

The St. Augustine Altrusan

Newsletter for Altrusa International of St. Augustine, Inc.

Editor: Linda Herrera

Proofreader: Chris Mars

PO Box 3372, St. Augustine, FL 32085
altrusastaugustinepres@gmail.com
Alaltrusastaugustinepres@gmail.com

President's Message:

Dear Fellow Altrusans,

It has been a pleasure being your president for the last two years. Altrusa of St. Augustine is small but mighty. We have wonderful projects that benefit many in the community. During these last two years, we have maintained the Port in the Storm birthday celebrations for homeless young adults, the Sebastian Segui Backpack project for children in the Homeless Coalition, and the Funday Mondays for the kids in the St. Johns County Early Childhood program. The What's Cookin' in St. Augustine cookbook is our latest project. We've started a quarterly newsletter as well as maintaining our webpage. We started an ASTRA club that is thriving. We've had raffle baskets to raise funds and given several local scholarships. I am most proud of our club winning 3rd place in the Mamie L Bass Award last month at the District 3 Annual Conference. I welcome our incoming president, Vicki Sellner, and look forward to a very bright future for Altrusa of St. Augustine.

Yours in service,
Louise Bowman
President, Altrusa of St. Augustine, FL



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Who doesn't love a surprise?	2
Reaching out to the community	3
Betty Johnson	
Scholarship	3
Easter raffle winner	3
Sebastian Segui	
Backpacks	3
Astra Club Recap	4
District 3 Annual Conference	5
Officers for 2025-2027	6
Centerpieces	6

1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Martine Smith July 4
Marcie Segui July 15
Chris Mars Aug 10

2

UPCOMING MEETING

6:30pm
June 19, 2025
Applebee's SR312

3

NEWSLETTER

Please send
information, articles,
& pictures to:
linda2herrera@yahoo.com

Who doesn't love a surprise?

By: Mimi Cooper

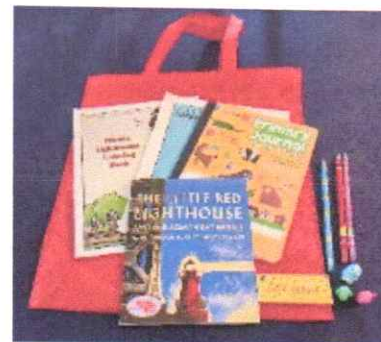
Imagine my surprise one morning when I opened an email and found a message from Lenore Schell that said, "Like to help." Lenore is a member of Palencia LARK—a local group of women who meet once a month and like to do random acts of kindness. They had read about our club and wanted to know what they could do to help.

It just so happened that we were working with the St. Johns County Early Childhood Services staff as they were planning a special family day at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. We decided that literacy bags would be a perfect compliment to the day and a great way to utilize the LARK group's donation.

Lenore Schell and Angel Brueckman from LARK visited our club and presented us with \$300 which we used to make 50 literacy bags distributed to PreK children attending the family day event.



Angel Brueckman (left) & Lenore Schell (rt) give \$300 donation from LARK to Altrusa Secretary, Mimi Cooper (center).



Attending families toured the lighthouse, made lighthouses, received free books, & enjoyed pizza. Many thanks to Altrusans Mimi Cooper, Virg White, Patti Wallace, and Chris Plant who were assisted by St. Augustine High School JROTC students throughout the day.

Reaching out to the community



Altrusa of St. Augustine celebrated Grady Overstreet with ice cream for everyone—yummmmmmm!



Sarah Del Cid
Volunteer Coordinator

In April, Mimi Cooper delivered one birthday backpack to a guest at Port in the Storm. It contained gift cards to Target & Starbucks, a blanket, and several assorted toiletries. Along with the backpack, we always bring a cake that all the guests and staff at Port in the Storm can share. That's why the guests have dubbed the day we bring the backpack, Cake Friday.

Birthday backpacks delivered

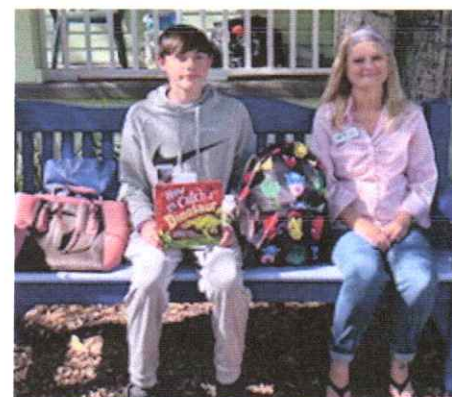
Marci and Zachary Segui delivered 4 birthday backpacks in March. The backpacks were donated by Marshalls and the stuffed animals were donated by Nancy and Dan Sansoucy. Zachary is pictured with Marion Blohm, a case worker for the Coalition. They are sitting on the bench that Nancy Sikes-Kline, Mayor of St. Augustine, donated to The Homeless Coalition.

Zachary and Marci delivered 1 birthday backpack for April. The book was donated by Isabelle Howes, backpack was donated by Marshalls and the stuffed animal was donated by Nancy and Dan Sansoucy. Purse and shoes were donated by Holly Wampler, and Zander donated clothes he had outgrown.

Betty Johnstone Scholarship

A Betty Johnstone \$800.00 scholarship was awarded to Ryan Hurtado who is a student in the Firefighter Program at First Coast Technical College. Ryan will use the scholarship to rent the bunker gear which is one of the requirements of the program. Ryan is already an EMT and hopes to join St Johns County Fire Rescue upon his completion of the program. Ryan is a resident of St Augustine and, when not in the full time program, works part time as a host at a local Mexican restaurant.

Congratulations to Lisa Johnson for winning our Easter raffle basket. These raffles have raised funds for several projects. Who's going to be the next big winner of our 4th of July basket?



ASTRA Club Recap: A Year of Service and Community Impact

By: Kristi Smith

As we reflect on the school year, the ASTRA Club has demonstrated remarkable dedication to service and community engagement. Our members have rolled up their sleeves and contributed positively to various initiatives, fostering a spirit of teamwork and compassion throughout our school and beyond. Here's a recap of our key activities from the year:

Hurricane Drive

One of the standout events this year was our Hurricane Drive, where we successfully filled two trailers with essential goods for hurricane victims in North Carolina. The generosity of our school community was heartwarming, as students, parents, and staff came together to support those in need during a time of crisis.

Ice Cream Socials

In our efforts to support the Physical Education department, we hosted several ice cream socials throughout the year. These fun-filled events not only brought smiles to our peers but also raised essential funds to enhance our PE programs. The delicious treats served as a perfect incentive for students to come together for a worthy cause.

Concession Stands

Our involvement didn't stop there! We ran concession stands during flag football games, providing snacks and drinks to spectators while raising money for our sports programs. The energy and excitement at the games were palpable, and it was a joy to contribute to our school's athletic spirit.

Monthly Cleanups

Demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship, ASTRA members dedicated time each month to pick up trash along the complex surrounding our school. This initiative not only beautified the area but also instilled a sense of pride and responsibility in our club members and the entire school community.

School-wide Fundraisers

We also played a crucial role in school-wide fundraisers aimed at providing scholarships for students who couldn't afford to attend our school. By collaborating with administrators, we helped ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their financial background.

Gardening Project with 1st Graders

One of the highlights of our year was partnering with 1st graders to plant and maintain a garden. Our 11th graders took the lead in guiding these younger students, fostering mentorship and camaraderie. The garden became a symbol of growth and collaboration, and we were thrilled to receive a \$250 grant to help purchase supplies to support this project.

Tutoring Support

Our commitment to academic support shone through as we assisted lower school students with reading, Latin, and math. By providing tutoring sessions, we helped younger students build confidence and improve their skills, nurturing their love for learning.

This year, the ASTRA Club not only developed strong bonds among its members but also made a significant impact on our school and the wider community. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year. Together, we will continue to serve and inspire others, embodying the true spirit of the ASTRA mission, "Growing in Service."

Elevate and Innovate

The 72nd Annual District Three Conference was held in Cherokee, NC, embracing the theme of *Elevate and Innovate*. We were hosted by Dimple Overstreet, District 3 Governor; Linda Smith, Altrusa International President; and the District 3 Board. The 83 attendees represented 18 clubs from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

The guest speaker at the opening ceremony was Michael Parker, the current Chairman of Tribal Council for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. He shared the Cherokee is a sovereign nation, meaning it has its own laws, elections, government, institutions, etc.

Friday started with breakfast and an entertaining speech by Yvette Pue, Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL. She punctuated her inspirational take on *Elevate and Innovate* with humor and a few well-aimed candy tosses. A business meeting followed where District Three Officers were elected.

Altrusa of St. Augustine contributed pitchers, serving spoons, potholders, cookbooks, and other items to the service project. These items were used to create centerpieces for the tables (see pictures). After the convention, these will become part of the *Kitchen Shower Service Project* providing kitchen items to North Carolina hurricane victims.

Altrusa of St. Augustine was recognized as having the most volunteer hours per member, and won 3rd Place in the International Mamie L Bass Service Award for *Birthdays are so Important*, our Sebastian Segui Backpacks and Port in the Storm service projects.

There were workshops for those attending. One that drew much attention was on Cherokee Heritage featuring Dustin Trampler (right), a Cherokee storyteller dedicated to sharing and preserving Cherokee cultural heritage. He explained traditional Cherokee dress, customs, and history. He taught a native dance to those interested. He said there are no swear words in the Cherokee language, so if he gets really upset, he uses English. He shared several stories including how the rabbit lost its tail.

Chris Plant, Linda Herrera, Louise Bowman, Vicki Sellner, and Brian Bowman (pictured below) comprised the delegation from St. Augustine. They manned a vendor table during the conference selling copies of *What's Cookin' in St. Augustine* (our new cookbook) as well as handmade potholders and other handmade items.



Congratulations to Altrusa of St. Augustine Officers for 2025-2027

President	Vicki Sellner
Vice President	Brian Bowman
Secretary	Mimi Cooper
Treasurer	Marci Segui
Immediate Past President	Louise Bowman

The new officers will be installed at the regular monthly meeting on May 15th, 2025.



Left: Chris Plant with Dustin Tramper, Cherokee storyteller.

Right: Centerpieces created with pitchers, tea towels, handmade potholders, and serving spoons used as flowers. Thank you to Scott Tice for getting the Altrusa logo burned into wooden spoons for the Kitchen Shower Service Project.



Mantha Young (left) and all District 3 officers for 2025-2027 were installed at the annual conference.

