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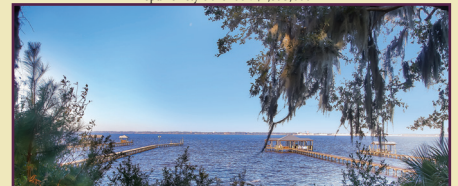
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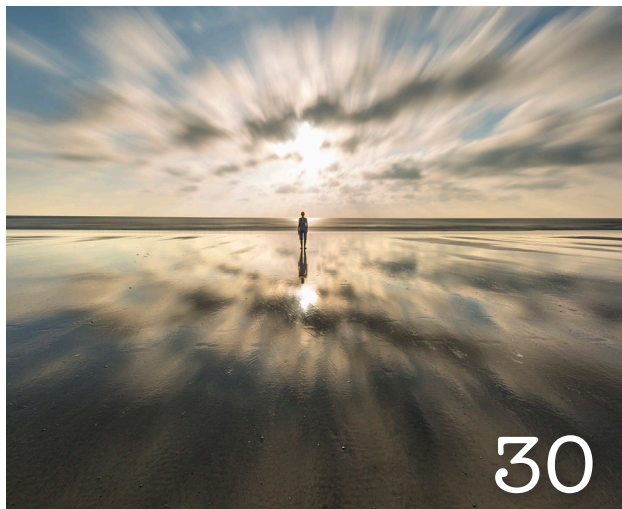
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## about this magazine

The First Coast Register is a bi-monthly general interest magazine published by The Ponte Vedra Recorder and OPC News, LLC. The magazine can be found throughout the upscale areas of greater Jacksonville. For advertising inquiries call 904.285.8831.

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## on the cover

St. Augustine's landmark Treasury Building is home to the distinctive wedding venue Treasury on the Plaza (page 18) and the Women's Wednesdays networking series (page 10). Photo by Dr. Razvan Balotescu. View more of Dr. Balotescu's photographs on page 30.





# SOFT OPENING CELEBRATION

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*One of Us!*

**DIANE BOYLE**

by JENNIFER LOGUE

As executive director of the Ronald McDonald House Jacksonville, Diane Boyle oversees a facility that provides lodging, meals and transportation to families of critically ill children who need to be near a hospital for medical treatment. Each year, Ronald McDonald House Jacksonville serves 1,200 families, while its Family Room at Wolfson Children's Hospital receives 25,000 visitors annually. Currently, Boyle is overseeing a multimillion-dollar expansion that will greatly increase the number of families the facility can serve.

***How did you come to live on the First Coast?***

Through adversity and tragedy my life changed. In 2011, my husband was diagnosed with ALS. At the time, we were living in New Jersey and we relocated to Jacksonville to be near the Mayo Clinic. After John's passing, I chose to stay in this beautiful area and am fortunate that my children who reside in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and London love to visit me here.

***What drew you to the Ronald McDonald House?***

The mission of RMH is important because it serves families of sick children at a time when the families need it the most. Supporting children's issues has always been important to me. When the opportunity for leadership was offered, I quickly connected with the emotional impact of traveling to a medical destination for the best medical treatment possible. I have also had the good fortune to have worked across three sectors: for-profit, nonprofit and higher education. Knowing that RMH was poised for growth and expansion, I believed my experience would help me to work together with my boards and staff to lead this expansion and to build an exciting vision for the future of RMH.

***You not only serve local children, but kids and their families from around the world. What are some of the far-reaching places from which your guests have come? And what sort of services do you provide to make their stay easier?***

Families travel to our RMH from countries around the globe for the best pediatric care here in Jacksonville, whether it is cardiac surgery, proton therapy treatment, chemotherapy or neonatal care. Our families come from as far away as China, Peru, Mexico, UK, Norway and Granada. Many families travel from all over the United States and Florida. Yet, a family may very well be from Valdosta or Orange Park. All families share the challenges and hope of providing the best care for their children and they find that here in RMHC Jacksonville.

At RMH, we provide lodging, meals and transportation. Importantly, we provide a community of compassionate care. From the moment a family enters our front doors, our staff provides an exceptional level of hospitality and care to help the families transition into their new home. Our facility dog, Reed, plays an important role in welcoming the children.

***Tell us about the expansion underway.***

In September 2016, we will open the doors of our newly expanded house after a \$12.5 million expansion and renovation. This has been a very exciting time in the history of RMH. With our expansion, we will grow from a 30-room facility to a 54-room facility, serving over 1500 families a year. We have designed our new facility to the changing needs of our families and have built beautiful suites for long-term stays. These suites have many amenities that will provide comfort and support for families of sick children.

Our newly renovated house will also have a renovated family kitchen and a very special volunteer kitchen that will support our volunteers, who generously donate their time and come to RMH to cook dinner every night of the year for our families. Our playroom and dining room have also been redesigned and renovated to accommodate the increased number of families. A learning center and a fitness center are two new areas of RMH that will support a learning initiative and a health and wellness initiative.

One of the new features of the expansion is a rooftop garden. What was the impetus behind that?

Our rooftop garden is one of the most important spaces in our new expansion. This beautiful space will provide a place of calm and respite to our families – a place to be reflective and to feel inspired by nature. Our rooftop garden will have a pavilion, an arbor and a water fountain which will delight the senses. It is a place for families to congregate or to be alone. It is an important part of our health and wellness program, as it provides a place of refuge and magnificent views of the Jacksonville skyline and the St. Johns River.

***You're a Palencia resident; what do you enjoy most about the community?***

Palencia is a community of natural beauty that I enjoy. I love to play tennis, so I particularly enjoy the tennis program and the many friendships. I have embraced an outdoor lifestyle here in Northeast Florida, and I particularly enjoy paddle boarding in St. Augustine and exploring this incredible place that has become my home.



# NEW LOCATION ST. JOHNS TOWN CENTER

# OCTOBER 15, 2016



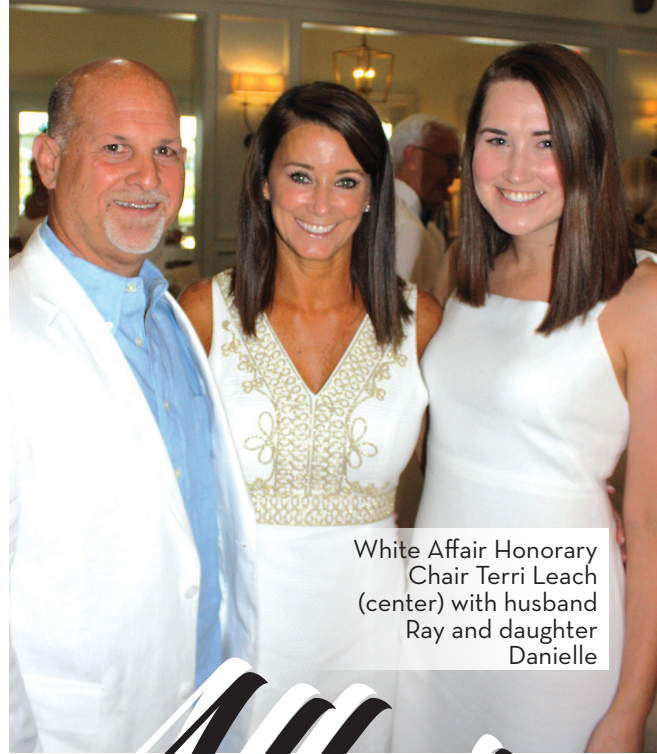
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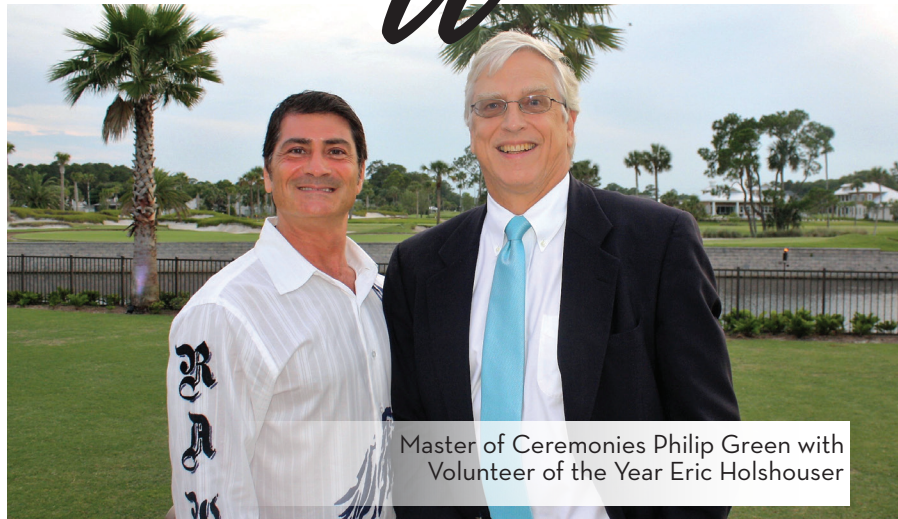


White Affair Honorary Chair Terri Leach (center) with husband Ray and daughter Danielle

# THE *White Affair* by JENNIFER LOGUE



Kate and Winton Mays, board members of the American Lung Association Northeast Florida



Master of Ceremonies Philip Green with Volunteer of the Year Eric Holshouser



Allie and Joshua McCarty and Ashley Foley  
photos by JENNIFER LOGUE



The Atlantic Beach Country Club was awash in a sea of white June 11, as guests from across the First Coast gathered to raise awareness of lung disease at the American Lung Association of Northeast Florida's "White Affair."

Guests attired in their best "beach chic" whites enjoyed cocktails, entertainment provided by the all-white-clad band, Cloud 9, and the opportunity to bid on a wide array of silent auction items, including Jaguars packages and trips to Hawaii, Hilton Head and San Francisco. Live auction items included the chance to experience astronaut training at Kennedy Space Center, a trip to the Country Music Awards and six days in a Caribbean villa for six guests.

The menu, meanwhile, offered an array of specialty cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. From white bean and truffle crostini and shrimp with white cocktail sauce to fresca white fish tacos and coconut cupcakes, the refreshments underscored the evening's pure, white theme while reinforcing the mission of the American Lung Association to help people breathe easier.

Board Member Kate Mays notes that "The White Affair" was a new concept for the American Lung Association of Northeast Florida's long-running annual fundraiser, which was previously known as the "Oxygen Ball."

"We wanted to lighten up the mood, and at the same time get more into the mission of open airways," says Mays, vice president of operations for The CSI Companies, the event's presenting sponsor. "It's great to work for a company that gives back and feels passionate about this cause. It's also great to see how many different people are impacted by what the American Lung Association is doing."

Mays's husband and fellow board member, Winton Mays, has a personal connection to the cause.

"My father passed away of lung disease," he says. "My uncle is a survivor as a result of the investment in research, so I wanted to get involved and doing something to give back."

For Terri Leach – The White Affair's honorary chairperson – the lung association's mission is doubly personal: Her daughter has asthma, and eight years ago she lost her mother to lung cancer. Just 59 years old, Leach's mother died a mere 11 weeks after being diagnosed with the disease.

"I felt like I had another 30 years of our relationship that I lost out on, and in a way I'm still processing that loss," says Leach, division president and unit manager for CSI Professional. "There's not enough awareness about lung disease – especially its impact on women."

While lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths among women, Leach notes, it receives far less attention – and far less research funding – than other forms of the disease, such as breast cancer. She hopes events like The White Affair will help raise more awareness while also providing the financial resources to fund the research needed to find cures for the many forms of lung disease.

Karen Hughes, area director for the American Lung Association of Northeast Florida, reminded attendees that proceeds from The White Affair would benefit the organization's education, outreach and research programs.

"I believe that goodness is in our very nature – and I ask you to turn our mission statement into mission action. We are raising money to save lives."



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# Women's Wednesdays

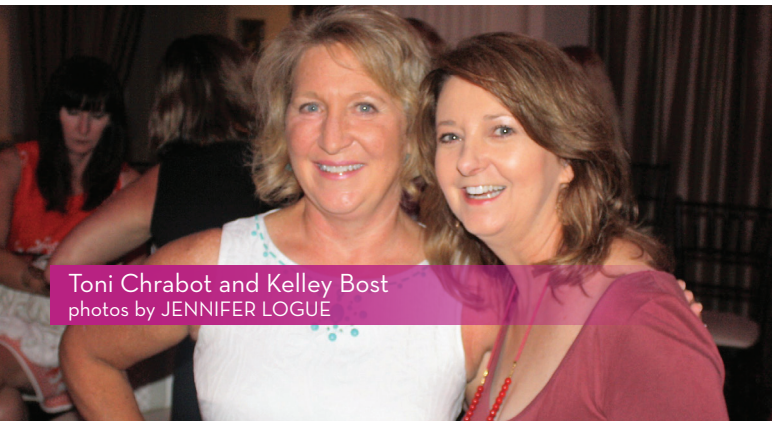
by JENNIFER LOGUE



Florida School for the Deaf and Blind parents Misty Porter and Kim Satterfield



She is Fierce Founder Kelly Youngs and author Brenda Jackson



Toni Chrabot and Kelley Bost  
photos by JENNIFER LOGUE

Women stream into St. Augustine's Treasury on the Plaza.

The venue is awash in colored lights that soften the historic 1928 bank's granite and marble interior. A line is waiting to enter the bank's former vault – now transformed into a bar – as attendees select and sip cocktails. Pulsating club music fills the room as an exercise group gets the crowd moving to the music.

This is not your father's networking group.

Welcome to "Women's Wednesdays." The brainchild of Emmy Award-winning TV producer Kelly Youngs, the annual series of networking events featuring inspirational speakers completed its second season in June with an impressive lineup that included former WNBA President Donna Orender, "Millionista Mentor" Stephanie Nikolich, Fired Up! Founder Snowden McFall, best-selling author Brenda Jackson and Pink Up the Pace! Founder Cindy Chaconas.

At each Women's Wednesday event, one local woman was celebrated for her accomplishments. Through Bozard Lincoln's sponsorship of the series, for example, Misty Porter received a "Girls Night Out" use of a car after her friends nominated her in recognition of her volunteer efforts at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind.

"Women like Misty are what Women's Wednesdays are all about," says Youngs, who started the events in 2015 as part of She is Fierce, an online community she created to connect and inspire women. "We support women who are making a big difference in a big way."

Since its inception last year, the She is Fierce community has grown to include more than 65,000 followers on social media. Several hundred women have also joined the new membership program that provides access to an online library of videos, workbooks, expert interviews and other materials.

"We offer women the tools we all need to take us from point A to point B, to turn your passion into purpose," says Youngs, adding that She is Fierce will soon begin offering more intimate monthly meet-ups across the First Coast.

That's good news for women like Betty Stephens, who stopped in to hear author Brenda Jackson's remarks after a long day of doing contract accounting work in the Treasury building.

"I've come to all of the speakers (in the series)," Stephens says, "And they've all been amazing!"



Member of the Fraternal Order of Police helped organize the barbecue. From left: Randy Reaves, Dave Meacham, Josh Griffis, Rob Beers, Richard Mette, Steve Zona, Matt Clements, Joe Quinn, Lonnie Miller and Steve Amos.



Local Marines were treated to an Appreciation Barbecue held June 4 at the Marine Facility and organized by Richard Mette.

# APPRECIATION BARBECUE HONORS MARINES

photos courtesy of  
RICHARD METTE

Members of the Marine Bravo Company, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division received a well-deserved “thank you” this summer, when the battalion was treated to an Appreciation Barbecue.

Held June 4 at the Marine Facility near the Jacksonville Zoo, the event was organized by Richard Mette of the State Attorney’s Office in collaboration with the Fraternal Order of Police. Special guests in attendance included Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams, State Attorney Angela Corey, professional soccer player Darryl Sattler and Channel 12’s Ken Amaro, who helped serve food to the honored guests. Sponsors who helped provide food and door prizes, meanwhile, included the Jacksonville Jaguars, Kiolbassa Sausage company, Ruth’s Chris, Doubletree on the River, Alhambra Theatre & Dining, Salt Life, Olive Garden, Monroe’s Smokehouse, Longhorn Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse and more.

“I couldn’t be more thankful to them and to Steve Zona and Randy

Reaves of the Fraternal Order of Police,” Mette says, “for taking the time to come out and help with this effort to thank our Marines.”

The Marine unit, Mette says, has been to Iraq several times and also participated in Desert Storm.

“This barbecue was just a way of taking the time to thank them for all their service to our community and to our country,” Mette says.

Mette’s history with this Marine unit stretches back to when he was 8 years old and his brother, Robert A. Mette, died while at boot camp with the unit. Following his death, a memorial award was established along with a Robert A. Mette Scholarship to help Marines achieve a college education. Richard Mette presented the awards in his brother’s memory at this year’s Marine Ball in Jacksonville.

“We sometimes forget to think of the many military who serve us each day. I just thought it was time to do something special to thank them.”



# AUTUMN'S ART SCENE AND BEYOND:

## FALL INTO THE ARTS ON THE FIRST COAST

by CARRIE RESCH

Support the River City's bustling art scene this fall and beyond. From becoming a season ticket holder or simply enjoying a night out on the town to seeing an original production, there are endless ways to enjoy the arts on the First Coast.

Art festivals, plays, exhibitions – it's all here. So make plans for date night, girls' night out or take the entire family out to experience North Florida's art scene.

### Limelight-Theatre's 2016-2017 Season

Limelight Theatre will celebrate a milestone 25 years during its upcoming 2016-2017 season.

The new season will include seven productions, beginning with "Oklahoma!" in September. The 25th season party is scheduled for Sept. 21 at Raintree Restaurant in St. Augustine.

Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine. For tickets, call the box office at (904) 825-1164 or visit [www.limelight-theatre.org](http://www.limelight-theatre.org).

- "Oklahoma!" Sept. 23-Oct. 23
- "Cotton Patch Gospel" Dec. 2-31
- "Hedda Gabler" Jan. 27-Feb. 19, 2017
- "The Mystery of Irma Vep" March 10-April 2, 2017
- "I Ought to Be in Pictures" April 21-May 14, 2017
- "The Nance" June 2-25, 2017
- "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" July 21-Aug. 20, 2017

### Players by the Sea Theatre 2016-2017 Season

The 51st season kicks off Sept. 16 with "Into the Woods." All of the 2016-2017 productions will be productions never before performed by Players by the Sea.

The 2016-2017 season will also include another first for the theatre company with the theatre's "New Voices" initiative. Through the program, two local playwrights were selected to embark on a year-long development process during which they will write a full-length play. At the end of the year, the two full-length productions will be performed on the studio stage.

Players by the Sea Theatre is located at 106 N. 6th St., Jacksonville Beach. For tickets, call (904) 249-0289 or visit [www.playersbythesea.org](http://www.playersbythesea.org).

- "Into the Woods" Sept. 16-Oct. 8
- "Hand to God" Nov. 4-19
- "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" Dec. 2-17
- "Eurydice" Jan. 6-21, 2017
- "City of Angels" Feb. 10-25, 2017
- "Killer Joe" March 17-April 1, 2017
- "The Walls" April 21-May 6, 2017
- New Voices: Two World Premieries by Kelby Siddons and Drew Brown: May 26 and 27, 2017 and June 1-17, 2017
- "American Idiot" July 21-Aug. 12, 2017

### ABET's 2016-2017 Season

The Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre's 25th season kicks off Sept. 9 with "Merrily We Roll Along."

Performances take place at the Adele Grage Cultural Center located at 716 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach. For tickets, call (904) 249-7177 or visit [www.abettheatre.com](http://www.abettheatre.com).

- "Merrily We Roll Along" Sept. 9-25
- "Macbeth" Oct. 21-Nov. 6
- "A Christmas Carol" Dec. 2-18
- "Celebration" Jan. 20-Feb. 5, 2017
- "4000 Miles" March 10-26, 2017
- "The Hallelujah Girls" May 5-21, 2017

### Theatre Jacksonville's 2016-2017 Season

Florida's longest running community theatre, Theatre Jacksonville, has been in existence since 1919. Located in San Marco, the theatre's 97th season kicks off Sept. 16 with "Pride and Prejudice."

Theatre Jacksonville is located at 2032 San Marco Blvd. For more information, call (904) 396-4425 or visit [www.theatrejax.com](http://www.theatrejax.com).

- "Pride and Prejudice" Sept. 16-Oct. 2
- "The Game's Afoot (Or Holmes for the Holidays)" Nov. 4-20
- "Peter and the Starcatcher" Jan. 13-29, 2017
- "The God Game" March 3-19, 2017

- “Steel Magnolias” April 21-May 7, 2017
- “Thoroughly Modern Millie” June 9-25, 2017

## The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens

View the Cummer Museum’s Permanent Collection, which spans from 2100 B.C. through the 21st century, or tour the museum’s gardens.

Every Tuesday is Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café, where visitors can listen to local musicians and enjoy tapas, wine and beer on the Cummer Café patio. The museum also offers monthly children’s art programs or other art-making workshops.

Take advantage of Weaver First Saturday Free for All the first Saturday of each month, when the museum is free for all visitors. Visitors can also enjoy free admission to the museum on Tuesdays with the Florida Blue Free Tuesdays program, and Bank of America or Merrill Lynch cardholders receive free admission the first Sunday of the first full weekend of the month through the Museums on Us program.

The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 356-6857 or visit [www.cummermuseum.org](http://www.cummermuseum.org).

- Garden Concert: Featuring Patrick Evan & Mama Blue – Sept. 10
- Women Artists: From The Renaissance to Abstract Expressionism – Sept. 13, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8
- Talks & Tea – The Permanent Collection – Sept. 14 and 15
- Jacksonville’s African American History Tour – Sept. 17
- History of Western Art: Antiquities – Sept. 20
- Sunday Classical Concert: Lifting Voices with The Ritz Chamber Players – Sept. 25
- Envirofest – Oct. 1
- Ponce De Leon Society Opening – Folk Couture: Fashion and Folk Art – Oct. 5
- Member Preview and Community Opening Party for “Folk Couture: Fashion and Folk Art” – Oct. 6

- History of Western Art: Early Christian to High Renaissance Art – Oct. 18
- Lunching with The Ritz: Lunchtime Chamber Concert – Oct. 19
- Talks & Tea: LIFT – Oct. 20
- Free Tuesday Lecture – The Creative Process – Oct. 25
- Garden Concert: Folk Music – Nov. 4
- Distinguished Lecture – Fabio Costa – Nov. 10
- Cummer Amelia: Cocktails & Canvases with The Omni Amelia Island Plantation resort - Nov. 11-13
- History of Western Art: Baroque Art – Nov. 15

## Amelia Community Theatre 2016-2017 Season

The Amelia Community Theatre, located in the heart of historic Fernandina Beach, is celebrating its 35th year this year.

The 2016-2017 Amelia Community Theatre season kicks off Sept. 19 with “On Golden Pond.”


Amelia Community Theatre is located at 209 Cedar St., Fernandina Beach. For tickets, call (904) 261-6749 or visit [www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org](http://www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org).

- “On Golden Pond” Sept. 29-Oct. 15
- “Ebenezer: A Christmas Carol” Dec. 1-17
- “Calendar Girls” Feb. 2-18, 2017
- “Rabbit Hole” April 6-22, 2017
- “The Explorers Club” June 8-24, 2017
- “Avenue Q” Aug. 10-26, 2017

## Alhambra Theatre & Dining

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DeJuan Roy.

In addition to the theater's productions, which include a variety of genres such as musicals, comedies or children-friendly shows, the theater annually presents a popular Christmas show which sells out each year.

Alhambra also presents Alhambra After Dark programs. The next program, "Hank & My Honky Tonk Heroes" will be from Oct. 12-16.

The theater is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit [www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com).

- "Smokey Joe's Café" Aug. 3-Sept. 4
- "Sister Act" Sept. 7-Oct. 9
- "Annie Get Your Gun" Oct. 19-Nov. 20
- Holiday show - Nov. 23-Dec. 24

## Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra 2016-2017 Season

The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra's 2016-2017 Season featuring the Florida Blue Masterworks Series, the Fidelity National Financial Pops Series, and the Mayo Clinic Coffee Series, kicks off Sept. 30 with Rachmaninoff and the Rite.

The symphony's productions include selections include classical music, rock music and children-friendly performances such as Disney's Broadway Hits or film with orchestra productions: "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "West Side Story," or "Bugs Bunny at The Symphony II."

Performances take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 Water St., Jacksonville.

For tickets, call (904) 354-5547 or visit [www.jaxsymphony.org](http://www.jaxsymphony.org).

### Florida Blue Masterworks Series

- Rachmaninoff and the Rite: Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 and 2
- Bachtoberfest: Oct. 21-23
- The Dream of Gerontius: Nov. 11 and 12
- Hansel and Gretel: Dec. 2-4
- Mozart and McGill: Jan. 6 and 7, 2017
- Brahms and Beyond: Jan. 20-22, 2017
- French Connection: Feb. 3 and 4, 2017
- Classical Cornerstones: March 3 and 4, 2017
- Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony: March 24-26, 2017
- Canellakis Conducts Shostakovich: April 7-9, 2017
- Tchaikovsky's Pathetique: April 28-30
- Mahler's Resurrection: May 19-21

### Fidelity National Financial Pops Series

- Disney's Broadway Hits: Oct. 14-16
- Ella and Louis: Nov. 4 and 5
- "The Nightmare Before Christmas" film with orchestra: Nov. 18
- Holiday Pops: Dec. 8-11
- New Year's Eve with Steve Reineke - The Best is Yet to Come: Dec. 31
- Journey, The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac and More: Jan. 13 & 14, 2017
- "West Side Story" film with orchestra: Feb. 11, 2017
- Second City's Guide to the Symphony: Feb. 24 and 25
- The Chieftains: March 17 and 18, 2017
- Bugs Bunny at The Symphony II film with orchestra: April 1, 2017
- Bond and Beyond: April 21 and 22, 2017
- Sgt. Pepper's 50th Anniversary Celebration: May 12 and 13, 2017

### Mayo Clinic Coffee Series

- Russian Fantasy: Oct. 7
- Ella and Louis: Nov. 4
- Holiday Pops: Dec. 9
- Beethoven and Sibelius: Jan. 6, 2017
- French Connection: Feb. 3, 2017
- Classical Cornerstones: March 3, 2017

- British Isles Fantasy: March 24, 2017
- Canellakis Conducts Shostakovich: April 7, 2017
- Sgt. Pepper's 50th: May 12, 2017
- Patriotic Pops: May 26, 2016

## Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is a multipurpose performing arts facility located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach.

The concert hall is located in the former Cornerstone Baptist Church and underwent a conversion to transform the building into a modern performing arts facility.

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N., Ponte Vedra. For tickets, call (904) 209-0399 or visit [www.pvconcerthall.com](http://www.pvconcerthall.com). Tickets are also available for purchase at Ticketmaster outlets and online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices.

- Tony Joe White - Sept. 2
- An Evening with Jake Shimabukuro - Sept. 15
- The Ann Wilson Thing - Sept. 28
- Sarah Jarosz and Parker Millsap - Sept. 30
- The Dandy Warhols with special guests Savoy Motel - Oct. 4
- Henry Rollins (Spoken Word) - Oct. 9
- The Mike Stern Trio - Oct. 16
- The Psychedelic Furs - Oct. 18
- Josh Ritter - Oct. 20
- NF - Nov. 3
- WAR - Nov. 13
- Galactic with special guest The Hip Abduction - Nov. 17
- California Guitar Trio "Holiday Show" - Dec. 1
- The Stanley Clarke Band - Dec. 2

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[www.villageartspvb.com](http://www.villageartspvb.com)

## St. Augustine Amphitheatre

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre hosts a variety of shows year-round in the outdoor venue. From rock legends to country superstars, the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, helmed by the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division, has attracted an array of talent from a variety of genres.

The Lost Skills Workshops are set to return this fall. To be taught by local experts, past workshops have included a natural dye class, wild edibles forage and apothecary class, leathersmithing and more. Details on the upcoming workshops will be posted on the amphitheatre's website.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine. For tickets, call the box office at (904) 209-0367 or visit [www.staugamphitheatre.com](http://www.staugamphitheatre.com). Tickets are also available for purchase at Ticketmaster outlets and online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices.

- An Evening with Ray LaMontagne – Aug. 14
- Goo Goo Dolls with special guests Collective Soul and Tribe Society – Aug. 31
- Sing Out Loud Festival Finale featuring Brandi Carlile, Indigo Girls, Booker T. Jones and The Travelin' McCourys – Sept. 9
- Brian Wilson presents Pet Sounds 50th Anniversary with guests Al Jardine and Blondie Chaplin – Sept. 10
- NEEDTOBREATHE presents Tour De Compadres with special guests Mat Kearney, Parachute and Welshly Arms – Oct. 13
- 20th Annual MagnoliaFest Celebrating the Stetson Kennedy Centennial – Oct. 15
- ZZ Top – Nov. 5
- The Doobie Brothers with The Fabulous Thunderbirds – Nov. 11
- Chris Young with special guests Dustin Lynch and Cassadee Pope – Nov. 12

## Florida Theatre

The Florida Theatre has a full lineup of a variety of entertainment including seeing a classic movie on the big screen as part of the Summer Movie Classics Series, comedy productions such as "Unelectable You" created by Slate and The Second City, children's productions such as "Odd Squad Live!" based on the award-winning PBS series and "Octonauts Live" based on the Disney Jr. television series.

The Florida Theatre is located at 128 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville. For tickets, call the ticket office at (904) 355-2787 or visit [www.floridatheatre.com](http://www.floridatheatre.com).

- Summer Movie Classics Series: "An American Tail" – Aug. 14
- Boney James Live – Aug. 18
- An evening with Lyle Lovett and His Large Band – Aug. 20
- Summer Movie Classics Series: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" – Aug. 21
- Blues, Brews and BBQ benefit for Florida Theatre – Aug. 25
- The Orchestra – An Evening of ELO's Greatest Hits with the Jacksonville Rock Symphony Orchestra – Aug. 27
- Summer Movie Classics Series: "Secret of My Success" – Aug. 28
- Kenny G – Sept. 1
- Slate & Second City Present "Unelectable You" – Sept. 22
- IL DIVO – Sept. 23
- Johnny Lang – Sept. 30
- George Thorogood and The Destroyers – Oct. 6
- 1964 The Tribute – Oct. 8
- Live Original Tour 2016 with Sadie Robertson – Oct. 14
- Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox – Oct. 16
- Keb' Mo' Band – Oct. 18
- Lindsey Stirling Brave Enough World Tour – Oct. 27
- Ghost – Popestar – Nov. 4
- Odd Squad Live! – Nov. 12
- An Evening with Neil DeGrasse Tyson – Nov. 14

# The Beaches Art Fest 2016

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- Savion Glover "Classical Savion" – Nov. 18
- Octonauts Live! – Nov. 30

## Beaches Art Fest

The 3rd Annual Beaches Art Fest presented by the Beaches Museum & History Park and Driftwood Jacksonville Beach in partnership with Holiday Art Shows will be held Oct. 1-2 at the Pablo Historical Park in Jacksonville Beach.

New this year, the juried art festival featuring art and fine craft from artists around the country, will be held over two days. Stretching two city blocks, Pablo Avenue will be closed to traffic and transformed into an outdoor art gallery. Each artist will be available to discuss their work, share their stories and answer questions.

This rain or shine event will also feature food trucks.

For more information, visit [www.thebeachesartfest.com](http://www.thebeachesartfest.com) or call (904) 241-5657.

## Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

Two current exhibits will be on display through Sept. 2: First Coast Plein Air Painters Members Exhibition presented by First Coast Plein Air Painters features the work of more than 50 local artists on display in the Scene Gallery and the annual Curatorial's Choice exhibition in the Main featuring five top arts members chosen by the cultural center's curatorial committee.

Main Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Scene Gallery hours are: Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. After hour appointments are available.

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org).

## Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville

The Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville has a number of current exhibitions as well as an array of fresh exhibitions coming this fall.

MOCA is located at 333 N. Laura St., Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 366-6911 or visit [www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu](http://www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu).

### Current exhibitions:

- "Confronting the Canvas: Women of Abstraction" on display through Sept. 4
- "Project Atrium: Ethan Murrow" on display through Oct. 30
- "Amer Kobaslija: A Sense of Place" on display through Aug. 14
- "Inside the Outline: Art With A Heart In Healthcare" on display through Dec. 4

### Upcoming exhibitions:

- "Sustain: Clay to Table" Aug. 27-Oct. 30
- "Retro-Spective: Analog Photography in a Digital World" Sept. 24-Jan. 8, 2017
- "Donald Martin" Nov. 5-Jan. 22, 2017
- "Project Atrium: Nicola Lopez – A Gentle Defiance of Gravity" Nov. 19-Feb. 26, 2017

## EMMA Concert Association 2016-2017 Season

The 2016-2017 EMMA Concert Association Season, the 38th season for the nonprofit organization, will kick off Oct. 1 with Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra at 7:30 p.m.

Each season, the concert association presents six evening series performances, four afternoon series performances, two Holiday Pops concerts and one free concert for the community. All concerts take place at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St.

Augustine.

Each fall, EMMA presents a series of four Words and Music concerts in the Flagler Room in the main building of Flagler College. This season's Words and Music concerts is TBA. Visit [www.emmaconcerts.com](http://www.emmaconcerts.com) for more information or to purchase concert tickets or call (904) 797-2800.

### Evening Series:

- Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra – Oct. 1
- Carpe Diem String Quartet – Jan. 7, 2017
- National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine – Jan. 28, 2017
- Ensemble Español – Feb. 4, 2017
- Hermitage Piano Trio – March 25, 2017
- Rachel Barton Pine & The New York Chamber Soloists Orchestra – April 8, 2017

### Afternoon Series:

- 2016 Cleveland International Piano Competition – Nov. 13
- Telegraph Quartet with Pianist Simone Dinnerstein – Jan. 15, 2017
- Cann Sisters Piano Duo – Feb. 12, 2017
- Janoska Ensemble – March 19, 2017

### Special Events:

- Southwest Florida Symphony – Dec. 15
- Sarah Young, flautist – April 23, 2017

## Sing Out Loud Festival

The Sing Out Loud Festival, a series of free concerts to be held Aug. 26 through Sept. 11 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, Colonial Quarter, Downtown Plaza and other venues across St. Augustine, the festival is being billed as the largest free music festival ever held in St. Johns County.

To be presented over the course of three weekends, the event is being sponsored by Community First Credit Union in collaboration with the St. Johns Cultural Council and Tourism Development Council.

All concerts are free and open to the public, including the Sept. 9 Main Showcase at the amphitheatre featuring Brandi Carlile, Indigo Girls, Booker T. Jones and The Travelin' McCourys.

Fans may secure reserved seats by making a \$5 donation to OneOrlando via Ticketmaster or by reserving a Sing Out Loud hotel package with one of the dozen partner hotels. Visit [www.singoutloudfestival.com](http://www.singoutloudfestival.com) for details on securing reserved seats.

## Ritz Theatre and Museum

The Ritz Theatre and Museum was constructed in 1999 on the site of the 1929 Ritz Theater movie house in Jacksonville's historic African American community of La Villa.

As part of the museum's permanent collection, guests can learn of the area's African American heritage. Another museum facet, "Through Our Eyes 2016: Sensory Perception" is part of an annual exhibit presented continuously since 1993.

Ritz Theatre and Museum is located at 829 Davis St., Jacksonville.

Event tickets can be purchased online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at (904) 807-2010 or in person at the Ritz Theatre Box Office.

For more information about the Ritz Theatre and Museum, visit [www.ritzjacksonville.com](http://www.ritzjacksonville.com).

- A-Train Live: The Experience! w/Rodney Perry – Aug. 19
- "Puttin' On the Ritz" Amateur Night – Sept. 2 and 8, Oct. 7 & Nov. 4
- Jazz Discovery Series Presents: Sofija Knezevic – Sept. 23
- Lift Evry Voice and Sing: HBCU Choir Concert – Oct. 9
- A-Train Live: The Experience! w/Bo Last Name Dacious – Oct. 21
- Squirrel Nut Zippers – Oct. 26
- Bilal – Nov. 3
- Alicia Olatuja – Nov. 11



- Class Act Promotions Presents: “Not In This House” – Nov. 12
- “Puttin’ on the Ritz” Semi-Finals – Nov. 18
- Jazz Discovery Series Presents: Patrick Bartley – Dec. 1
- “Puttin’ on the Ritz” Finals – Dec. 2
- Black Violin – Dec. 3
- A Peter White Christmas – Dec. 11

## Beaches Museum & History Park

The Beaches Museum & History Park has featured a variety of past exhibits covering all areas of the beaches community as well as a variety of art exhibits.

A new exhibition, “Mayport Village: On the River of Change,” featuring the history of Mayport Village opens Aug. 11 and will be on display through Nov. 13.

Events are free to museum members with a \$5 suggested donation for non-members.

For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit [www.beachmuseum.org](http://www.beachmuseum.org). The museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

- “Mayport Village: On the River of Change” exhibit Aug. 11-Nov. 13 with the exhibit opening reception Aug. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Mayport Village Storytellers Aug. 27 at 1 p.m.
- Riding the Rails: Pablo Beach Train Day – Sept. 10
- Screening of “The Flying Ace” – Oct. 13 in the Beaches Museum Chapel
- Boardwalk Talk: The Story of the sinking of the Donald Ray – Oct. 27
- Mayport Cemetery Tour – Oct. 30 at 1 p.m. at Mayport Pablo Cemetery. Reservations required.

## St. Augustine Art Association exhibits

The 7th Annual Nature & Wildlife Exhibit, a gallery-wide exhibition with more than 100 pieces of art, will be on display through Aug. 28.

The gallery is located at 22 Marine St., St. Augustine. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

The STAAA’s annual “Tactile Art Show,” which features all-touchable art created by local artists paired with Braille signage prepared by students from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, will be on display beginning in October.

For more information about STAAA, call (904) 824-2310 or visit [www.staaa.org](http://www.staaa.org). For more information about the “Tactile Arts Show,” visit [www.staaa.org/touch](http://www.staaa.org/touch).

## 51st Annual St. Augustine Art & Craft Festival

The 51st Annual St. Augustine Art & Craft Festival, a Thanksgiving tradition, will be held Saturday, Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Francis Field, 14 W. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine.

The juried art festival will feature 150 national and regional artists

painting, pottery, jewelry, glassware, sculpture, fiber art, photography, mixed media and hand-crafted creations.

The festival will also have live music, a kids’ art zone, colonial crafts, and international foods.

For more information, visit [www.staugustineartfestival.com](http://www.staugustineartfestival.com).

## Lightner Museum

“America’s Parks | Encore Exhibition” will be on display at the Lightner Museum through Aug. 31.

In addition to featuring artistic representations of America’s diverse landscapes, the free exhibition includes 18 original works from the St. Johns Cultural Council’s recent “Find Your Park Plein Air” outdoor painting event held in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 824-2874 or visit [www.lightnermuseum.org](http://www.lightnermuseum.org).

## Florida Chamber Music Project 2016-2017 Season

The Florida Chamber Music Project presents live classical music featuring ensemble and guest musicians.

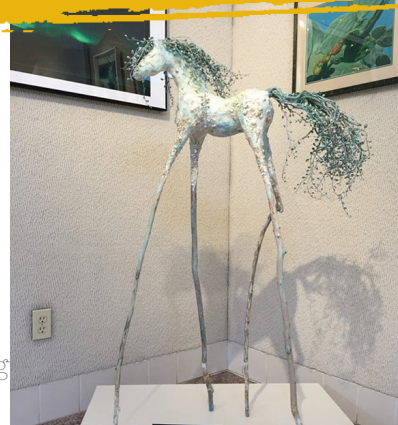
The music series, a partnership between the Florida Chamber Music Project and St. Johns County Cultural Events Division, will kick off its 4th season Sept. 4.

All concerts start at 3 p.m. and will be held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. Season or individual show tickets may be purchased at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Office before each performance and in advance online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

For more information, visit [www.pvconcerthall.com](http://www.pvconcerthall.com) or [www.fchambermusic.org](http://www.fchambermusic.org).

- String Quartet in F Minor by Beethoven and Five Novelettes by Glazunov – Sept. 4
- String Quartet in E Flat, Opus 33, No. 2 “The Joke” by Haydn and String Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Opus 73 by Shostakovich – Nov. 20
- Quintet in C Major by Schubert – Jan. 29, 2017
- Quintet in E Flat Major, Opus 44 by Schumann – Feb. 26, 2017
- String Quartet in E Flat, K. 428 by Mozart and String Quartet in G Minor by Debussy – April 23, 2017

P. 12: “Fallen Sentinel” by Richard Lundgren (Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach photo); Ethan Murrow’s “Project Atrium” (MOCA); “Full Moon Over the Fort” by Mary Garrish (Lightner Museum); “Robin” (Art with a Heart in Healthcare). Page 17: Beaches Art Fest; historic photo (Beaches Museum and History Park); “Unbridled Seas” by Mindy Colton (St. Augustine Art Association).





# One-of-a-kind wedding venues

by JENNIFER LOGUE

Bowing Oaks Plantation  
Lauren Peele photo



Bowing Oaks bride's suite  
Susanna Moore photo



Grand Ballroom,  
Treasury on the Plaza



Bowing Oaks wedding  
couple and ballroom photo  
(left) by Sara Kauppila



The Vault bar  
Treasury on the Plaza photo



When it comes to the bride, it's all about the dress. But when it comes to the wedding, it's all about the venue.

Inside or out? Waterfront terrace or tree-canopied hideaway? Historic charm or contemporary glitz? From Amelia Island to St. Augustine, First Coast brides are fortunate to have an array of distinctive wedding venues sure to suit any style, taste or budget.

### A treasured venue: Treasury on the Plaza

As historic St. Augustine's only "skyscraper," the six-story Treasury Building is as recognized a part of the Ancient City skyline as Flagler College, the Casa Monica Hotel and the Lightner Museum. And since 2014, this local landmark situated next door to the Cathedral Basilica has hosted countless weddings, as the former city bank has been reborn as Treasury on the Plaza.

From the Spanish Mediterranean Revival exterior and foyer to its neoclassical interior, the Treasury on the Plaza combines historic architecture and period details with modern-day sophistication. In addition to the 6,500 square foot grand ballroom – which accommodates 250 comfortably for a seated function – the venue also includes VIP suites for the bride and groom, lounges and more.

"This 1928 building is just magnificent," says Brenda Bushell, the driving force behind the bank's transformation into one of the First Coast's most distinctive wedding venues. "I think it's a surprise to people when they enter that the space is so grand and opulent."

Bushell and her business partner were serving on a committee at the Cathedral Basilica when the previous occupants of the Treasury vacated the building. Bushell commented how wonderful it would be if the cathedral could purchase or lease the space in lieu of a parish hall.

"The cathedral staff were so much smarter than we were," she laughs. "They came back and said, 'Why don't you do it and we can just use the space?'"

### Period details

Bushell and her partner set about reinventing the bank into a wedding venue, keeping such impressive elements as the towering columns, art deco interior and massive walk-in bank vault.

"The mantra we had from the beginning was, 'If it's historic, we're

keeping it,'" Bushell says. "When we looked at the vault, we said, 'How can we make this fun and accessible?'"

To that end, the vault now serves as the Treasury's bar, which was crafted from the bank's original black marble and rosewood teller stations.

Since opening in 2014, the Treasury on the Plaza has become a popular wedding venue, hosting approximately 125 such functions a year.

"We know weddings – and every single one of them is different," Bushell says with pride. "Recently, we had a wedding with a New Orleans theme: The couple hired a band that paraded up the street, arriving in grand form, and inside the space was dramatically decorated with all the colors, feathers and decorations."

Also popular with brides is a 1920s Gatsby theme, she adds, "because the space really lends itself to that."

In addition, the Treasury's high-end Hollywood lighting system offers brides another way to customize the space, bathing the hall in a variety of colors and even spotlighting the bride as she walks down the aisle.

"I think what makes us different is not just the magnificent, beautiful building and ballroom, but our lighting," Bushell says. "With today's weddings, once the speeches are over, younger people really want to party, and our lighting system allows them to transform the room into a hot, sexy space."

The Treasury has also been garnering five-star reviews, she adds. "To be of service to brides and their families is an honor, and we really strive to do that with excellence."

### Rustic elegance: Bowing Oaks Plantation

Nestled beneath towering oaks in Jacksonville's Bayard neighborhood, Bowing Oaks Plantation is a new wedding venue brimming with Old Florida charm. Open since 2014, Bowing Oaks was the brainchild of Jim Efstathion, who first conceived of the idea when his daughter, Jennifer, was participating in the wedding of a friend who couldn't seem to find the right venue.

"(Jennifer's friend) couldn't find a venue that matched her vision for her wedding, so she ended up getting married at our home on the river in Mandarin," Efstathion says. "So when Jennifer got engaged, I

told her, 'I'll build you a place for your wedding.'

And he knew just the spot: a tranquil five-acre parcel of land he already owned on Alphons St., just off of US1.

"The property itself just beckoned for something happy and celebratory," he says.

### Something old, something new

Today, that five acres is home to a rustic, ranch-style wedding facility with a 4,000 square-foot ballroom – complete with a state-of-the-art touchscreen lighting system – that accommodates 270 for a seated wedding. Featuring wide-width Pecky cypress walls and custom-made cypress tables, Bowing Oaks exudes casual country elegance – an ambience that carries over to the luxury bride and groom's suites.

In the bridal party suite, attendants will find a cozy living room area with a dining table and wine refrigerator along with mirrored seating for eight bridesmaids.

"We've had 16 attendants in here," Efstathion notes.

The suite also features a special bride's dressing area featuring a mirrored styling station and 12-foot three-way dressing mirror.

The groom's suite, meanwhile, features an 80-inch television, leather couches, a custom ponderosa-pine pool table and granite-topped bar.

Outside, Bowing Oaks features three separate areas for wedding ceremonies: In addition to the plantation's patio and outdoor pavilion, couples may choose to wed beneath the bows of a giant oak tree. The facility also prides itself on accommodating special requests.

"My daughter – the first bride to get married here – had a '35 Ford pick-up here," Efstathion says. "We've also had a white baby grand piano brought in, and another bride even brought her horse!"

The opportunity to customize their wedding experience has proven so popular, he adds, that Bowing Oaks is already booking weddings for 2018.

"We've been getting a great response from brides," he says. "This is the only venue we know of that specializes only in weddings."



## Friday Musicale

645 Oak Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
(904) 355-7584  
fridaymusicale.com

Historic Riverside's Friday Musicale plays host to two venues, making it a viable option for a wedding and reception. Its Colonial Revival-style auditorium features a grand foyer, full-service kitchen, a retractable projection screen and two concert grand pianos. The auditorium also seats up to 150 guests with a dance floor. The adjacent L'Engle Hall seats up to 90 guests and features a full kitchen and baby grand piano. The two carry charms both historic and traditional.

Friday Musicale is open for viewing from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; appointments are encouraged. For information about renting a venue at Friday Musicale, call Venue Rentals Manager Jeff Tawney.



## Sweet Pete's

400 N Hogan St  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 376 7161  
sweetpetescandy.com

This downtown Jacksonville candy shop may seem an unorthodox choice, but Sweet Pete's offers several banquet and event-style rooms for a romantic day – among them a dance hall adorned with chandeliers and skylights, hardwood floors and high ceilings. The store's dark wood foyer, stained glass windows and whimsical decor create an atmosphere of fantasy ideal for weddings and photos. With furnishings that run the gamut from candy-inspired flora to silver chiavari chairs, Sweet Pete's offers a style for every bride.

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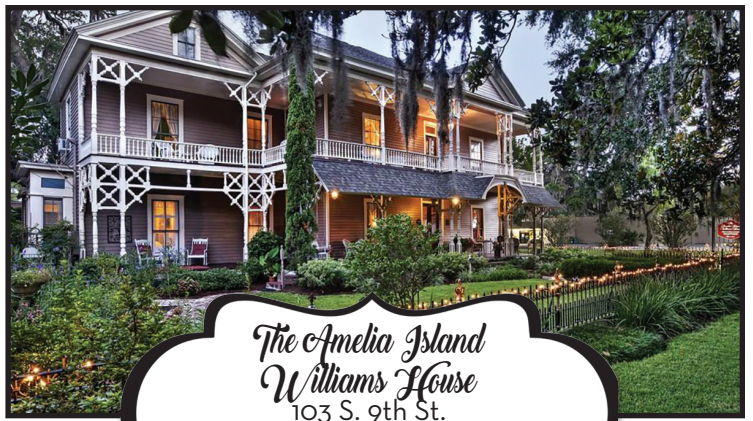


WEDDINGWIRE  
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Awards  
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*The White Room*  
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 (904) 824-9056  
 whiteroomweddings.com

Located in St. Augustine, The White Room is a full-service collection of event and wedding venues boasting bayfront views with three private venues in historic downtown. A diverse selection of rooms - including The Grand Ballroom, The Villa Blanca and The White Room Loft & Rooftop - offer both indoor and outdoor areas overlooking the waterfront, luxe decor, wood floors and grand columns. The venue also offers ceremony and event coordinator packages, bar packages and lunch, brunch and evening receptions.



*The Amelia Island  
 Williams House*  
 103 S. 9th St.  
 Amelia Island, FL 32034  
 (904) 277-2328  
 williamshouse.com

The Amelia Island Williams House is a bed and breakfast in Fernandina Beach combining southern hospitality and seaside flair. The antebellum mansion and secret garden make for intimate, elegant ceremonies, and the inn's wedding packages include overnight stay options for the bridal couple and their guests. The venue also includes several old charms: A parlor built in 1856, a gingerbread veranda, a backyard furnished with fountains and a 500-year-old live oak tree draped with Spanish moss make for scenic weddings.

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*Ortega River Club*  
 4165 Lakeside Drive  
 Jacksonville, FL 32210  
 (904) 389 2284  
 ortegariverclub.net

A wooden dock, clubhouse and gazebo are the standout features of the Ortega River Club, a venue more than 100 years old located on the Ortega River. A palette of pastels, a manicured lawn and riverside views make for an intimate, elegant affair. This venue can hold up to 246 guests.



*Club Continental*  
 2143 Astor Street  
 Orange Park, FL 32073  
 (904) 264-6070  
 clubcontinental.com

Located in Orange Park, Club Continental offers waterfront views, a ballroom and country club in one historic location. Built in 1923 by Palmolive Soap Company heir Caleb Johnson, Club Continental has always been a location known for exclusive events. This riverside Mediterranean-style mansion also boasts the natural decor of live oak trees swathed in Spanish moss and spacious grounds for a ceremony.



*The Keeler Property*  
 17255 Normandy Boulevard  
 Jacksonville, FL 32234  
 (904) 574-4040  
 thekeelerproperty.com

This 40-acre private country estate in Jacksonville is full of pastoral charm, most notably in its 8,000 square-foot red barn that houses up to 300 guests. Adding to the list of waterfront venues, the Keeler Property also houses Jacksonville's only covered bridge, making for ceremonies over the water and in clear view of the venue's greenery.



*King & Bear/  
 Slammer & Squire*  
 2 World Golf Place  
 St. Augustine, FL 32092  
 (904) 940-6088  
 golfwgv.com/weddings

St. Augustine's World Golf Village Resort plays host to two venues on the expansive lawns of its King & Bear and Slammer & Squire golf courses. The Slammer & Squire facility features a view of the green and the Golf Hall of Fame Trophy Tower through full-scale windows, while the King & Bear facility's sweeping main dining room is replete with rich wood. Services includes a dance floor and ceremony set design, and the resort caters both facilities.

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*Sliders Seaside Grill*  
 1998 S Fletcher Avenue  
 Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
 (904) 277-6652  
 slidersseaside.com

This Amelia Island restaurant offers the crash of waves, ocean sunsets and a waterfront dining room and porch overlooking the beach. Its second floor stateroom - newly renovated - can accommodate up to 192 guests, while Sliders' adjoining beach property, The Ocean Club of Amelia, can accommodate up to 90 for sit-down dinners. Both locations offer the added bonus of being a few steps away from the grill's music and bars. Each venue includes a path from the back down through the dunes to the beach for ceremonies.



*A1A Ale Works*  
 1 King Street #101  
 St Augustine, FL 32084  
 (904) 829-2977  
 a1aaleworks.com

St. Augustine's A1A Ale Works is situated in the historic district with sweeping views of tropical gardens and the Matanzas Bay from its Bayview and Sala Menendez rooms. The Sala Menendez, located in the Lightner Museum Building, features mirrored golden walls, high ceilings and alabaster chandeliers for elegant ceremonies, while the Bayview offers stylish drapes, crystal chandeliers and massive windows for a flood of natural light. A stone bridge over a koi pond and fountain round out the "Old World" features at the brewery.



*San Marco Preservation Hall*  
 1652 Atlantic Blvd  
 Jacksonville, FL 32207  
 (904) 396 4734  
 mpsjax.com

The San Marco Preservation Society's Preservation Hall boasts a history of more than 120 years as a historic landmark. With beginnings as an Episcopal church, the hall features dark pine interior flooring, majestic windows and vaulted ceilings for a traditional ceremony. With an open floor area, garden stage area and caterer's kitchen, the Preservation Hall has all the offerings for a time-honored ceremony.



*Llambias House*  
 31 St. Francis St.  
 St. Augustine, FL 32084  
 saintaugustinehistoricalsociety.org  
 /weddings/llambias-house/

As one of a handful of residences built during the first Spanish period still operating in St. Augustine, the Llambias House honors a legacy that predates most local wedding venues. With a garden that can host up to 150 guests for a ceremony, this National Historic Landmark offers an "old world" appeal for a ceremony and reception.

Compiled by Jasmine Marshall

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General Manager Marya Moore and Chef Nick Ocheltree  
photos by JENNIFER LOGUE

# 619 Ocean View's new menu builds a bridge to global cuisine

First Coast foodies seeking a culinary experience that transcends the traditional beef, chicken and seafood staples have a new dining destination to add to their “must-try” list.

As Ponte Vedra’s only oceanfront restaurant that is open to the public, the Sawgrass Marriott’s 619 Ocean View has long been considered a hidden gem. Now, the intimate restaurant’s sweeping ocean views are accompanied by an innovative new menu that incorporates culinary influences from around the world. It’s a menu makeover that Cabana Club General Manager Marya Moore says was inspired by the origins of the name “Ponte Vedra.”

“Chef Nick (Ocheltree) and I were doing research for the new menu and saw that one of the meanings was ‘bridge,’” Moore says. “That’s what we want the new menu to be – a bridge to the world, reflecting a global influence but with locally sourced ingredients.”

Now, traditional favorites such as rotisserie-style chicken and steak share space on the menu alongside dishes from Spain, Argentina, Italy and Peru.

“I was lucky enough to spend some time in Peru and try their local dishes,” Moore says. “Adding them to the menu here is just a completely new concept (for the area), and Chef Nick and his team have done an outstanding job incorporating them into the menu.”

For example, 619 Ocean View’s appetizers – or “small waves” – now feature a crab and purple Peruvian potato *cuasa*. A staple in Peru, the dish features a vibrantly hued Peruvian potato that is riced, topped with jumbo crab meat and seasoned with fresh lime juice and aji Amarillo peppers.

“It’s just a really light, refreshing dish that you won’t see on any other menu around here,” Moore says.

Other new appetizers include sweet and sour house-smoked sausage topped with peach datil pepper jam and accompanied by Argentinian chipas cheese bread; braised chicken and avocado arepas – or South American corn pancakes – topped with a yellow pepper crema sauce;

citrus poached and grilled octopus; and a burrata mozzarella caprese made with house-grown basil, locally sourced true rebel tomatoes and topped with a pesto sorbet that slowly dissolves over the dish.

New entrees include European-style stuffed branzino, seafood paella, a house-smoked rack of ribs, and “drunken mussels” paired with smoked sausage and bathed in a savory tomato fennel beer broth. But while the restaurant has infused the new menu with an international flavor, Moore stresses that wherever possible 619 Ocean View uses local purveyors to offer the freshest ingredients.

“We have our seafood delivered six days a week, with oysters delivered daily,” she says, noting that the Marriott distills its own sea salt fresh from the ocean. “We change our catch of the day based on what’s fresh off the boat.”

The Marriott also has established a relationship with a local hydroponics farm, she adds.

“They’re growing items specifically for the Marriott, including Brussels sprouts, Romanesco, fresh herbs and heirloom vegetables,” she says.

Moore is so insistent upon using only the freshest ingredients, that one of the first changes she made to 619 Ocean View’s kitchen was to remove the large commercial freezer.

“I told the staff, ‘In a week, you won’t even know it’s gone’ – and they didn’t!” she says.

Now, as both chefs and patrons get acquainted with the diverse new flavors and offerings on the menu, Moore and Ocheltree say they’re looking forward to hosting special occasions – including weddings, bridal showers and other events – and to making 619 Ocean View a dining destination that locals frequent on a regular basis, for both the menu and the view.

“Come on a night when the moon is full,” Chef Nick recommends. “To sit outside, enjoy a nice meal and watch the moon rise over the ocean just makes for a great evening.”

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# Florida Theatre

## gears up for 90th anniversary

by CARRIE RESCH

The year was 1927.

Calvin Coolidge was president, the first transatlantic telephone call was made from New York City to London, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo transatlantic flight in his Spirit of St. Louis and the Roaring Twenties were in full swing when the Florida Theatre opened its doors.

Dubbed one of the south's finest playhouses in a Florida Times-Union newspaper article dated April 8, 1927 – the day the theatre opened - the historic theatre will celebrate a milestone 90th anniversary next April.

"It's not every day that you turn 90," Florida Theatre President Numa Saisselin

President Numa Saisselin says. "When this building went up, there were five other theatres in this four-block stretch of Forsyth Street from Newnan to Hogan. The Florida Theatre is the last one standing, and we're lucky to have it."

### Through the years

Throughout the years – especially the early ones – the theatre managed to survive some of the most trying times in history. In 1929, the United States would face the great stock market crash, effectively putting an end to the Roaring Twenties and ushering in the Great Depression. Then came World War II.

The theatre actually closed several times during the Depression. Then, in 1980, the theatre again shut its doors, closing due to waning attendance and disrepair. The building was purchased by the nonprofit Arts Assembly of Jacksonville in 1981 and underwent a restoration and renovation. In 1982, the theatre was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and the following year, the theatre re-opened as a performing arts center.

Keeping the theatre vibrant all these years has involved some hard work and careful planning.

"The theatre has stayed relevant by changing with the times, which is ironic, because as a historic theatre, there is a public perception that we are rooted in one era of history," Saisselin says.

If the theatre didn't adapt to the changing times, he quips, it would still be showing silent movies. "The history of the theatre is the history of change," he says.

The nature of live performance offerings has evolved over the years as well.

"When the theatre re-opened as a performing arts center in 1983, there was a big difference between 'high art' and 'pop culture,'" Saisselin says.



Marquee photo by Christina Epperson; historic photos, Florida Theatre

“Now, there’s less of a difference. Pop and rock musicians routinely play with the Jacksonville Rock Symphony Orchestra at the Florida Theatre, and there’s a lot of cross pollination between art forms.”

A mixture of movies and live performances were among the theatre’s entertainment offerings when it first opened, and countless performances have taken place since then.

Gregg Allman, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Bon Jovi, Fleetwood Mac, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash and Roger Daltrey have all graced the theatre’s stage, but the most lauded performance at the Florida Theatre belongs to Elvis Presley, who in 1956 played a total of six shows over the course of two days.

The theatre recently threw an Elvis 60th Anniversary Bash to commemorate its most notable performer. Elvis impersonators Mike Albert and Scot Bruce, backed by the Big E Band, performed some of Presley’s biggest hits in tribute to “the King.”

### A historic building

Built in the Mediterranean Revival style, the theatre, gilded with ornate details and saturated in crimson, orange and gold hues, has remained mostly unchanged. Likewise, most of the aesthetics of the building have remained intact, with one notable exception: The building originally had a rooftop garden that was eventually enclosed to make room for additional offices to rent out.

Besides the draw of being a historic landmark and attracting history and architecture buffs, the building has also attracted paranormal hunters. It’s long been rumored that the Florida Theatre is haunted.

The ghost hunters on the CW-TV show “Local Haunts” captured video images of what they believe to be an apparition in seat E-2 in the balcony when they did an on-site paranormal investigation.

Saisselin says he personally hasn’t seen any ghosts, but notes that several paranormal professionals have tried to disprove the apparition caught on camera by the “Local Haunts” ghost hunters and have been unable to do so.

### Looking ahead

A lineup of performers leading up to the big anniversary includes Kenny G, George Thorogood and The Destroyers, Johnny Lang, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Additional acts include variety shows like the sketch comedy and improvisation show “Unelectable You;” “An Evening with Neil Degrasse Tyson;” “Masters of Illusion,” a touring show based on the hit television series; and the popular interactive showing of the cult classic “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

Staying true to its film roots, the Florida Theatre annually offers a Summer Movie Classic Series featuring a variety of classic films. Children’s productions are also a popular draw. Upcoming shows include Odd Squad Live and Octonauts Live. Christmas productions are also a theatre staple.

While details of the coming 90th anniversary celebration are still in the planning stages, Saisselin promises, “There will be cake.”

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A Corner in Paradise



Under the Rainbow



One step into the halls of Ponte Vedra Park's Family Care Partners gives way to more unusual trappings of a typical practice. Where there might ordinarily be unoriginal, plainly framed store-bought prints, instead canvas-wrapped photographs line the walls. Dramatic pinks and yellows dance along the horizon of Ponte Vedra Beach in one photo; in another, the twinkling streetlights of St. Augustine line the roads, their bulbs star-like in appearance against the blue of the twilight sky.

They're just two in a series of photographs by doctor and photographer Razvan Balotescu, MD, or "Doctor B" as he's dubbed by patients. The board-certified internist's work adorns the walls throughout the suites and halls of the office, and he encourages those who chance by them to take a deeper look.

"The thing about photography is that you can put a picture in a room and it changes the whole room's energy," says Balotescu. "With a photo, you choose what and when to see something – you're not forced to consider it

because it's passive, but it's powerful. You can observe a photograph and it can change your mood."

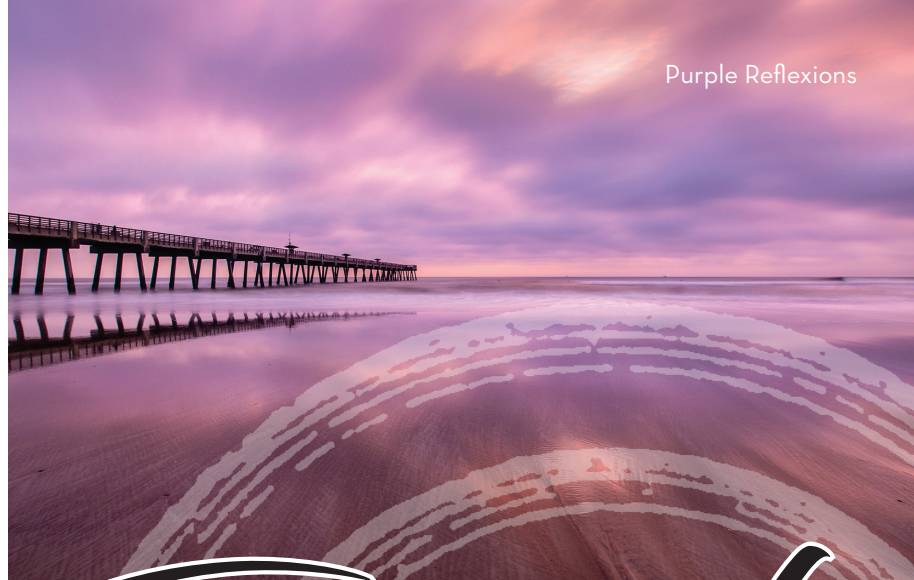
Observing is how Balotescu got his start in the art form, first compelled to pick up a camera after becoming fascinated with nature. Born and raised in Romania where he attended medical school, Balotescu would go on to study as an exchange student at Chicago's Northwestern University. Two years later, in 1996, he returned to the United States to go to Mayo Clinic.

It was during that time that Balotescu began to take in his surroundings, kickstarting a passion for photography. First inspired by photographer Ansel Adams, he taught himself the ropes through books and practice.

"The interest began then, pretty much just from looking at the sky and nature and observing the patterns as they occurred there," he says of his start with the medium. "I just realized ... that you see so many unique things and forget them a week, a month later. So instead I wanted to capture it so I don't forget about it."



Boardwalk to Haven



# Through the lens

## PONTE VEDRA DOCTOR PURSUES PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

by JASMINE MARSHALL

Photos by RAZVAN BALOTESCU, MD

Those patterns include the “evocative” motion and light of nature, the movement reflected in a style Balotescu has mastered with the help of neutral density filters and long exposure times to capture the drag of clouds across sunset skies or the smooth sway of the ocean. The techniques he uses result in snapshots of his favorite subject matter – mainly landscape shots that include the sky and water – that appear to move, pulling the viewer in.

“The reason I try to capture the movement and patterns is because there’s emotion in movement,” Balotescu explains. “It evokes an emotional response. Through that movement, you can feel the power of nature, see its beauty.”

It’s a seemingly far cry from his profession, an interest that pulls him away from the confines of an office and takes him outside to explore natural settings. But Balotescu insists that it’s not at all difficult to strike a balance between his two passions, and even finds similarity between the two.

“As a doctor I focus on lifestyle, so I find that it goes hand in hand – I

believe observing and exploring and taking photos is a form of a treatment and therapy.”

The art form isn’t without its challenges, however; Balotescu says it can be a “hit or miss” discipline, where it isn’t always possible to be in the right place at the right time. Additionally, for his 20 years shooting photos, he’s lacked the exposure he’d like to see his work receive.

But Balotescu’s ultimate hope is to show others something new through his lens.

“As I (shoot) I also realize there are things that I could see that maybe others can’t see the same way,” he says. “So I hope by capturing it, I could perhaps ... make them see what I see; that I can show them my view and emotions through the photograph.”

More of Balotescu’s artwork can be seen on display at Galeria Lyons at 418 King St. in St. Augustine and Archway Gallery at 363 Atlantic Blvd. in Atlantic Beach. His work also can be found and purchased online at [www.razgallery.com](http://www.razgallery.com).

# Thrift Stores

## OFFER FALL FASHION FINDS

by JASMINE MARSHALL

For years, thrift stores were often viewed as “last resort” shopping destinations, plagued by notions of dusty bell bottoms, obsolete gadgets and bargain bin books – a one-stop shop for the items and trends that society had collectively forgotten.

Times have changed, however, as more fashionistas, savvy shoppers and bargain hunters are turning to pre-loved clothing and accessories, wandering into the plethora of thrift stores breathing new life into old things. And on the First Coast, several local shops are making a compelling case for thrifty spending.



### Hope's Closet

14286 Beach Blvd #44  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
Tue-Wed: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thu: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
(904) 685-6828

Eleven22's storefront offers a bounty of gently-used clothing organized in rows that rival a department store experience.

A denim wall, revolving storefront window displays and a home decor department round out the offerings at this San Pablo thrift shop. Late August will mark a year since the store's grand opening, and shoppers will enjoy the more charitable aspect of Hope's Closet's founding: With a mission to “glorify God by providing affordable merchandise,” their thrift store purchases will help fund the programs of the church's Transformation Center and support its ministry partners.



### 7North

318 7th Ave N  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
(904) 853-5270

Joining the list of thrift stores with a mission is the newly opened 7North, operated by Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM). The beachside shop is a new approach to thrifting, featuring a selection of meticulously arranged furniture, neatly organized rows of clothing, a jewelry department, mini-library and even art housed in a minimalist, modernist storefront. 7North's shoppers also spend with a mission; the store's income funds

financial assistance programs run by BEAM, including its rent and utilities assistance programs, food pantries and nutritional program. Patrons contribute through donations and purchases, allowing BEAM to sustain its services.



### Kloset Karma

725 Atlantic Blvd Ste 11  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233  
Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sat: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
(904) 247-7557

“What goes around comes around” in this Atlantic Beach consignment shop, where pieces equal parts trendy, unique and reasonably priced line the walls and racks. The soon-to-be eight-year-old storefront offers a variety of current and reasonably priced clothing and accessories, and the selection covers the spectrum from athletic wear to wedding gowns. Lululemon, Nike and even Zimmermann make up a few of the brands found at Kloset Karma.



### The Snob

1990 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(904) 396-2249

Named for its standard of selecting merchandise, The Snob specializes in women's designer clothing and accessories. Vintage items from labels such as Gucci, Fendi, Chanel and Armani comprise some of the merchandise of this high-end San Marco-based consignment shop, which has been in the neighborhood since 1998.

### Bluetique

1036 Beach Blvd  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(904) 473-2583

Bluetique is an anomaly among its Goodwill siblings, carrying higher-end brands





such as Tory Burch and Michael Kors in its newly relocated Jacksonville Beach storefront. With its grand opening in the spring, Bluetique brought a brimming selection of apparel, handbags and accessories to the Beaches community at an accessible price point and boutique experience – all while supporting the Goodwill mission of providing job creation and employment services. Roughly one-fifth of the merchandise is new, with styled displays and merchandise organized categorically. Bluetique brings nice finds together in one location, eliminating the need for a bargain wild goose chase.



### Sweet Repeats

1560 University Blvd W  
Jacksonville, FL 32217  
Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(904) 730-7782

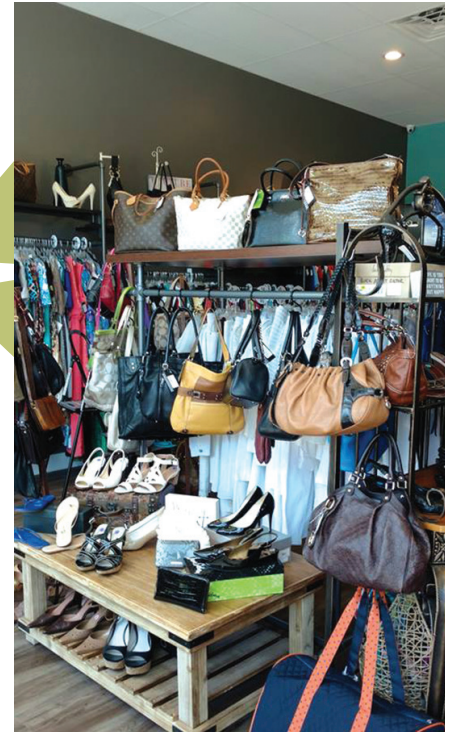
At this San Jose based consignment boutique, an upscale wardrobe doesn't have to break the bank. With a range of clothing and accessories in sizes zero through 16, Sweet Repeats promises something for fashion lovers or all walks. The boutique carries an ever-changing inventory of designer brands and

labels running the gamut from BCBG to Hermes and Kate Spade to Armani, and keeps a pulse on styles both current and classic.

### Embellish Designer Resale Boutique

530 State Road 13 #3  
Fruit Cove, FL 32259  
Mon - Thurs: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Fri - Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sun: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
(904) 217 3960

Fruit Cove's Embellish Designer Resale Boutique meets all the demands of the quintessential upscale clothing store by offering up a bounty of designer goods; replete with items from renowned brands such as Christian Louboutin, Chanel and Jimmy Choo, the new storefront stocks high-end and boutique labels in a large selection of clothing, shoes and accessories both trendy and timeless.



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# Ancient City style:

## ST. AUGUSTINE FASHION WEEK RETURNS SEPT. 14-16

by CARRIE RESCH

Modern fashion returns to the nation's oldest city this fall with the second St. Augustine Fashion Week, following the successful inaugural event held this past spring.

The St. Augustine Fashion Week "MODA Alcazar" will be held Sept. 14-16.

The inaugural STAFW "Runway on the Runway" event was held at the St. Augustine Airport Authority Conference Center March 4-6, 2016. This time around, fashion week will be moving to a new venue: the Lightner Museum, where 25 small-brand designers will share their spring/summer 2017 collections.

Intended to establish St. Augustine as a presence in the fashion industry as well as create a platform for small-brand designers to showcase their latest collections, the fashion week event also aims to raise awareness and funds for local charities and nonprofit organizations.

Event founder Brittany Alphonso is no stranger to fashion design or runway events. The St. Augustine native has more than seven years of fashion design experience under her belt and is a local designer of Banana Bread Baby, a children's clothing line. She also participated in six runway events across the country before launching the premier St. Augustine Fashion Week.

The inaugural fashion week event proved even more successful than Alphonso initially anticipated; the show was a sell-out each night. The event featured nearly two dozen local and national designers as well as 20 student designers from the Fashion Academy at Bartram Trail High School.

This time around, Alphonso is looking forward to holding the event at the Lightner Museum.

"We are so very excited to call the Lightner Museum home for the next three shows," Alphonso says. "Our small-brand designers are the future in the fashion industry; they deserve a quality platform to present their collections."

A total of six designers will be featured each of the three evenings from the areas of womenswear, menswear, swimwear, resort wear, children's wear, jewelry, accessories, handbags and avant-garde. Models will strut down a runway more than 170-feet in length showcasing the spring and summer 2017 fashions from both featured and emerging designers.

Members of the STAFW board selected the designers – each of whom had to be from small-brand labels. The designers will have the opportunity to sell their products during cocktail hour and intermission.

Show Director and STAFW Vice President William Keohane has some exciting plans up his sleeve for the Lightner Museum venue, Alphonso notes.

"He plans on bringing modernity to the oldest city," Alphonso says. "As art director he plans to wow the 'MODA Alcazar' guests with a truly unforgettable fashion experience!"

The event will be hosted by Adrienne Le Brum Houghton, U.S./U.K. fashion broker and regional director of Fashion Group International, who has made guest appearances as a fashion expert on "The Chat," a local afternoon talk show on NBC12 and ABC25.

Proceeds from the inaugural fashion week event benefited Alpha Omega Miracle Home, ASSIST of St. Johns County School District and The Betty Griffin House.

"MODA Alcazar" will benefit the St. Augustine Art Association Tactile Art Show, an exhibit of all touchable art for the blind to be held in October as well as the Lightner Museum.

STAFW kicks off Sept. 12 with a red carpet event and showing of "Dior and I" at the Corazon Cinema. The following day, a preview party will be held for VIP ticket holders, designers and partners.

The show will take place on three consecutive nights - Sept. 14, 15 and 16 - with doors opening at 6 p.m. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Complimentary tapas and cocktails will be served and an after party will take place each night at Corazon Cinema.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, a designer showroom will be open to the public where guests can shop the small brand designers. Location, time and venue for the designer showroom event will be announced at a later date.

For more information, visit [www.stafashionweek.com](http://www.stafashionweek.com). To purchase tickets, visit [www.904tix.com/events/st-augustine-fashion-week](http://www.904tix.com/events/st-augustine-fashion-week).



St. Augustine Fashion Week photos



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# BACK TO SCHOOL INSTYLE FALL FASHION TRENDS

by CARRIE RESCH

It's hard to know what trend will actually catch on for the season, but if it shows up on the runway during the New York and Paris fashion weeks, chances are those styles will have a major impact on styles for the season.

Heels with socks? Single statement earrings? Sounds like the 80s all over again. There were a couple of 90s-inspired nods as well, including chokers and chunky platform heels or combat boots. Plaid is apparently making a comeback, too.

To keep the chill off this fall, hoodies, puffer jackets, elongated overcoats and aviator-style jackets all made appearances on the runway.

Other styles included pantsuits – which may or may not have been inspired by presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton – along with floral prints, velvet, ruffles, metallics, tan, and pink and yellow color combinations.

As for schools with uniforms, one word: socks. Bold colored socks, patterned socks, striped socks, holiday socks – anything that catches your fancy and expresses your individuality. This goes for boys, too.

Other ways to accessorize include decorative bobby pins for your hair, headbands, scarves, statement rings or nail polish – all depending on school dress code rules, of course! Zoya, available in some retail stores and online, offers dozens of shades – so you can get your pop of metallic, sparkle, or matte velvet with polishes. Zoya also just released a neon collection with a rainbow of bold colors.

Want fun nail patterns without all of the headaches? Try Jamberry. The company sells nail wraps that can be adhered to nails via heat. Both solids and patterns, and junior and adult varieties are available. Use them for an accent nail or go for all 10 digits.

Whatever trends you choose to sport this fall, the best advice is to always be yourself and to be comfortable with what you are wearing.

Remember, trends change, but photos are forever!



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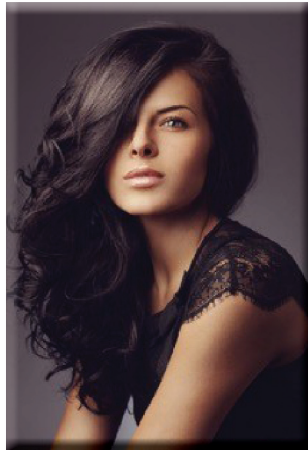
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# Who's Who on the *First Coast*



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.

Areas of criminal law that are handled by Janet Johnson: **Driving While Impaired, DUI Defense • Robbery/Burglary • Armed Robbery • Assault & Battery • Juvenile Cases • Date Rape • Domestic Violence • Sex Offenses • Child Abuse/Exploitation • Health Care Fraud • Drug Trafficking/Possession • Shop-Lifting, Vandalism • Probation Violations • White Collar Crime • Federal Cases.** Please call our office for a free initial consultation.

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**CAROLYN  
S. ZISSER**  
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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 the distinction of having started the very first woman-owned family law firm in North Florida and 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. Carolyn offers her clients an unequalled commitment to obtaining the best results possible and has been certified in Collaborative Law to enable her to offer her clients an alternative to the traditional approach to divorce. The firm works with a network of professionals, including forensic accountants, business valuation experts, occupational evaluation experts, Certified Divorce Planners and other consultants, as needed. Zealous about her family and passionate about her grandchildren, she is equally dedicated to providing the finest representation to every client.

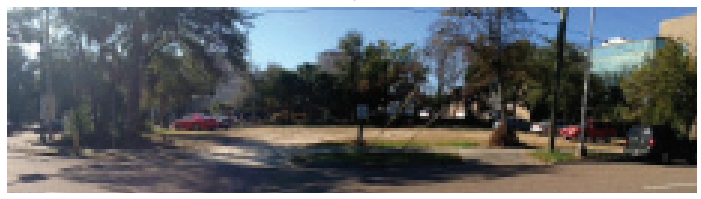
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Vernon's Sawgrass Marriott lists their offerings during 2015's Caring Chefs event



Voradet Thepsouvanh of Lemongrass at the 2015 Caring Chefs event

# 33rd Annual Caring Chefs

## TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

by JASMINE MARSHALL

The Avenues Mall will once again host the Annual Caring Chefs event benefiting the Children's Home Society of Florida (CHSFL) this October.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, guests, chefs and sponsors alike will flood the Jacksonville shopping destination, sampling Northeast Florida cuisine from more than 35 restaurants to support a cause – offering hope to the children of Northeast Florida.

“One of the truly incredible things about Caring Chefs is that 100 percent of ticket purchases go directly to helping children,” says Andrea Dezso, special events coordinator of CHSFL. “So every patron is making a real difference to stop child abuse in Northeast Florida.”

Since 1902, CHSFL has brought essential programming to the child welfare arena, helping children and families obtain the counseling, family services and advocacy to which they might not have otherwise had access. Caring Chefs has played an instrumental part in continually bringing those services to Jacksonville, providing more than \$3 million to kids and families on the First Coast over the course of 32 years. This year's

celebration will mark the 33rd annual event, continuing that tradition.

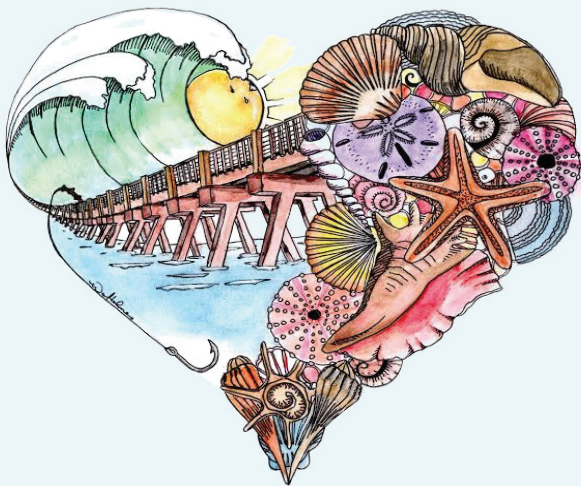
According to Dezso, the support of one person can make a tremendous difference.

“Just one ticket can provide a therapy session for a traumatized child or new shoes and clothes for two children who were once neglected,” she says. “It is really amazing all of the ways our community comes together to help Children's Home Society break the cycle of abuse with Caring Chefs.”

According to CHSFL, Caring Chefs is Jacksonville's biggest food and wine-tasting event, attracting a crowd of more than 2,000 people. Ninety percent of the event's sponsorship proceeds will go directly to its services. Last year's event generated more than \$210,000.

Tickets can be purchased for \$70 at [www.chsfl.org](http://www.chsfl.org), where information about additional donations and how to become a sponsor or Caring Chef can be found.

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# MaliVai Washington

## YOUTH FOUNDATION TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS WITH CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN GALA

MaliVai Washington takes the podium to address the 2015 Champions for Children Gala's attendees

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation (MWYF) will once again host its annual Champions for Children Gala Oct. 13, celebrating its 20th year. The event will recognize the foundation's scholarship winners and raise awareness and needed funds.

Last year's gala raised \$294,000, a feat the foundation thanks its volunteers, sponsors, staff and students for making possible. Executive Director Terri Florio says she hopes to make this year's event the most memorable yet.

"We're just really excited as this is our 20th year," she says. "So we're looking to make it bigger and better than ever."

In addition to honoring scholarship winners, the 2016 event will feature two cocktail receptions, a formal dinner, and silent and live auctions.

Since 1996, MWYF has empowered underserved youth and families in Jacksonville by promoting academic achievement and life skills. Using the game of tennis to engage children and spread its message, the foundation has developed programs such as Tennis-n-Tutoring (TNT), The Learning Center (TLC), Leadership, Camp Dynamite, outreach programs and family services, all of which will benefit from the proceeds of the gala.

For more information about attending the event or sponsorship

opportunities, visit [www.malwashington.com](http://www.malwashington.com), where an early registration form can be found. Early registration is encouraged.

### Remembering the past, looking toward the future

Recently, the foundation announced a new scholarship honoring two charter members of MWYF's Tennis-n-Tutoring program - Keshell and Keyonna Brown - who were murdered in 2013. As no arrests were made, the foundation hopes that the scholarship will continue to bring attention to the case so that justice may be served.

"Their deaths greatly impacted the organization and our staff," Florio says, "and it is our hope that this scholarship will help keep their memories alive."

The Keshell and Keyonna Brown Memorial Scholarship will provide an opportunity for female students of the program in grades 8-11. Its requisites include maintaining a 3.0 GPA and a community service component of mentoring a younger student in the TNT program. A total of \$10,000 was awarded to three students: Brittany Evans, a senior at Darnell; ShaTeria Davis, a sophomore at Paxon; and Mauricia Brown, a freshman at Raines. The three inaugural recipients will each mentor a younger student in the 2016-2017 year. The scholarship is fully funded by the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation.

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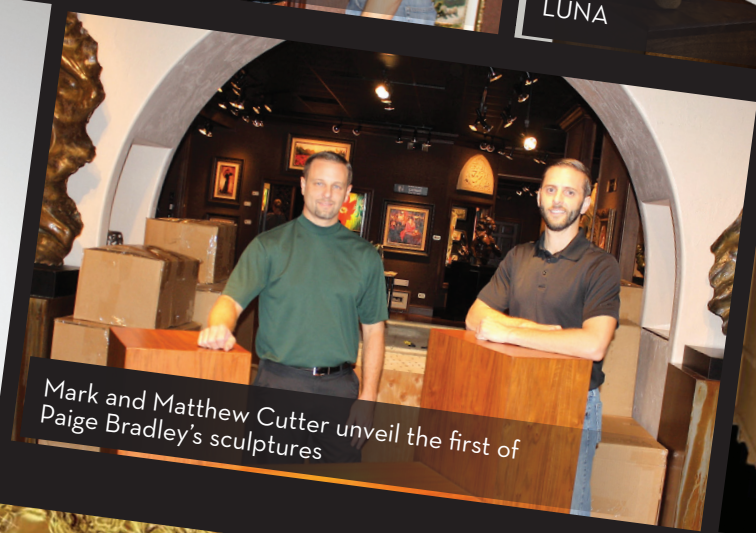
Mark and Matthew Cutter prepare for the uncrating of noted sculptor Paige Bradley's works.



LUNA



SARPA



Mark and Matthew Cutter unveil the first of Paige Bradley's sculptures



# Cutter & Cutter

## UNVEILS NEW SCULPTURES AT 'UNCRATING PARTY'

by JENNIFER LOGUE  
Event photos by Jennifer Logue  
Artwork photography courtesy of Cutter & Cutter



Joanne Head, Kiara Donaire, Jackie Clark and Hayden Clark



Len Cutter displays Paige Bradley's sculpture Sarpa



Freedom Bound



Danielle Maciejewski and Lisa Casey

Cutter & Cutter Fine Art introduced its newest artist July 22 with an "uncrating party" for longtime clients and local art enthusiasts.

Held at Cutter & Cutter's Brilliance in Color gallery in historic St. Augustine, the reception offered attendees the chance to view the works of noted American sculptor Paige Bradley as they were uncrated at the gallery for the first time. Founder Len Cutter credited the idea for the event to his sons, Mark and Matthew Cutter.

"While I was off in Wyoming fly fishing, Mark and Matthew were arranging to bring Paige Bradley to our gallery," he says. "She is a great artist, and I think the creativity of an uncrating party is terrific. It's a wonderful evening."

Guests gathered around as each sculpture was unveiled or uncrated, beginning with "Vertigo" - a series of miniature bronze sculptures suspended from wires, creating an almost acrobatic effect. As each piece was uncrated, Cutter and his gallery team provided descriptions and artistic commentary.

For the sculpture "Freedom Bound," for example, Cutter notes the quality of the sculpture's patina.

"In sculpture patina is the driving force," Cutter says, "and very few can achieve this silver patina."

Samantha Palmer, senior art consultant with Cutter & Cutter, notes that Bradley only works from live models, including members of her own family. For "Freedom Bound" - a sculpture depicting a man and a woman supported and connected by intertwining fabric - that proved challenging.

"At the first, the gentleman (model) had trouble relaxing into the fabric," Palmer says.

Cutter agrees. "He could not believe the dynamic forces could be balanced to support them," he said, before commenting, "This is a serious artist. She is committed to what she's doing."

Cutter's wife, Sonya, then introduces a small sculpture called "Butterfly" that depicts an infant cradled in two outstretched hands.

"I think this is a very powerful piece," she says. "It really symbolizes how we're holding the next generation in our hands - and our one Creator holds it all."

A highly regarded American sculptor, Bradley has said she knew she wanted to be an artist by the age of 9; by age 17, she was casting her work in bronze.

"As much as I try to avoid labeling myself, I am a figurative artist in everything I do," Bradley writes in her artist bio. "The figure to me is the perfect vehicle to communicate the human condition. My definition of success is to be a visionary through truthful and courageous artwork, work that communicates what it feels like to be alive in the world today."

As each Bradley sculpture was uncrated, guests moved among the pieces, offering their own interpretations of the artist's work. And that, Cutter & Cutter's Mary-Kate McClure says, is exactly what the artist intended.

"Paige referenced the 'circle of arts' and said she only completes half the circle," McClure says. "The other half must be completed by the collector, who will bring their own experiences and perceptions to the piece."

# Delicious Destinations

## TO CELEBRATE ST. VINCENT'S CENTENNIAL

Delicious Destinations will return to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Sept. 8-10 for its annual event benefiting St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs.

Now in its 15th year, the three-day food and wine event will bring nationally acclaimed chefs, sponsors and guests together for a luncheon, reception and gala that support such vital health services as immunizations, screenings, testing and other forms of health care for the poor and uninsured in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. This year's event will also help mark the centennial of St. Vincent's.

The festivities will kick off Sept. 8 with a "Celebrity Chef by the Sea" luncheon, during which guests will be treated to a demonstration-style meal by Chef David Guas, host and judge of the television show *American Grilled*. On Friday, Sept. 9, a private preview reception will be held for major donors, where top sponsors will be able to meet participating chefs. Guests at this event will also be treated to dishes prepared by Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Executive Chef Hermann Muller.

The Delicious Destinations Food & Wine Gala will then take place on Saturday, Sept. 10, with executive chefs from resorts such as The Greenbrier, The Cloister at Sea Island, The Breakers, Mar-a-Lago and Pacci at the Brice Hotel preparing signature dishes to be paired with fine wines provided by Southern Wine and Spirits of North Florida. The event will also feature live and silent auctions, and drawings of items such as spa and restaurant gift certificates, catered dinners and weekend getaways.

Delicious Destinations is organized by The St. Vincent's Foundation, a faith-based charity that provides for the needs of sick and poor patients. All of the proceeds from the event benefit St. Vincent's outreach programs, offering access to medical care for those in need throughout the area. In 2015, the event earned more than \$300,000.

"Many of the people who benefit from our community outreach programs are the working poor or migrant farm workers who rely on us for care," says St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation President, Jane R. Lanier. "We are grateful to have such wonderful chefs joining us again this year and supporting this worthy cause through their talents."

Individual reservations for Saturday's gala can be made online for \$250. To purchase a reservation or to learn more about Delicious Destinations' sponsorship and donation opportunities, visit [www.deliciousdestinationsjax.com](http://www.deliciousdestinationsjax.com).



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## SUSAN G. KOMEN NORTH FLORIDA TO HOLD

# Great Gatsby Casino Night



Susan G. Komen North Florida will present its inaugural Great Gatsby Casino Night this month in support of breast cancer research and education.

To be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Spa from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 27, the event will feature classic casino games in addition to silent and live auctions. Executive Director Delores Wise says she hopes to see the festivities encourage breast health awareness.

“Early detection should be a priority in order to save more lives,” Wise says. “What a fun and lighthearted way to give back to local women – and men – in need.”

Online registration is now open for the event at [www.komennorthflorida.org](http://www.komennorthflorida.org). Tickets are \$150 per person or \$275 per couple; proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen North Florida.

### Upcoming events

The casino night is one of three upcoming Susan G. Komen events in North Florida. On Aug. 15, the Jacksonville Suns will team up with Komen North Florida to “knock breast cancer out of the park” with Pink

Up the Park: Komen Night at the Suns, as the team goes head to head with the Mississippi Braves. Proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit the organization, and tickets (\$9) can be purchased online at Komen North Florida’s website.

On Oct. 15, meanwhile, the 22nd annual North Florida Race for the Cure will be held in a new location. St. Johns Town Center will host the organization’s biggest event of the year. With registered capacity for the race topping at 6,000 runners, participants are encouraged to register early. This year, Susan G. Komen North Florida has set a fundraising goal of \$480,000 with just over 10 percent of that goal currently achieved. The race site will open at 6 a.m. Oct. 15. Racers may register online.

The North Florida Affiliate of Susan G. Komen was founded in 1995, and has awarded more than \$1.9 million to area hospitals and clinics to provide necessary services – such as mammograms, biopsies, education, testing and transportation assistance – to North Florida residents. Through events such as Race for the Cure, Susan G. Komen’s North Florida affiliate has invested more than \$2 million in local breast health programs.



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For more information on sponsorships & tickets, contact Jessica Waugaman at  
904-308-8896 or [Jessica.Waugaman@jaxhealth.com](mailto:Jessica.Waugaman@jaxhealth.com)  [www.DeliciousDestinationsJax.com](http://www.DeliciousDestinationsJax.com)

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