



FLEET BEAT

VOL. 36 No. 1

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

Jan./Feb. 2026

Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

By Enith Vardaman



Josh Ashby (l) and Matt Thompson

The first "Coffee and Conversation With Josh" of 2026, held in Johnson Hall on January 29, featured two speakers: Chief Executive Officer Josh Ashby and Matt Thompson, Executive Director Fleet Landing Atlantic Beach.

Financial Results

Ashby led off with the occupancy figures for independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing as of December 31, 2025. The first three categories continued the record of full occupancy that has lasted for some 14 years. He emphasized how much work is involved in maintaining this long-term stable occupancy, given the large number of residents that have moved in and out of the various levels of care. Skilled nursing, which is intentionally budgeted at less than full occupancy, met its goal. Ashby also noted continuing strong demand, with Atlantic Club membership having reached 702 households, and Nocatee fully reserved.

Ashby then turned to the preliminary financial results as of December 31, 2025. Operating income showed a variance of \$3.2 million above budget. Investment income accounted for \$3 million of that figure, leaving actual operating income right on budget.

Two measurements of the financial condition of a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) were significantly above lender requirements: The December 31, 2025, preliminary results showed the debt service coverage ratio (the ability to pay our mortgage) at 2.56 versus the required 1.20, and days cash on hand (essentially our savings) was 465 versus the required 180.

Ashby had a final announcement concerning financial matters: Chief Financial Officer Cynthia Hack will retire this year.

(continued on page 16)

Spinnaker Society Celebrates 13th Anniversary

By Enith Vardaman

Photos by Ed Hollender, Ann Bell, and Janet Silvester



View of the sunset from the 34th floor of 1 Independent Square

The number 13 was not unlucky for the Spinnaker Society's 13th anniversary celebration on January 19. One reason to celebrate was the welcoming of 14 new households (20 people) into the Society in 2025. The achievement required the addition of a fourth bus to transport members to the River Club in the 1 Independent Square building. As usual, a police escort made for a nonstop trip to downtown Jacksonville despite rush hour traffic.

The celebration began on the 34th floor of 1 Independent Square, with windows offering dramatic views of the city and the sunset. Attendees mingled while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The meaning of the name of a special cocktail, the 9-0-Cosmo, would become apparent later in the evening.

Dinner was served on the 35th floor, where the number 90 appeared in the flower arrangements on the tables. Chief Executive Officer Josh Ashby revealed its significance and another reason to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the Spinnaker Society: The \$5 million Legacy Trail project is now 90 percent funded, up from some 50 percent in September.

The dinner, including dessert, was excellent. As a bonus, another dessert, Bananas Foster, was available after dinner back down on the 34th floor.

Attendees had the choice of three departure times: 8 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9 pm. Some opted for 9 pm in order to enjoy the post-dinner dancing as long as possible.

(See page 1 for more photos from the event.)

January Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost convened the January 20 council meeting. She reminded residents of the dinner dress code for Lake View and 30 North and showed visual examples of the more common infractions. Residents were reminded to inform their guests of these requirements.

Dale Clifford encouraged those present to inform staff about the Staff Scholarship Program.

Management Review. Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss thanked all residents for their impressive and meaningful contributions to the Residents' Gift Fund. He then reviewed the status of campus projects.

Council Reports.

Vice President. Carol Smith provided a comprehensive review of information available on Fleet Link. She also reported the schedule for the upcoming council elections. The Nominating Committee is made up of Ken Hollinga (Chair), Lory Doolittle, Chet Davis, Nancy Sander, and Judy Poppell. Hollinga discussed candidate requirements and the nomination process. (For more information, see article on page 3.)

Treasurer. Lynette Beitz was enthusiastic about the results of the Residents' Gift Fund. The amount raised, \$999,154, exceeded expectations, and 86 percent of independent living residents contributed. The average amount received by 433 staff members was \$2,309, and the maximum amount was \$3,506.

Marketing and Human Resources. Skip McAlexander noted entrance fee increases for independent living apartments and homes for 2026. Atlantic Club members can eat one lunch in Lake View or one dinner in 30 North during their birthday month. We are currently staffed at 95 percent, with 498 employees. The turnover rate was lower in 2025. Residents Anna and Ernie Bio meet regularly with new hires to acquaint them with Fleet Landing's culture and their opportunities here. There were ten new hires in December. The "Catch of the Month" is Resident Support Coordinator Patty Chicoine.

Wellness and Transportation. Hollinga reviewed the extensive list of activities taking place before the next council meeting. He cited impressive transportation usage and fitness activity statistics for 2025. He also described what was new for the 2026 Fitness Challenge.

Health Services/Safety and Security. Judy Solano reviewed the duties of Ashley Cordero, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Administrator. The Healthcare Information Advocacy Group, made up of those with family and friends in the healthcare facilities, will meet on the last Thursday of every other month. The first meeting was scheduled for January 22. Safety and Security staff remind residents of the importance of maintaining tire pressure in cooler months. A self-service compressor is available at Plant Operations.

Dining Services/Housekeeping. Dave Russell noted

that Housekeeping was now 100 percent staffed. He reminded residents that any rescheduling of an annual housecleaning appointment should be done promptly. Residents using the laundry service should make sure that the quantity of the various kinds of items on the ticket is correct. He recognized current and retiring Dining Committee members.

Facilities. Stephen Dick displayed photos of the teams of building and home representatives as well as the schedule of zone inspections and quarterly facilities meetings during the first half of 2026.

Communications. Secretary Shann Purinton reviewed 15 suggestions and management responses. The complete text of the suggestions and responses can be found on Fleet Link. Go to "Residents' Council" and then "Residents' Council Presentations."

The next council meeting will be on February 17.

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

TAPS Remembrance

By Carol Smith

The first TAPS ceremony of 2026 was held on Sunday, January 4. Thirty residents were present as Chaplain Captain Tom Atkins, USN (Ret.); Boatswain Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Osborne, USA (Ret.); and Signalman Commander John Lones, USN (Ret.) supported Officer-of-the-Deck Commander Pat Kluever, USN (Ret.), who led the event. Following the opening prayer by Atkins, the names of Fleet Landing veterans who had passed away in the last three months were read. The bell was tolled for the following Fleet Landing warriors: Commander Robert (Bob) Allen Jr., USN (Ret.); Rear Admiral Rick Cueroni, USCG (Ret.); Lieutenant Junior Grade Richard (Dick) Galphin, USN; and First Lieutenant Robert Roth, USA. The sounding of TAPS concluded the ceremony.

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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. Sign into the resident portal and click on "Menu" and then "Publications." Issues can also be found under "Publications" on Fleet Link.

Materss Higgs, Team Member of the Year

By Chet Davis

Materss Higgs, a certified nurse's aide (CNA) in the Derfer Pavilion, was named Team Member of the Year at the annual Staff Holiday Party.



Higgs, a native of Yazoo City, MS, was raised in New Orleans, LA. She is a Navy wife who supported her husband throughout his Navy career. Before moving to the Jacksonville area, Higgs served for ten years as a reservation manager for Hilton Hotels. Higgs has been a therapeutic foster mom for almost 30 years and has fostered more than 50 children.

Higgs has two children, one of whom is a private-duty nurse here at Fleet Landing, and three grandchildren. Higgs relishes providing service to others. She enjoys training medical students, assisting her Fleet Landing team with their duties, and knowing that they depend on her.

Higgs expressed her appreciation of the staff scholarship fund and the annual Residents' Gift Fund. Higgs stated that she was incredibly grateful to receive this award. She is thankful for the acknowledgement of her efforts as a CNA. The recognition inspires her to continue giving her best and supporting a fantastic team, without whom she could not do her job.

In January, Higgs will have been at Fleet Landing for 23 years.

Seeking Four New Residents' Council Members

By Ken Hollinga

The 2026 election process for the Residents' Council got underway with an announcement at the Residents' Council meeting on January 20. Four members of the current council will be completing their terms in April, and four new members will be elected to join the council.

Council members' responsibilities are many, and are spelled out in the *Resident Handbook*, Section 4, Council Charter, By-laws, and Standing Rules. Primarily, council members work to promote the general well-being of residents and enhance the quality of life of the resident body as a whole. They act in an advisory role to the Executive Director of Fleet Landing Atlantic Beach and serve as ombudsman for the residents.

The election process began with the Nominating Committee (chaired by Residents' Council member Ken Hollinga) working to develop a slate of candidates. Eligible individuals who would like to be considered as potential candidates are encouraged to contact Hollinga before February 17 to ensure they are considered during the selection process. The eligi-

bility criteria for candidates are spelled out in the Resident Handbook, Council By-laws (Article II A) and Standing Rules (Number III A 2).

The final slate of candidates will officially be announced at the Residents' Council meeting on March 17. Absentee voting will be available April 9-23 for those who may be away from the campus during the actual election. Candidates' oral presentations will take place in Johnson Hall on April 22 at 10 am, and voting will begin on April 24, with ballots being distributed to all social mailboxes. Ballot boxes will be available at several key locations around the campus. The election officially closes at noon on April 29.

Ballots are counted and the winners are notified later that afternoon. The first meeting of the new council will take place on April 30 or May 1. The new council president is chosen at this meeting, and the responsibilities for the other officers and members of the council are assigned.

Please consider running for the Residents' Council and volunteering your time and effort to improve the quality of life at Fleet Landing.

Fleet Classics Concert

By Guy Bond



Fleet Classics offered their first concert of 2026 on January 14 in Johnson Hall. The ensemble's set list included familiar compositions from several popular composers such as Boccherini, Haydn, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Grieg, and Brahms.

Julia Pet-Armacost moderated the presentation by providing brief insights about the composers, along with historical context for the compositions. The players were introduced at the beginning of the concert: Bob Armacost on 12-string guitar, Bunky Johnson on clarinet, Charles Winton on French horn, De An Winton on alto saxophone, Karen Sturtevant on piano, Guy Bond on electric bass guitar, and Pet-Armacost on flute, piccolo, and classical guitar.

Fleet Landing offers many opportunities for musicians of all types and at all levels with opportunities to refresh old skills and to learn new ones. Upcoming performances include the FleetLanders on February 25, Fleet's Got Karaoke on February 28, and the Classics on March 23.

Hanukkah Dinner

By Judy Poppell; photo by Enith Vardaman



On December 15, almost 50 Jewish residents and their non-Jewish friends celebrated Hanukkah in The Atlantic with a festive holiday dinner. Chef Dale Neidlinger and his staff prepared a traditional dinner with all the trimmings. Guests enjoyed matzah ball soup, challah, latkes, assorted entrees and sides, and a special Hanukkah dessert (jelly donuts with ice cream) made especially for the occasion. The annual Hanukkah dinner is a favorite event for Fleet Landing's Jewish residents, and they welcome the attendance and participation of their non-Jewish friends.

Hanukkah is not a religious holiday. The holiday celebrates the Maccabean Revolt, when Jewish rebels fought Syrian-Greeks who tried to suppress Judaism and impose Hellenistic culture and religion on the Jews. Antiochus, the leader of the Greeks, desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem, prohibiting Jewish worship and defiling it. Judah Maccabee initiated a rebellion against the Greeks to reclaim their religious freedom and their land.

The Maccabees successfully drove out the Greeks and reclaimed the Temple. The Temple, desecrated and in disarray, only had one jar of pure olive oil to light the Temple's sacred menorah. This was enough to last only one day. Against all odds, the oil burned for eight days, allowing time to obtain and purify new oil. Hanukkah, meaning "dedication," is celebrated for eight nights to remember this miracle.

Each night, an additional candle is lit on a special non-branched candelabra, starting with one candle and a helper candle, then two the second night, and so on, up to eight. Foods fried in oil, like the latkes and jelly donuts, are eaten to commemorate the miracle of the oil. Gifts are given to the children on each night, and the game of dreidel, a spinning top, is a traditional game played during the holiday.

The core message of the Hanukkah holiday is the victory of light over darkness, faith over oppression, and the enduring power of religious freedom.

Wreaths Across America

By Enith Vardaman; photos by Janet Silvester



Karl Price (l) and Terry Silvester

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization that honors veterans by placing wreaths on their graves on the second or third Saturday of December. The event, which is observed nationwide and beyond, took place this year on December 13. The Jean Ribault Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the ceremony held at Beaches Memorial Park. Fleet Landing residents who participated in the event included Karl Price and Janet and Terry Silvester. Price, who is a past Commander of the US Air Force Space Communications Division, represented the US Space Force.

Bluegrass and More

By Victoria Freeman



On January 23, the quartet JigJam delighted a large audience in Johnson Hall. The multi-award winning group has three members from the heart of the midlands in Ireland on guitar, banjo, and mandolin, and one fiddle player from St. Louis, MO. They are the pioneers of a new musical genre which has been branded "I-Grass" or "CeltGrass." Indeed, they have been called "the best Irish band in bluegrass."

The band's onstage energy, along with the members' virtuosic instrumental and vocal ability, has captivated audiences throughout the world. They captivated the Fleet Landing audience by playing Irish and bluegrass tunes, often at breakneck speed, and then by taking audience requests as varied as "Folsom Prison," "Proud Mary," "Jolene," and "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

The band closed with the hymn "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," which had many folks in the audience singing along.

Resident Christmas Party

By Victoria Freeman

Photos by Ed Hollender and Janet Silvester

Champagne greetings, ice sculptures, attentive servers, and white-glove transportation were all part of the December 12 Fleet Landing Resident Christmas Party. At 5 pm the front doors to the Coleman Center opened wide to residents, who were welcomed by smiling staff.

Once inside, residents were treated to a party that incoming Executive Director Matt Thompson deemed “the most magnificent event I’ve seen in any senior living institution I’ve been associated with.”

The food was world class. The lavish cold selections included a charcuterie board, tuna rolls, crab claws, mini lobster tacos, broccoli crunch salad, fig and prosciutto macrons, roast beef sliders, and more.

The action station had a lamb chop carving station, an oyster shucking station, and a pasta station as part of its bounty. Nearby, hot selections offerings included deep-fried coconut chicken skewers, shrimp, grouper, braised short ribs, and seasonal vegetables.

Chef Belle Camacho’s desserts were a fitting complement to the lavish dinner offerings. Her enticements included espresso vanilla cakes, mini bundt cakes, Yule logs, snickerdoodle cookie cheesecake, and gingerbread men.

Dining Services Manager Rachel Carmack provided some background information on the process of turning the Coleman Center into a cruise-level dining venue: “This starts months in advance when the chefs convene and decide what they will produce and how they will showcase their offerings. It’s an exciting time because they are all working together in a way they can’t during the regular year. The challenge is that the extra elegance must be produced at the same time the chefs are providing daily offerings in their venues. They obviously rise to meet that challenge.”

Jason McLaughlin, Main Street Restaurant Manager, said, “This is a unified effort to make the entire spread taste as good as it looks and smells.”

Bits of Resident Christmas Party history were offered by Sales and Marketing Manager Connie Wheat, who recalled prior days when fireworks lit up the Lake Constellation gazebo, a practice discontinued when the ospreys selected that spot at Fleet Landing as their winter home.

Comments on the party from guests evoked thoughts and smiles. One resident confessed that he had lost 20 pounds in order to fit into his tuxedo. Bill Struck, a former Board of Directors member and now a resident, has attended decades of the Christmas parties. He said, “The parties are always elegant, but this one feels more gracious somehow.”

A smiling Chief Executive Officer Josh Ashby, who was photographed numerous times with residents in front of the Atrium Christmas tree, added, “The holiday

season is a wonderful time to pause, to appreciate our community, and enjoy the friendships that make Fleet Landing feel like home.”

Staff, who did so much to make the party a success, were able to enjoy the many delicious offerings after the party ended for residents.



Staff Holiday Party

By Enith Vardaman



The Staff Holiday Party, held on December 4 in Windward Commons, is always a happy occasion. A joint effort of Fleet Landing management and the Residents' Council, the event began with an enticing array of food prepared by Dining Services, continued through awards and a raffle, and culminated in the distribution of checks from the Residents' Gift Fund. Human Resources Senior Director Michele Holley; Matt Thompson, Executive Director Fleet Landing Atlantic Beach; Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss; Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost; and Residents' Council members all played a role in the festivities.

The naming of the Team Member of the Year is always a highlight of this event. Materss Higgs, a certified nurse's aide (CNA) in the Derfer Pavilion, was named the winner. (See article on page3.)

Staff who had reached service milestones ranging from 1 to 25 years were recognized, as were Legacy Club members. The Legacy Club, established in 2022, is a monthly celebration honoring the Team Member of the Month, the nominees for that month, and those who have achieved any of the service milestones mentioned above. Over \$100,000 in Legacy Club service bonuses was awarded this year.

Four lucky staff members had their names drawn in the raffle. The prizes were an iPad, a Ninja Slushi Drink Machine, a Jacksonville Iceman package of four tickets, and a 55-inch smart TV.

Each of the announcements noted above received an enthusiastic response from staff. This happy event concluded with staff picking up checks from the Residents' Gift Fund, which reached close to \$1 million this year!

UNF STEP Lab

By Enith Vardaman

When Xavier Rozas, Director of the University of North Florida STEP Lab, spoke in Johnson Hall on January 7, his enthusiasm for that entity was evident.



The STEP Lab represents an approach to STEM education. So what do those two acronyms stand for? STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These are fields described as having in common an emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills crucial for innovations and technological advancement. STEP stands for solve, tinker, explore, and play. While the definition of STEM might suggest endeavors by professionals, Rozas emphasized that the Lab served learners "from 3 to 83." He said that STEM was not just an acronym, but a framework for meaningful, purpose-driven learning. He believes that teachers should move away from the authoritative approach of there being a right answer or a wrong answer to an approach of helping students discover the answer. The Lab offers a hands-on, collaborative, and personalized learning environment. Its programs serve regional pre-K-12 students, teachers, university faculty and students, and community/business partners.

The Magic of Birdwatching

Text and photo by Nancy Lundgren



Some of the birdwatchers had already left the park when this picture was taken.

If you enjoy birdwatching, you're in good company. According to the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, 70 million birdwatchers in the US spend recreation time watching and enjoying birds. Our Fleet Landing Birdwatching Club members can certainly affirm that pleasure.

On December 13, eleven members spent a few hours spotting more than 34 different birds as they flew, perched, and performed in beautiful Hanna Park. It was another perfect outing led by our resident experts, Ken Hollinga, Paul Mocko, Mike Marchetti, and Frances Edwards.

Fleet Landing Artists at Adele Grage

By Bo Smith; photos by Ann Bell and Patricia Payne

Beginning in mid-November and continuing through December 2025, the Adele Grage Cultural Center in Atlantic Beach hosted a display of art produced by Fleet Landing residents. Fifteen of our artists displayed 32 pieces, and several exhibitors were pleased to have sold works during the show. An artist

reception was held on December 18 as artists and visitors gathered for refreshments and discussion of the exhibited work.

The Fleet Landing Art Club displays resident artwork quarterly in Windward Commons and the Coleman Center and annually at Adele Grage.



John Hen (l) and Craig Miller



Julia Pet-Armacost and Bo Smith



Barbara Milon (l) and Sally Nielsen



Robert Wells (l) and a painting by Imogene Coleman



Paula O'Bannon (l) and Patricia Payne



LtoR: Works by Marjorie McMahon, Betty Thompson, and Ann Brodt

Editor's note: It was not possible to get a photo of each of the artists adjacent to one or more of their paintings. In those cases, we instead are showing one of their works.



Kristin Perry and Glenn Perry

Library Notes

By Enith Vardaman

The Library Committee thanks recent donors: Kerstin Chelius, Georgia Goodling, Lorie Holmes, Don Husmann, Mary May, and the estate of Bea Waltermann.

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Library Notes

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The recent book sale was a success thanks to the efforts of many people. Executive Assistant Jennifer Arsenault helped with numerous details, including arranging for the tables to be set up and making attractive posters advertising the sale. Resident Mary Ellen Reed provided boxes for packing up the leftovers, and Lake View Dining Supervisor Chris Schooley and other Dining Services staff supplied a large number of boxes emptied after deliveries to Breakers. Transportation Services Manager Brandon Levy and Charitable Gift Planning Director Kathy DeSiena set up the tables. When the sale ended, Levy and Driver Terri Holland took down the tables and moved the boxes of leftovers to the location for pickup by the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM). Library Committee members Ellie Smith, Pat Gillis, and Enith Vardaman handled various tasks, including collecting money from the boxes, setting up the sale, and packing up the leftovers afterward. Committee members could not handle all those tasks by themselves, and they are grateful for the help of resident volunteers Rae Donnelly (the longest-serving book sale volunteer), Victoria and Ed Fahy, Chris Stanley, and Victoria Freeman.

The Library Committee is grateful to everyone who patronized the sale. Proceeds of book sales (about \$270 in this case) are used for the purchase of supplies and large print books. If you forgot to pay your I.O.U., you can put the money in an envelope in the social box of Smith (3112).

Jacksonville Symphony Celebration

By John Hedge; photo by Joe Ruthenberg

The photo shows Dr. Charles and De An Winton, of Rigel Court, as the “Best Dressed” couple leaving for the January 7, 2026, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra’s “Platinum Donor Dinner” at the River Club, in downtown Jacksonville. The affair was a celebration of the Symphony’s 76th year. Each course of the superb formal three-course dinner was preceded by music from the Symphony’s brass quintet and string quartet, and was paired with fine wines from many countries.



The Wintons were recognized for the “Winton Family Trust Sponsorship” of the “Principal Horn Chair” of the Symphony, and as Platinum Donors.

The Wintons are active in Fleet Landing musical groups. Charles is a horn player, and De An plays alto saxophone and sings.

Festival of Lights, Hanukkah 2025

By Nancy Lundgren; photos by Janet Silvester



On December 14, Joe “O” Oestreich celebrated “light over darkness” as he recited the traditional three blessings to the 43 residents gathered before the Menorah at the Mainstreet Dining Plaza: “1) Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light. 2) Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days. 3) Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.”

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabees’ unlikely victory over the Seleucid Empire in the second century BCE. Central to the celebration is the miracle of the oil: a single day’s supply that burned for eight days, symbolizing resilience and divine intervention. One candle on a menorah is lit each night for eight nights to remember this miracle.

Joe also gave the group a little background about the differences between the Hebrew calendar and the American calendar. The Hebrew calendar is lunisolar, tracking moon cycles for months, and sun for seasons (adding leap months), while the American (Gregorian) calendar is purely solar, adding leap days to keep months aligned with the sun.

Thank you, Joe “O,” for sharing the beautiful Hanukkah tradition with the Fleet Landing community.

Andrew Wyeth at Kuerner Farm

Text and photos by Dita Domonkos



Paintings of Karl Kuerner



Left: "Chimney Smoke." Right: Painting of Anna Kuerner.

Our December 16 tour at the Cummer Museum to see the exhibit entitled "Andrew Wyeth at Kuerner Farm: The Eye of the Earth" was led by resident Lory Doolittle. Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009) burst into the art scene remarkably young, selling out his first gallery show when he was 20, and by 26 his work was shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He and his wife, Betsy, lived close to Kuerner Farm in Chadds Ford, PA. Of the 7,000 paintings Wyeth made in his lifetime, 1,000 were of the farm, of which 40 are in this exhibit.

Although the subjects Wyeth painted of the farm are recognizable, such as landscapes, buildings, and people, he considered himself an abstract artist. Working in watercolor and tempera, his paintings have simplicity, reflecting his Quaker roots. They are stark, but when looked at closely, they have complex textures. Wyeth edited and stripped away anything that did not serve his vision. In "Chimney Smoke," for instance, he shows only a fragment of the Kuerner farmhouse.

Doolittle guided us through the galleries with infectious enthusiasm, drawing our attention to the evolution in Wyeth's style. Early works carry traces of color his father, the celebrated illustrator N. C. Wyeth, favored. Gradually Andrew shifted to a restrained, almost monochromatic palette with skies rendered as blank expanses.

Karl Kuerner, a German veteran who had served as a machine gunner in World War I, and his wife, Anna, lived at the farm. In an intricate portrait, showing every hair on his head, Karl looks out appraisingly under iron hooks used for drying sausage. Another work shows him standing in a snow-covered field, wearing his military uniform and steel helmet. Toward the end of his life, as cancer took hold, Wyeth painted him lying outdoors on a bed of snow, as if he might melt into the frozen earth along with the snow.

Anna, often depicted in moments of quiet exhaustion, appears in scenes of relentless labor or wearily climbing the steep stairs of the farmhouse. In one haunting image, she stands just behind Karl, who cradles a rifle pointed backward, unintentionally, yet chillingly, toward her.

The hall leading to the exhibit shows photographs of the Kuerner Farm today, taken by Doug Eng, a noted Jacksonville photographer. In a few of these photographs, you see details that Wyeth chose not to paint, underscoring his claim to abstraction.

It was clear that Doolittle, who grew up on farms and lived in Vermont, felt a deep personal connection to these works. Her insights and genuine excitement were contagious. She led another tour of the exhibition on January 29.

Triplet Treat: The Lubben Brothers

Text and photo by Maureen Miller



On the cool afternoon of December 10, a seasonally dressed crowd of independent and healthcare residents filled Johnson Hall for the Lubben Brothers Celtic Christmas Concert.

"They're back!" Mary Faria announced, as the triplets and their drummer, Jorge Sebastian, took the stage to warm applause. As each musician picked an

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Triplet Treat: The Lubben Brothers

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instrument—from the mix of 11 that filled the stage—the sounds of fiddle, guitar, accordion, drums, and human voices burst into an amazing rendition of “The First Noel.” Within minutes, we knew we were in for a spectacular musical hour.

“Holly Jolly Christmas,” composed by Joshua (the youngest brother) was featured in the Netflix film *Love Hard*. With eldest, Michael, on banjo, Joshua on guitar, and Tommy on accordion, the sound was very “old timey”—to include horse hoofs clicking, compliments of Sebastian.

The band choices had audience emotions moving from melancholic to elation. “We Don’t Talk Much Anymore,” written by Michael about returning home and experiencing a lack of communication among townfolk. What he considered a Midwestern habit, could very well be what many of us are experiencing in our own lives.

“Wildflowers In June” was written, Joshua explained, when he proposed to his wife. He reworked it for their 10th anniversary and to remind him and his brothers that the most important things are the special moments—like being here with us today.

One wouldn’t know the brothers were triplets, as each dressed differently, had distinct personalities, and played diverse instruments. But in tune after tune, whether original work or new arrangement of traditional pieces, their classical training and unquestioning versatility shone through.

Between tunes, the brothers brought in family humor, bantering back and forth and telling family stories.

The last piece, a compilation of multiple Christmas works, full of fiddling and stomping around the stage, evolved into audience toe tapping and hand clapping accompanied by bigger and bigger smiles as the music got faster and faster. Then, when the thunderous applause wouldn’t quit, the band honored us with one more tune, a captivating rendition of “Fly Away,” full of soaring vocals complimented by harmonica and electric bass, as well as guitar, banjo, and drums.

If you missed this concert, you definitely want to catch their next one in the spring.

You’re invited!

By Nancy Lundgren

The annual Hubbard House “Stand Up and Stride to End Domestic Violence” event will take place on Saturday, March 28. Fleet Landing residents have participated in person or virtually since 2021. This year, the hope is to grow the Fleet Team from 86 to 100 participants. To learn more about the event, check out this link: [Stand Up & Stride 2026 - Hubbard House Inc.](#), or contact David Miron (904-614-1177), Nancy Lundgren (904-610-1329), or Sandy Bousquet (904-400-0123).

Astralis Chamber Ensemble

By Chet Davis



Three members of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble brought a delightful seasonal program, “Enchanted Noel,” to Johnson Hall on December 9. The trio was made up of Artistic Director Angela Massey (flute), Laura Usiskin (cello), and Isabel Cardenes (harp). The composers ranged from the eighteenth century to the modern day. Familiar pieces such as “What Child Is This” and Cantique de Noel were given new and interesting arrangements. The Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G major and “Cantique de Noel” provided solo opportunities for cello and flute, while the Sonate en trio, Op. 34 No. 1 by Czech composer Jan Ladislav Dussek (1760-1812) featured the harp.

Performances by the Astralis Chamber Ensemble are always a treat, and this concert was a wonderful addition to the holiday season.

Kazoo Band Christmas Tradition

By Carol Smith; photo by Sandy Bousquet



The Fleet Landing Kazoo Band enjoyed their annual Christmas tour on the beautiful afternoon of December 20. There were 30 music makers, dressed in their seasonal finest, who shared holiday music with folks in the Derfer Pavilion, Leeward Manor, and The Nancy House. Everyone joined in singing, clapping, and even a little dancing along with Santa Claus, aka Nancy Sander. There was an abundance of smiles on the faces of the residents and staff sharing the spirit of the season.

Fleet's Got Talent 2026 Kicks Off With Music, Memories, and Plenty of Smiles

By Guy Bond

Photos by Ed Hollender and Janet Silvester



Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost

The first installment of Fleet's Got Talent for 2026 lit up Johnson Hall on January 24, and judging by the packed house, no one wanted to miss it. Residents and staff alike took the stage, turning the evening into a true variety show—equal parts music, storytelling, laughter, and heart.

Led by Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost, the crowd eased into the evening by singing "This Land Is Your Land," setting a warm, communal tone right from the start.

Lory Doolittle followed with a reflective and deeply personal moment, reading from her journal about a snowy winter she once spent in Vermont with her husband. Her words were paired with stunning photographs she had taken, transporting the audience to a quieter, wintry time.

Driver Rob Friedman brought the music back with a soulful rendition of Keith Whitley's "When You Say Nothing at All." From there, John Rogerson took flight with Frank Sinatra's "Come Fly With Me," then shifted gears with the playful and humorous "Huggin' and a Chalkin'," made famous by Hoagy Carmichael.

Laughter rolled through the room when Charles Winton delivered a sequel to his already-legendary story about Aunt Gina and her cabbages. Titled "Two Weeks in the Heartland," it left the audience wanting more—though, as always, you'll have to ask Charles for the full story.

John Rietveld then offered a poignant musical moment, opening with the introductory verse of Don McLean's "American Pie," reminding everyone of the tragic flight that claimed the lives of Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper, and Ritchie Valens. He followed this with Holly's "True Love Ways," dancing with his bride, Estelle "Sparkle" Davis, in a moment that was both touching and joyful.

Comedy returned as Gitti Hardage and Bill Spicer transformed once again into George Burns and Gracie

Allen, delighting the audience with one of their famously nonsensical exchanges.

Music filled the hall when De An Winton on alto saxophone and Charles Winton on French horn performed the classic "The Shadow of Your Smile," a song made popular by Tony Bennett and many others.

Driver Marie-Claire Allen, joined by Guy Bond and Richard Wong, got toes tapping with "Boot Scoot'n Boogie." Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost returned to the stage, guitars in hand, to sing Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers's "Islands in the Stream."

The scheduled performances wrapped up with the always-popular Come As You Are Band, who closed the night with "Heart of Gold" by Neil Young featuring Tom Holloman on harmonica, and "Have You Ever Seen the Rain" by Creedence Clearwater Revival. Band members Richard and Yim Wong, Tom and Linda Holloman, Guy and Reva Bond, John Rietveld and Estelle Davis, Robert and Victoria Freeman, Terry Sullivan, and Julia Pet-Armacost clearly had fun—and the audience loved every minute.

As the evening drew to a close, Julia Pet-Armacost and Bob Armacost led the crowd in a joyful sing-along of beloved old favorites, including "How Much Is That Doggie in the Window," "Red River Valley," "Side by Side," and "God Bless America."

Fleet's Got Talent is always a highlight, and this evening was no exception. The residents and staff who share their talents make these nights special, and heartfelt thanks go to the Armacosts—along with Sue Myers—for bringing it all together. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 11, when the next chapter of Fleet's Got Talent takes the stage.



LtoR: Lory Doolittle, Rob Friedman, John Rogerson



Left: Estelle Davis and John Rietveld.

Right: Bill Spicer and Gitti Hardage

(continued on next page)

Fleet's Got Talent 2026 Kicks Off With Music, Memories, and Plenty of Smiles *(continued from preceding page)*



Charles and De AnWinton



LtoR: Richard Wong, Guy Bond, Marie-Claire Allen



Come As You Are Band



The entire cast on stage for the sing-along finale

Strike & Spares

By Jim LeBlanc; photos by Sandy Taylor



Left: Kathy Vanderbeck after her first 300 game. Right: Vanderbeck after her second 300 game with Jim LeBlanc, who also had a 300 game.

Fleet Landing's 18 Wii bowling teams are preparing for the National Seniors' League Spring Season Tournament, which will begin on February 28. The teams will have two weeks to establish averages and will begin conference play on March 14. Conference champions will be determined after seven weeks of play. The playoffs will follow conference play. We expect to compete with 130+ teams in 30 continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) nationally.

Currently, 82 residents participate in Wii bowling at Fleet Landing. If you are interested in joining a team or would like more information about Wii bowling, please contact Janice Flock (jiflock1@gmail.com) or Jim LeBlanc (jimlebl64@gmail.com).

While teams are practicing each week getting ready for the Spring Season, occasionally someone does something very special and worthy of mention. We all try to bowl our best and chase that elusive prize called the Perfect Game with 12 strikes in a row for a 300 score. On January 19, Kathy Vanderbeck not only bowled her first 300 game, but followed it up in the second game with another perfect 300 game! A very difficult accomplishment. Congratulations to Kathy! Now she needs to repeat it when the season starts. Her teammates on the WeBowlers team will be rooting for her.

The Fall Season top five bowler scratch averages were as follows: Jim LeBlanc (255), Dede Leclaire (246), Jim Joyner (240), Karen LeBlanc (238), Walter Kraslawsky (234).

The 300 games: Jim LeBlanc (2), Dede Leclaire (2), Jim Joyner (1), Karen LeBlanc (1).

CinéClub Presents: French Film Festival, 2026

You have one more opportunity to enjoy a classic French film. Come to the Windward Commons second floor classroom on Sunday, February 22 at 2 pm for a screening of *Au revoir les enfants* (*Goodbye, Children*), a 1987 film written, produced, and directed by Louis Malle. The film will be shown in French with English subtitles. Everyone is welcome.

Holiday Home Tour

By Carolyn Stoner

Photos by Janet Silvester and Carolyn Stoner

Lights, camera, action, and welcome to the December 15, 2025, Holiday Home Tour. A festive, colorful display of Christmas and Hanukkah décor welcomed visitors to beautifully adorned homes with holiday aromas of cider and cinnamon.

New to the tour this year was the addition of North Point. Edna Dickinson graced us with a collection of 40 years of Christmas memories and her green felt tree decorated with Christmas cards. Also, on display was the Fleet Hearts tree she received three years ago.

Second on the tour was the newly renovated and decorated home of Martha and Jim O'Reilly. On prominent display was the stained glass nativity scene created by the talented Martha. More than two dozen Christmas trees were placed for prominent viewing for the glitz and glamor of the holiday that Martha embraces with family as they celebrate the "reason for the season."

Judy Poppell embraced her Hanukkah heritage with a "Festival of Lights" everywhere. Colorful in the blue and white in the Hebrew tradition, menorah and dreidel collections were prominently displayed throughout her home. Family, food, and fun are highlights of her memories of this special holiday.

Sue and Mike Tucker's home was highlighted with remembrances of her Canadian Christmases. Red was the color of the day with many antique decorations that adorned the Christmas tree. Sue is a very talented historical storyteller who brings this season to life with the Canadian canoe and Christmas crackers added to their traditional season.

Kay Craft, appropriately named, showed off her talents as always with over 150 Christmas trees on display throughout her beautifully decorated home. Newly acquired this year was the flashing gold tree that greeted us at the front door. No spot escaped her talented eye, even a small felt Christmas tree sat atop her washing machine! It's all in the details.

The Judy and Buster Hagenbeck home sparkled with a themed tree in each room: the Americano tree, the diplomat tree, the traditional tree and the animal feathered tree in the master bedroom. Their military travels were evident on display with each carefully selected ornament. Family and food hold fond memories for their family Christmas celebrations as they anticipate another Christmas with the five required desserts!

Coordinator committees did an outstanding job decorating the 8000 Building, taking on assigned sections.

We welcomed aboard Matt Thompson, our new Executive Director. Thompson made a visit to each residence, met new folks and stopped by Windward Commons for cocoa and cookies supplied by Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria. Guy Van Syckle strummed

Christmas songs and brought the perfect ending to a cold and windy day.

Special thanks to Julie and Rick Rochelle for coordinating this year's event with grace, calm, and ease. A spectacular job.



Edna Dickinson



Martha O'Reilly



Judy Poppell
(continued on next page)

Holiday Home Tour
(continued from preceding page)



Sue Tucker



Kay Craft



Judy Hagenbeck



LtoR: Terry Silvester, Matt Thompson, Julie Rochelle



Mary Faria and Guy Van Syckle

Mandala Mindfulness Art Workshop
By Maureen Miller; photos by Patricia Payne



Karen Klefman (top left) and some of the workshop participants

On the dreary afternoon of January 14, fourteen residents entered Fleet Landing’s Art Studio to soft music and a gentle “Welcome” by local artist and therapeutic/intuitive art guide Karen Klefman.

Tables were set for four; with a #2 pencil, black Sharpie, small plastic cup, plastic palette, two small brushes, and a square canvas in front of each chair.

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Mandala Mindfulness Art Workshop

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Multiple colored pens were strewn in the center.

After explaining that “mandala” is the Sanskrit word for “circle,” Klefman showed us examples of her work, noting that mandalas have been used through the centuries to focus attention and thus are an aid to meditation.

Klefman explained that while people often use a compass to outline their mandala drawing, today we would use the implements in front of us. Following her instructions, we picked up our pencils and began drawing: first a big circle using our plastic palettes as a guide, and inside that, two smaller circles using the water cup both right side up and upside down. Next we were challenged to dissect the circles—in half, then quarters, and more. From there it was suggested we fill in with rounded domes, pointed domes, leaves, more circles—or, just be creative.

The room settled, as each participant began visualizing, drawing, and outlining and coloring shapes, using both colored pens and paints. Within minutes, creativity flowed.

The meditation of making mandalas, Klefman explained, comes from continually turning the canvas as one fills in spaces.

After many thanks to Klefman, each of us left, not only with our own mandala on canvas, but also the knowledge of another way to calm our minds, be in the moment, and reflect inwards.

Scotie Cousin Exhibit

Text and photos by Mary Durkin



Left “What Is That. Right: “3 Beach Rats.”

On January 15, a Fleet Landing group of 18 bussed to the Beaches History Museum for the exhibit “The World Thru Scotie Cousin’s Eyes.” Cousin is a well-known local artist who became known when he hung whimsical, colorful, big-eyed birds onto trees during the Pandemic in 2020. He saw distressed people walking

into Publix, and he wanted to make them smile. He has been making people smile ever since.

“I live life like a kid,” said Cousin, as he led us through his exhibit, stopping at favorite pieces to regale us with his life stories and philosophies. At one stop, he explained how he embellished another artist’s piece by adding some of his critters. On “What Is That,” he wrote his life story within the painting and along the edges. On “3 Beach Rats,” a collaboration resulted in a work of three dimensions.

Cousin told us how he used art to get over an unhappy, bleak childhood, and how being self-taught, he relishes that he does not fit any category. Over the years, he has taught himself design, engineering, and music, even earning a music scholarship. To Cousin, life must be a good time, and that is what he provided throughout the tour and when he joined us for lunch at Carrabba’s.

National Guard Birthday Flag Raising

Photos by Dita Domonkos

Fleet Landing observed the 389th birthday of the National Guard with a flag raising ceremony at the Flag Plaza on December 13. The Guard traces its origin to that day in 1636 when the militia of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was organized into three permanent regiments.



Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

(continued from page 1)

Fleet Landing Home Health, LLC

Ashby began by outlining the history of Fleet Landing Home Health, starting with its establishment in 2015 to support Fleet Landing residents with full Medicare licensure and national accreditation. This is a business that requires scale to achieve financial viability and excellent patient outcomes, and it has experienced steady growth. Serving seniors off campus through Medicare home health began in 2020, and private care services were added in 2025. In 2022, home health became Fleet Landing Home Health, LLC, a standalone single purpose entity separate from Fleet Landing Atlantic Beach. The purpose: insulating Fleet Landing from the potential risk of the Home Health operations.

Ashby announced that the next step in the evolution of Fleet Landing Home Health would be its rebranding as Solara Care Solutions. Any confusion that the name Fleet Landing Home Health means a service only for Fleet Landing residents will be eliminated. Importantly, Solara will continue to offer the same trusted, excellent, caring service in home health, outpatient therapy, and private care. The team leading Solara is made up of Executive Director Julia Pratt, Care Liaison Lisa Leifheit, Director of Clinical Operations Alex McGourty, and Director of Rehabilitation Nick November. Ashby noted that Solara brings over 20 years of a focus on meeting the needs of Fleet Landing residents, while other home health agencies are guided by a profit motive. Residents will have an opportunity to learn more about Solara at the Launch Celebration on March 11, from 3 pm to 5 pm in the Outpatient Therapy Gym at North Point.

Campus Master Planning

Ashby began by citing the fact that today's campus is the result of 12 real estate purchases over the last 35 years. Buildings range from four to thirty-six years old. Physical obsolescence is not a problem for any of them, but susceptibility to market obsolescence is. Fleet Landing will take a proactive approach: the development of a masterplan for the next 10+ years, with a goal of ensuring our community continues to meet consumer preferences. A project team made up of architects, land planners, and civil engineers will develop the plan. Representatives of Gensler, the largest architecture firm in the world, have toured Fleet Landing in order to create a concept for consideration. Land use restrictions, such as height limitations, that could limit redevelopment projects will need to be identified. Order of priority, logistics, and phasing must be determined. It will be necessary to replace Derfer Pavilion and Leeward Manor. Because the replacement for these healthcare facilities will not generate enough income to cover the expense of

replacing them, it will be necessary to expand independent living to defray the cost. A draft of the masterplan is anticipated to be ready for viewing before the end of this year.

The Legacy Trail

The project to build the Legacy Trail, an elevated ADA-compliant boardwalk through 30 acres of wetlands on our campus, has the requisite permitting from water management districts. This \$5 million project is 90 percent funded. Ways to support the project include cash gifts, gifts of appreciated securities, IRA charitable distributions, and donor-advised funds. Charitable Gift Planning Director Kathy DeSiena is available to discuss contributions. Construction could start this summer.

Accomplishments of an Amazing Year

Thompson began his presentation with a look back at the accomplishments of 2025, beginning with projects underway or completed: the start of a three-year plan for house roof replacement; Nancy House refresh; interior refresh of the 2000 Building and 3000 Building, including new elevators; the Lake Constellation floating islands; campus signage; resurfacing of the 8000 Building plaza deck; gate callbox modernization; and Coleman Center back of house renovation.

The Derfer Pavilion received national recognition as one of the best nursing homes in the country for both long-term and short-term care.

Impressive statistics included almost 80,000 work orders completed (an average of 219 per day), utilization of Transportation services almost 29,000 times, and over 370,000 meals provided by the Dining team.

Thompson cited three metrics for judging the success of a CCRC: happiness of residents, happiness of staff, and the financial security of the organization. Fleet Landing had success in all three categories. Resident satisfaction reached the highest level since the use of the current survey tool began in 2020. Fleet Landing was named by WeCare Connect as one of the Best Places to Work in Senior Care for the second year in a row. [WeCare Connect is a survey provider for senior care organizations.] Fleet Landing also achieved the highest WeCare Connect staff satisfaction scores on record, and those were the top scores out of the more than 1,300 senior care locations participating in WeCare Connect in the US and Canada. As for financial security, Fleet Landing maintained its investment grade bond rating of BBB.

2026: Exciting Plans Ahead

Thompson highlighted plans for this year:

- The re-roofing project will enter its second year.
- There will be a different approach to the apartment building project: The re-roofing will be completed before beginning the interior refresh, thus limiting the number of contractors on site at a given

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Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

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time. This approach will alleviate parking problems and other issues, but it will lengthen the time required to finish the 1000 Building and may possibly delay the work on the 4000 Building until early next year. The elevators in both buildings will still be replaced this year.

- Enhancements to the 8000 Building plaza deck will make the space more aesthetically pleasing and more useable.

- There will be an interior refresh of the Derfer Pavilion.

- The bike pavilion will be built and, depending upon utilization, more bike pavilions will be added.

- The Campus Operations Facility Safety Improvement Project will involve making deliveries easier and safer, improving the location of the dumpsters, slightly expanding staff parking, and laying the groundwork for future plans for the area.

- A new phone system will be implemented.

- In the food and beverage area, there will be further development of The Atlantic, recruitment of a new catering and special events manager, and an emphasis on health and wellness. Expect to hear more about this from Elvis Burrows, Food & Beverage Senior Director.

- Key position updates include the promotion of Marc Cantu to the position of Associate Executive Director, a tentative late February start date for the new Wellness Director, and evaluation of the well-qualified internal and external candidates for Director of Campus Operations, the position previously held by Cantu.

Upcoming Events

Thompson announced two annual fun events:

- This year's deck party, called the Hula Into Spring Deck Party, will take place on March 12, from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. There will be hula dancing, flower crafting, the Blessing of the Fleet, and more.

- The Dancing in the Streets Block Party will follow on April 25 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm.

Family Photos

Residents always look forward to seeing family scenes.



Then and now:

Left: Matt Thompson with his wife, Nancy, and much younger sons, David and Sean.

Left: The Thompson family today, when both sons are already in college.



Josh Ashby with Vivian (center) and twins Cosette and Connor

New Year's Eve Celebrations

By Carol Smith; photos by Chet Davis



Fleet Landing residents sent 2025 into the history books with plenty of glitz and glamour in Johnson Hall on December 31. They were greeted with a beautifully decorated lobby displaying 2026 in lights, a glass of champagne, and a quick stop at the photo booth.

When music from Crescendo Amelia began at 7 pm, revelers filled the dance floor and took occasional breaks to taste the delicious desserts created by Pastry Chef Belle Camacho.

Celebration and dancing continued for over 100 merrymakers who gathered in Breakers for the After Party, where a DJ kept things lively with old, familiar tunes.

Wishing their friends and neighbors a Happy New Year, everyone headed to their homes by 10:30 pm. At both parties, folks took time to thank Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria for creating a lovely evening. With the cold winter temperatures, many took advantage of the campus shuttle that was made available throughout the evening by Transportation Services.

Spinnaker Society Celebrates 13th Anniversary

(continued from page 1)



Left: Police escort.

Right: The number 90 in a flower arrangement.



A scene from the reception



Dinner



After dinner dancing

Editor's note: Charitable Gift Planning Director Kathy DeSiena provided the information for this article.

2026 Remembrance Ceremony

By Guy Bond



Howard McMinn and Ashley Cordero



Fleet Classics

Fleet Landing's Remembrance Ceremony was held on January 26 in Johnson Hall, as residents, staff, and guests gathered to honor and remember those who have gone before them. The service opened with several thoughtful musical selections performed by Fleet Classics, setting a reflective and dignified tone.

Ashley Cordero, Skilled Nursing & Assisted Living Administrator, welcomed those in attendance and introduced Howard McMinn, Pastor of Fleet Landing's Interdenominational Chapel. He offered words of reflection and comfort. McMinn reminded us that the relationships we build throughout our lives hold far greater significance than careers or material possessions.

Cordero, assisted by Resident Support Coordinator Patty Chicoine, then reverently read the names of more than 60 friends and neighbors who passed away during the previous year. The ringing of a ceremonial bell marked both the beginning and the conclusion of this solemn remembrance.

The ceremony ended with closing music by Fleet Classics, leaving those present with a sense of gratitude, reflection, and shared remembrance.

In Memoriam

Helen Craig 1936-2026	George Csehi 1931-2026
Doug Custis 1943-2026	Bernice Ginsburg 1934-2025
Stuart Hicks Jr. 1931-2025	Susan Rogers 1944-2025
Robert Roth 1936-2025	Kenneth Swartzendruber 1939-2026
Bea Waltherman 1924-2025	Andy Wyrick 1937-2026

An Ogre in Johnson Hall

By Enith Vardaman

Photos by Ed Hollender and Janet Silvester



Students from The Discovery School in Jacksonville Beach brought *Shrek Jr. The Musical* to Fleet Landing on December 11. The cast, including Chief Executive Officer Josh Ashby’s daughter, Cosette, spoke, sang, and danced their way through a tale with a swamp-dwelling ogre (Shrek), Shrek’s companion (Donkey), fairy tale creatures, a princess/ogress (Fiona), and a villain (Lord Farquaad). The large cast performed with minimal costuming and few props, but many well-executed scene changes. In the end, the villain was vanquished, and Shrek and Fiona wed, with “I’m a Believer” bringing the show to a close.

Economic\$, Market\$, and the Future

By Howard Burdick

On December 9, we were dazzled by a repeat performance from Tim Anderson, Managing Director and Chief Economist of Anderson Financial Partners, and consultant for Fleet Landing investments. He presented a financial forecast in November of last year—most of which held true. While his presentation focused on economics and the markets, he also delved deeply into artificial intelligence (AI).



Anderson whetted the Johnson Hall audience’s appetite with some relatively amazing statistics on the state of companies, such as Nvidia, with its capitalization of \$5 trillion—greater than the economy of Japan, which is the third

largest economy in the world! He showed us graphs proving the success of the major market indexes as well

as how the ten top American companies tracked with the S&P 500 Index, and how the companies that were in the top ten have changed over the past 35 years. While he thinks we are currently in a bubble, with valuations at too great a level, the better companies whose products we use every day will fare much better. The current top ten (Nvidia, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), Meta, Tesla, Broadcom, Berkshire Hathaway, and JP Morgan) own 40 percent of market and have 32 percent of all earnings.

AI has been with us for some time in our daily digital tasks, but now it’s moving from the background to the foreground as the core foundation of our modern economy, reshaping productivity, competitiveness, and the future of work, but only replacing tasks, not careers. The most valuable skills in AI won’t be purely technical, but will include data literacy, prompt engineering, critical thinking, creativity, communication, and leadership. Small businesses and individuals may benefit the most, because now a single person can do the work of a small team, and a small business can operate like a large one. But AI can make mistakes; and must be deployed responsibly. Governments must create rules that prevent harm without suffocating innovation—a tricky balance.

Benefits from recent tax legislation will minimally affect charitable giving in 2025 versus 2026. However, the legislation is expected to enhance charitable giving, injecting more into nonprofits, such as those aiding education and battling poverty and climate crises.

Chess Club News

By Richard Wong

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



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Chess Club News (continued from preceding page)



Both problems are White to mate in two moves.
 Chess tip: In chess openings, the key is to develop your minor pieces and castle.

St. Augustine Nights of Lights Viewed from the Water

By Chet Davis

Photos by Ann Bell, Guy Bond, Art MacCord, and Janet Silvester



On December 3, and December 8, Fleet Landing residents endured frigid conditions (by Florida standards) on a cruise that offered a different perspective on St. Augustine's annual Nights of Lights.

The Holiday Specs (special 3D glasses) supplied by the tour operator transformed the lights into images such as candy canes, teddy bears, and Santas. The boat's captain provided information about the many points of interest. The trips were fun and certainly made everyone appreciate our typically warmer weather.

A bonus: The trip to the Vilano Beach embarkation point provided ample opportunity to view many Christmas light displays along the route.

Still to come at this writing was a third cruise, scheduled for January 5, 2026. Like the first two, it was fully subscribed.

Welcome Aboard

5311 Jane Lothrop and Harry Hungate (October '24)

If you thought you knew some world travelers, you haven't met Jane and Harry yet. Their adventures were spent on their sailboat *Cormorant*, a Corbin 39 ocean-going sailboat with a fireplace. Between 1997 and 2012, they visited 62 countries and major island groups and covered 56,000 nautical miles!



Harry is an engineer from Louisiana, and Jane, a chemist and a high school principal from Tennessee. Harry worked for Foxboro Company after college, spending three years in Saudi Arabia, then Jordan. They met through a gathering of six boats in Turkey,

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Welcome Aboard

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where they established some connections, and sailing life went on from there.

Harry and Jane married in 1988, left their jobs in 1997, and spent the next 15 years sailing around the world. Their journey included six years in New Zealand, two years in Malaysia and Thailand, and extended stays in Turkey, Australia, Italy, Singapore, Ecuador, and Panama.

As Jane's mother was at Cypress Village, they bought a house there, where they lived for twelve years, helping family, until they moved to Fleet Landing. Resident Dale Clifford is Jane's sister.

After their sailing extravaganza, they sold the boat in 2013 and now travel from May to October on their Nordic Tug 32. Harry spent the land years building an operating steam locomotive that takes up half of their garage, and he's now started on a model of an 1886 engine. Their house has wonderful maps outlining their travels and some beautiful handwork from the Kuna people in Panama.

Jane and Harry are enjoying Fleet Landing. They walk and participate in fitness activities, and Jane plays bridge. We welcome this lovely couple.

—Isobel Spink (photo by Dale Clifford)

Jingle All the Way—to the Beach

By Maureen Miller

Photos by Maureen Miller and Mary Faria



In the early morning light of December 5, eleven residents, plus Fitness Manager Margaret Carr and Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria, met at the Selva Gate for a Jingle Bell walk to the beach.

To ensure our walk lived up to its name, resident Randy McDonald and Faria provided sets of wrist jingle

bells. As McDonald ensured we were following protocol—red on the right wrist and green on the left—the sound of bells mixed with lively chatter.

Appropriately dressed, and as the “Cold Supermoon” continued its descent behind us, we set off at a lively clip down 20th Street toward the beach and rising sun, stopping only to pet a local furry friend.

Cresting the sandy ridge at the end of the walkover, we were greeted by calm seas, the rising sun, and a 6.7-foot high tide. After a quick stop for the customary group photo, McDonald led us in a northerly direction along the narrow path of packed sand.

As we walked, the group split into a mix of conversation, contemplation, and collecting. The rising seas had left many gifts behind: sea wrack, birds' feathers, unusual shells, and small sea creatures. A highlight was the “sneaker wave” which had some of us racing to higher ground while soaking a few shoes and pants.

All too soon, McDonald and Faria called “time to turn around” so many of the group would be able to continue their exercise with a 9 am class.

But first, just inside the gate, we had time to reminisce about the walk as Michele West Stevens of Coleman Dining Services greeted us with a table full of goodies: hot chocolate, marshmallows, and cranberry muffins.

A great end to a lovely morning walk. Please let's make this an annual December event, Mary.

Operation Decorate and Donate

By Carolyn Stoner; photo by Kathy DeSiena



The unmistakable sounds and colors of Christmas, community, and creativity echoed from Johnson Hall on December 1 as the third annual Donate and Decorate event got under way. Approximately 100 residents gathered to decorate 150 miniature Christmas trees destined for residents of The Nancy House, Derfer, Leeward Manor, and North Point.

New this year was an offer from the health care staff to help distribute the trees—an opportunity to share in the smiles and excitement they bring to those who can no longer mix and mingle as they once did.

This roving reporter asked decorators why the event is special to them. Some were first-timers; others were “charter members.” Their answers, which captured the spirit of the day, ranged from, “the community coming together for a common purpose” to “We've made some

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Operation Decorate and Donate

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beautiful trees—what we lack in talent, we make up for in love.”

Behind the scenes, Julie Rochelle and Kay Craft made it all happen. A dedicated group of helpers, including Sharyn Jenkins, Nancy Sander, and Mary Pat Lynch, welcomed beginners, offered encouragement, and shared guidance. Guy Van Syckle and Pete Sheridan kept the music lively, with Ed Fahy joining in on vocals. And, as always, Pastry Chef Belle Camacho delighted everyone with delicious cookies to sweeten the afternoon.

Bella Voce Cabaret, A Fleet Landing Favorite

By Enith Vardaman



Jim Goodell (l) and Michael Dell



LtoR: Regina Torres, Pablo Pomales-Ojeda, Erin Barnes

The 2026 Chamber Music Concerts, sponsored by residents Cynthia and Walter Graham, got off to a splendid start on January 9. Bella Voce Cabaret returned to Johnson Hall with an ambitious program titled “Music: A Common Language Connecting Us: 7 languages in 60 Minutes.” The languages were English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, and Spanish.

Jim Goodell (bass-baritone), Pablo Pomales-Ojeda (tenor), Regina Torres (mezzo-soprano), and Erin Barnes (soprano), accompanied by Michael Dell at the piano, managed to squeeze outstanding, mostly solo, performances of 14 songs into those 60 minutes. Opera was well represented with selections from works by composers that included Bizet, Gounod, Mozart, and Puccini. Popular pieces included “What a Wonderful World,” associated with Louis Armstrong; “La Vie en rose,” associated with Édith Piaf; and “My Heart Will Go On,” from the movie *Titanic*

Next up in the Chamber Music Concerts series is

“San Marco Music Society Goes for Baroque” on February 18 at 4 pm.

St. Augustine's Lightner Museum

By Chet Davis

Photos by Ann Bell and Anne Leyden



Left and center: A clock and a secretary desk from the Wiener Werkstätte. Right: Café Alcazar.

Otto Lightner (1887-1950) thought that there should be a museum for his collections and those of other collectors. In 1948, the museum he founded in St. Augustine opened with a display of his collections: rocks, seashells, and a wide variety of other items. Today, the collections include antique bicycles, furniture, beer steins, musical instruments, an Egyptian mummy, and artwork.

On January 13, an excellent guide provided our Fleet Landing tour group with a history of what was originally the Hotel Alcazar. Its facilities included a health spa, an indoor swimming pool, and various game rooms. The hotel was built by Henry Flagler to provide recreation for the guests at the Ponce de Leon Hotel (now Flagler College) across the street.

The Lightner collections are displayed over three floors, along with rotating exhibitions from other museums and private collections. The current special exhibit features items of art, luxury, and beauty from the Wiener Werkstätte (Vienna Workshops), which flourished from 1903 to 1932.

After lunch in Café Alcazar (the hotel’s now drained swimming pool), we returned to Fleet Landing with a new appreciation of our local museums.

EveryPet Guided Tour

By Isobel Spink

Often mistakenly thought of as a shelter, EveryPet’s mission is “to make veterinary care affordable and accessible by keeping dogs and cats in homes and out of shelters.” Having seen the Cassat Avenue location last year (before the name change from No More Homeless Pets to EveryPet), I was blown away with the recently renovated Norwood Avenue facility, which is now 12,000 square feet.

There are other nonprofits in the country that spay and neuter, but EveryPet provides the most spay and
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EveryPet Guided Tour

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neuter surgeries in the country and the highest volume of procedures. It has both a dog and a cat lobby, a surgery center, laboratory, and a full pharmacy with sterile packs for each animal. Their low-cost program is open to all, regardless of income.

EveryPet also has a “trap, neuter, and return” program for controlling the feral cat population growth. After feral cats are spayed/neutered, their ears are tipped, and they are released.

This facility now has a training center where students can come from across the country and learn about diagnostics and observe surgeries. They work with the University of Florida, and there are often many students learning from a vet at the same time. A Cornell student was there on our visit.

When our group of ten toured the entire facility on January 8, we observed animals in both surgery and recovery. Jennifer Barker, the CEO of the facility, and other staff explained all the wonderful services provided for animals, including a new telemedicine service via Zoom. These facilities always welcome volunteers to assist them as well as donations.

We then went for a delicious lunch at The Pig Bar-B-Q, which was crowded, but had excellent ribs. We were all impressed with our trip. Thank you, Mary Faria.

Messiah Highlights

By Nancy Lundgren



For the third annual collaboration of the University of North Florida (UNF) Lawson Ensemble with two of its choral ensembles (the Chamber Singers and the Osprey Treble Chorus), voices and instruments were woven together in a shared celebration of Handel’s *Messiah*. Adding to the depth of talent this year were

Sachiko Frampton, collaborative keyboard artist for the UNF School of Music, and three UNF choral alumni who returned for this much-loved concert.

Cara Tasher, UNF professor and Director of Choral Studies led the five instrumentalists and sixty-three singers in *Messiah* highlights without missing a beat. She watched, tempered, accelerated, and slowed them expertly, creating a magical effect. The Fleet Landing residents who packed Johnson Hall on December 1 fell in love with the music all over again.

The final “Hallelujah Chorus” brought the audience to their feet as many sang the familiar words to this timeless masterpiece. We’re grateful for this very special Christmas gift from residents Walter and Cynthia Graham.

New England Dinner

Photo by Sandy Bousquet



Mary Kay Ormsby and Carolyn Johnson enjoying their lobsters

The Benefits of Better Hearing

By Victoria Freeman



Elizabeth Selle (l) and Kelly Eaton

Because hearing loss is the third most common chronic physical condition, the January 15 Johnson Hall presentation on hearing was of interest to Fleet Landing residents.

Elizabeth Selle and Kelly Eaton, audiologists with the Jacksonville Hearing & Balance Institute, gave very detailed explanations of the physical components of the ear, types of hearing loss, advances in hearing technology, how to read an audiogram, and the impacts of hearing loss.

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The Benefits of Better Hearing

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Those impacts include listening fatigue, difficulty following conversation, missing alerts or important information, social withdrawal or isolation, and an increased risk of dementia. The dementia risk is the result of an increased cognitive load, possible brain atrophy, and the social isolation that frequently results from hearing loss.

Hearing aids have had numerous advances. They can be discreet, rechargeable, and Bluetooth connected, and some offer remote adjustments and personalized tuning. Background noise can be reduced and speech enhanced.

Cochlear implants are designed for those individuals with severe hearing loss that does not allow them to benefit from hearing aids. This outpatient surgical procedure, which is frequently covered by insurance, bypasses the damaged cochlea and provides Bluetooth connectivity.

Both Selle and Eaton encouraged early intervention, for better outcomes.

Chips & Putts

By Isobel Spink
December

Following the December 11 Fleet Landing Association of Golfers (FLAG) tournament at the Jacksonville Beach Golf Club, 50 golfers and their guests enjoyed another delicious dinner in The Atlantic. Rick Rochelle recognized Bob Hunter, Price Schwenck, and Bob Neal for their organizing efforts for all of our Fleet Landing golf events. It was noted that we needed to make more use of the putting green. Isobel Spink, aided by Pat Gogolin, volunteered to organize a putting contest with Jim Coté's help.

Neal started our official meeting with yet another outstanding AI-generated song, which included the golfers' names and scores. And then the results: First place went to Team 1, Sharyn Jenkins, Captain, with Mike Tucker, John Rietveld, and Neal, who scored a 67 with five birdies. For her single-handed birdie on hole 1, Jenkins received the Birdie trophy as well as the Sandbagger of the Month trophy.

In second place was Captain Tom Dahlgren's Team 4, with Judy DuBose, Ray Rigney, and Schwenck, scoring a 69 with three birdies. Third place went to Dale Bitter's Team 2 with Dave Smith, Tom Gonwa, and Keith Reichmann, scoring a 70 with one birdie. They had 17 pars in a row and no bogies. Although they weren't in the top finishers, Bob Springer's team with Hunter, Jim, and Nancy Sander also had five birdies. Unfortunately, they also carded five bogies. Fighting to the end was the team of Rochelle, Alan Halperin, Judy Blocker, and Bob Peterson with a respectable 73 and 3 birdies.

The men's long drive trophy was won by Halperin,

and the ladies' by DuBose. Closest to the pin for the men was Dahlgren, Yet again, no ladies hit the green, so the prize money has soared to \$15 next month.

We were treated to Bob Ellis's monthly joke to end another very special evening.

January

'Twas a cold and windy day at Windy Harbor, and although a few golfers canceled, twenty-one golfers, including three Atlantic Club members, played a weather shortened 9-hole tournament. Later, 47 golfers and guests gathered for another delicious dinner in The Atlantic. The golfing results were again presented with one of Bob Neal's AI-generated songs.

Team 6, a three-some captained by Tom Dahlgren with Tom Gonwa and Phil McCullough (Atlantic Club), took first place. They scored a 3-under-par 33 with three birdies. Team 5, another threesome, with Captain Price Schwenck, Paul Donohue, and Dale Bitter, had a 35 with one birdie. Third place went to Team 1, with Captain Bob Peterson, John Egan, Bob Hunter, and Neal, but only after a 4-hole playoff with Team 2 and Team 4. Team 2 was captained by Jim Wayrynen with Ray Rigney and Rick Rochelle. John Rietveld captained Team 4 with Judy DuBose, Rick Hammer (Atlantic Club), and Robert Ezell. Team 3, with Marcia Plumley as captain, did not take home any prizes, but the two blankets she brought kept her and Keith Reichmann who was riding in the same golf cart, warm. Dave Smith and Elton Gogolin rounded out their team. All three teams scored even par, but Team 2 had the lowest score.

Hammer won the men's long drive, which was 20 yards farther than the other drives. He also won the men's closest to the pin, landing 21' 7" from the hole.

DuBose won the ladies' long drive, repeating her win of last month, and yet again, no lady hit the green for closest to the pin. The pot continues to grow!

The Birdie trophy went to Team 6 and was awarded to Gonwa. Team 6 also won the Sandbagger trophy. Dahlgren kept it, as the whole team deserved it. The captains each praised their teams, with few complaints.

Isobel Spink announced the plan for a putting contest, open to all, on April 1.

Deferred Articles

Because so many events took place toward the end of January, not all of them could be covered in this issue. Articles about these events will appear in the next issue:

Readers Theater

Monthly MOAA Meeting

Dan Hogan Mayport Lighthouse Project talk

January WELLInspired Learning Series

Scott Brown presentation on the symbolism of salt in Renaissance art

Robbins/Ruthenberg Wedding

Pam Mullarkey Robbins and Joe Ruthenberg graciously invited Fleet Landing residents to their January 24 marriage ceremony, and Johnson Hall was packed for the happy occasion. The ceremony was followed by a reception and dancing.



Bridge News

By CeCe Lichtenstein

Fleet Landing Duplicate Bridge has been limping along lately. Because of weather, ailments, travel, and such, we have had relatively small games. We'd really like to have more people come to the Monday game in the Windward Commons second floor classroom. Don't be afraid of the folks who have been playing forever and seem to know every convention! We try to have a *friendly* game and aim to help newer players gain confidence.

On another note, we do occasionally have folks who score really super well. Sometimes the newer players even manage to outplay the seasoned ones. On December 22, 2025, John and Marilyn Carlson had a terrific game, scoring slightly better than 79 percent. That was a nice Christmas present and certainly one for the records! They would be the first to tell you that that percentage doesn't happen often.

We are lucky to be in an area that doesn't require shoveling snow or wearing ski shoes. Plan on coming with a partner to our game on Mondays at 12:30 pm in the second floor classroom of Windward Commons. We promise we will be welcoming.

'Tis the Season

By Carole Watson



'Tis the season, and Fleet Landing residents joined Fleet Harmony (men) and the Serendipity Singers (women) on December 17 in Johnson Hall. Led by Julia Pet-Armacost, the groups performed traditional Christmas songs and a Hanukkah song. For accompaniment, Karen Sturtevant was at the piano, and the Holly Jolly Follies Band was on the stage.

The selections highlighted the men's and women's choruses individually and also combined them in rousing harmony. Sarah Chrisman's hula dance to the well-known Christmas-themed Hawaiian song, "Mele Kalikimaka," was an added treat. Audience sing-alongs completed the festive afternoon.

It seemed that all attendees left filled with that Holiday spirit!

Andrew Sorkin on the 1929 Wall Street Crash

By Bo Smith

Andrew Ross Sorkin spoke to the World Affairs Council (WAC) on January 12 at the University of North Florida (UNF), and his talk was simulcast to Johnson Hall. His presentation was titled "1929: The Inside Story on the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History." That is also the title of his recently published book. Sorkin is a financial columnist for *The New York Times* and a co-anchor of CNBC's *Squawk Box*. He is perhaps best known for his award-winning book *Too Big to Fail*.

I think most of the large audience in Johnson Hall expected a dire comparison between today's economy and
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Andrew Sorkin on the 1929 Wall Street Crash

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the run up to the 1929 stock market crisis and the ensuing Great Depression. Instead, Sorkin's talk was a cautionary tale with the honesty not to predict the future. Market panics and crashes are predictable only in that we know they will occur from time to time. Today's economy shares some of the same warnings that were present in 1929: overleveraged debt and unexamined exuberance leading to bubbles. In 1929, the government failed to pour money into the economy, took actions that raised prices in the US and crippled international economies, and had few regulatory mechanisms to fight market manipulation, insider trading, and outright fraud. Today we have laws, regulatory processes, and a government willing to react to crisis. That provides some protection not available in 1929.

Sorkin told us that economic crises arise from excessive debt, and the extent of private and public debt today is a very troubling sign. In 2008, the "Great Recession" was mitigated by the government's ability to rescue major institutions with monetary bailouts. Today the public debt is so large that the government may not have that tool available. But "troubling signs" don't necessarily lead to a crisis. We cannot predict the future.

The WAC provides a series of informative presentations at intervals throughout the year. Fleet Landing is a sponsor, and this allows us to attend lectures in person at UNF or in Johnson Hall by simulcast. The next WAC speaker is David Brooks on Tuesday, February 17, at 7 pm. Brooks's talk is titled "Society in Focus." Sign up on Calendar Central if you plan to attend at UNF.

Fleet Hearts News

By Carol Smith

Fleet Hearts met on January 8 to review their ongoing projects and to look ahead for potential new opportunities to serve the Fleet Landing community and beyond in 2026.

The successful Salvation Army monthly pickup will continue on the first Monday of each month. Judy Hagenbeck and Julie Rochelle, who lead this project, appreciate all the help from volunteers who assist in their section of the community each month and those who provide the lunch for the drivers.

Shann Purinton continues to receive donated eyeglasses that she takes to the Lions Club. The eyeglasses can be placed in Purinton's social mailbox (8429) or taken to the 8000 building mailroom, where there is a bag labeled Eye Glasses Donation hanging on the bulletin board.

The Fleet Landing sponsored house at the new Habitat for Humanity neighborhood is moving along, and the new owner has been identified. She appreciates all the efforts of our residents in completing the house and

assisting in furnishing and making it move-in ready.

Donated T-shirts are still being accepted at Carol Smith's house at 5620 Sirius Court. Rethreaded, which helps survivors of human trafficking reclaim their lives, is grateful for all the fabric, and they use every bit of what is delivered to them.

As these projects continue, the group is always on the lookout for ways to serve our neighborhood here in Northeast Florida.

Space Force Birthday Flag Raising

Photos by Dita Domonkos

The celebration of the sixth birthday of the United States Space Force took place at the Flag Plaza on December 20. Because that service branch is so young, there are not yet any veterans among Fleet Landing residents. Instead, Air Force veterans with space in their military background led the observance: Larry Johnson (worked in Special Programs), Bob Springer (has been in space twice on the shuttle), Ken Hollinga (worked in missiles), Karl Price (in charge of communications commands that involved space systems).



LtoR: Larry Johnson, Bob Springer, Ken Hollinga, Karl Price



Fleet Landing Christmas Tea

By Isobel Spink; photos by Janet Silvester

A large crowd stood waiting for the Johnson Hall doors to open on December 19. At 1:30 pm sharp, Christmas Tea attendees eagerly entered the beautifully decorated room, with gorgeous flowers on every table, and chose where they would sit with friends.

As always, there were three kinds of delicious teas served by holiday-dressed staff, and each table was packed with delicious tarts, several kinds of small sandwiches, cookies, and various other goodies. Kudos to Dining Services for the awesome tea treats.

The approximately 130 attendees chatted loudly between munching, adding to the wonderfully festive atmosphere. In addition, they were treated to the lovely music of Sue Tice, who serenaded the crowd with both fiddle and harp.

The afternoon was once again a festive gathering of Fleet Landing residents enjoying delicious treats, and the staff did an outstanding job of keeping every teacup filled. We'll all look forward to next year's Christmas Tea.



Christmas Tree Lighting

By Victoria Freeman

Photos by Ed Hollender and Janet Silvester

Fleet Landing residents and staff were delighted by the annual event that sets ablaze the Christmas tree outside Mainstreet Dining. On December 1, they enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while the NoteAbles, directed by Sue Myers and accompanied by Karen Sturtevant on the keyboard and accompanied by Karen Sturtevant on the keyboard, provided Christmas music and led sing-alongs. Steve Mulzet as Santa, was accompanied by two maintenance colleagues, Danielle Hesbacker and Allison Smith, as green-clad elves.

Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah just before the moment everyone was waiting for: Residents' Council President Julia Pet-Armacost led the countdown (from seven) to the lighting of the tree, which was accompanied by the shooting off of white confetti poppers to provide the illusion of snow.



Fleet Landing Croquet Club

Text and photos by Mike Foster



LtoR: John Neyhart, Marilyn Heberling, Ernie Bio



The "Mixer"

The Fleet Landing Croquet Club held its first quarterly meeting on January 13 in The Atlantic, with 22 members in attendance. After President Ernie Bio welcomed all members, and following the reports from the club officers, John Neyhart and Bio presented a certificate of appreciation and acknowledgement to Marilyn Heberling Emeritus for her 20 years of dedicated contributions and support to the club. She has served as an officer on all board positions and has always been helpful to the benefit of the club and the sport of croquet. Neyhart noted that on many occasions, she schooled him on the court with her skill and competitive nature.

The club is gearing up for the coming Singles Championship starting on January 25 under the coordination of Miles Nogelo. Two divisions of eight players each will begin a round-robin format. The top point earners move on to single-elimination quarter- and semifinal rounds, with the two remaining players in the finals to be played on March 1. Good luck to all the players.

Once again, we had a good turnout for our second Saturday of the month "Mixer." "As usual, everyone enjoyed the competition and fellowship.

Anyone interested in learning to play the sport of croquet, please contact Neyhart.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Multiple Fleet Landing photographers captured these shots of our volunteers (including a furry one) in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

