



St. Augustine Beaches

News Journal

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

2014 Taste of the Beach



Betty Griffin House
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County, Inc.



Once again the Taste of the Beach was a big success! St. Augustine Civic Association volunteer group made the annual event supporting the Betty Griffin House fun and enjoyable. The 1st Place winners were Amici's for "Appetizer", Ripe Bistro for "Entree", Caribbean Sol for "Dessert", Sunset Grill for "Judges' Choice", and Purple Olive for "People's" Choice. See page 4 for full list of winners.

St. Johns Chamber South Beach Counsel "Whitney Labs Catherine Eastman speaks about Sea Turtle Research and Rehab"



Pictured left to right: *Elizabelle Rodriques* St. Johns County Chamber President, *Jessica Long*, *Cat Eastman*, *Memory Hopkins* SBC Prident, *St. Augustine Beach Police Chief Robert Hardwick* (Photo by Carol Saviak)

On May 15th the South Beaches Counsel met at it regular monthly meeting. Program guests were Jessica Long the Director of Development and External Relations and speaker Catherine Eastman the Sea Turtle Program Coordinator.

Catherine (Cat) Eastman joined the South Beaches Council to share with the Chamber members plans to open a Sea Turtle Hospital at the (continued page 4)

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City Hall Update

At its May 5, 2014 regular meeting, the St. Augustine Beach City Commission took the following actions:

1. Approved Vice Mayor O'Brien working with the County to put signs on the beach which would identify streets and thus help persons locate where they are in the event of an emergency.

2. Appointed Mr. Zachary Taylor as a junior alternate to the Planning Board.

3. Heard a presentation by Ms. Ali Fulcher of the history and activities of the Anastasia Mosquito Control District.

4. Heard a presentation by Ms. Cheryl Freeman, Director, St. Johns County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program concerning the program's activities, and approved a proclamation to designate May 19-23, 2014 as Senior Corps Week.

5. Heard a presentation by Ms. Wanda

Forrest, Northeast Florida Transportation Planning Organization of the organization's five-year capital improvements plan in St. Johns County.

6. Approved two proclamations: to declare May 2014 as Civility Month, and May 2014 as Older Americans Month.

7. Approved two budget resolutions to amend the Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

8. Approved on first reading the ordinance which will authorize the putting of proposed changes to the city charter on the primary election

ballot and the general election ballot. The ordinance will have a public hearing and final reading at the commission's June 9th meeting.

9. Approved the repair of a solid waste truck by a local company and approved a budget resolution to appropriate \$8,325 for the repair. (continued on page 4)



What's Inside The News Journal This Month

- *Message from the Mayor*
- *City Manager: Evaluation*
- *Beautification Committee: Midsummer Solstice*
- *Financial Focus: Watch for Different Levels of "Muni" Bonds*
- *Spiritually Speaking: "Fathers - the New Target"*
- *Health Focus: Stenosis*
- *Chief's Dish: Farfalle alla Francesca*
- *Civic Association News Update*
- *Free Art Class Week at The Art Studio*
- *How to Shop Smart for Home Insurance*

St. Augustine Beaches News Journal

St. Augustine Beaches News Journal

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City of St. Augustine Beach
 Mayor Andrea Samuels
 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 #180, St. Augustine Beach, Florida 32080-6509. Information may also be

e-mailed to beachesnewsjournal@yahoo.com or the editor at clogsdon1@yahoo.com.

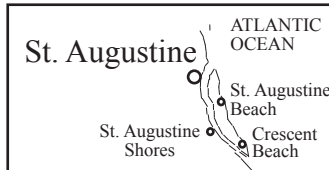
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All ads submitted for publication in the Beaches News Journal should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue.

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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News From Around St. Johns County

Golf Benefit For “Kids Bridge” at Palencia

Hampton Golf helped organize a fundraising golf tournament at Palencia that raised about \$4,000 for the local Kids Bridge Family Visitation Center in St. Augustine. This 10th annual event had 74 golfers.

Kids Bridge is a supervised visitation center, with a homelike setting, offering on-site supervised visits, on-site unsupervised visits, and parent exchange services. In 1997, the 7th Judicial Circuit Judges, dealing with the consequences of the lack of a visitation center in the area, asked the Junior Service League of St. Augustine to establish one in St. Johns County rather than refer families to Jacksonville or Daytona Beach. In 2002 the doors were opened for Kids Bridge in St. Augustine.

It's goal is to provide an atmosphere of safety, stability and permanency for at-risk children. In this supportive setting, children in crisis can begin to heal their hearts, nurture their strengths, and reach their full potential as healthy members of our community. It is to provide a community-based setting where children and families can meet, spend time, share common experiences, and work together to strengthen their sense of self and family unity. Advocating on behalf of children, we work to engage community resources in support of children at risk of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Kids Bridge is a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit organization and a United Way Agency. For more information contact 904-824-8810 or websites: www.kidsbridgegolf.com and www.kidsbridgestaug.org.



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ONE FLOOR COTTAGE. 961 Deer Hammock Cir. 3BR/3BA in prestigious Sea Colony. Custom upgrades--wood floor in main living & wood ceiling in family room, custom trim, 10' ceilings, large kitchen w/ breakfast area, granite, stainless appliances & 2 pantries. Office off family room and large screened porch. **\$639,000**



CUSTOM BEACH HOUSE. 757 Ocean Palm Way. This beautiful 4BA/5BA home is located in the exclusive ocean community of Sea Colony with 4 private beach walkovers, community pool, clubhouse & 24 hour manned guard gate. Open floor plan with pool, professional landscaping, Chef's kitchen and much more! This is a must see! **\$1,395,000**



CUSTOM HOME AND BEAUTIFUL ICW LOT. 120 Grand Oaks Dr. Spacious Great Room design by Arthur Rutenberg Homes. Home to be constructed when contract is accepted. 3BR/2.5BA, 2,619 sf home w/ open, gourmet kitchen & walk-in pantry & granite. Elegant foyer, private den, formal dining room, 12' ceilings in main living area, 10' 4-panel sliding glass door opening onto a covered paver lanai. Gorgeous ICW lot with grand oaks, private boat slip and shared dock (w/1 homeowner). **\$968,900**



KEY WEST STYLE HOME. 926 Deer Hammock Cir. Adorable 3BR/3BA open floor plan home that backs up to preserves in gated community of Sea Colony. All bedrooms with baths. Enjoy the 18'x18' great room w/vaulted wood ceiling & high windows--lets the light in no matter what time of the day. Chef's kitchen w/granite and stainless, custom doors and woodwork throughout the home. **\$679,000**



ADORABLE MOBILE HOME. 4225 A1A S, #106A. 1BR/1BA w/ new carpet, refrigerator & range. New roof in 2009. 94 years left on lease. Gated cmtty has large pool & lots of outdoor spaces. Low HOA includes water, cable, internet, security, management, clubhouse, pool & dock. **\$74,900**



BUILD IN GRAND OAKS ESTATES. 109 Grand Oaks Dr. Beautiful lot (90 x 120') in a community on the ICW. Boat slips are optional, a public park is close by and the beach is a short bike ride away. Feels like old Florida w/abundant grand oaks, the waterway and the beach. Paved road, city water/sewer/cable, community dock to enjoy fishing and all your perfect sunsets. **\$139,000**



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! **\$699,000**



GREAT LOCATION ON THE ISLAND. 176 Bay Bridge Dr. Immaculate 3BR/2.5BA home is close to shopping, restaurants and all beach amenities. Open floor plan on main living area. Upstairs den w/bedrooms. Privacy wall and extra parking. **\$249,000.**



BEAUTIFUL DEEP WATER LOT ON THE INTRACOASTAL. 120 Grand Oaks Dr. Amazing water views with a shared dock and private boat slip. Located in a small exclusive enclave of custom homes. Just a few minutes' walk to the beach, shopping, restaurants, and endless water activities. Bring your plans and build your perfect dream home. **\$535,000**



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. **\$369,900**



NEW HOME. 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 storage space under the house—great for boat or beach toys. Oversized porch w/fireplace and patio. Side entry garage with extra storage to help keep your dream home organized. **\$699,000**



BEAUTIFUL BEACH HOME. 19 Seascape Circle. 5BR/3.5BA home is a must see! Many upgrades in this 3-story Crescent Beach home—2 balconies, 3 fireplaces, granite counter tops, wood floors & custom elevator. This home offers an ocean view from most all rooms in main living area & roof top. Sold as is but in terrific condition. **\$849,000**



CUSTOM HOME IN SEA COLONY. 240 N. Forest Dune Dr. 3BR/4BA home w/everything you desire—plantation shutters, 2 gas fpls, upscale moulding & wood floors. Lg MBR w/ gorgeous bath & large walk-in closets. 3 porches with preserve views. Owner is licensed realtor. **\$859,000**



GREAT LOCATION TO BUILD! 225 Dondanville Rd. 71'x110 beautifully treed lot located between the Intracoastal Waterway and the ocean. Have the best of both worlds and build your true dream home. All beach amenities within walking/biking distance. Bring your builder and start your dreams right here in St. Augustine. **\$111,000**



THE WOWHOUSE!!! 312S 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**

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News From Around The Beaches

City Hall Update from page 1

10. Reviewed the five-year financial plan prepared by the Finance Director, Ms. Melissa Burns.

11. Authorized the use of forfeiture funds to pay a project manager to help the police department with its accreditation efforts.

12. Approved Commissioner

Helhoski's request that he be allowed to use the commission meeting room for a commercial film.

PLEASE NOTE: The city commission's next regular meeting will be held on the SECOND Monday in June, which will be June 9th, at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Chamber South Beach Counsel

(continued from page 1)

UF Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. The group viewed a video of the Whitney's research which encompasses using marine life to understand more about human health and the environment, and their K-12 STEM outreach program. The Whitney, which is a University of Florida research institute celebrating 40 years is located on the Southernmost part of St. Johns County across from Marineland.

Catherine gave an overview of starting up a Sea Turtle Hospital to care for sick and injured sea turtles. In the presentation, the types of Sea Turtles most often found in and around our shores (Loggerhead, Green and Leatherhead) were covered, and how conservationists and scientists are concerned about a disease that we are seeing more in NE Florida. Sea Turtles can die from this disease, and stranded turtles are now taken 200+ miles away for treatment and rehabilitation. This disease called Fibropapillomatosis (FP) can be treated and the Sea Turtle can be returned to the wild. The UF Whitney Lab would like to study this disease further to understand what is happening with Sea Turtles and ocean health in our area.

A dedicated conservationist has helped the Whitney start this project with an initial private donation. The Sea Turtle Hospital is seeking further help from the community to get the project started and is looking for donations to help open the Sea Turtle Hospital's doors. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Cat Eastman 904 461-4013 or Jessica Long 904 461-4018. The Whitney Laboratory Website is www.whitney.ufl.edu.

The SJCSCB meets monthly at the Elks Club on the Island. Please contact the St. Johns County Chamber for more information.

Friends of St. Augustine Amphitheatre Arts Festival

Where can children take part in a drum circle, make a puppet, create a collage, paint and bead, try out instruments and make your own, learn new dance steps, write a poem, experience the art of story telling and lots, lots more? On June 21st from 2:00 - 8:00 PM, FOSAA will sponsor "A Gathering of Friends, Children's Arts Festival" at the Amphitheatre. This free event features over forty interactive arts experiences for children and families led by well-known professionals in the arts community. There will also be free professional face painting, arts and crafts projects, unique games, and refreshments. As a special treat, a mid afternoon barn dance led by Tommy Bledsoe and a participation session introducing the internationally acclaimed Bokwa dance/exercise program, will take place on the pit floor.

A select group of vendors will be on hand featuring products and information of interest to families. Event sponsors include Bozard Ford, State Farm Insurance, Dion Marketing Company, and Dagher Printing. The event is funded in part by a grant from the Tourist Development Council. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Contact fosaaartsfestival@gmail.com for further information.

St. Augustine Travel Club

Please join us for our FREE St. Augustine Travel Club get together on Wednesday, June 11, at 3pm at the Southeast Branch Public Library on U. S. 1 when we will present on Burgundy and the Loire Valley - "The Land of Wine and Famous Royal Chateaux." Your host is Peter Dytrych. I have been in the travel industry for 40 years and retired with a love of travel, and volunteer at the library to share my extensive background in the field. The Travel Club is intended to be educational and fun. We hope you will be able to come. The club is open to all St. Augustine residents and friends. For any questions, please call Peter at 904 797-3736.



2014 Taste of the Beach Winners


Appetizer: 1st place- Amici's, Burata & Heirloom Tomato Salad
2nd place- Sunset Grille, Tuna Tacos
3rd place- Purple Olive, Trio Tarts

Entree: 1st place- Ripe Bistro, Turkey Harvest Crepe
2nd place- Purple Olive, Blackened Scallops
3rd place- Napoli's, Seafood Ravioli

Dessert: 1st place- Caribbean Sol, Coconut Cake
2nd place- Purple Olive, Chocolate Pecan Gateau
3rd place- Ripe Bistro, Caribbean Aged Rum Cake

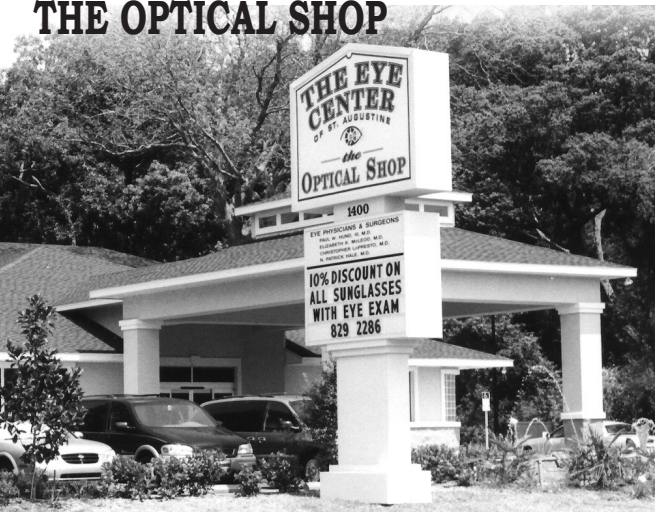
Judges' Choice: 1st place- Sunset Grille, Lobster Ravioli
2nd place- Purple Olive, Chocolate Pecan Gateau
3rd place- Napoli's, Minorcan Clam Chowder


People's Choice: 1st place- Purple Olive
2nd place- Caribbean Sol
3rd place- Panama Hattie's




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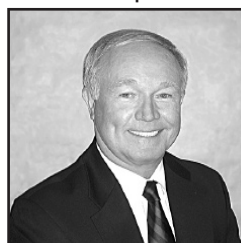
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Message from the Mayor

**Andrea Samuels, Mayor
City of St. Augustine Beach, FL
comasamuels@cityofsab.org**

The City commission met in May and reviewed the proposed charter amendments. The amendments passed the first reading with noted changes that will be completed for the June meeting. Changes in language and for emergency meetings to be declared within 24 hours were acknowledged. The city attorney Doug Burnett will be presenting those changes for the June meeting.

Vice Mayor O'Brien brought forward a very timely issue in regard to beach safety. Perhaps you knew that through an Eagle Scout project we now have location markers at the beach accesses. Please make note of where you are in case of an emergency. These markers help the beach emergency services locate your position on the beach. The Vice Mayor will be presenting in June new designs that will make for easier reading for all beach goers.

Commissioner Gary Snodgrass led the commission through a successful evaluation process of the Chief of Police and the City Manager. With Commissioner Snodgrass' guidance the policy was initiated and completed quite successfully. Both the Chief and City Manager were evaluated and both were shown to be more than competent if not superior in their abilities to serve our community.

There was a joint meeting of the county and city in regard to the parking and traffic issues that have increased on Beach Boulevard.

You may have noticed an increase in cars and parking issues from Pope Road down to the pier park to 11th street. One possible solution suggested by our Chief of Police, Rob Hardwick was to reroute traffic through the pier area. This possible change in the driving pattern, one way in and one way out, was discussed and we are looking for the county to approve the change in the driving pattern. Also more parking spaces to be outlined along the curbs was discussed. We looked at moving the crosswalk to the center of the pier park area to make this crosswalk safer for pedestrians. Please watch for these possible changes if you decide to park your car at the pier. A Street issues, such as cars waiting to get on the beach with back ups onto Beach Boulevard were also discussed. I personally want to thank the county for listening and working with our city to help ease this problem.

Summer is here and there will be numerous events at our pier area. For the local residents, if you decide to attend the events that are happening at the pier I encourage you to either walk or ride your bikes. The Velo Fest organization will be providing convenient bike racks to lock up your bikes. Aside from the obvious health benefits it will help with the traffic.

I encourage all the residents to take advantage of our beautiful beach and have a safe summer.

St. Augustine Beach Civic Association

by **Bill Jones, President**
www.thecivicasociation.com



Civic Association News

The concerns about parking in and around Pier Park is the hottest topic in town. Running a close second are the rumors about the future of Pier Park and the impact of the new hotel coming to the north. In order to find out where members of the community stand on these topics the Civic Association will be seeking input from you. The survey will be available online and some hard copies will be available at the Wednesday Market and Music by the Sea Concerts. The information gathered will be presented to both City and County Commissions as well as the Parks & Recreation Department in hope of assuring that the needs and wants of the community are met.

Parking Music by the Sea and all other activities at the Pier Park have been affected by the opening of the new Salt Life Restaurant. The restaurant offers free valet parking but many patrons are using the Pier parking lot. Many in the community expressed concern about this before the Salt Life permit was granted. We are glad to welcome Salt Life and they are trying to do their part by offering the free valet parking. If restaurant patrons don't utilize the valet, it may force the City and County to enact some restrictions in order to insure that parking at the Pier is for activities. There will be questions on this topic in the survey. If you are on the Civic Association newsletter list you will automatically be sent an invitation to participate. We encourage you to respond quickly so we can insure those who live and work here have input.

Thanks to the 1100 plus who came out for our opening Music by the Sea Concert last month. The concert series could not happen without the support of our great sponsors Longstreet Auto, Reunion Bank, Camping World RV and Flagler Hospital. We thank those who came out for the 9th annual Taste of the Beach. Special thanks to the St Johns Business Network, our volunteers and of course Malinda Everson and the staff at the Betty Griffin House. Our summer is off to a great start and it continues this month with our first concert "Theme Night". On June 11th your invited to Music by the Sea's "Beach, BBQ & Blues Night". Nationally renowned blues artist David Gerald and his band will be performing at the Pier Park while two of St Johns County's coolest BBQ Food Trucks will be on hand serving up some great food. For details on Music by the Sea and all things Civic Association please visit our website at www.thecivicasociation.org.

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**



Free Concert Series

Music by the Sea

Every Wednesday Thru September
Dinner At 6 p.m. Concert At 7 p.m.

June 4th - Rob Peck & Friends - Blues & Southern Rock - Caribbean Sol
 June 11th - The David Gerald Blues Band - Blues - Tailgate Toby BBQ & Stoked and Smoked BBQ
 June 18th - The Committee - Pop Rock - La Strada
 June 25th - Amy Alissa & The Soul Operation - Motown - Napoli's

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Evaluation

By Max Royle
St. Augustine Beach City Manager

Recently, two public servants of this, your little corner of the Florida paradise, were evaluated by the five members of the St. Augustine Beach City Commission. The two public servants were/are Police Chief Robert Hardwick and, guess who? Brad Pitt? Donald Trump? Elvis? No, no, NO!! It was me! I know that I'm very easily overlooked, for I have neither The Brad's handsomality nor The Donald's continent-size ego, and Elvis and his entourage left the building years ago after locking me in the cellar. Yet here I am, having escaped from it, still toiling tirelessly at all the myriad tasks, mighty, minuscule and miscellaneous, that (sigh) truth be told and then some, must be with the department heads daily attended to, so that the non-law enforcement side of the city's government continues to function. Can't you tell that I'm way totally so perspiring at the mere thought of all those tasks?

You might at this point say, not only about the perspiration, but about the evaluation: well, so what? Employees being evaluated is hardly a noteworthy topic. Happens all the time in organizations large and small. Stop wasting our time, Royle. You need to write about something of real interest and substance, such as an essay featuring morality-compromised acts and the of down-and-dirty skullduggery by local government officials in that hotbed of misdeeds, south Florida. In time, dear readers, there'll be an essay about such, but, for the present, I'll continue with this evaluation theme.

Yes, evaluating employees happens all the time, but what's unique about the evaluations of top public employees in Florida is that, because of the state's strict Sunshine Law, the evaluations can be done only at a public

meeting. Individual commissioners may meet privately with an employee, to discuss frankly that employee's work performance. But, collectively, the commissioners can discuss the evaluation--warts, pimples, dandruff flakes and all--only at a duly advertised meeting, at which minutes are taken and the public has the opportunity to comment, and where the commissioners' remarks and the public's comments become part of the city's permanent record and the respective record of the employees who are evaluated.

I do wonder at times whether CEOs in the private sector are aware of this and whether said executives would relish being evaluated by their board of directors in public, often on TV, and always with members of the citizenry and sometimes the media commenting on the evaluation. Maybe if such happened regularly, the stratospheric compensation of some private sector CEOs would be reduced, or would at the very least be hard for boards of directors to justify before the public's intense stare and probing comments.

Because of inflation, I can't write "for the wooden nickel that it's worth," so I'll write "for the wooden quarter that it's worth," my opinion is that the evaluation of top public sector employees should be done in public. After all, these employees work for, and are paid by, the city's taxpayers, who thus have a justified interest in the employees' work performance. The competence of these employees can have a direct effect on the city's quality of life and how well or otherwise the public's money is spent. The citizens should be able to see on what basis their elected representatives evaluate these employees, and the citizens should have an opportunity to state their opinions about the employees and the evaluation process itself. For those public employees who don't like such scrutiny, I have some advice: go work in the private sector.

The recent evaluation by the commission of your city's police chief and city manager was the outcome of a proposal made by Commissioner Gary Snodgrass when he was mayor in 2013. He researched the performance evaluations used by other Florida cities and found one that seemed suited for our city. He discussed this at a meeting with his fellow commissioners and they accepted his proposal.

The appraisal has 10 "performance factors" or criteria by which the employee's work is to be evaluated: 1. managing work/organization and planning, 2. leadership and problem solving, 3. professional development, 4. organization commitment, 5. communication skills and positive interpersonal relationships, 6. decision making, 7. delegation/employee responsibility, 8. administration, 9. ethics, and 10. citizen responsiveness. For each criterion, there are three ratings or ranks: superior, fully competent, or performance needs improvement. For each rating, space is provided for a commissioner to write an explanation or comments.

But there's more. The second part to the commission's evaluation of the police chief and city manager is based on each employee's job description. My description has 16 responsibilities and duties. They include budgeting, the preparation of reports and agendas for the commission, attending meetings, assisting with the writing of grants, hiring/firing of employees, holding department

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heads accountable for the management of their departments, and so on. Chief Hardwick has a similar list of responsibilities/duties.

And finally, the third component of the evaluation process: using the 10 performance factors and the duties/responsibilities in their respective job description, the police chief and the city manager are required to do a self-evaluation, i.e., describe how well they think they've met the 10 factors and fulfilled the responsibilities/duties of their job description.

At a special meeting on April 28th, the city commissioners discussed their evaluations of Chief Hardwick and Yours Truly Humble here and determined an overall rating or ranking for each of us. Chief Hardwick received the highest rating, superior. As for Yours Truly Humble: to paraphrase the immortal words of Ed Koch, the late and great former mayor of New York City, "how did I do"? Well, I guess I could report that all five commissioners unreservedly agreed with the vast hordes of my loyal readers (all 3 1/2 of you), who, with hearts bursting with sincerity, believe that my work performance is stellar, excellent, first rate, top notch, unbeatable, Grade Triple A-Plus, stupendous, marvelous, fabulous, and awesomely and maximumly off-the-charts and out-of-sight.

Of course, my loyal readers also highly rank me for my humility. If you hear the sound of a horn, it's the trumpeter who precedes me to herald my appearance before I enter a room. One of the first best practices you learn in city manager school: hire a trumpeter!

OK, enough of the self-mockery. It's time to tell you the stark, unvarnished, in-your-face truth about my evaluation. The reality is what you'd realistically assume (of course, because that's how you assume reality will be. Does that make sense?). In some areas I was ranked highly, in other areas less so. But the overall rating of fully competent was definitely on the up and positive side. Also positive were the constructive comments provided in the commissioners' evaluations about what I'm doing right and where improvements are needed. Such guidance is helpful, and for that reason the evaluation process itself was beneficial. The process is to be repeated this coming October, when the commission will again evaluate Chief Hardwick and me.

Should you want to see Chief Hardwick's and my self-evaluation, and the mayor and commissioners' respective evaluations of each of us, you can read them online at www.staugbch.com/meetings.

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St. Augustine Beaches Beautification Advisory Committee

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Midsummer Solstice

William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream describes the shortest night, followed by the longest day of the year: "Swift as a shadow, short as any dream." Ancient celebrations honor the midsummer solstice which divides the year in half. Ceremonies, like the changing of the guard from winter's gray to spring's energetic green, welcome the first day of summer. In ancient China, the midsummer solstice celebrates the Earth, femininity, and yin forces. The winter (fall) solstice celebrates the heavens, masculinity and yang forces. Like a calendar in stone, Stonehenge, built around 3100 BCE, exemplifies the importance of the midsummer solstice, which designated the time to plant and the time to harvest. A little closer to home, June 21, the first day of summer, embraces the midsummer solstice with family reunions, vacations, graduations, new beginnings and the ever popular beachside wedding. St. Augustine Beach is a favorite location to make memories and share happy-ever-after-ing.

Arbor Day exemplifies an appreciation for the benefits and beauty of trees. The City's Arbor Day celebrations included applause for our trees and the poster and poem contest winners, and recognition of neighbors' efforts to incorporate environmental concerns and Florida Friendly Yards (FFY) in their landscape designs. Kudos to the teachers and parents who provided encouragement to all the contestants. Poster contest winners: 1st, Stella Budkoski; 2nd, Abbey Greenberg; 3rd, Lorelie Lovett. All three are R. B. Hunt Elementary School students. Congratulations to all who entered.

The winners of the poem contest: 1st, Kyleigh Moniz; 2nd, Sophia Gau; 3rd, Jessica Van Ellekom. All three are St. Augustine High School students. Congratulations. Sharing your poems was a highlight of the event. The first-place poem:

Still Standing

Here I am.

Still Standing through it all.

Your rain that pounds upon me pushes me to go on.

Your wind that whips around me forces me to be strong.

Your fog that clouds my thoughts just makes me want to press on

So here I am.

Still Standing through all your sleet and hail.

You can try to break me branch from branch and limb from limb

But my roots are still planted firmly for it is I who continues to blossom,

it is I who continues to win.

—Kyleigh Moniz

Beautification Awards for 2014 Florida Friendly Yards: residential, Dr. Pat Gill, 218 B Street, and Neil and Mary Eastman, 412 Night Hawk Lane. Congratulations for leading by example and for your outstanding results.

Once again, creative displays at each learning station piqued the interest of children and adults alike. Vendors included the University of Florida Extension Master Gardeners, the St. Augustine Beach Community Gardeners and 4-H club leaders. The U.S. Forestry Department and Smokey Bear shared their knowledge of environmental issues. Josephine Spearman, Environmental Educator with Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, showed a redbay ambrosia beetle in a small vial. This tiny but destructive force, about the size of a penny, has been documented as carrying the fungus that causes laurel wilt (a disease which has killed several tree species including the island's redbay trees). Students and parents moved to each learning station and saw examples of how trees and the environment are interconnected. Such dedicated folk, along with business and community leaders, continue to set high standards, and your Beautification Advisory Committee (BAC) looks forward to expanding this resource portion in next year's Arbor Day celebrations. Tree huggers all, we thank you. Special thanks go to the BAC members, city staff, Public Works and business and community leaders for their support. Kudos to all who made this year's celebrations a success.

The City of St. Augustine Beach again has earned bragging rights and been designated a Tree City USA, ten years and counting. To qualify as a Tree City USA, a community, town or city must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan. Visit Tree City USA, www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityStandards.cfm.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Florida Master Gardener program should contact Keith Fuller, SJC Horticulture Agent, at 904-209-0430. Applications will be accepted into July. The program began in 1979, and the St. Johns County MG program is one of 46 Florida counties sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Florida / IFAS at Gainesville. After receiving 50 hours of intensive horticultural training and satisfactorily passing a final examination, newly certified Master Gardeners are required to serve a minimum of 75 volunteer hours within a year after completing training. There is personal satisfaction derived from participation in this community service program (five of the current BAC members are MGs).

Summer solstice provides a sharp 180° turn from where we have been, to where we are going. We can make the shortest shadow a little longer and enhance our community.

Sea turtle season is May 1 through October 31. To comply with regulations that protect the turtles and the Anastasia Island beach mouse, beach driving and lighting

Spiritually Speaking

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

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

"Fathers - the New Target"

I have to say, I didn't see it coming - but I should have. In a society that ceaselessly seeks to exploit all manner of human (and maybe inhuman!) sexuality to its own greedy ends, I guess it was inevitable. I just didn't think it would go this low.

To what do I refer, dear reader? Actually, I've been making reference to the role of fathers in especially their growing daughters' lives for some time now, so this is of a piece. But like I said, this was definitely new territory for me.

Get this. So, certain traditional family advocacy groups organize a special event for adolescent girls to support them in a personal decision to abstain from sexual relations prior to marriage. Doesn't particularly sound like a huge threat to society, now does it? In fact, in another era not very long ago, such efforts would have been praised as simply common sense means to help secure a stable society, where the most intimate of relations between the sexes was honored as deserving of all the protection and holy encouragement that marriage could provide. By extension, helping young people to avoid casual liaisons that could so often end up wounding them in the deepest of ways was considered wise and laudable.

And so, "Purity Balls" were born. Young ladies would pledge their virginity until Mr. Right came along, at which point a wedding ring on the finger and solemn vows would help to insure that, as much as humanly possible in an imperfect world, their bodies and souls could have the maximal opportunity to flourish as the Creator intended. The prime defender of his daughter's honor and integrity was always understood to be the father, and so dads were important features of Purity Balls, dressing in tuxedos and lending dignity and gravitas to the occasion.

Well guess what? A certain online media resource (which will remain unnamed) published some really interesting photos of proud and

protective gussied-up dads with their equally resplendent and coiffed female offspring at these events. And were there "ooohs" and "aaahs" of appreciative expression from the comment peanut gallery? Nope. Probably THE most common published comment was "CREEPY!" Or like one fool who wrote, "What kind of father thinks of sex when he thinks about his daughter?" Like talk about utterly and perversely missing the entire point! (Did I say perverse? - Good, I'll say it again, in all-caps, 'PERVERSE'). Like the guy undergoing a psychiatric evaluation who claimed that every Rorschach Test image he was being shown had something to do with a sexual theme. When the doctor commented that the patient seemed to have a one-track mind the latter said simply, "But YOU'RE the one showing me all those dirty pictures!"

And so we have the truly perverted, perverted in their values, perverted in their own souls, trying to label responsible fatherhood as somehow an awful thing. It really happened, folks, and if you write me I'll tell you the source so you can read it for yourself.

You know, they say ridicule is most often indicative of insufficient knowledge and appreciation of the facts. I think I read that one somewhere in the Wall Street Journal, not sure. From wherever it came it pretty much sums up the cause of the kind of irresponsible stupidity that passes for the new "Common Wisdom" in our world today. All I can say is, hey young dads, don't let this madness throw you off course this Father's Day. Whether or not you get a card from your teen-age daughter(s) this year, one way or another you need to let her/them know you deeply care about them and their future lives. If you have some fence-mending to attend to first, then attend to it! Just remember the unique privilege you have to give away this young woman someday. And I'm not just talking about a future husband. Ultimately, the God who made you both will demand an account from you as He takes your child as His own in the World to Come. It's never too late to do the right thing. "Let 2014 be your year, bro!"

God bless and love you all, Fr. Nick.



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rules are in effect May 1 through October 31. Vehicular traffic on the beach is allowed only from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Additionally, all beachfront properties are required to reduce the impact of interior and exterior lights that may impact nesting sea turtles. Leave only your footprints, providing the turtles with a

safe and clean habitat in which to nest. For more information, contact St. Johns County Habitat Conservation and Beach Management at 904-209-3740 or visit www.sjcfcl.us/hcp. We can all do our part to protect these seasonal visitors to the most beautiful city by the sea. Life is so sweet, take a big bite!

Ask Mow?

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

June is here which brings summer and the Hurricane Season. We know living here that we have to be prepared. This leads us to some questions we recently received.

Mow, Hurricane Season is here what should I do with my generator to make sure it going to work if I need it.

Great question, first make sure it starts, Stale fuel is the No. 1 cause of generator starting problems. Manufacturers advise adding fuel stabilizer to the gas to minimize fuel breakdown, varnish and gum buildup. But it's no guarantee against problems. If it doesn't start bring it to us and we can check it out.

Mow, I just moved here and I have been thinking about purchasing a generator, how do I know what size I will need?

Every generator lists two capacity ratings. The first is "rated" or "continuous" watts. That's the maximum power the generator will put out on an extended basis. And it's the only rating you should rely on when buying a generator. The higher "maximum" or "starting" rating refers to how much extra power the generator can put out for a few seconds when an electric motor—like the one in your fridge or furnace—starts up. Identify what items you need power for in an outage, then identify the wattage required for those items by their UL Rating Labels on the items.

Mow, when running a generator for long periods what safety considerations should we be aware of?

First and foremost never run the generator indoors or in a garage as it may cause carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Never refill the gas tank when the generator is HOT, tanks are always on top of the engine so they can "gravity-feed" gas to the carburetor. But that setup can quickly turn into a disaster if you spill gas when refueling a hot generator. Some generators, especially low-cost models, can be damaged by running out of gas. They keep putting out power while coming to a stop, and the electrical load in your house drains the magnetic field from the generator coils. When you restart, the generator will run fine, but it won't generate power. You'll have to bring it into a repair shop to reenergize the generator coils. So keep the tank filled and always remove the electrical load before you shut down. St. Augustine Power House can service your portable generator if needed and we have a full line Honda and Briggs & Stratton Generators and accessories. Our knowledgeable staff can answer any questions you may have.

So until next time please check our ad for a coupon to get a free blade sharpening, we are located at 125 Pope Rd across from the YMCA on the Island or visit our website www.staugpowerhouse.com. Please email your questions to Mow at AskMow@staugpowerhouse.com.

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The Art Studio of St. Augustine Beach

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

Free Art Class Week at The Art Studio



It's Summer and that means a lot is happening at the Art Studio. We are pleased to announce our week of Free Classes. Starting on Monday, June 16th and running until Sunday, June 22 nd you can take advantage of a wide array of art classes that we offer at the studio, absolutely Free of charge! Try one, try two or try them all. You will need your own supplies in some classes and spaces are limited, check our calendar for a schedule at: www.beachartstudio.com.

"Art By The Sea" We will be offering a children's art activity session this summer in conjunction with the Civic Association's "Music By The Sea" concert series. Parents who want to drop off their kids at The Art Studio while they enjoy the concert can do so and know it's a safe, creative environment for their child to learn, explore and create an art project. A Pizza snack will be provided. For details please visit our website or call 904-615-3197.

A Reminder that it is still not too late to enroll and register your child in our Summer Art Camp. Please contact Stacey Barden at 904-

599-0086 or see the details on our calendar and Stacey's website: www.thesmilingeasel.com.

Our Featured Artist for June is Brian T. Brimmer, Sr. aka "Thore", (painting of El Galion to the left). Please stop by for First Friday, June 6th from 5pm to 9pm. and visit the gallery all month to see his and other Art Studio Member's work.

The Second Tuesday Art Walk continues on June 6. The Art Studio is located at 370 Beach Blvd, St. Augustine Beach Cutlural Center at Pier Park. Visit our website www.beachartstudio.com for information, scheduled classes, membership, and upcoming events. Please call 904-615-3197.



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Farfalle alla Francesca

Butter and cream will most often pair well with Chardonnay, with its buttery and creamy texture. Serves 2.

- 10 ounces farfalle (bow tie) pasta
- 4 slices bacon, diced
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons diced red onion
- 1 teaspoon chopped garlic
- 1/4 cup diced Roma tomatoes
- 1 cooked chicken breast, thinly sliced
- 1 pinch ground black pepper
- 1 pinch garlic salt

- 1 pinch salt
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons grated Asiago cheese
- 1/3 cup Alfredo sauce

Fill a large pot with lightly salted water and bring to a rolling boil over high heat. Stir in the bow tie pasta and return to a boil. Cook, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the pasta is cooked through but still firm to the bite, about 12 minutes. Drain.

Meanwhile, cook the bacon in a skillet over medium heat until nearly crisp, about 5 minutes. Remove the bacon and wipe out the skillet with a paper towel.

Melt the butter in the same skillet over medium heat. Return the bacon to the skillet, and stir in the red onion, garlic, Roma tomatoes, chicken, black pepper, garlic salt, and salt. Cook and stir until the bacon is crisp and onions are translucent. Stir in the cream and Asiago cheese, and cook until the liquid is reduced by half, about 3 minutes.

Stir in the Alfredo sauce and the cooked pasta. Remove from heat, and allow to cool slightly before serving.

Buon Appetito!

How To Shop Smart For Home Insurance

By Jane Tucker, First Florida Insurance

There are many benefits of homeowners insurance. Knowing what affects home insurance prices may help lower the cost of your home insurance and increase the value you receive. This guide may help.

Amount of Coverage: The amount of coverage you buy for your house, contents, and personal liability will affect the price you pay.

Local Fire Protection: Your home's distance from a fire hydrant and the rating of your local fire department are some of the attributes used in determining the public protection class (PPC) of your home. PPC ranges from 1 (superior property fire protection) to 10 (no insurance recognition).

Type of Construction: The construction type of a structure, including the type of roof, may vary according to the unique hazard exposures that may impact a region, city or location. The construction type may affect the price of repairs or rebuilding in the event of a loss. For instance, frame houses usually cost more to insure than brick houses due to their susceptibility to fire peril.

Age of House: New homes may qualify for discounts. Some insurance companies either may not insure very old homes or may offer a limited form of coverage.

Deductible Amount: Your choice of a higher deductible will reduce the price for home insurance. However, you will be responsible for paying the deductible amount in case of a loss or a claim.

Discounts: Some insurers offer lower prices for such things as insuring your home and car with the same company and installing deadbolt locks or alarm systems. Check with your agent or insurer.

Credit Reports: Many insurers use your credit history as a factor in determining what price you will be charged for insurance. The use of credit history varies from insurer to insurer and is not the same as the FICO score used by lenders to make loan decisions.

Claims History: If you file a claim with your insurance company, even if the loss was not your fault, this may contribute to an increase in your home insurance premium. Some insurers forgive the first claim but you may lose the benefit of any claims-free discount if offered by your insurer.

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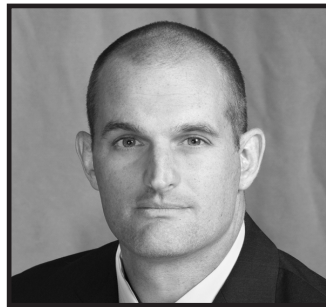
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Financial Focus

Information Provided By
Edward Jones

Watch for Different Risk Levels of "Muni" Bonds

Are you thinking of investing in municipal bonds? If so, you may have good reason, particularly if you are in one of the higher tax brackets. After all, municipal bond interest payments typically are exempt from federal income taxes, and possibly state and local income taxes, too — although some "munis" are subject to the alternative minimum tax. However, since not all municipal bonds are the same, you'll want to know the differences — especially in terms of risk.

Municipal bonds, like corporate bonds, essentially face two types of risk: interest rate risk and default risk. Interest rate risk becomes clear when market interest rates rise, causing the value of your existing municipal bonds to fall. No one will pay you full price for your bonds when newly issued bonds carry a higher rate — so if you plan on selling bonds before they mature, you risk losing principal. You can largely ignore this type of risk simply by holding your bonds until maturity, at which point you will receive the face value back, provided the issuer doesn't default.

And that brings us to the second type of risk: default risk. Historically, municipal bond default rates have been much lower than those of corporate bonds, particularly lower-quality bonds. But different types of municipal bonds carry different levels of default risk. Here's a quick look at the two main categories of municipals and their risk characteristics:

- General obligation bonds — General obligation bonds generally finance projects of a municipality. A general obligation bond issuer is required to do everything in its power, including raising new taxes, to ensure that interest payments are paid on time and in full. This requirement helps support the creditworthiness of general obligation bonds.

- Revenue bonds — Revenue bonds,

which finance schools, hospitals, utilities, airports, affordable housing and other public works, are paid by dedicated streams of revenue. For example, revenues generated by the sewer system pay the interest on a sewer system revenue bond. Because revenue bonds have more restricted revenue streams than general obligation bonds, they are generally viewed to be riskier. To compensate for the added risk, revenue bonds usually pay a higher rate of interest than general obligation bonds.

When studying the risk factors of revenue bonds, you also have to consider the type of revenue bond involved. For example, some sectors, such as housing and health care, may be more volatile, as are some industrial revenue bonds. (These bonds, which are generally used to support a specific project, such as a new manufacturing facility, are sponsored by a government entity — but the proceeds go to a private, for-profit business.)

Of course, when evaluating the risk potential of municipal bonds, you don't have to rely on guesswork. The major bond rating agencies — Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch — review municipal bonds to determine their creditworthiness. There are no guarantees, but by sticking with the bonds that are "investment grade," you can help reduce the risk of owning a bond that goes into default.

Municipal bonds can be valuable additions to your portfolio. Besides providing income that's free of federal taxes, these bonds offer you a chance to help support valuable projects in your community. But, as we've seen, different "munis" have different risk factors — so make sure you know exactly what type of bond you're purchasing before you write the check.

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



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2. Tax-advantaged retirement accounts. Consider contributing to a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or 401(k) to help lower your taxable income.
3. Tax-advantaged college savings accounts. Contribute or gift to a college savings plan for your children or grandchildren.

*May be subject to state and local taxes and the alternative minimum (AMT).



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Stenosis

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Stenosis is defined as “a narrowing or constriction of the diameter of a bodily passage or orifice.” Spinal Stenosis is defined as “narrowing of the lumbar spinal column that produces pressure on the nerve roots resulting in sciatica and a condition resembling intermittent claudication and that usually occurs in middle or old age.” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com>). Such “narrowing” can occur anywhere in the spine but is most often found in the cervical or lumbar spine, and its causes are varied.

As the discs start to degenerate (DDD) the space between the vertebrae closes down. As the joints in the spine (facet joints) deteriorate the spaces can narrow. Osteophytes (little bony stalactites or stalagmites) can encroach on the space. In these cases the vertebrae approximate and the spaces either on their side (lateral foramen) place pressure on the nerve root or the space down the middle of the spine (spinal canal) narrows, placing pressure on the spinal cord.

Many people have wear and tear but not all have pain. Contributing factors might be trauma such as falls, motor vehicle accidents or a history of high impact sports. Other factors may include lack of spinal stability, weak abdominals, poor posture, muscle imbalances and carrying additional weight.

During an examination, physical therapists ask questions about function and pain. “Do you have pain with prolonged standing or walking that is relieved with sitting or bending?” (You can’t walk down St. George Street without sitting at every other bench or you can’t complete your grocery shopping without leaning over your cart to reduce the pain.). “Do you have pain when you sleep flat that is relieved with propping your legs on a pillow.” If the answers to these questions are “yes” you may have a stenosis. If you also experience leg pain a nerve root may also be involved. If you have pain in both legs there

may be pressure on the spinal cord.

Treatment for stenosis begins with identifying the level of compression. If treated conservatively an attempt is made to minimize the mechanical pressure. Treatments such as heat, massage or soft tissue manipulation are used to soften the neighboring tissues. Traction to the spine, either manually or mechanically is used to open up the space and take pressure of the nerves. Stretches such as drawing one’s knees to the chest are used to also open up the spaces and stretch the tight tissues. Exercises are prescribed to provide the stabilization that was lacking. Finally, postural training must be incorporated to minimize or prevent re-occurrence.

Simple modification can be utilized to daily activities. Provided you have adequate balance, if you have pain while standing at the sink open the lower cabinet door and place your foot on the bottom shelf. If you have pain while standing at your work bench, place one foot on a step stool or a block of wood. Both positions will drop the pelvis, open the spaces in the lumbar spine and remove pressure from the nerve root. If you wake with pain in the neck make sure you have adequate pillow support. Although these may help some, the key to proper treatment is an accurate diagnosis. Back pain and leg pain can have a number of causes. It’s always best to consult your MD or PT regarding your symptoms. Stenosis can be mild or serious. The sooner it is addressed the better, so contact your healthcare professional today. First Coast Rehabilitation 829-3411.

Rob Stanborough is a physical therapist, 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.

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Paints N' Cocktails Launches Its Nationwide Franchise Program

Paints n' Cocktails is an entertainment studio where guests are encouraged to follow along with a trained artist to paint on their own blank canvas a replica of a painting selected for that particular session. Events are held both at the studio and off site. Guests paint their own works of art while listening to a selection of great music, and are invited to BYOB (“bring your own beverage”). The artists are chosen for their entertainment abilities as well as artistic skills-ensuring a fun experience for everyone.

Lynn Clyne, CEO of Paints n' Cocktails, says of this new venture, “We are proud of the business model that we have built. This is a great new experience with amazing results, and capitalizes on proven themes such as ‘Girls Night Out’ and ‘Date Night’, as well as providing everyone with a new form of entertainment. Our Franchise team is looking forward to working diligently with each franchisee to help them to succeed.”

Lynn, a native of Antigua, has built Paints n' Cocktails from scratch. Her drive and ability to create and promote popular events to attract customers and corporate clients has been a key to the success of the business. The use of social media tools, along with Lynn’s seemingly bottomless well of great ideas, are major components that separate this franchise opportunity from her competitors.

Franchises are available in most states nationwide. Initial franchises are being sold for \$23,500. This opportunity is for entrepreneurs, artists and existing art studios that want to convert to a Paints n' Cocktails.

The Ventura Group of Florida, Inc., a boutique M&A and consulting firm, has been retained to manage all franchising activities.

For Paints n' Cocktails franchising information contact please call Robert Weinroth at 1-800-982-9873 or email rweinroth@venturaflorida.com.

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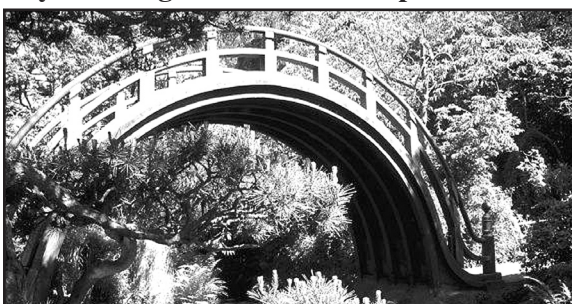
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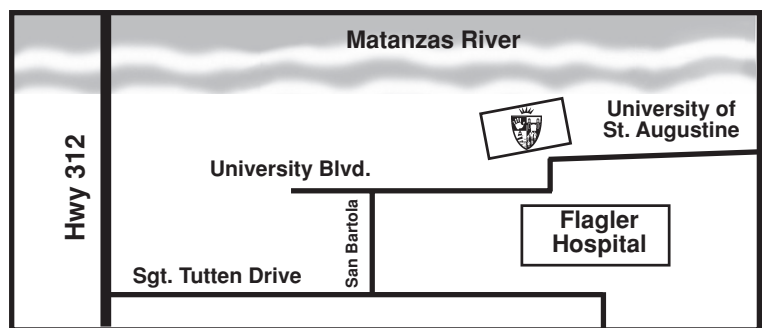
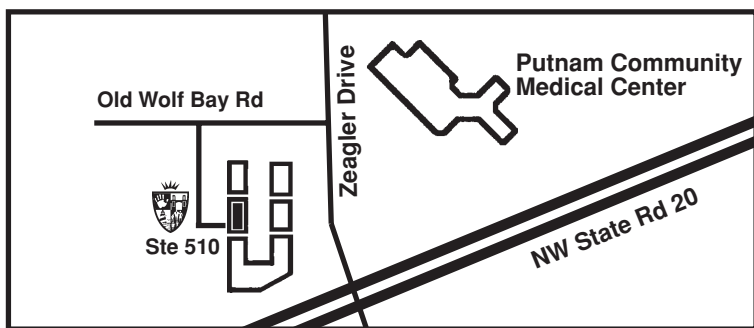


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