

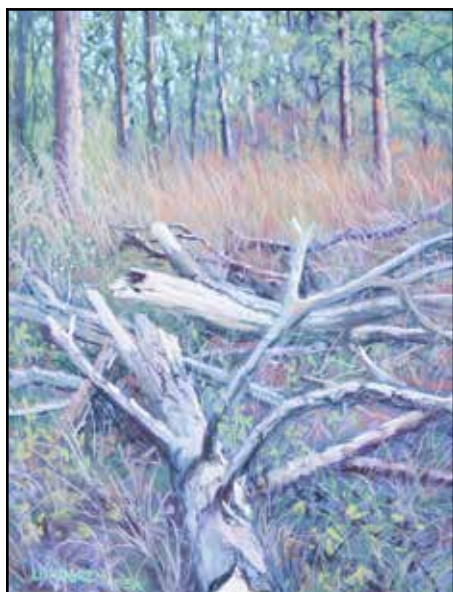
# Ponte Vedra Recorder

Ponte Vedra 

July 21, 2016  
Volume 46, No. 29  
75 cents

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## In the Arts:

Art exhibits, author visits  
and more

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## All About Pets:

Healing through pets

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## World Series champs:

9U Ponte Vedra Thunder  
take it all!

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## Baptized at the beach

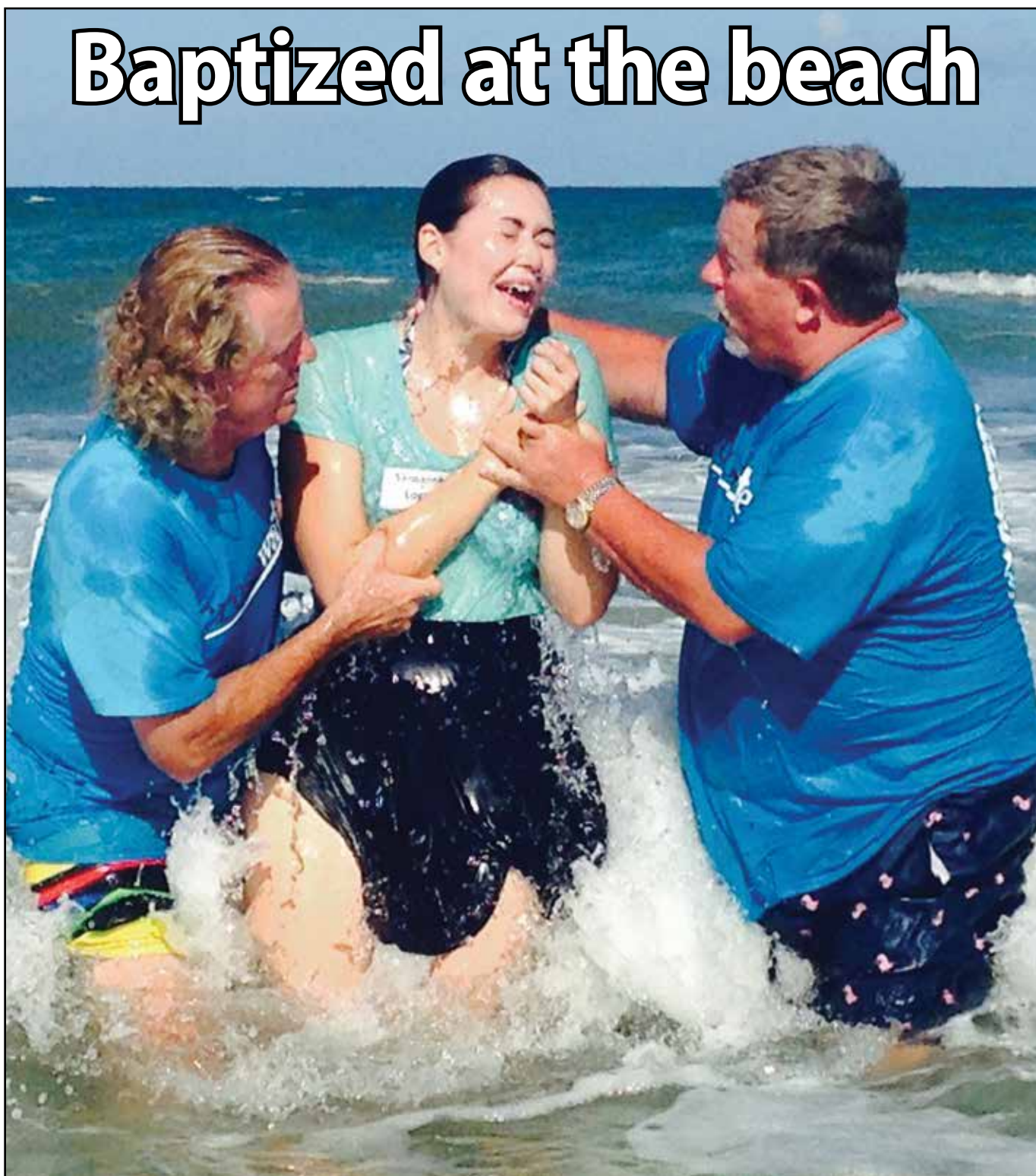


Photo by Jennifer Logue

Crosswater Community Church baptized 32 local residents at Mickler's Beach Saturday. Read more on page 33.

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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 [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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[www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	D	O	B	E	B	B	C	P	L	O	D			
M	E	T	R	O	E	M	U	D	U	E	T	O		
P	E	T	A	L	R	I	B	E	M	A	I	L		
S	M	O	K	I	N	G	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	
			E	T	A		B	Y	T	E				
H	A	D		H	I	D	E		E	T	H	I	C	S
A	L	E	E		A	I	L	S		E	A	S	E	L
T	I	L	L		D	E	A	L	T		I	S	L	E
H	E	T	U	P		T	B	A	R		L	U	T	E
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S	E	R	U	M		E	R	E		I	D	L	E	S
A	S	C	I			S	A	L		O	Y	E	R	S

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

## WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to [jennifer@opcfla.com](mailto:jennifer@opcfla.com) by Tuesday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Several readers correctly identified last week's photo as Great Expressions Dental Centers. Winner of the random drawing was **Thomas Bailey** – congratulations! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder offices during regular business hours.



Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.

## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

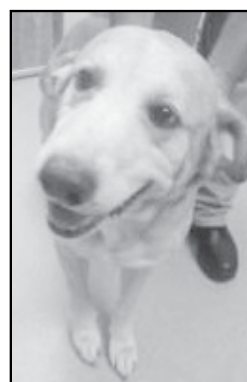
Hi there, my name is Shamrock the 4-year-old cat and I was brought to the pet center because my parents did not want to take care of me anymore. I am so good at snuggling – nobody can beat my kitty cat cuteness. I'm so awesome at playing with my toys and taking naps in the sunny spot on the sofa.



Come visit me today here at the pet center! #32459

### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi, my name is Mellow and I am a 7-year-old male lab who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. I am good with kids, cats and dogs from what my previous parents said, and I love going on walks.



Please come visit me here at the pet center. #33141

Any pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to a new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the pet center.

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Cat adoptions are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Rd., just off US 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. **For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**



**Susan Griffin**  
Publisher  
[susan@opcfla.com](mailto:susan@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3938

**Jennifer Logue**  
Managing Editor  
[jennifer@opcfla.com](mailto:jennifer@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3943

**Carrie Resch**  
Reporter/Sales Coordinator  
[carrie@opcfla.com](mailto:carrie@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3939

**Rob Conwell**  
Circulation Manager  
[rob@opcfla.com](mailto:rob@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3936

**Ed Johnson**  
Senior Account Executive  
[ed@opcfla.com](mailto:ed@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3940

**Kristin Flanagan**  
Account Executive  
(904) 285-8831

**April Snyder**  
Sales Assistant  
[april@opcfla.com](mailto:april@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3937

**Jasmine Marshall**  
Office Assistant/Reproter  
[jasmine@opcfla.com](mailto:jasmine@opcfla.com)  
(904) 686-3945

**Cary J. Howard**  
Ad Designer  
[cjohnson@theitem.com](mailto:cjohnson@theitem.com)

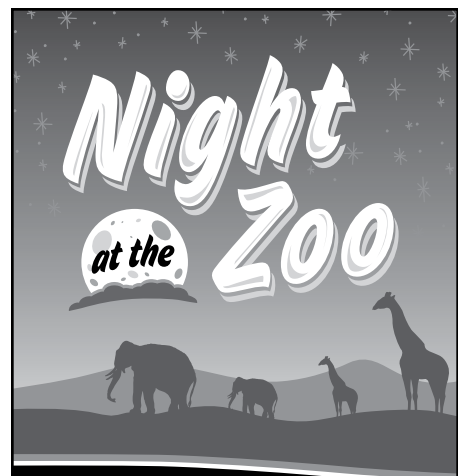
**Alex Burrows**  
Ad Designer  
[alex@theitem.com](mailto:alex@theitem.com)

**Ashley Stancil**  
Ad Designer  
[ashley@theitem.com](mailto:ashley@theitem.com)

**Jessica Stephens**  
**Rhonda Barrick**  
**Melanie Smith**  
**Stacey Neal**  
**Manon Barwick**  
Page Designers  
[pagedesign@theitem.com](mailto:pagedesign@theitem.com)

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# Citizens' group opposes plan for Vilano hotel, conference center

## Save Our Vilano says proposal incompatible with residential surroundings

By Jennifer Logue

A local citizens' group is opposing a proposed land use change that would allow a developer to build a major hotel and conference center on Coastal Highway (A1A) in Vilano Beach.

An overflow crowd of more than 200 residents streamed into a meeting room at the Seranata Beach Club July 13 to hear Save Our Vilano representatives describe the proposed project and detail their objections. It was a far cry from the 30 or so people organizers say they expected.

"We only had a week to get the word out and there weren't very many of us do-

ing it," Save Our Vilano member Bill Nesbitt said. "When 200-plus folks showed up we were flabbergasted – and very grateful that so many felt as we do about this incursion into our residential community."

According to the presentation – which was delivered by Nesbitt and the group's attorney, Jane West – the proposed Water-Marke Beachcomber project would construct a hotel and bed and breakfast with 130 rooms, 70 beach villa timeshares and 80,000 square feet of commercial space for a conference center, beach club, restaurants and office buildings on a 43-acre parcel of land at 3657 Coastal Highway, approxi-

mately 1.5 miles north of the Vilano Publix.

Constructing such a large commercial facility would require a future land use modification, changing the property's current Residential C designation to one that allows commercial development. Such a change, Save Our Vilano members say, would have far-reaching consequences.

"This would set a terrible precedent," Nesbitt told meeting attendees, noting that traffic estimates project the development would add 150 cars an hour during peak periods to A1A traffic. "If this is approved,

the land will be commercial now and forever, even if this plan falls through."

Residents also expressed concern that if developers secure the necessary land use modification and zoning approvals, they may decide to build some other type of commercial development allowed by that zoning designation – anything from a truck stop to a convenience store – or dispose of it altogether, without further approval required from the county.

"There is no obligation for the developer

**VILANO HOTEL** continues on Page 4



Local residents stream into Seranata Beach Club to learn more about a proposal to build a large hotel, conference center and commercial development on Coastal Highway in Vilano Beach.

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# Bruderly faces uphill challenge in 4th District

Lone Democrat in race hopes fourth time is a charm in his first Jacksonville-area election

By Richard Meyers  
For the Recorder

After returning from a June vacation that traced part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on the Columbia River, David Bruderly learned that Florida's 4th congressional district did not have a Democrat set to run in the primary election. With just days remaining until



Photo by Richard Meyers

David Bruderly

the filing deadline, Bruderly decided to embark on a path of his own.

"I noticed there was no Democrat running to represent me in Congress," said Bruderly, a 68-year-old resident of the Grove Park area off of Beach Boulevard. "I discovered to my horror that there was a write-in candidate who had qualified," he said, thereby creating a closed primary election in late August. "That struck me as absurd, totally un-American."

That led Bruderly to an early morning trip later that week to Tallahassee to open a campaign account with a bank. He then raced on foot to pay the \$10,440 filing fee with the state Division of Elections to meet the noon candidate filing deadline and ensure his name would appear on the general election ballot in November.

"At 15 minutes to noon, the bank handed me a check that I could write," he said. "Then I ran up and down a hill in 100-degree heat and high humidity, soaking wet, in a golf shirt luckily. With five minutes to spare I made the deadline."

As a three-time former congressional candidate – running unsuccessfully in 2002, 2004 and 2006 in the Gainesville area – Bruderly has no illusions that his campaign is anything but an uphill battle in a heavily populated Republican 4th district that includes well-known or well-financed GOP candidates including Bill McClure, Lake Ray, John Rutherford and Hans Tanzler III.

"After 2006, I figured three strikes and you're out," said Bruderly, an environmental engineer who until recently operated his own business for more than 25 years. "So I retired from active politics. I went back into my business cocoon, doing my thing with clean energy and alternative fuels."

With incumbent Republican Congressman Ander Crenshaw retiring after eight terms, Bruderly sees an opening for a Democrat to win the seat in the newly redrawn district, which covers the northern two-thirds of St. Johns County. "Just because it's a Republican-leaning district doesn't mean that it's a gimme," he said.

Bruderly moved to Jacksonville in 2009, but did not become politically

active again until last month. "I'm like a wildflower in the desert," he said. "You give me some water and I spring to life."

Bruderly's top issues are the election process itself, supporting the area's naval bases and clean energy, which he believes will result in a stronger economy. "The number one issue is that the election is rigged," the Navy veteran said. "I'm here to give you folks a choice."

Despite having not raised any campaign donations as of last week, Bruderly expects that to change quickly, with a fund-raising goal of \$200,000 by Sept. 1.

"My only job for the next six weeks is to raise money," he said. "And I hate it. I hate calling people up and begging for money, but that's what you've got to do."

With several Republican candidates already drawing in hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, Bruderly realizes he faces a difficult task in the general election.

"If you look at it from a money perspective, it's David versus Goliath," he said. Nonetheless, he remains optimistic. "Stay tuned," Bruderly said.

## VILANO HOTEL

Continued from 3

to stick around (once they get the approval)," Nesbitt warned. "The day they get approval, they can turn around, flip it and sell it to someone who may not abide by all the promises they made."

Calls to the St. Johns County Planning & Zoning Agency seeking comment and confirmation were not returned by press time.

Several Save Our Vilano members stressed that the group is not attempting to stop all development on the property, but simply to protect the residential character of their neighborhood. Such a large development situated at one of the narrowest

points on A1A, they contend, would cause significant environmental impacts to an area that has already seen extensive beach erosion.

"It's not that the group is against development," Steering Committee Member Margaret Rocker said. "We just believe that this final pristine land on a narrow barrier island needs to be preserved."

Attorney West agreed. "It is about stopping irresponsible development that is not compatible with the surrounding environment," she said.

### Business impact

Save Our Vilano members questioned why the county would want to make a major land use modification to create a private hotel/commercial development that

would be in direct competition with the nearby Vilano Town Center, the refurbishment of which was funded by taxpayer dollars.

"Some of the county people say we need more (commercial development)," Nesbitt said. "Well, for goodness sake, you're not using what you've got now! I think it's specious to say we need this for the good of the county."

West concurred. "(Vilano Town Center) is supposed to be your commercial hub," she said, "and it's not there yet. Why on earth would you take our taxpayer dollars and divert them towards the approval of a competing commercial project when we haven't finished a publicly funded commercial project? Why create that inherent competition and possibly create the failure of something we are already funding with our tax dollars?"

Save Our Vilano members encouraged those in attendance to contact county commissioners and members of the Planning and Zoning Agency board to voice their opposition to the land use change prior to the Aug. 4 PZA board meeting, at which



Map graphic courtesy of Save Our Vilano

Save Our Vilano members say a hotel, conference center and beach club proposed for Coastal Highway would have a negative impact on the area's residents, creating traffic and environmental woes.

the land use change is expected to be considered.

"You have a right to have a voice as to what the county's growth pattern looks like," West said. "(St. Johns County) is such an amazing gem: We have the best school system in the entire state of Florida and these pristine reserves. We want to balance that."

West also expressed her concern about the county making changes to its comprehensive plan to benefit a private developer.

"The county has invested considerable time in developing its comprehensive plan," she said, "and when you deviate from that plan at the request of a private developer, it's not always in the public interest."

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# Republicans gear up for election at Lincoln Reagan dinner

Hundreds of local GOP activists and candidates gathered last weekend for the St. Johns County Republican Party's annual Lincoln Reagan dinner. Held July 16 at the St. Augustine Gun Club, the dinner gave local residents the opportunity to meet candidates for local office and learn their positions on the issues.

Guest speakers at the event included U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, who is running for re-election in the 6th District; and Mat Staver, founder and chairman of the Liberty Counsel, Liberty Counsel Action and Freedom Federation. Staver spoke about the "transgender bathroom bill" and its effects on American society.



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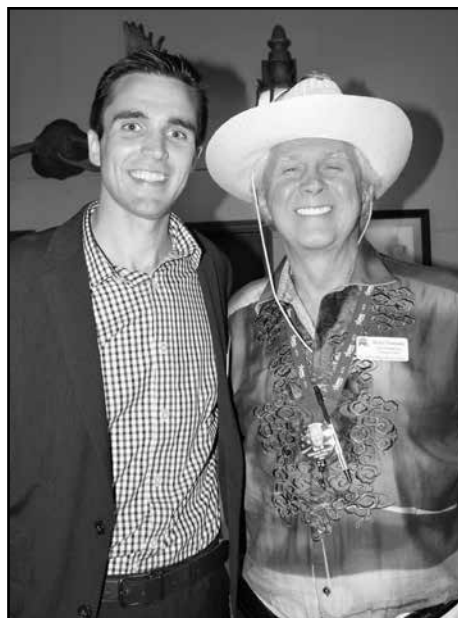
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Debbie and Hans Tanzler



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Photos by Susan Griffin.

Congressman Ron DeSantis

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St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections



*As assistant general manager of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, Don Cline works closely with the firm's brokers, coaching agents on the use of market tools and technology to increase exposure for the firm's clients. He also oversees training, support and recruitment while managing the firm's busy Beaches office. — By Jennifer Logue*

## Don Cline

### What is the current state of the local real estate market?

The current state of the market is very good. This is a terrific time to offer your home for sale. Inventory is down 15 percent over the same time last year, and pending and closed sales are up almost 5 percent. Of course, some areas better than others. For example, our Beaches office closed sales (units) are up 21 percent over the same time last year.

### Are buyers in a more favorable position or are sellers commanding top dollar?

Currently within our marketplace of Northeast Florida, market statistics show a preference for sellers. They are able to push their limits on pricing, but appreciation is not out of control as prices increased a little better than 6 percent this past year.

### What are the top features today's buyers are currently seeking in a home?

It's still location and affordability. Most buyers are focused on lifestyle. Does the house and surrounding area offer the lifestyle they are seeking? Walkability, convenience, family, schools, relaxation, sports, worship, shopping are also important.

### Is there a segment of the local market that's currently most active?

No segment of the population appears to be dominating the market currently. The statistics actually show the most activity in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range, indicating that move-up buyers represent the largest increases in sales over the past year, at better than 18 percent.

### Are you involved in any charitable or civic activities?

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has supported Dreams Come True for nearly three years, donating nearly \$100,000 to the nonprofit organization by contributing a portion of proceeds from every completed home sale. In 2015, our contributions were allocated to support Special Times with the Jacksonville Jaguars in conjunction with Dreams Come True. We truly appreciate the support we received from our valued customers and our passionate team to help make dreams come true for many deserving local children. Events like this remind the children and their families that they are special and loved.

Recently, our team came together



with nearly a thousand others in our community to celebrate and support a magical Dream Day unlike any other. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices came out in number to cheer on 50 special local children, also known as 50 Dreamers, as part of the Dreams

Come True of Jacksonville's Dream Day 2016. We were so honored to be a part of this incredible and unforgettable event! It was a thrilling and uplifting day for everyone who attended, especially the amazing Dreamers and their families.

### What hobbies or activities do you enjoy in your free time?

One of my most enjoyable activities is golf. Recently my parents have relocated from Virginia to Florida and reside about a mile away, giving us a chance to visit and help out.



# RCGSA hosts GOP congressional forum

Nine Republican candidates seeking election to U.S. Congress in Districts 4 and 6 had an opportunity to share their positions with the voters July 11, when the Republican Club of Greater St. Augustine hosted a candidate's forum at the group's monthly meeting.

Moderated by WFOY radio host Kerry McCarthy, the event attracted

all seven Republican candidates running to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw in District 4 and two of the three District 6 Republican contenders. U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, who is seeking re-election, was in Washington DC, but sent a statement to be shared with the standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 local residents.



Photo courtesy of RCGSA

Nine Republican candidates seeking election to the U.S. Congress from Florida districts 4 and 6 attended a forum hosted by the Republican Club of Greater St. Augustine. Back row: G. G. Galloway and Fred Costello (District 6); Hans Tanzler, Ed Malin and Lake Ray (District 4). Front row: Moderator Kerry McCarthy; and District 4 candidates Deborah Katz Pueschel, Bill McClure, John Rutherford and Stephen Kaufman. Photo by Mike Doyle.

## Recorder to sponsor 'Candidate Meet & Greet' July 27

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is joining with the Hilton Garden Inn and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a "Politics in St. Johns" event to offer citizens the opportunity to meet candidates running for a wide array of public offices.

To be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn, the "Candidate Meet & Greet" reception will enable attendees to speak one on one with candidates. Admission is free, but advance registration is required. To register online, visit [www.stjohnscountychamber.com](http://www.stjohnscountychamber.com) and click on "upcoming events."

### Politics in St. Johns

**Ponte Vedra**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2016

**Time:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn

45 PGA Tour Boulevard

Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082

**Cost:** Free (advance registration required); appetizers provided, cash bar

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Thursday, July 21	Friday, July 22	Saturday, July 23	Sunday, July 24
<p><b>County Commissioner Meet &amp; Greet</b> County Commissioner James K. Johns will host a Meet and Greet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 21 at the St. Johns County Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings. The meeting will provide county residents with the opportunity to meet Johns and offer feedback regarding county programs, initiatives and other topics. For additional information, call (904) 209-0301.</p> <p><b>Coffee on the Coast</b> The JAX Chamber Beaches Division Coffee on the Coast will be held Thursday, July 21 from 8 to 9 a.m. at VyStar Credit Union, 212 Ponte Vedra Park Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach. Continental breakfast will be served. The cost is \$5; advance online registration is requested. For more information or to register, visit <a href="http://www.myjaxchamber.com">www.myjaxchamber.com</a></p> <p><b>North Beaches' Art Walk</b> The North Beaches' Art Walk will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Atlantic and Neptune Beaches' Town Center. For more information, call First Street Gallery at (904) 241-6928 or Archway Framing and Gallery at (904) 249-2222 or visit <a href="http://www.nbaw.org">www.nbaw.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Grief support group</b> A grief support group meets on the third Thursday of every month in the library of the Family Life Center at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 578 First Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 21 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p><b>Concerts in the Plaza</b> The 2016 Concerts in the Plaza summer music series continues July 21 with a performance by The Falling Bones live at 7 p.m. at Plaza de la Constitución, 22 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine. The concerts continue every Thursday through Sept. 1. All concerts are free. For more information, call (904) 825-1004 during weekday office hours or visit <a href="http://www.concertsintheplaza.com">www.concertsintheplaza.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>First Coast Plein Air Painters exhibition</b> The First Coast Plein Air Painters will have its Summer Members' Exhibition and Sale from July 22 through Sept. 2 at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 50 Executive Way. The opening reception will be held Friday, July 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call (904) 304-9631 or visit <a href="http://www.ccpvb.org">www.ccpvb.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Nature Detectives: Monarch Butterflies</b> The Garden Club of St. Augustine will present Nature Detective: Monarch Butterflies Friday, July 22 at the Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd., St. Augustine. The Nature Detectives Workshop is designed for children ages 6-12. Each child that attends will receive a free milkweed plant and a book about butterflies. Seating is limited; registration is required. There will be two programs, one at 10 a.m. and a second at 11 a.m. Call the main library at (904) 827-6940 to register your child for the program.</p> <p><b>Community First Night Owl Cinema</b> Community First Credit Union and the St. Augustine Amphitheatre present Community First Night Owl Cinema, a free summer movie series of family-friendly films. On July 22, "Inside Out" will be shown. Gates open at 7 p.m.; the movie will begin around 8 p.m. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine. For more information, call the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office at (904) 209-0367 or visit <a href="http://www.staugamphitheatre.com">www.staugamphitheatre.com</a>.</p> <p><b>MOSH \$5 Fridays</b> Every Friday, come to MOSH to enjoy \$5 admission and extended hours. The museum will be open late each Friday until 8 p.m. Additional discounts or coupons are not permitted.</p> <p><b>Friday Wine Tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market &amp; Tasting Room's Friday Wine Tasting will be held Friday, July 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Coastal Wine Market, 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra. Guests will have the opportunity to taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p><b>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Days</b> Katz 4 Keeps adoption days will take place Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Katz 4 Keeps, 935B A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach (next to Sherwin Williams). For more information, call (904) 834-3223 or email <a href="http://katz4keeps.org">katz4keeps.org</a>.</p> <p><b>'Christmas in July'</b> The creators of the "Enchanted Christmas Village" will present "Christmas in July" Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Keeler Property, 17255 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville. The event will be a sneak preview of the Enchanted Christmas Village to be held on The Keeler Property Nov. 25-Dec. 31. Christmas in July event activities will include a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, a chance to visit the future site of the Christmas Craft Barn and balloon artists and face painters. All activities are free; food trucks will be on site selling food and beverages. For more information, call (904) 574-4040 or visit <a href="http://www.jacksonvillechristmas.com">www.jacksonvillechristmas.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Florida Craft Beer Sampling</b> Enjoy samples of Florida's craft beer selections Saturday, July 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Coastal Wine Market, 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra. Guests will have the opportunity to sample four craft beer selections for \$6. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p><b>Saturday Wine Tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market &amp; Tasting Room's Friday Wine Tasting will be held Saturday, July 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Coastal Wine Market, 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra. Guests will have the opportunity to taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p><b>FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting</b> Author Vic DiGenti will discuss the best way to write a memoir in his presentation "Life is Like a River," at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting Saturday, July 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association. All meetings are free and open to members and non-members alike. For more information on FWA, visit <a href="http://www.floridawriters.net">www.floridawriters.net</a>.</p>	<p><b>'Beauty and the Beast'</b> Alhambra Theatre &amp; Dining presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" live on stage through July 31. Alhambra Theatre &amp; Dining is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit <a href="http://www.alhambrajax.com">www.alhambrajax.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga</b> Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga is located in the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South Third St. For more info, call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p><b>Collection Tour</b> Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Travel Training Program</b> The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email <a href="mailto:KatieArnold@stjohnscoa.com">KatieArnold@stjohnscoa.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Habitat for Humanity volunteers</b> Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and Habitat helps build them a simple, decent place to live. For more information on volunteering, donating or qualifying for a Habitat home, visit <a href="http://habitatstjohns.org">habitatstjohns.org</a>.</p>

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Monday, July 25	Tuesday, July 26	Wednesday, July 27	Thursday, July 28
<p><b>Dance Alday dance lesson at PV library</b> Dance Alday will present a one-hour group Salsa/Latin dancing lesson for adults and teens ages 14 and up Monday, July 25 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. Registration is not required and classes are free of charge. For more information, call (904) 827-6950.</p> <p><b>Caregiver Support Group</b> The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Group</b> The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email <a href="mailto:life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com">life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Recovery Support</b> Free mental health support is available to the public facilitated by Georgia/Florida Certified Peer Specialist Whitney Bolin. Sessions are by appointment only Monday through Friday; call (770) 403-4991 or email <a href="mailto:whitneybat76@gmail.com">whitneybat76@gmail.com</a>. Bolin also facilitates a mental health recovery group at Flagler Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p> <p><b>Annual Activity Member</b> Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</p>	<p><b>311 and Matisyahu concert</b> 311 with special guest Matisyahu will perform Tuesday, July 26 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Gates open at 5 p.m.; show starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$44.50 and are available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, <a href="http://ticketmaster.com">ticketmaster.com</a> and all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. The amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting</b> The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email <a href="mailto:jwhart1208@gmail.com">jwhart1208@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Adult Card Games at PV Library</b> Come try your hand at some classic adult card games Tuesday, July 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p><b>Better Breathers Club</b> Baptist Beaches will offer a Better Breathers Club. The meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in the Baptist Beaches Pulmonary Rehab Education classroom in the Wilson Epstein Building in Jacksonville Beach. If you plan to attend, please email <a href="mailto:sara.holloway@bmcjax.com">sara.holloway@bmcjax.com</a> or call (904) 627-1461 to RSVP.</p> <p><b>Bookmobile: Nocatee Publix</b> Every Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., the Bookmobile can be found at the Publix at Nocatee Town Center, 120 Marketside Avenue, Ponte Vedra Beach. Check out books, movies, music and much more. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.sjcpls.org">www.sjcpls.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Tapas Tuesday</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on the Cummer Café patio, take in the sunset while listening to local musicians with beer, wine, or artfully-inspired tapas for sale. The Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Politics in St. Johns</b> Politics in St. Johns, one of St. Johns County's premier political events that offers citizens the opportunity to meet candidates running for a wide array of public offices, will be held July 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Ponte Vedra. This special event is open to St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members, guests and the general public. Admission is free but registration is required. Register online at <a href="http://www.stjohnscounty-chamber.com">www.stjohnscounty-chamber.com</a>.</p> <p><b>PV Professionals Networking Group</b> The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets the second, third and fourth Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. The first Wednesday of the month, the group hosts an after-work social mixer. Meeting locations vary; for more information, call Dave at (904) 248-9871 or visit <a href="http://www.pvpng.com">www.pvpng.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters</b> The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. The group meets Wednesdays at The Players Community Senior Center, located at 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. Contact Carmen J. Sardiñas at (904) 382-3303 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org for more information.</p> <p><b>Music by the Sea concert series</b> The Music by the Sea concert series takes place every Wednesday through Oct. 12, 2016 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the St. Augustine Beach Pier, 350 A1A Beach Blvd. On July 27, The Grapes of Roth will perform. The concerts are free; guests can purchase a dinner plate for \$10 from the sponsoring restaurant. Food is served at 6 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. For more information, call (904) 347-8007 or visit <a href="http://www.augustine.com/event/music-sea">www.augustine.com/event/music-sea</a>.</p>	<p><b>Adult Coloring Club</b> The Adult Coloring Club will meet Thursday, July 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. Have you heard about this new craze? Many adults are finding that coloring clubs for adults are a great way to reduce stress and meet new people. Create new art you can feel proud of while you de-stress and relax. Supplies will be provided, you just need to pick out your design and start coloring.</p> <p><b>Concerts in the Plaza</b> The 2016 Concerts in the Plaza summer music series continues July 28 with a performance by The Dunehoppers live at 7 p.m. at Plaza de la Constitución, 22 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine. The concerts continue every Thursday through Sept. 1. All concerts are free. For more information, call (904) 825-1004 during weekday office hours or visit <a href="http://www.concertsintheplaza.com">www.concertsintheplaza.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group</b> The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit <a href="http://www.at-pontevedra.com">www.at-pontevedra.com</a>.</p> <p><b>MOSH After Dark</b> MOSH After Dark: Darwin &amp; Dinosaurs will take place Thursday, July 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Museum of Science and History, 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville. Come learn about natural selection in the age of the dinosaurs, meet a paleontologist and tour the Darwin &amp; Dinosaurs exhibit. MOSH After Dark programs are for adults ages 18 and up. The cost is \$10; \$8 for MOSH members. Register online at <a href="http://www.themosh.org">www.themosh.org</a>. For more information, call (904) 396-6674.</p> <p><b>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to <a href="mailto:carrie@opcfla.com">carrie@opcfla.com</a>, post online at <a href="http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com">www.pontevedrarecorder.com</a> using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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## 'Wild Encounters' with reptiles highlight Nocatee Farmer's Market

Nocatee residents had an opportunity to get up close and personal with some scaly, slithering reptiles Saturday, when visitors from Gatorland stopped by the monthly farmer's market. A variety of interactive wildlife education programs and demonstrations had snakes,

lizards and other reptiles crawling all over guests at the market, which also featured dozens of vendors offering fresh produce, herbs, spices, unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more. Bounce houses, face painting and other kids' activities were also available.



Photo by Susan Griffin.

Justin from Gatorland displays a scaly friend at the Nocatee Farmer's Market.

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# Nocatee building boom

The building boom in Nocatee Town Center continues unabated, as a number of new businesses are both under construction and set to open soon.

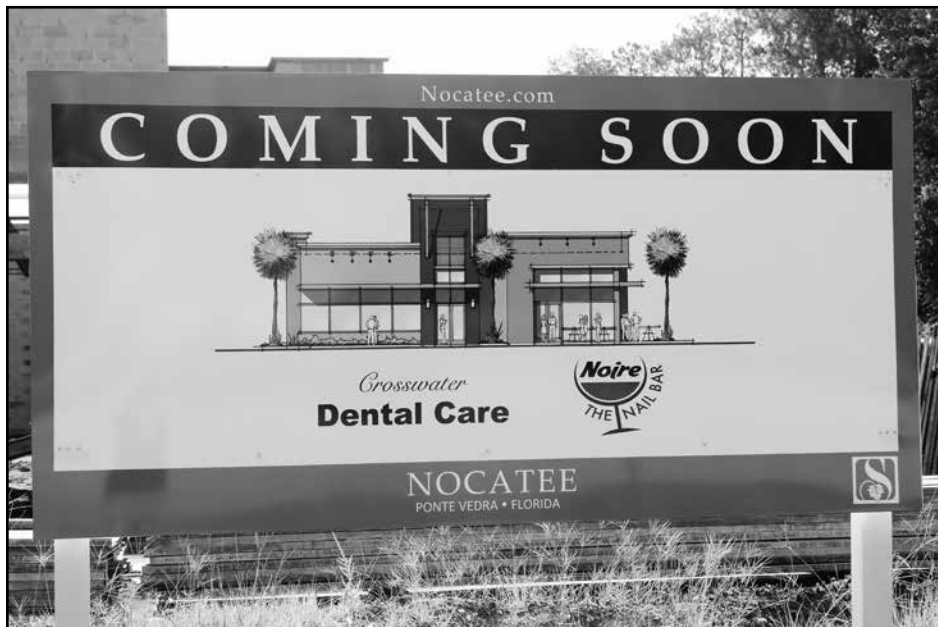
In addition to a Chase Bank now under construction in the heart of the master-planned community, a new building slated to house a dental practice and nail salon is also rising fast on Crosswater Boulevard. Noire the Nail Bar will combine manicures, pedicures, facials, body waxing and more with drinks from the salon's wine bar. Both the dental practice and Noire are slated

to open in early 2017, as are previously announced new businesses Starbucks and Tijuana Flats. The popular M Shack eatery, meanwhile, is expected to open next month.

The new buildings are just the latest in a flurry of construction and activity in Nocatee, which for the past several years has ranked as the third fastest-growing master-planned community in the nation. Recent businesses to join the Nocatee Town Center community include Coastal Wine Market & tasting room, Dunkin Donuts, Pieology and Grace Conservatory dance studio.



M Shack is expected to open next month.



The building rising along Crosswater Boulevard will be home to Crosswater Dental Care and Noire the Nail Bar.



Crosswater Dental Care under construction



Chase Bank

Photos by Susan Griffin.

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# St. Johns County District 1 Commissioner Meet and Greet

James K. Johns, St. Johns County District 1 commissioner and vice chair, will host a District 2 Meet and Greet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 21 at the St. Johns County Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings.

The meeting will provide all St. Johns County residents with the opportunity to meet Johns and provide feedback regarding county programs, initiatives,

facilities, and other topics. Residents of the County are cordially invited to attend and participate in the informal question-and-answer session and talk with Commissioner Johns about what's important to them, what they want preserved, and what they want to change in their community and county-wide.

For additional information, call (904) 209-0301.



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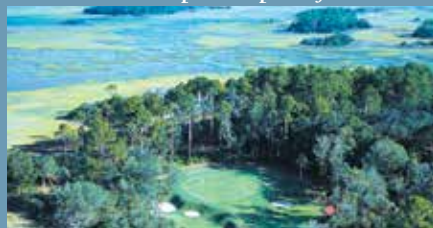
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# Ponte Vedra library to undergo entrance, foyer renovations

## Patrons asked to enter through side doors during construction

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is currently undergoing improvements to the entrance and foyer through a construction project expected to be completed by the end of August.

available during this time and the book drop will remain open at all times. During construction, however, the main entrance to the library will be temporarily relocated to the double green doors on the southeast end of the library building. Sey-

mour's Bookstore will be temporarily relocated to the Quiet Reading Room.

The library also will still act as an early voting site for the August primary election.

The library's renovation project

is fully funded by the Friends of Ponte Vedra Beach Library through donations and fundraisers. For more information, call (904) 827 6950 or visit [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org).

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## Holly Hill woman wins Beaches Art Fest Poster Contest

Carolyn Flynn of Holly Hill, Florida has been selected as the winner of the 2016 Beaches Art Fest Poster Contest.

Contest organizers said Flynn's entry, "Paradise," "captured the essence of the event and its coastal community."

"We had dozens of entries from all over the country," said Chris Hoffman, executive director of the Beaches Museum. "The expansion of the event from one to two days has widened the reach and interest from artists in and outside of our area."

Flynn's winning piece will be featured on Art Fest promotions and will be available for purchase at the event.

"As a lover of nature art, and the Florida lifestyle, I thought my colorful beach drawing would lend itself well to the theme of the festival," Flynn said.

The 3rd Annual Beaches Art Fest will be held Oct. 1-2, 2016 at the Pablo Historical Park in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, visit [www.TheBeachesArtFest.com](http://www.TheBeachesArtFest.com) or call (904) 241-5657.



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# Joseph Finder revisits 'old friend' Nick Heller in 'Guilty Minds'

## Best-selling author to hold book signing July 24 at The BookMark

By Jennifer Logue

Joseph Finder had already finished writing "Guilty Minds" – his newly published thriller about a scandal involving a Supreme Court justice and a prostitute – when Justice Antonin Scalia died and the Internet was soon awash in conspiracy theories about the jurist being murdered... by a prostitute.

It's not the first time life has imitated art for the best-selling author, who will be at The BookMark in Neptune Beach July 24 at 3 p.m. for a book signing with fellow author Steve Berry.

"That happened in a big way with my first novel, 'The Moscow Club,'" Finder said in a recent interview with The Recorder.

Published in February 1991, "The Moscow Club" recounted a fictional coup inside the Kremlin.

"I recall a reviewer saying the plot was far-fetched," Finder said. "And then in August 1991, there actually was a coup in the Kremlin."

Despite the parallels with the Scalia situation, the inspiration for "Guilty Minds" actually came from another high-profile scandal: the public fall from grace of New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who resigned amid a prostitution scandal.

"I read the story and kept thinking that while I believe he did what they said he did, there had to be some sort of a set-up – there was no way they would have discovered that without someone dropping a dime," Finder said.

He also began thinking about the role of the Internet in advancing scandals – including those that turn out to be false.

"I thought about the Duke lacrosse case, where these guys' lives were completely turned upside down by what turned out to be a completely fabricated charge of rape, and how once a story is out there, it's really hard to take back," he said. "So then I began thinking about scandals where someone's character was involved and I thought about a Supreme Court justice."

### Nick Heller returns

The resulting novel – Finder's 13th – brings back the character of Nick Heller, a "private spy" who has appeared in two

previous Finder books. Revisiting the character after a five-year hiatus was like getting reacquainted with an old friend, Finder said.

"It was such a pleasure – I slipped right into it," he said. "It's nice because you don't have to create that whole extended family of characters again. You know who they are."

Finder admitted, however, to rereading the previous two Heller novels just to make sure he got the details right. "I realized I'd forgotten so many of the details, and I knew if I got something wrong I'd get hundreds of emails from readers about it!"

Maintaining the character's continuity is important to Finder, who believes that series protagonists should remain true and consistent across multiple novels.

"Nick Heller does not evolve – the character is who the character is," Finder said. "We may learn more about him in each book, but he doesn't change from book to book. Nick isn't going to get married and have kids."

Nor does Finder have any immediate plans to sell the rights to his Nick Heller novels to Hollywood, as he has done with two previous stand-alone books, "Paranoia" and "High Crimes."

"I learned from friends of mine in the movie business that once you sell the rights to a series character, the studio owns every book that character appears in," he said, adding that a Hollywood producer may have a different take on a character than the author. "I don't want a competing Nick Heller out there, so I haven't sold the rights yet."

### Crafting a thriller

Once Finder comes up with an idea for a new novel, he spends a few weeks brainstorming and researching the topic. In addition to using the Internet, he often turns to sources such as homicide detectives to answer specific procedural questions.

"Eventually I get to a point where I



Photo by Norman Lang

Joseph Finder

know enough about the subject that I'm comfortable writing about it," he said. "And I always continue to do research while I'm writing."

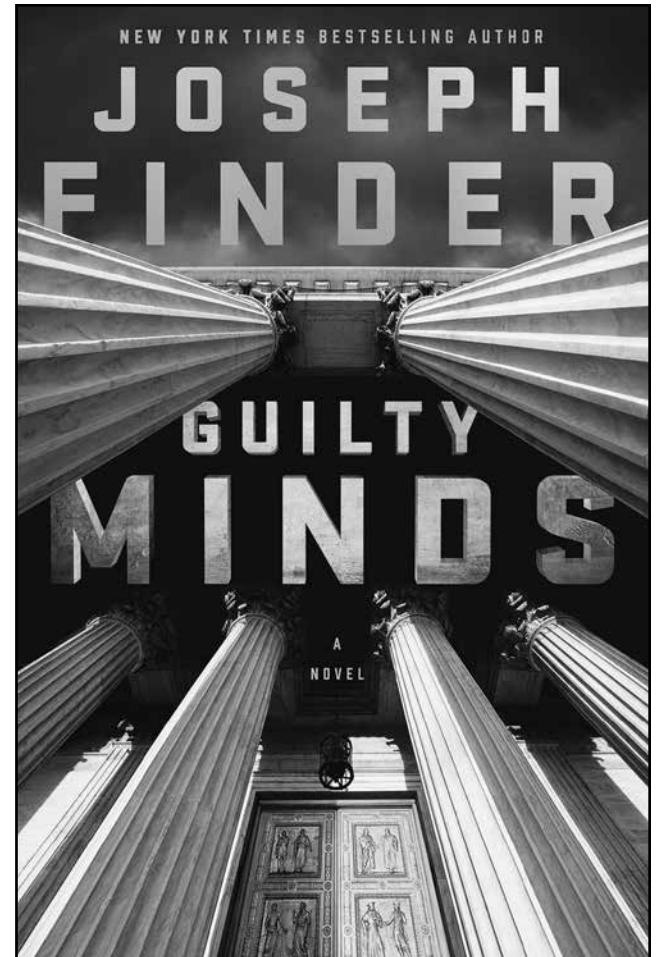
While some authors prefer to do a highly detailed outline prior to writing a book – and others prefer to just sit down and start typing away – Finder favors a middle-of-the-road approach.

"In thrillers, the plots are important and often complicated, and it's difficult to write them without an outline at all," he said. "But using an extensive outline is boring; you're no longer discovering things as you're writing."

Instead, he sketches out a broad, overall outline. "Then I leave it to myself to discover each day how that's going to play out."

Occasionally, Finder said, he gets ideas from readers who share them via social media.

"What I get most often is, 'This thing happened to me – you write the book and we'll split the profits!'" he said with a laugh. "But (social media) is both a blessing and a curse: it allows you to directly engage with readers – and there are read-



ers who really love to engage – but at the same time, you have to save your creative energies for the book."

One way that Finder connects with his readers is through live video chats on Facebook.

"I just sit there and talk to my readers, show them my workspace," he said. "That was completely unheard of even a few years ago."

He also enjoys meeting with readers at local book signings such as his upcoming visit to The BookMark.

"For me, it's a nice change because most of the time I'm sitting in my office by myself and only my editor and agent have read (my book)," said Finder, who's currently working on a new stand-alone novel set in Boston and Washington DC. "So it's very cool when you meet people who have read your books and have opinions about them."

# Hope at Hand to host art therapy group session

Hope at Hand will host an Expressive Arts Therapy Group session Wednesday, July 27.

To be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the session – the last of three to be hosted this month – will be facilitated by Connie Worthy, M.S., a registered mental health counseling intern and group facilitator. People of all ages

are welcome to the Hope at Hand office at 3886 Atlantic Boulevard in Jacksonville, where guests will participate in therapeutic art sessions that will provide them with a product combining art and poetry. The event is part of a series of sessions conducted to encourage positivity through creative experiences.

As part of programming at Hope at Hand made possible by a grant from the Florida Division of Monthly Affairs, ongoing events will be announced as future events are scheduled for later months at the Hope at Hand's Atlantic Boulevard location.

Founded in 2009 by Steffani Hendricks, Hope at Hand is a nonprofit

that provides poetry therapy and art sessions to at-risk youth. The foundation combines poetry therapy, wellness, educational best practices and art to help children and adolescents while encouraging the growth of confidence, independence, social connection and communication.



# Florida Heritage Book Festival returns to St. Augustine Sept. 15-17



More than 30 award-winning writers and literary enthusiasts will share their experiences and tips on the writing profession with

both veteran and emerging writers as part of the ninth annual Florida Heritage Book Festival.

To be held Thursday, Sept. 15 through Saturday, Sept. 17 at Flagler College in St. Augustine, the three-day event will include lectures on the writing craft, critique sessions and a free day-long book festival.

Highlights of the festival include:

## Thursday, Sept. 15

**Critique Session Workshop, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Participants will have the opportunity to share and receive feedback on their writing submissions from peers and this year's session leaders, who include fiction writer Sohrab Homi Fracis, recipient of the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature/Fiction and the Walter E. Dakin

Fellowship in Fiction; award-winning non-fiction specialist Eric Cravey; and poet Darlyn Finch Kuhn, whose work has appeared on NPR and in literary journals, newspapers and magazines. Registration is required at fhbookfest.com.

**"Stetson Kennedy Legacy: Man in the Mirror," 7 p.m.** This event will honor the centennial of the late Stetson Kennedy, American folklorist and human rights activist, with a performance by Young Minds Readers Theater of Jacksonville. The evening will also feature a conversation on Kennedy's impact between Dr. Peggy A. Bulger, retired executive director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress; and Dr. Ben Brotemarkle, executive director of the Florida Historical Society. Funded in part by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, the event is free and open to the public and will be held at Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

## Friday, Sept. 16

**Writers Workshops and Keynote Luncheon, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Registration is required at fhbookfest.com. Workshops include:

- "Creating Characters Who Stand the Test of Time" by Michael Morris
- "Finding Bigfoot and Developing Scenes" – tips on the research and writing process by Joe Gisondi
- "How to Let the Necessity of Plot Guide Your Writing" by John Dufresne
- "Bookstores & Beyond: Marketing in the Age of Amazon" by Brad and Darlyn Kuhn
- Luncheon Keynote Presentation: "My Fictional Floridians: Point of View and Narrative Shape" by Susanna Daniel
- "Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer" by Roy Peter Clark's
- "Crafting the Character Arc" – a practical guide to creating dynamic characters by Jennie Jarvis
- "From Self-Published Author to Number One National Best Seller: The Art and Craft of Writing a Mystery Novel" by Terrell Griffin
- "Our American Lives: Fact/Fiction/Film and Craft" by Cecilia Milanes
- "The Writing Life: Habits, Attitude, Luck and Poems" by Florida Poet Laureate Peter Meinke
- "Storybrain: What Recent Discoveries in Neuroscience Mean for Fiction Writers"

by John Henry Fleming

- "A Good Title is Not Hard to Find" – guidelines for creating effective titles by Robin Lippincott

**The Literary Legend Reception, 5 to 7 p.m.** Each year the Literary Legend Reception honors a distinguished author with ties to the Sunshine State. This year's honoree will be Elaine Lobl (E.L.) Konigsburg, the late American writer and illustrator of children's books. The posthumous award will be accepted by her son Paul Konigsburg. Registration is required.

## Saturday, Sept. 17

### Florida Heritage Book Festival Presentations, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Twenty-nine featured authors will offer free presentations showcasing Florida's rich and diverse literary culture, while three acclaimed writers will offer two hands-on youth sessions focused on poetry and the graphic novel (\$20 per youth). The Festival Marketplace will include more than 50 vendors, the St. Johns County Library Bookmobile, children's activities and more. All activities take place in and around Flagler College's Ringhaver Student Center, located at 50 Sevilla St., St. Augustine.

# Jacksonville Symphony introduces Corporate Conductor's Club



Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Symphony. Chinese concert pianist Lang Lang will make his local debut at the Jacksonville Symphony's Feb. 17 gala.

The Jacksonville Symphony is introducing a new program for the 2016-2017 season designed to help businesses increase their visibility and create unique experiences for clients, vendors and employees.

The Corporate Conductor's Club will allow businesses to reward employees, entertain clients/vendors or create an evening of camaraderie while attending a major cultural event.

"This is an exciting and entertaining way for the corporate community to participate in Jacksonville's cultural offerings," said Robert Massey, president and CEO of the Jacksonville Symphony. "We know that businesses are attracted to Northeast Florida because of our amazing quality of life. What better way to show that off to current and prospective employees and clients than a night out at the Symphony!"

The program offers two levels of mem-

bership: The \$3,000 Silver Membership will provide four tickets to each of four concerts, with access to the Davis Gallery; the \$5,000 Gold Membership will include four tickets to each of eight concerts with access to the Davis Gallery plus one valet parking pass for each of the eight concerts.

Corporate Conductor's Club members can choose any of the Florida Blue Masterworks Series or Fidelity National Financial Pops Presentations for their tickets. Members will enjoy complimentary

refreshments including beer and wine in the Davis Gallery during the intermission of the symphony presentations. In addition, all Corporate Conductor's Club members will receive recognition in "Encore," the magazine of the Jacksonville Symphony.

Both Silver and Gold Memberships may reserve a table at the Feb. 17 gala with concert pianist Lang Lang before tickets go on sale by adding \$5,000 to their membership. The event will serve as Lang Lang's Jacksonville debut, and tickets to the gala

are expected to sell out.

The Jacksonville Symphony will open its 2016-2017 season Sept. 30 with Rachmaninoff and The Rite of Spring. Twelve Masterworks and 12 Pops performances will be included in the season, which also marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall in April 2017.

For more information about joining the Corporate Conductor's Club, call (904) 354-5477 or email Corporate@jaxsymphony.org.

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# Photography exhibition to spotlight local nonprofits

The work and programs of nearly 30 local nonprofits will be spotlighted in a new photography exhibition.

Presented by United Way of St. Johns County and the St. Johns Cultural Council, the exhibit will showcase visually a range of nonprofit services, from disaster relief to the smiling faces of children at play. The exhibition is slated to run Aug. 2- Oct. 20 in the Rotunda Gallery in the St. Johns County Administration Building, located at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. The building is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cultural council will host a free, public opening reception for the exhibit Tuesday, Aug. 2 from 8 to 9 a.m. prior to the Board of County Commissioners' meeting.

"The face of our community is the common thread throughout this exhibit," United Way SJC Executive Director Melissa Nelson said. "We see our neighbors, our friends, our families and our co-workers, and we see how focusing on the building blocks that lead to a good quality of life – education, health and income – brings us together. Because we all gain when children are

successful in school, when families are financially stable and when people are healthy. This exhibit truly demonstrates that commitment in our community."



Photo courtesy of United Way of St. Johns County and the St. Johns Cultural Council will spotlight local nonprofit programs.

# Plein Air exhibition at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

More than 50 local artists will exhibit their works at the Plein Air member exhibition, to be held July 22 through Sep. 2 at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Presented by First Coast Plein Air Painters, the exhibition will feature works in oil, pastel, acrylic and watercolor that capture the beauty of Northeast Florida and the southeastern United States.

"Working in the true traditionalist style of plein air, which means 'in open air,' members of our group have worked to capture the unique beauty of the land and seascapes found in this area," First Coast Plein Air Painters President Randy Pitts said. "What you will see during our annual show and sale are examples of some of the best plein air works that truly showcase the natural beauty and character of our area."

The member exhibition is the biggest event of the year for the painters' group, which includes members from Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Southeastern Georgia. The group also offers monthly plein air painting opportunities, programs, demonstrations and workshops.

"We welcome anyone who is interested in painting outdoors to join us," Pitts said. "Anyone wanting more information can contact us at randypitts@comcast.net."

The show's opening reception will be



Photo courtesy of The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

Fallen Sentinel, Richard Lundgren

held Friday, July 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Scene Gallery at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 50 Executive Way. Scene Gallery hours are: Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. After hour appointments are available.

For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org).

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## Wine tasting raises \$6,000 for S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue

A wine tasting fundraiser held July 12 at Table 1 in Ponte Vedra Beach succeeded in raising more than \$6,000 for S.A.F.E. (Saving Pets from Euthanasia) Pet Rescue. Attendees enjoyed live music and a silent auction at the event, which also enabled guests to adopt pets.



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# Area healthcare facilities look to pets to comfort patients

By Jasmine Marshall

Animal enthusiasts have long been aware of the therapeutic benefits of a furry friend in times of distress – and now an increasing number of health care facilities are taking note.

With medical centers, hospice facilities and hospitals implementing pet visitation, pet therapy is quickly turning into a viable program for volunteers and patients alike.

At Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, a newly established volunteer visitation program was made possible by Grace Andersen, a long-time Baptist Health donor. Through the Baptist Health Foundation, the donation covers the cost of training, immunization and supplies needed for the participating animals. With a goal of 16 pets, the center believes in the power of the program and the relationship patients are able to form with the pets.

“The Pet Visitation Program is an integral part of the way we create an atmosphere that promotes healing and wellness in our hospital,” said Tracy McDougal, director of volunteer services for Baptist Jacksonville. “Enhancing the patient-visitor experience is our priority, and pet visitation minimizes stress and anxiety related to hospitalization for our patients.”

Baptist Jacksonville isn't the only local health care organization that's taken to pet therapy. At St. Augustine's Haven Hospice, patients also have found comfort through pet visitations.

Annie Harder began as a volunteer with Haven last year. It wasn't long after she started when she lost her mother to multiple myeloma and had to step away from volunteering. When she returned, she wasn't alone; Harder brought along her 12-year-old dog, Graham, because she believed he might help the patients benefit from being around him the same way she did.

“He's such a good dog, and he's so good around small children and the elderly,” Harder said. “I thought he would be a great segue for me to get back into volunteering.”

As a pet volunteer, Graham pads gently from room to room at the hospice center, offering his head for a pat or tentatively licking the hands of patients who are comfortable with him. He and Harder are now part of a newly formed team that also includes Sharell Holverson and her Cocker Spaniel, Jenifer Star, who act as a source of optimism to the hospice patients. Soon to be joined by three more pets and owners, the pups provide a sense of companion-

ship to the patients they visit.

Prior to joining the program, Graham and the other pup volunteers are evaluated to meet specific criteria through a process of interviews with the owners, training and behavior monitoring. Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Colee supervises each visit.

Haven Hospice St. Augustine Administrator Cathy Johnston said she's “thrilled” at the prospect of having pet volunteers help serve the hospice patients and families.

“Often times, our patients have had to give up their beloved pets as their illness progresses because it becomes too difficult to properly care their animals,” she said. “So getting a visit from a trained pet volunteer is very comforting.”

Graham and Harder have participated in four visits so far, which Harder says have been “wonderful” for everyone involved. Though it's only the beginning, she feels confident about the emotional benefits of pet visitation.

“They give unconditional love,” she said. “They're there for you no matter what and the patients seem to really enjoy having (Graham) because he seems to sense that they need a little extra love.”

As a volunteer, Harder feels it is



Photo courtesy of Haven Hospice. Annie Harder and her dog, Graham

necessary to give back and work actively to ensure that the people of her community are never without help – and Graham joins her in that mission.

“I'm proud we have the opportunity to be a part of this because the hospice is such a vital organization to the community,” she said. “It's not always about the end of life, but the quality of it – and this way, we can provide something helpful.”

## St. Augustine Humane Society launches 6th annual Pin Up Paws calendar photo contest

Is your pet ridiculously photogenic? If so, they may have a shot of being featured in the 2017 Pin Up Paws calendar, a fundraiser to support the St. Augustine Humane Society's mission of promoting healthy, lifelong pet ownership and reducing the rate of relinquishment to shelters.

This is the sixth year for the non-profit organization's calendar fundraiser. This year's theme, “Travel Tails,” will feature the winning pets and an imaginary destination while the dog or cat is fitted with accessories to match their unique personalities.

Owners wishing to participate in the

photo contest can visit [www.pinup-paws.com](http://www.pinup-paws.com) to register their pet and submit a photo; pet photos can be entered until Thursday, Aug. 18. Top photos and contest winners will be determined with public voting. Pet owners are encouraged to campaign for votes to win a spot in the Pin Up Paws calendar. The pet with the overall most votes will be the “cover pet,” and the 12 runners-up will each represent a month in the calendar. Voting ends Aug. 20.

A \$1 per vote donation will go directly to the St. Augustine Humane Society; the humane society has a goal to reach \$18,000 during the fundraiser. Donations are tax-deductible and may be made through a secure online payment. Businesses can also sponsor printing costs by purchasing advertising space in the calendar.

Winning pets will have a styling and photography session at Leonard's Studio with renowned local photographer Addison Fitzgerald. Local fine artist Maribel Angel will again be donating her creative graphics services to design

the calendar.

Approximately 1,500 full-size color calendars will be printed. The calendars will be available for \$10 each starting in November with purchase available online, by phone or at the Humane Society and area retail locations. All proceeds from submissions, votes, sponsorships, and sales will benefit the programs and services of the St. Augustine Humane Society, including the spay, neuter and surgery clinic which is open every Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The St. Augustine Humane Society Facebook page will post calendar and entry announcement and mini contests until the final week of the main contest, and gift certificates from the Columbia Restaurant in St. Augustine will be awarded periodically to pet owners who gain new votes.

For more information about the contest and sponsorships, call (904) 829-2737 or email [admin1@staughumane.org](mailto:admin1@staughumane.org). Visit the website at [www.pinuppaws.com](http://www.pinuppaws.com).

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# Local eatery brings conscious eating to Beaches community

By Jasmine Marshall

For Rosaria Anderson, the word “passion” is an understatement.

As a chef of more than 25 years, Anderson describes cooking with more than just passion; it’s with fervor and obligation that she describes the origins and motivation behind the ThisChick’s Kitchen.

“I don’t think people choose this career,” she said. “It comes to you.”

It’s clear as she directs her kitchen – an open space in clear view of the customer – and contemplates what new dishes she can add to her menu for the coming week that a careful amount of attention is paid to each decision. Meticulously labeled ingredient jars adorn the shelves separating the dining area, colorful saris doubling as curtains billow in open windows and the fragrance of freshly prepared stir-fry beckons several visitors Anderson knows by name.

The quaint eatery is big on food service at the crossroads of community and celebration. Formed six years ago as a web-only service geared toward helping lower-income families learn to buy, prepare and cook healthy food, Anderson used her expertise to help a group that mainly consisted of single parents. It was then that she saw how complicated it had become for families to create good, wholesome food on a budget.

“I realized as I was looking around, trying to help these families how difficult it was,” she said. “I knew that if I had that much difficulty finding and preparing things as a chef, it must’ve been ... unimaginably hard for them. I wanted to be become part of the solution.”

That solution has fed an increasingly communal mission to bring clean eating to the Beaches, combined with Anderson’s own desire to support her family using her beliefs. Now, Anderson and a small team operate ThisChick’s Kitchen: a restaurant, fully customized catering service, delivery service and occasional host space known for organic, vegan

dishes from a menu optimized on a weekly basis.

With a mission to bring “whole, local and seasonal” foods to the community, the ever-evolving menu features quiches, soups and salads in addition to less typical items such as nori rolls with tahini sauces. Each week’s meal plan is a surprise.

“What I make is based on what farm-fresh foods I can find,” Anderson said. “When I get the food on Saturday, it’s been in the ground that morning. I wash the ingredients, familiarize myself with the food and the menu comes to me on Sunday.”

## A history of food

Though it’s a style of preparation that keeps her on her toes, Anderson says it’s a labor of love – and she’s no stranger to the work it takes to sustain a restaurant run with as many ethically and organically sourced vegan ingredients as possible. She recalled scraping cannoli dough off of her father’s work bench as a child, managing kitchens from the age of 18 and committing to an honest definition of “farm to table” with the inception of her catering business. As the daughter of a former pastry chef turned seafood distributor, she’s familiarized herself with the preparation behind each dish.

“I want people to understand that I understand the work it takes to ... obtain clean food and clean behavior in a restaurant,” she said. “I know it takes waking up at the crack of dawn to bake pastries. I know what it’s like to hunt down fresh ingredients and I know that it’s worth it.”

Anderson’s experience has taken her across the nation. As a formally educated chef, she’s worked with renowned chefs in several cities and regions, among them Napa Valley, the French Quarter, Maine, Cape Cod and the Carolinas. After studying at Cornell University, she briefly pursued a career in social work that would eventually lead

her right back to the culinary field, over and over again.

Determined not to leave the field again, Anderson buckled down in her efforts to help the industry, where over-processed food and impersonal restaurant experiences had increasingly become a problem. Bringing her own Sicilian roots to the table, she now incorporates the stylings and flavors of her childhood with her business.

## Looking ahead

In the future, Anderson would like to expand on the seating space and offer more classes in addition to the ones currently offered at ThisChick’s kitchen. She’s also looking to eventually bring in additional staffing to accommodate more clients, expand on catering and introduce a new class and speaker series.

But for the time being, the chef is content keeping things small and encouraging a communal style eating by inviting members of the community to eat and socialize in the intimate, home-like space. And Anderson insists she and the ThisChick’s Kitchen team will continue to prioritize the greater interest of the community.

“To be successful, it’s not about the

check at the end,” she said. “It’s a labor of love serving your community and being thoughtful of conscious food, of the community and its resources.”

ThisChick’s Kitchen is located at 353 6th Avenue S in Jacksonville Beach and is open Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Photos by Jasmine Marshall  
Rosaria Anderson





### Arts and cultural display to highlight Armada match

Jacksonville Armada FC will pay tribute to Northeast Florida's arts community Saturday, July 23 with a special arts and cultural display prior to the team's 5 p.m. match against the Ottawa Fury.

The festivities will begin at 3 p.m. at the Arts and Culture Village outside the stadium off E. Duval Street, where Jacksonville muralist Nico Suave will be paint an 80-foot mural wall. Fans are invited to paint with Suave, while children will have their own crafts

area. The first 100 kids will be able to construct a Build and Grow chalk board planter.

The Museum of Science and History (MOSH) will be present, offering interactive activities. Food trucks will also be on site, and attendees will receive a limited edition scarf designed by local artist Varick Rosete upon entering the stadium.

Tickets start at \$11 and are available at [www.armadafc.com/tickets](http://www.armadafc.com/tickets) or by calling (844) 2ARMADA.

### Curatorial's Choice exhibition at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

The opening for the annual Curatorial's Choice exhibition will take place Friday, July 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Main Gallery at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 50 Executive Way.

The Cultural Center's curatorial committee has chosen five top artist members to feature, selected from the annual Celebrate Artist Member Exhibition. Artwork

from Marilyn Antram, Nancy Banks, Patricia Erickson, Elizabeth Quinn-Bolduc and Lynda Wainright can be viewed and purchased July 22 – Sept. 2.

Main Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org).



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## Letter to the editor

The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve is a wonderful place to be and deserves to be protected and maintained. I've volunteered at Guana a few times and once I did butterfly monitoring. You meet a lot of awesome people and get to monitor the butterfly populations.

However, throughout our monitoring session, we found countless large beer cans and bottles, as well as an injured blue heron that had fishing line wrapped around its legs. Needless to say, the group of people that was with me were very upset by the amount of trash we ended up throwing away for others.

Fishermen are allowed to go onto the reserve and fish all they want, but that does not allow them to litter to their hearts' content. Bottles and cans should be disposed of properly in the waste receptacles around the reserve. It's a reserve for a reason and we should want to keep it as clean and pristine as possible.

Angelina Tumminia  
140 Cabrillo Lane  
Ponte Vedra Beach

## Jimerson & Cobb named one of 50 fastest-growing companies in Northeast Florida

Jimerson & Cobb, P.A., has been named one of the 50 fastest-growing companies in Northeast Florida by the Jacksonville Business Journal. This is the firm's fourth consecutive year receiving this recognition.

The award winners were honored at a July 19 luncheon in Jacksonville.

Ennis, Pellum & Associates, a local accounting firm, was assigned to determine the rankings for the list based on each nominated company's percentage of annual growth over a

three-year period. To qualify for the list, the firm needed to meet several criteria. In addition to being a privately held and locally owned for-profit business, companies had to have headquarters in the seven-county area and have been in business since at least 2012. Companies also had to have total revenues of at least \$1 million in 2015, and have shown revenue gains in the previous two years.

The announcement came on the heels of another honor for the firm.

Last month, four partners at Jimerson & Cobb were acknowledged by Florida Super Lawyers magazine for their professional achievements, including Managing Partner Charles Jimerson.

"At Jimerson & Cobb, we are our own biggest competitor," Jimerson said. "Each day, we strive to be better than we were the day before, so it is truly rewarding for us to be acknowledged for all of our hard work and determination."

## Stratton Road Solid Waste Transfer Station closure

The St. Johns County Solid Waste Transfer Station at 250 Stratton Road N., St. Augustine will be closed July 23 through Sept. 17 for repairs and refurbishing. During the repair period, solid waste typically received at this facility – including household garbage, tires, pressure treated wood and commercial waste – will not be accepted. However, household hazardous waste will con-

tinue to be accepted during standard business hours.

During the Stratton Road Transfer Station closure, St. Johns County residential and commercial customers are welcome to deliver household garbage, tires, pressure treated wood and commercial waste to the Tillman Ridge Transfer Station, 3005 Allen Nease Road. The Tillman Ridge Transfer Sta-

tion is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Construction debris, demolition debris and yard waste are not accepted at either location. For more information, contact the St. Johns County Solid Waste Management Division at (904) 827-6980.

## Proposed FEMA floodplain map updates available for review

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s proposed floodplain maps are now available for review at <http://bit.ly/29t5Cwy>.

Based on the results of a recent floodplain study, the proposed updates may include some new flood zone designations, which can impact homeowner flood insurance policies and

rates. Residents and business owners are encouraged to review the proposed updates to determine the potential status of their property.

FEMA plans to conduct a public meeting in the near future for residents to learn about the new flood zone and the flood zone appeal process. For more information, please call (904) 827-6806.

## County seeks applicants for recreation board

St. Johns County is currently accepting applications for the Recreation Advisory Board.

Charged with providing new ideas and assisting in resolving community recreation concerns, the board meets at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine.

Applications are due Aug. 11; for more information or to receive an application, call (904) 209-0308 or visit [www.sjcf.us/boards](http://www.sjcf.us/boards). Applications may be emailed to [tfilloramo@sjcf.us](mailto:tfilloramo@sjcf.us) or mailed to: St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, Attn: Thomas Filloramo, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

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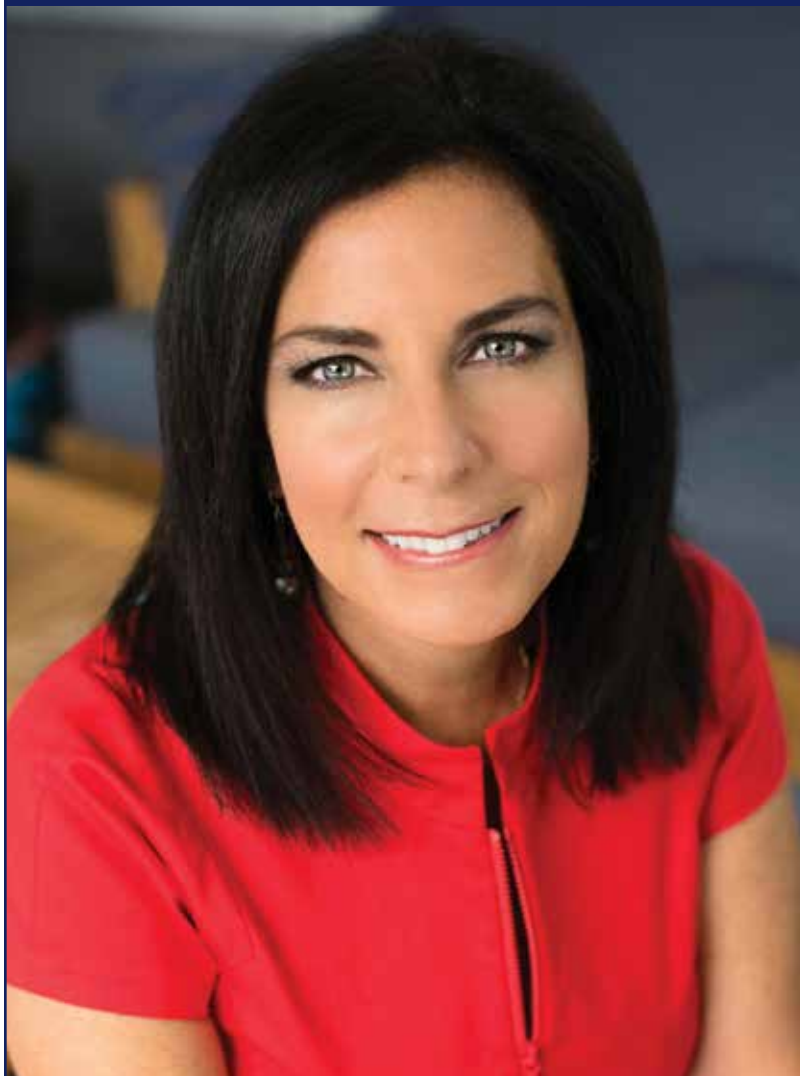
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# TPC Sawgrass upgrades key to club's future, general manager says

By Jennifer Logue

When it comes to planning for the future of TPC Sawgrass and its signature event, THE PLAYERS Championship, General Manager Bill Hughes says it all comes down to three little words.

Grow the game.

“(At TPC Sawgrass) we are all in charge of growing the game,” Hughes told attendees at the July 14 joint luncheon meeting of the St. Johns County and Jacksonville chambers of commerce. “Because if we don’t grow the game, we have no game.”

Achieving that goal, he said, requires an understanding that, unlike other golf clubs, TPC Sawgrass is all about showcasing THE PLAYERS Championship and serving an increasingly global audience that flocks to Ponte Vedra Beach each year for golf’s “fifth major.” He pointed to the opening of the \$32.5 million clubhouse in 2007 as a seminal moment in the elevation of TPC Sawgrass and even The PGA Tour as a whole.

“The clubhouse changed the whole complexion of what the tour is,” Hughes said. “To see what has happened since then – and it didn’t happen by luck. It’s the result of a strategic business plan, and (Executive Director) Matt Rapp and his team have executed that plan on every pillar.”

## Multimillion-dollar upgrades

Now, Hughes and his staff are preparing for the next phase in TPC Sawgrass’s evolution as the golf course undergoes a \$50 million renovation. Hughes outlined for chamber members a number of the major upgrades happening this summer, including re-grassing all the greens with new varieties of grass, enlarging eight greens and lengthening two holes. The 12th hole is also being completely redesigned – an idea that at first gave Hughes pause.

“When I heard that, I said, ‘Pete Dye’s 90 years old – you don’t want to kill him!’” Hughes quipped.

Much to his surprise, however, Dye was happy to tackle the project, which Hughes predicts may ultimately rival the popularity of the course’s 17th and 18th greens.

“We’re going to create this hub of fun in the middle of the back nine,” he said.

Other improvements now underway include ripping up the driving range and making it bigger and building a new golf course maintenance facility. The first change that most visitors will likely see, however, is what Hughes called the “arrival sequence.” While keeping most of the specific under wraps – other than to note a new roadway is being constructed to the clubhouse – Hughes promised that PLAYERS Championship fans would not be disappointed.

“We are creating an entry sequence that will be unrivaled in the game of golf,” he said.

## A global audience

Such improvements are critical, Hughes said, as both THE PLAYERS Championship and the PGA Tour win new fans around the globe. He noted that PGA



Dave Danzeisen, Lin Jones, Bill Hughes and Amanda Patch



Frances King and Marie Watson



Melinda Demsey, Kelley Moore and Tina Robbins



Lynn Thompson, Jackie Smith and Ellice Mae Sanchez



Sandra Goode and Gloria Dongara



Sam Ruiz and Dr. Dan Vosgerichian

Photos by Susan Griffin.

Tour tournaments are now televised in more than 400 countries.

“The last PLAYERS had 1 billion viewers,” Hughes said. “Ten years ago, that (size audience) was Olympics-level viewing.”

He was quick to point out, however, that televising the tour was about more than just capturing tournament play.

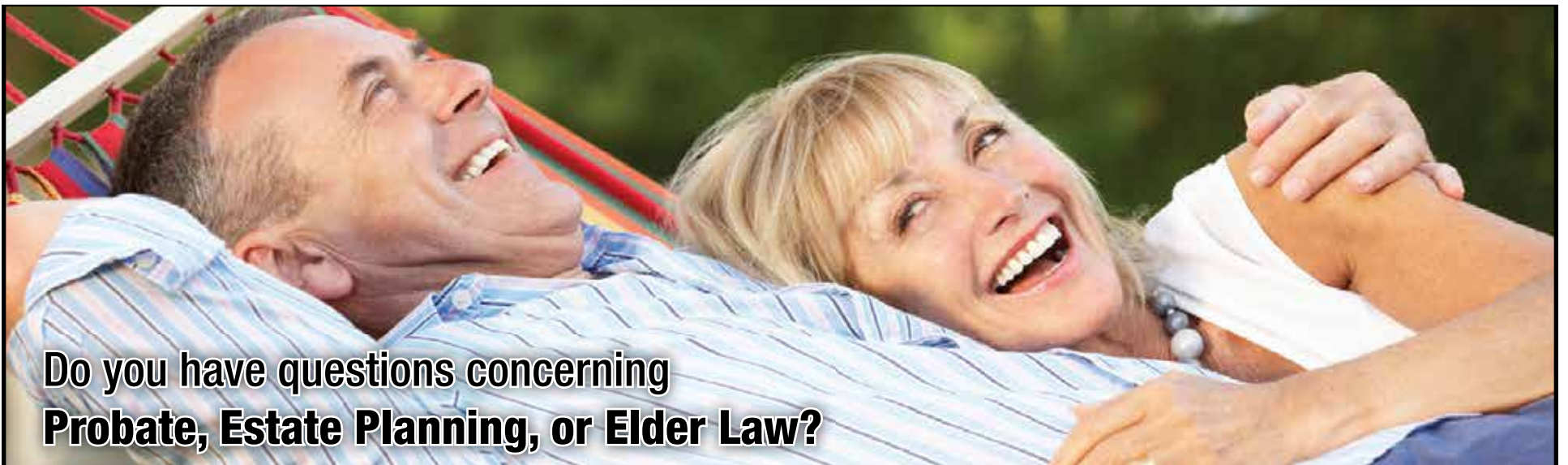
“We’re not really broadcasting competitions,” he said. “We’re broadcasting this thing called golf – the life lessons: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship....”

“You show me a kid who grew up on the golf course,” he continued, “and I’ll show you a good kid who’s going to amount to something.”

In addition, the PGA Tour’s significant charitable contributions and economic impact have the potential to transform lives far beyond the confines of a golf course, Hughes said.

In St. Johns County alone, he predicted, the economic impact of THE PLAYERS Championship Week will soon surpass \$200 million.

“This place is being put on the map in a really big way,” he said. “That’s the best advertising you’ll ever see for this community.”



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CAROLYN S. ZISSER limits her practice to family law, providing solutions to the most complex family law problems and focuses exclusively on matters involving divorce, child custody, military family issues, modification of judgments and division of retirement plans and other assets. Carolyn has the distinction of having started the very first woman-owned family law firm in North Florida and has been representing family law clients for more than 35 years. She continues to receive numerous accolades -- including an AV rating with Martindale-Hubbell, an AVVO rating of 10 (out of 10), inclusion in Super Lawyers and an appointment as Master of the Jacksonville Family Law Inn of Court. Carolyn offers her clients an unequalled commitment to obtaining the best results possible and has been certified in Collaborative Law to enable her to offer her clients an alternative to the traditional approach to divorce. The firm works with a network of professionals, including forensic accountants, business valuation experts, occupational evaluation experts, Certified Divorce Planners and other consultants, as needed. On the personal side, Carolyn is an avid runner, cyclist and patron of the arts. Her community contributions include the formation of Friends of the Jacksonville Symphony, active involvement with the North Florida Chamber Music Project, serving as a board member for the Jacksonville Beaches Chamber of Commerce as well as a Trustee of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, and being a board member of the Jacksonville Women's Network. Zealous about her family and passionate about her grandchildren, she is equally dedicated to providing the finest representation to every client.

To learn more about her firm, please visit [www.zisserfamilylaw.com](http://www.zisserfamilylaw.com) or contact them at 904-249-8787



# Trails Symposium a think tank for ideas for SJC greenway system

By Carrie Resch

Identifying what priorities local recreational groups would like to see in the St. Johns County trail system, forming a trails advocacy group, and getting feedback from these groups and the general public was the focus of a symposium that took place July 13 at Pedro Menendez High School.

Hosted by St. Johns County in conjunction with the St. Johns County Trails Coalition, the symposium was the first in what will be a series of such sessions to discuss both greenways and blueways – public access to the waterways for activities such as boating, canoeing or kayaking – with a goal of updating the St. Johns County Greenway, Blueway and Trails Master Plan, according to St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Director Wil Smith.

The plan to hold public symposia stemmed from a recent survey in which a staggering 83 percent of the people who responded said that their number one priority for recreation over the next five to 15 years were trails in this county.

“Whether it’s connecting public land to public land, residential to public land, residential to commercial, people wanted to see trails,” Smith said.

Trails not only create recreational activity opportunities, he noted, but also offer an alternate transportation corridor. They can also have a positive economic impact: Smith pointed to bicycle tourism as an example, which he said can garner a huge economic impact when people come to the county to ride bikes, spending millions of dollars that will go back into the local economy.

Smith said the county has already been approached by Bike Florida – a nonprofit bike tourism organization – that would like to bring its event to the fairgrounds next year, creating an opportunity to highlight the trail system in St. Johns County.

“We’ll see people from all over Florida as well as the southeast United States come to St. Johns County and we’ll be able to showcase our trails,” Smith said.

## Symposium panel

The symposium panel was comprised of six representatives from varying user-interest groups: Deb Chapin from the Ponte Vedra Greenway Alliance; Herb Hiller of the East Coast Greenway Alliance; Mary Farr from the St. Johns County Horse Council; Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association Jacksonville representative Todd Cejka; St. Johns County Audubon Society President Jean Rolke; and Heather Neville from the Velo Fest Community Initiative, a nonprofit, St. Augustine-based group focused on cycling safety and education. Representatives presented their priorities for a greenway trails system in turn.

Afterwards, attendees broke off into groups to brainstorm and list their priorities coming from the standpoint of a number of represented recreational

groups: bicycle, equestrian, hikers and environmental advocates. The groups then presented their top priorities.

The St. Johns County Horse Council’s Farr approached Smith prior to the symposium to ask what they could do to get more equestrian trails in St. Johns County.

Farr touched on what she sees as the six main obstacles to forming a greenway trail system: finances, land acquisition, labor, maintenance, sharing trails and legal and liability.

Her group outlined its objectives, with their number one priority being equestrian trails. The group would also, however, like to see wildlife corridors, land bridges, safe passages in high traffic areas, and proper trail heads.

“... St. Johns County Parks and Recreation staff are creative and work on the cutting edge of the greenways and trails movements,” Farr said. “They are working for our goals, but to get our trails done, county staff needs the sanction and support of the citizens. Let’s work together and get these trails done.”

Audubon Society President Jean Rolke said her group supports the greenway trails initiative because of their concern over climate change and rising sea levels that impacts bird nesting grounds. Non-motorized trails, Rolke said, will lower the carbon footprint brought on by vehicular traffic.

“It will lower it by some,” she said, “not much, but every little bit helps.”

Rolke also highlighted trash management at access points and pet management regarding leash laws for dogs as some of her organization’s concerns for the greenway trails.

Heather Neville of the Velo Fest Community Initiative identified her group’s priorities as interconnectivity of trails, economic centers connectivity and multimodal trails. Neville touched on the timeline of getting a trails system project moving and acknowledged that this will be a long process, but it will be worth it, she said.

As for off-road cyclists, Todd Cejka of SOBA-JAX, said the user group he is representing would like to see an unpaved

**TRAILS SYMPOSIUM** continues on Page 29



Melanie Cain-Stage from HAWKE (Humane Association of Wildlife Kare & Education, Inc.) releases a rehabbed Barred Owl after the symposium. Photos by Carrie Resch



Herb Hiller of the East Coast Greenway Alliance speaks to the symposium audience. More than 120 people turned out for the meeting.



# Beach House Assisted Living hosts 'Meet & Greet'



Photo by Ed Johnson.

Meet the new team: Beach House Assisted Living and Memory Care in Jacksonville Beach held a "Meet and Greet" reception July 13 to introduce its new management team. From left: House Service Director Diane Strella, Executive Director Charles James, Plan Operations Director Daniel Fricke, Community Relations Counselor Kimberly Crawford-Stokes, Culinary Director Tracy Woodburn and Community Relations Counselor Lily Sanchez.

## Trails Symposium

Continued from 28

greenway for its recreation purposes. He stressed, however, the need to keep bike trails and horse trails separate. One of the

solutions he suggested for the separation would be double-track trails where single-track trails would remain primarily for biking use.

He would also like to see proper signage and maps for the trail system and interconnectivity of the greenways and trails with multiple trailheads.

One thing that all groups could agree on is the fact that the trails need to be multi-use and the people who will utilize the trails, regardless of their chosen recreational activity,

need to co-exist.

### Next steps

The information acquired through the symposia will be used to set goals and agendas. Participating groups were asked to look at maps of publically owned county land, a map of the St. Johns County Greenway, Blueway and Trails Master Plan, and development map to see how things can be tied together from a user groups' perspective.

Their feedback will be helpful to county staff, Smith said, because when projects are identified, they can also identify grants, saving the county money.


St. Johns County, in conjunction with the St. Johns County Trails Coalition, plans to have quarterly blueways and greenways meetings. The next greenway trails symposium is tentatively scheduled for the fall in Nocatee.




Six panel speakers from varying recreational interest groups were invited to speak at the event. The panel was comprised of representatives from PV Greenway Alliance, East Coast Greenway Alliance, St. Johns County Horse Council, SORBA-JAX, St. Johns County Audubon Society, and Velo Fest Community Initiative.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Charith Perera**, 58, of Jacksonville, FL, passed away on July 8, 2016. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravalle.com](http://www.pontevedravalle.com)



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**IN REMEMBRANCE**



**M'GRATH**

**Gloria Marlene (Pattee) McGrath** of Neptune Beach passed away peacefully in her sleep and went to be with the Lord on Monday, July 11, 2016. Gloria was a selfless, loving wife and friend to all who knew her.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, Kendall and Mary Pattee and brother, Clayton Pattee. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, CDR J. Michael McGrath, USN (Ret); sister, Cheryl Pattee Meyer (Robert); step-daughter, Tina Antee (Terry); niece and nephews, Stacy Gunter, Larry Robinson and Michael Pattee; plus many devoted friends.

Gloria graduated from Lisbon Falls High School, Lisbon Falls, Maine in 1953 and from Saint Mary's Nursing School, Lewiston, Maine in 1956. Gloria and Mike met and were married in St. Petersburg, Florida on June 16, 1960. She was always the dutiful Navy wife, traveling and assisting her husband throughout his 31-year career. She was a longtime member of St. Paul's Catholic Church. She was a Life Member of the Navy League of the United States and served as the First Lady 2007-2009.

Memorial Services were held July 18, 2016 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Jacksonville Beach. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Gloria's name to St. Vincent de Paul Society, 224 N. 5th St., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 or Navy League of the United States Foundation, 2300 Wilson Blvd. #200, Arlington, VA 22201. Please visit the online tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.



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## 'Dancing Hammers' at the Lightner Museum

On Aug. 11, Robert Burns and Victoria Van Arnam will combine their passions for hammered dulcimers, eclectic music and education into a dynamic concert experience.

The concert is from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the historic pool of the Lightner Museum and is free and open to the public.

Additionally, the America's Parks exhibition of paintings celebrating the centennial of the National Parks system will be open for the public to view following the performance.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited and provided on a first come, first served basis. Access into the performance is available through the Café Alcazar entrance located off Granada Street.

This event is sponsored by the Lightner Museum and Dancing Hammers. Donations are appreciated and will be accepted after the performance. CDs will be available to purchase after the concert.

The Lightner Museum is a nonprofit cultural institution sustained by the generous support of individuals, businesses and sponsors.

For more information, call (904) 824-2874 or visit [lightnermuseum.org/dancing-hammers](http://lightnermuseum.org/dancing-hammers).



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# Christmas in July supports annual Deck the Chairs celebration

By Jasmine Marshall

Gallery 725 played host to the opening reception July 15 for the inaugural Deck the Chairs “Christmas” in July event benefiting the popular annual Jacksonville Beach light sculpture show. The art sale and auction showcased original works by 20 local artists and photographers and featured a collection of goods arranged by Sidney Cardel’s.

The event helped raise money for Deck the Chairs’ fourth year, which this year will be held from Nov. 25 to Jan. 1, 2017. The nonprofit brings public art to the plaza and pavilion areas of downtown Jacksonville Beach each holiday season during the show, which supports the Volunteer Life Saving Corps of Jacksonville Beach.

Deck the Chairs Executive Director Kurtis Loftus thanked the evening’s guests for their show of support.

“I’m always amazed and filled with gratitude to live in the Jacksonville Beach community,” he said. “I’m excited that we’re able to come together. The money that we raise ultimately goes to the critical elements of keeping (the Corps) functional.”

Loftus later announced plans for the inaugural Deck the Chairs digital light show, featuring four 10-minute digital light displays synchronized with music, which he said organizers expect to double the amount of visitors at Jacksonville Beach. The light show’s theme will be “Shine, Hope and Peace,” and will take place every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the SeaWalk Pavilion from Dec. 3 to Jan. 1.

Deck the Chairs has set a fundraising goal of \$120,000 with a total of \$40,000 raised to date. To learn how to support Deck the Chairs, email [info@deckthechairs.org](mailto:info@deckthechairs.org) or visit [www.deckthechairs.org](http://www.deckthechairs.org).



Geoff Disston, Kathie and Neal McGuinness and Chris Hoffman, Beaches Museum and History executive director

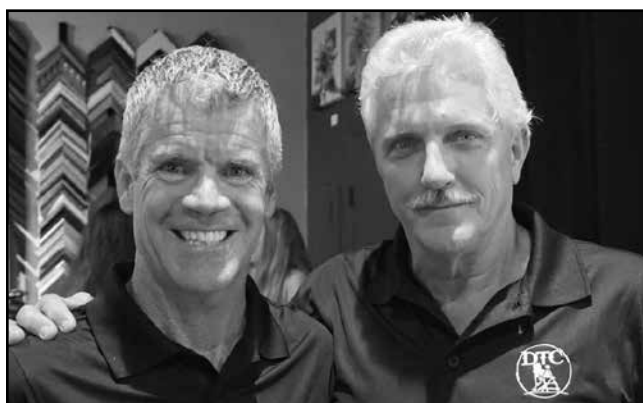


Photos by Jasmine Marshall

Artist Linda Olsen and Pam White



Sidney Cardel’s Cathy Thomasson and Cara Burky.



Executive Director of Deck The Chairs Kurtis Loftus with Deck The Chairs Board President Jim Mace



Packages filled to the brim with goodies await bids as part of the silent auction.



# Crosswater Community Church holds beach baptisms at Mickler's Landing

Thirty-two people publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ Sunday, when Crosswater Community Church conducted ocean baptisms at Mickler's Landing Beach.

Lead Pastor Jack Millwood, Adult Pastor George Powers and Student Pastor Chris Rocker all participated in

the baptisms, which the church holds periodically at the beach during the summer months. Among those baptized Sunday was a young girl at the beach with her family, who witnessed the baptisms and asked her father if she could be baptized, too.



Adult Pastor George Powers and Lead Pastor Jack Millwood prepare to baptize Samantha Logue.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Crosswater Community Church Adult Pastor George Powers gathers those wishing to be baptized Sunday at Mickler's Landing.



A young boy professes his faith in Jesus through baptism.



## Coast Guard auxiliary to offer 'About Boating Safely' course

A boating safety course will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Captain's Club, 13363 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

Presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Jacksonville Beach Flotilla 14-04, the eight-hour classroom course titled "About Boating Safely" will include demonstrations of boating basic and cover such topics as navigation, in-water survival, knot tying, state and federal boating laws and regulations, and more. A Florida and federal course examination will be given at the conclusion of the course.

Successfully passing the course will earn participants the state of Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card, which all vessel operators born after Jan. 1, 1988 must have in their possession.

The fee for the course is \$25 (cash or personal check), which covers training materials. Two students can share course materials for a total registration fee of \$30. Participants should bring lunch and refreshments with them.

To register or for more information, contact Bill Vaughan at (904) 955-7077 or boatsafely04@gmail.com.

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# Jacksonville Beach hosts 10th annual Riding the Wave of Autism Surf Camp

By Jasmine Marshall

Volunteers came together to give a group of exceptional children an unforgettable summer experience this week, when the 10th annual “Riding



Volunteer Richard Hana joins camper Zac Gomez after a short break from the waves.

the Wave of Autism Surf Camp” was held at Jacksonville Beach.

Held July 18-19, the annual event gives children with autism an opportunity to experience water-related activities, such as surfing, boogie boarding and kayaking. Organizations sponsoring the camp experience included the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, the City of Jacksonville Beach and HEAL (Healing Every Autistic Life).



Volunteers Hobie Sears (far left) and Charlie Current (second right) assist campers Richard van Wagner and Russell van Wagner.

On Monday, 22 campers and their families took to the water, which has been found to be beneficial in helping autistic children.

“One mother told me this is all her kids look forward to,” said Kim Sears, who along with her husband, Dr. Don Sears, was one of the driving forces behind the camp’s creation a decade ago. “It’s especially rewarding because the parents enjoy it as much as the campers. They get to see their kids

get caught up in the exhilaration and having fun. They enjoy cheering them on and seeing them engaged with other kids.”

Don Sears recalled how the idea of starting a local camp experience for autistic children came to him after seeing how much a neighbor’s autistic child thrived when in the water. He began looking into similar camps and credits Dan Brooks of Sunrise Surf Camp and Jimmy Wilkinson of the recreation department with helping to make it a reality. The Sears Family – including sons Hobie and Kane – have been involved ever since.

“We always thought it would be a good idea for autistic children to get to experience this,” Sears said. “Even if they’re a little anxious at first, they’re always celebrating at the end. It’s as good for the families as it is for the campers, because after having this experience, they go back to their own lives and back to school and they do better, perform better.”

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**SATB-010**

# Chill out: OUTLAST Cryotherapy offers cold therapy treatments at Ponte Vedra facility



Photo by Carrie Resch

Cryochamber

By Carrie Resch

While temperatures are heating up in Northeast Florida, one local business is offering customers a chance to cool down – way down, as in negative 300 degrees down.

OUTLAST Cryotherapy + Performance Training, owned and operated by husband and wife and Ponte Vedra residents Beau and Monica Dominiak, boasts Jacksonville's first cryotherapy chamber – a nitrogen-filled compartment that flash-freezes the skin while the core body temperature remains unchanged. Each session lasts about three minutes and proponents claim that it can treat everything from arthritis and other forms of inflammation to chronic pain and migraines – even cosmetic variances such as cellulite or skin firm-

ing and rejuvenation.

But at OUTLAST, the main focus is on sports performance. The company's cryotherapy clientele ranges from pro golfers and pro football players to St. Johns County Sheriff's officers, celebrities and more. In terms of age, OUTLAST's clients range from age 10 to 85.

The chamber is safe for anyone to use, Monica Dominiak said, except for pregnant women or people with pacemakers or extreme hypertension. The benefit of using cryotherapy, she said, is that it is 100 percent natural, non-invasive and able to treat people without the use of drugs.

Cryotherapy is different from ice baths traditionally used by athletes. According to Dominiak, ice baths damage tissue on a cellular level and will never get you

cold enough to trigger the anti-inflammatory response that cryotherapy does.

"Everything you are seeking with the ice bath this actually accomplishes in a much shorter time period with no stress involved," Dominiak said.

The couple first learned of cryotherapy five years ago on a trip to Canada. Beau Dominiak is a former pro soccer player who played for a team in Scotland before he suffered a career-ending knee injury. Plagued by inflammation – even after having knee surgery – Dominiak was amazed at the results he experienced after just one treatment.

"The inflammation had gone down and it looked like a normal knee," Monica Dominiak said.

From that point on, they were hooked on cryotherapy and decided they needed to bring this type of therapy to Jacksonville.

Dominiak said the couple tried cryotherapy all over the world before opening OUTLAST and the rates were staggering. She said they try to keep their rates reasonable and competitive so that customers can justify coming more often, incorporating the treatments into their everyday lives as a body maintenance tool.

Sessions start at \$50 for a single session; multi-pack sessions are also available. Sessions are scheduled by appointment only any day of the week, at any time – even outside of normal business hours. The couple said they try to remain flexible and will work with a client's schedule. A robe, socks, shoes and gloves will be provided at the facility in order to protect the extremities.

The other facet of OUTLAST – sports performance personal training – is headed by Beau Dominiak. A certified strength and conditioning specialist, he is certified in pre- and post-rehab training and is a CrossFit level two coach. The type of training will be customized for the customer's needs through one-on-one training with a focus on agility.

For more information, call (904) 999-8813 or visit [www.outlastcryo.com](http://www.outlastcryo.com).

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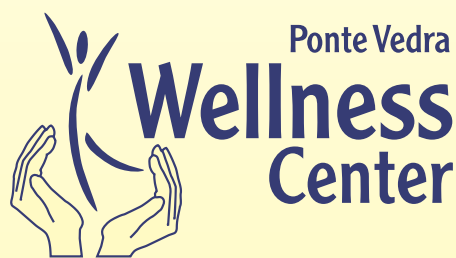


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## Meet Dr. Carlson at Wise Women



Dr. Carlson practiced Medical Gynecology at Mayo Clinic in Florida from 2012 until March, 2016 and has cared for thousands of women from all over the world. A diagnostic specialist, she has focused her practice on the diagnosis and nonsurgical management of gynecologic conditions.

She has particularly enjoyed caring for mature women and addressing their unique gynecologic concerns. She is delighted to have the opportunity to provide preventative care in a private setting at Wise Women in the Town Plaza Offices at Nocatee.

Prior to joining Mayo Clinic, Dr. Carlson practiced high risk obstetrics and gynecologic surgery in New England. She is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



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# MOCA exhibition to feature artwork by pediatric hospital patients

'Inside the Outline: Art with a Heart in Healthcare' on display Aug. 6 – Dec. 4

The Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville (MOCA) will present a new Art with a Heart in Healthcare exhibition featuring the art work of pediatric hospital patients Aug. 6 – Dec. 4.

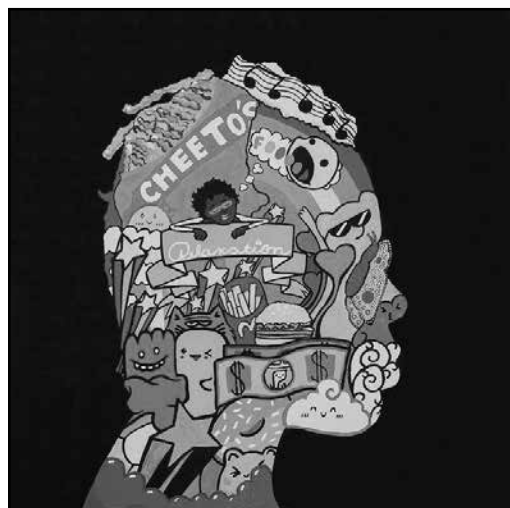
A free, public opening reception will be held Sunday, Aug. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Florida Blue Education Gallery on the fifth floor of MOCA Jacksonville, located at 333 N. Laura St. The exhibition will feature silhouettes of the patient-artists brought to life by their paintings of colorful patterns, favorite foods, landscapes and particu-

lar interests.

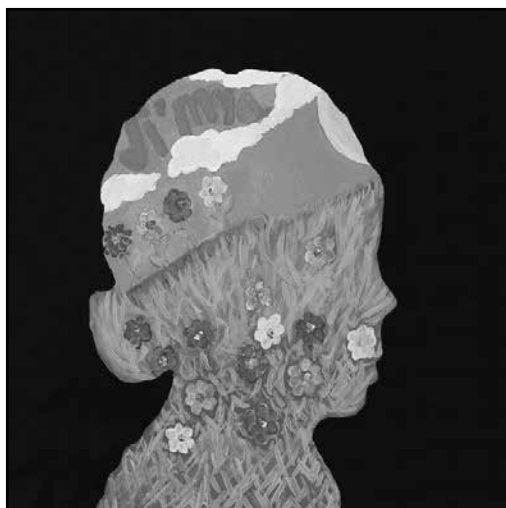
"We are thrilled to be partnering with MOCA Jacksonville again on a wonderful exhibition to highlight the relationship between Wolfson Children's Hospital patients and Art with a Heart in Healthcare," Art with a Heart Executive Director Christy Ponder said. "Our new show came to life by asking each patient a simple question: what makes you happy? It is truly amazing to get a glimpse into the patients' minds to see what makes them happy!"

The exhibition is a continuation of MOCA Jacksonville's partnership with Art with a Heart in Healthcare, a nonprofit that provides personalized artistic experiences to enhance the healing process for patients and families at Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Clinic. Patients in the program partner with an artist-in-residence, who brings out each child's natural talents and expands their art-making skills. In doing so, organizers say, the program aims to diminish the fear, pain, boredom and depression children might feel during their time in the hospital.

"Art with a Heart brings a professional artist right to sick and injured children in the hospital, which helps our patients cope with their pain and symptoms of their condition, reduces their stress in the hospital setting, and gives them a creative outlet," said Veronica Scott-Fulton, vice president of operations and patient care services at Wolfson Children's Hospital. "It's a healing therapy that we are proud to offer."



Photos courtesy of Art with a Heart in Healthcare and Laird ROBIN. Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 16".



Ji'MYA. Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 16".



JA'MARI. Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 16".

## Award-winning author visits library, literary landmark

Award-winning author and illustrator Brian Floca recently paid a visit to the St. Johns County Public Library system. While in St. Johns County, Floca – a 2014 recipient of the Randolph Caldecott Medal –

visited Evergreen Cemetery, where Caldecott is buried. He also conducted a book signing in the Randolph Caldecott Children's Room at the Main Branch Library in St. Augustine.



Brian Floca autographs copies of his Caldecott Award-winning books.



Brian Floca and Marcia Daniels at the Caldecott Burial Site

Photos courtesy of St. Augustine Library



# Ponte Vedra Woman's Club presents scholarships, charitable donations

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club recently presented scholarships and charitable donations to a number of local residents and organizations – the results of the nonprofit group's year-long fundraising efforts to benefit the community.

Scholarships were presented to St. Gerard's student Kyesha Jones, who will attend First Coast Technical College; Nease student Parker Perella, who will attend Trinity College of Florida; and Ponte Vedra High School student Madison Lee, who will attend University of Central Florida.

Charities helped by the woman's club during the past year include the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS), St. Gerard's Campus and Haven Horse Ranch. Charitable organizations wishing to be considered for support from PVWC must submit a request for assistance that includes the organization's goals, objectives and planned use of funds. Submissions may be mailed to PVWC, PO Box 957, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004 or emailed to [pontevedrawomansclub@hotmail.com](mailto:pontevedrawomansclub@hotmail.com).

## Membership drive

In other club news, PVWC has launched its annual membership drive seeking local women who are interested in meeting new people and socializing while raising funds to aid the community. Residents interested in learning more about club membership are invited to attend one of the club's two upcom-

ing membership events: A luncheon event will be held Thursday, Aug. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the home of club member Janet Westling. Reservations are requested;

to register or for more information, call (904) 813-1913 or email [janetwest52@aol.com](mailto:janetwest52@aol.com).

An evening membership reception will be held Thursday, Aug. 25 from 6:30 to 8:30

p.m. at the home of club President Teri Ellis. Reservations are requested; to register or for more information, call (904) 285-1474 or email [teriellispv@gmail.com](mailto:teriellispv@gmail.com).

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# 9U PV Thunder baseball team wins Nation's World Series Championship



Photos courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Thunder.

Ponte Vedra's 9U Thunder baseball team won the Nation's World Series Championship over the weekend, clinching their victory with a 9-5 win against the Five Star Tigers. The tournament was played July 15-17 in intense weather conditions. Congratulations to players Jack Brady, Avery Burnham, Dylan Case, Franco Chaluja, Dylan McAdoo, Aspen McAdoo, Sean Miskowicz, Skyley Kokoszka, Jack Ottesen, Duran Moore, Neil Gornto and Bode Moore; head coach Kris "Kritter" Keller; and assistant coaches Brad McAdoo, Neil Gornto, Alex Moore and Miller Brady.



Team members display their championship rings.

## Newly renovated Hotel Palms to host market day

Atlantic Beach's newly renovated Hotel Palms, formerly Palms Retro, will host its third "homegrown shopping event" July 23 featuring several beachside vendors.

This will be the first market event for the hotel since it began renovations, and one of several created to generate exposure for both the hotel and vendors with and without brick and mortar locations.

To be held in the hotel's courtyard, the Palms Market will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will include vendors Sailors Siren, Couture Jems, Soulshine Rentals, Sunrise Surf Shop and Old City Brew Roasting Company. While attending the marketplace, visitors are welcome to view the hotel's new features, including a lounge that will be open for business during the market day.

As parking is limited, locals are encouraged to ride their bikes. Those driving are asked to park in the gravel lot at Community Presbyterian next door. For more information about Hotel Palms, visit the Hotel Palms Facebook page or Instagram at @hotel-palms.

Hotel Palms is located at 28 Sherry Drive in Atlantic Beach.

## St. Augustine park to honor Zora Neale Hurston

The park at the corner of Ponce de Leon Boulevard and King St. in St. Augustine has a new name: Zora Neale Hurston Memorial Park.

The new name was selected by the City Commission from more than 80 suggestions submitted by local residents. Appropriate signage will be placed at the park to denote its new name and document the history of Hurston's association with St. Augustine.

Best known as the author of the 1937 novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God," Hurston was one of the most prominent authors to come out of the Harlem Renaissance. She lived in St. Augustine on several occasions during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, and her home at 791 W. King St. was recognized by St. Johns County with a historical marker in 2003.

While living in St. Augustine, Hurston was married at the St. Johns County Courthouse and later taught at the Florida Nor-

mal and Industrial Institute – now Florida Memorial College. It was while living in the Ancient City that she completed her autobiography, "Dust Tracks on a Road," and became friends with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings ("The Yearling").

In addition to novels, Hurston wrote plays, poetry, essays and short stories. Her fame faded in the 1950s, however, and in 1960 she died in near obscurity in Ft. Pierce, Florida. A rediscovery of her writing during the 1980s and 1990s led to renewed appreciation of her works, which are now often required reading in high school and college literature courses.

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# The Art of Self-Discovery

By Neil Rosenthal

*Second in a two-part series*

Here are questions designed to assist you in getting to know yourself better. I urge you to do this exercise in writing, because you'll forget your answers if you don't write them down. After you've answered a question, challenge yourself to give a second and third answer to the same question, so you wind up writing down as many answers to each question as you can:



**Neil Rosenthal**  
Columnist

- What do you want to change about yourself? What stops you from doing it?
- What have you accomplished in the last five years?
- What are your biggest accomplishments in your life?
- How do you think you come across to other people? How do they see you?
- What do you like about your home or where you live? What about it expresses you?
- If you could talk to your future self of 20 years from now, what would s/he say to you?
- What are you afraid of? What are you afraid will happen?
- What or who do you miss?

- What kind of person makes you feel inadequate, or that you don't measure up?
- How could you enjoy your life more?
- How have your failures turned into lessons or blessings?
- Describe the silver linings in your losses or major life changes.
- Do you think of yourself as lovable? Do you love yourself? What do you think others love about you?
- What do you look forward to?
- If you could advise your child self, what would you tell him/her?
- What thoughts repeat themselves over and over again in your mind? What do you think they say about you? What emotions repetitively occur again and again for you?
- What do you find most challenging in your life?
- When have you been courageous? When have you shown backbone?
- When have you been resilient? How do you get through adversity?
- What are your most important priorities?
- What are you grateful for?

*Neil Rosenthal is a licensed marriage and family therapist. He is the author of the bestselling book "Love, Sex, and Staying Warm: Creating a Vital Relationship." Contact him at 303-758-8777 or visit [neilrosenthal.com](http://neilrosenthal.com).*

# Waiting for 'your team' to win before you invest?

By Harry Pappas



**Harry Pappas**  
Columnist

Every four years, politics and finance converge as Americans elect a president and investors try to figure out what the outcome means for their portfolios. In other words, should we be doing anything different with our money right now?

Assuming that we have a prudent, well diversified and cost-effective investment strategy, I emphatically argue NO! The question about presidential elections and their impact on the markets

is one I hear a lot, especially every four years. In the final analysis, presidential elections may not matter to the stock market as much as we may think. I will attempt to make a convincing argument that how stocks perform with a Democrat or Republican president might have a lot less to do with the candidates than the economic backdrop.

Since 1945, if we had invested in the Dow Jones Industrial Average only when a Democrat was president, we would have performed better than if we had invested only if a Republican was president. If we would have stayed fully invested during this time, however, the results would have been significantly greater! Need I say anything more about waiting for your team to

win before investing?

There will always be reasons not to invest in the stocks, but history has repeatedly proven that, over time, stocks climb the wall of worry and eventually set new highs. For instance, in the 20th century, the United States endured two world wars and other traumatic and expensive military conflicts; the Depression; a dozen or so recessions and financial panics; oil shocks; a flu epidemic; and the resignation of a president. Yet the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose from 66 to 11,497.

Please do not misunderstand me; investing in stocks and bonds is a dangerous endeavor that requires us to prepare diligently for incredible volatility. I do suggest, however, that we make investing in stocks and bonds much more complicated than what it needs to be. Said differently, our lives are forever controlled by two emotions – fear and greed. When these two sensations present themselves, self-control requires incredible attention and effort. Regrettably, far too many folks hit the panic button, and reason often goes out the window along with their wallets and purses.

In the end, some basic principles endure: diversification, discipline, consistency and the value of experienced guidance. Perhaps I am too much of an optimist, but I steadfastly believe what the consummate visionary, Winston Churchill, said about being an optimist: "It does not seem too much use to be anything else."

*Harry Pappas Jr., CFP®*

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# Hastings Branch Library to host 6th annual school supply giveaway

The St. Johns County Hastings Branch Library and TeamUp Hastings will host the 6th annual School Supply Giveaway and the Inaugural "Community Focus Hastings" event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Hastings Branch Library, 6195 South Main St., Hastings.

The event is for children in the Hastings, Spuds, Armstrong, Elkton,

and Flagler Estates areas. Multiple agencies and organizations, including the Friends of the Hastings Library, the Florida Department of Health, Nova Southeastern University, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, St. Johns County Health and Human Services, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the Hastings Rotary, WIC, the Tax Collector's Office, and

South Woods Elementary will be on site providing school supplies, free sports physicals, vaccinations, blood pressure checks, basic dental checks and teeth cleaning services. Children must be approved by Medicaid for dental services and a representative will be on hand. There will also be activities and entertainment for kids throughout the day.

Participants can register upon arrival and parents or guardians must present photo identification with a St. Johns County address. Health services will begin at 9 a.m. and school supplies will be distributed beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, call the Hastings Branch Library at (904) 827-6970.

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# 'Pokemon Go' craze comes to Ponte Vedra:

All six SJC library branches identified as hot spots for the popular game sweeping the nation

**By Carrie Resch**

By now, you've probably seen, heard or read something about the newest craze that has children – and adults – alike scavenging the area in search of fictitious Pokemon characters for the new smart phone app that launched earlier this month called "Pokemon Go." But did you know that all six St. Johns County Public Library System branches are either Pokemon Go Gyms or Pokestops?

"This is the ultimate icebreaker," said Anne Crawford, assistant manager and youth services librarian for the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Crawford said she has already seen a number of teens visiting the library to participate in the game and after being a youth services librarian for 13 years, she's realized seizing opportunities like this is a great way to connect with youth.

"It leads to conversations, sharing books, and communicating that the library is for all ages and is something to take seriously," she said.

"Pokemon Go" is free to play and available for both iPhone and Android devices. Users seek out real-world locations where they can find more than 100 species of Pokemon and then "catch" Pokemon by throwing a Pokeball. The characters are found at locations called Pokestops, which usually exist at easily identifiable landmarks such as public art installations or other points of interest, according to the game's website. Smart phones will vibrate when near a character

St. Johns County libraries identified as Pokestops include Bartram Trail, Main Library, Southeast and Hastings. Ponte Vedra and Anastasia Island libraries are Gyms, and like Pokestops, Gyms too can be found at real locations. Each player can place a Pokemon at a particular Gym; players are encouraged to develop teams and work with others on the team to build up a strong defense. The carousel in the Davenport Park adjacent to the Main Library in St. Augustine has also been identified as a Gym.



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21. \*Olympic sport on both track and road
23. Miner's bounty
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25. Masseur's office
28. Seaside bird
30. Jazz subculture hipster
35. Three-\_\_\_\_ sloth
37. Actress Cameron
39. Aussie's petrol station
40. Additional
41. European finch
43. Malicious look
44. Garlic mayo
46. Mischievous Scandinavian god
47. Cleopatra's necklace
48. \*Reason for Olympic banning
50. Mary's little one
52. To the \_\_\_\_ degree
53. Alexander Hamilton - Aaron Burr incident

55. Women's undergarment
57. \*Dressage, Eventing and \_\_\_\_
61. Broadband predecessor
64. Abraham's sacrifice
65. "\_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls" rock band
67. Relating to zones
69. 1.067 km, in Russia
70. As opposed to rent
71. Not mainstream art
72. Formerly
73. Clinton \_\_\_\_
74. "Spaghetti Western" director Sergio

**DOWN**

1. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
2. "Oh, my!"
3. \*Spent at the 1960 Summer Olympics
4. Sound of battle
5. Declare with confidence
6. Plural of #25 Across
7. Cry of horror, in comics
8. Civil rights org.
9. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
10. Antioxidants-rich berry
11. Owl's hangout
12. Price for something very cheap?
15. Hertz = \_\_\_\_ / second
20. Must-haves
22. Kum Ba \_\_\_\_
24. Having a streak of

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- good luck
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29. Cambodian currency
31. Trapper's prize
32. Oedipus' successor
33. Deflect
34. \*Official Olympics starter
36. Sub station
38. \*Health concern in Rio
42. Nimbus, pl.
45. Charge with crime
49. \*Shooter's Olympic tool
51. \*2016 Summer Olympics travel destination
54. Incite
56. Solo
57. "Born to Hand \_\_\_\_" from "Grease"
58. \_\_\_\_-friendly
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