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**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

**Meeting Announcements**

Our next meeting is Saturday, November 10, from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We meet at The Fountains of Melbourne, 4451 Stack Blvd., Melbourne, FL, 32901.

Please contact Maria Rigogliosi, (321) 795-7376, no later than Tuesday, November 6. This is to ensure you are placed on the list for transportation.

As a reminder, SCAT charges a fare of $1.50 each way, for a total of $3.00. Drivers are unable to make change. Fare cards may be purchased by contacting SCAT, (321) 635-7815. As the phone system has recently changed, please speak to the operator to find the extension to purchase fare cards. The paratransit fare card costs $15, which provides 10 one-way trips. Please be sure to request a paratransit pass.

The November meeting will be information packed with the results from our 4th Annual Car and Bike Show. We will have a 50/50 raffle that includes a mystery prize in addition to half of the pot of collected funds.

**Fourth Annual Car/Bike Show**

Saturday, October 13, 2018, dawned as partly cloudy, but there was no rain to dampen the 60 vehicles displayed. The Fountains of Melbourne provided the location and many amenities to support the success of the show. There were 53 registered cars and trucks, plus 7 motorcycles.

DJ John Pappademetriou provided the “beat of the day”. There were food trucks (barbeque, pizza and real ice cream). The support of vehicle owners, shaded seating and friends meeting friends added to the success of the day.

One additional highlight was the arrival of the bus from the Center for the Visually Impaired, Daytona. Students and their advisors had the opportunity to view vehicles with white gloved hands and interact with everyone present. Proclamations were presented…especially one from the Brevard County Commissioners, which recognized October as White Cane Month. The white cane provides confidence and independence to blind and low vision users of the cane.

The Chapter had a table which offered beach bags and other items bearing the National Federation of the Blind logo. On site sponsors included The Fountains, Hometown News, Hawley Insurance and The Lions. There were donations from Palm Bay Eagles Riders, Hawley Insurance and individuals attending the show. MOPARS of Brevard provided staff to register and park vehicles, plus a certified security officer.

Show visitors and participants were given ballots to cast votes for their favorite vehicles. Each vehicle received a commemorative plaque and a thank you letter from Chapter President, Camille Tate. At the conclusion of voting, 15 trophies were awarded.

The 2018 Fourth Annual Car/Bike Show was co-chaired by Joe Naulty, Arlene Naulty, Julia Savage and John Carey. The funds raised will provide resources to support the Chapter’s work to “Change what it means to be blind in Brevard County” and ensure every blind citizen can “Live The Life They Want To Live.”

**Membership Dues**

This is a friendly reminder your dues must be paid by January to maintain membership in the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter and the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. Dues are $10. Please bring dues to our chapter meeting. You may pay by cash or check. Please make checks payable to: Melbourne Space Coast Chapter. You may also mail checks to:

Melbourne Space Coast Chapter

P. O. Box 120311

Melbourne, FL 32912

Your dues help defray the cost of our meeting place, printing the monthly newsletter and the small sundry expenses in conducting our chapter.

**Holiday Calendar Raffle**

We are wrapping up the second raffle held by the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. All members who received tickets to sell, please return the ticket stubs and monies collected to Camille Tate at our November meeting. All ticket stubs and monies must be turned into our affiliate prior to the beginning of the drawing period. If you wish to purchase a raffle ticket, please see Camille Tate at the November meeting.

The prizes are awarded each day from December 1 through December 31. The winner Monday-Friday receives $25. On Saturday and Sunday, the winner receives $50. The winner on December 31 will receive $200. Each raffle ticket costs $5.

**Movie at the Cocoa Library**

There will be an audio descriptive movie playing at the Cocoa Talking Book Library on December 12. If you are interested in attending and/or have a suggestion for a funny Christmas themed movie, please contact Maria Rigogliosi, (321) 795-7376. The Talking Book Library will provide popcorn and drinks, along with a brown bag lunch to take home. The movie will be in descriptive format, which means when there is no dialogue (or between dialogue), there will be narration of the scene.

**White Cane Day Article**

Reprinted from: FloridaToday.com, October 12, 2018

**“I'm blind and here's what navigating Brevard County streets is like “| Opinion**

By Camille Tate, Guest columnist Published 10:42 a.m. ET Oct. 12, 2018

Camille Tate is president of the Space Coast Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind.

We have White Cane Safety Day once a year, but I live it every single day. The day celebrates the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and will happen Monday this year.

I lost my vision in 2005 due to diabetic retinopathy. I am a student at Eastern Florida State College and hope to go to law school once I have finished a bachelor’s degree. I would like to go into disability rights because I have realized that misconceptions about blindness keep many blind and low-vision people as second-class citizens.

As a totally blind person, I have experienced many different things navigating our streets. I think it is important to explain to the sighted what it is like to use a cane. I live on Wickham Road, about a mile from Eastern Florida State College. I have lived in the area for about eight years. I walk to many places along Wickham Road and will say that I have been lucky. While training to use my white cane, I was nervous, like I think most people with no eyesight would be, trying to learn to walk with a cane on a busy street.

I use a cane with a rolling tip on the end. This is so the tip can slide over cracks or the natural dips between sections of sidewalk. With my cane, I can tell the difference between concrete, asphalt, tile or most other surfaces. I swing my cane from shoulder to shoulder and can detect obstacles in my path (including cars). The cane will let me know if I am too close to a curb or whether I have moved on to grass or dirt.

Many of our sidewalks need to be fixed. Too often, I trip on sidewalks where the pavement is raised or uneven. I have broken two canes getting it caught on the sidewalk; some of Wickham Road needs improvement. Parking lots and street crossings are perhaps the most stomach-tightening. I have found ways to get around walking through a parking lot without a sighted guide (this is when a blind/low-vision person holds the sighted person above the elbow to walk). But drivers are not paying attention when they enter/exit a parking lot or a parking space. Even with a sighted guide, I have nearly been hit by people backing out of parking spaces.

Crossing the street is even more treacherous. Most intersections have an audible “ped head” so we can find the button to cross the street. However, nearly all of them lack the audible voice telling when it is safe to cross or to wait. This is important because all the new, quiet cars make it difficult for the blind to hear when they can safely cross. None of that matters when a driver is not paying attention.

Once, while crossing Post Road at Wickham, I smacked right into a car turning left onto Wickham to go north. He pulled into the crosswalk in anticipation of making his left turn. Also, at that intersection, a lady wanted to turn right onto Post, so she started to turn, waiting for a break in the traffic going east. However, it was my turn to cross Post and she nearly ran me over because she was not paying attention. This is how many blind and low-vision people are injured or killed each year when walking or crossing the street. Drivers are not paying attention.

Our lack of eyesight does not excuse a driver’s lack of insight.

It all comes down to paying attention — on White Cane Day, and every day.

*Camille Tate, a Melbourne resident, is president of the Space Coast Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind and a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. She serves as a disabled representative to the local coordinating board for the transportation disadvantaged.*

close dialog

**The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.**