



# FLEET BEAT

VOL. 33 No. 9

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

November 2024

## The 2025 Budget Explained

By Enith Vardaman



LtoR: Ari Jolly, Cynthia Hack, Josh Ashby



Mary Clark, Lindsay Norman, Howard Wanamaker



Bill Struck, Wayne Galloway, Kathy Long

The "Annual Budget Presentation" drew a large number of residents to Johnson Hall on October 23.

The presentation was preceded by an hour during which residents and members of the Board of Directors had an opportunity to mingle. (See article on page 13.)

Executive Director Josh Ashby introduced Ari Jolly, who chairs Fleet Landing's Board of Directors. Jolly is Expert Counsel for Florida Blue. She has been an officer in the US Navy. She has a strong commitment to the Jacksonville community, as evidenced by her history of leadership of several area boards. She is the JAX Chamber chair-elect.

Jolly had words of praise for the collaborative nature of Fleet Landing's Board of Directors. She asked each of the board members who were able to be present to introduce themselves. It was clear that Bill Struck (his term is expiring in January, and he and his

*(continued on page 17)*

## The 2024 Fleet Landing Follies Present: A Time Travel Adventure

By Isobel Spink



Bob Armacost and Julia Pet-Armacost

Hard work pays off, and the Follies certainly proved that to be true. Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost, the staunch backbones of this show, welcomed a full house at the three performances (October 14, 15, and 16) by first paying tribute to residents who were active in the Follies in years past: John Johnson, Betty Burnham, and Ray and Marion Boyd (directors/leaders) and Gwen Cordes, Andrea Davis, Larry Rose, and Kurt Medina (performers/cast who have passed away).

The full cast marched in, and soon we were off on a trip with Sue Myers (the Mad Scientist) and Joe Ruthenberg (the first of her three assistants) in their time machine. From well-costumed cave people in 4000 BC to space-suited denizens of 2124 Planet Nocatee, the entire trip was awesome.

Huge kudos to the Fleet Landing Follies Band, which, led by Karen Sturtevant, played throughout the 90-minute extravaganza; to the hard-working directors, (the Armacosts, plus Chet Davis, Sue Myers, Dian Russell, and Mary Steinke); to the crew (stage, sound, lighting, video, and more) who made everything work so well; and to the ushers who steered the Johnson Hall attendees, offered programs, and parked the walkers.

Dozens of talented singers and dancers led us through the 1600's to 2124 with spectacular costumes, dances, songs, and skits. The Appalachian dulcimer band, the 1974 Las Vegas shows, the Summer Olympics in South Korea, and the sailors and pirates from 1670 were some of my favorites. All the costumes

*(continued on page 21)*

### October Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

Residents' Council President Bob Peterson convened the October 15 council meeting in Johnson Hall. He spoke about the risks of falling and cited several precautions to help avoid it. He introduced residents Kathy and Walter Kraslawsky, now in their third year of administering our highly successful participation in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. They reviewed procedures for this year's campaign, which will be conducted December 2 to 20.

Management Review. Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss reviewed the saga of upgrading Lake View as well as the great pleasure noted in its completion. He also presented a comprehensive review of campus projects recently completed, in progress, or planned.

Council Reports.

Vice President. Carol Smith, following up on Peterson's discussion about falls, noted that purchasing a pendant from Safety and Security gives access to that department 24/7 in the event of a fall. She also reviewed plans for our annual Veterans Day observance, soliciting uniformed photos of residents.

Treasurer. Lynette Beitz affirmed the solid state of Fleet Landing's finances. (For details about finances, see "Annual Budget Presentation" on page 1 and "Coffee and Conversation With Josh" on page 19.) She also noted that we were about one third of the way toward our goal of \$825,000 for this year's Residents' Gift Fund.

Marketing and Human Resources. Ernie Bio introduced the Campus Leader of September as Connie Wheat, who has been with Fleet Landing for over 20 years and was recently promoted to Manager of Sales and Marketing. The Staff Member of the month for September was Margaret Carr, who has taken on more leadership and responsibility during transitions in the Wellness Department. The staffing level is now at 95 percent, with 15 new hires in September. Training in English as a second language is now being offered on campus for some employees. Lobster Tales submitted in September numbered 162, and Troy Reeg of Safety and Security was the staff member "caught making a difference." Year-to-date sales are over \$12.6 million, with 31 closed contracts. Atlantic Club membership stands at 604, and a recent Atlantic Club showcase event was aided by resident Ambassadors. An Assisted Living Neighborhood Sip and Stroll was scheduled for Leeward Manor on November 13 from 2 to 4 pm.

Wellness & Transportation. Ken Hollinga reviewed events scheduled through the rest of October and much of November. He noted that Nordic walking was back on the fitness schedule and that the number of group exercise check-ins at the Fitness Center since January numbered an impressive 24,606. He also described Fleet Landing's ride services, offered by appointment only and limited by driver and vehicle availability. Rates

are competitive with taxi and Uber fares, but no tipping is allowed!

Health Services and Safety and Security. Judy Solano noted recent and upcoming healthcare presentations. In observance of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, she cited a list of best practices for individuals.

Dining Services and Housekeeping. Ann Bell provided a tour of recent improvements to the laundry facility, noting that staff, almost all of whom have been with Fleet Landing for many years, operate the laundry from 6 am to 11:30 pm daily.

Facilities. Stephen Dick reviewed the agenda of the September 24 quarterly meeting of management with resident zone representatives. The meeting included a discussion between experienced and new representatives of "how I do it."

Communications. Secretary Julia Pet-Armacost gave an overview of the 65 resident suggestions submitted this year, noting those that have been implemented; supported, but not yet implemented; not supported; and in staff review.

The next council meeting will be on November 19.

*Editor's note:* FLEET BEAT attempts to avoid repetition of information found elsewhere in this issue.

### Fleet Landing in the News

By Enith Vardaman

Resident Jackie Smith contributed to the "Letters to the Editor" column in the October 6 issue of *The Florida Times-Union*.

An article about the Fleet Landing Follies, accompanied by a large photo of the "Yankee Doodle Dandy" tap dancers, appeared in the October 17 issue of *The Beaches Leader*.

*(continued on next page)*

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Patricia Payne	Carole Watson

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. A complete run of back issues can be found in the Dinda Library.*

## Fleet Landing in the News

(continued from preceding page)

Residents Fran and Pete Sheridan contributed to the “Letters to the Editor” column in the October 20 issue of *The Florida Times-Union*.

In the Sept./Oct. issue of *FLEET BEAT* (page 8), we reported that resident Toby Amour’s latest play, *Meltdown*, would have its world premiere at New York City’s Theater for the New City from October 12 to October 27. It has received glowing reviews, such as the one in the online publication *Opening Night Reviews*, where it was called a “timely and visionary play.”

## USS Lassen at Naval Station Mayport

The October 29 resident trip to Naval Station Mayport included a tour of the guided missile destroyer USS *Lassen*. Below is a selection of photos of the ship taken by *FLEET BEAT* photographer Dita Domonkos.



## October Board of Directors Meeting

By Enith Vardaman

*The Board of Directors October 2 meeting was held in closed session, with Vice-Chair Joe Mitrick presiding. The information below was supplied to FLEET BEAT by Executive Director Josh Ashby.*

Board of Directors Chair Ari Jolly was absent because she was in California to receive the Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member of the Year award from the American Public Transportation Association.

The Board of Directors established its schedule of 2025 meetings.

The board reviewed August financial results.

The board reviewed the proposed 2025 operating budget. The level of occupancy across the community would be consistent with the 2024 budget. Included in the budget was a 3.75 percent monthly service fee increase to meet the board’s financial goals. The budget was unanimously adopted.

The board discussed refinancing the 2013 bond to lower interest expense.

The board received an update on Nocatee. The first month of pre-sales was ahead of plan.

Two board members were elected to a new term. The term of Dr. Lindsay Norman, one of two resident voting members of the board, will expire at the end of December. Dr. Tom Gonwa was elected to replace him.

Ashby presented the semiannual report on Fleet Landing’s performance indicators of financial stewardship, resident satisfaction, and staff engagement, with each exceeding an established threshold,

## Joshua Ross’s Gift of Music

By Nancy Lundgren



Concert pianist Joshua Ross offered Fleet Landing residents over an hour of beautiful classical music on October 30 in Johnson Hall. He played Prelude Selections from Scriabin, Liszt’s “Au bord d’une source,” Chopin’s Nocturne No. 20 in C sharp minor and his Polonaise in F sharp minor, Haydn’s Sonata in

(continued on next page)

### Joshua Ross’s Gift of Music

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F major, Debussy’s Arabesque No. 1 in E major, and Brahms’s Rhapsody Op. 79, No. 2 in G minor.

Ross dedicated the concert to his cousin, who had recently passed away, and his performance reflected this special dedication. His focused playing spoke eloquently of his love of music which, in turn, gave the music meaning beyond the notes. Music, indeed, is a universal language that brings people together.

He promised an “encore” performance at Fleet Landing in the near future. Thanks to Walter and Cynthia Graham for their continued generosity in bringing concerts like these to Fleet Landing.

### Croquet Club News

By Ernie Bio; photos by Anna and Ernie Bio



*LtoR: Ernie Bio, John Neyhart, Geri Bramble, Janice Flock*



*Left: Eunice Rogerson, Betty Renzi, John Rogerson, and Bob Palfy.*

*Right: Maureen Linden, Carolyn Johnson, and Anna Bio.*



*Mixer participants*

At the Fleet Landing Croquet Club October 22 meeting, members elected these new officers for 2024 to 2025 and beyond: President, Ernie Bio; Vice President, John Rogerson; Treasurer, Bob Palfy; and Secretary, Eunice Rogerson. They replaced these outgoing officers: President John Neyhart, with four years of service and the 2022 and 2024 club championship; Treasurer Janice Flock, with three years of service; and Secretary Geri Bramble, with one year of service. The club members present showed their appreciation for the retiring officers’ service to the club. Neyhart will continue on the board as Special Advisor to Bio. He has transformed the croquet club with a high, dedicated level of management, enduring the upgrading of the court surface as well as improved wickets and miscellaneous playing equipment. The Fleet Landing administration has been highly supportive during the several years of renovation and routine year round maintenance. All of Neyhart's efforts have stimulated renewed interest in attracting new club members as well as reintroducing veteran players to a high-quality facility. Bio is optimistic and encouraged by the support he has been pledged from the current key club members, including Dick Titus, club webmaster/historian; Susan Titus, club celebratory events coordinator; Maureen Linden, club game events coordinator; Lori Doolittle, club liaison to Fleet Landing administration; and Miles Nogelo, club annual championship tournament event coordinator. Bio thanked all club members present for entrusting him with the management of the club going forward.

The croquet mixer events planned and managed by Linden will be played monthly on the second Saturday at 3:30 pm until the Spring Singles Championship Tournament takes place. Interest in these mixers is high, with about 18 players consistently participating. Neyhart will be conducting croquet game rules and skill review for all levels prior to the mixer matches. There are also playing times on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 9 am and on Saturdays at 10:30 am. There is no signup, and it is self managed. Both of these events are a good way for game skill practice and improvement without the competitive pressure of the annual championship tournament. Wearing whites is encouraged, and so is rest and hydration between matches in accord with each individual’s health status.

Fleet Landing residents who wish to explore club membership, regardless of athleticism and/or prior game skill knowledge, are welcome to contact any club member to express interest. Anna and Ernie Bio are available to conduct one demo lesson for each interested resident on Sunday evenings, by appointment only. Subsequent to the demo lesson, interested residents may decide if club membership is for them. Contact any club member for additional information.

# 2024 Residents' Gift Fund

## A Long-standing Fleet Landing Tradition

**\*\* A Year End Gift To Our Hourly Employees in Appreciation for All They Do for Us! \*\***

The goal this year is \$825,000.

To reach that level, the suggested contribution is \$1,325 to \$2,650 per Resident, \$2,650 to \$5,300 per couple.

If your finances won't permit you to give at this level – give what you can.  
If you have financial ability to do so, please give more than suggested (many do).

Collection boxes are conveniently located:

Concierge/Reception desks in Leeward/Derfer, North Point, Windward, Coleman, and as always the Social Mail Box area.

Make check payable to "Residents' Gift Fund."

***If you haven't contributed yet, Now's the time. We're in the home stretch.***

This year's drive will end November 22 in time to distribute monetary gifts at the employees' annual holiday party, but late contributions are welcome. They may be needed for this year's Gift Fund and otherwise will apply to next's.

Each employee's gift is based on non-overtime hours actually worked at Fleet Landing and only current employees qualify.

Your gift is both voluntary and confidential. Gifts are managed by the Residents' Council.  
They are collected independent of Fleet Landing operations and so are not tax deductible.

### Fleet Hearts Is on a Roll

By Judy Poppell and Carol Smith  
Photos by Carol Smith and Vicki Coward



*Left: A Fleet Landing resident's car with its decorated trunk loaded with treats.*

*Right: Julie Rochelle (l) and Mary Kay Ormsby.*



A wide variety of service opportunities are on the schedule for Fleet Hearts volunteers. Fleet Hearts members continue to make a difference in our Fleet Landing community and the greater community as well. Members identify the various projects in which they want to participate and sign up as appropriate. As we approach the holiday season, there are many possible opportunities to serve.

On Monday, October 14, Fleet Hearts volunteers assisted Brittany Keenom, Education and Programs Manager in Health Services, by pushing wheelchair-bound residents from the Fleet Landing healthcare facilities to Johnson Hall for the Follies matinee performance. With the help of our volunteers, many more of these residents were able to enjoy the Follies this year.

Friday, October 18, found eight members of Fleet Hearts loading four bins of candy and other treats contributed by Fleet Landing residents, into two vehicles bound for The Arc Jacksonville Village. The occasion was "Trunk or Treat" for residents of the Village, an affordable, independent-living neighborhood for adults with intellectual and developmental differences. Julie Rochelle headed up this effort.

After decorating the open trunks of their cars, Fleet Landing folks donned their own costumes, loaded bags of treats, and awaited the trick or treaters. Sounds of "trick or treat" and "thank you" filled the air as a vast array of costumes paraded by the cars. In addition to the Fleet Landing contingent, there were over 30 decorated cars and trucks of enthusiastic volunteers

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### Fleet Hearts Is on a Roll

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participating in the Halloween spirit.

Fleet Hearts members were decked out in Halloween costumes for the October 31 “New Resident Mixer & Costume Contest.” Following the party, Fleet Hearts members helped spread Halloween joy at the Happy Hour at North Point and at Leeward Manor.

Nancy Carter led the Fleet Hearts project to send holiday greetings and spread cheer to veterans who are in hospice care. This is part of a national effort by the Veteran’s Last Patrol organization. Fleet Hearts members made cards and wrote holiday greetings to the vets, which Carter then forwarded to the appropriate contact.

Kay Craft announced that we had 120 holiday tree sponsors for the “Decorate and Donate” project. Sponsors will decorate their trees on Monday, December 2, in Johnson Hall. The decorated trees will be distributed to residents in the Fleet Landing healthcare facilities.

Fleet Hearts meets on the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon in The Retreat in the Main Street dining building. We welcome the participation of all Fleet Landing residents who are interested in opportunities to serve. For more information, contact Judy Poppell or Jackie Smith.

### Peace and Love in Johnson Hall

By Victoria Freeman



The Cloud 9 Band used live music to turn back the clock at the Peace, Love, and Rock ‘n’ Roll Concert on October 4. Living up to their reputation as Jacksonville’s premier local band, the talented three performers made the ‘60s live again in the music of Elvis, the Beatles, Buddy Holly, Mick Jagger and other icons of the era. The opening chords of “Twist and Shout” packed the dance floor.

Costumes were encouraged, and they appeared in the form of feathers, headbands, glitter makeup, and black light necklaces offered by Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria. There was also an amazing dessert tray loaded with sugar cookies and petite pineapple cakes. The bar cart offered spirits both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

For several members of the audience, this was the first concert they had attended since moving to Fleet

Landing. Reva Bond said, “It was an amazing evening.” Judy Hinton agreed. For folks who have attended many Fleet Landing concerts, the rating was equally positive. Julia Pet-Armacost rated the performers’ musicianship “excellent,” while Bob Armacost said, “Wonderful oldies.”

When the band closed with “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction,” it wasn’t speaking for its audience, most of whom were satisfied they had spent a memorable musical evening in Johnson Hall.

### Our Sun and Other Stars

By Bo Smith

I have always felt that learning something new was a measure of a good day. By that measure, a presentation by Eddie Whisler, Director of the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium at Jacksonville’s Museum of Science and History (MOSH) helps make it a good day. He spoke to us in Johnson Hall on October 23. His subject, entitled “Sparks,” was our sun and the stars.



Here’s a quick synopsis of what I learned. Our sun is a medium-sized star about a million times larger than Earth. It is one of about 200 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way, a medium sized galaxy among hundreds of billions of galaxies in the universe. I’ll try not to use any more huge numbers. Let’s agree that the total number of stars is incredibly large. With the naked eye, we can only see some of the stars in our own galaxy and a blur of a few nearby galaxies that we erroneously assume are separate stars. Stars form in cold clouds of dust made mostly of hydrogen. The particles coalesce and attract and grow until gravity causes them to collapse. Resulting gravitational pressures produce tremendous heat, causing the fusion of hydrogen atoms, creating helium and a great amount of energy. Most of the elements in the universe (and on Earth) were created from nuclear fusion in stars. Stars come in many sizes and configurations, and they exist until they use up their hydrogen, their fuel. The bigger the star the shorter its life span. Our sun is a medium sized star and is about halfway through a projected 10-billion-year existence. When I feel self-important, I need to remind myself that I’m just a speck on a speck in a speck—“Dust thou art and to dust ye shall return.”

Whisler is an engaging and animated speaker. He brings the audience into the seemingly incomprehensible universe using transfixing graphics, storytelling and his personal excitement about the subject. A measure of audience appreciation was that after a one-hour presentation, many stuck around for another 40 minutes of questions and answers. I look forward to his presentations in the future.

### Military Ball 2024

By Carolyn Stoner

Photos by Ed Hollender, Ann Bell, and Carolyn Stoner



Johnson Hall welcomed guests to the 13th annual Military Ball on October 25. It was a night filled with glitz and glamour and a deep sense of military honor as ladies sparkled in glittering gems alongside proud gentlemen in neatly pressed uniforms representing the various service branches.

The event was organized by a dedicated committee led by Sharyn Jenkins (Air Force). The other members were Dick Beltson (Army), Bob Springer (Marine Corps), Bunky Johnson (Navy), and Bob Armacost (Coast Guard). The Fleet Landing staff support team was made up of Wellness Services Director Sue Dukes, Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria, Transportation Manager Brandon Levy, Food and Beverage Director Perry Brown, Executive Chef Chris Gotschall, and Dining Services Manager Rachel Carmack.

The schedule of events included a welcome by Jenkins, a discussion of the Missing Person Table by Bunky Johnson, the National Anthem, and an invocation by the Rev. Martha O'Reilly. New this year was the recognition of 74 military spouses. They were honored with a coin presented by Beltson on behalf of the Fleet Landing-based Historic Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers of America Association. Dinner and dancing followed.

The beautiful table arrangements were designed by Kay Craft and her daughter, along with Mary Kay Ormsby and Jenkins. Each arrangement contained a flag representing a branch of the military with coordinated red, white, and blue bows.

Special thanks to the dining and food service teams who served the 152 attendees with outstanding food and impeccable service. Their hard work and dedication made the evening a true success.

After dinner, The Robbie Eccles Trio performed the marching song of each military branch, followed by a rendition of "God Bless America." Dancing resumed,

and the musicians touched the hearts of many, playing memorable tunes that brought back fond memories of younger days. Adding to the festivities, the service staff delighted guests with a master class in modern dance. Some of the more spirited residents joined in, keeping up with the lively music until nearly 9 pm.

The evening was a beautiful celebration of service, camaraderie, and cherished memories enjoyed by all in attendance.



*Left: Missing Person Table.  
Right: Sharyn and Syd Jenkins.*



*LtoR: Larry and Darby Johnson, Jim and Susan Dobson*



*Jim and Carolyn Katsikas, Jess and Sue Stewart*



*Neil and Jan Walsh, Gail Sharp and Bill Spicer  
(continued on next page)*

**Military Ball 2024**  
*(continued from preceding page)*



*These are the people who helped make the event such a success.*



*Josh and Stefani Ashby, Ernie and Anna Bio*



*Dede and Chris LeClaire, Jan and Tom Hilton*



*Tom and Linda Holloman, Mike and Chris Stortz*



*Eric and Phyllis Haeseler, Ken Peltier and Carol Neville*



*Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost, Mike and Martha Marchetti*



*Pat and Skip McAlexander, Carolyn Stoner and Sue Dukes*



*Brandon Levy, Leilani Roberts, Ed Hollender (on photography duty, but here seen in front of the camera)*



*Karen and Dick Sturtevant, Jerry and Mary Bowles*  
*(continued on next page)*

### Military Ball 2024

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*Buster and Judy Hagenbeck, Beryl and Carolyn Hubbard*



*Dory and Dick Beltson, Jon and Belinda Vrielink*



*Andrea and Ed Kennedy, Eileen and Giles Norrington*



*Imogen Coleman, Ernie Young, Joe Ruthenberg, and Frank Donnelly*

### US Navy Flag Raising

Residents gathered on the Flag Plaza on October 14 celebrated the 249th birthday of the US Navy with a traditional flag raising ceremony.



*Navy veterans and their spouses*



*Carole and Dick Terseck, John Rietveld and Estelle Davis*



*Robert Brown and Vicki Moon, Jean and Bill Query*



### Windward Commons Art Exhibit

The new exhibit in Windward Commons, which will be up until mid-January, features the work of 23 Fleet Landing artists, many of whom are displaying more than one work. *FLEET BEAT* photographer Ed Hollender had the challenge of photographing all the works and their accompanying labels. Below is a photo of one work by each artist.



Left: John Rogerson's "Fourth of July."  
Right: Barbara Milon's "Floral Paper Basket."



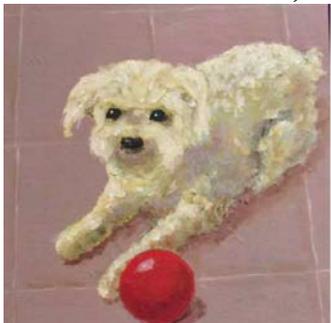
Left: Glenn Perry's "Safe Harbor, Sunday."  
Right: Richard Lundgren's "Resident Barred Owl."



Left: Craig Miller's "Horse Taxi — Palermo, Italy."  
Right: Nancy Lagoy's "Homage to Milne."



Left: Imogene Coleman's "Where Am I?"  
Right: Gayle Banks's "Le Moulin de Fourges Restaurant, Giverny, France."



Left: Bo Smith's "Riley."  
Right: Jackie Stack's "Roseate Spoonbill."



Left: Carl Tungli-Giese's "In the Shadows."  
Right: Frances Jones's "Old Rose."



Left: Ann Brodt's "Theotokos."  
Center: Sally Pitard's "Red House by the Sea."  
Right: Paula O'Bannon's "Rainbow Expresso."



Left: Lynn Blakemore's "Mellow Yellow."  
Right: Kristin Perry's "Through a Pizzeria Window."



Left: Tom Dames's "All Snug."  
Right: Julia Pet-Armacost's "Fall Colors."  
(continued on next page)

**Windward Commons Art Exhibit**

*(continued from preceding page)*



Left: Patricia Payne’s “Cosmic Destination.”  
Right: Susan Hubbard’s photograph “Red-bellied Woodpecker.”



Left: Carol Bowser’s “Cherry Blossom.”  
Right: John Hen’s “Geisha.”

**Halloween “Mix and Mingle”**

By Carol Smith

Photos by Dita Domonkos and Jackie Smith



Left: Sue Dukes and Al Capone, aka Randy McDonald.  
Right: This resident could not be identified—no photo in the directory.



Left: Judy and John DuBose.  
Right: Nancy and Larry Sander.



Sweet treats

The minute that Judy and John DuBose entered Johnson Hall on Halloween, it was clear they would be the best costume winners. While John walked along in his nightshirt looking like he had put in a hard night, Judy was dressed as a bedside table. Appropriately named “One Night Stand,” she sported a lampshade atop her head and the “stand” was littered with objects that suggested a lively time was had the night before.

The annual Halloween “Mix and Mingle” for new residents was a huge success, with most of the attendees in costume. There were numerous witches and other clever characters such as new Gemini chef (Paula O’Bannon) and Al Capone (Randy McDonald). Second place prize was awarded to Larry Sander who claimed to be Number 1 Dermatology Patient for 2024 and his wife, Nancy, as his Mohs surgeon and radiologist. Larry was convincing in his mask that came from his radiation treatments.

As always, there was an abundance of food and drink for everyone to enjoy. Pastry Chef Belle Camacho created themed sweet treats such as Monster Cookies and Pumpkin Cheesecake. New residents were introduced by Wellness Services Director Sue Dukes as their pictures appeared on the screens—assisting in identifying them, since several newcomers arrived in costume. It was clear that they were anxious to jump into the Fleet Landing Halloween experience.

### Traveling with the Stephensons

By Nancy Lundgren



*Jim Stephenson in Johnson Hall and Carmenza Stephenson during their journey*



*Small sample of the beautiful birds*



*Religious ceremony*



*Mayan ruins in Tikal National Park*

It's always fun to explore faraway places with Jim and Carmenza Stephenson. In Johnson Hall on October 7, Jim presented the second part of a photo journey through Guatemala and Belize. (See *FLEET BEAT*, August 2024, page 27, for an account of the first part.) This second part covered Tikal National Park in Guatemala and then Xunantunich, Mystic River, and Azure Del Mar in Belize.

Tikal, a pre-Columbian Mayan city in northern Guatemala, features pyramids surrounded by a rainforest with beautiful birds that include woodpeckers, warblers, motmots, tanagers, seedeaters, and several varieties of hummingbirds. Here, the Stephensons also witnessed a religious ceremony illustrating a merging of Mayan and Christian traditions.

The Stephensons traveled next to Xunantunich, another Mayan site with pyramids, and then on to Mystic River for more birdwatching. Jim's photos of the pyramids as well as the local birds were amazing. Their last stop was Azure Del Mar with its beachside activities. The Stephensons snorkeled at Laughing Bird Caye National Park where they swam among the many fish living in and around a coral reef that, unlike coral reefs elsewhere, has not yet been damaged by climate change.

For a final photo treat, Jim added photos from the couple's August trip to northern Michigan, where they visited Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore park with its colorful cliffs above Lake Superior.

### Jay Jernigan Garden Walk

By Victoria Freeman; photo by Isobel Spink



*Some of the tour participants*

Jay Jernigan, Maintenance Manager (Exterior), wove a complex tale of water and plants in his latest campus walking tour on October 8. This emphasis reflects the fact that 75 percent of Jernigan's time is spent on water-related business. Twenty-two residents learned about the Herculean job of keeping garages dry and roofs sealed. Water barrels hidden in the ground and labyrinthine plastic piping units were explained.

Jernigan led the group along Fleet Landing Boulevard, beginning at the 5300 area, to point out new guidelines for rehabilitation. When a new resident

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### Jay Jernigan Garden Walk

*(continued from preceding page)*

moves into a unit, all of the vegetation that touches the foundation is removed, and black liquid rubber is painted on the house to keep the foundation dry. New vegetation is then planted. No wisteria or creeping fig is allowed on the houses.

With almost the pride of a new parent, Jernigan pointed out thriving oakleaf hydrangeas and a row of coontie palms. He explained why certain trees such as Norfolk pines had to be removed and why other plants were not doing as well as expected.

He announced that the next tour would include Julie Rochelle’s garden and would cover spring plantings. His walking group gave him a enthusiastic ovation at the end of the tour.

### Resident and Board Social

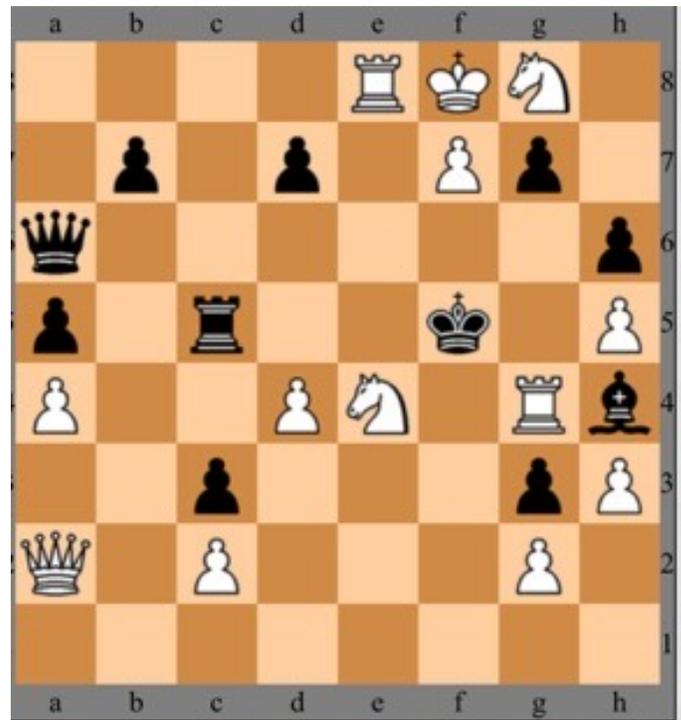
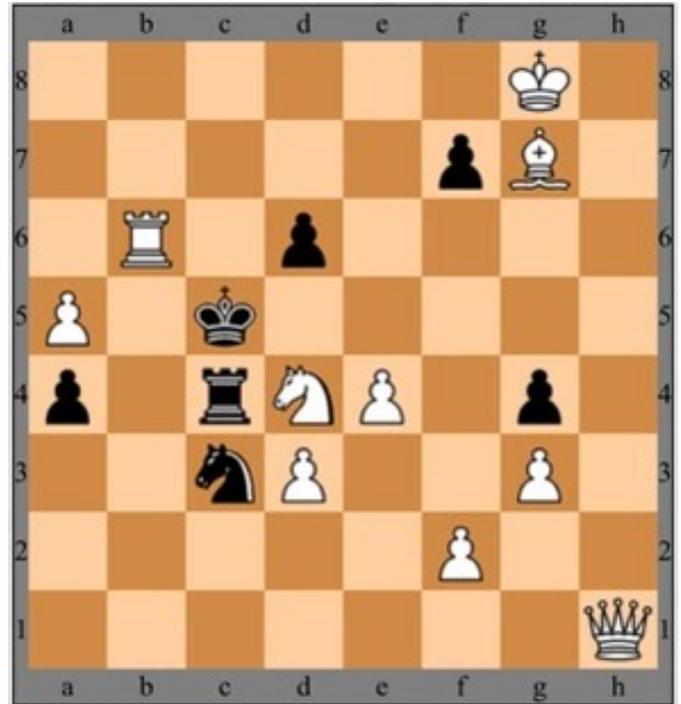
In the hour preceding the October 23 “Annual Budget Presentation,” residents and Board of Directors members mingled over refreshments in the area outside Johnson Hall.



### Chess Club News

By Richard Wong

The Chess Club meets every Tuesday, at 1-3 pm in the Windward Commons Lobby.



*White to move and mates in two for both puzzles.*

#### In Memoriam

Helene Murphy  
1928-2024

Virginia (Nuchi) Weart  
1924-2024

### Antarctic Expeditions

By Mary Durkin



*Left: Drake Shake. Right: Zodiac wet landing.*



*Hundred of thousands of king penguins*



*Iceberg A76a*



*McMurdo Station*



*LtoR: Vicki Reed, Gael Wager, Shann Purinton*



*Left: Chris and Ken DeVries. Right: Mike Purinton*



*Left: Dick Pritchard with his thermal jacket.*

*Right: Bob Neal.*

My interest was piqued when I read that a group of Fleet Landers would be giving a two-hour presentation on October 28 about their experiences traveling to the Antarctic. Why the mystery? No names—how many? Two hours—can I stay interested? I just had to go to find out.

There were eight chairs and the podium on stage at Johnson Hall. Vicki Reed was the main presenter, with Chris and Ken DeVries, Gael Wager, Mike and Shann Purinton, Bob Neal and Dick Pritchard as speakers, and Frank and Rae Donnelly, Paul and Maddy Mocko, and Katherine Harlan as non-speaking contributors. All had taken expeditions to Antarctica. Of the tourists, the Purintons were the earliest (2010) and Wager the most recent (2024). The much earlier experiences of Pritchard (two, the first beginning in 1969) and Neal (1991) were as military personnel.

Reed opened with a geography lesson on the conti-  
*(continued on next page)*

## Antarctic Expeditions

(continued from preceding page)

ment of Antarctica. It is land surrounded by water. It is not a country, but the US, Russia, and the United Kingdom have claimed territories, along with five other countries. Being in the Southern Hemisphere, the travel season is its summer of November-February. Average temperatures in January are 33-40 degrees, with weather conditions that can be highly variable from day to day.

Gael Wager was next up to show us how to get to Antarctica. Expeditions are mostly on small ships of 100-400 passengers, as there is a 500-capacity maximum. On-board teams include naturalists, geologists, photographers, and glaciologists, among others, giving lectures and laboratory tours. She included slides showing some of the specially-equipped ships offering expeditions. The passage from Cape Horn to the Antarctic Peninsula must go across the dreaded Drake Passage. It is considered one of the most treacherous voyages because the currents meet no resistance from land masses and waves can be 40 feet high, resulting in what photos showed of a Drake Lake versus a Drake Shake.

Reed returned with numerous slides of the fauna, which included penguins, many other birds, seals, dolphins, and whales. There were 17 slides of fauna, with multiple photos on each, showing the many different identifying markings of the various species. The slides showed the fauna nesting, preening, alone, or in groups of as many as hundreds of thousands (the king penguins), and they were all fascinating and entertaining.

Next up was Mike Purinton to show us various types of icebergs, with such labels as tabular, wedge, dome, and pinnacle. The largest iceberg ever was called A76, and it was the size of Rhode Island. It broke into three parts in 2021 and the largest piece, now called A76a, is 80-90 miles long and 16 miles wide.

Chris and Ken DeVries, who have been on two expeditions, have the experience to offer advice on clothing: Bring wool hats and underwear and lots of layers. Mukluk boots are provided because the only way onto the land or ice floes are on Zodiacs, and one must step into the water to get in/out of them. The many activities include Zodiac touring, hiking, kayaking, and in some places even camping overnight under the never-dark sky.

Reed gave a history of famous explorations to Antarctica. In 1911, Roald Amundsen was the first to reach the South Pole—just five weeks before Robert Scott. Ernest Shackleton, an officer on board the first of Scott's two expeditions, also led two expeditions. The second turned tragic and is the subject of the book and movie *Endurance*.

Shann Purinton showed how the need for protecting

this sensitive environment has increased. In the period 1994-2024, passenger counts rose from 8,100 to 80,250 and voyages, from 93 to 430. There are now three international agreements protecting Antarctica. Research stations have grown in number, with 55 countries now having stations. The US has three, the largest being McMurdo, established in 1956. Mike Purinton described protective measures taken when going ashore. Outer clothing is disinfected before and after shore excursions to prevent any diseases or invasive plant and animal species that would endanger the wildlife. Some activities are no longer permitted.

During his time in the Navy, Dick Pritchard was sent to McMurdo twice, in 1969 and 1970, as an expert on cold weather. He told the story of getting a thermal jacket in Christchurch, NZ, for use on his tour, and years later passing it on to his son, who was off to college in New England. His son saved the jacket and returned it to Pritchard for this presentation. He showed the audience his still-in-good-shape, 65-year-old jacket. In 1991, Bob Neal's Air Force service included flying from Christchurch to McMurdo Station, a 2,440 mile, 5-hour flight, to deliver materials for Operation Deep Freeze. He landed on 9-foot-thick ice at the station. Challenges of taking off and landing at McMurdo included penguins on the runway.

The entertaining presentation came to an end, and the audience was greatly appreciative of the organization and effort that went into creating the presentation. All those involved were surrounded by their friends from the audience with comments and thanks for the interesting and informative show.

*Addendum:* Information supplied by Shann Purinton:



Reed invited the contributors to her apartment after the presentation. They stopped en route to see a print displayed outside Pritchard's apartment (3109). The work was created in England from a drawing by an early explorer on an Antarctic voyage aboard the ship depicted. For Pritchard, it is reminiscent of his two stints in Antarctica. The original of the print is in the Smithsonian.

### October WELLInspired Learning Series

By Mary Durkin



Ashley Cordero (l) and Deborah Gordon

Following the start of Medicare Open Enrollment in October, Ashley Cordero, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Administrator, and Deborah Gordon, Home Health Administrator and Director of Rehabilitation, spoke in Johnson Hall on October 16 about Medicare updates and changes for 2025. According to the official US government handbook, "Medicare and You 2025," these are the changes that may affect Fleet Landing residents: yearly out-of-pocket drug costs (Part D) capped at \$2,000, expanded coverage of mental health care, and additional caregiver support, including training.

The review of the differences between Original Medicare Part A and Part B versus a Medicare Advantage plan side by side came straight from "Medicare and You 2025." Many residents will have received this publication, and it is also available at [medicare.gov/publications](https://www.medicare.gov/publications) to download as a pdf file. To summarize generally, with Original Medicare, one can use any hospital or doctor in the US, there is no need for referrals, and a Part D drug plan with a premium can be added. With a Medicare Advantage plan, only doctors and providers within that plan's network are covered, a referral is needed for specialists, it may include coverage of vision/hearing/dental, can include a prescription drug plan, and varies by location.

The presentation next covered medical care available at Fleet Landing, including skilled nursing, assisted living, home healthcare, rehab, and outpatient services. Coverage varies by plan and reaching out to your provider for further information is advisable.

When asked if Fleet Landing accepts Medicare Advantage plans, Gordon replied that all insurance plans are accepted. However, Original Medicare is standardized for all the needs shown in the presentation, whereas Medicare Advantage plans are different from each provider, require authorizations that can take time to receive, and can dictate length of stay and discharge dates.

Keep your eye on the "WELLInspired Learning Series" under "Fleet Landing Presentations" on Fleet Link for more information on Medicare Open Enrollment.

### Halloween Decorations

As these photos taken by FLEET BEAT photographer Ann Bell show, Fleet Landing residents do not pass up an opportunity to decorate.



## The 2025 Budget Explained

*(continued from page 1)*

wife have just become Fleet Landing residents), Wayne Galloway, Mary Clark, Howard Wanamaker, Kathy Long, and Lindsay Norman bring a wide range of expertise to the board as well as a commitment to the welfare of Fleet Landing and its residents.

Ashby described the budgeting process, which begins in July with a forecast for the balance of the year and assumptions for the following year. No costs of the Nocatee project are included. Factors considered include occupancy by level of service, entrance fee receipts and refunds, investment income, quality and menu of services, and inflationary factors, with wages, supplies, and insurance currently having a significant impact. A first draft of the budget is produced using the assumptions and forecast. A second, more detailed draft, is produced by department managers based on an approved set of assumptions. A third, consolidated draft budget is separately reviewed by the administration. A final budget is formulated and presented to the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors for review. The Finance Committee recommends any adjustment in fees to the full board for consideration. The board makes fee adjustments when necessary to produce financial results consistent with the long-term financial goals of Fleet Landing.

Ashby noted that Florida law required residents to be provided information regarding expense increases when the monthly service fee increase exceeded the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Southern Region-Size A. The CPI Southern Region-Size A for the 12 months that ended September 30, 2024, was 2.1 percent. Fleet Landing provides this information even when the increase does not exceed the CPI.

Ashby described the four financial goals set by the board to ensure the long-term financial health of Fleet Landing:

- To achieve a net operating margin (resident revenue versus resident expense) at or above the 75th percentile for accredited continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). (a profitability measure)

- To maintain a total excess margin (all sources of revenue such as investment income) at or above the 50th percentile for accredited CCRCs. (a profitability measure)

- To maintain days cash on hand at or above the 50th percentile for accredited CCRCs. (a liquidity measure)

- To maintain a debt service coverage ratio at or above the 50th percentile for accredited CCRCs. (a capital structure measure)

The first two goals are leading indicators, while the second two are lagging indicators. Ashby stressed the importance of being alert to erosion in the leading indicators, which can be a sign of impending financial weakness, even when the lagging indicators are strong.

The four goals set by the board prevent Fleet Landing from ever being surprised about its financial condition.

Ashby cited three reasons why the goals were important:

- They ensure that Fleet Landing has adequate resources to provide contractually obligated services and care in the future. The cost of future services to the current resident population is \$289,119,249.

- They build cash reserves to protect Fleet Landing from an uncertain future, such as natural disasters, economic downturns, or, as recent experience has shown, once-in-a-lifetime global pandemics. Example: The operating loss of \$6.8 million in 2022 was funded with reserves, not with increased monthly service fees.

- They allow Fleet Landing to accumulate the required resources to be able to invest in the existing campus both now and in the future. Capital spending for the last ten years totaled \$106,676,000.

Controller Cynthia Hack presented the 2025 operating budget. She began by citing headlines about record or near-record salary budgets, wages, and employment levels that would provide context for this year's dramatic increase in payroll expenses. A pie chart showed the percentages of various categories in the 2025 expense budget of \$62,713,000. By far the largest percentage was allocated to the category of wages, payroll taxes, and benefits. Other categories included consumables, utilities, taxes and insurance, depreciation and amortization, interest, and repairs and maintenance. A second pie chart of the percentages of these categories in the 2024 budget showed that wages, payroll taxes, and benefits had grown from 43 percent to 45 percent of total budgeted expenses.

The 2025 increase in expenses totals \$1,900,000. Payroll expenses make up \$1,700,000 (88 percent) of this figure. Taxes and benefits account for 16 percent of payroll expenses; competitive wage adjustments, 19 percent; a 10.2 full-time equivalent employee increase, 44 percent; and normal wage increases, 30 percent. The other largest expense increase is for various aspects of maintenance (contract cleaning, golf cart lease, roof and gutter repairs, preventative and equipment maintenance, and H.V.A.C.), but at the much smaller figure of \$393,000.

The largest 2025 decrease in expenses (63 percent) is for property insurance. The initial cost in the 2024 budget was \$3,341,492, which would have meant a monthly surcharge of \$332. When that cost was reduced to \$2,284,000 in December 2023, the actual initial monthly surcharge per household was reduced to \$187. A further cost reduction to \$1,687,200 in May 2024 reduced the surcharge to its current level of \$123.

Turning to revenue, Hack discussed occupancy. Independent living, memory care, and skilled nursing are budgeted at the same level as in 2024, and assisted living is budgeted at a slightly lower level. The total number of people served per day is budgeted at 857, and unit sales

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## The 2025 Budget Explained

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are budgeted at 38.

A pie chart showed 2025 revenue sources, which are budgeted to total \$65,055,000. The largest income source is independent living (47 percent). Other sources are skilled nursing (9 percent), assisted living (12.5 percent), memory care (3 percent), home health (2.5 percent), amortized entrance fees (21 percent), investment and other (4 percent), and insurance surcharge (1 percent).

The monthly service fee for independent living and healthcare residents will increase by 3.75 percent. The property insurance surcharge will remain at \$123 per month. The surcharge is subject to change based on updated costs in the future. The search continues for less costly property insurance, and if it is found, the surcharge will be reduced again.

Hack reviewed monthly service fee increases over Fleet Landing's 35-year history. The average annual increase is 4.12 percent. When the surcharge is included the increase is 4.20 percent. For Fleet Landing, the cumulative annual increase for the last 10 years is 37 percent, which is below the 39.27 percent increase for nonprofit senior living.

In closing, Hack noted that 2025 revenues were budgeted 3.5 percent higher than 2024; expenses, 3.2 percent higher; and operating income, 12.7 percent higher. Of the board's goals described above, days cash on hand and the debt service coverage ratio will not be met by this budget.

*Editor's note:* The video recording of the presentation is available on Fleet Link under "Video Library" and then "Annual Budget Presentation." The slides from the presentation are available on Fleet Link under "Fleet Landing Presentations" and then "Annual Budget Presentation."

### Scott Brown on Beard Pulling

By Bo Smith and Ellie Smith



*La Dispute*



*More beard-pulling examples*

Scott Brown, Professor of Art History and Interim



Dean of Hicks Honor College at the University of North Florida, spoke at Johnson Hall on October 1. Brown is a noted art historian and a spellbinding lecturer. He is one of the few who could attract a crowd with a topic entitled "Of Beards and Bald Faces: Making Sense of Medieval Art in the Modern World." Medieval beard-pulling is the very definition of arcane, but he had no trouble holding our interest and showing us how to approach unfamiliar art.

Brown began by describing several pictures and showing how an art historian might interpret work from medieval Europe (approximately 500-1500 CE). In "La Dispute," we see two gentlemen pulling each other's beards. On both sides of these potbellied gents there are women trying to pull them apart. Easy interpretation: two guys fighting and concerned wives trying to stop them. On one side of the carving, not shown, there is a man cutting a tree, and on the opposite side, seriously maimed men. The dispute was about firewood, and the fight injured both men. The message may be, "Don't fight over trivial things." The other pictures above carry the same general message. Beard-pulling is fairly common in medieval art, and it usually indicates aggression. Beards were also symbols of masculinity, honor, oaths, and status, and some these meanings have carried to this day. Brown reminded us of the oath sworn by the Little Pig to the Big Bad Wolf, "...not by the hair on my chinny chin chin". He went on to discuss medieval depictions and meanings of facial hairlessness and baldness. Then as now, deviation from the norm in the grooming of one's head has cultural meaning.

Some time into his presentation, Brown turned the lecture into a discussion. Asking questions of the audience immediately engaged them, and it was clear that their curiosity had been piqued. Brown is a popular speaker on art history, and I expect that he'll be invited back. No matter how often you think about art, it will be an interesting hour, and you will come away with some unexpected insights. Give it a try.

## Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

By Enith Vardaman

On October 11, residents gathered in Johnson Hall for the final "Coffee and Conversation With Josh" of 2024.



Executive Director Josh Ashby began by displaying a chart of budget, 2024 average, and August 31, 2024, occupancy rates for independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing settings. Independent living remains at full occupancy, Nancy House occupancy is expected to rebound now that the renovation of common spaces is almost finished, and the utilization of skilled nursing continues to be successfully minimized to avoid the cost of hiring extra staff. On August 31, assisted living was below the

budgeted occupancy figure (89.6 percent versus 93.6 percent). Since January, there has been a lot of activity in assisted living: 65 admissions and 65 discharges. A return closer to the budgeted figure is anticipated.

Turning to revenue, expenses, and income, Ashby said that positive variances in two non-recurring items, investment income and unrestricted gift income, were the major contributors to the positive revenue variance of almost \$1.8 million. Without these two income sources, actual revenue would be \$133,122 below budget. Reduced property insurance expense accounted for \$117,000 of the positive expense variance of \$145,181. These distortions in revenue and expenses resulted in a positive variance in operating income of over \$1.9 million. With the distortions removed, actual operating income would be \$104,941 below budget.

Ashby concluded his discussion of Fleet Landing's finances by reporting that the lender-required debt service coverage ratio was well above requirement (2.66 versus 1.20), as was days cash on hand (428 versus 180). Fleet Landing's financial condition remains stable.

### Resident Survey Update

Ashby reported results of the most recent of the twice-yearly (March and August) resident satisfaction surveys. The survey of health services residents and family members was conducted from August 1 to 14, and the independent living resident survey was conducted from August 15 to 28. Of the 904 surveys distributed, 593 were returned. This response rate of 65.6 percent was significantly higher than the national average response rate of 43.6 percent.

Ashby reported Fleet Landing's net promoter score, which is derived from the survey question "How likely would you be to recommend this facility to your family and friends?" A net promoter score can range from -100 to 100. Above 0 is good; above 20, favorable; above 50, excellent; and above 80, world-class. The August 2024 score of 72.2 was at the higher end of the excellent range.

This was an increase over the August 2023 and March 2024 scores (68.5 and 66.8 respectively), which were also in the excellent range. A chart also showed the net promoter score broken down by level of living: independent living, 70.5; assisted living, 80.2; and skilled nursing, 75. By comparison, the score for Sunrise Senior Living (a for-profit operator of senior living communities) was -33; for Tesla, 31; and American Airlines, 3.

Ashby also provided a sample of comments reflecting successes and opportunities. Successes included praise for the staff and the care received at Fleet Landing. The opportunities mostly focused on dining.

Ashby explained how the survey feedback is used. It is reviewed by senior leaders, and it impacts management initiatives and resource allocation decisions. Departmental performance results are incorporated into leaders' performance evaluations. Results are reported to staff monthly and to the Board of Directors semiannually.

### Miscellaneous

• **Spinnaker Society Celebration.** This annual event will take place on December 2. Anyone interested in becoming a member can contact Charitable Gift Planning Director Kathy DeSiena.

• **Fleet Landing network intrusion.** On October 4, residents were notified by memorandum of a potential leak of personally identifiable information. Residents were encouraged to read it if they had not already done so. An ongoing investigation by cybersecurity experts is expected to be completed within two to four months. Formal notification of impacted residents will come via US Mail with an offer to assist in monitoring their credit. In the meantime, it is recommended that residents take the precaution of requesting a credit freeze from each of the three credit bureaus. The recommendation is to not respond in any fashion if contacted by the organization responsible for the intrusion. It is not necessary to forward any communication to Ashby.

• **Campus signage project.** The regulatory signage part of the project had begun, but it was temporarily halted by hurricanes Helene and Milton. The next phase will be wayfinding signage, to begin with mockups in November to fine-tune locations. Installation of all of the signage should be complete by early next year.

• **Fleet Landing Follies.** Ashby encouraged residents to attend what is always a fun event.

• **Annual Resident Budget Presentation and Board Social.** These two events were scheduled for October 23.

• **Lakeside apartment buildings interior refresh.** Studio 121 is providing services for this project. The new design scheme for the common spaces of the 2000 and 3000 buildings, which incorporated feedback from residents of those buildings, has been finalized. Work, which will involve painting, flooring, and minor electrical work, has begun in the 2000 Building, beginning on the

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### Executive Director’s Quarterly Briefing

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third floor. Completion of work on each floor is estimated to take two to three weeks. New furniture should be installed in December. Then work will begin in the 3000 Building. The design scheme phase for the 1000 and 4000 buildings began in July with a resident survey, followed by mid-August focus groups. Residents of those buildings have received a memo about meetings on October 31 and November 1 focusing on design boards and sample chairs.

**The Nancy House renovation.** Renovation of the common areas would be complete in October. A resident wishing to see the results should make an appointment with Senior Living Counselor Jill Pennington.

**Coleman Center renovation.** On the interior, there are punch list items and some work to be done in The Atlantic. An exterior project creating a pedestrian friendly and attractive path from the street to the pool (thus avoiding a view of the dumpsters) will begin soon.

**Campus roof replacement project.** Replacement of the 2000 Building roof will begin in January and should take about three months. Replacement of the 3000 Building roof would follow. Because air conditioning equipment is on the roof of the apartment buildings, this work cannot be done during summer/hurricane season. Replacement of the roofs of the 1000 and 4000 buildings will take place when the timing is appropriate. Also in development is a plan for replacement of the roofs of the original houses in 2025. Because no local contractor can handle a project of this scope, Fleet Landing is seeking a national contractor.

**Staff dining feedback program.** Management staff will dine at breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the various dining venues and provide feedback on the experience.

Pictures of the Ashby children are always fun, and this time, some were particularly amusing. Connor and Vivian are pictured on the left below. The other two pictures are from a YMCA daddy and daughter camping event, where face painting was one of the activities. Butterflies and flowers may have been popular among other participants at the event, but Ashby chose Joker, the villain of Batman fame—and then, Cosette, Connor’s twin sister, got her turn.



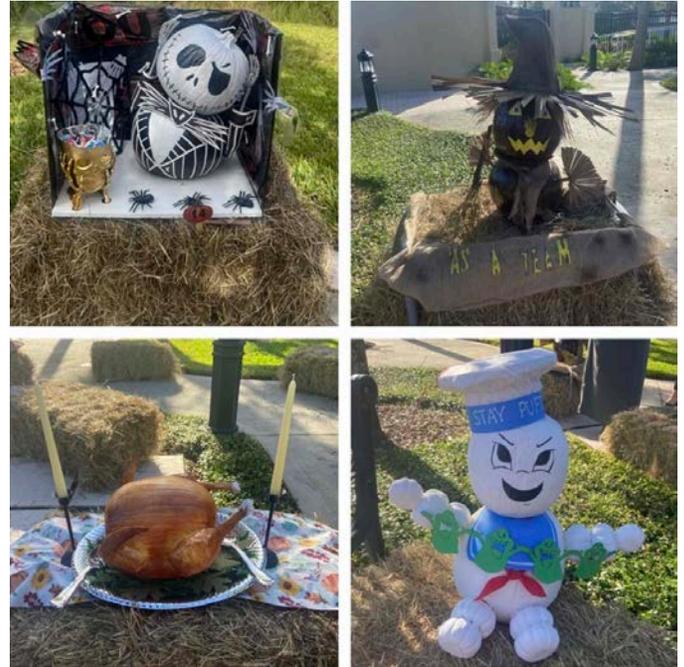
*Editor’s note:* A video of this presentation is available in “Video Library” on Fleet Link. The slides are available on Fleet Link at “Coffee and Conversation” under “Fleet Landing Presentations.”

### Staff Halloween Celebration

Fleet Landing staff got in on the Halloween fun with a pumpkin decorating contest and costume parade and contest. Below is a small selection of the imagination on display.

#### Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Photos by Rachel Leslie



#### Costume Contest and Parade

Photos by Jackie Smith and Enith Vardaman



### The 2024 Fleet Landing Follies Present: A Time Travel Adventure

*(continued from page 1)*

were spectacular, especially the Kung Fu Tai Chi Fan dancers. Connie Francis (Joyce Ezell) in 1959 Philadelphia and the Supremes (Julie McLaughlin) in 1964 brought down the house, as did Elvis (Bob Chrisman) in his stunning white suit. Other lead singers—supported by excellent backup singers—were also impressive: John Rietveld, Bob Huhta, and Beryl and Carolyn Hubbard. The unseen Announcer (Pete Lendrum) was heard at each transition to a new time.

The Mad Scientist twice had to replace her assistant—first with Jackie Smith and then with Ernie Bio. Pete Sheridan played us through Tin Pan Alley of 1915 with a piano ragtime piece. The flag-waving tappers, with one lone male, were splendid, as were the line dancers performing to the tune of Michael Jackson’s “Billie Jean.” Pet-Armacost brought us to the Titanic in 1912. Dan Barry shared his banjo prowess with other singers in 1869 Utah. Following the final act and a return to 2024 Atlantic Beach, the entire cast, crew, and audience sang as a curtain call “We Are Family,” which we certainly are.

All the volunteers for The Follies must audition, and the Armacosts put each performer in at least two scenes. Well over 100 residents made this Follies season one to remember. The indescribable work, planning, rehearsal time, and ingenuity was well rewarded, and those of us in the audience have the next Fleet Landing Follies forefront in our minds with great anticipation.



*Jackie Smith and Ernie Bio: Assistant two and three of the Mad Scientist*



*Fleet Landing Follies Band*



*“Another Op’nin’, Another Show”*



*Left: John Johnson. Right: Time Machine.*



*Mad Scientist Sue Myers with her first assistant, Joe Ruthenberg*



*4000 BC—Prehistoric Times  
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**The 2024 Fleet Landing Follies Present:  
A Time Travel Adventure**  
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*1938 Appalachia, West Virginia—Mountain Medley*



*1912 at Sea in the North Atlantic—Titanic*



*1915 Tin Pan Alley, New York City: ragtime piano, barbershop quartet, and tap dance*



*1974 Las Vegas, Nevada—Vegas Shows: Elvis and line dance*



*1964 Motown Detroit, Michigan—Supremes Medley*



*1959 Philadelphia—American Bandstand: Dion and the Belmonts and Connie Francis  
(continued on next page)*



*1869 Promontory Point, Utah—The Last Spike*

## The 2024 Fleet Landing Follies Present: A Time Travel Adventure

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2024 Atlantic Beach, Florida—Final Act of the 2024 Fleet Landing Follies



1988 Seoul, South Korea—Opening of the Summer Olympics: Whitney Houston and Kung Fu Tai Chi Fan



1670 Port Royal, Jamaica—Sailors and Pirates: songs and Caribbean ballroom dance



2124 Planet Nocatee

## China and Its Place in the World

By Bo Smith

David Rennie spoke to the World Affairs Council (WAC) at the University of North Florida (UNF) on October 7, and his presentation was simulcast at Johnson Hall. His topic was “China and Its Place in the World.” Rennie is the Beijing bureau chief for the *Economist*, a British newspaper focused on current affairs, politics and international business. He is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, and a prize-winning columnist formerly posted to Sydney, Australia; Washington, DC; and Brussels, Belgium. He has been posted to Beijing since 2018. A stray fact: his father was director of the U.K. Secret Intelligence Service, MI6.

Rennie asserted that China was “feeling its oats,” did not feel tied to many Western values, and was more aggressive than we would like. It sees itself as a great nation that was humiliated by European powers for the century preceding WWI and then ignored and isolated until it developed into a major economic power. Its attitude is a mixture of tremendous pride in accomplishment, resentment of previous insults, recognition of its new power, and an insistence on its freedom to challenge parts of the so-called “rules-based world order.” Rennie explained that after WWII, the Western World, dominated by the United States, committed to a global political structure based on political and economic liberalism, international cooperation through agencies such as the U.N. and the World Bank, human equality, and promotion of democracy. China was not involved in the development of the rules-based world order, and rather than reject it, plans to change or ignore those aspects that don’t help it. He noted that many nations in the Global South agreed with China. They want to develop their economies, but do not want to be tied to European and American concepts of human equality and democracy. China will help them develop without lectures and insistence on values they do not hold. From China’s point of view, it is all about business—it doesn’t care if the government of the country it works with is corrupt

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## China and Its Place in the World

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and denies freedom to its citizens. China sees it as a win-win: It gains economic power and influence, the other country's economy improves, and that country can do whatever it wants within its own borders.

In Rennie's interpretation, Xi Jinping sees China as a peace-loving giant. Might makes right in the minds of those who rule. Bitter lessons from its history have reinforced the concept that if you are weak, you will be beaten and humiliated. Strength conveys the right to rule, and not using its strength demeans a nation. China feels free to use its power to bring economic success and therefore peace to the wider world, and more wealth and power to China. That peace-loving self-assessment is at odds with its bellicose threats to Taiwan and its frank aggression in the South China Sea against the established rights or claims of several nations—examples of China ignoring the precepts of a "rules-based order."

The next WAC presentation, "The Future of Warfare" by General David Petraeus, was scheduled for Monday, November 4. It will be followed on Wednesday, December 4, by David Sanger speaking on "The New Cold Wars." Residents can attend in person at UNF or by simulcast in Johnson Hall.

## October MOAA Meeting

By Chet Davis



*LtoR: Pat Kluever, Jennifer Arsenault, Clay Tousey III, Howard McMinn, Patty Chicoine, Frank Donnelly, Fred Berley, Kristy Skonieczny, Beryl Hubbard*

The Fleet Landing-based Historic Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) presented a survivor seminar open to all residents at its October 28 meeting. Resident Pat Kluever presided over the meeting. Elder law attorney Clay Tousey III's address to the Johnson Hall audience focused on two main points: "Take a survivor's test sail," and "Be the captain of your own ship." A test sail refers to a complete review of assets and the categories they fit into, such as assets with designated beneficiaries, joint accounts, trusts, and all others. Being the captain refers to controlling one's assets and their distribution upon death. Tousey provided many examples of his points by referring to his own directives and planning, and he addressed the reading of wills, the issue of probate, and various taxation situations. At the conclusion of his talk, Tousey answered questions. He stated that he would answer anything, but if you called him at his office, he would be obliged to charge for the information.

Following the keynote address, a panel of staff, a resident, and outside experts provided information about services and assistance available to residents. This panel, assembled by resident Beryl Hubbard, consisted of resident Frank Donnelly, Fleet Landing's Bereavement Officer; Fleet Landing staff members Patty Chicoine, Resident Support Coordinator; Jennifer Arsenault, Executive Assistant; and Howard McMinn, Pastor of the Inter-denominational Chapel. The outside experts were Kristy Skonieczny from Community Hospice and Palliative Care and Fred Berley from Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department.

## Chips and Putts

By Bob Neal

After two rained out tournaments and a reschedule from October 10 to October 15 due to Hurricane Milton arriving as a tropical storm, the Fleet Landing tournament golfers were finally able to return to the links at Windy Harbor. The field was reduced because of the rescheduling and many conflicting activities at Fleet Landing. Nevertheless, the four teams teeing off enjoyed a beautiful fall day of golfing and struggling with the thick rough on the course.

The team finishing in first place was Team 4 (a score of 74): Larry Sander (captain) with Paul Donohue, Isobel Spink, and John Egan, an Atlantic Club member. Taking second-place honors was Team 2 (a score of 77): Jim Wayrynen (captain) with Bob Hunter, Bobbie Fost, and Miles Nogelo.

Individual honors for the men's and ladies' Long Drive went to Donohue and Fost. For Closest to the Pin, the winner for the men was Egan. Unfortunately, none of the ladies were on the green, so their award will carry over until next month.

The tournament was scheduled to return to Windy Harbor on November 14.

