

Sand Castles

LUXURY * LIFESTYLE * REAL ESTATE



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October 28, 2021

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PONTE VEDRA

Recorder

Welcome to Sand Castles - The Fall Issue



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Welcome to our fall issue and our 8th anniversary of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and seasonal publication.

Our fall weather has finally arrived, and we look forward to welcoming our Georgia neighbors to Jacksonville and our beaches.

Since 1915, the Florida/Georgia game, sometimes referred to as the biggest outdoor party, has been played and since 1933 every year Jacksonville is proud to host another successful event for our city. Many fans arrive early to this destination game, and our hotels and resorts are filled to capacity. Georgia is our #1 feeder state for real estate, and while we may be rivals on the field, off the field Georgians enjoy our restaurants, beautiful beaches and lifestyle!

Our Market Watch, provided by David Johnson with Ameris Bank, delves into the current market that has been one of the strongest we have experienced. All indicators point to a continuing healthy market, and in this issue some of our top real estate agents share their stories about their distinctive properties currently for sale.

In this issue, food columnist Alice Hickox offers some great recipes for celebrating the Florida/Georgia game. Sports columnist Brian Sexton gives some great insight in our NFL Jaguars with his analysis, "What's right with the Jaguars?" This will be worth reading!

Our First Coast is a wonderful place to live. We have been blessed with St. Augustine and the historical site of Nombre de Dios, where the first parish mass took place. On Oct. 10, 2021, John Clegg and his family attended the Canonical Coronation for Our Lady of La Leche. John shares the story of that day and the history of the shrine.

Vicky's Helping Hands, founded in 1994 by Sawgrass

resident Vicky Brock, provides a much-needed service in our community. This concierge business offers a list of services from home watch to pet care and more and in doing so is changing lives and helping others. Vicky recently expanded her business with her daughter-in-law Jessica Waugaman, and this dynamic duo will continue to provide services to their clients that are in demand now more than ever!

A special feature in this issue is "Fins Up" from team Mom Kim Dean about the award-winning Ponte Vedra High School cheer program. According to Coach Mel, "These dedicated and hardworking student athletes give it their all on and off the sidelines. They give back to their community and are role models for their younger cheer sisters."

Jennifer Sexton, Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway, writes about a recent trip not far from the first coast to Palmetto Bluff, one of the low country's best kept secrets!

I write about the "Art of the Caravan" and why this weekly ritual of touring new homes on the market is one of the most important aspects of real estate that is now back!

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

Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS
Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices
Florida Network realty
Sand Castles Creator and Contributing Editor
www.janetwestling.com



MARKET WATCH

October mortgage market update

By David Johnson

In this Sand Castles mortgage market update, I discuss four topics: second and investment home mortgage availability improvement, rising interest rates and their causes, increased conforming loan limits and the general state of the Ponte Vedra Beach housing market.

Second and investment home mortgage restrictions eased: It has been confirmed by the two government sponsored entities (GSE), Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, that second home and investment property lender restrictions have temporarily been lifted. Previously, lenders such as Ameris Bank were restricted to 7% of their portfolio consisting of second home and investment properties. You can imagine the negative impact this had on interest rates and guidelines. Earlier this year, when the new administration instituted the restrictions, it became more

expensive and challenging for buyers to qualify for a second home or investment property. Although the lift is temporary, it offers respite for sellers and buyers.

Rumblings of rising rates: Recently, fears of Fed tapering along with Federal Reserve Board sentiment leaning towards increasing rates sooner than 2023 caused mortgage interest rates to rise. Subsequently, Freddie Mac reports the 30-year fixed rate mortgage surpassed 3% on October 14. This is the highest we have seen since April of this year.

Freddie Mac went on to report the causes of the increase, unlike in April, is due to inflationary pressure building due to the ongoing pandemic and tightening monetary policy, stating, "we expect rates to continue a modest upswing. Historically speaking, rates are still low, but many

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Market Watch

Continued from 12

potential homebuyers are staying on the sidelines due to high home price growth. Rising mortgage rates combined with growing home prices make affordability more challenging for potential buyers.”*

As a reminder, your particular interest rate is based on your situation. Credit score, loan to value, loan type (purchase, refinance), residence (primary, second or investment home) and loan amount can have an impact on the interest rate.

Conforming mortgage limit increase: Each November, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), an entity of the federal government, issues conforming mortgage limit increases. The FHFA ensures that Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks operate in a safe and sound manner so that they serve as a reliable source of liquidity and funding for housing finance and community investment.** Industry experts expect the FHFA to increase the conforming mortgage limit from \$548,250 to \$625,000.

Once implemented, this is a very encouraging development for the Ponte Vedra Beach market because home prices are relatively high compared to the rest of Northeast Florida. More homes in Ponte Vedra Beach will soon qualify for conforming mortgages compared to portfolio jumbo mortgages. Conforming mortgages offer competitive interest rates and lower down payments compared to jumbo mortgages. Local Realtor Katie Johnson of RE/MAX Specialists Ponte Vedra offers this assessment of conforming mortgage limit increases: “Affordability is a hot topic, and anything that helps our market become more affordable without reducing seller sales prices is a plus. It benefits buyers and sellers.”

Ponte Vedra Beach housing forecast: Two additional components continue to benefit the Ponte Vedra Beach housing market: local population growth and continued migration from the Midwest and Northeast. I mentioned the Northeast and Rustbelt mass migration in a previous Sand Castles article and can report it continues well into 2021. These two factors, along with local and state business-friendly political leadership, the absence

of a state income tax, beautiful weather, beaches, great schools and relatively affordable housing continue to offer beacons of hope to people throughout the nation. They also serve as a reminder of how blessed we are to call Ponte Vedra Beach home, and how excited we are to continue welcoming fellow citizens into our community.

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2709 Ocean Dr. S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
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PERFECTION ON THE BOULEVARD

886 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 Welcome home to easterly ocean breezes & perfection! This custom-built home featuring 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, a 5-car garage, indoor/outdoor living spaces, designer finishes w/ warm & inviting porches will take your breath away! Designed & decorated by top local design firm, Nesting Place Interiors, 886 radiates warmth, charm & class from the moment you pull into the large circular driveway! Offered for \$3,545,000.



**Call Jennifer White
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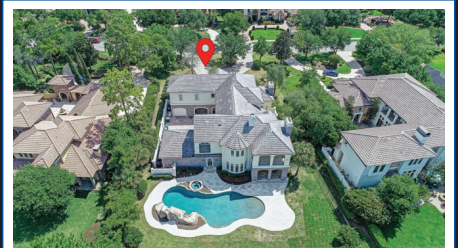


OLD PONTE VEDRA BEACH

537 Lake Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 Who wants a little slice of heaven on a Peninsula in Old Ponte Vedra Beach located with/in a short stroll to the famed Ponte Vedra beaches? Affectionately called "Island Road" by the locals, this location cannot be beat! This lot boasts just over 112 feet of lake frontage & is build ready w/ a bulkhead & well already in place! You will be centrally located to A-rated St. Johns County schools, shopping, dining & nestled between The Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club! Offered for \$2,850,000.



**Call Jennifer White
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GLEN KERNAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

4460 Glen Kernan Pkwy. E., Jacksonville, FL 32224
 Comprehensive Remodel in this contemporary home on a beautiful .61 acre Golf to Lake to Golf Views. 6 bedrooms, 5 full baths & 2 half baths. Resort Style Pool. 6,253 SF. Offered for \$2,799,000.



**Call Julie Little Brewer
904-545-6911**



NEW CONSTRUCTION ACROSS FROM THE OCEAN

78 27th Avenue S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
 2,958 SF, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. Brand new construction in desirable South Jax Beach to be built. Enjoy amazing ocean views and cool breezes from the 2nd and 3rd floor balconies and walk to the beach access just steps away. Coastal designed 3 story home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, study and elevator for easy access. Offered for \$1,975,000.



**Call Katie Hughes Johnson
904-237-6083**



IMMACULATE INTRACOASTAL CONDO

14402 Marina San Pablo Pl, #701, Jacksonville, FL 32224
 Truly turnkey 3,345 SF, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms. Stunning views of the Intracoastal and Pablo Creek from oversized terraces. Open and spacious unit with 4 generous bedrooms (all with ensuite bathrooms) as well as a separate office. Included furniture from J Turner and Restoration Hardware. Offered for \$1,495,000

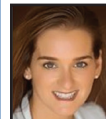


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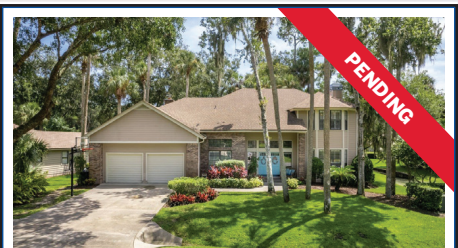


RIVERFRONT HOME

5571 Dianthus St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
 Over \$150,000 in upgrades in this Southern Design on 1.68 acre Riverfront lot. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, executive study with built-ins. New Dock and Boat house in 2019 w/electric, water & electric lifts. 3,765 SF. Offered for \$1,200,000.



**Call Julie Little Brewer
904-545-6911**



LIVE THE PONTE VEDRA BEACH LIFESTYLE!

3057 Cypress Creek Dr. N., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 This beautiful Cypress Creek home is in the heart of Sawgrass Players Club & walking distance to 3 Palms Restaurant, The Yards Golf Club, pickleball (coming soon), tennis, parks, basketball courts, pool and last but not least, the Majestic TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. ~ Love where you live NEFL ~ Offered for \$929,000.



**Call Kelley Cressman
904-553-8405**



PRIME PALM VALLEY LOCATION!

4630 Palm Valley Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 Excellent opportunity to make this picturesque property, in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, your very own. Within minutes to the beach, beach clubs, TPC, shopping and dining, you can't beat the location! 1.5 miles to new PGA Offices, .5 mile to Elementary & Middle Schools. Situated on over an acre lot. Offered for \$925,000.



**Call Derek Prince
904-563-5050**



WALK TO THE BEACH IN SAWGRASS CC

530 Quail Pointe Ln., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 1,480 SF, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. Location! Location! Incredible Quail Pointe II condo in desirable Sawgrass Country Club is walking distance to the beach, tennis, fitness & golf club house! Two bedrooms, 2 baths & open concept living to kitchen space. Updated throughout. Offered for \$550,000



**Call Katie Hughes Johnson
904-237-6083**



BEAUTIFUL SAN MARCO BUNGALOW!

2565 Pineridge Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32207
 Tastefully appointed San Marco Bungalow. This 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath charmer features many beautiful upgrades yet maintains many of its original features. You're sure to love the refinished hardwood floors, the gorgeous owner's bathroom addition in 2017 with a barn door entrance, Walk-In Shower, towel warmer, and a standalone tub. Updated and renovated Kitchen. Offered for \$479,000



**Call Derek Prince
904-563-5050**



ENJOY THE VIEW IN NOCATEE!

595 Orchard Pass, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
 Nestled within this 55+ active community, the owners of this gorgeous end unit spend 95% of their time on the large screened in balcony enjoying the cool breezes and watching the abundant Florida bird species that call the area home ~ Love where you live NEFL ~ Offered for \$385,000.



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Photos provided by Gwinn Volen

Contemporary oceanfront condo offers a Ponte Vedra Beach home away from home

By Gwinn Volen

Located in sought-after Ponte Vedra Beach along the Atlantic Ocean coastline with incredible ocean views is this dreamy second floor condominium, just a short walk or bike ride to The Lodge & Club. No expense was spared when this lavish oceanfront condominium was taken to the studs in 2019, going through a complete transformation, including new a/c and complete ductwork, all new windows, and of course stunning interior finishes.

Why should you buy this home? Location! Location! Location!

If you love the beach, you will love this condominium! It's set in an unparalleled location with amazing renovations to create a contemporary, clean design throughout, with glorious sunrise views. Raised ceilings in the hallways create a roomy home feel, while the high-end finishes boast luxury. The bright and open kitchen flows into the living space, perfect for cocktails and entertaining. Never lose touch with your guests with a view straight through to the open lanai and sliding doors, showcasing the coveted ocean views.

While the winter months may be short in Ponte Vedra Beach, they will definitely be cozy in front of the living room oil fireplace. Do you enjoy cooking? Then the chef's kitchen will become your favorite spot with a built-in Miele coffee machine, sleek and stylish quartz island with Verona oven and range and all top-of-the-line appliances.

Space will never be a problem in this 2,504 square foot condo featuring 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Watch ocean sunrises from the master suite, complete with a luxury bath including wonder-

fully stylish tilework and Toto Washlet electronic toilet. Looking to enjoy your morning coffee on the beach? Take the spiral stairs down from the lanai to the cool sandy shore just steps away!

Ocean Manor II offers low dues of just \$1,910 per quarter. The new owner will enjoy two garage parking spots, a large storage room and, of course, beach access. Truly a rare opportunity in Ponte Vedra Beach.

This property is listed by Gwinn Volen of Keller Williams Luxury International in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photos provided by Michael Paull

South Beach Village home boasts West Indies flair

By Michael Paull

Looking to walk to the beach from your home? Then look no further! South Beach Village is an intimate neighborhood just steps from the ocean in one of Jacksonville Beach's most highly sought-after communities. Nestled East of A1A, these homes have a West Indies/Coastal flair designed with excellent craftsmanship by award-winning architect Cronk Duch Architecture.

This coastal beauty at 2844 Abaco Lane boasts 3,468 square feet of living space with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths plus a

private detached garage apartment – perfect for guests, teenagers and/or privacy. This home has been beautifully updated, with stylish interior finishes and freshly painted interior and exterior.

The light and bright first floor includes travertine floors throughout, gourmet kitchen with center island and gas cooktop, solid surface counters, cozy gas fireplace in the family room, volume 12' ceilings, guest bedroom or office with full bath and an expansive wraparound veranda to take in the lovely sea breezes.

Upstairs are two additional spacious

guest bedrooms, a full guest bath and owner's suite with separate sitting area and en-suite bath including a jetted garden tub, double vanity, glass walk-in shower and a sizable walk-in closet perfect for the fashion enthusiast. With eastern views from the second floor veranda, you are sure to enjoy morning sunrises and the smells of the ocean air while enjoying a morning cup of Joe.

It doesn't end there! You have a private detached garage apartment suitable for an in-law suite, teen space, art studio or an office. The possibilities are endless.

Space includes a living area, an efficiency kitchen with refrigerator, full bath, washer and dryer connection, closet, French doors to exterior balcony and new woodlike luxury vinyl plank flooring.

Enjoy low maintenance living by the ocean in this lovely, paver-lined street complete with a community-only playground and walking distance to the best shops, restaurants and the beach!

This home is offered at \$1,249,900 and listed by Michael Paull of RE/MAX Unlimited in Ponte Vedra.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

What's Right with the Jaguars?

By Brian Sexton

“What’s right with the Jaguars?” Guessing you haven’t asked or been asked that this fall. More likely it’s the opposite: “What’s wrong with the Jaguars?”

The list is longer than you’d like, but much shorter than it was last spring. Don’t let the record fool you; they’re not good enough to challenge yet, but they’re better than they were.

Let’s be honest, this edition of the Jaguars was going to struggle this season. A rookie head coach and a rookie quarterback have a lot to learn, and with a roster that won only a single game last season,

that learning curve was going to be steep. Urban Meyer’s credentials and Trevor Lawrence’s track record fooled even these eyes, which have seen nearly 600 NFL games in almost 30 seasons. I forgot how hard it is for guys who have coached and played on Sundays for years to win – let alone two men new to the professional game.

That said, there is real progress being made and all you have to look at is the line of scrimmage. You don’t win in professional football – you can’t win in the NFL – if your offense can’t control the line of scrimmage with the running game. And if your defense can’t shut it down,

you’re in a world of trouble.

The Jaguars didn’t get off to a good start running the ball against the Texans and Broncos. They either fell too far behind or simply lost patience, which happens to the most veteran of coaches.

But James Robinson is so patient and has great vision, which you saw against the Cardinals and in Cincinnati – the kind of awareness of what’s going on around him that allows him to find the soft spot in the defense and make a big play. When he gets going, he’s a hammer that just keeps loosening the other team up. Carlos Hyde, then, is an excellent second punch of power to Robinson’s patience. When the Jaguars were trying to get past the Cardinals, his 18-yard run into the teeth of the defense was a great blend of power to get through the line and then speed to set up a game-tying touchdown.

The Jaguars’ 4.9 yard per carry average, which is the best measure of a team’s ability to run the football, was fifth best in the NFL after Week Four. They’re running the ball and that keeps a defense honest, which gives Lawrence time in the pocket when he drops back to throw.

That’s a good sign – a very good sign of what’s possible.

Dramatic improvement on the other side of the ball is a much bigger story for this team. From the mid-point of the 2019 season in Cincinnati when All Pro defensive tackle Marcell Dareus was injured, until the end of 2020, a span of 24 games, the Jaguars couldn’t stop the run. They allowed their opponents run for an average of 157 yards per game, by far the worst in the NFL.

Worse than that was their yard-per-carry average of 4.7 yards every time they touched it! You don’t need to be a math major to figure out teams won’t risk throwing when they don’t have to. Seven teams ran for more than 200 yards in that stretch, while the Jaguars held only three to fewer than 100. It was a desperate situation for a defense that was literally powerless.

Enter new defensive coordinator Joe Cullen, who brought with him from Balti-



Photo provided by Brian Sexton

more a three-man defensive front featuring four linebackers, which is widely considered a good scheme to stop the run.

Through four games that 157 yards allowed had been winnowed down to only 106 and that yards per carry average stat that means so much to an offense... down to just 3.5, which puts this defense squarely in the top five among in football. They’re getting teams off the field and giving it back to the offense. Already, that has resulted in closer games in the fourth quarter, which is helpful when you have a franchise quarterback waiting on the sidelines.

Lawrence is a generational talent who should, in time, lift the Jaguars like Patrick Mahomes has the Chiefs, Joe Burrow the Bengals and Justin Herbert the Chargers. But you won’t see this team transform from pretender to contender until it can establish the run and keep the other team from running.

They’re not winning games yet. But they’re winning a few key battles that should set them up for a few wins before this season is through.



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Photos provided by Cici Anderson

Waterfront paradise awaits at Marina San Pablo and Aphora at Marina San Pablo

By Cici Anderson

With a highly desirable location along the banks of Northern Florida's lush Intracoastal landscape, Marina San Pablo offers natural wonders just waiting to be discovered. An elegant high-rise condominium with 56 residences and 25 coach homes, Marina San Pablo offers maintenance-free living – whether you select this incredible two-story coach home or this 3-bedroom condo.

This is the lock-and-leave lifestyle that everyone dreams of – from the gated entrance, exquisitely landscaped grounds and private marina to the luxurious open floor plans with designer finishes. And the views cannot be surpassed, with panoramic vistas of the marina and Intracoastal Waterway. At every turn, Marina San Pablo is a destination where natural wonders never cease to amaze. There's even a community fishing pier where the fish are jumping as the dolphins and manatee pass by.

The Yacht Club houses the fitness center, a beautiful gathering room, a catering kitchen with sitting area, bar and TV. Outside is the sparkling pool, hot tub, grilling area, marina and walking

promenade. Optional 50-door boat slips are right in your back yard for all your water sports: boating, jet skiing, kayaking or paddle boarding. This is the easy lifestyle you have been dreaming about and searching for.

Marina San Pablo is located off of San Pablo Road just south of J. Turner Butler Blvd. It is only a short drive to the many beautiful beaches in Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville Beach and close to the St. Johns Town Center, the legendary TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course and practically next door to the world-renowned Mayo Clinic.

Boasting tranquil marina views, the two-story coach home has the primary suite on the first level. This 2,841 square-foot 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath two-story coach home is offered fully furnished for \$1,450,000. Also available is a 3 bedroom 3.5 bath condo with an office offered for \$964,000. Both of these residences also include a full golf membership to the nearby Marsh Landing Country Club if so desired.

These properties are represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson and Jenna Fisher.



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- 176 Twelve Oaks Lane
- 65 ...
- 8028 Pebble Creek Lane E.
- 177 San Juan Drive
- 360 Foxhaven Drive E.
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- 411 Spanish Creek Drive
- 611 Ponte Vedra...
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- 4129 Duval Drive
- 5098 Commissi...
- 242 Sanctuary Estates Lane
- 125-101 Cuello Court
- 1039 Ponte Vedra Blvd
- 607 Miramar Court
- 1105 Ru...
- 543 Lake Road
- 8055 Whisper Lake Dr.
- 7718 Wildwood Way
- 1787 Azalea Street
- 15 Sea Moss Lane
- 201 ...
- 164 Woodlands Creek
- 2389 Ocean Breeze Court
- 136 ...
- 24745 Deer Run Drive
- 217 Sea Island Drive
- 78 Littlewood Drive
- 13 ...
- 313 Lauden Court
- 113 B...
- 520 ...
- 217 Sandon Drive
- 120-101 Cuello Court
- 13730 Bromley Point
- 7280 Oakmont Court
- 192 ...
- 80 Shoreline Circle
- 4906 Duck Creek Lane
- 2547 Deer Trace Drive
- 111 ...
- 108 Carriage Lamp W.
- 8973 Kathryn Oaks Drive
- 24620 Harbour View Drive
- 1126 ...
- 9050 Marsh View Court
- 24280 Marsh Landing
- 141 Greencrest Drive
- 29 ...
- 11 Palm Lane
- 1907 Strickland
- 12538 Arbor Drive
- 104 Cameron Drive
- 3991 Chicora Wood Drive
- 5004 Buttonwood
- 15 ...
- 148 Wellwood Avenue
- 300 Three Island Court
- 25 Carriage Lane
- 3705 Dura Drive
- 437 34th Avenue S.
- 90 Rio Drive
- 37 Monterey
- 272 Deer Run Drive
- 101 Duck Bill Cove
- 16 ...
- 1734 River Road
- 145 Summerfield Drive
- 405 Turtle Run Court
- 241 N. Mill View Way
- 74 San Juan Dr.
- 4 ...
- 818 Spinnakers Beach
- 107 Pheasant Run
- 61 Paints Ave
- 100 Fairway Park
- 101 Kingfisher
- 404 La Reserve
- 370 San Juan Dr.
- 687 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
- 3646 Sanctuary Way N.
- 758 Sandy Oaks
- 965 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
- 104 Putter's Way
- 37 Lantern Wick
- 135 Deer Estates Lane
- 600 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
- 21 Cat Road
- 101 Duck Bill Cove
- 112 Annapolis Lane
- Harbour View Dr.
- 318 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
- 440 Huckleberry
- 5292 Pheasant Run
- 404 Central St.
- 22 Poinciana Way
- 141 Broken Pottery
- 1800 The Green Way
- 24400 Marsh Landing
- 521 Fresh Pond
- 15833 Fiddler's Point
- 507 Sunset

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The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra

Professionals Who Put You First

The art of the caravan is back

By Janet Westling

With the pandemic and many states in lockdown, the days of holding an open house for Realtors in your market to view the current inventory seemed to be a thing of the past. But for many Realtors, the caravan is one of the most important three-hour windows of the week.

In the luxury market, hosting a broker's open house plays a big role in an overall marketing plan to showcase unique properties for a specific buyer. Knowledge is power, and when agents tour properties during a broker's open house, it gives the buyer's agent an opportunity to see firsthand a property that they can share with their sphere. Touring a variety of homes helps agents gain a pulse on the market, hones their skills as an agent and connect with fellow agents in the communities where they sell.

"Margaritas on the Marsh," a broker's open house at 55 Quail Lane, Jacksonville Beach, was held Sept. 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. and hosted Realtors who specialize in the luxury market. Agents from several firms had the opportunity to tour this three-story coastal contemporary with wraparound verandas and stunning views of the marsh. The "margarita man margaritas" were sponsored by Prosperity Bank and the food was catered by "Taste" caterer Theresa Pratt.



Photos provided by Janet Westling

Karen Sheltz



Michael Rutherford and Karen Franklin.



Shelby Heinemann and Tonya O'Quinn.

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Build your waterfront dream home at Queens Harbour



Photo provided by Lisa Barton

By Lisa Barton

Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners

Have you always dreamed of building your dream home on the water? This beautiful lot for sale in Queens Harbour Yacht & Country Club is situated directly on the Intracoastal Waterway – a stunning location for a very private estate or family compound. This amazing parcel of pristine land is one of the last available vacant waterfront properties available in our area.

With 4.25 acres, you'll have ample room to build a luxurious estate home with incredible natural water views in every direction. Do you have a floorplan in mind? You can bring your own plans and the builder of your choice (with no building time constraints). Or, if you don't have a builder or project planned, Brandon Construction, a premier Ponte Vedra Beach waterfront builder, has a new floorplan available for a large single-family home and full guest house.

This location on the Intracoastal Waterway really can't be beat! The property has deep water access and space for two floating docks. Beautiful views can be found right outside your door.

This property is located in Queens Harbour, a gated neighborhood known for its freshwater yacht basin with a 76-slip marina offering Intracoastal Waterway access. The Queens Harbour Yacht & Country Club has wonderful amenities, including a beautiful lowcountry clubhouse, lighted tennis courts, swimming pool, clubhouse dining, complimentary use of private meeting and dining rooms with full-service catering and event planning, and exclusive social and fun-filled family events.

Call the Lisa Barton Team to learn more about this spectacular lot – and start building your dream home! 0 Shipwatch Drive is offered by the Lisa Barton Team, Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners
Pricing: \$1,699,000



Photos provided by Katie Hughes

Enjoy ocean breezes, spectacular sunsets in Quail Pointe II condo

By Katie Hughes

Location! Location! Location! This stunning Quail Pointe II condo in desirable Sawgrass Country Club is walking distance to the beach, tennis, fitness and golf clubhouse. This unit features 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and an open concept living-to-kitchen space with vaulted ceilings and stunning golf-to-water views. It has been updated throughout with tile flooring, smooth ceilings, new kitchen with shaker light gray cabinetry, quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances plus elegantly updated bathrooms. Relax in the grand family room and nestle next to a warm fire this winter.

This one-level end unit provides natu-

ral light and stunning views of the Sawgrass 2nd hole on the East Course. Enjoy the sounds of the ocean from the front of the condo. From the large, screened lanai in the back, feel the breezes while being awed by gorgeous sunsets and views of a quiet pond.

The condo comes with a golf cart-ready storage shed so that your cart is covered and out of the elements. Taking daily walks on the beach is easy, as the beach is only a short walk across Ponte Vedra Blvd.! 530 Quail Pointe Lane is offered by Katie Hughes, Johnson RE/MAX Specialists.

See more **Photos** on **Page 26**



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Fins up!

PVHS cheerleaders display discipline, athletic prowess

By Kim Dean

Cheerleaders are athletes! They're also role models, enhance team spirit and promote positivity with integrity and fun, both on and off the sidelines.

Three years ago, the Ponte Veda High School cheerleading program went from a sideline team to a competitive Varsity Cheerleading program that is now among the top-ranked in the state and nationally. And while most sports at PVHS are a one-season sport, this program is a year-round sport beginning with spring tryouts.

During tryouts, the athlete has a chance to show their skills and individuality. Tryouts consist of three days of clinics, where participants learn several cheers and a dance to perform during the tryout evaluation. They are evaluated on stunting skills, attitude, quick learning and the ability to work with others.

Tumbling is also expected to be performed, with the average skill levels on the Varsity team being standing tuck, running layout and running full. These three days are high paced and high energy, giv-

ing the potential athlete an idea of how the program is run and what practices will be like.

Once teams are announced in late spring, the girls get right to work on a rigorous schedule that doesn't stop until the following spring. Summer conditioning, three-day out-of-town UCA cheer camp and team bonding begins. As school starts, so do mandatory sideline/competition practices consisting of several two-hour weekly training sessions, conditioning, tumbling, stunt work, and so much more.

Then there's that long eight-hour weekend practice of choreography and routine skills for the upcoming competition season, with team members learning a choreographed competitive routine involving stunts, dance, cheer and tumbling — all to a fast-paced choreographed music soundtrack.

This year's PVHS Varsity Cheer team consists of 17 athletes. Thirteen are bases and back-spots, who spend hours perfect-



Photos provided by Jennifer White

Rare lot on Lake Road in Old Ponte Vedra

By Jennifer White

With its impressive homes and proximity to the beach and several private beach clubs, Old Ponte Vedra is a highly desirable and exclusive enclave in Ponte Vedra Beach. Let's drill down a little more to 537 Lake Road – an amazing lot and a little slice of heaven on a peninsula in Old Ponte Vedra located just a short stroll to the beach!

Affectionately called "Island Road" by the locals, this location cannot be beat. Cross over the bridge to Lake Road onto a peaceful cul-de-sac with no through traffic to take in sweeping lagoon views and feel the easterly breeze! This lot boasts just over 112 feet of lake frontage and is build ready with a bulkhead and irrigation well already in place! You will be centrally located to A-rated St. Johns County schools, shopping, dining and nestled between The Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. There is also an opportunity to have the first right to purchase the home (independent price) located next door

(535) upon completion of the owner's new home in 2022. This lot was originally purchased to be combined with 535 to build a larger home. Seller has proper documentation from the county, with approvals to combine the two lots and is willing to share with accepted offer on the lot.

Ponte Vedra Beach, located in Northeast Florida, is a seaside haven known for its pristine beaches, Intracoastal Waterway and famous resorts with championship golf. Ponte Vedra is home to the PGA Tour, the ATP, The Player's Championship Golf Tournament, several famed private beach clubs/resorts and is within close proximity to the renowned Mayo Clinic and downtown Jacksonville, home of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Represented by Jennifer White and RE/MAX Specialists PV, this lot is offered at \$2,850,000. Please do not walk the lot without a confirmed appointment. To make an appointment or for more information, call 904-446-0495 or email jenniferwhitesellspvb@yahoo.com.



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The veranda house on the marsh

Photos provided by Janet Westling



By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
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How do you describe a home that has a dock, with tidal access to the Intracoastal, sensational outdoor entertaining with a large pool, al fresco dining, beautifully designed, inside, and out and in the heart of Jacksonville Beach, Florida?

It is simple. Step inside 55 Quail Lane and experience a redesigned coastal traditional home that is move-in ready. The veranda house sits on nearly 4 acres on the marsh, with incredible views for entertaining guests who can wander the

three levels and take in the sunsets on the Intracoastal.

When you arrive, you enter on the main floor of three levels. The foyer opens to the office or “zoom room” on the left. Continue to the two-story great room with a wall of windows that fills the living space with light and spectacular views.

The open concept living space flows into the kitchen. The dining room, located right off the great room and kitchen, features a tray ceiling, stunning designer furniture with private views of the pool and marsh. This home comes with a nearby personal chef. Taste Catering

owner Theresa Pratt lives right across the street and is renowned for her amazing cuisine and presentation.

Having a chef nearby is just one of the perks to this stunning home. The location is the other! The Beaches Baptist Hospital is just a few blocks away, and you are within walking distance to Seabreeze Elementary School. The South Beach Parkway that connects Jacksonville Beach to JTB and Jacksonville is nearby, as are South Beach Park and Sunshine playground, a wonderful community park. Just minutes to the beach, the endless outdoor living at 55 Quail Lane in a private setting offers amazing tidal access

to the estuary to the intracoastal. This house has function, flow and style!

Jacksonville Beach, a community on the Atlantic Ocean is convenient to Jacksonville, Florida, close to the Mayo Clinic hospital and the University of North Florida. Experience the best of beach living in this home located just minutes to the beach, golf, tennis and fitness center, and enjoy vacation living yearround!

Listed by Janet Westling and represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, this home is offered for \$1,199,000.



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Marina San Pablo penthouse condo provides panoramic views



By Michelle Mousin

Exceptional and rarely available, this west-end 9th floor penthouse has undergone a complete renovation. Enter through double doors and stand in the impressive foyer – you will feel this is something special.

Soaring ceilings highlight this contemporary yet transitional creation. The kitchen, dining and living areas open to true panoramic views of the Intracoastal

looking southwest. The sunsets are spectacular!

Culinary enthusiasts will delight in the kitchen equipped with a Thermador six-burner gas range, paneled Sub Zero, built-in wine chiller, European cabinetry with built-in coffee bar, two Fisher Paykel dishwashers, endless storage and Quartz counters with refrigerated drawers and bar area. The walk-in pantry is adjacent to a tucked away private office with a view. Marble floors open to the



Photos provided by Michelle Mousin

dining and living areas, with a gas linear fireplace and access to 545 square feet of balcony. This residence was made for entertaining!

The master is its own private sanctuary, with a sitting area and a 300 square-foot outdoor terrace to take in the southern view down the waterway. The master bath is an elegant spa experience, with a chandelier, steam shower, heated floors, soaking tub and double vanity. Custom cabinets house all essentials beautifully. The his-and-hers walk-in closet was designed with generous custom cabinetry, built-ins and hanging space.

On the north side of the residence are

the guest rooms with full designer baths. The office is situated between the guest rooms, with a view of the waterway to the north that will make work time much more pleasant.

A 50-foot boat slip (#46) is also included with this residence, as does access to Marina San Pablo's clubhouse amenities, resort-style pool, fitness room and gathering area. And the location can't be beat: Enjoy living just minutes from the Jacksonville beaches, Mayo Clinic and more.

This property is represented by Michelle Mousin of Engel & Volkers Real Estate and offered at \$2,350,000.

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RECIPE SPOTLIGHT

Fall in love with simple food



Alice Hickox
Lettuce Do Dinner

By Alice Hickox

It's finally fall and time for apple cider donuts, cooler weather and of course the notorious PSL (pumpkin spice latte, in case you didn't know). For this season, I am going to share a few delicious – I mean seriously delicious – fall comfort recipes that have nothing to do with pumpkin. I figure there are enough pumpkin products and drinks out there to satisfy the pumpkin lovers, so I'm changing directions and featuring a fun recipe with a savory twist using apple cider and another that features a less recognized seasonal fruit that many never think of as a fall fruit, and that is grapes; yes, grapes!

Did you know that grapes are at their peak in early fall?

Better yet, have you ever cooked with grapes? It sounds crazy, but it's actually a delicious game changer! Trust me. Obviously, you can buy grapes any time of the year; and in case you're wondering where all those grapes go, wine is the most popular form of grape consumption, according to the USDA and my own unscientific observations of friends and family.

This first recipe is where heaven meets healthy – chicken with roasted grapes, garlic and rosemary; finished off with a simple sage butter.

Sounds fancy, and it is – but so easy! The smell of this chicken roasting with all of this deliciousness will have your whole house smelling like a restaurant. Don't be surprised if your neighbors come knocking because they can probably smell it, too! The other thing to love about this recipe is that it's super simple to make with minimal ingredients, and the presentation when it's done is as pleasing to the eye as it is to your palette.

Recipe Spotlight continues on Page 25



Photos provided by Alice Hickox

CHICKEN WITH ROASTED GRAPES, GARLIC AND ROSEMARY WITH BROWN SAGE BUTTER

(Serves 4)

- 1 4-lb whole chicken, cut into 8 pieces
- 4 tsp kosher or sea salt
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium bunch red seedless grapes (about 2 cups), divided into small clusters
- 1 large garlic head, separated and cloves peeled (15-20 cloves)
- 1 (1/2-oz.) bunch fresh rosemary
- 1 bunch fresh sage (about 5-7 leaves)
- 1/2 stick kerrygold butter
- 1/2 tsp fresh ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Season chicken pieces with salt. Use more salt if 4 tsp is not enough to evenly coat chicken. Heat 2 Tbsp oil in a large ovenproof or cast-iron skillet over high. Add chicken pieces, skin side down and cook, undisturbed, until skin is browned and crisp, about 7-10 min. Remove from heat and transfer chicken to a plate.

Add grape clusters, garlic cloves and rosemary to skillet, stirring and scraping up any brown bits. Return chicken to skillet, skin sides up, nestling between grape clusters.

2. Roast in preheated oven, uncovered, until a meat thermometer inserted in chicken breast registers 155 degrees F, 22 to 25 minutes. Let chicken rest for 10 minutes. Just before serving, drizzle with sage butter.

Brown Sage Butter:

3. While the chicken is roasting, gently melt butter in a small saucepan on the stove. Tear sage leaves into about three pieces each. When butter is fully melted, turn up the heat until it starts to bubble and watch it closely until it begins to slightly brown. This is what you want. Be careful to turn off heat as soon as butter browns. Drop the sage leaves into the sizzling butter. They will frizzle up and create the most delicious sage butter to finish the chicken.

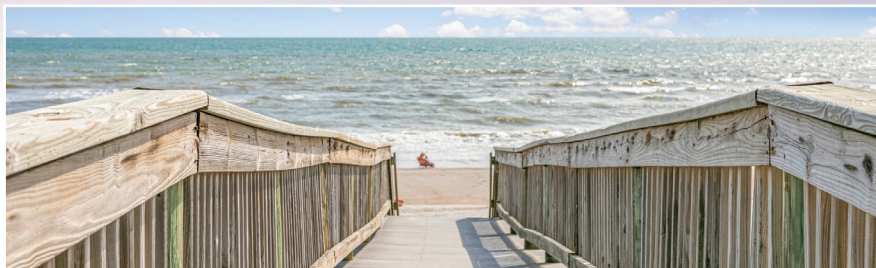
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Recipe Spotlight

Continued from 24

Next up are melty cheeses with apple cider and how they come together in a delicious fondue. I love how the whole fondue concept is coming back. Cheese lovers will enjoy dipping into this creamy, quick-to-fix fondue cheese dip that has just a hint of apple. Serve with apple slices, pear wedges and crusty French bread cubes and sweet bell pepper slices. It's the perfect way to enjoy a cozy fall evening with family and friends – or surprise your game day guests. Be prepared to share the recipe, because they will be asking!

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Alice Hickox
 Personal Chef
 Owner/ Chef
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CIDER CHEESE FONDUE

Yields: 2 2/3 cups

- ¾ cup apple cider
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar
- 1 cup shredded Swiss or Fontina cheese (fontina is milder and nuttier)
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- Cubed French bread chunks, apple and pear slices, tri-color bell pepper strips

DIRECTIONS:

1. In large saucepan, bring cider to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Toss the shredded cheeses with cornstarch and pepper, stir into cider. Cook and stir until cheese is melted, 2-3 minutes.
2. Transfer to a small fondue pot or 1 ½-qt slow cooker; keep warm. Serve with bread cubes, apple and pear slices, tri-color bell pepper strips.

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More photos of Quail Pointe II condo

Continued from 19

Photos provided by Katie Hughes



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To be included in January's edition, call **April Snyder** at **(904) 285-8831 x3937**





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Longtime Sawgrass resident expands business and welcomes daughter-in-law

Vicky's Helping Hands founder Vicky Brock welcomes daughter-in-law Jessica Waugaman as new CEO

Photo provided by Vicky Brock



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Vicky Brock is known for her trusting and caring nature. She truly enjoys helping others and making a difference. She started her business when she moved to Sawgrass in 1994. She was always helping others and decided to make it her primary business, providing such services as running errands, watching homes, caring for pets and providing elder care.

“When I started my business, I began helping residents in Cypress Village, Vicars Landing and Sawgrass,” Brock explained. “Families like the Walchles hired me to help with a range of services.”

Word of mouth recommendations from satisfied customers like the Walchles and many others have helped the business grow until it became apparent Brock needed another set of “helping hands.” On the advice of her son, Kevin, Brock decided to expand the business.

Vicky's continues on Page 30




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Luxury Second Home & Resort Market

The luxury market for primary and vacation homes continues its surge as high net-wealth individuals seek beautiful destinations to invest in. Work-from-anywhere concepts will continue to drive the luxury secondary and resort market as the Pandemic influenced pent-up demand for travel and connectedness with friends and family. Hot off the recent Mansion Global Real Estate Luxury Conference in October 2021, experts have seen unprecedented investment in luxury real estate second or third homes. What they see continuing into 2022, is luxury lifestyle investments where the value of 2nd and 3rd citizenships are sought after. The 'global real estate portfolio' affords high net wealth clients the ability to travel to these destinations without the restrictions of 2020, according to Domenic Volik, Head of Private Clients, Henley & Partners. This is where concierge services can benefit high networth individuals and others seeking lifestyle investments...



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For information contact Maria Wilkes, MBA, Realtor
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Vicky's

Continued from 28

“I can’t think of a better person than Jessica to work with as my partner and the CEO managing our business.” Brock said. “I am excited for the future of Vicky’s Helping Hands. She has many amazing talents and will grow this business; I just know it.”

After serving the nonprofit community for almost 20 years, including fundraising and event planning for Ascension St. Vincent’s and North Florida School of Special Education, Waugaman knew that her next move needed to have heart.

“Knowing that I am making a difference and helping people, truly makes this a great fit for me,” she said. “I want to be a part of something that gives me passion and purpose and Vicky’s Helping Hands is just that!”

While its mission is to provide services to allow clients more freedom and more time to spend doing what matters most to them, the real result, Brock said, is more time with family and friends, more time with hobbies and interests, lower stress and a higher quality of life.

“During this uncertain time, clients are comforted with an extra set of hands,” Brock said. “We are a customizable concierge business and can help with almost anything. If not, we likely have someone to refer you to.”

For more information on Vicky’s Helping Hands, call 904-502-9092, email vickyshelpinghands@gmail.com or visit www.vickyshelpinghands.com. The company is also on Facebook and Instagram.



Did You Know?

- When you are out of town and away from your home for long periods of time regular visits to your property can prevent or lessen property damage.
- Creating a presence in your home may deter squatters or intruders.
- Providing ongoing upkeep and home maintenance saves you money in the long run.
- Having someone be your liaison between, vendors, contractors, associations, and virtually anyone that you authorize them to will bring peace of mind and keep things moving when you cannot be there to supervise.



Photo provided by Vicky Brock

“Vicky has worked with our family in many ways for 23 years. She has helped my family, my mother and other family members. Vicky has always been so genuine in all she has done for us, no matter the task, she truly cares for others. I am excited that she is continuing her business, bringing on family to help grow her vision of helping people. I highly recommend Vicky’s Helping Hands for all of your needs!”

Marie Walchle

Business Profile

When buying a mattress, experience is the best teacher.

When it comes to purchasing a mattress, you can count on Richard’s Mattress and Wicker to know that a good night’s sleep is just the beginning. Take advantage of his more than four decades in the industry to ensure that you have a positive mattress experience. It starts with a selection of the finest mattresses available from great names such as Sealy, Serta, Golden Mattress and Consolidated Bedding. You can count on notable savings when you purchase your



mattress from a locally owned location with low overhead and not a corporate big box store that deals in numbers and bottom lines.

Richard has spent most of his life in the furnishing’s profession, starting with a degree in Industrial Technology and six years of teaching woodworking and furniture making at the secondary and college level. He knows what he is selling!

“I won’t sell you something you don’t need just to make money. A good latex mattress will last easily 20 years and it’s NOT true that you have to replace your mattress every eight years – if that were true, why would the corporate stores offer 15-20 year warranties? Think about it!”

In addition to state-of-the-art mattresses, Richard is proud to provide a comprehensive selection of wicker and rattan furniture, also at reasonable prices, with a wide range of fabric samples from which to choose.



Best of all, Richard takes pride in offering fine products and services to the local community. “When you buy from a local business, that money will be invested back

into the community. I live and work in this community – and have for 38 years. I see my customers on a daily basis, so I go out of my way to treat them like neighbors. They deal directly with me, so I make an effort to keep my prices competitive with corporate box stores. I think that is why I’ve been in business for so long.”

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Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

Palmetto Bluff a Lowcountry treasure

By Jennifer Sexton

Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

I recently had the opportunity to enjoy a weekend away at one of the Lowcountry's best-kept secrets, Palmetto Bluff. I spent a few days at the stunning Montage Resort Palmetto Bluff, located just 30 minutes north of Savannah, tucked beneath the centuries-old live oaks and nestled along the scenic May River. The history dates back thousands of years, and the developer has created a diverse real estate offering while protecting the rich ecological diversity that makes the bluff so inviting and magical.

The resort is a Montage property and encompasses two villages, where you will find extensive nature preserves, kayaking, horseback riding, tennis, swimming pools, fitness, a relaxing spa, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, scenic yacht cruises and



Palmetto continues on Page 32

Exceptional

and rarely available this West end 9th floor 3BR/3.5BA, 3,498sf Penthouse has undergone complete renovation. Enter through double doors and standing in the impressive foyer, you feel this is something special. Soaring ceilings envelope this contemporary yet transitional creation. Kitchen, Dining and living open to true panoramic views of the Intracoastal looking SW. The sunsets are spectacular. Culinary enthusiasts will delight in the custom, high-end kitchen. This residence was made for entertaining.

A 50' boat slip is included with this residence. All this within the gates of Marina San Pablo. Clubhouse amenities include: resort style pool, fitness room and gathering area.

This location can't be beat, minutes from the Jacksonville beaches, MAYO Clinic and Jacksonville Intl. Airport & private Craig Airfield.



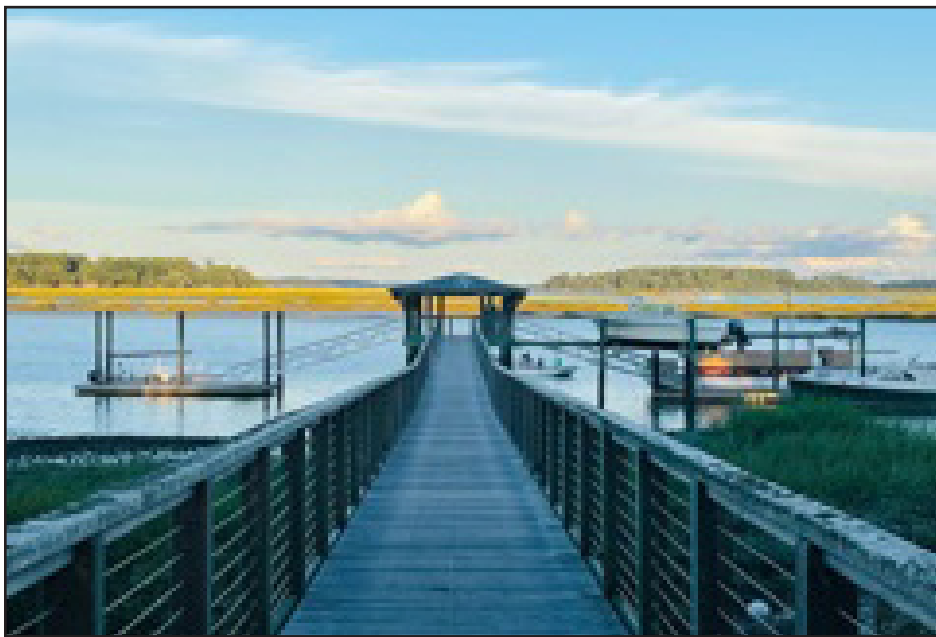
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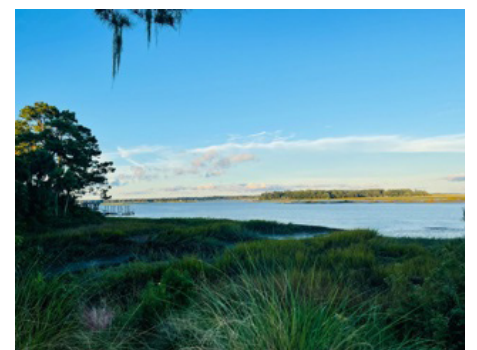


Palmetto

Continued from 31

eight Southern-inspired dining options. While we toiled around this beautiful setting on the preferred method of transportation – bicycling – nothing was more than a short walk away and the friendly staff was always on hand for a quick cart ride to your desired destination.

My Saturday afternoon was spent lounging by the pool, followed by a visit to the spa where facials, body treatments and massage therapies are all designed to heal and revive using the rejuvenating properties of the Lowcountry nature. That evening, we had a breathtaking sunset cruise where dolphins surfaced and swam next to our boat as we watched the sky light up with all the magnificent colors as the sun set across the seagrass waters. We docked the boat upstream and enjoyed a Lowcountry feast under the stars while a one-man band crooned “Carolina in My Mind” near our gas lanterned lit outdoor venue. Sunday was spent golfing 18 magnificent holes with an array of wildlife along the course. Black squirrels, deer, an alligator on the banks and flocks of marshland birds made the morning one of my most memorable outings – even if the



Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

phasis on outdoor living, with expansive porches and the classic historical feel of some of the South’s coastal living design. The community will ultimately have approximately 3,000 homes, but is currently only one quarter of the way through and the developers are in no rush to move too quickly. Things slow down in the South, and one appreciates the patience when it comes to completing the final design of this neighborhood.

I spent hours exploring the cobblestone paths and winding roadways as I weaved in and out of some of the most charming Southern cottages, homes and mansions. Each one seemed better than the last, as I imagined what Joanna Gaines might think of this place. Justin and Hailey Bieber celebrated a splashy and celebrity filled event at the Montage Palmetto Bluff Hotel back in 2019. The area has been discovered and yet it still remains a hidden gem.

Loving real estate as I do, I of course stopped into the real estate office, located in the middle of the square and next to the local post office. Jeff and I exchanged business cards. I told him I would be back, and I would be singing the praises of this enchanting place and referring my clients and associates to him. So friends, if you have any interest in learning more, please reach out to me directly. I will share more information with you and put you in touch with a knowledgeable agent of this magical place called Palmetto Bluff, tucked along the Southern coast of South Carolina. For more information, call 904-463-3326 or visit www.JenniferSexton.net.



score did not reflect that.

The residences at this master planned community are categorized as “Town” or “Country” and reflect living in a walk-or-bicycle to nearby amenities, or a more private, natural setting just a short drive to either of the two villages. Lots range in size from a quarter of an acre to 20-30 acre parcels. The architecture has an em-

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A historic day in St. Augustine

The Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of La Leche



Photos provided by John Clegg

By John Clegg

In the early 1600s, Spanish settlers brought with them to the New World a special devotion to Our Lady of La Leche. Four hundred years later, the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine has kept this devotion alive through countless people of faith. And Pope Francis recently recognized the importance and sanctity of this devotion by granting a Canonical Coronation for Our Lady of La Leche, which took place on Sunday, Oct. 10 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.

The historical site of the first parish Mass in the New World, Nombre de Dios (affectionately known as "the Sacred Acre") traces its origins to the founding of the city of St. Augustine, America's oldest continuously occupied city of European origin. This event is commemorated today by a 250-foot cross that stands on the original landing site in St. Augustine.

On Sept. 8, 1565, on the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pedro Menendez came ashore and proclaimed the site for Spain and the church. The first Spanish settlers and soldiers brought a great love and devotion to Our

Lady and in 1577, they established on the mission grounds the first sanctuary in her name. They built a chapel and dedicated it to Nuestra Senora de La Leche y Buen Parto – Our Lady of the Milk and Happy Delivery. They placed a statue of the nursing mother in the chapel. This devotion spread rapidly among the converted indigenous Indian tribes. The concept that God sent His Son to be born of a Virgin and live among them was a powerful image in helping newly converted souls to understand God's love and the Incarnation.

So, for more than 400 years, the Shrine's mission has been the evangelization through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pilgrims have come to the Sacred Acre year after year, as they seek her intercession to bless their marriages, to receive the gift of children, for safe and healthy deliveries, etc. Many return, bringing their "La Leche babies" back to offer thanksgiving to God and His Blessed Mother. And the site becomes increasingly popular each year, with thousands coming from all over the United States and even abroad.

As the first Marian Shrine in the nation, it is perhaps no surprise that Our Lady of La Leche is making history yet again.

However, this beautiful event on Oct. 10 did offer an opportunity for modern-day Catholics and people of Faith to become part of the celebrations. Cardinal Carlos Osoro Sierra, a cardinal and archbishop of Madrid, traveled from Spain as the representative (Papal Legate) of Pope Francis to place the crown on

the infant Jesus and His Mother during the ceremony. The visible crowning of Our Lady helps Catholics and pilgrims to understand the vital and nurturing role she played in bringing Christ, the Redeemer, into the world. Bishop Estevez, the Bishop of the Diocese in St. Augustine, gave the cardinal a warm welcome. Bishop Estevez ascribes this great devotion with the care and gentleness of Mary's maternal appeal: "Since Mary is so tender, parents wanting a child are very attracted to Our Lady of La Leche..."

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, there is another interesting fact about the Sacred Acre. When Pedro Menendez arrived in 1565 with the 800 Spanish settlers, after they had their Mass of Thanksgiving, Menéndez laid out a meal to which he invited as guests the native Seloy tribe, who occupied the site. From

our knowledge of what the Spaniards had on board their five ships, we can surmise that it was cocido, a stew made from salted pork and garbanzo beans, laced with garlic seasoning and accompanied by hard sea biscuits and red wine. If the Seloy contributed to the meal from their own food stores, then the menu could have included turkey, venison, gopher tortoise, mullet, drum, sea catfish, maize (corn), beans and squash.

This was the first community act of religion and Thanksgiving in the first permanent European settlement in North America. The Thanksgiving at St. Augustine was celebrated more than half a century (56 years) before the Puritan Pilgrim Thanksgiving at Plymouth Plantation (Massachusetts), but ironically, this first Thanksgiving is largely unknown by Americans and it did not become the origin of a national annual tradition.

The reason is clear. During the 18th century, British forces won out over those of Spain and France for mastery over the continent. Thus, British observances, such as the annual reenactment of the Pilgrims' harvest festival in 1621, became a national practice.

PVHS Cheer

Continued from 20

ing holding up, lifting and throwing in the air their own body weight in the form of their four flyers. Always keeping their eyes on those four girls, they are also adjusting hand grips, feet placement and body stance. At the same time, the flyers are perfecting staying tight and balancing on one foot (or sometimes no feet) in the air while twisting, spinning and flipping, only to have the faith and trust of being caught over and over by their bases.

The PV Cheer program competes in two different but equally intense competitions: States through FHSAA – Florida High School Athletic Association – and UCA Nationals in Orlando. A typical competitive cheer routine is 3 minutes long, packed with non-stop movement consisting of jumps, stunts, pyramids, tumbling, a cheer and dance. It’s meticulously scored on every movement, stability and landing, as well as the athletes’ performance of maintaining a high-energy and peppy personality. Whatever happens in those 3 minutes, that’s it. There is no redo.

The athletes on average spend 10-plus hours a week in training sessions, tumble classes, workouts and sideline cheer just to get the opportunity to perform in that 3-minute routine in the spring with the hopes of moving on and being crowned the champion.

The PVHS cheer program has won 2nd & 3rd place in the state in their division for three years, received a bid



to UCA Nationals the first year the program became a competitive team and placed 17th in the nation at UCA.

Leading the way to their success is the cheer program head coach Melanie Hardin. Coach Mel is a former level 10 gymnast, all-star competitive cheerleader and East Carolina College cheerleader. She has more than 22 years’ experience coaching tumbling, all-star teams and high school cheer.

“The decision to venture into the PVHS Cheer world had a lot to do with the commitment from the athletes and families, the drive of the athletes to push themselves, and support from the parents, the school, and the community,” she said. “Over the past four years, together we have worked so hard to bring PV Cheer to what it is today. I have the absolute best cheer parents, who truly share the vision of the program and love seeing their athletes having a great time.”

The award-winning PVHS cheer program consists of dedicated and hardworking student athletes who give it their all on and off the mat/sidelines. They give back to their community, thrive on being role models for their younger cheer sisters and carry on the high standards of

the program their peers left behind. Their friendships, hard work, and days competing will forever be a cheerful memory of that time when they were once a Shark athlete.

Photos provided by Kim Dean



A party atmosphere

The following photos are from the Inaugural PXG Women’s Match Play Championship Charity Pro-am pairings party Oct. 24. The event was held at Murray Bros. Caddyshack Restaurant at World Golf Village in St. Augustine and offered guests the opportunity to interact with some of the best up-and-coming women’s pro golfers in the world. The charity pro-am event raised more than \$50,000 for the ink! education foundation, which helps students in St. Johns County.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Tournament producer Mark Berman is joined by Murgado Automotive Group representatives T.J. Samhuri, Katlin Bertram, Nicole Samhuri, Caryn Assi, Danny Assi and Rachel Rigdon.



Sculptures made by Ocean Sole out of recycled flipflops welcomed guests as they walked into the event.



Murray Bros. Caddyshack owners Andy Murray and Mac Haskell hosted the event.



The event included a live and silent auction.

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Underwood's of Ponte Vedra hosts Erica Courtney event

By Anthony Richards

Some of the most famous female celebrities have worn Erica Courtney's jewelry designs over the years, and she made a visit to the Ponte Vedra Beach Underwood Jewelers location as part of a meet-and-greet event Oct. 21.

Coming to Ponte Vedra Beach has become an annual event in recent years brought about by the partnership she shares with Underwood Jewelers and its owner Clayton Bromberg.

The Ponte Vedra Beach location is the only Underwood Jewelers to showcase Courtney's designs as part of its selection.

Julia Roberts, Jessica Alba and Sandra

Bullock are some of the celebrities who have worn Courtney's jewelry designs during red carpet premieres.

According to Courtney's website, her jewelry collection includes fine and rare gemstones that are sourced around the world with the goal of creating a delicate, feminine style.

Courtney is known for her Drop Dead Gorgeous collection of jewelry which includes a variety of rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets to choose from.

Underwood Jewelers was founded in 1928 and is a member of the American Gem Society, which is a jewelry trade organization dedicated to consumer protection.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Erica Courtney, Clayton Bromberg and Christy Bromberg.



Stephanie Ebers and Laura Kisse.



Bruce Whitman, Kelly Roberts-Whitman, Scott Mackenzie, Erica Courtney and Jerry Cruz.



Shoppers browse the selection on display at Underwood Jewelers' Ponte Vedra Beach location.



The Erica Courtney collection is exclusive to the Ponte Vedra Beach location.

In the Arts



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Lightner Museum plans open house

Visitors will see new exhibits, renovated garden

Lightner Museum invites St. Augustine residents and museum members to a community open house for a first look at two new exhibitions, “Picturing a Nation: American Art from the Lightner Museum” and “Tom Schifanella: Faces of the Alcazar.” The open house will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28.

“Picturing a Nation: American Art from the Lightner Museum” is a major reinstallation of American paintings and sculpture from the Lightner Museum’s permanent collection.

From America’s great vistas and natural wonders to intimate scenes of St. Augustine, “Picturing a Nation” presents a vibrant vision of the country on a local and national scale through late 19th- and early 20th-century American art.

The exhibition, which will be on display from Oct. 29 to Sept. 30 is supported by a grant from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

“Tom Schifanella: Faces of the Alcazar” presents a compelling insight into

the lives of working-class employees at Henry Flagler’s Alcazar Hotel.

Through large-format photographic prints, the exhibition documents the fragmentary clippings from early 20th-century motion picture magazines pasted to the walls of the Alcazar staff quarters a century ago by the immigrant staff who lived and worked at the hotel.

The crumbling remnants remain a haunting visual record of the dreams and aspirations of the forgotten individuals who served the wealthy visitors wintering in St. Augustine at the dawn of the 20th century. “Faces of the Alcazar,” which will be on display from Oct. 29 through March 7, is supported by a grant from the Dr. JoAnn Crisp-Ellert Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

In addition to exploring the museum’s new exhibitions, guests will be able to shop the museum’s updated and expanded Museum Store, and preview the newly renovated Radzinski Family Garden.

The Lightner Museum Community



“Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 1918,” by William Clusmann is painted in oil on canvas.

Open House is a free event. Guests should enter through the museum’s main entrance.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St., St. Augustine.

Photos provided by The Lightner Museum



“Tom Schifanella, Faces of the Alcazar”

First Coast Cultural Center winter art camps and classes announced with Holiday Shoppes event to be held Nov. 11

First Coast Cultural Center is launching its winter season with new programs to support the nonprofit, including youth and adult classes.

The organization’s annual fundraiser, Holiday Shoppes Preview and Cocktail Reception, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 11 at Marsh Landing County Club. It will feature art, apparel, jewelry, hand-made crafts and collectibles and more.

During the event, a private preview of vendor’s merchandise, along with prosecco, hors d’oeuvres and networking, will be featured. Tickets are \$55 and will benefit educational programs at the center. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Callie Johnson, community connections manager at 904-280-0614, ext. 1202 or email cjohnson@firstcoast-culturalcenter.org.

In addition to the Jacksonville Beach location at 3972 3rd St. South, the Cultural Center will now serve more

residents and visitors at Care Connect+, located inside the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee, 351 Town Center Plaza, Suite 205 in Nocatee. Winter art camps, classes and programs will be offered weekly to provide children-friendly interests.

The following activities will be held at the Care Connect+ location.

Students in kindergarten through grade five will be offered winter camp sessions and a field trip from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 20, 23 and 24. Young people will learn about snow, make snow, eat snow and take part in other snow art creations, such as producing a fun, winter wardrobe. The camp will conclude with a Winter Wardrobe Walk fashion show and party.

New Year’s 1920s Style classes will comprise further winter camp activities, to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 27, 30 and 31. These classes for students in kindergarten through grade five will

include a field trip. They will also include daily themed activities and movement for young people, such as making musical instruments and party accoutrements and learning a period dance. Participants will also learn about Art Deco, food and music, while creating individualized art. There will also be a final Ball Drop and New Year’s party.

The winter camp schedule will wrap up Jan. 3, with New Year’s Around the World Camp. This camp for students in kindergarten through grade five will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will include themed activities and movement for young people. Children will create their own passports and learn about travel in Africa, South America and Asia, and the new year celebrations in each country.

Each on-site day will include theatrical instruction with professional acting coach Sheri Lahris.

Lahris will instruct one hour Movement

in Theatre classes, which are designed to nurture, educate and guide students through a myriad of innovative programs.

Lahris began her career by teaching child actors on the sets of Disney, MGM and Universal Studios. She worked on location and sound stages for TV sitcoms and feature films. Her approach is hands-on and customized for students of all ages.

For further information and to register for camps, classes and events, go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org. Membership is not required to participate in the winter camps classes. Discounts are available for current First Coast Cultural Center family members.

For information about programs, workshops, costs, dates and times, call Jill Titcomb at 904-280-0614, ext. 1206.

Center hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with after-hour appointments available.



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 Price: \$3,730,000
 MLSID: 1137514
Lisa Barton Team
 (904) 465-9139
 LisaSellsPonteVedra.com

Visit Our New Luxury Office in Ponte Vedra Beach
 Opened Spring 2020

YEAR-TO-DATE 2021 PV OFFICE
Closed Units-361
Closed Sales Volume-\$249,936,105 thru September

190-1 A1A North
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
 (904) 247-0059

*Source: Keller Williams Multi-Trend Report & MLS