



**Bouquets to developers Michael Antonopoulos and Bryan Lendry** for their commitment to going above and beyond what's required in order to preserve the natural environment. The pair, who are collaborating on the Istoria development north of St. Augustine, have created a plan that includes large waterfront buffers, xeriscaping and preservation of the centuries-old tree canopy — a combination of factors that will make the planned community unique among local subdivisions.



**Brickbats to St. Johns County Commission Chair Jim Bryant** for jerking around county residents on a matter they'd thought was resolved. After promising a roomful of arts community advocates last month that the commission would not take up awarding a contract to the management company selected to run the newly renovated amphitheater, Bryant reneged. When arts leaders later criticized him for misleading them, Bryant accused them of having a “divisive attitude.”



**Bouquets to Nassau County Commissioner Jim Higginbotham** for leading the effort to protect the historic Bed and Breakfast inns of Fernandina Beach from untenable property taxes. After years of seeing assessments rise at double or even triple-digit rates, local B&B owners on Amelia Island credit Higginbotham and the entire commission for supporting a new law to provide as much as a 50 percent tax abatement for commercial properties in the National Register Historic District. The commission is set to vote on the matter later this month.