



first coast
Register
December 2017 - January 2018

*Ponte Vedra • Nocatee • Jacksonville
The Beaches • St. Augustine & Amelia Island*

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LIGHT
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Exemplary Oceanfront Living on Ponte Vedra Blvd

This oceanfront estate is built like a fortress with 2-story masonry construction. Set on 1.45 acres this home is designed with to capture expansive ocean views from almost every room. Luxury accommodations are provided with two owner's suites, one upstairs and one downstairs, 4 additional bedrooms each with ensuite baths, a separate study and a bonus/game room or 7th bedroom. This is an exceptional opportunity for your most discerning buyer. **\$6,300,000**



Eat. Beach. Sleep. Repeat.

Steps from the ocean and white sandy beaches (east of A1A) this 3-Story, 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath townhome will instantly rejuvenate the spirit with fresh ocean breezes and the sounds of waves crashing onto the shore. **\$599,000**



Magnificent Mediterranean style

As you pull up the circular drive you will be captivated by the beautiful landscaping and moss covered oak trees. The stunning chef's kitchen with custom cabinetry and oversized island is the perfect setting for entertaining everything from large celebrations to simply enjoying intimate moments with family. **\$1,540,000**



Build Your Dream Home!

One of the largest and prettiest estate lots in Pablo Creek Reserve. Near end of the street for added privacy. One of the most sought-after communities in the area. Convenient to Beaches, Airport, and Downtown. **\$402,500**



Steps from Ponte Vedra Beaches

Do you enjoy listening to the ocean waves while you relax with a glass of wine? Do you enjoy entertaining friends and family in an elegant environment? How about receiving concierge service upon your arrival home? The Carlyle provides a luxury beach lifestyle with a beautifully updated lobby for guests, and concierge service during the day. **\$685,000**



What a location!

Situated in the middle of the most desired oceanfront location in NE Florida. This first floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes and craftsmanship. 2 br, 2 ba plus powder room, plus office have staurnia floors mahogany doors and built in custom cabinetry. **\$1,800,000**



Spacious Waterfront Home in Old Ponte Vedra

Move-in ready with everything you are looking for! 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths plus bonus/4th bedroom upstairs. Recent upgrades include new roof and Rhino Shield exterior ceramic paint, new pool marcite, a/c unit, windows and more. **\$1,295,000**



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contents

06	ONE OF US Matt Carlucci	40	DECK THE CHAIRS
10	FIRST COAST CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS	42	HAVANA NIGHTS
14	HOLIDAY SHOPPES Raises Funds & Holiday Spirit	44	PINEAPPLE POST Hosts Vietri Artisan for Holiday Demonstrations
16	JACKSONVILLE'S Dancing with The Stars	46	DICKENS ON CENTRE
18	ART & ANTIQUES SHOW	48	TOM BROKAW FLORIDA FORUM ADDRESS
20	COWFORD CHOPHOUSE OPENS	50	COMMUNITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE Halloween Events
21	FIREBIRDS OPENS	52	HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
22	RED SHIELD BALL	54	ST. AUGUSTINE BED & BREAKFAST Holiday Tours
24	CHAMPIONS FOR Children Gala	56	IKEA OPENS IN JACKSONVILLE
26	HOLIDAY EVENTS CALENDAR	58	CARING CHEFS
34	HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS RECIPES	60	4TH AVENUE SOUTH SHOPS Hold Holiday Open House
36	CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES	62	PORCHFEST 2017
38	WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT Encourages Support For Wounded Veterans		

about this magazine

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

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FIRST COAST REGISTER
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on the cover

The cover of this First Coast Register features Christ Episcopal Church's 2016 presentation of the Nutcracker Ballet at the University of North Florida. This year's performance will take place Dec. 9 at UNF. Read our holiday events calendar starting on page 26 for more information. Photo by Jasmine Marshall.





What FUN!

Saturday, December 2
10 am to 5 pm

- **Horse-drawn Carriage Rides**

- **Visit with Santa**

- **Music, Activities & More Fun**

- **Stuff Your Stocking & Win It**

Select items to go in your dream stocking from Sawgrass Village merchants, and enter to win it!

- **Spirit of Giving Raffles**

Purchase tickets to win exciting prizes from Sawgrass Village merchants! Benefitting Charities of the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club

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sawgrassvillagepvb.com •  [/sawgrassvillage](https://www.facebook.com/sawgrassvillage)

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One of Us!

MATT CARLUCCI

by JON BLAUVELT
PHOTO BY RENEE PARENTEAU

Matt Carlucci is a State Farm insurance agent who is running for Jacksonville City Council in 2019, after previously serving three terms. He and his family live in the San Marco area.

Can you please briefly tell us about your professional and civic background?

I have been fortunate to enjoy a successful 36-year career as a State Farm insurance agent and to help my sons Matt and Joe start their own successful insurance agency. Previously, I served three terms on the Jacksonville City Council, one year as council president and twice as finance chair. I also served five years on the Florida Commission on Ethics, one year as chairman. As part of my community commitment, I have also served on many not-for-profit boards, committees and organizations.

What has inspired you to run for City Council again?

In a word: families. Not just my family but all the families of Jacksonville. To me, what is most important are the opportunities we provide for future generations. We must position Jacksonville for the future, while being family-focused and keeping an eye on the long game.

My wife Karen and I are both natives of Jacksonville. We have been married 39 years; we have two sons and currently three grandchildren. Matt Jr. and his wife Lauren have two children, daughter Lilly Kate and son Matthew III. Our other son Joe and his wife Victoria have a son, Joe III. We are blessed that our children live in Jacksonville, close to our home in San Marco.

Having raised a family and now experiencing the joys of being a grandfather help me focus on the idea that all families want the best for their children and grandchildren. And to provide the best, we must make sure we can offer the following generations the opportunities that will allow them to successfully care for their families. That boils down to safety, education and jobs. If we can deliver those three things in abundance, imagine the future we will provide for our families.

Why is public service so important to you?

The virtue of public service was learned from my family. I grew up in a family where public service was demonstrated by my grandfather

Continued on page 8

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Where traditions begin



Dear Kids of all ages,

The secret is out that we are moving the Enchanted Christmas Village to Ponte Vedra, Florida!
Hope Pavilion, 899 Palm Valley Road
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

You and your family are invited to join me, Mrs. Claus and many of my North Pole helpers in making new holiday memories in my very own village. We have loads of things for you to enjoy.

Can't wait to see you!

Santa 



DECEMBER
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DECEMBER 21-23
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The Enchanted Christmas Village supports the Bairfind Foundation, which helps find missing children in the USA. It takes a Village to find our missing children!

and father as a community duty. It is what I believe to be my purpose in life. Simply put, community service is in my DNA! I believe that I can make a positive difference on our City Council and in turn the future of Duval County. I say Duval County because I am running at-large; this means if elected, my representation will cover the entire county from the Beaches to Baldwin. Everyone who is registered to vote in Duval County will be able to vote in my race. Running for this spot on the city council is an enormous undertaking.

How would you characterize the current state of the Greater Jacksonville real estate market?

Jacksonville's real estate market is steadily improving and is in good shape. Stable growth in the real estate market is a positive sign for our future and makes planning for that future more manageable. Additionally, I believe infill growth is trending upwards and catching on in Jacksonville and at the Beaches. This is important because these areas already have expensive infrastructure, such as water, sewers and roads in place. New growth in these areas brings all the economic benefits of new growth without needing to build costly tax payer-supported infrastructure. Jacksonville will continue to have suburban growth but supporting infill and the rehabilitation of older neighborhoods will boost economic stability across the city.

What do you think the future holds for Jacksonville?

Jacksonville's future has never been greater! Downtown is coming together, which is important for several reasons. First, great cities are known by their downtowns, not by their suburbs. Second, nowhere in Jacksonville can contribute more revenue to the tax base, block per block, than downtown. Third, strong vibrant downtowns are surrounded and supported by great neighborhoods. However, it cannot be ignored, in many ways we are still the tale of two cities. I have been in neighborhoods all over Jacksonville and can attest that there are

communities that feel ignored and excluded. This is a big concern that provides a large opportunity. In these neighborhoods, we must enhance public services and safety, improve our schools and generate more job opportunities. If we do these things, we will go a long way to solving our city's problems.

There has never been a better time to return to public office. It is for the future generations, all our children and grandchildren, that I want to serve again. I want the next generations to grow up safe, be able to receive a great education and have abundant job opportunities. I want them to live in a city that is truly one city where people love and care for each other 365 days a year. I want them to be proud to call Jacksonville "home."

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

I love Jacksonville and the First Coast because there is so much to do. Our weather is conducive to activities all year-round. Most of all, I love the people. As a small businessman and public servant, it has been my privilege to meet people from neighborhoods and businesses all over our 840 square miles. They all have different needs, but all have good hearts and it is a pleasure to serve them.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In our spare time, Karen and I enjoy working in the yard and relaxing on the back patio. In addition, we have a little getaway in St Johns County, in an unincorporated area called Bass Haven. The cottage sits on a canal leading to the river where I enjoy fly fishing and bait casting for bass and bluegill with my sons and our Labrador retriever, Moses. I am an avid reader of presidential biographies, as well as collecting books on President Lincoln. I am currently reading on John Quincy Adams. While I enjoy learning about history, I aspire to something my father once said over 35 years ago, "I enjoy learning about history, but would rather make history," helping the families of this wonderful community.

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LET IT

Glow

THE BEST FIRST COAST CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

While everybody knows that “a turkey and some mistletoe” can make the holiday season bright, nothing else quite compares to the twinkling glow of Christmas lights. Something about the sight of those colorful lights dazzles even the hardest to impress, and that’s why this year, the First Coast Register has compiled the following list of local light displays to help those Northeast Florida families in search of new ways to celebrate “the most wonderful time of the year.”

NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

A First Coast Christmas would be incomplete without a trip to St. Augustine. The city’s 24th annual “Nights of Lights” celebration kicked off Nov. 18 with the “Light Up! Night” lighting ceremony at the Plaza de la Constitución.

Throughout Nights of Lights, local businesses will stay open later, allowing shoppers the opportunity to bask in the luminescent glow of the holiday spirit. Trains and trolleys will also offer special viewing tours to visitors. Locals and tourists alike can enjoy this award-winning holiday display through Jan. 31.

JAX ILLUMINATIONS

A drive-through light display synchronized to classic Christmas hits, Jax Illuminations provides a fun and easy viewing experience for the whole family. For the fifth year in a row, visitors to the display can grab some hot cocoa, tune their radios





A Christmas tree dazzles at the Plaza de la
Constitucion in St. Augustine
Photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com.

to the correct station and then drive through a mile-long winter wonderland decorated with more than 500,000 lights. Located at the Morocco Shrine Center at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South in Jacksonville, this family-friendly experience is sure to become an annual holiday tradition. Visit <http://jaxilluminations.com> for more information.

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

A charming new Christmas tradition-in-the-making, the second annual Enchanted Christmas Village will be open to visitors on weekends (Thursday through Sunday) from Dec. 1 through Dec. 23.

In its new location at Hope Pavilion in Ponte Vedra, the Village will feature wagon rides, crafts, live entertainment, holiday refreshments, bounce houses, face painting, pictures with Santa and more than 1 million Christmas lights. For additional information, visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com.

DECK THE CHAIRS

Starting Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., Jacksonville Beach will welcome visitors to celebrate the holidays in true Floridian fashion — at

the beach! Head down to the Seawalk Pavilion through Jan. 1 to see 40 lifeguard chairs — sponsored by local businesses — creatively decorated with Christmas spirit for the Jacksonville Beach Deck the Chairs exhibition. The light display is free to view and will be open to the public throughout the month of December. Visit <http://deckthechairs.org> for more information.

PALM VALLEY BOAT PARADE

On Dec. 2, spectators will gather along the Intracoastal Waterway for a parade that literally floats. The Palm Valley Boat Parade, an annual Ponte Vedra Beach tradition, will set sail at 6 p.m., just south of the Palm Valley Bridge. Boats decorated in bright and colorful light displays will make their way north to the end of Marsh Landing, and will be judged in various categories. Parade-watchers along the banks can also join in on the competition by decorating their docks.

Young, old or in-between, “kids from 1 to 92” are sure to love this event. For more information, visit www.palmvalleyboatparade.com.



Jacksonville Beach's annual Deck the Chairs celebration brings Christmas to the Beaches
Photo by Jennifer Logue



A Viking-inspired boat floats by in the Palm Valley Boat Parade.
Photo courtesy of Wendy Patton



The Lightner Museum in St. Augustine
Photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com



St. Augustine's historic Casa Monica Hotel
Photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

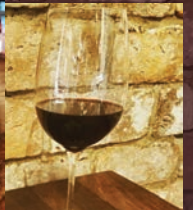


Glowing palm trees light up the courtyard at the Lightner Museum. Photos courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com



The Casablanca Inn illuminates the bayfront in St. Augustine.

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Board member Mary Jayne Derderian and Director of Development Donna Guzzo of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach
Photos by Samantha Logue



Kelly Geer of Blue Sky Creative stands with her handcrafted jewelry.



Zoe LeCain models shoes for Charleston Shoe Co.



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HOLIDAY SHOPPES RAISES FUNDS *& holiday spirit*



Customers look over the wares at Kathy's Accessories.



Lark Champion of Larkin Lane Designs



Coastal holiday decor is displayed at Caroline Forbis' Whimseas booth. Photo by Samantha Logue



Holiday shoppers browse for gifts. Photo by Samantha Logue

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach held its Holiday Shoppes event Nov. 9-11. The event kicked off the holiday shopping season at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall in Ponte Vedra Beach, featuring more than 22 vendors from around the country. An annual fundraiser, 15 percent of the proceeds help to fund the Cultural Center's various programs.

"It benefits our arts, education and outreach programs, and that includes helping children with special needs in four of our schools here in St. Johns County School District," Director of Development Donna Guzzo said. "So, we're very pleased to welcome our vendors, we're pleased to welcome the shoppers and we just want everyone to have fun."

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JACKSONVILLE'S DANCING WITH THE STARS: *a social affair to remember*

by SAMANTHA LOGUE



From left: First-place winners Wesley Kuehlthau and Vickey Cavey, third-place winners Samuel Penalba and Connie Hodges and second-place winners Timothy Schweiger and Tracee Holzendorf
Photo courtesy of Geek Chic Photography



Andrew Simonsen and professional partner Keturah Robison chose a suave James Bond theme for their performance.
Photo by Samantha Logue



Vickey Cavey and professional partner Wesley Kuehlthau get in character before the show.
Photo by Samantha Logue



Jennifer and David Logue
Photo by Samantha Logue



The Jacksonville Children's Chorus performs at the VIP reception
Photo by Samantha Logue.



Halston Carnes, Danielle Weishdar, Amy Pope-Wells and Larry Audije
Photo by Samantha Logue.



Winners Wesley Kuehlthau and Vickey Cavey hold their first-place trophy.
Photo courtesy of Geek Chic Photography

With help from the professional dancers of A Social Affair Dance Studio, Jacksonville's "stars" shined Nov. 4 at the annual "Jacksonville's Dancing With the Stars" benefit, raising more than \$133,000 for the Jacksonville Children's Chorus.

Founded in 1995, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus is a nonprofit organization that offers vocal training and instruction to children from early childhood through young adulthood, as well as a scholarship program.

"This was the fifth time the Jacksonville Children's Chorus and A Social Affair Dance Studio partnered on Jacksonville's Dancing with the Stars," said Carolyn Audije, marketing and public relations director for the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. "The JCC is so grateful to the studio and to the community leaders who put so much effort and dedication into making it a success."

Held at the University of North Florida's Lazzara Performance Hall, the event featured dance performances from nine local "celebrities" and their professional partners, as well as vocal performances from the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. Like on the "Dancing With the Stars" television show, the couples were scored on their performances by a panel of judges, but the winners were ultimately determined by the total amount of funds their teams raised for the Chorus.

"I was thrilled to participate in Dancing with the Stars to raise funds for the Chorus," first-place winner Vickie Cavey said. "In the process, I was also exposed to wonderful professional dancers and lessons from A Social Affair. It was a pleasure."

Cavey and her partner, Wesley Kuehlthau, chose an "I Dream of Jeannie" theme for their performance and raised a total of \$30,000 for the Chorus. Cavey, a retiree who was previously the director of strategy development and execution for JEA, said it was her love of music that spurred her to get involved with the event.

"Music played a huge role in my development as a child," she said. "Because music education is important to a child's development, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus offers a scholarship program to ensure every child who desires to participate may do so regardless of a family's ability to afford tuition. Thirty-five percent of enrolled singers currently receive either partial or full scholarship support, so being a part of Dancing with the Stars was a 'win-win'—for me and the kids."



On behalf of all of us at Mainstream Boutique of Ponte Vedra, we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May this season of festivities bring you true happiness, success, and prosperity!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our customers as we look forward to serving you during this joyous season and in 2018!

Mainstream Boutique
 880 AIA N - Suite 4 - Ponte Vedra Beach
 904.834.7708
 www.mainstreamboutique.com

WOMEN'S BOARD OF WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO HOLD 41ST ANNUAL ART & ANTIQUES SHOW

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital will welcome nationally acclaimed lecturers and internationally recognized art and antiques dealers to the 41st Annual Art & Antiques Show Dec. 1-3 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center.

"We invite everyone to the Art & Antiques Show to hear engaging speakers and view art and antiques from national and international dealers while contributing to a cause that is vital to children in Northeast Florida," said Jan Kirby, who is chairing this year's Art & Antiques Show with Frances Hutto and Kelley Kunz. "Tickets go quickly, so we encourage everyone to purchase tickets in advance."

Guest speakers include designers Maria Crosby Pollard, India Hicks, Kathryn Ireland, Toma Clark Haines, Juli Catlin and William Nash IV. In addition to the celebrated lecturers and more than 40 antiques dealers from around the country and Europe, the 41st Anniversary Art & Antiques show will feature a Booth Crawl with The Antiques Diva®, the Royal Affair Gala with the RiverTown Band



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Show hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are available online at www.artandantiquesshow.com, by phone at (904) 202-2886 or by email at womensboardwch@bmcjax.com.

Daily admission to the show is \$15. Lecture tickets are \$30. Tickets to the "Paddington at the Palace" Children's Fashion Show are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free to children age 5 and under. Corporate sponsorships are available.

For more information and a complete show schedule, visit the Art & Antiques Show website at www.artandantiquesshow.com.



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As seen from the second floor, the first floor of the Cowford Chophouse features a casual environment with large community tables.



The second floor of Cowford Chophouse features more intimate tones, including this seven-seat “River Bar” with a dramatic gold-leafed glass face and Silver Egeo marble top.
Photos by Jon Blauvelt

COWFORD CHOPHOUSE OPENS, REFLECTS NORTHEAST FLORIDA'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

by JON BLAUVELT

After much anticipation, the Cowford Chophouse opened its doors in Downtown Jacksonville Oct. 26, and both the food and venue do not disappoint.

A historic, Jacksonville building that once stood as a bank and was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1901, the property owned by Ponte Vedra resident Jacques Klempf has transformed into a three-story, upscale restaurant that features chophouse fare with coastal and Southern influences.

An extensive two-year renovation conducted by Design Cooperative — the lead architect and designer — and Danis Construction — the project contractor — has resulted in a Jacksonville destination for tasteful indulgence that brings patrons back to the building's humble beginnings in the early 20th century.

To exude that historic feel, the building features arched windows, exterior bricks, metal cornice and 300-year-old heart of pine lumber used throughout the restaurant. Other details include a wine locker display in front of the host stand, which nods to the original bank vault that was present prior to construction; the ceiling design at the first and second floor levels, which were inspired by the original tin coffers found in ruins; and original paintings by Jacksonville artist Jim Draper, whose jaguar mural once spanned across the building's boarded-up windows. The chophouse features a two-story dining room, private dining and a rooftop lounge, which provides stunning views of the Main Street Bridge. The restaurant seats a total of 302 people.

Dinner is served daily. The menu includes many delicious items,

starting with appetizers like duck fat cornbread with Maine lobster and wood-fired king crab legs with drawn butter and mustard aioli. The raw bar offers oysters, royal red shrimp, caviar and more. Steak options include filet mignon, ribeye, New York strip, tomahawk, and porterhouse.

Also offered are a bone-in pork chop and Maine lobster tail, among other cuts. Desserts include a malt sundae and classic cheesecake, to name a few. The menu also features hundreds of bottles of wine, eight beers on tap and several handcrafted cocktails. A typical dinner at the chophouse ranges in price from \$15 to \$145, not including desserts and beverages. The restaurant also serves lunch Monday through Friday, offering gourmet sandwiches ranging from \$13 to \$17.

Take a trip to Jacksonville's past and visit the Cowford Chophouse. Reservations can be made by calling (904) 862-6464 or through OpenTable.com. Go to <http://cowfordchophouse.com> for more information.



Firebirds aims to set taste buds ablaze

by PARIS MOULDEN

A new fine-dining restaurant joined the always-growing St. Johns Town Center. Firebirds Wood Fired Grill is an American restaurant and steakhouse, which offers authentic wood-fired steaks, seafood, specialty cocktails and select wines.

Firebirds, which held its grand opening Nov. 2, is located at 4826 Town Center Parkway.

Prices are reasonable compared to some upscale steakhouses, with entree options between \$20 to \$30 for dinner and most lunch options less than \$20.

Firebirds has a lot of competition for diners at the St. Johns Town Center, but Stephen Loftis, vice president of marketing at Firebirds, said he believes this restaurant has what it takes to stand out in the crowd.

"Firebirds is well known for its scratch kitchen and for specializing in hand-cut, aged steaks and seafood that are hand-fileted in the restaurant and seared over our authentic wood-fired grill," Loftis said.

Loftis said something else that makes Firebirds special is its dedication to helping others and giving back to the community. Firebirds has partnered with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF), which fights childhood cancer.

"For every glass of lemonade sold in-restaurant, we donate \$1.25 to ALSF," Loftis said. "We also participate in ALSF's annual June fundraiser, Alex's Lemonade Days. So far, we have raised more than \$1 million for childhood cancer research through our partnership with ALSF."

The restaurant itself also puts an emphasis on being environmentally conscious. Firebirds' current sustainability efforts include recycling crayons and wine corks, using sustainably harvested wood and sustainably raised salmon and trout, recycling fryer oil, using repurposed carpet materials, and more, Loftis said.

With more and more restaurants opening in the area all the time, First Coast residents have an abundance of options, but Loftis believes it's an area that is a good fit for Firebirds.

"Jacksonville has become a vibrant foodie town with an increasingly sophisticated palette, making it perfect for Firebirds' boldly flavored menu items," he said.



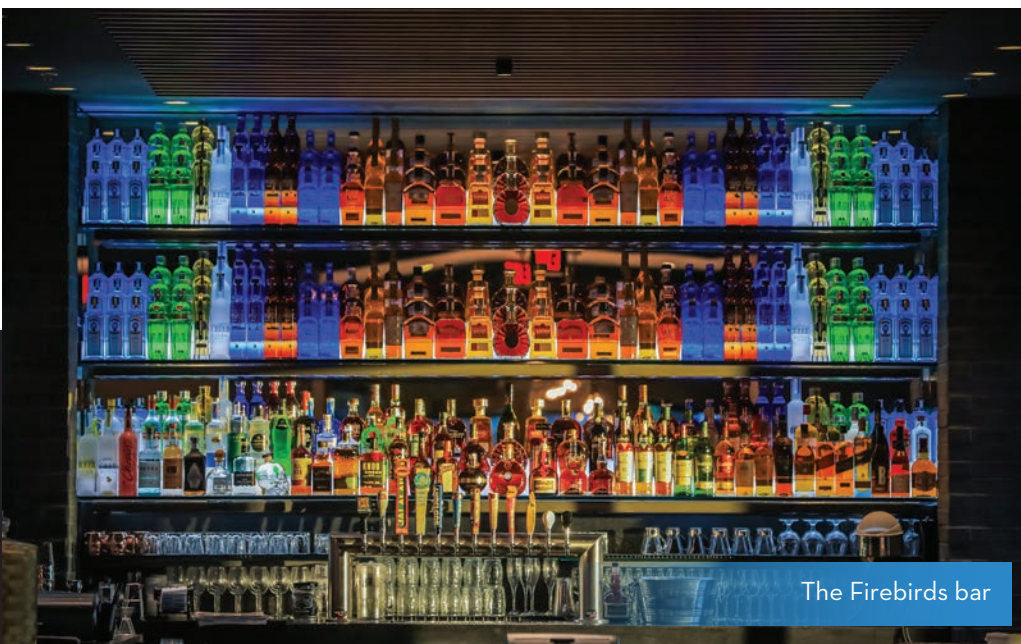
Photo courtesy of Firebirds
The exterior of Firebirds at the St. Johns Town Center



Lobster spinach queso appetizer



Chile rubbed Delmonico steak with parmesan mashed potatoes



The Firebirds bar

SEASON OF GIVING

The Salvation Army (SA) raised approximately \$200,000 at its fourth annual Red Shield Ball event Oct. 14.

Held at the University of North Florida's Adam W. Herbert University Center, the fundraiser benefitted the organization's Red Shield Lodge, which provides shelter and support to women, children and families in crisis. A "Fund-A-Need" portion of the night raised over \$71,000 that will be used to renovate 10 rooms at the shelter.

Hosting over 300 guests, the event featured dinner, live music by The Faze Band, dancing, a silent auction and live auction that included one-of-a-kind experiences like an aerial tour of Jacksonville. Mugwump Productions decorated the space with crystal chandeliers, red lights, touches of gold and draperies that created an elegant setting.

Local philanthropists Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock served as the event's honorary chairs. Action News Jax meteorologist Mike Buresh was the emcee.

Founded in 1987, the downtown-Jacksonville based Red Shield Lodge provides shelter and support to approximately 150 families each year, serving more than 400 children on average. For more information about the Salvation Army in Jacksonville, visit <http://www.salvationarmyflorida.org/jacksonville/>.

Red Shield Ball



SALVATION ARMY RAISES \$200,000 FOR RED SHIELD LODGE

by JON BLAUVELT

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Guests dance at the Red Shield Ball.
Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Claude and Sheila Collier and
Meredith and Josh Guess



Peter Blumeyer, Mac and Anne
Shoemaker and Ben Nasrallah



Cleo Thibault, Susan Cupton and
Rosiland Bridges



Mission House

Help Us

*ensure hope for the future
this holiday season*

Mission House thanks all those who
support our mission:

*"To empower individuals affected by homelessness in the
Beaches area by providing food, clothing, medical care,
and support services with an avenue to self-sufficiency".*

Mission House would like to thank our community for helping us celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Service this past year. Mission House has been the only answer for those affected by homelessness in the Beaches area for the past 20 years, and plans to remain the leading resource at the Beach for many years to come.



In celebration of our 20th Anniversary we introduced the Mission House Endowment in memory of James Shields, a dedicated past president and volunteer. The endowment was created to ensure the basic services of meals, showers and general operations are safeguarded into the future especially when economic times are tough.



As we close out our year of celebration, we ask you to make a pledge or donation to the endowment. There are several ways to make a gift through bequests, trusts, and for those of you 70.5 years old and over, through your IRA, tax free. For more information, go to www.missionhousejax.org/mission-house-endowment. No matter which option you choose, your gift will be vital to the financial stability and strong future for Mission House.

A gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more pledged before August of 2018, enables you to become a part of our **CIRCLE OF HOPE**.



*Mission House is proudly supported by our community. Without your gifts, we could not achieve the results of assisting **402** homeless men and women into housing over the past five years. As of October 31, 2017 we have helped **67 men and women into housing** because of your generosity.*

*Your donations, along with over **600 volunteers**, is what gives hope to those without a roof over their heads. If you have not visited our remodeled facility at 800 Shetter Avenue, we invite you to come and see the incredible difference your gifts make to so many homeless individuals who once had full lives and careers.*

*The efforts of Mission House make an impact on the community. The **2,048 new patients** we've seen in our free clinic in the last five years equates to a savings to the hospitals and community of **\$2,793,472** in what would have been unnecessary emergency room costs.*

Thank you in advance for making Mission House part of your Holiday charitable giving.

Tax ID# 59-3376704 All donations are tax deductible.

904-241-6767



21ST ANNUAL CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

Gala

by JON BLAUVELT

Over \$320,000 was raised at the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation's (MWYF) 21st annual Champions for Children Gala.

Held Oct. 19 at the Florida Blue Conference Center, the event began with a cocktail reception and silent auction, which featured items ranging from a family four pack to the Jacksonville Zoo to a Tom Coughlin autographed football and gift cards to various stores.

Emceed by Action News Jax sports anchor Dan Hicken, the gala continued with a dinner and scholarship awards ceremony, which recognized 20 MWYF students and one alumna who earned college scholarships. The foundation celebrated surpassing the \$1 million mark in scholarship dollars awarded since its inception in 1996.

MWYF founder and former tennis pro MaliVai Washington and Florida Blue CEO Patrick J. Geraghty conducted a live auction to see who in the room could raise the most money for the foundation's tennis, tutoring, mentoring and life skills programs. The live auction packages included a trip to the Emmy Awards, box seats at the U.S. Open, a Turks and Caicos vacation and more. Event attendees also participated in a game of "heads or tails" to win a diamond bracelet.

Former tennis world No. 1 and current U.S. Davis Cup captain Jim Courier served as the event's keynote speaker. In an interview with Hicken, the sports icon shared stories about jumping in the Yarra River following the Australian Open and beating Andre Agassi in the French Open, and spoke about the future of the game.

MWYF promotes academic achievement and positive life skills in Jacksonville youth through tennis. The organization's programs include TnT, a daily after school program; Camp Dynamite and various outreach programs. For more information about MWYF, visit <http://www.malwashington.com>.



A group of First Coast Kids display their Sherry Murray Extra Mile Scholarship Awards. Photos by Jon Blauvelt



MaliVai Washington addresses the crowd at the Champions for Children Gala.



Michele Small and Jody Sommers



Chyrisse White, Cari McGowan and Sherri Randolph



Donya and Jacob Sameck and Bryan Ament and Peggy Carre

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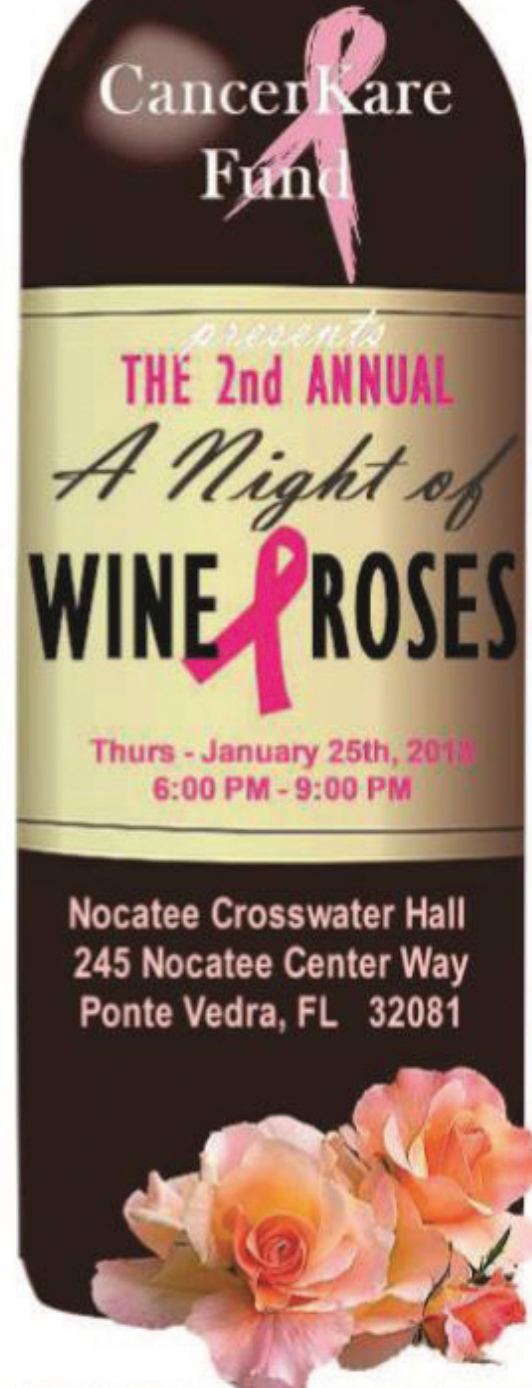
We are **FREEZING FOR A REASON** on February 17 at Hanna Park for the 2018 Polar Plunge! Plunge with us & raise money for Special Olympics Florida athletes on the First Coast. Register or learn more at www.plungefl.org.



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Holiday

EVENTS CALENDAR

by BENJAMIN NAIM

Get in the festive spirit with the First Coast Register's holiday arts and event calendar, featuring holiday happenings scheduled to take place in November and December in Northeast Florida. Happy holidays from everyone at the First Coast Register!

BRUCE ALLEN SCUDDER'S 'CHRISTMAS CAROLE' AT ALHAMBRA THEATRE & DINING

Everyone loves a story that starts with "once upon a time." Everyone loves a fairy tale with a happy ending. Everyone loves the holidays, that is with one exception, and this is the story of Bruce Allen Scudder's "Christmas Carole." This classic holiday show returns to the Alhambra from Nov. 22 to Dec. 24. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.

CHRISTMAS MADE IN THE SOUTH

The 29th annual Christmas Made in the South event will feature arts and crafts exhibits, unique gourmet food, entertainment and more. This event will be held Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, located at 1000 Water St. in Jacksonville. Tickets cost \$7 for adults, while admission for children age 12 and under is free. One admission is valid for all three festival days with hand stamp.

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY HOLIDAY SHOWS

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus will present "Holiday Pops" Dec. 7-10. This symphony features guest singers, dancers and Northeast Florida's only guaranteed snowfall. Handell's "Messiah," which is billed as "the most powerful performance of the holiday season," will take place Dec. 16-17, and the JSYO Holiday Concert will take place Dec. 18. Performances will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, located at 300 Water St. in Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 354-5547 or visit www.jaxsymphony.org.

98 DEGREES CHRISTMAS SHOW AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE

Pop quartet 98° (Nick Lachey, Drew Lachey, Jeff Timmons and Justin Jeffre) returns to the stage to perform Christmas classics from their soon-to-be released holiday album, along with their biggest hits. The band's new Christmas album, "Let It Snow," was released Oct. 13 and features classics such as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Let it Snow," "Please Come Home for Christmas" and more. This show will take place Nov. 30 at the Florida Theatre at 8 p.m. Visit www.floridatheatre.com for more information.

'A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS' AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE

Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Florida Theatre. Join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus and the rest of the Peanuts gang as they mount a play, save a forlorn little tree and uncover the true meaning of Christmas. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.floridatheatre.com.

THE BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA'S 'CHRISTMAS ROCKS!' TOUR AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE

Guitarist, songwriter, vocalist and three-time Grammy-Award winner Brian Setzer ("Rock This Town," and "Jump Jive An' Wail") and his 19-piece orchestra will perform Nov. 29 at the Florida Theatre. Visit www.floridatheatre.com for more information.

HIP HOP NUTCRACKER AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE

The Hip Hop Nutcracker re-imagines Tchaikovsky's classic score through hip-hop choreography. This show will take place Dec. 3 at the Florida Theatre starting at 7 p.m. Visit www.floridatheatre.com for more information.

DAVE KOZ 20TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS TOUR AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE

Jazz saxophonist Dave Koz will present the 20th anniversary of his Christmas Tour with special guests David Benoit, Rick Braun, Peter White and Selina Albright at the Florida Theatre Nov. 25, starting at 8 p.m. Visit www.floridatheatre.com for more information.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Enjoy Christmas lights at the Enchanted Christmas Village Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 and Dec. 21-23 from 5 to 10 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a 10-minute Christmas lights show, crafts, local vendors, bounce houses, wagon rides through the Enchanted Trail, photos with Santa, yard games, stage entertainment and more at the Village. This attraction is located at 899 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Call (888) 486-6413 to purchase tickets, or visit jacksonvillechristmas.com.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE EXTRAVAGANZA

The Jacksonville Historical Society will present the Gingerbread House Extravaganza Nov.

30 through Dec. 23. Visitors can

enjoy creative gingerbread

houses built by chefs,

bakers, architects,

engineers, culinary

school students

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The event will

showcase

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most creative

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exhibited over

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gingerbread and

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Visit <http://www.jaxhistory.com>.



org/gingerbread-extravaganza/ for more information.

NUTCRACKER BALLET AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA PRESENTED BY CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 22nd annual Nutcracker will be performed at The Lazzara Theater at the University of North Florida's Fine Arts Department Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. The annual show benefits charities including Pediatric Hospice, Dreams Come True and Amistad Orphanage in Bolivia among others. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.missfeliciasdance.com.



CHAMPAGNE AND SHOPPING AT THE CUMMER SHOP

Enjoy complimentary champagne and appetizers while shopping an expanded store inventory

and special artisan merchandise at the Cummer Museum of Art and Garden's annual Champagne and Shopping at the Cummer Shop event, to be held at the museum Dec. 2, 7 and 8. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 899-6035.

ST. JOHNS TOWN CENTER HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

The St. Johns Town Center's Holiday Spectacular, running through Dec. 24, will feature a 32-foot Christmas tree, photo opportunities with Santa and more. Additionally, visitors can shop local and national brands at the St. Johns Town Center, located at 4663 River City Drive in Jacksonville.

CHRISTMAS ON THE RIVER AT THE JACKSONVILLE LANDING

The 31st annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, presented by the Jacksonville Landing and Sleiman Enterprises, will take place Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Jacksonville Landing courtyard area. The 56-foot-tall energy-efficient Christmas tree features over 78,000 L.E.D. lights and more than 100 ornaments. The event will feature local musicians from Jacksonville. Following the tree lighting ceremony, there will be Christmas tree light shows leading up to New Year's Eve. Visit www.jacksonvillelanding.com for more information.

You've Got to See It to Believe It!

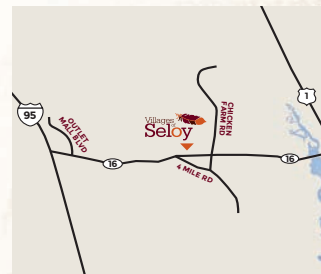
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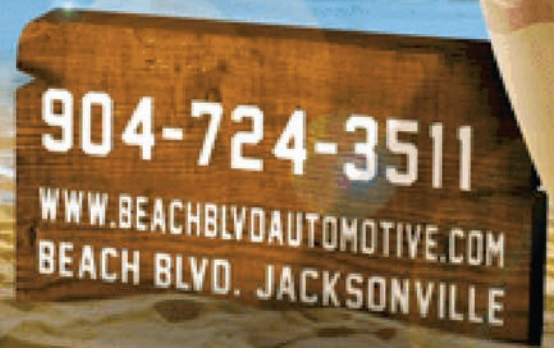
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This holiday musical features timeless Christmas favorites such as "Jingles Bells," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Deck the Halls" and more. Sing along as Garfield's new friends work together to bring light to Garfield's Christmas and join the fun Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 283 College Drive in Orange Park. Call (904) 276-6815 for more information or visit www.thcenter.org/events.

ZOOLIGHTS AT THE JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' ZooLights event will take place Dec. 8-10 and Dec. 15-Jan. 6, 2018. ZooLights will be closed Christmas Day. Thousands of LED lights will be on display at the zoo along with lighted animal sculptures and a forest of lighted trees and animal silhouettes. Event activities will include live holiday music, a lighted train, carousel rides, a 4-D theater, marshmallow roasting and more for an additional fee. For more information, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org.

BEACHES POLAR EXPRESS

Meet Santa and the conductor of the Polar Express Dec. 8 from 2 to 6 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Beaches Museum & History Park, located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. Visitors can write a letter to Santa, enjoy cocoa and cookies, watch the movie "The Polar Express" in the Dickinson Gallery, make crafts and enjoy other festivities at the park. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. Contact the Beaches Museum & History Park at (904) 241-5657 for more information.

**'THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS EVE' BY THE
TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA**

Experience the sounds of the holiday season with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" show Dec. 14 at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, located at 300 A Philip Randolph Blvd. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT THE AVENUES MALL

Visit the Avenues through Dec. 24 for photos with Santa, who will be seated at the lower level center court. The Avenues Mall is located at 10300 Southside Blvd. in Jacksonville.

WINTERFEST 2017

Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach transforms its Shipwreck Island Water Park every year into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. This year's festival will run through Jan. 8, 2018.

The event features outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit www.jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com for more information.

ST. AUGUSTINE NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

Selected by National Geographic in 2011 and 2012 as one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world, St. Augustine's Night of Lights features millions of white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the nation's oldest city. Nights of Lights runs through Jan. 31 in St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitucion on King Street.

GINGERBREAD MAN 10K/5K DASH

Get into the holiday spirit with this 10K and 5K taking place Dec. 2 at World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Participants are encouraged to wear holiday attire, and pets are welcome. Runners will receive a medal, T-shirt, gingerbread cookies and food from PDQ and Tropical Smoothie Cafe. The 10K begins at 8 a.m., while the 5K begins at 8:05 a.m. There will also be a fun run at 9:05 a.m. Registration ranges from \$10 to \$35. Visit www.ultimateracinginc.com for more information.

ST. AUGUSTINE CHRISTMAS PARADE

St. Augustine's annual Christmas Parade is one of the largest in North Florida with more than 2,000 participants. The two-hour event features floats, marching bands, cars, horses and the grand arrival of Santa. The parade starts Dec. 2 at 9:00 a.m. by the Mission Nombre de Dios and continues through the downtown streets of historic St. Augustine.

**LINDSEY STIRLING 'WARMER IN THE WINTER
CHRISTMAS TOUR' AT THE ST. AUGUSTINE
AMPHITHEATRE**

Electronic music impresario, classically trained violinist, dancer and YouTube and America's Got Talent star Lindsey Stirling is bringing her "Warmer in the Winter Christmas Tour"

to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Nov. 25. Combining her love of classical music with EDM, hip-hop and dubstep, Stirling is a performance artist who first gained notoriety after her 2010 appearance as the “hip-hop violinist” on the fifth season of NBC’s America’s Got Talent. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance starts at 8. Visit www.staugamphitheatre.com or call (904) 209-0367 to purchase tickets.

‘TIDINGS OF JAZZ AND JOY TOUR’ AT THE PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host the “Tidings of Jazz and Joy Tour” featuring contemporary jazz pianist Keiko Matsui and saxophone journeyman Euge Groove with Lindsey Webster and Adam Hawley Dec. 29. Tidings of Jazz and Joy will feature a collaboration of holiday music and the jazz hits of each artist. The performance starts at 8 p.m.; visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399 to purchase tickets. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

‘ST. AUGUSTINE WINTER SPECTACULAR’

The “St. Augustine Winter Spectacular” is a performance by The Dance Company about a young girl’s journey home for the holidays; this year’s show will take place Dec 2-3. This family friendly performance features many dance styles, characters and holiday scenes. Performances start at 7 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Visit www.staugustinewinterspectacular.com for more information and to purchase tickets; this event will take place at 14 Granada St. in St. Augustine.

LUMINARY NIGHT

Luminary Night at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is a Nights of Lights tradition. The celebration, which takes place Dec. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m., features youth activities and holiday crafts, yuletide refreshments, and live music, including a string quartet inside the lighthouse tower. Guests can enjoy the lighthouse’s holiday decorations and climb the lighthouse tower to see St. Augustine’s Night of Lights from the top. Admission is free. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is located at 81 Lighthouse Ave.

CASTILLO HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Get into the holiday spirit by visiting the Castillo de San Marcos Open House, an annual tradition, Dec. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the fort by lantern light and learn about its 300-year-old history by talking with park volunteers and staff. There will be cannon firings at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. This event will take place at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.

HOLIDAY REGATTA OF LIGHTS

This annual holiday parade, to be held Dec. 9 at the St. Augustine Bayfront, will feature a boat awards presentation for the best theme, most colorful, best in class and best overall. The boats will light up St. Augustine’s Matanzas Bay between the

Bridge of Lions and Castillo de San Marcos starting at 6 p.m. Visit www.staugustineyachtclub.com for more information.

SANTA SUITS ON THE LOOSE 5K

St. Augustine Youth Services will host a 5K at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Dec. 9 beginning at 8 a.m. The race route will go through St. Augustine Beach neighborhoods and starts and ends at the pier. Participants can wear a Santa suit or t-shirt, and registration ranges from \$25 to \$35. Call (904) 829-1770 for more information or visit www.racesmith.com/races/SantaSuitsOnTheLoose5K.html. This event will take place at 350 A1A Beach Blvd.

HOLIDAY IN THE GARDENS

Holiday in the Gardens at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park will feature live entertainment on stage all day, children’s arts and crafts, photos with Santa, tea with Mrs. Claus, plant sales and holiday arts and crafts vendors Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The park will be decorated for holiday family photos; admission is free with a canned goods/Toys for Tots donation. This event will take place 6400 N. Oceanshore Blvd. in Palm Coast.

PONTE VEDRA ARTISAN MARKET

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will present the Ponte Vedra Artisan Market, a pop-up shop designed to promote and sell wearable items crafted by artists. There will be an opening reception Dec. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. The market is free and open to the public. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.

‘CONEY ISLAND CHRISTMAS’

This play, to be held Dec. 1-23 at the Limelight Theatre, will showcase what it means to be an American during the holiday season. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Visit www.limelight-theatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine.

VILLA ZORAYDA CANDLELIGHT TOUR WITH REFRESHMENTS

Join Villa Zorayda Museum this holiday season for its 8th annual Candlelight Tour, which is offered on select evenings during St. Augustine’s Nights of Lights. The





museum will be decorated for the holidays with a Christmas tree adorned in the colors of the Zorayda, red and gold. More than 100 candles will be aglow throughout the museum. Visitors can enjoy refreshments and homemade Christmas cookies, coffee and a special holiday punch. Reservations are required and can be made by phone at (904) 829-9887; this event will take place at 83 King St. in St. Augustine.

ST. AUGUSTINE ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual public Christmas concert will feature selections that trigger joyous feelings of the holiday season. Tickets cost \$22 for adults and \$12 for students; admission is free for children age 10 and under. This concert will take place Dec. 8 at the River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. Visit www.staugustineorchestra.org to purchase tickets.

'A SEUSSIFIED CHRISTMAS CAROL'

This play at the Limelight Theatre is a reinvention of Dickens' Christmas story in rhymed couplets. Performances take place through Dec. 15-16 at 5 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. Visit www.limelight-theatre.org for more information and to purchase

tickets. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine.

APEX THEATRE STUDIO PRESENTS "THE SANTALAND DIARIES" BY DAVID SEDARIS

"The Santaland Diaries" by Apex Theatre Studio will be performed at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 15-16 at 8:30 p.m. The show has mature language. Visit www.pvconcerthall.com to purchase tickets; the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.

'FROM PROPHECY TO PEACE'

The St. Augustine Community Chorus presents "From Prophecy to Peace," a holiday concert at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. The Saturday concert will start at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. Dec. 17. Admission is \$25 at door, \$20 online and \$5 for students, youth ages 12 and under and active military. Visit www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org to purchase tickets. This event will take place at 38 Cathedral Place in St. Augustine.

APEX THEATRE STUDIO PRESENTS 'THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER' BY BARBARA ROBINSON

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be performed at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased online at www.pvconcerthall.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.

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HOME FOR THE Holidays

The following recipes, courtesy of two of Northeast

Florida's iconic dining locations, will help First Coast foodies to recreate the experience of dining out from the comfort of their own homes.

CHEF DEJUAN'S TURKEY SOUP (ALHAMBRA THEATRE & DINING)

- 1 lb. boneless turkey
- 2 cups quinoa
- 2 large sweet potato
- 1 lb. fresh kale
- 2 cup fresh peanut butter
- 1 can coconut milk
- 2 tbs. green curry paste
- 2 tbs. turmeric
- 1 tbs. coriander
- 1 tbs. cumin
- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tsp. dried chills
- 2 tbs. chopped garlic
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup green beans
- 1 qt. chicken stock
- 3 tbsp. corn starch
- Salt and pepper

1. Start by cutting the turkey thighs into large pieces; season them with salt and pepper. Dredge the thighs in cornstarch and set aside.
2. Heat a large stock pot with olive oil and add chopped garlic.

3. Sauté the garlic until light brown, then add turkey and the small diced sweet potato along with all spices for five minutes. Deglaze the stock pot with white wine and simmer for six minutes.
4. Add the stock and coconut milk, peanut butter, curry and spices along with the quinoa and chopped kale, and then let the soup simmer until the potatoes are tender and the soup has reached desired thickness.
5. Garnish with toasted peanuts and fresh chopped cilantro.

CHARLESTON SHRIMP AND GRITS (METRO DINER)

- Grit Cakes: Make the day prior to serving.
- 4 ounces (weight) Andouille Sausage
 - ½ cup roasted red bell peppers
 - 2 quarts water
 - 12 oz. (weight) grits
 - ½ cup half and half
 - 1 oz. (weight) butter, unsalted
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - ½ tsp. black pepper
 - 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

1. Bring 2 quarts of water to a boil.
2. Add 12 oz. (weight) of grits, stir and simmer covered for 25 minutes or until completely tender.
3. Meanwhile, mince 4 oz. (weight) of andouille sausage and ½ cup of roasted red bell peppers. If you use a food processor, be sure to mince these two ingredients separately and do not make a paste.
4. Once grits are fully cooked, add

ingredients; stir to full blend.

5. Pour into a greased glass casserole dish to a depth of 1 inch.
6. Let the grits cool uncovered until they become solid.
7. Once hardened, remove whole cake from dish; cut into 3 inch by 4 inch rectangles.
8. Dip in egg wash; then coat in bread crumbs. Set aside, refrigerated.

To serve (per order)

- 2 each fried grit cakes
- ½ cup andouille sausage, ¼ inch half moons
- 2 tbs. onions, ¼ inch dice
- 2 tbs. green peppers, ¼ inch dice
- 8 each raw shrimp, peeled, no tails
- 12 fluid ounces cream
- 1 tbs. cooked bacon, ¼ inch diced
- 1 tbs. green onions, ¼ inch sliced on a bias

1. Deep fry breaded grit cakes until crispy/heated through.
2. In a large saute pan, saute onions/pepper until they start to soften.
3. Add andouille sausage/shrimp and cook until shrimp are 50 percent cooked.
4. Add creamy shrimp sauce, bring to a boil and simmer until thickened.
5. In a large serving bowl, stack the two grit cakes; pour the entire contents of the sauté pan over the cakes.
6. Garnish with chopped bacon/green onions.



Holiday Worship Guide

Celebrate Christmas with us!

Christ Church Serenata

South Ponte Vedra Civic Association

Christmas Eve

3 p.m. Informal Christmas Eucharist

Center for Spirituality

2002 San Pablo Rd. Jacksonville

Christmas Eve

6 p.m.

Christ Church Ponte Vedra

400 San Juan Drive Ponte Vedra Beach

Christmas Eve

2 p.m. Traditional Main sanctuary

2 p.m. Contemporary

with Christmas pageant Contemporary worship center

4 p.m. Contemporary

Contemporary worship center

6 p.m. Traditional

with Christmas pageant Main sanctuary

8 p.m. Traditional

Main sanctuary

10 p.m. Traditional

Main sanctuary

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Traditional

Christmas Eucharist Main sanctuary

Celebrate Christmas
Fruit Cove Baptist Church

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Children's Choirs

6:00pm in the Worship Center

12/10 VERITAS in Concert!!

Men's Quintet

6:00pm in the Worship Center

12/17 "Night of Worship"

Adult Choir & Orchestra

6:00pm in the Worship Center

12/24 Christmas Eve Services

11:00am, 4:00pm & 6:00pm

in the Worship Center

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christepiscopalchurch.org

Christmas CHURCH SERVICES

(Note: This is a partial list of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services around the First Coast. It does not include regular Sunday services.)

Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Road, Jacksonville (904) 680-9944
Candlelight Christmas Message, 7 p.m.;
Candlelight and Communion Christmas
Message, 9 p.m.

Paramount Church, 7235 Bonneval Road,
Jacksonville (904) 861-2777
Candle Light Christmas Eve Service, 5-6 p.m.

Crossroad Church UMC (CRC Campus),
10005 Gate Parkway N., Jacksonville (904) 448-
1288, Family Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m.;
Candlelight and Communion Service, 7 p.m.

Christ Church East, 9794 Old St. Augustine
Road, Jacksonville (904) 262-5588
Christmas Eve Service, 5-6 p.m.

Trinity Baptist Church, 8085 Old Middleburg
Road S., Jacksonville (904) 596-2400
Christmas at Trinity (Oakleaf), Dec. 23, 5-6:30
p.m.

Trinity Baptist Church, 800 Hammond Blvd.,
Jacksonville (904) 596-2400
Christmas at Trinity (Hammond), Dec. 23, 5-7
p.m.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 8264 Lone
Star Road, Jacksonville (904) 724-0022
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, 5-6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, 118
Ease Monroe St., (904) 354-8439
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5-6:15 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1423 8th Ave. N.,
Jacksonville Beach (904) 249-5418
Christmas Eve Children's Program, 6 p.m.;
Christmas Eve Worship Service, 8 p.m. and 10
p.m.; Christmas Day Worship Service, Dec. 25,

10-11 a.m.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 11665 Fort
Caroline Road, Jacksonville (904) 641-7244
Christmas Eve Mass, 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
(Contada performed by the adult choir at 9
p.m.); Christmas Day Mass, 10 a.m.

Holy Family Catholic Church, 9800
Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville (904) 641-5838
Christmas Eve Mass, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.;
Christmas Day Mass, midnight, 9:30 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.

Grace Community Church, 10938 Hood Road
S., Jacksonville (904) 268-8854
Christmas Eve service, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 6-7
p.m.

Southside Baptist Church, 1435 Atlantic Blvd.,
Jacksonville (904) 396-6633
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6-7 p.m.

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WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT ENCOURAGES SUPPORT FOR WOUNDED VETERANS

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

At a Nov. 1 Executive Night event held at Montoya & Associates in Jacksonville, Wounded Warrior Project leadership urged local business and community leaders to remember and support those service members who have been wounded in combat.

Over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, guests listened as Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington described the ways in which his organization contributes towards the recovery of veterans as they return from deployment.

"More than 3 million men and women have served our country since the attacks in New York, Pittsburgh and the Pentagon, where I was, on 9/11," Linnington said. "Those 3 million come back in need of integration into communities just like ours, and in many cases, those that are injured – especially with the invisible wounds of war – need help integrating. And that's what we do, with lots of help from others in

the community."

Founded in 2003, Wounded Warrior Project's stated goal is to "honor and empower" wounded service members through its various veteran programs. As a testament to the effectiveness of those programs, Staff Sgt. Dan Nevins – a retired U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq – shared his own personal experience.

"I'll never forget that day," Nevins said. "It's Nov. 10, 2004, and we're bouncing carefully down this dirt road, and it's pitch black outside, eerily quiet. I remember my head was bowed in prayer, as it was before every mission, and then the silence was destroyed by the deafening blast that sent my 18,000-pound vehicle about 6 feet in the air in a ball of fire."

Nevins described opening his eyes to find himself ejected from the vehicle, but with his legs still caught and twisted in burning metal. With the help of his team, Nevins managed to survive the accident, though his



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Event information: Facebook -
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Questions? PVDems@aol.com

legs, ultimately, did not. Suddenly brought face-to-face with a reality he was unprepared for, he began to sink into depression.

“I didn’t feel like a human being anymore,” he said, describing his worries about what his family would think of him, and whether he could be the same person without his legs.

When Wounded Warrior Project approached him, however, Nevins’ world was rocked once more by the realization that losing his legs did not mean he had to lose himself.

“I was snowboarding, wakeboarding, rock climbing, outrigger canoeing—you name it, Wounded Warrior Project was at my bedside, making me take opportunities to prove that my disability didn’t define me,” he said. “I got to define what the rest of my life was going to be like. I got to write the next chapter in the book.

“I’m so grateful for this organization, because not only did they fulfill that promise that whatever I or my family needed, they’d be there for me, but they’ve honored that same promise for over 108,000 warriors and their families. And that couldn’t happen without the people who support the organization—who are a mouthpiece that will tell people what an amazing organization it is.”



Above: Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington (center right) and Staff Sgt. Dan Nevins (right) present Montoya & Associates Principal Owner and Founder Will Montoya (left) and Principal and Senior Advisor Chriss Spires (center left) with a commemorative plaque.

Right: Staff Sgt. Dan Nevins
Photos by Samantha Logue



credit: Amy Dove



credit: Cristina Zandomenego



credit: Ian Daly



credit: Tim Bulliard

Ponte Vedra Artisan Market
Art Sale at the Cultural Center
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A pirate ship display from the 2016 event
Photos courtesy of Deck the Chairs

UNIQUE DESIGNS HIGHLIGHT

Deck THE Chairs

by PARIS MOULDEN



Large crowds enjoy last year's festivities.

The First Coast's unique holiday event Deck the Chairs kicks off Nov. 26, and offers entertainment for the entire family while also supporting a good cause.

Running through Jan. 1, the fifth annual Deck the Chairs has added new sponsors, which means new ideas for chair designs. The theme of this year's event, which benefits the Volunteer Life Saving Corps of Jacksonville Beach, is "Create Joy."

Deck the Chairs organizer Kurtis Loftus said visitors can expect to see new and different sights than in previous years, like an interactive light show with four vocal palm trees from new sponsor First Coast Urogynecology.

"The singing and dancing palm trees I'm sure are going to be a hit," Loftus said.

Some other special designs include a Harry Potter-themed chair from the Jacksonville Beach Library, a "magic tree house" chair from Seabreeze Elementary School, a church-school chair with stained-glass windows from St. Paul's School and a Jaxson de Ville chair with a big trophy element in honor of the Jaguars' mascot.

"The coolest part of the event is that it's also like a big art exhibit," Loftus said. "Every year it's different. Every year we try and improve and make it more interesting, more magical."

The event is free and takes place in downtown Jacksonville Beach throughout the SeaWalk Pavilion and Latham Plaza. Loftus said the location of the event adds to the ambience.

"The fact that it's right by the ocean makes it really special," he said.

There will also be food trucks and entertainment on the Pavilion stage.

Loftus says what makes Deck the Chairs truly special, though, is all the individual ideas that go into creating the designs. The event is brought together by about 40 different companies who each have their own ideas, he said.

"That part is obviously very different than any other exhibit, display or light show that happens anywhere else in the world," Loftus said. "It's just constantly evolving, because our sponsors are the decorators."

For more information on Deck the Chairs or for a schedule of events, go to deckthechairs.org.



The Pablo Towers Deck the Chairs light display



A Deck the Chairs Christmas tree



The main entrance for 2016's Deck the Chairs



Santa takes part in Deck the Chairs in 2016.



Reindeer highlight the chair for Jaffi's boutique last year.

'Havana Nights'

BRINGS BEST OF CUBA TO PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Photo provided by DONNA GUZZO

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach held its major fall fundraiser, "Havana Nights" Saturday, Oct. 21, at Fantasy Farms in Ponte Vedra.

The event featured Cuban cuisine, Cuban entertainment and Cuban landscapes painted by renowned artist Paul Ladnier during his visit to Cuba last year. Musical and dance performances by Luna Cale from Miami and professional Salsa/Mambo dancers were also featured. Planet Ballroom was onsite with performances and private dance instruction for guests, who had the opportunity to visit the Hemingway house for a photo opportunity with the "Biggest Catch" and enjoy Hemingway's favorite Cuban hot spot, "La Floridita," for a drink. Guests also could enjoy the antique car collection courtesy of S&L Classics and meet Cuban ballerina Dulce Anaya (Cuban National Ballet). In addition, there was a silent auction.

Proceeds from "Havana Nights" benefitted the children's arts programs at the Cultural Center. The mission of the Cultural Center is to bring the arts into the life of the community with arts exhibition, arts education and arts outreach.



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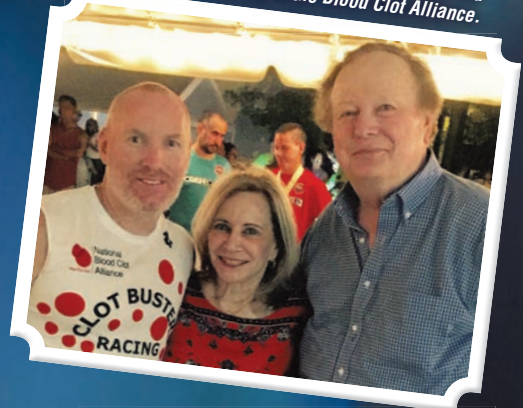
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Cancer support provided by the Claymans running with a team in the Keys 100 ultramarathon.



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PINEAPPLE POST HOSTS VIETRI ARTISAN FOR holiday demonstrations

by JON BLAUVELT



Stefano Barbieri conducts a molding demonstration. Photos courtesy of Susan Hamilton



Stefano Barbieri and Kim Vincenty



Raegan Cury, Romany Cury and Stefano Barbieri

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For more information about these works, the artists, or other works, contact Bob Nickerson at First Coast Artists at 904.280.8187.



Pineapple Post in Ponte Vedra hosted Italian and VIETRI artisan Stefano Barbieri Nov. 12 for a holiday-themed meet and greet with the business' patrons.

A native of Tuscany, Barbieri completed molding and painting demonstrations and signed some of his pieces for customers. Event attendees enjoyed meeting with Barbieri, as well as tasting wine and appetizers.

Pineapple Post offers VIETRI dinnerware and home decor, Wusthof knife products, candles from AQUIESSE, LAFCO, Seda France, Crane Paper, Juliska Glass and Dinnerware, wedding accessories, natural life gifts, Mariposa serving accessories, Caspari paper and products from hundreds of other companies. Visit <http://www.pineapplepostgifts.com/> for more information.

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Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson appears as a legal commentator on CNN, HLN, GMA, and Fox News. She has been awarded the very highest possible rating, the AV preeminent rating™, from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys.

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Dickens on Centre

TO HEADLINE AMELIA ISLAND HOLIDAY EVENTS

by BENJAMIN NAIM

Photos courtesy of
AMELIAISLANDCHRISTMAS.COM

Amelia Island will host the annual “Dickens on Centre” Victorian-inspired Christmas festival Dec. 8-10 on the historic Centre Street in Downtown Fernandina Beach.

The event will transform Centre Street into a 19th-century Christmas village with horse-drawn carriages, vendors, costumed characters, entertainers, festive lights, performances, holiday decorations and more. A variety of dining options will also be available, and Santa Claus will be in town for the event, which is inspired by Charles Dickens’ novella “A Christmas Carol.”

The festival will feature a story telling kids zone, a reading of “The Night Before Christmas,” a caricature artist, the Yulee High School Band, photos with St. Nick and more Dec. 8 from 5 to 9 p.m. The Amelia Island String Ensemble will be on hand, along with the Chris Thomas Band, Amy and Dillon Basse, the Royal Amelia Dance Academy and other musicians, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 10 will feature ReVoiced, Gabriel Arnold, Michael Murphy’s dueling pianos, Pam Bell and other artists from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

The Amelia Island Holiday Home Tour will take place Dec. 1-2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This tour will visit Victorian homes located in the historic district of Fernandina Beach. Visit www.ameliainmuseum.org/holidayhometour to purchase tickets, which cost \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at the door.

HOLIDAY COOKIE TOUR

The Amelia Island Holiday Cookie Tour will take place Dec. 9 from noon to 5 p.m. The public is invited to experience an afternoon of sweet treats at six of Amelia Island’s classic inns and bed and breakfasts, which will offer a sample of signature cookies. Complimentary horse-drawn carriage and trolley rides will be available from inn-to-inn, or visitors can travel on foot. Tickets cost \$30 at the door; visit www.ameliainlandinns.com/cookie-tour for more information and to purchase tickets.



TOM BROKAW CALLS FOR AMERICAN UNITY IN FLORIDA FORUM ADDRESS

by JON BLAUVELT

Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw called for unity in the United States, while also dissecting the events that have caused the current turbulence in the country, in his Florida Forum address on Nov. 8.

Brokaw told the crowd of more than 1,000 people at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts that he believes the country's unwillingness to work together is the single, biggest challenge it faces. The award-winning news man charged the audience to look beyond their political affiliations and focus on what's best for the country. For Brokaw, that starts with learning how to communicate again.

"There's never anything certain in history, but I do believe it requires all of us, especially in the greatest democracy in the history of the world, to learn how to talk to each other and learn what our common goals are," he said at the fundraiser, which is produced by the Women's Board of the Wolfson Children's Hospital to support the efforts of the hospital.

Brokaw reflected on significant events over the last 15 to 20 years to explain how the country has reached its current situation. He started with the September 11 attacks, noting that the event changed America forever. People began to realize the country's vulnerability, he said, and the enemy wasn't "an army coming over a hill," it was instead a "shadowing cult devoted to the most extreme parts of their religion who were willing to sacrifice their own bodies to do anything to damage Western culture."

Subsequently, he explained, the country entered the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; America experienced the greatest recession since the Great Depression; and social media evolved and caused much of the division that exists today. In addition, Brokaw said politicians in Washington became more self-absorbed than ever.

Then, the journalist spoke about President Obama's administration and how he governed primarily as a "blue state president," while the Republicans on Capitol Hill refused to work with him. Add in the 2016 presidential election, which Brokaw called the most chaotic in history; a current leader in President Trump that the journalist said is "draining the energy out of the country and sending people to far corners;" a journalism industry whose consumers are not sure what to believe and that's how the country has arrived at its status quo, he said.

When offering a solution for the future, Brokaw reflected on Watergate and said America must respond as it did to that scandal, which rocked the White House in the 1970s.

"When the evidence came in and the president was responsible, there was a closing in the division of the country and people voted for their country, not for an individual or party or an interest they may have had," Brokaw said. "We had to do it together and go forward together. That's where I believe we are at the moment."



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Tom Brokaw addresses the attendees of his Florida Forum address Nov. 8.
Photo by Zach Thomas/Monarch Studio



Denise Kotos and Nika Spencer
Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Kerrie Slattery and Martin
and Cynthia VanTrieste



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and Paul Lambert

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COMMUNITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE HOSTS HALLOWEEN EVENTS TO BRING VITAL CARE TO LOCAL KIDS

by JON BLAUVELT
Photos by INGRID DAMIANI

Community Hospice & Palliative Care hosted children of all ages and their families Oct. 20-21 for Halloween-themed fundraising events that benefitted the organization's Community PedsCare program.

On Oct. 20, event attendees gathered at Jacksonville Fairgrounds for the Monster Mash Dash, where participants dressed in costumes participated in a series of races. The event also featured food and live entertainment.

Then on Oct. 21, Jacksonville Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall hosted Halloween Doors & More, which raised \$266,000. From cherished cartoon characters to live entertainment acts, the event featured more than 20 zones filled with candy, toys, food, interactive experiences and even an adult-friendly area.

Both events supported Community PedsCare, a program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care helping children live with serious illnesses and their families. For more information, visit <https://www.communityhospice.com/>.



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Holiday GIFT GUIDE

by BENJAMIN NAIM

Do you need holiday gift ideas for your family and friends? Go no further! The First Coast Register has compiled the following guide of local businesses to visit and ultimately help you find the perfect holiday presents for your loved ones.

Sidney Cardel's
237 5th Ave. S.
Jacksonville Beach
(904) 372-4000

Help a friend or family member improve his/her home or office decor this holiday season with Sidney Cardel's interior design services. Store co-owner Cathy Thomasson is a fashion merchandising and fashion design major who has been decorating homes and businesses for years. She has worked on various projects, including HGTV's Dream Home. Sidney Cardel's is open Tuesday through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room
641 Crosswater Parkway B.
Ponte Vedra
(904) 395-3520

Treat someone with a bottle of wine from

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room this holiday season. The store offers reds, whites, bubbles, fine wines and craft beer. Coastal Wine Market's gift offerings, gourmet pantry items and wine accessories can also fit perfectly under the Christmas tree. Visit www.coastalwinemarket.com for more information.

St. Augustine Distillery
112 Riberia St.
St. Augustine.
(904) 825-4963

Purchase handcrafted spirits for Christmas this year made according to the tradition of American distilling from St. Augustine Distillery. Selections include Florida Double Cask Bourbon, Florida Cane Vodka, New World Gin and more. The distillery also offers mixers, tonic syrups, copper barware, T-shirts, glassware, jiggers, mugs, hats, flasks, coasters and other accessories. Visit www.staugustinedistillery.com for more information.

Espling Jewelers
355 Marsh Landing Parkway
Jacksonville Beach
(904) 280-7700

Give the gift of jewelry for Christmas this year from Espling Jewelers, which also offers jewelry/watch repairs and appraisals. Whether it's a ring, a necklace, earrings or other precious stones, Espling Jewelers is stocked with potential gifts for a friend, family member or loved one. The store also sells pre-owned Rolex, Bulova, Seiko, Reactor and G-Shock brand watches, along with assorted coins such as American Eagles, peace dollars, Morgan dollars and more.

Dr. Clayman's Plastic Surgery Center & Miracle Spa
2 Shircliff Way, Suite 220 (spa)
Jacksonville
(904) 208-2727

The Miracle Spa at Dr. Clayman's Plastic Surgery Center offers nonsurgical solutions for those seeking a cosmetic enhancement or a day of relaxation. The spa provides laser hair removal, facial treatments, nail services, microdermabrasion (skin rejuvenation to



remove imperfections without chemicals or surgery), massages, therapeutic treatments and more. Purchase an eGift card online for a friend or loved one at www.claymanplasticsurgery.com.

The Poppin' Box
116 Bartram Oaks Walk #102
St. Johns
(904) 484-7030

Purchase a popcorn gift box for a friend or loved one this holiday season at The Poppin' Box. The box includes a trio of rich, buttery caramel, cheddar cheese and original butter popcorn on a pile of decorative streamers, wrapped in a cello bag and tied off with matching ribbons.

St. Augustine Aquarium
2045 State Road 16
St. Augustine
(904) 429-9777

A ticket to the aquarium can offer someone lasting memories this holiday season. The St. Augustine Aquarium and Snorkel Adventure is a new Northeast Florida marine attraction consisting of an 80,000-gallon Snorkel Adventure, an interactive Shark & Stingray Cove, Seahorse and hands-on habitats. The aquarium is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.saaquarium.com for more information, or email info@saaquarium.com.

Play Today Toys
116 Bartram Oaks Walk, #104
St. Johns
(904) 770-2237

Play Today Toys has several Christmas gifts for kids. The new specialty toy store offers Jack

in the Boxes, My First Tool Box and My First Purse, touch and feel puzzles and more for 0-24 month old children. For kids ages 3 to 5 years, the store sells Peppa Pig Play figurines, Sleepy Lights Night Light, kitchen lemonade playsets and more. The store is also stocked with Doink it Magnetic Dart sets, marble runs, Aaron's Thinking Putty, Minecraft figurines and more for kids ages 6 to 12. Visit www.playtodaytoys.net for more information.

House of Stereo
8780-100 Perimeter Park Court
Jacksonville
(904) 642-6677

House of Stereo Art Gallery & Home Entertainment is known for its home theater setup consisting of cost-effective audio video systems that could make the perfect gift for anyone wanting to bring the movie theater home. Store representatives work with clients to create the home theater system that fits their needs. House of Stereo also sells high performance audio units, turn tables and other home entertainment products.

ADR Teak Warehouse
630 S. 3rd St.
Jacksonville Beach
(904) 994-0705

This holiday season, offer someone the gift of grade A Teak from ADR Teak Warehouse, a family business designing furniture for the home and patio. The store features tables, benches, rocking chairs, sun lounges, sofas/love seats, tiles and more — all made of teak hardwood. Visit www.adrteakwarehouse.com for more information.



ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORIC INNS TO PRESENT BED & BREAKFAST

Holiday Tours

by JON BLAUVELT

The St. Augustine Historic Inns will once again welcome visitors to the Ancient City for their bed and breakfast holiday tours, to be held Dec. 9-13.

Tour attendees will have the opportunity to see St. Augustine's renowned B&Bs at their best, decorated in full for the holiday season. Guests can also taste delicious samples from local restaurants that partner with the B&Bs to provide dishes and treats for the tours.

This year, guests can choose between two tour options: an extended weekend tour ticket for \$45 that can be used Saturday, Dec. 9 through Monday, Dec. 11, and a "tour-lite" ticket for \$25 that can be used Monday, Dec. 11 through Wednesday, Dec. 13. Visitors can also purchase a "relaxed tour" ticket for \$50 that can be used from Saturday, Dec. 9 through Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Purchase of a ticket will include a tour booklet with a map of each day's inns, museums, restaurant partners and more. Visitors can begin at any inn and go in any order. Tickets also include a special, limited complimentary tour shuttle trolley, courtesy of Old Town Trolley on Dec. 9, 10, 12 and 13.

Each year, the St. Augustine Historic Inns donate a portion of the tour proceeds to a nonprofit charity in the St. Augustine area. This year, proceeds will benefit Field of Dreams Baseball, Community Hospice and Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center.

For more information, visit <http://staugustinebandbtour.com/>.

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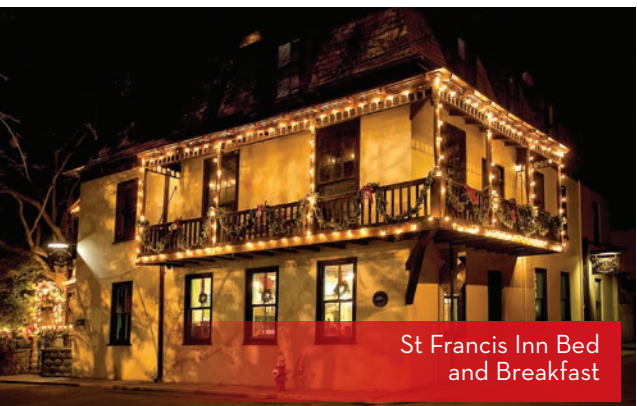


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Bayfront Westcott House Bed & Breakfast

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Bayfront Westcott House Bed & Breakfast



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Furniture giant IKEA

opens in Jacksonville

by PARIS MOULDEN

Jacksonville has joined an exclusive club, becoming just the 46th city in the U.S. to boast an IKEA store.

The Swedish-based company held the grand opening of its newest U.S.-based store on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The store, located at 7801 Gate Parkway, has 290,000 square feet of space and is situated on 25 acres.

The number of households in the First Coast area and the land space available made the location a good fit for IKEA, said store manager Leontyne Sykes.

While the store may be primarily known for affordable, do-it-yourself furniture, the company wants customers to know it has a lot more to offer.

IKEA has a supervised children's play area where parents can leave their children while they shop. There are no more than six kids per supervisor.

The Jacksonville store also boasts a 275-seat restaurant, which serves breakfast for \$2 and, of course, its famous Swedish meatballs, which are also available for purchase to make at home.

"We know many (Jacksonville residents) are familiar with IKEA, and we have heard from many who have traveled to Orlando to shop at IKEA," Sykes said during last week's media preview. "We're excited to say you don't have to do that anymore."

One of the unique aspects of an IKEA store is its specially-designed room displays, which show customers a completely designed room from top-to-bottom and gives them an exact amount for the cost to design the room.

"We want people to come in and have a great time and a great shopping experience," Sykes said.



Jacksonville's IKEA had no problem filling up its 290,000 square feet of space. Photos by Paris Moulden



IKEA in Jacksonville has 50 specially-designed room displays, which include all the finishings and total cost to create an identical space.



IKEA also sells products for both two-legged and four-legged kiddies.

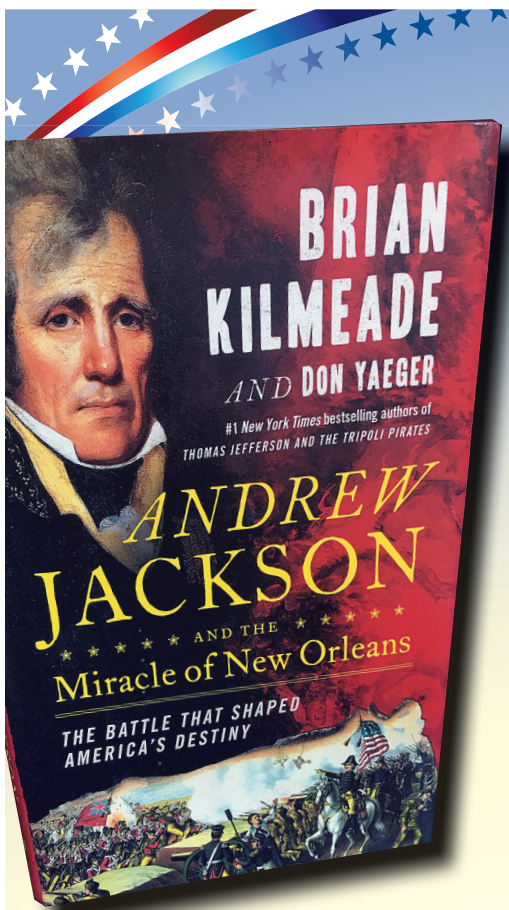
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34TH ANNUAL Caring Chefs

Children's Home Society (CHS) of Florida hosted its 34th annual Caring Chefs fundraiser Oct. 22 at The Avenues Mall in Jacksonville. The event ultimately raised more than \$200,000 to help children realize their full potential through Community Partnership Schools.

The event saw participating restaurants showcase their delicacies with free samples throughout the shopping center. Both stories of The Avenues Mall were filled with more than 2,000 event goers who enjoyed live music, drinks and more while benefiting a charitable cause. The Jacksonville Golf and Country Club won the coveted best booth award for the fifth straight year, while Terra Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse was named the No. 1 fan favorite.

CHS is a provider of various services to children and families in crisis. The organization helps more than 10,000 children and family members cross bridges to success in Northeast Florida each year.

"The heart of CHS has always been children," the organization states on its website. "Protecting them in their darkest moments. Guiding and empowering them to reach their full potential. Building bridges so they can know success."

Caring Chefs raised money for CHS through donations and sponsorship opportunities. Each year, thousands of attendees pack The Avenues Mall to sample cuisine from assorted Northeast Florida restaurants. The 34th annual event featured restaurants such as Athens Greek Cuisine, Black Sheep Restaurant, Moxie's Kitchen & Cocktails, Mojo Kitchen and Maggiano's Little Italy, among others.

RAISES OVER \$200,000 FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

by BENJAMIN NAIM



Pulled pork sandwiches are offered to guests at Mojo BBQ's table.



An event goer asks for more information about the food being served.



French pastries from Le Macaron.



Guests are served food with wine cups in hand. Photos by Benjamin Naim



Drinks are offered at the Caring Chefs VIP lounge.



A chocolate fountain, cookies, marshmallows and other sweets are offered for dessert at the fundraiser.



Menus on a table at the Caring Chefs event



4TH AVENUE SOUTH SHOPS HOLD *Holiday Open House*

photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN



Hors d'oeuvres at Gregory Paul's



Businesses participating in the open house decorate their stores with festive features.

2018

From the publishers of the award-winning Ponte Vedra Recorder and First Coast Register.

Living Here

ON THE FIRST COAST

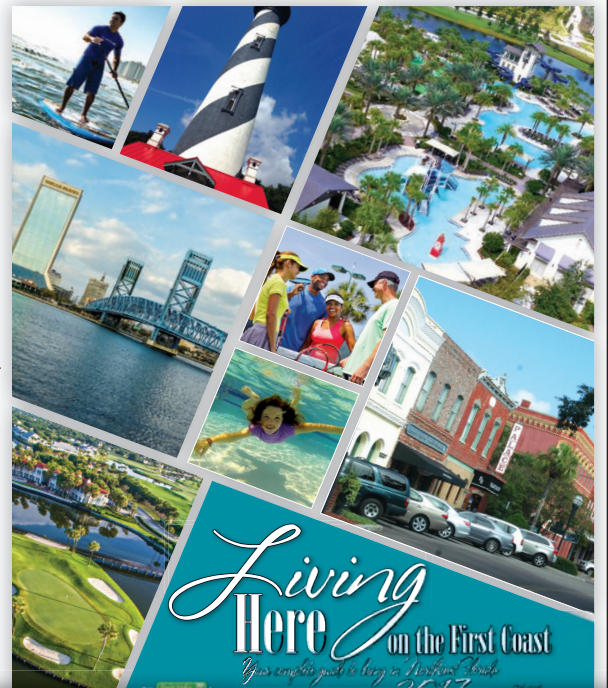
A resource for newcomers and long-time residents alike, LIVING HERE is a guide to the best neighborhoods of Ponte Vedra Beach, the Jacksonville Beaches, St. Augustine and Jacksonville.

Issue Date

March 22, 2018

Advertising Deadline

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Sidney Cardel's co-owner Cathy Thomasson and employees Robin Beatty and Jodi Burns

The shops and businesses of 4th Avenue South in Jacksonville Beach commenced the holiday season Nov. 2 with a festive open house. Attendees of the event explored the shops for holiday treasures and treats and enjoyed refreshments and snacks along the way. Jacksonville cover band Mid-Life Crisis provided entertainment. Participating businesses included Ashes' Boutique & Tea Room, Cottage by the Sea, Gregory Paul's, Luxe Hair Studio, Seaside Shoppes, Sidney Cardel's and The Fig Room.



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A band performs at PorchFest 2017.
Photos by Benjamin Naim

FIRST COAST RESIDENTS ENJOY Porchfest 2017 IN HISTORIC SPRINGFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD

by BENJAMIN NAIM

The fourth annual Jacksonville PorchFest took place Nov. 4 in Jacksonville's Historic Springfield neighborhood, where the streets were closed to accommodate the 35 bands participating in the festival. This year's event featured record attendance and an eclectic group of musicians who showcased their talent on the front porches of homes throughout the community.

Attendees enjoyed live music, food trucks, artisan booths and more near the main stage in Klutho Park, which featured music by Kim Reteguiz and the Black Cat Bones and Big Sandy and his Fly-Rite Boys. Event organizers distributed a live music schedule at a welcome tent that listed location and start times for the musical acts set to perform in the area. Groundwork Jacksonville offered a bicycle valet near West 2nd and Boulevard streets to help guests get around and listen to the festival's various family-friendly musical acts, including Folk is People, The Groove Coalition, Jacksonville Old Time Jam, Mama Blue and others.

Additionally, PorchFest 2017 featured a 5k road race and 1-mile fun run starting at Klutho Park; an awards ceremony was held after the run to commemorate the participants.



Attendees listen to live music on the streets of the Historic Springfield neighborhood.



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