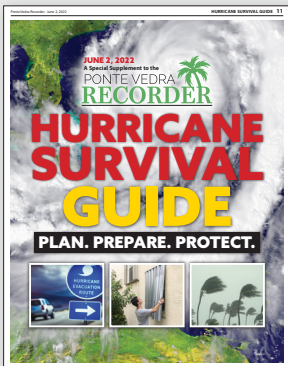


# PONTE VEDRA RECORDER

June 2, 2022  
Volume 53, No. 31  
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



**Hurricane Survival Guide**  
Page 11



**Local man competes in Ironman competition**  
Page 29



**INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and Ponte Vedra Recorder celebrated their 30th anniversary of honoring local community heroes by naming seven more as part of the 2022 class. *Read the story on page 10.*

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# Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to [news@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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## BRIEFS

### Reading program needs volunteers, donations

After a two-year hiatus, HUGS Across the County is re-starting its SummerSOAR Reading Buddy and Books-for-Keeps program, managed by St. Johns County high school student volunteers.

High School students from across St. Johns County will visit three locations in West Augustine every week in June and July: American Legion Kids Safe Zone, Boys and Girls Club of St Augustine and Crookshank Elementary.

Students will read aloud with elementary age kids, act as positive role models, encourage summer reading and bring books-for-keeps for children to choose from each week.

Students who want to volunteer can sign up at [signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44ACA829A0F85-summersoar1](http://signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44ACA829A0F85-summersoar1).

To purchase books from the Amazon wish list, go to [a.co/7FayVmO](http://a.co/7FayVmO).

To donate \$35 to provide six books for one local child this summer, go to [stjohnshugs.org/give](http://stjohnshugs.org/give).

To organize a kids' book collection in your community, go to [stjohnshugs.org/contact](http://stjohnshugs.org/contact).

For further information email [info@stjohnshugs.org](mailto:info@stjohnshugs.org) or call 904-580-4847.

### Free family events planned for June and July

This year marks the 50th anniversary of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation. To celebrate, Parks and Rec will host several communitywide events throughout the summer. The events are free and open to the public. The celebrations kick off with "Popsicles & Playgrounds" at St. Johns County Parks.

"Popsicles & Playgrounds" will be held on Wednesdays in June:

- June 8: Canopy Shores at 10 a.m.
- June 15: Aberdeen at 10 a.m.
- June 22: Palencia at 6 p.m.
- June 29: Trout Creek at 6 p.m.

The celebrations continue in July with a Birthday Splash Bash, porch talk reenactments, disc golf, golf clinics and more. The complete list and dates can be found at [sjcfl.us/Recreation](http://sjcfl.us/Recreation).

### Open house planned at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center

COA is inviting the public to attend an anniversary open house at COA's THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra Beach from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 8. The open

house will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the opening of the center in 2007.

There will be a special presentation at 3:30 p.m., and live music will be provided by Dan Myers from 4 to 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided by Humana & Home Instead, and attendees are invited to enjoy a raffle and a chance to win a door prize.

"Come see what we have to offer — we are open, active and having a blast," said senior center coordinator Amanda Jones. "We invite you to come network with your neighbors, sign up for a class or make a request for what you would like to see at your local community center. We can't wait to mingle with you."

THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach.

For information, contact Jones at 904-280-3233 or via email at [ajones@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:ajones@stjohnscoa.com).

To view a full list of upcoming programs and events scheduled at the center, go to [coasjc.org/ponte-vedra-center](http://coasjc.org/ponte-vedra-center).

### Commemoration of largest mass arrest of rabbis planned

The ninth annual commemoration of the largest mass arrest of rabbis in U.S. history will take place outdoors at the Hilton St. Augustine Historic Bayfront, 32 Avenida Menendez, St. Augustine, at noon June 17. This 30-minute event sponsored by the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society is free, and all are welcome.

On June 18, 1964, 16 rabbis and a Reform Jewish administrator in St. Augustine, at the request of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., were arrested and held in the St. Johns County jail. Overnight, they wrote a letter titled "Why We Went to St. Augustine" that will be read as part of the commemoration.

For further information, contact SAJHS at [sajhs.com](http://sajhs.com) or 804-914-4460.

### Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Chat and chew is at 6 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Jen Lomberg, Matanzas riverkeeper.

For additional info, email [jkary@verizon.net](mailto:jkary@verizon.net).

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

B	E	M	A		B	B	L		A	A	H	S					
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8	5	4	1	3	7	9	6	2

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# Tunnel to Towers director is Newcomers Alumnae speaker

Patty Trousdell, volunteer event director for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, was the guest speaker May 4 at the monthly Newcomers Alumnae luncheon held at Marsh Landing Country Club, Ponte Vedra Beach.

The mission of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is to honor the sacrifice of firefighter Stephen Siller, who laid down his life to save others on Sept. 11, 2001. The foundation also honors our military and first responders who continue to risk life and limb for our country.

In addition to the many programs the foundation offers, it has committed more than \$150 million in support of the nation's heroes and their families.

On Sept. 11, a 5K Run and Walk will be held at the World Golf Village. It will serve as an opportunity to bring the community together to honor first responders

and military service members. The event raises funds to support the Building for America's Bravest program that builds smart homes for the most catastrophically injured service members returning home.

For more information about the Tunnel To Towers Foundation, go to [t2t.org](http://t2t.org).

Newcomers Alumnae is a women's social group formed in 1998. Their next monthly luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Contact [bartshar@comcast.net](mailto:bartshar@comcast.net) to reserve a seat. The deadline to sign up for the luncheon is Thursday, May 26. For additional information about Newcomers Alumnae, go to [newcomersalumnae.fl.wildapricot.org](http://newcomersalumnae.fl.wildapricot.org).



Photo courtesy of Nancy Scott  
Sally Lutz, Newcomers Alumnae vice president, left, and Patty Trousdell.

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You cannot go wrong with this unit!

**5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms, 4 Half Baths, \$7,995,000**



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# Attorney general candidate speaks to Ponte Vedra Democratic Club

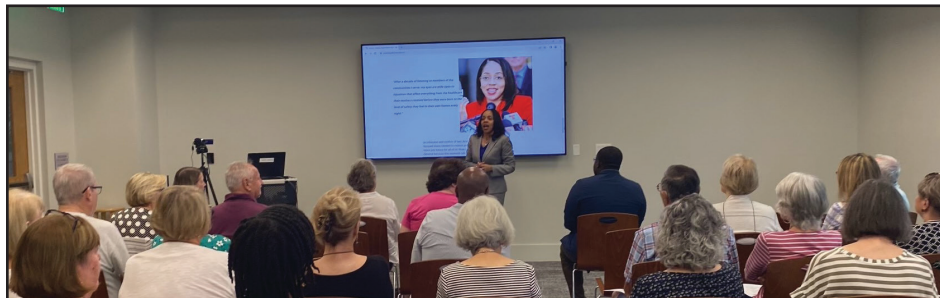


Photo by Treminasha Lambert

Democratic candidate for Florida state attorney general Aramis Ayala speaks to the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club on May 21.

Democratic candidate for Florida state attorney general Aramis Ayala was the featured speaker at the May 21 meeting of the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club. She presented on the role of the attorney general, explaining that, if elected, she would represent the public. Her comments were marked by frequent points of applause from the audience.

Ayala is a civil rights advocate, cancer survivor and former Florida state attorney. Growing up just outside of Flint in

Saginaw, Michigan, she saw the inequality that forced working-class families to struggle just to make ends meet. Her father, a Vietnam veteran and UAW factory worker, and late mother stressed the importance of hard work, faith and service to others as she was growing up.



Democratic candidate for Florida state attorney general Aramis Ayala

Ayala served as a public defender and assistant state attorney for nearly 15 years before serving as state attorney of Florida's 9th Judicial Circuit from 2017 to 2021. The first Black state attorney in Florida history, Ayala supporters say she worked to build safer, healthier communities, created innovative pre-trial diversion programs, as well as new police accountability and oversight reforms and initiatives to support victims of domestic violence.

Following the presentation, she took questions from the audience. One member asked when she'd run for governor, to which she laughed and said she's totally focused on this race for attorney general.

Neither the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club nor the St. Johns County Democratic Party can endorse any candidate until after the August primary. But those in attendance said Ayala was an exciting candidate.

— Submitted by Jan Kary

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*Dennis Hollingsworth has been the St. Johns County tax collector for the past 38 years. During that time, he has seen a number of changes occur, including the introduction of computers and the continued growth of the area's population. However, the one thing that remains the same is the joy he gets from interacting with residents and helping them solve the problems they are faced with.*

## Dennis Hollingsworth

### As told to Anthony Richards

#### Can you tell us a little about your background?

I was born and raised in St Augustine and attended local schools. At that time, we had three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

My parents established the Harley Davidson St Augustine dealership on U.S. 1 North and the family still owns the property. Eventually the dealership moved to Interstate 95 and State Road 16.

We used to take the family Willy Jeep from Vilano Beach to the Jacksonville Beach boardwalk. We fished in the Intra-coastal and ocean with more catches and larger fish than today.

The population of St Johns County was a whopping 30,000. What a great time and place to grow up.

After graduation, I attended St Johns River Community College in Palatka. The only community college in Northeast Florida at that time. Then I went to FSU and eventually transferred to Stetson University in Deland.

I received my master's degree from Jacksonville University. I worked for the family business and taught accounting and bookkeeping at the St Augustine Technical School in the adult night class curriculum.

Eventually, I ended up teaching sixth grade elementary students at Cathedral Parish School and adult education at St Johns River Community College and Flagler College. While teaching school, the late tax collector, Ms. Winifred Hill, asked if I would consider working for her since I already knew the procedure for title and registration applications, learning this from the family business.

I was eventually employed by Ms. Hill in 1978 and in 1984 Ms. Hill decided to retire. I ran for tax collector and won the election.

#### Having worked in the tax collector's office for as long as you have, what are some of the major changes you've seen take place over the years?

When I started in the Tax Collector's Office, we didn't have computers and all title applications, registrations, tax bills and tax rolls were manually typed. Technology has changed our procedures and now we can assist citizens from any part of the state.

#### What are the most rewarding parts of the job?

Every day I get to help citizens with personal problems. I cherish the ability to help people solve problems.



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Tax Collector's Office

**St. Augustine native Dennis Hollingsworth has been the St. Johns County tax collector since 1984.**

#### Are you one that lays out goals? If so, what are some of your goals for the future?

How to assist citizens to have easy access to their needs in their tax collector office. We are currently assessing where another branch office should be opened. We consistently analyze wait times and monitor efficiency to improve and better serve the citizens.

#### What are some of the challenges that you face with the job?

Challenges are the growth factor and the increase in demands of the office.

#### What do you enjoy most about living in the Northeast Florida area?

The quality of life in Northeast Florida used to be excellent and the best location to enjoy outdoor activities such as off-

shore, saltwater, and freshwater fishing, the beach, the rivers and wildlife. I sense that we are losing that quality of life.

#### What do you like to do in your free time?

Family, faith, fishing, boating and hunting.

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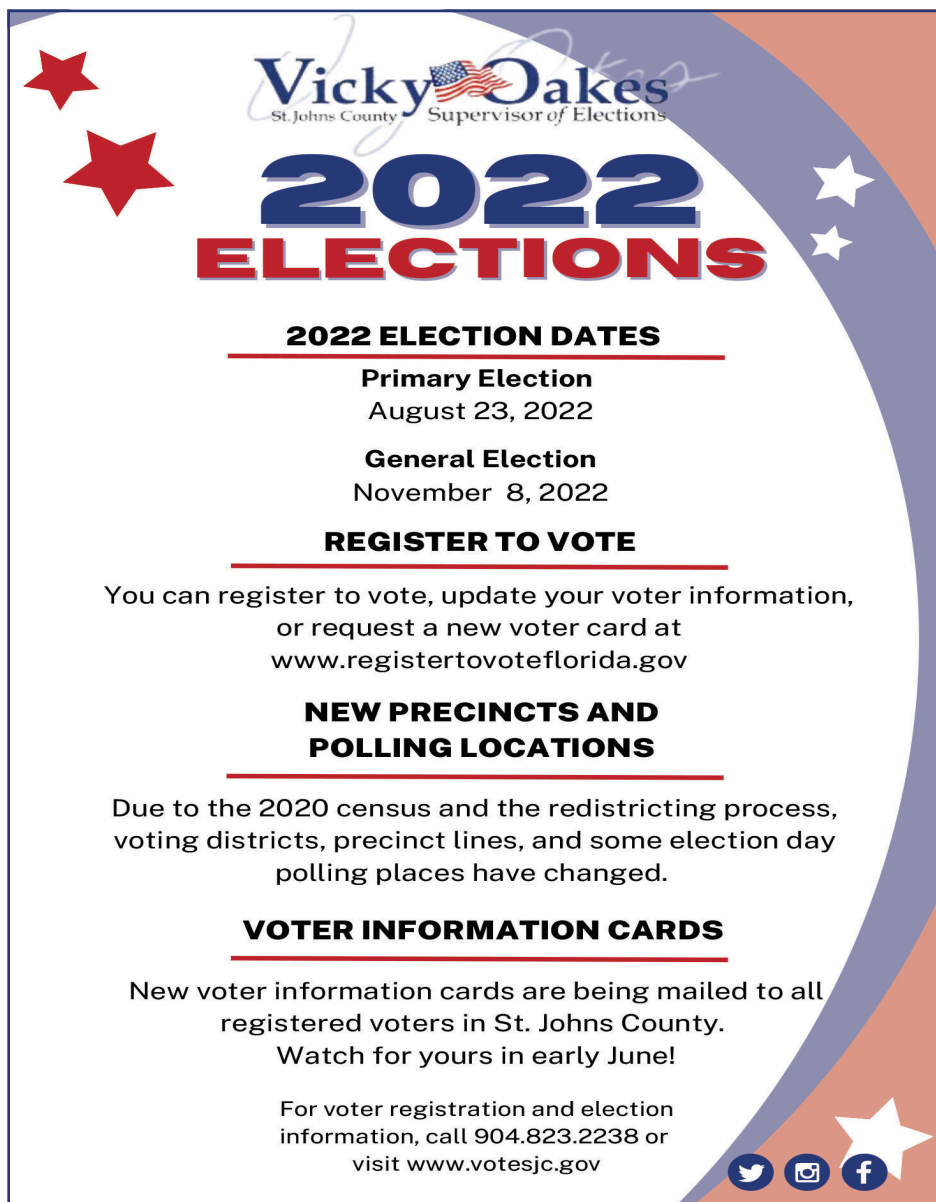
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**Vicky Oakes**  
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**General Election**  
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Due to the 2020 census and the redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some election day polling places have changed.

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For voter registration and election information, call 904.823.2238 or visit [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov)



## Nominations Now Open!



The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 53 years of community news excellence, will launch our fourth annual **BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 & 32082.**

YOU, our valued readers, now have the chance to nominate your favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting begins June 13th after nominations are complete. **HURRY, last day to nominate is June 12th!**

[www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022)



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## OBITUARIES

### Elizabeth (Betty) Dayton



Elizabeth (Betty) Dayton, 83, passed away May 20, 2022. She was born November 29, 1938, in Quincy, MA. She grew up in a military family and lived in California, China, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. Betty has been a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach since 2000.

Betty graduated from the University of Florida in 1960 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She then taught Music, and later worked for Bellsouth. Betty ended her career after two decades of substitute teaching at the age of 80. She was also a long-time member of the Sawgrass Players Club Women's

Association, serving as the President for two consecutive terms. More than anything, Betty enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Beth (Walt) Holbrook and Ellen Petrous; sons, Ed (Michelle) and Erik (Tracy); 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Her husband of 38 years, Ed, predeceased her.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 11, 2022, in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church with Reverend Eric Stelzer as Celebrant. In lieu of flowers please donate to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. Please visit her online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

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## Multiple Sclerosis Silent Auction set for June 6

The 10th Annual Multiple Sclerosis Silent Auction has been scheduled for June 6 at Mr. Chubby's Wings in Ponte Vedra Beach. It is being sponsored by local Bike MS cycling team Big Bananas.

The event, free to the public, will offer bidders more than 275 items with a total value of more than \$35,000, including items from 100 restaurants, retailers, vacations and service providers. Last year's \$26,000 raised for the MS Society brought the nine-year fundraising total to \$200,000.

Since 2010, the 25-member Big Banana cycling team has raised more than \$1.4 million for the organization and helped support local programs and services, plus research to help discover a cure for

the disease.

Items up for bid this year include trips to North Carolina, Daytona Beach and Amelia Island, private course golf outings, concert and sports tickets, deep sea fishing and jet ski and kayak rentals, plus dining from restaurants such as BurgerFi, Cantina Louie, Nona Blue, Coopers Hawk, Mezza, Puss-er's, Medure and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse.

View the complete lineup at [silentmsauction.weebly.com](http://silentmsauction.weebly.com)

The year's Bike MS PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore is Oct. 22-23. It is a fundraising cycling event from St. Augustine to Daytona Beach, and it's open to all levels of riders.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Benjamin Callaway Akins III

Benjamin Callaway Akins III, 31, of Jacksonville, died May 19, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Andrew Anthony Bierschied

Andrew Anthony Bierschied, 103, of Gilford, New Hampshire, died May 26, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Patricia Ann Collins

Patricia Ann Collins, 84, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 25, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### Gregory "Grey" Peres

Gregory "Grey" Peres, 67, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died May 21, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – [www.pontevedravalle.com](http://www.pontevedravalle.com)

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# Seven recognized with Local Heroes Awards

*Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary, Recorder celebrate local residents at 30th annual event*

**By Jennifer Logue**

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and The Ponte Vedra Recorder recognized seven local residents for their contributions to the community last week at the 30th Annual Local Heroes Awards.

Held Thursday, May 26, at Marsh Landing Country Club, this year's event honored residents whose service to the community includes fighting pediatric cancer, protecting seniors during the pandemic, creating a community athletic club and decades of volunteer service to THE

PLAYERS Championship.

Local Heroes Committee Chair Steve Crosby noted that the awards were started in 1993 by Rotarians Vic DiGenti and Chuck Day in partnership with The Ponte Vedra Recorder in order to recognize the "unsung heroes" who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self."

The "Local Heroes" Honorees of 2022 include:

**John Curington:** A member of the Croquet Hall of Fame, Curington was recognized for creating the Ponte Vedra Croquet Club, a community amenity that provides free croquet lessons and the opportunity to enjoy the popular sport to hundreds of local residents.

"John has been described as a visionary — hard working, tenacious and focused," said Rotarian Vickie Cavey in presenting the award. "He's an under-the-radar guy with a big heart who's always putting community first."

**Kendall Bryan and Carolyn Boyle:**

Bryan and Boyle were recognized for their efforts to keep the residents of Vicar's Landing safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the facility's director of health, Bryan learned that CVS had ordered too many vaccines that were going to be discarded. Instead, he arranged to have the vaccines administered to Vicar's Landing residents. As director of nursing, Boyle — an infectious disease control expert — managed the process for resident care. As a result of her efforts, Vicar's Landing had just seven confirmed cases of COVID out of more than 300 residents in this vulnerable population.

"It has been an incredible journey," Boyle said. "The Lord put me on this path, and I accept this recognition on behalf of all the team members who embraced the protocols put in place. It was their buy-in and absolute dedication to keep themselves and the residents safe that made it possible."

**Lisa Amato:** Lisa Amato was recognized for her efforts to fight pediatric cancer through the creation of The Kate Amato Foundation. Named in honor of Amato's daughter, who died after a two-year battle with the cancer, the foundation has funded pediatric cancer research grants to the Texas Children's Cancer Center, Baylor College of Medicine,



Photo by Susan Griffin

**Lisa Amato (far left) is presented her award with her husband by her side during the Local Heroes Awards Banquet on May 26.**

the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School. Amato also organizes the Kate Kindness Project, which delivers care packages to sick children and hospital staff; the Kate Kup tennis tournament; and the Kate Classic Golf Tournament to fund further research.

In accepting the award, Amato recognized her husband Jeff as her partner in advancing the foundation's mission. "Pediatric cancer and the need for research is not talked about enough in this country," she said, adding that the foundation's activities are designed to reflect the heart and spirit of their beloved daughter. "Ev-

**HEROES continues on Page 23**

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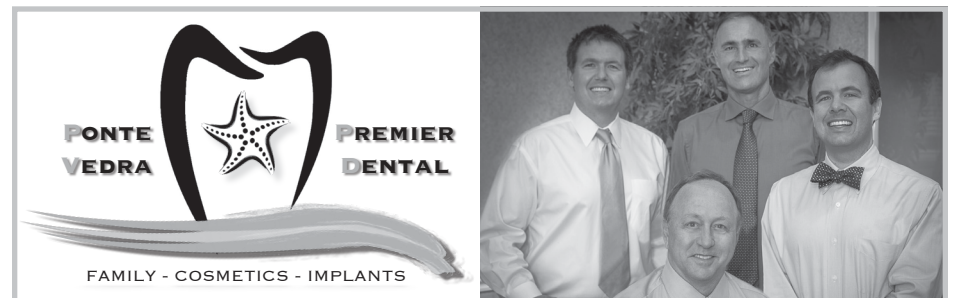
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# HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

**PLAN. PREPARE. PROTECT.**



# HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

With the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season officially beginning on June 1, local families need to know what to do and where to go should the threat of a hurricane (or any disaster) become real. The Ponte Vedra Recorder has pulled together a collection of resources to help readers prepare.

## HURRICANE CHECKLISTS

One way to be prepared for a storm is by assembling a disaster supply kit.

Once disaster strikes, it is too late to shop or search for supplies. With supplies gathered in advance, families can endure an evacuation or home confinement.

Here are a few checklists to consider while preparing for this upcoming hurricane season:

### ON THE ROAD

- Cash | Credit Cards
- Important Documents
- Road Maps
- Jumper Cables
- Tire Repair Kit
- Flashlight | Batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Fire Extinguisher
- Blankets | Sleeping Bags
- Pillows
- Toiletries
- Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Baby Supplies
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Drinking Water
- Games | Books

### AT HOME

- Non-Perishable Foods
- Drinking Water
- First Aid Kit
- Medications
- Cash | Credit Cards
- Flashlight | Batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Manual Can Opener
- Extra Baby Supplies
- Games | Books
- Fire Extinguisher
- Phone | Non-Portable
- Fill Tub with Water for Sanitation
- Porta-Pot | Well Water Users

### AT THE SHELTER

- 3-Day Supply of Water
- 3-Day Supply of Non-Perishable Foods
- Medications | Specialized Supplies
- Diabetic's on Insulin | Small Cooler for Insulin
- Toiletries
- Flashlight | Batteries
- Pillows | Blankets
- Sleeping Bag | Egg Crate Mattress
- Cot | Lawn Chair
- Important Papers | Identification
- Extra Clothing
- Books | Magazines | Cards, etc.
- Caregiver - If you have Special Needs

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY EVACUATION ROUTES

Below is guidance on where St. Johns County residents should evacuate during an emergency situation.

**Ponte Vedra Beach/Sawgrass:** North on State Road A1A, turn west onto Butler Boulevard, proceed to I-95 or points west.

**Palm Valley/Nocatee area:** Proceed south-west to County Road 210, proceed to I-95 or points west.

**On coast halfway between Micklers Landing and South Ponte Vedra Beach:** North of Guana Dam, go north to State Road A1A, proceed west across Palm Valley Bridge on County Road 210. South of Guana Dam, go south on S.R. A1A, proceed west across Vilano Bridge. Continue west on State Road 16 to I-95 or points west.

**City of St. Augustine: (On the mainland):** North on U.S. 1, turn west onto State Road 16 or proceed south-west on State Road 207 or south on U.S. 1, proceed to I-95 or points west.

**City of St. Augustine: (Davis Shores, Anastasia Island south to St. Augustine Alligator Farm):** State Road A1A, proceed west across Bridge of Lions, to U.S. 1 North or U.S. 1 South and/or to State Road 16, or State Road 207 to I-95 or points west.

**City of St. Augustine and Anastasia Island north of the St. Augustine Amphitheater:** Proceed north on State Road A1A across the Bridge of Lions, then west.

**City of St. Augustine and Anastasia Island South of the St. Augustine Amphitheater:** Proceed south on State Road A1A, turn west on State Road 312, proceed across S.R. 312 bridge to State Road 207, proceed to I-95 or points west.

**City of St. Augustine Beach:** North to State Road 312, proceed across S.R. 312 bridge to State Road 207, proceed to I-95 or points west.

**From the intersection of Ocean Trace Road and A1A to Crescent Beach:** South on State Road A1A to Crescent Beach, turn west on State Road 206, proceed across Crescent Beach bridge to U.S. 1, proceed to I-95 or points west.

**Crescent Beach to Flagler County Line:** North on State Road A1A to Crescent Beach, turn west on State Road 206, proceed across Crescent Beach bridge to U.S. 1, proceed to I-95 or points west.

### ST. JOHNS RIVER

**S.R. 13 north of C.R. 210:** Proceed east along County Road 210 or Greenbriar Road to I-95; or north along State Road 13 into Duval County; or east on Racetrack Road to areas outside the evacuation zone.

**S.R. 13 North of C.R. 214:** Proceed east along County Road 208 or State Road 16 to I-95; or west along S.R. 16 across the Shands Bridge; or east on County Road 214 to areas outside the evacuation zone.

**C.R. 13 South of C.R. 214:** Proceed east along State Road 207 or State Road 206 to I-95; or west along S.R. 207 into Putnam County; or east on C.R. 214 to areas outside the evacuation zone.

*Source: St. Johns County Emergency Management*

**Evacuation map and zone map, pages 18 and 20.**

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHELTERS

In most cases, evacuation is the best option. But if this is not possible, one of the best ways to get prepared for hurricane season is by locating the evacuation shelters in your area.

### PUBLIC EVACUATION SHELTERS

**Bartram Trail High School**  
7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Creoside High School**  
100 Knights Lane  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Cunningham Creek Elementary School**  
1205 Roberts Road  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Durbin Creek Elementary School**  
4100 Race Track Road  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Fruit Cove Middle School**  
3180 Race Track Road  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Hickory Creek Elementary School**  
235 Hickory Creek Trail  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Mill Creek Elementary School**  
3750 International Golf Parkway  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**Osceola Elementary School**  
1605 Osceola Elementary Road  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

**Otis Mason Elementary School**  
207 Mason Manatee Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

**Patriot Oaks Academy**  
475 Longleaf Pine Parkway  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Pedro Menendez High School**  
600 S.R. 206 West  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

**South Woods Elementary School**  
4750 S.R. 206 West  
Elkton, FL 32033  
*\*Pet-friendly*

**Timberlin Creek Elementary School**  
555 Pine Tree Lane  
St. Augustine, FL 32092  
*\*Pet-friendly*

**Tocoi Creek High School**  
11200 St. Johns Parkway  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**SPECIAL NEEDS EVACUATION SHELTERS**  
*(Pre-registration strongly encouraged)*

**Freedom Crossing Academy School**  
1365 Shetland Drive  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Pacetti Bay Middle School**  
245 Meadowlark Lane  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

*Source: St. Johns County Emergency Management*

# New zone map issued for 2022 hurricane season

By Shaun Ryan

The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially began Wednesday, June 1, and now is the time for area residents to prepare.

To that end, St. Johns County Department of Emergency Management is deploying its number one tool for protecting people and property should a storm hit: information. And while a great deal of it may sound familiar to anyone who has lived here for at least a few years, it's important not to grow complacent.

"If you're new to the county, or even if you've been here for a while, it's always good to refresh," said Joseph Giammanco, emergency management director for St. Johns County.

Perhaps the biggest change this year is a new configuration of evacuation zones. Between 2014 and 2021, the only A zones in northern St. Johns County were along the ocean, Guana Lake and the Intracoastal Waterway. Most of Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley were B zones.

Now, nearly all properties in that area are in zone A, typically the most vulnerable in a named storm.

The change came after the National Hurricane Center updated its information on storm surge modeling, the first time it had done so since 2013. The county then turned that information into a map of evacuation zones.

"One of the key factors is elevation, because what we're looking for in hurricane evacuation zones is the areas that are impacted by storm surge," Giammanco said.

Though there are islands of zone B in the Ponte Vedra area, residents living there are also vulnerable. First responders will not be sent to cross zone A to get to zone B, so no one will come if those residents need help.

For that reason, zones A and B typically evacuate together.

Residents should become familiar with their zones, evacuation routes and the location of evacuation shelters. You can

find your zone by going to the department's website, [sjcemergencymanagement.com](http://sjcemergencymanagement.com). Click the My Evacuation Zone icon on the right side of the page. Then, in the space provided, enter your address.

In addition, residents should start putting together a plan should they need to evacuate. One of the best places to find out what needs done is the department's website. It's a treasury of important information for county residents.

"Go to our website and look at our preparation guides," Giammanco said.

Anyone who encounters difficulty in navigating the website can get help from a live person by calling 904-824-5550.

Giammanco also recommended looking into homeowner's and flood insurance, start collecting important documents you don't want to leave behind if you must leave quickly, arrange to have several days' worth of your prescription medication handy.

Another important action some residents will need to take is registering for a spot in one of the special needs shelters in case it is needed. Don't wait until a storm is coming.

"We don't want people calling us five minutes before the storm comes, trying to figure out what to do," Giammanco said. "That's way too late."

It's also important to keep up to date on information. The local media is one of the best ways to get up-to-the-minute reports, and when warranted, the Emergency Management department will do press conferences. Registering with the Alert St. Johns system via the department's website is also helpful. And people can follow the department on its Facebook page, as well.

For naysayers who tend to ignore warnings due to some past threat that failed to materialize, Giammanco has a message.

"Don't take it lightly," he said. "If you get an order to evacuate, you need to go, because we're looking out for your safety."



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Joseph Giammanco is the emergency management director for St. Johns County. His department is prepared to act should a named storm approach.

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# Indoor flooding a major concern after a storm

By Wayne Terry



Wayne Terry

Important things for any home or business owner to know concerning hurricanes:

If you have lived in Florida for a long time, you already know to be prepared by getting plenty of water,

food, gas, etc.; however, what if your home or business is damaged?

If you own a home, you most likely have a regular homeowner's insurance policy. If a pipe breaks in your home, you are most likely covered for all but your deductible. However, if you have rising water due to a storm, your insurance policy, most likely, will not cover this.

When I think of Jacksonville, I don't think "if" it's going to happen, I think "when" is it going to happen. I highly recommend purchasing a flood policy for your home whether or not the city says you are in a "flood zone."

As the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services, with most of the storm floods I come across, the building owner says, "This has never happened to me before" or "This has never happened in this neighborhood before."

It is important to know that if you have a flood policy, it still might not cover all the costs associated with a flood; however, it will cover a good portion. This is something you should talk to your insurance agent about. Flood insurance is very

inexpensive, and I would call this a great safety measure.

If your home or business is flooded from a storm, I would not recommend trying to take care of the damage yourself. Call a professional restoration company such as PuroClean Emergency Services. Restoration companies deal with insurance companies all the time and know the proper ways to make sure your insurance company is taking good care of you. Do not take a fast payout offer, as they are usually lower than what it would cost to restore a property properly.

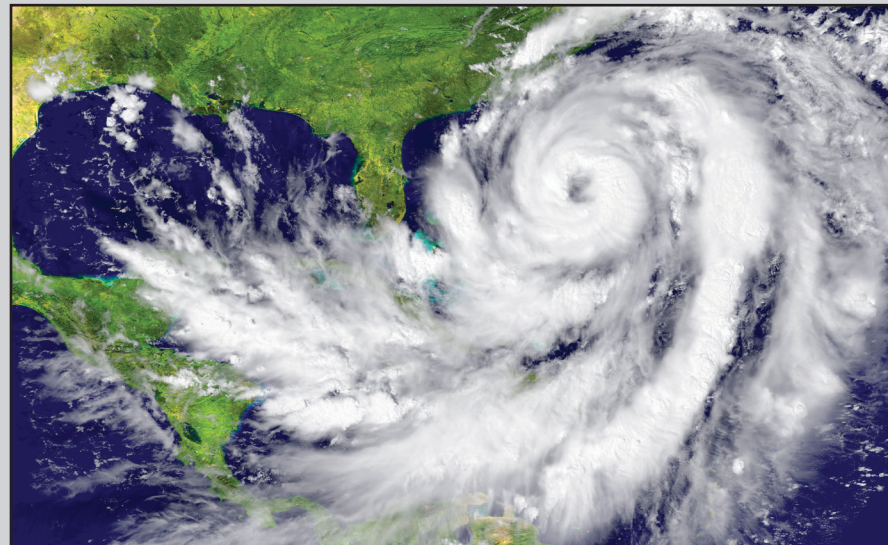
Although water losses are assigned a category of 1, 2, 3 and sometimes 4 (not to be confused with the category of a hurricane), water coming in from the outside is always at least a 3 if not 4. This is because the water coming in from outside could have pesticides, animal urine, automobile oils and gases, and other unknown ingredients. Anything this water touches should be discarded with the exception of structural items, which should be disinfected and dried out as soon as possible.

The last thing to know is that if FEMA is involved and your flood has been sitting there long enough to cause mold, FEMA will not cover mold-related activities. It is important to discuss this with your restoration company at the time of inspection so if there are any additional charges you know what they are.

**Wayne Terry is the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services in Jacksonville. For more information about his restoration company go to [www.PuroCleanES.com](http://www.PuroCleanES.com) or call 904-573-3566. This company is available for emergencies or questions 24 hours a day.**

## 2022 NOAA Prediction

Hurricane season started on June 1 and will end on Nov. 30. The NOAA outlook predicts a likelihood of 14-21 named storms; six to 10 of those could become hurricanes, including and three to six major hurricanes.



# AAA cautions homeowners about post-disaster contractor fraud

Hurricanes, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, hailstorms — experiencing a disaster may be impossible to avoid. Yet as homeowners deal with the aftermath of a catastrophe, if they aren't careful, they could be victimized by dishonest contractors.

“AAA is urging homeowners to be leery of contractors who go door-to-door in damaged neighborhoods offering cleanup or repair services after a catastrophe,” said Bobby Futch, vice president of claims for AAA – The Auto Club Group. “While some of these workers may be honest and reputable; there are those looking to take advantage of residents at their most vulnerable time.”

Dishonest contractors may try to pocket more profit by:

- Accepting payment then never completing (or even showing up for) the job.
- Using inferior materials or performing shoddy work that's not up to code.

## Tips to avoid fraud after a catastrophe

- Working with your Insurance Provider
- Call your insurance company first if you think you might have damage from a storm or other disaster.
- Make sure you review and understand all documents sent to your insurer.
- Never let a contractor discourage you from contacting your insurance company.
- Be on the lookout for people calling and saying they are with a national carrier. Do not provide any personal information over the phone without them first confirming a claim number. If something sounds fishy, report it to your insurance

company immediately.

- Note that insurance carriers will never ask you to pay your deductible up front or over the phone.

## Hiring a Contractor

- Get more than one estimate. Never let a contractor pressure you into hiring them.
- Work with only licensed and insured contractors.
- Request references and check them.
- Ask to see the salesperson's driver's license, write down the license number and their vehicle's license plate number.

## Getting the Work Done

- Get contract terms in writing. Cost, time schedules, payment schedules, guarantees, work to be done and other expectations should be detailed.
- Never sign a contract with blanks.
- Never pay a contractor in full or sign a completion certificate until the work is finished, and ensure reconstruction is up to current code.
- If you didn't request it, reject it.
- If you believe you've been approached by an unlicensed contractor or adjuster, or have been encouraged to fabricate an insurance claim, contact your insurance company or NICB immediately.

## Reporting Insurance Fraud

Anyone with information concerning insurance fraud can report it anonymously. Call 800-835-6422. Or submit a form online at [nicb.org/reportfraud](http://nicb.org/reportfraud)



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For more information, call (904) 288.7858 or visit [RiverGarden.org](http://RiverGarden.org)



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# Monitor weather conditions with NOAA Weather Radio

The NOAA Weather Radio is the National Weather Service's direct link to the public. Weather information is broadcast 24 hours a day. Broadcasts include severe weather watches and warnings, as well as routine forecasts. The Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) allows weather radios to be programmed to warn only for specific locations. The frequencies for Weather Alert Radios in St. Johns County are: 162.425 MHz if you are located south of International Golf Parkway, 162.550 MHz if you are located north of International Golf Parkway. The SAME number for St. Johns County is: 12109



# Steps to consider when dealing with trees before, after storm



Trees can create their share of property damage during storm season, but getting an inspection is the first step in prevention.

## By Anthony Richards

High winds and heavy rains can cause hurricane season to be a worrisome time for a lot of residents as they dread the damage they will find to their property after the storm passes through.

However, there are certain measures that can be taken to help make sure that the amount of damage is limited as much as possible.

Some of the preventive steps taken before a storm pertain to trees, according to Tree Masters owner and operator John Shields, who has 35 years of experience in the business.

One of the first steps is getting a tree inspection performed, which helps identify which trees are the most susceptible to falling during a storm.

Inspections, which are free at Tree Masters, usually look for heavy limbs hanging over property that could break.

“Trees that are ‘top heavy’ can cause uprooting,” Shields said.

Top-heavy trees are more at risk when high winds increase.

However, high winds are just a part of what can put a tree at risk, as the large amounts of rainfall can also create standing water in low areas of a property.

“During storms, it’s usual for multiple inches of rainfall in short periods of time, which results in the loosening up of a tree’s soil,” Shields said. “This is the leading cause in uprooted trees.”

Removing the tree in question is not always the solution taken, as sometimes giving proper limb trimming to a tree can eliminate the tree’s weight and therefore reduce its risk factor.

Another helpful tip to prevent further weakening of a tree’s soil base is to turn off a property’s irrigation system prior to a storm, which will eliminate even further moisture being added to the ground.

After a storm, Shields stressed the importance of choosing a company that has multiple specialized cranes and aerial lift devices.

“They are the best valued tools in the dangerous process of recovering fallen trees on or off houses,” Shields said. “We have found through the years, that not only is it safer for our crews, but also to limit further damage to your property by having the correct pieces of equipment at your disposal.”

Owning this type of equipment and not having to go through the process of renting it from another outlet is something that Tree Masters takes pride in because of the efficiency it produces.

“We do not rent any of our equipment,” Shields said. “We also do not rely on outside companies to help us.”

He understands when a tree does land



Photos courtesy of John Shields

An aerial lift and crane working together in a tight area.



A 110-foot crane removing a 50-foot palm tree off a house.

on a house or on property, there is a certain level of anxiety that the property owner goes through.

However, there are a couple of important factors to not overlook during the stressful situation, because it could present further issues down the road.

They include remembering that trees that land on a property are now that property owner’s problem, even if they fell from a nearby property.

Shields also urged the owners to do their research and make sure the company they hire offers worker’s compensation to their crew.

“This will protect you as homeowners, if a worker gets hurt on your property,” Shields said.

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# Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday ends June 10

Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) are encouraging Floridians to purchase disaster preparedness items during Florida's Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, going on now and running until Friday, June 10.

HB 7071 was signed into law by DeSantis and extended the Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday from 10 to 14 days. This year, household pet supplies such as pet food, leashes, collars, beds and portable kennels are also included in the list of items eligible to be purchased tax-free.

Floridians are expected to save \$25.6 million on the purchase of tax-free items such as flashlights, radios, tarps, batteries and fire extinguishers. This is more than double compared to the \$10.5 million Floridians saved during the 2021 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday.

"Preparing for hurricanes and other natural disasters can be costly, especially with ongoing inflation continuing to impact our nation," said DeSantis. "This year, the Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday has been extended to a full two weeks to ensure Floridians are receiving the maximum amount of savings and have enough time to prepare for hurri-

cane season."

"Keeping a fully stocked disaster supply kit with at least seven days of supplies for each family member, including pets, is an essential component of disaster preparedness," said FDEM Director Kevin Guthrie. "I encourage all residents to take advantage of the extended Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday and begin their hurricane season preparation efforts before a storm threatens our state."

## ELIGIBLE ITEMS

Qualifying disaster preparedness supplies include:

- Pet leashes, collars, muzzles and pads costing \$20 or less
- Flashlights, lanterns and pet beds costing \$40 or less
- Batteries and weather radios costing \$50 or less
- Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers costing \$70 or less
- Tarps and portable pet kennels costing \$100 or less
- Generators costing \$1,000 or less

A full list of eligible tax-free items is available at [floridarevenue.com/disasterprep/Pages/default.aspx](http://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep/Pages/default.aspx).

# NOAA predicts active storm season

By Shaun Ryan

If government forecasters are correct, hurricane activity during the 2022 season will be above average.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center is predicting a 65% chance of an above-normal season, a 25% chance of a near-normal season and a 10% chance that activity will be below normal.

An above-average season would make this the seventh consecutive one.

Note that this is not a landfall forecast. Some named storms never find land before they fall apart.

NOAA is also forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms, which include tropical storms with sustained winds of at least 39 mph.

Of these, forecasters expect between six and 10 to become hurricanes, with sustained winds of at least 74 mph, including between three and six major hurricanes, with sustained winds of at least 111 mph. Major hurricanes are considered to be category 3, 4 or 5.

NOAA encourages people to go to

[ready.gov](http://ready.gov) ([listo.gov](http://listo.gov) for Spanish speakers) to find helpful information regarding preparedness.

"Early preparation and understanding your risk is key to being hurricane-resilient and climate-ready," said Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo. "Throughout the hurricane season, NOAA experts will work around-the-clock to provide early and accurate forecasts and warnings that communities in the path of storms can depend on to stay informed."

The predictions are based on a number of factors. The current La Niña conditions are affecting sea surface temperatures, and tropical Atlantic trade winds are weaker than normal. In addition, an enhanced West African monsoon could bring stronger African easterly waves, seeding the hurricanes.

The Climate Prediction Center will update the seasonal outlook in early August, prior to the peak of the season, which tends to fall in September and October.

For additional information, go to [hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov), follow @NHC and @NHC\_Atlantic on Twitter.



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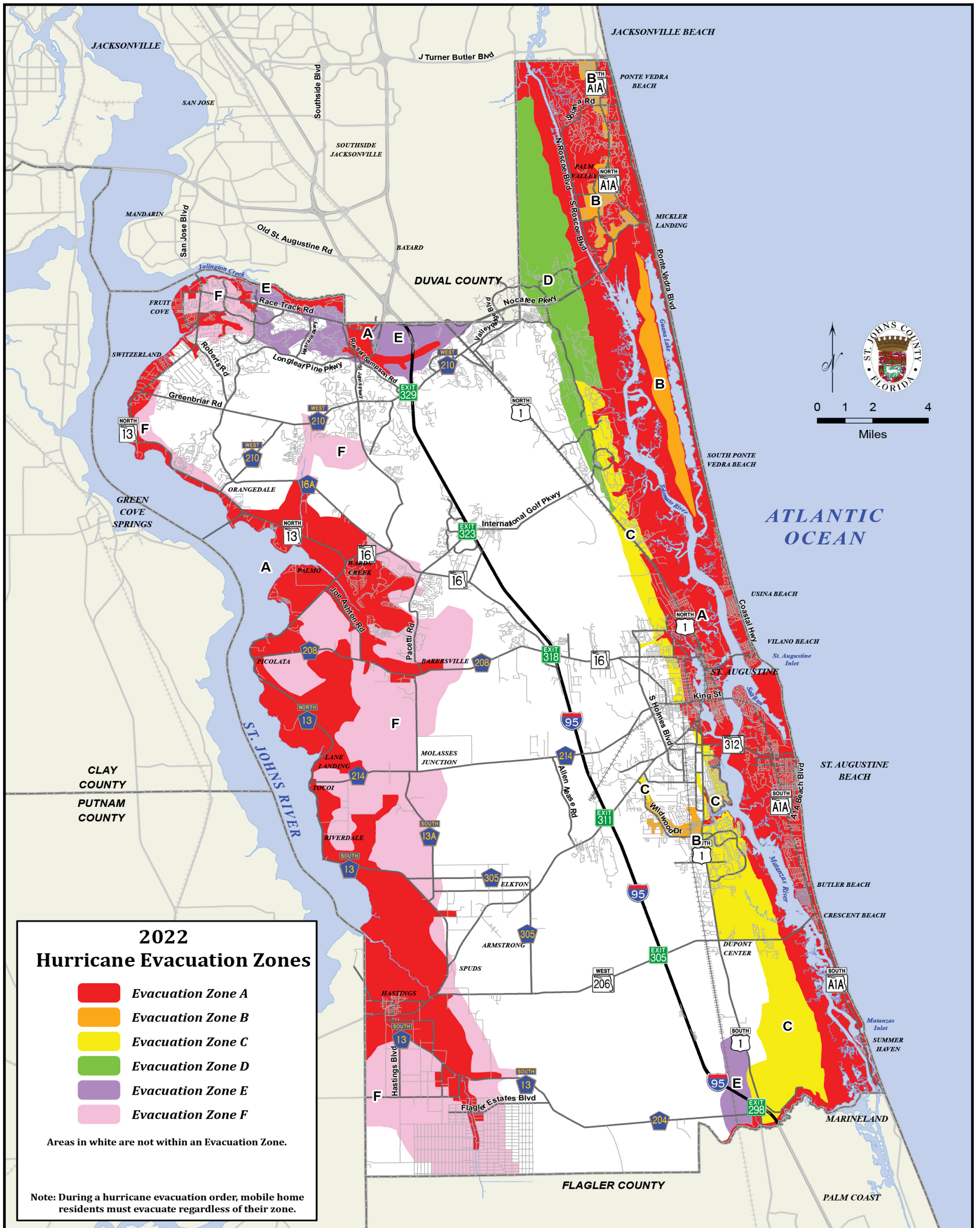
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# State Farm offers tips on protecting valuables, vehicles

State Farm has released its annual hurricane claim stats and is encouraging Floridians to prepare for the season with a home inventory. In 2021, State Farm received around 119,000 home and auto claims nationally from hurricanes, totaling approximately \$1.2 billion in claims paid to help customers repair and rebuild.

The storms included in the 2021 claims data include Henri, Nicholas and Ida.

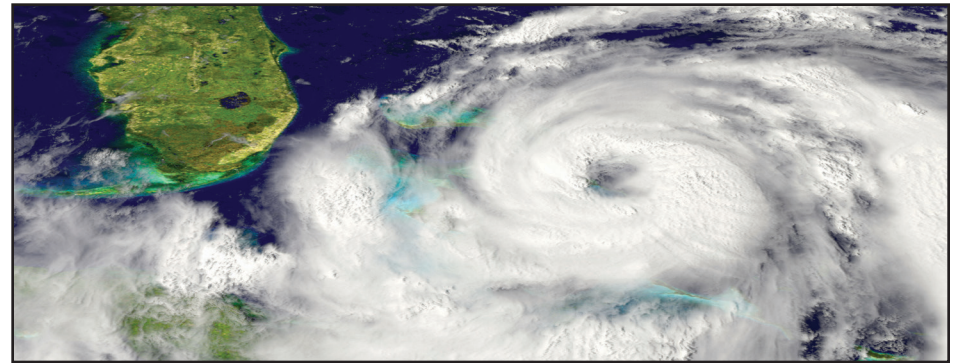
Floridians are encouraged to make a walk-through home inventory now before storms hit. Open those drawers and closets and take photos and video.

While residents are most likely familiar with hurricane prep tips for the home, many may not have thought to prepare their vehicle for hurricane season. One in four State Farm claims from hurricanes in 2021 were auto claims, with approximately \$259 million paid to drivers to cover damage to vehicles from

the storms. Floridians are encouraged to make sure their vehicle is adequately covered for damage from a storm.

## Tips to prepare vehicles for hurricanes:

- Garage or store vehicles. If you don't have a garage, move them to area offering most protection from flying debris.
- Remove all externally mounted electronics on vehicles that might be damaged.
- Place garbage cans, patio furniture, grills and other potentially wind-borne objects inside your home or garage to reduce flying debris from damaging your vehicle.
- Prune branches that might break off during the storm and cause damage to



your vehicles.

Comprehensive coverage is the coverage that kicks in to repair or replace a covered vehicle damaged by something other than collision or rolling over. For example, damage to a vehicle caused by wind or flood during a hurricane are cov-

ered under comprehensive coverage.

Florida drivers are encouraged to speak with their insurance agent at the start of hurricane season to make sure they have adequate coverage for vehicle during a hurricane or storm, including comprehensive coverage.

## 2022 ATLANTIC TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

Names provided by the World Meteorological Organization for this year's storms are:

- Alex
- Bonnie
- Colin
- Danielle
- Earl
- Fiona
- Gaston
- Hermine
- Ian
- Julia
- Karl
- Lisa
- Martin
- Nicole
- Owen
- Paula
- Richard
- Shary
- Tobias
- Virginie
- Walter



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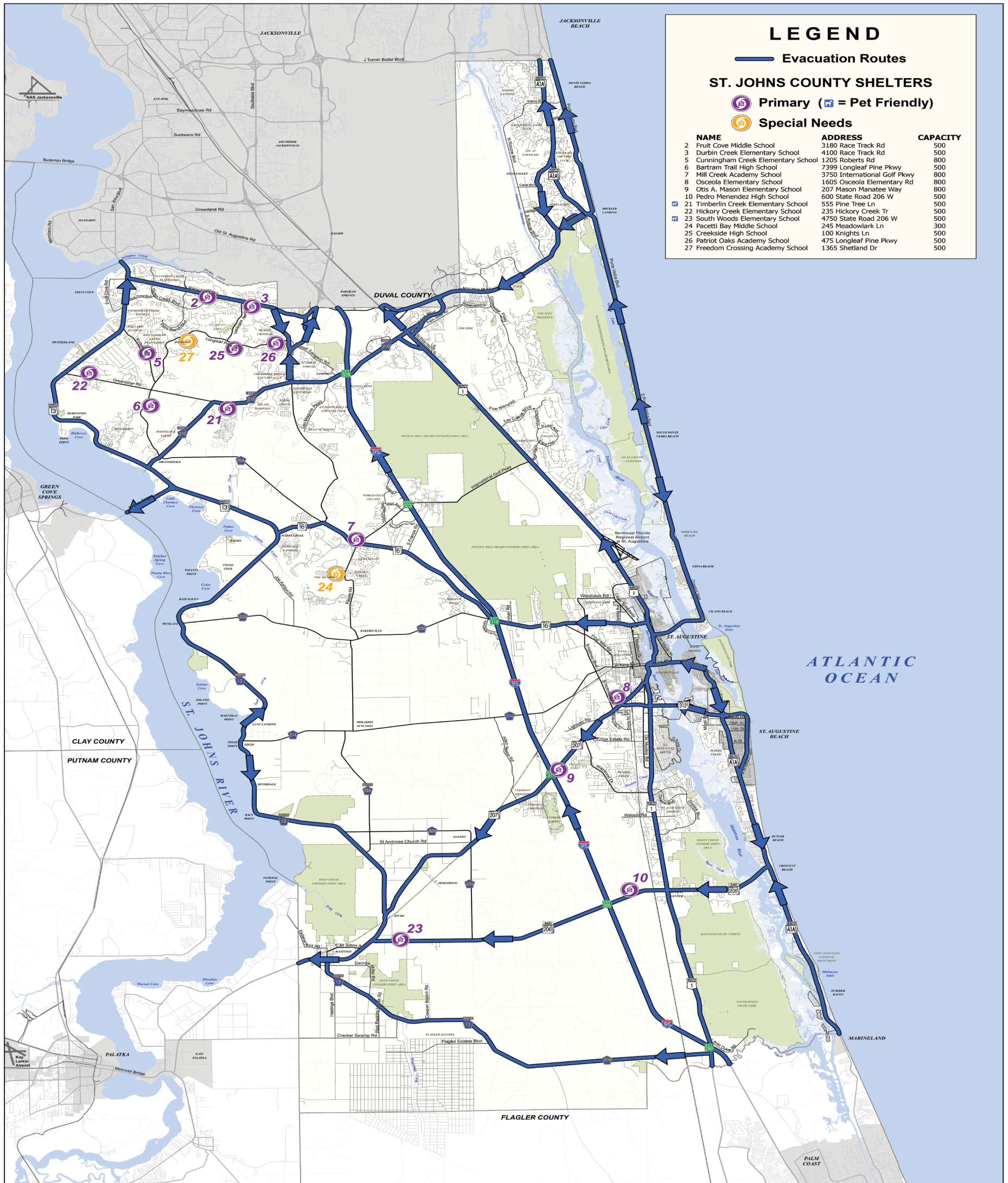
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### LEGEND

— Evacuation Routes

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3 Durbin Creek Elementary School	4100 Race Track Rd	500
5 Cunningham Creek Elementary School	1205 Roberts Rd	800
6 Bartram Trail High School	7399 Longleaf Pine Pkwy	500
7 Mill Creek Academy School	3750 International Golf Pkwy	800
8 Osceola Elementary School	1605 Osceola Elementary Rd	800
9 Otis A. Mason Elementary School	207 Mason Manatee Way	800
10 Pedro Menendez High School	600 State Road 206 W	500
<span style="color: blue;">🐕</span> 21 Timberlin Creek Elementary School	555 Pine Tree Ln	500
22 Hickory Creek Elementary School	235 Hickory Creek Tr	500
23 South Woods Elementary School	4750 State Road 206 W	500
24 Pacetti Bay Middle School	245 Meadowlark Ln	300
25 Creekside High School	100 Knights Ln	500
26 Patriot Oaks Academy School	475 Longleaf Pine Pkwy	500
27 Freedom Crossing Academy School	1365 Shetland Dr	500



## St. Johns County Hurricane Evacuation Routes and Shelters

0 1.5 3 4.5  
Miles

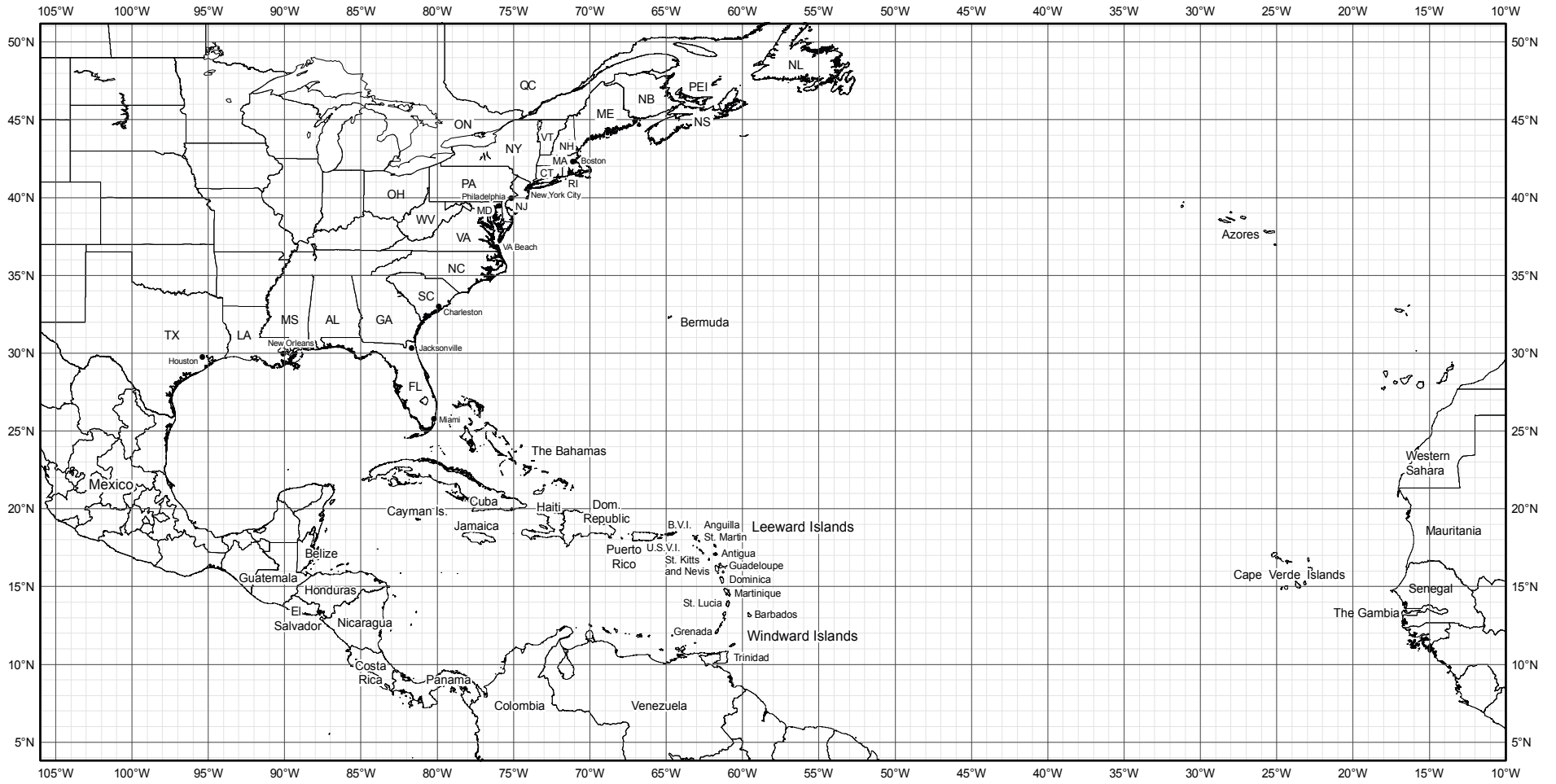
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This map is for reference use only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. The St. Johns County GIS Division disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.  
Map Prepared: 6/8/2021





# Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart

National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida



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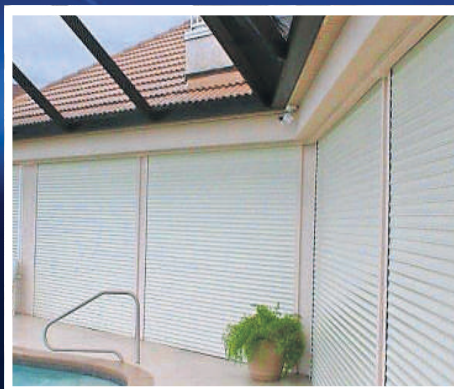
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# Signs your HVAC unit could be fading

A day outdoors soaking up the sun's rays is many people's idea of the perfect way to spend a summer afternoon. On such days, a periodic retreat indoors into an air conditioned home can offer some much-needed relief from the heat.

HVAC systems are worth their weight in gold during the dog days of summer. Of course, such systems must be replaced from time to time. Learning to recognize the signs of a fading HVAC system can help homeowners replace their units before they cease working, saving everyone the uncomfortable ordeal of being stuck at home without cool air on hot summer days.

## Weak air flow

An HVAC unit operating at peak capacity produces a strong flow of air through the vents of a home. The experts at Select Home Warranty note that when the air flow from the vent is weak, this could be a warning sign of a damaged AC compressor or blocked or damaged vents. Damaged vents might be replaceable, but issues with the AC unit might require a replacement. That's especially so if the unit is old. Repairs might be possible, but it might be more cost-effective to replace an aging unit rather than commit to costly repairs.

## Excessive moisture around the unit

Excessive moisture around the unit may indicate that its refrigerant is leaking. In addition, Home Select Warranty notes that large pools of water around the unit could contribute to mold growth and floor damage. Homeowners are urged to contact a qualified HVAC technician immediately if they notice any leakage or moisture issues around their units.

## Interior temperature

If your home is not quite the respite from summer heat that it once was, despite the AC being on and running, then this could be indicative of a fading system that may need to be replaced. However, the home warranty firm American Home Shield notes that hot interior temperatures also may be indicative of clogged ductwork. Qualified HVAC technicians may be able to fix clogged ductwork without replacing the AC unit. If the issue persists even after ducts have been cleaned and unclogged, then a new unit might be homeowners' best bet.

## Foul odor

Sometimes the nose knows best when an AC unit needs to be replaced. Unusual odors emanating from the vents when the AC is on suggest that the unit is



distributing mold or mildew throughout the home. The Florida-based heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical experts at Cool Today note that a moldy or mildew-like smell coming from the vents could indicate a host of issues, including a dirty evaporator coil, a clogged drain line or leaky air ducts. Each of these issues can be fixed, but homeowners must weigh the cost of fixing them versus the cost of replacing an aging unit.

Come the dog days of summer, homeowners want a reliable AC unit to cool their homes. Recognizing signs of a malfunctioning AC unit is a good first step toward ensuring homes remain cool, relaxing respites from the heat this summer.

## How to conserve energy while keeping the AC on

- **Reconsider the location of your thermostat.** The Performance Building Institute, Inc. notes that thermostats are sensitive to heat. Thermostats located near heat-generating appliances like lamps, televisions and computers may be fooled into thinking a home's interior is warmer than it actually is.

- **Emphasize maintenance of the AC unit.** Even the most energy-efficient AC unit will be forced to work harder, and consume extra energy, if it's not well-maintained.

- **Embrace natural ways to keep a home's interior cool.** Closing curtains on especially warm days keeps the sun out and makes it easier to maintain comfortable temperatures inside without lowering the temperature on the thermostat.

- **Address insulation issues.** Cracks around windows and doors affect the temperature inside the home, making it colder in winter and warmer in summertime. Seal cracks around doors and windows to keep the cool air in during the summer.

## Heroes

Continued from 10

everything we do is to bring the community together."

Amy Brim: A teacher at Rawlings Elementary School, Brim was honored for her role in overseeing the school's successful EarlyAct Club. A program affiliated with the Rotary Club, EarlyAct encourages students to become involved in projects that improve the community. Under Brim's leadership, the Rawlings EarlyAct Club has participated in beach clean-ups, created a "kindness café" stocked with snacks for the school's teachers and raised \$1,500 for the Ronald McDonald House.

"I always tell the kids the most important thing isn't your brain, but your heart," said Brim, who thanked Rotarian Dr. Wayne Gordon for his active involvement in leading the club. "That's my biggest mission: to make sure they know they're going to change the world through kindness."

Steve Harrison: A Ponte Vedra native, Harrison was recognized for his 15 years of service as parish administrator of Christ Episcopal Church, where he was instrumental in opening the church to 12-step programs and other community activities.

"Steve has been the behind-the-scenes face of the church, as people showed up

at the door asking for support," Cavey said in presenting the award. "But his impact on our community goes way beyond his church administrator role. His passion for supporting local people in need helps make the community he grew up in the place we all know and love."



Photo by Susan Griffin  
**Clare Berry accepts her award as one of the newest local heroes to be honored.**

Clare Berry: In presenting this honor, Crosby noted that this was the first time in the 30-year history of the Local Heroes Awards that the Rotary Club had honored one of its members. "We felt this was a unique situation that we wanted to recognize," he explained, noting that Berry was being recognized for two milestones: 25 years of service to the Beaches Emergency Assistance Mission (BEAM) and 40 years of service to THE PLAYERS Championship.

"In addition to these milestones, Clare is active in support of Wolfson Children's Hospital, the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, Beaches Museum and many more," Rotarian Ken Smith said. "Clare loves her community. She is a true friend to many and a true servant leader and champion of the community."

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# COVERING GROUND

## *Landscaping Issue*

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022 • PAGE 24

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# How to pick the right trees for your property

Trees benefit a landscape by serving both aesthetic and utilitarian functions. A home surrounded by healthy green trees can be a sight to behold, and those same trees can benefit surrounding plants and wildlife at the same time.

As appealing as trees are, not all trees and landscapes make for the perfect match. The Arbor Day Foundation notes the importance of planning when designing a landscape. Planning ensures the trees homeowners ultimately choose for their properties will grow well in the soil and moisture present in their yards.

Careful consideration of a handful of variables can help homeowners determine which trees will make the best fit for their properties.

• **Height:** Homeowners must consider the projected height of a tree before

planting it. Avoid trees that will bump into anything when fully grown, as that can adversely affect surrounding greenery and pose a safety hazard. The ADF's tree sizing guide can be accessed at <https://www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/size.cfm> and serves as an invaluable resource for homeowners who want to plant new trees around their properties.

• **Canopy spread:** Trees grow out as well as up, so it's important to consider their potential width at maturity as well. The ADF sizing guide can help homeowners get an idea of how wide a tree is likely to be at maturity. Trees that spread out quite a bit don't necessarily need to be avoided, but it's important that they're planted far enough apart so they don't adversely affect surrounding plants. In addition, wide trees that are planted too

close together can make the landscape appear crowded, taking something away from its aesthetic appeal.

• **Growth rate:** Growth rate is an important variable because it can affect how quickly homeowners will see changes in their landscapes. Homeowners who want to plant for privacy can consider trees with quick growth rates or purchase more mature trees that are already near full growth. Those who are not in need of instant transformation can try trees with slower growth rates, which the ADF notes typically live longer than fast-growing species.

• **Requirements:** Different trees require different amounts of sun and moisture and different soil components to thrive. Homeowners can have their soil tested to determine which trees will



thrive in it. Local garden centers can be a great resource for homeowners who want insight as to which trees will thrive in their local climates.

Trees serve many functions on a property. Choosing the right trees for a landscape requires careful consideration of a host of variables.





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## Budget-friendly ways to upgrade a landscape

An inviting, well-tended landscape can add significant curb appeal to a home. Such a landscape also can serve as a point of pride and welcome homeowners each evening as they arrive home from work.

Landscaping projects run the gamut from simple changes that can be accomplished on a weekend afternoon to more significant and costly undertakings that require the work of a professional. The following are some less costly ways to upgrade a landscape.

- **Add a pop of color with planters.** Awe-inspiring colors can make a landscape stand out from surrounding properties. Flowers, bushes and plants may be the first thing homeowners consider when trying to add color to their lawns, but planters can provide a more immediate way to give exterior grounds some color. Bold planters won't lose their color in a matter of weeks like many flowers do, and homeowners can switch planters so the colors align with the season. For example, some pastel planters can evoke the spirit of spring, while orange planters can be filled with mums to give a landscape an autumnal feel.

- **Plant perennials around the property.** Well-maintained perennials grow back each year, making them ideal for

homeowners who don't have the time or desire to map out new gardening arrangements each spring. Planting perennials also is a great way to add color around the property without breaking the bank.

- **Upgrade walkways.** Though it's more expensive than adding planters and planting perennials, upgrading old and cracked walkways is a great way to give a property a whole new look. According to the renovation experts at HomeAdvisor, homeowners typically pay between \$6 and \$12 per square foot for new concrete walkway installation.

- **Plant to create privacy.** Homeowners spent more time at home than ever before during the pandemic, and some might have grown tired of seeing what their neighbors are up to. Fencing might be the first solution homeowners consider when looking to make their landscapes more private. A natural solution is to plant trees around the perimeter. Speak with a local landscaping professional, who can survey the property to see which trees might thrive and provide the privacy homeowners want.

Creating an inviting landscape doesn't have to break the bank. Various small and relatively inexpensive projects can change the look and feel of a home's exterior.

## Swimming pool landscaping ideas

Backyard pools can make a backyard retreat that much more enjoyable. Landscaping offers the softness and beauty that adds a finishing touch to poolside retreats.

When selecting options for pool landscaping, there are some considerations to keep in mind:

- Choose plants that will provide privacy.
- Know which kind of climate a plant needs prior to purchasing it. Tropical plants may be fitting poolside, but will they endure when the season is over?
- Design according to the theme of the home, as plants should complement the existing style. Modern foliage may not blend well with a home styled after a traditional English cottage.
- Decide whether you can accept spreading or trailing plants that can

cascade over retaining walls and other infrastructure.

- Look at trees that won't drop too many leaves, flowers or fruit into the water.
- Don't overlook the possibility of a lawn abutting pavers or concrete surrounding a pool, as it can soften the edges and keep spaces open and inviting.
- Incorporate herbs or fragrant plants, which can transform a pool day into a spa experience. Consider low-maintenance lavender as an option.

Pool landscaping must marry a variety of different features and plant requirements. As a result, a professional consultation may be the route to take. Landscape architects will have the know-how to select plant varieties that will be tolerant, beautiful and fulfill homeowners' wishes.

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# Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022

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Photo courtesy of Pink Ribbon Jax

John Rutkowski of Underwood Jewelers presented a donation check of more than \$18k to Pink Ribbon Jax chair Marica Pendjer. The money was raised during a trunk show event in November 2021.

## Underwood event raises more than \$18k for Pink Ribbon Jax

By Anthony Richards

Underwood Jewelers donated \$18,300 to Pink Ribbon Jax during a recent check presentation.

The donation was raised as part of a three-day designer trunk show and cocktail party hosted by the jeweler in November 2021. The amount was a combined total raised between both of Underwood's locations in Ponte Vedra Beach and San Marco in Jacksonville.

During the event, 10% of the trunk show's proceeds went toward the donation, which will help Pink Ribbon Jax achieve its continued goal of making

access to mammograms more available for women in the area.

According to Pink Ribbon Jax chair Marica Pendjer, having community partners such as Underwood's is a huge help in both the promotion and implementation of the nonprofit's mission.

"Underwood Jewelers is a founding partner of Pink Ribbon Jax," Pendjer said. "I believe this is our 16th year of collaborating to impact and save lives through the patient services and cutting-edge research we fund."

Pink Ribbon Jax's goal for 2022 is to

**UNDERWOOD** continues on Page 27

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# Benchmarks of Success



## Tickell named senior VP, CFO at Baptist Health of Northeast Florida

Baptist Health of Northeast Florida has appointed Keith Tickell senior vice president and chief financial officer. Tickell joined Baptist Health in 2015 as senior vice president, strategic assets/real estate and has been serving as interim chief financial officer since January 2022.

His role is vital to shaping the strategies and environments for Baptist Health's future growth throughout the region. He not only leads all aspects of finance, including financial planning, reporting and tax and treasury functions, but also real estate, design and construc-

tion. Prior to joining Baptist Health, Tickell served as the CFO in four companies, including Flagler Development, a subsidiary of Florida East Coast Industries, where he was involved in the placement of debt structures totaling more than \$1 billion.

At The North Highland Co., which provides management and technology consulting services throughout the United States, Tickell had responsibilities including and beyond the CFO role, serving as vice president and chief administrative officer.

He also served as vice president and CFO for Sabal Corp., an owner, developer and manager of a mixed-use commercial development park in Tampa, and Nordic Refrigerated Services in Atlanta.

Tickell has a master's degree in business administration from Emory University in Atlanta and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of South Florida.



## North Florida Land Trust adds chief operating officer

North Florida Land Trust has hired Megan Porter for the newly created chief operating officer position.

The new role will help position the nonprofit land conservation organization for continued growth and the effective delivery of its conservation mission. Porter will report directly to the president and will work closely with all department directors including conser-

vation acquisitions, stewardship and philanthropic services.

Porter will be responsible for overseeing all operational and administrative functions, systems and processes, including human resources and information technology. She will be in charge of the strategic financial planning and monitoring of the organization to maximize effectiveness and organizational sustainability.

Before joining the nonprofit, Porter served as the associate director of operations for the University of North Florida.

Porter earned her master's degree in business administration from the University of North Florida and her bachelor's degree in accounting from Auburn University.

# Underwood

Continued from 26

pay for 1,650 mammograms for uninsured and underinsured women and men in Northeast Florida.

"Local grassroots collaborations are invaluable and essential," Pendjer said.

"Local partnerships help raise funds, build awareness and drive action. Our local partners live and work in the community we service. They see and know the results and people being helped firsthand."

Another important partnership Pink Ribbon Jax has is with Baptist Health and Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, which

are the two hospitals that provide free mammograms in conjunction with the Pink Ribbon Jax program.

According to Pendjer, the financial need exists because a mammogram costs \$300 on average but it is a valuable tool in detecting and helping prevent breast cancer.

"Underwood's support, both cash and

in-kind, will fund 85 mammograms for those who could not otherwise afford this vital screening," Pendjer said. "Each of our sponsors and donors are part of those successes. They witness our responsible stewardship of the resources, and they entrust to us."

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# In the Arts

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## Author to offer ideas for prospective writers

One fundamental choice prospective writers must make is what to write. That's not as simple as it sounds.

The old adage is: "Write what you read." But what if you read and enjoy various genres, i.e., science fiction, mystery, thrillers, romance, etc.? How

do you choose? Perhaps you want to write a family history, some tale only you can tell. Those interested in writing, are invited to join Janet Kuchler at the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11, and discover answers to these questions.

Writing as Janet Cooper, Kuchler is a multi-published author. Her two historicals, "Independence" and "Mooncussers," take place in the late 1700s in America. "Another Chance," her time-travel story, also takes place in this period of time. In addition, she's written three

mysteries: "River of Lies," "Retribution" and "Secret Deceptions." All are part of her Murder in The Lowcountry series.

The meeting will be held at the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

## St. Augustine Music Festival kicks off June 23

The St. Augustine Music Festival has announced its 2022 concert schedule and programs. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. Seating is free. Reservations are available now on Eventbrite.

This season, the festival features numerous well-known and unique pieces and musicians, including a vocal performance by soprano Emily Birsan.

The 2022 schedule and highlights are as

follows:

• **Virtuosity and Beauty:** June 23, featuring Borodin's String Quartet No. 2 and violist Jorge Pena

Jorge and his wife, Jin, founded the St. Augustine Music Festival 16 years ago. He has been a member of the Jacksonville Symphony since 1996 and general manager of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia since 2013.

• **Postcards from Austria:** June 24,

featuring Brahms' Piano Quintet and pianist Terrence Wilson

Acclaimed by the Baltimore Sun as "one of the biggest pianistic talents to have emerged in this country in the last 25 years," pianist Terrence Wilson has appeared as soloist with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Washington, D.C. (National Symphony), San Francisco, St. Louis and with the orchestras of Cleveland, Minnesota and Philadelphia and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

• **Dances and Spells:** June 25, featuring Liszt's Malediction for Piano and String Orchestra and pianist Audrey Vardenega

Praised as a "musically eloquent" (SF Classical Voice) player "with the kind of freedom, authority and strength ... that one expects from the world's finest pianists" and a "bewildering musical presence" (The Piedmont Post), American pianist Audrey Vardenega has performed as a solo and collaborative pianist across Europe, China and the United States.

• **Mozart and More:** June 30, featuring Mozart-Robert Stallman's Quintet in C, K521 (1787) For Flute, Violin, 2 Violas and Cello and violinist Nigel Armstrong

A graduate of the Colburn School and the Curtis Institute of Music, Nigel Armstrong is emerging as a dynamic and creative artist both within and beyond the realm of classical music. He has appeared as concertmaster with the Colburn Orchestra, The Curtis Symphony Orchestra and the New York String Orchestra in their annual Carnegie Hall performances.

• **Rare Musical Gems:** July 1, featuring the Guillaume Concession and Aurica Duca, violinist

Aurica Duca has been a member of the Jacksonville Symphony since 2006. She is currently principal second violinist. She has received many awards for her virtuosity including first prize in the Cronelia Bronzetti Violin Competition and the International Violin Competition of Brasov. Duca was the grand prize winner at the Paul Constantinescu International Competition in Romania.

• **Baroque to Romanticism:** July 2, featuring Songs of a Wayfarer and Emily Birsan, Soprano

The London Telegraph said of Birsan: "...she sang with radiant delicacy." The American soprano has shared her engaging skills with many of the world's finest opera houses and orchestras, including the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Welsh National Opera, the Edinburgh Festival and the Boston Lyric Opera.

The St. Augustine Music Festival is the largest, free, world-class music festival in the United States, performing to 6,000 concert guests over six evenings the last two weeks of June.

Musicians from the Jacksonville Symphony are joined by internationally-known guest artists who perform everything from Bach to Stravinsky, intimate solo recitals, chamber music ensembles, and full orchestral works, plus world-premiere presentations of new works.

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# Sports

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## Ponte Vedra man finished 4th in first Ironman

By Shaun Ryan

In August 2020, as Peyton Thompson traveled to North Carolina to begin his first fall semester at Duke University, he made what must have been a disappointing discovery.

He had spent his years at Ponte Vedra High School playing basketball and working out, but now he read that the university's gym facilities and basketball courts were temporarily closed due to the pandemic.

But Thompson was not someone who gave up easily.

"I wanted to find something that would keep me busy and give me an outlet for my competitive nature," he said. "So, I just decided to sign up for a Half Ironman on the car ride to school."

The Half Ironman: a grueling triathlon that begins with a 1.2-mile swim, continues with a 56-mile bicycle ride and concludes with a 13.1-mile run. The kind of competition that one considers carefully before committing to it.

Add to that the fact that Thompson had no real swimming, cycling or long-distance running experience.

"When I got to school, I had to teach myself how to swim and also, kind of how to run," he said.

He began training immediately.

"I started out completely self-taught," he said. "I was just doing a lot of research on my own, trying to understand different

types of training technique. As I got more serious in 2021, I consulted a coach to help me write a training plan."

Then, in May 2021, Thompson began racing. He competed in different kinds of running races and went on to three Half Ironman competitions. But soon, the time came for something bigger.

On May 7, he competed in the 2021 Ironman World Championship in St. George, Utah. At 19, he competed in the Under 24 age category.

A full Ironman Triathlon consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride and a 26.22-mile run. The event is so demanding that, according to Thompson, about 30% of those that started the race didn't finish.

The dry climate posed its own challenges. Competitors found themselves riding bicycles when the air was a chilly 50 degrees and running their marathon in 90-degree heat.

"In Ironman, it's very important to start slow and under control," Thompson said. "I had to take it easy and be patient throughout the race to save energy for that marathon, but those last three miles were probably the most difficult three miles I've ever run. My arms and hands started to go numb, but I just kept pushing, because I was so close."

In the end, he finished in fourth place.

"I was definitely really happy just to



Photo courtesy of Peyton Thompson

Peyton Thompson holds up his medal for winning fourth place at the 2021 Ironman World Championship in St. George, Utah.

IRONMAN continues on Page 30



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1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

**ACROSS**

- 1. Orator's podium
- 5. UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
- 8. Partner to 'oohs'
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Indigenous Thai person
- 15. Monetary unit of Angola
- 16. Becomes less intense
- 18. Insurance mascot
- 19. Tech hub \_\_\_ Alto
- 20. Actress Tomei
- 21. Airborne (abbr.)
- 22. Type of smart watch
- 23. Natives
- 26. Incompetent person
- 30. Rare Hawaiian geese
- 31. Unspoken relationships
- 32. Passports and licenses are two
- 33. Claw
- 34. Status quo
- 39. Mimic
- 42. Fur-lined cloak
- 44. Ancient foreigner
- 46. In an angry way
- 47. Ill-intentioned
- 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 50. S. American plant
- 51. One or the other
- 56. An alias for Thor
- 57. Gratuity
- 58. In a painful way
- 59. French commune
- 60. Promotional materials
- 61. Greek city
- 62. Assistant
- 63. Confederate general
- 64. Former NJ governor

- 4. Not for
- 5. Blur
- 6. Tots
- 7. Acted leisurely
- 8. About the Alps
- 9. Gets out of bed
- 10. Town in 'The Iliad'
- 11. Welsh given name
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Calvary sword
- 24. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
- 25. Keeps a house cozy
- 26. Ballplayer's accessory
- 27. Southwestern Russian city
- 28. Pro sports league
- 29. Congress investigative body (abbr.)
- 35. Stop standing

- 36. Utilize
- 37. Sign language
- 38. Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
- 40. Being of central importance
- 41. Ruin environment
- 42. Dessert dish
- 43. Sea eagles
- 44. Fertilized
- 45. Jerry's friend Benes
- 47. Indian river
- 48. Pass into a specified state or condition
- 49. Nocturnal rodent
- 52. A way to travel
- 53. Iron-containing compound
- 54. Ancient Greek City
- 55. NFL signal caller Matt

**SUDOKU**

5						1	9	
	7		5			8	2	
6		3		1				
	3	5				2		
2					3	7	8	
4			7		9			5
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		4			7			2

Level: Beginner

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

**DOWN**

- 1. Used by gymnasts
- 2. 'Luther' actor Idris
- 3. Broad volcanic crater

# County sports club names top athletes

The St. Johns County Sports Club recently named its 2022 top male and female athletes from each of the county's high schools. Sydney Gomes and Rheinhardt Harrison of Nease were honored, while Luke Pirris and Caroline Hughes represented Ponte Vedra.

Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Sports Club



Sydney Gomes



Rheinhardt Harrison



Luke Pirris and Caroline Hughes with Ponte Vedra athletic director Michael Harrison.

## Ironman

Continued from 29

cross that finish line, finishing my first Ironman" he said. "When I found out I was fourth, I was really stoked about that."

His success also qualified him for the 2022 Ironman World Championship, which will be held Oct. 6 and 8 in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. And even as laudable as fourth place is, Thompson won't be satisfied with that.

"I think I'm even more motivated now to keep on training to try to chase that number one spot," he said. "My eventual goal would be to win the Ironman World Champs for Under 24 and then also to win the Half Ironman World Champs for Under 24."



Photo courtesy of Peyton Thompson  
Peyton Thompson cycles along the desert route in St. George, Utah, during the 2021 Ironman World Championship.

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