March 2013

St. Augustine Beaches News Journal

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

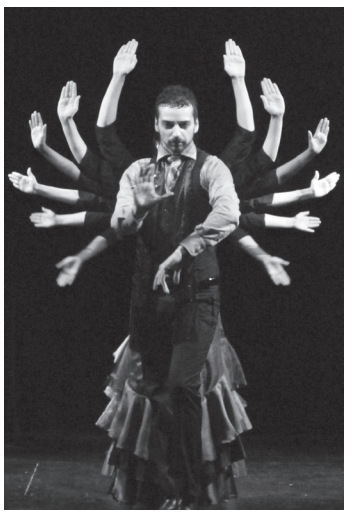
New Police Leadership for St. Augustine Beach

Lt. James Parker (on left) joins with new Police Chief Robert Hardwick to help provide leadership for the city of St. Augustine Beach Police Department. Chief Hardwick swore in Lt. Parker at the February 4 City Commission meeting.

Chief Hardwick has begun the process of getting settled into his new responsibilities and looking forward to working with the community. "I'm humbled and privileged to take over the St. Augustine Beach Police Department as the Chief of Police. Since my swearing in on January 7th the men and women of this agency immediately accepted (continued page 4)

Juan Siddi Flamenco Threatre Company Coming to the Amphitheatre

Since 2007, acclaimed Spanish choreographer Juan Siddi has brought together exhilarating, authentic, international flamenco singers, musicians and dancers for unforgettable performances that have thrilled audiences worldwide. The Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre (FOSAA), in cooperation with the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, is thrilled to announce that the internationally known Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company will perform at the Amphitheatre for two evenings, March 15th and 16th, at 7:00 PM. Tickets for evening performances are $20 general admission through Ticketmaster or through the Amphitheatre Box office. Discounts for Military and seniors ($15) and students with ID ($10) are available at the Box Office only. Performances were funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.



The Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company is committed to maintaining, and preserving flamenco's unique ethnic and cultural art form. Flamenco is a genre of music and dance that originated in Spain in the 18th century, influenced by Gypsy traditions. The development of flamenco can be traced back to the Middle Ages and later to Andalucia with the mixing of African and Arabic music. During the Spanish Inquisition, groups of persecuted peoples combined songs and dances of exile, despair, suffering and also hope and celebration, with the religious sounds of Andalucian music to produce flamenco. In November 2010, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO.) deemed flamenco a cultural treasure on its Intangible Heritage List.

Free School Performances

In it's ongoing commitment to education and the arts, FOSAA will host two free daytime performances for schools (continued on page 6)

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2014 Day Without Violence Art and Poetry Project

It's time to enter the Betty Griffin House 2014 "Day Without Violence" Calendar Art and Poetry Project before the March 22, 2013 deadline! Thirteen Art winners and Twelve Poets will receive cash prizes and will have their art or poem published in the "2014 A Day Without Violence" Calendar, which is distributed free to every classroom in the county, pending funding.

The project is open to all St. Johns County students ages 6 – 18, whether they attend public school, private school or are home schooled. Entry forms, information and project posters have been delivered via e-mail to participating schools.

To be eligible, artwork must be in color and able to be reproduced at 10" by 8" and suitable for framing. (Horizontal format only) All original 2D media is acceptable. No crafts, please. The theme "A Day Without Violence" must be reflected in the art or words. An entry form must accompany each piece of art.

1st Place -- $100.00
2nd Place -- $50.00
11 honorable mentions will be presented $25.00 each!
All 13 winning Artists / 12 Poets will also:
· Have their art/poem reproduced in the Betty Griffin House "A Day Without Violence" 2014 Calendar. (continued on page 8)

What's Inside The *News Journal* This Month

- ***City Manager:*** **In Recognition**
- ***Financial Focus:*** **Be Aware of Risks of Not Investing**
- ***Spiritually Speaking:*** **When a Pope Resigns**
- ***St. Augustine Beautification Committee:*** **The Rite of Spring**
- ***Sheriff's Corner:*** **Aggressive Driving**
- ***Health Focus: Ringworm..***
- **Chef's Dish: Paper Wrapped Chilean Sea Bass**
- ***Pet Corner:*** **Separation Anxiety**
- **The Kids are Grown & Out of the House....**

St. Augustine Beaches News Journal

St. Augustine Beaches News Journal
"Official News Source for the City of St. Augustine Beach"
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City of St. Augustine Beach
Mayor S. Gary Snodgrass
City Manager Max Royle
www.staugbch.com
sabadmin@cityofsab.org

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

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

Articles or information may be sent to the Beaches News Journal, P.O. Box 51593, Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32240. Information may also be e-mailed to beachesnewsjournal@yahoo.com or the editor at clogsdon1@yahoo.com.

All **articles, news, ads, or other information submitted** to the News Journal are subject to editing. Publishing of submitted letters and information is at the discretion of the publisher. Views and opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher or editorial staff of the News Journal.

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

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

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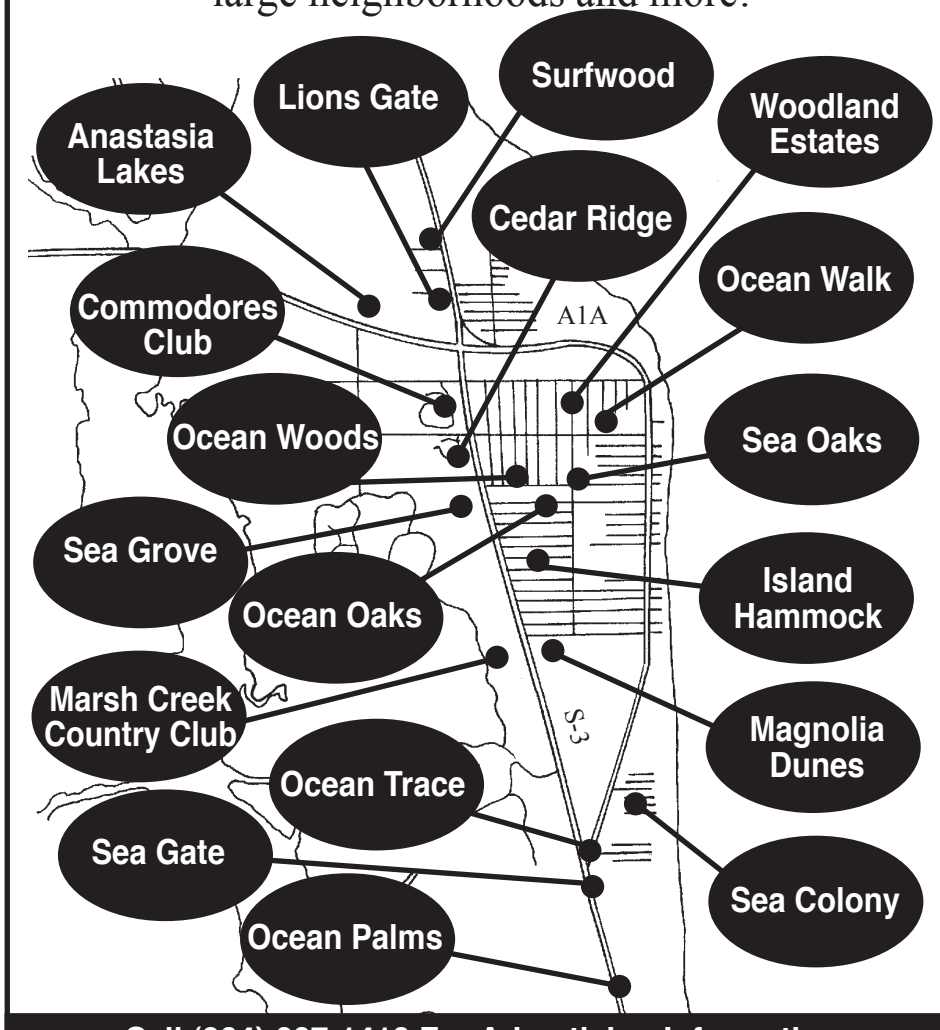
The Beaches News Journal is published by an independent publisher and is not affiliated with any St. Augustine Beach community development, management company or Homeowners Association.

We Cover The Beaches!
Distributed monthly by U.S. Mail to these large neighborhoods and more!



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St. Augustine
- Main Library
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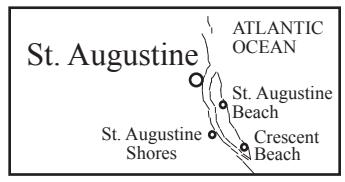
- Southeast Library



News From Around St. Johns County

St. Johns County Medical Alliance offers Academic Scholarships to Local Students

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance offers scholarships to graduating St. Johns County high school seniors pursuing an education in pre-medicine, nursing, or allied health.

Applicants must reside in St. Johns County and plan to begin a program of study in the fall of 2013 at an accredited institution. This includes a four year college or university or a two year community or junior college. Scholarship applicants are evaluated on academic ability, school involvement, community service, and financial need. None of these categories are self-limiting.

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance represents spouses of St. Johns County physicians. Its purpose is to promote health education, identify and address health-care needs and issues, participate in health-related legislation, and provide college scholarships to St. Johns County students. To obtain a copy of the scholarship application, go to www.sjcma.blogspot.com. For more info contact Jeani Taliaferro 825-9003 or Bucktale1@aol.com.

Travel Club Meeting

Join us for our FREE travel club get together. It will be held on Wed., March 13, 2013, at 3:00p.m. at the Southeast Branch Library.

The feature of the afternoon will be Spain's Barcelona and Catalunya regions. The main focus of the Club is to educate, inform, and enjoy armchair travel. The Travel Club is open to all St.Augustine residents, free of charge. We also would be happy to help you plan your trips to any destination as a free service of our expertise. Group travel can be arranged if enough members are interested. Call 904 797-3736 for additional information.

Fourth Graders to Share Classroom with Live Alligator

Ms. Kulick's fourth grade class at PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School will enjoy keeping a live hatchling alligator in their classroom for the remainder of the school year after nine-year-old Meghan Hart won The St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park's annual EduGator contest by creating her ABC Book of Alligator Terms.

The hatchling alligator was presented to the class on January 16 by Katie Girvin, Curator of Education at the Alligator Farm. Hart won the county-wide contest which asked fourth graders to submit individual projects answering the question, "Why are American alligators important?"

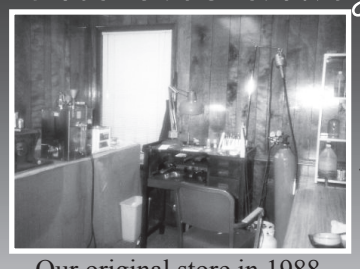
The unique contest allows students to use what they've learned about Florida's largest reptile to educate others about the important role the once-endangered species plays in Florida's ecosystems.

Alligator Farm Director John Brueggen said, "We get very creative submissions for this contest each year. It's a great way for us to connect classrooms in St. Johns County with our message of conservation in a fun and exciting way."

The Alligator Farm provides animal husbandry training to the teacher of the winning class. An Alligator Farm reptile keeper will check on the animal periodically, but daily care of the young alligator will be provided by the teacher and her class.

ABOUT ALLIGATOR FARM: The St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park is one of Florida's oldest and most treasured attractions. Since 1893, it has provided visitors with exciting and educational opportunities to interact with a wide range of crocodilians, reptiles, mammals and birds. Located on Anastasia Island in St. Augustine, The Alligator Farm features natural exhibits, wildlife shows and educational demonstrations. It is the only place in the world where visitors can see every species of alligator, crocodile, caiman and gharial. In 1992, The Alligator Farm was designated a U.S. Historic District. For more information, visit www.alligatorfarm.com.

Things change throuth the years, but one thing remains the same...



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News From Around The Beaches

City Hall Update

At its regular meeting on Monday, February 4, 2013, the St. Augustine Beach City Commission did the following:

1. Witnessed the swearing in of Police Lieutenant James Parker and the presentation of a plaque to Sgt. Ralph Correa for his services to the city as interim Police Chief from July 16 to December 31, 2012. Both actions were done by Police Chief Robert Hardwick.

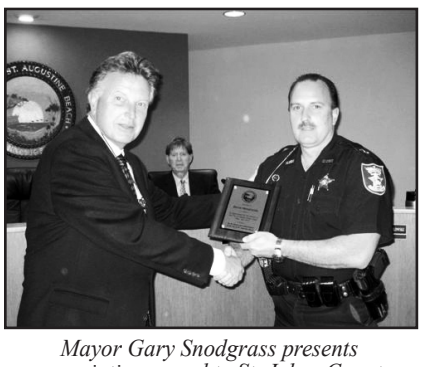
2. Presented a plaque to Sheriff's Office Chief David Messenger for his services to the city as acting Police Chief from May 15 to July 16, 2012.

3. Reappointed Mr. Thomas Masciarelli to a three-year term on the Code Enforcement Board.

4. Presented the following holiday lighting awards: Best Commercial: La Fiesta Ocean Inn and Suites, and Fiesta Falls, 810 and 818, A1A Beach Boulevard, Ms. Lauren Ringhaver and Mr. Rich O'Brien, owners; Best Residential: 21 Magnolia Dunes Drive, Seth and Jane Shortlidge; Best Subdivision entrance: Sea Grove, Ms. Jessica Born, representing the Sea Groves Homeowners' Association.

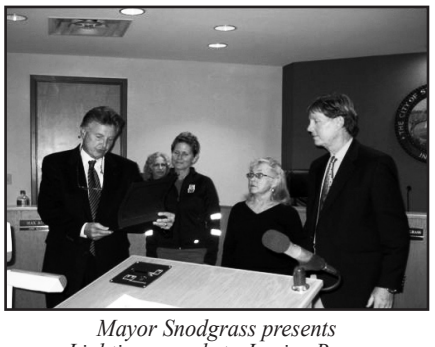
Chief Hardwick swaring in Lt. Charles Parker

Sgt. Ralph Correa receiving recognition award from Chief Hardwick.



Mayor Gary Snodgrass presents appreciation award to St. Johns County Office Chief David Messenger

Mayor Snodgrass presents BBO appreciation award to Jennifer Sauvage and Steve Cupolo



Mayor Snodgrass presents Lighting awards to Jessica Born, Jane Shortledge and Rich O'Brien

5. Presented a plaque to Ms. Jennifer Sauvage and Mr. Steve Cupolo for their services to the city as co-chairs of the committee that planned the city's New Year's Eve Beach Blast Off event for 2012 and 2013.

6. Approved the following special event permits: for a dance sponsored by the LDS Church, to be held on the beach at the Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort on March 8 and 9, 2012; for two events sponsored by the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association: A Taste of the Beach on Sunday, May 19, 2013, from noon to 5 p.m.; the Music by the Sea Concerts on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., starting on May 8 and ending on September 25, 2013. Both of the Civic Association events will be held at the county pier pavilion.

7. Heard an update report from Mr. Billy Zeits, county Beach Operations Manager, and Mr. Matt Lahti of the consulting firm, Zev Cohen, about the off-beach parking study the county is having Zev Cohen prepare. A draft of the study will be completed in February, and the city commission will discuss it at the March 4th regular commission meeting.

8. Passed on final reading an ordinance to prohibit discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation and gender identification.

9. Continued to the March 4th meeting, pending information being provided by the city attorney and the city staff, discussion as to whether the city's 35-foot height limit should be in the city charter, or whether the Land Development Code should be amended to require a 4/5s vote of the commission to allow the 35-foot limit to be exceeded.

10. Approved the hiring of a part-time events coordinator for the planning and presentation of events, such as New Year's Eve Beach Blast Off.

11. Passed on first reading an ordinance to amend the capital improvements element of the city's comprehensive plan, to adopt by reference the school board's five-year district facilities work plan.

12. Approved a resolution to declare as surplus four police vehicles and to authorize their disposal.

13. Approved a request to allow a fence to put up in the easement for the city's drainage outfall canal in the Marsh Creek subdivision.

14. Postponed to the March 4th meeting discussion of a change of assignment of commissioners to various boards, such as the Tourist Development Council and the Visitors and Convention Bureau.

The city commission's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the commission meeting room at city hall, 2200 A1A South. The public is invited to attend.

Max Royle, City Manager

City of St. Augustine Beach, 2200, A1A South, 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.

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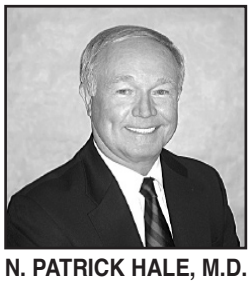
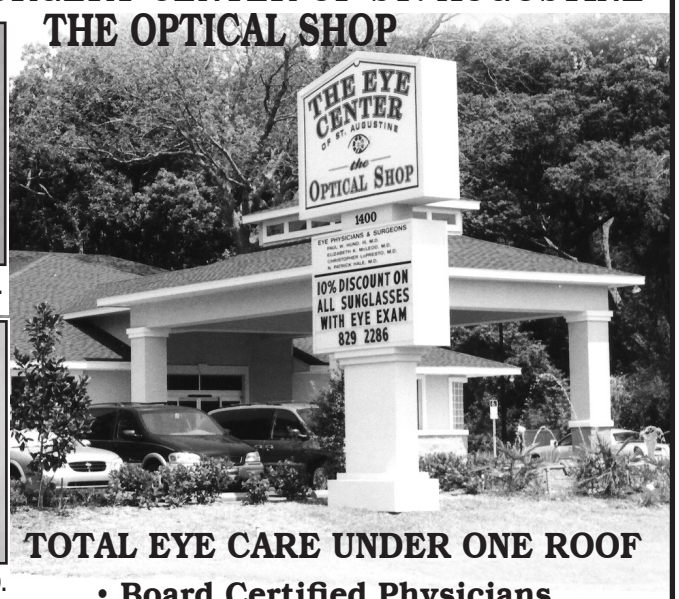


N. PATRICK HALE, M.D.



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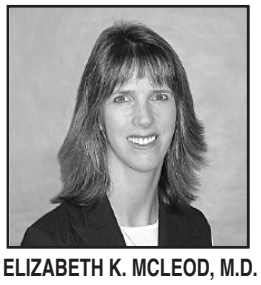
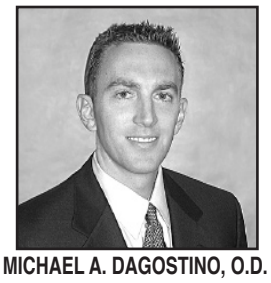
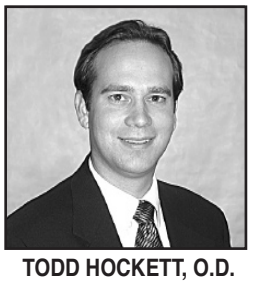


ELIZABETH K. MCLEOD, M.D.



MICHAEL A. DAGOSTINO, O.D.



TODD HOCKETT, O.D.

Anastasia Island Library Book Sale

The Friends of Anastasia Island Branch Library (SeaGrove Town Center, St Augustine Beach) will be holding their Spring book sale on March 14, 15 and 16, 2013. Dates and times are Thursday, March 14: 10 am – 8 pm; Friday, March 15: 10 am – 6 pm; Saturday, March 16: 10 am – 5 pm. Approximately 10,000 books/items will be available

- Books include like-new hardcover bestsellers with dust jackets at $1 each.
- Most other books priced at $1 each. • Mass market paperbacks priced at $.50 each.
- Children's books priced from .$25 to $1 each. • Videocassettes (VHS) priced at $.25.
- Audio cassettes priced at $.25 each. • Music CD's at $1 each. • DVD's at $2 each.

Specially priced items include sets of books, books by local authors or about St Augustine/Florida, and like-new coffee-table titles from $2 to $100 each. On Saturday, prices will be reduced by 50%. A grocery sack can be filled for $7 (doesn't include specially priced items).

Inventory is comprised of about 90% donations from the community, and 10% from library discards. These books have been sorted by volunteers who select books for special pricing. No commercial consignor has scanned our inventory since the last sale. A small collection of books is available on an on-going basis in the library for a $2 donation. Library staff selects books for the collection.

Proceeds from the book sale are used for the library to purchase items on its "wish list." The wish list includes the summer Florida Library Youth Program (FLYP) for children, adult/children/teen book collections and programs as well as specialized equipment (e.g., movie screen, furniture) needed to implement targeted programs. The proceeds supplement funds from the county. With continuing cuts in the county budget, the money raised is critical to provide ongoing quality programs and materials.

St. Augustine Beach Civic Association

Robert Samuels & Bill Jones, President
St. Augustine Beach Civic Association
www.thecivicassociation.com

Bob's Corner:

After stepping out of the office of President I discovered that there was still plenty of work to do, just a different kind of work. I spent my first Saturday out of office working with a group of volunteers doing some badly needed maintenance on our Civic Association Office at the beach. New board member Paul Slava rounded up a group of great friends from the Art Studio and we put fresh paint on our building. The original mural painted by Doug Robinson was untouched, but all the other sides of the building were painted. We'd like to thank the following for their efforts: Steve Tavender, Steve Mitherz, Paul Umbarger, Michael Burban, Paul Slava, Katherine Slava and Bob Samuels. Coincidentally, Doug Robinson and his wife Heidi were shopping at the Wednesday Market when we met and I told them about the building being repainted. Doug volunteered to add some more fish to his original reef mural. Keep an eye out the the expanded reef scene.

We are also pleased that Leanne Lombari will be heading up a group of Master Gardeners who have agreed to construct and maintain a children's garden at Pier Park. The garden program will allow our local children to learn about native plats, grasses and nature. The Civic Association has allotted $2000 to pay for the initial construction and first phase of the garden project. We will be looking for school age children to participate in the program that we hope will beautify the grounds near our office and help engage our young people with nature instead of a television. More details on the garden will be available at our next meeting.

News from the President

The February meeting of the Civic Association featured a short State of the City address from Mayor Gary Snodgrass. The Mayor's outlook for the future was very positive. The City of St Augustine Beach is on solid financial ground,a rainy day fund / reserve, a new police chief and is looking forward to the City's charter review process that will take place later this year. In other business Paul Slava was welcomed as a new member of the Civic Association's Board of Directors. The Taste of the Beach to benefit Betty Griffin House is scheduled for Sundau May 19th. Details on the Taste and our summer concerts can be found at www.thecivicassociation.org

In closing I find myself thinking about the early days of the NFL and a great coach named Vince Lombardi. He was focused, motivated and had a deep commitment to doing his best. I raise this issue because our outgoing President of over a decade served the beach community in much the same way as the former Packer coach who now resides in the Football Hall of Fame. We don't have a Hall of Fame here but if we did, my vote would be for Bob Samuels. When Lombardi retired many coaches were apprehensive about trying to follow in his footsteps. I now understand the feeling.

Bob spent 30 years educating young people in New York and then retired here at the beach. Well he didn't exactly retire, he just traded a paying position serving others for a non paying position still serving others. Other than his wife Andrea, no one has any idea just how many meetings and functions Bob attends. Then you add the phone calls, emails, his weekly appearances at The Wednesday Market and our other events. Bob has been so very successful because he took pride and ownership of the responsibilities that went with the job. He had courage and vision too. 11 years ago people thought he was crazy when he suggested few concerts at the Pier Park on Wednesday nights. After a decade we now have a 22 week concert series that has just about outgrown our beautiful pier park and pavilion. Bob was crazy, crazy like a fox.

Truthfully I have been President for less than a week and I find myself in awe of the amount of work that Bob has done and go to bed at night praying he'll be around to offer his help and guidance for a long time. In the mean time I look forward to continuing the great programs and tradition that Bob and other board members before me put in place. On behalf of a grateful community I say "Thank You Bob" and see you soon at the beach! Bill Jones.

New Police Leadership

(continued from page 1)

my unique leadership style. It's such an honor being the Police Chief in the city where I live and we've raised my family. The support from my wife Kendell for 22 years and my two sons, Cole and Brett make this position even more rewarding."

Chief Hardwick stated, "First I want to say I cannot be more pleased and proud of the men and women of this agency. My initial plan with the agency is to conduct an analysis of the size and structure, which I'll present to the Commissioners on or before August 1st. We're immediately writing and updating our policies and procedures, working towards State Accreditation. We have some dates in place to conduct a thorough review of all evidence currently in our facility. My goals are to have a transparent agency with open lines of communication. The community will be involved with our agency as I begin contacting them and conducting Town Hall Meetings. Our visibility will continue to increase in the community as we get back to basic policing.

He added, "The image of the agency and support from the community is the key to our success."

Message from the Mayor

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

The St. Augustine Beach Civic Association asked me to speak at their February monthly meeting regarding the "State of the City". Here is a summary of my comments made at that gathering:

City Finances:

We are mindful to be good stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us by our tax-paying citizens and strive to control expenses while not spending more than the revenues we receive. When the audit report covering Fiscal Year 2012 is released in April we expect it to confirm that once again the City has balanced its budget as it did the prior year.

Major Projects for 2013:

1. Completion of Splash Park renovations and the Pier Park restroom project – The renovations to Splash Park feature a realignment of it and the adjacent playground and the addition of a new fountain. Under an agreement with the County, the City had a new restroom facility designed and constructed and had the existing restrooms renovated. Both initiatives should be completed by mid March.
2. Parking Study – The County is conducting a study of off-beach parking along the County's entire coastline including our City. The City is paying $6,200 for the study within City limits. A draft study report will be submitted to the City for review and discussion at the March Commission Meeting.
3. Relocation of the Community Garden – The garden is to be moved from its current location on plazas between A and 1st Streets to a new site at Ron Parker Park. The City has appropriated funds for the move including installation of a new well, relocation of soil and garden boxes and construction of a fence.
4. Second Avenue Drainage Project – The City will have the ditch along the south side of 2nd Avenue from C Street to 10th Street replaced with a new pipe. The estimated cost is $400,000 with funds coming from road impact fees.
5. Pedestrian Safety Signal – It will be installed at the intersection of Pope Road and A1A Beach Boulevard. The signal will be on flashing yellow (continued page 12)

In Recognition

By Max Royle
St. Augustine Beach City Manager

A November 3, 2012 newspaper article about the rapid turnover of upper level employees working for the city of Miami caught my attention. In the years 2010, 2011 and 2012, Miami's swinging organizational portals have seen the following come and go: four city managers, four capital improvements directors, six assistant city attorneys, two maintenance chiefs, four staff auditors, two treasurers, three police chiefs, three budget directors, three finance directors, three human resource directors, three solid waste directors, three risk management directors, three grants directors, and three general services directors. What is it about Miami and the number 3? Do you think the city may be under the influence of the Mayan calendar or some similar occultist power?

So if you're a department head with Miami and you pass your second anniversary date of employment, do you begin counting down the months, weeks, days to the date of your third anniversary, and in the meantime refurbish your resume, begin clearing out your desk, and do some strenuous networking in the feverish hope of finding another job before the axe falls? Or, if by your third anniversary date, you've not landed another job and have been shown the door, do you put on your application for unemployment compensation that the reason you had to leave was violation of city personnel rule 15620,3345.A(7)(z): Still at Desk on Third Anniversary Date of Hire, which is such a grievous infraction that a violator is summarily escorted by security from city hall, no ifs, ands, buts or pleas for forgiveness or at least a few minutes to say goodbye to colleagues?

To my mind, untutored though it is in the arcana of human resources management, Miami's revolving door of key department heads is indicative of an inefficient, wasteful organization. Yes, I know that something positive can be said about the injection of "fresh blood" into an organization, and how such an infusion can make the organization more productive, but Miami is hemorrhaging department heads with such rapidity that the results have to be instability and the loss of focus, institutional memory and productivity. With such turnover, how can there be consistency in deciding and implementing goals? A new department head is hired and has barely enough time to learn the organization's procedures, the employees' strengths and weaknesses, and where the executive washroom is, and then zip! chop! The guillotine blade descends and that person is gone. I call this process OHM: "organization by headless management." It seems a crazy way to serve the taxpayers.

But the purpose of my little essay here isn't to highlight Miami's personnel turmoil, but to use it to show by contrast the benefits of stability and competence when a city is fortunate to have had no employee change in a key position for a long span of years. The concentration will be on an employee who, after working 23 years for St. Augustine Beach, has left it for a well-deserved and –earned retirement.

That employee is Ms. Sharon Widdifield, who retired this past January from her position as deputy city clerk. As I wrote in a recent essay about Marc Chattin, the public works director who retired in December, Sharon wouldn't be pleased with my drawing attention to her in a similar essay, but the attention is deserved because of her long years of service to the citizens.

I wish that I could say I was responsible for hiring her in October 1989, but that decision was made by former Mayor Emmett Pacetti, when he was the city's personnel commissioner. At that time, the city government was based on an older model which give individual commissioners oversight of certain key administrative functions, such as personnel and finance. With subsequent changes to the city charter and code that model has been superseded by one that provides a clear separation between what's legislative and what's administrative, with the hiring of employees considered administrative and thus under the authority of the police chief for this department and the city manager for the other departments.

Sharon's job title when she was hired was secretary II. There was also in my office a clerk typist and a financial assistant. Job titles for senior staff persons were simpler because the city's work was simpler: fewer laws and regulations to follow; fewer citizens asking for service (3,407 compared to 6,234 today); fewer city employees (27 compared to 49) for whom records had to be kept; and a much lower budget ($3,092,761 compared to $6,643,912 now) with fewer funds and all the regulations that over the years have been promulgated to make the city's financial operations more transparent. An indication of the more complicated world of municipal budgeting is that the financial assistant is now properly titled the finance director.

Sharon's job title also changed as her responsibilities and the complexity of them increased: first to administrative assistant, then to deputy city clerk. To achieve the latter, she undertook on her own initiative getting the certification from the Municipal Clerks Association. This required that she attend meetings and study topics related to the city clerk's field, such as Florida's laws for the retention of public records, the transcribing of minutes, and the requirements for legal ads for meetings, hearings on comprehensive plan amendments, and the schedule for the adoption each year of the property tax millage rate and the city's budget.

But besides the duties of a city clerk, Sharon did a great deal more. As you'll see, she wore enough "hats" to fill a millinery shop. Her daily work included many key administrative functions, such as personnel, insurance, risk management and purchasing. She processed new employees to insure that the city complied with federal, state and other requirements; maintained personnel records, such as employment applications, leave and disciplinary action forms; computed employee time records and (continued on page 14)

Financial Focus

Information Provided By
Edward Jones

Be Aware of Risks of Not Investing

You've no doubt heard about the risks associated with investing. This investment carries this type of risk, while that investment carries another one. And it is certainly true that all investments do involve some form of risk. But what about not investing? Isn't there some risk associated with that, too?

In fact, by staying on the investment sidelines, or at least by avoiding long-term, growth-oriented investments, you may incur several risks. Here are some to consider:

• You might not keep up with inflation. If you put all your money under the proverbial "mattress," or, more realistically, you keep it all in "cash" instruments and very short-term investments, you might think you are "playing it safe." After all, you might reason, your principal is protected, so even if you don't really make any money, you're not losing it, either. But that's not strictly true, because if your money is in investment vehicles that don't even keep up with inflation, you can lose ground. In fact, even at a relatively mild three percent annual inflation rate, your purchasing power will decline by about half in just 25 years.

• You might outlive your money. For a 65-year-old couple, there's a 50 percent chance that one spouse will live past age 90, according to the Society of Actuaries. This statistic suggests that you may need your investments to help provide enough income to sustain you for two, or even three, decades in retirement.

• You might not be able to maintain your financial independence. Even if you don't totally run out of money, you could end up scrimping by — or, even worse, you could become somewhat dependent on your grown children for financial assistance. For most people, this prospect is unacceptable. Consequently, you'll want to make appropriate financial decisions to help maintain your financial independence.

• You might not be able to retire on your terms. You would probably like to decide when you retire and how you'll retire — that is, what sort of lifestyle you'll pursue during retirement. But both these choices may be taken out of your hands if you haven't invested enough to retire on your own terms.

• You might not be able to leave the type of legacy you desire. Like most people, you would probably like to be able to leave something behind to your family and to those charitable organizations you support. You can help create this type of legacy through the appropriate legal vehicles — i.e., a will, a living trust and so on — but you'll still need to fund these mechanisms somehow. And that means you'll need to draw on all your financial assets, including your investments.

Work with your financial advisor to determine the mixture of growth and income investments you need during your working years and as you move toward retirement to help you meet your retirement goals. However you do it, get into the habit of investing, and never lose it — because the risks of not investing are just too great.

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

Your Timing
Won't Be Off
When You Invest Regularly.

If one of your worries is whether you're investing at the right time, it shouldn't be. By Investing a set amount of money regularly, you establish a simple routine that can help make your financial goals a reality.

In addition, Investing regularly can help:

• Make it possible to use market fluctuations to your advantage.
• Add potential growth and diversification to your portfolio.
• Keep your long-term financial goals in focus.

Investing a set amount of money on a regular basis does not assure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets. Such a plan involves continual investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels of such securities. You should consider your financial ability to continue the purchases through periods of low price levels.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

"Vision Is Priceless" Expanding Outreach in St. Johns County

Vision Is Priceless is partnering with Good Samaritan Health Centers' Wildflower Clinic to increase availability to free eye care services for those in need

This past year, Vision Is Priceless has been laying down the ground work to increase their program reach by expanding into St. Johns County. Through a partnership with Good Samaritan Health Centers' Wildflower Clinic in St. Augustine and The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Florida, volunteers will begin to be trained to provide vision screening for the underserved in St Johns County.

"The Board, staff, and volunteers at Good Samaritan Health Centers are very excited about the services that our partnership with Vision Is Priceless will bring to St. Johns County" says Trevor Crovitz, Wildflower Clinic Manager."…There remains a gap in services for the uninsured low-income residents of the county, most of whom are unable to afford vision care. Having access to vision screening services at the Wildflower Clinic will help those residents, and ultimately enhance their quality of life."

VISION IS PRICELESS COUNCIL
KEEPING FIRST COAST EYES HEALTHY

The vision screenings, however, are just the beginning.

Vision Is Priceless is working to establish partnerships with vision doctors in St. Johns County to provide follow up care for those patients who qualify for the organizations Cared Vision Program, providing doctor exams, prescription glasses, and specialty exams for low-income and uninsured patients.

"Finding local doctors to support our efforts is a crucial component of the program," says Susan Mattox, Executive Director of Vision Is Priceless. "Once a screening detects a loss in vision acuity or potential glaucoma, we must have the resources in place to provide the necessary exams and follow up care the patient needs."

This past year, Vision Is Priceless received an Impact Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Florida to expand their program modeled in Duval for St. Johns, Clay, Nassau, and Baker Counties.

Improving the vision health of the community has lasting effects. Through the Vision Is Priceless program, patients are offered the opportunity to become more self-reliant, including the ability to drive, go back to work, or perhaps continue their education.

Vision Is Priceless has also held its annual BBQ & Western, the organizations largest fundraiser, for the past 30 years in St. Augustine. On March 16, 2013 Miller Electric and WW Gay will once again present the 30th Annual BBQ & Western at the St. Augustine Rod & Gun Club. The event draws over 500 guests and features delicious BBQ, music by George Aspinall Band and Cloud Nine, and a silent auction. Tickets are only $35 and available at VisionIsPriceless.com or by calling 904.308.2020. All proceeds benefit Vision Is Priceless.

For more information about Vision Is Priceless Council's program, services, volunteer opportunities or special events, call (904) 308-2020 or visit our website at visionispriceless.org. For more information about The Wildflower Clinic, their services, or upcoming screenings, visit goodsamstaug.org.

About Vision is Priceless Council

Vision Is Priceless Council, a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1996 for the sole purpose of improving the vision health of First Coast children and adults. We serve as the community resource for screening, referral, and education and are non-duplicated in our services. Our vision screenings touch 33,000 children and adults from ages 3-90 every year in more than 500 sites. We offer free clinics for those that qualify and we continue to be committed to Keeping First Coast Eyes Healthy as indeed, Vision Is Priceless. For more information, visit www.visionispriceless.org.

About The Wildflower Clinic

The Good Samaritan Health Centers, Inc., is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization that was chartered in 1998. Our mission is to provide free medical and dental services to the medically uninsured residents of St. Johns County whose income falls at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Our clinics provide care for individuals regardless of race, gender, creed, political stance or religion. In 2012, we provided services to 3,973 patients, a 32% growth from 2011.

Contacts: Susan Mattox, Vision is Priceless Council 904-308-2020
3 Shircliff Way, Suite 546, Jacksonville, FL 32204
Susan@visionispriceless.org
Trevor Crovitz, Wildflower Clinic 904-829-5057
268 Herbert Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
office@goodsamstaug.org

Juan Siddi Flamenco Threatre Company

(continued from page 1)

on March 14th and 15th at 10:30 A.M. Funding for the school performances was provided by the Harold K. Smith Charitable Fund and the Community Foundation. For more information or to make reservations for a school group, please call Carol Gladstone at 471-4113 or go to http://www.juansiddiflamenco.com for more information on Juan Siddi.

The mission of FOSAA is to bring greater visibility and increased usage of the Amphitheatre by the community. In addition to special events, FOSAA awards grants to schools and non-profits who wish to use the Amphitheatre, or bring students to the Amphitheatre for programs.. For more information about FOSAA, or to apply for a grant, please go to www.fosaa.org.

St. Augustine Beaches Beautification Advisory Committee

Ann Palmquist, Committee Member
Palmquist@comcast.net

The Rite of Spring

Celebrate the Old - Invent the New

Spring is in the air and there is something about March the warms the heart and stirs the spirit. Tender green shoots timidly peak from under leaves and blades of brown stubble while azaleas buds erupt into raucous blooms, washing the city in fantastic colors. Once again winter's metamorphosis, from scratchy woolens to soft cotton shirts, is almost complete. In March we are ready to make merry, celebrate the old and invent and invite the new. A dear friend, Sadie Carter, (photo by Larry Tucker) turned 99 years young on February 14th, a true sweetheart. Sadie is a sharp lady, stays active in politics and said she cast her first vote for Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR. Sadie gardens and, as my mother would say, she could grow roses on a fence post. Happy Birthday, sweet lady, I treasure your friendship.

¨Celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of Igor Stravinsky's, The Rite of Spring, is a great way to salute season. When the ballet was first performed, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées on May 29, 1913, the music, sets, costuming, and choreography caused a near-riot. "The first two minutes were fine," recalls Peter Gutmann, "Classical Notes" reviewer, "but the subject itself was scandalous. It wasn't until 1940 when 'The Rite of Spring' joined the pantheon of pop culture as an instrumental in Walt Disney's 'Fantasia.' 'The Rite' has become one of the most popular of all modern scores, recognized and enjoyed by millions throughout the world." The metamorphic transformation was pure Disney.

In Spring, we are stirred, awaken from a dream dreamed searching for the missing hour of sleep (daylight savings time begins March 10th) we fashion our own rites. March offers sacred and secular reasons to celebrate, to remember and to give thanks for the blessings of home and family.

Recognizing the winners of the 2012 Holiday Lighting contest recalls fond memories of our fair city. Best Residential: 21 Magnolia Dunes Dr., Seth and Jane Shortlidge; Best Commercial: La Fiesta Ocean Inn and Suites, Fiesta Falls, 810 and 818 A1A Beach Boulevard, Ms. Lauren Ringhaver and Mr. Rich O'Brien Owners; and Best Subdivision Entrance: Sea grove, SR A1A: Homeowners' Association, Ms. Barbara Kleisler, president. Kudos to all who continue to enhanced and beautify the City of St. Augustine Beach.

Promoting the role trees play is one goal of your Beautification Advisory Committee. Serving as BAC chairman, since June of 2009, Hester Longstreet next turns the gavel over to Eric Chaconas, the newly elected chair. Hester's efforts to expand Arbor Day celebrations included encouraging children and young adults to participate in poetry and poster contests highlighting the importance and value of trees. Thanks to Hester and the BAC team — from small acorns, mighty oak trees grow. Our neighborhoods and city continue to benefit from these seedlings planted by Hester and the BAC members.

The City of St. Augustine Beach, having met the requirements for 2013, can proudly fly the flag of Tree City USA. Ardor Day celebrations, May 10th, 5:30 PM at City Hall, will again include Learning Stations where fun facts about trees and the interconnectivity of Trees and our environment will be shared. Garden club, 4-H, Scouts, Native Plant Society members, Master Gardeners and local nurseries and businesses are invited to share information about the interrelated roles played: soil and water conservation; urban forestry; sustainable/organic gardening; wild life habit; and the very air you breath! Venders who promote environmental issues are invited to showcase their wares. With a little Irish luck, perhaps Chuck Lippi ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, will share his expertise and knowledge of trees. Chuck played a pivotal role in securing the Urban Forestry Grant for the City. Thanks Chuck for sharing your knowledge and enriching our city's valuable resource, her trees. To find out how you and your organization can get involved give Max Royle a call at 461-2122.

The St. Augustine Beach Community Garden will be moving to our new location at Ron Parker Park located off of Old Beach Road, at the end of Ron Parker Road, across the street from the dog park. The mission statement of the garden is: "…to organize interested St Johns County residents into a membership-based group that works together to perform gardening activities, to create opportunities for social interaction, and to help educate the community in gardening and sustainable living." New members are invited enjoy the joys (and frustrations) of gardening and would like to garden in the company of other congenial gardeners, please do contact us to join. Email sabcgarden@gmail.com and visit our website www.sabgarden.org and "Like" us on Facebook—St. Augustine Beach Community Garden.

Joseph Howell, the new Public Works Director, received his Civil/Environmental Engineering degree from the University of Central Florida and is a registered Professional Engineer. Howell has: " … created a Public Works nursery and made trees available to residents to plant in the right-of-way; worked with Florida Yards and Neighbors workshops in coordination with the UF IFAS Extension Office. He knows tourism is important to our economy and feels beautification of our public spaces supports this. Howell is interested in making our City still more bike and pedestrian friendly. Welcome aboard, Joe. The BAC looks forward to getting to know you.

An the ole Irish saying reminds us, there are only two kinds of folk, the Irish and everyone else who wishes they were, so wear a bit o' green and kiss someone who's Irish or wishes they were. In St. Augustine Beach there are only two kinds of folk; the ones who live here and everyone else who wishes they did. We lucky ones have a name for the other ones - our friends and relatives. The Rite of Spring, a primitive time to do something original, plant something, watch it grow, be happy, and make some history in the most beautiful city by the sea.

Pet Corner

Anna Maxwell D.V.M.
arkanimaldoc@hotmail.com
(904)886-2751

Separation Anxiety

Have you ever come home to a sofa pillow torn to shreds or the molding along the door scratched and pulled from the frame? Although uncommon, these are just a few of the true stories relayed to me by clients. Their pets suffer from separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety is the distress a pet feels when separated from his or her owners. This anxiety is exhibited by destructive or compulsive behavior. It may begin as panting, pacing or whining as you prepare to leave. Then the anxiety increases to include urination, defecation and in extremes cases, destructive behavior like chewing through doors and walls.

Occasionally, the signs are subtle and virtually unrecognizable. In these situations videotaping your pet while you are gone is the best way to see if he suffers from separation anxiety. With the technology currently available, this can be done quite easily.

Once the diagnosis has been made the solution is behavior modification. In some situations drugs may be used to help but behavior modification is key. These steps may help ease your pet's fears.

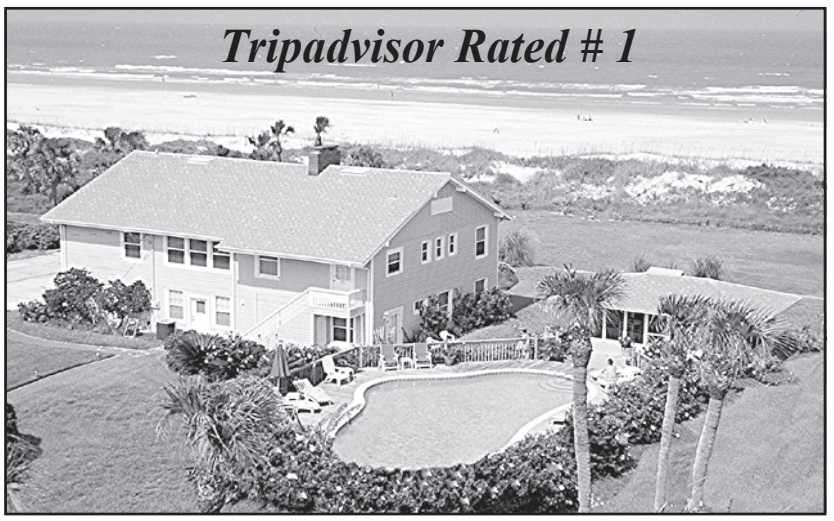
1. Teach your pet to be calm at home. There should be a designated spot where your pet feels comfortable and does not follow you around the house.

2. Defuse the departure cues. There are several triggers that can cause your pet to become distressed. Examples include putting your shoes on, picking up your keys, brief case or purse. To make these cues less stressful simply involves confusing your pet. Put your shoes on but then sit on the sofa and watch TV. Pick up the car keys and cook dinner or grab your purse and then catch up on your e-mails. Soon your pet will not associate your leaving with those particular cues thus decreasing the anxiety. Do this a few times a day.

3. Make leaving and returns very low key. When you do have to go out, leave your pet with a stuffed toy or a treat so as to switch his focus to the treat and away from the anxiety of your departure. If the pet shows excessive excitement upon your return, ignore him for several minutes until he calms down for a quiet greeting.

If these suggestions do not work, perhaps, a combination of anti-anxiety drugs and behavior modification will help. There are many options available. This will require a lengthy discussion with your veterinarian to choose the best solution for you and your pet.

Paradise is here...



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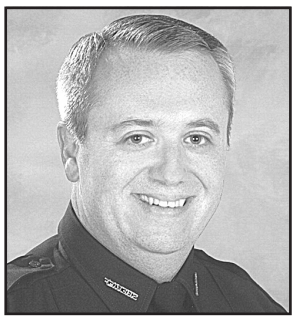

St. Johns County Sheriff's Corner

By David Shoar, St. Johns County Sheriff

Agressive Driving

All of us have been driving somewhere minding our own business when another motorist cuts us off in traffic or drives slowly in the left hand lane impeding our travel. The natural reaction to these behaviors is anger and frustration. Far too often this frustration is manifested in what we now refer to as "road rage." Here are a few facts that we know about""road rage." First, as traffic increases in a particular area, there is a corresponding increase in""road rage" events. Obviously, there is no question that the volume of traffic in St. Johns County has and will continue to increase with growth. Second, most people that engage in "road rage" events are everyday law abiding citizens who under normal circumstances would never enter into a confrontation with a stranger. Third,""road rage" events rarely involve teenage drivers; it usually involves young and middle age drivers. Finally, serious injury or death is always a potential outcome of a "road rage" event, like the one that occurred recently to our north. Did you know that about half of all drivers who are subjected to aggressive driving behavior on the road respond with aggression of their own.

A recent national survey revealed that 34% of those drivers who are confronted with an aggressive driver honk their horn at the subject. Another 27% yell, 19% give a hand gesture back and 17% flash their lights. Even 2% of those questioned stated that they attempted to run the aggressor off the road. Road rage is a two-way street. If you are subjected to aggressive driving, often times the best way to ensure it does not get worse is to just ignore it. In 2010, Florida had the distinction of being the worst state in the country for road rage. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated that over 12,000 Florida car crashes were caused by road rage. Nationwide the NHTSA estimates that 66% of all fatal traffic accidents are caused by road rage. In addition, for every road rage incident serious enough to result in a police report, there are hundreds, maybe thousands more which never get reported.

The prevention of "road rage" events is all of our responsibility. If you see an event of this type unfolding before you, do not hesitate to call law enforcement. The best method of prevention is not to become personally involved in a "road rage" event, but in the event that you are cut off in traffic or the victim of someone else's driving that may infuriate you, think before you act. Often times just pulling off the road and out of traffic will calm you down. Here are some tips from the NHTSA if you should become confronted by an aggressive driver: Make every attempt to get out of their way. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane. Avoid eye contact and ignore gestures. Report aggressive drivers to the appropriate authorities by providing a good vehicle description, license number, location and direction of travel. These high risk drivers climb into the anonymity of an automobile and take out their frustrations on anybody at any time.

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office is committed to enhancing the safety on our roadways for our motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. Our Traffic Unit continues to engage in the monitoring of "aggressive driving" and enforcing applicable traffic laws when indicated.

Please remember that law enforcement cannot solve the problem of "road rage" alone, this issue requires a commitment by all of our citizens. If you feel you are in danger or you witness aggressive driving, report the offender to your nearest law enforcement office or by calling 911.

If you have any questions on this or if you should have any future column ideas please feel free to email me at dshoar@sjso.org.

2014 Day Without Violence Art and Poetry Project

(continued from page 1)

· Receive recognition at a special reception in their honor.

· Become a star supporter of our community non-violence awareness program by the donation of their artwork.

Winners will be honored at an award ceremony in October of the 2013 school year. The top one hundred pieces of art will also be selected, and exhibited at the Main Library Branch during October 2013, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Winners will receive a color, matted copy of their art to keep. Students submitting poems should keep a copy for themselves.

All entries should be dropped off at one of the following collection sites:

Either Betty Griffin House Thrift Shoppe locations:

- 445 SR 13 North, St. Johns, Florida in the Plantation Plaza ½ mile south of Racetrack Rd
- 1961 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL.
- Any of the 6 St. Johns County Libraries will collect entries. Look for the decorated entry box.

For entry forms and contest rules, contact your child's school or call Kim Brumfield, Community Awareness Coordinator at Betty Griffin House 904-808-9984 or e-mail kimb@bettygriffinhouse.org.

Reach The Beach By U.S. MAIL!

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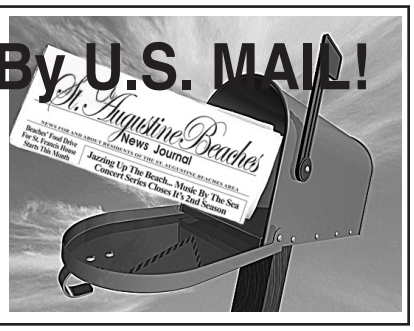
· Documented delivery By U.S. Postal Service
· No Subscription Required... call 904-607-1410 to advertise your business or service.
·Beach residents are looking for you...let them know you are here for them!



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St. Augustine Orchestra, Anchient City Brass Presents "Brass Battles"

• Friday March 8, 2013 at 8 pm at the Lightner Museum's Antique Courtyard
• Encore Performance: Sunday March 10, 2013 at 3 pm
at the Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach

The St. Augustine Orchestra, together with the Ancient City Brass Band, will provide the effect of dueling brasses as a special feature of the orchestra's winter concerts on Friday, March 8 at 8 pm at the Lightner Museum; with an encore performance on Sunday March 10 at 3 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach. Members of the Ancient City Brass Band will be located on opposite sides of the galleries above the orchestra where, under the direction of Conductor William McNeiland, they will play Giovanni Gabrielli's "Sonata Pian' e Forte", (means soft and loud Sonata). The piece is designed for two brass choirs playing antiphonally to provide a dynamic acoustic effect. The work was originally written in 1597 for two orchestral groups to play at opposite sides of St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Italy.

The Triumphal March from Guiseppe Verdi's opera, "Aida" will also feature two brass bands in the galleries. Offstage brass will also figure in the performance of Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of the Appian Way", from the tone poem "The Pines of Rome", giving the impression of victorious Roman soldiers marching home along the Appian Way.

"Wellington's Victory" by Beethoven was written to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's victory over the French in a decisive battle at Vitoria, Spain in 1813. It was originally scored for 193 live cannon as well as two bands representing the British on one side and the French on the other. The work ends with variations on the British anthem "God Save the King".

The program finale is Tchaikowsky's "1812 Overture" commemorating Russia's victory at the Battle of Boradino, which stopped Napoleon's attempt to capture Moscow and ultimately led to the defeat of the French army. The music includes sound effects representing cannon fire and the victorious chimes of church bells.

Admission to Friday's concert at the Lightner Museum is $15 at the door; and admission to the Sunday concert in Ponte Vedra Beach is $10 at the door. Seating is open, and children 12 years old and younger are admitted free. For more information, log on to www.staugustineorchestra.org .

The St. Augustine Orchestra is one of the longest running cultural entities in St. Augustine, numbering about 80 members, all of whom perform on a voluntary basis. The Friends of the Orchestra is a newly formed organization to support the orchestra's operations by providing volunteer assistance within four committee categories: 1) Concert Support, 2) Hospitality, 3) Marketing & Public Relations, and 4) Planning & Implementing Fundraising Social Events. Membership is free. Persons interested in joining the Friends of the Orchestra to participate in the work of any of these committees should contact Linda Masterson at staugustineorchestra@gmail.com or call Martha Graham at 904-669-0194.

Beaches Bistro

By Paolo Pece, Cafe Atlantico

cafeatlantico@comcast.net

Paper Wrapped Chilean Sea Bass

A smoky Sauvignon Blanc would pair very well with the acids of the capers in this intense yet delicate dish, which is one of the staples of my restaurant. Enjoy, and please always try to buy your ingredients locally!!

Paper wrapped Chilean Sea Bass

Serves one

Ingredients:

- 6/8 oz. Sea bass filet
- 2 shrimp, peeled deveined
- 4 fresh black mussels
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. capers
- flour
- 2 tbsp. red onion, chopped
- fish stock
- tbsp.. Béchamel sauce
- 1/4 cup cream sherry
- salt, pepper, oregano to taste
- 2'x1' parchment paper
- Few stripes of pappardelle pasta.

Directions:

In a hot medium size skillet, melt the butter, on medium heat.

Coat the filet in flour, and sauté` it on both sides, adding the onions and capers.

Deglaze it with cream sherry, add the stock enough to barely cover fish. Add seasonings, shrimp, mussels, and pappardelle pasta.

Place the parchment paper in a oven proof pan.

Transfer everything into the parchment, and wrap it to avoid spilling.

Bake it for 15 min. in a 375 preheated oven.

Simple! Simple things sometimes are the hardest to make well!

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The Kids Are Grown & Out Of The House...

By Jane Tucker, First Florida Insurance

The kids are grown and out of the house and, at this stage of your life, you may be in a downsizing mode. There are ways to bring your costs down by bringing your insurance in line with your scaled back lifestyle. At the same time, be careful to protect assets you have worked so hard to accumulate. Here are some tips:

• Let your insurance company know when you retire. Senior discounts may be available, because you will likely be around home more often and can watch over your home and possessions.

• Consider adding more homeowners liability coverage – and/or an umbrella policy. At this stage of your life, you may have more assets to protect in the event you are sued. If you decide on an umbrella policy, note that these policies often cover both home and auto liability, and are separate from your homeowners and auto policies. If you decide to start a home-based business after retiring, consider adding to your homeowners liability coverage.

• In maintaining your residence, you must realize that you are liable for things that happen on your premises. Keep in mind that in Florida you could be held legally responsible for the actions of anyone who drinks in your home and then has an accident in your house or after leaving it. Your policy should protect you against lawsuits due to these types of liability issues.

• Reassess the current value of your home or condominium and your possessions to see whether you need to increase or decrease your insurance to cover their replacement costs in today's market.

• Reassess the value of your expensive possessions, such as jewelry, heirlooms or art – for which you may need a special "floater" insurance policy.

• If the cost of homeowners insurance and other costs, such as maintaining your home, are becoming too high, consider renting instead of owning. Renter's insurance is typically less expensive than homeowners, as you are insuring your possessions and not the dwelling itself.

• If you purchase a vacation home or boat, see if you can consolidate your homeowners coverage from the same insurer and possibly qualify for a multiple policy discount.

• If you've just paid off your mortgage – and up until now your homeowners insurance has been paid through your mortgage company – be sure to notify the insurance company to send the premium bills directly to your home address, and remember to pay the premiums on time so that your policy does not lapse, as there is no grace period in a homeowners policy.

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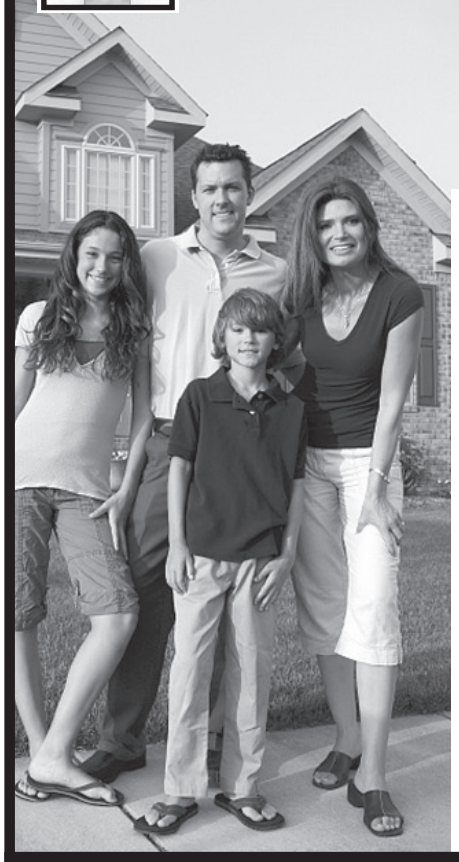

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National Multiple Sclerosis Society North Florida Chapter Adds Walk MS Location

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter Adds Walk MS Location for April 2013

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter announced open registration in October for Walk MS, the rallying point of the MS movement and one of the Society's annual fundraisers.

The North Florida Chapter will host seven Walk MS fundraisers in North Florida during April, 2013. This year, a new location has been added in Ft. Walton Beach at Uptown Station.

Walk MS draws hundreds of people from the North Florida area to enjoy festivities, food, music, contests and games with the purpose of creating awareness about multiple sclerosis and raising funds toward a world free of MS.

Funds raised from each event will benefit the Society and go toward research, programs and services for people affected by MS. An estimated 18,000 people are affected by multiple sclerosis in the North Florida area.

This year, the North Florida Chapter hopes to raise more than $230,000 toward a world free of MS. Research funds advance the treatment for MS, such as the first oral therapy for MS that was approved by the FDA in 2010.

To register, participants can visit walkMSnorthflorida.org or call (904) 332-6810. Registration is free and fundraising is encouraged. Volunteers with a wide range of skills, talents, abilities and interests are also greatly appreciated and needed to produce this event. From pre-event planning to day-of implementation, it takes hundreds of volunteers to make Walk MS successful. Families, corporate groups, and individuals are welcome to participate. Volunteers can register at walkMSnorthflorida.org.

St. Augustine WALK MS locations: First United Methodist Church Festivities 4 p.m. Walk 5 p.m.

The National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS. To fulfill this mission, the Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives. In 2011 alone, through its national office and 50-state network of chapters, the Society devoted $164 million to programs and services that assisted more than one million people. To move us closer to a world free of MS, the Society also invested $40 million to support more than 325 new and ongoing research projects around the world. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. Join the movement at www.nationalMSsociety.org.

One Of The World's Largest Beach Sunrise Services

On Easter Sunday morning, March 31st, thousands are once again expected on Crescent Beach at 7:15 a.m. for the annual, inspirational Sunrise Service. This annual gathering had its beginning at Crescent Beach Ramp twenty years ago on the parking lot adjacent to Beacher's Lodge. The pastor, at that time, was Armando Silverio, and there were 81 people present.

The attendance at the Sunrise Service has now grown to more than 5,000 in 2012, according to police reports. This years "gathering," with Dr. David Beauchamp, promises to be a remarkable sunrise service, just as the ones you've heard so much about.

You will once again see a giant cross silhouetted against the blaze of an Easter morning sky.

You are encouraged to bring your whole family, your beach chairs and blankets and arrive early in order to get a good space near the platform.

You'll hear beautiful music by soloist Jeff Varnadoe and a choir, led by Lindsay Terry. You'll have an opportunity to join in the singing of the great crowd gathered on the sand. The music will lead right into an inspiring message of the resurrection by Dr. Beauchamp, followed by an ocean baptism.

Parking attendants, assisted by the police, will help each car find a space on the beach or in nearby paved lots.

You are invited to come to the Crescent Beach Ramp at 7:15 a.m. March 31st and experience one of the world's largest, most unusual beach sunrise services. For more information call (904) 794-7777.

Join Thousands on Crescent Beach • March 31st • 7:15 a.m.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Hear the Music and the Easter Message

"I want to share with you a message of victory as we remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Join us on Crescent Beach for a time of singing, celebration of life in Christ, and an ocean baptism." - Dr. David Beauchamp

Soloist Jeff Varnadoe • Beautiful Choir Music led by Lindsay Terry

Families will be bringing chairs and blankets to Crescent Beach Ramp
Assisted parking on the beach and in nearby paved lots

Join thousands in singing
Witness an ocean baptisim

For Information: Call (904) 794-7777

The Celebration Singers

St. Augustine Beach Health Focus

By Gerald Townsend, M.D.
Townsend Clinic
4475 U.S. 1 South, Suite 100
Call 461-1901

Ringworm Is Not A Worm (It's A Fungus)

There are different things out there that can cause an itchy rash that won't go away easily. One is "ringworm."

Ringworm is caused by a group of fungi called "dermatophytes." Dermatophytes live in the outer, dead skin layers. They do not invade the skin any deeper unless the infected person has some form of severe immunity problem. Usually, these fungus-things just hang out in one area of the body and often itch like crazy. Sometimes the itching can be so bad that the skin will open a little allowing another, sometimes worse, bacterial infection to occur at the same time.

How do we get these things?

Like most infectious diseases, it sure seems to help to be a kid. While this is not necessarily a disease of childhood, the conditions for fungal infections are "ripe" (no pun intended) in kids. According to Infectious Disease experts, the circumstances for getting a fungal infection are simple: Moist or humid skin.

Do you remember some of the places we would go just because we were kids? Not only were we sweaty little guys (and girls) running through the dirt but we usually rolled in the grass with the dog and just for good measure wrestled with the neighbor kid. What's worse, if you didn't do that your brother did and he sat next to you at dinner!

There are three ways to transmit this group of organisms:

- Soil to human (geophilic) transmission.
- Animals to human (zoophilic) transmission.
- Human to human (anthrophilic) transmission.

What is Ringworm and what is Tinea?

Well, it's the same thing. Tinea is another name for the skin infection caused by dermatophytes (ringworm).

The naming of these infections can be a little confusing. While the majority of skin, hair and nail infections are caused by the same three species, the names to describe the rash are based upon location of the lesions. For example:

- A fungal infection of the skin is called: Tinea corporis.
- A fungal infection of the scalp is called: Tinea capitis.
- A fungal infection of the groin is called: Tinea cruris.
- And so on…

What does it look like and how does it behave?

The appearance of fungal infections can vary depending on location and type of organism causing the infection. Fungal Infections of the scalp vary in appearance depending upon how much the hair is affected. Hair loss (with hair breaking at the scalp surface) is often present, however. Fungal infections of the skin often appear sort of circular with scaling-raised skin at the border, maybe some little pustules and often central clearing of the lesion making it look like a raised "ring". Fingernail and toenail fungal infection (Tinea unguium) often cause the nail to lift little-by-little from the nail bed with thickened, discolored, and broken nails. As it is fungal, it is often slow growing. Tinea corporis and Tinea cruris often itch.

If there is any question, if you have tried to treat it on your own and it won't go away in a short period of time, or if you have underlying medical problems, it is best to see your physician to make sure the skin lesion you see is truly fungal in origin.

How can you make sure it's a fungus? How is it treated?

Most often, the diagnosis is made by just looking. Your doctor may want to take a skin scraping (often painless), nail specimens (usually painless) or plucked hairs (rarely painless) and look at them under the microscope after they have been treated by potassium hydroxide. Fungal cultures may be done to find out the precise identification of the species. A Wood's Lamp (UV light) can be used to identify the species (used most often in Tinea capitis). A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is in the works for rapid, sensitive and specific diagnosis of certain fungal types.

Treatments for most skin infections are topical (rub on) creams with or without other ingredients depending on the situation. There are several over-the-counter medications available that work well. Many of these were once by prescription only.

Severe fungal skin infections or infections of the scalp or nails may require either oral (pills) or topical medication. The decision to treat with oral medication is based upon several factors and does require a discussion with your doctor to decide if this form of treatment is appropriate.

Yuck! How do I keep from getting this?

Keep as dry and cool as possible. For most of us here in St. Augustine that's easier said than done. However, it's not impossible. Frequent clothes changing, some non-allergenic powders, cooling off when possible (and definitely daily cleaning) are all some of the ways people have helped keep the fungus at bay.

And, I almost forgot…don't sit too close to your stinky brother at dinner!

Flagler Students Create Signature Design for Local Kids Non-Profit

Last semester, students in Design Methodologies at Flagler College did some amazing work with THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club of St. Augustine. They created promotional material for two different fundraising events to benefit The Club—a Rock & Roll Bash and a Golf Classic. During a meeting with The Club's Community Liaison; Jennifer Tesori, students learned about the organization's needs and then designed an event logo, poster, postcard, and digital banner. Having strong graphic designs and branding will help the Club grow their signature fundraisers. Fundraising is a vital part of the success and reach of St. Augustine's Boys & Girls Club as 95% of their budget comes from private and corporate donors.

The student's final presentations were made at The Club amidst the background of the youth that their designs will directly impact. B&G Club members also got to view the Flagler students' designs to showcase the community support that surrounds them and in hopes of sparking their creativity. The 'client' chose design campaigns by Allison Walsh's for the Golf Classic and James Mattson's design for the Rock & Roll Bash. Walsh is a graphic design major from Kennesaw, GA, and Mattson is a graphic design major from Concord, MA. The designs will assist in promoting the third annual, Boys & Girls Club Rock & Roll Bash hosted by Bozard Ford on May 25th and the second annual Golf Classic held at St. Johns Golf & Country Club on October 17th.

"This service-learning project is just one example of how design can be used to 'do good' in the community," said Professor Natalie Stephenson. "We were able to partner talented design students with a great organization that had a true need for creative services. Students gained valuable experience communicating with our client and developing empathy with stakeholders—stuff that's hard to simulate in the classroom."

The Director of Development for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, Darby Stubberfield attended the final presentations. She was thoroughly impressed with the students' professionalism and talent; therefore sought to expand the partnership. This semester, Design Methodologies students will be designing promotional material for four regional fundraising events.

THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club serves St. Johns County's six-to-eighteen year old population by providing structured, time tested and engaging after-school programs and trained mentors. The strategic programming steer young citizens away from risky behavior and towards productive futures. Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida offer nationally recognized programs and activities in five distinct areas: character and leadership, education and careers, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation.

Currently the Club is seeking funds to update the learning centers tables and chairs for their membership of over 200 youth. Their next project will be to locate an organization to underwrite the revitalization of the sports field thus refurbishing the basketball courts and adding a covered shelter.

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. BGCNF provides daily after-school and summer programs to nearly 1,500 young people at 14 facilities in Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns County.

For further information regarding The Boys & Girls Club and their upcoming events please contact St. Augustine's Community Liaison, Jennifer Tesori at (904) 669-0107 or jstesori@gmail.com. The Club's website is www.bgcnf.org/bgcsjc.aspx. Also consider visiting their Facebook page at THE PLAYERS Championship Unit for parenting and child enrichment tips.

Landscape For The Season

Plant A Tree For Yourself

By Frank Romanello
Romanello Landscaping, Inc.
Phone 904-429-7260 or 954-931-7801

If you missed planting a tree on Arbor Day last month remember, it's never too late to plant a tree!

Besides adding beauty to your home and landscape, and increasing the value of your property, trees make the air cleaner by filtering pollutants like carbon monoxide while making oxygen.

Trees regulate temperatures through the evaporation of water in their leaves and provide homes for wildlife.

Shade and Solar Energy- Shade trees can offer a comfortable cool place to sit or play, and can be part of a passive solar heating plan. Deciduous trees help shade the yard and house during hot summer months and let warming sunlight through when they lose their leaves in the winter. In addition, their height and bulk, their brilliant natural colors, the sound of the wind through their branches, all of these traits bring us peace.

Interested in fruit trees? There's more to fruit trees than just citrus—North Florida gardeners can grow fruit on trees as well. There are certain varieties of apples, figs, peaches, pears, persimmons, and plums that have been bred to grow well in the mild winters of North Florida.

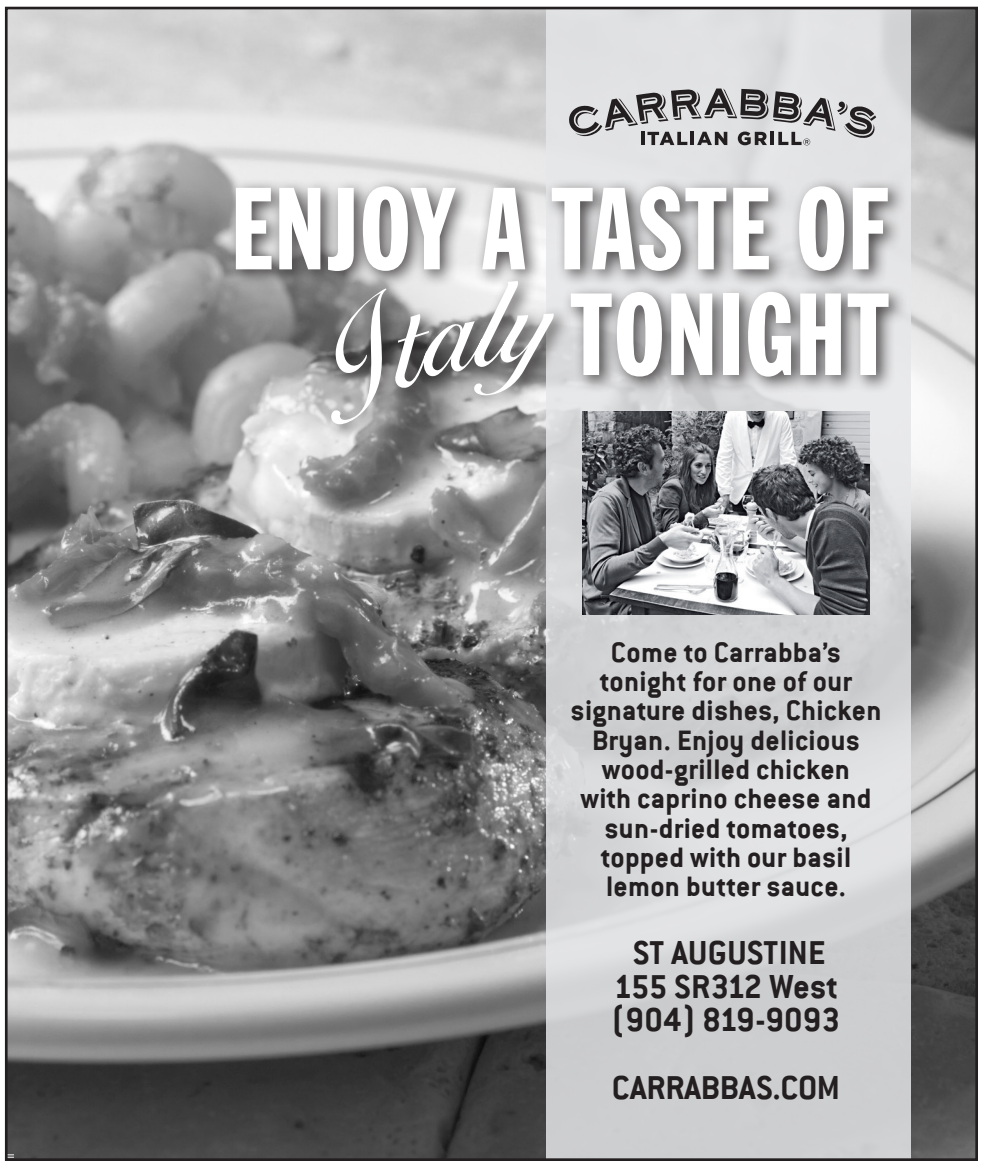
The variety of fruit crops available for the Florida landscape is large and within any given fruit crop species there may be differences in cold, flood, wind, and saline water and soil tolerance.

Trees help keep you mentally on keel- A recent study found that children who view nature from their window feel more patient and less frustrated about tasks and have more enthusiasm for their school work and satisfaction with their lives.

According to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), hospital patients get well faster when their room has a tree view. Surgery patients who can see nature from their hospital rooms have a more favorable recovery than those who look out on brick walls, including 10 percent shorter hospital stays and fewer pain medications. In fact, a compilation of several studies shows similar research for clinics, nursing homes, and prisons. Those that take advantage of natural elements have higher rehabilitation rates.

Think about where your life could benefit from more trees, more peace. Perhaps it's in your own yard, where trees can beautify your property and help you spend less on energy bills.

Source: UF-IFAS Ext. Frank Romanello, CEO of Romanello Landscaping, Inc., has more than 20 years of experience helping residential and commercial customers. Call Frank at 904-429-7260 or 954-931-7801.



BIG RED ART SHOW WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Diane Bradley, president of the St. Augustine Art Association, presented awards, during the Feb. 1, Art Walk, to nine artists exhibiting in the "Big Red Art Show."

Mary Rhopa La Cierra, fiber artist and retired FloArts costume design professor, received the Jean Wagner Troemel Best of Show Award for her art quilt, entitled "Magma." La Cierra's quilts have won numerous awards throughout North Florida over the past several years, including the top prize in the 2012 Nature & Wildlife Exhibition held at the St. Augustine Art Association.

Deeyna Soman won First Place for "Morgan Casey," a red toned watercolor portrait. Liz Monaco received Second Place for "Signing Red," a colored pencil drawing of hands forming ASL letters. Third Place was given to Linda Emus for "Flight of the Firebird," an abstract expression mixed media on canvas. Claire J. Kendrick won Fourth Place for "Extravagant Gesture," a floral oil painting.

Honorable Mention awards went to Courtney McCracken, Vicky Lennin, Stephen Kelsey and Mary Bower.

Don Trousdell, nationally recognized graphic designer and painter, judged the exhibition of more than 120 entries. "The exhibit theme of the color red challenged artists to start with a strong idea to be successful," said Trousdell. "In my view, the idea is king, so I was drawn to works that communicated a unique and creative point of view."

Anne Woodruff, artist and Senior Vice President of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, chaired the exhibit, which was installed by a team of volunteers led by Jill Cerulli. The "Big Red Art Show" will be on display until February 24, along with an exhibit of works by students from the St. Johns County Middle Schools.

The St. Augustine Art Association is located at 22 Marine Street. Gallery hours are noon - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 to 5 pm. on Sundays. Admission is free. For more information call (904) 824-2310 or visit www.staaa.org.

PHOTO: Big Red Art Show Award Winners (l to r): Mary Rhopa La Cierra, Linda Emus, Stephen Kelsey, Mary Bower, Claire Kendrick, Liz Monaco, Vicky Lennin, Diane Bradley, StAAA President (not pictured Deeyna Soman, Courtney McCracken)

Message from the Mayor

(continued from page 4)

for the Boulevard traffic and flashing red for the Pope Road traffic. A pedestrian can by pressing a button change the flashing yellow to a red or stop signal.

Strategic Plan:

As previously outlined, the Commission in 2012 identified strategic issues that should be addressed in the coming years. Specific objectives have been established in Human Resources, Economic Development, Fiscal Issues, Growth Management, Governance, Infrastructure and Public Safety. We will keep you advised on the progress towards achievement of these objectives as the year evolves.

We have many opportunities to move forward being always mindful, though, of the need to preserve what is best and unique about our City.

Best regards, S. Gary Snodgrass.

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32nd St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival

March 1st - 3rd"Food, Arts, Music, and FUN"

Each March, caterers and chefs from around the Southeast migrate to St. Augustine, like snowbirds to sunshine. They come for the St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival presented by Winn Dixie. They'll serve mouth-watering and award-winning seafood you can feast both your eyes and mouth on. Your gastronomic delight is matched by the affordable and festive Arts & Crafts in the village and the Americana styled music coming from the stage. Younger family members are having a blast in the "Kids Zone" with rides and activities before heading to Pirate Landing for more family fun.

The festival kicks off on Friday, March 1st, and runs through Sunday, March 3rd. Friday hours are 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Saturday features a full slate of festivities running from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, and Sunday hours11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is just $2, with kids 12 and under free. The Arts & Crafts village featuring 100 exhibitors will close at sundown. You are invited to 25 W. Castillo Drive in downtown St Augustine.

The St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival has been providing a great time for attendees, and supporting Lions Charities, for over three decades. "It is a huge event with over 20,000 people in attendance every year. This could never happen without the support of dozens of volunteers," said Dominic Mercurio, Festival Chairman. He continued, "We have volunteers from the local community, the St. Augustine Lions, and Lions Club Members from northeast Florida, all coming together to make this happen.

The main attraction is definitely the seafood, and the offerings and cooking styles range broadly. There will be a judging for the right to claim the title of "Best of the Festival" in several categories. It's an opportunity for the chefs to claim another accolade. Offerings include Cajun, Asian, Mediterranean, Maryland, Floribbean, Southwest and Deep South styles of cooking. New for 2013 is Stalvey's Famous BBQ for the non-seafood lovers.

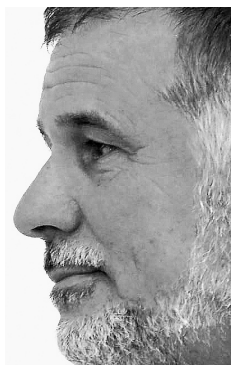
Arts and crafts exhibits include glass, jewelry, woodworking, clothing, sports memorabilia, furniture and other fun hand-made gifts . Several artisan food crafters will be onsite with jams, honey, sauces, breads, cakes, fudge and bavarian nuts. You will find plenty of fun, unique and affordable items to buy for yourself or others. Shop till you drop is the motto in the village.

On the stage you'll find "Americana" performers that feature Folk, Bluegrass, and Old Time. Headliner Kickin Grass is a CMA winner from Raleigh and are expected to get you out of the seat and toes a tapping. Some other area favorites playing are Lonesome Bert, Ancient City Slickers, Rotogeezer and Mixed Nuts. Emcees Cable Spence with Katherine Archer of the Saltwater Cowgirls will keep you laughing too.

The St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival is a great time for the whole family and a definite for your calendar. For more information about the event you can visit their website www.lionsfestival.com or email admin@lionsfestival.com .

Spiritually Speaking

By Dr. Nicholas A. Marziani, D. Min.
askfrnicholas@aol.com
Pastor, St. James Church, a Catholic Community of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter



"When a Pope Resigns"

Well I never thought when I wrote last month's column about "Life Changes" that anything remotely like yesterday's news (2/11/13) out of the Vatican would come across the transom. Actually, I had purposely turned off my computer and avoided the usual news feeds earlier in the day in order to catch up with other projects in my home office when lo!, and behold, I heard of the immanent stepping down of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI on the six o'clock news. As we all know now, these things don't happen very often – six hundred years since the last papal resignation is a very long time in my personal sense of things.

The commentators and pundits are already chatting away, of course, trying to interpret this rare event for us, but the one thing that many if not most are saying is that it takes an extraordinary human being to voluntarily choose to step down from arguably one of the most influential positions in the world.

It's a measure of the man that one-time Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, the so-called "Pantzer-Pope" recognizes his human limitations, and is unwilling to inflict his ailing and potentially increasing foible-ridden faculties on the Catholic church and the world.

The way of the world is generally for leaders to pump the system for all its worth, grab for the gusto, the perks, and the stock options and just run the organization into the ground. There's always an awaiting custom helicopter on the roof deck waiting to whisk away the CEO to some remote paradise if the enterprise goes down.

Not in this case – although, it is true that there IS a helipad located in the back garden grounds of the Vatican (my family and I saw it myself back in 1993 when we visited Rome). That bit of conveyance, however, is generally used to transfer the pontiff to the airport outside of Rome from where he then goes on mission to be a blessing to people all over the globe. Certainly not to hole up somewhere far from the madding crowd. Why, even when he goes on vacation up in the mountains of Italy in August there are all kinds of visitors and pilgrims to attend to. A working vacation, to be sure.

I guess I am still stunned by this news. And now we have a Lenten season papal conclave before us that will choose a successor to Pope Benedict. I do hope that with all that fasting and abstinence from rich foods and praying and almsgiving the gathered Cardinals from around the globe will be better disposed to choose wisely than not. And you don't have to be Catholic to appreciate the gravity of this choice. Whether one is even as Christian or not, to be sure the moral authority of the leader of over a billion people constitutes a powerful factor in world affairs (even if a big chunk of those Catholic folk seem to pay the man no heed – deep down, there is always something stirring in a believer's heart).

Anyway, I'll cut this column short for this March. Something about Lent lends itself more to silence than babbling, and so I'll follow my own advice.

Be Blessed, my friends and neighbors; catch you on the other side of Easter!

Fr. Nick

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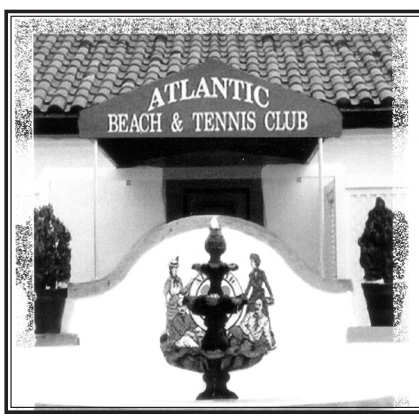

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Don't Be Late...

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

I was discussing with a patient the difference between early and delayed or late intervention. Many of us are so used to our bodies healing over time – we simply wait it out – expecting it's just a matter of time before we are good as new. When injuries are small and simple, this is the case. With a little rest we heal. But other times, when the injury is more severe, healing may be more involved and what could be kept as a small issue turns into a big mess. The solution to prevent this from happening is early intervention, especially given with the recent changes in healthcare regulations.

For those of you who have migraines – if you feel one coming on – you often try to thwart it quickly and early. Maybe you take some medication with the first symptoms, not waiting to see if it will become full blown. So, why not seek early intervention or consultation with musculoskeletal issues? As stated above, it is often because we don't expect it to get bad. A second reason hindering early assistance is the thought "it's not that bad…there are others worse off than me." Although this may be true, perhaps they are worse is because they didn't seek early intervention and their problem has now become more complicated. One thing that can almost certainly be counted on is if your problem has not begun to improve within the first 2 weeks, it may not resolve on its own.

The stages of healing are presented in most physiology textbooks. They are acute, sub-acute and chronic. Acute is described as the healing stage immediately following the injury/trauma up to 72 hours. Acute injuries typically present with warmth and swelling due to the tissue damage. Treatment is many times consist of rest, supported and/or limited mobility, ice, elevation, and maybe even compression. The sub-acute stage of condition (healing) is commonly indicated by decreased pain, due to early tissue healing, which takes place within the first 1-2 weeks and continues until week 12. By week 12, provided if re-injury has been prevented, tissues can be well loaded to encourage strengthening and function can be restored because by this time all pain from the initial injury should be resolved. However, if injury or pain persists the problem may be considered chronic in nature.

Early consultation is almost always beneficial even if professional intervention is not. We apply this principle to our cars, air conditioners and more – why not our health and body? Early consultation can help to know which things are okay and that things are progressing as expected. Early consultation can help via education, answering such questions as what discomfort can be expected, what movements are okay, and should one rely on the "no pain, no gain" concept (rarely the case). Early consultation can prevent or minimize what we call 'fear avoidance'. Fear of further injury, disrupting the healing process, causing more pain or damaging a surgical procedure can cause patients to not move, which can be counterproductive. Non-movement can lead to stiffness, dysfunction and more pain. For example, a painful tendonitis may cause a patient to protect the shoulder. Reaching overhead becomes limited as tissues tighten, grow short and cause further complications. I've seen a number of patients following knee replacement surgery who became stiff due to non-movement.

Early intervention can provide coached healing. Physical Therapists provide early intervention for a variety of problems, walking patients through the stages of recovery, providing education and minimizing secondary complications. Being early is almost always better than being late. Don't get behind. Get ahead of the game. Consult your MD and Physical Therapists and take charge of your health today. Get started early.

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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Ask Mow!

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

I took some time off work last month, cruised around the city, downtown and the beach area. St Augustine is a beautiful town. We should all be proud to live here. I noticed there are a lot of you readers that mow your own lawns, and allot of you are really good at it. Shaping hedges, edging sidewalks and landscape beds. Most of you are really good at having that professional stripe in the yard. Outstanding work! It inspired me, how about we post these, What if you emailed me pictures of your well manicured lawn? I would post them on our website and social media pages for the world to see.

Are you considering a contest Mow?

That's not a bad idea, what do you readers think? Would you like to see a contest maybe a first place, like a 'Best Of"? First Place Winner receives a free service on their lawn equipment and a write up on our website and social media site. How about that? If you're interested how about send us an email or give us a call. Let's see how many readers respond and see what we can do.

Okay Mow, sounds like fun. So please email your suggestions and/or comment to askmow@staugpowerhouse.com, we look forward to reading them.

So until next month, remember St Augustine Power House is located at 125 Pope Road right here on the Beach. Visit us at www.staugpowerhouse.com and if you have any questions for Mow email him askmow@staugpowerhouse.com.

In Recognition

(continued from page 5)

submitted bi-weekly time record summaries to the finance director as part of the city's bi-weekly payroll process; reconciled expenditures with budget appropriations and prepared bank deposits; maintained petty cash records; advertised, recorded and filed bids for goods and projects; maintained the city's insurance records and policies; assisted employees with filing workers compensation claims; maintained liability and property damage claim records; acted as the city's risk manager to insure compliance with the regulations of the city's worker comp and property insurer, the Florida League of Cities; arranged registrations, travel arrangements and reservations for city commissioners and personnel when they attended meetings and conferences; processed requisitions, compared prices and purchased office supplies for all departments; provided notary public services to citizens and the city; answered telephone inquiries from residents; with other office personnel issued business tax receipts and dog licenses; performed clerical work, such as the final drafting of letters, memos and reports for the city manager, and assisted the city manager with getting information for various reports; supervised office personnel as required. And last but definitely not the least of her multitude of tasks, Sharon kept filled the candy dish in the city manager's office so that the public and city employees would have something sweet to make their day.

While the above list doesn't include all of Sharon's responsibilities, I think it provides you with a good sense of the work she did for the taxpayers. The list shows as well how detrimental employee turnover in Sharon's position, a la city of Miami style, would have been, as each new employee would have had to learn the details of each task. I hate to think of the adverse consequences the city would have experienced if the budget hearings hadn't been properly advertised, or the millage and other information about the city's budget hadn't been submitted to the property appraiser and the state by certain deadlines. Yet Sharon never missed a deadline, and nothing that she did in 23 years as a city employee exposed the city to possible legal action and the costs to the taxpayers such an action might cause.

And though I make it a point never to speak for the city commission, I think in this case both past commissions and the present one will allow me to thank Sharon on their behalf for the good work she did for the city; and I'll go a step further and thank her on behalf of the citizens and her now ex-fellow employees. I'll certainly include myself in the group of those who say thanks and wish her happy travels and other good times in her retirement.

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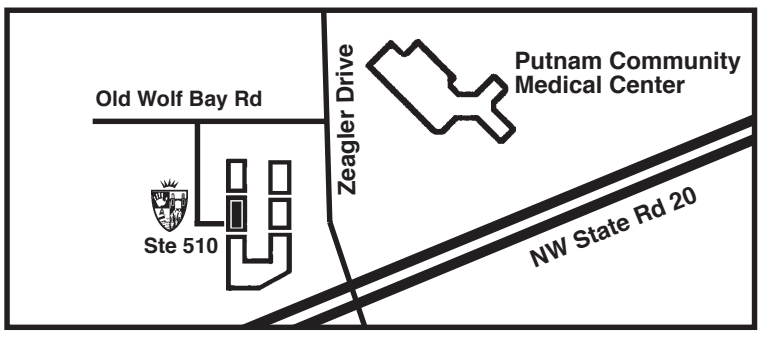

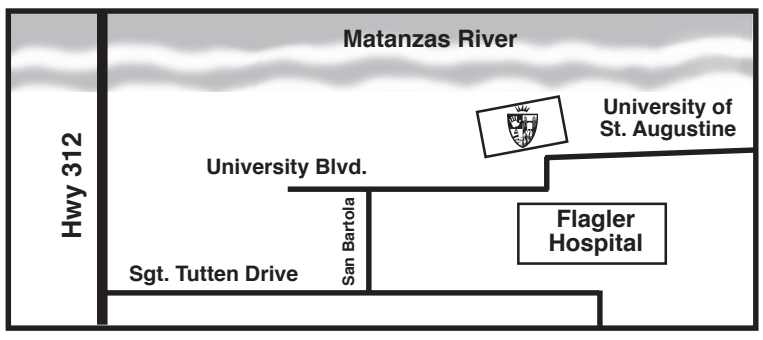

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OCEANFRONT HOME IN SEA COLONY. 716 Ocean Palm Way. Amazing panoramic views from 4BR/5BA European style home with in-ground pool and numerous upgrades. Great architectural features, high end windows, doors & appliances, coquina shell concrete walk, privacy wall, premium lighting, quality cabinets, stone countertops, tumbled travertine stone floor, and elevator! Gated oceanfront community in St. Augustine Beach. $2,150,000

SUPERIOR CLASSIC oceanfront estate built by top builder EC Kenyon in prestigious gated Sea Colony. Over 7000 sq ft of exquisite lavishly detailed home with top of the line products including Andersen windows and doors. This elegant castle in the sand features high ceilings with an open floor plan that makes for maximum views of the Atlantic Ocean. Unique spiral staircase to the tower room in the sky. Full suite above the garage, 5BEDS/4.5BATHS, fireplace, great room, custom cabinetry throughout, gas stove top and much more! Enjoy magnificent sunrises in this serene and beautiful neighborhood of Old Florida style homes. $ 2,490,000.

BEAUTIFUL ESTATE HOME IN PALENCIA. 1788 North Loop Pkwy. 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.

SEA COLONY GEM. 713 Ocean Palm. 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.

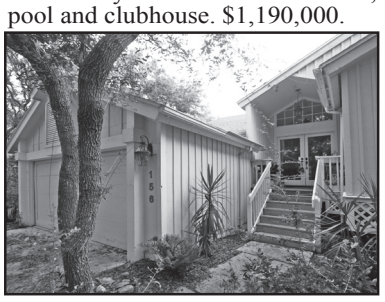
OCEAN VIEW BEACH HOME. 464 Ocean Grove Cir. in Sea Colony of St. Augustine Bch. 4BR/4.5BA and over 3,000 sq ft of luxury. This home was built with the finest maintenance free materials available. Hurricane resistant windows to 125MPH, upscale kitchen with granite, warming oven, wine cooler, SS appliances and more. Everything a great beach home should be. Gated oceanfront community offers beach walkovers, pool and clubhouse. $1,190,000.

LIVE AMONG NATURE IN THIS MAGNIFICENT HOME. 3457 Kings Road S. This beautiful 4BR/2BA home is better than new and shows like a model. Travertine fireplace and floors in main living area. All stainless steel appliances and corian kitchen countertops. Custom designed double front door. Home is block constructions, has a sprinkler system and well. This home is one of the most attactive homes in Oakbrook. Come live among nature in this magnificent home! $240,000.

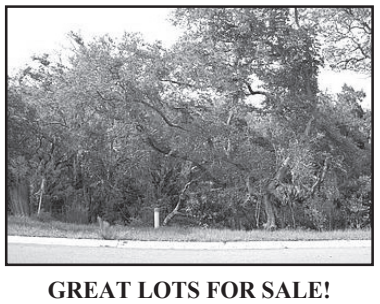
OCEAN GRANDE CONDO SERENATA BEACH, 415 N. Ocean Grande Unit 203, located in a serene and peaceful setting, this like new 3BR/3BA unit has upgrades galore. Chef's kitchen has center island, granite countertops and 42" maple cabinets. Gas fireplace for those cool winter evenings. Gas grill on large screened porch overlooking the marsh and Intracoastal for spectacular views. Tranquility and beauty in Ponte Vedra awaits you! $409,000.

BEAUTIFUL BEACH HOME 19 Seascape Circle, It's a beautiful beach home in small community with direct ocean walk-over just a few steps from your house. This unique, one of a kind, 3-story beach home offers 5 bedrooms/3 baths, 3 fireplaces, and 2 expansive balconies. This home offers amazing ocean views from almost every room in the main living area. If you like ocean breezes and comfortable living, you will want to see this one! $899,000.

Beautiful Palencia ! 140 Calle El Jardin Unit 104. Just the perfect location for those who commute between Jacksonville and St. Augustine . Gorgeous 3BDR/2BTH bright and immaculate first floor/end unit condo with chef's kitchen/granite countertops. Tray ceilings in large master bedroom, screened porch and, phone, cable and security in all rooms. Condo fee includes water, sewer, pool, exercise room and more. Enjoy all that Palencia has to offer while centrally located between historic St. Augustine and metro Jacksonville. $88,000.



LIVE IN PARADISE! 156 Turtle Bay Ln. This beautiful home offers 3BED/2BATH; open floor plan, 2,047 feet of living space, large kitchen, breakfast room, a large screened porch and more. This wonderful Resort Community of Turtle Shores is where everyone wants to live; has a low HOA and amenities galore. Just walk thru the tunnel to a wonderful place on the ocean to picnic, swim or just enjoy the ocean. The community has 2 tennis courts, large pool and playground, exercise room, etc. This home is situated in a beautiful serene wooded area of Turtle Shores. Come and see for yourself! $270,000.



GREAT LOTS FOR SALE!

109 Grand Oaks	$169,000
800 River Mist Bend	$139,000
100 Lancaster Place	$149,000
20 Bermuda Run Way	$224,900

SPARKLING SEA GROVE HOME. 1165 Overdale Road. Walk to the beach from this beautiful Key West style home with upgrades galore. this one story home has the most fantastic lay out! Porches in the front and back of the home captures the sea breezes for that first cup of coffee in the morning or relaxing after a long day! $289,000.

701 Queen Road, This is a great house for a great price. This home is CB construction with a great fenced back yard. New kitchen appliances, carpet & vinyl, interior freshly painted,new garage door. $98,000.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!!! 176 Bay Bridge Drive. Great location on the Island. Close to shopping, grocery shopping, doctors, restaurannts and more. This immaculate Island home has 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Open floor plan on main living area. Upstairs den with bedrooms and 2 baths. This property is within walking and biking of the ocean. $249,000

PELICAN REEF LOT FOR SALE!

117 Spoonbill point $ 69,900

SEA COLONY LOT FOR SALE!

892 Ocean Palm Way $115,000

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