



THE MAYPORT VILLAGER

Spring 2026

MayportWaterfrontPartnership.Org

@MayportWaterfrontPartnership

About the Mayport Waterfront Partnership



Established in 1997 to promote economic revitalization along Duval County's eastern shore, MWP has championed Mayport Village's preservation and growth. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Gulliford Community Center. The public is welcome to attend.



Waterfront Market: Spring Dates

The Mayport Waterfront Market is held every third Saturday each month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April	May	June
18	16	20

Interested in vending?

Apply at

MayportWaterfrontPartnership.org

Banners, Buzzing Markets, and a Village on the Rise



Something is different when you drive down Ocean Street these days. Colorful banners sway from light poles, each one bearing Serena Bass's winning design, "The Jetties" — a vivid celebration of Mayport's identity as a historic fishing village and working waterfront. The community art contest is another sign of the momentum in the Village.



Coconut Key Coffee and Sundries Owner, Katie O'Connell (left) and MWP Chairman, Mitch Reeves, present an award to Serena Bass for winning design now displayed throughout the Village.

The March waterfront market served as the official banner launch celebration, and it delivered.

Vendors filled the green, visitors came in numbers that turned heads, and more than a few attendees are calling the market a must-visit monthly destination at the Beaches.

That same community pride is showing up in other ways, too. In March, UF/IFAS Tree Stewards volunteered their time trimming the canopy at the MWP cottage on Ocean Street, a small but meaningful contribution to a village that's taking care of itself.

T-shirts featuring the winning design are available at the MWP table at each Market. Proceeds support MWP and its projects.



Helen Cooper Floyd: Keeper of Mayport's Memory

Before podcasts, before digital archives, there was Helen Cooper Floyd, a Jacksonville-born historian who spent decades making sure Mayport's stories didn't disappear with the tide.

With a tape recorder and a storyteller's instinct, Helen sat with river pilots, shrimp boat captains, and the tenacious women who ran Mayport households like ships.

She captured their voices — the humor, the grit, the pride — in a collection of oral history recordings that now live at the University of Florida, digitized and available to the public.

Her books, including *Mayport: A Village by the Sea*, and *Shrimp Nets and Sunday Suppers: Life in Mayport Village*, wove together archival research and personal memory into portraits of a community that refuses to be forgotten. That legacy recently came full circle at the lighthouse's



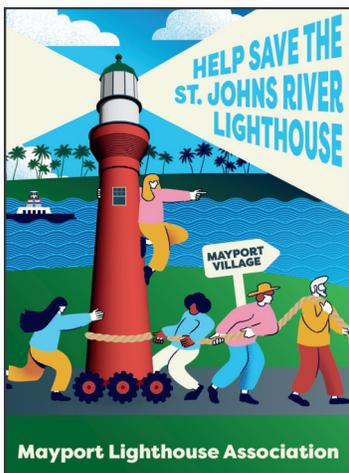
Hard cover of "Mayport Memories"

167th Anniversary Celebration. That's where Helen's youngest daughter, Tamara Anne Floyd, served as guest speaker, and has since compiled *Mayport Memories*, a new edition of her mother's stories about the people who lived and worked in the village she loved.

It's an act of preservation in the truest sense, ensuring the voices of Mayport's past remain part of its bright future.

Copies are available at the MWP table at the Waterfront Market. To explore Helen's recordings, visit ufdc.ufl.edu and search "Helen Cooper Floyd."

Lighthouse One Step Closer to New Home in Mayport Village



After a six-month feasibility study completed by a team of architects, engineers, and preservation specialists, it's official--relocating the St. Johns River Lighthouse from Naval Station Mayport to the village waterfront is achievable!

Completion of the feasibility study marks a major milestone. It confirms that relocation can be accomplished safely, responsibly, and in coordination with local, state, and federal partners. Estimated costs run \$4.8 - \$6 million.

The Mayport Lighthouse Association is excited to enter the next phase of the project in partnership with Naval Station Mayport and the City of Jacksonville, and is preparing to launch a capital fundraising campaign. To learn more, visit MayportLighthouseAssociation.Org.

Community Notes



Springing Into Action: UF/IFAS Tree Stewards volunteered their time to help beautify the MWP cottage and warehouse property at 4610 Ocean Street. MWP is looking for volunteers to support ongoing projects in the Village. Email MayportWaterfrontPartnership@gmail.com to get involved.

Watershed Moment: The St. Johns Riverkeeper hosts its annual State of the Watershed event at WJCT on April 22 at 5:30 p.m. It's a chance to learn about the health of the river that defines Mayport.



USS Mason Deploys: The USS Mason (DDG 87), a guided-missile destroyer in Mayport, departed March 24 as part of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group. The Mayport community wishes the ship's 300 sailors fair winds and following seas.

Mayport: A Hub for White Shark Science

A new peer-reviewed study coordinated by OCEARCH confirms the Gulf of Mexico serves as a regular winter habitat for white sharks. The research reshapes long-standing assumptions about the species' seasonal movements. OCEARCH is building its global headquarters in Mayport. Learn more at ocearch.org.



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Thanks for reading!