



FLEET BEAT

VOL. 36 No. 5

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

June 2026

Memorial Day Observed

By Isobel Spink; photos by Ed Hollender, Ann Bell, and Janet Silvester

Memorial Day Flag Raising

A larger-than-usual group gathered at the Flag Plaza on Memorial Day at 7:45 am for the traditional flag raising. The nearly 30-member Kazoo Band tooted and “kazooed” through the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “America the Beautiful,” and then the rain hit. Pam Ruthenberg has commented that it was a shower of “tears from heaven” as we remembered all the patriots who died defending our country. No one sought cover. Everyone just remained standing in the rain while singing the National Anthem. Later the band went to The Nancy House and added “It’s A Grand Old Flag” to the kazoo playlist.



Memorial Day Program



Left: Carol Smith and Ken Hollinga. Right: Lin Hutton.



Left: Eileen and Giles Norrington. Right: Pat Kluever.



The Memorial Day Program followed the much-loved photo loop of veterans, both current residents and residents who have died, bringing back memories for so many of us. Johnson Hall was packed. The NoteAbles, who throughout the program were led by Sue Myers and accompanied by Sue Stewart on piano and Julia Pet-Armacost on flute, sang “Amazing Grace” to start the program. Residents’ Council President Carol Smith and Master of Ceremonies Ken Hollinga offered welcoming remarks and honored lives well lived. After a lovely invocation by the Rev. Dr. Lin Hutton (who was a Navy pilot), we all joined The NoteAbles to sing the “Star Spangled Banner.”

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May Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

New Residents' Council President Carol Smith welcomed the new council members at the May 19 meeting. She announced that 601 ballots had been cast in the recent council election, an increase over the previous year. She displayed the Salvation Army award given to Fleet Landing as the top money earner in the organization's 2025 Red Kettle Campaign. A Residents' Focus Group led by Bob Armacost and Julia Pet-Armacost, has produced a document with input to the Campus Master Plan. The document can be found on Fleet Link under "Residents' Council."

Management Perspective. Executive Director Matt Thompson provided updates on numerous capital projects, including the 1000 Building roofing (ahead of schedule), the bike pavilion (delayed by an inspection issue) and Legacy Trail (contract signed and some pre-work to be done soon). Of special note, channel 267 may cease operation because of Comcast's refusal to upgrade necessary infrastructure. A Wi-Fi engineer has been engaged to determine how to resolve recent Wi-Fi problems.

Council Reports.

Vice-President. Jackie Smith reviewed May celebrations, including the Kentucky Derby, Cinco de Mayo, and Mother's Day, and she announced the plans for the observance of Memorial Day.

Treasurer. Smith also reported for Treasurer Lynette Beitz, noting that our property insurance surcharge would be eliminated entirely in June. She clarified the principal differences between Spinnaker Society donations and Endowment Fund scholarship donations.

Marketing/Human Resources. Skip McAlexander reported that there were now 724 households in the Atlantic Club and that we continue to have essentially full occupancy. Staffing is at 95 percent, with a headcount of 442. The Staff Member of the Month was Human Resources Assistant Natalie Luttrell, and the Catch of the Month was Transportation Manager Brandon Levy.

Wellness/Transportation. Randy McDonald reviewed the many activities, including fitness events, scheduled to take place before the next council meeting. Chuck Sutton is the new part-time driver in Transportation.

Health Services. Joy Miller announced formation of a Residents' Council Health Services Committee. Lifecare contract holders in independent or assisted living are eligible to apply for committee membership. (Residents subsequently received an application form in their social mailboxes.)

Safety and Security/Housekeeping/Dining. Dave Russell reported that the Safety and Security Huddles would resume in June. He said that when leaving a voicemail to set up an appointment for the three-year

floor cleaning, the contractor would be quite specific about the purpose of the call so that residents would feel comfortable about returning it. He also noted dining upgrades during the past year.

Facilities. Jim Dobson reported on the May 5 Facilities Quarterly Meeting, naming the members of the Campus Operations management team and the residents serving as building and zone representatives as well as citing the status of numerous projects. He also noted problems found during the 5300-5400 zone inspection on May 7.

Communications. Secretary Shann Purinton reviewed seven suggestions, three with responses and four with responses pending. They are too detailed to report here, but the complete text of the suggestions and responses can be found on Fleet Link. Go to "Residents' Council" and then "Residents' Council Presentations."

Fleet Landing Croquet Club: June 2026

By Mike Foster

The Fleet Landing Croquet Club is busily getting ready for the National Croquet Celebration being held at 3 pm on June 5, 2026, at the croquet courts. There will be fun games to play, with food and drink to enjoy.

As always, if you would like to learn to play and enjoy the game of croquet, please contact Ernie Bio, John Neyhart, Mike Foster, or any one of our many members. They are more than willing to help you get started.



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All the news that fits...

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.

Fleet Hearts News

By Carol Smith

Photos by Mary Kay Ormsby and Shann Purinton

May 14 team



Supplies for Fire Victims



May 22 team



LtoR: Judy Blocker, Bill Rodriguez, Jackie Smith

The Fleet Hearts monthly collection for the Salvation Army continues to receive outstanding support from the Fleet Landing community and is greatly appreciated by the organization. Another ongoing outreach effort, the Beaches Habitat project, also kept volunteers busy this month with paint brushes, hammers, brooms, and plenty of teamwork. On May 14, six volunteers from Fleet Hearts and the Woodworkers (Jim Dobson, Susie Canon, Guy Van Syckle, Shann Purinton, Barbette Steele, and Nancy Cueroni) worked at the Doolittle Family Foundation/ Fleet Landing house, cleaning, sweeping, and painting. On May 22, seven Fleet Hearts/Woodworkers volunteers

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Fleet Hearts News

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(Cueroni, Nancy Sander, Mary Kay Ormsby, Dian and Dave Russell, Purinton, and Van Syckle) returned for an extensive day of painting. Dobson has reported that an Open House for the home was tentatively planned for August.

An urgent appeal for supplies needed by victims of several local fires inspired an immediate and generous response from residents. After Judy Blocker shared the need at the monthly meeting, donations quickly poured in. Thanks in large part to Barbetta Steele, who contributed more than half of the requested items, Judy's car was filled with donations from Fleet Landing residents and delivered to Channel 4 the very next day.

Iron Chef Competition

By Carole Watson



Chef Dre (l) and Chef Kelly



Chef Kelly's dish (l) and Chef Dre's dish



LtoR: Chris Gotschall, Lynette Beitz, Elvis Burrows

Both chefs seemed cool as the proverbial cucumbers, as the third Iron Chef: Fleet Landing competition fired up on the Johnson Hall stage on May 13.

Chef Dre Dawkins from Lake View and Chef Kelly Carpenter from 30 North went toque to toque, preparing entrees featuring that childhood favorite, Kool-Aid. Both prepared a gastrique, a sauce made by reducing sugar and vinegar, this time with the addition of their choice of flavored Kool-Aid and a chow chow.

Chef Dre prepared chorizo patties served over a charred scallion and corn base with broccolini. Chef Kelly cooked a pork tenderloin served with his chow chow and cheese grits.

Executive Chef Chris Gotschall, Senior Director of Food and Beverage Elvis Burrows, and Residents' Council Treasurer Lynette Beitz served as judges, sampling each preparation carefully. Attendees were also served samples of the chefs' dishes.

Though both presentations were visually pleasing and decidedly delicious, the judges and the attendees declared Chef Dre the winner. Congratulations to Chef Dre!

Kayaking in Anastasia State Park

Photos by Mary Faria

May 5 turned out to be a perfect day for the outing to Anastasia State Park in St. Augustine. It was also the first of two instances in May when marine biologist Terran McGinnis shared her knowledge with Fleet Landing residents. In this case, it was information about the wildlife and habitats in the waterways participants would explore in kayaks. (See article on page 19 for her talk about the history of Marineland.)



Sibling Shenanigans Steal the Show

By Nancy Lundgren

Photos by Ed Hollender and Jim Leipold



Scene from the play



Tom Dames and Julie McLaughlin



Buffy Wells and Charles Winton



Lto R: Mary Steinke, Carole Watson, De An Winton



Curtain call

What a delight! Readers Theater returned to Johnson Hall on May 10 and May 11 with a sparkling comic take on playwright Christopher Durang's Tony award-winning play *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. The ensemble served up perfectly timed laughs and a warm, affectionate poke at family relationships.

Tom Dames's Vanya was deliciously world-weary, a sort of resigned dreamer who made every rueful line land. Julie McLaughlin's Sonia mixed wistfulness with dry humor as the adopted sister who is quietly heartbreaking and quietly hilarious. Buffy Wells as Masha was gloriously diva-ish: glamorous, commanding, and every bit the troublemaker who kept the plot combustible.

Charles Winton's Spike as Masha's boy toy brought a cheeky attitude that contrasted wonderfully with the older siblings. Carole Watson's Cassandra added comic spice as the clairvoyant housekeeper with her "Beware of ..." warnings, and De An Winton's Nina sparkled as the eager young actress next door. Mary Steinke's Narrator tied it all together, gently guiding the audience's imagination with charm.

Producers Buffy Wells and Sue Myers, and director Joanie Fowinkle deserve kudos for showcasing the rich talent within the Fleet Landing community. Bob Armacost provided technical help. Tight ensemble work, warm delivery, and steady direction made this production thoroughly enjoyable—bravo all around!

San Marco Chamber Music Society Concert

By Chet Davis



Fleet Landing residents had another opportunity to hear a performance by members of the San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS). The six musicians were also members of the Jacksonville Symphony. This May 26 Johnson Hall concert was the group's 20th visit (!), thanks to the generosity of residents Cynthia and Walter Graham.

The program was made up of two 18th century works, with insight into the composer and the compositions provided by ensemble members. The first piece was a three-movement sextet (two violins, two violas, cello, and oboe) by Cayetano Brunetti, a composer new to virtually all attendees. The second work was a four-movement Mozart string quintet. The Brunetti work was quite lively in contrast to the more reflective mood of the Mozart piece.

It was another enjoyable chamber music afternoon.

Art Exhibits

Photos by Ed Hollender

The latest art exhibits in Windward Commons and outside Lake View were hung in April. The paintings by 30 artists will be on display until July. Below is a work by each artist.

Windward Commons



Left: Lynn Blakemore's "Oh, Look! A Bicycle!"
Right: Jackie Stack's "Azalea (Georgia O'Keeffe Style)."



Left: Sandy Roth's "Dual Paths—Aboriginal Art."
Right Charles Winton's "Opus 1."



Left: Richard Lundgren's "Cedar Waxwing Feast."
Right: Marjorie McMahon's "Afternoon Stroll."



Left: Susan Hubbard's "Osprey Mating Pair"
(photography).
Right: Robert Wells's "Fallen Leaves" (photography).



Left: Frances Jones's "Cabbage Patch."
Right: John Hen's "One of a Kind."



Left: Ann Brodt's "Christ Pantocrator."
Right: Cathleen Morris's "Theotokos" (woodcarving).



Left: Judy Blocker's "Driftwood / Shell Cross."
Right: Mary C. Updike's "Untitled" (photograph on canvas).
(continued on next page)

Art Exhibits

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Left: Glenn Perry's "Vernal Equinox."



Right: Imogene Coleman's "Bunny Rest Among the Flowers."



Left: Patricia Payne's "Reflecting on the Coast."



Right: Tom Dames's "Peace."



Left: Tom Bramble's "Promise."



Right: Carol Bowser's "Sunny Twins."



Left: Phillis Harrell's "Little Palms."



Right: Carl Tungli-Giese's "Winter in N.J."



Left: Sarah Lamont's "Moonrise" (photography).



Right: Nancy LaGoy's "Waiting."

Lake View



Left: Hugh Wilson's "Untitled—Rockport, Maine 2010."



Right: Hanley Smith's "Campobello at High Tide."



Left: Barbara Milon's "Watermelon."



Right: Craig Miller's "Niece Caydie's Bandaid."



Left: Kristin Perry's "Old World."



Right: Julia Pet-Armacost's "Another Beautiful Sunrise."

Fleet Landing in the News

By Enith Vardaman

The Sheridans have done it again. *The Florida Times-Union* has deemed Fran and Pete's latest submission worthy of publication in the "Letters to the Editor" column. It appeared in the May 31 issue.

Afternoon Delight

By Maureen Miller



Ivy Suter and Karen Sturtevant



De An Winton and Ivy Suter



Ivy Suter and Carol Smith

A ripple of anticipation wafted through the crowd filling Johnson Hall. Most had no idea what to expect from this May 18 afternoon “Ivy Suter and Friends Concert” other than violin pieces. A glance, though, at the program cover photo—showing grinning residents De An Winton, Carol Smith, Ivy Suter, and Karen Sturtevant—made it evident this was to be no ordinary concert.

All eyes were on Suter and Sturtevant as they began with a lively violin and piano piece, Allegro from Sonata Op. VI, No. 7 by T. Albinoni.

Then, after introducing her friends—or “partners in crime” as Suter called them—she picked up her electric violin to play J.S. Bach’s “Air for the G String.” One of the world’s most popular pieces and a favorite of Sturtevant’s, it showcases the lowest string of the violin.

Winton, with her alto sax, then joined Suter for an “Amazing Grace” duet. It was a mesmerizing interpretation of this traditional piece and a delight to hear how the sax can compliment the violin.

Following Boccherini’s lilting Menuet, Suter enticed the audience with a fun, informative challenge: a vote between electric and acoustic violin. After playing both a jig and a waltz on each, a show of hands made the acoustic the winner. But, as she once more played Bach’s “Air for the G String,” this time with the amplifier plugged directly into the electric violin instead of Bluetoothed, many realized how the electric can hold it’s own.

A beautiful rendition of the gentle notes of Stanley Myer’s “Cavatina” almost had us napping, but we roused quickly when Smith and her dulcimer joined Suter on stage for the lively, traditional Appalachian pieces, “Old Joe Clark” and “Liza Jane.”

Suter and friends concluded their concert with “Ashokan Farewell,” “All the Things You Are,” and “Gabriel’s Oboe.”

It’s amazing to continually discover the talent within this community. Thank you, Ivy, for providing this excellent opportunity.

First Coast Pops Orchestra

By Mary Durkin

Photos by Mary Durkin and Ed Hollender



Jeff Ackerman and Terri Jesonek



As I entered Johnson Hall on May 14 for the First Coast Pops Orchestra Concert well before the start time, I was immediately taken by the scene of 50 musicians and their music stands arrayed in front of the stage. But I was more surprised to see a small group of five on stage playing jazz music and entertaining the early arrivals. When the concert start time came at 7 pm, all the musicians were in their “proper” orchestra seats, and Director Jeff Ackerman told us about the program and provided background on the orchestra.

The all-volunteer musicians, who range from a high school senior to a 92-year-old, come together, per Ackerman, because of their love of music and each other, as there are many friendships within the group.

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First Coast Pops Orchestra

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Meeting once weekly for rehearsal, the group performs seven to eight concerts between August and May each year throughout the Jacksonville area.

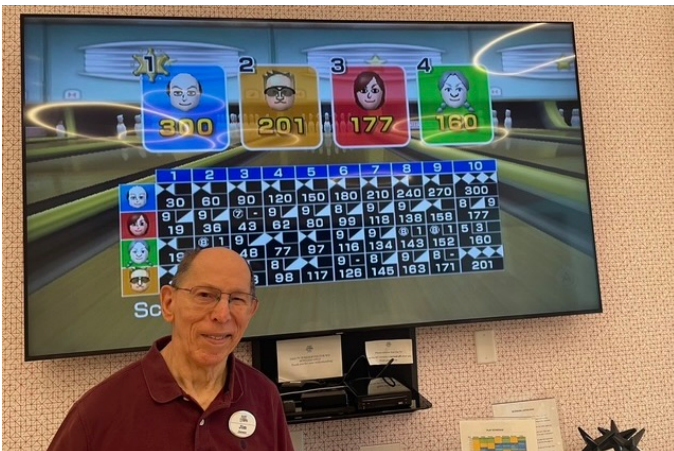
Introducing each musical segment was Allen Nelson, an announcer with a deep, rich voice who is given free rein to describe each section with history, perspective, and humor. Segments included a wide variety of pop standards; Americana; movie and TV themes, such as “Star Trek Through the Years,” “Dirty Dancing,” “Star Wars, the World Awakens”; and even “Santana 1999,” a tribute to a record-breaking album that won nine Grammys. During each segment, the music flowed seamlessly from one song to another, so that each was familiar without ever an interruption.

About midway through the program, Co-Director Terri Jesonek, a French horn player, took over leading the orchestra in a handful of segments. Jesonek and Ackerman are both music education teachers by profession and still are active in leading multiple club, church, and social musical groups in the area.

The audience was most appreciative of the variety, energy, and professionalism of the orchestra members and gave them a standing ovation. In talking with other listeners after the show ended, it was learned that our own Bunky Johnson played with the orchestra for a few years before moving here. Based on Johnson’s participation in many Fleet Landing musical groups, it shows that when you love to do something, just keep doing it.

Strikes & Spares

By Jim LeBlanc; photo by Terry Voynik



Jim Joyner after bowling one of his 9 Perfect 300 games

The National Senior League Spring Tournament is down to the final matches. Two Fleet Landing teams are playing for National Division championships. Both matches were scheduled to be played the week of May 23 to May 29. We wish them good luck!

Elite 1 Division Finalist: Easy Rollers: Robert Ezell, Captain; Kay Craft; Bob Hunter; Carol Smith; and Subs: Joyce Ezell, Carolyn Johnson, Walter Kraslawsky,

and Jim Joyner

Master 1 Division Finalist: Alley Kats: Carol Bowser, Captain; Nancy Van Kirk; Tom Bramble, Geri Bramble; and Sub: Carl Tungli-Giese

Jim Joyner Sets Fleet Wii Bowling Records

We are proud to announce that Jim Joyner has been named the **"Best Fleet Bowler in the National Senior League Spring Season."**

Joyner is a dedicated student of Wii bowling who can often be found practicing and honing his skills. His efforts have paid off in record-setting performances for his teams, the Pin Busters and Rolling Pins, as well as while subbing for the Banana Splits and Easy Rollers.

Joyner set incredible records over the final three weeks of the tournament:

- April 25 to May 1: He bowled five perfect 300 games, including a 300/300 series for both the Pin Busters and the Rolling Pins. He also bowled a perfect game subbing for the Banana Splits.

- May 2 to May 8: While subbing for the Easy Rollers, he bowled another perfect 300.

- May 9 to May 15: He recorded a third back-to-back perfect 300/300 series for the Rolling Pins.

He finished the season with the following achievements:

- 263 Average—the highest among Fleet bowlers.

- He achieved nine perfect games, tying for the most 300 games nationally.

- Recorded three back-to-back perfect games, a first for Fleet Landing bowlers.

Congratulations to Jim!

Notables After 11 Weeks of Competition

300 Games: Jim Joyner: 9; Jim LeBlanc: 3; Karen LeBlanc: 1

299 "Oops": Jim LeBlanc: 2

Top 5 Averages: Jim Joyner: 263; Jim LeBlanc: 259;

Kathy Vanderbeck: 241; Walter Kraslawsky: 239;

Dede LeClaire: 236

Pilgrimage Adventures

By Guy Bond

On May 28, Gary Sass shared stories and insights



from his two pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, home of the famed St. James Cathedral where the Apostle James is believed to be buried. Sass is a historian, preservationist, long-distance hiker, and founder of an agency known to Fleet Landing residents for providing many interesting local tours.

There are many Camino de Santiago pilgrimage routes, each offering its own challenges and rewards. Sass

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Pilgrimage Adventures

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completed two different journeys: The Portuguese Camino of approximately 150 miles, began in Porto and passed through Pontevedra, Spain, with Sass averaging about 15 miles a day along mostly paved paths. The Camino Primitivo proved more demanding, taking him through mountain terrain and along natural trails.

Pilgrims undertake the Camino for many reasons, but Sass explained that the spiritual aspect unites them all. For him, the experience was about connection — connecting with himself, fellow pilgrims, and his spiritual side.

During his travels, Sass stayed primarily in albergues, the traditional pilgrim hostels that provide simple but affordable accommodations. Occasionally, he treated himself to a guesthouse when he wanted a little more comfort than “just a shower and a bed.”

Sass also highlighted interesting cultural connections he discovered along the way. He compared Pontevedra, Spain, with its Florida namesake, Ponte Vedra, noting similarities in climate and lifestyle. He also spoke about Avilés, Spain—sister city to St. Augustine—which serves as the starting point for the Camino Primitivo.

Through stories, photographs, and personal reflections, Sass offered an engaging glimpse into one of the world’s most meaningful pilgrimage traditions.

Toga Party

By Victoria Freeman; photos by Mary Faria

The sixties sizzled at the May 8 Toga Party. Some of the participants wore Roman togas; some wore “spirit of the decade” outfits.

The food, honey pistachio cheesecake and baklava, was fantastic. There was a charge bar as well as a complimentary Greek Pineapple Sunrise.

Best of all was the Cloud 9 Band that had an authentic sixties sound. Having played together for 31 years, they were “spot on” with “The Twist,” “Louie, Louie,” and “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction.” During the last named song, one of the band members pretended to be Mick Jagger and seemed amazingly accurate.

The promo for the evening invited participants to relive the era’s magic and connect with friends. Seeing the many folks on the dance floor, both of those goals seemed within reach.



Library Notes

By Enith Vardaman

The Library Committees thanks our recent donors: Lynette Beitz, Lorie Holmes, Don Husmann, Suzanne McKnight, Dale Ransom, and Jackie Smith.

Reminders: Please do not donate more than five books per week. The library’s collections are enriched by the steady stream of small donations, but processing large donations is a strain on the committee’s time and effort.

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Library Notes

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Do not re-shelve books that you have borrowed. Books being returned are to be placed on the book truck located between the library office and the library. We continue to find many incorrectly shelved books that would not be found if a patron was looking for them in the correct location. For example, putting a large print book in with books that are not large print deprives anyone needing large print of access to that book.

National Senior Health & Fitness Day

By Mary Durkin



On May 27, Health Services and the Wellness Department held a fair in Johnson Hall for residents to learn about some of the health and fitness programs offered at Fleet Landing. There were eight stations passing out information, including Pelvic Health, Disease Management, Mental Health, Tai Chi, and Resident Support, where Patty Chicoine was handing out The Red Packet and explaining its purpose. At the Healthy Eating station, Chef Dee Waiters offered tips on protein and fiber intake, plus a chai pudding breakfast bowl to sample, along with the recipe. At the Body Mechanics station, the fitness group gave a Grip Test. At the Solara station, a blood pressure test was offered. As a bonus, attendees could get a "Passport" stamped at each station. When complete, it could be entered into a raffle for a gift basket.

Each station had flyers available covering things from "Prevention and Early Recognition of Stroke" to "Pelvic Health Therapy," and staff ready to talk with residents who had questions. A large number of residents roamed from station to station, collecting all the handouts and chatting with the available professionals. Many guests commented that this was a successful way to pass on all the useful information.

Birding at Hanna Park

Text and photos by Janet Silvester



The Birdwatching Club had a fantastic trip to Hanna Park on May 9. Seeing seven migrating warblers was the highlight of the morning. We observed over 30 different species of birds, including a pileated woodpecker, Forster's tern, common gallinule with chicks, spotted sandpiper, mottled ducks, wood ducks, and white-eyed

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Birding at Hanna Park

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vireo. Herons are always a memorable part of all birding trips. Three of our favorites were the great blue, green, and black-crowned herons.

Birds are not the only wildlife inhabitants of Hanna Park. On a previous trip, very brave wood ducks were seen parading around a very large alligator.



Left: Yellow-throated warbler.

Right: Pileated woodpecker.



Left: Forster's tern. Right: Spotted sandpiper.



Left: Common gallinule.

Right: Common gallinule chicks.



Left: Northern parula. Right: Red-winged blackbird.



Brave wood ducks and a very large alligator

El Faro: Tenth Anniversary of the Loss

By Chet Davis



Partial view of Jacksonville's El Faro Memorial

On October 1, 2015, the SS *El Faro* sank, resulting in the loss of all hands. Of the 33 lost, 14 were Jacksonville residents. Dr. Alan Bliss, CEO of the Jacksonville History Center, presented an interesting



and informative review of the incident on May 6 in Johnson Hall. Bliss has studied all available material pertaining to the investigation, including photographic evidence, recovered material, and data from the bridge voice recorder.

The *El Faro*, a ship built in 1974, was on a weekly schedule, transporting vehicles and containers between San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Jacksonville. It departed Jacksonville, choosing to follow the normal route. With heavy weather looming, some course alterations were made to potentially avoid Hurricane Joaquin. Unfortunately, things did not go as hoped. As the hurricane approached, the weather data the captain used lagged behind that of the National Hurricane Center. This failure put the ship in the direct path of the hurricane.

A variety of contributing factors doomed the ship. After losing power, the ship was beam-on to the swells and, with a high center of gravity, began to lose cargo. Through unsecured openings, the ship began to flood. The NTSB and US Coast Guard investigation found that the ship lacked a working anemometer, and had exposed/unsecured hull penetrations, lagging weather data, and inadequate machinery preparation for heavy weather. The blame was put squarely on the captain of the ship for loss of situational awareness, the ship's material condition, and failure to acknowledge the strength and track of Hurricane Joaquin. A corollary finding cited antiquated lifeboats that could not survive the storm.

Jacksonville has created an *El Faro* Memorial. Fleet Landing residents toured the memorial on October 7, 2025. (See *FLEET BEAT* November 2025, page 11.)

Memorial Day Observed

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Our guest speaker was Nick Norfleet. In 1985, at the age of 23, he began service as a Gunner's Mate on the USS *Stark* FFG-31 in the Persian Gulf. He recounted his harrowing experience of the May 17, 1987, attack on the ship during which 37 sailors were lost and 21 injured after the *Stark* was hit by two Iraqi Exocet missiles. Fortunately, he survived and still has annual reunions with his shipmates.



Pat Kluever read Captain Giles Norrington's memorial remembrance of his 1,775 days as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, with both Giles, and his wife, Eileen, in the front row. A truly remarkable and terrifying memory. A lovely rendition of "America the Beautiful" by the NoteAbles was followed by the Memorial Roll Call. Smith and Hollinga read the names of residents who had died since last year's Memorial Day, with Kluever ringing a bell after each name was read.

The final portion of the program included "Let There Be Peace on Earth" sung by the NoteAbles, who were joined by the audience. Hollinga thanked Randy McDonald for supplying the traditional Memorial Day poppies, and Charles Winton sounded "Taps" to conclude the event.

Clearly, Memorial Day is a hugely significant holiday for Fleet Landing, and one that has tremendous meaning for so many.

Bold City Brass

By Carol Smith



"When you come to a brass band concert, you hear everything!" This is what one member of the ensemble told the audience in Johnson Hall on May 21 as he introduced a selection performed by Bold City Brass.

Judging by the audience's enthusiastic response, that promise was certainly fulfilled.

Founded in 1980, Bold City Brass is an ensemble of talented musicians who perform simply for the joy of creating and sharing great music together. Their love of music was evident throughout the lively and entertaining concert.

The band opened with a stirring rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and continued with a varied program, with different musicians introducing each selection and adding their humor and personality. Audience favorites included ragtime classics such as "Tiger Rag," featuring a combination of three trombones and a tuba. Perhaps the most unexpected piece was Pachelbel's Canon in D—played in tango style—which showcased the group's versatility and musicianship.

Audience participation added to the fun as residents were invited to clap along on the offbeat during a spirited performance of "When the Saints Go Marching In." The concert concluded with a moving arrangement of the Armed Forces Medley, as veterans in attendance proudly stood when their branch's anthem was played.

1000 Building Roofing Project: Photo Essay

Patricia Payne, a 1000 Building resident, has been documenting with photographs the building's re-roofing project, which is now substantially complete.



Loading roofing tiles and the crane that would lift the container to the roof



*Roofing underway
(continued on next page)*

1000 Building Roofing Project: Photo Essay

(continued from preceding page)



View from Payne's apartment of work on a rooflet



Rapport with project workers. It's a little hard to see, but the one on the left is smiling, and the other is waving.

Armed Forces Day Flag Raising

Photos by Ann Bell

Residents gathered at the Flag Plaza on the morning of May 16 for the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising. Observed annually on the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day honors active-duty military members and veterans of all of the armed forces of the United States. Two special flags were raised. This is one of six days the US Congress has authorized the flying of the POW/MIA flag. It is the only flag allowed to fly just below the US flag. The other special flag, the Gadsden flag (Don't Tread on Me), has been adopted by Florida to honor the state's veterans.



Work on other rooflets



Gutter and drainpipe replacement



Florida Water Warriors

By Chet Davis

Photos by Ann Bell and Mary Faria

Despite concerns about the weather, 18 Fleet Landing residents set forth on May 13 for St. Augustine for a trip with the Florida Water Warriors. The outing was billed as spending 90 minutes on the water in the organization's pontoon boat, scouting for wildlife, collecting data on water samples, and discussing the local ecosystem and ways to protect our waterways. The age of the participants may have been a factor because the tour became a delightful trip around Matanzas Bay instead. Several pods of dolphins were spotted, as were many species of birds. It turned out to be a perfect day to be on the water.

An enjoyable lunch at Aunt Kate's followed, completing a worthwhile and relaxing trip.



Fins and feathers



Views on the water



Views of St. Augustine from the water

In Memoriam

George Koski

1939-2026

Dave Robinson

1938-2026

Carolyn Paradise

1945-2026

Evelyn Runck-Hutchinson

1926-2026

Astralis Chamber Ensemble

By Enith Vardaman



Classical music lovers at Fleet Landing had an early May treat when members of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble performed music from the 18th century. Various members of the Ensemble are known to residents from their concerts here over the years. The May 2 concert in Johnson Hall featured four of the group's musicians: Angela Massey (flute), Seeun Bank (violin), Dr. Thomas Maternik-Piret (cello), and Dr. Aleksandra Snyder Dunbar (harpsichord). All are award-winning musicians who have performed on stages throughout the world.

The entire group played the initial piece, Vivaldi's Trio Sonata in D minor. The program that followed featured selected movements of sonatas by different composers showcasing the musicianship of the individual instrumentalists: a piece by Johann Joachim Quantz, a prolific composer for the flute; pieces by Marianna Martines and Francesco Geminiani for harpsichord and violin respectively; and another Vivaldi composition for cello and harpsichord.

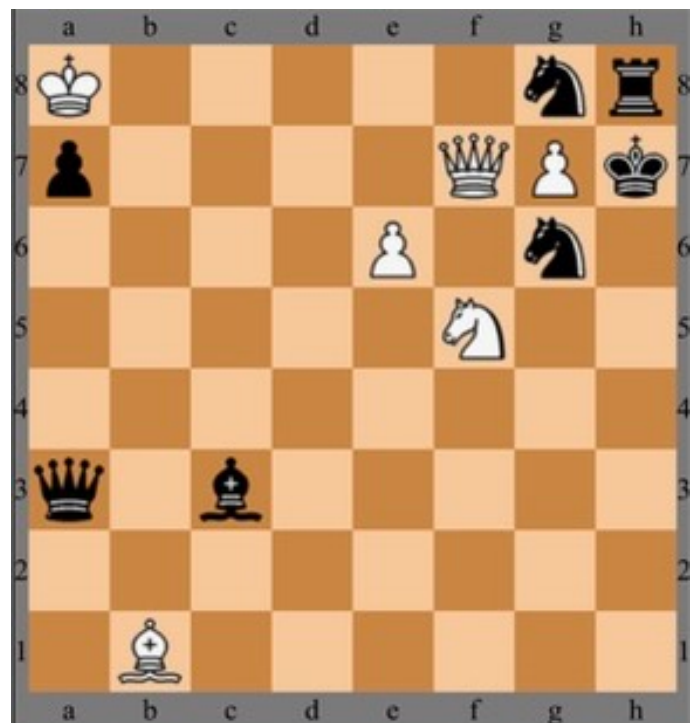
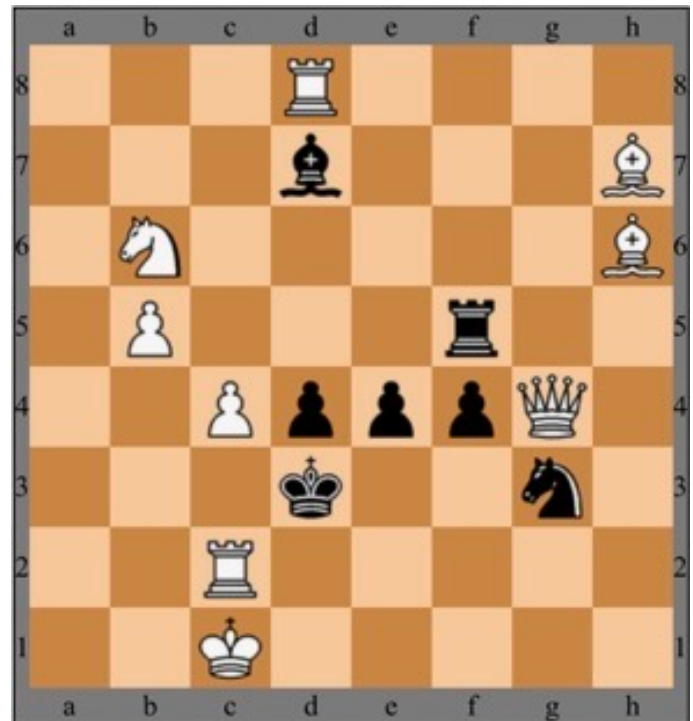
The Ensemble titled their program "A Musical Offering," a reference to the final composition on the program, when the entire group assembled again to play selections from Bach's *Musical Offering*. The commentary that preceded each piece on the program, enhanced the audience's enjoyment, but the introduction to this work was especially interesting: The performance included a crab canon, with one instrument playing a line forward while another instrument played it simultaneously in reverse order. In this case, it was the flute and violin respectively.

Attendance at this concert was less than would have been expected because the timing conflicted with the running of the Kentucky Derby. It was an exciting race, with Golden Tempo's dramatic come-from-behind win, but that can be seen on replays. This outstanding concert could only be enjoyed once, but residents—those who attended the concert and those who missed it—can look forward to future appearances by members of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble.

Chess Club News

By Richard Wong

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



Here are two chess problems: Both are White to mate in two.

Chess tips: Avoid having double pawns; castle early after 5-6 moves.

Fleet's Got Karaoke

By Mary Durkin



Bob Armacost and Julia Pet-Armacost



LtoR: Sandi Smith, Mary Steinke, Nancy Patterson



John Rietveld (l) and Jay Dowling

As anyone can tell from the many resident-based musical groups we have, Fleet Landers love to perform. And who better than Bob Armacost and Julia Pet-Armacost to set up a way that wannabe singers can do that. On Saturday night, May 23, attendees at the most recent Fleet's Got Karaoke reviewed a playlist of 15 songs, chose the ones they wanted to lead, and placed their names in numbered dishes on stage. If more than one name was in the dish, all got to perform that song as a group.

Singers performed on stage in front of a computer which played YouTube karaoke versions of the songs, which were also shown on the screens for audience participation. Songs ran the gamut for variety, including "Blueberry Hill," "Sweet Home Alabama," "Eight Days a Week," and "Singing in the Rain."

Among the participants, John Rietveld, Mary Steinke, Sandi Smith and Nancy Patterson performed on the most songs, but Jay Dowling gets special mention for his animated performance of "Brown Eyed Girl."

The attendees seemed to be a regular group who are attracted by the chance to participate and to watch friends perform. Residents can be added to an email list (armacost64@gmail.com) to receive the playlist before the next Fleet's Got Karaoke on July 25, in case they want to practice. The email list will also have information about the other resident-led entertainment events.

The Last Word

By Maureen Miller; photo by Craig Miller



On the rainy Friday afternoon of May 29, an excited audience welcomed four of Jacksonville's most illustrious jazz musicians to the Johnson Hall stage. The announcement on Fleet Link described the concert as "Groovy Jazz Fusion with the Last Word Band," and we knew this was to be another of Wellness Manager Mary Faria's great finds.

As the lights dimmed, James Hogan, on electric guitar, set the mood with Billy Cobham's very jazzy "Red Baron." Once Joshua Bowlus on keyboard, Stan Piper on bass guitar, and Stefan Klein on drums joined in, this hour plus of musical conversation was off and running.

Bowlus took an interlude between pieces to let us know that if we thought we found this group on the Internet, we'd be mistaken. This was the quartet's first foray on stage together, and they hadn't practiced before! One wonders what conversations were required to produce this program and the group's name—Piper's favorite cocktail.

The performance was an incredible mix of some of the greatest jazz pieces. Piper's steady bass guitar beat introduced "Black Market" by Weather Report. And while Klein's drums kept the tempo, the discussion between keyboard and electric guitar was stimulating.

With drums and bass guitar holding their own, Hogan's amazing electric guitar skills were highlighted during John Schofield's "Hottentot," while Bowlus exhibited the versatility of his 1973 Fender Rhodes keyboard. What a delightful cacophony of sounds.

The quartet brought an ethereal quality to Bill Frisell's "Strange Meeting," and their choice from Herbie
(continued on next page)

The Last Word

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Hancock's repertoire was reminiscent of jazz of the late '60s. The familiar "Footprints" and "Spain" tunes allowed the instruments to continue their discussions before ending with "Cold Duck Time," a fun little heady tune.

All said, this group is appropriately named, as their music definitely is The Last Word—a cocktail with a complex flavor profile that balances sweet, sour, and herbal notes. I can't wait to hear them again.

May WELLInspired Learning Series

By Victoria Freeman



Nick November and Brooke Drawdy

How Dense Are You? On May 20, Doctor of Physical Therapy Nick November and Exercise Physiologist Brooke Drawdy teamed up in Johnson Hall to address that question with a presentation on bone health.

November said that bone density, also called bone mineral density (BMD), refers to the mineral content in bone tissue that determines bone strength. Osteopenia means the density is lower than normal. Osteoporosis means the BMD is low enough that the bone can be vulnerable to a fracture.

November displayed a vivid slide of an unhealthy bone with holes resembling Swiss cheese. Factors that affect bone density are age, gender, genetics, hormones, nutrition, physical activity, lifestyle, and medical conditions. Bone density can be measured via DEXA scan (the gold standard), quantitative ultrasound, and CT scan. Medicare pays for one scan every two years. An individual's primary care physician needs to refer the individual for the appropriate scan.

Bone fractures are one of the most frightening possible results of low BMD. In addition to pain, hip fractures can limit mobility and independence dramatically. Some studies have shown a definite link between such fractures and mortality.

Options for prevention and management of bone density loss include a variety of medications, but they do have side effects. Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption should be avoided. Physical therapy was recommended because it can improve bone density through a program of safe, individualized exercises.

Drawdy explained the importance of strength training in improving bone health. This can include the

use of dumbbells, machines, and resistance bands, as well as planks and pushups. Weight-bearing exercise, including walking, stair climbing, and dancing, also help in building and maintaining bone density. Non weight-bearing exercise such as swimming, cycling, and rowing are good forms of exercise, but do not contribute to bone strength.

FLEET Classics

By Isobel Spink



Our very talented residents who make up the FLEET Classics gave us another wonderful performance in Johnson Hall on May 12. With an interesting variety of instruments, Julia Pet-Armacost, Bob Armacost, Eunice Rogerson, Karen Sturtevant, De An and Charles Winton, and Bunky Johnson played 14 very celebrated and recognizable pieces from Schubert, Chopin, Verdi, Liszt, and others. I'm sure I joined many in the audience humming along with the music, especially ones like the opening to Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Chopin's Polonaise, and Debussy's "Rêverie."

One of the best parts of this concert was the fascinating information about each of the composers provided by Julia and Bob. Some examples:

Ludwig van Beethoven, a German composer and pianist born in 1770, was a brilliant, eccentric genius. Terrible at math, he quit school at an early age and could not multiply or divide. He began losing his hearing at age 20 and continued composing masterpieces even after going completely deaf at age 44.

Frederic Chopin was born in 1810 in Poland. He was a child prodigy and wrote his first composition at age 7. He wrote over 230 fantastic compositions for piano, and interestingly, he played piano in the dark throughout his entire life. He died at age 39, most likely from tuberculosis.

Claude Debussy was a French pianist and composer. Born in 1862, he was the eldest of five children. He grew up in a poor working-class family. His family made sacrifices to start him in piano lessons at age seven, and he was accepted into the Paris Conservatory at age 10. He wrote around 200 compositions in his lifetime spanning a wide array of musical styles, but he died of colon cancer at age 55.

We are lucky to have so many talented musicians living among us, and I thank Julia and Bob for the biographical gems.

Marineland: World's First Oceanarium

By Mary Durkin



Marineland has been an attraction on the Florida coast for over 80 years. When Terran McGinnis, already known to many Fleet Landers from dolphin and sailing tours, came to Johnson Hall on May 21, we knew we would get an interesting presentation. McGinnis, a marine scientist, has been with Marineland for over 20 years, has witnessed the many changes, and now, as Education Director and Historian, can present Marineland's story from personal experience.

In 1937, the founders of what was then called Marine Studios envisioned an underwater film studio. It was situated on a barrier island with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Matanzas River on the other. Different species caught on boats in the ocean were then offloaded on the river side into a one-million-gallon tank with portal windows to shoot film through. McGinnis explained the importance of the oceanarium concept for the film studio. In an aquarium, a single species might be on display in an individual exhibit. In the oceanarium, all the animals lived together just as they did in the ocean.

One of the most famous films shot at Marine Studios was *Creature from the Black Lagoon*.

In 1938, Marine Studios held a public preview of the oceanarium—the world's first—and 30,000 people showed up, creating a major traffic problem on what was then Ocean Shore Boulevard. Based on this reaction, owners started to put on shows in which the dolphins entertained the crowds. By 1941, newly named Marineland was the number one tourist attraction in Florida. During WWII, Marineland closed because both staff and the facility were used for the war effort.

When Marineland reopened after the war, animal trainer Adolf Frohm found that the dolphins were very intelligent and could be trained to perform tricks and maneuvers. Frohm got one dolphin named Flippy to perform six aerial maneuvers, and "dolphin shows" became a popular tourist attraction. Simultaneously, scientific research performed at Marineland resulted in the discovery of the dolphin use of echolocation and signature whistles for communication.

By the 1990's, tourist attendance had been hurt by the opening of Disney World and SeaWorld, and a series of hurricanes in the late 1990's and early 2000's seriously affected upkeep. The property had passed through a few different owners and bankruptcies by 2025, and the staff was concerned about the ongoing care and feeding of the 13 dolphins housed there, many

born at the park. Then, in October 2025, a judge awarded the sale to Barbara and Jon Rubel, a couple from Clay County, who then turned it over to a nonprofit organization. The new management has announced a focus on discovery, conservation, marine stewardship, and education, returning the attraction to its historic roots. McGinnis feels that the outlook is very bright and hopeful with the new leadership.

Singers by the Sea Spring Concert

By Chet Davis



Singers by the Sea, a volunteer choral group, returned to Johnson Hall on May 7 with a varied program called "The Power of Music." The show incorporated music from various eras, including a patriotic segment in which residents were invited to join in the singing. Director Becky Schumann provided interesting facts about some of the works and the composers.

The group, which has been performing here for more than a quarter-century, has had a number of Fleet Landing residents among its members. Currently, there are five residents in the chorus.

Singers by the Sea provided an enjoyable afternoon of music. Residents can look forward to their return in December.

LPT Concert

By Carole Watson



A glorious profusion of sound and infectious rhythm characterized the music of LPT, as concert goers who attended the May 1 performance in Johnson Hall can attest. The group of ten musicians played Latin music, fusing Afro-Cuban, Caribbean, and salsa traditions into a hard-to-resist toe tapping, hip swinging sound.

The band, which has been together for 11 years, consists of a three-person percussion and four person horn section, plus bass guitar, keyboard, and lead vocalist. All songs were sung in Spanish, adding to the ambiance.

In case you were wondering, LPT stands for Latin People Time, and they perform once per month at Jacksonville's outdoor entertainment venue, The Block.

Fleet Landing Golf

By Bob Neal

Perfect weather set the stage as 22 Fleet Landing golfers gathered at Jacksonville Beach Golf Course for their May 14 tournament. With calm conditions and lively surroundings—ducks in the water and crows circling the carts—players combined for an impressive 17 birdies on the day. When play concluded, the team led by Ray Rigney, alongside Bob Hunter and Bob Neal, emerged victorious with a six-under-par 65, highlighted by six birdies. Two teams followed closely, each posting a score of 66. Bob Peterson's team, featuring John Rietveld and Tom Dahlgren, shared runner-up honors with Atlantic Club member Rick Hammer's team of Stephen Dick, Marcia Plumley (Atlantic Club) and Judy Blocker. The team led by Miles Nogelo, joined by Bunky Johnson, Judy DuBose, and Dave Smith, recorded five birdies but were hindered by a bogey on the opening hole, finishing with a 67. The team led by Price Schwenck with Phil McCullough (Atlantic Club) and Syd and Sharyn Jenkins, and the team led by Elton Gogolin with Tom Holloman, Paul Donohue and Bob Springer rounded out the field, enjoying the favorable weather and camaraderie throughout the round. Individual honors included Jenkins for the ladies' longest drive and Dahlgren for the men's. Closest-to-the-pin awards on a par-three hole went to Plumley for the women and Hammer for the men.

The event showcased both strong competition and the enduring spirit of fellowship among the Fleet Landing golfers. Our June tournament will be played at Hidden Hills Golf Course.

Bridge Club News

By CeCe Lichtenstein

It seems like it's been quite a while since I mentioned the Fleet Landing Bridge Club in *FLEET BEAT*. Mostly, I crow about members who do particularly well. I'm making up for lost time in this article. Bridge is a terrific game that "stretches" the brain to keep us mentally alert. It is particularly good for problem solving.

Fleet Landing's club is a member of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). As such, members acquire "Master Points" (MPTs) and advance to different skill levels. As you might surmise, advancing is equal to being rewarded. Our club is restricted to those who are Fleet Landing residents or are members of the Atlantic Club.

Many of the club members are long-time players and have achieved high levels of acumen. Each game consists of hands of cards that are played by each pair. Consequently, the results can be compared. When a pair scores particularly high, we like to acknowledge how well they did.

These are the the high accomplishments for April and halfway through the month of May: In April and May, John and Marilyn Carlson scored above 75 percent twice. The Carlsons have been playing longer than most of the folks in the club. Susan and Richard Titus scored 60.7 percent. They are rank novices, so this is a fantastic result that many folks would be super happy to achieve. Sharon and Kent Carter, relatively recent residents of Fleet Landing, scored better than 69 percent. The Carters had their own club when they lived in Orange Park, and they have been playing longer than many of our other club members.

Feathered Visitors



Left: Paul Mocko took this photo of an osprey from his fifth floor apartment in the 8000 Building.

Right: Chet Davis saw this juvenile red-shouldered hawk outside the 4000 Building.



Although disappointed that we had no osprey chicks this year, we did have these cute goslings. The top family photo was taken by Linda and Tom Holloman. Isobel Spink spotted them on dry land in the second photo. (No word on whether further sightings resulted in a call to Goose Masters)