



FLEET BEAT

VOL. 35 No. 6

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

July 2025

Summer Olympics

By Enith Vardaman

Photos by Ann Bell, Ed Hollender, Dan Barry,
and Chet Davis

Opening Ceremony

The Summer Olympics, part of Fleet Landing's 35th anniversary celebration, began on Friday, June 6, with residents participating in a relay of the Olympic torch through the campus from the Coleman Center to Windward Commons.



Participants in the torch relay and their supporters



Arrival of the torch at Windward Commons

Pool Races

The Noodle Race and the Freestyle Sprint Race on the morning of June 9 kicked off a week of competitive events.



*Noodle Race
(continued on page 13)*

Fleet's Got Talent

By Guy Bond

Photos by Ed Hollender and Guy Bond



The third and final installment of Fleet's Got Talent for 2025 occurred in front of a packed house in Johnson Hall on June 21. Thirty-two residents and four staff members participated in what was truly a variety show.

Pete Sheridan warmed up the audience on the piano with several traditional Irish songs. He was followed by Fleet Landing's own Dulcimer Doers band, led by Victoria Freeman, playing "Black Mountain Rag." Pam Mullarkey Robbins returned with another story of one of her life's most embarrassing moments (she calls them "Eating Humble Pie"), when she had a little too much wine while studying abroad as a young woman.

In a return to musical numbers, John Rietveld sang "If I Could Write a Song," reminding all of us that the people we love are the most beautiful people we know. Julia Pet-Armacost on flute and piccolo and Ivy Suter on violin played several challenging medleys by J. S. Bach. Julie McLaughlin, accompanied by Bob Armacost on guitar, gave a lovely rendition of "Someone to Watch Over Me." Driver Rob Friedman sang a Garth Brooks hit, "The Dance."

There were two more spoken word acts. Lory Doolittle related an amusing tale of a family member—Freddie the cat. Then we heard a hilarious story about Charles Winton's Aunt Gina and Her Cabbages. (You'll have to ask him.)

The final acts were once again musical. Guy Van Syckle did not disappoint when he shared James Taylor's popular "Sweet Baby James." Then, after a stern warning to protect their ears (ear plugs were available), the audience was treated to "Wipe Out," a hit of the rock group, the Surfaris. It featured Driver Marie-Claire Allen on drums and Rich Gottlick on guitar, with support from Human Resources Coordinator Rachel Leslie on keyboard and with guitar support from Guy Bond, Rich Wong, and Cashier Tristin Bussey. The constantly growing "Come As You Are" band finished the evening's scheduled acts with "Take it Easy," the first hit by the rock band, the Eagles.

(continued on page 18)

June Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost convened the June 17 council meeting in Johnson Hall. She conducted the process leading to the unanimous approval of non-substantive changes to the Residents' Council Charter and Bylaws. She also reminded residents of the Johnson Hall loop system that sends the signal from the sound system directly to properly equipped hearing aids, improving the listening experience.

Management Review. Campus Operations Senior Director Marc Cantu reviewed recently completed and ongoing projects, including completion of the exterior upgrades at the Coleman Center, the installation of blinds in Lake View to reduce glare from the sun, and an August start for the Lake Constellation floating island project. A solution has been found to deal with the leak in the outdoor pool, avoiding the need to shut it down for repair. Beginning on August 1, all Fleet Landing dining venues will transition fully to digital comment cards via Fleet Link. Submitting written comments to the concierge or via email will still be options.

Vice President. Carol Smith reviewed Memorial Day events and presented a schedule for our Independence Day programs.

Treasurer. Smith, reporting for Lynette Beitz, said that nine contracts and two upsizes had been closed as of mid-May, with five more contract closings expected in the next 60 days.

Human Resources and Marketing. Skip McAlexander noted 93 percent staffing, with 11 new hires in May. Congratulations were extended to Staff Member of the Month, Simmeon Price of Culinary Services; Catch of the Month, Steven Watts of Remodeling; and Leader of the Quarter, Wellness Services Director Sue Dukes. He also took us on a photo tour of The Bistro, the employee cafeteria in North Point that offers a salad bar and hot meals during the day and box lunches for the evening shift. Five19, Fleet Landing's Sales and Marketing Agency, was on site in early May for full immersion in a number of events. We currently have 857 residents living in 656 units. Atlantic Club membership has grown to 642.

Wellness and Transportation. Ken Hollinga reviewed event highlights for the remainder of June and the first half of July. The 35th Anniversary Summer Olympic Games were a big success. (See article beginning on page 1.)

Health Services/Safety and Security. Judy Solano called attention to Fleet Link memos "Hurricane 2025" and "Scam Prevention Education." They can be found under "Publications."

Housekeeping and Dining Services. Dave Russell displayed a photo of the laundry and the very experienced staff, with service ranging from seven to twenty-seven years. Over 435,000 pounds of laundry is washed annually. Elvis Burrows, the new Senior Direc-

tor of Food and Beverage, is focusing on service, excellence, and team building to create meaningful experiences for residents. Beginning July 1, on a trial basis, the number of reservations residents can make for categories of meals will be increased from two to three. Residents can request adjustments to the preparation of a meal, and they are encouraged to report a problem with a meal right away so the problem can be fixed.

Facilities. Stephen Dick reviewed the results of recent inspections, including the prompt repair of a trip hazard. He also cited the July, August, and September schedule for inspections and the quarterly meeting.

Communications. Secretary Shann Purinton reviewed eight suggestions and responses. The report can be found in the council minutes available in the Dinda Library and posted on bulletin boards around campus and on Fleet Link under "Residents' Council."

The next council meeting will be on July 15.

FLEET BEAT News

By Enith Vardaman

With this issue, we welcome two new members to the *FLEET BEAT* staff. Geri Bramble has joined the team of copy editors who work to keep our publication as error free as possible. Guy Bond is our newest reporter. You can find his article about Fleet's Got Talent on page 1.

In Memoriam

Mary Lou Voller
1929-2025

FLEET BEAT STAFF

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Guy Bond
Chet Davis (Roving Reporter)

All the news that fits...

Contributions to FLEET BEAT are welcome. Please place copy or any comments you may have in box 1107 at the Coleman Center. Neither letters to the editor nor anonymous submissions are published but we are, of course, mindful of your comments. Issues of FLEET BEAT can be found at fleetlanding.com. Sign into the resident portal and click on "Menu" and then "Publications." Issues can also be found under "Publications" on Fleet Link.

Jay Jernigan Garden Walk

By Victoria Freeman; photos by Patricia Payne



Colorful flowers (left) and bright crotons (right) can be found across the campus.



Jernigan expects this creeping fig to cover most of this wall by the end of summer!



Trellised flowering plants screen the view of utilitarian features around campus.



Left: Jernigan's efforts to improve the campus grounds include seeking opportunities to obscure parking areas. Right: Agapanthus is a featured plant throughout the campus.



Left: Jernigan supplied handouts about current landscaping activities to participants.

Right: Jernigan explained that this area adjacent to the Coleman Center was now blocked to residents because they wouldn't enjoy the view: a walk past the dumpsters to get to the pool.

Campus Operations Manager Jay Jernigan sees the Fleet Landing campus as a canvas upon which he and his staff paint an enticing picture. He began his May 30 stroll on the Flag Plaza, where he pointed out the color palette of the flowers and said that this color palette would be carried out around the Coleman Center. He mentioned that the “wow” factor was his goal, a goal that he would move toward, using bright colors and unified plantings.

The strollers moved around the Coleman Center toward the pool. Walking down the curving left sidewalk in an area Jernigan called the “Tunnel of Love,”—it replaced the previous walk past the dumpsters to get to the pool—he pointed out a carefully crafted wooden box filled with lush flowers. He also pointed out creeping fig on the newly constructed wall. He said that individuals on the landscaping team were assigned specific areas. Rusmary Rodriguez was in charge of the creeping fig, and she was taking the assignment very seriously.

Standing under the Coleman Center outdoor stairs, Jernigan gave an in-depth explanation of the floating islands of plants being constructed for Lake Constellation. He provided diagrams for the exciting project and noted that the islands would reduce the need for algae-reducing chemicals in the lake. He also produced several excellent handouts that explained the current re-roofing project.

The bike and cart storage plaza was an additional topic of interest. Each apartment building will have a bike storage unit, with the unit at the 3000 Building, the first to be constructed, the gold standard.

As always, Jernigan attributes the excellent landscaping to the efforts of his team. It is a team that he has developed by listening carefully to individual needs and observing specific skills and interests. He does not micromanage. His team takes pride in their efforts, and the landscapes “wow” factor is a result of Jernigan's wide horticultural knowledge and his effective management style.

June MOAA Meeting

By Chet Davis



LtoR: Sue Nist, Atlantic Beach City Commissioner Candace Kelly, Cheryl Jefferson, residents Bob Neal and Joy Miller, assistant to Tiffani Weems (name unknown), Tiffani Weems

In the absence of Pat Kluever, president of the Historic Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA), Bob Neal opened the chapter's monthly meeting on June 26 in Johnson Hall. Jackie Smith, who headed up the team hosting the event, introduced speakers.

Captain Brian Binder, the then current Commanding Officer of Naval Station Mayport, and Captain Mike Trumbull incoming commanding officer, delivered brief remarks. Binder noted that Admiral Daryl Caudle, the incoming US Chief of Naval Operations has a soft spot in his heart for Naval Station Mayport (good news!).

The main focus of the meeting was the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Tiffani Weems, Cemetery Administrative Representative, provided a comprehensive overview of the cemetery. Opened in 2008, the cemetery held its first burial ceremony in 2009. The cemetery sits on a 525-acre site that has already accommodated almost 28,000 burials. There are approximately 2,100 burials each year. Those eligible for burial in VA cemeteries include service members and retirees who have been honorably discharged, individuals who served in the National Guard or Reserve components and are retired with pay, and spouses and certain children of service members. There are in-ground, columbarium, and scattering of ashes options. The cemetery attempts to accommodate family wishes as much as possible. For military burials, normal military honors are provided. Spouse's ceremonies are at the discretion of the family. It is recommended that a pre-authorization for a spouse or service member be obtained. However, a service member lacking preauthorization will be accommodated, provided other required identification is available.

Cheryl Jefferson provided information about Jacksonville Ladies, an organization modeled after Arlington Ladies at Arlington National Cemetery. The objective of the Jacksonville Ladies is to ensure that no

veteran is buried alone. This totally volunteer organization has a presence at every burial at the cemetery. Volunteers are always needed and are scheduled around availability.

Wreaths Across America Coordinator Sue Nist then described another volunteer opportunity. Each December (December 13 this year) on Wreaths Across America Day, volunteers place wreaths on veterans' graves nationwide and beyond. Drivers and trucks are volunteered to transport wreaths to over 4 million volunteers who decorate graves. Five semi-trailer truckloads of wreaths are needed to deliver enough wreaths for all the graves at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Wreaths, which cost \$17, are purchased through donations. In Atlantic Beach, the DAR raises funds for a wreaths project at the Beaches Memorial Cemetery.

After the formal presentations, Weems ably fielded numerous questions about the cemetery.

KnitWits Plus

By Eileen Norrington



LtoR: Executive Officer CDR Fears, Chair of Volunteers Jessie Gutt, Eileen Norrington, Roma Stephens, Carol Zurflueh, Lynn Spancake, Sandra Roth, Command Master Chief Strickland, Director Navy-Marine-Corps Relief Society Melissa Wilson.

KnitWits Plus meets Tuesdays, 10:30 am-11:30 am in the Windward Commons lobby. All needlecrafters are welcome. We craft items for ourselves and extended families and for the following charities:

- Seaman's Church Institute "Christmas at Sea" Program: hats, scarves, cowls
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society "Budget for Baby Program": blankets
- World Vision "Knit for Kids Program": blankets, sweaters, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves

We also craft prayer shawls and lap blankets for residents in The Nancy House, Leeward Manor, North Point, and Derfer Pavilion.

On Friday, May 30, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society hosted an awards ceremony for all volunteers. Five Fleet Landing residents received awards for a total of 2,550 hours of volunteer time for making 85 baby blankets.

Fleet Hearts News

Text and photos by Shann Purinton



Tour group with their new T-shirts



*Left: Looking at student work.
Right: Student hands-on water activity*



Tour of the UNF Preschool campus



Drone demo



Tour group at the UNF STEP Lab

On June 24, a group of Fleet Hearts members visited the UNF (University of North Florida) Preschool and the UNF STEP Lab.

At the Preschool, our group was met by Dr. Gigi David, Director, and Maria Beattie, Assistant Director, who gave us all UNF T-shirts and took us on a tour of the Preschool campus. In operation since 1975, the UNF Preschool is a premier example of an ideal preschool. It incorporates a Reggio Emilia approach to inquiry and project-based learning that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). As our group walked from classroom to classroom, we saw young students happily engaged in a variety of activities. We were impressed with their positive energy and the creative work on display. The Preschool is open to children of UNF students, faculty, alumni, staff, and the Jacksonville community. For more information, you can go to unfpreschool@unf.edu

After our tour of the Preschool, a short bus ride took us to the STEP (Solve, Tinker, Explore, and Play), Lab which is a part of the UNF Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education. Xavier Rozas, Associate Director, met us and talked about the STEP Summer Camp program that is in progress. Students from area schools work on projects that include coding and robotics. We were given a demonstration of a drone that students can program to fly through a hoop. The STEP Lab is open to university faculty and visiting students, regional preK-12 teachers and students, and other entities who are working with STEM concepts and want “to construct new understandings for themselves in a fun, modern, and modular space.” The STEP Lab is open to the public. Visits can be requested and scheduled by emailing Rozas at xavier.rozas@unf.edu. More information can be found at www.unf.edu/coehs/nefstem/step-lab.html.

Many thanks to resident Lory Doolittle for arranging this tour. Our group learned a great deal and was inspired by the innovative learning approaches at UNF. We rode home feeling optimistic about the future after meeting such dedicated, professional, and caring staff, and observing students engaged in exciting and positive learning experiences.

Duval County Courthouse Tour

By Mary Faria
Photos by Ann Bell and Mary Faria



Tour group with Judge Flower



*Left: Courthouse entrance.
Right: Interior view.*



Largest courtroom

On June 4, residents had the unique opportunity to tour the Duval County Courthouse, guided by County Judge Gary Flower. His expert insight brought the courthouse to life as he shared its history and the debate that once surrounded the decision to build such a large facility—designed with future growth in mind.

Judge Flower took us behind the scenes, offering a rare glimpse into his personal courtroom as well as the largest courtroom in the building. He spoke thoughtfully about the careful, often complex decision-making process involved in sentencing, giving us a deeper understanding of the weight and responsibility of his role.

The tour was both eye-opening and informative, shedding light on the inner workings of our local legal system and the vital work of those who serve within it.

June WELLInspired Learning Series

By Victoria Freeman

Maia Savage, Outreach Collaboration Coordinator for Here Tomorrow, a suicide prevention organization, was the guest speaker at the June 19 WELLInspired



Learning Series talk in Johnson Hall. She is the granddaughter of Fleet Landing resident Stephen Dick. Her topic was “Mental Health Is Essential.” She spoke without notes for over an hour, mentioning her own mental health struggles and offering tips for a balanced and healthy life. Her enthusiasm for

the mission of Here Tomorrow was evident.

Here Tomorrow, which is based in Neptune Beach, provides immediate support for individuals at risk of suicide or experiencing hopelessness, and for people concerned for the safety of a loved one. Because waiting to talk to someone may be detrimental, it offers no-cost, no-wait mental health support from State-Certified Recovery Peer Specialists. It is accessible either virtually or in person and is here for all—regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

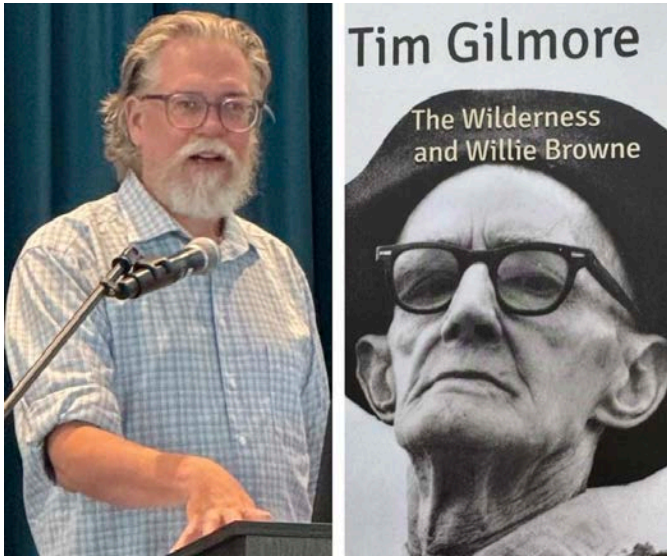
Non-clinical peer support for a year, scheduled follow-ups throughout the year, and additional sessions as needed comprise the core of the program. Peer support specialists can listen with empathy, deescalate crisis situations, explore coping strategies, help build a wellness “toolbox,” promote healing, foster independence, set goals, and let individuals know they are not alone.

Here Tomorrow hopes to expand. It is funded from grants and donations. For more information, including volunteer opportunities and other ways to contribute to the organization’s mission, go to heretomorrow.org.

Editor’s note: The slides from this presentation are available on Fleet Link. Go to “Fleet Landing Presentations” and then “WELLInspired Learning Series.”

Tim Gilmore Discusses a Jacksonville Natural Treasure

By Bo Smith



Tim Gilmore is an award-winning author of 20 books centered on the South, and a professor at Florida State College at Jacksonville. About 50 of our residents attended his telling of the story of Willie Browne at Johnson Hall on June 11. Browne was a noted Jacksonville character who lived a wilderness life on a 600-acre (about one square mile) wooded tract some 5 miles west of our campus. Gilmore's book, *The Wilderness and Willie Browne*, is in the Florida section of the Dinda Library.

Willie Browne (1889-1971) was born shortly after a major yellow fever epidemic in Jacksonville. The epidemic prompted his parents to purchase wild land and relocate their young family away from the city to the Fort Caroline area of Duval County. Browne and his younger brother, Saxon, grew up and continued to live there permanently when their parents relocated to the city. Their cabin never had electricity, water, or phone service. Saxon engaged with the larger community, but Willie stayed close to the land, never married, never learned to drive, and supported himself by hunting, fishing, raising crops, and occasionally doing odd jobs. Despite his near hermit-like lifestyle, he was well liked and respected in the local area. Today, more than 50 years after his death, his way of life and respect for the natural world is still admired among many in the environmental community. In 1969, near the end of Browne's life, he donated his 600 acres to the Nature Conservancy. That land eventually became the Theodore Roosevelt Area of the National Park Service's Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

The Theodore Roosevelt Area holds a special place in my heart because it was a favorite refuge during the height of COVID-19, when outside options were few. I recommend a visit if you haven't been there. Begin at

the parking lot at Spanish Pond, just off Fort Caroline Road. The trails are well marked and maintained. They start easy, then gradually require some gentle climbing. Only the Timucuan Trail has some uneven terrain. Much of the area is flat, but it is located on an eroded ancient sand dune that forms St. Johns Bluff, and there are some hilly areas.

San Marco Chamber Music Society Concert

By Nancy Lundgren



To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of Johnson Hall, the San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS) gifted Fleet Landing residents with a beautiful concert on June 10. Wellness Services Director Sue Dukes opened the festivities with a tribute to John Johnson and his late wife, Beverly, for their generosity, which has made this venue home to many, many wonderful events.

Six members of SMCMS performed: Eric Olson, oboe; Jessica Hung, violin; JeeHee Kang, violin; Ellen Olson, viola; Ben Fryxell, cello; and Giovanni Bertoni, clarinet.

The program featured Italian compositions, a nod to the group's upcoming Italian tour. The oboe substituted for the soprano when the ensemble played a lighthearted aria from Verdi's opera, *I vespri siciliani*. In contrast, Puccini's *Crisantemi*, a tribute to the deceased king of Spain, Amadeo I, created a quiet, somber tone.

"Folk Song" from *Songs and Dances* introduced listeners to a contemporary Canadian composer, Bill Douglas.

Continuing their tradition of including some Mozart-for-Walter (Graham), the musicians played Mozart's Quintet for Clarinet and String Quartet. They also played "Se viver non degg'io" from from Mozart's opera *Mitradate, re di Panto*, with the oboe and clarinet taking the role of a soprano duet.

Thanks, as always, to Walter and Cynthia Graham who sponsor many of the classical music performances at Fleet Landing.

Art Club Reception Draws a Crowd

By Patricia Payne; photos by Ann Bell



Bo Smith (l) and Richard Lundgren



Victoria Freeman (l) and Carol Smith



Paula O'Bannon and John Hen

The Fleet Landing Art Club celebrated its recent exhibitions by hosting a Sunday, June 8, afternoon reception in Windward Commons. These occasional events provide an opportunity for show participants to socialize with resident art lovers and—if necessary—explain their artwork!

Wine and cheese (and fruit and nuts) from Dining Services sustained us for hours of conversation and laughter. Installation team leader Glenn Perry tended bar. Carol Smith and Victoria Freeman played dulcimers to enhance the party ambience.

Residents who heard about the event afterward were disappointed that they missed it. If you want to receive email about Art Club activities, please send a request to p.payne5@icloud.com. Several of you asked me in person to be on the list but, alas, I can't remember who you are 😊. It's always better to provide a message that I can reference.

Some of the Artists



Glenn Perry and Sarah Lamont

Harmony & Flow: A Mindfulness Experience

By Victoria Freeman

On June 3, twenty residents gathered in Studio A in Windward Commons for a Music Therapy session followed by a Tai Chi/Qigong session.

Dannielle Caldwell, a board-certified music therapist, passed out a variety of instruments and led the group in playing, singing, and songwriting.

Resident Maureen Miller, a certified Tai Chi/Qigong instructor, built on the music therapy session. She reminded the group of the six essential principles of qigong and taught the movements of the Sky Fisherman.

A healthy green smoothie was enjoyed by all participants, who left the event exuding calm cheerfulness.



LtoR: Lynn Blakemore, Ann Brodt, Craig Miller

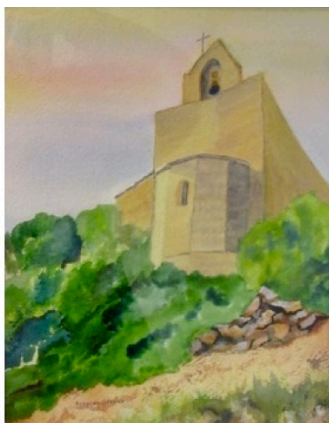
New Art Exhibitions

By Enith Vardaman

Fleet Landing artists—30 in all—have their works on display in exhibitions hung in June in two venues: the first-floor exhibit space in Windward Commons and the space outside Lake View in the Coleman Center. The exhibitions feature paintings in various mediums as well as photography, woven art, and stoneware. Some contributors are displaying more than one work. *FLEET BEAT* photographer Ed Hollender had the challenge of photographing all 48 items and their accompanying labels. Below is a photo of one work by each artist.



Left: Richard Lundgren's "On the Fence."



Right: Imogene Coleman's "In Provence."



Left: Carol Bowser's "Prince of Orange Poppies."



Right: Craig Miller's "Frog Vase."



Left: Robert Wells's photograph "Hubris."



Right: Sally Pitard's "Homestead Past."



Left: Veronika Jenke's "Munch, Munch."



Right: Julia Pet-Armacost's "Sea Floor Living Room."



Left: Kristin Perry's "Freya in a Sunny Room. (Coleman Center)"



Right: Patricia Payne's "Bloomin' Color."



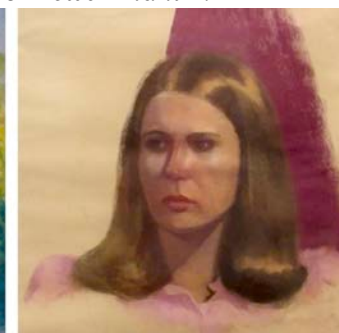
Left: Jackie Stack's "Anhinga Feather Drying Ritual."



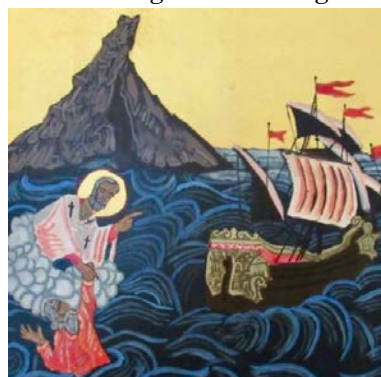
Right: Bo Smith's "Power Plant 2."



Left: Marjorie McMahon's "Monet's Garden."



Right: Carl Tungli-Giese's "Orsolya."



Left: Ann Brodt's "St. Nicholas-Patron Saint of Seafarers, Children, and Pawnbrokers."

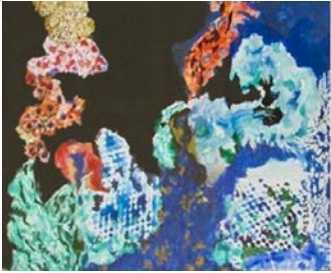


Right: Frances Jones's "Magnolia."

(continued on next page)

New Art Exhibitions

(continued from preceding page)



Left: John Hen's "Deep Sea Scene."

Right: Betty Thompson's "Night Swamp 2 (Bird)."



Left: Susan Hubbard's photograph "Great Blue Heron."

Right: John Rogerson's photograph "Behold the Artistry of God's Paintbrush."



Left: Glenn Perry's "Solstice and Slack Tide." (Coleman Center)

Right: Sandy Roth's "Girl with the Pearl."



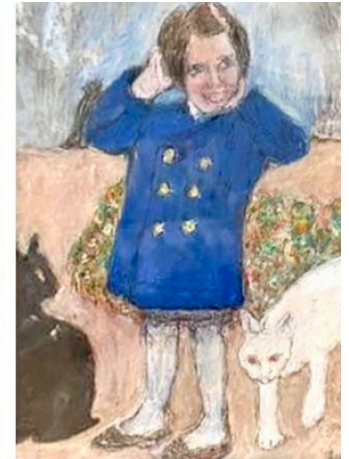
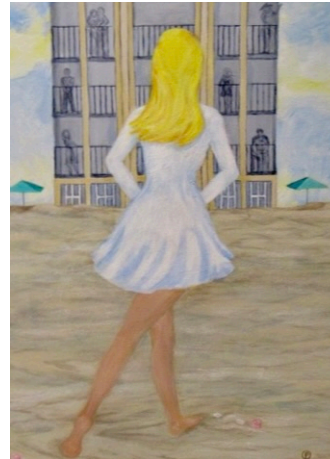
Left: Sarah Lamont's "Bear with Bundle" (wool, cotton, beads).

Right: Tom Dames's "Sand Sprites."



Left: Judy Blocker's "A View on the Plaza."

Right: Gayle Banks's "Fleet Landing Art Project."



Left: Paula O'Bannon's "Oceanview at the One Ocean Resort."

Right: Nancy LaGoy's "Girl in Sailor Coat."



Left: Peggy Holz's "Jim's 1st Car: Customized '51 Ford Coupe."

Right: Lynn Blakemore's "Gingerbread Men Invade Key West."

Library Notes

By Enith Vardaman

The Library Committee thanks recent donors: Mary Donohue, Walter Graham, Gitti Hardage, Karen Hassler, Jan Hilton, Lorie Holmes, Don Husmann, Suzanne and Jim Joyner, Su Kraegel, Nancy Lundgren, Carol Sheil, and Ambler Slabe.

Members of Fleet Hearts recently visited the UNF (University of North Florida) Preschool and the UNF STEP Lab. (See article on page 5.) They have donated to the library a publication received during the visit. Titled *A Look Into UNF Preschool's Project Work Featured at* (continued on next page)

Library Notes

(continued from preceding page)

Our 2025 Art Exhibition MOCA Jacksonville, it reflects the learning process of children ages 2½ to 5 years old. Currently, it can be found with UNF Preschool as the author and classified as Soc. Sci. in the New Acquisitions: Non-Fiction section. It will eventually be placed with the regular Soc. Sci. part of the library's collection.

Mallets and Wickets

By John Rogerson

On June 7, the Fleet Landing Croquet Club celebrated a very *hot* National Croquet Day with fun and games on the croquet courts as members accumulated points for successfully completing various "trials." There was, however, some muttering in the crowd about how diabolical the designers of the games were!! After the games, folks dove into the wonderful air conditioning of Johnson Hall for an awards ceremony followed by a delicious dinner. It was a fun day for the approximately 50 in attendance.



Winners of the games (LtoR): Mary Steinke, Bob Palfy, Mary Ellen Reed, and Vickie Rose



Raffle winners Maureen Miller (l) and Cindy Tomlin wearing their prizes

Victor Wainwright Concert

By Isobel Spink



Victor Wainwright returned on June 20 for his fifth Summer Concert Series appearance. He remains a beacon of innovation in the world of blues and boogie-woogie music. A pianist, singer, and songwriter, Wainwright blends traditional blues styles with modern flourishes. Having learned the piano from his grandfather, Wainwright plays completely by ear and can't read music. For this concert, a saxophonist and a bass guitarist joined him on the Johnson Hall stage.

Beginning with a great boogie-woogie number, his hands flying over the keyboard, Wainwright gave us a history of this music and its start in the South in lumber camps and railroad cars at the turn of the 20th century.

(continued on next page)

Victor Wainwright Concert

(continued from preceding page)

The trio then proceeded to give us some more modern music, a sample of their upcoming Las Vegas program. Amusingly, one song had the whole trio simultaneously springing to a standing position and sitting back down at intervals throughout.

“Caldonia,” written by Louis Jordan, is credited with eliciting the first use of the term “rock and roll.” It demonstrated the magical interplay between music and storytelling, with the piano echoing both a man and a woman talking.

Wainwright encouraged audience members to chime in at various times, and they enthusiastically complied. He even had a competition between those on the left and right sides of Johnson Hall, telling them to “hoot and holler like Savannah” to see who could sing the loudest.

A Ray Charles number was followed by “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” slowing the piano and voice down, and offering an amazing performance on the soprano sax.

Wainwright closed with “Drinkin’ Wine Spo-Dee-O-Dee,” a Jerry Lee Lewis song, and gave it his all, with the audience shouting “wine, wine, wine.”

A six-time winner of a Blues Music Award, Wainwright has a magnetic presence and boundless passion that continue to remind audiences why he is one of the most electrifying performers.

Chess Club News

By Richard Wong

The Chess Club meets Tuesdays at 1 pm in the Windward Commons lobby.



This month's chess puzzle: White mates in 2 moves

Classical Themes

By Chet Davis



The June 12 Fleet Classics program was another excellent contribution by resident musicians. The group, currently made up of Julia Pet-Armacost, Bunky Johnson, Charles and De An Winton, Karen Sturtevant, Eunice Rogerson, and Bob Armacost, has been performing for five years.

The compositions for this performance were written between 1708 and 1956 and represented a wide range of styles. The program featured well-known composers along with some unfamiliar ones, although the latter's music was often familiar.

The high point of the concert may well have been the “Toreador Song” from Bizet’s opera *Carmen*. Fleet Harmony and the Serendipity Singers sang, while Ernie Bio (the bull) and Anna Bio (the matador) provided a amusing rendition of a bull and bullfighter to the enjoyment of all.

This was the last Fleet Classics concert until January 2026. In the meantime, residents will have enjoyed Fleet’s Got Talent on June 21 (see article on page 1), and they can look forward to a FleetLanders concert on July 24 and the Follies, scheduled for October 20 to 23.

Summer Olympics

(continued from page 1)



Freestyle Sprint Race

Croquet

With 22 Croquet Club members wishing to participate, elimination matches had to begin before the start of the Summer Olympics in order to have the mixed doubles finals ready to be played within the week of competitions.



The finalists



The match underway



Intense concentration was required.

Mini Golf

The highlight of the Mini Golf (also called Putt-Putt) competition was a hole-in-one scored by Jerry Bowles.



Left: the competitors.

Right: Jerry Bowles after his hole-in-one.



Left and center: Teeing off. Right: Almost.

Ping-Pong

The Ping-Pong competition had a men's and a women's bracket.



Women's bracket competitors



*Men's bracket competitors
(continued on next page)*

Summer Olympics

(continued from preceding page)



Skill on display

Bike Races

The competitors had two different kinds of bikes: road bikes and fat bikes. The latter are slower. Those with road bikes competed for the best time in completing about 5K, while those with fat bikes sought the best time for about 3K. Because the race took place on Fleet Landing Boulevard, staff from Safety and Security were on hand to keep everyone safe.



The competitors



Waiting for their turn to start



One of the Safety and Security staff members on hand

Pickleball

Pickleball brought out 30 participants who competed in women's, men's, and mixed doubles.



Women's doubles competitors



Women's doubles match underway



*Men's doubles competitors
(continued on next page)*

Summer Olympics

(continued from preceding page)



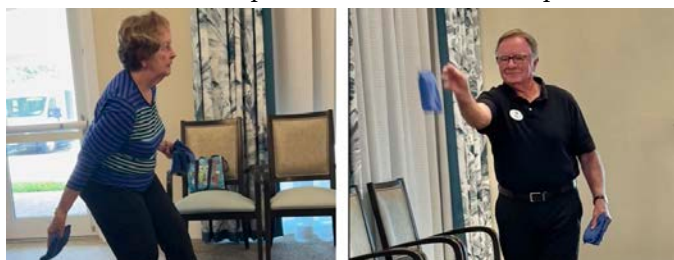
Men's double matches

Cornhole Doubles

Dan Barry reported that six teams participated in the Cornhole competition that lasted two hours. Despite being widely regarded as a fun lawn game, there was some fierce competition. Nevertheless, a wonderful time was had by all.



Cornhole competitors and the scorekeepers



Scenes from the competition



The competition evoked a variety of sentiments.

Strength Competition

Dan Barry also reported on the four events in the Strength Competition: Farmer's Walk, Plank, Push-ups, and Bosu Balance. The men's and women's divisions had three contestants each. The Farmer's Walk being a mildly strenuous event, rock music was provided to help "Pump It Up!"



*Farmer's Walk
(continued on next page)*

Summer Olympics

(continued from preceding page)



Plank



Push-ups



Bosu Balance: concentration required

Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony of the Summer Olympics took place on the afternoon of Friday, June 13. Residents gathered in Johnson Hall for the awarding of medals from the week's events. They learned that Leeward Manor, North Point, Derfer, and The Nancy House also had a version of Summer Olympics, and those medals were awarded first. Not all of the independent living medal winners could be present. Beginning in the next column, there are photos of as many of them as were present for the awarding of the medals for each event. The gold medal winner occupies the center spot on the podium, with the silver medalist on the right, and the bronze medalist on the left.



Left: Pool Noodle Race: Bob Peterson, Mike Foster, John Rogerson.

Right: Pool Freestyle Sprint Race: Rogerson, Foster, Peterson.



Croquet: Bob Palfy, Miles Nogelo, John Rogerson, Lory Doolittle, Nancy Russell, Ernie Bio



Left: Mini Golf: Bob Neal, Mike Purinton, Jerry Bowles.

Right: Women's Ping-Pong: Susan Mathew, Nancy Stein, Sarah Lamont.



Left: Men's Ping-Pong: Chris Leclaire was enthusiastic about his medal.

Right: 3K Bike Race: Mike Foster, John Rogerson.
(continued on next page)

Summer Olympics

(continued from preceding page)



Left: 5K Bike Race: Dave Russell.
Right: Pickleball Mixed Doubles: Ann Esse, Miles Nogelo, Nancy Stein, Marianne Jerpbak.



Left: Pickleball Women's Doubles: Nancy Stein, Marianne Jerpbak, Ann Esse, Sandy Bousquet.
Right: Pickleball Men's Doubles: Philip Mathew, Miles Nogelo, Carl Tungli-Giese, Bruce Fulton.



Cornhole Doubles: Miles and Gerry Nogelo, Dan Barry, Jeannie Sullivan, Lory Doolittle, Mary Bowles



Left: Women's Farmer's Walk: Susan Mathew, Maddy Mocko, Linda Gottlick.
Right: Women's Plank: Gottlick, Mathew, Mocko.



Left: Men's Farmer's Walk and Plank: Bob Peterson, Dan Barry.

Right: Men's Push-ups and Bosu Balance: Barry, Peterson.



Left: Women's Push-ups: Linda Gottlick, Maddy Mocko, Susan Mathew.

Right: Women's Bosu Balance: Mocko, Gottlick, Mathew.



The Wellness team that organized the Summer Olympics: Sue Dukes, Margaret Carr, Naomi Charles, Brooke Drawdy

Fleet's Got Talent

(continued from page 1)

To end the evening, Sue Myers arranged a sing-along to honor Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, who had died on June 11. Our own Atlantic Beach Boys reunited and joined the entire cast and the audience in singing "California Girls."

Whether you were an entertainer or were entertained, FGT was a fun event. We are fortunate to have people eager to share their talents with us. We are truly blessed that Bob Armacost, Julia Pet-Armacost, and Sue Myers are willing to organize and present these programs. They have our deepest thanks.



Bob Armacost and Julie McLaughlin



Rob Friedman (l) and Guy Van Syckle



Pete Sheridan and Lory Doolittle



"Wipe Out"



Charles Winton and Pam Mullarkey Robbins



"Come As You Are" band



Ivy Suter and Julia Pet-Armacost



Brian Wilson tribute

Welcome Aboard

8417 Kathy and Chris Davis (December)

What a talented couple the Davises are! They lived in Seattle, WA, but moved to New Hampshire to be closer to family on the East Coast, and they now spend half the year there with their dog, Presley.



Chris, the son of a Navy admiral, served in the Air Force as a flight surgeon, and later had a career in emergency medicine. He attended MIT before his Air Force and medical career. Kathy, also a

doctor, was in internal medicine. She attended George Washington Medical School after Wellesley College. These two amazing doctors spent years doing volunteer work (starting as soon as their two children left home) in Uganda, Bhutan, Laos, and Cambodia. They taught in Uganda for three months, which is now a very special country for them.

Chris and Kathy have three grandchildren. Their daughter is a gemologist in Vermont, and their son, who served in the Special Forces, met his wife, a West Point graduate, in Afghanistan.

Chris, a Rotarian in New Hampshire, has joined here, and Kathy serves on the board of the Worldwide Fistula Fund. The organization's mission as stated on its website is "To protect and restore the health and dignity of the world's most vulnerable women by preventing and treating devastating childbirth injuries."

The Davises found Fleet Landing online and are settling in very well. Chris enjoys the gym. He kindly gave me a copy of his book, *Compassion Amidst the Chaos*. It will find its way to the Dinda Library.

We welcome this accomplished couple to Fleet Landing.

—Isobel Spink

1103 Cathleen and Bob Morris (November)

Cathleen spent her formative years with grandparents in Elsberry, MO, and Bob grew up in Charleston, WV. After earning degrees at West Virginia University and General Theological Seminary in New York City, Bob was ordained an Episcopal priest.



Following graduation from St. Agnes Academy in Houston, TX, Cathleen entered the Dominican Order of the Sacred Heart. Before final vows, she left the convent, became an Episcopalian, and served as a staff artist at Church of the Redeemer in Houston. The couple met at

Redeemer and married in 1973.

The Bishop of Coventry invited Redeemer to establish a base in England from which to travel to churches in the English-speaking world. The goal was to share the unique Redeemer worship and lifestyle, which had become known as The Community of Celebration. Beginning in 1974, Bob and Cathleen spent 16 years living and working in England, Scotland, Sweden, and Pittsburgh, PA. Daughters Clare and Hannah were born in England.

Subsequently, Cathleen took employment at Trinity Seminary in Pittsburgh, serving first as administrative assistant to the Development Director, and upon his retirement, assuming that position herself. Bob sold direct-mail advertising before reentering parish work, eventually coming to Ponte Vedra Beach where he served Christ Church as Associate for Pastoral Care from 2004 until retirement in 2017.

They are a team, with Cathleen as much a minister as Bob. While in Ponte Vedra Beach, they restarted a vital connection with Amistad Mission, a Bolivian orphanage and organization working to prevent abandonment and abuse. Then, following Bob's 2010 near-death experience with encephalitis (search "Fighting Encephalitis" on YouTube), they helped establish Encephalitis411, a 501(c)(3) supporting those impacted by encephalitis.

Their current purpose is to deal with ongoing health issues, and to find friendship and community at Fleet Landing.

—Victoria Freeman

8122 Kathleen and Alan Halperin (December)

Before I met the Halperins, I heard Kathleen's wonderful voicemail message about laughter, and meeting them in person was even better. They were neighbors in Atlantic Beach before their marriage. They are about to take a trip to Alaska.



Alan attended the University of Kansas and then went to the University of Wisconsin for his residency. He was an internal medicine physician at the University of Florida for 25 years. During that time, he also became a registered acupuncturist. He retired in 2020. He also worked at the Cleveland Clinic and taught US medicine in China.

After Sweet Briar College, Kathleen eventually ended up in Jacksonville, which her college roommate called home. She also worked in New York City in software education, ran a Boston Marathon, and went to India for 2½ weeks with a woman she met in a store. Her family laughter growing up helped bring her to laughter workshops, learning how laughter affects the

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Welcome Aboard

(continued from preceding page)

body's immune system, and leading to long-term practice. Working at Fleet Landing for ten years, before there were many residents, she tap danced with resident Betty Burnham in the first Fleet Follies.

Kathleen is a decided extrovert, whereas Alan is more of a self-described introvert, which is why they are called "Burns and Allen" (For those who may not remember them, they were a husband and wife comedy team, with the husband as the straight man.) Alan has a son who is a physicist working in quantum computing, and a daughter who is CFO of a family foundation. Kathleen has a son who works with the PGA TOUR.

What an accomplished couple! They love meeting all the interesting people here, and we're so lucky they came.

—Isobel Spink

3312 Karen and Robert Howard (January)

Robert introduced himself to me as a "failed poet and sometime photographer." You'll most likely join me in refuting that after reading this poem:

Morning On the Beach

Soft crash of gentle waves, a symphony of the sea.
A gull cries, floating on soft salt-laden breeze.
Soft foams run the beach towards waiting feet
Of sanderlings that race across the sands,
Leading each new wave as it slows and stands.
The grey horizon begins to glow.
Pastels of orange and yellow grow
And grow until the fiery orb appear.
In this moment, creation draws near,
Leaving her blessing to be held dear.

Robert also writes short stories. Karen, who provided most of these facts, said, "Robert tells entertaining tall tales."

Robert is from Texas and Karen is from Southern California. They have been married for 31 years. They met while both worked for Hughes Aircraft, which was bought by Raytheon. Karen was a computer programmer and Robert a test engineer there for many years, and they jokingly called the company the "Huge Air Crash Company."



Their apartment is filled with beautifully framed paintings from Robert's parents' collection.

Both Howards are enthusiastic readers and love the Great Books series. Their many bookcases are overflowing with books. Karen's late parents, Jean and Ray Wehrmeister, came to Fleet Landing in 2012 and lived in the 5800 block. She has joined the Serendipity

Singers and a book club. Besides photography and poetry, Robert enjoys our concerts.

We warmly welcome the Howards.

—Isobel Spink

Terrarium Building Workshop

By Enith Vardaman; photos by Mary Faria

The June 25 Terrarium Building Workshop, led by India Morrow of Gardenista Jax, proved to be quite popular: Every one of the 25 spots was taken. Participants gathered at tables in Johnson Hall, where choices among all the materials needed for making their terrariums awaited them. Creativity reigned, and no two completed terrariums looked alike. Morrow's instructions on how to care for them guaranteed their longevity.



India Morrow (seated in front) and some of the participants with their creations



New Resident Mixer

By Carol Smith



Sue Dukes and some of the new residents



The quarterly New Resident Mix & Mingle events are a wonderful opportunity to meet new neighbors in a relaxed social setting. The afternoon of June 27 found residents gathering in Johnson Hall for the latest mixer, organized by Sales and Marketing staff and by Dining Services, which provided drinks and appetizers. Several new residents were introduced by Wellness Services Director Sue Dukes.

When asked about her impression of Fleet Landing, newcomer Eileen Avitable described her recent move as overwhelming. Similar responses came from those who said the wide variety of activities presented exciting possibilities that lure them even as they were settling into their new homes. Some, like avid sailors Celia and Geoff Gibson, have chosen pickleball and sailing on Lake Constellation. Geoff recently became Co-Fleet Captain of the sloops. Sirius Court residents welcomed newcomers Mary Updike and Karen Hoffman to the neighborhood.

FLEET BEAT's ace photographer, Ed Hollender, was on hand to capture pictures of the event.

Bottlenose Dolphin Beach Walk

By Mary Durkin

Photos by Mary Durkin, Mary Faria, and Sandy Bousquet



Tour group with Terran McGinnis

On the very hot Thursday of June 19, six residents took the bus down to the Vilano Beach Pavilion to meet up with Marineland Historian Terran McGinnis. As we started our walk on Vilano Beach, the first thing we saw was a turtle nesting spot with red tape surrounding it for protection. McGinnis explained that the female turtles would dig their nests so close to the dunes to be above incoming tides. The female digs a very deep hole and deposits her eggs multiple times. The eggs on the bottom become males, and those above females.

As we walked on toward the sea wall at the end of the inlet, always scanning the surf for any dolphin sightings, McGinnis told us about the local coastal dolphins. They swim in pods—the males in small groups of 2-3, and the females and babies in larger groups. When a female gives birth, the baby is drafted under the mother's body as she swims. Scientific studies can be done on bottlenose dolphins because they have distinctive markings on their bodies and fins and can be traced. They are studied for their population movement and their health. St. Augustine dolphins have been found to live longer because of a better environment and fewer toxins in the waters.

With no dolphins in sight, McGinnis pulled out models to show us the teeth, blowhole, and flipper. The elongated upper and lower jaws give the animals their name of bottlenose. The real nose is the blowhole on the top of the head, which is used when they come to the surface for air. Dolphins have monocular vision which allows their eyes to look different ways. McGinnis next showed a flipper with finger-like bones, used for controlling movements and speed when swimming.

After a few hours of a slow, hot walk up and down a lovely beach, we thanked McGinnis for her interesting information, and decided to go to lunch at the Beaches Restaurant. There we were placed in the care of server Lia, who gave us inside scoops on what to order, brought out cold, wet towels to put around our necks, and provided boxes and bags for everyone to bring leftovers home. We all gave Lia an extra show of appreciation.

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Bottlenose Dolphin Beach Walk

(continued from preceding page)



Terran McGinnis with a dolphin skull (l) and bones from a dolphin flipper



Tour group at the restaurant with cold, wet towels around their necks



Left: Lia with Lavinia Kubiak, who wrapped her towel around her head.

Right: Bonus photo: Making friends at the beach.

FLAG Tournament

By Isobel Spink

Fourteen players braved the heat at Windy Harbor for the Fleet Landing Association of Golfers (FLAG) tournament on June 12. After coming home and cooling off, they joined many spouses for a lovely cocktail hour, an excellent buffet dinner, and prize awards in The Atlantic.

Bob Neal began the results presentation with a bit of golf trivia. Tom Holloman and Mike Tucker answered the questions for a little extra cash. Neal then announced that, sadly, there was no ladies' long

drive or closest-to-the-pin winner. (We'll do better next time!) On the other hand, Neal took closest-to-the-pin money at only 34'8" from the hole, and Dave Smith won the men's long drive.

The winning Team 3 was Captain Bob Hunter's, with John Rietveld and Tucker. They had a 68 and five birdies, and Rietveld won the Birdie trophy. Tucker took home the Sandbagger trophy, so Team 3 had an excellent evening.

Second place went to Team 1, with Captain Elton Gogolin, Price Schwenck, Paul Mocko, and Smith, scoring a 74 and one birdie. Team 4, with Captain Maura Kelly, Jim Wayrynen, and Holloman had 77 and two birdies. Team 2, with Neal as captain, and Alan Halperin, Bob Springer, and Judy Blocker, also scored 77, but with one birdie.

Because of the hot weather, the July and August tournaments will be nine holes only, followed by lunch at Bogey's Grill, Windy Harbor. Starting in September, we'll be back to 18 holes with dinner in The Atlantic.

Flag Day/Army Birthday Celebration

By Carol Smith

Fleet Landing residents turned out on June 14 at the Flag Plaza to raise the flag in honor of Flag Day and to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States Army. Bruce Osborne led the festivities, and the crowd proudly sang the National Anthem as the US flag was raised. They then enthusiastically sang "... And the Army goes rolling along..." as the Army flag was hoisted for the day.



Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk

By Victoria Freeman; photo by Robert Freeman



To celebrate the summer solstice, resident Cynthia Graham arranged a labyrinth walk on the evening of June 20. It featured the soft rhythms of John Guinta's handpan, a soothing metal drum. Participants were encouraged to bring donations for the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) food pantry. Graham opened the session with a brief explanation of labyrinth etiquette. In closing, resident Katherine Halperin commented on the hope symbolized by the young women who were the final walkers on the labyrinth.

Castle Ottis

By Chet Davis; photos by Mary Durkin



Left: The tour group. Right: Tour guide Mathias Ickes.

Seventeen intrepid Fleet Landers ventured forth to visit Castle Ottis on Friday, June 13. Many residents have seen the towers when driving down A1A towards St. Augustine, with most wondering just what it was. The outing acquainted them with an amazing piece of artwork built by hand during the years 1984 to 1988 by two men with a vision.

The tour was led by Mathias, Rusty Ickes's son. Rusty Ickes and Ottis Sadler built the castle using leftover cement blocks gathered from around Duval and St. Johns counties. The spelling of the castle's name resulted from Ickes adding an extra "t" by mistake, but Sadler told him to leave it.

The highest point of the castle is 51 feet. The castle was designed to be a landscape sculpture, meaning that it is part of the landscape, but also looks out on the landscape. The building, weighing some seven million pounds, sits on a twelve-foot bed of coquina. It was never meant to be a house or a business. In fact, in the property records, it is listed as a garage. The design invokes the spirit of an old Irish abbey.

The building is filled with symbolism, such as the placement of the archer windows. Historically they were set to assist archers, but in the case of Castle Ottis, they are set in a way that would inhibit archers, thus reflecting the peaceful and worshipful intent of the building. On the ground floor, a heart made by soldiers returning from Afghanistan in memory of lost comrades gives one pause. The second floor is a chapel with beautiful cypress wood and southern heart-pine columns, benches, a communion table, and eight staircases fashioned by Lee Carpenter between 1988 and 1991. The workmanship was excellent. The space was used for church services on the third Sunday of the month until the pandemic. Currently, the chapel is available for weddings.

A climb up to the tallest tower revealed a great view of the ocean and the surrounding area.

It was a fascinating and worthwhile tour made all the better by the depth of knowledge of our tour guide.



Exterior and interior views



Left: Learning about the window shapes. Right: View of the ocean and surrounding area from inside.

Beach Walk

Photo by Mary Faria



The happy and enthusiastic June 6 beach walkers. Note that some had ditched their shoes.

Ortega River Cruise

By Chet Davis; photos by Ann Bell



A large group of Fleet Landing residents had the opportunity to cruise the Ortega River on June 26 and enjoy a good morning on the water. After a bus ride through new parts of Jacksonville, the group boarded one of the St. Johns River Taxi boats. Piloted by Captain Dave, the boat cruised the wide expanse of the river. Given the heat of the past few weeks, it was nice to be on the river and enjoy the slight breeze.

Heather Surface, owner of the St. Johns River Taxi and our guide, provided historical observations and discussed the river's conditions and its aquatic population. We cruised past lovely riverfront homes, but the highlight of the trip was at an inlet behind Ortega Island. There the group spotted several great blue herons, one in a nest feeding fledglings. Although many varieties of marine creatures live in the river, none were spotted on this cruise.

Surface mentioned that her company was considering a variety of additional cruises that may be of interest to Fleet Landing residents in the future.



More Fleet Landing Residents

No contract required for these creatures. Resident Mary Pat Lynch spotted this turtle at the 2000 Building, and Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria snapped this photo of baby armadillos near Leeward Manor.

