

City of Satellite Beach

BEACHCASTER

YOUR OFFICIAL CITY NEWSLETTER • JUNE - JULY 2014



Ordinance establishes regulations on fertilizer

On November 6, 2013, City Council adopted Ordinance 1074 establishing regulations on fertilizer applications within the City. All counties and local governments were required by the State to adopt minimum standards for fertilizer use. Like most cities in Brevard, Satellite Beach adopted more stringent standards to make greater strides toward protecting the Indian River Lagoon habitat from fertilizer run-off. The complete ordinance can be viewed at www.satellitebeachfl.org. Its major provisions include:

■ Fertilizer should not be applied during the rainy season from June 1 to September 30 or during the warning

period of a significant rain event.

■ When fertilizer is applied, it should be no closer to a water body than 10 feet. Plantings within this 10 feet are encouraged to be a “low maintenance” type requiring little to no fertilizer.

■ When selecting a general-purpose fertilizer for lawns, the nitrogen (N) should be at least 50 percent slow-release and the fertilizer should contain no phosphorus (P). To determine this, check the three numbers on the fertilizer container. For example, 6-0-10 would mean 6 parts nitrogen (N), 0 parts phosphorus (P) and 10 parts potassium (K).

■ Because grass clippings contain nutrients and pesticides, they should

never be introduced into the water body either directly or indirectly through storm drains. Always blow your grass clippings back into the yard from streets and sidewalks.

To learn more about your lawn and how to take care of it while keeping our lagoon healthy, attend the University of Florida’s hands-on “My Brevard Yard” workshop at the David R. Schechter (DRS) Community Center on June 19 from 6 pm to 7 pm. Pre-registration is required. Seating is limited to the first 20 who sign up. For further information, visit www.brevard.ifas.ufl.edu and click on the ‘My Brevard Yard’ link or call the Satellite Beach Recreation Department at 773-6458.

City Manager’s Corner... City finances back on track!

Over the past year, our City has worked hard to improve our financial reporting and financial condition. Last May, City staff overhauled our budget presentation to provide residents with easy-to-read, factual information regarding our revenues, expenditures, debt, and reserves. Our finance team—Assistant



City Manager Andy Stewart and Assistant Finance Director Christine Fain— assembled a budget that won the prestigious “Distinguished Budget Presentation Award” from the Government

Association (GFOA), which includes government entities in the U.S. and Canada. In addition, our City closed out FY 12/13 with another clean audit. This audit is on our website, and the video of our auditor presenting the material to City Council can be viewed there as well.

There are a lot of rumors regarding our City finances, so it’s important for residents to know the facts.

City Reserves. For the past four years, our City experienced declining reserves. At the end of FY 11/12, we had a zero balance in our unrestricted reserves. To address this crisis, your City Council made two major policy decisions to enable us to reach our goal of increasing City reserves to \$1.3 million.

1. In a written agreement with Brevard County last year, our City agreed to return a portion of our Community Redevelopment funds to the taxing authorities (our City and Brevard County) at the end of each of the next eight fiscal years. The funds being returned to our City are being placed into reserves. Coupled with consistently reducing costs, this arrangement returned \$548,368 to City reserves at the end of FY 12/13.
2. City Council created a policy which requires 80% of City reserves to be placed in a dedicated Stabilization Fund. This fund cannot be used for anything except emergencies (such as a natural disaster) unless the Council specifically votes to approve another purpose for any portion of that fund.

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Dog waste stations making a difference

The new sidewalk along Cassia Boulevard is gaining in popularity. Unlike the previous bike path, the new sidewalk is off the roadway, providing a safer route to school for Surfside Elementary students, as well as a safe, comfortable walking route for all pedestrians.

The increase in pedestrian traffic is evident at all times of the day or evening. Accompanying this pedestrian increase is an increase in pet activity. The sidewalk and adjacent green space provide the perfect environment for walking pets. Most owners are responsible and remember to pick up after their pets. However, there are those, for whatever reason, who do not. This behavior is unfair to responsible pet owners and to the environment.

The sidewalk was installed as part of the Cassia Drainage Project, Phase III. During light to moderate rains, the swales on either side of the sidewalk are designed to hold water and allow percolation back into the soil, rather than allowing it to drain into the Indian River Lagoon. During heavier rains, the water will build up and drain into the raised inlets in the swale for transport into the Lagoon. To keep them from entering the Lagoon, contaminants (including pet waste) need to be kept out of these swale areas.

Pet waste may contain parvovirus, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms,



threadworms, campylobacteriosis, giardia, and coccidia. If left unattended, they will contaminate the water and soil, and they can even cause infection in both pets and humans (especially children). The microscopic hookworm larvae can be passed to another pet or person directly through the skin or by accidental ingestion, as can bacteria.

In order to make pet waste removal easier, the Public Works Department has installed pet waste stations along the Cassia Boulevard sidewalk. These stations were purchased by our Beautification Board and donated to the City. In addition, Board Chair Judy Kraemer worked with the Surfside Elementary art

teacher, Patty Tizen, and her 4th grade art class to help raise awareness of the pet-waste issue. The class made colorful and cleverly-worded signs, which were then placed at the waste stations to encourage their use. The combination of stations and signs has worked, according to the Public Works crew which maintains the area. They are seeing much less pet waste, which is very good for everyone.

In addition to cleaning up after your pet on public property, we ask that all pet owners be good neighbours and remember to keep pets on a leash. This will help prevent your animal from depositing pet waste on others' private property.

Overhanging trees and overgrown vegetation a concern

Satellite Beach has long been known for its beautifully-landscaped homes. Many of these homes are lined with trees located in the right-of-way area between the street and the property line. Recently, there have been concerns about overhanging trees and overgrown vegetation abutting roadways and sidewalks. Low-hanging tree branches can damage high-profile vehicles such as fire trucks, delivery vehicles, and RVs. In some cases where trees are located very close to the street, untrimmed limbs can also impede automobile travel or block traffic signs. In addition, some

pedestrians have to alter their routes due to low-hanging branches or palm fronds and overgrown vegetation blocking sidewalks. In addition to damage and inconvenience, vehicle and pedestrian safety is the greatest concern.

City Code states that homeowners are responsible for any vegetation located in the right-of-way area abutting their property. In order to prevent trees and vegetation from being a problem, we're asking residents to check the trees in these areas of concern for possible trimming needs. Please help us keep Satellite Beach as safe as it is beautiful.

Restoring oyster reefs in our Lagoon

Overseen by the Brevard Zoo, an ongoing project to **make oyster-restoration mats** for the Indian River Lagoon will continue on **June 28, July 26, and August 23 from 10:00 to 11:30am** at the **David R. Schechter Community Center**.

Because of overharvesting, habitat degradation, reduced water quality, disease, and boat wakes, oysters are disappearing from the Lagoon. Because they improve water quality and clarity by filtering water—one oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day—they are important to the health of the Lagoon. Oyster reefs also stabilize shorelines and provide food and habitat for many species of fish, birds, and invertebrates.

The **Oyster Reef Restoration Project** was started in 2005 by Dr. Linda Walters of the University of Central Florida and has been joined by the Brevard Zoo. Constructed from mesh and oyster shells, the oyster mats are placed in the Lagoon to provide a natural substrate on which oyster larvae settle. This restoration technique has proven to be very successful; after one year in the



water, an average of 97 new oysters settled on each mat!

But this project needs your help! Just show up, plan to get a little dusty, learn about this species from Brevard Zoo staff, help our Lagoon, and have a great time!

City Manager's Corner

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City Debt. Our City currently has \$5,628,719 in debt for capital projects, distributed as shown below.

- **Community Redevelopment Trust Fund** owes \$4,285,000. A portion of our City's and the County's property taxes collected from properties within our Redevelopment District is the dedicated funding source for this fund, which can be used only for redevelopment projects within the District. This fund is governed by Florida Statute, which allows local governments to accumulate Community Redevelopment funds for a project for a maximum of only three years. This means that large-scale redevelopment projects (such as Pelican Beach Park) that require more than three years for planning, design, construction, and completion would not be possible without borrowing money to meet the three-year window.
- **Stormwater Utility Fund** owes \$919,486. The stormwater utility fee assessed on each property within our City is the dedicated funding source for this fund, which can be used only for stormwater improvement projects. Seven major projects to upgrade our deteriorated stormwater drainage system have been completed, with grant funds paying more than half the cost. Similar to financing for redevelopment projects, grant funds also must be used within a limited time, so our City borrowed the money to provide required matching funds.
- **Capital Assets Fund** owes \$424,233. The utility tax on electricity and natural gas (including bottled gas and propane) is the dedicated funding source for this fund, which can be used only for capital expenditures (purchase and renovation of the Schechter Community Center, police vehicles, and public works equipment).

It is important to note that our **General Fund**, which is used for operating expenses to provide City services, has no debt. Overall, our debt is well-managed and comparable to other local governments our size.

As I observe my first anniversary as City Manager, I look forward to continued service to the residents of our great City! Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions and comments.



Off to the races!

Each year at Beachside Grille, Satellite Beach resident Warren Greene and other patrons conduct a Kentucky Derby Hat Day in which they participate in a hat-decorating contest and pick the horses that will win or show in the derby. Every year, proceeds from this event are donated to the Satellite Beach Fire Department. This year, participants donated more than \$640, which will be used to support the Department's public safety programs in Satellite Beach. A big thank-you to all who participated in this fun event!

Prevention... to reduce hurricane damage

Even with today's forecasting technology, preparation to help protect your home and belongings is needed before a hurricane is headed your way. Hurricanes can produce both high winds and extensive flooding. You can't prevent the weather, but you can prevent the damage. Satellite Beach residents need to take action now to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

TIPS ON HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE

■ Plan—and know—your evacuation route. Satellite

Beach residents are to use Pineda Causeway and the Pineda Causeway Extension to I-95.

■ Or take shelter at:

- Sherwood Elementary - 2541 Post Rd, Melbourne
- Eau Gallie High School - 1400 Commodore Blvd, Melbourne

■ Register NOW with the Special Needs Program (for individuals with specific health and medical conditions).

Registration Request Forms can be obtained from:

- Home health care agencies,
- Hospice,
- Medical supplies companies, or
- Brevard County Emergency Office at (321) 637-6670 Monday – Wednesday.

■ Prepare a survival kit. For a detailed list of emergency supplies, contact your local Red Cross or check out the following websites:

- www.fema.gov
- www.redcross.org



■ Purchase a battery-powered weather radio.

■ Make arrangements for pets. Pet shelters are located at:

- Palm Bay Regional Park
- Port St. John Community Center
- Viera Regional Park Community Center

■ Plan and purchase materials to secure your home.

■ Secure personal papers and valuables.

HURRICANE WARNING MESSAGES

Learning the hurricane warning messages and planning ahead can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage.

■ Hurricane Watch - A watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours. When a "watch" is issued, begin final preparations:

- Cover all windows with storm shutters or precut plywood. Tape does not work.

- Bring in trash containers and loose objects, which may become projectiles during high winds.

■ Hurricane Warning - A warning is issued when hurricane conditions (winds of 74 miles per hour or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas) are expected in 24 hours or less. All preparations should be completed. Be prepared to evacuate. When a "warning" is issued:

- Monitor radio and television for information and advice.
- Stay indoors and away from windows.

■ Evacuation Order - Under State of Florida law, it is mandatory to comply with an evacuation order. **If ordered to evacuate, please comply.** If you live in an area ordered to evacuate, gather your survival kit and leave immediately. For hurricane information, listen to NOAA Weather Radio 162.4 MHz.

Hurricane Season Begins June 1st. Are You Prepared? Hurricane Season Ends November 1st

National drug take-back initiative

The Satellite Beach Police Department recently partnered with Walgreens Pharmacy in the National Drug Take-Back Initiative. This year, residents disposed of 214 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter drugs that normally would have ended up in our water system. Police Chief Jeff Pearson reports that this year's total was the largest yet for Satellite Beach and added, "We encourage our residents to dispose of their unused and old drugs in this fashion." Chief Pearson also wants to thank Ernie Libby, Manager of the Satellite Beach Walgreens, and his entire Walgreens staff for advertising the event and being an outstanding community partner.

Volunteers wanted for City boards!

Residents are encouraged to take a leadership role in their City government by volunteering to serve on a board or committee. There are vacancies on the following boards/committees:

- **Beautification Board:** meets the 1st Friday at 9:00 a.m.
- **Code Enforcement Board:** meets the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee:** meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Comprehensive Planning Advisory Board:** meets the 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning and Zoning Advisory Board:** meets the 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Recreation Board:** meets the 1st Tuesday at 6:15 p.m.
- **Samsons Island Park Committee:** meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

For an application or information pertaining to board/committee membership, please contact the City Clerk at 773-4407 or email at lolexa@satellitebeach.org.

City Council Election on November 4th

An election for two City Council seats will be held on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014**. Councilwoman Sheryl Denan is eligible for re-election and Councilman Dominick Montanaro is eligible for election following his appointment to fill a vacant Council seat.

The City Council consists of four Councilmembers and a Mayor who are elected at-large by the City's voters. They all serve without salary, but are compensated for expenses as provided

by the City Code. They may serve two full consecutive terms.

Qualifications: A candidate for City Council must be a registered voter who has been a resident of the City for at least one year prior to the date of qualifying and who has filed the necessary documents with the City Clerk between **August 7 through 20, 2014**.

If anyone has questions or would like to obtain a campaign packet, contact City Clerk Leonor Olexa at 773-4407.

Police Department News

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We're looking for individuals to participate in our **Citizens On Patrol (COP) Program**. This requires a two-hour commitment each week after training has been completed, and we also have special events where you can provide COP assistance if interested. In addition, we have other volunteer opportunities to help our Police Department. Applications are available on our City's website, or you can contact Linda Harlow at 773-4400.

STOP BY & SAY HI PROGRAM

Through our **Stop By & Say Hi Program**, Police Department volunteers provide friendly social visits to anyone in our City. If you know someone who could appreciate this companionship, referral forms are available on our City's website, at our Police and Recreation Departments, and at City Hall.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2, 2014

- Adopted Resolution #947 approving financing for one new fire truck to replace two old fire trucks
- Adopted Resolution #948 approving a "Complete Streets" policy for our City

APRIL 16, 2014

- Demonstration of our Recreation Department's new online registration software
- Proclamation recognizing April 21, 2014 as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) Powertalk 21 Day

MAY 7, 2014

- Adopted Ordinance #1091 amending FY 13/14 Budget
- Accepted FY 12/13 Audit Report from our City's Auditors
- Approved final cost estimate for Sports Park football field expansion

MAY 21, 2014

- Adopted Resolution #950 supporting "Communities for a Lifetime" initiative through Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Brevard Commission on Aging
- Approved renewing rental agreement allowing Satellite High School Robotics Club to use our Civic Center's Oleander Room
- Adopted Ordinance #1092 streamlining our City's site plan review and approval process

Satellite Beach Farmers Market

In response to requests by residents, Satellite Beach is pleased to host a **Farmers Market at Pelican Beach Park**. Currently open on **Thursdays from 2pm-7pm.**, it is one of our Recreation Department's special events overseen by Jacqueline Gilcher. Pelican Beach Park offers great visibility for the market as well as easy patron access, and the Thursday afternoon schedule does not inconvenience our beachgoers.

Currently, we have two vendors, who offer items such as produce, herbs, and honey. One vendor is **Coastal Marketplace**, which sells select produce (including organic) from farms in Mims, Tampa, Merritt Island, and Cocoa. With advance notice by phoning our Recreation Department or by posting a request on their Coastal Market Facebook page, they will try to accommodate special requests. The other vendor is **Simply Savory Gourmet Blends**, which sells gourmet olive oils and dips which you can sample. Feedback from City residents will guide future decisions about the Farmers Market.

During inclement weather, the market may operate in the large pavilion at the park. Look for the colorful roadside banners showing the market is open.

For further information or to become a vendor, contact Jacqueline Gilcher at the Satellite Beach Recreation Department at 321-773-6458 or email jgilcher@satellitebeach.org.



55+ Club

The 55+ Club is for folks 55 years and older, and holds regular Bingo games, card games, craft and book club meetings, cribbage, dinners, exercise groups and more. You do not have to live in Satellite Beach to join. For more information, call Chairperson Marty Hindsley (321) 777-8313 or Martinhindsley@yahoo.com. Unless otherwise noted, 55+ programs meet in the David R. Schechter Community Center, 1089 S. Patrick Drive.

- **BINGO MONDAYS**, Mondays 11am-1:30pm (doors open at 9:30am) at the Satellite Beach Civic Center, 565 Cassia Blvd. Members only, and bingo card fees apply. Contact Louise T. 773-3160.
- **CARDS & GAMES**, Thursdays 9am-3pm and Wednesdays 6pm-9pm.
- **COUPON GROUP**, 3rd Wednesday 2pm-3pm at the Satellite Beach Library. Contact Terry 773-7705.
- **DINNER GANG**, 1st Tuesday every other month, 5:30pm. Location varies. Contact Floss 773-6073.
- **EARLY BIRD DINING AND DANCING**, 2nd Wednesday 5pm at the Neptune Grille Restaurant in Satellite Beach. Contact Joan 777-0238
- **FISHING CLUB**, 2nd Thursday, 1pm-2:30pm. Contact Gene 773-4647.
- **INDOOR WALKING GROUP**, each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30am-8:30am at the DRS Gymnasium.
- **TRAVEL GROUP DAY TRIPS**, contact Terry 773-7705. Extended Trips (overnight), contact Jill 773-2080.

ADULTS

■ **Tuesdays at 4:30pm – Yoga with Nancy.** Bring a mat or towel and wear loose, comfortable clothing. \$5 per class. Contact Nancy at 777-7167.

■ **Tuesday, June 3 or June 17 at 1pm – How To Use Your Smartphone.** It's not just for phone calls anymore! Learn how to get the most use out of your phone, bring your App Store, Google Play, and/or email account names/passwords so you can actively participate. Cost is \$5 per class. To register, call Barb at 321-591-7669. Each class is limited to 20 participants.

■ **Saturday, June 14 at 9:30am – STERP Training and Education** by the Sea Turtle Preservation Society. Contact Dave Cheney at 321-507-4295 for information.

■ **Monday, June 16 at 2pm – Estate Planning, Probate and VA Benefits** by the Law Office of Amy Jackson. Call 345-5945 or chris@amybjackson.com for information.

■ **Tuesday, June 17 at 6pm – What is CSI?** Adults are invited to attend this teen event to learn more about crime-scene science with the BCSO.

About the LIBRARY

■ **Saturday, June 21 at 10am – The Gift of Life-The Reality Behind Donor Organ Retrieval.** A miracle of modern medicine is to transplant organs to save lives. Learn more about this interesting topic. Contact Traci Graf, RN, at 321-506-8591.

■ **Friday, June 27 at 1pm – The Bead Ladies Are Here!** Design and make a beaded one-strand watch bracelet with a watch face in this 2-hour workshop. Cost is \$15, which includes all materials, tools, and instruction. Contact Normandie & Nancy at 321-225-1394 or thebeadladiesarehere@gmail.com.

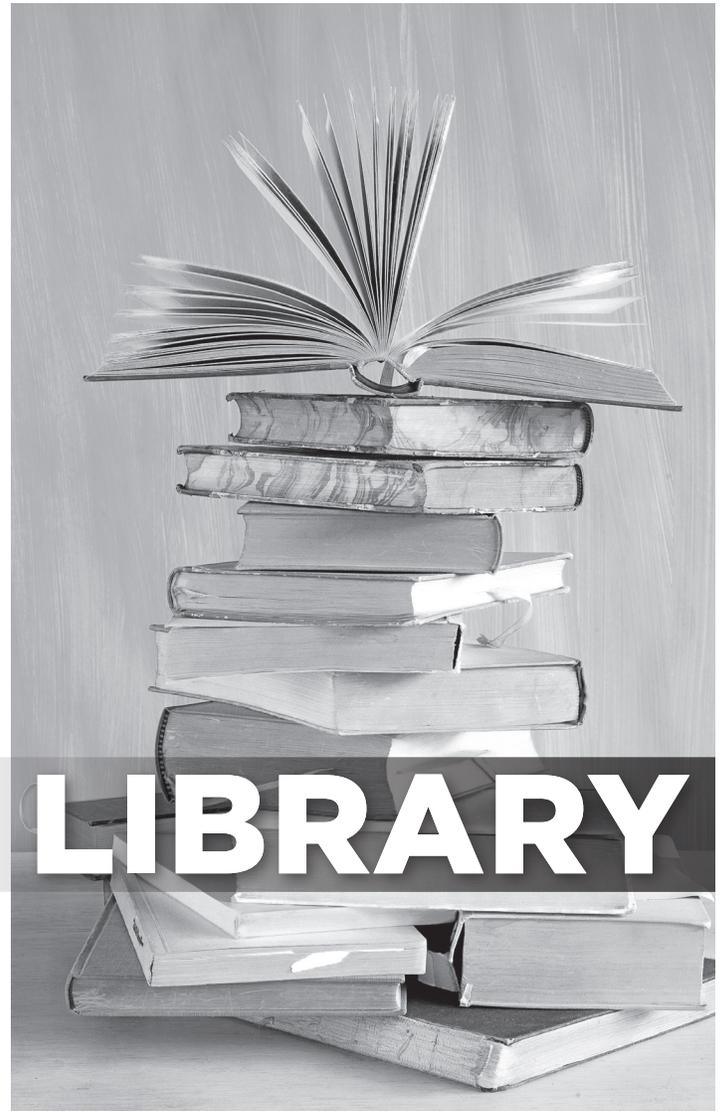
■ **Monday, June 30 at 1pm – Barbara's Book Chat.** An informal discussion of good books. Contact Barbara in the reference department or call 779-4004 for information.

CHILDREN

■ **June 2-July 26 – Fizz-Boom-READ! 2014 Summer Reading Program.** This year's theme is science, with special programs on **Wednesdays at 10am for ages 4-11** and story time on **Thursdays at 10am for ages 2-5**. Stop at the Youth Services Desk to pick up a brochure. Pre-registration and/or tickets are required at most Wednesday programs. Sign up for Book Bucks on June 2!

■ **Wednesdays at 4pm – Yoga for Kids.** Wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel or mat. \$5 fee per class per child. Ages 5 and up.

■ **Monday, June 16 at 3pm – Rave About Your Fave.** Sunshine State Book Club (Grades 3-6). Discuss your favorite SSYRA books over snacks.



■ **Essay Contest** – NASA is holding an Education Essay Contest with the prize winners receiving an Overnight Camp Sleep Under Atlantis at KSC. Pick up the essay requirements at the Youth Services desk. For ages 7-14.

TEENS (Ages 12-18)

■ **June 2-July 26 – Spark a Reaction - 2014 Summer Teen Events.** Special programs will be on Tuesdays at 6pm for ages 12-18. Join the Teen Challenge and enter the contest to win a Kindle. Pick up a flyer in the Youth Services area.

■ **Tuesday, June 3 at 6pm – Teen Book Club.** Skype with Ashfall trilogy author Mike Mullin.

■ **Saturday, June 7 at 2pm – Teen Advisory Group.** DIY Ice Cream Social.

■ See **The Fault in Our Stars** author John Green and a Journey to Amsterdam displays. Read/listen to the book before you see the movie! E-book, hardcover, and audio formats available.

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Recreation News

Summer Programs in Full Swing in Satellite Beach!

The Recreation Department continues registration for all their exciting summer programs. The variety is almost endless, with classes in archery, science, dance and gymnastics, cooking, and languages, just to name a few. For a complete listing of all our summer programs, stop by and pick up a copy of our Summer 2014 Activity Brochure or visit us online at www.satellitebeachrecreation.org. Don't delay, as many programs may already be reaching their maximum enrollment!

New This Summer

The Recreation Department is now accepting credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) as a form of payment. A processing fee of \$1.95 or 2.5%, whichever is greater, is charged by the processing company when a credit card is used. Online registration is also now available. Simply confirm yourself as a customer and add a password, or create a new account. The processing fee also applies to online checkout with your credit card. The online site is easy to use; however, if you need some help,

the office will be glad to assist. To go online, begin at the Recreation Department home page and follow the instructions. Happy recreating!

Summer Swim Program

The Recreation Department will begin its second summer of swimming instruction for youth of all ages at the Satellite High School pool. This program is exceptional, as our swim instructors are American Red Cross Water Safety Certified. Courses are offered in the morning in two-week sessions beginning June 2 and ending July 24. There will be classes for Moms and Tots, Preschool, and Level 1 through Level 4. To add to the fun, we have set aside 12noon-1pm for those wishing to join the summer recreation swim team. The Satellite Beach Recreation Swim Team will challenge the Indian Harbour Beach Recreation Swim Team to several swim meets over the summer. In addition, Brenda Salmon, Satellite High School's Swim Coach, is offering an hour of swim-team practice for swimmers who are already in a competitive or high school swim program. This is basically extra time in the water, June 2-July



24, Monday-Thursday 7:30-8:30am, for competition swimmers working to achieve faster swim times. Sign up for any of the classes or swim team activities at our Recreation Department or online.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Recreation Department has a variety of volunteer opportunities, including administrative assistance, summer camp helpers, and special events. If you need academic community-service hours or want to have an impact on your community, we have an opportunity for you! It's simple to view and sign-up by visiting our ONLINE Sign-Up Genius at www.signupgenius.com/go/508044DA8A92FA64-summer.