

St. Augustine Observer

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



Sing Out Loud Festival & Songwriters Festival Returns to St. Augustine in September 2025

One of the Southeast's largest music celebrations, the 9th Annual Sing Out Loud Festival has announced the full schedule for the hallmark Sing Out Loud Local Showcases. Sing Out Loud Festival is proud to announce the return of two staple events this September: The **St. Augustine Songwriters Festival** taking place Friday, September 26 – Sunday, September 28 and the **Sing Out Loud Music Business Panel** on Wednesday, September 24. Both events are free and open to the public and will be held at multiple venues in downtown St. Augustine.

The Sing Out Loud Music Business Panel will feature distinguished industry expert panelists to discuss in-depth the state of today's music industry. The Music Business Panel, presented by PNC Bank, will be held at The Markland House at Flagler College Wednesday, Sept. 24. This event is free and open to the public, but RSVP is required.

The St. Augustine Songwriters Festival brings together top-notch songwriters to unravel the untold stories and inspirations behind their chart-topping hits. The songwriters featured this year are Rodney Clawson ("Sure Be Cool If You Did", by Blake Shelton), Monty Criswell ("Just Fishin'", by Trace Adkin), Jon Nite ("Break Up in the End", by Cole Swindell), Frank Myers ("I Swear", by John Michael Montgomery), Brock Berryhill ("Good As You", by Kane Brown), Cliff Cody ("Men & Mascara", by Julie Roberts), Nick Norman ("Love Don't Fool Me Again", co-wrote with Lewis Brice), Jim McCormick ("Take a Little Ride", by Jason Aldean), Emily Landis ("The Good Ones", by Gabby Barrett), McCoy Moore ("Something to You", by McCoy Moore), and more.

Now in its ninth year, Sing Out Loud Festival has grown into one of the largest and most dynamic music festivals in Florida, spanning four weekends each September. The festival's marquee weekend, the Live Wildly Showcase, takes place September 20 and 21 at Francis Field and features national headliners including Hozier, Beabadoobe, Vance Joy, The Teskey Brothers, sombr, Rilo Kiley, and more on Francis Field in historic downtown St. Augustine Sept. 20 and 21. Tickets for the Live Wildly Showcase are on sale now or information call 800-543-2489 or www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com.

St Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope

Many neighbors found the late July heat dome unbearably hot. We had been spared the June dome that roasted states north of us, but were not so lucky at the end of July. Although there have been some heavy rain storms keeping the grass green, I noticed many trees showing signs of heat shock. My own Chickasaw plum shed its leaves in July, as did my saucer magnolia, and many natives including American beautyberry wilted during the hot days. It's good to refill birdbaths and saucers of water for wildlife frequently during hot summer days. I often throw in a large bucket of ice on summer afternoons.

But I no longer leave the water from day to day after getting Cuban tree frog tadpoles in my birdbath. The Cubans are invasive and both crowd out our native tree frogs and eat our natives. Female Cuban treefrog adults grow up to 5 inches in body length, much larger than native Florida treefrogs, and have enormous toe pads that are larger than toepads of native treefrogs in Florida. The females lay hundreds of eggs with a "frog spawn" jelly coat where as our natives only lay a few eggs – a score at the most – at any one time.

So when my bird bath was teeming with tadpoles, I knew they were Cubans and poured them onto the garden for critters to eat. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has several publications on Cuban tree frogs, including reasons for and how to rid our gardens of tree frogs. This is one with links to others: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW259>

From time to time, I get called to "rescue" ducks that have been abandoned in unsuitable places. Our volunteer wild-life rehabbers are not allowed under Florida law to rehab domestic ducks like the white pekin ducks that are often abandoned on retention ponds from late spring and over the summer months. Pekins have been domesticated for nearly six thousand years and have lost the ability to fly, and the skills to evade predators and survive in the wild. They are essentially condemned to a cruel end as a meal for a predator when dumped on a pond, even if they look pretty and happy for a few weeks or months.

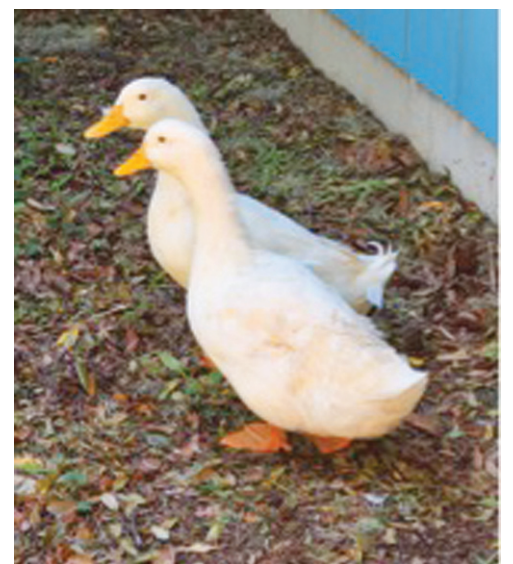
Our native wild ducks are much better equipped for life on a pond. The majority of abandoned pekings are drakes that are unwanted as they don't produce eggs, or their numbers are in disproportion to the owner's female ducks. Traditionally, Florida homesteaders kept a flock of ducks both for eggs and meat. Females were an asset, and surplus drakes went into the cooking pot.

In current times, backyard ducks are more pets than livestock and their owners prefer to abandon drakes on ponds to filling their freezer. A quick, humane end is, to my thinking, greatly preferable to the terror and pain of becoming dinner for a hungry raccoon. Another issue is the sale of "Easter ducklings" many of which do not go to secure back garden coops and pens, but are kept in a basket in the house. Yet ducklings grow rapidly and these in-home pet ducks are unwanted after 5 or 6 weeks, when they are no longer little yellow fluffies, but full grown white juvenile pekings.

I see an uptick in abandoned ducks 6 weeks after Easter. Some are female: for them I can find adoptive homes; but there are always more drakes and they are very difficult to rehome. I would like Tractor Supply to stop selling Easter Ducklings. If they changed their policy and made the minimum purchase 5 or 6 ducklings, rather than the current two, those who are not serious backyard or small homestead duck keepers would likely not make frivolous purchases of vulnerable little lives to amuse their children for a short while.



An invasive Cuban tree frog
Photo credit UF/IFAS



Rescued and rehabbed pekin drakes

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

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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**
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www.staugshores.org

Shores Monthly Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

St. Augustine South Community

St. Augustine South Improvement Assoc.

709 Royal Rd. St Augustine, 32086

email: info@staugsouth.com

www.staugsouth.com

(904) 615-6916

2025 SASIA Board Members

President: Jerri Sue Dawson

1st VP: David Rieger

2nd VP: Oonna Heuck

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Margo Geer

Board:

Andre D'Elena Justin Miller

Linda Stegall Vicki Cofone

SASIA Community Meeting

Please join us on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. Eva Askew-Houser, a St. Johns Regional Audubon board member who's been part of the Christmas Bird Count Team working in our neighborhood for three years will be our guest speaker. She'll be sharing her tips on birding in St. Augustine South based on her experiences.

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

Classes at the SASIA Clubhouse

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

Square Dancing – Mondays 7:00-9:00 p.m. Come and join the fun and dance with others. Contact caller, Mike

Akers, with any questions: michael_akers@bellsouth.net or (904) 466-8663.

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

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

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

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

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

Print Distribution Locations

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

Community Classifieds

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

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

FOR SALE: (1) SCC Performance Winter Traction device Snow Chains. Super Z6/Z8 \$40. (2) 14 inch offset air cleaner base \$30. (3) Ucagco Japan hand painted fruit 2 bud vases, and 1 hand painted flower bowl. \$30. (4) Contico Pro Tuff Bin Truck Box no lock 35 x 21 \$60. (5) Pack and Play Graco \$15. Call 904-540-4059.

FOR SALE: 2020 Brother Fax/Copy Machine \$50. Call John 904-797-6324.

FOR SALE: 3 tier chrome utility kitchen cart with chrome wire tiers. Never used. Chrome hooks for cups and small wire chrome baskets for silverware attached. 36" w x 32" h x 10" d. Great for entertaining or small kitchens. \$15.00 Call 863-231-1671

FOR SALE: Brand new mobility scooter for sale. Never used. \$1200. Will need to be picked up. I'm in the shores. Call /Text 386 538 1514

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Shores Communications Corner

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

**St. Augustine Shores & The Riverview Club
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Shores Riverview Club Member Activities

September 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAND/FOOT SITTING ROOM 12:00 ZUMBA 3:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	2 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 POOL BARRE 5:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	3 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00 POOL FOOD TRUCK SMOKIN SPENCERS Q 4-7 PM	4 WATER AEROBICS POOL 10:00 KICKBOXING 9:00 SCRABBLE 12:00	5 ZUMBA 10:00 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER SITTING ROOM 12:00	6
7	8 HAND/FOOT SITTING ROOM 12:00 ZUMBA 3:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	9 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 POOL BARRE 5:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	10 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00 POOL FOOD TRUCK ANGELOS SANDWICH STOP 4-7 PM	11 WATER AEROBICS POOL 10:00 KICKBOXING 9:00 SCRABBLE 12:00	12 ZUMBA 10:00 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER SITTING ROOM 12:00	13
14	15 HAND/FOOT SITTING ROOM 12:00 ZUMBA 3:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	16 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 POOL BARRE 5:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	17 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00 POOL FOOD TRUCK CREPE CRAZY 4-7 PM	18 WATER AEROBICS POOL 10:00 KICKBOXING 9:00 SCRABBLE 12:00	19 ZUMBA 10:00 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER SITTING ROOM 12:00	20
21	22 HAND/FOOT SITTING ROOM 12:00 ZUMBA 3:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	23 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 POOL BARRE 5:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	24 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00 POOL FOOD TRUCK TBD 4-7 PM	25 WATER AEROBICS POOL 10:00 KICKBOXING 9:00 SCRABBLE 12:00	26 ZUMBA 10:00 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM MENS PRAYER SITTING ROOM 12:00	27
28	29 HAND/FOOT SITTING ROOM 12:00 ZUMBA 3:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	30 WATER AEROBICS 10:00 POOL BARRE 5:30 REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	GENTLE YOGA TUESDAY'S & THURSDAY'S ON THE WATERFRONT 12:00 – 1:00 FREE CLASS FOOD TRUCKS SUBJECT TO CHANGE			

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group

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

The second Thursday of each month, the first session will be September 11th, 10:00am-11:00am at Homeport Christian Church, 5605 US1 South, St Augustine.

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

St. Johns Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve

The St. Johns Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve is participating in the St. Johns County Library System's Community Connections Program. During the month of September, anyone who presents a St. Johns County Library card will get a \$2.00 discount on admission to the botanical garden.

Come and see the largest collection of palms that can be grown in North Florida and all the beautiful tropical plants in the lush 17-acre landscape. The mission of the garden is the conservation of rare and endangered species of plants from around the world, as well as local natural resources, native plants and animals.

The Garden is open from 10 am to 5 pm with the last entry at 4 pm. stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org



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SASIA News and Calendar of Events September 2025

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

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

SASIA Community Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:00pm

Please join us on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. Eva Askew-Houser, a St. Johns Regional Audubon board member who's been part of the Christmas Bird Count Team working in our neighborhood for three years will be our guest speaker. She'll be sharing her tips on birding in St. Augustine South based on her experiences.

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, 32086)

Friday, September 12th El Hambre Tacos

Friday, October 10th Wingin' It

Friday, November 14th Saucey Pig

No Food Truck in December

Friday, January 9th, 2026 Uptown Artisan Pizza

Friday, February 13th, 2026 Jersey Girl Grill

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

SASIA Volunteer Community Cleanup

Saturday, September 6, 2025 from 9:00am-12:00pm

Join us Saturday, September 6th at 9:00am - 12:00pm for another community cleanup. Community members really do make a difference – so far we have collected 1,030 pounds worth of trash, including a sofa that the county removed from the ditches. We will meet at 9:00am at the clubhouse picnic tables, 709 Royal Road, 32086.

All ages are welcome! This a terrific opportunity for middle or high school students looking for community service hours.

Sign up online: <https://volunteersignup.org/CMHCF>

December Arts & Crafts Fair

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

Upcoming Events 2025

Friday, September 12th El Hambre Taco

Friday, October 10th Wingin' It

Saturday, October 25th Fall Festival

Friday, November 14 Saucey Pig

Saturday, December 6th Arts & Crafts Festival

Saturday, December 13th Santa at the Clubhouse

Dates are subject to change.



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The Wildflower Meadow Group

by Marlene Land

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

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



Living with Cancer Support Group

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

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

St Augustine Genealogical Society

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

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

Families Anonymous Support Group

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

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

Corpus Christi Catholic Church Annual Oktoberfest October 25th

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

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

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

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

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Sheriff's Update

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick

Protecting our children – online safety

I was recently invited by the FBI to speak at a press conference about protecting children from online exploitation. In conversations with other law enforcement leaders prior to engaging with the media, I was reminded of how important this topic is, and how critical it is for us to educate the public on a regular basis.

Nothing is more important than the safety of our children and we will do everything in our power to hold offenders accountable. I encourage parents and guardians to be proactive about monitoring online activities and educating yourself on internet safety. Please visit the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website at missingkids.org for statistics and helpful tools for parents.

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

“Wreaths Across America” December 13th at St. Augustine National Cemetery

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County has announced that it is again participating in the Wreaths Across America event. The goal and our commitment as it has been each year is to place a fresh holiday wreath at each headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine Street.

Begun in 1992 when the first wreaths were donated to Arlington National Cemetery by Morrill Worchester, Wreaths Across America has grown to a national event with a ceremony and wreath laying accomplished at the same time and same date at every National cemetery across the Nation. This year's theme is “Keep Moving Forward” and the event will be on Saturday, December 13 at 12 noon.

The veterans of this county are proud to lead the drive to honor our veterans interred in one of the oldest National cemeteries in America. To accomplish this mission and meet our goal, as we have every year, we need your help. Your donations will allow us to continue this tradition.

This year we've made it simple; wreaths are \$17.00 each. Two wreaths would be \$34.00, 5 wreaths \$85.00, 10 wreaths \$170.00 and so forth. We must raise \$13,600.00 to ensure that all our veteran's graves have a wreath displayed honoring their service to our Nation.

We recognize that there are a lot of requests out there for assistance, and that the past few years have been economically challenging for everyone. We ask that you consider making a donation this year so we can again honor all 2,788 interred

veterans. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Please make your check out to Veterans Council of St. Johns County and send it to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117.



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September means Back to School and we are definitely no exception. Along with our Free Monthly Children's Class, we have other affordable classes being taught at the Studio. Norah Sutphin who runs our Free Kid's Class also has a paid class for Children on Monday evenings. Reach out to her for more information at 336-862-9644. You will find this and other classes being offered in our Website and FaceBook page.

Our September First Friday is extra special this month, because there are 3 Artists of the Month.

Join us for x3, an explosive evening showcasing the bold, brilliant work of three distinct yet connected artists and friends. Together, they're igniting a fusion of styles, stories, and visual journeys that will leave you inspired.

Artists Patty Magee, Denise Howes and Jennifer Pitzer Mead. We like to call it, x3: One Night. Three Visions. Infinite Impact.

An Art Show Like No Other – Friday, September 1st from 5pm to 8pm

3 Artists. 3 Perspectives. 1 Unforgettable Night.

Live music • Refreshments • Original art for sale • Electric vibes. Come for the art. Stay for the energy. Leave transformed.

We are also thrilled to announce the release of one of its own Artist Members and Author, Edwina Louise Dorch, acclaimed author and illustrator's novel, “The Artist & Her Lover: A Vacation Travel Romance - Trilogy: Part I”.

Dorch's latest work transports readers to the enchanting shores of Jamaica, weaving a compelling love triangle between an American artist, a Rasta djembe drummer, and a National Geographic marine photographer. Against a backdrop of music, art, history, and an impending hurricane, The Artist & Her Lover blends romance, drama, and vibrant island culture in a way that is as delicious as it is unforgettable.

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.

x3

AN ART SHOW LIKE NO OTHER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH





Patty Magee
Denise Howes
Jennifer Pitzer Mead

The Artist
&
Her Lover

A Vacation Travel Romance

Trilogy: Part I

Author / Illustrator
Edwina Louise Dorch



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EMAIL FOR DETAILS

Betty Griffin Center received donation from St. Augustine Lions Club

The Betty Griffin Center truly appreciates the Lions Club in their support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in St. Johns County. Additionally, we recognize the contributions the Lions have made to our community over the past 78 years, including the annual St. Augustine Lions Festival (Seafood Festival) held in the spring. Thank you to the St. Augustine Lions Club for the generous donation to the Betty Griffin Center. Pictured is Lion Larry Dillahay presenting the check to Carole in the outreach office.

If you're experiencing abuse or have been abused, please call the Betty Griffin Center 24-hour crisis hotline at (904) 824-1555 or text us at <https://bettygriffincenter.org> by clicking on the blue icon.



Interested in the Civil War?

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The September presentation will be with Len Whiteside titled "Raising the Armies". It will examine the measures the North and the South used to raise the millions of soldiers they needed to fight the war.

FUTURE MEETINGS are always the 1st Tuesday of the month at 1pm and always at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove. 2025 Dates: Oct 7, Nov 4, and Dec 2. Topics to be determined.

If you would like to be on our Email list for reminders, or for questions or comments, please contact Len Whiteside at armyfam831@gmail.com



Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder

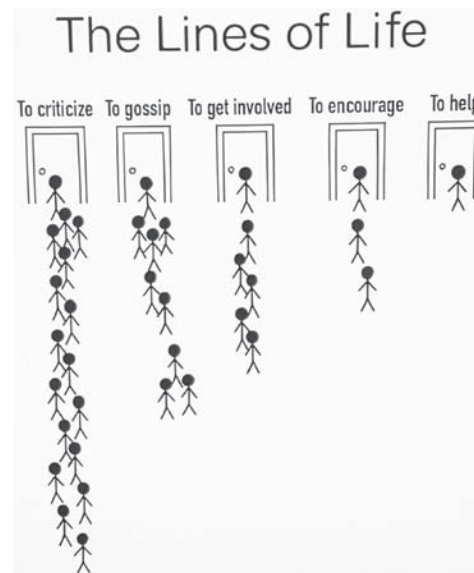
An old friend of mine, Joe, posts funny, thought-provoking and uplifting things on Next Door, a Social Media site intended for the betterment of communities. Joe recently posted a cartoon of "The Lines of Life". The cartoon shows 5 lines in front of 5 doors. The doors are labeled: to criticize, to gossip, to get involved, to encourage and to help. You can imagine how this episode of the Diaries will unfold. The cartoon is shown so you have the visual.

From the day we're born, our brains are conditioned by the information all around us. When I was growing up in the 70's and 80's it was easier, a whole lot easier to find a clear path to unfiltered input for the brain (even though there may have been a few self-imposed obstacles). You didn't have cell phones, there was no Internet and no AI. In the 70's, we were lucky to have Color TV with about 6 channels. Kids got together to play outside all over the neighborhood and the woods and, as we got into our mid-teens, we'd get together to play our albums (that's music for those that are wondering what albums are) on the record player and we'd check out those crazy album covers. Today, it's so easy to get your brain tainted because the information is on overload – it's everywhere all the time.

Next Door is one of those places where criticism and gossip have very long "Lines of Life" despite the "Community Rules". Thank you, Joe, for keeping the other lines (involve, encourage and help) longer. The cartoon need to have another door: the "to laugh" door (with your name on it).

When you see or hear criticism, ignore it. Trying to correct it online it will only draw more criticism but correct it in person. When you see or hear gossip online, ignore it – consider the source. When you hear gossip in person, remember why you have two ears and one mouth. This gossiping person may have had their brain trained by the wrong person and you may be the next victim.

Finally, I hope this helps. I may not be the person behind the "to help" door but I hope to be standing in a long line with my next-door neighbors and friends. On that encouraging note, I wish everyone, as always, a Sunshine State of Mind.



ONLY YOU KNOW & I KNOW

LAST MONTH, CONDO RULE CHANGES WERE THE TOPIC

THIS MONTH, HOA RULES ARE THE TOPIC

The vast majority of neighborhoods are managed by a Homeowners Association (HOA). When a Buyer buys in an HOA, even though a HOA Disclosure is required to accompany the offer, the Contract for Purchase and Sale remains in full force without it. Many times, Buyers plead ignorance of the rules of an HOA but that is not an excuse. Rules and enforcement can be intense so "Buyer Beware!"

There is a movement in Florida to provide a 3-Day Right of Rescission for homes in HOA's but that has not happened yet – stay tuned.

Sellers – be proactive and fill out and execute the HOA

Disclosure at the time you list your home (and fill out the Flood Disclosure too).

Buyers – get yourself informed about the HOA rules, By-Laws, Architectural Controls and Financial Health of the HOA. Your title company and/or your Realtor can help to provide these for you. Find out what the HOA does and doesn't do for the monthly fees. What are your obligations? **READ THE DOCUMENTS!**

For help in Buying or Selling inside or outside of an HOA, call



Dirk Schroeder

Direct: 904-540-2360

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10 Things Medicare Doesn't Cover Part 2

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

This is Part 2 of this article regarding how Medicare covers most health care needs for Medicare-eligible participants, from hospital care and doctor visits to lab tests and surgery. But some necessities — and desires — aren't part of the program. Here's how you might pay for them.

6. No massage therapy, even for chronic pain

Original Medicare doesn't cover massage therapy, often used to help reduce chronic pain. Research suggests it may provide short-term, but not long-term, relief.

For pain management, Medicare does cover chiropractic care in certain limited circumstances (see above) as well as physical and occupational therapy when a doctor prescribes it.

Some Medicare Advantage plans might cover some massage therapy. It's best to call your plan to find out.

Solution: Ask your health care provider to recommend a pain management strategy that Medicare will pay for. If you are set on getting massage therapy, you'll likely have to pay for it yourself.

7. You're on your own for a podiatrist's routine foot care

Routine medical care for feet, such as callus removal, is not covered. Medicare Part B does cover foot exams or treatment related to nerve damage because of diabetes or foot injuries or ailments, such as bunions, hammertoe and heel spurs.

Solution: If you face these costs, you may want to set up a separate savings program for them.

8. Add insurance to your dream vacation overseas

Original Medicare and most Medicare Advantage plans offer virtually no coverage for medical costs outside the U.S.

Solution: Some Medigap policies cover certain overseas medical costs, typically paying 80 percent of the billed charges for specific medically necessary emergency care you receive outside of the U.S. after a \$250 annual deductible. Medigap's foreign travel emergency coverage has a lifetime limit of \$50,000.

In addition, some travel insurance policies provide basic health care coverage — but they may exclude preexisting conditions, so check the fine print. Finally, consider medical evacuation, also known as medevac, insurance for adventures abroad. It will help pay to transport you to a nearby medical facility or back home to the U.S. in case of emergency.

9. Long-term care often comes out of your pocket

Medicare pays for limited stays in rehab facilities — for example, if you have a hip replacement and need inpatient physical therapy for several weeks. But if you need long-term help with the activities of daily living in a nursing home or assisted living center, you will have to pay the costs yourself.

Nursing homes average about \$90,000 a year for a semiprivate room and more than \$100,000 for a private room. Costs vary based on where you live and what place you choose.

Solution: Lots of decisions go into planning for nursing home care. Some people buy long-term care insurance, and others include these potential costs in their retirement plans.

Veterans may have access to some long-term care programs. For those with limited income and savings, Medicaid might help fill in the gaps.

10. If you want concierge care, you'll pay extra

Some physicians and their practices require a membership fee. They advertise that this makes them more responsive and available to their patients.

The fees, which can run in the thousands of dollars a year, vary depending on the concierge or boutique practice. Medicare will not cover these fees.

Once you've paid that fee, if your doctor participates in Medicare, that physician must offer all the services Medicare does with the same copays and coinsurance rules.

Solution: You can either pay the fee or find another doctor. You might talk to your physician about the terms of when you have to pay. Some states have laws that provide consumer protections for these arrangements.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Information taken from an AARP article by Dena Bunis updated 10-8-24.

Carol@AskCarolB.com Text: 714-930-7165, Direct: 904-648-6488
www.AskCarolB.com FL License #: W756153.

Temple Bet Yam High Holy Day Services

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

Erev Rosh Hashanah: September 22, Service 7:30

Rosh Hashanah: September 23, Children's Service 9:00 a.m., Service 10 a.m.

Tashlich follows at Treaty Park

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

Yom Kippur Services: October 2 Morning Service 10:00 a.m., Afternoon

Services: (Yizkor & Neilah) 3:30 p.m.

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

Medicare

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



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St. Augustine Orchid Society

Janis Croft

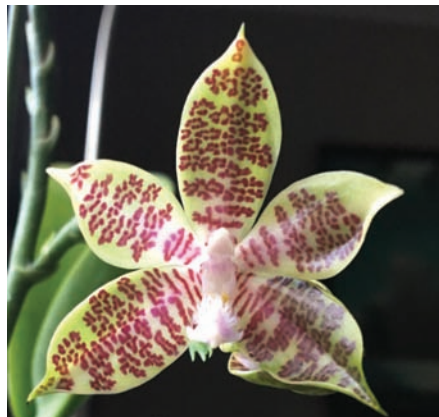
September 2 - Novelty Phalaenopsis
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids

Phillip will talk about growing the summer novelty phalaenopsis with lots of practical information on the do's and don'ts, as well as pests and diseases. He will show us pictures of the results of his novelty breeding, phals with colorful, often fragrant flowers and lovely foliage. He was born and raised in Jamaica where he has been growing and hybridizing since the age of eight. After earning degrees in Environmental Horticulture, he formed his own business, Bredren Orchids, to facilitate production of some of the more unique Phalaenopsis and Broughtonia species and hybrids he grows and breeds, with the generous help of his wife, Liz.

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

When: September 2, 6:30 to 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church
Drive around to the back entrance
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



American Association of University Women St. Augustine branch September events

Tuesday, 9/16/25, 5 - 7:30 pm at Memorial Lutheran Church social hall, 3375 U.S. 1 South, 32086. Join us for a Meet 'n Greet and learn about AAUW's mission and the activities of the St. Augustine branch. Enjoy refreshments and great conversation! We will be collecting canned and boxed food items to replenish our local food pantries. Contact Cathie Altman, cathie.altman@gmail.com, for any questions.

Friday, 9/9/26/25, doors open at 6 pm for the AAUW St. Augustine Film Fest at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine 32084. Enjoy short films by and about women, with refreshments and raffle baskets. This is a fundraiser to support Tech Trek camp and STEM events for local middle school girls. Tickets are \$25 and are available on Eventbrite under American Association of University Women St. Augustine, or by mail to L. Carlson, 717 Willow Wood Pl, St. Augustine 32086.

St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

The SAB Democratic Club's next meeting is on Tuesday September 2, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St Augustine Beach. Our speakers on September 2 will be Jean Francis from "Moms Demand Action" which is a grassroots movement fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence. Also, Karen Hall from the Northwest St Johns County United for Progress Club will be talking about the Street Captain Program for volunteers to get to know their neighbors. The St Augustine Beach Democratic Club's focus is on current issues affecting those living in the St Augustine Beach area. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, get to know elected representatives, mingle with Democratic candidates and socialize with our like minded neighbors. The Club meets at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. There is plenty of parking available. For additional information, please contact info@sabdem.org.

St. Augustine Travel Club - Peter Dytrych

The St. Augustine Travel Club is resuming after a summer break, and hope everyone has enjoyed exploring the world, or sun, sand, and fun! The next gathering will be Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 3:00 pm, covering VIENNA + SALZBURG; visiting the center of former Habsburg Empire, now the capital city of Austria and its splendor past. Followed by a visit to Mozart's Salzburg and its beautiful surroundings of lakes and Alps mountains.

The St. Augustine Travel Club is open to all residents and no registration is required. The program is formatted as arm-chair travel, meaning a brief lecture of the destination we cover, along with a video.

Our program is held at the Southeast Public Library, 6670 US 1, St. Augustine. We look forward to seeing our regulars and newcomers! Any questions, please call Peter at 904-797-3736



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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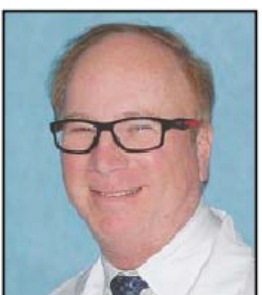
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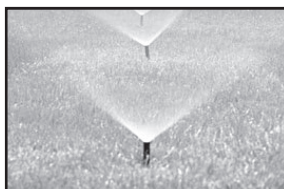
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