

"I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND I IN YOU, YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING." - JOHN 15:5

## Hilliard Approves 37.35 Acres Annexation



Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of August. The first five agenda items were Public Hearings. The first was the Public Hearing and Second and Final Reading on Ordinance 2024-06. The Ordinance concerned annexing into the corporate limits of Hilliard, three parcels real property containing approximately 37.35 acres; finding said annexation to be consistent with the Town of Hilliard's Comprehensive Plan and Town Code; Amending Section 2.03 of the Town Charter to include said land; updating of the official Town maps. The council approved Ordinance 2024-06, annexation of 37.35 acres.

The second ordinance, was a First Reading and Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024-07, which concerned Amending the Hilliard Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map designation of property consisting of 16.32 acres, more or less; located on the east side of US Highway 1 and south of Cosmos Trail; adding the designation of Commercial. The council approved Ordinance 2024-07 on First Reading, with Final Reading set for Thursday, September 5, 2024.

The third ordinance, was also First Reading and Public Hearing

on Ordinance 2024-08, which concerned changing the Zoning Designation from Nassau County Zoning Open Rural to Town Zoning C-1, General Commercial District; for 16.32 acres more or less; located on the east side of US Highway 1 and south of Cosmos Trail, Hilliard. The council approved Ordinance 2024-08 on First Reading, with

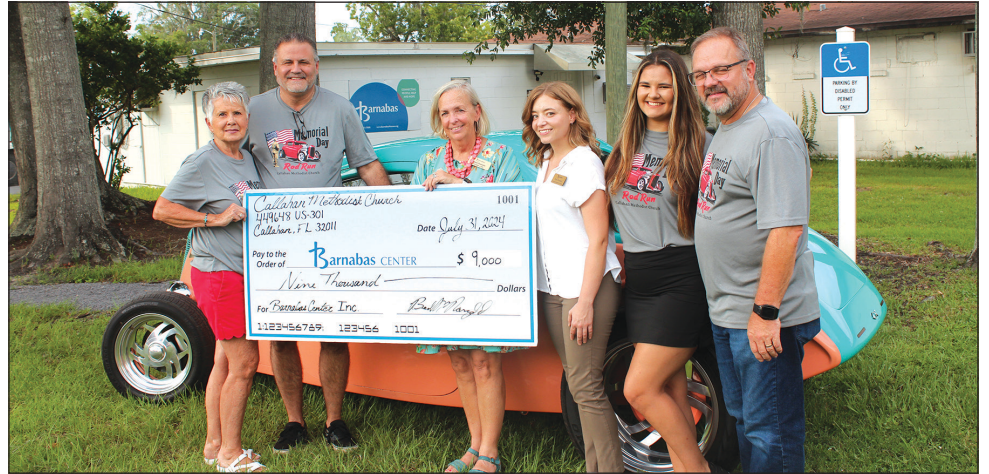
Final Reading and Public Hearing set for Thursday, September 5, 2024.

The fourth ordinance, was also First Reading and Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024-09, which concerned Amending the Hilliard Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map designation of 21.03 acres, more or less; located on the east side of US Highway 1 at Cosmos Trail, Hilliard; adding the designation of Commercial and High Density Residential. The council approved Ordinance 2024-09 on First Reading, with Final Reading and Public Hearing set for Thursday, September 5, 2024.

The fifth and final ordinance, First Reading and Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024-10, which concerned changing the Zoning Designation from Nassau County Zoning Open Rural to Town Zoning PUD, Planned Unit Development; for the property located on the east side of US Highway 1 and south of Eastwood Road. This property, Lofty project, is planned for a 227 multi-residential and commercial use facility. The owner plans to build 1-2 bedroom townhomes in the area. The council approved Ordinance 2024-10 on First Reading, with Final Reading and Public Hearing set for Thursday, September 5, 2024.

See 'Hilliard Approves' on page 3

## Barnabas Receives Memorial Day Rod Run Donation



Shown (l to r) are: Cheryl Mangold (Brad's mom), Brad Mangold, Jamie Reynolds, Trish Thompson, Aly Mangold and Pastor Bodie Riddle.

On May 25, 2024, the 5th Annual Memorial Day Rod Run 4 Kidz was held at Callahan Methodist Church. The event was one of the largest with 159 entries. All the spectators, and of course all the volunteers, made the day seem effortless! "We are so thankful to Callahan Methodist Church fellowship that continues to support the event by hosting it and so many other ways," said Mangold. "There's no way we could put on this event without all their help and the host of volunteers!"

Last Wednesday, Brad Mangold, organizer of the event, was happy to present Barnabas Center CEO Jamie Reynolds and Trish Thompson, Volunteer Services Manager, a donation of \$9,000, from this year's May event. To date, the event has donated close to \$20,000 to the Barnabas Center to help children.

"As we learned from Trish (from Barnabas) at the event, that there are over 400 homeless children in Nassau County," said Mangold. "The number is frightening. This event continues to grow larger each year and we're so thankful for everyone who pitches in for children. When the event was started, the mission was that the monies collected would go towards helping children or students in some way."

Almost all of the proceeds from the event will go to help support the FIT (Families in Transition) program. This program provides backpacks of food sent home with these children on the weekend so they are ensured they have food to eat. "We are beyond thankful to accept this wonderful gift for these children," said Reynolds. "This will generously help our efforts to assist these children and we are so thankful to be partners with this great event."

The remaining proceeds of the event are used to help local high school seniors with graduation needs. "This year (2024) we were able to help a student who missed the enrollment period for free lunch at their school. This student was not going to be able to participate in graduation ceremonies," added Mangold. "The graduate had a bill of over \$300 looming over their head and stressed about how to pay it. With the proceeds from last year's car show (2023) we were able to pay that debt and make it possible for the senior to enjoy the graduation activities."

Mark your calendars now so you remember to attend or help sponsor the Memorial Day Rod Run 4 Kidz event, Saturday, May 24, 2025 at Callahan Methodist Church!

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# Callahan Community Market

Hosted by Hagan Ace Hardware

## Moves to Hagan Ace Hardware

The Callahan Community Market, the original and longest operating community vendor market in Callahan, is excited to announce its new partnership with Hagan Ace Hardware. Effective Saturday, August 10, the market will be held at Hagan Ace Hardware, located in the heart of Callahan.

Established in 2011 as a Farmers Market, the Callahan Community Market was rebranded and relaunched in 2018 to feature a wider variety of local and surrounding area vendors. The market showcases handmade crafts, baked goods, farming, décor, food trucks and much more. Vendors include Hodges Homegrown, Callahan Cookie Company, Urban Farmer, Goofy MonKe Candy, Sunshine Scents, Alice's Unique Beaded Jewelry and many more! Held on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., the market has become a beloved community event.

In partnership with Hagan Ace Hardware, the market donates 100% of its net monthly vendor fees to various

local community organizations and charities. For the months of August and September, all vendor fees will be donated to The Pinky Promise Foundation, a Callahan non-profit organization that provides comfort items and services for women diagnosed with cancer. Find out more about their foundation by visiting their Facebook at: [www.Facebook.com/PinkyPromiseCallahan](http://www.Facebook.com/PinkyPromiseCallahan); and website at: [www.pinkypromisefoundation.org](http://www.pinkypromisefoundation.org).

"We are thrilled to partner with Hagan Ace Hardware and continue our mission of supporting local vendors and giving back to the community," said market organizers Sherry Taylor and Alice Jones.

If you are interested in joining the market as a vendor, please email [CallahanMarket@comcast.net](mailto:CallahanMarket@comcast.net) or visit [www.facebook.com/CallahanMarket](http://www.facebook.com/CallahanMarket).

Mark your calendars for this Saturday, August 10, and visit the Callahan Community Market at its new home, Callahan Hagan Ace Hardware. Support local, shop small, and make a difference in your community!

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# Hilliard Approves

September 5, 2024.

In other business, the next agenda item concerned the council setting the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Town Clerk Lisa Purvis advised the council that the previous millage, 3.0, would not allow the town to pay their bills. Purvis suggested a tentative rate of 3.25 mills.

Councilman Lee Pickett made a motion to keep the millage at 3.0 but failed due to no second.

"We didn't make our budget last year, so we certainly can't make it this year as things are higher," said Councilman Kenny Sims. "I suggest start at 3.25 mills and perhaps in budget talks we can lower it."

"Let's all do our due diligence on our budgets," added Councilman Jared Wollitz.

"When we do the budget, let's do just what we have to do and see," said Councilman Dallis Hunter.

Councilman Joe Michaels made a motion to set the millage at 3.25 mills and Councilman Sims seconded.

The following item concerned a Change Order for the DEP Agreement No. LPA0302 Oxford Street Force

*Continued from page 1*

Main Rerouting project to decrease the amount price by \$500. The council approved the order.

The council approved the contract services agreement for Joel Hall, P.E., to perform Public Works related services through September 30, 2024.

The council approved the position process for Kimberly Corbett to transition into the Lead Administrative Assistant position effective August 5, 2024.

The council approved the position process for Alicai Head to transition to the Public Information Officer & Events Coordinator position effective September 3, 2024 and she will also transfer to the Parks & Recreation Annex building, once the office is ready.

In closing comments, Councilman Sims added, "I know everyone hates tax increases, and we do too. We're in hopes it will be under! We have lots of holes to repair. The one on Pine Street costs over \$200,000 to repair. That was a blow to the budget."

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, August 15 at 7 p.m.

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Things not in the news anymore....  
 Maui wildfires; East Palestine, Ohio; Joe Biden with classified documents as a Senator; Fauci working with China to create a bioweapon; Pete Buttigieg's best friend in prison for child porn; Cocaine in the White House; The data collected from the Chinese spy balloons; Ukraine intelligence documents released that showed they were suffering massive losses and the American taxpayer was being lied to; Nancy Pelosi's "documentary" film crew on J6; Veterans being kicked out of shelters to make room for illegals; Gay porn film in Senate hearing room; Veterans Affairs prioritizing healthcare of illegals over Veterans; Afghanistan drawdown and 13 service members killed in an attack on Kabul International Airport; Three service members killed in Jordan; Hunter Biden making over \$1M for "paintings"; J6 political prisoners are still in jail; 85,000 missing children at the southern border; Epstein's clients; Mail-in ballots were the cause of the stolen 2020 election; Jeffrey Epstein mentioning that Bill Clinton liked his girls "really young"; The (NOW TWO) airline whistleblowers that mysteriously died; Benghazi (I won't mention anything more about this because I care about my life.)

Nancy Pelosi's daughter stating that January 6th wasn't an insurrection; The January 6th committee destroying

encrypted evidence before the GOP took over the House; House Speaker Mike Johnson claiming there wouldn't be foreign aid without border security in the bill, which was a lie; The recent riots from illegal criminal aliens at the southern border and the border in general; Democrat privilege; Vaccine side effects; The Secret Service having to basically guide Joe Biden everywhere he goes.

Who leaked (Sotomayor) the SCOTUS Alito decision; Federal instigators inside the Capitol including pipe bomb evidence against them; The Sheriff that happened to be in Las Vegas (during the mass shooting) AND the wildfires in Hawaii; P Diddy sex-trafficking allegations; Gonzalo Lira (an American journalist) that was killed in Ukraine; Americans that were left in foreign countries (Haiti, Palestine, Afghanistan); The billions of dollars of weaponry left in Afghanistan and the Taliban receiving \$40M a week in "humanitarian assistance"; The scum in the UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES waving the Ukrainian flag. (Credit to the original author)

Strange how they seem to make it all disappear just as a magician does. Personally, I still want answers.

As always...that's just my opinion!  
 Trump 2024

## In the Kitchen... Slow Cooker Peach Cobbler

8 cups sliced fresh or frozen peaches, thawed	½ cup butter, cut into 8 pieces
½ cup white sugar	cooking spray
1 (15.25 oz.) package white cake mix	

Combine peaches and sugar in a medium bowl. Stir well and let stand for 5 minutes. Liberally spray a slow cooker with cooking spray. Stir peaches once more and add to the prepared slow cooker. Sprinkle cake mix evenly over the peaches; don't stir. Distribute butter pieces evenly over cake mix. Cover and cook on high until cake is golden and bubbly around the edges, about 3½ hours. Turn off slow cooker and let stand 15 minutes before serving.

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## Choices

*Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan*



Adam and Eve were given vital information to aid them in making the right choice. After God created all things, he placed them in the garden to keep them. He also informed them not to touch or eat from the tree of knowledge. He gave them dominion over everything except that one tree because he explained to them that the day that they ate from it or touched it, their eyes would be open, and they should be as gods, knowing good from evil.

We are constantly making choices throughout our lives each day.

From the very moment that we were born, choices were made. Some we remember and others we don't. Today, there are so many options out there. How do we choose the right one? With the help of Jesus Christ, we can make the right choice. Proverbs 2:10-11, "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Our Lord and Savior wants us to come to Him for advice. He gives us all the information we need to make the correct choice. The bottom line is when it comes to choosing salvation, whether to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our savior or not, it's essential to make that choice before it's too late. It's critical to maintain your beliefs and values. It is necessary to know them; once we do, we can apply them to every stage of our lives. Our choices can make or break us. Ultimately, my decision determined where I would spend eternity. "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before your life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life." Deuteronomy 30:19

Joshua's message was said to Israel, "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." Joshua 24:15. But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

There's a story in Luke 16 about a rich man who waited until it was too late to choose his salvation, and once he left this world, he ended up in hell. For us today, it is essential not to wait until it's too late. The time will come when life has stripped our body of the right to choose. At that time, choices will be made for us, which may not go well. Brothers and sisters, I'm encouraging you to choose the Lord while you still have time as tomorrow is not a promise.

Once Eve made the choice, she encouraged Adam to go against what God had said, and the outcome based on the word of God was negative for them and ultimately affected us as well. We can't start over, but we can start a new fresh. The greatest gift that God has given us is the power of prayer, and as we ask him through our prayers to lead us and guide us, it should ultimately lead us to make better decisions for our lives, family and future.

The wisdom of God is better than the wisdom of man. As we accepted the gift of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ, knowing that our names are written in the lamb's book of life and that one day we should live in eternity with our father, just by choosing him today, denying ourselves of the earthly riches and submitting our will to God.

We want to make sure it's not too late like the rich man did; it will not be possible once we leave this earth to make more choices for ourselves, brothers and sisters. Today is the day. Choose God.

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# Living Financially Free

Yvette Outler

## The Importance of an Emergency Fund

Life can be hard sometimes. Things that happen can send our routine of life totally upside down within minutes. For instance, someone close to me recently had emergency surgery to save her life from a huge, impending aneurism.

This surprising circumstance hit her out of left field, unexpectedly. While it affected her physically and emotionally, thankfully it was not financially devastating. According to Dave Ramsey, "One of the main causes of bankruptcy is from medical bills." I would like us to avoid that statistic.

Having a fully funded emergency fund helps ease the pain a little when the important questions begin swirling around in your head like, "How am I going to pay my bills?" or "How am I going to feed my family?"

If you have a six-month emergency fund then you have a little breathing room to regain your composure, thoughts, life, stability, and plan! The person that is close to me that had the aneurism medically fixed was prepared financially. It was hard enough for her to deal with her new normal, moreover, thankfully she did not have to worry about paying her bills.

How to determine what you need in your emergency fund? Add up all your monthly expenses (mortgage, utilities, insurance, etc.) and multiply that number times six to calculate the amount of money you need for a fully funded emergency fund.

**Three jump-start thoughts:** 1. Open a separate savings account for your



emergency fund. 2. Immediately budget to put aside a percentage of each paycheck into your emergency fund. 3. Use this money only for emergencies. If you need to use some of this money, replenish it as soon as possible.

**Reaching the goal:** 1. Beginner's \$1,000 Emergency fund: If you set aside \$19.25 a week then by the end of twelve months, you will have \$1,001 2. Date savings method: You save the amount of money that is the same as the date of the month. For example, on the 1st you put aside \$1. On the 2nd you put aside \$2. On the 3rd you put aside \$3. Carry this continual financial thought out for the entire month. For the month that is a total savings of \$496. At the end of the twelve months, you will have \$5,952.

May the Lord bless you as you begin to save. It is not easy, but it is worth it!

*Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need hope and help, contact her at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.*

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## CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, monthly Gospel Sing will be held this Friday, August 9 with guest group Lifeline Quartet and our host The Gospel Sounds at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow the sing!

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US Hwy. 1, would like to invite all men to our Men's Prayer meeting held the 1st Monday of month & the 3rd Saturday of the month, both at 6 p.m.

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net) but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

## Woods Lane

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to what is going on with Crawford Road and Woods Lane. I have talked to a few people about the garbage the commission members and local government are forcing on the people on the west side to live with.

Although you may think that Nassau County needs growth, we on the west side moved here to live the way we choose. Now you are changing the zoning on Woods Lane to make room for a railroad spur. I can't get anyone to return my calls about this matter. I did talk to two ladies to state my case and the first one hung up on me. The other lady told me the zoning on Crawford Road would not be changed.

We know that isn't true. Now you are after Woods Lane.

I only have one vote but I will vote for anyone that isn't in office and hope others do the same. The government needs to change and it needs to start here in Nassau County. We should have known that Crawford Road wasn't paved for us. We on the west side should have had a chance to state our case.

I guess the powers that be get to make ALL the decisions for us in the name of progress and the thickness of their pockets. Understand this. We the People on the west side don't need your progress. You are building an extension of Duval County. Thank you for that.

Jasper Miller

## Callahan Meeting

Dear Editor,

During the last Callahan Town Council meeting (July 15), Callahan Town Manager Mike Williams recommended the millage rate be rolled back from 1.8504 to 1.7814, stating that Callahan was fiscally flush. However, Councilpersons Matt Davis and Jacquelyn Flemming, seconded each other that it should remain the same at the higher millage rate. Yes, they passed it. With higher property values along with the higher millage rate means an increase in your property taxes. Remember those names when you go to vote. If we have more than enough money, what special projects are these two planning?

J Sisk

# Back-to-School Coffee Social Friday at Brooks Rehabilitation



This Friday, Brooks Rehabilitation in Callahan, located behind Callahan McDonalds, will be hosting a "Back-to-School" Coffee Social as advertised in the Westside Journal! This event will be held Friday from 7-10:30 a.m. and will feature the Cool Beans Coffee Truck and Hilliard Donuts.

We are proud to be part of the Callahan community and want to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. Please take the time to stop by, take a brief tour of our facility, and get a free coffee and donuts. Remember, Brooks Rehab in Callahan is here to handle all your Physical Therapy (PT)

needs! We wish all of our community teachers and students a wonderful and safe school year.

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Callahan, Florida

## TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWN OF CALLAHAN PLANNING & ZONING  
BOARD WILL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR A CONDITIONAL USE  
PARCEL #29-2N-25-3220-0003-0055

**Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**Callahan Town Hall**

542300 U.S. Hwy. 1 • Callahan, FL 32011

Interested Persons may appear and be heard at the Hearing.  
Site plan will be available for review at Town Hall.

Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk at (904) 879-3801 or [clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov](mailto:clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov) at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

## Chamber Announces Leadership Nassau Class 24



The Nassau County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce Leadership Nassau Class 24. This prestigious nine-month program cultivates leadership skills, provides education about the area's most critical issues, and prepares participants with the information, tools, and skills needed to help address these challenges and make an impactful difference in our community.

The Leadership Nassau Class 24 participants are Kevin Allen, DBA (CKA Investments), Tonya Baudek (Summer House Realty), Steve Chafin (Barnabas Center, Inc.), Katie Conners-Mathew (Nelson and Associates Insurance), Jeanetta A. Dorsey (DORCO Enterprises CPA Firm), Megan Feldman (The Arc Nassau),

Jake Harbin (First Port City Bank), Lori Hodell (Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare), Kati Holton (Nassau County Property Appraiser), Chris Lanigan (PrimeSouth Bank), Ryan McCarthy (First Federal Bank), Avis Miller (Coast One Tours), Todd Owens (Baptist Medical Center Nassau), Dori Pasik (RYAM), Marty Pruitt (Nassau County Animal Services), Jason Smith (City of Fernandina Beach Police Department), Crystal Rimes (City of Fernandina Beach), Brittany Webb (Hot Paws Pet Resort), Valerie Womble (EXIT 1 Stop Realty), Angela Wright (VyStar Credit Union), and Dr. James Zielenski (Coastal Chiropractic Clinic LLC).

For additional information about the Leadership Nassau program, please visit [www.NassauCountyFLChamber.com](http://www.NassauCountyFLChamber.com) or email the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce at [info@NassauCountyFLChamber.com](mailto:info@NassauCountyFLChamber.com).

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NCSD Director of Elementary Ed.

NCSD Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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## New Beginnings and Milestones

### Mr. and Mrs. Rick Graham to Celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Rick and Cindy Graham, of Hilliard, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary August 14. They were married August 14, 1999 in Hilliard. Rick served his country in the US Navy. Following retirement, he is now employed with Hagan Ace Hardware in Hilliard. Cindy is a home health caregiver.



They will celebrate their special milestone with a celebration held in their honor in Hilliard.

They have two children Brandon (Rainey) Graham and Dillon Graham. They also have two grandchildren Skylar and Carter. Congratulations!

## Update on CR 121 & CR 119 Construction

*Alyson R. McCullough, District 4 County Commissioner*

CR 121 from Duval County to CR 119 is nearing design completion. During the design and inspections, three large cross drains / box culverts were identified, that also need to be replaced as a part of the project. Construction is scheduled to begin on this segment for full reconstruction of CR 121 from the subgrade up to the new pavement in late 2024 to very early into 2025.

CR 121 from CR 119 northward to US 1 is under the design engineer selection process. Once the design team is selected, the design will take roughly 12-18 months to complete.

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- Served 10 years Nassau County School Board
- Served 8 years Florida House of Representatives
- Current Supervisor of Elections 2021 to Present

**Personal:**

- Married to Doug Adkins – 27 years
- Member Blackrock Baptist Church
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- Founder – Emily's Promise – Not for Profit Blood Clot Awareness
- Concealed Weapons Permit Holder

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# Apprenticeship Program Earns Award



Additionally, the County has added 23 Class A CDL holders and increased the number of Equipment Operator 2 positions from four to eight, providing additional opportunities for advancement as employees complete

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to announce that Nassau County has been selected for NACo's Personnel Management, Employment and Training Award for its Nassau County Equipment Operator Apprenticeship Program. Since 1970, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized outstanding government programs and services. Each year, NACo seeks nominations on a variety of categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities.

This Nassau County Operator Apprenticeship Program was created in 2021 in an effort to recruit and retain high caliber employees in a competitive job market. The program was designed to provide Road Department employees with a clear, defined career path upon beginning their employment, and to provide an avenue to increase their skillset through training. A three-year Equipment Operator Apprenticeship Program was developed to train the employees on the safe and efficient operation of small equipment, heavy trucks and heavy equipment. Their first step in the program is obtaining a Class "A" Commercial Driver's License, followed by learning all aspects of the Road Department to become a highly valued Equipment Operator.

Since implementing the Program, the Road Department's vacancy rate has decreased from nearly 36% to less than 10%.

the Apprenticeship Program. The Program has also improved overall morale within the department because employees are given an opportunity to learn new skills and have a clear understanding on how they can advance within the department. The Apprentices receive certifications on different equipment and begin using their new skills to provide crucial maintenance services, creating additional response teams to meet the needs of the County and its residents.

Assistant Public Works Director David Hearn stated, "It has been rewarding being part of the team that planned and implemented this Apprenticeship Program. Nassau County has taken great strides to improve employee development and retention, none bigger than the Apprenticeship Program. The ability to be able to see a clear career path from day 1 of employment is instrumental in reducing the staffing shortages, as well as an accelerated promotional program to ensure our folks are receiving a competitive living wage. Providing a higher level of training to more employees has also increased the quality of work that we are able to provide, therefore providing an increased level of service to our citizens."

If you're interested in a career with the Road Department, please visit our Human Resources webpage to see current job vacancies at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/nassaucountyfl>.

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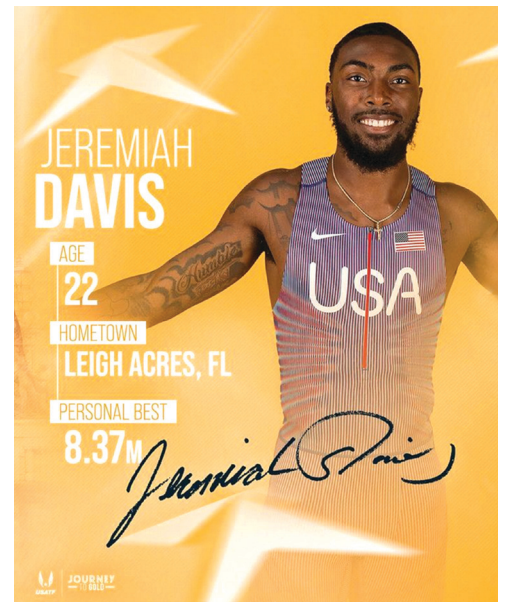
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**Davis Competes as an Olympian!**

Congratulations to Jeremiah Davis for qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics as a Long Jumper. Jeremiah, 22, of Tallahassee, was thrilled at the chance to compete in the Olympics to represent the USA Team. He won two state titles at Leigh High School, is a three-time All American at Florida State and placed first at the Olympic Trials. Jeremiah placed 8th in the Olympics with a jump of 7.83. Congratulations on a great competition!

Jeremiah's mother, Sylvia 'Tony' Davis, was born and raised in Hilliard and also a Hilliard High School graduate. Congratulations!



**Learn About Micah's Place Services**

What a better way to learn about Micah's Place services, than to attend a meeting about them. The group will be discussing an overview of Domestic Violence and its impact within Nassau County. The event is sponsored by the Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County, which is another opportunity to learn about what services they offer for the homeless issues in each of our towns.

Every quarter, the Coalition for the Homeless sponsors an informational presentation by a local nonprofit serving Nassau County. Each nonprofit serves a very important purpose in helping our neighbors. The meeting will be held Thursday, August 15 at 6 p.m. at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, 2700 Bill Melton Road. The snack bar will be open for light refreshments. Please join us!

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**JOANN BRYANT**



Joann Bryant, 64, of Jacksonville, passed away July 29, 2024. She was born October 30, 1959 in Douglas, Georgia, to the late James Felton Hester and Carolyn Pridgen Hester. At a very young age, Joann's family relocated to Jacksonville and she has resided there ever since. Joann's daddy, James, was notorious for giving all the kids a nickname. She earned the nickname "possum" because she was great at "playing possum" when it came time for spankings. Joann graduated from Victory Christian Academy and shortly after met and married her soul mate, Foster Bryant, Jr.

She was a Christian woman who loved the Lord and her family more than anything. Joann was a longtime member of 44th Street Baptist Church. For about 25 years, Joann worked for Sears and Winn Dixie in customer service. She had a soft spot in her heart for the elderly. Joann genuinely cared for them and their wellbeing. She loved cats, flowers, and watching birds eat from her bird feeders. Joann also enjoyed finding good deals at thrift stores in Fernandina Beach and going out to eat for a good BBQ dinner. Rest in peace, Joann, you will forever hold a special place in our hearts. Joann is preceded in death by her parents; and son Richard Bryant.

Joann leaves behind her loving husband of 45 years, Foster Bryant, Jr.; sons Michael James Bryant and James Foster Bryant; brothers Donald (Debbie) Hester and David Hester; sister Janice Miller; numerous nephews, nieces and extended family members.

A celebration of Joann's life was held Tuesday, August 6 at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment followed at Salem Holiness Baptist Church Cemetery in Douglas. The family received friends prior to the service.

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

# OBITUARIES

**WAYNE "SPOONS" DRURY**



Wayne Drury, went home to be with the Lord August 5, 2024 to rejoin many family members and friends in Heaven. He was born June 3, 1948 in Jacksonville. Wayne loved the Lord and was a member of Joy Baptist Church where he often played the spoons. He was a witness everywhere he went. Wayne's legacy of love and kindness will be remembered by all who knew him.

Wayne was preceded in death by his wife, Annette (Ogletree) Drury; his parents, Dorothy (Griffin) Drury and Sonny Drury; siblings David Drury, Billy Drury, Tommy Drury and Gail (Drury) Dupree.

Wayne is survived by his daughter Sandra (Billy) Harrison; grandson Austin Harrison; granddaughters Caylee Harrison and Madison Harrison; great-granddaughter Sawyer Chason; sister Diane Drury; brothers Ronnie (Dena) Drury, Bobby (Vicky) Drury and Jimmy (Carol) Drury; and several nieces and nephews who will cherish his memory.

The family will receive friends Friday, August 9 from 10-11 a.m. prior to the celebration of Wayne's life service at 11 a.m. at The Anchor Church of God in Callahan. Interment will follow at Live Oak Baptist Church in Callahan.

Condolences may be expressed at [shepardrobersonfh.com](http://shepardrobersonfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, 526 Oakwood Street, Folkston, (912) 496-7388.

**JOYCE CRATON DURHAM**



Joyce Craton Durham, 85, of Hilliard, graduated to glory Thursday, August 1, 2024. She was born May 26, 1939 in Rockmart, Georgia to the late Hoyt C. Craton and Addie Bell Holder Craton. She was a faithful follower of Christ, a loving wife, and devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She selflessly put others needs above her own and loved spending time with family.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Bobby G. Durham; four children Vicky and KT Turner, Scott and Jill Durham, Karen and Richard Knight and Janet and Greg Jones; 15 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and two brothers-in-law Fred and Doris Durham and Tom and Dot Durham.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, August 17 at 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard with Rev. Jared Knight, Rev. Greg Jones and Rev. Kris Elkins officiating. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service.

Condolences may be expressed at [shepardrobersonfh.com](http://shepardrobersonfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made in Paul's name to Haven Hospice Foundation, 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606.

Condolences may be expressed at: [www.corey-kerlin.com](http://www.corey-kerlin.com).

Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, Jacksonville, 904-744-8422.

**THOMAS M. KAUFFMANN**



Thomas Michael Kauffmann passed away August 1, 2024. Tom was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Ethel Kauffmann.

He was born December 5, 1957, in Queens, New York and grew up on Long Island in New York.

Tom joined the United States Navy in August of 1975. He served until being honorably discharged September 30, 1995. Tom worked as an Aviation Ordnanceman (AO). His duty stations included HS-1, HS-7 in Jacksonville; Sere School/FASO in North Island CA.; and VP-31 in Moffett Field, California. He returned to Jacksonville with HS-7. AIMD, HS-11, VFA-106, USS Saratoga, VP-30 and finished his long and distinguished 20-year career with VFA-87. During his time on active duty, he received Navy Unit Commendation (2), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy "E" Ribbon (4), Navy Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbons (5), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze stars, and a National Defense Medal. Following retirement from the military, he owned and operated a Landscaping business for nearly 20 years.

Tom is survived by his wife Carol Kauffmann; children Michael, Kayla and Travis; grandchildren Ethan, Emily, Skyler, Wyatt, Axel, Chase, Brooklynn, Sophia and Zack; and brothers Dennis and Ken Kauffmann.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held Thursday, August 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery where military honors will be rendered. The family received friends prior to the service.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**PAUL EUGENE HYGEMA**



Paul Eugene Hygema, 85, of Jacksonville, passed away July 27, 2024 at his home. He was a faithful servant of God. Paul was born March 3, 1939 in Beards Fork, West Virginia. He proudly served his country in the US Navy from July 1956 to February 1960. He was partner at Sherwood Hardware from 1962-2002. Throughout his career, he was known for his hard work, dedication and passion for helping others.

Paul enjoyed gardening, bird watching, music, wood working, swimming, reading and living his best life without fancy technology (his words). His faith and love for God never faltered, every day began and ended with prayer. He is preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Carolyn (McKinney) Hygema; and brothers Walter, Sr. and Curtis Hygema.

Paul is survived by his children Melinda (Tom) Knott, Lori (Tracy) Barnwell, David (Sharon) Hygema and Stephen Hygema; siblings Guy Hygema, John Hygema and BettyLou White; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 17 at 11 a.m. at Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road, Jacksonville.

**Obituaries are published free of charge.**

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And integrity like an everflowing stream."*

AMOS 5:24

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# OBITUARIES

graduated from Courtland High School in 1959 with honors and was even invited to join Mensa International, but declined and was so humble that very few ever knew.

Richard began dating the love of his life, Jeanette Burnfield, in 1962. They were married in Wildare Church in Warren, September 12, 1964. No man has ever been as head over heels for a woman as Richard was for Jeanette. Richard and Jeanette gave birth to their daughter Elizabeth Ann in 1967 and Eve Michelle in 1973. He loved taking his daughters for rides on his motorcycle and would inevitably always end up at the ice cream shop for an afternoon treat. Richard and Jeanette were just shy of their 60th wedding anniversary and enjoyed life together in every way.

Richard attended Kent State University with a focus in Industrial Arts. At 23, he started designing fire protection sprinkler systems and did this throughout his whole career - designing and contributing to the fire safety of many homes and businesses, including the Tree of Life at Disney's Animal Kingdom and the Central Communications Building for NASA. Outside of work, Richard was a master craftsman and could fix and build anything he put his mind to. Aside from the many homes he built for himself and his family, each member is blessed to have many items created by his hands.

Richard loved the Lord with all his heart and was a proud member of Glorieta Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon for many years. When Richard prayed, he almost always asked the Lord to help him not to do or say anything that wouldn't bring honor or glory to God. The most important legacy he leaves behind is a family who also loves the Lord.

He is survived by his wife Jeanette Leonard; daughters Beth (Gary) Bargeron

and Eve (Adam) Brank; grandchildren Cordia (John) Schmidt, Lane (Emily) Bargeron, Graham (Lizzie) Bargeron, Max Bargeron, Annelise (Arnold) Price, Mabry Brank, Meili Bargeron and Eden Bargeron; and great-grandchildren Nyra, Jackson, Lael, Everett and Isaiah.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 10 at 11 a.m. at Glorieta Baptist Church, officiated by Rev. Nathan Brooks and Rev. Bill Nix.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Glorieta Baptist Church, 4912 Hwy. 73, Concord NC, 28025.

## TRAVIS McSTEPHENSON



Mr. Travis William McStephenson, Sr., 44, of Bryceville, passed away Friday, July 26, 2024. He was born in Jacksonville, where he was a lifelong local resident and a 1998 graduate of Trinity Christian Academy. Travis was an outgoing person who never met a stranger. He thoroughly enjoyed being in nature and was an avid fisherman and hunter. A devoted father, his children were his life.

He is survived by his sons Travis McStephenson, Jr. of Keystone Heights and Jace Preston McStephenson of Jacksonville; parents W.P. and Edith McStephenson of Bryceville; and a host of extended family members and friends.

A graveside service was held Friday, August 2 at Bell Cemetery in Jennings State Forest in Middleburg, with Reverend Stephen Thomas officiating.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is honored to serve the McStephenson family.

Condolences may be expressed at: [www.warrenfuneralservices.com](http://www.warrenfuneralservices.com).

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Former Chief Deputy Tax Collector for Nassau County Tax Collector  
- John Drew

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# Reynolds Announces Candidacy for Clerk of Court



My name is Allan Reynolds and I am proudly seeking your vote to become your next Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. Currently, I am the Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, overseeing all financial operations.

I am a life-long Nassau County resident, along with seven generations of my family. My grandfather was the owner of Reynolds Oldsmobile in Fernandina Beach from 1948 - 1988, before he retired and sold his business to Ron Anderson. I graduated from Fernandina Beach High School in 1995. I attended University of North Florida where I graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Banking and Finance, and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Financial Services with a concentration in investments. After college, I obtained multiple professional licenses related to financial services and worked as a financial advisor and mortgage broker for over six years.

With a strong sense of loyalty and

dedication to my home of Nassau County and a desire to work in the government sector, I have spent the last 17+ years in government finance and administration in the following positions:

- Director of Finance, CFO and Comptroller for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office;

- Chief Deputy Tax Collector and Finance Supervisor for the Nassau County Tax Collector's Office;

- Deputy Clerk and Budget and Financial Analyst for the Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller.

I am proud to have endorsements from Sheriff Bill Leeper, Tax Collector John M. Drew, Property Appraiser Michael Hickox, Nassau County Firefighters Local 3101, Fernandina Beach Firefighters Local 2836 and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 65 of Nassau County.

I would appreciate your support and your vote on August 20, to be your next certified, trusted, and experienced Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller.

## POLICE REPORTS

*Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.*

### Sunday, July 28

Corey Rochelle Absher, 23, Bryceville: Failure to Appear

Thomas Pete Holton, 53, Callahan: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

### Monday, July 29

Cole Dillon Anderson, 33, Callahan: Burglary Unoccupied Conveyance Unarmed

John Michael Lowe, 38, Hilliard: Battery Touch or Strike Domestic Violence

### Wednesday, July 31

Kathy Sue Skinner, 43, Hilliard: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue: Possession of Methamphetamine

## Canvassing Board Member Appointed for Primary Election

The Nassau County Supervisor of Elections office announced that James Hurley has been appointed to serve as a substitute member for the Nassau County Canvassing Board for the 2024 Primary Election. Pursuant to 102.141, a member of the canvassing board cannot serve if they are a candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed. Chief Judge Lance M. Day has appointed retired Police Chief James Hurley as the substitute canvassing board member to serve in place of Supervisor of Elections Janet Adkins.

James Hurley was the Police Chief in Fernandina Beach for 15 years and served in law enforcement for 26 years prior to moving to Fernandina Beach in 2006. Mr. Hurley served as Assistant Police Chief in Fort Lauderdale for 5 years before retiring. "While I am unable to serve on the Canvassing board during the Primary election, I am

working with our team to ensure that we are prepared to run a smooth and transparent election," said Supervisor Adkins.

If you have questions regarding the Canvassing Board or meetings, please visit our website at: [www.VoteNassauFL.gov](http://www.VoteNassauFL.gov) or call at our office at 904-491-7500.



Important Dates for the Primary Election:

- Deadline to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot: August 8th
- Early Voting: August 7th – August 17th 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Election Day: August 20th 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

**Callahan First Baptist Church** 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan  
Thursday, August 15 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Barnabas @ NEFL Fairgrounds** 543378 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan  
Monday, August 19 • 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

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## Westside Senior Life Center Activities for August

Join us for our afternoon activity program at Nassau County Council on Aging's Westside Senior Life Center, 37002 Ingham Rd, Hilliard. All programs are free of charge. Questions? Contact Missy Snead, Activities Coordinator, 904-675-9833 or msnead@nassaucountycoa.org.

- Monday, August 12 - Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 13 - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers" 1-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 14 - YouTube Tai Chi 2-3 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15 - Line Dancing with Tanya 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 16 - Movie & Popcorn - "Sabrina" 2-3:30 p.m.
- Monday, August 19 - Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 20 - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers" 1-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 21 - YouTube Crafts 2-3 p.m.
- Thursday, August 22 - Line Dancing with Tanya 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 23 - Q & A with the VFW 2-3 p.m.
- Monday, August 26 - Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 27 - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers" 1-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 28 - YouTube Tai Chi 2-3 p.m.
- Thursday, August 29 - Line Dancing with Tanya 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 30 - Q & A with NCCOA Staff 2-3 p.m.

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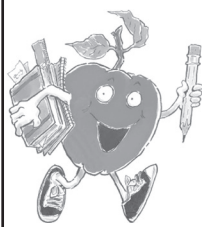
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Please Pre-Register onsite with Kristi Harrison at 904 760-2244  
or by calling Northeast Florida AHEC at 904-482-0189.

### School Supply Give Away

Second Baptist Church, 45019 Johnson Road, Callahan will hold Back to School Sunday, this Sunday, August 11. Come sporting your favorite college attire and join us at our morning service at 11 a.m. Following the service there will be a school supply give away! Please join us!



# DANNY FULLWOOD

## Ocean Highway & Port Authority District 1



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- Develop a resilience plan to improve the safety of the port.
- Continue working with the Economic Development Board to create jobs and expand opportunities.
- Work with the Port Operator to develop new shipping opportunities and keep the port safe and in good working order.

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