

# St. Augustine Observer



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

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



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

By Lorraine Thompson (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).

## St Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope

After weeks without rain, Florida thunderstorms began on the second Sunday in March. The rain was a welcome relief for our parched gardens, green spaces and creeks, although not enough to begin to top up the aquifer. Perhaps it was enough to quell the risk of wildfires that we had been warned about every windy day for weeks. I had walked my pups to Moultrie bluffs boat-ramp before the Sunday deluge thinking the storm would pass across the north of our neighborhood. By the time we got home, I was drenched to the skin, as were the dogs despite their frequent shaking their wetness over me. Let's hope there are more downpours to come as there is only so long gardens can get by on heavy morning dew.



It's the time of year when neighbors' different approaches to fallen leaves become apparent. Some are out in their gardens as soon as there is a dry sunny day, raking and blowing the leaves from their lawns, and bagging it up for the County to carry away. Meanwhile other neighbors who see value in the leaves are only too happy to pick up sacks of clean, dry leaves. I fall into the second

approach to leaves and have filled my truck three times with bags of leaves that I use as mulch on my garden. I find that a deep layer of leaves on my walkways smothers any weeds and I use deep layers of leaves under the shrubs and trees in my back yard to keep it looking nice while helping to retain moisture in the soil. I always have a supply of leaves by my composter so that I can add the necessary "brown" content to the green garden clippings and kitchen waste. As well as adding fresh mulch to my garden, I have replenished all my storage bins with leaves for use later in the year.

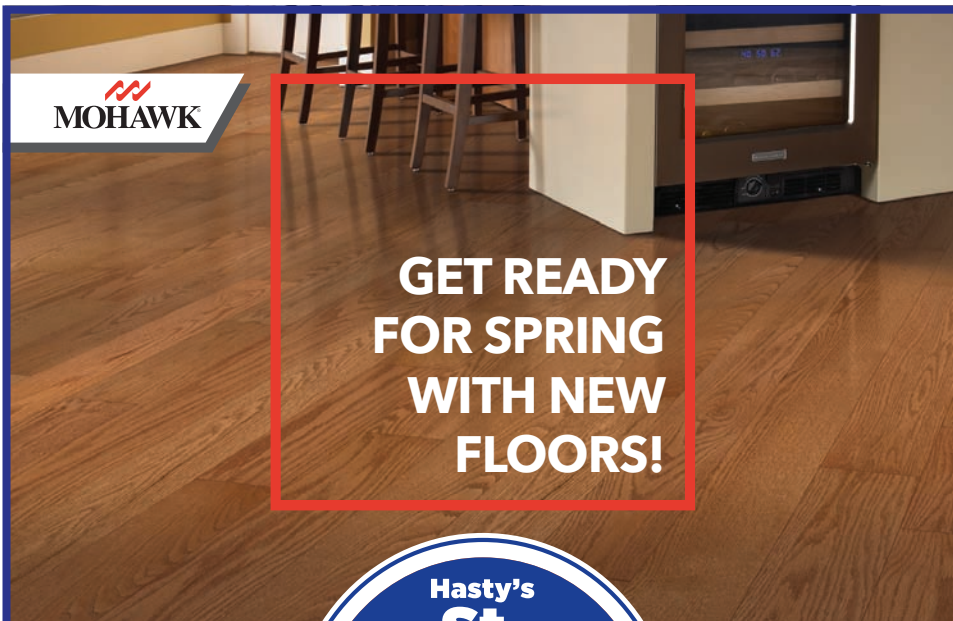


Like many folks, I do not like losing an hour's sleep when our clocks "spring forward". However, I do like the lighter evenings with more opportunities for watching the "traffic" on the Intra-Coastal Waterway. The photo is of a tugboat I have not seen previously, heading north towards St Augustine in the middle of March. My dogs' early evening walk is now in daylight and I prefer that. Only the last walk of their day is in the dark. That is an interesting time to be out and about. There is very little traffic on the roads and wildlife begins to creep around the neighborhood. We commonly see raccoons and occasionally armadillo and Virginia opossums, although we mainly see cats. Recently, we saw a gray fox on a neighbor's front grass surprisingly close to their house. My dogs are hounds and would have loved to stalk and try and catch the fox. I would not let them but was grateful that their instincts kept them silent and not waking the street by barking. One neighbor wondered if he had seen a gray fox or a coyote a couple of weeks earlier. The animal I saw was certainly a gray fox. I haven't heard coyote calling at the south end of St Augustine South. Perhaps other neighbors have heard coyotes. But for me coyotes are like bobcats – I don't think there are any near me, but I know folks at the north of the neighborhood say they have seen them.

If anyone has been wondering about the skeleton inhabitants on San Jose Rd, they are still around. But they are now leading less flamboyant more staid lives!!! I always look out for them when I drive along San Jose!!

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# St. Augustine Observer

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**Cliff Logsdon**  
Publisher/Editor

(904) 607-1410

Email: clifflogsdon@att.net



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

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

Information should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue. Articles or information may be sent to the St. Augustine Observer, 2465 US1 South PMB #8, St. Augustine Florida 32086. Information may also be e-mailed to clifflogsdon@att.net.

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

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## St. Augustine Shores Community

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

www.staugshores.org

### Shores Monthly Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

## St. Augustine South Community

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

email: info@staugsouth.com

www.staugsouth.com

(904) 615-6916

### 2025 SASIA Board Members

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

#### Board:

Vicki Cofone Leona Penrod  
Oonna Hueck Frances Lundberg  
Clark Monahan Rik Sikes

### Community Meeting April 15th, 7:00pm

Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the SASIA clubhouse, except July and August. A collaborative, volunteer-led committee will present its findings regarding community interests for Shore Drive Park.

### Classes at the Clubhouse

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

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

**Movin' with Melinda** - Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 am Move and groove in a low to medium impact

exercise class with music from the past and present. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Contact Melinda at slidermomma@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

Residents interested in becoming SASIA members may do so at www.StAugSouth.com

## Community Classifieds

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

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

**FOR SALE:** Double Murphy Bed with mattress and frame \$200. Call 604-788-2572.

**FOR SALE:** (1) Long Haul Brand Cowboy Boots Size 10 Made USA Genuine Brown Leather, Excellent Condition \$20. (2) A/C Fan Motor 1/3 HP Part # FSE 1036 SV1 and Fan Capacitor 7.5 MFD 370 Volt. I Have Receipt \$187.84 excellent condition Sale \$35.00 Please Call 904-472-4465 Lv Message.

**FOR SALE:** Elliott's Design Queen Bed Frame Ivory Enameled Finish. Vintage 1980's made of cast iron and brass. Asking \$850. Call 904-797-4258

**FOR SALE:** Baldwin acrosonic piano. Oak finish. Well-looked after. \$600. Text/Call Tina 904-826-6650

**FOR SALE:** (1) Broyhill 5 piece living room-excellent condition. Pictures available. \$400. (2) Filterite filters 20x22x1 Merv 13. \$5 each. (3) Organic queen size mattress, 12" deep, no rips, tears or stains \$100 (obo). Call 904-687-9149.

**FOR SALE:** (1) Like new Must sell need money, 55"x20"x2'H Furniture 2 glass doors w/removable adjustable shelf. 2 doors either side for storage solid \$300 or b/o. (2) 2025 Cell phone Tmobile Revvl8 reset to factory settings Best offer. (3) Hamilton Beach 5 in 1 Flexible Advanced coffee maker w/kcup and carafe capability. Brand new in original box. Never used. \$65. Can send pics. Call Susan before 8pm 7 days 904-599-2498.

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

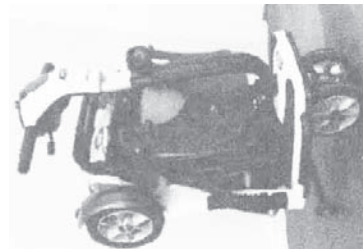
**WANTED:** Coins, Gold and Jewelry. I buy Silver Coins, Gold and Jewelry at great prices. Call Mike at 904-501-1449.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that Catherine Hertz the undersigned, desires to engage in DBA business under the name of "Stella Maris Digital Marketing" and registered with the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL. The party will commence practice in St. John's County FL at 23 Elmhurst Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084. By: Catherine Hertz.

**RECOVERY MEETING SPACE:** 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

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# SASIA News and Calendar of Events

## April 2026

All events are held in the SASIA Clubhouse at 709 Royal Road. If you wish to contact SASIA please email [info@staugsouth.com](mailto:info@staugsouth.com). Check out SASIA's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/staugsouth](http://www.facebook.com/staugsouth), Nextdoor page (search for St. Augustine South Improvement Association), and Instagram page [www.instagram.com/saintaugsouth/](http://www.instagram.com/saintaugsouth/). Like and follow us so you can see what is happening at the SASIA clubhouse each week.

### Community Meeting, April 15th, 7:00pm

Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the SASIA clubhouse, except July and August. A collaborative, volunteer-led committee will present its findings regarding community interests for Shore Drive Park. A collaborative, volunteer-led committee will present its findings regarding community interests for Shore Drive Park.

### Shore Drive Cleanup

Saturday, April 4th, 2026 9:00am-12:00pm

The February 7th Adopt-A-Road Shore Drive Cleanup was a great success. There were 13 volunteers and we collected 364lbs of trash off Shore Drive. Thank you to everyone who showed up to help! Mark your calendar for the next SASIA Shore Drive Community Cleanup on Saturday, April 4th. Located at 709 Royal Rd. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Sign in at 9AM. This is a great opportunity for students to receive community service hours. Sign up online <https://volunteersignup.org/CMHWT>

### Spring Festival

The Spring Festival is postponed until May (date pending, see [StAugSouth.com](http://StAugSouth.com) for updates). We are looking for additional volunteers to help make this neighborhood celebration a success.

### 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, April 10th - Saucy Pig

Friday, May 8th- El Hombre's Tacos

Friday, June 12th- Smash Stack

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

### Upcoming 2026 Events

Saturday, April 4th, Community Cleanup

Saturday, April 11th, Spring Festival

Saturday, November 7th, Fall Festival

Saturday, December 5th, Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday, December 12th, Photos and Crafts with Santa

Dates are subject to change.

# St. Augustine Orchid Society

by Janid 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.

## St. Augustine South Scholarship Program

Do you know a high school senior living in St. Augustine South? Let them know financial scholarships are offered by SASIA to graduating high school seniors who are residents of the St. Augustine South subdivision to assist in further education. The scholarship may be applied to registration, tuition, books, or other appropriate fees.

Applications for the scholarships must be received by SASIA no later than Friday, May 8, 2026. The grant award will be announced Friday, May 15, 2026. Download an application: [www.staugsouth.com/scholarship-grant](http://www.staugsouth.com/scholarship-grant)

# Marsh Cay @ St. Augustine Shores

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photo: step by step photography



## The Wildflower Meadow Group

by Marlene Land

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

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

## Happy Easter Egg Hunting!!!!

St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church

724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32086

Easter Egg Hunt

April 4, 2026 at 10:00am Sharp

## 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 or Text/call 770-380-2716.

## The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center St. Augustine is seeking volunteers



Lincolnville  
Museum and  
Cultural Center

The Museum and Cultural Center needs help to preserve and share over 450 years of African American history. As an award-winning institution located in the historic Excelsior High School building, the museum relies on community members to support its mission of storytelling and historic preservation.

Current Volunteer Openings - The museum has year-round opportunities for individuals interested in the following roles:

- Front Desk & Greeting: Welcome visitors and assist with museum entry.
- Docents & Tour Guides: Lead tours and share the rich history of the Lincolnville neighborhood and St. Augustine's Black heritage.
- Research & Archiving: Help document and preserve historical records and artifacts.

- Special Events: Assist with daytime or evening programs, including jazz concerts, plays, and educational talk

How to Apply:

- Online: Fill out the Volunteer Opportunities form on the official website.
- Contact: Reach out to Volunteer Coordinator Ann Kennon Breslauer at akennonbreslauer@yahoo.com
- Scheduling a visit to see the museum before applying to volunteer? Email Ann or, call the museum at (904) 824-1191.
- Skills: If you have a specific expertise (e.g., graphic design, technology, or community outreach), the museum encourages you to share how you'd like to contribute in your application

Some awards and nominations:

- USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice (2024): Voted 5th place for Best Small Town Museum, the only Florida museum in this category (2025): Nominated for Best Small Town Museum.

- Adelaide Sanchez Award: Executive Director Regina Gayle Phillips received this prestigious local award for her work in historic preservation, restoration, and education

- Living Legends Awards: This program applauds individuals who have worked toward equality and served the local Black community.

- Florida Department of State Grant: In 2022, the LMCC was among the top ten organizations to be awarded a \$1 million grant from the African-American Cultural and Historical grant program for the preservation of the historic sExcelsior High School building.

- Florida Preservation Trust Legacy Award for historic preservation in 2024.

- 2026 Florida Preservation award nominee

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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

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.

### Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library

by Mollie Meikle, 603.608.8253

The Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library (FAIBL) thanks 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 [anastasiaslandfaibl@gmail.com](mailto:anastasiaslandfaibl@gmail.com).

### The Garden Club of St. Augustine Announces its 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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## Sing Out Loud Francis Field Weekend moves to May 2027

Sing Out Loud Festival launched 10 years ago, and each year we've grown alongside our artists, fans, and community. As we look ahead, we're evolving to ensure the best possible experience for everyone who makes it special.

The marquee Francis Field Weekend will move to May beginning in 2027, creating a stronger foundation for the festival in the years to come.

This September, Sing Out Loud will continue to highlight the local and regional artists who define the festival. The free Local Artist Showcases will take place throughout the month, featuring more than 100 performances alongside the St. Augustine Songwriters Festival, St. Augustine Record Fair, and additional programming across St. Johns County.

### 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

## Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder

*Last month, an attempt at poetry was made -  
with compliments I was occasionally and undeservedly paid.  
With deep, meaningful verse I'm not concerned today  
since I typically express myself in a very direct way.  
So here goes, Season 10, Episode 4 - it rocks  
"The Observer" will arrive late March in your mailbox.  
With Spring upon us, let's hope some April Showers too -  
without the needed water, can't rinse out the shampoo.  
For April Fool's Day, you might play a trick or two -  
not the typical sandburs placed in someone's shoe.  
How about changing all the clocks in the house?  
You'll certainly be accused of being a big louse.  
We know what they say about paybacks being hell -  
consider yourself lucky if they don't involve a rotten smell.  
As kids, we used to pride ourselves on being tricky -  
with bubble gum, we could get creative and sticky.  
I'm sure we all have lots of sordid tales  
of foolish triumphs and epic fails.  
Now, on to stuff that's seasonally funny -  
where did they come up with the Easter Bunny?  
Legend has it, we can thank the Germans -  
that "Osterhase" (Easter Hare) was determined  
to be fertile, lay some eggs and deliver them as a gift  
to good children - whose spirits they would lift.  
Speaking of spirits, Gator Nationals and Bike Week are done  
The Player's Championship and Daytona 500 are won,  
we move on to Gamble Rogers and the many other Festivals  
and all the coming wild and fun Florida spectacles.  
Lots of great excuses to go out and enjoy life  
living in paradise and ridding ourselves of strife.  
Yet, a lot of us just love to work  
in particular a guy named Dirk.  
Looking forward to Spring birds needing to find their nest -  
"For Sale" to "Sold" signs is what I do best.  
And once in a while I might like to write  
about the life and times - with delight.  
Reminding local readers to be human and to be kind  
and as always, wishing everyone a Sunshine State of Mind.*



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Companies and Closing Attorneys will be processing the new paperwork and penalties for non-compliance are stiff.

If you are an individual and paying cash, you are not affected! Keeping you informed about changes in the real estate environment is a part of my job. If I know - then You Know.

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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.

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



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## St. Augustine 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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@sabdem.org.

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## 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.



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## St. Augustine Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

The National MS Society maintains a network of affiliated groups to provide opportunities for people living with MS to connect with others in their community. Every group is unique and welcoming — contact the group leader for more information. Join Us! We are recognized by the National MS Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

We meet every 4th Tuesday at 1:00 pm at Anastasia Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. For information or to RSVP, contact: Anita Clark johnita0013@gmail.com 305- 898-1432.

## Families Anonymous Support Group

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

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

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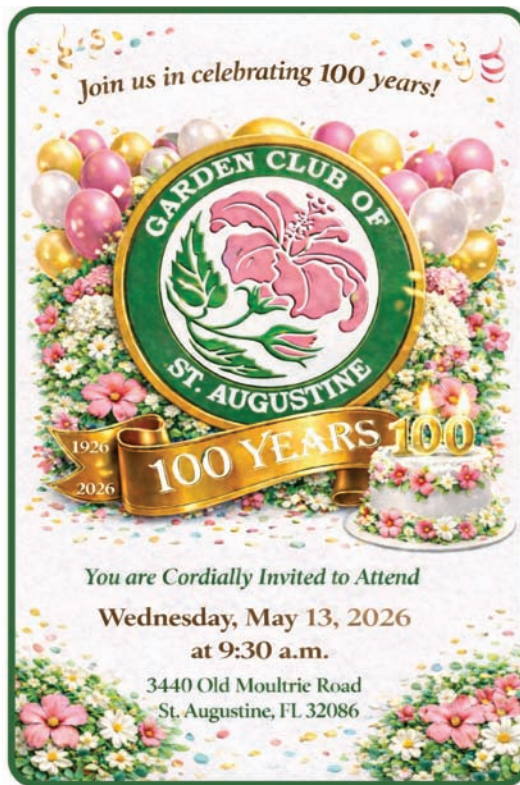
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## Garden Club of St. Augustine celebrate its 100th Anniversary on May 13, 2026



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.

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

### Event Details

What: Garden Club of St. Augustine 100th Birthday Celebration  
 When: May 13, 2026, 9:30 AM  
 Where: 3440 Old Moultrie Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086  
 The public is welcome to attend.

## 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 Trees" 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.



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