

St. Augustine Observer



NEWS INFORMATION FOR & ABOUT RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN ST. JOHNS COUNTY FL

Shores Resident Gives Community A “Spooktacular” Halloween Display



Shores resident Arch Rivenbark continues again this year to shows off his annual Halloween display in front of his home at 223 Estancia Street. Drive by and see the display soon after October 15th.

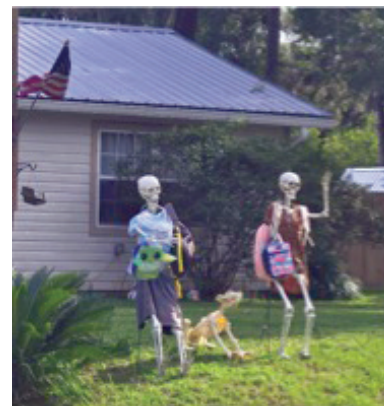
Shores and South residents do not need to look at their calendar or notice a change to fall weather to realize its nearing Halloween again.....they just drive by Shores resident Arch Rivenbark’s house and see his annual Halloween display to know trick or treat time is on its way. Arch, who starts planning his display months in advance, has over 90 humorous tombstones for neighbors and friends for 7 years now. Each year, Arch entertains his neighbors with the much anticipated display and has them all asking him “What are you going to put on my tombstone this year?” He invites everyone to drive by 223 Estancia Street to enjoy his display. You can find him off Lilly or Alhambra streets.

St Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope

Although, summer was—unofficially—over on Labor Day, our resident skeleton family and most school age children were back at school for the new year on August 10. At the time of writing we are not yet at the beginning of fall, which is generally acknowledged to start with the Autumn equinox on September 22. Nonetheless, our transition weeks are fabulous. We might not get the fall foliage colors that our neighbors in northern states enjoy, but we certainly have wonderful, warm, sunny days, cool evenings, and dawns that are even a little nippy 60F, at this time of year. Many neighbors have renewed interest in gardening and getting out walking along Shore Drive. Another lady has appeared on San Jose, standing across from our long-term resident skeleton family. Is she awaiting the USPS van? [She stands by a mailbox] She looks too graceful to have nefarious intentions! I expect to have more to report by Halloween.

Although I wrote that we may not get fall foliage colors, I take joy in the cypress trees that grace our area. There is a lovely stand between the Community Hospice office building on US1S and Old Moultrie Road.



There are others around the retention ponds on Flagler Hospital campus, and by the pond at the SE Branch library. Not only are they a deciduous conifer—unusual in itself—they have such lovely fall colors on their very lovely lacy leaves!! Such amazing trees: they also have ‘knees’! Unfortunately, my garden, like most in The South, is way too dry to plant a cypress tree.

I received positive feedback and interest on last month’s item on dumped pekin ducks – mainly drakes. I didn’t mention the worst episode of dumping that has occurred in recent years, but a flock of more than 20 on Oyster Creek. They wandered along Old Dixie Highway to the Serenity House where some club members fed them. At least one was killed on the road, and when a local rehabber and I went searching to take them to safety, there were piles of feathers near one section of shoreline. But a local animal lover picked up 17



[I think but memory is hazy] and gave them a great home on her small holding in the south of St. Johns County. One other local duck “issue” is feral muscovy ducks. We do not have wild muscovy in Florida. All the muscovy ducks we see on ponds around St Augustine are feral.

That is, they originated from domestic ducks that were dumper or escaped and have thrived. Muscovy ducks have only been domesticated for a few hundred years and still have good wild instincts, although not migratory instinct. They are wily, know how to forage and feed themselves, and curious to the point of nosiness. They do not quack like mallards and mallard derived ducks; the females make a cute gurgling sound, and drakes huff and puff. Some people say the drakes “hiss” but there is no “sss or zzz” in the sound. Muscovy drakes are not being mean when they huff and puff – they are excited, and if you observe them their takes wag excitedly like dogs’ tails. Our local problem with muscovy is that we are overrun with muscovy because people feed them. Without human interference, there would be far fewer, and far healthier muscovy ducks. Customers at McDonald’s feed the muscovy on the retention pond behind the store. So, more and more muscovy come there, in numbers well beyond the natural carrying number of the pond. The many excess muscovy come begging for food up to the McDonald’s door. Although the ducks eat the proffered French fries avidly, they are not getting good nutrition only “empty carbs.” This results in fat, unhealth ducks that cannot fly and are vulnerable to predation. They breed and ducklings are poisoned by the pollution in the retention pond. Ducklings that survive there have a high rate of “angel wing” a disabling condition where the flight feathers on the wings stick out and prevent the duck from flying. Periodically the owners of the retention pond have the ducks culled – and it’s not a humane process. None of this would happen if people did not feed the ducks. Without human given food, the retention pond can support very few ducks and others would leave in search of food.



Two rescued muscovy drakes

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www.gardenclubofstaugustine.org
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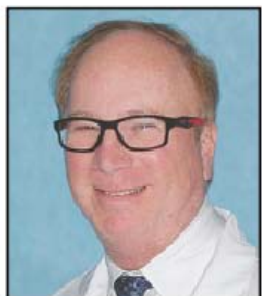
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New office located off Old Mountrie Road just West of Walmart

St. Augustine Observer

Published monthly for residents and visitors of St. Augustine Florida area

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Cliff Logsdon Publisher/Editor

(904) 607-1410

Email: clifflogsdon@att.net



The purpose of the St. Augustine Observer is to serve residents of St. Augustine area Communities.

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

Information 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 St. Augustine Observer, 2465 US1 South PMB #8, St. Augustine Florida 32086. Information may also be e-mailed to clifflogsdon@att.net.

All materials submitted to the Observer is subject to editing. Publishing of submitted letters and 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 Observer.

Information, articles and other materials published are believed to be accurate at time of publishing. Acceptance of articles, advertising does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the contents, products or services by the Observer or its staff. It is agreed that the Observer and its staff will not be held liable for information provided herein by submitters/advertisers, including pictures, graphics, websites, dates, times and/or emails listed, that may have the potential to constitute fraud or other violation of law including copywriting infringements. The publisher reserves the right to refuse materials that does not meet the publication's standards.

St. Augustine Shores Community

**The Shores Service Corporation
Shores Homeowners Association**
(904) 794-2000

www.staugshores.org

Shores Monthly Meetings

• **Shores Service Corporation's** monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Riverview Club.

• **Conquistador Condominium** Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Riverview Club. Please call to confirm that the meeting will be held.

• **Fairview Condominium:** Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 4 p.m. at the Fairview Condo club house.

• **Greens Condominium:** Board meetings vary. Owners please contact Sovereign and Jacobs at 904-461-5556.

• **Casa Bella Condominium:** Board Meetings will be bi-monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month, still held at 6 P.M. Meeting location will still be posted on the bulletin board 48 hours prior to each meeting. Contact: Community Association Manager – Kandice Williams – 904-461-9708 Ext. 205 – kwilliams@maymgt.com or Community Association Assistant – Vicki Collins – 904-461-9708 Ext. 231 – vcollins@maymgt.com.

St. Augustine South Community

St. Augustine South Improvement Assoc.
709 Royal Rd. St Augustine, 32086

email: info@staugsouth.com

www.staugsouth.com

(904) 615-6916

2025 SASIA Board Members

President: Jerri Sue Dawson

1st VP: David Rieger

2nd VP: Oonna Heuck

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Margo Geer

Board:

Andre D'Elena Justin Miller

Linda Stegall Vicki Cofone

SASIA Community Meeting

Please join us on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the SASIA clubhouse, except July and August.

"Bats! Speaker Justin Miller discusses the fascinating world of bats, the myths, legends, bat houses, and how native bats help our community.

Classes at the SASIA Clubhouse

Weekly classes at the clubhouse are open to the public. You do not need to be a resident in St. Augustine South to participate.

Square Dancing – Mondays 7:00-9:00 p.m. Come and join the fun and dance with others. Contact caller, Mike Akers, with any questions: michael_akers@bellsouth.net or (904) 466-8663.

Movin' with Melinda – Tuesdays

and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. Move and groove in a low to medium impact exercise class with music from the past and present. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Contact Melinda at slidermomma@yahoo.com.

REFIT and Rev+Flow with Onika - Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:00p.m. REFIT combines powerful moves and music to create an exciting, fun workout for all ages. Rev+Flow is a one-of-a-kind workout that increases strength, builds muscle and increases mobility. Classes run through October 9th.

Beginning Line Dancing – Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 p.m. Have fun as you boot, scoot, and boogie while learning to dance. Join Dianne and Ingrid for a beginning level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Intermediate/Advanced Line Dancing – Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 p.m. Join Jinny for an intermediate/advanced level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Residents interested in joining SASIA may do so at www.staugsouth.com

Print Distribution Locations

- YMCA
- Main Library
- Southeast Library
- Shores Riverview Club
- Goin Postal
- St. Johns County Pier Park
- Shores Golf Course

Community Classifieds

The Observer offers free community classified listings for USPS selected addresses in Southern St. Johns County and paid subscriptions. Classified ads will not be printed without a name, address and phone number included with the request. 5 items or less should be sent. Free ads are not for Business or Personal Service ads. Placement is not Guaranteed.

Business, Service, seeking work, etc. may be placed in the classified section: (1-4 lines) \$5, (5-9 lines) \$10, (10-14 lines) \$15, (15-19 lines) \$20. Ad \$10 for single line border. Ads should be paid in advance before placed. Send your listing and payment, if required, to Observer, 2465 US1 South PMB#8, St. Augustine, 32086 or email your ad to clifflogsdon@att.net. Deadline is the 15th of every month for the next monthly issue.

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Shores Communications Corner

News & Information from the St. Augustine Shores Service Corp.

Dear Shores residents

I hope everyone in the Shores community shares in the goal of maintaining a safe, welcoming environment where families can thrive while enjoying all the amenities our neighborhood has to offer. I take seriously the responsibility of ensuring that the Shores remain a desirable place to live—one that both protects and enhances property values.

To support this, I ask that any homeowner with concerns, issues, or observations submit them directly to the Shores office staff using the new form now available. This process ensures your concerns are appropriately documented and addressed. Please note that the monthly Board of Directors meeting is not the appropriate venue for submitting individual concerns.

The Board of Directors meeting is an open forum where financial matters and other official board business are reviewed, discussed, and voted upon by board members. At times, guest speakers or topics of special interest to homeowners may also be included.

We have several community events scheduled. On October 15th and 29th, two insurance healthcare specialists will be available at the Riverview Club from 10–11 AM to provide information on this year’s open enrollment for retirees. Given the complexity of these decisions, it is recommended that homeowners also consult independently with multiple insurance providers.

We will also be hosting a Halloween event at the Riverview Club, which will include activities for pets. Don't hesitate to get in touch with the office for further details.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to making the Shores a safe, welcoming, and well-managed community.

Sincerely,
Mike Nutile

Board President, St. Augustine Shores Service Corporation

Shores Riverview Club Member Activities

October 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CHAIR ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	2 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM WATER AEROBICS POOL 10: AM SCRABBLE 12 PM SITTING ROOM	3 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM	4
5	6 HAND & FOOT 12 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	7 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM SITTING ROOM	8 CHAIR ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	9 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM WATER AEROBICS POOL 10: AM SCRABBLE 12 PM SITTING ROOM	10 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM	11
12	13 HAND & FOOT 12 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	14 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM SITTING ROOM	15 CHAIR ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM UNITED HEALTHCARE SITTING ROOM 10AM	16 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM WATER AEROBICS POOL 10: AM SCRABBLE 12 PM SITTING ROOM	17 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM	18
19 "HOWL-O-WEEN" PET PARADE 3 PM	20 HAND & FOOT 12 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	21 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM SITTING ROOM	22 CHAIR ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	23 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM WATER AEROBICS POOL 10: AM SCRABBLE 12 PM SITTING ROOM	24 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM	25
26	27 HAND & FOOT 12 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	28 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM SITTING ROOM	29 CHAIR ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM UNITED HEALTHCARE SITTING ROOM 10AM	30 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM WATER AEROBICS POOL 10: AM SCRABBLE 12 PM SITTING ROOM	31 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM	

GENTLE YOGA TUESDAY'S & THURSDAY'S

ON THE WATERFRONT

12:00 – 1:00 PM



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 run through April 2026. Garden Club of St. Augustine Educator Stipends

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Grant will begin in October and run through April 2026.



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St. Johns Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve

The Green Thumbs, the gardening volunteers, will be offering their personal expertise on Saturday, October 11 from 10:30 am – 3:00 pm. (Rain date: Oct. 18). Specific talks include garden basics, gardening with native plants and propagation techniques.

The first talk begins at 10:30, with a break for lunch, followed by a walking tour of the nature preserve and the native gardens, ending with a demonstration of how to propagate succulents and other plants. There will also be a plant sale.

The volunteers will be available throughout the day to answer questions and offer in depth knowledge about maintenance requirements to keep your garden looking its best.

A food truck will be on site or bring a picnic lunch and enjoy one of the shaded picnic areas. Garden admission is required (members are free). For more information, visit stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org or its FaceBook page.



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SASIA News and Calendar of Events October 2025

All events are held in the SASIA Clubhouse at 709 Royal Road. If you wish to contact SASIA please email info@staugsouth.com.

Check out SASIA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/staugsouth, Nextdoor page (search for St. Augustine South Improvement Association), and Instagram page www.instagram.com/saintaugsouth/. Like and follow us so you can see what is happening at the SASIA clubhouse each week.

SASIA Community Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 7:00pm

"Bats! Speaker Justin Miller discusses the fascinating world of bats, the myths, legends, bat houses, and how native bats help our community.

Food Truck Nights

Food Truck Nights are the second Friday of each month from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse, (709 Royal Road, 32086)

Friday, October 10th Wingin' It

Friday, November 14th Saucey Pig

No Food Truck in December

Friday, January 9th, 2026 Uptown Artisan Pizza

Friday, February 13th, 2026 Jersey Girl Grill

Food Truck events are subject to change in the event of inclement weather. Check our social media for updates.

December Arts & Crafts Fair

Registration is open for vendors who are interested in participating in the SASIA Arts & Crafts fair on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The fair is held at the SASIA Clubhouse from 10am-2pm. <https://staugsouth.com/vendor-information>

Upcoming Events 2025

Friday, October 10th Wingin' It

Saturday, October 25th Fall Festival

Friday, November 14 Saucey Pig

Saturday, December 6th Arts & Crafts Festival

Saturday, December 13th Santa at the Clubhouse

Dates are subject to change.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Looking for encouragement and support taking care of your loved one with Alzheimer's or Dementia? We have a place for you to share your concerns and get resources to help with your journey.

The second Thursday of each month 10:00am-11:00am at Homeport Christian Church, 5605 US1 South, St Augustine.

For information, call Nancy Wright 904-347-6299 or the Alzheimer's Association 800-272-3900 or go to alz.org/help-support/caregivers

The Wildflower Meadow Group

by Marlene Land

The Wildflower Meadow group meets the first Saturday of each month at about 8:30 a.m. by the Riverview Club House and we usually work for a couple of hours. Our goal is to preserve the wildflower meadow, learn about native plants that grow in this area, and enjoy the outside. We're an informal group without officers or dues and hope you will join us. We occasionally visit state and county parks and welcome newcomers.

Call Cindy at 904-797-3931 or Marlene at 305-968-0447 for more information. If we can't answer leave a message and we'll call you back. Call for more information about the meadow and our walks to state and county parks.



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 Genealogical Society

The St Augustine Genealogical Society holds it's 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.

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.

Corpus Christi Catholic Church Annual Oktoberfest October 25th

Come join us at Corpus Christi Catholic Church for our annual Oktoberfest Saturday, October 25, 2025 in Marian Hall. Doors open at 5:00-6:00pm. The church is located at the intersection of U.S. Rt 1 South and Datil Pepper Road.

We'll be serving a traditional German dinner including (but not limited to) Bratwurst, Pork Loin, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage, homemade German Potato Salad, Bavarian Soft Pretzels, a variety of homemade desserts, and beverages. All this for \$17.50. (Children 6-12: \$5.00.)

The parishioners at Corpus Christi cook all the food, so it's prepared fresh and on premise.

Come enjoy some great food and camaraderie with new friends. Tickets are available before and after all Masses the weekends of 9/27 & 28; 10/11 & 12; and 10/18 & 19, at the Rectory on campus between 9:30-12:30 M-F, or at the door. We hope to see you there.

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Sheriff's Update

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick

Halloween Safety

Please review the below safety tips as we approach Halloween season:

1. Make sure costumes and candy bags or pails are reflective. Costumes shouldn't drag too far on the ground to avoid tripping, and masks, hats, and shoes should be well-fitting.

2. If you plan to be driving during trick-or-treat hours, watch for children walking on roadways, medians, and curbs. Be sure to enter and exit driveways carefully.

3. Stay in well-lit areas and bring a flashlight or glow stick. Always use the sidewalk, and do not cut across yards or use alleys. Wherever possible, cross the road at a crosswalk.

4. When in doubt, throw candy out. Avoid candy that has loose wrappings, is completely unwrapped, has puncture holes, or is homemade and not factory wrapped.

Registered sexual offenders and predators have additional restrictions on Halloween, including:

- No Halloween themed decorations
- No offering or distributing candy or treats to children
- Porch light or any exterior lights must be turned off
- No participation in Halloween parties, events, or festivals where minors are present

SJSO has a very proactive Sexual Predator Offender Tracking (SPOT) initiative which includes deputies and specialized detectives staying in constant contact with registered sexual offenders and predators in St. Johns County. Please contact SJSO if you have any questions or need assistance.

Non-emergency: 904-824-8304

Emergency: 911

The Garden Club of St. Augustine October 8th Meeting

The Garden Club of St. Augustine began a new year Saturday, Sept. 13 at 9:30am at the clubhouse, 3440 Old Moultrie Rd., St. Augustine, with refreshments followed by a presentation given by Dr. John Rossi/ St. Johns Botanical Garden... and a monthly business meeting.

With over 200+ energetic women and men, the GCSA is a beehive of activity. Last year's Garden Club's activities, which officially end in May, continued into the summer with the kids' Nature Detectives Pollinator programs at four local libraries, the Boys and Girls Club planting and learning sessions, and landscaping new Habitat for Humanity homes.

The October meeting and future general meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month, same time and place. Tom Torretta and Julia Wesling from Habitat for Humanity will speak Oct. 8, 2025. www.gardenclubofstaugustine.org



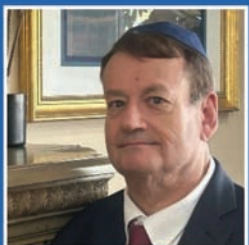
Holiday Christmas Market

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!



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October is All About the Kids! Our October First Friday on the 3rd will feature works culminated from our 2 Children's Classes and our Special Needs Class. Norah Sutphin teaches her S.T.E.A.M. rooted class, standing for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. She also heads up our Free, Second Saturday morning Kid's Class. Mandy Frevele holds a Special Needs Art Club on First Sundays of the month in the evening. All 3 classes will show off their accomplishments starting at 5pm. There will be kid friendly snacks and beverages as well as live music and prizes will be awarded.

Later in the month on October 18th the Art Studio gets spooky with The Tale Tellers of St. Augustine's "Ghost Stories at the Beach"! Come at Dusk if you dare to hear the ghoulish tales of the troupe and join in if you have a favorite one of your own. Sign-up starts at 6:30pm. Snacks and a special beverage from the "Cauldron of Blood" will be available.

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.



*Tale Tellers of St Augustine
And
The St. Augustine Beach Art Studio & Gallery
Present*

Ghost Stories At the Beach

Featuring Tale Tellers of St Augustine

**Your turn!
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cauldron for a
chance to tell
YOUR scariest
story

**Drink from the
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**October 18, 2025 starting at twilight (7:00 pm)
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Temple Bet Yam High Holy Day Services

We would like to welcome you to Temple Bet Yam's High Holy Day services. WHILE THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND, VISITORS MUST MAKE A RESERVATION. A PHOTO ID WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER. Call our office at 904-819-1875 to make a reservation. Security will be on-site. Temple Bet Yam is located at 2055 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine. Wishing you a very healthy and happy new year.

Erev Yom Kippur: October 1, Kol Nidre Service: 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Services: October 2 Morning Service 10:00 a.m., Afternoon Services: (Yizkor & Neilah) 3:30 p.m.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah: October 10, 7:30 p.m.

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Pumpkin Patch Opens October 12th

Join us for fun-filled family events at St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church, 724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32085

Saturday 11am-6pm,
Sunday 12pm-6pm,
Monday-Friday 2pm-6pm

And, Trunk or Treat October 31st
6pm-7pm.



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

Interested in the Civil War?

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The October presentation will be with Len Whiteside on "Jeb Stuart: The Rebel Cavalier". It will examine the life and exploits of this daring and dashing confederate cavalry leader in General Lee's army, along with the major battles of his time.

Hope you can join us. For questions or comments, please contact Len Whiteside at armyfam831@gmail.com

Additional 2025 meetings will be held on Nov 4 and Dec 2, same location and time.



Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder

Whether you like Time Capsules or not, their contents make you reflect about the past. On September 11th, 2025, at the St. Augustine Shores HOA Board meeting, the contents of a Time Capsule buried at the Riverview Club on May 5th, 2000 were on display. Contents included The St. Augustine Record from 01/01/2000 - the Y2K Edition, "The Explorer" 125th Anniversary Edition, a telephone directory, the book "The Houses of St. Augustine" (by David Nolan) and some other stuff (but no pickled eggplant - inside joke).

What an awesome set of artifacts. Carol McLeod was in attendance. Her husband, Doug, was among the driving forces behind the Time Capsule. As I reflect about Doug, I remember a kind gentleman who loved his community and volunteered his time tirelessly at the St. Augustine Shores Civic Association (SASCA). SASCA used to produce a magazine called "The Civic Advocate" for over 30 years in our community. Many good people in SASCA volunteered their time and talent to our community. Issues of The Civic Advocate were on display including the first issue and another issue with a photo of Doug McLeod. Carol reflected about a hand-written letter from her grandson who was 10 at the time. It read: "Dear Gramps, Here are the Pokémon cards for your Time capsule, Love Evan (P.S: What a good idea!)" Neither Doug nor Evan are alive today. As I said, time for reflection.

Whether you liked Charlie Kirk or not, on September 10th, 2025, he was assassinated for exercising his First Amendment rights. As Americans, we may want to reflect about that. And there are ongoing celebrations of his life and, believe it or not, celebrations of his death. His wife, Erika, in a tribute to her husband said that, Charlie used to ask her, "How can I be a better Husband? How can I be a better Father?" Isn't this type of selfless reflection that warrants celebration? Regardless of whether you liked him or not, ask yourself, "How can I be better?" The answer is: always. I will reflect. I can and I will improve. (My Diaries can also be better)

We are all walking and talking time capsules. We encapsulate a lifetime of memories and, of course, we are more than just the memories. We are what we say, what we do, the content of our characters and hopefully, the better parts of our souls are what we reflect. I know I am inadequate. I have my flaws, we all do. And yet, in the next 25 years, if we are fortunate enough to be alive, let us always work toward a better epitaph.

What will our world be like in 2050? In 2050, when you look back to 2025, what reflections will there be about the prior 25 years? I wish you always better reflections and a Sunshine State of Mind.

ONLY YOU KNOW & I KNOW

Dirk: What is Homestead "Portability" and is my Loan Assumable?

The Save Our Homes Tax Cap of 3% per year, when applied to our Assessed Value, provides a difference between your "Taxable" and "Market Value". *This difference is known as your "deferred" value.* The longer you have lived in your home, the larger the deferred value is likely to be. If you're downsizing or maybe an empty nester and want to buy smaller or maybe something more practical, you can take this deferred value with you and reduce your taxable value by subtracting your deferred value from your new home's assessed value (100% if you buy a home of equal or greater value).

Bottom Line: your taxes may not go up at your new homestead as a result of "Portability" (a.k.a. deferred value). Confused - call me. I can help.

Why would it be important for my loan to be assumable? If you're selling and your existing loan has a rate under 4%, the buyer of your home might be able to assume your loan - a huge selling point! There are companies you can connect with (including your lender if they still have your loan and didn't sell it) who can be hired to arrange for buyers to assume your low interest rate!

Bottom Line: you may be able to make your home very attractive in a tough market.

Have Questions? Call me. Need help with your real estate. You know who to call: Dirk Schroeder, Broker/Owner 904-540-2360 (dirkschroeder@msn.com)



Dirk Schroeder
Direct: 904-540-2360
2820 US 1 S. St. Augustine FL 32086



Medicare 2026 Part D Changes: What Beneficiaries Need to Know

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

As Medicare beneficiaries prepare for 2026, significant changes are coming that will impact prescription drug costs, coverage limits, and out-of-pocket expenses. These changes stem largely from provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which introduced new cost-saving measures for seniors while also implementing inflation adjustments.

Major Part D Prescription Drug Changes Higher Deductibles and Out-of-Pocket Limits

Medicare Part D beneficiaries will face increased costs in 2026. The maximum deductible that Part D plans can charge will rise to \$615, up from \$590 in 2025. This represents a \$25 increase that could affect millions of Medicare enrollees at the start of their prescription drug coverage each year.

The out-of-pocket spending threshold will also increase to \$2,100 in 2026, up from \$2,000 in 2025. While this \$100 increase means beneficiaries will need to spend more before reaching catastrophic coverage, once they hit this threshold, they'll pay nothing for covered Part D drugs for the remainder of the year.

Simplified Cost Structure

The 2026 Part D benefit structure will work as follows:

- **Deductible Stage:** Beneficiaries pay 100% of drug costs up to \$615
- **Initial Coverage:** After meeting the deductible, beneficiaries typically pay 25% of drug costs until reaching the coverage limit
- **Catastrophic Coverage:** Once out-of-pocket spending reaches \$2,100, costs drop to \$0 for the rest of the year

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Improvements

Starting in 2026, the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (MPPP) will become more user-friendly. Beneficiaries who participated in this program, which allows spreading prescription costs over the calendar year rather than paying in full at the pharmacy, will be automatically re-enrolled each year unless they choose to opt out. Plan sponsors will also be required to process opt-out requests within three calendar days.

What Beneficiaries Should Do Plan for Higher Initial Costs

With the increased deductible and out-of-pocket threshold, beneficiaries should budget for potentially higher prescription drug costs early in the year, while keeping

in mind that catastrophic coverage will provide complete protection once the \$2,100 threshold is reached.

Review Plans Annually

Medicare costs, benefits, and provider networks can change each year. The Medicare Open Enrollment period (October 15 - December 7, 2025) will be crucial for beneficiaries to review their options and potentially make changes to their coverage.

Seek Assistance

Beneficiaries should work with their healthcare providers, pharmacists, and Medicare counselors to understand how the new benefits will affect their specific situations.

St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

The SAB Democratic Club's next meeting is on Tuesday October 7, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St Augustine Beach. Our speaker on October 7 will be Trina McCowan Adams, Director of Library Services at Flagler College. Director McCowan Adams will be presenting an "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: How it works and how the average person can use it." 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@sabdems.org.

St. Augustine Travel Club - Peter Dytrych

The October gathering of the St. Augustine Travel Club will be on Wednesday, OCTOBER 8 @ 3:00 PM. We meet at the Southeast Branch Public Library on US 1, South. We will cover India and the highlights.....Exploring Northern India and its shops and temples. Admire the famous Taj Mahal in Agra, one of the world's man-made wonders.

The St. Augustine Travel Club is open to all residents and no registration is required. The program is formatted as arm-chair travel, meaning a brief lecture of the destination we cover, along with a video. Our program is held at the Southeast Public Library, 6670 US 1, St. Augustine. We look forward to seeing our regulars and newcomers! Any questions, please call Peter at 904-797-3736



Medicare

If you are turning 65 and to understand Medicare as well as review available plans, appointments are free and there is no obligation to enroll.



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St. Augustine Orchid Society

Janis Croft

October 7 - Blooming Cattleyas Courtney Hackney, Hackneau Art & Orchids

Dr. Hackney will talk about growing and flowering cattleyas to perfection. Cattleyas are known as the queen of orchids and commonly used in corsages. Courtney has been creating better cattleya hybrids for years. He'll talk about how best to grow cattleyas to get the best blooms. He is Emeritus Professor of Biology and the former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida who has written numerous articles and also published "American Cattleyas", a book which summarizes in old photographs and prints how all of the modern cattleyas came to be.

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: October 7, 6:30 to 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church

Drive around to the back entrance

3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



Homeport Christian Church Fall Fest

Sunday October 26th 5 pm-6:30 pm

FREE TO THE COMMUNITY

There will be a Chile Cook-Off, Trick or Treat, an Obstacle Course, and of course a Cake Walk, and Much, Much More! Join us at 5605 US 1 South. If you need more information contact Candice Childers at 904-797-8927.

Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support

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 October 9th, 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.

Garden Club of St. Augustine 54th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes

December 14 Noon - 5 pm

Enjoy the Holiday Tea & Boutique at the River House
179 Marine Street | Noon – 4:00 PM

Indulge in holiday cookies, coffee, and tea, all prepared by Garden Club members. The Boutique offers handmade wreaths, ornaments, baked goods, fresh floral arrangements, and gift baskets — perfect for seasonal shopping. A "Will Call" area is available for guests to hold purchases while they tour. Additional Details:

- This is a self-paced walking tour. Comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing are encouraged.

- Limited transportation is available from the City Parking Garage to the River House, with possible drop-off points near the homes.

- Some homes may have steps or stairs. Tickets: \$50.00 per person Advance reservations are required — this popular event sells out quickly . Tickets go on sale October 1, 2025. Purchase Online: Visit www.gardenclubofstaugustine.org Local Ticket Outlets (Cash or Check Only):

- Southern Horticulture - 1690 A1A S | (904) 471-0440

- Leonardi's Nursery - 902 Anastasia Blvd | (904) 829-5909

- Flowers by Shirley - 2200 US 1 South | (904) 824-8163

- Herbie Wiles Insurance - 400 N Ponce De Leon Blvd | (904) 829-2201 Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of holiday beauty, tradition, and community spirit!

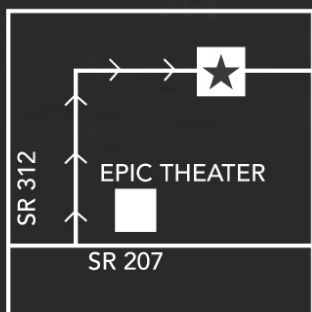


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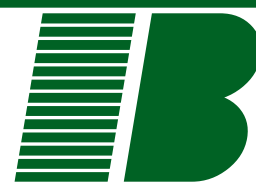
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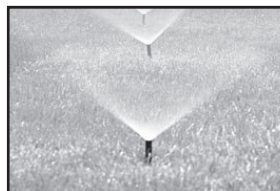
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Pictured from left to right: State Rep. Kiyan Michael, District 16; Sarah Arnold, District 2 Commissioner for St. Johns County; State Sen. Thomas J. Leek, District 7.

St. Johns County hosted a historic celebration on Sept. 18 to mark the State of Florida's \$1 million appropriation for the planning and design of the Florida Black History Museum in West Augustine. The event honored the collective efforts of State and County leaders, community members, and advocates who worked tirelessly to make the project a reality.

The Florida Black History Museum will honor the past while inspiring the future, serving as a lasting symbol of resilience, unity, and pride for all Floridians. It will highlight the stories, struggles, and triumphs of Black Floridians as an essential part of the state's identity and stand as a place for learning, reflection, and inspiration.

Learn more about this incredible project and how history is being made in St. Johns County: <https://bit.ly/4mnDbU8>

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Saturday Night:
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Sunday Morning:
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For more information, contact Kate Batzel at
k.batzel@stfrancisshelter.org

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