

# Welcome to Sand Castles: Before & After issue



Welcome to Sand Castles and to 2021. As we leave behind 2020 and focus on the New Year, we can be grateful for many things.

I think we can all agree that we are grateful for where we live. I used to have a saying that Ponte Vedra Beach is Florida's best kept secret, but not anymore.

With our favorable tax rates, beautiful beaches and warm climate, it is easy to understand the migration to our coast. And our St. Johns County schools are consistently ranked in the top tier of school districts statewide.

According to Fox Business, "Florida saw nearly 1,000 people moving here

daily." That is good news for real estate.

In this, our Before & After issue, we hear from several of the top Realtors in our community who share stories of their great listings.

Mortgage banker David Johnson with Ameris Bank weighs in on the state of the market in his Market Watch.

Food columnist Alice Hickox shares her recipes for "No Mess, No Stress" sheet pan dinners,

Jennifer Logue traveled to Graceland over Christmas and writes about her amazing visit.

A new addition to Sand Castles is a sports column by The Jacksonville

Jaquars' Brian Sexton on the inside story of new head coach Urban Meyer and an owner who wants to win!

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

# MARKET WATCH

# Ponte Vedra Beach residential mortgage trend

#### **By David Johnson**

Mortgage Banker, Ameris Bank

The following Ponte Vedra Beach mortgage market trend article discusses the good refinance market, continuing low interest rates, increased conforming loan amounts, causes for increased property value and continued high demand for Ponte Vedra Beach real estate. Hint, the Ponte Vedra Beach housing and mortgage market forecast is sunny.

#### **REFINANCE RALLY**

As we enter 2021, there does not appear to be headwinds slowing the residential re-

finance market. Rates continue to be historically low for the classic rate and term refinance. Rate and term refinances offer lower interest rate and mortgage payment for the homeowner than the current home mortgage. Increasing home values create nice equity positions for cash out refinances. Cash out refinances access equity in the home for the homeowner to use for any number of reasons such as home remodel, college expenses and boat ownership among other useful reasons. Both refinance types are popular and will continue as rates remain low.

# **LOW INTEREST RATES**

Low rates, increasing values and high demand are driving the Ponte Vedra Beach and Northeast Florida real estate market. Great news for sellers is the continued trend of demand outpacing supply, and the joyous outcome of increasing sales prices. Historically low interest rates are contributing to the positive home sales market because more diverse income levels can qualify. Although it's impossible to predict the future of interest rates, most analysts agree they will stay low. Any doubters need only look at Fed Chairman Jerome Powell saying the Fed rate will stay near 0% until 2023. Federal fund rate remaining near 0% is contributing to the 2021 real-estate bull

Higher Loan Limit: Another exciting mortgage trend update for 2021 is the increased conforming loan amount from \$510,400 to \$548,250 — a 7.5% loan amount increase since 2020. The increase is justified due to a 7% national home-value increase over the past 12 months. In the high property-value Ponte Vedra Beach market, this is good news.

With a 20% down payment
the higher loan amount
means any \$680,000
sales price qualifies
as a Fannie Mae or
Freddie Mac loan
amount. Conventional Fannie and
Freddie conforming
loan amounts offer
favorable underwriting guidelines and interest rates for buyers com-

Like low interest rates, the increased loan amount will help more people qualify for mortgages at better terms.

pared to Portfolio Jumbo loans.

### **MIGRATING AMERICANS**

Finally, one more positive trend for the Ponte Vedra Beach housing and mortgage market is increasingly motivated American migration patterns. The continued phenomena of massive Rust Belt and Northeast relocations is driving up home prices and sales in many sunbelt states, benefitting our local market. Hundreds of thousands of Americans continue to relocate to Florida and surrounding states. For varying reasons, people have decided to move themselves and family. A recent example reported by the USPS noted that from March 1 to Oct. 31, 2020, New York City residents filed 295,103 changeof-address requests. It is safe to say tens of thousands moved to Florida. Northeast Florida is seeing an influx of upwardly mobile, wealthy, telecommuting professionals and families. Ponte Vedra Beach schools are top tier for the state, and along with a business-friendly, tax-friendly environment, booming economy and high quality of life has created an oasis for relocating Americans.

In conclusion the forecast is positive for the Ponte Vedra Beach mortgage market regardless if you are buying or refinancing.



# RECIPE SPOTLIGHT

# 'No Mess, No Stress' sheet pan dinners



**Alice Hickox** Lettuce Do Dinner

Think those sheet pans were just for baking up holiday cookies and treats? Think again!

It's time to break them out and start this new year off with simplicity, clean eating and a whole bunch of deliciousness.

Who's with me?

They are so quick, easy and approachable, that even those of you who don't find cooking dinner your favorite part of the day will actually

love how simple and easy these can be. So many ingredients to include can also come pre-prepped, such as veggies that are already cut to size and washed, making these sheet-pan dinners all that much easier. I love it when simple feels so fancy!

The other beauty of sheet-pan dinners is all the fun combinations of proteins, veggies and starches that are almost limitless. Not eating meat? Leave it out! Trying to include seafood a few times a week? Try a sheet pan with shrimp and asparagus with a delicious lemon scampi sauce. Make a sheet pan of roasted vegetables to enjoy all week as a side dish. They can be adapted to fit any eating plan you may be following, or maybe you just want a delicious stress-free meal that can be cooked all together on one pan, making clean-up a breeze.

So what are you in the mood for dinner tonight? Choose your flair ... a little Greek or Asian — maybe Mexican, or a simple sheet pan with all the veggies and protein tossed in a little olive oil and basic seasonings of salt, pepper and garlic powder. I mean it when I say that the options are limitless — you will not get bored!

One of my family favorites is the honey-Dijon chicken and vegetables. Here's what I can tell you about this recipe: When you smother chopped chicken breast, crispy potatoes and tender broccoli in a sweet-and-tangy honey-mustard sauce, you know you've got something good on your hands.

This one-pan dinner perfection is a dream for busy weeknights or nights when you just don't want to cause much of a stir in the kitchen.

Here's how it comes together: Toss everything on a sheet pan, roast until the vegetables are caramelized and the chicken is tender, then pile the mix into shallow bowls to catch the sauce. There's no need for a side dish—this is a complete meal as-is. Just gather around the table, grab the forks and napkins and dig in!



### **SHEET PAN HONEY-DIJON CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES**

(Serves 4/ Prep: 10 min/ Cook time: 30 minutes)

- ½ cup honev
- ¼ cup Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp. whole-grain mustard
- 1 tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. sea salt, divided
- ½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound small red or Dutch baby potatoes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 ½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts or cutlets, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 pound broccoli, cut into bite-size florets
- 1 small red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Arrange a rack in the middle of oven and heat to 425 F. Place a rimmed baking sheet in the oven while it is heating. (Yes, heat your sheet pan first!)

Whisk the honey, Dijon, whole-grain mustard, vinegar, pepper and ½ tsp. of the salt in a small bowl; set aside.

Wash potatoes and dry, then cut each small potato in half. Place potatoes, 1 tbsp. of the oil and 1 tsp. of salt in a large bowl and toss to combine. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and arrange potatoes in a single layer, cut side down. Return to the oven and roast for 15 minutes. Meanwhile,

place the chicken, broccoli, red onion, remaining 1 tbsp. of oil and 1 tsp. of salt in the same bowl and toss to combine.

After 15 minutes, remove baking sheet from oven and add the chicken, broccoli and red onion to the baking sheet. Pour half of the honey-Dijon mixture over the chicken and vegetables and toss to evenly coat them in sauce. Spread chicken and veggies into a single layer.

Roast for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven, toss with the remaining honey-Dijon mixture, and spread back into an even layer. Roast until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes more.

Another absolute favorite and quite possibly the easiest sheet pan dinner ever is baked shrimp scampi with asparagus. Roasting shrimp is one of my favorite methods to produce evenly cooked shrimp in just 6-8 minutes, and the hands-off method is foolproof and SO easy! Asparagus cooks up equally as quick, and more importantly, your shrimp scampi sauce is also created all in one pan!

## SHEET-PAN SHRIMP SCAMPI WITH ASPARAGUS

(Serves 4/ Prep: 5 minutes/ Cook: 11 minutes)

#### **Asparagus and tomatoes:**

- 1 pound thin/ medium asparagus, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes (optional)
- $\blacksquare$  2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped or minced
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper

#### Shrimp

- 1 pound medium uncooked shrimp, shelled and deveined, tails off
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. each paprika, onion powder, dried basil
- ¼ tsp. red pepper flakes
- Dash of fresh ground black pepper
- 4-8 tbsp. butter cubed (8 tbsp. if serving with pasta, 4 if serving without)



- Fresh chopped parsley
- Fresh grated parmesan

#### Serve with

- 1 pound linguini (or other pasta)
- Zucchini noodles (Zoodles)
- Rice
- Bread

# INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 400.F.

Line a sheet pan with foil and lightly spray with cooking spray. Add tomatoes and asparagus, olive oil, garlic and S&P, toss and line in a single layer. Roast for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, add all of the shrimp ingredients to a medium bowl EXCEPT butter, and stir evenly to combine.

Remove pan and push tomatoes and asparagus to one side of the pan. Add shrimp and line in a single layer.

Top asparagus with 1 tbsp.

cubed butter. Top shrimp with 4-8 tbsp. cubed butter, (depending on how much sauce you want to create) evenly spaced. Roast for 6 minutes or just until shrimp are opaque.

Remove from oven and garnish with more fresh squeezed lemon, fresh parsley and parmesan cheese.

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**12** SAND CASTLES





# Beautiful lot offers perfect opportunity to build dream home

# By Marsha Keller

Have you always wanted to live the Ponte Vedra Beach lifestyle and build the home of your dreams? Here is your chance!

Situated across the street from the beach, you'll enjoy your morning coffee with stunning Guana Lake views and the calming sound of crashing waves. With almost two acres of beautiful mature trees, you will have plenty of privacy. This property includes 150 feet on the lakefront, so you can spend hours fishing or kayaking right out your back door while

taking in the private preserve wildlife and views. The lot is cleared, prepped, and ready for you.

With this home site, located at 1334 Ponte Vedra Blvd., you can bring your plans and builder with no building time constraints. Or, if you don't have a builder or project planned, Brandon Construction, a premier Ponte Vedra waterfront builder, is prepped and ready to build. Plans have already been drawn up and the St. Johns County clearance permit has already been issued for this stunning 4,110-square-foot contemporary Content Architecture + Interiors-designed home. It offers first-

floor block construction, four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms and a three-car garage. The structure will have a deep pile foundation, gym or flex room. The large master bedroom has spacious walk-in closets, an automated screen system, premium appliances, pool allowance, elevator and a third-floor terrace deck. The home price also includes \$310,000 in allowances for owner selections and finishes. This home is designed to maximize the Guana Preserve views from every floor and provide ocean views from the third-floor terrace.

Just like the foundation of a good home,

Brandon Construction LLC is built on the solid groundwork of experience, a sturdy team framework and designs that prioritize you as the client. Since 2004, its team of highly skilled craftspeople and project managers have thoughtfully crafted homes that reflect each client's needs. Over the years, it has earned a superior reputation throughout Northeast Florida for high-quality work, timeliness and client satisfaction.

You will find building your dream home on this spectacular lot enjoyable. Call the Lisa Barton Team to learn more about starting your dream home today!





# Atlantic Beach townhome boasts incredible location in \$700K's

# **By Jennifer Sexton**

Only three flip-flop blocks to the sand and two blocks to the lively Beaches Town Center, the location of this threestory 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 feet 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 back-yard. 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 all 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.



150 TWELVE OAKS LN



1197 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



3935 DUVAL DRIVE



63 37TH AVE S



1089 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



13940 MANDARIN RD



1109 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



101 PLANTATION CIR S



92 PONTE VEDRA COLONY.



1193 PONTE VEDRA BLVD

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2020 was no ordinary year but neither are our clients and community!

# Thank you

clients who chose us as their trusted real advisors estate and for all the support from our community!

# Sarah Alexander **REALTOR®**

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Realty



Our brokerage Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty honored each of us with their Chairman's Circle award & named Elizabeth

# Top Producer

success have been possible without all you! We look forward to working with you all in 2021!

# Elizabeth Hudgins

**REALTOR®** 904.553.2032 CELL ELIZABETH@ELIZABETHHUDGINS.COM WWW.ELIZABETHHUDGINS.COM



2379 S PONTE VEDRA BLVD







14402 MARINA SAN PABLO PL 604



519 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



101 N ROSCOE BLVD



61 PHILLIPS AVE



8014 PEBBLE CREEK LN E



680 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



335 PONTE VEDRA BLVD





# Live the beach lifestyle, and make it pay off for you

# **By CiCi Anderson**

People have always gravitated to the water. There is something about it that changes one's view of life – the tranquility of the ocean and the wonders of all that lies below the surface.

Living at the beach brings a sort of vibrancy to one's life ... the salty air, the big blue sky, the ever-present wildlife and most of all being on the edge, where life on land meets life under sea. Sitting along the Atlantic Ocean, just over the Intracoastal and right by the renowned Mayo Clinic, is Ponte Vedra Beach in Northeast

Florida, where a tempered climate and enhanced quality of life makes it one of the best places to live. And if you're going to do it, do it being on the edge sitting atop 30-foot dunes looking down to the vast Atlantic Ocean. This is 965 Ponte Vedra Blvd. A unique home setting with 200-feet of frontage and almost two acres of private living ... your beach on the beach! Offered at \$4.1 million, this is a unique place for any lifestyle buyer.

How to get there? With no state income tax and no personal property tax, in many cases the tax savings pays for your living expenses making it a net-zero move while adding more to your personal income each year. Add in lower energy costs, traffic that moves and a generally efficient Southern living culture. Need we say more? Also available are loan management accounts — taking all those investment earnings and making those available to secure capital you might need for such an adventure. With ultra-low rates, unique tax advantages and simplified use (in many cases a phone call), you can now make the move. Begin enjoying the benefits, keeping more of your money as you enjoy life and borrow at below market costs paying interest to yourself! Cash buyers are often

the norm, but it is not from cashing out an account, but most likely going to the "bank of self," and getting very favorable terms to make this "a walk in the park or a walk along the ocean or both!"

Many would call this "living large," but today it is called "living smart." Try the numbers out and see how you can be living "for free" while using your previous state tax and higher cost of living expenses to put you at the doorstep of ocean living and all the goodness that comes with it! This property is represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson and Jenna Fisher.





# Sawgrass Players Club home offers great location, terrific renovations

# By Tina Webster

If you are looking for one of the best lots in desirable Salt Creek in Sawgrass Players Club, look no further.

This home sits on almost three quarters of an acre and came on the market just in time for the new owners to float in their pool and enjoy the gorgeous views of the newly renovated The Yards golf course (formerly Oak Bridge). The home is located at 1210 Salt Creek Island Drive and is 3,867 square feet and has five bedrooms and four bathrooms. Speaking of renovations, you won't believe this

amazing kitchen, designed for a chef. Seriously, the owner is a chef and he sure does have a fabulous workspace. The master bathroom, after it's renovation, is also like being in a resort.

As you walk in the front door to this wonderful renovated open floor plan, light fills every room. The master bedroom and guest suite are on the main level, with three bedrooms and two baths upstairs, along with a bonus area and upstairs deck with gorgeous views. The covered lanai overlooking the pool is an amazing living space and there are tons of room for fun and games or gardening

on the large lawn.

If you find yourself wanting to leave the views, you can grab your golf cart and go play The Yards or ride on over to the TPC and play Dye's Valley or The Stadium Course. Not a golfer: The Yards also has some fantastic tennis courts for the tennis players out there. Later in the day, ride on over to Three Palms for dinner or maybe enjoy happy hour at the TPC and watch the golfers come in. You never have to leave the gates of this exclusive community. If you do leave the gates, you are a bike or golf cart ride from the restaurants and boutiques at

Sawgrass Village. It is all about lifestyle.

For this before-and-after issue, I do have to point out that when these sellers were getting this home ready for this hot market, we decided painting the brick to a creamy white would be a real show-stopper and the transformation looks amazing. No wonder this home had multiple offers the first weekend on the market and is now under contract. The market is HOT!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services FNR, listed by Tina Webster and priced at \$1,100.000.

Ponte Vedra Recorder · January 28, 2021

# TIM TEBOY FOUNDAT!

Photo by Paris Moulden

Fomer Ohio State and Florida coach Urban Meyer has taken the head coaching position for the Jaguars.

# Jaguars should have bright future with addition of Meyer, Lawrence

#### **By Brian Sexton**

Days after the worst season in franchise history, Jaguars owner Shad Khan promised he wouldn't stop until he built Jacksonville a winning football team. It turns out he would pull out all the stops and, in the process, land one of the winningest coaches Northeast Florida and college football has ever seen.

Urban Meyer, it seems, couldn't pass on the opportunity that presented itself with the Jaguars. Khan lured the coach, who has three national championships and 187 career wins against just 32 losses, with the No. 1 overall pick in April's NFL Draft, the cleanest salary cap in the league with the promise of spending when free agency opens in March and an owner who wants to win and is willing to spend what it costs.

Today the phones are ringing off the hook in the Jaguars' ticketing department because the combination of Meyer and soon-to-be former Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence offer the most promising potential professional football possibilities that Jacksonville has ever seen.

It wasn't easy to get here. Fifteen consecutive losses dampened enthusiasm and even interest in the Jaguars in 2020. But those 15 losses were what it took to put themselves in the position to draft Lawrence and attract the attention of Meyer, who told reporters after a Rose Bowl win a few years back that his coaching days were behind him.

The draw of a franchise quarterback and everything

he brings with him has never been seen in Jacksonville. Lawrence got the Jags Meyer, and he'll get the new head coach nearly any assistant coach he wants. He'll also bring the Jaguars nearly any free agent they set their sights on because players know it's a quarterback league, or, as Meyer so succinctly put it when he was introduced to the media, "It's a quarterback sport." Call Lawrence a force multiplier because before he's even been drafted, even practiced once in an NFL uniform or played a preseason game, he's drawn the attention of coaches, players, fans and media to a team that had fallen off the map; a team that had become irrelevant to the conversation and that was putting the franchise in a precarious situation.

Lawrence could do for Jacksonville what Peyton Manning did for Indianapolis. In 1997, the Colts were the worst team in the NFL, played in a convention center in the old RCA Dome and were largely considered the frontrunners to eventually return professional football to Los Angeles. Manning arrived at the top of the NFL Draft in April of 1998 and changed everything. The Colts are now considered one of the bedrock franchises in the NFL. Lawrence could do the same for Jacksonville.

Everything is different now and everyone seems to know it. The opportunity in Jacksonville is distinct and the promise of an exciting NFL future once again gives Northeast Florida the chance to stand on one of sport's and entertainment's biggest stages, and that means the bright lights will shine on us all, and that's exciting for our community and our economy.





# Ponte Vedra Beach's Newest Luxury Home Address

Located on Solano Road near the south entrance of Marsh Landing, Quadrille is an enclave of custom homes by AR Homes.

This exclusive 20-home neighborhood will feature a gated entrance and gorgeous West Indies inspired architecture. Only 12 lots remaining in this highly anticipated community.

Now offering personal and virtual appointments.

Visit our new Cabalina Model Home. 47 Quadrille Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

For more information call: 904-880-5500, ext. 1 Jay Wilkerson | JWilkerson@arhomes.com



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Thank you in Despite the crazic Lisa Barton Team h



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SAND CASTLES 17 Ponte Vedra Recorder · January 28, 2021









































































TE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082











# It's all about location with unique Sawgrass CC home

# **By Murray Beard**

Those in the real-estate world say "location, location, location!" And 3010 Timberlake Point in Sawgrass Country Club epitomizes the word location.

What could be a better than living in the heart of Sawgrass CC on a tranquil lake sitting by your pool and watching nature pass your way every day? Whether it is seeing eagles soar from their nearby nest to watching ospreys dive from the air to catch fish for their family, you will enjoy it all. Try your hand at fishing from the dock in the backyard.

This unique property boasts one of the largest parcels in Sawgrass with more than .85 acres. Additionally, the lake surrounds three sides of the house, providing water views from most rooms.

This 4,447-square-foot home is a masterpiece. The grand entry opens to the living areas downstairs that look out to the pool deck and lake. The chef of the house will enjoy the large kitchen including top-of-the-line Viking appliances and gas stovetop. Large dinner gatherings can be in the formal dining room. Most of the casual or intimate meals are in the breakfast area or by the pool in the screened lanai. Relax

in the cozy family room and take in the beautiful pecky cypress vaulted ceilings.

There is plenty of room to spread out with four bedrooms, plus an upstairs bonus area and sunroom along with a private home office. The three-car garage has tons of storage space and extra room for a golf cart, too!

You will love knowing that all the bathrooms have been updated and little details like solid wood interior doors are through the entire home.

Living in Sawgrass Country Club is all about lifestyle. You can walk or ride your bike to the beach. Should you decide to join the Country Club, you can take in the new members clubhouse that overlooks 27 holes of world-class golf. The state-of-the-art fitness and tennis centers are just around the corner. The private beach, with endless miles of sand and surf, is just across the road.

It is all about location and there isn't a better location to live than Sawgrass Country Club. It has it all — beautiful homes in a park-like setting with the ocean and club facilities just a couple minutes away.

This property is represented by Watson Realty Corp, listed by Murray and Elise Beard and offered for sale at \$2,399,000.





# Portuguese-inspired country home is a Guana delight

# By Tonya O'Quinn

When Robert Hudson set out to build his custom home in Ponte Vedra Beach in 2005, he knew exactly what he was looking for — a Portuguese-style country home that would give him all the room he needed for entertaining and hosting soirees! 141 Marsh River Drive became just that with the vision of Mark Macco Architects and brought to life by customhome builder Aurora Builders.

This elegant home features many exquisite pieces, including the 135-year-old iron entry gates that are 13 feet tall and brought in from Argentina. The beauti-

ful, polished, solid oak front doors were also shipped in from Argentina. Hudson added handmade Portuguese tiles on the exterior, coffered ceilings inside and out, exterior corbels and protruding beams to round out the design. The high level of quality can also be seen in the concrete block construction with timber frame.

Hudson built the home for entertaining family, friends and guests. The kitchen is the central gathering point on the main floor, so to set it apart, it is raised about six inches higher than the dining area. With another step down into the great room, and then another to the pool deck, a fabulous cascading effect was created.

A custom wine cellar that holds about 650 bottles is included — a collector's dream! All cabinetry was completed by River City Custom Cabinetry.

The home has an upstairs owner's retreat with a large oversized bedroom, overlooking views of Guana. A fabulous en suite bathroom with separate vanities, copper slate wainscoting, an oversized shower and a large walk-in custom closet completes the space. A private office can also be found upstairs — an ideal workfrom-home space directly across from the bedroom.

The exterior of the home takes full advantage of the gorgeous lot with a salt

lap pool and hot tub, outside covered patios and views of the Guana Preserve all around. The home is set back and offers much privacy and serenity. A great place for quiet relaxation or a party of 100!

This home has been a sanctuary for Hudson for more than 15 years and he has enjoyed it immensely. He is now looking toward a new chapter in life and ready to turn it over to owners who will appreciate its unique features as much as he has. He will have nothing but wonderful memories of his Portuguese-inspired country home. Contact the Lisa Barton Team at (904) 705-1382 for more information.





# Oceanfront estate in South Ponte Vedra Beach offers extraordinary architecture, awe-inspiring views

# **By Mary Faulds**

You're invited to a truly unique oceanfront estate located in South Ponte Vedra Beach. Tucked into the high dunes on a deep lot, this six bedroom, five-and-a-half bath home's splendid marriage of distinctive architecture, high-quality construction, exemplary stone and millwork and panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Guana Preserve will inspire you.

Exit the box and color outside the lines. This home's features include expansive custom linen and clothing closets, chef's kitchen and pantry, wet bar, great room, three living areas, office, master suite, two laundry zones, four-car parking (covered and garage) and vast motor court, rooftop terrace and expansive balconies and patio. Rising four stories above the surf and sand, this beach home fortress features both private and public living spaces, perfect for those with an appreciation for nature and creativity.

Located in the most coveted area of South Ponte Vedra Beach, situated on a deep lot with high dunes, this property is built like a fortress, all concrete construction with rebar and filled cells sitting atop 30 pilings sunk 25-feet deep. The owners focused on the highest quality of construction and features, which include storm impact door and windows, marble and

wood floors, 5-zone AC, central vac and a large covered terrace to enjoy the ocean breeze that leads to a private walk-over to

Take the spiral staircase or elevator to the fourth floor, featuring a 1,500-squarefoot rooftop deck that captures the most spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and Guana Lake.

This home is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty and listed by Mary Faulds.

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ROSCOE BLVD Suzie and Rory Connolly



MONTURA 4/4 • \$949,000 Patti Armstrong



EENS HARBOUR 'x 175' • \$469,900 Michael Curet



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Mary Ann Gabor



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PABLO CREEK RESERVE Intracoastal West 4/3 • \$1.399.000 Susan Fort and Tyler Ackland

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# Beautiful beach house offers carefree living, investment opportunities

### **By Lisa Barton**

Have you always wanted to live on the ocean? Here's your chance to own a spectacular beach house, ideally located right across from the Guana Tolomato State Park and close to both Ponte Vedra Beach and historic St. Augustine. The Atlantic Ocean is right out the back door, with an inviting white sandy beach just steps beyond the yard.

This home has been recently renovated and offers a spacious modern white kitchen with quartz countertops and stainless appliances. With a farmhouse sink and shiplap walls, the house feels like a

model home. The open kitchen flows into a casual dining area and family room. This wall of windows allows for scenic ocean views from all the common living areas. In addition, all bathrooms were just remodeled with beautiful cabinetry and quartz counters. The home has travertine floors throughout for easy beach cleanup. The owner's retreat offers a private balcony right off the sitting area and spacious bedroom. With two large walk-in closets, a remodeled en suite bathroom with a soaking tub, and a separate shower, this is a perfect ocean retreat. The smart floor plan has four bedrooms, two family rooms and an optional bedroom on the

lower level giving you plenty of room for entertaining guests.

Outdoor living is so comfortable here. The large, covered patio and two terraces offer picturesque panoramic ocean views. A third-floor balcony on the west side overlooks the Guana River's beauty with miles of protected preserves. If you enjoy hiking or kayaking, the entrance to the state park is not far away.

Since this lovely home can be sold fully furnished, there's nothing to bring but your toothbrush! The flexible three-story floor plan is perfect for a primary residence or vacation home. The home is easy to enter and exit with a spacious driveway that offers a two-car garage as well as two additional offset parking spaces in the front. Beach toys such as kayaks or surfboards can be easily stored in the garage or the additional enclosed storage area accessible via the side yard. The owners just replaced the roof and put in a new septic system also. With hurricane shutters throughout, you can lock up and go. This house has an excellent history as a vacation rental if you're considering investment properties.

This home is located at 2941 South Ponte Vedra Blvd. and offered for \$1,600,000. Call The Lisa Barton Team to schedule a tour today.







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Offered for \$385,000



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Luxury living at the Ocean's doorstep with panoram ocean views from almost every room in this 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 3089 sq. ft. home. Sold for \$1,298,000



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Stunning golf to water views in the heart of TPC! This 5BR/4.5BA, 3867 sq. ft. brick home features many updates and a beautiful pool that overlooks the golf course! Offered for \$1,100,000



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#### PONTE VEDRA BLVD.

Stunning 4BR/3BA+2 half bath, 3962 sq. ft custom built home on the prestigious Ponte Vedra Blvd! This home is located steps to the ocean with stunning sunsets! Just sold for \$3,400,000



Call Tina Webster 904-982-7330



#### RARE OCEANFRONT ESTATE

Architect Paul Rudolph designed this stunning 6800SF beachfront home and is located on a high 28' ocean front bluff in Ponte Vedra Beach. This large high lot has 200' of ocean frontage with lush vegetation, a large pool & detached guest house. Offered for \$3,450,000



**Call Wally Sears** 904-610-9771



#### AMELIA ISLAND OCEANFRONT

tacular oceanfront masterpiece in The Sanctuary, a private gated community on the south end of Amelia Island. 6600 sf, 100' ocean frontage, very private lush landscape, 4 BRs, 5 BAs & powder room. This is a must see unique custom home! Offered for \$6,800,000



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Oceanfront treasure you have been seeking. Totally & completely renovated & updated. Enjoyed for many years by family members as 2nd home. Open floorplan with expansive views of the Atlantic Ocean. Extras & upgrades including remote controlled shades, Sub Zero Refrigerator & Wine Cooler are just starters. Offered for \$2,895,000



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To be included in the next issue publishing May 27, 2021, please call (904) 285-8831

# TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT



#### By Jennifer Logue

It's hard to believe that Elvis Presley would have been 86 years old on Jan. 8, or that the King of Rock 'n' Roll has now been dead for 43 years — longer than he was alive.

But while Elvis may have died at age 42 on Aug. 16, 1977, his memory lives on at Graceland, his beloved Memphis home that has become a popular tourist attraction so popular, in fact, that Graceland is the now second most-visited home in America after the White House. What's more, Elvis's legend and popularity has remained so strong that a state-of-the-art visitor complex with new interactive exhibits has been added to celebrate the life and legacy of this musical pioneer.

Over the Christmas holidays, my husband and I made a musical pilgrimage to Memphis, and while some attractions were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were pleased to find that the "Elvis Experience" offered plenty of exhibits and information to make the journey a must for any music lover.



The Guest House at Graceland suite

# THE GUEST HOUSE AT GRACELAND

For the full Elvis experience, begin your visit by checking into The Guest House at Graceland. Situated right next door to Graceland itself, this state-of-the-art resort offers a tasteful tribute to the King. From the Lobby Lounge and on-site restaurants to the theatre (which shows an Elvis film nightly) and guest rooms, the hotel décor evokes a 1960s Vegas feel - the type of hotel where the King himself would

Photo provided by The Guest House at Graceland

have been right at home. Kick back in a standard room or one of the King's Suites, all of which show Elvis specials on the TV and feature Elvis-themed décor. Or indulge in luxury in Vernon & Gladys's Suites, which were reportedly designed with input from Priscilla Presley. While the hotel's EP's Bar & Grill

and Delta's Kitchen were temporarily closed during our visit, the Lobby Lounge offered a satisfying menu of food and

drinks. The hotel's Shake Rattle 'n' Go meanwhile, featured a tasty selection of breakfast sandwiches, treats and to-go meals for visitors eager to be on their way to celebrate the King.

# **ELVIS PRESLEY'S MEMPHIS**

The Guest House at Graceland offers a free shuttle ride across the street to Elvis Presley's Memphis — a 200,000-squarefoot visitor complex featuring thousands of authentic Elvis artifacts and exhibits. It is from here that tours of the Graceland mansion begin — but it's easy to spend several hours just viewing all of the Elvis memorabilia on display here.

Want to see Elvis's famous gold lame suit or his guitars? How about his famous jumpsuits or the black leather outfit from his legendary 1968 comeback special? From dozens of the King's iconic outfits and his gold records to his collection of classic cars and private jets, Elvis Presley's Memphis is a veritable treasure trove of artifacts that will be instantly recognizable

# Graceland

to even a casual Elvis fan.

In addition to several on-site restaurants. including Vernon's Smokehouse, Glady's Diner and Minnie Mae's Sweets - named for Elvis's father, mother and grandmother — other visitor complex offerings include exhibits devoted to Elvis's time in the Army, his love of football and the experiences of his daughter, Lisa Marie. A special highlight of the "Elvis the Entertainer" exhibit, though, is a new series of exhibits that allows guests to interact virtually with Elvis: Through the wonders of green-screen technology, guests can dance with Elvis on screen, be serenaded by the King, try on one of his iconic outfits or test their knowledge of Elvis trivia on an interactive dance floor. Best of all, the photos and videos from these experiences can be downloaded as keepsakes or for sharing on social media.

#### A HOME FIT FOR A KING

But the highlight of any visit is the tour of Graceland itself. A swift shuttle ride across the street brings guests to the home Elvis purchased for about \$100,000 in 1957 and where he lived until his untimely death in 1977. During our visit, the home was decorated for the holidays as it was during Elvis's lifetime, with Christmas trees in both the living and dining rooms and poinsettias lining the stairway. Interactive iPads provide detailed commentary by actor and Elvis fan John Stamos on each room of the tour - from the dining room table set with Elvis and Priscilla's wedding china to Gladys Presley's dresses still hanging in her bedroom closet.

In addition to Elvis's downstairs media room — which featured three television sets because he heard that President Lyndon Johnson had three sets showing all three broadcast networks simultaneously the Graceland tour includes the famous Jungle Room as well as Elvis's racquetball complex, where visitors can see the piano the King played the day he died. (The songs? "Unchained Melody" and "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain.") From there, guests pass through Graceland's back yard, past the pasture where he rode horses with Priscilla, to Elvis's Trophy Building, which now houses fascinating tidbits from Elvis's life. See Elvis's high school diploma, the signed deed to Graceland and records for the various improvements he made to the home, including the famous front gates featuring musical notes. Also on display are Elvis and Priscilla's wedding attire and the piano played at Sun Records when Elvis popped by and joined Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis for an impromptu iam session that became known as the "Million Dollar Quartet."

The tour fittingly concludes in Graceland's Meditation Garden, where Elvis is interred alongside his parents, grandmother and grandson.



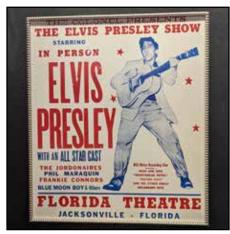
**ABOVE: Elvis Presley's Memphis** 

**RIGHT: Sun Studio in Memphis** 











ABOVE: Elvis' grave in the Meditation Garden at Graceland.

**LEFT: A poster from** Elvis's appearance at the Florida Theatre.

Jennifer Logue



The famed Jungle Room at Graceland.



The Graceland living room decorated for Christmas.

# MARSH LANDING COUNTRY



Step inside 5070 Bentgrass Circle & experience a beautifully decorated, coastal traditional home with 4946 sq. ft 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 5 Br & 5.5 Ba custom home offers an abundance of first floor living, from your downstairs master suite with a fireplace, sitting room and large master bath to the study with custom built in bookcases & cherry wood paneling. The family room includes vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, a gas fireplace that opens to the kitchen with white cabinets & solid surface counters. Just minutes to the beach, golf & club. This home offers the best of Ponte Vedra Beach living! Just sold for \$1,050,000

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Photos by Jennifer Logue

ABOVE: Elvis' gold lame suit on display at Graceland.

RIGHT: Elvis and Priscilla's wedding attire.



Elvis' pink cadillac



# Graceland

Continued from 23

# **SUN STUDIO**

For more Elvis history, a visit to Sun Studio on Union Avenue is a must. It was here that a young truck driver named Elvis Presley showed up one day with \$4 he had saved to cut a record, launching what would be an unprecedented career. See the preserved disc jockey booth where Memphis DJ Dewey Phillips played Elvis's first big hit, "That's All Right, Mama" for the first time. Stand in the studio where Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and other Sun stars recorded their records. And learn about all the legendary musicians who have visited and recorded music there — from Mick Jagger to U2 — to pay homage to these musical pioneers. If you can, get a tour with guide/musician Graham Winchester, whose musical knowledge made our tour both fun and informative.

As the home of the Blues and the famous Beale Street, Memphis has even more to offer music fans. It's clear, however, that the King of Rock 'n' Roll holds a special place in this city's heart.

