

Ponte Vedra Recorder



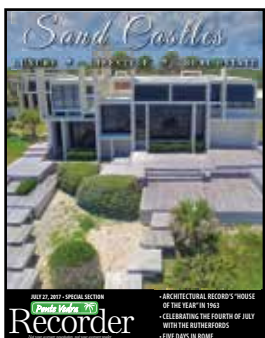
July 27, 2017
Volume 47, No. 30
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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Local historian speaks on 1942 Nazi attack off Jacksonville Beach
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Sand Castles
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Orangetheory Fitness coming to Nocatee/Jacksonville Beach
Page 44



Representatives from St. Johns County School District, Charles Perry Partners, Inc. and Harvard Jolly Architecture celebrate continued construction progress of the district's new K-8 school in Nocatee at a "topping out" ceremony last week. Read more on page 13.

Photo by Jon Blauvelt

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One of Us

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer with your first and last name to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m. All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Four readers correctly identified last week's photo as The Reef. The winner of the random drawing was Lynn Weese.

Congratulations, Lynn – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Cash, and I am a 4-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home.



I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #38363



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Badger, and I am a 4-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home.

I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #38726

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Rd., off US 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	G	I	S	M	G	O	A	T	A	L	C		
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3	2	7	8	9	5	1	4	6
7	9	5	1	3	6	2	8	4
8	3	2	4	7	9	6	1	5
4	6	1	5	2	8	3	7	9

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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St. Johns CARES Kids to meet Aug. 14

Organization seeking volunteers for upcoming events

St. Johns CARES Kids is inviting interested community members to attend its next meeting Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. to learn more about the organization's mission of encouraging youth to volunteer. The meeting will also provide attendees with the opportunity to sign up for upcoming volunteer opportunities, such as the upcoming 9/11 Never Forget First Responders event.

Additionally, meeting organizers will allocate time to review the St. Johns CARES master calendar and brainstorm ways to improve future volunteer events by including more members of the community. The meeting will take place at the Psych Ed Connections building at 260 Town Plaza Ave. Suite 230 in Nocatee.

St. Johns CARES is a nonprofit organization that provides aid for local charities in St. Johns County through donations and time. The organization divides charity efforts into four categories: animals and environment, senior and medical, children and homeless

and abused. Due to a partnership with Helping Hands of Nocatee, St. Johns CARES Kids has formed to allow more opportunities for families and children to serve the community.

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'The sales tax is dead'

Commissioner Jay Morris at Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition meeting says pursuit of county sales tax increase is over

By Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County Commissioner Jay Morris told attendees of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition meeting on Monday that efforts to institute a one-cent increase to the county's sales tax were put to an end at the July 18 BCC meeting.

Morris, who represents District 4, has been advocating for the increase to mitigate what he says is a looming financial crisis that could hit the county by 2019. At last week's BCC meeting, Morris made a motion to place the item on the agenda for the Aug. 1 meeting, which ultimately would have led to a commission vote on adding a referendum to a special ballot in November to allow residents to vote on the issue.

Commissioner Henry Dean seconded Morris' motion, but Commissioners Jeb Smith, Jimmy Johns and Paul Waldron were against it. The deadline to place a referendum on the ballot is Aug. 1; there-

fore, any hopes of allowing the public to vote on the sales tax increase this year and collect from the tax in 2018 are finished, said Morris.

"The sales tax is dead," said Morris. "This year, it's over, and it's a shame because I think it would have passed."

According to the commissioner, such a tax hike would bring in approximately \$32-33 million annually for the county. Morris has consistently said this extra source of revenue is necessary for the county because it doesn't have any other funding sources moving forward.

Morris again expressed his concerns about the state legislature's efforts to put a measure on the ballot in November 2018 that would increase the homestead exemption to \$75,000 — a move that, if passed, would reduce St. Johns County revenues by an estimated \$9-10 million. Add in the combination of the county's consistent growth, a shrinking budget over the past 10 years and Hurricane Matthew restora-

tion costs, and Morris believes the county is headed for financial trouble. If the county doesn't ultimately decide to raise the sales tax, the commissioner said he foresees it only having one other alternative: raise property taxes.

New water reclamation facility

Also at the Beaches Coalition meeting, St. Johns County Utility Department representatives said that construction of a new and advanced water reclamation facility will begin in early 2018 at the county's existing PLAYERS Club site, which is adjacent to the Woodlands Creek neighborhood and the large TPC parking lot.

Director of Utilities Bill Young explained that the new facility will consolidate three of Ponte Vedra's aged wastewater treatment plants into one state-of-the-art facility made of concrete that will last for 30 to 50 years. He said that the new facility will cover residents living

in the southern end of the Ponte Vedra service area. Marsh Landing, he added, will continue to utilize its own wastewater treatment facility.

The three facilities to be phased out include the current treatment plant at the PLAYERS Club site, the Sawgrass wastewater treatment plant and the Innlet Beach wastewater treatment plant. Young said the new facility will enhance the quality of reclaimed water delivered to the community and improve the environment.

The project is expected to cost about \$30 million. Young said the county is hoping to receive funding for the project via the State Revolving Fund program. He added that the county will also utilize a \$2 million grant from the St. Johns River Water Management District's Cost Share-Funding program to support the project.

The project is expected to be complete in mid-2020.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Commissioner Morris provided a very straightforward overview of the fiscal problems facing St. Johns County in the July 13, 2017 issue of the Recorder. Unfortunately, he didn't include all options available to resolve those problems.

The decline in fiscal strength Commissioner Morris described closely parallels the growing traffic nightmare facing the Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley sector of St. Johns County and is the result of the same events, principally the 39 percent increase in residential population over the past ten years, although one suspects the increase in the northeast quadrant of the county was even greater.

But rather than offer alternatives to stop the excessive growth problem, Commissioner Morris believes we

should simply increase taxes—preferably sales taxes—and the sooner the better. I would argue that the BCC should start by taking control of the rate of residential growth: a temporary moratorium on new residential building permits should be imposed immediately.

That moratorium would not solve the existing fiscal and traffic problems, but it would certainly stop them from becoming more dire. And it would provide some time for the BCC to do a real job of growth management, including increasing and broadening impact fees, controlling the rate at which new residential housing is built, reviewing the property tax rate and making appropriate adjustments and even evaluating whether an increase in the sale tax rate is even necessary.

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Local historian delivers presentation at Vicars Landing on 1942 Nazi attack off Jacksonville Beach

By Benjamin Naim

Local historian Scott Grant delivered a presentation July 18 to Vicar’s Landing residents about a German U-boat commander who destroyed 24 merchant ships, including the SS Gulf America oil tanker, less than 10 miles off the coast of Jacksonville Beach in a six-month period described by Grant as one of the “worst disasters in American naval history,” taking more lives than 9/11 or Pearl Harbor.

Grant started with a synopsis of Operation Drumbeat, a World War II exercise in which the Nazis used German U-boats to sink American ships from a stealth position. He said Captain Reinhard Hardegen, a 28-year-old submarine commander who sunk an oil tanker in front of Jacksonville Beach residents, arrived with other members of his fleet April 10, 1942.

“The Germans had sent submarines to our coast to sink merchant ships,” said Grant. “So, they were hunting for merchant ships to put on the bottom.”

The historian suggested that Captain Hardegen was “anxious to sink an American ship,” so the Nazis advanced underwater toward St. Augustine around the middle of the afternoon April 10.

He said Hardegen’s submarine, designated the U-123, surfaced at 6 p.m. that evening one mile away from St. Augustine Beach.

“Some of the crew members, they’re so close to the beach that they joke about being able to see pretty girls,” Grant remarked.

He continued, saying that Hardegen maneuvered his submarine up and down the coast, hunting for a target that would damage American commerce during the war. Grant noted that the Germans sunk two tankers off the coast of Brunswick, Georgia, three nights earlier - the SS Oklahoma and the SSSO Baton Rouge.

“Sometime around dusk, the crew spots the shadow of what they first think is two ships,” said Grant. “Then they determine it is one large ship heading north along the coast.”

That ship was the SS Gulf America, he noted.

“She was the first oil tanker to be armed with a deck gun; she was zigzagging off the coast at around 12.5 knots,” said Grant.

Hardegen followed the SS Gulf America until it sat idle off the coast of Jacksonville Beach. After deliberating on a plan of attack, Grant said, the German U-boat commander launched his second-to-last torpedo at the oil tanker at a 45-degree angle.

“The crew set their stopwatches; they know how long it should take for this torpedo to hit,” he explained. “The time elapses, and Hardegen begins to curse at himself, thinking he missed. He believes he wasted his second-to-last torpedo.”

Meanwhile, children rode the Ferris wheels, adults gambled at the casinos and

tourists enjoyed a night out at the beach before Hardegen’s torpedoes impacted the Gulf America, Grant said. He described the ensuing explosion as “giant.”

“The explosion can be heard as far away as St. Augustine,” he asserted. “The flames can be seen from Cape Canaveral and Brunswick, Georgia. On the beach, thousands of people run around screaming in horror. At first, they’re not sure what happened. Some people think it might have been a collision at sea.”

Grant explained that Hardegen positioned his submarine in between the shore and the burning Gulf America before firing his deck gun into the hull of the burning oil tanker.

“At the same time, his machine gun crew begins to shoot down the antennas so the Gulf America cannot send a distress signal,” said Grant.

The torpedo attack killed 19 of the 54 Americans on board, he noted.

Grant revealed that Hardegen boasted in his log book about putting on “quite a display for the tourists” at the expense of President Franklin Roosevelt.

He said that the German U-boat commander sank six vessels in seven days while in Florida. In total, Grant noted, he destroyed 24 merchant ships, and Operation Drumbeat killed 3,100 merchant mariners in the first six months of the war.

“That is more than died on 9/11 or at Pearl Harbor,” Grant said. “It’s one of the worst disasters in American Naval history.”

Today, Grant explained that the Gulf America is a dive destination on the bottom of the ocean just three to four miles off the coast of Jacksonville Beach.

Shortly after Operation Drumbeat, Grant said Captain Hardegen and his U-123 went back to Germany where Adolph Hitler bragged about his submarines sinking merchant ships “within sight of American cities.”

Hardegen, who is still alive at 104 years old, authored a book about his experience in the German military. According to Grant, his memoir is illegal for purchase in Germany.

Gloria Watson, a Vicar’s Landing resident who attended the event, said she enjoyed

Grant’s presentation because she lived through the World War II era, and she heard the war stories being passed along by locals.

“As a child growing up, you heard that

they came...It was well known,” she said. “This was interesting because, we are here, they were here and it’s something that happened.”



Scott Grant speaks to his audience.

Photos by Benjamin Naim



Scott Grant stands with an attendee.



The entrance of Vicar’s Landing

Cyndi King is the newly appointed president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset. She's also a realtor, Vilano Beach resident, Michigan State alumna and recent winner of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Cyndi King

By Jon Blauvelt

What are some of your goals and upcoming projects for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset as its new president?

We will continue to support Rotary International (RI) in its fight against polio worldwide with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Their foundation has matched every \$1 raised by RI, two to one. There are only eight reported cases this year – five in Afghanistan and three in Pakistan. It is very difficult to get the vaccines to those war-torn countries! Also, we will sponsor students in Rotary Youth Exchange on the inbound and outbound sides. We'll send two students overseas and will be welcoming two who will attend Nease High School in the fall. In addition, we will give "Service Above Self" scholarships in the spring to deserving students at Ponte Vedra and Nease high schools. I should also mention that I plan to partner with my old club, Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley in Stow, Massachusetts, on a global water project complete with matching grants at the district and international levels to provide clean water where it's unavailable without help. In general, we'll work to grow membership; we are always seeking quality community leaders to join our ranks.

What distinguishes your club from others?

We are a small Rotary club of 26 members, which gives us the opportunity to get to know each and every member in a very personal way. We earned a presidential citation as a Premier Club at our recent international convention; only 14 of 62 in our district were awarded. We meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday evenings for a wonderful dinner provided by Mulligan's Pub at the Hilton Garden Inn. We are a hands-on club when it comes to supporting the community. We actively collect supplies, perform services and are present with outreach partners.

Are there any upcoming club events that you think the community should know about?

We will be co-hosting the Beaches Health Jam on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Carver Recreational Center in Jacksonville Beach. We are going as a group to watch the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game Tuesday, Aug. 8 and to see "Dixie Swim Club" at Alhambra Theatre & Dining Tuesday, Sept 5. Also, we will be building a home for Beaches Habitat for Humanity Oct. 28th. Our major fundraiser, "Comedy for a Cause- more than just laughs" will be held at University of North Florida Saturday, April 21, 2018. In general, we clean the Palm Valley Bridge four times a year.

What's your background?

I am a realtor with Ponte Vedra Club Realty, and I live in Vilano Beach. I worship with Christ Church at Serenata Beach Club on Sundays and am part of the team that cooks on "Chef's Night Off," the first Friday of every month at St. Francis House in St. Augustine on Washington Street. I am a graduate of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, and I am a fan of Big Ten sports. I've been married six years to Chris Tchorznicki of Sevens & Elans (a race shop) in St. Augustine. We relocated from Boston in 2015 but have been in love with Northeast Florida for 41 years, vacationing here as often as possible. We are grateful to finally call it home!



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

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

The people are incredibly friendly, the weather is beautiful, the ocean is at our feet AND the lifestyle is laid-back.

What do you do in your free time?

I spend time walking my dogs, Gizmo -- a mini schnauzer we just rescued from the St. Johns County Pet

Center-- and Mezey -- a chocolate lab we rescued in Boston on the beach. I also enjoy showing my Porsche Boxster GTS with the Florida Crown Region Porsche Club. I won the Porsche Future Classic Award at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show in 2016!

For more information about Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset and how to become a member, contact Cyndi King at (904) 687-8000 or cyndiking@gmail.com

THE PLAYERS builds house for Beaches Habitat for Humanity



Photo courtesy of THE PLAYERS Championship

Last week, staff members of THE PLAYERS Championship traded in their clubs for tools to help build a Beaches Habitat for Humanity house.

The work on the home, which is located in the OceanGate neighborhood off Mayport Road, is part of a larger relationship that the PGA TOUR has with the organization. The house will go to a pre-qualified family in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity's ef-

fort to eliminate substandard housing in the Jacksonville beaches area.

"Our team is excited to be out here working hard to play a part in bettering our community," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "Each year the tournament generates millions of dollars for our community, but it is important for our staff to physically get out into the community to lend a hand to those in need."

During the build, THE PLAYERS staff completed the subfloor and began building the walls on the house's second level.

"Beaches Habitat for Humanity is beyond grateful for the PGA TOUR, specifically THE PLAYERS, for their support of our organization," said Sarah Jared, community relations manager for Beaches Habitat. "The mission of Beaches Habitat is to eliminate substandard housing at the beaches, and

accomplishing that mission would not be possible without the help of organizations in our community like the PGA TOUR."

For more information on Beaches Habitat and how you can be involved, visit beacheshabitat.org.

THE PLAYERS returns to TPC Sawgrass May 8-13, 2018. More information about THE PLAYERS is available at THEPLAYERS.com.

Ponte Vedra Recorder

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Momentum Wellness supports local shelter with 'Betty Benefit'

By Samantha Logue

Momentum Wellness, a Ponte Vedra health and fitness studio, held a benefit Saturday, July 22 to support local non-profit Betty Griffin House.

Attendees of the "Betty Benefit" were treated to a group workout, healthy food samples and nutritional information from Dietitians of Palm Valley and a post-workout meal provided by Big Island Bowls food truck. In the weeks leading up to the event, the fitness studio collected an assortment of goods and supplies for Betty Griffin House.

"The purpose of the event is to host a day of training to bring awareness to the Betty Griffin House of St. John's County—a local safe shelter for women and children escaping abusive relationships," said Shelby Panter, a student intern and health specialist at Momentum Wellness.

Panter, who is a rising senior studying exercise science at the University of North Florida, said that the idea for the event originated with one of her degree requirements.

"The requirement we had to do is have some sort of project we do," she said. "A lot of people would take on a client and train them from beginning to end, but we kind of wanted to go a different route."

Momentum Wellness owner Marie Mer-

ritt thought holding a benefit would be a great alternative.

"I thought it was the perfect senior project for her to graduate college, versus just training a couple of people and writing a paper on it," said Merritt, whose business is located at 5150 Palm Valley Road. "She actually gets to make an impact on the community."

Merritt added that she has been wanting to hold a charity event since she opened her business and was glad to finally have the opportunity to do so.

"My goal is to hold one to two events a year to raise money for local charities, and being able to give back to the community is something that's so important," she said. "This organization is so important to me because of having people in my life who have been through domestic violence situations, so they were my first choice."

Based in St. Augustine, Betty Griffin House serves all of St. Johns County and offers various services to help domestic and/or sexual abuse survivors, including a confidential shelter, counseling, support groups, a 24-hour helpline, legal assistance and educational programs.

"I wanted to be able to do something that lines up completely with my philosophy and what we do," Merritt added. "Our way of giving back is to be able to introduce people to some sort of fitness,



Photo by Samantha Logue

Momentum Wellness' team of trainers gathers at the benefit.

so this is our tool. We're being able to use it; people are coming in and making

donations, and hopefully we will be able to make a very big impact."

Teens journey through Ponte Vedra Beach on 500-mile bike ride to celebrate overcoming troubled pasts

With each rotation of their bike pedals, five teenagers from across the southern United States last week trekked through Ponte Vedra Beach as part of the 12th annual Paul Anderson Bike Ride, traveling further away from their troubled pasts and pushing toward a life based on family and faith.

The bike ride is a week-long, 500-mile expedition through Georgia and Florida that honors the legacy of Olympic legend and "World's Strongest Man" Paul Anderson. In 1961, Anderson founded the Paul Anderson Youth Home to give young men an opportunity to avoid prison and find their God-given purpose in life. With each of the bikers being current residents, alumni or supporters of the youth home, the ride is ultimately symbolic of the growth and perseverance that residents of the facility experience.

"It is so impressive to see these young men grow through hard work and determination to accomplish this feat together as a family," said Shane Smith, director of advancement at the Paul Anderson Youth Home. "We are seeing how they are fostering their relationships with Christ, and completing a ride this tough

gives them another triumph for their testimonies."

In preparation for the bike ride, which included a stop in Ponte Vedra Beach July 20, one of the participants named Austin had a barrier to overcome. Prior to training for this journey, he had never ridden a bike

"I only fell one time," said Austin. "But I got back up and kept on riding. That is kind of what all of us are doing. We just keep going forward no matter what happened before."

(Note: The Paul Anderson Youth Home withholds releasing the riders' last names due to privacy laws regarding teenagers.)

"My life was not where I wanted it to be," continued Austin. "I started trying drugs when I was 13. The Paul Anderson Youth Home family has helped me turn my life around."

Each of the participants rode for sponsors who are helping raise money to operate the youth home year-round. The bike ride is one of three fundraisers organized to support the nonprofit Christian organization.

Ride organizers documented the jour-



Photo courtesy of Paul Anderson Youth Home

Teenagers completing the Paul Anderson Bike Ride travel through Ponte Vedra Beach as part of their 500-mile journey.

ney with blogs and videos daily at payh-bikeride.com. Along the way, the riders are hoping their stories can help inspire others that saw them on the roadways and in cities throughout the journey.

"We all have things in our past, but

we have overcome them," said Hunter A. "Throughout the ride, I noticed on the bike that I was much more focused on the road in front of me instead of the one behind me. That is what we have to do in life: look ahead."

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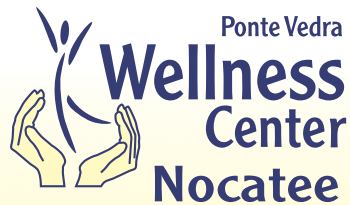
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Thursday, July 27	Friday, July 28	Saturday, July 29	Sunday, July 30
<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class July 27 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Concerts in the Plaza St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the oldest city's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series will provide free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. July 27, the Dunehoppers will play folk, bluegrass and blues. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.</p> <p>Pre-K Storytime Class The Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library System presents a kids summer reading event for Pre-K children ages 3 and older. Caregivers/parents are invited to join for lengthier themed stories, singing, Shaky Egg dancing, fingerplays and circle time interaction. Children will also participate in a craft focused on teaching scissor, glue and coloring skills. The event starts at 10:15 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach library on 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Art Entrepreneurship Panel Discussion Community First Credit Union and #StartupJax have partnered with Space 42 to present a panel discussion on July 27 featuring local art entrepreneurs and special guests. The panel will share their insights on the challenges faced by artists seeking to profit from their creativity. Networking will start at 6 p.m., followed by the panel discussion from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. A full cash bar will be offered, along with free Mojitos BBQ. Space 42 is located at 2670 Phyllis Street in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach will host live music starting at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the entertainment, guests can enjoy bar bites starting at \$7 and 2-for-1 well drinks, domestic drafts and house wine by the glass.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Curatorial's Choice Exhibition at the Cultural Center The Curatorial Committee at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has selected the works of Ronnie Burak, Helen Moody and Francesca Tabor-Miolla to be featured July 14 through Aug. 18. The exhibition will be comprised of photographs, paintings and mixed-media art. Admission is free. Located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach, the Cultural Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers will demonstrate the weapons and tell the stories of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located on 1 South Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>MOSH Boat Tours St. Johns River Taxi and MOSH host a St. Johns River boat tour every Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The tour features a history host who explains the historical significance of the river and various landmarks in Jacksonville. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Nocatee Welcome Center Tour The NocaTour is a personal golf cart tour of Nocatee's Greenway Trailway System, Nocatee Community Park, Coastal Oaks and Del Webb. Visitors will also take a walking tour of Splash Water Park. The event is weather permitting. Email WelcomeCenter@Nocatee.com to re-register if the tour is canceled due to weather. The Nocatee Welcome Center is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Ripley's Superhero Summer Ripley's Believe It or Not! will host Marvel characters throughout the summer. On July 29, Ripley's Superhero Summer! presents an appearance from Hulk. General admission is \$15.99 for adults and \$6.99 for youth ages 5 - 11. Ripley's Believe It or Not! is located at 19 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine. Visit www.ripleys.com/staugustine for more information.</p> <p>Old City Farmers Market The Old City Farmers Market features fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. Fresh seafood in season will be available for purchase as well. The farmers market takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on 1340 A1A South. Admission is free.</p> <p>Free Clothing and Household Items Giveaway Tabernacle Baptist Institutional Church will be giving away clothing and household items to the community for free on July 29 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Anyone can attend. Email rmckin1024@gmail.com for more information. Tabernacle Baptist Church is located at 903 East Union St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Event Join Katz 4 Keeps July 29-30 for an adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email info@katz4keeps.org.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra areas. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</p> <p>Annie at Alhambra The classic Broadway musical "Annie" continues its run at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining on Sunday, July 30. The Alhambra's summer family show, "Annie," tells the story of a Depression-era orphan who is chosen to live with a millionaire for a short time. A three-course dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., and the curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. The show will run through August 13. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville Beach. For tickets and additional information, visit alhambrajax.com or call (904) 641-1212.</p> <p>African Village Bazaar The Ritz Theatre and Museum presents the African Theater Bazaar on the last Sunday of every month. The event features a marketplace showcasing Jacksonville's small business and craft vendors. All interested vendors, sponsors and volunteers should contact africanvillage-inc@gmail.com. The bazaar starts at 12 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m., it will take place at the Ritz Theatre and Museum located at 829 N Davis St. in Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, July 31	Tuesday, Aug. 1	Wednesday, Aug. 2	Thursday, Aug 3.
<p>MOSH Daily Programs Join Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History for its Daily Animal shows. On Monday at 2 p.m., explore "Skin and Scales" in the Florida Naturalist's Center, during which guests learn about the cold-blooded world of reptiles and amphibians. Prior to the program at 1 p.m., museum-goers can witness the exploration of space in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium during "Astronaut," an interactive venture led by a test astronaut named Chad. For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>'Friends for the Arts' Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote the Cultural Center and the arts in our community. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p> <p>Xtreme Kidz Sportz Camp Crosswater Church will host its 4th annual Sportz Camp for 5-year-olds through rising 5th graders from July 31 to Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The camp will give children a sample of various sports including football, soccer, basketball, baseball/softball, lacrosse, kickball, volleyball and more. A daily snack will be provided along with a relevant Bible lesson. The event will take place at 211 Davis Park Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Contact toddk@crosswaterchurch.net for more information.</p> <p>Free Tai Chi for Arthritis Free Tai Chi for Arthritis is a one-hour class in which participants with Arthritis can learn balance skills, good body alignment and coordinated fluid movements to increase flexibility and strength, reduce falls and improve fitness. Admission is free. Contact Sherri Cheshire to register or call (904) 482-0189 Ext. 111. Class starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Villa Senior Center on 7866 New Kings Road in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Free Admission at Cummer Museum Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens, for their "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Cyndi King at (904) 687-8000 or email cyndiking@gmail.com.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Marineland Photography Workshop The Marineland photography workshop, presented in partnership with Ocean Art Gallery, will allow guests to explore and photograph Marineland and its nearby beaches. The three-hour workshops are designed to advance both beginning and experienced photographers. Participants will learn how to sharpen their photographic skills, take professional quality photographs and use available editing programs. Guests using camera phones are welcome. The workshop fee is \$99. Marineland is located at 9600 Oceanshore Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free Sing and Play Discovery Day Class Experience singing, creative movement, simple instruments, finger plays and more at the Sing and Play Discovery Day Class for children ages 18 months to 4 years old. Class starts at 9:30 a.m. for children ages 2 - 4, 10:30 a.m. for children ages 18 months to 2 years and 11:30 a.m. for children ages 2 - 4. The event will take place at 225 E. Duval St. in Jacksonville. Register online at www.jaxchildrenschorus.org/classes/sing-play-discovery-day-class/.</p>	<p>Wednesday Market Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach.</p> <p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Players Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea Concert Series The "Music by the Sea" concert series returns to the St. Johns County Pier for its 15th year, bringing free weekly concerts in a variety of genres from 7 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday. Visitors are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Dinner is offered for \$10 or less beginning at 6 p.m. The Aug. 2 concert will feature 70s/80s group Soulfire. The St. Johns County Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. For more information, visit www.sabca.org.</p> <p>Summer Movie Series Ripley's Believe it or Not! and the Colonial Quarter will host a free showing of the film "The Lego Batman Movie" at the Colonial Oak Music Park starting at 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 2. Ripley's Red Trains will provide free transportation from the St. Augustine parking garage and Ripley's stops to the St. George Street stop. The shuttles will run every 15 minutes from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will resume after the movie ends. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own seating. The Colonial Oak Music Park is located at 27 St. George St., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 824-1606.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Concerts in the Plaza St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the oldest city's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series will provide free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. Aug. 3, the Session will play jazz music. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.</p> <p>Jacksonville Career Fair The Jacksonville Career Fair will offer employment opportunities for those seeking a career in the Jacksonville area. Attendees can meet potential employers and schedule interviews for several positions during the fair. Participants should dress in professional clothes and bring resumes. Registration is required. Anyone seeking to attend can register at www.nationalcareerairs.com. The event will take place at the Jacksonville Marriot located at 4670 Salisbury Road.</p> <p>S.T.A.N.D. Against Bullying Magic Show Mark Alan will present a magic show for kids to S.T.A.N.D. against bullying, which means Stop the Bullying, Tell Someone, Ask for Help, Nobody Deserves Bullying and Don't Be a By-stander. The show begins at 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch library on 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrerecorder.com using</p>

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Teach your kids a lesson and take advantage of the Florida back-to-school sales tax holiday



By Wendy Ranson

Special to the Recorder

Wendy Ranson
Guest Columnist

It's hard to believe, but the 2017-2018 school year is just around the corner! For many parents, that means a return to schedules and normalcy, and for most of us, that means having to dust off credit cards for the adventure that is back-to-school shopping. Many states have a sales tax holiday during the back-to-school season to encourage parents to shop and help them pay less for school supplies and clothing. Thankfully, Florida is no exception.

Renewable each year, it was approved by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Rick Scott May 25, 2017. This year's back-to-school sales tax holiday will take place Aug. 4-6.

The sales tax holiday is really quite a benefit for parents of Florida students, and the best part is it's simple: there are no forms to fill out and no rebates to cash in. Just shop as one normally might, and qualifying items

are sold without the buyer having to pay sales taxes. Florida's sales tax holiday allows parents to purchase the following items without paying any state or local sales taxes:

- Clothing, shoes and certain accessories that cost \$60 or less per item
- School supplies (notebooks, pens, paper, markers, lunch boxes, etc.) that cost \$15 or less per item
- Computers and computer accessories that cost \$750 or less per item

Computers were not included in the exempt items list in 2016, so this is a welcome addition to the 2017 list. Laptops, tablets and printer ink cartridges also qualify.

One must be careful, however, because not everything qualifies for the exemption. For example, computers cannot cost more than \$750 and cannot be used for commercial use (which shouldn't be an issue for a student). Also, clothing that costs more than \$60 or supplies that cost more than \$15 do not qualify.

Additionally, rentals or leases of items that would be eligible if purchased outright do not qualify. In other words, if you buy a computer, you qualify for the sales tax, but if you lease the same one, your tax will be

included in the lease price.

It is estimated that Floridians will save \$33 million in taxes during the three-day sales tax holiday period. The sales tax rate is 7 percent in Duval County and 6.5 percent in St Johns County, so for every \$100 a parent spends on school supplies, he/she is saving \$6-7.

Since parents pay an average of close to \$1,000 per year per child for school supplies and clothing, this can add up to a nice savings. The sales tax savings combined with the deals offered by many retailers give parents even more opportunity to cash in.

The timing of the sales tax holiday is perfect. In St Johns County, students return to school Aug. 10, while the school year in Duval County begins Aug. 14. My advice is not to miss this window. It's an easy way to save some money and get your kids ready for school, and you'll teach them a little something about being thrifty.

Wendy Ranson is a tax partner at Pivot CPAs in Ponte Vedra Beach. She has a wide variety of experience in many tax sectors, including corporate income and franchise taxation. For more information on Pivot CPAs, visit <https://www.pivotcpas.com/>. Statistics and data in this article come from the Florida Department of Revenue.



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SJCSD and CPPI hold 'topping out' ceremony to celebrate construction milestone of new K-8 school in Nocatee

By Jon Blauvelt

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) and construction management firm Charles Perry Partners, Inc. (CPPI) jointly hosted a "topping out" ceremony last week to celebrate continued construction progress of the district's new K-8 school slated to open in Nocatee for the 2018-2019 school year.

Held July 20 at the school's construction site at 2135 Palm Valley Road, which is adjacent to Nocatee's Twenty Mile neighborhood, the event featured the ceremonial placement of the last steel beam atop the structure, marking the conclusion of the school's roof and a milestone for the CPPI contractors. District and CPPI representatives, as well as officials from architecture firm Harvard Jolly Architecture, signed the final beam before a crane lifted it atop the three-story building.

"It really has been a team effort, and it's taken everybody putting in a lot of hard work and a lot of energy," said SJCSD District 4 School Board Member Kelly Barrera during remarks at the beginning of the ceremony. "It really is going to benefit students, our families and the employees in our district."

Up to 1,500 students are expected to attend the school, which is currently entitled "KK" until a permanent name is chosen. The building sits on 30 acres of property and consists of 190,000 square feet of operational space and 73 classrooms, according to SJCSD Executive Director for Facilities and New Construction Paul Rose. The school, Rose added, is being built and constructed to meet green building standards.

SJCSD Deputy Superintendent of Operations Cathy Mittelstadt explained in her remarks that the new facility is a product of the county's continued growth in population, which she noted is rising by five percent each year. She added that revenues from the half-cent sales tax increase, which was enacted by St. Johns County voters in 2015 to support growing capital needs of the district, are helping to fund the school.

"We need new locations for students to perform and have an opportunity for great academic opportunities," said Mittelstadt about the school, which will ultimately cost \$35 million to build. "Today is evidence of that progress as we continue to move forward."

PARC Group Community Manager David Ray agreed that the school is necessary to meet the community's growth.

"One of the major reasons people move to Nocatee is the school system," he said. "Seeing this, seeing this school come online, is something very essential and very exciting for everyone."

Nicole Cubbedge, SJCSD's executive

director for planning and government relations, elaborated after the ceremony that in addition to revenues from the sales tax increase, funding is also coming from school impact fees and school proportionate share mitigation fees, noting that the latter have only been a funding source for the district since 2008.

Cubbedge explained that the process of creating an attendance zone for the new school will start this coming fall. She said it will be a public process, including town hall meetings and input at school board workshops. A public vote on the school's attendance zone, she said, will take place in the November/December timeframe. Cubbedge noted that the naming process for the school will subsequently take place in 2018 once a principal is appointed.

Will Inman, a CPPI employee in the areas of business development and project management, said the school property will include ball fields, abundant parking and easy access to Nocatee Parkway and Palm Valley Road. Overall, he said the facility will represent everything the district wants in a school, and that the "topping off" ceremony provided the district and CPPI with the opportunity to thank the contractors who have been working in the peak of the Florida heat to construct their vision into a reality.

"It's a significant day because it represents the amount of accomplishment we've done out here over the past eight months of construction," said Inman, whose company hosted a barbecue luncheon for the contractors following the ceremony. "The point of today is to thank them. We're honored that the school district could participate with us in encouraging and telling these guys how much we appreciate what they've done."



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

A crane lifts the final steel beam atop the new K-8 school in Nocatee at a "topping out" ceremony held last week.



SJCSD District 4 School Board Member Kelly Barrera addresses attendees of the school's "topping out" ceremony.



The new K-8 school, which is slated to open for the 2018-2019 school year, is 190,000 square feet of operational space and consists of 73 classrooms.



Contractors at the school construction site enjoy a barbecue lunch at the ceremony.

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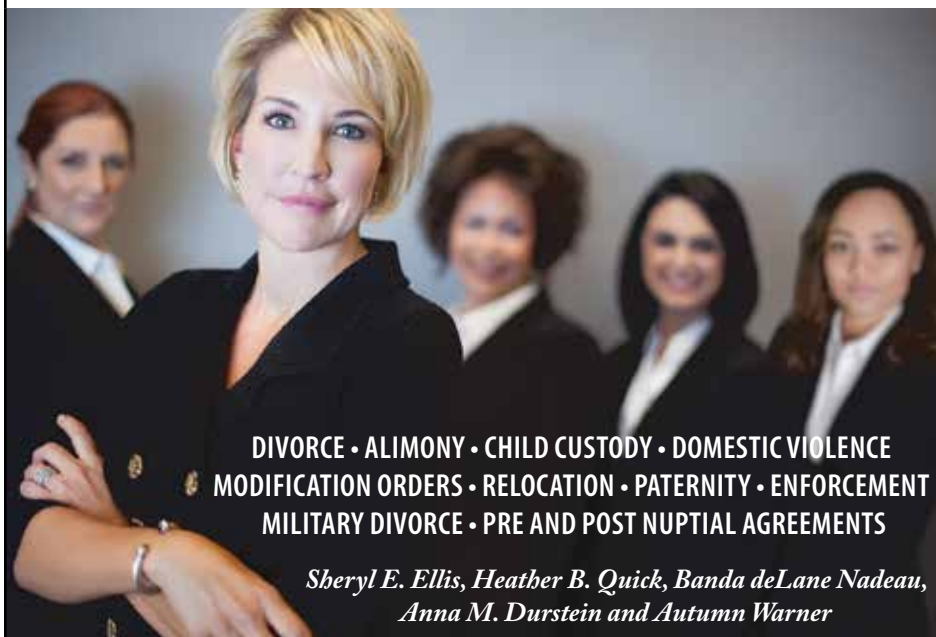
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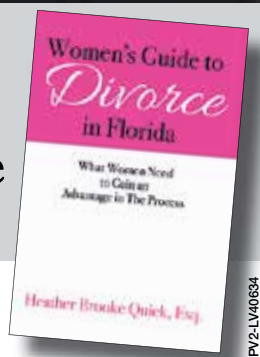


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OBITUARIES



SHULMAN

Dr. Abraham Shulman

Dr. Abraham Shulman, retired dentist and orthodontist, died Friday, July 14, 2017, at the age of 99. His family confirmed the beloved husband, father, grandfather and

great grandfather died peacefully at his home at Glenmoor in St. Augustine.

Shulman’s successful dental career in both Long Branch, New Jersey, and Bergen County, New Jersey, was matched by his popularity and character. He was a man of grace and dignity, serving his country with honor in the Army during World War II.

He and his wife, Helen Herzog Shulman, were married for nearly 79 years. They also proudly declared Florida their home along with a decade of joyful time when they lived in Las Vegas during its heyday.

After his dental career, he was well-known through their social circles as planning international travel and cruises for good friends for the ensuing 40 years.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Shulman; daughter, Leigh Cort (husband Jay Greene); son, Bruce Shulman (wife Diane Brenner); granddaughter, Sue Lomba (husband David Lomba); granddaughter, Parker Shulman; and great grandson, Zack Serebin.

Saturday, July 29, 2017, the family will have a Memorial Service in the Chapel at Glenmoor Retirement Community in World Golf Village at 2 p.m.



OLIASAMI

Lisa Brittany Oliasami

Lisa Brittany Oliasami, 33, loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece and cousin, died July 15, 2017, in Jacksonville Beach, surrounded by her family. Lisa left us too soon and with

heavy hearts. We will miss her more than words can ever say.

Lisa was born Aug. 3, 1983, in Houston. Ponte Vedra Beach became her second home in 1994, where she attended Nease High School and graduated in 2001. She continued her education at the University of North Florida and graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Health in 2006. Susan, Lisa’s sister and biggest fan, is heartbroken and will miss her immensely.

Lisa worked with Susan at her parents’ UPS Store. Lisa is survived by her parents, Ivy and Jeffrey; sister and best friend, Susan; beloved grandmother, Katherine Hibbs; uncles, Sam Oliasami, Marc Hibbs, Kevin Hibbs and Gary Boyle; aunt Sheryl and cousins. Special mention to her cousins Alexis and Samantha, who shared so much of their lives with Lisa.

Lisa loved The Footprints Prayer, and now for our precious girl there is only one set of footprints because she is being carried by the Lord.

A private service led by her cousin, Father Ryan Boyle, will be held in the chapel at the Ponte Vedra Valley Cemetery, with interment to follow.

Lisa loved children and animals, so donations can be made in Lisa’s name to The Gentle Barn. Donate online at gentlebarn.org/donate or mail checks to The Gentle Barn Foundation, located at 15825 Sierra Highway, Santa Clarita, CA 91390.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.pontevedravalle.com.

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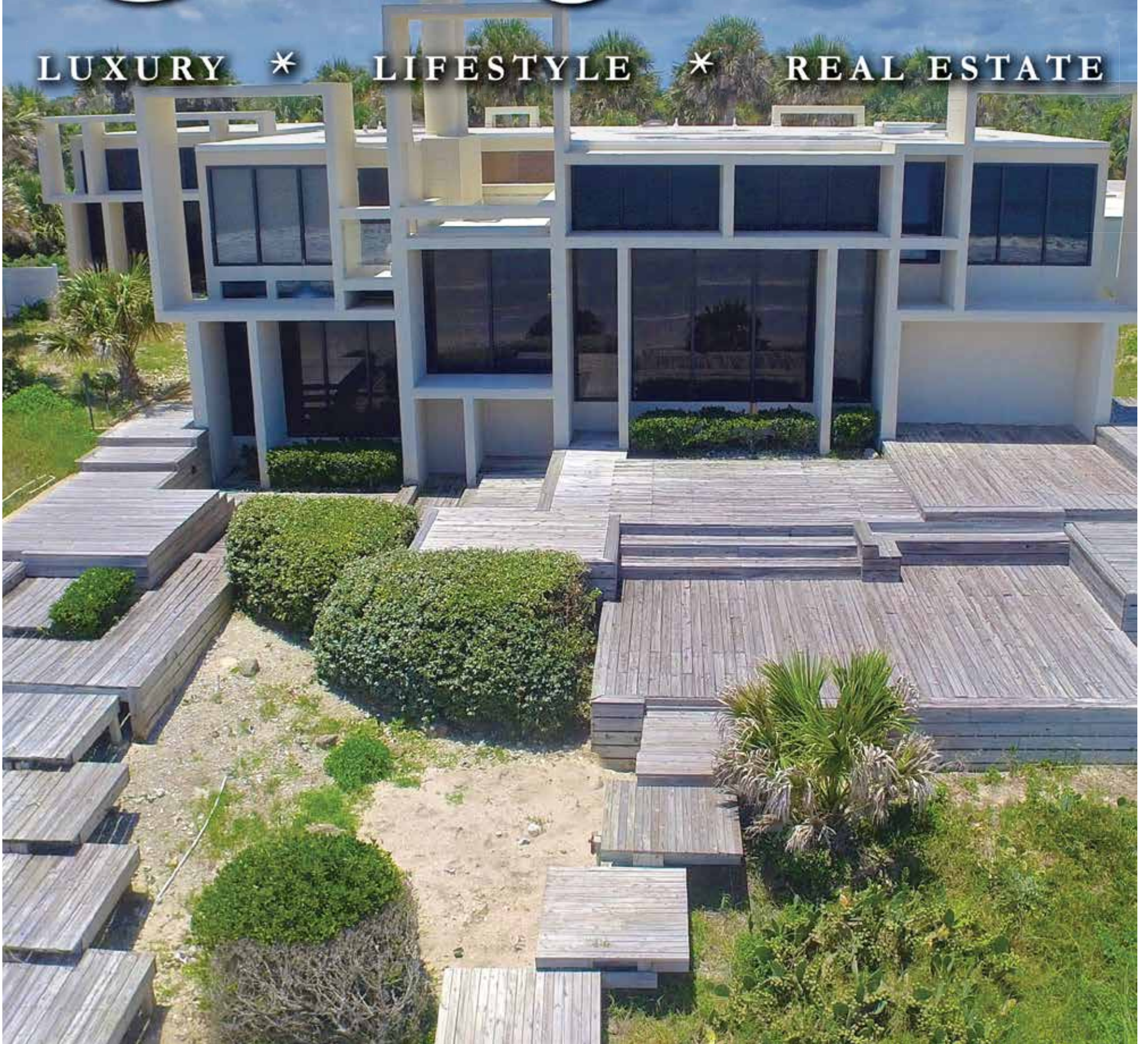
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JULY 27, 2017 • SPECIAL SECTION

Ponte Vedra 

Recorder

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- ARCHITECTURAL RECORD'S "HOUSE OF THE YEAR" IN 1963
- CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY WITH THE RUTHERFORDS
- FIVE DAYS IN ROME

Welcome to the summer issue of Sand Castles

Welcome to the summer issue of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and real estate seasonal section.

A year ago, I wrote about the “dog days of summer,” which generally last from July 3 to Aug. 11. Webster defines those days as “a period marked with lethargy, inactivity or indolence.” While still very hot, summer this year has definitely not been inactive. You’ll see why as you read through the issue!

Whether you are planning a trip to Europe, New York or Washington, D.C., you can get a few insights from Katie Pettit, Francesca Rutherford and me as we share our stories of recent travels through wonderful towns, cities and restaurants, including our Fourth of July celebration in our nation’s Capitol.

Katie Pettit’s first trip to Ireland was her visit to her ancestral home! I share a few tips on visiting Rome with my article Five Days in Rome. Francesca Rutherford visited New York in June and Washington, D.C., over the Fourth of July!

It is great to hear about wonderful places to visit, but we all know there is no place like home. And here on our First Coast, Kearney Real Estate Broker/Owner Rob Kearney gives us an update on the local market watch with some insights on understanding leading indicators.

We have a vibrant market with wonderful properties for sale, and in this issue, we hear from 12 seasoned First Coast realtors who share their listings from Nocatee to the waterfront, golf course and everywhere in between.

Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant will soon open in Ponte Vedra Beach in the Winn Dixie shopping plaza off Solana Road. Owner Tom Corsano of the Two Dudes in Atlantic Beach writes in this issue about the new restaurant. This second location will be right next to the Players Café they recently purchased. Local realtors had the opportunity at my recent brokers open on Salt Creek Drive to sample some of their wonderful seafood tacos and desserts!

On Aug. 26, Angelwood celebrates 25 years serving the community. Development Director Tera Lageman reflects upon the achievement in this issue, explaining the organization’s history and mission to make Sally Fox’s vision of caring for her daughter a reality.

The above is just a preview of the great articles we’ve included over the next several pages.

Our home is our castle, and at the beach it is our castle in the sand. From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

**Janet Westling, Realtor, CIPS, GRI
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida
Network Realty
Sand Castles creator
and contributing editor
www.janetwestling.com**



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

MARKET WATCH

Reflecting on the Ponte Vedra market

By Rob Kearney

Kearney Real Estate Services

As a real estate broker, I am always being asked, “How is the market?” I’m also asked, “Rob, what’s new in the market?” And I often get, “You seem to be really busy; how are things here?” While these seem like very simple, straight forward questions on the surface, the answers are quite complex.

People have been and always will be curious about their greatest investment, their home, and how it is holding its value. So, in a nutshell, when I am being asked about what’s new in the market, I know what I am really being asked is, “What is happening with property values in my neighborhood? Is my investment in Sawgrass, Marsh Landing, The Plantation, Players Club TPC, Old Ponte Vedra, or wherever you live, still sound?”

As everyone knows in this age of the Internet and “Googling,” there are countless ways to access statistics. All realtors in our market contribute information on local statistics to the Northeast Florida Realtor Association (NEFAR). As a member of NEFAR, I have unlimited data of “comparables,” such as days on the market; price percentages based on

sales in previous time periods; total inventory of single family and condos; average sales prices versus average listing prices; and more. While all this statistical data provides valuable and pertinent information, it cannot address home values today without taking into account the old-fashioned, ever-changing economic inputs of supply and demand.

I’ve lived and worked in Ponte Vedra since 1981. What a different community it was back then... a quiet two lane A1A and no Sawgrass Village or Marriott. We had to drive to north Jacksonville Beach for a quart of milk until a 7-Eleven convenience store opened where Al’s Pizza is now located. We even had to drive to the Duval County line where Target now stands to meet the Domino’s Pizza delivery guy because we didn’t have enough “rooftops” to warrant delivering pizza to Ponte Vedra.

Back then, Ponte Vedra was a destination resort and retirement area. Vacation homes and homes or condos for retirees were our real estate market, and there was more supply than demand. However, that began to change thanks to the efforts of local citizens and businesses such as Arvida (the developer of Sawgrass properties) and the PGA Tour.

These companies had the foresight to establish the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, which helped develop Ponte Vedra elementary schools and Nease High School into A+ schools. The stellar school system, one of the best not only in Florida but also in the southeastern United States, brought families seeking a relaxed resort lifestyle and an excellent education to our area in droves. Combining the demand for homes for growing families together with the demand of homes and condos for retirees and resort visitors buying vacation homes created the extremely healthy real estate market we still enjoy today.

So, “How is the market?” you ask. It is very healthy! But remember that your home’s value is dictated by your neighborhood, your location within that neighborhood and the condition of your home compared to other similar properties, and of course, supply and demand for homes in your area. It takes a professional realtor who has studied and continues to study the market to intelligently value your property -- to know why a property sold at one price when a similar home one street over sold at a different price.

Web-based real estate giants such as Zillow, Trulia, etc., can offer you

estimates based upon limited published criteria or price per square foot. However, they do not incorporate the “soft” data -- the local variables that affect the price, value and marketability of your home or a home you may be interested in buying.

Today we are in a “seller’s market,” meaning we have a very limited supply of homes available with a high demand for homes in our area. However, in our market and price point, we serve very savvy buyers.

So, to those of you interested in selling your home, educate yourself and use a professional realtor to place a fair market value on your home. Savvy buyers will know if your home is overpriced, so don’t follow the misplaced theory of increasing your home price by a certain percentage point compared to what your neighbor sold his/her house for last year. Or worse, let your friends and neighbors tell you the value of your property. Get a local respected realtor to help you understand the market before you sell or buy a property.

**Rob Kearney is the owner/broker of
Kearney Real Estate Services.**

Jim Ross provides updates on the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors Ponte Vedra Council

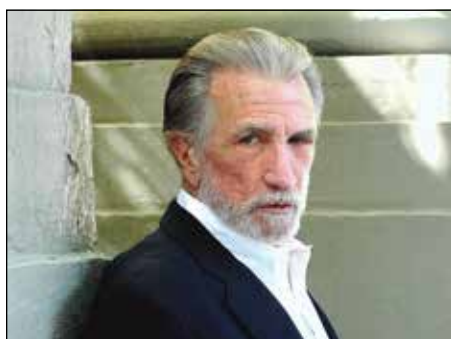
By Jim Ross

Kearney Real Estate Services

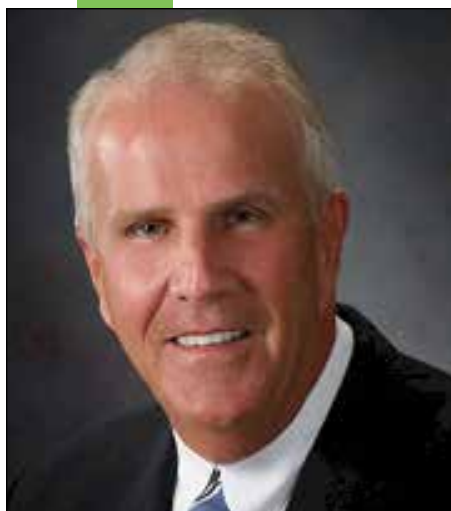
It's pleasing to have been chosen as the 2017 chairman of the Ponte Vedra Council of Realtors for the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. Here are a few updates on our recent and upcoming meetings.

Our first quarterly meeting was held at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra March 21, at which we had close to 100 realtors in attendance. The topic was "The History of Ponte Vedra Real Estate Development." Our guest speaker was Michael Hannon, who was vice president of sales and marketing for Fletcher Properties and later Arvida.

Michael is also the current chairman of the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, which was founded by realtors in the early days of Ponte Vedra's development. It's a very worthy cause with the purpose of enriching and enhancing the public education experience for students in our schools.



Michael Hannon



Roy Schleicher



John Rutherford

Our June 20 quarterly meeting featured an update on the progress of the Jacksonville Port Authority. The agency's Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Roy Schleicher was our guest speaker. He told us that JaxPort is one of the nation's busiest vehicle handling ports and is becoming a major

player in the Asian container trade market as well as Florida's No. 1 container complex. He also stated that the dredging of the St. Johns River channel is expected to begin this fall, which will allow larger vessels to enter the port. JaxPort has a positive effect on real estate development in our area.

Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19. We plan to have freshman Congressman John Rutherford as our guest speaker. We also have planned our next Member-Mixer called "Attitude Adjustment Wednesday" for Sept. 13 at the Sawgrass Beach Club for all realtors and members.

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Lupa: a real Roman osteria in New York

By Francesca Rutherford

I was in New York with my husband Michael for a couple of days to celebrate our 14th anniversary.

New York always offers a “city life” experience and shows us a surprise.

On this trip, we stayed at the Trump SoHo hotel. From there, we walked all over the city to discover new things. The first morning there, we went around SoHo and Greenwich village; I was having fun walking in the streets full of boutiques, florists and art galleries. Arriving at Thompson Street, we stopped in the middle of the road, and a wonderful smell overcame us. It was something familiar to me that reminded me of the smell of the restaurants in Rome, my hometown.

We looked in front of us to see a small restaurant, with a few tables outside and a bunch of people cleaning the glass doors. The name of it was unforgettable: Lupa Osteria Romana! What a surprise!

“Proviamo il ristorante romano, Michael!” I said to my husband. He agreed to try it immediately. We entered and were shocked to see how many people were eating there. All tables were full, as well as all seats at the bar. We added our names to the waiting list.

Six groups of people were seated before us; so, in the meantime we watched wonderful meals arriving at the tables.

The smell was so familiar to me, just like home. Hundreds of memories from my previous life in Trastevere—the area in Rome where I was born and grew up—immediately came to mind. What a great feeling!

Our moment arrived, and we finally got two seats at the bar. The menu was so accurately “Roman,” featuring all the most antique and popular roman recipes. We decided to pick a five meals and wines tasting. We started with the roman artichokes and then had the rigatoni alla gricia (absolutely perfect!) and saltimbocca alla romana (veal with prosciutto and sage) until arriving at the dark chocolate tartufo.

Before leaving, we asked about the restaurant owner. A young lady said, “You really don’t know who the owner and master chef is here?” I answered that I didn’t, and she responded by saying that it’s Mario Batali and his team of chefs.

At that point I understood why the food was so delicious and why the ingredients were so genuine. All was so perfectly chosen for an amazing result! We saw Batali while he was busy working in the kitchen, but we were introduced to his nephew Michele from Naples who spoke in Italian to us. He was happy to have Italians there and more than happy to hear I was from Rome and appreciated the food. He offered us a glass of Amaro CioCiaro before we left the restaurant. I absolutely recommend it to everyone who is in love with authentic Roman food.



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LUNEDÌ: Lupa Pork & Veal Sausage 21 • MARTEDÌ: Crispy Duck Agrodolce 25 •
GIOVEDÌ: Codu alla Vaccinara 24 • VENERDÌ: Fried Lupa Baccata 22 • SABA
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ROMAN TASTING
65pp

Carciofi alla Romana
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Rigatoni alla Gricia
*Cincinnato "Illiria" Cori Bianco 2015 *Cir
Strozzapreti with Sugo Finto

Jacksonville home provides spectacular river views

By Lindsay Viering

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Enjoy the solitude of riverfront living in this inviting home located on the St. Johns River, which is minutes from downtown, shopping, the Beaches and Jacksonville International Airport.

Located at 6285 Whispering Oaks Drive in Jacksonville, this family home is a boater's paradise with 140 feet of frontage on almost two acres. The first floor bedroom suite has expansive views of the St. Johns River and the Dames Point Bridge. Upstairs, there are four large bedrooms,

two additional baths and a bonus/hobby room.

The large, eat-in gourmet kitchen has room for the whole family to gather. Complimented by a formal dining room and a music room/study, you will want to host all family gatherings in this appealing home.

The sparkling pool and spa compliment a lifestyle for people who enjoy being outdoors and close to nature. Watch the eagles soar and the boats pass by as you wind down and relax on the pool deck. Tropical, tranquil and relaxing are a few words that describe this home, which offers so much for the busy family.

Boaters will appreciate how close the house is to the jetties at Mayport, allowing for easy access to the ocean for fishing and yachting. The dock is tidal but navigable to the ocean at high tide. This home is located on the St. Johns River lower basin, where the river empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The mystery and beauty of the river's tannin-stained waters will intrigue all who are lucky enough to call this home.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Lindsay Viering and offered for \$728,000.



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Photos courtesy of Katie Hughes

Mediterranean-style home features outdoor oasis and abundance of indoor amenities

By Katie Hughes

RE/MAX Specialists

An entertainer's dream, this estate home is situated on Cabbage Creek inside the exclusive Harbour Island community of Marsh Landing Country Club.

The outdoor oasis features a dock on the beautiful creek with tidal Intracoastal access and stunning marsh views, plus all the benefits of an eastern exposure! The 44-foot lap style pool is flanked by multiple outdoor spaces, including a large covered lanai and an additional dining area with a built-in summer kitchen and full cabana bath.

104 Newport Lane is a Mediterranean-style residence with over 8,200 square feet under its roof and over 6,000 square feet of climate-controlled living

space. This unique Italian-designed home features dramatic Palladian-style windows that overlook the water and outdoor spaces. Soaring 12-foot ceilings, as well as a larger vault in the family room, accentuate the outdoor spaces even more. The oversized kitchen boasts multiple spaces for cooking, dining and entertaining. It's finished with custom wood cabinetry, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances with gas cooking, double ovens, double drink refrigerators and more!

This versatile floor plan design will easily accommodate a multitude of buyers. The expansive master suite is situated on the first floor and offers wonderful water views. Relaxation sets in as you enter the large spa-like master bathroom featuring travertine stone, a large garden tub, a massive

shower with dual showerheads and double vanities with elegant onyx countertops.

The remaining four large suite-like bedrooms all have ensuite bathrooms. All bedrooms have large closets. Additionally, there is an upstairs game room with a built-in bar area. Wonderful breezes and views can be enjoyed from the large balconies on each side of the game room, with one featuring views of Cabbage Creek and the other with a private lake view.

Also, enjoy direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway with the 50-foot deep water boat slip in the Yacht Basin at Harbour Island!

This property is represented by RE/MAX Specialists, listed by Katie Hughes and offered at \$1,950,000.



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Angelwood reflects on 25 years of serving the community

By Tera Lageman
Angelwood Development Director

25 years ago, former Jacksonville TV news anchor Sally Fox had a mission—a mission to make sure her daughter living with developmental disabilities would always have a safe place to call home and be taken care of throughout her life. Angelwood, Inc. was her dream

made into reality. Sadly, Sally passed away a few years ago, but just as she planned for, her daughter is still with us. Angelwood is her home; we are her family.

The mission Sally had in mind back then still stands today as we proudly provide unparalleled services to children, adults and families living with disabilities. Angelwood has grown from one group home to six, also offering career development services for adults; summer camp for children; behavior programs; parents night out events; and respite for families. We care for children and adults living with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, Down's syndrome and intellectual disabilities.

Some of our residents are medically fragile and need a wheelchair while others are Jags season ticket holders and wouldn't even think about missing a game. Some of them go to school; some go to our

Adult Day Training program and others work at local grocery stores. We are all about helping each individual live his/her best life.

As we plan for our next 25 years, our vision is to continue enriching the lives of families living with disabilities while serving as a sustainable, recognized resource and progressive leader in community integration. We know our founding angel Sally is looking down from above and is singing our praises.

We will be celebrating our 25th anniversary with our angels Aug. 26 at the Sawgrass Marriott Champions Ballroom. The doors will open at 6 p.m. for cocktails, dinner and dancing to the Chris Thomas Band. Live auction and silent auction items will include luxury experiences, trips and sporting packages. Individual tickets are \$150 each and can be purchased at www.angelwoodjax.org. Sponsorship packages are also available by contacting me at tlageman@angelwoodjax.org



Photos courtesy of Angelwood
Former Jacksonville TV news anchor Sally Fox and her daughter



Former Jacksonville Jaguar Jeff Lageman stands with one of the organization's angels.

STARS OF THE WEEK

NEW ON THE MARKET
You can now **own** where the Marsh Landing developer **constructed** his family's home. You can imagine how this 5-bedroom, mostly one-story home captures **the beauty** of the marsh! Warm wood floors, updated open kitchen/family room and spectacular master suite! Hurry! \$1,245,000.

PRIVACY + STYLE
This custom 5br + study Plantation home features weathered wood floors, an enormous lanai with extended covered area and oversized pool, custom kitchen with crisp marble counters, on a lot backing to conservation land. Plus Beach/Tennis/Fitness/Golf/Dining excellence that comes with Plantation membership! \$1,195,000.

INTRACOASTAL VIEWS
Not a condo, but a 4-story townhome with a private courtyard and 2-car garage, plus an elevator - Watersedge at Harbortown offers Mediterranean architecture and a one-of-a-kind style in northeast Florida, with almost all rooms **marina** and ICW views. You'll be impressed with **all** you get for \$849,900. Boat slip available!

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Chic Fully Furnished Oceanfront
Truly like-new Acquilus II condo. Gorgeous furnishings, 3 BRs, 3 BAs, granite & SS island kitchen, large tile throughout, expansive covered balcony with gas stub, immaculately maintained by original owners, secured private garage + reserved surface space.
1201 1st St. N. #803 \$999,000



Waterfront in Harbour Island
Mediterranean villa with 6,786 sf of living area built like a fortress on a gorgeous bulkheaded lake. 6 BRs, 9 full & 2 half BAs, study, media & game rooms. 3 staircases + elevator, screened patio, pool & spa. 60 ft. dock in yacht basin.
117 Newport Ln. \$2,900,000



Deep Water at Your Back Door
Tropical oasis with 50 ft. Harbour Island slip at your back door. 5,152 sf of light-filled interiors with 5BR/7.5BA, equipped home theatre, game room & gas kitchen. Lanai, grill, cabana bath, pool & spa.
101 Bristol Pl. \$1,995,000

PV2-LV40730

PV2-LV40682



Milam House offers famed architect Paul Rudolph's last Florida residence design

By Clare Berry
Berry & Co. Real Estate

Commanding a high dune overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the Milam House at 1033 Ponte Vedra Blvd. is an iconic structure along Florida's east coast. Pilots and boaters have used it as a landmark since its completion in 1961. It is now offered for sale for the first time by its original owners, the Milam family.

This noted home has received accolades not only from the local community, but also from those who study design around the world. Architectural Record named it the "House of the Year" in 1963. AR honored the modernist home that architect Paul Rudolph custom-designed for his then 33-year-old client, Arthur W. Milam, a Yale

University alumnus and Jacksonville native.

Rudolph was dean of the Yale School of Art and Architecture when he worked with Milam to create this home in concert with its natural Florida oceanfront setting. More recently, the Milam House was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The east-facing façade is a powerful statement, meant to be seen from afar. Yet its rectangular protrusions also serve a purpose: to provide diversion of the sun's rays from the glass walls overlooking the ocean.

Inside, the influences of the modernist movement and the Sarasota school—creating spaces of openness to the Florida environment—are at the heart of this plan. Massive windows are the norm. Various levels intersect the volume of the main room, creating spaces intended for different uses

and moods.

In Rudolph's own words, "the inglenook offers a nest, the two-story living portion of the living-dining space provides a goldfish bowl and the far end of the living area is a cave." Built-in cantilevered seating in that "cave" adjoins two terrazzo steps on the east and west sides of the great room, which provide natural seating. Furniture needs are minimal.

The main house and guest house total 6,858 square feet, while the entire area including garages, pool and terraces is about two times as large as that. The interior currently includes five bedrooms, five full baths and two half baths, a separate bar, an office and exercise room as well as a garage for three cars. This property is represented by Berry & Co. Real Estate, listed by Clare Berry and offered at \$4,700,000.



Photos courtesy of Clare Berry

Nocatee home available for growing family



Photos courtesy of Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Peterson

By Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Peterson

Re/Max Unlimited

We invite you to check out this fabulous, five bedroom/four bath home in Kelly Pointe at Nocatee.

Nicely appointed and newly painted, this home is situated on an oversized, desirable water view lot. The backyard is fully fenced and has plenty of room for a pool. The oversized, screened and paved lanai adds to the ambiance of this home overlooking the lake. In this open floor plan, the kitchen and breakfast areas open to the great room featuring infinity sliding doors that lead to the lanai, which make it perfect for entertaining and large family gatherings.

In addition to the five bedrooms, there is a large loft area to use as a workout room, playroom, office or anything else you could imagine. There are several closets, a master closet that will wow you and many other upgrades throughout the house that any owner will appreciate. This home is conveniently located nearby Nocatee's

amenities, shopping, and of course, St. John's County's A-rated schools. It's perfect for a growing family.

So, jump into the Nocatee lifestyle where the fun never ends! This well planned coastal community blends homes, schools, shopping, recreation, offices, medical services, restaurants, and more together for the convenience and enjoyment of its residents. It truly is a quality lifestyle appreciated by all who live there.

Nocatee continues to add amenities to enhance the community as it grows. The greenway, fitness trails, kayak launch, splash park, spray park, zip line, dog parks, tennis courts, recreational fields, playgrounds, special events, farmers market, etc., are only some of the perks of living in this fabulous community.

Experience the warm and welcoming sense of community for yourself. This property is located at 191 Princess Drive in Ponte Vedra, represented by REMAX Unlimited, listed by Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen and offered for \$425,000.



S. ROSCOE BLVD. PRIVATE GATED ESTATE
341 S. Roscoe Blvd.

A rare chance to own 200 ft on the Intracoastal with this private gated estate. This property takes full advantage of the outdoors w/lush landscaping, screened pool/spa & covered boat dock w/2 boat lifts along w/a floating dock. An outdoor firepit & Koi pond complete this beautiful backyard oasis. The home has 4 bedrooms/3 baths, 2900 sq ft w/3 car garage. Large open kitchen/family room for entertaining. There is a second owner's suite w/ensuite bathroom & private living space. MLS# 869526 - Priced at \$1,599,900



For more info, contact
Kellie Jankowski
Broker Associate, REALTOR®, MBA, SFR
(904) 838-8919
KJ.MarcJosephRealty@gmail.com

www.FLHomesbyKellie.com



S. ROSCOE BLVD. WATERFRONT HOME
345 S. Roscoe Blvd.

An almost impossible find on the intracoastal with 50 feet on the water. This charming 2 bedroom/2 bath home was built in 2000 and includes a boat dock with a Gazebo on the water & bulkhead. There is a guest bedroom & bath down stairs along with a wood burning fireplace and large screened porch to enjoy the intracoastal views. Upstairs is a oversized large owner's bedroom/sitting area and bathroom along with a balcony to enjoy the views of the water. Electric gates lead to a 2 car garage. Lots of closets space in this home. Schedule your showing today, this rare opportunity is sure to go fast. MLS# 887378 - Priced at \$679,900

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DOLPHIN COVE - Completely updated 4BR/2BA beach home with saltwater pool and spa. It's vacation living year round! Open floor plan is ideal for today's relaxed lifestyle. **\$425,000**



MARSH LANDING CC - Beautiful 4BR/3.5BA brick home on gorgeous lagoon facing lot. All on one level except upstairs bonus room. Quality craftsmanship throughout. **\$699,000**



SOUTH JAX BEACH - Exquisitely designed 3BR/3BA/2HBA 3 story home with elevator and amazing ocean views. This is a beach lovers haven. **\$1,695,000**



SOUTH JAX BEACH - Stunning 5BR/4.5BA oceanfront home with gated entrance and plenty of room for everyone. 2 master suites each with ocean facing balcony. **\$2,895,000**



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PV2-LV40593

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PV2-LV40587

Rutherfords visit Washington, D.C., to celebrate

By Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Every year, our nation celebrates the Fourth of July with parades, family cook-outs and fireworks. This year, freshman Congressman John Rutherford, his wife Pat and their family celebrated the holiday in Washington...Capitol style!

The day began at the National Independence Day Parade where the Rutherfords watched from the steps of the National Archives. There, Maria Victoria Rutherford and John Carlos Rutherford viewed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Although they couldn't take photos of these historic documents, plenty of photos were taken at the children's learning center in the Archives where Presidents George Washington and John Adams greeted the children and signed books!

That evening on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, the Capitol Fourth celebration began at 8 p.m. The Rutherford family enjoyed a star-studded concert that featured a stage that was decked with stars and stripes.

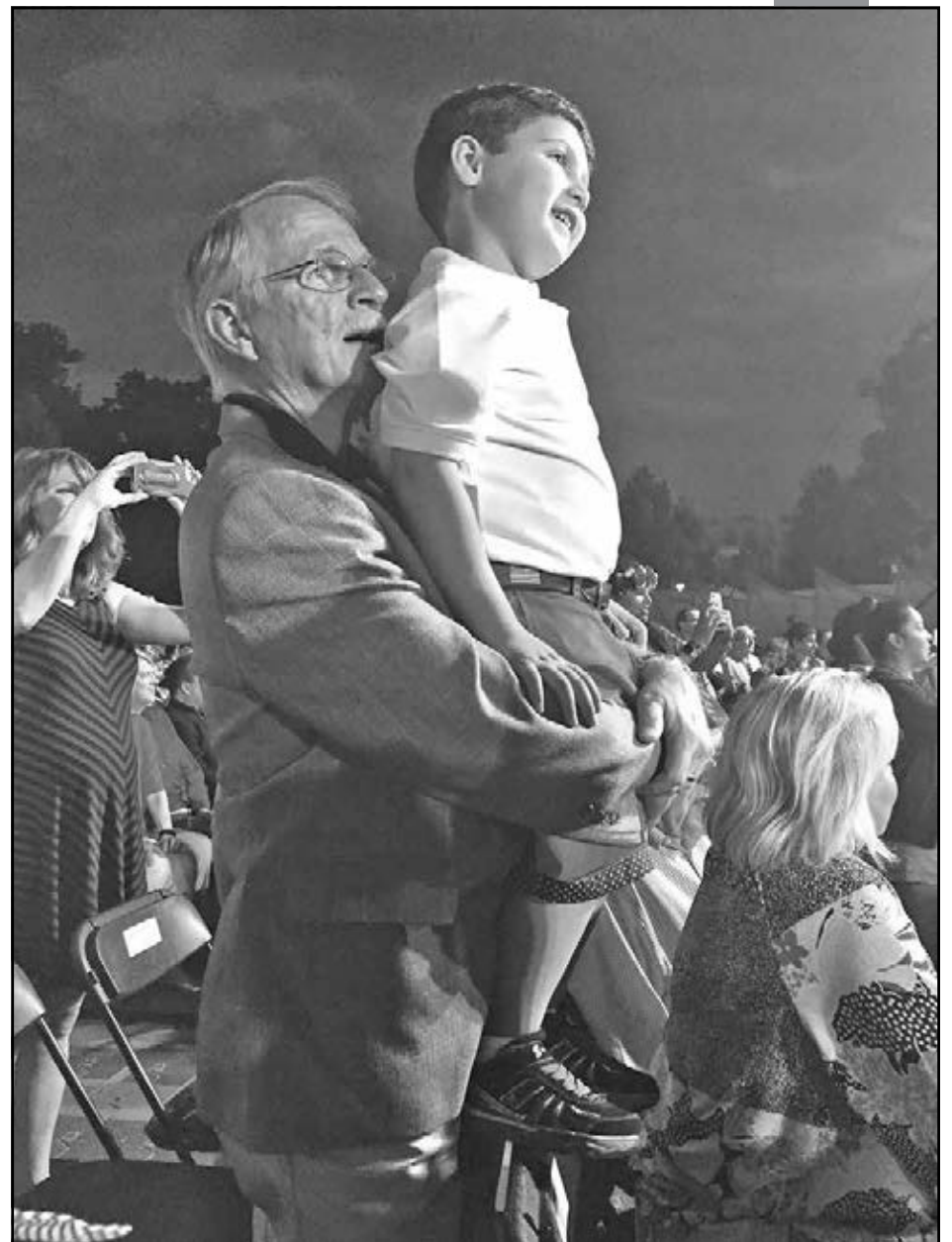
From the Blues Brothers to the Four Tops, this celebration with the families of the other members of Congress was magical. The evening ended with a stunning firework display against a backdrop of monuments and memorials.

Returning to their hotel at the new Trump International Hotel D.C., they enjoyed the patriotic songs in the lobby, the four-story American flag and a chocolate gift for the kids!

Before returning home to Jacksonville, Maria Victoria experienced a special visit to the top of the Capitol dome -- all 300 steps high to view this most amazing city on a hill.



Maria Victoria Rutherford takes in the sights from atop the Capitol dome.



Congressman John Rutherford and John Carlos Rutherford watch the National Independence Day Parade.



John Carlos and Maria Victoria Rutherford enjoy the National Archives.



John Carlos and Maria Victoria Rutherford meet a special guest at the National Archives.



Photos courtesy of Michael and Francesca Rutherford
Francesca, Maria Victoria, Michael, John Carlos and John Rutherford

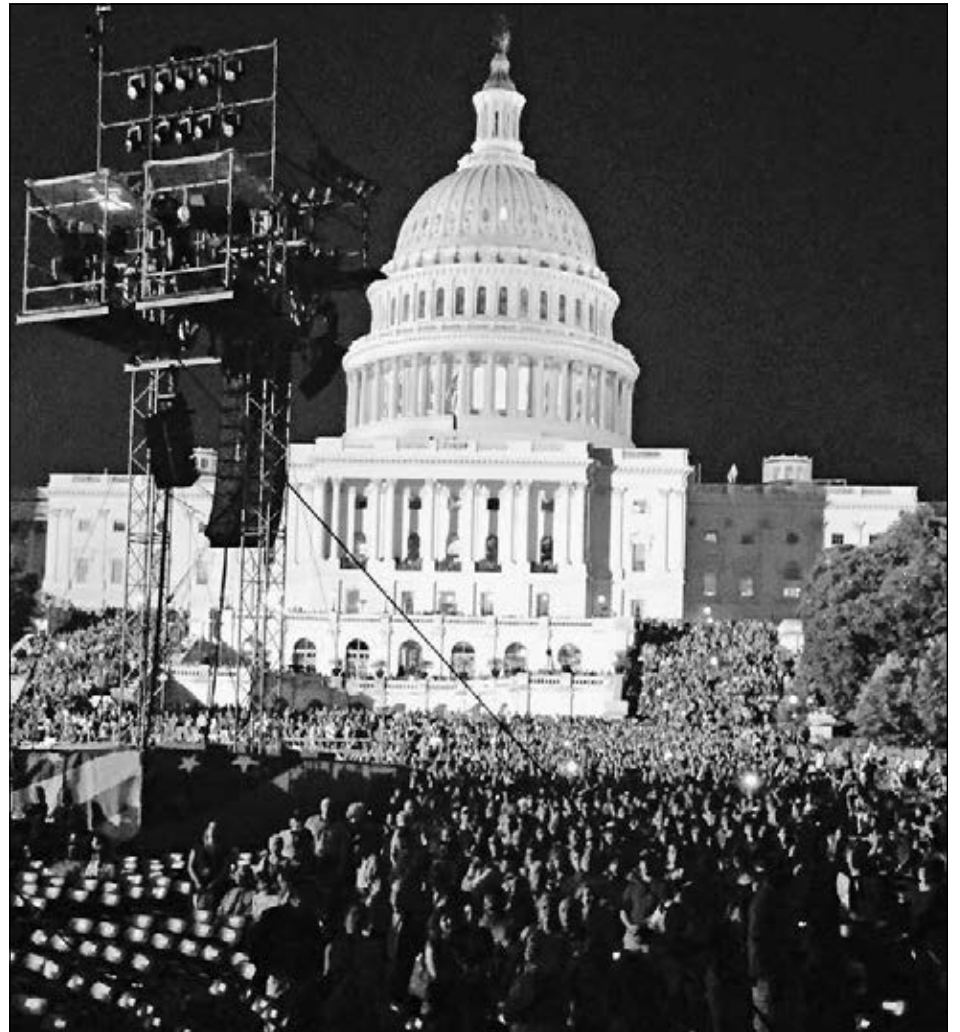
the Fourth of July – Capitol Style! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Trump International Hotel D.C.



Trump International Hotel D.C.



The Blues Brothers perform at the Capitol Fourth concert.



The Four Tops perform at the Capitol Fourth concert.

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PV2-LV40680

Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant owners taking over Players Café and expanding to Ponte Vedra Beach

By Tom Corsano

Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant Owner

Players Café in Ponte Vedra Beach is getting new ownership and a make over! Currently owners of the Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant in Atlantic Beach, Jennifer and I are excited to bring a second Two Dudes to Ponte Vedra Beach and split the space at 262 Solana Road.

This means converting the one big space into two restaurants: a remodeled and revitalized Players Café on one side and a Two

Dudes Seafood Restaurant to occupy the other side, both to be owned by us.

One major change will include expansion of the number of seats so a full bar will be offered on both sides. We're also excited to bring an extensive wine list featuring close to 300 bottles to complement our freshly caught (always wild, never farm-raised) fish selection.

Two Dudes in Atlantic Beach, which is located at 22 Seminole Road, offers over 40 bottles/drafts of imported beer and locally crafted ales along with popular favorites Budweiser, Michelob and the ever popular \$1.50

Pabst Blue Ribbon. These options will be offered at the new Ponte Vedra Beach location as well. Also included in the seat expansion will be 18 bistro style seats outside so patrons can enjoy our fresh Florida air.

Another change is an updated version of the Players Café menu. To start, the jams, marmalades and sauces (to name a few) will be made from scratch. Eggs and omelets with be cooked to order from a pan that will deliver the fluffy consistency to compliment your breakfast experience. The menu will have traditional breakfast and lunch fare along with some additional fun and modern choices.

One thing that will not change is our "Big Chalkboard" that features over 15 fresh seafood catches that change daily. For land lovers, choices will include steak, chicken and burgers. In both restaurants, everything will be cooked to order and made with high-quality ingredients.

The projected re-opening date for the Players Café is Aug. 1. Two Dudes could possibly be coming sooner. We're taking the location down to the studs and rebuilding it; so, it'll be a new, refinished space to create a casual feel with a beach and surf vibe.

Players Café will continue operating from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Both places will be open seven days a week.



Photos courtesy of Tom Corsano



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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Florida Network Realty



PV2-LV40623

Demand for luxury Ponte Vedra real estate proves high



top-rated St. John County schools, the YMCA, pristine beaches and boating and fishing from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Atlantic Ocean.

The exterior of this meticulously maintained residence is flanked by majestic oaks and professionally landscaped perennial gardens with year-round flowers. It features a large circular paver drive and elegantly appointed outdoor living on a private lake. An old world porte cochère provides a charming pass to three side-entry garage bays and a separate workshop.

A dramatic 40-foot long heated saltwater pool with dark blue stone pebble finish features a sun shelf, relaxing spa and clear-stream water effects that add an elegant bit of serenity and entertainment to the poolscape. Premium travertine tiles surround the pool deck and entertainment areas, providing plenty of space for lounging in the sun or shade. The DCS summer kitchen, solar heated outdoor shower, pool, patio and second story balcony are sheltered under a sprawling two-story, mega-wide screened enclosure providing sweeping waterfront views.

The interior of the home achieves a balance between space and intimacy. This floor plan offers both places to gather and retreat and a natural flow for entertaining. The stunning two-story entry foyer offers access to the shared living spaces, den, master suite and second bedroom. A graceful curved staircase with wrought iron railings leads to three bedrooms, two workstations and an enormous bonus room overlooking the spacious family room, with beautiful views of the pool and water beyond. The gourmet kitchen features granite counters, chef's quality appliances, a large center island with a second sink and a butler's pantry with custom cabinetry and an under-counter refrigerator.

There are five bedrooms, as well as a library/office and four full bathrooms, totaling 4,331 square feet of interior space.

This property, which is located at 101 King Sago Court, is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Ilona Fischer and offered at \$1,050,000.



By Ilona Fischer

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

In the Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley area, housing inventory is down 26 percent over the same period last year. So, it's not surprising that sellers are on average reaping 96 percent of original asking price, and in some cases, properties are even selling over list price, according to the latest statistics from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

This featured estate is listed for \$1,050,000 and in only two weeks had an offer in hand. The property is situated on 1.22 acres in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, within the exceptionally private and gated 16-home community of Ponte Vedra Pointe. Located near the PGA Tour and some of the best golf in the world, the community is situated in the northeast corner of St. Johns County. Its location offers easy access to five-star resorts, Florida's



Photos courtesy of Ilona Fischer

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NEW PRICE

OCEANFRONT ON THE BOULEVARD

Celebrate beach life every day in this casually elegant oceanfront home. Superb quality appliances, thick granite counters, and custom cabinetry surround you as you enjoy 180 degree waterfront views from the fabulous kitchen. Split-level style floorplan best describes this practical 3BR/3BA 2,636sf layout. Offered at \$995,000.



Call Rosemary Kristoff
904-333-4841

PV2-LV40657



ATLANTIC BEACH COUNTRY CLUB

Known for their fabulous floor plans & indoor/outdoor living, this outstanding Arthur Rutenberg Coastal Style home is ready for your family to start enjoying. The large open spaces welcome morning sunrises & afternoon sea breezes, and house 4BR/4BA, plus a 2nd floor game/media room. With 3554sf of warm hardwood floors and soothing sea-glass colors, setting the tone for relaxing with friends and gathering around the outdoor lanai to enjoy the natural gas fireplace, or watch the golfers pass by. A gourmet kitchen boasts SS appliances, glass backsplash and a large CA island. Offered at \$1,095,900.



Call Lee Elmore
904-699-4503

PV2-LV40724



POOL HOME IN DEERWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Custom brick 4BR/4BA 4,928 sqft home with special features including an office, home theater plus an enormous bonus room. Outside is an oasis for relaxation with a pool and fire-ring. A side entry 3 car garage adds to the curb appeal, with lots of green space on this large lot on a cul-de-sac in this sought after gated community. \$979,000



Call Jennifer Sexton
904-463-3326

PV2-LV40627



POOL HOME IN OLD PONTE VEDRA

Completely renovated 4BR/4.5BA 2,700sf pool home located in the heart of Old Ponte Vedra. Walk to the beach and The Lodge from this stunning home! Offered at \$1,199,000.



Call Tina Webster
904-982-7330

PV2-LV40611



OCEANFRONT POOL HOME IN ATLANTIC BEACH

Modern oceanfront 4BR/4BA, 3881sf home new from the ground up in 2013. Modern kitchen, pool & covered spa with unobstructed ocean views from all levels! Offered at \$4,000,000



Call Lew Walters
904-806-3047

PV2-LV40660



SOLD

QUEENS HARBOUR

Launch your kayak from the back yard of your beautiful Queens Harbour home. Large gourmet kitchen, expansive marsh views, screened pool and outdoor kitchen and living areas. \$869,000



Call Vanessa Solomon
904-994-3746 or Lurah Patrick 904-859-7770

PV2-LV40608



LOVELY ATLANTIC BEACH LOCATION

Looking for an in law or nanny quarters? Down stairs is a full apartment 1 large BR with full bath, kitchen & living room & handicap ready. Approximately 650 Sq. ft downstairs with private entrance. Recent appraisal measured 3596 Sq. ft. A steal in AB! This home is set up for you. 3BR & 3BA upstairs. Great location! Walk to the beach location, walk to town center and more.



This house ready for your personal touch! This is an awesome property and priced to sell at \$695,000
Call Lea Underwood
904-571-0790

PV2-LV40666



HARBOUR ISLAND HIDEAWAY

Step inside this "Harbour Island Hideaway" and experience the perfect synergy of luxury & comfort in this sensational, custom designed European inspired estate. Enjoy spectacular marsh front views on Harbour Island, a prestigious one of a kind yacht club community tucked inside the gates of Marsh Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach. Launch your boat or yacht from your private 40ft boat slip. \$1,500,000



Call Janet Westling
904-813-1913

PV2-LV40620



OPEN HOUSE
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7/29 & 7/30 2-5pm

130 CUELLO CT., #201

Mediterra Coastal Luxurious condo is open and spacious! Only a 5-minute walk to the ocean. This exquisite condo has been elegantly designed! A must see! 3 bedrooms + den/ 2.5 baths/2 car garage/2929/ personal elevator in unit. Offered at \$668,950



Call Michele Stewart
904-707-5225

PV2-LV40699



PEACEFUL ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD

Amazing custom built home with 5BR/4BA plus bonus, office and exercise room on a large lot with beautiful oaks. Cook's dream kitchen, open floor plan of 4,592 sq ft, extensive mill work and pool. Offered at \$995,000.



Call Devon Witt
904-607-1281

PV2-LV40649



DREAM FINDERS CUSTOM HOME in AB

Introducing Dream Finders Homes Custom Homes in Atlantic Beach Country Club. Just a few blocks to the beach, this perfect Coastal style beach house features a cedar shingle & stucco exterior w/ expansive eastern exposure for enjoying golfers on the 9th tee, water to golf w/ the coveted views of the ABCC Clubhouse. The design features 5BR/5.5BA, 3872sf & include a Summer Kitchen, natural gas, 7" & 8" solid core doors, a 2.5 car garage w/ a paver driveway, 2 Isokem fireplaces, wood floors in main living areas, custom closets, Thermador Professional appl. package, tankless Rinnai water heater, pre-wiring for home theater, audio and security. New construction completion is expected to be Aug./Sept. 2017. Offered at \$1,325,000.



Call Lee Elmore
904-699-4503

PV2-LV40727



SOLD

LIVE THE LIFESTYLE!

Located in the Nocatee Town Center Lakeside, a Key West style community. Relax on your front porch and enjoy this charming house with a chef's kitchen, 4 bedrooms / 3 baths, and office.



Call Diane Farmer
904-445-8295

PV2-LV40740



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ATLANTIC BEACH OCEANFRONT CONDO

The perfect weekend getaway, this ground floor, 3BR/2BA, 1654sf condo features tile floors throughout, updated Kitchen and Baths, French doors that lead to an oceanfront Florida Room to enjoy the ocean breezes and direct access to the beach. Conveniently located

just 8 blocks north of Beaches Town Center. Offered at \$770,000.



Call Lee Elmore
904-699-4503



THE BEST OF RIVERFRONT LIVING!

Stunning 4BR/4.5BA, 3858sf home in historic Ortega. Custom built in 2010, this coastal Federal style home combines traditional and modern design for today's lifestyle and energy efficiency too. New dock under

construction! Offered at \$1,475,000



Call Cheryl Dolan
305-509-1396

PV2-LV40628



PRIVATE PONTE VEDRA POINTE ESTATE

Situated on 1.22 acres, this private lakefront 5 bedroom / 4 bath property features a dramatic 40-foot heated saltwater pool with streaming fountains, 2-story screened enclosure, large bonus, office and port cohere connecting the 3-car garage and workshop. \$1,050,000



Call Ilona Fischer
904-735-0047

PV2-LV40606



EXEMPLARY OCEANFRONT

Hacienda style home nestled on 1.47 acres of pristine oceanfront. Spanning 4,527 SF this bright airy, 4bd/5ba, home offers a resort like atmosphere with large oceanfront pool/spa and private beach walkover. \$4,200,000



Call Elizabeth Hudgins
904-553-2032

PV2-LV40609



ATLANTIC BEACH LUXURY, POOL AND GUEST HOUSE!

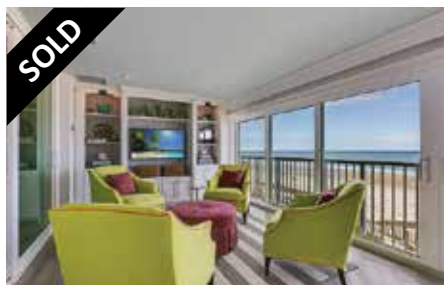
This 6BR/7BA 5,346 sqft luxury home has it all, in the PERFECT location ~ 400 yds to the sand, 380 yds to Atlantic Beach Country Club. Custom-built on a half-acre lot, this property has all the extras with

an oversized butler's pantry, detached guest suite, saltwater heated pool, fire pit, 3 car garage, and lots of extra space to park all your toys! \$2,240,000



Call Jennifer Sexton
904-463-3326

PV2-LV40626



SOLD

BREAKERS V

Oceanfront living at its finest in this COMPLETELY remodeled condo. Redesigned floor plan, professionally decorated. This 3BR/3BA condo is exquisite. \$1,849,000



Call Vanessa Solomon
904-994-3746 or **Lurah Patrick** 904-859-7770

PV2-LV40607



OCEANFRONT

SPINNAKERS REACH CONDO

Completely renovated oceanfront 2BR/2BA 1,568sf condo in Spinnakers Reach! Move-in ready with renovated kitchen & two balconies

for more living space! Offered at \$739,000.



Call Tina Webster
904-982-7330

PV2-LV40610



PRESERVE VIEWS!

375 SOUTH MILL VIEW WAY

Just move in! 5 BR 3 1/2 BA in Sawmill Lakes. First floor owners retreat with updated bath. New Carpet, fresh paint, new roof. Near Ponte

Vedra's beautiful beaches and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. \$599,500



Call Nancy Massengill
904-910-7000

PV2-LV40605



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Sat., 7/29 1-3pm

STUNNING LAKESIDE ESTATE

Step inside 1120 Salt Creek Drive and experience a completely updated home with amazing water to golf views! This stunning home features over 4200 sq. ft. with 5BR, 4.5BA, custom kitchen and room for a pool. Offered at \$899,000



Call Janet Westling
904-813-1913

PV2-LV40617



4.4 RIVERFRONT ACRE ESTATE ON FT CAROLINE!

Enjoy relaxing sunsets from this 5BR/4BA 4,420 sqft contemporary home on a 4.4 acre estate, high bluff, oak canopied lot. This amazing property offers a serene private setting, views from every room while just minutes

from downtown and the beaches. A spacious riverfront lawn, terrace, 408' private dock and boat lift make this property perfect for entertaining. \$1,195,000



Call Jennifer Sexton
904-463-3326

PV2-LV40625



JUST TWO BLOCKS TO THE OCEAN

This immaculate Atlantic Beach pool home is located East of Seminole Road. Built in 1995, it has been completely updated to today's lifestyle. It features 5BR/3BA, 2786sf, hardwood and travertine floors, granite counters, gas fireplace and wonderful outdoor terraces and balconies to enjoy the sound of the surf and the afternoon sea breezes. A short 5 minute bike ride to the new Atlantic Beach Country Club, where

friends and families gather for outdoor sports activities or dinner in one of three restaurants. Offered at \$985,000.



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PV2-LV40723



GORGEOUS ST. JOHNS GOLF & CC HOME ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC

Stunning 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home with multiple upgrades including plantation shutters, granite countertops, upgraded SS appliances, Energy Seal spray foam insulation in roof decking, custom front door and built-in bookshelves. Seller is offering a \$5000 carpet allowance. Offered at \$429,000.



Call Sarah Alexander
904-334-3104

PV2-LV40604

European-style home offers luxurious amenities and striking marsh and water views

By Lisa Barton

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

Nearly new in Marsh Landing's Harbour Island, this beautiful four bedroom/ three bathroom, European-style villa was completely renovated in 2007 and re-built with the finest finishes available.

Located at 24586 Harbour View Drive, this lovely home offers over 4,700 square feet of elegant living spaces in a fabulous natural setting. The gracious, solid wood front doors open to a beautiful screened courtyard with a fabulous pool and lovely guest house, which features a separate entrance, large bathroom and luxurious spaces. Charming and warm: your guests won't want to leave!

Both the guest house and the main house also open to a screened courtyard with a large swimming pool and spa. These outdoor spaces are open yet private with beautiful tropical landscaping. The primary living spaces feature chiseled stone floor and pecky cypress doors, and the high ceilings create a feeling of complete luxury.

The gourmet kitchen has a large granite center island, chef's quality appliances, a butler's pantry, custom cabinets and unbelievably beautiful natural marsh views.

The downstairs master has a large sitting area and spacious closet with custom built-in storage. The master bath is a true retreat with a jetted tub, walk-in shower and double sinks. An open study with large windows and custom bookshelves creates the perfect spot for an at-home office.

Up the travertine stairs with a hand forged iron railing are two spacious bedrooms that share a Jack-and-Jill bathroom. There you'll find an additional family room, which is a space for children or guests! This second family room has a large fireplace, custom cabinetry and lovely views of the marsh and water.

A west facing balcony provides views of Harbour Island's yacht basin where your 50-foot floating slip awaits. You'll also enjoy the morning views from the covered patio that overlooks the marsh and tidal creek. This lovely home is directly across from the Harbour Island yacht basin, which is located on the Intra-coastal Waterway, giving you easy access to deep water.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Lisa Barton and offered at \$1,698,000.



Photos courtesy of Lisa Barton

A nature preserve in The Grove

By Murray and Elise Beard

How would you like to have your own private nature preserve surrounding your house? Nestled in the middle of The Grove—a quiet 27 home neighborhood just south of Mickler’s Landing Beach—this home at 133 Broken Pottery Drive provides the opportunity to enjoy privacy and the best that nature has to offer.

This home sits on a 1.4-acre family compound that has the privacy of the Guana Preserve in the backyard, while also being just steps away from the Atlantic Ocean. 133 Broken Pottery boasts over 4,000 square feet of indoor living space and also includes a large two-story screened lanai and in-ground pool, as well as a stocked fish pond on the property.

With five bedrooms, there is plenty of room for your family as well as guests that will want to visit. The chef in the house will love the large, open kitchen complete with a Viking gas cooktop, Sub-Zero refrigerator and other appliances. The spacious family room overlooks the Guana Preserve and its wildlife. Surrounded by large, native oak trees, you can enjoy the daily sights and sounds of eagles, hawks, egrets, owls and many other migratory birds flying overhead and roosting in the trees in the back. The house is perfect for entertaining or creating special spaces for more intimate gatherings.

For a change of pace, try your hand at fishing in the stocked pond adjacent to the property. If you want to catch bigger fish, surf casting in the Atlantic Ocean is just a short walk away through the private, secure beach access exclusively for residents of The Grove.

You feel like you are a million miles away from civilization, but you really are just a couple miles away from the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach shopping and the local schools. Come see all the best that nature has to offer at 133 Broken Pottery today.

This property is represented by Watson Realty Corp, listed by Murray and Elise Beard and offered for \$929,500.



Photos courtesy of Murray and Elise Beard

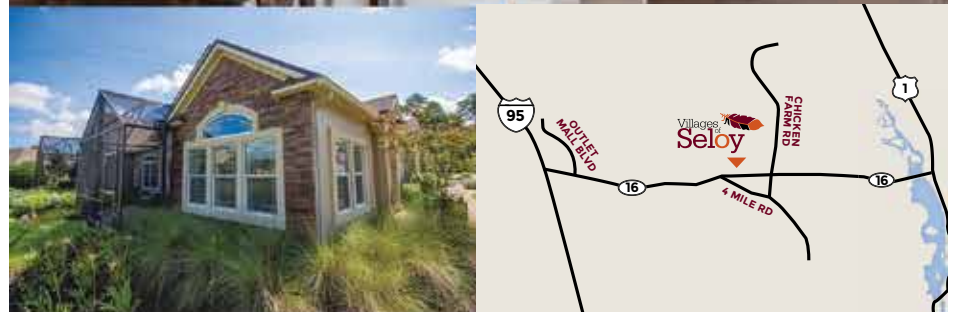
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Five days in Rome

By Janet Westling

Contributing Editor

Our trip to Ireland in June had an unusual detour! We decided to fly from Dublin to Rome for five days.

Rome is a true walking city with an abundance of fabulous museums and one of the most well-known cities on our planet. Once the seat of the most powerful kingdoms and the seat of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, Rome is a place where history and faith converge.

Its ruins tell stories even without an official guide. But if you want to tour Rome and gain a greater understanding of this ancient capital, then hire a great guide.

My husband and I have been to Rome before and had a wonderful historian named Liz Lev take us through the Vatican. Recommended by our friend Francis Rooney, who was the new ambassador to the Holy See, our tour was truly memorable.

I contacted Liz again this year, but unfortunately, Liz was in France during the time that we were in Rome.

So, I turned to plan B and contacted friends of the Vatican who were recommended to me by my Ponte Vedra friend Debbi Kopp. Inside the Vatican is a magazine published 10 times a year by Dr. Robert Moynihan that provides the most balanced

and comprehensive coverage of the Vatican. In addition, they arrange pilgrimages to Rome several times a year.

Debbie Tomlinson, who is a partner at Inside the Vatican, arranged for Dr. Jan Bentz to be our historian for our visit to the Vatican, St. Peter's and a tour of the three major basilicas outside the walls of Rome.

Day 1

We arrived in Rome after a two-and-a-half-hour flight from Dublin on Ryanair. Upon arrival, we were welcomed to Rome at our hotel, the St. Regis, with a special gift of earrings that were designed by Francesca Rutherford who lives in Jacksonville but is a Roman!

Francesca organized and designed the earrings, a special gift for me, my daughter Katie and our friend Katie Pettit by a Naples artist who she has known for a long time. The earrings were beautiful! I can't describe how special it was to be welcomed in that way!

Our first evening in Rome we dined at Osteria Romana, recommended by Francesca and booked by her dad. Several United States presidents have dined there, and it is known for a special tour of the ruins below the restaurant. Owner Mr. Roberto Simmi welcomed us with a glass of prosecco and

ROME continues on Page 33



Janet Westling meets with the Giovanni family at Alla Rampa.



Katie Hughes and Janet Westling stand in front of the Circus Maximus.

Photos courtesy of Janet Westling

Rome

Continued from 32

a private tour of the ruins. It was an incredible evening we will never forget!

Day 2

Our guide Dr. Jan Bentz met us at our hotel by 8:30 a.m. Dr. Bentz is a journalist who writes for Inside the Vatican and reports from Rome. We traveled to the Vatican and began our private tour. I have visited this most amazing spiritual place before, and I am always grateful to return. Each time the visit reveals something else, and this visit was no different.

This June, the weather was a bit warmer than past visits, but despite the heat, it was so special to return again. Walking in this sanctuary where popes and saints have been and viewing the incredible works of art in the Sistine Chapel, our time in the Vatican and St. Peters was reverent, spiritual and moving.

Day 3

Every morning we woke to a wonderful breakfast buffet at our hotel. The St. Regis in Rome was just as beautiful as I remembered it. They are in the process of a complete renovation that is designed to present a more modern look to this grand hotel that has been in Rome since 1894... a true luxury hotel in the center of the Eternal City.

We arranged for our guide Dr. Bentz to meet us with our driver and car to explore the three major

basilicas outside the walls of Rome. I had never taken this journey before.

We began our Sunday morning by attending Mass at Santo Spirito, the Divine Mercy church in Rome at which Father Gino conducts the Mass in English. After Mass we walked to the Vatican where the Pope gave his Angelus message at noon. Jan Bentz met us there and translated the Pope's message and blessing.

After lunch at La Vittoria, located near the Vatican, we met our private van for a tour of the remaining three major basilicas: St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. We also visited Santa Croce where many relics are preserved.

The Basilica of St. Paul was the site where the apostle Paul was killed, and he is buried beneath the church. It was a beautiful church erected by Constantine. St. Paul's tomb is below a marble tombstone in the basilica's crypt. The tombstone bears the Latin inscription "Paulo Apostolo Mart" which means, "to Paul the apostle and martyr."

That evening we dined at a restaurant called Alla Rampa in the heart of Rome in Piazza di Spagna. The food was wonderful. Upon leaving the restaurant someone called out to me, and I turned to see the Giovanni family from Jacksonville Beach who owned one of the most famous restaurants in Jacksonville, Giovanni's! Alla Rampa is one of their favorite restaurants to visit in Rome!

Day 4

This really was our last day in Rome. We decided, because of the heat, to tour with a driver and

roam the various sites we wanted to fit in. They included the Circus Maximus where the chariot races took place. Located behind the emperors' palace between the Aventine and the Palatine hills, it was the first and largest stadium in Ancient Rome.

By accident while stopping at a shopping area near Piazza del Popolo, I noticed a museum about Leonardo da Vinci. It was more like an exhibit of his works and inventions than a museum. It was a small but nice museum to visit with no lines and a short visit!

The most memorable visit we had that day was to the Basilica of St. Clement and the historic ruins below. We spent a long time exploring the underground that was preserved from centuries ago and still intact. At an ever-lower level are the remains of a late first century structure still intact.

Our last evening in Rome, we all dined at a restaurant in Trastevere called Taverna De Mercanti, where we celebrated my daughter Katie's 40th birthday. The setting was beautiful, and the nearby music was the perfect ending to our time in Rome.

Day 5

Our flight from Rome departed close to noon. Our driver arrived to take us to the airport, and on the way we were able to see the old Appian Way and remnants of the aqueducts. Rome is one of the most interesting cities you will ever visit. I would definitely add it to your list!

Our flight back to Dublin was easy and we arrived back in Ireland to cool weather and green hills!



St. Peter's Square



Katie Pettit, Katie Hughes and Janet Westling gather in front of the Spanish steps.



The Museum of Leonardo da Vinci in Rome

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Celebrating my Irish roots



Katie and Paul Pettit in Dunlavin



Katie Pettit enjoys her trip to Dunlavin, Ireland.

Photos courtesy of Katie Pettit

By Katie Pettit

As a young girl, I used to love watching movies about Ireland whenever it got close to St. Patrick's Day, such as "Darby O'Gill and the Little People" or anything with Maureen O'Hara in it. When my husband Paul and I had the good fortune to go to Ireland with our friends the Westlings this past month, it truly was a dream come true.

The entire trip was almost magical, and at times I found it hard to believe I was really there. I was blessed to have the opportunity to visit the county of Wicklow and the small town of Dunlavin, where my Lawler roots (my maiden name) hail. Four of my siblings (there are nine of us) have already visited this special place before me.

Once again, the entire experience was surreal to me. Of course, I was enchanted with this quaint little town off the beaten path and tucked away in its own little corner of this beautiful and friendly country. I walked the main street in awe of the fact that my great grandparents, great aunts, uncles, cousins and their friends walked this same road so many years ago.

I wondered what they thought about and what they were feeling. Was their life hard? Were they happy? What did they wear? What did they do for fun? At times, I felt like I was walking through a movie set and just waiting for the director to yell, "That's a wrap."

There was a local bar; two restaurants; a bed and breakfast named Lawler's; a public library; a little Catholic church; a town park; a Catholic school;

a few little shops; and a small but lovely neighborhood with newer construction as well as older homes.

The countryside was breathtaking: rolling hills, farm land and bright hues of green wherever you looked. Thanks again to Janet, we connected with the town historian and a professor at Trinity College in Dublin. He invited us over to his house and was so very kind and willing to fill me in on what he knew of my ancestors.

His name was Chris Lawlor. He had met at various times over the past 15 years with my siblings. I assumed we were related because of his last name, even though it was spelled differently. My brother and sisters had thought that too, and he never told them otherwise. You can imagine my surprise when within five minutes of meeting me, he told me we were not related. I felt a little foolish, but being the lovely gentleman he was, he continued to try and fill me in about my relatives in this dainty and sweet place.

The first question he asked me was if my relatives were the horse thieves or the ones who went to Australia and discovered gold that they brought back to Dunlavin. I said we probably were the horse thieves, but he tried to reassure me that we were the ones with a "wee" bit of gold. I chose to go with that one since it had more dignity. The other option was not a very pleasant story to imagine with the Lawlers being banished from the town!

Location, lifestyle and charm

By Michele Floyd

Marsh Landing Realty

Located in the upscale gated community of Pablo Creek Reserve is a magnificent Georgian estate home.

When you think of the perfect home, you will think of this! From the driveway where the slate blue in the pavers matches the blue hue of the shutters and tile roof, to the quality of construction, this home reaches design and decorating distinction.

The double door entry leads into all wood flooring throughout the entire first floor, including the master suite and guest suite. The floor plan is open, featuring open and connected common areas that display views of the lake and fountain. The study, dining room, family room, breakfast room and kitchen can be viewed from the spacious foyer. It's open living at its finest! Not to mention, walls of glass bring the outdoors inside.

There are two gathering areas outside for entertaining and relaxing, both of which are paved. Consider the covered patio with a fireplace as a second family room. It's oversized but elegant with a wood plank ceiling, just outside the kitchen and breakfast room. To complete the area is a deluxe summer kitchen ready for the most professional of grillers! Near the covered area is a space for full sun that can fit several seats or dining tables. Say, "Hello," to outdoor living!

The "heart" of the home is the kitchen, which is complete with a gas Thermador range with two ovens, a griddle, a side by side Thermador refrigerator and other Thermador appliances. The countertops are quartz-based, featuring two sinks. Outside the kitchen is a true butler's pantry, complete with two areas for serving and a wine cooler. This is a dream kitchen from design to appliances. There is nothing here left undone!

The master suite overlooks the lake and fountain. Dual closets and a voluminous bathroom complete with a peninsular soaking tub and a shower large enough for long relaxing bath are Dream Finders specialties.

The home includes a guest suite on the main level. Three bedrooms are all suites, and an additional room is upstairs. In total, the home is 4,531 square feet of dreamy rooms, amenities and masterful craftsmanship with the finest of material and state of the art tiles, granites, marble and quartz.

Located at 14358 Cottage Lake Road in Jacksonville, this property is represented by Marsh Landing Realty, listed by Michele Floyd and offered at \$1,425,000.



Photos courtesy of Michele Floyd



Peaceful Oceanfront Condo

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The Pettits visited the cemetery where the Lawler family is buried.

Roots

Continued from 32

He was a delight, and he probably hopes that no more of my clan will come knocking at his door now that we know the truth. He drove us out to the newer town cemetery to show me where my most recent family members were buried

and where we have a “grand” looking headstone in the shape of a cross.

All in all, it was the best of days, and I am fulfilled and honored that I walked in the footsteps of my family. I like to think that “me dear old dad “ in heaven was walking right beside me, pleased that I made this journey into our past that he was never able to do.



Janet Westling

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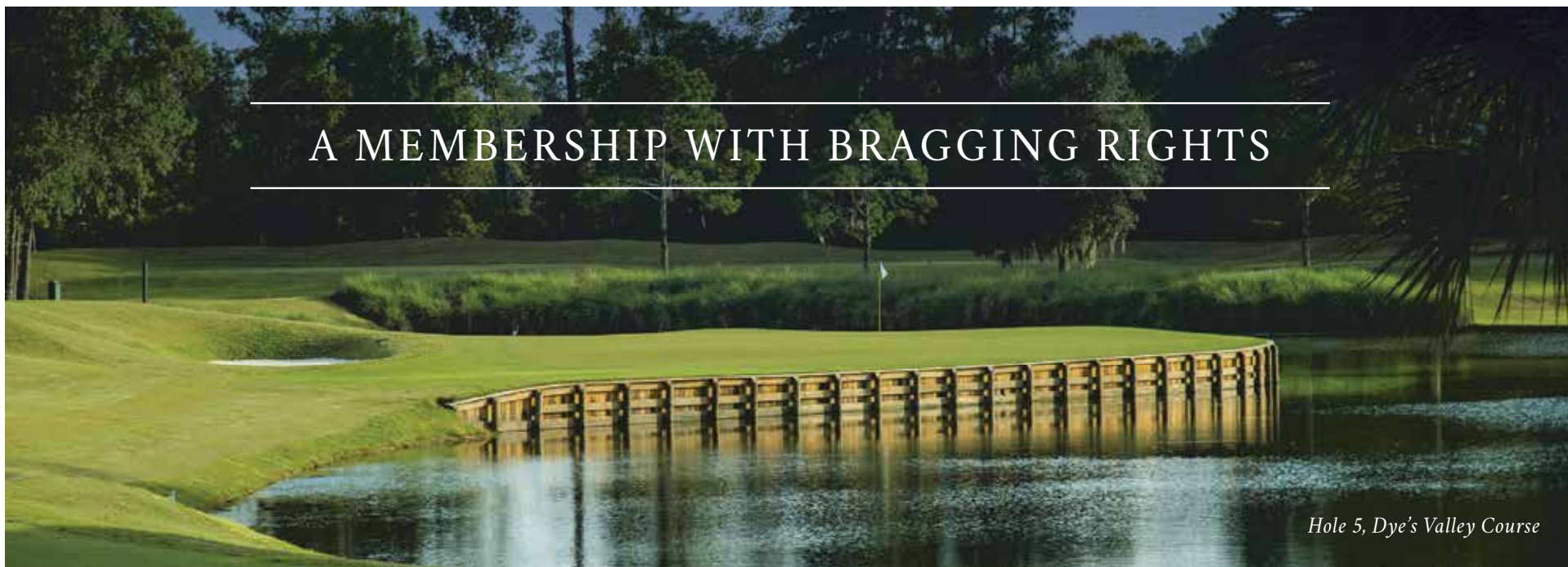
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Rebuilt Sawgrass home ready for its next proud owner

By Devon Witt

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

Retired Captain (USN) Ed and Penny Waller were used to moving frequently, never staying in one house for very long. Both are the children of Navy pilots and moved nearly 40 times between them. They were considering their next project and hoping to move from old Ponte Vedra to Sawgrass Country Club 13 years ago when they learned that one of the premier homes in the neighborhood was coming on the market.

The original owners of 9449 Preston Trail West, Mal and Ann Sims, were ready to part with the home that they designed and built in 1980. They were among the first to build in Sawgrass Country Club and had their choice of lots, ultimately choosing the northeastern most Preston Trail lot on the now 7 West fairway. The lot boasts a stunning eastern exposure with golf to water views, something the Wallers still love about the home today. Many evenings have been spent on the shaded back patio watching golfers play as the lake reflects the setting sun on their backs.

In 2005, the Wallers decided to enhance the home and hired Frank Gamel to make

the modifications that are still what makes the home special today: gleaming maple wood and Saturnia floors and custom kitchen cabinets and doors, as well as wood beams in the formal living room. Fast forward eight years to 2013, and the Wallers still found themselves in the home, a record long stay for them. Instead of enduring another move, they employed Aurora Custom Homes to make yet another set of changes to the home, and this time it would be truly transformative and increase the home's size by more than 1,000 square feet.

Where a back patio once stood is now a soaring living room/entertaining area with expansive windows that offer magnificent views of the golf course and lake. The upstairs was reconfigured to include two more bedrooms and a bathroom. The front and back exteriors were redesigned and now include a stone patio at the front of the home and paved patio out back that are perfect for watching the sun rise or set in comfort.

The Wallers have now moved back to the old Ponte Vedra neighborhood to be closer to their grandchildren and are ready to part with the home they rebuilt. The property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Devon Witt and Tina Webster and offered at \$1,249,000.



9449 Preston Trail West stands before renovations.



9449 Preston Trail West stands after renovations.



The inside of the property after renovations

Photos courtesy of Devon Witt and Tina Webster



The back of the property is displayed before renovations.



The back of the property is displayed after renovations.



Photos courtesy of Sheri Beltran
The Trompe L'Oeil Salon team was asked to attend and work the MLB All-Star Game Red Carpet Parade.



Trompe L'Oeil Salon Owner Sheri Beltran works with a client before the red carpet event.



Sheri and Carlos Beltran



Stephanie Grant, Cindy Clark, Sheri Beltran, Harriett Bachman, Carlos Beltran, Holly Paquette and Amaury Pereira



Stephanie Grant, Harriett Bachman, Sheri Beltran, Carlos Beltran, Holly Paquette and Cindy Clark

Trompe L'Oeil Salon hits homerun at MLB All-Star weekend

By Sheri Beltran
 Trompe L'Oeil Salon Owner

Wow! What an honor to be asked to do hair for Major League Baseball wives and significant others at the All-Star weekend's Red Carpet Parade in Miami.

My husband and I opened our third Trompe L'oeil Salon in downtown Miami March 1. So, being new in town, we were completely blown away, and we feel so blessed and honored.

The four-day event began with the All-Star Game Gala at the Perez Museum, which featured Flo-Rida as the guest artist. This invitation-only event was spectacular from the food to the entertainment and fireworks. With the Perez Museum situated right on the water, it was truly a magical evening and one of the best events I have ever attended.

Next, we attended the MLB Home Run Derby at Marlins Park. What a ballpark! Our seats at home plate were amazing. The winner of the competition was Aaron Judge, who my husband Carlos wanted to get an autograph from so badly. We came to find out that our stylist Harriett was manning the gift bag table for the VIPs, and Judge walked right up to the table. When Carlos found out, he almost died. Carlos

and I were busy doing hair for the red carpet event so sadly he never got Judge's autograph. But he did get to sign his hat, and I did his wife's hair.

For the red carpet event, our day began at 7 a.m. at the Marriott Marquis where all the players were staying. We flew in four staff members from our salons in Ponte Vedra, and we did hair along with Bobbi Brown make-up. About 25 wives and girlfriends had their hair done, and it was a huge success. Everyone was red carpet-ready and on time, and everyone loved their hair! We even worked with Judy, the wife of the Marlins' owner!

Our day ended at the All-Star game Tuesday evening with amazing seats at home plate again. It was a glorious night and a great way to end our exciting four days. I had never been to a live baseball game before, and I must say it will be hard to top this again!

I feel so blessed to have been able to do what I do for 23 years, and I was so happy to share this experience with my husband Carlos and my amazingly talented staff, which includes Holly Paquette, Cindy Clark, Stephanie Grant, Harriett Bachman and Amaury Pereira. I am so proud to work with them. Thank you to my team and to MLB for this amazing experience of a lifetime.

Deer Run villa offers classic Sawgrass experience

By Jim Ross
Kearney Real Estate Services

Located at 9688 Deer Run Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach, this property is situated on Sawgrass Country Club's East Course, featuring views of golf on the East and West courses, nearby water and

Bird Island, which becomes white at night as hundreds of local birds roost there.

This updated 2,746 square foot villa features five bedrooms, as well as a bonus room/ office/bedroom and an additional loft. The entire first level has plantation shutters and 18-inch porcelain tile. The kitchen is updated with granite counters and 42-inch cabinets, plus stainless steel

appliances.

The owner's suite has an updated bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub and a separate shower, in addition to a large walk-in closet with outstanding golf to water views. This owner's suite and two other bedrooms each have private balconies to enjoy the great views and fabulous sunsets.


The villa is conveniently located near Sawgrass' state of the art fitness center, which features a heated lap pool, and the racquet club, which includes 13 Har-Tru tennis courts, locker room facilities, a full-service pro shop and dedicated tennis professionals for training. It's also close to the golf club, which features 27 holes of championship golf and a full-service pro shop.

The property is a two-minute golf cart ride from the Atlantic Ocean and the Sawgrass Beach Club, which includes two sparkling pools and a full array of dining and social events. The Deer Run Community features two car garages, outstanding landscaping, new exterior lighting and a well-maintained and financially funded association. Overall, it's one of Sawgrass Country Club's most desirable communities.

This property is represented by Kearney Real Estate Services, listed by Jim Ross and offered at \$549,000.



Photos courtesy of Jim Ross




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Secluded old Ponte Vedra Beach condo offers quick access to ocean and beautiful views

By Linda Ostoski and Jim Zeller

Watson Realty Corp.



Turn back time and enjoy Florida as it once was. Located at 147 Sea Hammock Way, this condo is the perfect weekend getaway or permanent residence. Either way, it allows you to decompress from the hustle and bustle of today's living.

Florida's natural beauty and coastline come alive in this Ponte Vedra Beach condo. From the wrap around patio, you can enjoy the sunrises, sunsets and cool ocean breezes while sipping on your favorite beverage. On cool evenings, cuddle up with that special someone in front of the wood burning fireplace after your brisk walk on the beach. Looking for an active lifestyle? Tennis, pool, and the beach are on property, and kayaking, paddle boarding and fishing are a mere five minutes away.

This two bedroom/two bath open floor plan is sun-washed with natural light filtered through the custom plantation shutters throughout the condo. The gathering area includes a dining and living space with tile flooring and a fireplace that is the focal point of the space.

The kitchen features granite countertops and a prep island, and the washed pine ceilings add architectural interest. The large kitchen flows seamlessly into the large breakfast room with sliding doors to access the terrace. The spacious master bedroom with a large master bath has a soaking tub and a frameless separate glass shower. The bath also has a vanity. The second bedroom can easily be used as a study.

This property is represented by Watson Realty Corp., listed by the Luxury Leaders members Linda Ostoski and Jim Zeller and offered at \$699,000.



Photos courtesy of Linda Ostoski and Jim Zeller

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UF Health pediatricians honored

Three pediatricians with the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville have been honored by the Northeast Florida Pediatric Society for their work with children.

Laura Beverly, M.D., was named the society’s Pediatrician of the Year. Asad Tolaymat, M.D., was named Educator of the Year and Daniel Indelicato, M.D., was named Pioneer of Innovation.

Beverly is medical director of the UF Health Pediatrics – Beaches practice. She has practiced pediatrics in Jacksonville Beach since 1991 and has been a UF COMJ faculty member since 2004. She received her medical degree from the University of South Alabama and completed her residency at The Children’s Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham.

“I find that watching a child grow and having a long-term relationship with families is very rewarding,” Beverly said. “I’m privileged to be taking care of the children of my former patients now. I have been treating patients in the Beaches area since 1991, so I can provide a medical home for children as they grow and offer long-term intervention by treating the whole child.

That is what I love doing.”

Tolaymat is a professor of pediatrics and chief of pediatric nephrology and rheumatology. He received his medical education in Damascus, Syria. His residency and fellowships were completed in Jacksonville.

Indelicato’s focus is pediatric radiation oncology, and he is a key member of the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute. He received his medical degree from the University of Miami and completed his residency in radiation oncology at the UF College of Medicine in Gainesville.

“The recognition of Dr. Beverly, Dr. Tolaymat, and Dr. Indelicato underscores the commitment that the UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville has to its missions of caring for the children of Jacksonville, educating the next generation of pediatricians and creating new knowledge that improves children’s health,” said Mark Hudak, M.D., chair of pediatrics at UF COMJ. “They bring experience and passion to our community, and this organization is extremely proud of their accomplishments.”

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Orangetheory Fitness to open Nocatee, Jacksonville Beach locations

By Samantha Logue

Orangetheory Fitness, a fitness franchise with several Jacksonville area studios already up and running, will open two new locations this fall: Nocatee and Jacksonville Beach.

The two new studios will be under the same ownership as the Fleming Island, Southside, Jacksonville-Hodges, Jacksonville-Mandarin and Northern St. Johns Orangetheory Fitness studios. The Nocatee facility, to be located at Nocatee Town Center, is scheduled to open in late September. The Jacksonville Beach location, at 3994 Third St., will open later in the fall.

“We are very excited to be opening two additional Orangetheory Fitness locations to complement our other five locations throughout the Greater Jacksonville area this fall,” Co-Owner Leslie Baccash said. “These two new locations will provide the Beaches, Ponte Vedra and Nocatee communities with one of the ‘best full body

workouts in the nation.’”

According to the Nocatee Studio Manager Karyn Knox, what makes the Orangetheory Fitness program stand out is that it takes participants’ heart rates into account.

“We are a one-hour, heart-rate-based, total-body interval program,” Knox said. “During our hour, we address endurance, power and strength, so we incorporate every facet of fitness that you need during that hour, and each participant wears a heart rate monitor during the program.”

Knox explained that Orangetheory instructors aim to manipulate members’ heart rates to keep them in what they call the “target heart rate zone” for a certain percentage of the hour.

“The coaches, if they do get you to stay in the proper heart rate zone for the proper amount of time, we achieve what’s called ‘metabolically charging the body,’” she said. “When you metabolically charge your body, you burn more fat and calories during the hour and for 36 hours after the



Photo courtesy of Orangetheory Fitness.

Orangetheory Fitness team members spread the word about their new studio locations.

workout.”

Knox, who has been a certified personal trainer for 20 years, said that Orangetheory impressed her with all it had to offer.

“I have owned my own business within fitness and worked for other studios and gyms in the past, but what drew me to Orangetheory was the fact that it is an overall wellness-based plan,” she said. “It works for all fitness levels, it’s a fun environment, it’s safe for everyone, and I just feel like the science behind it is why

people are getting such great results and why I wanted to be a part of it.”

Since announcing their new locations, Knox – who is herself a Nocatee resident – said that the support that she and the Orangetheory Fitness team have received from the Nocatee community in particular has been overwhelming.

“It’s just phenomenal, really,” she said, “and I just want them to know how much we appreciate them already.”

Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra earns TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence

Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra received a 2017 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence award for quality customer service and positive traveler reviews over the past year.

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sor bubble rating of at least four out of five, have a minimum number of reviews and be listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months to be eligible for distinction.

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to customer satisfaction,” said General Manager Chuck Schoonmaker. “I am extremely proud of our team for consistently delivering exceptional service, and we appreciate our guests for recognizing our efforts.”

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Compass Financial Group relocates to Ponte Vedra Beach

Compass Financial Group has moved to a new office in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Previously located in the Bank of America Tower at 50 North Laura St. in Jacksonville, the wealth management firm will now be located at 574 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

“The process will take the month of July to complete, and our telephone numbers will remain the same,” said Robert Franskousky, Compass Financial Group’s managing principal. “The Jacksonville office will remain available for meetings through the end of the year.”

To celebrate its recently-renovated new space, the company intends to hold an open house event this fall.

Automotive Assurance Group joins AmTrust

Automotive Assurance Group, a Ponte Vedra Beach-based, full-service financial and insurance agency, is now part of the AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. group of companies.

“We are pleased to welcome Automotive Assurance Group to the AmTrust Financial family of companies and add to the strength of our warranty business,” said Stuart Hollander, president of Specialty Risk, U.S., for AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. “With the addition of Automotive Assurance Group, we have expanded our presence into a new area of the automotive finance and insurance market.”

Automotive Assurance Group has been representing Warranty Solutions, an AmTrust company, for more than 14 years and has achieved top producing agent status as well as top agency in various categories throughout that period. As a strongly-financed finance and insurance provider, Automotive Assurance Group is able to offer its dealer clients the resources of AmTrust programs, in addition to their select group of other industry providers and portfolio of products.

“I am thrilled to be working with AmTrust Financial and have no doubt that Automotive Assurance Group can achieve new levels of growth and success under the AmTrust Financial umbrella,” said Nick D’Amico, founder of Automotive Assurance Group. “I will continue as president of Automotive Assurance Group, helping our dealers achieve and exceed their business and financial goals, while providing exceptional personalized service, and truly the best in F&I products and strategy.”

TPC Sawgrass hosts Chamber After Hours event

TPC Sawgrass hosted an “after hours” networking event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, July 19.

After work, Chamber members and their guests were invited to the TPC Clubhouse to chat, mingle and take in the views of the famed and picturesque golf course. Attendees were also served complimentary hors d’oeuvres and refreshments.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Chris George with Nancy and Gary Hallett



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Ponte Vedra Beach resident and CCPVB director speaks at UN

By Samantha Logue

Last month, Ponte Vedra Beach resident Donna Guzzo was invited to give a presentation regarding world hunger before the United Nations.

Guzzo, who is the director of development for the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, is also the administrator of operations for the Language Exploration Enrichment (LEE) program for St. Johns County students. LEE provides students with intensive instruction in the Spanish language and foreign cultures. Since its founding, the program has been incorporated into 15 schools in St. Johns County.

As one goal of LEE is to encourage students to explore different cultures, Guzzo wanted to give the students an opportunity to learn about other cultures while also giving back to the community.

“It doesn’t do them any good to know the language if they’re not going to take in the culture,” she said. “Culture has always been a part of our motto: ‘Learn a language, share culture, change the world.’”

When Guzzo was invited to participate in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) task force to end global issues like poverty and hunger, she realized the educational potential for her students. One of the UN’s 17 specified goals was to end world hunger by the year 2030, and as Guzzo wanted to teach students about other cultures, she opted to

focus on that goal.

In April, LEE partnered with the St. Augustine High School Interact Club and international hunger relief organization Rise Against Hunger to affect change. April 8, the group gathered and worked for hours to prepare meals that consisted mainly of rice, dried vegetables and soy protein for the hungry.

“When they were preparing the meals, I remember the kids saying, ‘Where are the hamburgers? Where are the hot dogs?’” Guzzo laughed. “I think that’s really when they connected that not everybody eats like us.”

Ultimately, the kids were able to prepare 10,000 meals for worldwide distribution. When the United Nations learned of the students’ efforts, they contacted Guzzo and invited her to come and share her experience with them. She accepted the invitation, and on June 28, she arrived at United Nations Headquarters in New York City with a presentation created by her students, as well as a painting a child made during a summer camp at the cultural center depicting a world full of people of various cultures and a big pizza slice.

Inside, Guzzo said that she and her daughter had the opportunity to eat lunch in the Delegates’ Dining Room and sit in on a meeting regarding weapons of mass destruction.

“I thought, ‘I can’t believe I’m here,’” Guzzo said. “It was just surreal.”

The SDG task force, she said, was touched by her presenta-



Photo courtesy of Donna Guzzo

Donna Guzzo at the United Nations

tion and the enormous impact of the students – some of them just kindergartners – on relieving world hunger.

“They were just like, ‘This is the future,’” she said. “This is the generation that’s going to understand what it takes to really make an impact with hunger in the world.”

The painting that Guzzo brought with her, which has since been dubbed “Pizza for the World,” is to be framed and hung at UN Headquarters. As for Guzzo’s students, she advised that they are already coming up with their own ideas for new ways to make a positive impact on the world.

Local art company raises money for charities

Art 4 Charities, a Ponte Vedra-based company that partners with nonprofits, helped raise funds for numerous local charities and organizations over the past year-and-a-half.

Those nonprofits include Alpha Omega Miracle Home, Ayla’s Acres, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech, Crosswater Community Church, Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, Learn To Read of St. Johns County, Mission House, PACT Prevention Coalition, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, Save Guana Now, St. Augustine Youth Services, Vilano Beach Main Street and The First Tee.

“I worked with nonprofits for over 20 years in North Florida and realize how challenging it can be to raise the funds needed to meet the goals of the organization,” said Diane Machaby, director of charity fundraising for Art 4 Charities. “My husband and I try to make the fundraising and holding events as easy as we possibly can for the charity.”

Art 4 Charities sells reproductions of famous artwork and photography to people around the world, with a substantial portion of the proceeds benefiting charities. The nonprofit agencies agree to inform their supporters and the general public about Art 4 Charities raising funds for them, and in turn, the organizations receive 40 percent of the proceeds of any sales designated to them.

Mission House was the first charity in North Florida to partner with Art 4 Charities.

“Art 4 Charities is such a wonderful and practical opportunity for Mission House,” said Lori Anderson, executive director of Mission House. “The selection of art is wonderful, and Diane and Terry are so generous to do this. We are so blessed to be a part of this project that will assist us in our efforts to assist those who find themselves homeless to obtain a roof over their head.”

Art 4 Charities is currently in the process of organizing live and silent art auctions at local restaurants and golf and country clubs to benefit various charities. Art auctions can also be held by supporters of charities in their homes or at their businesses, clubhouses, churches or community centers to help raise funds to support a charity of their choice.

To learn more about Art 4 Charities, visit the Art 4 Charities website at www.Art4Charities.net.

First Coast Youth Orchestras founded in North Florida

The First Coast Youth Orchestras, an ensemble program for musicians ages 7 through 21, has been founded as a division of the First Coast Community Music School to help young musicians grow and gain experience through various ensemble programs.

The FCYO will have an active Board of Directors as well as a Parent Booster Association. The organization will enroll up to 300 students for five levels of ensembles.

The youngest string players will be placed in Debut Strings, Intermezzo Strings and Aria Strings. More experienced players will join the two full orchestra programs: the Youth Philharmonic for advancing middle and high school instrumentalists and the Youth Symphony for advanced high school, college and pre-conservatory students. A chamber music program will be offered for musicians in its top two orchestras.

FCYO’s season will run from September through May with regular rehearsals on weekends. The season will consist of four concerts, with the inaugural concert being presented Nov. 18 at the University of North Florida’s Lazzara Concert Hall.

Maestro Scott Gregg, Executive Director of the First Coast Community Music School, will head the program and conduct both the Youth Symphony and the Youth Philharmonic. He will also serve as the artistic director of the FCYO.

“The enthusiasm this project has generated in student musicians all over the First Coast, along with the 60+ years of combined experience our conducting staff has had nurturing a culture of excellence in young musicians and the potential for innovative programming between the School and the Youth Orchestras, is going to be a powerful combination,” Gregg said. “The most successful youth orchestra programs across the country are independent of any parent symphony, and I’m looking forward to testing how far we can grow.”

Serving alongside Gregg will be Maestra Judith Steinmeyer, who will lead Aria Strings.

“I was honored when asked to join the FCYO team,” Steinmeyer said. “I could not pass up the opportunity to work with advancing string players in this newly formed organization.”

Ponte Vedra woman claims Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament Lady Angler victory

By Benjamin Naim

Ponte Vedra local Monica Stam won the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament's Lady Angler competition with a 39.8-pound fish after an 18-year-old participant voluntarily forfeited her first-place prize because she didn't catch the winning fish herself.

"I didn't know I had won until this morning," Stam said. "I was happy with second. I couldn't believe it. I still can't believe it."

Stam has been fishing for 12 years, but this is the first time she's "ever come close to Lady Angler."

"It's a thrill," she said.

Despite a momentary delay due to inclement weather, Stam posed on-stage for photographs and claimed her prize money before friends and family at the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament awards ceremony. Chairman Steve Thompson moderated the event.

Other winners included Sage Cree, who won the Redfish General Spots tournament after reeling in a beauty with 14 total spots. Cree said she would be donating her prize money to the Jacksonville School for Autism.

Tyler Patterson reeled in the largest kingfish

at 55 pounds.

"I've been in this since I've been 10; this is probably my 22nd Greater Jax," he said. The 2017 competition was the first time Patterson earned first place.

Chip Crabtree, who won the Single Engine tournament, revealed that it takes preparation, significant effort, and many man hours behind the scenes to win a fishing competition. Crabtree honored his late brother with the name of his boat.

"We named [the boat] 'Vamoose,' after my brother's boat who used to fish in the tournament for years," he said. "He just passed away in April so it was a family tribute to bring the boat name back, and it was awesome."

The Single Engine winner said he would use his prize money to "pay down" his boat and perhaps purchase a bigger one.

Other first-place finishers included Jr. Angler Dock winner, Gavin Altman; Redfish Tournament Kayak winner, Timothy Thurman; Wahoo winner, Eddie Bennett; Cobia winner, Bill Lynch; Traveling Angler winner, Greg Samuel; and Aggregate winner Dennis Sergent of the "D-Breef" boat.



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Lady Angler winner Monica Stam (right) poses with her trophy.



Single Engine winner Chip Crabtree (second to the left) gathers with his team after fishing on his boat, Vamoose.

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DOWN

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- Robert De Niro's "Cape ____"
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Ballerina's skirt fabric

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General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Secure with ropes

Rome's Colosseum

*Quarter Quell

Snorkeling site

Infamous Roman Emperor

*"Little House on the Prairie" protagonist

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"

(2005) movie director

"War and Peace" author

Type of roof window

Portray emotion

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Sharpen

Arabian chieftain

Ne

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Biblical twin

Monster's loch

Skin cyst

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Look Up Before the Storm

Tchukki Andersen, board certified master arborist and certified tree care safety professional with the Tree Care Industry Association, is reminding people during hurricane season to prepare their trees to survive storms.

“It is important that people who live in the east and gulf coastal areas be prepared,” he said. “Even people in the midwestern states should heed the warning. Right now, get your trees as ready as they can be to survive a major storm. Don’t wait until the storm is headed your way.”

Andersen explained that falling trees and limbs pose a great danger to life and properties during violent storms and hurricanes. As a result, he advises people to prepare now by contacting a qualified tree care provider to evaluate their trees.

According to Andersen and the Tree Care Industry Association, the following should be considered when evaluating trees.

- Wires in contact with tree branches...trees may become energized when they are contacted by electric wires.

- Dead or partially attached limbs stuck in higher branches that could fall and cause damage or injury
- Cracked stems and branch unions that could cause failure of a tree section
- Hollow or decayed areas in the trunk or main limbs, or mushrooms growing from the bark that may indicate a decayed and weakened stem
- Peeling bark or gaping wounds in the trunk that could also indicate structural weakness
- Fallen or uprooted trees putting pressure on other trees beneath them
- Tight, V-shaped branch unions, which are much more prone to failure than open, U-shaped unions
- Heaving soil at the tree base, which is a potential indicator of an unsound root system

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St. Johns County Commission approves \$1.4 million out of reserves for Hurricane Matthew restoration efforts

By Jon Blauvelt

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted at the July 18 BCC meeting to use \$1.4 million from the county's reserve funds for Hurricane Matthew restoration projects.

The total cost of the proposed projects amounts to about \$11.3 million. Joe Giammanco, the county's disaster recovery manager, explained at the meeting that 75 percent, or \$8.5 million, of that total is eligible for federal reimbursement in the form of a Department of Homeland Security FEMA Hurricane Matthew Grant. An additional 12.5 percent, or \$1.4 million, is eligible for state reimbursement in the form of a State of Florida Division of Emergency Management Grant, leaving the county responsible for matching the remaining 12.5 percent, or \$1.4 million.

In addition to approving the use of the county's reserve funds, the commission made a motion to adopt the overall resolution, which recognizes and appropriates the federal and state grants.

The restoration projects are organized into various FEMA categories, including road and bridge, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities and parks.

The majority of the \$11.3 million will be used in the road and bridge category for repairing damage to sections

of Old A1A in Summer Haven, which is south of St. Augustine Beach. Giammanco explained that this work entails repairing the rock revetment in the north section of the road and laying down pavement in the north and south sections. These projects are estimated to cost about \$10 million, with the county planning to contribute about \$1.3 million from its Transportation Trust Fund.

Giammanco proposed two projects within the water control facilities category. He said a \$25,000 design project is planned to address erosion at Alpine Groves Park in Switzerland. The county is planning to contribute \$3,125 from its General Fund toward the project. In addition, Giammanco said a \$200,000 project is in the works to repair the county's oceanside seawall, with the county planning to allocate \$25,000 from its General Fund for the efforts.

\$72,588 worth of projects are planned within the buildings and equipment category, with the county expecting to pull \$9,074 from its General Fund for the work. Giammanco said Hurricane Matthew ultimately damaged 17 county buildings, including amphitheatres, libraries, bus stops and fire stations. The funds will also cover the repair of damaged vehicles and county-owned equipment.

The utilities category is divided into two subcategories: utility lines and lift stations and utility buildings and fencing. Projects addressing utility lines and lift stations, said Giammanco, include repairing five lift stations and

fixing various outfalls and sewer lines. This \$337,221-line item will ultimately cost the county's utility department \$42,151. Work to repair 15 utility buildings and fencing at 37 properties will cost an additional \$152,285, with the county's utility department planning to contribute \$19,036.

Giammanco explained that projects within the parks category feature repair of 39 parks around the county, including efforts to restore protective ground cover and playground equipment, protective netting, fencing and facility repairs. This work amounts to a total of \$158,075; the county plans to contribute \$19,759 from its General Fund.

The parks category, Giammanco said, also includes projects to repair damage to the Vilano Beach Pier and Shands Pier, as well as boat ramps and beach walkovers throughout the county. These last three line items add up to a total of \$220,320, with \$27,540 coming from the county's General Fund reserves.

Following Giammanco's presentation, Commission Chair Jimmy Johns reminded attendees of the BCC meeting that more work will need to be done to recover from Hurricane Matthew.

"There are others that have been tremendously impacted," he said. "They are not forgotten. It will take more time to collect the documents in order to justify the reimbursements. This is just the first of several."

Tips for responding to flooding in your home



Photos courtesy of PuroClean



Wayne R. Terry
Guest Columnist

By Wayne R. Terry

Special to the Recorder

Water has many wonderful purposes and benefits, such as for drinking, cleaning, swimming, boating and in general the majestic beauty that a lake or ocean brings us. Yet as we know, water can also bring us disastrous hurricanes and flooding.

When unwanted water comes into our homes due to these disasters, it is not something that should be ignored or pushed off for another time. The sooner you get attention, the less damage there will be, and in most cases the lower the restoration bill will be.

Here are a few things to keep in mind if such a disaster occurs:

- When a pipe bursts in your home, this is considered a "water loss," and in most cases the cleanup is covered by your insurance policy.
- A flood in your home is caused by rising water on the outside of the structure. In most cases, this is NOT covered by your insurance policy, unless you have specific flood insurance.
- If water loss comes from a clean water source, such as a sink or supply line and is attended to quickly, a professional restoration company can save everything in most cases by extracting the water and drying out the home. Time can make a big differ-



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Flooding

Continued from 49

ence. If water sits for a significant period of time, the materials can become more saturated, and the risk of mold forming on the items can increase, which will require remediation work to be done.

- Restoration companies assign category numbers to these situations. A “Category 1 Loss” indicates that the situation involves a clean water source that has been sitting for less than 48 hours. A “Category 2 Loss” indicates that the water has been sitting between 48 and 72 hours. In this case, the carpet padding is considered contaminated and is removed; however, the carpet can generally be saved. With a “Category 3 Loss,” all porous and semi-porous surfaces are

considered contaminated and must be removed. The exception would include structural items such as wood studs, which would be handled differently.

- In short, if water sits for a long period of time with no attention, more items will be considered contaminated and will have to be removed and replaced. If the response is immediate, more items can be saved, resulting in less replacement and less cost.
- A professional restoration company regularly completes the above work, knows what needs to be done and works with all insurance carriers to have the claim settled so you are back in your home in the shortest amount of time possible.

Wayne Terry is the owner of PuroClean in Jacksonville. For more information about his restoration company, visit <http://www.jaxpuroclean.com/> or call 904-573-3566.



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