

# Whispering Stories

For contributions or suggestions to future editions, please email [whisperingstories@gmail.com](mailto:whisperingstories@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

**July 4** - Independence Day

**August 10** – First Day of School

**September 4** – Labor Day

**September 23** – First Date of Autumn

**CONTRIBUTORS** to this quarter’s newsletter are Christy Stanczak, Lorna, Kirkham, Mike Martin, Sheila Farland, and Vanisha Patel-Martin.

**A BIG THANKS** to our special neighbors for keeping our community looking beautiful. Walt Peeler has dedicated much of his free time to cleaning up our green spaces. Bob Parker, Lana Bandy, and Sam Iandiorio have been labeling all our native trees, bushes, and flowers. We appreciate their time and effort!

## LOADS OF FUN was had at our 2023 Annual Picnic!



## BIG THANK YOUs to:

Our indefatigable president, Bobby Parker, who devotes so much of his time and efforts toward making it a great event for everyone. Our innovative and dauntless planning committee (Bob Parker, Sam and Debbie Iandiorio, Maria Carlson, Vanisha Patel Martin, Jim Satterly, Walt and Andrea Peeler). It gets better every year! Our inspired Activities Director, Jamie Cacchio, who got us to know our neighbors better and found out "how low we can go" with the limbo contest! Thank you Mike Martin for the much needed tents. The Pie Contest coordinator, Vanisha Patel-Martin. Our Raffle Coordinators Debbie Iandiorio and Elaine Parker. Fantastic prizes!!! Our fabulous chefs Doug Gibson, Walter Peeler and Sam Iandiorio and the irrepressible Dixieland Band (Joe Price, Bob Parker, Jim Satterly, Jim & Lorna Kirkham, Sheila Farland, and Rhonda Kifer).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO** the winner of the limbo contest, **Kate Eavenson**, way to go Kate! **Mary Ellen Zydell** for winning the pie baking contest with her delectable ritz cracker pie. Yum! **Jennifer Wilson**, with her heavenly vegan coconut cream pie, and **Walt Peeler** for his delicious apple pie, tied for second place. As we all know, there is no bad pie, so our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all bakers. Pie for everyone. Yay! The big winner of the 50/50 raffle was **Sarah Hagan**, just in time for the Alaskan vacay! All the terrific food, tables, muscle, and mirth that so many brought to the cookout made it a real homerun. WOHA rocks!



**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!**



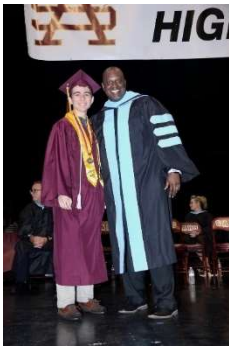
Fireworks are fun but please use them safely and remember they are only legal on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, New Year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day. Fireworks on the beach are illegal. On the 4th of July, many animals become so frightened by the noise and commotion of fireworks that they run from otherwise familiar environments and people, and sadly become lost. Some safety tips: keep pets indoor during peak fireworks time, make sure they always have a collar and ID tags on, put your pet in the quietest room of the house and muffle the sound as best as possible.



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**CONGRATS** to Dakota Drown! Dakota is a recent graduate of St. Augustine High School. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with his AICE diploma and will be attending FSU to pursue a degree in business. He will miss the neighborhood, especially his buddies Christian and Layton. We wish Dakota all the best in his future endeavors!



## IT IS SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON!

Nesting occurs from May to October every year. Please tell all visitors and friends to be mindful of these protected areas. In 2022, St Johns County beaches had a record 1,235 nests! Please fill in holes and knock down sandcastles that may obstruct the sea turtles on their way to the ocean. If you are lucky enough to witness a sea turtle hatching, please watch from a distance, do not touch the animal and avoid the use of cell phone light or flashlights.



## BOARDWALK UPDATE

In April, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection let the city know that the state laws regarding changing the existing boardwalk would require a replacement in kind. Rule 62D.5.059, section 3 states “the grantee shall replace the area, facilities, resource, or site at its own expense with project of comparable scope and quality”. Moving the boardwalk from its current location to the FCT Parcel, which is the area north of the boardwalk currently under renovation, would not meet this requirement as this area has in part been purchased with state funds and would not meet the requirement of the City of St. Augustine beach moving the boardwalk at its own expense. The City would be required to build a comparable boardwalk on City-owned property.

Additionally, the City received a quote for Phase 3 projects in the Park which were significantly over budget so the City has informed the FCT to delete these projects and only complete work already started. We thank Jim LeClare for all his efforts and determination to advocate for our much-loved boardwalk and our community’s ability to continue using it. Thank you, Jim!

## THE PET REPORT

Danny is a 2-year-old therapy dog who was rescued by the ASPCA from a farm in Alabama. After being placed in a foster home, he was eventually adopted by Robert Parker and has since become a member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and Tri-State Canine Response Team.



Danny is an AKC Certified Good Citizen dog and has made over 100 visits to colleges, hospitals, VA nursing homes, and Ronald McDonald Houses in Florida. He enjoys visits to the dog park and walks on the beach, but his favorite visits are to Hartley Elementary School and the Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine. Danny loves people and other dogs. He is so friendly that he sometimes jumps into bed with the residents at the Veterans' Nursing Home to give them hugs, despite not being allowed to. His achievements and friendly personality make him a great example of the positive impact that dogs can have on our lives. If you see him around the neighborhood with his owners, Bob and Elaine Parker, Danny would love to say hello!