

May
2020



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

Memorial Day May 25th



Memorial Day honors and commemorates the men and women who died while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. On Veterans Day we set aside a day to thank and honor ALL who served—in wartime or peacetime—regardless of whether they died or survived. Veterans Day is observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

Originally called "Decoration Day," from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country in the Civil War. Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union and Confederate war dead with flowers. Union General John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day be held May 30th to honor those who died from battle. (continued on page 7)

Quarantined Mother's Day!

"Seven ways to show mom you care this year"

By Tatiana Diaz

Mother's Day may look different this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but that doesn't mean we can't show our appreciation for moms if we're still under quarantine. We just need to get a little creative.

Now is the perfect time to think outside the box and figure out how to show the moms in our lives just how much we care and love them. The world has given us a challenge: tell mom she's special without telling her face-to-face because, well, social distancing. So if you're looking for some other ways to tell mom you love her without compromising her health, or your own, read on for some ways to show mom some love on this Quarantined Mother's Day.

1. Call her - if mom doesn't live with you, spend some time with her over the phone. Have a video chat with her longer than a minute and really listen to her. Ask about her day, how she's holding up while on lockdown.

There will be a time when we can interact personally again, but for now a simple phone call will do.

2. Give her a break - if the mom in your life is one with small children (like me) or a mom with children still living at home, chances are she needs a break. Give her some space. Let her have that much needed "me" time all moms crave. Send her to quarantine herself alone in the bath with a good book if that's her thing. Anything, really, to give her a break, give it to her. She'll appreciate it.

3. Do something for her - there's always something that needs to be done, so why not take this Mother's Day to do that thing she's been asking to get done for the last six months? Does she need a room painted? A clean garage? (continued on page 7)



Photo by Christian Bowen from Unsplash

Nurses Week May 6th - 12th Recognizing Nurses as Crucial to Health Care

Across Florida, there are thousands of nurses with a passion and commitment to care for others in their greatest times of need. They are the compassionate faces at the bedside and the healing hands that work tirelessly to ensure that each patient, adult or child, receives safe, quality health care.

During May 6th through May 12th, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) is joining partners across the state to celebrate National Nurses Week and highlight the diverse ways nurses are working to improve health care. Today, there are more than 400,000 nursing professionals in Florida who play a vital role in maintaining the health of Floridians.

Nursing is the most trusted profession in the country. Nurses make up a large portion of Florida's health care workforce. Almost everyone has had an interaction with a nurse, whether it be in a hospital, health clinic, private practice, home care setting or school environment where nurses are often the primary caregivers and patient advocates.



According to Gallup's 2018 Honesty and Ethics Survey, more than four in five Americans (84%) rate the honesty and ethical standards of nurses as "very high" or "high," earning them the top spot among a diverse list of professions for the 17th consecutive year. With the exception of 2001, when firefighters were on the list after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, nurses have far outpaced all other professions since their addition to the list two decades ago.

Thank you for what you do for us.

What's Inside The Observer This Month...

- **St. Augustine Shores:**
All events and meetings cancelled
- **St. Augustine South:**
All events and meetings cancelled
- **Computer Corner:** Remote Support - Who is on the other end?
- **Financial Focus:** CARES Act Offers Helps for Investors, Small Business
- **Sheriff's Corner:** COVID - 19
- **Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad**
- **Update - Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

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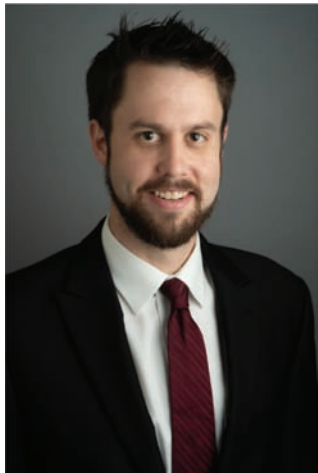
St. Augustine Observer
1965 A1A South #120
St. Augustine, FL 32080-6509

During the current situation with COVID-19 our office is meeting by teleconferences only for new and current clients. Until after May 15th (or when given clearance) all signing ceremonies will be by sterile curbside no-contact service for everyone's safety. Stay Safe Everyone!



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4th Tuesday of each month
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Riverside Cottages is joining forces with Council on Aging and Home Instead Senior Care

Due to increased health risks Memory Cafe events are postponed until further notice. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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St. Augustine Observer

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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

“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. Meetings are at 7 p.m. at the Riverview Club.
- **Conquistador Condominium** Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6

of the month in order to appear in the following 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 material 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.

The Observer's acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement or approval of any product or services by the Observer or its staff. It is agreed that the Observer and its staff will not be held liable for information provided herein by submitters/advertisers, including pictures, graphics, websites and/or emails listed, that may have the potential to constitute fraud or other violation of law including copywriting infringements. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising that does not meet the publication's standards.

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.

For more information please contact Katie at (904) 377-3390 or email at KatieMonahanTaiChi@gmail.com

SASIA Meeting 3rd Wednesday 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.

SASIA Board Members

- President - Alan Chappell
- 1st V.P. - Robert Kennedy
- 2nd V.P. - Dave Whitaker
- Secretary - Kate Anreise
- Treasurer - Margo Geer
- Board Member - Suzanne Godbout
- Board Member - Ruth Hope
- Board Member - Lindsay Ryan
- Board Member - Brad Hernandez
- Board Member - Jerri Sue Dawson
- Board Member - Dan Kelly

St. Augustine South Community Calendar

St. Augustine South Improvement Assoc.
709 Royal Rd. St Augustine, 32086
email: staugsouthimpassoc@gmail.com
www.staugsouth.com

Monthly Meetings at Clubhouse

DAV Meeting -3rd Tuesday of the month DAV monthly meeting at 7pm.

Bingo - Every Thursday at 1pm except Holidays, light lunch, from 11:30 to 12:30. Open to the Public.

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 Tuesday's at 6:00PM.

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. Free listings of 5 items or less should be sent. **Free ads Are Not for Business or Personal Service ads.**

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: Metal Storage Shed. 10' x 10' wired for 20 amp electric with 5 outlets. Very good shape. \$1,200 or best offer. Call Richard 352-226-0595.

FORSALE: Antique Singer commercial sewing machine 1900 to 1936 on large work table. very good working condition. \$300.00 o.b.o. Please call. 386-643-9384 or 904-794-5637.

ROOM FOR RENT: Furnished room for rent everything included including TV

and Internet. \$150.00 a week. Call Trish 860-514-1325.

FOR SALE: Mac G5 desktop computer. Lot of software. \$100. Call 904-607-1410.

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

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

**Please support the businesses in the Observer!
They make this publication possible to you each month... Thank you!**

Closures & Cancellations

by Cliff Logsdon, Publisher/Editor

Due to continued concerns with COVID-19 in May, most events and meetings that are normally posted in the Observer news section have been cancelled. That included the events scheduled in St. Augustine South and St. Augustine Shores. Hopefully, by our next issue of the Observer regular meetings and events will resume. The Observer will continue to be published as long as our sponsor's support continues. Whenever you can, please support them.

Please refer to our websites and past issues to contact them individually regarding schedules. You may go on line at www.StAugustineObserverOnline.com and download issues if you do not have the last issue.

This is a trying time for all of us. Please take extra care to protect yourself and your family. Stay informed and follow the guidelines that are set to help protect us. BE SAFE!

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904.794.2000

St. Augustine Shores *Club News* May 2020 Riverview Club Calendar



As per CDC guidelines, the Riverview Club will follow the recommendation that all events of 10 people and more be cancelled/postponed to try to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

Please go to our website for updates:

<https://www.staugshores.org/calendar>

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.
If you have any questions, please call 904-794-2000.

May First Coast Card & Newcomers Club

1) First Coast Florida Lifestyles Newcomers Recreation Club

Card Playing Dates:

Tuesday, May 5th. County Park. St. Augustine 32095. Arrive: 2:15P. Cards-2:30P-5P. Limited 8 Attendees. No Food. Bring Your Own Beverage which cannot sit on our playing tables. Cell Phones, from our Club Rules before, cannot sit on our playing tables. Limited 7 Attendees.

Tuesday, May 12th. County Park. St. Augustine, 32084. Arrive: 2:15PM. Cards:2:30P-5P. Please...No Snacks, Refreshments, nor Food. Bring Your Own Beverage which cannot sit on our playing tables. Cell Phones, as usual, cannot sit on our playing tables. Limited 7 Attendees.

Tuesday, May 19th. County Park. St. Augustine. 32095. Arrive: 2:15P. Cards-2:30P-5P. Limited 8 Attendees. No Food. Bring Your Own Beverage which cannot sit on our playing tables. Cell Phones, as usual, cannot sit on our playing tables. Limited 7 Attendees.

Tuesday, May 26th. County Park. St. Augustine. 32084. Arrive: 2:15P. Cards: 2:30P-5P. No Food. Bring Your Own Beverage which cannot sit on our playing tables. Cell Phones, as usual, cannot sit on our playing tables. Limited 7 Attendees.

Please Contact Our Club Organizers for further information & To Yes RSVP: 904-829-0643. Phone Calls Welcome. No Texts. Both Men/Women. Smoke/Drug Free Club.

2) First Coast Florida Lifestyles Newcomers Recreation Club

Activities Event Dates:

Sunday, May 3rd. Outdoor Leisure Walking/Hike-2 Preserves-Orange County-Orlando. Arrive: 11AM-1PM. Contact Organizers for more information. Drive Up Pick Up Lunch after Walks.

Sunday, May 10th. Outdoor Leisure Walking/Hike- Preserve Trails-St. Johns County-Ponte Vedra. Arrive: 10AM-12PM. Contact Organizers for more information. Drive Up Pick Up Lunch after Walks.

Sunday, May 17th. Outdoor Leisure Walking/Hike-Forest & Wildlife Mgmt. Area-Volusia County-Pierson, FL Arrive: 10:30AM-12:30PM. Contact Organizers for more information. Drive Up Pick Up Lunch after Walks.

Sunday, May 24th. Outdoor Leisure Walking/Hike-2 Conservation Areas.-St. Johns County-St. Johns, FL. Arrive: 10AM-12PM. Contact Organizers for more information. Drive Up Pick Up Lunch after Walks.

Sunday May 31st. Outdoor Leisure Walking/Hike-3 Conservation Areas-Volusia/Seminole Counties- Osteen, FL. Arrive: 11AM-1PM. Contact Organizers for more information. Drive Up Pick Up Lunch after Walks.

Please Call Our Club Organizer To RSVP Yes, How To Join Our Club, for Venues & Addresses To: 904-814-9612-Days/Evenings. Phone Calls/Texts Welcome. Both Men/Women. Smoke/Drug Free Club.

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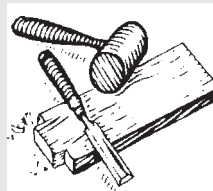
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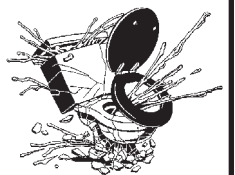
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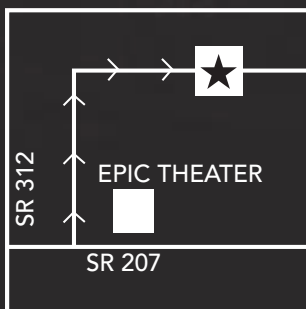
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Mother's Day!

(continued from page 1)

Whatever it is, do it for her, or with her. That is, if you live in the same house. If not, give her an IOU and promise to help when it's safe.

4. Hire a photographer for later - schedule a photo session with a local photographer for later in the year so you have memories of that one year we were forced to stay home and be couch heroes. This one is a triple-win because your mom (or wife or special person in your life) will be happy because you'll document a time in your lives to cherish forever, you'll be happy because you've made her happy, and you'll have helped a local photographer recover from the potential income loss due to the coronavirus pandemic. Everybody wins.

5. Make her something - if you're crafty, show her your skills. There's nothing like a homemade gift to express just how much you care about someone. She'll appreciate that you took the time to make her something unique and just for her. When it's done, mail it to her.

6. Write her a letter - if you're not crafty, tell her how special she is to you in a letter. Sure, you can say the same in a text or a social media post, but there's nothing like receiving a handwritten letter that says, "Mom, I love you and these are the reasons why..." to show your love and appreciation for her. You already have the first sentence, so get to it.

7. Give her cash - whenever anyone in my family asked my grandmother what she wanted for her birthday or Christmas or Mother's Day her answer would always be the same: cash. Sure, we gave her other gifts, but cold, hard cash was by far her favorite. It may not be considered as a thoughtful gift (by who, I don't know), but who cares? If any of the moms in your life need help financially it may not be a bad idea to offer to pay a utility bill this month or give her some cash to get by.

However you spend Mother's Day this year, remember that it doesn't matter what you give her on this special day. What truly matters is that you show her some love and appreciation for everything she did, does, and will do for you and your family. Soon we'll be able to show our moms we love them by taking them to her favorite restaurant or take her to a show or go sightseeing in our beautiful city. In the meantime, stay safe, wash your hands, practice social distancing and soon we'll be able to go back to our new-normal lives. To all the moms out there reading: Happy Mother's Day and stay safe!



Wildflower Meadow Group

by Cindy Taylor

The coronavirus doesn't affect the meadow and has no stay-at-home orders. It's home all the time anyway. It adapts to changes in temperatures, dry and wet seasons, and it's reassuring to know that, left to its own, it survives and grows.

At our monthly meeting early in April a few brave souls came, kept our social distances, and worked to enhance the meadow for spring. Russell trimmed back the *Fakahatchee grasses* by the sidewalk in the upper meadow and now the grasses will grow back stronger. Judy pulled out lawn grasses threatening the *rosinweed* and mulched around them to protect them from more invasive lawn grasses. She used the fakahatchee clippings for mulch, because there are no seed heads in them, and used them to protect the meadow beauty in the upper meadow near the fakahatchee. The rest of us pulled lawn grasses away from wildflowers because we didn't have to keep a social distance from the meadow.



The most prolific flower early in April is the *Spiderwort*, but you won't see its blossoms if you go to the meadow in the afternoon.



They bloom only in the morning. The following is an excerpt of an article Gail Compton wrote about this flower. Gail was a St. Johns county naturalist and gave nature walks every Saturday. She also wrote articles every week for The Record.

"In early spring, spiderwort's grass-like clumps of long green leaves emerge and then sprout stalks, each topped by a cluster of buds. I counted 25 buds in one cluster. Every morning one to three buds open into bright blue flowers and then from noon to 2 PM these flowers are reabsorbed into the plant (no dead petals on the ground). Look closely at this amazing wildflower: three intense blue petals with six yellow stamens in the center. Variations of lavender, pink, and white spiderworts are found in Florida and other states."

We meet at the meadow near the Riverview clubhouse at about 8:30 the first Saturday of each month. Sometimes we drive to local parks or on back country roads looking for wildflowers, identifying, and photographing them. We're an informal group without officers or dues and hope you will join us.

Call Cindy at 904-797-3931 for more information.

Memorial Day May 25th

(continued from page 1)

In early America, people visited cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers often placed flags on each gravesite in national cemeteries usually in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics. America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor its military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decoration of soldiers' graves were held in towns and cities throughout the nation.

The first national celebration of Memorial Day took place May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1873, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday. After World War I, the day expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress; we now show our honor and respect annually on the last Monday in May.

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"Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad"

by Dirk Schroeder

Last month I started out urging everyone to be counted in the 2020 Census. This month there is a different count that is valued – whether you're infected or not.

With origins in bats and wild birds and with their evolution in other animals, in particular in wet markets and in animal farms, microorganisms have been randomly or deliberately making plans to reduce the human species for a very long time. Pathogens, that which produces disease, create their own natural paths until they find their paths into human beings (their evolution). Then we, as humans, end up evolving as a result and we end up changing our paths.

On December 16th, a patient who worked at a "wildlife" market in China was admitted into a hospital with a lung infection that was resistant to anti-flu drugs. Ten days later, health officials in Wuhan announce that a "new virus" is causing the illness. Nearly a month later (January 14th), the World Health Organization announces that Chinese officials have seen "no clear evidence of human to human transmission". On January 15th, the first person to bring the pathogen to the US is leaving China. On January 18th, a celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year takes place bringing in 10's of thousands to share in food and celebration. On the 20th, the virus arrives in South Korea and a top Chinese doctor announces that the virus can be transmitted from person to person. On January 23rd, 5 million people set their path out of Wuhan without being screened. On January 31st, travel restrictions were put in place to stop the path of persons traveling out of China to the US (the CDC started doing health screenings at the largest US International airports as early as the 17th). The human paths have set

the pathogen in motion.

The paths that humans travel (with or without a Pathogen) and the exponential connections that humans make in the process show us how small the world is today. Inside of two months, almost everyone on the planet changed their ordinary paths. We, like the pathogen, adapted quickly to avoid coming in contact with the pathogen. If there are lessons to be learned, humans should be smart enough to change their paths quickly so that in the future they may change the outcome of a pathogen outbreak. I have never believed that history repeats itself. History provides an opportunity for us to always better ourselves – to evolve. There have been many pathogens in recent history (SARS, MERS, Ebola, Zika, the avian varieties, the flu) that is why naming this one seems somewhat trivial as there will be many more different pathogens over the coming generations. Pathogens will evolve and future versions will find a new path into humans again – randomly and deliberately. Will we have learned to change our paths, evolve our behavior and change the path of history? I believe that we can learn from history so that we can create new paths.

This Easter weekend as billions around the world reflect on the resurrection, we can reflect on the path that Jesus took throughout his life. Certainly, he could have walked different paths since he was aware of his destiny on the cross. He could have denied his affiliation. Those around him did not have to follow his path either -but they did. His path paved the way for the path to salvation for all of humanity despite the fact that humans crucified him. They essentially stopped him in his path and he showed them the path in his resurrection – Faith over fear.

St Augustine South Improvement Association (SASIA) Upcoming Schedule of Events 2020

by Ruth Hope

Out of an abundance of caution and to comply with the Safer at Home Executive Order 20-91, SASIA has cancelled all meetings and activities until May 15, 2020. At that time, the Board will make a further determination on future events.

Meanwhile here is a project that a parent might enjoy with preschoolers and elementary school age children! Some of you will have participated in the "bear hunt" and the "Easter egg hunt". This project is a little like that although you don't have to look into windows for pictures of bears or Easter eggs. There are some amazing mail boxes around St. Augustine South and you might take a wander and see how many different and interesting mailboxes you can find. We have large mouthed fish, sailboats, light houses and more: even a manatee that is often dressed for the season!

Which is your favorite mailbox and why? Can you draw a picture of your favorite mailbox?



It sure has been refreshing to see more people out walking, biking, gardening and fixing up their homes like never before. The stories of people helping people have been incredible. I am proud of the way that most of our residents have contained the outbreak and even more proud of our medical heroes, first responders, civil servants and food providers for helping our community. Our merchants are eager to come back. Our tourists are eager to come back. Everyone just wants to get back to their regular lives – their well-trodden paths.

Let's pretend that pathogens, like the flu and the dozens of other ordinary pathogens, are always out there waiting for their opening and ready to find their path back into humans. Stay healthy. Respect each others' space. Always sanitize your hands before touching your face. Keep your Immune System (your Lymphatic System) strong. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Exercise regularly and take vitamin and mineral supplements. On that note I wish you all, as always, a Sunshine (Vitamin D) State of Mind.

ONLY YOU KNOW & I KNOW

With all of the market information that I provide, you might be under the false impression that I do not help people in marketing and/or buying real estate. I do not use sites like Zillow to promote myself because they are NOT in the real estate business and we do not need 100's of websites to sell real estate. I like promoting properties on realtor.com, century21.com, our local website c212020.com and I use Loopnet/CoStar to promote commercial properties. Here is what I have sold so far this year:

- 95 King Street – Commercial Office Building - \$610,000. I represented Seller and Buyer.
- 312 Shamrock Rd. – Home in St. Aug South - \$212,000. Kristin Purdy and I represented Sellers.
- 137 Washington St. – Home Downtown - \$469,000. Lenny Byrd and I represented Sellers.
- Dobbs Rd at Kings Estates Rd. – Industrial Acreage - \$465,000 – I represented Seller and Buyer.

- Vacant Lot on US 1 South - \$40,000 – I represented Seller and Buyer.
- Pending – Home on 1.25 Acres – List Price \$215,000 – I represent the Seller and Buyers
- 516 Caliente Place – Home in San Savino – List Price \$369,000 – I represent the Sellers
- 6914 Cypress lake Ct. – Home in Cypress Point – List Price \$374,500 – I represent the Seller
- 505 Caliente Place – Home in San Savino – List Price \$419,900 – I represent the Sellers and Buyers
- 966 Alcala Drive – Waterfront Home in The Shores – \$450,000 – I represent the Buyers
- 424 Gallardo Circle – Home in San Savino - \$489,900 – I represent the Seller and Buyers

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Dirk Schroeder

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News From Around St. Johns County

St. Johns County Update Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As we go into May the shelter in place and social distance order is scheduled to expire April 30th if not renewed in St. Johns County. The latest information from St. Johns County Emergency Management of May 26th is updated below. The state and county will be meeting and providing updates for May. To see the full report visit www.sjcemergencymanagement.com.

To date there have been 204 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in St. Johns County with 35 hospitalizations and four deaths. There were 4,577, tests in St Johns County. In Florida there were 31,528 cases, 4,957 hospitalizations and 1,074 deaths.

COVID-19 testing continues to increase. These are the current collection testing sites:

- Flagler Health+: 400 Healthpark Blvd. outdoors in a tent. Also offers reduced rate for doctor online who may not have a primary doctor to determine testing or prescribe medication. See: www.flaglerhospital.org.

- Florida Department of Health: 200 San Sebastian View. Specimen collection is by appointment only who meet the CDC criteria for testing. Call center opens daily 8am-6pm at 904-209-3250.

- Avencia Medica: Jurlington Creek 1633 Race Track Rd, St. Johns. Open 8am-8pm Mon-Fri and 8am-5pm Sat-Sun. Collection is in a tent and people should wait in their vehicles for paperwork. Call 904-230-6988 or visit www.avecina.com/our-services/urgent-care/.

- Med One Urgent Care: 841 S Ponce De Leon Blvd Suite 4, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Open from 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, and 9am-5pm Sat-Sun. Collection billed as a doctor's visit and/or lab test. For additional information call 904.436.1553 or visit <https://medoneatsaintaugustine.com/>

- CareSpot: 2095 US Highway 1 S, Saint Augustine, FL 32086. Call 904-429-0001. Open 7 days a week 8am- 8pm. Please call ahead for an appointment. Must be symptomatic, healthcare worker, healthcare provider or first responder. Other sites: Nocatee - 151 Pine Lake Dr Ste B, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081 . Call 904-543-3677. Also 70 Durbin Pavilion Dr Ste 101, Saint Johns, FL 32259. Call 904-295-0038.

St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center Citizens Information Center can be reached by phone at 904-824-5550. If you need additional information about COVID-19 please see these websites:

- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/index.html>

- Florida Governors COVID-19 Hotline: 1-866-779-6121 (open 24 hours a day)

- Florida Division of Emergency Management: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/>

- St. Johns County Government Coronavirus Response: <http://www.sjcfl.us/coronavirus/>

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Johns County Boards and Committees

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners provides residents who have an interest in serving their community and participating in local government with a variety of board and committee opportunities. The volunteer positions consider and make recommendations regarding a myriad of topics including planning and zoning issues, development projects, libraries, parks and recreation facilities and programs, and arts, culture, and tourism matters. The following boards and committees are currently accepting applications:

- Adjustment and Appeals Board (application deadline May 15, 2020)
- Architectural Review Committee (application deadline May 15, 2020)
- Health and Human Services Advisory Council (application deadline May 15, 2020)
- North Coastal Corridor Overlay District Design Review Board (application deadline May 15, 2020)
- Mid- Anastasia Design Review Board (application deadline May 15, 2020)
- South Anastasia Design Review Board (application deadline May 15, 2020)

Please visit the Boards and Commission Webpage at www.sjcfl.us/Boards to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee, download an application, or contact the Board of County Commissioners office at 904.209.0300 or mlundquist@sjcfl.us for more information.

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St. Johns County Sheriff's Corner

By David Shoar, St. Johns County Sheriff



COVID - 19

On behalf of the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, I would like to thank our citizens and visitors for the cooperation you have demonstrated thus far during the current medical/health crisis. I have personally traveled extensively around the county over the past month and have witnessed many acts of kindness, compassion and understanding. These are certainly unprecedented times, and it will continue to require collaboration and patience from us all.

While we continue to coordinate with our health and emergency management partners to release accurate information, some anonymous social media "posts" have also created unnecessary concerns. Several social media posts in outside Florida communities have warned of individuals wearing lab coats and representing themselves as CDC officials. The posts are warning of an offer to test individuals for Covid-19, but intend to victimize you by committing a home invasion robbery. Currently, there have been NO such verified events. Additionally, text messages have also been circulating claiming to be from the United Nations or other authorities, ordering a shutdown or quarantine of "your" community. These are also fictitious communications.

While there are many legitimate sites you can visit to stay updated and I suggest the following for accurate information within Florida and St. Johns County. The sites that

you may find valuable are, Florida Health, St. Johns County Government, as well as, the Cities of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach websites. To help you get to the right location, their website addresses are: www.floridahealth.gov; www.co.st-johns.fl.us; www.citystaug.com and www.staugbch.com. Of course, you can always garner Sheriff's Office related information at www.sjsso.org or our various social media platforms listed below.

Many of you have grown uneasy about the future under our current circumstances, and understandably, there are questions on how to proceed, what do we say to our children, and when can we get back to normal. Our primary objective during this crisis is to provide assistance to our citizens by being very visible and helping where we can. All of you can be certain the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office will remain on duty and be ready to serve you throughout this healthcare crisis. Take care of yourselves, your families, and to the extent possible, your neighbors.

I hope this information assists you and your family during these unprecedented times. Of course please feel free to contact me anytime at my e-mail address at dshoar@sjsso.org. Also, be sure to sign up for the Sheriff's Office social media sites on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Next Door, and you are sure to receive important updates anytime. Stay safe and God bless all of you.

SBA Small Business Loans

Recently the President signed the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act" that provides an additional \$310 BILLION for the Small Business Administration's now exhausted Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). In addition, the legislation provides an additional \$60 BILLION for disaster loans through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL).

If you have already applied through your financial institution for the PPP, you should contact your bank and check on the status of your application. If you have not already applied for the PPP, go to: <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-paycheck-protection-program-borrower-application-form>. Download the application, gather together the requested information, contact your bank or lending institution, complete the form and apply ASAP.

For information on the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, go to: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance>. Because the Act was just signed in April, the web links above may not reflect the new funding until the first part of May.



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Computer Corner

by Steven Aldrich
904-479-5661

Remote Support ~ Who is on the other end?

With the advent of Coronavirus, many services are no longer immediately available to us. Getting help with your computer, while essential to you, does not seem to be listed on the US Government's "Essential Services" List. This could leave you wondering what to do if there is an issue with your computer. The big box stores are no longer allowing you to drop it off for repair. This is very understandable, given that their employees are staying home.

Many tech support firms have moved their technicians to Remote Support roles. This opens up a big potential for fraudsters. PLEASE make sure that you know the person that you are granting remote access to your computer. You should only grant remote access to someone you know.

First Coast Computer Services Remote Service:

My company has been providing remote service for years here in St Augustine. See my ad on this page.

In-Person Support Protocols:

If your computer is not running or we are unable to start a remote support session, I have put in place protocols for any in-person, or on-site service:

1. We will set a time for me to pick up the computer.

2. When I arrive, I will be wearing a mask (to protect you)

3. I ask that you observe the 6' distance rule (to protect me)

4. I will bring along disinfecting wipes and wipe the computer down

5. I will disconnect and remove the computer

a. If you have a laptop, please have it and the power cord ready for me to pick up at the door.

6. Then I will wipe down any surfaces which I have touched and leave.

Typically, I can return a computer the next day, but we will discuss timing once we know what we are dealing with in your specific case.

Regardless of who you might contact to repair your computer, please be certain that they are reputable, and that you know and trust them. We probably should expect an increase in fraudulent activities during this pandemic.

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.

Financial Focus

Information Provided by
Edward Jones



CARES Act Offers Help for Investors, Small Businesses

As we go through the coronavirus crisis, we are all, first and foremost, concerned about the health of our loved ones and communities. But the economic implications of the virus have also weighed heavily on our minds. However, if you're an investor or a business owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future.

Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following:

- Expanded unemployment benefits – The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent contractors and "gig economy" workers. Obviously, if your employment has been affected, these benefits could be a lifeline. Furthermore, the benefits could help you avoid liquidating some long-term investments you've earmarked for retirement just to meet your daily cash flow needs.

- Direct payments – Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money for an immediate need, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund.

- No penalty on early withdrawals – Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief and/or in

plans that allow COVID-19 distributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible.

- Suspension of required withdrawals – Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

- Increase of retirement plan loan limit – Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

- Small-business loans – The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses – those with fewer than 500 employees – retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis.

We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt – and brighten our outlook.

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



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