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HIPI

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We're Still Here and Ready To Get Back In Action!

Hello Friends! We've missed you, but we've been staying home and staying safe. We hope you have, too.

The Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, HIPI, is a Florida nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to preserve and protect Hutchinson Island in Martin County.

The organization started in 2018 when a group of Hutchinson Island property owners came together with a shared interest in preserving and protecting the natural beauty of Hutchinson Island and ensuring Hutchinson Island property owners are informed about issues that may affect them, their property or the island.

We were just getting started as a new organization, when the Covid pandemic brought most activity to a halt. We cancelled our second annual membership meeting and held only a brief annual meeting this March via Zoom, primarily to announce the election of new officers.

Now that vaccines are available, we're hoping and planning for a return to normal activities soon. We are ready to get back to work!

We're working to bring our website up-to-date and looking forward to sharing information about issues that may affect Hutchinson Island. Look for a return of our monthly newsletters and regular updates posted on our social media pages.

CALL TO ACTION:

Lake O Blue-Green Algae at Critical Levels

As of April 21, the level of toxic algae (cyanobacteria/blue-green algae) at the Port Mayaca dam in Lake Okeechobee was 120ppb (parts per billion). Levels above 8ppb is considered highly toxic.

As we enter the rainy season, Lake O is at 13.9 feet, four feet higher than the recommended level. The Army Corps temporarily has postponed discharges to the St. Lucie River due to the algae, but discharges continue to the Caloosahatchee River.

The Rivers Coalition and our U.S. House Rep. Brian Mast ask for an urgent action by every citizen to contact the Army Corps of Engineers via letter, email or phone call. Citizens are encouraged to ask the Corps to

1. Stop discharges to the St. Lucie River/C44 Canal
2. Adopt the St. Lucie Ecology Plan 4C-1 3307 (22448), which recommends no discharges from Lake O into the St. Lucie River Estuary, for newly proposed Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM).

CONTACT THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO STOP LAKE O DISCHARGES



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Jacksonville District

Email: LakeOComments@usace.army.mil
Phone: 561.340.1527
Letter: Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 3223



Manatee Deaths Continue at Alarming Rate

An unprecedented 1000 manatees are expected to die this year, primarily due to a lack of sea grass in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL).

In our area, seagrasses have been decimated by due to discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Those discharges bring turbid fresh water and algal blooms, altering the salinity, poisoning the water and blocking the sunlight the seagrasses need to flourish.

Although Martin County is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Oceanographic Society (FOS) on Hutchinson Island to develop a seagrass planting strategy, efforts to replenish seagrasses in the IRL remain difficult due to continued discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

Please contact the Army Corps of Engineers and ask them to protect the IRL. and the people, plants and animals that live in and around it, by stopping the discharges from Lake O into the St. Lucie River Estuary.



Surrounded by the state's top environment officials, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signs an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The agreement allows the federal agency to begin construction on the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir. MAX CHESNES / TCPALM

Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Construction to Begin

63% Reduction of Lake O Discharges into Rivers Predicted

On April 22, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board unanimously approved the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allowing the Corps to begin construction of the reservoir this year. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.

Governor Ron DeSantis joined Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Noah Valenstein in Wellington to make the announcement. "Today marks a critical milestone for Everglades restoration and achieving our state's long-term environmental goals," said Governor DeSantis. "When I took office, I made expediting the EAA Reservoir Project a top priority. Signing this agreement means we are another step closer to moving more clean water south through the Everglades and reducing harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries."

The agreement was applauded by environmental groups across south Florida. This reservoir, combined with the state's three stormwater treatment areas, 6500 acres of manufactured marsh scheduled to be completed by SFWMD in 2023, will provide a 10,500 acre, 78.2 billion gallon reservoir, allowing clean water to be sent south into the Everglades and reducing Lake O discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers by a combined 63%.

Questions about HIPI? Ideas for our newsletter?

EMAIL US!

hipi.stuart@gmail.com

HIPI To Sponsor Covid Vaccine Event At Elliot Museum

HIPI To Sponsor Covid Vaccine Event At Elliot Museum

Working with the Florida Department of Health in Martin County, HIPI has partnered with the Elliott Museum to offer Covid vaccinations in June.

"We're waiting on the final plans and approval from the Health Department, but we're hoping to be able to offer no appointment vaccinations to anyone 18 and older," said HIPI president Dottie Lanci. "We're hoping this location near public beach access will be convenient place for locals to get their vaccinations."

Once all details are finalized, the information will be emailed, posted on the HIPI website and on our social media pages.



Join HIPI!

Already A Member? Please Renew Your Membership & Pay Your Dues.

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

When developers have tried to make changes to Hutchinson Island that threaten the four story, 40 foot height limit, or endanger our animals and waters, HIPI has been 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.

Please join HIPI today! Dues are only \$20/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.hipi.ch2v.com, to pay online or mail your membership form and dues to us at

P.O Box 1354
Jensen Beach, FL 34958

"HazMobile" is short for mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collection Vehicle. Residents may bring up to 100 pounds of hazardous waste to the Haz Mobile for FREE disposal. Acceptable items include aerosol cans, antifreeze, batteries, cleaners, fertilizers, filters, fluorescent lightbulbs, paints, pesticides and used cooking oil. Visit <https://www.martin.fl.us/Hazmobile> for a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable items.



JENSEN BEACH

3rd Wednesday of each month
Fire Station #16
2710 NE Savanna Road
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

SEWALL'S POINT

5th Wednesday of each month
Town Commons Park
South Sewall's Point Road
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Rolling Beach Wheelchairs Available at Local Beaches

Rolling beach wheelchairs are available for free use at all Martin County guarded beach locations including Hobe Sound Beach, Stuart Beach and Jensen Beach. Lifeguards will assist residents and visitors, just ask at the guard towers.

HIPI Honors Stuart Attorney Virginia Sherlock

In a socially distanced ceremony in April, former HIPI President Ralph Jones presented Stuart attorney, Virginia Sherlock, with an award in recognition of her unwavering support of HIPI, her invaluable assistance in helping us make our fledgling organization a reality, and her commitment to the protection and preservation of Hutchinson Island. The HIPI Board of Directors previously had voted to make Ginny a life member of the nonprofit and ex-officio member of the board. We are honored and humbled by Ginny's support of our efforts to preserve and protect Hutchinson Island.





Membership Form

*Required Information

*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
P.O. Box 1354
Jensen Beach, FL 34958