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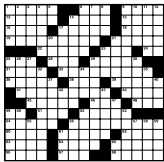
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TRIM notices to be mailed August 17

By Eddie Creamer

Property owners in St. Johns County will be mailed a 2026 Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice, also known as a notice of proposed property taxes, by our office on Aug. 17, 2026. The notice will show the property's proposed taxes for the 2026 tax year before the tax bill is mailed in November. On the same day the notice is mailed, it will also be available on our website at www.sjcpa.gov.



Eddie Creamer

The notice is important because it informs property owners of their property values and exemptions. It also provides a timeframe for property owners to request any adjustments to their values. Therefore, property owners should carefully review the notice to determine if they would like to request any changes.

We make every effort to work with property owners to accommodate requests through our office. If our office is unable to make the requested change, then a petition can be filed with the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) for a third-party review. Property owners have 25 days from the notice mailing date to request an office review and to file a petition with the VAB. This year's deadline is Sept. 11.

Here's a look at the 2026 numbers for St. Johns County.

- The total just (market) value is \$92.9 billion, a 2.83% increase from last year.
- The total taxable value is \$63.1 billion, a 6.60% increase from last year.
- The parcel total is 183,425, an increase of 2,675 from last year.
- The homesteaded parcel total is 98,009, which includes 8,287 new applications approved in 2026.
- The qualified single-family home sales total is 2,688 with 18.2% of those sales being new construction.

TRIM cont. on pg. 2

NEW MURAL, NEW ERA



Photo by Lindsay Brown

Lindsay Brown and her dog, Cooper, pose in front of the new mural outside Hurricane Grill & Wings in Julington Creek.

Julington Creek restaurant's makeover comes ahead of employee fundraiser

By Tracy McCormick-Dishman
editor@floridanewslines.com

A splash of color has landed on the side of Hurricane Grill & Wings in Julington Creek, and it's turning heads for more than the wings.

New owner Manon "Max" Patel com-

missioned a mural on the restaurant's exterior this summer, a tribute to the community that has quickly become a local talking point, and a magnet for photos.

A gift to the neighborhood

Patel, who took over the restaurant

earlier this year, said the mural was inspired by daily drives down San Jose Boulevard.

"Every day I drive on San Jose Boulevard, and I do not see any kind of

New Mural cont. on pg. 2

Jamie Mackey honored as Rotarian of the Year

By Rotarian Al Kalter

Jamie Mackey has been named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail - Julington Creek, recognizing years of leadership in the club and service to the broader St. Johns County community.

Mackey joined the club in 2008 and has served in several leadership roles, including as club president in 2010-11. Fellow Rotarians credited him with helping strengthen membership, support emerging leaders and keep the club engaged in local service projects.

His community involvement also includes work with the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County. After hearing a presentation from the organization at a Rotary meeting, Mackey

Jamie Mackey cont. on pg. 3



VoteMartin2026.com

Integrity matters.

Martin Pyszcymuka is a former FBI agent specializing in fraud and public corruption.

Commissioner Krista Keating-Joseph voted alone against four developer-funded commissioners — 71 times.

Paid for by Martin Pyszcymuka and Krista Keating-Joseph, Republicans for St. Johns County commissioners, Dist. 2 & 4



VoteKrista.com

YMCA highlights family programming during back-to-school season

By Emily Delaney

As the new school year approaches, family routines are shifting, and parents across the First Coast are already juggling schedules, activities and after-school logistics. The First Coast YMCA offers a range of family programs designed to lighten that load, whether it's an evening of planned support or a welcome, unexpected break in the routine.

The FCYMCA family features include:

- **Parent's Night Out:** This night gives

parents a planned evening to themselves while kids enjoy games, arts and crafts and a snack in a safe, supervised setting.

- **Family Arts and Crafts, Movie Nights and Family Dances:** Part of the FCYMCA's Families Unplugged initiative; these screen-free events give families an opportunity to slow down together after a busy week, most at no extra cost to members.

- **KidZone:** The FCYMCA's KidZone program allows parents to fit in a workout or class while trained staff keep their



Photo courtesy First Coast YMCA

Kids enjoy outdoor play during a First Coast YMCA family program.



Photo courtesy First Coast YMCA

Children read together in the KidZone at the First Coast YMCA.

kids engaged in circle time, music and movement, creativity, STEM and other enrichment activities.

- **Homeschool PE:** This program offers homeschooled and distance-learning students ages 5 to 12 a structured, in-person outlet for physical activity. Students will build strength, endurance and flexibility and learn about teamwork and life skills.

Together, these programs are designed to meet families where they are during one of the busiest stretches of the year, offering both structure and room for spontaneity as schedules shift.

"We believe the First Coast YMCA is more than just a gym, it's a village," said Julie Pickard, Family Programming

Coordinator, First Coast YMCA. "We strive to be a support hub for our community, providing an outlet for connection and opportunities for growth, both individually and as a family."

As part of its back-to-school efforts, the First Coast YMCA is also looking to fill open positions for before and afterschool care programs at Hallows Cove Academy and Webster Elementary School. Interested candidates can reach out to Chuck Steinfurth, vice president of youth development, at csteinfurth@fcymca.org for details.

For more information about Family Features at the FCYMCA or to register, contact Julie Pickard, Family Programming Coordinator, at JPickard@fcymca.org.

TRIM cont. from pg. 1

The proposed 2026 Florida Property Tax Amendment 3 (CS/HJR 1-F) will not have an impact on the 2026 TRIM notices or property taxes. The proposed amendment will be placed on the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide the outcome. If the amendment passes, then it will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2027, and the changes will be reflected on the 2027 TRIM notices and tax bills.

I'm available to answer questions or provide additional information at Ed-die@sjcpa.gov or 904-827-5500.

Eddie Creamer is the St. Johns County property appraiser.

New Mural cont. from pg. 1

local art or anything that is inspiring, something that people can visit and take a picture of," Patel said. "I wanted to represent an attraction point for the people of Julington Creek, something that identifies the community, something exciting, a good spot."

The design incorporates elements specific to the area, including the Julington Creek waterway and the oaks and greenery that give the neighborhood its character.

In a social media post announcing the artwork, Patel elaborated further: "I had this mural painted as a small gift to the neighborhood, something

that's really ours. A place to pull over, snap a picture, and mark a moment. Graduations. Engagements. Birthdays. First days. Last days. The big stuff and the small stuff."

Patel, who grew up near Jacksonville Beach and Arlington, said Mandarin and Julington Creek have always felt like one of the city's hidden gems, a place people love that doesn't always get its own landmark.

"This mural is my thank-you to Julington Creek for welcoming me in," Patel wrote.

Looking after the team

The restaurant has changed hands more than once over the past two

years, a stretch original owner Rob Kluba described as a difficult time for staff. Kluba, who built the restaurant into a neighborhood fixture over 15 years, stepped back in during that rocky period before ultimately selling to Patel.

Twenty-nine employees are still owed a week's pay from that transition, and both Kluba and Patel say making sure the staff is taken care of is the priority going forward.

"I don't care about me. I took a loss on this," Kluba said. "But I want the employees to get taken care of. You never see restaurant employees work

New Mural cont. on pg. 6

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Submissions

Community news and photos are due by the 10th of each month to ensure inclusion in the upcoming issue. Thank you for your support of trusted community journalism.

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Photo courtesy Rotary Club of Bartram Trail - Julington Creek

Jamie Mackey, left, receives the Rotarian of the Year award from 2005-06 Club President Mitch Ross.

Jamie Mackey cont. from pg. 1

became involved and joined its Board of Directors in late 2022. Drawing on his background in civil engineering, he has supported campus infrastructure and facility expansion efforts and currently serves as vice president and secretary of the board.

Mackey and his wife, Trish, have been married for 35 years and have two adult children. The couple lives in Nocatee and enjoys pickleball, travel and boating.

The award reflects Mackey's long-standing commitment to Rotary's tradition of Service Above Self and his continued contributions to local nonprofit work.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail - Julington Creek meets the first three Thursday mornings of each month, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. More information about our local club can be found at www.bartramtrailrotary.org.

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August

Community Calendar

What's Happening in St. Johns

To submit items for the Community Calendar, email editor@floridanewslines.com.

August 4
Northwest St Johns County United for Progress meeting

The Northwest St Johns County United for Progress Club meets Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. with a social starting at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker Art Stresing, Democratic candidate for Florida House District 18, will speak. Email nwsjcp@gmail.com.

August 8
Bartram Trail Genealogy Club

The Bartram Trail Genealogy Club meets Saturday, Aug. 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Public Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., Fruit Cove. Joel Warner will present new changes and hidden gems in Family Search. All are welcome. Contact Gary Inglish via the club Facebook page.

August 11
Guest Speaker on Space and the Universe

River Garden hosts guest speaker Eddie Whistler from the Museum of Science and History

Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Cohen Auditorium, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road. Whistler will discuss worlds beyond our solar system and how to find habitable ones. The event is free but preregistration is requested at shorturl.at/ngGOs or by calling Kari Bell at 904 288 7855.

August 18
SJSO Citizen Law Enforcement Academy

The St. Johns County Sheriffs Office is accepting applications for the fall Citizen Law Enforcement Academy beginning Monday, Aug. 18. The program lasts 11 weeks and meets Tuesday nights for approximately three hours. Participants must attend at least eight of the 10 sessions and pass a comprehensive background check. Apply at sjso.org.

September 8
Bartram Trail Newcomers Club luncheon

The Bartram Trail Newcomers Club kicks off its new year with a luncheon Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 11 a.m. at St. Johns Golf and Country Club. Visit btnc.wildapricot.org for details.

September 19-20
St. Johns County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale

The St. Johns County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Johns County Extension Office, 3125 Agricultural Center Dr., St. Augustine. The sale features landscape plants, houseplants and vegetable seedlings. Tours of the demonstration gardens are also offered. Visit sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns.

Ongoing Activities

Wednesdays
Playing HOOKie

This charity focused knitting and crochet group meets Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Maple Street Biscuit Company, 1627 Race Track Road, St. Johns. Email playinghookiecares@gmail.com.

Wednesdays
Widow to Widow Support Group

The support group meets Wednesdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the COA River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine. Call 904 209 3655.

Thursdays
Open Game Play

Join the Council on Aging River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine, for open game play Thursdays from 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Bring your own cards or board games. Email tharris@coasjc.org.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Trout Creek Senior Center Activities

Trout Creek Senior Center, 6795 Collier Road, Orangedale, offers senior activities starting at 9 a.m. with cards, crafts and games, followed by trivia, bunco or bingo before lunch at 11:30 a.m. Call Jessica Curry at 904 209 3658.

Wednesdays
Al Anon and Alateen Meetings

Free confidential support groups for family and friends of those affected by someone else drinking meet Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Swiss Cove Christian Church, 1965 State Road 13, St. Johns. Meetings are held on the second floor with an elevator available.

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Q&A with St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Brandon J. Patty

Q. What changes are coming to the Clerk's Office beginning August 3?

A. Beginning Monday, August 3, our office will relocate non-court operations from the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center to a new office located at 4040 Lewis Speedway, just south of the Judicial Complex and adjacent to the St. Johns County Permit Center. The move provides a dedicated, more



Brandon Patty

convenient location for many of our most frequently used public services. Unless you're coming for court-related business, you'll no longer need to enter the courthouse to access Clerk services.

Q. What services are moving to the new office?

A. Beginning August 3, if you're visiting us for non-court services such as Official Records recording (including deeds, Notices of Commencement,

plats and other recorded documents), marriage licenses and wedding ceremonies, or passport application acceptance, you'll go directly to our new office at 4040 Lewis Speedway. In-person public records searches and Value Adjustment Board (VAB) applications will also be available at the new location.

Q. What services will remain at the courthouse?

A. Court operations will continue at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center. This includes court hearings, court filings, child support payments, restraining orders and payments for traffic tickets. For all other Clerk services, you'll go directly to our new office.

Q. Is the new office difficult to find?

A. Not at all. The new office is located just across the parking lot from the courthouse at 4040 Lewis Speedway, next to the St. Johns County Permit Center. It's a short walk or drive from the Judicial Center.

Q. Where can residents find updates or get more information about the move?

A. We'll continue sharing updates leading up to and following the move on our website at stjohnsclerk.com. For questions, contact our Customer Care Call Center Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (904) 819-3600 or by email at clerk@stjohnsclerk.com. I can also be reached directly on my cell at (904) 599-8688 or by email at BPatty@stjohnsclerk.com.

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Q&A with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Q: When is the 2026 Primary Election?

A: Election Day for the 2026 Primary Election is Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and voters must vote at their assigned polling place. Some Election Day polling places have changed since the last election. To find your polling place, check your voter information card or visit www.votesjc.gov.

Q: I'm registered with no party affiliation. Will I still be able to vote in the Primary Election?

A: The 2026 Primary Election includes two Universal Primary Contests that are open to all registered St. Johns County voters and will appear on all ballots, regardless of party affiliation: County



Vicky Oakes

Commission District 2 and County Commission District 4. Nonpartisan voters will also see a Circuit Judge race, and depending on their residence, a School Board Member race on their ballots. Several races will also be decided in the Primary Election and will not appear on the General Election ballot, making participation in this election especially important.

Q: How do I know what's on my ballot?

A: Sample ballots have been mailed to all registered voters who have not requested a vote-by-mail ballot. To view your sample ballot online, visit www.votesjc.gov and click My Voter Status.

Q: I have moved recently. Is it too late to update my registration?

A: No! To update your address online, visit www.votesjc.gov. If you are unsure if your record is up to date, use the My Voter Status tool to verify your information. It is important to update your address before heading out to vote on Election Day to ensure you go to the right polling place the first time.

Q: I requested a vote-by-mail ballot. Can I still vote in person?

A: Yes, if you have not returned your vote-by-mail ballot, you can still vote in person.

Poll workers are required to ask a voter who was mailed a vote-by-mail ballot if they brought it to the polling place. If yes, the vote-by-mail ballot must be surrendered prior to voting. A vote-by-mail ballot cannot be taken into the voting booth at the polling place!

Q: If I make a mistake on my ballot, can I get a new one?

A: Yes! If a voter makes a mistake on their first ballot, they are entitled to up to two additional replacement ballots. If you make a mistake while marking your ballot, you must return to the poll worker with your ballot in hand.

A ballot with a mistake on it returned to the poll worker is called a "spoiled ballot."

To ensure a spoiled ballot cannot be counted, it must be physically altered. Before surrendering the spoiled ballot, the poll worker will ask the voter to fold the ballot in half and tear the corner.

Q: Will there be law enforcement at my voting location to keep the workers and voters safe?

A: All polling places in St. Johns County are assigned a team member called a Poll Deputy. At the completion of training, Poll Deputies are sworn in and deputized by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. The deputy is the eyes and ears of law enforcement at the polling place: they are always present during Early Voting and Election Day to maintain order and ensure a safe voting experience for St. Johns County voters.

Questions? Call the Elections Office at 904-823-2238, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

My staff and I look forward to assisting you!

New Mural cont. from pg. 2

at a place for 15 years. It's unheard of, and I still have original staff working there today."

Patel confirmed he's working on a plan to help make those employees whole.

"I'm sitting down with my team to

work out the details," Patel said, adding that he'll share more information as plans come together.

Kluba said he's glad the restaurant landed with an owner invested in the community.

"He's really trying to do good, really trying to get engaged with the com-



Photo courtesy Max Patel
The new mural outside Hurricane Grill & Wings pays tribute to Julington Creek, incorporating local landmarks into its postcard-style design.

munity," Kluba said of Patel. "I wish I had sold it to the people who own it now."

For now, the mural stands as a visible symbol of the restaurant's fresh start, an open invitation for neighbors to stop by, snap a photo and make it part of their own Julington Creek story.



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Did you know that Starling operates four luxury senior living communities in the Jacksonville area? Our communities offer maintenance-free living with exquisite amenities, including gourmet dining, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and a serene heated pool. With meals and transportation included in your rent, you can focus on living your best life while we handle the rest. Call us today to learn more and set up your personalized 1-on-1 tour!



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stay for the flavors and fun.
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29				30	
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38			39				40
	41				42				43		44		
		45						46		47		48	
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated

6. Snakelike fish

9. Database management system

13. Social evolution anthropologist Service

14. American rocker Grohl

15. Greek personification of compassion

16. Negatives

17. Rescued

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual

19. Assigns tasks

21. Popular type of cigar

22. Discounts

23. The whole quantity

24. New York Giants legend

25. Indicates before

28. Lentils

29. Extremely angry

31. Body part

33. “North Star State”

36. David __, US playwright
38. Lower and raise one’s head

39. Private rendezvous

41. In a way, improved

44. A place to play

45. Astronomical period of 18 years

46. Automobile

48. Something you can take

49. A radio band

51. Jaws of a voracious animal

52. Short-billed rails

54. Chinese province

56. Shameless

60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine

61. Indian respectful titles

62. Fail to entertain

63. Dried-up

64. Central Utah city

65. Southern U.S.

66. German river

67. Necessary for breathing

68. Put into play

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment

2. Wings

3. Yellowish volatile liquid

4. Makes less severe

5. Debit note

6. Overhang

7. The nights before

8. Type of light

9. Lacking enthusiasm

10. Tattle

11. Some is “heavy”

12. One who is canonized

14. Indicates date and place of writing

17. “Peace” in Arabic

20. “Olaf” actor Josh

21. Fragmented rock

23. They __

25. Advanced degree

26. Backside

27. Influential architect and design couple

29. An act of undue intimacy
30. Words from which later words are derived

32. 10 meters

34. Neither

35. Fungal sacs

37. The law of God revealed to Moses

40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

42. A promise

43. Challenges

47. British Air Aces

49. Large bank

50. Served as an omen

52. Cavalry sword

53. Vaccine developer

55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules

56. Italian Seaport

57. Hip joint

58. __ Clapton, musician

59. Insect repellent

61. Constrictor snake

65 “The First State” (abbr.)

2026 Primary Election

August 18, 2026

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY



Vicky Oakes
St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

904.823.2238 · www.votesjc.gov

Vote-by-Mail

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed is August 6, 2026, by 5 PM. Visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office to request your ballot.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day, August 18, to be counted. Vote-by-mail ballots can also be returned to Secure Ballot Intake Stations available at all early voting locations during the hours of voting.

Know Before You Go

Visit www.votesjc.gov to get ELECTION READY:

- View your sample ballot online
- Find your polling place
- Make your voting plan

Early Voting

August 8 – August 15, 2026

9 AM to 6 PM

Daily at all early voting locations

For a map and list of locations, visit our website at www.votesjc.gov

Election Day

August 18, 2026

Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Some precincts have changed since the last election. Verify your Election Day polling place at www.votesjc.gov before heading out to vote!



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Visit **UFHealth.org/DurbinPark** to learn more.



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