



# FLEET BEAT

VOL. 35 No. 7

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

August 2025

## A Special Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

By Enith Vardaman



*LtoR: Josh Ashby, Ari Jolly, Wayne Galloway*

The July 29 "Coffee and Conversation With Josh" drew a large crowd to Johnson Hall. Before the session began, residents could enjoy treats with icing celebrating Fleet Landing's first 35 years, and the presentation offered a view of what the future would hold.

### Financial Results

Executive Director Josh Ashby reported that occupancy rates in all levels of care remained at desired levels. Revenue was above budget, and expenses slightly below budget. Operating income exceeded budget by over \$2 million, with approximately \$1.5 million of that positive variance attributable to investment income. The debt service coverage ratio was well above what is required (2.85 versus 1.20), as was days cash on hand (365 versus 180).

### Miscellaneous

Ashby reported on the upcoming semi-annual resident satisfaction survey. Health services resident and family surveys would go out on August 1, and the surveys would close on August 14. Independent living resident surveys would go out on August 15, with the surveys closing on August 28. Ashby reviewed the net promoter score, which is derived from the survey question "How likely would you be to recommend this facility to your family and friends?" Responses are given on a scale of 0 to 10. Responses of 0 to 6 are detractors, while responses of 9 to 10 are promoters. The Net Promoter Score is the result of subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters. Although scores of 7 to 8 might seem to be positive, those responses are deemed to be from passives and are not part of the calculation of the score. A score of 9 to 10 does not mean that everything is perfect, but rather that the person responding would recommend the facility. Feedback from the surveys is helpful in areas such as management initiatives and resource allocation decisions as well as in the

*(continued on page 18)*

## Celebrating Independence Day

By Carol Smith

Photos by Dita Domonkos, Ed Hollender, Ann Bell, and Sandy Bousquet



*These flags could be seen throughout the campus.*

July 4 dawned in a local fog, but nothing deterred Fleet Landing residents from coming together at the Flag Plaza for the Independence Day flag raising ceremony at 8 am. This Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) tradition was led by Bruce Osborne, with music by the Kazoo Band, and all voices joining together in the National Anthem.

The annual program in Johnson Hall began with the Kazoo Band marching down the center aisle playing "Yankee Doodle." Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost welcomed everyone and introduced Julie Rochelle, who conducted the program as MC. Howard McMinn, Pastor of Fleet Landing's Interdenominational Chapel, offered the Invocation. The audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. The Jean Ribault Marine Corps Junior ROTC presented and retired the colors. Music by the NoteAbles, directed by Ron Myers and accompanied by Karen Sturtevant on the piano, was interspersed throughout the program.

Residents' Council Vice-President Carol Smith spoke about the American Revolution from a Florida perspective. She explained why two of Britain's fifteen colonies in North America did not join the rebellion. The territories of East and West Florida remained loyal to the Crown.

Julie Rochelle shared interesting information on July 4th traditions, including the annual hot dog contest. She also shared a little-known fact that One World Trade Center is 1,776 feet tall—a tribute to the year that America's Declaration of Independence was written.

Skip McAlexander shared words of wisdom from past presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Reagan,

*(continued on page 20)*

## July Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost convened the July 15 council meeting in Johnson Hall. She thanked Vice President Carol Smith for an exceptionally well-planned and executed Independence Day Program. She also noted that the revised Residents' Council Tips, Bylaws, Charter, and Standing Rules have been posted on Fleet Link under the "Residents' Council" tab.

**Management Review.** Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss reviewed the status of significant Coleman Center, apartment building, house, Derfer Pavilion, and lake projects. These include interior and exterior renovations, roofing, signage, and the project to reduce algae bloom in Lake Constellation.

### Council Reports.

**Vice-President.** Smith expressed her appreciation to everyone who prepared for, and participated in, our Independence Day events. She also reviewed two projects of our Fleet Hearts service group: the popular monthly Salvation Army pickup service, and the collection of teeshirts for donation to Rethreaded, an organization supporting victims of human trafficking. Rethreaded makes useful items from these donations.

**Treasurer.** Lynette Beitz reviewed continued positive financial results, noting that year-to-date contract entrance fees totaled \$7.3 million. She gave brief, impressive bios of the members of the Board of Directors Finance Committee, including resident and voting member Dr. Tom Gonwa, and she described their work in preparing the annual budget.

**Marketing and Human Resources.** Skip McAlexander said that there were 660 families in the Atlantic Club. He noted that when non-life care residents have been accepted in our healthcare facilities, there has always still been enough room to accommodate residents. McAlexander reviewed the timeline from vacancy to occupancy of independent living units. The Staff Member of the Month is Mary Hughes of Safety and Security. She sets a high bar for service excellence. Suzette Gaines of Skilled Nursing is our "Catch of the Month." A resident credited her with the probable lifesaving advice to go to the emergency room. There are now 497 employees, for a 94 percent staffing level.

**Wellness and Transportation.** Because there is no council meeting in August, Ken Hollinga's review of the impressive array of events in store for us included events up until the September 16 council meeting. He called attention to continuing free physical therapy screenings and an August 5 Zumba class in Johnson Hall.

**Health Services/Safety and Security.** Judy Solano reported a variety of interesting statistics, including the fact that gate entries in June numbered 12,500. She reminded residents of the need to lock residence and car

doors and close garage doors. The personal emergency response system (PERS) devices in residences are monitored continuously by an electronic server in the Welcome Center, eliminating the need for resident checks.

**Dining Services/Housekeeping.** Dave Russell requested that residents adjust thermostats in advance to ensure comfort for housekeepers during their weekly visit. On July 18, the first special meal in the new "Chef Spotlight" program would feature Adriana Farrell, Chef de Cuisine of Currents Marketplace. (See article on page 25.) New Sunday Brunch (A La Cart and Lake View) menus are planned. More brunch-like items will be added to Currents breakfast, and the upcoming Currents menu will feature à la carte ordering. Christine Brown, our very popular Breakers bartender, has been promoted to Supervisor in Mainstreet Dining. (Way to go Christine!) Russell noted some impressive statistics about the number of entrees served in the various dining venues.

**Facilities.** Stephen Dick reported on a planning meeting of those involved in the reroofing of the first group of houses. After citing the schedule of upcoming zone inspections and the date of the next quarterly facilities meeting, he displayed the interior and exterior building checklists for the inspections.

**Communications.** Secretary Shann Purinton reviewed briefly the extensive array of information available on Fleet Link. She reported on six suggestions and responses. The complete responses can be found on Fleet Link. Go to "Residents' Council" and then "Residents' Council Presentations."

### **FLEET BEAT STAFF** **Production**

Editor .....	Enith Vardaman
Copy Editor .....	Fran Patterson
Copy Editor .....	Mary Ellen Reed
Copy Editor .....	Geri Bramble
Photographer .....	Ed Hollender
Photographer .....	Ann Bell
Photographer .....	Kathy Vanderbeck
Photographer and Reporter .....	Dita Dmonkos

### **Reporters**

Victoria Freeman	Carolyn Stoner
Daniel Barry	Howard Burdick
Maureen Miller	Bo Smith
Isobel Spink	Carol Smith
Nancy Lundgren	Mary Durkin
Patricia Payne	Carole Watson

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](http://fleetlanding.com). Sign into the resident portal and click on "Menu" and then "Publications." Issues can also be found under "Publications" on Fleet Link.*

## July Board of Directors Meeting

By Enith Vardaman

*The Board of Directors July 30 meeting was held in closed session, with Chair Ari Jolly presiding. The information below was supplied to FLEET BEAT by Executive Director Josh Ashby.*

The Board of Directors reviewed the year-to-date financial results, with all bond covenants met, and they reviewed and accepted the 2024 financial statements. They received a presentation on the Nocatee plan of finance and effects to Fleet Landing at Atlantic Beach. They reviewed the call for applications from qualified Fleet Landing residents to serve on the Polaris Endeavors Board of Directors beginning in January 2026. Resident Kathy Long's term is ending. Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost gave an extensive report on the structure of the Residents' Council and the many daily activities offered at Fleet Landing.

## Planning With a Purpo\$e

By Howard Burdick

Although most of us probably have financial plans pretty well set in stone, this presentation served as an evaluation of what we may have done (or not done). It provided a comprehensive road map on how to modify our plans or how to advise younger family members and friends. Michael Stanis, a Portfolio Manager and Retirement Plans Director for Johnson Investment Counsel, spoke about ten conversations we should have with financial advisors:



1. Background, responsibilities, objectives, and expectations of your advisor and firm.

2. Types of fees and when and how they are paid.

3. Age milestones: what's best to do along the way. Most of us have reached the age of managing required minimum distributions.

4. Goals and objectives: family circumstances/dynamics, and how best to customize an investment policy to enhance safety and liquidity.

5. Asset allocation: Customize needs relative to volatility versus ability and willingness to take risks. Determine the best mix of IRAs (Roth or traditional) and other accounts to minimize taxes and avoid probate.

6. Tax Understanding: the difference between ordinary income/short-term capital gains versus long-term capital gains/qualified dividends as well as current tax updates for IRAs, charity, and gifting.

7. Tax strategies and multiyear planning: Roth conversions, IRA distributions and depletion, and charitable gifting.

8. Gifting: includes gifts to family and friends as well as gifting to charities from IRAs. Charitable Gift Planning

Director Kathy DeSiena can help with the latter.

9. Estate planning: includes keeping documents and beneficiary designations updated, funding of trusts, and access to digital assets.

10. Other: includes emergency funds and sustainability of asset withdrawals as well as awareness of scams and having a trusted advisor to question if one is unsure.

Stanis showed examples of many of the above conversations, but they are too detailed to include here.

## July MOAA Meeting

By Chet Davis



*LtoR: Atlantic Beach City Commissioner Candace Kelly, Pat Kluever, Jackie Smith, Jeff Sheffield, Atlantic Beach Deputy City Manager Kevin Hogencamp, Atlantic Beach Mayor Curtis Ford*

The monthly meetings of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) present a variety of informative lectures, most of which are not related to military topics. The July 28 meeting in Johnson Hall was a case in point. Jeff Sheffield, Executive Director of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), was introduced by resident Jackie Smith. His topic was "Accelerating Public Sector Modernization." Many might have expected to hear a talk about Mayport Road changes as well as the proposed "peanut" solution at the five-way stop in Atlantic Beach, but the focus of his presentation was efforts underway to modernize and enhance traffic management and associated disciplines.

The TPO has leveraged the efforts of start-ups across the globe by presenting them a single problem to solve. This has enabled the TPO to provide novel solutions to a variety of specific traffic management issues. Once proven, these technologies then become marketable across the country, which is a win-win not only for the TPO but also for the start-up that developed the asset.

This methodology has made it possible to significantly increase safety at rail crossings, detect slowdowns on highways, and safely predict bridge closures during high winds. These efforts are focused on using data, such as predictive vehicular and railroad traffic, to provide solutions. Other efforts involve storm damage assessment, road repair forecasts, and stormwater run-off calculation.

All in all, it was a fascinating presentation, and yes, Sheffield did discuss the "peanut" intersection and how the TPO evaluated the concept.



## Staff News

By Chet Davis  
New Staff

### Bill Rieger, Chief Information Officer

Bill Rieger recently joined the Fleet Landing staff as our first Chief Information Officer (CIO).

A Chicago-area native, Rieger served for six years in the US Navy as an interior communications specialist. Leaving the Navy, he attended the University of North Florida, where he received a B.S. in computer science. In his student years, he worked for the Gate Corporation at its resort properties. During a three-year job in Tucson, AZ, he earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Returning to the First Coast, Rieger served as the IT Manager for Baptist Health and later as the CIO for Flagler Hospital. Before joining Fleet Landing, Rieger was the CIO for the City of Jacksonville Beach.



Having spent considerable time in the healthcare industry, Rieger saw Fleet Landing as an opportunity to reenter service to the community. Rieger is helping all managers visualize and actualize how their varying systems can be better integrated. He noted that he was impressed with the current modern and up-to-date technology on campus, but it needs better integration because there are a number of different systems supporting operations.

Rieger and his wife, an occupational therapist, live in Nocatee. They have three children. A son is finishing up an MBA, while their older daughter is preparing for medical school. The younger daughter is a rising junior at the University of Florida.

If you see Bill Rieger on campus, take a moment to say hello and welcome him to Fleet Landing.

### Andrew Diaz, Safety and Security Supervisor

Andrew Diaz has joined the Fleet Landing staff as the new Safety and Security Supervisor.



Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Diaz brings a strong background in public safety and leadership. He has over ten years of experience in federal law enforcement with the Department of Defense, along with more than five years of experience in security supervision and management. Throughout his career, he has earned multiple certifications that allow him to instruct both police and private security personnel. As

a Field Training Officer, he played a key role in the development and training of new law enforcement officers.

Following his federal service, Diaz transitioned into the private sector, where he worked in human resources and corporate security roles for Citibank and GardaWorld, continuing to lead and support high-level security operations.

At Fleet Landing, Diaz's role includes assisting the Safety and Security Manager with personnel training, refining operational procedures, and overseeing day-to-day security operations across the campus.

Diaz holds a degree in law enforcement from Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). He and his wife have one son who is currently studying biomedical science. Outside of work, Diaz enjoys coaching under-13 youth baseball.

You'll likely see Diaz around campus as he settles into his new role. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and give him a warm welcome to Fleet Landing!

## Staff Promotions

Sasha Churchill,

### Exterior Maintenance Assistant Manager

Sasha Churchill has been recently promoted to Exterior Maintenance Assistant Manager.



Churchill, a Navy junior, has resided in the Jacksonville area for many years. A graduate of Englewood High School, she worked for several years with Firehouse Subs. Rising to a management position, she trained managers, corporate staff, and franchisees. After deciding to take a year off for travel, Churchill became interested in landscaping. She worked for BrightView, Fleet Landing's landscaper before that function was brought in-house.

In her new position, she is responsible for the daily management of the grounds crew and the ancillary crew, each of which has a supervisor. Churchill is excited to be in this position and expects to further advance the department in support of Fleet Landing's mission. Churchill would like to thank all our residents for their warm welcome.

Christine Brown,

### Dining Room Supervisor (for Mainstreet)

Although many residents miss Christine Brown in Breakers, she is still on campus, but as the Dining Room Supervisor (for Mainstreet). Brown shares responsibilities with Mainstreet Restaurant Manager Jason McLaughlin for all operations.

A Jacksonville native, Brown graduated from high  
(continued on next page)



## Staff News

*(continued from preceding page)*

school in Pensacola. She currently resides in Atlantic Beach. Her daughter, Sophie, is also here at Fleet Landing.

Brown has been in the restaurant/hospitality business for over 20 years. Before coming to Fleet Landing, she worked at Dick's Wings. Previous employment includes Best Bet, Monkey's Uncle, and Applebee's.

Brown says she has learned a lot from her experience with Lake View's dining culture. Becoming close to many of our residents has been a bonus.

*Editor's note: FLEET BEAT was unable to get a picture of Brown in time for publication.*

## United States Public Health Service Flag Raising

Photos By Ann Bell

The 227th birthday of the United States Public Health Service was observed with a traditional flag raising ceremony at the Flag Plaza on the morning of July 16.



## John Lumpkin & the Covenant Share Their Joy

By Daniel Barry



On July 18, John Lumpkin & the Covenant, a sextet that includes keyboard, sax, guitar, upright bass, drums, and vocalist, delighted the large audience in Johnson Hall with an uplifting selection of jazz compositions. The vocalist, Tori Peoples, led off with a song she'd written about leaving her heart in Savannah, a song not so much of longing as of self-discovery and the hope of sharing her discoveries with those she loved. Similar messages of love and hope were expressed throughout the program in original works by other band members. The concert ended with "One Note Samba" by Carlos Jobim which contains the lyric "So I came back to my first note as I must come back to you. I will pour into that one note all the love I feel for you."

The wonderful chemistry of the band imparted a sense of joy for the wonderful gifts the world has to offer, and we certainly hope to see the Covenant in Johnson Hall again soon.

## Coleman Center at Nightfall



*Resident Isobel Spink took this striking picture.*

## In Memoriam

**Jim Freeman**  
1930-2025  
**Bill Query**  
1934-2025

**Don Kavanagh**  
1926-2025  
**Duane St. John**  
1931-2025

## No FLEET BEAT in September

FLEET BEAT is taking its annual summer break from publishing, but reporters will still be out covering all the interesting Fleet Landing happenings. Look for the next issue in early October.



## Fleet Landing's 35th Anniversary Party

By Carol Smith

Photos by Ann Bell, Ed Hollender, and Sandy Bousquet

Dressed in attire from their favorite decade, Fleet Landing residents arrived in Johnson Hall on August 1, ready to party and celebrate the community's 35th anniversary. When the doors opened at 6:30 pm, everyone was delighted to watch the photo loop that was prepared with pictures supplied by residents during their years at Fleet Landing. Wellness Services Director Sue Dukes welcomed everyone and introduced Crescendo Amelia, who performed favorite songs from many eras. The dance floor was full most of the evening, although folks would take a break to enjoy drinks and desserts, which included a roving cannoli cart. Dining Services surprised the partiers with prepared snacks for people to take home and enjoy while they rested up from their festive night out.



*Drinks and desserts*



*This rolling cart offered customized cannolis.*



*Snacks to take home*



*Left: Sue Dukes.*

*Right: These party goers took to heart the suggestion to come dressed like their favorite decade.*



*Left: Carolyn Johnson (l) and Carol Smith, FLEET BEAT reporter on assignment for the party. If Smith's dress looks familiar, it could be because she loaned it to Johnson to wear in two Fleet's Got Talent appearances. Right: Nancy Sander and FLEET BEAT photographer Ann Bell, who is not usually seen facing the camera.*



*Crescendo Amelia  
(continued on next page)*



## Fleet Landing's 35th Anniversary Party

*(continued from preceding page)*



*The dancers showed no lack of enthusiasm.*

## Monthly Beach Walk

Photo by Mary Faria



*Twelve residents joined Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria for the July 11 beach walk.*

## FleetLanders Concert

By Guy Bond



Dressed like they were fresh from the ranch, Julia Pet-Armacost (flute, guitar, melodia, and vocals), Karen Sturtevant (piano), Bob Armacost (acoustic guitar and vocals), Guy Van Syckle (acoustic guitar, harmonica, and vocals), Jim Katsikas (drums), and Bunky Johnson (clarinet) greeted a large crowd gathered in Johnson Hall on July 24 to hear iconic country/western songs. The

group, known as the FleetLanders, didn't disappoint with their program, "A Little Bit Country."

Armacost gave us a short history of who wrote and performed a song and why and when it was written. Each song was a look back to bygone times and time spent with family around a television or a radio. Hank Williams, Gene Autry, Patsy Cline, Glen Campbell, John Denver, Vince Gill, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Don Williams, Kris Kristofferson, and Englebert Humperdink were all there, encouraging us to sing along to comfortable old favorites. The finale was "Can the Circle be Unbroken," adapted from a hymn and recorded by the Carter Family. It was dedicated to the memory of resident James Freeman, who had died on July 15.

Fleet Landing can be a busy place, and it's always a pleasure to drift away for an hour or so and remember what used to be.

## Beaches Go Green at Fleet Landing

By Chet Davis



*Shelley Berendt (l) and Morgan Eaton*

On July 2, two of the three full-time staff at Beaches Go Green, Shelley Berendt and Morgan Eaton, provided Fleet Landing residents with insight into that organization and its mission. Originally conceived to assist in recycling and waste removal, the organization has shifted its focus to raising awareness about the chemicals in plastic and the health impacts of plastic.

Focusing on microplastics, the speakers pointed out that estimates show a person ingests a credit card's worth of microplastics a week. These come from containers, air pollution, or cooking. Microplastics can be inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin. Older people are more susceptible to the effects of microplastics as they can become health disruptors, affecting the hormonal and endocrine systems.

As an organization trying to raise awareness, Beaches Go Green concentrates on teaching youth through 15 associated school clubs, and by providing lectures such as this one at Fleet Landing. The emphasis is on examining what we use, choosing wisely, eliminating toxins, and spreading the word.

A lively question and answer session followed with numerous questions and comments from the Johnson Hall audience.



## Packing Up School Supplies

By Carolyn Stoner

Photos by Carolyn Stoner, Ann Bell, and Rachel Leslie

Twenty-five resident volunteers showed up to assist with the Fleet Landing Back-to-School benefit program at the Administration Building on Friday, July 18. Fleet Landing purchases basic school supplies for staff members' children, grandchildren, and student employees, grades K-12. Rachel Leslie, the well-organized Human Resources Coordinator, put together the needed supplies for a record 305 students. The supplies were organized in two separate divisions, one for K-5, with a cookie break in between while supplies were restocked for students in grades 6-12. Two teams of quality controllers were established to ensure accuracy. There were those who helped break down the empty boxes and the "comics" who kept the event lively and fun. Kudos to all.





## Art & Healing Guided Tour at Mayo Clinic

By Mary Durkin; photos by Dita Domonkos



On Friday, July 25, twenty Fleet Landers took the familiar route, taken by many residents, down San Pablo Boulevard to the Mayo Clinic. We were greeted by Chrys Yates, Program Director of the Daniel Center for Humanities in Medicine. Yates explained the Mayo philosophy that caring for the whole patient included using art and beautiful environments to help restore the mind and spirit, and that art and science together play a role in the healing process. Our Fleet Landing art tour was customized for us, as public art tours were stopped after the pandemic.

Our first stop was the Cahill Meditation Atrium, a small room that can be used for reflection or prayer. It has a stained-glass wall created by James Piercey. Other art pieces included glass and steel sculptures and a multicolored granite table atop cypress knees. Next, in the hallway, is one volume of the St. John's Bible in a glass case. It is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine abbey since the invention of the printing press. It is notable because it is a combination of ancient methods and materials with themes, images, and technology of modern times. A little farther down is "Ponders Bell," a whimsical wall sculpture by Emily Wilson, which shows colorful birds and flowers on a metal framework, meant to inspire tranquility and optimism. At the end of the hall is a large triptych by Heather Patterson, a Colorado artist, whose work is inspired by changing elements in the natural world. She layers varied imagery to create a multi-sensory experience.

Heritage Hall, our next stop, is a large room of wood and marble dedicated to the history of the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo families, current activities, and plans. There is also on display a scale model of a riverboat used by the families. Then we came to the lobby, where in the center is a colorful chandelier by renowned glass sculptor Dale Chihuly that radiates optimism and light. The work was constructed with 160 pieces of blown glass.

We finished with lunch at The M Brothers restaurant in the Mayo Clinic. The name is a nod to the Medure brothers, well-known Jacksonville restaurateurs, and the Mayo brothers. The restaurant is large

and very busy, and our group was placed at three separate tables, each in a different room. Therefore, we were only able to see what each of our small group ordered from a very extensive menu with an Asian emphasis.

While on the Fleet Landing bus on the way out of the clinic grounds, we were able to see out the window "The Nature of Things," a seating area in a grassy knoll, with large columns and glass sculptures, meant for a place of rest and relaxation. Also visible from our bus were two wind-driven sculptures on the grounds, "The Black Dancer" and "Astral Tree," bringing our Mayo art tour to a close.



*James Piercey's stained-glass wall*



*St. John's Bible*



*Emily Wilson's "Ponders Bell"*



*Resident Glenn Perry calls attention to a detail in "Ponders Bell."*

*(continued on next page)*



## Art & Healing Guided Tour at Mayo Clinic

(continued from preceding page)



*Heather Patterson's triptych*



*Chryst Yates explains an exhibit in Heritage Hall.*



*Dale Chihuly's blown glass chandelier*



*Lunch at M Brothers*

## Stop and Watch

By Nancy Lundgren



As a young biologist, Fleet Landing resident Bo Smith learned to “stop and watch.” When he was a graduate student working on a grant from the Texas Department of Highways, he perched in a tree for six hours a day to observe how deer cross fences. His reports were used to create safety measures to keep the deer off the highways. It was a great story that led beautifully into a July 10 presentation about all creatures great and small that can be spotted in our neighborhood if we “stop and watch.”



When the picture of the eastern lubber grasshopper appeared on the screen, the audience chuckled. This very large and colorful insect was currently visiting every venue on campus. They can grow up to 3.5 inches long.

Smith moved on to the tussock moth and Gulf fritillary caterpillars, then progressed to the ten most common butterflies we can see every day and where to look for them. We learned about the 15 different species of fish that inhabit Lake Constellation. Smith once watched a young boy catch a 5-pound largemouth bass there. The bass build nests in the lake that can be seen from the shore.

Frogs, toads, snakes, and turtles also live amongst us, and, for the most part, are harmless according to Smith.

(continued on next page)



## Stop and Watch

*(continued from preceding page)*

Alligators mostly live at Hanna Park, although some residents report having seen one or two around here years ago. Squirrels are fun to watch. Armadillos, coyotes, and otters can be spotted occasionally as they move around wooded areas.

Birds, of course, were the showstopper slides that had listeners nodding approvingly, since we have many resident birdwatchers. The Selva Gate, Smith reports, is a great place for birdwatching. In closing the presentation, he walked us through a handout describing the most common birds at Fleet Landing.

We came away from this presentation with a new appreciation for the wildlife that surrounds us when we “stop and watch.”

## All About the Jags

By Chet Davis

Those hardy Fleet Landers who braved the torrential downpour of July 22 were rewarded with a fascinating discussion about the Jacksonville Jaguars. Brian Sexton, who was introduced by resident Jackie Smith, is currently in charge of communications for the team. He has been with the Jaguars since before the team's first player was selected. As one of only three people to have seen all 618 Jaguars games, his insights and comments were particularly valuable.



Sexton noted that Jacksonville was the smallest NFL market, making revenue sources crucial. Thus, the two games in London, where the Jaguars are the favorite NFL team. Sexton compared them to

the Packers since both teams are characterized by players who are “touchable” because of their involvement in the community and their presence in the area.

Sexton gave an unvarnished assessment of the Jaguars. He noted that they have not set a standard of play to which they must aspire. He hoped that by adding Tony Boselli, the standard would be set. With Trevor Lawrence having a guaranteed contract, it might be hard to incentivize him. Sexton, who has interviewed Travis Hunter, spoke very highly of him, his attitude, and his athletic ability. Because of the hiring of a new coach with a new mindset, a data-driven emphasis, and heavy spending, things should look up for the Jaguars. Sexton highlighted the qualities that must be met: mindset, physical preparation, resiliency, committed focus, and each player consistently doing his very best.

For anyone interested in the Jaguars, it was a very enlightening presentation.

## Letters From Home

By Guy Bond

Photos by Ed Hollender and Guy Bond



*Veterans thanked for their service*



*The car  
(continued on next page)*



## Letters From Home

(continued from preceding page)



If you didn't know any better, you might have missed the performance of "Letters From Home" because you thought it would be someone reading some emotional letters from some homesick soldiers. And you would have missed one of the most energetic, patriotic, variety shows around.

Johnson Hall was packed on July 8 to witness Erinn Dearth and her husband, Dan Beckman, sing, dance, joke, and engage the audience for an hour and a half. This show was a modern version of a USO performance, reminiscent of the days of vaudeville. Over ten years ago, Dearth created with two other women—think Andrews Sisters—the show that evolved into the two-person version it is today. They tour to honor veterans, active military, and their families. She reminded us of the important role the USO has served and the contributions of entertainers like Bob Hope, Judy Garland, Jack Benny, Marilyn Monroe, and Janis Joplin as well as bands like Credence Clearwater Revival.

The performance started with the song "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." The duo then took us on a "Sentimental Journey" and sang the songs that identify each branch of military service. As each branch was featured, Dearth and Beckman went into the audience and thanked the veterans that served in that branch.

Other songs, hits for well-known artists, took the audience from World War II, to and after the Vietnam War, and included "L-O-V-E" (Nat King Cole), "Puttin on the Ritz" (Fred Astaire), "Crazy" (Patsy Cline), "King of the Road" (Roger Miller), "Green, Green Grass of Home" (Tom Jones), "For What It's Worth" (Buffalo Springfield), "I Want to Go Home" (Johnny Cash), "The Letter" (Joe Cocker), "Galveston" (Glen Campbell), and "Bad Moon Rising" (Credence Clearwater Revival). The show concluded with "What a Wonderful World" (Louis Armstrong, "Satchmo").

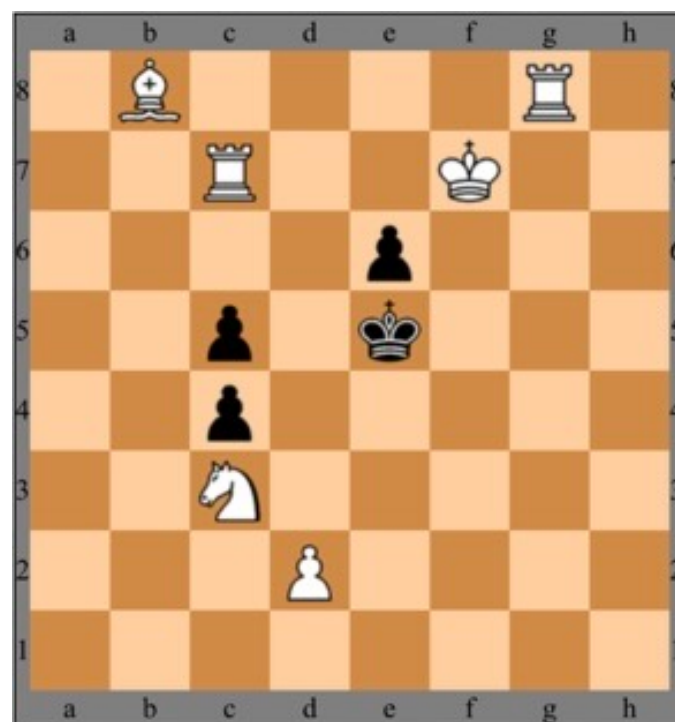
In one clever skit, residents Bob Neal, Andrea Kennedy, and Mike Tucker, and Atlantic Club member, Rubin Sheinberg, were plucked from the audience and made to pretend they were a car. Tucker was driving, Rubin was in charge of snacks (MREs), Kennedy charted their course with a map, and Neal, of course, was the horn.

You couldn't help but laugh and sing along, all the while being reminded of our love of our country and how thankful we are for our veterans and their families.

## 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 to mate in two moves.  
Hint: Take a step back to see the big picture.

## Naval Station Mayport Change of Command

Text and photos by Pat Kluever



*LtoR: Captain Brian Binder, Captain Mike Trumbull, Rear Admiral John Hewitt*



*Fleet Landing contingent*

Residents boarded Fleet Landing's "big bus" on July 10 with Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria. Marie-Claire Allen was their driver. Their destination: Naval Station Mayport for the Change of Command ceremony. Resident Jackie Smith had arranged the invitation to the event. To our surprise, the main gate at Naval Station Mayport had been alerted to a VIP bus arriving from Fleet Landing, and we were waved through the gate without the customary visit onboard by a security guard—well done, Jackie!

Allen maneuvered skillfully through the streets on base and through the parking lot, getting us near the back door of the fitness center, where we could enter and proceed directly to our reserved seats. Fleet Landing occupied the entire back row at ground level, and then some! The bleachers behind us were filled with sailors in dress white uniforms. Many local VIPs were in attendance: Harrison Conyers for the City of Jacksonville, all three Beaches mayors, Sheriff T. K. Waters, and Colonel Chris Miller representing District 5

Congressman John Rutherford, among others. We had a chance to chat with Atlantic Beach Mayor Curtis Ford and his wife, Leah, as they arrived.

A huge American flag was draped on the wall behind the large (but low) stage. The Navy Band, which was to the left of the stage, soon struck up music preceding the event.

As is Navy tradition, the event started with an invocation, which was given by Naval Station Mayport Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Marvin Whiting, USN, Chaplain Corps. Ceremonial piping aboard of the official party followed with the arrival of Captain Mike Trumbull, USN; Commanding Officer Naval Station Mayport Captain Brian Binder, USN; and Commander Navy Region Southeast Rear Admiral John Hewitt, USN. Navy Region Southeast is the reporting senior (boss) for Commanding Officer Naval Station Mayport. Of course, Hewitt's arrival was accompanied by "Ruffles and Flourishes" played by the Navy Band.

After the official party's arrival, the Naval Station Mayport color guard paraded the colors, the band played the National Anthem, and the color guard retired the colors.

Binder took the podium to introduce Hewitt, who went through a long and impressive list of Naval Station Mayport's "wins" during Binder's tour of duty. He thanked Binder and his family for their friendship and leadership, and he welcomed Trumbull.

Binder returned to the podium to thank his family, and he singled out many persons and organizations, thanking them for attending and for helping him during his tour. He specifically pointed out the Fleet Landing residents in attendance, and we all raised our hands to be recognized. He expanded on the term "keep winning," which he said was Hewitt's consistent guidance. He felt the term "keep winning" embodied not only guidance, but encouragement, positive attitude, and goal-oriented leadership. Binder received several official gifts from Navy-related organizations and the City of Jacksonville. At the end of his remarks, as is tradition, he read his orders directing him to report to Hewitt for assignment. Binder will be the next Operations Officer (N3) for Navy Region Southeast.

Trumbull read his order directing him to assume command of Naval Station Mayport.

All three senior officers donned their covers and assembled at stage center. Trumbull officially relieved Binder. Binder reported to Hewitt that he had been relieved. Trumbull reported to Hewitt that he had assumed command of Naval Station Mayport.

Trumbull stepped off the stage so his wife could pin his command-ashore star on his right breast pocket. Afterward, he stepped back on the stage and took the podium to thank his wife and family, and to say he was glad to be here and ready to take on command of the base with the help of the very professional team already in place.

*(continued on next page)*



## Naval Station Mayport Change of Command

(continued from preceding page)

Whiting delivered the benediction, and the official party was piped ashore, led by Hewitt, Trumbull, and Binder.

After the ceremony, the Fleet Landing cadre exited the building from the same door and boarded the bus for the short ride back to Fleet Landing.

Even with the very warm weather, the Change of Command was pleasant and professionally done in the very large fitness center, and the air conditioner on the “big bus” worked well. On arrival at Windward Commons, everyone thanked Allen, Faria, and Smith for a great experience!

We look forward to hearing from Trumbull in early 2026 for an update on Naval Station Mayport.

## Library Notes

By Enith Vardaman

The Library committee thanks its recent donors: Rae Donnelly, Karen Hassler, Lorie Holmes, Ann Linn, and Bernadette and David Miron.

**Reminders:** Please do not donate oversize books. We do not keep them, and their unwieldy size makes storage until a book sale difficult. Also, do not re-shelve books you have borrowed. They can be left on the book truck located outside the Library Office. Remember that if you shelve a book in the incorrect location, you may prevent someone else from finding it.

## Hot Afternoon, Cool Jazz—This Is the Life

By Maureen Miller



There's no better way to spend a scorching summer afternoon at Fleet Landing than attending a really cool jazz concert in Johnson Hall. Apparently numerous residents agreed, as they settled in for Benny Benack III's concert on July 29.

From the moment Benack bounded on stage in his burgundy double-breasted suit, singing the title track of his latest album *This is the Life*, we were in for a treat. During the hour plus performance, trumpeter-vocalist-composer Benack wowed us with his charismatic voice, impressive trumpeting, and soulful renditions of familiar and original tunes.

Benack follows in the footsteps of his trumpeter grandfather, saxophonist father, and voice professor mother. The music choices honored all three, including a jazz rendition of “The Sound of Music” acknowledging his mom's love of musical theater, and an original composition “Song With Our Roger” which he had played with his dad.

Throughout the concert, we were treated to wondrous improvis by each of the talented musicians on stage.

Jacksonville native Joshua Bowlus is a regular at Fleet Landing concerts. A gifted pianist with a large selection of improvisational ideas, he set the stage for Benack's engaging rendition of “Blue Moon” and effortlessly complemented Benack's vocals in their duo for piano and voice, “Crazy She Calls Me.”

The very talented bassist Brandon Robertson was introduced as “The Professor.” An advocate of jazz music education and an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, Robertson was hopeful the quartet would play “Song With Our Roger,” as he'd spent the six hour drive from Fort Myers listening to it. His expressive improvis were pure delight.

Young drummer John Gonzalez had been a student of Robertson's. He played Benack's original composition, “Sugar and Spice,” at his graduation. His burgeoning talent was evident as the quartet entertained us with this piece.

Treating us like old friends he visits regularly (true, as this was his third performance at Fleet Landing), Benack will spend the next month traveling from Orlando to South Korea. One hopes his travels bring him back here soon.



## Farmer's Market

Photos by Dita Domonkos and Ed Hollender

The number of offerings at the quarterly Farmer's Market keeps growing—both in Fleet Landing's food and drink choices and in the number of outside vendors. These photos from the July 31 event in Johnson Hall show some of the enticing options.





## ABET at Fleet Landing

By Isobel Spink



Resident John Johnson greeted by cast members



ABET (All Beaches Experimental Theatre) brought “*The Fantasticks Selected Songs & Scenes*” to Johnson Hall on July 26. Resident John Johnson was in the front row, as usual. He has supported ABET for 17 years, and has also been a supporter of Players by the Sea and the Alhambra Theatre. Meganne Johnson,

President of ABET, and her husband, Brian, introduced the show. Johnson received royal treatment, and was warmly greeted by the entire cast following the performance.

The original *Fantasticks* opened in May 1960, played 17,162 performances, and closed in January 2002—the world’s longest running musical. The show is about two neighboring parents who trick their children into falling in love.

We were treated to the highlights of the show by seven performers with fine voices. Two of them had the role of the daughter, and both had extraordinary voices. The bandit, El Gallo, who would become an abductor of the daughter, had great moves in his black phantom outfit and gloves.

Numbers we recalled included “Soon It’s Gonna Rain” and perhaps the best known song, “Try to Remember.” The set was unique, with a special place for “The Wall” to stand in his white costume in front of a huge arbor of green. The music was not what one could normally sing along with, but the lyrics were superb, especially in “Never Say No” and “I Can See It.” The harmonies were excellent, if often unusual.

This show brought back memories for many of us, as shown by the tremendous applause from residents. We thank Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria, yet again, for facilitating so many musical events and talented performances at Fleet Landing.

## Rigel Court Independence Day Celebration

By John Hedge

Photos by Judy Poppell and Joe Ruthenberg



(continued on next page)



## Rigel Court Independence Day Celebration

(continued from preceding page)



Rigel Court is very socially friendly and patriotic. The purpose of this July 4 gathering was to watch and cheer on the Independence Day Parade. The variety of Fourth of July attire even included the dog collars. The lawn edges were covered with many dozens of flags for the occasion.

Rigel Court has 20 houses and 34 total residents, 30 of whom came for this 12:30 pm to 2 pm event (a record for our Rigel holiday gatherings). We also had three resident dogs in attendance. The location was the 5501-5502 (Hedge and Miefert) driveway, selected for shade at 1 pm.

The Rigel driveway gatherings began with COVID-19 in 2020, when there was no dining socialization. We had Monday, Wednesday, and Friday “Happy Hours,” and we initially enforced the six-foot spacing rule by electing a sheriff with a yardstick and badge to follow the rules. Typical initial attendance of 10-15 people in 2020 grew to 15-20 now, with 25-30 usually for our holiday specials, such as New Year’s Day, St. Pat’s Day, and July 4, as well as any other good excuse to get together. Birthdays are also recognized, with the honoree generally supplying the cake. We at Rigel are proud of this activity, which has lasted more than five years and provided “medicinal socialization.”

## Lake Constellation Cruise

Photos by Jennifer Arsenault and Ann Bell

Patricia and Tom McManus were the donors of the Fleet Landing Yacht Club dinghy, which has been christened the *Conney Lake*. Tom invited Executive Director Josh Ashby for a ride in the dinghy on Lake Constellation on July 3.



## A Special Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

*(continued from page 1)*

departmental performance management process. Results of the survey are reported to the Board of Directors and staff.

Ashby welcomed Bill Rieger, Fleet Landing's new Chief Information Officer. (See article on page 4.)

Ashby reported that the Fleet Landing Emergency Broadcast System would be tested on August 8 at 1:30 pm. This is the system used to communicate urgent matters to residents. If you are not contacted, that means you are not in the system. Please notify the concierge so that you can be added to the system with your permission.

### Guiding the Future: Board Update

The speakers for this part of the presentation were Ari Jolly, Chair of Fleet Landing's Board of Directors; Wayne Galloway, Chair of the board's Strategic Planning Committee; and Ashby. Attendees heard a summary of the impressive backgrounds of Jolly and Galloway. In addition, one slide showed photos of the entire 13-member Board of Directors, all of whom (except Ashby) are volunteers. Many have personal ties to Fleet Landing, having had parents or friends living here, or they themselves are planning to become residents in the future. All of them bring important skills to the board.

The first part of the presentation provided background information, including the board's legal duties and its core functions, before discussing the results of a recent board strategic planning retreat. The board sets the direction for Fleet Landing, while management determines how to implement it.

The charter of the Strategic Planning Committee is to explore near-term and long-term strategies to advance innovative initiatives that enrich the lives of older adults. Current members of the committee are Galloway, Howie Wanamaker (unable to be present), resident Kathy Long, Julia Pet-Armacost as President of the Residents' Council, and Ashby.

With twelve land acquisitions and six capital projects, Fleet Landing has grown by 80 percent since opening in 1990. In particular, the growth strategy adopted by the Board of Directors in 2015 (Fleet Landing's 25th anniversary) led to the Beacon Pointe Project and Fleet Landing at Nocatee.

The principles behind the plans for future growth to secure Fleet Landing's future were enumerated:

- Expands the Fleet Landing nonprofit mission's impact by allowing service to more people in the local community.
- Strengthens the ability to remain independent and nonprofit now and for future generations.
- Enhances financial stability and long-term resiliency.
- Improves the ability to attract, retain, and invest in strong leadership.

- Reduces geographic risk by expanding beyond a single location.

A bar graph showed a dwindling percentage of single-site continuing care retirement communities in the period between 1980 and 2024 (48 percent versus 28 percent).

An enumeration of the ways growth would help contain resident costs included strengthening Fleet Landing's financial position, enabling greater efficiency by leveraging shared services across campuses, and positioning Fleet Landing to protect and grow market leadership, keeping occupancy strong and waitlists healthy. Another benefit is secure shelter at Nocatee for Atlantic Beach healthcare residents in the event of a storm.

A bar graph showed that the population aged 75 and above will increase by 11.5 million in the period from 2025 to 2035, while the shortage of senior living units will reach 500,000 by 2030.

Two graphs illustrating the demand for Fleet Landing senior living units were the final piece of background information before the announcement of the board's vision for the future. A line graph showed growth in Atlantic Club households in the last decade from fewer than 200 in 2016 to over 660 now, with the number of households having doubled in the last five years. A bar graph showed a monthly difference between Nocatee reservation goals and actual reservations for the period September 2024, when Fleet Landing began accepting reservations for specific units, through May 2025. In every month, actual reservations significantly exceeded goals. Currently, 100 percent of the units are reserved.

The vision of the Board of Directors for the future was described as follows:

- Thoughtfully and purposefully expanding to become a network of communities and services to meet the needs of a growing population of older adults.
- Building on Fleet Landing's strong foundation and guided by its nonprofit mission, commitment to excellence, and deep respect for those we serve.
- The goal is to serve 2,500 residents each day by 2035.

Fleet Landing and Fleet Landing at Nocatee are subsidiaries of Polaris Endeavors. Together, they constitute three companies that will have one board of directors and one executive leadership team. The responsibilities of Polaris Endeavors will include establishing strategic direction and providing centralized functions, such as accounting and finance, human resources, information technology, and marketing.

Over the next six months, Fleet Landing's executive team, including the chief executive officer, the chief operating officer, the chief information officer, and the controller, will gradually transition to Polaris Endeavors to provide leadership and coordination across all Fleet Landing communities. They will be housed in the Administration Building and in the mobile office next to North Point. A search will begin for an executive director

*(continued on next page)*



## A Special Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

*(continued from preceding page)*

specifically for daily operations at Fleet Landing in Atlantic Beach. That person is expected to be introduced in the fall. The emphasis in this process is on a smooth transition with no disruption to residents' daily experience at Fleet Landing.

It was reported that over the next 18 months, a comprehensive campus master plan would be developed for Fleet Landing at Atlantic Beach. Site preparation for Nocatee was now underway, and permanent financing would be finalized this summer. The first residents were expected to arrive in 2027. Fleet Landing was also considering additional locations and exploring new ways to support older adults in their homes.

In closing, the purposes of these changes were emphasized:

- To serve more older adults with excellence and purpose.
- To protect what makes Fleet Landing special—now, and for generations to come.
- To ensure our community remains strong, independent, and mission-driven.

*Editor's note:* The slides from this presentation are available on Fleet Link at "Coffee and Conversation" under "Fleet Landing Presentations." The slides can also be found in the Archival Material section of the Dinda Library in a notebook titled "Coffee & Conversation With Josh 2025."

## TAPS Ceremony

By Carol Smith; photos by Carolyn Stoner

Rain brought over 40 residents from the Flag Plaza inside to Breakers in the Coleman Center on the afternoon of July 13. The occasion was the quarterly TAPS ceremony honoring Fleet Landing military veterans who had died in the past three months. Captain Tom Atkins, USN Chaplain Corps (Ret.), opened with a prayer. Commander Pat Kluever, USN (Ret.), Officer-of-the-Deck, led the program, assisted by Boatswain Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Osborne, USA (Ret.). When the names of Major General Richard (Dick) Beltson, USA (Ret.); Captain George Larocque, USN (Ret.); and Lance Corporal Robert Forsyth, USMC; were read, the bell tolled. As everyone stood to honor the three warriors who have been our friends and neighbors, the sounding of TAPS concluded the ceremony.



## Fleet Landing in the News

By Enith Vardaman

Fran and Pete Sheridan have extended their record as the residents who have made the most submissions to the "Letters to the Editor" section of *The Florida Times-Union*. Their latest contribution appeared in the August 3 edition.



## Celebrating Independence Day

*(continued from page 1)*

and he concluded with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The audience joined in those immortal closing words affirming that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." The program concluded with a video of the US Marine Corps Band playing a rousing version of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The Dining Services team served delicious holiday meals, including the all-American hot dog in both Lake View and Currents. At 1 pm, the parade formed up in front of the Coleman Center and circled through the community. Several decorated golf carts, bicycles, two vintage cars, and everyone's favorite roller skater entertained the residents gathered to cheer them on.

### Independence Day Flag Raising



*Kazoo Band*



*Preparing to raise the flags*



### Independence Day Program



*LtoR: Julia Pet-Armacost, Howard McMinn, Julie Rochelle*



*Residents were dressed in red, white, and blue from head to toe.*



*Carol Smith and Skip McAlexander  
(continued on next page)*



## Celebrating Independence Day

*(continued from preceding page)*



*Kazoo Band directed by Carol Smith*



*The NoteAbles directed by Ron Myers*



*Presenting the colors*

## Independence Day Parade



## “Cosmic Dawn” at the MOSH Planetarium

By Bo Smith

Twenty-seven residents travelled on July 16 to Jacksonville’s Museum of Science and History (MOSH)—their last visit to its San Marco location—for a presentation entitled “Cosmic Dawn.” MOSH closes in September and will reopen in three years in a new facility, MOSH Genesis, near EverBank Stadium.

Our presenter was Eddie Whisler, Director of MOSH’s Bryan-Gooding Planetarium. He is a captivating and engaging speaker, but I found his presentation on the “Cosmic Dawn” a bit too dense. Here’s his bottom line, and then I’ll try to explain how he got there. For a period after the Big Bang, there was no light. Then, as the Universe cooled, light was emitted, and stars formed. Modern telescopes can see almost back to the time that light was first produced. Whisler adjusted our mindsets for a trip way back in time: Imagine a log on a campfire, increase the heat until all molecular structure is disrupted, keep heating until atoms break apart, and keep heating until only a plasma of elemental particles remains (Planck Temperature). This is the situation at time zero after the Big Bang. For up to a billion years, there was a dark

*(continued on next page)*



## “Cosmic Dawn” at the MOSH Planetarium

(continued from preceding page)

cloud of hydrogen and helium atoms. No light could escape the cloud, and thus our telescopes can't see what was happening. As the Universe cooled, atoms began to coalesce and form stars, radiation from the stars escaped the cloud, and light penetrated the Universe: a cosmic dawn. Newer, extremely powerful, telescopes enable us to detect light from some of these early stars, and we can begin to see, albeit dimly, back to perhaps a billion years after the Big Bang (The Big Bang occurred about 14 billion years ago.) Future technology may enable us to “see” even earlier events. That's what I heard, but I can't say I grasp it all.

Although MOSH will be on hiatus for three years, it is keeping staff vital to their outreach. That includes Whisler, who was scheduled to speak on the topic “Deep Time” in Johnson Hall on August 7.

## Jazz Celebration of Motown

By Isobel Spink



The man in the hat and earrings, Noel Freidline, entered a packed Johnson Hall on July 23, sat at the keyboard, and started an awesome show with vocalist Maria Howell and three instrumentalists. Freidline has led the Noel Freidline Quintet for twenty-eight years, has recorded nine CDs, and has performed at jazz festivals in this country, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Howell has been with the group for 11 years. According to the Noel & Maria website (noelandmarialive.com), they “define chemistry,” and our show, “Motown Reimagined,” certainly demonstrated it. With Justin Varnes on drums, Juan Rollan on sax, Zack Page on bass, and Howell and Freidline leading the entertainment, the quintet played Motown songs we all knew and loved, but with completely new and jazzy interpretations.

Freidline explained that Berry Gordy started Motown Records, basically masterminded the Motown sound, and was responsible for the development of the groups whose songs we heard: The Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas, the Temptations, the Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, and others.

Howell is both a singer and an actress. She was in the 1985 movie *The Color Purple* and in numerous other movies, appeared in dozens of TV shows, and is now in a CBS daytime soap opera, *Beyond the Gates*. In

my humble opinion, her voice would give Ella Fitzgerald a run for her money.

The audience chimed in with “Stop!” during the song “Stop! In the Name of Love,” which was based on the experience of one of the song's writers with unfaithfulness in a relationship. Howell, in a gorgeous black outfit, was moving smoothly throughout all the numbers, the drummer's knees never once stopped jumping, and Freidline was smiling constantly while pounding the keys. The many duets with Freidline and Howell were harmonic in a memorable and exciting way not normally heard.

Keep Noel Freidline and Maria Howell coming back. We all want more!

## Korean War Veterans Day Flag Raising

Photos by Dita Domonkos

Fleet Landing commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice in 1953 with a flag raising ceremony at the Flag Plaza on July 27. The ceremony was particularly poignant because of the July 24 death of resident Duane St. John, a Marine wounded at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in North Korea (November 27 to December 13 1950). St. John's autobiography, *A Gift of Time: A Memoir*, which includes his military service, can be found in the Fleet Landing Authors section of the Dinda Library.





## Fleet Landing Wildlife Sightings

Given resident Bo Smith's talk on the wildlife of Fleet Landing (see article on page 10), these sightings were timely.

### Eastern Lubber Grasshopper

Photo by Mary Faria



*The season for the unwelcome sightings of eastern lubber grasshoppers on campus ended recently. This one is perched on a bird of paradise plant.*

### Turtle Rescue

Photos by Mary Faria



*This Florida softshell turtle was spotted in the driveway of the 5800 Court home of Karen and Adam Herbert.*



*Left: Officer Alex Morgan and Safety and Security Supervisor Andrew Diaz began the rescue.*

*Right: Resident Ken DeVries wrapped a towel around the turtle in preparation for transporting it to safe waters on campus.*

## Second Turtle Rescue

Photo by Mary Pat Lynch

A few days later, the same (?) turtle was spotted again. It was halfway between Mainstreet Dining and the driveway to the 8000 Building, and it was attempting to cross Fleet Landing Boulevard in the direction of the 3000 Building. Once again, it was Ken DeVries to the rescue. He got the turtle turned around and headed toward safe waters.



## Orb-weaver Spider

Photo by Julia Pet-Armacost



*Fortunately, the bite of this scary-looking orb-weaver spider is generally harmless to humans.*

## Imperial Moth

Photo by Mary Faria



*This colorful imperial moth was spotted outside Windward Commons.*



## Welcome Aboard

### 130 Su and Keith Kraegel (February)



What a charming couple the Kraegels are, and Rosie the Rescue is a charming dog, too. The Kraegels moved here from nearby Oceanwalk, where they had lived for 30 years. They were in Kansas City before that. Keith is from Chicago, and Su is from Staffordshire, England. In 1968, she came to the US for the summer with the

British Universities North America Club student exchange. She spent two months in New Orleans selling encyclopedias door-to-door—and never got caught. The Kraegels met in 1974 through a friend and were married in 1978.

After Eastern Illinois University and an MBA, Keith was a partner in a trucking company shipping a variety of supplies. While most of his truck drivers were honest, hard-working family men, he did have one case of human smuggling in a truck of pajama bottoms from Mexico, destined for Kmart. Su's first degree was at Newcastle upon Tyne in England in social science, and she did her MA at the University of Missouri. She taught English at the University of North Florida for 15 years. I'm sure her lovely British accent was a great help in her students' learning proper English.

The Kraegels have a son, Sam, who was with the Peace Corps in Mongolia and then earned his MBA at the University of Florida. Following 15 years of caring for Keith's parents, Su and Keith relocated to Fleet Landing because of Keith's cancer diagnosis. They have had access to rehabilitation services here.

Keith, Su, and Rosie are still settling in, but they are very happy. They have a truly lovely house and have already met many interesting people.

—Isobel Spink

## Strikes & Spares

By Jim LeBlanc

Fifteen Fleet Landing Wii bowling teams competed in the Second Annual Summer Handicap Tournament. Teams were placed into one of two Conferences based on the team's scratch average. The Conference competition ran for seven weeks with the following results:

**Conference One.** First Place: Lucky Strikers: Jim LeBlanc, Captain; Karen LeBlanc; Nancy Stein; and Walter Kraslawsky; and subs Jim Joyner, Sandy Taylor

**Conference Two.** Intense competition with a three-way tie for first place Conference honors:

Alley Cats: Carol Bowser, Captain; Carl Tungli-Giese; Tom Bramble; Geri Bramble

Banana Splits: Kay Craft, Captain; Linda Bryant;

Dede Leclair; Nancy Stein; and subs Louise Moore, Walter Kraslawsky

Pin Heads: Gil Wright, Captain; John Rogerson; Eunice Rogerson; Gerry Nogelo; and subs Miles Nogelo, Bill Spicer, Gail Sharp

The 15 teams will now be seeded into one Division based on the team's current scratch average. They will play in a "one and done" tournament format (win, and you play again, lose, and your team is out). The playoffs will see two teams play in week four to see who will be named Fleet Wii Bowling Summer League Champions 2025.

Here are some notables from the seven weeks of Conference play:

300 "Perfect Games": Buzz Hassler (4), Jim LeBlanc (3), Janice Flock (2), Jim Joyner (1), Walter Kraslawsky (1). Congratulations to Kraslawsky on his first perfect game in week two.

"Oops" 299 Games (just really close!): Ernie Bio and Buzz Hassler

Difficult Splits Made: Suzanne Joyner made a 4-6 split and a 4-5-7-10 in the same game! Awesome!

Top 5 Scratch Averages: Jim LeBlanc (274), Buzz Hassler (265), Jim Joyner (245), Karen LeBlanc (243), Ernie Bio (243).

## Chips and Putts

By Bob Neal

Due to the heat, our summer golf tournaments are limited to nine holes. The July 10 Fleet Landing Association of Golfers (FLAG) tournament was played at Windy Harbor Golf Club. Fortunately, the cloud cover and pleasant breeze made the round very comfortable. Sixteen golfers planned to play, but unfortunately, one golfer failed to check the expiration date on his pass to get on Naval Station Mayport and missed his tee time.

The remaining group, which included two Atlantic Club members, competed valiantly. Winning was the team led by Tom Holloman, including Sharyn Jenkins, Price Schwenck, and Ray Dymond (Atlantic Club) with a score of 35. Holloman attributed the win to Jenkins, who competed like it was the Masters. Second place went to the team captained by Paul Donohue with Judy Blocker, Mike Foster, and Bunky Johnson with a score of 37.

Individual honors went to Jenkins and Donohue for Ladies' and Men's Long Drive. Unfortunately, no golfer was able to put a ball on the green for the par 3 Ladies' and Men's Closest to the Pin.

The Birdie Trophy went to Jenkins for sinking a long putt for the team's only birdie. The Sandbagger Trophy was awarded to Holloman for inspiring his team to a bogey-free round.

Lunch in the Grove at Bogey's included a lot of good natured ribbing about the round.

We will return to Windy Harbor for our next tournament on August 14.



## Flamingo Sighting

Photo by Patricia Payne



*Flamingos—either the live variety or the plastic lawn ornaments—are well-known in Florida. A new variety was spotted outside the 3000 Building apartment of Jackie and Dave Smith after having served its purpose during one of our recent downpours.*

## Campus Photo Ops

FLEET BEAT Photographer Ann Bell always has her iPhone camera at the ready. Food photography is one of her specialties, and she also captures interesting shots as she walks her dog, Jumping Jack.

## A New Dining Experience

The first “Chef Spotlight,” a new dining experience highlighting the creativity and skill of members of Fleet Landing’s culinary team, took place at 30 North on July 18. For the inaugural event, the spotlight fell on Adriana Farrell, Currents Marketplace Chef de Cuisine. She said that her travels, love for ethnic foods, and Croatian heritage were what influenced her tasting menu.



*Left: Adriana Farrell.*

*Right: Scallop ceviche (South America).*



*Left: King crab caprese (Alaska).*

*Right: Intermezzo: Mango lassi sorbet, toasted coconut.*



*Left: Lamb rack (India). Right: Beef cheek (Asia).*



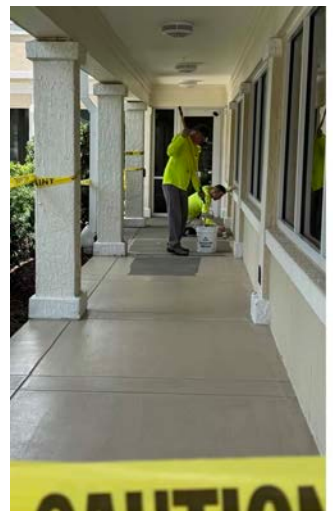
*Cherry strudel (Croatia)*



*Adriana Farrell (second from right) and the rest of the team that helped create the meal.*

## Coleman Center Sidewalk Project

The painting and coating of the sidewalks and other concrete surfaces around the Coleman Center, the final phase of its exterior renovation, are underway. Below are photos of the work between the 4000 Building and the Coleman Center.



*(continued on next page)*



# Campus Photo Ops (continued from preceding page) 3000 Building Roof Replacement



## Decked Out for the 4th of July

