

# REGISTER

FIRST COAST

SUMMER EDITION 2020

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



FIRST COAST  
*Summer*  
fun on the water

WINE & DINE  
on the First Coast

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## About this magazine

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904.285.8831

on the cover



It's time for some summer fun, which this baby is having at the beach at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Photo by Nicole Oehler





### Stunning Riverfront Estate

Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes this home instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Featuring 5 bedrooms, 6 full baths and 5 half baths. **\$5,995,000**



### The Perfect Beach Escape

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. 3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms. **\$1,625,000**



### Oceanfront Luxury

Comfort and elegance blend effortlessly in this Anglo-Caribbean inspired oceanfront home with the highest level of detail and quality, the beauty of this home is enhanced by the property's premier location 7 bedrooms, 7F/2H bathrooms. **\$8,850,000**



### Guana and Ocean Views

With the Guana River to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this oceanfront home offers stunning panoramic views. Built with top engineering designs, this home thoughtfully merges comfort with sustainability. The ideal beach retreat. 7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths. **\$2,600,000**



### Private Oceanfront Estate

Private gated 1.24-acre estate, lovingly referred to as Turtle Hall, exemplifies luxury oceanfront living. With 165 ft of ocean frontage this custom-built Tudor offers old world charm with modern conveniences throughout this 11,000 sqft home. 5 bedrooms, 6 full / 2 half baths. **\$8,200,000**



### Intracoastal Waterfront Condo

Marina San Pablo 2nd story condo featuring open floor plan, luxury amenities, and private balcony with water views. Conveniently located this condo is the ideal retreat from the modern world. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. **\$469,500**



### Spectacular Water to Golf Views

Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views and offers ample space to entertain. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms. **\$1,450,000**



### Work From Home in Luxury

Elegance and practicality merge in this home situated on a premium lot in The Plantation community, with gorgeous and tranquil water to golf views showcased throughout the home. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms. **\$1,525,000**



### Design Ocean Dream Oasis

Own over 2 acres of oceanfront property situated on one of the highest dunes. North of Mickler's Landing, this 6,047 sqft home with 248ft ocean frontage is the ideal place to design your dream oasis. 5 bedrooms, 4F/3H baths. **\$3,425,000**



### Intracoastal Condo + Boat Slip

Located in the private gated community of Marina San Pablo, this 6th story luxury condo offers a convenient location, resort style amenities, and a 20x50 boat slip. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. **\$765,000**



### Riverfront Equestrian Estate

7-Acre Riverfront equestrian estate located on the St. Johns River with 179 ft of river frontage along with a guest home and a 3-Stall Barn, this one of a kind estate offers endless possibilities for the next owners. 5 bedrooms, 5F/4H baths. **\$2,399,000**



### Pristine Waterfront

Immaculately maintained home located on a cul de sac on the largest lake in Marsh Landing features a spacious floor plan, first floor master, and expansive 180-degree water views showcased throughout. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms. **\$1,195,000**



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# One of Us!

LINDA  
BUSH

As told to  
SHAUN RYAN

*Linda Bush is co-owner with husband Peter of Raging Water Sports, which has offered watercraft rentals in the St. Augustine area for the past 25 years. Over that time, surviving hurricanes and economic fluctuations, the Bushes have built one of St. Johns County's most enduring attractions.*

## **How did Raging Water Sports start out?**

In 1994, we were living in St. Pete Beach, and my husband was looking for something to do. We had moved down from New Jersey in 1993. My parents were in St. Pete Beach, so we moved over there and I was working in downtown St. Petersburg at a corporate job. Anyway, Peter started coming over here — we had a couple of jet skis and Peter had the idea of renting them. My husband saw a need; there wasn't much going on here in the way of water sport rentals, particularly jet skis. Peter's brother Tory (Tory Strange, owner of the Surf Station in St. Augustine Beach) grew up here and went to high school here. He helped us get started. We rented at the Conch House Marina. It was a wonderful time, a great experience. We were actually there from 1995 through the summer of 2016.

## **The business underwent a transition at that point.**

In addition to jet skis, we had a pontoon boat, bowriders and a jet boat at one time; we also had sailboats, kayaks and paddleboards by the end. It just got to be overwhelming. In 2016, we

decided to downsize. We moved here (Cat's Paw Marina on the Sebastian River) Sept. 30, 2016.

## **The weather gave you quite a welcome.**

A week after we moved everything here, Hurricane Matthew hit. All of our stuff — I can only give the glory to God — but all of our stuff was in the boat storage facility, all safe. Every boat, every jet ski, every floating dock.

## **What is your background?**

I grew up in Ocean City, New Jersey. Always lived on a barrier island. My dad owned a restaurant. My background as far as college goes is I actually studied journalism. I have an associate's degree in communication. I went to the University of Florida in 1993. All I needed was one more semester, but I realized it wasn't for me. I don't want to interview somebody when they're down and out. That's not me. But back then, I wanted to be Katie Couric.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ■



# WATER ... I'VE GOT IT!



## Villa Calissa

St. Augustine ♦ New Construction Townhomes with deep water boat slips 40-60'

Townhomes Average 2100 sq feet 3 bedroom 2.5 bath, 2 car garage

Completed last quarter of 2020 ♦ Latest Designer Finishes

Minutes from Historic downtown on the San Sebastian River

Small enclave of 11 homes ♦ Only 4 homes left ♦ \$699,000 to \$859,000 ♦ Includes boat slip

**Don't miss this opportunity - Model open by appointment ♦ Perfect Primary or secondary home**



## Live the Carefree Florida Lifestyle!

Step into this fully remodeled penthouse home and you will immediately feel the tranquility and sophistication that this waterfront masterpiece will evoke.

East corner condo features elevator, natural stone and wood flooring, 11-foot ceilings

4145 sq feet ♦ 4 bedroom 4 bath with three balconies offering panoramic views of the Intracoastal Waterway

Clubhouse with pool and fitness facility ♦ \$2,325,000 ♦ Minutes from Jax Beaches, Mayo Clinic, St. Johns Town Center



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**ENGEL & VÖLKERS**

First Coast Register | April/May 2020 | 5



**Tell us about your customers.**

Fortunately, we get them from everywhere. But the vacationers are definitely in the summer and Spring Break. We get many from St. Johns, Duval and Gainesville and all the counties up there. Some come up from South Florida ... Georgia, South Carolina, really everywhere up and down the East Coast. I see a lot from the Midwest, as well. A lot from Atlanta. A lot of people rent for a bucket list type of thing, but we do get a lot of repeat business. I'm very thankful for that. People come back every year, and it always warms my heart. Every time.



Now, we're as busy as any other year. Praise God.

**Matthew wasn't the only hurricane you have faced. Irma hit the following year.**

We were so fortunate not to have any setbacks during both storms.

**What other challenges have you faced?**

Of course, the recession in '08, which kind of didn't really affect us until about '10 or '11. Those were a few rough years.

**This is Raging Water Sports' silver anniversary. How have you succeeded so well where some other businesses haven't?**

We are very blessed that we do have a business that's a bit of a niche. It's very difficult, which is why there are not a lot of rental businesses. Especially jet skis. There's a lot of liability and different approvals you have to get from the state.

*Raging Water Sports is located at 220 Nix Boat Yard Road. Its website is [www.ragingwatersports.com](http://www.ragingwatersports.com).*

**How did the COVID-19 shutdown affect your business?**

We did shut down in April for the first two weeks when it was kind of mandatory. But people were calling even when we were supposed to be shut down. And it was like, "I'm sorry. I'm not supposed to be open." As soon as they said that warm weather kills the virus and the sun kills the virus about the third or fourth week in April, it was like, "OK, we're going out. Are you open?"

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May - August

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**Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082**  
**904.834.7280**

at The Mews, 280 NW Broad St.,  
Downtown Southern Pines, NC  
910.692.2744

at Cameron Village,  
400 Daniels St., Raleigh, NC  
919.467.1781

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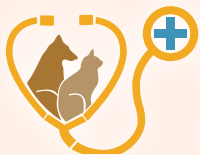
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# July 4th

Celebrate safely this  
Independence Day



## FOREVER VETS Animal Hospital



Forever Vets Animal Hospital is an essential business and will continue to remain OPEN to serve the community during this difficult time.

### Helping those who are helping us

Forever Vets Animal Hospital will be offering a 10% discount on services for the amazing first responders. If you are a delivery truck driver, a firefighter, a police officer, a doctor or a nurse — we would like to offer you 10% off your overall invoice. Additionally, we have increased our discount for senior citizens and Armed Forces workers from 5% to 10%.

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

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904-733-5100  
8555 Baymeadows Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32256

TINSELTOWN  
904-619-9733  
4212 Southside Blvd., #308  
Jacksonville, FL 32256

MURABELLA  
904-679-3432  
74 Capulet Drive, #204  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

NOCATEE  
904-686-2779  
89 Pine Lake Drive, Site A  
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

ST. JOHNS  
904-287-5625  
2758 Race Track Road, #402  
St. Johns, FL 32259

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Jacksonville, FL 32250

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904-204-2191  
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Days at the beach. Family trips to the ice cream parlor. Vacations. These are just a few of the things that evoke the spirit of summer, a time of year when everyone seems to exhale a little and enjoy the warm weather.

Awe-inspiring fireworks displays also come to mind when imagining summer. Whether it's the Fourth of July or town gatherings along a local waterfront, fireworks displays are a big part of many people's summers. Unfortunately, the potential for accidents and injuries is high when fireworks are involved, particularly when displays aren't left to the professionals.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that, on average, 280 people per day visit emergency rooms with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.

Fireworks are always best left to the professionals, and many communities have criminalized the use of fireworks by amateurs. But many people still light fireworks, and with many cities canceling July 4 celebrations, many people will be celebrating Independence Day at home. For those who do, follow these safety precautions.

- **Never let kids handle fireworks.** Fireworks, even sparklers, should never be given to children. The National SAFE KIDS campaign notes that sparklers burn at 2,000 F, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns. So while they might seem like harmless symbols of summer, sparklers pose a significant threat to youngsters.

- **Follow directions.** Fireworks come with detailed directions for a reason, and that's to keep users safe. Strictly adhere to these directions and go over them with anyone who intends to light fireworks.

- **Never use fireworks indoors.** Fireworks are for outdoor use only. If it rains, do not try to light fireworks indoors and then throw them outside before they go off.

- **Make sure spectators keep a safe distance.** Do not light fireworks until all spectators are out of range should something go awry.

- **Recognize that fireworks are not toys.** They might be a marvel, but fireworks are not toys. As a result, they should never be aimed or thrown at another person, nor should they be lit or launched from a body part.

- **Do not attempt to reignite malfunctioning fireworks.** Attempting to reignite malfunctioning fireworks can lead to serious injury.

- **Light fireworks on smooth, flat surfaces.** When lighting fireworks, do so only on smooth, flat surfaces, making sure to direct them away from people, homes, dry leaves, and flammable materials.

Fireworks are best left to the professionals. Consumers who insist on lighting their own should only do so with the utmost caution.



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# First Coast Summer

**BOATING, FUN ON  
THE WATER & MORE**



**Pages 10-13**

Photo by PARIS MOULDEN



## ADVENTURE LANDING WATER PARK

1944 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

(904) 246-4386 • [www.adventurelanding.com](http://www.adventurelanding.com)

If you're looking for a little thrill, visit the Adventure Landing Water Park located just over the bridge in Jacksonville Beach. Tackle the giant waterslides, like the Hydro Halfpipe or the giant waves of Adventure Landing's wave pool. Either way, the park is sure to satisfy the need for thrill and refreshing fun in the sun. Looking for relaxation rather than thrill? No worries, just float around the Lazy River in one of Adventure Landing's donut floats for some refreshing R&R. Just watch out for the water falls above!

## AMELIA BOAT CLUB & RENTALS

251 Creekside Drive, Amelia Island, FL 32034

(904) 277-4615 • [www.ameliaboatclub.com](http://www.ameliaboatclub.com)

Located at the Amelia Island Marina in Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island Boat Club is a local business that offers a hassle-free and convenient alternative to boating. They offer a variety of boats, gear and accessories to choose from so that members and rental clients can maximize their time on the water. Choose the boat that best suits your needs, and anything else to explore the First Coast marine life. Not only do they provide the vessel, they also prepare everything for the voyage and handle the boat's maintenance upon return. Just leave your cares on shore.



Photo provided by AMELIA ISLAND KAYAK

## AMELIA ISLAND KAYAK EXCURSIONS

(904) 557-5307 • [www.ameliaislandkayak.com](http://www.ameliaislandkayak.com)

Ranked as the top tour in Fernandina Beach by Tripadvisor, along with Bold City's best water sport business in 2017, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions offers family-fun outings, nature tours and team building groups for all ages. AIKE's main goal is to help create memorable and enjoyable experiences while exploring the scenic inland waters of Fernandina. They offer 2-hour, 3-hour and 5-hour local guided tours and even overnight excursions. First time kayaking? No problem! AIKE provides class III personal floatation devices, quality kayaks and paddles that fit anyone's needs. They even offer kids kayak camps in the summer to help teach the "next generation of kayakers."



Photo provided by BACKWATER CAT ADVENTURE

## BACKWATER CAT ADVENTURE

3 South Front St., Dock E, Amelia Island, FL 32034

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

Backwater Cat Adventure takes guests on a two-hour catamaran excursion, stopping for a half-hour at the beach on Cumberland Island, Georgia, before returning to Amelia Island. Tours are offered seven days a week, and sunset tours are available. Guests are given instructions on operating the two-person boats before setting out with their guide. Often, these trips offer good views of dolphins, manatees, manta rays and sea turtles. Cumberland Island, accessible only by water, is known for its resident herd of authentic wild horses.

The advertisement features a large image of a red and yellow kayak on the left. The background is blue with white text. The main title is "Amelia Island Kayak Excursions" in a large, white, serif font. Below it is the tagline "Where Kayaking Fun Begins" in a smaller, white, serif font. A list of tour locations and features is provided in white text on a blue background, separated by horizontal lines. At the bottom, there is a red banner with the phone number "CALL TODAY! 904-557-5307" in white. Below the banner, it says "#1 on TripAdvisor - Award Winning - Family Owned/Operated" and the website "www.ameliaislandkayak.com". There are also small images of people kayaking in the background of the text area.

Amelia Island  
Kayak  
Excursions  
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- Cumberland Island National Seashore
- Lofton & Egan's Creeks • Amelia River & Fort Clinch
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[www.ameliaislandkayak.com](http://www.ameliaislandkayak.com)



## EXTREME WATER ADVENTURES

3070 Harbor Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 945-6576 • [www.extremewateradventures.com](http://www.extremewateradventures.com)

Extreme Water Adventures is Florida's premier flyboarding destination. Flyboarding lets you surf the sky with water rockets strapped to your feet in the ocean. Extreme Water Adventures offers an amazing experience and view while surfing the sea and sky and is the only flyboarding company in North Florida that carries insurance, making their business a safe and secure environment for the family. The more comfortable you get in the sky, the higher you'll be able to fly! Extreme Water Adventures wants guests to have the best experience, both in the water and up in the air.

## JAX SURF & PADDLE

241 Atlantic Blvd #102, Neptune Beach, FL 32266

(904) 372-9083 • [www.jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com](http://www.jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com)

Jacksonville Surf & Paddle is North Florida's premier surf and stand-up paddleboard school, surf camp, and beach rental provider. They offer a wide variety of surf, stand-up paddleboard (SUP) and fitness classes specifically designed to meet individual needs. Situated in Neptune Beach, Jax Surf & Paddle has easy access to both the beach for surf lessons and the Intracoastal Waterway for SUP. As they like to say, they offer lessons for "any age and any stage."



Photo provided by VISIT JACKSONVILLE

## KATHRYN ABBEY HANNA PARK

500 Wonderwood Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32233

(904) 249-4700 • [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

For a more private beach location filled with lots of recreational activities and trails, Hanna Park is the place to go. Hanna Park offers tent and RV camps, as well as cabins. The park also has beach access, a 60-acre freshwater lake, a kids splash park and picnic and cookout facilities for group activities and events. They offer biking and hiking trails, as well as the Dolphin Plaza. Entry fees are required, but prices are worth it to preserve this fun little gem in Jacksonville. Search Hanna Park on the City of Jacksonville website for more information.

**#1 Must Do on Amelia Island**

**back WATER-CAT ADVENTURE**

**Drive a Go-Kart on the Water on a thrilling Boating Adventure**

Sightseeing • Wild Horses • Cumberland Island • Dolphins  
Marine Life • Boats are zippy fast/30 mph

Starting at \$80 per person.

For pricing, tour schedule and tour info, visit:  
**BackWaterCatAdventure.com**

Call us at (904) 753-7631 for all other questions.





Photo provided by DIANE BOLDEN

## RAGING WATER SPORTS

Cat's Paw Marina, 220 Nix Boat Yard Road,  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

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

More and more, people are looking for something fun to do outdoors as the period of self-quarantining appears to be wrapping up. And for those living on the First Coast, that means getting out on the water. Raging Water Sports in St. Augustine rents pontoon boats for full- and half-day getaways along the Intracoastal. Renters get a map and channel marker instruction. Jet skis can be rented for one or two hours, and guided tours are available. To protect everyone's health, social distancing steps have been adopted and staff is sanitizing everything between rentals.

## NORTH GUANA OUTPOST

4415 Mickler Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
(904) 373-0306 • [www.northguanaoutpost.com](http://www.northguanaoutpost.com)

From paddleboards to kayaks, North Guana Outpost has a variety of water-related sporting goods to create an ideal summer experience. This outfitters store carries top-notch brands for paddleboarding, bait & tackle, beach essentials and apparel, such as BOTE boards, Indigo SUP, Surftech, YETI, Costa Del Mar, Sun Bum and more. They even offer paddleboard and kayak rentals for those wanting to explore the Guana Preserve right in North Guana Outpost's backyard. Feeling hungry after venturing out on the water? NGO even sells Hyppo popsicles to keep guests cool and refreshed.

## SEA SERPENT TOURS INC.

6550 State Road 13, St. Augustine, FL 32092  
(904) 495-4200 • [www.seaserpenttours.com](http://www.seaserpenttours.com)

Sea Serpent Tours Inc. aims to provide historical and ecological tours of St. Augustine from the inland waterways for both residents and tourists. The tours offer a unique perspective to the historic Matanzas River, Tolomato River, St. Johns River and surrounding tidal creeks of the "Ancient City." Sea Serpent Tours offers a wide variety of adventures, such as paddle boating, kayaking, hydrobiking, bass boats, pontoons and even a sea dragon airboat safari that can hold up to 15 passengers. Book online and experience St. Augustine like you've never seen it before!

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**904-829-5001 RAGINGWATERSPORTS.COM**



# Wine & Dine

## ON THE FIRST COAST

Pages 14-20



The Reef Restaurant in St. Augustine Beach

## featuring waterfront dining listings

### AMELIA ISLAND

The Sandbar  
2910 Atlantic Ave.  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Sliders Restaurant  
1998 South Fletcher Ave.  
Amelia Island, FL 32034

The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island's  
Salt restaurant  
4750 Amelia Island Pkwy.  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Brett's Waterway Café  
1 S Front St,  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Down Under Restaurant  
Intracoastal Waterway,  
Florida A1A  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

### ST. AUGUSTINE

Beaches at Vilano  
254 Vilano Road  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Cap's on the Water in St. Augustine



Culinary Outfitters Waterfront Restaurant  
173 Shipyard Way,  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Creekside Dinery  
160 Nix Boat Yard Road  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

The Reef in Vilano Beach  
4100 Coastal Hwy.  
St Augustine Beach, FL 32084

Cap's on The Water  
4325 Myrtle St.  
St. Augustine, FL 32084



Aunt Kate's in St. Augustine

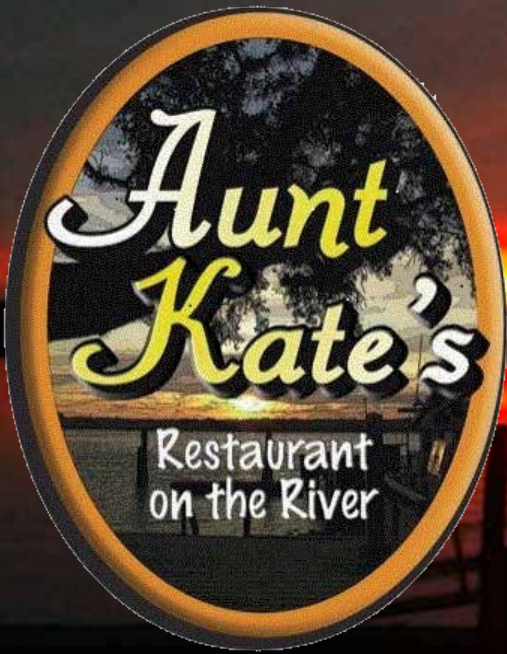
Aunt Kate's  
612 Euclid Ave.  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Kingfish Grill On the Water  
252 Yacht Club Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Saltwater Cowboys  
299 Dondanville Road  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Hurricane Patty's  
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Escobar Moore is the owner of Munchies Food for the Soul restaurant located on St. Johns Avenue in Jacksonville.

Photo by PARIS MOULDEN

# Food for the Soul

Jacksonville restaurant focuses on comfort food, feeling of family

by PARIS MOULDEN

Escobar Moore wants it to feel like home when visitors come into Munchies.

The Food for the Soul-inspired restaurant boasts Southern staples and comfort food, along with a “have it your way” approach to making customers feel special.

Moore has lived all around the Southeast — Atlanta, Memphis, Nashville, Augusta — so he knows more than a thing or two about Southern cooking. And he believes Jacksonville is a great fit for his restaurant venture.

“I think there’s a huge market here,” Moore said. “People like fresh food that is seasoned well and flavored well.”

Moore said the biggest problem diners have is deciding which is better between the fried chicken and the fried pork chops.

“There’s a contest [between the two],” Moore said. “You either love one or love the other.”

Munchies’ approach to food is reminiscent of Sunday dinner with the family, and that’s just the way Moore wants it.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 ■





# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## New St. Augustine restaurants opening despite hardships

by AMBER LAKE

Pandemic or not, St. Augustine's booming restaurant industry cannot be stopped.

Even as the virus forced many long-standing restaurants in the area to permanently shut their doors — new eateries are popping up. These innovative restaurants are eager to feed locals coming out of their (very hungry) pandemic hibernations. One thing is for sure, not even COVID-19 can stop good food from reaching eager appetites.

Following the tail of the recent lift on dining restrictions, Culinary Outfitters Waterfront, a "upscale, yet affordable" seafood restaurant opened earlier this month at the St. Augustine Shipyards. Chase Pritchard, chef and owner, said he wanted to make a restaurant St. Augustine hasn't seen before.

The location features an extensive wine menu and entrees including Sourdough Crusted Snapper, Miso Painted Striped Bass and a Buttermilk Pie for dessert. Guests can relax by the outdoor fire pits and live music or watch boats come in and out of the 85 docking spots by the restaurant.

Prior to COVID-19, Bozard Ford Co. bought the closed Gander Mountain store at St. Augustine's Indoor Mall to expand its dealership and include the dining amenity, Ford's Garage, that will be open to the public. The dealership announced via YouTube last year that the restaurant would open, and it's set Sept. 24 for a grand opening.

The restaurant is designed as a "prohibition-style" bar with 1920s service station décor restaurant, including Ford vehicles, gas pumps and fixtures. The menu features classic burger joint fare, including Angus beef patties with gourmet toppings and "comfort" mac and cheeses. A full bar with an even fuller craft beer selection is expected, as well.

Currently, Ford's Garage has 12 other locations in Florida, including Orlando, St. Petersburg and Fort Myers.

Edwin Baltzley, current owner of the St. Augustine Amphitheater's Bullet food truck, is opening a new "family table-style" eatery called Sunday Gathering Table. The cozy restaurant will be open for breakfast and lunch, as well as "small bites" on weekend evenings.

Sunday will be located at 73 San Marco Ave., and plans to open its doors tentatively on June 28. The menu will include sandwiches on fresh sourdough and locally sourced salads in a homey, neighborhood-dining-table setting. Baltzley plans on making an official announcement about the restaurant's opening this weekend.



Photos provided by FORD'S GARAGE



Photos provided by SUNDAY GATHERING TABLE







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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

“Comfort food is comforting for a reason,” he said. “Maybe it brings back a memory of something special.” For Moore, some of those memories are cooking with his grandmother. As a kid, he would sit in the kitchen with her while she made meals for the family. Moore said despite her job as a nurse, she would still find time to cook, and keep the kids in line, if needed.

“She was Madea,” Moore joked. “There would be eight or nine kids there, all talking and cooking. It was great for me as a kid. Every time I’m cooking, it brings back those memories.”

Munchies offers an extensive menu, and Moore said diners are free to customize their orders however they like. The most important thing, he said, is that diners get what they want, and his repeat business shows Munchies is delivering. Moore said making the customer happy is a top priority, and cooking for others makes him happy, which is why he’s been in the restaurant business 22 years now.

“You have to enjoy cooking to be great at it,” Moore said. “It’s about serving food with love. It’s an entire experience.”

That’s something Moore wants to share with Munchies. The experience of being with family around the dinner table, filling up bellies and souls.

Munchies is located at 4555 St. Johns Ave. in Jacksonville. For more information, go to [munchsauce.net](http://munchsauce.net).

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# Two of a Kind

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article and photos by  
MAGGIE FITZROY

Jill Devlin of Sea Girt, New Jersey is dressed to match her 1952 Muntz Jet, named "Buttercup," at the 2020 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance March 8.

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Kelly Driscoll and her husband, Robert McKeown, own a 1914 Packard convertible that they take on vintage auto tours around the United States.

On March 8 the couple from Pittsburgh came to the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance with their polished and restored antique, one of several hundred vehicles showcased at the annual event that celebrates beautiful cars.

To show their beloved automobile off to best advantage, however, Driscoll and McKeown didn't just drive their car to The Golf Club of Amelia Island and park it on a spot between the 10th and 18th fairways, where the show is held every year.

They came dressed to match their car.

Driscoll strolled the grounds in a lacy, ankle-length dress with matching hat that any fashionable woman of 1914 would have admired. While her husband looked every bit the gentleman of success in a dapper suit of the period.

"Our car is a 1914 Packard, so we dress accordingly," Driscoll said. "We do tours all over the place, such fun."

McKeown said they belong to several antique auto clubs, including Friends of Ancient Road Transportation, also affectionally known as "the FARTS group," which does two 500-mile tours twice a year.

"This is the best show," he said of the Concours d'Elegance. "It's cold and gray and icky in Pittsburgh. Here, it's sunny and bright."

Driscoll and McKeown were not alone in dressing to match their car.

Models, dressed for a fashion show featuring autos from the early 1900s to the present, wandered the grounds, posing for photo shoots.

And many other car owners added to the vintage, voyage-through-time ambiance with their clothing.

Jill Devlin of Sea Girt, New Jersey was the picture of 1950s elegance as she waved to spectators from behind the wheel of her pale-yellow 1952 Muntz Jet, which she said with a smile was named "Buttercup." Wearing a floppy yellow hat, dark 50s-style sunglasses, a lemon-yellow scarf and flowery dress, she looked as if she had just rolled out of a time machine.

The 30th of the 198 cars built by The Muntz Car Company between 1951 and 1954, the Muntz Jet is considered by many to be the first high-performance personal luxury car built in America with the capacity to go from 0 to 60 in 8.6 seconds, according to a flyer Devlin handed out.

In 1952, Muntz Jets sold for \$5,500, and each came equipped with an ice chest and liquor cabinet in the rear arm seats, which Devlin encouraged car buffs to admire through the hardtop's rolled down windows.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ■

## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## *Criminal Defense Attorney*



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

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Sam Sinning (from left), Mark Sinning and Maddie Sinning of New Bern, North Carolina are dressed to match their 1939 Bentley.

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

“This is the way it all started,” said Mark Sinning of New Bern, North Carolina as he posed for pictures beside his 1939 Bentley with his family, all garbed in 1930s style outfits.

Car shows started as fashion shows, “and the car was an accessory,” said Sinning, quoting what he’d learned from an historian last year at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance in Pebble Beach, California.

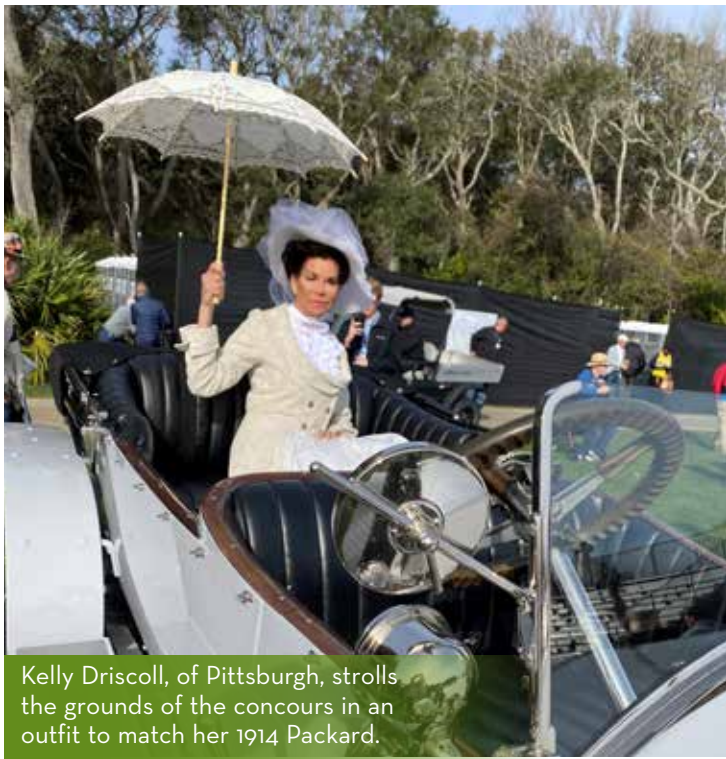


After the fashion show, model Kyla Kramer of Jacksonville Beach poses on the fairway next to a 1937 Horch.

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Kelly Driscoll, of Pittsburgh, strolls the grounds of the concours in an outfit to match her 1914 Packard.

Sinning said it took three years to restore their Bentley. "They took every piece apart and made it as new and put it back together."

"And we are absolutely having a great time here," his wife, Sam Sinning, said.

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## BEACHWALK OPEN HOUSES PUT NEW COMMUNITY ON DISPLAY

by SHAUN RYAN

photo provided by BEACHWALK

The Beachwalk community in St. Johns offered prospective homeowners an opportunity to tour some of its newest houses on Sunday, June 14, even as work progresses on County Road 210.

Completion of that artery — expected in July — will facilitate the creation of a full-service commercial district convenient to Beachwalk residents.

“It’s an exciting time,” said David Eisner, sales manager for Americrest Luxury Homes, developer for Beachwalk’s Atlantica Isles neighborhood.

Six homes ranging in size from 2,561 to 3,073 square feet and priced between \$758,260 and \$1,041,325 were featured during the event.

“What I think sets Atlantica Isles off is we’re the only community in Beachwalk that’s 100% maintenance-free,” Eisner said.

The homeowners’ association handles all the yardwork, maintains irrigation, performs roof repairs and paints the homes every fifth year. For residents who spend part of the year at secondary homes elsewhere, it’s a convenient feature.

For that reason, the developers expected Atlantica Isles to mostly attract buyers who were at least 55 years old. But Eisner said some families with children are also moving in.

Another feature attracting homeowners is the neighborhood’s proximity to the 14-acre, 37-million-gallon Crystal Lagoon — the largest swimming facility in the United States. Its warm waters are a natural turquoise color, and the lagoon



photo by SHAUN RYAN

is framed by a sandy beach.

Things are developing in other Beachwalk areas, too. Five new model homes priced in the 300s will soon open, as well as several single-family homes in the Seaside Estates neighborhood.

Recently, Beachwalk began to offer a limited number of clubhouse membership passes to guests outside the community.

The passes would grant access to the fitness center, tennis courts, putting green, dog splash park, lagoon, water slides, a swim-up bar, walking trails, paddle boarding and kayaking.

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Actress Loretta Swit (center) hosts the Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue gala, Shake, Rattle and Roll Casino Night, on Feb. 8 to raise funds for its Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center.

# Actress Loretta Swit hosts annual gala for

# Ayla's Acres

PAGES 30-31

article and photos by  
CHRISTINE RODENBAUGH



Animal advocates participate in table games for "funny money."



Shirley Thompson (center) reacts to getting the eight of hearts needed for "21" while playing blackjack with her friend, Donna DeLorenzo (left).



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Little Jake (right) serenades Giselle Thompson at the Ayla's Acres fundraiser.

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There was a “whole lotta shakin’ goin’ on” at the fifth annual Ayla’s Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue gala, Shake, Rattle and Roll Casino Night, to raise funds for its Peter’s Friends Animal Resource Center. Fang, the Jacksonville Icemen hockey team mascot, greeted guests at the door Saturday, Feb. 8 at the River House in St. Augustine. The air was chilly, but inside the gambling, bidding and dancing was hot.

Ayla’s Acres is raising funds to build the St. Johns County-based Peter’s Friends Animal Resource Center, which will serve as an adoption facility, low- or no-cost spay and neuter clinic and education and outreach center. The 10,000-square-foot facility will be located on 17 acres in St. Johns County and is designed to house up to 40 cats and 40 dogs.

The nonprofit receives no government funding, relying instead on private grants, donations and fundraising activities. Ayla’s acres also benefits from donated items that are sold through its thrift shop in St. Augustine.

Award-winning actress, Loretta Swit, supports the mission and vision of Ayla’s Acres through her nonprofit, the Switheart Foundation. Swit, who played Margaret “hot Lips” Houlihan on the 1970s television series M\*A\*S\*H, greeted guests warmly and posed for pictures in what seemed an endless line of fans and supporters.

Ayla’s Acres supporters played the slots and table games like

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Actress Loretta Swit (center) presents a prize to raffle winners Geri (left) and Tom Ferry at the event.

craps, poker and roulette to win “funny money” to exchange for raffle tickets. Precisely at 9:15 p.m., Swit took the microphone in the main ballroom and announced, “This is your major speaking.” The noisy audience hushed under her command and Swit thanked everyone for coming and for supporting the shelter. “Now, let’s win something,” she said.

As raffle ticket numbers were called, enthusiastic winners rushed to the stage to pose for pictures with Swit and their prizes. After the final ticket was drawn, the band turned up the volume and guests filled the dance floor.

“It was a wonderful evening with a full house and guests who gave a lot of positive feedback,” Fran Charlson, executive director said. “We appreciate the support. It’s very meaningful to us.”

With the Peter’s Friends site plan finalized, civil and environmental engineers are reviewing the plans. The next step is to receive County approval. Charlson hopes to break ground by June.

Several sponsor levels are available to fund the \$3.2 million Peter’s Friends project. For example, sponsor the vet clinic for \$100,000, the memorial park for \$50,000 or one of the cat kennels for \$10,000. Walkway bricks are available for \$500 each. For a complete list of sponsorship opportunities, call Fran Charlson (650) 520-5201.

For more information, visit [www.aylasacres.org](http://www.aylasacres.org).

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# KNOW THE STORM

## It's that time of year again. Be prepared

Hurricanes are no laughing matter. Hurricanes are strong storms that can wreak havoc. Strong hurricane winds and rain can cause substantial damage, as can tidal surges that cause flooding to coastal areas.

Hurricanes are sometimes referred to as typhoons and tropical cyclones. But no matter the name, these storms pack the same powerful punch. Storms earn the hurricane designation when they include winds that reach 74 mph.

Hurricane season typically runs between May and November. National Geographic says that hurricanes form over warm ocean waters near the equator. This warm, moist air from the ocean rises and then causes air from surrounding areas to be sucked into a continuous storm formation. Clouds begin to rotate with the Earth's rotation. If there is enough warm water to feed the storm, then the hurricane forms.

Surviving a hurricane can come down to understanding the risks of the storm. Understanding hurricane terminology also can help. The following are some hurricane facts and preparedness tips.

- The strongest part of a hurricane is called the wall. It is the most dangerous part of the hurricane with the strongest winds, heaviest rains and thickest clouds. The wall immediately surrounds the center eye of the storm.

- The circular "eye" of the hurricane is generally calm with no clouds. Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around the eye.

- Hurricanes are generally classified into five categories, depending on their severity. The higher the number, the more potent the storm.

- The National Hurricane Center started giving official names to storms in 1953. If a hurricane has been especially destructive, its name may be retired. Examples of retired names include Andrew, Katrina, Mitch, and Sandy.

- Hurricanes will lose strength over land because they require moist ocean water for fuel.

- According to Science Kids, coastal regions are most at danger from hurricanes because of their proximity to the ocean.

- Data from the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory found the three states with the most hurricane landfalls are Florida, Texas and Louisiana.

- Hurricanes do not affect Canadian cities and towns as much as places in the United States, but the Canadian Hurricane Centre was created as an expert source of information for Canadian residents. Atlantic Canada, namely Nova Scotia, is an area in Canada that is most likely to be impacted by hurricanes.

- People who live in areas where hurricanes frequently touch down are advised to put together hurricane preparedness kits, which should include drinking water, nonperishable foods, extra clothing, flashlights and batteries, candles, and other supplies that are helpful if the power goes out.

- Although many like to batten down the hatches and ride out storms, if a hurricane evacuation is advised, people should leave their homes. It may take days for power to be restored, and emergency personnel may not be able to reach injured or stranded residents in the interim.





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# HURRICANES: DEVELOP A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

*A family disaster plan can keep residents safe and out of harm's way in a severe weather event. Once your family develops and finalizes a plan, be sure to practice it frequently. Here are a few things to consider when creating your own family emergency plan:*

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect the family. Know the home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, wind and tornadoes.
- Determine if the home is located in a storm surge evacuation zone. If so, know exactly where to go to reach safe shelter, and know how to get there.
- If the home is located outside a storm surge evacuation zone, and the home is well constructed, its residents still need to have a hurricane plan.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in the home for each hurricane hazard. Sometimes the safest areas may not be in the home, but within the community.
- Determine escape routes from the home and a designated meeting place nearby.
- Designate an out-of-state contact so all family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with pets if the family needs to evacuate. Most hurricane shelters do not accept pets.
- Post emergency telephone numbers. Make sure children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Review insurance coverage – flood damage is not usually covered by homeowner's insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a disaster supply kit.
- Monitor a NOAA weather radio for official, real-time weather information.
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

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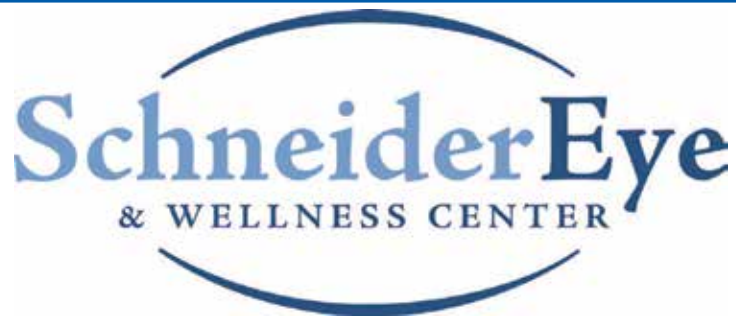
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The Black Sheep crew serves up food at the event.



Attendees show support for the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund mission.



III Forks supplies food for attendees.



Event attendees toast during the 2020 Jay Fund wine tasting gala.



Greg and Angela Stringfellow with Tom Coughlin (right)

# TOM COUGHLIN JAY FUND 2020 WINE TASTING

photos provided by  
KELLY BUSSANICH

# Gala

The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Wine Tasting Gala offered culinary delights from 35 area restaurants and hundreds of the world's most renowned wines on March 6 at the Wells Fargo Center in Jacksonville.

The annual fundraiser brought over 800 celebrities, wine enthusiasts, gourmets, philanthropists and friends together for the opportunity to eat, drink, socialize and bid on one-of-a-kind auction items throughout the night. Attendees included Super Bowl-winning-coach Tom Coughlin and celebrity guests, including Tony Boselli, Larry Csonka, Mike

Mularkey, Josh Scobee, and others from the sports world and beyond. This year's exclusive silent auction items included rare wine, sports memorabilia and travel packages.

All proceeds from the event benefited First Coast families tackling childhood cancer through the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation.



Coughlin (fourth from left) poses with event attendees.



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# First Coast Heart Ball

## RAISES RECORD AMOUNT FOR AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The 2020 First Coast Heart Ball, a fundraiser held at Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach to benefit the American Heart Association, drew hearts together on Saturday, March 7, with a silent and live auction and a multi-course dinner and live entertainment.

Chaired by Frances and Anthony Jabbour, CEO of Black Knight, the event raised a record-breaking \$1,766,000. The ball was the most successful ever for the American Heart Association on the First Coast. Funds from the event will go to fund life-saving research, education and raising awareness for cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Frank and Marisa Martire were the night's honorees.

"The Heart Ball is focused on funding groundbreaking research and local education and awareness campaigns to change and save lives", Anthony Jabbour said. "Black Knight is dedicated to making a difference in the communities where our employees live and work and is proud to support the American Heart Association through events like the Heart Ball. Frances and I are extremely grateful to everyone who supported this year's Heart Ball, which helps to fund vital research projects, life-saving treatments for cardiovascular diseases and stroke, as well as grassroots programs affecting those in the First Coast communities."

The evening featured the compelling story of Canon Johnson and his family. Canon, the third child of Jody and Kevin Johnson, was born with multiple congenital heart defects. Prior to his second birthday, Canon had already undergone multiple open-heart surgeries, with more on the horizon, possibly including a heart transplant. The Johnsons expressed their gratitude for the research and treatments that have allowed their son to survive and thrive. They also expressed hope that more research funded by the American Heart Association will lead to treatments that will ensure Canon can live a long, healthy life.



Heart Ball Honorees Frank and Marisa Martire and Co-Chairs Frances and Anthony Jabbour



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