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PonteVedraRecorder.com

PONTE VEDRA'S POWERHOUSE



Photo provided by Nocatee

The momentum at Nocatee is undeniable. This week, look inside the ways that America's third best-selling community continues to change, grow and make its mark on St. Johns County.

Living history at farmers market, Page 8

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NEW SECTION: CONNECTIONS

Bringing businesses and people together in Ponte Vedra

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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS & BUILDERS

Updates on the real estate landscape in Northeast Florida

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our brand new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	E	D	A	R	G	M	T	M	A	M	A		
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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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What's this?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to kelly@opcfla.com by Tuesday at 5 p.m.

We'll throw all the correct answers in a hat and choose the winner with a random drawing. If we receive no correct answers, we'll award four Jacksonville Zoo tickets (two adults, two children) to the best wrong answer we receive.

Steve McMahon was randomly selected from the people who correctly identified the Nocatee Yobe Frozen Yogurt sign. Steve, please pick up your zoo tickets!

Better luck this week, guessers! And don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.



Adoptable pets at the St. Johns County Pet Center

CAT OF THE WEEK

Missy's the name, being a fluffy kitty is the game. I'm a 4-year-old female cat who is looking for a new loving home to call my own. I was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #30269



CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there my name is Rex and I'm a 5 year old male Maine Coon who wants find a new home. I was given up my by owners because they could not care for me anymore. I'm super friendly and love to snuggle. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #30315

All cat adoptions at the Pet Center are \$20 for males and \$30 for females. Dog adoptions are \$35 for males and \$50 for females. The fee includes neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. **For more information, call (904) 209-6190.**

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Paradise Palms Massage announces move

In business nearly five years, Paradise Palms Massage is scheduled to move to a new location at 5150 Palm Valley Road, Suite #201 in the last week in February.

“We are moving to a more serene location that was recently renovated with hard wood floors and other architecturally beautiful features. It is conveniently located on Palm Valley Road with easy access, ample parking, and just a minute away from the original location,” management said in a release. Known for its massage therapy by therapists with decades of experience, Paradise Palms now offers facials including microdermabrasion, pumpkin enzyme, anti-aging and prob-

lematic skin conditions. Paradise Palms is also re-introducing O2 oxygen facials that deliver peptides and vitamins to the skin-leaving clients looking and feeling younger. This year, Paradise Palms is hosting personal life coaching workshops on topics such as finding your life purpose and passion, setting boundaries and reaching goals for success. One-on-one personal life coaching is also available by appointment. During grand opening week visit the new location March 1-6, 12-6 p.m. for refreshments, desserts and a chance to win a gift card. For more information, call (904) 686-1464 or visit www.ParadisePalmsMassage.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Absentee ballots available for primary election

Absentee ballots are currently available for the upcoming March 15 Presidential Preference Primary Election. As a reminder, this election is open only to registered Republican and Democratic Voters.

Voting by mail is convenient, economical and secure. Vote from the convenience of your home, and avoid lines on Election Day.

Request your ballot today by visiting the Elections Office website at www.votesjc.com or calling the office at (904) 823-2238.

For those voters who have already received their ballots, the red Vote by Mail Ballot drop off boxes are now available at all public libraries, St. Augustine Beach City Hall and Ponte Vedra and Julington Creek Tax Offices. There is also a 24-hour drop box in front of the Elections Office for your convenience.

Early voting will be conducted for the Presidential Primary from March 5 to March 12.

My staff and I are here to assist you and we will make it easy for you to vote. For more information visit www.votesjc.com or call (904) 823-2238.

*Vicky C. Oakes
St. Johns County Supervisor*

Vote by mail ballot drop-off locations

Vote by Mail ballots cannot be turned in at the polls on Election Day. Look for the red ballot drop-off box inside these locations.

Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library

101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun., closed
Election Day (March 15), 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

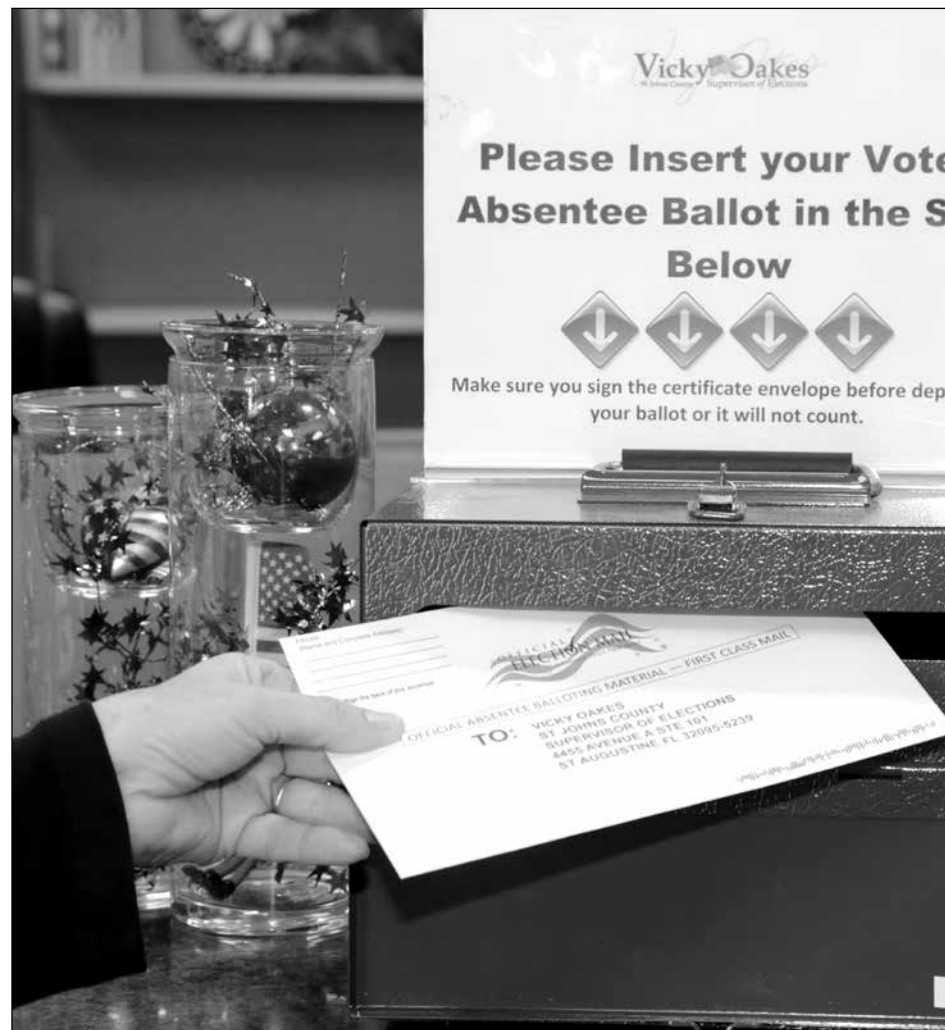
Tax Collectors Office,

Ponte Vedra Annex
5430 Palm Valley Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach
Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. & Sun., closed
Election Day (March 15), 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Supervisor of Elections Office

4455 Ave. A, Suite 101, St. Augustine
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Election Day (March 15), 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

*of Elections
4455 Avenue A Suite 101
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(O) 904.823.2238
(C) 904.599.6645
(F) 904.823.2249*

**800 heart pillows will be donated to hospice**

Thank you Jasmine, Kelly and staff at The Recorder!

What a lovely written article and pictures of our Work Your Heart Out Day in last week's paper!

The 57 ladies who participated at The Plantation will be so pleased. It was an awesome day. Lots of love and memories of lost loved ones filled that room.

All in all, 533 heart pillows were delivered to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. There are 277 more pillows waiting to be filled in the near future, bringing the total to 800.

Thank you all for your great service to the community!

*Bonnie Talley
Quilt lady*

With Zika threat looming, flowers can wait

Perhaps now with the Zika virus threatening the health of visitors and residents alike, The Players Club Master Association will finally address the flooding and the water that stands for more than a week along Alta Mar and Palmera Drive in the Oakbridge Subdivision. At the time of this letter (Feb. 19), there is still standing water along Alta Mar and Palmera, a week after the last rain fall.

The residents of Oakbridge have for many years been promised by the Master Association that this was the year the swales would be cleaned in a professional manner. I know this because I have served four terms on the Oakbridge board and have been witness to these promises.

Unfortunately somewhat overrated

golf tournament always gets in the way. Pretty flowers are planted, new signs along PGA Blvd. erected, and every 18 months or so, newly designed entry gates. It only takes five seconds to pass through the gates but I guess someone takes notice.

The grass in the swales is so thick that in some cases one has to dig the grass out just so that the culverts that run under driveways and side streets are free to discharge water. Just a year ago on Alta Mar Drive, a resident living next to the golf course complained that cottonmouth snakes were swimming in the swales next to his home, just feet from the sidewalks where people walked their dogs, pushed baby carriages and young children rode their bicycles.

There is no cure for Zika virus, and children born to parents

infected have smaller brains and sentenced to a life too horrible to imagine. When the health of visitors and residents alike, the flowers can wait. Anyone living in the Players Club is well aware that we have a mosquito problem after a heavy rain; long standing water just exacerbates the problem.

I cannot speak for other subdivisions, but in Oakbridge the HOA board will often attempt to convince the homeowner that they are responsible for some drainage issues. Know where your property line ends and Oakbridge HOA right of way starts. The Oakbridge right of way extends thirty feet from the middle of the road to the beginning of your property.

*Rick Mansfield
Ponte Vedra*

SHORT TAKE

Players by the Sea Theatre open submission call

New Voices is Players by the Sea's recently formed New Play Development Process. Starting with an open submission call from Jan. 15 - March 1, 2016, aspiring and acclaimed writers are encouraged to submit 10 new pages of dialogue inspired by a concept they have for a new play. Writers are also asked to submit a 1-2 page

proposal that clearly defines the concept for a new play along with a brief synopsis (keeping in mind that it is absolutely subject to change), reason to why this play would fit the mission of Players by the Sea and New Voices, and why the writer would benefit from a year long development process.

Submissions will be adjudicated locally and nationally by a Panel com-

prised of theatre and writing professionals. These panelists will select two playwrights who will embark on the year long development process. The accepted playwrights will be announced on April 1, 2016.

After selection, the two playwrights are assigned Dramaturgs who will help guide the play through the entire development process. Once the plays reach a draft that can be rehearsed, au-

ditions will be held and the plays will enter the rehearsal process. Both plays will be fully mounted in April 2017 as part of Players by the Sea's 2016-2017 Season.

This process is open for writers residing in Duval, St. Johns, Clay, and Nassau Counties. Submissions must be sent in PDF format to newvoices@playersbythesea.org. Submissions will not be accepted or read before Jan. 15.

The ROSE Awards selects 24 hospitality champions

Leigh Cort
Special to the Recorder

The North Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (NFHLA) hosted its eighth Annual ROSE Awards (Recognition of Service Excellence) to recognize tourism industry champions who create an extraordinary visitor experience and demonstrate excellent customer service.

The Rose Awards Committee selected winners in 24 categories during the Red Carpet event on Feb. 9 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

The dinner event, hosted by Master of Ceremonies Bruce Hamilton, the morning anchor on WJXT-TV, was a much anticipated event by approximately 40,000 hospitality employees with 500 front-line staff, general managers and employees in attendance.

The ROSE Awards was developed to recognize Northeast Florida's front-line hospitality employees who exemplify excellent customer service. These industry professionals, through one-on-one or behind-the-scenes contact, create an extraordinary visitor experience in Northeast Florida.

The ROSE Awards offers an excellent opportunity for the hospitality industry to show appreciation to the BEST in the business.

NFHLA is an issue driven association that represents more than 120 hospitality-related companies spanning five counties in Northeast Florida and continuously advocates for over 40,000 employees in the lodging and hospitality industry.

NFHLA is committed to the communities they serve and believes the



The President's Award from the ROSE Awards was presented to Gillen Durling.

Photos provided by Leigh Cort



ROSE Awards Winners from the Best of the Best in Hospitality.

organization makes a greater impact as a united voice.

The counties represented are Clay, St. Johns, Duval, Flagler and Nas-

sau). For more, visit www.NorthFloridaLodging.com.

ROSE Awards recipients

- President's Award:** Gillen Durling from Casa Monica Resort & Spa
- Administrative Assistant:** Sandy LeClere from Omni Jacksonville Hotel
- Bartender:** Garret Rowe from One Ocean Resort & Spa
- Behind the Scenes:** Ciera Benton from Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
- Customer Service — Airport:** Timothy Cox from Jacksonville Aviation Authority
- Customer Service — Event Services:** Joe Peters from Sight & Sound Productions
- Customer Service — Spa and Recreation:** Cody Mason from The Lodge & Club
- Customer Service — Tourism Ambassador:** Lorna Bell from Visit Jacksonville
- Food Service — Kitchen Staff:** Fatma Kayahan from Omni Jacksonville Hotel
- Ground & Water Transportation:** John Meyers from Checker Cab
- Guest Service — Concierge:** Amanda Corcoran from Hammock Beach Resort
- Guest Service — Front Desk Full Service Hotel:** Meghan Nolan from Omni Jacksonville Hotel
- Guest Service — Front Desk Select Service Hotel:** Josiah Walker from Best Western JTB Southpoint
- Guest Service — Housekeeping Full Service Hotel:** Jelena Domazet from Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
- Guest Service — Housekeeping Select Service Hotel:** Zurija Medic from Courtyard by Marriott Jacksonville Butler Boulevard
- Guest Service — Laundry Full Service Hotel:** Fidel Jimaol from Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
- Guest Service — Laundry Select Service Hotel:** Besima Sepic from Courtyard by Marriott Jacksonville Butler Boulevard
- Guest Service — Maintenance/Engineer Full Service Hotel:** Clive Ramsey from One Ocean Resort & Spa
- Guest Service — Maintenance/Engineer Select Service Hotel:** Craig Smith from Beacher's Lodge Oceanfront & Suites
- Guest Service — Security:** Tasha Bowman & Trecie Crews from Allied Barton Services at The Jacksonville Landing
- Guest Service — Valet/Bell Attendant:** Dominic Benker from Parking Management Services
- Server — Banquets, Catering:** Harold Lawrence from DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront
- Server Restaurant — Full Service Hotel:** George Carabajo from Omni Jacksonville Hotel
- Server — Restaurant Select Service Hotel:** Marolyn Pacheco from Fleming Island Sleep Inn & Suites

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Photo by Cara Bernreuter

Mary Lyn Jenkins: *Mary Lyn Jenkins is the founder of Big Fish Power Yoga. Jenkins started practicing yoga in 2003. When she relocated to Ponte Vedra with her husband, T.F. Jenkins, a fifth generation Jacksonville native, her husband encouraged her to open a yoga studio. She opened the first Big Fish Power Yoga studio in 2010 that was located off Osceola Avenue in Jacksonville Beach, but after three successful years in that location, she made the decision to move to a new, larger studio in the South Beach Regional Shopping Center. Next month marks exactly two years in the new location, and Jenkins has decided to expand again. A second Big Fish Yoga location will be opening in Nocatee on April 15. Jenkins was also chosen as one of the five finalists to appear on the cover of the 2016 July/August issue of the national publication, "Yoga Journal" magazine.*

Jenkins resides in Ponte Vedra Beach with her husband and their children, Hill, 11, and Mary Crawford, 8.

— Carrie Resch/ The Recorder

Where are you from originally?

I grew up right outside of Birmingham, Alabama.

When did you start practicing yoga?

I started practicing in 2003 when my husband and I lived in Seattle.

What made you want to open your own studio?

At the time, there weren't a lot of studios at the beach. I was in a transition between being a set designer from the west coast and teaching part time. I loved teaching, and I knew that there was an opportunity to do something more for the community through opening a small studio.

When will your new Nocatee location be opening?

It's set for April 15.

How is Big Fish Yoga involved in the community?

We've partnered with oMS Yoga [www.omsyoga.org] for the past three years for free yoga classes for Multiple Sclerosis patients. That partnership has really been growing and strengthening and doing so much for people with MS.

The other partnership that we're really excited about being involved with is Flip Dog Yoga, which is a collaboration between one special needs teacher and the HEAL Foundation for yoga classes for children with autism. That combination has been so powerful for kids and their caregivers as well.

There's a third partnership and it's with Live for Today, a non-profit organization based in Jacksonville that helps young adults with cancer.

Tell me about Practice with Purpose.

Practice with Purpose classes are held every Sunday; that's a partnership every quarter with a new non-profit organization. The classes are \$5 a person. It's a phenomenal class. They're the biggest classes on our schedule; there's usually 70-75 people in the class. And so over the course of a quarter, we contribute all of the money we've raised back to the non-profit organization that we've been in partnership with. The space is donated, and the teacher teaches the classes for free. It's such a service-driven class. People put down \$5, they put down \$20 and whole families do the class together. It's a playful class; it's really fun.

We're always looking for partnerships that can be sustainable and can really support community for long-term.

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* 21% gratuity added to food and beverage purchases. Not available for downgrade to current members. ONLY available to individuals residing outside the gates of Marsh Landing Country Club. Not available to former Marsh Landing members who resigned within 24 months.

TO SIGN UP CALL
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Nocatee Happenings: The latest news from Nocatee



Photos by Susan Griffin



Ellice Mae Sanchez and Faron Strand

History comes alive at Nocatee Farmers Market

Kelly H. McDermott

Residents and guests to the nation's third best-selling community watched Spanish history come to life this weekend at the Nocatee Farmers Market. Weather was ideal for watching live re-enactments presented by the St. Augustine Garrison, along with shopping from more than 80 local retailers.

The Saint Augustine Garrison is a group of re-enactors who portray the life and times of the Spanish soldiers and their families in 1740s Colonial Spanish Saint Augustine. The Saint Augustine Garrison was created in July, 1984 by the Historic Florida Militia, Inc. a 501 (c) 3, Non-Profit Corpora-

tion. Their mission is to foster an understanding of military history of early Spanish Florida through military demonstration, interpretive programs, portrayals and publications and to provide visitors of the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas a trip back into time of 1740 Spanish Saint Augustine. For more information, visit www.bfm.club/garrison.

The Nocatee Farmers Market is hosted on the third Saturday of each month. The event is free and open to residents and non-residents alike in the Nocatee Town Center. The next market will be March 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is a Spring Fling Festival, featuring a petting zoo, live bluegrass on the main stage and a special photo op visit from the Easter Bunny. Visit www.nocatee.com for more.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Virginia Bernice Costello

1923 - 2016

Virginia Bernice (nee Chubb) Costello died peacefully on February 14, 2016 surrounded by her children. She was a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida and spent her last years at HarborChase in Jacksonville, Florida.

Virginia was born and raised in Morris, Illinois. After three years of accounting work following high school, she enlisted in the US Navy WAVES in 1943, trained at Great Lakes Naval Base, and was assigned to San Diego Naval Station, where she served as a staff accountant and became the Admiral's chauffeur. At the end of the war, she met her eventual and now late husband of 65 years, John J. Costello of Teaneck, New Jersey. They were married in 1947.

With her taste for travel and culture, she studied as a painter at the Caton Rose Academy of Fine Arts in Forest Hills, NY, and at Columbia University's School of Fine Arts.

A longtime resident of Hackensack and Ridgewood, New Jersey, she was a member of the Hackensack Golf Club, where she served as Ladies Chairperson, and the Women's Club.

She moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and became an active member of the Ponte Vedra Golf Club and Marsh Landing Country Club.

Virginia is survived by her children Kathleen Jones of Ridgewood, NJ, James Costello of Shickshinny, PA, Christine Costello of Bethesda, MD, David Costello of Concord, MA and Timothy Costello of Basalt, CO. She was a grandmother of Michael, Matthew and David Jones, Amy and Jonathan Costello, Jessica Kuperstock and Cameron Lewis, and Clare, Emma and John Costello; and great grandmother of Eliot and Markus Jones.

A Funeral Service was held on February 17 at 2:00PM in Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home of Jacksonville Beach, FL.

Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South (904)249-1100

Esther Thornton Gooding

Esther Thornton Gooding, born March 14, 1927 in Bainbridge, Georgia, departed this life on February 12, 2016. Esther moved from

Georgia when she was 16 to the Jacksonville area eventually making Ponte Vedra her home. Esther worked and retired after 40+ years in the grocery industry working in the offices of Pantry Pride & SuperValu. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Paul L. Gooding,



GOODING

her mother, brother and sister. She leaves behind her loving daughter Paula Lear (Steve), granddaughters, Stephanie (Matty) and her great grand baby that will be born in March, and her precious Sara Lear. She also leaves behind her sister, Mary Jean Morgan (Dale), her sister in law, Emma Thornton and many nieces and nephews, who affectionately called her "Essie"... Esther was one of the sweetest, most beautiful and most elegant ladies you would ever meet. She spent the last year and a half residing at the Windsor at San Pablo where we do believe she was the "Queen Bee". She made so many great friends, had fun with all of the activities, participated as a model in the fashion shows, and enjoyed the weekly outings. It makes our hearts happy to know she was so well loved and she loved each and every one of you so very

much. A private family celebration will be held at a later date. Cheers to Nana!!!

Services under the care and direction of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
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Thursday, Feb. 25	Friday, Feb. 26	Saturday, Feb. 27	Sunday, Feb. 28
<p>50 Years of Players by the Sea exhibit Since 1966, Players by the Sea has been dedicated to its mission of “enriching the community through excellence in theatre.” Through its first 30 years of rented or borrowed space, to a permanent and professional location 2 blocks from the Beaches Museum, Players by the Sea has been committed to bringing a passion for theatre, thought provoking performances and rich cultural attributes to the Beaches and beyond. A retrospective of the past 50 years and a look toward the future will be the spring history exhibit at the Beaches Museum. The exhibit will open with a reception at the Beaches Museum on Thursday, Feb. 25 from 6-8 p.m. Members of the Beaches Museum and Players by the Sea are complimentary and non-members are asked to make a \$5 donation. Special pricing for that night’s showing of “Mothers & Sons” will be available. For more information, call (904) 241-5657.</p> <p>MOSH After Dark: Jazz Under the Stars The February MOSH After Dark: Jazz Under the Stars takes place Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Sit back, relax, and enjoy live jazz music as you get lost in an immersive planetarium show taking you from the skies over Jacksonville to the edge of the known universe. The cost is \$10; \$8 for MOSH members. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 396-MOSH or visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>‘A Tea with Zora and Marjorie’ A Classic Theatre presents “A Tea with Zora and Marjorie” with Rhodie Jackson as Zora Neale Hurston and Nancy Grote as Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Performances are Feb. 18-20 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. at Gamache-Koger Theatre, 50 Sevilla St., St. Augustine. Tickets are \$20. A special performance will take place Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Linconville Museum and Cultural Center, 102 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., St. Augustine. Tickets are \$20; \$25 if you wish to see the show and tour the museum. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 501-5093 or visit www.aclasstheatre.org.</p>	<p>Jacksonville Science Festival The 4th Annual Jacksonville Science Festival, a free three-day community-wide event promoting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) education in Jacksonville, announces its partnership with Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) and The Foundation Academy. The event will be presented Feb. 25-26 from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. each day at FSCJ’s South Campus and Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Friendship Fountain Park/ MOSH. Highlights include interactive booth presentations, food trucks, vendors, BIG science by MOSH, STEAM Talks, performing arts and lots of fun activities. For more information, call (904)-493-3535 or visit www.jacksonvillesciencefestival.org.</p> <p>‘Natural Currents’ exhibition opening “Natural Currents” featuring the recent paintings by John Bunker and the Sculptural forms of Brian Frus will be exhibited in the main Gallery of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach from Feb. 26 to April 8. The opening reception for the new exhibition is Friday, Feb. 26 from 6-8 p.m. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>Beaches Business Growth Series The JAX Chamber Beaches Division presents the Beaches Business Growth Series - Setting Bold Goals for a Sweet 2016 on Friday, Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the JAX Chamber Beaches Division office, 1300 Marsh Landing Parkway, Suite 108, Jacksonville Beach. with The speaker will be Doug Wilder, Wilder Business Success, Inc. Ready to set and meet some bold goals for 2016? Join us for this interactive session where you will use proven techniques to set goals for the new year, and ensure success by following the right steps to achieve them. The cost to attend is \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members. Online registration is required. Lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, visit www.myjaxchamber.com.</p>	<p>Richard Marx at PV Concert Hall Richard Marx will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Saturday, Feb. 27. Tickets are \$59.50 for the first nine rows; \$49.50 for all remaining rows. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices or visit www.pvconcerthall.com.</p> <p>St. Johns Reads: An Evening with Scout The final St. Johns Reads event “To Kill a Mockingbird: An Evening with Scout” is Saturday, Feb. 27 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Mary Badham, the Academy Award nominated actress who portrayed “Scout” in the 1962 movie adaptation of the novel, will talk about her on-set experiences, her lifelong friendship with Gregory Peck, and the legacy of Harper Lee. Following the discussion, the film will be shown. Gates open at 5 p.m. The film will be screened at 7 p.m. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340 C A1A S., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 827-6928 or visit www.staugamphitheatre.com. The event is free.</p> <p>The Ancient City Cat Club The Ancient City Cat Club inaugural cat show is Saturday, Feb. 27 and Sunday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Solomon Calhoun Community Center, 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine. See more than 125 pedigreed cats and household pets. There will be vendors with cat related items for cats and their owners. Hot Rod’s Mobile Muncher food truck will be on site. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for students with ID and children over the age of six. No charge for children under the age of six.</p> <p>Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants presents “Southern Flowers” (St. Johns Reads program); Saturday, Feb. 27 from 2–3:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. Inspired by the St. Johns Reads book for 2016, “To Kill a Mockingbird”, the Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants takes you back to the Depression Era South through flower arranging and table settings. Doors will open at 1:30 pm – all are welcome. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjcpls.org.</p>	<p>Health Fair Palms Presbyterian Church is hosting a Health Fair on Sunday, Feb. 28 from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m in the church’s Fellowship Hall. Activities include cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings, children’s activities and safety information, BMI analysis, nutrition information, massage therapy, CPR demonstrations and more. There will also be prizes and giveaways. The Health Fair is for all ages and open to the public. Palms Presbyterian is located at 3410 S. Third St., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 246-6427 or visit www.palmschurch.org.</p> <p>‘Big River’ at The Alhambra Tony Award Winner “Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Fin” will be performed at Alhambra Theatre & Dining Feb. 18-March 20, Alhambra Theatre & Dining is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Summer Museum of Art and Gardens us on Sundays for a guided tour of our permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga has relocated to the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South 3rd St. For more info. call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>For The Love of Driving Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, 904-315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p>

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Monday, Feb. 29	Tuesday, March 1	Wednesday, March 2	Thursday, March 3
<p>Leap Through Time with Dance Alday Take a Leap Through Time with Dance Alday Monday, Feb. 29 from 6– 7:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. In celebration of Leap Day and inspired by the book 11/22/63 by Stephen King becoming a miniseries in February, we'll share about our favorite time-travel books, enjoy light refreshments, and culminate with a one hour group dance lesson presented by Ponte Vedra's local dance studio Dance Alday. This group lesson, for which you can participate or simply watch, features dances from the late 1950s, is free, and no registration is required. Wear your favorite 1950s attire, if you wish. All adults are welcome. This program is made possible by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library and Dance Alday. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjclps.org.</p> <p>Caregiver Support Group The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday 12:00-1:00 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. It is a great opportunity for caregivers to share resources and ideas. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging announces a Travel Training program designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. If you are curious about expanding your transportation options or you would like to increase your confidence as a bus rider, let one of our trained volunteers assist you in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Mental Health Recovery Support Support is free to the public and facilitated by Georgia, Florida Certified Peer Specialist, Whitney Bolin. By appointment only M-F, contact at 770-403-4991 or whitneybat76@gmail.com. In addition, she facilitates a MH Recovery Group at Flagler Hospital from 2- 4pm every Tuesday.</p>	<p>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Ron Mott at (904) 460-7092 or email HOJRON@aol.com.</p> <p>Palm Valley Farmers Market The Palm Valley Farmers Market takes place every Tuesday from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and we help build them a simple, decent place to live. If you know someone who might benefit from Habitat homeownership, please refer them to our website. To find out more about how you can donate, volunteer, or qualify visit habitatstjohns.org.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p>	<p>Civil War Discussion Group The monthly meeting of the "Understanding The Civil War" Discussion Group will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 1 p.m. at the St Augustine Beach City Hall conference room, 2200 A1A S., St. Augustine Beach. The topic will be: "Civil War Railroads- North and South". The meeting is open to the public. For information, email Charlie Smith at: smithc32@bellsouth.net.</p> <p>Talk with a Doc: Concussion Safety Join sports medicine specialist and team physician of the Jacksonville Jaguars, Michael Yorio, MD, from the Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute on Wednesday, March 2 at 4 p.m. as he explores how we can protect ourselves, and our children, from encountering a concussion. This free event is open to the community. Reserve your space today at www.baptistjax.com/ymca or by calling (904) 202-5376. Talk with a Doc will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, 170 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets every Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at Mulligans, 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com, or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. Join us on Wednesdays at The PLAYERS Community Center at 175 Landrum Lane. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. and lasts one hour. Want to know more? Contact Lucy Reep at 904-607-3695 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center! There are so many reasons to become a member: discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel, complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities, to name a few! Please call Darlene Mahany at 280-3233 for all the details.</p>	<p>'FRIENDS' at the J. Johnson Gallery "FRIENDS," a diverse group exhibition featuring a variety of artists who have exhibited with the gallery over the past fifteen years. This will be the gallery's second-to-last opening reception before closing its doors in May after a lauded fifteen-year run presenting internationally- and nationally-recognized artists and thought-provoking exhibitions to the north Florida community. FRIENDS will be on display through March 17. The gallery will close in May. The J. Johnson Gallery is located at 177 Fourth Ave., N., Jacksonville Beach. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from 1 – 5 p.m. For more information, call (904) 435-3210 or visit www.jjohnsongallery.com.</p> <p>'Mothers and Sons' Players by the Sea presents "Mothers and Sons" Feb. 12-27. This Tony nominated Broadway hit examines the evolving definitions of marriage and family. During the run of the show, visual artist Jami Childres will have her work featured in the Grune Family Gallery. Performances are Feb. 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.. General admission tickets for all performances are \$23; \$20 for students, seniors and military. Thursday Student Nights offer half price admission with a valid student ID. The theater is located at 106 Sixth St. N, Jacksonville Beach For information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 249-0289 or visit www.playersbythesea.org.</p> <p>Spring Home & Patio Show The 2016 Spring Home & Patio Show is March 3-6 at Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, 1000 Water St., Jacksonville. The show features home improvement vendors, cooking demonstrations, and more. A food truck rally will take place in the courtyard Sunday, March 6 beginning at 11 a.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jacksonvillespring-homeshow.com.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to carrie@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the</p>

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John Miller selected as 2016 Small Business Leader

Kelly H. McDermott

Nothing captures the spirit of commerce on the coast quite like a law firm that can provide “professional services with a beach casual attitude.” This is how John Miller describes his firm, Rock Solid Business Law, and just one of the myriad reasons Miller was chosen as the Jax Chamber’s 2016 Small Business Leader.

“Small business is the life blood of commerce in our community,” said Chamber President Daniel Davis. “The Jax Chamber is proud to honor an outstanding business leader who is dedicated to the local community.”

Rock Solid Business Law has three main areas of practice: business transactional, such as serving as outside general counsel for business owners, estate

planning and facilitating closings in both commercial and residential real estate.

In 1991, Miller’s decision to move from practicing in downtown Jacksonville to the Beaches to start his own practice was



MILLER

more of a risk than it would have been in today’s business climate.

“Not a lot of lawyers practiced at the beach at that time,” Miller said. “It’s (a risk) I’m so glad I took. It’s worked

great.”

As business at the Beaches grew, so did his practice – and so did the Beaches Division of the Jax Chamber.

“I joined the chamber first about 25 years ago – but then I had a long hiatus,” Miller said. “It was about five years ago that I rejoined it and had noticed significant improvement in the Beaches Division. I have really found it to be a great place to plug into Beaches business – and when I say Beaches business, I think of everything from Mayport into Ponte Vedra.”

Miller’s leadership grows organically out of his involvement in the community.

“I’ve always loved helping to organize people and accomplish things that I perceive as best for our community,” Miller said. “I try to see where I fit in and can become involved to help move the needle a little bit in a positive direction anywhere I find myself. That has ended up with me being in a lot of different leadership roles within the chamber, the community, charities and different organizations.”

One example of Miller “moving the needle” is the Jacksonville Beach Pier Dance, which Miller describes as “having a good time for a good cause.” Eighteen years ago, Miller founded the event to collect food and toys for BEAM at the holidays. He also performs at the event with his blues band of 28 years, Bay-Street. BayStreet is a fixture at local ven-

ues like Ragtime in Atlantic Beach, and performs each year at the Jacksonville Beach Springin’ the Blues festival.

Twelve Northeast Florida business leaders were selected as Small Business Leaders of the Year by the Chamber Councils, the Beaches Division and the Entrepreneurial Growth Division. Each of these business leaders then competed for the overall Jax Chamber Small Business Leader of the Year

“We congratulate John and all of the 2016 Small Business Leaders of the Year,” said John Bryan, director of the Chamber Councils. “All of our honorees are exemplary business leaders who achieved great success in their respective fields and are outstanding representatives of the JAX Chamber.”

The award was presented at the third annual Small Business Breakfast.

“It’s been a thrill,” Miller said. “Not only because the chamber has chosen me to be the representative for small business for all of Jacksonville for 2016, but also the amazing outpouring of love and affection from friends and the business community since I received the award — it’s been awesome.”

For more about John Miller and Rock Solid Business Law, visit www.rocksolid-businesslaw.com



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Nocatee developers shed light on comp change request

Kelly H. McDermott

The unifying theme of a meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition on Monday was the idea that no one has a perfect understanding of the future — not even Nocatee.

Though Nocatee's master developers, the PARC Group, spent years researching and planning for the community, no one could predict how the county would change around the neighborhoods. There is no denying that this planning contributed in a major way to Nocatee's success, as it continues strong as the United States' third best-selling community.

However, according to Greg Barbour, Chief Operating Officer and Partner at the PARC Group, some of the decisions that the developers made 15 years ago during planning may not be a perfect fit for the community's future growth.

Barbour spoke to those gathered for a PVBC meeting on Monday at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library, with the goal of updating attendees on the growth of Nocatee and the reasoning behind its proposed New Town comp plan amendment.

"New Town is a land use category created about 15 years ago," Barbour explained. "When we first started Nocatee, we found that St. Johns County didn't have a land use category that fit with what we were going to do. Developments that would use New Town would have to follow very specific development standards."

Some of these standards currently in place include a major commitment to parks and conservation, with at least 35 percent of total development area put into preservation, with pedestrian, bike and greenway trails. Other standards deal with creating a unified signage plan and standard street sizes.

The vital parts for the amendment, however, deal with the ratio of residential, office, retail and commercial

spaces within New Town developments. The ratios are currently set in stone, and dictate strict rules about the makeup of businesses and homes within each community.

"We are not asking for any new or additional development rights," Barbour explained. "Adjustments to the plan would provide us with flexibility in case the market does not end up in Nocatee."

One change in the request would reduce the minimum multi-family percentage of total residential units from 20 percent to 5 percent. Nocatee currently offers 400 condos and units with more planned for the future, but would prefer to shift towards smaller single-family homes that offer high density and moderate price points. This would allow it to shift focus away from creating more multi-family housing units, such as apartments or condos.

The second major change would include allowing existing retail and office development in or within a three-mile radius of the community to be included in meeting the minimum standard for these uses. Retail in Nocatee, Barbour said, will ultimately be sized to meet residents' demands. The development was never envisioned as one that would accommodate a regional retail center, with "big box" users like Walmart and Target.

Both of these major requests reflect market shifts as a result of two new developments in the area along the I-95 corridor: Durbin National and Twin Creeks — both of which have been approved for a significant amount of non-residential development.

"We think these are great developments," Barbour said, "but they have changed the landscape."

Both Durbin National and Twin Creeks have a strong focus on retail and office space — which is why Nocatee hopes to be granted approval to continue to focus on its strength:



Photo by Kelly H. McDermott

Greg Barbour, Chief Operating Officer and Partner at the PARC Group, spoke to those gathered Monday about the history of Nocatee and where the developers see the master-planned community going in the future.

retiree- and family-g geared residential communities.

Durbin National will offer 2.8 million square feet of office space, 2.4 million square feet of retail space, and 999 apartment units. Bass Pro Shops is one example of a large retailer already planned for the development. Nearby, Twin Creeks, at CR-210 and I-95, is approved to offer 700,000 square feet of office space, 1 million square feet of retail space and 2 million square feet of industrial space.

In the end, the amendments Nocatee is requesting seek to adapt to a new market — one that will soon include more major retailers, multi-family housing options and industrial/office space just down the road.

"Nocatee is about 40 percent built out," Barbour said. "There's another 20

to 25 percent that is under planning or design. There's really only about 35 percent left for the marketplace — and that is what we're looking at."

Barbour also fielded questions from the audience, stating that Nocatee has sold land to an assisted living developer and have another "independent type living developer" looking at a parcel in the community.

He also said that there is a site planned for a drug store, but no solid commitment from any one retailer at this time.

"It's all a function of when those drug store companies decide that the demographics are right for them," Barbour said. "We do everything we can to get those type of commercial users in... We're hoping a drug store will pop up in the near future."

SHORT TAKE

'A Night at Roys' benefiting The Monique Burr Foundation

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children (MBF) will host its 14th annual event, "A Night at Roy's," on Tuesday, April 19 from 6-9 p.m. to benefit the MBF Child Safety Matters program. Backed by research, reviewed and supported by experts and advocates, this program is a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, effective prevention program to help protect students from bullying, cyberbullying, digital abuse, and all types of child abuse.

The fundraising event features Hawaiian-influenced gourmet cuisine by master chef Roy Yamaguchi, fine wines, tropical refreshments, and live entertainment.

Roy's Restaurant Jacksonville Beach is located in the Third Street Village Shopping Plaza at 2400 Third St. S. Event tickets are \$100 per person and are available to purchase online at www.anightatroys.com.

Sponsorships opportunities are also available. Contact Tammy Long at tlong@moniqueburrfoundation.org.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Rep. Stevenson advances "Carl's Law" to Fla. House floor

This week Representative Cyndi Stevenson will bring HB 387 – "Carl's Law" to the floor of the Florida House of Representatives. HB 387 renames a section of Florida law as "Carl's Law" in honor of Carl Starke who was killed in St. Johns County after being targeted for having a disability. This bill seeks to increase awareness of this type of crime against vulnerable individuals in order to help prevent similar tragedies in the future. Additionally, the St. Johns County Legislative Delegation, which includes Sen. Travis Hutson and Rep. Paul Renner, has designated this bill as a priority for the 2016 session. Upon its approval by the full membership of the House of Representatives, "Carl's Law" will head to the Florida Senate.

For more information regarding "Carl's Law," as well as other bills filed for the 2016 legislative session, please visit www.myfloridahouse.gov or contact the office of Representative Stevenson.

Zika virus update in St. Johns County

St. Johns County is one of eight

Florida counties under a declaration of public health emergency due to at least one case of the Zika virus. There are 21 reported cases of the virus in Florida. Other counties with infections include Broward, Hillsborough, Miami-Dad, Osceola and Santa Rosa. St. Johns County has one reported case.

Last week, St. Johns County Commissioners approved the rezoning of eight acres of county property so that researchers at Anastasia Mosquito Control can move into a larger facility. The new facility, off of I-95, offers 20,000 square feet.

According to the Florida Department of Health, however, none of the Florida cases of Zika were contracted within the state, and none involved pregnant women. Zika fever is a mild febrile illness caused by a mosquito-borne virus similar to those that cause dengue and West Nile virus infection, according to FDOH. Signs and symptoms of Zika fever may include: acute onset of low-grade fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis (reddening of eye), body aches, headache, eye pain and vomiting. Treatment is symptomatic since there is no specific treatment against the virus. Illness typically resolves within a week. The health concerns for

pregnant women contracting Zika arise from reports originating with the Ministry of Health of Brazil, which states that it has seen an increase in the numbers of newborns with microcephaly in areas experiencing Zika virus outbreaks. The FDOH states that further studies are being conducted to investigate this concern, and that there are many causes of microcephaly in babies, including genetic abnormalities, environmental factors and some infections acquired during pregnancy.

Former assistant county administrator to run for commissioner seat

Jerry Cameron announced this month that he will run for the St. Johns County Commissioner seat for District 3. Cameron worked as the Assistant County Administrator for nine years in St. Johns County before recently resigning to run for the seat. Before working in the area, he acted as police chief of Fernandina Beach.

"He has an intimate knowledge of the county and the workings of its government," said Dan Macdonald, Vicar's Landing member and chairman of the member's council, at a meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition. "He's a

friend of Ponte Vedra and will help us to maintain our local zoning ordinances."

Bill McClure currently sits in the District 3 seat, but has not yet registered to run for reelection. St. Johns County will vote on three commission seats in November.

DeSantis announces Congressional Art Competition

Rep. Ron DeSantis will begin accepting submissions for the 2016 Congressional Art Competition Feb. 29–March 25. Entries will be posted on DeSantis' official Facebook page from March 28 until April 1. Constituents will be encouraged to vote on their favorite artwork and the 10 submissions with the most "likes" will be presented to a panel of local judges on April 10. The winning artwork will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one year. Transportation will be provided for the first place winner and a guest to fly to Washington, D.C. to see their art displayed during an unveiling ceremony in June. Teachers and students should contact DeSantis' Washington office at (202) 225-2706 or visit desantis.house.gov for further information on submission guidelines and criteria.

— Kelly H. McDermott



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New entertainment on the menu at Lions Seafood Fest

Kelly H. McDermott

Rising artists Christian Lopez Band will be among the many family-friendly musical acts performing at this year's St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival, March 4-6 at Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine.

Celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, the St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival is a three-day event featuring fresh seafood, entertainment and more than 100 artisan retailers. Guests can sample a huge variety of seafood, from lobster tail and conch fritters, to southern fried shrimp, octopus, wild salmon, jambalaya and blue crab burritos. More than a dozen food vendors will also offer BBQ, pizza, desserts and other non-seafood menu items.

West Virginia singer-songwriter Lopez and his band will perform on the festival's main stage at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday March 5, and at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday March 6. The group has been touring the country, opening for the Zac Brown Band and Dave Matthews Band while garnering positive reviews for their Americana-folk sound and new album, *Onward*. In addition to winning the Belk Modern Musician Showcase, the band was declared "Best Newcomer" at the Americana Music Festival and Conference by Rolling Stone magazine.

Other acts performing during the three-day festival include the Florida State Bluegrass Band, Lonesome Bert & the Skinny Lizards and Linda Cole, niece of Nat "King" Cole.

Throughout the festival, there will be many family offerings in the "Kidz" Zone, Pirate Village and Spanish Landing, where entertainment will include the Clown Adventure, Mayhem the Pirate Magician and Nutter Interactive percussion. Kids' rides will be available all day with a discount ride wristband. Kids will also be able to come and meet their favorite superhero or fairy tale princess.

Francis Field is located at 25 W. Castillo Drive, next to the downtown parking garage. Hours are 3 to 9 p.m. Friday March 4, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday March 5 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday March 6. Admission is \$5 for adults; children 15 and under are free.

Active duty military with ID are also free. Proceeds from the festival benefit the charitable activities of the St. Augustine Lions Foundation. For more information, email admin@lionsfestival.com, call 904-829-1753 or visit www.lionsfestival.com.



35th St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival Entertainment Schedule Friday, March 4

Main Stage

Emcee: Jim Stafford
 3 p.m.: FESTIVAL BEGINS
 4 p.m.: House Cats
 5 p.m.: House Cats
 6 p.m.: Bill Doyle Quartet
 7 p.m.: Bill Doyle Quartet with Linda Cole
 8 p.m.: Bill Doyle Quartet with Linda Cole
 Spanish Landing
 4:30 p.m.: TBA
 5:30 p.m.: Boo Boo the Clown Adventure
 6:30 p.m.: TBA

Saturday, March 5

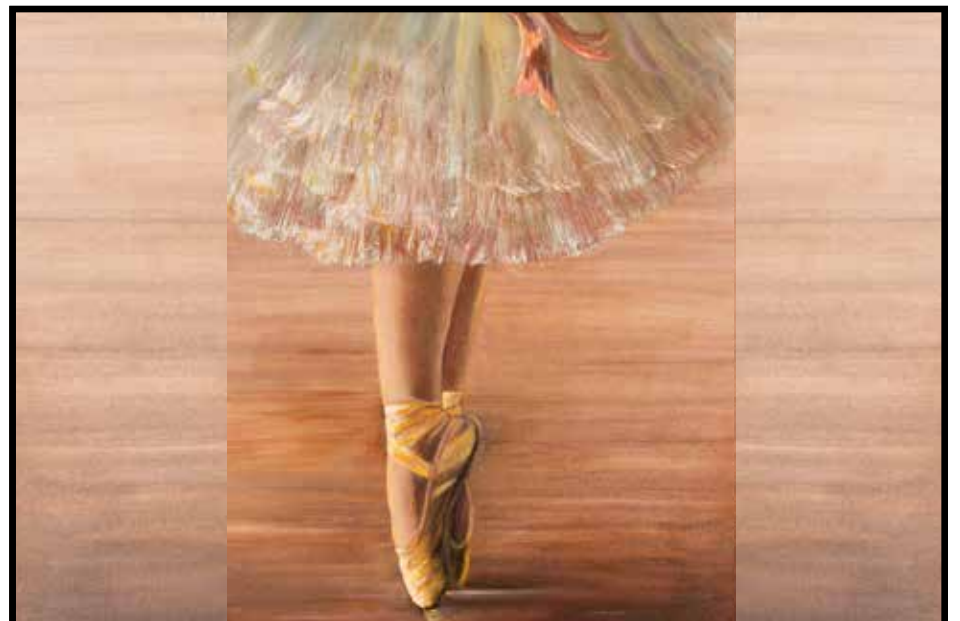
Main Stage

Emcees: Ernie & Debi Evans
 11 a.m.: Gabe Valla & Lis Williamson
 12 p.m.: John Dickie with Collapsible B
 1 p.m.: Christian Lopez Band
 2 p.m.: Lonesome Bert & the Skinny Lizards
 3 p.m.: Gabe Valla & Lis Williamson
 4 p.m.: John Dickie with Collapsible B
 5 p.m.: Christian Lopez Band
 6 p.m.: Lonesome Bert & the Skinny Lizards
 7 p.m.: Billy Buchanan Duo
 8 p.m.: Billy Buchanan Duo
 Spanish Landing
 11 a.m.: Boo Boo the Clown Adventure
 12 p.m.: Meet the MINIONS!
 1 p.m.: Ray Nutter Interactive Percussion
 2 p.m.: Meet Little Mermaid
 3 p.m.: Boo Boo the Clown Adventure
 4 p.m.: Ray Nutter Interactive Percussion
 5 p.m.: Meet Iron Man Super Hero
 6 p.m.: Boo Boo the Clown Adventure

Sunday, March 6

Main Stage

Emcees: Ernie & Debi Evans
 11:30 a.m.: Florida State Bluegrass Band
 12:30 p.m.: Christian Lopez Band
 1:30 p.m.: The Skinny - Taylor & Pamela Fausset
 2:30 p.m.: Florida State Bluegrass Band
 3:30 p.m.: Christian Lopez Band
 5 p.m.: FESTIVAL CONCLUDES
 Spanish Landing
 11 a.m.: Boo Boo the Clown Adventure
 12 p.m.: Meet Tiana the Frog Princess & Ella
 1 p.m.: Ray Nutter Interactive Percussion
 2 p.m.: Boo Boo the Clown Adventure
 3 p.m.: Meet "Spider Man"
 4 p.m.: Katherine Archer



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Sharks lacrosse boys team hammers Fleming Island

Jerry Norton

Ponte Vedra's boys' lacrosse team scored 16 goals, 12 in the first half to defeat visiting Fleming Island 16-6.

With the win the Sharks improved their record to 5-0.

The first quarter started with the visitors taking charge briefly, opening a 3-2 lead in the first six minutes before Ponte Vedra's play makers found the range.

By the time the quarter ended the Sharks were on top 6-3 and would double up the Golden Eagles in the second quarter and led 12-4.

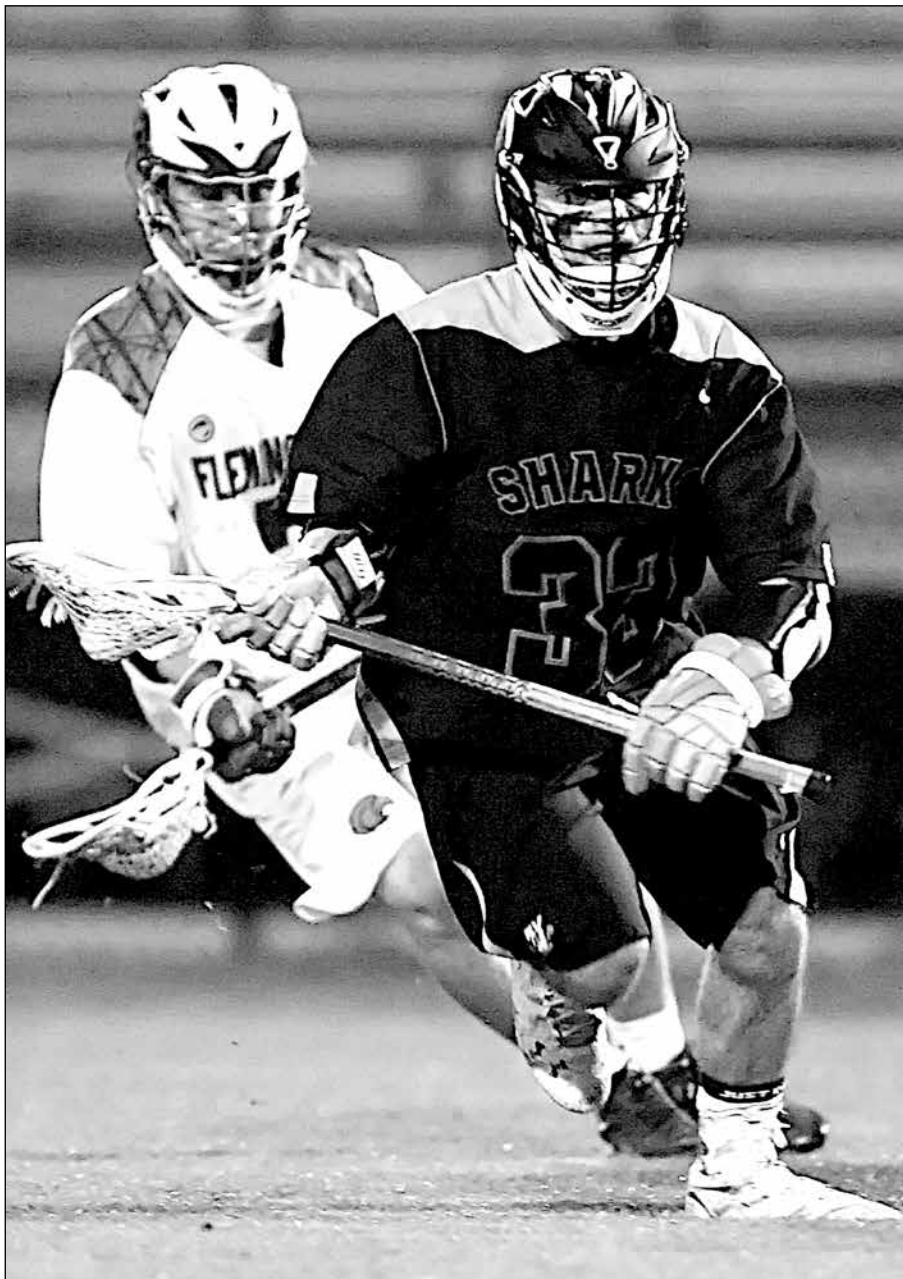
After Fleming Island took their 3-2 lead, Reid Smith and Matthew Keeler each scored a pair of goals to put the Sharks in front and Ponte Vedra never looked back after that.

The Eagles would score twice in the game's closing minutes but were never a real threat after the opening few minutes.

In addition to Smith and Keeler, other scorers for the Sharks were Andrew O'Dare, Ben Buchanan, Jack Burke, Jason Prince and Jude Kuhn.

On Friday, Ponte Vedra played Maclay of Tallahassee posting an impressive 11-7 victory over the Marauders.

They will play next against St Augustine on Monday, Feb. 22, against Creekside on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and host Gulliver Prep on Friday, Feb. 26.



No. 33 Jude Kuhn eludes a Fleming Island defender.

Ponte Vedra's long run comes to an end

Jim Moyes

Community Submission

This past season's Ponte Vedra boys' basketball team produced not only their longest run in post-season history, but unquestionably the most unfathomable in their eighth year of basketball.

And just as their previous long journey into the regionals during the 2011-12 season ended with an overtime loss, the same bitter fate occurred Friday night with a heart-breaking overtime defeat at the hand of Zephyrhills.

With only two players returning from their previous season, even the most optimistic of Shark supporters, would never in their wildest imagination, have been led to believe that this team would come one point shy of advancing to the state final four.

Such was the case, however, as this very young but gritty Shark squad forced a heavily favored Zephyrhills team into overtime with the game tied at 59-59, only to see the hosts capture their 27th win of the season, and their 16th straight victory on their home court, with a 76-68 victory.

Although Ponte Vedra Beach is certainly not recognized as one of Florida's poorer communities, nevertheless, the 10 Shark roster players, coach, and manager boarded their humble yellow school bus for the long 3 hour plus journey to Zephyrhills.

Judging by the Sharks' first quarter performance, the long bus ride proved to be no hindrance for Coach Bud Beech's cagers. In front of a sold out and boisterous crowd, the majority of whom screaming for a hometown victory, the Sharks may have played their best first quarter of the season in racing out to a 21-8 lead.

Everybody got in on the fun in the opening eight minutes as six Sharks scored, with Junior JD Pirris leading the explosive start with seven points.

The Sharks built their lead to 14 points early into the second quarter before the hosts began to chip away at the Sharks' lead.

The Bulldogs all state candidate, 6'2" senior guard Jeremy Oppenheimer,

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Basketball

Continued from 16

scored 10 second quarter points, including a pair of long range three-point bombs as the Sharks 14 point lead was cut in half at 34-27.

Ponte Vedra's out court shooting cooled off considerably in the third quarter, and although Shark defensive ace Matt Johnson held Oppenheimer scoreless in the period, the Bulldogs got some unexpected help from his backcourt partner, Jackie Tucker.

Entering the game with a modest five points per game average, Tucked scored eight of Zephyrhills 16 points, while the Sharks could only counter with 10, as PVHS trailed for the first time in the game, 44-43 at the break.

The Sharks appeared doomed when, with only 0:45 left in the game, found themselves trailing 58-54 and the Bulldogs in possession of the ball.

Junior Chris Tomacewski then came up huge for the Sharks with a steal, a layup, and converted the free throw while fouled in the process to give the Sharks renewed hope, trailing 58-57.

Senior Matt Johnson then came up with one of his 4 steals on the evening to give the Sharks a golden opportunity.

Johnson's teammate had a good 'look' but the three-point shot missed the mark with less than 20 seconds showing on the clock. Ponte Vedra quickly fouled to send Zephyrhills' Aliza Quiles to the line. Quiles had missed 4 earlier free throws but came through in the clutch, making the first free throw, but missing the second, giving the Sharks renewed hope trailing by only two points.

JD Pirris then penetrated and kicked the ball out to a wide open Shark player behind the three point arc.

Unfortunately for the good number of Shark fans in attendance, the shot, to perhaps win the game, was wide of the mark. However, JD came down with the important rebound and was fouled.

With all the pressure seemingly in

the world on Ponte Vedra's candidate for the St. Johns County Player of the Year, Pirris calmly sank both free throws to send the game into overtime and stun the large home crowd.

The Sharks quickly took the lead in overtime at 61-59 on a Matt Johnson driving layup, but then disaster fell on the hard luck Sharks.

Johnson incurred severe leg cramps in making his shot and had to sit out the next couple of minutes with his injury.

Notwithstanding Johnson had contributed nine points, four steals and a game high seven assists, his most valuable asset to the team does not show up in the box score.

Although the Bulldogs Oppenheimer had scored 21 points in regulation, the Zephyrhills gunner fired up an astounding total of 27 shots during the contest, most of those forced with Johnson clinging to him like a sweaty T-shirt.

With Matt on the sidelines, Oppenheimer went wild and scored nine points in the overtime session and the Shark's magical season came to a crushing end.

JD Pirris was once again brilliant for the Sharks with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Of the Shark total of 68 points scored in the contest, 59 of those tallies were scored by Shark underclassmen. Junior Jack Shannon pitched in with 10, Chris Tomacewski had seven, as did Lance Kren, who also pulled down seven rebounds.

Junior Eston Hensley added six points while 6'7" sophomore Jack Johnson scored two points while blocking four Bulldog shots.


Coach Beech has just concluded his 31st year of coaching and perhaps summed up the season best with a post-game conversation with a local reporter. "In my career, I've never seen a team improve as much from

the first half of the season to the end."

Now, instead of only two players returning as experienced by this year's team, what looms ahead with all but one player coming back for next year? Stay tuned.

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Lady Sharks mercy Providence

Jerry Norton

The Lady Sharks softball nine unleashed an 11 hit attack, including 3 by their leading hitter Maddie Sypniewski, a double by shortstop Michelle Leone and a triple by left fielder Quinlan Richmond, to defeat the Providence Stallions 12-2. With the win the Sharks improved to 5-0 on the season.

Ponte Vedra started things off early scoring 5 runs in the first inning on key hits by Sypniewski, Farelly Callaghan and Lauren Struble. They added a single run in the second on Richmond's triple and Sypniewski's sac fly.

Ponte Vedra then jumped on the Stallions for four more in the fourth to take an 11-2 advantage.

Big hits for the Sharks were Richmond's

single, plus singles by Sypniewski, Callaghan and catcher Taylor Bradshaw.

Claudia Cotto's bases loaded walk in the sixth gave the Sharks their twelfth and final run in the mercy win.

Bradshaw made the defensive play of the game with a stellar catch of a pop foul just in front of the backstop screen behind the plate.

Michelle Holder earned the win, her fifth in five starts. She struck out 6, allowed no runs, 3 hits and two walks. Nicole Johnson and Halle Brady each pitched an inning in relief.

The Sharks play at home against Clay on February 23rd at 6 pm then go on the road for a 6 pm game at Bolles on Thursday February 25th and finish the week at Fletcher on Friday evening.



Shark shortstop Michelle Leone makes a throw to first to get the Providence base runner.

Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

Sharks fall at home to Baker County



A Baker baserunner raises a spray of clay as he slides back to first ahead of the tag.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

Shark pitcher Kevin Faulkner delivers a pitch against Baker County. Sharks lost to the visitors 5-3.

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Mixed results for Sharks at Bartram Trail



Above, Davis Massey of the Sharks concentrates as he hits a backhand against Bertram.



At right, The Sharks' Olivia Talbert leaves her feet on a hard serve against Bartram Trail. Olivia and her partner Alissa Hensley defeated the Bears doubles team 8-6.

Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

Former PGA Tour Commissioner Beman (right) was on hand to present the award to Peyton, who owns the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club and annually sponsors the Gate Invitational and the Gate Senior Invitational.

Photos provided by Mike Bonts



Peyton given Beman Award at annual golf banquet at club

Mike Bonts

Jacksonville's annual golf banquet drew a record crowd as 225 turned out last month at Timuquana Country Club to honor local entrepreneur Herb Peyton with the Deane Beman Award, which goes to a person or organization that has made significant contributions to golf in the area. The banquet is a joint effort of the Jacksonville Area Golf Association and the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA. For more, visit www.jaxareagolf.org.



Herb Peyton accepted the award and commented that he only started playing the game late in life because a fellow worker had told him that golf "was only for young people who were too dumb to know and old people who were too old to have sex." Deane Beman (right) was on the stage along with Fred Seely of Timuquana (left), president of the Jacksonville Area Golf Association, and Greg Lecker of Sawgrass, president of the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA.

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PVHS tennis grad excels in Connecticut

By Barbara Boxleitner
Special to Ponte Vedra Recorder

Hank Hill has been playing as a freshman for the University of Connecticut men's tennis team.

The Ponte Vedra High School graduate entered the week 2-5 overall in singles play. He was 6-6 overall in playing second and third doubles.

"Hank plays a big hitting game from the baseline and uses his big



HILL

serve to set up points," Connecticut head coach Michael Louis said. "He can strike with anyone."

Hill had played mostly sixth singles until Sunday, when he lost 6-4, 6-2 at No. 4 singles against Temple University. He and Jonathan Edwards lost 6-2 at third doubles.

"What he's working on is being better at playing full points and not relying solely on outhitting his opponents off the court, which he is very well capable of doing," Louis said. "This is more of a cerebral approach than physical. We don't want him to shy away from that firepower, but it's important for him to learn to compete in other ways to be successful."

Women's basketball

Mandi Koski started one of the 21 games she played for Flagler College. The former Shark averaged 2.7 points and 1.8 rebounds. The 6-foot freshman led the team with nine blocked shots.

Out of Ponte Vedra High, freshman guard Megan Piggott averaged 1.8 points in 10 games for Nova

Southeastern University.

She had a season-high four points twice.

Sophomore center Maggie Born-gesser averaged 1.8 points and 1.5 rebounds in 17 games, including five starts, for the Air Force Academy. She is from Bartram Trail.

Women's gymnastics

Bowling Green University junior Rachel Reis scored a season-high 9.8 on the uneven bars against University of Denver. The Allen D. Nease graduate scored a 9.625 on the balance beam.

Bartram Trail graduate Amanda Bertorello is a freshman for University of Maryland.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at bboxleitner@outlook.com.



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Connections

February 2016



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Chamber names Lin Jones PVB Division Director

New Leadership *in* Ponte Vedra Beach



President / CEO of
the St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce
Isabelle Rodriguez (left)
stands with newly
selected Ponte Vedra
Beach Division Director
Lin Jones (right).

Letter from the President

I am excited to be addressing you in our first-ever edition of Connections in the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

One element of our aggressive three-year plan, Elevate, Innovate, Accelerate, is to improve our communications tools and to expand our reach both to our members and the general public.

Today, this first quarterly edition published in partnership with the Ponte Vedra Recorder is an exciting step in our evolution.

The goal of this publication will be to share with you business news relevant to your community and to chamber members.

I would also like to recognize Sandy Kavanaugh, who retired this month, for her many years of service to the Chamber of Commerce and to Ponte Vedra Beach.

She has agreed to stay on with us while we transition Lin Jones into her role and to help plan and execute the Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Sandy, thank you for your hard work and your talent and I wish you well in your next endeavors.

Lastly, I would also like to welcome Lin Jones to the team.

We look forward to our continued growth and achievement in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Isabelle Rodriguez

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Source: Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce
Shapiro Group, 2012.

Chamber After Hours || Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Chamber After Hours event on Weds., Nov. 18 at Arbor Terrace.

The event, sponsored by Arbor Terrace, offered chamber members a chance for networking and socialization with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

Arbor Terrace, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road, in Ponte Vedra, is an assisted living and memory care community for seniors.

Visit www.arborcompany.com/location/ponte-vedra for more.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Robin Giddens-Sheppard, Lucia Miller, Melissa Landoll, Sandy Kavanaugh & Kari Zerrahn.



Dave Danzeisen and Margo Cleary.



Ricki Taylor and Dr. Rob Karol.



Ilene Thrasher and John Schaum.

Recurring Chamber Events || Ponte Vedra Beach Division

Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber Before Hours, Chamber Before Hours occurs the second Wednesday of the month. This networking event explores a new host business each month!

Chamber at Noon, Chamber At Noon is held on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning at 11:30 a.m. with registration. Members have the opportunity to network before enjoying lunch. Chamber at Noon includes an educational component i.e. Health Care Reform. Chamber At Noon provides time for the sponsoring company to be recognized before a captive audience. It is a cost-effective way to get your company known among members and guests.

Chamber After Hours, Chamber After Hours are held every fourth Wednesday of the month, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Each month has a different host location, making for a lively and enjoyable event. Most "After Hours" are

free or a nominal fee is charged to members and guests. Chamber After Hours is the perfect way to showcase your business location and amenities! For more information about Chamber events visit www.sjcchamber.com and click on the Upcoming events link.

Events and Council Meetings

Power Networking Luncheon (PNL), is held on the second Tuesday of every month. This business-to-business networking luncheon program allows participants to introduce their business to all attendees. Remember to bring a small gift or door prize to promote your business. The event is open exclusively to Chamber members, and seating is limited to the first 50 respondents each month.

Chamber Business Councils Agricultural & Environmental Council, Meets on the fourth Thursday of every other month. The purpose of the council is to promote, educate, and provide a

forum within the Chamber's structure to advance agricultural and environmental issues and show how these industries contribute to our quality of life. Council programs will focus on our agricultural heritage and the economic contribution that this industry brings to the county. Environmental programs will focus on promoting and addressing issues associated with our natural and environmental resources, sustainable development, permitting, conservation, and eco-tourism.

Historic St. Augustine Council, Meets on the second Friday of every month. Meetings are designed to bring members the most current information on tourism trends, local and state initiatives that have economic impact on business in the historic district, and work to make the nation's oldest city a better place for residents and visitors.

Small Business Council, Meets on the fourth Tuesday of every

month. The mission of the Small Business Council is to support small businesses throughout St. Johns County. The Council will strive to increase commerce, educate and to be a resource to small business owners and managers.

South Beaches Council, Meets on the third Thursday of every month. South Beach Council meetings are designed for chamber members with a professional or general interest in the South Beaches area. The council is characterized by their dedication to the community and advocacy for local business issues.

Tourism & Hospitality Council, Meets on the first Wednesday of every month. The goal of the Chamber Tourism & Hospitality Council is to further enhance the abilities of our St. Johns County tourism businesses to provide first-class service to their visitors. The council aims to achieve this by being a resource for industry-specific training and educational opportunities.

Chamber Before Hours || Shapiro Insurance Group

On Jan. 13, members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division met for a Chamber Before Hours breakfast event at Shapiro Insurance Group, located at 150 Professional Dr., Unit 200, in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event was free to preregistered members and guests, and cost \$5 at the door for those who did not register.

Shapiro Insurance Group has served the Jacksonville area for 20 years, offering auto insurance, homeowners' insurance, life insurance and business insurance. Shapiro Insurance Group is a recognized Trusted Choice independent insurance agent, providing options for customized coverage from a variety of insurance companies. Shapiro Insurance Group now has a staff of 75 employees throughout the Jacksonville, Amelia Island, Ponte Vedra Beach, Palm Beach, Lakeland and Cape Coral/Fort Myers locations.

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Sarah Hewett

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Sarah is a proud member, Ambassador and Communications Chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber.

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Chamber After Hours || Dance Alday Dance Studio

The St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber After Hours event took place Jan. 27 at Dance Alday Dance Studio in Ponte Vedra Beach. Dance Alday, a locally owned and operated Ballroom & Latin studio, was established 15 years ago by Allan Alday. The studio just celebrated its three-year anniversary in its current location in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Alday said they were honored

to host the Chamber After Hours event and celebrate their anniversary with Chamber board members and ambassadors.

Dance Alday offers private lessons, group classes, practice parties and other dance options at their studio, located at 820 A1A N., E17 in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.dancealday.com or call (904) 270-1020.

— Kelly H. McDermott



Ribbon Cutting

Photos by Susan Griffin



Adam Horna, Carolyn Morriss, Megan Wallace and Allan Alday.



Cindy Bishop, Carol Maurer and Jeanell Wilson.



Allan Alday, owner of Dance Alday



Dr. Erika Hamer



Michael Lenahen and Mary Price.

Chamber selects Lin Jones to lead in Ponte Vedra Beach

ST. JOHNS COUNTY — Lin Jones, the new Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division director for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is no stranger to the Atlantic coastline. She grew up in Howell, New Jersey, not far from the ocean, and graduated from Rowan University, just a short car ride from the famed Jersey shore.

Jones, who has formerly held positions as the director of marketing and media at Warm Glow Candle

Company and as the executive director of Tour Indiana, succeeds Sandy Kavanaugh, who retired on February 16.

The director will oversee operation of the Chamber's PVB Division that serves many of the chamber's 1100 business members that have professional interests in the northeastern most part of St. Johns County. She will also be charged with operating the Ponte Vedra Beach Visitors Information Center,

the coastal town's only brick and mortar visitor's center.

"Her extensive expertise in marketing strategies and sales, membership organizations and event management will prove to be an asset to the division director's position and her knowledge of the tourism industry will enhance the efforts of our Visitor Information Center at the PVB Division" said Chamber president / CEO, Isabelle Rodriguez.

Jones began her career in tourism and marketing after moving to the Midwest, where, including Tour Indiana, she worked at four destination marketing organizations promoting three different cities in varying positions. During her 15-years in the industry she also served as the marketing manager of the Columbus, Indiana Visitors Center and the group leisure sales manager of Visit Indy.

"I am excited to be here and I look forward to showcasing Ponte Vedra Beach and its great enterprising businesses," said Jones.

The Rowan University Graduate

also has extensive event planning experience. She was responsible for event staff in a 5000 seat arena; was the event manager for Celebrate Science, a one day children's science event with over 4000 in attendance and has planned several retail events during her time with Glow Candle Company that saw over 5000 customers during a 3 day weekend.

Kavanaugh, the former director, will stay on part time as a resource during the leadership transition and will remain working with the Chamber to plan and execute the Ponte Vedra Auto Show in September.

"Sandy (Kavanaugh) has done a phenomenal job, and I consider the opportunity to build on the successes and the strong foundation she has built a privilege," said Jones.

To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member visit www.sjcchamber.com, call the Ponte Vedra Beach Division at 904.285.2004, or find them on facebook at www.facebook.com/sjcchamber.



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Balanced Physician Care



Photo by Susan Griffin

Balanced Physician Care officially opened Feb. 10 with a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division ribbon cutting ceremony. Dr. Sharyl Truty, MD founded BPC to offer the community a unique health care option based on whole-body wellness in a relaxing, non-traditional setting.

Balanced Physician Care is located at 115 Professional Drive, Suite 104, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 930-4774 or visit www.balancedphysiciancare.com.

— Carrie Resch

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St. Johns County is Strong



Chamber Chairman Michael Scine, Speaker Jerry Parrish PhD, Chamber Pres Isabelle Rodriguez, VP of Economic Development Declan Reiley

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce (SJCCC) hosted Dr. Jerry Parrish, the chief economist and director of research at the Florida Chamber foundation during the Economic Development Council's (EDC) Quarterly Breakfast on Friday, January 29.

According to Dr. Parrish St. Johns County is strong. "With the second lowest unemployment rate in the state and nearly 150,000 new residents expected by 2030, St. Johns County is thriving. Through continued focus on high-wage job creation and diversifying the economy, community leaders can maintain a sustainable and vibrant community for future residents," said Parrish. The featured speaker also suggested that St. Johns could need as many as 45,000 more jobs by the year 2030.

To find out more about the membership benefits, programs and events of the SJCCC visit www.sjccchamber.com or call 904.829.5681.



Chamber President CEO Isabelle Rodriguez and Mike Jones Northrop Grumman.



EDC Chairman Jason Barrett and Larry Lake, EDC Executive Committee Member



Joint Luncheon || Featuring R.J. Larizza

On Thursday, Jan. 14, State Attorney R.J. Larizza joined chamber members to discuss the operations of the 7th Circuit State Attorney's office, its cases, legislation and current issues impacting the criminal justice system. The 7th Circuit State Attorney's office serves Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia Counties. Larizza is a Jacksonville native, and

holds and extensive background working with the Florida Department of Corrections. Larizza acted as the Assistant State Attorney before pursuing a private practice. Following his successful private practice endeavor, Larizza successfully ran for the office of State

LUNCHEON continues on Page 31



Dave Danzeisen, Sandy Kavanaugh, Mark Lebel, Barry McDonald, Vince McCormack and Amanda Patch.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Luncheon Continued from 30

Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, the Office which he currently holds.

The event was hosted as a joint luncheon with the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the JAX Chamber Beaches Division. The joint luncheon was hosted at the Sawgrass Golf Club and sponsored by Perdue Office Furniture.

— *Kelly H. McDermott*



Photos by Susan Griffin
Guest Speaker State Attorney R.J. Larizza.



Dr. Erika Hamer, Suzanne Green and Geri Price.

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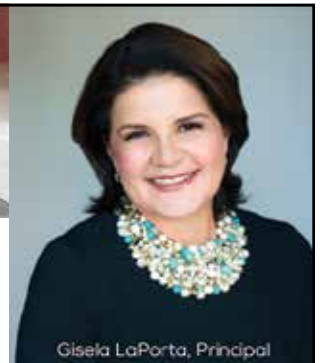
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Chamber Before Hours || Palm Valley Family Dentistry



The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber hosted a special Chamber Before Hours event on Feb. 10 from 8 to 9 a.m.

The event offered members a chance to enjoy breakfast while networking among members and

guests, and was offered for free to preregistered members and guests with \$5 charged at the door for those who didn't register.

The event was hosted at and sponsored by Palm Valley Dentistry, 3791 Palm Valley Rd., in Ponte Vedra.

Palm Valley Dentistry offers comprehensive dentistry for the entire family with office procedures, modern facilities, an infection control program, up to date technology and a staff with a commitment to continuing education.

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— Kelly H. McDermott



Chamber At Noon || Allstate Insurance & Pusser's



Isabelle Rodriguez, Lin Jones, Dave Danzeisen, Kari Zerrahn, John Anderson, Dr. Erika Hamer, Felicia Cox & David Amato.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Speaker Greg Leonard

On Feb 17, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted an informative Chamber at Noon meeting at Pusser's Bar & Grill. The event was sponsored by Allstate Insurance: John Anderson.

At the meeting, speaker Greg Leonard of the Citizens Traffic Task Force presented information about the perceived traffic con-

gestion facing residents in the near future, and the task force's request that was recently presented to the county.

The Chamber at Noon event was \$25 with advanced online registration (\$30 at the door) for chamber members and included lunch from Pusser's Bar & Grill. Pusser's is located at 816 A1A N., in Ponte Vedra Beach.

— Kelly H. McDermott



Dave Danzeisen

Merriment at annual Chamber Party



From Left: Michelle Nemeth ñ FirstAtlantic Bank, Jasmine Hoye, Matthew Bennett, David Morgan ñ ADT Security Services, Donna Day ñ Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, Kathleen Floryan ñ Ponte Vedra Club Realty, Christine Adams ñ Rogers Towers, P.A., Janet Collins ñ Sawgrass Country Club, Brett Duncan ñ The UPS Store in Ponte Vedra.



Geri Price & Donna Day

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Holiday Merriment Party this month at the TPC Clubhouse Champions Room. This premier networking event featured door prizes, hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Friends and spouses joined Chamber members at the event to celebrate the special meeting. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Ambassadors also participated in the St. Johns CARES Giving Tree initiative at the event. This benefits multiple charity organizations in St. Johns County, focusing specifically on seniors and medical.

The holiday sponsors for the event included Oceanside Cleaners, Rogers Towers, P.A., ADT Security Services, The UPS Store at Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Club Realty - Kathleen Floryan, Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, FirstAtlantic Bank and the Sawgrass Country Club.

— Kelly H. McDermott

More Photos, **Page 35**

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Direct primary care practice opens in Ponte Vedra

Carrie Resch

Balanced Physician Care, Ponte Vedra's newest health care facility, is now open. Dr. Sharyl Truty, MD founded BPC to offer the community a unique health care option based on whole-body wellness in a relaxing, non-traditional setting.



TRUTY

Truty is a board certified family practice physician with over 12 years of experience. Her expertise is extended to fellowship training in integrative medicine and sports medicine. Truty sees

her practice as a way to provide more personal one-on-one care with her patients and to provide a community service. This type of concierge model of direct primary care can be useful to patients who have medical insurance, but may have a high deductible or are searching for a more personalized relationship with their primary care physician, according to Truty. She also points out that this type of service may

be a good option for small business owners looking to provide affordable health care plans for their employees.

Truty partners with other community health service providers to offer workshops and other services including nutrition, dietician and exercise services at a discounted rate.

You recently relocated to the Ponte Vedra area?

Yes, I'm originally from Chicago, but my mom and my brother have been here for 12 years, and I've been visiting ever since. I have a two-year-old son, so my husband and I decided that it was time to come down to be closer to family. When I decided to open a practice, I decided that this is where I wanted to go. I am looking forward to becoming an active participant within the Ponte Vedra community.

What types of services do you offer?

I try to offer a broad spectrum and that's because of all the training that I've done. I do family practice; I'm board certified in that. I completed a fellowship at the University of Ari-

zona in Integrative Medicine with Dr. Andrew Weil, so I offer holistic integrative medicine care. I am board certified in sports medicine, and I'm trained in non-operative orthopedics. I also trained at that same time in acupuncture.

How do you see all of those elements of care fitting together?

It seems like they are all separate, but I see them as intersecting — musculoskeletal, nutrition, health, prevention and holistic care.

Why did you choose the direct primary care model for your practice?

When I was looking at starting a practice, I wanted to spend more time with my patients. I looked at how to start a practice and be able to do that. I decided on the model of direct primary care. It's a concierge membership model. What makes it unique is that it blends concierges care with affordability because the monthly membership fees are really something that people can afford.

How does the monthly fee work?

A monthly fee includes all of your

primary care visits: whether you choose to do those over the phone, online or in office, it includes all of that. It includes any procedures that you would have done. It would be \$10 for a procedure plus the cost of a medicine. The goal is to achieve the equivalent to or better than what self-pay pricing is out in the community. The membership also includes integrative medicine consultations and two standard acupuncture visits a year.

Do you have to have a membership to be seen?

I also provide self-pay visits. If people would like to come here and see me for just one individual problem, they can do that as well. In the same vein, I offer 10-minute consultation visits for free — so if people want to come in and meet with me, see the practice and hear what we're about, they're welcome to do that too.

Balanced Physician Care is located at 115 Professional Drive, Suite 104, in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 930-4774 or visit www.balancedphysiciancare.com.

Otters meet Dolphins for special performance

Ocean Palms Elementary School Show Choir, The Singing Otters, sang The Star Spangled Banner to open Saturday's Jacksonville University men's basketball game. After their performance of the national anthem, the students formed the tunnel for the Dolphins starting lineup.

Submitted by Abby Stanford



Reducing your attachment to an ex you haven't let go of

Dear Neil,

My husband and I split up six years ago after 29 years of marriage. He is still with the woman he left me for, but I am finding it impossible to let go of the relationship and move on. There has not been anyone new since then either. Any suggestions?

— He's No Longer Mine In Sydney, Australia

Dear No Longer Mine,

You have to drop your attachment — to the person and to the relationship — in order to let go and move on.

Typically, however, people think that if they let go of their attachment, then the relationship dies. So often people hang on to a relationship that has ended, in the hope that the two of you might still be able to reconcile and

get back together. Their refusal to emotionally let go is the only thing keeping the relationship from dying, even if in reality the relationship has been dead for years. So the first step is to ask yourself: "If I allow myself to completely detach from the relationship, what do I fear will happen? Is there something I'm holding out for?"

Here's how you can reduce your level of attachment: on a scale from 100 to zero, how attached are you — to the person and to the relationship? (100 = you couldn't be more attached; 0 = you just don't care anymore.) Let's say your number on the attachment scale is 50. That means 50% of your heart is still attached to your ex-husband, and that means you will only be half-hearted with any new romantic interest.

Your task is to reduce the number on your attachment scale so that it is close to zero. You talk yourself out of the relationship — and down the attachment scale — by telling yourself such things as "He ignored me for so long. I don't want that in my life, so I'm going to reduce my level of attachment on the scale 3 points." And then, "I want someone who wants me. He doesn't want me, so I'm going to reduce my attachment by 5 points."

If you think of a room where the ceiling is at 50, and you drop 8 points, your number on the attachment scale falls to 42. So think of the ceiling falling to 42. The ceiling can fall, but not raise, so you can't let yourself get sentimental and jump right back up to 50 again. In this manner, bit by bit, you

talk yourself down on the attachment scale until you are 3 or under. This will take time — you want it authentic and genuine — but if you stay at it, you will climb down that scale of attachment.

Once you reach close to zero, you can begin to heal, and you will be ready to explore another relationship where you can be completely wholehearted with someone new.

Neil Rosenthal is a licensed marriage and family therapist in Westminster and Boulder, Colorado. His column is in its 25th year of publication. You can reach him at 303-758-8777, or email him through his website: www.heartrelationships.com. The second edition of his book: "Love, Sex and Staying Warm: Creating A Vital Relationship," recently hit the #1 best seller list its first day of release, both nationally and internationally on Amazon.

People and their pets

Bonnie Talley
Quilt Lady

This morning I read a heart wrenching poster down by the post office about a lost kitty cat. A large picture was posted with great details about the missing cat. I could only imagine the love that that cat had received from its owner. It was a beautiful animal and obviously well fed, as most pets are these days. I do hope that someone has found him, and reunited him with his loving owner.

When my family moved from El Paso, TX to Midland, TX several years ago, my son owned a precious mutt that he named Snoopy. A few weeks after the move, a utility person left our gate unlatched, and Snoopy wandered away. Since Snoopy had no idea where we lived, he obviously was lost. I searched for that dog for years, just certain that I would see him again somewhere in the neighborhood. Every time I saw a black dog loose on the streets, I would turn around and follow him until I could be sure that it wasn't our Snoopy.

With the microchips available these days for implanting in the animal, it is most likely that a lost animal will be found and returned to its owner. One would hope. For ones not knowing about this new safety feature, the chip may be implanted in the animal at a vet's facility. The chip contains all info necessary to help someone to get the animal to its rightful home again if lost.

Up in North Carolina in the summertime, it is sad to hear that tourists drop off their animal's litter out in the woods, or other strange places, hop-

ing that someone will take pity, and take the little ones home. A friend of mine said that she had seen a family open their car door push a puppy out and drive off. As popular as it is to have a dog these days, I'm sure that someone would have taken that little puppy if they had tried to find someone. The Humane Society of Cashiers, NC is very active and cares for many little lost or abandoned animals. Several of my friends have 'rescue dogs' or 'rescue cats.' That is an awesome charity.

Many of my friends here in Florida have rescue dogs and cats as well. Older people usually don't want a puppy or a kitty, but will love to get a well-trained older dog or cat. It is better for these older owners to get an animal that is not too old, however, as medical bills for animals can run almost as high as for people.

My little dog, Precious, is getting a great surprise this weekend. My grandson is bringing his adorable long hair dachshund, Abby, with him to visit with me and Precious. The puppies will have a great time together I am sure. I am hurriedly making a little quilted wall hanging of Abby to surprise my grandson.

I started with a sheet of picture transfer fabric that is like white bleached muslin, 8" x 12". This fabric is available at quilt shops. I printed Abby's picture onto the fabric on my computer. Using ordinary crayons, I have colored over the areas that show color; pressed the sheet with a medium heated iron; layered it with a thin piece of cotton batting and a lining, and free motion quilted it in



several areas; then sewed a narrow binding on it to finish it.

If you are interested in quilting, you will enjoy visiting the Ocean Wave Quilters' Guild that meets the second

Friday of every month at The Players Community Center on Landrum Ln., behind the Shell station off CR-210 or Palm Valley Rd. at 10:00 – 12:00. Everyone is welcome!



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Crossing at Twenty Mile model park grand opening

Nocatee hosted an exclusive Realtor event this month, inviting professionals to enjoy a catered lunch and a progressive tour of seven brand-new model homes in the Crossing at Twenty Mile new community.

The model park includes homes by David Weekley, Dostie, Providence and Standard Pacific.

The Crossing at Twenty Mile is the newest addition to Nocatee's historic Twenty Mile collection of neighborhoods.

At the entrance of The Crossing at Twenty Mile residents will enjoy Twenty Mile Post, a multi-purpose park, opening this summer. All builders are currently taking VIP Interest Requests.

Within the community, David Weekley Homes and Providence Homes offer a wide variety of floorplan and home size options, with homes ranging from 1,593-3,200 square feet.

Dostie Homes, a new Nocatee builder, offers traditional old-Florida themed home styles, with homes ranging from 1,900- 2,750 square feet. Standard Pacific Homes offers larger homes ranging from 2,450-3,200 square feet.

In Nocatee, all village-like neighborhoods with their own gathering places and amenities are connected via bike paths, trails and roadways to a vibrant Town Center offering all you need to relax and enjoy life close to home.

Residents enjoy amenities like the Splash Water Park, Nocatee Fitness Club, the Trails for Tails Dog Park and the Nocatee Preserve.

— **Kelly H. McDermott**



Inside the Dostie Homes model

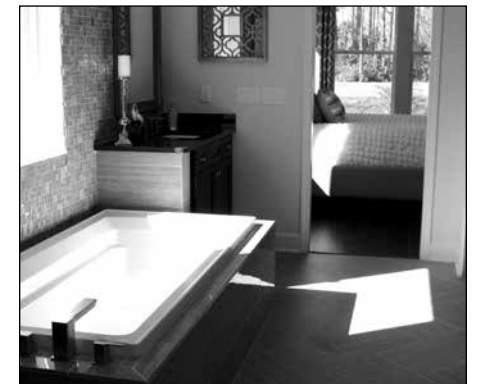
Photos by Susan Griffin



Inside the David Weekley home



Katie Hensley and Barbara Cronin of David Weekley Homes



Inside the Standard Pacific model

Sandcastles creator named to BHHS Leading Edge Society

Janet Westling joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in July 2013. She is the creator and contributing editor of Sand Castles a luxury-lifestyle and real estate section that is produced four times a year for the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Sand Castles was launched on October 21, 2013 and has quickly become a local guide to the Northeast Florida Beaches real estate market. Janet invites top real estate professionals to share their stories about

amazing properties currently on the market. These properties represent the thriving market and picturesque locale that is often referred to as "Florida's best kept secret."

Market Watch, another popular section of Sand Castles, delves into the local market with an analysis of the current indicators throughout the beach communities.

A travel and leisure section, as well as highly anticipated upcoming events, is also featured in the publication.

An experienced real estate professional, Janet has earned the Certified International Property Specialty and the Graduate Realtor Institute designations. She also received the Leading Edge Society award during the 2015 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Annual Awards celebration.

"Janet Westling does an excellent job for her clients. She makes their concerns and their goals, her concerns and her goals," said Kevin Waugaman, Managing Broker of the

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. "They take great comfort in knowing they have an agent that is good at what she does and also cares so deeply about them."

For more information, Janet Westling can be reached by phone at 904.813.1913 or at Janet.Westling@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and www.JanetWestling.com. The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach.



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February Nocatee update for Realtors

New neighborhood, town center and amenity updates

Happy February, and welcome to the Monthly Nocatee Newsletter.

It's already six weeks into the new year, and we are just dancing for joy over all of the exciting events happening around here.

The Welcome Center is buzzing, traffic is up, new neighborhoods and amenities are open ... it's a great time to be part of the #NocateeGrowth.

P.S. We've got a new and improved newsletter coming for you next month — stay tuned!

Community updates — and Congrats to all!

Nocatee has again been ranked as the nation's third best-selling master-planned community, behind only retiree community The Villages in Ocala and The Irvine Ranch outside of Los Angeles, California. The numbers were just released by real estate advisory firm RCLCO in its report of the Top-Selling Master-Planned Communities of 2015.

The community continues to grow, celebrating its 4,000th home sale in 2015. Nocatee experienced a 30-percent increase in sales over 2014, the highest year-on-year percentage growth of the top three communities on 2015's list.

Thank you all for everything you did to contribute to the success of Nocatee. We value our realtors!

Neighborhood updates

Standard Pacific Homes presents a new neighborhood in Nocatee, Artisan Lakes. This age-exclusive, gated, amenitized neighborhood opened Feb. 13. All of their floorplans can be viewed here.

There are only two new home opportunities remaining in Greenleaf Village.

Located next door to Valley Ridge Academy K-8 School, and adjacent to Greenleaf Park, this is an ideal location.

For more information on the two Quick-Move-In Opportunities by Providence Homes, click here.

David Weekley Homes also is offering their final two Quick-Move-In opportunities in Willowcove, which is

located across the street from Nocatee Town Center and next door to Splash Water Park.

The Crossing at Twenty Mile is the first Nocatee neighborhood to open in 2016.

All models are now open! Dostie Homes' model is featured here.

Dream Finders Homes hosted a Helmet and Heels VIP live radio broadcast in their Palms Townhome model "The Osprey" last night. If you attended this event and took a picture (especially if you won some of the exclusive Nocatee wine!) upload it on Facebook and tag Nocatee!

New St. Johns County school in Nocatee K-8

The planning process for new St. Johns County schools is now underway. Recently, the St. Johns County School Board confirmed plans for three new schools in northern part of the County, including a K-8 school in the Nocatee community [to open for 2017-18 school year]. The school site in Nocatee has not been finalized, but is expected to be identified soon.

Twenty Mile Post: New Nocatee amenity

Opening this summer, the historic Twenty Mile Post is a park open to all Nocatee residents. Twenty Mile Post will include a covered pavilion with tables and restrooms, a spacious dog park, a peaceful nature trail, children's playground, and a sports activity field.

Located at the entrance of The Crossing at Twenty Mile, the park is a nice walk or EV ride away from the other Twenty Mile neighborhoods.

Twenty Mile Post will complement the old-Florida "Twenty Mile" charming theme.

The Nocatee Welcome Center is open 7 days a week. Feel free to stop by for a tour, or give us a call with any questions you may have!

Donna Lundgren
Nocatee Welcome Center
(904) 924-6863

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245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra

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Development of Eagle's Cove in Ponte Vedra underway

Kelly H. McDermott

There's a new name to add to the list of luxury neighborhoods in Ponte Vedra Beach: Eagle's Cove, situated on Palm Valley Rd.

Developers broke ground in January on a 10-acre site, which will result in 19 estate lots inside of a gated community upon completion. Located along the east side of Palm Valley Road just north of Landrum, the developers of Eagle's Cove envision it as "a quiet enclave of Ponte Vedra living surrounded by natural beauty."

Homesites will all be at least 90 feet wide with finished home prices expected to start in the \$700s.

Development is scheduled for completion in the late summer of 2016, with the first homes beginning construction immediately after.

"We are thrilled to present such a beautiful new neighborhood and pair it with such highly regarded builders as Vintage Estate Homes and Landon Homes," said Michael

Carlo, Manager of CenterPoint Properties. "With its location in the heart of Ponte Vedra, access to fantastic St. Johns County schools, and the tranquility that comes with a nineteen lot estate community, Eagle's Cove is sure to be a hit with homebuyers."

Eagle's Cove is a joint development of CenterPoint Properties and The Silverfield Group. The Silverfield Group is a full service real estate firm located in Jacksonville, and has recently been involved in the development of the Atlantic Beach Country Club, formerly Selva Marina.

Its partner, CenterPoint, is an industrial real estate firm based in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook. CenterPoint specializes in, among other areas, industrial real estate innovation. The company has developed projects in Savannah and Orlando.

For more information on the development team of CenterPoint Properties and The Silverfield Group, visit www.silverfieldgroup.com.

When development is complete, Landon Homes and Vintage Estate Homes will begin construction on the single-family homes for the neighborhood.

Jacksonville-based Landon Homes is no stranger to the First Coast, with homes in 19 communities throughout St. Johns, Flagler and Duval County. In Ponte Vedra, Landon Homes has built within the Payasada community. The nearby Eagle's Cove will be its second Ponte Vedra project.

Vintage Estate Homes specializes in new communities and homes in Florida and Texas. Locally, Vintage Estate Homes has also built in Payasada, and Eagle's Cove marks their second Ponte Vedra project.

For more information on Landon Homes, call Jacki Matthews at (904) 567-3430 or visit www.landon-homes.net and for more on Vintage Estate Homes, call Ross Fanti at (904) 238-9799 or visit www.vintage-homes.com.

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Elacora experiencing success at Madeira at St. Augustine

6 homes ready for move-in

Elacora is reporting tremendous success this month at Madeira at St. Augustine, a new home community located close to St. Augustine's historic district. Since opening for sales in 2015, the company has sold a third of its available homes.

Elacora, an affiliate of Real Capital Solutions, is a national homebuilding company created to provide home choices in distinctive communities. In Northeast Florida, Elacora is building at Madeira in St. Augustine, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach and The Bluffs on Plummers Cove.

"We are pleased with the sales success we have achieved at Madeira at St. Augustine, where we have experienced high demand for our innovative new homes," said Victoria Robbins, exclusive agent for Elacora Northeast Florida. "Our buyers appreciate elacora's flexible plans and energy efficient features. With a private Residents Club and exceptional location, they also value the lifestyle and the amenities our residents enjoy at Madeira. If you're looking for a new home in the nation's oldest city, you should visit elacora at Madeira."

Madeira's private Residents Club is the social and



recreational hub of the community. The spacious amenity center includes a pool with lap lanes, clubhouse, fitness center and outdoor gathering areas. Designed exclusively for residents, membership is included with the purchase of a home at Madeira.

The Madeira community is surrounded by nature and extends back along the Intracoastal Waterway. The natural setting provides the perfect backdrop for Elacora's homes and the Mediterranean-themed streetscape taking shape at Madeira. Homesites at Madeira back up to conservation areas with water or nature preserve views.

Designed with the Florida homebuyer in mind, Elacora offers two different home collections at Madeira, ranging in size from 1,797 square feet to more than 3,300 square feet and priced from the \$200,000s to the \$400,000s. All of Elacora's homes at Madeira include advanced energy-efficient standards, such as solar panels on concrete tile roofs and tankless gas water heaters. The company's designs offer unique options — including additional bedrooms, sunrooms, game rooms and Florida basement storage solutions — so that homebuyers can select a floor plan designed to best suit their way of life.

Madeira is a master-planned community located just north of the St. Augustine City Gates in St. Johns County. More than 1,000 acres, including more than 600 acres of green space, a tidal creek, numerous lakes and preserved natural areas provide the setting for Madeira's homes. Madeira is located two miles south of the Northeast Florida Regional Airport off U.S. 1/Ponce de Leon Boulevard. The sales office is open daily 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call (904) 484-9024 or visit www.elacora.com.

— Compiled by Kelly H. McDermott

New remodeling trend is adding resale value to homes

(StatePoint) Whether you're looking to sell your house or just want to make a smart update that's worth your time and money, consider a design trend that is both attractive and proven to add value to your home: manufactured stone.

"Manufactured stone is exploding in popularity, in both exteriors and interiors," says Phil Wengerd, vice president of Market Strategies for ProVia, a leading manufacturer of home building products.

The numbers agree. Manufactured stone veneer projects offer a 92.9 percent cost recovery, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report, a

detailed comparison of the average cost of remodeling projects with the value those projects retain at resale in 100 US markets.

If you're looking to make a home upgrade using manufactured stone, Wengerd says to consider the following trends:

- Popular style: While homeowners once attempted to emulate materials available in the local natural environment, the elegant look of dry stack stone now dominates nationwide. The material features the look of smaller stones, providing an elegant natural look that's versatile in both exterior and

interior applications.

- Exotic colors: Color blends continue to feature earth shades, however, more reds, purples and burgundies are being mixed in to complement colors in carpet, walls or window treatments. To respond to the demand, brands like ProVia's manufactured stone are adding new stone color options.

- Versatile project ideas: As technology has made manufactured stone more accessible to the masses, today it's showing up on more than just a home's exterior. In interior applications, stone adds a dramatic frame for kitchen stoves and islands, and is used around bath-

tubs to create a spa-like retreat. It's also a popular choice for masonry surface application in finished basements or for stone fireplaces. Exterior stone accents, like an outdoor kitchen, deliver plenty of wow-factor without the wallet cringe that a traditional stone-laying job would entail.

For style and color inspiration, as well as free resources, such as a visualizer design tool and videos on installing manufactured stone veneer, visit provia.com/stone.

Recapture home equity by seeking out projects and upgrades like manufactured stone, with a proven ability to add value.



TrailMark announces groundbreaking for amenities, center

TrailMark recently broke ground and started construction on its 6,900 square foot outdoor-inspired amenities and Welcome Center. The new master-planned community is located near World Golf Village in northern St. Johns County. TrailMark plans to open its amenities and Welcome Center in Summer 2016.

“The groundbreaking is an important milestone for the TrailMark community,” said GreenPointe Communities Vice President of Land Development Chris Kuhn. “Our amenities will complement the beauty of the natural environment and will be defining elements at TrailMark.”

The community’s design is defined by natural scenery and miles of biking and walking trails. The amenities are framed by the oak hammock preserve’s natural woodland edge and punctuated by waterways and lakes, including Six Mile Creek that leads to the St. Johns River.

“TrailMark’s design is inspired by that community’s unique hallmark location and its quintessential Northeast Florida natural elements. We focused on incorporating these character-defining qualities into every aspect of the community’s design, including amenities, parks, landscaping, entry, trails and other details that create TrailMark’s quality of life,” said Steve Lovett, partner of ELM — Ervin, Lovett Miller, the planners, architects and landscape architects responsible for TrailMark’s master plan and amenities.

The area’s natural elements frame the community entry leading to the Welcome Center and amenities. More than community landmarks, the Welcome Center and amenities will be the social hub of the community. The amenities will include a state-of-the-art fitness center overlooking a free-form resort-style pool with beach entry. The fitness center will be equipped with

TRAILMARK continues on Page 46

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Trailmark

Continued from 45

treadmills, recumbent bikes, elliptical machines, weight lifting machines and a series of free weight stations. The gathering center will also contain sports courts and playfields.

The Welcome Center and amenities' interior design is inspired by historic North Florida architecture.

"Unexpectedly modern in attitude, the interior offers an inviting, modern-rustic twist on design," said Andrea Hurt, Principal, Ansana Interior Design. "Wide-plank oak hardwood floors, chunky beams and rift-cut hardwood chairs and tables play against modern lacquer cabinets and mid-century dining tables in the Welcome Center."

Plans also call for the Camp House, a 1,990-square-foot outdoor pavilion offering a water view alongside a large central lake. Camp House will serve as the community's social heart where residents enjoy a variety of events and social activities.

"The Camp House is designed to be a family friendly, open-air entertainment hub of the pool and outdoor amenities,"

said Hurt. "Brick paver floors, brightly painted picnic tables and Adirondack-style lounge chairs lend a relaxed feel to the dynamic space."

TrailMark's amenities will include the first phase of an expansive trail system, a recreational amenity that will connect residents to their community, amenities and the surrounding natural environment. Future plans at TrailMark will allow residents to launch kayaks and canoes into Six Mile Creek.

"As the name TrailMark suggests, trails and open spaces are hallmarks of the community," Kuhn said. "With its authentic environmental elements, biking and walking trails and open spaces, TrailMark offers the ability to connect with nature and supports the principles of a healthy lifestyle."

TrailMark will feature local and national builders with single-family, one- and two-story home designs to meet lifestyle needs and interests of today's homebuyer.

Landon Homes and D.R. Horton have several Quick Move-in homes under construction. Homes at TrailMark are priced from the mid-\$200s and up. For more information, visit www.TrailMarkLiving.com.

What to know before renovating or building your newest home

(StatePoint) Building a home or making upgrades? One of the most important factors to consider is the material used. While "all-natural" may be an appealing quality on your plate, in construction, man-made products often provide more options and value.

Seek out materials offering durability, energy-efficiency and resistance to threats like fire and wicked weather. Many such high-quality products are domestic, so you can support US manufacturing while making key choices.

Boost home beauty, strength and efficiency with these projects:

Solid foundation

Start a new home with a solid pre-cast concrete foundation. Those from Superior Walls are customized for individual homes and installed in one day — far faster than alternatives like poured concrete.

Rigid foam insulation in these concrete panels wards off heat loss and creates a barrier against sidewall water penetration. These features make the basement dampfree and a more comfortable area for extended living space in the home.

Plucky plumbing

Perhaps your toilet rattles and leaks; maybe your tub and sink look dingy no matter how much you clean them. If it's time to replace bathroom elements, use newer materials offering water efficiency, style and safety benefits.

Look for a toilet marked with the WaterSense label, which indicates it's been certified to be at least 20 percent more efficient without sacrificing performance.

The free Water Savings Calculator at the Mansfield Plumbing website can help you determine your return-on-investment.

For a coordinated look, consider a suite of products that work together, like the Affordable Style Designer series from Mansfield Plumbing. You get a toilet, tub and sink, all in the same style.

Switching to an easy-access SmartHeight toilet can be another smart move. Options in the bathroom like grab bars, walk-in tubs and pedestal sinks, all provide enhanced safety and comfort.

Gorgeous windows

Over time, windows can look old and become difficult to operate. Make wise replacement choices that add beauty and privacy to key areas of your home without compromising light entry.

Whether it's an acrylic block window over a bathtub or a set of decorative glass windows in the kitchen, privacy windows are a great accent for any room. Those from Hy-Lite are offered in a variety of styles, sizes and enhancements. Operable awning, casement, slide and single hung units can easily be opened to encourage airflow.

Their Home Designer Collection features nods to architectural styles like Metro, Mission, Prairie and Baroque to complement any home.

The roof

Your roof is your protective layer, between the elements and you. Ideally it should be impact- and fire-resistant, as well as beautiful. Natural slate and shake roofing materials evoke traditional charm; however they tend to degrade over time. Look for the manmade alternative.

Polymer slate and shake roofing tiles capture the authentic look of natural materials but are more resistant to chipping, flaking and splintering.

For example, DaVinci Roofscapes offers an impressive array of more than 50 colors and blends for an enhanced look, plus they resist fire and severe weather. Their roofs also come with a lifetime limited warranty, saving you big on repairs, inspection and maintenance down the line.

To be a savvy homeowner, don't leave it to chance. Select durable, high-quality man-made products.

Home design tips for baby boomers

(StatePoint) There are about 76.4 million Baby boomers in the US, according to the Population Reference Bureau. As this population ages, it will become important that features on their houses promote safety, are easy-to-maintain, and last a long time.

Whether building from the ground up or remodeling a current home, take “aging-in-place” into consideration every step of the way. Here are some great projects to consider with strong payback.

A better basement

When building a new home, choose your foundation carefully. Not only is an uninsulated basement a major source of heat loss, but it’s throwing away potential space that can enhance your life. A “liveable basement” can be designated as a “grandkid zone,” an at-home office or crafting workshop.

You can use a pre-cast insulated concrete foundation system, such as those from Superior Walls, to create an energy-efficient damp-proof basement. This foundation will help reduce utility bills for long-term savings. Reinforced concrete walls create a permanent barrier against water, and pre-engineered access for wiring or plumbing features are a key element to whatever vision you have for this subterranean space.

First-floor privacy

Many seniors opt to spend more of



their time at home on the easy-to-navigate ground floor. But don’t compromise privacy in pursuit of accessibility.

Privacy windows can alleviate concerns you have about neighbors seeing you go about your business. For example, those from Hy-Lite are offered in numerous styles and designs, including opaque decorative glass, acrylic block and true glass block windows. Silkscreen glass designs can complement the overall style of the home. From your master suite to your bathroom to the main rooms of your home, avoid prying eyes with this crucial component of stylish first floor living.

Safe, comfortable bathrooms

As mobility and coordination

decline, slips and falls can make bathrooms a hazardous place. Think of the years ahead by seeking out bathroom features that are ADA compliant.

“Taller toilets that are easier to rise from, pedestal sinks that allow wheelchairs and walkers access, and walk-in tubs that promote easy

entries and exits, are all bathroom features people may need as they age,” says Jean Dimeo, a Certified Aging in Place Specialist.

Brands like Mansfield Plumbing are accommodating the boomer population by offering selections of SmartHeight toilets, pedestal, under counter and wall mounted sinks. A popular product, Restore walk-in tubs, come with whirlpool and inline heater options to sooth aching muscles and joints.

With many high-design fixtures and fittings available, a safe bathroom does not need to be just a utilitarian one.

Durable roof

When choosing a roof for over your home, seek out long-term durability without compromising beauty. Slate and shake polymer roof products from brands like DaVinci Roofscapes are low-maintenance, offer lifetime limited warranties, and come in a variety of color options that have the authentic look of natural materials.

Impact- and fire- resistant, these hardworking roofs offer boomers both peace of mind and long-term value.

By upgrading key home features during construction and remodeling efforts, aging in place is not only possible, it can be preferable.

RENTALS

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6 tips to get ready for buying a home this season

(StatePoint) Buyer-friendly 30-year fixed mortgage rates and an improving job market are good news for spring homebuyers this season.

Yet, even with these favorable conditions, many home purchase contracts will get held up at closing by financial issues. This doesn’t have to be the case. There are several things you can do before and after submitting a contract to help make sure you walk away from the closing table with the keys to your new home in hand.

Freddie Mac Senior Vice President Christina Boyle recommends doing the following before seriously hunting for

a home this spring:

- Learn your current credit history and score. You don’t want any surprises down the road. If you have no credit history, or have had credit problems in the past, you can take steps to build, improve, and maintain strong credit. Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor for free advice.

- Talk to your lender about applying for a mortgage and getting a pre-approval letter. This letter gives an estimate of how much you might be able to borrow, and demonstrates

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What factors influence the price of a home?

(StatePoint) While curb appeal, structural integrity and a brand new set of appliances can impact a home's value, there is one factor that seems to reign supreme.

"Homeownership is one of the most solid long-term investments one can make, but it's important to recognize just how much the location of a home can impact the value," says Budge Huskey, president and chief executive officer of Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

The new Coldwell Banker Home Listing Report, a highly extensive home price comparison tool, analyzes the listing price of more than 81,000 four-bedroom, two-bathroom homes in more than 2,700 markets throughout the United States.

The report found some startling facts: the national average listing price of a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home is \$302,632, but all of the top 100 affordable markets in the country have an average listing price under \$135,000. Meanwhile, all of the top 25 most expensive markets are \$1 million or more. The price difference between the most expensive community in California and the most affordable in Ohio is \$2.2 million.

So what accounts for this major value discrepancy in similar-sized homes? Here are several ways in which "where"

matters most.

Local industry

Job opportunities available in a given sector can have a huge impact on the market. For example, the continued tech sector growth in Silicon Valley is one of the factors making it one of those most expensive communities in the country.

Revitalization

Over time, revitalization efforts can make certain communities more attractive to buyers. When a city or region sees an economic and cultural renaissance this influences the market. Buyers value related factors like safety, a walkable main street, public transit options and green spaces.

Schools

You may not have children, but it's still important to investigate the quality of local schools. This factor can have a major impact on every homeowner.

Region

Regional factors can have a huge effect on a given locality's pricing. These can include year-round weather patterns, proximity to natural beauty like beaches and mountains for outdoor activities like skiing and surfing, and commuting outlook.

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BHHS hosts Top Producer Champions Gala at Epping Forest Yacht Club

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently honored its top producers at the company's Champions Gala celebration at Epping Forest Yacht Club.

The Top Producer Champions Gala honored the company's elite Realtors who achieved extraordinary success in 2015. Dressed in 'fun and fancy' attire, the company's leading real estate associates enjoyed a chic celebration highlighted by gourmet cuisine, libations, dancing and entertainment.

"We are honored to congratulate our top producers and applaud their tremendous achievements with a very special occasion," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "We are so proud of our sales professionals. Their success is unmatched in Northeast Florida and we are grateful for their contributions."

The gala honored more than 70 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices sales associates and their guests from the company's branch offices throughout the First Coast.

"Our agents have positioned our company as the industry leader and events like this give us an opportunity to let them know how much we



From left, Nancy Massengill, Molly Thompson, Janet Westling, Lynne Ferguson, Linda Sherrer

appreciate their efforts and success," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "Our company is the

market leader because our team is the best in the business; not to mention, we love to have fun together!"

For more information, visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

— **Community submission**



Lynne Ferguson and Sheron Willson



John Bade, Tansy Moon, Myrna Brannon, Cathy Bade, Carol Zingone



Laura Mathewson and Doug Mathewson



Katie Hughes, Christy Budnick, Tina Webster

Selling your home? How to get buyers in the front door

(StatePoint) Looking to sell your home? Then improve its curb appeal. That's the advice of realtors who say that many home buyers won't even get out of their cars unless they like the way the house looks from the street.

"Today, buyers can be choosy. Overgrown bushes, peeling paint or faded shutters are enough to stop some people from even getting out of the car," says Joanne Meredith-Nolan, real estate sales agent with Laffey Fine Homes.

How do you make sure that your home isn't passed by? According to Fypon, a polyurethane manufacturer, the Three C's of Curb Appeal are Clean, Clutter-free and Colorful.

Experts say that to achieve those goals it's helpful to take a "top

down" approach.

Start with the roof. Is it in good shape, clean and colorful? Does it complement the style of your home? If a new roof is in your future,

SELLING continues on Page 51



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\$425,000

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Homebuyer

Continued from 47

to home sellers that you're a serious buyer.

- Understand your options. Don't assume you won't have enough for a down payment or won't qualify for a mortgage without 20 percent down. In fact, about 40 percent of today's homebuyers are making down payments of less than 10 percent, according to research from Zelman & Associates.

And new products, like the Freddie Mac Home Possible Advantage mortgage, offer down payment options as low as three percent for qualified borrowers.

- Gather your documentation. Expect your lender to request documentation verifying your income (W-2 forms, tax returns, and employ-

ment records), credit history, and assets (such as bank statements to verify your savings).

After signing a purchase contract but before closing, Boyle recommends doing the following:

- Don't take on more debt or make large cash purchases. Resist the temptation to take out new loans or open new credit cards. This could affect your credit profile and may require the lender to resubmit your mortgage application to verify you still qualify. Also, substantial cash purchases may make your mortgage company question whether you can really afford monthly payments.

- Meet your lender's deadlines. Heed deadlines for providing documentation or information. A missed deadline could delay the closing, which may require you either to pay more to extend the mortgage terms

you locked in when you submitted the application or, in the worst case, reapply for the mortgage.

Buying a home can be intimidating without knowledge.

For more tips and resources on

buying a home, visit the consumer education site, My Home by Freddie Mac, at MyHome.FreddieMac.com.

With preparation, you can help ensure your homebuying process goes off without a hitch.

Selling

Continued from 50

consider a polymer slate or shake roofing product, like those from DaVinci Roofscapes. Offered in 50 standard colors and a multitude of color blends, these hardworking roofs are impact- and fire-resistant and are backed by a lifetime limited warranty.

Working your way down the home, make sure the siding, shutters and trim are in very good shape, making these upgrades before putting your house on the market.

"No buyer wants to look at a home and think that the first thing he or she will have to do is paint, or replace rotting wood trim," says Meredith-Nolan. "Low-maintenance products like vinyl or fiber cement siding and polyurethane trim pieces look great and have salability that can be passed on to buyers who don't want the hassles of long-term maintenance."

Other improvements to consider for beauty and functionality include vinyl windows and an updated porch balustrade system, which can offer clean lines and make a property really seem to pop.

For a clean, clutter-free exterior, power wash the driveway and walkways, trim back overgrown shrubbery and put away the yard art.

Add pops of color around the outside, like new shutters, a fresh coat of paint on the front door and flowers in pots and window boxes.

Consider a fiberglass door to improve the look and energy efficiency of your front entry. Brands like Therma-Tru offer woodgrain and paintable options, as well as attractive accessories like decorative glass doorlites and

sidelites that can boost curb appeal and increase light in your foyer.

For a free guide to adding top-down color and products to the home, visit www.fypon.com/design/.

"If you want to get buyers to take your house seriously, spend time to get them through the front door," says Tom Kabat, a real estate sales agent for 16 years with Welles Bowen Realtors. "It takes just seconds for a prospective buyer to either connect with or reject your home based on its curb appeal. Invest in your home exterior and you'll never go wrong."

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\$550,000
MLS#798959



This brand new 4BD/4.5 BA home in The Palms at Ponte Vedra features hardwood floors in all the downstairs rooms, high ceilings and big windows to let in the natural light. The gorgeous kitchen opens to a spacious family room with stone fireplace—great for entertaining.

\$659,500
MLS#797237



Fantastic, recently renovated 4BD/3.5BA home in the exclusive gated community of Seven Pines Island. This home has a brand new roof, new stucco, new landscaping, new paint and new carpet. The kitchen opens into the family room with breath-taking views of the marsh and ICW, comes with a private dock & deep water access.

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REDUCED \$400,000.00

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You've got to be kidding me! You didn't. Again?

Hello, faithful readers. (All Three? Six? Twelve of you? Never mind) Here's why I have not been writing columns since January.

On Dec. 22, 2016, I arrived at JFK on my way to Connecticut to have Christmas with my family. But first I crashed on the floor — simply fell — between the jetway and a restroom, and in the process injured my left elbow. Didn't trip over anything. Lying on the floor the pain was so bad I forgot to cry. I used my cell phone to call my kids. Most people sailed by with nary a look. One woman said, "Are you OK?" To which I should have said, "Sure, I like to lie down when I use my cell phone." A pediatrician and his wife from Orange Park saw me fall and stayed with me until a wheelchair arrived (taking forever) bringing me to baggage claim. I felt like baggage myself. From there I was

taken to Stamford Hospital near where my kids live.

An Xray showed a fractured elbow. My children helped all along the way. Thanks to their contacts, surgery was the next day and I made it to my daughter's house two days later to celebrate Christmas. My elbow is still a bit painful but healing as I am doing my 75 stretches every day.

But wait. There's more.

Cut to Jan. 22, exactly one month to the day of my elbow break. I'd had a lovely lunch with a friend, went home, and around 6 p.m. went to

Office Depot. As I was walking back to my car at 7:00 in the dark, I fell. Again. This time it was over a speed bump. I really did not want to be run over in the dark. That's a pretty lousy way to pass. Two people in the parking lot, way off in the gloom of night, hollered, "Are you all right?" I sounded the alarm that I could stand to use a little help. Actually I could stand... a little help to stand. I had bad pain in my pelvic area and could barely put pressure on my left leg. I really wanted to drive myself home. The nice people wanted to call 911, but I won. The pain was on my left side, so I was able to drive. I didn't notice that my fuel tank was on zero until I drove through the guard gate.

My friend Mary came over, took one look at me all hunched over and said "You are taking an ambulance." She didn't want the responsibility of driv-

ing me. I pronounced her a chicken. My pelvis was fractured, but thank God I didn't need surgery. The pain from the pelvic break made the elbow break seem like no big deal.

Long story short, I stayed in the hospital for three days then was moved to rehab for nine days and am now home. Doctors originally said I'd be there for three to four weeks, so I am lucky. PT is exhausting, and I'm healing slowly. But wait. I'm not finished. I'm in the process of buying a house and am closing soon. That's the happy news. And I am busy.

Kelly McDermott, the best editor I've ever had, has dredged up my old columns from 2011 through 2015 and printed them when space allows. I'll be back with new columns soon. This is the first time I've written anything since early December. And it feels good. Cheers and stay upright.



Mims Cushing
By the Way...

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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ACROSS

1. Peyton Manning signal
6. *Lindsey Vonn's tool
9. Pressed on the gas
13. Synthetic fabric
14. Manhole cover, e.g.
15. "Peanut Butter ___ Time"
16. Emergency pedal
17. Beehive State native
18. Use blunt end of pencil?
19. *Raunchy Amy
21. Conjoined
23. *Sir ___-a-Lot
24. Distinctive flair
25. Symbol of strength
28. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
30. *Oscar Madison's employer, "New York ___"
35. Major-leaguers
37. Part of McDonald's logo
39. 2 halves of a diameter
40. "___ what you sow"
41. Scrabble pieces
43. The Destroyer in Hinduism
44. *Ayn Rand novel, "___ Shrugged"
46. "___ of Eden"
47. Rubber bulb on an old bike
48. Card game
50. Osiris' wife
52. Shining one in "America the Beautiful"
53. Attention-getting interjection
55. Fleur-de-___
57. *Playboy octogenarian
60. *Homemaker extraordinaire
64. Like ricin
65. Legal org.
67. *Annie Oakley starred in it
68. *"Independence Day" star
69. High craggy hill
70. Alex Haley's "saga of an American family"
71. *Lassie and Rin Tin Tin
72. Kimono tie
73. Church recesses

DOWN

1. Globes and balls, e.g.
2. Painter ___ Chagall
3. Indian nursemaid
4. Nonsense
5. Low hemoglobin
6. Talk like a drunk
7. American Girl ___ Kittredge
8. Utopian
9. Evening in Italy
10. Surveyor's map
11. "Do it, or ___!"
12. Food coloring, e.g.
15. *Caitlyn née Bruce
20. An American in Paris, e.g.
22. Morse Code dash
24. "...I heard him ____, ere he drove out of sight..."
25. *Media mogul, actress and trendsetter
26. Mountain ridge
27. Aussie "bear"
29. Famous canal
31. Poison ivy symptom
32. "Bye" to Banderas
33. Book in Paris
34. *Honoree of "Candle in the Wind 1997"
36. Practice in the ring
38. Deputy Führer Rudolf ___
42. Circus prop
45. Stop the flow
49. Female pronoun
51. *Bogart, star of "The Treasure of the ___ Madre"
54. Muse of love poetry
56. One clean one?
57. Main Web page
58. Off-ramp
59. If the shoe does this?
60. Delhi wrap
61. Commotions
62. Network of nerves
63. Coin throw
64. Medicinal amt.
66. *Jamaican Ras Tafari follower

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