



# THE MAYPORT VILLAGER

Summer 2026

MayportWaterfrontPartnership.Org

@MayportWaterfrontPartnership

## MWP Earns Service Award



The Mayport Waterfront Partnership (MWP) has been selected by the American Planning Association (APA) Florida Chapter to receive the 2026 Planning Leadership Award for Outstanding Public Interest Group. The APA Florida Planning Leadership Awards recognize individuals, organizations, and public leaders whose vision, dedication, and service have made exceptional contributions to planning and the communities they serve. MWP will be recognized during the 2026 Florida Planning Conference in Miami on Oct. 16.

## Support Mayport's Growth through an Annual Membership



MWP has introduced an annual membership program, providing a new way to support the Mayport community. Annual memberships start at \$35. Members can enjoy many benefits, including an official Mayport Village window decal and early invitation to events.

Learn more about the membership program by scanning the QR code to the right.



## Business Spotlight: Coconut Key Coffee & Sundries



*Owner Katie O'Connell*

This quarter's Mayport Business Spotlight is Coconut Key Coffee & Sundries, a locally owned and operated coffee shop in the heart of Mayport Village.

Owners Katie & Matt O'Connell have created a welcoming place for residents and visitors to enjoy coffee while experiencing the unique charm of the historic fishing village.

Katie is a longtime Mayport resident and serves on the Mayport Waterfront Partnership Board of Directors. Read the Partnership's interview with Katie to learn more about her and Coconut Key:

**What do you enjoy most about doing business in Mayport Village?** Getting to know my local community has been one of the best parts of this journey. I seriously have the coolest customers.

**What is something people might be surprised to learn about you or your business?** The fact that I literally knew nothing about making coffee just one week before opening my doors still blows my mind.

**What has been your proudest moment since opening?** The fact that we just keep setting

records, breaking them, and then doing it all over again absolutely blows my freaking mind.

**How would you like your business to contribute to Mayport's future?** Watching new people discover the village—especially locals who have lived here their entire lives but had never really explored Mayport until Coconut Key brought them this way—is incredibly special. There's something truly magical about watching people fall in love with this beautiful little village the way I have.

**What is one thing you wish more people knew about Mayport Village?** Seeing just how much our community has grown and come to life because of the waterfront project has been incredible.

**When someone visits Mayport, what is one thing you think they absolutely should experience?** I get this question all the time! I always tell people to make a whole day of it. Grab some much-needed caffeine at Coconut Key, then check out one of our amazing nearby restaurants—Singleton's, Safe Harbor, or Billy Jack's. Stop by the art studio in our twin building up the road, explore Little Jetties or Hanna Park, and swing by the Atlantic Beach Market on A1A. (Continues on back page)



(Continued from front page) And riding the ferry is an absolute must! If you have extra time, keep the adventure going into Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach. There's something so special about spending the day exploring this little corner of our coast—and, of course, kicking it all off at Coconut Key. If you have time, keep the adventure going into Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach. There's something so special about spending the day exploring this little corner of our coast—and, of course, kicking it all off at Coconut Key.

## Keep Mayport Cute: Containers Mark Latest Beautification Improvements

The Mayport Waterfront Partnership placed its first new trash container on Ocean Street in Mayport Village this month, part of a broader capital improvement project.

Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan visited Mayport on August 14, to congratulate the Partnership. Improvement funds also supported a new bench in the village.

Three more containers will follow along Ocean Street, with two additional units planned for the William "Bill" Gulliford Community Center and Waterfront Market area.

Each container features the Keep Jax Cute logo, reminding visitors to keep the area clean for the next person. "Keep Jax Cute: Don't Pollute" is a citywide anti-litter campaign promoting a cleaner Jacksonville. Visit [jacksonville.gov](http://jacksonville.gov) to learn more.

**Fun question: If you had to describe Mayport Village in three words, what would they be?**

"Anchored • Salty • Breezy"

**What does Mayport mean to you?"**

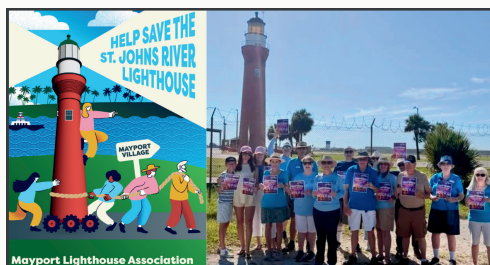
Everything. The village is more than where I live and run my business—it's where I feel most at home, and exactly where I want to be. Also where my husband Matt and I raise our kids.

**Coconut Key is located at 4607 Ocean Street. They're open Tuesday through Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. ⚓**



*From left to right: Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan, MWP Vice Chair Mike Redick, Former Atlantic Beach Mayor Bill Gulliford, and MWP Chair Mitch Reeves.*

## Nonprofit Highlight: Mayport Lighthouse Association



The Mayport Lighthouse Association is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to relocating, restoring, and returning public access to the historic St. Johns River Lighthouse, first lit on August 1, 1859. Learn more at [MayportLighthouseAssociation.com](http://MayportLighthouseAssociation.com).

## Attend a MWP Meeting to Get Connected

Join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at the William "Bill" Gulliford, Jr. Community Center, 4875 Ocean Street, Mayport, FL 32233.



## Community Notes



*Captain Doug Jones*

**Community Supports Captain Doug Jones:**

Longtime Mayport shrimper Captain Doug Jones is facing a difficult cancer diagnosis, and the community is rallying around him and his wife, Nancy, a longtime Board Member of the Mayport Waterfront Partnership. Doug and Nancy have called Mayport home for decades, and their impact on the community runs deep. The Mayport Waterfront Partnership is asking neighbors to keep the Jones family in their thoughts during this challenging time and to consider supporting them through a community fundraiser.

Scan the QR code below to contribute to Doug's cancer journey.



## Waterfront Market: Upcoming Dates

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

September 19    October 17    November 21

**Sign up to become a market vendor!**

