



MARTIN COUNTY

Info Release

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2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

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Contact: Kevin Abbate, Parks and Recreation Director, 772-221-1420, kabbate@martin.fl.us

New playground coming to Pineapple Park thanks to generous gift

On Tuesday, December 3, Fred Ayres' children announced a \$400,000 donation to the county to build a playground at Pineapple Park in Jensen Beach. The family would like the playground to be named "The Fred Ayres Memorial Playground," in honor of their father, the late Fred Ayres, owner of Conchy Joe's Seafood Restaurant and Bar and the Dolphin Bar & Shrimp House.

During Tuesday's commission meeting, the board acknowledged Mr. Ayres' four children, Carly Frohlich, Fritz Ayres, Annie Arasa and Mary Rousseau, for their generous and thoughtful gift to the community. "We are humbled and fortunate to accept such a gift from the Ayres family to build a playground for residents to enjoy for many years to come," expressed Kevin Abbate, Martin County Parks and Recreation Department Director.



Pg 2., New Playground

With a permanent roof structure and lights, families will be able to use the playground for extended hours. Other planned playground features include:

- A 4,500 sq. ft. multi-age play area
- Air circulation fans
- A water fountain
- Benches
- Picnic tables

The generous gift from the Ayres family is an exceptional example of the wonderful things that can be achieved with the support of private entities and individuals for the benefit of the entire community. Individuals or organizations interested in contributing to the parks system should send an email to martinparks@martin.fl.us.

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About the Martin County Parks and Recreation Department

The Martin County Parks and Recreation Department manages more than 1,700 acres of public land which consists of 72 public parks, beaches and causeways and includes a public golf course, waterpark, campground, community centers and much more. There are more than 600 public park agencies in the State of Florida. The Department is one of 23 public park agencies in Florida that are accredited by the National Recreation and Parks Association, Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

About the Martin County Board of County Commissioners

The five-member Board of County Commissioners is the legislative governing body of Martin County. Each Commissioner is elected to a four-year term by voters in the countywide area. Chapter 125.01 of the Florida Statutes establishes the specific duties and powers of the Board of County Commissioners. Exercising their legislative powers, the County Commission adopts ordinances (local laws) and resolutions to establish policies and programs to protect the health, safety and general welfare of Martin County residents. The County Commission considers major problems facing county government and guides the growth and development of the County to be consistent with the public interest.

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