

June 2026

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St. Augustine Observer



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

American Flag Rescue Program Drop Box



Photo: Victoria Weber-Cofone, Frederick McDonald, and Mike Cofone.

An American Flag Rescue Program Drop box is now available at the St. Augustine South Improvement Association (SASIA) clubhouse, located at 709 Royal Road, 32086. The purpose of American flag collection boxes is

to provide a secure and dignified way for residents to retire their worn-out or torn American flags.

Fredrick McDonald spearheaded the initiative as his Eagle Scout project. Frederick is a junior at St. Augustine High School and a member of Troop 63. He started his scouting journey in first grade as a Tiger in cub scouts and is now a Life Scout, soon earning his Eagle Scout. He has over 40 merit badges such as Astronomy, Space Exploration, Disability Awareness, Architecture, Environmental Science, and First Aid. Frederick purchased the materials and put in 12 hours of work constructing, painting, and installing the box near the SASIA Clubhouse.

SASIA Board member, Victoria Weber-Cofone, helped Frederick organize this project through SASIA. She personally collects flags the first Monday of every month from 12 locations, including the Royal Road location. Residents are encouraged to place worn-out flags in this box. This ensures that the U.S. Flag Code is followed, which dictates how to respectfully retire a flag. All flags are disposed of every third Saturday at the VFW at 7:00am.

St. Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope

The weather has warmed – at last – the spartina cordgrass growing in the salt marsh is turning bright green at the time of writing, but we are still under a Phase III extreme water shortage, and a Countywide burn ban remains in effect at the time of writing. Nonetheless, a lot has been happening in the “hood” in recent weeks. A neighbor wrote to tell me she saw a family of manatees at the Doug Crane dock on May 3. She was concerned as they were playing for a long time and did not seem to feel threatened by boats coming and going. Propeller injuries are too common in manatees and can be fatal, so we are concerned that boaters look out for manatees in the warmer months at the boats docks. I saw a pod of dolphins breaking the surface of the water in the mouth of Moultrie Creek back in March, so I looked up the water temperature that bottlenose dolphins like and learned that they prefer temperate to tropical temperatures, ranging from 50 to 90F. Whereas Florida manatees are highly sensitive to cold water. For manatees to return to our coastal estuaries, the water temperature needs to be above 68F; 72F is ideal.



The County Public Works Department Prince Road Drainage Improvements project construction is well underway, with some temporary road closures. With a budget of \$1.7 million, the project is designed to address two low spots in the 1300 block of Prince Road that do not have an outfall. The County’s calculations indicate that the road could flood in the low spots during heavy rain storms that occur about once in 5-years, which does not meet the County’s standards for local roads.

In late April, Kelly Ussia, Parks and Rec Supervisor of Outdoor Recreation, and Jen Lomberk, Matanzas Riverkeeper, organized a cleanup of the Matanzas marsh along Shore Drive and Moultrie creek. Volunteers in kayaks and the Litter Gitter II, a bright yellow, 24-foot Carolina skiff, specially equipped for removing large volumes of debris, collected a large quantity of trash that was hard to reach from the shore.

I am an avid observer of craft on the Intracoastal, and my interest was peaked recently by a tugboat and load arrangement. Unusually for working on the ICW, the tug was towing a barge, behind which was a very long orange pipe that was supported in the middle by a pontoon and followed at the rear by a smaller tug that was ensuring the far end did not whip out sideways. I discovered through my assistant, Microsoft Bing search engine, that the load was a dredge pipe, and such pipes are frequently moved through the ICW for active beach renourishment and maintenance dredging projects. The lead blue tug was the Sarah Dann, owned by Dann Ocean Towing; the rear white tug was the Molly M1, operated by McKeil Marine. Then Bing’s artificial intelligence program, Co-Pilot, kicked in and I had to start sorting fact from fiction! Dann Ocean Towing is the only company that moves fully assembled dredge pipes, but when I asked where it was coming from and where it was going to, the responses – presented as fact – were nonsense. It was clearly not coming from a boatyard in Green Cove Springs, and I know it was not going to St Augustine Beach for a renourishment project. Although there were no publicly available maritime tracking data, I was able to confirm that the Sarah Dann traveled to Jax Mayport from the Harbor logs for St Augustine and Mayport. I still do not know where the trip started – but certainly not Green Cove Springs!

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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.

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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: Justin Miller
1st VP: David Rieger
2nd Vp Margo Geer
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Tony Dawson
President Emeritus Jerri Sue Dawson
Board:

Vicki Cofone Oonna Hueck
Frances Lundberg Clark Monahan
Rik Sikes

May Community Meeting

This will be the last community meeting before the summer break. The speaker is TBA, please check social media for speaker details.

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

Classes at the 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 pm 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 am 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 6:00-7:00pm 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.

Beginning Line Dancing – Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm 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 – Mondays 10:00am-12:00pm and Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 pm Join Jinny for an intermediate/advanced level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

PERCUSSION PLAY! Mondays at 5:00p.m. and Wednesdays at 10:00a.m. A rhythm & movement class for babies & toddlers ages 6 months- 4 years, with a caregiver. Join us for an hour of community and musical exploration through movement and bonding with your little one. Each class will be filled with singing, playing with instruments, and other fun activities! \$15. Space is limited to 12. Email staugsouthpercussionplay@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Residents interested in becoming SASIA members 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.

FOR SALE: Double Murphy Bed with mattress and frame \$200. Call 904-788-2522.

FOR SALE: Snapper riding rear mount mower. 28 inch cut. Like new \$1,500. Contact Bob Gilmer 571-332-7617.

FOR SALE: (1) Vintage CB Radios RCA floor and table top radios, Recrivers, Speakers, turntable and more.. (2) Complete Galaxy CB set up. Hallicraft Worldwide radio. Browning S23 andR27. Add turntable, Call 904-797-4438.

FOR SALE: Red Sit-upon 8 ft. kayak with paddle: Lifetime Daylite Brand. Used about six times. Listed at \$350. Asking \$250. Call 904- 825-8308. If there is no answer, leave your number for a callback.

FOR SALE: (1) Bahamas Style Pullout Sleeper Couch. W34" X L69" X 24" H Cushions are a light pastel design with Bamboo Design sides. Cushions are in excellent condition \$48. (2) Two White Wicker bookend side tables each has one draw 24" H. \$22 for both tables. (3) Long Haul Original Cowboy Boots Size10.5 Made USA Genuine Brown

Leather Fine looking Boots Excellent Condition \$39. Please Call 904-472-4465 Lv or txt Message.

FOR SALE: (1) 2012 Mac Mini with 8 gb of ram and hard drive with operating system. \$75. (2) 2006 Mac Pro with 8 gb memory and 2 hard driven. \$75. Call 904-607-1410.

WANTED: I buy old records and some vintage stereo equipment. I am not a reseller. I only use for my own enjoyment. If you're looking for a good home for your records, please call John at 904-325-9802.

WANTED: Morning Walking Partner. Text 904-687-3362.

WANTED: A garage in Belle Haven Condominium Complex in Saint Augustine. 35k offered. Call 518-330-9427.

WANTED: Looking for a roommate to share my house. It will have your own bed, dresser, and bathroom. Use of kitchen and laundry. Preferably a college student going to Flagler or other school. I'm asking \$850 with a \$500 security deposit for August 1st. If interested please call 860-514-1325

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RECOVERY MEETING SPACE:
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Shores Communications Corner News & Information from the St. Augustine Shores Service Corp.

Happy June St. Augustine Shores!

Summer is upon us; kids are out of school. So, everyone slow down as you drive through the neighborhoods. The pool is ready for family fun, stop by the Shores office at the Riverview Club to purchase an annual, monthly or daily pool pass.

As a new board member and President, I am pleased to report that we had a well-attended meeting on May 14 at 6:00pm. The new Board of Directors was introduced Jonathan Cochrane Vice President, Gina Shurtz Treasurer, Helene Conroy-Smith Secretary, Kathy Schroeder director, AnnMarie Darcy director, and Deb Scogins director. The meeting was long, but everyone that wished to speak was heard. There was no need for security to oversee the meeting and going forward we see no need for security.

We will begin forming committees, and creating some long-awaited community events in the near future. The office hours are 8-5 Monday through Friday.

The June Board meeting will be held on June 11 at 6:00 pm in the Riverview Club, we look forward seeing you.

Best Wishes!

Donna Coates, President

Do you know what a Forester does?

by Ava Marienchild, Marienchild@bellsouth.net

Meet Andrew. He alternates between being a firefighter, forest ranger, pre-FEMA first responder for wildfires, hurricanes and other disasters and, perhaps what is of most benefit to us, advice-giver in re: our foliage.

As Senior Forester for St. John's and Flagler counties, Andrew also counsels landowners who own parcels of forest with the aim of providing a sustainable and safe environment. Too, County Foresters assist with community forest designation, which classifies land for growing and harvesting timber.

I met Andrew when I called the University of Florida's Extension office, which offers free advice on landscaping by masters in the field. One of my trees, like many around the Shores and the South, had suffered damage after the last freeze.

"Water it, look for green growth, reassess around June," I was advised. The pro I spoke with volunteered to look at photos and to see if someone would be available to check on the tree. That someone was Andrew, who clearly relishes his job. "I can't imagine sitting at a desk all day," he says. "Working as a forester, nearly every day is different."

Andrew credits his grandparents--Florida natives--for his love of nature. Listen to him remind us of the importance of the outside world: "We spend a good deal of our lives rushing from one thing to the next. and we miss the little moments that nature gives us."

The University Extension office can be reached at (904) 209-0430. Call if you have a desire to learn about what's in your yard because, as Andrew reminds us: "We affect our surroundings."

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.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia can be overwhelming, emotional, and isolating. That is why a local support group is inviting caregivers in our community to come together for encouragement, education, and connection. Come join us. You are not alone.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 10am at Homeport Christian Church, 5601 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Call Nancy Wright 904-347-6299 or BeBe Kelly 386-793-8414 for more information.

Shores Riverview Club Member Activities

June 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAND & FOOT 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	2 Water aerobics@pool 10:30 AM MAHJONG 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM BARRE 3:45 REFLECTIONS	3	4 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM Water aerobics@pool 10:30 AM	5 ZUMBA 10:00AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER GROUP 11-1PM SITTING ROOM	6
7	8 HAND & FOOT 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	9 Water aerobics@pool 10:30am MAHJONG 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM BARRE 3:45 REFLECTIONS	10	11 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM Water aerobics@pool 10:30 AM	12 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER GROUP 11-1PM SITTING ROOM	13
14	15 HAND & FOOT 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	16 Water aerobics@pool 10:30am MAHJONG 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM BARRE 3:45 REFLECTIONS	17	18 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM Water aerobics@pool 10:30 AM	19 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER GROUP 11-1PM SITTING ROOM	20
21	22 HAND & FOOT 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	23 Water aerobics @pool 10:30am MAHJONG 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM BARRE 3:45 REFLECTIONS	24	25 KICKBOXING 9:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM Water aerobics @ pool 10:30 AM	26 ZUMBA 10:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER GROUP 11-1PM SITTING ROOM	27
28	29 HAND & FOOT 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM ZUMBA 3:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	30 Water aerobics @ pool -10:30am 10:30 AM MAHJONG 12:00 PM SITTING ROOM BARRE 3:45 REFLECTIONS				

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SASIA News and Calendar of Events

June 2026

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.

Shore Drive Cleanup

Saturday, June 6th 9:00am - 12:00 pm, or whatever time you can spare
Meet us at the clubhouse at 9:00am and help keep St. Augustine South beautiful and clean. We start at 9am and pick up for a bit then meet back at the clubhouse. Wear close-toed shoes - pickers, gloves, and trash bags are provided. This is a wonderful way for students to earn community service hours. Sign up online: <https://volunteersignup.org/3wcax>

Community Meeting, June 17th, 7pm

This will be the last community meeting before the summer break. The speaker is TBA, please check social media for speaker details.

Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm 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, 32086)

Friday, June 12th- Smash Stack

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

Upcoming 2026 Events

Saturday, November 7th, Fall Festival

Saturday, December 5th, Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday, December 12th, Photos and Crafts with Santa

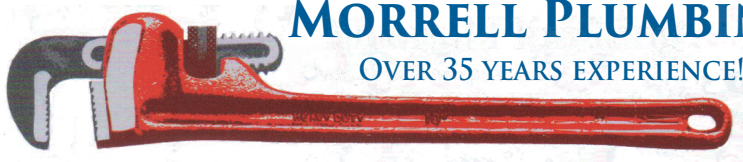
Dates are subject to change.

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 Clubhouse and we usually work for a couple of hours. All ability levels are welcome. Our goal is to preserve the wildflower meadow, learn about native plants that grow in this area, and enjoy the outdoors. 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.



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Six SASIA 2026 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 six \$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:

Zaivan Cintron will be attending New Castle of Florida in Sarasota with a major in Physical Therapy.

Elijah D'Elena will be attending University of North Carolina School of the Arts with the aspiration of becoming an Actor/Director.

Gabriel Ertl will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with the goal of becoming an Aerospace Engineer.

Macauley Jones will be attending University of Central Florida with the ambition of working in Theme Park/Attraction Management.

Maxwell Newman will be attending Stetson University with aspirations of military service and owning a business.

Sierra Palmer will be attending University of Central Florida pursuing a degree in Speech and Language Pathology.

Congratulations to all the 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.

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The St. Augustine Music Festival celebrates 20 years as the United States commemorates 250 years as a country.

by Nell Toensmann

The St. Augustine Music Festival (SAMF) is celebrating a milestone in June! Over the last two weekends in June, SAMF will commence the twentieth season of offering free chamber music to the public in the beautiful and historic Cathedral Basilica, which offers outstanding architectural acoustics. SAMF Artistic Directors, Jorge Peña and Jin Kim, organized musicians for the first concert in 2007 and have provided creative and inventive programs over the years.

On Friday, June 19, the audience will enjoy spirituals, American songs and orchestral works that speak to the depth and richness of American Music tradition. Lyric baritone, Robert Sims will be featured, along with the SAMF Chamber Orchestra as they fulfil the theme of "Voices of Freedom: American Music for Juneteenth".

"Mozart and More" on Saturday, June 20, offers two piano quartets from earlier centuries Mozart's Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor and Schumann's Piano Quartet No. 1 in E-flat Major. Mozart's elegance and dramatic expression pair beautifully with Schumann's expansive Romantic voice, creating a program that is both graceful and deeply expressive.

On Sunday, June 21, the St. Augustine Music Festival concludes the first week with "Elegance and Fire: Masterpieces of the Classical Spirit", a program that captures both the refinement and intensity of the Classical tradition. The program offers Edvard Grieg's Holberg Suite, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No 3 and Mozart's Symphony no 40 in G minor.

Experience the brilliance of chamber music on Friday, June 26 with "Chamber Virtuosity: The Art of Ensemble". This concert features SAMF favorites Gabriela Peña-Kim and Nigel Armstrong, violins, for an evening of bold contrasts and masterful ensemble playing, featuring works by Benjamin Picard, Guillaume Connesson, and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

Celebrate America's musical heritage with "250th National Celebration: American Landscapes" on Saturday, June 27, a concert honoring the nation's rich cultural and artistic traditions through music. This special program highlights the spirit, diversity, and beauty of American life through works by iconic composers including Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and other leading voices in American music.

Join the audience for a landmark evening on Sunday, June 28 as we celebrate our final St. Augustine Music Festival 20th Anniversary Concert. This special performance features two exceptional young pianists - Chelsea Wang and Evangeliya Delizonas-Khukhua - as they perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No 10 in E-flat major K. The concluding portion of the evening is Camille Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of The Animals with a special Narration written by Susan S. Calfee and Lynne Radcliffe.

The St. Augustine Music Festival concerts are offered free to the public, but it is recommended that you reserve attendance at www.SAMFestival.org for the concerts you wish to attend for General Admission seating. Reserved seating and early admission are available for our Patrons.

Concerts: June 19 – 21 and June 26 – 28, Doors open at 7:00PM for 7:30 PM concert at Cathedral Basilica, St. Augustine. For more information, visit www.SAMFestival.org or call 904-484-4960. St. Augustine Music Festival, P.O. Box 833, St. Augustine, FL 32085.

Enjoy World Class Music in a World Class Setting as the St. Augustine Music Festival Celebrates their 20th Anniversary and America Celebrates 250 years as a Country!



You are invited to attend Six FREE Chamber Music Concerts at the Historic Cathedral Basilica.



All Concerts Begin at 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, June 19 - Voices of Freedom: American Music for Juneteenth
Sponsored by the St. Johns Cultural Council, this concert features the SAMF Chamber Orchestra with acclaimed baritone Robert Sims. The evening includes works by Quinn Mason, Lena Johnson McLin, Jessie Montgomery, George Walker, and Aaron Copland.

SATURDAY, June 20 - Mozart and More

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart "Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, K. 478" and Robert Schumann "Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47"

SUNDAY, June 21 - Elegance and Fire: Masterpieces of the Classical Spirit

Edvard Grieg "Holberg Suite, Op. 40", Joseph Haydn "Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major", Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart "Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201"

FRIDAY, June 26 - Chamber Virtuosity: The Art of Ensemble

Features Gabriela Pena-Kim and Nigel Armstrong, violins

Benjamin Picard "Concentric, Guillaume Connesson "Sextuor for oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, bass, and piano"

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy "Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20"

SATURDAY, June 27, 2026 - 250th National Celebration: American Landscapes

Aaron Copland, Francis Poulenc, Antonin Dvorak, George Gershwin "Lullaby for Strings", Aaron Copland "Appalachian Spring Suite"

SUNDAY, June 28, 2026 - St. Augustine Music Festival 20th Anniversary Concert

Features Chelsea Wang and Evangeliya Delizonas-Khukhua, Pianists, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart "Piano Concerto No. 10 for two pianos in E-flat major K. 365/316a"

Camille Saint-Saëns* "The Carnival of The Animals"*

For more information and to reserve your FREE tickets, visit www.SAMFestival.org or call 904-484-4960

**St. Augustine Music Festival
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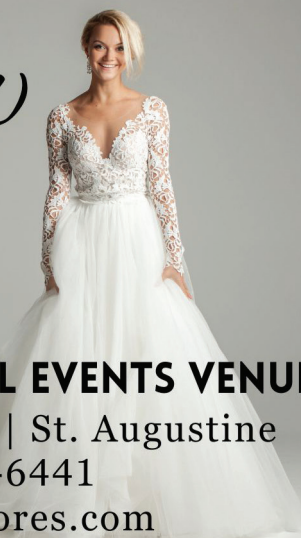
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Come Join us to Celebrate our many classes we offer at The Art Studio by seeing an exhibition of work by the Students of one of these Classes!

Come First Friday, June 5th from 5pm to 8pm for the Opening of Our Student Exhibition. Students of Paulo Jimenez's painting class at the Art Studio, Wanda Wolfe Growet, Kristin Davis, Victoria Long, Elizabeth Zahralban, Ester Baruch, Linda Bayles, Deanne Wang, Maria Grullon, Audrey and John will be able to show off what they have learned and to make the public aware of these classes and how you too can attend these and learn the Art of Visual Creation.

Meet Paulo Jimenez, in his own words: "As an artist, I draw inspiration from my diverse cultural background and personal experiences to create vibrant and captivating works of art. Born in Costa Rica and raised in the arid landscapes of the Atacama desert in Chile, my artistic journey has been shaped by the beauty and contrasts of these environments. I pursued my BFA at the University of Hartford, where I honed my technical skills and developed a deep appreciation for the power of visual storytelling."

Speaking of classes, don't forget the kids, because we still have our Free ongoing Children's Art Classes every Month! Our 2nd Saturday class from 10am to 12pm for ages 4 to 11 and our Special Needs Art Club for all ages, the First Sunday of every month starting at 5:30pm. Text Mandy Frevele at 757-201-5577 for more information or to preregister. There are still spots open!

The Art Studio is currently Celebrating 15 Years and we have special events planned all year long! Please keep up to date on all the upcoming special events by following us. 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.

St. Augustine Orchid Society

by Janid Croft

June 2 - Brassavola nodosa

Jason Mackey, Barefoot Orchids

Jason Mackey will talk about how the Brassavola nodosa orchid shaped modern hybrids with its dominance of fragrance and form. Brassavola nodosa, otherwise known as 'The Lady of the Night' is known for its exceptional fragrance, which is emitted primarily after dark to attract night-pollinating moths. It also tends to produce star shaped hybrids similar in form to its own, although it often picks up the color of the other parent and has amazing spots.

Jason's fascination with orchids traces back to his childhood days spent alongside his great-grandmother, tending to her extensive collection. What began as a youthful curiosity blossomed into a serious passion in his twenties. Since 2020, Jason has been an integral part of the Orchid Society of the Palm Beaches, where his knowledge and enthusiasm have found a home among fellow enthusiasts. Inspired by his familial ties and Floridian heritage, Jason established Barefoot Orchids, the culmination of his journey from childhood admiration to professional grower.



Garden Club awarding 6 Scholarships at 100th Anniversary Celebration

by Helen Boxer

Congratulations to each of these recipients of the Garden Club of St. Augustine's six \$2000 scholarships. They were recognized on May 13 at the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Garden Club beginning 9:30am at 3440 Old Moultrie Rd. All are welcome. Please carpool.

Sadie Boss: Pedro Menendez High School will be attending Santa Fe State College. Intended Field of Study: Major in Environmental Science

Soleil Shah: Ponte Vedra High School will be attending Florida State University. Intended Field of Study: Environmental Science

Phoebe Barzo: Saint Augustine High School will be attending University of Central Florida. Intended Field of Study: Major in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a Minor in Environmental Science

Cassie Garris: Creekside High School will be attending Florida State University. Intended Field of Study: Major in Environmental Engineering

Alivia Kubart: University of Florida in Environmental Engineering with a Minor in Ecology and Conservation

Blair Clark: University of Florida in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a Minor in Botany





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Bridge Basics 1 classes to begin June 1st. There will be 6 Sessions on Mondays 9:30 - 11:30 on June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, July 6. Sign up today!

The total fee is \$120 when paid in full, otherwise \$25 per class. The group will be using Audrey Grant's book, Bridge Basics included for those who pay in full.

To Register contact Ru Terajewicz at ru.terajewicz@gmail.com. The sessions will be at the St. Augustine Duplicate Bridge Club, 10 Fairbanks, at St. Augustine.

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Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder

It came and went without any visible local fanfare, especially compared to other National Holidays. And, the week following is another Holiday that seems to get little attention, certainly less than it deserves. These Holidays have no race, religion, gender or other such restriction. You may see a story or two sporadically on TV and maybe even see a highlight in a newspaper but these Holidays deserve so much more. Give up yet? Think May.

National Nurses Week comes first. 100's of thousands of nurses get up every day at any hour since 24-hour shifts have to be covered. We have three retired nurses on our street. I'm sure they have some stories to tell but that's not what they do -they respect personal privacy.

Day after day, for years, they've risked exposing themselves to all sorts of bacteria and disease. I'm sure they've also exposed themselves to some unpleasant and demanding patients which reminds me of the saying, "Never bite the hand that feeds you." Nurses are the conduit between patient and doctor – critical in the health and recovery of the patient. They do it with a smile even when given reason not to and they're on deadlines, having to juggle a number of patients at the same time. They are the unsung heroes of humanity. God bless you all!

National Police Week follows, as we go from one hero to another. All of the attributes of the Nurse listed above are included in the attributes of the police officer yet there are those things that the cops in the field are exposed to that we should respect even more – their willingness to put their own lives at risk for the sake of their communities, their States and their Country. On average, 115 police are killed in the line of duty every year. What stands out to me statistically is that 50-60 of the 115 are considered intentional killings. Houston, we have a problem – those are assaults from a criminal element none of us get to see in our daily lives. For those in the field, "Thank You for your service"- just isn't enough.

Of course, like any major working group, there will always be a few bad apples amongst them. If our expectations are 100% perfection, then we're simply unrealistic. And I should not have to say this either but these groups are typically dealing with a much larger number of quarrelsome people than in most other professions. Why would anyone want to bite the helping hand?

To top it off, many of the Nurses and Police also volunteer in so many different ways in their communities. God bless you all for your sacrifices. You make the world a better place and on that note, I will wish everyone, as always, a Sunshine State of Mind.



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ONLY YOU KNOW & I KNOW

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW SHORES HOA BOARD ELECTED ARE: Donna Cates, Jonathan Cochran and Gina Shurtz

The St. Aug. Shores Service Corp. has been in existence since the first home was built in the late 1970's. The residents elect Board members in May: 3 one year and 4 members the next year. Sometimes there are no elections since nobody volunteered to serve. Today, the process costs the Association approx. \$13,000 in mailings not to mention countless hours of volunteer time.

Over the decades, hundreds of volunteer residents have served. The General Manager (GM) since 2000 (maybe earlier) has been Joe Smith and he did a good job. Following Joe Smith, Shanna Fredrickson was hired as the new GM. She did such a good job that she was recruited by a large CAM Company. She was replaced by Anne-Marie Townes who is a very disciplined GM and kept the continuity of service going and helped transition from the old payment system to the Vesta online system - a major leap forward for the community.

Several Volunteer Board Members that have impressed me personally are Sue Chitwood (for your persistence the

mold was found), Nick Arocha (if you hadn't worked so hard on the pool pump system nobody would have been swimming in the Summer of '23), Brad Smith (your renovation overwatch involved months of your life), and Mary Jenson (incredible results). There are so many others like Carol McCutcheon (official Pier Patrol) and I apologize in advance if your name is not here but I'm short on space ("Only You Know and I Know" who you are).

BOTTOM LINE: HOA Boards build on one another's progress. Not one Board lives in a vacuum. Collectively, the mission remains constant: **SERVE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.** I would love to especially **THANK MY WIFE, KATHY SCHROEDER**, for being a part of that process for the last 3 years. Your steadfast courage is an inspiration.

TREAT YOUR VOLUNTEER NEIGHBORS WITH RESPECT PLEASE. Dirk Schroeder



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



Summer Travel & Medicare: What's Covered When You Leave the Country?

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

by Carol Bogart, Health Insurance Advisor

Summer is the season for adventure — cruises through the Caribbean, trips to Europe, visits with family in Canada or Mexico. But before you pack your bags, there's one important question every Medicare beneficiary should ask: What happens to my coverage if I need medical care outside the United States?

The answer may surprise you — and knowing it ahead of time could save you thousands of dollars.

Original Medicare: Very Limited Abroad

Here's the hard truth: Original Medicare (Parts A and B) generally does not cover medical care received outside the United States.

Medicare Advantage: It Depends on Your Plan

If you have a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C), your international coverage depends entirely on the specific plan you carry. Some Advantage plans offer emergency and urgent care coverage abroad — but many do not. Even those that do typically only cover emergency situations, not routine care, and may require you to pay upfront and submit for reimbursement later.

Before any international trip, call the member services number on the back of your insurance card and ask specifically: "Does my plan cover emergency or urgent care outside the United States, and if so, what is the process for getting reimbursed?" Get the answer in writing if you can.

Medicare Supplement (Medigap): Your Best Protection

If you have a Medicare Supplement plan — also called Medigap — you may have some foreign travel emergency coverage built right in. Plans C, D, F, G, M, and N typically include a foreign travel emergency benefit that covers 80% of medically necessary emergency care outside the U.S., after a \$250 deductible, up to a lifetime maximum of \$50,000.

While \$50,000 sounds like a lot, a serious illness or injury abroad — especially one requiring hospitalization or medical evacuation — can exceed that limit quickly. That's why many frequent travelers also consider a separate travel health insurance policy for added peace of mind.

Don't Forget Dental, Vision & Hearing Abroad

Medicare does not cover routine dental, vision, or hearing care — here or abroad. If you break a tooth in Rome or lose your hearing aids on a cruise, you will pay out of pocket. Stand-alone dental, vision, and hearing plans can help cover these costs

domestically, but they generally will not cover care received in another country. Travel insurance with dental riders is worth exploring if these are concerns.

Plan Before You Go

The best time to think about your international health coverage is before you book your trip — not after something goes wrong.

This article is for informational purposes only. Medicare coverage rules and plan benefits vary. Contact a licensed insurance agent for personalized advice.

St. Augustine Film Society June Upcoming Events

"Portrait of a Lady on Fire" June 7th at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Doors open at 3:30, film begins at 4:00 P.M. 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire' is a visually stunning masterpiece with painterly cinematography and exceptional artistic vision. The lead performers deliver electric chemistry in a compelling forbidden romance. In 18th-century France, a young painter, Marianne, is commissioned to do the wedding portrait of Héloïse without her knowing. Therefore, Marianne must observe her model by day to paint her portrait at night. Day by day, the two women become closer as they share Héloïse's last moments of freedom before her impending wedding.

Live Filming of "When The Rabbis Came to Town" June 17th at The Waterworks
Doors open 5:30, event begins at 6:00 PM The St. Augustine Film Society will be filming live the one Act play "When The Rabbis Came to Town," written by filmmaker, screenwriter, and journalist Roger Rapaport. The play discusses the impact and events of the civil rights demonstrations in 1964 St. Augustine as told by an actor portraying the last remaining living Rabbi, Alan Secher, from those protests. Alan Secher will be in attendance and offer some remarks. This will be a free event but donations are greatly appreciated.

"Invisible Life" "La Vida Invisível" (The Invisible Life of Eurídice Gusmão) June 28th at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Doors open 5:30 PM, film begins at 6:00 PM "Invisible Life" "La Vida Invisível" (The Invisible Life of Eurídice Gusmão) is a lush, heartbreaking Brazilian melodrama about two sisters in 1950s Rio whose lives are destroyed by one patriarchal lie. After they are separated and forced to live apart, they try to take control of their destinies and hold on to the hope of finding one another. The film was Brazil's official submission for the Best International Feature Film category at the 92nd Academy Awards (Oscars).

St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

provided by Susan Horwitz

The St Augustine Beach Democratic Club's June 2026 meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. The meeting is at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St Augustine Beach at 5:30 pm. Our Speakers for the June 2 meeting will be Mark Heggstad who is running for Congress in Congressional District 5 and Jason Smith who is running for Seat 4 on the Anastasia Mosquito Control District.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and hear from the exciting candidates in these races. The St Augustine Beach Democratic Club's focus is on issues affecting those living in the St Augustine Beach area. Our meetings provide an excellent opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, get to know elected representatives, mingle with Democratic candidates and socialize with like minded neighbors. The Club's regular monthly meetings are held at the Anastasia Island Branch Library 124 Sea Grove Main Street at 5:30 on the first Tuesday of each month. There is plenty of parking. For additional information, please contact info@sabdems.org.

Medicare

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



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St. Augustine Travel Club

by Peter Dytrych

Our next gathering is Wednesday, June 17 at 3:00 PM at the Southeast Branch Public Library, 6670 US 1 South.

We will feature FRANCE: NORMANDY AND CHAMPAGNE REGION. Remember the World War II's D-Day landing at the Normandy beaches, visit Giverny, place of the birth of Impressionism, see Norman history depicted in Bayeux tapestry and admire the awesome Mont-St-Michel Abbey. Visit Reims, the capital of the champagne region, and also the home of the historic cathedral where French kings were crowned.



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. We look forward to seeing our regulars and newcomers! Any questions, please call Peter at 904-797-3736.

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.

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.

Thursdays 9-10 am, 2487 A1A S. Street, St. Augustine (Use red back door entrance) For more information to restore peace and harmony, contact 843-367-1475.

GriefShare

Please join us for GriefShare, a weekly seminar to help you rebuild your life after the loss of a loved one. Feel free to attend the sessions any time we meet in a casual and comfortable environment. Contact Melanie, rscogn@gmail.com or GriefShare.org under Find A Group to register.

Starting May 13 2026 - August 5 2026, Wednesday, 6pm - 7:30pm
Crescent Beach Baptist Church St Augustine, FL 32086

Sip Smarter This Summer: Why Hydration Matters



By Diane Thompson
Mayo Clinic Certified Wellness Coach

St. Augustine in June means sunshine, humidity, beach walks, sweaty workouts, and a whole lot of opportunities to become dehydrated without even realizing it. Hydration isn't just about avoiding thirst. Water impacts nearly every system in the body, including energy, digestion, mood, brain function, circulation, exercise performance, and temperature regulation.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the body loses water constantly through breathing, sweating, digestion, and normal daily functions. When we don't replace those fluids, dehydration can sneak up quickly, especially during the hot Florida summer months.

So...How Much Water Do You Actually Need?

The old "8 glasses a day" rule is a decent starting point, but hydration needs are highly individualized. The National Academies of Sciences suggest total daily fluid intake averages around:

- Women: approximately 11.5 cups (2.7 liters)

- Men: approximately 15.5 cups (3.7 liters) This includes fluids from water, foods, coffee, tea, fruits, soups, and other beverages. A simple hydration formula many wellness professionals use is:

Divide your body weight in half and drink that many ounces of water daily.

For example:

- 140 pounds - aim for about 70 ounces

- 180 pounds - aim for about 90 ounces

Then add extra fluids if you exercise, spend time outdoors, drink alcohol, consume excess caffeine, sweat heavily, or are sick or recovering from an illness.

Signs You May Be Dehydrated

Sometimes dehydration looks less like dramatic thirst and more like feeling "off." According to Mayo Clinic's dehydration guide and UF/IFAS Extension resources, common signs including headaches, fatigue or sluggishness, dizziness, dry mouth, muscle cramps, dark yellow urine, brain fog or difficulty concentrating, rapid pulse, extreme thirst, constipation, or reduced exercise performance.

Severe dehydration can become dangerous and may lead to confusion, fainting, or heat-related illness. One of the easiest ways to check hydration status? Look at your urine color. Mayo Clinic notes that pale yellow urine generally suggests adequate hydration, while darker urine may indicate the need for more fluids.

Easy Ways to Increase Your Water Intake

If drinking plain water feels boring, you're not alone. Fortunately, hydration doesn't have to feel like a chore. Try adding lemon, lime, cucumber, or berries to water, keeping a reusable water bottle nearby, drinking water before meals, eating hydrating foods like watermelon, cucumber, strawberries, and soups, pairing hydration with habits you already have (coffee, workouts, work breaks) and setting reminders on your phone.

What About Electrolytes?

Water is important, but hydration is about more than water alone. Electrolytes are minerals, such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium, that help regulate fluid balance, muscle contractions, nerve function, and heart rhythm.

When we sweat heavily, especially during Florida summers, long workouts, beach days, or illness, we lose both water and electrolytes. Replacing only water after excessive sweating can sometimes leave people feeling fatigued, crampy, lightheaded, or depleted. According to Mayo Clinic and UF Health, electrolytes play a critical role in maintaining normal body function.

You may benefit from extra electrolytes if you exercise intensely or outdoors, sweat heavily, spend long periods in the heat have vomiting or diarrhea, feel muscle cramps, dizziness, or exhaustion after activity. Electrolytes can be replaced through foods such as bananas, oranges, watermelon, yogurt, leafy greens, nuts, and broth-based soups. Sports drinks and electrolyte packets can also help, though some contain large amounts of added sugar. For most people doing moderate daily activity, a balanced diet plus adequate water intake is enough. But athletes, outdoor workers, and highly active individuals may need additional electrolyte support during the hot summer months.

Hydration is one of the simplest forms of self-care, and one of the most overlooked. Before assuming you need more caffeine, more willpower, or more rest, ask yourself a basic wellness question: Have I had enough water today? This summer, think of hydration not as another health rule, but as an act of support for your body, mind, and energy. Your future self will thank you. Not intended as medical advice. Please check with your doctor before making health or wellness changes.

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GOFF FAMILY SHELTER OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 27th

1:00 - 4:00PM

64 Washington Street, St. Augustine

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We invite you to join us for an upcoming Open House to see firsthand how our community has created a space that will provide safety, stability, and hope for families in crisis as they work on transitioning from the streets to stability.

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for more information

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