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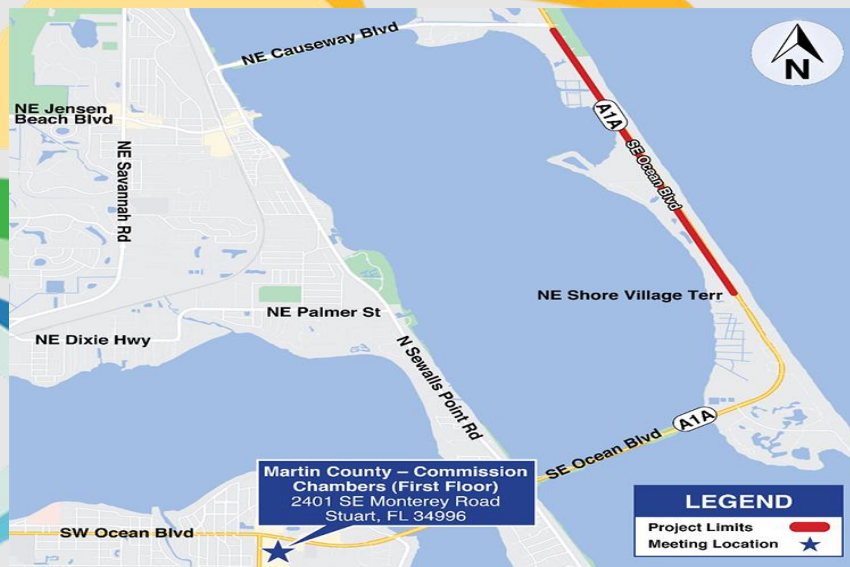
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## FDOT PAVING PROJECT UPDATE

Article by Angela Rantinella, President HIPI



The following is an update to the repaving project on SR A1A, NE Ocean Boulevard, from NE Shore Village Terrace to south of SR 732, Jensen Beach Causeway Boulevard provided by:

Kris McKirdy, P.E., District 4 Pavement Design Engineer, Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation. Phone: (954) 777-4586 Email: [Kris.McKirdy@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Kris.McKirdy@dot.state.fl.us)

There will be a second public meeting, similar to the first that was held last fall. Property owners within 300 feet of the project limits will be invited, as well as local officials and other stakeholders. Lighting plans will be reviewed sometime in July. The second public meeting is currently scheduled for July 13, 2023, but that may be pushed back. Notices will be sent out to stakeholders at least one week prior to the meeting.

For more information click on the link below:

[FDOT Treasure Coast Construction - SR A1A FROM NE SHORE VILLAGE TER TO SR-732/JENSEN BEACH CAUSEWAY \(d4fdot.com\)](https://d4fdot.com/Projects/2018/01/10/2018-01-10-FDOT-Treasure-Coast-Construction-SR-A1A-FROM-NE-SHORE-VILLAGE-TER-TO-SR-732/JENSEN-BEACH-CAUSEWAY)

Here is the scope of work proposed and what to expect:

### Scope of Work:

- Repave and restripe the existing roadway within the project limits
- Provide traffic calming measures including:
  - Rumble strips on the approaches of the existing roundabout at SR A1A/NE Ocean Boulevard and SR 732/Jensen Beach Causeway Boulevard
  - Install speed feedback signs
- Lighting improvements between Hutchinson Shores Resort and the existing roundabout
- Replace and upgrade existing pedestrian curb ramps to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards
- Minor shoulder widening will be completed to increase the paved width to 5-feet at select locations
- Upgrade signing and pavement markings

### Construction Impacts:

- Work will be done in phases to reduce the effects of construction on the community
- No construction will be allowed during weekends
- Access to properties adjacent to the corridor will be maintained throughout construction

The plan had also called for the addition of a roundabout 1500' south of the Jensen Beach roundabout at Hutchinson Shores Resort and Rigels Cove Way. New streetlights would have connected the existing roundabout with the new roundabout. Fortunately, through the help of concerned residents and other groups such as HIPI who attended the public meeting last October, FDOT has decided not to construct the roundabout. Thank you everyone for your support!!

# UNPERMITTED FENCE/BARRIER ON HUTCHINSON ISLAND BEACH

Article by Patty Jones, Secretary HIPI



Pictures of the unpermitted fencing/barrier on the beach off NE Ocean Boulevard, across from the Publix Grocery Store were provided to the Martin County Compliance Officer and the Growth Management Department last March, 2023. The fencing was installed by two neighboring homeowners enclosing a portion of the beach and the dune preservation zone for approximately 200 lineal feet in front of their homes along the beach and dune. They have posted signs stating “No Trespassing. Trespassers will be prosecuted. You are on surveillance video”. All this in violation of Martin County codes.

March 23, 2023, Notices of Violation were issued to the property owners. They had until April 24<sup>th</sup> to remove all posts and unpermitted development from the dune preservation area. The owners then engaged an attorney to represent them in this matter. The attorney asked for an extension to give him time to review the issue in detail.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, a number of concerned neighbors and HIPI members attended the Martin County Board of Commissioners meeting to speak and ask for the Board’s support to uphold the County code which protects the beach and dunes. They submitted pictures along with copies of the violation letters to the Board. The Board was stunned upon seeing the pictures. Commissioner Smith said he has been around here a long time and has never seen anything like this! The Board asked staff the status. Staff reported that since failure to correct the listed violation has not occurred, this matter will be presented at a hearing before the Martin County Code Enforcement Magistrate on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., at the Martin County Administrative Center Board meeting room at 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart. Public may attend but will not be given an opportunity to comment. Letters of concern should be sent to Commissioner Doug Smith, Dist. 1, [dsmith@martin.fl.us](mailto:dsmith@martin.fl.us) with copies to Darryl Deleeuw, Head of Growth Management Department, [ddeleeuw@martin.fl.us](mailto:ddeleeuw@martin.fl.us) and Jerry Mitchell, Senior Site Compliance Officer Comprehensive Planning Division, Growth Management Dept. [jmitchell@martin.fl.us](mailto:jmitchell@martin.fl.us). Request that your email become part of the file to be reviewed by the Code Enforcement Magistrate.



# SHINY NEW FIREHOUSE

Article by Angela Rantinella, President HIPI



The opening of the new Firehouse Station 14 on Hutchinson Island in Stuart is just the beginning of many new upgrades in the county where our first responders and firefighters are housed. From the most impressive architecture on the exterior, to state-of-the-art interior features, this new “home” for them makes their lives and jobs much less stressful. According to Commissioner Ed Ciampi, the conditions of the old location at 801 NE Ocean Boulevard were substandard to say the least. It was very crowded and difficult for first responders to relax in between emergency calls. These photos show the modern elegance of the new facility. Fire Chief Chad Cianciulli talked about new technologies available to help them arrive more quickly to emergency calls. They can change traffic lights and their patterns and open gates to private communities automatically. The new firehouse garage doors open faster than any in the past and the driveway is shorter. All of these features are critical time-savers. These advances, made possible by our tax dollars, make it even safer for all Hutchinson Island residents in this district. Our fire and rescue people are certainly worth it!



## Florida Legislative Session 2023 Results



The Florida Legislative Session began in early March, 2023, and ended May 5, 2023. Numerous bills were passed and some were not. Here are some of the important environmental bills affecting the Treasure Coast and Hutchinson Island.

**Passed: HB 1379** This bill is about Environmental Protection.

\*Comprehensive Plans have to include a list of projects necessary to achieve pollutant load reductions for local Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP's) which monitor pollution to the basin. It also includes plans for sanitary sewer and solid waste plans for connecting services for more than one septic system per acre. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) reviews it.

\*Bill created "Indian River Lagoon Protection Program" allowing agencies to continue monitoring the phosphorus and nitrogen load goals. Also, it prohibits new sewage treatment and disposal systems for areas located within the BMAP's where sewer systems connection is available. No sewage disposal is allowed into certain water bodies including the Indian River Lagoon.

\* Bill increases state's land acquisition threshold for approval of contracts by the board of trustees from \$1 million to \$5 million.

\*Bill dedicates \$100 million annually to Florida Forever land acquisition program from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund

**Not Passed: SB 1240/HB 1197** This bill is regarding Land and Water Management. This bill would have prevented counties and municipalities from adopting regulations relating to water quality, pollution control, pollutant discharge or removal, and wetlands. The bill would not have applied to any existing interagency or interlocal agreement between the FDEP or water management district or local government. The bill would not have affected the authority of local government to regulate and operate its own water, waste water, and storm water systems. If a local government was found in violation of the bill, state funds could have been withheld.

Find out more at [2023 Bill Summaries - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](https://www.flsenate.gov)

### **Budget Passed – Budget inclusion of over \$260Million to Treasure Coast**

- \$100M Indian River Restoration
- \$300M Resiliency projects to mitigate the effects of sea level rising
- \$382.5M Everglades Restoration Project

For more information go to <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/budget/2023>

HPII does not support any political party or affiliation.



## FLORIDA DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER

Article by Paul Laura, Environmental Officer HIPI

Many Florida residents are unaware that we do not have the constitutional right to clean water in our state.

*“It has become clear that the current system of water protection has failed; the state executive branch is not enforcing clean water legislation according to environmental laws, legislative intent and constitutional policy.*

*The proof of dysfunction frequently makes national news, with routine harmful algal blooms, fish and wildlife mortality events and public notices of pathogenic or toxic contamination of our waters. It’s not okay. People suffer, wildlife suffers, property values suffer, businesses suffer, communities suffer. Waiting for political solutions in a system that favors pollution industries financing those politics – is a fool’s game. We need a clear, simple, legal*

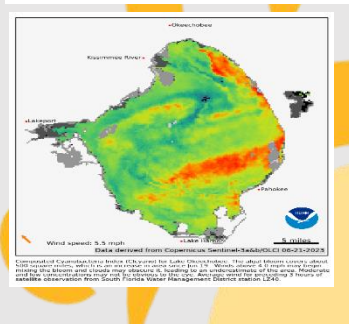


*solution to restore the necessary checks and balances for such a critical necessity to all lives – water.” Florida Right to Clean Water Website*

**For more information and to sign the petition please visit:**

[Petitions | Florida's Right to Clean Water \(floridarighttocleanwater.org\)](http://Petitions | Florida's Right to Clean Water (floridarighttocleanwater.org))

## Lake O Has Toxic Algae Bloom (cyanobacteria)



Toxic cyanobacteria in the lake — specifically *microcystis aeruginosa*, often called "blue-green algae" — was measured at a concentration of 0.56 parts per billion as of May 16, the last time it was tested, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. At 8 parts per billion, microcystin is considered harmful

to people, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

June 21, the first day of summer, is the longest day of the year. The algae thrives when three ingredients are present: strong daylight, warm temperatures and nutrients. The lake has been the perfect place for the algae to bloom since we started noticing it every year since 2005.

**This year's algae bloom is so large it can be seen and measured from space. NOAA estimates 50% of the lake, nearly 400 square miles, is covered by the fluorescent green algae that resembles the color of antifreeze.** Aerial photographs are being posted to social media by Ed Lippisch of Stuart and Ralph Arwood of Fort Myers. We are awaiting the latest cyanobacteria level.

### Photos of Lake Okeechobee and a Local Resident





## BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT

By Dottie Lanci

On Tuesday, June 20, Jessica Garland, Martin County Coastal Program Manager, will update the county commissioners on the Hutchinson Shore Protection Project.

This project was authorized in August of 1995 as a 3.75- mile project beginning at the north end of the Martin County line and continuing south through Stuart Beach. A county funded  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile strip of beach was added as a local option to round off the project distance to 4 miles. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees the operation.

So far, 6 beach restoration projects have been constructed, including partial projects in 2001 and 2002, and post-hurricane projects in 2005, 2013 and 2018. The purpose of the project is to recover sand lost on the beach and dunes to hurricanes and natural beach erosion. To date, total expenditures for all projects is \$36,835,736. Funding has been shared by federal agencies (46.59%), county agencies (28.86%) and state agencies (24.55%).

Certain parameters have been established by the Army Corps of Engineers to restore the beach and dunes to ideal conditions. These specifications may need to be modified given the recurring stress of the environment. The next project is scheduled for winter, 2024/2025. For the 2025 project, federal funds have been allocated as a result of damage done by Hurricane Nicole. State funds will also be requested for the non-federal share of the project.



## MOSQUITO INFESTATION ON THE ISLAND

By Dottie Lanci

If you feel the mosquitos are extremely vicious on the island this summer, you are not alone. According to Tristan Froud, with Mosquito Control in Martin County, the salt marsh mosquito population has exploded. This is true not only for Hutchinson Island, but for all of Martin County including

Jupiter Island and counties to the north and south of us.

A period of extended drought, followed by very heavy rainfall and high tides in the area, has caused the mosquitos to prosper. But relief is on the way. The county is aware of the infestation and has a plan. Mosquito management traps are being placed around the county to monitor the mosquito population. Larvicide will be sprayed on the mosquito impoundments areas near the island Publix and near the Jensen Beach causeway. And the county fog spray truck will be out and about. These policies will continue all summer and should bring the mosquito population under control. As a result, we should soon be enjoying a mostly bite- free summer.



## Upcoming Martin County Commissioners Meetings

### JULY 2023

- Tuesday, July 11 – BOCC Regular Meeting
- Monday, July 17 – FY 2023/2024 Budget Workshops
- Tuesday, July 18 – FY 2023/2024 Budget Workshops

### AUGUST 2023

- Tuesday, August 8 – BOCC Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, August 22 – BOCC Regular Meeting

### SEPTEMBER 2023

- Tuesday, September 12 – BOCC Regular Meeting & FY 2023/2024 Budget 1st Public Hearing – 5:05 PM
- Tuesday, September 26 – BOCC Regular Meeting & FY 2023/2024 Budget 2nd Public Hearing – 5:05 PM
- 

All meetings will be held at the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road



### REQUEST A SPEAKER

**Does your group want to know more about the Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative?**

Email [info@hipimartin.com](mailto:info@hipimartin.com) and one of our board members will be happy to attend your group's meeting and give a very brief presentation on HIPI's history and current work.

**Is there a topic or issue you or your group would like to know more about?**

Email [info@hipimartin.com](mailto:info@hipimartin.com) and let us know what topics you or your group are interested in. We want to bring speakers to the island to address the concerns of all island residents.

## Join HIPI!

### There's strength in numbers! We need your help!

When developers tried to make changes to Hutchinson Island that threaten the four story, 40 foot height limit, or endanger our animals and waters, HIPI was instrumental in preventing those changes. Our efforts stopped the 2018 project that would have installed hundreds of lights along A1A. Our questions and website and social media posts also prevented new construction on Hutchinson Island that would have included a 50+ ft tower. We were able to stop these changes to our beloved island because of the help of thousands of supporters who love Hutchinson Island and who publicly denounced these changes with us. When we speak together, our collective voices are loud and clear. Your membership in HIPI allows us to show that you, too, care about preserving and protecting Hutchinson Island in Martin County. Your membership adds your contact information to our data base, so we can send you information about activities on the island that may affect Hutchinson Island. And, most importantly, you will be the first to know when we issue or endorse an urgent call to action. Dues are only \$20/per person/year and help pay for operational costs, facilities rental and other expenses.

If you're already a member of HIPI, THANK YOU! Please renew your membership and continue to help us preserve and protect Hutchinson Island in Martin County.

Visit our website, [www.hipimartin.com](http://www.hipimartin.com) to pay online or mail the membership form below.

\*First Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ HUTCHINSON ISLAND MARTIN COUNTY RESIDENT MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_ MARTIN COUNTY ASSOCIATE MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_ NON-RESIDENT ASSOCIATE MEMBER (INCLUDES SEASONAL RENTERS)

\_\_\_\_\_ HUTCHINSON ISLAND MARTIN COUNTY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS ASSOCIATE MEMBER

\*Name of HOA (or please type private residence) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Condo or Unit Number, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

\*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Member opts in for Emails \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in Serving on Committee? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

\*Payment Type: CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name on check if different than member's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail dues payments of \$20/member/year to

HIPI

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Jensen Beach, FL 34958