



# SPRING '24 NEWSLETTER

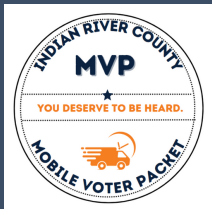
April 2024



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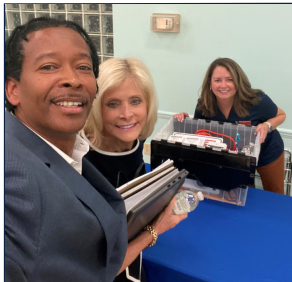
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275 election workers completed training in February in preparation for March 19 primary.

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## Message From Your Supervisor



For the March 19, 2024 Republican Presidential Preference Primary, the Supervisor of Elections Office mailed 9,742 ballots and 7,289 were voted, a noteworthy 75 percent return rate. Voters can still schedule their August Primary and November General Election ballots by mail by calling 772-226-4700, or online at [VoteIndianRiver.gov](http://VoteIndianRiver.gov). Pictured, from left, Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto, Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora and Vote By Mail assistant Sue Crowley deliver ballots to the Vero Beach branch of the U.S. Post Office in downtown Vero Beach on Feb. 8, 2024.

# Where were the campaign signs?

## Leslie R. Swan

The March 19, 2024 Republican Presidential Preference Primary Election is now in the rearview mirror.

This election was the first time in my 20 years of working at the Supervisor of Elections Office that I did not see a single candidate campaign sign at any early voting site or Election Day polling location. Nor did I hear a single candidate radio advertisement or see a print ad during this election. By the time early voting commenced, six of the seven Republican candidates had suspended their campaigns.

The voter turnout during early voting and on Election Day was light, but the return rate for vote-by-mail ballots was very good. The Supervisor of Elections Office mailed 9,742 ballots and 7,289 were voted, a noteworthy 75 percent return rate. The total voter turnout for this election was 23.53 percent.

The next election for Indian River County will be the Aug. 20 Primary Election.

I would like to remind our voters that Florida is a closed primary state, which means only voters who are registered members of the respective political party's candidates can vote for those candidate nominees in a primary election.

Typically, that would be either one of the two major political parties (Republican and Democrat) but it can also include minor political parties if they have candidates for an office on the primary election ballot.

All registered voters can vote in a primary election, regardless of which major or minor political party they are registered or even if they are registered without a specific party affiliation when:

- All the candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner of the primary election will not face any opposition in the general election
- The race is nonpartisan, such as judicial and school board offices, or local referendum questions.

At a general election, all registered voters receive the same ballot and may vote for any candidate or question on the ballot.

 **Community Outreach**



Members of the Indian River County and Treasure Coast chapters of the NAACP, Faith In Florida, Grassroots Coalition and The Links Inc. with Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, center, at the Gifford Community Center on Feb. 15.

**Swan at Gifford Community Center for Feb. 15 Voter Education Workshop**

Members of the Indian River County and Treasure Coast chapters of the NAACP, Faith In Florida, Grassroots Coalition and The Links Inc. organized a Voter Education Workshop at the Gifford Community Center on Feb. 15 featuring Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan.

Swan, with the assistance of Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, talked about registering to vote and becoming a Third Party Voter Registration Organization (3PVRO); updates in the vote-by-mail process, and any changes in legislation affecting upcoming elections.

Everyone in attendance was given the opportunity to ask questions of Swan and Wheeler; register to vote or request ballots by mail.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, center, with Kevin Browning, left, and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, right, at the Gifford Community Center on Feb. 15 for the Voter Education Workshop.

**REGISTERED VOTERS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

(As of March 27, 2024)

- DEMOCRAT - 27,934**
- REPUBLICAN - 58,433**
- NPA - 26,532**
- OTHER - 3,447**
- TOTAL - 116,346**

**LET'S GET SOCIAL**

Be sure to like and follow us on social media to receive frequent updates and accurate information from your trusted source of voting and election information in Indian River County.



**#VOTEINDIANRIVER**



**COVER PHOTOGRAPH**

In January, the Supervisor of Elections Office collaborated with the Senior Resource Association to deliver more than 1,700 Mobile Voter Packets as part of the new Mobile Voter Program. Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler shows off the packets delivered to the SRA office.



# Elections staff go mobile

Mobile Voter Program reaches more than 1,700 potential voters

**By Elections Staff**

To kick off the 2024 election cycle, the Supervisor of Elections office collaborated with the Senior Resource Association to deliver election information and increase civic engagement to those who may be homebound or have limited mobility.

In January, Elections Office staff rolled out a new initiative called the Mobile Voter Program (MVP), which was created in response to Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan’s quest for inclusive democracy. This innovative program was born out of Swan’s mission to connect with those traditionally harder-to-reach Indian River County residents.

“Reaching eligible voters is crucial, but often many individuals face barriers to accessing voting information,” said Swan. “By engaging these individuals, it ensures their voices are heard, upholding the democratic principle of inclusivity and representation for all citizens.”

The Senior Resource Association is recognized as the lead agency in Indian River County for promoting home- and community-based services to older adults and transportation for all.

By partnering with the Senior Resource Association, the Supervisor of Elections team was able to personally engage those served by the Association.

In the last quarter of 2023, the Elections Office staff worked diligently assembling more than 1,700 Mobile Voter Packets containing a voter registration application and return envelope for new voters and those needing to update their voting information, a vote-by-mail request form,

**Continued on next page**



The Mobile Voter Program advertisement is displayed on the GoLine’s Route 6 bus that features information about voting and registering to vote.



Above, left: Elections Specialist Mariangelys Baldi talks with attendees at the Sebastian Congregate meal site about the Mobile Voter Program. Top, right: Congregate Meals Director Jaquezz Salary, right, and Dorothy Coney at Gifford Community Center. Bottom, right: Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, left, with Wabasso meal site representative Alissia Cypress.

# Community Outreach

## SOE partners with Senior Resource Association

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Indian River County Voter Guide, Government Officials Guide, Frequently Asked Questions brochure, pen, American flag and a sweet treat.

After the New Year, Elections Office staff visited the Senior Resource Association's five Congregate Meal Program sites from Jan. 2-5, including St. Francis Manor and The Department in Vero Beach, the Gifford Community Center and By The River in Sebastian. These locations provide meals five days per week for some 300 people. All in attendance at the meal sites were provided a Mobile Voter Packet and the opportunity to have their voting questions answered.

From Jan. 8-12, staff members took part in the Meals on Wheels program, which provides meals to individuals who may not have the resources to access or prepare food due to lack of transportation, functional limitations or health problems.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, right, and Logistics & Equipment Manager Joe Crowley deliver Mobile Voter Packets to the Senior Resource Association's Meals On Wheels Distribution Center in early January.

Elections staff rode along with Meals on Wheels volunteers delivering hot lunches to seniors at their homes and providing them with election information contained in the Mobile Voter Packet. More than 500 informational packets were delivered throughout the week.

From Jan. 16-19, SOE staff rode the Senior Resource

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Left photo: Meals on Wheels volunteer Laura Leonard, left, and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman prepare to deliver meals and MVP packets. Center photo: Congregate Meals Director Jaquezz Salary, left, Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, Wabasso meals site representative Alma Miller and Community Health Improvement Manager Molly Steinwald on Jan. 3. Right photo: Meals on Wheels volunteers Karen Forney, left, and Julie Fitzgerald prepare to include Mobile Voter Packets with the meals being delivered by drivers.



# MVP created by Swan in quest for inclusive democracy

Continued from Page 5

Association’s GoLine, the county’s no cost public transit system. Buses provide service along 15 fixed routes throughout the county. The team at the Elections Office were passengers on several bus routes throughout the week providing riders with Supervisor of Elections contact cards and offering riders the opportunity to register to vote.

Throughout the 2024 election cycle, high traffic bus routes are displaying election information advertising. The advertising contains a QR code directing bus riders to register to vote, update their voter record, or request a vote-by-mail ballot. Bus routes containing election advertising have a combined annual ridership of 744,943.

The Senior Resource Association also operates the Community Coach, a door-to-door transit system for eligible riders with no other means of transportation.

Community Coach accommodates riders who use wheelchairs, walkers, canes, service animals and other mobility aids. Throughout January, drivers provided more than 1,000 riders with Mobile Voter Packets.

An additional program sponsored by the Senior Resource Association is the Day Away Program, which promotes social inclusion for those ages 18 and older by offering diverse and relevant activities in a safe atmosphere. All 60 participants attending the Day Away Program also received Mobile Voter Packets.

The Mobile Voter Program provided the Supervisor of Elections office with the opportunity to amplify democracy through innovation and inclusion, and bridge gaps to empower every voice. By going mobile, voting awareness was personally delivered to those with limited mobility.

Logistics & Equipment Manager Joe Crowley prepares to board a GoLine bus in early January to speak to passengers about the 2024 elections.



Above: Senior Resource Association’s Damaris Duglo and Emily Snow accept Mobile Voter Packets from Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, and Logistics & Equipment Manager Joe Crowley. Left photo: Wheeler talks about the Mobile Voter Packets distributed at the Gifford Community Center’s congregate meal site.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, standing left, and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler speak to residents of St. Francis Manor in early January about the 2024 elections, registering to vote and requesting ballots by mail.

 **Community Outreach**



Our Father's Table Soup Kitchen volunteers David Maclean, left, Rosalind Maclean and Lauren Havel, with Board President Lydia Forbes and Board members Jerry Cohen and Dana Collins.

## Our Father's Table Soup Kitchen invites SOE to share election news

Our Father's Table Soup Kitchen welcomed Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler on Jan. 26 as the Mobile Voter Program continued its community outreach.

The Elections Office went to the Soup Kitchen, located in Mount Zion AME Church, to help those there for lunch get registered to vote, request ballots by mail or check on the status of their voter registration.

The Soup Kitchen, which is open from noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, serves as many as 50 people per day. It is open year-round, including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Diners are provided with food to take home on holidays.

Celebrating its 35th year in 2023, the Soup Kitchen served 34,633 meals between in-house and home delivery. It is located at 4221 28th Ave., Vero Beach.

At right, top photo: Lunch is served at Our Father's Table Soup Kitchen on Jan. 26. Bottom photo: Volunteers Jerry Cohen, left, Dana Collins, Jonnie Mae Perry and an unidentified guest.



# PRECINCT MAPS AVAILABLE

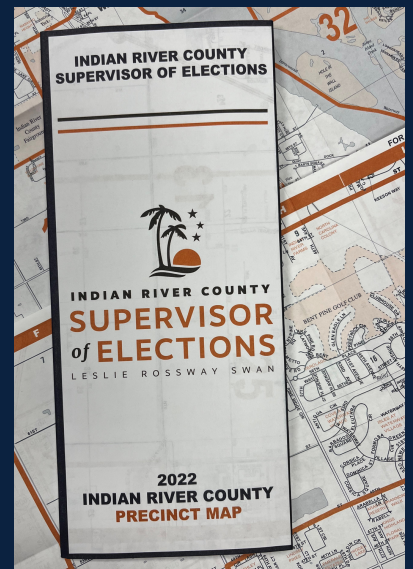
Hot  off the Press!

Indian River County's voting precincts were redrawn in 2022 based off 2020 Census data.

Maps depicting the new precinct boundary lines are now available online and in print.

An interactive digital Dolph Map is online: [voteindianriver.gov](http://voteindianriver.gov).

Printed precinct maps are available at our office from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The first map is free; additional maps are \$5 each.



 **SOE Elections News**



Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell conducts election worker training in February in the Training Facility at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

## 275 election workers complete training in advance of March 19 primary election

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office conducted Election Worker Training in February in preparation for the March 19 Presidential Preference Primary election. Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell, with the assistance of the elections staff, offered training to 275 election workers. In attendance were EVID Operators, Clerks, Assistant Clerks, Deputy and Field Technicians. Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell, Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto, Logistics & Equipment Manager Joe Crowley and IT Manager David Cruz assisted Obergfell with the training sessions held over three weeks in February .



Clerks, Assistant Clerks and Deputies prepare for training in February on how to process voters on the new electronic poll books and ballot printers in advance of the Republican Presidential Preference Primary election on March 19.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 2: Supervisor Leslie Swan to speak at Exchange Club, 11:45 a.m., Vincent's Restaurant
- April 4: Treasure Coast Elementary SSYRA Election
- April 5: Rosewood Magnet School SSYRA Election
- April 5: Canvassing Board Meeting - Post Election Audit
- April 8: Judicial Pre-Qualifying Begins
- April 11: Indian River County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class Facility Tour and Lunch
- April 17: Impact 100 Elections
- April 19: Judicial Pre-Qualifying Ends
- April 22: Noon, Judicial Qualifying Begins
- April 26: Noon, Judicial Qualifying Ends
- May 3: Indian River County School District Career Fair Voter Registration Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- May 7: Election Worker Orientation, 10 a.m. to noon
- May 8: Election Worker Orientation, 10 a.m. to noon
- May 13: Noon Deadline to Submit Petitions for County and Special District Offices
- May 13: Supervisor Leslie Swan to speak at Indian River Estates, 10 a.m.
- May 27: Memorial Day Observed
- May 28: Pre-Qualifying Begins for County and Special District Offices
- June 7: Pre-Qualifying Ends for County and Special District Offices



**SOE Elections News**



Logistics & Equipment Manager Joe Crowley, second from right, conducts a portion of the Logic & Accuracy test of the voting equipment on Feb. 23.

## Voting equipment passes muster

Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff conducted a Logic & Accuracy test of the voting equipment on Feb. 23 in advance of the Presidential Preference Primary election.

Canvassing Board members Judge Robyn Stone, County Commissioner Deryl Loar and Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan were on hand to witness the tests. The public also was welcome. All equipment tested ready for the March 19 election.

In 2023, the Elections Office upgraded its electronic pollbooks, also known as EVIDs, to the new state-of-the-art tablet pollbook and Ballot on Demand (BOD) printers to accompany each EVID.



Crowley, left, IT Specialist Robert Ramsey and IT Manager David Cruz conduct a portion of the Logic & Accuracy test of the voting equipment on Feb. 23.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 10: Noon, Qualifying begins for County and Special District Offices
- June 14: Noon, Qualifying ends for County and Special District Offices
- June 24: Poll Watcher Orientation at 3 p.m.
- July 5: UOCAVA Mailing of Ballots
- July 8: EVID Poll Worker Training, 1 to 4 p.m.
- July 9: EVID Poll Worker Training, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- July 10: EVID Poll Worker Training, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.
- July 11: Initial Mailing of Ballots
- July 11: EVID Poll Worker Training, 1 to 4 p.m.
- July 12: EVID Poll Worker Training, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- July 15: EVID Poll Worker Training, 1 to 4 p.m.
- July 16: EVID Leader Training, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- July 17: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Deputy Training, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 18: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Deputy Training, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 19: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Deputy Training, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 22: Book Closing Registration Deadline
- July 26: Canvassing Board Logic and Accuracy Test, 8 a.m.
- July 21: Early Voting Training, 9 to 11 a.m.





# ‘Future voters’ learn every voice matters

Preschool children, students and staff from the Early Education Center of First Methodist Church, Vero Beach, visited the Supervisor of Elections Office in early January.

Anita Wheeler, Candidate Coordinator at the Elections Office, prepared a fun and creative experience that had the children learning about the voting process, from voter registration to casting ballots.

Children posed for a Polaroid picture that was used to create their “Voter Information Card.” While their pictures were developing, Anita had the kids sit in a circle to answer questions.

With their “Indian River County Future Voter” card in hand, each student was given a ballot and were led to a voting booth to discreetly cast their ballot.

The Elections Office strives to ensure all county residents - from the very youngest to the oldest - are informed about the voting process and to learn every voice matters.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the Elections Office at 772-226-4700.



Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler talks with preschool children from the Early Education Center of First Methodist Church in Vero Beach during a January tour.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan with preschool children from the Early Education Center of First Methodist Church.



Preschool children from the First Methodist Church Early Education Center learn the voting process during a tour in early January.



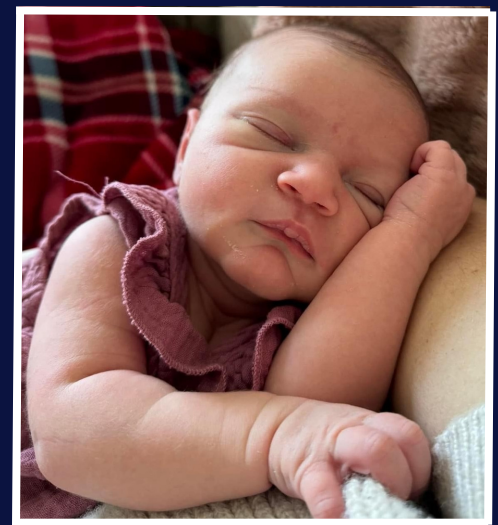
Preschool children and staff from the Early Education Center stand around a conference table making “Indian River County Future Voter” cards under the guidance of elections staff members Anita Wheeler and Daisy Zamora. Staff members Katie Otto and Joe Crowley also helped with the day’s activities.

 **Captured on Camera**



### New addition

Anita and Keith Wheeler’s daughter and son-in-law Lexi and Bailey Bevis welcomed daughter Luca Grace to the world at 9:11 a.m. Jan. 13, weighing in at 7 lbs., 14 ounces and 22 inches long. Anita is Candidate Coordinator.



**Luca Grace Bevis**

### Military officers welcome Swan

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, right, had the privilege of being the guest speaker at the Military Officers Across America meeting on Jan. 20 at the Vero Beach Yacht Club. Swan spoke about the 2024 elections and how to become election ready. Pictured with Swan are Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan, left, and Paul Morse.



### Candidate Workshop

Supervisor Leslie Swan talks to candidates or potential candidates during a Jan. 25 workshop at the SOE office held for individuals interested in running for local office during the 2024 election cycle. Participants learned about the filing and qualifying process, petition requirements, campaign finance, political advertising, and more. A second workshop was conducted in March.

### In-Service Day

Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman, right, is pictured with Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan during the Tax Collector’s In-Service Day on Feb. 19. Bauman and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler discussed with county staff the motor voter process and how it affects the Elections Office when registering people to vote.





## Young Readers award program off to great start

The Sunshine State Young Readers Association Award Program is off to a great start.

Elections Office staff visited Glendale Elementary School in March to conduct the SSYRA election.

Every year students in Indian River County have the opportunity to vote for their favorite SSYRA or Florida Literacy Association (FLA) book with the help of the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office. The Elections Office facilitates voting through DoubleClick Democracy, an online ballot that allows students in grades K-8 to vote for their favorite book.

The ballot, which is programmed by the Elections Office, uses the book title and a picture of the book cover to allow students to identify their favorite book. Students receive an "I Voted" sticker, pencil/pen, and a certificate for their participation in the election. The results are emailed to each school.

The SSYRA/FLA programs are a great way to encourage reading and introduce students to the electoral process. It is never too early to educate students on the importance of voting.



Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora visits Glendale Elementary School in March to conduct the Sunshine State Young Readers Association Award Program.



## Counting ballots at Vista Royale

Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff, from left, Supervisor Leslie Swan, Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell, Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman helped count ballots on March 6 at the annual Vista Royale Homeowners Association Election of board representatives, conducted in the Royal Palm Club House.

 **Captured on Camera**

# Years of Service



Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora celebrated her 7th year working for the Elections Office on Jan. 30. She's pictured here with sons Arlen, left, and Ander at Halloween.



## Zeta Phi Beta members lend hand at Sheriff's BBQ

Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, second from left, received help from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority members Demetria "Dee Dee" Williams, Jalecia Chambers and Valecia Tarpley at the Supervisor of Elections' registration table on March 6 at the 30th annual Indian River County Sheriff's Office Barbecue. The fundraising event benefiting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches was held at the Sheriff's Office Complex on 41st Avenue.



## MLK Day family tradition

Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora, seated second row center with son Arlen, attends the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Fort Pierce with family and friends. Zamora, who grew up in Fort Pierce, has been attending the parade since childhood. "Today, it is a family tradition to attend and celebrate MLK's legacy. We look forward to it every year," she said. Zamora's husband, Liove, and son Ander are seated left.



Clip and Save

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY POLLING LOCATIONS

Precinct(s)	Polling Place	Address	City	Zip
1, 12, 13	Lakewood Village Clubhouse	1455 90th Ave	Vero Beach	32966
2, 3	Fellsmere Community Bible Church	12 N. Hickory St	Fellsmere	32948
4, 9	North County Public Library	1001 Sebastian Blvd	Sebastian	32958
5, 6	Sebastian Community Center	1805 N Central Ave	Sebastian	32958
7	Sebastian Church of God	281 Delaware Avenue	Sebastian	32958
8	Sebastian Elks Lodge No. 2714	731 South Fleming St	Sebastian	32958
10, 11	Sebastian Christian Church	190 Day Dr	Sebastian	32958
14, 16	School District of Indian River County	6500 57th St	Vero Beach	32967
15, 17	Realtors Association IRC	3250 67th St	Vero Beach	32967
18	Gifford Community Center	4855 43rd Ave	Vero Beach	32967
19	Central Assembly of God	6767 20th St	Vero Beach	32966
20	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall	1590 27th Ave	Vero Beach	32960
21, 22, 24	Our Savior Lutheran Church	1850 6th Ave	Vero Beach	32960
23	Unity Church of Vero Beach	950 43rd Ave	Vero Beach	32960
25	Vero Beach Moose Lodge #1822	226 43rd Ave	Vero Beach	32968
26	Morning Star Church	698 Timber Ridge Trail SW	Vero Beach	32962
27	Royal Palm Clubhouse Vista Royale	400 Woodland Dr	Vero Beach	32962
28	Intergenerational Recreation Center	1590 9th St SW	Vero Beach	32962
29, 30, 31, 32	Indian River Shores Community Center	6001 Hwy A1A	Indian River Shores	32963
33	Christ By The Sea UMC	3755 Hwy A1A	Vero Beach	32963
34	Holy Cross Catholic Church	500 Iris Ln	Vero Beach	32963

**New precinct locations: Our Savior Lutheran Church and Vero Beach Moose Lodge #1822.**