

Whispering Stories



For contributions or suggestions to future editions, email whisperingstoriessta@gmail.com

Important Dates

September 1

Labor Day



September 6

End of Summer

Beach Bash

St Augustine Pier

12 - 4 PM

September 22

First Day of Fall

October 13

Indigenous People's &
Columbus Day

October 31

Halloween



November

Expected Publix
Grand Re-Opening!

November 2

Daylight Saving Times
Set your clocks back!

November 11



November 22

Surf Illumination
St Augustine Beach Pier
4 - 8 PM

November 27



Join the fun of **"Boo Your Neighbor"** for the third year this October! To participate, pick up a "You've Been Booed" printout from the WOHA library, which includes instructions. Leave the printout and a treat for a neighbor. If you get booed, display the "We've Been Boo'ed" sign on your door. The game encourages a pay-it-forward spirit: after being booed, choose two neighbors to anonymously deliver treats to.

Pet Report

Hi, I'm Parker. I turned 6 on Valentine's Day. I live with my uncle Oliver, a black pug who is a year younger than me. It's funny to think of him as my uncle, but he really is! Oliver is a bit scared of loud noises and vehicles because he didn't grow up in the city like I did. He might bark at your car, so don't be surprised!

I know a bunch of tricks! If you point to a spot and say "kisses", I'll kiss you right there if you bend down. I can even communicate using a Fluent Pet board with 27 words. My favorites are "hungry" and "snuggles." I started with just 2 buttons, and it took me a while to get the hang of it, but now I have so much to say. Sometimes, my moms say it's too much! I also have an Instagram account with over 1,000 followers, @sarahjessicaparkerpug. In 2025, I faced a tough battle with cancer. I was diagnosed right after Christmas, which made the beginning of the year challenging. I had surgery to remove a small tumor, and although I had a life-threatening reaction to the chemotherapy, I'm happy to say I'm now in remission. I kicked cancer's butt! I was even named July's Patient of the Month at my oncologist's office!



One of my moms is an artist and showcases her work at the Acacia Tree Gallery on Aviles Street. I love helping her in the studio, even though I sometimes get paint and glue stuck in my hair. You can see pictures of me at the studio on her website, jesbooth.com. Kisses! Have a wonderful fall, y'all!

In loving memory of Abraham Breger who crossed the rainbow bridge

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Remembering Bette MacDowell: A Pillar of the Whispering Oaks Community



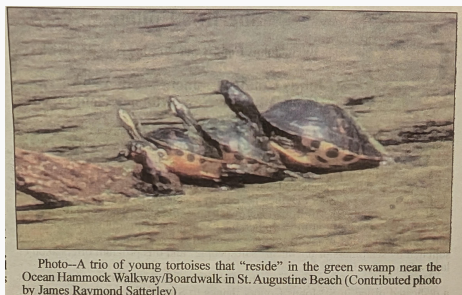
June 27th marked a sorrowful day for the WOHA community with the passing of long-time resident Bette MacDowell. Bette leaves behind her husband, Bill, along with three children—Susan, Lisa, and Bill Jr.—and five grandchildren. In 2002, she and Bill purchased a corner lot, built their home, and settled into the neighborhood. Recently, they celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary and 23 years in their cherished home.

Bill and Bette were instrumental in the community, hosting the WOHA inaugural meeting when developer Ralph Morris transitioned the neighborhood to its residents. With her accounting expertise from a successful career in banking and healthcare, Bette was elected as the first secretary of the WOHA Board. The first WOHA meeting took place in the MacDowell Earley construction home 25 years ago, with only exterior walls and no windows or doors. At that gathering, we became an official HOA organization. Bill MacDowell as the first Vice President, Al Kenyon as the treasurer, and Bob Parker as President. As Bob Parker remembers, Bette was a trailblazer, guiding WOHA through each new step as the HOA was established. She was a leader in determining what needed to be done and when. Bette was a unique individual, and all who knew and worked with her witnessed her unwavering dedication to our community and the HOA. Her great sense of humor made her a joy to collaborate with, and she will be deeply missed.

WOHA was not originally intended to be a gated community. However, bikers, motorcyclists, and thrill-seekers frequently ventured into our neighborhood to test their skills on the hills. Consequently, WOHA had to implement gated entry systems to manage these visitors. During those early days, wildlife sightings were common; it was typical to see three to four native deer munching on plants and wildflowers. The daily and seasonal visits from various birds, such as doves, cardinals, and blue jays, continue to bring joy to our residents. After many years of collaboration, WOHA community members united in requesting the city to provide a walkway to the beach, complete with road access, parking, and restrooms. Despite opposition from the neighboring community to the south, approval was granted. Thanks to these collective efforts, we now enjoy a beautiful beach park with amenities and access to the stunning coastline.



Mosquito Control has been contacted to assess our retention ponds. If you would like to submit an online request for them to come and treat for mosquitos, please visitamcdsjc.mgisinc.ca



Photo—A trio of young tortoises that “reside” in the green swamp near the Ocean Hammock Walkway/Boardwalk in St. Augustine Beach (Contributed photo by James Raymond Satterley)

Congratulations to our resident, James Satterly, for his fantastic photograph of turtles basking in the sun, which has been featured in the local newspaper. What an impressive display of photography skills!