

December 2021



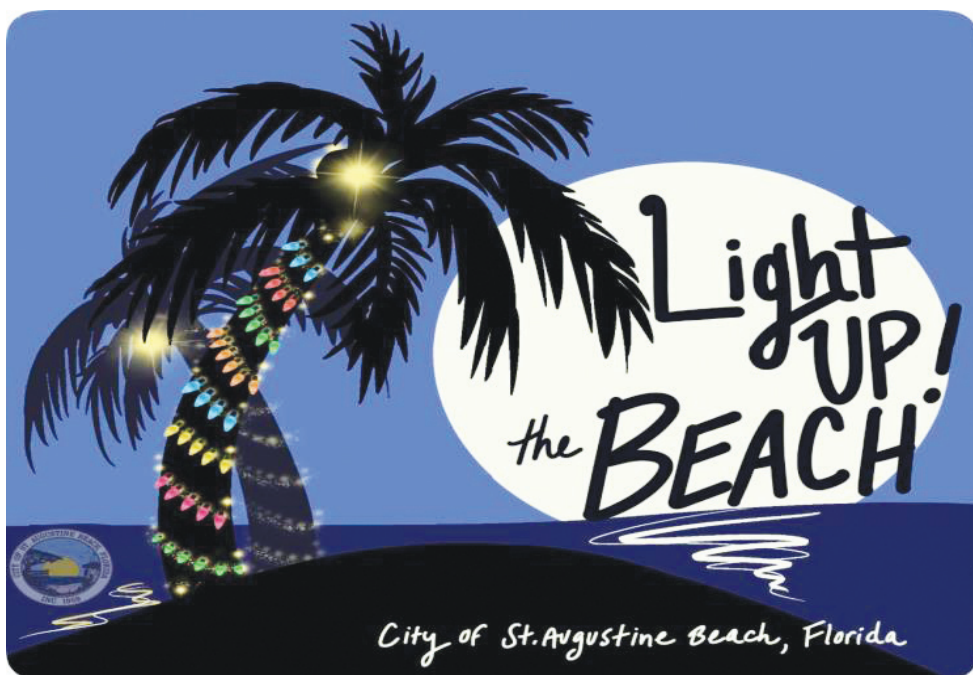
St. Augustine OBSERVER

Over 7,500 US MAIL Home & Business Delivery to Southern St. Johns County Communities Monthly!!

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- Winding Creek
- Summer Breeze
- Crescent Cove
- South Walk
- and others

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

Light Up the BEACH! Holiday Season



The City of St. Augustine Beach is excited to announce the second annual Light Up the BEACH! Holiday Season with fun events for the whole family. All set against a backdrop of colorful lights down A1A Beach Blvd. and Pier Park.

PLEASE NOTE: For New Year's Eve

- We are excited to have the fireworks back this year, but there is NO New Year's Event happening at Pier Park, it is fireworks show ONLY. There will be NO food or beverage vendors! There will be NO streets blocked off! There will be NO bus transportation and extremely limited shuttle transportation. Persons are encouraged to bicycle, walk, carpool, Uber etc.! There will be extremely limited parking!

We encourage visitors to patronize our businesses for their food, beverages, and entertainment. People will be able to spread out all along the Beach and enjoy the fireworks from multiple locations.

Beach Blvd. Art Walk – November 27, 2021 (With the Art Studio) Beach Blvd. from Pope Rd. to A Street 2pm-7pm.

Surf Illumination – December 4, 2021 (With the Civic Association) St. Augustine Beach Pier Park 4pm-7pm.

Holiday Market – December 11, 2021 (With the Salt Air Farmers Market) St. Augustine Beach, Pier Park 3pm-7pm.

Light Up the NIGHT! Fireworks & Beach Blvd. Block Party (formerly BBO) – December 31, 2021, Beach Blvd. from Pope Rd. to A Street, Fireworks at 8:30pm, enjoy the Beach Blvd. businesses all day and evening! www.staugbch.com #cityofsab @cityofsab.

St. Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope, SASIA

Fall SASIA Art & Crafts Fair

An item in the St Augustine Record August 27, 1969 noted that SASIA held a "Let's get Better Acquainted" barbeque at the Clubhouse. At that time, many homeowners were not resident full time, and building community spirit was both important and challenged. In 2021, with a much larger number of homes, getting better acquainted remains important and SASIA continues to organize social events to build community spirit and enhance life in "The South". We have been challenged by the Coronavirus epidemic but following the outdoor Fall Festival in October, we held a plant and seed swap, the first weekend in November. This event had to be postponed from Saturday to Sunday because of windy, wet weather from a nor'easter but our "hard core" gardeners participated even with the still cold weather on Sunday. On the following weekend in November, we held our second Arts and Craft fair with 29 local vendors selling their artwork and crafts from stalls around the Clubhouse carpark and lawn. The fair was a great opportunity for beating the supply chain problems of the online retailers and big stores, supporting our local economy and getting unique holiday presents for family and friends.

named streets in St Augustine. Only three members of the community were opposed to the changes. The County Engineer assigned the house numbers and SASIA informed all residents.



In 1971, the SASIA Board noted that they had successfully petitioned to get house numbers so that mailing and delivery addresses were the same. This had required signatures from homeowners in support of the change from rural route mailing addresses to house numbers, and that included obtaining consent from "out of town" homeowners. Homeowners also gave the necessary approval to get names of 11 streets changed to eliminate duplications with other similarly

The name changes were: St Augustine Dr to St Augustine South Dr; Cordova Rd to Gerona Rd; DeSoto Rd to Alicante Rd; Flamingo to Bobwhite; Hibiscus to Jasmine; King to Segovia; Magnolia to Mimosa; Marlin to Martin; Matanzas to San Jose; San Marcos to Miranda; and Quince to Beechwood. SASIA published a new map of the community showing the new street names, with an index for finding the roads, and indication of the house numbers block by block. All members of the community could obtain a free copy of the map by sending a stamped and addressed long envelope to the Board. Royal Rd and San Jose had been asphalted, center lines painted, and "Stop" and "Yield" signs posted at critical places.

An addition was built at the Clubhouse to provide extra storage, with the new central air conditioning and heating unit placed on the roof (continued on page 5)



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St. Augustine Observer
1965 A1A South #120
St. Augustine, FL 32080-6509

Merry Christmas





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Happy Holidays

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ISLAND CLINIC
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Call: (904) 496-0400
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St. Augustine Observer

Published monthly for residents and visitors of St. Augustine, Florida area
1965 A1A South #120 • St. Augustine, FL 32080-6509
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The purpose of the St. Augustine Observer is to serve residents of St. Augustine area Communities.

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

Information should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following

“Follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @staugustineobserver”

St. Augustine Shores Community Calendar

The Shores Service Corporation
Shores Homeowners Association
(904) 794-2000
www.staugshores.org

Shores Monthly Meetings

- **Shores Service Corporation** monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Virtual Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Riverview Club due to the COVID-19 virus until further notice.
- **Conquistador Condominium** Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6

month's issue. Articles or information may be sent to the St. Augustine Observer, 1965 A1A South #120, St. Augustine Florida 32080-6509. Information may also be e-mailed to clifflogsdon@att.net.

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

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- p.m. at the Riverview Club.
- **Fairview Condominium** Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 4 p.m. at the Fairview Condo club house.
- **Greens Condominium** Board meetings will vary. Contact Jeff Edwards at Sovereign-Jacobs at 904-461-5556.
- **Casa Bella Condominium** 2020 Board Meetings: March 16th- 6pm (Annual Meeting), April 20th- 6pm, May 4th- 6pm, June 15th- 6pm, July 20th- 6pm, August 17th- 6pm, September 21st- 6pm, October 19th- 6pm, November 9th- 6pm, December 21st- 6pm. For Information contact Ellen Lumpkin at 904-461-5556.

St. Augustine South Community Calendar

St. Augustine South Improvement Assoc.
709 Royal Rd. St Augustine, 32086
email: staugsouthimpassoc@gmail.com
www.staugsouth.com
(904) 794-5129

SASIA Meeting 3rd wed at 7:00 PM
Please join us and bring your ideas on how to improve our wonderful neighborhood! Connect with us on our Facebook.com and NextDoor.com pages: St. Augustine South Improvement Association.

Residents interested in joining SASIA please see for application below:
<https://www.joinit.org/o/st-augustine-south-improvement-association>

Monthly Meetings at Clubhouse

Yoga - Join Registered Yoga Teacher Emily Flagler for Gentle Flow Yoga on Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30! Just bring your yoga mat, towel, and water. Try your first class for free!

Tai Chi - Join Instructor Katie Monaghan for a donation based Tai Chi class on Monday's at 6:00PM. For more information please contact Katie at (904) 377-3390 or email at KatieMonahanTaiChi@gmail.com

SASIA Board Members

- President - Alan Chappell
- 1st V.P. - Robert Kennedy
- 2nd V.P. - Josh Silcox
- Secretary - Kate Anreise
- Treasurer - Jerri Sue Dawson
- Board Member - Ruth Hope
- Board Member - Cindy Zimmerman
- Board Member - Nicolette Soucy

Community Classifieds

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

Business, Service, seeking work, etc. may be placed in the classified section: (1-4 lines) \$5, (5-8 lines) \$10, (9-12 lines) \$15, (13-16 lines) \$20. These Ads should be paid in advance before placed. Send your listing and payment, if required, to Observer, 1965 A1A South #120, St. Augustine, 32080-6509. You may email your ad to clifflogsdon@att.net. Deadline for all listings or ads is the 15th of every month for the next monthly issue.

FOR SALE: Pickleball Womens size 8 K Swiss Ultrashot 3, Orchid color. Worn 5 hours. \$106, List is \$129.95. Call 516-319-9688.

FOR SALE: (1) 5 wooden book shelves \$20 each. (2) 5 heavy duty rivet steel metal shelving 48w x 72h x 24deep (\$109 @ Home Depot) \$33 each. (3) 2 work benches w/ electrical hook-ups (see & make offer) Call/txt (904) 377-3270.

FOR SALE: Ethan Allen Furniture: Hutch \$75. Corner Hutch \$75. Dresser \$50. Rocker \$50. Call 904-417-3210.

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

WANTED: I buy old record collections. I am not a re-seller but a serious listener. Your records will go to

a good home. Call John 904-325-9802.

FREE: Home medical supplies. suction oral swabs, regular oral swabs, bed pads, cotton tipped applicators, ambu resuscitators, non-woven drain sponges, conditioning shampoo caps plus much more. All brand new and unused plus more. Call 904-794-1299 to inquire.

NOTICE: Anyone interested in card game "Hand & foot", call Phyllis at 904-347-9879.+

ANTIQUe BOOK COLLECTOR: Liquidating rare & very diverse book collections. Can email list and pictures. Will sell singles, groups and/or the whole lot. Local meet to pick up. Vinyl records 33-45-78. Misc. antique & vintage collectibles. Call Nikki 513-288-7789, nikkikaufman@yahoo.com.

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St. Augustine Shores & South News & Events



Shores Communications Corner
News & Information from the
Shores Service Corp.

Shores Riverview Club Activities December 2021

DECEMBER DANCES: RSVP required: Call 904.794.2000 or www.staugshores.org/dance-rsvp.
Guests: \$15.00/pp. Dance Club Members: Free ****BYOB****



Early Social
Frank Saffi
Friday, Dec 17th
6 pm to 10 pm

Main Social
Frank Saffi
Thursday, Dec 30th
7 pm to 10 pm

FREE for Activity Members, guests are \$5.00/pp/class (unless specified).

- Tai-Chi** Class led by Robin, Tuesday at 5:30 pm. Learn the principles of Tai Chi and help your overall health and well-being!
- Barre Workout** Class led by Mary, Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. Classic Barre is a dance-based fitness class designed to sculpt, stretch, and strengthen. Class size is limited.
- Line Dancing** Class led by Jinny, Monday at 6:30 pm and Wednesday at 10:00 am.
- Chair Yoga** Class led by Nancy, Mon, Wed & Fri at 10:45 am. A gentler form of yoga for those whom balance is an issue.
- Yoga** Class led by Nancy, Mon, Wed & Fri at 9:00 am.
- Exercise Class** Class by Marcia Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 am.
- Evening Yoga** Class led by Annamarie, Wednesday at 5:30 pm.
- Art Group** Wednesday (December 1, 8, 15) at 1:30-4 pm.
- Dance Class** Class led by Shawn, Monday 1:00 pm

Upcoming Events at the Riverview Club

Main Social: Debbie Owen & Tony T
Saturday, January 19th - 7 pm to 10 pm

An Invitation to the Living With Cancer Support Group

Whether you're a patient, survivor or caregiver, this is your opportunity to talk about the day-to-day challenges of living with cancer in a group of people who can inspire, relate to and support you along your journey. We are a group of people with common experiences and concerns who provide each other with encouragement, comfort and advice. We welcome all those who have walked this path and seek support.

Meetings are the Third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am

Our next meeting will be on December 15, 2021 In the Whetstone Building, 100 Whetstone Place, Suite 303. Also meeting via ZOOM! at the same time. Please call 904-819-4742 for zoom invite or for more information.



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- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Sunday School | 9:30 a.m. |
| Morning Service | 10:30 a.m. |
| Evening Services | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday Night Services | 7 p.m. |

1480 Wildwood Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32086
904-824-8888

Getting Down to Business

The October issue of the Observer contained an interesting article about the differences in nature between the St. Augustine South and Shores communities and why it is important for Shores residents to understand how a "deed restricted" community operates. Also, why it matters for us all to help to maintain that structure for the benefit of all who live here.

The St Augustine Shores was conceived as a fully self-contained community with a variety of housing, open areas for recreation, schools, places of worship, and businesses to serve the residents. That dream became a plan and eventually a reality that continues to grow. One aspect of that plan that had been slower to develop is attracting appropriate commercial companies to the area. Most of the lots along the highway 1 frontage have now been developed but several lots on Shores Boulevard remain vacant. These lots are designated as "commercial" in the deed restrictions and can only be used for businesses. Wouldn't the community be enhanced by a hair salon, doctor's office, dog groomer, childcare center, or perhaps another seniors' residence?

During these unusual times when many people are reconsidering their work/life balance there must be some budding entrepreneurs out there who would jump at the opportunity to start their own business. So, come on! Why not start it now? Why not here? Help to turn the Shores into the community it was meant to be and play a part in completing the original dream. It would be a shame if we lost our unique identity and became just another dormitory housing estate.

Last month we said goodbye to Ellie, who has been a joyful fixture in the Shores office for years. We wish her well in her travels. Christine has joined the team and quickly picked up the reins. Please welcome her when you are next in the Riverview Club and have the opportunity.

St. Augustine Shores Service Corp.
790 Christina Drive | St. Augustine, FL 32086
904.794.2000
www.staugshores.org

SASIA News and Calendar of Events

by Ruth Hope, SASIA Board

All SASIA Events take place at the Clubhouse, 709 Royal Rd unless otherwise stated.

SASIA General Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month, at 7pm in the Clubhouse 709, Royal Rd. Most meetings have outside speakers on topics of interest to St Augustine South residents. All neighbors are encouraged to attend.

Children's "petting zoo": postponed from the end of September because the mother of owner of the animals was taken seriously ill back in his country of origin. This is now going to be a trip to the farm to see the animals. We will required signing up in advance and plan to carpool from the SASIA Club House. Watch social media [Facebook and NextDoor] for details.

SASIA Holiday Event: Change of Date Saturday December 11. Santa's arrival and Holiday tree lighting, hot apple cider from 5pm to 6-30pm; Live music, mulled wine and adult social from 7pm. SASIA Clubhouse 79 Royal Rd. This event is free for children who will receive apple cider and a treat bag.

Clubhouse Rentals: The SASIA Clubhouse at 709 Royal Road is available for private hire. Call Theresa on (904) 794-5129 to make your booking.

SASIA needs new members to join the Board for 2022, and volunteers to help with publicity, fundraising and community events. SASIA is a voluntary community association that aims to increase the quality of life for everyone living in "The South". It is not a home owners' association, SASIA doesn't set or enforce rules and regulations, but works to share information about issues and events important to the Community. Everyone in "The South"— owners and renters – is welcome, and those living in nearby neighborhoods are most welcome at our social events.

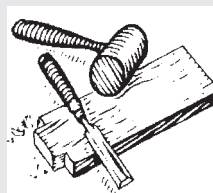
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Shores References Available

St. Augustine South Reflections

by Ruth Hope, SASIA

(continued from page 1)

Fall SASIA Art & Crafts Fair

of the addition. A new water pump was installed in the addition to replace one stolen during a break in. Newspaper reports in the 1970s indicate that theft of water pumps around the neighborhood was an ongoing problem.

Braving the cold: plant & seed swap Nov 7 SASIA records indicate that they expected a new hospital to be built west of US1 between gates 1 [north] and 2 [main] with ground breaking the following spring. The State government was committed to building a new bridge across the Matanzas River about half a mile north of gate 1 which was anticipated with delight as it would offer a much shorter and quicker route to the beach. A shopping center was projected along Route 1 between the new bridge and gate 1.

The SASIA records also note that they were unable to get a State permit for dredging the canal along Shore Drive Waterfront, which had thus not been deepened. Small boats were little troubled but owners of larger boats had to avoid low tide. The SASIA board were involved in "eliminating junk cars" from the neighborhood, and in attempts to prevent damage to the Waterfront resulting from "thoughtless use".

St. Augustine Lions Club Celebrates 75 years!

The St. Augustine Lions Club celebrated it's 75 years providing community support to St. Augustine and St. Johns county November 13th at the Renaissance Hotel at World Golf Village. Dr. Patti Hill, Second Vice President, Lions Clubs International from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada attended as the major speaker.

The St. Augustine Lions Club has been an active community resource over the years providing service and financial assistant to help meet the needs of the local community even though the club generally maintained only about 35 members. Here is a summary of Lions Club historical highlights over the past 75 years:

- Chartered in 1920's and was re-organized and re-chartered November 14, 1946.

- Members have performed thousands of service hours on projects including Litter cleanup, senior citizen breakfasts, vision & diabetes screenings, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, tutoring/mentoring, healthcare fairs, Veterans projects, holiday baskets, recycling eyeglasses and hearing aids and much, much more.

- For decades, the Club has conducted vision screenings for elementary school students.

- The Club has provided financial support to thousands of local adults and children for eye exams and glasses.

- The Club has, and still does, provide millions of dollars in donations to various community organizations to help those in need within St. Augustine and St. Johns County. Example include St. Augustine Youth Services, Alpha Omega House, Investing in Kids Scholarships, SJC Senior Scholarships, Council on Aging, Ability Tree, Betty Griffin House, Learn to Read, St. Francis Shelter, Pie in the Sky, Homeless Coalition, local food banks, Fire Departments for smoke detectors for deaf programs, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, and many many more.

- Fundraising over the years took many forms including selling brooms, lightbulb, sports memorabilia, conducting raffles, Lions mints and many other traditional events. Eventually the events came to one main source of funding, standing in the road with buckets collecting money. The Clubs goals grew and do did the need for larger profits. This led to annual golf tournament, casino nights, and then in 1981 the "Lions Seafood Festival" began. It grew from a simple fish fry to a major multi day event with an Arts Village, live entertainment, rides, and incredible food choices. One year the Festival netted \$226,000 in profits and those profits are returned to serve the St. Augustine and St. Johns County community needs!



Free Park & Ride Shuttle returns during Nights of Lights Season

The City of St. Augustine provides service starting on Light-Up! Night

The City will once again offers a free park and ride shuttle on the peak dates of Nights of Lights. The Park & Ride shuttle service included every Saturday in December, except Christmas Day, including the five days following Christmas, December 26 through December 30. In consideration of the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4, shuttle operations will begin at 8:00am.

The shuttle will operate from 1:00pm-11:00pm and from three parking locations outside of the downtown Historic District:

- St. Johns County Health Department, 200 San Sebastian View
- San Marco Lot (north city), 301 San Marco Ave.
- Broudy's Lot (corner of US 1 and W. King), 198 & 212 W. King St.

Saturdays in December, except on Christmas Day. Shuttle service will be daily from Sunday, December 26 through Thursday, December 30. Shuttle service will not be provided on Friday, December 31. TIMES: 1:00pm - 11:00pm

NOTE: On Saturday, December 4, in consideration of the Christmas Parade, the shuttle will operate from 8:00am until 11:00pm.

DROP-OFF and PICK-UP will be at the visitor Information Center, 10 S. Castillo Dr.

The shuttle is made possible by the City of St. Augustine with the cooperation of the St. Johns County Administration and funding support from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council. The special Anastasia Island shuttle on Light-Up! Night is made possible with the support of Historic Tours of America and Ripley's Red Train Tours.

Details about Light-Up! Night festivities and entertainment are available at www.CityStAug.com/LightUpNight. Media inquiries may be directed to Melissa Wissel, Communications Director, at mwissel@citystaug.com or 904.293.3307.

For more information about the Nights of Lights season, visit www.NightsofLights.com.

Library Lobby Book Sale

Please join the Friends of the Library for a Lobby Book Sale December 6-8 Monday & Tuesday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday 10 am-6 pm at the St. Johns County Public Library Southeast Branch, 6670 US1 South, St. Augustine 32086.

Suggested Donation: • Books \$1 • DVDs \$1 • Paperbacks 2/\$1 • CDs 2/\$1 • audiobooks \$2 • VHS \$.50 • children's books \$.50

Sponsored by Friends of the Southeast Library. All proceeds go to support children, young adult and adult activities as well as SE Branch improvements.



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News From Around St. Johns County

St. Augustine Travel Club

St. Augustine Travel Club Cruise

The St. Augustine Travel Club will again be sailing the seas – well, not right now but planning - on Saturday, March 26 –April 2, 2022 on the beautiful Norwegian Escape out of Port Canaveral to the Eastern Caribbean ports of Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic), Tortola (British Virgin Islands), St. Thomas and Norwegian's private island Great Stirrup Cay in the Bahamas for a 7-day cruise. Prices start from \$1059.39 per person, double occupancy, for inside cabin, inclusive of all port fees and taxes. Balconies, Oceanviews and Studio Singles are also available at additional cost. Book now with a \$250 p.p. deposit and receive \$100 per stateroom On Board Credit, Free Beverage Package and more. Should NCL have to cancel the cruise, full refund would be issued by NCL. Call Peter, St. Augustine Travel Club at (904) 797-3736.

St. Augustine Travel Club Meetings - Postponed until sometime 2022

The Southeast Branch Public Library has been evaluating on a month by month basis as to when the best time to resume activities that utilize the conference rooms. We will not resume the Travel Club this year, 2021. We will reassess the situation and advise what our schedule for 2022 will be. We have just reserved conference rooms at the library for the entire season 2022, with the intent to begin resuming our Travel Club Meetings in January. We will update you in via email, in the December Shores Observer, the Beaches and Palencia Press papers, on the library website, and the library monthly activities handout. We are being cautious for the safety and well-being of our audience. For those of you who do not know about the club, it is formatted as an armchair travel presentation with a brief lecture and a video highlighting areas around the world, with focus mostly on Europe. Also, some of our participants have provided a presentation based on their own travel experiences. We also organize a cruise in the Caribbean region once a year.

If you wish to contact, call Peter Dytrych at (904) 797-3736.

Public Library Announces St. Johns Reads 2022

*New program format with more titles to choose from
and even more fun programming*

The St. Johns County Public Library System is excited to announce a new approach to the 17th annual St. Johns Reads community-wide reading program. Featuring four titles across four different genres, "St. Johns Reads: Secrets" will interest not only fans of fantasy, mystery, or historical fiction, but those who enjoy stories of the complicated relationship we have with ourselves and others. The titles for "St. Johns Reads: Secrets" are:

- "Crossing the Creek: The Literary Friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings," by Anna Lillios
- "Children of Blood and Bone," by Tomi Adeyemi
- "Little Fires Everywhere," by Celeste Ng
- "The Vanishing Half," by Brit Bennett

Titles will be available to enjoy in print, large print, audiobook on disc, digital audiobook, and ebook formats. A variety of virtual and in-person programs inspired by all four titles will be offered throughout the month of January 2022, including food and art programs, author interviews, and much more.

As in the previous two years, the St. Johns County Public Library will also host the "Lace Up for Libraries" 5K event as the big finale to St. Johns Reads 2022. The race will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 29, at the Nocatee Station Field, 400 Nocatee Center Way. Participants will help raise funds for programming and author visits for future St. Johns Reads events. To learn more about this event, including the virtual participation option, visit www.laceupforlibraries5k.itsyourrace.com.

To read any one or all of this year's titles and discover more about "St. Johns Reads: Secrets" events and programs, contact your local branch library or visit www.sjpls.org.

Phone Calls with Santa (FREE)

The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department and The North Pole are holding their annual Santa Calls! Parents with children 8-years-old and younger residing in St. Johns County can sign up to receive a phone call from Santa Claus right from home this Christmas season!

Registration for this program will only be offered online through Civic Rec. Parents, after creating an account, please register each child individually and not a family as a whole. Santa Claus will take a break from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to make his calls on December 7th, 8th, 9th.

Contact Ashley Brown at 904.209.0379 or email: abrown@sjcfl.us.

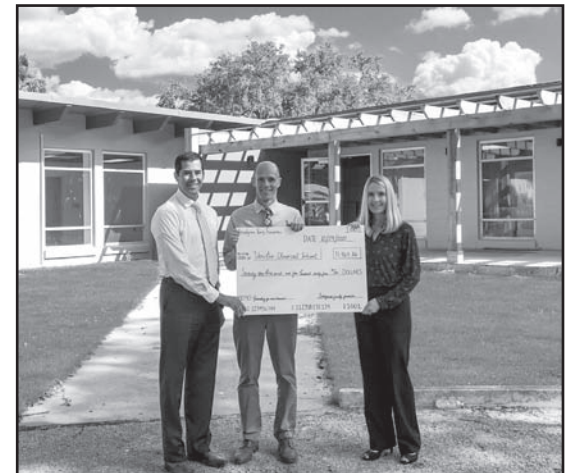


Veritas Classical School Received Grant

Veritas Classical School has announced its acceptance of a \$71,464.86 grant from The Snodgrass Family Foundation. The funds will be used to equip their new school building with "furniture and equipment for the music room, art room, library, cafeteria and science lab" said Andrew Smalley, Head of School for Veritas Classical School.

Positive Customer Impact According to the school's mission statement, Veritas Classical School exists to train students to master a core body of knowledge, reason clearly, and articulate effectively. This new space will allow them to continue to build toward this legacy in the community and instill a lifelong passion for learning in their students: capable of discerning truth, appreciating goodness, and recognizing beauty.

The school's current enrollment for the 2021-22 academic year is 145 students in grades K-10. The school welcomed 40 new students this year. The first graduating class will be in 2024. At the new campus, students will have larger spaces for recess, a designated library space and specialized classrooms for their fine arts classes. There will also be a science lab and a designated indoor dining area that doubles as a chapel space. Once a nursing home, this building has been fully renovated to the required specifications to make it a first class building in which to provide a distinctive classical and Christian education.





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The Wildflower Meadow Group

by Cindy Taylor

The rattlebox and sunflowers have gone to seed, along with goldenrod, horse mint and blazing star but, as they fade, others are coming into their prime. The meadow now the bushy aster, Spanish needle, Muhly and Elliott love grasses (native wild grasses) are flowering. As the saying goes, "To everything there is a season".

A meadow doesn't depend on one or even a few wildflowers to make it what it is. It's home to a wide variety and, during the course of a year, each has its season in the sun . . . If we can keep the invasive grasses at bay.

We had our annual picnic on Veteran's day at Faver Dykes Park and walked one of its many trails. We're a slow moving group but with good purpose. We stop often to study and identify what we see, with help from wildflower "Bibles". We don't cover a lot of ground, geographically, BUT always learn more about what we see and that covers a lot of ground too.

A special thanks to Marlene for some of her photos and to Russell for replacing the fence post that broke.

We meet at the meadow near the Riverview clubhouse at about 8:30 the first Saturday of each month and usually work for a couple of hours. We also try to have a hike once a month. We're an informal group without officers or dues and hope you will join us. You can join us for hikes only, work in the meadow only, or both.

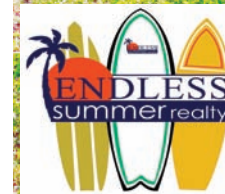
Call Cindy at 904-797-3931 or Marlene at 305-968-0447 for more information. If we can't answer leave a voicemail or message and we'll call you back. And feel free to call if you're interested in sharing your photos of the meadow.



Melissa McCall Owen
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Shores United Methodist Celebrates Christmas

Shores United Methodist is hosting special Christmas events and worship opportunities for the community this year. On Sunday December 19, the Contemporary Worship Band under the direction of Music Director Suzann Maass will present a program of Christmas Music at the 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service. The program is a treasury of favorite Christmas songs and carols.

On December 24, Christmas Eve there are two Candlelight Services to celebrate the birth of our lord, Jesus Christ. A Traditional worship service at 4:00 p.m. with music provided by Choir Director Roger Woods, and a Contemporary, family-oriented service at 6:00 p.m. with music provided by the Contemporary Worship Band.



The community is invited to join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior at these special worship services and seasonal events. The worship services are held in the church sanctuary and masks are optional for people who are fully vaccinated. Shores United Methodist Church is located at 724 Shores Blvd, between the Shores

Golf Course and Hartley Elementary. Rev. Carolyn Westlake is the pastor. For more information, visit the church's website at www.shoresumc.org.

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Verdi's La Traviata

Ring in the New Year with live music and opera during the festive season of Nights of Lights in St. Augustine, Florida. First Coast Opera will present Verdi's La Traviata, on stage at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 31; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 2 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., in downtown St. Augustine. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com

La Traviata tells the story of the tragic love between the courtesan Violetta and the romantic Alfredo Germont. Played out against the hypocrisy of upper-class fashionable society, Alfredo and Violetta's love threatens to shame his family. When his father directly appeals to Violetta to relinquish her one chance of happiness, Violetta submits and her act of self-sacrifice leads to her paying the ultimate price.

First Coast Opera's Artistic Director Curtis Tucker will conduct the orchestra. He joined FCO in 2014 after staging productions with Opera Memphis, Mobile Opera, Fresno Grand Opera, Wichita Grand Opera, the University of North Florida Opera Theater, and the University of Mobile Opera Theater. Helena Binder is Stage Director, having directed the 2017 FCO production of Madama Butterfly.

The cast includes Shannon Kessley Dooley, playing Violetta Valery; Tenor Jose Simerilla Romero, playing Alfredo Germont; Baritone Joshua Jeremiah playing Giorgia Germont; Dan Altman as Barone Douphol; Tyler Putnam as Marquis d'Obigny; Sarah Nordin, playing Flora Bervoix; Michael Palmisano as Gastone; and Anthony Offerle as Doctor Grenvil; along with an ensemble of singers/performers.

This is a fully-staged opera with live orchestra. Tickets are \$60 for the December 31 performance, which includes champagne during the two intermissions of this three-act performance. Tickets are \$50 for the January 2 matinee. All student and children's tickets are \$10. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com or by calling 904-417-5555.

12 Days of Christmas December 26 - January 6

by Lorraine Thompson, Staugbeachwatch@aol.com

With Christmas observances and celebrations looming, Peter Morin, director of liturgy and music at St. Anastasia Catholic Church is looking beyond December 25. While most people know the popular Christmas song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," many mistakenly assume that the twelve days precede the birth of Jesus, and end on December 25. In reality, the 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day).

"It has been a long-time dream of mine to bring attention to the true liturgical Christmas season by celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas," Morin said. "It makes me sad that after December 25 there is an abrupt stop to Christmas music, holiday movies and specials and everything goes back to normal."

Morin has put together a music festival that spans the 12 Days of Christmas. Each night will feature a different concert, dance performance or sacred liturgy. Included are concerts by individual artists and an opera where a boy meets the Three Kings; a concert of spirituals and a program of popular Christmas songs from the movies and Broadway; excerpts from the Nutcracker ballet and a recital from the Dance Company.

"The 12 Days of Christmas offers a complete Christmas experience—everything but the snow," Morin added. All concerts are open to the public and most are free except for events on December 31 and January 2. Most events will take place in the church, which is located at 5205 A1A South on Anastasia Island, or in St. Enda of Aran Celebration Hall which is located adjacent to the church. Parking is free. For information call 904-471-5364 or visit www.12daysofchristmas.info.

- **December 26, Peter and Helen Morin**, piano and violin, 5 p.m. in the church.
- **December 27, Tim Tuller**, organist share Christmas organ masterworks, 2 p.m. in the church.
- **December 28, Christmas from Hollywood to Broadway** will include music and dance featuring selections from The Polar Express, A Charlie Brown Christmas, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, Elf, and more. 7 p.m. in St. Jude Celebration Hall.
- **December 29, Christmas Vespers** with candlelight presentations of music, readings and carols. 7 p.m. in the church.
- **December 30, Christmas Spirituals** nationally recognized artists Lisa Lockhart, Edward Washington and Gregory Sheppard perform 7 p.m. in the church.
- **December 31, New Year's Eve Sock Hop** featuring dance music of the 50s and 60s and today's family-friendly pop hits. Snacks, cakes, door prizes, non-alcoholic drink cash bar. Tickets \$10 at the door. Free admission for children who must be accompanied by an adult. 8 to 10 p.m. in St. Jude Celebration Hall.



(continue on page 11)



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ONLY YOU KNOW & I KNOW December Listing/Marketing Stealthy Tactics

December is historically the slowest selling month of the year in real estate especially between Thanksgiving and the New Year. If you are thinking of SELLING any time in the very near future here are some HOLIDAY MARKETING STRATEGIES:

- Start taking care of deferred projects/repairs that need to be taken care of (if you are wondering if some of these are necessary please call me).
- Look into your replacement home by having an agent set you up to automatically receive matching properties directly out of Multiple Listing Systems (MLS). Call me...
- You can get your property evaluated professionally in writing with someone who will prepare a written Competitive Market Analysis

(CMA). I can help with this as well.

- Get your professional photos done now while things are still green (not brown and barren like in January through March - I can help with that). Just did one.

- Have your listing completely built in MLS (as a temporary) and that way you can have your Broker make it live in seconds - at your convenience. You can even review it by email before it goes live.

If you are thinking of SELLING and you want to get on the market right after the Holidays are over, you should seriously use my stealthy tactics. Get a Realtor who is proactive - someone who plans in advance to maximize marketing strategies. Call Dirk at Work: 904-540-2360!



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"Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad"

by Dirk Schroeder

This will be the Thanksgiving Issue of The Observer so I will dedicate this Diary to all the "Reasons to be Cheerful" (as Ian Dury might say). Hopefully, you have had the ability to express your gratitude at the Thanksgiving table. Don't take it for granted; do it now when the opportunity presents itself.

I am eternally grateful for my parents for bringing me into this world in 1959. What a time to be alive. I thank them for giving me a great balance of discipline and freedom (something kids rarely get either of today) and for showing me a huge part of the world. I visit them at San Lorenzo on US 1 to thank them and God for all my good fortune.

I am so grateful to Joe Horvath for fixing me up with his beautiful daughter in the Summer of 1987 - his coaxing changed my life trajectory. I fell in love with Joe and Kathy's daughter and God graced our lives with three incredible boys. I visit Joe (he's near my little brother, Sven) at Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie to thank him for asking me twice to take Kathy out. I'm so grateful for Kathy's mom for bringing her into this world and for both of them for creating such a beautiful person.

All of you out there who've been married for decades know how excessively fortunate we are to have found our perfect life partner; the ones with whom our eternal spiritual souls will travel forever through time. There must be a God because the circumstances created to set us together on our paths are as unlikely as life itself. It is like that one

in a million swimmer that found his way to the egg. Miracles can happen, they can bless your life and Kathy is my blessing from God.

I am grateful that our boys grew up into honest, respectful and hard-working men. They give me a feeling of pride and joy. I'm grateful for the loving, intelligent and beautiful women with whom they share their lives. Thank you Cyrina for sharing all of those fantastic children with our family and for loving Kyle (a free spirit - like a Mustang sometimes). I am grateful that Erik and Nidhi have found each other and for her sweet and loving Seattle family. We miss them so much and think about them every day. Matthew - your time will come. You are such a good soul and God rewards all good souls abundantly. May he reward you with the love of a lifetime.

I am so grateful for those two incredible grand-girls that will carry on the legacy of our family. They give me hope and inspiration that the future of the world will always be better. I pray for the future delivery of more family members yet to come.

I may not get the chance to say it at Thanksgiving because there is usually an abundance of activity this way and that way by so many family members so I figured that they could read about it any day, not just Thanksgiving Day. This Observer will likely come to your mailbox after Thursday, Nov. 25th so I wish you all a heart-warming Holiday season in advance and, as always, a Sunshine State of Mind.

Financial Focus

Information Provided by

Edward Jones

Protect your financial information online



If you're an investor, you probably enjoy the convenience of managing your accounts online. But you'll also want to make sure that you're not making it convenient for hackers, "phishers" and others with bad intentions to gain the same access.

Fortunately, there's a lot you can do to protect your privacy. Here are a few suggestions offered by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission:

- Use a strong password or passphrase. You'll want to pick a password that would be virtually impossible for anyone to guess, employing capital and lowercase letters, plus symbols and numbers. Of course, you'll want to record the password in a secure place so you won't forget it. Instead of using a password, you may have the option of choosing a passphrase, which contains a series of words strung together. You'll want to avoid phrases taken from popular culture or that are otherwise commonly used. And it's also a good idea not to use phrases containing your name, birthday or other personal identifiers.
- Use two-step authentication. If your

investment company offers two-step, or multifactor, authentication, you'll want to take advantage of it, since it's a good security tool. When using two-step authentication, you'll need to add an additional factor – such as your best friend from grade school or the model of the first car you owned, and so on – to your username and password. And when you log in to your account from an unrecognized computer, your investment firm may send you a code via text message or email, which you'll need to enter to open your accounts.

- Activate your account alerts. When you turn on your account alerts, you'll receive text messages or emails notifying you of certain activities, such as account logins, failed account login attempts, personal information changes, money transfers, adding or deleting of external financial accounts, and more. These alerts can help you monitor your accounts for fraud and verify your own moves, as well.

- Avoid using public computers to access investment accounts. If you're at a hotel or library, try to avoid (continued page 13)

12 Days of Christmas December 26 - January 6

(continued from page 9)

- **January 1, Baroque Christmas Concert** featuring soprano Carolyn "Cal" Brown, bass Joe Colsant, Jacksonville Symphony trumpet player Michael Harper, Helen Morin's string quartet and Maestro Morin on the harpsichord perform music by Bach, Vivaldi, Pachelbel and Handel. 7 p.m. in the church.

- **January 2, "Amahl the Night Visitors"** fully staged performance with ensemble accompaniment, soloists Lisa Lockhart, Dirk McCoy, Gregory Sheppard and Edward Washington joined by Gus Crouch of Ponte Vedra in the role of Amahl. 5 p.m., in St. Jude Celebration Hall. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or at the parish office.

- **January 3, Pietro Lannotti**, classical pianist performs works by Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Liszt. 7 p.m. in the church.

- **January 4, The Dance Company** performs excerpts from the Winter Spectacular Show. 7 p.m. in St. Jude Celebration Hall.

- **January 5, St. Augustine Ballet** perform highlights from "The Nutcracker". 7 p.m. in St. Jude Celebration Hall.

- **January 6, Epiphany Lessons and Carols.** The Twelfth Day of Christmas series will conclude with a concert of sacred readings, Christmas and Epiphany carols and anthems lead by the choirs of St. Anastasia Catholic Church. 7 p.m. in the church.



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The 2021 U.S. Full-service Investor Satisfaction Study is based on responses from 4,392 investors who make some or all investment decisions with a financial advisor. The study was fielded from December 2020 through February 2021. For more information, visit jdpower.com/awards.

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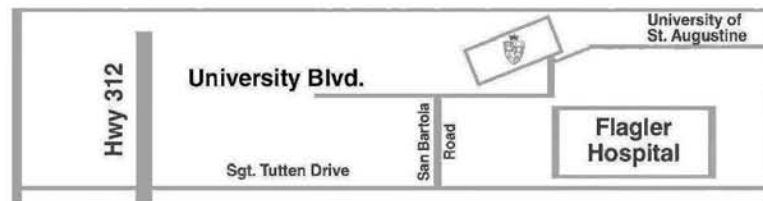
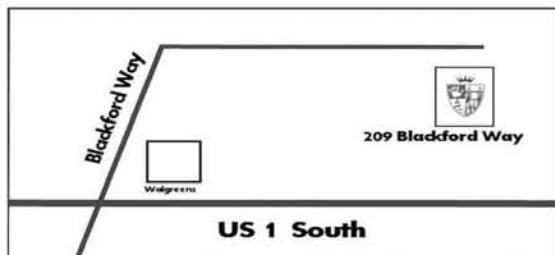


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By Rob Stanborough
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Once again we are faced with the end of one year and the beginning of another. During these transitions, we usually pause, re-evaluate, and make plans for the times ahead. I imagine this will be particularly true as we transition beyond covid.

I often joke about many of the infomercial exercises when lecturing because so many produce unnecessary injuries. There are infomercials at nauseam for every type of exercise program you can imagine: boxing, dancing, salsa, with equipment and without. I joke because the danger of injury increases during the transition periods such as New Year's, beginning of summer and significant birthdays as people look to make changes in their lives. It's because it's the start of something completely new and unfamiliar and many times without giving the body a chance to accommodate. It often results in soreness, if not injury, and abandonment of the program itself. The end results is no life-style change at all and maybe disappointment. It doesn't have to be that difficult, that traumatic or that extreme. It can work.

A recent article in the British Journal of Sports Medicine showed a low-dose of moderate to vigorous physical activity may reduce mortality by 22% in adults over 60 years (Hupin D, et al. BJSM 2015;49:1262-67).

It is known that regular physical activity increases life expectancy and reduces all cause-mortality. The Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee Report recommends a minimum of 150 min of moderate to vigorous activity. Exercise or Physical Activity can be measured using METs, or the Metabolic Equivalent of Task. Moderate exercise is the equivalent of a brisk walk, as if one was in somewhat of a hurry but chose not to run. Vigorous exercise would be the run, not a sprint, but a run. With the brisk walk on the low end and the run on the high end of what is required, this seems very doable for many, including those over 60 years of age.

Do the math. Sixty times 22% equals 13.2. That means one could reduce the mortality rate by 13.2 years. But that's not all. More importantly, when the rest of what is known about regular exercise is

also considered, it could mean 13.2 years of improved mobility, strength, function and energy levels.

It seems our busy lives leave less and less time for exercise. But according to this study, 150 min per week, or 30 min a day for 5 day is sufficient to reduce mortality by 22% in adults over 60. The results would certainly be the same for all ages. What the article does not say is whether the exercise time needs to be in 5 – 30 minute blocks, 7- 21 minute blocks or 15 – 10 minute blocks. Imagine if every time you visited the store you parked in the space furthest way instead of waiting for the closest and walked "briskly" to the door? What would happen if you "ran" to the mailbox instead of walking? Or strolled during the first part of your dog walk, allowing your dog to take care of business and then walked briskly on the return? You both would benefit. It's physical activity at the moderate level. Run, and it becomes vigorous.

Spend 1-2 weeks looking for opportunities where your activity level could increase with simple daily tasks and start there. Then, challenge yourself to try a few – parking lot, mail, dog-walk, shopping, etc, and see what happens. Don't do them all at first, just a few. Turn it into a contest with your spouse, friends, children or grandchildren. Keep it simple and fun. Before you know it, you could be adding years to your life.

Rob Stanborough is a physical therapists, president and co-owner of First Coast Rehabilitation. He is co-author of Myofascial Manipulation: Theory & Application, 3rd ed by Proed Inc. He has been in practice for over 13 years, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual

Therapists and trained/certified in a number of soft tissue techniques. Read previous columns posted on www.firstcoastrehab.com.



Protect your financial information online

(continued from page 11)

the temptation to use the computer to check in on your investments. But if you do use a public computer, at least take proper precautions. For starters, don't leave data on a screen and walk away, even for a moment. And when you're finished with the computer, log out of your account to end the online session. You may also want to change any password you used.

- Ignore suspicious links. Be suspicious of emails or text messages containing links claiming to be connected to your investment accounts. These links could take you to websites designed to solicit sensitive account information, which could then be used for financial or identity theft. Even if the link seems to be coming from a business you know, you'll want to be quite cautious – experienced "phishers" can now create websites or online documents that look real. And keep in mind that legitimate investment firms will not ask you to divulge personal information without going through the password or two-step authentication protocols already described.

The ability to connect with your investment accounts online can be extremely useful to you – and you'll feel more comfortable about these interactions if you know you've done all you can to safeguard your information.

St. Johns County "Food for Library Fines" Program

St. Johns County is excited to announce that the popular Food for Fines program has returned this year to St. Johns County libraries and bookmobiles! An opportunity to eliminate most library fines, Food for Fines will run through Monday, December 20. The food items collected will be used to stock the St. Johns County Health and Human Services (HHS) Food Pantry, providing food for St. Johns County families in need.

A donation of one non-perishable, unexpired food item will remove \$1 of fines from a patron's library record. This fine-reduction program applies only to overdue fines and patrons may bring in as many items as needed to reduce overdue fines. Fees related to damaged or lost items are not included in the Food for Fines program.

Don't have any fines? That's okay! The Library welcomes donations made in the spirit of the holiday season. Food donations, and pet supplies and food may be dropped off at any of the St. Johns County library branches or bookmobiles.

Last year, St. Johns County residents provided more than 3,500 non-perishable items through the "Food for Fines" program. The Food for Fines program is a great win-win for the citizens of St. Johns County!

For more information about this program and other services of the St. Johns County Public Library System, please visit www.sjcpls.org. Connect, Learn, Enjoy @ Your Library. For more information on the St. Johns County Public Library System.

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by Paul Slsva

December will be filled with Events and More Holiday Art and Gifts. The Studio will be packed with Holiday Themed Art and also extra items that will be perfect for that unique, one of a kind gift you can only find here, so Give the Gift of Art!

December's First Friday on December 3rd from 5pm to 8pm will coincide with our Holiday Party. Come celebrate with us while you shop and have some snacks, beverages and meet your local artists. This is Free of charge. Saturday, December 4th we will be open for the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's "Surf Illumination" starting at 4pm. Many of our artists are participating and the Studio will be open late.

We will also have a Free Children's Ornament Craft Class on Saturday, December 11th from 10am to 12 pm. All supplies will be included and your child will go home with ornaments that they made. Let's close out the Month and Year on December 31st with the City's "Light Up the Night" celebrating New Year's Eve and culminating with a spectacular



fireworks display. We will be open late, so stop by for a Hot Cider.

The Art Studio is located at 370 A1A Beach Blvd. in the St. John's County Pier Park and is open 7 days a week from 12pm to 5pm. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization that brings Art and Cultural to the community and offers classes, special events, exhibitions and rental space. For more information visit us at www.beachartstudio.org, Facebook or call 904-295-4428.

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Computer Corner

by Steven Aldrich
904-479-5661



Windows 11, Upgrade or Not?

Windows 11 was released to the public last month, and many are asking if their computer is compatible. We'll get to why you might like Windows 11, but first let's answer the big looming question; Should I upgrade?

Upgrading to Windows 11 has two major hurdles. The first is allowing enough time for Microsoft to iron out all of the little issues. The second is the age of your computer. Upgrading older hardware is fairly chancy this early in the release cycle. I would avoid upgrading if you do not have a spare computer to use until mid Q1 2022.

If you are buying a new computer, and it comes with Win11, that's all good since the manufacturer would have tested extensively on that specific hardware. I have assisted client set up new Windows 11 computers, and this went very well.

What changed in Win11?

- It has a much more "Mac-like" appearance, and a centered Start Menu. Being a Mac user myself, I see this as a very nice improvement.

- They added the ability to use Android apps, so if you really like an app on your android phone, you may be able to run it on your Win11 computer.

- If you use a laptop and an external monitor, they added easy transition from using the laptop plus the monitor, to

using only the laptop. They call it "Snap Groups"

- Better touch-screen support
- Lots of Microsoft Teams integrations, which might be important in today's distance worker environment.

The one major change is that you are not allowed to set up Win11 without a Microsoft online account. You'll either need to have one or create one in order to get past the first step in the setup process.

Windows 11 moves us closer to the concept of a "Connected Device as a Computer". This concept has us leasing our operating system and storing all of our files online, and not really caring about the specific device we are using right now.

All in all, the visible changes in Win11 are not very challenging to the person trying to use it. There are lots of changes "under the hood" that most users will never notice or care about.

Steven Aldrich is a technology advisor with decades of experience as an IT Director and is the owner of First Coast Computer Services. Contact Steven if you need a trusted advisor to come to your business or home and help with your technology. See my ad on this page. Steve@fccspro.com or (904) 479-5661.

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I was very pleased with attention to details that Steve gave to setting up my computer and dual monitors while taking time to make sure that I understood and was happy with the final outcome!!

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