

Homeowner Newsletter

SPRING 2019

This new quarterly newsletter is brought to you by the new Habitat Homeowner Support Committee. We are your neighbors and we're here to help!



United Way & AARP Offer Free Tax Prep Services

Do you need help with completing your IRS tax form? If so, there are organizations offering free assistance for St. Johns County residents.

United Way of St. Johns Co. (UW) has certified tax preparers at four locations:

- **Wells Fargo Branch**, 1919 U.S. 1, South (corner of SR 312 and US 1)
- **Vystar Credit Union**, 3654 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd. (about one mile north of SR16 and US 1)
- **St. Johns Co. Health and Human Services**, 200 San Sebastian View (the County Administration Building off US1 North)
- **United Way**, 117 Bridge St.

You will need to call 904-373-8671 for an appointment. If you do not hear back within a day or so, call United Way at 829-9721.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) offers tax assistance for all people, regardless of age. Those using this service,

Tax-Aide, will be able to have their tax returns filed electronically at no charge.

At these locations, appointments are required:

- **Main Library**, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., (904) 827-6940
- **Hastings Library**, 6195 S. Main St., (904) 827-6970
- **Council on Aging**, 180 Marine St., (904) 209-3655

At these locations, help is offered on a first-come, first-served basis:

- **Southeast Branch Library**, 6670 U.S. 1 South (Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm)
- **Anastasia Baptist Church**, 1650 A1A South (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm)
- **Solomon Calhoun Community Center**, 1300 Duval St. (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm)

The deadline to file your taxes is April 15th.



PERSONAL FINANCE TIP

Free Will Preparation from St. Johns County Legal Aid

All of us work hard our entire lives to accumulate assets. For most of us our homes, cars and furnishings represent the bulk of our net worth.

The reality is that we will all pass from this life and unless we have made our wishes clearly known, we may lose the right to determine who among our friends and loved ones will inherit what remains.

Fortunately, there are solid tools at your disposal to demonstrate your wishes. To do this, you need to write a Will and file it with the county, normally with the help of a lawyer.

Habitat for Humanity has reached out to the lawyers at St. Johns County Legal Aid, they may help you, if you qualify, at no cost. Stop by their office (Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm) and complete an application.

The office is located at 222 San Marco Avenue, St Augustine 32084, telephone 904-827-9921.

Please do this soon. You have worked hard and you deserve the peace of mind, knowing that everything will be cared for according to your plan and wishes.



HOME MAINTENANCE

Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Detectors

On Sunday, March 10, we will “spring forward” into Daylight Savings Time. This bi-annual time change is also the perfect opportunity to check on a few other items in your home.

Did you know you should replace the batteries in your smoke detector at least once a year? Most detectors take nine volt batteries. Once you swap them out, you’ll want to hit the “test” button to make sure it’s properly installed. It takes just a few minutes, but it will keep your family safe in an emergency!

If you need new smoke detectors, the Red Cross of North Florida has a free installation program. Learn more on their website, redcross.org.



LOCAL NEWS

Financial Assistance Available for Hurricane Matthew Repairs

Did your home receive any damage during Hurricane Matthew in 2016? If so, Restore St. Johns might be able to help you with the cost of repairs.

Homeowners who occupied their home during Hurricane Matthew, and continue to occupy the same home, with remaining recovery needs may be eligible for financial assistance through Restore St. Johns.

This exciting new program is specifically designed for low- to moderate-income homeowners in our community. As a Habitat Homeowner, you might qualify.



Some options for assistance are as follows: home repair/rehabilitation; homeowner buyout; home elevation.

To register, visit the Restore St. Johns Office located on the 2nd floor of the Health and Human Services Center, 200 San Sebastian View, 32084, or www.sjcfi.us/restore. Registration does not guarantee acceptance or assistance.

If you have questions, please call the hotline at 904-209-1280.



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