the community, the Rockledge Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners authorized staff to begin negotiations. After witnessing a number of near-misses between cars and buses along the busy roadway, Rockledge Assistant City Manager David Henderson suggested converting the property into a bus pull-off and shelter. City and agency staff met with representatives of Space Coast Area Transit (SCAT), who were very receptive to the idea, and a successful "public-public" partnership ensued.

Because the proposed project aligned with a number of goals and objectives of the Rockledge Community Redevelopment Plan, including the elimination of slum, blight and unsafe/unsightly structures, the Redevelopment Agency spearheaded the effort, and City Council granted final approval for the purchase. The transformation started by demolishing three of the four car wash bays, with conversion of the remaining bay into the bus shelter. The project also provides for a bus pull-off in front of the shelter, where buses can safely exit Barton Boulevard; combines three bus stops into one, including two stops that were right up against very busy intersections; and contains a landscaped public parking area.



*565 Barton Blvd. (after)*

Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc., served as the contractor on portions of the project, and the City's Public Works Department renovated the shelter and installed the landscaping.

## ROCKLEDGE FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATE IN UNITED WAY'S FEED & READ PROGRAM

The Rockledge Fire Department, along with the Rockledge Professional Firefighter's Association, will partner with the United Way for the organization's annual summer Feed and Read Program. In an effort to combat hunger and increase opportunities for reading during the summer months, Feed and Read provides nutrition, mentoring, and free books to children in need during the summer break. Beginning in June, Firefighters will be onsite at the McLarty Park Community Center every other Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon to read to and interact with the children and spread the message of fire safety. The program runs through August. Thanks RFD!

## BREEZE SWEEP PROJECT UPDATE

The septic-to-sewer conversion project in the Breeze Swept subdivision began in January 2016 and is currently about 25 percent complete. The volume of coquina rock was much higher than anticipated; however, some engineering changes have been approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that will accelerate the progress of the overall project. Removing septic tanks near the Indian River Lagoon will reduce negative impacts on the Lagoon's water quality. The City also thanks the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns River Water Management District for providing additional funding. The \$3 million project is being aided by nearly \$1.7 million in State grant funding.

## PROGRESS CONTINUES ON BARNES

The Barnes Boulevard widening project continues and appears to be on schedule for completion by June of 2017, as per the terms of the contract. Most of the utilities are complete, and current emphasis is on sidewalks, drainage, and the actual roadway. Because delays are expected, whenever possible, motorists should avoid the roadway during working hours. Brevard County has governmental oversight on the project.

## FROM THE FINANCE DIVISION

The 2016-2017 Fiscal Year begins on October 1, 2016, and runs through September 30, 2017. Preparations for the FY 2016-2017 Budget began in June, and a public workshop will be held in August, with two subsequent public hearings scheduled for September. Recently, the City received the 2015 Annual Audit, which reflected a healthy financial status with no material issues. If you would like to provide input on the Budget process, please contact Assistant City Manager David Henderson at 321.690.3978.

## FLOOD ZONE DETERMINATIONS

**Notice to Lenders, Real Estate Agents, Insurance Agents, Prospective Home Buyers and Homeowners:** The Building Division will gladly make flood zone determinations for properties within the City limits of Rockledge. Elevation certificates are available for properties in special flood hazard areas upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Building Division at 321.690.3984.

## CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAKES IN OVER \$15,000.00

On Saturday, June 4, the City of Rockledge hosted its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual City Employee Charity Golf Tournament at Turtle Creek Golf Club. Forty-seven sponsors and 115 golfers



stepped up to raise over \$15,000.00 for the benefit of the American Cancer Society – Rockledge Relay For Life, whose mission is to *“save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.”*

The tournament culminated with a luncheon and the awarding of prizes for the first- through third-place teams, as well as for a number of contests, including closest to the pin, longest drive and putting. The lucky last-place team was also recognized and received bowling passes for its efforts.

What began nearly 20 years ago as just a fun day of golf for City employees has blossomed into a successful fundraiser. Since its inception, the City of Rockledge City Employee Charity Golf Tournament has raised in excess of \$175,000.00 for deserving organizations throughout Brevard County, including The Children's Hunger Project, Space Coast Honor Flight, and numerous others. The tournament coordinators and volunteers are confident that the \$200,000.00 threshold will be broken in 2017. Each year, one of the City's five departments selects the beneficiary, so it is truly an all-embracing City event.

## UPDATE ON THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

The State Legislature recently approved an additional \$26 million in funding for efforts to restore the Indian River Lagoon. A large portion of this funding will go toward muck dredging and removal. The City has been very pro-active in its activities to reduce pollution and assist in restoring the Lagoon. For example, the City is currently in the final stages of construction and has approved a Quality Assurance and Acceptance Procedure or Program (QAAP) for a 26-acre stormwater treatment facility called Huntington Lakes 2. This will provide data as to the effective removal of nutrients and pollution of the treatment facility.

In addition, Fernwood Drive is in the process of having treatment-basket inserts installed in two existing catch basins upstream from the Lagoon. These basket inserts are routinely emptied and maintained much like the larger baffle boxes that intercept the drainage discharge pipes.

Please remember that grass clipping and yard debris blown into the road will eventually get washed down the storm drain and into the Indian River Lagoon. Per City Code, clippings are to be blown back into the yard, or bagged so that they can be picked up on the scheduled day of your yard trash pickup. Thank you for contributing to the health of our Lagoon!

## FLORIDA AVENUE FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT

At a special meeting on June 15, 2016, the Rockledge City Council awarded a \$590,000.00 contract to Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc., for the installation of a sewer force main replacement on Florida Avenue between Morris Park and the south side of Taylor Park. The project, slated to begin immediately and be completed by the end of summer 2016, also includes an upgrade to the lift station at Morris Park. Please anticipate some traffic delays during construction. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to improve our infrastructure!

## CITY OF ROCKLEDGE – 2016 HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE (JULY – DECEMBER)

### For household garbage ♦ yard trash ♦ recycling collection

Holiday Observed	No pick-up on this day (City offices closed)	Household garbage If regular days are Mon & Thu, pickups will be on	Household garbage If regular days are Tue & Fri, pickups will be on	RECYCLING/YARD TRASH If regular day falls on observed holiday, pickup will be on
Independence Day	Mon, July 4	Tue & Thu	Wed & Fri	Tue, July 5
Labor Day	Mon, Sep 5	Tue & Thu	Wed & Fri	Tue, Sep 6
Veterans Day	Fri, Nov 11	Mon & Wed	Tue & Thu	Mon, Nov 14
Thanksgiving Day	Thu, Nov 24	Monday Only	Tuesday Only	NO PICK-UP
Day after Thanksgiving Day	Fri, Nov 25	No other pick-up this week	No other pick-up this week	Regular pick-up will resume next week
Christmas Day	Mon, Dec 26	Tue & Thu	Wed & Fri	Tues, Dec 27

# ROCKLEDGE - PRESERVING THE PAST ... PLANNING THE FUTURE

## Important Phone Numbers

- ◆ Rockledge City Hall.....321.690.3978  
James P. McKnight, City Manager  
David Henderson, Asst. City Manager  
Betsi Beatty Moist, City Clerk  
Steve Wilson, Community Advocate  
Alexandra Bernard, Planning Coordinator
- ◆ Fire Dept.....321.690.3968  
Tim Matson, Fire Chief
- ◆ Police Dept.....321.690.3988  
Joe LaSata, Police Chief
- ◆ Building Division.....321.690.3984  
Dennis Clements, Building Official
- ◆ Public Works Dept.....321.690.3961  
Ken Poole, Director
- ◆ Waste Water Dept.....321.690.3975  
Alan LaDuke, Director
- ◆ More info.....www.cityofrockledge.org

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## ROCKLEDGE FARMERS MARKET MOVES TO SUNDAY!



At the Rockledge Farmers Market, you will find the freshest produce, homemade baked goods, jellies and

jams, and MUCH MORE, every **Sunday** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Larry L. Schultz Park**, corner of Fiske Boulevard and Levitt Parkway! Against a picturesque backdrop, vendors sell a variety of interesting products. Come on out and shop the market, grab a bite to eat, and then relax at the park!

## UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City offices and departments will be closed on the following days:

- ◆ Monday, July 4 (Independence Day)
- ◆ Monday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day)
- ◆ Friday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day)
- ◆ Thursday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving Day)
- ◆ Friday, Nov. 25 (Day after Thanksgiving)
- ◆ Monday, Dec. 26 (Christmas Holiday)
- ◆ Monday, Jan. 2, 2017 (New Year's Holiday)

Police and Fire and Emergency Services Personnel will remain on duty during this time. Enjoy your holidays!

## Rockledge City Council

Thomas J. Price  
Mayor

Dr. Joe Lee Smith  
Council Seat 1

Richard K. Blake  
Council Seat 2

T. Patrick O'Neill  
Council Seat 3

Frank T. Forester  
Council Seat 4

Duane A. Daski  
Council Seat 5

Ted J. Hartselle  
Council Seat 6