

first coast Register

October - November 2017

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on the cover

Rick Lupisella and Christine Zoyhofski's house in Jacksonville Golf & Country Club graces the cover of this First Coast Register edition. We take an inside look at the local realtor who sold them the house via his "Buyer Concierge" program. Read more on page 10.



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JON BLAUVELT

One of Us!

by JON BLAUVELT

DAVID CLARK

David Clark is the regional director of philanthropy for Children's Home Society (CHS) of Florida, a nonprofit organization that prides itself in transforming odds into opportunities for kids statewide.

What's a typical day like for you as regional director of philanthropy?

Most days include working with amazing staff, volunteers and donors to fulfill our mission: building bridges to success for children. Some days, that's along the First Coast and other days, it's on the Emerald Coast. No matter the location, the passion of the volunteers and staff to help children and families is always evident. Each day I look for ways to give the teams of staff and volunteers the resources and support they need to be successful in raising money that is turned into programs and services to help children realize their full potential. My favorite days include time with some of the children and families who are, or have been, in our programs.

How did you get to where you are today?

My nonprofit career started at United Way of Northeast Florida. I expected to transition into a for-profit career shortly after. But, after running a small public relations firm for a few years, I knew I had to go back to the nonprofit world. I love knowing my work helps connect passionate people who want to help children to the services and programs that will create a positive impact. To know that children's lives are forever changed thanks to the generosity of the community is both powerful and rewarding.

What makes CHS special?

Children's Home Society of Florida is on the front lines delivering solutions to children and families throughout the state, and we were founded right here in Jacksonville. Though many people know us for foster care and adoption, we're the leaders in bringing proven solutions to help address the evolving challenges facing kids. As the largest statewide child-serving organization, CHS has the strength and broad capacity to develop innovations that can be applied from Pensacola to Miami. For example, our Community Partnership Schools started in Orlando, and the program has turned a perpetually failing school around, creating hundreds of high

school graduates who before were more likely to drop out (among many other highlights in the community). Now, we have three Community Partnership Schools along the First Coast – Edward H. White Military Academy of Leadership on Jacksonville's Westside and The Webster School and South Woods Elementary in St. Johns County. There's even a fourth already in the planning stages for Clay County.

Are you working on any upcoming projects that you think our readers should know about?

We are in the final stretch for the 34th Annual Caring Chefs! The event is Sunday, Oct. 22 at The Avenues Mall. John Pope is the event chair, and he's working with great volunteers like Monique Brown, vice chair, Amaury Carrasco, sponsorship chair, and Brad Nestor, restaurant chair. It's our largest local fundraiser, providing more than \$200,000 for our Community Partnership Schools this year. It's the biggest, oldest and best food event in Jacksonville. We usually sell out, so buy tickets online at www.chscaringchefs.com. We have so many great restaurants who donate everything to help the children, including Pusser's Bar & Grille, Vernons, Blue Bamboo, Ragtime and many, many more.

How can people get involved and volunteer?

We love folks getting more involved. We have a large campus on the Southside of town and are always looking for volunteers to help maintain the buildings and grounds. We also have fundraising committees, advisory councils and some activities directly with the children. A good first step is logging onto the website at www.chsfl.org and going to the volunteer section or calling (904) 493-7744 and asking for our volunteer coordinator.

What do you enjoy most about living on the First Coast?

I love the support the community gives to organizations like Children's Home Society of Florida. So many generous people make sure groups like ours can help our community reach high levels of success every day. This generosity contributes to our sense of community and creates a small-town feel despite how large the First Coast is in size and population.

Welcome Home to Ponte Vedra Beach!

824 BAYTREE LN.



This elegant custom-built home featuring 6 BD & 5 BA sits on one of the prettiest waterfront lots in Plantation Oaks. MLS# 885197 / \$969,000

651 S PRESERVE VIEW



This beautiful 5BD / 5.5BA pool home in Marsh Harbor offers over 4,300 sq.ft. with expansive water views. MLS# 867189 / \$699,000

2050 OAK HAMMOCK DR.



This updated home in Sawgrass Country Club offers 5BD & 5.5BA, a gourmet eat-in kitchen and 3-car garage. There is also a huge screened pool and hot tub. MLS# 878004 / \$1,198,000.

227 N ROSCOE BLVD.



Lovely 5BD / 4.5BA pool home with new boat lift and floating dock features over 4,700 Sq.Ft. directly on the ICW. MLS# 899110 / \$1,390,000

24586 HARBOUR VIEW DR.



Nearly new European style villa with 4BD & 3.2 BA, screened pool & spa and a 50' boat slip in Harbour Island! MLS# 879889 / \$1,698,000

4300 SOUTH BEACH PKWY. UNIT #3320



Adorable 2BD/2BA top floor condo in the gated community, Valencia. The open floorplan is perfect for entertaining or relax on your spacious south facing balcony. MLS# 901554 / \$273,000

108 PUTTERS WAY



Immaculate TPC home in Waters Edge offers 4 BD & 3 BA with expansive water views from most rooms. MLS# 894569 / \$630,000

24716 HARBOUR VIEW DR.



Stunning Harbour Island pool home featuring 6 BD & 8 BA with resort style outdoor living spaces & a 40' boat slip. MLS# 855049 / \$2,590,000

645 LAKESTONE CIR.



Gorgeous, recently renovated 3BD / 2BA Sawmill Lakes home sits on a private lot backing up to the preserve. New roof with transferrable warranty. MLS# 897886 / \$364,000

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Fall

HOME & PATIO SHOW HAS MORE THAN INDOORS AND OUTDOORS COVERED

by PARIS MOULDEN

The fall 2017 Jacksonville Home & Patio Show, held Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, showcased home décor, home improvements, cooking and decorating demonstrations and celebrity appearances.

Kevin O'Connor from PBS' "This Old House," and John and Whitney Spinks from HGTV's "Florida Flippers" made an appearance on the Inspiration Stage, along with local home improvement experts. Local culinary experts offered tips and recipes on the Edible Northeast Florida Cooking Stage, which showcased local cuisine.

The event also boasted new features, like Kitchen Wars, which allowed visitors to vote for their favorite kitchen design from displays by Granite Transformations, Kitchen World, Cabinetry Masters and Underwood Butcher Blocks. A Storm Recovery Center was also added to this year's fall event after Hurricane Irma, offering tips and advice on how to prepare your home for storms and what to do afterward.

New home builds, remodeling, renovating, outdoor kitchens, pools and backyard makeovers were all covered at the event. Also showcased were the newest trends in furnishing, lighting and decorating, from unique furniture and kitchen design to the latest in cookware and scented candles.

Some of the other highlights included a tiny home tour in the courtyard, Hero Day honoring the military and first responders and Food Truck Sunday.



Bill Fitzgibbon, with wife Anna, stands in front of some of his artwork. The artist and graphic designer does home portraits to memorialize a distinctive residence, such as the dream home you wish you had or an old childhood home that held special significance. Photos by Paris Moulden



Oasis Outdoors displays its fire pit and stone seating.



A unique tree adorns the booth for Earth Works, a Jacksonville-based landscape firm.



Ashley Torre, owner of Pink Zebra, displays unique jewelry and scented wax beads in her booth.



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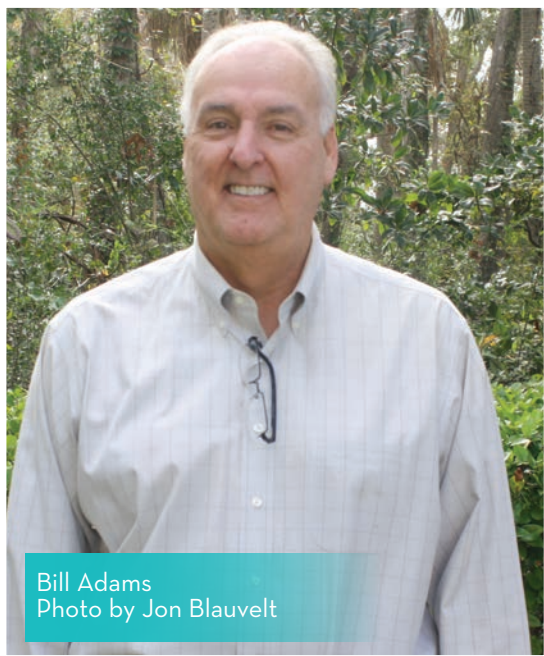
A photograph of a well-maintained backyard swimming pool. The pool is surrounded by a light-colored stone patio. In the background, there is a dining table with chairs and a large, leafy tree. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**FIRST COAST REALTOR
EMPLOYS**

'Buyer Concierge'

**PROGRAM TO
EXPEDITE BUYING
PROCESS FOR CLIENTS**

by JON BLAUVELT



Bill Adams
Photo by Jon Blauvelt



Christine Zoyhofski and Rick Lupisella say Bill Adams helped them efficiently buy their home in Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. Photos courtesy of Christine Zoyhofski and Rick Lupisella



A First Coast realtor has adopted a unique, statistically-based program to help buyers find and secure their dream homes in a more efficient manner.

Bill Adams refers to it as his “buyer concierge” program, and he says he’s the only realtor in the Greater Jacksonville area who is taking this approach. Adams created the program after working for several years in various verticals of the real estate industry—including development, construction, property management, sales and marketing—and concluding that a better program had to be implemented for buyers to avoid what he calls the “Uber syndrome.”

“Realtors take them to a dozen or two dozen homes and ask which one they like,” says Adams, a Ponte Vedra resident with RE/MAX Specialists PV. “I said I want to make it more scientific, more about statistics.”

Adams explains that his “buyer concierge” program begins with him being an “open house specialist.” The realtor works with listing agents around the Greater Jacksonville area to hold approximately 40 open houses per year and meet the majority of his buyers.

“This isn’t standard,” says Adams, who is also a code instructor at the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). “What everybody does is try to get listings. I’m working the other side of the street and saying I think I can make a hell of a living if I just bill myself as this expert in helping buyers.”

Via these open houses, Adams identifies 10 to 12 clients per year, noting that he can’t handle any more since his program is so personalized. His clients complete what Adams refers to as “exit interview,” which provides him with information about the buyers that he inputs into a proprietary customized software platform that he created called Hubster.

Using Hubster, Adams creates a buyer profile for the clients, which includes 32 variables regarding the buyers’ criteria that helps him begin the search process for homes. Adams then uses his own proprietary score card to do preliminary analysis, and those homes scoring over 85 percent are sent to the buyers, who determine the worthiness of the property. For those properties that the buyers are interested in, Adams completes an on-site scorecard and sends that analysis back. The clients then determine which homes

they want to visit. So far, Adams has been pretty effective and efficient using the program.

“After the onsite score card, I average 6.2 homes before they buy,” notes Adams, who works with clients East of I-95 from Amelia Island to St. Augustine. “98.2 percent have bought homes that scored 90 or above on the score card.”

Adams added that his buyers automatically become part of the Adams Advantage Referral Program after the closing, which means if they send him future clients, they earn points that are redeemed as Visa rewards cards. He also says he’ll help his buyers sell their old homes in the area as well.

Christine Zoyhofski and her husband Rick Lupisella worked with Adams to purchase their new house in Jacksonville Golf & Country Club—which is featured on the cover of this magazine and throughout this article. Zoyhofski says Adams was extremely easy to work, knowledgeable about the area and thorough, as well as a strong communicator.

“The previous realtors ... You call someone, and they say, ‘I’ll show you around,’” says Zoyhofski. “This was much more of, ‘Let’s sit down, let’s get to know you, what are your wants and needs, what are you looking for in the future?’”

“I think he tries harder than the average realtor to really understand what you’re looking at,” she continues. “I think that’s helpful because it doesn’t waste our time as the buyer looking at a bunch of things we’re not interested in.”

And now, Zoyhofski says she and her husband have found the home they’ve always been seeking.

“We always open the door and say, ‘Welcome to the spa,’” she says. “We have the best backyard that you could ever find. We’ve always been very busy and when we come home, we want a place that we can just relax and get away—almost like our mini vacation. That’s what this house is.”

Adams works with clients who are seeking investment opportunities, relocating from outside of the area or simply purchasing a new home. He says he soon will be launching an instruction school that focuses on how to approach real estate through his program, and specifically how to apply Hubster to real estate. For more information about Adams’ services, visit <http://www.adamsproperties.net/>.

Home décor:

THE THREE BIG TRENDS OF FALL 2017

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

When the leaves begin to change, the thrill of a new season sets in. Often times, with that excitement comes a sudden desire to redecorate. For those First Coast families wishing to stay ahead of the interior design curve and celebrate the season in style, the First Coast Register has compiled the following list of fall 2017's three biggest trends in home décor: an autumnal color scheme, rustic detailing and, above all things, comfort.

AUTUMNAL ACCENTS

There's no better way to welcome the season of pumpkin spice into one's home than with a nod to the colorful fall foliage. This season's color scheme will feature a classic autumnal palette of chocolate brown, coppery red, burnt orange, gold and dark hues of green and blue. There's no need to repaint the house to stay on top of this trend, however. Try placing a few bold, seasonal accents throughout to both intrigue the eye and warm things up.

RUSTIC REVIVAL

New is old and old is new, so swap out that clean, modern style for

a vintage and refreshingly rustic theme this fall. Natural materials like wood, clay and dark metal with worn, distressed detailing will be the highlight of the colder months, and antique décor will provide the perfect complement to this log cabin theme. Decorative greenery and foliage will help to add color, while also bringing the natural beauty of the great outdoors inside the home.

LAYERED COMFORT

Even in the South it can get chilly when the end of the year rolls around, but comfort and style are not mutually exclusive. This fall, comfort is the style, and on-trend homes will feature a warm, inviting atmosphere achieved by layering fabrics and prints.

Warm knit blankets, velvety throw pillows and soft quilts of various prints will be mixed and matched to give homes a cozy, lived-in feel. Adding pillow cushions to wooden dining chairs, or draping a bold-printed blanket over an armchair are easy ways to add a touch of comfort and style to any home.

Women in Business

Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

Criminal Defense Attorney



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 appears as a legal commentator on CNN, HLN, GMA, and Fox News. She has been awarded the very highest possible rating, 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.

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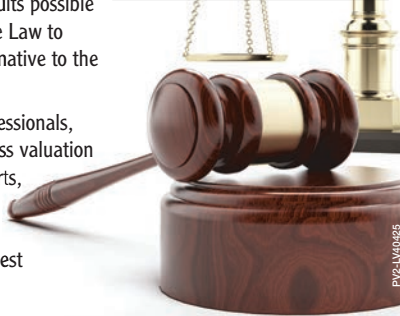
Carolyn S. Zisser, P.A.

CAROLYN S. ZISSER limits her practice to family law, providing solutions to the most complex family law problems and focuses exclusively on matters involving divorce, child custody, military family issues, modification of judgments and division of retirement plans and other assets.

Carolyn has been representing family law clients for more than 35 years. She continues to receive numerous accolades -- including an AV rating with Martindale- Hubbell, an AVVO rating of 10 (out of 10), inclusion in Super Lawyers and an appointment as Master of the Jacksonville Family Law Inn of Court.

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Suzanne W. Green has been practicing law since 1987 and is a former prosecutor with the Duval County State Attorney's Office. Suzanne W. Green has been in private practice since 1997. Suzanne also attained higher level degrees in business related fields prior to attending law school. Suzanne is also active in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and was recently elected as Chairman of our St. Augustine - St. Johns County Airport Authority.

We welcome a new attorney to our firm, Ms. Erin Bowden, graduate of Florida State University and University of Akron School of Law.

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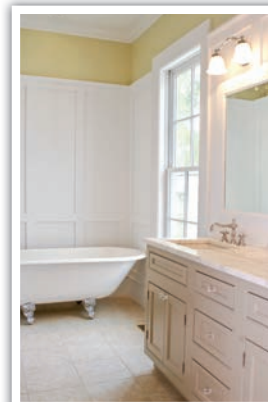
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Members of the St. Johns County Republican Party gathered Friday, Oct. 6 at Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach for a dinner with speakers Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas). Each from a different house of Congress, the two presented a united front regarding the many issues Americans are facing today.

In a nod to Cruz's home state, a good, old-fashioned Texas barbecue dinner of ribs and pulled pork was served to the merry sound of a live string band playing, "Deep in the Heart of Texas." While they ate, attendees – dressed in their Texas best – had the opportunity to listen to the congressmen share their thoughts on tax reform, healthcare, the Russia investigation and their joint efforts to help President Donald Trump "drain the swamp" through the imposition of congressional term limits.

"If the average person is as frustrated as I am with what's going on in Congress, particularly the inaction in the Senate, I think the root cause is that you have career politicians who are more aligned with the Washington establishment than their voter base," DeSantis said. "Term limits will cure that. It'll send a lot of those people packing, and it will make sure that we're having new blood go into the system, and I think that means those folks are going to be better representing their voters' views, rather than representing the views in Washington."

Cruz agreed, stating that his fellow senators need to follow through on the promises they made to their constituents.

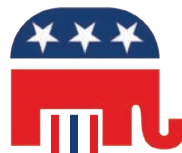
"Term limits are supported by the overwhelming majority of Americans – Republicans, Democrats, Independents – because they're about taking power out of Washington and bringing it back to the voters, bringing it back to the American people," he said. "As we see the dysfunction in the Senate that has played out over recent months, the case for term limits becomes all the more compelling."

"This election was a mandate for real results – for repealing Obamacare, for tax reform, for regulatory reform – and it is incumbent on the Senate to do what we promised the voters we would do," Cruz continued. "And that's what I'm working every day to produce."

Under a constitutional amendment that the two congressmen filed in January, members of the House of Representatives would be restricted to three two-year terms, while members of the Senate would be limited to two six-year terms. To be ratified, the amendment would need the approval of a two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress, or of a three-fourths majority of the states (either by state legislatures or by amendment conventions).

The two speakers were enthusiastically received by those in attendance, including Elizabeth Granite, state committeewoman for the Republican Party of Florida and president of the St. Johns County Young Republicans.

"I'm really excited to have them here, because it shows that Republicans are working together, and that's what we need to do—work together," she said. "They both work hard, and I'm just honored that they wanted to be a part of St. Johns County and allow us to put on this wonderful evening. I look forward to working with both of them."



CRUZ AND DESANTIS SPEAK ON TERM LIMITS, 'DRAINING THE SWAMP'

by SAMANTHA LOGUE



Sen. Ted Cruz (left) and Rep. Ron DeSantis field questions from the audience at the Oct. 6 event. Photos by Samantha Logue



Republican Party State Committeewoman and President of the St. Johns County Young Republicans Elizabeth Granite with Chris Chatham



Anna Iv and Dr. Roy Hinman show off their Texas spirit.



Bill and Kim McClure pose with Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Ron DeSantis.



Sen. Cruz shares his thoughts on the pressing issues America faces today.



Guests enjoy a classic 'southern' barbecue of Carolina pulled pork, ribs, coleslaw and baked beans.



St. Augustine Distillery Co-founder and CEO Philip McDaniel pours Brandon Patty a drink.



A live string band serenades guests as they eat.

MISSION HOUSE'S SUCCESS SUMMED UP AT

'Compassion by the Sea'

by PARIS MOULDEN

The Mission House honored past and current volunteers who have helped to make the charity a success during its annual "Compassion by the Sea" fundraiser on Thursday, Oct. 5, at the Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach.

More than 300 people attended the event to raise money for The Mission House, which provides food, clothing, medical care and support services to help the Beaches-area homeless get on their feet.

Lori Anderson, executive director for The Mission House, recognized volunteers who made it their mission to help the Beaches' homeless, particularly honoree Kenny Williams, who served on the first board of directors in 1995 and found the property at 800 Shetter Ave., where the Mission House is today.

Before the Mission House opened its current location in 1997, Williams said the charity served meals and helped the homeless out of a tent in a vacant lot.

"What's happened at The Mission House is a bona fide miracle," Williams said. "It's beyond our vision and dreams."

Anderson said the charity helped 57 homeless people get off the streets this year alone, and she lauded the volunteers who helped the nonprofit stay open seven days a week, serving the area's homeless. According to its website, The Mission House serves 1,485 meals per month on average and finds housing for an average of 10 clients per month.

During his speech, Williams also thanked the thousands of volunteers, including donors, doctors and nurses, who made Mission House "the shining beacon that it is today."

He summed up the success of Mission House with two words: unconditional love.

"Unconditional love is the life force of Mission House," Williams said. "It's the reason Mission House has continued to bloom and grow. It's what the world needs a whole lot more of."



Lori Alexander (left), executive director of the Mission House, introduces volunteers who helped make the nonprofit a success.
Photos by Paris Moulden



Cindy Nordman, David Laurie, Keckley Mahaffey, Kavie Stahl and Helena Norden



Honoree Kenny Williams and wife Candy



Jennifer Ryan and Suzan Lupton



Sherry Gallo, Lori Marjerison and Gautam Banerjea



Mindy Moriarty, Ally Meyns, Heather Johnson and Dina DeMarco



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Top Chefs Compete

FOR AWARDS AT 2017 TASTE OF AMELIA ISLAND GALA

by BENJAMIN NAIM

The 26th Annual Taste of Amelia Island Gala, a fundraiser for the Nassau County Volunteer Center, took place Oct. 1 at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort in the Magnolia Ballroom.

The event saw the area's top chefs compete for the "People's Choice" award and the "Chef's Choice" award. The festival also featured a 50/50 raffle, a cooking demonstration and live music by Decades Band and guitarist Richard Stratton.

Chef Jose Salome of 29 South in Fernandina Beach claimed the "People's Choice" award—given to the chef whose dish amasses the most votes by event attendees—for his Alaskan king crab dish. Salome is a 24-year culinary veteran who worked at Buckhead Club in Atlanta before relocating to Amelia Island.

"The first thing when I moved here, I had nothing in my pocket," he said. "I never went to culinary school. I learned hands on. I got my career in Atlanta, 22 years working there with all the best ... I started from the bottom but made it with lots of hard work."

The White Oak Conservation culinary team won the "Chef's Choice" award for its dish featuring pan-seared bison, sweet potatoes, pink-

eyed-peas, pickled green tomatoes and micro turnip sprouts. White Oak Conservation is a foundation dedicated to protecting animals and wildlife; it has established several conservation programs around the world since 2013.

A number of other popular chefs participated in the festival, including Bravo Top Chef finalist Kenny Gilbert, who has cooked for celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and Samuel L. Jackson, among others. Additionally, Gilbert won Food Network's "Cutthroat Kitchen" contest. Fernandina Beach High School culinary arts students also participated.

Taste events took place throughout the weekend at 29 South, Amelia Tavern, Burlingame Restaurant, Gilbert's Underground Kitchen and White Oak Conservation. Event goers enjoyed a four-course chef's tasting menu at 29 South; a three-course tasting of southern American fusion at Amelia Tavern; a tasting of the best of Burlingame at Burlingame Restaurant; a three-course family-style southern experience at Gilbert's Underground Kitchen and "Winos for Rhinos" at White Oak Conservation, which featured a tour, a meet and greet with Rhino caretakers, a gourmet dinner and complimentary wine.



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a series of paintings

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"People's Choice" award winner Jose Salome thanks event goers for their support.



White Oak Conservation's culinary team poses for pictures after winning the "Chef's Choice" award.



Guests enjoy food and drinks inside the Omni Amelia Island Plantation's Magnolia Ballroom.



White Oak Conservation's dish features pan-seared bison, sweet potatoes, pink-eyed peas, pickled green tomatoes and micro turnip sprouts. Photos by Benjamin Naim

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SAWGRASS MEMBERS *Wine & Dine*

WITH LEGENDARY WINE PRODUCER

by JON BLAUVELT

A group of Sawgrass Country Club members recently had the opportunity to taste some of the world's most renowned wines and spend time with a family member of one of the world's most prestigious winery estates at a dinner held at the resort's beach club in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The September event featured wine from Maison Joseph Drouhin in Burgundy, France, as well as its American counterpart Domaine Drouhin in Oregon. The 40 guests of the dinner enjoyed interacting with Laurent Drouhin, who is the director of the United States market for the wine enterprise.

"They're legendary, iconic wine producers in Burgundy," said Sawgrass Country Club Wine and Spirits Director Bo Cure about the Drouhin family.

The club members at the event also enjoyed a four-course dinner to pair with the wines, featuring Goat Cheese Ravioli, King Crab Crusted Grouper, Lamb Osso Bucco and Blueberry Pavlova. As dinner was served, Drouhin told the guests stories about his family and the pride that he has in the wine they produce.

By the end of the evening, it was apparent that the club members had enjoyed themselves, which Cure attributed to the work of his staff.

"We're a sum of all parts," he says. "We work in unison. We've been together for years now. It's like clockwork."



Laurent Drouhin addresses the crowd at the wine dinner. Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Joe and Trish Arnett, Susan Latshaw, Marcia Starcher and Alan Setzer



Chuck and Peggy Wallace, Laurent Drouhin and Lorryne and Tim Carless



Bob and Ginny Bondurant and Mary and Tom Herald



Sawgrass Country Club Wine and Spirits Director Bo Cure (right) gathers with his staff at the wine dinner.



Cecilia and Paul Rose

MUTTS STRUT

TO SAVE LIVES

by PARIS MOULDEN

Hundreds of dogs in the Jacksonville area recently brought their owners out to Strut your Mutt to raise funds to help save homeless pets and support no-kill animal shelters.

The event, organized by the Best Friends Animal Society, took place at Riverside Park on Sept. 30, and featured a fun walk, vendors, raffles and several contests, including a kissing contest and bobbing for biscuits.



Ghost, an American Staffordshire terrier, gets a kiss from new friend Diesel, a French bulldog.



Athena shows off her tutu at the event. Photos by Paris Moulden



Porthos cools off in one of the kiddie pools set up at the event.



Jericho proves he's leader of the pack with his crown.



Kaleb watches the action on an activity course.

FLORIDA FORUM LINE-UP

features TOM BROKAW, THEO EPSTEIN AND CAROLINE KENNEDY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WOMEN'S BOARD OF WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital this summer announced that longtime journalist Tom Brokaw, baseball executive Theo Epstein and former diplomat Caroline Kennedy will serve as the featured speakers for the 2017-2018 Florida Forum Speaker Series at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.



The series, which raises funds to provide health care for children, kicks off Nov. 8 with Brokaw, who is best known as the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News from 1982 to 2004. He was one of the "Big Three" news anchors in the U.S. during the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s and is the author of "The Greatest Generation," one of the most popular nonfiction books of the 20th century, as well as five other books.



The series continues Jan. 16, 2018, with Theo Epstein, a baseball executive with the Chicago Cubs. Epstein became the youngest general manager in the history of Major League Baseball, when the Boston Red Sox hired him at the age of 28 in 2002. In 2004, the Red Sox won their first World Series championship in 86 years and won another championship in

2007. On 2011, he resigned from his job in Boston to become president of baseball operations for the Chicago Cubs, who won their first World Series championship in 108 years in 2016.

The series concludes March 5, 2018, with Caroline Kennedy, an author, attorney, and diplomat who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 2013 to 2017. She is also a prominent member of the Kennedy family and the only surviving child of President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. Kennedy is an editor of nine New York Times best-selling books on constitutional law, American history, politics and poetry.

Subscriptions for the three forums start at \$225 each for general seating; \$300 each for preferred seating; \$850 for two reserved Bronze seating tickets and \$2,125 for two reserved Silver seating tickets and invitations to the private receptions honoring the speakers. Patrons under age 30 may purchase young subscriber tickets for \$150 each.

For more information, go to The Women's Board website at <https://womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com>.



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VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE HOLDS

“Capital Affair”

FUNDRAISING EVENT

by JON BLAUVELT

About 125 people attended a fundraising luncheon at The Capital Grille Sept. 30 to support Jacksonville nonprofit Volunteers in Medicine (VIM), a volunteer-driven, full-service clinic providing free primary and specialty medical care to the working uninsured.

Named the “Capital Affair,” the event featured a gourmet meal from the St. Johns Town Center restaurant, as well as complimentary sparkling rosé and prosecco provided by event sponsor Bacardi and a choice of one of The Capital Grille’s crafted cocktails, including its signature “StoliDoli.” Attendees also enjoyed watching a fashion show featuring clothing from Brooks Brothers, Erin Healy Designs and Cabi. In addition, they had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction featuring gift baskets and one-of-a-kind experiences, including a special case of Napa Valley Chardonnay and the chance to bid on one of Brooks Brothers’ suits.

In the middle of the program, which was emceed by News4Jax anchor Joy Purdy, VIM client Debbie Dobes told her story to the event guests. She explained that it all started when she lost her job and medical insurance. After a period of unemployment, she found another job, but she couldn’t afford the premiums. Then back-to-back tragedies struck when she got in a car accident and broke her back, and then received a call informing her that her son had died of an opioid overdose. She subsequently learned about the people at VIM, who she said helped her get back on her feet.

“They were so kind to me,” said Dobes. “There are thousands of us that fall in the category of low income, uninsured. There are people out there working so hard who can’t afford medical insurance. I can’t say enough about these wonderful people [VIM].”

VIM Chief Executive Officer Mary Pat Corrigan further explained that the organization’s patients are low income, working individuals and their families in Northeast Florida who do



Models in the event’s fashion show make their way across the dining room of the Capital Grille.

Photos by Ludmilla Correia, Fusion Photography



Don and Chris Tandy, Cheryl Barnett and Joyce Kramzer
Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Volunteers in Medicine board member Kristi Aiello and Ari Jolly



Paige Bates, Leslie Baccash, Gelila Jones, Celestine Smith, Melissa Ross, News4Jax anchor and Capital Affair emcee Joy Purdy, Leslie Gordon and Jill Storey



Volunteers in Medicine board member Ann Carey and Mary Lou Prendergast

not have an option for affordable care or an option to obtain insurance. To qualify for support from VIM, she said someone in the household must be working at least 20 hours a week and make an income between \$13,000 and 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

To see everyone gathered at The Capital Grille for the event was a special feeling for Corrigan.

"It really means the world," she said. "I get satisfaction every day by walking through the waiting room and seeing our patients. To see that all these people are here to help support that and really believe in our mission, it's just heartwarming."

VIM Medical Director Dr. Vicky Findley said the funds raised by the "Capital Affair" will be used for the organization's day-to-day operations in keeping their clients healthy.

"If you're a diabetic and you can't see your physician, you can't get your insulin, then you're not going to be able to work," said Findley. "If you're hypertensive, you're going to end up with a stroke if you can't get your medicine. So truly what the funds will do is keep people working and keep them healthy."

"We don't have federal funding so actually it means everything to us," she continued. "It keeps our doors open."



Capital Grille Managing Partner Dan Skweres, Volunteers in Medicine Women With Heart honoree Aimee Boggs, News4Jax anchor and Capital Affair emcee Joy Purdy, Greg Leb of Sissine's Office Systems (event sponsor), Volunteers in Medicine Medical Director Dr. Vicky Findley and Volunteers in Medicine Chief Executive Officer Mary Pat Corrigan

Toast to Life

RAISES MORE THAN \$380,000 TO HELP THOSE WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) of Jacksonville raised approximately \$388,000 from its Oct. 6 Toast to Life benefit and silent auction, which will be used to give local children and adults with muscular dystrophy (MD), ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases the opportunity to live unlimited.

Ticket sales, sponsorship proceeds and event donations directly support local children with MD in financing the cost of summer camp attendance.

“Summer camp is the highlight of their year,” said Elaine Ashourian, volunteer co-chair of the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s Toast to Life—Jacksonville.

More than 100 auction items were donated by local and national businesses for the fundraiser at Sawgrass Marriott, and more than 400 people attended the event, which featured dinner, an open bar and live music. Top dollar items included a

tanzanite and diamond ring, valued at \$6,250 and donated by Beard’s Jewelry of Jacksonville. Out-of-state donors included JetBlue Airlines, the Thompson hotel in Nashville, The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa and The Kimberly hotel in New York City, which donated vacation and travel auction items.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will also help support the medical efforts of Mayo Clinic and UF Health in treating patients with MD and ALS.

“Their fight is our fight,” said MDA of Jacksonville Director of Business Development Christina Warmouth. “Together, we can succeed in fighting for a cure and achieving a better quality of life for children in our community living with muscular dystrophy.”

Last year, MDA of Jacksonville’s Toast to Life event raised \$324,000.



Toast to Life Co-Chairs Randal Whitfield and Elaine Ashourian stand with Will (front left) and Ryleigh (right) at the Toast to Life benefit Oct. 6. Photo courtesy of Cait Rogers



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ANOTHER REASON TO CALL NOCATEE HOME:

Bestselling community WINS LOCAL COMPETITION

Nocatee, a master-planned community located in Ponte Vedra, recently won Jacksonville.com's 2017 Bold City Best Home Community/Development.

In the last several years, construction has exploded in northern St. Johns and southern Duval counties. While new communities seem to pop up overnight, Nocatee, the No. 3 bestselling community in America, has continued to top the list as one of the most desirable areas to call home.

According to Director of Marketing Kelly Ray, about 100 families a month move to Nocatee, with 60 percent of those families relocating to the Northeast Florida area. Ray says the lifestyle is what makes Nocatee stand out locally and nationally.

Located midway between Downtown Jacksonville and St. Augustine, Nocatee is known for offering residents an opportunity to live an active lifestyle.

"Residents love the amenities, including the events and activities, as well as the location — we're the only master-planned community located

this close to the beach, which is certainly a unique lifestyle," Ray says.

Ray, who's worked with the development for five years, said residents really create a sense of community in Nocatee, which sets it apart from other developments.

"We have so many people that come here and are looking to build community," she says. "You'll drive down the street and see people sitting on their front porches, children playing in their front yards and families spending time with their neighbors at Nocatee events."

With more than 5,000 acres of connected parks, protected wildlife corridors and wetlands preserves, recreation is a huge part of the Nocatee lifestyle. One of the most well-known recreational amenities in Nocatee is the Splash Waterpark, which opened in 2010. The waterpark is home to the tallest waterslide in Northeast Florida, and has grown significantly since it first opened.

Those interested in learning more about Nocatee can visit the welcome center Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday noon to 6 p.m., or visit nocatee.com.



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Photos by
Samantha Logue

‘DRESSING DOWNTON’ reception boasts cocktails, costumes and class

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

For the next few months, St. Augustine’s historic Lightner Museum, home to what was once the world’s largest swimming pool, will also house the “Dressing Downton, Changing Fashion for Changing Times” exhibition, featuring clothing and accessories from the hit Masterpiece television series “Downton Abbey.” On Oct. 3, the museum held an opening reception worthy of Downton’s Dowager Countess herself.

Party-goers dressed in extravagant period attire sipped cocktails along the mezzanine and danced in the empty swimming pool as a live band performed ragtime music on a stage. While some guests snacked on mini shepherd’s pie hors d’oeuvres, others strolled through the exhibit of early 20th century garb and décor, which will remain on display at the Lightner through Jan. 7.

Set at a fictional country estate in Yorkshire, England, “Downton Abbey” follows the family of Lord Grantham from the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, through World War I and into the mid-1920s, authentically capturing the rapid changes of society

throughout that period. Since the drama first aired in 2010, it has attracted somewhat of a cult following.

“It’s really been terrific,” said Richard Goldman, president and CEO of the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau. “Because of the national following Downton Abbey has, we’ve already seen great interest in this exhibition.”

An example of that, Goldman noted, was a group of six ladies from Chicago who were unable to see the exhibition in their hometown so they planned a trip to view it in St. Augustine.

“Fans follow it across the country,” Goldman said of the exhibition. “And we’re really happy all those folks are here to see it at the Lightner, which really represents that Gilded Age.”

St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver agreed.

“It really changes the game for the Lightner,” she said. “We’ve always known the Lightner is a gem, and now we’re seeing what happens when you polish the facets of that gem.”



From left to right: St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau President and CEO Richard Goldman (center left) with William McBroom, Julio Torres and Michael O'Neill.



Jessica Fellowes, niece of "Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes, autographs books for fans.



St. Augustine resident Carley King



Displayed is a dress worn by Lady Mary Crawley, portrayed by actress Michelle Dockery on "Downton Abbey."



Jacksonville Beach residents Mike and Karen Holterman



St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver



Two stylish hunting ensembles are presented as seen in the show's second season finale.

NEW MODEL HOMES OPENING IN NOCATEE'S

The Vista at Twenty Mile neighborhood

The Pineapple Corporation is putting the finishing touches on two new model homes in its gated neighborhood of 44 home sites, The Vista at Twenty Mile, which is located within the Nocatee community.

In celebration of the models' opening, The Pineapple Corporation hosted an open house Oct. 7, and is hosting a grand opening celebration Nov. 11. Guests will enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and will be among the first to tour the new models. All are welcome to attend and join in the festivities.

"Our model homes at The Vista at Twenty Mile exemplify the thoughtful design, attention to detail and architectural integrity that goes into every home built by The Pineapple Corporation," said Spencer Calvert, president of The Pineapple Corporation. "In all of our homes, timeless design complements today's modern lifestyle. I invite everyone to visit and learn more about The Vista at Twenty Mile."

The models will be fully furnished by the Grand Opening celebration in November, and will present a fresh European-inspired design style. One model features a Spanish colonial exterior elevation punctuated by a cantilevered front balcony and cedar rafter tails. The upscale, two-story home spans 4,840 square feet and is designed with four bedrooms, four baths and a powder room, and spacious indoor and outdoor areas for living and entertaining. The home creates an immediate first impression with its oversized, two-story living area with vaulted ceiling and beam detail. A first-floor owner's suite with a spa owner's bath offers a private

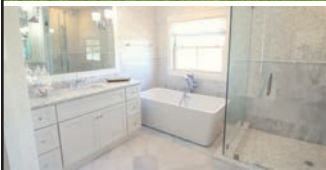
retreat. The model is for sale with a lease back option and is priced at \$1,317,586.

The second model presents an Andalusian exterior elevation and a porte cochere auto courtyard. With 5,460 square feet of living space, this home includes two separate casita living spaces with private lounges and options for full baths. The main house features a first-floor owner's suite and two additional bedrooms with en suite baths, as well as a spacious game room upstairs. There is an expansive two-story great room and an open second-floor gallery hallway overlooking the auto courtyard and grand living space, and the gourmet kitchen includes a European pantry with generous amounts of cabinetry and storage. This home also features a spacious covered lanai and a pool overlooking the preserve. The home has a total of four full baths, plus two powder rooms, and there is hardwood flooring in all living and entertainment areas. The floor plan can be fully customized to meet the needs of today's modern family. The model is priced at \$1,679,343 with a lease back option.

Homes at The Vista at Twenty Mile range in size from 4,150 square feet to more than 5,800 square feet and are priced from the \$900,000s. The Pineapple Corporation is offering five courtyard floor plans for The Vista at Twenty Mile. Each design features three unique exterior elevations and an expansive portfolio of interior selections and options. All homes are designed with Sub Zero and Wolf Kitchen appliances, Dura Supreme custom cabinetry, solid surface countertops and more.

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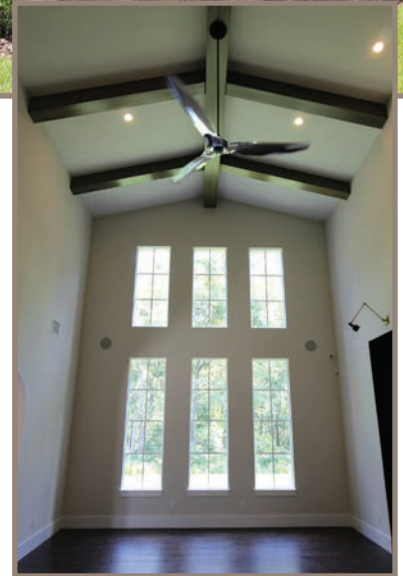
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“Our custom designed courtyard floor plans, and our expansive portfolio of interior selections and customization options available at The Vista at Twenty Mile are well-suited for buyers who aspire to the Ponte Vedra lifestyle,” Calvert said. “We are looking forward to welcoming new homebuyers to The Vista at Twenty Mile and helping them realize their dreams.”

The Vista at Twenty Mile sales office, located at 261 Wilderness Ridge Drive in Ponte Vedra, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday and by appointment. To schedule a tour of the models at The Vista at Twenty Mile or for more information, contact Nahid Sabet at (904) 638-6072 or vista@thepineapplecorp.com, or visit www.thepineapplecorp.com/vista.



Top: One of the new models available at The Vista at Twenty Mile has a Spanish Colonial exterior.

Right: The model includes a two-story living area with a vaulted ceiling and beam detail.

Photos courtesy of The Pineapple Corporation



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Lenny Foster poses in front of his photography at his recently opened Gallery One Forty Four in St. Augustine. Photo by Susan Griffin

A trip to the recently opened Gallery One Forty Four in St. Augustine empowers visitors to take a spiritual journey to cultures far from the First Coast, while also allowing them to see familiar landscapes and places through a new and refreshing lens.

“It seems to me that it’s different work than what people are accustomed to here,” says Lenny Foster, a distinguished photographer who opened the contemporary fine art photography gallery at 144 King St. in early September.

Lining the walls of the 900-square foot space across from Whetstone Chocolates are several pieces from Foster’s “Healing Hands” project, which features vibrantly colorful shots from West Africa, the South Pacific, the Caribbean and the United States that focus exclusively on his subject’s hands. As described by Foster in his 2013 art book, “Healing Hands,” the photography captures the hands of subjects ranging from 6 months to 106 years of age and from all walks of life, including medicine men and women, ministers, artists, shamans and musicians, among others.

“What we all share, no matter our country of origin, are the innate desires or prayers for joy, peace and love in our lives,” Foster writes in the introduction of the book, which was published in 2013. “This collection is my recognizing and honoring of our commonalities.”

Adjacent to the Healing Hands body of work are a few shots recently taken by Foster in Harlem. One particular photograph shows a man working out with exercise bands that are tied around a crosswalk pole at a busy intersection. Shots like these embody the “sacred moments” of society that Foster has devoted his life to

NEW ST. AUGUSTINE GALLERY OFFERS PHOTOGRAPHY OF SACRED MOMENTS FROM

FAR AND NEAR

by JON BLAUVELT

capturing.

Across the gallery, photography of local landscapes, flora and fauna brings area residents back to their First Coast roots. Yet as Foster explains, these pieces aren't what you would typically see of beach scenes, as he highlights one particular seascape that is heat-infused in aluminum.

"Most of my work is full of feeling and emotion and calm and peace," he says. "I think the work is more subtle. It's a little bit more quiet ... an old school imagery presented in a more contemporary way."

According to Foster, 80 percent of his work is printed on Epsom watercolor paper with Epsom archival pigmented inks, which he says preserves the photography for about 100 years. Each piece, he notes, is only printed 15 times, providing buyers with the opportunity to own work that has not been widely distributed. Foster's photography ranges in price from \$575 to \$2,000 and in size from 14X9 inches to 28X16 inches.

The photographer discovered St. Augustine within the last couple years when he visited his parents in Palm Coast. Upon returning to Taos, New Mexico, where he lived for 23 years and owned and operated another gallery, he says he continued to think about how nice St. Augustine felt. Come January 2017, he packed up his gallery, which included several pieces from the mountainous west, and drove across the country to start a new life on the First Coast.

Foster opened the doors to Gallery One Forty Four on Sept. 1, a week before Hurricane Irma blasted the Greater Jacksonville area. He says he was fortunate not to sustain any major damage to his art or furnishing, but the floodwaters did flow into the gallery nevertheless, causing him to spend three weeks recovering from the storm shortly after opening.

The gallery subsequently held an official reopening Oct. 6, and Foster is excited for what the future holds.

"By being downtown, I'm just starting to develop some associations and friendships, which we're really excited about," says Foster, whose gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day but Wednesday when it's closed. "The gallery, besides just being a place to do business, is also a place to connect with community and friends and develop those relationships."

Foster's work is on display at institutions across New Mexico, including the Harwood Museum, the Albuquerque Museum and the Hubbard Museum of the American West. Foster's photography can also be seen across the country at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, the Ross Museum at Ohio Wesleyan University, Oklahoma University's College of Allied Health and the Snite Museum at the University of Notre Dame.



"Beyond the Call" by Lenny Foster
Photography courtesy of Lenny Foster



"Reflect" by Lenny Foster

FLAGLER BEACH'S OCEAN ART GALLERY CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



Ocean Art Gallery owner Frank Gromling (middle) gathers with family and friends at the fifth anniversary party in August.
Photo by Susan Griffin

In early August, Ocean Art Gallery in Flagler Beach celebrated its fifth anniversary and simultaneously held an art opening reception for Atlantic Beach artist Lorraine Millspaugh.

Gallery owner Frank Gromling planned a gala event for the occasion that featured an art demonstration by the artist, live music from the DrCash Band, refreshments, door prizes and special pricing on all wall art.

Gromling says celebrating the gallery's anniversary was an exciting experience, explaining that when he started the gallery in 2012 as an off-shoot to his book publishing company, he had never been in the art business. As a fast learner and one who is always willing to take a risk when his heart and mind are in harmony, he launched Ocean Art Gallery in oceanfront space on A1A across from the Flagler Pier.

The gallery owner was also excited to have Millspaugh at the event and to feature her work ("Aquatic Birds in Motion") throughout August as the featured artist of the month. Millspaugh is an avid photographer who researches aquatic birds and uses her photographs from the wild as inspiration for her paintings. Each painting has its own story created by the artist as the canvas comes to life. He added that her detail, vivid colors and use of glazes and pastes create lifelike images of spectacular intensity.

Ocean Art Gallery is located at 206 Mood Blvd. in Flagler Beach.

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I have wanted a swimming pool in my back yard since we built our home. As much as I wanted a pool, my husband did not.

He grew up with a pool in Florida in the 1960s and associated a swimming pool with a lot of work. He was right! But the pros outweigh the cons. A pool with the right scale and landscape design can enhance a home, provide a place to exercise and provide the perfect backdrop for entertaining Ponte Vedra-style!

So where do you begin? You might start with looking through design magazines and putting a portfolio together of pages of designs that you like. That is what I have done. In fact, I have an article that I have kept since it was published in Traditional Home magazine in 2006. The pool and garden featured were designed for a home in Birmingham, Alabama, and the landscape architect – Southern Living Garden Design Editor Norman Kent Johnson – created a stunning space that I simply love!

I have met with pool designers and consulted with landscape designers, but my home and property is unusual. Situated on a corner lot, my home sits diagonally on the property. I have hesitated to go forward with this project until now. I decided to call the architect whose designs I have admired for years and ask for his guidance. Here are a few of the tips he shared for planning the perfect backyard oasis:

Clear your mind of preconceptions. “Spend five to 10 hours of not looking at magazines,” Johnson suggests. (I shared with him that I had invested years in doing the exact opposite – perhaps explaining why I have taken so long to start my project!)

Look at your garden as an enhancement to your home and property. “You don’t need a pool nearly as large as you think you do,”

he says. “It should be part of the garden – not a Buick parked in the back yard!”

Approach the design as if you were planning a rose garden. Get past the idea of a grandiose swimming pool, Johnson suggests, and plan it as part of the overall garden design.

I began to understand what he was saying. The line I recall from the article I saved was “planning for a purpose.”

I accomplished more in this short conversation than in all the articles I have read and saved and all the consultations I have had with numerous pool companies. Johnson and I made plans to meet soon to begin my pool and landscape design that is long overdue.



Photos provided by Norman Kent Johnson

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Festival attendees enjoy a 100-foot Ferris wheel. Photos by Benjamin Naim



Absolute Journey, a Journey tribute band, performs on stage.



A sandwich from Bubba Burger



A festival attendee buys dinner from a barbecue food truck.



Hot dogs are offered by a vendor at the Florida Oktoberfest & Music Festival.

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DUSTIN LYNCH, CRAIG CAMPBELL AND OTHER COUNTRY STARS PERFORM AT FIRST-EVER FLORIDA

Oktoberfest & Music Festival

by BENJAMIN NAIM

The first-ever Florida Oktoberfest & Music Festival saw country music stars such as Dustin Lynch and Craig Campbell perform at Jacksonville's Metropolitan Park, where thousands of event goers enjoyed a weekend of live music, food and fun.

According to First Coast News, festival organizers met before the event to discuss heightened security measures for Florida Oktoberfest, which took place one week after a mass shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas. Prior to entering, event goers went through a security checkpoint where all bags were inspected and security guards yielding wands scanned each guest.

Once inside, attendees enjoyed arts and crafts, an artisan market, games and a 100-foot Ferris wheel. An eclectic group of festival goers attended the event, both young and old, and some dressed up in traditional German garb for the occasion. The festival featured three days of live entertainment, along with classical German beers, food trucks and a variety of restaurants selling everything from burgers to sea food platters and German-inspired meals.

VIP customers gained access to preferred viewing areas for the live concert; a special VIP area for eating, drinking and socializing; private bathrooms and bars with discounted drinks. Ultra VIP customers received free drinks, access to an "ULTRA VIP" tent and a chance to win a meet and greet with the popular bands and musical artists who performed at the festival.

The Oktoberfest concert took place on a field in the middle of Metropolitan Park; food trucks, VIP tents and vendors surrounded the concert area. Live music acts Bonnie Blue, Mama Blue, Absolute Journey and Hotel California performed rock music on Friday night as festival goers ate and danced. Saturday night saw bands including Citizen Cope, Neon Trees, Magic!, The Expendables, Cloud9 Vibes and Danka take the stage to play pop, blues/soul and reggae music.

Lastly, Country music stars Dustin Lynch, Granger Smith, David Nail, Craig Campbell, Ashley McBryde and Jordan Davis performed on the final day of the festival in front of a jam-packed, boisterous crowd.

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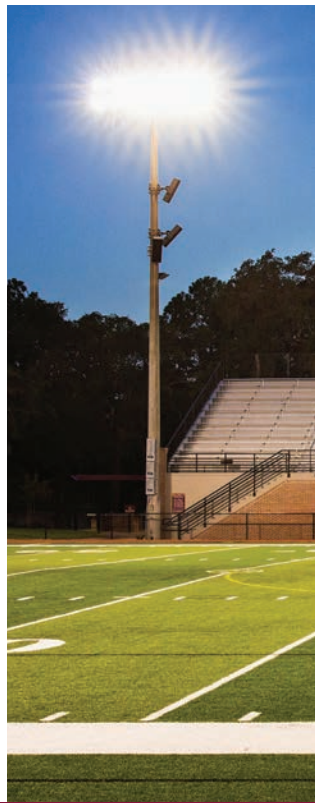


EPISCOPAL'S SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO
'Lead the Way'
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS

by PARIS MOULDEN



The Jangro family stands in front of the football stadium before a ceremony dedicating the stadium, Jangro Stadium, during Episcopal's home opener.





The Episcopal football team runs onto the field in its new stadium for the home opener against Eagle's View on Sept. 22. Photos courtesy of lauraeansphotography.com and Episcopal School of Jacksonville.



The newly renovated football stadium is named in honor of Ponte Vedra Beach residents Susan and Joe Jangro, whose four sons graduated from Episcopal.

The upgraded athletics facilities at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville would make some college sports teams envious.

The private school, located off Atlantic Boulevard, underwent renovations to its football stadium, pool area, library and more, thanks to its "Lead the Way" capital campaign, which raised more than \$17 million for improvements to the school and to build up its endowment fund.

The new stadium was named Jangro Stadium in honor of Ponte Vedra Beach residents Susan and Joe Jangro and their four sons—David, Stephen, Jake and Nick—who all graduated from Episcopal. It features an updated scoreboard, new bleachers and additional seating, a renovated press box, new concession areas, a spirit store, new meeting and screening rooms with drop-down TV screens, a fully equipped weight room and an observation deck that overlooks the football field and the pool.

"It's really cool to have a deck where we can watch both facilities at the same time," said Episcopal athletic director Andy Kidd.

The school also added extra bathrooms at the sports complex, and new boys and girls locker rooms for the swim teams.

Kidd said the new upgrades and renovations are a big deal for the school of around 900 students, given that 80 percent of high school students at Episcopal participate in athletics, and close to 90 percent of middle school students.

"They're ecstatic with the new weight room and new locker rooms and obviously the field," Kidd said of the students' reaction to the renovations. "And for the parents and kids who are coming to our games, our student section is going to be like no other in town."

The "Lead the Way" campaign, which coincided with Episcopal's 50th anniversary, began in the fall of 2015 and ran through the fall of 2017. The school broke ground on the new 1,100-seat stadium on Nov. 14, 2016, and added a new event field for tailgating and fundraising activities.

"This campaign required a tremendous team effort to make it a success," Susan Jangro, who was co-chair of the campaign, said in an email. "The new facilities and programs we've added during the campaign will impact the entire ESJ community for years to come. We're happy to be celebrating this wonderful new chapter for a school we love."

Missy Ketchum, director of advancement for Episcopal, said the ESJ community really stepped up, exceeding a feasibility study's \$15 million forecast by more than \$2 million.

"It's a very generous community," Ketchum said. "People who love the school wanted to see the school take the next step toward the next 50 years."



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by SAMANTHA LOGUE

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With Halloween just around the corner, First Coast families are pulling out all the stops to prepare for the fiendish festivities. For those looking to take their decorating skills to the next level, the following easy and creative do-it-yourself tricks are sure to be a treat.

PICK A FAUX PUMPKIN

While real pumpkins can be fun to pick and paint or carve, they can also create a big mess, and eventually must be thrown away. To avoid the clean-up, try using a faux pumpkin, instead. These versatile decorations can be made into beautiful and reusable vases, centerpieces and, of course, lanterns.

Looking for a festive way to serve guests and trick or treaters? Try slicing a faux, hollow pumpkin in half to create a pumpkin serving dish and lid.

MAKE A SPOOKY SCENE

Window silhouettes can add to the ominous ambience, and are easy to make at home. Cut out the shapes of ghosts, jack-o-lanterns, witches and more from black cardboard and attach them to the inside of a front window. When the lights are turned on inside, they will create an eerie glow. Accentuate the scene with decorative lights for added effect.

GHOSTS IN THE GRAVEYARD

In the fall, yard work can be time-consuming and detract from family decorating time. Combine the two by collecting fallen leaves and other yard waste in white kitchen trash bags, and then drawing ghostly faces on the bags with black marker. Add homemade cardboard tombstones for a haunted graveyard.

Want to really wow visitors? Use packing tape to create frighteningly realistic ghosts. Wrap the tape, sticky side out, around a mannequin or a friend to get the correct form. Then wrap the model again, but with the sticky side of the tape facing in. When finished, remove the tape cast from the model, using scissors where necessary, and then repairing with additional tape. For a ghostly glow, fill the final figure with a battery-powered string of lights. Hang inside or outside and wait for the shrieks of the spooked.

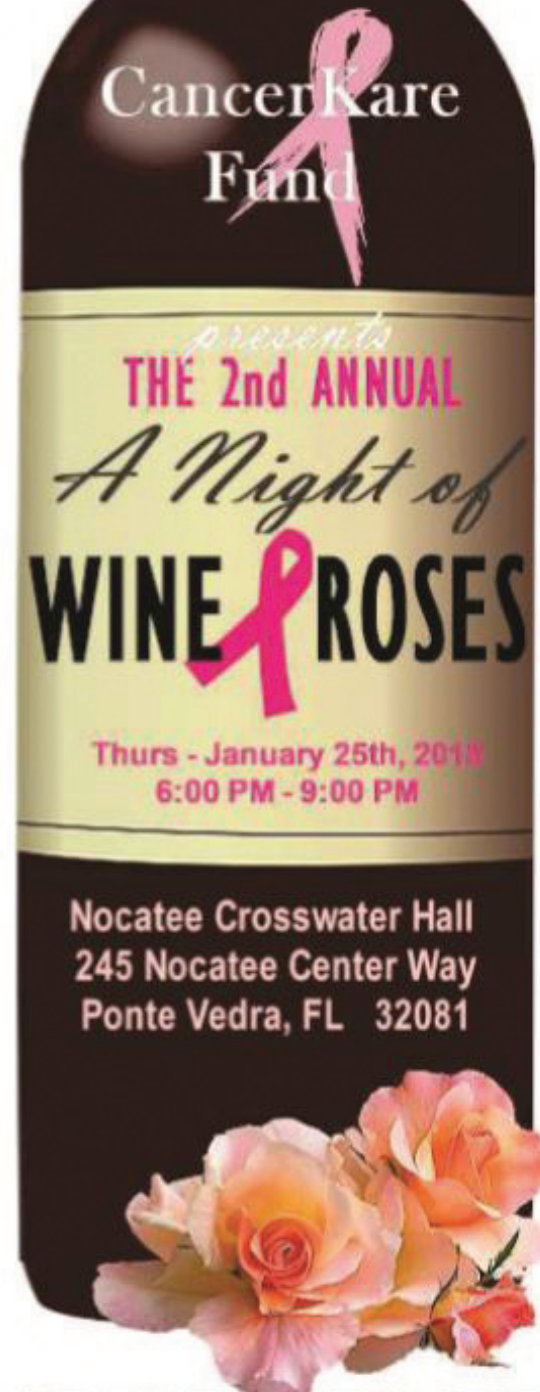
UNIQUE PARTY GAMES

Tired of "bobbing for apples?" Try mixing things up this year. Instead of using apples, hang donuts from the ceiling and have a contest to see who can eat theirs fastest without using their hands. Another fun game is to tell guests that certain words are taboo, and set costs for using those words, like doing a dance or singing a song.

For a festive twist on bowling, set up 10 paper towel "bowling pins" with ghost faces drawn on. Using a small, round pumpkin as a bowling ball, take turns knocking down the pins. Guests will love the creativity, and even the most experienced bowlers will find the variation challenging.

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