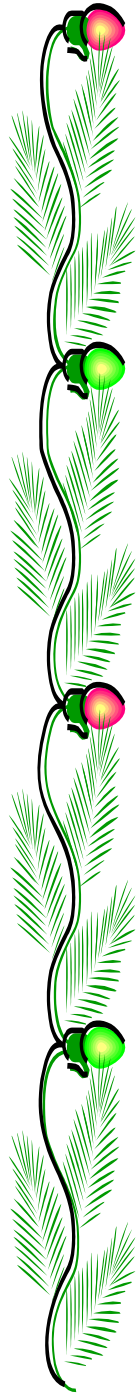


About Town

The Official Newsletter of the City of Rockledge

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!



“WINTER WONDERLAND” is the theme for the 2011 Cocoa-Rockledge Holiday Parade, which will be held on [Saturday, December 10th, at 10:00 a.m.](#) The parade will begin at Cocoa Central Reference Library in Cocoa; proceed south on Florida Avenue and end at Rockledge High School at approximately 11:30 a.m. Entry forms are available at Rockledge and Cocoa City Halls, Central Area Mainland Recreation office, and at McLarty Park, Joe Lee Smith Park, Travis Park and Cocoa West Community Center. Award categories include Adult Civic, Youth Civic, Adult/Youth Civic, School, School Marching Band and Commercial. One trophy will be awarded for JUDGES’ CHOICE. For additional information, call [Vicki Bennett at 633-1874.](#)

[LIGHT UP ROCKLEDGE](#) will be held at Rockledge City Hall on [Saturday, December 3rd, at 6:00 p.m.](#) This will be the official kick-off of the Holiday Season in Rockledge with the simultaneous illumination of the decorations at all of the City’s public buildings. Trinity Lutheran will be playing the hand-bells, and Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be making an appearance. Our very own Assistant City Manager, Dave Henderson, will be reading “The Night Before Christmas.” The public is encouraged to attend, and The Rockledge Environmental Enhancement (T.R.E.E.) Board will provide refreshments. For additional information, call [Rene LaMarr at 305-4975.](#)

[THE 19TH EDITION TOWN ORNAMENT](#) goes on sale at Light Up Rockledge. This year the ornament will feature **Jimmies Restaurant**. The ornament is snow white with red print, and the cost is \$8.00, including tax. Limited supply of previous edition ornaments can be purchased for \$5.00 each, including tax. These ornaments can be purchased at Rockledge City Hall.

[THE HOLIDAY HOME & BUSINESS DECORATION CONTEST](#) is again sponsored by the [T.R.E.E. Board](#). Nominations must be submitted to City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 7th. Judging will be conducted on December 8th and awards will be presented at the City Council meeting on December 21st. Nomination forms are available at Rockledge City Hall.

More information, parade entry forms and nomination forms are available online at www.cityofrockledge.org on the Events page for December.

The Three A's of Holiday Crime Prevention



Be **AWARE** of Your Surroundings, Be **ALERT** to Suspicious People and Vehicles, **AVOID** Dangerous Situations.

- Is it absolutely necessary to carry a purse at all times? A wallet or credit card in a pocket would be less tempting.
- Carry only the amount of cash or credit cards that you need.
- Zip or close purse securely to avoid pickpockets. Carry purse or shoulder-bag in front of you and close to your body. Do not carry spare keys in your purse.
- Keep your purse on your lap when dining or at meetings.
- Avoid carrying a lot of packages; it can make you look defenseless.
- In the supermarket, do not leave your purse in the shopping cart. **REMEMBER: Out-of-sight, out-of-mind, out-of-purse!**
- Avoid displaying valuables such as jewelry or large sums of money. Also, dress so you can walk or run easily to avoid an attack.
- Do not enter your driveway if a suspicious vehicle has followed you. Go to the nearest safe location, or an area where there are people and call 911. If you are confronted in your driveway, remain in your locked car with your windows up and blow your horn. The distance from your car to your front door is no man's land.
- When using the ATM, make sure that it is not in a secluded location and is well lighted. Also, use the "buddy system." Go directly to your car and count the cash in your vehicle, not at the ATM.
- At home, do not display all your gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Going on vacation for the Holidays? Have a friend or family member check on your home and leave emergency contact information with them.
- Be aware of where you are and where you are going at all times. Stay away from a potentially dangerous area or situation.

Trust your instincts. If you suspect something is wrong, or if a situation seems dangerous, you may be right! Don't dismiss suspicious people, cars, or situations. Report them immediately. Call **9-1-1 for EMERGENCY** and **(321) 690-3988 for NON EMERGENCY**.

BE SAFE & HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Chief Ron D. Krueger

ROCKLEDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Single Stream Recycling Update

The Sanitation Division is now one month into the Single Stream Recycling program. Although not enough time has elapsed to do a precise comparison from the previous recycling program, there are already some good results. Compared to 2010, **the amount of recycling by weight has increased 69%**. There is no significant change in the comparison for garbage by weight. We have a long road ahead in meeting the mandate of 75% total recycling and reducing the household waste stream to 25%, but this is a great start to reaching the goal. Thank you for recycling!



Stop Crime in Its Tracks!

Precautious Communication from the Rockledge Police Department

We realize you work extremely hard for all your possessions; please don't allow anyone to take them without your permission.

Unfortunately, over the past several months, large numbers of Rockledge residents have encountered vehicle burglaries. **Now is the time to stop this cycle.** Don't become the next target. A few extra seconds can significantly decrease your chances of becoming the next victim.

- **Lock Your Vehicle Doors:** the majority of burglaries occur in Rockledge because vehicle doors are unsecured. The criminals look for easy access and they are successful when residents don't take the time to lock their doors.
- **Nothing In Plain View:** take the time to remove all valuables from your vehicle every night before you lock up tight. If the criminals can see your valuables, they are going to want to seize your valuables.
- **Don't Fall Short To Report:** we want to know of every crime. Even if nothing was removed from your vehicle, but you notice it's not the way "you" left it, report this unlawful intent to the Rockledge Police. Your information can give us the "missing link" to other related crimes.
- **Be A Good Witness:** if you notice something/someone suspicious or unusual in your area, please notify the Rockledge Police immediately. We highly rely on your information to give us the "jump on the case". We are more successful with your active participation. Please assist us so we can better assist you.
- **Remember:** most vehicle burglaries occur during the late evening or early morning hours, when the criminal assumes you are unaware. Let's show the "bad guys" it's not safe to assume and Rockledge residents are fully aware of how to "batten down the hatches".

Non-Emergency Line: (321) 690-3988

EMERGENCY: 911



Stormwater Monitoring at Barton Park

The City of Rockledge, in concert with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Camp Dresser McKee (CDM) Engineering, and Flowers Community Lab are proceeding with the monitoring program associated with Barton Park Stormwater Facility. The monitoring of the 774-acre basin will evaluate the effectiveness of pollutant load removal for the next twelve to eighteen months. The receiving body for this treatment facility is the Indian River Lagoon, which is being monitored as a National Estuary for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that mandates a reduction in Nitrogen and Phosphorus pollutant contributors.



Thank you for supporting our preservation of natural resources!

BUILDING DIVISION NEWS

Building Permits are for Your Protection

Any homeowner will tell you “there is always something I want to do to my house!” In the current economic environment, many homeowners are planning to renovate, remodel, add an addition, or have other work done to their existing home. Building permits from the [Rockledge Building Division](#) are required to ensure that construction meets the requirements of all state, city, zoning and fire prevention codes. Inspections are conducted on all permits to ensure the safety and welfare of the citizens of Rockledge.

Most of all, remember that permits and inspections are in place to help protect you as a citizen of Rockledge. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to call the Building Division. Our staff is here to help you! Call us [Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm at 690-3984](#).

Hire Only Licensed Contractors

If you hire a contractor to do any work, make sure the contractor is properly licensed and insured as required by Florida Statutes. Essentially, if you pay someone to construct a building or a structure, make structural alterations, or perform services such as plumbing or air conditioning work, for example, that person has to have a state contractor’s license. Other types of work may require licensing at the local level. By hiring a licensed contractor, you will have peace of mind knowing that the project will be done by someone who has taken the time to acquire that appropriate education and the proper workers compensation and/or liability insurance and who possesses the necessary experience. It is extremely important to be cautious when contracting for home improvements and storm repairs. Educate yourself, become an informed consumer, and protect yourself from dishonest persons who will use your misfortune to their advantage.

In addition, pulling an Owner/Builder permit can be Risky Business! If you do not intend to do the work yourself and have been asked by someone without a contractor’s license to pull the permit, you are at risk of financial harm. In addition, Section 489.103 (7), Florida Statutes, has specific requirements and conditions in order to pull an Owner/Builder permit. For more information, contact the Building Division, or speak with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation at [850-487-1395](#) or online at www.MyFloridaLicense.com.

Code Enforcement News

Rockledge is known for being an attractive, well-kept city. This is in large part due to the great relationship that Rockledge Code Enforcement has with its citizens. To help keep the City beautiful by reporting possible code violations, [contact Code Enforcement at \(321\) 690-3984](#). Such violations may include: overgrown grass and weeds, junk vehicles, expired tags on vehicles, construction without a permit, etc. You may also submit Code Enforcement violations through our web site at www.cityofrockledge.org.

Holiday Canned Food Drive

The City of Rockledge will collect nonperishable food items at all City facilities [until December 14](#), to benefit the Central Brevard Sharing Center. [This is the 16th year of a special City of Rockledge versus City of Cocoa competition.](#) Last year, the combined food drive netted more than two tons of non-perishable foods to benefit the needy in our community. Last year, WE beat Cocoa, so let's keep the honor this year, Rockledge! Boxes are placed at City facilities and local businesses for your convenience. There is a great need in our community this year, so please consider how you can help.

[Please visit these local drop off locations:](#)



[Rockledge City Hall](#), 1600 Huntington Lane

[Rockledge Community Redevelopment Agency](#), 888 Cardinal Avenue

[Rockledge Police Dept.](#), 1776 Jack Oates Boulevard

[Rockledge Public Works Dept.](#), 1400 Garden Road

[Rockledge Wastewater Treatment & Water Reclamation Dept.](#), 1700 Jack Oates Blvd.

[Rockledge Fire Station #1](#), 1800 US Highway 1

[Rockledge Fire Station #2](#), 1600 S. Fiske Boulevard

[Rockledge Fire Station #3](#), 3500 Murrell Road

[Huntington Place](#), 1775 Huntington Lane

[Schlenker Automotive](#), 396 Barton Boulevard

Remember, the real winners are the Central Brevard Sharing Center and those less fortunate individuals in our communities.

Rockledge Says Goodbye to Schultz and Stuart

Rockledge recently closed another chapter in its rich 124+ year history when a crowded assembly bade a fond farewell to long-time mayor Larry L. Schultz. Schultz served as Mayor for 12 years after serving as Seat #1 Councilman for 21 years. Just before the end of his tenure at 7:41 p.m. on November 16, 2011, several dignitaries from throughout Florida, as well as Rockledge notables, joined Councilman Dick Blake in a comical, sometimes side-splitting sendoff as they shared stories of their public service relationships with Larry Schultz. Often referred to as a 'Rocket Scientist', Larry received accolades from Florida League of Cities Executive Director Mike Sittig, FLC Deputy Executive Director Patty Hilaman, current FLC President and Altamonte Springs Mayor Patricia Bates, Oviedo City Councilman Keith Britton, former Rockledge Councilmen Robert A. Anderson and Kendall T. Moore, and on behalf of the City Council and the Executive Staff, City Manager Jim McKnight. With his departure, Larry takes with him more than three decades of service to the citizens of Rockledge, a legendary career etched with pride in his hometown, dignity in his persona, wisdom in his decisions, patience in his guidance, and leadership that knows no bounds, from Rockledge to Brevard County to the State of Florida and beyond.

In another page turned, there remains a shorter chapter, albeit equally as poignant – that of Colleen M. Stuart. Colleen served the citizens of Rockledge as a member of the City Council in Seat #3 for five years, the past two as Council Chair/Deputy Mayor, after being appointed in May 2005 by the then-City Council. Remarkably enough, Colleen served on the City Council without ever having to campaign for her seat, a fact that some might see as confidence in her ability and satisfaction with her service, undoubtedly traits recognized by the City Council that appointed her in the first place. Her prior service rested with the Planning Commission, where her membership spanned nearly a decade.

We tip our hats to both of these outstanding Rockledge leaders, and wish them the best in their new role as "resident" and in their future endeavors.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

In 2002, City Council established the Rockledge Community Redevelopment Agency to advance revitalization of the City's specially designated redevelopment district through public investments and public-private partnerships, resulting in a more inviting area in which the private sector will want to actively invest. This is accomplished, in large part, to building community, enhancing the aesthetic nature of the City and the redevelopment district, and hosting a number of signature events to bring people back to the heart of Rockledge!

Rockledge Community Garden

The first-ever Rockledge Community Garden is in full bloom! The Community Redevelopment Agency began exploring the possibility of implementing a community garden in 2010, and the property at 889 Barton Boulevard was identified because of its strategic location in the heart of the Rockledge Community Redevelopment District. "The benefits of a community garden are many," said Redevelopment Specialist Lisa Nicholas. "Not only do community gardens beautify an area, but they also teach self-reliance and foster friendships and a feeling of camaraderie within the garden and ultimately the entire community." Established in late August 2011, the Community Garden's 26 plots are currently filled, and a waiting list is being maintained. There is an annual membership fee of \$45. Those interested in being placed on the waiting list can [contact Lisa Nicholas at 305-4975](#).

Rockledge Farmers Market

In an effort to serve its customers better, the weekly Rockledge Farmers Market, held every Thursday, [moved to its new location in the parking area at Rockledge City Hall in early November](#). "Relocating the weekly farmers market just makes sense," said City Manager Jim McKnight. "We will be able to accommodate additional vendors, offer a wider variety of products to the market's patrons, and provide convenient and accessible parking." In addition to relocating, the Thursday markets will also be operating under new hours – [11 a.m. to 6 p.m.](#) – to provide shoppers with an opportunity to stop by and pick up items after work. While the Rockledge Farmers Market will continue to evolve, current items offered for sale include gourmet coffees, homemade baked goods, homegrown produce, orchids and other plants, spices and sauces, and unique gift items. An effort to recruit additional vendors is underway. Those interested should [contact Rene LaMarr at 305-4975](#).

Fourth Annual Art & Craft Show

[On Feb. 4 and 5, 2012, the Rockledge Community Redevelopment Agency will sponsor the Fourth Annual Art and Craft show](#). Boasting nearly 80 vendors, the show draws craftsmen from near and far, and criteria for vendor admission into the show are high, ensuring that attendees will find unique, one-of-a-kind gifts, art and more. On Saturday, the show is held in conjunction with the city's "Cruise-On-In" car show, where a great number of classic cars line Barton Boulevard opposite exhibitors.

"This event gets better every year," said City Manager Jim McKnight. "This will be our fourth show, and we continue to make improvements and fine tune the details based on feedback we receive from our exhibitors and the community. We want to do whatever we can to make both our vendors and attendees feel welcome and at home," McKnight said. The show will run on [Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.](#) In addition to the classic car show on Saturday, there will be food vendors and other entertainment. The public is welcomed to attend, and admission is free!

NEWS & NOTES CONTINUED...

U.S. 1 Gateway Sign

Construction of a new gateway sign at U.S. 1, just north of Dixie Lane, has begun! Because gateway signage creates a sense of welcoming and “place,” it is fundamentally important within redevelopment areas. Gateway signage is depictive, and, if effective, it will offer visitors and residents alike with a feeling of arrival and community. Primary gateway signs are the very first ones visitors see when they cross into the limits of a city and begin forming their impressions of it. As such, gateway signage can have deep meaning to a city’s visitors, potential investors and residents. Be on the lookout for this beautiful sign – it will be completed soon!

To learn more about the composition and activities of the Rockledge Community Redevelopment Agency, please visit www.chooserockledge.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chooserockledgenow.



SPRING EVENTS

Boogie Down at the Hall!



The City of Rockledge and the Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce cordially invite you to the **16th Annual Table Top Expo & Wednesday/Friendsday** at Rockledge City Hall, 1600 Huntington Lane **Wednesday, March 7, 2012** from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



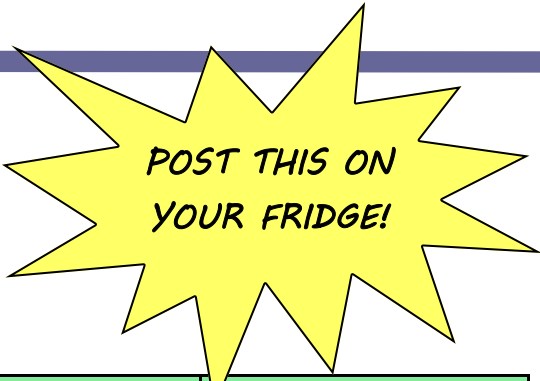
This year’s theme is “Disco,” so drag out those bellbottoms and get down tonight, baby!

If you would like more information, please [contact Rene LaMarr at the Community Redevelopment Agency, 305-4975](#). The event is open to the public, with a **\$10 charge for Chamber members and a \$20 charge for non-members**, which covers food, drink, entertainment, and exhibit access.

Mark Your Calendars for Trash Bash 2012

The City of Rockledge and Keep Brevard Beautiful invite the citizens of Rockledge and Brevard County to join them on **Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. until Noon, for the Great American Cleanup**. Registration will take place in the Rockledge City Hall parking lot at 1600 Huntington Lane. The first 100 participants will receive free T-shirts, and there will be a cookout after the cleanup. If your organization or civic group would be interested in participating in this year’s Trash Bash, [please call Rene LaMarr at the Community Redevelopment Agency, 305-4975](#). Let’s keep Rockledge beautiful!

**City of Rockledge
 Holiday Schedule For
 HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE • YARD TRASH •
 RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**



2011/2012 HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE	NO PICK-UP ON THIS DAY (OFFICES CLOSED)	HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE If regular days are MONDAY & THURSDAY, Pickups will be made on	HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE If regular days are TUESDAY & FRIDAY, Pickups will be made on	RECYCLING/YARD TRASH IF REGULAR DAYS FALLS ON OBSERVED HOLIDAY, PICKUP WILL BE MADE ON
Christmas Day 2011	Dec 26th (Mon)	Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday, Dec. 27th
New Year's Day 2012	Jan. 2nd (Mon)	Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday, Jan. 3rd
Martin Luther King Day 2012	Jan 16th (Mon)	Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday, Jan. 17th
Memorial Day 2012	May 28th (Mon)	Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday, May 29th
Independence Day 2012	July 4th (Wed)	Monday & Thursday	Tuesday & Friday	Thursday, July 5th
Labor Day 2012	Sept 3rd (Mon)	Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday, Sept. 4th
Veterans Day 2012	Nov 12th (Mon)	Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday, Nov. 13th
Thanksgiving Day 2012	Nov 22nd (Thu)	Monday Only No Other Pick-up This Week	Tuesday Only No Other Pick-up This Week	NO PICK-UP Regular pick-up will resume next week
Day After Thanksgiving 2012	Nov 23rd (Fri)			
Christmas Day 2012	Dec 25th (Tues)	Monday & Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Wednesday, Dec. 26th

Note: This schedule is only for households within the City limits of Rockledge.