VETERANS DAY, 2017

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On October 14, we held our 2017 annual meeting, with attendance at just under 500 property owners. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, I would like to provide a few highlights.

There was only one item on the ballot this year — election of three Board members. One of these positions was for a two-year term, and the other two were for the standard three-year terms. The new Board members elected this year are Jim Lavin for the two-year term and Jeff Toner and Corolyn Foster for the three-year terms. All are incumbents.

It will come as no surprise that we continue to grow. As of September 2017, we had a total of 4,844 buildable properties with 3,266 improved properties — houses and condos. In the last year, we have added 115 new lots, gained another 103 property owners and built 181 new homes.

“IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT WE CONTINUE TO GROW.”

St. James is approximately 90 percent “sold out” and 63 percent “built out.” At the current rate of sales, the remaining lots will effectively be sold in about four years. New homes are being built at a rate of 200 per year. At this rate, we will be effectively built out in another nine years.

Our end-of-year forecast for 2017 shows we will have positive variances of $505,000 on the revenue side and a negative variance of $203,000 on the expense side of the budget. The primary reason for the revenue variance was receipt of cable revenue paid to the POA by Spectrum. The negative variance on the expense side resulted from road repairs and an increase in income taxes resulting from the Spectrum payments.

A major concern of many property owners is the lack of adequate parking at the Beach Club. It’s inadequate for the current population and will be woefully inadequate when we grow to 9-10,000 residents at build out. In late September, we closed on the purchase of 1.3 acres of land located between 72nd and 73rd streets, abutting Oak Island Drive. This land will approximately double the number of parking slots and will be available in 2018.

A major project for 2017 was the repair of the Polly Gully causeway. The road opened on June 30, but work was halted by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) due to permit issues. The issue has been resolved in coordination with other government entities. Work remaining includes the west end bulkheads, staining of the guard rail, adding lighting, putting rock facing on the Jersey barriers and placing an asphalt overlay. Work is planned to begin this month.

Other significant 2017 projects include: (1) the new Grove Gate House; (2) the Woodlands emergency exit; (3) major road repairs on St. James Drive; (4) HA-5 application on the roads in the Players Club area; (5) Beach Club upgrades; and (6) the ongoing replacement of failed stormwater pipes.

Our 2018 operating budget shows an increase of 4.8 percent over the 2017 operating budget for a total of $4,075,780. The increase in the operating budget results from the continued expansion of SJP with (1) more roads; (2) new common areas; and (3) increased costs for contracted services. Details of the 2018 budget were distributed with the annual meeting package. The 2018 annual assessment is $850 per year — an increase of 2.4 percent.

The 2017 Volunteer of the Year is Paul L. Foster.

Editor’s Note: For more information, the annual meeting presentation is posted on the POA website at www.stjamespoanc.org.
The Town’s Emergency Management Team provided a presentation at the Town Council’s work session meeting on September 21. Along with the presentation that fully explained its functions and responsibility during an emergency, the team also set up their Operations Center at the Community Center to discuss the demands of their current setup.

“\textbf{If you didn’t vote early, please be sure to vote on November 7.}\”

Specifically, every time the team needs to activate, they must take their equipment out of storage and set it up (and then take it all down and store it again after the event). The space doesn’t really meet the team’s needs. Also, the Community Center is not available to other residents while the Operations Center is activated.

As you may know, the Fire Department is going to build a new substation on the Oceanic Drive extension. The Emergency Management Team is going to occupy a large area of the substation’s second floor. This will be dedicated space, with the appropriate equipment permanently in place and ready whenever the team needs it. The new location includes support space that will make being activated more comfortable and manageable. The team will also share some space with the Fire Department, such as conference room and sleeping areas.

The substation plans are prepared and the Developer deeded the property to the Fire Department in September. If construction on the building hasn’t started by now, it will very soon. The anticipated completion date is January 2019. This new substation is going to be a real benefit for our community.

While we’re talking about projects, here’s an update on the streetlight project as of late September. Jean Toner, who’s in charge of the project, led a discussion on the status at our September work session. Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) is on schedule to finish installing new streetlights in the fourth quarter of the budget year (between April and June, 2018).

Beaver Creek and St. James Drive from the circle to the Grove are the larger areas to be finished. After completion of the new streetlight installations, we will continue to replace existing fixtures and bulbs with the new fixtures and LED bulbs as the existing bulbs burn out. This replacement process will probably take a few years to be completed. Since the bulbs are expensive, we won’t replace existing bulbs until they burn out.

One final word about the upcoming election: You will be electing candidates to fill three seats on Town Council: Wayne Deutscher is running for another term, and David DeLong, Jeff Mount and Stephanie Macaluso are running to become new Council members. All are four-year terms. If you didn’t vote early, please be sure to vote on November 7.
Let Brunswick County know about special medical needs  

**By Jim Carey**

So, who enjoyed our recent hurricane season? Even though we haven’t yet received a direct blow from any of the major hurricanes brushing our coast, it’s always good to be prepared.

Imagine if you had special medical needs which require hourly or daily treatment, such as those of our neighbors who are insulin- or oxygen-dependent or have mobility issues. You need to know what assistance is available and who can help when the power goes out or an evacuation is required.

Brunswick County Emergency Services maintains a protected, electronic registry for the special medical needs of citizens. Since the registry contains medical information, its use and dissemination is regulated under provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which protects patient privacy.

You need to register with the county to let Brunswick County Emergency Services know who you are, where you reside and what assistance and shelter you need during an emergency. The registry information will only be shared with your SJFD during a declared emergency, and then only with personnel who have a need to know and can assist in making sure individual needs are met.

To register for the Brunswick County Special Medical Needs, go to the Brunswick County Emergency Services website at www.brunswickcountync.gov/emergency. Once the home page comes up, scroll down about half way to the “Sign up for the Special Medical Needs Registry” link and double click on it.

Brunswick County Emergency Services maintains a protected, electronic registry for the special medical needs of citizens. Since the registry contains medical information, its use and dissemination is regulated under provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which protects patient privacy.

After completing the initial page, go to the next link and continue until you have completed the form, at which point you’re registered and your special needs are known and will be addressed.

Also, remember we are continuously seeking folks to join our ranks and to help maintain your SJFD. If you’re interested in getting more person-to-person information, please contact Chief John Dahill at 910-253-9990 or Harry Einbinder at 910-253-3545.

**Editor’s Note:** Harry Einbinder provided substantial support in preparing this article.
We love our pets, so keeping them safe in the wintertime should be a top priority. Here are some friendly reminders to keep your pet warm and out of harm’s way.

**Bring pets indoors.** Just as in the hot summer months, pets should be brought inside during extreme cold temperatures. Check the weather each day and limit your pet’s outside time if the forecast looks chilly.

**Bundle them up!** Pets with thinner fur coats may need extra warmth when they go outside. Pet stores have an assortment of extra layers for your pet — even winter boots to protect paws from the cold. If you’re unsure, ask your veterinarian if your pet would truly benefit from extra layers.

**Keep your pet active and out of trouble.** During inclement weather, when you can’t make it outside with your pet, set aside extra time during the day to give them some playtime — even 15 minutes helps. Paying attention to your pets keeps them engaged and guards against bad behavior caused by boredom.

**Beware of sidewalk salt and de-icer.** I know — we’re in the South and don’t get that dratted weather that caused us to move to St. James. But we’re not totally immune to winter’s wrath. Pets’ paws are extremely sensitive and prolonged exposure to sidewalk salt can cause problems. If your pet walks on treated roads or sidewalks, wipe the undersides of their paws with warm water and a clean towel. Cleaning paws eliminates risk of indigestion if your pet licks its paws. Also, keep an eye on your pet’s toe pads for severe dryness, cracking or bleeding.

Remember — if you’re uncomfortable with the outside air temperature, chances are your pet is too.

**Editor’s Note:** Nancy A. Seyferth is the POA compliance coordinator.

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**St. James by the numbers**

Numbers of calls for service for the Town of St. James fire department and Emergency Medical Services for 2016 and 2017 year to date:

- **EMS**
  - 2016: 418
  - 2017: 448

- **Fire**
  - 2016: 173
  - 2017: 191
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from the **Cat-Tales** archives

By Cheryl L. Serra

Twenty-two years ago, *Cat-Tales* reported a full house — or a full meeting room — for the St. James annual meeting, when an estimated 200 people heard from St. James board members and officers.

“There are now 656 property owners and ‘only’ 120 unsold lots in phase I,” the November 1995 newsletter reported. “Considering that three years ago there were less than 200 lots sold, we are certainly growing at a rapid pace.”

Jeff Davis, then the St. James marketing vice president, said 55 percent of the property owners were 46-55 years old, 26 percent were 56-65 years old and 10 percent were between 36 and 45 of age. “Nine percent said age was none of our business, so we assume they are seasoned citizens,” the article said.

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### 2017 *Cat-Tales* Photo Contest winners

By Linda Eyler

The editors thank the photographers and judges for making this contest a success — 100 entries were submitted. Congratulations to the winners, whose photographs will be featured in upcoming *Cat-Tales* issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Photo Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenery</td>
<td>Grand Prize &amp; 1st Place</td>
<td>Kathy Crispino</td>
<td>Docked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Nick Noble</td>
<td>Waterway Park Sunrise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Paul Kubitschek</td>
<td>Southport Sunrise</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>George Pappayliou</td>
<td>Diamond Ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Tish Gordon</td>
<td>Surf at Sunset, Oak Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People/Activities</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Carol Scott</td>
<td>Waterway Park Delight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Ross Gorman</td>
<td>Hanging Out at the Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Elaine Harris</td>
<td>Waiting for the Big Catch</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Kathy Ivers</td>
<td>My World Upside Down</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animals/Wildlife</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Steven Sagri</td>
<td>Oak Island Amigos</td>
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<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Paul Kubitschek</td>
<td>Heron Walk</td>
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<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Dave Pearce</td>
<td>Wingfoot Stare Down</td>
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<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Kurt Chismark</td>
<td>Cody</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Deb Voso</td>
<td>Elusive Painted Bunting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Susan Harman</td>
<td>Inquisitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Award</td>
<td>Essence of St. James</td>
<td>Nick Noble</td>
<td>Music and Dancing at SeaSide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Editors’ Choice</td>
<td>Chris Sticher</td>
<td>Smoke Screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technical/Composition</td>
<td>Kathy Crispino</td>
<td>Docked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A dmission of guilt: The Cat-Tales editors pulled a fast one on Paul L. Foster. Their accomplice was his wife, Corolyn, POA treasurer.

The couple came to St. James in 2006 with their three springer spaniels — Sage, Sugar and Spice. Sage is still with them. We contacted Paul under the guise of interviewing him about being a veteran as well as his extraordinary work starting and maintaining the POA Pet Registry, both commendable accomplishments in and of themselves.

But we had a secret — Paul was selected as the 2017 POA Volunteer of the Year.

Back to that military career — Paul served in the Navy for 31 years, starting in submarines. After earning a master’s degree in business and a Ph.D. in finance, he retired as a rear admiral. Then he became the founding dean of the Haub School of Business at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. He retired from full-time teaching in 2006, but he remains a professor emeritus of finance and has taught several MBA courses online for St. Joe’s while living in St. James.

“Throughout our history, brave men and women have secured and maintained our freedom and way of life. Veterans’ Day is an opportunity for a grateful nation to say ‘thank you’ to all of them.”

Paul’s involvement with the Pet Registry springs from his love of training dogs, particularly springer spaniels and Labrador retrievers. In 2007, there was an effort to have Waterway Park become a place for dogs to unwind off leash. At that time, there were no dog parks. So the POA allowed dogs off leash at certain morning and afternoon hours.

The POA also named an ad hoc group to monitor the pooches’ activities. Paul jumped in to serve as de facto chair of this group. The group now comes under the auspices of the POA safety and security committee, of which Paul is a member. The Pet Registry now has an estimated 850 dogs listed and amber alert-like notices are broadcast by email when they or their kitty counterparts are wandering, lost or found.

According to POA President Jerry Iverson, Paul was selected as Volunteer of the Year because he’s been a volunteer in St. James since 2006, developing the Pet Registry, in which he’s still involved. He also served on the Safety & Security Committee for many years. “We all need to thank Paul for making St. James an even better place to live,” said Jerry.
I

n the century that has followed the end of “the war to end all wars,” Americans have time and again borne arms to defend their country against the aggression of others. Their achievements in war and peace are why — in the 1926 legislation creating Veterans Day — Congress invited all Americans “to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.”

Since its inception, St. James has welcomed veterans. Residents have developed a tradition of honoring their vets, as exemplified by with the memorial in front of Town Hall. The St. James list of vets begins with Homer Wright, its developer, who served his country during World War II. He was a first sergeant with the Army’s 85th Division, serving in Italy. His list of achievements since his time in the military are notable, but like all veterans, he hasn’t forgotten his experience in defense of his country.

Perhaps because of Homer’s experience, or because St. James is near major military installations, the list of veterans living in St. James is long and distinguished — too long to publish in Cat-Tales. To honor their service, the editors of the magazine decided to select, more or less at random, a group whose accomplishments while serving in the military typify those of their fellow St. James residents and comrades in arms. Below are their stories, together with their thoughts on what Veterans Day means to them.

### JOE KINZER

**Inspired to serve**  
By Arthur Hill

Joe Kinzer set his sights on a career in the armed services early on. The three-star lieutenant general, who retired from the Army in 1998 following a distinguished 39-year career, grew up in Westminster, Md. admiring the service of his three uncles who joined the military during World War II.

Before he received his commission in 1964, Joe was an enlisted member of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, better known as “The Old Guard.” He served on the honor guard that accompanied the casket with the body of John F. Kennedy during the assassinated president’s funeral.

Joe served two tours in Vietnam as an infantry officer. He received his first star in 1988 and the second in 1993. In 1994, Joe was the commanding officer of a 21-nation U.N. peacekeeping force, which
paved the way for the return of democracy in Haiti. He received his third star in 1996 and capped his career as commanding general of the 5th Army headquartered at Fort Sam Houston.

“Remember those who willingly gave so much. Reflect on the significance of their sacrifice. Resolve that we will never allow their memories to fade.”

Commanding a battalion in the 101st Airborne Division was the assignment Joe recalls with the most pleasure. “It was the last time in my career I could reach out and touch the soldiers I commanded,” he recalls. “I shared what they experienced, ate what they ate, and slept on the ground with them.”

MIKE FARAGE

Recalling the wild blue yonder  By Arthur Hill

Mike Farage didn’t like his first job following his graduation in 1970 from Central Michigan University. So he joined the Air Force and never looked back. For the next 32 years, Mike successfully navigated a challenging series of assignments, becoming a two-star major general.

As a freshly minted second lieutenant, Mike’s first assignment was helicopter training, and his flying skills in helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft defined his career. As a member and later commanding officer of Air Force search and rescue units, Mike often participated in clandestine assignments in such far-flung locations as Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

After receiving his first star in 1997, he was assigned to the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, a duty station he recalls as the most interesting and exciting of his career.

In 2001, Mike received his second star and was appointed the chief of the U.S. training mission in Saudi Arabia. He arrived at his new station one week after the attacks of September 11. “Tensions were high,” he recalled, perhaps with a trace of understatement.

Following his retirement in 2003, Mike joined Sikorsky Aircraft and applied his skills and experience to the design and development of the HH-60 helicopter, which the Air Force is now using as its primary aircraft for search and rescue missions.

“Self-sacrifice for our country.”
Steven H. Ratti

Following the USCG motto, ‘Semper Paratus’ By Linda Eyler

Steven H. Ratti prepared himself from his early days for a career at sea, attending the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Academy.

Steven served more than 40 years in the USCG and retired as a rear admiral. He served on seven ships and commanded four of them, with time in the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean, Bering and gulfs of Mexico and Alaska waters.

As a flag officer, Steven served as the director of a joint interagency task force to combat transnational organized crime in Asia and the Pacific. Later he became the second USCG officer to serve as a director for a U.S. combatant command (the U.S. Southern Command), where he directed U.S. military operations in the Caribbean and South and Central America.

For his final tour, Steven was the District Commander for the Fifth USCG District, responsible for all the Coast Guard’s mid-Atlantic operations. A St. James resident since 2014, Steven is a gubernatorial appointee to the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission.

For Steven, Veteran’s Day is a great time to reflect on those that have served our nation. “I know well the sacrifices our service members make, but I also know of the opportunities that service provides them. My father served on active duty for 32 years and my son is currently on active duty."

Semper Paratus — always prepared.

“I spoke last year at a St. James’ Veterans Day event and talked about how Arnold Palmer, a USCG veteran, placed great importance on his military service. He said it laid the groundwork for his success in life.”

Hugh Shaw

A combat vet who helped other vets By Arthur Hill

Hugh Shaw graduated from Bowdoin College in 1965, earning a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army along with his undergraduate degree in government. He was the only member of his class to receive a Regular Army commission.

Hugh served in the 82nd Airborne Division in the Dominican Republic during 1965 and 1966. He received his orders for Vietnam in 1968, arriving in country during the infamous Tet Offensive — a chilling introduction to war. He served for a year commanding two companies in the 1st Infantry Division (“Big Red One”).
Hugh continued a series of assignments with storied infantry units, assuming command of a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division in 1982, and led this unit during the assault into Grenada. He completed his Army career in 1993 as a colonel.

"Veterans Day is a time to remember all who fought and died for our country. It’s also a special day of thanks to the great Americans with whom I served and had the privilege of leading in combat."

For more than 10 years following his retirement, Hugh worked as an examiner on the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR), the highest level of administrative review within the Department of the Army. The Board’s mission is to correct errors in Army military records or remove injustices from the records of active-duty members of the Army or veterans. Some of Hugh’s fondest memories of this period are related to his work on cases involving awards and decorations for veterans — some whose time in the Army was during World War I. After he retired from the Board, he continued to assist veterans on a pro bono basis in preparing their cases for the ABCMR.

DEBORAH SHAW

Beans to tanks  By Arthur Hill

“An army travels on its stomach.” Today, Bonaparte’s maxim is a useful way to explain that armies fail without the ability to purchase their necessities.

That’s a good reason why career officers like retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Deborah Shaw are essential to the success of the military. For 15 years, Deb served in the U.S. Army Contracting Command, where she negotiated and managed agreements with vendors who provide the goods and services the Army needs to fulfill its mission. During her career, she served in diverse locations such as South Korea, Germany, Honduras, Colorado and the Aberdeen (Maryland) Proving Ground. In fact, it was the diversity of her duty stations and personnel she enjoyed most about her Army life.

Deborah received her physical education/health degree in 1973. In 1974, she joined the Army and served as an enlisted helicopter mechanic and later as a ski instructor at Berchtesgarden, Germany.

After completing her enlistment, she returned to college to complete a business degree and reentered the Army as an ordnance/maintenance officer.

“I had a challenging career,” she says. “I had a variety of jobs in the Army, and was in a constant learning mode while working with hundreds of great people. It was a rewarding experience.”

"Veterans Day is a day of reflection, remembrance and celebration. I feel a sadness for those who aren’t present, but I’m proud I served my country and can celebrate Veterans Day with other veterans, their families and our community."
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Parade of Homes Diamond Award Winner
Dave DeLong
Deep water specialist
By Cheryl L. Serra

Dave DeLong served in the Navy for 10 years of active duty and 10 more years in the reserves before retiring as a Navy commander (he says an Army guy would call that “a light colonel!”) in 1998. Most of his time was spent in staff roles in the Pentagon and Norfolk, Va. But he also had some tough (sarcasm intended) short-term assignments in France, Italy and the Caribbean. While in the reserves, he was called up for Desert Storm for a year and served in a unique special unit at Indian Head, Md., a weapons station.

The bulk of Dave’s military career was focused on submarines, and he attended Naval Submarine School in Groton, Conn. after joining the Navy. His first ship assignment was in Charleston, S.C., on the USS John Adams (SSBN620), where he served for about three years before he was assigned to the Pentagon. While in the reserves, he served in a variety of positions and locations. After retiring, Dave became a defense contractor supporting submarine programs, primarily their acquisition. He has stayed involved with veteran affairs through participation in various military organizations.

When asked what Veterans Day means to him, he took a long breath, clearly thinking about his response. He received his commission in 1978, shortly after the Vietnam conflict ended. And while he was never treated poorly while in uniform, as many of his contemporaries were, he appreciates the respect and the way people now go out of their way to recognize veterans.

“I loved the military, my time in the military,” Dave recalled. “The day I said, ‘I’m done’ was a sad day.”

“It’s awkward when people say, ‘Thank you for your service.’ I’m proud of what I did, but I don’t look for accolades.”

Gary Crowden
Surprise honor
By Cheryl L. Serra

What would you do if you were awarded a Nobel Peace Prize but nobody told you? Ask Gary Crowden.

Gary served 21 years in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1990 as a lieutenant colonel. He served in numerous command and staff positions in a variety of U.S. and overseas locations, including Germany, Israel and Vietnam.

His most interesting assignment was, “By far, Jerusalem, Israel,” when he was attached to the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces. “It was a melting pot of different cultures and religions, and you learn a tremendous amount about the world in general by talking to the people there.”

During the Lebanese Civil War, Gary served as an observer in southern Lebanon. Later, he was reassigned as the operations officer in the Jerusalem contingent, responsible for coordinating the withdrawal of U.N. forces and...
returning control of the Sinai to Egypt. The unit also was responsible for establishing a U.N. buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

Due to their peace-keeping efforts, 297 officers from 17 nations assigned to the U.N. were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1988.

But Gary didn’t go to Stockholm to receive the award. In fact, he didn’t find out about it until he congratulated a colleague who had listed the award on his resume. Gary’s friend told him Gary had received the award as well. But there was no fanfare. Instead, he said, “It was, more or less, ‘Submit your paperwork that you were assigned to this unit and we’ll send you the certificate and the medal. And by the way, no money.’”

“And Veterans Day is the recognition by the citizens of the U.S. of the sacrifices of not only the men and women in uniform, both past and present, but also the military family.”

---

**TOM RAGAN**

*From basketball to WW II*

By Marilyn Rudolph

Tom Ragan was a young man in 1944 with an athletic scholarship to play basketball at the University of Pittsburgh — a college sophomore in the prime of life — when he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

Tom knew his country was deep into World War II and needed his service. He left school without hesitation, not knowing what might happen with his athletic scholarship and college enrollment status upon his return.

Soon deployed overseas, Tom became a second lieutenant in the Army. He defended against Nazi invasions in France for almost two years. When the war ended, Tom was released from service and he contacted Pitt.

Tom’s enrollment status was intact, and Pitt’s basketball coach, who was upset when Tom was drafted, readily welcomed him back to his starting position on the basketball team. Tom graduated from Pitt two years later and became a structural engineer for U.S. Steel.

Tom looks back on his service with pride and said serving his country was an important and necessary part of what he had to do during a dangerous time.

"When Veterans Day rolls around, not much is expected except a little admiration for veterans that have served our country."
TED CARLSEN
Proud of his career with the U.S. Army National Guard

By Marilyn Rudolph

Ted Carlsen served with the Army National Guard from 1964-1995. He thought his service would be a quick in and out, but his attitude changed. Ted, who retired as a colonel, held many positions in different locations — California, Virginia, Europe and others. He served as commanding officer of signal and infantry battalions, state and area headquarters recruiting, an army engineer company and eventually, as chief logistics officer.

Ted said his favorite location was Germany and his most interesting assignments occurred when he supported the ending of the Cold War, the deployment of troops for Desert Shield and Desert Storm and being on staff for a major general.

Ted stated “most people don’t realize what it takes to serve our country, and those that do serve willingly accept the physical and emotional challenges that come with service.” He also said that all veterans have made sacrifices to serve our country.

“My hope is that on Veterans Day, the American public takes time to reflect upon and appreciate the men and women that have served our country.”

FRAN CARLSEN
Women’s Army Corps sergeant  By Marilyn Rudolph

Fran Carlsen served in the Women’s Army Corps from 1957-1960. (Yes, Ted and Fran Carlsen are husband and wife, as well as proud Army veterans.)

When a recruiting poster caught her eye, Fran enlisted in the Army. She went directly from the recruiting office to her mother and asked for her autograph/permission to enlist. Fran’s mother had no objection because Fran’s brother and sister also served in the Army.

Fran was assigned to the Pentagon as personnel specialist for the chief of research and development in support of missile launches. Fran also had another interesting assignment — modeling women’s Army uniforms.

In 1960, Fran left the Army and became a civilian employee at the Pentagon. She worked her way to facilities manager at the world’s
Following Officer Candidate School and Basic School (for officers), John F. Lewis, Jr. served in The Republic of Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division in 1967-68. Following Vietnam, he served with the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C. where he attained the rank of captain and was honorably discharged in 1969.

John found his assignment as the Battalion Reaction Team Platoon Commander eye-opening and often-heartbreaking, as he escorted and provided security for their battalion doctor when he visited nearby Vietnamese villages to treat (primarily) children. John interacted with the villagers on these visits.

“Clearly, with my father and father-in-law both career U.S. Army and World War II veterans, for me, serving our country as a Marine, put life, duty and honor into perspective,” he says. “My time in the Marine Corps prepared me for life — discipline, direction, loyalty, love of family, of country, and, importantly, to take care of the people with whom you work or have the privilege to lead, has been at the forefront of all I do.”

“Veterans Day is important because it honors men and women, living and dead, who have served in the U.S. military.”

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JOHN F. LEWIS, JR.
The Marines prepared him to take care of people

By Cheryl L. Serra

Following Officer Candidate School and Basic School (for officers), John F. Lewis, Jr. served in The Republic of Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division in 1967-68. Following Vietnam, he served with the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C. where he attained the rank of captain and was honorably discharged in 1969.

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“Veterans Day is important because it honors men and women, living and dead, who have served in the U.S. military.”
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Doug Willox joined the Marines in 1972 for a six-year hitch. After training at Parris Island, Doug spent time at Camp LeJeune for extra training before joining “8th and I” — a 24-man rifle platoon, also known as the “Silent Drill Platoon,” that performs a unique precision drill exhibition. The unit “exemplifies the professionalism associated with the United States Marine Corps,” according to its website.

“Veterans Day makes my wife, Kathy, and me extremely proud. My Dad, Nick, received the Navy Cross at Guadalcanal. He met my Mom, Lucille, at Camp LeJeune. She was also a Marine. Needless to say, you would never disrespect our flag in my family.”

During his service, Doug marched in the funerals for Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson and Truman. He also marched at President Nixon’s inauguration. He met Nixon, his family and other dignitaries while stationed at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland. He ended his career as a corporal at Camp David.

Doug credits the Marine Corps’ training for helping him during his post-military career as a locomotive engineer on the Long Island Railroad. His military background also served him well during the four terms he served as division president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.
The veterans in our lives
Compiled by Cheryl L. Serra

Being a relative or spouse of a veteran brings veterans’ experiences home to many. In this article, St. James residents share stories of the veterans who mean so much to them.

Kiki Forsythe’s husband, John K. Forsythe, is a veteran of the Vietnam War. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961, received a commission in the Air Force and trained as a helicopter pilot. He served in the Vietnam War for six years, rescuing downed airmen. From 1964-1965, he was based in Laos and Cambodia and assigned to Air America. For his service, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and a Bronze Star.

He retired in 1966 and flew in the National Guard for three years. Then he flew for a commercial airline.

Kiki’s uncle, Frederick Hinze, was shot down and killed in the Pacific by Japanese fighter planes in World War II. He was honored posthumously with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal and one Oak-Leaf Cluster. His heroic story was told in a cover story for Time Magazine. Her father, Richard Hinze, served in the Navy and was removed from combat because of the sole survivor policy, which protects families from the draft or combat if a member of the family was killed in the line of duty.
Kerry Malitoris’ father, James F.X. O’Rourke, was a man of many talents. “My dad was a fabulous story teller, known for his colorful Irish jokes replete with brogue and impeccable comic timing,” she recalled. “However, most of his personal achievements we learned about through medal ceremonies, awards and a biography written about him when he was mayor of Yonkers, N.Y.”

Following his graduation from medical school in 1943, Dr. O’Rourke went overseas to serve as a field surgeon on the front lines in France as a member of the U.S. Navy. He received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

In addition to his storytelling, Dr. O’Rourke had a gift for singing. At a medal ceremony presided over by Gen. Eisenhower and held at the Stuttgart Opera, he sang Tosca’s “Recondita Armonia” with the Stuttgart Symphony.

Two of Dr. O’Rourke’s sons fought in Vietnam. His father fought in World War I and his grandfather fought in The Spanish American War. In 1980, President Regan appointed O’Rourke regent of the Armed Services Medical School. As a member on the Surgeon General Committee under Dr. C. Everett Koop, he helped identify smoking as a major health hazard.

Dr. O’Rourke died in 2006 at the age of 86. He and his wife, Evelyn had 13 children, more than 30 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Gina Mancinelli calls her late father, Eugene Joseph Fiorella, a man of many hats. The following is her recollection:

Growing up during the depression with five brothers and one sister, nothing could prepare my dad for the job of raising a bunch of daughters. A World War II and Korean War veteran, his love of country and the Navy was reflected not only in his life, but ours as well. “Shape up or ship out” was one of his favorite sayings.

When he returned to civilian life to don his Dad hat, he became a firefighter, which was his passion, passed down to us girls. Not only was he a career firefighter, but also a volunteer for more than 50 years in our town.

My Dad passed earlier this year. As my sisters and I sorted through all the memories tucked in different parts of his home, it was evident he had instilled in us the same values he lived by...helping others and honoring your country. It was with incredible pride that a much newer version of the fire truck led the procession that took Dad to his final resting place. It stopped in front of the firehouse and rang the bell three times, signifying his final call.

I applaud all veterans of every branch of service, as well as those firefighters and police officers that protect us now. You, too, are men and women of many hats.
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A group of St. James residents’ playtime on a porch has turned into a band that rocks for causes — classic rock for fundraisers, charity events and folks in need, that is. The Back Porch Rockers include Randy Lewis, leader, vocals, guitar; Linda Harlow, vocals and rhythm guitar; Steve Privott, lead guitar; Jim Irvine, rhythm guitar; Martin Murphy, bass guitar and vocals; Kurt Chismark, vocals and percussion; and Dave Testa, drums.

Members started playing together on Randy’s back porch (hence the name), and the band was formed in 2016. They don’t play for money, just for worthy causes. Each member brings a special note to the group with respective musical backgrounds, love of their genre and experience. Back Porch Rockers joins Mike’s Garage Band, another St. James band that has been widely recognized for performing for charities.

Classic rock lovers of all ages have enjoyed the Back Porch Rockers’ hand-clapping, toe-tapping, foot-stomping performances. The percussive band offers plenty of tasty syncopation in performing songs by Eric Clapton, ZZ Top, Bonnie Raitt, Van Morrison, Doobie Brothers, Wilbury’s, Chuck Berry, Fleetwood Mac, Eagles, Rolling Stones, Lynard Skynyrd, Stray Cats, Credence Clearwater and many others.

The group rehearses twice a week to keep their performances tight and fresh. During rehearsals, they add new material, fine tune their impressive harmony and rhythms, and practice challenging guitar riffs and vocal harmonies.

The band has performed at fundraisers for Providence Home, USO, American Cancer Society, The N.C. Maritime Museum at Southport, Samara’s Village, Brunswick Toy Run and others. For more information please see their Facebook page and click on the ABOUT link. www.facebook.com/BPRrockband/ or contact them directly at othaiii@aol.com.
More than 50 couples, each celebrating 50 years of marriage — and so begins another St. James tradition.

A celebration of five decades’ post-nuptials was held at the Members Club in September. The affair of the hearts included dinner and dancing to vintage 1967 songs, news from 1967 and statistics about the 51 couples in attendance. The lavish event featured three anniversary cakes, tables with gold decorations and black linens, and “red carpet-ready” attire. None of the brides ventured out in their original gowns.

The idea for the celebration came shortly after New Year’s Day, when John and Lydia Kelso were discussing their 50th anniversary. They wondered how many other couples would be celebrating the same milestone in 2017. Through the community e-newsletters, 34 couples responded — enough to form a committee with the challenge to find at least 16 more couples who tied the knot in 1967. The committee found 60, although not all of them could attend the festivities.

During the evening, attendees watched a video with their 1967 wedding portraits and a 2017 photo. Most agreed there were only minimal differences.

Some fun facts: June was the favorite month for brides (12), and four were married June 10. August included ten couples at the altar, while May and December had five couples each. There were no weddings in January. Nearly half the group shared wedding dates.

Three couples chose “More” as their wedding song, and three danced to “Strangers in the Night.” At this celebration, the DJ played the special reception dance music for each individual couple.

Record-breaking performances: Nikki and John Burke were neighbors when they were two and five years old, respectively. Sue and Dan Cundiff met at a dental office and won a prize for the most unusual meeting place. Five couples met on blind dates, 12 began as high school sweethearts, 15 found their mates in college, and four met for the first time in the workplace.

The Christiansons, Claytons and Magills are the longest married couples—all wed February 18, 1967. The newlyweds to the group are the Griffins, married December 29.
The Richheimers and the Newmans were married in the same town, Plainview, N.Y., but a month apart. The Dag Egede-Nissens, who were married in Bangkok, Thailand, easily had the most distant wedding site.

As for the most children, the MacKinnons, Pattens and Schultes tied with four each. The Tomasinis have the most grandchildren with nine, and the Holts have the most great-grandchildren with three.

The guests were totally thrilled with the event and offered Lydia Kelso much thanks and praise for her efforts. The event will be repeated in 2018, so the all call is out for couples married in 1968. They should contact Lyn Mangiapane at lynmangia@yahoo.com with names and anniversary date to be placed on the participants list.

Congratulations to St. James couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2017

Jerry Dycus taking photos of celebrants
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THE ARTISANS' CORNER

Compiled by Barbara White

Deb Voso

Deb has been taking photos since she was a child with her first Brownie camera. She recently found a new passion for abstract fluid painting. She brings a lifetime of photography skills to her abstract paintings by incorporating inspiration from nature and her global travels. Her fluid paintings are mostly on wood panels, but she also displays her talents on old record albums turned into stunning clocks. Her keen sense of balance between form and movement appeals to traditional and contemporary art lovers.

In addition to nature, Deb is fascinated by the movement of color and merging various paints and inks to create depth and appeal. She incorporates dynamic colors with subtle tints to invoke a mood or a feeling.

Deb is an active participant of The Artisans, where she displays her works. She also teaches various workshops, where she passes on the skills she learned in a variety of mediums.

Virginia Hamill

Virginia began her love affair with stained glass in 1999 after taking lessons at a nearby glass shop in her New Jersey hometown. What began as a hobby while working full time as a real estate broker is now her passion.

Virginia has graduated from making sun catchers with purchased patterns to designing and executing her own original patterns. Her talents allow her to make larger hangings as well as small- and medium-sized windows. She also makes 3D pieces such as candleholders, fan pulls, paper weights and various other items.

After retirement, Virginia and her husband, Mark, purchased a home in St. James. She was thrilled to join The Artisans Gallery, which gives her an outlet for her art as well as introduces her to other very talented artists. Virginia takes pride in her meticulously detailed work and feels that nothing compares to the timeless beauty of stained glass art.
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The St. James community enjoyed a Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) weekend in September by hosting two events — the Inaugural Wine Tour of St. James and the Second Annual Kitchen & Tasting Tour of St. James. The two events together raised more than $78,000.

Wine tour attendees tasted highly-rated (90+ points) labels from around the world and toured local wine cellars. The evening concluded with a successful silent auction. The Kitchen & Tasting Tour was even more impressive, with tickets selling out in 20 minutes.

Local designers and florists staged eight homes where attendees tasted specialties from local restaurants and bakeries.

Sam Rogers, donor and community relations manager at LRF national headquarters, attended the event and expressed his gratitude to the committee and community. He noted the funds raised here would help sponsor two early-career investigators in their mission to eradicate lymphoma and assist those touched by this disease.

Contact Carol and Dan Deets at danielnc854@gmail.com or Meridith and Jeff Muehleib at muehleibj@gmail.com for more information. Donations to LRF can be made at any time at www.kitchentourofstjames.com.

The St. James community has, once again, been unselfishly generous. The 2017 Jimbo & Ruth Smith Golf Classic, held in early September, raised $19,000 to purchase medical and surgical equipment for mission projects in the Dominican Republic. Rain caused cancellation of the golf tournament, but the dinner was a success. Jimbo and Ruth and all the people involved with these projects are very grateful for the support they received again this year.
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Have you ever wanted to experience appearing on stage in a production of one of the local theater companies? A year or so ago, St. James residents Denis and Christina Healy did so. They threw themselves into the audition process with Brunswick Little Theatre and landed parts.

A few months ago, *Cat-Tales* Editor Arthur Hill asked me about my theater involvement and how one lands a role in a local production. This led to a discussion of the audition process, followed by a suggestion to write an article about it. So, as November is a bit slow on the local theater scene, this month I will share some information about auditions.

And “A Chorus Line” is not totally off when it comes to the process.

Auditions vary from one company to another. For instance, Thalian Association Community Theatre holds auditions for each show individually, approximately eight weeks before it’s to open. If the show is a musical, as most are in this company, actors will be asked to sing 32 bars of a song from a Broadway show, acapella.

Generally, one tries to sing a song from the show, but at the very least, a song should reflect the range and quality of the hopeful’s voice. If the casting team, director, music director and the company’s artistic director like what they hear, the candidate will be asked to return a night or two later. This is the coveted call-back.

Opera House Theatre Company (OHTC) holds auditions over one weekend for their entire four-show summer season. This method, commonly termed a “cattle call,” attracts a large turnout — easily 100 or more hopefuls. Again, the actor will sing a prepared song, but OHTC has an accompanist present, and if any one of the four directors hears or sees something they like, the call-back is extended.

During the call-back, the actor is asked to read several scenes for the characters the director believes are good fits. This may lead to some differences of opinion, as the director may not see the actor in the role the actor desires. Being familiar with the story is certainly important, but understanding the characters, their motivation for what they do and do not do, can be exceedingly helpful in gaining the director’s attention. Depending on the show, a dance audition may also be required. They’re always... FUN???

After the audition, the waiting begins while the creative team puts the pieces of the show together. They answer questions such as: If a family is involved, how do the actors look together? Can this person sing the songs of this character? Which candidates showed chemistry with each other? And then, if fortune smiles, you’ll receive a phone call offering you a role. And that’s when the excitement begins.

So, if you’ve ever had the urge to scratch this itch, I encourage you to give it a whirl. It can be a lot of fun. Just ask Denis and Christina.
The monument at the Wright Brothers National Memorial
Living in St. James, a beach getaway might not be top of your list. But there’s a lot to be said for Corolla Beach, a lovely spot on a barrier island. Mike and I spent five days there while Hurricane Jose was bubbling and roiling to the east of North Carolina. We could have chosen a more auspicious time, but our motivation was a rental house on the ocean with friends from college. Two days of incredible surf, drizzle and overcast skies, and then the sun came out. Beautiful.

Just a half hour south is Kitty Hawk (actually, in Kill Devil Hills) and the Wright Brothers National Memorial Visitors Center. These two gentlemen from Ohio built an airplane and accomplished the first successful flight of a machine heavier than air.

The hillock that hosts the monument is now grassed with pathways to walk up and around. It’s a steep walk now, but in the early 1900s it was a sand dune. Orville and Wilbur dragged their gliders up the dune, losing traction and slowing progress with every step. But they persevered, and eventually succeeded with a 12-second flight in 1903. Who would have thought back then that we would put a man on the moon within 67 years? That’s some learning curve.

Driving north of the island on NC 12, we ran out of paved road. The roadway turns left at the ocean and continues onto the sand for miles. Only four-wheel drives are permitted, and the recommendation is to “air down” your tires for beach driving. It’s also a good idea to make the trip during low tide, when the beach is at its widest and you’re less likely to be surfing sideways.

Not trusting our less-than-utilitarian SUV, we opted to walk, hoping to see the horses of Corolla. These wild Spanish mustangs arrived in the New World with colonists and explorers as early as the 1500s. The trek was not in vain. As we trudged north, women walking south told us there was a herd of four, “just past that group of cars.”

Perceived distance can be misleading on the beach, but within a mile or so, there they were. They had been joined by another group and were relaxing on their feet by the water’s edge.

That “group of cars” consisted of more than 20 SUVs, with coolers, chairs and umbrellas. Their owners planned to spend the day on the beach — sitting behind their vehicles, facing the water and watching the horses. Next time, we’ll air down the tires and save ourselves an hour and a half of walking in the sun. Alternatively, those who don’t have four-wheel drive can book reservations for a wild horse off-road tour that takes visitors up the beach and onto the back roads to see these beautiful creatures in the wild.
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Many singles face some difficult situations when it comes to socializing within the gates of St. James. No one is to blame — this is the way it is at most places. We all have friends that are couples who try to include us in their activities. We go, we have fun, but some of us feel uncomfortable.

I have interviewed several residents from St. James. Some moved here alone, some got divorced or lost a spouse. All have the same feelings about their lives here. There are many activities at St. James, but many activities are not comfortable when you go alone. Wouldn’t dinner out be more enjoyable with friends than sitting at that table for one? Wouldn’t you venture out to a concert or a wine tasting knowing there will be some familiar faces in the crowd?

My research led me to my current endeavor — organizing the singles in St. James into some type of unified community to find a more exciting and fulfilling life."

On September 13, the St. James Singles “club” had its first meet-up at the Members Club. Forty-three people signed up and all attended. The assignment, if you want to call it that, was for each person to make at least one new connection. The room was animated, and everyone seemed to be mingling. We had sign-up sheets for a variety of to-be-planned activities. One of our members said the minute he saw my posting in “Just Judy,” he smiled; and he hasn’t stopped smiling since. He told me he had been waiting for such a group for years.

The goal of this group is to give singles an opportunity to attend activities (some planned for the entire population of St. James, some planned just for us singles) and to make new friends. If you find a special someone, that’s a bonus. You need to come to the activities with an open mind and the desire to enjoy yourself. Activities will be varied and open to suggestions.

As of now, our group sign-up totals 83 singles and is growing daily. More than 20 brave men have joined; we hope more will step up to join the fun. Our next activity will be a pizza party at the beach at sunset during a full moon as well as some wine tastings.

If you are single in St. James, consider joining our merry band. We have no age limit. If you can have fun, you can join. For more information, contact Stacey Saveth at sevanlee53@gmail.com.
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If you’re an early baby boomer, as I am, you remember where you were. I was in French class at Memorial Junior High School when we got the news the president had been shot. Sometime later, CBS radio reported, “Ladies and gentlemen, the president of the United States is dead. John F. Kennedy has died of the wounds he received in an assassination in Dallas less than an hour ago.” The office staff repeated the news over the PA. Teachers and students cried. I didn’t know how to feel, not understanding the magnitude of it all.

At 13 years old, I was more into sports than politics, and my family rarely had the news on during dinner. I knew Kennedy was young, the first Catholic to become president, had a pretty wife and two small kids in the White House. Adults referred to him as charismatic. Pictures showed him playing touch football or sailing. Earlier that summer, I saw the movie, “PT 109,” the story of JFK as the commander of a patrol boat in the Pacific during World War II that portrayed him as a hero. Other than that, I didn’t know much about him.

Remember, we had only three news stations, not the hundreds of media outlets we have today. Even an event as momentous as the 1962 Cuban missile crisis was played out far from the public, mostly behind closed doors and a veil of secrecy. Years later, when I became a student of history, I realized how close we came to nuclear war during those 13 days, and the roles Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev played in avoiding the ultimate escalation.

The events following the assassination were covered non-stop on TV, yet I can barely recall watching them on our small black-and-white screen. The one thing I remember is the riderless horse, boots backward on the saddle, striding behind the procession. Other images — LBJ taking the oath of office next to Mrs. Kennedy, the horse-drawn caisson carrying the flag-draped coffin of the president, and John John’s salute goodbye — probably became part of my memory after seeing these iconic photos over and over during the intervening years.

Two weeks after the assassination, during a national period of mourning, Mrs. Kennedy insisted the Army-Navy football game be played, a fitting tribute to the president. The game was played before 100,000 fans, mostly stunned and silent at the outset, and millions more on TV, in what was to be the game of the year. I watched as Navy, behind Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach, held on to beat the Black Knights, 21-15. Army quarterback Rollie Stichweh couldn’t get off a last second play from the Navy two-yard line as time ran out. It was a fitting score, considering the president was a Navy veteran. My father, sitting next to me on the couch, also a Navy man, agreed.

Years later, commentators credit that game with helping the country heal. So much for the things a 13-year-old remembers.
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It’s Thanksgiving, and time to reflect
On the wonders we’ve come to expect.
Take for granted and yet,
We must never forget,
There’s so much in St. James to respect.

Homer’s vision from back in the day,
Now a glittering jewel on display—
Shining ponds, scent of pine,
Golf and tennis (and wine!).
This is where you decided you’ll stay

Great decision, as others now face
Colder temperatures at their place
In Midwest or Northeast.
Winter weather’s a beast!
Think of those folks when you’re saying grace.

When grandchildren arrive, they can see
That you’re living quite comfortably
Keeping busy and fit
With a love that won’t quit.
St. James visits go by happily

Tommy Thompson’s finds more folks inside
But if cooler days you abide,
The marina still gleams
In the autumn sunbeams,
Maybe one more delightful boat ride

Football season is now in full swing.
Food and friendship is many folks’ “thing”
As they cheer on their guys
Eating bratwursts and pies
With a dream of a Super Bowl ring.

If you’d rather play sports than sit by,
Hit the golf courses – do not be shy.
Bundle up, hit the links
Be that person who thinks
Being active is keeping me spry!

Nothing this awesome happens by chance
For St. James to keep growing, advance.
It is up to us all
Winter, spring, summer, fall
To join in a Thanksgiving dance.

We’re governed by people who care.
These folks could have moved anywhere
After lives of success
They decided to bless
St. James people with passion to spare.

Volunteers working hard every day
For Town of St. James, POA
Their skills they deploy
So you can enjoy
A tax rate that’s more than “okay.”

All in all it’s a dream coming true,
So our Thanksgiving wishes for you
Family, friends, happy times
In our temperate climes
And a thank you for all that you do!
Let’s toast to the secrets of radiant skin

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