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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

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## DRIVE-BY BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

People drive by THE PLAYERS Senior Center to wish longtime member Ollie a Happy Birthday. Ollie, who turned 100 years old, was surprised by the COVID-19-safe celebration on May 15.  
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Photo by Amber Lake

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**Space Force**  
**The Phil Spector Story**

**INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!

*Sand Castles*  
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**All About Pets**  
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## Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

Visit our website at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com)



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Find us on Twitter @PonteVedraNews and on Instagram @pvrecorder



Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

### EDITOR'S NOTES

**What's This?:** Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the Recorder is suspending the "Do you know what this is?" contest until further notice.

**Pets of the Week:** Because the St. Johns County Pet Center is closed, the Recorder's Pets of the Week feature has been temporarily suspended. The feature will return once the Pet Center reopens.

### NOTES TO READERS

**On our website:** Visit [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) to get the latest closures, cancellations and updates for St. Johns County, as well as a listing of virtual events taking place around Northeast Florida.

**Don't miss an issue:** In case social distancing requirements get more strict, we will email you your paper. Send your email address to [don@opcfla.com](mailto:don@opcfla.com).

**Weekly newsletter:** The Recorder offers a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email [don@opcfla.com](mailto:don@opcfla.com). We'll add you to the list.

### BRIEFS

#### St. Johns County's summer camp program canceled

After much consideration and in adherence to CDC recommendations and the State of Florida's safety guidelines, the St. Johns County 2020 Summer Camp Program was canceled May 15.

The difficult decision was based on the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, remaining one of St. Johns County's top priorities. St. Johns County leaders continue to closely follow the governor's Executive Orders and phased reopening guidelines in an effort to safely return to standard operations and provide services. Staff is currently reviewing alternative program options that may be offered at a later time in the summer.

St. Johns County apologized for any inconvenience this may cause and stated that it appreciates the community's patience and understanding during this time. For more information on facility opening updates and future programming options, visit [www.sjfc.us/recreation](http://www.sjfc.us/recreation) or call (904) 209-0333.

#### SJC Clerk of Court resumes issuing marriage licenses and processing passports

The St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office has resumed issuing marriage licenses and processing passport applications for St. Johns County residents by appointment only.

Resuming limited services is the first step in a phased reopening of the Clerk's Office. County residents wishing to visit the Clerk's Office must make an appointment by calling (904) 819-3632. For more information, visit [www.stjohnsclerk.com](http://www.stjohnsclerk.com).

#### St. Johns County Back to Business Grant Program offers up to \$10,000

St. Johns County is committed to supporting local businesses that have suffered economic damage from the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to assist local businesses with employee retention and recovery efforts, St. Johns County is now offering the St. Johns County Back to Business Grant Program.

The program offers up to \$10,000 in grant funding for eligible businesses to assist with ex-

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

R	A	S	P		F	C	C		A	B	A				
A	R	E	A		F	I	L	E		G	L	O	P		
P	I	L	E		R	E	A	P		A	R	G	O	T	
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O	P	E	N			S	L	I	D		D	D	A	Y	
B	O	W				H	E	S			S	E	R	E	

2	8	7	9	5	1	6	3	4
5	4	1	3	6	2	9	7	8
3	6	9	8	7	4	1	2	5
4	2	8	5	9	3	7	6	1
1	5	6	2	8	7	3	4	9
9	7	3	4	1	6	8	5	2
8	1	4	6	3	5	2	9	7
7	3	5	1	2	9	4	8	6
6	9	2	7	4	8	5	1	3

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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# Briefs

Continued from 2

penses related to rent or mortgage, utilities and payroll. The program application will be available on [www.sjcfll.us](http://www.sjcfll.us) beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26. For more information on the St. Johns County Back to Business Grant Program and eligibility requirements, email [btb@sjcfll.us](mailto:btb@sjcfll.us) or call (904) 209-1278.

## Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant provides emergency funding

In an effort to assist with economic recovery, St. Johns County has launched the Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program to provide emergency

funding for local businesses. The goal of the grant program is to help offset the temporary loss of revenue and help keep small businesses open. St. Johns County-based businesses may apply to the program for up to \$5,000 in emergency grant funding.

Funds may be used for rent, mortgage, utilities, or payroll. For more information, visit [www.sjcfll.us](http://www.sjcfll.us).

## Fort Matanzas Beach Ramp open to vehicular access

The Fort Matanzas Beach Ramp is now open to one-way traffic as an exit ramp only. This ramp reconstruction project was accomplished through a partnership between St. Johns County and the National Park Service.

The reopening of the Fort Matanzas

Beach Ramp restores beach access lost due to damage caused by Hurricane Matthew and worsened by subsequent storms.

## SJC Public Libraries begin phased reopening for essential services

St. Johns County Public Library branches reopened for expanded essential services on Tuesday, May 19.

Services provided in this phase will include returns, grab-and-go service, and computer usage up to one hour. Staff will assist with material searches and holds. Seating areas, meeting rooms, and play areas will not be accessible. In accordance with CDC recommendations and State of Florida safety guidelines, building capacity will be limited, all returned materials are to be placed in the book drop and will be

isolated for four days, and face coverings are strongly recommended. In addition, no fines will accrue at this time.

## Hastings Branch Library hosts CareerSource Northeast Florida

CareerSource Northeast Florida will be available to assist job seekers with a variety of career and employment-related services, including help with applying for Reemployment Assistance benefits from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St.

Assistance is available by appointment only and temperature checks and face coverings are required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.careersourcenefl.com](http://www.careersourcenefl.com) or call (904) 356-5627.

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# Local YMCA reopens after ban on gyms, fitness centers lifted

By Amber Lake

After its closing in mid-March, the Ponte Vedra YMCA recently announced it will be reopening, beginning Monday, May 25.

The Y's decision has come after a recent announcement from Gov. Ron DeSantis regarding the reopening of gyms across the state of Florida.

According to a YMCA of Florida's First Coast news release, branches will be implementing a phased approach to "order to properly prepare our 15 branches for our nearly 48,000 members and train

more than 850 employees on new safety guidelines."

"Just like a lot of businesses, we are not going to look quite the same when we reopen," said Charlie Chacos, district executive director, Ponte Vedra YMCA. "That might be limited class sizes and doing social distancing in the building. Our lap swimming pool will look different when we open. We are looking forward to opening and welcoming our members in the Ponte Vedra community, however."

After closing due to pandemic restrictions, the Ponte Vedra YMCA stayed ac-

tive and engaged despite its doors being shut. The location served as a hub for emergency and first responder childcare, provided online classes and even reached out to its 65 and up members to regularly check up on them during social isolation.

"We've been making calls to our seniors and letting them know they do have a resource and there are people thinking of them and if they need anything," Chacos said.

Due to Ponte Vedra's high senior population, the YMCA is taking extra precautions to ensure their older patrons can still enjoy the benefits of their mem-

bership while staying safe. The branch plans to update their hours of operation by allotting time for older members and vulnerable populations, as well as enforcing face masks for all staff and requiring temperatures to be monitored upon entry for both members and staff.

"We have a very large 50 and older population," Chacos said. "The YMCA is really about building community and that's what we're focused on."

The Ponte Vedra YMCA will reopen on Monday, May 25 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information visit [fcmca.org/locations/ponte-vedra-ymca](http://fcmca.org/locations/ponte-vedra-ymca).



Photo provided by the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach

Miss India USA Aaishwariya Gulani (left) and Donna Guzzo, UN Ambassador for #TeachSDGs and president of the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach were among the community members who delivered brownies to Flagler+, Mayo Clinic and Baptist South.

## Local community leaders deliver brownies to nurses, first responders

To support the community during National Nurse's Week while in the COVID-19 pandemic, local community leaders delivered brownies to local nurses and first responders.

Aaishwariya Gulani, current medical student and reigning Miss India USA collaborated with Donna Guzzo, UN Ambassador for #TeachSDGs, and President of the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach and Gulani Vision Institute to give a special thank you to all those nurses working day and night to combat the #CovidCurse we are all facing. Mocha Misk'i Brownie shop located at 6653 Powers Ave. in Jacksonville partnered in the initiative.

"The United Nations has 17 goals to be met by year 2030. Goal No. 3 is Health and Well Being," Guzzo said. "It is important to stay focused on health issues, information, assessments, needs, and learn what we can do to help

those in this field to succeed with proper equipment, tools and resources. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach partnered in this endeavor to salute all first responders!"

As a medical student, Aaishwariya has had the opportunity to work with nurses on numerous occasions and realized that they are the backbone of healthcare.

"Though as doctors we are instinctively showered with accolades, I want to take this opportunity to honor the nurses who have made this #CovidCurse a surmountable catastrophe," she said. "With my dual titles of Miss India USA and medical student, I wish to highlight this endeavor blending the core values of both these platforms. First, for the beauty of the heart, and second, for the dedication to medicine."

The group delivered brownies to Flagler+, Mayo Clinic and Baptist South Doctor's Offices.

## Humana Foundation donates \$500K to First Coast Relief Fund

St. Johns County to share in benefits awarded to Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is honored to announce it has received a \$500,000 gift from The Humana Foundation that will be directed to Florida's First Coast Relief Fund to aid pandemic response in our community.

With these funds from The Humana Foundation, Northeast Florida will be better positioned to respond to those who need assistance to recover and rebuild from this crisis. The Humana Foundation's \$500,000 gift is in addition to a \$100,000 contribution from Humana to United Way of Northeast Florida for Florida's First Coast Relief Fund in the earliest days of the pandemic as part of its Bold Goal partnership with the Jacksonville market.

"The impact of a grant of this size cannot be underestimated," noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "Every week, we and our partners in Florida's First Coast Relief Fund struggle with the extraordinary needs presented by our nonprofit community as they try to respond to their clients who are hurting. The Humana Foundation's generosity will help alleviate the strain on our neighbors and fellow citizens." Since mid-March, Florida's First Coast Relief Fund has granted more than \$2.4 million to 75 local nonprofits in the six-county area. Applications continue to come in, and new grants are awarded weekly.

The current COVID-19 health crisis requires

# Local senior gets surprise, COVID-19-safe birthday party on her 100th birthday

By Amber Lake

Birthday parties aren't what they used to be thanks to COVID-19. Just because celebrations can't be traditional doesn't mean they don't happen, however. These days, they are just a little bit more creative.

When it came to long-time member of THE PLAYERS Senior Center Ollie's birthday, friends and fellow members weren't about to skip out on the celebrations, even though Ollie has had her fair share of birthday parties – 100 to be exact.

"I haven't gotten to see too many people since this all happened," Ollie said. "I miss the center, but I imagine everybody does. I heard one person say, 'I would have nothing to do if it wasn't for the center. I look forward to the center like someone were to grab my hand when I were drowning.'"

For many seniors in Ponte Vedra, the past few months have been lonely ones. For those that live alone, social isolation can not only be mentally taxing but downright dangerous.

At THE PLAYERS Senior Center, Ollie is very popular. She attends almost every day the center is open. She misses her yoga and tai chi classes, eating lunch with her friend Richard, bingo and the occasional band that would come play music for the group. At the center, everyone knows her name and she gives dozens of

hugs a day without being worried those hugs could potentially be unsafe.

Prior to the virus, Ollie's daughter Donna spent months planning the ultimate centennial birthday bash. When the travel restrictions were instated, she realized most of her family wouldn't be able to make it. Just weeks before her mom's birthday, she reached out to the Council on Aging's Ponte Vedra senior Center coordinator to help plan a safe surprise.

So, on Friday, May 15, when Ollie saw her center friends driving up, cars decked out in birthday wishes, she was taken completely by surprise.

"I have no idea how (my daughter) did all that and planned it and never, in some way, let it out," Ollie said. "Boy, oh boy, I never knew she could keep a secret like that. I was really speechless. I think if I were a fainting person I would have fainted."

According to both Ollie and her daughter, the secret to longevity is staying positive and feeling grateful for what you have.

Ollie is very grateful.

"I had more than a party," she said. "I just can't find words to tell. You know how feelings are? Everybody's are different, but imagine the deepest feeling you could feel."

Being overwhelmed with love, perhaps may not be the secret to living 100 years but it may be the secret to having so many



Photo by Amber Lake

**Ollie celebrates her 100th birthday on Friday, May 15, with a surprise drive-by celebration. Everyone is invited next year — when she turns 101.**

people love you back. If positivity is the birthday cake of life, then letting yourself feel that much love would most certainly be the icing, candles, song and, well, party.

Although, nobody can possibly feel as good as Ollie did on her birthday, every

day. For that, her advice is live with purpose and appreciate the present.

"Everybody has a day at a time," Ollie said. "Nobody has two days at once. Everything is one day so we shall see, we shall see."

## BRIEFS

Social gatherings and events may be canceled, but passion and creativity is still alive and well.

Check out these virtual events hosted by the innovative artists, musicians, chefs and members of the community who are using the magic of the internet to find unique ways to bring everyone together during times of separation.

### MAY 21

10 a.m. - Junior Achievement of North Florida's weekly student program for high school students  
11 a.m. - Virtual Storytime with the SJC Public Library  
12 p.m. - Dumbbell Legs with Savanna Silva on Instagram @savanna\_\_rose  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram  
2 p.m. - Concert for the Quarantined with Jarrod and Claire Dickenson on Instagram

### MAY 22

11 a.m. - Virtual Storytime with the St. Johns County Public Library  
1 p.m. - Taste of Persian Cuisine - Chef Aria  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram  
1:30 p.m. - SJC Public Library: Kid's Art Lab - Banksy with Ms. Nicole on Facebook

5:30 p.m. - Learn from Chefs: Vietnamese & Thai Cooking with Chef Dennis Chan

5:30 p.m. - Chef's Garden Virtual Cooking Class: Butter Chicken with Homemade Roti, served with Basmati Rice and a Watermelon & Mint Salad with Tamarind Chutney

6 p.m. - DJ Aleks live-stream set  
8 p.m. - Jacksonville Symphony performance  
8 p.m. - Songs from Another Room: Samuel Herb, Jackie Stranger, Jesse Montoya & Luke Peacock

### MAY 23

TBD. - Dumbbell Legs with Savanna Silva on Instagram @savanna\_\_rose  
1 p.m. - The Chef Show - Chef Lorenzo teaches how to make authentic Cuban cuisine  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram  
6 p.m. - DJ Aleks - live-stream set

### MAY 24

12 p.m. - Songs from Another Room: Taylor Roberts  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram  
4 p.m. - Urban Asado's Virtual Asado on Facebook

### MAY 25

11 a.m. - Virtual Storytime with the SJC Public Library  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram

8 p.m. - Songs from Another Room: Alchematic

### MAY 26

10 a.m. - Junior Achievement of North Florida's weekly student program for elementary school students  
11 a.m. - Virtual Storytime with the SJC Public Library  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram

### MAY 27

10 a.m. - Junior Achievement of North Florida's weekly student program for middle school students  
10 a.m. - Healthy Eating Every Day: Free Online Live Class  
11 a.m. - Virtual Storytime with the SJC Public Library  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram  
3 p.m. - SJC Public Library: Time Travel Reads with Annie on Facebook  
8 p.m. - Songs from Another Room - Dan Rodriguez

### MAY 28

10 a.m. - Junior Achievement of North Florida's weekly student program for high school students  
11 a.m. - Virtual Storytime with the SJC Public Library  
1 p.m. - Sofi Tukker live on Instagram

2 p.m. - Concert for the Quarantined with Jarrod and Claire Dickenson on Instagram

## OTHER EVENTS

■ Yoga Den will live stream online yoga classes every day this week for \$10. For the full schedule and more information, visit [www.yoga-den.com/fleming-island-schedule](http://www.yoga-den.com/fleming-island-schedule) and select, "All Locations."

■ EDM group Sofi Tukker host daily live stream DJ sets on Instagram at 1 p.m. to help those at home get out of their seats for a 30-minute dance party. For more information, follow their official Instagram, @SofiTukker.

■ The St. Johns County Public Library offers multiple events throughout the week for kids and adults, including a daily virtual storytime at 11 a.m., Monday through Friday, on Facebook Live. Storytimes last approximately 30 minutes and are recorded and posted on the Library's Facebook page for those who miss the live showing. For more information on events or to watch the live-streams, visit [www.facebook.com/sjcpls](http://www.facebook.com/sjcpls).

■ Jacksonville's DJ Aleks will live stream sessions, Fridays and Saturdays, at 6 p.m. through his official Facebook page, @DJAlekz. For questions or more information, call (904) 463-8763.

■ Cuba Libre Bar's Chef Lorenzo will host live

*Greg Voss started out in the sports and entertainment field following his graduation from the University of Maryland, but he eventually settled in St. Johns County in 2014 as the vice president of operations for the Chamber of Commerce. Far removed from big league promotions and scheduling, Voss now is committed to helping businesses throughout the county survive the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of dwelling on what's not available, Voss insists the best solution is to be creative with the tools that are available.*

## Greg Voss

*As told to Don Coble*

### **How challenging has it been for the Chamber during these past few months as COVID-19 forced businesses to shutdown and kept many residents at home?**

It's been challenging, but at the same time it's offered us opportunities to be innovative. We're doing a heck of a lot more with online platforms. We're doing webinars very frequently. We're doing one once a week right now. We're able to feature what we call Chamber conversation. One of our staff will chat with a member and ask them how they're improving and how they're challenging themselves, how they are innovating their business. It's challenging when you can't do it in person. At the same time, it does put you in a situation where you have to be a little bit more creative. What are the things we can do that have value to businesses, and where can we help?

### **What are some of the things you've done to help businesses during the slowdown/shutdown?**

We've pushed our gift card program through our website for not just members, but people in general to shop with Chamber members. We're pushing a lot more through our website with respect to the deals that are being offered to Chamber members and the general public to shop at their places of business. While it's been a challenge, it's created some opportunities that we've taken advantage of.

### **Has the pandemic changed the way we're going to do business in the future?**

The way we're doing things now — the webinars are a good example — that's something we can do moving forward. When we are back to in-person style, these webinars are going to be part of our programming as we move forward. In terms of how that impacts business moving forward. I think until we get to a point where people feel generally good about going out, you're going to want to have alternatives for those folks. One of the things I can tell you we will be doing is when we go back to large, in-person events — and we plan on having those in-person events as soon as we can — but at the same time we are going to have an online component to that so if you can't participate in person, you have to be at your office, you can call in and participate virtually. You're going to see a lot of that. We're learning from this. We're learning how to be innovative from this. We're going to be smarter about these things. We're going to make it possible for people who can't get out of their business for one reason or another to participate online. That's an exciting thing.

### **Will innovation prove to be an unintended consequence of this pandemic.**

If we have all these restrictions on movement and all these restrictions on gatherings of 10 or more, then you have to figure out what can we do to be consistent and fill our mission while adhering to some of the guidelines? It forces you to be better. You're still living in a competitive world. It forces you to think about ways you can do something, the way you respond.



Photo by Susan Griffin

### **What is your background?**

I worked at the Chamber in Clay County before I came here. I worked for a couple professional teams when I got out of school. I worked for the Washington Capitals and

the Washington Redskins. My first job out of college was minor league hockey. That was kind of cool. Sports and entertainment is what I did. I also worked at a jazz hall in the area. I was the marketing director for the club.

# Events

Continued from 5

cooking classes on Fridays at 1 p.m., teaching how to cook authentic Cuban cuisine on Facebook live on the Cuba Libre Bar official Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/danceclubjacksonville](http://www.facebook.com/danceclubjacksonville).

■ Fitness enthusiast Savanna Rose will host workout classes on her official Instagram, @savanna\_\_rose. Each class is a different type of workout and times will vary. For more information, follow her Instagram.

■ Junior Achievement of North Florida is offering weekly programs live on Instagram, where program coordinators or virtual volunteers will be teaching JA courses live. Parents and students can follow JA of North Florida's Instagram page at @janorthflorida to take part in the lessons. The lessons will be held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. Tuesday programs will be for elementary age students, Wednesday programs will be for middle school students and Thursday programs will be high school students. Each lesson will be approximately 30 minutes, with the live recordings saved for review on JA's official Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/JAofNorthFlorida](http://www.Facebook.com/JAofNorthFlorida).

They will also be posted on the JA of North Florida website at [www.janfl.org](http://www.janfl.org).

■ The Jacksonville Symphony has joined multiple international orchestras in broadcasting music to help raise the spirits of the community during this time. Join in for a new broadcast, Fridays at 8 p.m., on the Jax Symphony official Facebook and YouTube pages, or through its official website at [www.jaxsymphony.org/live/](http://www.jaxsymphony.org/live/).

■ Learn From Chefs is a chance to support local chefs and Jax Restaurant Reviews while during social distancing while learning to cook

incredible food all while safely social distancing. Each virtual class includes a recipe card for each course to keep, a 2-hour live web meeting to follow along with the chef and access to purchase ingredients from a local grocer and have them delivered (not applicable to all classes). To register or for more information, visit [www.learnfromchefs.com](http://www.learnfromchefs.com)

■ Chef's Garden Catering & Events offers weekly virtual cooking classes throughout the COVID-19 quarantine to keep social distance while staying emotionally connected. New classes are added weekly. For more information, visit [www.cateringjacksonville.com](http://www.cateringjacksonville.com).

■ To connect with friends, St. Augustine's Urban Asado will host "Virtual Asados" to feature local businesses. The online events feature a variety of specially-prepared "Asado Kits" for preorder to follow along. Chefs will offer grilling tips and local bartenders will provide special cocktail kits for viewers. Not available to grill? Still stop by the Virtual Asado and say hello. For more information, visit [www.UrbanAsado.com](http://www.UrbanAsado.com).

■ Musical duo Jarrod and Claire Dickenson host "Concerts for the Quarantined" on Thursdays at 2 p.m. on Jarrod's official Instagram, @Jarrod-Dickenson. Watch and listen as they serenade viewers with friendly conversation and acoustic vibes.

■ "Songs From Another Room" is a songwriter series streamed from each artist's home to the Blue Jay Listening Room Facebook page on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at noon. There will be an opportunity to monetarily support both, Blue Jay, and the artists, by donating to Venmo, PayPal or Cash App. Each night, donations will be split down the middle, with Blue Jay receiving half and that night's artist receiving the other half.

Healthy Eating Every Day: Free Online Live Class Participants will learn how to select

the right balance of foods for optimal health, develop and maintain healthy eating habits, and use lifestyle management skills to cope with triggers for unhealthy eating. The event is sponsored by the Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center, ElderSource and the State of Florida, Department of Elder Affairs

This is an online webinar that uses Zoom and is hosted Wednesdays at 10 a.m., from May 27 through Aug. 26, 2020. Connect using a computer, tablet, cell phone, or landline. Registration is required. Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189 to register or for more information.

Compiled by Daniela Toporek



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# Lightner Museum seizes downtime for renovations

By Daniela Toporek

During the COVID-19 shutdown, establishments have used the free time to work on cleaning, renovation and innovation, and St. Augustine's Lightner Museum is no different.

Upon entering the bright, tiled lobby, guests will notice a tall, wooden grandfather clock with detailed carvings, telling the fairytale of Dick Whittington, mayor of London three times in the 1700s.

The fairytale told his life story, but according to the museum's associate director Ray Eme, the story is completely false.

"When he [Whittington] was a peasant boy, he had a cat who escaped on a ship to Spain and found its way to the king's castle, and it killed all the rats in the castle," Eme said. "The king was so pleased he wanted to find the cat's owner and pay him enough money for him to run his campaign for mayor of London."

The 2,500-pound clock has been part of the Lightner for some time but was relocated into the lobby while the mechanics of the clock are being repaired off-site, with plans to be reinstalled in August.

Inside the check-in area, the entire first floor was renovated, from new floors to a new gift shop, with more light and space, replacing the Victorian Village.

The Lightner also renovated its Music Room and is currently in the process of assessing its mechanical instruments to be repaired and restored. A blank wall stares right across room's entrance, waiting for the right artist to showcase their talent.



Photo by Daniela Toporek

During the COVID-19 shutdown, the Lightner Museum took the time to renovate multiple rooms in the historic former hotel. New floors were installed on the first floor, along with the gift shop, which was moved downstairs, replacing the Victorian Village while adding more sunlight to the space.

LIGHTNER continues on Page 9




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# Lightner

Continued from 8

“That back wall is for the mural contest. Artists have until July 15 to submit their work,” said Angela deGregory, volunteer coordinator and events manager of the museum. According to deGregory, artists can submit mural concepts that reflect the history of the museum, such as the Gilded Age and/or the history of music.

The Science and Industry room was also worked on, with Winston Churchill’s taxidermized pets, a lion and an American alligator.

On the second floor, museum regulars will notice that the Stained-Glass Gallery was also replaced with American Brilliant Cut Glass, shining from one end of the room to the other, but there was one exception.

“You see how that glass isn’t as vibrant as the others?” Eme noted. “That’s because it’s not American glass. That’s Irish-cut glass. The difference is that the sand found here has lead in it, which gives it that shiny, crystal tone to it.”

New to the Ballroom Gallery is the newly restored bronze statue, Winged Mercury, c. 1890. (Fun fact, the restoration cost was \$5,000), and the painting, Return of Persephone, c. 1906, donated by Jacksonville arts patron David Gonzales.

While Florida continues phase one of reopening, museums can now hold 50% capacity, and in a small town like St. Augustine, the Lightner Museum has found refreshing ideas to give guests a reason to revisit.

“St. Augustine is such a small community that people forget that we have this place,” deGregory said. “I only live a couple miles away from here. This is right here, where we live.”



Photo by Daniela Toporek

**The Dick Whittington clock isn’t new to the museum, but was relocated to the front lobby while its mechanical parts are repaired and restored.**

## OBITUARIES

### Madelyn Hoatson Crowe

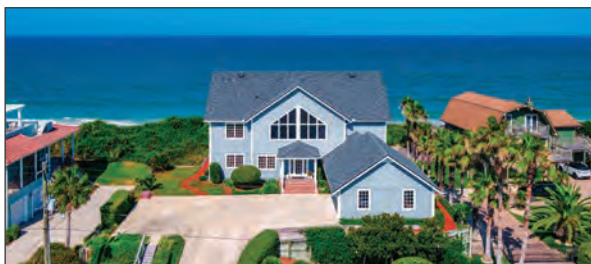
Madelyn Hoatson Crowe, 74, passed away on May 10, 2020. After a long battle with rheumatoid arthritis and related health conditions, she died in her sleep at home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Madé, as she was known to her friends, was born in Hinsdale, Illinois, in 1945.

A career in nursing, and many years of volunteer and charity work reflected Madé’s love of helping others. She found peace in the mountains of Vermont and California, and the beaches of Florida. Madé loved listening to music, especially the Grateful Dead. Her culinary skill, creativity, and sharp wit impressed friends and family, who will remember her fondly.

Madé is survived by her son Ramsey William Crowe, born in 1977, his wife Megan Black Crowe, grandson Samuel Elliott Crowe, her son Elliott Robert Crowe, born in 1981, his partner Rebecca Thomas, her mother, Joan Roehler Hoatson, her sisters Katherine Hoatson Gullaksen and Cornelia Hoatson Mihelich, her ex-husband Bill Crowe, many loving nieces and nephews, and her beloved cat Taki. She was predeceased by her father James Ramsey Hoatson, Jr.

A memorial and celebration of her life will be scheduled once social distancing and pandemic safety are no longer a concern. The family asks that any memorial donations be made in her name to the Arthritis Foundation or a local food pantry.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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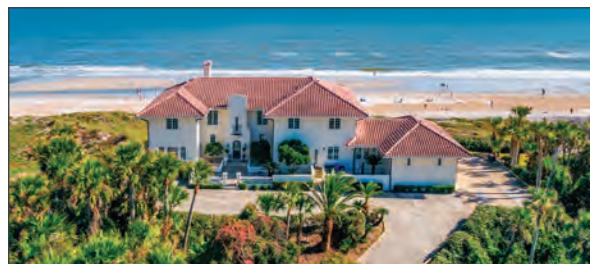
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## PV Democratic Club honors Bill Tunstall for 24 years of service

During the May 2020 meeting by Zoom, the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club honored its long-serving volunteer club treasurer of 24 years, Ponte Vedra resident Bill Tunstall with the presentation of a captain's chair in honor of Bill's service as "captain of club finances."

While retiring from the position of club treasurer, members are delighted Tunstall will remain an active member and serve as ad-hoc club historian due to his long history with the club. The presentation was made by teleconference and presented this week in person. As a U.S. Navy veteran, the "captain's chair" is of particular significance.

Ponte Vedra resident Susan Kary has



**Bill Tunstall**

been appointed the new club treasurer in addition to her duties as treasurer of the St. Johns County Democratic Executive Committee.

Tunstall is a founding member of the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club and, up to the appointment of Susan Kary, has been its only treasurer.

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club is a founding member of the Blue Wave Coalition ([www.BlueWaveCoalition.com](http://www.BlueWaveCoalition.com)), a collaborative of like-minded organizations working for progressive values in the area.

## Junior Achievement raising funds with virtual trivia night on June 9

Teams can sign up to support JA programs for local students

Junior Achievement of North Florida will be hosting a Virtual Trivia Night on June 9 to raise money to support local JA programs for students from kindergarten to 12th grade. JA of North Florida is currently signing up teams to participate in the online fundraiser which will be held from 6-7 p.m. Individuals can join a team or create their own.

"We encourage everyone to grab friends, co-workers or family members for a fun night of trivia while helping support the future of our youth," said Tiffany Mackey Guthrie, director of development for JA of North Florida. "Teams can set their own fundraising goals and work together to reach those goals. Each \$25 raised will help support one student. We hope we can raise enough to help at least

300 students learn financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship."

Teams can have up to six people and the event will be limited to 20 teams. Each team member will be given access to a fundraising site that will allow them to easily reach out to others for support to help raise money for JA of North Florida.

On Tuesday, June 9, team members will get together on the conferencing platform of their choice and check in to the live JA trivia broadcast at 5:45 p.m. Each round will have 30 questions from various categories. The team will discuss each answer and the team captain will submit the answer via Kahoot after each question.

Prizes will be given for the first, second and third place teams. There will also be a prize for the top team fundraiser and top individual fundraiser. For more information, contact Tiffany Mackey Guthrie at [tiffany@janfl.org](mailto:tiffany@janfl.org) or visit [janfl.org](http://janfl.org).

## Donation

Continued from 4

both immediate and long-term, sustainable relief in varying degrees across the U.S. This pandemic escalated what were previously already growing health

concerns, such as access to care, food insecurity and mental health.

"The Humana Foundation understands the far-reaching strain the pandemic has placed on many organizations working on the frontlines to provide healthcare, food and employment for those disproportionality affected by the COVID-19 health crisis, and our aim is to remove barriers and help them respond, recover and rebuild," said Walter D. Woods, Chief Executive Officer of The Humana Foundation. "Our intention with this commitment is to not only help provide immediate crisis relief, but also serve as a catalyst in building sustainable achievement and long-term community resilience."

The Humana Foundation's gift to The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is part of The Humana Foundation's historic April 30 announcement to commit \$50 million to coronavirus relief and recovery efforts to a select group of organizations supporting essential workers, food security, behavioral health and local communities.

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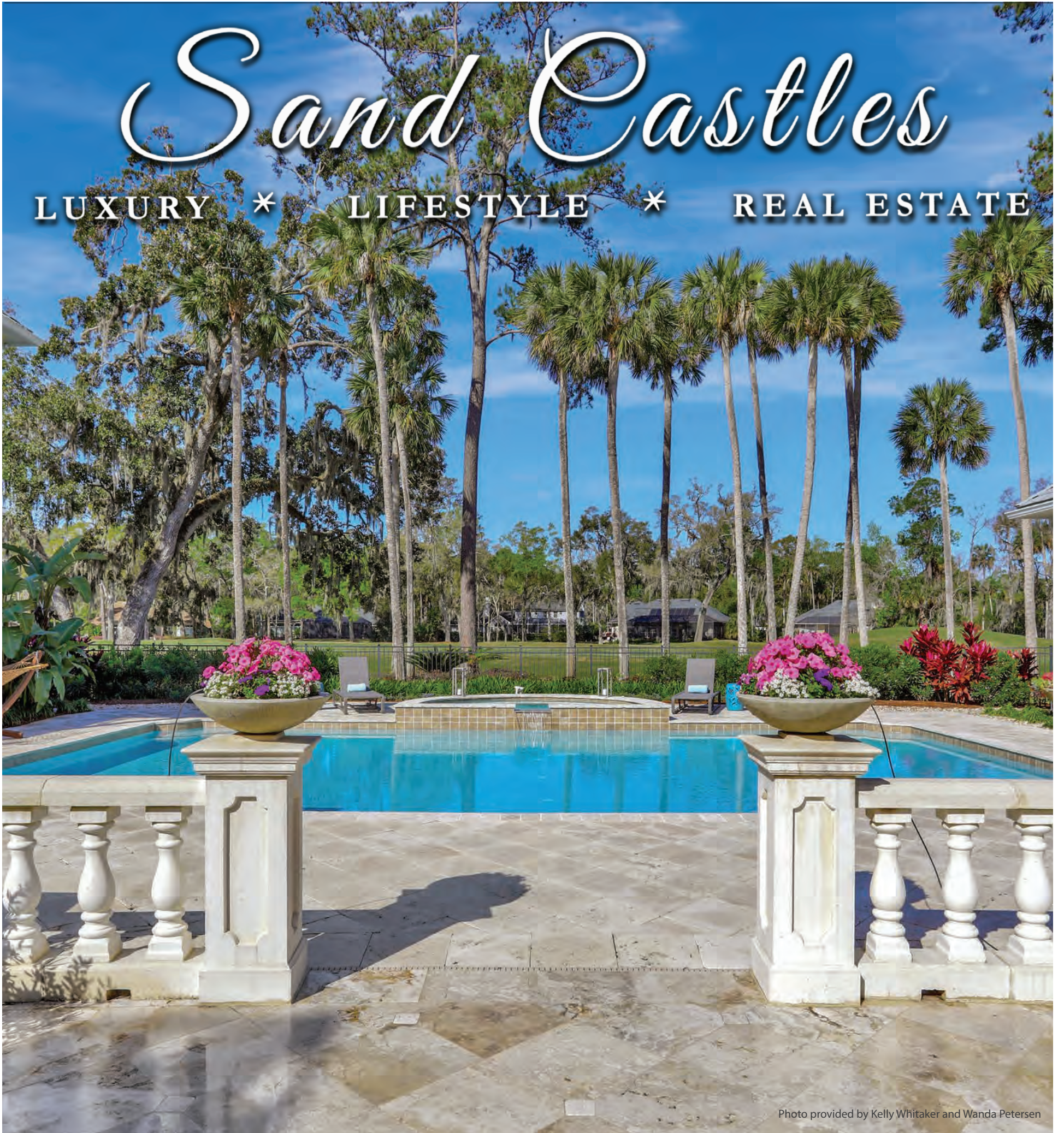


Photo provided by Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen

## 'Spring into Summer' Featuring ...

- Remodeling project is a labor of love
- Tasty recipes to spice up quarantine
- Travel feature: A stay at the TWA hotel
- Sawgrass Village shop showcases local artists

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# Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

# Welcome to the 'Spring into Summer' issue of Sand Castles



**Janet Westling**  
Contributing Editor

Our spring into summer issue is usually one of my favorite issues. After all, spring is one of our best-loved seasons especially here in North Florida.

This spring, as we emerge after 6-7 weeks of quarantine, we are grateful for our health and to be on the other side of this pandemic. Yet our hearts are filled with sadness for the many people who did not survive this horrible virus that took the lives of so many. It has truly been a moment in history where the worst of times and the best of times have converged.

We witnessed, on a daily basis, the compassion and care from our health providers, the long hours and hard work

from the essential services and their employees and our families who learned how to connect again and enjoy simple things like cooking, playing board games and each other.

So, in this special issue of Sand Castles, our focus will be on the shop owners with some wonderful stories from a new business in Sawgrass Village that opened TPC week to one of Ponte Vedra's favorite restaurants. Our Realtors, who kept listing, selling and creatively connecting with their clients, share their stories. We will hear from a 12-year-old world traveler who is itching to get back on a plane to somewhere and to food, which became our focus with "What's for

dinner and where do we do takeout?"

In closing, I am thankful for my family, my friends, my community, the wonderful place I work and the leaders, especially our president, who has been tireless in getting us through this.

And we are getting through it. We will bring back the great economy we had, before the pandemic ordered it to stay home ... with some patience, prayers, and perseverance!

My best,

**Janet Westling, Realtor,**  
**Sand Castles creator and contributing editor**  
**Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR**  
[www.janetwestling.com](http://www.janetwestling.com)

## MARKET WATCH

# Looking at an interesting 1st quarter

By Holly Hayes

Dear Ponte Vedra Beach Neighbors,  
Well, did we ever have an interesting first quarter of 2020? While we were on track for an amazing spring selling season, no one expected COVID-19 to interrupt our lives completely and change the way we work, live and play. And so it is in the real estate market, a shift and change in the way we do things has become our "new normal." Virtual showings, virtual listing appointments, homes going under contract sight unseen, all are new ways of doing business.

What has not changed is the need and desire for real estate and homes.

Let's look at the activity in the Ponte Vedra area in the first quarter of 2020!

### OCEANFRONT Ponte Vedra Beach – Single Family and Condo

Currently, there are 20 active properties ranging in price from \$664,500 to \$10,989,000. The average list price is \$4,642,620 with an average square footage of 5,853 and an average price per square foot of 746.37 and lingering on the market an average of 282 days. There are four properties currently in contingent status. There are currently two properties in pending status at \$775,000 and \$4.2 million. There were nine closed sales in the first quarter selling between \$555,000 and \$7,250,000. Just over \$13 million in volume was sold between Jan. 1 and March 31. Only one home was withdrawn in early April priced at \$4,495,000.

### OCEANFRONT South Ponte Vedra – Single Family and Condo

Currently, there are 31 active properties ranging in price from \$565,000 to \$2,600,000. The average list price is \$1,262,203 with an average square footage of 2,973 and an average price per square foot of \$440.29 and days on market average of 205. There are two homes in contingent status at \$1,098,500 and \$1,150,000. There have been six closed sales priced



Photos provided by  
[metrocreativeconnection.com](http://metrocreativeconnection.com)

between \$630,500 and \$1,395,000. Nearly \$6 million in volume sold during this time. Two properties went into withdrawn status one each in February and March.

### SAWGRASS CC

Currently, there are 14 active properties ranging in price from \$219,900 to \$1,325,000. The average list price is \$673,717 with an average square footage of 2,462 and an average price per square foot of \$292 and on the market on average 92 days. There are seven homes in contingent status. There are four homes in pending status between \$459,000 and \$1,095,000. There have been 12 closed sales in the first quarter priced between \$300,000 and \$950,000 with an average sales price of \$547,942 at 96% of list price at \$259.69 per square foot. Just under \$7 million in sold volume for the quarter. There was one listing withdrawn in March.

### OLD PONTE VEDRA – NON-OCEANFRONT

Currently, there are 20 active properties ranging in price from \$619,000 to \$5,495,000. The average list price is \$2,049,645 with an average square footage of 3,895 and an average price per square foot of \$494.33 and average of 124 days on market. There are currently four properties in contingent status. There are currently three properties in pending status ranging

in price from \$1,105,000 to \$5,750,000. There have been 15 closed sales priced between \$298,290 and \$2,150,000. This area had a sold volume of nearly \$14 million. Only one home went into withdrawn status in late March priced at \$1,999,999.

### MARSH LANDING

There are 30 active properties ranging in price from \$680,000 to \$3,840,000. The average list price is \$1,575,796 with an average square footage of 5,246 and an average list price per square foot of \$292 and with days on market of 163. There are currently nine homes in contingent status. There are currently three properties in pending status ranging in price from \$639,000 to \$1,498,000. There have been 10 closed sales sold between \$617,000 and \$1,250,000 with an average sales price of \$860,600 at 96% of list price with 3,728 square feet at \$232.62 per square foot and 74 days on market. Marsh Landing has a sold volume of \$8.6 million. Three homes were withdrawn during the first quarter.

### PLANTATION at Ponte Vedra

There are 15 active properties ranging in price from \$549,000 to \$1,690,000. The average list price is \$899,987 with an average square footage of 3,704 and an average price per square foot of \$240.88 and 205 days on market average. There are

two homes in pending status at \$1,149,000 and \$1,850,000. There are four homes in contingent status. There have been nine closed sales priced between \$465,000 and \$1,175,000. The Plantation had overall sold volume of \$8.4 million.

### PONTE VEDRA BY THE SEA

There are three active properties priced between \$692,000 and \$1,150,000. The square footage of 3,213 and price per square foot of \$285.35 and 93 days on market average. There have been 3 closed sales in the 1st quarter which sold between \$575,000 and \$909,900 at 96% of list price average at \$276.50 average per square foot and 64 days on market. Total sold volume for the quarter was \$2.3 million.

### PLAYERS CLUB at SAWGRASS Luxury \$750,000 and UP

There are seven active properties ranging in price from \$759,000 to \$2,345,000. The average list price is \$1,434,571 with an average square footage of 4,235 and an average price per square foot of \$345.62 up, over \$100 per square foot over last quarter, and an average of 154 days on market. There are two contingent properties and two in pending. There have been two closed sales in the first quarter sold at \$901,000 and \$1,080,000 at average of 95% of list price. Total sold volume was \$1,981,000.

### PLAYERS CLUB at SAWGRASS UP to \$749,999 includes Condos

There are 14 active properties ranging in price from \$315,000 to \$735,000. The average list price is \$557,846 with an average square footage of 2,556 and an average price per square foot of \$225.34 and an average of 77 days on market. There are currently two properties in contingent status and five in pending. There have been 15 closed sales in the first quarter sold between \$147,500 and \$650,000 with an average sales price of \$404,053 at 96% of list price. Total sold volume was \$6 million.

I hope you enjoy this update!

LIGHTNER  MUSEUM  
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA



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MURAL CONTEST



THE LIGHTNER MUSEUM IS HOSTING A MURAL CONTEST!  
THE WINNING MURAL WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE BACK WALL OF THE MUSIC ROOM.  
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JULY 15, 2020**

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Photos provided by Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen



# Executive home in Sawgrass Island boasts loads of features

By Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen

This beautifully appointed executive home in Sawgrass Island is situated on close to an acre lot bordering the 18th fairway of Dye's TPC Valley Course. Four bedrooms, five and a half bathrooms and a large custom office with separate entrance (which could be another bedroom, in-law suite, theater or exercise room) in the main house, and all on one floor, make this the perfect home for anyone!

Some of the special features include hardwood floors throughout the main house, loads of crown molding, plantation shutters, wood burning fireplace, custom closets, double ovens, six-burner gas cooktop, warming drawer, wine refrigerator, French doors, a large screened lanai, a full home generator, paver driveway, large three-car garage with a lift for a fourth car, just to name a few.

The separate guest house with separate living/dining room, bedroom, bath, kitchenette, laundry and balcony overlooking the golf course and pool area makes this

home very special and unique.

Both the main house and guest house open up to the magnificent outdoor living area. A large heated pool and spa (newly resurfaced) are surrounded by sauternia stone decking and seating areas, an outdoor kitchen, cabana bath and outdoor shower. This home is the perfect setting for indoor/outdoor entertaining of family and friends.

This property is represented by Remax, listed by Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Peterson and offered for \$1,950,000.

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*Preferred membership initiation fee pricing for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, the Lodge & Club, Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club and The River Club is available to the purchaser of this listing.*



For more information, please contact:

**Natalie Bryant**

Cell: (904) 233-5532  
nbryant@pvclubrealty.com



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Photos provided by Kim Martin-Fisher

## Southern comfort meets sophistication in this oceanfront home

By **Kim Martin-Fisher**

Ponte Vedra Beach boasts a number of fabulous oceanfront estates, but if you ever have the opportunity to see 1063 Ponte Vedra Blvd., you will be forever mesmerized. This is truly a mansion by the sea. The antebellum architectural style of the home is, at once, reminiscent of the deep South and the musings of a Hollywood producer. The home is located

on a 150-foot lot with gated access.

The sweeping entrance opens to a magnificent drawing room or reception hall with polished hardwood floors soaring columns, a huge fireplace and floor-to-ceiling doors opening to a sweeping oceanfront balcony.

The home has palatial living space with five bedrooms and five baths in addition to two half baths and several large flex rooms.

The formal dining room is unique among all others. The vaulted, blue ceiling contrasts with the dark brown walls that are covered with heavy Nepalese handmade paper.

The kitchen has stunning backlit onyx countertops, a large center island that looks over the spacious oceanfront family room.

The owner's suite is opulent with a huge custom closet. The bath has an oceanfront

soaking tub and glass enclosed shower his-and-her vanities and a fireplace.

The oceanfront infinity-edged pool, constructed in 2018, is an extension of the quality of this spectacular home.

Live the beach lifestyle in sophisticated comfort.

The property is offered for \$7,795,000 and listed by Kim Martin-Fisher and Jennifer Martin Faulkner of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty.

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# Spinnaker's Reach home remodel was labor of love

By Jim Leland

Adobe Interiors

I have always said “The road to a beautiful home is not always a straight path,” and the remodel at 740 Spinnaker's Reach was one of those winding roads.

As mentioned in the January issue of Sand Castles, Abode Interiors & JEP Construction were hired to assist with a complete remodel to include adding a third level to this existing two-story beachside condo, originally built in the 1980s in Sawgrass Beach Club. This would allow for an additional office space, a small guest room and a fourth bathroom. After reviewing a ballooning budget, we decided to create a large third-level storage space in lieu of building out the rooms. It was however designed to allow for the potential build out at a later time.

In the beginning of any project, my process starts with a vision of how the space will ultimately look when complete, to include furniture and the overall style. That may come from an image seen in a magazine or on Houzz, or even a trip to another country. Sometimes it is just a piece of art or vintage rug that may be the inspiration. These inspirations assist in every small decision along the way, which creates the overall finished space. Every detail is important!

Serendipitously, my client's and I shared the same vision! We would transform the outdated cramped spaces, open it to the beautiful ocean view and fill it with natural elements. We would create a unique space, different from other condos in the area. The initial step was to create an open living plan that would include removing a wall that blocked the ocean view. That entailed moving the electric panel and several plumbing lines in the wall ... not an easy task but we did it! This required designing a decorative application to the two chutes on either side of island that concealed the utility lines. Hundreds of detailed mitered cuts were needed to create this showpiece. It turned out better than even envisioned.

I selected a beautiful DuChateau wood flooring in an 8-inch wire brushed finish from Prosource in Jacksonville, as well as a classic honed marble for the master bathroom. One of my favorite tiles used was a handmade encaustic cement tile (used extensively in Spain) from Cletile.com installed on the guest bath floor. The Arc in Federal Blue and White is an organic pattern that could be laid in numerous ways to create different patterns. Although they have machine-made lookalike tiles in ceramic, these are each handmade with natural pigments creating a beautiful sheen that sets them above the rest! So much so, I used their Cement Radar Wool Hex on the kitchen backsplash also. The remaining tile was selected from the Tile Market of San Marco — a wonderful showroom filled with beautiful tiles and inspiration ... sometimes it is just hard to



Family room



Guest bathroom



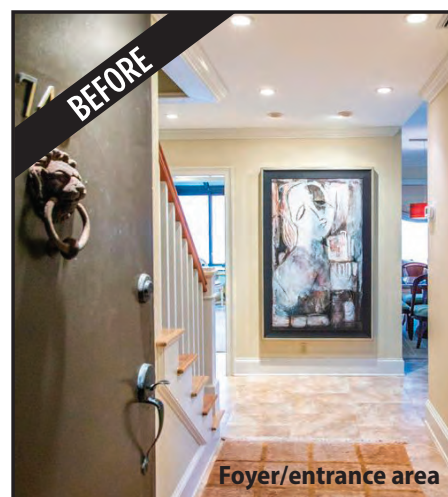
Eat-in kitchen



Foyer/entrance area



Eat-in kitchen



Foyer/entrance area

choose there are so many options!

Crystal cabinetry was custom designed and installed by Dura throughout in ash greys, whites and limed wood with inset doors, and matte black hardware gave the finishing touches. We replaced all the interior door and trim with a classic shaker two-panel doors and 1-by-8-inch baseboards — clean and simple lines, perfect for the relaxed style we were looking to achieve.

A new modern staircase was created with matte black iron work from Edward's Ornamental and finished with a staircase runner in a textured wool runner.

We also installed a custom barn door for the powder bath, completed perfectly with a full-length antique mirror installed by Chao Framing. This visually expands

the foyer and reflects light in an artful way.

The accent lighting was selected from arteriorshome.com, one of my favorite lighting companies, supplying innovative lighting made with organic natural materials. Lighting is such an important aspect in a space. It is not just for task and general lighting, but it's also the element that solidifies the style in the room. It incorporates the finishing details that a room needs to feel complete.

In creating a neutral space, we would bring in wall texture to add interest and act as a backdrop to the furnishings. We

applied Stikwood's White Weathered Wood paneling in a herringbone pattern on the main wall in family room and created a geometric pattern in the charcoal color on the backwall of the master bedroom. This makes for a striking backdrop to the white-wash Noir Furniture in the master bedroom. It's all in the details!

A large casual sectional and chairs were covered in a beautiful thick linen in the family room and local artist Greg Morgan made an amazing custom coffee table out of a slab of red oak and white concrete. It's a room that says, “relax and enjoy.”

Four Hands' Conner table was the perfect addition to the dining space. Simple, yet sophisticated, a bluestone top with black washed oak and splayed parsons style leg, leaving ample room for diners and a bit of drama. Simple white linen chairs complete the look.

This condo remodel was a labor of love, a common theme in every project I undertake. I am thankful for the opportunity to have collaborated with my client to create a home they will enjoy for years to come, “Their Happy Place!” My love of design, the awe of amazing materials available and the dedication of all my general contractors, subcontractors and artisans make for a rewarding career.





Photos provided by Clare Berry

# Harbour Island estate exudes style, warmth

By Clare Berry

One of Harbour Island's finest custom homes, 24632 Harbour View Drive, presents to passersby as belonging on its oak-draped site, balanced and simply elegant. Once inside, its welcoming open two-story interior is naturally light and bright. Many rear East-facing windows are floor-to-ceiling, designed to take full advantage of the interior/exterior connectivity and beauty of this location along Cabbage Creek.

There are many features that make this five-bedroom home exceptional, but perhaps the most unique is the well-appointed, private office with walls of built-ins and a stunning island wood desk. There are many fine architectural details through the house, such as the use of iron in railings and lighting, natural stone flooring, and two sets of pocketing sliding doors which open the kitchen/family room to the lanai's outdoor dining and playing areas. East exposure means you catch the prevailing breezes off the ocean.

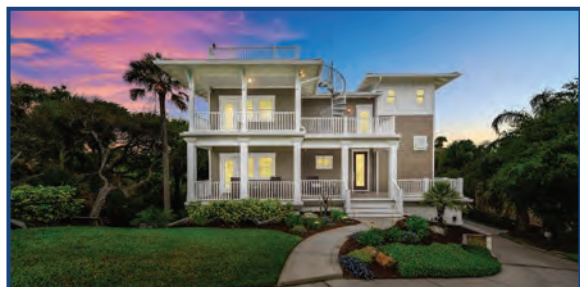
The interior scheme is a neutral palette, so your art and furnishings will pop. Having one flooring through the public areas is so visually pleasing.

The architect made sure view lines from room to room provide privacy, yet the plan also has openness. Each of the five bedrooms has en suite bathrooms; the owner's suite and one guest suite are downstairs. There's a second family room upstairs which opens to a huge balcony providing views of the creek. It also opens to a totally private media room which

comes equipped with audio-video and comfortable chairs!

Designed with dual garages, there is parking for four cars plus walls of storage for sports equipment, creating a clean look. There are three powder rooms (one outside at the pool). Look no further for a well-designed and well-crafted, move-in-ready home providing dramatic views and interiors that exude style and warmth.

This property is offered for \$2,250,000 by Listing Broker Clare Berry of Berry & Co. Real Estate.



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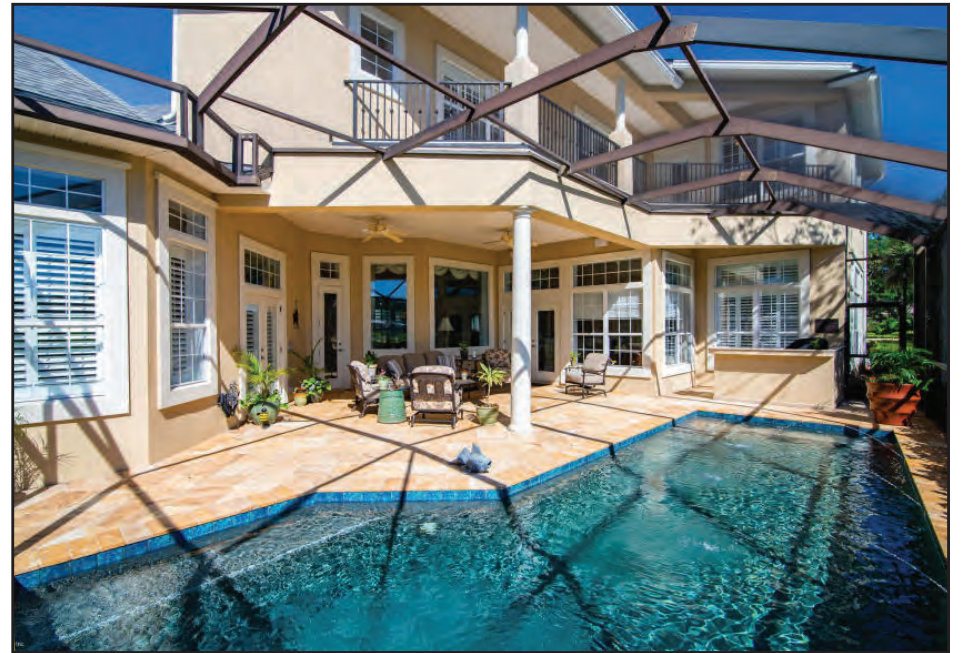
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Photos provided by Debi Kopp and Keely Kopp

# Clearlake pool home offers outdoor oasis, plenty of space

**By Debi Kopp and Keely Kopp**

You will fall in love with this beautifully landscaped pool home second you pull into the Tremron paver driveway leading to the three-car garage. Impeccably maintained, this spacious five-bedroom, six-bathroom home located a 177 Clearlake Drive consists of 5,232 square feet and features a new roof installed in December 2018, repainted in February 2018, and brand-new water heaters.

Soaring ceilings and the sight of a beautiful outdoor oasis invite you in as soon as you enter the front doors. Entertain family and friends year-round on your back patio with summer kitchen and heated pool, with a new pool pump installed March of 2020. Enjoy family meals in the beautiful eat-in kitchen featuring granite counters and stainless steel appliances.

When you're looking for relaxation, you can retreat to your private, first-floor

master suite with dual walk-in closets overlooking the sparkling pool and lake. The exclusive master wing includes an office or library, pool bath, and en suite with his and her vanities, large shower, and a garden tub. The upstairs includes two bedrooms with en-suite baths, an oversized bonus room, which is perfect for working out, watching a movie, a multi-purpose room or can easily be converted into a fifth bedroom with a full bathroom. The upstairs loft, with its own

wet bar, makes it the perfect space for a media room, billiards or more. When you want to enjoy the serene nature Marsh Landing has to offer, take a step outside onto a large balcony overlooking the lake and sit back and unwind with a favorite beverage.

Nestled in the Clearlake neighborhood of Marsh Landing Country Club, with easy access to JTB and AIA, makes

**CLEARLAKE** continues on **Page 22**

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Photos provided by Elizabeth Hudgins

# Beautifully designed home is oceanfront masterpiece

**By Elizabeth Hudgins**

Like all masterpieces, 1193 Ponte Vedra Blvd. is the result of over six years of careful curation and construction. Nestled amidst lush landscaping and situated on 1.78 acres, this gated property offers homeowners a comforting level of security and privacy, yet its convenient location allows for easy access to the local community and attractions. Built

like a fortress by Elwood Collier, and positioned on a high dune, with 28 feet of elevation, this home was made for sustainability and permanence.

Upon entering this 11,000-square-foot property, affectionately known as Turtle Hall, your attention is immediately drawn to the home's expansive oceanfront views. But not to be missed is the foyer's stunning domed ceiling with hand-painted Faberge egg design bordered by

antique decorative wood and up lighting. This pristine attention to detail is carried throughout this five-bedroom, eight-bathroom home.

Designed to display a world-class art collection, the European inspired décor showcases museum-quality features and craftsmanship throughout, yet the home remains warm and inviting ideal for large scale entertaining or intimate gatherings. The gourmet chef's kitchen is designed

to accommodate the chef of any skill level. This area is perfect for bringing the family together with an eat-in dining area and attached family room. The owner's suite offers an exquisite private retreat with elevator access, private gym area, and his and her bathrooms with onyx and marble floors. With access to a spacious balcony, this enticing space offers you

MASTERPIECE continues on Page 22

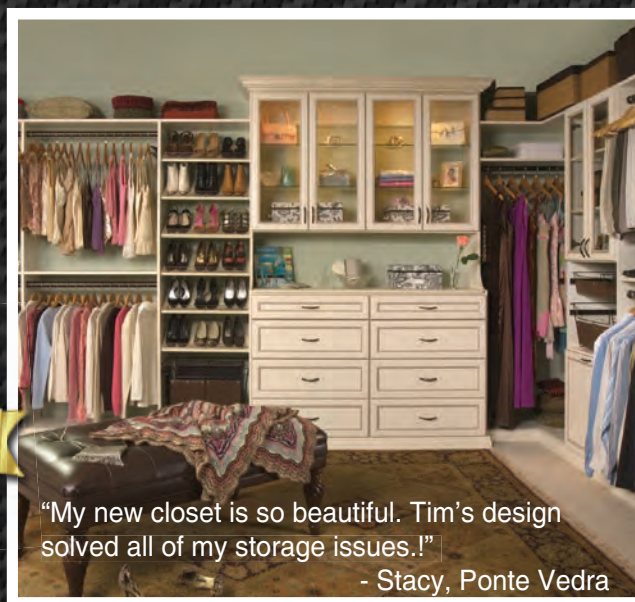


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Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

# The happiest place in North Florida is on Beach Avenue

By Jennifer Sexton

Everyone knows the ‘Happiest Place on Earth’ is in Florida, but few are aware that Beach Avenue in the 32233-zip code is actually where it’s located. Something about the cool morning breezes which drift in off the Atlantic or the brilliant sunrises make every single day special.

Beach “Av,” as it’s affectionately known to locals, has a constant stream of colorful beach cruisers weaving their way

amid joggers, strollers, and those long skateboards that look so much fun to ride.

A home along Beach Avenue offers the chance to lean over a wide balcony on one of two wraparound porches on the second floor and see friends coming your way or catch the first rays of the morning sun from the third floor.

The majestic five bedroom, five bathroom, 4,348 square foot pool home at 1238 Beach Ave. might be the “Happiest Place on Beach Avenue” for all of its

aesthetic charms inside and out.

The beautifully designed Mediterranean-style home sits nearly in the middle of our paradise where 12th Street intersects Beach Avenue. The 12th Street beach access beckons, as you look towards elegant black iron gates leading you onto the corner lot and towards a majestic entryway.

You won’t be able to look past the turquoise waters of the hot tub and spectacular heated pool which wraps

around the northeast side of the home.

The first floor boasts a bedroom, full bath, one of two living rooms, a dining area, a wet bar and one of two laundry rooms. A gourmet kitchen reaches across most of the second floor and overlooks the living and dining areas. Crisp white marble countertops and custom white cabinets make the kitchen a contemporary masterpiece and a wall lined with

**HAPPIEST** continues on **Page 22**

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Florida Network Realty**



**ATLANTIC BEACH LIFE AWAITS!**

This 4BR/2BA 1625sf home has been loved and carefully maintained by one family only. The lot is large enough for a pool and still keep the natural Florida landscape that makes your own personal oasis. Plus with a gate in the back you can sneak out to the beach as soon as the mood strikes. Through the front door you will be greeted by a large living room with plenty of room for entertaining.

A separate dining room with sliding glass door out to the tropical backyard. Offered for \$685,000



**Call Myrna Brannon  
904-608-6685**



**THE ALLURE OF BEACH AVENUE IN ATLANTIC BEACH**

Live in the center of this vibrant community at 1238 Beach Avenue. Across from the beach access and offering ocean views, this luxury pool home is on a corner lot and has 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and 4,348 sqft of modern living. Completely renovated, 2 living rooms, 2 laundry rooms, 2 car garage, a heated pool and hot tub plus 4 east facing balconies to choose from. Offered at \$2,500,000



**Call Jennifer Sexton  
904-463-3326**



**EAST OF SEMINOLE ROAD IN ATLANTIC BEACH**

Three blocks to the beach, 1 block to Bull Memorial Park, and 7 blocks to the fun of The Beaches Town Center, 315 Plaza offers 3 bedrooms, an office, 3 bathrooms and a 2 car garage. The master retreat spans the entire 2nd floor for ultimate privacy and relaxation. Tastefully remodeled with a crisp white kitchen and perfectly priced. Offered at \$760,000



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**MAINTENANCE-FREE CONDO LIFE IN ATLANTIC BEACH**

Little to no maintenance in this gorgeous condo in 55+ gated community of Sevilla, adjacent to Atlantic Beach Country Club. Finding quality real estate in this area for under \$500,000 is nearly impossible but look no further. With 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and 1,560 sqft, 1820 Sevilla Blvd, Unit # 311 has been completely remodeled with walls being removed to open up for easy living. Additional features include wood flooring, all white kitchen with a center island, a balcony overlooking the treetops, and many amenities to enjoy! Offered at \$460,000



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This home with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths is IMPECCABLE! CDD DEBT PAID OFF! Gourmet kitchen, with butlers pantry, a large 22'x28' outdoor screened in lanai, open floor plan. This home is an entertainer's dream! Offered at \$449,900



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**SPECTACULAR WATER VIEWS**  
Step inside 5577 Heckscher drive & experience an amazing waterfront cottage on 3.6 acres on Little Andrews Island just minutes from downtown Jacksonville. This perfect waterfront getaway has been recently renovated. Fall in love with Florida rain showers under the new metal roof & take in the spectacular water views on the large wooden deck, bulkhead & dock. Offered for \$699,000.



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**ATLANTIC BEACH PARADISE**  
Enjoy this immaculate, 1485sf affordable paradise on a large lot just 12 blocks to the beach. Updated and well maintained brick & block ranch style 3BR/2BA with a bonus/office/den. Extra large driveway leads to privacy fenced rear yard with patio. Tile throughout living areas, laminate wood flooring in BRs. Galley style kitchen with SS appliances & open to living rm. Offered for \$384,900.



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Newly updated 3BR/2BA home on a HUGE lot in WGVI Heritage Landing! Beautiful & well kept, this home is very welcoming. With Updated Kitchen & baths including newer appliances and fixtures. Brand new Luxury Vinyl flooring though out the kitchen & family room, The dining room & front family room (could be a 4th bedroom) have beautiful grey wood look tile. The master bath is a "must see"! Designer touches throughout!! The screened in porch leads out to a huge and well-manicured back yard! Offered for \$279,900



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**ATLANTIC SHORES - JACKSONVILLE BEACH**  
Enjoy the sound of the waves on your large outdoor patio, perfect for dining alfresco with your family or friends! This beautiful 3-story home includes a HUGE Master Suite on the top floor, a bonus room off the Master with a view of the Ocean. The main living space & the large well equipped kitchen are on the 2nd floor, great for entertaining. The ground floor includes two extra bedrooms a large bathroom & laundry room. You don't want to miss seeing the "man cave" garage! Offered for \$899,999



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**RIVERFRONT EQUESTRIAN ESTATE**  
7-Acre Riverfront equestrian estate located on the St. Johns River and in the heart of historic Mandarin. With 179 ft of river frontage along with a guest home and a 3-Stall Barn, this one of a kind estate offers endless possibilities for the next owners. 6 bedrooms, 6F/3H baths. Offered for \$2,399,000



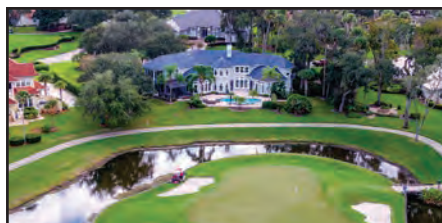
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**SPECTACULAR VIEWS IN SAWGRASS ISLAND**  
Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views. With high ceilings, generous windows and custom details throughout this home was built to accommodate all your needs. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms. Offered for \$1,450,000



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**INTRACOASTAL WATERFRONT CONDO**  
Marina San Pablo 2nd story condo featuring open floor plan, luxury amenities, and private balcony with water views. Conveniently located near shops and restaurants, this effortlessly maintained condo is the ideal retreat from the modern world. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Offered for \$469,500



**Call Sarah Alexander**  
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# Clearlake

Continued from 18

getting around town to Jacksonville and St. Augustine a breeze! The outdoor lifestyle is easy being only minutes away from beautiful beaches, the Intracoastal Waterway, world-class golf and some of the best shopping and dining the area has to offer. If you love boating or sailing, dock your vessel in the beautiful Marsh Landing

neighborhood of Harbour Island with direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway which is navigable to the Atlantic Ocean.

Make the Florida beach lifestyle your own and schedule a private showing.

Contact Debi Kopp and Keely Kopp by email at [TheKoppGroup@Gmail.com](mailto:TheKoppGroup@Gmail.com) or call (904) 705-5990 to schedule a tour. You won't want to miss out on this delightful home situated on an oversized lot in one of the most beautiful communities in Ponte Vedra Beach.

## SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT



Step inside 5577 Heckscher drive and experience an amazing waterfront cottage on 3.6 acres on Little Andrews Island just minutes from downtown Jacksonville. This perfect waterfront getaway has been recently renovated. Fall in love with the spectacular water views on the large wooden deck and your choice of deep water or tidal fishing on one of the two private docks with a boat slip. Offered for **\$699,000**.

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# Masterpiece

Continued from 19

a peaceful respite from the world. And be sure to appreciate the temperature-controlled wine cellar which features reclaimed bricks from a schoolhouse built by Leopold the Third and can accommodate 4500-plus bottles. The home also showcases a two-bedroom and two-bath guest suite with a private living room and kitchenette, two separate offices, and two flex spaces. This home is equipped to meet all the owner's wants and needs.

As impeccable and luxurious as the accommodations are inside the home, the exquisite backyard, which features

165 feet of ocean frontage, is just as impressive. The infinity pool and whimsical pool deck maze will compete for your attention away from the ocean. The expansive outdoor living space features a covered patio and gazebo with a second story observatory.

Don't forget to walk through the home's secret garden or cross the private walkway, which leads directly to Ponte Vedra Beach's pristine beaches. There is so much to say about this extraordinary property that only a personal impression conveys the true magnitude of its beauty.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway Florida Network Realty, listed by Elizabeth Hudgins and offered at \$8,200,000.

# Happiest

Continued from 20

windows and doors allows the light to brighten the space. A second guest room and full bath are also on this level.

If the views from the second floor overwhelm your senses, wait until you feel the vibe as you enter the master retreat on the third floor. The large master bedroom has fantastic ocean views and a private wraparound balcony. The master bathroom and closet feature every amenity you could ever hope for from

a huge glass walk in shower for two to an enormous soaking tub to custom cabinetry throughout. The two additional en suite guest rooms on this level share a balcony and enjoy soothing ocean views. To top it off, there's a second laundry room on this third floor.

1238 Beach Avenue shows you every angle of life in the 32233 zip code and immerses you in the sights and sounds of the best place to live in North Florida. This home is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Jennifer Sexton, offered for \$2,500,000.

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# Quarantine tips for making the most of pantry staples, seasonal veggies



**Alice Hickox**  
Lettuce Do Dinner

Welcome to the quarantine food challenge!

Thankfully, I love to cook, but I have thought about so many of you out there who may be finding this season a bit challenging if cooking is not your thing. I want

to share two easy recipes that are not only delicious but are a great way to use some pantry staples as well as a way to make your vegetables last longer and taste absolutely delicious!

Most of us have cans of beans, soups and vegetables in our pantries, and hopefully you have one of the most common ingredients; tomato sauce or crushed tomatoes. Since most of us are having to cook more from home and getting our cooking creations fired up, this canned powerhouse could become your best food friend.

From making homemade spaghetti sauces to vegetable soups, this versatile can of tomato sauce packs a lot of punch. Below you will find an easy, delicious, homemade Rotisserie chicken enchilada recipe that will use that can of tomato sauce, as well as some common spices most of us have in our cabinet.

The other recipe I want to share is an easy way to preserve fresh bell peppers of any color or type to be used in a variety of ways later. They can be used as a side dish with any meal, on cheese and crackers, salads, top a pizza, create a pasta dish or in a sandwich; or puree in a blender to make a sauce or vinaigrette. The possibilities are not only delicious, but endless!

The Recipe below is for grilled bell peppers that are tossed in a delicious vinaigrette that can be stored in the fridge for up to two months or frozen for many months.

- 10 fresh basil leaves, other variety of fresh herbs or 1 teaspoon dried herbs,

In a bowl whisk together Dijon and vinegar until emulsified. Combine oils and add to the vinegar mixture in a steady stream while whisking to emulsify. Season with salt and pepper, then thinly slice the basil and stir into the vinaigrette.

Once the peppers have cooled, remove the stem, skin, and seeds; discard. Toss the peppers in the vinaigrette then transfer to jars, or a lidded container and ensure that the peppers are completely submerged in the vinaigrette. If the peppers are not submerged, add additional oil to completely cover the peppers and store in the fridge for later use.

You now have roasted peppers in the refrigerator to use on a whim. Serve as a side dish with any meal, cheese and crackers, salads, top a pizza, create a pasta dish or in a sandwich; or puree in a blender to make a sauce or vinaigrette. The possibilities are delicious and endless!

These chicken enchiladas are one of my client favorites as well as a huge crowd pleaser, economical and freezer friendly.

## ROTISSERIE CHICKEN ENCHILADAS (Serves 4-6)

*\*Note: This recipe can be completely gluten free with this homemade sauce and using corn tortillas.*

- 1 Rotisserie chicken, deboned and shredded
- 1 4-oz package cream cheese, softened
- 1 4-oz can diced green chilis
- 8 large flour tortillas or 16 small corn tortillas
- 3 cups Mexican-blend shredded cheese
- 1 batch homemade red enchilada sauce or store bought enchilada sauce of choice (Optional: ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro and black olive slices for garnish)

### Homemade Enchilada Sauce

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 2 Tbsp Chili powder



- 2 tsp Cumin
- 1 tsp Oregano
- 1 tsp Onion powder
- 2 tsp hot sauce (optional)
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 can (15 oz) tomato sauce
- ¼ cup water

RECIPES continues on Page 29

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### CHARRED BELL PEPPERS IN HERB VINAIGRETTE

*(Note: this recipe can be halved, doubled, tripled, etc.)*

#### 13 bell peppers (any color)

Using the grill, broiler, or gas heat, cook the peppers until soft and their skin is charred. Transfer to a bowl large enough to hold the cooked peppers and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Allow the peppers to cool in the covered container, and prepare the vinaigrette.

- 2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and pepper



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Photos provided by Heather Senterfitt

# Renovated Cypress Creek home is architectural marvel

By Lisa Barton

There is a hidden architectural gem in Cypress Creek, a subdivision within Sawgrass Players Club. This home, located at 5113 Otter Creek Drive, has been meticulously renovated with a level of care and attention to detail that is hard to match.

From the gorgeous porcelain hardwood board floors, to the beautiful quartz countertops with waterfall finish, to the ceramic herringbone backsplash and the quartz and marble stacked stone on the fireplace with a floating wood mantle, every aspect contributes to this home's modern feel. The high, stepped ceiling in the family room is mir-

rored in both the living and dining rooms and helps fill the home with natural light. This bright and airy feel is carried throughout the home, especially within the spacious master suite and beautiful Florida room.

The master suite has three fabulous closets and room for a nice sitting area. French doors open onto a beautiful patio area overlooking the serene backyard. The spacious Florida room also takes advantage of the space, lighting, and patio access.

The staircase in this home is open with clear panels, enhancing the natural light for an inviting walk into the flex space upstairs. This room also captures the sun, with three beautiful skylights. The perfect

space to be used as the intended fourth bedroom, a great media room, yoga studio, or children's retreat.

The open floorplan makes this an easy home for entertaining guests. The bright and open kitchen is spacious with plenty of prep space. Plus, those in the kitchen can easily stay connected to the rest of the party, with a pass through to the family room, bar seating and an attached breakfast nook area.

This home is nestled on a very private lot, with all the sounds of nature, while being within minutes of the convenience of Ponte Vedra Beach shopping, restaurants, beach access and public schools. Cypress Creek

is one of 16 smaller communities within Sawgrass Players Club. TPC offers several parks, a large playground, numerous ponds for fishing and access to a community pool.

The TPC Sawgrass is often rated as one of the top golfing destinations in Florida. The Ponte Vedra Golf & Country Club, formerly known as the Oakbridge Country Club, is also located in this gated community and offers tennis, a large swimming pool, dining and golf. Membership is required for some amenities.

This property is represented by KW Atlantic Partners/International Luxury Specialist, listed by The Lisa Barton Team and offered at \$735,000.



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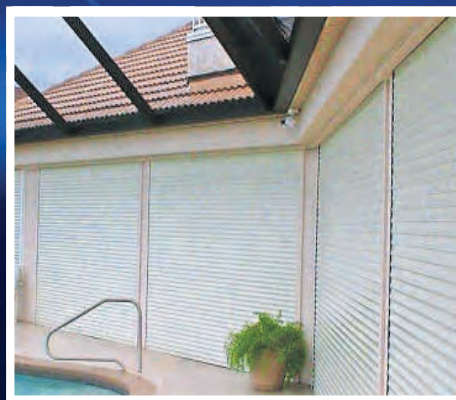
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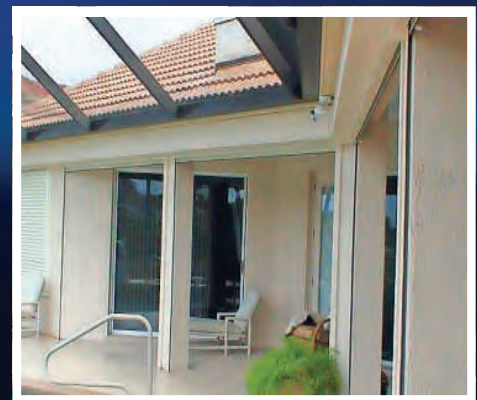
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## TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT

## The TWA Hotel: A transformation back to the 60s

Xander Lisowski

TheLoungeLad.com

A new hotel has opened just outside of JetBlue's Terminal at JFK Airport in New York City. I got the experience to stay there for a night on my way to JetBlue's inaugural flight, and it was amazing.

Once you leave the departure area at JFK terminal 5, there are signs that guide you to the TWA hotel. That already gets my excitement going. Then I was greeted by the bright red TWA elevator.

In the area just before the skywalk to the lobby, there was an exact replica of the former CEO of TWA Jack Frye's office with a brief history of the airline. I then took a slow stroll through the lobby as it was straight out of the 1960s.

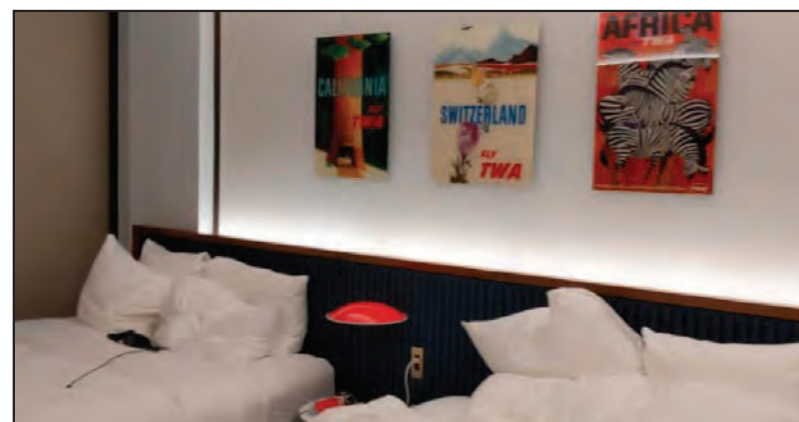
After the very futuristic automated check-in, I headed to my room. The room was modern with a well-stocked minibar that, for some reason, had an Etch-A-Sketch. The minibar was a bit expensive but there was also a true bar to prepare drinks on. All of the rooms had an old copy of LIFE magazine from the 60s, which I think is a great touch. The bed was firm, but also soft, and I got a great night's sleep on it. Other than that, it was a normal room.

In the lobby, there are two old-fashioned departure boards — one displaying random departures from New York and the other making little mosaics. The lobby is the exact same as the original terminal minus all of the asbestos. The other side of the check-in desks were made into a small food court/cafe. There is also a gift shop with TWA-branded merchandise for sale.

In front of the terminal is one of the TWA hotel's defining features, the Lockheed L-1049 nicknamed "The Connie." The Connie was transformed into a bar



Photos provided by Xander Lisowski



with an open cockpit at the front. During the winter seasons, there is an ice skating rink right next to Connie with reasonable pricing.

Elsewhere in the lobby, there is a full-service restaurant that I unfortunately never got to try out. The main attraction, however, is the rooftop pool and bar. Despite it being about 20 degrees outside, the pool was still warm and I did go swimming. The views from the pool are absolutely jaw-dropping. The pool is directly facing the back end of the JetBlue terminal with the international terminal in the background. Throughout most of the day, you can see various Emirates A380s.

Towels are provided for free.

The staff were all awesome and knew lots about the history of the building and of TWA. There also is a small display of all past TWA uniforms. Tucked away in a little nook there are some phone booths that play a recording of an old TWA advertisement.

Overall this is an awesome hotel that I think all Aviation enthusiasts should stay at for at least one night. One thing I will mention are the prices. I can understand part of the prices because I experienced the hotel as it was about half full. Even with a promotional discount, it was still more than \$100 a night for a room with



no good view. The prices for regular room range from \$160 a night for my room up to \$380 for a room with a runway view. There is also the Howard Hughes Presidential suite for \$660 a night.

In conclusion, the TWA Hotel is a wonderful experience. It is almost like staying in a museum dedicated to aviation. The staff is like tour guides who are very knowledgeable and engaging. It is also in an extremely convenient location in relation to JFK airport as it is onsite.

One of my best tricks for any layover at JFK is to go to the TWA Hotel lobby and relax there. I would definitely stay here again — 10/10!



Photo provided by Kathy Brendel

## Coastal Elements delivers unique shopping experience to Sawgrass Village

By Kathy Brendel

Coastal Elements is nestled inside the beautiful Sawgrass Village Shopping Center in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

It is owned and operated by partners, Maria Litwack and Kathy Brendel. Maria has a background as a luxury resort retail buyer while her partner Kathy Brendel has a strong background in interior and visual design.

Over the course of her extensive buying career, Maria discovered an incredible collection of talented, local artists. She has always dreamed of opening a store that showcases the talent in the Ponte Vedra Beach area.

Together, Maria and Kathy make the perfect team. They have created an eclectic and unique shopping experience that features the best of the local art scene and complements the coastal lifestyle. Coastal Elements offers an array of original work by award-winning artists, coastal-

inspired jewelry, creative-beach gifts, resort apparel and inspirational books.

Upon entering Coastal Elements, a customer is welcomed by one of many captivating sculptures from Ocean Sole Africa, a company that specializes in creating colorful and whimsical art out of recycled flip flops. Last year, Ocean Sole Africa transformed 750,000 flip flops into 65,000 sculptures. Coastal Elements is proud to bring these beautiful works to the Ponte Vedra Community and assist in their green business practices.

Pineapple Creative Boutique provides a wide selection of customizable coastal-themed gifts, including personalized wood porch signs, trays, centerpiece boxes and door mats. Customers can engrave all products with custom text and designs with a very quick turnaround. These customized pieces make wonderful Housewarming, Hostess and Closing

# Coastal

Continued from 16

Gifts. A wide selection of beach towels, totes and insulated cups are also available for personalization.

Coastal Elements offers an assortment of luxury soy candles from AÖ. Fragrances. AÖ Fragrances, a local company, crafts their candles with complex fragrances derived from essential oils and all-natural soy wax. We are delighted to offer a large assortment of AÖ's specialized fragrances including Grapefruit Mint, Blood Orange, Caribbean Teakwood, Lavender Cedar and Mint Mojito.

Customers will continue to discover a variety of unique coastal gifts such as hand-crafted charcuterie boards, 32082 zip code roadie cups, Ponte Vedra Beach cocktail napkins and an assortment of whimsical plaques perfect for any occasion. Our exquisite Tabletop Collection from AE Ceramics includes dinnerware and tabletop accessories that are reminiscent of the natural shapes of coastal life. Each piece is handcrafted and one-of-a-kind.

As you continue strolling through our collection, you will encounter the favorite go-to-the-beach bag, The Bogg Bag, in a variety of colors. Likewise, you will find a popular collection of vintage and contemporary resort apparel and hand-crafted jewelry by Oliphant Design.

Coastal Elements acts as a venue for local fine artists to display and sell their work. Lindsey Wood, a local Ponte Vedra painter, captivates your attention with her body of work. Her signature acrylic seascapes incorporate natural materials like sand, sea fans, sand dollars, and shells. Lindsey also creates beautiful hand-painted glass seascape ornaments and 3" mini canvases.

The H Whitaker Gallery has partnered with us on a beautiful collection of local art on display throughout the space.

Local photographer, Eloy Castroverde, will capture your attention with his vast collection of wildlife and coastal landscape work on HD metal. He also has a wide selection of custom-size prints for purchase.

Meanwhile, veteran photographer, Alex Quyano, has his portraiture and event work on display, featuring photographs of some of the world's top golfers.

Sandy By the Sea Designs offers a wide selection of coastal inspired home décor and gifts, including custom canvas sea pillows with fringe detail, coastal bedding, beach bags, coastal wine bags, wreaths and assorted dining accessories.

The shop also showcases hand-crafted wood carvings by local artisan, Scottie Cousins. Whether a customer chooses his playful sea birds or a swimming school of fish, Cousins' work will make a perfect addition to any coastal themed space.

SisterKnots, owned by local jewelry artist, Georgia DiRossi, offers an elegant collection of bracelets crafted from fine-quality gemstones from around the world.

We are proud to showcase local award-winning Author and Illustrator Rhonda

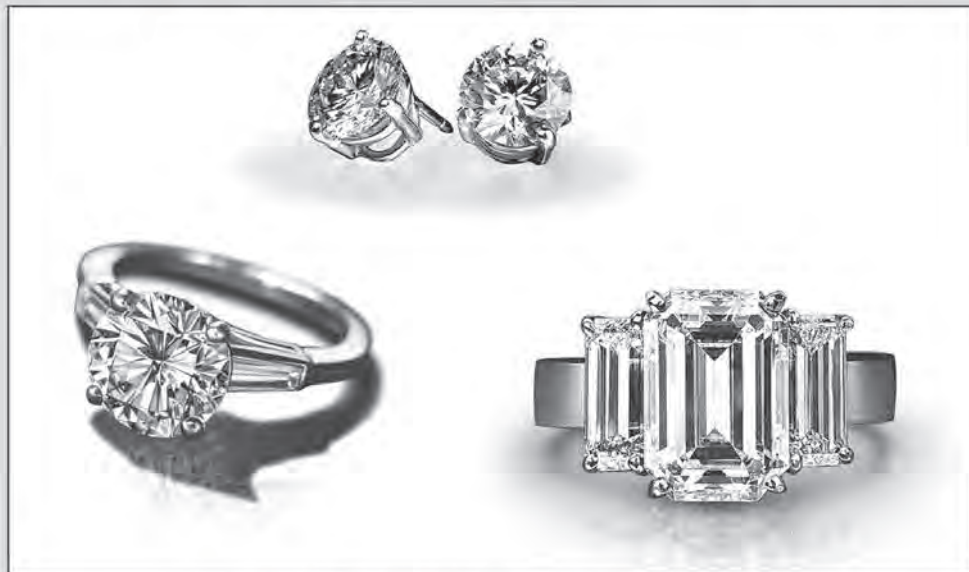
Goodall's series of children's books, Frizzle and Friends. This heart-warming collection helps children navigate through life's lessons with an upbeat and loving message.

Coastal Elements has loved discovering the lines for its collection within the vibrant local art scene and feels blessed to be partnering with so many talented artists and innovative businesses. The company's vision is to be a coastal shopping destination where both local clientele and vacationers can purchase a meaningful and unique gift.



Photos provided by Kathy Brendal

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Photos provided by Susan Fort

# Sea Hammock condos are hidden gem in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Susan Fort

Sea Hammock is one of Ponte Vedra’s well-kept secrets! It is a gated, condo community conveniently located approximately one mile south of Mickler Road in Ponte Vedra Beach, close to shopping, dining and schools.

As you enter the community, you immediately feel at home with the attractive front gates, the updated landscaping and the beautiful beach walkovers with breathless ocean views. Every unit is an end unit with only one adjoining wall, which offers quiet enjoyment and

as well as privacy. Each unit has its own private covered deck with expansive ocean views and a one car garage.

The oceanfront community clubhouse has been recently updated and can be used by all owners and reserved for special gatherings. The pool and spa have been completely renovated, the community is complete with tennis courts, a basketball court and a car wash area just across the street. Many owners are full-time residents, and some owners live close by and use it for their weekend getaway. There are very few rentals units with a three-month minimum. This is a quiet, very serene community that is pet friendly. Check it out and fall in love!

**141 Sea Hammock Way  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082**

This first-floor oceanfront condo in Sea Hammock has endless possibilities! It’s a blank canvas to decorate and update to your individual taste. It’s a three bedroom, two bath end unit, with new HVAC, 1,705 square feet in a beautiful gated community with quiet, serene beaches. Each unit has a large, covered oceanfront deck, private garage, ample parking and use of a newly renovated oceanfront clubhouse, pool and spa. This property is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Susan Fort and Tyler Ackland and offered for \$799,000.

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# What's for dinner and where do we do takeout?

By Janet Westling

Poppy's restaurant is a family favorite of ours in Ponte Vedra Beach. This family-owned restaurant has been a staple in our community since 2012 and offers up Italian comfort food seven days a week.

Even before the pandemic, our family did takeout from Poppy's at least once a week. During the quarantine, Poppy's, like all restaurants, closed its in-house dining and really stepped up their takeout business.

It was very prepared as it had in place a drive-thru window located on the right side of the restaurant, located in the Tournament Plaza shopping center just south of the TPC Sawgrass on State Road A1A North.

So, what's for dinner at our house from Poppy's? My husband loves the chicken Parmigiana which is served with pasta and wonderful garlic bread and a salad or soup. This also is available on the kid's menu.

My daughter Allison's favorite is the grilled chicken with risotto. She always substitutes the asparagus with spinach.

Realtor Kelly Whitaker orders a tray of lasagna for her family when the kids come over.

"It's so delicious," she said.

When hosting a book-signing or fundraiser at my home for a large group of people I always include Poppy's chicken piccata and I ask them to cut the chicken in smaller portions. This is a favorite of my guest and it can be ordered as a whole tray or half a tray. My grandson Scott loves Poppy's meatballs, no pasta and plain bread.

The waiters are always accommodating and if you decide to dine in early you can order the early bird specials from 3-5:30 p.m., which includes a glass of house wine.

I highly recommend Poppy's Italiana, one of Ponte Vedra's restaurant treasures!



Poppy's chicken piccata



Poppy's salad for a large gathering

## Recipes

Continued from 23

### Directions for sauce:

Heat a small saucepan to medium heat. Add olive and garlic, and stir for about 20 seconds until fragrant. Add the seasonings and hot sauce if using, and stir mixture for about 30 seconds. Add the tomato sauce and water and stir well. Bring mixture to a light simmer, cover and reduce heat to low. Let mixture simmer for 20 minutes. This makes enough for a 9x13 pan of enchiladas. I often double the recipe and freeze the rest for next time.

### Directions for Enchiladas:

Debone and shred rotisserie chicken, then mix thoroughly with softened cream cheese and canned green chilies with fork. (This is easiest while chicken is warm). To assemble enchiladas, set up an assembly line including: tortillas, enchilada sauce, chicken mixture and shredded cheese. Using an oven-safe glass casserole dish, spread 2-3 Tbsp. of enchilada sauce over bottom. Lay out a tortilla, and spread approximately 3 Tbsp. of chicken and cream cheese mixture in the form of a line down upper side of tortilla. Add some shredded cheese on top, then roll up and place in dish. Repeat with remaining tortillas and ingredients. Spread remaining enchilada sauce on top of tortillas, then sprinkle on remaining shredded cheese. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and serve immediately, garnished with fresh chopped cilantro and black olives if desired.

TO FREEZE: Assemble enchiladas completely, then cover with foil and freeze up to two months. Thaw completely and proceed with oven instructions.



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# ALL ABOUT PETS

## May is National Pet Month

### Reading program has paws-itive effect on area students

By Paris Moulden

Speaking in public is a scary concept to many people. Imagine being a child who isn't comfortable with their reading skills being asked to read aloud in front of entire class. Or having to practice something they don't feel secure about in front of a teacher or their siblings or friends.

Wouldn't it be nice to have some completely non-judgemental listener? Someone who just enjoys the sound of your voice, but also seems fascinated with every word that comes out of your mouth? And if they're cute and cuddly, well, that's an extra bonus.

This was Laurie Wilbur's thought when she became involved with Pet Partners, the largest nonprofit that registers therapy dogs and other therapy animals through a stringent testing process. Pet Partners uses volunteers in all kinds of places like visiting hospitals and nursing homes, courtroom, airports and even prisons. But Wilbur, who has always been involved in teaching in some fashion, wanted to volunteer in a different way. When a friend introduced her to the "Read with Me" program, Wilbur found her calling. Along with her loyal companion Rosie, Wilbur began the program in the Jacksonville area, visiting Duval County schools with Ollie, and helping kids find the courage and confidence to build their reading skills.

"We work with teachers and they

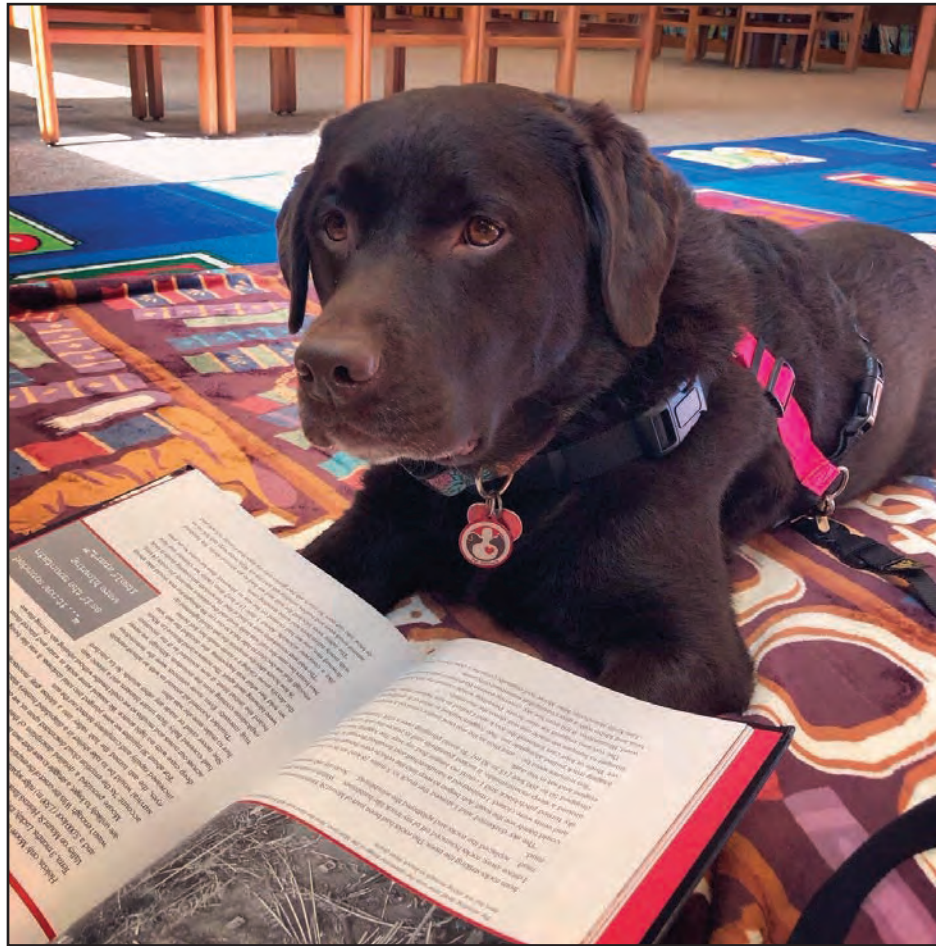


Photo provided by Laurie Wilbur

**Rosie helps students build their reading skills by listening intently, and without judgement.**

give me feedback," Wilbur said of the program. "We've seen scores go up. We see them reading on their own. We start seeing them in August, and by the end

of May, I can tell you how much they've improved."

The kids in the program respond really well to Rosie, a 7-year-old chocolate lab,

with a warm gaze and comforting paws. Even if they aren't sure about it initially, Rosie wins them over.

"One student was afraid at first, but she'd read, and every week, she'd get a little closer and closer [to Rosie]," Wilbur said. "By the end, she was sitting on the blanket with Rosie."

And it's not just the students who get enjoyment and confidence. Rosie has relished her role as confidence builder and skilled listener.

"She's very sweet-natured," Wilbur said of Rosie, who has been working the program for about three years, "I put her harness on and she thinks she's going to work."

When the COVID-19 crisis hit, Rosie — and Wilbur — were missing out on their regular school visits with students, but then Pet Partners came up with "We're All Ears." The program aims at helping kids keep up with their reading while not in school, by encouraging them to read to their own pets at home or even to their stuffed animals.

"The best way to do it at home is to find a nice, quiet place, and let the child be with the animal," Wilbur said. "That really does make such a difference in how they build that confidence to read aloud.

"I want it to become a forever thing for them. That they love reading."

When it comes to the "Read With

READING continues on Page 32



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Photos provided by Laurie Wilbur  
**Rosie, a 7-year-old chocolate lab, allows students to get comfortable and read aloud to her in order to improve their reading skills.**

## Reading

Continued from 31

Me” program, teachers and principals select students for the program, and Rosie visits with them for around 15 minutes once a week. Wilbur can also modify the program to meet an individual student’s needs.

So far, there are 10 “Read With Me” teams in Northeast Florida, but Wilbur said there is always room for more, and encourages anyone with a good-natured dog to look into it.

“We’re always recruiting,” Wilbur said. “It’s just another way to have your dog working with the family. We all become dogs. And it keeps them involved.”

For more information on “We’re All Ears,” as well as resources and special activities for the program, visit [petpartners.org/all ears](http://petpartners.org/all ears).



**Laurie Wilbur runs the local “Read With Me” program, which helps area schoolchildren improve their reading skills by reading to dogs.**

## Vet technicians are like nurses for animals

Nurses are essential members of the medical community. While it is easy to think of nurses in the traditional health care setting — administering to adults and children in need — nursing disciplines extend beyond human health care. Veterinary technicians, who are petitioning to change their title to veterinary nurses, care for animals in much the same way that nurses care for people.

In 2015, the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America initiated a conversation about changing the title of veterinary technicians to “veterinary nurse” and establishing a national licensure process similar to that used for registered nurses. As of 2018, 12 states did not specify duties that veterinary technicians can perform. Many states certify, register or license vet techs, while others do not recognize them at all. This can make it challenging for veterinary technicians, who are highly educated, credentialed and skilled, to find consistent work and earn the recognition they deserve.

According to Ginny Nystrom, president of the Tennessee Veterinary Technicians Association, vet techs “dedicate themselves to assisting animals and society by providing care and service for animals, alleviating suffering, and promoting public health.”

The animal welfare resource Vetstreet says vet techs play a vital role in the well-being of pets. Vet techs’ responsibilities vary, and their responsibilities require dedication and compassion. Vet techs can draw blood, place catheters, assist in surgery, manage anesthesia, and administer medications.

Vet techs work in private veterinary offices, animal hospitals, zoos, and labs. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for veterinary nurses was expected to increase by 52% between the years 2010 and 2020.

Vet techs require the right educational background and credentials. Credentials vary depending on where a person lives, but generally speaking a candidate must be 18 years of age or older. One typically enrolls in an accredited veterinary technology training program recognized and approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Vet techs may be required to pass an exam before they can work. On-the-job volunteer hours can additionally provide a potential vet tech with invaluable experience and also may be a component of licensure.

Veterinary techs provide care to animals much in the same way nurses tend to the human population, showcasing not only their intellect but also their compassion.

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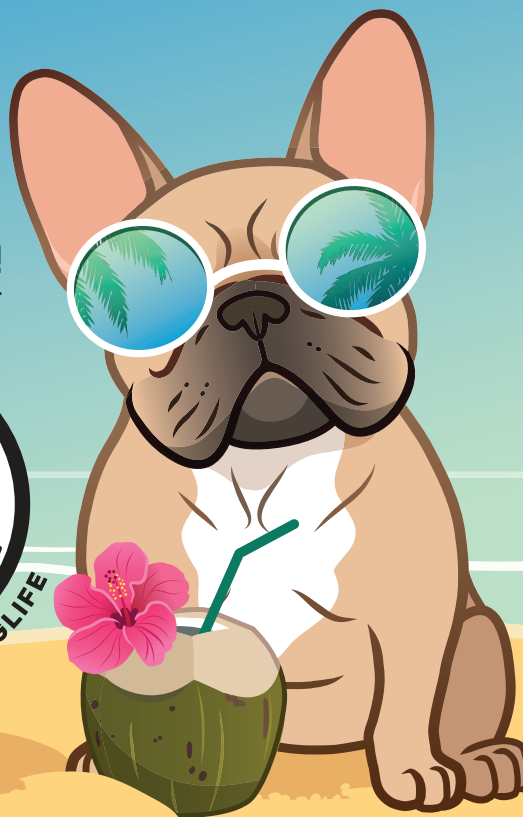
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# Business Weekly

PAGE 34

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

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## Ponte Vedra businesses reopen, adapt to 'new norm'

By Daniela Toporek

After weeks of uncertainty, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced early May that businesses will reopen in phases, following social distancing and CDC guidelines. And while Ponte Vedra businesses have started opening their doors, they also found new ways to adapt to the “new normal.”

Although DeSantis just increased customer capacity to 50% starting May 18, the capacity limit was only 25% the week before, and local restaurants like Trasca & Co Eatery and the Aqua Grill have brainstormed concepts to attract guests without risking their safety.

“Thankfully, we didn’t have to let anyone go, even during the “to-go only” phase,” said Trasca & Co.’s co-owner

Karina Coryell. “What we did to try and increase business was expand and work on our grab-and-go sales.”

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Trasca already offered grab-and-go meals for busy guests, but to adapt with the lockdown, Trasca brought grab-and-go items directly to neighborhoods for residents to pick up.

“We created pop-ups in neighborhoods

and just scheduled different times,” Coryell said, adding that items on the menu are also ever-changing. “No one wants to eat the same meals and people love the food offered, so all you have to do is heat and serve.”

Unlike Trasca, many employees at the Aqua Grill were temporarily laid off

**BUSINESSES** continues on Page 36



Photo provided by Hilton Garden Inn Ponte Vedra

Health care workers at the Mayo Clinic were treated to hot meals courtesy of the Hilton Garden Inn and Mulligans Pub.

## Hilton Garden Inn, Mulligans Pub support local frontline medical teams

Hilton Garden Inn Ponte Vedra Beach is strongly committed to its community, especially now, during the COVID-19 crisis.

The staff of Hilton and its restaurant, Mulligans Pub, coordinated with Mayo Clinic Nursing Manager, Amy Gregory, recently to donate 60 hot meals to the PCU, AIC, VAT, HEM, ONC and BMT Mayo teams. Hilton Garden Inn welcomes hundreds of Mayo Clinic patients throughout the year so giving back to this nearby, world-renowned facility and its staff was a natural fit.

Searching for additional ways to offer local support and encouragement, the Hilton Director of Sales and Marketing, Anna Washington, reached out to PGA

TOUR’s Community Impact team who connected her with THE PLAYERS Community Outreach team.

From there both organizations united to thank the medical professionals of Ascension St. Vincent’s Riverside campus on the morning of April 29 with hot breakfast wraps and assorted handcrafted sandwiches provided by Hilton and Mulligans as the hospital staff were headed home from a 12-hour overnight shift.

With the additional support of Ascension St. Vincent’s Foundation, more than 500 on-campus team members were fed that morning. THE PLAYERS’ Red Coats Volunteer Leadership Team joined the spirited rally at Ascension St. Vincent’s as all expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the frontline medical workers

## Why should you see a financial advisor?



Karseth Jacobson

The social distancing and stay-at-home orders necessitated by the coronavirus have led many of us to feel isolated.

Still, we’ve fought back through social media, “virtual” gatherings and walks in the neighborhood, where we could greet friends and neighbors (from 6 feet away). But when you’re dealing with the financial effects of the virus and you’re investing alone, you could encounter some problems that may prove costly.

Of course, with so much investment-related information available online, on television and in any number of periodicals, it’s not surprising that some people feel they can invest without any assistance. But the volatility of the financial markets over the past few months has also pointed to the dangers of going solo in the investment world. And you might find that a professional financial advisor can help you in several ways, including the following:

**Taking emotions out of investing.** During this period of market turbulence, many self-guided investors are letting their emotions drive their investment decisions. As a result, they sell investments when their price is down, “locking in” their losses. Furthermore, if they then stay out of the financial markets, they will miss out on the eventual recovery — and some of the biggest gains in market rallies usually occur right at the beginning. But if you work with a financial advisor who has helped you develop a personalized investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you will be far less likely to react to extreme market conditions by making ill-advised decisions.

**Maintaining perspective.** When you’re putting away money for the future and you suddenly have a lot less of it, you might start to wonder if that future is somehow in jeopardy. But if you’ve been working with a financial

**JACOBSON** continues on Page 35

# Jacobson

Continued from 34

advisor and following your investment strategy, you'll know that you don't have to immediately cash out those investments that have lost value, and you may not need to liquidate them for decades if they were designed for a long-term goal, such as retirement. By the time you do need to sell them, their value may well have appreciated significantly. And if you've got a well-constructed portfolio, you'll also own shorter-term, less volatile investments to help meet your current cash flow needs.

**Understanding the history of investing.** The recent market instability is unique in the sense that its cause — a worldwide pandemic — is so highly unusual, and it hopefully will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Typically, prolonged market downturns are triggered by explainable financial or economic factors, such as the bursting of the “dot-com” bubble in 2000. However, market drops of 20 percent or more — generally referred to as bear markets — are not at all unusual and have happened every few years over the past several decades. Financial advisors are well aware of this history and share it with their clients. And for many people, the knowledge that “we’ve been here before” is reassuring and makes it easier for them to continue following their investment strategies.

The road to your financial goals is a long one, with many twists and turns. So


you might like to have some experienced company along the way.

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View the local restaurant takeout and delivery guide at [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com)

## Businesses

Continued from 34

before the reopening of dine-ins, according to owner Cary Hart. But thanks to the implementation of deliveries and community support, Hart says the restaurant is slowly but surely getting back in action.

“We have most of our staff back for lunch and dinner and are offering delivery, which has never been done before,” Hart said, excited to be back in business.

Also happy to return to work is Aqua Grill’s head hostess Jamie Fowler, who was put on furlough and left unemployed since the shutdown began March 13.

Being a mother, Fowler was concerned about how she would take care of her family. She filed for unemployment and has yet to receive any assistance.

“Obviously I had to support my kids,” Fowler said. “So, it was definitely worrisome. I looked for other jobs a little online but wasn’t able to find anything.”

When Fowler found out she was finally able to return to work, she was nervous about how the restaurant would run under the new guidelines, but it was all worth it to be reemployed and reunited with coworkers.

“They brought us all back a week early to get the restaurant clean and ready,” she said. “It was just nice to be with all the employees again.”

Fowler also said she missed seeing

Aqua Grill’s regulars.

“Our loyal customers were still getting to-go orders before [reopening dining], but it’s not the same as when they come in. It’s nice to see their smiling faces again,” she said.

Kendra Cantlon, co-owner of hair salon Bellezza Salon & Boutique, said the same about her loyal clients and guests.

“[It’s a struggle], not being able to shake hands or hug your clients,” Cantlon said, but she and her staff resist in order to reopen, stay clean and bring a safe and positive experience for those in need of a little confidence boost.

“[I had] tears of joy and was overwhelmed. But also felt confident and prepared to open in a safe and sterile environment.”

Aside from keeping all tools sterile and limiting the number of appointments per day, Cantlon requires that both clients and employees wear masks to enter the hair salon and if clients don’t have one, the salon will provide a mask for them.

“We also recommend bringing their own drink and reading material, and to come in by themselves, not in groups,” she said.

Despite the extra steps taken, Ponte Vedra businesses are ready to persist during the pandemic and make up for lost time, financially and mentally.

“[We’re] lifting the morale,” Cantlon said. “Making people feel better about themselves, bringing positivity into their lives.”



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**ACROSS**

- 1. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
- 5. Clock std.
- 8. U-\_\_\_\_\_
- 12. \*Webber's "Evita" collaborator
- 13. Away from wind
- 14. Boy Scout rank
- 15. Picnic invaders
- 16. Digestive aid
- 17. Change, as in the Constitution
- 18. \*Like Tony Awards 2020

- 20. Entry document
- 21. Fill with spirits
- 22. 10 decibels
- 23. \*"Kiss Me, Kate" composer/lyricist
- 26. Sound of leaves in wind
- 29. Before, archaic
- 30. Admirer
- 33. "My bad"
- 35. Garments
- 37. Barbie's beau
- 38. Annoy a bedfellow
- 39. Result of too many drinks

- 40. Type of tunic
- 42. F in FWIW
- 43. Brown's beagle
- 45. \*M in "M. Butterfly"
- 47. Bar association
- 48. "Mack the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 50. \*Tony winner David \_\_\_\_\_ Pierce
- 52. \*Musical with the most wins, with The
- 56. \*Jellicles' cries
- 57. Vietnam's neighbor
- 58. Flu symptom
- 59. Pond buildup
- 60. Sunrise point
- 61. "Just \_\_\_\_\_"
- 62. \*4-time winner Tom Stoppard's output
- 63. Tap choice
- 64. Tallest volcano in Europe

- 11. Bulb type
- 13. "All \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 14. Roof overhang
- 19. Humble requests
- 22. Pesky, clingy plant
- 23. Cribbage pieces
- 24. Un-written exams
- 25. Old episode
- 26. \*"La Bohème," reimagined
- 27. Shower accessory
- 28. Erasable programmable read only memory
- 31. Thumbs-up
- 32. Gridiron official, for short
- 34. Blood fluids
- 36. \*Coveted destination
- 38. Mix-up
- 40. Typically has April 15th as deadline
- 41. In the thick of
- 44. Falstaffian in body
- 46. Base of the decimal system
- 48. Cattle enclosure in African village
- 49. Pirate's "necklace"
- 50. \*Setting of Tony winner 'Hadestown'
- 51. Vinyasa workout
- 52. #19 Down, sing.
- 53. \*The Grand Slam of showbusiness, acr.
- 54. The Colosseum, today
- 55. Pura \_\_\_\_\_, or pure silk
- 56. Atlas page

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**DOWN**

- 1. Catch-22, e.g.
- 2. Brown bagger
- 3. \*Before and after intermission
- 4. Final six lines of a sonnet
- 5. Sparkle
- 6. More than a scuffle
- 7. Like a ball ready for a drive
- 8. \*Musical with most nominations
- 9. \*Tony nominee, "Rock of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 10. Longer forearm bone

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