

Bethune Beach Property Owners Association



Welcome
from
Bethune Beach
Property Owners
Association



Welcome

from

**Bethune Beach Property
Owners Association**



Welcome from Bethune Beach Property Owners Association



inside cover

Bethune Beach Property Owners Association Welcome Booklet

Version 2

Published December, 2020.

Sources

1. *Bethune Beach now named a Historic Site* by Casmira Harrison (Daytona Beach) [News-Journal](#).
2. *Mary McLeod Bethune in Florida* by Dr. Ashley N. Robertson, 2015. (Pages 60 to 78)
3. *Isn't That God's Water? The Advent and Demise of Bethune Volusia Beach Incorporated* by Ethel Cook-Wilson, 2015. (Pages 59, 62, 85, 87, 93, 101, 113, 123)
4. *New Smyrna Beach* by ????

Cover Photograph

"Sunset Lagoon" courtesy of Robert Clibbon, <http://www.clibbongallery.com>

Acknowledgements

Welcome Booklet Committee

Mary Lynn Gray, Ellen McLatchey, Betty Story, Wyndee Thoorp,

The Bethune Beach Property Owners Association

Welcomes You to Bethune Beach

The Bethune Beach Property Owners Association (BBPOA) is delighted to welcome you to beautiful Bethune Beach, an unincorporated community in Volusia County located south of the City of New Smyrna Beach and north of the Canaveral National Seashore. We are pleased to have you as a BBPOA member and we look forward to getting to know you.



Photograph "Golden Dawn", courtesy of Bethune Beach resident, Robert Clibbon

This booklet has been developed to help you assimilate into the community and to share information about BBPOA and the history of the area. The content of this booklet is divided into three sections:

- I. BBPOA Membership and General Information
- II. Pertinent Community Information
- III. History of Bethune Beach & New Smyrna Beach

BBPOA Membership & General Information

To become a BBPOA member, you will need to complete a Membership Application which can be found on the [BBPOA website](#). Your Application and annual dues in the amount of \$25 per household should be sent to the BBPOA address listed below. A membership drive is conducted every year from **December to February** to renew current memberships and solicit new members.

BBPOA Contact Information

Bethune Beach Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 1704

New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32170-1704

Insert BBPOA email address

Website: <http://www.bethunebeachfl.com/home.asp>

BBPOA Meeting Information

When: Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month except for the months of July and August.

Where: Silver Sands Civic Building, 5 Palm Drive,
New Smyrna Beach

Time: Pot Luck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are scheduled from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Recurring BBPOA Events

Annual Fish Fry - May

Annual Picnic - October

Annual Holiday Party - December

BBPOA Objectives

The BBPOA is comprised of five Board members who are elected in February for a one year term beginning in March. Board members serve on a volunteer basis and are regulated by the BBPOA by-laws which can be viewed on our [website](#).

BBPOA Goals

The BBPOA By-Laws have established the following goals:

- To provide an opportunity for residents to socialize and become acquainted with one another
- To promote the mutual welfare of all residents and property owners of Bethune Beach
- To gather and disseminate information so that the individual members can act in what they feel is their best interests

Section I - Bethune Beach Property Owners Association

Since its humble beginning in Margaret Johnson's backyard and its official organization in 1981, the Bethune Beach Property Owners Association (BBPOA) has been run by volunteers who share a passion for their community. For most residents, Bethune Beach is more than a home, it's a lifestyle - a lifestyle that relies on its residents to preserve and protect the glorious and fragile ecosystem that we call home.

By joining their voices together, BBPOA members were able to get utilities extended from New Smyrna Beach to Bethune Beach and succeeded in getting the area's first established mail routes. Before we had the South Beach Fire Station, BBPOA members volunteered as local firefighters because fire protection was not provided by the County.

One of BBPOA's early founders, Margaret Johnson, had the idea of organizing our streets alphabetically and naming the streets after local fish. She was successful in getting the east/west streets renamed adding a logic and charm to the community that reflects its beach and fishing culture.

In 1986, BBPOA helped raise funds toward the development of Mary McLeod Bethune County Park which was built on the site of George Engram's old "casino". Members donated funds for the park's landscaping, flagpole, appliances and air conditioning. They also helped raise funds to purchase a plaque honoring George Engram, early honorary mayor of Bethune Beach.

Later, BBPOA member and first BBPOA President, Sonny Ellison, took steps to have the County add a crosswalk across Turtle-mound joining the east and west sides of the Mary McLeod Bethune Park. Sonny also worked to ensure that the boat launch at the entrance to Cape Canaveral National Seashore would always be open to the public, even when the Park is closed.

Since its early days, BBPOA has sponsored an annual Student Achievement Award in which high school seniors who are residents of Bethune Beach are awarded \$1,000 to be used toward advancing their education.

In 2019, BBPOA began providing support to CUDAS UnHooked, a local non-profit organization that raises charitable donations to invest in at-risk and homeless teens.

In 2020, BBPOA made donations to local non-profits adversely impacted by COVID 19 including the New Smyrna Museum of History, Mary S Harrell Black Heritage Museum and God's Bath-house of Volusia.

Throughout the years BBPOA members have volunteered to clean up the beach, watch over the turtles, maintain the vegetation and, in general, be the voice that fights for issues that affect us all.

To give you a sense of the early days of Bethune Beach, and the commitment of its residents to manage the growth, we share a short chronicle from one of BBPOA's founders, Margaret Johnson (1931 - 2019).

When we bought our property in 1973, there was talk of a submarine base going in where Canaveral National Seashore Park is now and Joe Namath building on the island by Government Cut. In '73 we barely could drive on our roads and many people got stuck in the soft sand. We had about 40' of dune at the end of Flounder. Henry Lee had a fish camp where Cedar Island Condos now stand. He sold lots for \$1500 with \$25 down and \$25 a month.



Photograph "Indian River" courtesy of Robert Clibbon

Some of the early folks got together in our yard and formed the property owners' association. We didn't feel we had enough homes here to call it a homeowners' association. Clyde Mann, our elected councilman for the area, pulled everything together for us at the county level. He got the streets out of subdivision status and turned over to the county.

George Engram was a big part of our beginnings. George and I went to the Postal Service with a petition signed by everyone here to get mail delivery, as they didn't want to deliver this far down the island. We were lucky to get a new postmaster, by the name of Carolyn Talburry, who finally pushed our request through. Every time we asked for any improvement here, we ended up before the County Council. The taxes we paid were being used elsewhere. We had no fire protection, except for forest service, until the Municipal Service District (an appointed body to deal with the county to get protection from the City of New Smyrna Beach. Margaret Johnson (1931 - 2019)

Section II - Pertinent Community Information

Waste Collection:

Waste Management in Bethune Beach is provided under contract overseen by Volusia County Solid Waste (VCSW). 386-423-3862

The current contract is with FCC Environmental Services. 877-642-3702

Garbage:

Garbage pick up is once a week in the proper container provided by the County's contracted Garbage Company. If carts are full, you may place excess refuse in up to two (2) 32-gallon garbage cans to be placed next to the cart. ~~For larger quantities you may call your Garbage Company or another authorized solid waste hauler for estimated collection charges.~~

If you would like an additional 95-gallon container you may contact your Garbage Company **at 877-642-3702** ~~and contract for this service.~~ The cost of this service is \$6.75 per month.

Garbage, recycling and yard waste must be placed curbside no later than 6AM the day of collection and NO MORE than 12 hours prior to collection and must be removed within 12 hours after collection per Volusia County Ordinance § 106-103(d)(5).

Garbage, recycling and yard waste should be placed no more than 10 feet from the road per Volusia County Ordinance § 106-103(d)(1).

~~Debris & containers can be placed at the collection point NO MORE than 12 hours prior to collection and must be removed within 12 hours after collection per Volusia County Ordinance § 106-103(d)(5).~~

~~The County's contracted garbage company is not responsible for construction debris or debris from home improvements. This includes tile, wood flooring, screening, concrete, wallboard, drywall, lumber of any kind, pallets, aluminum siding, fencing, baseboards, insulation, shingles or other roofing materials, sliding glass doors, large pieces of glass or mirror, shower doors, shower surrounds, cabinets, vanities & countertops. You may contact your Garbage Company at 877-642-3702 or another authorized solid waste hauler for estimated collection charges to provide special collection and disposal. DO NOT place commercial debris curbside for residential collection.~~

~~Carpet must be cut, rolled and tied (or taped) in bundles no greater than 4' x 8' and no more than 60 pounds in weight. Please keep the carpet dry for collection.~~

~~Collection for "bulky" items is limited to four (4) pieces per week and includes: furniture, mattresses, appliances, carpet, boxes of "junk", tires (with or without rims), swing sets, water heaters, equipment or the like. Bulky items will be collected on the scheduled garbage collection day. Please place your bulky items at the curb by 6AM on your normally scheduled waste collection day.~~

Recycling

Recycling pick up is once a week. Recycling collection is unlimited and uses a dual-sort system. In one bin place your paper ma-

~~terials, which include: newspapers, newspaper inserts, junk mail, magazines, mixed office paper, phone books, corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes, snack boxes, beverage cartons. Cardboard boxes need to be broken down and flat. Larger cardboard items must be cut or folded into pieces no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet.~~

~~In a separate bin place your glass, aluminum, steel and plastic items. Glass recyclables include jars and bottles—green, amber and clear. Aluminum, metal beverage and food cans are accepted. Aerosol cans also may be recycled, but be sure they are empty. Remove plastic tips and tops before recycling. Plastic recyclables include plastic containers coded 1 and 2. Remove all caps and lids before recycling.~~

~~Additional and replacement bins will be delivered upon resident request. Please call 386-943-7889 for bins.~~

~~Do not place Styrofoam or plastic bags (Publix, Wal-Mart, Newspaper sleeves) in recycling bins. They are not included in the curbside recycling program. These items can be recycled in the bins in front of Publix grocery store at 709 E. Third Avenue, NSB.~~

Yard Waste

~~Yard waste pick up is once a week. The weekly collection allowance is the equivalent of eight (8) 32-gallon containers, not to exceed four (4) cubic yards.~~

~~Yard waste collection includes: grass, leaves, yard rakings, shrub and tree trimmings. Please contain all small debris (rakings, grass clippings, acorns, pine cones, spanish moss, the "boots"~~

~~off the palm trees, etc.) either in plastic bags or in 32-gallon garbage containers. Containers and bags must weigh less than 60 pounds apiece.~~

Palm fronds and limbs need to be neatly stacked (no need for bundles). Limbs may not exceed 4 ft. in length or 1 ft. in diameter and must weigh less than 60 pounds apiece.

You may call your Garbage Company at 877-642-3702 to provide disposal of additional debris at a cost of \$13.00 per cubic yard for collection and disposal. ~~You may also contact any other authorized solid waste hauler for estimated collection charges to provide special collection and disposal of additional debris.~~

Never place yard waste in the container provided by the county for garbage collection or in your recycle bins.

~~The County's contracted garbage company is not responsible for land clearing debris. This includes trees cut down or blown down from your property. You may contact your Garbage Company at 877-642-3702 or another authorized solid waste hauler for estimated collection charges to provide special collection and disposal. DO NOT place commercial debris curbside for residential collection.~~

Hazardous waste

~~Garbage companies don't pick up Hazardous Waste, such as: car batteries, all automobile related liquids or parts, engine degreaser, metal cleaners, hobby chemicals, rechargeable batteries, lighter fluid, varnish, wood/cement sealers, paint, paint thinner, turpentine, acetone, acid, lye, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insect repellents, flea dips & sprays, ro-~~

~~dent bait, rat poison, mothballs, fluorescent tubes, spiral, and compact bulbs, mercury thermometers or thermostats, pool or spa chemicals, bio-hazardous waste, sharps (needles), etc.~~

Please bring all hazardous waste - with the exception of bio-hazardous waste – to the Household Hazardous Waste site located at the Tomoka Landfill or the West Volusia Transfer Station.

Disposal of bio-hazardous waste can be coordinated with your local Health Department.

Residential Rentals:

The permanent residents of Bethune Beach love their neighborhood and work hard to keep the community a safe and a desirable place to live. Should you decide to rent your property, be considerate of your neighbors and ensure that your renters are not only respectful of your home, but of your neighbors, our beaches, the environment and community.

Before you rent, we recommend that you contact Volusia County Building and Code Administration at 386-736-5925 to verify the zoning of your property. They will advise you of local rental restrictions and tax implications. Volusia County ordinance restricts the renting of property zoned “residential” to 30 days or greater. Rentals less than 30 days are considered “hotels/motels” and are not allowed in a majority of the county’s single family homes.

For information regarding the short term rental ordinance, rental tax and tourist development tax, visit the county website at www.volusia.org/tdt or email: revenue@volusia.org.

Beach Rules:

No alcoholic drinks, glass containers, or dogs are allowed on the beach.

After a day at the beach, flatten sandcastles, fill in holes and take your chairs and equipment with you. Dispose of trash and recyclables in proper receptacles.



Swimming:

Lifeguards are on duty as determined by need. Lifeguard stands are located at two locations:

- “The Wall” at Mary McLeod Bethune Park
- In front of the Sandpiper Condominiums at Hiles Avenue

Check at the lifeguard stand for flag warnings and the beach safety website for information on undertow and riptides.

Beach Warning Flags

- Double red flags mean water is closed to the public.
- Red flag is high hazard meaning high surf and/or strong currents.
- Yellow flag is medium hazard meaning moderate surf and/or currents.
- Green flag is low hazard meaning calm conditions, exercise caution.
- Purple flag means dangerous marine life spotted.

Do not swim when you see groups of small fish that attract sharks to the area. Avoid Portuguese man-of-war (blue tentacles) and jellyfish.

Protect Dunes, Vegetation and Wildlife:

Beaches must be accessed by walkovers only. Do not walk on or disturb the dunes and vegetation. Note that it is illegal to pick sea oats and it is illegal to disturb taped off areas where turtle and bird nests are protected. Violations are subject to fines.

Turtle Nesting Season:

Turtle Nesting Season begins on May 1 and ends on October 31st. During this time hundreds of sea turtles emerge from the surf to lay eggs on the beach. The eggs incubate in the sand for about two months and then the tiny hatchlings make a treach-

erous crawl to the ocean. To protect our turtles, please follow the following rules during nesting season:

- Residents are required to turn off, shield or redirect lights so they don't shine on the beach.
- Do not touch or disturb turtles or their nests.
- Do not disturb the dune system or plants. Use designated beach access points and do not walk on the dunes.
- Do not use flash photography at night.
- Do not use cellphones on the beach to light your way at night.
- Use only red LED flashlights; they are less visible to turtles.
- After a day at the beach, flatten sandcastles, fill in holes and take your chairs and equipment with you.
- Dispose of trash and recyclables in proper receptacles. Trash left on the beach can attract predators.
- Do not use fireworks. They are not only prohibited on the beach at all times, but they can be disruptive to the turtles.

For more information about Volusia County's sea turtle program, call 386-238-4668 or visit www.volusiaseaturtles.org. For questions about sea turtle friendly lighting, call 386-238-4773.

Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program

The Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program is dedicated to reducing entanglement of fish, manatees, sea turtles, dolphin and birds caused by monofilament and fluorocarbon fishing line.



- Don't leave your fishing line behind, unattended or unsecured. Recycle it in bins found at boat ramps, piers, marinas and tackle shops.
- Carry a portable bin to collect discarded line.
- When disposing of tackle such as hooks and lures, clip off sharp points to avoid injuring humans and wild life.
- Do not give or attempt give food or water to wildlife as it encourages animals to approach fishing boats and anglers.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency - fire, ambulance sheriff	911
Fire Station 21 - non emergency	(386) 254-4657
Sheriff - non emergency	(386) 409-8276
Florida Fish & Wildlife	(888) 404-3922
Florida Highway Patrol, DeLand	(386) 736-5350
Coast Guard - Ponce Inlet	(386) 428-9085
Beach Patrol/Life Guard	(386) 424-2345
Mosquito Control	(386) 424-2920
Animal Control	(386) 423-3888
Hospital - AdventHealth, NSB	(386) 424-5000
Post Office Branches:	
• Main Branch, 301 Mission Dr.	(800) 275-8777
• Local Branch, 405 Flagler Ave.	(386) 427-7922
Cable TV - Spectrum	(855) 855-4575
NSB Public Library	(386) 424-2910
Chamber of Commerce 115 Canal St.	(386) 428-2449
NSB Parks and Recreation 210 Sams Ave.	(386) 410-2600
Canaveral National Seashore	(321) 267-1110

Volusia Cty Tax Appraiser & Homestead Exemption
 113 E. Canal Street (386) 423-3315

Tax, Tag and Title Office (Car & Boat Registration)
 111 E. Canal Street (386) 254-4610

Drivers Licenses
 2400 S. Ridgewood Ave, S Daytona (386) 238-3140

Volusia County Solid Waste (386) 943-7889

Volusia County - All Departments (386) 423-3300

Utilities Commission of NSB
 200 Canal Street (386) 427-1361

Report Entangled Wildlife to FWC (888) 404-3922

Report Marine Debris Dumping
 U.S Coast Guard (800) 424-8802

Report Stranded Whale or Dolphin
 to FWC (888) 404-3922

Important Website Addresses

Volusia County: volusia.org

City of NSB: <https://www.cityofnsb.com>

Beach Safety: <https://www.volusia.org/services/public-protection/beach-safety/>

Beach Flag System and Beach Webcam: <https://www.volusia.org/services/public-protection/beach-safety/beachcams-and-daily-safety-report.shtml>

Section III - History of Bethune-Volusia & New Smyrna Beach



Bethune Beach - A Historically Black Beach

When Daytona Beach was founded in 1876, two of its founders John Tolliver and Thaddeus S. Gooden, were African American. Over the years, Jim Crow laws changed the state drastically, and by the 1920's, African Americans were banned from most of Florida's beaches. In 1935, only two places in Volusia County allowed African Americans beach access and only during the summer and on specific holidays.

Bethune-Cookman College co-founder and president, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune wanted to create a beach in Volusia County

for African Americans to enjoy without restriction or fear of harassment.

Born in Mayesville, South Carolina to formerly enslaved parents, Bethune moved to Daytona Beach in 1904. She opened the Daytona Literary and Industrial School for the Training of Negro Girls which later merged with Cookman Institute in Jacksonville to become Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune was an active crusader for educational advancement and civil rights for African Americans in Florida and throughout the nation.

In 1945, Bethune approached architect and developer Mr. Dana F. Fuquay about purchasing a two-and-a-half mile strip of land (189 acres) south of New Smyrna Beach. Fuquay owned most of the land along the Intracoastal Waterway in Volusia and Flagler counties.

In need of investors, Bethune used her influence to arrange a meeting at the Rogers Hotel in Tampa with some of the wealthiest African Americans in Florida, and on December 9, 1945, the Bethune-Volusia Beach Corporation was formed.

The Bethune-Volusia Beach Corporation paid approximately \$132,000 for the property that is now known as Bethune Beach. The 189 acres were divided into 2,547 lots, 25' frontage x 100' depth. Board members advertised the opportunity to purchase lots in black newspapers and created brochures highlighting features of the area. Salesmen were sent to black churches and various organizations. Mary Bethune advertised through her weekly column in the *Chicago Defender*. People from as far away as Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Montgomery and Charleston purchased property.

Bethune-Volusia Beach was officially established in 1945. The new beach quickly became a popular vacation destination for African Americans from all over the country. During the July 4th celebration in 1950, over 5,000 people came to enjoy the festivities.

By 1952, 860 lots had been sold. In 1953, Bethune and other investors pulled together \$1500 to purchase oceanfront lots and then borrow funds to build a motel and entertainment center. The Welricha Motel was built where Mary McLeod Bethune Park now stands along with a bar and restaurant called Beach Casino. Rooms rented for as low as \$4.50 per day.

George Engram, owner of Engram Electric, was instrumental in the building and running of the 14 unit motel as well as the open air restaurant.

Business was good, but the Bethune Corporation still needed to sell many more lots to be solvent. After Mary Bethune died in 1955, the enterprise struggled financially. In 1959, the Bethune Corporation decided to seek help from Volusia County. The corporation deeded 84 lots to the county with the understanding that a boardwalk, pier and boat ramp would be built.

Bethune-Volusia Beach was open to all races, though ownership of the land and businesses was retained solely by African Americans. Following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the beach lost popularity, and many visitors, particularly those from out of state, stopped coming as other local options became more available.

By the mid 1970's Bethune-Volusia Beach began to experience a land boom and many of the original land owners sold their lots.

George Engram continued to work tirelessly to obtain support from the County for Bethune-Volusia Beach. It wasn't until In 1985 that the city council agreed to allocate \$34,000 toward the construction of a park, with the remaining \$120,000 coming from grants from the State Department of Natural Resources and the city. The park was finally built in 1986 and dedicated to the memory of Mary McLeod Bethune. George Engram was deemed honorary mayor.

Today, Bethune -Volusia Beach is known as Bethune Beach and many do not know the story of the woman whose name it bears. Once a haven and a place for financial investment for African Americans, it is now a mix of full-time residents, vacation homes, and rental properties. According to the census in the year 2000, only eight of the 742 inhabitants were black. The Engrams were one of the few families that managed to hold on to their property. Engram Street is named in honor of George Engram in recognition of his many contributions to the early community.

When discussing the changing demographics of the area, BBPOA member and long time black resident, Hester M. Bland, remarked: "They came in changed the whole complexion of the place . . . People look at you like you're a stranger."

In May, 2017, BBPOA member, Joe Stevens, worked with Bethune-Cookman University and Volusia County to designate a two-and-a half- mile strip of Bethune Beach a Florida Heritage Site. A state marker has been placed in Mary McLeod Bethune Park to denote the historical importance of Bethune Beach to Florida's history and to honor the influence of its founder.



Photograph "Winter Dawn" courtesy of Robert Clibbon

Early Residents of New Smyrna and South Beach Area

Imagine you are standing on a dune somewhere on the beach near what is now known as Turtle Mound. The year is 1513. A square-rigged sailing ship is passing offshore with a scruffy bunch of sailors speaking Spanish and peering back at you. They are using the mound as a landmark in this, the New World, and looking for a safe harbor.

But before the Spanish even thought of a New World and a search for the Fountain of Youth, local nomadic inhabitants were living on the banks of the Mosquito Lagoon raising their families, hunting local game, eating the bountiful shellfish from the river (lagoon) and creating a mound with the shells. These mounds are called "middens" and today, this area is called "Turtle Mound" located in Canaveral National Seashore.

Ponce de León used Turtle Mound to guide his ship through the Mucoso (mosquito) Inlet, searching for a harbor where he could replenish his water and firewood. We all know he was interest-

ed in finding the Fountain of Youth, but he was too early. We found it at Bethune Beach 450 years later!

Turtle Mound dates to prehistoric times. Surrugue Indians, members of the Timucuan tribe which inhabited northern Florida, were responsible for the shell mounds called "middens" along Florida's coastal systems. More than 20 of these mounds were created throughout the New Smyrna area. Most have been destroyed and used for road material. About half of Turtle Mound's original height of 75 feet was similarly destroyed before the Florida State Historical Society stepped in and purchased it for \$8,000 and the State of Florida later declared it a historic site.

Turtle Mound is a "must-see" for all residents and visitors, offering a fantastic panoramic view of our barrier island as it lies between the lagoon and the ocean. Turtle Mound can be seen seven miles out at sea and has been used as a navigational aid from the days of Ponce de Leon.

Following the arrival of Ponce de Leon in 1513, many of the Timucuan tribe were killed, captured or died of diseases brought by the Europeans. When England gained control of the area in the 1770s, the remaining Timucuan apparently fled to Cuba with the Spanish.

The first settlement of the area by Europeans resulted from the bold vision of Dr. Andrew Turnbull, a wealthy Scottish physician residing in London. Dr. Turnbull and two partners secured royal land grants in 1767. These grants covered over 100,000 acres and became the largest British colony in America. Dr. Turnbull was married to the daughter of a wealthy Smyrna (Turkey) mer-

chant and named his colony New Smyrna in honor of her birthplace.

Dr. Turnbull believed that Mediterranean people were well-suited to labor in the hot climate of this new land. Therefore, he sailed to Greece, Corsica, and Minorca to recruit settlers to work on his land in New Smyrna and found many more people willing to come to the New World than he had expected.

Unfortunately, the settlers did not fare in the New World. Language differences, shortages of supplies, illness resulting in part from the heavy mosquito population, mistreatment and more led to financial losses, rebellion and political upheaval. The colony was dissolved after 10 years with many of the surviving colonists going north to St. Augustine. Following the failure of Dr. Turnbull's colony, development of the area was fairly slow. It wasn't until the 1880's that New Smyrna was finally incorporated as a town.

The beach side area of New Smyrna was founded in 1880's. The area including North Beach, south to 2nd Avenue and east to Hill Street, was incorporated as Coronado Beach in 1925. After 20 years, New Smyrna was finally successful in its attempts to annex Coronado Beach and the two towns became New Smyrna Beach in 1946.

After the Civil War, Americans were on the move and many headed to the Florida frontier. In 1877, property was purchased for the creation of the town Eldora. Soil was rich in this area and citrus growers raised tangerines, oranges, lemons and grapefruit. Olives, indigo, figs and guava were also grown.

Eldora was located along the original route of the Intracoastal Waterway providing excellent transportation for the shipment of these products, as well as an overnight stopping point for the river boats. However, the community of Eldora was fairly short-lived. Several consecutive winters of freezing temperatures damaged the crops substantially. The arrival of the railroad in New Smyrna in 1887 changed the method of transporting goods forever and significantly reduced dependence on the waterway. Although people continued to build winter vacation homes along the waterway, Eldora gradually ceased to exist



One vacation home built in the early 1900's continues to stand today - "The Eldora State House". This historic house was renovated by The Friends of Canaveral and now serves as a museum.

Canaveral National Seashore

Doris Leeper, a famous artist and resident of New Smyrna Beach, was instrumental in the preservation of the area now known as Canaveral National Seashore. Located at the south end of AIA/Turtlemound Road, this federal park was created in 1975 and is the last 24 mile stretch of completely natural shore-line left on the Florida coast. Inside the park, visitors can walk to the top of Turtle Mound midden to view the surrounding vista and visit the Eldora House which is now a small museum. There are five parking lots in the park which provide public parking and access to the beach. The Visitor Information Center offers educational programs, a gift shop and restrooms.



Photograph "Canaveral Cactus" courtesy of Robert Clibbon

One of the best estuaries in the world, the Mosquito Lagoon in the Canaveral National Seashore has many natural inhabitants. Manatees, once an endangered species and now a "threatened" species, use the waters to bear and feed their young. Wood storks, brown pelicans, and bald eagles nest here each year while peregrine falcons use the park as a way-station on

their annual migrations. From December through March endangered 40-foot long right whales appear beyond the breaking surf, birthing their calves before returning north. Dolphins can be observed swimming and feeding both in the lagoon and in the ocean. The river is a favorite of fishermen for a variety of fish and is also known for its oyster beds.

Ode to Margaret Johnson

by Sonny Ellison



You know we live in Bethune, we see the stars, sun and moon. We don't look around and see condos.

We like it that way. And we hope that it stays just like it is til tomorrow.

We've got the beach and lagoon. They give us sun, fun and food. Our surf can compare to most any. The cape is so near we see the rockets quite clear and our land is worth every penny.

We love Bethune! That's why we sing this tune. And very soon, you will too.

Not so long ago there was a "lady in the know." Her name was Margaret Johnson. Fishing was her fame and shrimping was her game, her art was also on it.

She named our streets and paved them too, she lived on Flounder Avenue and was known to be very honest. And Johnny was her love, they both were sent from up above, she will always be among us.

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