



BLACKLINES

*A Monthly Newsletter for Members of the
Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Treasure Coast Engineers and Colleagues:

I was just getting used to dating plans, memos and letters with "2015" and now here we are ... fast approaching a New Year, 2016! But before we get to 2016, I would like to extend warm wishes you and your families during the holidays.

As I am sure most of us will be taking a few days off in the coming weeks, I thought I would share some general safety tips that might be appropriate for the holiday season.

- * Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children. However, based on my recent experiences NOTHING is "out of the reach of children" ... so monitor them closely!
- * Avoid smoking near flammable holiday paraphernalia including, but not limited to Santa hats, "ugly" holiday sweaters and freshly varnished dreidels. Also avoid smoking near the storm sewer if cousin Eddie comes



into town and dumps his RV's chemical toilet down it!

- * Check your home's smoke detectors and consider replacing the batteries.
- * When driving in the rain, please don't turn on your hazard lights ... your headlights are sufficient. Or, if visibility is that bad you might consider pulling over somewhere safe until conditions improve.

Thanks to all of you that participated in the mission of FES and attended our events throughout 2015. The first event of 2016 will be the Shrimp Boil on January 22nd where we are looking forward to a great turnout, great food ... and hopefully some great "Florida-cold" weather!

Patrick D. Helms, PE

Calendar of Events for Upcoming Months



January 22	TC FES Shrimp Boil Indian Riverside Park - 6pm
February 25	E-Week Banquet at 19th Hole At Saints Golf Course
March	Project Lead-The-Way
March Date TBD	TCFES Social Hour at Longnecks Brew House Beer Brewing Donations for the beer benefit the TCFES Scholarship Fund

January Meeting at a Glance...

- Who:** Treasure Coast FES Members and Families
- What:** Shrimp Boil!
- Where:** Indian Riverside Park
1707 NE Indian River Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957
- When:** Friday, January 22, 2016 - 6:00pm
- Cost:** \$30.00 per person - Kids Eat Free!
Craft Beer Garden for an additional \$10.00!
- RSVP:** *Heath Stocton at*
vicepresident@tcfes.org *by Jan 15*

MATHCOUNTS PROBLEM OF THE MONTH: DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

Braden and Venita went outside to play in the snow on their day off of school. They decided to build a snowman. They rolled three tightly packed snowballs of different sizes and stacked them, one on top of the other. The three snowballs were perfectly spherical and their diameters were in the ratio 2 to 3 to 4. If the smallest snowball had a diameter of 12 inches, what was the height of the snowman, in inches?

Can't figure it out? [Click here for the solution!](#)

In The News

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The county is spending money to buy property that could become a future water storage and treatment site.

Commissioners unanimously approved spending \$1 million to buy an 83.14-acre property at 925 5th St., SW, contingent on an inspection of the site. The property could be used for surface water storage because it is adjacent to the 6-month-old Osprey Marsh project, which removes pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorous from canal water before sending it into the Indian River Lagoon. Long-term water stored on the site could eventually be used as a source for drinking water, Utilities Director Vincent Burke said in a memorandum to County Administrator Joe Baird about the property.

There are some concerns about the property, including the proximity to residential homes, Burke said. The property also is limited in size, without expansion possibilities, Burke said.

The county originally offered \$914,540 before upping the price to \$1 million. The property has been vacant since the 1960s, but has changed ownership several times over the years, Burke said. A 190-home development, Blackstone Preserve, initially was planned early this year. But the developer opted against buying the property, he said.

County staff hopes to inspect the site by February, with a potential March 1 closing. Money for the property would come from the capital budget, Burke said.

"It's well worth moving forward and taking a deeper look at it," Commissioner Peter O'Bryan said.

By Colleen Wixon of the TCPalm (Dec. 15, 2015)

Joke of the Month

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do ANYTHING you want." Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."