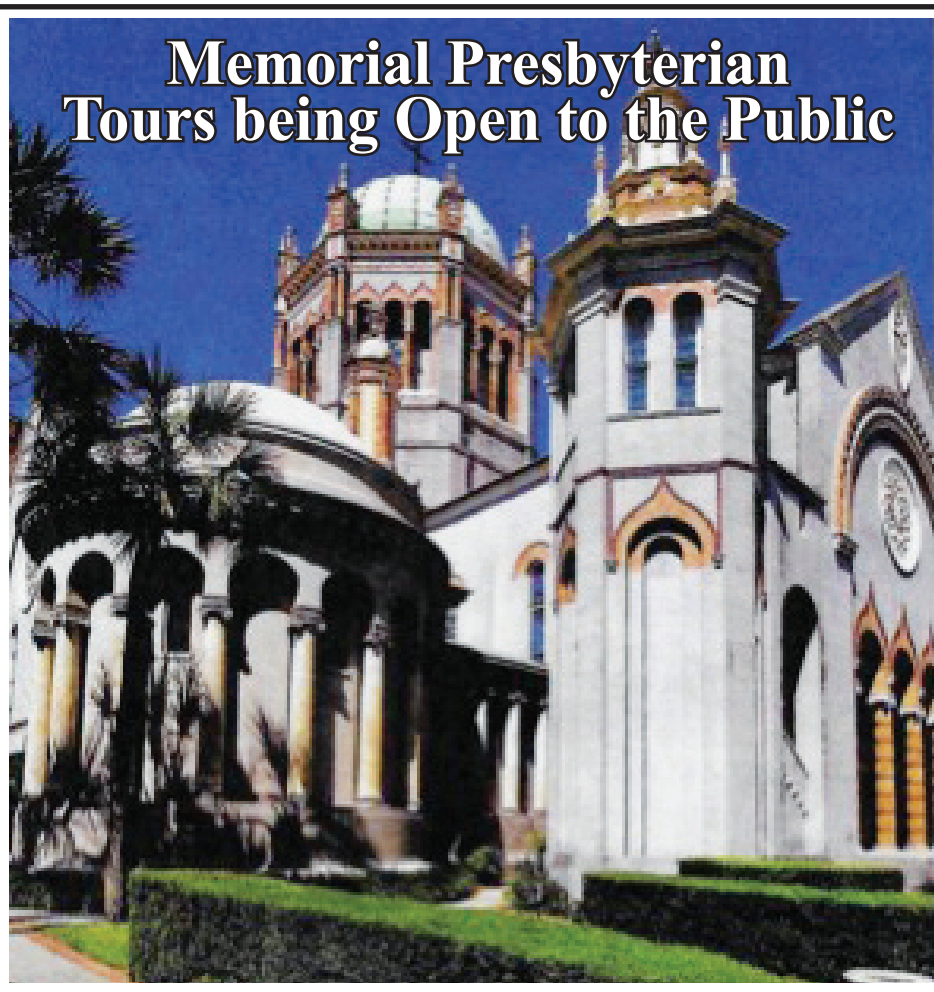


St. Augustine Beaches NEWS JOURNAL



NEWS INFORMATION FOR & ABOUT ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH & ANASTASIA ISLAND

Memorial Presbyterian Tours being Open to the Public



Prior to COVID the church was open 5 days a week for the public visits. Since COVID it has only been open 2 1/2 days but beginning October 1, 2025 it will once again be open for the public to visit 12:30-3:30, Tuesday-Friday and Sundays. It is planned that by the new year it will be open 9:30-3:30 Tuesday-Friday and Sundays 12:30-3:30.

Memorial Presbyterian Church was completed in March 1890 after only one year of construction. It has since been an active place of worship ever since with services on Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00. The church was funded by Henry Flagler and designed by Hasting and Carrere, two American architects that also designed the Ponce de Leon Hotel which is now Flagler College. The church is a thing of beauty with it's 92 stained glass windows, 5,000 piped organ, mahogany pews and screening walls. In addition to the sanctuary the public can visit the mausoleum where Henry Flagler and some family members are entombed.

Visitors can walk around the sanctuary, take pictures, visit the two rooms where there is information about the church decorations and the Flagler Kenan family. Or they may choose to listen to some of the history about the church shared by a volunteer docent. The visit is free of charge with donations appreciated to help with church maintenance.

If you have questions about the above information please contact: Meri-Kathryn Peed (lead docent) 704 277 6221 or MKPeed@aol.com.

St. Augustine Beach and Beyond...

By Lorraine Thompson (staugbeachwatch@aol.com)

The older we get, the easier we forget!

Eighty-seven years ago in 1938, the U. S. Congress designated November 11 as the National Holiday now known as Veterans Day.

A bit of history--Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

According to 2025 statistics: Veterans represent six percent of the total adult population nationwide. There are currently 17.6 million living veterans in the United States. Twelve percent of that number are women. 5.5 million (or 31%) have service-connected disabilities. Most recent numbers available show 1,379,000 veterans in the State of Florida. (1,207,000 male veterans and 172,000 female veterans.) Of that number, an estimated 23,000 reside in St. Johns County.

Honoring our Veterans—

Veterans Day events on Anastasia Island

St. Anastasia Catholic Church Veterans Day invitation

St. Anastasia Catholic Church will host its 23rd annual Veterans Day Tribute beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11. Veterans of all wars and all services, regardless of religious affiliation, and those currently in the military, are invited to participate. The wearing of military hats and uniforms is encouraged.

Following Mass, a free breakfast for veterans and their families will be served from 10 to 11 a.m. in the St. Enda of Aran Formation Center, located adjacent to the church. The church is located on the island at 5205 A1A South. For information call (904) 471-5364.

Veterans Council Tribute to Veterans--

The annual Veterans Day program, organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council and Military Officers Association of America Ancient City Chapter, will begin at 11 a.m. at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South. Doors will open at 9 a.m.

The tribute will include remarks by area veterans from WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan operations who will share their stories as "The Torch is Passed" The JROTC Cadet Escorts from St. Johns County high schools and the St. Johns Center for Performing Arts Chamber Singers will also participate.

Prior to and after the 11 a.m. program, visitors are invited to explore displays including the traveling Vietnam and Global War on Terrorism walls. There will also be displays and tables from over 50 Veterans organizations.

The event, including onsite parking, are free.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., a Not-For-Profit Florida Corporation, was established in 2001 and is composed of representatives of the various veterans organizations in St. Johns County. The council works with city and county governments and local organizations in matters concerning county veterans and assists in the coordination and presentation of matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities in St. Johns County. For information email rothfeldm@gmail.com.

Annual 22nd Endless Summer 10K Cross Country Run

Winter might be just around the corner, however, here on Anastasia Island it's time for the annual 22nd Endless Summer 10K Cross Country Run and the 5K Beach Walk/Run. Both events will take place on the scenic trails and sandy beaches of Anastasia State Park on Saturday, November 15 starting at 8:15 a.m.

The Friends of Anastasia have sponsored the 10K for the past 22 years.

The 5K which started in 2009, is sponsored by Don's Friends as a tribute to a local youth who died. (continued page 7)



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NEWS JOURNAL

The City of St. Augustine Beach and The Art Studio Invite you to Join Us For

6th Annual Beach Art Walk

1pm to 6pm

Join us as we transform the Pier Park into a Winter Wonderland!
Let us be your Holiday Headquarters on this magical walk-about event.
Artists and Artisans will showcase their unique creations throughout Pier Park
This Season is where art and community come together with every step!
Greeting visitors at the entrance, inside the Pavilion, beside the new mural and anchored at The Art Studio.

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Scan For More Information Or Email: citymedia@cityofstab.org www.staugbch.com

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Saturday, November 29th

PRESENTED BY **Pista Pails MINIATURE GOLF**

5th Annual Festival of Trees

November 21st - 23rd
Celebration Hall at St. Anastasia Catholic Church

Join Us for:
Friday Night:
 A Festive Night Market (free of charge)

Saturday Morning:
 Breakfast with Santa (Advance tickets required)
 Story time with Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating

Saturday Night:
 Elegant Jingle Ball, (Advance tickets required)
 Festive cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music and dancing, and more!

Sunday Morning:
 Final walkthrough for silent auction filled with beautiful decorated wreaths and trees

For more information, contact Kate Batzel at k.batzel@stfrancisshelter.org

Benefitting homeless youth, men, women & families served by St. Augustine Society, Inc.

An Art Affair llc

Whether you are a serious collector, someone looking to refresh your decor, or just like to browse the local art galleries, we look forward to you visiting our ever-changing collection of fine art and local art. With more than 150 pieces in our collection, the art changes a little bit every month! While you're here, sign up for our newsletter to hear about monthly events & new art.



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Best Wishes to Dr. Epstein on his Well-Deserved Retirement!
We appreciate his 25+ years of service to his patients in St. Augustine

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- St. Augustine Beach City Hall
- Anastasia Library
- St. Johns County Pier Park
- YMCA
- Main Library
- Southeast Library

The purpose of the St. Augustine Beaches News Journal LLC is to serve neighborhoods of St. Augustine Beach and other communities on Anastasia Island.

First priority will be given to reporting news and activities of the residents of St. Augustine Beach local communities, and other news and events that directly affects the St. Augustine Beaches areas. Second priority will be given to articles of general interest as space permits.

Information and ads should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue. Articles or information may be sent to the Beaches News Journal, 2465 US1 South PMB #8, St. Augustine Florida 32086. Information may also be e-mailed to clifflogsdon@att.net or clogsdon1@yahoo.com.

All materials submitted to the Beaches News Journal is subject to editing. Publishing of submitted information is at the discretion of the publisher. Views and opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher or editorial staff of the Beaches News Journal.

Information, articles and other materials published are believed to be accurate at time of publishing. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement or approval of any content, product, or services by the New Journal or its staff or contractors.

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The Beaches News Journal is published by an independent publisher and is not affiliated with any government or agency, community development, management company or Homeowners Associations.

St. Augustine Beach City Hall Update

The City Commission held a special meeting on September 22, 2025, concerning the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The Commission approved an ordinance that set the property tax at 2.5000 mills for City operations and 0.0841 mills for payment of debt. A second ordinance was approved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The new Fiscal Year started October 1, 2025, and will end on September 30, 2026.

For its regular meeting on October 6, 2025, the Commission did the following:

1. Reviewed proposed changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan with the City Planner and agreed by consensus to a number of changes. The Plan will now be reviewed by the City's Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board, returned to the Commission for a review at a public hearing on November 3rd and then forwarded to the state and other governmental agencies, such as the County and the Northeast Florida Regional Council for their comments. The ordinance for the City Commission to adopt the revised Comprehensive Plan will be scheduled next January or February.

2. Approved two proclamations: a) to declare October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and b) to declare October 20-26, 2026, as Florida City Week.

3. Approved two ordinances on final



reading: a) to vacate the alley between 2nd and 3rd Avenue and D and E Streets in the Coquina Gables subdivision; and b) to change regulations for approving plats. A new state law mandates that approval by the Planning Board and/or City Commission is no longer required but can be made by the City's Building and Zoning Department.

4. Discussed proposed changes to the City Charter: which changes can be done by ordinance and which require approval by the voters, and at which election in 2026, the August primary or the November general election, to have the changes on the ballot. It may not be possible to put all the changes on one ballot because of space limitations. The Commission will next discuss the Charter at their December 1, 2025, meeting.

The City Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, November 3, 2025, in the Commission meeting room at City Hall, 2200 A1A South, starting at 6 p.m.

City of St. Augustine Beach
November Commission Meeting Agenda

The November meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2025, starting at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 2200 A1A South. Topics on the agenda may include:

1. Presentation of the 2025 Anastasia Island Environmental Stewardship Awards to Maureen Heenan (Individual Non-Profit) and Our Mother's Stewards (Group Non-Profit)

2. Second Reading of ordinance to approve proposed changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

3. Budget Resolutions to appropriate money for projects carried over from Fiscal Year 2025, which ended on September 30, 2025.

4. Review of proposed language to provide perpetual easements to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for beach restoration projects on City property.

5. Award of bid for Phase 1 of the Atlantic Oaks subdivision drainage project.

The public is invited to attend the meeting, or may view it online at the City's website, staugbch.com. Questions about any of the topics may be addressed to Max Royle, City Manager, at mroyle@cityofsab.org, or (904) 471-2122.

Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library

The Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library (FAIBL) will hold our next board meeting on Thursday, November 20 at 5pm at the Anastasia Island Branch Library. This will be our last meeting in 2025. All are welcome!

Doing some Fall or pre-holiday cleaning and have some gently used books you no longer want? Please consider donating them to FAIBL. We love your best sellers, DVDs, and puzzles!

To sign up for our newsletter and email alerts, or to learn more about Friends of Anastasia Island Branch Library, please email us at anastasiainlandfaibl@gmail.com.

View the Beaches & Observer Online!

Get the latest Beaches News Journal and Observer issues downloaded to your computer or smart phone even before the printed editions hit the community mailboxes!

You can view Monthly past issues from 2013. Current print editions can be found at local libraries or by monthly subscription of \$12 per year. www.SABNJ.com or StAugustineObserverOnline.com



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St. Augustine Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

The National MS Society maintains a network of affiliated groups to provide opportunities for people living with MS to connect with others in their community. Every group is unique and welcoming — contact the group leader for more information. Join Us! We are recognized by the National MS Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

We meet every 4th Tuesday at 1:00 pm at Anastasia Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. For information or to RSVP, contact: Anita Clark johnita0013@gmail.com or call 305-898-1432.

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Holiday Christmas Market St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church

724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32086
November 15, 2025 8:00am-12:00pm

Christmas items, baked goods, homemade goods, books and puzzles, pecans, and a raffle will be available. Please join us!

American Association of University Women St. Augustine branch November event

The American Association of University Women, St. Augustine branch, warmly invites you to their annual Authors Luncheon meeting, on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at The Legends Grille, 2 World Golf Pl., 32092, at 11:30 am. Our featured authors are Dottie Dorian from Jacksonville, a renowned triathlete and author of "Beyond Triathlon", and Linda Andiric of St. Augustine, author of "Living with Heart" and "Getting It and Getting Along", among others. Lunch is \$40 inclusive and will offer three menu choices, including salad, dessert, iced tea/coffee and cash bar. Please call or email Gayle Diamant-Holland, at gayle123@bellsouth.net, 954-850-6154 to make your reservation, or send a check payable to AAUW St. Augustine to 167 Montiano Cir., St. Augustine 32084. All proceeds will benefit AAUW St. Augustine academic scholarships and Tech Trek scholarships.

Living with Cancer Support Group

The Living with Cancer support group has moved to Cancer Specialists of North Florida, 121 Whitehall Drive, St. Augustine 32086 on the third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am. We still have the ability to ZOOM in if needed. This is an informal gathering for adults with any type of cancer and their caregivers.

It is open to all affected by cancer. This group will provide the opportunity to meet others in similar situations, share your stories, provide practical suggestions and offer support to each other. If you prefer to participate virtually via Zoom, please call 904-819-4793 for further instructions.

St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

The SAB Democratic Club's next meeting is on Tuesday November 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach.

Our speaker on November 4 will be Attorney Andrea Reyes, who will talk about representing immigrants in these oppressive times. Please join us. The St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club's focus is on current issues affecting those living in the St. Augustine Beach area. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, get to know elected representatives, mingle with Democratic candidates and socialize with our like minded neighbors.

The Club meets at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. There is plenty of parking available. For additional information, please contact info@sabdem.org.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Meeting

The American Association of University Women, St. Augustine branch, warmly invites you to their annual Authors Luncheon meeting, on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at The Legends Grille, 2 World Golf Pl., 32092, at 11:30 am. Our featured authors are Dottie Dorian from Jacksonville, a renowned triathlete and author of "Beyond Triathlon", and Linda Andiric of St. Augustine, author of "Living with Heart" and "Getting It and Getting Along", among others. Lunch is \$40 inclusive and will offer three menu choices, including salad, dessert, iced tea/coffee and cash bar. Please call or email Gayle Diamant-Holland, at gayle123@bellsouth.net, 954-850-6154 by 11/0/25 to make your reservation, or send a check payable to AAUW St. Augustine to 167 Montiano Cir., St. Augustine 32084. All proceeds will benefit AAUW St. Augustine academic scholarships and Tech Trek scholarships.

Central Florida Motorcycle Drill Team

The St. Augustine Sertoma Club is sponsoring the upcoming free performance by the Central Florida Motorcycle Drill Team on Sunday, November 9 at the Adamec Harley dealership. Contact 904-830-1931 or email: adamecharley.com

Garden Club of St. Augustine November Meeting Nov 12th

On November 12, the Garden Club of St. Augustine will feature Malea Guiriba as guest speaker at its monthly general meeting. An integral part of the workings of "Pie in the Sky St. Johns", Malea oversees this local organization which provides fresh fruits and vegetables with other needed items to seniors in St. Johns County.

GCSA meetings are well-attended and open to the public. Carpooling is encouraged. Refreshments 9:30 am. Speaker and meeting at 10 am. Club location: 3440 Old Moultrie Rd., St. Augustine. We welcome new members. gardenclubofstaugustine.org (Tickets now on sale for December 14 Tour of Homes!)

Conversation

By Max Royle
St. Augustine Beach City Manager



Time for us to have a heart-to-heart conversation about property taxes. I know, you'll plead SPARE ME!! because for many citizens discussing this topic is about as exciting as watching a city manager trim his eyebrows. But I must warn you: rolling of eyes, yawning or leaving the room early are prohibited. This is serious stuff!

The conversation is timely because taxing authorities (school boards, counties, cities and special districts) have decided their tax millage and in November will notify you, Mr. or Ms. Property Owner, of the taxes you must pay for the new fiscal year. Perhaps an explanation of the eternal truths (mysteries?) about property taxes will ease the pain on your bank account (and psyche). Your thanks to me can be a box seat at the next Taylor Swift concert. I'm joking, as I am likely one of the three people on Planet Earth who won't be attending.

The notice each property owner receives may be confusing because 1) It has unfamiliar terms. 2) Some of the taxing authorities are identified by initials or single words. 3) How the property tax is determined can seem a process of hocus pocus developed by magicians.

If you look at the top of your tax bill, you'll see two sets of three columns with numbers under the heading "Property Appraiser Value Information": "Market Value" is the Appraiser's estimate of what your property is worth if you decide to sell it. "Assessed Value" is the market value capped by the state. For homesteaded properties, the assessed value can be increased annually by no more than 3% or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. For non-homesteaded properties, the cap is 10%. Finally, "Taxable Value" is determined by subtracting from the assessed value the homestead and other exemptions.

Under another heading, "Taxing Authority Information", is a list of the authorities. Some of the names are abbreviated because of space limitations: "FIND" is the Florida Inland Navigation District; "Mosquito" is the Anastasia Mosquito Control District; "Port Authority" is the St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District; and "SJRWMD" is the St. Johns River Water Management District.

How your property tax is calculated is not magic but basic arithmetic: Divide the taxable value of your property by 1,000 (a mill) and multiple the result by the number of mills. For example, if the taxable value of your home is \$400,000, take 400,000, divide it by 1,000 and multiple the result by the millage set by each taxing authority. Thus, St. Augustine Beach's 2.5000 mills make \$1,000 your City's property tax. If the City's millage were 2.6000 mills, your tax bill would be \$1,040.

Finally, some property owners may assume that all the taxes listed under the heading "Taxing Authority Information" are owed to St. Augustine Beach. No, they're the totals owed to all the taxing authorities: County, schools, City, special districts.

OK, enough conversing and attempting to make clear the muddy waters of property taxes. Time to wield my eyebrow trimmer. STAND BACK!!

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Bozard Ford Goes Mobile 40 Trucks in Service

Bozard is fundamentally changing how drivers in Northeast Florida get their vehicles serviced. The Board to Bozaard has invested in over 40 specialized vehicles that provide Mobile Service to its customers -- making it the largest such fleet in the entire country and drastically reducing customer wait times. Bozard is setting a new national standard for convenience and efficiency by coming to your driveway or workplace and doing the work while you continue your life. And their reach is northeast Florida and for fleet customers, the entire state.

Jeff King, Bozard's general manager, indicates that mobile service is more than just an added offering; it's about fundamentally transforming the customer experience by prioritizing their time. Imagine the anxiety when your Ford's check engine light illuminates, and the dealership tells you a two-week wait for an appointment. This scenario, and the associated worry about potential major issues, is exactly what our mobile service eliminates.

We operate on a "triage" philosophy: if you call today, we aim to be there tomorrow. This rapid response allows us to quickly assess your vehicle's condition. We can determine if it's safe to drive, if alternative transportation is necessary, or if we can resolve the issue on the spot. If a part is needed but the vehicle is safe, you can continue driving. Once the part arrives, we often return to your home or office for installation. This approach means you stay in your car and get immediate answers. The overwhelmingly positive customer feedback confirms that this level of convenience is truly revolutionary.

Ford's mobile service network now includes over 4,250 mobile service units performing over 3.8 million remote experience repairs, which leads the industry by quite a margin. The ultimate goal is to enable customers to order an oil change as easily as ordering an Uber, with the service truck arriving, completing the work, and allowing them to go on with their day seamlessly. The long-term value is clear. The most rewarding feedback is when customers, after experiencing mobile service for the first time, are surprised it costs nothing extra and declare they'll never service their car any other way. This loyalty confirms we are on the right track, delivering essential "vehicle care" where and when it's needed most.

12th Annual Gullah Geechee Festival and Rails to Trails Celebration Dec 6th

by Mary Kellough, lkellough@comcast.net

The SEA Community Help Resource Center (seachrc.org) invites everyone to their 12th Annual Gullah Geechee Festival and Rails to Trails Celebration on Dec. 6, 2025, rain or shine. Admission is free as is parking at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds in Armstrong on SR 207.

Free shuttles will run during the festival. Rails to Trails bicycling activities begin at 9 a.m. and the Gullah Geechee Festival commences at noon, ending at 5 p.m.

Come and enjoy authentic southern cooking, including low country boil, BBQ, sweet potato pie and jambalaya. Experience exciting African dancing, the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters and regional musical talent! There will be informational booths to learn about the Gullah Geechee culture of which Armstrong is an official partner. For more information, visit www.gullahgeecheefestival.com

Families Anonymous Support Group

At your wits end? Tired of lies? Is someone you love destroying your family harmony? Families Anonymous is a free weekly meeting for mothers of addicted loved ones. We have walked your path and are here for you.

We meet Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S. Street, St. Augustine (Use red back door entrance). For more information to restore peace and harmony, contact 843-367-1475.

Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support Group

If you are a caregiver for a Alzheimer's or Dementia loved one, and looking for encouragement, support and to share, this is the place for you.

The second Thursday of each month, next meeting will be 10:00am-11:00am at Homeport Christian Church, 5605 US 1 South, St. Augustine It is SSponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. alz.org. Contact Nancy Wright 904-347-6299 for more information.

St. Augustine Orchid Society

Janis Croft

November 4th Meeting Be a 80 Percentile Orchid Grower

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will talk about how you can become one of the best orchid growers. Learn about the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. He will explore the fundamentals and talk about advanced growing techniques. Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego. Fred talks to our club regularly and always brings catasetums, cattleyas and Australian dendrobiums to sell.

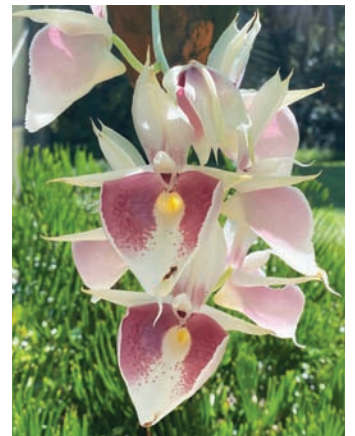
Bring your blooming orchids for the Show Table. Plants will be available on the sales & raffle tables. The St. Augustine Orchid Society welcomes all to our monthly meetings. No charge. <https://www.staugorchidsociety.org>

When: November 4th, 6:30 to 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church

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City of St Augustine Beach UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tricks & Treats at the Beach**
October 24th - 5:30 – 7:30PM
- **Surf Illumination**
November 22nd - 4:00 - 8:00PM
- **6th Annual Beach Art Walk**
November 29th - 1:00 – 6:00PM
- **Christmas with Cops and Claus**
December 10th - 5:30 – 7:30 PM
- **Holiday Market at the Pier**
December 13th - 3:00 – 7:00PM
- **Light Up the Night!**
December 31st - 8:30 – 10:30PM

St Augustine Beach Community Garden

This is an excellent time of year to be planting a garden in Florida. The organic St Augustine Beach Community Garden at Ron Parker Park currently has a limited number of boxes available for new members who are serious about gardening and wish to join a community of gardeners. Newbies are welcome.

For \$40 a year you get a 4' x 11' box, organic fertilizer, compost, water and the use of tools--as well as occasional potlucks. If you have no land to garden or your property is too shaded for good gardening, and you are itching to watch things grow, please consider joining.

Go to St Augustine Beach Community Garden on Facebook and click the "Sign Up" button. The Membership Chair will then contact you with more information.

Also, if you find yourself with bags of leaves, or wood chips, the garden is in need of them. Please leave bagged leaves near the front gate and they will be used for producing compost.

Santa Suits on the Loose December 13th

by Amanda Sims

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) shapes the future of Florida's at-risk youth by providing coaching, counseling and care in family style therapeutic group homes and outpatient community services. 1 in 4 youth are exposed to an event that could cause trauma. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among youth ages 10-14 and the 3rd leading cause of death among ages 15-24 in the U.S.

SAYS has had a focus and specialization in youth mental health for over 36 years. SAYS fundraisers directly impact our youth and the communities we serve. For our residential youth you help us to provide summer camps, birthday gifts, school supplies, recreational activities, and other normal life experiences. For our community families you provide food and gas assistance, basic necessities, and additional normal life experiences like birthday gifts and school supplies. Fundraising Provides: Summer Camps, After School Activities, Equine Therapy, Food Assistance, and School Supplies.

This year our Santa Suits on the Loose 5k returns on December 13th, and we would be very grateful to count on your support as a sponsor. Last year our race was attended by 1,100 participants, making it the third largest run in St. Johns County! All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated!

Thank you in advance for your support! To be a sponsor or make a donation please contact Amanda: santasuitsontheloose@gmail.com or 904-814-7463.



Fall Craft Fair Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South Nov 18th 9am - 1pm

Outdoor space is available for \$20. Per 10x10 space. Anyone interested in setting up a tent on our front lawn please contact Carol Hollis at carolhollis@att.net3

St. Augustine Travel Club - Peter Dytrych

The November gathering of the St. Augustine Travel Club will be on Wednesday, November 12 @ 3:00 pm. We gather at the Southeast Branch Public Library.

Our topic will be GREAT RIVER CRUISES OF EUROPE

These are the two most popular river cruises in Europe. First, cruising the Rhine, one of the world's great rivers, from The Netherlands through Germany to Switzerland.

Next, cruise the Danube, the second largest river in Europe, from Hungary through Austria to Germany.



St. Augustine Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

The National MS Society maintains a network of affiliated groups to provide opportunities for people living with MS to connect with others in their community. Every group is unique and welcoming — contact the group leader for more information. Join Us! We are recognized by the National MS Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

We meet every 4th Tuesday at 1:00 pm at Anastasia Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. For information or to RSVP, contact: Anita Clark johnita0013@gmail.com 305- 898-1432.

Sheriff's Update

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick



Happy Thanksgiving from SJSO

On behalf of Kendell and I, and the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, we hope November is full of opportunities to spend time with family and enjoy good food...and football of course. Our neighborhoods and roadways will begin to see increased activity due to holiday travel; please be safe, operate vehicles safely and do not drive while impaired. The SJSO Traffic Unit has specialized deputies who are subject matter experts in DUI enforcement — expect an increased law enforcement presence as we make your safety a priority. Happy Thanksgiving and God bless you and your family.

Please reach out to me if I can be of assistance. You can email me at sheriff@sjsso.org. For the most up to date information, find us on social media. @teamsjsso on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter).

Ancient City Christmas Daily from November 28 to December 21 <https://ancientcitychristmas.com/>

Get ready for the most amazing Christmas festival in Northeast Florida! Ancient City Farmstead is thrilled to bring the 2nd Annual Christmas Experience to St. Augustine, Florida -- a holiday spectacle so packed with family fun that you're liable to find yourself on the naughty list! Come see the region's tallest decorated Christmas tree, Santa's Workshop, and even skate on a synthetic ice skating rink!

The St. Augustine Film Society November Films

"Au Revoir Les Enfants" - November 2nd at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S, St. Augustine, FL 32080. In partnership with the Francophone club of St. Augustine.

Doors Open at 3:30pm. Film Begins at 4:00pm. "Au Revoir les Enfants" is a profoundly moving French film directed by Louis Malle, set in Nazi-occupied France during the winter of 1943-44. A boarding school run by priests seems to be a safe haven until a new student arrives. The discussion after film will focus attention on themes of persecution of minorities, moral choices under pressure, and institutional complicity and compare the film to current events. Academy Award Nomination, Best Foreign Film, and Best Original Screenplay based on Malle's own childhood experiences.

"Henrys Life as a Tulip: Developing an Attitude of Gratitude" - November 8th at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave, St. Augustine FL 32084.

Doors open at 11:30am. Film Begins at 12:00pm, Noon. Join us for the world premiere of the animated short "Henry's Life as a Tulip Bulb: Developing an Attitude of Gratitude". This is the first in a series of animations based on the children's book series of the same name by Linda M Brandt showcasing the importance of developing an attitude of gratitude. Hear from the author as well as other guest speakers. Special activities for kids. Free event but donations gratefully accepted!

"Broken Circle Breakdown" November 23rd at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

Doors open at 5:30pm. Film Begins at 6:00pm PM. "The Broken Circle Breakdown" is a powerful Belgian drama blending romance, tragedy, and American bluegrass culture, focusing on the love and heartbreak of two musicians whose lives are upended by the illness of their child. The film is noted for its emotional intensity and unconventional narrative structure, mirroring the cyclical, refraining nature of bluegrass music. Academy Award Nominated Best Foreign Film.

St. Augustine Beach and Beyond...

(continued from page 1)

The Don Ausman Foundation is a 501c3 Non-Profit Charity and supports the Alternative Spring Break that encourages college students during their school breaks to help others locally or in distant cities or countries.

Friends of Anastasia Citizens Support Organization (CSO) for Anastasia State Park is a group of local volunteers who support the park by providing programs and services that enhance the experience of visitors.

Registration fees are \$50 for the 10K and \$42 for the 5K. To register for other event information visit: runsignup.com

To volunteer to assist at the runs and for Friends of Anastasia membership information visit: www.donsfriend.com

Surf Illumination date changed

The St. Augustine Beach Civic Association and City of SAB have announced a change of dates for the 2025 Annual Surf Illumination. Due to the large number of holiday events that have been planned on the first weekend of December, the City and the St Augustine Beach Civic Association have moved Surf Illumination to Saturday November 22 at Pier Park.

"It's exactly one week after the opening of Nights of Lights in the Old City" said SABCA President Bill Jones. The new date is before Thanksgiving and Black Friday so we hope it fits a little easier into everyone's schedule," Jones added.

This year's event will include Santa, Mrs. Claus, Balloon Twisters, face Painters, locally produced arts & crafts and holiday music. Admission is free and refreshments will be available for purchase. This is the 5th year the City and SABCA have collaborated on the event.

Civic Association seeking new board members

SABCA looks to replace three retiring board members including Hesser and Michael Longstreet and Rich Gallik.

The Longstreet's have been active volunteers on city boards, the Boys Scouts of America, and the Civic Association for many years and plan to spend their "retirement time" doing more traveling.

"We thank them for their service to our community and wish them safe and happy travels," SABCA president Bill Jones commented.

Gallik is stepping down as a director and will slide into one of the association trustee positions for the next two years. While donating his time and effort to the Civic Association, Gallik is still President of the Friends of Anastasia State Park.

If you're a Civic Association member and are interested in serving in one of the open positions, call 904-347-8007 or send email sabcivic@yahoo.com

St. Augustine Nonprofit for Suicide Prevention The Tonya Kuc Foundation

Our Annual Kickball Tournament is our largest fundraiser of the year and is held at Ron Parker Park on December 6. We have several teams playing in a round robin format. It's a great community day as Asado Life brings their grills out and provides lunch for everyone, we have Southernly Sips providing coffee provisions, the Police Department and the Fire Department come and last year we even had a mimosa bar. During the tournament we have a silent auction where a ton of generous local businesses have donated wonderful items up for bidding. It truly is a great day and one we look forward to every year.

A small group of friends started a local nonprofit for suicide prevention when one of our very good friends suddenly and unexpectedly took her own life. We raise money to pay for people's therapy that are experiencing their own suicidal ideations and cannot afford therapy on their own.

We started out very small, a true grassroots operation. Although we are still small we are growing and now even more frequently being asked to provide monetary resources. We could not be more thrilled with the response and are always ready to help our fellow St. Johns residents (all profits made stay here in SJC). For more information please contact Kelly Levy at tonyakucfoundation@gmail.com or 407-284-8499.



As we wind down the Year, November brings us Artist of the Month, Alessandra Givens and her beautiful Mandala Art Exhibit - a journey through color, geometry, and meditation in motion. Ale's work transforms traditional mandala concepts into radiant expressions of color, balance, and emotion. Each piece invites viewers into a meditative visual experience, offering harmony through intricate geometry and intuitive design. Originally from Brazil and now based in St. Augustine, Ale Givens has been creating handmade jewelry since she was twelve years old. Her artistic journey deepened in 2020 when she discovered dotting work, a meditative technique that she now brings to her mandalas, mirrors, and home décor pieces.

Working with natural materials and seashells, Ale's art reflects her love for symmetry, color, and connection with nature. Her collection Alegria, which means joy in Portuguese, embodies the power of art to connect, uplift, and bring a sense of harmony and happiness into everyday life.

On Saturday, November 29th don't forget the 6th Annual Beach Art Walk from 1pm to 6pm, which is a little different this year, as it will be contained in the Pier Park. There will be the familiar greeting at the front of the entrance with the Info Booth and some vendors, but then we transform the Pier Park into a Winter Wonderland and your Holiday Headquarters on a magical walk-about event. Artists and Artisans will showcase their unique creations throughout Pier Park, inside the Pavilion, beside the new mural and anchored at The Art Studio.

The Art Studio is located at 370 A1A Beach Blvd. in the St. John's County Pier Park and is open 7 days a week from 12pm to 5pm. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization that brings Art and Culture to the community and offers classes, special events, exhibitions and rental space. For more information please visit www.beachartstudio.org, Facebook or call 904-295-4428.

Notice from the City of St. Augustine Beach

By Max Royle, City Manager

Attention Owners of Property Bordering St. Augustine Beach. If you are thinking of a major remodeling of your property, changing its land use from residential to commercial or vice versa, or tearing down an existing building to construct a new one, the City of St. Augustine Beach can provide timely and efficient review and permitting services. The only condition is that the property will need to be annexed into the City. Persons with questions may direct them to Max Royle, City Manager, at mroyle@cityofsab.org, or telephone (904) 471-2122.

St. Augustine Genealogical Society

The St Augustine Genealogical Society holds its monthly meeting the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Southeast Branch of the St Johns County Library. The SE Library Branch is located at 6670 US Hwy 1 South. Check in for our meetings is 12:45 and meeting starts at 1:00 PM.

Our Genealogical Society is open to all. We encourage visitors, as well as current and former members to join us. Refreshments will be served, and feel free to bring your favorite. For information visit website StAugGenSoc.org.

Interested in the Civil War?

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group.

Our next presentation will be Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The November presentation will be with Len Whiteside. This month we examine the diplomatic relations of the Confederacy and the Union with the all-important Great Britain. During the war, they provided war materials support to the South and came close to precipitating war with the North.

For questions or comments, please contact Len Whiteside at armyfam831@gmail.com



Matanzas Riverkeeper's 12th Anniversary Oyster Roast

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the Guana, Tolomato, Matanzas (GTM) Estuary and Watershed at the Matanzas Riverkeeper's 12th Anniversary Oyster Roast!

It's more than just a party—it's a vital gathering for fellow river enthusiasts, neighbors, and friends who share a passion for our local environment. Come honor another year of essential work protecting and preserving our beloved waterways.

Enjoy a lively evening featuring: Delicious Locally Sourced Shellfish including Oysters and Clams, Johnny Barnes' Clam Chowder, Live Music, Breathtaking Sunset Views overlooking the estuary.

Gather your friends for a night of camaraderie, inspiration, and delicious food! Come celebrate the strides we've made and look forward to the important work that lies ahead. Every oyster you shuck and every cheer you raise directly supports our mission. By attending, you play an essential role in safeguarding the health of the GTM estuary and watershed for future generations. Don't miss out on this special night—your support makes a difference! For tickets and information contact: Silas



Tanner at: Silas@matanzasriverkeeper.org

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Genung's Fish Camp, 291 Cubbedge Rd Saint Augustine, FL 32080

<https://www.matanzasriverkeeper.org>

12th Annual Gullah Geechee Festival and Rails to Trails Celebration

by mary kellough

The SEA Community Help Resource Center (seachrc.org) invites everyone to their 12th Annual Gullah Geechee Festival and Rails to Trails Celebration on December 6, 2025, rain or shine.

Admission is free as is parking at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds on SR 207. Free shuttles will run during the festival. Rails to Trails bicycling activities begin at 9 a.m. and the Gullah Geechee Festival commences at noon, ending at 5 p.m.

Come and enjoy authentic southern cooking, including low country boil, BBQ, sweet potato pie and jambalaya. Experience exciting African dancing, the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters and regional musical talent! There will be informational booths to learn about the Gullah Geechee culture of which Armstrong is an official partner. For more information, visit www.gullahgeecheefestival.com



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Farewell to Windows 10: A Repair Tech's Fond Send-Off

Steven Aldrich, Technology advisor
Steve@fcbcllc.com or (904) 479-5661.

Well, folks, it's happened. On October 14, 2025, Microsoft officially pulled the plug on Windows 10 support, closing the chapter on an operating system that's been both a trusty companion and a bit of a troublemaker. As your local computer repair tech who's wrestled with more blue screens than I'd like to count, I can't help but feel a pang of nostalgia mixed with relief. So, let's sit back with a coffee and take a friendly stroll down memory lane to give Win10 the send-off it deserves.

Back in 2015, Windows 10 burst onto the scene with big promises—a sleek Start menu, Cortana's quirky charm, and virtual desktops that made hording webpages “ok”. It quickly became a cornerstone of my computer repair business, accounting for a solid 30% of my revenue over its decade-long run. The culprit behind most of those service calls? Failed updates. Oh, those updates! I'll never forget that client, whose family photos got held hostage by a rogue cumulative update, or the gamer whose PC turned into a paperweight mid-finals thanks to a Feature Update 21H2 meltdown. Hours spent in safe mode, untangling corrupted files and cranky drivers, kept my shop humming (and my coffee pot brewing). Win10's constant push for freshness was bold, but it tripped over its own shoelaces more times than I can count.

Don't get me wrong—Windows 10 had its shining moments. It powered us through the work-from-home chaos of the pandemic, keeping families connected and businesses afloat. For that, I'll always tip my hat. But now, with support officially ended, it's time to look at the brighter side: Windows 11. Since making the switch, I've noticed a serious drop in emergency calls. Win11's updates glide in smoothly, and its failure rate is a fraction of Win10's. The snappy performance, beefed-up security, and sleek design make it feel like Microsoft finally heard us their userbase pleading for fewer tech services required.

As we bid adieu to Windows 10, I'm grateful for the lessons in patience and problem-solving it taught me—and the reminder to always back up. If you're still on Win10, check out Microsoft's extended security updates or make the leap to Win11 (just double-check that TPM 2.0 compatibility). Thanks for the wild ride, Windows 10. What's your favorite Win10 memory? Drop a comment—I'd love to swap stories.

Steven Aldrich is a technology advisor with decades of experience as an IT Director and is the owner of First Coast Computer Services. Contact Steven if you need a trusted advisor to visit your business or home and assist with your technology: Steve@FCCSPRO.com or (904) 479-5661.

Financial Focus

Information Provided by

Edward Jones

Cory Caplinger CFP®



Smart financial moves to make before year-end

As the year winds down, it's the perfect time to make some smart moves before the calendar flips to 2026. Think of it as a financial tune-up that could help with saving money and setting you up for success in the months ahead. Here are some things to consider.

- Don't forget about required withdrawals. If you're 73 or older, you'll need to take your required minimum distribution from traditional retirement accounts to avoid a 25% penalty on any amount you should have withdrawn but didn't. This rule also applies to some people who inherited retirement accounts, including certain Roth accounts.

- Use your flexible spending money. Got money sitting in a flexible spending account at work? Remember, these accounts follow a "use it or lose it" rule. Check with your HR department about your plan's specific deadlines for spending the money and submitting receipts. Whether it's that dental work you've been putting off or new prescription glasses you need, now's the time to use those funds before they disappear.

- Boost your retirement savings. Consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions before year-end. Not only will this help your future self, but it might also reduce your current tax bill. If your workplace plan allows it, you can even set up automatic increases for next year so you won't have to remember to do it later.

- Share the wealth through gifting. In 2025, the current tax rules let you give family or friends up to \$19,000 per person without affecting your lifetime gift tax exemption. Married couples can combine their allowances to give up to \$38,000 per person. Plus, you can pay someone's tuition or medical bills directly without these payments counting against your gift limits at all.

- Navigate new tax changes. The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act has made several tax provisions permanent, including lower individual tax rates and higher standard deductions. However, it also introduces new changes that might affect your situation. It's worth sitting down with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how these updates impact your specific circumstances.

- Examine your investments. Take some time to review your investment portfolio. Ask yourself: Did your investments perform as expected this year? Do they still match your goals and comfort level with risk? You might need to rebalance things to get back on track.

- Build up your emergency fund. It's ideal to have enough cash saved to cover three to six months of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This safety net can prevent you from having to raid your retirement savings when unexpected expenses pop up.

- Review your estate planning documents. This is especially important if you've had major life changes like marriage, divorce or a new baby. Don't forget to check the beneficiary designations on all your bank and brokerage accounts as well as life insurance policies – these often override what's written in your will.

Taking care of these financial housekeeping tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Historic Medicare Drug Price Negotiations: 10 Medications with Lower Costs in 2026

Carol Bogart, Palencia Resident
904-648-6488
Carol@AskCarolB.com

For the first time in Medicare's history, the program has successfully negotiated lower prices for high-cost prescription medications.

The First 10 Drugs Selected for 2026 Price Negotiations

The negotiated prices for these medications will take effect on January 1, 2026, providing significant cost savings for Medicare beneficiaries who use these commonly prescribed drugs for conditions like diabetes, heart disease, blood clots, and various autoimmune conditions.

1. Eliquis (apixaban)
2. Jardiance (empagliflozin)
3. Xarelto (rivaroxaban)
4. Januvia (sitagliptin)
5. Farxiga (dapagliflozin)
6. Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan)
7. Enbrel (etanercept)
8. Imbruvica (ibrutinib)
9. Stelara (ustekinumab)
10. Insulin Products (Multiple formulations)

• Specific products: Fiasp; Fiasp FlexTouch; Fiasp PenFill; NovoLog; NovoLog FlexPen; NovoLog PenFill

Future Expansion

The Medicare drug negotiation program will continue to expand:

- 2027: Up to 15 additional drugs may be selected for negotiation
- 2028: Up to 15 more drugs may be added
- 2029 and beyond: Up to 20 drugs may be selected each year

This expansion means that more Medicare beneficiaries will benefit from negotiated drug prices in the coming years.

Taking Action

During Open Enrollment

When reviewing Medicare plans for 2026, consider how the negotiated prices might affect your total drug costs. While all Part D plans will offer the negotiated prices, other factors like formulary coverage, preferred pharmacies, and additional benefits should also influence your decision.

Stay Informed

As Medicare continues to negotiate prices for additional medications, stay informed about which drugs may be included in future rounds. Your healthcare provider and Medicare counselor can help you understand how these changes might benefit your specific situation.

Garden Club of St. Augustine Educator Stipends



The GCSA is offering six educator stipends to school based teachers in St. Johns County for \$600 each for a project designed by you for your class or school which follows our pledge "to protect and preserve our natural resources by promoting education so all may become better caretakers of this earth". For information and application, please contact: maggieweaver1951@gmail.com

Grant will begin in October and runs through April 2026. Garden Club of St. Augustine Educator Stipends

St. Augustine Beach and Beyond...

Sea turtle monitoring continues

Although sea turtle nesting season ended on October 31, Washback Season continues through November 30. This time of the year post-hatchling sea turtles can be pushed back onto the beach during storms or in cases of extreme high tides. Typically this happens when seaweed also begins to show up on the beaches.

More than a thousand nests were monitored this season. The largest of the county beaches dubbed the "North Beaches" recently reported a total of 800 nests for the season. Anastasia Island had 136 nests and Matanzas Inlet South recorded 61 nests. At the time of the report, of the nests that have already hatched, the majority are Loggerheads, followed by Greens and Leatherbacks. The lone Kemp's Ridley nest was reported on the North Beaches. More than 60,000 hatchlings have already headed to the Atlantic Ocean to begin their quests for survival.

Turtle monitors expect a few more new nests may appear, but also on the watch list are the remaining hatchlings that are expected to emerge from already laid nests.

Living through sea turtle seasons often brings up questions by beachgoers about the restrictions residents and visitors are required to adhere to such as --Why is it so important to "disrupt" beach residents and visitors to make way for sea turtle hatchlings?

Consider this--particularly if you are a beach area resident in hurricane-prone areas like St. Johns County--beaches and dunes systems do not get very many nutrients during the year, so very little vegetation grows on the dunes and no vegetation grows on the beach itself. This is because sand does not hold nutrients very well. Sea turtles use beaches and the lower dunes to nest and lay their eggs. A sea turtle lays around 100 eggs in a nest and produces between 3 and 7 nests during the summer nesting season.

Along a 20 mile stretch of beach on the east coast of Florida sea turtles lay over 150,000 pounds of eggs in a season. Not every egg in a nest will hatch and not all of the hatchlings in a nest will make it out of the nest.

All of the unhatched nest eggs and trapped hatchlings become good sources of nutrients for dune vegetation. Even the leftover egg shells from hatched eggs provide some nutrients.

Dune vegetation is able to grow and become stronger with the presence of nutrients from turtle eggs. As the dune vegetation grows stronger and healthier, the health of the entire beach/dune ecosystem becomes better. Stronger vegetation and root systems help to hold the sand in the dunes and protects the beach from erosion.

All parts of an ecosystem are important-- if you lose one, the rest will eventually follow.

If you find a sick or injured sea turtle or a hatchback you are asked to call Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation 24-hour Wildlife Alert Number at 1-888-404-3922.

Medicare Annual Enrollment 10/15/25 - 12/7/25

Medicare Plan reviews are free and there is no obligation to enroll. I urge you to revisit your drug plans each year. I can discuss 2026 plans beginning 10/1.



*Ask
Carol B*

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