FIRETTI BUILDERS, INC.

- 16 YEARS BUILDING IN ST. JAMES PLANTATION
- 2016 DIAMOND AWARD WINNER
- FURNISHED MODEL HOME IN THE RESERVE
- JOIN US FOR THE PARADE OF HOMES, OCTOBER 20-22ND & 27-29TH
- VISIT OUR 2017 PARADE HOME AT 3942 WYNDMERE DRIVE

www.firettibuilders.com | 910.477.6018
ON THE COVER: 
“Fall bounty”
(photo by John Muuss)

CONTRIBUTORS
Fred Ammann
Virginia Brown
Jim Carey
Becky Dus
Bill Eberle
Beth Erskine
Jack Eyler
Linda Eyler
Melanie Fitzpatrick
Kiki Forsythe
Tish Gordon
Jerry Iverson
Michael Kasavana
Amanda Kiel
Beth Klahre
Barbara Lemos
Gina Mancinelli
Rick Margin
John Muuss
Chris Nicholas
Beth Nilsen
Stuart Pike
Genna Porter
Roberta Pukala
Judy Rubin
Marilyn Rudolph
Stacey Saveth
Cheryl L. Serra
Barbara White

WHAT’S INSIDE
4 POA President’s column
5 Town of St. James
6 SJFD: Fire safety maintenance

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
7 Carolina gardening
9 To be or not to be - SaaS
11 Community spirit through gardening
12 Clubs Advisory Committee
13 Architectural FAQs: Home modifications
14 From the Cat-Tales archives
15 St. James Service Club
15 St. James by the numbers

INSIDE THE COMMUNITY
17 Kid Leo rocks on
19 St. James Activities Committee
21 The Artisans’ Corner
23 50 ways to meet another
25 The Great American Eclipse of 2017
27 American Legion
29 Security: You’re in good hands
31 Master gardening

AROUND THE AREA
32 Wishing and hoping and waiting
34 Pockets of color
37 Behind the scenes
39 10 Minutes to Thailand, Part 2
40 Cameron Art Museum

JUST RIGHT FOR NOW
43 Table for one?
44 The garages of St. James
45 Trick or Treat

STAFF
Please email photos, articles and comments to cattaleseditor@gmail.com
Submit address changes to POA

EDITOR
Arthur Hill
MANAGING EDITOR
Cheryl L. Serra
ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Linda Eyler
Marilyn Rudolph
Robyn Smith
PHOTO EDITOR
John Muuss
ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR
Judy Wagner
POA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR
Linda Eyler

PRINTER/ADVERTISING
Coastal Printing & Graphics
Advertising: 910-754-5929
CatTales@atmc.net

Cat-Tales is published monthly by the St. James Plantation Property Owners’ Association (POA) of St. James, North Carolina to communicate information of interest to its property owners. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without permission from the publisher (POA). The views and opinions of the writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect that of the POA. Per the POA communications policy, the POA does not endorse commercial products, services, or does not publish advertorial, partisan political or religious belief articles.
In this month’s column, I would like to provide property owners insight into our Reserve Fund. The Master Declaration (Article IV, Section 7) authorizes the POA to establish reserve funds for (1) major repairs; (2) emergency repairs resulting from storms, fires, and natural disasters; (3) recurring period maintenance; (4) replacement and capital improvements to common properties; and (5) initial costs of any new services.

To monitor the health of this fund, we have conducted a Reserve Fund Study (RFS) annually since 2011. We are on the seventh iteration, and the quality of the study has improved every year. The RFS does not address recurring annual costs, which are included in our Operating Budget.

The RFS has two primary components — the physical analysis and the financial analysis. The Infrastructure Committee identifies all real property owned by the POA, including roads, bridges, buildings, parks and other property that may require repair, replacement or refurbishment over the next 30 years. The committee then develops a time-phased plan to identify when such action will be required. In addition, the Board identifies capital improvements and the year of implementation for new amenities or improvements to existing amenities.

The Finance Committee, working with the Infrastructure Committee, identifies the costs required to cover major repairs and capital improvements. We use a “threshold funding” approach for the study. This approach requires us to have sufficient funds to cover all known requirements and still maintain a minimum reserve cash balance at the end of each year, which we have set at $3 million. This buffer is necessary to cover major repairs that may occur earlier than anticipated or to cover unknowns.

The 2017 RFS (for 2018-2047) has been completed and was approved by the Board in July. The Reserve Fund balance at the end of 2017 is projected to be $4.3 million. In 2018, our spend plan is $1.5 million, which includes completion of the Woodlands Park Pavilion and continuing major repairs of our roadways, parks, bridges and storm water system. The Reserve Fund balance at the end of 2018 is projected to be just under $4 million.

The RFS 30-year outlook includes receipts of $24.3 million and expenditures (shown below) of $25.3 million. The largest single-cost driver is the maintenance of our 75 miles of road. The Hurricane and storm recovery category includes recovery from two hurricanes at $1.5 million per occurrence, plus $25,000 a year for clean-up from minor storm damage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVERSE FUND 30 YEAR EXPENDITURES (2018-2047)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amounts in $1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterway and Woodlands parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater system and bridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane and storm recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A healthy Reserve Fund is extremely important and will allow us to (1) prevent delayed maintenance actions, (2) complete capital improvement and (3) avoid special assessments. The 2017 RFS confirms we can meet all objectives and still maintain a $3 million threshold buffer in every year.
We’re getting close to the November election and it’s a great time to learn about the candidates for Town Council. I hope you will attend the Meet the Candidates Forum on October 10. But if not, you can find their resumes and statements of their reasons for running on the Town’s website.

One-stop voting at the Government Center will run from Thursday, October 19, through Saturday, November 4. You also can vote at the Community Center on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7. We hope you carefully consider each candidate, exercise your constitutional right and cast your ballot. Those elected will represent you for the next four years.

“We hope you carefully consider each candidate, exercise your constitutional right and cast your ballot. Those elected will represent you for the next four years.”

The NC 211-widening project continues to progress, although NCDOT’s actions so far have been acquiring property and considering design alternatives — especially the overpasses at Middleton/Midway roads and at the Long Beach Road extension.

Representatives from NCDOT attended a meeting at the Community Center in September to present their plans and timeline for this project, which will impact us for at least a couple of years while construction is in progress. This was an important meeting for anyone with questions about the project, its timing, the final design (or at least the final design as of September) and traffic flow during construction and after the project’s completion.

Related to the above, the Town has formed a committee to review landscaping options for the median that will divide the widened NC 211 in front of the Town’s boundaries. NCDOT’s plan is to install grass alone on the entirety of the median. Our committee will look at more attractive options to supplement the grass, with the goal of improving the overall appearance of the median. NCDOT must approve any landscaping we propose and the responsibility for and cost to install and maintain the landscaping will be ours. So, we’ll be looking for attractive but hardy, low-maintenance plants.

We’ll also be looking at options for meeting these expenses, such as partnerships with other property owners along the northern border of NC 211. Any enhancements to the median will probably add an ongoing expense item to the Town’s budget, but we think it’s important that the median bordering the Town is attractive. Certainly, the medians on Middleton Boulevard are not the kind of welcome to St. James that we would like to see on NC 211.

We should begin seeing activity on the new Fire Department substation very soon, if it hasn’t already started. The new substation, which will provide fire and EMS services, will also include permanent space for the Town’s Emergency Management Team. The new building, to be located near the Oceanic Drive extension, will be a welcome and vital addition to our community and the surrounding area.

And here’s a quick plug for the Fire Department, which is always looking for new members. If you’ve ever had an interest in volunteering as a firefighter, an EMT or in another support role, the Fire Department’s volunteers would love to talk to you.
The longer we live here, the more we recognize that things, including us, require more maintenance. Regarding fire safety, there are a few things I noticed around my house that require attention. Arguably, the most important things are your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Although our home smoke detectors get the recommended attention, my wife alerted me that one of our detectors was chirping. Let me digress — birds chirp, while smoke and CO detectors give off a VERY annoying sound.

As an experienced firefighter, I knew that smoke detectors have a life span. Unlike us, the expiration date can be found on the back of the smoke and CO detectors. So, I checked it out and found it was within limits. Removing and replacing the battery did the trick, even though it had been removed at the changeover to daylight saving time.

“If your smoke detectors are chirping and you don’t smell smoke, take the time to do some very quick troubleshooting before calling 911.”

If your smoke detectors are chirping and you don’t smell smoke, take the time to do some very quick troubleshooting before calling 911. Check out the battery and the expiration date. If your troubleshooting doesn’t solve the problem, call 911 and your SJFD will be en route.

Dryer vent maintenance is also sometimes neglected. I know. It recently happened to me. I tried the easy fixes, but eventually called an HVAC maintenance man. What a system! He used a flattened hose attachment on his wet/dry vacuum to suck out the front of the dryer. Then he disconnected the connection going into the discharge hose and attached — I kid you not — a leaf blower.

I went outside to observe what was coming out of the vent discharge side — lots of lint, which is rather flammable. The job took less than 45 minutes, the dryer works great and I’m comfortable not having flammable lint packed in the hose.

I’m sure you’ll agree there are many things requiring maintenance around the house. I just thought I would share two of them that I view as potential safety hazards.

On another note, here’s a way for you to help your St. James Fire Department that takes minimal effort. Sign in to your Amazon account and do a search on “Amazon Smile” or sign in through www.smile.amazon.com. Select “St. James Fire Department (Southport, N.C.)” as your nonprofit to receive donations. The Amazon Smile shopping process will donate a portion of your purchase payment. Your support is greatly appreciated.

By the way, if you’re interested in becoming a member of your St. James Fire Department as a firefighter, emergency medical technician or fire police, call the non-emergency number of the fire house (910-253-9990) to schedule a time to discuss your interest with Chief Dahill or any of the officers.
As many of us discover, the plants we loved in northern climates don’t thrive in the sandy soil, relentless summer heat and unreliable rains of southeastern North Carolina. Instead, they give way to more robust plants better suited for the area. Taking advantage of the resilience of native plants leads to some beautiful, practical and environmentally valuable results.

Master Gardener Amanda Kiel has done just that, creating a gorgeous native plant garden across Long Bay Drive from the marina dry-stack building, at the head of the trail linking the marina with Waterway Park. Working with the POA, Amanda has turned a lackluster common area into a paradise for pollinators. For native and migrating butterflies, bees and hummingbirds, the garden is a bountiful buffet, sustaining them and providing sustenance for their offspring. The Gulf Fritillary butterfly raises its young solely on passion flower vines.

For humans, the garden is a delight, combining native grasses with perennials of every hue. Residents fortunate enough to live nearby can watch its evolution in real time. As the coneflowers, goldenrod and switchgrass sway in the coastal breeze, we’re mesmerized by fluttering, buzzing and crawling pollinators. Since one in three bites of our food involves pollination, nurturing these tiny creatures is in our collective self-interest. The Cape Fear Audubon Society has also recognized our native plant garden for its habitat value.

Some native plants also offer another unexpected advantage — resistance to fire. As a Firewise Community, St. James emphasizes landscaping practices that make properties safer from the risks of regional wildfires. Appendix D of the St. James Design Guidelines lists native plants by flammability rating. Low-flammability species include Joe-Pye weed, wild geranium and phlox varieties.

The native plant garden is a labor of love. Beginning last winter, Amanda grew many of the plants from seeds in her Carolina room turned greenhouse. Once planted, these native species took off, quickly filling in the garden bed. Some soil was added, but areas with poor soil brought forth explosive plant growth. Summer brought considerable pruning. By August, Amanda’s time was spent deadheading plants, cutting off the seed heads and carefully extracting the seeds that will become next year’s plants — beginning anew the cycle of frugal and sustainable gardening.

If you’re interested in adding some native plants to your garden, check out the native plant garden to get some ideas and see the plants in action.
To be or not to be — SaaSy

By Chris Nicholas

Growing up in the South, I recall my grandmother saying not to sass adults. Sass in the southern dictionary means being disrespectful. Today, there’s another meaning for the word.

SaaS (“Software as a Service”) is a licensing and delivery model in which software is licensed on a subscription basis and is centrally hosted. And it’s also pronounced “sass.”

In a practical sense, SaaS allows vendors to license or rent many of the programs you use. Before 2010, you went to a computer store to buy software programs. Computer programs were first released on 5.25-inch floppy disks. Then came the 3.5-inch disk, and finally, CDs and DVDs. But all that has changed. Now SaaS is generally how we compute.

Microsoft has many SaaS programs. You have a Microsoft SaaS account if you signed up for Office 365, Skype, Outlook or Hotmail. Microsoft, like Google, Adobe and others, has created an account for you that works across its product lines. If you have a Gmail address, you have a Google account that lets you sign on to YouTube, Google Photos and all Google programs or apps.

Apple also delivers using SaaS. Your Apple ID and password open your iCloud account. Be careful, however, because you may have signed into the App Store using the iTunes user ID and password (unusual, but it happens). If you’re not sure you are using the same account for both iCloud and iTunes, open your iPhone or iPad (if you’re using iOS 10.3 or higher), go to Settings and click on the first entry. Your Apple ID is under your name. Tap on iTunes and App Store. The top listing, “Apple ID,” is the iTunes and App Store you’re signed onto.

I see only two drawbacks for SaaS products. You may have to pay a monthly, annual or one-time fee. And if you read the terms and conditions (T&Cs) of your subscription, you’ll see that you’re giving vendors permission to make changes to your computers or accounts — sometimes at their discretion. If you don’t agree to the T&Cs, you can’t use their software. No problem, right?

Microsoft can update Windows 10, and you can only delay or roll back some changes. Sometimes, you must reconnect your printer and other devices, or your task bar and default programs change mysteriously. You can change them back, but it’s a major pain.

So, the benefits of SaaS better be good. Fortunately, they are. Most updates generally include security patches that will make your device less vulnerable to Trojans, malware and viruses — a major reason to update. Vendors will also push new features to their apps, so you’re always using the latest edition. And remember, while SaaS is fine for your devices, it’s not okay to sass your elders.
Come tour one of the finest model homes open in the Carolinas
Winner of the Arthur Rutenberg Homes 2016 Best Model Interior Design award

Wrightsville model in Moss Hammock Wynd, St. James Plantation
3239 Moss Hammock Wynd, Southport, NC

For more information call:
Amy Schaeffer
ASchaeffer@arhomes.com
910-548-0402
Gary Eberling, the POA’s Community Garden Committee chair, chose this committee to share his time and expertise for a good reason. “I grew up on a farm in central New Jersey,” he says. “My dad gave me and my brother a small parcel to garden ourselves, and it was gratifying for me to see a small seed grow into a plant. I’ve gardened ever since. And when I moved to St. James eight years ago, I wrote letters to the Developer and POA requesting a gardening area.”

Five years ago, the Developer set aside an area for a community garden at Regency and two years later, added one at SeaSide. Both sites have more than 50 plots. The Developer donated the land to the POA and built an infrastructure that included a deer-deterrent fence, planting beds, storage shed, gardening tools and an irrigation system.

At that time, a volunteer ad-hoc committee — with Karen Holbrook as chair and Gary and others as members — was established to foster a spirit of community by providing residents a space to experience the rewards of gardening with neighbors.

Last year, the POA made the Community Garden Committee one of its standing committees. In addition to Gary and Karen, volunteer committee members include Al Yoshimura, Cheryl Manger, Amanda Kiel, Joanne Parker and Pamela Schottenfeld. Their efforts include managing plot assignments and a wait list, ensuring budget availability for yearly maintenance, enhancing the gardening areas and educating gardeners.

Interested residents can submit an application on the POA website by selecting the Amenities tab, then Community Gardens. Available plots are assigned in order according to when the application was received. There may be a waiting list. The annual fee of $30-35 per year for the three-year lease is based on the size of the plot.

Although the POA maintains the gardens’ land and irrigation systems, the committee uses the fee revenue for enhancements, such as yard waste bins. Also, volunteers have installed at both locations small-mesh fencing to keep out small animals — especially rascally rabbits.

“The call for volunteers received a tremendous response from the gardeners,” Gary notes. “There’s lots of cooperation between the gardeners, who sometimes also look after garden plots of absentee residents.” Additionally, a newsletter with gardening information is emailed to the gardeners.

Gary concludes with a smile, “It’s rewarding to see the gardens improve over the years, although some gardeners need to keep better housekeeping.”
Are you interested in serving on the Clubs Advisory Committee? Apply by November 3 to be considered for a January 1 appointment.

The committee is seeking nominations of others and/or yourself for upcoming appointments. The purpose of the committee is to provide advice and counsel to the Clubs’ management team to represent membership interests and perspectives in a manner that contributes to the continual improvement of the member experience.

Overview: The Clubs Advisory Committee provides a communications link between membership and club management. It helps prioritize and clarify member suggestions and concerns and provide feedback to Clubs management on projects, programs, policies and procedures. Ideally, nominees will have experience in a private member club. Previous leadership positions in business and/or civic organizations are also important.

The Clubs Advisory Committee is not involved in the operation of amenities, facilities, programming, staffing, accounting and related business functions. Operational management is exclusively the responsibility of the Clubs’ professional management staff.

The Clubs’ general manager appoints the committee chair who is responsible for developing agendas and conducting committee meetings, as well as providing concise goals and objectives to the subcommittees. The committee reviews and discusses club-related opportunities and challenges, as well as potential solutions and/or feasible alternative courses of action.

The committee is comprised of 12 members, plus the POA president. The committee interacts with the general manager, assistant general manager and directors of golf, agronomy, athletics, tennis, and food and beverage, as well as other Clubs staff when appropriate.

Subcommittees: The committee is comprised of three subcommittees, consisting of committee members, whose areas of responsibility include:

- The Sports Committee, which addresses issues related to tennis and the St. James Tennis Association, the wellness centers and the Clubs' swimming facilities.
- The Golf Committee, which addresses all aspects of golf and the golf courses, as well as the Mens and Ladies Golf Associations, Niners and recreational play.
- The House Committee, which addresses issues related to food and beverage and related hospitality services.

Each subcommittee chairperson develops meeting agendas and conducts monthly meetings throughout the calendar year. This chairperson is also a member of the Clubs Advisory Executive Committee. The subcommittees have Clubs management liaisons that serve as resourceful, knowledgeable experts. Subcommittee members are expected to represent the broad view of the membership without undue emphasis on their own preference or bias.

Terms of appointment are three years, from January 1 through December 31 of the appointment period. Appointed members may be reappointed. An appointed member with a poor record of participation may be replaced.

To apply: Nominees should email a brief statement of the candidate’s subcommittee interest (golf, sport or house), a brief resume and contact information to Michael Kasavana, Advisory Committee Chair, at kasavana@msu.edu no later than November 3.

Editor’s Note: Michael Kasavana is the chair of the Clubs Advisory Committee.
Once you have decided on a project, you must fill out an Existing Home Modification Application and submit it to the POA by the ACC meeting submittal deadline, along with a check for fees owed. Also submit any relevant information, such as colors, images of the materials you want to use and site plans for any changes to the property involving fences or installation of non-permeable surfaces. The forms and detailed information are on the POA website, under the “Resources” tab, then select “ACC documents.”

Following ACC approval, the POA will send a letter to the homeowner with its decision. Homeowners can then inform their contractor and obtain necessary permits. At the end of the project, the homeowner must submit a Final Inspection Form to the POA office, which closes out the modification and issues the bond refund.

Editor’s Note: For more information, email Genna Porter, the POA’s ACC administrator, at gporter@stjamespoa.net.
Social activities have always been an important part of the St. James community. According to the not-yet named Cat-Tales issue of November, 1993, the Activities Committee was formed “to plan events of a social nature, which allow us to become better acquainted with each other.” The article also mentions they’d been having weekly mixed golf scrambles followed by a “mixer” at the Round Table, a restaurant that once operated in St. James. “Also planned are special meals and other get-togethers designed to foster our sense of community.”

Their plans worked. The Activities Committee is still very active today.
Welcome to fall, new neighbors and members

By Roberta Pukala

The St. James Service Club kicked into high gear last month. General meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month. Informal social periods precede business meetings, which provide an opportunity for members to meet each other and committee leaders and to sign up for participation in Service Club activities.

Following the business meetings, guest speakers make timely and informative presentations.

The Service Club has always been a welcoming presence to new residents, as well as an organization which raises funds and other support for many needy causes. The membership committee reaches out to newcomers through email, receptions at members’ homes and neighborhood visits. The club also provides information about the St. James community.

This year’s committee chairperson, Chris Dennis, recently had the pleasure of meeting newcomers Frank and Suzanne Petino. The Service Club looks forward to the energy they and other new members bring to the organization.

Come to Service Club meetings to find out more about its many service and fund-raising activities. Follow us online at the POA website (http://www.stjamespoanc.org/default.asp?).

---

St. James by the numbers
Gate openings
January - July, 2016 and 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SeaSide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 2016 969,215 2017 1,127,703

Compiled by Rick Margin
Take the first step toward peace of mind in retirement with our exclusive Confident Retirement® approach. I’ll help you understand how you can cover expenses, live the lifestyle you want, be prepared for the unexpected and leave a legacy. Call me today and learn how you can live more confidently today and tomorrow.

Meet your future with confidence.

Beth Nelson,
MBA, CFP®  ChFC®  CASL®
Financial Advisor
Senior Vice President
beth.nelson@ampf.com

David Lohff,
CFP®  CRPC®
Financial Advisor
President
david.lohff@ampf.com

Lohff and Nelson
A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
910.616.8232
8509 E. Oak Island Dr, Ste 2
Oak Island, NC 28465

Beth Nelson,
MBA, CFP®  ChFC®  CASL®
Financial Advisor
Senior Vice President
beth.nelson@ampf.com

Ameriprise Financial

The Confident Retirement approach is not a guarantee of future financial results. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser.
© 2016 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. (8/16)
Before iPods, CD players, Walkmans, and boom boxes, people listened to music on transistor radios that fit easily into a pocket or under a pillow. This is how Leo Travagliante, growing up in Cleveland, listened and learned to love rock music. As a semi-retired baby boomer in St. James, he still loves rock music.

In the early ’70s at Cleveland State University, Leo found an outlet for his love, working as a disc jockey at the college station. In 1973, he joined WMMS-FM (“100.7 WMMS — The Buzzard”), where he was promptly assigned the graveyard shift. Within a year, “Kid Leo” began working in the coveted afternoon drive time slot, and WMMS soon became the beneficiary of Leo’s knack for identifying new talent and giving them greater exposure.

Leo introduced Ohio to Bruce Springsteen. Soon after, the songs of little-known performers like John Mellencamp, Cyndi Lauper, Roxy Music and Pat Benatar began to fill the Ohio airwaves. WMMS gradually gained national prominence and was consistently rated one of the best rock stations in the country. To many Ohioans, Kid Leo was synonymous with Cleveland rock and roll. Among numerous industry awards, Kid Leo was named “Best Disc Jockey” by Playboy magazine in 1987.

Wanting to help transform the image of the “mistake on the lake,” Cleveland’s pejorative name during the ‘70s and ‘80s, Leo became involved in the campaign to bring the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to his home town. Developers had promised to locate the facility where the public wanted, and most assumed it would end up in New York City. But Kid Leo’s tireless promotion resulted in a landslide vote for Cleveland.

In recognition of his efforts, Kid Leo received a key to the city. Today, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is arguably the city’s number one visitor attraction. For Leo, it’s his proudest accomplishment.

In 1988, Columbia Records offered Leo the position of VP of Artistic Development, and he moved to New York City. A highlight of his tenure was his travel with the Rolling Stones during the group’s national “Steel Wheels” tour in 1989. Leo reports that Mick Jagger was “all business, all the time.”

Leo formed LJT Entertainment LLC, a music-focused consultancy in 2002. Two years later, he became the program director for Little Steven’s Underground Garage, a Sirius XM radio station. Leo confirms that discovering new talent is different today than it was a generation ago. Aspiring artists can post YouTube videos to get their start. If they’re good, someone will find them.

Last year, Leo and his wife, Jackie, moved to St. James to indulge their golf and tennis pastimes. But Leo hasn’t given up his DJ gig. You can tune him in from 4-7 p.m., Monday-Friday on Underground Garages’ Sirius Channel 21, when he plays old favorites, right from his home studio.

Kid Leo at the mike

But Kid Leo’s tireless promotion resulted in a landslide vote for Cleveland.

In recognition of his efforts, Kid Leo received a key to the city. Today, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is arguably the city’s number one visitor attraction. For Leo, it’s his proudest accomplishment.

In 1988, Columbia Records offered Leo the position of VP of Artistic Development, and he moved to New York City. A highlight of his tenure was his travel with the Rolling Stones during the group’s national “Steel Wheels” tour in 1989. Leo reports that Mick Jagger was “all business, all the time.”

Leo formed LJT Entertainment LLC, a music-focused consultancy in 2002. Two years later, he became the program director for Little Steven’s Underground Garage, a Sirius XM radio station. Leo confirms that discovering new talent is different today than it was a generation ago. Aspiring artists can post YouTube videos to get their start. If they’re good, someone will find them.

Last year, Leo and his wife, Jackie, moved to St. James to indulge their golf and tennis pastimes. But Leo hasn’t given up his DJ gig. You can tune him in from 4-7 p.m., Monday-Friday on Underground Garages’ Sirius Channel 21, when he plays old favorites, right from his home studio.

ROCK ON, KID LEO!
Will Thornton Custom Homes, Inc.

BUILDING CUSTOM HOMES IN ST. JAMES FOR 15 YEARS

www.WILLTHORNTONCUSTOMHOMES.com
WillThornton80@Gmail.com
910-343-8434

Custom Plan Design • Energy Efficient
Sealed Crawl Space • Spray Foam Insulation • No Hidden Fees
Time to order name tags
By Beth Nilsen

It’s time once again to order your name tag to wear to St. James social events. Consider getting two sets so you can keep one in each car. Each tag is magnetic-backed and has the St. James logo.

Submit your order, with a check payable to “St. James Plantation POA,” no later than October 14. Each tag costs $10. On the envelope, print exactly how you wish your name to appear, along with your telephone number and email address (your order won’t be submitted without this information). Your name will be printed in all capital letters.

You can place your envelope in the basket on the front porch at 3983 Baynard Court or you can mail the check and information.

The Activities Committee will place a notice in St. James publications when your tags become available (at the end of November). If you have any questions, call 908-413-2018 or send an email to bethnilsen@aol.com.

Save the date: holiday dinner and show, December 1 and 2
By Melanie Fitzpatrick

The St. James Activities Committee welcomes another great Thalian presentation, a Holiday Cabaret Show that includes seasonal songs, as well as selections from the upcoming Thalian Association season. The infectious entertainment by seasoned actors and singers will put you in a holiday spirit.

Cash bar will be at 6 p.m., followed by a delicious Members Club dinner and a festive show starting around 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will be on sale at Members Club on October 20 and 24, 10 a.m.-noon. Purchases are limited to four tickets per person, payable only by check, made out to “St. James Plantation POA.” When you purchase your tickets, you will also make your meal selections.

More event details will follow in the community’s e-newsletters.
Let’s make your dream home a reality.

16 YEARS BUILDING IN ST. JAMES
235 HOMES COMPLETED IN ST. JAMES
4 NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING LICENSES

BARKER & CANADY
FINE CUSTOM HOMES SINCE 1981

910.509.2014 | BarkerCanady.com
jennifer@barkercanady.com

OUTDOOR LIVING at its finest!

Mulch • Topsoil • Slate
Brick Chips • River Rock
Creekstone • Fill Dirt
Pine Straw • Paver Bricks
Flagstone • Walkways • Patios

WE DELIVER
910-454-4445
bianchibrickyard.com

7995 River Rd, Rte 133
Southport, NC 28461
FREE ESTIMATES
GARY MLYNEK

Gary Mlynek always thought wood was interesting and unique, and he has worked with the material for years. But his artistic work took off seven years ago, when he moved to St. James and then retired.

His main inspirations are nature, animals and musical instruments. His work starts with an idea, followed by a full-sized pencil drawing. This first step stems from Gary’s early days as a design draftsman and technical illustrator, when paper, pencil, and pen and ink were the only tools.

Gary selects types of wood for their various colors, textures and grains to give life to each piece. He doesn’t use stain — the wood itself determines the color. Gary also looks for distinctive grain lines to flow with the subject, such as gills on a swordfish, strings of a violin or the bark of a tree. Details may change from the original drawing, since certain pieces of wood lend themselves to better represent part of the scene by adding more texture, color or depth — especially in his 3D pieces. Gary doesn’t replicate nature and animals; he uses his imagination to create an interpretation. When applying the clear finish, Gary thoroughly enjoys seeing the different grains and textures light up to complete the finished work of art.

GARRY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

CAROLINE QUINN

Caroline Quinn first showed promise as an artist while attending Davidson College. A city-planning major, she also studied studio art with Douglas Houchens and several other prominent art professors at the school. She studied 19th century painting and Gothic architecture in France. She had a successful software engineering career, spending most of her career at the SAS Institute in Cary, North Carolina. Caroline retired as an R&D director in 2014 and moved to St. James. She resumed her painting and drawing, inspired by the coastal beauty and wildlife of Brunswick County and by other artists in St James. Her work is currently displayed in local galleries.

Caroline is a lifelong equine and horse racing enthusiast. She was a horse show mom for her daughter for 20 years. A thoroughbred racing fan, she has been to many race tracks and to many of the beautiful thoroughbred farms in Kentucky. Since she retired, she has expanded her artistic horizons, painting not only equestrian subjects, but also animals, people and landscapes.

GARRY MLYNEK

GARRY MLYNEK

Cool morning ride

Snowy egret at sunrise

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

Cool morning ride

Snowy egret at sunrise

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

Cool morning ride

Snowy egret at sunrise

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

GARY MLYNEK

Cool morning ride

Snowy egret at sunrise
Over 30 years of custom home building experience. Hundreds of house plans and we can help you choose the best house for your lot, the most house for your budget and the perfect home for your dreams.

Wilsey Custom Homes, Inc.

Email: mewilsey@ec.rr.com
Office: (910)845-2001  Cell: (910) 250-0776
50 ways to meet another

By Marilyn Rudolph

Paul Simon famously noted there are “50 ways to leave your lover.” In St. James, there are 50 ways to meet another.

Moving to St. James means re-establishing yourself in a new home in a new area, crossing paths with people you don’t know and reaching out to meet others.

A first question many often ask when meeting someone is, “Where did you live before moving to St. James?” That question often leads to fortuitous and fun discoveries of previously unknown facts connecting residents.

My guess is many have had similar experiences as the stories I’m about to share — my St. James version of “Six Degrees of Separation” (the Kevin Bacon game):

A first question many often ask when meeting someone is, “Where did you live before moving to St. James?”

My husband and I attended a neighborhood party and started the “Where are you from?” conversation with a woman we’d never met. It turns out she grew up in the same town as my hubby, years later lived in the same neighborhood as hubby’s sister in a different state and — the biggest surprise of all — her mom was my seventh-grade English teacher.

A friend posted a request in “Just Judy.” Another resident read the posting. She couldn’t help with the request, but asked my friend, “Where are you from? Did you go to such-and-such high school?” And guess what? He did, and they reconnected in St. James.

My friend introduced me to that same high school classmate. It turned out his classmate is a cousin of the mom of my son’s friend. We eventually arranged for cousins, classmates, friends and spouses to get together in St. James, and we had a great time. No surprise about that.

We were invited to dinner at the home of friends (part-time residents), who invited neighbors (also part-time residents). We hadn’t progressed to the “Where are you from?” question with the neighbors, but we discussed heritage and backgrounds. Lo and behold, we stumbled upon the fact that part-time neighbor and I share the same uncle-in-law and know many others through that connection. As for the “Where are you from?” conversation, it turns out we’ve never lived near each other until St. James.

A St. James friend walking her dog said hello to a man looking at a lot around the corner from her home. He noticed the dog was wearing a Steelers collar and asked, “Are you from Pittsburgh?” (Any Steelers connection is a great conversation starter.) She said yes, and the conversation continued. They soon realized they grew up in the same town, and she shared that her dad was the town barber. The man looked carefully at her, then suddenly shouted, “You were my prom date!” The prom dates now live a few doors from each other in St. James.

Seriously, you can’t make this stuff up! Don’t hesitate to start a conversation that will lead you where it may. An unexpected connection could very well be in your email inbox, at the next party you attend or just around the corner.
The Elrod, Jones & Lawrence Financial Group

Albert Elrod  
First Vice President/Investments

Jere Jones, AAMS®, CFP®  
Vice President/Investments

John Lawrence, AAMS®  
Vice President/Investments

(910) 454-1500 | (877) 816-1236  
5211-2 Eason Street | Southport, North Carolina 28461

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com

Story and photos by Beth Klahre

So, just what was the big deal? This was the first eclipse in 99 years to go from west to east across the U.S. We were fortunate the view from St. James Beach Club was nearly perfect — about 97 percent perfect.

Despite a cloudy start and a downpour that threatened to ruin the entire day, there was a party-like atmosphere at the Beach Club as residents anticipated the show of a lifetime. As if on cue, at 1:10 p.m., the clouds cleared and someone shouted, “It’s starting!”

All eyes turned toward the sky. Well, almost all eyes. Harry Thranhardt and friends looked at the horizon using a hand-held instrument he carefully passed around. Harry had graduated from the New York State Maritime College and spent part of his career at sea. With his own marine sextant, which he purchased for $600, he determined his ship’s position using celestial navigation.

Later, sailing became a favorite pastime for Harry and his wife Carol. In 2000, they sailed into St. James aboard their 42-foot sailboat. When they finally sold their boat, the sextant went into the closet, and, sadly, was nearly forgotten.

As the eclipse neared, the Thranhardts realized they had forgotten to buy eclipse glasses. But Harry remembered his marine sextant! The series of mirrors and filters designed for bringing the magnified sun to the horizon was perfect for viewing the eclipse. “It performed flawlessly,” Harry proudly said.

Meanwhile, Linda Haden found another way to view the eclipse, making her own viewer. Following instructions she found on the internet, she built an eclipse viewer using a shoebox, a piece of white paper, aluminum foil and a pinhole. “It actually worked!” Linda said. “And I had fun making it.”

My husband Jeff demonstrated another way to monitor the moon’s shadow traversing the sun by using his beach lounger and protective eclipse glasses. ISO-rated cardboard glasses that reduced the sunlight to a safe level for human eyes were the most common way to view the eclipse. The glasses were available without charge at many locations, including the Southport Visitor Center, and for a dollar or two at various stores.

No matter how viewed, the eclipse was one of nature’s finest moments. No worries if you missed it. The next solar eclipse is in 2024 with a path from Texas to Maine. Will Harry’s prized possession emerge one more time? We’ll have to wait and see.
technology made easy for retirees and seniors

enhance your quality of life by understanding and using today’s technology

It can be something as simple as learning how to text or email, to as elaborate as implementing a fully equipped smart home.

Contact us today to see how we can help you!
Call (910) 386-1285
email: jp@easytech8consulting.com
Learn more by visiting: easytech8consulting.com
Brunswick County Veterans Coalition

American Legion Post 543 has spearheaded the creation of a Brunswick County Veterans Coalition, patterned after a similar organization in New Hanover County. The goal of the coalition is to speak to Brunswick County’s political leadership with a united voice on issues affecting veterans. The coalition will also coordinate activities of its member organizations and share information of interest to veterans.

The coalition includes the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans and other veteran organizations. Currently, Gary Crowden is the organization’s chairman.

Organization members will volunteer the use of their facilities for its two-hour meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of every other month. At the meetings, coalition members will address comments and concerns, and all Brunswick County veteran organizations are invited to attend.

For more information on the coalition, email Chairman Crowden at garycrowden@aol.com.

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson presentation

Guest speaker Frank Carr spoke to legionnaires and guests about the historic and military importance of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson. Afterwards several legionnaires joined the Friends of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson nonprofit organization that maintains the sites.

Also at the meeting, Henry Livingston of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Legionnaire Pom Pomeroy with a certificate honoring him for the speech made during the July 4 flag retirement ceremony in Southport.
Your Dream Home is in Our Showroom

**SHALLOTTE ELECTRIC STORE**
Serving Brunswick County Since 1971.

**SHALLOTTE ELECTRIC-SOUTHPORT**
4871 Southport-Supply Rd SE,
Showroom Hours:
Mon - Friday: 9:00 - 4:30
(910) 457-1117

We have the experience, the quality supplies, qualified sales staff, and knowledge to help you do whatever needs to be done to keep your job or project moving.

Onsite designers available to assist in product selections.

Serving Brunswick County Since 1971.

electrical lighting ~ plumbing appliances fans ~ irrigation water conditioners

Skin Cancer is Serious… Wear a hat!

Aussie Air Conditioners

See us at Southport Market on Wednesdays
See us at Oak Island Market on Mondays

To view more styles and hat bling go to:

www.TerryTheHatGuy.com
or call 252-475-7359

**Smile… Today.**
RESTORATIONS possible the same day

**COASTAL COSMETIC FAMILY DENTISTRY**
SOUTHERN COMFORT HOMES, INC.
Design Center
4701 Southport-Supply Road, Suite 1
910.454.8604
www.SCHomesNC.com

Your Dream Home is in Our Showroom

SHALLOTTE ELECTRIC STORE
4900 Main St
PO Box 2267
Shallotte NC, 28459
(910) 754-6000
ShallotteElectric.com

We have the experience, the quality supplies, qualified sales staff, and knowledge to help you do whatever needs to be done to keep your job or project moving.

Onsite designers available to assist in product selections.

Serving Brunswick County Since 1971.

electrical lighting ~ plumbing appliances fans ~ irrigation water conditioners
After a ride-along with director of security Dawn Greenberg and senior patrol officer Andy Smith, it became abundantly clear that what I don’t know about POA Security at St. James is a lot! As a lead-foot driver who frantically brakes at the sight of an Allied Universal vehicle, I now know my Spidey Vision is no match for security’s state-of-the-art equipment. I’m minding my Ps and Qs.

Green and white lights in your rear-view mirror are likely your invitation to stop and meet a patrol officer. Security is here for our safety and to enforce POA rules (violations in St. James don’t appear on your state driving record). Apparently, alligators don’t adhere to any of the rules and can run up to 30 mph, which is your invitation to start zigzagging to evade capture, something security folks say humans are likely to do.

I always thought several cars were on patrol. However, two security vehicles are on patrol 24/7, and one other eight hours each day. They’re always in contact with each other, moving in a crisscross pattern over the 75-80 miles of paved roads in St. James. Patrol officers do mobile or foot patrols, depending on the area. At times, they maintain a stationary position.

Security also is responsible for the Beach Club (keep your QUICKPASS® data current, just in case your car gets locked in the parking lot). Other duties include assisting the fire department, law enforcement and manning four gatehouses as needed. Officers use a program called Cycop, which they use to post incident reports, take photos, verify duties performed or list areas checked. Cycop chips are placed strategically throughout St. James.

Director Dawn has worked at St. James for six years and is a state-certified trainer. She has more than 25 years of security experience, including six years in the Navy as a quartermaster. She oversees the training and hiring of the 28 officers on staff. Officers are state-certified and have attended classes in Raleigh, followed by 16-24 hours of onsite training.

Dawn and her staff are not here for law enforcement or health-related issues. Call 911 for either of those events. Their job is to assist and keep us safe.

After Andy's retirement from Verizon, then becoming bored, he now enjoys his new job. You’ve seen his smiling face and big wave as he drives by.

We stopped at the Regency Gate to check on Ms. Debra, who also boasts a big smile. She’s been here two years and loves her job.

My final visit was with Sgt. Kristin Hanrahan, the senior officer in her 10th year of service, with a B.A. in criminal justice. Aside from her duties at the main gate, she’s in charge of dressing Glen the goose.

I enjoyed meeting the security staff. They appear to love their jobs and perform their duties in a friendly and concerned way. Helpful, professional, courteous and kind — you’re in good hands.
We help you with answers to questions you never thought about:

- Who will handle my arrangements?
- What if I were to pass away in a foreign land or on vacation?
- What would happen if I move to another part of the country?
- What kind of grief counseling is available?
- What can I do about the rising prices of funeral and burial?

We help you personalize the story of your life, the customs, traditions and your faith.

On site Crematory, Catering Facility, Memorial Chapel

Peacock-Newnam & White Funeral & Cremation Services
Serving Southport and Oak Island since 1985

White Funeral & Cremation Services Shallotte and Supply

For more information
910-457-6944
1411 N Howe Street
Southport NC 28461
Master gardening — a science and an art

Story and photos by Beth Klahre

Fall is a perfect time to think about planting. To help with your planning, more than 20 certified Master Gardeners in St. James offer a wealth of gardening advice. These highly educated and trained volunteers are members of the North Carolina State Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteer Association of Brunswick County (BCMGVA) and serve the public through agriculture.

After completing an application and interview, BCMGVA volunteers attend a 12-week training program. As interns, they complete 20 hours of volunteer work. Active certified Master Gardeners must complete 40 hours of volunteer work each year.

BCMGVA has also published a book, “Gardening by the Month in Coastal Carolina,” which is available with the two programs or for sale individually.

St. James resident Jeanne Pavero is president of BCMGVA and a seven-year Master Gardener. One of her accomplishments is the Master Gardener Botanical Garden at the Government Complex in Bolivia. The garden is ever changing and today features a rose garden, a southern living garden, a rain garden, a fairy (miniature) garden and an edible garden. “The Botanical Garden is the best secret garden in Brunswick County,” she says. Proceeds from House Calls benefit this garden, which is free to the public and well worth a visit.

There are three Master Gardener plant sales annually: spring, May and the online sale in September. Spring is cash-and-carry and features traditional plants and flowers. The May sale features native plants and university speakers. The two sales as well as the pickups for the online sale are at the Brunswick Government Complex.

Proceeds from these sales fund the Master Gardener outreach programs within the community. The goal is to help provide educational assistance to local gardeners through horticultural programs at the Cooperative Extension.

For more information or to become a Master Gardener, contact Tom Woods at the State Extension at tom_woods@ncsu.edu, or Jeanne Pavero at Jeanne.pavero@gmail.com.
Patience and hope are the mantra of turtle nest volunteers who sat through evenings this summer at any one of the 90 sites on Oak Island. After an orientation to learn about turtles, how to monitor nests and getting hatchlings to the ocean, Peter and I were assigned to a nest under the watchful eyes of nest parents Jack and Linda Eyler.

The Oak Island Sea Turtle Program focuses primarily on loggerhead turtles. Adult females return after 25-30 years to their birth-beach region to nest. One female can lay up to seven nests per season, once every two weeks, then take a break for two to seven years before returning. Staff members start marking nest locations in early May, checking each morning for turtle tracks and nest-building in the sand.

One nest egg is extracted for DNA testing to identify the mother turtle and her nesting traits. Test results have revealed a grandmother, 10 daughters and two granddaughters returning to N.C. beaches — making the grandmother at least 90 years old. Turtle programs span the entire North Carolina coast, from the Outer Banks to Sunset Beach. Eight to 10 percent of the state’s turtle hatchings occur on Oak Island.

Each nest has an average of 120 eggs, which incubate for 50 to 70 days. Hot temperatures can shorten incubation and determine sex. Warmer temperatures produce more females ("hot chicks") and the cooler temperatures more males ("cool guys"). Sadly, only one in 1,000 turtles makes it to adulthood.

Our set-up began on the 49th day after our nest was laid. We created a path from the nest to the high tide mark. We used landscape edging to make sure that the hatchlings headed toward water. Every day after high tide, we dug an additional sand trail to the water. Hatchlings follow the moon and star reflections on the ocean, so the nest had black screening to shield house and street lights.
Baby turtles usually hatch at night. When they do, lights are prohibited. Otherwise, we sit in the dark or with flashlights. It’s too hard to pass the time knitting, reading or writing; instead we talk, socialize, snack and educate visitors. Just sitting, waiting and hoping.

We had enough volunteers to rotate the nightly vigils. But we were “hooked volunteers” and went to the nest each evening to check, not wanting to miss the main event. On day 58 — Sunday, at 7 a.m. — the telephone rang. “There’s activity at your nest!” Then comes the beach conversation: “Do we cover the nest to hold for a safer nighttime hatching or let them out now to be challenged by predators?”

We didn’t have to make that decision. Their noses appeared, and down the path they came with, luckily, no visiting birds. Beach walkers witnessed the event as each member of our St. James team did their job. Some counted the hatchlings, while others made sure walkers stayed clear of the turtles crawling to the water.

Daytime hatchings are highly unusual, and very special. You can see the turtles, their tiny flippers madly spinning, preparing for three days of continual swimming to reach safety in the grasses of the Sargasso Sea. There, they will hide and grow for at least 10 years, riding the surrounding currents — including the Gulf Stream.

Approximately 72 hours after the turtles left the nest, the team excavated it to count the number of hatched eggs (114) and unhatched eggs (eight), as well as release any stragglers (six) still in the nest. We buried the nest material in the sand (required by law) to fertilize the dunes.

Linda and Jack thanked the team, announced they had another nest and asked who wanted to join them. Both of us eagerly raised our hands — more sitting and hoping and seeing life begin.

Editor’s note: Thanks to Kirk Davis and the Oak Island Sea Turtle Program staff for providing turtle-related information.
A *utumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.* Ah, Monsieur Albert Camus, were you standing at the foothills of the North Carolina mountains when you penned this, during a lovely crisp, sunny day in a forest of red-, orange- and yellow-leaved trees?

Regardless of where the French philosopher, author and journalist was when he described autumn’s stunning beauty, this month we can experience it ourselves, by taking a short road trip or by going out our back doors.

The second to third week in October provides spectacular fall color in our state’s western mountains, according to Tom Woods, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Master Gardener coordinator. He recommends leaf peepers travel the Blue Ridge Parkway or NC 441 through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

While all trees in the area change color — most from green to brown foliage — some provide the brilliant red, orange and yellow hues most associate with fall foliage. These trees are the southern sugar maple, sweetgum and black tupelo.

If you can’t get to the mountains, though, you can create your own kaleidoscope of nature’s finest colors in your yard.

“If fall gardening in coastal Carolina can be very rewarding,” says Jeanne Pavero, president of the North Carolina State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association of Brunswick County. “The cooler weather and lower humidity makes us all want to go outside again. The bugs are more manageable at this time of year, too.”

Jeanne offers some tips to make sure your plants thrive. Amend the soil, clean up your flower beds and get ready for a whole new season. Vegetables can be planted now. Transplants of broccoli, cabbage and collards can be set out now. This is the time to sow seeds for lettuce, onion, spinach and mustard greens.

Keep up with garden maintenance throughout the season, including regular watering and mulching. Watch out for pesky insects, too. Perennials should be divided. This gives the roots plenty of time to get well established. Tree and shrubs can also be planted in the fall.
If you’re not using your beds during the cooler months, Jeanne recommends spending some time to clean up debris, which will make the task easier next spring.

Tish Gordon, president of the Garden Club at St. James, says several plants thrive in the fall. For instance, chrysanthemums can be planted in the ground or in containers. Daylilies can be planted at almost any time. Others to plant for fall color include pansies, snapdragons, violas, Johnny-Jump-Ups, zinnias, marigolds, cosmos and flowering cabbage.

These native plants will add good fall color in the future: Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia), beautyberry (Callicarpa), fothergilla (“Mount Airy”), seaside goldenrod (s. sempervirens), Clethra (“Hummingbird”) and pink or white muhly grass or other ornamental grasses.

Fall, particularly November, is also the time to plant bulbs for spring flowers.

But perhaps the best advice Jeanne offers, whether you’re a gardener of an admirer of natural beauty, is to walk your garden every day.
Parade of Homes Dates October 20 - 22 & October 27 - 29

The AUSTIN | 3955 Wyndmere Dr.

First Floor 2552
Second Floor 563
Total 3115
Garage 870
Front Porch 161
Screened Porch 252

A Partnership Made For The Coast

HAGOOD HOMES has committed to building long lasting, low maintenance, coastal friendly homes in the south for 20 years. Build something with lasting confidence. Please contact Patrick Wright (910)470-5456 to schedule a tour of new model homes in ST. JAMES PLANTATION. Visit our website: www.hagoodhomes.com

Feel confident in your home no matter what nature brings.
BEHIND THE SCENES

By Stuart Pike

Over the years, I’ve been asked questions regarding who is producing a certain show in Wilmington. Those questions and comments often are based on the simple fact that many folks don’t know three distinct entities are involved in the production of most of the musicals in town. This confusion is exacerbated by the fact that two of the entities share a common name — "Thalian."

The three entities are the physical theater and two theater companies.

Both theater companies perform in the physical facility, Thalian Hall, the beautiful theater located between Chestnut and Grace Street fronting on Third Street. In addition, Thalian Hall hosts its own season, comprised of traveling artists.

The two theater companies are Opera House Theatre Company (OHTC) and Thalian Association Community Theatre (TACT). Except for its name, TACT is not related to Thalian Hall. The two companies present high-level entertainment, as the talent in Wilmington is substantial. But they produce their shows at distinctly different times of the year.

OHTC, founded some 30 years ago, produces five shows during its season. The first production is staged in February each year and has frequently been a little edgier. Recent shows in this slot have been "Cabaret," "Sweeney Todd" and last year’s “Priscilla Queen of the Desert.” The four remaining shows of each season are staged in the summer. Opening in June and running through early September, OHTC has offered Broadway classics such as “Oklahoma!” “Carousel,” “Les Miz,” “1776” and this summer, “South Pacific.”

TACT traces its roots back to 1788 and is “The Official Community Theatre” of North Carolina. TACT also produces five shows during its season, which opens each year in late September. This year, the season’s opening show is the Broadway smash, “Young Frankenstei.” TACT also produces a show during the Christmas season. This year that offering will be “A Christmas Story.” These are followed by a show in February, one in March/April and the final show in May.

TACT also has a youth theater program that currently has an alumnus appearing on Broadway in “The Book of Mormon.” TACT occasionally does other special performances. This past summer’s production of “Mr. Roberts” on the Battleship North Carolina was a Thalian production.

Thalian Association has also worked with the St. James Activities Committee the last three years to bring cabaret shows to the community. The next show will be a traditional cabaret show December 1 and 2. It will include seasonal favorites as well as selections from the remainder of the TACT season. It’s truly a great way to start the holidays so save the date.

See you there!
Your custom home from True North Building Company will be everything you ever wanted: the highest quality materials, the best construction techniques, the most meticulous attention to detail.

We are True North: Trusted and True.

www.TrueNorthBuild.com ~ 910.294.1098
4705 Southport Supply Road, Suite 105 ~ Southport, NC 28461

What to Do When Death Occurs...

Serving Brunswick County Since 1983

Brunswick Memorial Gardens

Southport/Oak Island Chapel
(910) 253-7900

Shallotte Chapel
(910) 754-6363

CAROLINA SOLAR SECURITY
www.carolinasolarsecurity.com
910.791.5820
Since 1985

Clearly superior.

• Premier heat rejection provides energy savings and enhanced comfort.

• Low reflectivity enhances views and overall beauty.

• Proprietary 3M nano-technology provides supreme performance with no metals or corrosion.

• Reduces glare and eye discomfort.

• Premium 3M manufacturer’s warranty.

• Increases personal safety by minimizing flying glass.

3M Authorized Window Film Dealer
Prestige Dealer Network
Like Southern hospitality, Thai hospitality is legendary. The latter was in full flower when my friend, Anneke Pin-Janzen, and I attended Wat Carolina’s July festival commemorating the Buddha’s first sermon.

As we prepared for our second visit, Anneke and I were in a quandary. The invitation mentioned a food offering. What to bring? Cooked? Raw? We decided on staples — raw rice, oil, sugar.

From the moment we pulled into the parking lot, about 10 a.m., and entered the peaceful setting, we were swept up in friendliness and hospitality. An energetic Asian woman asked us to put our food offerings on a table. We quickly realized the food we brought was not what was meant. Everybody brought prepared food for a giant pot luck. No matter, we were told.

Jim Copp, a tall American man, took us under his wing. He explained some history of Wat Carolina. Involved with the temple since its inception, Jim served as our guide.

Some of the attendees were like us, but most were Thai or Lao. Many had driven long distances to attend this event. They were delighted to see each other and eager to share their love of both their home countries and the U.S. with us.

As the worship began, people sat on the carpeted floor or on the chairs in the back of the room. Abbot Phraku and the novice monk sat on the platform to the right of the statue of Buddha. As he began, the abbot spoke behind a fan with a picture of Buddha to show Buddha is the one to be revered, not the abbot.

Throughout the day, we were encouraged to participate in numerous ceremonies. Each person poured a bit of melted wax into a large mold to create one great candle. Offerings attached to money “trees” were carried in a procession three times clockwise around the outside of the temple, amid festive whooping and chanting.

As with other religions, there were prayers and a sermon (unfortunately not translated). Since they cannot handle money, the monks received donations of toiletries and new robes to use in the coming months. Women tallied monetary donations, ours included.

Because the monks may not eat after noon, lunch was served early. People put portions of their potluck foods in small bowls arranged on huge trays for the two monks. No way could the monks eat all that, but they apparently tried to taste the foods all were eager to share with them. As we filled our plates, people encouraged us to try different dishes. One young woman insisted we taste her fried rice. “Not spicy for Americans,” she said.

By mid-afternoon, after the water ceremony, it was time to go. Our new friends wished us well and invited us to the next festival in October. As we left, our heads were spinning, but our hearts glowing with the warm Thai welcome in this lovely southern U.S. setting.
The Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum (CAM) has been welcoming art lovers for 55 years, according to its executive director, Anne Brennan.

Cameron started in 1962 as St. John’s Museum of Art, quartered in the 1804-built Masonic Lodge. A group of volunteer artists hosted exhibitions and borrowed art works from local friends and citizens. After the art museum became a nonprofit organization, it began acquiring its collection. The facility also began hosting art classes, music and theatre productions, and exhibits of works by local artists.

By 1997, the museum needed more room. The museum’s board approached a Wilmington philanthropist, Bruce Cameron, for a donation to honor his late wife, who was involved in land stewardship and preservation. Cameron and his children donated the seed money to buy the 9.5-acre property on which the museum, named for his wife, now stands.

The new Cameron Art Museum was designed by the architectural firm of Charles Gwathmey Siegel. The firm has an international reputation for architectural excellence, as evidenced by more than 100 design awards such as the “Firm Award,” the American Institute of Architects’ highest honor, and inclusion in exhibitions and histories of contemporary architecture.

The property was already historically significant. It was the site of the Civil War’s Battle of Forks Road, fought February 20-21, 1865 for control of Wilmington. During the battle, the Union army and the United States Colored Troops (USCT) defeated the Confederate army. Wilmington was, at that time, the Confederacy’s last major seaport, but Union forces won control of the Cape Fear River and the city with its railroads and seaport. The battle was close to what is now Federal Point Road, and was roughly a five-mile trench from the Cape Fear River to Hugh McRae Park.

More than 1,600 USCT servicemen fought in the Battle of Forks Road, including at least three Medal of Honor recipients — Powhatan Beaty, Milton M. Holland and Robert Pinn.

Today, museum visitors can visit the Civil War entrenchment on the Civil War grounds. A North Carolina Civil War Trails historical marker identifies the location of the "Forks Road Engagement."
Visit the museum’s website (www.cameronartmuseum.org) for upcoming exhibitions, programs and events, calendar, museum school courses, kids and family programs and membership opportunities.

Upcoming exhibition, Fall 2017
“Created by Light” — Photographs from North Carolina Collections, now — February 11, 2018

Exploring the photography collections of eight North Carolina institutions, the exhibition will examine the evolution of photography, highlighting the names of the medium, the connections between the institutions and North Carolina artists working in the medium.

More than 100 works are included in the exhibition, with photographs ranging from 1887 to 2016 starting with the pioneers of the medium, including Ansel Adams, Diane Arbus and Alfred Stieglitz. Notable North Carolina photographers include Diego Camposeco, Carolyn DeMerritt and Taj Forer.

While you’re there
• Stroll through the art park, with sculptures by Charlie Brouwer, Clyde Jones, Mel Chin and Dixon Stetler.

• Take an up-close look at Cameron Art Museum’s newest arrival, a whirly-gig by Vollis Simpson.

• Stroll along the pond and through the nature trails. The trail winds its way from the museum front door north to historic woodlands.

• Walk along the newly planted fruit grove. The orchard contains white and black muscadine grapes, peach, pear, fig, apple, plum and blueberry plantings.

• Ride your bike to the museum and grab lunch at CAM Cafe and enjoy at the picnic tables throughout Pyramid Park.
IT'S SUNSCREEN FOR YOUR VALUABLES

VISTA Window Film protects the interior of your house from 99.9% of UV rays*. Apply and help keep your family's skin and your belongings safe from the damage of the sun. Like all good sunscreens, once it's on, you won't even notice it's there.

Coastal Glass Tinting
4805 Wrightsville Ave
Wilmington, NC 28403
www.coastalglass tinting.com
STJ Resident Sales Rep
Frank Galtieri
910-392-6860

Yes: We Are Open To The Public!

LARGE MATERIAL YARD
FULLY PERMITTED VEGETATIVE DUMPSITE

SAND GRAVELS RIVER ROCK
LANDSCAPE BOULDERS RECYCLED GRANITE
CYPRESS BASED MULCH HAND BALED PINE STRAW
AND MUCH MORE...

4923 Trails End Rd
Southport, NC 28461
HoffmanEcoworks.com

St. James,
We’re Bringing You Faster Internet Speeds!

Visit www.iwantatmc.com
or call 755.8286 for details.

Patient, personal custom building.
Thirty years.
How does it make you feel when you walk into a restaurant and ask for a table for one? I’d rather not eat than go to a restaurant alone.

Many of us have been single for at least one period during our adult lives. Some do so by choice, others by divorce or the passing of a loved one. I’ve been single during different decades of my life and in different states — each was different and gave me a different perspective.

Now, I’m single and in my 60s. I chose to live in St. James for many of the same reasons that you did. But I thought the size of the community would support a variety of activities that single people could enjoy comfortably with couples or on their own (hoping to make new friends).

So, once I became a resident, I wanted to make the best of my social status. I signed up for one of the many available social activities. I was apprehensive about going at first, and I was seated with four married couples. They accepted me readily and included me in the dancing. I had a lovely time, thanks especially to one couple.

I have joined several clubs and volunteered for numerous activities. I have made a lot of female friends and met some men that loaned me tools or provided an extra hand for a house project.

Some believe St. James is not a place for singles to retire. Is there a community just for retired singles? Probably not. Besides, I wouldn’t want to live in an environment that doesn’t represent reality. We’re here now. Let’s make St. James a place where everyone can have fun, enjoy retirement and do whatever activities they enjoy.

I’m now on a mission to see how we can expand life for women and men who don’t want to spend the rest of their lives walking on the beach alone, or as a fifth wheel. I’m reaching out to others with situations like mine. I want to make it easier for everyone to feel comfortable at activities, because they’re part of a group and not alone. I’m too young to be old and refuse to be unhappy.

But you need to do your part — and this applies to all St. James residents. You must be open-minded, accepting of new relationships and activities and seeking them out. We have many ways to find out what we can do in the area — newspapers, e-newsletters or word-of mouth. Residents are friendly and will help get you settled in the community, but you need to get out and mingle — without waiting for an invitation.

I’m gathering information on the interests of single residents. Contact me at sevanlee53@gmail.com if you want to give me information, answer my questionnaire or join a singles group.

There’s power in numbers.
Garages are like personalities; they reveal something about the owner. As I bike daily around St. James, I am afforded the opportunity to spy into residents’ garages. I have viewed hundreds of garage spaces as their owners enter or exit, do lawn work or simply forgot to hit the remote after a hard day of being retired.

It makes no difference whether they’re a front load, side load or the currently fashionable 45-degree angle load. I’ve seen them all. I have categorized garages into three main types.

**The showroom**

Start with the liquid granite floor, complete with those little sparkles. On one wall are the custom-made cabinets with each item in its proper place — paints on one shelf, cleaners on another and plant food on a third.

Other cabinets house all future needs, with enough paper towels, toilet paper and LCD bulbs to last until 2050. Plastic storage bins with Christmas decorations sit tidily atop the cabinets. Neatly hanging on another wall, individually pegged in order of size, are the lawn tools. In one corner is the Craftsman 500-piece tool set with nary an Allen wrench missing or ratchet head out of place. One garage even has an industrial-grade meat grinder, covered and stored in the corner, waiting for the two times a year it’s called into action to produce 80 pounds of pork sausage.

**The typical**

Like a bell-shaped curve, most garages fit in this category, somewhere in the middle. Instead of custom cabinets, plastic Walmart stack shelves contain commingled products — WD-40 right next to the hornet and wasp spray. Lawn equipment is wedged in the corner behind the mower, sharing space with the beach chairs. Forget about finding the 9/16 wrench among the clutter in the 56-piece tool box. Bikes lean up against the wall, not professionally hung from the wall or ceiling, Tour de France style, with helmets resting on the seats. Everything has its own place, but it takes some time to get to it.

**The storage unit**

You can always tell these garages by the cars perpetually parked in the driveway, never to experience the safety provided inside, covered in spring pollen, daring others to finger paint “WASH ME” on the back windshield. These belong to the hoarders, or overly nostalgic, who haven’t unpacked boxes since their move from the north 11 years ago. They just can’t part with that old mattress or end table they schlepped down, even though a trip to High Point provided all new furnishings. And somewhere in one of those boxes is that fondue pot, used only once, a wedding gift from Aunt Millie, waiting to be brought out for their 45th anniversary.

One common thread shared by the different garages is the prominence golf clubs have, cornered, up front, ready for that early tee time. Even my own clubs that have sat idly by for six years stand at attention just inside the door in case I decide to drive a few range balls into the woods.

The other common denominator is the refrigerator/freezer. Where else would we chill the beer, store all the frozen stuff from Costco and Trader Joe’s that two people really don’t need, or all that sausage?
My wife Linda and I are rooting around in the back of our school-aged kids’ closets. We’re not looking for contraband per se, just some chocolate among the bursting trick-or-treat bags. All right, all right, the kids earned it, BUT THEY’RE NOT GOING TO EAT IT! Sometime before Christmas, there will be a great Halloween candy remnant dump in the trash, and most of it will be chocolate.

Out of concern for the environment — not overwhelming the landfills with chocolate — not to mention the livelihood of the workers at the candy factory, we were lightening the load of the trick or treat bags at the back of the closets.

We thought the kids didn’t notice, because we were so furtive, so stealthy and so gradual. They never said anything during their trick-or-treat years. When we lamented to them (now with their own trick or treaters) that we didn’t have strangely garbed, shorter people in St. James knocking at our door begging for candy, they told us what we really missed was our sending them out to procure candy for us.

“You knew?”

“Of course, we knew.”

“But you never said.”

“Some things are better left unsaid. It’s too bad we live so far away. We could lend you one of our trick-or-treaters, maintain a family tradition.”

We miss the cute kids in their costumes and the greedy high school boys with football helmets and pillow cases of candy. And we really miss having kids in our neighborhood. I know we have kids in St. James. The school buses prove it. But honestly, we have more dogs than kids. Sigh.

Here’s a thought. Our dogs could go “bark or treating.” For the sake of canine dignity, costumes don’t have to be elaborate. Maybe with a bandana, your pooch is a pirate. Think minimal, as the high school football player costumes of yore. Or elaborate — who wouldn’t want to dress their dog up as a Disney princess or hero?

No? Well, it was a thought. I didn’t say it was a useful thought.
Coming soon

**Slipping Behind The Waterfall**

Visit [https://joannfranklin.com](https://joannfranklin.com) for details from the writer of *The Raindrop Institute*, now available on Amazon.

---

**Shoreline Comfort Systems**

**HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING**

**SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION**

**EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS SERVICE AVAILABLE**

NC License #22286

4672-2 Long Beach Road • Southport, NC 28461

Office: 910-250-6095
Fax: 910-457-4470

[www.shorelinecomfortsystems.com](http://www.shorelinecomfortsystems.com)
An ornamental cabbage, which could last well into the winter.
Let’s toast to the secrets of radiant skin

Join us for a skin care happy hour
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 5:30 p.m. • Supply

Get the scoop on the latest skin care products and procedures, while enjoying wine, chocolate and 20 percent off Obagi products. Host, board-certified plastic surgeon, Phillip Khan, MD, can answer all of your skin care questions. From products such as Juvederm, Botox and Obagi, to confidence-boosting procedures, such as eyebrow, face or neck lifts, we can help you achieve the flawless, fresh-faced look of your dreams.

Novant Health Coastal Plastic Surgery
6 Doctors Circle, Suite 5, Supply, NC 28462

Visit NovantHealth.org/coastalseminar to register. We hope to see you there!