



Since 1963

# EMICA COMMUNITY NEWS

**January 13th Speaker: Mr Gubler, Save Our Lagoon Septic to Sewer projects.** Mr. Gubler agreed to speak to us again to give us an update on our East Merritt Island community.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Neighbors,

2026 is shaping-up as consequential year in our community. The opening of the Amphitheater at Veterans Park, final construction stages in the new hospital, proposed planning of a nearby LNG storage facility, & some pressing traffic/road construction proposals are issues concerning our residents. Before we focus too much on what is unfolding in the new year, we still have the past & present-day challenges of sewer conversions, lagoon health, & governance in our unincorporated Island.

In our upcoming meetings our speakers are:  
January, Mr Gubler from Brevard County will give us an update on the status of sewer conversions.  
February, a representative from the Brevard Zoo who will update on the planned Port Canaveral Aquarium.  
March speaker will be from the Brevard Sheriff's Office discussing the growing threats of cyber crime & how to avoid being a victim.

As always, we invite your participation in our efforts to contribute information, ideas, and content that we can share with neighbors. We wish all a Happy and healthy new Year!

Sincerely, Richard Cripps, EMICA President

## ARE YOU LAGOON LOYAL?

Join the movement to protect the beautiful Indian River Lagoon right from your own home! Lagoon Loyal has tips and simple actions you can take in your everyday life to help reduce excess nutrient pollution to the Indian River Lagoon. Plus, you can earn rewards by reporting your actions. Let's speed up the Lagoon's recovery together. Visit [Lagoon Loyal](http://LagoonLoyal.com) to learn more



Join us at our monthly meetings (excluding June, July, August & December)

**MEETING TUESDAY, JAN 13th @ 7pm, Lighthouse Church, 1250 N Banana River Dr**

**JANUARY 2026**

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**BLUE ORIGIN'S INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PERMIT TO DISCHARGE .49 MILLION GALLONS/DAY OF INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY TO FLOW OUT INTO OUR LAGOON**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has scheduled a public meeting regarding the draft renewal of Blue Origin's industrial wastewater permit.

**The meeting will be held on January 30 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at: Brevard County Extension Service Bldg, located at 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, FL 32926.**

The purpose of the meeting is to receive public input on the proposed permit renewal. The permit would authorize Blue Origin to operate a 0.49 million gallons per day (MGD) industrial wastewater treatment facility. The facility would discharge 0.467 MGD of process wastewater and 0.015 MGD of non-process wastewater to a large onsite stormwater pond (402,981 square feet in surface area), with eventual discharge into the Indian River.

**PROPOSED LNG PLANT ON THE BARGE CANAL**

Chesapeake Utilities Corp & BHE GT&S propose to build a liquid natural gas (LNG) production and storage facility on Merritt Island, beside the barge canal at a site less than 1/4 mile from the densely populated Island Crossings neighborhood. They addressed the Canaveral Port Authority at the December 10 meeting, seeking to acquire some 40 acres for their site. The authority will discuss the proposal at their January 28 meeting at 9AM.

The facility would provide local demand for LNG for cruise ships & rockets, now supplied via barge from LNG facilities elsewhere. The proposed completion in 2029 would provide 50 to 100 jobs.

Residents are concerned about safety. Huge volumes of natural gas will be piped into the facility, purified & cooled to produce LNG to be shipped via barges & trucks. Gas leaks (not LNG leaks) are a major safety concern.

Also concerning are the byproducts, such as hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide & benzene must be removed from natural gas before it is cooled to make LNG. Existing LNG plants typically burn off- "flare"- these gases. During periodic maintenance, the tanks and cooling facilities are (cont'd on page 4)

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## JANUARY SPEAKER INTRO - MR. GRUBER

### CONVERTING OUR SEPTIC TO SEWER

Our January Speaker has been leading the county Save Our Lagoon Septic to Sewer projects for many years. Mr. Gruber agreed to give us an update on the conversions that are happening in our community.

"As of 2018, there were an estimated 53,204 septic systems in Brevard County within the Indian River Lagoon watershed." The typical septic system, brand new, only removed about 30-40% of the nitrogen that feeds the algae blooms. These systems, on sandy soil and close to the groundwater, can contribute high amounts of pollution to the Lagoon.

In 2023 the state legislature passed a law requiring septic conversions to sewer in many areas. In December, the County Commission amended the minimum amount of funding available for those applicants approved for septic system upgrades.

<https://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon>

### OUR SECOND FUNDRAISER

We will have a collection box at the church only through the meeting's end on 1/13/26. GotSneakers, only collects sneakers, no other type of footwear

For payment, GotSneakers will only collect the following brands in SIZE 8+ Adidas, Allbirds, Altra, APL, Asics, Brooks, Columbia, Converse All-Stars, Fila, Hoka One One, Jordan, Keen, Merrell, Mizuno, New Balance, Newton, Nike, On, Puma, Reebok, Salomon, SAS, Saucony, Skechers, Sorel, Timberland, Topo, Under Armour, & Vans.

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## FLOOD SMART

Low elevation, a higher water table season and storm surge risk are factors that our neighborhood faces. Here are some things that you can do to lower your property flood risk. Purchase flood insurance. Florida has been updating flood maps to more accurately reflect flood risk. <http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>  
~Minimize hardscapes. Rain cannot filter into the water table when the soil is blocked by a solid hard surface and must gather in larger streams of water that carries away more soil.

~Elevate electricals. Raising your electrical components even a foot could keep them dry in heavy rains.

~Keep important documents dry. Birth certificates, passports, insurance documents, photo and video household inventories, etc.

~Elevate your home. There are flood insurance discounts for each foot the house is elevated off the ground.

~Use flood resistant materials. "Note: Use of flood-resistant materials does not prevent damage. Some amount of clean-up and cosmetic repair will usually be necessary."

The state of Florida created a flood mitigation plan that will raise 2000 homes in 2026. <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/elevate-Florida/>

Brevard County participates in the FEMA Community Rating System so that we qualify for an overall 10% on our flood insurance premiums. BC last certified in 2024. <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>

## New: 2025 Breaks Climate Records Congress Must Act

[Sign the Petition](#)

For more details, please visit our facebook page EMICA East Merritt Island Community Association.

JANUARY 2026

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Steven G. Kennedy  
Owner



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**WE ARE IN NEED OF HELP  
WITH OUR EMICA WEBSITE**

Are any of our members website savvy or do you know someone that would be willing to help us as far as technical help and also with dealing with costing issues? We just need minimal time invested. Thank you!

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(cont'd from page 2)  
depressurized & purged of residual gases, which are also flared. Natural gas itself may be released at times, bringing its "rotten egg" smell from chemicals added for safety. Will residents be able to smell gas when the wind was out of the north?

LNG, once produced, is relatively safe. At Port Canaveral's LNG fire training academy, students are confronted with a large cauldron of LNG and challenged to set it on fire. "They discover that they cannot do it.

*For more details, please visit our facebook page: EMICA East Merritt Island Community Association.*



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