



# FLEET BEAT

VOL. 34 No. 6

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

July 2024

## Northeast Florida Pioneer Life

By Chet Davis



A large number of residents gathered in Johnson Hall on June 26 to hear Fleet Landing Medical Director Dr. Mark Messinese in a different role: as narrator of tales about his Northeast Florida pioneer family. Appropriately, instead of the usual cookies as refreshments, attendees enjoyed hoecakes (sometimes known as johnnycakes), a fried cornmeal pancake with a long culinary history.

Messinese's talk drew on *Pioneer Family: Life on Florida's Twentieth-Century Frontier*, a book by Michel Osterreicher, his aunt (now deceased) on his mother's side of the family. He described the book as an oral history of his grandparents, Oleta and Hugie Osterreicher and as a compelling portrait of 20th century pioneer life in Florida. In the course of talking about each of these grandparents' lives, Messinese read several passages from the book. Messinese said that he wished he had heard these stories as he was growing up.

*Pioneer Family* is full of vignettes of frontier life in the early decades of the 20th century, from cutting logs to raising dairy cattle. Highly self-sufficient, the family roamed the coastal areas from St. Augustine to the St. Johns River, building, hunting, farming, trapping, and more. They achieved a level of prosperity, but lost everything in the Great Depression, and they never had an excess of money for the rest of their lives.

Currently, it is still possible to visit a remnant of that time. The Oesterreicher-McCormick Cabin, built by Messinese's great-grandfather in the 1870's, is one of this area's oldest examples of Florida Cracker-style architecture. Having been donated to the Beaches Museum, it was moved from Nocatee to the museum's History Park in 2015. It has been restored, preserving as much as possible of its original features.

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## Naval Station Mayport Tour

By Carol Smith; photos by Jackie Smith



*On the deck of the USS Marinette*

An enthusiastic group of 36 residents boarded the bus on June 25 for the short trip to Naval Station Mayport. Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria welcomed everyone and thanked resident Jackie Smith for her assistance in setting up the visit. The tour of the USS *Marinette* started for 14 individuals, while the rest remained on the bus for a tour of the base.

The Chief Engineer of the *Marinette* conducted an interesting tour of his ship, which is a *Freedom*-class littoral combat ship (LCS). It was built, christened, and commissioned in its namesake city in Wisconsin. On board, the crew was busy preparing for the ship's first inspection, scheduled for September. The *Marinette* has the largest marine gas turbines in the world and is the fastest US Navy warship ever built.

On the bus tour, folks noticed the USS *Jason Dunham* decked out in red, white, and blue bunting for a Change of Command ceremony that day.

While the second group of 14 toured the ship, the bus tour continued with Base Public Affairs Officer Dave Holmes pointing out the various sites. He described the annual ceremony that is held in Stark Memorial Park in memory of the attack in 1987 that killed 37 crew members of the USS *Stark*. That ship was home based at Mayport, and each year survivors return, along with friends and family, to honor those lost in the attack.

While the third group visited the *Marinette*, the bus tour made a stop at the MWR Fitness Center. Thanks to former Congressman Ander Crenshaw, the Center was expanded as part of the emphasis on Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) for our military. It is truly a state-of-the-art facility. The equipment rooms were very busy places, along with the basketball

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### June Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

Residents' Council President Bob Peterson convened the June 18 meeting in Johnson Hall. He noted that over 400 new residents had arrived since 2020, and he enjoined all to wear their name tags and submit a photo for the Resident Directory on Fleet Link.

Management Review. Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss reported that Coleman Center refurbishing projects were on track, and that scaffolding will be installed on the east side of the building for access to the galley for equipment installation. He noted progress on roof and elevator replacement and the interior redesign for the 2000 and 3000 buildings. Residents of the 1000 and 4000 buildings will receive surveys about interior redesign in July. The contract for the campus signage project should be awarded in July.

Council Reports.

Vice President Carol Smith reviewed an extensive array of activities planned for Independence Day.

Treasurer Lynette Beitz reported that all finances were on target. The 2023 independent audit, conducted by MSL, one of three leading CPA firms serving CCRCs, resulted in a "clean audit." This means that Fleet Landing's financial statements presented fairly its financial position. Financial statements and a copy of the audit are available in the Dinda Library.

Human Resources and Marketing. Ernie Bio reported that the June Campus Leader was Donna Sevinsky, Human Resources Manager for the past two years. May Staff Member of the Month was Jeremaine Brown of Exterior Maintenance. Special congratulations were accorded to Rob Friedman of Transportation, Fleet Landing's longest serving employee, who is now celebrating his 33rd year. There were 21 recent hires, bringing total employee strength to 501. Lobster Tales numbered 195 in May. There have been 15 closed contracts year-to-date. All categories of living are essentially full, or nearly so.

Wellness and Transportation. Ken Hollinga announced numerous activities scheduled through mid-July. He also reviewed a week of Fleet Landing fitness activities held in conjunction with the 31st Annual National Senior Health and Fitness Day. Fleet Landing's FL Strikers made it to the National Wii Bowling Championship Round, and they were finalists in their division. He noted some fitness assessment, equipment setting, and workout revision schedule changes that were to begin in July.

Health Services/Safety and Security. Judy Solano reported on a recent respiratory inflammation affecting dogs, and she said resident pet owners should seek veterinary treatment quickly if symptoms were noted. She also described the interior refresh project underway in The Nancy House, which is being conducted with minimal impact on residents. Fire drills for the apartment buildings have been completed.

Dining Services and Housekeeping. Carol Smith, reporting for Ann Bell, extolled the work of 30 North/Meridian Chef de Cuisine, Abigail Hazel, which generated applause from those present. Hazel has mentored server Briana Deshommes, who recently won the county and state cooking competitions with Duval County schools. She would represent Florida in the national competition. (See article on page 5.) Photos of leaders in Housekeeping were displayed, and their responsibilities were discussed briefly.

Facilities. Stephen Dick reviewed dates for recent and upcoming zone inspections and for the quarterly meeting. He also noted the new fencing being installed on campus. He urged residents to comply with the prohibition against parking on the grass. Costly damage to sprinkler heads has resulted.

Secretary Julia Pet-Armacost noted the new schedule of daily events being sent out by email. She reviewed nine resident suggestions and responses. They are too detailed for this report, but can be read in the minutes of this meeting, which are posted on bulletin boards around the campus, in the Dinda Library, and on Fleet Link under "Residents' Council."

### Library Notes

By Enith Vardaman

The Library Committee thanks its recent donors: Mary Beliles (Atlantic Club), David Boyer, Janice Flock, Lorie Holmes, Don Husmann, Carla Philcox, Dean Veremakis, and Bea Waltermann.

The library has acquired a copy of resident Pam Mullarkey Robbins's book, *What's So Funny About Dementia?* It can be found on the Fleet Landing Authors shelf.

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

### Fleet's Got Talent

By Victoria Freeman

On June 15, another show coordinated by Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost, with support from Sue Meyers, proved that Fleet's Got Talent. The program was dedicated to Phil Martin, a long-time fixture on the Fleet Landing music scene, who had passed away that very day.

The program featured two world premieres. The Atlantic Beach Boys, made up of Ernie Bio, Ron Meyers, Paul Mocko, and Bob Peterson, and managed by Sue Myers, belted out "Barbara Ann," a song made famous by an earlier group, the Beach Boys. Later in the program, the women of the Serendipity Singers harmonized on "America the Beautiful" and "April Showers." There was more blending of voices when the men of Fleet Harmony sang "Daisy Bell" and "Coney Island Baby." The latter two groups were directed by Pet-Armacost and accompanied by Karen Sturtevant on the piano.

Fleet Landing dance instructor Julie Korsog directed the "Texas Hold 'Em" line dancers and the "Jail-

house Rock" tap dancers.

Sandi Smith, Pam Robbins, John Rietveld, Julie McLaughlin, Mary Steinke, and Guy Van Syckle provided solo acts and also performed in singing and/or dancing groups. John Rogerson did it all: solo and group dancing and singing plus a comic skit. Residents have come to look forward to the vocals of drivers Rob Friedman and Marie-Claire Allen. Friedman soloed on a country song (his favorite genre), "When You Say Nothing at All." Allen, accompanied on the guitar by resident Richard Wong, performed "Black Dog," a song by the hard-rock band, Led Zeppelin.

The Dulcimer Doers closed out the program. Their set included "You Are My Fleet Home," written by resident Victoria Freeman. With the words displayed on the Johnson Hall screens, the audience happily joined in singing the lyrics to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine." And, as a sign of how much people enjoyed the show, many stayed on for a bonus sing-along.



*Dulcimer Doers*



*Serendipity Singers*

**You Are Our Fleet Home**  
You are our Fleet Home, so near the ocean's foam  
You make us happy that we've gone gray.  
Your grounds are spacious, your staff is gracious, you're a NET 10 all the way.  
  
We love the Josh talks, we love the osprey squawks.  
We love the Caremerge password too and when we want some excitement  
Mary will post something new  
  
The dinner shuttle is timely transport, it picks us up and drops us, too.  
And concierges Katie, and Cathy, seems like nothing they can't do.  
  
So may we revel in fountains bubbling and jet trails crossing the wide blue.  
And when we come in past the front gate, yes it's home for us, 'tis true.

*Lyrics to be sung to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine"*



*Fleet Harmony*



*The Atlantic Beach Boys*



*"Texas Hold 'Em" line dancers  
(continued on next page)*

## Fleet's Got Talent

(continued from preceding page)



"Jailhouse Rock" tap dancers

## Mozart and Friends at Johnson Hall

By Nancy Lundgren



On June 11, resident Cynthia Graham welcomed us with a little history about the special relationship between Fleet Landing and the San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS). Twelve years ago, shortly after Cynthia and her husband, Walter, moved to Fleet Landing, they invited the group to perform for the first of many concerts here. Over the years, the SMCMS has enriched our music program and enchanted residents. The Grahams were sponsors of this concert.

The SMCMS was formed in 2008 by Eric and Ellen Olson, long-standing members of the Jacksonville Symphony. They invited other musicians from the symphony as well as faculty from local universities to join the group, which currently presents five to six con-

certs a year, all free and open to the public. The ensemble is composed of violinists Aurica Duca and Clinton Dewing, violists Yun-Ting Kuo and Ellen Olson, cellist Brian Magnus, and oboist Eric Olson.

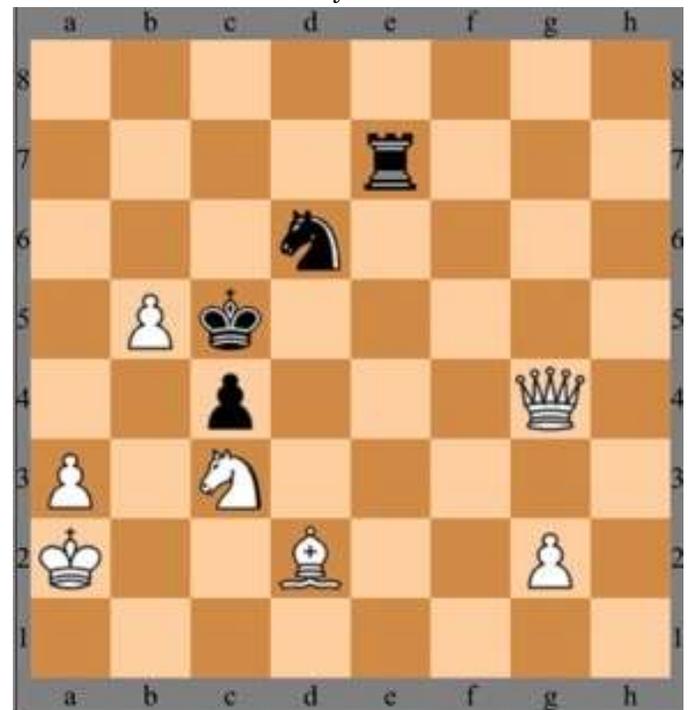
The program focused on music written by Mozart and three of his acquaintances, Joseph Fiala, Johann Baptist Vanhal, and Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, between 1771 and 1773. The Olsons performed Duo For Viola and Oboe by Fiala. Mozart's String Quintet in B-flat major showcased his musical genius at 17 years of age. Vanhal's Oboe Quartet, Op. 7, No.1 was a joy to hear as the musicians worked their magic with the composition. Ellen Olson shared some fascinating facts about Saint-Georges before the ensemble played his String Quartet in C minor. He is sometimes referred to as the "Black Mozart." *Chevalier*, a 2022 biographical film, follows his improbable rise in 18th century French society as a celebrated violinist, composer, and fencer.

As always with the SMCMS, the music was beautiful, the educational comments insightful, and the concert a delight.

## Chess Club News

By Richard Wong

The Chess Club meets Tuesdays at 1-3 pm in the Windward Commons Lobby.



Chess puzzle: White mates in 2 moves

## Fleet Landing in the News

By Enith Vardaman

Charles Winton is the latest resident to contribute to the "Letters to the Editor" column in *The Florida Times-Union*. His commentary appeared in the June 9 edition.

## Briana Deshommès—Aspiring Chef

By Carole Watson

She practically grew up at Fleet Landing, she says, as her mother worked, and still does, at Leeward Manor. Born in Jacksonville, she is a first generation American, though her French-sounding last name reveals her Haitian forebears.



She is Briana Deshommès, a server at 30 North, and an aspiring chef. She already has years of culinary experience, learning from both her grandmother and mother. At the age of seven, she was cooking, and by the time she was eight years old, she was selling her culinary creations to neighbors. That continued through her high schools years, as classmates clamored for her to cook for them as well.

Deshommès became involved with the Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) in high school. That organization recognized her culinary talent and sponsored her entry into the competition for Top National Chef. She won the Florida title and left on June 24 for the national competition in Seattle, WA. There she will compete against other state winners. All competitors will be cooking a set menu and will be judged on technique, taste, presentation, and explanation of how and why the contestant may have modified the recipes.

Deshommès says that while she adheres to the strict science behind the recipes, she loves to “throw away the book” to create her own spin on classic preparations. Her goal in cooking, she says, is to share her creativity and love to nourish both body and soul of the recipients of her skills.

Deshommès plans to continue her education at Valencia College in Orlando, FL, majoring in culinary arts, baking, and pastry. Fortunately for us, she says she intends to continue working during the summers here at Fleet Landing.

## Winged Visitor

Resident Kay Miefert captured these lovely shots of a monarch butterfly attracted to a sunflower in her backyard garden.



## June MOAA Meeting

By Chet Davis



*LtoR: Randy McDonald, Alison Simpson, Joy Miller, Dick Beltson, Pat Kluever*

Pat Kluever, president of the Historic Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA), presided over the June 25 meeting in Johnson Hall. He described the chapter’s work, in partnership with St. Augustine’s Ancient City Chapter, to offer Jacksonville inner-city JROTC Cadets Military Trail Rides in St. Augustine. This is an opportunity for them to learn more about Northeast Florida military facilities and history and the importance of Fort Mose during the time of Spanish Florida. Also included is a tour of Florida National Guard headquarters and the adjacent national cemetery given by Alison Simpson, the guest speaker for the meeting.

MOAA Chapter Director and Surviving Spouse Liaison Joy Miller introduced Simpson, a graduate of George Mason University and the full-time historian for the Florida National Guard for the last 11 years. Emphasizing that the Guard is this country’s oldest militia, she traced its history from its founding in 1565 to the present day. Simpson devoted much of her lecture to the history of the St. Francis Barracks. Originally a Franciscan monastery, the Barracks has been Florida National Guard headquarters since 1907. Simpson’s talk provided a fascinating glimpse into the history of one of the oldest structures in St. Augustine.

## Book Talk News

By Sue Myers

The next Book Talk will feature *The Ice House* by Laura Lee Smith, an Amazon Editors’ Pick set in the Jacksonville area. Smith will be with us at Book Talk to answer questions and discuss her writing process.



Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 25, at 2 pm. We’ll meet in the second-floor classroom in Windward Commons. Sign up on Calendar Central, or let Fran Sheridan or Sue Myers know. Pick up a copy of the book and take it to the beach with you this summer, or wherever you may be vacationing, and enjoy!

### Art Club Reception

By Patricia Payne

The Fleet Landing Art Club introduced residents to the new artwork on display by hosting a reception at the Windward Commons exhibit site. Attendees chatted with each other as well as the artists, while everyone enjoyed wine and assorted treats contributed by club members.

The club refreshes the exhibit every three or four months, with each new show eagerly anticipated by residents and staff. Paula O'Bannon, who initiated our new reception tradition, welcomed residents and pointed out that the small collages in the show were produced during a recent multimedia class led by local artist Linda Hawkins. Glenn Perry and Richard Lundgren tended bar.

Several residents brought family and friends along. These guests included local gourd artist Mindy Hawkins ([mindyhawkingourds.com/galleries](http://mindyhawkingourds.com/galleries)). I'm told that the guests were impressed with the depth of enthusiasm shown by both the artists and the resident art lovers.

This September, the Art Club will again mount a show at the Adele Grage Cultural Center in Atlantic Beach. The timing of that annual event means that refreshing the Windward Commons exhibit will wait until October. The club will also gain exhibit space in the Coleman Center once the renovation is completed!

Information about the Art Club is available on Fleet Link at "Art Club" under "Resident Groups."



*Attendees viewing the exhibit and mingling*



*Sample of the elegant display of treats prepared for the reception*



*Artists doing duty as bartenders: Glenn Perry (l) and Richard Lundgren*



*Artists and guests enjoying the treats*



*Some of the artists present, l to r: Susan Hubbard, John Hen, and Veronika Jenke*

*Addendum:* For photos of one work by each of the 28 artists who contributed to the exhibit, see article on page 7.

### Windward Commons Art Exhibit

The current Windward Commons art exhibit features paintings in various mediums as well as photographs and ceramics. Some of the 28 contributors are displaying more than one work. *FLEET BEAT* photographer Ed Hollender had the challenge of photographing all 50 items and their accompanying labels. Below is a photo of one work by each artist.



Left: Lynn Blakemore's "Orange Is the New Orange."  
Right: Veronika Jenke's ceramic "From the Depths."

Left: Craig Miller's "Portrait of Roy Rogers."  
Right: Julia Pet-Armacost's "St. Augustine Lighthouse and the Anhinga."



Left: Betty Thompson's "Fabric of Time."  
Right: Sally Pitard's "Drifting."

Left: Sarah Lamont's "Southwestern Sunset."  
Right: Ann Brodt's "Archangel Gabriel."



Left: John Hen's "Little Bee Eaters."  
Right: Tom Dames's "Fleet Azaleas."



Left: Gayle Banks's "A Lighthouse in Maine."  
Right: Stella Bratcher's "Red Barn."



Left: Glenn Perry's "Beach at 18th Street."  
Right: Jackie Stack's "Pablo Creek Dock."  
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### Windward Commons Art Exhibit

(continued from preceding page)



Left: Bo Smith's "A Wonderful Bird Is the ..."  
 Right: Eileen Norrington's photograph "Snack Time."



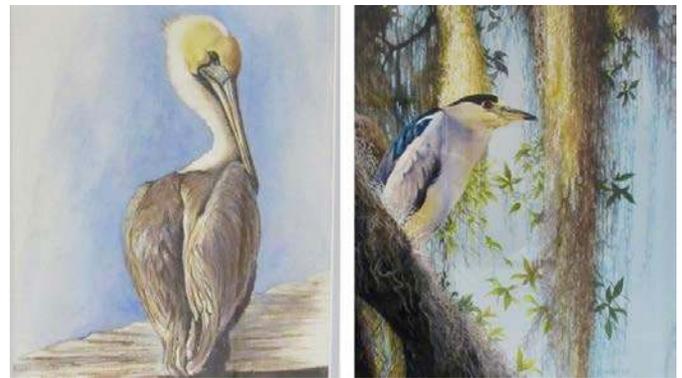
Left: Kristin Perry's "La pâtissière."  
 Right: Carol Bowser's "Princess Jeannie."



Left: Susan L. Hubbard's photograph "Green Heron."  
 Right: Imogene Coleman's "Tulip."



Left: The late Monica Coté's "Mindy."  
 Right: Patricia Payne's "Glass Frog Popu."



Left: Pat Murray's "Mrs. Pelican."  
 Right: Richard Lundgren's "Black-Crowned Night Heron."



Left: Paula O'Bannon's chromogenic print "Cobb Town - Neptune Beach Nights."  
 Right: Carl Tungli-Giese's "Winter in N.J."



Left: Frances Jones's "Blue Moss."  
 Right: Barbara Milon's "Peony Bouquet."

### June WELLInspired Learning Series

By Victoria Freeman



LtoR: Maureen Motter, Kimberly Clayton, Patty Chicoine

Fleet Landing Social Services Coordinator Maureen Motter and Dr. Kimberly Clayton, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with the organization Balanced Wellbeing, were the first two speakers at the WELLInspired Learning

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## June WELLInspired Learning Series

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Series talk held in Johnson Hall on June 19. The topic was “Tips for Maintaining Mental Well-being.” The tips included the following: reduce stress and relax by taking a bath, walking, reading, or listening to music. Take a break by stepping away from stressful situations. Try mindfulness exercises. Take some tech-free time. Find ways to be creative, such as drawing, crafting, or singing. Try online learning if it is difficult to get out. Spend time in nature. Bring nature indoors via flowers, potted plants, and natural materials such as shells. Spend some time with animals. Connect with others by opening up to a trusted friend, trying a support group, volunteering, or joining a class.

The third speaker, Resident Support Coordinator Patty Chicoine, cited two support groups available at Fleet Landing. The Caregiver Support Group meets on the third Friday of the month, from 10-11 am, in The Retreat. The Caregiver Memory Support Group meets on the fourth Wednesday, from 10-11 am, in The Retreat. Doug Schilling from Community Hospice and Palliative Care is the facilitator for both groups.

There were inquiries from the audience about establishing additional support groups. Chicoine said that they were possible if she could document a need for them and locate a professionally trained facilitator. To state the need for a group, contact Chicoine at [pchicoine@fleetlanding.com](mailto:pchicoine@fleetlanding.com).

## Enjoying Ragtime Rhythms

By Nancy Lundgren



Back by popular demand, residents Pete and Fran Sheridan brought us stories about, and music by, the King of Ragtime, Scott Joplin (1868-1917). The spirit and rhythms of Joplin’s compositions influenced both American and European composers for decades, yet few people knew his work. Ragtime is a musical genre, known for its syncopated, ragged rhythm. It’s difficult to play, but fun to watch because the left hand plays a different rhythm from the right hand.

Ragtime music was once considered “lowbrow” since it had African rhythm roots and evolved with the honky-

tonk pianists along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in the last decades of the 19th century. Refined society did not consider it “proper enough” for their concert halls. Joplin biographer, Rudi Blesh, wrote, “The real trouble with ragtime was not that it was no good but that it was too good, and it had, so to speak, been born out of wedlock, with at least part of its parentage black.” Though ragtime’s heyday was relatively short-lived, the music influenced the later development of jazz.

After Fran’s introductory information about each piece, Pete kept the piano rocking as he played “The Peacherine Rag” (1901), “Maple Leaf Rag” (1899), “Original Rags” (1899), and more by Joplin. He ended his June 20 Johnson Hall concert, of course, with “The Entertainer” (1902), a rollicking composition we all recognize from the 1973 film *The Sting*.

## A New Acronym for a New Activity

Fleet Landing’s Own Sort-of Synchronized Swimmers (FLOSSS) made their debut in the Coleman Center Pool on June 7. *FLEET BEAT* photographer Ann Bell captured these photos of the performance.

If you missed this opportunity to see FLOSSS in action, their next performance will be in the Coleman Center pool at the conclusion of Fleet Landing’s Summer Olympics Parade on July 26.



## Northeast Florida Pioneer Life

(continued from page 1)

Some of the descendants of the Osterreichers and the related families, the Micklers and McCormicks, were present for Messinese's talk.

Messinese's presentation left many in the appreciative audience eager to read the book.

*Editor's note:* Michel Oesterreicher spoke about her book and read passages from it at Fleet Landing in February 2014. (See *FLEET BEAT*, March 2014, page 16.)

## Bold City Classics

By Isobel Spink



True to her word, Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria brought the Bold City Classics back again. On June 21, we cheered them as we had last March. The band manager, saxophonist Sarah Lee, has been managing events and gigs for ten years. The three vocalists, Cortnie, Jay, and Paris (who was on *The Voice* in 2021) were awesome.

Drivers Rob Friedman and Marie-Claire Allen made an energetic appearance on the dance floor. Although

there were not a lot of men, the floor was crowded with ladies cutting a rug, jitterbugging, twisting, and line dancing. The line dancing routines showed how practiced the dancers were, and the music was perfect for it. Several men even joined in.

The musicians played a variety of instruments, with "Superstition" highlighted by solos from trumpet, trombone, sax, and keyboard. All solos were applauded by the audience, who loved the musical talent and the songs from the '70s. Cortnie's rendition of "I Will Survive" was a particular hit. "Boogie Shoes" and "Dancing Queen" were also favorites, although every song emphasized the amazing energy of the band.

The audience's ovation was enough to encourage Faria to bring the Bold City Classics back again, and we look forward to their next concert here.

## Yates McKendree Band

By Carolyn Stoner



Gray skies on June 28 brought residents to Johnson Hall to brighten their day by listening to the Yates McKendree Band, which was making its debut appearance at Fleet Landing.

The unusual name of Yates was his mother's maiden name. Born to Kevin (a musician) and his wife, Laura, in Nashville, TN, he grew up in a recording studio, where it was discovered that he was a full-fledged musical prodigy. McKendree could play before he could talk, and he has been wowing audiences as a keyboard and guitar player for years—and he's only 21! McKendree's music has been described by one reviewer as "Bluesabilly," but he describes his music as American grassroots.

The other members of the McKendree band were Robert on rhythm guitar, Griffin on drums, and Yates's father, Kevin, a Grammy winner, on the Hammond organ. Of the fifteen-song set, six were originals. McKendree knows his way around the fretboard, from a soft touch to exploding renditions of rocking electronic blues. He is a multitalented instrumentalist who can play virtually any instrument with a string on it. He is a Grammy recipient, and he has been nominated numerous times by the Blues Foundation for its Blues Music Awards (BMAs). He has accompanied many of Nashville's notables, and he makes frequent appearances on national television.

We hope the band will return and wow us again with their special brand of music.

## Naval Station Mayport Tour

(continued from page 1)



courts. The huge natatorium is used for search and rescue training and hosts numerous swim meets. During the summer months, swim classes are offered to school-age children.

Everyone found the morning very informative, and some were surprised to learn that Fleet Landing residents can apply for an MWR card that would allow them access to some base facilities, such as the golf course. Weary residents returned home with a feeling of pride to have this military facility in our own "backyard." Since so many were on the waiting list for this excursion, another trip to Naval Station Mayport is scheduled for October.

## Welcome Aboard

### 2108 Lynette and Robert Brown (April)

Lynette and Robert moved here from Ponte Vedra, where they had lived close to the beach since 1990. They were members of the Ponte Vedra Country Club, and Robert played golf regularly. As owners of a business selling long-term care insurance, they were very aware of the importance of finding the right retirement destination. Through their business, they became familiar with Fleet Landing. They will be able to use their own long-term care insurance here in assisted living, in the skilled nursing facility, or with home health.

Lynette was raised in the Ortega Forest neighborhood of Jacksonville, and Robert came to the Jacksonville area with his family after high school. He began work as a runner for a law firm while he was in the US Army Reserves. After graduating from Florida State University in Tallahassee, he returned to Jacksonville. He met Lynette on a blind date through a mutual friend. She worked at her mother's beauty shop in Jacksonville

and then worked as a hairdresser in her own shop. The couple moved frequently for Robert's career with textile companies, living in Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Georgia. They returned to Jacksonville when he worked for the Coats and Clark textile firm.

Currently, Robert is playing golf with a Fleet Landing group. Lynette has met several people at Fleet Landing who attended her high school. They have two sons. One lives in Neptune Beach and has two children, and the other is a graphic designer in New York City.

—Kristin Perry

### 5315 Buffy and Robert Wells (May)

After his discharge from the US Army, where he was stationed in Germany, Robert returned to Pittsburgh, PA, and attended Duquesne University for his undergraduate and MBA degrees. His career in finance included Westinghouse Electric (living for a time in South America), PNC Bank, and becoming CFO of a real estate development company. After retiring in his early 50s, he did some consulting and pursued his interests in biking and photography. He has done six century rides (100 miles) and had a show of his photography at the Goodyear Cottage on Jekyll Island, GA.

Buffy attended the University of Pittsburgh and practiced nursing for two years in an intensive care unit and an operating room. Wanting more autonomy and responsibility, she went back for graduate work at Pitt's School of Anesthesia. She became a nurse anesthetist at the university hospital, giving anesthesia for transplants, trauma, and neurological and cardiac surgery. During this time, in the early 80's, she traveled to China, Japan, Indonesia, the USSR, Africa, and Europe. In her 40s, she retired to do anesthesia as an independent contractor at surgical centers on her own schedule.

Robert and Buffy met when they both bought houses in the same neighborhood in Pittsburgh. In 1987, they married at 39 years old (first marriage for each). They traveled to the Galapagos, Europe, and especially France, biking and exploring. The highlight was living in Paris for three months.

They lived on Amelia Island for 20 years, where Robert was active with conservation and the development of the Greenway. He received a proclamation from the city of Fernandina Beach for his work. Buffy started acting a few years before COVID-19 and has appeared on all the Amelia Island stages.

After being on the waiting list for five years, they are thrilled to get the house they wanted with a lovely screened porch that they enjoy with their cat, Jake.

—Kristin Perry



### Fleet Landing Celebrates National Croquet Day

By Ernie Bio

Over 43 Fleet Landing Croquet Club members celebrated this year's United States Croquet Association National Croquet Day with games, food, and camaraderie. The uniqueness of this celebration among amateur sport clubs is that all croquet clubs nationwide celebrated on the same day, Saturday, June 1.

At Fleet Landing, the event was well promoted by club president John Neyhart. Miles Nogelo, a veteran member of the club, planned, managed, and supervised the fun competition, which was held on the LaHatte Croquet Court. Over 35 club members participated. There were five challenges: straight-wicket scoring, short-angled shots, hitting bullseye target, pick your distance, and hole-in-one shots. The total score for the five determined the winners. Neyhart was the overall winner. Mary Steinke placed second; Gerry Nogelo, third; and Janice Flock, fourth.

After the friendly competition came the delicious

food and drink planned, managed, and directed by Susan Titus, with dedicated help from her husband, Richard, and other club members. The buffet took place inside Johnson Hall, where many club members assisted in setting up, breaking down, and cleaning up. Geri Bramble remarked that the food was abundant and delicious. It was followed by the sharing of a huge cake decorated to commemorate this special occasion.

The prizes for the competition, presented by our master of ceremony, were accompanied by mutually supportive comments and accolades from all participants.

Croquet Club ongoing play: In addition to daily regular play, Maureen Linden, one of our very active club members, has planned and activated evening matches during the hot summer months. They are scheduled for Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings starting at 7 pm.



Scene from the competition, LtoR: Geri Bramble, Miles Nogelo, Eunice and John Rogerson



Susan Titus



Competition winners, LtoR: John Neyhart, Mary Steinke, Gerry Nogelo, Janice Flock.



Walter Kraslawsky  
(continued on next page)

### Fleet Landing Celebrates National Croquet Day

(continued from preceding page)



Jerry Upson, Betty Renzi, Cory Saunders



Celebratory cake

### Galaxies at Johnson Hall

Text and photo by Bo Smith

Eddie Whisler, Director of the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium at the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) in Jacksonville, intrigued an audience of Fleet Landing residents at Johnson Hall on June 12. The combination of his storytelling abilities, a few props, and



our two screens effectively created a mini-planetarium experience. The theme was "Islands in the Sky," and the "islands" were galaxies: essentially pinwheels of stars, debris, and dust bound together by gravity. There are trillions of galaxies, and each is thousands of light years in diameter. Ours is the Milky Way, of which our solar system is a comparatively microscopic dot on an otherwise undistinguished

portion of the disk, about 25,000 light years from the center. I imagine most of us have no reference for such vastness.

The challenge for our speaker was to draw us into the story and make us want to know more, and also to implant enough information that we are not only awed by the incomprehensible vastness of the universe, but actually grasp some element of it. I felt that Whisler met that challenge. He used compelling photos and videos, a tape measure that lent tactile reality to great distances, and wove in stories about the history of astronomy and discussion of space and earthbound telescopes. I was inspired to learn more and came away with an elementary grasp of our universe as a web of interacting galaxies. Just don't ask me anything about spiral nebulae, or parsecs, or variable stars.

During the question and answer period, I asked why we are building new earthbound telescopes when we have space telescopes. The answer was that there was a need for both. Earthbound telescopes are much less expensive and can be easily repaired, but they are also subject to atmospheric distortions, and our atmosphere blocks most of the electromagnetic spectrum. Space telescopes, like the Webb telescope, are extremely expensive and difficult to build. If the Webb is damaged or malfunctions, it will be essentially impossible to repair. However, it provides access to the entire electromagnetic spectrum and produces much sharper images than its earthbound cousins.

### Feathered Visitor

Driver Rob Friedman got these nice shots of a red-shouldered hawk perched by Fleet Landing's buses.



### In Memoriam

**Corky Borders**  
1935-2024  
**Phil Martin**  
1930-2024

**Dave Lynch**  
1943-2024  
**Betsy Potter**  
1932-2024

## St. Augustine History, Mystery, and Crime Walking Tour

By Mary Durkin

Photos by Mary Durkin and Mary Faria



Left: Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph.  
Right: Plaza de la Constitución.

On June 4, twenty Fleet Landers bused down to St. Augustine for a different kind of tour. Meeting us near the Lightner Museum, our tour guide, Kathy, explained that we would be walking to scenes of murder and mayhem and intolerance and bigotry.

Pedro Menéndez was a Spanish sea captain who set foot on St. Augustine in 1565 and declared the territory for Felipe II, King of Spain. The king had directed Menéndez to get rid of the French, who were nearby in Fort Caroline, and to convert settlers to Catholicism. Menéndez overcame the French in two battles, having 132 men executed after one, and 200 executed after the other. Thus, as told to us by Kathy, murder and mayhem opened the history of St. Augustine.

We then walked to the former home (now a museum) of Robert Hayling in Lincolnville, the first area established by freed slaves after the Civil War. Hayling was a dentist by profession and very active in civil rights actions of the 1960's, leading protests and sit-ins. He was kidnapped by the Ku Klux Klan in 1963, severely beaten, and narrowly escaped death. Many credit the events of St. Augustine's civil rights movement with helping to bring about the signing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

Our next stop was the beautiful grounds of the Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who ran a school for Negro children in the early 1900's. In 1916, the Florida legislature passed a law prohibiting white women from teaching Negro children in schools. The governor ordered the arrest of three Sisters of St. Joseph, but St. Augustine Bishop Michael Joseph Curley fought the arrest and got public support for their release. The judge in the case dropped the charges, ruling the law did not apply in parochial schools.

On to Marine Street, in an upscale neighborhood, for the scene of the 1974 murder of Athalia Lindsley, the wife of Mayor John Lindsley. Athalia was an outspoken woman, who had a feud going with her neighbor, Alan Stanford, a county commissioner who she claimed threatened her. Late one night outside her home, she was found in a pool of blood with nine machete wounds to her head and body. Police were called, and to keep the fashionable neighborhood tidy, hosed down the blood-soaked scene. Stanford was arrested and tried, but got off. Critics accused the police of botching the investigation. Later that year, Athalia's friend, Frances Bemis, was found with her skull crushed by a cinder block. Bemis was writing a book about Athalia's murder, and it is suspected that that was the motive behind her attack. Her murder, like Athalia's, was never solved.

From there, we walked to the Plaza de la Constitución, which was the scene of many executions through the early years of St. Augustine, when battles were being fought against the British, French, and pirates. One pirate who was captured in 1684 and sentenced to be garroted was Andrew Ranson, an English-

*(continued on next page)*

## St. Augustine History, Mystery, and Crime Walking Tour

(continued from preceding page)

man. Death by garroting was the norm for the Spanish. On the sixth turn of the rope, Ranson collapsed and on the next turn, the rope snapped. The Franciscan friars watching nearby saw that Ranson was holding a rosary in his hand, declared it a miracle, and saved his life. After he was freed, Ranson went on to serve in the Castillo de San Marcos to fight against other invaders.

Our group went on to a nearby restaurant for lunch and conversation about all the history, both pleasant and dark, that makes a visit to St. Augustine a memorable adventure.

## Fleet Classics Concert

By Enith Vardaman



The June 6 Fleet Classics concert took place on the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and the ensemble's musicians dedicated their program to those who gave their lives on that day.

Julia Pet-Armacost (flute and piccolo), Bunky Johnson (clarinet), Charles Winton (French horn), Karen Sturtevant (piano), De An Winton (alto saxophone), Eunice Rogerson (soprano saxophone), and Bob Armacost (12-string guitar) took the Johnson Hall audience chronologically through four eras of classical music: baroque, classical, romantic, and modern. Pet-Armacost provided information about these eras and about each composer and the work performed. Composers included Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Offenbach, Debussy, and more.

The group's performance of the pieces chosen for the concert often featured a more prominent role for one or more of the musicians. In addition, Sturtevant's solo performance of Beethoven's "Für Elise" was a highlight of the program. The unique feature of this concert was the "operatic sing-along." Bob Armacost sang "Woman Is Fickle" from Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Pet-Armacost sang "Musetta's Waltz" from Puccini's *La bohème*. The words were displayed on the screens so that the audience could sing along, but it seemed that few, if any, felt able to do so. However, those present happily joined in singing familiar words set to the melody of the ballet, "Dance of the Hours," from Amilcare Ponchielli's opera, *La Gioconda*. Clearly, many

remembered Allan Sherman's "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" ("A Letter From Camp").

This was the last 2024 performance by Fleet Classics, as preparations for The Follies are now underway.

## League of Women Voters News: Closed Primaries in Florida— Attention No Party Affiliation Voters

By Frances Jones

For residents who are new to Florida, our August primary election is closed. That means that only voters registered as Republicans or Democrats may vote in that party's primary election.

You can change your party affiliation from no party affiliation (NPA) to one of the two major parties by submitting an updated Voter Registration Application. It must be in 29 days before an election. Primary election day is August 20, and the deadline to change your party affiliation is July 22.

If you change your party affiliation to Republican or Democrat, then immediately after the primary, you can change back to your NPA preference.

You may submit a paper Voter Registration Application or go to [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov) and select "Register or Update" to change your political party affiliation.

### Sustainability Tips:

Avoid using plastic. Go shopping with a reusable tote for loading your purchases. Keep one or two in the trunk of your car so that they are always available. Most store-supplied plastic bags end up in landfills.

## Summer Solstice Celebration

By Victoria Freeman; photo by Cynthia Graham

The June 20 summer solstice was celebrated at Fleet Landing with a group walk at the labyrinth in the Therapy Garden. Twenty residents walked to the music of handpans. The Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) food bank benefited from the event because participants were requested to bring donations.



The handpan musicians

### FANG Tour

By Nancy Russell

Photos by Mary Faria, Nancy Russell, and Jackie Smith



On June 14, a coach load of Fleet Landing residents visited the Florida Air National Guard (FANG) base next to Jacksonville International Airport. It was FANG Day, and we were not the only group in attendance. There were static displays set up to show the capabilities of the 125th Fighter Wing based there as well as the other responsibilities of the Guard, such as explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), communications, civil engineering, and search, rescue, and recovery.

We were able to meet with Guard personnel and talk to them about their responsibilities. Some of us learned what happens when a pilot has to eject from a plane, and how each part of the ejection system functions in a specific order. Did you know a large tanker supplies only 4-5 minutes of water supply for firefighting, or that the civil engineers pre-position for hurricanes, as they are the ones who open the roads for the first-responders to travel into the affected area? The protective coverings the EOD personnel and those going into contaminated environments have to wear are very hot!

After touring the displays, we met with Deputy Commander Lieutenant Colonel Simeon who gave us a talk about the many capabilities of the Florida Air National Guard. He highlighted an operation on the Texas/Mexico border where the engineers helped clear brush and hiding places drug smugglers had been using. We also learned about Starbase, a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program for fifth grade students from Title 1 schools in Duval County. It uses two classrooms on the base, and tries to show students some of the many career fields available to them. Students attend for one week. There are also Starbase summer camps. (The author's daughter, a teacher in Duval County, has attended the Starbase program with her students and thinks highly of it.)

As we were leaving, we saw the roof of the simulator building being constructed for training pilots on the new generation of jets that will be operational here in 2027. All in all, it was a very educational day even for those with some military background!



*Dante Capurro stands next to an F-15 Pratt Whitney engine. He spent much of his career working on these engines.*



*Left: Carmenza Stephenson (l) and Jackie Smith pose with the cumbersome, but effective, suit that protects guardsmen from explosives. Nancy Sander in Guard gear.*

## Army Birthday Celebration

On June 14, residents gathered on the Flag Plaza for a flag raising ceremony in honor of the 249th birthday of the US Army. The United States flag, the flag of Florida, and the Army flag were displayed, and this is one of the days when the POW/MIA flag can be flown. As usual, Dining Services provided tasty refreshments.



## Bridge News

By CeCe Lichtenstein

Fleet Landing has sanctioned duplicate bridge games. This means you can get masterpoints when you play. The game times are every Monday starting at 12:30 pm in the Windward Commons second floor classroom. There is a \$2 charge per person that pays for the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) sanction fee. Dottie Mann is the organizer of this game. Her phone number is (904) 249-5216. Only Fleet Landing residents or Atlantic Club members can participate, but any level of player is welcome.

There is also a first Saturday of the month game that charges \$5 per person. This defrays the cost of the ACBL sanction as well as the cost for an outside ACBL-certified director. This game starts at 12:30 pm, also in the Windward Commons second floor classroom. The organizer for this game is Rona Brenner, whose phone number is (904) 853-6233.

As mentioned above, playing bridge in a sanctioned game awards masterpoints by the American Contract Bridge League, ACBL. A person starts with zero points and gradually moves up in the ranks. About every three months, ACBL publishes lists of those who have advanced in the ranks. Fleet Landing has a relatively small club, many of whose members have been playing for many years. However, we do have a few who have advanced: Richard and Susan Titus became Club Masters, Gloria Sevilla reached Silver Master, and new resident Ed Berg achieved Ruby Master. As one begins, the points accumulated are earned at the club. At some point, a player must compete in games that award higher graded points.

The Tituses have a friendly duplicate bridge game on Wednesday afternoons in the Annex. The game is not sanctioned by ACBL, but follows its procedures and guidelines without the formality of a director. The purpose of the game is to allow players of all levels to enjoy playing duplicate in a relaxed atmosphere. It is intended to be fun and good practice. The game time is 1 pm, and there is no fee. Richard's phone number is (904) 203-2348.

To come to any of these games, it is best to call in advance and preferably have a partner.

## UNF Botanical Garden Tour

Text and photos by Mary Durkin



The UNF Botanical Garden consists of 16 primary gardens encompassing 100 of the University of North Florida's 1,600-acre campus. The Garden's mission is to foster environmental conservation, sustainability, and biodiversity. On June 19, Rhonda Gracie, UNF's horticulturist and landscape designer, took a group of Fleet Landers through a few of them.

The Bioswale Garden is a low-tech way of capturing water. A bioswale is a channel filled with gravel and vegetation to increase groundwater and reduce storm runoff. The nearby ground cover with yellow flowers was called "Cowboy" peanut. Gracie picked a few flowers for us to taste, and, sure enough, they tasted like peanuts.

The Native Garden has a diversity of trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, such as firebush, Indian pinks, and Turk's caps, which attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. Native plants save water, require no pesticides, and help conserve natural resources.

The Peace Garden is in a plaza with statues of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. anchoring each end. Students can linger at the tables provided and enjoy olive trees, rosemary, and lilies, all of which are symbolic plants of peace.

The most fascinating to us was The Bamboo Garden. Bamboo is an important crop because it produces more oxygen and cleans the air more than trees, and it is highly sustainable and renewable. Gracie instructed us to hold our ear up to the bamboo, where we heard everything from a dripping faucet to a rushing river. What we heard was the vascular system of the bamboo, taking water from its roots to redistribute and grow. Each bamboo had a unique sound. This garden was where Gracie served us some refreshments: teas made from hibiscus, cranberry, and lemongrass, and cookies decorated with rosemary.

The Healing Garden is designed to provide a calming atmosphere, where one can smell the fragrance of a variety of roses while walking the nearby labyrinth. Gracie noted that being in a garden was known to lower the heart rate. Nearby is the Bee Patch, with bees painted by students and a cluster of hammocks hung under a group of shading trees, all providing a tranquil rest area.

We all felt that the UNF Botanical Garden was worth further exploration.

The group went on to lunch at Chuy's restaurant at the St. Johns Town Center, where we were so well behaved the manager gave us free desserts of churros and tres leches cakes.



*Tasting "Cowboy" peanut*



*Left: Peace Garden. Right: Bamboo Garden.*



*Healing Garden*

### FleetHearts Make a Difference

By Judy Poppell; photos by Nancy Carter



*Sampling of items collected for care packages for deployed troops*



*All the bags of donations lined up before they were loaded into cars to taken to be packed into boxes. Often a bag holds donations from multiple residents.*

FleetHearts members have been busy fulfilling their commitment to service. Julie Rochelle headed up donations to the ARC Village annual garage sale, which resulted in helping them raise twice as much money as from last year’s event. Thank you to all who participated.

Mary Kay Ormsby and Karen Habell created beautiful patriotic-themed centerpieces for the dining tables at Leeward, North Point, and Derfer. The lovely red, white, and blue arrangements were used to make the July 4th holiday more festive for the residents there.

Nancy Carter coordinated the collection of items for packages that will be sent to our deployed troops. The packages contain personal care items, snack foods, games, and reading materials to show support for our troops. Besides the physical items collected, FleetHearts also received cash donations to help pay for postage to mail the boxes. Shipping for each box is about \$28.

FleetHearts will also be participating in the annual packing of back-to-school supplies for the children of Fleet Landing staff members.

Karen Habell will be coordinating our partnership with Anchor Academy Elementary School, a nearby Duval County Public School, for the coming school year. Plans are already underway with the school’s principal to address identified needs and create opportunities for Fleet Landing residents who wish to volunteer at the school. Be on the lookout for more information throughout the summer.

FleetHearts meets on the first Thursday of each month in The Retreat at noon. We welcome new members to join us. For more information, contact Judy Poppell or Jackie Smith.

### Independence Day Decorations

The next issue of *FLEET BEAT* will feature a recap of Fleet Landing’s Independence Day events. As always, however, residents got an early start on the celebration with patriotic-themed decorations.

