

St. Augustine Observer

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

Santa Suits on the Loose!



St. Augustine Youth Services Hosts 13th Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5K to Benefit Youth Mental Health Programs

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) is thrilled to announce the 13th Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5K. This year's race will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 8 a.m. at St. Augustine Beach Pier Pavilion. All proceeds from this cherished event will directly benefit SAYS programs that serve local at-risk youth and support youth mental health and wellness.

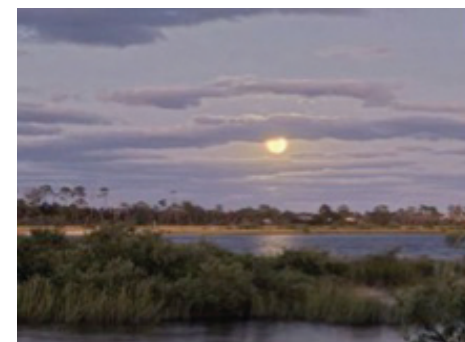
The Santa Suits on the Loose 5K invites participants of all ages and fitness levels to dress in festive holiday and Santa attire, creating a joyful and memorable holiday spectacle. This unique race, combining holiday spirit with a community cause, features a flat course with route entertainment as participants travel through the neighborhoods of St. Augustine Beach. Walkers, runners, and joggers are welcome to join!

The Santa Suits on the Loose 5K has become a holiday tradition, providing an opportunity for the community to come together to raise awareness and funds for essential programs that SAYS offers, including residential therapeutic care and community-based services for youth facing challenges related (continued page 11)

St Augustine South Reflections

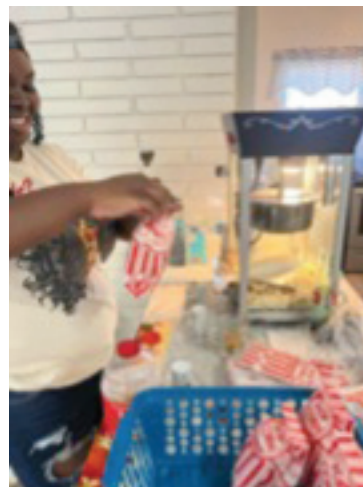
by Ruth Hope

We have completed another election cycle and can thank St Johns County Supervisor of Elections, Vicky Oakes and staff for ensuring efficient and safe polling, and secure handling of our ballots. Locally, we can look forward to meeting our new County Commissioner, Clay Murphy. At the time of writing, it looks like we have survived the 2024 hurricane season relatively unharmed. The king tides continue to bring flooding to downtown and Davis Shores, but our salt marsh has soaked up much of the excess water so that we have only experienced minor flooding on the lowest part of Shore Drive, to the north of the neighborhood. However, we have had spectacular views of both the October and November full moons over the Matanzas.



It was a good day for the SASIA Fall Festival on October 26. A bake sale, of donated baked goodies, benefited the SASIA Scholarship Fund. There were children's games and crafts, and other activities. And for everyone, a food truck (El Hombro) and Jamology House Band, plus hot dogs, and popcorn in the Clubhouse. Mark your diaries for the next SASIA community

event, the Arts and Craft Fair. It's Saturday December 7, from 10am to 2pm in the Clubhouse grounds. This is a lovely event for finding unique holiday gifts, while supporting local artists and crafters. For details of Food Truck Fridays and SASIA



Community Meetings, see the SASIA website <http://staugsouth.com>.

Now that the weather has cooled, and we have actually had some rain after the long dry weeks of the summer, many St Augustine South gardeners are busy with winter crops. We are fortunate to have winter weather that is great for many crops as well as tomatoes. Folks first arriving here from the north often don't realize that unlike in northern states, tomatoes do not grow well in our hot humid summer months. Other winter crops that are going into the ground now are arugula, chard, kale, Brussel sprouts, and salad crops including radish and celery as well as tomatoes. Neighbor, Lou Greco, is quite the expert on growing veggies locally, but his vegetable garden is not in St Augustine South. Many of us have enjoyed his talks in the clubhouse and learned a lot of his tips and tricks. Most successful veggie gardeners seem to use raised beds or other containers for their crops, to better control the soil environment, and use compost or mulch to amend the soil. We are fortunate to have so many oak trees in the neighborhood that are an excellent source of leaves for mulching. The bane of our winter gardeners' lives is frost. The weather forecast looks good for the next few weeks but with perhaps colder nights in the new year.



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†Benefit(s) mentioned may be part of a special supplemental program for chronically ill members with one of the following conditions: Diabetes mellitus, Cardiovascular disorders, Chronic and disabling mental health conditions, Chronic lung disorders, Chronic heart failure. This is not a complete list of qualifying conditions. Having a qualifying condition alone does not mean you will receive the benefit(s). Other requirements may apply.

Clay, Duval, and St. Johns counties. CarePlus is an HMO SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Florida Medicaid Program. Enrollment in CarePlus depends on contract renewal. The Part B Premium Reduction benefit pays part or all your Part B premium and the amount may change based on the amount you pay for Part B. CareNeeds Platinum (HMO D-SNP): This plan is available to anyone receiving both Medicare and Medicaid: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB/QMB+), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB/SLMB+), Qualified Individuals (QI), Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) and other Full Benefit Dual Eligibles (FBDE). Allowance amounts cannot be combined with other benefit allowances. Limitations and restrictions may apply. Referrals and/or authorization may be required for certain specialists. CareComplete (HMO C-SNP): This plan is available to anyone enrolled in Medicare with a diagnosis of diabetes, cardiovascular disorders or chronic heart failure.

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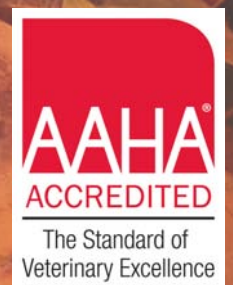
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St. Augustine Observer

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Cliff Logsdon Publisher/Editor

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The purpose of the St. Augustine Observer is to serve residents of St. Augustine area Communities.

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

Information should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue. Articles or information may be sent to the St. Augustine Observer, 2465 US1 South PMB #8, St. Augustine Florida 32086. Information may also be e-mailed to clifflogsdon@att.net.

"Follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @staugustineobserver"

St. Augustine Shores Community Calendar

The Shores Service Corporation
Shores Homeowners Association
(904) 794-2000

www.staugshores.org

Shores Monthly Meetings

• Shores Service Corporation's monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Riverview Club.

• Conquistador Condominium Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Riverview Club.

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

Information, articles and other materials published are believed to be accurate at time of publishing. Acceptance of articles, advertising does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the contents, products or services by the Observer or its staff. It is agreed that the Observer and its staff will not be held liable for information provided herein by submitters/advertisers, including pictures, graphics, websites, dates, times and/or emails listed, that may have the potential to constitute fraud or other violation of law including copywriting infringements. The publisher reserves the right to refuse materials that does not meet the publication's standards.

• Fairview Condominium Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 4 p.m. at the Fairview Condo club house.

• Greens Condominium Board meetings will vary. Contact Jeff Edwards at Sovereign-Jacobs at 904-461-5556.

• Casa Bella Condominium Board Meetings are 3rd Mondays of each month at 6pm. Meeting location will be determined & posted on the bulletin board 48 hours prior to each meeting. For Information contact Community Association Manager Melissa Settoon at 904-471-6606 ext 140. melissa@coastalrealtyfl.com

St. Augustine South Community Calendar

St. Augustine South Improvement Assoc.
709 Royal Rd. St Augustine, 32086
email: info@staugsouth.com
www.staugsouth.com
(904) 615-6916

December Community Meeting and Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 18th

We would like to invite SASIA members to our holiday dinner on Wednesday, December 18th. The December community meeting is traditionally a dinner hosted by the SASIA officers and open to all members and residents. SASIA membership includes Christmas dinner at no charge for up to two members of each household. Additional guests and non-members are \$20.00 per person. Nonmembers may join for a \$24 annual fee. Contact info@staugsouth.com for more information.

2024 SASIA Board Members

President: Jerri Sue Dawson
1st VP: Open
2nd VP: Nicolette Soucy
Secretary: Marcea Lewis
Treasurer: Margo Geer
Board:

David Rieger Andre D'Elena
Linda Stegall Vicki Cofone
Oonna Heuck

Classes at the SASIA Clubhouse

Weekly classes at the clubhouse are open to the public, you do not need to be a resident in St. Augustine South to participate.

Square Dancing – Mondays 7:00-9:00 p.m. Come join the fun and dance with others. Contact caller, Mike Akers, with

any questions: michael_akers@bellsouth.net or (904) 466-8663

Movin' with Melinda – Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. Move and groove in a low to medium impact exercise class with music from the past and present. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Contact Melinda at slidermomma@yahoo.com.

Yoga with Joi – Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9:45-10:45 a.m. Yoga for age 50+ and 6:00-7:00 pm: Yoga for age 18+. Build Strength, Stability, and Flexibility Donation-based class. Bring a mat and comfortable clothes to move in. Classes will run Nov 26th – Jan 2nd.

Art Classes in December – December 3, 10, and 17, Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Intermediate / Advanced Art - Tuesdays: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Intermediate/Advanced Art Students 18 years and older can register for Art Classes by contacting Jenny at jenny@jennykeyser.com with the class name and time in the subject line.

Beginning Line Dancing – Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 p.m. Have fun as you boot, scoot, and boogie while learning to dance. Join Dianne and Ingrid for a beginning level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Intermediate / Advanced Line Dancing – Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 p.m. 2nd Monday of each month from 10a.m.-12 noon. Join Jinny for an intermediate/advanced level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Residents interested in joining SASIA may do so at www.staugsouth.com

Community Classifieds

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

Business, Service, seeking work, etc. may be placed in the classified section: (1-4 lines) \$5, (5-9 lines) \$10, (10-14 lines) \$15, (15-19 lines) \$20. Ad \$10 for single line border. Ads should be paid in advance before placed. Send your listing and payment, if required, to Observer, 2465 US1 South PMB#8, St. Augustine, 32086 or email your ad to clifflogsdon@att.net. Deadline is the 15th of every month for the next monthly issue.

FOR SALE: (1) 2 ladies Huffly bikes. One 24 inch, one 26 inch. Like new. \$50 each. (2) 18 inch high Serta queen size inflatable mattress \$30. (3) Aerobed double inflatable mattress \$25 Both only used once. Call or text 914-819-8854.

FOR SALE: (1) CUISINART pod coffeemaker. Works perfect. Bonus mesh drawer for pods \$30. (2) KAMODO JOE CLASSIC smoker cooker. 18". Little used. Bonus SS rainproof cap. \$400. (3). GENERAC Generator RS 7000E Power Dial Series. Used once for a few hours. Like new. \$500. (4) 2 pair BROOKS GHOST MEN's tennis shoes size 9 1/2. Little worn. \$25. each. (5) AURORA paper shredder. 8 sheet cross cut. New in box. \$35. Call or text 904-806-6376.

FOR SALE: Yankee fan alert! W.S in 2025 for sure! Letting go at reduced prices for personal reasons. Autographed certified baseballs: (1) Gerrit Cole signed "23 AL CY" \$300 (2) DJ Lemahieu 4x Gold Glove signed "Le Machine" \$200 (3) Paul O'Neil 4x W.S. Champion 96, championships 98,99,2000 \$300 (4) Derek Jeter The Captain Hall of Fame 5x W.S. Champion 96,98,99,2000,2009 (5) Signed 2009 W.S Rawlings ball \$500. 2 display cases (2 balls each) provided free with purchase (with Yankee emblem) Call Susan 904-599-2498.

FOR SALE: (1) Werner 6 ft aluminum stepladder, converts to straight ladder \$25. (2) Steinway upright piano, needs tuning. \$50. Call 904-794-7240.

FOR SALE: Antique 14 pc Porcelain Canister Set Storage jars, pitchers and spices Germany c 1900. White with

red & gold. Excellent condition - two chips \$50. Call 631-566-4992.

WANTED: I buy old records and some vintage stereo equipment. I am not a reseller. I only use for my own enjoyment. If you're looking for a good home for your records, please call John at 904-325-9802.

FOR SALE: MacPro 2006 "Quad Core" 2.0 ghz, 4 gb memory. One 500 gig hard drive with OS 10.7 Lion and one 80 gig hard drive with OS 10.10 Yosemite. Only computer and power cord include. No keyboard or mouse. Works as intended. \$90. 904-607-1410.

St. Augustine Observer

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

Shores President's Update

It's a Wonderful Life, starring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, is a favorite holiday classic. George

Bailey learns through the guidance of his angel Clarence that his life is rich with meaning because of the connections he has made. This message resonates deeply in our Shores community, reminding us of the benefits of prioritizing family, friendship, and community.

What does community mean to you? Maybe it means that you plan to attend our Holiday Tree-Lighting on December 6th at 7 pm. Bring a friend and a lawn chair to enjoy this new Shores holiday tradition. Hot cocoa and hot coffee will be available for purchase at our food truck. This event will be a great opportunity to get into the holiday spirit with Christmas carols, led by Shores homeowner and talented vocalist Jane Taeger. Our Building and Grounds Committee pulled our giant sleigh out of mothballs and refurbished it for all to enjoy. We've sent a note to the North Pole, and if all goes well, maybe Santa can take time out of his busy holiday schedule and join our celebration.

Maybe community means that when a neighbor with health challenges needs a hand, you step in and do what you can to help. Recently, Tim Mersch from our Buildings and Grounds committee stepped up and cleaned the lanai for a neighbor who was under the weather. Perhaps you would enjoy sharing a common interest with your fellow residents such as art classes with Una on Tuesdays or Scrabble Club with Edie on Thursdays. With the pool resurfacing

project set for completion in early December, why not set a goal to become a member of our pool community, possibly taking full advantage of the aquatic classes offered in the spring? If working out indoors is your passion, it's easy to connect with your fitness family in any of the Yoga, Zumba or other fitness classes offered at the Riverview Club.

Our community is evolving. Soon we will accept the responsibility of maintaining the common areas in Sabal Estates and those homeowners will begin to pay monthly dues. We welcome all of our new homeowners to the community and are excited to see their enthusiasm to get involved with the association.

What talents and ideas can you bring to the community as a future Board member or ACC committee member? We recently appointed Thomas Hoverson to the HOA Board of Directors and are still accepting applications to fill our 7th Board seat. Our Architectural Control Committee (ACC) needs more volunteers to do the important work of ensuring that all new structures comply with our governing documents. Our classic movie culminates with Clarence asking George, "Each man's life touches so many other lives. And when he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" Living in the Shores provides many opportunities to get involved, meet friends, and make a difference... it certainly makes for a wonderful life! Wishing you, your family, and your friends a happy and safe holiday season! Mary Jenson

St. Augustine Travel Club

by Peter Dytrych

The St. Augustine Travel Club will again be sailing the seas on Saturday, April 5, 2025 on the beautiful CARNIVAL VISTA out of Port Canaveral to the Caribbean ports of Amber Cove (Dominican Republic), San Juan, St. Maarten and St. Thomas for a 8-day cruise. Prices start from \$894 per person, double occupancy, for inside cabin, inclusive of all port fees and taxes. Balconies and Oceanviews are also available at additional cost.

Book now with a \$250 p.p. deposit and receive \$100 per stateroom On Board Credit. Call Peter, St. Augustine Travel Club at (904) 797-3736.



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Living with Cancer Support Group

The Living with Cancer support group has moved to Cancer Specialists of North Florida. 121 Whitehall Drive, St. Augustine 32086 on the third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am. We still have the ability to ZOOM in if needed. This is an informal gathering for adults with any type of cancer and their caregivers.

It is open to all affected by cancer. This group will provide the opportunity to meet others in similar situations, share your stories, provide practical suggestions and offer support to each other. If you prefer to participate virtually via Zoom, please call 904-819-4793 for further instructions.

Shores Riverview Club Member Activities

December 2024

Riverview Club at St. Augustine Shores | 790 Christina Drive | St. Augustine, FL | (904) 797-6441

Activity	Room	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Hosted By
Art	Serenity Sitting Room		12-3pm			Una
Euchre	Serenity Sitting Room		12-1:30pm			Carol
Scrabble	Serenity Sitting Room				12-3pm	Edith
Writers Group	Live Oak Conference Room				2-3pm	Bernie

FREE Activities are offered every week to Shores Homeowners. Owners may bring a guest.

Activity	Room	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Instructor
Chair Yoga	Reflections Ballroom	10:30-11:45am		10:30-11:45am		10:30-11:45am	Arthur
Baile Class	Reflections Ballroom		5:30-6:30p				Mary
Zumba	Reflections Ballroom	3:30-4:30pm (standing class)		3:30-4:30pm (seated class)			Nickie

FEE BASED Activities listed below are open to both members and non-members.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church

724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32086

4:00pm Traditional Worship Service

6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service

Everyone Invited!

Mah Jongg Tournament at Temple Bey Yam

Mah Jongg fans! Temple Bet Yam presents it's Mah Jongg Tournament on Thursday December 5th. Please enter by November 22nd if possible.

Register at 10:30 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. start. Cash prizes, a 50/50 Raffle, morning pastries, coffee and a lunch consisting of buffet salads, noodle kugel, fruit salad, dessert and cold beverages are included in your \$36 donation.

The tournament will be held at Temple Bet Yam, 2055 Wildwood Drive (just off SR 207), St Augustine. A security guard is on site. Sorry, but there will be no walk-ins. Questions? Call Carol Levy (954)895-7332.


St. Augustine Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

The National MS Society maintains a network of affiliated groups to provide opportunities for people living with MS to connect with others in their community. Every group is unique and welcoming — contact the group leader for more information. Join Us! We are recognized by the National MS Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

We meet every 4th Tuesday at 1:00 pm at Anastasia Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. For information or to RSVP, contact: Anita Clark johnita0013@gmail.com 305- 898-1432.

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SASIA News and Calendar of Events

December 2024

SASIA News and Calendar of Events

All events are held in the SASIA Clubhouse at 709 Royal Road. If you wish to contact SASIA please email info@staugsouth.com.

Check out SASIA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/staugsouth, Nextdoor page (search for St. Augustine South Improvement Association), and Instagram page www.instagram.com/saintaugsouth/. Like and follow us so you can see what is happening at the SASIA clubhouse each week.

December Community Meeting / Holiday Dinner Wednesday, December 18th

We would like to invite SASIA members to our holiday dinner on Wednesday, December 18th. The December community meeting is traditionally a dinner hosted by the SASIA officers and open to all members and residents. SASIA membership includes Christmas dinner at no charge for up to two members of each household. Additional guests and non-members are \$20.00 per person. Nonmembers may join for a \$24 annual fee. Contact info@staugsouth.com for more information.

Arts & Crafts Fair December 7, 2024

Mark your calendar for the Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, December 7, 2024. The fair is held at the SASIA Clubhouse from 10am-2pm. Come find the perfect homemade holiday gift. We have a wide variety of talented artists signed up. There will be paintings, photography, stained glass, pottery, jewelry, crafts and more! Something for everyone.

Luv'n' Oven Food Truck will be there serving delicious homemade sandwiches.

Holiday Celebration with Santa Saturday, December 14th 5:00 pm

Santa is coming to the clubhouse! There will be arts and crafts activities and treats for the kids while they wait for their turn to talk to Santa. Santa will be set up inside the clubhouse so you can get that perfect holiday photo with him!

Two food trucks are scheduled. Luv'n' Oven has wonderful homemade sandwiches and Sunrise Sweets serves delicious mini-donuts. Mark your calendar for this special family event.

Food Truck Nights

Food Truck Nights are the second Friday of each month from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse, (709 Royal Road)

There isn't a Food Truck on Friday, December 13th. Please join us for our Santa event on Saturday, December 14th, two food trucks are scheduled that evening.

Saturday, December 14th – Luv'n' Oven Sandwiches and Sweet Sunset Donut Food Trucks at the Santa Event

Friday, January 10th – Saucy Pig BBQ

Food Truck events are subject to change in the event of inclement weather. Check our social media for updates.

Upcoming Events 2024

Saturday, December 7th - Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, December 14th - Holiday Celebration with Santa/Luv'n' Oven and Sweet Sunset Donut Truck

Wednesday, December 18th- Holiday Dinner

Friday, January 10th – Saucy Pig BBQ

Dates are subject to change.

Families Anonymous Support Group

At your wits end? Tired of lies? Is someone you love destroying your family harmony? Families Anonymous is a free weekly meeting for mothers of addicted loved ones. We have walked your path and are here for you.

We meet Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S. Street, St. Augustine (Use red back door entrance). For more information to restore peace and harmony, contact 843-367-1475.

Sheriff's Update

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick

2nd Annual SJSHo-Ho-Ho Christmas Event



The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office is excited to be hosting the 2nd Annual SJSHo-Ho-Ho with Sheriff Hardwick at our main office located at 4015 Lewis Speedway St. Augustine, FL 32084.

The date of this year's SJSHo-Ho-Ho is December 14th from 5:00-9:00pm. This event will feature photos with Santa, Buddy the Elf, the Grinch, and more!

There will also be a Christmas movie playing, snow, facepainting, reindeer food, and more activities for all to enjoy! All purchases are tax-deductible.

Tickets are available on the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Special Teams Eventbrite page.

I'd also like to take this moment on behalf of my wife Kendell and I and the over 1,000 members of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, to thank you all for another great year. Your continued support of our agency is truly humbling. It is an honor to serve St. Johns County which we believe is the best place to live, work, play, raise a family, and retire. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

SAB Democratic Club Meeting

by Susan Horwitz

The SAB Democratic Club's December meeting is our Holiday Party on Tuesday December 10, 2024 from 5:30-7:30 at Cafe 11, 501 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach. We are planning on having good cheer and musical entertainment. There will not be a meeting on December 3. We will be resuming our regular first Tuesday monthly schedule in the new year. The St Augustine Beach Democratic Club's focus is on current local issues affecting those living in St Augustine Beach. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to get to know the elected representatives, mingle with Democratic candidates and socialize with our Democratic neighbors. The Club meets at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, 5:30 pm, plenty of parking available. For additional information, please contact info@sabdems.org.

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

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Temple Bet Yam's 22nd Annual Card Party

Hammock Dunes Country Club, 30 Ave Royale, in Palm Coast will again host our annual Card Party on January 15, 2025. You can look forward to a continental breakfast at 10 and a buffet lunch with desserts at noon. Your choice of games include Mah Jongg, Mexican Train, Canasta, and Scrabble and more.

You might win a door prize or the 50/50 raffle. You may find a great item at the silent auction. Registration info coming soon so keep an eye out for more information. Contact Ellen Miller at rehsm@yahoo.com or (516) 234-0950.

Interested in the Civil War?

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The December presentation will be with Len Whiteside titled "Spies in Petticoats". He will discuss the lives and exploits of three female spies: 2 Confederate and 1 Union, and their impact on various Civil War battles.

For questions or comments, please contact Len Whiteside at armyfam831@gmail.com

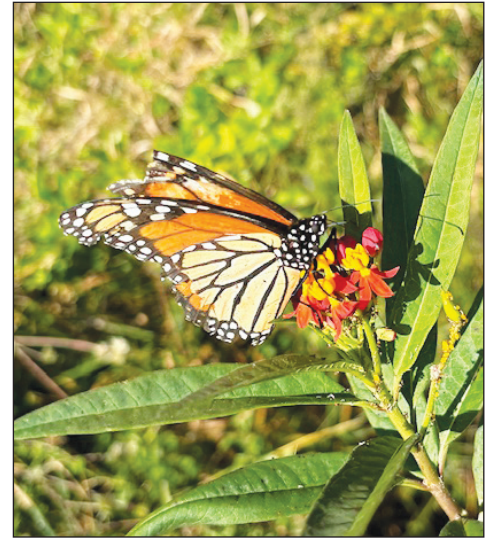


The Wildflower Meadow Group

by Marlene Land

The Wildflower Meadow group meets the first Saturday of each month at about 8:30 a.m. by the Riverview Club House and we usually work for a couple of hours. Our goal is to preserve the wildflower meadow, learn about native plants that grow in this area, and enjoy the outside. We're an informal group without officers or dues and hope you will join us. We occasionally visit state and county parks and welcome newcomers.

Call Cindy at 904-797-3931 or Marlene at 305-968-0447 for more information. If we can't answer leave a message and we'll call you back. Call for more information about the meadow and our walks to state and county parks.



The Dance Company's St. Augustine Winter Spectacular



This family-friendly, entertaining holiday production follows a young girl's journey home for the holidays. Expect high-kick dancers, ballerinas, acrobats, actors, and more amidst dazzling costuming and props. Performances are on Saturday December 14th at 7 p.m. and Sunday December 15th at 2 p.m. 14 Granada St., St. Augustine.

"The St. Augustine Winter Spectacular is a holiday production that was created in 2013 by The Dance Company and continues to be a holiday favorite amidst the Nights of Lights at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College in downtown St. Augustine.

Executive Artistic Director Stephanie Burkhardt Lahti, a former TDC dancer herself, created the show after a trip to New York City's Broadway district.

Wanting to bring the big city caliber of entertainment back to her quaint hometown, she and the artistic staff wrote the holiday show and continue to rewrite and tweak the story each year, making it fresh and memorable for all ages in the community.

The St. Augustine Winter Spectacular captures the flavor of the iconic Radio City Rockettes mixed with familiar holiday music and characters amidst a stage artistry of ballet, tap, acrobatics, musical theater, kick lines, and more. We have seen audience members revel in laughter, tears, wonder, and awe as they come back year after year to soak in the best of the winter season during the St. Augustine Winter Spectacular."

St Augustine Genealogical Society

The St Augustine Genealogical Society holds its monthly meeting the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Southeast Branch of the St Johns County Library. The SE Library Branch is located at 6670 US Hwy 1 South. Check in for our meetings is 12:45 and meeting starts at 1:00 PM.

Our Genealogical Society is open to all. We encourage visitors, as well as current and former members to join us. Refreshments will be served, and feel free to bring your favorite. For information visit webite.staugnso.org or contact Georgia Horsey at 770-337-6137.

Phone Calls from Santa

Phone Calls from Santa
December 10, 11, and 12 from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Parents with children 8 years old and younger living in St. Johns County can sign up to receive a phone call from Santa Claus right from the North Pole this Christmas season. Contact the St. Johnns County Recreation Department website.



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December 10, 11, and 12 from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Parents with children 8 years old and younger living in St. Johns County can sign up to receive a phone call from Santa Claus right from the North Pole this Christmas season. Contact the St. Johnns County Recreation Department website.

Cindy Walker Named Events Manager of River House Events & welcomes Janel Graham as Assistant Events Manager

by Carolyn Karger, Communications Coordinator - ckarger@coasjc.org (904) 209-3687

River House Events and Council on Aging proudly announce Cindy Walker has been named Events Manager for River House Events, joined by Janel Graham as Assistant Events Manager. Both professionals bring extensive experience and a shared dedication to enhancing the event experience at River House, COA's premier waterfront venue in St. Augustine, Florida, celebrated for its stunning views and community-focused mission.

River House Events, nestled along the Matanzas River in historic St. Augustine, offers an exquisite venue for weddings, corporate gatherings, and social events. Owned and operated by St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA), River House serves as both an event space and a community hub. Its elegant architecture, expansive riverfront patio, and breathtaking views of the St. Augustine Lighthouse make it a sought-after destination for memorable celebrations.

Cindy Walker has been involved with COA since 2017, serving in various roles including Development and Events Coordinator and Events Assistant. Now stepping into her new role as Events Manager, Cindy is thrilled to lead the team at River House, which she describes as "a place that feels like home."

"River House is not only an amazing events venue with breathtaking views, but it's also a place that supports older adults in our community," Walker explained. "I'm excited to enhance the guest experience with exceptional customer service and unforgettable events."

Janel Graham, who joined COA in 2022 as Development and Events Coordinator, also brings valuable experience in the wedding planning and hospitality industries. Her skills and dedication to creating unforgettable moments make her an excellent addition to the River House team.

"This venue is not just a beautiful location for events, but also a cornerstone of our senior programming," said Becky Yanni, COA Executive Director. "Cindy and Janel's efforts help ensure that River House continues to provide a welcoming space for events, while also offering a unique location to support senior programming and lifelong learning."

River House is located at 179 Marine Street in St. Augustine, and offers weddings, as well as corporate event hosting, military discounts, and short-term booking opportunities. For more information, visit www.RiverHouseEvents.com or follow @RiverHouseEvents on Facebook and Instagram.



St. Johns County Beach Services Celebrates 2024 Summer of Success

Joey Pellegrino, Public Affairs Specialist

In the wake of 2024's peak beach season, St. Johns County Beach Services is celebrating a summer of successfully serving our visitors and residents amid major storms and extensive renovations.

Tolls: During Summer 2024, Beach Services hired 41 new toll attendants, maintained a staff of 53 part-time employees, created new lead positions, and sold a total of approximately 78,000 beach passes.

Trash: Staff removed roughly 70 tons of trash from the beach, cleared six derelict boats, and removed washed-up items including a cargo ship fender, marine markers, buoys, and more.

Special Events:

1. A total of 971 events were hosted along St. Johns County's 42 miles of beach, mostly surf camps and weddings. There were 12 surf contests and five major impact events (each including over 200 people).

2. St. Johns County hosted state and national elected officials for a community forum addressing stormwater flooding in the North Beach area

Renovations: In early July, St. Johns County completed the \$38.6 million Ponte Vedra Restoration Project two months ahead of schedule. Vilano Beach Oceanfront Park (2752 Anahma Drive, St. Augustine) reopened on July 17 after a \$1.8 million renovation.

Sea Turtle Conservation: Staff spent over 141 hours responding to 80 reports of stranded sea turtles, and nine part-time members of night staff raked approximately 145 sea turtle nests (raking each individual nest for 10 to 25 days), removing ruts adjacent to nests due to hatch.

Other Highlights:

1. Beaches staff successfully broke down and reinstalled infrastructure before and after Hurricanes Helene and Milton brought impacts to Northeast Florida. Throughout the season, Beach Services continued maintaining the dunes critical to the beach ecosystem.

2. Fourteen beach walkovers were upgraded, and a new Mobi-mat was installed for greater accessibility at Vilano Beach. New positions were created for workers to operate the grader machine used for daily grading of beach access ramps. Vilano Beach vehicular access and South Ponte Vedra Beach 4x4-permitted driving access were both reopened.

3. Beach Services added the environmental technician position to assist and expand the Habitat Conservation team, crucial to such efforts as our work during the sea turtle nesting season. After last season's huge success, we anticipate promising numbers once St. Johns County's official data is calculated in early 2025.

4. The old Reach the Beach app is set to be retired on Dec. 2, with all beach info and updates now accessible via the SJC Connect app.

5. All the season's work was done in the wake of an updated beach ordinance being adopted by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, designed to better protect beachgoers and ensure the community enjoys the full benefits of our gorgeous beaches.

Happy Holidays!

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Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder

Once in a while I run into someone who will say, "Hey, I read your article and I liked the part about..." (Hi John and Sherry). Kinda makes me feel good – better if it made YOU feel good!

So, the election is over and, seeing as this is the Edition that comes out the week of Thanksgiving and before Christmas, regardless of how you voted, you're either thankful about the outcome or maybe you want to dedicate a little time over the Christmas Holiday to pray for a bunch of stuff. Keep in mind, I wrote this article prior to the election so don't paint me with a partisan brush – we're all Americans and we'll survive either way – better if WE thrive.

If you didn't vote then, as far as I'm concerned, you either noticed that neither candidate was the absolute best American (be honest – I'm sure there are better people) one could possibly find or you simply didn't care in which case nobody should care about your complaints about how our government is run. Next election – better feeling if YOU vote and at least you can complain without guilt.

And so, we move onto other topics like our good fortune this last hurricane season in St. Augustine and St. Johns County. We got lots of drinking water and the excess debris was blown out of our trees and some of our weaker trees were clearly identified. That's some positive spin on a bad situation and we all know that it could have been worse. It could be better if WE get lucky again next season.

What else can we identify as "collective gratitude". Let's talk about not having to see those mostly nasty political commercials for another 18 months or so. Gosh, if your business advertised like these people, you might as well shut your doors. Grateful that's going to be over.

Can we be grateful for all those people

who selfishly help their neighbors (and not try take advantage of them the way some people do)? Let's be grateful for all of the people who volunteer their time to help out in our community – the Wildflower Clinic, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Elks, Sertoma, St. Johns County, the School Board, the hospitals and churches and the business community and all of the groups my older brain can't think of at the moment. These people are our local heroes. Better is YOU joined the group.

I'd be more grateful too if we had less anger with one another – you know the attitudes. There's the road rage and the hotheads. There's are the ones who treat everyday workers worse than what's stuck to the bottom of our shoes. And worse yet, those that lash out at their family members. And at the bottom of the pity pool are those who abuse the helpless; children and the vulnerable elderly. Your conscience is watching you and it remembers what you do and fail to do. It may be better that YOU end on a more respectful and honorable note and now, better that I wish you all, as always, a Sunshine State of Mind.





SASIA

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DID YOU KNOW that I didn't sell every house, condo and single-family lot in town? Who'd I miss? There's still plenty of time! I bet that most every piece of property in St. Johns County (except maybe a few) was sold with a Realtor or Licensee at one time or another?

DID YOU KNOW that Sellers successfully (and I use that term broadly) close only less than 13% of all real estate sale, without the help of a Realtor, according to NAR?

DID YOU KNOW the difference between a Realtor and a licensee? One belongs (and pays annual dues) to The National Association of Realtors (NAR), Florida Realtors and a local Board of Realtors like the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of Realtors, and/or the Northeast Florida and/or the Flagler County Association of Realtors and licensees DO NOT! I belong to all five of the above mentioned. Licensees are

registered with DBPR.

DID YOU KNOW the difference between a Broker, Broker-Associate and a Sales-Associate? I do. You should too!

DID YOU KNOW that I was licensed to sell real estate in Florida in September of 1984 (when I was 25) and have been helping people to buy and sell real estate in St. Augustine & St. Johns County since then?

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Santa Suits on the Loose!

(continued from page 1)

to behavioral health, education, and family stability. By joining us in this fun, festive 5K, participants can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our youth.

Race Details:

When: Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Where: St. Augustine Beach Pier Pavilion, St. Augustine, FL

Registration: Sign up or learn more online at: <https://www.sayskids.org/events> or on race day beginning at 7:00 a.m.

All runners have the option to choose a Santa suit, or a holiday-inspired shirt and top finishers will receive awards. Participants are encouraged to register early to secure their suit/shirt and finisher medal, and to help us make this event a success for the youth who rely on SAYS services.

SAYS would like to thank Title Sponsor Bozard Ford, and all our supporting sponsors, volunteers, and the St. Augustine community. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of children and families in Northeast Florida.



For more information, to register, or to become a sponsor, please visit www.sayskids.org or contact lauren@sayskids.org or timothy@sayskids.org.

For 35 years, St. Augustine Youth Services has provided mental health services, behavioral health support, and safe, stable

environments for at-risk youth from across the state of Florida. With a range of programs designed to foster resilience, SAYS serves youth and young adults ages 6 to 25 through residential care, community-based case management, and behavioral health services to create pathways to brighter futures.

Computer Corner

by Steven Aldrich

Printer Problems?



When encountering printing issues on both Macs and Windows computers, a highly effective troubleshooting step is to remove the printer from the system settings and then add it back again. This method can resolve various connectivity and configuration problems that may prevent successful printing.

Why Remove and Re-add the Printer? Removing and re-adding a printer essentially resets its connection to the computer. This process can clear out any corrupted settings or outdated drivers that may have accumulated over time. Printers often rely on specific drivers to communicate effectively with computers, and if these drivers become corrupted or incompatible due to updates, printing issues can arise. By starting fresh, you can ensure that the latest drivers are used and that any misconfigurations are corrected.

Steps for Mac Users

1. Open System Preferences: Click on the Apple logo in the upper-left corner of your screen and select "System Preferences."
2. Access Printers & Scanners: Click on "Printers & Scanners."
3. Remove the Printer: Select the printer you want to remove from the list and click the minus (-) button to delete it.
4. Add the Printer Again: Click the plus (+) button to add a new printer. Your computer will search for available printers on the network. Select your printer from the list and follow any prompts to complete the installation.

Steps for Windows Users

1. Open Settings: Click on the Start menu and select "Settings."
2. Go to Devices: Click on "Devices" and then select "Printers & scanners."

3. Remove the Printer: Find your printer in the list, click on it, and select "Remove device."

4. Add a New Printer: Click "Add a printer or scanner." Windows will search for available devices. Once your printer appears, select it and follow the prompts to reinstall it.

By removing and re-adding printers in Windows, users often find that issues related to driver conflicts or network connectivity are resolved.

Benefits of This Approach

Reset Configuration: This method resets any erroneous configurations that might have developed over time.

- Update Drivers Automatically: Both macOS and Windows can automatically download necessary drivers during reinstallation, ensuring compatibility with current software updates.

- Clear Print Queues: Removing a printer can also clear any stuck print jobs in its queue, which might be preventing new jobs from processing.

Conclusion - Whether using a Mac or a Windows PC, removing and re-adding your printer is a straightforward yet powerful troubleshooting step for resolving printing issues. This method addresses many underlying problems by refreshing connections, updating drivers, and clearing out potential conflicts, ultimately leading to a smoother printing experience. If problems persist after this process, additional steps such as checking network connections or updating software may be necessary.

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

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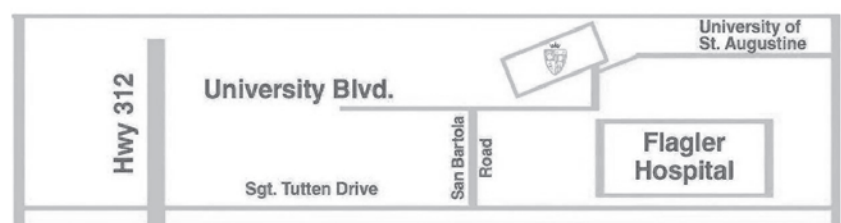
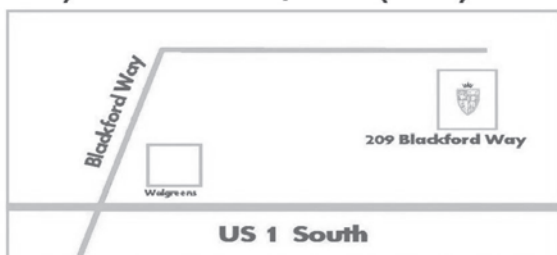


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Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

By Meg Robinson, OTR/L, CHT
 First Coast Rehabilitation
 904-829-3411

Just about everybody, either knows somebody who has carpal tunnel syndrome, thinks they have carpal tunnel syndrome, or has been diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome. I have noticed that quite a few of my patients have been confused as to what constitutes carpal tunnel syndrome. They mistakenly believe that any numbness, pain, or weakness in their hand means they have it. Although all of these can be associated with carpal tunnel syndrome, let's narrow it down.

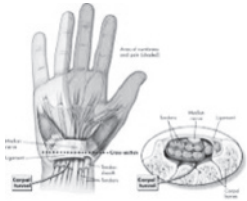


Image 1 by O-health

The carpal tunnel is about the size of a dime. It is a very small area for so many structures to pass. If that area is compromised, like when you bend your wrist, or if the tendons swell up, there will then be less room for the median nerve. When the nerve is compressed, you initially start to feel symptoms of numbness and tingling. The median nerve supplies sensation to the palmar side of the thumb, index, middle, and half of the ring fingers (see image 1).



Image 2 from Wikipedia

If carpal tunnel syndrome is not addressed, it can result in muscle weakness and eventually atrophy (wasting of the muscle), which causes difficulty using your thumb. People often complain of dropping things, whether from lack of feeling or lack of thumb strength and coordination. Muscle atrophy may appear as an indent in the muscular area of the thumb. (see image 2). Ideally, it is better to address your carpal tunnel syndrome before it causes muscle wasting.

Carpal tunnel syndrome became more prevalent in the 1980's, which corresponds to typewriters and factory jobs becoming more automated and requiring less full body movements. Hands and wrists would hold prolonged positions and put more strain on the finger tendons, which compromised the median nerve within the carpal tunnel. If a person keeps his wrist bent down, then the carpal tunnel is smaller, and the nerve is pinched. If the finger tendons swell up, then there is less room for the median nerve in the tunnel. Old typewriters required a person to put the paper in the machine, hit the advance lever for each line, and then remove the paper. These motions provided an opportunity for the fingers and wrists to let the tendons glide through a full range of motion. With the invention of electric typewriters and then word processors, a person could stay in one position and type for hours, thus straining the finger tendons. If they were in a bad position for that time, it also pinched off the space for the nerve.

If you feel like you may have symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome or have questions about numbness, pain, and/or weakness in your hands one of our occupational therapists, certified hand therapists at First Coast Rehabilitation would be happy to evaluate you and make some recommendations. The earlier your symptoms are addressed the better. The longer the nerve is compressed the more difficult it may be to reverse the symptoms.

We can help you discover what may be the cause and rule out any more serious problems. It could be a simple solution that a home exercise program or some education could fix. If we feel it may be more serious, we can suggest further options. If you are interested in pursuing an evaluation, you will need a referral from your primary care or other specialist. We would be happy to see you at your earliest convenience. Please contact us at 904-829-3411.

Meg Robinson is an occupational therapist and certified hand therapist who has been working in hand therapy for over 38 years. She moved from Cincinnati, Oh to the St. Augustine area at the end of 2023 and joined First Coast Rehabilitation staff in early 2024. Before that she worked closely with hand orthopedic surgeons in Ohio and Northern Kentucky. She taught hand therapy and splinting for over 20 years at various universities in Cincinnati. She also received a US patent for a dynamic splint, which is currently manufactured by Alimed, Inc.

City of St. Augustine Beach 5th Annual Light Up the BEACH! Season

by Melinda Conlon

Please join the City of St. Augustine Beach, our community partners, and our local businesses as we Light Up the BEACH! this holiday season.

Our fifth annual season features several fun events for visitors and locals to enjoy, kicking off with our Beach Art Walk and ending with our New Year's Eve Fireworks show.

Mayor, Dylan Rumrell said, "The holidays are a time for families to come together and create lasting memories, and our Light Up the Beach event is the perfect opportunity to do just that. From the dazzling lights to the festive activities, it's a celebration of community and togetherness. I encourage everyone to bring their loved ones out to enjoy the magic of the season, support our local businesses, and experience the joy that makes this time of year so special."


- **Beach Art Walk** – November 30, 2024 (In association with the Art Studio) 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Pope Road to A Street
- **Surf Illumination** – December 7, 2024 (In association with the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association) 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – St. Augustine Beach Pier Park
- **Christmas with Cops and Claus** – December 11, 2024 (Put on by the St. Augustine Beach Police Department) 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – St. Augustine Beach Police Department
- **Kilo's Presents for Pets** – (Put on by the St. Augustine Beach Police Department). Collecting food for local shelter animals! Toys, food, and treats are needed! Collecting from December 1st through December 22nd at the St. Augustine Beach Police Department. We will also be accepting donations at the Holiday Market on December 9th at Pier Park.
- **Holiday Market** – December 14, 2024 (In association with the Wednesday Market at the Pier) 3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – St. Augustine Beach Pier Park
- **Light Up the NIGHT!** New Year's Eve Fireworks Show - December 31, 2024. 8:30 P.M. - Multiple Viewing areas including St. Augustine Beach Pier Park (the Volleyball Courts area, Splash Park, and Pavilion.) Pedestrian Beach Access from 10th Street South and beach driving as normal barring weather restrictions.

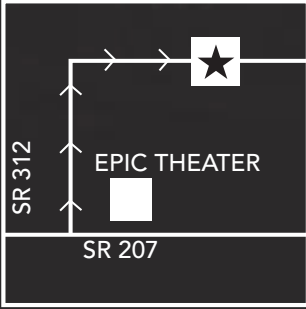
For more information, please visit www.staugbch.com, The City of St Augustine Beach Facebook and Instagram page, and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter by texting CITYOFSAB to 22828. For Media inquiries, contact Melinda Conlon at eventspio@cityofsab.org.

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Cliff Logsdon
St. Augustine Observer
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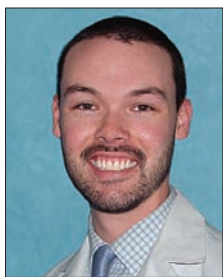
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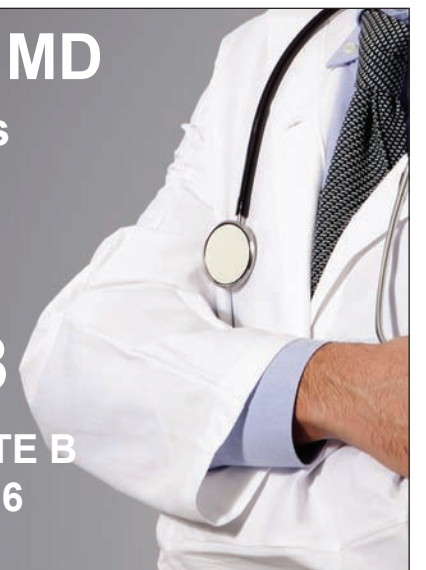


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