

# REGISTER

FIRST COAST

APRIL/MAY 2021

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The Beaches • St. Augustine • Amelia Island

## Spring HOME & GARDEN

WINE & DINE  
ON THE FIRST COAST

SUMMER  
CAMP GUIDE

# CONTENTS

- 4 ONE OF US:  
Michael Corrigan
- 5 FACES OF THE FIRST COAST
- 8 Hidden historic gardens of  
St. Augustine
- 10 Interior design trends for spring
- 12 New flower arrangement  
business is “dream come true”
- 14 St. Augustine Food & Wine  
Festival around corner
- 18 Table Talk: A look at Beaches  
“hot spot”
- 20 New master-planned community  
coming to Nassau County
- 22 Summer camp safety tips
- 24 Kids can find inner artist at  
art studio camp
- 26 5 good reasons to send kids  
to summer camp
- 28 New women’s boutique takes  
business to heart
- 29 Tips for choosing the right  
sunglasses for summer sun
- 30 Pandemic prompts area woman  
to make tiny-home transition
- 34 “Hail the Dark Lioness” on  
display at Cummer Museum
- 36 Visual, performance art at  
schools focus of new program
- 38 Brunch event pays tribute to  
area’s “unsung heroes”



## About this magazine

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## FIRST COAST REGISTER

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## on the cover



The cover photo is of the gardens at the Peña-Peck House in St. Augustine.

For more on some historic gardens around St. Augustine, go to page 8

Photo by HOLLY TISHFIELD



**Ideally located in San Marco.** Fully rebuilt in 2005, this 2nd floor end unit condominium is within short walking distance to San Marco Square. It features front and rear balconies and comes with covered parking and additional storage unit. **2 bedrooms, 2 baths \$399,000.**



**Renovated Coastal Cottage** Fully renovated and ideally located in central Ponte Vedra Beach, this pristine home offers easy access to JTB, entertainment, and is just a short bike ride to the beach. With custom craftsmanship and quality finishes throughout, you would think it was newly constructed. **3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths \$795,000.**



**"Model" Home in Alta Lakes** Lightly lived-in and beautifully maintained, this house looks & feels like a model home with tall ceilings, a neutral palette, and an open floor plan ideal for everyday life. Featuring water to woods views along with smart home features & premium upgrades. **3 bedrooms, 2 baths \$290,000**



**Water to Golf Views in Marsh Landing** Exquisite lagoon to golf views from this cul de sac beauty. Open floorplan/kitchen/dining spaces w/ fireplace and oversized windows. Master retreat w/ fireplace, HIS & HERS baths/closets, wet bar w/ fridge leads to outdoor deck & hot tub. Private with Summer Kitchen and firepit overlooking pool and lagoon. **5 bedrooms, 5 baths. \$1,400,000**



**Stunning Riverfront Estate** Riverfront/San Marco. Instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. French Normandy style home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining. **5 BR, 6 full/5 half baths. \$6,200,000**



**Pristine Craftsmanship on Ponte Vedra Blvd.** Thoughtfully designed and showcasing exquisite craftsmanship throughout, this custom coastal home offers master suites on both floors, an office, loft area, ample storage & a flex space ideal for a 5th bedroom. **4 bedrooms, 5.5 baths \$2,150,000**



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*Michael Corrigan is president and CEO of Visit Jacksonville, which plays a key role in telling the world what the city offers to its visitors. Because tourism is a critical component to Northeast Florida's economy, Visit Jacksonville is important to local residents as well as vacationers.*

**Tell us about Visit Jacksonville and its mission.**

Visit Jacksonville is the destination marketing organization for the City of Jacksonville; we represent all of Duval County. Our mission is to bring visitors to Jacksonville for vacations, conventions, events and business travel. We do a lot to carry out that mission, including marketing Jacksonville to the world, selling Jacksonville to conventions, events, meetings and sports tournaments planners, and providing services to ensure those events are successful. We also operate three visitor centers in the area, as well as a mobile visitor center.

**How important is Visit Jacksonville to the local economy, local business and residents?**

Tourism has a HUGE economic impact on our community. Before COVID restrictions, we welcomed over 22 million visitors annually, about 10 million of those that stayed overnight in our city. That leads to an economic impact of over \$3.8 billion annually. Tourism employs more than 55,000 workers in Duval County. It's a massive part of our economy. Tourism saves every Jacksonville household over \$700 annually in services to our community.

**In your role as president and CEO, what are your responsibilities?**

I manage a team of experienced and dedicated tourism employees. I am responsible for our interaction with the Visit Jacksonville board of directors, local business leaders and elected officials to help them understand the impact and opportunities tourism brings to Jacksonville. Additionally, I serve as a liaison between the tourism industry providers and the City of Jacksonville to ensure that the group visits and major events are successful in our city.

**Can you tell me about your education and professional background, and how you got to where you are today?**

I love Jacksonville; I have lived here my entire life. As I grew up going to local schools from kindergarten through college, I didn't aspire to be a leader in the community; but I did always want to make my community better. When I graduated from high school and started college at FJC (now FSCJ), I had an incredible opportunity to help my family start a small plastic packaging manufacturing business. I learned so much about making a product on time and budget while working on the production floor with the men and women that made it successful. I started volunteering in the community first with mentoring, then with the neighborhood, civic and trade groups. I didn't know at the time that those experiences would be the foundation for my future successes.

**It's been a tough year for many businesses, particularly those in the tourism industry. How is Visit Jacksonville helping to find a way forward?**

We are continuing our efforts and focusing on sharing the image of Jacksonville with potential visitors. Once it's safe to travel again, we want visitors to be already planning their visit to our city. Throughout the pandemic, we have developed virtual experiences, created more videos and came up with lots of fun ideas for potential visitors to do once they have a chance to explore our city, even if they aren't comfortable doing it right now!



**What do you like best about living here?**

The diversity of our community. And when I say diversity, I am referencing much more than just the people that live here. Jacksonville is comprised of 840 square miles, each one uniquely different than the rest. A vibrant downtown, an amazing river running right through the middle of it, beautiful beaches, the largest local, state and national park system, and great venues for sports and entertainment. But at the end of the day, it is the people that capture so many hearts. Most people come initially to visit Jacksonville; many of them love it so much they end up calling it home.

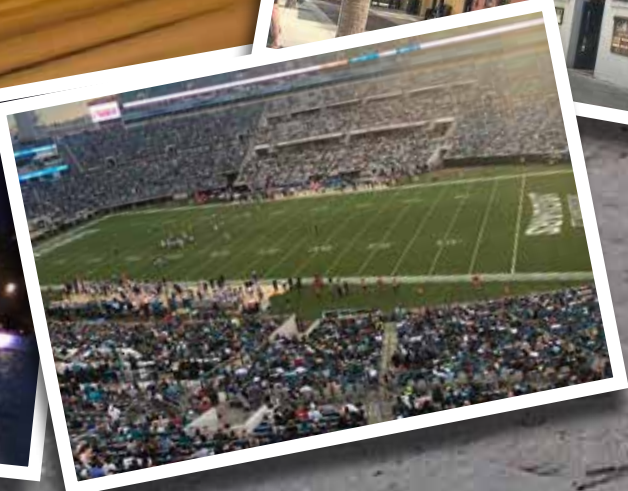
**In your spare time, do you have hobbies or volunteering opportunities you enjoy?**

Giving back to my community is something my parents taught me by example. I have been honored to lead non-profit initiatives throughout my career focused on mentoring, poverty elimination and neighborhood improvement. During the COVID crisis, my volunteering has been with the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, providing food to those struggling; and serving on the LifeSouth blood bank board of directors to ensure the local medical providers have the critical blood and plasma needed to care for those in need.

I love to get outside in Jacksonville to take advantage of our beautiful weather in my spare time. I love to get on the water by paddle boarding, kayaking, or a ride on the River Taxi. Whenever time allows, I will play a round of golf at one of Jacksonville's great courses. But I never miss the opportunity to take a walk around my neighborhood, or in one of Jacksonville's amazing parks, with my chocolate Lab named Tucker.

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I've been selling Real Estate here at the Beaches since 2004.

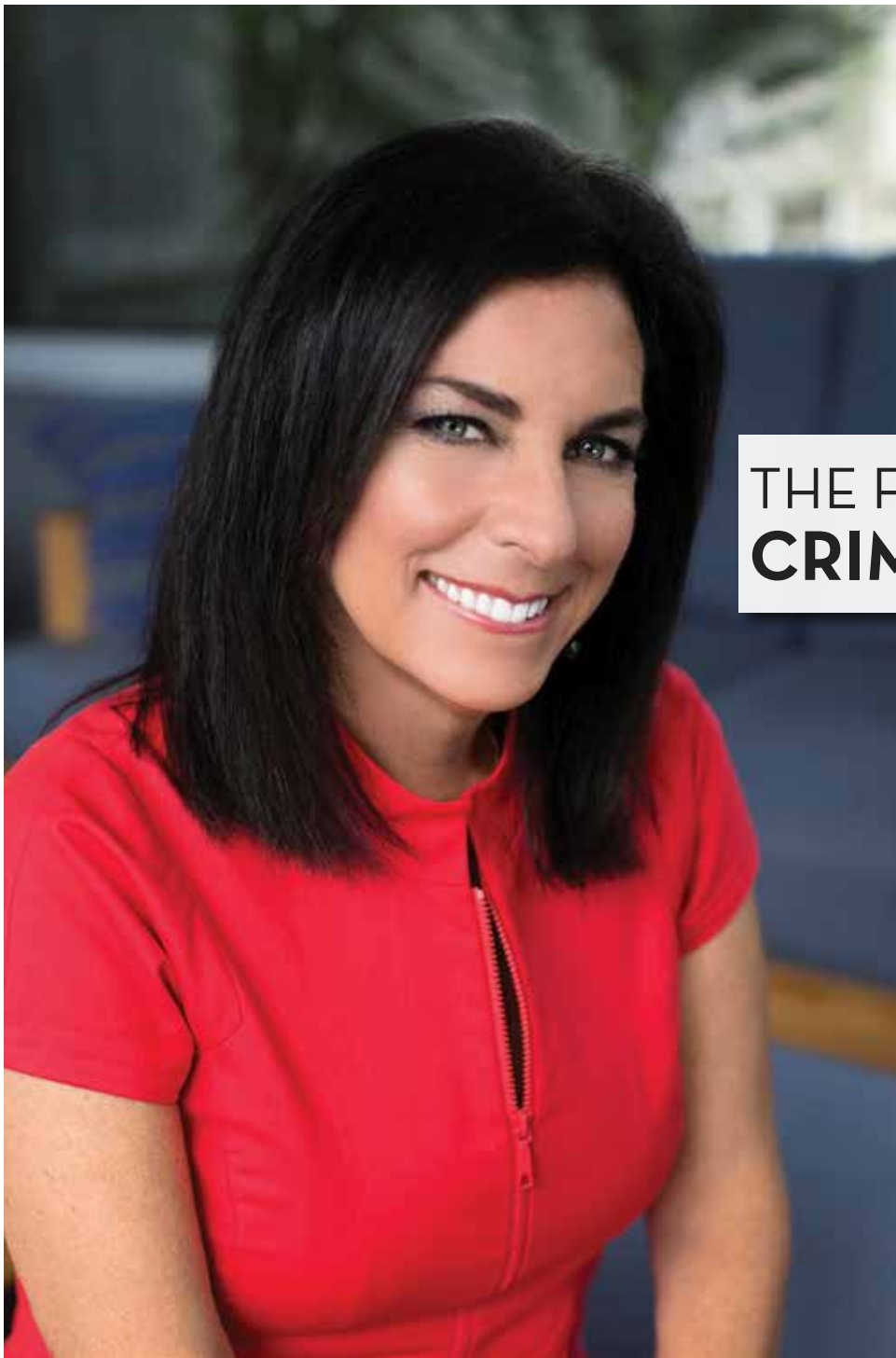
What a journey it's been but I never lose sight of how fortunate I've been to be able to raise a family here. To have the opportunity to live, work and play here in our beautiful community has been a gift that I don't take for granted.

I've never aspired to have a Team of agents. There's absolutely nothing wrong with working with a Real Estate Team, it's just not the business model I wanted. There's me, a solo practitioner, my assistant, admin help and our loyal team of vendors that help us achieve our customers goals, every day. That's the kind of team I've worked to have. We can't do as many transactions per year, but we do give the best, personalized service, that's possible.

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Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

She has been on the faculty of FACDL “Blood, Breath & Tears” annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

photos and story by  
HOLLY TISHFIELD

# Historic Gardens

OF ST. AUGUSTINE

The Lightner Museum



Peña-Peck House



The Collector Luxury Inn & Garden



The Lightner Museum



Hispanic Gardens



## THE COLLECTOR LUXURY INN & GARDEN

This collection of nine historic homes is a garden oasis of properties built from the 1790s-1910s.

Once owned and operated by Kenneth Worcester Dow, the homes were acquired by the collector over the span of his lifetime and turned into the Dow Museum of Historic Houses in early 2000, after being donated to the Museum of Arts & Sciences in 1989.

Today, the homes serve as 30 luxurious rooms available for rent. Each of the homes comes with its own unique line of history, and unique design features. Such as the Prince Murat House, which is bright pink and made of coquina, or the Worcester House, which is known for its Richardson Romanesque style. The homes are adjacent to a series of blooming gardens, giving the area its classic old-Florida feel.



### HISPANIC GARDENS

Nestled on the corner of Hypolita and St. George Street you will find a small, but beautiful, gated garden. The garden, named the Hispanic Garden, was created in 1965 by Elizabeth Towers, the only female on the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission at the time. The Commission tasked Towers with developing the plot of land, so she pulled together a female-lead team and set out to turn the space into a Spanish-style garden. Flowers and trees such as marigolds, jasmine, palm trees, and holly line the perimeter of the garden in ceramic vases. The octagonal mosaic and water features are nods to Spanish influence. Anna Hyatt Huntington, the first woman to have a public sculpture on display in New York outside of Central Park, donated a sculpture of Queen Isabella of Castile. Today, after concerns of vandalism and destruction, the garden is closed to the public but opens for special events and holiday weekends.



### PEÑA-PECK HOUSE

In 1750, this coquina stone house was built by order of King Ferdinand VI of Spain for Spanish Royal Treasurer Juan Estevan de Peña and his wife Maria Antonia Adrisola. Fourteen years later, when Florida was sold to Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris, where it was then occupied by acting governor John Moultrie, and later by Governor Patrick Tonyn and his family for around nine years. In 1783 Spain required Florida, and the home was purchased by Francisco Xavier Sanchez in 1791. The Sanchez family and its heirs owned the home until around 1821,

when it then switched owners for over a decade until Dr. Seth Peck purchased it in 1837. Dr. Peck turned it into the iconic piece of St. Augustine history that it is known for today. Today, The Women's Exchange owns the home, where they offer tours of the Peña-Peck home and its gardens, host weddings and luncheons, and run the Women's Exchange and gift shop.



### THE LIGHTNER MUSEUM

Imagnate and famed St. Augustine resident built the Alcazar Hotel, a Gilded Age resort hotel, in 1888 with a vision to transform St. Augustine into a resort destination for the wealthy upper class of East coast tourists. In the 1890s, when the resort was at its peak in popularity, it accommodated more than 25,000 guests. The resort was known for its indoor public swimming pool, grand ballroom, sulfur baths, a steam room, massage parlor, gymnasium, bowling alley, archery ranges, tennis courts, and bicycle academy. The Alcazar Hotel closed during the Depression, but was purchased by Otto C. Lightner in 1947 to exhibit his collection of fine and decorative art. The Lightner Museum was opened in 1949, and has been dazzling guests with its collection of art and its stunning gardens ever since.

# interior design TRENDS



A home with re-upholstered fabrics and decor pieces styled by Mineral City



Zebra Palm Dining Room designed by Laura West

Photos by ED HALL

by HOLLY TISHFIELD

With stay-at-home orders issued throughout the pandemic and a general suggestion to stay indoors as much as possible, now, more than ever, people are taking long, hard looks at their homes. They are feeling bored of old design features and in the mood for something fresh and exciting.

Laura West, owner of Mineral City in Ponte Vedra Beach, explained the pandemic permanently affected the way designers both design and distribute their products. Sustainability is in, with a strong focus on cutting environmental damage as much as possible.

“It has become evident that purchasing disposable items, like fast fashion, food in unnecessary and non-recyclable packaging and even cheaply made, trendy furniture intended to be used for a few years (maximum) and then thrown away, has caused immense harm to our communal home,” said West.

To combat this, designers are pushing more sustainable options, like using natural materials and offering well-made, domestic heirloom furniture pieces. During the past year, designers have taken to suggesting reusing, reupholstering and repurposing furnishings as opposed to throwing them away and purchasing new ones. West also said that designers are taking into consideration the cost on the planet for long-distance shipping, and the waste it can create, so now designers are more interested in sourcing local and domestic products.



An ‘Exotica’-styled home, with cheerful, bright Florida colors

The past year has proved that open-floor plans remain a popular home feature, but now customers are interested in having the ability to close off small areas of the home for activities such as video conference calls and general decompression.

Home expansion projects have begun involving the use of outdoor space as a more resort-like feature, flowering landscaping, water features, piped in music, sofas, string lights, outdoor kitchens and fire pits are on the rise in popularity.

According to West, practicality and performance fabrics for furniture have become more popular than ever.

“We are all ‘living’ in our homes now more than ever and when ‘life happens’ on your white sofa, you no longer have to panic,” she said. “You can relax and enjoy your home and easily clean off most accidental spills and dirt perhaps from a spilled glass of wine, from your children, grandchildren and pets.”

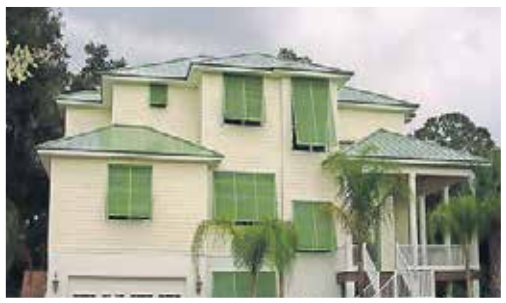
For kitchens and bathrooms, painted lower cabinets and pieces of furniture in colors such as warm brass or gold color hardware, waterfall marble/granite/quartzite or quartz countertops, and hand painted tiles are in.

To learn more design tips, or learn more about Mineral City, go to [mcpvb.com](http://mcpvb.com).

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by HOLLY TISHFIELD  
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Jacksonville-turned-Ponte Vedra-resident Tiffany Willis had no idea that a job she took on a whim after graduating college would turn into a lifelong passion. Willis wanted to pursue dance after earning her degree, and picked up a side gig at the St. John's Flower Market in the early 2000s in the meantime. She handed them her resume and hoped for the best.

"I just thought that would be the coolest job ever," Willis said.

She secured the job, and the St. John's Flower Market trained her on all the things she would need to know for flower design. Willis eventually left the market to pick up on her budding dance career, which led to owning her own studio in the Northeast Florida area for a few years and continuing to do floral arrangements on the side for herself and close friends.

## KIM M. DAVIS

BROKER/OWNER/CIPS/CLHMS  
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Willis got back into working with floral arrangements by selling them at a small home design shop in Fernandina Beach, but when she and her family relocated to Ponte Vedra/Nocatee late last year, she decided it was time for a rebrand, and thus the Potting Shed of Ponte Vedra was born.

An entirely online business, Willis creates fresh plant and floral designs in a vari-

ety of species and colors, which she sells on her website. The decision to open as an online-only brand came from concerns about owning a brick-and-mortar store in the midst of the pandemic. Willis said she prefers giving customers the option of ordering from the safety of their own homes. She offers free delivery to customers in the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee area, too.

“It’s fun to see how people light up, and how much joy fresh flowers can give to people,” she said. “I really enjoy making my own designs and putting them out there and seeing who wants to order what I come up with.”

Even though the business officially opened up just five short months ago, Willis said community response has been extremely positive and overwhelmingly supportive. Her primary customers are people from out of town who want to send arrangements to their loved ones in the area, but she said that she also receives many orders from locals looking to surprise their spouses with a fresh bouquet.

Although Willis currently has pre-designed listings of arrangements on her website, she said that she also has experi-



ence creating bouquets for weddings, baby showers and other custom events.

In the future, Willis said that she hopes to begin bringing the Potting Shed of Ponte Vedra to community pop-up markets and perhaps one day open a storefront.

For now, you can order one of Willis’ unique displays and learn more about her business at [shopthepottingshed.com](http://shopthepottingshed.com).

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# FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

St. Augustine culinary event is just around the corner – at World Golf Village

by LEIGH COURT | photos provided by LEIGH CORT

**F**rom advertising agencies to center-of-the-plate food-and-wine festivals, the dynamic Jan Gourley is finally bringing her delicious Food & Wine Festival to St. Augustine, May 6-9.

With the booming culinary advancements in Northeast Florida, especially in St. Augustine and St. Johns County, the May event will bring four days of food, wine, chefs, spirits and great people together to celebrate the region's finest hospitality innovators and entrepreneurs! There are 25 incredible events to choose from that are taking place throughout the weekend!

Jan has had enormous successes in Hilton Head, Savannah, St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island during the past decade with "Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife," "Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival" and Savannah Food and Wine Festival's "An Iconic City's Epic Week of Food & Wine."

Now it's our turn to enjoy her talents at the "St. Augustine Food & Wine Festival."



**Jan Gourley**

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXTRAVAGANT WEEKEND

**Thursday, May 6 – 6-10 p.m.,**  
**"World Golf Hall of Fame Winemaker's Dinner"**  
 A gourmet food lover's experience with six-course dinner and three celebrity/James Beard Foundation chefs (Maneet Chauhan, Paul Fehribach and Michael Gulotta). Outstanding local chefs include Brian Whittington, Michael Lugo, Josh Smith and DeeAnn Hobbs.

**Friday, May 7 – Epicurean Master Classes "Off-Site"**  
 10:30 a.m.-noon — Bourbon and Mixology 101  
 10:30 a.m.-noon — How to Order the Right Beer for You and be Cool Doing It!  
 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Bordeaux Blending Class  
 1 p.m.-1:45 p.m. — Cooking Aloo Chaat with Maneet Chauhan (left, center circle)  
 2 p.m.-2:45 p.m. — Class TBD with Morgan Norman — Greg Norman Estates  
 3 p.m.-3:45 p.m. — Experience Grilling on Urban Asado's Argentine Inspired Live Fire Grills  
 4 p.m.-4:45 p.m. — Class TBD with Jan Stephenson Wines

**Friday, May 7 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.,**  
**"Smoke on the Walk"**  
 BBQ Extravaganza is a showcase of the Southeast's most celebrated pitmasters and grill masters; 21 years and older event, no pets allowed!

**Saturday, May 8 – 1-4 p.m.,**  
**"St. Augustine Food & Wine Festival – The Main Event"**  
 A fun afternoon of culinary and beverage tastings with live music. Tickets include a souvenir glass for unlimited beverage tastings from hundreds of wines, beer and spirits exhibitors. The Walk of Champions will be filled with a variety of exhibitors from artisans and farmers to the South's best restaurants and food trucks.

**Sunday, May 9 – 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,**  
**"The Jazz Brunch" (family-friendly event).**  
 This lavish Mother's Day brunch spread with carving stations, indulgent sides, made-to-order omelet station, seafood station and wide variety of desserts — plus live music with Sam Pacetii!

*A detailed outline of dates and events can be found at: [www.staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com](http://www.staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com).*

*Advance ticket sales are now available! Go to [tickets.staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com/p/tickets](http://tickets.staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com/p/tickets).*



CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ■

# ST. AUGUSTINE FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL



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The St. Augustine festival is a culinary celebration taking place in our historic city, showcasing culinary, beverage and culture while highlighting celebrity guest chefs, winemakers, local chefs, artisans and local craft spirits/beer makers.

This inaugural festival offers a wide sweep of events for all taste-buds, from wine dinners and tasting events to masters' classes.

The World Golf Hall of Fame and the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort are the host location sites. The kick-off wine-maker's dinner is patterned after the past Friends of James Beard Dinners that have been done in Savannah and Hilton Head, where celebrity guest chefs collaborate for a six-course wine dinner.

Guests will dine on celebrity guest chef Maneet Chauhan's cuisine (TV personality and author) in addition to her Epicurean Master Class, which includes a signed copy of her new cookbook "Chaat"!

Starting The AdFish Group in 2011, Jan worked in many of the Southeast's leading advertising agencies in a variety of roles from creative director, art director and account supervisor to P.R. director. Her own company creates, brands, markets and manages the festivals with a primary focus of building the brand, creating opportunities for unparalleled guest experiences and developing relationships with talent (chefs, sommeliers, authors, artisans).

This includes developing corporate/media partnerships which are crucial to building a successful overall festival. Jan doesn't settle for second best which means waiting for the most opportune year to implement her full vision of a grand festival.

The local economic impact from this festival is immeasurable,

being fortunate enough to receive a St. Johns County Tourist Development Council grant for the 2021 festival. It's already creating economic impact for its host hotel, the World Golf Village Renaissance Hotel & Resort, with record occupancy for Mother's Day weekend (not seen since The Players Championship moved off the May dates).

Ticket sales have been brisk with almost 50% of the tickets sold from out-of-market ZIP codes.

"Our festival creates back-to-back events that guests want to stay in town for and enjoy — and usually don't want to drive to multiple venues. Most out-of-town guests will want to venture to St. Augustine's historic district or the beaches — so this year we're starting off with a four-day event, but quickly see events expanding to a full week in the future. The resort is a perfect host site with beautiful, expansive outdoor spaces and unlimited parking," states Gourley.

Unlike many food-and-wine festivals, the culinary events that Jan's company brings to each distinctive market offer world-class culinary and beverage tastings. The main event on Saturday will feature nearly 300 varietals of wines, beers and spirits — all included with a souvenir glass for the ticket price. Culinary tastings will be available for purchase through culinary credits on an RFID wristband (contactless payment)! The main event will also feature a music stage and culinary demo stage ... a VIP lounge that is fully catered and offering private restrooms.

There is a VIP meet-and-greet celebrity stage with open bars for mixed drinks/cocktails. The Friday night Smoke on the Walk features some of the South's most renowned pitmasters and chefs!

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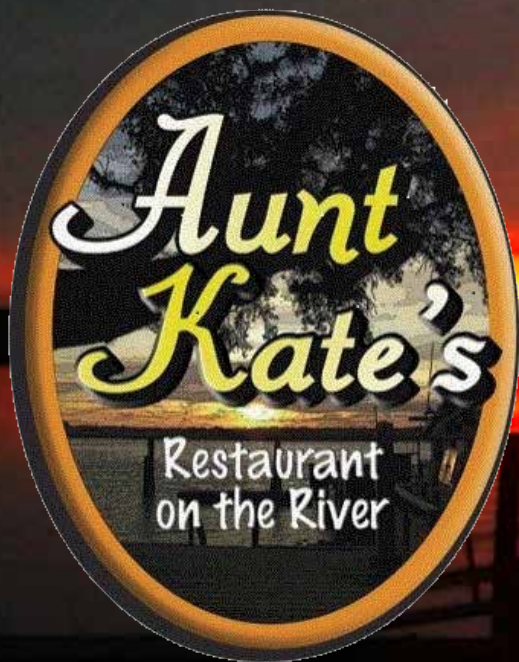


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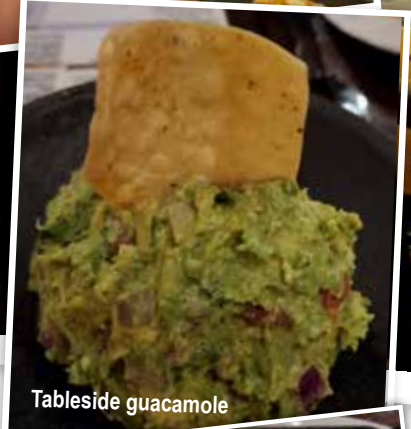


Flying Iguana Executive Chef  
Dwight Mosby

Flying Iguana  
Taqueria &  
Tequila Bar is a

# HOT

*Beaches corner*



Tableside guacamole



ny afternoon or night of the week, there is an exciting buzz around the hottest little corner at the crossroads of Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach — at the entrance of Flying Iguana. If you’ve dined there, you know the vibe and probably can’t wait to return. If you’re unfamiliar with this Latin fusion restaurant that oozes with personality, it’s time to walk in and let the staff lavish you with fabulous food and professional enthusiastic service.

When owner Al Mansur chose the beaches location in 2013, he wanted to create a new concept that would combine South American and Mexican cuisine with an extensive tequila and margarita selection. For eight years, it has become its own destination of fun, from its distinctive colorful atmosphere and live music on the weekend to food that has been a winner with guests and staff; they all do an incredible job taking care of a continual “full house!”

With 100-plus tequilas and a huge selection of craft beer, there is plenty to sip and sample! It’s impossible to choose just one margarita or specialty cocktail — so begin with the margarita that pays homage to the prior landmark on the site — choose “The Swap Shop” (remember the Sun Dog Diner? It was a true swap shop of “things”!) Unique to Flying Iguana is also having three sig-



## TABLE TALK

with LEIGH CORT

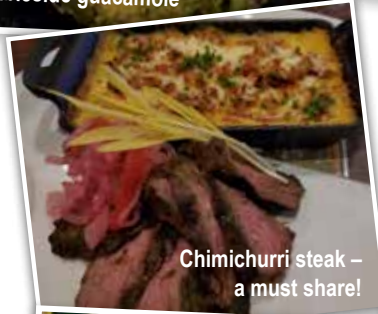
nature margaritas on draft — made with the same love — but available for the times when they just need to speed up service.

Operating as one big family according to General Manager JayVee VanValkenburgh who has been at the helm of Flying Iguana since opening day, she brings a cool, calm personality to nearly 100 employees as a mentor and leader. From her first restaurant job at the age of 15 in Hendersonville, Tennessee, she

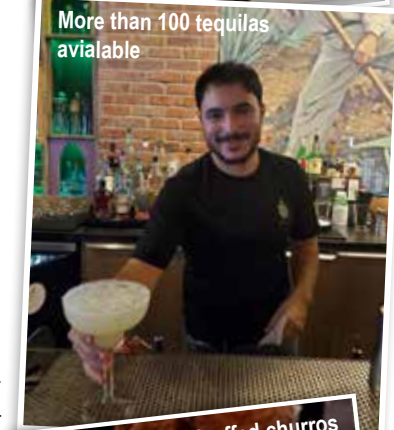
knew that someday she would manage a restaurant. Within days of arriving in Florida, she landed a position working for Al Mansur in Al’s Pizza in 2002 until Flying Iguana’s launch. “I’m not better than anyone here; I just have a different job!”

A great manager always needs a great chef to balance the leadership team and Flying Iguana is excited with their newly appointed Executive Chef Dwight Mosby who has been with the restaurant for eight years. “My kitchen feels like home and we’ve had very little turnover of the team which creates a really happy environment.”

With many of their herbs and veggies actually grown at the restaurant on the chef’s rooftop garden soaking up the Florida sun (sorry fans — it’s off limits unless you’re the chef) — it’s no wonder



Chimichurri steak – a must share!



More than 100 tequilas available



Stuffed churros

that their famous guacamole is irresistible. Prepared tableside, it's fresh and absolutely deliciously tastefully customized for your table. It's hard to imagine a lunch or dinner when you wouldn't include it in your "shareables" with the table! Paired with warm chips, I dare you to try just one!

Being a taco connoisseur is easy at Flying Iguana when you can "fly" to heaven with more than a dozen tempting choices — including their steak taco (anticucho marinated tender hanger steak, grilled onions, aji verde, fresno chiles and pepitas), crispy pork belly taco (rum n' coke glazed, watermelon, cotija and pickled onions) or blackened shrimp taco (ginger purple cabbage slaw, chipotle aioli and mango pico).

I don't know of any other restaurant that has a gluten-friendly menu as lengthy or exciting as Flying Iguana. If you're a healthy diner and always hunting for the most delicious way to begin a date, afternoon meeting or simply a self-indulgent treat, the grilled stuffed avocado is my favorite dish (shrimp escabeche, green olives, red radish, grape tomatoes and onions) — and could actually be your meal if you're a light eater. It's lusciously low calorie and memorable! With more than 30 selections, don't miss checking out Peruvian chicken salad (field greens, romaine, sweet potato, caramelized onion, spiced pepita and aji verde dressing) or slow-roasted pulled pork (black beans, jasmine rice, sweet potato fries, avocado, sweet plantains, pickled onion, queso fresco and corn tortilla). YUMMY!

For the 'meat and potatoes' appetite and palate, chimichurri steak pairs the most deliciously daring duet of marinated steak, potato au gratin, roasted cauliflower and salsa criolla. Its presentation reinforces the glamour of how Flying Iguana's chefs take pride in every small detail that really isn't taken for granted when it arrives at your table. True foodies will notice even the little innuendoes of garnishing and artistry!

In today's enjoyable bar world, Flying Iguana has something for even the most finicky taste from lagers and pilsners, ales and cider to their margaritas and specialty cocktails. The drink prices won't soar your dining bill to the rafters either; budget-conscious lunches, dinners and Sunday brunch might even tally to under \$25 by ordering two signature "gourmet tacos" and a specialty beverage!

Every party has to come to an end even at Flying Iguana; but not before the bit of magic that comes with a little dessert "crunch" at the Iguana. It's the crispy crunch of cream-filled "crispy churros" — (Spanish donuts) that will secure this restaurant's place in your heart. It's amazing that a texture with such big personality can be craved after a hearty meal. Imagine that dessert is a speed bump — you have to slow down and focus on its deliciousness. They are delivered hot to the table, filled with succulent warm, oozy custardy yumminess — so don't jump in too quickly. Let them first lure you with the sweet aroma and then nibble gently. Even without plunging the beautiful fried churros into its tres leches dipping sauce, I award it a crunchy "10."

The exciting news is the upcoming second location in Avondale — another innovative Iguana on Park will open this summer. The colors, feel, atmosphere and delicious Latin-American and Mexican fusion cuisine will be very similar — but always with a clever interpretation. Now I can only dream about chorizo and potato empanadas, esquites (char-grilled Mexican street corn on the cob) and shrimp ceviche!

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## GREENPOINTE DEVELOPERS ANNOUNCE OPENING OF MODEL HOME VILLAGE AT TRIBUTARY IN NASSAU COUNTY

**G**reenPointe Developers LLC recently announced the opening of six new model homes at Tributary, North Florida's new master-planned community.

"We are pleased to reach this milestone — the opening of these expertly crafted model homes from Tributary's premier builder team of Dream Finders Homes, Lennar and Richmond American Homes," said GreenPointe's Regional President Mike Taylor. "Our community offers a convenient location, miles of scenic nature trails, direct access to the Nassau River and exceptional amenities. We look forward to welcoming new homeowners to Tributary soon."

At Tributary, Dream Finders Homes, Lennar and Richmond American Homes are offering a distinctive collection of award-winning home designs ranging in size and style to meet the needs and lifestyle of today's homebuyers. The Tributary model home village features six model homes, two from each builder, showcasing innovative features and flexible spaces for family living and entertainment.

Dream Finders Homes Avalon II model at Tributary presents an open concept design showcasing a modern rustic style in neutral shades of greige and pearl with pops of color.




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SIX MODEL HOMES NOW OPEN



*Tributary*  
EXPLORE MORE

 Site plans, community maps, photos and depictions are for illustration purposes only, are conceptual in nature, and should not be relied upon. GreenPointe Developers, LLC reserves the right to make changes to the foregoing at any time without notice. Home design, pricing, terms and offers are subject to change. See Home Builders' Sales Consultant for details.

GREENPOINTE  
DEVELOPERS, LLC.

The Driftwood model exudes a coastal vibe with sea glass tones mixed with bright, light neutrals. The Avalon II and Driftwood models showcase many of Dream Finders Homes' designer options, such as a summer kitchen, stainless steel appliances, a gourmet kitchen with farmhouse sink and oversized granite island, a gas fireplace and more. Dream Finders Homes offers personal customization, making it possible for homebuyers to select the features and upgrades they want for their new home.

Lennar's new models highlight two of Lennar Jacksonville's most popular plans, the Tivoli and Trevi. Both homes showcase open floor plans promoting an airy ambiance and are Wi-Fi certified, a feature Lennar offers with every home it builds at Tributary. The models are designed in soothing coastal shades of tapioca pearl, silver mist and taupe.

Richmond American Homes at Tributary is showcasing floor plans from the innovative Seasons Collection. The Sapphire and Larimar models present airy nine-foot main floor ceilings and hundreds of structure and style options. Perfect for entertaining, the Larimar plan has an inviting great room, covered patio and spacious owner's suite. The Larimar is professionally decorated in mellow blue hues with cheerful pops of yellow, blending elegance and ease. The Sapphire plan features a contemporary open design with numerous options including up to five bedrooms. The Sapphire is beautifully styled with deep shades of its namesake gemstone, rich espresso wood tones and abstract artwork.

The Tributary builders are offering more than 30 floor plans that include one- and two-story single-family homes ranging in size from approximately 1,600 square feet to more than 3,200 square feet.

Many of the neighborhood's home sites will feature preserve or lake views. Homes at Tributary are priced from the \$200s.

Spanning 1,550 acres, Tributary's prime location amongst the natural waterways and majestic evergreen forests truly complement the community's mantra of Exploring More. Tributary residents will enjoy on-site amenities including The Lookout, a lakefront resident gathering spot with a resort-inspired pool and plenty of room to kick-back and relax. Workout warriors will appreciate the club quality fitness studio while the younger crowd will delight in the Adventure Zone tot lot. Tributary will also host an array of sports courts including a pickleball court and the community's furry friends will adore Pawsome Park, designed just for them.

Tributary's neighborhoods will include family-friendly pocket parks, while miles of scenic nature trails will provide quick access to the community's amenities as well as The Landing kayak and canoe park, the neighboring protected sanctuary of Four Creeks State Forest and the new Tributary Regional Park, currently under construction. Tributary Regional Park plans include baseball and multi-purpose fields, a kayak launch, concessions and multi-purpose trails. Tributary is within the Nassau County Public School District and zoned for A-rated schools that are among the best in Florida.

Tributary is 1.6 miles west of Interstate-95 on State Road 200. The historic town of Fernandina and the beautiful beaches of Amelia Island are located east of Tributary on Scenic A1A/SR 200. Tributary is near dining, shopping, recreation, medical centers, services and more.

Go to [www.TributaryLiving.com](http://www.TributaryLiving.com) for more information about Tributary.

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# Summer CAMP GUIDE

## SUMMER SAFETY MATTERS!

Creating a safer camp experience for your child

**T**he experiences gained from summer camp can be some of the most joyful memories from childhood. Camps often give children the potential to build lifelong friendships. Camps also encourage kids to develop both character and social skills, resulting in positive growth opportunities. However, sending your children off to camp can be an anxious time for parents who are concerned for their child's safety while they're away.

When it comes to making decisions about which summer camp your child will be attending, it's imperative to know what to look for and what to ask. It's also important to educate your children so they know what to expect when they're away. Ensuring your child's safety even when they aren't at home can seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be!

According to the Monique Burr Foundation for Children (MBF), child safety is a team effort. Here are some summer safety tips and talking points to help you better protect your children and teens this summer:

### EXPERIENCING NEW PLACES

While most camps and other summer programs are generally safe places for children, parents need to be aware that predators look for places where children congregate to find potential victims. To ensure your child's safety, learn what to look for in organizations, programs and camps where you plan to leave your children. It's important to know which questions to ask organizations about their child protection policies to ensure the organization is aware of and actively working to minimize common risks to children.

### Questions Parents Should Ask:

- Is the camp accredited by the American Camp Association? ACA Accreditation assures parents that the camp has had a regular, independent safety audit that goes beyond regulations in most states. While no accreditation process, licensing program, or set of regulations or laws can guarantee safety, accreditation is the best evidence for parents that a camp is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children.
- What types of child safety training do counselors or staff receive? At a minimum, camp staff should be trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision.
- What is the counselor-to-camper or staff-to-child ratio? In general, smaller group sizes help ensure that there are enough staff members to maintain safety. Lower counselor-to-camper or staff-to-child ratios can also serve as an indicator of a higher-quality program, because a child care provider or camp counselor can be more sensitive and responsive to children's needs if he/she is responsible for a smaller group of children.
- Is there a policy prohibiting one staff member being alone with a child? Most sexual abuse occurs in one adult-one child situations, so if an organization prohibits one adult-one child situations, it minimizes the risk of abuse happening.
- How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled? Rules are necessary in any organization, and the disciplinary approach taken should be reasonable and well-communicated. If penalties are involved for violations, they should be applied quickly, fairly,

calmly and without undue criticism to children. Parents should verify that an organization doesn't use corporal punishment as research has shown that it is not effective as a disciplinary measure.

Even if your child is not attending a summer camp program, there are still many new places that they may encounter. Whether they are having a sleepover at a friend's house, attending a music lesson at a new studio, or going on a family vacation, it is crucial to keep them safe at all times.

#### **Things to Talk to Your Child About Before They Go:**

- Remind them that if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe at any time to let you know so that you can come pick them up. It may be helpful to set up a code word they can text to you or call you with.
- Ensure they know your contact info, their address, and other relevant personal information in case of emergency.
- Make sure they (and the parent, guardian or safe adult they will be with) know you expect them to check in at regular intervals. It may be helpful to set up a regular schedule for them to check in.
- Remind them (and the parent, guardian or safe adult they will be with) that they are not to be left alone, or left with anyone you don't know, at any time.

#### **Additional Considerations:**

- When possible, drop in unannounced at different times to ensure your child is being cared for and is happy and safe.
- Ask your child specific questions when they get home including who was there, what they did and if they encountered any unsafe situations. Listen for anything that might indicate they are fearful, unhappy, or hesitant to return.

## **EXPERIENCING UNFAMILIAR FACES**

Visiting relatives, attending pool parties, and having sleepovers with friends are just a few examples of favorite summer pastimes, and they are all great environments for your child to make new friends. These activities are helpful for building social skills, but be cautious of the many unfamiliar faces that your child will be seeing. Use precaution and discuss important topics with your child so they will be able to spend time with others and make new friends while staying safe.

#### **Important Conversations to Have:**

- Talk to your child about real-world dangers. Explain that it's not safe for them to be alone with one adult, or to visit inappropriate websites with their friends.
- Remind them that the rules you establish apply at all times, whether they are at home or not.
- Establish a private code word for them to text you if they feel unsafe and need to be picked up.
- Talk to any person who will be supervising your child, and let them know the rules you have set and your expectations of safety.

While the many memories of attending summer camp can last a lifetime, so can the memories of abuse or victimization. It is crucial to educate yourself on the steps you can take to protect children, and it is important to know how to identify the signs that a child has been victimized so you can respond appropriately if you suspect abuse has occurred. Go to [www.mbfpreventioneducation.org](http://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org) for more information and resources on how you can better protect your children and teenagers!



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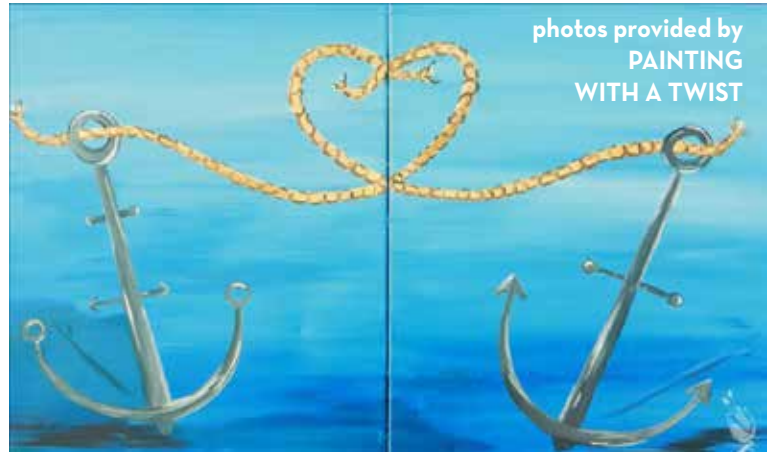
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# SUMMER CAMPS



by HOLLY TISHFIELD



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A NEW TWIST ON SUMMER

# CAMP

*TwistKIDS.*

The studios are independently owned and operated under a franchise agreement with Painting with a Twist, LLC Mandeville, LA. ©2020 Painting with a Twist





The Ponte Vedra Beach branch of Painting with a Twist opened a few short months ago after sisters Libbi Poole and Lesley Vitel purchased the business to fulfill new ambitions. Since then, they have completely remodeled and re-ramped the interior of the space to match their own theme and have seen a huge increase of popularity compared to the store's previous years.

Their art instructors host a wide variety of weekly lessons, including landscapes, animals and video game characters. The Date Night classes are perhaps the most popular, where couples can paint coordinating canvases with designs such as a romantic sunset or a hidden kiss. The Mommy & Me classes are also extremely popular, giving mothers and their little ones a chance to paint whimsical sea creatures and shimmering butterflies.

Over the summer, Poole and Vitel plan to host six weeks of summer camps for kids to attend throughout June and July. The weeks will span Monday-Friday, beginning June 7 and extending through June 25, then picking up again July 12 through July 30.

The theme for each week of camp has yet to be decided, but families can be sure it will include plenty of favored animated characters and zoo animals.

To learn more about the studio and its summer programs, go to [paintingwithatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach](http://paintingwithatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach).



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- Week 3: Ocean Camp, June 21-25
- Week 4: Art Camp, June 28-July 2
- Week 5: Super Heroes Camp, July 5-9
- Week 6: Animal Camp, July 12-16
- Week 7: Steam Camp, July 19-23
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# Summer Camp Guide

5 reasons why summer camp is a good choice for kids



Summer vacation offers students a respite from lessons and the routine of school. Children might once have eagerly awaited those final days of classes so they could lounge poolside, skip rocks across ponds and spend the long days of the season playing with friends. But many of today's youngsters spend much of their summer vacations indoors playing with their digital devices.

Perhaps that's why one of the last vestiges of the classic summer vacation escape — summer camp — remains such a viable option for parents who want their children to get outdoors once the school year ends.

Although kids needn't be in camp all summer long, a week or two can benefit campers of all ages. The following are five reasons why summer camp might be the right fit this year.

**1. Explore talents:** Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized yet often easygoing camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.

**2. Physical activity:** Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing and so much more. This can be a welcome change for kids accustomed to living sedentary lifestyles. Regular physical activity has many health benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.

**3. Gain confidence:** Day and sleepaway camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success, and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence, decision-making skills and the ability to thrive outside of the shadow of their parents, siblings or other students.

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**4. Try new things:** Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.

**5. Make new friends:** Camp is a great place to meet new people and make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.

Camps benefit children in a variety of ways. Lessons learned in camp can strengthen values, build confidence, develop coping mechanisms when adversity strikes, and enable campers to make lifelong friends.

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# Wild Hearts

unite at St. Augustine boutique

**T**wo years ago, in south St. Augustine, Susan Swearingen opened up her women's clothing boutique, Wildheart Boutique, with a partner. She loved owning and operating her own store, but didn't feel like the area was the right fit. So, more recently, Swearingen moved Wildheart Boutique to downtown St. Augustine in the San Sebastian art district.

"The reason I am doing this is to have a way into the community," said Swearingen, speaking of her move into the downtown area, and a part of the community she has certainly become.

Each month during the First Friday Art Walks, Wildheart Boutique and the two galleries next door come together to host fun activities outside on their shared sidewalk space. Last month, Wildheart Boutique brought belly dancers to dance outside the shop, and Swearingen said she plans to host belly dancing lessons in the near future for any interested guests.

Swearingen's main goal upon opening the store was to create a safe, comfortable, collaborative space for women to come and enjoy. She wanted to cultivate an inviting atmosphere in her store by offering a wide variety of clothing styles and top-notch customer service.

"I want to bring life and expression to this area," she said.

After 25 years in the corporate world, and five years in the mindfulness and yoga world, Swearingen said that opening Wildheart Boutique was a culmination of all of her experiences. She takes the Wildheart motto of embracing

life with an open heart and makes it evident in every aspect of her store by sourcing products from around the world curated for flattery, fit and style.

The countertop at the checkout counter is a new edition to the store, and was created with the help of artists from the gallery beside Wildheart, a perfect demonstration of Swearingen's mission to become a part of the St. Augustine community.

The clothing pieces in Wildheart are available in a wide variety of sizes. For this upcoming season Swearingen said she has noticed a rise in linen, which she buys from Italian designers, and also a rise in Australian-made brands. Bright colors and patterns are in, with customers favoring lively patterns and designs as opposed to simple ones.

With the wedding season underway, and people venturing back into the world, Swearingen said she has seen a shift from a favor of loungewear clothing, to a favor of a more chic style, which she took into consideration as she selected new items for the season.

In the future, Swearingen said she hopes to continue creating relationships with locals, assisting them in finding comfortable and flattering clothing, and also participating in as many community events as possible.

Susan Swearingen poses in front of her women's clothing boutique in St. Augustine.



story and photos by HOLLY TISHFIELD

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT PAIR OF SHADES

Sunscreen is essential to protect skin against potential sun damage, but what about keeping the eyes safe from the sun? Are the eyes vulnerable to significant sun-related damage as well?

According to the Calvert Ophthalmology Center, ultraviolet rays from the sun can contribute to various eye problems. These can range from temporary vision loss to macular degeneration. When spending time in the sun, it's vital that individuals take steps to protect their eyes. One of the ways to do just that is to wear sunglasses.

All sunglasses are not created equal. Quality sunglasses protect the eyes from UV rays, reduce eyestrain in bright conditions and protect the eyes from flying debris. Here's how to find the right pair of sunglasses for you.

- **Check the UV rating.** Sunglasses should block 100 percent of both UVA and UVB rays. UV rays can contribute to cataracts and even destroy the retina, which is the lining at the back of the eyes. In addition, UV light can cause changes in the cells of the eyes that may produce discomfort or even lead to cancer. Make sure the label indicates that the sunglasses protect against UVA and UVB rays.

- **Wear large sunglasses.** The more coverage from sunglasses the better. The American Optometric Association advises that oversized or wraparound sunglasses are best, as they can cut down on the UV rays entering the eye from the side.

- **Don't be fooled by dark lenses.** Dark lenses do not neces-



sarily block more UV rays than light-colored lenses. It is important to look at the label to see the UV rating.

- **Select functional sunglasses.** The sporting goods experts at REI state that certain sunglasses are specifically designed for certain activities. Sport sunglasses, for example are designed for running, biking and hiking. They're lightweight and fit tightly so they stay on while exercising. Their frame and lens materials also may be more impact-resistant than casual sunglasses.

Glacier glasses are sport sunglasses that protect the eyes from intense light at high altitudes and against reflections from snow.

- **Know the functions of polarized lenses.** Polarization helps reduce glare coming off of reflective surfaces, such as water. Note that polarization will not offer more protection from the sun, but it makes engaging in certain activities more comfortable.

- **Recognize that the color of lenses also helps.** In addition to polarization, the color of lenses can affect how much visible light reaches the eyes and affects clarity. Brown, gray and green are ideal for everyday use and most outdoor activities. Light colors like rose, yellow and amber are good in low to moderate light conditions. They can improve the visibility of objects and make surroundings seem brighter.

Shop smart when selecting sunglasses to keep eyes healthy and comfortable.



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# Dandy Bus

by HOLLY TISHFIELD



photos provided by  
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## Florida resident conducts unique tiny-home conversion



Stephanie Gray

Like many people, Stephanie Gray was taken completely by surprise when the pandemic hit at the beginning of 2020. Her lease was up on her house, and she knew that by the end of the month she was going to be unemployed. She had to re-evaluate her life in order to make it through the difficult times, but it ended up being the best decision she ever made.

View the Dandy Bus' adventures and renovations at [instagram.com/andthe\\_gray](https://www.instagram.com/andthe_gray)



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Gray knew that downsizing was her best option. She started researching RVs, but the market changed as the pandemic took effect, and RVs were no longer an option. Soon after she purchased a camper rig and a vehicle to trail it, but the process of renovating the camper was too expensive, so Gray had to evaluate her options once again.

“I knew what level of renovating I was willing and able to commit to when I started this process and when that camper proved to need more than that, I needed out,” she said in an Instagram post.

It was then that Gray discovered the world of Skoolies, a term used for school buses and vans that are converted into tiny homes.

Gray purchased a bus in September of 2020 and spent three months renovating it with the help of her mother. The process was new to both, but by using Youtube and the internet they were able to turn the old school bus into a beautiful tiny home complete with a bed, a living area, a tiny kitchen, and convenient storage spaces.

Naming one's Skoolie is customary in the community, so Gray named her bus The Dandy Bus thanks to a suggestion from her sister. The name derives from Gray's admiration of the Dandelion wildflower, which is known for its survival capabilities and resilience.



“I want to grow wherever I land,” said Gray, “no matter the circumstance.”

After losing her job in event marketing last year, Gray turned her new hobby of woodcarving into a fulltime business, which Gray sells both online and at the shows that she currently tours the country with.

Gray found a group of Skoolie owners that travel to Tiny Home shows around the country. She attends festivals with them where guests can tour her bus and gain inspiration for their own tiny homes.

Besides being able to show off her home, and sell her wood carvings, Gray said that the Skoolie community was one of the greatest unexpected perks of her new lifestyle.

Gray plans to continue touring the country with for Tiny Home shows, with events in Texas and Colorado coming up over the next few months, but she also said that she enjoys not having an exact plan.

Although the pandemic upended the lifestyle that Gray had grown accustomed to, she could not be happier with where her decisions have led her.

“This is the life I have been looking for for a long time, unknowingly,” she said. “This is 100% where I want to be and what I want to be doing.”



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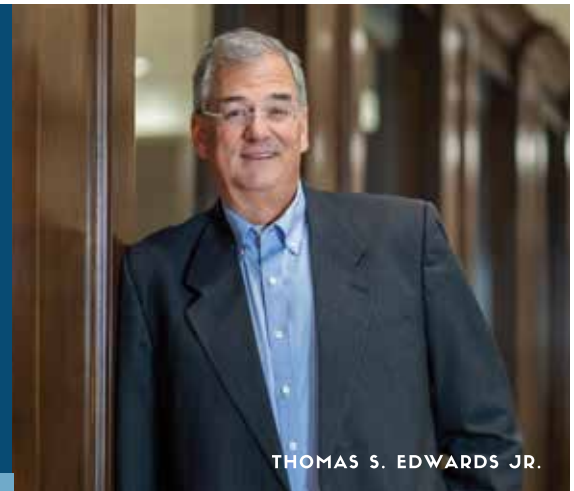
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# 'Hail the Dark Lioness'



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# Cummer Museum features work by South African photographer

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is presenting “Zanele Muholi: Somnyama Ngonyama, Hail The Dark Lioness” through June 6.

The internationally touring exhibition is organized by Autograph, London and curated by Renee Mussai. The museum will be the exhibition’s final venue in the United States.

In more than 80 self-portraits, South African visual artist Zanele Muholi, 49, confronts the deeply personal politics of race and representation in the visual archive.

The name of the ongoing series “Somnyama Ngonyama” — which translates to “Hail The Dark Lioness” — is from isiZulu, one of the official languages of South Africa. The series playfully employs the conventions of classical painting, fashion photography and familiar tropes of ethnographic imagery to rearticulate contemporary identity politics.

Each black-and-white self-portrait asks questions about social injustice, human rights and contested representations of the Black body.

“I’m reclaiming my blackness, which I feel is continuously performed by the privileged other,” Muholi said. “My reality is that I do not mimic being Black; it is my skin, and the experience of being Black is deeply entrenched in me. Just like our ancestors, we live as Black people 365 days a year, and we should speak without fear.”

Throughout the series, the dark complexion of Muholi’s skin (intensified through enhanced contrast applied in post-production) becomes the focal point of a multilayered interrogation of beauty, pride, desire, self-care, well-being and the many inter-linked phobias an “isms” navigated daily.

“Zanele Muholi’s visually arresting self-portraits compel viewers to consider timely topics, such as contrast, dignity, solidarity, difference, history and activism in meaningful ways,” said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, the museum’s George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs director and CEO. “Each one invites deep looking and, ultimately, encourages viewers to ask themselves critical questions about empathy, courage and power of each and every voice.”

The exhibition features photographs taken between 2012 and 2019 in cities across Europe, North America, Asia and Africa. Muholi’s brand of portraiture transforms found objects and ordinary materials into dramatic and historically loaded props, often commenting on specific events in South Africa’s past.

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. All visitors must reserve a timed ticket for entry. Reservations may be made at [cummuseum.org/about#hours-admission](http://cummuseum.org/about#hours-admission).

The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.



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Students learn dance at Brentwood Elementary.  
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## ONLINE TOOL SHOWCASES ARTS EDUCATION ACCESS, RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES IN DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOLS



Students receive visual arts  
instruction at a Duval County school.  
photos by INGRID DAMIANI



Students learn dance at Brentwood Elementary.  
photo by TIFFANY MANNING

The Jacksonville community has a new tool to quickly see which schools offer instruction in specific visual and performance arts — and which have an absence of such programs.

The interactive online feature is being touted for its ability to identify funding and partnership opportunities that could result in greater support and increased resources for arts education in Duval County schools.

Launched Feb. 23 by the Cathedral Arts Project, the user-friendly map is built on the artlook platform created by Chicago-based arts advocacy organization Ingenuity.

By going to [jacksonville.artlookmap.com](http://jacksonville.artlookmap.com) and using the filters, anyone can see a map of the county with pin icons pointing out the schools offering instruction in dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theater and visual arts.

The results are filtered by art type and programs and disciplines within each, school level, number of organization partners, student demographics and more.

The project is an extension of the 2019 Landscape of Education in the Arts in Duval (LEAD) report, an effort to collect information about arts programming and resources. A separate survey gathered data about the arts education offerings of local arts and culture organizations.

The map is updated annually, with data from the 2020-2021 school year to become active by fall.

The Cathedral Arts Project is part of the Any Given Child Jacksonville program, which initiated a collaboration between Ingenuity, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to launch the project.

In addition to the map portion of the tool, school and partner portals help to identify funding and partnership opportunities that could lead to greater support and resources in the schools.

“For nearly three decades, (Cathedral Arts Project) has worked to make sure every child has access to an arts-rich education with tremendous progress,” said the Rev. Kimberly L. Hyatt, Cathedral Arts Project president and CEO. “Now, with the launch of the LEAD artlook map, it will be easier than ever for our community — rich in quality arts learning resources — to come together on behalf of our children.”

“We are so excited to engage with the LEAD artlook map, as it will be an invaluable tool in helping us enhance arts education in our schools and expand how we serve Team Duval students, teachers and parents,” said School Superintendent Diana Greene. “Arts education plays a critical role in the development of children, and we are fortunate that multiple community partners have come together to provide this new resource that will lead to greater access and equity.”

She said the tool would give parents a way to navigate arts education opportunities in schools and the community.

“It also gives educators the ability to engage with art providers and find pathways of bringing arts resources into the classroom,” she added.

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# HONORING HEROES

Veterans, difference-makers in military community receive accolades at foundation's annual brunch event

by HOLLY TISHFIELD

Photos provided by the WE CAN BE HEROES FOUNDATION



Sculptor Cliff Leonard (center), with Ryan Shoaf (left) and Beth Heath, is honored for creating bronze busts of fallen service members and giving them to grieving families.

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**O**n March 20, the We Can Be Heroes Foundation hosted its spring Tribute to Our Heroes Brunch at the Salem Centre Auditorium. The brunch was just one of the many events that the We Can Be Heroes Foundation hosts annually to honor both veterans and volunteer members of the community.

As a volunteer-based nonprofit, the We Can Be Heroes Foundation spent the morning honoring the unsung heroes of the community, recognizing them for the sacrifices they made for the good of their country, their community and their neighbors.

The event, which featured a catered brunch, was followed by members of the Atlantic Coast Young Marines presenting the colors. Many of the tables at the event were labelled with names of veterans, that their loved ones could purchase in their honor. Two Jacksonville World War II veterans, Frank Pupura and John Connelly, also made a special appearance at the brunch.

We Can Be Heroes Foundation National Spokesman Ryan Shoaf specifically recognized just a few of the honorable unsung heroes in the Northeast Florida community. One of which being Jacksonville Marine veteran Cliff Leonard.

Over the past 13 years, Leonard has sculpted more than 50 bronze statues of fallen service members and presented them

Atlantic Coast Young Marines Color Guard



free of charge to the veteran's family members. The foundation's close partner, local Ponte Vedra-based organization K9s For Warriors, was also honored at the brunch. More specifically, the organization's founder, Shari Duval, who passed away after a battle with cancer earlier this year.

Other unsung heroes such as Delaware Vietnam veteran Ron Elliott, St. Augustine Gulf War National Guard veteran Carl "Jeff" Lay and Maryland Vietnam-era veteran/31-year Little League volunteer George Swanson were recognized at the brunch, as well.

Ponte Vedra High School's young founders of the Sharks For Heroes club, Mason Romero and Jake Simone, were honored for beginning their school's first chapter of volunteers to assist veterans at the We Can Be Heroes Foundation events.

The purpose of the brunch was to bring to light the many volunteers that work selflessly in the Northeast Florida community to make it a better place, without recognition. All volunteers recognized at the brunch were presented with the foundation's "Unsung Hero Lives Here" yard sign.

"This individual, without recognition, was moved to do good out of love," said Beth Heath, president of the We Can Be Heroes Foundation. "[The sign] is a gesture to let others know that people in their community are going the extra mile."

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## ORANGE PARK

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## LOCATION HOURS:

Monday - Saturday  
9am - 5pm  
Closed Sundays

### Palm Casual's Money Back Guarantee

If you can find a better value in patio furniture or for any other reason wish to return your furniture, you may do so within 30 days for a full refund.

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