

St. Augustine OBSERVER

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

ink! Celebrates its Take Stock in Children Graduating Seniors



Community education program helps support students through mentorship, guidance, + scholarships

Investing in Kids (INK!) proudly celebrates the Take Stock in Children St. Johns County Class of 2025, including a very special milestone – 13 seniors are graduating as the 25th class of Take Stock in Children-St. Johns County. The program is a non-profit mentoring, college success, and college scholarship organization dedicated to transforming Florida one student at a time. INK! has managed Take Stock in Children-St. Johns since 1998, granting over \$2,000,000 in donor-supported scholarships.

“One hundred percent of our Take Stock in Children 2025 graduates are moving on to post-secondary education,” said Cathy Newman, INK!’s Executive Director. “This is a milestone for the program in St. Johns County and continues a long history of success. In the last 20 years, 96 percent of our local Take Stock graduates have continued their education past high school, with 62 percent earning an associate’s, bachelor’s, and/or master’s degree. We are thankful for our amazing support organizations, college and career advisors, and mentors, comprised of business professionals, leaders, and community members.”



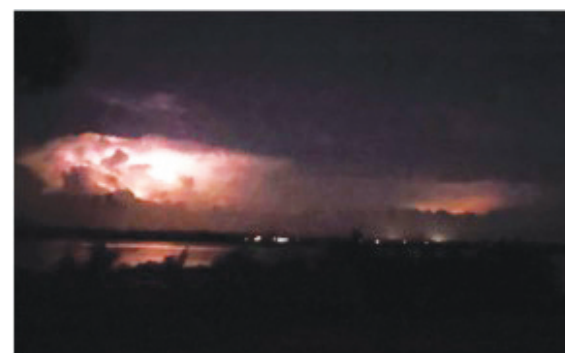
Working statewide throughout Florida, Take Stock in Children’s mission is to break the cycle of poverty for lowincome, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for degree attainment through postsecondary education. As the exclusive local affiliate for the statewide Take Stock in Children organization, INK! helps students graduate from high school with individualized support through volunteer mentors, college and career coaching, tuition scholarships, and hope for future success. Students must sign a contract, promising to maintain a 2.5 grade point average, stay in school, and remain drug and crime-free. At graduation, Take Stock in Children scholars are awarded tuition scholarships equaling 60 credit hours to the Florida state college or technical college of their choice.

This year’s graduating class is moving on to secondary opportunities at the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, University of North Florida, St. Johns River State College, Florida State College of Jacksonville, Daytona State College, and First Coast (continued on page 8)

St Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope

At the time of writing this, the long-needed rain has arrived. After measurable precipitation on three consecutive days, the moderate drought we were experiencing in St Augustine was over. Although there was enough rain to green up the lawns, it will take a lot more to saturate the ground. My own garden was a dustbowl – I didn’t realize until I had to have a laurel oak removed. The heavy equipment used tore up the spring flowers and left behind dust and sand. I was glad of the rain so that I could then mulch with oak leaves, saved from March, to hold the moisture in the soil. Perhaps the native plants that flower later in the summer and have not started to sprout, for example partridge pea, will do well. I just hope that those that were crushed and pulled out will return next year from the seedbank in the soil. And perhaps new natives that like sunshine will now thrive where before there was shade. We have left two snags from the laurel oak: the two trunks cut off at 10 feet and 12 feet in height, for the benefit of woodpeckers and other wildlife. Although the main trunk is rotting inside, at 12 feet tall it is not a danger to our house or the road, should it fall. Around the same time, we had heavy rain, we also had quite amazing electric storms at night. There was no rain, and the lightning was too far away to hear thunder, but the light show was incredible. Lightning seemed to bounce around inside clouds, over the Island. No doubt folks living on the Island had the light show way out over the Atlantic.



Mother’s Day came in the midst of the rainy days, but fortuitously it was dry for those taking Mom out for lunch, and for folks visiting the new farmers market at the Classic Car Museum on US1 South. Meanwhile, in St Augustine South, the family of Skeletons I have written about before, are still out and about, and were celebrating Mother’s Day.

Where can the spires of Flagler College and silhouette of the Treasury Building, along with the lighthouse, and the SR206 draw bridge all be seen in St Augustine South? On Shore Drive between Neptune and Saturn Roads, but one can only be certain about the SR206 draw bridge when it is open.



Did You Get Your Copy of the Observer?

The St. Augustine Observer community newspaper is delivered free by US Mail to the Shores & South Communities and other selected smaller neighborhoods in Southern St. Johns County 32086 residential areas. Currently 9,000 copies are mailed to selected carrier Routes.

Free copies are also available at the Riverview Club office and the Main & Southeast Libraries or at the website, www.StAugustineObserverOnline.com.

If you do not live in the current mailing areas, contact me at 904-607-1410 or clifflogsdon@att.net for an annual monthly subscription for \$12 to cover a portion of the postage. The paper is made possible by our advertisers. Visit and thank them whenever possible.



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St. Augustine
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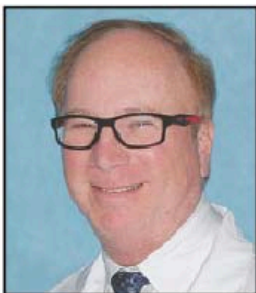
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The Legend of Turnadot

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended The Legend of Turandot at Memorial Presbyterian Church during this year's Romanza Festivale of Music and the Arts. It was a full house, and your presence and support meant the world to us and to our guest artists, The Pinnacle Singers. We're so grateful to share these powerful musical moments with such a passionate community.

Limelight Theatre Rhinoceros Explores Totalitarianism Now playing through June 15

Eugene Ionesco's Rhinoceros comes to the Limelight Theatre! It is the first time ever that Limelight has produced Absurdist Theatre. Eugene Ionesco is the father of Theatre of the Absurd, which revolutionized the theatre landscape of mid-century Europe and then beyond.

Rhinoceros was written in 1959, inspired by the rise of Nazi Germany. In this action-packed allegory that warns of the dangers of nationalistic fervor, mob mentality, and the rise of destructive political forces, a provincial village is overrun by rhinoceroses. A young man watches his world descend into the chaos of the stampede, and he is faced with the moral dilemma of his own identity in the face of societal decay. The rhinoceroses in the show are symbols of fascism and how it destroys society and the arts.

Absurdist Theatre usually explores existentialism, allegory, or symbolism of great magnitude that explores societal insanities and agonies of the human condition. Limelight Theatre is in Season 33 and presents at least three straight plays each year in addition to five musicals. The education program provides classes for adults and children, producing an additional five shows per season.

Limelight has cultivated loyal patrons and subscribers who enjoy Broadway on a small scale in St. Augustine. The talented visual and performing artists, directors, and designers work around the clock to turn out riveting theatre. Limelight students are able to hone their skills and grow their careers in professional theatre and film.



Limelight Theatre

**11 Old Mission Avenue
St. Augustine
904-825-1164**



Visit downtown St. Augustine and enjoy World Class Music in a World Class Setting over two weekends!

2025 St. Augustine Music Festival

Week One

THURSDAY, June 19, 2025



McPHAIL

"Celebrate Juneteenth, James Weldon Johnson's Birthday, and the 125th Anniversary of Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Featuring the Ritz Chamber Players, Soprano Ann Marie McPhail

**FRIDAY, June 20, 2025
"Season's Best"**

Astor Piazzolla (1921 – 1992) - Four Seasons of Buenos Aires
Nigel Armstrong, Violin



PEÑA

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)
String Symphony No. 8 in D minor/major, MWV N 8 (1822)

**SATURDAY, June 21, 2025
"Piano Spectacular"**

Ludwig von Beethoven "Kreutzer" Violin Sonata No 9
Gabriela Peña, Violin

**SUNDAY, June 22, 2025
"Bach to Mozart"**



SZEWczyk

Anton Webern (1883-1945) - Langsamer Satz,
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Brandenburg Concerto No 1
Piotr Szewczyk (b. 1977) - Sinfonietta for String Orchestra
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) - Horn Concerto No 4 KV10

Week Two

**FRIDAY, June 27, 2025
"Songs of Joy"**



DAILEY

Darren Dailey, Artistic Director, Josh Pedde, Guest Conductor
John Rutter (b. 1945) - Magnificat
Jacksonville Children's Chorus Touring Choir and Voices of Jacksonville
Songs of Joy
Indianapolis Children's Choir and Festival Chorus

**SATURDAY, June 28, 2025
"Perfect Balance and Beauty"**



COOPER

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) String Quintet in G, Op. 77
Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) - "Crisantemi" for string quartet
Alex Cooper (b 1994 -) - Rhythmic Colors
Caroline Shaw (1982 -) - Valencia for string quartet
Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) - Septet for Piano, Trumpet & Strings Op.65

**SUNDAY, June 29, 2025
"Mozart and More"**



Antonio Vivaldi (1678– 741)- Concerto for Mandolin, in C major, RV 425
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) - Symphony 35
Piotr Szewczyk (b. 1977) - St. Augustine Suite for Chamber Orchestra
(10th Anniversary of the Premiere of the Suite and Celebrating the 460th Anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine)

St. Augustine Observer

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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

June Community Meeting
Wednesday, June 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us on Wednesday, June 18th at 7:00 p.m. District 3, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Clay Murphy will be our guest speaker. He will be happy to address any issues and will discuss the current situation with the road behind WaWa.

Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the SASIA clubhouse, except July and August.

2024 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

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.

Yoga with Joi – Tuesdays/Thursdays 50+ 9:45-10:45a.m., and 18+ 6:00-7:00p.m. from June 3-12th and July 3-31st. All Level-Flow. Build Strength, Stability, and Flexibility

Donation-based class. Bring a mat and comfortable clothes to move in. Classes will run from June 3-12th and July 3-31st.

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

Art Classes on Tuesdays with Jenny Keyser - Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Intermediate/Advanced Art - Tuesdays: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Intermediate / Advanced Art. Students 18 years and older can register for Art Classes by contacting Jenny at jenny@jennykeyser.com with the class name and time in the subject line.

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.

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. 2nd Monday of each month from 10a.m.-12 noon. Join Jinny for an intermediate/advanced level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Rev+Flow with Onika - Wednesdays 6:00-7:00p.m. Rev+Flow is a one-of-a-kind workout that increases strength, builds muscle and increase mobility and functionality in your movements. Classes will run on June 11 and 25, and July 2, 9, and 23.

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

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.

FORSALE: 1 set of 4 2024-2025 Hyundai Sonata Carpet Floor Mats for your brand new Sonata. Fits N-LINE and HYBRID. Mats are NEW and BLACK. Cash Only \$150.00 Please call John 904-501-0187.

FOR SALE: Yankee fans! Selling Certified untouched signed baseballs w/ display cases & original boxes. Paul O'Neil DJ Lemahieu (signed as Le Machine) Derek Jeter 2009 World Series (bought at \$700) Gerrit Cole (signed 23 AL CY) \$200 each Buy 1, all, any combo. Partner passed in '23 and I would love to pass on to someone who will enjoy seeing/having them as we did. Can text pics. Call Susan 904-599-2498.

FOR SALE: Sun Joe Electric Lawn Mower. New in box. 12A motor. 15" cutting width. 9.3 gallon grass catcher. Asking \$45.00. Call 863-231-1671.

FOR SALE: Malone Universal Cross Bars. Great Deal! Never been used and still in the Box! Fits 3/4" – 1 3/4" Side Rails. Slide Locking Caps with Key. Max Length 50" Easy Install. Great for caring luggage on top. Must have Factory Side Rails \$30. Call 904-472-4465 Please Voicemail or Text Me.

FOR SALE: New Large Designer Walker, make offer. Clothing: most wit tags. Large size tops, shorts and more \$2. Call or text 904-687-3362.

FOR SALE: (1) Childs bucket swing \$25. (2) Dehumidifier \$50. (3) Belt Sander \$50. (4) Electric Power Saw \$50. (5) 11ft Cantilever Umbrella with lights & base \$100. Call 904-679-3369.

FOR SALE: Antique Dining Room Set of Table, 6 chairs, Buffet, and China Cabinet \$1550 904.797.6501

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

(904) 806-2060.

WANTED: Coins, Gold and Jewelry. I buy Silver Coins, Gold and Jewelry at great prices. Call Mike at 904-501-1449.

WANTED: Female seeks walking partner in the Shores. Call or text 904-687-3362.

St Augustine Observer

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Shores Communications Corner

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

Shores President’s Update

Dear Shores Residents,

May brought many changes to the St. Augustine Shores community. On May 2nd, the Board of Directors hosted the Annual Membership Meeting at Riverview Club, and we were excited to see so many homeowners in attendance.

During this meeting, the Board of Directors said goodbye to Skip Abrams as he vacated his seat from the Board, and we welcomed two new Board Directors, Helene Conroy-Smith and Patti Merrill.

Following the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors confirmed the officer positions with Mike Nutile remaining as Board President, Kathy Schroeder remaining as VP/Secretary, and Lindsay Hamm remaining as the Treasurer.

Other important announcements were made at this meeting, including the most anticipated talk of the neighborhood—the vote to modify and remove the HOA cap of 3%, which did not pass by members; this cap will remain in place for another fiscal year.

As we head into June, you may notice a few new employees at the HOA office. Last month, the Board was sad to report that Community Association Manager Shanna Fredrickson, Assistant Manager Christine Hart, and Marketing Admin Destani Stratton were offered new opportunities outside of our association and will not be returning in June. We want to recognize their efforts and contributions in our organization and wish them well on their new adventures.

In this time of transition, the Board is actively exploring new possibilities to continue delivering the exceptional service that our residents value. This includes interviewing potential Management Companies and individual applicants with the goal of bringing new talent to the office management team. Debbie Stanley, Office Admin, and our dedicated seasonal Events and Pool Attendants support staff will continue serving the community through the transition. The Board of Directors sincerely appreciates their commitment and ongoing support.

In closing, the Board is committed to serving the residents of our community. It remains focused on supporting a thriving, welcoming community to ensure that the Shores remains one of the most desirable places to live in Saint John’s County.

Warm regards,
Mike Nutile, Board President St. Augustine Shores Service Corp.

Annual Family Fun Festival June 28th St. Augustine South Community is Cancelled

by Libby Johnson, Broker - Owner, First Coast Realty Inc.

Annual Family Fun Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 28, 2025 - 11:00-1:00 at the St. Augustine South Clubhouse, 709 Royal Road, 32086 has been canceled. Some unespecte issues has developed preventing me from holding the event at this time. For more information email libby@firstcoastrealtyinc.com or 904-874-3996.

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Shores Riverview Club Member Activities				
June 2025 Activities				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Zumba (\$10) 3:30-4:30 PM Reflections Ballroom	Water Aerobics (\$10) 10:00-11:00 AM Riverview Pool	Water Zumba (\$10) 10:00-11:00 AM Riverview Pool	Water Aerobics (\$10) 10:00-11:00 AM Riverview Pool	Zumba (\$10) 10:00-11:00 AM Reflections Ballroom
Gentle Yoga (Owners Only) 12:00-1:00 PM Waterfront Grounds		FOOD TRUCK NIGHT! 4:00-7:00	Cardio Kickboxing (\$8) 9:00-10:00 AM Reflections Ballroom	
Euchre (Owners Only) 12:00-1:30 PM Reflections Ballroom			Scrabble (Owners Only) 12:00-3:00 PM Serenity Sitting Room	
Barre Class (\$8) 5:30-6:30 PM Reflections Ballroom				

Disclaimer:
 **Fee Based Classes are open to members and non-members.
 **Owner's may bring a guest to owner only activities.
 **Schedule subject to change



June 2025 Food Trucks

every Wednesday 4:00-7:00 PM

- 6/4/25: Crepe Crazy
- 6/11/25: County Road Provisions
- 6/18/25: Enter The Dragon Roll
- 6/25/25: Sal’s Cucina



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SASIA News and Calendar of Events

June 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.

June Community Meeting

Wednesday, June 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us on Wednesday, June 18th at 7:00 p.m. District 3, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Clay Murphy will be our guest speaker. He will be happy to address any issues and will discuss the current situation with the road behind WaWa.

Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the SASIA clubhouse, except July and August.

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)

Friday, June 13th, The Jersey Girl Grill

Friday, July 11th, TBA

Friday, August 8th, Heart and Soul Food

Friday, September 12th, El Hombre Tacos

Friday, October 10th, Wingin' It

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

SASIA Volunteer Community Cleanup

Saturday, June 7, 2025, 9am-12pm

Our March 3rd Community Cleanup was a success. We collected over 133 pounds of trash, as well as disposing rusting cylinders from the side of the road. A special thank you to the de Jong/Squires family for donating their time and energy to helping clean up the South.

Our next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th 9am-12pm. Please sign up online if your family would like to participate. It's a wonderful way for high school students to earn community hours. <https://volunteercleanup.org/event/sasia-community-cleanup-4/>

Upcoming Events 2025

Saturday, June 7th – Porkapooloza

Friday, June 13th- The Jersey Girl Grill

Tuesday, June 10th – Splish & Splash Sprinkler Fun

Friday, July 11th- TBA

Friday, October 10th, Wingin' It

Saturday, October 25th - Fall Festival

Friday, September 12th, El Hombre Taco

Saturday, December 6th – Arts & Crafts Festival

Saturday, December 13th – Santa's at the Clubhouse

Dates are subject to change.

Interested in the Civil War?

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be Tuesday, JUNE 3, 2025 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The June presentation will be with Len Whiteside titled "PART II: The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Aftermath". Part II examines the manhunt, capture and trials of the conspirators, and their final outcome. Even if you missed the Part I presentation, we think you will enjoy Part II.

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



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.



St. Augustine Orchid Society

Janis Croft

The St. Augustine Orchid Society will host Nicholas Rust of RustyExotics Orchids at our June 3 meeting.

Nicholas will discuss over 30 different genera, including common ones like Phalaenopsis and Cattleya to the lesser-known orchids like Porpax and Coryanthes. He will also define "what is an orchid" to explain how the vast and bizarre variation of flowers could all possibly be orchids. Lastly, there is loads of cultural information and some "tips and tricks" to becoming an award-winning orchid grower.

Nicholas operates a small orchid nursery based in Georgia, selling uncommon orchids such as Habenaria, jewel orchids, and Bulbophyllum. Plants will be available on the sales and raffle tables. The Society welcomes all to our monthly meetings. No charge.

When: June 3, 6:30 to 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church (Drive around to the back entrance)

3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086, <https://www.staugorchidsociety.org>

Vacation Bible School

St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church

724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32086

June 9-13, 2025 from 9:00 am to noon daily. Children enter kindergarten-5th grade.. Children will learn how people in the bible used their talents, gifts and learn about their own Spiritual Gifts. Bible Stories, music, crafts, games, and snacks will light the way! Registration forms are available in the church office.

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.

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Sheriff's Update

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick

St. Johns County Sheriff Foundation, Inc. - Supporting those who serve us

Every day, the brave men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office put on the badge and step into the unknown — to protect us, to serve our families, and to keep our community safe. But who stands behind them when tragedy strikes or personal hardship hits home?

We recently launched the St. Johns County Sheriff Foundation, Inc. to provide support to SJSO employees and their families during their most difficult moments. Whether it's a sudden illness, a serious injury, or the devastating loss of a loved one in the line of duty, this Foundation ensures no one faces it alone. The Board of Directors is made up of respected community and business leaders driven by a shared commitment to the well-being of our law enforcement family.

If you would like to help support the foundation with a charitable donation, please visit the website below. Additionally, under the events tab, you will find detailed information about our upcoming "Guardian Experience" which is more than just a fundraiser - it's an opportunity for business leaders to step into our world, engage in an immersive, hands-on experience, and stand shoulder to shoulder with us in supporting those who serve our community every day.

Thank you for your continued support of the men and women of SJSO. stjohnscsf.org.

GriefShare

by Melanie Scoggin

Please join us for GriefShare, a weekly seminar to help you rebuild your life after the loss of a loved one. You are welcome to attend at any point during the 13 weeks. Contact Melanie, 904-759-1054 or email rscoogn@gmail.com or GriefShare.org under Find A Group to register.

Starting Wednesday May 7, 2025 - July 30, 2025 from 6pm - 730pm at Crescent Beach Baptist Church, St. Augustine FL 32086

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.



Red Hot Lens: A Summer Photography Show

At The Art Studio, we're thrilled to present "Red Hot Lens," a photography showcase that highlights the remarkable talents of our Studio's Photographers. This summer, we're excited to display their diverse range of work and present their unique vision and skill.

Each photographer in our studio brings their own perspective and artistic flair to their work, capturing the essence of their subject matter with a keen eye for detail and a masterful touch. Whether it's a stunning landscape, a captivating portrait, or a thought-provoking abstract, their photographs are a testament to their dedication and passion for photography.

"Capturing Summer's Sizzle"!

8 Photographers: John Anderson, Laurie Back, Lorae Gamsey, Nancy Grasso, Stan Hill, Eva Askew-Houser, Bruce Palmero and Jennifer Tarbert will be showing their Photographs with an Opening On First Friday, June 6th starting at 5pm to 8pm. Please join us for Snacks and Drinks and Musical Entertainment by Rob Ellis Peck.

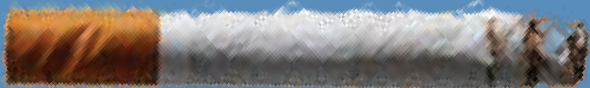
The Exhibit runs through the month of June, please stop by and see this special show. All the photos are for sale and other sizes and special mediums can be ordered.

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.



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info@staugsouth.com

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ink! Celebrates its Take Stock in Children Graduating Seniors

(continued from page 1)



Technical College. This year, INK! is honored to celebrate the 45-year educational career of retiring St. Johns County School District Superintendent Tim Forson with a scholarship awarded to one graduate in honor of his service. He was recognized at the May 12th graduation ceremony, with current graduates and alumni present.

The Take Stock in Children application window is currently open for students in St. Johns County public schools. Students in 8th, 9th, and 10th grades are eligible to apply online here. To learn more about Take Stock in Children in St. Johns County



Presenting laptops donated by the St. Augustine Lions Club to the graduating seniors of Take Stock in Children of St. Johns County class of 2025

or to become a mentor, contact Jim Wheeler at james.wheeler@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

The St. Johns County Education Foundation, Inc., which operates as Investing in Kids (INK!), promotes success for all St. Johns County public school students and teachers by providing innovative programs, teacher support, classroom resources, and scholarships to benefit more than 52,000 students and approximately 3,200 teachers. INK! is a 501(c)3 education foundation with offices at 1 Christopher Street in St. Augustine. Photos to accompany this release may be found here. Learn more at ink-stjohns.org and follow along on Facebook @InvestingInKids and Instagram @INK_InvestingInKids

Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder



“RIGHT NOW”, there are many things you could be doing. Same goes for me – spending my time coming up with new, original, non-ChatGPT material for the St. Augustine Observer. Who knows what you’re doing right now but this Episode is dedicated to the two words: “right” and “now”.

Let’s start with “RIGHT”: meaning being in accordance with what is just, good or proper (as in conduct). Here’s where certain people will embellish about what is proper or just; some will elevate what they believe to be proper, to “important” and even to “a sense of urgency”. For those of you that can either identify with being that person while other may be on the receiving end of someone else’s sense of urgency whereby you may have a different definition of what is “proper” and a completely different “sense of urgency” – like not at all urgent. From here, we can segway into what urgency might mean by looking at the word “NOW”.

What does “NOW” really mean? “Now” means at the present time or in the time immediately before the present. We’ve all heard the expression, “I needed it done yesterday!” Maybe you should have asked for it a little bit sooner. Maybe you needed it done yesterday but you might be the only one. Maybe the resources are not available to make it happen now. Maybe your emergency is being received by a slothy individual or maybe you have not justified your request properly.

Sometimes we just need to put things in perspective before we demand to have something done or answered “right now”. Maybe our expectations are overbearing or not realistic versus proper, good or just. You’ve also heard this; “Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part” which is often met by “Your emergency is not my emergency”.

So, before you go off on somebody demanding to have something “right now” (and of course “for free”), ask yourself: Is it required? For whom? Within what time frame? What happens if you don’t get your way? What if you were the other person (shoe on the other foot theory)? Will you be grateful and thank someone if they actually get it done right now?

We could all be doing something else right now but remember how good we have it living here in St. Augustine, Florida. And if you don’t like it here, I guarantee you I can name 100 places where life is so miserable you will appreciate what you have right here - right now. On that note, I wish everyone, as always, a Sunshine State of Mind!

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St. Augustine Film Society June Films

"Indochine" - Sunday June 1st Partnering with the Francophone Club.

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S, St. Augustine FL 32080
Doors open at 3:30PM. Film Begins at 4:00PM.

Set in French Indochina from the 1930s to the 1950s, Indochine is a sweeping period drama that intertwines personal and political turmoil against the backdrop of colonial decline and rising Vietnamese nationalism. It is often considered the French "Gone with the Wind". Winner Academy Awards and Golden Globes Best Foreign Film 1993.

"Scarlet Street" - Sunday June 8th at the Limelight Theater, 11 Old Mission Ave, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Doors open at 5:30PM. Film Begins at 6:00 PM.

Directed by Fritz Lang, this 1945 film noir starring Edward G. Robinson as a meek, middle-aged cashier and amateur painter trapped in a loveless marriage. During a chance encounter, Chris meets Kitty March (Joan Bennett), a cunning and manipulative femme fatale, and her scheming boyfriend, Johnny Prince (Dan Duryea). Mistaking Chris for a wealthy artist, Kitty and Johnny exploit his infatuation, convincing him to fund their lavish lifestyle. Scarlet Street remains a haunting exploration of human frailty, elevated by Lang's visionary direction and Robinson's poignant performance.

"I'm Still Here" - Friday June 27th at the Waterworks 184 San Marco Ave, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Doors open at 6:30PM. Film begins at 7:00PM.

I'm Still Here directed by Walter Salles, is a poignant political biographical drama set against the backdrop of Brazil's military dictatorship (1964–1985). The film chronicles the true story of Eunice Paiva (Fernanda Torres), a mother of five whose life is irrevocably altered when her husband, former congressman Rubens Paiva (Selton Mello), is abducted from their Rio de Janeiro home in 1971 by military authorities. Winner of Academy Award Best Foreign Film 2025 and nominated Best Actress for Torres.



SASIA 2025 Scholarships Awarded

The St. Augustine South Improvement Association (SASIA) has a rich history of giving back to its local community. This year we are pleased award two \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors living in St. Augustine South. The scholarship funds apply to registration, tuition, books, and fees to assist in further education. Congratulations to:

Perpetua Bland will be attending University of North Florida majoring in nursing. Perpetua is highly active and has donated volunteer hours tutoring and helping with school-related service projects. Perpetua has strong leadership skills and excels academically. She was awarded the Presidential Platinum Scholarship (UNF), as well as the MedNexus Scholarship award (FAN UNF).

Grayson Lagassé will be attending Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, where he will major in music and history. Grayson has lived in St. Augustine South since he was six years old. He has worked as a counselor at a camp for boys and is incredibly involved with musical endeavors. Grayson has performed in various locations around St. Augustine as well as festivals around Florida, including the Sing Out Loud Festival, John Prine Tribute Show, and the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival.

Congratulations to both recipients for their outstanding academic achievements, community service, and exemplifying the six pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS!. SASIA is proud to support you in your future educational endeavors.

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.



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St. Augustine Music Festival Returns in June

Music will fill the Cathedral Basilica with beautiful and a variety of music over the last two weekends in June when the St. Augustine Music Festival returns for its 19th season, offering the largest free classical chamber music concerts to the public. Concerts begin at 7:30 PM.

The first concert celebrates Juneteenth, James Weldon Johnson's Birthday, and the 125th Anniversary of "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

On Friday, June 20, the concert will feature violinist Nigel Armstrong performing Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires and works by Mendelssohn.

A fantastic night of virtuosic piano works and offering the renowned Beethoven Kreutzer Sonata with violinist Gabriela Peña takes place on Saturday, June 21.

Sunday, June 22 "Bach to Mozart" premieres the Sinfonietta for String Orchestra composed by Jacksonville Symphony violinist Piotr Szewczyk and music of Webern, Bach, and Mozart.

The St. Augustine Invitational Choral Festival, under the direction of Darren Dailey and Festival Conductor Josh Pedde, will highlight the seven movements of John Rutter's Magnifica during the Friday, June 27 concert, featuring one hundred children singers.

The concert on Saturday, June 28, is themed "Perfect Balance and Beauty." It features Dvořák, Puccini, Shaw and Saint-Saëns and introduces a rising young local composer, Alex Cooper, and his composition Rhythmic Colors.

The final concert of the season on Sunday, June 29 is offering Mozart's Symphony 35 and Vivaldi's Concerto for Mandolin. The program concludes with Szewczyk's St. Augustine Suite for Chamber Orchestra on the 10th anniversary of the composition and 460th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine.

Financial contributions to St. Augustine Music Festival, PO Box 833, St. Augustine, FL 32085-833 are welcomed as the concerts are offered free to the public. Reserved seating is available for donations of \$350 and prime seating at \$1,000.

For more information, visit www.samfestival.org or call 904-484-4960.



St. Johns County Public Library System 2025 Summer Reading Program Begins June 1

This year's theme is "Color Our World" with 100+ engaging events and activities for all ages.

The St. Johns County Public Library System (SJCPLS) announced the launch of the "Color Our World" 2025 Summer Reading Program, which will run from June 1 to August 2. The Program features over 100 educational events throughout the nine weeks and regularly scheduled story times, book clubs, and STEAM activities.

Everyone is invited to join SJCPLS for educational and family-friendly summer fun. Participants can pick up free reading logs at any SJCPLS branch or bookmobile stop. Track your summer readings to

earn prizes for every five days of reading. Highlights include:

- Color-themed family fun with games, scavenger hunts, story times, and more
- Movie matinees the whole family can enjoy
- Live animal encounters and nature programs presented by Marineland and Wild Wonders
- Nature Detective workshops hosted by the Garden Club of St. Augustine
- Magic shows with Magician Mark Alan
- Creative activities, including arts, crafts, trivia, and much more

As a community partner, SJCPLS serves to inspire families to read and learn together during the summer break. "As librarians, we understand that children who don't read over summer break fall behind. It's called the 'summer slide,'" said Library System Director Debra Rhodes Gibson. "Our Summer Reading Program offers incentives to keep kids engaged and their reading skills strong heading into the new school year."

For the full schedule of the 2025 Summer Reading Program, visit www.sjcpls.org/color-our-world-summer-reading-program-2025.

The "Color Our World" Summer Reading Program is proudly sponsored by SJCPLS's multiple Friends of the Library groups.

SJCPLS system serves the community by providing access to technology, facilities, collections, programs, and services that fulfill our mission to Connect, Learn, Enjoy @ Your Library. For more information on the St. Johns County Public Library System, visit www.sjcpls.org. "Like" the St. Johns County Public Library System on Facebook and follow along on Instagram.



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It's Hurricane Season!

By Lorraine Thompson (staugbeachwatch@aol.com)

As we turn the calendar page over to June, that popular Boy Scout advice—Be Prepared!—comes to mind.

And, if you are living on Anastasia Island or in a nearby area, being prepared can save you a lot of time, money and maybe plenty of frustration in the long run.

Included in the “be prepared” advice are knowing your evacuation routes, a full tank of gas in your car, having money—both cash and credit cards—and a safe destination—to help you get through the trials and tribulations of living through a hurricane or just heeding the evacuation warnings for a predicted storm.

Hurricane, including windstorm and flood insurances, might be helpful, too, but if you don't have either, it may be too late. Most insurance components covering hurricane damage implement specific waiting periods before protection activates. Standard homeowners insurance policies, which may cover wind damage from hurricanes, typically impose 15-30

day waiting periods for new policies or coverage increases. Wind-only policies through specialized carriers or state windstorm pools generally implement similar 15-day waiting periods for new coverage. Flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), essential for hurricane storm surge protection, requires a 30-day waiting period in most circumstances. These mandatory delays prevent last minute coverage purchases when storms approach. Binding suspensions, which prevent new coverage issuance entirely once storms are tracking toward specific regions, effectively extend these waiting periods until storm threats pass.

Last year was a record-breaking hurricane season in the Atlantic Basin, with multiple storms that shattered records. Of the eleven hurricanes, five became major hurricanes. Colorado State University's early forecast for 2025 includes seventeen named storms, nine hurricanes including four major hurricanes. Topping the area list is Florida.

Historically, September holds the record for the month with the greatest number of major hurricanes (20). Other month averages include June and July with one each, August with six, and October with ten storms.

Knowing when to go, if a storm is predicted for our area, where to go and how to get back home helps. That information is available to residents who sign up for the Alert St. Johns system to receive notifications via a phone call to their home, business, or mobile phone, by email, or text message.

St. Johns County urges those who reside on Anastasia Island and other coastal areas as well as those who work in those areas to review the evacuation map and know their evacuation zones and routes (see below).

The information as well as a list of evacuation shelters, locations and requirements can be found at <https://www.sjcfi.us/evacuation-information/>

For more information regarding Alert St. Johns call 904-824-5550.

About hurricanes--A tropical storm gets a name when its sustained winds reach 39 mph. It becomes a hurricane when its winds reach 74 mph. There are no Q, U, X, Y, or Z names because of the lack of names that begin with those letters.

2025 hurricane names include: Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dexter, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Imelda, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga,

Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, Wendy.

HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES FOR ANASTASIA ISLAND RESIDENTS:

City of St. Augustine (Davis Shores, Anastasia Island South to St. Augustine Alligator Farm): SR-A1A, proceed West across Bridge of Lions, to US-1 North or US-1 South and / or to SR-16, or SR-207 to I-95 or points West.

City of St. Augustine and Anastasia Island North of the St. Augustine Amphitheater: Proceed North on SR-A1A across the Bridge of Lions, then West.

City of St. Augustine and Anastasia Island South of the St. Augustine Amphitheater: Proceed South on SR-A1A, turn West on SR-312, proceed across 312 Bridge to SR-207, proceed to I-95 or points West.

City of St. Augustine Beach: North to SR-312, proceed across 312 Bridge to SR-207, proceed to I-95 or points West.

From the intersection of Ocean Trace Rd. and A1A to Crescent Beach: South on SR-A1A to Crescent Beach, turn West on SR-206, proceed across Crescent Beach Bridge to US-1, proceed to I-95 or points West.

Crescent Beach to Flagler County Line: North on SR-A1A to Crescent Beach, turn West on SR-206, proceed across Crescent Beach Bridge to US-1, proceed to I-95 or points West.



Music by the Sea update

The 2025 Music by the Sea concert series sponsored by the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association officially opens on June 4 with music by the Jacksonville rhythm and blues band, Str8Up, performing “Strictly Soul Music”. The performance runs from 7 until 9 p.m. at Pier Park. 350 A1A Beach Boulevard.

Prior to the concert, in collaboration with the St. Johns County Cultural Council, concert goers are invited to arrive early and visit the Waves of Change exhibit which opened last year at the St. Augustine Beach Arts Studio. The studio is in the building that was once the St Augustine Beach Hotel and is located in Pier Park next to the St. Augustine Beach Pier. The exhibit will open at 4 p.m.

A Celebration of Freedom & 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, Waves of Change, is a permanent exhibit at the studio. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Admission to the concert and the exhibit are free.

Note: in the May column incorrect information was included about the June concert schedule. The concert dates and performers are:

June 11 will feature the Edge with 80's and 90's music. Soul Fire will perform disco and pop music on June 18, and the Paul Lundgren Band will close out the first concert series with Yacht Rock June 25. The concert series will resume on Wednesday, August 20, with weekly performances through September 24. The schedule is subject to weather conditions. For more information visit sabcivic@yahoo.com

Walk with the Birds

Anastasia State Park, located at 300 Anastasia Park Road on Anastasia Island, is part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

Bird lovers can view a variety of visiting birds and learn more about them at programs led by knowledgeable park volunteers. Guided bird walks are scheduled from 8:15 to 10 a.m. on Sunday June 8 and Tuesday June 17. The walks will take place on the beaches, boardwalks, trails, and other park areas. Participants will observe a diverse variety of seabirds, shorebirds, and wading birds.

Dress for the weather and bring binoculars, comfortable walking shoes, and a field guide if you have one. Meet at the Island Beach Shop & Grill located at the end of the main park drive. The events are weather permitting and subject to cancellation. The programs are free with the regular park admission fee: \$8.00 per vehicle limited to 2-8 people per vehicle, \$4.00 per single-occupant vehicle, \$2.00 per pedestrian, bicyclist, extra passengers, passengers in vehicle with holder of Annual Individual Entrance Pass.

For information on Anastasia State Park visit <https://www.floridastateparks.org/anastasia> or contact michelle.schenck@floridadep.gov

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Understanding the Costs of Medicare: Part 2 - A Guide to Navigating Your Healthcare Expenses

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

Understanding the costs associated with Medicare is crucial for effective financial planning. In this article, we'll break down the various costs of Medicare, including premiums, deductibles, copayments, and other out-of-pocket expenses, so that beneficiaries can make informed decisions about their healthcare.

Overview of Medicare Parts and Costs

Medicare is divided into four parts, each covering different aspects of healthcare. The first two parts, Original Medicare Part A & B were covered in the last issue. The next issue will cover Medigap: Medicare Supplement Insurance as well as other costs and considerations.

Let's take a look at the costs for each part of Medicare:

3. Medicare Part C: Medicare Advantage

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) is an alternative to Original Medicare (Part A and Part B). These plans are offered by private insurance companies and combine the coverage of Parts A and B, with additional benefits such as prescription drug coverage, dental, vision, and hearing care. Since Part C plans vary, so do their costs.

- **Premiums:** Some Medicare Advantage plans require a monthly premium in addition to the Part B premium. The average monthly premium ranges from \$0 to around \$50, but this can vary widely depending on the insurer and the plan's coverage options.

- **Out-of-Pocket Costs:** These plans have different copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles depending on the plan. Many plans have lower copays and coinsurance amounts for services, but they may have an annual out-of-pocket maximum (usually ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,000). Once you reach the maximum, the plan covers all Medicare approved service costs for the rest of the year.

4. Medicare Part D: Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare Part D provides prescription drug coverage and is available through private insurance companies. Part D plans help beneficiaries pay for prescription medications, which can be a significant out-of-pocket cost for those who take multiple medications.

- **Premiums:** The standard Part D premium in 2025 is approximately \$35 per month, though the exact premium can vary depending on the plan and your income. Higher-income individuals may pay an additional IRMAA premium.

- **Deductibles and Copayments:** Part D plans may have a deductible (typically up to \$590 in 2025), and after the deductible is met, beneficiaries pay a

Wednesdays for Kids at the Library

By Lorraine Thompson (staugbeachwatch@aol.com)

With schools about to close for summer break, Anastasia Island Branch Library has some fun Wednesday afternoon events planned for children with the focus on colors, from June 11 through July 30. All programs begin at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Library includes:

June 11—Ancient Colors with Archaeologist Emilo Jane Murray will take kids on a fascinating journey into the art of plant based dyes and paints.

June 18—Marineland's Terran McGinnis will provide an exciting and educational session on camouflage and coloration adaptations.

June 25—Mike from Wild Wonders will entertain with stories, real reptiles and other fun in the Reptile Show.

July 9—Join Mark Allen and Bixby's action packed comedy magic show that's bursting with color, fun and surprises.

July 16—Will from Parks and Recreation presents an Introduction to Geocaching--the global outdoor adventure that's like a modern day scavenger hunt.

July 23—Award winning musician and storyteller Chis Kastle with an unforgettable, interactive performance: Turtles and Gators and Spoonbills, O My!

Tentative--the final show of the series on July 30, (pending confirmation) will be a performance by the U. S. Navy Band.

For questions about the children's summer series call 904-209-3730.

The library is located in St. Augustine Beach at 124 Seagrove Main Street (off A1A).



copayment or coinsurance for each prescription. The amount varies depending on the drug and the specific plan's formulary (list of covered drugs).

- **Coverage Phases:** Part D plans have a deductible phase (if your plan has a deductible), an initial coverage phase and a catastrophic phase. Once the total out-of-pocket cost reaches \$2,000, the catastrophic coverage kicks in, and beneficiaries pay \$0 for their covered drugs for the rest of the year.

Beneficiaries should consider supplemental insurance, like Medigap or Medicare Advantage, to help with out-of-pocket costs. It's also important to keep in mind income-based adjustments and the potential for late enrollment penalties.

By carefully considering the various costs associated with each part of Medicare, beneficiaries can make informed choices about their healthcare coverage and avoid unexpected financial burdens. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Carol@AskCarolB.com Text: 714-930-7165 Direct: 904-648-6488 www.

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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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Computer Corner

by Steven Aldrich

Grant Critical Account Access via a Deadman Switch

In today's digital age, safeguarding access to critical accounts—like banking, insurance, or email—is essential, especially in emergencies or after one's passing. LastPass Emergency Access offers a robust solution, functioning like a "deadman switch" to securely grant trusted individuals access to your digital vault when you're unable to. This feature ensures your loved ones can manage your accounts without compromising security during your lifetime. Here's how to leverage it effectively.

LastPass Emergency Access allows Premium or Families plan users to designate trusted contacts who can request access to their vault, which stores passwords, secure notes, and other sensitive data. You set a wait period (e.g., 3 hours to 7 days) during which you're notified of any access request. If you don't respond—due to incapacitation or death—access is granted, mimicking a deadman switch's fail-safe mechanism. This ensures your digital assets, such as mortgage accounts or health insurance details, are accessible only when absolutely necessary, protecting your privacy otherwise.

Setting it up is straightforward. First, log into your LastPass vault via a browser and navigate to the Emergency Access tab. Enter the email of a trusted contact, who must also have a LastPass account for encryption security. Specify the wait period, balancing accessibility with control. Your contact receives an invitation to accept the role. If they request access, you'll receive email notifications, allowing you to deny the request if it's premature. If you take no action within the wait period, they gain access to your vault's contents, excluding items you've set up to require a master password reprompt.

Using the Secure Notes section of LastPass, you can write detailed instructions for your designated trusted contacts, ensuring they have clarity about your wishes for your accounts. Should they need access, they'll also need direction, and LastPass Secure Notes provides an easy way to transmit this information.

The benefits are significant. Emergency Access simplifies estate planning by ensuring loved ones can pay bills or access critical documents without legal hurdles. It's more secure than sharing passwords outright, as access is conditional and encrypted. Unlike physical solutions like safe deposit boxes, it's digital and easily updated, keeping your records current. By using LastPass Emergency Access, you create a seamless, secure bridge for your digital legacy, offering peace of mind for you and your family.

St. Augustine Travel Club - Peter Dytrych

The St. Augustine Travel Club will present on Wednesday, JUNE 4 @ 3:00 pm, at the Southeast Branch Library, US 1 South. The topic will be SWITZERLAND'S CITIES AND ALPS - Visiting the great cities of Switzerland, followed by exploration of the majestic Swiss Alps and the picturesque little towns and mountain hamlets.

For those of you who do not know about the club, it is formatted as an armchair travel presentation with a brief lecture and a video highlighting areas from around the world, with a focus mostly on Europe, but also other parts of the world. The Travel Club is free and no registration is necessary. If you have any questions, please call Peter Dytrych at (904) 797-3736.



gg62176354 GoGraph.com

St. Augustine Travel Club Cruise -

The St. Augustine Travel Club will again be sailing the seas on Saturday, December 6 - 13, 2025 on the beautiful Italian ship MSC GRANDIOSA out of Port Canaveral to the Caribbean and Bahamas, to the ports of Ocean Cay (MSC private island and Marine Reserve in the Bahamas), Nassau and Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic) for a 7-day cruise. Prices start from \$866.60 per person, double occupancy, for inside cabin, inclusive of all port fees and taxes. Balconies and Oceanviews are also available at additional cost. Book now with a \$199 p.p. deposit and receive \$50 per stateroom On Board Credit, Free Beverage Package, Wi-Fi and more. Call Peter, St. Augustine Travel Club at (904) 797-3736.



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Other companies offer similar products, but I'm particularly familiar with the LastPass solution, which I've detailed here.

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.



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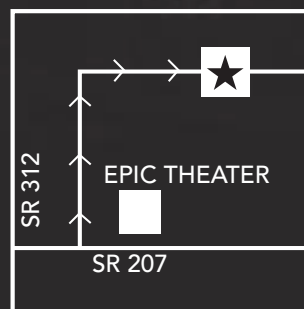
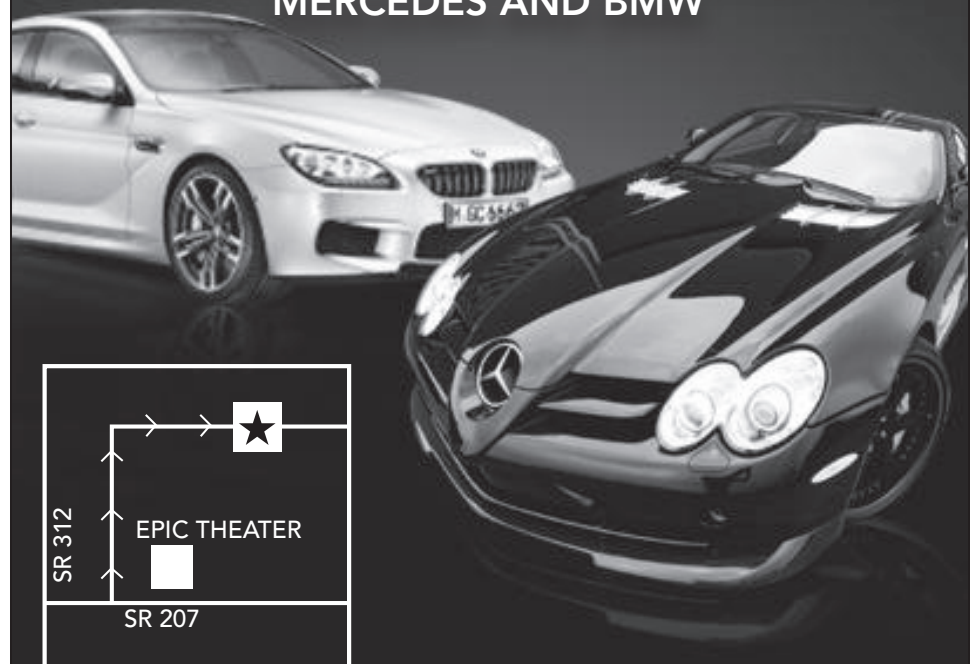
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St. Augustine Humane Society Announces “The Gilded Paw” Calendar Contest

Is your pup ready for their moment to shine? The St. Augustine Humane Society is calling all muses, masterpieces, and majestic pets for the launch of the 2026 Pin Up Paws calendar contest: The Gilded Paw. Inspired by timeless art and gallery-worthy elegance, this year's theme transforms beloved pets into classic works of art.



“The Pin Up Paws calendar is our largest fundraiser every year, and it's already the talk of the dog park,” said Jordan Schipper, Director of Development. “The calendar is more than just a fun way to show off your pet, it's a lifeline for animals in need. Every vote cast helps us provide affordable vet

care, food, and resources to families who might otherwise have to surrender their beloved pets.”

The first contestant to sign up this year was Bix, a half-Siberian Husky rescue pup. This is the third time Bix has participated in the Humane Society's calendar contest with her owner, Linda Atteberry, and they have been a fan favorite every time.

Joining the competition this year is Hoagie, a spunky senior pup from Swamp Haven Rescue, who's still searching for his forever home. Since coming into foster care, Hoagie has been aging in reverse, making doggy friends everywhere he goes and charming humans with his easygoing personality. One of his favorite ways to unwind? Watching golf from the porch with his foster family. His contest entry not only helps raise funds for pets in need, but it will also help this lovable boy find the permanent family he deserves.

To enter, submit a photo of your pet following the contest guidelines at <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/pupcalendar26> and encourage your friends and family to vote. Each \$1 donation equals one vote, with all funds supporting the lifesaving programs of the St. Augustine Humane Society. The top vote-getters will receive a professional photo shoot with world-renowned photographer Addison Fitzgerald, followed by a stunning artistic transformation by fine artist and graphic designer Maribel Angel. The deadline to enter your pet is July 10, 2025, at 8 p.m., and voting concludes on July 12, 2025, at 8 p.m.



Battle of Bloody Mose on Saturday, June 28th

Experience the Battle of Bloody Mose at Fort Mose Historic State Park. It's 1740. British troops have captured Spanish forts in the area—including Fort Mose. Next stop, the Castillo de San Marcos.

Watch as a coalition of free Black Fort Mose militia, Spanish forces and Indian allies surprise the British in an early morning raid. How does this end for St. Augustine? For Fort Mose? Battle of Bloody Mose on Saturday, June 28th

Visitors will step back in time and experience what it was like on the fateful day before the battle. Scenes include Yamassee natives preparing for battle, British soldiers planning a surprise attack of the Castillo de San Marcos, and British General Oglethorpe and his forces encamped at Fort Mose. Before and after the battle, visitors can interact with reenactors in period dress.

13th Annual Commemoration of Largest Mass arrest of Rabbis to be held at St. Johns County Jail Annex, 12 Noon, Wednesday June 18th

The Thirteenth Annual Commemoration of the largest mass arrest of Rabbis in US History will take place outdoors at the St. Johns County Jail Annex, 3955 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084, at 12 noon, Wednesday, June 18th. This 30 minute event sponsored by the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society, is free and all are welcome.

On June 18, 1964, 16 Rabbis and a Reform Jewish administrator, in St. Augustine at the request of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were arrested and held in the St. Johns County Jail. Overnight, they wrote a letter entitled “Why We Went to St. Augustine” that will be read as part of the commemoration.

All are welcome, there is no charge. For further information contact SAJHS at www.sajhs.com, sajhs1565@gmail.com or 804-914-4460

The mission of the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society--now in celebrating its tenth year-- is to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the Jewish experience in St. Augustine within a broad cultural context from the founding of the City in 1565 to the present.

For further information contact: St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society, Rabbi Merrill Shapiro, President, 58 Mount Vernon Lane, Palm Coast, Florida 32164, sajhs1565@gmail.com, www.sajhs.com, 804-914-4460.

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.



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Vested Metals Founder Viv Helwig Awarded Small Business Person of the Year

The Small Business Association (SBA) North Florida District has recognized Vested Metals International President and Founder Viv Helwig as the Small Business Person of the Year. The SBA awards recognize outstanding small business owners from across the nation and are part of its National Small Business Week celebration, which takes place May 4th through May 10th. Helwig was honored at the 33rd Annual Small Business Week Celebration on May 9th at the University of North Florida.

“Receiving this award is a proud moment for Vested Metals International,” Helwig exclaims. “It underscores our commitment to quality, integrity, community engagement, and customer satisfaction. We are grateful for the support of our community and customers, and we will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. We truly couldn’t achieve this humbling milestone without the collaboration of our employees, suppliers, contractors, community, partners of any kind, and ultimately the opportunity our customers give us. We are always striving to improve and excel.”

A graduate of Flagler College Class of 2008, Helwig chose to set down roots in St. Augustine, where he has built Vested Metals into one of the fastest-growing privately held companies in the world, receiving numerous accolades from Inc.’s 5000 and being named one of Jacksonville Business Journal’s Fast 50 companies in the region for multiple years. Helwig was previously named Minority-Owned Small Business Person of the Year in 2020, and North Florida and Florida Small Business Exporter of the Year in 2022 by the SBA for the Northern region of Florida. Helwig is committed to creating and expanding economic opportunity in St. Johns County. The charitable arm of Vested Metals, The Vested Metals Community Foundation, works to raise funds for a variety of nonprofit organizations that are near and dear to Helwig, including United Way of St. Johns County, THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club, and K9s For Warriors. Helwig and his team aim to raise and donate \$1 million in 10 years through its annual golf tournament, The Southeast Coil Classic.

Vested Metals was founded in 2014 by Viv Helwig, a Jamaican native who grew up in Palm Bay, Florida, and graduated from Flagler College. The fast-growing distribution company is headquartered in St. Augustine, Florida, with a sales and service center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Vested Metals sources hard-to-find alloys, grades, and sizes for niche applications and markets such as medical, defense, aerospace, industrial, and power generation.



St. Johns County Earns 2025 Certificate of Excellence in Government Communications

St. Johns County was one of only 16 Florida governments to achieve the distinction.

St. Johns County earned the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Government Communication from the Florida Municipal Communicators Association (FMCA), becoming just one of 16 Florida governments to receive the award.

FMCA is a professional network of individuals providing communications leadership and support in Florida’s cities, towns, and villages. The certificate recognizes local governments whose communications staff have established and are utilizing different tools, resources, and technology to communicate effectively and efficiently with their residents.

“This award is a team achievement for our Office of Public Affairs, and all the communicators and collaborators in the county who work together to create, cultivate, and communicate within our community,” said Wayne Larson, Director of Public Affairs. This is the third communications award earned by St. Johns County since September 2024. The county earned two national awards from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association for the “Get Hooked” anti-litter communications campaign.

“Floridians consume news through a variety of channels, making it essential for our local government members to effectively reach their residents with timely and accurate information,” said FMCA President Lizzy Kelley, Marketing and Public Information Manager for the City of Tallahassee. “The Certificate of Excellence in Government Communications honors municipal communications offices that demonstrate leadership in developing and leveraging diverse tools to engage and inform their communities.” “Community trust is one of the six priorities of the county’s strategic plan, and we hope that earning these acknowledgments from our communications peers demonstrates that we are enhancing community trust through proactive communication to foster engagement and build an environment of public participation,” said Larson.







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