



# St. Augustine Beaches NEWS JOURNAL

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

## U. S. Air Force Jazz Band to perform free concert at Pier Park



U.S. AIR FORCE JAZZ BAND...contributed photos

### St. Augustine Beach and Beyond...

By Lorraine Thompson ([StAugBeachWatch@aol.com](mailto:StAugBeachWatch@aol.com))

Now we know! St. Augustine Beach Civic Association has released information on its first ever Spring Pop Up Concert to take place on April 1. And no, it's not an April Fools Joke!

Bill Jones, president of the Association, announced that the U.S. Air Force 15 piece Jazz Band will open the 2026 free Music and Art by the Sea series on April 1 at Pier Park, 350 A1A Beach Boulevard.

"And, for the 10th straight year we have an art element as part of the event," Jones added.

The Art Studio, also located in Pier Park, will be displaying locally produced art by their members. The Art Studio will be open all afternoon, concert seating opens at 5 p.m. and the U. S. Air Force Jazz Band will play from 6:30 until about 8:15 p.m.

Parking at Pier Park will be limited. Concert goers are advised to arrive early and/or carpool or use other public parking. Locals are encouraged to walk or bike.

Other information about the April 1 event— There will be:

\*A Food Truck on site.

\*A 50/50 Raffle by the Civic Association and the St. Augustine Chapter of the Sons & Daughters of Italy. Proceeds will be split between the two groups to support the free concert series and to help pay for lights for the Bocce Ball Courts at Pier Park.

Jones also suggests that concert goers bring a beach chair and/or blanket for seating, and, he quipped, "Also bring your dancing shoes and a smile!"

The entire schedule for the 24th season of Music & Art by the Sea will be released on April 10. But for those who can't wait, Jones shared an early overview of what to expect:

"There are a few performers returning including Those Guys who are making their 24th appearance. There will also be some new acts and two collaborative concerts as the Civic Association partners with the St Johns County Cultural Council for a show in June that will be tied into the second anniversary of the Waves of Change Civil Rights exhibit in June--and a Latin band in late September that will kick off Hispanic Heritage Month."

The free concert series is made possible by local sponsors and fundraising efforts spearheaded by the all-volunteer Civic Association. The 2026 Stage Sponsor is the Law Firm of Taylor-Waldrop-Prbisco. Returning sponsors include Diane Vespucci Team 100 Realty, Land Title of America, Angela Joy & Co. Hair Salon, The Jones Team at HMA Mortgage, Crabby's Beachside, Beach 105.5 FM and St Augustine Country 106.3 FM

For sponsorship information contact the Civic Association at 904-341-8007 or email [sabcivic@yahoo.com](mailto:sabcivic@yahoo.com).

(continued on page 6)

### Epic Theatres of St. Augustine and St. Johns County Public Library System Launch "Read It, See It" Program Connecting Books to the Big Screen

by Emma Dvorovy

Epic Theatres of St. Augustine is partnering with the St. Johns County Public Library System (SJCPLS) to launch, "Read It, See It," a new community program designed to encourage readers to experience reading books before seeing their film adaptations in theatres.



The program highlights select titles available through the library that have upcoming or recently released movie adaptations. Community members are encouraged to check out the featured books from their local library, read the story, then experience the cinematic version together (continued on page 10)

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St. Augustine Beaches

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### Print Distribution Locations for the Beaches News Journal

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

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

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

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

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

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

## St. Augustine Beach City Hall Update

The City Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026, and did the following:

1. Heard a presentation by Mr. Chris Benjamin, Outreach Coordinator for the St. Johns County Solid Waste Department, about the County's program for the dignified disposal of used American flags.

2. Discussed a proposal from Mr. Jeff Potts, Executive Director of the St. Johns Cultural Council, to extend for three years the lease the Council has with the City for the use of the former city hall adjacent to Pier Park. The current lease expires October 1, 2026. The lease will be brought back to the Commission at a future meeting for a vote.

3. Heard an update report from Mr. Greg Caldwell, County Public Works Director, and Mr. Duane Kent, County Engineer, about the proposed 12-foot wide sidewalk/bike path along the east side of A1A Beach Boulevard from Pope Road south to the junction with State Road A1A. County representatives will return at a future meeting to discuss the project again with the public.

4. Passed on final reading an ordinance to adopt minor changes to the City Charter.

5. Passed on final reading an ordinance to change street side setbacks for ocean-front lots in the Atlantic Beach, Chautauqua Beach and Coquina Gables subdivisions.

6. Approved three budget resolutions: a) to appropriate \$1,858 from the Building Department's training fund for training in Fiscal Year 2026; b) to appropriate \$32,344 from impact fees for the purchase of a



drone and related expenses for the Police Department; c) to appropriate \$465,000 from a state grant for the purchase of stormwater system operation and maintenance equipment.

7. Decided not to revoke an agreement with a property owner for the owner to preserve a very large live oak tree at 106 7th Street. The owner may plan to build a house on the lot while saving the tree.

8. Approved extending the contract with the City Manager to December 31, 2026.

8. Discussed a request by a 3rd Street resident that he be allowed to keep a fence in a vacated alley under which the City has a drainage pipe. The Commission will next discuss the request when the City Attorney is prepared to address certain issues concerning the location of the drainage pipe.

The City Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026, in the Commission meeting room at City Hall, 2200 A1A South, starting at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend or may view it on YouTube on the City's website, [staugbch.com](http://staugbch.com).

## City of St. Augustine Beach

### April 6, 2026 Commission Meeting Agenda

The St. Augustine Beach City will meet on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission meeting room at City Hall, 2200 A1A South. Topics on the agenda may include:

1. Presentation of Law Enforcement Commendation Award to Officer Tyler Gill by the Sons of the American Revolution.

2. Proclamations: a) to declare April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; b) to declare Friday, April 17, 2026, as Arbor Day in the City.

3. Interview of Mr. Jim LeClare for the position of Code Enforcement Board Senior Alternate.

4. Presentation by the City's auditing firm, James Moore and Associates, of the audit report for the City's 2025 budget.

6. Final reading of ordinance to amend the City Charter to adopt language regarding term limits for City Commissioners.

7. A resolution to declare items of City property as surplus and authorize their disposal.

8. Review of agreement with the St. Johns Cultural Council for three-year extension of lease that allows the Council to use the former hotel/city hall at the Pier Park; and consideration of forming a committee to develop a long-range plan for uses of the building and how to pay costs to operate and maintain it.

9. Review of proposal to pave 4th Street between A1A Beach Boulevard and 2nd Avenue and determination of how to pay the costs.

10. Request to ask the County to transfer ownership of Mickler Boulevard between Pope Road and A Street to the City.

11. Consideration of nominating a City Commissioner for the Florida League of Cities' annual E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award.

12. Review of contract with the City Attorney for legal services.

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## 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](http://StAugGenSoc.org).

## St Augustine Beach Parks Department Adopt a Parkette Program

Provided by Ann Kenon (akennonbreslauer@yahoo.com)

The St. Augustine Beach Parks Department, SEPAC (Sustainability & Environment Planning Advisory Committee), along with community volunteers, have created a new city program to adopt a Parkette. Community groups, service clubs, schools, neighborhood associations, youth groups, etc are welcome to get involved.

Already, the Parkette at 8th street (next to Cone Heads Ice Cream) has been adopted. Walk over and enjoy the beauty of the natural plantings and newly painted benches. Volunteers are sprucing up the Sculpture Park (behind the police station).

It's a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors with your friends, neighbors, club, office associates.

**ADOPT A PARKETTE: Small Spaces, Big Impact!**

Our parks are the heart of St. Augustine Beach.

We need YOU to help keep these community spaces beautiful, safe, and welcoming.

Who Can Join? We welcome all hands! It's the perfect project for:

- Neighborhood Associations & HOAs
- Service Clubs & Non-Profits
- Youth Groups & Local Schools
- Office Teams & Local Businesses

What Do Volunteers Do? By "adopting" a small parkette, your group helps with light tasks like:

- Litter removal to keep our coast clean.
- Trail maintenance and habitat protection.
- Sprucing up benches and landscaping.
- Playing in the dirt with friends

How to Sign Up? Email: parkette@cityofsab.org. Subject: Parkette Volunteer Inquiry.

### Interested in the Civil War?

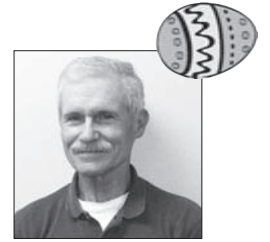
Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The APRIL presentation will be with Len Whiteside, titled "Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign". It profiles the life of this Confederate General and his brilliant conduct in the 1862 Shenandoah Valley campaign that changed the Union's military strategy.

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

## E-Bikes

By Max Royle  
St. Augustine Beach City Manager



Have you noticed of late anything different about our fair City? No, it isn't that your City Manager is wearing a wig that makes him look like a 30-year-old Fabio. Does anyone remember him? Fabio, that is, not the Manager.

What's different is the effect of a new/old means of transportation, e-bikes, on the traditional ways, such as walking, that people have practiced for centuries. While battery-operated bicycles certainly aren't new technology, what is new is the vastly increased number of them and the age (vastly decreasingly younger) of the persons using them.

I know that I must tread carefully here lest I be labeled an old fuddy-duddy (in a Fabio wig) because criticism by oldsters of the young is so (Queen) Victorian. Yet the behavior of some e-bike users deserves an admonishing no-no finger wave.

As a frequent walker as well as vehicle driver and non-electric bicyclist on our City's streets, I have seen examples of disturbing behavior:

1, I'm walking north on A1A Beach Boulevard's west sidewalk when I hear voices behind me. I turn and see three possibly pre-teen girls on e-bikes, all wearing helmets, but with their attention so fixated on having fun that they are oblivious to their surroundings. I step off the sidewalk, the girls hasten past, giggling and shouting to each other. As they approach the entrance to the Anastasia Dunes subdivision, I hope no vehicles come into that intersection. Fortunately, none do. The girls merrily continue north accident free...for now.

2. One Saturday morning before daylight, the red light at the intersection of SR-312/A1A has me stopped in my vehicle. As I'm about to turn south on A1A, a boy on an e-bike, headlight shining, speeds southbound through the intersection. When he's past and I start to turn, a girl on an e-bike, NO headlight, long hair flowing because she's NOT wearing a helmet, zips south through the intersection, likely following the boy. Had I turned two, three seconds earlier, there might have been a collision.


To provide balance to these examples of reckless e-bike driving, here are instances of the opposite: Again, Boulevard west sidewalk. As I trod northwards, I hear a voice behind me, "Excuse me, coming on your left." A pre-teen boy on an e-bike and wearing a helmet passes me. I thank him for the warning. Pope Road sidewalk, as I walk west, an adult man on an e-bike behind me beeps his horn before passing. If only such warnings were commonly the practice.

In February, Police Chief Dan Carswell held a public meeting at City Hall to inform residents about the different types of e-bikes and the state's current and proposed e-bike laws. The overwhelming opinion of the attendees was that the use of e-bikes needs to be regulated. Period. Chief Carswell emphasized that educating e-bike users about safe practices will be as important as enforcement and that the County, St. Augustine and your fair City will develop a standard set of e-bike regulations and practices.

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### 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, BeBe Kelly 386-793-8414 or the Alzheimer's Association 800-272-3900 or go to alz.org/help-support/caregivers for more information.

### 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.

### Do You Have Community News to Share?

Do you have news, events or personal interest information that are relevant to our communities in and around St. Augustine Beach? Please forward them to the Editor for consideration for the monthly News Journal. Please contact Editor clifflogsdon@att.net or call 904-607-1410.

### 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 Caregivers Support Group meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10:00 am - 11:00 am at Homeport Christian Church, 5605 US1South, St Augustine.

For information, call Nancy Wright 904-347-6299, Bebe Kelly 386-7793-8114 or the Alzheimer's Association 800-272-3900 or go to alz.org/help-support/caregivers

### St. Augustine Travel Club

by Peter Dytrych

Our next gathering is Wednesday, April 8 at 3:00 PM at the Southeast Branch Public Library, 6670 US 1 South and we will feature ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE AND CLASSIC LONDON. English countryside is the landscape of fairy tales, medieval castles and bucolic areas such as The Cotswolds. Then visit the highlights of London, including the Buckingham Palace, Notting Hill, Harrods, Westminster Abbey and so much more.



#### St. Augustine Travel Club Cruise

The St. Augustine Travel Club will again be sailing the seas on Sunday, November 1 - 8, 2026 on the beautiful NORWEGIAN PRIMA ship out of Port Canaveral to the Caribbean and Bahamas, to the ports of Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic), St. Thomas (USVI), Tortola (BVI) and Great Stirrup Cay (Norwegian's private island in the Bahamas) for a 7-day cruise. Prices start from \$1203.45 per person, double occupancy, for inside cabin, inclusive of all port fees and taxes. Balconies, Oceanviews and Single Studios are also available at additional cost. Book now with a \$125 p.p. deposit and receive \$100 per stateroom On Board Credit, Free Beverage Package, Wi-Fi, Shore Excursions Credit and more. Call Peter, St. Augustine Travel Club at (904) 797-3736.

### Recovery Meeting Space Available

The Silver Dollar 2 Club has meeting space available for 12-Step Recovery groups. Help us support the local community by hosting your meeting at our facility located at 2729 E Moody Blvd.

For availability and details, please contact silverdollariiclub@gmail.com or call 770-843-8779.

### Today's Caregiver Landscape & Navigating the Network

Free Caregiver Workshop Series offered at the Chapman Family Community Campus at 1355 US Highway 1 South, St Augustine, FL 32084. Presentations designed to support caregivers with practical guidance, expert insights, and helpful community resources. All sessions are 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

- Wednesday, April 29, 2026  
Caring with Confidence
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026  
Caregiver Well Being & Support
- Friday, May 15, 2026



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CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH



## St. Augustine Beach and Beyond...

by Lorraine Thompson, [staugbeachwatch@aol.com](mailto:staugbeachwatch@aol.com)  
(continued from page 1)

### Race to the taste—

A day of fun for the family—including a race, music and local foods—is scheduled for Sunday, April 12 following the annual Race to the Taste run that starts and ends at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340 A1A South.

The 5K race for both runners and walkers begins at 8:30 a.m. and follows a course through nearby neighborhoods and areas of Anastasia State Park.

The 28th Annual Taste of St. Augustine, from 11 a. m. to 4 p.m. at the Amphitheatre, will feature an estimated thirty area food trucks competing for the Taste of St. Augustine People's Choice Award. This annual outdoor food festival includes "tastes" from participating St. Augustine restaurants and is presented by EPIC Behavioral Health Care. The day's proceeds go to this community-based non-profit organization.

Twenty or more of St. Augustine's favorite restaurants and food trucks participate each year, offering tastes of their most popular dishes. Race to the Taste Admission is \$10.00 per person. Taste tickets are \$1.00 each. Entry is free to those who participate in the race. Vendors will "charge" one to eight tickets per taste depending on the taste item and size. A list of vendors and their locations at the Amphitheater will be available along with a location map. There will also be arts and crafts activities for children. Local bands will perform on the Front Porch stage.

Free parking is available at the Amphitheatre. Because this is a popular event, a free shuttle runs from R.B. Hunt Elementary School to the Amphitheatre.

The event benefits EPIC Behavioral Healthcare, which was established in 1973 as a community-based non-profit organization. Licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families, EPIC was created to provide substance abuse prevention, intervention, outpatient treatment, and aftercare services.

### Marineland River to Sea Run/Walk

The following week on Sunday, April 19, River to Sea Preserve Trails in the Town of Marineland will be the site of Whitney Lab's annual 5K Run, Walk or Jog event which starts at 8 a.m. For registration and other information visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=178871>

**Arbor Day Celebration and tree giveaway**—An evening of fun, food and free trees will highlight this year's Arbor Day celebration from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17 at St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South. The event, for all ages, will include kid-friendly and fun filled educational presentations by representatives.

Participants will include St. Augustine Beach Public Works, Matanzas Riverkeeper, Smokey the Bear, the Alligator Farm, St. Johns County Beekeepers, and others. It will also include the traditional tree giveaway for planting in local yards. Trees

will include Beautyberry, Southern Red Cedar, Shining Winged Sumac, and the American Elm. Admission and parking at City Hall are free. For more information visit [www.staugbch.com](http://www.staugbch.com).

**Summer Nature Camps**—Looking for a unique summer experience for your "curious explorer"? Registrations are open for the Adventures in the Estuary Summer Camps at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve located at 505 Guana River Road off A1A in Ponte Vedra. The camps offer hands-on activities, wildlife encounters, and eco-adventures in an effort to foster a love for nature and conservation. With expert guides, campers will enjoy a unique blend of learning and fun while exploring the diverse coastal ecosystems. Designed for ages 6–12, the hands-on summer adventure brings science to life through outdoor discovery in the unique coastal setting. The weekly camps, June through July, offer: Wildlife encounters with animal ambassadors, Sharks4Kids interactive shark education program, guided trail hikes, beach exploration, arts, crafts, and environmental games. Other outdoor adventures include kayaking and archery.

Camp Hours are: Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Weekly camps will be held June 1–5 (Ages 6–8 & 9–12), June 8–12 (Ages 6–8 & 9–12), June 15–19 (Ages 6–8 & 9–12), June 22–26 (Ages 6–8 & 9–12) and July 13–17 (Ages 12–15).

Camp costs: Friends of GTM Members: \$395/week, Non-members: \$445/week. Call 904-380-8600 for more information on the camps and GTM membership, or visit [gtmnerr.org/summer-camp](http://gtmnerr.org/summer-camp)

**Evenings at Whitney free lecture** - This month's University of Florida Evenings at Whitney lecture will be held on Tuesday, April 7, starting at 6 p.m. The topic—One, Two, Three: Evolution of Developmental Counting Mechanisms—will be presented by Cassandra Extavour, Ph.D. She is a Canadian geneticist, researcher of organismic and evolutionary biology, professor of molecular and cell biology at Harvard University (and a classical singer). Dr. Extavour will discuss efforts to understand how complex organisms made of many cells, like animals, manage to make precise numbers of some structures (e.g. the numbers of fingers on a hand) but imprecise numbers of others (e.g. the numbers of hairs on a head). The free lecture is open to the public either in person or via Zoom. Whitney Laboratory Center for Marine Studies Lohman Auditorium is located at 9505 Ocean Shore Drive.

For more information: <https://www.whitney.ufl.edu/news--events/evenings-at-whitney-public-lectures/>

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# St. Augustine Orchid Society

by Janice Croft

## April 7 - Bifoliate Cattleya Hybrids Ben Oliveros, Orchid Eros

Ben Oliveros returns to talk about bifoliate Cattleya hybrids, many of which are the result of his toothpick (the handy device breeders use to pollinate orchids and create new hybrids.) These are the beautiful cattleyas that bloom in the spring through fall with clusters of fragrant flowers. His primary goal is to advance the breeding of species and hybrids in the Cattleya alliance. Ben is the owner of Orchid Eros (<https://www.orchideros.com/>), a mail order orchid nursery located on the slopes of Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. He specializes in quality, not quantity, growing and breeding award quality Cattleya species and hybrids. Ben is an AOS judge who has judged in many regions as well as internationally at the World Orchid Conference and the Tokyo Dome orchid show. Even if you're not looking for AOS awards, you can learn a lot from this expert grower about how to grow your orchids to be the best that they can be.



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: April 7, 6:30 to 9 pm, Where: Memorial Lutheran Church  
Drive around to the back entrance at 3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

## Fourth Annual Finger Mullet Film Festival

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum (CEAM) and Flagler College are thrilled to host the Fourth Annual Finger Mullet Film Festival (FMFF). The film fest will take place on Friday, April 10, from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

FMFF is dedicated to nurturing an experimental art and film culture in St. Augustine by providing an inspired platform of the best national and international short films alongside a burgeoning local and regional culture of time-based creators and storytellers. The festival aims to discover, cultivate, and screen new or local narratives to generate critical discussion and empower collaboration within the public, intertwining the importance of art and recognition of its vital place in our community.

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Please Join us for our April First Friday Art Opening, Friday, April 3rd from 5pm to 8pm Featuring Artist of the Month, Sharon Freeman. Here's a little more about her in her own words:

"I started painting when I moved here to Saint Augustine Beach 20 years ago. I guess I was just so inspired by the palm trees and the blue sky and the beaches so that's what I drew and painted. They were definitely paintings of my "happy place"! I sold my paintings at the farmers market on Wednesdays for about two years, then I hit a dry spell and didn't paint again for another 10 years. (Life was busy raising two sons). I started up again about three years ago after I took a course based on the book by Julia Cameron called "The Artist's Way". I loved the course and after it was over, the floodgates opened and I have been painting like crazy ever since. I joined the "Art Studio" gallery about a year ago and I've met many more local artists and feel so lucky to be part of this community.

My favorite medium to work with is acrylics, and my paintings are usually bright and happy colors!

I am my happiest when I'm sitting in my studio, listening to the radio with a candle burning and painting a new project. To reach Sharon, you can email her at: [rsfree42@aol.com](mailto:rsfree42@aol.com)

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](http://www.beachartstudio.org), Facebook or call 904-295-4428.

**The Art Studio**  
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April Artist of the Month  
**Sharon Freeman**

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Art - Music - Snacks - Beverages - Free  
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## Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library

by Mollie Meikle, 603.608.8253

The Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library (FAIBL) thank everyone who came out to our March Book Sale and who bid on something from our Spring Basket Silent Auction. Your purchases, bids, and membership help make our library programming shine!

Our next board meeting will take place on Thursday, April 16th from 5 to 6pm in the Dr. Patricia Laurencelle Meeting Room at the Anastasia Island Branch Library. All are welcome!

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



**Rob Cook Attorney At Law P.A.**

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## St. Augustine Film Society

by Kasey Valentine

"Cache" - April 5th at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S, St. Augustine, FL 32080

Doors open at 3:30pm. The film begins at 4:00pm.

Caché is a chillingly controlled psychological thriller in which domestic unease, political guilt, and the mechanics of looking are fused into one sustained act of cinematic interrogation.

"Spirited Away" - April 17th at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave, St. Augustine, FL 32084 Doors open at 6:30pm. The film begins at 7:00pm

Spirited Away is a coming of age fantasy in which Chihiro, a sullen 10 year old, stumbles into a spirit bathhouse after her parents gorge on enchanted food and turn into pigs, forcing her to work under the witch Yubaba to win back their freedom. In the process, sheds fear and apathy, learning responsibility, empathy, and self possession in a world ruled by contracts, names, and appetites. The film is one of the best examples of the Japanese art form known as Anime. Winner of Best Animated Feature, 75th Academy Awards (firsthand drawn, non English language film to win in this category). Guest speaker Ichika Morris will lead a discussion after the film.

"EDO Avant Garde" - April 19th at Flagler College, 50 Sevilla Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084 Doors open at 1:10pm The film begins at 1:30pm. Members Only Event, please send ticket requests to [staugustinefilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:staugustinefilmsociety@gmail.com). Street or public parking only.

EDO Avant Garde. Join Stephanie M. Hohlios, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Art History, Flagler College, on Sunday, April 19 for a screening of "Edo Avant Garde," a documentary that reveals the pivotal role Japanese artists of the Edo era (1603-1868) played in setting the stage for the "modern art" movement in the West. Directed by Linda Hoaglund "Edo Avant Garde" gives the viewer access to over two hundred works of art in museums and private collections across the U.S. and Japan. Situating such artworks in connection with everyday culture in Edo Japan (1603 – 1868) --Buddhist faith, shifting class dynamics, responses to the natural world, and the broader motivations of art patrons—this gorgeous film shows how and why new ways of making art developed in early modern Japan. A discussion of the film, led by Dr. Hohlios, will occur immediately after the film screening.

"Mulholland Drive" - April 23rd at The Limelight Theatre, 11 Old Mission Ave, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Doors open at 5:30pm. The film begins at 6:00pm.

Mulholland Drive is a neo-noir, surreal Hollywood nightmare in which an innocent aspiring actress, Betty, helps an amnesiac woman, Rita, unravel her identity, only for the film to pivot into a darker "waking" reality that recasts everything. The film is one of David Lynch's most highly regarded movies, and he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director. This is also Naomi Watts' breakout role and one that brought her numerous Best Actress Awards.

## Garden Club of St. Augustine celebrate its 100th Anniversary on May 13, 2026

The Garden Club of St. Augustine will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on May 13, 2026, marking a century of civic beautification, conservation efforts, and community involvement in St. Augustine.

Founded in 1926, the club has spent the past hundred years promoting gardening, protecting the natural environment, and helping preserve the charm and historic character of our city. This milestone celebration will bring together members, community leaders, and residents to recognize the club's long history of service. The public is welcome to attend.

We hope you might consider this a local feature story opportunity as well as include it in your community calendar.

Event Details: Garden Club of St. Augustine 100th Birthday Celebration

When: May 13, 2026, 9:30 AM

Where: 3440 Old Moultrie Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086



## 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. Johns Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve

by Jane Villa-Lobos

There will be two events in April at the St. Johns Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 8310 County Road 13 South, Hastings.

April 11 will be an Easter craft project, Story Telling of Peter Rabbit and an Easter egg hunt starting at 10:30 am. Bring lunch. Fee: \$10 with Garden Admission.

On April 18 Carol Mini, Urban Forester for the City of Palm Coast, will present "Let's Talk Tress" from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. She will present an engaging and informative class covering everything from proper pruning techniques and planting practices to selecting the right tree for your specific site. Whether you're a homeowner, gardening enthusiast, or simply curious about the trees in your neighborhood, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn from a local expert. Fee: \$10 with Garden admission.

For more information or to register, contact Kaitlyn Fair, 904-540-3294 or [info@stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@stjohnsbotanicalgarden.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.

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.

## Spring Craft Fair Memorial Lutheran Church

MAY 30, 2026 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Memorial Lutheran Church located at 3375 US #1 S. St. Augustine, 32086, is having it's annual spring craft fair. Indoor space is limited but there is lots of outdoor space. Reserve your spot soon.

Cost for one table space is \$20, 2 Table space is \$25, 3 Table/U shaped space is \$30. Table rental is an extra \$5. Outdoor Tent space is \$25. Outdoor space without a tent is \$20. Please contact CAROL HOLLIS at: [carolhollis@att.net](mailto:carolhollis@att.net) or Text/call 770-380-2716.

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### SJC Candidate Forum 2026



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## Financial Focus

Information Provided by

Edward Jones

Cory Caplinger, CFP®

### Ease the squeeze on your retirement income plan

Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

Inflation hits retirees differently. You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

Why some income plans feel strained. Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost of living increases may not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

What you can do without sacrificing stability. A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

Don't overlook health care: Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

Stay flexible and informed: Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

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

## That's NEAT: The Hidden Power of Everyday Movement

By Diane Thompson Cortese, Wellness Coach



An hour at the gym is unarguably great for your health, but what happens during the other 23 hours of the day may matter even more. Scientists call this NEAT, or Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis, the calories burned through everyday movement that isn't structured exercise.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic describe NEAT as the energy expended for everything we do that is not sleeping, eating, or deliberate exercise. This includes walking around the house, standing, doing yardwork, and even small movements like fidgeting.

These everyday activities may seem minor, but together they can have a meaningful impact. Research led by Dr. James Levine at the Mayo Clinic found that differences in daily movement can account for hundreds of calories burned per day between people who move frequently and those who spend most of their time sitting.

Modern lifestyles, however, have dramatically reduced this type of movement. According to the National Institutes of Health, adults in the United States spend a significant portion of the day sedentary, often at a desk, in the car, or in front of a screen. Prolonged sitting has been linked to risk of metabolic disease, cardiovascular issues, and reduced overall energy expenditure.

Health researchers increasingly emphasize that movement throughout the day matters just as much as structured exercise. The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health notes that breaking up long periods of sitting with brief movement helps improve circulation, metabolic health, and energy levels.

Giving Your Life a NEAT Makeover - The encouraging news is that increasing NEAT doesn't require a gym membership or a complicated workout plan. Small choices throughout the day can add up to big wins. Taking the stairs instead of the elevator, standing while talking on the phone, or taking short walking breaks during the day are simple ways to incorporate more movement. Activities at home also play a role. Cleaning, gardening, organizing, and other household tasks all contribute to daily calorie burn.

Here are a few practical ways to give your daily routine a NEAT makeover:

Turn phone time into movement time - Stand up or walk around during phone calls instead of sitting. Even a few minutes of pacing during conversations can add several hundred extra steps to your day.

Create "movement breaks" - Set a reminder every 45-60 minutes to stand up, stretch, or walk for a few minutes. These short breaks improve circulation and help counteract long periods of sitting.

Take the scenic route - Park farther away from store entrances, walk an extra lap around the parking lot, or choose a slightly longer route when walking the dog.

Use the stairs whenever possible - Climbing stairs activates large muscle groups and quickly elevates heart rate, making it one of the most efficient everyday movements.

Stand while doing routine tasks - Try standing while folding laundry, reading emails, or scrolling your phone instead of sitting.

Add movement to household chores - Cleaning, gardening, organizing closets, or washing the car all contribute to daily calorie burn and help keep the body active.

Make errands more active - Walk through stores rather than using carts for small purchases, or carry bags instead of using a rolling cart when possible.

Turn waiting time into moving time - Do calf raises while waiting in line, stretch while food heats up in the microwave, or walk a quick loop while waiting for an appointment.

Move during screen time - During television shows or streaming breaks, stand up, stretch, or walk around the room instead of staying seated the entire time.

Look for opportunities to "stack" movement - Walk while listening to podcasts, stretch while watching TV, or do light housework while talking with family members.

Over time, these small decisions add up. A few extra minutes of movement each hour can translate into thousands of additional steps per week, supporting overall health without the pressure of formal workouts.

The body is always burning energy. The question is simply whether we're helping it along or sitting still while the day passes.

Not intended as medical advice. Please check with your doctor before making health or wellness changes.

Bio: Diane Thompson Cortese is a Mayo Clinic-trained Wellness Coach, NASM certified Personal Trainer, and CEO of Wildly Capable Wellness Coaching, helping women build confidence, strength, and sustainable healthy habits, one powerful step at a time. Contact: Website: [www.wildlycapable.life](http://www.wildlycapable.life), Email: [diane@wildlycapable.life](mailto:diane@wildlycapable.life)



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## Extra Help: The Medicare Benefit Too Many People Don't Know They Have

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

You're on a fixed income. You take several medications every month. And every time you pick up a prescription, you wince at the cost. What if there was a program designed specifically for you — one that could reduce your drug costs to next to nothing — and you simply didn't know it existed?

That program is called Extra Help, also known as the Low Income Subsidy (LIS). It's a federal program that helps Medicare beneficiaries with limited income and resources pay for Part D prescription drug costs, including premiums, deductibles, and copays. And millions of people who qualify haven't enrolled.

Here's how it works. If you qualify for Extra Help, Medicare picks up most of your Part D costs. Copays for covered drugs are reduced to as little as \$5.10 for generics and \$12.65 for brand-name drugs in 2026. The Part D deductible essentially disappears. And the late enrollment penalty for Part D? Also waived.

To qualify in 2026, your income cannot exceed \$23,475 for an individual or \$31,725 for a married couple. Resources — meaning savings, stocks, and bonds, but not your home or car — must be below \$17,600 for an individual or \$35,130 for a couple. These limits adjust each year, so even if you checked before and didn't qualify, it's worth checking again.

One thing worth knowing: Extra Help is not just for the very poor. Many people assume they won't qualify because they own their home or have some savings. The asset rules are more generous than most people expect, and plenty of middle-income retirees are surprised to find they're eligible.

If you already receive Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or participate in a Medicare Savings Program, you're automatically eligible — no separate application needed.

To apply or learn more, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213, visit ssa.gov, or reach out to your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). These are the right resources to help you determine eligibility and complete the process.

If you have questions about how Extra Help interacts with your current Medicare coverage, feel free to reach out to me at Carol@AskCarolB.com, by text at (714) 930-7165, or directly at (904) 648-6488. You can also visit www.AskCarolB.com. FL License #: W756153.

### 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.



Ask  
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## Carol Bogart

A St Johns County Resident and  
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## Public Library System Launch "Read It, See It"

(continued from page 1)

on the big screen at Epic Theatres.

"Read It, See It" aims to celebrate the power of storytelling across mediums while strengthening community connections between libraries and theaters.

Participating library branches will feature displays of the selected titles with information about their film counterparts. Epic Theatres of St. Augustine will highlight the program in-theatre to encourage moviegoers to patronize their local libraries.

"We're so excited to encourage our local community to experience stories not only on the big screen, but also on the page," said Alex Barr, Community Engagement Coordinator at SJCPHS. "This program makes the community book it to the library before they reel into the theatre."

"Epic Theatres of S. Augustine is proud to partner with the local library so patrons can see their favorite stories come to life on the big screen," said Gabe Vila, Assistant Manager at Epic Theatres of St. Augustine.

The program will roll out starting March 20th with the highly anticipated theatrical release of Project Hail Mary, based on the best-selling novel by Andy Weir.

For more information, please visit Epic Theatres online or stop by any of the six SJCPHS branches and two bookmobiles.

About Epic Theatres

Epic Theatres is a privately held company based in Central Florida. Epic currently operates 146 screens at 12 sites in Florida and North Carolina. Founded in 2003, Epic Theatres is operated by third and fourth-generation exhibitors whose family built their first theatre in 1947. Today, Epic Theatres combines generations of industry expertise with a forward-looking vision. The company continues to grow by embracing the latest advances in theatre design, construction and technology all while delivering immersive, comfortable and community driven movie going experiences.

<https://epictheatres.com> | @Epic Theatres

About The St. Johns County Public Library System:

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

For additional information please contact Emma Dvorovy at [marketing@epic-theatres.com](mailto:marketing@epic-theatres.com) or Hana Tucker at [htucker@sjcfl.us](mailto:htucker@sjcfl.us).

## St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

provided by Susan Horwitz

The St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club's April 2026 meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7, 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 April, May and June will be Democratic Candidates for the 2026 elections. For the April 7 meeting we will have Ronnie-Murchinson-Rivera who is running for Congress in Congressional District 6 and Peter Jennison who is running for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District. 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](mailto:info@sabdems.org).

## Do You Have Community News to Share?

Do you have news, events or personal interest information that are relevant to our communities in and around St. Augustine Beach? Please forward them to the Editor for consideration for the monthly News Journal. Please contact Editor [clifflogsdon@att.net](mailto:clifflogsdon@att.net) or call 904-607-1410.

## The Garden Club of St. Augustine Announces April Events:

April 11— 9am to 1pm. PLANT SALE, 2 SPEAKERS, BUTTERFLY RELEASE in morning. Featuring native plants, homegrown favorites, & various garden items.

9:30 — Keith Fuller—"Butterfly Friendly Fertilizer & Pesticide Strategies"

10:45—Bob Warren—"Butterfly Garden Basics" 3440 Old Moultrie Rd., St. Augustine 32086 OPEN TO ALL. Carpooling suggested.

April 15—SCHOLARSHIPS: Deadline for applications for six \$2000 scholarships for St. Johns County residents. Go to [gardenclubofstaugustine.org](http://gardenclubofstaugustine.org) Scroll to: Resources.

April 24 & 25— JURIED STANDARD FLOWER SHOW—100TH YEAR OF GCSA - "A CENTURY OF FLOWERS" is the theme. Come and vote! "People's Choice Awards" offers you to choose your favorite Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts entries. Don't miss the Bonsai Exhibit by Joe Stumpf (owner of 200 bonsai plants).

Friday 2pm - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 3pm Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US1South, St. Augustine, FL 32086. FREE EVENT.



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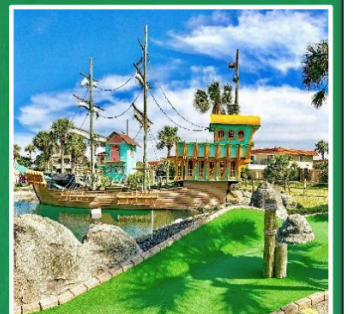
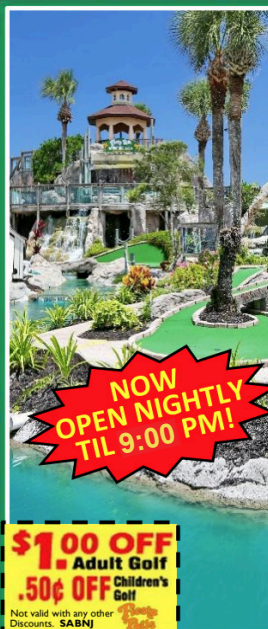
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