



# CANAVERAL BEACON

*CanaveralLight.org*

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation  
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**Volume 9, Issue 1**

**February 2019**

## OUR MISSION

*To assist the 45th Space Wing in preserving, protecting, promoting, and interpreting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance to the Florida Space Coast, State of Florida, and our Nation*

## **WITH A WELL- CHARTED COURSE, 2019 IS UNDERWAY & IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD**

Dear Friends and Fellow Keepers,

As your new President, I am thrilled to cast off the lines of this issue of *Canaveral Beacon* by providing an outlook of what's to come in 2019 for the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF). But first, I wish to extend my deep and sincere appreciation to my predecessor, Rocky Johnson, for his phenomenal leadership over the past two years and a job well done in charting a course for our success.

During the past two years, Rocky's commitment to service allowed CCLF to navigate an ocean of work on a full ahead bell and left us running at max turns on all main engines. As a seaman, I know we cannot continue to do so without risking damage to the propulsion system; however, as I take control of the helm, my aim is to keep the Foundation's direction and progress without losing the momentum needed to carry us safely home.

And home is where the lighthouse beckons... starting with a new Keeper's Cottage Museum and Gift Shop. After countless hours of planning and permitting, followed by several months of construction and project management, we are nearing completion on the first of three keeper's cottages being rebuilt on the lighthouse grounds. In June, I anticipate hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of our museum and gift shop, complete with attractive landscaping to replace the

portable trailer which is there today.

I also envision launching a follow-on project this year to build a second keeper's cottage on the lighthouse grounds. The second cottage will serve as an educational center satisfying not only the Florida history program for the fourth-grade students of Brevard County Schools, but also providing opportunities for students of history, maritime and aerospace industries to encounter our unique Cape Canaveral archeology and enrich their experience at the lighthouse.

Guided tours, special events, increased and enhanced access for the public? These are givens! What is not given is the monetary and voluntary support necessary to accomplish our mission, and we will need both to succeed. Rocky would be the first to say he did not do this alone, and like Rocky, I am relying on your willingness and dedication to help wherever you are able.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is a historical treasure for all. In the coming year, I will look to all of you, CCLF's finest, to help promote the Lighthouse and our Foundation to your friends and relations, and to step forward by offering your time, talent and expertise, and above all, to enjoy our adventure together.

See you at the lighthouse!  
Jim



## Lighthouse Events

### CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION HOSTS 2019 FUNDRAISING GALA

On Friday, February 8, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation held a fundraising event at the lighthouse. In addition to covering expenses, we boosted the Foundation's membership, and initiated an Annual Sponsor Program which will generate a base of support for several of CCLF's activities in 2019.

During the event, attendees were able to tour the lighthouse and view the progress being made on the keeper's cottage construction project. The Foundation also held a silent auction. Items included dinner for two at local restaurants, gift baskets with goodies from local merchants, as well as an original painting by CCLF Board Member Norm Moody's son.

The event featured live music performed by The Kornicki Brothers. Fishlips, Rising Tide and Wild Ocean Seafood Market catered the event with a magnificent charcuterie board and butlered hors d'oeuvres which guests enjoyed while partaking of a fully stocked cash bar, courtesy of Rising Tide. What better for dessert on an evening under the stars than a SMORES station where guests could create their own graham cracker sandwiches filled with toasted marshmallows and Hershey's chocolate squares.

Based on the relative success of this year's event, plans are underway for 2020. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please contact our Volunteers Coordinator Bev Merrilees at [bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com). A special thanks to Darrell Woehler whose beautiful camera work helped capture our memories from this event. To view more of his photos from the event visit:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18SGZxRLELgmCN2-aFquMrYLDOWTWm1iC>



Thanks to our local heroes from U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Ponce for helping us throughout the event!



The SMORES station was a huge hit, enjoyed by young and old alike!



As always, our tireless volunteers are ready, willing and able to help our cause - in this case, making sure our silent auction was a huge success!



And with historic precision, our star attraction, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, illuminated the night!



New CCLF members catch up on the latest gossip at the lighthouse while enjoying appetizers and cocktails during the Fundraising Gala.

## Community Outreach

### FOUNDATION HOSTS FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION 2019 WINTER MEETING

During January, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) hosted the Florida Lighthouse Association's (FLA) 2019 Winter Membership Meeting at the Merritt Island Moose Lodge, thanks to the suggestion of Lisa Johnson. This two-day event welcomed over 120 participants, marking the fourth highest attendance recorded for an FLA event.



The meeting commenced on Friday, January 25, with discussions that focused on FLA business and training for lighthouse representatives. FLA committees as well as its Board of Directors

also met during the event. A social was held on Friday evening which allowed participants to reunite with old friends and make new acquaintances.

One FLA member had brought her four grandchildren to the meeting, whose ages ranged from 11 to 21. They enjoyed themselves so



much that afterwards, they told her they wanted to attend the next FLA meeting.

The meeting resumed on Saturday morning

with a special guest presentation by Dr. Sonny Witt, who shared the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse with the group. CCLF President Jim Underwood gave the opening remarks and introduced Dr. Witt whose sense of humor was well received by those in attendance.



After the meeting concluded, FLA members boarded buses for a tour of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Although some were disappointed that they were not able to climb to the top and see the light, many shared their enthusiasm over the progress being made on the Foundation's grounds restoration project. Several FLA members on the tour stated how impressed they were by the cottage and restroom construction and expressed that they hoped to return once both are completed.

### CCLF SHINES LIGHT ON HISTORY AT 2019 PIONEER DAY EVENT



On February 9, CCLF participated in Pioneer Day at Sams House. This annual event celebrates the early settlers of Merritt Island and takes guests back in history through art, music, food, presentations, archaeology, and nature. The family-friendly event was well attended this year and provided a wonderful venue for sharing Cape Canaveral Lighthouse's story.

Volunteers Bob and Bev Merrilees, Kathi & Rick Hayden; Jerry & Mary Dean, Jean Rivera, Rose Ann Kahl, Liz Gravuer, Bonnie Nord, and Pat Stusick engaged the many visitors to the event and spread the word about CCLF's accomplishments, brick program, and membership opportunities, as well as the small and large group lighthouse tours. They also sold a few items from the Keeper's Closet - Dr. Witt's "Discovery of Cape Canaveral" and some 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tees.

CCLF was pleased to be invited and looks forward to returning to Sams House for the 2020 event.



## Luminaries That Matter

### LIGHTHOUSE ADVENTURES AWAIT WITH CAPE CANAVERAL TOURS

Meet the Parkers. Campers, hikers, bikers, explorers and lifelong residents of Florida, Shelley and Gerry Parker are the owners of CCLF's newest tour operator, Cape Canaveral Tours.

Gerry spent 35 years working as an electrical engineer, including a post at the Eastern Range. Shelley, a lifelong teacher and problem solver, spent her earlier years developing software before taking the lead in raising their son and two daughters. Together, they led their children on countless adventures and created opportunities for their children to experience nature and discover the great outdoors. Little did they realize how their family bonding moments would translate to a business.

Following Gerry's retirement, and at Shelly's insistence that he find something to do, Canaveral Wildlife Tours was born. "Shelley can be a force of nature when she makes up her mind. In this case, she is the driving force of the business, and a great compliment to my engineering personality," Gerry explains.

Cape Canaveral Tours brings the history of the Space Coast to life while exposing the raw beauty of the natural habitat. With a keen understanding of Floridian ecosystems, their wildlife adventures examine similarities between the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge and America's Everglades. In addition, Gerry's deep appreciation of NASA's space program and knowledge of local history adds a rich layer of insight and enhances the tour experience.

"Providing tours to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is an exciting twist to the types of tours we provide," states Gerry. "Our very first Lighthouse tour included a couple from the UK, who had made their reservation from the middle of the Atlantic while sailing aboard the Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth*. In meeting them, we learned that it had been a life-long dream to visit Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and Launch Complex-14."

CCLF welcomes Cape Canaveral Tours and looks forward to seeing Gerry and Shelley at the Lighthouse!



## Volunteer Spotlight



### SHARON K. CROCKETT

Born in Pasadena, CA, Sharon moved to Lancaster, CA, at 12, when her father started working for Boeing at Edwards Air Force Base. After graduating from Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, she moved to Melbourne, FL, and took a job with Boeing in 1961, working on the Minuteman Program out of Hanger I at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. She feels fortunate to also have been a part of the Apollo-Soyuz, Apollo-Saturn and Saturn V Programs. In 1983, she transitioned to Lockheed-Martin to support the shuttle program, working in Titusville at an offsite facility.

In June 2010, Sharon retired after nearly 50 years in the aerospace industry; however, it wasn't long before she found herself busy by becoming a full-time volunteer. This wasn't a surprise to Sharon, though as volunteering had been a big part of her life since she was a young girl, when her father took her with him to distribute Christmas presents to the needy. From delivering Meals on Wheels, to training her dog Josie to serve as a therapy dog for children and the elderly, Sharon's community outreach is admirable. "It's all about the feel-good moments with Josie," she explains. "There is nothing more rewarding than to see an elderly person light up like a Christmas tree when they enter a room and see Josie; or to watch a child gain confidence in themselves as they practice reading aloud to Josie without fear of being criticized."

Just over five years ago, Sharon joined CCLF. Despite working near the lighthouse in the early years of her career, she never knew much about it as her focus then was on missiles and rocket launches. But, after learning about the Foundation and its goals for restoring Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, she jumped at the chance to be a part of our team and applied for the position of Secretary. "It is such a pleasure to be surrounded by people who are so passionate about the lighthouse and doing everything possible to preserve its history," she states, "Watching the first cottage being built, knowing that it's going to bring together another part of the lighthouse story for all to see is just the coolest thing!"

All of us who know and have worked with Sharon see a person truly committed to our cause. She has a great sense of humor and lightens up our Foundation.

Thank you Sharon, for all you do for us and our community!





# The Keepers' Cottages

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Construction of the first of three lighthouse keepers' cottages is well under way. Once completed, this building will become a museum/display cottage. It will feature historic artifacts and house interactive exhibits which highlight information about the lives of the isolated families who inhabited the Cape in the late 1880s and 1890s.

Since December, Kinley Construction, the contractor overseeing the project, has made significant progress. In addition to framing the two-story cottage, they've added a separate building which will house public restrooms for our guests. They've also laid out the utilities for both buildings, and over the next few months, the build out will continue with dry wall, flooring, electrical, HVAC and appliance installation during March, followed by installation of trim and cabinetry, interior and exterior painting, and connecting plumbing throughout both structures in April.

CCLF anticipates the project to be completed during May and is planning to hold a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony in June, followed by a Grand Opening as a public event at a later date to be announced.



## Keeping the Light Shining

### CCLF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MUSINGS

As of February 20, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) has a total of 423 active members, including 64 new members who signed up during CCLF's Fundraising Gala on February 8.

Thanks to our members, CCLF is making great strides in restoring the lighthouse grounds and making this historical landmark more accessible to the community. Talk to anyone who is a member or volunteers at the lighthouse, and you will hear what a rewarding time it is.

As reported in this issue, the Foundation is nearing completion of a new museum and gift shop. We also are continuing to work with Brevard County Schools in hosting fourth grade students at the Lighthouse so that they may learn about it and its role in shaping Cape Canaveral's history. And, throughout the year, we will be participating in community events to raise awareness and generate interest in the Foundation and its mission.

None of this would be possible without our members and volunteers, as the Foundation is nothing without them. However, we need your help to achieve our goal of 750 members.

Please spread the word about CCLF and encourage your friends, family and coworkers to join us "in preserving, protecting, and interpreting the lighthouse and its historical significance to the Florida Space Coast, the State of Florida, and our Nation." A variety of membership packages are available and signing up is easy. To join or renew your membership, please use the 2019 Membership Application Form included in this newsletter.

We also want your input on how CCLF can add value and ensure that our members and volunteers are getting the most out of their experiences at Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Please let us know how we're doing and share your insights with Chris Ecker, our Membership Committee Chair. She can be reached by phone at (321) 591-5593 or by email at [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com).

**Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation family!**

#### **Head Lighthouse Keepers:**

Randy & Linda May  
Antonio & Katie Vassalli

#### **Lighthouse Keepers:**

Kristi Blanchard  
Bruce & Sandy Deardoff  
Jon & Melanie Miller (Jon's Fine Jewelry)  
Michael Schwarz (Fishlips)

#### **Assistant Keepers:**

Elsie Andreen-Mauer	Kelly Johnson
Jonathan Barber	Roberta Jopling
Sara Barfoot	Denise Lodzinski
Troy Barfoot	Tim Macy
Karen Besecky	Jeremy Merrifield
Edward Besecky	Samuel Merrifield
Lynn Blank	Delores Merrifield
Cary Blank	Michael J. Merrifield
Yolanda L. Bowler	Romie Purdy
Thomas W. Bowler, II	Jon Rosiska
Courtney Cline	Linda Rosiska
Thomas David	Annette Sanders
Cynthia Dropeski	Michael Scott
Martin Eglington	Michael J. Scott
Nikole Flannery	Gary Shetzline
Gregory J. Gallagher	Sharon Simcox
Dianne Gallagher	Stacy Slaughter
Christy Galzerano	Cat Solano
Gregg Galzerano	Ashley Stanley
Lynn Ganster	Victor Torres
Michael Ganster	Mark E. Trout
Louis Gargano	Julie V. Trout
Lucas Gargano	Eric van Heiningen
Christopher Gillard	Pamela van Heiningen
Linda I. Gray	Monica Van Leeuwen
Ralph C. Gray	Don Watson
Carla Gregorich	Timothy Wieck
James Hoog, Jr.	Marla Wieck
Jon Johnson	Robin Zamory

*New Members as of February 20, 2019*

\* \* \* **2019 CCLF Membership Application Form** \* \* \*

**SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!**

Visit *CanaveralLight.org* to pay your membership dues online via PayPal, or  
complete the form below and mail it with your check to:  
CCLF | P.O. Box 1978 | Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

       **New Member**             **Renewal**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in volunteering?      \_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

Please circle your desired membership category from the lists provided below:

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Head Lighthouse Keeper	\$100
Lighthouse Keeper (Family)	\$50
Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual)	\$35
Student Lighthouse Keeper	\$15

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

Life Membership (Family-2 member)	\$1,500
Life Membership (Single)	\$1,000

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
CONTACT:**

**Chris Ecker, CCLF Membership**  
Phone: (321) 591-9844  
Email: *cclfmbrship1@aol.com*

**Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers**  
Phone: (321) 452-5426  
Email: *bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com*

**CCLF membership benefits include:**

- Admittance to annual membership appreciation meeting held at the lighthouse;
- Subscription to *The Canaveral Beacon*, CCLF's bi-monthly newsletter;
- Member discounts at the Keeper's Closet Gift Shop, including 10% off commemorative brick orders;
- Volunteer opportunities to support & promote the lighthouse in its historical context; and, most importantly,
- Supporting CCLF's efforts to resurrect history and rebuild three lighthouse keepers' cottages and restore the lighthouse grounds!



## Paving the Way & Building a Legacy

### BRICK WALKWAY NEWS

Looking for that one-of-a-kind gift that makes a lasting impression? An engraved paver is an excellent gift to pay tribute to a space program retiree, celebrate an anniversary or honor a loved one. Commemorative bricks are also a perfect birthday present for that "someone who has everything!"

CCLF's Brick Program is one of our major funding sources helping to rebuild the keeper's cottages and restore Cape Canaveral Lighthouse to its former glory. We are well on our way in the construction of the first of three cottages and the walkways that once linked the lighthouse to the keeper's cottages are being bricked in a historically accurate manner.



You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line. Insignias and art designs available for an additional \$20. CCLF members will receive a 10 percent discount on all brick orders. All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Ann Bolton, CLF's Brick Project Coordinator, at [annbolton@cfl.rr.com](mailto:annbolton@cfl.rr.com).



**Save a part of history, buy a brick!  
10% Discount for CCLF Members**

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### \*\*\* BRICK ORDER FORM \*\*\*

To purchase a 4" X 8" brick paver, please return this form along with payment to:  
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

ENGRAVING: *Periods and spaces count as 1 character each. CCLF has right of final approval of copy.*

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Brick orders may be placed online under the Brick Walkway News section at [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org).

## Florida Lighthouse Association



The Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) mission is to protect, preserve, restore, and defend Florida's Lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts, and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.

### **THANK YOU CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION!**

The Florida Lighthouse Association wishes to extend a very special THANKS to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation for inviting FLA to have the 2019 Winter Meeting and arranging a tour of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. It is always THE most requested place to have a meeting and visit a Lighthouse. For more information, please see the article on page 3 of this issue of *Canaveral Beacon*.

### **FLA SPRING 2019 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Florida Lighthouse Association's Spring 2019 Meeting will take place on May 10, 2019, at the Cape St. George Island Lighthouse. For more information, or to register, please visit [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### **PRESERVING FLORIDA'S HISTORY, ONE LIGHTHOUSE AT A TIME**

FLA is a nonprofit membership organization whose members play a critical role preserving, restoring and protecting Florida's remaining 29 historic lighthouses and educating the public. Individual, family and corporate annual membership packages are available.

Member benefits include:

- Actively working to preserve an important part of Florida history.
- Receive FLASH, the FLA newsletter published three times annually.
- Receive up-to-the-minute news via e-newsletter.
- Priority invitations to FLA Educational Meetings, vents and Lighthouse Tours.
- Free admission to 6 Florida lighthouses: St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, Jupiter Inlet, Crooked River, Cape St. George and Pensacola.
- Voting Privileges.

For additional information about FLA membership, or to join, go to [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### **WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?**

Much of the grant money awarded to Florida's lighthouse organizations comes from the sale of Florida's lighthouse car tags. Please consider purchasing this specialty tag when you renew your vehicle's registration.



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY 410 ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

## Activities & Upcoming Events

### LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

On March 20, CCLF will host a group of 27 lighthouse enthusiasts from The Villages for a special tour of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. The tour will take place at 11 a.m.

Interested in arranging a private tour for your office? Small group excursions for up to 10 people are available through Canaveral Wildlife Tours. Larger bus tours are available through SunWard Tours. For more information and to schedule your trip, please visit [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org).



### CAPE CANAVERAL FOUNDERS DAY

Join CCLF from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13 for the Cape Canaveral Founders Day celebration at Manatee Sanctuary Park in Cape Canaveral, FL. CCLF will have a booth where volunteers will be sharing the history of the lighthouse and spreading the word about Foundation activities, membership and the brick program. This event is open to the general public at no charge. For more information, please visit [CityofCapeCanaveral.org](http://CityofCapeCanaveral.org).

### 15TH ANNUAL FIESTA BREVARD

On Friday, April 26, the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce will host its 15th Annual Fiesta Brevard from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Cocoa Village Riverfront Park. CCLF will have a display so please stop by and say hello. This event is open to the public; however, tickets will be required for entry. Individuals may purchase tickets in advance for \$5 or pay \$10 onsite. For more information, visit [CocoaBeachChamber.com](http://CocoaBeachChamber.com).

### DESCENDANTS DAY LUNCHEON

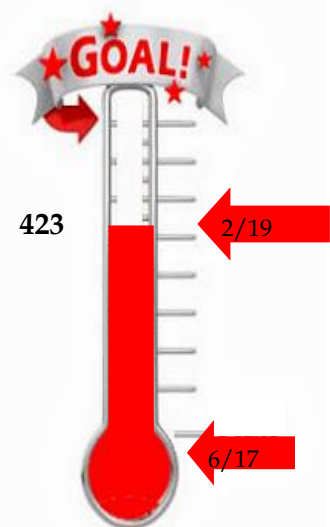
On Saturday, May 4, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation and U.S. Air Force 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing will co-host the Annual Descendants Day Luncheon at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Details to follow.

### **Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation members receive a 10% discount on lighthouse memorabilia.**

Regular tours have resulted in increased traffic and steady sales at the Keeper's Closet, CCLF's gift shop. Our volunteers do a terrific job at maintaining displays and making guests feel welcome.

Karen Arbuckle has been busy restocking our gift shop with many new items for 2019. The next time your at the lighthouse, be sure to stop by the gift shop to check out our selection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, charm bracelets, books, children's items and other lighthouse memorabilia. Members who present their membership card when shopping will receive a 10 percent discount on their purchase.

### **Spread the word about CCLF Membership and Help Us Achieve Our Goal of 750 Members**





## 2019 Sponsors

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

In January, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) launched its 2019 Sponsorship Drive. In addition to event sponsorship opportunities, this year we are expanding the program to include annual packages as well. Our hope to attract local businesses and community partners whose dollars will enable us to continue educating today's youth, promoting public awareness and making the full restoration of the lighthouse grounds a reality. Becoming a Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Sponsor is an excellent way to increase your company's visibility within Florida's Space Coast community! For more information, and to become a sponsor, contact Nancy Garwood by phone at (301) 332-7121, or email at [nancygarwood@gmail.com](mailto:nancygarwood@gmail.com).

CCLF would like to extend its sincere appreciation to those who've pledged their support for 2019:



## 2019 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

### OFFICERS

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Ms. Sharon Crockett, Secretary  
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