

# St. Augustine Beaches NEWS JOURNAL

NEWS INFORMATION FOR & ABOUT ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH & ANASTASIA ISLAND




## Artist Brook Page Completes Mural at St. Augustine Beach Pier

In July 2024, the St. Johns Cultural Council partnered with the Live Wildly Foundation and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council to fund a public art mural in St. Augustine Beach. A panel selected Ponte Vedra artist Brook Page to design and execute the project.

Despite many challenges with the weather, Brook's bold and colorful mural references the area's native flora and fauna and the surf culture of St. Augustine Beach.

Brook created the mural at the St. Augustine Beach Pier — incorporating community feedback — with funding from the St. Johns Cultural Council, St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, and the Live Wildly Foundation.

Brook Page grew up on the coasts of Southern California and Florida and has called Ponte Vedra home for the past 24 years. Her work bursts with bright colors and a playful focus on light and shadow, blending West Coast cool with Southern charm.

She graduated from Nease High School in Saint Augustine and went on to earn a BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design where she illustrated children's books while exploring everything from glassblowing to silversmithing and even puppeteering.

For the past decade, Brook has created murals for Trader Joe's from Miami to Little Rock, Arkansas, each with its own imaginative story. Her versatile portfolio spans painting, murals, illustration, and drawing, with a current passion for oil painting. Her art is currently on display at the Shain Gallery in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the CX904 Gallery in Jacksonville, Florida, and at the Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, South Carolina. Visit Brook's website at [brookpageart.com](http://brookpageart.com) to check out her portfolio.

Brook was chosen out of 24 Florida artists by a committee of representatives from the City of St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach Civic Association, and Live Wildly Foundation. It was a difficult decision as all applicants showed impressive qualifications and mural experience.



## St. Augustine Beach and Beyond . . .

By Lorraine Thompson ([staugbeachwatch@aol.com](mailto:staugbeachwatch@aol.com))

### November 11th Veterans to be honored and remembered

#### Anastasia Baptist Church -

The annual Veterans Day program, organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council, will begin at 11 a.m. at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South. Keynote speaker will be St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick.

This year's tribute will focus on Desert Shield and Desert Storm Veterans and feature Van Morris' nationally acclaimed "Old Glory" video. The St. Johns Center for the Art Chamber Singers will perform patriotic music.

Prior to and after the 11 a.m. program, visitors can explore displays, a video collage and the traveling Vietnam and Global War on Terrorism walls. Doors to the church will open at 9 a.m. Parking is free.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., a Not-For-Profit Florida Corporation, was established in 2001 and is composed of representatives of the various veterans' organizations in St. Johns County. The council works with city and county governments and local organizations in matters concerning county veterans and assists in the coordination and presentation of matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities in St. Johns County. For information contact [rothfeidm@gmail.com](mailto:rothfeidm@gmail.com).



About the speaker—St. John County Sheriff Robert Hardick previously served as Chief of Police, St. Augustine Beach. As a veteran of the U.S. Army and Florida Army National Guard, he has participated in multiple deployments to

the Middle East in support of military operations. His deployments include Operation Desert Storm in 1990 with the 82nd Airborne Division and more recently as Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and 2004 with the 53rd Infantry Brigade supporting the 5th Special Forces Group. His most recent assignment was in the Florida Army National Guard as a Platoon Trainer (TAC) at the Camp Blanding Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School (OCS). Hardwick has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Flagler College and a Master of Arts Degree from Barry University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy-Session 247, the FBI's Florida Executive Development Institute-Class 16 and the FBI's National Executive Institute-Class 44.

#### St. Anastasia Catholic Church Veterans Day invitation -

St Anastasia Catholic Church will host its 22nd annual Veterans Day Tribute beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. Veterans of all wars and all services, regardless of religious affiliation, and those currently in the military, are invited to participate. The wearing of military hats and uniforms is encouraged. Following Mass, a free breakfast for veterans and their families will be served in the St. Enda of Aran Formation Center, located adjacent to the church. The church is located on the island at 5205 A1A South. For information call (904) 471-5364.



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 City Manager Max Royle

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- Print Distribution Locations for the  
 Beaches News Journal**
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  - Anastasia Library
  - St. Johns County Pier Park
  - YMCA
  - Main Library
  - Southeast Library

The purpose of the St. Augustine Beaches News Journal LLC is to serve neighborhoods of St. Augustine Beach and other communities on Anastasia Island.

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

Information and ads 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 Beaches News Journal, 2465 US1 South PMB #8, St. Augustine Florida 32086. Information may also be e-mailed to [clifflogsdon@att.net](mailto:clifflogsdon@att.net) or [clogsdon1@yahoo.com](mailto:clogsdon1@yahoo.com).

All materials submitted to the Beaches News Journal is subject to editing. Publishing of submitted 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 Beaches News Journal.

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**Sheriff’s Update**

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick



**School Safety**

Over the years and most recently in Georgia, there have been several shootings that have occurred in schools. This is simply unacceptable. In St. Johns County, we take every threat seriously. Last month, we had a series of student arrests for threats of violence at Toco Creek High School and Sebastain Middle School. Due to these recent activities, I thought it would be a good time to go over what the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office is doing to keep our schools safe and to remind parents on how they can help us.

First, I challenge each parent and student to get to know your assigned Youth Resource Deputy. They are there for you and are a vital resource to the safety and well-being of each of our schools. The deputies assigned to our schools receive advanced training on how to handle school threats. Last school year, we implemented a threat assessment team that remains in place today and has two detectives assigned to it whose sole purpose is to evaluate threats in our schools. Those detectives work in tandem with the school district, FBI, and our Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC).

Once a threat has been assessed, it is categorized as a low, medium, or high threat. Low threat means there is no sustained or clear intent to harm, medium means the intent to harm is present or not clear and requires protective action, and high means there is a legitimate threat and violence may be imminent. Additionally, RTIC has access to all school cameras and can view emergencies in real time. We have also added two new K9 Units to our schools that are trained to sniff narcotics and gun metal. As for what parents can do, be more involved in your student’s life to include making sure you have access to their social media and gaming platforms. If you see something, say something.

Parents and students should download and utilize the FortityFL app which allows tips to be sent in immediately to law enforcement and school staff. You can also contact us directly by calling our non-emergency number at 904-824-8304, by dialing 911, or emailing us at [crimetips@sjso.org](mailto:crimetips@sjso.org).

**United Methodist Women Christmas Market**

St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church, 724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32086 November 16, 2024 8:00am-12:00pm. Christmas items, baked goods, homemade goods, books and puzzles, pecans and a raffle will be available Everyone welcome!

**GriefShare  
 Crescent Beach Baptist Church**

GriefShare, a weekly seminar designed to help you rebuild your life after the loss of a loved one in a comfortable, caring environment.

August 14-November 6 2024  
 Wednesday, 6pm-730 pm

Crescent Beach Baptist Church, St. Augustine, FL 32086

Contact Melanie, 904-759-1054 or email [rscoggn@gmail.com](mailto:rscoggn@gmail.com) or register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) under Find a Group. You are welcome to join at any point during the 13 weeks.

**Publix Grocery at Anastasia Plaza  
 in St. Augustine Beach to Close for Renovation**

Publix, located at Anastasia Plaza, St. Augustine Beach, was scheduled to close its doors at 7 p.m. October 26. The grocery store, parking lot and other shops located in the plaza are expected to be closed for at least a year while major renovations take place.

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**End of Ocean and Fishing Pier Closed  
 for Pillar Assessment & Repair**

The last 100 feet of the St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier (350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach) is closed indefinitely while County staff members conduct maintenance reviews and repair of the pillars closest to the ocean. The rest of the pier will remain open for sightseeing.

St. Johns County Facilities Maintenance workers noticed that some of the pier’s support pillars—normally underwater but exposed to visual inspection during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ beach renourishment efforts—appeared to show evidence of decay.

A structural engineering firm was brought in to provide a professional opinion. The decision has been made, based on the firm’s advice, to close off the end of the pier above and below for safety.

St. Johns County will take further action on the affected portion of the pier dependent on further recommendations from engineers.



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# St. Augustine Beach City Hall Update

Since its September 9th regular meeting, the St. Augustine Beach City Commission has held two meetings. The first was a special meeting on September 23, 2024, when the Commission approved two budget-related ordinances on final reading. The first reduced the property tax millage from its proposed level of 2.6894 mills to 2.5000 mills for the General Fund operations and to adopt 0.0887 as the debt millage. The second ordinance adopted the City's Fiscal Year 2025 budget. Appropriations total \$14,465,951. The Fiscal Year began on October 1, 2024, and will end on September 30, 2025.



The second meeting was the Commission's regular meeting, which was held on October 7, 2024. At it, the City Commission did the following:

1. Presented the following Anastasia Island Environmental Stewardship Awards: a) Individual, Non-Profit, Dr. Longin Kaczmarek; b) Group, Non-Profit, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine; and c) Group, Business, the St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoological Park.

2. Approved the following proclamations: a) in honor of Veterans Day, November 11, 2024; b) to proclaim October 21-27, 2024, as Florida City Government Week; c) to proclaim October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; d) to proclaim

October 25 through November 2, 2024, as Mobility Week; and e) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the St. Augustine Lighthouse.

3. Approved on second reading an ordinance to amend the Land Development Regulations to adopt a historic preservation ordinance. The ordinance will have a final reading at the Commission's November 6th meeting.

4. Approved a resolution to adopt an easement with the State of Florida related to the historic preservation of the former city hall.

5. Approved a resolution concerning the fee adjustment and mitigation credit policy for the stormwater utility fee.

6. Discussed whether to make the Sustainability and Environmental Planning Advisory Committee an informal group of residents instead of a Commission-appointed committee. The Commission decided to leave it as a Commission-appointed committee.

7. Discussed the inspection fee for vacation rentals and left unchanged the \$450 inspection fee.

Due to the general election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the City Commission's next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Commission meeting room at City Hall. The public is invited to attend or may view the meeting on YouTube at [staugbch.com](http://staugbch.com).

# City Clerk

By Max Royle  
St. Augustine Beach City Manager



Back in the 1950s, a group of residents of a small area of Anastasia Island decided to form what would become the Town of St. Augustine Beach. Why? For practical as well as ideological reasons. The practical was to obtain money from the sale of cigarettes, alcohol and other items that only an incorporated municipality by state law could receive, and to have authority to levy a tax on cable-TV and electricity service. The money was to be spent for basic purposes: law enforcement, fire protection, solid waste removal, paving dirt streets and streetlights.

The ideological reasons were to create a government structure to provide those basic services and to give residents control of their future. Instead of being just a neighborhood on larger Anastasia Island that was part of the still larger St. Johns County and subject to decisions by the County Commission that might not agree with the Town's residents' preferences, the residents could decide what kind of municipality they wanted. With their own elected Town Commission, they would be in a strong position to defend their interests concerning such quality-of-life matters as the types of residential and commercial land uses that would be permitted, how many houses per acre would be allowed, the height of buildings, parking requirements for residential and commercial properties, and so on.

The Town of St. Augustine Beach was incorporated by state law in 1959. In 1978, the Florida Legislature approved changing its designation to "City".

For several decades, the City's boundaries were unchanged: EAST, the Atlantic Ocean; NORTH, Pope Road

from the beach to the state highway; WEST, the state highway, which was State Road 3 (later A1A); SOUTH, the southern border of the Sandpiper Village subdivision, which is south of the Oasis Restaurant. Then, between 1995 and 2012, the City annexed properties along State Road A1A: the Ocean Trace and Sea Grove subdivisions and individual businesses, such as Walgreens, America's Best Value Inn, Zaharias Restaurant, State Farm Insurance office and Watson Realty. These annexations were requested by the property owners.

The City Commission is interested now in whether there are other property owners who want to be part of St. Augustine Beach. The basic requirement is that the properties must share their border with the City. For being annexed, what benefits would the property owners receive? Rapid police response, efficient solid waste removal, especially after storms, and quick review of applications for land use changes, variances, remodeling, new roofs, swimming pools, signs for businesses, etc. Under Director Brian Law, the City's Building Department prides itself on cutting red tape and providing fast turnaround service to the public. In addition, annexation gives property owners who are residents "a voice", which is the opportunity to have a direct say in the City's future by running for the City Commission or by being appointed to the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board.

Persons interested in exploring the possibility of annexing their property can contact me at [mroyle@cityofsab.org](mailto:mroyle@cityofsab.org), or telephone (904) 471-2122.

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## St. Augustine Travel Club

by Peter Dytrych

The St. Augustine Travel Club will hold their next gathering at the Southeast Public Library, US 1 South, on Wednesday, November 13 @ 3:00 PM. We will "visit" BANGKOK, discover the street food in this always hot capital city of Thailand, where the residents spend much time eating outside. Explore the canals and temples that make Bangkok a visitor's paradise.



gg62176354 GoGraph.com

For those of you who do not know about the club, it is formatted as an armchair travel presentation with a brief lecture and a video highlighting areas from around the world, with a focus mostly on Europe, but also other parts of the world. Also, some of our participants have hosted a presentation of their own based on their travel experiences.

You are welcome to contribute in this way! If you are interested in doing a presentation about your unique travel experiences, please let us know.

The Travel Club also organizes a cruise in the Caribbean region once a year, and is published in the St. Augustine Observer, the Palencia Press, and the Beaches papers. The Travel Club is free and no registration is necessary. If you have any questions, please call Peter Dytrych at (904) 797-3736.

## St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

by Susan Horwitz

The SAB Democratic Club's November meeting is not on the first Tuesday in November, since that is Election Day. Instead, it is on Thursday, November 14, 5:30 pm at the Anastasia Island Branch Library. 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 topic for November will be a Recap and Analysis of the Election. Speakers to be announced. 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.

## 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.

## Interested in the Civil War?

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.



The November presentation will be with Brian Downey. He will discuss the battle of Antietam with a quick overview/introduction on the Maryland Campaign, then explore key parts of the battle of Antietam from the viewpoint of some of the junior officers and enlisted soldiers who fought there.

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

## The American Association of University Women November 12th Meeting

AAUW St. Augustine branch warmly invites all members, friends and guests to our annual Author's Luncheon, on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the The Legends Grille, 2 World Golf Pl., St. Augustine, 32092. Our guest author is nationally recognized author, Tara Lynn Masih, who will be discussing her most recent publication and her writing process. Lunch is \$38 and includes a raffle and silent auction items. Reservations are required. Please call Lisa Carlson, 916-834-2950, 717 Willow Wood Pl., St. Augustine 32086 or Cathie Altman, 904-501-5084, cathie.altman@gmail.com to reserve a seat. This is a benefit for our scholarship fund.

## Friends of Anastasia Island Branch Library First Ever Collectors Corner Book Sale,

Saturday, November 9, 2024 is our First Ever Collectors Corner Book Sale, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All books are \$4.00 and up. This is a one-day "pop-up" sale. We have ongoing \$2.00 books for sale in our book corner, a constantly changing selection. On Saturday, November 23, 2024 we are sponsoring Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants, starting at 12:30 p.m. We will have a sign up sheet at the library.

## Romanza's Collage Concert Series Continues!

by Gloria MacDonald

Romanza's Collage Concert Series continues with a great lineup of exciting performances! Romanza's mission is to bring a wide variety of outstanding entertainment to Northeast Florida, and to celebrate the amazing quality of talent in our area. This year we will be presenting 5 concerts all at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine. Tickets are \$25, for more information and to purchase visit [romanzafestivale.com](http://romanzafestivale.com)



**November 23, 2024 - 7:30pm**

**On Dasher, On Prancer, ON POINT!**

Last year, the a cappella group On Point brought their harmonies to a packed house and brought everyone to their feet with a great program of classic and modern arrangements. On Point has delighted audiences all over the country. They return this year with new selections and some holiday tunes to usher in the season!

**January 25, 2025 - 7:30pm**

**Jazz/Soul Vocalist, Akia Uwanda featuring Taylor Roberts on Guitar**

What better way to start a new year than with an intimate concert featuring Jacksonville's own Akia Uwanda. Akia has performed all over the world from Carnegie Hall to Parma Italy. A favorite of Romanza Festivale, Akia's smooth vocals and engaging performances make for an evening of music you won't soon forget.

**February 15, 2025**

**A Special Valentine's Concert**

Celebrate love with a special Valentine's concert filled with great love songs from great composers. The team behind the hugely popular Broadway concerts featured in Romanza Festivale return with an evening filled with music to bring out the romantic in everyone. Directed by Cliff Parrish, this concert will feature songs of love from some of the world's greatest songwriters with local favorites Jason Whitfield, Haley Kirk, Trudye Lutton and Timothy Keatley. This special event is the perfect way to celebrate with your valentine.

## Temple Bet Yam's 22nd Annual Card Party January 15, 2025

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](mailto:rehsm@yahoo.com) or (516) 234-0950.

## 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 Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. For information or to RSVP, contact: Anita Clark [johnita0013@gmail.com](mailto:johnita0013@gmail.com) 305-898-1432.

## City of St. Augustine Beach Early Voting Information

St. Augustine Beach City Hall is one of nine early voting locations for the 2024 General Election. The polling site is in the City Hall Commission room located at 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL.

Early voting for the 2024 general election opened on Monday, October 21 and will run through November 2, 2024. All locations are open from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Vote-By-Mail ballots can also be dropped off during the early voting period at all locations. Primary election day is on November 5, and voting will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Registered voters must vote at their assigned precinct location on primary election day.

For more information, visit the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website: [Elections Information | Vicky Oakes | St. Johns](http://ElectionsInformation|VickyOakes|St.Johns)

For general city information, please visit The City of St. Augustine Beach website [www.staugbch.com](http://www.staugbch.com), Facebook and Instagram page and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter by texting CITYOFSAB to 22828.

## Do You Have Community News to Share?

Do you have news, events or personal interest information that are relevant to our communities in Southern St. Johns County? Please forward them to the Editor for consideration for the monthly Observer.

Please contact Cliff Logsdon  
email: [clifflogsdon@att.net](mailto:clifflogsdon@att.net) or call 904-607-1410

## St. Augustine Orchid Society presents Bingo for Orchids!

by Janis Croft

The St. Augustine Orchid Society presents Bingo for Orchids!

We are going to try something different, Orchid Bingo, since our meeting is on election night. Bring some cash to buy your bingo cards so you can play for chances to win orchids as prizes. Come join the fun, we'll get you home in plenty of time to watch the election returns. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. The St. Augustine Orchid Society welcomes friends and guests to our monthly meetings. No charge. November 5, 2024, 6:30 until 9 pm at Memorial Lutheran Church (meeting hall at rear of building), 3375 US 1 South, St. Augustine 32086. <https://www.staugorchidsociety.org/>

## Physical Therapy VS Personal Training

By: Lindsey Hall

Over the years a common thing we have run into is people not understanding the difference between a Physical Therapist and Personal trainer and when one is needed versus the other. In this article we would like to answer these questions for you.

### What do Physical Therapists do?

A Physical Therapist is someone who specializes in rehabbing individuals who had an injury, surgery or is suffering from a chronic condition. They focus on decreasing pain, improving mobility/strength and restoring function. Physical Therapists are required to obtain a doctorate in Physical therapy, pass a board certified license test where they obtain their license to practice in that state. Getting your doctorate in Physical Therapy takes about 7 years to achieve.

### What do Personal Trainers do?

Personal Trainers lead groups or individuals through exercise routines while educating them on the best way to maintain personal fitness. They do not diagnose or treat medical conditions. To become a Personal trainer, it takes about 2-6 months to obtain your Personal training certification. After this is obtained they are allowed to begin training groups/individuals to help them reach their personal fitness goals.

When to see a Physical therapist and when to see a personal trainer:

If you have a chronic medical condition, recently had surgery, or dealing with an issue that is preventing you from being able to achieve your daily activities, physical therapy is where you would want to go. If you are looking to get back in shape, lose weight, or achieve a new level of physical fitness, finding a personal trainer is just what you need.

After reading this if you find that you could benefit from Physical Therapy please reach out to us : 904 -217-4259



## St. Johns County Receives \$11 Million in Funding for Public Safety & Community Services

by Adam Tecler, Intergovernmental Affairs Director

St. Johns County announces a significant advancement in public safety and community services with the award of \$7.1 million for additional firefighters and \$4 million for the construction of the new Hastings Library and Community Center.

The \$7.1 million from the FEMA Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Program will allow for the hiring of 21 additional firefighters and will cover the total cost of salary and benefits for three years, bolstering emergency response capabilities in alignment with National Fire Safety Standards.

The new firefighters will be stationed at a forthcoming fire station in the southwest region of St. Johns County and will support the operation of additional tanker trucks, ensuring a robust water supply during emergency fire operations. This expansion will improve response times, increase staffing, and enhance service delivery to residents and visitors.

“St. Johns County Fire Rescue is always there and always ready to help our community, especially in a time of crisis,” said U.S. Congressman John Rutherford (FL-05). “That’s why I was proud to help secure \$7.1 million from the SAFER Grants Program to help hire an additional 21 firefighters to staff a new fire station in St. Johns County. St. Johns County is experiencing huge growth, and this valuable funding will help our first responders get where they need to go, when they need to get there, and save lives.”

In addition to the SAFER grant, St. Johns County Fire Rescue was also awarded the Technical Assistance Grant from the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, totaling \$50,489. This grant will be used to purchase a natural gas pipeline fire training simulator. In partnership with TECO Peoples Gas, firefighters will receive comprehensive training to enhance their emergency response skills to these types of incidents.

“Our fire rescue personnel train to respond to dangerous incidents that threaten the lives of our First Coast community, including natural gas pipeline fires,” said U.S. Congressman John Rutherford. “That’s why I was proud to help St. Johns County Fire Rescue secure over \$50 thousand from the prestigious Technical Assistance Grants Program. Simulators like these will help improve fire rescue training and response effectiveness. As Co-Chair of the House Modeling and Simulation Caucus, I am glad to see SJC Fire Rescue will be able to utilize state-of-the-art simulators to enhance their training.”

The St. Johns County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, in partnership with St. Johns County Public Library System, Health and Human Services, and Public Works, has secured a competitive \$4 million grant from Florida Commerce to support the construction of the Hastings Library and Community Center. This project will create vital community resources, including classrooms, multi-purpose spaces, telehealth rooms, and a food pantry.

“This is a great example of how County staff are working to identify innovative ways to fund our critical infrastructure projects,” St. Johns County Chair Sarah Arnold said. “The Hastings Library and Community Center will provide essential services to the Hastings area, fostering education, health, and community engagement.”

St. Johns County is committed to improving public safety and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. The \$11.5 million in competitive awards secured by the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in September of 2024 reflects the County’s dedication and continued investment in community-focused services.

## “Talebration Worldwide Event” Wednesday, November 13 at Limelight Theatre

Join the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine in a worldwide celebration of stories Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 pm, at the Limelight Theatre, 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine. Enjoy an amazing array of stories that are personal, traditional, humorous, scary, poetic, musical, spiritual, historical and more! For further information call: 904-540-0402. Advance tickets available at [taletellers.org](http://taletellers.org).



The show encompasses an outstanding range of talent and expertise with featured tellers Natalie Beltrami, Kathy Duffy, Chris Kastle, Chip Kirkpatrick, Ted Miller, Lou Novak, Drew Sappington, Debra Weller.

The Tale Tellers of St. Augustine is a performing guild devoted to the advocacy of storytelling as an art form and entertainment medium. The organization just celebrated its 30th anniversary. It is a Florida not-for-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) designation. [www.taletellers.org](http://www.taletellers.org).

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**November 5, 2024**

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- You must vote at your assigned precinct on Election Day



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- Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed: **5 PM on October 24**
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Come Join us to celebrate our many classes we offer at The Art Studio by seeing an exhibition of work by the Students of these Classes!

First Friday, November 1st at 5pm to 8pm for the Opening of Our Student Exhibition. Students of Paulo Jimenez's many workshops at the Art Studio will be able to show off what they have learned and to make the public aware of these classes and how you too can attend these and learn the Art of Visual Creation.

Paulo Jimenez, in his own words, "As an artist, I draw inspiration from my diverse cultural background and personal experiences to create vibrant and captivating works of art. Born in Costa Rica and raised in the arid landscapes of the Atacama desert in Chile, my artistic journey has been shaped by the beauty and contrasts of these environments. I pursued my BFA at the University of Hartford, where I honed my technical skills and developed a deep appreciation for the power of visual storytelling.



"Artistic style can be best defined by my latest collection, which focuses on wildlife set against a backdrop of gold and silver leaf. Through this collection, I explore the relationship between nature and the ethereal, merging the beauty of nature with the elegance and symbolism of precious metals. The use of gold and silver leaf not only adds a touch of opulence but also serves as a metaphor for the preciousness and fragility of the natural world."

"In another collection, I delve into the vibrant street scenes of Saint Augustine. Drawing inspiration from the city's rich history and architecture, I aim to capture the unique atmosphere and timeless charm of the nation's oldest streets. Through intricate details and a careful interplay of light and shadow, I strive to evoke a sense of nostalgia and a deep connection to the past."

"Currently residing in Central Florida, I find myself surrounded by a different kind of natural beauty and cultural tapestry. The dynamic landscape, diverse wildlife, and vibrant communities of this region continue to influence and enrich my artistic work. Through my art, I seek to celebrate the intricate interplay between nature, culture, and human experiences, inviting viewers to pause, reflect, and find their own connections within the pieces.

"Ultimately, my goal as an artist is to create visually striking and emotionally resonant works that transcend boundaries and speak to the universal human experience. By capturing the essence of places, creatures, and moments, I hope to invite viewers into a world of wonder, curiosity, and contemplation. My art is a reflection of my journey and a testament to the power of creativity to bridge gaps, inspire dialogue, and ignite imagination."

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](http://www.beachartstudio.org), Facebook or call 904-295-4428.

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## Matanzas Riverkeeper Shuck for a Truck I

by Captain Silas Tanner

Matanzas Riverkeeper needs a truck to tow the Litter Gitter, so we are hosting "Shuck for a Truck," a series of oyster roast fundraisers. Join us on November 15th for an unforgettable evening on the scenic shores of the Matanzas River.

Experience an evening like no other with live music from the talented Michael Chancellor, whose soulful sounds will set the perfect mood for a celebration by the water. Delight in a mouthwatering oyster roast, expertly prepared and served fresh, as you enjoy the breathtaking views along the beautiful Matanzas River. The combination of great music, delicious food, and a stunning riverfront setting promises an unforgettable experience.

By attending this event, you'll be directly supporting the critical work of Matanzas Riverkeeper, an organization dedicated to safeguarding the health and beauty of our local waterways. Your participation helps fund essential initiatives that protect the vibrant ecosystems and natural resources we all cherish.

So, gather your friends, bring your appetite, and join us for a night filled with incredible flavors, inspiring music, and wonderful community spirit—all in support of a cause that truly matters. Together, we can make a difference!

The event is November 15, 2024 at 6:00pm - 9pm at

Genung's Fish Camp, 291 Cubbedge Road, Saint Augustine, FL 32080.

Tickets are \$50 and all proceeds will go towards helping us buy a truck. Don't miss this special event! To secure your spot, get your tickets here. Email Silas Tanner at: [Silas@matanzasriverkeeper.org](mailto:Silas@matanzasriverkeeper.org)

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## Financial Focus

Information Provided by

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### Do you need to fear retirement?

In the popular imagination, receiving an inheritance always sounds like a good thing — after all, who doesn't want a financial windfall? And inheritances can certainly be life-altering events. But they can cause challenges, so you'll want to help your heirs be prepared.

To assist in this preparation, try to address some key questions affecting your heirs:

- Do they know what's in your estate plans? Your family and other heirs will be much better prepared to deal with an inheritance if they know what to expect. That's why it's so important that you share your estate plans with everyone involved. You need to let them know the wishes and decisions you've expressed in your will and other legal arrangements, such as a living trust. Of course, sharing this information doesn't necessarily mean that all your heirs will be completely satisfied with your choices — but at least they won't be surprised, and perhaps will be less likely to cause disputes when the time comes to settle your estate.

- Will they know what to do with the money or other assets? You may be planning to leave your grown children a sizable amount of assets, possibly including cash, stocks, real estate, IRAs, 401Ks or other types of valuable personal property. But this inheritance brings with it several possible questions: Do your heirs already have an investment platform ready to accept inherited stocks? If you do leave behind rental property or a vacation home, can it be easily sold? These types of issues are generally not hard to resolve, but the more prepared your heirs are for their inheritance, the quicker they can take whatever actions are needed.

- Are they prepared to handle any taxes that may result from the inheritance? Unless you have a very

large estate, your heirs likely won't face federal estate taxes. (In 2024, the first \$13.61 million of an estate is exempt from federal estate taxes.) However, other types of taxes may apply. A few states assess state inheritance taxes, and your heirs could incur federal and/or state income taxes when they withdraw money from inherited assets funded with pre-tax dollars, such as some retirement accounts. They could also face capital gains taxes when they sell inherited assets, such as stocks, for more than they were worth at the time of the inheritance. In any case, inheritance-related taxes can be complex, so you and your family and other heirs should discuss these issues with your tax advisor.

- Will they be liable for any outstanding expenses? If you have developed a comprehensive estate plan, it's unlikely your heirs will be on the hook for any outstanding expenses, such as credit card balances or funeral costs. If you do still carry a mortgage, though, and you are planning on leaving your house to your heirs, they may want to be prepared to act quickly to sell it.

When leaving an inheritance, there's a lot involved — emotionally, financially and legally. So, do whatever you can to make the entire process as easy as possible for your loved ones. By communicating your wishes regarding the inheritance, and by considering all the issues that may arise, you can go a long way toward achieving the outcomes you desire.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

## Computer Corner

by Steven Aldrich

### Gmail Users Beware: A Sophisticated Phishing Scam



Recently, a warning about a sophisticated phishing scheme targeting Gmail users has been circulating, and it's particularly important for seniors to be aware of this threat.

#### The Gmail Password Recovery Scam

Garry Tan, the CEO of Y Combinator, a prominent technology startup incubator, recently issued a public service announcement about an elaborate phishing scam affecting Gmail users. This scam is particularly concerning due to its use of advanced technology and clever tactics:

- AI-Generated Voice Calls: The scammers use artificial intelligence to create realistic-sounding voice calls, making them more convincing.

- Fake Google Support: They pose as Google Support representatives, with caller IDs that appear to match official Google numbers.

- Account Recovery Ploy: The scammers claim there's suspicious activity on your account, often saying they're checking if you're alive and disregarding a false death certificate.

#### How the Scam Works

You receive a notification to approve a Gmail account recovery attempt.

Shortly after, you get a phone call from someone claiming to be Google Support.

The caller uses sophisticated tactics to gain your trust and urges you to approve the account recovery.

#### Protecting Yourself

To stay safe from this and similar scams, follow these guidelines:

- Be Skeptical: Never approve account recovery requests you didn't initiate.

- Verify Independently: If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and contact Google directly through their official website.

- Don't Click Hastily: Avoid clicking "Yes" on unexpected dialog boxes, especially those related to account recovery.

- Use Official Channels: Only use Google's official methods for account recovery or password resets.

#### What to Remember

This scam is particularly dangerous because it combines several sophisticated elements:

- AI-generated voices that sound human
- Caller IDs that appear legitimate
- Convincing backstories about account issues

As a Gmail user, it's crucial to remain vigilant and skeptical of unsolicited contact, even if it appears to come from a trusted source like Google. Remember, Google will never call you unexpectedly about account issues or ask you to approve account recovery you didn't request.

By staying informed and cautious, you can protect yourself from these increasingly sophisticated online threats. If you're ever in doubt, don't hesitate to ask a trusted family member or tech advisor for help in verifying the legitimacy of any unexpected communications about your email account.

*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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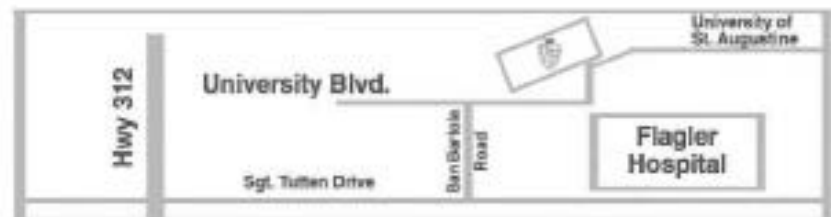
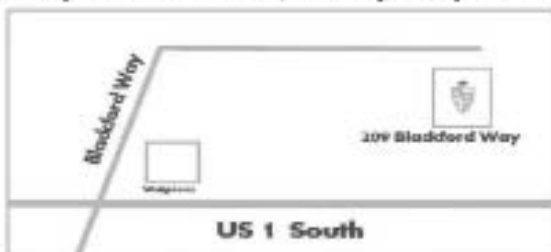


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## Hand Pain, Weakness, Loss of Coordination?

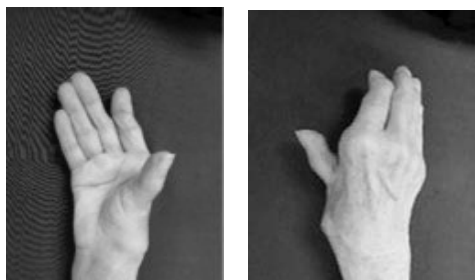
By Meg Robinson, OTR/L, CHT  
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Most conditions that cause hand weakness and pain are treatable and rarely serious, but they can cause serious limitations to your quality of life. The therapists at First Coast Rehabilitation would like to address some common causes of hand dysfunction over the next few publications.

One of the most common causes of hand pain is osteoarthritis. Cartilage lines your joints and covers the end of your bones, allowing your joints to glide smoothly. Arthritis is the deterioration of that cartilage. As the cartilage wears away, bone can rub on bone, which causes pain and swelling at the joint. If it is left untreated, it can create deformity and instability.

The most common hand arthritis affects the distal interphalangeal joints, which are located near the fingertips. The joints become enlarged and painful with movement. People will often notice that the appearance of their hands changes as they age.

The second most common hand arthritis is at the basal joint or carpometacarpal joint of the thumb, which is located at the base of the thumb below the thumb webspace at the wrist. This arthritis can cause significant limitations in pinch strength and fine motor skills. It can also cause problems with opening your thumb to grasp wider objects. The use of your thumb can become very painful and even debilitating. As it progresses, the ligaments can weaken and cause significant deformity. A pattern called a "Zig Zag Deformity" develops where the thumb metacarpal bone falls out of position, leaving a "bump" just above the wrist. As a result, your thumb webspace cannot open very widely and your thumb middle joint (metacarpal phalangeal joint) then hyperextends to compensate. (Photo below of Zig Zag Deformity)



An occupational therapist, certified hand therapist can help educate you in how to protect your joints, suggest adaptive equipment and techniques, provide any splinting and modalities if needed, and

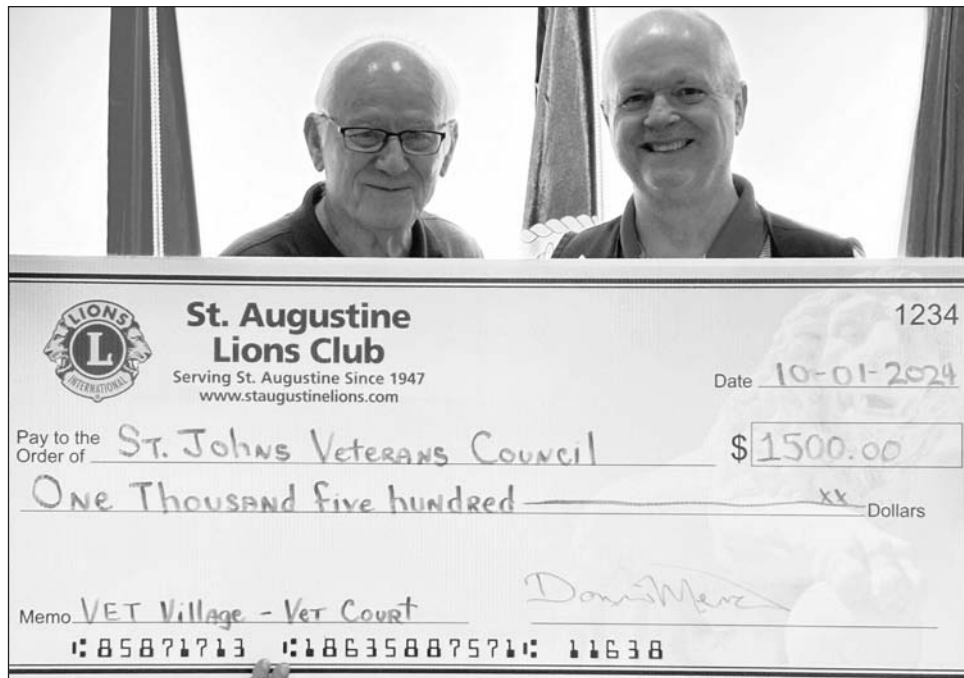
instruct you in a home exercise program to address your hand limitations.

At First Coast Rehabilitation, we would like to help you unlock the power of healing and help you gain better use of your hands. We are excited to announce we now have three highly experienced Occupational Therapists, Beverly Bass, OTD, MOT, OTR/L, CHT, CLT, Brittany Cole, MOTR/L, CHT, and myself, Meg Robinson, OTR/L, CHT. Combined we have advanced training with extensive clinical expertise to evaluate and treat upper extremity injuries and conditions. With over 75 years of collective experience, we are dedicated to restoring your maximum function, preventing dysfunction, and enhancing your overall well-being.

Our team treats numerous conditions including rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, cubital tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow, golfer's elbow, trigger finger to name some of the more common ones. We also treat hand/wrist/elbow/shoulder sprains and strains, fractures, tendonitis, congenital hand conditions, nerve injuries and conditions, tendon lacerations and repairs, trauma like amputations, crush injuries and burns, post-surgical limitations, painful or unsightly scarring, cerebral palsy, poststroke, overall hand/wrist/elbow/shoulder stiffness and general lack of coordination.

You may be starting to notice that your hand or upper extremity is not working like it used to but do not know what exactly is wrong with it. 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 might 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.



## St. Johns Veterans Council receives donation from Lions Club

Lion JD Decknick, St Augustine Lions Club, presents Mr. Joseph "Mac" McDermott a check for \$1500 in support of the Veterans Village and Veterans Court. The St Augustine Lions Club raises funds during the famous St Augustine Seafood Festival and supports many local charities. This years festival dates are 29-30 March. Want to join the Lions? Email [staugustinelionsjoin@gmail.com](mailto:staugustinelionsjoin@gmail.com)! Hey! We're having fun now!

## St. Augustine Film Society November Events

by Kasey Valentine

1. Sunday Nov. 3rd Unitarian Universalist Fellowship partnering with the Francophone Club of S.A. "Driving Madeline" Doors open 3:30 Film 4:00 Film Society Members Free Guests \$8. A seemingly simple taxi ride across Paris evolves into a profound meditation on the realities of the driver, whose personal life is in shambles, and his fare, an elderly woman whose warmth belies her shocking past.
2. Tuesday Nov 19th St. Augustine Yacht Club ECO Cinema Film Series partnering with Beaches Go Green "The Last Tourist" Doors open 5:30 Film at 6:30 FREE event. The feature-length documentary pulls back the curtain on the travel and tourism industry. It reveals the challenges and impact of over-tourism in various destinations. This is a subject important to us all in St. Augustine.
3. Friday Nov 22nd at 7:00 PM Doors open 6:30 "The Salt of the Earth", the 2014 Academy Award nominee for best documentary. The Salt of the Earth is an evocative and emotionally resonant documentary directed by Wim Wenders and Juliano Ribeiro Salgado that chronicles the life and work of renowned Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado. His stark and powerful images have documented some of the most harrowing and beautiful scenes from across the globe. The documentary blends personal biography, environmental commentary, and social history in a way that immerses the viewer not only in the life of Salgado but also in the world he captures through his lens. Film Society Members free Guests \$8.00
4. Sunday Nov 24th Temple Bet Yam "The Promised Land" Doors open 6:30 Film begins at 7:00. Film Society Members free guests \$8.00. The story of Danish soldier and explorer Ludvig Kahlen, who explored and cultivated Denmark's wild Jutland, which now comprises the vast majority of the country, in the mid-18th century. A truly remarkable tale of grit and perseverance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Joe Marx at [staugustinefilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:staugustinefilmsociety@gmail.com).



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## Art Collective of St. Augustine New Art Gallery Opens November 1st

Art Collective St Augustine is the city's newest art gallery located right in the center of the downtown historic district. The new gallery will open Nov. 1, 2024. A ribbon cutting ceremony to open the doors, followed by an extravagant celebration, food, drinks, live music, prizes, art giveaways and some surprises. The gallery's 22+ Artists will also be on hand for meet and greets and to discuss their artwork.

Art Collective's owner, local artist Mare Martelli along with her husband Ken Conte, recently took over the double store space located at 51 Cordova St., at the corner of Hypolita, at what was formerly Adventure Pets. They soon after began renovations, as a complete ceiling to floor remodel is part of the plan. They see their gallery as a big, beautiful blank canvas to showcase the exquisite, vibrant artwork of local area Artists.

"St. Augustine is a true 'Art Town' and our goal is to highlight the wide variety of local talent we have here - to tourists, locals and the business community around us. We've assembled the most unique and diverse group of local Artists, creating in a vast array of mediums, styles and genres", says gallery owner Mare Martelli. Resident Artists at Art Collective range the full gamut of creative works - everything from traditional oils paintings, pastels, modern art, paper quilling, pit fired pottery as well as exquisite jewelry makers. She added, "One of the newest Artists at the gallery, John Darovitz actually creates entire scenes completely from map pins. Upward of 24,000 pins combined to create unbelievable visuals - it's truly something you have to see in person to appreciate. The gallery plans to stay open late on Friday and Saturday nights - and even more so during the city's Nights of Lights celebration. People love walking downtown St. Augustine at night, after dinner or visiting area attractions. We want to be there and open, to make Local Art a special part of their evenings."

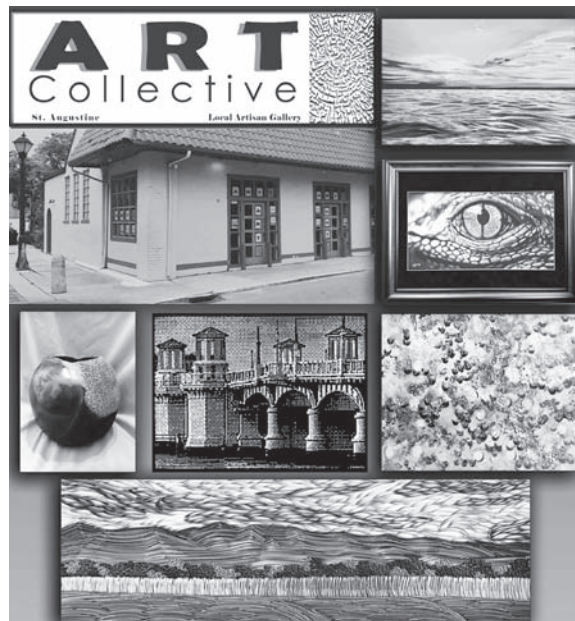
The Grand Opening Party on November 1st introduces you to some of the most amazing local art the area has to offer. Be sure to watch for more celebration details and future events on their Facebook and Instagram pages or check out their website at: [www.ArtCollectiveSTA.com](http://www.ArtCollectiveSTA.com). The gallery is located at 51 Cordova Street in downtown St. Augustine FL 32084, call 904-792-4500.

## Writers Group Adopts New Name "Riverview Writers"

The Writers Group that meets every Thursday at 2 pm at the Riverview Club is now called Riverview Writers. The group has also established a Facebook page with the same name.

According to Bernie Pope, the group's moderator, "The Facebook page was established to help participants keep up with assignments and other information when circumstances cause someone to miss a meeting or two. This also allows us to post multi-page projects for peer review without the expense of printing multiple copies."

The Facebook page is restricted only to group participants or by invitation. The group is opened to both new and experienced writers. For more details, call or text Bernie Pope at 352-551-6913.



## November at Anastasia Island Branch Library

MID-WEEK MEDITATION WITH NANCY at the Anastasia Branch Library\* EVERY WEDNESDAY\*\* @ 10:30 am-11:30 am \*12/4 will be off-site. \*\*Weeks of 12/23 & 12/30 will be held on Mondays due to the holidays.

LITTLE ONES STORYTIME (AGES 2-5) FRIDAYS, NOVEMBER 1ST - NOVEMBER 22nd @ 10:30 am Join us for Little Ones Story Time! We'll have stories, songs, and activities to help develop early literacy skills and spark your child's love of reading.

LITTLE ONES CRAFT TIME (AGES 2-5) FRIDAYS, NOVEMBER 1ST - NOVEMBER 22nd @ 11:00 am Join us for a simple craft to encourage your little ones to practice fine motor skills and explore their creativity!

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE Available at your convenience! Please call 904-209-3730 for an appointment.

SEE DIFFERENT: Gain understanding of how vision impairments and blindness impact people's daily lives. Friday, November 1 @ 2:00 PM-3:30 PM

BABYTIME (AGES 0-18 MONTHS) Tuesday, November 26 @ 10:15 am Join us for a lullaby storytime program for babies and their grown-ups. We will gather in a circle to read stories and sing songs to help your baby develop early literacy skills.

PINE CONE DECOR - ANASTASIA ISLAND CRAFTERS Tuesday, November 5 @ 10:30 am-11:30 am We will be creating beautiful table decor for the holidays using pinecones! Please RSVP.

ART EXPLORERS - LETTERS OF THANKS Wednesday, November 6 @ 3:30 pm-4:30 pm Let's send some joy and gratitude to our brave service members! This fun and meaningful program invites kids to foster compassion by creating special letters and coloring pages for those who serve our country. All pictures and letters will be sent to Operation Gratitude for distribution to our first responders and military heroes.

DENNIS FERMIN: SPANISH GUITAR Thursday, November 7 @ 2:00 pm-3:30 pm Join us for a very special program with Dennis Fermin and his spanish guitar. Event Room will open at 1:45 pm.

LEGO BUILDERS' BONANZA (YOUTH) Wednesdays, November 13 & 27 @ 3:30 pm-4:30 pm In this fun-filled program, you can be the builder of your own epic creations! We will supply a mountain of LEGO for kids to create masterpieces.

AI ADULT BOOK CLUB Thursday, November 14 @ 10:30 am-11:30 am Join us for a lively discussion of the Detective Zen character from the Michael Dibdin novels. Choose any book from the series! Available in a variety of format.

MID-DAY MOVIES Thursday, November 14 @ 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Family themed. Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library.

READING WITH THERAPY DOGS (AGES 4-10) Friday, November 15 @ 3:30 pm-4:30 pm. Join us in the Event Room at the Anastasia Island Branch Library for an hour of reading with certified therapy dogs. Kids can increase their reading confidence with no judgement (and lots of love) with our furry friends from Tri-State Canine and their handlers!

SPECIAL GUEST AUTHOR: ELIZABETH RANDALL Friday, November 15 in the afternoon. Local author Elizabeth Randall visits the Anastasia Island to share stories from her new book, Secret St. Augustine: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure. Book sale & signing will follow the program.

ART EXPLORERS - LEAF ANIMAL COLLAGES Wednesday, November 20 @ 3:30 pm-4:30 pm. Transform colorful paper leaves into adorable animals like hedgehogs, birds, and squirrels! Kids will use a variety of craft materials including colorful paper leaves to create mixed media animal collages. Let your imagination run wild and make the cutest paper animals ever!

SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PLANTS! Saturday, November 23 @ 12:30 pm Anastasia Island Branch Library welcomes back Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants! They will feature table settings and decor for the holidays. They will also demonstrate flower arrangement designs. There will be prizes raffled off at the end as well as a silent auction. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited so RSVP is required.

HATHA YOGA WITH CAROL Monday, November 4 @ 10:30 am-11:30 am Monday, December 2 @ 10:30 am-11:30 am Hatha yoga is great for beginners. A slower-pace and longer holds help reduce stress and anxiety, while helping us to feel in touch with our bodies. Everyone can enjoy yoga no matter what your physical size, shape, age, etc. It's as easy as breathing. Carol can also adapt the moves for those who require a chair. Please bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. RSVP is required to ensure adequate room for all. Class size may need to be limited due to popularity. Events Room will open at 10:15am.

LINE DANCING LESSONS WITH THE ST. AUGUSTINE LINE DANCERS Thursday, November 7 @ 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Thursday, December 5 @ 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Do you want to learn some line dances or get some exercise and make new friends? The St. Augustine Line Dancers are here to help! Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Please RSVP at [www.sjcppls.org](http://www.sjcppls.org)

HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION at the Anastasia Branch Library Saturday, November 16 @ 10:30 am-12:30 pm Saturday, December 21 @ 10:30 am-12:30 pm

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE (W.A.V.E.) at Anastasia Island Branch Library Saturday, December 14 @ 10:30 am-12:30 pm Women and girls aged 13 and up are invited to join us for a self-defense class taught by W.A.V.E., Women Against Violent Encounters. This class is focused on teaching participants basic self-defense techniques to respond to potential threats. You will receive one-on-one training and practice with an all-woman team composed of St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Augustine Police Department, and St. Augustine Beach Police Department instructors. Registration is required, please RSVP. Space is limited to the first 30 participants.

HOLIDAY CRAFT MAKERSPACE - ALL AGES Saturday, December 7 @ 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Wednesday, December 11 @ 3:00 pm-4:30 pm Get ready to unleash your creativity this holiday season at the Holiday Craft Makerspace! Dive into a festive wonderland featuring a variety of craft stations designed for all ages to make gifts for loved ones. Celebrate the season with a splash of creativity and a touch of community spirit! No reservation required. All supplies generously provided by the Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library.

For the most up-to-date programming, please visit [www.sjcppls.org](http://www.sjcppls.org).

GET READY!! St. Johns Reads 2025 comes to you in January - lots of great programming for our communities.

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