



St. Augustine Beaches

News Journal

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

South Beach Business Council Summer Mixer



Pictured above are members of the South Beaches Business Council (St. Johns Chamber of Commerce) who recently held their Summer Mixer at Allegro on Anastasia Island. More than 60 guests enjoyed music and delicious food prepared by Allegro and beer and wine compliments of Prosperity Bank. (see more on page 2)

"Green is Good" - State Farm and The Boys & Girls Club Agree

Last year, State Farm challenged their employees with the Green Neighbor Challenge. The contest promoted a workplace, marketplace, and a community initiative to go green. A Catastrophe Services team of five members from North Florida took up the workplace initiative to reduce environment impact, conserving resources, and managing their expenses. The catastrophe team, also known as "The Green Machines", was comprised of Amber Halcrow, Jody Prince, Rafael Solis, Ryan Halcrow, and Torr Gillyard. This team was recently announced as the Green Neighbor Challenge winners and awarded the coveted title and monetary prize.



While handling claims across the nation, "The Green Machines" prized program encompassed setting up recycling bins at each office. Materials including aluminum, plastics, cardboard, and glass were taken to local recycling centers and weighed. The challenge began with a goal of 100 pounds; by year-end the team had successfully recycled a total of 510 pounds of materials.

All Green Neighbor Challenge programs were submitted to a panel at State Farm Corporate offices who determined the winner. The prize included a donation from State Farm of \$5,000 to a non-profit organization of the winning team's choice. The winning "The Green Machines" team recently surprised St. Augustine's Boys & Girls Club with the generous donation. These unexpected dollars allowed the Club director, Gerson Penza to purchase some much needed supplies such as new tables, coolers for summer camp and walkie talkies. "The donation is allowing us to better serve our members. It's not every day a group walks through the doors with a sizeable check," stated Richard Hardy; Chairman of the Boys & Girls Club Area Board. With the Club's surge in daily attendance to over 100 youth the funds come at a critical time.

State Farm takes great pride in servicing communities, helping people recover from the unexpected and (Continued on page 2)

City Hall Update

At its July 2, 2012 regular meeting, the City Commission did the following:

1. Presented a certificate to Mr. Charles Oester, Public Works maintenance employee, for five years of employment with the city.
2. Approved a special event permit for the 5K Santa Run/Jog on Saturday, December 8, 2012, starting at the county pier park at 8 a.m.
3. Heard a report from Mr. Mark Bailey, the city's employee health insurance consultant, that compared increases in the premium over the past eight years and forecasts a potential 10% increase for Fiscal Year 2013, which will begin on October 1, 2012.
4. Heard a report from Ms. Mary O'Brien on the recycling program that her company, Advanced Disposal, provides to the city's residents under a five-year contract.
5. Approved a conditional use permit for a drive-thru window for Cone Heads

Ice Cream at 570 A1A Beach Boulevard.

6. Approved two resolutions: one to authorize the Supervisor of Elections to count absentee ballots in the upcoming primary election in August; the second to authorize the execution of the renewal of the agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the city to mow the SR-A1A right-of-way and medians, and to remove litter.



7. Approved a budget resolution to appropriate money to pay for additional postage for the mailing of notices to every registered voter in the city of the July 16th special meeting on the police department and whether the city should retain the department or contract with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services.

8. Approved the finance director's request to remove depreciated assets from the city's inventory.

9. Reaffirmed its 2011 decision to allow the plazas (continued on page 3)

What's Inside The News Journal This Month

- **City Manager:** Decision
- **Financial Focus:** Diversify Your Investment Risk
- **Spiritually Speaking:** "DO Leave Home Without It!"
- **St. Augustine Beautification Committee:** Summertime
- **Sheriff's Corner:** Hurricane Awareness
- **Insurance Needs Change As You Grow Older**

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City Manager Max Royle
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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, P.O. Box 51593, Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32240. Information may

also be e-mailed to beachesnewsjournal@yahoo.com or the editor at col@scrctc.com.

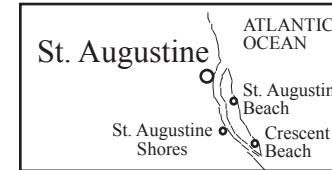
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All **ads submitted** for publication in the Beaches News Journal should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue.

Matters concerning **advertising** should be referred to the General Manager or mailed to P.O. Box 51593 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240.

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



News From Around St. Johns County

DEALING WITH CONTRACTORS

We all know there are good and bad contractors. Fortunately, St Johns County Florida is blessed with many honest and reliable contractors. However, there are some that are not honest as evidenced by the fact that Seniors vs Crime has had seven complaints locally from residents that claimed they were ripped off by unscrupulous contractors. One of the most common situations we have been asked to investigate is a contractor starting a job but walking off before the work is complete. Often in these cases, the homeowner has paid most or all of the bill in advance. If the contractor is less than honest, has spent more money than he estimated and stands to lose money by continuing, he may decide to walk. Your best chance of having your project successfully completed is to make sure the contractor understands he will be paid in full only after the work has been completed to your satisfaction.

When you need a contractor to assist you in doing work around your home that you are unable to do yourself, here are a few ground rules for you to remember:

1. Always get an estimate from at least two contractors before you decide to start your project. Consider the quality of work you expect as price alone is not always the compelling reason for selecting a contractor.

2. Request advice from your friends or neighbors who may have had similar work done and are in a good position to recommend a contractor.

3. Contact the Better Business Bureau at (904) 721-2288 or through their website: www.bbb.nefla.org. and inquire about the company's rating and reputation.

4. Choose a contractor that is licensed, insured and bonded.

5. Do not agree to pay in advance. The contractor may ask that you pay for materials up front but this opens up the door for a disappearing act. Having said that, if the contractor has a good reputation and the price of materials is less than half the cost of the entire project, you may consider helping him out.

6. Once the work has started, resist adding or changing the scope of work. Change orders are expensive and may delay the time it takes to finish the job. Remember time is money too. Unfortunately, some contractors will low ball the initial price in anticipation of making their profit from changes.

7. Pay with a credit card if possible. If a problem arises after the contractor leaves, you can dispute the charges with your credit card company. If you pay with cash, check or with a debit card, your chances of recovering are slim.

If you have been a victim of an unscrupulous contractor or any other type of financial scam, please contact Rick Johnson, St. Johns County Seniors vs Crime Manager, St. Augustine Beach Police Department, 904-471-3600 or email: svc.stjohns@gmail.com.

Green is Good

(continued from page 1)

being a good neighbor just as THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club realize first hand. The State Farm contribution will stay local even though the Club is a branch of the Boys & Girls Club of North Florida and an affiliate of Boys & Girls Club of America. The Club provides time tested and nationally accredited after-school programs to all of St. Johns County residents between the ages of 6 to 18 years. For information on The Boys & Girls Club or how you can get involved please contact Jennifer Tesori, St. Augustine's Youth Advocate & Community Liaison by phone at 904-669-0107, or e-mail at jennifert@bgcnf.org or visit www.bgcnf.org. THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club is located at 555 West King Street, St. Augustine, 32084.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA



Wiesner Repeats as AAU National Taekwondo Champion

Bobby Wiesner, a 10 year old Saint Augustine resident, kicked and punched his way to the 1st place podium to become the 2012 AAU USA National Champion in Taekwondo forms and sparring. The national tournament took place from July 2-July 7 and drew about 2,000 competitors from throughout the USA.

After winning gold at nationals in 2010, Wiesner returned to the tournament scene again this year. He qualified for the 2012 national tournament with first place finishes at both the Wisconsin State Championship in March and the Florida State Championship in April.

An articulate A-student, Wiesner is quick to credit his successes to several area taekwondo instructors including: Master Jose Delgado, Master Greg Olipendo, Mr. Titus Durojaiye, and Ms. Shari Toregrossa. For additional information, contact Robert Wiesner (father) at rtgaudit@aol.com.



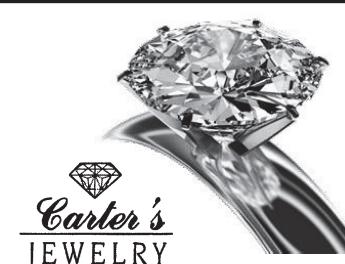
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News From Around St. Augustine Beach

City Hall Update

(continued from page 1)

along 2nd Avenue between A and 1st Streets to be used for a community garden, and approved the fence proposed by the Community Garden Association and accepted by the city staff.

10. Postponed to the next meeting consideration of an ordinance to regulate storage trailers.

11. Decided to put in the city's Personnel Manual a reference to the state's Whistleblower Protection law.

12. Tabled to the August meeting consideration of allowing parking along the north side of 16th Street from the Boulevard west to the entrance to the Anastasia Oaks condos.

13. Approved a \$350 increase in the monthly retainer paid to the city attorney. The retainer will go from \$2,400 to \$2,750 a month.

14. Put on the agenda for the August 6th meeting consideration as to whether the city should have decorative pins made to give to visitors; and consideration of the city holding a Veterans Day ceremony at its Veterans Memorial in Lakeside Park.

15. Postponed to its October 1st meeting the update report the mayor and each commissioner is to provide concerning the respective strategic plan priorities that each has agreed to develop an implementation plan for.

July 16 Special Meeting

At its July 16th special meeting, the City Commission by majority vote approved a long range plan to reduce the number of sworn officers its Police Department has from 17 to seven: five patrol officers, a sergeant and a Police Chief. A civilian administrative assistant will also be included in the Department. Deputies from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office will augment the City's officers, as the

deputies do now. The Sheriff's Office will continue to provide such specialized services as dispatch, canine unit, investigations, and air and marine resources. The reduction in Police Department personnel will save an estimated \$700,000-plus a year for the City's taxpayers, once first year expenses, such as unemployment compensation and severance, are paid. The reduction will not occur immediately, as the City lacks a Police Chief. Once a Chief is hired, an advisory committee will be appointed to help the Chief determine who among the Department's existing personnel should be the six sworn officers who are retained.

The Commission also decided to hire a search firm to help it find the City's next Police Chief. Representatives from Colin Baenziger and Associates have been invited to the City Commission's August 6th regular meeting to discuss how it will conduct the search, the timetable for hiring the Chief and the fee the firm will charge. In the interim, the City Commission, on the recommendation of the current interim Police Department administrator, Chief David Messenger of the Sheriff's Office, appointed Sergeant Ralph Correa of the City's Police Department to be its interim Police Chief, effective August 1, 2012.

The city commission's next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in city hall at 2200 A1A South. The public is invited to attend.

Max Royle, City Manager
City of St. Augustine Beach, 2200 A1A S.
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080
904-471-2122

PLEASE NOTE: Under Florida law, most communications to and from the City are public records. Your e-mails, including your e-mail address, may be subject to public disclosure.

St. Augustine Beach Commissioner Meeting

St. Augustine Beach Town Hall meetings with Commissioner Undine Pawlowski will be Friday, and August 3rd, from 10 - 11:30 at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall Conference Room.

City residents are invited to join the informal, round table discussions and review the Saint Augustine Beach City Commission meeting agenda and supporting materials.

“Beach Hot Dogs” Comes to St. Augustine Beach

“Coming from Ohio.... GO BUCKEYES! My family through marriage owned and operated a well known Hungarian hot dog restaurant in Toledo, Ohio called, Tony Packo’s Hungarian hot dogs. If you have ever watched Mash, Klinger talked about Tony Packo’s restaurant in several episode’s. Tony Packo’s was also known for their signed hot dog buns on the wall from MANY famous people. Unfortunately, they sold all the restaurants after many years. After being down here for 18 years I decided to open my own hot dog restaurant. It’s a small but friendly atmosphere and I’m ALWAYS open to suggestions! My hot dogs and my CONEY ISLAND sauce comes from Flint Michigan, they have that snap when you bite into them. However, don’t take my word for it come in and find out for yourself and mention you saw this ad and receive 10% off. Come see what we have to offer.” Kim Packo, owner.

St. Augustine Beach Community Garden Has New Fence

The St. Augustine Beach Community Garden installed a fence this week, a major step forward to getting a community garden growing on the site at Second Avenue, between A Street and 1st Street.

Tractor Supply and Home Depot provided discounted prices on materials and Hardwick Fence provided a favorable price on the installation of the 5-foot-wire fence, which will be finished, by volunteer gardeners, with wooden lattice and crawling jasmine vine. “The jasmine will become a living fence,” said Nana Royer, president of the garden.

A well and irrigation piping were installed at the garden site in May. Building gates, raised garden beds, hauling dirt and constructing a tool storage shed are some of the next steps to having a garden in full bloom.

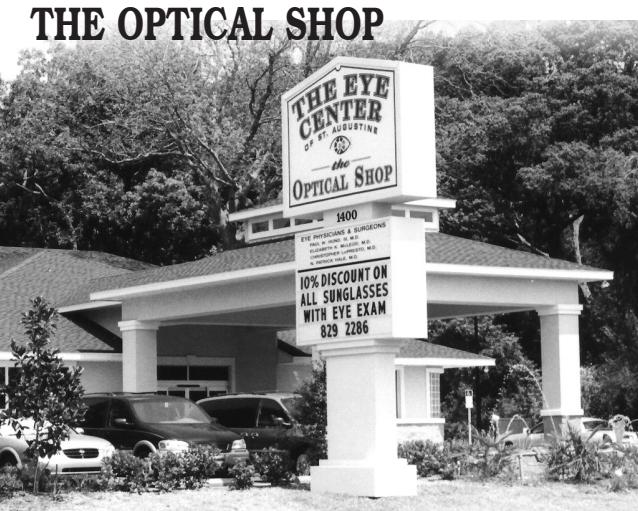
“Without the support of the City of St. Augustine Beach and area businesses, this would not be possible,” Royer said. Those who have donated to the projected are listed on the nonprofit’s web site at www.sabgarden.org

The SBCG is dedicated to producing healthy organic food, lowering our carbon footprint, promoting sustainable living, mastering the art of organic gardening through collaborative learning, and growing community. An associate membership costs just \$10 year and a box membership \$50 annually.



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OF ST. AUGUSTINE**

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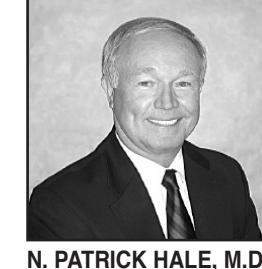
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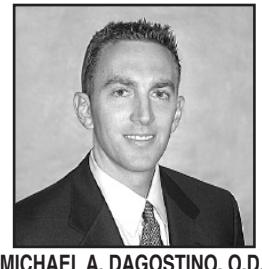
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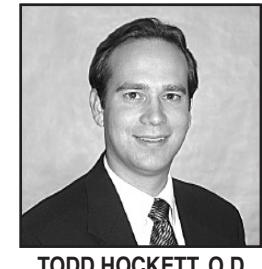
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TODD HOCKETT, O.D.

“BIRDING FOR KIDS AT ANASTASIA STATE PARK”

Anastasia Park Volunteers provide outdoor classroom to children for birding basics

On August 12th The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Anastasia State Park will be providing a program about birding basics in an outdoor classroom for kids.

This exciting 1.5 hour program is intended for kids ages 8-12. The program will begin with an outdoor classroom session on how to identify birds, followed by a scavenger hunt to find a list of target birds in the park. The scavenger hunt route will begin at the Sea Turtle Pavilion and run out to the beach, and back over the boardwalk. The goals of this program are to introduce kids to birding in a fun and educational manner, present birding as one of many ways kids can interact with nature and instill an overall appreciation of our natural resources. Class size will be limited to ten students and adult chaperones will be required. This program is free with regular paid park admission. Advance registration is also required by contacting Cristy Leonard at 904-461-2035 or cristy.leonard@dep.state.fl.us.

Anastasia State Parks goal is to provide access for people of all abilities. If you have any special needs, please contact park staff at (904) 461-2033 before your arrival. Accessible parking is provided throughout the park. This program will take place Sunday, August 12, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at Anastasia State Park, 1340A A1A South St. Augustine, Florida 32080. For more information, visit www.floridastateparks.org.



St. Augustine Beach Civic Association

By Robert Samuels, President
St. Augustine Beach Civic Association

www.thecivicassociation.com

The Civic Association's Music by the Sea Concerts continue in August:

- August 1st: Steam the Band- Motown Review Raintree
- August 8th: Mid Life Crisis -Classic R/R, LaStrada
- August 15th: Jimmy Parrish & the Ocean Waves -Beach Music, FA Cafe
- August 22nd: Smokin Mirrors - R/R, The Gypsy Cab
- August 29th: Aint 2 Proud 2 Beg - Classic R/R, Maui Grill

Music is from 7pm – 9pm with dinners served at 6pm. Come early for best parking, extra handicapped parking areas are provided. Bring a beach chair and a cooler of your favorite beverages. Sister Shack's homemade Italian Ices are available. WYRE Radio will be broadcasting live from the Pier Park before each concert. For a complete schedule see our website www.TheCivicAssociation.org. A special thanks to TD Bank and the Bailey Group for sponsoring the Concert Series this year. We'd like to remind our guests that grilling is not permitted in the Pier Park except at the picnic area by the bocce courts. New this year is free shuttle service from the parking lot at City Hall (16th St. and A1AS). Voltage Shuttle operated by Casey Duggen, is donating their "green" transport every 20 minutes starting at 5:30. Pickups on 16th St. are also available.

The Pier Park parking lot will not be closed this summer and the Wednesday Market and Concerts will continue without interruption. Currently, the pier is having some decking replaced and materials may be placed at the very eastern section of the parking lot by the pier office. Construction of new restrooms by the City has begun in front of Splash Park, but only occasional disruption of the immediate parking area may take place because of building materials. Splash Park renovations will not begin until after Labor Day and it will be open for use until then. Sorry for any confusion caused by an incorrect announcement in the Record.

Civic Association volunteers fed the homeless on July 2, in down town St. Augustine. We'd like to recognize our volunteers who participated: Sare Deome, John Thompson, Merrill Roland, Fr. Nick Marziani, Diane Von Ahlefeld, Kiki Christine, Robert Samuels and Susie Sullivan who did the cooking. Thanks also to Al and Olivia Deinhart for coordinating the food donations. About 100 individuals enjoyed a

meal of beef perrou, baked chicken, green beans, tomato salad, fruit salad and desserts. Paul Johnson of Home Again St Johns surprised our volunteers by inviting all of them to a cookout at Vickers Field which will be served to all those who have helped with volunteer feeding throughout the year.

Meet the Candidates Night Forum will be Tuesday August 7th at 7pm at City Hall. This event will be for primary candidates participating in the August 14th primary elections. Doors open at 6:30 and written questions from the audience will be collected. Qualified candidates in primary races include:

County Commission- Dist 1: Brian Ianucci, Merrill Roland, Cyndi Stevenson

County Commission- Dist 3: Bill McClure, John Ruggeri, Ray Quinn

County Commission- Dist 5: Rachael Bennett, Joesph (Ken) Bryan, Alan Kelso

School Board- Dist 5: Patrick Thomas Canan, Gary McMahon, Tom Rivers

Anastasia Mosq Control Dist 1: Faye Armitage, Vivian Browning, Bob Smith

Anastasia Mosq Control Dist 5: Gary Howell, Paul Linser, Vernon Tyrone Stroman Jr

Port & Waterway Dist 4: Carl Blow, Robert Kee

Each group will have an opportunity to make a brief introduction, answer several questions and make closing remarks. Light refreshments will be available. This event will be broadcast and rebroadcast on Comcast channel 2. Live streaming is usually available on the City of St. Augustine Beach website. (www.staugbch.com)

Civic Association members receive discounts at many local restaurants and shops that are Participating Merchants. We'd like to welcome our newest business, ORGANIZE, a service company run by long term resident of St. Augustine Andréa Giovanni a British version of Martha Stewart with a wealth of experience behind her to facilitate her exceptional organizing skills. She has studied art and design, interior decorating and cooking. Her international travels and passion for embracing new cultures have given her a unique edge on how to keep the home life streamlined, allowing time for enjoying life. ORGANIZE will aid you in achieving balance and harmony in the flow of your home, giving you the freedom to be more involved in family, friends and interests you have always wanted to pursue. Stress relief, better time keeping, and minimizing waste are just a few of the benefits that you CAN achieve.



Message from the Mayor

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

with the City's Police Department. More information about how the blended approach to law enforcement services will work will be provided in subsequent updates.

• Beach Re-nourishment - This effort, which is part of a 50 year plan to rebuild shoreline shaved away after the St. Augustine Inlet was carved in the 1940's, is nearing completion. The effort which commenced in March was expected to conclude by the end of June. However, weather related events including nor'easters and storms, such as Beryl, have impeded progress and it now appears that completion of the project will slip to early August or beyond. Citizens and tourists are urged to exercise care and caution when visiting the beach during this re-nourishment effort. Ensuring your safety is our number one priority.

• Tourism Development Council Update – Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien reports that the tourism outlook continues to brighten as the numbers of visitors to St. Johns County have shown increases in 2012. The current beach re-nourishment taking place is enhancing the beach by bringing in over 2 million cubic yards of sand on St. Augustine Beach which is a substantial benefit which could positively impact tourism in our City in 2013 and beyond. The cost of the re-nourishment is paid in part by visitors to the County through the Tourism Development Council Bed Tax.

Here is a quick listing of City sponsored/led projects for 2012:

- Renovation of wash rooms at Pier Park
- Renovation and expansion of Splash Park (at Pier Park)
- Installation of new energy efficient lighting at Pier Park
- Installation of four(4) drainage improvement projects (Lockhart Lane, east end of 2nd Street, E Street and 2nd Avenue and F Street and 3rd Avenue)
- Construction of a bulkhead to stop the erosion along a section of the City's main drainage canal that goes through Marsh Creek subdivision

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

Best regards, S. Gary Snodgrass

Listed below are just some of the things Andréa can assist you with: *Appointment Setting, *Bill Paying, *Cooking, *Computer & Admin Work, *Decorating-Holidays & Interior, *Errands, *Exercise Companion/Motivator, *House Sitting, Pet-Sitting, *Important Dates Reminders, *Insurance Evidence, *Menu Planning, *Obtaining Estimates, *Organizing Closets, Pantries, Home Office, Photographs, *Organizing Home Office, *Organizing Yards, Lanais, Garages, Sheds, *Overseeing Maintenance, Repairs, Building Work, *Packing, Unpacking, Relocating, Moving, *Party Planning, *Pets to Vets, *Sorting Items to Keep, Donate or Discard, *Travel Arrangements, Airport Pick-Up, Drop-Off, *Wrapping & Shipping Gifts.

For a consultation, please call Andréa at (904) 673-8030. Civic Association members will receive 50% off the 1st hour of organizing service.

Don't forget to visit the Wednesday

Farmers/Arts & Crafts Market at the Pier Park. We always have new vendors joining the market. The produce is fresh, the food delicious and the shopping always unique. The market is open from 8:00am – 12:30pm. It's a great place to grab a quick lunch.



Temple Bet Yam

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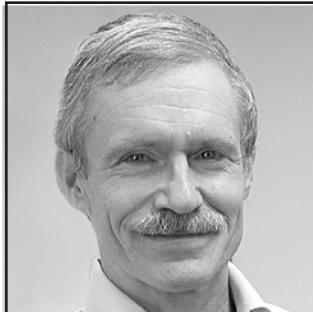
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Patrick T. Canan



Decision

By Max Royle
St. Augustine Beach City Manager

Way back when, or November 2005 to be exact, this newspaper had an essay I'd written titled "More Like a Business." It featured a maxim that's well-known to aficionados of the local government scene, namely that government should be run like a business. I'm not going to reprise my remarks here from nearly seven years ago, because I'm certain they were and are so memorable that you've never forgotten them.

But, on the absurdly implausible possibility that your memory cells are already overstuffed with fond remembrances of scenes from all those enthralling TV episodes of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" that you've seen over the years, please allow me to provide a faint hint of the topic of my 2005 essay. Basically, it was about how sometimes local government cannot be run like a business because the pragmatic, bottom line dollars-and-sense (yes, that's the right word) goals and procedures of the business world aren't always similar/compatible with the occasional sentiment-driven goals of the local government world. For example, the residents of a city who so willingly generously, and let's not forget joyously pay their taxes, may want an activity that will cost them more money, such as a recreation program, or an enhanced service, such as two trash pickups per week instead of the less expensive and more efficient once-a-week pickup. The residents may say that they don't care if there is an extra cost. They'll gladly pay it because they value the activity and feel a sense of ownership about it. This attitude is quite at variance with the financial self-interest that's paramount to the shareholders of a private corporation.

However, there are times when local government must be run like a business; when the elected leaders must make a decision that's not based on sentiment but on the best practices of efficiency and saving the taxpayers' money; a decision that the leaders see is clearly in the public's short- and long-term best interests; and finally, a decision that is contrary to the vehemently expressed opposition of a group of residents. One example of such a decision occurred right here in our own little corner of the Florida paradise.

It concerned the fate of the city's much respected volunteer fire department. Residents in the best spirit and tradition of community service had been volunteering to serve as firefighters since the city's incorporation in 1959. During those early years, when the city's population was less than a thousand residents, the service provided by the volunteer firefighters might have been considered primitive by today's standards, but it was adequate. There were few homes and commercial properties to protect; most of the volunteers lived/worked in the city or near it and thus could hear the wail of the fire station's siren that alerted the community a fire had been reported and the volunteers were needed to extinguish it.

Then, slowly over the years, the city changed: vacant land sprouted buildings; the sons (and later a few of the daughters) of the early volunteer firefighters lived and/or worked outside the city's limits and even outside the St. Augustine area, and thus were no longer within hearing range of the fire station's siren.

Even the use of telephones and later pagers to summon the volunteers didn't help, because where the volunteers lived or worked made it impossible for an adequate number of them to be quickly at a fire scene. Buildings became larger and taller, so that a two-volunteer crew was no longer sufficient to fight a fire in them. Fire training standards changed. Gone were the days when the training of new volunteers could be done by the traditional hands-on, show-and-tell method by the older, experienced volunteers. A minimum number of training hours by state-certified instructors was eventually required, and a volunteer had to be certified as having been properly trained before he or she could don bunker gear and fight fires.

The city commission did its best to cope. When the number of volunteers available to respond to fire calls during weekdays dwindled, the commission in the late 1990s authorized the hiring of one, then two paid, professionally-trained firefighters, who each worked a standard 40-hour workweek. When there weren't sufficient volunteers sleeping at the station to answer night calls, the commission authorized overtime pay for the paid firefighters to respond after their regular shift had ended. Yes, the city had mutual aid agreements with the county and St. Augustine for firefighting assistance, but the commission eventually came to realize that what the city relied on for fire protection was basically an improvised contraption held together by stale chewing gum, frayed string, and rusty wire, and that a long-term change was needed.

The change happened in the spring of 2001, after two years of discussion and debate by the commission as to what solution would provide the best fire protection for the city. The choice of a solution was made on the basis of a key best practice of the government-should-be-run-like-a-business model, namely, the bottom line, the cost: for the city to have its own fully staffed and equipped fire department on duty 24/7 would have put an extraordinary financial burden on the city's few thousand taxpayers. The commission decided that the way to avoid that burden was to make the city part of a county fire district and have the county's fire department provide the service. This would mean that the city's taxpayers would share with thousands of others in the district the cost of the service. The district included not only St. Augustine Beach, but also areas of the county north, west, and south of the city.

Yet, this decision, as businesslike as it appeared on the surface, was made in a very unbusinesslike setting: not in a corporate board room with the doors closed and the press and public excluded. No, it was made in a very public setting, the commission meeting room in the former city hall, that at meetings in March and April 2001 was stuffed with citizens, many of whom were vocally and with passion opposed to contracting with the county for fire protection service.

The opposition to the change was based on three reasons: the city could have a corps of volunteers which, for serious fires beyond the abilities of the volunteers to contain, could be augmented by the paid firefighters from the county and/or St. Augustine; there should be

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a referendum to let the voters decide whether the city should contract with the county; and finally, the loss of its volunteer fire department would diminish the city's identity.

In reviewing the minutes of the March 5th and April 2, 2001 commission meetings when the change was discussed and finally approved, I noticed that the first reason, the volunteer concept, ultimately wasn't considered as workable. With all the new training and other requirements and the difficulty in getting a sufficient number of volunteers to respond to a fire call, the commission seemed to realize that the days of community-based, volunteer firefighting were over.

Other residents, as well as one commissioner, suggested at the March 5th meeting that the question of the city having its own fire department should be decided in a referendum by the voters. To this, Commission John Rowland replied, according to the minutes, "that [the matter] should be decided by the Commission. The Commission's authority shouldn't be transferred to the people."

My, my, in some circles it doesn't get any more politically incorrect than that, I'd venture to say. Two other commissioners, Mayor Emmett Pacetti and Albert Holmberg, agreed with Mr. Rowland, so the vote for the

city to contract with the county was approved at the April 2nd public hearing by a 3-2 vote. The minutes of that meeting show that 13 persons spoke on the issue: six were in favor of the city having its own fire department; six were against; and one resident said more study was needed on the proposed change.

The third reason suggested by some residents was that the change to the county fire department would mean a loss to the city's identity. That raises the questions as to what exactly constitutes a city's "identity." Is it the services the city provides, or its historic buildings, scenic location, typography, types of businesses, characteristics of its residents, or a combination of some or all of the above? Clearly, this is a topic for us to explore at another time.

So, here we are, 11 years later. Has the city lost anything because of the change? Not that I can see. And no resident has told me that they think the city has lost something. Rather, the change has been a smooth transition, and I've heard not a single complaint about the service provided by the county fire department.

Those three city commissioners in 2011 who made the decision in favor of the change proved that indeed local government could on a very significant issue be run like a business.



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Financial Focus

Information Provided By
Edward Jones

Diversify Your Investment Risk

All investments carry risk. But, as an investor, one of the biggest risks you face is that of not achieving your long-term goals, such as enjoying a comfortable retirement and remaining financially independent throughout your life. To help reach your objectives, you need to own a variety of investment vehicles — and each carries its own type of risk. If you spread your investment dollars among vehicles that carry different types of risk, you may increase your chances of owning some investments that do well, even if, at the same time, you own others that aren't. As a result, you may be able to reduce the overall level of volatility in your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee a profit or protect against all losses.)

To diversify your risk factors, you first need to recognize them. Here are some of the most common types of investment risk:

- Market risk — This is the type of risk that everyone thinks about — the risk that you could lose principal if the value of your investment drops and does not recover before you sell it. All investments are subject to market risk. You can help lessen this risk by owning a wide variety of investments from different industries and even different countries.

- Inflation (purchasing power) risk — If you own a fixed-rate investment, such as a Certificate of Deposit (CD), that pays an interest rate below the current rate of inflation, you are incurring purchasing power risk. Fixed-income investments can help provide reliable income streams, but you also need to consider investments with growth potential to help work toward your long-term goals.

- Interest-rate risk — Bonds and other fixed-income investments are subject to interest-rate risk. If you own a bond that pays 4% interest, and newly issued bonds pay 5%, it would be difficult to sell your bond for full price. So if you wanted to sell it prior to maturity, you might have to offer it at a discount to the original price. However, if you hold your bonds to maturity, you can expect to receive return of your principal provided the bond does not default.

- Default risk — Bonds, along with some more complex investments, such as options, are subject to default risk. If a company issues a bond that you've bought and that company runs into severe financial difficulties, or even goes bankrupt, it may default on its bonds, leaving you holding the bag. You can help protect against this risk by sticking with "investment-grade" bonds — those that receive high ratings from independent rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's.

- Liquidity risk — Some investments, like real estate, are harder to sell than others. Thus, real estate is considered more "illiquid" than many common investments.

Make sure you understand what type of risk is associated with every investment you own. And try to avoid "overloading" your portfolio with too many investments with the same type of risks. Doing so will not result in a totally smooth journey through the investment world — but it may help eliminate some of the "bumps" along the way.

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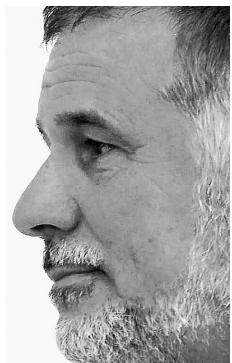
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Spiritually Speaking

By Dr. Nicholas A. Marziani
askfrnicholas@aol.com

Father Marziani serves as the Pastor of St. James Mission in St. Augustine, and also as Vice-President of the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association.



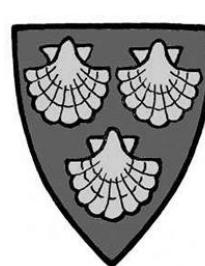
"DO Leave Home Without It!"

A toxic set of attitudes, that is . . . when heading out on vacation.

As I compose these lines this month I'm trying to take my own advice, sitting in my hotel room on the waterfront in Boston. We're visiting our youngest daughter, Elianna, son-in-law, James, and one-year old fourth grandchild, and our uneventful JetBlue flight into Beantown and gourmet mac and cheese supper last night (there IS a place in Charlestown with a whole sub-menu of varieties of that standby from our childhood) has put me in a good frame of mind.

Actually, though, this may be the first time in a long time I made a deliberate choice to stress-down and mentally prepare to not carry my busy world with me when I left town (and it has been VERY busy earlier this summer). One writer with the New York Times put it this way — "Leave Your Context at Home" (Vacation Sabotage: Don't Let It Happen to You!, Matt Richtel, 6/29/12). And that context includes certain physical "stuff" as well as mental attitudes of the anxious and disruptive sort.

Our son Michael recently visited us from Austin, TX for my Father's Day ordination as a Catholic priest, and his approach to travel was intriguing. Now, mind you, Mike is an interesting young man, definitely "out of the box" (chip off the ol' block). So I don't necessarily recommend his approach on this occasion, but essentially he got on



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his flight back in Texas with just the clothes on his back, his wallet, and his iPhone (I think he may have also had his iPad as well, but you see he's an IT headhunter back home and I do believe he's stitched to his technology!). Anyway, he figured he'd just purchase the few things he thought he would otherwise need for the trip, and let it go at that. Interesting . . .

Well, beyond that, here are a few gems from Mr. Richtel's article, basically just the paragraph headings. Read them slowly . . . savor the wisdom . . . and consider YOUR next vacation.

OK, here we go: "Endure the Boredom" . . . "Don't Prepare for Your Own Death" (with excessive putting things in order before leaving). And maybe this is the best one: "Don't Worry About Re-Entry; Most of It's Spam". Now THAT does hit the nail on the head, doesn't it!

Fact is, real down-time, the quality stuff that potentially changes lives, must by definition be agenda-free and as little encumbered by hyped "advance planning" as possible. Don't get me wrong — I certainly did some homework before embarking on this trip, seeking best rates on travel and accommodations, etc., just like everyone should. But after a reasonable amount of such looking to logistics, we really need to breathe deeply and be prepared for — nothing in particular. Let serendipity be your seductress, let your mind and spirit wander, discover new dimensions of yourself, your spouse and children, friends, etc. And discover the world through as clear a mental lens as possible, without preconceptions other than this is God's world, all of it, and God and creation are a whole lot bigger than any of us have imagined.

So enjoy a late summer or early fall getaway (dodging tropical storms, if necessary). And try not to stress — it really is a choice, and it's one I'm increasingly electing to not "indulge" in. Happy Trails!!

May you all be blessed, Fr. Nick.

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Summertime

August, the last month of summer, is all about attitude. Known as the Dog Days of Summer, August decelerates and busyness is put aside while time is allowed to dawdle almost standing still while the incessant to-do list is buried under East corner of a sand castle. Kick back, relax, and listen to the sounds of summertime and perhaps you will hear the voice of the turtle. Such is the eloquent invitation found in the poetic words of the Song of Solomon, 2:11-13, King James, "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Like the voice of the turtle, August invites visitors to cherish summertime's symphonic sounds: the peels of children's laughter heard as yet another sand castle is built; echoes from stories retold of she-rows and heroes seem to ricochet from a frightening past to a hopeful here and now; dissonant histories, archived in coquina walls, reverberate like whispers tip-toeing along narrow cobblestone streets and across sand dunes can still be heard. There is also the glorious sound, between the noise, after the hubbub is quiet. The peaceful sound of silence at daybreak at waters edge or at days' end when knots unravel and you walk along the beach and a salty breeze softens the days' wrinkles smooth. These dog days urge us to embrace the last days of summer, perhaps chronicle or journal their passing in a chapter, a page, or even a verse, and preserve the joy of sharing our family history.

One such chapter in the city's history was marked a year ago, June 26, 2011, at the dedication of the Sculpture Garden, located at Lakeside Veterans Memorial Park. This year you are invited to celebrate Thomas Glover White's life and his remarkable gift to our community. Thomas's talent is evident in his sculpture in front of City Hall with an accent on the gifts of the sea, a promenade sea turtle, a buxom mermaid, and other fanciful treasures from the deep and was a gift to the City from Maida and Barrie Tuttle. This piece introduced Thomas's vision of Art in Public Places to the City and served as the cornerstone for the Sculpture Garden and the City of St. Augustine Beach continues to be enriched with this gift of generosity and the gift of beauty. Marianne Lerbs, Co-Founder of the Sculpture Garden

Foundation, invites you to "bring a chair or blanket, a dish to share, and enjoy the music, friendship and fun." Mark your calendar, September 30th 2012 at 4:00 PM, for more information: lisamackpa@aol.com or call 904)315-0162. This celebration is not to be missed.

Sounds from Community Gardeners can be heard as the garden takes shape and plans for fall planting are underway. Participation is open to all as a member, an associate member, or as a sponsor interested in supporting this growing community effort. Along with having a place to grow your own food, the Community Garden provides the opportunity for social interaction and friendships all standard ingredients for healthy living. Residents who live in condominiums, have a shaded yard, or have the desire but limited space or even sport a brown thumb can check out the website www.sabcg.org or call Nana Royer @461-3541. Folks with gardening expertise who are interested in heritage or heirloom seeds are encouraged to get involved. One such historic link with the city is the Datil Pepper which according to legend was introduced and grown by the Minorcan settlers in 1768. Growing this hot little hot jewel in the Community Garden could be the historic link asked for by Mayor Joe Boles in his invitation to the City to add to the 450th celebration. Research shows this pepper has been grown by St. Augustine families for over 300 years with recipes passed down from generation to generation. It is a required ingredient in chicken pilau (perlow), Minorcan style clam chowder, datil pepper relish, and datil pepper vinegar. With a garden box set aside to grow these hot little jewels a strong (read hot) connection with the 450 would be established. Growing a little history or just the best vine ripe island tomatoes you are invited to take part and grow your community.

As Summers' cadence slows and you listen to the soulful words of George Gershwin's 'Summertime,' you agree ... the living is easy.' In August when the beach invites and each wave promises to wash your cares away, the last lines of the Song of Solomon, ring true, "... The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." Come away to this beautiful city by the sea and make wonderful memories and a little history.

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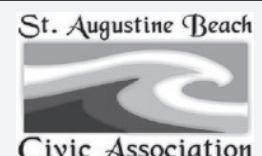
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St. Johns County Sheriff's Corner

By David Shoar, St. Johns County Sheriff

Hurricane Awareness

It has been nearly 48 years since a hurricane struck the first coast directly from the east and that hurricane, Hurricane Dora has been the only one to strike from the east since records have been kept dating back to 1851. There are only a very small percentage of folks who remember the destruction that Hurricane Dora caused in the early morning hours of 10 September 1964. The storm made a direct hit at then sparsely populated Vilano Beach with its 120 mph winds and a storm surge of 12 feet. Dora continued east to Lake City and then made a right turn and traveled north through Georgia and the Carolinas before going out to sea. The storm caused one death directly and \$280 million damage. Although we have been spared from devastating storms we should not let down our guard and be prepared if a hurricane is headed our way, remember it was not too long ago, we had the outer effects of three storms coming from the west coast that caused substantial damage. In addition, later this year marks the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew which caused devastation to South Florida.

With that said, I would like to devote this month's column on Hurricane Awareness or Safety. Hurricane season began at the beginning of last month and lasts until the end of November and meteorologists are predicting a near normal season in the Atlantic basin. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), predicts that there will be nine to 15 named storms. Of those they say between four and eight could reach hurricane strength and of those, one to three could become a major hurricane.

You should be familiar with the terms Hurricane Watch and Hurricane Warning. A Watch is issued when conditions are favorable that a hurricane could strike in 36 hours. A Warning is issued when hurricane force winds are expected to strike in 24 hours. By this time you should already have an emergency plan for yourself and family and begin implementation of that plan.

Some things to consider in your preliminary plans are:

- Take photos of your property from all angles, it may not look the same once the storm passes.
- Plan for elderly/handicapped/invalid care at a shelter or at home.
- Learn which routes will be safe during a storm.
- Learn where official shelters are located.
- Trim any dead wood from trees prior to the storm.
- Check for, fix or take note of loose items on your structures (shutters, screens, eaves, gutters, antennas, satellites).
- Get and use a hurricane tracking chart
- Plan what you and your family will do if you have to evacuate.
- Get necessary supplies and secure them in safe area.
- Plan for pet care.
- Review your insurance coverage.
- Protect your important documents.
- Show others in the family how to turn off/on gas, electricity, and water.
- Make outside repairs.

When a Hurricane Watch for your area is issued you should do the following:

- Listen to official bulletins on radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio, and Internet for updates.

- Check all supplies you already have to see if they are in satisfactory condition include batteries.
- Fill gas tank of vehicles, check oil and tire pressure.
- Inspect mobile home tie-downs.
- Board, tape, cover windows and doors or skylights.
- Secure boat.
- Secure any objects and furniture that are outside.
- Check on all medical supplies, special needs for elderly, handicapped, etc.
- Plan to evacuate if necessary.

When a Hurricane Warning is issued here are some suggestions:

- Stay tuned to TV, radio, Internet or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Move valuables to higher location
- Move furniture away from windows and cover.
- Fill containers (bathtub, plastic jugs) with drinking water.
- Use phones only in an emergency.
- Bring in/secure pets (food & water).
- Shut off water and electricity at main breaker switch.
- Leave mobile homes.
- Leave low areas. If evacuating--leave early.

Sometimes a hurricane path may not be predictable and evacuation orders could come at any time. If you are asked to evacuate, please do so early and know the route you will be taking. Remember there will be many folks taking the same route from a very large area so be sure to give yourself plenty of time to leave safely. Finally, if you refuse to leave following an evacuation order, here are some safety tips for riding out the storm:

- Make sure your building is well-constructed.
- Turn the refrigerator to maximum cold.
- Freeze water in plastic containers, if the electricity goes off you can use the ice to keep food cold in the refrigerator.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by the authorities.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and containers with water.
- Stay indoors.
- Prepare for storm surge and possible flooding.
- Plan what to do if the winds become too strong.
- Stay away from windows and doors, even if covered.
- Stay in a small interior room, hallway, or closet.
- Close all inside doors, brace exterior doors.
- If you have a two-story house, stay on the first floor.
- Lie on the floor or under a table or other sturdy object.

Now is the time to go over your hurricane preparedness. If you have not made any emergency plans, you should do them now. Planning ahead will save you unnecessary stress from not knowing what to do or not having the supplies you will need to get you through the hurricane watch, warning, storm, and aftermath. Print and post this list on the refrigerator or somewhere it will be easily seen. Please visit our website, www.sjso.org for additional information concerning Hurricane Preparedness and of course feel free to drop me a line at dshoar@sjso.org. It is our hope at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office that you have a safe and happy summer.

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- sprigs for garnish

Cut the tops off the large tomatoes and discard. Scoop out the seeds and pulp with a melon baller or spoon, reserving the shells.

For the filling, cut the corn from the cob. Combine the corn with the shallots and cheese in a small bowl. Add the cherry tomatoes and thyme leaves and mix gently with a fork. Season with salt and pepper.

Spoon the filling into the tomato shells, mounding the tops. Serve on salad plates glossed with thyme oil, and garnish with additional cherry tomatoes and thyme sprigs.

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Insurance Needs Change As You Grow Older

By Jane Tucker, First Florida Insurance

By the time you retire, your accumulated wealth is usually at its height. The challenge now is to manage your assets so that they last as long as you do.

Home - Once you pay off your mortgage, it's still important to have protection in case of fire, burglary, and natural disasters. Many insurance companies provide discounts for retirees because they spend more time at home; have more time to maintain their property; and are more likely to act promptly to correct small problems before they become big problems.

Some retirees stay active by working part-time. If you work at home, you may need a supplemental liability policy that covers your work-related activity. Consider an umbrella policy to protect your accumulated assets. Real estate, securities, and savings could be wiped out by one lawsuit. Umbrella coverage adds a layer of protection beyond your standard homeowner and auto policies.

Life - Life insurance is cheaper the earlier in life it is purchased. Retirees can still get life insurance, but should be prepared to pay a little more for it. For those who already have coverage, premiums will generally move higher as existing term insurance reaches the end of a set policy period and is up for renewal. Cash value coverage tends to have a set premium that was locked in years earlier. In order to preserve the benefit for a surviving spouse, it is necessary to continue to pay the premium.

Auto - Some insurance companies give discounts to drivers between the

ages of 50 and 70. As drivers age, however, their abilities change. Many states mandate discounts for seniors who have successfully completed driver refresher training. Older drivers, those 70 and older, have higher rates of fatal crashes, based on miles driven, than any other group except very young drivers. These older drivers should expect to see their rates begin to rise.

Health - Most people under 65 get group health insurance through their or their spouse's job. Most people who are 65 and older get Medicare from the federal government. Medicare has two parts:

- Hospital Insurance (Medicare Part A) helps pay hospital bills; and
- Medical Insurance (Medicare Part B) helps pay for doctor bills.

Long-term Care insurance is not part of Medicare and is purchased from private insurers. It is designed to pay for the many services needed by people who suffer from chronic long-lasting illnesses and need regular care, either in their own home or in a nursing home. A long-term care policy can help with daily living (such as bathing, eating, dressing, continence and mobility, and cognition).

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



What Part Would You Want To Be?

**By Rob Stanborough
PT, DPT, MHSc, MTC, CMTPT, FAAOMPT
First Coast Rehabilitation
(904) 829-3411**

I recently heard an interviewer ask "If you were a body part, what part would you like to be?" My mind raced through the pros/cons of each part, as did the interviewee. When I thought of the feet I knew there was no way. Think of the abuse they take transporting the body everywhere, carrying any extra weight the hands decide to pick up, being burned on beach's hot sand, shoved and cramped into certain shoes just to look good, stubbed on furniture, and even stepped on by other feet – not fun. Needless to say, there are many conditions that can cause foot pain. One that I often treat is plantar fasciitis – a very painful condition that can result in lifestyle changes.

The tissues on the bottom of the foot act as a shock absorber – primarily the aponeurosis. Although the exact cause of plantar fasciitis is not well known it is thought to occur when these tissues become irritated when exposed to repetitive stresses. Plantar fasciitis is often associated with flat feet, tight calf muscles or inappropriate shoe wear.

Plantar fasciitis can be quite painful, particularly in the morning when first getting out of bed. The tissues shorten while at rest during the evening and then are forced to stretch back out upon rising – a painful process. If left untreated secondary problems can develop such changes in the walking pattern or even heel spurs.

Surgery may be necessary in a few cases but most of the time it can be treated conservatively. Treatment may be as simple as using footwear that is properly fitted or orthotics. Anti-inflammatory medications may be prescribed to help decrease pain and/or inflammation. Simple stretches to

the bottom of the foot or calf muscle may help, such as rolling the foot over a bottle or cylinder each morning.

When simple self-treatments are ineffective physical therapy may be necessary. A physical therapist may perform similar interventions as mentioned above. He/she may also incorporate massage, assess footwear, and perform manual stretches and/or exercises. One treatment that has been found to work especially well is ASTYM or Augmented Soft Tissue Manipulation. This treatment uses special tools to massage or manipulate the tissues. Cells within the tissues respond to the treatment by rebuilding the tissue so it will become stronger. One benefit to this treatment is it rarely requires activity modification. Most patients are able to maintain their lifestyles at work or recreational activities.

If you've been diagnosed with plantar fasciitis – recently or a while ago – and experiencing foot pain, treatment may be simple. The only way to know is to consult your MD and/or physical therapist. Feet are unsung heroes. You never know how valuable they are until something goes wrong. So stop abusing them and start taking care of them today.

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

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A Shift in the Real Estate Market

Have I seen signs of the shift to a seller's market here in St. Augustine Beach? Yes, absolutely.

The biggest sign is our local inventory- it's shrinking. We have approximately 8.5 months of inventory right now. When it drops to 6 months, it becomes a "seller's market".

Buyers are waiting for each new house to hit the market. Sellers are getting closer to their full asking price, when priced well. Contracts in my office are showing less contingencies. Just today a seller told me, "I sold my house for full price within 5 days of it being on the market." With a good agent and results like this, sellers are thrilled! Recently, one of my listings went under contract in just 8 hours.

Many buyers are watching the market daily for their perfect home to come along. When it

does, they are snapping it up. This is especially true in neighborhoods where few homes are available for sale. "Sleeping on it" could very well mean losing a good house when it comes on the market now.

These are all good signs for St. Augustine. I feel very excited about the real estate future for our area. How do you think things are changing?

If you have been waiting to sell your house, now is a great time. Buyers are getting mortgages as low as 4%, (lower in some cases) - experts say the lowest rates...ever! These pre-qualified buyers are just waiting for the right home to be "for sale".

I'm here to help you with your real estate needs. Rebecca Romaine, Realtor® Prudential Network Realty 904-687-9488 www.rebeccaromaine.com.

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Ask Mow!

Answering questions about Home Owner lawn equipment.
Featuring "Mow" St Augustine Power House spokes person.

Hello Beach Readers. We have had some wonderful responses to Mow, some of you have a unique sense of humor, and some of you are just crazy. Mow what's on your mind this month?

Let's talk safety. This past month we had an incident that could have gone ugly, after reviewing the scenario we realized this most likely has happened to any home owner that has loaded a riding mower for transporting. Common sense dictates that care should be used when transporting these machines.

Wow, was anyone hurt?

No one was hurt, not that kind of an incident. But thanks for asking, more like an incident of whoa that was scary and had us thinking about safety. These are lawn mowers with sharp blades and if not treated right they can hurt you. The last thing you want is to be hurt by a lawn mower when you are transporting it to or from a repair shop. Here are a few tips in regards to mower safety.

1. Do not wear flip flops while mowing the yard.
 2. Do not mow the yard while children are playing in the yard.
 3. Do not add fuel to the lawn mower while it is running or while it is hot, if you run out of fuel while mowing, let the mower cool off before refueling.
- Remember safety is first.

Mow I guess safety is a major issue with Power House?

Statically speaking, each year 80,000 Americans require hospital treatment for lawn mower accidents. The majority of those accidents are associated with children under the age of fifteen and adults over the age of 60. The most common injuries are strikes by debris that is picked up and thrown by the mowers spinning blades.

Mow any lawn mower promotions coming up that the readers could have an inside on?

Hmm. Interesting, inside information on a deal before it goes public to everyone... What if you a home owner could try a Snapper NXT mower before you buy it? That's all I'm saying. Call mow if that sparks an interest to you. 904-461-0310.

That's all the time we have now, Thanks for the advice Mow. So until next month, remember St Augustine Power House is located at 125 Pope Road, right here on the island. Visit us at www.staugpowerhouse.com and if you have any questions for Mow email him askmow@staugpowerhouse.com.

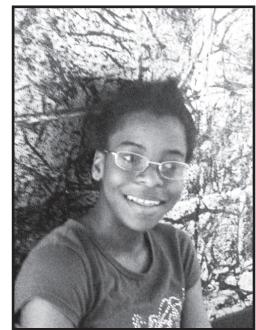


Girls & Boys Club Youth of the Month

THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club in St. Augustine announced it has chosen La'Quiz Findley, a 7th grade student at Murray Middle School, as their Youth of the Month. Monthly a stand out member is selected by staff based on behavior and academic achievements. La'Quiz is an ardent assistant to staff and is a good role model to other Club members. Club mentors point out her good behavior, positive interaction with fellow members, and respect for others. She does well in school, enjoys reading and science, and has set a goal of one day becoming a teacher or doctor. La'Quiz participates in the Boys & Girls Club SMART Girls program, which teaches girls ages 10 – 12 about the changes and challenges they will encounter as teenagers. She enjoys club activities and field trips, especially the outings to Flagler College. St. Augustine's Boys & Girls Club provides trained mentors and after-school programs to all of St. Johns County youth ages 6 to 18 years of age.

The St. Augustine Club, located at 555 W. King Street, is devoted to youth development outcomes and incorporates key elements into engaging activities that encourage its members to become productive, caring and responsible citizens. Through researched and nationally prescribed programs, the club promotes positive values, a commitment to learning, positive self-identity, social competency, a healthy lifestyle, and civic and community involvement.

The St. Augustine Unit is a branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida (BGCNF) and is an affiliate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. For further information regarding The Boys & Girls Club please contact St. Augustine's Community Liaison/Youth Advocate, Jennifer Tesori at (904) 669-0107 at jennifert@bgcnf.org or visit www.bgcnf.org.



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- Endometriosis
- Fracture
- Infection
- Joint replacement
- Mastectomy
- Open-heart surgery
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Repetitive stress injury
- Superficial scar
- Surgical adhesions
- Tennis or golfer's elbow
- Trauma



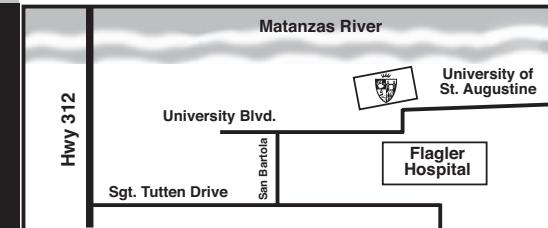
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SEA COLONY GEM. WOW! is the only word to describe this beautiful ocean view sea worthy gem. Bermuda style home with open floor plan, 4BRMS/4BATHS, energy efficient features include full house vinyl clad wrap barrier, cellulose insulation, 3 instant hot water units and a 6 zone Lennox HEPA/HVAC system for maximum comfort, hardwood and stone floors, 2 fireplaces, Anderson windows, private courtyard with pool, steps from the ocean and much more! Efficient and Quality describe this house. \$1,490,000.



BEAUTIFUL ESTATE HOME IN PALENCIA. This gorgeous home is located in a gated section of Palencia, it has 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3 car garage, all main living areas on first floor, 2nd floor has a bonus room that can be used as Mother-in-law suite. 5th bedroom on media room. Large kitchen with 41" uppers, great appliances, amazing amount of counter space. David Weekly home with children's retreat. Views galore with water views to make you feel you are in your own private island. The screened outdoor space with pool and Jacuzzi makes you feel you are on a constant vacation. \$599,000.



OCEAN FRONT SAND DOLLAR END UNIT. This beautiful 3BRM/2BTH condo has large windows, lots of natural light, fantastic views. Light & bright condo to enjoy year round. Third floor is a great location in the building with views galore of the intracoastal and ocean. Building offers parking, pool & private walkover to beach. Complex has elevators, tennis, parking garage & additional owner storage area. \$469,000.



BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM HOME IN SEA COLONY. 4 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths, and gorgeous ocean view for the discriminating buyer. One of the largest gourmet chef's kitchens you'll ever see w/granite counters, custom cherry cabinets & built-in China cabinet. Top of the line materials used throughout. Upscale features include: tower room, surround sound, 3 fireplaces, 3 zone a/c and upscale baths w/travertine. Also high impact glass, wood floors & large screened porch. Let the elevator take you to the 3rd floor for spectacular panoramic views. Home has own irrigation system. A great buy! \$1,075,000



EXCLUSIVE SEA COLONY SEASIDE ESTATE: Gorgeous estate nestled among magnificent oaks, beautiful landscaping and private entry bridge, in the private estate area of exclusive Sea Colony. This lovely home offers 4,700 sq ft of living space, 5BRM, 4.5BTH, 7 fabulous porches, imported cedar shake shingles, beautiful hardwood floors, 10 foot ceilings and extensive upgrades. Tower affords sunrise and sunset views of the ocean, the intracoastal and waterway. \$1,378,000.



OCEAN VIEW BEACH HOME in Sea Colony. Open floor plan with all the bells and whistles, designed for beach lovers! Home was built with the finest maintenance free materials available. 4BR/4.5BA and over 3,000 sq ft of luxury. Chef's kitchen with granite, SS upscale appliances, warming oven, wine cooler. A coastal home with great style and a must see! Gated oceanfront community with pool, clubhouse and beach walkovers. \$1,275,000.



OCEANFRONT W/POOL IN SEA COLONY. Amazing panoramic views from 4BR/5BA European style home with in-ground pool plus numerous upgrades. Great architectural features, high end windows and doors, coquina shell concrete walk, privacy wall, premium lighting, quality cabinets, stone countertops, high end appliances, tumbled travertine stone floor. \$2,297,000.



GREAT BUY IN ST. AUGUSTINE! Beautiful 2 BRMS/2Baths plus a cozy den that can easily be converted into a bedroom. Light and airy with a sunroom off the back of the home with an abundance of windows that faces the preserves. This home has been bumped out 4 feet to allow for a larger garage, pantry, bathroom and kitchen. Designed to be almost maintenance free with concrete block construction and a 25 year architectural roof. \$229,000



OCEAN VIEW HOME WITH ELEVATOR in Sea Colony of St. Augustine. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home features windows from floor to ceiling to let the gorgeous beach views in. Home features a bright open floor plan with chef's kitchen, fireplace, plantation shutters, and an elevator to take you from the first to the third level. Ocean views from second and third levels and the tower room. Over 3,600 sq ft of upscale coastal living awaits you! \$1,090,000.



OCEAN GRANDE INTRACOASTAL CONDO. Located in a serene and peaceful setting, this like new 3 BR/3BA unit has upgrades galore. Chef's kitchen has center island, granite countertops and 42" maple cabinets. Gas fireplace for those cool winter evenings. Gas grill on large screened porch overlooking the marsh and Intracoastal for spectacular views. Tranquility and beauty in Ponte Vedra await you! \$419,000.



BEAUTIFUL BEACH HOUSE. This 4BRM/3BATH home is for all beach lovers, live the good life and enjoy the sounds and breezes of St. Augustine Beach. Just 3 houses away from the ocean. Many updates include new a/c 15 seer 5 T, new paint, 2005 roof, and windows, tile floors throughout, large screened porch, laundry room and oversize garage. Lot size 117 x 123. A must see! \$500,000.



PELICAN REEF LOTS FOR SALE!

191 Spartina Ave. \$144,900
136 Spoonbill Point \$149,000

SEA COLONY LOTS FOR SALE!

912 Ocean Palm Way \$119,900
892 Ocean Palm Way \$149,000
883 Ocean Palm Way \$199,900



"WHAT A PRICE, IT WON'T LAST". Wonderful 3BRM/2BATH pool home is located in desirable beach subdivision, Marshview Estates. This home is totally remodeled with new carpet, interior paint, many new windows, new pool pump and irrigation pump. This is a great house for a great price. \$289,900



GREAT LOTS FOR SALE!

109 Grand Oaks \$199,000

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184 Herons Nest Ln. \$229,000

ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE OCEAN

225 Dondanville Rd. \$99,000

ANATASIA DUNES

353 Ocean Forrest Dr. \$174,900



GREAT VALUE IN THIS GREAT POOL HOME. Great value in this 2 story, 4brm/2.5bth pool home with almost 3000 sq ft of living space, in Marsh Creek a gated community. This home has great privacy with the preserves on one side and on the back. The 4th bedroom can be used as an office. Very spacious immaculate home with an over-sized garage. Large screened covered patio where you can enjoy the deer and other wild life. \$399,000

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