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ON THE COVER:
Families enjoy the annual Youth Fishing Derby, sponsored by the St. James Fishing Club (photo by Jack Eyler)

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On May 16, Michael Flynn resigned his position on the POA Board due to health reasons. Michael was elected to the Board in 2013 and again in 2016. Prior to his Board election, Michael served on the Finance Committee for four years. I would like to thank Michael for his spirit of volunteerism and his personal efforts throughout his eight years of service to the POA.

During our June meeting, the Board elected Jim Lavin to fill the vacant position as authorized by Article V of our bylaws. Jim has served on the Finance Committee for six years. He has been the chair for the last three years. Jim will serve in the appointed position until the election at our Annual Meeting on October 14. There will be three open Board positions up for election this fall — two positions for a three-year term and one for a two-year term.

During the same meeting, John McGorry was elected to fill the Secretary position and will serve in that capacity until elections this fall.

With the addition of Jim, we also shuffled the committee liaison duties, as shown below. If you have questions or concerns about any of our committee functions, please contact the corresponding Board member.

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**Beach club parking:** Perhaps the most prevalent concern raised by our residents, especially in the summer months, is the lack of adequate parking at the beach club. We recognize that the swimming pool at the beach club will not be large enough to support our forecast population at “build out,” but there is little we can do about the pool. Government regulations prohibit building a larger pool or even replacing the current pool in the event of a catastrophic failure.

I believe the primary appeal of the beach club is the beach strand and the ocean itself. One factor that would make the beach club more attractive is expanded parking. To address this problem, the Board has looked at a number of options over the years, including (1) a shuttle bus from one of the major parking lots to the beach club; (2) a pontoon boat that would run from the marina to the north side of Oak Island; and (3) the purchase of land near the beach club for additional parking. The first two options are not feasible for several reasons. The third alternative has possibilities.

We have entered discussions with a property owner to purchase approximately one acre of land, near the beach club, that could more than double our current number of parking spots. The area of interest is across 72nd Street, slightly north of the area where we had overflow parking for the week of the Fourth of July holiday. As of early July, the outcome of these discussions was unknown. I will let you know as soon as there is a decision.

**Recognition:** I have written many times about the volunteer workers that are instrumental in keeping St. James Plantation a great place to live. I would like to recognize Rich Turek, who has been the chair of our Infrastructure Committee since it was formed about 12 years ago. Rich recently retired from this position and he deserves special thanks from all of us for a job well done.
By now, you should be aware of the Development Agreement that the Town and Developer have been working on. At this point, the Planning Board will have reviewed the plan and made their recommendation to Town Council and Council members will have acted on it at our August 1 meeting. If you didn’t attend the informational meeting on July 18, or if you continue to have questions, let me review the Agreement and our reasons for negotiating it.

The state of North Carolina allows developers and municipalities to enter into Development Agreements (per N.C. General Statute 160A-400.20 et seq.). The purpose of a Development Agreement is to provide long-term assurances to developers and municipalities that property will be developed under specific sets of zoning rules defined in each agreement.

"Overall, we see this Development Agreement as a win-win for everyone and we’re very pleased to have it."

As you know, 2020 is a key date for St. James. By then, development will be well along, and the need for the Developer to have a large presence will be reduced. The key concern on the Town’s part has to do with the development of the remaining unsold/undeveloped property owned by the Developer on the south side of NC 211. Of course, both the Developer and the Town want some control over how this remaining property is developed.

In the past, the Developer went to the county for approval of its plans. Then, as lots were developed, the Town was required to approve them if they were consistent with the county’s plan. This resulted in the Town accepting some non-conforming lots when areas were annexed — not a satisfactory outcome, in our view.

Last year, the Developer requested that we negotiate a Development Agreement covering all its remaining undeveloped property east of Middleton Boulevard and south of NC 211. For the parcels outside the current Town boundaries, approximately 300 acres, the Developer will request annexation within 90 days of the Agreement’s execution.

This Development Agreement identifies each remaining undeveloped parcel and defines its planned use — multi-family or single-family housing, commercial or mixed use. Densities for each area are also defined. If the Developer decides that multi-family housing makes more sense in an area identified for single-family housing, or vice versa, it can make that change, but only if total density doesn’t increase.

The Development Agreement provides benefits and assurances for both parties. The Developer will retain control over how it develops its remaining property. The Town will have control over that development and will avoid having to accept non-conformities in these areas. We also will annex into the Town all the properties covered by the agreement within 90 days of its execution, rather than waiting and annexing each parcel as it’s developed. Overall, we see this Development Agreement as a win-win for everyone, and we’re very pleased to have it.

This is a complex process and is difficult to explain in a few paragraphs. If you have any questions, please contact any member of Town Council or the Town staff. We’ll do our best to answer them.
So, what’s it take?

By Jim Carey

Have you ever wondered what the physical requirements are to join your St. James Fire Department? I was asked that question recently and decided to elaborate.

In short, there really aren’t any formalized requirements to become a firefighter, an emergency medical technician or a fire police officer. The work in all specialties has its arduous moments — heavy lifting, exposure to inclement weather, transferring patients to a gurney, helping move incapacitated citizens up and down stairs or wearing heavy personal protective equipment.

By the way, both men and women are welcome to fill our ranks in all specialties.

As we age, many of us tend to lose our ability to lift or to function in all kinds of circumstances. We rely on the judgement of our folks to determine if they’re able to fulfill the duties they signed up for. The most important criterion in physical stamina is: Can my fellow SJFD members count on me to help them in an emergency?

All members of the SJFD receive an annual physical to ensure they can take the stress of the job. Basic blood tests, EKGs, vision, hearing, etc. are checked. Members who don’t want to participate in the physicals SJFD offers can ask their doctor to perform them. But all members must have an annual physical.

Many of our members can be found in the fitness centers around the town. Keeping fit by using the centers isn’t a requirement – even though it does seem to make sense. New recruits participate in training exercises that give them a very good idea of what they might experience on a fire scene or during a medical call. If they’re not physically able to perform the job, they can resign or retire from the SJFD without question. We don’t want anyone to get hurt, be it a citizen calling for emergency assistance or one of our own.

“The most important criterion in physical stamina is: Can my fellow SJFD members count on me to help them in an emergency?”

If you’re interested in joining any of our specialty units, stop by your fire house to discuss your interest and concerns with Chief John Dahill. You might call ahead at 910-253-9990 to make sure he’s at the house or that someone else is available to discuss your future with the SJFD.

Please remember, call 911 anytime you have a safety concern, whether it’s a fire in the home, a lightning strike near your home or your own health.

Editor’s Note: Jim Carey is the SJFD public information officer.
Now that summer is in full swing, it’s worth considering ways to keep you and your visiting family, friends and pets safe from fires. St. James is a Firewise Community, so we’re committed to advancing property-owner safety and living in harmony with our natural surroundings.

Here’s an A-to-Z list of simple steps to keep seasonal perils at a minimum. Perhaps these rhymes will motivate you to look around your home and yard for practical steps you can take to guard against fire risk.

A - August brings risks we should all think about.
B - Boats? Vent your engine before you head out.
C - Cigars, cigarettes? Please make sure that you snuff.
D - Dogs in hot cars, on hot porches? That’s ruff!
E - Electrical storms lighting up the night sky,
F - Fireworks? Don’t lose a hand or an eye!
G - Gasoline lawn mower? Cool to refuel,
H - Hoses, a most vital summertime tool.
I - Irrigate, moisten your mulch and your plants,
J - Jury-rigged lighting? Don’t take that chance.
K - Kids run amok with their summertime games,
L - Lawn mowers, trimmers – keep far from hot flames.
M - Mulches like pine straw ignite and go poof,
N - Needles accumulate up on the roof.
O - Outlets have limits; don’t overload.
P - Propane is dangerous and can explode.
Q - Quiz family members; make up a home drill.
R - Remove dry debris (that takes minimal skill).
S - Sparklers, while fun, can still cause injury.
T - Tall tiki torches? Douse flames thoroughly!
U - Under-deck storage? Not flammable, please.
V - Vegetation — prune plants, shrubs, and trees.
W - Wood-burning fire pits? Don’t walk away.
X - "X" marks the spot where extinguishers stay.
Y - Yes, you can still have some summertime fun,
Z - Zero problems — and now we’re done!

Editor’s Note: Barbara Lemos is a member of the TOSJ Firewise Committee. More comprehensive information on how to avoid fires is available at the Town Hall office.
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With AT&T, Spectrum and ATMC all offering hi-speed fiber-based internet services to St. James residents, it’s time to ask, how fast is fast enough? Can my devices even reach 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps)?

The answer to the second question is probably not. Let’s look at the factors that can affect your home Wi-Fi and internet speeds. There are two types of internet connections — Ethernet-cabled and Wi-Fi. If your computer and your router or modem/router are connected by an Ethernet cable, then it’s cabled. Otherwise, you’re using Wi-Fi. It’s important to know this, because all ISPs (Internet Service Providers) will tell you that the speeds they advertise are for Ethernet-cabled devices. Wi-Fi rates run slightly to a lot slower, depending on several factors.

Another factor that can affect your internet speed is visiting a popular website. So the bottleneck is at the site itself; that is, the website’s server is overloaded and you’re being denied service.

“The ultimate speed your device or computer can run is dependent on many factors.”

As we discussed previously in *Cat-Tales*, viruses or unnecessary software running in your computer’s background can reduce the amount of processing power and speed available for data from the internet. All programs running on your computer can affect your speed — especially those running in the background in your startup file. Reduce some of the processes enabled at startup and your speed could increase.

A connected device may need updated software, like an operating system patch. This is one reason why Apple and Microsoft tell users to keep their operating systems up to date.

Finally, sharing bandwidth in a house with multiple devices can affect internet speed. Everyone is using more data these days with streaming video and music, thus multiple computers and other devices may be running on the same home network.

Remember, the ultimate speed your device or computer can run is dependent on many factors. What matters most is making sure your devices are capable of the 1,000 Mbps speed. If they can’t go that high, reduce your speed to 300 Mbps. I have 300 Mbps at home. It runs eight devices that are always connected to the internet, and the speed is more than enough. It’s also about $200 less per year in ISP fees!

The internet speed you experience at home may be affected by the capabilities or age of your computers and devices, including your modem and router. The distance from your computer to a website, as well as the path, speed and capacity of the website’s connection to the ISP network, may also affect the speed you experience.

Your internet speed can be slowed by obstructions around your Wi-Fi gateway, like walls containing studs, metal pipes, glass surfaces or the location of the gateway in your home.
‘Country club casual’ sets the standard for St. James dining attire

By Michael Kasavana • Photo by John Muuss

If you’re going out to eat at one of the Clubs, "country club casual" attire is the standard.

At a recent meeting, the Clubs Advisory and House Committee, a group advisory to Troon management, reviewed and clarified the “Attire” section of the Rules and Regulations document (www.theclubsatstjames.com). The objective of this revision was to reflect member lifestyle relative to dining room attire. Primary emphasis is placed on good judgment within the central focus of a country club casual atmosphere. The Clubs strive to support an atmosphere that recognizes the active lifestyle of its membership while providing an enjoyable dining experience.

The revised rules are essentially comprised of three general statements, followed by specific guidelines for attire at the two more casual clubhouse restaurants and the two clubhouse restaurants that offer more fashionable dining.

"The Clubs strive to support an atmosphere that recognizes the active lifestyle of its membership while providing an enjoyable dining experience."

Members are responsible for their attire as well as that of their relatives and guests. It is important that members remind relatives and guests of the clubhouse dress policies prior to their arrival at a clubhouse. This helps avoid embarrassment and/or disappointment.

Members are expected to dress in a fashion consistent with a country club casual atmosphere. As a guideline, items available for sale in St. James golf and tennis shops are generally permitted in clubhouses, with some restrictions. Additionally, special occasions warranting specific dress requirements may be posted at the Clubs’ discretion.

Clubhouse and dining room management, golf professionals and other designated employees have the responsibility and duty to enforce clubhouse dress policies. A section of the rules document addresses clubhouse attire with specific reference to articles of clothing. While country club casual attire remains appropriate in all areas of a clubhouse, the following regulations are location-specific. The committee grouped together Founders and Members Clubs, given they have identical attire standards, and linked Players and Reserve Clubs for the same reason.

• Founders and Members Clubs: Denim that would be consistent with country club casual (neat, not ripped or soiled) is appropriate in all areas of Founders and Members Club clubhouses. Similarly, country club casual tennis and athletic attire, including T-shirts, hats, caps and visors, are also appropriate.

• Players and Reserve Clubs: During the day, country club casual tennis and athletic wear, including T-shirts, hats, caps and visors, are permitted. These items, however, are prohibited after 5 p.m. Denim is prohibited at all times. Evening attire should be appropriate for premium dining.

Editor’s note: Michael Kasavana is the chair of the Clubs Advisory and House Committee.
Well-designed exterior lighting can add a dramatic touch to a homesite. The key to a successful lighting system is the proper placement of the right fixtures to produce the desired lighting effects.

Landscape lighting includes up lighting, down lighting, back lighting, shadowing and accent lighting among plants and garden elements. Garden lights or walkway bollards should direct the light downward with a concealed spotlight. Space pathway lighting a minimum of six feet apart. Hide the light source, leaving only the effect of the light on its object. Install exterior lighting so as not to disturb neighbors or impair vision of traffic on adjacent streets. Do not use colored lights.

Although there are large numbers of pets living with St. James residents, not everyone is an animal lover. Comic Stephen Wright might have summed up the feelings of some property owners when he said, “Curiosity killed the cat, but for a while I was a suspect.”

St. James has ordinances, rules and policies to allow animal lovers and others to peacefully co-exist. Though many residents are familiar with the laws regarding pet ownership in Brunswick County, questions arise frequently about the more commonly abused or misunderstood laws, including leash laws.

St. James Plantation’s Restrictive Covenants require pet owners to comply with Brunswick County’s animal control ordinance, which also authorizes the county to levy civil and criminal penalties and actions. The Town of St. James also has an animal control ordinance which includes abiding by the county’s ordinance. Both ordinances are on the Town’s website (www.townofstjamesnc.org) under the Ordinances tab.

The ordinances outline the rules, including keeping physical control of pets by using leases off personal property or regular/electronic fences at home (voice control is not acceptable) and ensuring pets always wear identification and rabies tags.

The POA has no authority to create ordinances, but its “POA’s Rules and Policies Handbook” expands on some of the ordinances’ sections, such as exercising best efforts not to allow pets to excrete on common property, to clean up after them and to not let them make noises which disturb other property owners.

Other issues which the county’s animal control ordinance may consider a public nuisance occur when the pet:

- Is at large off its owner’s premises (especially cats)
- Chases, snaps at, attacks or otherwise molests pedestrians, bicyclists, motor vehicle passengers or domestic animals
- Destroys gardens, other foliage or other real property
- Walks and sleeps on the automobiles of another resident (cats).

There is responsibility — and great joy — in pet ownership and in being a good neighbor. Both can co-exist peacefully in St. James.

Editor’s note: Nancy A. Seyferth is the POA compliance coordinator.
In the beginning…

By Linda Eyler

How is it that we have the Cat-Tales magazine and an archive of every issue?

Fred and Ethelann Stumpp, early St. James settlers, started a three-page monthly publication in November 1993. Its purpose was “to compile the happenings at St. James.”

Then, Charles Audette’s “Cat-Tales” entry won a contest to name the publication. When asked “Why Cat-Tales?” Charles (who is still a resident) said, “I saw the cattails in our marshes but substituted ‘tales’ since the newsletter was about our community’s stories, and the name tied in with the Developer’s logo.”

Recently, two residents donated their Cat-Tales collections to the POA. Thanks to John Winters (1993-2007 issues) and Paul Maguire (2007-2015) for giving us the means to revisit how and when St. James Plantation developed.

Also, thanks to those volunteers (we have the complete list now) that helped shape Cat-Tales during those 24 years — from a black and white, typed, three-page newsletter to the current magazine with 44 pages in color.

Look for excerpts from the magazine’s archives in upcoming issues. There’s a lot of history to learn and to smile about.
The Star News ran a comprehensive and interesting wrapup on area beaches, including the sandy sanctuary St. James residents share with their friends on Oak Island. The article said the Oak Island beach is “one of the most pristine beaches in all of North Carolina.” Combined with the shops in Southport and ease of access, the paper said the beach keeps visitors returning “year after year.” www.starnewsonline.com/news/20170701/centuries-of-lore-sandy-beaches-lure-visitors

The State Port Pilot’s July 5 issue included coverage of the eighth annual “Coaches Reunion,” featuring five St. James residents with high-level coaching, front-office or playing experience. The reunion featured a roundtable discussion of events and issues in college and professional sports. Residents who participated in the reunion included Bruce Corrie, a past director of athletics at three universities; former college coaches Dick Kubec and Joe Novak; one-time New Orleans Saints and Tampa Bucs player Kurt Schumaker; and retired NFL senior director of broadcasting Dick Maxwell. Denny Marcin, also a St. James resident with NFL coaching experience, was unable to attend the event due to illness. (The online version of this story isn’t available.)

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The bag men of St. James

By Beth Erskine

Every day is a good day in St. James when the sky is blue, the sun shines and there’s a tee time on the schedule. Arriving at the course, our first stop is the drive-thru bag drop, where a friendly guy pops the trunk of our car and removes our clubs. We tip him before heading off to the driving range.

Have you ever wondered about our bag guys, people who help make The Clubs’ operations run so smoothly?

They’re a corps of about 30, mostly retired men. They work from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Ricky Parker, the Members Club’s Outside Services manager, is the longest-tenured of the group. He came to work at St. James from Southport in 1998, after working as a local golf pro. Ricky schedules the bag drop staff and performs routine daily work.

"Next time you’re at the course, take the time to learn the name behind that smiling face that’s getting your golf round off to a good start."

While the tee times start at 7 a.m., Ricky’s day begins two hours earlier — a shift he prefers because he finishes early, with time to manage a business. He starts by prepping the 60 carts, stocking the driving range with practice balls, refreshing the ball washers with clean water and loading ice into each cart’s cooler. By then, the early bird golfers have begun arriving. With 27 holes, Members Club is the busiest course. When asked about his favorite part of the job, Ricky unhesitatingly replies “the interaction with the members."

Ed Carey works at the Reserve bag drop most Mondays through Wednesdays. His day begins at 11 a.m. and lasts until he complete his chores, which can be 8 p.m. in the summer. He unloads bags, wipes down carts and resupplies them with tees, towels, sand and scorecards. Ed finds working three days a week the perfect solution to having had too much time on his hands after he retired and moved to Southport from Sandy Spring, Md. He joined The Clubs in 2012, as did his wife, Ann, who works in the Players golf shop.

Like Ricky, Ed enjoys the interaction with members, as well as the camaraderie of the crew. Neither plays as much golf – one of the bag men’s perks – as they thought they would. The job is physical and both admit to being tired at day’s end. They’re on the move constantly, and Ed estimates he walks seven-10 miles a day.

Both Ed and Ricky know members by name, the car they drive, who’s early for their tee times and who is late (women are more punctual).

The bag men at St. James work hard at getting to know members. Next time you’re at the course, take the time to learn the name behind that smiling face that’s getting your golf round off to a good start.
Inverness neighbors and friends are looking forward to an August gathering — the first of the 2017-18 series of neighborhood socials.

The group last met on Mother’s Day, when 70 residents in the neighborhood off St. James Drive attended a celebration at Waterway Park. The event was hosted by Carol and Dave Roche, Judy and Pete Ozie and Pat and Frank Grecco. Ida DeCastro (mother of Arthur and Sandy DeCastro) was the official “senior mom” and was honored with an orchid corsage. Music was provided pro bono by The Carolina Blue Grass Band, a local group comprised of Fran Philips, George Napier and J. D. Cochran. An Oak Island caterer provided a traditional pig-pickin’ feast.

The neighborhood gatherings, one of several that have made such gatherings a tradition in St. James, have become a popular way for neighbors to meet and get to know one another.

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Dorothy Erard

A 10-year resident of St. James, Dorothy Erard visited the gallery often during its early years. Finally, she decided to add her knitted and sewn items to show beside the other beautiful fabric arts items on display. That was four years ago, and she continues to enjoy being a part of the Artisans group.

Dorothy started knitting when she was in college. It was a calming influence on a hectic academic life. Later, when her son was born, she started sewing to provide low-cost clothing and baby items. She has been doing both ever since, continually developing her skills. She has expanded to include children's sweaters, scarves, golf-head covers (with your college or favorite team colors) and baby quilts.

Francoise Sivley

When it comes to painting, Francoise Sivley was a late bloomer. Born in Brussels, she decided to take painting lessons with Victoria Popadack, a famous watercolorist, when she moved to Connecticut in 1990. Prior to that, she had never had any formal training, nor had she studied art.

Francoise paints directly, without much drawing. She believes the best paintings often happen spontaneously. “A painting should be loose, free and full of spontaneity, something that looks as though it has been painted in a very short time,” she says. “I very seldom have a plan, except to grow and get better.”

The subjects of Francoise’ work vary from local scenes to animals, flowers, boats and more. “I see my art as a creation of illusions,” she says. “I am in constant search for the magic.”
Eight artisans demonstrated their crafts as residents, guests and visitors strolled the deck of the marina on a warm, breezy sunny day — July 3. It was a perfect day for the Artisans’ annual plein air event. Painting “en plein air” means painting outdoors, outside a studio.

Carol Kidd and Pat Bittenbender demonstrated decorative painting on drinking glasses and glass balls, respectively, while Cliff Bennett painted in the Asian style with watercolors. Marian MacKerer and Susan Sokoloski painted realistic subjects on canvas, and Allie Lull used alcohol inks for composing colorful abstracts on paper and tiles. Karen Ferris demonstrated her needlework pillows and hangings, while Donna Ferrandino assembled jewelry made from upcycled silverware and flatware.

Artisans Herb Pritchard and Nancy Adelis did face painting with visiting grandchildren, while Karen Mortimore showed them how to use an Etch a Sketch to draw. In the background, Marv Gelb played both standard and patriotic piano music for everyone’s enjoyment.

The well-attended event was sponsored by Stepping Up for Arts (SUFA), the 501c(3) arm of the Artisans that raises funds for art education in the Brunswick County schools and community.
Come Fly with Me and thanks to the Service Club
By Nancy Adelis • Photos by John Muuss

Stepping Up for Arts (SUFA) presented “Come Fly with Me,” a spoof on the airline industry, to a sold-out audience of 250 guests. Howie and Linda Franklin as well as The Friendly Skies Team members — former airline employees in St. James — spoke at the event. Pat de Barros gave a presentation on the history of the Wilmington Airport and Piedmont Airlines.

The boarding process included a fun TSA screening upon entering the community center, a captain’s takeoff briefing video and a hilarious flight attendant safety video. The Friendly Skies Team members served airline snacks from carts down the aisles — in classic airplane style — and shared funny stories about their experiences as flight attendants.

The Franklins talked about their time aboard Air Force One, where they served as stewards to several presidents.

Proceeds from this event and from travel-related raffles went to the advancement of the arts in Brunswick County, which includes scholarships, school grants and continuing education.

SUFA, the 501c(3) arm of the Artisans, received a grant from the St. James Service Club at their June 14 Awards Brunch at Members Club. Donna Kanich, president of the Artisans, and Nancy Adelis, SUFA vice president of community arts, were present to receive this grant. Nancy said they are thrilled to receive these monies, which will be used to develop fine art disciplines in the Brunswick County schools, with the aim of funding multi-discipline projects (i.e., music, visual arts and dance).
Located between the gated SeaSide entrance and the SeaSide Club, 36 new lot/home packages are available starting in the high $300s. Models are open! Contact Carol Hobbs 910-619-0777 carol@kenthomes.net for details and to schedule your tour.

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Most of the warriors from the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Bragg come with a personal history of battle trauma suffered during a combat deployment. Most, but not all.

Sgt. Jack Stillman is a 23-year-old air defense technician, a husband and a father of two boys. He returned from deployment without injury or trauma. Last September, he graduated from Fort Bragg’s Basic Leader Course as a distinguished graduate, winner of the Iron Leader Award. In October, Sgt. Stillman was diagnosed with Stage 4 anaplastic large T-cell lymphoma.

Six rounds of aggressive chemo seemed to put the cancer into remission. But in March, the disease returned. Jack’s hopes now rest with an experimental treatment in which his own T-cells will be removed, genetically re-engineered and returned to his body. The treatment also requires stem cell transplants and additional chemotherapy. “The struggle during the transplant will be being away from our boys, from home and from our sweet puppy who has a magical bond with Jack,” said Alina, Jack’s wife.

Operation at Ease was honored and humbled to host the Stillman family in June, while he waited to begin the grueling six-week treatment. Volunteers Gay Murga, Stacey Saveth, Lori Boyer and Bill Hurcomb worked to make the Stillman’s visit special. “Jack was so full of life, interacting with his two young boys and wife during the photo shoot,” photographer Bill Hurcomb said. “I was awed by his desire for living and determination to defeat cancer.”

In a note in the guestbook, Alina wrote, “The Stillman family would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the members who make this happen. It was very memorable and much needed.”

Sgt. Stillman began his treatment the day after their visit to St. James. A man of strong faith, Jack has said, “Throughout my whole life I have gone through roadblocks that I never thought I would be able to overcome. I will beat this, and we will come out on top once again.”

We hope a quiet weekend, shared with his family prior to the treatment, gave Jack a little boost that will help get him over the top.

To read more about Sgt. Stillman, go to http://ellenation.com/40238.
Congratulations to the newest group of St. James sailors. During the July 4 holiday weekend, members of the St. James Model Yacht Club hosted their third Kid’s Regatta, featuring their remote-controlled boats.

Don Cunningham took the helm as event coordinator at the SeaSide pond, with more than 20 youngsters ages 5-15 participating. Mike Haase gave a brief explanation on the basics of sailing the boat, and then the kids were free to sail.

Fourteen skippers taught the techniques for rudder and sail controls as the youngsters took command of the boats. These newbie midshipmen were quick learners and the skill with which they handled the day’s windy conditions was most impressive.

Smiles all around, eager faces, cheers and encouragement from parents and grandparents (some who pretended to be a kid again and tried the boats themselves) made for a most successful afternoon.
The St. James Fishing Club hosted more than 160 enthusiastic youngsters, ages 2-12, during its fourth successful Youth Fishing Derby. Cheered on by parents, grandparents and volunteers, almost 100 of these anglers caught and released fish at the Woodlands Park Pond.

All kids received a medal for their efforts. Some were also awarded largest fish trophies based on four age groups, as well as for the largest bass and sunfish caught. Greatly appreciated after the derby were the pizzas, soda and ice cream.

“What a fantastic family event,” said Ron Smith, president of the St. James Fishing Club, “and thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and spectators for making this fish derby safe, fun and memorable.”
The St. James Beach Party on June 23 was a huge success. We invite you to the next one on Friday, August 11 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. This free event will take place on Oak Island in front of the St. James Beach Club on 72nd Street. DJ Z will play your favorite tunes — karaoke if you dare! Bring your own chairs, food and drinks.

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A Quilt for Robin  By Judy Rubin

The St. James Quilters presented this Irish Chain quilt to Robin Schuster, a parting gift to the long-time and now retiring Community Center manager. Robin has been a good friend to this group for the last seven years. She would always drop in at monthly meetings to say hello and peek at our current projects.

March was the Irish Chain quilt-making meeting and Robin came in with her harmonica to play Irish tunes for the “sewers.” She was always included in the January Pot Luck luncheon.

In presenting Robin with this quilt, Judy Berg thanked her for her service to St. James, the community center and her support for the club. The Quilters wish only the best to Robin in the coming years, whatever retirement may offer.

(l-r) Front: Fran Ventola and Andrea Morgart: Back: Carol Bennett, Christine Noble, Judy Berg, Pat Wahl, Robin Schuster, Collette Principe, Ruth Mount, Mary Joyce, Nancy Leoncavallo and Mary Lynn Meissner.
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St. James Rifle and Pistol Association

By Nancy Adelis • Photos by John Muuss

On Father’s Day, the St. James Rifle and Pistol Association held its annual summer picnic at Waterway Park. During this celebration of fun, food, and friends, the association acknowledged the shooting achievements of its membership. Besides awards in trap, skeet, bulls-eye pistol and metallic plates, the association recognized those members who won awards at the recent 2017 North Carolina Trapshooting Association’s State Shoot held in Bostic, N.C. They included Larry Dudley, Mike Anselmo, Roberta Pappayliou and George Pappayliou. Roberta won both the Ladies II High Over All and High All Over Championships. Congratulations to all!

Nancy Adelis, emcee, with Larry Dudley receiving an award and Joanne and Bob Klug in foreground

(l-r) Front row: Ann and Al Pluchos, Marge and Bill Leushner, Rob Jerome; back row: Rich and Terry Carbone

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Photos by John Muuss
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Do you have spare time, want to have fun and make new friends?

This fall, the St. James Men’s Bowling League will begin its 11th season at Planet Fun Lanes in Shallotte. League president Mark Zaenglein has issued an open call for more bowlers to join the league, which bowls on Wednesday nights with warm-ups starting at 6:30 p.m. The season runs for 25 weeks.

There is a season-ending championship match between the winners of the first and second half of the season, followed by an awards ceremony. If you would like to join but don’t want to commit, the league also needs substitute bowlers, which is a good way to experience the fun. Interested bowlers can contact Mark at mzaenglein@ec.rr.com.

If you go for food, Planet Fun offers the league free pizza and drinks several times during the season and has a fine restaurant if you’re really hungry.

The league will resume its schedule in late September.
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Parlez-vous français? Voudriez-vous parler avec des autres francophones de temps en temps? Nous-nous rencontrons le premier lundi de chaque mois à 9h du matin. *

During the five years, ages nine to 14, that I spent in Saigon, South Vietnam (now Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam), I was fortunate to learn a second language through immersion. My father was an economist with the U.S. Department of State, working to help this fledgling country develop.

When my mother and I arrived in 1960, South Vietnam had recently emerged from decades of French rule, and French was the second language. Because our untrained American ears had difficulty with the many tones of Vietnamese (depending on the tone, the syllable “ma” could mean “mother” or “horse,” which could lead to some inadvertent insults), most Americans — my family included — chose to learn French. Most neighbors were French or French-speaking Vietnamese, and French would be more useful in the long run.

At first, I took French lessons. But the immersion came when I spent sixth grade in a French school. The school was on actual “French soil,” and more than once a Buddhist monk climbed the walls seeking asylum. By the end of that difficult year, I was dreaming in French.

Back in the U.S., I took classes in French, read novels and traveled to France. I have remained close to my best Vietnamese friend, who lives in Paris. Finally, in Kenosha, Wisconsin I found a vibrant group of French speakers who met monthly for coffee and conversation.

Last year, as a St. James newbie, I put out a notice looking to form a similar group for casual French conversation. That notice produced 10 replies, and 12 “Francophones” attended our first get-together at Tommy Thompson’s. What an amazing, diverse group — people who have studied French, taught it, lived all over the world and are French or from French-speaking countries. Since then, we meet at 9 a.m. on the first Monday of each month.

With the winter closing of Tommy’s on Mondays and the Polly Gully bridge reconstruction, we decided to meet in people’s homes. This was a lovely solution. But it has created a problem which book groups may recognize. At my house, I offered Lowe’s croissants, fruit, cheese and coffee. The next person had to go and serve yogurt as well. The third person upped the ante with heated croissants from Trader Joe’s and frothy cappuccino. Last month, we added crème caramel to the feast. Assez! Enough!

No matter what is served, or the number who can attend, all are welcome to our meetings. We’re happy to enjoy each other’s company and practice our language skills.

Interested? Please contact me at vlrbrown@gmail.com.

*Translation: We Speak French Here: Do you speak French? Would you like to speak with other French speakers from time to time? We meet the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m.
On Wednesday mornings during the school year, approximately 120 women engage in a non-denominational Bible study at the St. James Community Center. Sharing God’s word through the Bible, the Women’s Wednesday Community Bible Study (WWCBS) is open to all women in St. James and the nearby community.

WWCBS has a rich history, with its origins going back to the early years of St. James. As our community has increased in size, so has involvement in this Bible study. Even with the growth, WWCBS remains committed to providing a warm welcome to all women, along with Bible-based study and life applications — referred to as “Truths and Takeaways.”

We will begin our 2017-2018 year discussing “Ten Women of the Bible,” written by well-known author Max Lucado. We will investigate how ordinary women heard the loving call of God and responded in faith, even during difficult times, with life-changing results. For those of you with limited Bible experience, this may be an interesting way to get a taste of many different personalities and truths in the Bible.

Each meeting begins with a large group gathering and the sharing of prayer requests, followed by a small group breakout for discussion of that week’s study. Small groups serve as the heart of the Bible study experience. Each group has two leaders/facilitators to encourage and guide everyone in their participation. Individual groups are named after a different woman from the Bible, such as Mary or Esther. These groups provide biblical insight, lots of laughter and sharing of individual victories and struggles, along with confidential support.

Whether you’ve never studied the Bible before, or have studied it for many years, we invite you to learn more about this caring fellowship of women at an orientation meeting at the community center on Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.

Our first lesson will begin on Wednesday, September 20 at 9:45 a.m., with doors opening at 9:30 a.m. The study meets from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. on the first, third, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, continuing through April.

For more information, contact Linda Eberle at 540-219-0424 or Cheryl Holland at 770-317-1805.
The Photo Club held a photo competition at the St. James Community Center in June. Morgan Harper of The Southport State Port Pilot and Bill Hurcomb, president of the St. James Photo Club, were the contest judges.

The following were the winners of the three categories, as well as Best in Show:

**Beginners** — Ismeal Dieppa, first place, Eileen Montegari, second place

**Intermediate** — Bill Devins, first place, John Mattel, second place and Clayton Foster, third place

**Advanced** — Carol Scott, first place, Nick Noble, second place and Kip Brundage, third place

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Eager faces, broad smiles and constant chatter greeted parents when seven excited participants returned from sailing Endless Summer under the guidance of Captain Jim Carey and Barbara, his wife and first mate. The “small hands” rotated skipper duties: at the helm and raising, trimming and unfurling the jib and the main sails while basking in the glorious sunshine.

In addition to the work of sailors, they learned boating terminology, aspects of the ocean, parts of the vessel, species of birds and notable landmarks. “Monday on the Water,” now in its second year, has grown from two participants (ages 8-11) to today’s seven and is part of the Summer Fun Series conducted by the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport. The museum may be the best-kept secret in Southport, even though it’s free; open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; provides historical artifacts, pirate displays, a huge collection of model ships and a working telescope; and a wide variety of programs for visitors of all ages.

The most recent addition is a model of the late 19th century quarantine station. Once 10 buildings, the only structure that remains is a cement platform that was the base for the water tower. Pressing a button explains each feature, and a red light illuminates the proper match on a feature of the model. Walt Madsen and Steve Montee worked for two years to construct the model in Walt’s basement.

The Little Mariners Program (ages 4-6) – Low tide exploration, sea turtles, pirates, rainbow fishes, shell painting and fish prints
The Saturday Fun Camps (ages 7-11) – Trash monsters, mermaids, maritime ghosts and legends, can you dig it and the wild world of weather
Two week-long camps – Civil War and The Mariner’s Camp
The Third Tuesday Program for Adults – Rosie the Riveter, Robert Rurak and the U.S. Coast Guard
The Second Saturday Family Events – Civil War, Revolution of the Cape Fear River and WWII

The Museum meets its budget through a variety of sources, including fundraising activities. Mike’s Garage Band will entertain at the Woodlands Lawn Party on Sunday, September 16. Recent monies were allocated for expansion of the museum and gallery, classroom space and additional storage for the revolving exhibits.

Add the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport to your entertainment list for guests and friends as you plan your family’s summer fun.

Other summer programs (see ncmaritimemuseumsouthport.com), led by education curator Lori Sanderlin, include:
Cruise ‘In — with your car, that is! Founded by Ted Wright and Roger Albizu, the Wheels by the Sea Car Club keeps their boyhood passion for cars alive.

Ted purchased his first motorcycle and van at age 16. A year later, he purchased a 1966 Mustang GT and was forever hooked on the car craze. He has owned 23 more Mustangs since then.

Roger grew up in New York City, where his family didn’t really need a car. But Roger coveted the parked cars along the city streets, and after high school, he purchased a 1960 Dodge Dart for $250 — no paint, no shine and a black dilapidated fender, the result of the previous owner’s misfortune.

Ted and Roger met last year at the Cape Fear Cruisers Car Club. Sharing their love of cars, they started Wheels by the Sea Car Club. The club got into gear quickly. The first meeting was held in the Fuzzy Peach parking lot and attended by 30 car enthusiasts. By May, it held its first monthly Cruise ‘In, a gathering of owners and cars, hoods proudly open for inspection with live music by The Back Porch Rockers.

In September, the club teamed with The Horseless Carriage Tour. Eighty pre-1927 cars plus 10 beauties owned by Wheels by the Sea members created “quite the spectacle,” as Ted recalls. The cars meandered through Players Club Drive, St. James Drive to the marina and back and exiting the SeaSide Gate. Ted had the honor of driving Town of St. James Mayor Becky Dus in his 1966 Mercury Comet.

Wheels by the Sea has grown to 69 members, with car buffs from St. James, Southport, Oak Island, Leland and Wilmington. Members own a potpourri of cars, trucks and motorcycles — from vintage to classic to modern — with both foreign and domestic models. The members are just as diverse as their cars, with men, women and couples from young in age (21) to young at heart (80+).

Cars are not the only passion of Ted and Roger. The July 13 Cruise ‘In celebrated National Collector Car Appreciation Day and sponsored a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Lions Club of Southport. The Lions Club hopes to purchase a hand-held SPOT instrument that measures light reflexes from the retina for early diagnosis of eye disease among nursery school students.

Cruise ‘In with your car, truck or cycle the first Wednesday of the month, August-October, 6-9 p.m. at the Fuzzy Peach on Southport Supply Road Route 211. There’s no fee to join Wheels by the Sea or to attend a Cruise ‘In. So, shine your ride and show it off. For more information, join the club’s Facebook page, Wheels by the Sea.

Editor’s note: Ted Wright and Roger Albizu contributed to this article.
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Know the sea you swim in

By Julie Livingston

As a newcomer to coastal North Carolina, I knew little about soil types and other conditions here. The situation reminds me of Tony Zinni, CEO where I once worked. Zinni is also the author of several books, including “Leading the Charge, Leadership Lessons from the Battlefield to the Boardroom.”

Now what does this have to do with gardening? Zinni had good, practical tenets, which he applied consistently. One stuck with me — “Know the sea you swim in.” In my case, the sea is local gardening.

I can’t begin to identify how the horticultural sea in coastal N.C. differs from the one in the Northeast. Besides the obvious climate differences, soil characteristics and native plants here were foreign to me.

We live in a huge coastal plain, with soils that soak up water from as far away as the Blue Ridge Mountains. Our land slows the flow of water to the sea, filtering and cleaning it as it seeps through the sandy soil. Native trees and shrubs keep the sandy soil in place. N.C. boasts plant life in its swampy areas that exist nowhere else in the world. These acid-loving, moisture- and drought-tolerant hardy trees and shrubs also support a dizzying array of wildlife.

We moved to coastal N.C. because we liked what we saw. But some of us miss our old plants. Do we examine the land around us and introduce local plants or do we modify the soil to accept landscaping based on our previous location? What are we inviting by doing this? What harm could come of this?

To build infrastructure such as water, electricity, sewer, drainage, roads, foundations and driveways, we flattened lots with original landscape and manage drainage through culverts or ponds. Homes added runoff from roofs, patios and other impermeable surfaces. We landscaped with plants, a few trees and perennials, some of which had never experienced this kind of soil and environment, which upset animal and aquatic life and disturbed a natural balance. We now have an imbalance, which I hope we can rectify by knowing the sea we swim in.

Instead of adding lime and other soil amendments, insecticides and weed killers that wash through the soil quickly, let’s plant a few native trees such as cedar, bald Cypress, sweet bay magnolia, oak, long leaf pine, Yaupon, wax myrtle and many other beautiful life-sustaining plants that love our acidic, sandy soil conditions. Be kind to yourself, the land and creatures that depend on it. Give the environment a chance to regroup.

Consult the local County Extension for more details, or contact the Brunswick County Master Gardeners Volunteer Association. Also check the native plant database on the Audubon Society website (www.audubon.org/native-plants?ms=nc-eng-email-ea-newsletter&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email).

Editor’s Note: Julie Livingston wrote this article for club members when she was president of the St. James Garden Club in 2016-17.
If you’re a baby-boomer, chances are your mom was a Donna Reed stay-at-home housewife who cheerfully greeted you each day with milk and cookies when you returned from school. One day, my mom didn’t.

I learned that my second grade teacher, Miss Crabtree (for the Catholic elementary school crowd, it would have been Sister Mary Paine from the Church of the Holy Ruler), had called to inform her that young Frederick had been fooling around during the “duck drill,” a civil defense procedure used in schools across the country to guarantee our safety in the case of nuclear holocaust. With Soviet missiles aimed right at my school, this type of behavior could not go unpunished. I quietly absorbed Mom’s lecture, but reasoned that banishment to my room for the rest of the afternoon was a small price to pay for getting busted making fart noises from what I thought was the anonymity of being under a desk.

That’s when I heard for the first time however, the six words that struck fear in my heart: “Wait until your father gets home!”

I don’t think my mother realized the psychological torture her justice delayed inflicted on me, that sense of imminent doom.

Future trips to the basement were infrequent. But they did come, usually around report card time. The “D” that appeared under conduct regularly marred an otherwise mediocre quarterly performance. It seems I was always falling short of reaching my potential. My father on those occasions used the “This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you” line.

Years later, when Janice and I were raising our family, we shared equally the disciplining of our three kids. By then, corporal punishment was off the table. Instead, we were reduced to take aways — no computer, TV or outside play. The “Go to your room” option was now behaviorally labeled “timeout.” Our two eldest would often try the “It’s not fair” defense before the door slammed, which only added to their prescribed sentence. Our youngest however, after observing his siblings, put everything up for negotiation, often successfully plea bargaining down his time in solitary.

“I don’t think my mother realized the psychological torture her justice delayed inflicted on me, that sense of imminent doom.”

Fast forward 20 years or so. We were visiting our daughter and family when she burst through the door after work and confronted my grandson with an “I mean business” tone and arms-akimbo stance. It seems Ms. Crabtree called to say young Henry had acted up in class — again. He obviously had inherited his grandfather’s trait for creating classroom comedy.

As he sulked off to his room, minus the iPad he had tried to stash in his back pocket, I heard my Kelly say, drawn from somewhere deep in a recessive gene, those same six words from my long-distant past. I knew things had come full circle.
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State Farm
Books to love:
Romance, perspective, could-have-been and thriller

By Fj Harmon

Summer is setting as fast as the sun, and “Holding the Dream,” by New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts, is my first pick to read during what’s left of the season. When the ever-practical Kate Powell discovers an old family secret, she returns to the wealthy family that raised her. Set on the sweeping cliffs of Big Sur, Kate, who has always measured her success in soaring promotions, finds something missing in her life and in her heart.

Summer is also a good time to put national politics into the comical perspective it deserves. “Giant of the Senate,” by Sen. Al Franken, flips the classic rise to political office on its head. It’s an improbable story of an unlikely campaign ending in the closest outcome in history. This is a hilarious satirical retrospect from the man who wrote for “Saturday Night Live” for a decade. It also presents, as Franken notes, “a candid view of our deeply polarized, occasionally inspiring political culture from inside the belly of the beast.”

We sometimes dream of what might have been, and “That Month in Tuscany,” by Inglath Cooper, is such a story. Lizzy Harper, stood up by her husband for a long-planned anniversary trip, literally falls into the lap of rock star Ren Sawyer during a drunken pity party. Two people with nothing in common find attraction, explore the streets of Florence and the hills of Tuscany and find something in each other that could heal them both.

For cool evenings with crashing waves in the background, curl up to “The Dead Key,” by D. M. Pulley. This historical, financial thriller is about the secrets of the old First Bank of Cleveland. During a renovation survey, Iris Latch stumbles upon the lost keys to long-abandoned safety deposit boxes. What begins as a welcome break from her routine becomes a fixation to unravel the bank’s sordid past.
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