

# REGISTER

FIRST COAST

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Ponte Vedra • Nocatee • Jacksonville  
The Beaches • St. Augustine • Amelia Island

*At Home*  
ON THE  
FIRST COAST

WINE & DINE  
on the First Coast

IN THE ARTS

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## About this magazine

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Hugh Osteen,  
*Florida Market Manager*

Susan Griffin, *Publisher*

Paris Moulden,  
*Publication Designer/Staff Writer*

Shaun Ryan, *Staff Writer*

Kassidy Lankford, *Staff Writer*

Ed Johnson,  
*Senior Account Executive*

Kristin Flanagan,  
*Account Executive*

April Snyder, *Sales Assistant*

Jonathan Bueno,  
*Circulation Manager*

**Contributors:** Leigh Cort and  
Ally Burkett

**FIRST COAST REGISTER**  
1102 A1A N., Unit 108,  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
904.285.8831

on the cover



The cover features a Neoclassical-style home located in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more about the home, go to page 6.



**Secluded 8.2 Acre Island**

Located in Swift Creek Island, this property offers private gated access to a secluded 8.2-acre island. Build your dream home on the additional pre-approved building lot. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. **\$2,285,000**



**Atlantic Beach Retreat**

Ideally located in Atlantic Beach, this 3-story townhome is only two blocks away from the ocean as well as the Beaches Town Center. 3 bedrooms, 2F/2H bathrooms. **\$835,000**



**Ideally Located in Seaview Park**

Live east of A1A in this updated move-in-ready home ideally located in old Ponte Vedra. Showcasing renovated interiors with wood floors, shiplap details, customs built-ins, and coastal accents. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. **\$800,000**



**Oceanfront Luxury**

Comfort and elegance blend effortlessly in this Anglo-Caribbean inspired oceanfront home with the highest level of detail and quality. 7 bedrooms, 7F/ 2H bathrooms. **\$7,500,000**



**The Perfect Beach Escape**

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. 3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms. **\$1,585,000**



**Spectacular Water to Golf Views**

Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views and offers ample space to entertain. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms. **\$1,450,000**



**Intracoastal Waterfront Condo**

SELLER TO PREPAY 12 MONTHS OF HOA AND CONDO DUES. Marina San Pablo 2nd story condo featuring open floor plan, luxury amenities, and private balcony with water views. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. **\$469,500**



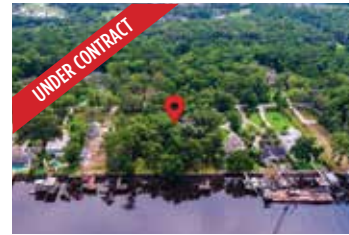
**Sophisticated Coastal Luxury**

A masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, this custom beach home was thoughtfully designed with panoramic views of the Ocean & the Guana. 4 bedrooms, 3 F/2H bathrooms. **\$3,600,000**



**Pristine Waterfront**

Located on a cul de sac on the largest lake in Marsh Landing features a spacious floor plan, first floor master, and expansive 180-degree water views showcased throughout. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms. **\$1,195,000**



**Intracoastal Waterfront Lot**

Build the waterfront home of your dreams on this large lot located on Roscoe on the Intracoastal Waterway with a total of 225' of water frontage. Total Acreage: 2.06. **\$2,500,000**



**Intracoastal Condo + Boat Slip**

Located in the private gated community of Marina San Pablo, this 6th story luxury condo offers a convenient location, resort style amenities, and a 20x50 boat slip. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. **\$739,500**



**Private Beach Sanctuary**

With gated entry and thoughtfully designed landscaping, this home backs up to the Guana, and features wood floors, screened-in pool, and a cellar. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. **\$1,700,000**



**SARAH ALEXANDER**

Sarah Alexander, REALTOR®  
904-334-3104 cell  
Sarah@SarahAlexander.net  
www.SarahAlexander.net



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Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com  
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# One of Us!

As told to  
KASSIDY LANKFORD

HOOSHANG  
HARVESF

*Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D., affectionately known as the “Mayor of Avondale” is the owner and operator of Avondale’s oldest store, Hooshang Oriental Rugs.*

## **What is your background and how did you get started in the rug business?**

I was born in Persia and I have always loved rugs. Where I’m from, rugs are everywhere. Whether rich or poor, most families have oriental rugs in their homes. Rugs, in a way, are in my blood. As a child, my father always told us that before we settle into a career that it was very important for us to get an education. He told us that after we got an education, we should pursue a career in something that we love to wake up every morning to do. I listened to my father, got a PhD in Economics and have been doing rugs ever since. Although my career is in rugs, I have never regretted getting my PhD.

## **Can you explain what exactly an oriental rug is?**

An oriental rug is simply a hand-knotted rug with tile that is made anywhere in Asia. The only exception to this are Kilim rugs, which are flat-woven but are still considered oriental rugs.

## **What is unique about oriental rugs compared to other types of rugs?**

Oriental rugs are special to me because they are hand-knotted. They are labor-intensive, very beautiful, and very intricate. Persian rugs, specifically, are the best in the world. There are very nice rugs from other countries as well, but if you take the best rugs from China and the best rugs from Persia, the Persian rugs will be better every time. 70% of my inventory is from Persia, and the rest of the rugs are from all over the world. I get rugs from places like



photo by  
KASSIDY LANKFORD

China, Turkey, Pakistan, Romania, and more. Because the making of these rugs is very labor-intensive, it is most cost efficient to source them from out of the country.

## **What is your favorite part about doing what you do?**

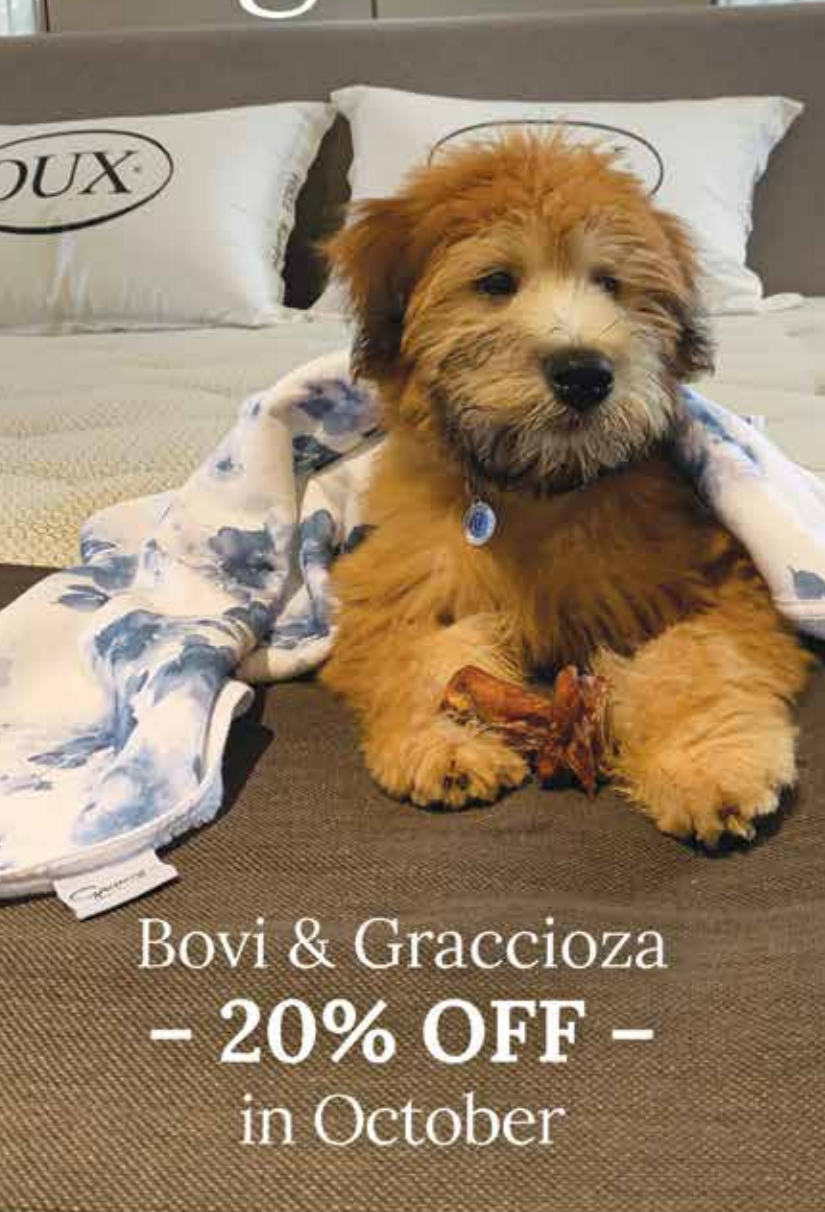
My favorite part about this business is the people. I love people, and I love working with people. I enjoy finding these rugs from all over the world. I look for several things in rugs – quality of wool, balance between color and design, and complication of design. I also look for who the rug was made by, rarity of the rug, and where it was made. A lot of factors go into the making

of a good rug. It can be challenging to find the perfect rug, but it’s special because some of the rugs in my store cannot be found anywhere else in the world. I also love working in Avondale. I have lived in the area for many years and I have such a love for this community.

## **What do you love to do outside of work?**

I really love to travel. I haven’t been able to do much traveling since the start of the pandemic, but as soon as it is over I will be traveling again. I have traveled all over the world, but my favorite place to visit is Rome. I’ve been there several times.

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COVER STORY

# Majesty at the Sea

by JAN FISHER  
photos provided by JAN 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. It is truly a mansion by the sea.

The Neoclassical architectural-style of the home is, at once, reminiscent of the classics emanating from the turn of the 19th century. This home would provide the perfect backdrop for the musings of a Hollywood producer.

As you enter the grounds, you will be awed by the enormity and the grandeur of the property. The 1.5-acre prime oceanfront lot provides superior elevations. The views from the one 150-foot lot are captivating.

Inside, an adventure awaits, beginning with the entrance. It opens to a magnificent drawing room or reception hall with polished hardwood floors, soaring columns, coffered ceilings, and detailed crown molding. The centerpiece of this room is the elegant crystal chandelier. It has a massive fireplace for ambiance and floor to ceiling doors that take you to an enticing oceanfront balcony. Close your eyes, and you can almost hear music, laughter and almost see men in tuxedos and women in evening dresses.

1063 Ponte Vedra Blvd., is majestic. From end to end, it is about 120-feet wide, with five bedrooms and five and a half baths. Additionally, it has several large flex rooms that could easily be converted to contain more bedrooms.

The formal oceanfront dining room is unique among all others. A wall of windows offers stunning views of the beach. The vaulted blue ceiling contrasts with the dark brown walls covered with heavy Nepalese handcrafted paper.

The kitchen is a masterpiece of design and function. The countertops and backsplashes are backlit imported stone from Italy. The appliance package includes Viking and Sub-Zero. The enormous center island looks over the stylish oceanfront family room. Light a fire, enjoy the view and surround yourself in luxury.

The owner's suite is opulent with a huge custom closet that doubles as a safe room. The bath has an oceanfront soaking tub, and glass enclosed shower, his and hers vanities, and a fireplace.

Upstairs, two guest suites. Downstairs there are two huge flex areas that include an office, gym, and game room.

Travel outside to the oceanfront infinity-edged pool and embrace the sunshine. Live the beach lifestyle, enjoy forever views and luxuriate in sophisticated comfort at 1063 Ponte Vedra Boulevard ... a home of distinction and timeless elegance.

*Offered for sale by: Kim Martin-Fisher; (904) 699-9993  
Jennifer Martin Faulkner: (904) 524-6000  
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# CULTURAL CENTER AT PONTE VEDRA BEACH HOSTS

## 10th annual Home Tour

story and photos by KASSIDY LANKFORD

For the past decade, Ponte Vedra Beach's Cultural Center has held an annual home tour event. This year's event took place on Sept. 12 an event, giving the Ponte Vedra community the opportunity to experience a tour of three of beautiful Ponte Vedra homes designed by architect Mark Macco.

These luxury homes were designed with unparalleled vision and creativity, crafted with the finest materials resulting in gorgeous abodes that would take the breath away from anyone.

"We are so grateful to all of the homeowners for opening their homes to this event," said Donna Guzzo, President and Executive Director of the Ponte Vedra Cultural Center. "Without them, there would be no Home Tour," she went on, explaining that the generosity of these homeowners is what makes this artistic educative experience possible for the people of Ponte Vedra.

Although COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation of many local events, the Cultural Center was determined not to allow the pandemic to put a damper on their plans. The Cultural Center made adjustments and carefully planned the event to ensure the safety of all volunteers and attendees.

"Upon arrival, guests [were] required to wear masks and [went] through a wellness check to make sure they [were] healthy," Guzzo stated, explaining that attendees went through a COVID-19 screening prior to the event. Once guests passed the wellness check, they received a wristband to wear so that



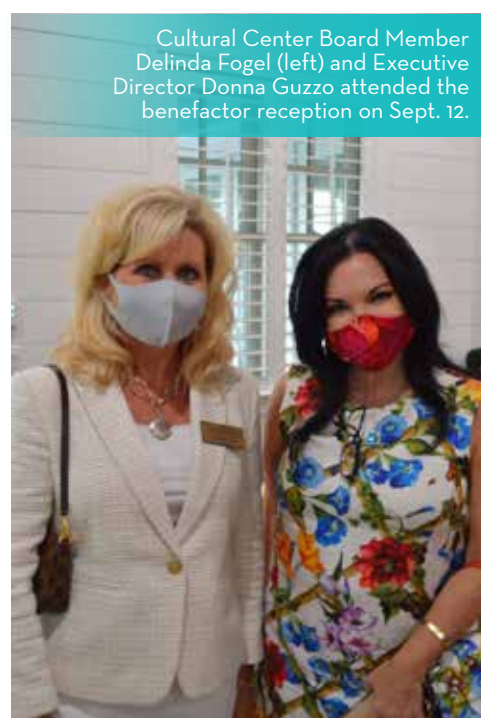
Kelly Bost (from left), Deb Blanton, Joe Bryant, and Nancy Russell enjoyed their wine provided by Savour Sensations and food provided by TPC Sawgrass at the beautiful benefactor reception.



Hostess and homeowner Shannon Maura (center) graciously opened her home for the benefactor reception, accompanied by Allison Ferebee (left) and Ashleigh Maura.

volunteers and fellow eventgoers were assured they were healthy. "We [had] volunteers with sanitization kits to make sure everything [was] clean," Guzzo explained, going on to say that the health and safety of the homeowners, volunteers and guests was their top priority. In addition to being split into two separate timeframes, the event will be capped at around 150 guests to ensure proper safety and social distancing for everyone

Once guests passed the wellness check, they were be placed into luxury coaches (socially distanced, of course) and were taken to the three featured homes on the tour to experience the beauty of Mark Macco architecture.



Cultural Center Board Member Delinda Fogel (left) and Executive Director Donna Guzzo attended the benefactor reception on Sept. 12.

In addition to the Home Tour event, the Cultural Center hosted a private VIP benefactor reception at a beautiful home in Marsh Landing. Cultural Center employees, volunteers and guests were welcomed to the splendid reception on Sept. 10. The event was catered by Savour Sensations, who provided an array of delicious wines from boutique vineyards, and Sawgrass Catering, who provided a range of delectable dishes for guests to enjoy.

Although health and safety adjustments had to be made for the event, the Cultural Center was still able to put on a spectacular event and they look forward to the 2021 Home Tour.



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# FARMHOUSE STYLE OFFERS NOSTALGIC AMBIENCE OF A SIMPLER TIME

story and photos by  
**SHAUN RYAN**

When furnishing a new home — or re-furnishing a current one — style is always a consideration. It's the personality of the home and often reflects the personality of the owner. The pieces should work in harmony with one another, regardless of which style a homeowner selects.

For many of today's homeowners, there is a desire to depart from the clinical, high-tech look found in so much of the 21st century's culture. A return to the past signals a simplicity that many say they miss. And antique or antique-looking furnishings often seen in farmhouse-style décor is one way to surround oneself with that simple, nostalgic ambience.

The farmhouse style is also a specialty of a new shop in the Bartram Promenade.

Rustic Knots, at 40 Everest Lane Suite 2 in St. Johns, features furnishings and décor in what co-owner Christy Caldwell calls "a Chip and Joanna Gaines" look, in reference to the couple made famous by their "Fixer Upper" television series.

Caldwell and husband Josh opened the shop on Aug. 15 with stock that's mostly either hand-made or hand-painted and refurbished by the store's six vendors.

Christy Caldwell described the farmhouse style as having a rustic look, distressed in a kind of "shabby-chic" way. Most of the pieces are painted white in keeping with the traditional style of the American farmhouse.

But because St. Johns is not far from the coast, the Caldwelles want to expand their décor to include "beachier" accents. Such items tend to have a turquoise or seafoam-green color. They feature fish or seashore motifs.

In fact, Christy Caldwell said she would even like to offer a combination of the two: a "beachy-farmhouse-type look."

This can be achieved mostly by using beach-themed shapes and colors and the predominant material found in farmhouse style: wood.

Though the store's current merchandise is mostly farmhouse-style, more items reflecting a beach lifestyle will be stocked in the coming months.

Rustic Knots is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. It is closed Mondays.



The Acadia Americana model by Dostie Homes in Heritage Trace was one of five Nocatee-based winners in the Northeast Florida Builders Association 2020 Parade of Homes. Photo provided by DOSTIE HOMES



The interior of Dostie Homes' award-winning Acadia Americana model. Photo provided by DOSTIE HOMES

The Hamilton model by Riverside Homes in Pioneer Village was one of the five Nocatee-based winners in the Parade of Homes. Photo provided by RIVERSIDE HOMES



The Stardom model by Pulte Homes in Del Webb was one of the five Nocatee-based winners in the NFBA Parade of Homes. Photo provided by PULTE HOMES

## 5 NOCATEE HOMES SELECTED AS WINNERS FOR *Parade of Homes* by SHAUN RYAN

Five designer-decorated model homes located in the Nocatee community were named winners in the 2020 Parade of Homes hosted by the Northeast Florida Builders Association.

Overall, seven Nocatee homes were featured in the annual event, which showcases the best homes in new construction and design across the First Coast.

This year's parade included more than 75 new homes by 20 different home builders, located as far north as Fernandina Beach and as far south as St. Augustine. The event began on Aug. 29 and concluded on Sept. 13.

The five Nocatee-based winners are Acadia Americana by Dostie Homes in Heritage Trace, Hamilton with Bonus by Riverside Homes and Gilchrist by Providence Homes in Pioneer Village, Ellaville by Providence Homes in Heritage Trace and Stardom by Pulte Homes in Del Webb.

Nocatee offers neighborhoods and homes to complement a wide range of lifestyles and price points, ranging from the \$200s up to more than \$1 million. More than 8,500 families call Nocatee home.

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Together, we have travelled many roads, opened many doors, bought and sold many homes. Thank you for honoring local small businesses like mine with your votes in 2019 and 2020, and your support since I started in real estate here in 1985. We will continue to be your community resource for local knowledge and award-winning service!

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# CLUB 904

## OFFERS TEENS THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

by SHAUN RYAN



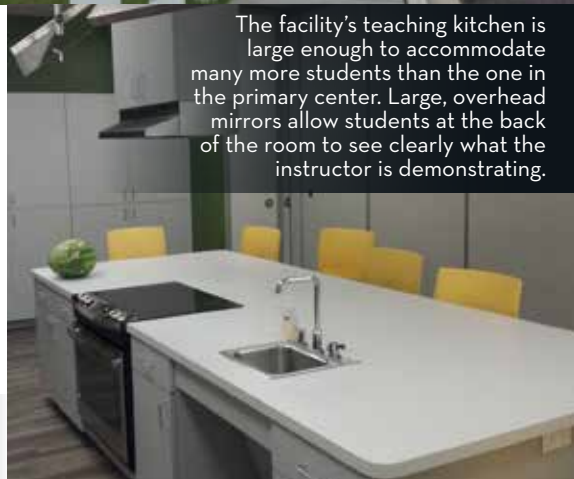
photos by SHAUN RYAN



One of the most popular electives is robotics. Students learn how to program their robots to accomplish certain tasks on a specially designed tabletop.



Computers, separated by plexiglass shields, sit ready for students in the study lounge.



The facility's teaching kitchen is large enough to accommodate many more students than the one in the primary center. Large, overhead mirrors allow students at the back of the room to see clearly what the instructor is demonstrating.



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EPISCOPAL  
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A new facility in Jacksonville is giving pre-teens and teens in the city's urban core the tools they need to succeed.

Club 904, a 14,000-square-foot center features a lounge and study hall; teaching kitchen; game, theater and music rooms; and classrooms. It offers afterschool academic assistance, college preparation, job and leadership training, life skills, elective courses and social activities.

The grand opening was held Sept. 9.

An initiative of the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, Club 904 adds a new building to the existing center, which is now used solely for elementary school students. By moving middle- and high-school students into the new center, the foundation can triple the number of youths it serves.

"Our goal was to create a place that was kind of homey, but also was a place where they could receive classes and resources that will benefit them both now and in the future," said foundation CEO Terri Florio.

The facility, at 1055 W. 6th St., has been in the works since January 2018. The foundation had to raise \$5.5 million to build it, and the ideas of what went into it came from the teens themselves.

"They actually sat with the architect and developed what they wanted to see in the facility," Florio said.

Club 904 is open from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. daily. The students have an hour of downtime followed by an hour of homework, an hour of an elective class and another hour of downtime. Classes are taught by foundation staff, independent contractors, volunteers and sometimes the teens themselves. Role models and mentors augment the foundation's support system.

And because the foundation's founder is tennis star MaliVai Washington, one day a week includes tennis instructions.

For teens who keep their grades up, there is a work-study program that gives them a chance to earn money and learn key job skills.

Currently, Club 904 has an enrollment of 75, but once social-distancing is no longer necessary, it has the capacity to more than double that.

The foundation's impact on youth success is manifest. Among its enrollees, there is a 100% on-time graduation rate. The promotion rate for elementary- and middle-school students is between 94% and 98%. Many alumni graduate college debt-free due to scholarships they earn while enrolled in the program.

There are no teen parents, and only five kids have been caught up in the criminal justice system in the foundation's 24-year history.

That's considerable given that the statistics for the surrounding neighborhood lie at the extreme opposite end of the spectrum.

Among the alumni are a young woman who is now a medical doctor, a young man who has been published at Harvard University and has spoken before the U.S. Department of Justice and a pair of sisters who have launched an entrepreneurial event company.

Tyhlor Reynolds, 13, and Anthony Fedd, 12, said they like the new facility because it offers them more space. They called the program fun.

Nina McBride, 15, said she wants to be a pediatrician one day and said she appreciates hearing from visitors who speak to the students about different careers.

"We just want to encourage (the students) to follow their dreams and not let money or lack of resources prevent them from doing that," said Florio.

For further information, go to [malwashington.com](http://malwashington.com).

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# TABLE TALK

with LEIGH CORT

# Mezza Luna

AUTHENTIC  
EUROPEAN-ITALIAN  
FINE DINING



Seared crab cakes with cajun corn aioli and red pepper curls



Pizzaioli extraordinaire Matus Poris



Baby Iceberg sounds like a simple salad, but the flavor is anything but.

Mezza Luna has been an anchor of dining and bar-hop feasting in Neptune Beach for 30 years — only steps away from Atlantic Beach. It may seem like it's "off the beaten track" of Atlantic Boulevard (by only 30 paces) but this location continues to mystify newcomers to the little village that bustles year-round with pedestrians, cars, bicycles and beachcombers. The popularity is easy to figure out — it's all about the dining scene!

Offering a trifecta of ambience styles from al fresco beachy casual dining (pet friendly) to Mezza Luna's richly designed main dining room with dark woods and brick from top to bottom, it's perfect for those who like their evening meal more formally presented on crisp white tablecloths. One can't ignore the bar & lounge where music and buzz are all about recognizing friends and folks from the neighborhood while enjoying spectacular cuisine and nightly music!

Executive Chef Carrie Eagle maintains her integrity by staying close to what she knows and loves. There's no 'resting on laurels' at Mezza Luna; she is

constantly pushing the boundaries of tradition as each day in the kitchen is like a laboratory with dishes that are surprising, challenging and ultimately satisfying. Each chef's love, respect and understanding of their locality is the driving force behind their work. Acknowledged as Best Chef in Albuquerque, N.M. with 14 years of experience and wildly acclaimed successes in five famed restaurants, she was continually recognized as the culinary magician who could garner nearly every "Best of" award for each restaurant she took to the heights.

"Mezza Luna offered me a totally different opportunity," Eagle said. "I don't have to fix, cure or invent anything here. I walked into a pot of gold — a long-treasured neighborhood family-owned establishment where I have to bend my will to Mezza Luna's legacy. And I love every second of it!"

Currently owned by well-known restaurateur Al Mansur, Mezza Luna's General Manager Beth Ann Encinosa is a very familiar face orchestrating her restaurant, an ultimate hospitality professional who began her own relationship at the helm of this award-winning gem many years ago in 2005 under the tutelage of Chef Tony Pels, Jr. Many locals fondly

recall his classic Italian menu paired with an enormous personality with guests nightly. "I learned so much from Tony's genuine hospitality expertise; he was a superb mentor. I, too, care so much about our guests' time with us. I enjoy making everyone feel special, recognized and respected. I love this restaurant and I'm so honored to be back here, at HOME!"

There is such mutual respect and camaraderie throughout the front and back-of-the-house team. It's something you just feel whenever you're a guest although it may not be something that patrons even care or know about. But that is what keeps



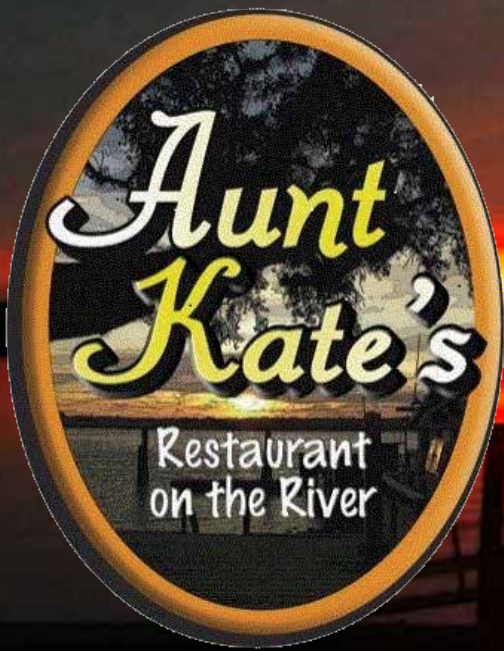
Chef Carrie Eagle

Mezza Luna ranked as one of the top restaurants at the beach. There is a confluence of culinary excellence, knowledgeable servers, bartenders and hostesses — not to mention the incredible follow-through with flawless service. If you choose to dine late afternoon when Mezza Luna opens at 4 p.m., it's a glorious time in a great restaurant to enjoy watching the staff setting up for the dinner

service. Here it's like a ballet of expertise preparing the white freshly ironed tablecloths, sparkling glass and silverware and quiet attention to detail.

Balance the scale of a loyal service team with a mature scratch kitchen where every pasta, sauce, stock, garnish, accompaniment and ingredients begin from "scratch" and you're going to have a difficult time making your menu selections. Many days of work and preparation go into Chef Eagle's menu that eventually becomes "Authentic European-Italian Fine Dining." Encinosa and Eagle agree that there is a wealth of culinary talent in one kitchen — along with gifted palates and the love of working together in a restaurant they love!

Alas, it's time to eat! It's an exciting menu with a broad colorful stroke of excellent appetizers: lamb lollipops with mint chutney, steak tartare brilliantly orchestrated from beef tenderloin tips blended with capers, shallots, horseradish aioli and a dozen more. The star for me is the seared crab cakes with cajun corn aioli and red pepper curls!



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Salads shouldn't be overlooked at Mezza Luna. The strawberry salad is very popular — bibb lettuce, goat cheese, toasted pine nuts and of course seasonal strawberries. The arugula prosciutto salad is captivatingly Italian with pickled oyster mushrooms, shaved fennel, Piave (authentic Italian cheese) and prosciutto. A personal favorite is the simply named baby Iceberg — crispy shallots, tomato, bacon, bleu cheese dressing (homemade). It's perfectly portioned to share.

Without doubt, one of the most famous pizzamakers at the beach is Matus Poris. He's been in the center of Mezza Luna in more ways than one, primarily because the gorgeous brick wood-fire pizza oven was created 15 years ago and Matus has been the "Pizzaioli" since the beginning. There are at least eight pizza combinations to suit any yearning. And there's always a pizza of the week, namely this week — the Nduja sausage pizza with house-made nduja sausage, roasted broccolini, banana peppers, sauce and mozzarella. If a fresh clam pizza is tempting, don't miss the white pizza with bechamel, clams, garlic, shallots and parsley. A glass of wine and a pizza to share couldn't be more elegantly enjoyed than here!

Chef Carrie has a sixth sense when she "... listens to what people want to eat. What's the call of the dining room?" The food is her art and she cherishes that she can hunt for the highest level (no cutting corners) of the daily fish boat choices and the seasonality of northeast Florida's produce, especially citrus. Entrees are rich with seafood: Fruitti di Mare risotto, orange-glazed salmon, pan-seared diver scallops, linguine and clams, even luxurious pan-seared branzino in a luscious lemon caper beurre blanc with charred lemon! Meat lovers die

for her grilled filet mignon, flat-iron steak frites and richly sauced chicken Marsala with ricotta gnocchi!

Chef's early mornings are spent making her pastas that are so irresistible you feel guilty leaving a speck on your plate. A standout is the Pappardelle prepared classic Bolognese; equally due a standing ovation is the fresh fettuccine with spinach, roasted pepper in a dreamy alfredo sauce or the linguine and clams decadently dressed up with white wine, garlic, lemon, kale and sundried tomatoes.

Mezza Luna isn't a flash-in-the-pan restaurant. It's a home to the finely tuned team that loves to be exactly where they are today. Some chefs were born into their destiny. I've heard that there is another fabulous chef in Carrie's kitchen — Nadine Ladson. She's an integral part of this hard-working family that welcomes guests nightly. Obviously, they all enjoy what they do. You'll see!

One day, while I sip a glass of wine from the finely tuned Mezza Luna cellar, I'd love to know all of the details about Chef Carrie Eagle smoking the competition on "Chopped" in 2017. Perhaps a few words about "Beat Bobby Flay" and "Food Paradise" on the National Geographic Channel. She certainly has a lot to say in addition to the culinary masterpieces that come out of her kitchen. Mezza Luna is a stunning place for Carrie to live her philosophy: "Being a chef is an important responsibility and honor. It's the opportunity to connect with people around a table with food."

As the evening winds down on a sweet note, it's a last chance to savor the moment and have a dreamy chocolate mint crème brulee. Just relax and let the flavors do the work!

Mezza Luna is open nightly and offers valet parking at its West entrance. Go to [www.MezzaLunaJax.com](http://www.MezzaLunaJax.com) for more information.

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# BEYOND NAPA VALLEY



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Regional Sales  
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Precept Wine

In light of the wildfires that are impacting one of my favorite wine regions- Napa Valley- I started thinking about the future and how these fires will impact supply, demand, and prices. Will it be harder to find our favorite brands?

Will Napa run out of wine in a few years?! What will I do if I can't drink Napa Cab (insert panicked look on my face just thinking about it). With 2020 throwing us so many curveballs I didn't want to take any chances, so I consulted two fellow wine industry professionals with experience in all things Napa Valley,

to find out what we should be stocking up on now and what else we should be trying that has that Napa flavor profile that we love.

Phil Hurst has been a winemaker and entrepreneur in the wine industry for over 20 years serving as Founder and CEO of the Winery Exchange and Truett-Hurst. He currently serves as Chief Innovation Officer with Precept Wines, making wines both private label and nationally sold brands. "Don't worry, the thing about wine is that it's on about a three year delay," Phil said, probably sensing the panic in my voice, "and 2019 was a high-yield vintage and excellent. So was 2017 and 2018." Red wines, especially thick-skinned Cabs from Napa, need to age in barrels and the time between vine and bottle can be at least three years. So the good news is what is in barrels now and not destroyed by fire will make it to the market over the next few years.

I asked Phil what regions within Napa (known as sub-appellations) should we as consumers be stocking up on. "Rutherford, Oakville, Stags Leap and Calistoga or anything Upper Valley- there's more of a supply of juice from there and it's quintessential Napa". He's also a huge fan of the Russian River and Sonoma's Alexander Valley, which are producing more extracted, bold reds that are sure to please the Napa fan in all of us. Phil also loves Paso Robles- about three hours south of Napa. Producers like Dao and Austin Hope are making much more concentrated reds that Napa wine drinkers would enjoy. Phil happens to be the winemaker for one of Paso's newest wine brands- Ely by Callaway Cellars- that offer an excellent value for the quality. Besides a Paso Robles Cab and Chardonnay, Ely by Callaway Cellars offers a Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet that retails for around \$25, which is a steal for Napa.

Now that I know what I should be stocking up on from Napa, I turned to Ashley Rivah, New York State District Manager for Napa Valley's renowned Duckhorn Vineyards. I wanted to get her take on alternatives to Napa if prices spike. Ashley spent the beginning of her wine industry career serving as Sommelier at New York City's Catch and most notably for Jean-Georges Vongerichten at several of his restaurants. This woman knows her wine.

"Personally, I'm stocking up on anything that's single-vineyard, like Duckhorn's Three Palms Merlot, and wines that are hillside fruit. Howell Mountain, Atlas Peak, Pritchard Hill." Outside of Napa, she points out, there are certain regions that make excellent wine, no matter the price point. "Any Pinot Noir from Anderson Valley is going to be good no matter what- same goes for Santa Rita Hills and wines from Washington state".

While it's always good to stock up on our favorite "go-to's", it's also nice to venture out of our palate bubble and try new regions, new varietals, and diversify ourselves. With the colder weather coming on more of us staying in, what better time to discover a new favorite wine!



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You may not know his name, but you've heard him speak.

Harlan Rector was the first signature voice of The History Channel, and for years he could be heard on trailers for some of Hollywood's biggest movies.

And that sudden desire to rush out and get a bucket of Blue Bell Ice Cream? It was probably a response to his folksy, nostalgic commercials reminding us that, "Some say Blue Bell is the best ice cream in the country."

For some people, a successful career as a voiceover artist would be enough. But Rector isn't some people. He's also a playwright, radio drama producer, author and caricature artist. Before all of these pursuits, he worked as an art director for an advertising agency.

But he will probably be best remembered for his voice work.

Rector was "discovered" in the 1970s while running his own ad agency in Los Angeles. While working on a campaign for Honda, he needed to create a radio commercial but didn't have the money to hire a professional announcer.

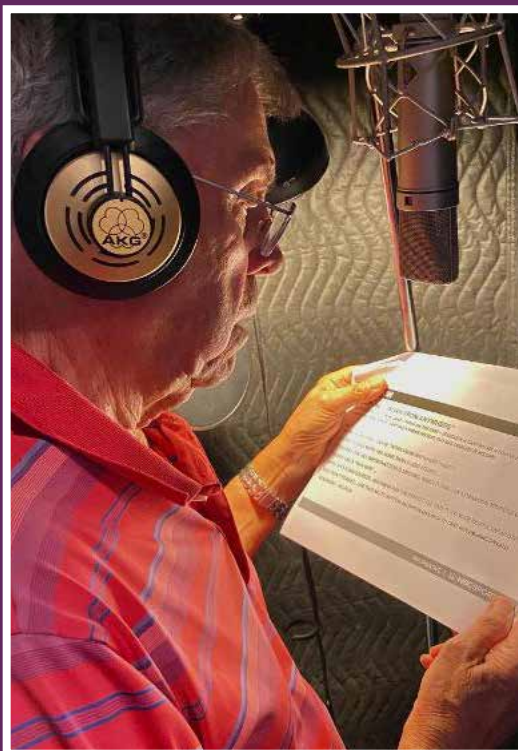
"I said, 'I'll do it,'" he recalled.

At the recording studio, he could see the engineer and a woman chatting when he stepped up to the mic.

"When I started to talk, they stopped talking," he said. "I thought: I wonder what's going on."

After he finished, the woman approached. It turned out she was a top voiceover artist and, surprised that he wasn't already "in the business," she offered to instruct him in the craft.

Rector began to attend auditions, which helped him launch his voiceover career. In 1981, he moved to New York where there was more work for



## THE MAN BEHIND THE VOICE

Nocatee resident heard  
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voiceover artists.

Here is where Rector became the trusted voice of Blue Bell Ice Cream. And here is where things really took off.

In 1995, Rector was working with a producer at A&E who said his boss wanted to meet him. The producer said they were going to start something called The History Channel and his boss was looking for a signature voice.

"It's between you and another guy," the producer said.

"Who's the other guy?" Rector asked. "James Earl Jones."

"I said, 'Just give it to him,'" Rector recalled. "Darth Vader!"

But Rector was selected and served as the voice of the new cable TV channel during its first four years on the air.

After that stint, the History Channel executives decided they wanted a younger voice, and Rector returned to his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri.

Before long, he got a call from his agent in New York asking if he would like to record movie trailers from his home studio. If you've seen the advertisements for Disney's "Maleficent," "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb" or "Capote" — to name a few — you've heard him.

"For years, I did a fabulous amount of movie trailers," he said.

Rector moved to The First Coast four years ago and today makes his home in Greenleaf Village at Nocatee.

So, if you happen to meet him and you think his voice sounds familiar, it's not your imagination.

*Note: This is an abridged version of the full article. Read it in its entirety at [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).*



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Renowned animator  
**RON CAMPBELL**  
 brings nostalgic memories to life



by KASSIDY LANKFORD

Australian animator Ron Campbell has been fascinating people with his cartoon-making from a very early age.

As a young boy, he enjoyed visiting the movie theater with the other neighborhood children on Saturday afternoons. Because televisions were not widely owned at the time, this was Campbell's only opportunity to watch cartoons. The pre-film cartoons are what inspired Campbell to become an animator, and he has been bringing his ideas to life ever since.

Although he is best known for his work animating and directing the Saturday morning "The Beatles" cartoon series and animating The Beatles' "Yellow Submarine" film, Campbell has also taken part in animating "The Rugrats," "The Jetsons," "The Smurfs," "Scooby Doo," "Winnie the Pooh" and more. Although Campbell has retired from his animation career, he has been spending his days as of late creating artwork based on his characters, which was recently featured at Jacksonville's Gallery 725.

"The gallery consists of about 60 pieces of art, all inspired by the cartoons I helped to make," Campbell said. "It's a really fun

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show. The point is to bring back nostalgia for those who watched 'Yellow Submarine,' 'Popeye,' 'Scooby Doo' and more."

Campbell said many years ago, Saturday mornings were the highlight of the week for many children as it was their only opportunity to indulge in cartoon-watching. As guests wander through the gallery, they will be struck with memories that bring them right back to their childhood Saturday mornings and remind them of all the shows they used to know and love.


The paintings were on display in late September in Gallery 725. Campbell himself attended the official gallery opening on Sept. 25, and also appeared at the gallery on Sept. 26 and Sept. 27 to greet guests as they experienced the cartoon pop-art within the gallery. Although the gallery has moved on from Jacksonville Beach, Campbell continues to travel all around the country to cities large and small, sharing his art with communities across the nation.



LEFT: Ron Campbell and his team have been traveling around the country for years to share the collection of paintings with communities across the nation.

FAR LEFT: Campbell's paintings are inspired by his past works like the Saturday morning Beatles cartoon, "Scooby Doo," "The Jetsons," "Rugrats," "The Flintstones" and more.



Photos by KASSIDY LANKFORD



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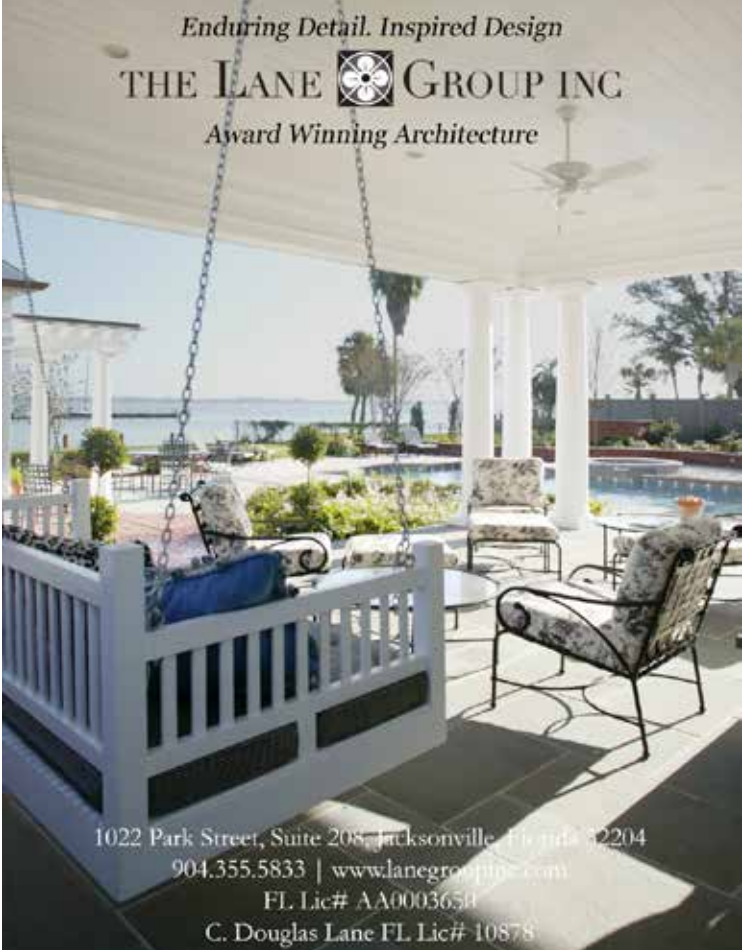
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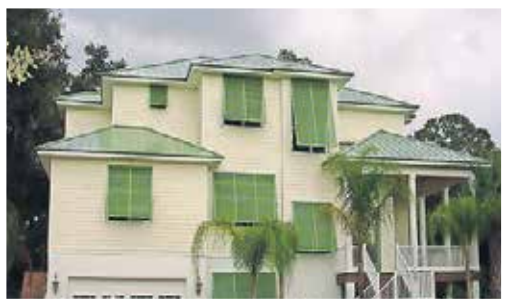
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# HALLOWEEN THRILLERS CAN BE ENJOYED, OR FEARED, FROM HOME

by WESLEY LEBLANC

All you need is a remote control if you're looking to lose some sleep or fear things that go bump in the night.

Horrifying movies in time for Halloween now can be streamed online or found on DVD. It's easier than ever to scream in the comfort of your own living room

Here are some of my favorite scary movies and how to get them before trick or treaters come knocking:

**"Halloween" (2018):** The original "Halloween" movie debuted in 1978 and made Michael Myers the horror icon that he is today. The original movie is perfect in its own right for the season, and it can be viewed as a drive-in movie at Jacksonville's Sun-Ray Cinema on Oct. 31, but there's a good chance you've already seen that movie at least once. Have you seen 2018's "Halloween" yet? It's a direct sequel to the original 1978 film centered on Jamie Lee Curtis once again, 40 years after she survived Myers' attacks the first time.

It's terrifying and is a refreshing slasher romp that reinvigorates a franchise that has seen far too many bad sequels. Don't spend your money on those — spend it on this. It can be rented on Amazon Prime Video, Fandango Now, Vudu, the Microsoft Store, Google Play and YouTube, in HD and 4K for \$3.99.

**"The Silence of the Lambs" (1991):** The world was introduced to Anthony Hopkins' terrifying cannibal, Hannibal Lector, in 1991 with the release of "The Silence of the Lambs." It's a physiological horror about a cannibal versus an FBI agent named Clarice Starling, who is played by Jodie Foster. This movie is terrifying on any given night, but even more so on the chilly October nights the First Coast has had as of late.

You can find out what lies in Buffalo Bill's basement by streaming "The Silence of the Lambs" on Netflix all month. It's also available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Google Play and YouTube in HD for \$3.99.



**"Insidious" (2010):** "Insidious" is one of the best scary movies of the past decade and it's a perfect mix of horror and suspense without the blood and gore that makes a horror movie rated R. Don't let this movie's PG-13 rating fool you — "Insidious" is still capable of giving you nightmares. It's about a family trying to stop evil spirits from pulling their comatose child into a demonic realm called "The Further." This movie will show you just how spooky a Tiny Tim song can be in the right setting.

"Insidious" can be streamed on Netflix or rented for \$3.99 on streaming services like Amazon Prime Video, Google Play, YouTube and Vudu.

**"Hocus Pocus" (1993):** Hocus Pocus is a classic Disney film perfect for the entire family this Halloween. It features Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy as 17th Century Salem witches awakened in the 1990s by a youngster named Max. It's not a horror movie nor is it particularly scary, but it has just the right amount of spookiness to make this a great movie for parents and their children.

"Hocus Pocus" can be streamed on Disney Plus or rented for \$3.99 on streaming services like Amazon Prime Video, Google Play and YouTube.

**"Hereditary" (2018):** Hereditary is one of the scariest movies ever made and it is guaranteed to haunt you months and months after you watch it. It's a horror movie about an American family being tortured psychologically by an evil spirit. This might sound cliché but what takes place over this movie's 127 minutes is downright disturbing and every second of this film will crawl under your skin. If you're looking for something truly terrifying this Halloween season, "Hereditary" is the movie for you.

You can stream "Hereditary" on Amazon Prime Video and it can be rented for \$3.99 on other services like YouTube, Google Play, the Microsoft Store, Vudu and others.

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