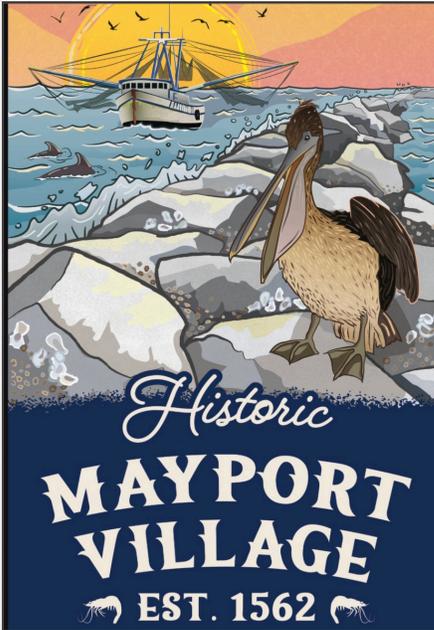




THE MAYPORT VILLAGER

mayportwaterfrontpartnership.org

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Serena Bass's "The Jetties" Wins Banner Contest

Serena Bass's design, "The Jetties," won the Mayport Village Banner Contest, earning nearly 800 votes. The contest, organized by the Mayport Waterfront Partnership, invited artists to celebrate Mayport's heritage as a historic fishing village and working waterfront.

The winning design will be displayed on banners along Ocean Street this spring, highlighting the village's unique character. We're thankful to Dara Hailes, Secretary of the Partnership and Banner Program Coordinator, for bringing this project to life.

Visit the MWP website to support Mayport's working waterfront.



A1A Navy Gate Improvements Complete with Eye on Safety

After three years of dedicated advocacy and collaboration, critical infrastructure improvements along A1A near the Navy Gate. Working closely with the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), the project delivered enhanced drainage, new guardrails, and improved pavement—with all lanes now open and traffic flowing smoothly as of early January.

The project represents more than routine road repairs. Safe and accessible infrastructure is essential to preserving our village's unique character while supporting the commercial fishing operations, maritime businesses, and naval families who depend on these roadways daily.

The improvements also lay important groundwork for the Partnership's broader vision for Mayport Village's future, including enhanced ADA-compliant sidewalks along Ocean Street and bike lanes connecting Safe Harbor to the St. Johns River Ferry.

Since its founding in 1998, the Mayport Waterfront Partnership has championed the preservation of our historic fishing village and working waterfront. With support from an initial state grant, the Partnership continues to advocate for projects that balance economic vitality with responsible revitalization, ensuring Mayport remains a living, working waterfront for generations to come.



2026 Waterfront Market Dates

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

February	March	April	May
21	21	18	16

Interested in vending?

Apply at MayportWaterfrontPartnership.org



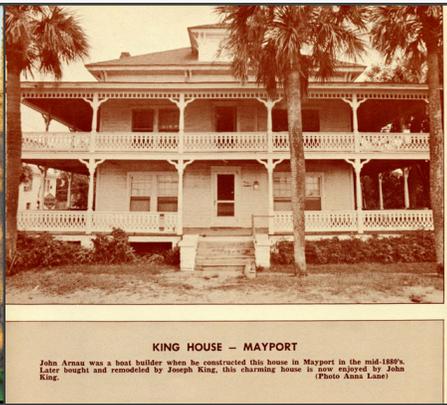
King House: A Haunted Landmark on Ocean Street

On Ocean Street stands a two-story Southern Gothic home with wraparound porches, originally built before the Civil War by river pilot Captain William Arnau. Destroyed by fire in 1881, it was rebuilt in the early 1900s by Captain William Joseph King after he married Arnau's daughter, Clara.

The house witnessed Mayport's growth—from bustling hotels and sawmills to generations of fishermen and river pilots—and served multiple purposes, including hosting Roman Catholic services and sailors.

Long rumored to be haunted, the home drew parapsychology researchers from Duke University in 1968, who investigated recurring sightings of a butler, a bride, and a kitchen maid.

Their report concluded there was evidence of a "presence" within the house, adding to its mystique and historical allure.



KING HOUSE — MAYPORT
John Arnau was a boat builder when he constructed this house in Mayport in the mid-1880s. Later bought and remodeled by Joseph King, this charming house is now enjoyed by John King. (Photo Anita Lane)

MWP, Scenic Jax Wrap Up Scenic Visions Event Series

In fall 2025, the Mayport Waterfront Partnership co-organized Scenic Visions 2025: Spotlight on Mayport Village with Scenic Jacksonville. The series included a guided Trolley Tour of Mayport's historic working waterfront, a presentation and tour of the OCEARCH shark research vessel, a JTA Ferry ride, and a panel discussion on Mayport's future with a social reception.



The events highlighted the village's history, culture, eco-tourism, and development opportunities, bringing together community members, local partners, and sponsors to celebrate and showcase Mayport's unique maritime heritage.

Visit scenicjax.org to learn more about their mission to preserve Jacksonville's natural and built environments.

Community Notes

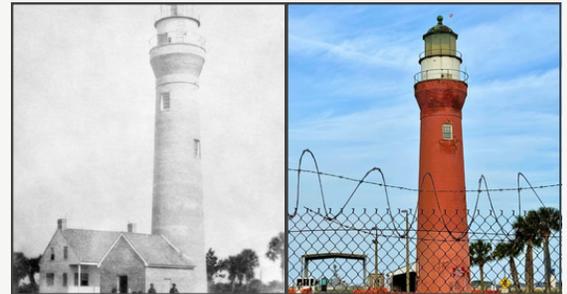


Restaurants Recognized for Seafood

Mayport's Safe Harbor Seafood was named Best Seafood in River City Live's JAXBest 2025, and Singleton's Seafood Shack was recently featured on *Small Town USA* for its classic dockside fare.

New Mayport Businesses on Ocean Street

Two locally owned businesses opened in 2025: Coconut Key Coffee & Sundries, owned by Katie O'Connell and offering sustainably sourced coffee, and the Mayport Village Gallery Outpost, a new fine art destination curated by resident Marie Lyon Carney.



Lighthouse near Mayport Turns 167

The St. Johns River Lighthouse celebrated its 167th birthday in January. The Mayport Lighthouse Association is raising funds to relocate the historic lighthouse from the Navy base to Mayport Village.

New Mayport Village Neighbors Online Group

MWP is partnering with the Mayport Village Neighbors Facebook group, created by resident Evelyn Stafford, to give neighbors a space to connect and share community updates. Find group link in QR code below.



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a donation.
Thanks for reading!