EMICA COMMUNITY NEWS

East Merritt Island Community Association

Since 1963



September 8th Speaker: A representative from the League of Women's Voters to speak about Amendment 3 (Property Tax).

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Having been away from the area for five months & viewing things from afar, I appreciate how dynamic our Island has become. When mentioning where we are from, The Space Coast is no longer just a local term but a recognition of the vibrancy of our area. For some, this increased awareness is not welcome & a threat to the easy-going living that attracted them to Merritt Island. Our goal at EMICA is to inform, educate, & advocate for residents on matters that are important to our community. The importance of community to influence policies & support initiatives can not be understated. Your support is vital & always welcome volunteers for our efforts. If you have the time & want to contribute to making our community better, please contact any of the board members.

Fall is always a new year and we have numerous projects underway. Our first back to Fall meeting will be September 8th at our regular location at Lighthouse Church. The League of Women Voters will be making a presentation on the important local and state ballot initiatives this November. We will be hosting our first "Planting with a Purpose" event on October 3. We believe this will be a family event for all!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our September 8 meeting.

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 to learn more

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

MEETING TUESDAY, SEPT 8 @ 7pm, Lighthouse Church, 1250 N Banana River Dr

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON AMENDMENT 3 COME TO OUR MEETING ON SEPT 8TH

Voter ballot initiatives are often overlooked in general elections. But not this year! Amendment 3 is a proposal to significantly change how property taxes are assessed for permanent Florida residents. **For our meeting September 8**, we will have representatives from the nonpartisan Leagues of Women Voters (LWV) to provide an overview of the Amendment 3 details to help voters make an informed choice. Don't just depend on social media for your information. Grab a friend and spend an hour understanding what is being voted on.



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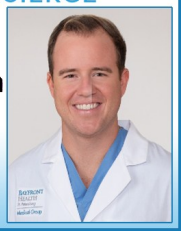
GARDENING & REPAIR CAFÉ UPDATES

Oct 24. The Master Gardeners are planning a Plant Sale at the Discovery Garden in Cocoa. There will also be tool sharpening & tours that identify the plants & their purposes.

Repair Cafe is going well while in its planning stages. I will be fixing and showing how to fix items on the sewing machine. We will be doing this particular aspect of the repairs at the Cocoa Library and the Merritt Island Library. There are four sewing machines at the Cocoa Library used by members during their Wednesday class time. We will have one repair day there during their normal creative time. More information to follow.

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ATLANTIC COAST CONCIERGE



TURTLE PRESERVATION

From: Sea Turtle Preservation Society
Newsletter May 1, 2026

Climate change is causing sea turtle moms to change their nesting behaviors. A recent study of loggerheads in the Cabo Verde archipelago off the West Coast of Africa found that females are nesting earlier due to warmer temperatures. In addition, the productivity of their feeding grounds has declined. So, it takes longer to build up their reserves and nest again. The 17-year study found that the interval between nesting increased from about 2 years to 4 years. Furthermore, the researchers discovered that the females laid fewer nests each season with fewer eggs in each nest. (4)

Helping Nesting Sea Turtles

During nesting season from March 1st through October 31st, it's important that we protect nesting female sea turtles, their eggs, and hatchlings. Here are a few things you can do to help:

Keep the Beach Clean and Flat – After you visit the beach, please be sure to pick up clothes, shoes, toys, chairs, umbrellas, trash and also, please fill in any holes and flatten any sand castles or mounds. These obstructions can prevent females from nesting and keep hatchlings from reaching the ocean.

Lights Out on the Beach – Artificial lights can disorient nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings. If you live beachside, be sure to follow Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Sea Turtle Lighting Guidelines.

Avoid the Beach at Night – If you must be on the beach at night, don't use flashlights or phones to see and never use a phone or camera flash to take pictures.

Respect Nesting Sea Turtles, Their Nests, and Hatchlings – Keep your distance (at least 50 feet) and do not touch or disturb nesting sea turtles, hatchlings, or their nests.

Do Not Walk on Sand Dunes – Use designated crossovers and walkways and follow posted signs.

Keep Pets Off the Beach – Please keep pets away from the beach and other areas where sea turtles and birds are nesting.

Avoid Boat Strikes – As sea turtles gather just offshore during nesting season, boaters are advised to post a lookout for marine animals, wear polarized sunglasses to help see animals in the water, and follow all posted speed signs.

Please dispose of Fishing Line, Netting and Plastics properly. In Brevard County, recycle fishing line using the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program.

Also, in support of the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, there will be a Turtle Krawl on September Register at: https://www.turtlekrawl.com/All proceeds support the education and conservation efforts of the Turtle Society, located in Indiatlantic.

Learn more about how you can help nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings by reading Florida FWC's "Be a Beach Hero" brochure.

What To Do If You Find a Distressed, Sick, or Injured Sea Turtle

If you are in Brevard County and see a sea turtle that is trapped or struggling, or a hatchling crawling in the wrong direction, please call the STPS Emergency Hotline 321-206-0646. Be sure to provide the location (street address if possible), condition of the turtle, and your name. We will call you back on the phone number that you placed the call from. For more information, see the STPS Emergency Information webpage.

Everywhere else in Florida, please call the Florida FWC at 1-888-404-3922.

Call us for a free market analysis of your home.



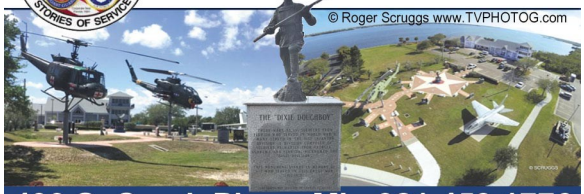
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EMICA
(East Merritt Island Community Association)

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Bring application with cash or check to the Meeting or Mail check to: **EMICA, P O BOX 540511 Merritt Island, FL 32954-0511**