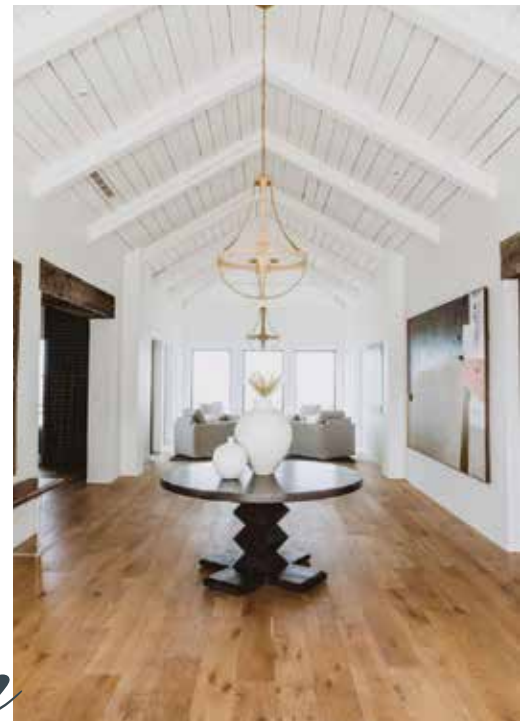
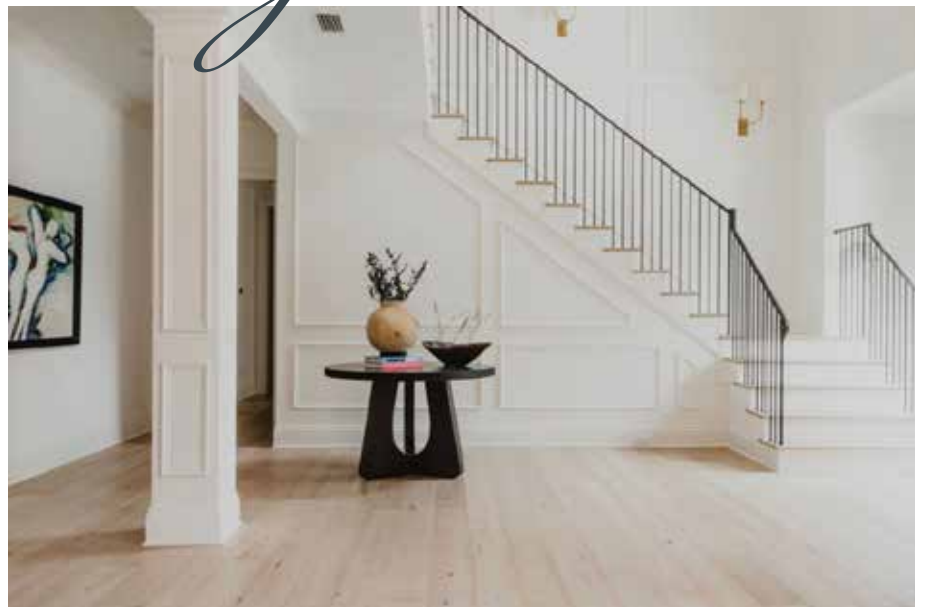


# Sand Castles

LUXURY \* LIFESTYLE \* REAL ESTATE



The Hottest Trends in  
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NOVEMBER 5, 2020

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# Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

**Also in the section:**

- Market Watch: Residential real estate market remains hot
- Recipes: Cooler weather calls for hotter foods
- National political pundit signs books in Ponte Vedra
- A look at several local listings

\*paid advertisement

# Welcome to the fall issue of Sand Castles



**Janet Westling**  
Contributing Editor

Welcome to our fall issue and our seventh anniversary edition of Sand Castles — a luxury, lifestyle and real estate seasonal section. Our fall weather has finally arrived and after navigating a pandemic and a national election we look forward to welcoming our Georgia

neighbors to Jacksonville and our beaches. Since 1915, the Florida/Georgia game has been played, and since 1933, Jacksonville has been proud to host the successful event. Georgians who are our No. 1 feeder state for real estate arrive early to enjoy our restaurants, beautiful beaches and lifestyle! Webster’s definition of lifestyle used as an adjective is, “reflecting or promoting an enhanced or more desirable lifestyle.” Our beaches’ communities and our real estate are the poster child for an amazing lifestyle.

In this issue, entrepreneur and business owner Jennifer Turner contributes a story about J Turner & Company, which was recently named Best of the Best store for interior design. Turner shares the incredible journey she and her husband have taken, with travels around the globe to source the very best in design. This fully stocked store offers same-week delivery, which is a huge plus for new homeowners relocating to our area in record numbers!

Keller Williams broker Mark Dillworth weighs in on the current state of the

real estate market in Market Watch. According to Dillworth, “the residential real estate market has been incredibly hot this year, de-spite the changed economy due to COVID. The This heated market is happening throughout the country. Nationally, in August, showings and pending sales remained very strong while the housing inventory remained limited, continuing the competitive bidding market.”

Thirteen First Coast realtors share their properties currently on the market for sale.

Our youngest contributing writer, Xander Laskowski, writes about his travels. And, according to our contributing food writer, Alice Hickox, nachos and chili ... SCORE! “The best time of the year is upon us: cooler temperature, dramatic sunsets and the dawn of the holiday season. But for me, football season is always the true marker that fall has finally arrived,” Hickox said.

A best-selling author signed copies of her books recently at my home in Sawgrass Country Club. Judge Jeanine

Pirro made her second visit to sign her latest book, “Don’t lie to me,” to a sold-out audience. Judge Jeanine gave an informative talk, took questions and posed for photos before heading to South Florida for more book-signings!

In 2014, I interviewed and wrote a three-part series about one of Jacksonville’s most loved and revered citizens, Dr. Fran Kinne, in “Inside the Legends that Lie Among Us.” In this issue, we reprint the last of the three-part series as a tribute to her remarkable life.

In closing, our home is our castle, and at the beach it is our castle in the sand.

From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

**Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS**  
**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices**  
**Florida Network Realty**  
**Sand Castles creator and contributing editor**  
**Award-winning section**  
[www.janetwestling.com](http://www.janetwestling.com)

## MARKET WATCH

# Housing market remains hot nationally and locally

By Mark Dilworth

Keller Williams Atlantic Partners

The residential real estate market has been incredibly hot this year, despite the changed economy due to COVID -19. The Keller Williams Atlantic Partners Ponte Vedra office is seeing many homes sell before officially going on the market; and, especially at lower price points, multiple offers are common.

This heated market is happening throughout the country. Nationally, in August, showings and pending sales remained very strong while the housing inventory remained limited, continuing the competitive bidding market.

Laurence Yun, the chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, said, “Home prices are heating up fast and the low mortgage rates are allowing buyers to secure cheaper mortgages.”

Yun does offer a note of caution: “While pending contracts hit an all-time high in August, that won’t necessar-

ily translate into a record number of home sales because not all contracts lead to closings.” Additionally, Yun says that, “pending home sales are outperforming many pre-pandemic averages, but without matching supply coming into the market, the recovery won’t be sustainable.”

The Ponte Vedra real estate market is mirroring many of the national trends. For example, some key indicators of interest are:

- The number of listings has declined dramatically since fall of 2019 with available inventory being considerably lower than last year. The absorption rate has decreased from five-six months in the fall of 2019 to just barely three months in the summer of this year.
- While the number of days on the market has had some drastic ups and downs over the course of the past year (ranging from 70-120 days), the current number of days that a home is on the market is the same as this time last year (80 days).
- Listing prices are slightly higher than this time last

year and the sold-to-list price ratio has increased and is now approaching 97%.

Other interesting facts:

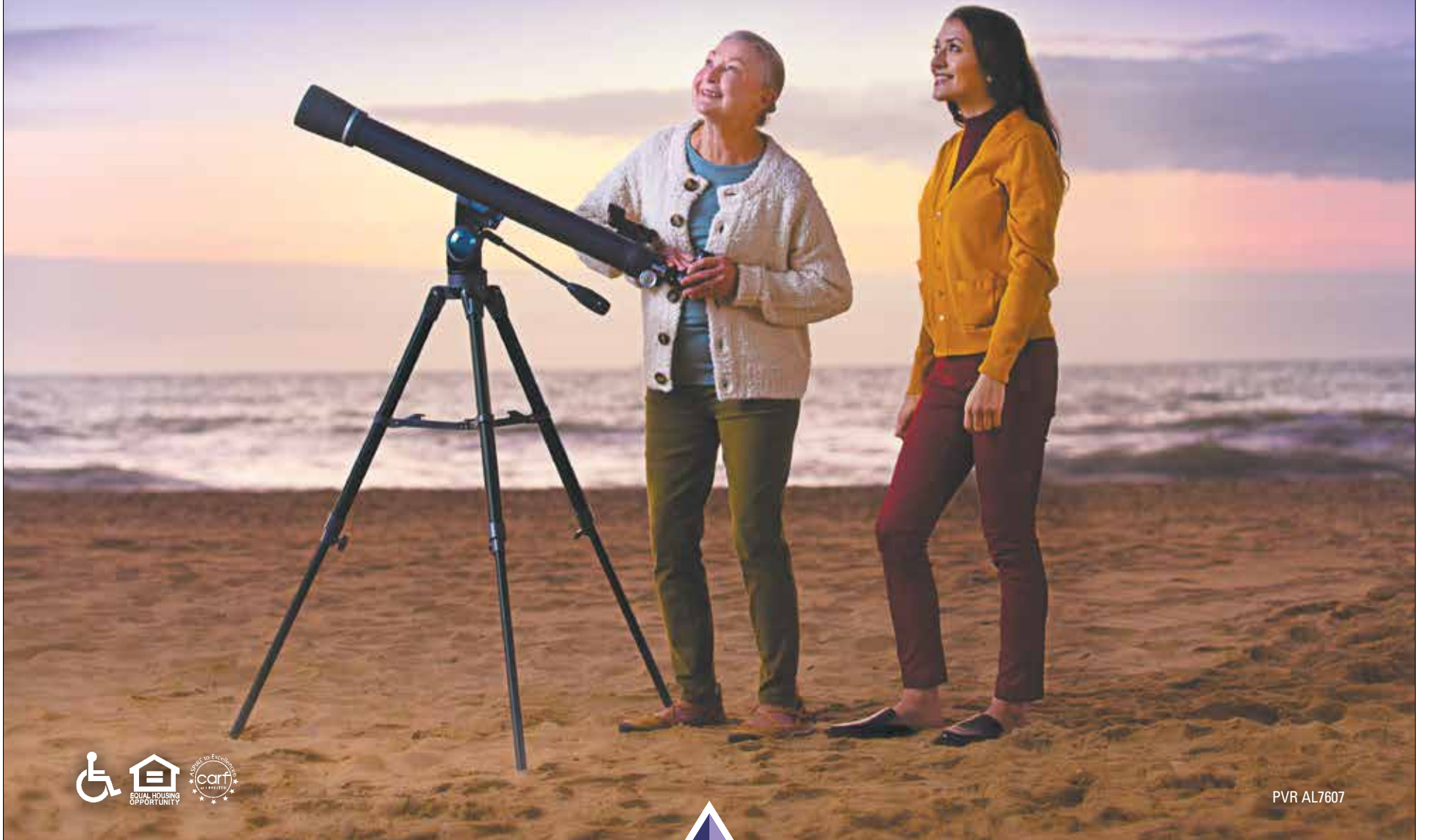
The number of homes that have sold over \$1 million increased 19% as compared to the same period in 2019. This price category is also exceeding last year for pending listings.

The number of active listings has decreased dramatically from 2019 to 2020, for year-to-date comparisons, except for homes in the \$160,00-\$179,000 and \$200,000-\$249,000 price ranges. These two price categories have increased by 51.7% and 29.5%, respectively.

Over the past two quarters both the national and local markets have exceeded most all expectations both in terms of sales and average price. There is still, however, massive uncertainty about the future direction of the economy and therefore it remains difficult to predict whether our resurgent home sale market will continue on the current trajectory.



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## COVER STORY

# J Turner Design Company delivers on style; is named Ponte Vedra's 'Best of the Best'

By Jennifer Turner

I am constantly asked what inspired me to open J Turner Design Company. For those of you just stumbling across this page, J Turner & Co. is my collection of unique and exceptional pieces of furniture and décor handpicked from around the world.

I have the most amazing job! I have traveled to Asia, Europe and around the U.S. to source quality pieces and luxurious textiles to bring right into your home. Prior to opening J Turner Design Co., I found myself building and remodeling homes almost every two years, and having a hard time finding furniture and décor to furnish the homes as I envisioned them. One year, after heading home from the Atlanta area on a shopping spree for furniture, my husband Mark and I got this wild idea to open a furniture store. For sure we were not the only ones who thought there needed to be more options, right? Well, in 2016 we opened our first store in the Sawgrass shopping center of Ponte Vedra, and in 2018 we opened our second store off Philips Highway in Jacksonville.

Every home should be comfortable and welcoming! I think there is a fine line between trying too hard to achieve a certain look, and laid-back effortless style. I grew up in a home where everything was formal, and furniture was even off limits for us four kids to sit on. Creating a space with clean lines, causal comfort, and an overall timeless look is crucial. I love using neutrals on big items, such as a sofa, and then adding layers of colors that speak to me. I am the queen of white and grey sofas, set on top of a crisp, bold rug and covered with colorful, funky pillows and soft throws. I love to mix styles, textures and add unexpected touches. This is my style.

Achieving the perfect look in your home is not about being perfect, it is about being yourself and having a space that showcases you! A place that you can call your sanctuary... that is inviting, fresh and comfortable. It is not always easy designing your own home and, quite honestly, it can be overwhelming. Even for me, my home is a forever work in progress!

J Turner Design Company has a diverse design team. We bounce ideas off each other and live and breathe design every day! Not only do we research trends, seek out new colors, and explore furniture, we listen to the needs of our clients. We have an awesome and flexible design program that includes one of our exclusive designers coming out to your home to measure your



Photos provided by J Turner Design Company



*"Achieving the perfect look in your home is not about being perfect, it is about being yourself and having a space that showcases you!"*

**Jennifer Turner,**  
Owner J Turner & Co.

space and design a plan for any rooms you chose. We work with you to gather information and understand your likes and your vision. Our design fee is \$199.

Speak with any one of our store associates to sign up or go to [www.jturner.com](http://www.jturner.com). We would love to help you create the home of your dreams and are only a

phone call away. One of the advantages of shopping at J Turner Design Co. is that we have plenty of in stock products that can be delivered the week you purchase.





Photos provided by Clare Berry

## Sunny Sawgrass Island estate offers serene surroundings

By Clare Berry

From TPC Boulevard, turning into Sawgrass Pointe, drive up the biggest hill in Ponte Vedra, through a stunning oak hammock. Turning left, you cross the bridge into Sawgrass Island, where the homesites are large (1 acre, plus or minus), the homes unique and only two lanes grace the Island.

This is a special location.

In the cul-de-sac of Whisper Lake Lane East, the home at 8007 sits at the end of a paver drive, surrounded by lush native landscaping. This home was designed to take in the views of the No. 11 at Dye's

Valley Course, one of the PGA TOUR's Ponte Vedra Beach signature courses. Palladian windows all around are a classic home detail that ensures light-filled interiors.

There are many noteworthy features throughout this home: high, smooth ceilings; large rooms; five bedrooms with bathrooms en suite; an easy-access air-conditioned attic; cedar closet; sensible one-story floor plan for everyday living, as well as easy entertaining. Outside, the paver drive extends around the front in a circle as well as around the back, providing easy garage access and additional parking. The spacious lanai includes pool,

fountain and spa, and room for several seating areas, accessed from the home through French doors from the family room, living room and master bedroom. The seller's Sawgrass Country Club membership is available for purchase, offering world-class golf and tennis as well as a great beach club, fitness and dining and social activities.

Beautiful old oaks and palms dot the homesite and the surrounding landscape. Water and golf views are spectacular. This is a perfect place to kick back and watch the ever-changing views of nature and golfers passing by on the Sawgrass TPC property. This home is sited so the rear

faces southeast, perfect for enjoying sun throughout the day.

The nearby TPC Sawgrass clubhouse is open to the public, or you can join the club for additional benefits like food and shopping discounts. Just around the corner from this home, this club is a wonderful addition to what is already a wonderful lifestyle offering. If you haven't discovered Sawgrass Island, this is a terrific opportunity to have a large private lot, a well-designed home and accessibility to shops, restaurants, walking paths and convenience to Jacksonville.

This property is represented by Berry & Co. Real Estate and listed by Clare Berry.



Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton



## Incredible location in Atlantic Beach in the \$700,000s

By Jennifer Sexton

Only three flip-flop blocks to the sand and two blocks to the lively Beaches Town Center, the location of this three-story townhome couldn't be better! Enjoy sun drenched days, a stroll for coffee and the casual beach lifestyle in this spacious home in the heart of Atlantic Beach. Relish in all the reasons to live in this wonderful community from having beach cruisers replace cars on the weekends to baggies and flip flops being considered appropriate attire.

Welcome to 330 2nd St. in Atlantic

Beach. Featuring superior concrete construction and a brand, new roof, you can rest easy in 2,959 square foot with three bedrooms plus a loft, two powder rooms and two full bathrooms. And don't let the three-story layout deter you. There's a dedicated closet specifically designed for an elevator with access to each level.

The ground level features a foyer, a half bath, the main living room with a fireplace, wet bar and a sliding glass door leading to the zen-like fenced-in backyard. This very private area has both a covered patio and an artificial turf area which is beautifully landscaped. Ditch the

lawn mower because this yard is basically maintenance free. An above-ground hot tub, a private outdoor shower and rooftop deck are the perfect complements to outdoor living in this home. The first level also has a storage room that leads to the oversized one-car garage and carport for additional parking.

The second level is the main living area of the home. An open kitchen boasts stainless steel appliances and has an island perfect for food prepping. The kitchen conveniently overlooks the dining area and just down the hall is a second half bath, a laundry area, loads of storage

space and an open loft space. This loft space could be a second living room, an office, a workout space or a game room. The third level features two guest rooms, a full bath and the master retreat. Enjoy the peaceful environment of the master suite, which is positioned away from the main living areas on the third level. The serene master bath features a soaking tub, a walk-in shower and a double vanity. The perfect place to end your day!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Jennifer Sexton and offered at \$760,000.



Photos provided by Michelle Mousin

## Mariners Point home offers serenity inside and out

By Michelle Mousin

If you are looking for privacy, nature and something a bit off the beaten path but still close to everything, this Mariners Point Home is perfect.

The two-story, 3,266-square-foot home, located at 4815 Mariners Point Drive, is a nature lover's paradise and is situated on an 18-foot-high bluff with unobstructed views overlooking Shipyard Creek out to the St. Johns River. The beautifully landscaped 1-acre lot is alive with azaleas,

tropical foliage and fruit trees.

The living area has volume ceilings and is the focal point of the home. Through the ideally placed glass doors and windows, you can relax on your couch and take in the live, nature show of eagles, ospreys, manatees and dolphins. You can also enjoy the panoramic scenery from the extensive back deck and walk down the 165-foot-dock that boasts a 5,000-pound boat lift and gazebo. The gazebo has room for entertaining directly on the water with your chairs and grill or as a great spot to enjoy

shrimping, crabbing, kayaking and paddle boarding. Fort Caroline National Memorial Park is to the left and is believed to be the spot that French explorers landed and settled in 1564.

The home has been remodeled with large sliders in the living room to take in the view, wood and tile flooring, completely new chef's kitchen with double ovens and gas range, master suite and bath that was remodeled with his-and-hers closets and is located on the first floor. Don't miss the adjoining sunroom positioned

to feel like you have the outdoors inside. Three bedrooms and one bath are on the second floor. Ample storage is available throughout the home with an extra storage area under the home that can be accessed through a door from the backyard. A new roof was just installed along with a new water heater. This home is ready for a new owner to enjoy the Florida waterfront lifestyle at its best.

The home is represented by Engel and Volkers, listed by Michelle Mousin and offered for \$765,000.



Photos provided by Gwinn Volen



## Payasada Estates home is hot property in hot market

By Gwinn Volen

The real estate market in Ponte Vedra Beach and the bulk of Florida has seen a boom since June. Early fears of a real estate fallout due to the pandemic were quickly allayed as we've seen an influx of hungry buyers from cities across the U.S.

Why not? We have the beach, incredible schools and medical care, and, of course, no state income taxes. And, the workplace has changed in a matter of months, giving more and more people a choice on where they want to live, as telecommuting becomes the new norm.

With inventory at only 2.7 months and

down 59% from September 2019, a record low — a balanced market is six months — 164 Payasada Oaks Trail in Payasada Estates off Palm Valley Road is poised to move off the market quickly.

Why? It offers what so many buyers want — a great lot in a beautiful, gated community, stylish finishes, high-end appliances, space for multiple offices or learning centers and fabulous outdoor space with ample room for a pool and extra play space. It also has a three-car garage and plenty of storage space. Lack of garage space can be a deal breaker for some buyers, and people from areas where basements are a plenty really like their storage!

Built in 2012, the construction is still in the "new" phase for buyers, and when compared to what it would cost to build a similar home, it becomes a no-brainer for many buyers. With lumber prices skyrocketing and a slow supply chain, it would be next to impossible to rebuild this home on this large lot close to the list price of \$1,150,000.

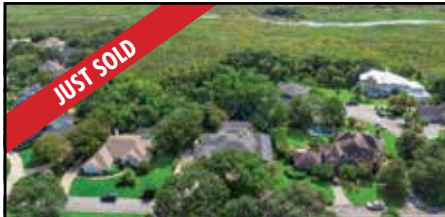
Sellers should take notes on the preparation that went into getting the house ready. The property is beautifully repainted inside with a fresh white color. The landscaping is crisp, and the outside has been power-washed and freshened, making it show ready.

Payasada Estates has approximately 60 homes in it. The neighborhood has sidewalks, as well as a playground and basketball court, and the St. Johns County school bus drops children off inside the gates.

All signs point to the 32082 market continuing to see an upswing, with homes like this one going under contract quickly. The average sales price for a single-family home in Ponte Vedra Beach is up 39% when compared to September 2019, and closed sales are up 77% when comparing the same time periods. Coupled with the low inventory, this makes for a good seller's market.



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**OLD BARN ISLAND**

Single level pool home in the very desirable Old Barn Island neighborhood of Sawgrass Country Club, a private member owned club, is uniquely situated in an oceanfront gated community in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach. Walk to the beach, watch waves roll in across the shore and enjoy the beauty and mystique of the charming seaside neighborhood of Old Barn Island in Sawgrass. 4BR/6BA with over 4200 sq. ft. Sold for \$925,000



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Totally renovated & updated 4BR/3.5BA home. Enjoyed for many years by family members as a 2nd home. Ready to pass on for your enjoyment! Open floorplan is spacious enough for large gatherings. Expansive views of the Atlantic Ocean can be seen as you enter the front door. Extras & upgrades throughout. Great room features woodburning fireplace for cooler weather. 2-car garage, separate storage room, outside deck and upper balcony that opens from 3 BRs. Easy walkover to ocean adjoins the property. Offered for \$2,895,000



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904-739-1626**



**MARINA SAN PABLO ON THE INTRACOASTAL**

Move right in and enjoy the lock & leave lifestyle in this light-filled 3 BR 3.5BA + office condominium with open floor plan, tile & wood floors, plantation shutters, custom designed closets & built-ins in office. Marina San Pablo offers resort-style amenities in a private, gated community setting. Minutes to the beach and Mayo Clinic! Offered for \$735,000



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**RIVERFRONT IN OLD SAN JOSE**

Located in a private, gated community within minutes of San Marco Square and Downtown Jacksonville, this exceptional condominium features an open floor plan with 2 riverfront balconies, elevator opening to your private foyer, custom details and fine finishes. Enjoy the resort style amenities and low maintenance living in the city! Offered for \$1,299,999



**Call Cheryl Dolan  
305-509-1396**



**BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOME IN THE HEART OF ATLANTIC BEACH**

Only 3 flip flop blocks to the sand and 2 blocks to The Beaches Town Center, the location of 330 2nd St couldn't be better. With 3 bedrooms plus a loft, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, at 2,959 square feet, you can ditch the lawn mower since the yard has artificial turf and is maintenance-free! There's a 1 car garage, a carport, and large driveway to fit cars, boat, jet ski or whatever toys you bring. Offered for \$760,000



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



**OCEAN VIEWS ON BEACH AVENUE, ATLANTIC BEACH**

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



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



**VILLARIVA RIVERFRONT CONDO IN HISTORIC RIVERSIDE**

Imagine watching the vibrant sunrises and sunsets from your private riverfront terrace! VillaRiva is located in the heart of historic Riverside, with all the fun of the urban lifestyle right outside your door. This 10th floor residence offers 3BR/3BA, 2725SF, a Private 2 Car Garage with a multitude of common amenities to enjoy. Offered for \$1,100,000



**Call Lee Elmore  
904-699-4503**



**GUEST HOME ON OCEANFRONT ESTATE**

Three-level guest house with 3-car garage, studio/workshop as well as two decks! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and 1,536 sq. ft. Offered for \$5,048,000



**Call Lew Walters  
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**IDEALLY LOCATED ATLANTIC BEACH RETREAT**

This 3-story townhome is only two blocks away from the ocean as well as the Beaches Town Center. This home features wood and tile floors throughout, granite countertops, Nest thermostats, ample storage, and an elevator shaft configured into the floorplan if needed. Enjoy the home's rooftop deck or the easily maintained backyard oasis complete with a 6-ft privacy fence, covered patio, and relaxing hot tub. 3 bedrooms, 2F/2H bathrooms. Offered for \$835,000



**Call Michele Segars  
904-910-6355**



**OCEANFRONT ESTATE HOME IN ATLANTIC BEACH**

Iconic Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Estate with 4BR/4.5BA and 4,460 sq. ft. Large wraparound porch welcomes you to the main house overlooking the Atlantic Ocean! Offered for \$5,048,000



**Call Rosemary Kristoff  
904-333-4841**



**MARSH LANDING COUNTRY CLUB**

Experience a beautifully decorated, coastal traditional 5BR/5.5BA custom home with 4946sf of spacious living built by Gary McCumber. The foyer opens to a charming dining room, a large 2-story living room, all with hardwood floors and a wall of windows & doors overlooking the pool & spa. This home offers the best of Ponte Vedra Beach living! Offered for \$1,175,000



**Call Janet Westling  
904-813-1913**



**PEACEFUL WATERFRONT HOME IN MARSH LANDING CC**

This gorgeous waterfront 4BR home with office is open and bright and conveniently located to all the beach offerings. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, Plantation shutters and paved patio are some of the many quality features. Give me a call to sell your home, with the finest service today! SOLD for \$620,000



**Call Tanya Polisetty  
904-729-5691**



Photos provided by Cici Anderson



## Maintenance-free living at Marina San Pablo ... your waterfront paradise where your playground awaits

By Cici Anderson

On the banks of Northern Florida's lush Intracoastal landscape is a natural wonder, waiting to be discovered. Marina San Pablo is more than an elegant condominium and townhome community.

This is the lock-and-leave lifestyle that everyone dreams of. From the gated entrance, the exquisitely landscaped grounds and the private marina to the luxurious open floorplans with designer finishes. And the views cannot be surpassed, with

panoramic views of the marina and the Intracoastal Waterway.

At every turn, Marina San Pablo is a destination, where natural wonders never cease to amaze. There's even a community fishing pier where the fish are jumping as the dolphins and manatee pass by. The Yacht Club houses the gym, a beautiful gathering room, a catering kitchen with sitting area, bar and TV. And outside is the sparkling pool, Jacuzzi, grilling area, marina and walking promenade. Fifty-foot boat slips are right in your backyard

for all your water sports — boating, jet skiing or kayaking — this is the easy lifestyle you have been dreaming about and searching for.

Marina San Pablo is located off San Pablo Road just south of J. Turner Butler Boulevard. It is only a short drive to the many beautiful beaches in Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville Beach, close to the St. John's Town Center and the world-renowned PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, and next door to the prestigious Mayo Clinic and Hospital.

This incredible top-floor condominium boasts magnificent postcard views of the Intracoastal. This three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath condo is offered for \$725,000. We also have a two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath condo with a 50-foot boat slip visible from the balcony. It is offered for \$474,900. Both of these condos also come with a full golf membership to Marsh Landing Country Club should you desire. These properties are represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson and Jenna Fisher.



Photos provided by Patti A. Armstrong



## Lavista Drive home: Oh, what I'd give to live here

By Patti A. Armstrong

26 Lavista Drive is one of those rare, corner lots in the heart of Old Ponte Vedra Beach that rarely come on the market. This .69-acre lot on the water is graced by a lovely custom-built, one-owner classic Georgian home.

The sellers built this home with special features including a grand entrance, library/office, doors and windows with capitals, dental-crown molding, built-in cabinetry, custom fireplace and a sunroom-fresh air room. The large kitchen features a walk-in pantry, large island, Carrera marble countertops, separate breakfast room, formal living and formal dining rooms.

Georgian homes have a "kitchen door," where the deliveries were made, and your closest friends entered. A total of 4,636 square feet and an additional approximately 700 square feet of unfinished, but usable space above the garage that could be easily converted.

If you want a special place in Old Ponte Vedra with character, walkable to the beach, close to the five-diamond Ponte Vedra Inn and Club and The Lodge and Club, 26 LaVista Drive will welcome you.

The lifestyle in Old Ponte Vedra is very friendly.

Many outdoor activities await, such as biking, walking, jogging, fishing and swimming, Tennis and golf are available at

the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club along with dining, club activities, parties, exercise facility, personal trainers, yoga and spin classes. Old Ponte Vedra lends itself to a more active lifestyle, great for making new friends and soaking up the Florida sunshine.

Ponte Vedra has world-renowned restaurants and shopping, a Cultural Center and a Concert Hall. This is why so many seek to live in Ponte Vedra. Around Ponte Vedra you have all of our other beaches to enjoy. St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach is the No. 1 tourist destination, featuring "Nights of Lights." Jacksonville Beach has an oceanfront amphitheater. Neptune Beach features a farmers market, shops

and restaurants. Atlantic Beach Town Center is buzzing with eateries, and shopping and the Atlantic Beach Golf and Country Club.

Just a short drive to Jacksonville, you can go to a Jaguars football game, a Jumbo Shrimp baseball game, the theater and an arena hosting big names from all over the world.

Preferred membership initiation fee pricing for The Inn and Club, The Lodge and Club, Epping Forest Yacht Club and The River Club may be available to the purchaser(s) of this listing.

This property is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Patti A. Armstrong and offered for \$2,500,000.



# Coastal luxury with panoramic views on Ponte Vedra Boulevard

By Elizabeth Hudgins

Custom built in 2018 with a penchant for detail, 724 Ponte Vedra Blvd., was thoughtfully designed by the seller, owner of Nesting Place Interiors, and constructed by Heritage Homes.

Situated on over an acre lot, this property highlights the gorgeous surrounding landscape, with ocean sunrises to the East and Guana Preserve sunsets to the West, while seamlessly integrating that beauty throughout.

Showcasing sophisticated coastal luxury, this nearly 4,000-square-foot home features quality finishes and craftsmanship throughout. With unrivaled attention to design, this four-bedroom, three-full bath/two-half bath home features a neutral coastal palette, European white-oak hardwood floors, shiplap details and reclaimed wood beams.

Featuring an upside-down floor plan, the downstairs offers three bedrooms along with two full baths as well as a bonus area, custom-paneled elevator and ample storage. This level also includes a large flex space complete with a marble half bath and wet bar. While currently utilized as a home office, this area is amenable to any owner's lifestyle and can even be converted into an additional garage space.

Designed to take advantage of the home's breathtaking panoramic views, the upstairs great room offers vaulted ceilings, a two-

story gas fireplace, vast windows and an open concept. The kitchen accommodates the chef of any skill level with Thermador appliances, an expansive marble island, a hidden walk-in pantry and a farmhouse sink overlooking the ocean. Enjoy ocean views from the master suites private balcony along with a Thassos marble bath and custom-built closet. And don't forget about the home's temperature-controlled wine cellar or the striking laundry room with antique doors and basin sink from the South of France.

As impeccable as the accommodations are inside, the outdoor living spaces are just as impressive. The upstairs living area features front and back collapsible sliding doors optimal for indoor-outdoor living. The front balcony, affectionately known as the "best porch" in town, offers the ideal place to relax, watch the sunrise and enjoy the ocean breeze. Showcasing equally captivating sunsets, the back porch features a summer kitchen, Guana views and fireplace. Take advantage of the home's ethereal al fresco dining area and deeded beach access. A masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, this home offers sophisticated coastal luxury at its finest.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway Florida Network Realty, listed by Elizabeth Hudgins and Tina Webster and offered at \$3,600,000.



Photos provided by Elizabeth Hudgins



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# Judge Jeanine holds book signing at Sawgrass CC home

By Janet Westling

Judge Jeanine Pirro, author of “Don’t Lie to Me and Stop Trying to Steal our Freedom,” signed copies of her book at the home of Dale and Janet Westling in Sawgrass Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 8.

Since January 2017, when President Donald Trump took office, Pirro has reported and commented on the left’s countless lies and false accusations. “Enough is Enough,” said Pirro, and makes her case in her latest bestseller, “Don’t Lie to Me and Stop Trying to Steal Our Freedom,” which addresses topics such as the impeachment, the road to the 2020 presidential election and the strength of this administration during the coronavirus.

More than 50 friends and neighbors met the two-time bestselling author, judge, former prosecutor, TV personality and host of the Fox News show, “Justice with Judge Jeanine,” which airs at 9 p.m. every Saturday.

Pirro spoke for 45 minutes, took questions and signed books for those who attended.



Photos by Wally Sears

Judge Jeanine Pirro speaks to guests at a book signing event Oct. 8 at the Westling home in Ponte Vedra.



Laurie Odom with Pirro



CC Pettry (left) and Deb Pettry with Pirro



John Clegg with Pirro



Judy and Gary Ball



Dr. Lewis Obi with Pirro



Sue Molm with Pirro

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# The Beach Dream: A great place to create family memories

By Lisa Barton

When the Sheperd family was looking for a change from their Texas pace of life back in 2015, they began their search in Florida. With the sunshine and a warmer climate as a permanent goal, they set their sights on the Jacksonville Beaches.

“We vacationed in the Caribbean all the time,” said Cindy Sheperd, “so, we decided to build a house near the ocean so I could walk the beach every day!”

Luckily, they were able to secure an empty lot on Ocean Grove in Atlantic Beach several years ago. With the perfect lot secured, they partnered up with local architect, Mark Macco, and developer Irina Johnson, of Aria Homes, to build their dream beach home. Cindy was so excited for the contemporary design by Macco and allowed him to put his touches on the home.

Johnson has described the house as a contemporary beauty of stone, glass and dark wood. The house boasts warm colors and rich wood tones that create an intimate feeling and welcoming environment. The wall of windows keeps the light accessible throughout the house.

Johnson also made the most of the lot by building a two-story home with plenty of room for a spacious custom pool and an outdoor kitchen, with covered entertaining spaces. Even the family pooches have room to run around in the back yard — a rarity for

Atlantic Beach! The bamboo trees surrounding the yard give privacy and shade to the property, a natural benefit that the Sheperds appreciate.

The Sheperd family loves the finished product — a contemporary home with four bedrooms, four bathrooms and nearly 4,000 square feet of living space. Cindy says the kitchen is one of her favorite rooms in the home. She loved coming up, with the design with her son Alex heavily involved, making it even more special to her. The sleek, gourmet kitchen, with glass-front cabinets and open concept design, is truly her dream kitchen.

The Sheperds enjoy the abundance of outdoor living space that the balconies and patios offer. The highest rooftop deck provides views of the ocean and the family loves to watch the container ships go by and even the wind surfers in the early hours of the morning.

“The top deck is so cool. We watched the Blue Angels from up there as they flew by,” says Sheperd. “They were so close we could see the guys in the cockpit!”

The family loves the custom home inside and out. But all good things come to an end, and they have put the property on the market to return to their roots in Ohio. They’ll be sad to say goodbye but have wonderful memories of their days at the beach.

This property, located at 1837 Ocean Grove in Atlantic Beach, is represented by The Lisa Barton Team, Keller Williams Luxury International Specialists, and offered at \$1,999,999.



Photos provided by Lisa Barton



## Thinking of Selling Your Home, Now is the Time!

**Ponte Vedra Beach Statistics**  
(Oct 2020 vs Oct 2019)

2.2 Months of Inventory, -61%  
Showings Per Listing, +97%



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## 305 San Juan Drive

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# The perfect family home in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach

By Janet Westling

Step inside 5070 Bentgrass Circle and experience a custom-built traditional home by Gary McCumber that is beautifully designed inside and out in the heart of Marsh Landing Country Club.

With over 4,900 square feet of spacious living, this gorgeous home features two staircases and three fireplaces, crown molding and built-in cabinetry. This custom home includes five bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths with a first-floor master bedroom and chef's kitchen that is open to the family room and breakfast room. Upstairs offers three bedrooms with a fifth en suite bedroom /bonus room. The foyer opens to a private office with custom-built wood cabinets and a sophisticated light filled dining room, with hardwood floors that adjoins a butler's pantry perfect for serving. With vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, the great room overlooks the luxury pool/spa that brings the outdoors in. This house has function, flow and style!

The Ponte Vedra lifestyle in Marsh Landing Country Club was created in 1985 by property brothers Jerome and Paul Fletcher. The brothers placed a

huge emphasis on the conservation and preservation of the environment that included tidal marshes, natural lakes and a wide variety of native trees. They executed their plan beautifully and today, 35 years later, this pristine environment is host to wildlife such as ospreys, egrets, herons, deer and, of course, residents! Believed by many to be "the best neighborhood connecting Jacksonville to the Atlantic Ocean," Marsh Landing Country Club features a private 18-hole golf course designed by Ed Seay of Arnold Palmer Course Design. The par-72 course winds through some of the most scenic marshes and groves, connecting sport to nature in a nod to the biodiversity of the environment.

Ponte Vedra Beach, a community on the Atlantic Ocean, is convenient to Jacksonville, close to the Mayo Clinic hospital and the University of North Florida. Just minutes to the beach, golf, tennis and fitness centers, experience the best of Marsh Landing Country Club and enjoy vacation living year-round!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, listed by Janet Westling and offered for \$1,175,000.



Photos provided by Janet Westling



## Four spectacular properties from the beaches to Ortega and Fleming Island – the perfect retreat to call home!



POOL

Beautiful coastal traditional home with 4946SF of spacious living built by Gary McCumber. 2-story living room overlooks pool & spa



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*"I have seen the results of homes that I have staged time and time again. And according to the real estate staging association," homes which are staged before going on the market, sell 73% faster on average than their non-staged counterparts."*



Photos provided by Xander Lisowski



## TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT

# Flying on Delta's MD-88 airplane is special experience

By Xander Lisowski

On June 2, 2020, Delta operated the very last flight on an MD-88 in North America. Now, unfortunately, since I was only able to fly standby, I was not able to get on the actual last flight. However, I was able to fly the day before, which was my first and last flight on a McDonnell-Douglas MD-88. Also, this is not a review of Delta, the review for Delta will be published very soon at TheLoungeLad.com.

On June 1, I flew up to Atlanta on a Southwest 737. Then the challenge began. The challenge was because I was flying standby and Delta always has many other standbys. Also, due to COVID-19, many flight schedules to my home city would not be able to get me home. First, I tried to get on the flight to Dulles Airport in D.C., which was unsuccessful. Thanks to the amazing gate agent who took the time to ask the pilots if they would show me around the plane, I was escorted down to the plane where the amazing pilots gave me a tour. I would like to give a personal shout-out to Capt. Tim Kalahan and First Officer Eric John for taking the time to

show me around the cockpit. I, unfortunately, didn't get to fly on that flight as it ended up filling up.

About an hour later, I tried to get on the flight to Panama City in my home state of Florida. Luckily, it was a success! As an added bonus, I got a window seat. (I wasn't completely against bribing someone for a window, though.) I would also like to mention the attendants on my flight, because I must have missed them while I was dorking out on the first flight, but they recognized me and were happy to see I had made the flight. (Well, at least I think they were on the first flight I tried to get on. I have no clue how else they would have known.) The flight was uneventful, and I enjoyed every second of it.

I was sad to see that we were starting to land, but I was also very happy that I got to experience flying an MD-88. As we pulled into the gate in Panama City, I stayed on the plane to snap a few more pictures as this would be my one and only chance. The amazing flight crew stayed behind and helped me get some pictures,

TRAVEL continues on Page 28



### MARINA SAN PABLO

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Photos provided by Anita Vining



## Sea Island Drive home offers lush living, amazing amenities

By Anita Vining

Looking for a beach lifestyle and neighborhood? Incredible living can be yours within the gated community of The Preserve in Sawgrass Country Club at 121 Sea Island Drive.

Overlooking one of Ponte Vedra's top-rated golf courses, you will be able to observe the golfers in the distance from the screened lanai or patio. Chill in the

sunken hot tub at the end of a long day. Wake up to the sounds of birds chirping or sip your favorite beverage in the evenings as the magnificent sunsets fall below the treetops. If you enjoy bird watching, you will be amazed at the soaring birds as they swoop by.

This elegant two-story home was custom built by current owner with the help of a well-known local designer. Attention to detail is featured in the beautiful mill

work and arched openings that are abundant throughout. Newly painted interior walls with neutral color add to the ambiance and await your own personal style. A well-organized and air-conditioned garage will impress you further with an abundance of shelving and storage.

An equity membership to Sawgrass Country Club is available for purchase making it easy to immediately join the new state-of-the-art facility without being

on the current waiting list (membership includes golf, tennis and beach club). Imagine hopping in your golf cart to go to the fabulous oceanfront beach club, golf course or just browse around the neighborhood to admire the lovely, manicured landscape.

Ponte Vedra Beach is the premier area for Northeast Florida's First Coast. Make this home your own and start living the life!



Photos provided by Allison Ferebee

## Build your beachfront oasis on South Ponte Vedra Boulevard

By Allison Ferebee

Enjoy morning walks on the beach, sunset picnics on the sand and your own personal sound spa as you sleep.

Oceanfront living is the dream. Build

your custom beach house oasis on this perfectly placed oceanfront lot on South Ponte Vedra Boulevard. This amazing lot has 75 feet of oceanfront footage!

Located between beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach and historic St. Augustine, you are

sure to find the best of shopping, dining and country club lifestyle.

Situated close to Serenata Beach Club, membership can get you private pool access, a relaxing spa, as well as first-class dining and entertainment. The possibilities

are endless, and the views are breathless.

This property, located at 2835 South Ponte Vedra Blvd., is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Allison Ferebee, and offered at \$349,000.

## Travel

Continued from 27

then the flight deck crew invited me into the cockpit and talked to me for a few minutes before I, unfortunately, had to leave the plane.

Before I close, I would like to make

a comment about the crew. Everyone I came in contact with was wonderful and was very helpful and were happy to take the time to help me have a great experience flying on a Delta MD-88. I was going to save this for my Delta review, but I couldn't save it as I was so impressed by the service. This is a really tough thing to get right, especially for me coming from

JetBlue. However, this could have been because I was flying through Atlanta in the Southeast U.S. where people tend to be a lot nicer in general. Still, I would like to thank the crew, and if there is any way I can find the names of these people to thank them, I would.

I am sad that Delta retired its MD-88s, but I am thankful I got to fly on one before

they are all gone. This experience really showed that they don't make planes like they used to. If you didn't get the chance to fly on one of these vintage aircraft, there are still MD-88s flying for an airline in Iran called Taban Airlines.

**Xander Lisowski is a 13-year-old Ponte Vedra resident who shares his travel experiences on his blog at [www.TheLoungeLad.com](http://www.TheLoungeLad.com).**

# Nachos and chili ... SCORE!



**Alice Hickox**  
Lettuce Do Dinner

The best time of the year is upon us: cooler temperature, dramatic sunsets and the dawn of the holiday season. But for me, football season is always the true marker that fall has finally arrived, often weeks before Mother Nature would have us guess.

As much as I would love to say that I actually sit down and watch football, the real thrill for me is the social aspect of it — friends, family and FOOD! Whether it's gathering in our various homes, or tailgating when the weather is cool, football season brings excitement. But most of the time, I can be found watching the game from the kitchen, looking up mostly to see what I just missed when the entire living room goes into a roar!

Through all the craziness of this year, one thing that hasn't been taken away from us, is the home cooking. Many people have tapped into cooking talents they didn't know existed. But trust me, the recipes I'm sharing today do not require chef skills! We may not be able to tailgate at the games, but we can certainly keep the football spirit festive with what we create in our own kitchens.

As a personal chef, I take a lot of pride in creating healthy, lightened up versions of traditional comfort foods. However, even though

my specialty is clean and healthy meals, every now and then, you just want to blow it out and whip up some great fall comfort food and forget about carbs and calories! Who's with me? The recipes I'm sharing are perfect for what I really want happening in my kitchen on game day, or any day for that matter!

The first recipe is definitely a winning combination — nachos and barbeque. Yum!

This recipe was inspired by a recent trip my husband and I took to North Carolina, where after a day of apple picking in an orchard in the foothills with our kids, we stopped off at a highly recommended barbecue restaurant. On its starter menu was pulled-pork barbeque nachos. I was swooning after the first bite, and I'm pretty sure the entire sheet pan piled high was devoured in less than five minutes. OK, we were hungry ... but still! I made a note to self to re-create this for college game days. These are equally delicious using shredded rotisserie chicken and your favorite BBQ sauce.

The next recipe is equally comforting and definitely what I want in my crockpot ready to go all day long. It's a super easy white chicken chili that uses rotisserie chicken. And oops ... it's also healthy! But nobody needs to know that as you can load it up with sour cream, cheese, crushed nachos ... or take some of those nachos and dip it in your chili. Either way, it's a bowl of deliciously warm comfort that will make you a winner in the kitchen.

So, let's get cooking!



## PULLED PORK BBQ NACHOS

- 1 bag tortilla chips. I used a mixture of regular and blue corn
- 2 cups shredded Monterrey Jack cheese
- 1½ cups prepared pulled pork (or if using shredded chicken, dice and mix with favorite jarred BBQ sauce)
- ¼ cup thinly sliced red onion
- ½ cup diced red bell pepper
- ½ cup sliced jalapeños (seeds removed for milder)
- ½ cup of your favorite BBQ sauce
- Chopped fresh cilantro, sour cream, diced avocado and red pepper or green onions.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Line a sheet pan or cast-iron skillet with enough chips to cover bottom of pan.
2. Add a layer of pulled pork or shredded BBQ chicken, jalapeños, red onion, bell pepper, BBQ sauce and cheese.
3. Top with remaining chips and add another layer of ingredients ending with cheese.
4. Bake at 350 F for 10-15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Remove from oven and top with green onions, cilantro and sour cream.

## WHITE BEAN AND CHICKEN CHILI

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup chopped white or yellow onion
- 4 cloves garlic, minced

- 1 (7 oz) can diced, mild green chilis
- 2 Tbsp Chili powder
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp coriander
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cans (or ½ carton) low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup frozen or fresh corn kernels (optional)
- 2 15-oz cans cannellini beans, drained
- 1 pound rotisserie chicken, chopped
- ½ cup half-and-half
- Favorite garnishes (cilantro, sour cream, shredded cheese, crushed tortillas)



### DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oil in large saucepan over med-high heat. Add onion and saute until it begins to soften, about four minutes. Add minced garlic cloves and saute for 30 seconds

- more, just until garlic becomes fragrant.
2. Add canned green chilis, chili powder, cumin, coriander and cayenne. Stir into onion mixture.
3. Add chicken broth and bring to a simmer. Add chopped chicken, beans, corn and half-and-half. Bring chili back to a simmer and heat through, about five minutes.
4. Season with salt and pepper if needed.
5. Top with crushed tortilla chips, green onions, cilantro and shredded cheese



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## 'Rosemary Beach' home to offer best of beach lifestyle

**By Katie Hughes Johnson**

If you seek oceanfront luxury in South Jacksonville Beach, this "Rosemary Beach" West Indies-style home will amaze you with its clean, coastal architectural style. The lot is adjacent to beach access allowing for unparalleled ocean views from every angle! Home plans have been designed to showcase these views and open family spaces to oversized balconies and patios let you "take in" the beauty of the Atlantic Ocean!

The home to be built by Cottage Home Company will feature 4,155 square feet of

conditioned space, plus over 700 square feet of exterior porches for optimum ocean viewing. The floor plan boasts five bedrooms, five bathrooms, a large game room and storage room, two-car garage and elevator. The ground floor consists of the oversized two-car garage, storage room and mud room with secondary washer and dryer. Kitchen, dining room, family room, and guest bedroom and bath are located on the second floor. Large oceanfront terraces are situated off the family and dining rooms. The third floor holds the remaining four bedrooms, four bathrooms and an ample bonus/game

room. A balcony off the master bedroom affords views at all angles from the North to the South.

Coastal construction to meet the latest oceanfront building standards consists of Auger pilings, impact glass, concrete block on the first floor and a cedar shake shingle roof. The exterior will be a combination of stucco and Hardi-lap siding.

High-end interior finishes include a wine storage room, 7-inch wide-plank wood flooring, custom built-ins, Isokern masonry gas fireplace, solid core doors, 7-inch crown molding, 7/4-inch baseboards and more. The gourmet kitchen

boasts full overlay wood cabinetry, wood flooring, quartz counters, stainless steel Sub-Zero/Wolf appliances, decorative tile backsplash and more. The home is in the planning stage with buyers able to make interior selections and possible floorplan changes.

This incredible lot, floorplan and location in premium South Jax Beach is the epitome of "Living the beach lifestyle."

The property, located at 3002 Ocean Drive South, is represented by McAfee Hughes Group & RE/MAX Specialists PV, listed by Katie Hughes Johnson and offered for \$3,695,000.



Photos provided by Jennifer White



## Exquisite waterfront lot on Cabbage Creek in Marsh Landing

**By Jennifer White**

Ponte Vedra Beach, located in Northeast Florida, is a seaside haven known for its pristine beaches, Intracoastal Waterway and famous resorts with championship golf.

Ponte Vedra is home to the PGA TOUR, the ATP, THE PLAYERS Championship, several famed private beach clubs and is within close proximity to the renowned Mayo Clinic and downtown Jacksonville, home of The Jacksonville

Jaguars. Ponte Vedra resides in St. Johns County, one of the wealthiest counties in Florida and boasts A-rated schools that are ranked top in the state.

Marsh Landing Country Club, a premier private club located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, offers an 18-hole golf course, tennis, fitness and clubhouse. The developers of MLCC painstakingly preserved indigenous trees and plants while master planning this beautiful community!

320 Keeler's Court is one of 51 home-site in Clearlake nestled within Marsh

Landing and is the last lot in Clearlake! This lot is just over 1/2 acre and is already partially cleared making it the perfect place to build your dream home in Marsh Landing. Remove the headache of remodeling and trying to retrofit what you want in an older home. Build your dream home that you design and pick out all the finishes for. There is a geotechnical report stating the lot has a 100-by-70 "foot-print" plan dimensions, so all you need to do is bring your architect and builder. The tidal creek with amazing views from

your soon-to-be creation flows right out to the Intracoastal. Don't forget to bring your fishing poles so you can fish off your new dock, lounge chairs so you can relax while enjoying the breathtaking views and nature wildlife, your boat, jet ski, kayak, paddle board, etc., and enjoy the lifestyle this lot affords you. This lot is a must-see! Access to the water is a water lover's dream. Don't miss your chance!

This home is represented by Re/Max Specialists PV and listed by Jennifer White.





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# Timeless country estate brings French feel to Ponte Vedra

By Suzie Connolly

This French country estate will steal your heart the moment you pass through the gated entry. Nestled on five bucolic acres in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, you'll feel you've been transplanted to another time and place.

Custom built by highly esteemed Victory Custom Homes for the builder's own family, no expense was spared, nor detail overlooked. This well thought out and beautifully designed home can handle the largest of gatherings while still feeling comfortable and intimate.

The main house features four bedrooms with four full baths and two charming sleeping nooks. The gracious foyer with arch-top 3-inch-thick double doors welcomes you into the lovely living room with two-story limestone fireplace and hand-hewn cypress beams. You'll find these stunning timber beams throughout the home.

The stunning chef's kitchen has old world cabinetry, 4-centimeter soap stone countertops with fully integrated farm sinks and high-end appliances including Wolf gas range, Viking hood, two Subzero refrigerators and Bosh dishwasher. There is a separate prep pantry with built-in cabinets, soap stone counters to complement the kitchen and Advantium speed oven and microwave. Other highlights include Eu-

ropean plaster walls throughout, reclaimed vintage wood floors and antique French terra cotta floors, hand-hewn cypress doors and four fireplaces with custom stonework.

The large covered lanai with authentic flagstone, cypress ceiling and outdoor fireplace opens onto the 1,100-square-foot patio and overlooks the most amazing backyard. Take a dip in the saltwater pool with heater, chiller and automated floor cleaning system or warm yourself next to the oversized fire pit with plenty of seating. The fabulous cabana adjacent to the pool boasts a full outdoor kitchen with an authentic pizza oven and huge seating area with big screen TV. Above the detached three high-bay garages, with custom overlaid wood doors, is a 1,000-square-foot flex space perfect for that man cave or private office.

With masonry concrete block construction, custom split shake concrete tile roof and hurricane impact rated weather-shield Lifeguard windows, you are well protected from inclement weather. The exterior's plaster finish with custom variegated color in the concrete and copper half round gutters simply enhances the old-world charm of this country estate.

This property, located at 20 S. Roscoe Blvd., is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Suzie Connolly and offered for \$3,950,000.



Photos provided by Suzie Connolly



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Suzie and Rory Connolly



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## LOOKING BACK: INSIDE THE LEGENDS THAT LIE AMONGST US

# The remarkable life of Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne

By Janet Westling

(Note: This article originally ran in *Sand Castles* on July 31, 2014, as Part 3 of a three-part series. Frances Kinne passed away on May 10, 2020 at 102 years old.)

### HARRY'S LAST ASSIGNMENT

Frances and Harry accepted his last assignment in St. Augustine as the Senior Regular Army adviser to the Florida National Guard.

The St. Augustine Record featured a story on the couple and on a hot summer day in July a new opportunity was presented to Frances that not only changed her world but the entire community.

Jacksonville University Dean of Faculty Dr. William Highsmith called to ask if Frances would accept a position as assistant professor of humanities. She agreed to help them out for a few months while they searched for a replacement, a replacement that never happened. Instead Frances taught for three years until Harry retired. While plans to move closer to her brother in California were being formulated, JU and its president had other thoughts in mind.

In 1969, Frances was asked to create a new College of Fine Arts and it was a challenge she had to accept.

### THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Over the next 10 years as the first women Dean of the Fine arts at Jacksonville University, Frances used her contacts and sphere to broaden the footprint of the arts in Jacksonville.

The College of Fine Arts hosted Bob Hope and Jack Benny in 1972. On April 6 they were both awarded an honorary doctorate to an enthusiastic crowd and media entourage. This cemented the friendship that began in Japan during the war, and this would be the first of many visits and fundraising events for Frances, Jacksonville University and Bob Hope.

The list of celebrities and dignitaries who were invited to the campus was extensive and included a broad spectrum of accomplished visitors who left their mark on JU, the students and the city of Jacksonville. They included Gov. Askew in 1973, Arthur Fielder, Secretary of the Navy John Lehman, Sir Rudolf Bing, the great tenor Franco Corelli, the actor Richard Boone, philanthropist Alexander Brest and Winston Churchill, grandson and namesake of the Prime Minister of England. The invitations were extended carefully to ensure that only people of fine character were asked to speak to the students.

### 1979: A MAJOR FIRST ... THE PRESIDENT WEARS A SKIRT

As first female dean of the fine arts, Frances Kinne brought success to JU that did not go unnoticed.

Florence Davis, the first female chair of the Board of Trustees, along with other board members offered Frances the position of president of Jacksonville University.

With Harry's unwavering support, Frances embarked on her new position. The greatest challenge of all was just around the corner when one year later Harry was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Friends supported Harry and Frances throughout the two years of many surgeries at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester under the care of Dr. Thor Sundt.

Difficult days made bearable by the wonderful Jacksonville University family gave Frances and Harry the strength



Photos provided by Frances Kinne

**Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne helped bring President Gerald Ford to Jacksonville, where he held a fundraiser for his presidential library at Epping Forest.**



**ABOVE: Kinne with Jack Benny (left) and Bob Hope**

**RIGHT: Kinne, the first female dean and former president of Jacksonville University, with Florence Davis (left), the first female chair for the board of trustees at JU.**



to live each day to the fullest. And on April 27, 1981, Colonel Harry Kinne slipped away quietly with Frances one last time at his side.

### THE MAYO YEARS

During Harry's illness Frances became close friends with his doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

She came to respect not only their expertise but also the care they gave to all their patients. She became their greatest advocate, and when Jacksonville and the Davis family offered the Mayo Clinic the opportunity to collaborate on a new venture for the clinic to expand its reach to the area, Frances Kinne and the people of Jacksonville responded with a resounding "yes."

Frances quickly helped the Mayo family assimilate to their new community. And during this course she got to know this new family of friends. The list is long and it includes many of her doctors, Richard Fleming, Henry Randel, John Cangemi, De Orio, Van Den Berg, Pearson, Liesegang, Lundy and Paul Pettit.

Frances Kinne was recognized by the Mayo Clinic as an honorary staff member and during its 25th anniversary was honored as a "Member of the Doctors Mayo Society".

### PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

When Frances was the dean of the College of Fine Arts, a congressman's son Jack Ford enrolled as a student. This congressman, Gerald Ford, would later become the president of the United States and a dear friend of Frances and Harry Kinne. President Ford visited Jacksonville University several times. Because of her friendship, Frances received a call one day from the Tournament Players Championship with a request to extend an invitation for Bob Hope and President Ford to come to Ponte Vedra to play. Frances called her friends Bob Hope and President

Gerald Ford and they agreed to come. It was during that visit that President Ford, who had left the White House, held his first fundraiser for his Presidential Library in Epping Forest at the former home of his friends Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mason. It was a wonderful event that included many of Jacksonville's most ardent supporters of the Fords. President and Mrs. Ford had also visited the Masons at their home in Ireland at Ballynahinch Castel Hotel, outside of Roundstone, in County Galway.

Under Frances' watch, Jacksonville and its university was clearly put on the map both nationally and internationally. Indeed, we owe this great lady a 'thank you' for her dedication to her university, its students the people and friends who reside in Jacksonville.

### A STUDENT'S TRIBUTE

One of her students Frank Pace, who is a Los Angeles producer, said this about Frances' influence on his life:

"Dr. Kinne has had an enormous impact on my life. I have known her since 1968 but in all honesty she has figured more in my life these past 15 or 20 years than in the earlier years. I have come to benefit from her wisdom, insight and experiences. She lives the motto 'service before self' on a daily basis. At various times I have been with her in the company of President Gerald Ford, Bob Hope, Roger Williams, Jay Thomas and Hall of Fame basketball player Artis Gilmore.

Invariably they always wanted to know, "What can I do for you and Jacksonville University, Fran?" Jacksonville University has been the one great love of her life. Her commitment to the university during these 50-plus years is unparalleled. Today one of her students (Tim Cost, '81) is the president of her beloved school. She could not be happier. When she celebrates her 100th birthday I will be standing proudly alongside my dear friend."

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