

## **Christmas Spirit Comes Alive In Palencia**

Despite the warm Florida weather, Palencia residents came out with holiday spirit in their hearts for the 2019 Palencia Christmas tree lighting. The merriment was as bright as the 30 ft. tree sparkling with hundreds of lights, and a "snow machine" gave the littlest Floridians a chance to experience a white Christmas.

A huge crowd gathered on Market Street on December 6th for the community's annual kick-off to the holidays. Kids eagerly waited to welcome Santa with their Christmas lists in hand. Everyone sipped hot cocoa, ordered mobile munchies from their favorite food trucks and enjoyed horsedrawn carriage rides through Palencia. This year, a caricature artist painted fond memories of smiling kids celebrating the community's most popular event.





Clockwise.horse drawn carriage rides through Palencia, families visiting Santa and the community Christmas tree. See More Photos On Page 18.



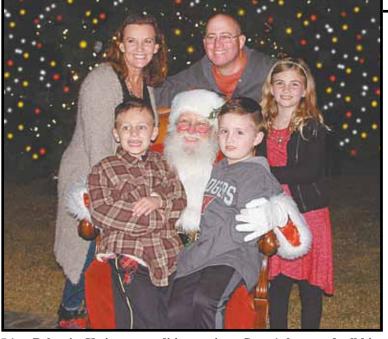


By Howard Entman, MD Chairman, Marshall Creek CDD

We have just celebrated our one-year anniversary with Katie Hollis as our CDD General Manager and Vinelle Miller as our Assistant General Manager. As a result of Katie's, Vinelle's, and our team managers' work ethic and experience, along with major efforts on the parts of your CDD Board of Supervisors, the transition from Hines Company management was seamless. The pace of property and lifestyle enhancements has also accelerated as the year progressed.

Like you, I am assessed fees each year for the opera-tion and maintenance of our CDD. Here are some of the day to day activities and noteworthy accomplishments of our 2019 efforts:

Our in-house landscaping and engineering team It's a Palencia Christmas tradition to sit on Santa's knee and tell him and 8,000 plus sprinkler heads.



maintain 60 acres of grass and shrubbery, hundreds of trees, what's on your holiday wish list. Kids also wrote letters to Santa and Continued On Page 4 posted them in his red mailbox situated near the 30 ft. tree.



The Palencia Press P. O. Box 600022 Jacksonville, FL 32260



## Palencia Community Classified Ads

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**The Palencia Press** 

Articles and information must be received by the 10th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue.Views and opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher or editorial staff. All articles are subject to editing.

#### **Thought For The Day**

My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far today, I have finished two bags of M&M's and a chocolate cake. I feel better already. -Dave Barry

#### Words Of Wisdom

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord. - Isaiah 2:4-5



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## **Palencia Community Classified Ads**

**Continued From Page 2** 

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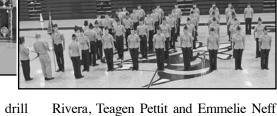
#### **Nease NJROTC Victorious At Atlanta Drill** Competition

By Captain Scott LaRochelle, USCG (Ret), Senior Naval Science Instructor



Left, Nease NIROTC celebrates winning the November Sprayberry Drill Meet championship.

Below, Nease NJROTC stands at attention during Personnel Inspection at the Sprayberry Drill Meet. Nease won both this individual event and the meet overall championship.



earned top honors for Female Sit-ups.

Pettit, Amber Vidler, Anna Hampton and

Yuan Tian garnered top medals in Fe-

male Pushups. Brogan Donnelly, Brody

Mongon, Reef Hamilton and Nate Fagen

placed 1st and 4th in Male Sit-ups, and

Juan Castillo took home 4th in Male Push-

ups. This marks two consecutive compe-

titions where Donnelly has won 1st place medal in Situps, averaging 306 each time.

won the North Florida and state of Geor-

gia Drill championships and will be eye-

ing a sixth when they compete in Doug-

las, Georgia on March 7th at the Area-12

Championships.

For five years running, Nease has

Nease Navy JROTC's varsity drill team travelled to Atlanta recently to take on 15 of the best NJROTC programs in north Georgia and the team did not disappoint, taking home the overall academic, athletic and drill championship held at Sprayberry High School in Marietta, Georgia.

In addition to claiming the overall championship trophy, Nease picked up six of 12 first place event trophies for Personnel Inspection, Overall Drill, Armed Exhibition, Overall Athletics, Push Ups and Sit Ups.

Several cadets took home individual medals for exceptional performance in athletics. Rachael Tawdrous, Isabelle



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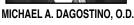
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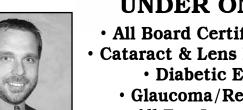
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Maria Aleiandra Rivera Palencia Resident

## No Solicitation Signs Up In Palencia



#### By Andrea Coneglio, **Palencia Resident**

Marshall Creek Palencia has posted NO SOLICITATION SIGNS at various locations. These signs are meant to deter solicitors from entering Palencia. St. Johns County requires these solicitors to obtain a permit from the county. They are also required to display an ID with their name and company name in plain sight. You might ask: what do I do if I see a solicitor in Marshall Creek Palencia?

Contact the CDD office at 904-810-052. Katie Hollis, our General Manager will contact the solicitor. Soliciting is only allowed if they have a permit.

## Parks, Roadways Were Among **Community's Accomplishments in 2019**

#### **Continued From Page 1**

We trimmed and "lifted" all the tress on Palencia Village Drive and in some of the neighborhoods. We began planting colorful annual and perennial flowers throughout the community to enhance the 'visuals" of our streets.

We maintain 25 Neighborhood parks.

Most of the parks have been "cleaned up," thinning the vegetation and replacing play equipment as needed. Treehouse Park was completely redone.

• We maintain 17 miles of roadways.

Palencia Village Drive was repaved, with reflectors in the roadway. CDD street lighting was converted to LEDs. A program of pressure washing the curbs and repainting the crosswalks has been started and will continue as a regular maintenance item.

· We operate and maintain two amenity facilities with three swimming pools.

We "spruced up" the pools at the Amenity Center. We installed a kiddie splash pad, increased the number of chaise lounges and refurbished the water slide.

• We maintain and operate the best tennis facility in the area with a robust tennis/pickleball program.

LED lights were installed on several courts - more will be converted in 2020.

Several tennis socials were held during the

• We plan and execute 22 family street events during the year

More than 1,000 people attended our fall festival.

• We are responsible for the general security of our community.

Gatehouse guards were replaced with a modern virtual guard system that records the license plate of every vehicle entering through the gates. We now have one of the latest gate monitoring systems available. We continue to have sheriff roving patrols throughout our community.

• We have an efficient management team and active Board of Supervisors.

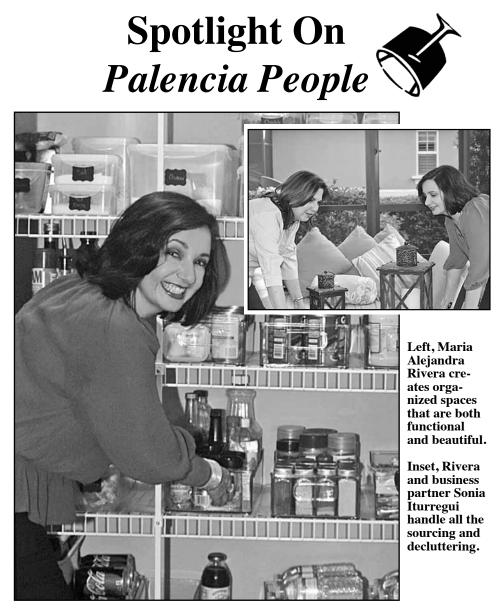
We are near completion of getting 95 percent reimbursement (\$940,693.) for our costs in repairing the boardwalk. Many communities haven't yet received their first dollar.

As Chairman of our CDD, I assure you that our staff and Board have worked diligently to see that we all get the most for our money - a beautiful place to live and modern, clean amenities; all of which contribute to a better life style and higher property values.

2019 was a good year; 2020 will be better. Thank you for your support.



Layla Marie



## Palencia Resident Shows How To Organize Your Home In The New Year

Palencia resident Maria Alejandra Rivera has taken her gift of organizational skills and an eye for decoration and turned it into a new business as a professional organizer, where she helps people declutter and organize their homes and other spaces.

Rivera, who moved to Palencia in 2005 with her husband Erick and their three children, is certainly not a stranger to many Palencia families. For five years, Rivera taught Spanish at Palencia Elementary's after school program and although one of Rivera's passions is teaching, she says the launching of "Your Organizing Studio" allows her to help people design, decorate and create organized spaces that are both functional and beautiful.

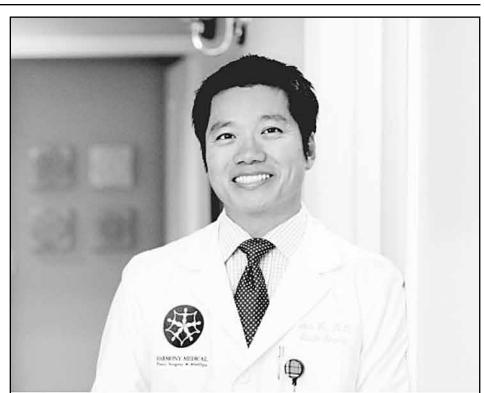
Your Organizing Studio is a fullservice organizing company that helps its clients handle and tackle any home organization project.

"It is amazing how people can feel calmer and in control when all things at home have a 'place,'" Rivera said. "Organizing is a skill that can be learned and mastered over time. Fast pace in our daily lives make people's minds and space feel cluttered when they are not able to keep up with the house."

Rivera says her professional organizer services are especially beneficial for people experiencing a significant life change like an addition to your family, a divorce, starting a new job or when the house is full of clutter and you don't know where to start. Clients also use her services when moving in or out or if the home needs to be cleared out fast or "if you just want to learn to be more organized."

When she is not busy helping clients declutter their homes so they can Continued On Page 7





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Do you have landscape questions in which you would like help? I live in Palencia, so please email me at norie.flowers@ outlook.com and I will answer you immediately.

#### Anastasia Project – Call For Volunteers!

Anastasia Preserve, located in Anastasia State Park, is the home to some of North Florida's most important aquatic life, especially turtles. Because of the prolific spread of the problematic invasive Brazilian Pepper plant, over 150 acres of this fragile ecosystem is now at risk.

Brazilian Pepper is one of the most aggressive and wide-spread of the invasive, non-indigenous exotic pest plants in Florida. They were brought to Florida in the mid-1800s for use as ornamental plants. More than 700,000 acres in Florida are now infested with this poison ivy-like invasive which produces a dense canopy. The canopy then crowds out native plants and invades aquatic as well as terrestrial habitats and greatly reduces native biotic communities.

Recent research done by the Wetland and Aquatic Research Center of the U.S. Geological Survey reports that winter climate change is expected to lead to the tropicalization of temperate ecosystems, where tropical species such as the Brazilian Pepper grow. Lower temperatures reduce their numbers. However, in response to warming winter temperatures, Brazilian pepper is now expected to expand northward and transform ecosystems in North Florida (and much of the Gulf of Mexico and south Atlantic coasts). It is all the more important now to identify and manage this invasive plant in our area.

Because of the invasive nature of Brazilian Pepper, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has classified it as a Class I - "Prohibited Aquatic Plant" under section 62C-52.011 and the sale and or movement of this species is prohibited.

Brazilian Pepper costs the government and private landowners a significant amount of time, money and manpower to control.

For new Palencia residents who have not yet visited this area, Anastasia Preserve is stunningly beautiful, with huge numbers of aquatic life, particularly turtles and birds. This aquatic community thrives on Florida native plants that are now at risk because of the proliferation of Brazilian Pepper on the Preserve.

A volunteer group was assembled last January, and volunteers worked to rid the

## Ask A Master Gardener Anastasia Project – Call For Volunteers!

By Norie Flowers, Palencia Resident Master Gardener norie.flowers@outlook.com

> Preserve of eight acres of Brazilian Pepper, having spent 200 hours from January to May on the project.

> As mentioned above, because the Preserve alone has 150 acres of Brazilian Pepper, this is a project that will continue until we win the fight against this highly destructive invasive plant.

> We have begun again to continue the work started last year and we need you, Palencia residents, who are environmentally aware, to commit some time to combat this huge problem.

> This project is also a lot of fun and the Preserve is beautiful. When you commit some free time, you can feel confident that you are doing something significant for our community now and for the future.

> Participation in this project is also a great way to meet new friends who care about the environment as much as you do. The photo below shows a few of the crew I captured this month during our first work party of 20 volunteers who have signed up, both men and women. We use power saws and clippers to bring down the Brazilian Pepper, and a controlled burn is then done when weather conditions are exactly right.

> While everyone in our modern world has busy schedules, please think about reserving just a little of your time to do something substantial. Your work will be part of the legacy that ensures the survival of one of St. Augustine's most fragile biotic communities - Anastasia Preserve.



Our work party meets every other Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. To sign up, **please contact me through my email listed above.** 

Come and join us! It is the "toughest job you will ever love!"

Information contained in this article was derived from the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) and the Wetland and Aquatic Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey.



#### Logan Nicholson Signs To Play Women's Soccer At University Of New Hampshire



Palencia resident Logan Nicholson has signed a letter of intent to play Division 1 Soccer for the University of New Hampshire. A starting varsity player all four years at Nease High School, Logan captained the Armada ECNL team the past two years. She is Topdrawer Soccer Ranked #18 top player in the State of Florida. Logan began her soccer vocation in 2004 when she played for Colorado Rush.

At left, Logan is shown with parents Bill and Lisa Nicholson, Palencia residents.

## Organizing Your Home In The New Year Continued From Page 5

ASSOCIATES

of St. Augustine

experience piece of mind, Rivera says her family enjoys all the aspects of living in the Palencia community.

"We consider ourselves blessed to be able to raise our children here and be a part of the beautiful Palencia community," Rivera said.

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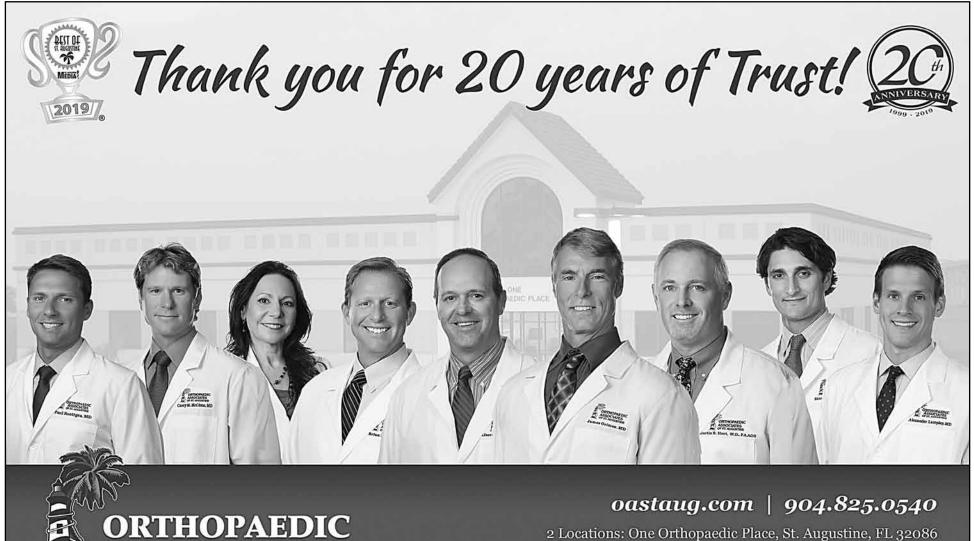
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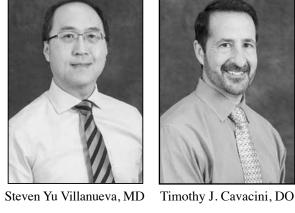


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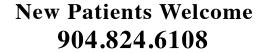
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Palencia Elementary School has introduced a new club this year. K-Kids, a division of Kiwanis International is an international, student-led organization providing members with opportunities to perform service, build charac-ter, and develop leadership.

The club is advised by 3rd grade teacher Laura Simpson and this year's PES Senior Volunteer of the Year, Mary Warren. guidance "Our

counselor, Tiffany Ellis, has joined me as a sponsor along with our cafeteria manager, Savita Singh," says Ms. Simpson. "Mrs. Warren, and I met over the summer and planned out our year of events. Also involved with the planning were Mrs. Goodrich and Mrs. Ellis. Mrs. Singh attends all of our meetings to help with the students."

There are currently 23 5th graders in the club and some 4th graders will be added after the winter break. "All of the students were nominated for membership by their 4th grade teachers," says Ms. Simpson. "K-Kids members are students that are strong in academics and also maintain great behavior and character traits.

Over the course of this school year, the PES K-Kids club has built a relationship with the BayView Nursing Home, a not-for-profit healthcare provider offering quality healthcare services and charitable assistance to the needy citizens of St. Johns county and surrounding communities.

In October, the K-Kids members visited BayView in Halloween costumes for a bit of trick-or-treating fun. On Friday, December 6th, the K-Kids, as well as students from Ms. Simpson's class returned to BayView, to deliver the blankets and toiletries donated by PES families. Ms. Simpson and the K-Kids collected about 130 blankets and around



By Ilene Bomser, Palencia Elementary PTO



Palencia Elementary students Laykin Kansteiner, Evelynn McAvoy, and Mya Kellerman visit residents of BayView.

350 bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotion. Prior to Thanksgiving, Ms. Simpson sent each PES student home with a letter asking for donations, and as usual, the PES families

came though and gave generously. After presenting blankets and oth-er gifts to the BayView residents, Ms. Simpson and the children led the group in a Christmas carol sing-along. After the singing, the kids got a chance to mingle and spread some holiday cheer among the delighted senior citizens.

Many residents gave handshakes and hugs afterward for the time and effort these kids invested. The social connection and purpose for these activities is priceless," said Kristin Baker, whose son Derek is a K-Kids member.

The PES chapter of K-Kids has engaged in a variety of activities, including planting organic herbs and vegetables in a garden on the school's campus, making cards sending well-wishes to a child battling cancer, collecting money on Halloween for UNICEF, and making cards and packages for Project Christmas Child. The last of these was the favorite of K-Kids member Colin O'Brien.

'You buy things for needy children who might otherwise not get a Christ-mas present," O'Brien said. "It feels good to help in some small way. Since they are small gifts, everything goes in a **Continued On Page 9** 



#### **Oil Warning Light Comes On**

Typically this light will come on if your oil pressure is too low. Low oil pressure is serious and if you continue to drive with this light on, eventually your engine will die. Low oil pressure can be caused by a failed oil pump, a faulty pressue switch, a blocked oil filter or strainer in the sump, or by low oil levels. Your engine may be burning oil. Either way, you need to get it fixed, and fast.

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#### **K-Kids Bring Community Service**

Continued From Page 8

shoebox."

K-Kids Future projects in the works include a beach cleanup in the Spring, and taking part in the February's annual Kiwanis Club Character Breakfast, which brings together K-Kids members along with their counterparts from Builders club (middle school), and Key Club (high school) for a funfilled event with great food, a DJ, and photo booth. Kids dress up in the costumes of their favorite characters. The event is open to the

community and sponsors help to cover the admission costs for kids who might otherwise be unable to attend. Additionally, the K-Kids members will be taking a more active role in presenting the inspirational and motivational "Words of Wisdom" during the PES morning announcements.

Palencia parents have been as enthusiastic about the club as their children.

"What I love about K-Kids is how it focuses on community service and kindness," says Palencia PTO co-President Patricia Hare, whose daughter, Devon, is a club member. "It provides kids with opportunities to embrace the spirit of volunteering while growing their empathy." Kristin Baker agrees. "The K-Kids

Kristin Baker agrees. "The K-Kids Club is an amazing opportunity for not only my 5th grader, Derek, but our entire family," said Kristin Baker. Baker also said the group's work at the Bay-View Center "truly benefited the young and old. For Derek to realize the joy he brought to the residents by being there in his Halloween costume and allowing them to give him a candy treat was both heartwarming and character building."

K-Kids advisor Mary Warren became involved with K-Kids years ago when she took the job as school counselor at Ketterlinus elementary. She was told that one of her responsibilities would be to act as faculty sponsor for K-Kids. Although this was her first exposure to the club, and to Kiwanis as a whole, she fell in love with the organization immediately.

"It's so great to see kids get involved in community service and really



PES 5th grader Colin O'Brien helps spread holiday cheer among the senior citizens.

take on leadership roles," said Ms. Warren. When she retired from her full-time job, Ms. Warren knew she wanted to continue working with K-Kids in this capacity and prior to joining the PES community, she helped kick off K-Kids at Crookshank Elementary.

Fifth grader Sophia Rebella is enjoying her participation in the club, especially the service focus. "I like feeling more connected to the community through service projects, while at the same time having a ton of fun." She plans on continuing to help serve her community even after graduating from PES.



PES cafeteria manager Savita Singh, school guidance counselor Tiffany Ellis, teacher Laura Simpson, and Mrs. Simpson's husband.

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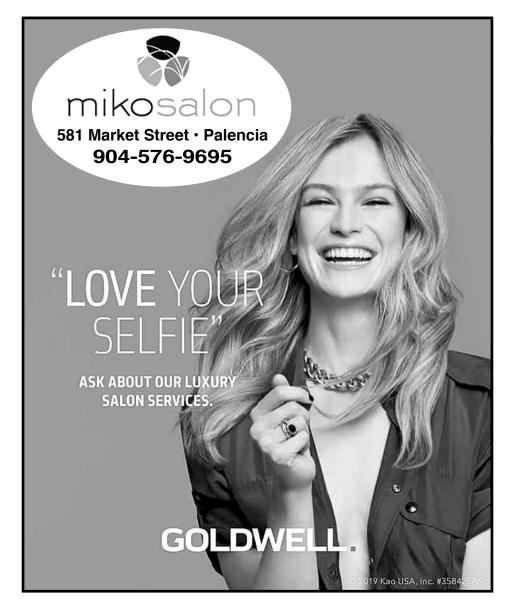
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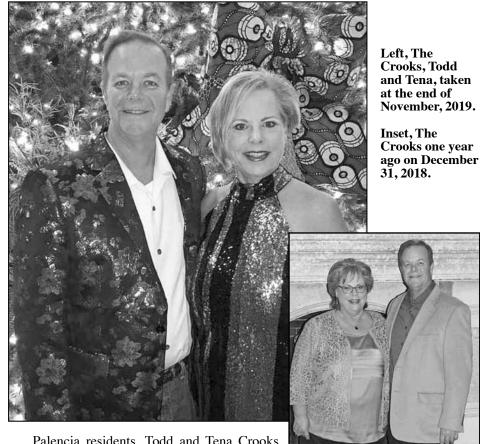
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## Palencia Couple Loses 125 lbs For New Year



Palencia residents, Todd and Tena Crooks have a lot to be thankful for this year. The Crooks moved to the Costa Del Sol neighborhood of

Palencia more than a year ago and have taken advantage of all Palencia has to offer. "I got to thinking today about how thankful I am for the lifestyle changes my husband Todd and I made in 2019 that resulted in my losing 85 pounds and Todd losing nearly 40 pounds," Tena said. "We lost weight the old fashioned way – no medical intervention or supervision. We did it all on our own by changing our eating habits and increasing our activity level. The 'before' picture was taken at the New Years Eve party held at the Palencia Club on December 31 last year."

Tena admits she went from not being able to walk one mile without taking rest breaks to now power walking three miles, biking six miles and swimming 1,000 yards or doing a second three mile walk just about every day.

"There's no mystery to how we did it – no fads, no pills, no special diet plans," said Tena. "It's the simple equation of putting less energy in (calories) than you expend (physical activity). The key was to get rid of the excuses and just do it!"

#### Fostering Connections St. Johns Upcoming Fundraiser, Tipsy Tea Party

Fostering Connections St. Johns, a local nonprofit that supports local children in foster care invites Palencia residents to a Tipsy Tea Party, February 29th at Fantasy Farms, 194 South Roscoe Blvd., in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The whimsical cocktail party will begin with a cocktail hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Local restaurants and mixologists will have their best handcrafted whimsical desserts and cocktails for guests to sample and vote for their favorites.



Guests will also be treated to live entertainment, lawn games, a silent auction and exploring the beautiful rescue animals and classic cars at Fantasy Farms.

Proceeds from Tipsy Tea will benefit a leadership and scholarship program for local teens aging out of foster care. Awards will be given for the Best Signature Dessert, Best Signature Cocktail, and Best Dessert and Cocktail Pair. For more information, visit www.fosteringconnectionsstjohns.org or call 904-813-5809.



### What You Don't Know About Florida Law **Can Hurt You And Your Loved Ones**

A free workshop on planning to take care of your loved ones, as well as yourself will be held in Palencia. The materials covered will specifically focus on Florida law, and will be especially useful to new Florida residents, but natives and everyone in between will learn from this session as well.

The workshop will be hands-on, and will be specifically aimed at using common every day language to talk about the ways that you can take care of your children, grandchildren and other people you love, especially yourself. The event is hosted by

Kathy Runyan of Better Homes & Gardens Realty and by Rock Solid Law. One of the featured speakers will be attorney John Miller, who is also the Special Magistrate of Neptune Beach, Florida.

Among the many things covered will be straight talk describing the various es-tate planning documents 95 percent of Americans need. Also, the seminar will cover how you can protect your loved ones from creditors and predators, so that everything that you have worked so hard for won't end up in the wrong hands. Numerous strategies will be reviewed that can put you in a place right away that will protect your wealth and reduce your tax liability throughout your lifetime and beyond. "We will also discuss measures that



Seminar is hosted by Kathy Runyan of Better Homes & Gardens Realty. Featured speaker is attorney John Miller.

you can take to protect a loved one with special needs, even after you are gone,' said John Miller. "Plus, we will discuss some of what is different from other states under Florida law."

The workshop will take place at the Palencia Amenity Center on January 7th at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Contact Chelle Thomas at (904) 241-1113 or chelle@rocksolidlaw.com to reserve your space. Only by attending can you receive a complementary discovery meeting which usually has a \$350 value.

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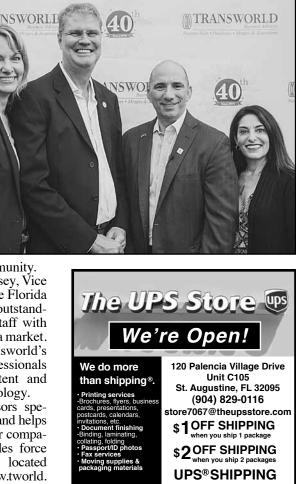
**Right**, Transworld **Business** Advisors team members Bianca Evans, Senior Business Broker; Treve Kinsey, Vice President of Sales and a Palencia resident; Andy Cagnetta, CEO and his wife, Allison Cagnetta.

Transworld Business Advisors, the world's leading business brokerage franchise, is celebrating its 40th year of service to the do-

mestic and global business community.

Palencia resident Treve Kinsey, Vice President of Sales, along with the Florida team, recently acclaimed the outstanding performance of statewide staff with events and honors in each Florida market. During recent activities, Transworld's forward-thinking business professionals were congratulated for consistent and year after year steadfast methodology.

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As a proud, seventeen year Palencia homeowner and business owner of Monster Tree Service of Northeast Florida, I attended the Palencia Property Owners Association (POA) meeting with interest in the proposed neighborhood, "Tree Trimming" project. The POA recognizes that Palencia has a problem with overgrown and potentially hazardous Live Oak trees that line our streets. Unbeknownst to many homeowners, the Live Oak, planted by the developer, in the easement between the sidewalk and the curb in front of your home, is in fact the responsibility of the homeowner. The Live Oak trees planted on community property are the responsibility of the Marshall Creek CDD. At the November 21, 2019 POA meeting, the Board voted down a proposal to allocate funding for a professional tree care company to raise the canopy of the Live Oaks over the street and sidewalk.

#### Trees Increase Property Value

Numerous studies prove that properties with mature trees and beautiful landscaping attract buyers and demand premium prices. The U.S. Forest Service also found that healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value.

#### Tree Maintenance is Key

Structural pruning to guide and manage tree architecture should be the pri-mary goal each time a tree is pruned. Per the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, trees should be pruned regularly during the first several years of their lives, so their limbs and canopies mature in a balanced manner. Proper maintenance will help steer the trees toward health and prevent growth patterns that lend to failure. The canopies of mature Live Oaks should be promoted to develop into a natural, spreading, shade canopy. A natural, spreading shade canopy includes a rounded, spreading crown shape with a symmetrical canopy, having a regular (smooth) outline with sufficient clearance beneath the canopy to promote a strong trunk, a single, strong leader, a modestlyopen, wind-resistant foliage arrangement and the development of a long-lived habit.

When street trees grow without proper upkeep or standards, the trees can become a nuisance and worse, a hazard. I understand that the St. Johns County School



By Heather Fritz, Palencia Resident Monster Tree Service 904-719-8499

> District complained to the neighborhood about buses hitting tree limbs on Palencia roads, particularly on La Mesa. Pedestrians are ducking under overgrown limbs on several sidewalks and at some street corners, tree limbs are growing dangerously close to traffic signs or covering sidewalk lamp posts.

> Aesthetically, look around and you'll see that some street trees are pruned on just one side; others, the branches are entangled with an adjacent tree; and some trees have been completely ignored for years yielding to poor tree architecture; giving Palencia a hodgepodge look and feel. The non-uniformed presentation in the neighborhood diminishes the trees added value.

#### Trimming a Mature Tree isn't a DIY

As a business owner in the tree care industry, I'm aware of the risks. The Tree Care Industry Association says many homeowners are severely injured or killed each year while trying to cut down a tree or large tree limbs. Depending on the size of your Live Oak, it may not be your average DIY job- extension ladder, chain saw, heavy limbs, squirrel.... A tree removal gone wrong can be very dangerous and isn't worth endangering lives.

In the near future, the POA Property Manager will be assessing about 850 Live Oaks planted in the easement in front of Palencia homes to determine whether trees are in compliance with Palencia standards. Homeowners who are not in compliance will be contacted and required to raise the canopy of the Live Oak by a specific deadline or be fined.

#### Palencia Resident Rate

To assist my fellow Palencia residents, Monster Tree Service is offering special pricing and scheduling for any trees identified as non-compliant. Our Service will raise the canopy, in a uniform manner, to the required 12 feet clearance over the street and sidewalk and include debris removal. If you're interested in scheduling this service, please contact my office at 904-719-8499 or neflorida@whymonster.com. Should you decide to prune the trees yourself, I urge you to proceed very carefully.

Sources: U.S. Forest Service, University of Florida- Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, Tree Care Industry Association.

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## Market Street Shops Come Visit Us! We're Right in The Neighborhood!

Above, Wishing you a Merry Christmas and an amazing New Year! Left to right, Jeff Stieglitz, Kathleen Boyd, Suzanne Lamb, and Graeme W. Lamb of Lamb Financial Advisors, 701 Market St. #107A.

Right, Hoping your holiday season is full of love, laughter, eggnog and cookies! Left to right, Ashley Yurkowsky of O Coffee+Wine at 701 Market St., and Cathy Wilson from NasCarts.







## Palencia Holiday Event On Market Street

Market Street businesses opened their doors to holiday crowds during the Palencia Christmas tree lighting festival in December which included friendship, food, fun and spirits. Food trucks served unique culinary creations while Market Street merchants supplied a smorgasbord of delicious cookies for everyone. Holidays are so much more special when they are celebrated with friends and neighbors. Market Street regularly holds community events that bring families closer.





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## Life Jacket Loaner Program Saves Lives

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is collecting USCG approved life jackets to provide at the various boat ramps in the county.

Bill Candeletti, Palencia resident and member of the USCG Auxiliary, reminds readers "The life jacket loaner program provides the public with free use of life jackets on a first-come, first served basis. Research shows that most drownings could have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn by the victim. The goals for this program are to increase life jacket wear during waterbased activities as well as to educate the visiting public on the importance of proper use and fit."

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will also be offering vessel safety "courtesy checks" starting this month. "There are no penalties for non-compliant vessels and the USCG Auxiliary does not impose any fine or penalties," added Candeletti.

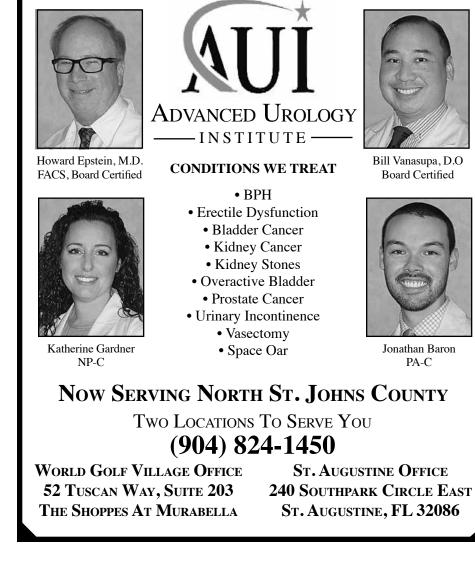
## **Nease SOUPer Bowl Is January 30th**

By Caroline Hunt, Palencia Resident, Nease High School

Nease High School is once again hosting the SOUPer Bowl on Thursday, January 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and each guest has the opportunity to choose a ceramic bowl that was hand-crafted by a student as well as the ability to taste all of the delicious soups prepared by over twenty renowned chefs from local restaurants.

Restaurants in attendance this year are Palm Valley Outdoors, Ice Plant, Congaree and Penn, Treylor Park, and so many more. The SOUPer Bowl is planned and hosted by student volunteers all with the common goal to raise awareness of the student hunger problem facing St. Johns County. Students are partnering with Hugs Across the County, a non-profit organization that works to identify students' needs and provide them assistance in any way possible.

The SOUPer Bowl began in 2015 as a way to address student hunger. More than 9,000 students rely on free and reduced lunches that their school provides, and many often go hungry during the weekend or a long break because they have no guaranteed source of nutrition. Even if you cannot attend, you can visit https://www.studentstacklehunger.org to purchase a ticket to the event as a way to show your support.







Does your dog become a quivering ball of fur hiding under your bed at the sound of fireworks? Do you dread New Year's Eve because your dog will try to chew and claw his way through the wall to escape? You're not alone.

Many dogs have what's called noise aversion, a sensitivity to loud noises that results in signs of anxiety and fear.

Typical signs of anxiety and fear related to noise aversion in dogs are:

Panting; trembling or shaking; pacing or acting restlessly; seeking out people; cowering or hiding; barking, whining, or howling; trying to escape, running around, or bolting; destructive behavior, such as damaging furniture; freezing in place behavior (being too scared to move); refusing to eat food or treats; vomiting or excessive drooling; and

urinating and defecating inappropriately, even though the dog is normally well house-trained.

Only one drug is FDA-approved to treat noise aversion in dogs-Sileo (dexmedetomidine oromucosal gel). Sileo has been shown to lessen the signs of anxiety and fear caused by loud noises such as fireworks, traffic or street noise and gun shots. However, Sileo has not been evaluated for noise aversion caused by thunderstorms.

## Is Your Dog Afraid Of **Things That Go BOOM?**

#### By Dr. Jacob Vencil, Veterinarian **Palencia Pet Clinic** 904-824-1622

Sileo is a gel that you place in your dog's mouth between the cheek and gum so that it can be absorbed into the bloodstream. Your veterinarian or trained veterinary staff will show you how to apply the gel.

You should give the first dose of Sileo to your dog at one of three times: About 30 to 60 minutes before the

anticipated noise event; When you detect a noise that typically triggers your dog's anxiety and fear, such as fireworks; or Immediately after your dog shows the first signs of anxiety and fear related to noise aversion.

Sileo has been shown to be safe and effective in dogs when used according to the directions on the label. It is designed specifically NOT to sedate your pet, and instead works by blocking the transmission of chemicals

from sound receptors to anxiety receptors of the brain.

Sometimes, other medication may need to be used "off-label" to treat noise anxiety. This may be necessary if you dog has severe noise anxiety, or if their anxiety is multifactorial, involving more than just auditory stimulation. If your dog needs medication to treat noise aversion, talk to your veterinarian about which medication is best for your dog.

#### **Grief Share Group Meets January 16th**

The Village Church, 4229 Pacetti Road will begin a new session of GriefShare on January 16th. This program is open to the public and is a faith based solution helping people who are suffering from grief. It will be held On Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. If you have questions, please call Cheryl Hosking at 904-599-9715.



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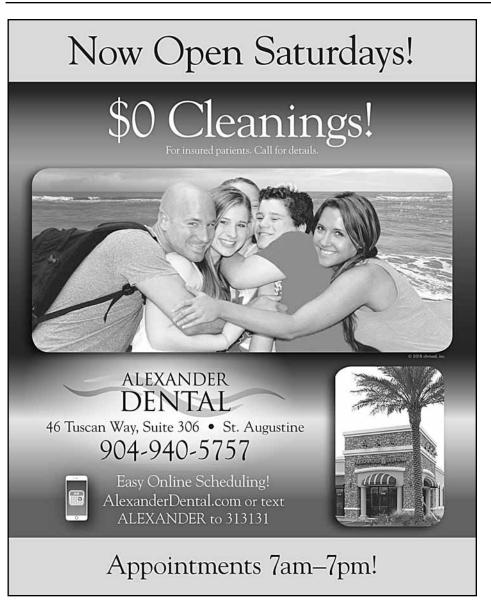
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# Water Problems?



## **Christmas Spirit Comes Alive In Palencia**

**Continued From Page 1** 



Left, Wishing you a very Merry Christmas was Jill Stonier, Professional Make-Up Artist at 591 Market Street and Carolyn Miko, owner of Miko Salon, 581 Market Street.





Above, Asking Santa for a stocking stuffed full of joy this year.

Left, Santa stole the show at the Palencia Tree Lighting as families waited in line to give the jolly old elf their Christmas list.

Right, The warmth and joy of Christmas brings us closer to each other, and these youngsters were no exception.





On the first Sunday of any new year, it's pretty common for people to have ideas about what they'll do differently in the coming 12 months. No doubt it's no different as we stare at this new decade of the 2020's. This seems a perfect time to vision our hopes for the future. Let us move forward with 2020 vision.

Typically, we resolve to exercise more, pray harder and eat less. But given the mess the house is in after the Christmas festivities, we may also decide to clean house. After all, taking down all those decorations can expose some dirt in places we don't normally see until the relatives are gone and the kids' toys have run out of battery life.

When we see all that accumulated dirt and grime on the baseboards or notice that the kitchen countertops have a lingering odor of Thanksgiving turkey still clinging to them, it's tempting to want to run to the store and grab the latest cleaning product on the market. The truth is, however, that there are probably more effective and certainly more environmentally conscious and health-friendly cleaning solutions already in your pantry. Grandma may have headed back to the Gulf Coast for the winter, but her hardwon wisdom lives on when it comes to cleaning naturally and on the cheap

Does your bathtub look dull and water-spotted after repeated lengthy baths by your visiting relatives? Juice up a couple of the grapefruits you got in that fruit basket from your boss, add four tablespoons of salt and give it a good rubdown. The tub will look like new and smell like Florida!

When we look at the scriptures, particularly Mark 1:4-11, we read that John actually has a few tips that will be helpful to us if we want to do some soul cleaning of our own at the beginning of the year.

As we begin a new year, we might ask ourselves, "Of what in my past do I need to repent in order to allow God to do a new thing in me? Of what do I need to be forgiven? Whom do I need to forgive in order to begin moving toward a different future?" John reminds us that it is the natural ingredients of Scripture and the water of baptism that do the best work of starting to strip away the grime.

You need to know the chemical makeup of the dirt you're trying to get

## **Cleaning The House** & The Soul In 2020

By Rev. Alan J. Liphart, M.Div The Village Church 4229 Pacetti Rd., World Golf Village

> rid of in order to know the best natural remedy. If you don't, you'll only scratch the surface and fail to get down to the nitty-gritty of the stain.

> When it comes to dealing with sin, we often think of treating the "sins" we commit. We know we've done some bad stuff over the past year and we make resolutions not to do those things again. But when we think of "sin" as simply a laundry list of missteps and mistakes, we miss the real problem that needs to be handled and that's "Sin" with a capital "S." Biblically speaking, that capital "S" Sin is an enslaving power that needs defeating, along with its partner Death, and only a real Savior and Messiah can remove it. The good news that Mark will reveal is that the Son of God has come to do just that through the cross and the resurrection.

> The New Year is a marvelous time for recommitting ourselves to Christ. John Wesley had the early Methodists do a covenant renewal service at the beginning of each year as a reminder that Christians need to periodically renew their commitment to the only one who can make them clean once and for all. This is a good time to consider where the Spirit might lead us in the coming year as we grow more and more into the people God created us to be -- people who look more and more like Jesus.

John Wesley wrote these words as a covenant prayer;

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me

with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffer-

ing Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee.

Exalted for thee or brought low for thee

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed

God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

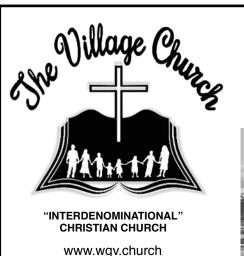
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth.

Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

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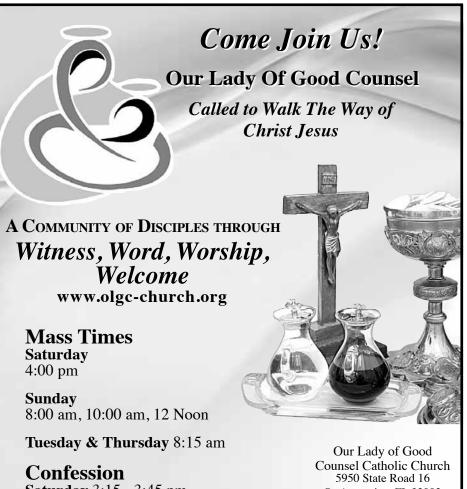
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Isaiah 43:18-19



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## **Car Insurance Coverage That Fits You**

By Craig Dewhurst, State Farm Agent, Palencia Resident

How are you covered in case of an accident?

You were distracted while backing out of a parking space and didn't see the car behind you until it was too late. You hit the car and you crashed through a fence, too. Everyone in the other car seems fine, but the other driver and his passengers go to the emergency room just to make sure.

Liability Coverage pays damages due to bodily injury and property damages to others for which you are responsible. If you're sued, it also pays your defense and court costs. Medical expenses, pain and suffering, and lost wages are some examples of what Liability Bodily Injury may cover. Liability Property Damage covers damage to property and loss of its use.

#### How much coverage do you need?

Every state sets a minimum coverage level. Selecting more than the minimum coverage would increase your cost now but potentially give you more protection in case of an accident. Since it's impossible to know the most you'd have to pay if you were to cause an accident that resulted in bodily injury or property damage, be sure to take some time and consider whether you'd be able to afford any damages that exceed your auto insurance coverage. The higher your limits, the more likely it is that we'll be able to pay all of the damages for you. Limits higher than the state minimum might be the best choice for you.

#### **Collision Coverage**

It's only a fender-bender, but the cost of the headlight, a new bumper, and a paint job can add up quickly. Collision Coverage will pay for damage to a covered vehicle caused by the following, subject to a deductible: • Collision with another vehicle, • Collision with an object, • A vehicle rollover.

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For more info or to plan your event please contact Sara Martinson: (904) 599-9040 Ex 4 • SMartinson@Hampton.golf



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