



St. Augustine Beaches

News Journal

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT RESIDENTS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE BEACHES AREA

Officer of the Year Frankie Hammonds



Photo (left to right): Jerry Hanchet and David Simpson of the Sons of the American Revolution; Officer Hammonds, Chief Hardwick.

At the St. Augustine Beach City Commission's August 5th meeting, Mr. David Simpson, incoming president of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented the chapter's Police Officer of the Year award to Officer Frankie Hammonds in recognition of Officer Hammonds' professionalism, attention to detail and integrity in the performance of his duties in 2012.



Donations Make all the Difference! St. Johns Business Network

Members of the St. Johns Business Network teamed up to collect \$500 in a single meeting to benefit the Friends of A1A Scenic Historic & Coastal Byway. In the midst of a major donor campaign, President of Friends, Bob Samuels and President of the SJB, Mike Cunningham, were proud to present Byway Administrator Sallie O'Hara with the donation following her presentation on the efforts of Friends in the St. Johns and Flagler County area. Thank you to everyone who made it possible!



www.ScenicA1A.org

Sunset Rock Benefit at Pier Park

September 12th, from 5:30 – 10pm, at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Park, Artbreakers, in conjunction with The Kidney Trust and National Kidney Foundation's Direct Patient Aid, will host a benefit concert.

The lineup will be Local Favorites "Falling Bones", The Davita Allstars Blues Band (featuring singers from The Voice and American Idol) and Terry Sylvester (Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Member) singing the Hollies Hits.

On stage at 6 pm is local duo The

Rubies. At 6:30 it's the DaVita All Star Blues Band featuring vocalists from TV shows The Voice and Live at the Apollo. At 7:45 Terry Sylvester of The Hollies will perform and then at 9 pm the party will continue with local favorites The Falling Bones!

Admission is FREE - food, beer & wine will be available for purchase, coolers are not allowed. We will have a merchandise tent with items for sale as well as great raffle prizes.

Additionally, shuttles will run from Pope Road Shopping Center to help make parking a breeze. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a fantastic evening! For more information about Artbreakers, Artists in the Fight Against Cancer see www.artbreakers.org. or call 904-599-2551. The Civic Association is a proud sponsor of this event.



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What's Inside The News Journal This Month

- **City Manager:** Update II
- **Financial Focus:** What Do New Investors Really Need to Know?
- **Spiritually Speaking:** A Travelogue Addendum
- **St. Augustine Beautification Committee:** Nine Plus One = A Perfect Ten
- **Health Focus:** Don't be Fooled
- **Chief's Dish:** White Bean & Red Pepper Salad with Funnel
- **Sheriff's Corner:** Offender Watch Program
- **How Does the Age of my Roof Affect my Insurance Premium?**

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Wednesdays at Pier Park

Come spend Wednesdays at the Beach - Shop the Market in the Morning - Concert in the evening - in between enjoy the Pier and the Beach!



Come and spend the morning shopping 90 vendors including Farm Produce, Arts & Crafts, and other various vendors to choose from. **Open from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm**



Music by the Sea

Free Concert Series

Every Wednesday Thru September



Dinner At 6 p.m.
Concert At 7 p.m.



August 28th - Big Lonesome - Soutern Blues - Gypsy Cab
September 4th - ET Swing - Jazz - By Design Catering Co.
September 11th - Top Secret Band - R/R - Antonio's Pizza
September 18th - Beach St. A Go-Go - Classic R/R - Cafe 11
September 25th - Navy Dixie Land Jazz - Dixie Land - Sunset Grill



Bank

**Location: St. Johns County Pier Park
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St. Augustine Travel Club

The St. Augustine Travel Club has resumed its free program, and will feature EGYPT at the next meeting, to be held on Wednesday, September 11, at 3pm at the Southeast Branch Public Library on U.S. 1 in St. Augustine. The focus of the Travel Club is to educate and inform, and to enjoy learning about different countries and cultures. Also, attendees share their travel experiences if they've been to the regions we discuss at the day's presentation. The Travel Club can assist in making arrangements and suggestions as a free of charge service. Peter has spent his entire career in the travel industry and is now retired; enjoying sharing his knowledge by volunteering with the Travel Club.

The St. Augustine Travel Club will again be sailing the seas on Saturday, March 15 to 23, 2014, on the beautiful Carnival Breeze out of Miami to the Southern Caribbean ports of Turks & Caicos, Dominican Republic, Aruba and Curacao for an 8-day cruise. Prices start from \$863.00 per person, double occupancy, for inside cabin, inclusive of all port fees and taxes. Book now with a \$300 deposit and receive \$100 per stateroom On Board Credit. Call Peter, St. Augustine Travel Club at (904) 797-3736 for more information and reservations.

SJR State Offers Reviews for Teaching Students

St. Johns River State College will offer non-credit courses to prepare students for the Florida Teacher Certification Exam. The review courses will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Review for Professional Education Exam Palatka campus – Saturday, September 7
- Review for General Knowledge Math Palatka campus – Saturday, September 14
- Review for General Knowledge English Palatka campus – Saturday, October 12
- Review for Professional Education Exam St. Augustine campus – Saturday, November 9
- Review for Professional Education Exam Orange Park campus – Saturday, December 14

The registration fee for each course is \$25.00. Students may register for one or several courses. For more information, call SJR State's Open Campus at (386) 312-4211 or visit the website at SJRstate.edu/continuinged.html to download a registration form.

SJR State accepting applications for Respiratory Care program

St. Johns River State College will accept applications for the Respiratory Care program through September 15, 2013. Classes will begin in January and are based on the St. Augustine campus with selected clinical courses scheduled in health care facilities within the regional area.

SJR State's Respiratory Care program provides students with the knowledge, attitude and skills required to help meet the demands for respiratory therapists in the health care industry. Students will be trained in the skills needed to work in areas such as pediatric care, nursing homes and in hospitals. Asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer and pneumonia are some of the conditions that require the care of a respiratory therapist.

Upon successful completion of the degree requirements, qualified students will be eligible to apply to take the national certification exams for Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT), both administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care.

Admission requirements and prerequisites apply. Visit the Web site for more information at SJRstate.edu or call (904) 808-7465.

Photo Below:

St. Johns River State College respiratory care students Andy Jackson (left) and T.J. Brown (right) perfect their skills using the College's state-of-the-art simulator. Applications for SJR State's Respiratory Care spring class are now being accepted.



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OCEAN VIEWS! 437 Ocean Grove Cir. Beautiful 4BR/4.5BA home on a street of Old Florida style homes. Ocean views from 2nd/3rd and tower room—take your elevator to all levels. Chef's kitchen, open floor plan, fireplace, 2 car garage and windows from floor to ceiling make this home perfect for you and your guests. In Sea Colony gated cmtty. **\$1,199,000**



SALT RUN ESTATE. 953 Lew Blvd. 5BR/4.5BA waterfront estate with private entry. Old World Charm with all the amenities—Chef's kitchen, distressed hard pine floors, wood burning fp, beveled glass French doors, pool and Jacuzzi, patio w/beadboard ceiling and balcony views from 2 floors. 35' deep water access with floating dock. Dusk to dawn lighting lets you truly enjoy this paradise estate. **\$1,975,000**



PRIVATE SETTING IN SEA COLONY. 916 Ocean Palm Way. This pristine 5BR/5.5BA home will impress and inspire the most discerning buyer. This gorgeous home's floor plan w/first-class finishes and picturesque vistas from each deck and every room create a sense of tranquility and calm. Gourmet kitchen, Bonus Room, patio with pool and spa—everything you need to relax and entertain. **\$1,395,000**



PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE OCEAN! 716 Ocean Palm Way. 4 BR/5 BA European style home w/upgrades--great architectural features, high end windows & doors, coquina shell concrete walkway, privacy wall and driveway. Premium lighting. Quality cabinets w/stone countertops and Viking appliances. Tumbled Travertine stone floors. **\$2,195,000**



The WOW House!!! 312 S Forest Dune Dr. Spacious 5BR/4.5BA home in the gated community of Sea Colony. Chef's kitchen with all the bells and whistles & large bkfst room. Elevator takes you to all 3 levels of this magnificently appointed home. Maintenance-free decking on front porch, Anderson wndws, wd flrs, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, much more to see. **\$1,365,000**



REMARKABLE ISLAND ESTATE! 413 Night Hawk Ln. Beautiful custom home w/new roof, boasts 4,950 sf of living area w/5BR/5.5BA, multiple decks & 4 car garage-- A/C & wkshp. Screened Patio and Pool. Separate guest qtrs perfect for visitors, 25x20 bonus/media room, 2 full kitchens (Stainless apples), fireplace—all this, only a short stroll to St. Aug beach! **\$739,000**



BEACH COTTAGE ON TWO LOTS! 315 B Street. 3BR/1.5BA on 2 lots w/old majestic oaks. Remodeled eat-in kitchen w/granite. Enjoy the "salt life" on an amazing street. Beautiful backyard surrounded by oaks. B Street is one of the nicest streets at the beach. Short walk to the Ocean. A great buy! Sold "as is". **\$259,000**



BEAUTIFUL SETTING ON LAKEFRONT. 653 Coral Circle. Enjoy your morning coffee on the screened porch of this lovely double wide 2BR/1BA mobile home. Utility room, carport, porch and patio plus deck--own all this for a great price. Within walking distance of shops and just a short walk or bike ride to the Ocean. **\$104,900**



INTRACOASTAL BEAUTY! 415 N Ocean Grande Dr, #203. Upscale 3BR/3BA Ocean Grande condo on Intracoastal in Ponte Vedra. Large screened porch w/gas grill and spectacular view! Access to the Ocean only steps away. Chef's kitchen has center island w/granite countertops and 42" maple cabinets. Gas fireplace will keep you cozy on those cool winter evenings. **\$409,000**



DIRECT OCEAN FRONT CONDO! 8550 A1A South, Unit 259. Recently remodeled 2BR/2.5BA—new Lennox 2 Ton A/C and air handler with 10 year warranty. New paint, carpet, balcony and much more. Completely furnished and located in a complex with 4 heated pools, tennis, racquetball, playground, and boat storage. Great investment property for the discriminating condo buyer! **\$369,900**



NEWCONSTRUCTION—353 OCEAN Forest Drive. Open living spaces in this 4BR/3.5BA home in Anastasia Dunes. Gourmet kitchen features large island and is open to the Dining Room. Large bonus space under the house—great for boat or beach toys. Oversized screened porch w/fireplace and patio. Side entry oversized garage with extra storage to help keep your dream home organized. **\$749,900**



SEA COLONY GORGEOUS! 464 Ocean Grove Circle. 4BR/4.5BA open floor plan home built with the finest maintenance-free materials. Windows are hurricane resistant to 125 MPH. Kitchen w/granite, SS appliances and more. In beautiful gated community with pool, clubhouse and private access to the ocean. Perfect upscale beach house! **\$1,190,000**



GREAT LOCATION ON ISLAND. 176 Bay Bridge Drive. Immaculate home with 3BR/2.5BA, open floor plan on main, upstairs den. Within walking/biking of the Ocean and extra community parking space. Privacy wall. **\$249,000**

GREAT LOTS FOR SALE

• 54 Kon Tiki Circle	Hawaiian Isle Estates	\$59,000
• 117 Spoonbill Point Ct	Pelican Reef	\$69,900
• 136 Spoonbill Court	Pelican Reef	\$117,000
• 109 Grand Oaks Drive	Grand Oaks	\$169,000
• 887 Ocean Palm Way	Sea Colony	\$249,000
• 901 Ocean Palm Way	Sea Colony	\$259,000

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St. Augustine Beaches News Journal

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"Official News Source for the
City of St. Augustine Beach"

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City of St. Augustine Beach

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City Manager Max Royle

www.staugbch.com
sabadmin@cityofsab.org

The function of the Beaches News Journal is to serve the Neighborhoods of the St. Augustine Beaches area.

First priority will be given to reporting news and activities of beaches residents and organizations, as well as news and events that directly affect the St. Augustine Beaches community. Second priority will be given to articles of general interest as space permits.

Articles or information may be sent to the Beaches News Journal, 1965 A1A South #180m, St. Augustine

Beach, Florida 32080-6509. Information may also be e-mailed to beachesnewsjournal@yahoo.com or the editor at clogsdon1@yahoo.com.

All **articles, news, ads, or other information submitted** to the News Journal are 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 News Journal.

All **ads submitted** for publication in the Beaches News Journal should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue.

Matters concerning **advertising** should be referred to the General Manager or mailed to 1965 A1A South #180, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080-6509.

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The Beaches News Journal is published by an independent publisher and is not affiliated with any St. Augustine Beach community development, management company or Homeowners Association.

Betty Griffin House Tribute to Domestic Violence Awareness

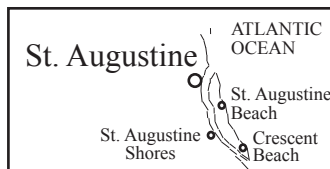
Please join Betty Griffin House for a candlelight vigil on Thursday, October 3, 2013, 7:00pm Downtown St. Augustine in the Plaza de la Constitucion, as we honor survivors of Domestic Violence and the women, men and children who were murdered in St. Johns County in acts of domestic Violence. Betty Griffin House has been hosting this vigil for 4 years, providing a way for domestic violence survivors, family members and friends of victims, staff, and Betty Griffin House supporters to come together as a community of individuals dedicated to the mission of eliminating domestic violence.

The Silent Witness exhibit that will be displayed is made of red, life size silhouettes each representing a person who once lived,

worked, had neighbors, friends, and family before their death. The exhibit will specifically honor the victims of St. Johns County. For additional information on this DVAM event please call Kim at 904-808-9984.

As a private, nonprofit agency, Betty Griffin House provides emergency shelter to abused women, men, their minor children. Other support services available to shelter residents and non residents include a 24-hour crisis hotline, individual and group counseling, forensic / medical rape exams, and legal assistance. Confidential individual and group counseling are available in all parts of St. Johns County including, Hastings, Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Johns, St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach. For more information or to make a donation, visit their website at www.bettygriffinhouse.org

If you or someone you know is being abused, please call our hotline at (904) 824-1555.



News From Around St. Johns County

Labor Day Weekend at St. Augustine Elks Lodge

1420 A1A St. Augustine, FL

Several events are scheduled at the Elks Lodge over the Labor Day Weekend. The public is invited to all of the following events:

• **DOO WOP** Saturday August 31st (Featuring "Kights to Remember")
Doors open at 5:30 pm. Music 6:30 - 9:30 pm with Cash Bar. Tickets - \$12.00
Includes Hamburgers & Trimmings from the Grill Served 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

• **TIKI BAR** Sunday, September 1st (Karaoke Music by Jim & Mary)
Open 1:00 pm with Tiki Bar Grill Food for Sale

• **PARROTT HEAD PARTY** September 2nd (Music by "Rotageezer")
Doors open 4:20 pm Music 5:20 - 8:20 pm Cash Bar available.

Includes "Chesseburgers in Paradise" with Trimmings Served 4:20 - 5:20 pm
Prizes for the best dressed Parrott Heads Tickets - \$12.00

Ticketa are available at the Lodge Monday - Friday from 3-7 pm. For additional information call Ron Thompson (904) 794-0612 or Elizabeth West (904) 610-4444.

Sertoma 2013 Compression 5K Race

Sertoma of St. Augustine presents the 2013 Compassion 5K on Saturday, November 9th 2013. The race starts at 0800 at Shores Blvd. and US1, across from Moultrie Plaza with same day registration beginning at 0700.

There will be an awards ceremony following the race. Custom made medals will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place per age category. The top male and female finisher will be awarded a cash prize. For all registered participants there will be a post race prize drawing as part of the race day activities. Vendors providing refreshments on site for this years event will be Cold Cow, Smoothie King and Starbucks.

The goal of the Compassion 5K is to raise money to help ease the financial burden of local families that are currently living with a major health crisis, many of which are life threatening. With the help of the Sertoma of St. Augustine, many local businesses and community volunteers, the Compassion 5K is able to help these families manage their crises during their greatest time of need. All proceeds from the race are used to help community members in St. Johns County.

Please confirm that you received my request. If you need additional information please contact me at 904.806.2730.

Runway to Safety Fashio Show for Betty Griffin House

Betty Griffin House, the safety shelter for victims and their families in St John County, is having its annual benefit luncheon and fashion show "Runway For Safety", October 29th 11 a.m. at Sawgrass Marriott Ponte Vedra Resort, advanced tickets only, \$55.00 p.p. For information or ordering tickets call Florie 543 1086 florieadiu@aol.com. Fashions from Stein Mart at the Beaches. Plus come say hello to our local Sheriff, David Shoar.

Some of our models include: Mary Baer and Richard Nunn of WJCT. Rhiannon and Natalie of the, Jewels, Jacksonville Giants, Haeli, of the Sunbeams, Jacksonville Suns plus a host of other models from Vicars landing ladies football players wives.

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News From Around The Beaches

City Hall Update

At its August 5, 2013 meeting, the St. Augustine Beach city commission took the following actions:

1. Appointed Ms. Karen Zander as the junior alternate to the planning board.

2. Approved the permit for the Sertoma Club's A Walk on the Beach for Apraxia on Saturday, October 19, 2014 from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

3. Approved on final reading an ordinance to adopt revised overlay district regulations.

4. Approved two budget resolutions: a. to appropriate the Civic Association's donation of \$966 for the purchase of computer equipment for the finance/administration department; b. to appropriate money to various accounts in the police department's budget.



5. Approved two resolutions: a. to authorize the execution to renew the agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the city to maintain State Road A1A landscaping; b. to declare certain items of city property as surplus and to authorize their disposal.

6. Approved on first reading two ordinances: a. to vacate a 60x55 foot section of 2nd Avenue right-of-way south of F Street; b. to regulate the parking of storage trailers.

7. Delayed a decision whether to allow gaslight torches in front of the Coquina Beach Surf Club at 451 A1A Beach Boulevard.

8. Discussed at length the job description and proposed performance evaluation form for the city manager. This topic will be discussed again at the commission's

September 9th meeting, along with the police chief's job description.

9. Reviewed with Mr. Fred Ashdji his proposal concerning the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, which is to be built west of A1A Beach Boulevard between 5th and 7th Street. Mr. Ashdji requested a two year extension of the final development plan, which will expire on October 6, 2013; and relief from having to pay the city \$560,000 so that the Hotel can be built across the unbuilt section of 6th Street between the Boulevard and 2nd Avenue. Instead of money, Mr. Ashdji proposes the Hotel developer give vacant lots between 7th and 8th Streets to the city, which will be the equivalent in value of the 6th Street right-of-way. The commission authorized Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien and the city attorney to meet with Mr. Ashdji to

discuss his requests. The commission also authorized that an appraisal be done to determine the value of the lots. This topic will be discussed at the commission's regular meeting on September 9, 2013.

10. Discussed Commissioner Pawlowski's proposal that the city encourage pedicabs (bicycle taxis) in the city. The city attorney will draft an ordinance for the commission to review at its September 9th meeting.

As noted, the commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the city hall, 2200 A1A South. There'll be a public hearing on the proposed property tax millage for Fiscal Year 2014 and the proposed FY 14 budget. The public is invited to attend.

City Charter Review

The seven regular members and two alternates of the St. Augustine Beach charter review committee held their first meeting on July 31, 2013. The facilitator, Ms. Marilyn Crotty, Director of the Florida Institute of Government at the University of Central Florida, guided the committee through a variety of topics, such as Florida's Sunshine law and the background of municipal charters. The committee agreed to decide issues by consensus rather than by formal votes. The members also agreed to basic ground rules and that public comment will be allowed at the beginning and end of each meeting, but not on each topic as it's being discussed.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the commission meeting room at city hall. Topics on the agenda will include election of the mayor and vice mayor, residency requirements for candidates for the commission, the filling of vacancies on the commission, the duties of the mayor, and commission meetings and procedures. The public is invited to attend. Citizens are encouraged to submit comments or ideas regarding the city's charter to the Deputy City Clerk, Ms. Cathy Benson, at cbenson@cityofsab.org; by regular mail: 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080; or by telephone: 471-2122.

The Art Studio Drawing & Painting Classes

Joan F. Tasca is teaching Oil or Acrylic Painting: All levels, Tuesdays, 9-noon, September 3 through October 8 and Drawing: All Levels, Thursdays 9-noon, September 5 through October 10 in The Art Studio by St. Augustine Pier.

Call Joan at 904.794.2594 or 904.402.2292 for information about these, and other classes, and to register by August 27. Tasca holds a BFA Painting, Teaching Certification k-12, and many years of experience teaching painting and drawing to college level, community adult education, private students and groups. See www.joanftasca.com for complete credentials and bio.



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"Wine With Friends" Comes to Local A1A Businesses

Tim's Wine in St. Augustine Beach hosted the inaugural "Wine With Friends" event for the 2013-2014 season. The intimate evening gave board members and supporters of the Friends of A1A Scenic Historic & Coastal Byway a chance to mingle while sampling a number of wines from the shop. Music, courtesy of John Allison, was perfect for the laid back atmosphere.

The Flagler Beachfront Winery was the location for the second August "Wine With Friends" event. Organic wines added flair and a unique twist on the evening.

Both events featured raffle prizes donated by community partners including Outback Steakhouse, Blue at the Topaz in Flagler Beach and Grace's Place in Palm Coast. Organizers Bob Samuels and Sandra Siepietoski were pleased with the turnout.





Message from the Mayor

**S. Gary Snodgrass, Mayor
City of St. Augustine Beach, FL
comsgsnodgrass@cityofsab.org**

Greetings fellow citizens! Here are some comments about important developments within our City:

FY 2014 CITY BUDGET - HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

The City's fiscal year is from October 1st to September 30th. With its two major funds, General and Road/Bridge, the City's annual budget is approximately \$8 million. These two funds provide financial resources for the City's general operations including law enforcement, building and zoning, solid waste collection, general city government and for specific capital projects and authorized purchases.

Budget preparations begin in June when City department heads provide schedules of proposed expenditures for the coming year including suggested capital projects or other infrastructure improvements. The County Property Appraiser provides information about the assessed value of privately owned real estate in the City. Estimates from the State of projected revenues from such sources as the half-cent sales tax and State shared revenues and other sources are then determined. The end result is that a draft balanced budget of projected revenues and projected expenses is developed by City administration and submitted in late July to the City Commission. By State law, the City must have a balanced budget.

At its first of three budget related hearings, the City Commission will review the proposed draft budget including such elements as requests for capital projects, purchase of equipment or sanitation vehicle, employee salary increases and other matters. Changes or modifications to potential initiatives and budget issues may be made at that time. The Commission determines the level of property tax millage which is sent to the County Property Tax Appraiser who puts

it on a notice that is sent to property owners. The first formal public budget hearing is held in early September with a second session later in that month so that the budget can be formally adopted by October 1st, start of the new fiscal year.

The amount of property tax owners pay is determined by two factors: the assessed property value as determined by the County Property Tax Appraiser and the level of millage the City will levy. The City's current millage rate for the past several years has been 2.3992 mills or \$2.3992 for each \$1,000 of the assessed property value.

For the coming fiscal year, from my perspective, every effort should be made to keep the millage rate at its current rate, 2.3992, which will be a reduction from the "fall back rate" of 2.5433 mills that was on the notice sent in August to property owners. By managing the City in an efficient manner including the delay of certain purchases such as new floor covering for City Hall, delaying the replacement of equipment that can be safely maintained, postponing other non urgent expenditures and allocating modest funds from the undesignated general funds account for unplanned or unexpected developments, I am confident that the current millage rate can be retained. With these changes, we can still ensure public safety, pursue important infrastructure improvements, grant modest employee cost of living and merit salary adjustments and keep the City moving forward.

Citizens are encouraged to attend the budget hearings in September.

We value your inputs and ideas for making our City a better community. For all of us, it's the place we call home.

Best regards, S. Gary Snodgrass, Mayor

The Art Studio of St. Augustine Beach

by Jan Heusdens
heusdensjan@yahoo.com
www.beachartstudio.com

Help Save The Outbuilding!



After successfully opening its doors to the public in early 2013, The Art Studio of St. Augustine Beach is prepared to take on another ambitious project in the art arena at the beach. A small coquina building stands between the Art Studio and the Bocce Ball Courts at St. Johns County Pier Park. This small vintage building, built in 1938, will be demolished unless responsibility to renovate takes place. If torn down, the historic significance cannot be replaced for our community. The present condition requires a costly investment.

If successful in raising the required funds for complete restoration of the building, The Art Studio has planned to design the space for a clay and sculpture instruction center complete with outdoor sculpture garden. It is exciting to offer this opportunity to the public considering the growing interest in ceramics. Classes will be available for projects with instruction provided by local

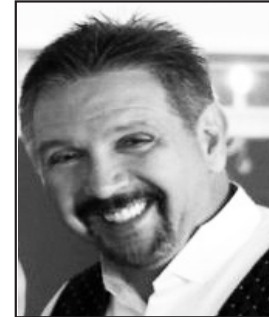
sculptors.

The St. Augustine Beach City Commission has shown support for the project with the promise to provide funds for a roof for the building. The Board of Directors is planning to host its first Halloween party fund raiser on Friday evening, October 25th at 8 PM in The Art Studio. "The Haunting at the Art Studio" will feature a ghostly spirit telling local ghost tales, contest for best costume in several categories, music, roving photographer, cash wine bar (1 drink free with admission) and complimentary small bites. Plan to come in costume and enjoy an artsy haunted evening. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Jodi Foster @ 904-268-2351 for advance ticket sales at \$15/per person. Cost will be \$20 at the door.

Please visit the website www.beachartstudio.com for further information on classes, membership and open studio scheduling.

St. Augustine Beach Civic Association

by Bill Jones, President
www.thecivicassociation.com



September will bring some fun and some surprises. We look forward to our final month of the 2013 Music by the Sea Concert Series. There is one change in the schedule that we wanted to share. On September 25th we welcome the Navy Pride Classic Rock & Roll Band. Please make a note of the change or visit www.thecivicassociation.org and click on the concert series tab for a schedule.

Mid-September also brings the Gentlemen of the Road Tour featuring Mumford & Sons to our county. Our hotels here are the island will be filled with guests from all over the world and we intend to show them St. Augustine Beach is a great place to visit. On Wednesday September 11th the Music by the Sea Concert will feature a group we are calling the Top Secret band. Trust me when I tell you that this will be a very special night. On Thursday there will be another free concert at the Pier Pavilion. Artbreakers and the National Kidney Foundation of Florida will present a free concert featuring Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Terry Sylvester of the Hollies along with The DaVita All Star Blues Band and local favorite The Falling Bones. Sylvester will perform Hollies classics like Long Cool Woman, The Air That I Breathe and He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother. The All Star Blues Band includes two celebrity vocalists from television talent shows. Shane Simon was a contestant on the Voice this year and Terri Lowe performed several times on the popular show Live at the Apollo. The evening will be a celebration of music from the 60's through the 90's. Refreshments and food will be available all evening.

Our Wednesday Market has set records for both vendors and shoppers. Civic Association Market Committee Chair Paul Slava credits the vendors and the new market Manger Nico Recore. "Nico's enthusiasm is contagious and our vendors are energized too", Slava says, "Nico has developed a great balance of products for our patrons. We

truly have a great selection of produce, bread, honey, arts, crafts prepared food and even a little live music". We invite you stop by any Wednesday morning between 8 and 12:30 pm at the Pier Park at 350 A1a Beach Blvd.

In a follow up to last month's column, the TDC Funding Panel increased grants to our organization and others by 3% and they did partially fund the City of St. Augustine Beach Blastoff Festival. While we are grateful for this decision we still find events in the 32080 zip code being treated differently than similar events in the City of St. Augustine. The process is flawed and things are no more organized than they were 3 three years ago when former Commissioner and now Cultural Council Board Member Ken Bryan got this mess started. This all began based on what Bryan claimed to be the Florida statute on Tourism. Bryan spoke from his Commission seat and at numerous civic meetings and said statute required that funds be dispersed based on an event's ability to put "heads on beds". When you examine the statute you will not find any such requirement. Instead you will find the statute wants money spent on attracting "Visitors". According to sources at the state and confirmed by St. Johns County TDC Executive Director Glenn Hastings "a visitor is anyone who crosses the county line to attend and / or participate in an event or activity". While we acknowledge the importance of overnight visitors we still wonder how this personal interpretation of the former commissioner became the philosophy of the TDC? This current system is a costly bureaucratic train wreck and we will continue to try and share information with you as this situation evolves.

In closing we remind everyone that our membership will begin meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Our first meeting of the fall will take place on September 10th at 7 pm. The meetings take place at City Hall 2300 A1A S at 7 pm. Our meetings are open to the public and refreshments are served. See you soon at the beach!

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UPDATE II

By Max Royle
St. Augustine Beach City Manager

Here the “Royle we” are again, eagerly primed and ready to resume educating you about projects and other matters that your city has recently accomplished or is about to accomplish. As a bonus, “we” may include some tasks that are on the not-too-distant horizon for possible accomplishment in the future.

In last month’s essay, I told you some key details about the city’s budget for the next fiscal year, which will begin on October 1, 2013. You were also given information about the upcoming review of the city charter and the county’s off-beach parking study. For this month’s essay, let’s begin with an update of an update, namely matters that concern your money.

1. Budget. The city commission held a special meeting on Monday, July 29th, to review the proposed budget, discuss some of its details, and set the tentative property tax millage for FY 14. First, some good news: the cost of the premium for the employees’ medical insurance plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield will be increased by only 4%, which is astonishingly low when compared to increases in past fiscal years, which have been 8%, 10% or even higher.

Was there any bad news about the budget? Not really. Proposed revenues and expenditures are balanced at \$7,053,287. The commission saved \$110,000 by postponing the purchase of a backhoe for the public works department and \$30,000 to replace the city hall carpeting. Other commission decisions included: a. approving a part-time code enforcement inspector and a full-time assistant for the information technology specialists; b. approving pay increases based on the pay plan proposed by Mayor Snodgrass at the commission’s July 1st meeting. This will provide a 1.1% cost-of-living increase based on information provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, and a merit increase, based on work performance, on a graduated scale: up to 3.5% for employees earning \$35,999 or less; up to 3% for employees earning \$36,000-49,999; up to 2% for those earning \$50,000-74,999; and cost-of-living only for those earning \$75,000 and above.

The setting of the tentative property tax millage was more complicated. Because two commissioners were away, the rolled-back millage of 2.5433 mills (\$2.5433 for every \$1,000 of a property’s assessed value) was approved on a 2-1 vote. However, it was later discovered that the city charter requires an affirmative

vote of three commissioners for any motion to be passed. After consultation with the State Department of Revenue, the County Property Appraiser and the City Attorney, the city staff filed with the Property Appraiser the 2.5433 mills as the tentative millage. The city commission can reduce this millage at later public hearings. By a 3-0 vote, the commission approved 0.08 mills for revenue to pay the debt on bonds that were used several years ago to purchase 11.5 acres of the former Maratea subdivision north of Sea Colony.

The public hearings on the millage and budget are scheduled for Monday, September 9th, and Monday, September 23rd. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. The budget can be seen online at the city’s website, www.staugbch.com.

2. 2nd Avenue/10th Street Drainage Project. This project, in the planning stages for several years, has at last been started. It will replace an open ditch along 2nd Avenue from B Street north to 10th Street with an underground pipe. The pipe will then go under 10th Street west to the east side of vacant, private property where the city has an easement to replace a ditch with a pipe that will connect to the 11th Street pipe that was constructed in 2007. The result will be more efficient removal of storm water and the replacement of an overgrown ditch where mosquitoes would thrive if we didn’t have the Anastasia Mosquito Control folks to spray it now and then. The project should be completed by mid-January 2014. The \$584,504 to pay for it will come from the transportation impact fee which the builders of new homes and commercial structures have paid.

3. Bulkhead for City Drainage Canal. This was a major, though obscure, project that concerns the canal that takes stormwater from the city’s Mizell Road drainage pond westwards to the Intracoastal Waterway marsh. The canal goes through the Marsh Creek subdivision, which in 1998 provided an easement for it to the city. Thus, though the land through which the canal goes is privately owned, the canal belongs to the city, which is therefore responsible for maintaining it.

Over the years since 1998, erosion on the canal’s south bank near its western end threatened three homes. To protect them, 600 feet of wooden bulkhead had to be constructed. What’s remarkable is that the bulkhead had to be built largely with hand labor, because the close proximity of the three (continued on page 10)



Financial Focus

Information Provided By
Edward Jones

What Do New Investors Really Need to Know?

If you’re starting out as an investor, you might be feeling overwhelmed. After all, it seems like there’s just so much to know. How can you get enough of a handle on basic investment concepts so that you’re comfortable in making well-informed choices?

Actually, you can get a good grip on the investment process by becoming familiar with a few basic concepts, such as these:

- **Stocks versus Bonds** — When you buy stocks, or stock-based investments, you are buying ownership shares in companies. Generally speaking, it’s a good idea to buy shares of quality companies and to hold these shares for the long term. This strategy may help you eventually overcome short-term price declines, which may affect all stocks. Keep in mind, though, that when buying stocks, there are no guarantees you won’t lose some or all of your investment.

By contrast, when you purchase bonds, you aren’t becoming an “owner” — rather, you are lending money to a company or a governmental unit. Barring default, you can expect to receive regular interest payments for as long as you own your bond, and when it matures, you can expect to get your principal back. However, bond prices do rise and fall, typically moving in the opposite direction of interest rates. So if you wanted to sell a bond before it matures, and interest rates have recently risen, you may have to offer your bond at a price lower than its face value.

For the most part, stocks are purchased for their growth potential (although many stocks do offer income, in the form of dividends), while bonds are bought for the income stream provided by interest payments. Ideally, though, it is important to build a diversified portfolio containing stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit

(CDs), government securities and other investments designed to meet your goals and risk tolerances. Diversification is a strategy designed to help reduce the effects of market volatility on your portfolio; keep in mind, however, that diversification, by itself, can’t guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

- **Risk versus Reward** — All investments carry some type of risk: Stocks and bonds can decline in value, while investments such as CDs can lose purchasing power over time. One important thing to keep in mind is that, generally, the greater the potential reward, the higher the risk.

- **Setting goals** — As an investor, you need to set goals for your investment portfolio, such as providing resources for retirement or helping pay for your children’s college educations.

- **Knowing your own investment personality** — Everyone has different investment personalities — some people can accept more risk in the hopes of greater rewards, while others are not comfortable with risk at all. It’s essential that you know your investment personality when you begin investing, and throughout your years as an investor.

- **Investing is a long-term process** — It generally takes decades of patience, perseverance and good decisions for investors to accumulate the substantial financial resources they’ll need for their long-term goals.

By keeping these concepts in mind as you begin your journey through the investment world, you’ll be better prepared for the twists and turns you’ll encounter along the way as you pursue your financial goals.

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

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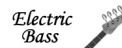


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Nine Plus One = A Perfect Ten

It was a pleasure to speak with one of the winners of the St. Augustine Beach Florida Friendly Yards (FFY) award. Pamela Nauss graciously shared her story of how she and her husband, Charles, planned, researched and gathered information on how to achieve a FFY landscape. Their home at 200 12th Street is an example and salute to the FFY principles. Pamela's yearlong research endeavored to find solutions to the myriad of challenges: new construction, working with the builder to ensure site integrity; environmental concerns; the location, two blocks from the beach, necessitated cold-, salt- and drought-tolerant plants; and all with the goal in mind to provide the peaceful surroundings Pamela had envisioned at the start and still be easy on the eyes. Pamela said she and Charles are happy and felt the results validated the investment of the time spent. Congratulations, Pamela and Charles, your landscape is an example of a FFY done right and is a winner.

Promoting FFY principles on private or public lands has been a goal of your BAC. Starting from scratch may not be an option for the established yard; however, by simply changing the way you care of your yard you can create a FFY. The nine principles of the FFY are: 1) Right Plant in the Right Place, 2) Water Efficiently, 3) Fertilize Appropriately, 4) Mulch, 5) Attract Wildlife, 6) Manage Yard Pests Responsibly, 7) Recycle Yard Waste, 8) Reduce Stormwater Runoff, and 9) Protect the Waterfront. Applying these principles offers benefits and helps protect Florida's natural resources for generations to come. Information is at www.SolutionsForYourLife.com/fyn or www.FloridaYards.org. The UF/IFAS Extension Office offers information, instruction and advice from specially-trained county horticulture staff and Master Gardener volunteers.

On September 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Keith Fuller, SJC Extension Agent, is offering a workshop where you can "make and take" your very own 55- or 30-gallon compost bin. There is a \$65 or \$60 fee and you will need to preregister; call 904-209-0430 for details. A "bumper snicker" on the back of a truck sanitizes an old familiar cliché: "Compost Happens." Seems to say it all.

The 2013 St. Johns County Home & Garden Show and the Datil Pepper Festival will be held October 5 and 6 at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center grounds, 3125 Agricultural Center Dr., St. Augustine 32092 (I-95 at SR-16), on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be an Open Horticulture Judging Contest with cash prizes. Entry date is October 3, so repot and dust off your staghorn ferns or the split-leaf philodendron (*Monstera deliciosa*), and let these beauties bring

home the prize money and ribbons. Last year's attendance was over 1,000, so call 209-0430 for additional information and to learn details about being a vendor. This event is a gift to our area and a great environment in which to learn. Go – look – listen, and then apply the nine FFY principles. It may necessitate acquiring new skills, sometimes by trial and error, but is a whole lot more fun when sharing with like-minded visionaries who understand the importance of playing in the dirt.

Of equal importance is learning the role that native plants can play in your landscape design, or "going native," as some members of the Sea Oats Native Plants Society chapter like to say. Hone these skills each third Tuesday at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. Give V.P. George Waters a call (904) 347-2704 or go to SeaOats.FNPS@gmail.com.

The nine principles of FFY are promoted and endorsed by professional landscape architects, city planners and visionary city officials. Your BAC has been asked to work with and offer suggestions on how to enhance the landscape design at the new 7-11 service station. Stay tuned for details.

Taking the first step to move beyond the mow-blow-go yard begins with understanding the nine steps and that you are connected like the "air you breathe and the water you drink principle" necessary to enrich the quality of life. Life is so sweet. Take a big step and make a little history in the most beautiful city by the sea.



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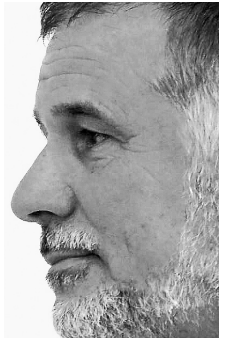
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Spiritually Speaking

By Fr. Nicholas A. Marziani, D. Min.
askfrnicholas@aol.com

Pastor, St. James Church, a Catholic Community of
the Personal Ordinate of the Chair of St. Peter



"A Travelogue Addendum"

I had fully intended to write an education related column for this month as our new school year kicks into high gear – and will yet do so, albeit a little late, in October. I just had to shift gears, however, in view of the second part of my time away in July when my wife and I had the wonderful opportunity to take a Viking River Cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow. In my column last month, written as it was from Galway, Ireland, I made reference to that upcoming segment of our pilgrimage excursion to Europe, but had not yet actually set foot on Russian soil (or entered their waterways). What I experienced when I did so compels me to write about what I witnessed.

This is, of course, a column devoted to spiritual matters, and it was spirituality and religious revival on steroids that I encountered in the epicenter of the former Soviet Union. I had heard that the Orthodox Church in Russia was in a state of revitalization. Such a thing was intriguing enough, given the manner in which faith – all faith – had been so brutally suppressed and persecuted during the days of Communist domination of not only Russia and the other republics (now independent) of the U.S.S.R., but Soviet satellite states such as Poland and other central European countries. The recently released film documentary of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, "Messenger of the Truth" (produced by a locally-based, northeast Florida team and about to make a Chicago debut), is but one testimony among many of the naked evil that atheistic Communism channeled into the world during most of the 20th century. Indeed, I can recall as a young child in the 1950s being exhorted to pray for the conversion of Russia. Well, guess what folks? It worked!

Mind you, Russia today – like any country anywhere – is composed of what we in the Christian theological tradition would simply call "sinners". Without exception, period. Actually, most of us of whatever persuasion would tend to agree that "sinners" have always dominated the world – it's just that we disagree as to how to define the word "sin". We are a most self-justifying race, if anything. But I digress. The main point I wish to express here is that whether

from an institutional, governmental, or personal perspective, Russia is in serious revival, such as I have not witnessed in even this country, at least since my 20s and 30s (I'm now two years away from Medicare, you do the math). First-hand witnessed fact: many Russian cathedrals and monasteries are packed – during the workweek, mind you – and clergy and monks are assiduous in carrying out their pastoral responsibilities for their people, praying daily and in public liturgies by name for those whose intentions are written on color-coded prayer lists (I even submitted one myself for my parents and children, as best as I could in primitive Cyrillic characters). Additional fact: the Russian state, its federal government, is spending in rubles the US-equivalent of over \$70 million just to renovate the buildings on the campus of the St. Sergei Lavra (monastery) about an hour out of Moscow. And yet another first-hand witnessed fact: I saw people – many of them quite young – standing in line in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan in St. Petersburg, for as best as I could tell, up to TWO HOURS just to spend 30 seconds in prayer in front of the main Marian icon in that stupendously beautiful structure, the women all with head-veils, the men all respectfully disposed. Again, this wasn't a Sunday, just a normal weekday.

Many of us in the United States of a less traditionally-minded faith (or no faith) might well be tempted to just to blow off such devotion as superstitious folkways of an unenlightened, backward people. Nothing could be further from the truth. Whatever the privations and tragedies of their long history, the Russian people are anything but stupid. And I have to say that certain stands they are taking on pro-family issues fairly put us to shame in the "enlightened" West (while we were in Ireland another moral pillar fell in that "modernizing" country, no time here to develop that thought).

Anyway, I just needed to set the record straight about some of these things, because you will hardly ever hear about them from the U.S.-based media. Too bad. And who are really the impoverished ones today?

Prayerful regards, Fr. Nick.

16th Annual Greek Festival October 11-13th

Greece is one of the few countries in the world where folk music and dance are as alive today as they were in ancient times. At the 16th Annual Greek Festival, October-11-13th, you can hear and see the stories of the islands, the mountains and the villages of Greece translated into music and dance. Francis Field, 29 Castillo Drive, will be transformed into a virtual Greek village with all its vibrant sights and sounds. Hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, festival hours are Friday, from 4-9 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday, 12 – 5 p.m.

The festival is proud to present The Hellenic Band who will perform live all weekend in the main tent. Interpreting the Greek culture through dance will be the Nisiotes, and Asteria Greek dancers. You can also learn the beautiful steps of Greek dance by participating in the free dance lessons. In addition to the great entertainment, plan to dine on delicious Greek foods, pastries, and beverages.

The parishioners of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church have been busy preparing pans of mouthwatering pastitsio (macaroni with a delicious meat sauce topped with a crema), and dolmathes (stuffed grape leaves). The village will also have a Cafenio where you can enjoy steaming Greek coffee with your favorite Greek pastries from the bakery. Stop by the Taverna for a classic glass of Greek wine or a cold beer.

There is something for every age at the 16h Annual Greek Festival. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and free for those 12 and under. Free admission for active military and their immediate family with ID. For more information call (904) 829-0504 or visit www.staugreekfest.com.



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Beaches Bistro

By Paolo Pece, Cafe Atlantico

cafeatlantico@comcast.net

White Bean and Sweet Red Pepper Salad with Funnel

This salad is so rich and immensely satisfying, that demonstrate how well beans can replace high fat ingrediends in matching the buttery, creamy texture of a good Chardonnay. Serves Six.

- 1 1/2 cups uncooked, small, dried white beans
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled, cut into quarters
- 6 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 1 bay leaf
- 5 cups of vegetable stock
- salt and white pepper to taste

- 1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- 1 tbsp. chopped basil
- 1 tbsp. chopped italian parsley
- 1 bulb of fennel, core removed, thinly sliced
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- basil for garnish

Rinse and sort the beans. Combine the beans, onion, garlis, bay leaf, and vegetable stock in a 3-quart saucepan . Bring it to a boil and reduce the heat. Simmer for 1 to 1 1/2 hour, or until the beans are tender, adding water, if needed to cover the beans.

Drain, reserving the cooking liquid. Place the beans in a large bowl, discarding the vegetables. Season with salt and white pepper. Return the reserved cooking liquid to the saucepan. Cook until reduced to 1/4 cup.

For the dressing, whisk the reduced liquid with the lemon juice, the mustard, chives, vinegar, basil and parsley, in a bowl. Adjust the seasoning.

Add the beans with the fennel, onion, and bell pepper and toss lightly to coat well. Garnish with additional basil.

Buon appetito!

How Does The Age Of My Roof Affect My Insurance Premium?

By Jane Tucker, First Florida Insurance

Regardless of the age of your home, if you replaced your roof in 2002 or later, there are potentially significant premium savings available for you.

A simple inspection, called a Wind Mitigation Inspection, can be done on your home to look for particular construction techniques that would minimize wind damage including the shape of the roof, decking reinforcement and the shingle attachment method that was used.

The Wind Mitigation Inspection also confirms the type of shingle or other roof covering used, roof decking with large nails or screws with close spacing as well as the existence of hurricane clips. These features must meet State building codes in order to qualify for insurance premium credits.

A Wind Mitigation Inspection is done by a certified contractor who completes a verification affidavit which you turn into to your insurance company. The savings can be substantial not only for the policy term in which you provide the affidavit from the inspection, but for five subsequent years. Annual discounts can be in the hundreds of dollars.

Discounts are offered for Wind Mitigation homes because they have lower windstorm damage. Lower damage and losses means reduced costs for

insurance companies, and the discount is passed on to the customer. These discounts apply to homes or condos built prior to 2002 and to new construction that has been built to the latest Florida Building Code.

The cost for the inspection is approximately \$50 and usually takes less than an hour to complete.

Once again, premium savings can be substantial if your home is older than 2002 and the roof was replaced in 2002 and later. To discuss whether the inspection is recommended for your home call First Florida Insurance or email jane@firstfloridainsurance.com.

The Wind Mitigation Inspection can be submitted to your insurance company anytime during your insurance policy term. Also, as long as the roof was replaced after 2001, the home may be eligible for credits even if the inspection is not submitted until this year.

First Florida agents invite you to take their "Quote Challenge." Call First Florida to discuss your current policy coverages. Their goal is to be certain you have the absolute best rate for which you qualify. Call 808-8600, click on www.firstfloridainsurance.com, or come by to visit one of First Florida's friendly agents.

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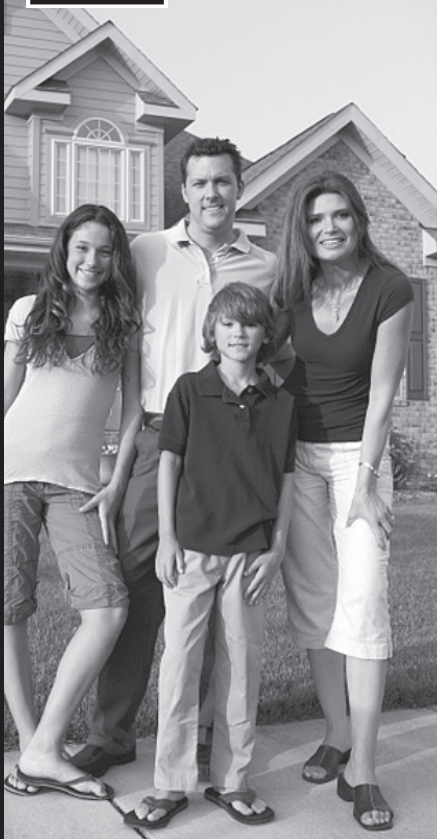
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County Health and Human Services Hosts Pre-Service Training and Orientation for Prospective Foster Parents

Residents interested in becoming a foster parent and providing temporary care for St. Johns County children whose families are experiencing crisis are invited to participate in an orientation session and pre-service training classes hosted by the St. Johns County Family Integrity Program (FIP).

Those who want to help children and families residing in St. Johns County by becoming a foster parent, or desire to help in another way, are encouraged to attend an interactive orientation session about foster care arranged by the FIP from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9, at the Health and Human Services building, 1955 US-1 South, St. Augustine (just south of the 312 and US-1 intersection).

Every child deserves a safe, nurturing home and to be cared for by someone dedicated to meeting all of their essential

needs. Getting teens out of group homes and into family foster homes is a State and County child-welfare goal. The service foster parents provide for youth in all age groups is invaluable. In addition to typical foster homes, local therapeutic foster homes and medical foster homes are also needed.

Foster parent pre-service classes will begin at the same location starting September 16 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and continue on consecutive Mondays through November 25 – with the exception of Veteran's Day on November 11. These interactive classes will offer participants a variety of educational material delivered through an engaging and challenging format. Please contact Joy Meyerpeter at 904.209.6131 or visit www.sjcfi.us/fip for more information or to request a brochure be sent by mail.

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UPDATE II

(continued from page 7)

expensive homes to the canal left no room for the contractor to use large equipment. I wish that citizens could see the bulkhead because it is really unique. However, as Marsh Creek is a gated, private subdivision, access into it is restricted to residents and authorized persons. The project's total cost was \$206,873. Part of this amount will be paid by Marsh Creek and part by the county.

4. Pier Park Restrooms. This was a joint city/county project, and involved the renovation of the existing restrooms and the construction of a new building with additional restrooms. The old restrooms were in deplorable condition, and the new ones were needed because of the popularity of the Civic Association's Wednesday farmers' market and summer concert series, the many events scheduled at the pavilion and the city's adjacent Splash Park that attracts many visitors. Special thanks for the success of the project is owed to Mr. Michael Stauffer, a local architect, who designed the restrooms; to Mr. Michael Rubin, the county's projects manager, whose cooperative way of working with the city was much appreciated; and to several city public works employees, whose skilled work added quality to the project. Its total cost was \$210,844, with \$200,000 of this amount coming from tourist tax funds, and the remainder from the public buildings impact fee paid by the builders of new homes and commercial structures.

5. Splash Park Renovations. This park is located east of the pier park information center and the new restrooms. The city constructed the original Splash Park in 2005. Since then, the park has been so well used that it needed to be renovated. Also, its popularity required that its size be increased. A new water feature, a "mushroom" waterfall, was added; the small playground was relocated farther from the fountains; low walls were built and an entrance was created to better funnel visitors into the park and to make

it easier for parents to keep sight of their children. Also, the shower facilities were relocated. The result is a much roomier, more impressive park. Mr. Michael Stauffer designed the renovations. This project's cost was \$43,453, with \$40,000 coming from what the city earned after expenses from its New Year's Eve fireworks show. The remainder came from parks and recreation impact fees.

Now on to possible future projects. There are three major ones, two of which are related. These are replacement of old, failed drainage pipes combined with new pavement for the streets where the pipes are located. As Public Works Director Joe Howell told the commission at its July 29th special meeting, the pipes are in the following subdivisions: Woodland, Woodland Estates, Ocean Woods, Sea Oaks, and Ocean Walk. When they're replaced, Mr. Howell recommends that the streets be repaved. Other streets, such as B and E Streets both east and west of A1A Beach Boulevard, where there aren't major drainage problems, still need to have new pavement. Mayor Snodgrass suggested at the meeting that Mr. Howell develop a comprehensive, multi-year plan to do these projects.

Another major project is one internal for the Public Works Department. It concerns the construction of a new building for vehicle storage and placement of a new fuel tank at the public works facility on Mizell Road. Mr. Howell will first develop a layout plan of where he wants to put these improvements. The plan will also provide a layout of drive lanes and parking areas. Then, over a period of years, the improvements can be done as the city's budget permits.

Surely, you'll say, other projects have been done and others are planned to be done. You're absolutely right. But the kind editor is tapping me on the shoulder as a reminder that space is needed in this fine publication for articles by other folks.



St. Johns County Sheriff's Corner

By David Shoar, St. Johns County Sheriff

Offender Watch Program

Did you know that sex offenders or predators move an average of four times a year! It is this reason that our citizens want and need easy access to sex offender data so they can run neighborhood searches around their home and school. They want to stay updated with emails and postal mailing whenever there is a change around them. In addition, 80-90% of us likely have a sex offender living within a one mile radius of our home, our children's school, or place of work. This month I would like to talk to you about a very important program we offer here at your Sheriff's Office. It is the OffenderWatch Program. This is an on-line tool to keep you better informed as to where registered sex offenders and predators reside in our county. This system will enable anyone with an Internet connection to search for registered sex offenders and predators within our county by name or address.

This program is two-fold: A geographic tool and an e-mail notification program. With the geographic tool, any address in the county can be entered into a search engine, and a map will be displayed showing full information on the location of any registered sex offenders or predators living within a mile radius of that address.

The email notification program allows any person to enter up to five addresses in the county into a database so that the Sheriff's Office can notify you of any offenders or predators who moves within one mile of that given address. To sign up for the OffenderWatch program, go to our website at www.sjsso.org, and click on the Sex Offender and Predator tab and then the

OffenderWatch link. Instructions will guide you through the process.

Also on our website you will find safety tips for parents and children in reference to sex offenders. Parents should take responsibility and know where your children are at all times. Be familiar with their friends and daily activities. Build self-esteem in your child. Listen carefully to your children's fears, and be supportive in all your discussions with them. Replace fear with knowledge. Teach decision-making to your child. Children at all ages can make decisions. Practice early with little decisions so big decisions later are easier. Teach them to trust their own feelings and assure them they have a right to say NO to what they sense is wrong. Choose substitute care givers carefully. Be alert to any teenager or adult who is paying unusual amounts of attention to your children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts. Teach your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. If someone does, they should tell their parent(s) immediately.

Some safety tips for children include: Teach them about who they are including their full name, birthdate, complete address, phone number and their parents' full names. If a child is in a public place and they get separated from you, encourage and teach them to not to wander around looking but to go to a checkout counter, a security office, or lost & found. Have them tell someone in authority that they have become separated from their parent and need help in finding them. If possible, use the buddy system. It's more fun and there is safety in numbers. Don't wander the neighborhood after dark or while alone. If someone follows your child on foot or in a car, teach them to stay away from them and find a trusted neighbor or adult. Be sure to tell them not to talk with strangers, give directions or look for a lost pet from someone they do not know. Most importantly, if someone tries to take a child away, the best defenses are the child's legs and voices. Try to run and scream before they get too close and call 911 immediately.

There is a wealth of information on our website on this topic as well as on many other topics at www.sjsso.org. Please feel free to follow the Sheriff's Office on Facebook and Twitter and feel free to email me with any questions or concerns at dshoar@sjsso.org. Thanks for reading and stay safe!



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Ask Mow?

Answering Questions About Homeowner Lawn Equipment.
Featuring "Mow", St. Augustine Power House Spokesperson.

Hello readers and welcome to another edition of "Ask Mow". A monthly publication dedicated to answering questions about Home Owner lawn mowing equipment. Featuring "Mow" St Augustine Power House spokesperson. This month we have some emailed questions for Mow, let's get started with this one from the beaches.

Hello Mow. We enjoy reading your article each month and decided to test your knowledge on our situation. Our string trimmer use to have a lot of power; started easily and over all ran good, lately though it is hard to start, and has no power at all. Can that be repaired or should we just buy a new one.



Hello and thank you for the question. In most cases that can be an easy repair, there are two things a string trimmer needs to perform correctly. Number one is to have the proper fuel mixture and second to be able to breathe. Check both the air filter and the exhaust ports. If the engine cannot exhale it won't be able to inhale. With that combination it will be hard to crank and will not rev up to speed.

Hello Mow, I recently visited the Power House to take advantage of the "Free Blade Sharpening" coupon. The man at the counter said the blade was shot and we needed to purchase a new blade. How can a blade wear out on a mower we just bought last year?



We get this a lot, and I appreciate the question. I can answer this question with one word. Sand. Let's face it we live on a sand bar. Everyone has sand in the yard. And sand wears blades. Simple as that. For a technician to sharpen a blade, it also has to be balanced. If there is too much wear on the blade, it will never balance and that can cause damage to the mower, not to mention what it will do to your grass. Mowers are designed to cut grass not to tear it. So in the future, try not to wait so long between having the blade sharpened. If you consider a Lawn Maintenance Company sharpens their blades every day, A few times a year wouldn't be over doing it.

That's all the time we have this month, so until next month, remember St Augustine Power House is located at 125 Pope Road. Visit us at www.staugpowerhouse.com and if you have any questions for Mow call 904-461-0310 or email him askmow@staugpowerhouse.com.

St. Augustine Orchestra Announces 2013 - 2014 Season

The St. Augustine Orchestra, under the direction of William McNeiland, announces it's 2013-2014 season performance schedule. This year, the orchestra will perform nine concerts, five in St. Augustine and four encore performances in Ponte Vedra.

The orchestra will begin the concert season Friday, October 25th at 8:00 p.m. in the beautiful, historic Lightner Museum, 25 Granada Street, St. Augustine, Florida. The Gilded Age ambiance of the former Alcazar Hotel comes to life with beautiful orchestral music in the location of what was once the largest indoor swimming pool in the world.

The St. Augustine Orchestra performs encore concerts on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

In addition to the usual concert performances, the St. Augustine Orchestra has worked with the City of St. Augustine and the Discover First America Series to develop a unique four event series to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act, a Celebration of African American Music and History. The additional concerts and a Discover First America preview event are included in the season schedule below:

Lightner Museum
25 Granada Street, St. Augustine
Evenings, 8:00 pm
Friday, October 25, 2013
Friday, December 13, 2103
Friday, February 28, 2014
Saturday, March 1, 2014
Friday, May 16, 2014

Christ Episcopal Church
400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach
Matinees, 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 27, 2013
Sunday, December 15, 2013

Sunday, March 2, 2014
Sunday, May 18, 2014

1st Annual Fundraiser
Lightner Museum Lobby
Saturday, March 1, 2014

Discover First America Preview Events
Flagler College Auditorium
TBD February 2014

Friends of the Orchestra will be holding it's First Annual Fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2014. This event promises to be quite a gala affair and more information on this special event will follow.

Mark your calendar for these special dates and look for additional information about the content of the concerts. You can access up-to-date information on the SAO website: www.StAugustineOrchestra.org.

REGULATORY FLOOD PLAINS AND FLOOD PROTECTION

by Gary Larson, St. Augustine Beach Building Official

Your property is in or near the local flood hazard area, as mapped by the Federal Emergency Agency (FEMA). A map of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains within the City of St. Augustine Beach can be provided for your reference. A larger flood map showing lot-by-lot detail of flood zones and required elevations can be viewed in the City's Building Department, located in the City Municipal Complex at 2200 A1A South. A Floodplain Manager is available in the Construction Services Department to assist you with maps, elevation certificates and flood protection information and provide advice on retrofitting techniques for structures in the flood plain. Also available for review are current and past FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and topographical maps that show elevations of property within the city. FEMA FIRM maps, reference materials, pamphlets and video are also available at the Building Department.

Most flooding in the City of St. Augustine Beach is caused by ocean water and rain storms, such as tropical storms and hurricanes. Occasionally, heavy rains will cause localized flooding. Major flooding can occur along the beachfront and inland along the main retention areas. Flood waters along the beachfront can rise to heights of 15 to 20 feet above sea level, with destructive waves reaching even higher. Most of the land is in the flood plain. Low land east of A1A Beach Boulevard is also prone to flooding. Major storms have affected the City of St. Augustine Beach area in recent years. Not only do hurricanes and tropical storms create floods but they may cause erosion which increases the likelihood of more severe oceanfront flooding during subsequent storms.

Your home and its contents represent your greatest investment, but your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy will not cover losses due to flooding. St. Augustine Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the city. Just because your home has not flooded in the past does not mean that you are safe. You should carefully consider buying flood insurance to protect yourself from losses due to flooding. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure their possessions. You do not have to live in the floodplain to qualify for flood insurance. More information about flood insurance is available from your insurance agent.

Since 1978, the city has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, which means the premiums for flood insurance in the City of St. Augustine Beach are lower than they would be. The city's participation in the CRS program includes the availability of staff in the Building Department to answer questions (on site or off) about flooding, building requirements that are more stringent than federal minimum standards, regulations for storm water management in new construction, and public outreach projects. For more information, contact the Chief Building Inspector or Building Official at 471-8758.

The City of St. Augustine Beach requires that all new residential structures be elevated no less than one foot above the base flood elevation. It may be possible to retro fit existing structures by various flood proofing techniques. Of course, the most effective and permanent means of protecting your structure is to locate it out of the floodplain. If you are unable to relocate your structure, the next most effective means is to elevate your structure about the base flood elevation. The Building Department can discuss emergency, temporary and permanent alternatives with you and help you obtain the necessary permits. The Building Department has reference material available for review regarding temporary and

permanent property protection, retrofitting and flood proofing structures. Additional protection measures include:

- keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergencies.
- Check with a plumber regarding a valve to prevent sewer backups.
- Make sure that drainage ditches are clear of debris and functioning properly.
- If you know that a flood is coming, move valuable contents upstairs or to a safe location.

Residents of hazard areas can take the following actions to decrease the risk of injury due to flooding.

- Do not walk through flowing water. In standing water, use a pole or stick to determine depth.
- Do not drive through flooded areas and do not drive around road barriers. Roads or bridges may be washed out.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and drains.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Report downed power lines to the power company.
- Turn off all electrical circuits at the panel or disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Watch for animals, including snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours.
- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors may be covered with debris, including glass and nails. Floors and stairs that are covered with mud can be very slippery.
- Turn off the gas and be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Floodplains serve many useful purposes, and those that are preserved in their normal or nearly natural state provide a wide range of benefits. For example, floodplains and primary retention areas hold, filter, convey and disperse floodwaters. Without preservation of these natural floodplains, floodwaters would inundate developed areas. Three retention areas exist within the City of St. Augustine Beach: 16th Street, 11th Street and the main retention area on Mizell Road. These serve as natural drainage basins and provide flood storage from storm water runoff in their immediate area. They also provide a valuable service by filtering impurities from runoff. The city owns approximately 31.5 total acres for retention and future passive parks. These retention areas provide wildlife habitats, breeding and feeding grounds for fish, and a high rate of plant growth. It's an excellent example of an ecosystem at work.

Debris in drainage ditches, streams and pipes can cause localized flooding when it rains. City code requires all owners or occupants of property to move obstructions from the drainage system on their property. Further, it is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit ant refuse, trash or debris in any drainage ditch, stream or body of water. For questions, or to report obstructions or violations, call the Public Works Department at 471-1119. The city coordinates with St. Johns County Emergency Services and the National Weather Service in issuing public warnings concerning expected floods and storms. Local television and radio stations may announce weather advisories from the National Weather Service and provide local weather information and advisories.

National Weather Service advisories indicate all warnings which are in effect, including a description of the threat and its potential impact. Watches and warnings are issued for gales (winds of 39 to 54 miles per hour), tropical storms (55 to

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73 m.p.h.), and hurricanes (74 m.p.h or more), as well as for flash floods, costal flooding and heavy rains. A hurricane watch indicates that a hurricane poses a possible threat within 24 to 36 hours. A hurricane warning means that hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours, and you should prepare to take action. Hurricanes can cause heavy rains, flash flooding, coastal inundation and abnormally high tides. Often, the greatest threat during a hurricane is from flooding. Remember that heavy rains not associated with tropical systems can cause dangerous flooding. Pay close attention to weather advisories. Local officials or the governor may issue an evacuation order. An evacuation order means that you should leave. The evacuation routes form the St. Augustine Beach area to inland destinations are U.S. Highway 312 and County Road 206. For more information about evacuation routes or flood warning, call the St. Augustine Police Department or the St. Johns County Emergencies Service. Information is available via the web at <http://www.staugbch.com>.

The city's zoning ordinance identifies portions of the city as being within the 100-year floodplain. In other words, there is a one percent chance of flooding in a given year. The zoning ordinance and building codes have special provisions regulating construction and other development within those floodplains. Without

those provisions, flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program would not be available to property owners and renters in the City of St. Augustine Beach. Among the requirements are elevation certificates, copies of which are available for viewing in the Building Department. Before you build, fill or otherwise develop in a floodplain, contact the Building Department to discuss city regulations. Any development in a floodplain without a permit should be reported to the Chief Building Official.

A permit issued by the Building Department is required to make any repairs to flood-damaged buildings. Buildings with damage amounting to 50% or more of the building's value must be removed or brought into compliance with floodplain regulations. Building existing in a flood plain that do not meet the current regulations may only be improved to less than 50% of the building's value. Additions or alterations that are not a result of storm damage also are limited to less than 50% of the building's value. The requirements of the zoning ordinance and building codes are minimum standards that all development must meet. To increase the safety of your property and reduce insurance premiums, you should consider building to higher standards. Of course, the safest way to develop your property is to locate improvements outside the floodplain

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Real Estate Corner

By Will Russell, Licensed Real Estate Agent
Shores Resident
willbr3@yahoo.com
904-814-7305

"Home Shopping Resources"

Many prospective home buyers often ask me for resources that can help them shop for a home. Below is a brief list of potential resources for prospective home buyers.

1) A Real Estate Agent – The best way to get the most accurate and up to date information about property is from a licensed realtor. You want a realtor that is a member of the Board of Realtors, that has access to the MLS, and that knows the area. A realtor can help you with any property, not just their listings.

2) The Internet – The National Association of Realtors found that 88% of home buyers used the internet to help find a home in conjunction with a realtor. Various real estate websites allow individuals to browse homes, look at pictures, examine schools, explore the property with Google Earth, etc... Websites like Realtor.com, Zillow.com, and Trulia.com are just a few examples.

3) Print Materials – You can still find homes for sale in the local newspaper and various real estate magazines. Homes and Land, which is published monthly and includes a variety of available properties for sale, is an example of a real estate magazine. These magazines are typically found at any real estate office, grocery stores, convenience stores, etc...

4) Driving Around – I always recommend that you drive around the areas/neighborhoods you really like. You may see something new. Also, you may find a property that is "for sale by owner (FSBO)". Yes, most of the time, a realtor can sell you a property listed as an FSBO.

Remember, if you are considering buying or selling a home or land, and would like to discuss your options, please contact me anytime at (904) 814-7305 or via email at Will@EndlessSummerRealty.com or Willbr3@yahoo.com.

Will Russell is a realtor with Endless Summer Realty. He has lived in St. Augustine for over 25 years. He currently lives in the St. Augustine Shores with his wife and four children.

Sheriff David Shoar Elected As Vice President Of The Florida Sheriff's Association

St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar was recently elected as the Florida Sheriff's Association Vice President for the upcoming fiscal year.

He was installed at the closing ceremonies of the annual summer conference of the FSA that was held at Marco Island, Florida.

Sheriff Shoar was elected as Secretary for the association last year which is made up of the 67 Sheriffs of Florida as well as over 3,500 business leaders and 130,000 private citizens from around the state.

The 2013 through 2014 Florida Sheriff's Association officers elected by the Sheriffs of Florida are:

- President, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd
- Vice President, St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar
- Secretary, Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell
- Treasurer, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings
- Past President, Highland County Sheriff Susan Benton.

Also during the conference, Sheriff Shoar along with two other Sheriffs (Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson and Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey) was presented the Excellence in Labor and Ethics Relations Award by the Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund David Harvey. The award acknowledged the three Sheriffs



Sheriff Shoar along with two other Sheriffs, Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson and Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey, was presented the Excellence in Labor and Ethics Relations Award by the Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund David Harvey.

Offices efforts to reduce losses on behalf of their respective agencies from Risk Management during the past year.

Sheriff David B. Shoar was elected to the office in 2005. He continues to expand upon and enhance the steps taken towards professionalism by his predecessors.

Sheriff Shoar has elevated the agency's operational effectiveness by adding a Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel to the staff. Sheriff Shoar developed an "open-door" relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the St. Johns County community.

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Don't be Fooled

By Rob Stanborough
PT, DPT, MHSc, MTC, CMTPT, FAAOMPT
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I'm often asked how much weight should I use during exercise and how many reps/sets should I do? My answer is simple: use as much resistance as you can move safely and correctly through the full range of motion, and do as many reps as you can to the point of fatigue without compensation. Put even more simply - fatigue your system so it is challenged but avoid compensation to prevent injury.

Admittedly, I'm not as regular with my exercise as I should be. I grew up playing soccer in high school and college. After that, and putting on several post college pounds, I took up running. Life and injury gently nudged running out of my schedule to the point where I was not exercising at all. Several years ago, after learning of my family's history of high blood pressure and consulting my doctor, I took up swimming. I thought swimming would be great. Water is always relaxing and swimming is easy on the joints. The resistance of the water is constant so I should get a good work-out, etc, etc; the benefits are endless. However, I had no idea the transition I would face going from land based exercise to water.

All the things I had learned and heard about swimming are true. Swimming and/or aquatic exercise is a great way to strengthen, condition and stay healthy. The force of the water opposes the force of gravity. Just as the force of gravity is constantly pushing me down, which I've written about in previous columns, the force of water constantly pushes me up. Buoyancy uniformly lifts my body, decreases joint compression and enables me to exercise with less stress to my joints surfaces but don't be fooled. Just as the water provides uniform buoyancy - it also provides uniform or constant resistance AND more importantly, it does not allow the storing and use of "potential energy".

During walking, running or lifting weights my body produces energy and force to create a motion. As I lift my foot to walk or I lift a weight, I must produce energy to produce the movement. When

my foot hits the ground or when I lower the weight, energy from the movement itself is absorbed and briefly stored in my tissues to be re-used as a spring. It is an incredibly efficient system to help with movement. Although the first repetition is difficult because I have to generate raw energy to create movement, and the last is tough due to fatigue, at least I can benefit from potential energy in the middle. Unfortunately, this is not so with swimming or aquatics.

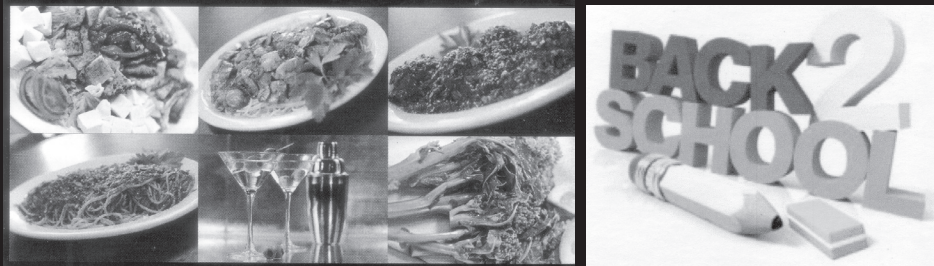
Swimming and/or aquatic exercise does not allow such use of potential energy. The water steals my energy. Sure I can use my legs to push off the wall but this is met with the constant resistance of the water. I'm able to keep myself moving using various strokes but as soon as I stop moving my arms or legs I stop. It seems almost unfair as I watch my energy move away from me through the ripples of the water. To keep moving I have to keep generating more, and more, and more energy.

So, although swimming and aquatics are fun, enjoyable, a great/safe work-out routine for the joints, and a safe and constant work-out for the muscles, don't be fooled. Swimming and/or aquatic exercise can make you sore and tired just as much, if not more than any other form of exercise. Follow the same considerations you would for any other form of exercise: consult you MD and PT. Follow a regular and progressive exercise routine. Allow your body time to adapt and change with the routine and don't overdo it the first few times.

Rob Stanborough is a physical therapist serving St. Augustine for nearly 10 years. He is president and co-owner of First Coast Rehabilitation, as well as co-author of Myofascial Manipulation: Theory & Application, 3rd ed by Proed Inc. He is certified in manual therapy, a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Therapists and has presented on the topic of soft tissue dysfunction in a variety of venues. Read previous columns posted on www.firstcoastrehab.com.

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Florida National Guard Furlough Days Reduced

By Michael Isam

Florida National Guard (FLNG) civilians and technicians catch a break, for now.

A major sigh of relief was heard across Florida as Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced a reduction on required furlough days (without pay) for the FLNG. Originally the furlough days were set to 24, later reduced to 11 and now to six days. But the largest and most audible came from the guard members themselves.

Major belt tightening was in order as the furloughs meant less funds available to families for covering necessities of food, mortgage, rent, clothing and school supplies for children as the new school year begins.

"I again want to thank the Florida National Guard Team for demonstrating the professionalism required to meet these mandated requirements," said Adjutant General of Florida, Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. "I sincerely believe that our message over the past nine months has been heard in Washington."

The respite may well be short-lived. According to reports from many veteran organizations and associations as they quoted Hagel as saying, "If Congress does not change the Budget Control Act, DoD will be forced to

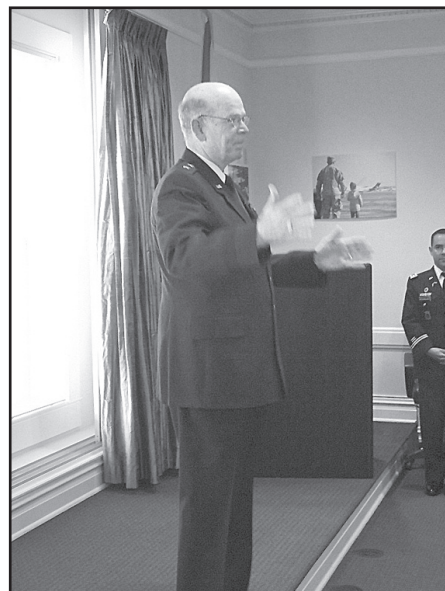
cut an additional \$52 billion in FY 2014, starting on October 1," Hagel said in the statement. "This represents 40 percent more than this year's sequester-mandated cuts of \$37 billion. Facing

this uncertainty, I cannot be sure what will happen next year, but I want to assure our civilian employees that we will do everything possible to avoid more furloughs."

In veteran organization and association newsletters including Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and American Legion, the focused emphasis is on contacting senators and representatives to "bring an end to sequestration by changing the Budget Control Act. Otherwise further required reductions bring an adverse affect to ongoing operations and maintenance of military facilities, equipment, and bases—all es-

sential to the successful mission of our Armed Forces."

According to US Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno, "sequestration is already taxing the Army's readiness to the point that should an unforeseen crisis arise, soldiers may rush into battle unprepared, which could make conflict more likely by undermining deterrence and increasing the number of casualties should fighting break out."

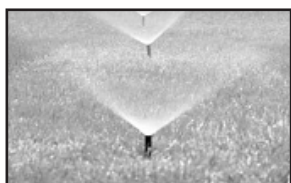


Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr, Adjutant General of Florida, speaking to FLNG members



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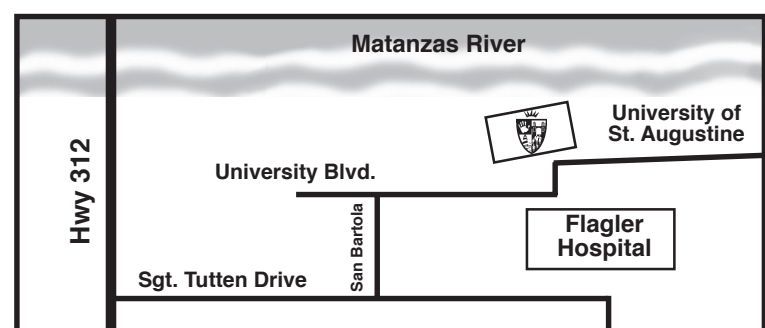
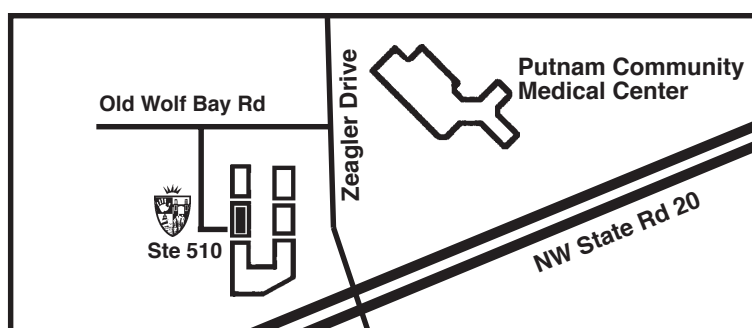
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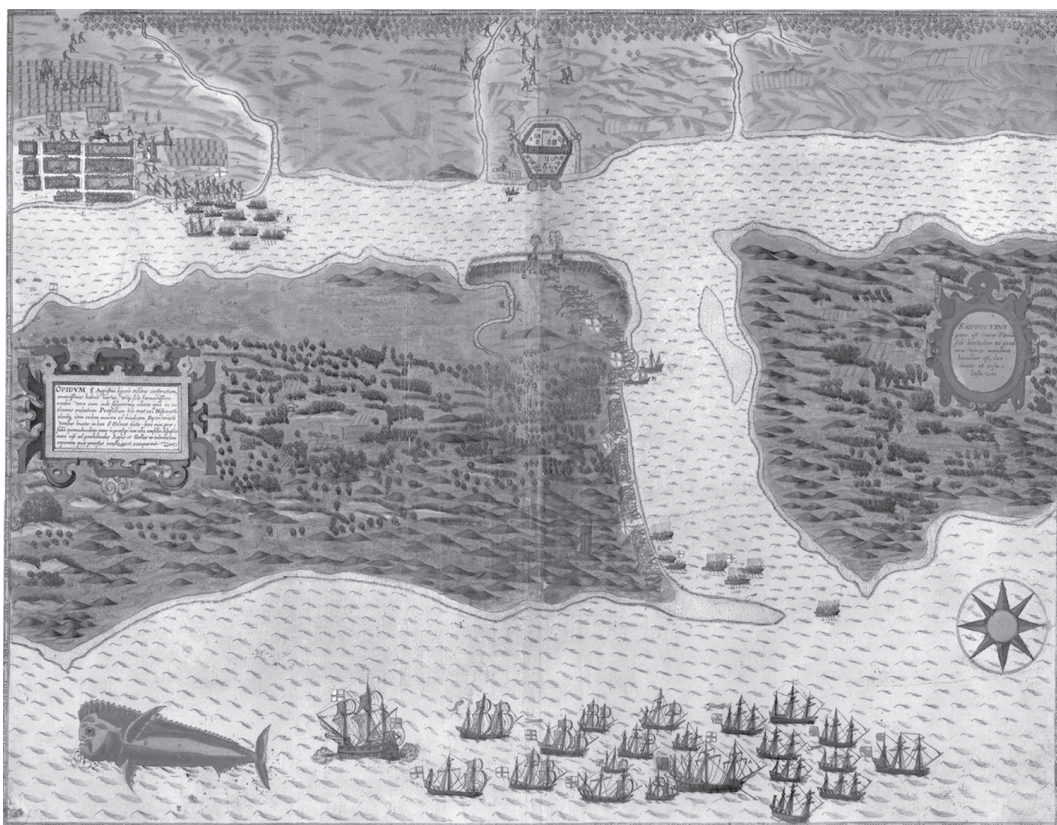
We are very lucky to have not one but two weekly opportunities to purchase locally grown produce, meat, poultry and other wonderful artisan goods here in The Beaches. The Old City Farmers Market operates every Saturday morning from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on the grounds of the

St. Augustine Amphitheater, while The Wednesday Market is 8 am to 12:30 pm at the St Johns County Pier Park. Art, crafts and music give both events the feeling of a street festival, and you cannot beat the people watching. The markets are open year-round, weather permitting.

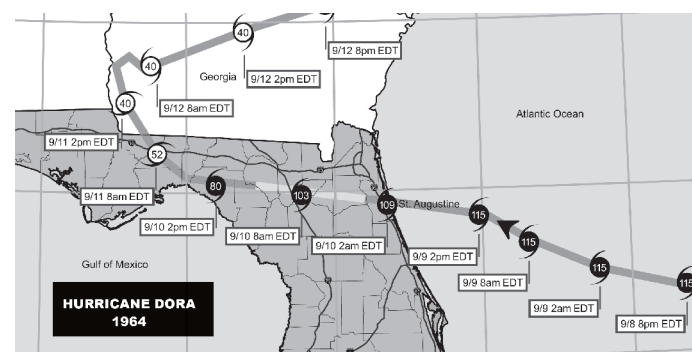
The official state beverage of Florida is, what else, orange juice. Specifically, "the juice obtained from mature oranges of the species *Citrus sinensis* and hybrids thereof". Native to Asia, citrus plants were introduced to the Americas by Spanish colonists.



This 1589 map depicts Sir Francis Drake's 1586 attack on St. Augustine. Anastasia Island is prominently featured. Although the battle scene is fascinating, upon close inspection one can see island houses and farmland; whether these planted areas depict the efforts of native people or Europeans is unknown. From the earliest days of Spanish occupation Anastasia Island was "put to work". Cattle, horses and pigs roamed freely. Plantations were laid out for rice, indigo, cotton, sugar and citrus production. Timber and coquina were ferried across the inlet for city construction projects and boat building.



Tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers, peppers and corn are only some of the native crops introduced to the Europeans by indigenous Americans.



Never say Never - Few of us were living on the island when the last major storm hit the First Coast exactly 49 years ago. Hurricane Dora made landfall the night of September 10, 1964 with the eye passing directly over St. Augustine. The storm surge on Anastasia Island was 12 feet above high tide. Although there was tremendous loss of property and beaches, there were only 5 fatalities, thanks to early warnings and coastal evacuations. The damage to Northeast Florida exceeded 2 billion in today's dollars. Dora was the most destructive hurricane to hit our area since record-keeping began in 1851.