

## ONE TO WATCH

# BREAKING GROUND FOR KIDS

A UNIQUE MUSEUM IS IN THE WORKS THAT WILL HELP ENRICH THE LIVES OF 300,000 AREA STUDENTS.

**T**ag! Children's Museum of St. Augustine broke ground on their first phase of construction. Once completed, tag! will be a community resource, local destination, an educational laboratory, and an advocate for children. tag! announced their Phase 1 of construction with a generous lead gift from The Newman Family Foundation.

"We are thrilled that tag! Children's Museum will begin construction of one of the most unique museums in the country," says Chuck and Diane Newman, of the Newman Family Foundation of St. Johns County. "It will become a critical part of arts and sciences enrichment and allow children, students, and adults to recapture the pure joy of discovery."

Phase 1 will include a playful collection of indoor and outdoor spaces including the Lastinger Big Backyard, the Florida Blue Healthy Gardens, The Cofrin Family Tree Story Garden, and The PLAYERS Championship STEM programming. Phase 2 includes additional



tag! Children's Museum groundbreaking with donors and local community

buildings with more indoor exhibits, learning labs, and outdoor learning adventures.

"Our mission calls on us to inspire play, discover, exploration, and innovation through science and creativity, and to be a partner and resource for those who work with or on behalf of children, youth, and families," says tag! Executive Director, Kim MacEwan.

tag! Children's Museum will be the first cultural institution built in Northeast Florida in more than 20 years and is anticipated to have an estimated \$2 million annual impact on the community. tag! will enrich the lives of an estimated 300,000 area students, 76 school districts, and engage 85,000 expected visitors annually.

The museum will be located off Arapaho Avenue, just behind Target on US1 near Windward Marina.

[www.tagmuseum.org](http://www.tagmuseum.org)

## FAMILY FUN

## COPS & CLAUS

DECEMBER 8TH

Grab the whole family and head on over to the **St. Augustine Beach Police Department** for some holiday fun on December 8th from 5:30pm-7:30pm. There will be free photos with Santa, goodie bags, Christmas music, arts and crafts, fire trucks, police vehicles, a Christmas movie, popcorn, face painting and so much more. Don't forget to bring your letters to Santa!

While you're there, make a donation to **Kilo's Presents for Pets**. They are collecting food for local shelter animals and are in need of toys, food and treats. Donations will be collected from December 1st through December 22nd at the St. Augustine Beach Police Department and Pet Supermarket. They will also be taking donations at the Holiday Market on December 11th at St. Augustine Beach Pier Park.

[www.staugbch.com/events](http://www.staugbch.com/events)

## HOLIDAY SPIRIT

## GETTING LIT

To help celebrate Nights of Lights, **Uptown Swinery** has created a specialty cocktail menu that will run throughout the holidays. The cocktails were created by Cooper Ball, Bar Manager at Uptown Swinery and include delish ingredients that are perfect for the holidays such as rosemary syrup, apple pie moonshine, black walnut bitters and vanilla. Photo by Justin Snavelly.

[www.uptownswinery.com](http://www.uptownswinery.com)

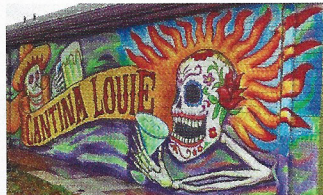




## ST. JOHNS COUNTY

► **Flagler Health+** will open two primary care facilities in northwest St. Johns County early this year. The Greenbriar facility will be led by **Dr. Mark Michaels**, and the Julington Creek facility will be led by **Dr. Aaron Tawes**.

► St. Augustine-based Mexican street food restaurant **Cantina Louie** will open two new restaurants in northern St. Johns County. Since opening in 2014, the chain has opened eight locations in Northeast Florida



and one in Asheville, N.C. An additional restaurant is under construction in Matthews, N.C. ► **Boos Development** has purchased a 15-acre site in northern St. Johns County. The new development, **Shoppes of Longleaf Pine**, will be used for retail space and will offer outparcels for build-to-suit or ground lease development. The retail center is expected to include Wendy's, Heartland Dental and Lockhart Storage and other businesses.

► Construction has begun on **St. Augustine's Tag! Children's Museum**. The first phase of the project, which has been in the works for more than 10 years, includes indoor and outdoor spaces called the Discovery center and is expected to open in the winter. The museum is expected to have a \$2-million annual impact on the economy.

► Owners of the new **Port Orange Fysh Bar & Grill** plan to open a second version in St. Johns County in 2023. Plans call for a 10,000-sq.-ft. restaurant on CR 210, making it one of the largest restaurants in the county. ► **John Delaney** has been appointed president of **Flagler College** after serving as interim president for one year. Delaney was mayor of Jacksonville from 1995 to 2003 and then president of the University of North Florida for 15 years.



Tag! Children's Museum in St. Augustine

photo: Cantina Louie top; rendering: Tag! Children's Museum bottom

## FLAGLER COUNTY

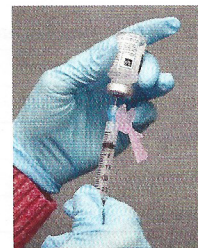
► Flagler Beach will replace its iconic wood pier with a 800-foot concrete pier, the original length of the pier before Hurricane Matthew destroyed 160 feet of the structure in 2016. The city will use \$10 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant money and raise an additional \$2.5 million to complete the project. ► Construction has begun on a 100-bed, 158,000-sq.-ft. hospital in Palm Coast. AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway will include a 30,000-sq.-ft. medical office building as part of the \$145-million project.

## MARION COUNTY

► AdventHealth has opened a full-service, 13,000-sq.-ft. emergency room in Belleview. The 12-bed facility is open 24 hours a day and provides emergency care for the town's 5,400 residents. ► Construction has begun on Trailhead Logistics Commerce Park in Ocala. The 943,426-sq.-ft. spec warehouse on 64 acres is located on CR 484 west of I-75. The joint venture between Transwestern Development Co. and QuadReal Property Group is expected to be completed by December.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

The University of Florida Emerging Pathogens Institute has published COVID-19 projections for the second pandemic winter 2021-22. Assuming no major variants emerge and vaccinations continue at the current rate, UF scientists project:



- Daily and weekly cases in Florida will drop to the state's May and June 2021 rates before the Delta variant spike, which peaked in August 2021.
- COVID-19 will pose the greatest risk in areas where immunity is low. Vaccination rates range by county from 32% to 91%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Immunity wanes over time, and older people and those with underlying conditions will continue to be at risk for hospitalization and death.
- People who are at a higher risk will need to take additional precautions, such as wearing masks and avoiding large gatherings.
- The virus can mutate and form a new variant at any time, making it impossible to predict more than a few months out what might happen. 