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about this magazine-

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FIRST COAST REGISTER

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on the cover-

Built in 1923, the Beach Cottage Style home in Atlantic Beach has the designation of being one of the original beach homes in "Old Atlantic Beach" and was one of the featured homes of the inaugural Beaches Tour of Homes. Read more on page 22. Photo by Carrie Resch



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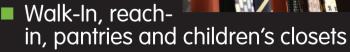


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As president and CEO of Jacksonville Scene, Jason Ryan oversees all activities of Northeast Florida's largest coordinator of sports leagues, tournaments and events. He is married to Jennifer Gornto Ryan, the executive director of the Ponte Vedra YMCA.

What is Jacksonville Scene?

Jacksonville Scene is a 100 percent local sport and social club for everyone 21 years old and up. We are like recess for adults. Our goal is to build our community by creating fun.

What prompted you to start Jacksonville Scene?

For seven years I was the league manager for the Chicago Sport and Social Club, which is basically Jacksonville Scene in Chicago. One weekend I came to Jacksonville to visit friends at the Gator Bowl, and they introduced me to PRI Productions. By the time I landed back in Chicago from my visit, I had messages asking me back to Jacksonville to possibly help out with events around the city and with the Super Bowl. So, I headed back to the Bold City.

While here in Jacksonville, I didn't know too many friends. I was trying to play softball to meet some people, but I was told that I couldn't sign up without a team. I realized Jacksonville really needed an adult sport and social club...and Jacksonville Scene was born. The first year, we offered dodgeball and flag football. Then the next season, we added indoor volleyball, kickball, softball, basketball, cornhole, bowling, beer pong and beach volleyball. Before I knew it, I was so busy that I didn't even have time to play in the leagues. Today, I am surrounded with an amazing Jacksonville Scene crew, so

I actually get to play in the leagues...and I love it.

How does the sports league component work?

The sports leagues are the heart of Jacksonville Scene. If you have a bunch of friends and co-workers that want to play, you can sign up together as a team. If you are new to the area, or if you just want to meet some new friends, you can sign up as a solo free agent. Leagues play once a week, then we all meet up at the sponsor bar after our games to continue the fun.

What if someone wants to participate, but doesn't have a team?

Just sign up as a free agent at JacksonvilleScene.com. There are so many young professionals moving to Jacksonville and the Beaches that this is the perfect way to meet some people. I've been lucky to attend many weddings between free agents that have met in our leagues too.

What sort of social events are available?

Most people know us for our signature events like HallowScene, New Year's Eve and Wedding Crashers. Jacksonville Scene also does happy hours, cornhole tournaments, tailgates, paintball outings, Jaguars trips, beer runs, full moon parties, tastings, bar crawls and scavenger hunts. We like to team up with other event producers at local festivals and charity events by providing games or just helping

ONE OF US Continued on page 8 >>

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Florida Forum to celebrate Silver Anniversary during 2016-2017 speaker series by CARRIE RESCH

Tim Tebow, FOX News host Megyn Kelly and former presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson will be among the speakers featured at the 25th anniversary Florida Forum speaker series this fall.

The 2016-2017 Florida Forum series will kick off Oct. 25 with Dr. Carson. Kelly will appear Jan. 30, 2017, with Tebow concluding the series March 13, 2017.

Presented by the volunteer-led Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, the Florida Forum series is a benefit that the hospital's programs and services. Now, in its

> year, the forum has featured a wide variety of speakers from a multitude of professions, including acclaimed entertainers, authors, professional athletes, influential thinkers, and business heavyweights. Past speakers have included President Bill Clinton, Michael J. Fox, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Sir Richard Branson, Peyton Manning

"We have a wonderful lineup of speakers this year," Florida Forum Chair Judy D'Antignac says.

D'Antignac said the group is especially interested in Dr. Carson's visit because of how it ties into the recent events at Wolfson Children's Hospital, where conjoined twins Carter and Conner Mirabel were successfully separated last May.

> Carson, retired neurosurgeon and former Republican candidate for president, was one of the first neurosurgeons to separate conjoined twins. D'Antignac says the Women's Board is looking forward to hearing what Carson has

to say on the subject.

When the Women's Board first discussed having FOX News host Megyn Kelly - the second speaker in the series - as one of the speakers, she wasn't as well-known as she has since become, rising into the spotlight during this year's presidential race.

"Since we are a women's board, we're excited to have a strong female come and speak to our group," D'Antignac says. "I think that she'll be very popular and she will be coming just after the inauguration, so I think it will be very fascinating to hear her take on all that has gone on in Washington."

The series will wrap up with Tim Tebow, who is already a familiar face around Wolfson Children's Hospital, often popping in to visit patients. The Tim Tebow Foundation also sponsored Timmy's Playroom, a retreat for Wolfson Children's Hospital patients where they can play video games, watch movies, participate in art activities or play with other toys to escape the stress of hospitalization.

"He just loves to come and see the children and spend time with them, which is a wonderful asset for us," says D'Antignac, adding that she hopes that Tebow will be a big draw for the speaker series because of his local ties.

Founded in 1973, the all-volunteer led Women's Board - which has grown to 400 members - has raised more than \$27 million for Wolfson Children's Hospital through the group's two major annual benefits: The Florida Forum speaker series and the Art & Antiques

This year will also mark a milestone anniversary for the four-day art show and sale annually produced by The Women's Board. The 40th anniversary Art & Antiques Show will be held Dec. 1-4.

Tickets for the Florida Forum are sold as a series subscription to all three presentations and are available for purchase at www. womensboardwch.com/florida-forum. The speaker series is presented by Wells Fargo, Landstar Systems, Inc. and Florida Blue and will be held at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville.

ONE OF US Continued from page 6

get the word out.

25th

What's the most unusual social event you've hosted?

The Jacksonville Scene Wedding Crashers Party. We create a mock wedding and invite everyone to crash it. Every year we come up with a different theme. We have done a Vegas Wedding, a Royal Wedding, an 80s wedding, a Prohibition/Silent Movie Wedding...and the "crashers" really get into it. People wear old bridesmaids' dresses, tuxedos, tuxedo t-shirts or costumes based on the theme. It is great to see how creative people can be and how much fun they have with the event. HallowScene can get unusual too...in a good way.

How can businesses participate in Jacksonville Scene?

Businesses can show their support by either being a sponsor or by registering teams in our leagues. To sign up teams, they can either go to JacksonvilleScene.com or they can contact me at JasonR@JacksonvilleScene.com. Many companies get benefits by providing a physical and social outlet for their employees. It improves company morale and encourages teamwork. We have a couple of local businesses that have so many teams in our sports that we are able to make leagues just for them. The support of our

sponsors is unbelievable. We have a key demographic of active young professionals and it is the perfect match for most companies to be a part of making Jacksonville Scene a reality.

Are you involved in any charities or civic groups you'd like to highlight?

Most of our events raise money for local nonprofits. HallowScene will be helping the Ponte Vedra YMCA on Oct. 27 at Casa Marina. In the past we have raised money for many charities like the MS Society, Healthy Start, the Jacksonville Historical Society and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. We also volunteer at the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Wine Gala in March as well.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

Work and free time cross paths a lot with Jacksonville Scene. My wife is the executive director at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, so we are both constantly around sports and play in the Jacksonville Scene Beach Volleyball leagues. We love our Sunday Fundays and riding our bikes around the beach. If I'm not working or obsessing over my Cubs, I love to just meet up with friends and family. My wife and I both enjoy traveling as much as we can, and we visit my family in Chicago whenever it is possible.

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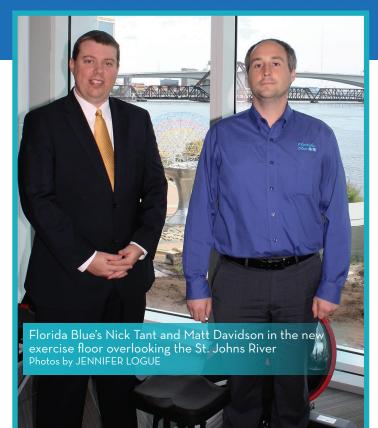
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Winston Family YMCA seeks to be a destination for healthy living



by JENNIFER LOGUE

When visitors enter Riverside's new Winston Family YMCA for the first time, the first thing that catches their eye is the view.

Sweeping vistas of the St. Johns River and Acosta Bridge surround patrons as they run laps around the elevated indoor track, clock miles on the treadmill or take advantage of the plethora of other exercise equipment in the second-floor fitness center. The soaring ceilings add to the open, expansive feel of the new 72,000 square-foot facility.

"We get a lot of 'Wows' and 'This is amazing!' and 'I cannot believe the view!" says Tim Burrows, director of member experience. "While the entire facility is state of the art, the hub is going to be the second floor – that's where the fitness center is, where the basketball court is and where the classes will be held."

Formally opened Aug. 26 with a ribbon-cutting celebration, the new Y features an aquatic center with two pools; a gymnasium; a spiritual wellness center; dedicated rooms for yoga and other fitness classes; and an expansive fitness center and indoor track. The building also offers a KidZone – where children can participate in supervised activities while their parents exercise or take part in other Y programs – a café, and dedicated locker rooms for families

and people with special needs.

The building replaces the 1954 Yates YMCA building, which officials say the nonprofit Y had simply outgrown.

"For us to be able to grow and serve the community better, we had to think bigger and grow to serve the needs of today's community," says Michelle Moore, vice president of marketing and communications.

In addition to allowing the Y to increase its number of weekly classes from 115 to 180, the Winston Y reflects the changing tastes and preferences of today's members. Gone are the once-popular racquetball courts – which could only accommodate two players at a time – and instead are spaces for healthy cooking, meditation, Pilates and more.

The building's prime riverfront location also creates an opportunity for the Y to draw in the local community and build connections through small group personal training and other activities.

"If it's too hot to run the Riverwalk, people can come here and enjoy the view," Burrows says, adding that plans are underway to use the Y's riverfront lawn for yoga and Pilates classes, family movie nights, July 4 fireworks viewing and more.

"We want this to be a destination Y – where people will think it's worth a trip to come here – not just a downtown Y for the traditional corporate clientele," Burrows say.

And as a nonprofit, Moore adds, the Y is open to all residents.

"We will find ways to help you become a member," she says. "We never turn anyone away."

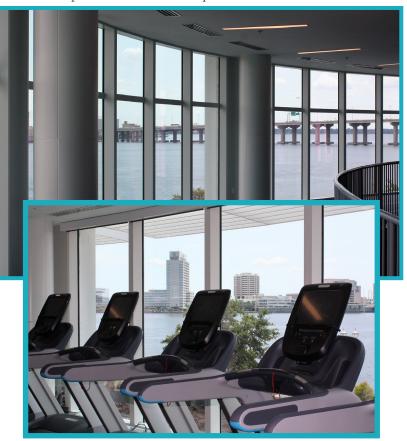
Healthy Living Center

A special highlight of the Y, officials say, is the new Healthy Living Center. Through partnerships with Florida Blue, Baptist Health and Brooks Rehabilitation, the center will offer a wide range of preventive and rehabilitation services along with information on health insurance coverage options.

"This will really be a one-stop-shop for Jacksonville residents to get healthier," said Matt Davidson, Florida Blue's operations director at the Healthy Living Center.

Florida Blue also sponsored the Y's Florida Blue Wellness Center.

"We really wanted to ensure our long-term commitment to the health and wellness of the community," says Nick Tant, senior director of retail centers for Florida Blue. "This facility is critical to the downtown landscape, and we wanted to help make it come to fruition."



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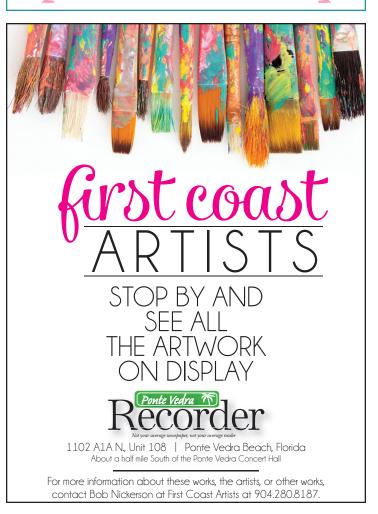
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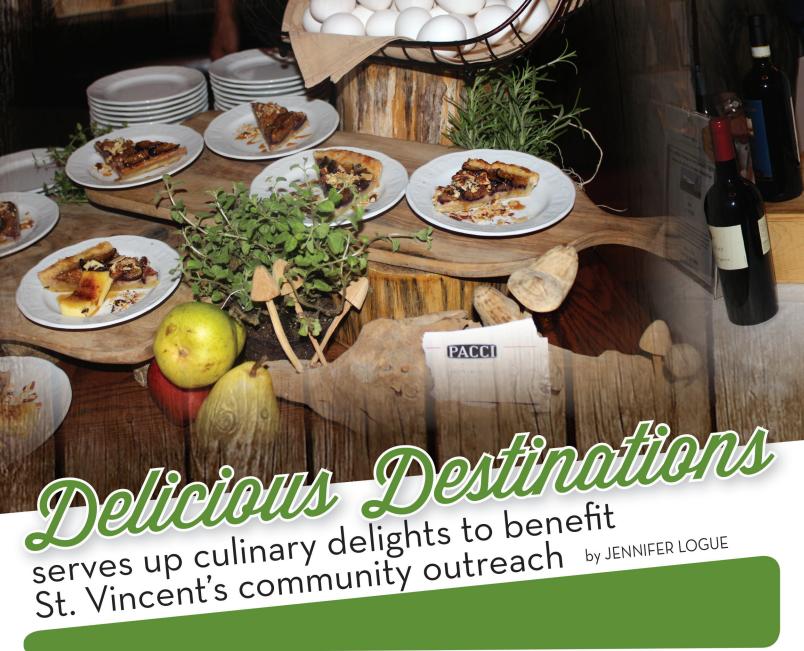
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More than a dozen chefs from some of the top restaurants, resorts and clubs of the South came to Ponte Vedra Beach in September to share their culinary talents at the annual Delicious Destinations food and wine event to benefit St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation.

Held Sept. 8-10 at the Five Diamond Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, the three-day event featuring epicurean delicacies attracted hundreds of local residents to sample and savor the best "Farm to Fork" regional cuisine.

"Where else can you visit The Breakers, Mar-a-Lago and The Greenbrier all in one evening?" said foundation President Jane Lanier, naming just a few of the prestigious resorts whose chefs participated in the event to benefit St. Vincent's community outreach services. This year's event also celebrated the 100th anniversary of St. Vincent's.

In addition to enjoying gourmet food and wine pairings, guests had an opportunity to bid on a variety of live and silent auction items. Attendees strolled amid the silent auction offerings, bidding on packages ranging from handmade jewelry and golf outings to spa and restaurant gift certificates. Also on display was a "giving tree," where attendees could choose to make a donation to pay for such much-needed community health services as eyeglasses, mammograms or a vaccination for a homeless person.

Live auction items, meanwhile, included a getaway to Sea Island, Georgia, a trip to Turks & Caicos, a golf weekend at Mar-a-Lago and more.

CELEBRITY CHEF LUNCHEON

The Delicious Destinations weekend began Sept. 8 with the "Celebrity Chef by the Sea" luncheon featuring Chef David Guas. The host of the Travel Channel's "American Grilled," Guas entertained guests by conducting cooking demonstrations of each course on the menu, including grilled New Orleans-style barbecued shrimp with rice grits, grilled redfish with grilled corn maque choux and beurre blanc and lemon icebox pie topped with Chantilly cream. For each course, Guas demonstrated how each dish on the menu was prepared, garnishing his comments with tidbits from both his personal and culinary history dating back to his grandmother's kitchen.

"It's amazing all the wonderful stories that go along with those recipes," he said. "Growing up in New Orleans was wonderful, it's such a unique melting pot of cultures."

He also revealed his love for wooden spoons, estimating that his collection of the kitchen staple now surpasses 40.

"I can't stir a pot or a roux without my wooden spoon," Guas told



guests. "There's something about the feel of it in your hand you can't match. I can channel my love and soul into what I'm stirring."

Guas concluded his cooking demonstration by whipping up the lemon icebox pie, which he praised for its ease of preparation.

"Food can be complicated more than it needs to be," Guas said. "This is a nice, light way to end a meal with seafood."

Adding to the commentary was wine specialist Michael Rugers, who offered insight into the luncheon's wine pairings, which included Prosecco, a red French dessert wine and a 2013 Simi Reserve Chardonnay from the Russian River Valley.

"The Russian River Valley runs east to west," Rugers noted. "That allows the cool Pacific Ocean temps to come up the river valley. I like it because it's not an over-the-top Chardonnay, it's not too oaky." A white wine from New Zealand also accompanied the menu.

"New Zealand wines have exploded in the marketplace," Rugers said. "We sell more New Zealand wine in the U.S. than we sell from France."

Proceeds from Delicious Destinations benefit the community outreach programs of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, including its Mobile Health Outreach Ministry which brings free adult and pediatric patient services to nearly 15,000 residents in need across the First Coast. St. Vincent's breast diagnostic program, mobile mammography services and faith community nursing programs are also among the initiatives supported by Delicious Destinations.



Beaches Museums

hosts 'History Happy Hour' at the Casa Marina

by JENNIFER LOGUE













Scores of young professionals had a chance to learn the history behind one of Jacksonville Beach's local landmarks recently, when the Beaches Museum hosted a "History Happy Hour" at the Casa Marina Hotel.

Held Aug. 25 as part of the museum's "Beach Cruisers" Young Professionals group, the event was true to its name, combining equal parts history and happy hour, as guests enjoyed a brief historical presentation and guided tour of the historic hotel followed by refreshments in the rooftop bar.

Beaches Museum Executive Director Christine Hoffman kicked off the after-work event with a historical slide show recounting the 19th century birth of tourism at Jacksonville Beach, then known as Pablo Beach. Henry Flagler's development of the railroad played a part in bringing northerners to Florida.

"The Yankees realized Jacksonville wasn't as hot as other parts of Florida," Hoffman quipped.

Unfortunately, she said, many of the grand oceanfront resorts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries burned to the ground after only a few short years.

In 1925, however, the Casa Marina held its grand opening.

"The Casa Marina opened the same day that Pablo Beach was renamed Jacksonville Beach," Hoffman noted.

But unlike its predecessors, the Casa Marina was made of stucco and featured an automatic sprinkler system, preventing it from suffering the same fate as the area's other oceanfront resorts.

Following Hoffman's presenting, longtime Casa Marina Maitre d' Sterling Joyce offered guests a tour of the historic hotel, tracing its early days as a Jazz Age hotspot frequented by silent movie stars through the 1930s, when gangsters Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly were rumored to be among its guests.

Pointing to a vintage 1940s postcard showing hotel guests splashing in the surf, Joyce asked, "What's missing?"

"Men!" someone shouted.

"That's right!" Joyce replied. "During World War II, the Army took over the hotel for housing."

The war also took all the men. "The women took over the whole beach!" Joyce said.

The boardwalk atmosphere of Jacksonville Beach began to change after 1964, Joyce noted, when Hurricane Dora hit Jacksonville, demolishing the beachfront Ferris wheel. Eventually, other beachfront amusements were replaced by condos. But still, the Casa Marina endured.

"During hurricane season, the safest place at the beach is right here," Joyce said. "This gal has been through it all!"

After tours of some of the hotel's remaining 23 guest rooms - there were originally more than 60 - Joyce led tour members up to the rooftop bar, where guests enjoyed food, drinks and live entertainment.

While many of those present were already members of the Beach Cruisers Young Professionals group, others like Heath Hodges learned of the event on social media.

"I'm not a member yet, but I'm joining after tonight," Hodges said. "I'm trying to get more involved in Jacksonville Beach."

Amy O'Grady, who attended the event with her husband, Patrick, said she was intrigued by the opportunity to learn more about a local landmark.

"I like it when you have a chance to learn more about a place you've seen and been to for years," she said.



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Pumpkins and apples invoke the flavors of fall, but these fall harvest highlights can extend beyond the Thanksgiving table, offering a bounty of beauty tinctures and treatments.

Indulge Salon Shoppe Spa in St. Augustine offers an array of pumpkin spa services year-round, including a pumpkin facial, pumpkin body treatment and massage, and a pumpkin pedicure.

Why pumpkin? Spa owner Nina Stelfox touts the benefits of pumpkin as rich in disease-fighting nutrients, antioxidants, vitamins C and E, magnesium and potassium. It also contains pantothenic acid, which has been shown, she says, to support wound healing especially when applied topically - by improving the regrowth of those cells that are responsible for generating connective tissue after injury.

Feeling really decadent? Indulge also offers chocolate facials, including a peel-off hydrating mask. Some benefits of chocolate body treatments, according to the spa, are that it firms the skin, is rich in antioxidants, is a good moisturizing agent, and has calming effects.

Indulge also sells pumpkin products: body butter, body scrub, exfoliating face scrub, and massage oils. They also carry similar chocolate-based products.

Fire and ice

This fall, The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club will be featuring the Fire and Ice Facial by HydroPeptide.

What makes this facial unique, staff member Katie Creek says, is that not only are you receiving a 30 percent pumpkin peel mixed with lactic acid, but the mask incorporated has a cooling effect. The

treatment is massaged into the skin using ice globes.

Creek says the spa is also considering offering an Apple Harvest Facial and Pumpkin Pedicure from October to December.

The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island spa offers foodie-inspired spa treatments as well, including the Honey Butter Wrap - a honey sea salt scrub followed by a honey hydrating mask; or the Cinnamon Vanilla Brown Sugar Scrub, a concoction of brown sugar and honey finished with a massage of Tahitian vanilla lotion.

Or, you can make your own bountiful beauty treatments such as these recipes for Pumpkin Souffle Body Butter, Vanilla Pumpkin Spice Sugar Scrub, or Easy Homemade Apple Spice Body Scrub. Try some of these recipes for yourself or make some for gifts - either way, the scents are sure to get you in the mood for the season!

Pumpkin Soufflé Body Butter. From You Brew My Tea (www.youbrewmytea.com)

INGREDIENTS:

½ cup shea butter

2 Tbsp. coconut oil

2 Tbsp. canned pumpkin

2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

1 tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. vanilla

½ tsp. vitamin E oil

DIRECTIONS:

Place coconut oil, vitamin E oil, pumpkin, shea butter, cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice, and vanilla in the bowl of stand mixer. Blend on high until light and fluffy - about 3-5 minutes. Scrape down sides of bowl, transfer all body butter in two 4 oz. canning jars in equal amounts. Secure lid and ring. The body butter should last about two weeks when kept in the refrigerator.



(www.happinessishomemade.net)

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup granulated sugar ¼ cup coconut oil 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice 2 tsp. vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

Mix ingredients together and place in jar.

Easy Homemade Apple Spice Body Scrub From A Cultivated Nest (www.acultivatednest.com)

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups brown sugar



1/4 - 1/2 cup coconut oil

2 Tbsp. apple pie spice

1 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. cloves

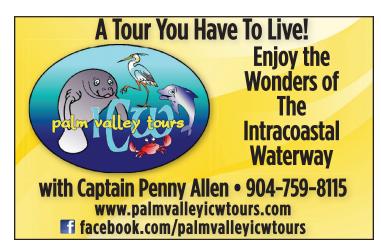
1 tsp. nutmeg

2 tsp. vanilla

1 tsp. vitamin E (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Combine all ingredients well in a glass bowl, begin with a ¼ cup of coconut oil and add until the desired consistency is reached. It will "melt" a little bit as it breaks down in the jar. If you will not be using up your scrub within three to four weeks, it is advised to add vitamin E, as this acts as a natural preservative, allowing the scrub to last longer. Transfer to a small jar that has a tight fitting lid to store it.





Hundreds of friends and supporters celebrated the contributions Mission House makes to the Beaches recently, when the nonprofit hosted its 6th Annual Compassion by the Sea benefit.

Held Sept. 16 at Atlantic Beach Country Club, the event featured a cocktail reception, hors d'oeuvres and both live and silent auctions offering a wide range of gifts and unique experiences. Guests perused the many silent auction offerings, including private lunch and dinner excursions with notable First Coast residents, golf packages, gift baskets and getaways to such destinations as Napa Valley, Charleston, St. Lucia and more.

Three "waves" of silent auctions were held throughout the evening, offering attendees the opportunity to raise their paddles and bid on such items as a private sushi dinner with the owners of Massage Envy, complete with massage gift certificates; a Budweiser Brewery corporate party tasting for up to 100 plus 10 VIP tickets to Oktoberfest Jacksonville; a guest role on The Chat with Angelia Savage and a \$200 David Medure experience; and a private dinner at Blackstone Grille with WJXT's Sam Kouvaris plus a Jacksonville Suns stadium experience and two tickets to Tim Tebow's Florida Forum appearance.

Many guests in attendance had a volunteer connection to Mission House. Leanne Paolucci, for example, notes that her employer, Fresh Market, supports Mission House by donating food.

"We donate every single day – fresh produce, bakery good and deli items," she says.

Members of the Beaches Rotaract Club were also on hand to volunteer and assist with the event's live auction.

Mission House Board Member JulieAnn Weber says the purpose of the Compassion by the Sea event extends beyond raising the funds needed to provide critical support services to the Beaches' homeless residents.

"While we're here of course to raise money, we also want to raise awareness," Weber says. "Homeless people are first and foremost people and there's an opportunity for everyone to get involved."

Proceeds from the Compassion by the Sea event will support Mission House's services, which include providing homeless individuals with two hot meals a day, fresh clothing, shower facilities and medical services through its clinic. The nonprofit also provides case managers who assist clients with finding employment and housing

CELEBRATION BENEFITS MISSION HOUSE

by JENNIFER LOGUE















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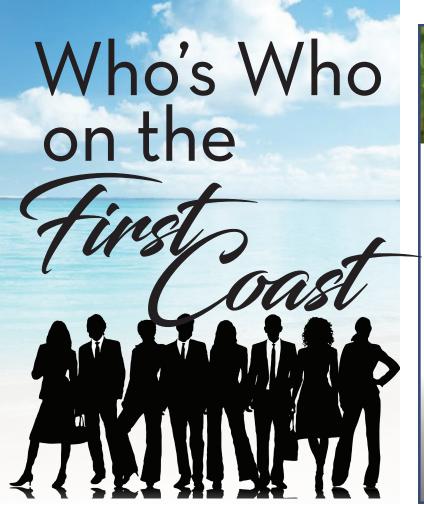
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INAUGURAL BEACHES TOUR OF HOMES SHOWCASES ATLANTIC AND NEPTUNE BEACH ARCHITECTURE

by CARRIE RESCH

The Dune Houses, the Atlantic Beach Lifeguard Station and another iconic Atlantic Beach home designed by the late Jacksonville architect William Morgan were among the featured destinations in the inaugural Beaches Tour of Homes Sept. 17.

Beaches Town Center Agency (BTCA) board members Susan Hughes and co-chair Stevan Schwartzenberger saw the Beaches Tour of Homes as an opportunity to raise funds for the nonprofit agency that works for the improvement of the Atlantic and Neptune Beach central business district. Some of the items the agency supports are beautification projects, artwork, way-finding signs, bike racks and holiday decorations that the agency pays for on behalf of the Beaches Town Center business district.

Hughes says she was inspired by a historic house tour in Shaker Heights, Ohio, where she once lived. That home tour was used as a fundraiser for the public schools. Locally, she was inspired by the annual Riverside Avondale Preservation Home Tour that raises funds for Riverside Avondale Preservation, a historic preservation organization.

"I realized that in Neptune and Atlantic Beach we have a plethora of historic, artistic, eclectic homes, and particularly those on the beach or often hidden from public view," Hughes says. "I was sure that we could make an effective home tour with all these jewels at our fingertips."

One of the objectives of the home tour was to pay homage to Morgan, who died early this year. Three of Morgan's designs the Williamson House in Ponte Vedra Beach, his Atlantic Beach residence and Dickenson Hall at the University of Florida - are included on the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects list of Florida's top 100 buildings. Morgan's credits also include the Police Administration Building, the Museum of Science and History (MOSH), and the Beach Church, formerly Beach United Methodist Church.

Two of his more famous homes - 1927 Beachside Court in Atlantic Beach, often referred to as the "Grandy House" by locals; and the "Dune Houses" at 143 Beach Avenue, Atlantic Beach - as well as the Morgan-designed Atlantic Beach Lifeguard Station made up three of the eight home tour destinations.

Mediterranean, contemporary and beach cottage style were among the different home styles represented in the home tour, which included a total of five Atlantic Beach homes, two Neptune Beach homes and the lifeguard station.

With more than 300 tickets sold for the inaugural home tour, organizers hope to make the tour an annual event as popular as its other events, including Dancin' in the Street, held for the past 30 years in the streets surrounding the Beaches Town Center.

"We felt a tour of homes would bring in a very different demographic from the typically under-35s of Dancin' In the Street or the family-centric [Beaches Town Center] fall and holiday festivals while creating something that can become, we hope, a wellanticipated annual event for the behalf of the Beaches Town Center Agency's work," Hughes says.



The two mirror units known as the Dune Homes located at 143 Beach Ave. in Atlantic Beach, were designed by William Morgan and built in 1975. Each of the two units has 760 square feet of living space with the main living at ground level and lofted bedroom and en-suite bath. Renovations which included adding powder rooms to the ground floors; mechanical, plumbing and electrical upgrades as well as the additions of wooden walkways on either side; a platform deck and landscaping, began in 2013 and were completed in 2015 by the new owners.



Originally built in 1938 and redesigned in the late 1960s, 1725 Beach Ave., Atlantic Beach, also known as the "Watson House," is a cedar shake beach home owned by Karen and Don Wolfson. A native of Jacksonville, Don Wolfson served as mayor of Atlantic Beach in 2006 and 2007. Karen Wolfson is a retired educator who currently works at Red Daisy at the Beaches Town Center. The Wolfsons made their own renovations after acquiring the house, including enlarging the guest bathroom, updating the master bedroom and adding windows and sliding glass doors to the playroom.



Another William Morgan-designed home, 1927 Beachside Court, Atlantic Beach, also referred to as the "Grandy House" by locals, was constructed in 1989/90 using all natural materials such as wood, glass and coquina - a style inspired by South Pacific and Balinese design which involved the use of native materials in order to bring the outside in. Renovations and cosmetic updates which include new bathrooms, a new kitchen, a swimming pool and garden were added by the current owners who purchased the home in 2008. A unique feature of the home is a balcony accessed by a spiral staircase in the master bedroom which is the highest point in Atlantic Beach, offering 360 degree views of the area.



1633 SELVA MARINA DRIVE

Located across the street from the Atlantic Beach Country Club, the American Colonial style home located at 1633 Selva Marina Drive, Atlantic Beach was built in the 1960s and purchased by its current owners, Kari and Alan Ferguson, in 2005. A swimming pool, fire pit and outdoor kitchen were added by the current owners as was a new master bedroom suite and family room. The inside of the home is a contemporary open floor plan. One of the original homes built on Selva Marina Drive, the home is situated on a large lot, a special feature of all Selva Marina Drive Homes.



A carriage house obscures the view of 631 Beach Ave., Atlantic Beach, a Beach Cottage Style home that has undergone a complete renovation. The home, built in 1923, has the designation of being one of the original beach homes in "Old Atlantic Beach." The main home sits oceanfront. An 18-month renovation included the addition of a third floor and the removal of the original staircase, which obstructed ocean views. A two-bath apartment was added above the garage. The courtyard houses a salt water pool, spa and summer kitchen.



1912 NIGHTFALL DRIVE

Overlooking the Intracoastal, the recently completed home located at 1912 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, is a sustainable home, built with the latest green technology and is completely off the grid. Homeowners Daryl and Karin Grubbs built the current home on the spot of an existing home - built in 1961 in order to design their dream home, a Mediterranean-style 6,400 square foot Energy Star rated home.





2112 FIRST ST.

The two-story contemporary style home located at 2112 First St., Neptune Beach was just completed and includes a rooftop garden - inspired by the rooftop deck at Black Sheep Restaurant in Five Points - that overlooks the ocean. The home was constructed with the latest in green, sustainable products including ICF wall technology, hollow core concrete planks for the floors and roof, and oversized picture windows.



ATLANTIC BEACH LIFEGUARD STATION

The Atlantic Beach Lifeguard Station located on Ahern Street between First Street and Atlantic Boulevard is also a William Morgan-designed structure. Completed in 2000, The two-story, 400-square foot building includes an enclosed air-conditioned room with a shower, toilet and lifeguard equipment storage on the second floor and a rooftop deck.





Historical Society honors Beach Degends at annual gala by JENNIFER LOGUE



The TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse was the setting for the Beaches Area Historical Society's 2016 Beach Legends gala.

Held Sept. 23, the sold-out event to benefit the historical society's programs and activities attracted hundreds of local residents to honor six individuals who have invested their time and talents in the Beaches community. This year's honorees included the Rev. Don and Barbara Lynn, who were recognized for their respective roles serving as senior chaplain at Baptist Medical Center Beaches and preschool director at Community Presbyterian Church; Captain George Strate, skipper of the Miss Mayport and Mayport Princess; longtime teacher, coach and school board member Coach John "Wimpy" Sutton; Leslie Weed, co-founder of Healing Every Autistic Life (HEAL); and Tom Wood, the longtime publisher of the Beaches Leader.

"This type of event allows us to celebrate those people who have given so much to the Beaches," board member Bruce Barber says. "(The honorees) truly give so much – they are the history of the Beaches."

Guest Toni Boudreaux agrees. "It's great to be recognizing all these wonderful pillars

of the community," she says.

In addition to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, guests enjoyed a dinner that included a "Ponte Vedra" salad of mixed greens, baby lettuce with pears, candied pecans, crumbled blue cheese and balsamic vinaigrette followed by seared breast of chicken with Mayport shrimp and shiitake mushroom sauce and sweet and salty caramel pie. Attendees also had an opportunity to bid on a wide variety of silent and live auction items, with the longtime "voice of the Jaguars" Brian Sexton serving as event emcee.

This year's gala marked the historical society's third "Beach Legends" event, which began in 2013 and has become a highly anticipated event.

"It's a lovely evening," board member Jacqueline Williams says. "It's really the start of the social season."

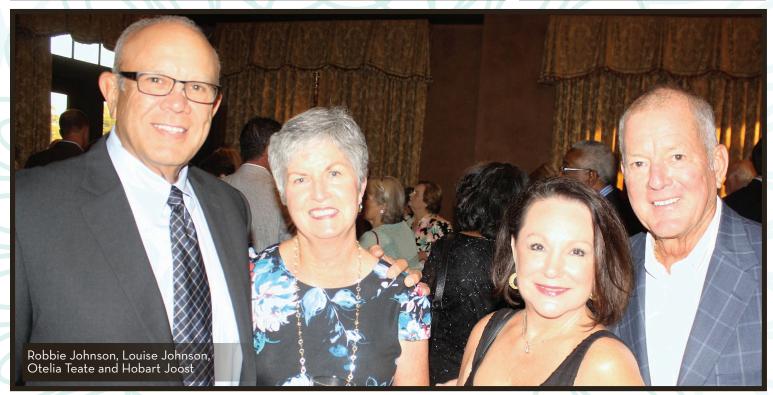
The gala also fulfills another role said Helen Coppedge, who along with Walter Dickinson was the evening's presenting sponsor.

"This event is important," she says, "because it increases awareness of the historical society."

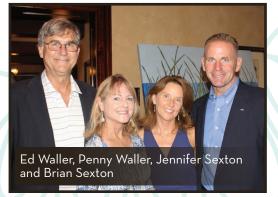














Steeped in history, the First Coast has no shortage of ghostly tales and paranormal occurrences. Two of the most arguably haunted areas of the First Coast, Amelia Island and St. Augustine, have capitalized on the spiritual beyond with tours and accounts of the unknown. Halloween is traditionally the time of year to hone in on things that go bump in the night, but many of the area's tours are offered throughout the year, which is good news because they can fill up fast during the busiest time of year for ghosts and goblins. Beyond tours, haunted homes, bed and breakfasts and inns such as the Amelia Island Williams House and the St. Francis Inn. co-exist with purported paranormal guests year-round.





his tour strolls the historic district of Fernandina Beach which consists of 52 plus blocks of historic buildings, churches, schools, and private residences. Guests will hear intriguing stories about past residents who lived and died in Fernandina Beach. Offered every Friday, the all-ages ghost tour begins at 6 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour. The tour begins at the cemetery behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 801 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and may be purchased at the Amelia Island Museum of History located at 233 St. Third St., Fernandina Beach prior to the tour or from the guide (cash or check only). For more information, visit www. ameliamuseum.org.



One of the oldest houses **Fernandina** Beach. the Williams House was occupied by the Williams family for more than 100 years. A few visitors over the years have purported to see apparitions or hear the laughter of "happy spirits," who many believe may be leftover partygoers from large galas and events the Williams family used to throw. Located at 103 S. 9th St., the house has operated as a bed and breakfast since 1994, and is one of the stops on the Amelia Island Museum of History Ghost Tour.



St. Augustine's oldest inn, the St. Francis has been included in a laundry list of haunted history books, including "Florida's Ghostly Legends and Haunted Folklore" by Greg Jenkins and "Haunted Inns of America" by Terry L. Smith and Mark Jean. Paranormal investigators have also visited the inn, including an investigator with Left Field Paranormal Studies & Investigations who conducted several studies of paranormal activity at the property. The St. Francis Inn website page has an entire section devoted to purported "inn ghosts" that tells the tale of a tragic love story between the nephew of former owner Major William Hardee and "Lily," one of the young black "Lily," one of the young black servant girls. Forbidden to see Lily, the nephew reportedly killed himself after she was sent away.



Dark of the Moon guided ghost tour at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum has been featured on TAPS/Ghost Hunters, CNN, Fox News and The Weather Channel. Visitors will learn the history of the 1880s Keepers' House, including the paranormal experiences of previous guests and staff, and climb the 219 steps of the 1874 Lighthouse Tower to get a nighttime view of St. Augustine and hear more ghostly tales. Limited space is available. Reserve tickets online at www. staugustinelighthouse.com or by calling (904) 829-0745.



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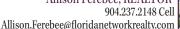
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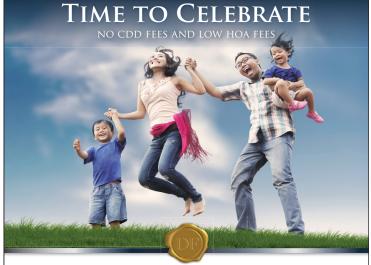




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Nocatee's Splash Water Park lit up the night Sept. 24, when the master-planned community held its popular semi-annual "Nocatee Uncorked" wine tasting event.

Five hundred tickets were available for the sold-out event, which gave Nocatee residents opportunity to sample nearly 60 different wines while enjoying appetizers, bands and entertainment in two different sections of the water park amid palm trees bedecked with lights. Attendees had a chance to learn something about each wine from wine experts such as Steve Lourie, who along with wife, Shawn, served samples from their newly opened Nocatee shop, Coastal Wine Market & tasting room.

"This event has proven to be so popular," Nocatee Community Manager David Ray said. "The water park in the evening is just so beautiful and we wanted to have an adult-focused event that took advantage of that."

Initially intended to be an annual event, Ray noted, the

inaugural "Nocatee Uncorked" was so successful that the community decided to hold it twice a year.

While many guests reported being regular attendees at "Nocatee Uncorked," several were new residents who had recently moved to Nocatee, which currently ranks as the third fastest-growing master-planned community in the nation. They gave both the event and the Nocatee community as a whole high marks.

"We love it here," said Carol Bogue, whose family recently moved from Massachusetts to Nocatee, settling in the Cypress Trails neighborhood.

Michael and Jan Pierre recently moved to Nocatee's Kelly Pointe neighborhood after living in Orlando and Maryland.

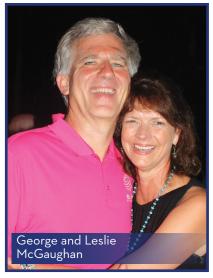
"This is so much better than Baltimore," Jan Pierre said, praising the number of events and activities Nocatee offers residents.

Her husband agreed. "We have two little kids and it's just been great."



Christine Moloney, Betsy Wegeman, Jane













St. Augustine Distillery gives the First Coast something to toast

by JASMINE MARSHALL

Philip McDaniel has made himself no stranger to St. Augustine's creative endeavors, beginning with his involvement in advancing the arts in the 25 years he's called the Ancient City home.

The 59-year-old assisted with the establishment of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and helped build two skate parks and a cultural art center in the historic city, paying kindness forward for what he described as the "blessing" of being part of such a nurturing community.

"I did a lot of things to try to give back because I felt blessed with good fortune," McDaniel said. "And eventually, we started thinking of ... looking at other ways we could have an impact."

Inspiration came in the form of a 2010 Portland trade show, where McDaniel saw firsthand the fruits borne of the craft brewing industry. Witnessing those businesses take the next step by crafting spirits and having grown excited at the prospect of bringing the scene to North Florida, McDaniel and a group of partners set about finding a place to house the concept.

McDaniel enthusiastically took on the task of bringing artisanal spirits to the First Coast. The co-founder and CEO of St. Augustine Distillery had come out of an early retirement with a dream that sent him across the country: Stops in Portland, Louisville and New York, among others, offered insight into a burgeoning network of businesses that had taken off in recent years. The search eventually led them to the historic FP&L Ice Plant, St. Augustine's first power and ice complex.

Now, just six years after the idea was conceptualized, the distillery leads countless guided tours each day, and tops travel guide lists yearly. Most recently, it was awarded a certificate of excellence from TripAdvisor, and is currently ranked number one

of 164 "things to do in St. Augustine" on the site. The distillery also enjoys a reputation as a nightspot and popular tourist destination nationwide.

But McDaniel insists he never intended for the establishment to become such a popular hangout, instead hoping it would serve as an educational experience where guests could learn about the capabilities of a Floridian distillery.

"My hope and dream was that it would become a destination for education and inspiration for people who wanted to learn about making distilled spirits," he said. "Just a decade ago there were only 50 distilleries in the country. Today there's over 900 and within the next 10 years there will be over 2,500. It's an industry that's experiencing sort of a renaissance period, and I wanted this distillery to be a place where people can learn what Florida can make."

In turn, McDaniel said, he hopes the distillery can offer an experience where people can get excited about supporting locally made products and inspire other businesses to take a chance.

But the opportunity to do so hasn't been without its challenges.

The team soon found themselves "pioneering" a movement in Florida after learning what limits were in place at the time. Prior to the passing of HB 347, micro-distilleries were mandated by a "threetier distribution" system wherein producers were required to sell to wholesalers who would in turn sell to retail. After Gov. Rick Scott signed HB 347, the state's craft distilleries were given the right to

sell locally made vodka, rum, and whiskey to the public without the three-tier system in place.

McDaniel, chairman of the Florida Craft











with legislatures to improve conditions for Floridian distilleries. Though establishments in the state still face a limit of a maximum of two bottles per year per customer, he's relieved to be making progress toward a lasting impact.

"Over time, I'd definitely like to see craft distilleries in the state have the same rights and privileges as others, and we'll continue to advocate for that," he said. "I definitely feel that we've been at the forefront in helping Florida become competitive nationally."

According to McDaniel, the facility is currently the largest craft distillery in America. Its recently launched Florida Double Cask Bourbon was the first bourbon to be put into barrels in Florida since Prohibition. The bourbon has since sold out, but McDaniel expects more product to be available in November.

In light of its success, McDaniel is optimistic about the future of the distillery and thankful for the support it has received along the

We've been able to rewrite history, taking locally grown agriculture and turning it into world-renowned spirit in the first commercial ice plant built in the state of Florida," he said. "And we really just want to let the community know how incredibly grateful we are for their support in making it happen. The success and ability to create new jobs, purchase Florida agriculture, save the building ... never could've happened if we didn't have the business and support of everyone in North Florida from Ponte Vedra Beach to Jacksonville. The best is yet to come."

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A ride along the coast on the A1A Cocktail Trail



St. Augustine Distillery Founder Philip McDaniel's commitment to supporting local businesses doesn't end in St. Augustine. He also conceived of the newly launched "A1A Cocktail Trail," a collaborative effort between the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC), the local visitors and convention bureau (VCB) and the St. Augustine Distillery. The program includes eight restaurants along the stretch of road from St. Augustine Beach to Jacksonville Beach where participants may enjoy cocktails prepared with St. Augustine Distillery spirits and fresh orange and grapefruit juice. At each location, the participant's Cocktail Trail "passport" - available at Florida Welcome Centers and participating bars and restaurants - receives a stamp. Once the passport has been filled with stamps at every location, it can be redeemed for a Cocktail Trail t-shirt and branded wooden coaster set.

Participating bars and restaurants include North Beach Fish Camp in Neptune Beach; Ragtime Tavern Seafood & Grill in Atlantic Beach; Hoptinger in Jacksonville Beach; Cap's On the Water and The Reef in Vilano Beach; and Odd Birds, The Floridian and A1A Ale Works in downtown St. Augustine. For more information about the program, visit www.a1acocktailtrail.com.



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Step inside this "Millionaire's Hideaway" and experience the perfect synergy of luxury and comfort in this custom-designed European inspired estate. Enjoy spectacular marsh front views on Harbour Island, a prestigious one-of-a-kind yacht club community tucked inside the gates of Marsh Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Launch your boat or yacht from your private 40-foot boat slip. See the beauty that surrounds you every day from the marsh to the waterway, just minutes to the beautiful Atlantic with five private oceanfront clubs. Feel the flow of the open floor plan from the soaring ceilings, Italian marble stone floors and generous living and dining areas. The craftsmanship is abundant in this 5,150 square foot home with 4 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths, office, three balconies, enclosed courtyard and elevator.

New to the market, this stunning home has been updated, with a new design that reveals the spacious open living and dining areas. The colors are soothing, the space is welcoming and the flow from throughout this classic home makes perfect sense. There is no wasted space!

As you enter the fover, on your right is a flawless study showcasing its completely built-in rich, wood-tone cabinets, bookshelves and cypress pecky wood ceiling. The tropical screened lanai tucked inside the home features a beautiful fountain and offers the buyer space to install a custom pool.

The dining room is a splendid space, open for entertaining, and features a custom built-in china, buffet cabinet or wine library with wrought-iron doors.

At the center of the home is the beautifully appointed great room with vaulted wood ceilings, Italian saturna stone floors and exquisite wrought-iron chandelier. A true marriage of grandeur and tranquility with stunning views, soaring ceilings and the most comfortable sofa from J. Turner and Co... it's all in the details!

"Glorious Rising," a painting commissioned by celebrated artist Susan Woodburn, hangs prominently over the sofa and invites you to sit down, relax and enjoy the views of the Cabbage Creek marsh and the Ponte Vedra lifestyle.

This magnificent painting will be part of a fundraiser for the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, with a unique raffle that will take place in December. Along with the painting will be the gorgeous rug designed by Joanna Gaines, co-owner, co-founder and lead designer of Magnolia Home and star along with husband Chip in HGTV's "Fixer Upper." Donated by J. Turner and Co. in Ponte

Vedra Beach, the rug is fresh and timeless. J. Turner and Co. has the Northeast Florida exclusive rights to the entire rug collection!

Just off of the great room is the magnificent "chef's kitchen." The cabinets and kitchen layout were designed by former owner and designer June Terry. With great attention to detail, this distinctive kitchen and gathering room includes granite counters, stone backsplash and state of the art stainless appliances from a fiveburner Dacor gas stove to an 11-foot island. The gathering room encourages you to lounge on the sofa around the table and enjoy the marsh views from the expansive windows.

The master bedroom and sitting room on the first floor has a luxurious bath, separate vanities, walk-in shower and immense closet. The bathroom showcases another work of artist Susan Woodburn with her painting of a white orchid in coastal hues.

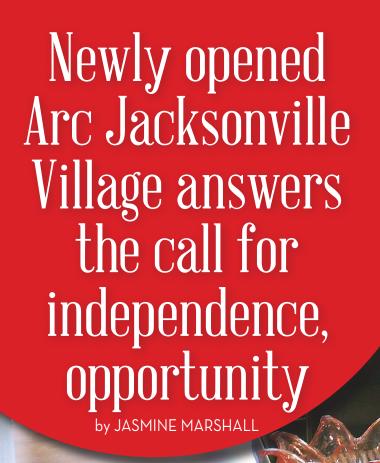
Another bedroom and bath for guests (split for privacy) is located downstairs. An elevator makes it easy to enjoy both levels. Upstairs is a game room and media room along with two additional bedrooms and baths. Each room takes advantage of the tidal marsh views. Step across to the Intracoastal yacht basin to your very own 40-foot boat dock. Enjoy the waterway, peaceful marsh sunset views, and the abundant birdlife that this serene setting offers.

Marsh landing Country Club was created in 1985 by Ponte Vedra's own "property brothers" Jerome and Paul Fletcher. The Fletchers placed a major emphasis on the conservation and preservation of the environment that included tidal marshes, natural lakes, ponds and a wide variety of native trees.

They executed their plan beautifully and today, 30 years later, this pristine environment is host to wildlife such as ospreys, egrets, heron, deer and of course, residents!

Believed by many to be "the best neighborhood connecting Jacksonville to the Atlantic Ocean," Marsh Landing Country Club features a private 18-hole golf course designed by Ed Seay of Arnold Palmer Course design. The par 72 course winds through some of the most scenic marshes and groves, connecting sport to nature in a nod to the biodiversity of the environment.

Welcome home to 24578 Harbour View Drive, a lovingly maintained exquisite estate. The property is listed by Janet Westling and Allison Ferebee and is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. It is offered for \$1,500,000.

















Amid the local building boom of new communities cropping up across the First Coast, The Arc Jacksonville Village stands out.

The 32-acre plot of land housing a neighborhood and community center for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) first opened its doors in April, boasting a total of 95 resident apartments, on-site activities and a slew of sleek utilities that aimed to be the first of its kind. The community also aims to set a new standard, one that The Arc Jacksonville team hopes will become a "national model" in residencies promoting independence and inclusion for people with I/DD.

The community is the result of more than a decade of hoping and planning spurred by the shared dream of The Arc Jacksonville's team, its participants and their parents, according to Vice President of The Arc Jacksonville Village Crystal Makowski.

'The Arc Jacksonville Village has been a dream in the making for over 10 years," Makowski said. "It's the ultimate dream of the parents of children with I/DD to have great longevity, a place where they can live and grow to their fullest potential."

A NEW MODEL

That place is what Makowski calls a "community of communities" that fosters an independent lifestyle, civic engagement and a place to call home. The distinction is fundamental, Makowski noted, as The Village provides apartment-style living that provides the same freedoms as any other residence to encourage inclusion and greater community integration.

"We want people to know that The Village is not a glorified group home - it's not a "special" city or a facility or an institution, but a complex," she said. "We want to fulfill the need for inclusiveness, for developing friendships and living independently."

The Village itself consists of a fitness center, restaurant, snack bar, movie theater, work- and game room in addition to its pool, garden and outdoor sport areas. Its one- and two-bedroom rental apartments feature porches, individual bedrooms and bathrooms, kitchen and dining areas, as well as a washer and dryer, energyefficient appliances and emergency and fire suppression systems. According to Jim Whittaker, The Arc Jacksonville president and CEO, the community's services and utilities were carefully planned to facilitate the lifestyle the organization hopes all of its residents can achieve.

"The Arc Jacksonville Village is an innovative independent living community, which enables individuals to take that next step to participate fully in the broader community and showcase their abilities," Whittaker said. "Finding a job, paying rent and taxes, meeting new friends and exploring the community are all important ingredients of being independent."

FILLING THE GAP

Made possible by a \$22.2 million capital campaign (including a \$1 million endowment), the neighborhood was developed on land donated by the Hodges family to benefit people living with disabilities. As an extension of The Arc Jacksonville's services, The Village puts the foundation's mission into action by providing affordable housing options based on eligibility, with rent starting as low as \$250 for some units. In doing so, Makowski said. The Village offers a solution for an overlooked demographic of people with I/DD.

"Affordability was a top priority for us because we wanted to answer a grave concern in the area, especially as many of our residents' parents are aging," she said, noting that statistically, people with I/DD are among the least employed group of disabled persons. "A large number of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live below the poverty line. Many depend on social security and live on a budget - and it's extremely difficult to find affordable housing in a safe area where there's convenient enough transportation and shopping, where they can live a fulfilling life."

LOOKING FORWARD

That commitment brings peace of mind to The Village residents and their parents. Carolyn Funaro, whose daughter Emily will begin living on her own for the first time, said there were too many benefits to count.

"I couldn't possibly choose just one good thing about this community," she said. "But I'm especially thrilled about (Emily) being able to have that sense of independence, and for her to make and develop friendships."

Resident Alexa Christine Morici shared in that excitement, citing the social element as the greatest benefit.

"I like everything about it - I get to meet new people and make new friends and go to different places," said Morici, who will move into a unit where she'll have a roommate for the first time. "I want to start volunteering here in the community and I've already signed up for a few things."

In keeping with the foundation's mission to guide participants toward sustainability, 41 residents are currently employed in and around the community in businesses such as Publix and at The Village itself. Nearly 30 attend the foundation's Xplore experiential learning program, which includes sessions for employment readiness, volunteering, wellness and financial planning, and several attend the neighborhood's Friday night Club East events each week. The community's mission is bolstered with the help of a schedule that includes social events, themed Club East parties, karaoke and dinner games.

"The ultimate goal is for our residents to really self-actualize to the fullest of their potential, whether that's through employment, education or recreation," Makowski said, "and for them to be able to choose where and how they want to live and define their own lifestyle."

The Arc Jacksonville Village is currently at capacity with its residents, but interested parties may submit a survey for consideration to be placed on a wait list. Volunteer opportunities are also available. To learn more about eligibility, volunteering and The Arc Jacksonville services, visit www.arcjacksonville.org.

A CCACA By CARRIE RESCH











Lightner Museum employees Megan Mosley, Charla Adcock and Chloe Medina with Karin Sufalko of 57 Treasury, who provided flowers for the event.







Lightner Museum provided the backdrop for St. Augustine Fashion Week: MODA Alcazar, where modern fashion and the nation's oldest city intertwined for three nights of fashion.

The

Held Sept. 14-16 as part of fashion week, the event featured dozens of models who sauntered down the 170-foot runway that wrapped around the museum's second floor, displaying the spring and summer 2017 collections from nearly 20 boutiques and designers. Shops and designers represented included SALENCE, Shirley Elle' House of Fashion, Rochelle's Clothing, Halle Elizabeth, Short Dog Jewelry Design, Apricot Lane Boutique, Bine & Bas, Global Island Treasures, Elizabeth Graham, Erin Healy, J.T. Vinson Clothier, Chabri, Bettie's Wardrobe, Lydia Anne Clothing, Fulani Hand Bags and Sara LaPlante.

A handful of designers were featured each of the three evenings, and each night, guests wined and dined prior to making their way upstairs for a night of fun and fashion. Cocktails and appetizers were served poolside – or more precisely inside - the former Alcazar Hotel's indoor swimming pool, the current home of Café Alcazar.

The event was hosted by Adrienne Le Brum Houghton, U.S./U.K. fashion broker and regional director of Fashion Group International, who has made guest appearances as a fashion expert on "The Chat," a local afternoon talk show on NBC12 and ABC25.

Fashion week kicked off Sept. 12 with a red carpet event and showing of "Dior and I" at the nearby Corazon Cinema and Café followed by the STAFW MODA Alcazar Preview Party Sept. 13 at the Casa Monica Resort & Spa. The event concluded with a Sept. 17 designer showroom, also held at the Casa Monica, where guests perused the fashions and mingled with the designers themselves.

STAFW founder Brittany Alphonso is a St. Augustine native who has more than seven years of fashion design experience and is a local designer of Banana Bread Baby, a children's clothing line. She participated in six runway events across the country before launching the premier St. Augustine Fashion Week March 4-6, 2016 STAFW "Runway on the Runway" event at the St. Augustine Airport Authority Conference Center.

MODA Alcazar followed the successful inaugural event which was a sell-out each night. Intended to establish St. Augustine as a presence in the fashion industry as well as create a platform for small-brand designers to showcase their latest collections, STAFW also aims to raise awareness and funds for local charities and nonprofit organizations.

Proceeds from MODA Alcazar will benefit the St. Augustine Art Association Tactile Art Show, an exhibit of all touchable art for the blind to be held in October as well as the Lightner Museum. The inaugural fashion week event benefited Alpha Omega Miracle Home, ASSIST of St. Johns County School District and The Betty Griffin House.









What makes a home distinctive?

by GLENN D. HETTINGER, AIA, ICAA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLENN HETTINGER. "DISTINCTIVE HOMES OF AMERICA"

If you publish a series of coffee table books titled "Distinctive Homes Of America." like I do, then you get asked a lot, "What makes a home distinctive?"

First, what does "Webster's Dictionary" say?

Distinctive: adj. Serving to distinguish or set apart from others. Distinct: adj. 1. Distinguishable from all others; 2. Easily perceived; clear; 3. Clearly defined; unquestionable.

What do I say?

I use "distinctive" to describe homes with unique character, typically designed by an architect as one-of-a-kind. If you invested weeks of driving, walking and boating around gorgeous communities like Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; or Naples, Florida, as I have, these homes would stand out as being different in a positive way, and that is the key. Many homes and objects are different, but often they are different in an ugly way. So, while distinctive can apply to beauty and the beast, I use it to describe beautiful homes.

I am all about preserving and celebrating the distinctive homes of America wherever I find them. I'm a residential architect who seeks out the opportunities to photograph distinctive American homes. I don't care if the homes are quaint or bold, tiny or gargantuan, historic or leading edge, urban or country – just so they are distinctive.

Some homes are distinctive because of their uniqueness, but most are award-winning designs, spectacular and/or grand. Together, they provide a plethora of home design ideas and details worth imitating.

How do I choose 40 to 60 homes to feature in my books from hundreds of distinctive homes in unique resort communities? The number one common thread is that all of the homes look great and look like they were designed by a talented architect. All of the homes are tastefully designed, with sensitivity to their client's program, site constraints, timing, budget, and attention to proportions and details.

Other considerations include: Are they considered the most beautiful homes? ... the best designed homes? ... the best representative of a certain architectural style? ...the most unique homes? ...or the homes with the most unusual history?

I deliberately vary the home sizes in my books from large estates to small cottages. I don't want to mislead anyone into thinking that only grand homes can be distinctive. I've photographed some of the most distinctive homes in all sorts of architectural styles that were no bigger than 1,600 square feet. The money to build a 20,000 square foot home is no guarantee of quality or a design that is different in a positive way. There is no limit to the poor taste that can be designed and built into distinctively ugly homes.

I also include a mix of architectural styles in my books so there are not too many of any one style. I think the same should be done in a community to make the most interesting and distinctive neighborhoods. An attractive mix of Palladian, Mediterranean, Craftsman, Shingle, Contemporary, Beach and Tropical Cottage, and Classic Revival styles can be charming. These types of neighborhoods are a target-rich environment of photogenic subjects for my type of lavishly illustrated tabletop books.

I don't select just new or just old homes. I vary the age of the homes from historic to just completed. No age has a lock on the most distinctively beautiful homes or the most distinctively ugly homes - although the 1950s and 1970s homes sure have a plethora of distinctively uglies.

Interior design is equally important to the architecture. A distinctive home should be just as refined and tasteful inside as the outside suggests that it will be. That's why I never decide on a featured home just from its exterior. I have had some rude awakenings upon seeing some interiors after "judging the book just by its cover." As Sarah Susanka, author of the best-selling book "Creating the Not So Big House" advises, "Design a home that values quality over quantity and that emphasizes comfort, beauty, and a high level of detail inside and out." And then, I will add, you will have a distinctive home that is different in a positive way.



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Party in the lots a tailgating guide by JASMINE by JASMINE MARSHALL

Certain things mark the fall season year after year in Northeast Florida: the crunch of sparse leaves on the ground, a marginal drop in temperature, a sudden crop of pumpkin patches in every church parking lot all make for the beginnings of autumn. And one thing is for certain: There will be football, and lots of it.

Tailgating is all but a birthright for Floridians, who spend the better part of each year braving sweltering heat and throwing food on the grill for reasons as unremarkable as "it's not as hot as it was yesterday." And with football season underway, it stands to reason that an age-old tradition will be in full effect for the rest of the season.

But tailgating is not to be taken lightly. The seasoned tailgater knows there are steps to take and things to consider for a party without a hitch. For all the makings of the perfect party, consider these "best tailgating practices" throughout the season.

Look for a "venue." A good parking spot is one of the most important things to consider on game day. When thousands of tailgaters are gathered in one place, time, space and patience can quickly wear thin. Try to look for spots next to non-parking spots, such as grassy patches, pavement or by big trees, where the party will have room to breathe and seek shade should the weather err on the sweltering side. Jaguars fans can tailgate in any of the parking lots near EverBank Field where gameday parking is permitted, and tailgatingspecific lots maintained by Tailgaters Parking can even be reserved for upcoming games online at www.tailgatersparking.com for as little as \$30. In addition, reserved spots can be purchased at Tailgate Bar and Grill (www.tailgatebarandgrill.com), and the Jacksonville Jaguars Booster Club invites guests to join the Official JJBC Gameday Tailgate Party before each home game in the lot to the west of EverBank Field.

Consider the amenities guests may need (such as an ATM, a bathroom, drinking fountains, wheelchair accessible areas) and walking distance to and from the stadium when choosing a spot.

Ration time wisely. Patience and planning are key in any tailgating event. Parking is at a premium during games - and as with any other limited space, no one can justifiably expect the "good spots" (or any spots at all) to be available at the last minute. Free up the entire day to get to the tailgating location at least three hours before

the game. Likewise, plan to spend at least an hour in the area after the final score to make it through a caravan of pickup trucks, SUVs and RVs loaded with "12th men," tents, tables and chairs that will all be leaving the lot at once. Tailgaters are the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Know the rules. Be considerate of neighboring tailgaters, gamegoers, and lot and stadium rules. Some lots may ask that guests refrain from doing things such as throwing footballs, burning open pit fires and soliciting. Make sure that all party-goers are aware of the rules, and when it's over, leave the area as clean as it was found.

Shop local. Jacksonville has no shortage of local craft breweries to see the city through the tailgating season. Really Good Beer Shop (RGBS) Co-owner Tim Brack recommends looking closeby.

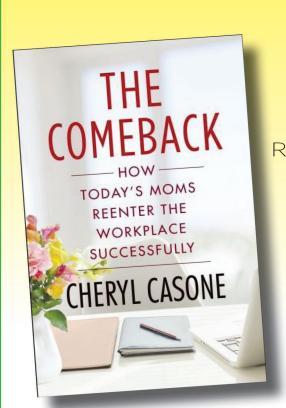
"It's always good to support local businesses, and the Beaches community is brimming with them," Brack said. "But choosing locally gives you the added benefit of being able to pick and choose and to try new things."

RGBS offers a sponsored tailgating option of "multi-packs" of beer inside of a carrier for people who want to try a variety of locally-made beers without committing to a 6- or 12-pack on game day. In addition, Brack says, many people look to seasonal flavors during October and mix the cooler with light pilsners, lagers and session IPA's.

Plan the menu. The typical offerings of hot dogs, nachos, and other premade dips and foods won't require a ton of preparation or time, but foods intended to be made at the event will need extra consideration. Some dishes - especially meats - can require as many as two days prior to hitting the grill to marinate. If game day is Saturday, have meats coated and Ziploc'd by Thursday evening. During the event, aim to have food ready before kick-off to give guests attending the game time to clean up and leave.

Show those stripes! Or spots, or whatever the case may be. The unwritten law of tailgating is showing team spirit. Incorporate team colors into cups, plates and attire.

Likewise, extend that spirit into good sportsmanship. Meet tailgating "neighbors," respect the boundaries of the lot and help make the tailgating experience an event everyone can enjoy.



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