

# THE RECORDER



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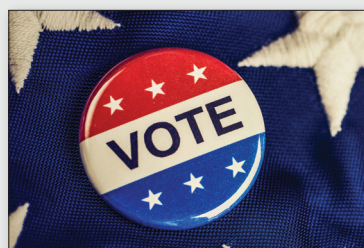
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Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



The First Coast Register  
INSIDE



The General Election  
Guide  
Page 19



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



Photo by Anthony Richards

Thirty-four Nease High School students will make up the cast of "Bye Bye Birdie," which is scheduled for Nov. 2, 3 and 5. The popular musical will be the first performance of the school year for the theater program. See more on page 31.



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# Send us your news

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



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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## BRIEFS

### Program to address essential tremor

Have you been diagnosed with, or suspect you have, essential tremor? A program to address the condition will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 25 at the Council of Aging Center at Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee, 351 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 205 in Ponte Vedra.

Alaine Keebaugh, Ph.D., will discuss treatment options for people living with essential tremor. Keebaugh has an extensive background studying movement disorders. She will share resources available through JaxHope and the latest options for controlling "ET." A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Register by email at [pbrunell@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:pbrunell@stjohnscoa.com) or by calling 904-819-3234.

### Bargain Booksale going on now at Ponte Vedra Library

The "Friends Fall" Bargain Booksale will be held through Oct. 31 in the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library's foyer, during the library's hours of operation. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

There will be books for all ages, DVDs, music CDs and audiobook CDs. All proceeds go back to the library in the form of enhancements. Only cash and checks will be accepted for payment.

The library is located at 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

### Beach cleanup is Saturday at Guana reserve

There will be a beach cleanup Saturday, Oct. 22, at Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. It runs from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Participants should meet at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Participants will be directed to a specific beach for cleanup. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended.

Beach cleanups are held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

For further information email Candace Killian at [Killian@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Killian@FloridaDEP.gov) or go to [gtmnerr.org/visit/events](http://gtmnerr.org/visit/events).

### Leadership St. Johns accepting applications

Applications to participate in Leadership St. Johns are being accepted now.

Participants are selected through an annual application process, led by a selection committee comprised of Leadership St. Johns alumni and Chamber leaders. The average class size is about 24 and represents a broad array of skill sets, geography, professions and talents. Leadership St. Johns strives to create a diverse group of community leaders from business, government, education and nonprofit organizations throughout St. Johns County.

Each applicant must submit this application and answer several short questions.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. Nov. 17.

The selection committee will review the applications, and applicants will be notified of their status by Dec. 5.

For further information, go to [sjcchamber.com/leadership-st.-johns](http://sjcchamber.com/leadership-st.-johns).

### Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday inside the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

### Ascension St. Vincent plans Trunk or Treat Boo Bash

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns invites the community to a free Trunk or Treat Boo Bash from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 30 at 205 Trinity Way, St. Johns. This is a safe and fun way to trick or treat from trunk to trunk in a festive, family atmosphere. There will be free candy, prizes, food trucks and more. Costumes are encouraged as there will be a costume contest for all ages up to 12 years old. Don't forget your treat bucket. Free flu vaccines will also be offered to the public at this event.

### Vicar's Landing Boutique Sale set for Nov. 1

The Vicar's Landing November Boutique Sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 1 at 1000 Vicar's Landing Way. The three-

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

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**20-23**  
**27-31**



# Briefs

Continued from 2

hour sale features framed art, designer and costumer jewelry, household items and furnishings and highlights for the coming holiday season. The public is welcome.

Beginning at the entrance of Vicar's Landing/Sawgrass, signs will show the way to the three sale areas. The Vicar's Employee Scholarship Fund receives all of the proceeds. Cash or checks only please.

Contact Rose Murdock at 891-1777

or Ginny Elliott at 608-6198 for more information.

## Second Immersive Dining Experience is Nov. 6

On Oct. 2, the link hosted its first Immersive Dining Experience inside the Flagler Health+ 360 Immersive Studio. Chef Ashley Amin, co-owner of Fusion Food Truck, was featured. She prepared an Indian fusion meal for an intimate crowd of 32 people. Amin described each of the five courses as they were being served.

The next Immersive Dining Experience will be on Nov. 6, featuring Wesley

Nogueria from Kloe's Kitchen. Nogueria is a native of Brazil and was raised in Philadelphia. At a young age, he was fond of the kitchen and followed his mother and her friends around as they cooked Filipino dishes. At 15, he moved to Jacksonville, where he later worked in local restaurants until deciding to pursue a culinary career. Today, through his catering company, he serves an eclectic cuisine.

This dinner will feature Italian cuisine from various regions. Attendees should expect a five-course meal with wine service. Space is limited, so reserve seats now. Go to [www.app.thelink.zone/tab/](http://www.app.thelink.zone/tab/)

event/today and scroll down to Immersive Dining Experience.

## Holiday Craft Fair set for Nov. 6

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233 is planning a Holiday Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 6 at 560 N. Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra. There will be products from Tastefully Simple, Sentsy and Mary Kay; homemade crafts; custom tumblers; jewelry and much more. Breakfast will be served from 9 to 11 a.m. (or until it runs out) for \$10.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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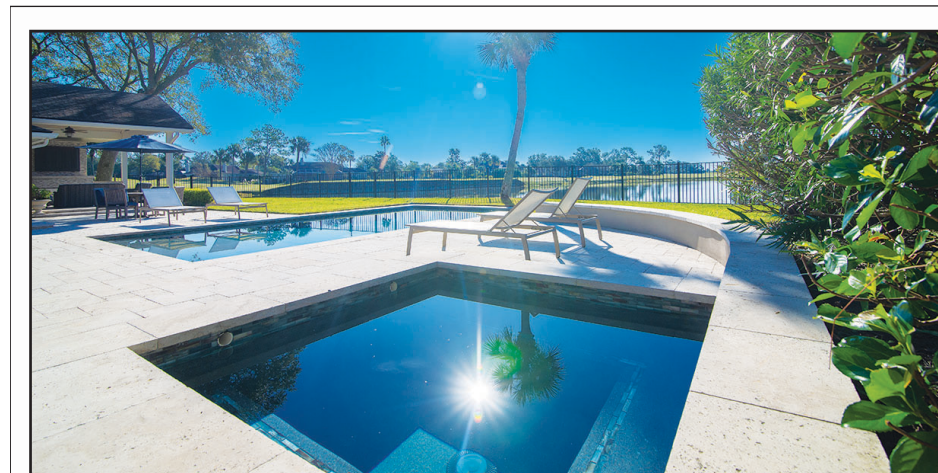
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## Exceptional Views in Sawgrass Country Club

This beautifully updated home is located in Sandpiper Cove in Sawgrass CC. Located at the end of a cul-de-sac on an exceptional lot, the home features spectacular water to golf views with SE exposure.

Built for year-round outdoor living with both a winter lanai with fireplace off the living room and a summer lanai off the family room with pool, spa and summer kitchen. Easy flow floorplan with large living room, spacious cook's kitchen, and den with built-in bookshelves and wet bar. Owner's suite and guest room on 1st floor and 3rd bedroom on 2nd floor with full bath.

**3 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bath,**  
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# Affordability of homes in St. Johns County lowest in region

By Shaun Ryan

The housing market in Northeast Florida showed a small decrease in prices in September, which is not unusual in autumn.

Despite this decrease, month-to-month days on the market, active inventory and months of supply are trending upward, according to the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

The median price for single-family homes dipped 2.6% to a median of \$380,000. At the same time, the Housing Affordability Index for the region fell 4.2% to 69. In this index, the higher the number, the greater the affordability.

## Study praises St. Johns County

A recent study by United Kingdom-based price comparison website money.co.uk has listed St. Johns County the seventh best place in the United States to purchase a forever home. Factored into the analysis are school ratings, life expectancy, average cost of electricity, number of violent crimes and average

annual earnings.

St. Johns County might well deserve the acknowledgement bestowed by the study, however, statistics reported in the study differ slightly from those of other sources.

The study reports St. Johns County schools have a grade of A+. The grade actually given by the state Department of Education is an A.

Average annual earnings is listed as \$73,944. The U.S. Census reports the per capita income over the past 12 months at \$43,433 and the median household income at \$83,803.

Life expectancy is listed as 81.8. According to the state Health Department, life expectancy in 2019 – the last year for which numbers are available – was between 80.5 and 81.1 (for males, 77.7 and 78.6; females, 83.1 and 83.9).

Average electricity cost per kWh is 11.91 cents, which is corroborated by other sources.

The biggest differences between the study and other sources is in the number of violent crimes and the average price of

a house.

The study lists violent crimes per 100,000 population at 509. However, the state of Florida puts that number at 143.9 for 2020, the last year for which numbers are available. The disparity might be explained as a difference in the definition of what constitutes a violent crime or else some independent analysis of crimes committed after 2020.

The study lists the average price of a home in St. Johns County at \$326,300. According to the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, the median price of a single-family home in September was \$561,495, representing a 1.2% increase over August. Though median is not the same as average, one would not expect to see this great a gulf between numbers. That said, it is possible the study did not have access to the latest figures as did the association.

## St. Johns County: A closer look

The price of a home only tells a part of the story. An important statistic is the county's affordability index, which

dropped 6% in September to 47, demonstrating that St. Johns County remains the least affordable area to live in the region.

Those selling their homes will find that median days on the market have increased 34.3% to 36 as compared to August.

New listings dropped 12.2% to 584. Active inventory increased 6.7% to 1,291 homes, resulting in a three- to nine-month supply.

The average rent for an average-sized apartment of 1,034 square feet was \$1,924.

## Duval County

The price of a home dipped slightly in September to a median \$335,000. The affordability index dropped 3.7% to 79.

Median days on the market was 35. New listings rose slightly to 1,569. Active inventory was 2,565 homes, an increase of 15%, resulting in a 3.2-month supply.

The average rent for an average-sized apartment of 1,034 square feet was \$1,530.



When Jeri Millard found herself unhappy with the health care she was receiving for her breast cancer several years ago, she moved from California to Northeast Florida. It was a decision she never regretted, calling this area a medical Mecca. Today, she runs In The Pink, an all-in-one Jacksonville Beach facility that caters to the needs of cancer patients and survivors.

## Jeri Millard

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Tell me about your shop.

We opened in 2009. After having cancer twice myself, I realized that it was very inconvenient as a cancer patient to have to run all over town looking for everything. And I thought, why couldn't we do that all in one place?

And so, I looked long and hard, and once this place became available, I just knew it was kind of the right place. I didn't want it to be in a health facility, and I didn't want it to be in a strip mall. We wanted to make it as user-friendly as possible.

As a nonprofit, we have everything here under one roof. And a lot of the items are covered by insurance. We're under what's called the durable medical equipment umbrella. Durable medical is generally what people think of as wheelchairs, knee scooters, those kinds of things. But durable medical also has mastectomy things like prostheses and mastectomy bras and wigs and compression and those kinds of items.

For our clients that are insured, they get a prescription and bring it to us, and we fit them with whatever's needed and file all the insurance for it. Any revenue stays here. And then, when people come in that have no insurance or are severely under-insured, they get the items that they need for free. So, it's kind of a simple concept. Those of us who have insurance are taking care of those who are in need.

#### You mentioned that you are a cancer survivor yourself.

Yeah. The second time I had cancer was breast cancer, and my husband was retiring from the Navy. We lived in Hawaii, and he was at Pearl Harbor. The day he retired was the day I was diagnosed.

So, he had already taken a job in San Diego with Lockheed Martin.

Of course, I got to San Diego, and I didn't know anyone. I wasn't familiar with the area and didn't have any friends or relatives or anyone there. So, I had to rely on the oncologist or the social worker at the oncology office to let me know about things. Everything was spread out. ... It was very inconvenient. I remember in one day I had five appointments at five different places. I didn't feel good; all I could do was shuffle my feet. So, my husband was driving me everywhere. And I thought, this is crazy. Why am I doing this? I just thought it could be done better. So, that's what we do here.

I decided to do it as a nonprofit, because I was doing it to help others, not to make money.

I have to raise about \$100,000 a year to keep the doors open. And that's been hard to do in the last couple of years with the pandemic. We were allowed to stay open as long as we kept everything clean.

We did change how we went about our business. Because we could stay open, things were dictated to us as to how. Everything had to be scoured after every client. So, we went to appointments only.

And we've stuck with that. For one thing, I think that our clients appreciate the fact that there's not a lot of other people in here.

#### Tell me about what you offer here.

We're certified fitters for mastectomy post-surgical garments and prostheses. We take training in how to fit wigs. And we attend seminars all the time.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Jeri Millard is seen inside the little house at 522 3rd St. North, Jacksonville Beach, where she operates her nonprofit, In The Pink.

So, we have wigs, hats, scarves, radiation cream. We have free yoga once a week here. And compression garments, because a lot of people have lymphedema, especially in the cancer world.

#### You serve more than just people with breast cancer.

Oh yes, we've taken care of all cancers. The term "in the pink" means "you're feeling better." It's an old slang term, I know, but because of the word "pink," everybody just assumes it's all breast cancer.

#### What is the name of your nonprofit?

In The Pink Boutique Inc.

#### What is your website?

Jaxinthepink.com

#### Do you have any special plans for the future?

One of my goals has always been to have a mobile

unit. And I am really looking for some serious donors who are interested in funding a mobile unit.

Because Jacksonville is so big, land wise, and we have so many outlying areas where it's a long way for them to come to Jacksonville. And if we could go to them on a regular basis ...

#### What do you like best about what you do?

It's not like job. This is really a mission for those of us who are working here. No one makes very much money. And I don't have health benefits for all my people and all that kind of stuff. They do it because they're passionate about the cause. And most of us are survivors that work here.

I've had 20,000 clients over 13 years. I was worried that I would open the doors and no one would come. That did not happen.

... But Jacksonville's a great place to live, I think. It's really a gem of a place.





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## Congratulations to our September Leaders!



**Mary Higginbotham**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Diane McKee**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Christine Rich & Richard Lofgren**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Michael Paull Team**  
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**Southern Latitude Group**  
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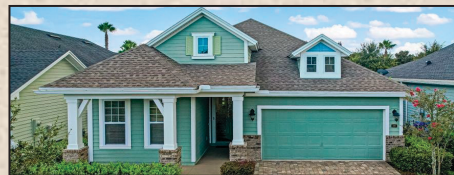
### CAMACHEE ISLAND

Fantastic and rare opportunity! Townhome style condo with master suite downstairs. 2 BR, 2 BA, 1,695 SF MLS 1192509 \$424,900  
**Judit Khor (904) 535-6593**



### DEL WEBB PONTE VEDRA

Stunning home backs to lush preserve! Upgraded kitchen and 2 master suites. 3 BR, 3 BA, 1,986 SF MLS 1179002 \$799,900  
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### ADDISON PARK

One level home with 3 way split bedrooms. Gourmet kitchen with gas cooktop & Island. 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,285 SF MLS 1189209 \$670,000  
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### COASTAL OAKS

Private, extraordinary lanai oasis awaits! Gated community. Live exclusively. 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2,923 SF MLS 1184638 \$995,000  
**Nicole Middlebrook (352) 228-2882**



### CAMACHEE ISLAND

St. Augustine intracoastal and Marsh front gem! Multi family estate on a 2.46 acre lot. 7 BR, 6.5 BA, 5,552 SF MLS 1168469 \$2,795,000  
**Matt & Naomi (904) 234-5014**



### MOORE BRANCH ESTATES

Spectacular unobstructed Intracoastal Views! No HOA or CDD! Completely updated! 3 BR, 3 BA, 1,881 SF MLS 1193540 \$1,395,000  
**Matt & Naomi (904) 234-5014**



### INTRACOASTAL ACCESS

Over 1 acre in a small private community. Direct access to the intracoastal waterway. MLS 1185030 \$750,000  
**Malia Finger (904) 994-8444**



### SAN SALITO

Move in ready! Desirable location with stunning pond views. Newer build & heated spa. 4 BR, 2 BA, 1,828 SF MLS 1186761 \$479,900  
**Nicole Middlebrook (352) 228-2882**



### SETTLER'S LANDING

Move-in ready! Large preserve lot. Wood floors, elegant kitchen with custom backsplash. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,824 SF MLS 1188198 \$599,000  
**Josh Foster (317) 439-2024**



### JULINGTON CREEK

Beautiful home on almost 1/2 acre. Formal dining, renovated kitchen and screened lanai. 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,283 SF MLS 1194921 \$549,950  
**Roger Harding (904) 591-1317**



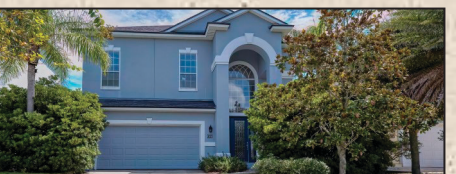
### EPPING FOREST

Gorgeous, St. Johns Riverfront estate located in a gated community! 5 BR, 7.5 BA, 7,921 SF MLS 1163821 \$2,850,000  
**Cheryl Gillespie (904) 338-8697**



### OXFORD CHASE

Water views! Beautiful move-in ready home is light & bright. HOA \$200 / Month. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,878 SF MLS 1183862 \$360,000  
**Robert & Kyle Svirsky (904) 403-1177**



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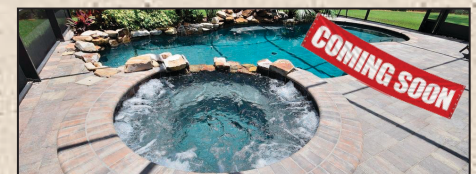
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# Local man's idea now a key hub for Indian community

By Shaun Ryan

When Manan Patel returned to Jacksonville in 2016 from studying abroad in New Zealand, he wanted to connect with others who shared his ethnic heritage. However, though he'd grown up here, he found it challenging to do so.

"I did not know what was going on within the Indian community," he said. "The only way to keep up was to sign up for a bunch of newsletters from different organizations."

He realized that what was needed was some sort of central bulletin board, a place where people could go to learn about events and activities specifically of interest to the local Indian community.

So, four years ago, Patel started a private Facebook group called "Indians in Jacksonville and St. Johns." It began as a kind of hobby, a place to connect with friends, but soon became something more.

"Friends started adding their friends, and it blew up," Patel said.

The group has seen a growth rate of 2-3% per month. It's got about 5,900 members, about 4,800 of which are highly engaged, active participants. Here, people can discuss topics that are important to them, seek out assistance, sell items or promote services.

One of the strengths of the group is members who share information. Members can find Indian physicians, look up Realtors, see what sort of fun things are going on locally.

"I don't have the answers – I'm just the facilitator – but I allow people to discuss anything," Patel said. "It could be movies to culture to fun things around. We even



"Indians in Jacksonville and St. Johns."

have some meet-ups."

Members can read about St. Johns and Duval counties, where Indian people like to live, even about visa applications and traveling to India. Indian-owned businesses have found they can reach the community through the group.

The Hindu temple and other Indian organizations provide a lot of information, as well.

Newcomers may especially benefit from joining the group.

"Let's say there is an Indian family moving to Jacksonville or St. Johns," Patel said. "They don't know what's going on here. They don't know what the Indian community looks like. And it's natural that they want to stay in touch with the Indian community. To get to know them. To get familiarized with the culture."

When he's not working on the Facebook group, Patel is busy with several other pursuits.

His family has had a Larry's Giant Subs franchise in Ponte Vedra for about 30 years. And Patel can often be found there.



Contributed photos

Manan Patel has created a Facebook group to keep members of Northeast Florida's Indian community informed and help them to connect with one another.

"I've been working here since as far back as I can remember," he said. "Maybe since fifth grade. I started out doing some simple jobs. Now, I help my parents run the business."

A graduate of UNF, Patel majored in biology and was pre-med, but life took him in another direction. With an interest in finance, he wrote a book called "Investing for Beginners" and is assembling an online presence in the field and "developing his brand."

Those who are interested in joining Patel's Indian community on Facebook will find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/indiansinjacksonvilleandstjohns/>.

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# PLAYERS Championship surprises center with computer lab

Representatives of THE PLAYERS Championship, including tournament leadership and the Red Coats (past volunteer chairs), visited THE PLAYERS Championship Community Senior Center on Thursday, Oct. 13, to surprise the center's visitors with a new computer lab.

In addition, THE PLAYERS also hosted an afternoon of activities, including a putting competition, lunch served by the Red Coats, a best-dressed competition judged by the Red Coats and Bingo called by the Red Coats.

In 2020, the Senior Center was vandalized, including the theft and destruction of every computer in its computer lab, a crucial resource for center visitors. This new computer lab will return to visitors' the ability to access the internet, send and receive emails and more.

The Senior Center is managed by the St. Johns County Council on Aging, which operates five senior community centers in the county and offers several services including a Meals on Wheels program.

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

Photos provided by THE PLAYERS Championship



Tom Torretta, St. Johns County Council on Aging development director, cuts the ribbon on the new computer lab.



Visitors to THE PLAYERS Championship Community Senior Center had an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a putting competition.



Visitors to THE PLAYERS Championship Community Senior Center examine the new computer lab donated by THE PLAYERS Championship.



The new computer lab at THE PLAYERS Championship Community Senior Center.



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# Tickets go on sale for PXG Women's Match Play

Golf fans will have front row access to the future stars of the LPGA Tour as the PXG Women's Match Play Championship comes to the First Coast for the second time.

Tickets are now on sale as more than 80 of the world's top professional women golfers prepare to take center stage at the tournament, which starts November 1 and wraps up November 6 on the internationally renowned Slammer & Squire Course at World Golf Village in St. Augustine.

The exception will be on November 3, so golfers can attend the Generation W Links to Leadership Summit presented by Circle K and Baptist Health of Jacksonville.

Daily general admission tickets are just \$10 and admission includes a complimentary beverage courtesy of Manifest Distilling, Maestro Dobel Tequila or Veterans United Brewing Company.

Tickets are available on the tournament website at [www.pxgwmpc.com](http://www.pxgwmpc.com), where fans can purchase and print their ticket. Ticket holders will check in at the main gate with their click-and-print ticket and receive a wristband for that day's action.

The tournament will also feature a free junior clinic being held at Slammer & Squire on October 30 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Juniors can sign up for the Spooktacular Junior Clinic powered by Vitis Energy on the tournament website. Golf clubs will be provided by The First Tee of Northeast Florida.

Ticket proceeds of the event will benefit Investing in Kids (INK!), a St. Johns County nonprofit that raises money for underserved public schools.



A WOMEN'S INITIATIVES COLLABORATION  
WITH GENERATION W



The PXG Women's Match Play Championship is an official event on the East Coast Women's Professional Golf Tour headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach. The EC-WPGT is one of only three women's pro developmental tours in the United States.

The tour's mission is to create more and better playing opportunities for women aspiring to the LPGA Tour. Now in its second year, the PXG Women's Match Play Championship features some of the brightest future stars of women's golf who are pursuing their dream of playing on the LPGA Tour.

They will battle it out over a week-long endurance test that will combine a stroke-play and match-play tournament culminating under the spire of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

"This is high level golf and drama," said Mark D. Berman, Tournament Director/Founder and CEO of the ECWPGT, "These players have all competed at the most elite levels of college, amateur and professional tours leading up to the LPGA Tour. Several have played in the US Women's Open and on their National Teams. Fans will quickly learn the names of these incredible players and get to see them in action up close and personal before they become stars on the LPGA Tour."

This year's purse is \$60,000 with the winner taking home \$15,000, making it one of the biggest purses at this level of the women's game.

Information about elevated hospitality opportunities, Pro-Am spots, and key sponsorship opportunities are also available on the tournament website or by contacting the Tournament Office at [mark@pxgwmpc.com](mailto:mark@pxgwmpc.com).



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# Nonprofit awards \$2M to Pace Center to fight substance abuse

THE PLAYERS Championship Village Inc. has awarded Pace Center for Girls a \$2 million grant to fund a three-year, pilot program in North Florida to provide girls and their families gender-responsive, substance abuse prevention and intervention services.

Services will be provided through Pace’s Reach therapy model and ensure girls and their families have access to substance abuse prevention and early intervention, case management and therapy, and other needed supports. The model is community-based to ensure there are no barriers to access.

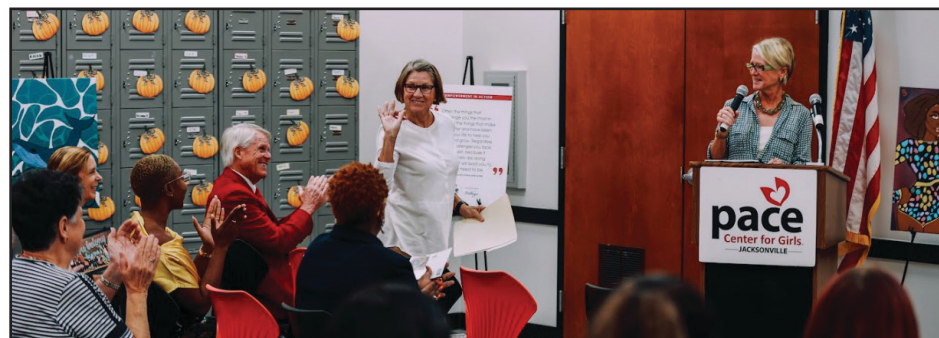
As a pilot, positive outcomes stemming from this partnership will enable Pace to replicate the approach across the state of Florida and throughout the Southeast, further expanding the impact of the grant.

“Pace’s unique model is backed by over three decades of experience in delivering evidence-based programming and demonstrating successful results and outcomes for the girls they serve,”

said Jim Marlier, director of PLAYERS Championship Village. “Our partnership with Pace upholds The Village’s history of combating substance abuse among young people in North Florida — and helping girls build a brighter future.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe negative effects on the mental health of girls and young women and brought to light disparities in access to substance abuse prevention and intervention services,” said Mary Marx, president and CEO of Pace Center for Girls. “Through this pilot, we will be able to expand our services, with a specific focus on substance abuse prevention and intervention. We are grateful to THE PLAYERS Championship Village for their support.”

Announced during National Substance Abuse Prevention Month and on the International Day of the Girl, the collaboration officially launched Tuesday, Oct. 11, at Pace’s Jacksonville headquarters, where a mural and interactive art installation by acclaimed artist Nicole (Nico)



Contributed photos

Mary Marx, president and CEO of Pace Center for Girls, is seen at the podium as Vicki Burke, founder, waves to attendees during the announcement that THE PLAYERS Championship Village has awarded the center a \$2 million grant to provide girls and their families substance abuse prevention and intervention services.

Holderbaum was unveiled. A second mural will be unveiled at Pace’s Clay County location at a later date.

“Creating a mural with Nico and the other girls was an empowering experience for me,” said Jay, 15, one of the girls who collaborated with Holderbaum on the mural. “Sharing my story through art expression allowed for new healing. It is exciting to know that our work and my experiences will help uplift other girls going through difficult times.”

“Each young artist had an opportunity to add their own art piece to the mural, validating their unique experiences and expressions,” said Holderbaum. “By encouraging these young artists to express themselves creatively, this experience has given them a powerful tool to process their feelings, emotions and experiences.”



Matt Rapp, senior vice president of the PGA TOUR, left, and Jim Marlier, director of PLAYERS Championship Village, attended the announcement.

The partnership with Pace continues the work and advances the mission and purpose of The Village, which is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1987 to provide drug and alcohol treatment recovery for youth aged 13 to 17 who could not afford treatment through for-profit facilities.

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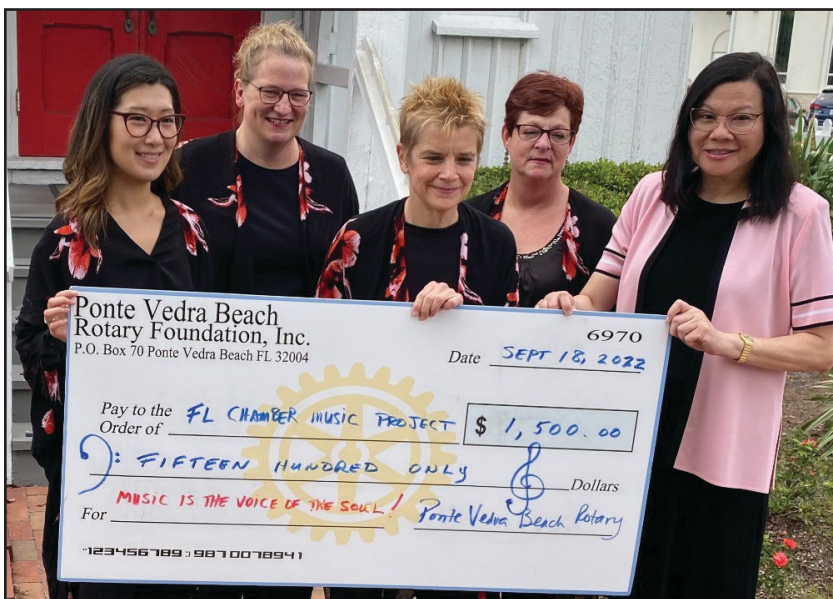




# Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

Dr. Christine Ng of the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club presents a \$1,500 grant on Sept. 18 to the Florida Chamber Music Project. Each year, the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club raises funds through its Mineral City Celebration, the proceeds of which are donated to numerous local charities to support their missions. Pictured from left are FCMP members Siyu Zhang, Patrice Evans, Susan Pardue, Laurie Casseday and Ng. For advance tickets to the performances, go to [flchambermusic.org](http://flchambermusic.org). Their next concert is scheduled for Nov. 20.

Contributed photo



# St. Johns County mourns Waldron, who died Tuesday

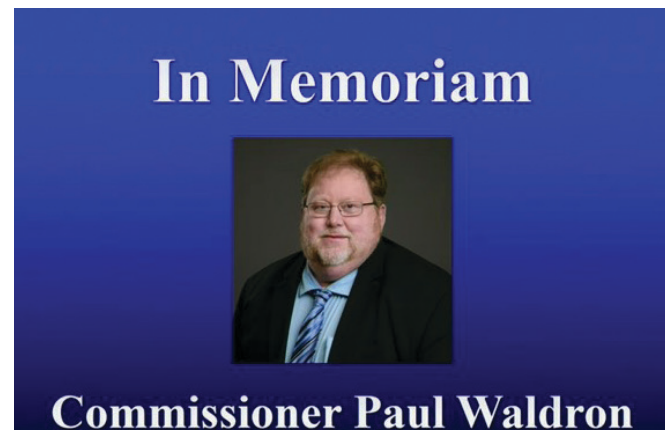
St. Johns County District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron died early Tuesday morning.

A lifelong resident of St. Johns County, Waldron has been called a true champion for residents, always putting their needs first. He served honorably as the representative for the county's south-eastern region after being elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020.

As a small business owner, Waldron always brought a business approach to the organizations he served.

"Paul's passing is a tremendous loss for our county," said Chairman Henry Dean, District 5 Commissioner. "He was the type of person who was always willing to help. He was not only my colleague and fellow commissioner but also my friend. I will miss him."

As commissioner, Waldron served on various commit-



A memorial plaque was posted online at the end of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

tees, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the Recreation Advisory Board and the Tourist Development Council.

"Paul was a great man who loved his family, served his community and lived by faith," said Hunter Conrad, St. Johns County administrator. "His legacy of public service will live on through the

lives of everyone he inspired. This community will deeply miss him."

Waldron is survived by his wife of 34 years, Stephanie, and their two daughters, Ashley and Kati.

Gov. Ron DeSantis will appoint someone to finish the remainder of Waldron's term, which is set to expire in November 2024.



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# Candidates meet voters

St. Johns County School Board member Kelly Barrera hosted a community meet-and-greet recently for candidates running for local offices in the upcoming Nov. 8 election. Candidates present were Suzanne Green, running for Airport Authority (Group 1); Chris George, running for Mosquito Control (Seat 4); and Martha Gleason, running for Mosquito Control (Seat 2).

Photos provided by Kelley Bost



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## GUEST COLUMN

# Life Coaching and Tying Your Shoes

By Scott A. Grant



Scott Grant

Sometimes it feels like we are surrounded by life coaches. Part of the appeal is ease of entry. There are no licensing or education requirements. All you have to do is type the words “Life

Coach” after your name and you are one. Try it. Write your name on a piece of paper and then write the words “Life Coach” underneath. It is very empowering.

When I was younger, I did some coaching. I was not a life coach; I was a soccer coach. I coached a team of girls for seven years and then different teams of boys for four more. The girls were easier to coach than the boys. I spent a lot of time

teaching basics, how to run, kick with your laces, and pass and receive the ball. We did some of the drills over and over and over. I wanted the girls to be able to do those drills in their sleep. Coaching at any level is about a lot more than just exuding motivation. It is one thing to tell someone to do something. It is quite another to teach them how.

One of the things that always surprises people when I start talking about my coaching experience is the amount of time I spent tying shoes. Many of my players did not know how to tie their shoes at all. Most of the rest did not do it correctly. I would get down on one knee and tie my players’ shoes before games and during practice. You cannot play your best if your shoes are a mess. It was also an opportunity to connect with each kid individually.

Legendary basketball coach John Wooden led the UCLA Bruins to 10 national championships over a 12-year

period. It is a record that will probably never be equaled and earned Wooden the nickname “the Wizard of Westwood.” One of those championships came in 1970 with a finals victory over the Jacksonville University Dolphins.

The first practice of each season, Wooden sat his players down and taught them how to tie their shoes. The instruction was very detailed. Before his players learned the famous UCLA zone press or the legendary Bruin fast break, they learned how to put on their socks and lace their shoes.

Real coaching is often about the basics. These days it feels like coaching is about dispensing platitudinous advice like not giving up on your dreams or eliminating toxic people from your life. Some dreams are not worth pursuing. Life coaches do not seem to tell anyone that. They are not paid to be critics. That is unfortunate.

I think that if I were a life coach, I would start out by telling clients how

to tie their shoes. I see a lot of people walking around these days with untied shoes. The laces are either stuffed under the tongue or flopping around like overcooked spaghetti. I guess it is supposed to be a fashion statement. But how are you going to learn how to walk confidently into a room, stick out your hand and introduce yourself if your shoes are untied. You might trip or just look like a fool.

Some people want to be told that they deserve fortune and fame or that they can manifest the same just by imagining it. It seems it would be a lot more valuable to be taught how. It is a lot like lacing your shoes. You start at the bottom and work your way up slowly pulling each rung tight and snug until it is perfect. Then you move on to the next rung.

**Scott A. Grant is a local writer, author and historian. By day he is a fiduciary asset manager with Standfast Asset Management. He is not a life coach.**

## Housing Partnership plans volunteering event on Saturday

The St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP), which has been creating safe, clean, affordable housing in North Florida since 1996, has announced a county-wide initiative on “National Make a Difference Day,” Saturday, Oct. 22.

Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., volunteers who will spread out over St. Johns County to help paint, clean and repair more than 15 homes for veterans, the elderly or disabled.

Volunteers are needed for exterior

house painting, repairs, landscaping, yard clean up and to help build wheelchair ramps.

“Make a Difference Day promotes the idea of volunteering and making an impact in one’s own community,” said SJHP Executive Director Bill Lazar. “It promotes that any act of kindness, no matter the size, can go a long way in making a difference for someone else.”

To volunteer on Make a Difference Day, go to [sjhp.org](http://sjhp.org).

In addition to recruiting volunteers, SJHP is offering sponsorship packages and taking donations of materials. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,500.

National Make a Difference Day was created by “USA Weekend” magazine in 1992 to offer community support and encourage volunteerism across the country.

Points of Light, a nonprofit organization founded by former U.S. President George H. W. Bush, is the official co-sponsor of Make a Difference Day. Ever since its inception, Make a Difference Day has echoed in 30 countries and has inspired more than 30 million volunteer hours.

For more information, contact the St. Johns Housing Partnership at 904-824-0902 or [info@sjhp.org](mailto:info@sjhp.org).



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# YOU DECIDE

**To the editor:**

St. Johns County voters will have the opportunity to consider a 1% or one-cent sales tax increase on Nov 8. You will decide if for the next 10 years we should be taxed to pay for our ever-growing infrastructure needs. Yes, we are a rapidly growing county with no signs of slowing down. This is no surprise because it has been the case for the last decade or so. SJC has received multiple accolades, one of which is our top-rated school district, and it has been recognized as such for the past 14 years. Developers can't build homes and businesses fast enough for people and families that want to raise their children here. There had been some talk about this discretionary sales surtax, but it was never provided the opportunity for public discussion by the Commission until this referendum.

Did you know that ...

SJC is surrounded by four counties that currently have a surtax and most have more than one. We currently have a 0.5 or half-cent surtax for our public schools, it has provided much needed revenue for the district.

SJC receives only a half cent of the 6-cent sales tax that we currently provide the state of Florida. This additional one cent would go directly into our county coffers and would be restricted for approved infrastructure expenditures only and, if instated, a Citizen Oversight Committee would be established.

SJC has an annual 6.3 million tourists (2017 Visitor Profile Survey) that utilize our infrastructure, be it roadways, emergency operations, beaches, etc. These visitors would help contribute approximately a third of the estimated 49 million in projected annual surtax revenue.

SJC developers are required by state law to pay their proportionate share to provide for some of the impact a new development will have on surrounding communities. Impact fees are common in low tax states where the tax structure doesn't provide enough revenue through other sources to pay for growth. The impact fee structure is county-reviewed every four years.

SJC residents want more public parks, rec facilities, libraries, sidewalks, etc. This proposed surtax would help to supplement those wants.

St. Johns County voters ... YOU decide.

**Victoria Corlazzoli**



Contributed photo

**Realtors and employees of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty laced up their shoes to take part in the Dreams Come True 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run.**

## Real estate firm donates \$30K to Dreams Come True

Realtors and employees of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently laced up their running and walking shoes to take part in the Dreams Come True 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run, donating \$30,460 to Northeast Florida's local dream-granting organization for local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

The Northeast Florida real estate firm served as the Dream Racer sponsor, welcoming dream families and recognizing the brave dreamers at the event held at the University of North Florida. The company's associates formed branch office teams, creating friendly competition for their 5K participation and fundraising activities.

In conjunction with the Dreams Come True 5K, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty volunteers staffed the Dreams Come True WJXT Channel 4 Phone Bank, answering phones and soliciting donations for the nonprofit organization.

"We are deeply committed to supporting the mission of this wonderful organization," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty CEO Kevin Waugaman. "Our company believes in creating a positive impact in others' lives, and we appreciate the support we receive from our passionate team to help make dreams come true for many deserving local children."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

### MEET THE DESIGNER TO THE HOLLYWOOD STARS



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# Explore various wedding styles during planning

Every wedding is different, even if many share some common components. As couples plan their weddings, learning about some popular wedding styles can help them create a ceremony that suits them.

## Classic wedding

Classic weddings are the storybook traditional weddings that many people dream about for years. Key elements include a tuxedo for the groom and a traditional white gown for the bride. Formal attire is reserved for the rest of the wedding party. The ceremony is conducted in a place of worship before everyone retires to a fancy catering hall for the reception. Traditional weddings also may include the time-honored customs like toasts, cake cutting, bouquet toss, and parent-child dances.

## Beach wedding

Beach weddings often are casual, laid back affairs. Dresses may be less structured and flow with sea breezes, while males may even opt for shorts with linen shirts or lightweight jackets. Many encourage no shoes or sandals/flip flops. Guests can expect the party to be much more free-flowing and the traditions of

classic weddings may not be part of the celebration.

## Bohemian wedding

Free-spirited individuals may dive head first into a bohemian style wedding. According to wedding planner David Tutera, a boho wedding is casual and comfortable. It tends to come off chic but appears that way with minimal effort. Brides opt for flowy, unstructured dresses with bold lace details or dramatic sleeves. Decor is typically humble and blends harmoniously with nature. Popular bohemian wedding colors are muted, warm tones or colors often found in nature. A boho wedding may take place outdoors or in another less traditional venue, such as a farmhouse or botanical garden. Wedding party attire may be mismatched and showcase each person's individual style.

## Modern wedding

Brides and grooms who crave contemporary and current trends may prefer a modern wedding. Graphic color schemes, clean lines and minimalistic flowers might be part of a modern wedding. Attire may be angular and edgy, and the venue may vary from sleek museum to a city rooftop.



## Destination wedding

Couples who love to travel and don't want to worry about the trivial details of wedding planning may find a destination wedding is a good fit. Destination weddings last more than one day and focus on relaxation, activities and lots of fun. Destination weddings tend to be less formal and less traditional than classic weddings. Due to the remote locations, destination weddings also can be smaller and more intimate, as many invitees may

be unable to attend. Yet those who can attend often get to enjoy tropical islands or mountain retreats.

Wedding styles are as unique as the people getting married. Choosing a theme that has the right feeling can help couples make the most of their special days.

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2022

# GENERAL ELECTION

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **GUIDE**



THE  
RECORDER



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022



**Early Voting Locations for  
General Election**

**October 26 - November 5, 2022  
8 AM - 6 PM  
Daily at all locations**

**Julington Creek Annex  
725 Flora Branch Blvd  
St. Johns, FL 32259**

**Ponte Vedra Branch Library  
101 Library Blvd  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082**

**Ponte Vedra Concert Hall  
1050 A1A N  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082**

**SilverLeaf Amenity Center  
218 Silver Forest Dr.  
St. Augustine, FL 32092**

**Supervisor of Elections Office  
4455 Avenue A, Suite 101  
St. Augustine, FL 32095**

**St. Augustine Beach City Hall  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine, FL 32080**

**Hastings Branch Library  
6195 S. Main Street  
Hastings, FL 32145**

**Southeast Branch Library  
6670 US 1 South  
St. Augustine, FL 32086**





## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was produced by the staff at the Ponte Vedra Recorder to prepare area voters for the general election on Nov. 8.

A significant portion of the information in this guide was submitted by the candidates. Information pertaining to the election was also provided by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections.

Also in this guide, readers will find helpful information on how and where to vote and what will be on the ballot.

## PRECINCTS LOCATIONS IN THE AREA

The locations listed here are the normal polling locations for elections. Some elections may have a different polling location than what is shown here. To confirm your voting location for a specific election, use the Voter Information Lookup at <https://www.votesjc.gov/find-my-polling-place>.

- **401:** Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- **402:** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 545 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **403:** Palm Valley Baptist Church, 4890 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **404:** Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **405:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **406:** St. Francis in the Field, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra
- **407:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **408:** Crosswater Hall at Nocatee, 245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra
- **409:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St Augustine
- **505:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St Augustine
- **507:** Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach

# Early voting starts Oct. 26 in St. Johns County

Early voting for the Nov. 8 general election will be available daily in St. Johns County between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. from Wednesday, Oct. 26, through Saturday, Nov. 5. Early voting can be done at the following locations:

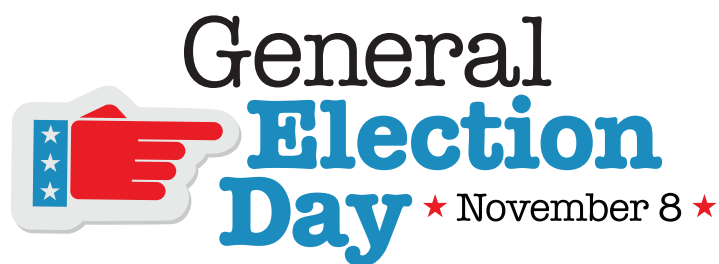
- Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
- Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns

- SilverLeaf Amenity Center, 218 Silver Forest Drive, St. Augustine
  - Supervisor of Elections Office, 4455 Avenue A, No. 101, St. Augustine
  - St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine
  - Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
  - Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings
- Registered St. Johns County voters are allowed to vote at any St. Johns

County early voting locations during the early voting period. Voters must present a current and valid photo and signature ID when voting in person. Voter information cards are not a valid form of identification when voting. Go to [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) for a list of acceptable forms of ID.

Call the Supervisor of Elections Office at 904-823-2238 or go to [votesjc.gov](http://votesjc.gov) for additional information regarding early voting.

## ELECTION DAY



Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 8. Be election ready: Go to [votesjc.gov](http://votesjc.gov) and select My Voter Status to view your assigned polling place.

Photo-and-signature ID is required to vote in person, or you will be required to vote a provisional ballot. Acceptable forms of identification include:



- Florida Driver License
- Florida Identification Card
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID
- Debit or Credit Card
- Retirement Center ID
- Student ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Florida Concealed Weapon or Firearm License
- Veteran Health ID Card
- Government Employee ID

The Supervisor of Elections Office is not an Election Day precinct. Vote-by-mail ballots are available to vote in the office for emergency circumstances only.

## VOTING BY MAIL

Voting by mail is for registered voters who will be absent from the county or do not wish to travel to their precinct on Election Day. The deadline for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed is 5 p.m. on the 10th day prior to each election.

Request a vote-by-mail ballot in person, by telephone, fax, mail or online. The voter must provide the following information when making the request:

- Voter's name
- Voter's residence address
- Voter's Florida Driver License or ID Card or the last four numbers of their Social Security Number
- Voter's date of birth
- Ballot mailing address
- Voter's signature (written requests only)

Vote-by-mail ballots cannot be forwarded. A signed, written request is required for a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to an address not in your voter record.

**Elect**

# Dennis CLARKE

**AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
St. Johns County – Group 2**

- **ENSURING** best financial and organizational management
- **IMPROVING** facilities and operations for general aviation, commercial aviation, charters, and commercial flights
- **COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT** Board Governance and Executive Accountability

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**Elect**

# Jaime TOPP

**AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
St. Johns County – Group 3**

Please visit: [www.VoteJaimeTopp.com](http://www.VoteJaimeTopp.com)

- **EXPERIENCE** as owner and manager of Fixed Based Operator (FBO)
- **UNDERSTANDS** how airport operations work and how they can be improved for general aviation, commercial aviation, charters, and commercial flights
- **KNOWLEDGEABLE** of a wide range of aircraft
- **FORMER** commercial pilot & U.S. Air Force Veteran
- **DEDICATED** to improving airport use & successful organizational management

Paid for & Approved by Jaime Topp for Airport Authority Board



## ANASTASIA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT SEAT 2 CANDIDATES



**Name:** Ed Slavin  
**Age:** 65  
**Where do you live?** St. Augustine  
**Position you are seeking:** Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County Commissioner, Seat 2

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

- Your government watchdog.
- B.S.F.S., Georgetown; J.D., Memphis State.
- Journalist and activist.
- Helped reverse illegal no-bid purchase of \$1,800,000 luxury helicopter — our Anastasia Mosquito Control District got full refund!
- My father survived malaria as a World War II paratrooper, bitten by a mosquito in Sicily.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?

I support good science to control mosquitoes, while protecting all of us “non-target species” from pesticides. Public education, public participation, applied research, science-based policies, and safe, non-toxic, natural mosquito control methods, are essential to protecting public health from deadly mosquito-borne diseases. AMCD exists to save human lives. We must do it right, with Board oversight. It’s our money.

A. Since Rachel Carson’s book, “Silent Spring,” we’ve known that pesticides can kill bald eagles, pollinators and other non-target species, even as they protect us from mosquito-borne diseases. B. Overdevelopment increases the cost and difficulty of mosquito control, with St. Johns County approving thousands of new homes in and near swamps and mosquito habitat. AMCD should help inform the debate about overdevelopment. Impact fees must internalize the external costs of overdevelopment.

C. I support environmentally and fiscally sound means of mosquito control and reducing AMCD’s use of organophosphate poisons (OPs), which are carcinogenic, teratogenic and mutagenic.

D. I support using natural pesticides like Bti and Gambusia fish to kill or devour mosquito larvae, reducing OP use.

E. I support using sterile, x-ray irradiated male mosquitoes to reduce population of disease-bearing female mosquitoes.

F. I support employee whistleblower rights to raise concerns, including worker and public safety and health.



**Name:** Gary Howell  
**Age:** 74  
**Where do you live?** District 2  
**Position you are seeking:** Anastasia Mosquito Control District Board (a county-wide position and vote)

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As an experienced member of the Mosquito Control Board, I have assisted in providing the best mosquito control program in the United States. I helped taxpayers save millions of dollars with the headquarters relocation to become a state-of-the-art, nationally recognized facility to study controls. Control scientists and students come here from around the country. We are working on improving the use of sterile mosquitos to control disease. I look forward to being active in the proposed funded education center, fostering field trips, working with school programs and giving visitors an opportunity to learn more about mosquitos and controls being used against them.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the Mosquito Control District?

In order to maintain our nationally recognized status and continue research capabilities for mosquito control, we need to place special focus on improving the use of sterile mosquitos. We will put efforts on planning, developing and implementing the use of the new Mosquito Education facility, integrating programs with our county School System. The Education Center is scheduled to open Dec. 8 with a public introduction and tour from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Begin to service three identified areas of the county not protected now.



**Name:** Martha Gleason  
**Age:** 60  
**Where do you live?** Ponte Vedra Beach  
**Position you are seeking:** Anastasia Mosquito Control District, Board of Commissioners, Seat 2

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Taxpayers deserve a mosquito control board who utilizes taxpayer dollars in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner. As such, citizens should expect these dollars to be focused on monitoring and controlling the mosquito population by the safest methods possible.

My strong educational background, financial and business expertise make me uniquely qualified to further the district’s scientific endeavors while at the same time maintaining financial discipline that taxpayers deserve. It is my goal to look a different business model that eventually take the district off the tax rolls.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?

- Ensure Fiscally Responsibility: AMCD Board members must be fiscally responsible and committed to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars through responsible budget decision-making.
- Ensure Accountability: The AMCD Board of Commissioners are elected by voters in St. Johns County. Therefore, I will fight to ensure that the best interests of St. Johns citizens are served by the district.
- Ensure Transparency: The AMCD is limited in how they can spend taxpayer dollars and are required to be transparent in their financial processes. I will ensure that citizens receive proper notice about the proposed annual budget meetings, mileage increases, and all projects involving significant expenditures by the district. Under my watch Board members will not use taxpayer dollars to benefit financially. Projects such as the “Mosquito Museum” should have received sufficient public notice and debate. Consideration should have been given to making this a referendum item, and not a unanimous Board vote.



**Name:** Will Kelman  
**Age:** 69  
**Where do you live?** St. Augustine South  
**Position you are seeking:** Seat 2 — Anastasia Mosquito Control District

### Why are you the best candidate for this position? I am the best candidate for this position because:

- I am an experienced, compassionate, highly competent leader and team player whose strength is high budget finance.
- I will increase the footprint of the AMCD to the citizens of our great county, St. Johns County in an effort to call attention to the services provided to our citizens for their benefit.
- I will get the most for our citizens’ tax dollars, forwarding the mission of the AMCD to kill dangerous mosquitoes.
- I will emphasize and make certain that within the AMCD’s mission, we keep our environment safe as a top priority.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?

The most important issues facing the Anastasia Mosquito Control District are:

1. Working to be competitive within the industry by continuing to have the very best team working together to irradiate deadly mosquitoes that cause disease in our community.
2. Bringing the AMCD to the forefront of our community. Many of our citizens are not aware of this great organization and should know of the amazing services that they can take advantage of.
3. Working to keep our environment safe. It is critical to keep our environment safe from toxic chemicals.
4. Finally, to work within the budget to get the most for our tax dollars.

## ANASTASIA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT SEAT 4 CANDIDATES



**Name:** Chris George  
**Age:** 44  
**Where do you live?** Nocatee  
**Position you are seeking:** Anastasia Mosquito Control Board Seat 4

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have decided to run for the Mosquito Control Board in the November election because it is a group that has a direct impact on my family. We are a very outdoor-centric family, so this matter is very close to my day-to-day life. I have always wanted to be a part of my community and saw this opportunity as a perfect example of where I can bring my past experiences in business and finance to help the people in our county.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?

My purpose is to sustain clarity in the finances, while protecting the residence of St. Johns County. I will help push forward research and technology to combat the cause, while also being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of this county. I would like to take the politics out of this office and bring a more business sense to this entity that has the authorization to be a taxing authority. I will do my best to have the residents of St Johns County have a voice in their government and spend their money on the task at hand and not in frivolous ways. I would also like to focus on our parks and recreational areas to make them safer for those who enjoy the spaces. One cannot complain unless they are prepared to offer a solution and do something about it. I plan to do just that, and to build up the great county we all call home.



**Name:** Trish Becker  
**Age:** 40  
**Where do you live?** In beautiful St. Augustine, just north of the airport.  
**Position you are seeking:** Re-election for Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 4

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Each year I’ve voted and passed to lower the AMCD tax millage rate, provide great employee pay and benefits, and ensure AMCD has a conservative budget while still providing excellent customer service. With a focus on environmental safety and pioneering research through million-dollar grants, AMCD is a world-renowned, award-winning leader in the field, and I plan to keep it that way. As the Educational Chair, I will continue teaching students in classrooms across the county and welcome them to the Vector Disease Educational Center, where they can learn and be inspired to join a career in STEM.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?

With over 40 species of mosquitoes in SJC, overbuilding and climate change affect mosquito populations. Only a handful of mosquito species take blood meals from humans; the rest eat off of animals in the forest; if their food is taken away to make room for more buildings, then we will become their new diet. Worldwide, over one million people die each year from mosquitoes, but thanks to the great work at AMCD, we haven’t had a human infection since 2004. Our first responders ensure everyone in the county is safe to play outside without being exposed to dangerous chemicals. In addition, climate change is bringing more water to our shores, and all a mosquito needs is a capful of water to grow 200 eggs to full-grown adults in less than two weeks. Finally, a stunning fact about mosquitoes is that they are becoming resistant to pesticides. Luckily, our AMCD team is researching environmentally friendly treatments, which brings in millions of dollars in grants to find new methods.



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- Improved Economic Value to the County
- Improved Community Involvement

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Vote for Tate, November 8!

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## AMENDMENTS

The following proposed amendments to the Florida constitution will appear on the Nov. 8 ballot:

**No. 1 Constitutional Amendment  
Article VII, Section 4; Article XII,  
Section 42**

**Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

**No. 2 Constitutional Amendment,  
Article II, Section 5; Article XI,  
Sections 2 and 5**

**Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a method of

submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution.

**No. 3 Constitutional Amendment  
Article VII, Section 6; Article XII  
Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023.

# A look at School Board, state races

St. Johns County voters will choose two School Board members in the general election. This is a non-partisan race.

Racheal M. Hand and incumbent Beverly Slough are competing for the District 1 seat. Lauren Abell and Jennifer Collins are competing for the District 3 seat.

None of the School Board candidates responded to our questionnaire.

St. Augustine voters will choose between Cynthia Garris and Bruce Maguire for City Commission Seat 4, and between Melinda Rakoncay and Jim Springfield for Seat 5.

In addition to local races, St. Johns County voters will cast ballots in several state contests.

In the governor's race, incumbent Ron DeSantis is the Republican candidate and former governor Charlie Crist is the Democratic candidate. The Libertarian candidate is Hector Roos, and there is one candidate with no party affiliation.

In the race for U.S. Senator, incumbent Marco Rubio is the Republican candidate and Val Demings is the Democratic candidate. The Libertarian candidate is Dennis Misigoy. There are two candidates with no party affiliation and four write-ins.

In the state attorney general race, incumbent Ashley Moody is the Republican candidate and Aramis Ayala is the Democratic candidate.

In the race for state chief financial officer, incumbent Jimmy Petronis is the Republican candidate and Adam Hattersley is the Democratic candidate.

The current commissioner of agriculture for Florida is Democrat Nikki Fried, who ran for governor in the primary election and was defeated by Crist. As a result, there are two candidates for that position in the general election. Wilton Simpson is the Republican candidate and Naomi Esther Blemur is the Democratic candidate.

Martha   
**GLEASON**  
*for* Mosquito Control District



VOTE BY  
NOVEMBER 8TH 2022

**STOP THE STING!**

Help Me Bring **Accountability, Fiscal Responsibility** and **Transparency** to the Mosquito Control District.



[www.MarthaGleason.com](http://www.MarthaGleason.com)

Paid by Martha Gleason for Anastasia Mosquito Control District



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- Ask how to buy property with your IRA
- Incredible, convenient location – area shopping, dining, attractions and more just a short drive away

**Excellent Financing Available!**



*Some pictures used are not photographs of the community but are used to illustrate lifestyle only. \*Dock permits are subject to approval by relevant governing agencies.*





## ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY GROUP 1 CANDIDATES



**Name:** Suzanne W. Green  
**Age:** 62  
**Where do you live?** Ponte Vedra Beach  
**Position you are seeking:** St. Augustine Airport Authority — Group 1

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am experienced, trustworthy and knowledgeable. I have worked diligently to take the airport off the county tax rolls in 2010 and have continued to keep the airport off the tax rolls of St. Johns County. I am forward thinking for the needs of the airport and the growing county population. My legal background and business prowess assist the Board with insight into development.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?

Growing economically and fiscally with the county and its needs. Emphasizing a symbiotic relationship between general aviation and the overall needs of the county. This includes our commercial tenants, industrial needs and some commercial service to the airport.



**Name:** Russ Scott  
**Age:** 75  
**Where do you live?** St. Johns/ Northwest area/Cimarrone community  
**Position you are seeking:** Airport Authority Board — Group 1

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Business background with 30 years in banking/finance. I am an Air Force veteran and have served on several boards and have volunteered in many community organizations. Currently, I am very involved with Epic-Cure.org, an SJC community food rescue organization, providing food to those in need, and active in SJC 2nd Alarmers (firefighter support).

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?

I believe we need to generate additional revenue for the county. The County Commissioners are asking us to vote on a 1-cent tax increase. At the same time, we have been turning away airport customers as space and services are not readily available. I would like to accelerate the building of

additional hangars at the airport. It is important to have people without vested interests on the Board. The Board should be independent, and I will work to ensure that decisions are made with the entire county in mind. The airport is not getting the exposure in the community it deserves. A two-term limit should be established for all Board positions. EVtols are on the horizon. Those are electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft. Not for home use but airport based. Think of these as a quiet air taxi service, battery operated. Ride cost comparable to an Uber. Short, quick ride to Jax Int'l Airport. We need to prepare for this technology. FAA approvals are expected in 2024.



**Name:** Michelle Cash Chapman  
 The candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY GROUP 2 CANDIDATES



**Name:** Dennis M Clarke  
**Age:** 71  
**Where do you live?** Aberdeen (Northwest St. Johns County)  
**Position you are seeking:** Airport Authority Group 2

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

We need the right leadership on the Board. I have the credentials to help lead the airport into the future. I have 45 years of experience in accounting, fiduciary positions of trust in banking, bank regulation and private industry, and voluntary service on not-for-profit boards, most recently the Aberdeen CDD. As an aviation enthusiast, a private pilot and an airplane owner, I understand the complex technical business of running an airport.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?

The most serious shortcoming is lax financial management. Although the annual statements prepared by CPAs meet accounting industry standards, the interim statements provided to the Board are neither conventional nor properly presented, which renders them less than useful for decision making. Confirming my suspicions of mismanagement, the most recent audit report for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2021, contained the qualifying statement from the outside auditors:

"We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as items 2021-001 and 2021-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses." As the elected representatives of the citizens, the Board is responsible for ensuring the airport remains on solid financial footing and supports our growing county and that executive management is executing on that vision. With a proper governance structure in place, we can promote business opportunities, attract commercial airlines, charter operators and expand the airport without resorting to eminent domain, all at no cost to the taxpaying citizens of St. Johns County.



**Name:** Beth Tate  
**Age:** 62  
**Where do you live?** St. Johns (Julington Creek)  
**Position you are seeking:** Airport Authority Board, Group 2

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

My background and experience with both non-profit and corporate Boards along with my affinity for aviation have prepared me to be effective Day 1 on the Airport Authority Board. My business experience with large budgets and operations has prepared me to partner with the businesses at the airport and the local government entities to help the airport play a part in the economic development of the county. I have a vision for making our airport a valued part of the larger St. Johns County community and the experience to make that happen.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?

Earlier this year, a tragic accident at the airport highlighted the need for a Safety Committee and a well-rehearsed, actionable plan for airport emergency response. As someone who has led disaster recovery programs, this was the motivating factor for me to run for the Airport Authority Board. I'm ready to resolve this issue within the first 6 months on the Board. Our airport has a lengthy waiting list for General Aviation hangars. There is no strategic plan on how to address the need for additional hangars and improve the overall customer experience for General Aviation pilots at the airport.



**Name:** David W. Venters  
**Age:** 74  
**Where do you live?** Ponte Vedra (Nocatee)  
**Position you are seeking:** St. John's County Airport Authority Board, Group 2

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have the trifecta of aviation experience: 1. Air Force veteran with 1,300 flight hours as an aircrew member. 2. Retired air traffic controller, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). 3. Alternate manager of compliance, St. Augustine Airport. (Note: Only candidate who has worked at the airport). Additionally, adjunct professor of aviation, Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ).

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?

Helping the airport develop in a responsible manner for the benefit of all citizens. Keeping the airport financially self-sufficient and free from local taxes. Also, enhancing and improving the airport operations for the future. Additionally,

emphasizing the economic importance of our regional airport and instituting more outreach programs to better inform the public.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY GROUP 3 CANDIDATES



**Name:** Jaime R Topp  
**Age:** 74  
**Where do you live?** St. Augustine  
**Position you are seeking:** Airport Authority Group 3

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am a U.S. Airforce veteran. I can address undervalued dynamics of our airport. My experience includes ownership of fixed-base operators. I know how to grow airport business to complement commercial flight operations with general aviation. I understand how operations work and how they can be improved. Needed are construction of new, income-producing hangars to satisfy a seven-year waiting list. We need the addition of complementary businesses, growing charter businesses and better controlling existing operations. We need to make the airport available, safely, for people to see the operations, that is how young people get excited about a possible career in aviation. I have many years of experience as a general and commercial airline pilot with many different aircraft, and as owner of successful fixed base operators, I understand how airport operations work and how they can be improved. My business expertise, problem solving and entrepreneurial skills can help make our airport a successful operation for the aviation community, residents and commercial interests. I am the right candidate with my experience for the Airport Authority to oversee and improve business results in the future. I have the expertise, problem solving and entrepreneurial skills to make our airport a successful, attractive operation. I am currently president of the St. Augustine Airport Pilots Association and a member of the Northeast Aero Flying Club. I am ready for your vote of confidence. Remember to vote for Topp at the bottom of the Airport Authority ballot.

### What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?

Better financial oversight. Focus on the users of the airport and the community. Encourage growth of local visibility of the airport. Make the airport a desired destination to watch activity and community involvement. The current administration has been there 25 years and they are experts in kicking the can down the road.



**Name:** Jennifer Liotta  
**Age:** 45  
**Where do you live?** Julington Creek  
**Position you are seeking:** St. Johns County Airport Authority — Group 3

### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have the leadership, collaboration and professional skills the Airport Authority needs. Most importantly, I am very familiar with the

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### ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY AND BEACH COMMISSION GROUP 1 CANDIDATES



**Name:** Linda Thomson  
**Age:** senior  
**Where do you live?** South Ponte Vedra Beach, just a few feet north of Vilano Beach  
**Position you are seeking:** Port Waterway and Beach – Seat 1

**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

As the principal of Nease H.S. (2005-2009) and principal of Fairfax H.S. (Virginia 2001-2004), I worked with parents and community members to build relationships, communication and consensus on issues. Over the past six months that I have observed PWB meetings, there is considerable discord and poor communication between my opponent and members of the board as well as members of the community that come to address the board. An adversarial tone from my opponent makes it difficult to win support and cooperative funding for PWB projects. I bring the ability to work positively for the goals of the PWB Board.

**What are a couple of the most important issues facing the board you are seeking a seat on?**

There is community concern regarding (1) the \$62 million expense of dredging and renourishment for our coasts and (2) the lack of effective long-

term solutions to erosion, as well as loss of beach shoreline, public access and navigable waterways. As our population grows, adequate beach and boat access become more challenging. Although a new boat access/park area is planned, we must continue to support that cooperative project and develop additional resources for the county. Meetings of the PWB board are public but are scheduled for 3 p.m. monthly, making it impossible for working people to attend. The meetings are not available through Zoom, live-streaming, pod-cast, or any other modern communications method. They are tape-recorded on an audio-cassette, where it is impossible to determine who is speaking or what is said. This has been brought to the attention of the board, but no changes have been made.

...

**Name:** Sandy Flowers  
 The candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

### ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY AND BEACH COMMISSION GROUP 3 CANDIDATES

**Name:** Matt Brown  
**Age:** 39  
**Where do you live?** Downtown St. Augustine  
**Position you are seeking:** St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District Seat 3

**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**  
 In the last four years on the Port District, I've been

successful at promoting conservation-focused projects within the district, including beach crossovers for St. Augustine Beach and co-funding the upcoming Genovar Tract boat ramp. I want to continue on this trajectory in a second term.

**What are a couple of the most important issues facing the board you're seeking a seat on?**

Overdevelopment is far and away the most significant issue facing our community. As this county continues to face exponential, unchecked growth, our quality of life is under direct threat. The Port District is positioned to address this issue by sponsoring projects focused on water quality, conservation, and restoration.

...

**Name:** Harold David Bishop Jr.  
 The candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

...

**Name:** Michelle Bennett  
 The candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

### ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY AND BEACH COMMISSION GROUP 5 CANDIDATES

**Name:** Tom Rivers  
**Age:** 69  
**Where do you live?** St Augustine (Vilano Beach)  
 Position you are seeking: Commissioner, Group 5, St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach Commission

**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am an incumbent who has served in this capacity for several years. Experience in this office is important. Keeping the beaches and Intracoastal clean and safe are my priorities. We have worked effectively with the Sheriff's Marine Division and the Harbormaster and marine officers of the St. Augustine Police and Fire. We have raised money for a fire boat and air boat for the city and county's use. I was on board when the effort to open the Summer Haven River was implemented and have seen the fruits of our labor.

**What are a couple of the most important issues facing the board you're seeking a seat on?**

We need to extend the 1937 District map to include areas that were not even there when the Legislature created this special district in 1937. The Port Group helped finance \$1.5 million to purchase a 31-acre tract of land on the Intracoastal for a new boat ramp part. Boating safety, beach access and boat ramp maintenance are very important to this county's marine enthusiasts. I am always open to speak to any citizen concerning new ideas.

...

**Name:** Marco Klovansh  
 The candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

...

**Name:** Melanie Sunshine Neale  
 The candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

## Airport

Continued from 26

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY GROUP 3 CANDIDATES

airport, how it is currently administered and its specific challenges and opportunities. I am uniquely qualified as I am an aviation business owner, corporate attorney and pilot. I have served on and advised numerous boards and have led organizations through growth and transformation. Once elected, I will immediately be an effective member of the authority.

**What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

The airport is important infrastructure for St. Johns County, but it hasn't kept up with the changing needs of the county. The authority needs a strategic business plan to help make better long-term decisions and provide measurements of airport performance. The hangar waiting list needs to be addressed as it is unacceptably long, and hangar rentals bring in critical revenue. A review of commercial

airline service at the airport is needed after the most recent failure to sustain airline service after spending millions of taxpayer dollars on it. Airport safety needs review after the recent fatality that involved an extended emergency response. And the authority should do more to engage the community, including supporting events such as air shows, developing a playground adjacent to the field and supporting internships for St. Augustine aerospace academy high school students. I look forward to serving on the authority to address these important issues.

...

**Name:** Susan G. Phillips  
**Age:** 60  
**Where do you live?** St. Augustine off of S.R. 16  
**Position you are seeking:** St. Johns County Airport Authority Board, Group 3

**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I bring 30+ years aviation and business experience and a fresh perspective to this role. I've worked for a major airline (Delta Air Lines), plus destination marketing (Visit Myrtle Beach, and St. Johns County Visitors & Convention Bureau) and in airport management at the Asheville (N.C.) Regional Airport. At the airport I worked on air service development, airport management and operations, DOT grant funding and execution, community engagement, operations and safety, tenant support, economic development, and general aviation collaboration. I was also the public information officer and was the official media spokesperson for any airplane or airport-related incidents.

**What are a couple of the most important issues facing the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

There are three important issues:

We must continue to focus on accountability to St. Johns County taxpayers for all decision-making. This includes maintaining the airport's financial strength and keeping it off the tax roll, making transparent decisions and ensuring that safety is the top priority.

A well-run airport is an economic engine which should be leveraged for its best use. We must focus on economic development opportunities and operate the airport as a small business. This includes bringing new tenants to the airport, pursuing corporate and commercial air service, building general aviation hangars, and leveraging airport-owned land development for future revenues.

Last, the airport should expand engagement and interaction with the local community (taxpayers, businesses, schools, civic groups) to highlight ways to connect and work with the airport. My extensive corporate background in aviation, business, legal, government and destination marketing uniquely qualify me to serve on the Northeast Regional Airport Authority Board.

...

**Name:** John C "Jack" Gorman  
 The candidate did not respond to the questionnaire.



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# Voters to decide one-cent surtax proposal

By Shaun Ryan

A referendum on the Nov. 8 general election ballot stands as an object lesson on the long-term impacts of an economic downturn.

Voters will decide whether to increase the sales tax in St. Johns County by one cent per dollar spent, from the current 6.5 cents to 7.5 cents. The increase would apply to the first \$5,000 of the purchase price of an item and would sunset after 10 years.

It would generate an estimated \$500 million over that decade, an amount sufficient to fund a severe backlog of projects, the absence of which is becoming increasingly apparent as the county's population surges.

The surtax couldn't be renewed without another voter referendum. The penny would fund only capital projects.

"In other words, brick and mortar," said St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean. "No added staff. No operational expenses."

The commission voted 4-1 in March to place the issue on the ballot to allow voters to decide it.

Dean said about \$220 million of the revenue generated would be spent on transportation projects, including widening some two-lane roads to four lanes, work on bridges, sidewalks and more.

Other projects would include construction of three fire stations, three regional parks, three libraries and a sheriff's office command center, as well as work on beach renourishment.

In the Ponte Vedra area, it would fund a broadening of Mickler Road from the roundabout to State Road A1A and Palm Valley Road from South Roscoe Boulevard to the roundabout from two to four lanes.

There would also be \$17 million for drainage improvements along the greater Ponte Vedra road network and \$6 million for sidewalk construction, also in the Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley area.

Dean said about 40% of the sales tax revenue would be generated by out-of-county visitors, with residents paying the other 60%.

## The Road to 2022

To understand how the need for additional revenue came about, it's necessary to look back at the so-called "Great Recession" of 2008.

The immediate result was that local development came to a halt.

"Almost no homes were built for three years in St. Johns County," Dean said.

In addition, property values fell 30% between 2008 and 2010. The result was a decrease of ad valorem tax revenue.

Meanwhile, a decrease of tourism at that time impacted the county's bed tax revenue. Adding to this was a mandate by the state about a decade ago that counties reduce their millage rates by one mill.

The county needed to do something to encourage a growth in the tax base, in other words, development.

"The commission basically significantly reduced the impact fees on residential development to encourage development to come back," Dean said.

Arguably, that reduced potential revenue.

Then, starting in 2010, the population in St. Johns County began to boom. Over the next 10 years it grew by about 50%. Development, too, returned.

Recognizing that there was no money to fund the infrastructure needed to meet the demand, then-Commissioner Jay Morris alerted his fellow commissioners in 2015 that a one-cent surtax should be placed on the ballot. Ultimately, by a vote of 3-2, this proposal was defeated.

Because there was no money to fund capital projects, virtually none were budgeted between 2010 and 2018.

"So, we have this tremendous backlog of capital projects," Dean said.

Dean was elected to the board in November 2016, and he and the other commissioners sought a solution over the

following year and, in 2018, approved a hike in impact fees to the maximum allowed by law.

While this helped the county to adjust to the greater demand, it didn't resolve the backlog that had occurred between 2008 and 2018. The estimated cost to address that backlog is \$500 million, thus the proposed one-cent surtax.

That number won't remain static, however. If the referendum is defeated, the cost of eliminating the backlog would only continue to grow, largely due to inflation.

In fact, inflation is already causing the county some headaches.

"We just experienced an unbelievable increase in materials and labor for things like roads," Dean said. "It used to cost \$1 million a mile to widen the roads from two to four lanes. It's now upwards of \$10 million to \$12 million — maybe higher."

Dean said he wanted to bring the issue before the voters to give them the chance to approve or deny the increase. The alternatives would be to do nothing and allow the backlog to grow or else to raise taxes, something Dean does not want to consider.

"We have too many elderly folks on fixed incomes, and in these times that we're in, I don't want to increase their millage rate," he said.

## Here's a quick look at political parties in St. Johns County

There are 223,891 registered voters in St. Johns County. Of that number, 118,007 (nearly 53%) are registered Republicans, and 50,937 (nearly 23%) are registered Democrats.

The remainder, 54,947 (nearly 25%) are registered as "no party affiliation" or with

a third party. Nine third parties are registered with the state of Florida. They are: Coalition With A Purpose Party (CPP), Constitution Party of Florida (CPF), Ecology Party of Florida (ECO), Green Party of Florida (GRE), Independent Party of Florida (IND), Libertarian Party of Florida

(LPF), Party for Socialism and Liberation — Florida (PSL), People's Party (PEO) and Reform Party of Florida (REF).

The local Democratic Party headquarters is at 71 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 6, St. Augustine. The phone number is 904-825-2336. The website is stjohndemocrats.org, and the party can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/StJohnsCountyDemocraticParty.

The local Republican Party headquarters is at 3149 U.S. 1 North, Suite 2, St. Augustine. The phone number is 833-683-2020. The website is stjohns.gop, and the party can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/SJCREC.

Florida is a closed-primary state, which means that only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for their respective party's candidates in a primary election. Voters without party affiliation are not eligible to vote for party candidates in a primary election.

Non-partisan judicial and school board offices, non-partisan special districts, municipal and local referenda questions are included in some primary elections. All registered voters, including those without party affiliation are entitled to receive and vote these ballots.

However, in a primary election, if all the candidates qualified to run are of the

same party affiliation and if the winner will be unopposed in the general election, there is a "universal primary contest."

This means all qualified electors, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary election for that office. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast in the primary election is declared the winner of that office. This means neither their name nor office will appear on the general election ballot.

Non-partisan offices may be designated for either the primary election ballot or the general election ballot.

School Board, Judicial offices and the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District are the only non-partisan races that appear on the primary ballot regardless of the number of candidates (two or more). If one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, he or she wins. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the two candidates who received the highest numbers face off in the general election.

All other Special District offices and Community Development Districts with two or more qualified candidates appear only on the general election ballot.

— Information from the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Office

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# Sikes-Kline discusses upcoming projects in St. Augustine

By Shaun Ryan

St. Augustine Mayor-elect Nancy Sikes-Kline presented her priorities for her tenure during a meeting of the Historic St. Augustine Area Council on Friday, Oct. 14. Among her topics were plans for a mobility-oriented development in West Augustine and the Lake Maria Sanchez Stormwater project.

She began her presentation with a report on the impact of Tropical Storm Ian. A total 162 structures sustained minor damages and 20 structures sustained major damages.

The city has a federally funded flood mitigation assistance program to help homeowners who want to elevate their homes or rebuild. Sikes-Kline encouraged attendees to refer to her anyone thinking about elevating.

During the storm, first responders in the city made 19 high-water rescues. The city has budgeted funds for the purchase of a Bearcat high-water rescue vehicle for use in future flooding incidents.

## Mobility Project

On Monday, Oct. 24, the city commission will hold the second reading of an ordinance amending the future land use map for 5.51 acres northwest of the intersection of U.S. 1 and King Street. This marks a step in the process of converting that property — owned by Broudy Bros. — from its designation of commercial medium intensity and industrial warehousing to mobility-oriented development.

The action will pave the way for plans to construct a 700-space parking garage and up to 75 multifamily residential units. Sikes-Kline said the intent was to create a new urban center in the West Augustine area centered on providing satellite parking.

“We’ve always said we wanted satellite parking,” she said. “We want this park-once strategy. So, you come to St. Augustine. You park once, and then you take a shuttle or walk to where you want to go.”

Because the garage would be across U.S. 1 from the heart of the city, a walk-

over is being considered, though the issue is far from being finalized.

A partnership with the state Department of Transportation will result in a shuttle traveling a loop from the parking facility on West Castillo Drive through the downtown. A spur would connect the shuttle to the new garage.

The development is expected to add 10,000 new cars a day to that area, so a traffic study is being planned to find ways to make traffic flow easier.

The garage would probably be leased to the city, though details have not yet been worked out.

## Drainage project

The FEMA-funded Lake Maria Sanchez project is expected to significantly reduce downtown flooding, assisting in the drainage of 200 acres. The cost of the project is \$29 million, with all but \$2 million funded by the federal government.

The city’s share may be included in \$55 million in grants for infrastructure projects, including a seawall replace-



Photo by Shaun Ryan

St. Augustine Mayor-elect Nancy Sikes-Kline talks about some of her priorities during a recent presentation.

ment project and installation of groundwater monitoring system, which will keep an eye on water quality.

St. Augustine’s downtown has had a long history of flooding after rainstorms. This drainage project would benefit anyone traversing that portion of the city, and it could also help preserve some of the city’s historic assets.

# Keating-Joseph wins Commission seat

By Shaun Ryan



Krista Keating-Joseph

Krista Keating-Joseph has won the election for St. Johns County commissioner, District 4, with the withdrawal of write-in challenger Michael C. Lanza.

Keating-Joseph unseated incumbent Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker in the Aug. 23 primary election. That election was very close, with Keating-Joseph receiving 18,905 votes (50.23%) to Blocker’s 18,730 votes (49.77%).

Keating-Joseph recently listed some of her primary goals for when she is seated on the Board of County Commissioners.

In responding to a questionnaire from The Recorder, she said she wanted to slow down growth.

“This unacceptable rate of growth is compromising our quality of life,” she wrote.

She added, “I can say no to unbridled development and take St. Johns County back for the people who live here now.”

Keating-Joseph is a mother of five, including two Navy SEALs, a U.S. Marine and a teenager. In response to the questionnaire, she addressed the impact of growth on local education.

She wrote that she wanted to “save our children from learning in unsafe, unsecure portable classrooms (according to FDLE) and being bused to schools out of their areas. We have more developments being approved than our school system can handle.”

On a different issue, she wrote that “developers must cover the costs of infrastructure so that St. Johns County taxpayers are not stuck paying for their roads and recreational areas.”

She also said that a tree code is needed to discourage clear-cutting.

Keating-Joseph addressed the proposed one-cent sales tax, which represents a 15% increase over the current rate.

She wrote in response to an email inquiry that over 10 years, the increase would cost a family of four \$4,000.

She disagreed with estimates that say tourists would pay 40% of the sales tax. “If you look at tourist spending it is less than 20%,” she wrote.

She wrote that the tax revenue would subsidize developers and continue to promote unbridled growth. She added that, because the new tax would apply only to purchases of \$5,000 or less, it would affect residents in the lower and middle classes.

Finally, she added that she wanted to put first responders first.

“They should not have to leave the county to get a pay raise,” she wrote.

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You can vote in person prior to Election Day by visiting any early voting location from Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday, November 5. Early voting locations will be open from 8 AM to 6 PM daily.



### ELECTION DAY

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM to 7 PM on November 8. Signature and photo ID are required to vote in person. For more information, visit [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov)

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<b>Supervisor of Elections Office</b> 4455 Avenue A, #101 St. Augustine	<b>St. Augustine Beach City Hall</b> 2200 A1A South St. Augustine
<b>Southeast Branch Library</b> 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine	<b>Hastings Branch Library</b> 6195 S. Main St Hastings





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# Nease theater set to showcase "Bye Bye Birdie"

By Anthony Richards

Nease Theater will do its first production of the school year and it comes in the form of the popular musical "Bye Bye Birdie."

There are four performances scheduled over a three-day period Nov. 2, 3 and 5 with each day having a 6:30 p.m. showing, the only exception being Nov. 5 which will also have a 1:30 p.m. show as part of a doubleheader.

"The great thing about theater is that there is a synergy between the performers and the audience," Nease High theater instructor Mark Robinson said. "You play off the audience and they feed off of you. That doesn't happen in T.V. or film."

Robinson is in his first year at the school, but it did not take long for him to realize the potential the school has in its theater program.

"I can't believe the amount of talent we have at this school, and they're all terrific

kids," Robinson said. "It still wows me."

Robinson chose to do "Bye Bye Birdie" after he watched how the students performed "Mama Mia!" last spring. He was a member of the audience at that time, but once he got the job he knew the current group had what it took to pull it off.

"My first professional acting job was a production of 'Bye Bye Birdie' in 1992," Robinson said. "It's been a show I've wanted to do for a while now."

Nease has done its musical production in the spring in recent years, but this it will open things up.

According to Robinson, musicals present different aspects from a traditional play.

"There's just so many more components that have to be in place and accounted for with a



Photo by Anthony Richards

BIRDIE continues on Page 34

"Bye Bye Birdie" will be the Nease theater program's fall production.



# Forson clarifies School Board action on class size

By Shaun Ryan

On Thursday, Oct. 13, St. Johns County School Superintendent Tim Forson sent a video to parents and district staff responding to stories by area news outlets regarding a recent School Board action on class size.

Referring to news stories saying the district is allowing class sizes to exceed the state limit, Forson expressed frustration.

“The headlines seem to be more important than reporting and understanding of the actions of the School Board,” he says in the video. “I want to assure you that our way of work has not changed, and we’ll continue to staff schools appropriately.”

The issue concerns an agenda item the board addresses annually regarding class size flexibility as described in a 2011 state law.

That law allows districts to make temporary exceptions to statutory maximums in class size when it is determined that adhering to them would be impractical, educationally unsound or disruptive to student learning.

These exceptions become necessary when families move into the district after the October student membership survey and accommodations must be made for

the new students.

Current public school class size maximums were established in 2003, a year after voters approved an amendment to the state constitution setting limits in the number of students in core classes, such as math, English, social studies and science. It does not apply to elective courses.

The amendment restricts the number of students per classroom in kindergarten through grade three to 18, in grades four through eight to 22 and in grades nine through 12 to 25.

The limitations were implemented over the following decade, during which the Legislature established the rules for flexible accommodations.

Exceptions allow for up to three newly enrolled students to be assigned to a teacher in kindergarten through grade three and up to five in other grades. The district is required then to develop a plan returning the school to full compliance by the following October school study.

“Historically,” Forson said, “passing of this resolution has had minimal impact on our schools or our classrooms. It is not, as has been implied or stated, a resolution that is the result of growth in the county.”

He said that, last year, the average class size for kindergarten through grade



three in the district was 1.7 students below the cap. In grades four through eight, the average was 3.2 students below the cap. And in grades nine through 12, the average was 4.6 students below the cap.

“While there are individual classrooms that will exceed the class size due to new students, on average, we have maintained

well below what is outlined in this resolution,” Forson said.

He added that, “It’s very unfortunate that the reporting has caused unnecessary concern in the community and a false sense that class size decision-making is any different this year than it has been in previous years.”

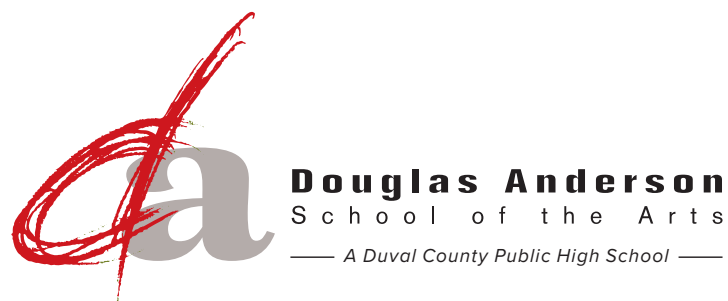
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# Ocean Palms names Teachers and Employee of the Year

The teachers and staff at Ocean Palms Elementary School have submitted their nominations for the teachers and employee of the 2022-23 school year. Those selected were Amanda Nannetti, Teacher of the Year; Jessica Webster, Rookie Teacher of the Year; and Zane Williams, Employee of the Year.

Nannetti has taught at Ocean Palms for the past four years and been an educator for six years, getting her start in Wisconsin.

She has been a member of the school's Sunshine Committee, which helps build comradery at OPE, since she started. She serves as the committee's co-chair and as the lead teacher for her grade.

"Being blessed with such wonderful colleagues has helped me grow into becoming the fourth-grade teacher I am today," she said.

Webster has taught for seven years, starting in Tennessee and continuing her career at OPE for the past three years. She also serves on the Sunshine Committee.

Additionally, she is a coach for

Girls on the Run this year where she helps girls gain confidence in both their physical abilities and social endeavors.

Having taken some time away from the profession to raise her children, she started back at OPE as an associate teacher. Last year, she taught her own class in second grade.

"The day that I was announced Rookie Teacher of the Year, I had a group at my door from my second-grade classroom giving me hugs and sweet congratulations," she said. "At that point, I knew that I had really made a difference last year, and I'd made the right decision in coming back into the classroom."

Williams, an ESE support facilitator, has been at OPE for the last four years. He is currently assisting students in a first-grade class. From helping out in the morning carline to riding the bus in the afternoon with a student, Williams is always willing to lend a helping hand.



Contributed photo  
Pictured from left are Zane Williams, OPE Employee of the Year; Amanda Nannetti, OPE Teacher of the Year; and Jessica Webster, OPE Rookie Teacher of the Year.

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## Birdie

Continued from 31

musical,” Robinson said.

However, the group has been rehearsing since the second week in August and Robinson believes all the pieces and skill sets are in place to have a memorable showing.

“They’ve been rehearsing pretty much every day since then, even with some Saturday rehearsals,” Robinson said. “We did lose four rehearsals because of (Tropical Storm) Ian, but they’ve picked it up and we’re back on track.”

One of the leading roles is held by senior Troy Leatherman, and although he has played a leading role before, it is his first lead in a musical.

However, he has come to really enjoy the unique challenge associated with musicals.

“Some of the differences are obvious when it comes to the singing and dancing, which you will have some dancing in a straight play, but the songs and dance in a musical all tell a story,” Leatherman said. “A musical is really fun to put together as a cast, because there’s more people and you feel more united. You’re all singing, dancing and acting together.”

He first got his taste of theater while in seventh and eighth grade as part of classes, but after focusing on playing sports his freshman year, he joined the

high school theater program as a sophomore.

“I decided to do every show that I could, and it all just skyrocketed from there,” Leatherman said.

The past three years has been a time for making incredible memories and lasting friendships and he is looking forward for what his senior year has to offer.

“When you first go up on that stage after rehearsing for months, the feeling that you get is amazing,” Leatherman said. “You really feel like a professional performer, no matter if it’s community theater, high school theater or professional. You know the people watching are taking time out of their lives to watch you and it really motivates you to do your homework and get your performance to the best of its ability.”

It takes the contributions of so many to make “Bye Bye Birdie” a smooth production, with 34 students as part of the cast and 14 others working behind the scenes to make the magic happen in several different areas, such as costumes and technology.

“They all come with a lot of enthusiasm, and that is all you can ask for,” Robinson said. “I think back to when I was their age, and it seems like teen performers really ride the adrenaline of opening night.”

Links to purchase tickets for each of the shows can be found on the Nease Spirit Facebook page.

## 7 study tips for high school students

Assessments such as quizzes and exams help educators recognize areas where students are excelling and where they might need a little extra help. Testing may come easier to some students than others, but having solid study techniques can improve students’ performance on a wide range of exams.

### 1. Find value in the lessons.

Many students lament that what they learn in school just isn’t relevant in daily life. That can make the subject matter feel less important and uninteresting. Finding value in what one is learning and seeing how it can be applied outside of the classroom may make a student more inclined to learn and retain information.

### 2. Avoid distractions.

Study time is time to take a break from social media, video games and any other distractions that can pull a student away from studying. Constantly checking notifications can interrupt thoughts and make it hard to learn the material.

### 3. Establish a study schedule.

Develop a system and a schedule for studying. Students should establish a fixed habit of studying each day or week. Over time, studying will become routine.

### 4. Establish dedicated study spots.

Students should locate places that work best for them as study and homework stations. Certain individuals may need the quiet of a library or a bookstore.

Others may do best with the hum of conversation around them or in a group. There’s no right or wrong study spot. Maintaining consistency will help the mind associate a place with studying.

### 5. Use grades as benchmarks and motivators.

Blaming a teacher for a poor grade won’t get a student anywhere. Rather, grades should indicate how well one is learning the material, and in turn, the effectiveness of students’ studying habits. Students can tweak their habits if they find their grades are not where they want them to be.

### 6. Rephrase material.

Textbook language can be dry and unappealing. Students can try putting the material into their own words or rephrase passages to make them easier to remember and recall. Similarly, teaching or sharing the material with another person also may improve retention.

### 7. Make a formula sheet.

Depending on the subject, having a sheet with shortcuts, formulas or diagrams can put the material into smaller bursts of information that are easier to digest. Along this same vein, writing information down can help improve recall.

These are a few study tips that high schoolers can utilize to improve their grades so they can be more successful in school.



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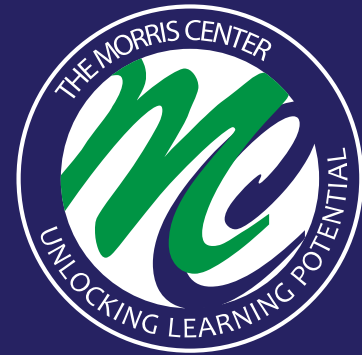
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# EnterCircle Summit returns to celebrate entrepreneurship

By Shaun Ryan

Anyone who has any interest in business, entrepreneurship or simply making things happen in the marketplace will want to be at the link in mid-November for the second annual EnterCircle Summit.

This three-day event will feature more than 50 speakers and successful business professionals and opportunities to collaborate with like-minded thinkers to develop new ideas and strengthen existing business endeavors.

“The intent of it is to celebrate entrepreneurship,” said link co-founder Gurpreet Misra.

But one does not have to own a business or even be a boss to benefit from the summit. One simply has to have the spirit of the entrepreneur.

“You are an innovator, an initiator or a key team member who wants to move the needle,” Misra said in describing summit participants.

EnterCircle is a project of the nonprofit Sapna Foundation, which participates in poverty alleviation through its support for education, workforce development and small business resiliency. The event grew out of a desire by Misra to celebrate Global Women’s Entrepreneurship Day, which is Nov. 19. About 85% of purchases and nearly \$20 trillion in global spending is credited to women.

As an entrepreneur herself alongside her husband, Raghu, Misra wanted to do something to recognize this in 2021.

The idea grew from there to include youth – the leaders of the future – and others.

EnterCircle 2021 had more than 250 attendees and a broad representation from the private, government, nonprofit and education sectors. More than 10 startup pitches went on to compete, and the St.

Johns County Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation declaring Entrepreneurial Week.

The event’s success guaranteed further EnterCircle summits, the second of which is this year.

The first day of the three-day summit is Nov. 16, with the focus being a Youth Symposium for participants ages 17-25. Organizers are trying to connect with all the area universities and schools to be a part of this event.

Students will have an opportunity to gain knowledge from successful business leaders, participate in discussions and gain insights into possibilities that exist locally, nationally and globally. International students will participate in a roundtable conversation to share their rich experiences.

Day two, Nov. 17, will be Startups/ Small Business Day. For-profit and nonprofit organizations will discuss challenges, advancements, innovative solutions and resilient leadership in starting and sustaining businesses. A highlight will be a structured business pitch process for budding entrepreneurs and startup founders.

From 5:30 to 7 p.m. that day, there will be a business expo. This is a good way for businesses, particularly those that may not have a traditional storefront, to connect with other businesses, professionals, customers and the public in general.

The third day, Nov. 18, will be Women’s Entrepreneurship Day. The focus will be challenges of women in leadership, and the event will cover entrepreneurship, politics and more. Panel discussions will feature women who are leaders in different sectors, such as architecture, engineering and politics.

Registration for EnterCircle 2022 is open right now and tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite. To register, go to



Photos provided by the link

EnterCircle 2021 demonstrated that the entrepreneurship summit was something area residents would support. Pictured from left are Lorena Inclan, director of the St. Johns County Office of Public Affairs; Joy Andrews, deputy county administrator; and Gurpreet and Raghu Misra, link cofounders.



EnterCircle 2021 featured a number of presentations and discussions, including a focus on women who are professionals.

entercircle.zone.

The link is a state-of-the-art space where entrepreneurs and business professionals collaborate. It’s a business incuba-

tor and community center that hosts an array of events, classes and camps. It is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach.



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AT THE LINK

# Successful executive finds right base of operations at the link

By Shaun Ryan

The link has been called the workplace of the future. However, the state-of-the-art co-working space, business incubator and community centerpiece in Nocatee is something more. It's also a space out of which offices of several major companies operate.

Case in point: Tim Simokonis, producer and partner for Lockton Companies' Southeast region, does business with major, big-name clients all from his office at the link, a fact that he calls "amazing." These are clients with universally recognized names; some of them multi-billion-dollar businesses.

Lockton Companies, the world's largest privately held insurance brokerage firm, is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. It provides insurance, risk management, employee benefits and retirement services. In the fiscal year ending on April 30, Lockton posted record-breaking revenue of \$2.7 billion and maintains a 97% client retention rate.

Much of its successful growth has been attributed to the philosophy of the company's founder, Jack Lockton, who once said of his team, "Lockton did not make any of these people. Their specialness came from their moms and dads and all of their life experiences. We have just found each other, and the right kind of people

have been very attracted to being part of what we are all about. It has almost been just that simple."

Lockton operates more than 100 locations in 125 countries, and one of those locations is Simokonis' office at the link.

"My job is to bring new business to Lockton and retain Lockton's existing business" in this region, said Simokonis.

He first moved to Nocatee two years ago as the pandemic was forcing professionals to find new ways to conduct business. Simokonis began by working from home, with the idea we would transition at some point to a traditional office building.

He found that working from home just wasn't the right fit for him. But by fortuitous timing, he'd arrived in Nocatee just as the link was preparing to open. It was only a half mile from his house, which made it convenient.

Now, he finds that the excitement and activity at the link adds something to his workday, something he couldn't find at home. Here, Simokonis can indulge in those things that he likes best about his job: interacting with clients, networking and collaborating on solutions to complex problems.

"I love it, because it allows me to get out," he said. "I'm not in a room with my door shut. Even though I don't know a lot of the people there, I get the energy from

people working around me and interacting. To me, I feel like I'm part of a bigger office."

He enjoys meeting new people and finds the environment at the link conducive to making connections. Where else can a professional interact closely with leaders in other fields over a cup of coffee, swapping ideas and exploring the business landscape outside their silos?

Simokonis was born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts. His family was in the insurance business, and though he entered the same line of work, he established himself in another sector of the insurance field.

"I took a commission-only sales job with an insurance firm during grad school because I needed money," he said. "That just led from one job to a bigger job to a bigger job."

Ten years ago, he met the woman who would become his wife during a vacation in Fort Lauderdale. They settled in Miami, and today have three children.

Three years ago, Simokonis went to work for Lockton. He said, "Part of Lockton's great culture ingrains family organization and afforded my family and I to relocate a year later."

"We love it," Simokonis said. "You get, really, three seasons – compared to South Florida, where it's just perpetual summer.



Tim Simokonis

We wanted some cooler weather." In some ways, he said this area reminds him of Cape Cod.

Of course, another thing you won't find in South Florida is a facility like the link, which is known for its welcoming approach to the families of its professionals.

"I love it here," Simokonis said. "My kids have participated in the programs. We've gone to the Daddy-Daughter Dance. I enjoy getting involved in the community."

The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach. To learn more, go to [thelink.zone](http://thelink.zone).

## 'Halloween Harvest' is Farmers Market theme

The Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, Oct. 15, was a "Halloween Harvest," featuring pumpkin carving, live music by Ramona + The Riot and shopping from more than 60 vendors. Also, the Blue Water Bar was open. Attendees were encouraged to dress in costume.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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The clinic provided an opportunity to have fun for both participants and their families.



The Tesori Foundation hosted one of its all-star kids clinics at TPC Sawgrass Oct. 12.

# Nikic, Horschel serve as guest speakers at Tesori Clinic

By Anthony Richards

For seven years now the Tesori Family Foundation has held an all-star kids clinic at TPC Sawgrass with the latest one taking place Oct. 12.

An emotional moment was shared as Chris Nikic served as a guest speaker at the clinic just days after being the first person with Down syndrome to complete the Kona Ironman World Championship, regarded as one of the toughest and most

prestigious triathlons in the world.

According to Paul Tesori, Nikic being there and sharing his story with the attendees was probably the most important part of the whole day, because it shows what they can accomplish no matter what they may be faced with.

“To be able to do what he did with Down syndrome, I almost can’t even fathom how he was able to do that,” Tesori said.

The clinics themselves have been going

on for nine years total at various locations in the U.S. The goal of the clinics is to present a community event where families with children with special needs can gather and have fun through the game of golf.

“I think ‘surreal’ is the right word because it goes by kind of fast,” Tesori said. “A day like today has been really emotional for me because you can’t help but look back.”

One of the main messages both Nikic and Tesori shared during the event was that God has a purpose for everyone in life.

“When COVID hit we had more than 20 (clinics) scheduled, and we’re back to like five now,” Tesori said. “That part was hard to go through, because we really thought it was ready to take off, but then to look today and have full participation and a full docket of kids is awesome.”

PGA Tour golfer Billy Horschel was also on hand after getting a text from Paul Tesori asking if he could make an appearance at the event.

“He literally texted me this morning,” Horschel chuckled. “I’ve known Paul for a while now, and I was part of the second one they ever had up in Greensboro, North Carolina, years ago. It’s special just to see kids getting involved. It doesn’t matter what skill level or what their goal is; to see it put a smile on their face is what’s so great about the game of golf.”

Horschel has younger children himself, which allowed him to put the event into even more perspective, because he knows what it means to be a parent and to want to be there for your children no matter what.

“I remember when Michelle was pregnant and when Isaiah was born and hearing the news that he had Down syndrome,” Horschel said. “To see how they’ve dealt with it and what their mission was right after he was born. Kids bring so much joy to life with the innocence that they have.”

The clinic participants took their turns at various stations practicing and having



Photos by Anthony Richards

Chris Nikic shared some words of wisdom as a guest speaker at the event just days after becoming the first person with Down syndrome to complete the Kona Ironman World Championship.



It was the seventh time an all-star kids clinic had been held at the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course.

fun putting, chipping and driving.

“To see kids out here smoking it, and hit 100-yard drives is incredible,” Horschel said. “It puts a smile on my face, so I definitely know it puts one on theirs as well.”

The support of partners within the community is important for the foundation, and it is something Tesori has never taken for granted.

“Just at what THE PLAYERS has allowed us to do, we’re at the (TPC Sawgrass) Stadium Course right now and basically have enough space for a par-3 course,” Tesori said. “It’s amazing the amount that they have allowed us to take over.”

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## Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge moves in first residents

By Anthony Richards

After years of planning and constructing, Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge has officially welcomed its first residents.

The residents that have moved into the senior living community have moved into cottages that were completed as part of the first phase of the project.

According to Dale Pirkle, chief operating officer at Vicar's Landing, seeing the project finally come to life is a great sight after years of planning.

"It's really been exciting to be a part of it all," Pirkle said. "My goal now is to get it over the finish line and that's what I'm focused on."

The property includes a seven-acre lake that will eventually be stocked with fish so that residents can have the opportunity to do some fishing.

The needs of the residents were always at the forefront during the construction and recreation was definitely a need discussed.

As a result, the clubhouse contains a gym and fitness room for any kind of cardio workout or classes, such as yoga.

One of the unique things about it is the community feel that Pirkle said hopes to be established. That includes allowing the opportunity for residents at Vicar's Landing Sawgrass to also take advantage of the interesting amenities at the Oak Bridge location, and vice versa.

"We've already brought some of our current members over here because we wanted them to see it," Pirkle said.

"They're not joined at the hip, but we look at it as if they are all just one big community. To have another option is huge."

So far Pirkle has received positive feedback from those that have moved in, and that means a lot to him.

"Most people have said how much they love it," Pirkle said. "It's always good when you hear back and you know that they appreciate all that you've done."

The clubhouse is expected to serve as the hub of the community and includes a giant dining room where residents can go to interact and enjoy fresh meals prepared by the cooking staff on location.

An outdoor pool is also part of the clubhouse design.

According to Pirkle, the initial thought was to make the pool and indoor one, but after consideration an outdoor one was settled on.

"When we started thinking about it, and indoor pool just doesn't lend itself to the thought of people getting together and socializing," Pirkle said.

While finishing touches are done on phase one, attention has already turned to phase two, which is underway and will include multi-level flats with a parking garage included on the ground level.

"All the cottages (phase one) are expected to be occupied by toward the end of January," Pirkle said. "It's kind of a gradual introduction at this point, but



Photos by Anthony Richards

Looking down on the dining room in the clubhouse at Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge.



A gym in the clubhouse will allow residents to stay fit and healthy.



A seven-acre lake on the property will soon be stocked with fish to give residents the recreational opportunity to fish.

VICAR'S continues on Page 40

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# VyStar executive speaks at joint Chamber lunch

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division recently held its joint lunch with the JAX Chamber. Jenny Vipperman, chief lending officer at VyStar Credit Union, was the speaker. She spoke about how VyStar is demonstrating its commitment to the communities it serves by the establishment of a charitable foundation and through the CDFI designation. Fields Auto Group sponsors the Chamber at Noon events.

Contributed photos



Jenny Vipperman, chief lending officer with VyStar Credit Union, addresses a joint gathering of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and the JAX Chamber.



Pictured from left are Tierney Anderson, Fields Auto Group; Tom Patton, chair, Beaches Division – Jax Chamber; Josh Hull, VyStar Nocatee; Kathleen Floryan, chair, Ponte Vedra Beach Division – St. Johns County Chamber; and Jenny Vipperman, speaker, chief lending officer, VyStar Credit Union.



The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division recently held its joint lunch with the JAX Chamber.



Jenny Vipperman, chief lending officer with VyStar Credit Union, speaks to a joint gathering of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and the JAX Chamber.

## Vicar's

Continued from 39

we're planning an official grand opening sometime around December, because we'll be having people start moving into the flats by that time."

There will be 33 units per flat that are being sold and each flat will consist of five levels.

He expects that the demographics of Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge to be different from that of the Sawgrass location based on the interest and sales of the units to this point.

"Most of the people that have been moving in here (Oak Bridge) are a bit younger," Pirkle said. "We have 355 people currently at our Sawgrass campus and the average age is about 86. Eighty percent of the people moving in here so far have been couples."

Making sure to have amenities in place

that cater to both men and women was another important aspect that went into the design, which led to a hair salon and massage therapy room to also be added as part of the clubhouse structure.

Future development to the community will include another flat and a memory care facility, which will all be part of the project's phase three portion.

Despite all the attention going on of late to construct the property at Oak Bridge, it does not mean that the original Vicar's Landing community has been forgotten. In fact, Pirkle said that just the opposite has taken place.

"At the same time, we've also begun doing master planning on our current campus, as we've hired architects to look at it and see how we can help out to update it by using what we've learned with this latest project," Pirkle said. "We're looking at everything to see the ways in which we might be able to make it better."



The first residents have moved into the completed portion of the first phase of Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge.



A hair salon is one of the amenities offered to residents.

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# Grand opening at Silverleaf

Silverleaf, the new ICI Homes gated community, held a grand opening celebration from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at 26 Night Owl Court, St. Augustine.

There were fun family activities, including face painting, balloon animals, snow cones, mini donuts, a DJ and more.

Photos by Susan Griffin



# Grocer offers aid and recovery following Hurricane Ian

Southeastern Grocers Inc. (SEG), parent company and home of Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, together with the SEG Gives Foundation, has expanded its support of Florida customers and associates in the days following the wide path of destruction from Hurricane Ian.

SEG has reopened nearly all of its Florida stores and has extended its current in-store community donation benefiting the American Red Cross. Winn-Dixie also executed relief efforts last week with distributions of free water, ice, food and cleaning essentials to more than 2,000 families in the highly impacted areas

of Englewood, Port Charlotte and Pine Island.

The grocer activated mobile pharmacies to offer preventive vaccines and essential medications, along with food pantries to provide shelf-stable products, fresh produce, water, ice and essential cleaning supplies in affected areas where stores remain closed.

“Nothing prepares you for seeing Hurricane Ian’s wrath on our communities, but with more than 95 years of experience serving customers in the Southeast, we know firsthand the dangers a hurricane can bring,” said Anthony Hucker, president and CEO of Southeastern

Grocers. “We will continue to support our associates and neighbors in the recovery process with the essentials they need most, along with critical medications to aid the health and wellness of our customers and their families. While the road to recovery may be long, we know Floridians are resilient and we embrace our responsibility to support our communities in the wake of this devastating storm in their time of greatest need. We are stronger together.”

Additionally, the grocer’s extended in-store community donation program benefits the American Red Cross, and customers can help equip the nonprofit

by donating \$1, \$5 or simply rounding up their grocery bill while shopping their local Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie stores.

Every dollar donated through SEG’s community donation program will support Red Cross Disaster Relief, which provides essential aid to those affected by disasters across the country, including food, shelter, relief supplies, emotional support, recovery planning and other assistance. The grocer also donated \$250,000 to the American Red Cross earlier this year in preparation for this

GROCER continues on Page 42

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# Benchmarks of Success

## A look at major career changes in the area



### Jaros named new Wolfson Children's Hospital president

Following a nationwide search, Baptist Health in Northeast Florida has hired Allegra Jaros as hospital president

for Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Jaros will join the hospital in January 2023, succeeding Michael D. Aubin, who served as hospital president from January 2011 to Oct. 3, 2022. Under Aubin's leadership, Wolfson Children's Hospital grew into a regional network of pediatric care designed to ensure access to high-quality specialty care for every child in our region.

Jaros will continue to advance its mission of improving the health of the region's children through patient- and family-centered care, education, research and child advocacy.

Since 2014, Jaros has served as president of John R. Oishei Children's Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y., a regional pediatric referral center for trauma, surgical and medical care, including neonatal, perinatal and obstetric services. Jaros is responsible for successfully completing the design and development of the \$272 million Oishei Children's Hospital, which opened in 2017.

In addition, she is responsible for enterprise-wide strategy execution as system vice president for Kaleida Health. Kaleida is western New York's largest health care system, which includes 11 hospitals, two skilled nursing facilities,

two joint-ventured surgery centers, a large physician practice group and an academic partnership with University at Buffalo Medical School.

Prior to her current role, she held progressive leadership roles at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and was named its chief operating officer in 2012.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in finance, Jaros earned her Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis on health care from Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., and was recognized as an "Outstanding MBA."

### Dentist earns highest distinction in field

Dr. Alan M. Krantz DDS recently became the first dentist in Jacksonville to earn the highest distinction and level of achievement in dental sleep medicine when he became a Diplomate. Krantz now adds Diplomate ABDSM (American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine) to his name.

Krantz served the Jacksonville community for 24 years at his practice, Krantz Dental Care. In 2021, he decided to close his doors and pursue a different area of expertise.

In November 2021, he opened his new practice, Dental Sleep Medicine of Jacksonville, which also serves Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach.

Krantz graduated from Case Western Reserve School of Dentistry in Cleveland. He is a member of the American Dental Association, Florida Dental Association, Northeast District Dental Association of Florida, Academy of General Dentistry and American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.



Dan Howat

### Dan Howat joins United Community Bank as senior vice president

United Community Bank has added Dan Howat as senior vice president, middle market relationship manager to its Florida-based team. In this role, Howat will lead the development and coordination of United's middle market strategy while growing the bank's footprint within Florida.

Howat comes to United with more than 30 years of experience in the banking industry. In his most recent role, he served as the managing director at TD Bank where he was focused on building and maintaining client relationships. Prior to joining TD Bank, Howat had a long successful career at JPMorgan Chase.

He received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a cross-country/track & field student-athlete. In his free time, Howat enjoys kayaking and golfing.



Christine Krajewski MD

### Christine Krajewski MD joins Flagler Health+ Primary Care

Christine Krajewski MD, a board-certified family medicine physician, has joined Flagler Health+'s expanding network

of primary care providers.

Providing versatile care for patients from newborns through geriatrics, Krajewski is now scheduling appointments

for new patients at the Flagler Health+ Primary Care office at Whetstone Place, located at 100 Whetstone Place, Suite 105, on the campus of Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine.

A board-certified family medicine physician, Krajewski joined Flagler Health+ after completing her residency at the Grand Strand Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. While there, she was named the most outstanding resident.

After having earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, she received her Doctorate Degree in Medicine from the Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica.



Johnell Thomas

### Thomas joins Ponte Vedra real estate office

Johnell Thomas has joined Berkshire Hathaway Home-Services Florida Network Realty at its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee

office.

Thomas has an extensive consulting background and is passionate about building relationships and helping people.

A former collegiate football player and graduate of Vanderbilt University, he enjoys spending time with his family, sports and fitness and the Northeast Florida beaches.

For more information, Thomas can be reached at 954-401-0463, Johnell.Thomas@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and JohnellThomas.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

## Grocer

Continued from 41

hurricane season, and more than \$815,000 to aid and support disaster relief efforts in 2021.

SEG's associates continue to be a vital part of these recovering communities and the impact of prolonged damage or closures to area Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie stores.

The grocer supports associates through SEG Cares, a charitable program that offers assistance for associates by associates. SEG kicked off its Hurricane Ian fundraiser to benefit SEG Cares with \$200,000 donated to aid associates impacted by Hurricane Ian.

SEG was recently featured in Newsweek's Most Loved Workplaces list for 2022, moving up from last year's rank at No. 48 to No. 26 among the top 100 companies recognized for employee happiness and satisfaction at work.

Produced in collaboration with the Best Practice Institute, a leadership development and benchmark research company, the Newsweek list results were determined after surveying more than 1.4 million employees from businesses with workforces varying in size from 50 to more than 10,000.



Winn-Dixie employees help survivors of Hurricane Ian.

Contributed photo



# In the Arts



Send your arts news to  
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Contributed photos



## Tasting Tours launches island-focused option

Those familiar with St. Augustine know that the downtown food scene is highly popular among tourists and locals alike. However, just across the historic Bridge of Lions awaits an array of delicious cuisine, specialty cocktails and craft beer you can't find anywhere else.

The Tasting Tours' all-new Island Boulevard Culinary Tour was designed specifically to showcase the flavor of St. Augustine that lives beyond downtown — inviting everyone to “eat like a local.” Centered around local favorites, this all-new culinary adventure invites guests to dine at the island's most popular restaurants, sip boutique wines, enjoy craft beers and experience one-of-a-kind cocktails along the island streets.

“Anastasia Island has so much to offer,” said Andrea Jones, CEO of The Tasting Tours. “From incredible cuisine, creative drinks and a relaxing atmosphere, there truly is something for everyone. Unfortunately, most people visiting our city never venture onto the island because they don't know where to start. That's why we created the Island Boulevard Culinary Tour, to showcase the island's most beloved businesses and teach visitors that there's more to St. Augustine than just downtown.”

Led by a St. Augustine restaurant insider, The Island Boulevard Culinary Tour invites guests to sit back and relax as they are chauffeured on a city exploration in an open-air electric vehicle to four of Anastasia Island's most popular dining

destinations with locations, changing from tour to tour.

For example, dive into a specialty grilled cheese at Sarbez!, try the Food Network-famous burger at Gas Full Service Restaurant and raise a glass with a specialty cocktail at Odd Birds Kitchen & Cocktail Lounge.

Guests will also stop at the fan-favorite boutique hotel, The Local — St. Augustine, for a quick selfie in front of their mural to commemorate the occasion.

“What's so special about this tour is that it was designed specifically with locals in mind,” Jones said. “We know where the locals go, and we wanted to share that experience with anyone looking for a taste of St. Augustine. Whether you're a longtime local or a first-time visitor, I know this tour will be a memorable and tasty experience.”



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# John Beard Collection holds ribbon-cutting ceremony

The following are photos from John Beard Collection's ribbon-cutting ceremony as it celebrated officially joining the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. The ribbon-cutting coincided with the opening of the Collection's art gallery on County Road 210. According to the Chamber, it was one of the more fun ribbon-cutting ceremonies they have ever done.

Photos by Susan Griffin



John Beard Collection held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its art gallery on County Road 210.



John Beard and company showed how happy they are to be part of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.



A fun time was had by all involved at John Beard Collection's Chamber ribbon-cutting.

# Apex Theatre Studio to stage 'Miss Beth,' 'Frog and Toad'

Apex Theatre Studio will feature two fun offerings for its fall season: A silly and spooky imagining of a classic and a witty and warm musical for the whole family.

"Miss Beth (a retelling of Macbeth)" plays Oct. 27-28 in the Black Box Theatre at Apex Theatre Studio, 425 West Town Place, Unit 112, in the World Golf Village area of St. Augustine.

"A Year with Frog and Toad" will be held Nov. 4-6 at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., in downtown St. Augustine.

"It's become a tradition that our fall studio show is in step with the scary season," said Ian Mairs, managing director of Apex Theatre Studio.

"Miss Beth" by Don Zolidis is a hilarious and scary retelling of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" set in the cutthroat world of competitive cheerleading.

Beth is pretty and popular, a valued member of the Sub-Regional Champion competitive cheer squad. When a late-night Ouija board session proclaims that she will become assistant cheer captain, an unexpected and ridiculous series of supernatural events are triggered.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, and Friday, Oct. 28. Tickets are \$8 and are available at [www.apex-theatrejax.com/events](http://www.apex-theatrejax.com/events).

"Audience members are encouraged to come in costume," added Mairs. "We will give out a prize each night for the best outfit."

The fall season continues with the fun and friend-centered family musical "A Year with Frog and Toad," a one-hour version of the Broadway hit.

Based on Arnold Lobel's well-loved books, this whimsical show follows two great friends — the cheerful, popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad — through four fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation in the spring, Frog and Toad plant gardens, swim, rake leaves, go sledding and learn life lessons along the way. The two best friends celebrate and rejoice in the differences that make them unique and special.

The production is under the direction of Joshua Sewell and Isabel Dondero.

"We are really excited to share this sweet tale with families in The Waterworks," Dondero said. "It will allow younger audience members to connect with the performers in a friendly and fun way."

Performances of "A Year with Frog and Toad" are 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4; 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. Seating is limited to 80 guests. Reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$15 and are available at [www.apextheatrejax.com/events](http://www.apextheatrejax.com/events).

Support for these productions has been provided by the St. Johns Cultural Council and the Tourist Development Council of St. Johns County.

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# Sports



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## Local golfer to represent Team USA at Women's PGA Cup

By Anthony Richards

Jennifer Borocz of Ponte Vedra earned a spot to compete as part of Team USA at the Second Annual Women's PGA Cup Oct. 24-29 in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

The competition will take place at Twin Warriors Golf Club at the Tamaya Resort & Spa and the format will consist of 54-hole stroke play with each team's lowest three scores being counted and the winning team being the one with the lowest aggregate total.

Borocz has competed in various events over the past couple of years as part of the qualifying process, that included golfers being given points based on their finish in those events.

She is a PGA pro and serves as the senior director of membership and finance for the North Florida PGA.

According to Borocz, to be one of only five players selected to compete on the big stage is such an honor.

"Probably the highlight of my career," Borocz said.

Also, the tournament is unique because

the players will get the chance to represent their country, which brings an abounding sense of pride for Borocz.

The accomplishment is even more special to Borocz because of the journey she has been on to get to this point, including experiencing a serious back injury that sidelined her for seven months.

"They didn't know if I would ever play golf again," Borocz said.

However, here she is on the verge of not only playing again but playing in the biggest event of her life.

Because of the path she has taken and the obstacles that were encountered along it, makes where she is currently at even sweeter because in many ways the tournament will signify the culmination of all her hard work and dedication.

Golf has been a part of her life for as long as she can remember, after she first picked up the sport when she was 11 years old.

Her family always had a passion for the game, starting with her grandfather who played into his 80s.

She wound up getting a golf scholarship

to Sam Houston State University where she became the first to graduate from the school's PGA management golf program.

Team USA won the inaugural event in 2019 in Austin, Texas, and she hopes she can do her part to help the team defend their title.

Competing in the event is just the latest in a long line of ways that the game of golf has been a major part of her life, including spending a stint as head coach of Jacksonville University's women's golf team.

"I'm so thankful for the opportunities I've been presented," Borocz said. "The golf world is huge, but also very small at the same time. I've always tried to give back through the game any way that I can."

The ability to give back is what drew her to being a coach and now working as a PGA pro because those are positions that promote growing the game of golf and creating future generations of golfers.

That is something that has always been on Borocz's mind, which has made it a perfect fit.



Photo by Darren Carroll/PGA of America

**Ponte Vedra's Jennifer Borocz will be one of five golfers to compete as members of Team USA at the Second Annual Women's PGA Cup Oct 24-29 in New Mexico.**

## Golf tournament raises funds for YMCA programs

Contributed photos

Supporters of the First Coast YMCA gathered at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on Monday, Oct. 10, for the sixth annual Drivers of Change Invitational golf tournament. The event brings together 100 business and nonprofit leaders in Northeast Florida to drive change in the community through donations to YMCA programs.

First Coast YMCA President and CEO Eric Mann played in the tournament.

"It's about the children," he said. "While we enjoy this great Florida weather and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club course, we're out here for one purpose and that's to support the critical programs that have an indelible impact on the scholars and teens we serve."

The Y ended the day with more than \$100,000 raised. The funds will benefit the First Coast YMCA Tiger Academy charter school and Johnson Family YMCA Teen Forward Program.

The Y has been a leading nonprofit organization working to empower young people, improve community health and well-being and inspire action in Northeast Florida for more than 100 years. There are locations in five Northeast Florida counties with more than 60 youth-serving program locations.

For more information about the First Coast YMCA, go to [fcymca.org](http://fcymca.org).





### CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	
9					10		11				12
13					14		15				
16				17			18				
19			20		21					22	
	23			24		25				26	
		27			28		29			30	
			31			32		33			
		34				35		36			37
	38				39		40		41		42
43					44			45		46	
48			49	50					51		52
53							54			55	
56								57			
	58							59			

**ACROSS**

1. A way to communicate
5. Historic city
9. Not the same
11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
13. One hurt the Titanic
15. Fine dense cloth
16. Architectural structure
17. Where Serena works
19. Stringed instrument
21. Estimate
22. Where sailors work
23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
25. Popular slow cooked dish
26. Twisted Sister's Snider
27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
29. Put the ball in the net
31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
33. High school math subject
34. Looked into
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A pea is one type
39. You can put it on something
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Inanely foolish
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is one
57. Soothes
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

4. Insect repellent

5. College army
6. Highly spiced stew
7. Exploited
8. Main course
9. A bottle that contains a drug
10. The most worthless part
11. Everyone needs one nowadays
12. Japanese wooden shoe
14. Antelopes
15. A way to cut
18. Brooklyn hoopsters
20. Gradually receded
24. Ripped open
26. College grads get one
28. Amino acid

30. Unruly gathering

32. Legislative body
34. Resembling pigs
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Some build hills
49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

### SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

**Here's How It Works:**

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

**DOWN**

1. Triangular bone in lower back
2. Building toy
3. Pointed end of a pen

# WEEK 9 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

## Sharks, Panthers focus on week 9 business with showdown up next

By Anthony Richards

Nease and Ponte Vedra will play each other for a spot in the playoffs Oct. 30, but first there's week 9 to worry about.

At least when it comes to the Sharks, as they host Orange Park this Friday, while the Panthers have a bye week before the massive showdown between the two.

It has been two weeks since the Sharks played in front of their home fans, so it will be a welcome sight, especially after making the lengthy trip to Ocala last week for what ended up being a close 26-21 defeat to Ocala Trinity Catholic.

The Sharks have been riding crazy emotion of late with their last-second victory against Bishop Kenny sandwiched between close losses.

However, although they may not have all resulted in wins, the Sharks continue to show something from week-to-week and the belief that they can win is consistent no matter who the opponent is.

That is something that is a positive and should fare the Sharks well against the Raiders, who are 2-5 and lost 27-12 to the Panthers earlier in the season.

William "Jojo" Restall is the key cog of the Raiders offense with a team high five touchdowns on the season and a hefty average of 132 yards per game on the ground.

As he goes so does the Raiders' offense, which means if the Sharks can slow him down they will have a good chance of limiting the Raiders' production and allow the offense to do its part.

Grabbing an early lead and maintaining it would force the Raiders to more of a passing attack, which is not how their offense is built to move the ball.



Photo by Anthony Richards

**The Sharks defense has been good against the run all season and will look to continue that against Orange Park Friday.**

The result could mean added opportunities for takeaways, which the Sharks have shown a knack for forcing defensively all season long.

The Sharks have proven to have success in the second half of late, but they could set the tone for the entire game with a scoring drive in one of its first couple of possessions.

For the Panthers, taking the bye week the week before playing the Sharks gives them extra time to prepare before their most important game of the season.

Neither the Panthers nor Sharks will either have a shot at the district title after having both lost to Flagler Palm Coast this season.

However, the runner-up spot in the three-team district will be up for grabs and the Panthers will have two full weeks to think about it and gameplan.

Only time will tell if the week off will be an advantage for the Panthers, but for now they have already turned the page from their 42-28 defeat to Flagler Palm Coast last week.

Defense will continue to be a talking point for the Panthers, who gave up 40-plus points for the third consecutive week.

The Sharks have looked like a different team since their bye week earlier in the season, and now the Panthers look to hit a reset button of their own.



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