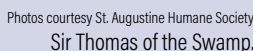




**A Florida NewsLine Publication**



By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The St. Augustine Humane Society will host its 12th annual Pin-Up Paws Party featuring the 2023 Pin-Up Paws Pet Calendar, on Friday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown Hotel. All proceeds from the party, and the voting and calendar sales, support programs and services that keep pets and their humans together for life. This year, 140 pets entered the contest and campaigned for their big break — a chance to be featured in the 2023 calendar. Their combined \$1 votes raised a record-breaking \$33,428.

For the 12th year running, award-winning photographer Addison

**Pin-Up Paws** cont. on pg. 2

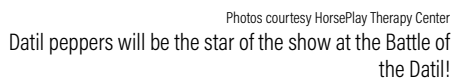
By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewsline.com

At HorsePlay Therapy Center's Rise Up for Veterans Program, the focus is on family.

“Our goal is to help people and to help families. When we help a veteran, that is transferred to the family,” said Vicky Carregal, founder and executive director. “We want to mend things that are broken. Helping a veteran to heal will only enhance the entire well-being of the family.”

To that end, the non-profit organization offers eight-week sessions, both individual and group, to any veterans and wounded warriors in the community facing post traumatic stress disorder and trauma, anything that is associated with military service. It is a comprehensive equine assisted therapy program that includes both riding and non-mounted activities aimed at rebuilding trust and connection to the physically and emotionally wounded veteran.

The program began on Veterans Day in 2021 and has been well-received ever since, said Carregal. The program came to life after Carregal met many



Photos courtesy HorsePlay Therapy Center.  
A participating veteran at HorsePlay Therapy Center.

military families who would bring their children for equine therapy, and, often, the veteran would gravitate to the barn. It seemed like an easy and comfortable place to talk to the parents, and, from there, “a seed was planted,” she said.

HorsePlay Therapy Center, located in St. Augustine off State Road 207, also provides physical, occupational and speech therapy to children with special needs. They use a comprehensive medical treatment model known as hippotherapy. A team of therapists incorporates the movement of the horse as part of each specialized treatment plan, Carregal said.

The approach is much the same for veterans, concentrating on connecting with the horse through contact, communication by learning how to engage and direct the horse with cuing and ultimately riding the horse. A therapist leads every participant on this journey, checking on emotional well-being every step of the way. Horses Cody, Solo, and Myava have been carefully selected to meet the needs of the program. Carregal

said she looks for horses that are quiet, level-headed, calm, and strong (similar traits found in the horses for the children's program).

"It has to be a good fit," said Carregal.

After the program is completed, participants are welcome to sign up again. The program has served 26 veterans so far, and the need continues to grow. When Carregal sees families healing because of the program, she feels inspired to do more.

"It validates what we are doing, and it generates even more purpose," she said.

To serve even more veterans, Carregal and staff are currently working on an 18-acre satellite property off State Road 305 that will be dedicated to the Rise Up for Veterans Program. Carregal said she is hoping for an early 2023 opening.

The work done at HorsePlay Therapy Center is what inspired Ancient City Entertainment to hold its first annual

**Battle** cont. on pg. 2

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**Battle** cont. from pg.1

Battle of the Datil! charity event at Tringali Barn to benefit the Rise Up for Veterans Program.

“I’ve worked alongside HorsePlay Therapy Center for many years now,” said Chris Shee, owner of Tringali Barn at Heritage Farms. “The work they do with handicapped children is unmatched. Their new program, Rise Up Veterans Program, focuses on helping disabled veterans and those needing therapy. To be a part of an event that shines a light on their incredible work is an honor. All of the net proceeds will be donated to Rise Up.”

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Tringali Barn at Heritage Farms located at 7310 U.S. 1 South in St. Augustine. It will include raffles, special giveaways, local vendors, a full cash bar, live music, food

trucks and a competition to find the best Datil recipe in town.

“I’m thrilled to bring this event to life,” said Jeanetta Cebollero, owner of Ancient City Entertainment and the festival organizer. “Having our community come together to enjoy a day of music, food, and festivities is a feeling like no other, but benefitting our local veterans is icing on the cake. I hope to see everyone come out to help us kick off this inaugural event.”

General admission tickets are \$80. VIP tickets are \$150 each and include an open bar, event t-shirt, Datil swag bag, and two sheets of tasting tickets. (Discount for veterans with code VET20.) For vendor and sponsorship opportunities, contact [info@stamarketplace.com](mailto:info@stamarketplace.com). For more information, visit [battleofthedatil.com](http://battleofthedatil.com). To purchase tickets, visit Eventbrite.



**Pin-Up Paws** cont. from pg.1

Fitzgerald has donated his talents to provide the prints of the furry finalists, and renowned fine artist Maribel Angel has contributed her artistry to create a unique pop art theme and calendar design. Pete Melfi with The 904 Now has signed on as Honorary Chair and is bringing his unique brand of hosting skills with him when he serves as emcee for the event.

The 2023 calendar featuring this year’s distinguished winner, Sir Thomas of the Swamp, will be unveiled at the party. Sir Thomas won the cover spot by raising \$2,834. He is a current foster with Swamp Haven Rescue and is looking for his forever home. Accompanying Sir Thomas on the calendar will be photos of his court, including Miss Scarlett O’Hara, a close second to Sir Thomas with \$2,625 raised. Miss Scarlett went from a sick foundling kitten to a fat cat who now lives the Florida lifestyle lounging by the pool. Returning for a second appearance, and in third place, is Otis, whose perfect modeling poses raised \$2,281 in donations. Also featured is Sandy, who was abandoned on the street along with her mother, Summer. They are a bonded pair who now patiently await a new life with a forever family.

Tickets to the Pin-Up Paws celebration are \$95 per person and

include dinner, complimentary wine, and a free Pin-Up Paws calendar. Table purchase and parking options are also available. A silent auction will feature stunning jewelry pieces, spa treatments, resort stays and guitars signed by Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, Prince, and the members of the Eagles. Additional event highlights include a wine pull and music by Rob Peck and the Matanzas Inlet Allstars.

Contact [development@staughumane.org](mailto:development@staughumane.org) or call (904) 829-2737, ext. 111 for more details. Visit [www.staughumane.org](http://www.staughumane.org) for more information about the St. Augustine Humane Society.



Photos courtesy St. Augustine Humane Society  
Miss Scarlett O’Hara



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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Breed:

Papillon (and mini lion) mix

## Favorite Activities:

Catching frisbee, chewing on sticks, hunting geckos (but never caught one)

## Favorite Treat:

Good'n'fun triple flavor wings

## Favorite Friends:

Little humans

## How did your BFF get his name:

She was rescued and originally named Shiver because she was constantly shivering. Her daddy is a big fan of Star Wars and renamed her Jabba because she's a strong girl and the ruler of her humans' universe.

## Meet Jabba Le Mutt!



Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in St. Augustine NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in St. Augustine NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.



# General Election Guide

Pages 12 - 15

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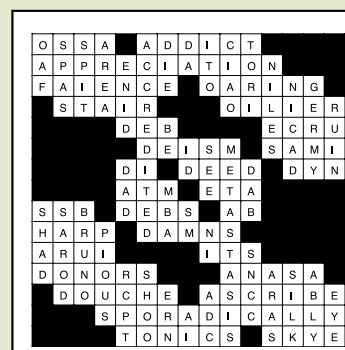
Email publisher@floridanewsline.com for more information.

# MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?  
Submit your answer to:  
mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the Main Library of the St. Johns County Public Library System.

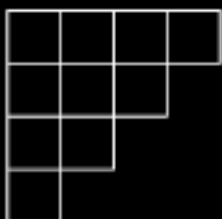
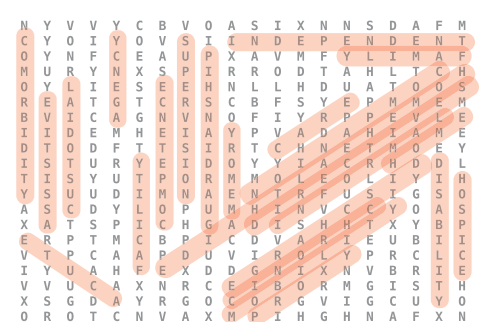


Answers to our Puzzles  
PG 10

# CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

A. supervise B. support C. caring D. attention



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# November

## Community Calendar

### What's Happening in St. Augustine

**1st:** **R.E.A.D. Book Club** featuring this month's theme, a book inspired by mythology, legend, or folklore, will be held at the Southeast Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 6670 US Highway 1 South, on Nov. 1 from 10: 15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Registration at [sjcpls.org](http://sjcpls.org) is required for these events.

**4th:** **"How to Handle Your Kids on Legal Issues"** will be presented by St. Johns County Legal Aid's Megan Wall, Managing Attorney on Friday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. at COA's River House, 179 Marine Street in St. Augustine. Contact (904) 209-3655 or [tharris@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:tharris@stjohnscoa.com) for more information.

**10th:** **AAUW St. Augustine Branch** will hold a branch general meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 10 at the Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. Authors Nancy Quatrano and Susan Slater will be the guest speakers. Prior to the program, there will be a luncheon at a cost of \$30, which includes an entrée, salad, bread, tea or coffee, dessert, tip and tax. The reservation deadline for the luncheon is Wednesday, Nov. 2. Contact Gayle Diamant-Holland at (904) 417-0332 or [gayle123@bellsouth.net](mailto:gayle123@bellsouth.net) for reservations or more information.

**10th:** **Introduction to Calligraphy** class will be held at COA's River House, 179 Marine Street in St. Augustine on Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for five weeks beginning Thursday, Nov. 10. Registration required. Contact (904) 209-3655 or [tharris@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:tharris@stjohnscoa.com) for more information.

**11th:** **Veterans Day** celebration to re-dedicate the St. Augustine Blue Star Memorial Marker and surrounding gardens dedication, sponsored by the Garden Club of St. Augustine, will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 11 at 1 St. Johns Medical Park Drive. A reception will follow at the Garden Club of St. Augustine, 3440 Old Moultrie Road. This new garden and signage will honor all American Veterans. Contact Steve at [dogoodthings904@gmail.com](mailto:dogoodthings904@gmail.com) or (443) 465-5818 for more information.

**12th:** **The Northeast Florida Chapter** of Sisters in Crime will meet on Nov. 12 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. (FOL Room). Doors open at 10 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:15 a.m. The program will be Mini-Workshop No. 2: "Developing Characterization: A tool for helping the development of your writing skills." Bring your coffee and bring a friend. Visit [www.nefloridasistersincrime.org](http://www.nefloridasistersincrime.org) for more information.

**14th:** **Romp and Rhyme** Storytime will be held at the Southeast Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 6670 US Highway 1 South, on Mondays, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, and Nov. 28 at 10:30 a.m. Sing songs, dance with scarves, bounce along to rhymes, and read interactive stories to begin your little one's lifetime love of reading.

**14th:** **Baby Storytime**, a gentle lap sit program for babies from birth to 18 months in the large meeting room with songs, finger plays, action rhymes, and puppets, will be held from 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 14 at the Southeast Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 6670 US Highway 1 South. Register at [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org) or call the library at (904) 824-6900. RSVP required for each child and adult attending.

**15th:** **Growing up** on St. George Street with Sandra Parks, a St. Augustine native, will be held at The Waterworks next to the Main Library, 1960 N. US Highway 1 South, from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. on Nov. 15. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Main Library and is free and open to the public. More information is available at [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org).

**17th:** **Junior LEGO Robotics** will meet on Nov. 17 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Main Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Space is limited and registration is required. Call Youth Services Librarian Andy Calvert (904) 827-6940 for more information.

**26th:** **GTM Research Reserve** will host its monthly Beach Clean-up on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. No registration is required; meet at the Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach where gloves and trash bags will be provided. Visit [gtmnerr.org](http://gtmnerr.org) for more information.

**29th:** **Family Storytime**, with Mr. Andy and Ms. Marcia, designed for kids aged two to four and featuring music and stories, will be held from 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. on Nov. 29 at the Main Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd. RSVP required for each child and adult attending. Call (904) 827-6940 for more information.

*Have an event you'd like included in our community calendar? Email the information to [editor@floridanewsline.com](mailto:editor@floridanewsline.com). Deadline is the 10th of the month for the next month's issue.*



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Guest Column

The assessment process

By St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Property taxes in Florida are levied as of January 1 of each tax year, even though tax bills are not mailed until November. The tax roll, and ultimately your tax bill, are under the jurisdiction of three different and distinct governmental units or agencies. First the Property Appraiser’s office assesses or appraises all real and tangible personal property in St. Johns County and applies the appropriate exemptions, caps and classified uses to create the tax roll. Next the taxing authorities, primarily St. Johns County and St. Johns County School Board, establish millage rates (the amount of tax per \$1,000 in assessed value) and levy the taxes. And finally, the St. Johns County Tax Collector bills and collects the taxes.

The creation of the tax roll begins January 1 and continues until July 1, when the tax roll is submitted to the Florida Department of Revenue for detailed statistical evaluation and approval. The tax roll cannot continue forward to Truth in Millage, TRIM, and ultimately to tax bills until the Florida Department of Revenue issues its approval. Local taxing authorities have no jurisdiction or input into the tax roll.

Florida is a just market value state, meaning properties are assessed at just market value as of January 1 of each tax year. While there are slightly varying definitions, “just market value” can be defined simply as the amount a willing buyer will pay a willing seller in an open market transaction without any special considerations. Just market value and fair market value are interchangeable terms.

For the 2022 tax year the Property Appraiser’s Office processed and reviewed 13,664 sales from 2021 and qualified 12,851 of those. Sales from 2022 will be utilized to establish 2023 Just Market Values.

For the assessment process, we divide St. Johns County into five distinct geographic markets; two appraisers are as-

signed to each market, and inside those markets further division is made into homogeneous or similar neighborhoods for appraisal. Each of those sales are recorded into our Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal System (CAMA). Along with qualified sales data, our office utilizes cost information from third party sources as well as building permits to blend in data on new construction costs. Utilizing this data, we establish square foot rates or values, and using regression analysis we establish values for bedrooms and bathrooms. The CAMA system also uses age of the property, effective age of the property based upon permitted improvements over time and physical condition of the property based upon appraiser inspection. The appraisers then establish final values for the neighborhoods for the tax roll.

In mass appraisal for property taxation purposes, the valuations of property and neighborhoods must meet certain statistical benchmarks to assure that those neighborhoods are not under assessed or over assessed. Benchmarks such as mean values, average values, level of appraisal, sales ratios, coefficient of dispersion and time trended analysis all must meet guidelines set by the Florida Department of Revenue and applied in a uniform manner across Florida’s 67 counties.

After the tax roll is submitted and approved by the Florida Department of Revenue, the property appraiser creates and mails TRIM notices and initiates a 25-day period for taxpayers to appeal values or exemptions to the Value Adjustment Board. At the end of the 25-day period, the tax roll is finalized and certified to the Tax Collector for creation and mailing of the property tax bills. At this time the tax roll is closed, and the property appraiser may not make any changes. At the completion of the Value Adjustment Board, changes, if any, are made and the tax roll receives final certification.

On January 1 of the next tax year, the process starts again.

Guest Column

Tax rolls will open soon

By Dennis W. Hollingsworth, St. Johns County Tax Collector

The St. Johns County 2022 property tax bills will be in the mail soon. Notices will be sent on or around Nov. 1.

Although all tax notices become due Nov. 1, 2022, they are payable through March 31, 2023 without incurring a penalty. The greatest savings will come to those who opt to pay their taxes in November when they can get a 4 percent discount allowed by law, FS 197.162. The amount of the discount decreases by 1 percent every month until March 2023 when taxes must be paid and no discount is applied.

There are various methods of payment available to St. Johns County property owners. The easiest, most efficient and economical means is by e-check payment on the St. Johns County Tax Collector website, [www.stjohnstax.us](http://www.stjohnstax.us). Online payments can be made via e-check for just \$1, or by credit card for a 2.5 percent transaction fee. No part of this fee is retained by our office; it is a convenience fee paid directly to the credit card company. Payment can also be made by mailing a check or visiting one of our four office locations.

Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. – 5

p.m., Monday through Friday at the following office locations: St. Augustine (Main Office), 4030 Lewis Speedway; Dupont Center, 6658 US 1 South; Ponte Vedra, 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Ste. 100; and Jurlington Creek, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

In addition to the tax notices sent to property owners, tax notices are also sent to mortgage companies with escrow accounts. Property owners with escrow accounts should receive an “information only” notice detailing your tax status and stating, “This is not a bill. Do not pay. Your bill has been forwarded to your escrow agent.”

Questions regarding homestead exemptions and property assessment should be addressed to the St. Johns County Property Appraiser, who is responsible for providing the St. Johns County Tax Collector with the tax roll. Any questions regarding the individual taxing authorities’ millage rates, CDD rates, assessments and exemptions listed on your notice should be addressed to those individual authorities provided on the insert in your tax notice.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact our office at (904) 209-2250 or email ([taxcollector@sjctax.us](mailto:taxcollector@sjctax.us)).



with St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon Patty

**Q. November is a time when our attention turns to our veterans. Is the Clerk’s office involved in any special veteran services?**

A. Specifically for November and in recognition of Veterans Day, we are honoring veterans, active-duty military, reservists and their dependents by providing complimentary passport photos and notary services. They can take advantage of these free services 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday — Friday through Nov. 30 at our courthouse location. Please present your DD 214, military ID, military dependent ID or show your driver license with the veteran designation to demonstrate eligibility. Waiving these fees during November is a small gesture of our appreciation and gratitude to our na-

tion’s heroes.

**Q. Speaking of DD 214s, you’ve encouraged fellow veterans to record their discharge documents with the Clerk of Courts — why is that important?**

A. Yes, veterans may file their separation records, called DD 214s, for free with the Clerk of Courts for safekeeping and easy future access. By recording your DD 214 with the Clerk’s office, an official copy is readily available to you in case the original is lost or destroyed. Your record stays private — military separation documents don’t become public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives. We will be record-

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FOR THE BETTER

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# How to create structure after retirement

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Professionals typically look forward to retirement and the freedom that comes with it. The notion that commuting and deadlines will one day be a distant memory is enough to make anyone excited for retirement. But when the day to leave the daily grind behind arrives, many retirees admit to feeling a little

anxiety about how they're going to find structure.

Retirement is a big transition, and Robert Delamontagne, PhD, author of the 2011 book "The Retiring Mind: How to Make the Psychological Transition to Retirement," notes that some retirees experience anxiety, depression and even a sense of loss upon calling it a career.

Some of those feelings can undoubtedly be traced to the perceived lack of purpose some individuals feel after retiring. Without a job to do each day, people can begin to feel useless. Overcoming such feelings can be difficult, but finding ways to build daily structure can make the transition to retirement go smoothly.

- Find something to truly engage in. Professionals who truly enjoy their work tend to be fully engaged, so it's no surprise if such individuals have a hard time adjusting to retirement. Some may suggest volunteering can help fill the void created by retirement, but researchers with the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College have found that only those individuals who are truly engaged in their post-retirement volunteering enjoy the psychological benefits of such pursuits. So before retirees dive right into volunteering as a means to creating structure, they should first exercise due diligence and find an opportunity they'll find genuinely engaging.
- Embrace the idea of "bridge employment." "Bridge employment" is the name given to the trend that has seen retired individuals take on part-time or temporary employment after they have retired from full-time working.

COVID-19 has no doubt skewed post-retirement working statistics since the World Health Organization first declared a pandemic in March 2020, but a 2019 survey from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute found that 27 percent of pre-retirees with at least \$100,000 in assets planned to work part-time in retirement. Even part-time work can provide enough daily structure to help retirees feel as though each day is not just a free-for-all.

- Make a concerted effort to be more social. Volunteering and working are not the only ways to create structure in retirement. A concerted effort to be more social can help retirees fill their days with interactions with like-minded individuals who may be experiencing the same feelings. Join a book club, a local nature group that goes on daily or semi-daily morning hikes or another local community organization. These are great ways to build structure and meet new people. Retirees can create social media accounts to find local community groups that cater to their interests. Even if it seems hard to believe, plenty of retirees are seeking to create structure in retirement life, and social media can make it easier to find such individuals in your community.



## How to determine if it's time to downsize

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Individuals work hard to save enough money to purchase their homes — and the hard work doesn't end there. Once homeowners settle into a new home, they may set their sights on renovations that suit their individual needs. And even when buyers find a home that needs no such work, maintenance requires homeowners' utmost attention.

All that hard work is perhaps one reason why seniors may be a little reluctant to downsize as they advance through their golden years. In addition to the sweat equity homeowners put into their homes, all the memories they've made within their walls can make it harder to put a home on the market.

Downsizing is a difficult decision that's unique to each homeowner. Seniors who aren't quite certain if downsizing is right for them can consider three key factors to make a decision that's in their best interests.

- Cost: Perhaps no variable affects senior homeowners' decisions to downsize their homes as much as cost. No one wants to outlive their money, and downsizing to a smaller home can help seniors reduce their monthly expenses by a significant margin. Even homeowners who have long since paid off their mortgages can

save substantial amounts of money by downsizing to a smaller home or even an apartment or condominium. Lower property taxes, reduced insurance premiums and the need to pay for fewer repairs are just some of the ways downsizing can save seniors money.

- Space: Many people love the extra space that single-family homes provide. But seniors can take a walk through their homes and see how many rooms they still use on a consistent basis. If much of the home is unused, seniors can probably downsize without adversely affecting their daily lives.
- Market: The real estate market is another factor to consider when deciding if the time is right to downsize. A seller's market can help seniors get the biggest return on their real estate investment, potentially helping them make up for meager retirement savings. For example, home prices skyrocketed across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, making that a great time for sellers to put their homes on the market. Seniors selling to downsize may capitalize on such spikes since they won't be looking to turn around and buy larger, equally expensive homes once they sell their current place. If the market is down and seniors can withstand the work and cost a little longer, it may be best to wait until things bounce back in sellers' favor.

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A not-for-profit agency sponsored by the organized Jacksonville Jewish community.





# New option for affordable independent senior living now available

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Quietly nestled in Mother Nature just east of the Intra-coastal Waterway, Pablo Hamlet offers independent senior living. Recently expanded to meet the needs of the Beaches communities and Northeast Florida, Pablo Hamlet is managed by Elderly Housing Management Corp., Inc.

Residents enjoy their neighbors and the beautiful, pristine environment tucked away in a natural maritime habitat in Jacksonville Beach. This compassionate residential apartment atmosphere includes 50 new, modern units. The apartments feature a quiet setting with walking trails, a pond, and nature park landscaping close to beaches, churches, world-class medical facilities, and the beautiful Atlantic Ocean.

Amenities include move-in modern units, and spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments in a smoke-free environment. The apartments have an all-electric kitchen, ample closet space, cable TV and phone ready, building elevators and laundry facilities, 24-hour maintenance, a utility allowance, and individually controlled heat and air. Residents enjoy painting and having meetings, social events, and classes in the multi-purpose community center, which features a kitchen. Also, they enjoy the business center, computer room, library, and beauty shop.

The Service Coordinator identifies and connects residents to area services. Friends and family enjoy convenient and well-lit parking. Visit [www.pablohamlet.com](http://www.pablohamlet.com) for more information.

# 5 ways to show seniors they're appreciated

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Senior citizens account for a significant percentage of the overall population. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau released in 2020 indicate the nation's 65-and-older population had grown by more than one-third over the preceding decade. By 2050, the number of senior citizens is expected to be close to 90 million.

People are living longer than ever, and as individuals age, the demand for senior services continues to grow — as does the need to be patient and respect the elderly. There are many ways to show seniors just how much they're appreciated.

1. Help with chores. Lend a hand with chores around the house that may have grown difficult for seniors. This can include mowing the lawn, weeding garden beds, shoveling snow, raking leaves, or even taking the garbage pails in and out on collection days.
2. Visit more often. Frequent visits are one of the simplest ways to show seniors you care. Whether seniors live in a private home or managed care facility, visitors brighten their days, especially if they no longer get out and about as frequently as they once did. Spending time together and sharing stories can bring smiles to the faces of older adults.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
Simple gestures of gratitude and appreciation can brighten a senior's day and let that person know he or she has not been forgotten.

3. Plan activities with seniors in mind. When organizing parties and special events, consider the needs of seniors on the guest list. Add music from their era to playlists or DJ requests. Seat seniors with mobility issues near exits and restrooms. Make sure to arrange for photos with the guest of honor to keep family history alive.
4. Thank seniors. Find any reason to thank a senior. Perhaps someone served in the military or volunteered their time with children. Celebrate accomplishments big and small with a simple "thank you."
5. Prepare a meal. Invite a special senior over for a home-cooked meal with the family. Make it a regular occurrence on the calendar. If he or she cannot get out easily, bring a hot meal over to his or her place, instead.



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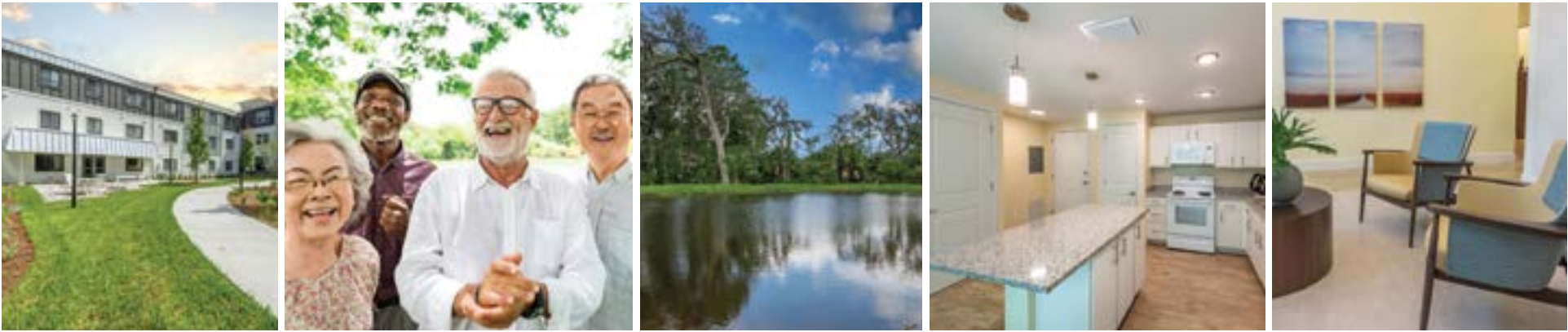
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**Briefs**

**County Commissioners approve funds for mental health support for fire rescue personnel**

During the Oct. 4, 2022, regular Board of County Commissioners meeting, commissioners unanimously approved an allocation of \$500,000 from the Fire District Rescue Reserve to provide mental health support for members of St. Johns County Fire Rescue.

District 2 Commissioner, Sarah Arnold, proposed the funding in a heartfelt message to first responders.

"Suicide is the leading cause of death among firefighters and EMTs, and the repeated exposure to trauma provides a direct link to suicide rates among firefighters and EMTs," Arnold said during the meeting. "Our men and women in Fire Rescue are in crisis. I am speaking to you today, imploring you not only as a member of this board but as a member of this community whose life has been deeply impacted by mental health struggles and the devastation of suicide."

The approved funding allocation will go toward the contractual establishment of mental health services available 24/7 to Fire Rescue personnel. Services will include professional mental health support in response to critical incidents or long-term exposure to high-stress events.

This allocation will also provide funding to hire a Fire Rescue Chaplain who will provide services to personnel daily and respond to critical events for on-scene support. Additionally, the chaplain will help grow and train the department's peer support team, who is already working to provide necessary peer-to-peer support for department members in need.

**Local authors to speak at AAUW luncheon**

Nancy Quatrano and Susan Slater will be the guest speakers at the Nov. 10 meeting of the St. Augustine branch of the American Association of University Women. The program, open to the public, will take place at the Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. The two women are mystery writers.

Nancy Quatrano is an award-winning novelist and short story editor. Her stories have almost involved dark, hard topics that deliver a satisfying ending. A mystery lover at heart, she also shows a romantic side. Susan Slater lived in the Southwest for 32 years. The enchantment of New Mexico comes alive in her Ben Pecos series. After 39 years in New Mexico and being known as a Southwest mystery writer, she has brought all of her characters to Florida these past 10 years. A selection of their books will be available to buy.

Prior to the program, there will be a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at a cost of \$30, which includes an entrée, salad, bread, tea or coffee, dessert, tip and tax. The reservation deadline for the luncheon is Wednesday, Nov. 2. For reservations, contact Gayle Diamant-Holland at (904) 417-0332

or gayle123@bellsouth.net. Information about the organization is available at staugustine-fl.aauw.net, aauw.org., and on Facebook, AAUW St. Augustine.

**Wreaths Across America expands free teach program curriculum for educators**

This year's theme for Wreaths Across America is "Find a Way to Serve." In keeping with this, the organization launched a new TEACH program earlier this year. The program, which was put together by retired educator and Gold Star Mother Cindy Tatum, shares an established curriculum designed to teach the next generation about the value of their freedom. In the past few months, with consistent updates based on American holidays and other important events, this program has become wildly popular with professional educators and homeschoolers. Last month alone, this program received over 2,000 individual downloads.

The program, which consists of stories of courage and character, regularly introduces new educational materials, further focusing on character development and service projects for young people of all ages. This program is free to download from [www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/teach](http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/teach) and is also available to all educators and homeschoolers on Teachers Pay Teachers. The program curriculum encompasses all grades starting at kindergarten through the senior year of high school.

To learn more, or to download Wreaths Across America's TEACH materials, please visit [www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/teach](http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/teach).

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. It is a free event and open to all people. For more information on how to volunteer locally or sponsor a wreath for an American hero, please visit [www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org).

**"Christmas on the River" returns to River House in support of seniors**

On Sunday, Nov. 20, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Council on Aging (COA) invites the community to ring in the holiday season once again at River House with "Christmas on the River." The annual fundraising event supports COA's Care Connection program, which provides St. Johns County seniors with many services they need in order to continue to enjoy independence and quality of life at home.

Attendees are invited to enjoy wine tasting, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, live music, and holiday shopping in the spectacular waterfront setting of River House in downtown St. Augustine. This year will mark the first time the event will be held in person since pandemic-related closures began in 2020.

"The Christmas on the River event evokes the holiday spirit so well," said Becky Yanni, COA's executive director. "It is so festive and fun — and it is driven by a sincere wish to give

back to our community's elders and bring them comfort and joy during the holidays and all year long."

COA's Care Connection program is financed entirely through donations and fueled by the labor of caring COA volunteers from the community. Services provided include minor home repairs, lawn maintenance, wheelchair ramp construction, as well as assistance obtaining low or no-cost prescriptions, utility assistance, pet food, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices. Care Connection supports seniors in remaining in their homes where they are most comfortable, rather than being forced by circumstances to enter assisted living. The program provides crucial services for which no other funding sources exist.

Tickets to the event are \$100 per person and may be purchased online by visiting [www.coasjc.org/cotr](http://www.coasjc.org/cotr), or over the phone by calling COA's Sheri Brideson at (904) 209-3700. Visit [www.coasjc.org/cotr](http://www.coasjc.org/cotr) or contact Sheri

Brideson at [sbrideson@coasjc.org](mailto:sbrideson@coasjc.org) for more information.

**Celebrating a holiday tradition with Garden Club of St. Augustine**

The Garden Club of St Augustine announces its 51st Tour: "Casas y Flores de Navidad" (Houses and Flowers of Christmas) Sunday, Dec. 4 from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. The tour includes six homes in the Downtown Historic District, beautifully decorated in live florals and greenery by the Garden Club of St. Augustine.

There will be a Tea and Holiday Boutique at the River House on Marine Street. There will also be limited transportation from the Historic Downtown Parking Facility (HDPF) to the Tour Homes and the River House. There will be walking and stairs involved. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

The ticket price is \$40; for large group and check sales, call Trudi at (904) 495-3715.

**St. Johns County mourns the passing of District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron**

District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron passed away on Oct. 18. A lifelong resident of St. Johns County, Waldron was a true champion for residents, always putting their needs first. He served honorably as the representative for the county's southeastern 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. 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," said Chairman Henry Dean, District 5 Commissioner.

As commissioner, Waldron served on various committees, 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. His legacy of public service will live on through the lives of everyone he inspired," said Hunter



Conrad, St. Johns County Administrator. "This community will deeply miss him."

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

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

**Q&A with Brandon Patty** cont. from pg. 5

ing DD 214s at the annual Veterans Council of St. Johns County event on the morning of Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1659 A1A South, or come by the courthouse Monday — Friday year-round.

**Q. Nov. 13-19 is International Fraud Awareness Week. Are you still promoting free Property Fraud Alerts for St. Johns County property owners?**

Definitely — protecting yourself from mortgage or property fraud through your trusted county Clerk of Courts should be an easy decision for a homeowner or business owner. We recently launched a partnership with fellow northeast Florida Clerks to urge

property owners in St. Johns, Baker, Clay, Duval and Putnam counties to proactively protect themselves against scammers who would steal their homes, vacant land or business property through fraudulent deeds or other official records. When a subscriber's official records are changed, they are prompted to review the record and to report potentially fraudulent activity to law enforcement. The service is free and safe, and it's easy to sign up at [stjohnsclerk.com/recording-activity/](http://stjohnsclerk.com/recording-activity/).

**Q. How can people get in touch with you?**

A. Please email me at [bpatty@stjohnsclerk.com](mailto:bpatty@stjohnsclerk.com) or call my cell phone at (904) 599-8688.



# Life

travel • pantry raiders • gardening  
fishing • entertainment • puzzles

## Get to Know ...

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewsline.com

### Dr. Steven Sanzo

Dr. Steven Sanzo began his career in education as a physical education teacher at his alma mater in New York, Herkimer High School. He was born and raised in Herkimer, playing quarterback in high school and in college at State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland. He was looking for a way to stay connected to the sports that he loved, and, more importantly, have a positive impact on others. After four years, Sanzo accepted an assistant principal job at Palmyra-Macedon High School while also working as the head football coach. He led the team to their first undefeated regular season during his time at the school. Sanzo, who has a bachelor's, master's, and a certificate of advanced study from SUNY at Cortland and a doctorate degree from the University of Rochester, spent 19 years at Palmyra Macedon. During this time, he experienced the introduction of cell phones into school life and more recently the impact of Covid-19 on the educational setting.

The latter would cause him to seek a new journey in Florida where less restrictions existed for both him and his family, wife Jennifer and two sons, Colten, 13, and Cooper, 10. He began his 20th year as an administrator by accepting a job as one of three assistant principals at Ponte Vedra High School last year. Sanzo's fam-

ily moved to Florida a year ahead of him in 2020, finding a house in St. Augustine's Abbott Tract Historic District. Jennifer, a former fourth grade teacher, homeschooled the children for that year. Colten now attends Sebastian Middle School where Sanzo is the head football coach, continuing with his passion for sports and positive influence. Cooper attends Ketterlinus Elementary. The Sanzos also just started a non-profit organization called All Access Sports to directly support the youth of St. Johns County by providing financial assistance for registration fees, camps, and equipment for organized youth sports. "This has been a passion of mine and my wife for a long time as we are going to try to remove the financial barriers that keep kids from playing sports," said Sanzo.



Photo courtesy Dr. Steven Sanzo  
Dr. Steven Sanzo and family.

ics seriously, but had to work hard to achieve decent grades. It did not come easily to me.

**Q: What other hobbies do you have?**

A: I have turned into a beach lover, and I even tried to learn how to surf this last summer. My boys took surf lessons and they transferred the information down to me — and I think they missed a few steps somewhere along the line. It did not go very well, but I am not giving up. We have beach days as a family, and we have embraced Florida with Universal season tickets. We have both grandparent sets down here (mine in Lake Mary and hers in Palm Coast), so we get to have grandparents' day quite often.

**Q: What is your coaching philosophy, especially for middle school players?**

A: My coaching philosophy is helping players to become the best student-athletes they can be, who will develop into leaders in their schools as well as in their community. My coaching staff and I take great pride in knowing we have done our part in developing young men into better sons, brothers, future husbands, and fathers.

**Q: What inspires you to be positive?**

A: I truly think life is too short. Keep things in perspective. That is the main thing for me. Keep those problems where they belong. Your family's health and well-being come first. My relationship with my family and my relationship with my faith — if those two things are in order — then everything else can be dealt with accordingly.

**Q: You oversee safety and security, athletics, and discipline. You have also taken on school spirit as part of your job at Ponte Vedra High. Why is this important to you?**

A: I am big into the cultural changes like music, announcements, pickleball in the courtyard, spirit days ... just cultivating the environment a little bit. Both faculty and students, the more they enjoy coming to the school and feel connected with the school environment, the more productive they are both in the classroom and around campus. If a student likes coming to school, attendance goes up and achievement goes up and job satisfaction improves.

**Q: What type of student were you growing up?**

A: I was an A-B, the occasional C student. I always took my academ-

### Get to Know ...

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at  
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

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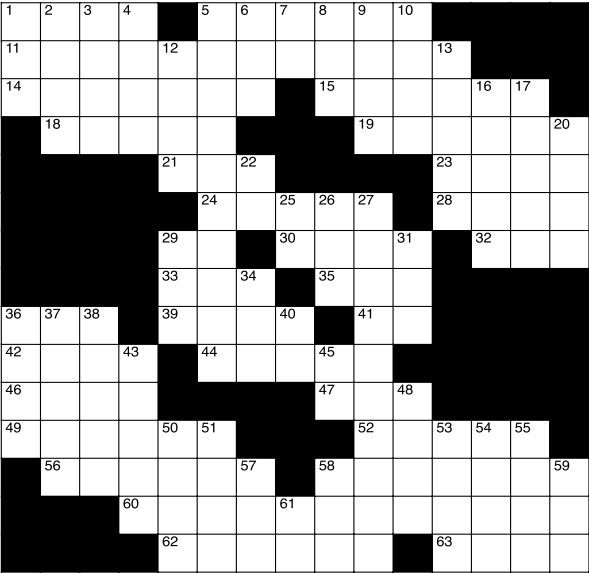
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mountain  
5. One dependent on something  
11. Gratitude  
14. Glazed ceramic ware  
15. Paddling  
18. Step  
19. More greasy  
21. Upper-class young woman  
23. Light beige  
24. Belief in a supreme being  
28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia  
29. A beloved princess  
30. Transfer property  
32. Field force unit  
33. Automated teller
35. When you hope to get there  
36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)  
39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two  
41. Blood type  
42. Stringed instrument  
44. Curses  
46. Barbary sheep  
47. Belonging to a thing  
49. Supporters  
52. Leaf-footed bug  
56. A shower of water  
58. Attribute to  
60. Intermittent  
62. Soda waters  
63. Scottish island

CLUES DOWN

1. Klutz  
2. Relaxing places  
3. Expel saliva  
4. The extended location of something  
5. Certified  
6. Cease to exist  
7. Powerful legal pro  
8. The OJ trial judge  
9. Popular greeting  
10. “90210” actress Spelling  
12. \_\_\_ Blyton, children’s author  
13. “This Is Us” star Fitch  
16. Battery cell with a nickel alode  
17. Full of bacteria  
20. Remains of an old building  
22. Exist  
25. It gets you into places  
26. Witness  
27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
29. Father  
31. Touch gently  
34. Licensed for Wall Street  
36. Herring-like fish  
37. Lute used in N. Indian music  
38. Mirabel shouldn’t talk about him  
40. Atomic #62  
43. Religious  
45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)  
48. Influential civil rights organization  
50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)  
51. Turn away  
53. Kidney disease (abbr.)  
54. Smooth-feeling fabric  
55. Competently  
57. Sea eagle  
58. General’s assistant (abbr.)  
59. It helps you see  
61. Emerging technology

CAREGIVER WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACUTE
- AGENCY
- ASSISTIVE
- CARE
- CHRONIC
- COMORBIDITY
- COMPANION
- COMPETENCE
- CUSTODIAL
- DIRECTIVES
- DISABILITY
- DISCHARGE
- FACILITY
- FAMILY
- GUARDIANSHIP
- HOME HEALTH AIDE
- HOSPICE
- INDEPENDENT
- INFORMAL
- MEMORY
- MOBILITY
- PROXY
- SUPERVISION

CRYPTO FUN

- Solve the code to discover words related to caregivers.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 7 = T)
- A. 26 1 10 15 13 22 19 26 15

Clue: Oversee
- B. 26 1 10 10 25 13 7

Clue: Assist
- C. 3 5 13 19 20 8

Clue: Sensitive
- D. 5 7 7 15 20 7 19 25 20

Clue: Focus

## 2022 National Audubon Photography Awards Show to be held at local studio

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The St. Johns County Audubon Society will sponsor the 2022 National Audubon Photography Awards Traveling Exhibition at The Art Studio, located at 370 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine, between Nov. 4 and 22, 2022. Visitors will be able to enjoy a display of the stunning winning images and learn more about local birdlife in St. Johns County, as well as view The Art Studio’s art. The Art Studio, which is located near the St. Augustine Pier is open from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. daily.

On Nov.9, the St. Johns County Audubon Society will host a wine and cheese reception to celebrate the exhibit at 6 p.m. at The Art Studio. The reception will be open to the public and give visitors an opportunity to learn more about the society and support local artists.

In this, the 13th year of the contest, winning photos, videos and honorable mentions were selected from 2,416 entrants from all 50 states, Washington D.C. and seven Canadian provinces and territories to appreciate the wonder of birds and the places

they inhabit. All images of the winners and honorable mentions can be found here. The 700-member St. Johns County Audubon Society works to educate St. Johns County residents and visitors about the area’s splendid bird population and to promote the protection of the habitat necessary for native and migrant birds to exist and hopefully thrive. Visit [www.stjohnsaudubon.com](http://www.stjohnsaudubon.com) for more information.



Photos courtesy St. Johns County Audubon Society  
2022 Winner, Amateur: Western Grebe



Photos courtesy St. Johns County Audubon Society  
2022 Winner, Grand Prize: White-tailed Kite

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School Briefs

Ketterlinus Elementary School

At Ketterlinus Elementary recently hosted a Grandparents Cookie and Milk Bar, and it was a tremendous success. Grandparents with their grandchildren



enjoyed time together by reading books, eating cookies, and making memories.

Sebastian Middle School

Sebastian Middle School's library media specialist, Mrs. Barnard, is sponsoring the Sebastian EarlyAct, the middle school chapter of The Rotary Club. Each month students will participate in a service project. For September, students wrote thank you cards to first responders. In

October, students sold pink ribbons for breast cancer awareness, with proceeds going to Pink Up the Pace. Through the course of the year, homerooms will participate in Can Tab Wars. The winner of the Can Tab Wars will win a period in the Eagle's Nest, with games, popcorn, and sno-cones.

The Media Center hosted its first Scholastic Book Fair of the 2022 – 2023 school year. Teachers and staff were given a preview of the book fair on



Photos courtesy Ketterlinus Elementary School

Sept. 9. Students rotated through with their English Language Arts classes the following week and the book fair was also open during Open House on Sept 13. Several students were even able to pre-purchase the new "Diary of A Wimpy Kid" novel that comes out Oct. 25. Ms. Brewster was able to get a grant from the PTO to purchase a class set of "Free Lunch," a memoir by Rex Ogle, for a novel study with her students.



Photo courtesy Sebastian Middle School  
The Scholastic Book Fair was a big success.


With so much activity, the Media Center was able to surpass its goal by 134 percent. The proceeds from the book fair will go to improving the library program at Sebastian.

St. Augustine High School


The St. Johns County Center for the Arts (SJCCA) Band and Chorus at St. Augustine High School, along with Army ROTC, will present an evening of music in honor of veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the St. Augustine High School SJCCA Auditorium.

The St. Johns County Center for the Arts provides artistically gifted students with a pre-professional program of study designed to develop their unique talents in the performing and visual arts. In an environment that is supportive and intellectually challenging, SJCCA prepares students to be members of an artistic society. Commitment and self-discipline are necessary in order to advance through the academic and artistic studies at both SJCCA schools: RJ Murray Middle School and St. Augustine High School.





# General Election Guide





## Martha GLEASON

for Mosquito Control District

VOTE BY  
NOVEMBER 8TH 2022

### STOP THE STING!

Help Me Bring Back Accountability, Fiscal Responsibility and Trasparency to Local Government.



[www.marthagleason.com](http://www.marthagleason.com)  
Paid for by Martha Gleason for Anastasia Mosquito Control District



# LINDA THOMSON

FOR GROUP 1 - PORT \*WATERWAY\* BEACH



### BACKGROUND

- Former Principal of Nease High School
- U.S. Coast Guard Family - lived on all coasts of the U.S.
- Owned 41 ft. Carver Motor Yacht

### ISSUES

- Erosion - recurring damage from storms
- Adequate boat ramps and beach access
- Congestion
- Water Safety



 [Vote4LindaThomson@gmail.com](mailto:Vote4LindaThomson@gmail.com)  [Vote4LindaThomson.com](http://Vote4LindaThomson.com)

Paid for by Linda Thomson for Port Waterway & Beach - Group 1 Campaign

## What you need to know about proposed constitutional amendments

By NewsLine Staff  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

In the General Election on Nov. 8, 2022, Floridians will have the opportunity to vote on three legislatively referred proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. Currently, amendments may be proposed to the constitution in three different ways: via citizen initiative, via the Florida Constitution Revision Commission and via referral from the state legislature. Of the three proposed amendments in 2022, one would abolish the Florida Constitution Revision Commission and the other two relate to property taxes. In order for a proposed amendment to pass, it must receive at least 60 percent of the vote.

### Proposed Amendment 1: Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes.

Ballot Summary: “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.”

Since many home improvement projects ultimately increase the assessed value of a home, homeowners generally would have to pay higher property taxes. This amendment would allow the Florida Legislature to pass laws that would make improvements intended to protect homes from flood damage exempt from higher assessments. The Florida Legislature proposed this amendment in response to the threat to Florida homes from rising sea levels.

### Proposed Amendment 2: Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission

Ballot Summary: “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.”

The Florida Constitution Revision Commission, which convenes every 20 years and whose 37 members are appointed by the governor, legislative leaders and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme court, is one of three means by which amendments are proposed for the Florida Constitution. This amendment would abolish the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, which last convened in 2017 – 18 and placed eight amendments on the 2018 ballot, several of which bundled different amendments into one question.

### Proposed Amendment 3: Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce

Ballot Summary: “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.”

This amendment would authorize the state legislature to create a new home-

Constitutional Amendments cont. on pg. 14



## Elect Gary HOWELL



### MOSQUITO CONTROL ST. JOHNS COUNTY - SEAT 2

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- For common sense management & financial controls
- Advocate for health & environmental concerns

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Paid for & Approved by Gary Howell for Anastasia Mosquito Control



**Don't be duped by developers promoting a "one penny tax." It will cost the average family \$4,000 over 10 years and will largely benefit big developers.**



That slick ad campaign promoting "A Better St. John's Plan" is funded by land development and construction interests seeking subsidies from our county taxpayers. The Better St. John's PAC is managed by the same people in Tallahassee who run PACs for Senator Hutson and other land developers. That penny is actually a 15% increase in our retail sales tax burden and represents a tripling of the county's take from retail sales!

Commissioners have admitted that they wish to use this proposed tax windfall to build the parks and roads necessary for land development. In effect, this lines the pockets of land developers, and does not hold them accountable for infrastructure costs.

Our county collected record revenues this past year. Why do we need to raise a sales tax during a boom year? On top of that, the commissioners voted to give us a 12.5% property mileage rate increase over last year's rate. With our current tax base, we can well afford to build libraries and fund fire and rescue infrastructure.

Commissioners and developers argue that tourists will pay 40% of this new tax, but a look at last year's numbers\* suggests that it will only be 15%.

GOT QUESTIONS? You won't find answers on the developers' "Penny Plan" website because it has no contact form or email address. They're hiding behind their PAC, and simply expect us to believe their deceptive advertising – no questions asked. Don't play into the developers' hands. We can afford improvements without taxing ourselves. You can ask us questions at [1stCoastConservativesUnited.com](http://1stCoastConservativesUnited.com)

On election day, vote NO on the referendum for a "one cent sales tax."



\*Last year, visitors spent almost \$712 million in St. Johns County. A 1% tax on \$712M is \$7.1M. Over ten year's, that's 71.2M. That is 14% of \$500,000. Tourism will grow over the next ten years, but not enough to reach 35 or 40% as the county claims. Even if tourism grows faster than our rapidly growing population, it won't be higher than 20%. If you take 80% of \$500,000, that's how much the rest of us will pay for this sales tax increase over ten year's – \$4,000 per household.



# General Election Guide

## It's time for the General Election

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

The Nov. 8 General Election is quickly approaching. Early Voting started this week and continues through 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5. For your convenience, you may vote at any of the eight early voting locations around the county. Early voting dates include two Saturdays and one Sunday. All locations are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. You may cast your ballot in person or use a secure ballot intake station inside each of our early voting locations if you need to drop off your vote-by-mail ballot.

There is no early voting on Sunday, Nov. 6 or Monday, Nov. 7 before Election Day.

The ballot is long with many federal, state, judicial, and local races, plus three constitutional amendments and a local referendum. Your sample ballot will help you prepare for voting. You can also visit our website at [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov), click the “General Election 2022” quick link on the front page, and access an abundance of election research materials. Doing your research in advance and being prepared to vote when you arrive to vote can be a real time saver.

Bring a photo and signature ID with you when you vote; Florida law requires it. There are 13 acceptable forms of photo ID that can be used. A complete list is available on our website. If you do not have a current and valid ID, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

The deadline for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot has already passed. If you still have your ballot in hand, you **MUST** return your ballot to the Elections Office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day in order for it to count. If your ballot is late, it will not count. First class mail takes three to five business days, so you may want to personally deliver your ballot to ensure it is counted. You can drop off your ballot during early voting hours at one of our early voting locations through 6 p.m. on Nov. 5. Vote-by-mail ballots cannot be turned in at the polls on Election Day; however, you can surrender your ballot and vote in person.

Many voters will cast ballots early or vote-by-mail, but for those of you still planning to vote on Election Day or wondering what options you have, here are a few tips:

Know where you vote before you go! Due to the 2020 Census and the 2021 redistricting process, many changes have occurred since the 2020 elections. We have new voting districts, precinct lines, and some new polling places. In addition, voters move all the time, but don't always update their address with the Elections Office before going to vote. Knowing where you vote before you go can save you a lot of time.

Visit our website [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) and use the tools available to you. By using “My Voter Status” under the quick links, you can check your record, verify your address, locate your polling place, view your sample ballot and track your vote-by-mail ballot. If you have moved, give the office a call at (904) 823-2238. We will update your address and send you to your correct Election Day polling place the first time. This can also be a real time saver. Many voters have to be rerouted on Election Day because they go to an incorrect polling location.

Additional information is available in our ad in this newspaper. My staff and I are always ready to serve you and we will make it easy for you to vote. Visit our

website or call the office at (904) 823-2238 if you have any questions or need assistance. See you at the polls!

### Constitutional Amendments cont. from pg. 12

stead exemption of up to \$50,000 for certain public service employees that are specifically named in the amendment. The exemption means property owners in these professions can subtract \$50,000 from the assessed value of their property in addition to the standard \$50,000 homestead exemptions Floridians already receive on their primary residence. The new exemption would not apply to assessments for school taxes.

Additionally, in St. Johns County, there is a countywide referendum included on all ballots: St. Johns County Ten Year Sales Surtax to Fund Countywide Public Infrastructure and Improvements. Voters will have the opportunity to vote yes or no on an additional one cent sales tax, which would increase the county's sales tax from 6.5 cents to 7.5 cents per dollar for the next 10 years.

Ballot Summary: “To provide for safer neighborhoods, reduce traffic congestion, and improve roadways and public facilities, shall St. Johns county leve a one-cent sales surtax for a period of ten years to fund road improvements, alternative transportation facilities, and infrastructure for law enforcement, emergency services, public parks and recreation facilities, libraries, storm water management, and coastal erosion management projects, beginning on January 1, 2023?”

There are several different guides to Constitutional Amendments available online. The James Madison Institute's guide may be found at [www.james-madison.org/2022-florida-amendment-guide/](http://www.james-madison.org/2022-florida-amendment-guide/) and <https://lwvfl.org/amendments-2022/> contains a guide produced by the League of Women Voters. Also visit [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) for more information.



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Meet Jennifer

Paid for by Jennifer Collins for St. Johns County School Board, District 3



Group

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**2 DAVID W VENTERS**

**3 SUSAN G PHILLIPS**

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**NO VESTED INTEREST**

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**votebethtate@gmail.com**

**Vote for Tate, November 8!**

Paid for by Vote for Beth Tate, Airport Authority Group 2 Campaign



# GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 8, 2022

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST JOHNS COUNTY



Due to the 2020 Census and Redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some Election Day polling locations have changed. Visit **VOTESJC.GOV** for more information.

*We are here to serve you. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.*

## KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

To locate your polling place visit **www.votesjc.gov** or call the Elections Office at **904-823-2238**

## REMEMBER, YOU HAVE 3 WAYS TO VOTE!



**VOTE-BY-MAIL**  
Visit **www.votesjc.gov** or call (904) 823-2238 by 5 PM on October 29 to request a vote-by-mail ballot.



**VOTE EARLY**  
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. Locations are listed below.



**ELECTION DAY**  
To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on November 8. Signature and photo ID are required to vote in person. For more information, visit **www.votesjc.gov**

## MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on your vote-by-mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote-by-mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Drop your vote-by-mail ballot in a Secure Ballot Intake Station at any early voting location during the hours of voting. Your voted mail ballot **must** be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office **no later than 7 PM on Election Day**. If your vote-by-mail ballot is returned late, it will not count.

## ON OUR WEBSITE [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov)

- Register to vote
- Check your voter status
- Change your address before you vote
- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your vote-by-mail ballot
- View and print your sample ballot

## ELECTION DAY

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022**  
Polls are open 7 AM to 7 PM

**When voting on Election Day, you must vote at the precinct of your legal residence!**

## EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

**October 26 - November 5, 2022** Includes two Saturdays and a Sunday!  
**8 AM to 6 PM** Daily at all 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 Dr  
St. Augustine

**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
4455 Avenue A, #101  
St. Augustine

**St. Augustine Beach City Hall**  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine

**Southeast Branch Library**  
6670 US 1 South  
St. Augustine

**Hastings Branch Library**  
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Travel

Visit Beguiling Bogota

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Just a few years ago, people resisted travel in Colombia. The high crime rate and drug cartels scared them off. But the Colombian government has diligently worked to overcome this situation, and Americans are now choosing leisure trips to the South American country.

I flew to Bogota, the capital city, to attend a convention. While indoors at meetings much of the time, I still got out to visit three city highlights. And they are worth seeing.

I started the day at the extraordinary Museum of Gold, home to 34,000 gold pieces formerly used in the indigenous peoples' daily life or sacred rituals. The priceless but small Muisca



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Botero's Mona Lisa.

Raft, sometimes called the Raft of El Dorado, sat alone in a glass cabinet. El Dorado was a golden city many explorers sought but never found. Scholars estimate the raft and figures were created between 1295 and 1410.

The golden piece tells the story of a chief and an initiation ceremony. When the old tribal leader passes away, a relative is chosen to become the new chief. He is shut in a cave, then covered with a mixture of golden powder. Under the cloak of darkness, his attendants row the raft to the lake's center. When the sun rises, the chief stands, shimmering and glowing like a golden god. He then casts large amounts of gold, and some say emeralds, into the lake as religious offerings. He also throws himself into the water and returns to the edge for a party in his honor.

The Muisca Raft has become a national emblem for Colombia. The piece has never left the Gold Museum in Bogota since its arrival in 1969.

Following my tour, I walked a few blocks to the cobblestoned central plaza La Candelaria, where government buildings and a cathedral dominate. I found the basilica's interior, begun in 1686, rather plain as I was expecting much gold.

Just up the block sits another must-see site: the Botero Museum. Fernando



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
View of Bogota from Monserrate.

Botero, a Colombian figurative artist and sculptor, was a name I didn't know. After my visit, I will easily recognize his work. He paints plump or large-sized versions of his subjects. During the pandemic, I noticed a Mona Lisa painting on social media and thought it was a joke. She looked like a comic version who over-ate during the lockdown. But I was wrong; she's a Botero.

The artist is adamant that he does not "paint fat people," as many critics have suggested. Instead, he sees what he paints as volume, once describing his work as exploring the "sensuality of form." He feels the magnitude of his characters increase their impact.

This free museum maintains an excellent collection of Botero paintings and works from other famous artists like Chagall, Dalí, Miró, Picasso, Monet, and Matisse. Best to see it with a guide to appreciate and interpret the art.

Lastly, I rode a funicular up to the sanctuary of Monserrate. The refuge, resting at 10,400 feet, is visible from almost anywhere in the city. Many religious devotees walk up a steep, nearly two-mile path to this traditional sacred pilgrimage site and Stations of the Cross. The shrine of Our Lady of Monserrate, begun in 1620, houses the Fallen Lord of Monserrate, an effigy of Christ that performs miracles according to the faithful. The Lady Chapel contains a copy of the Black Madonna, the original remains in the sanctuary at Monserrat, Spain.

While at the sky-high altitude, enjoy dining at one of two restaurants or a café overlooking the immense city that has a population of more than 10 million. The staggering view alone makes the trip worth the effort. Bogota was beguiling.

Visit [www.bylandersea.com](http://www.bylandersea.com) to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.

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