Thinking of listing your property?

The EVOLUTION of St. James Properties

Historical perspective. While we were always the leader in resales for almost 20 years, St. James Properties sold more developer sales. Understandably, many owners still maintain that perception.

But times have changed. Here’s why. After more than 4,700 sales over a 23 year period, more and more properties come up for resale. That’s what happens as a community matures. As a result, there are far more resales available than developer sales.

**SO, A FEW YEARS AGO, WE CHANGED OUR WHOLE APPROACH TO SALES.**

We became Buyer’s Agents versus Seller’s Agents. We also formed a separate exclusive group who are Listing Agents. They work solely for our listing owners.

We specialize in St. James Plantation only, while other real estate firms sell and list all over the county.

Million dollar marketing budget. For the past 20 years, we have spent over $1,000,000 annually to promote St. James. This consistent effort results in over 2,000 prospect tours each year. Think about that! The typical REALTOR® brings in 100 or less prospects to their office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sides</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>St. James Properties, LLC</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>$83,608,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>$30,123,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>RE/MAX Southern Coast</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>$13,617,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>RE/MAX Essential</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$5,784,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Margaret Rudd &amp; Associates</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$4,344,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on North Carolina Regional MLS Statistics

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Before you list your property with anyone.

1. How many St. James Plantation sales has your company made in the last 12 months?
2. What is your marketing budget for St. James Plantation specifically?
3. How many prospects physically come through your office annually?
4. Do you specialize in St. James Plantation?
5. Are you an exclusive buyer’s agent?

Results.

As a result of the changes, approximately two-thirds of our total sales are now resales. Moreover, we sell more resales in St. James Plantation than the other 880 Brunswick County REALTORS® combined.

800-245-3871 Listing Agents St. James Properties - Lisa Frye, Joanne Penezic and Lisa Nieves

© 2018 St. James Properties, LLC. Obtain the Property Report required by federal law and read it before signing anything. No federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property. Void where prohibited by law. This product does not constitute an offer to sell real property in any jurisdiction where prior registration or advanced qualification is required but not completed. This is not to solicit property currently listed by another broker.
WHAT'S INSIDE

4 Editor’s note
5 POA President’s column
6 An interview with Mayor Jean Toner
8 SJFD: Protecting loved ones

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

9  Meet the Town Council
14  Early winter in St. James
21  Did you know?
21  From the Cat-Tales archives
23  Architectural FAQs: Property setbacks
25  In case you missed it
25  St. James by the numbers
27  Battery life
29  St. James bird count
30  Table for one update
31  SJPAC Irish Pub Night

INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

31  Women of Words Book Club
33  Zumba instructor now backup dancer

HEALTHCARE

35  Healthcare advocate

AROUND THE AREA

36  Travel plans go awry

JUST RIGHT FOR NOW

39  The aftermath
41  Glimpses and glances
43  The great gym class square dance caper
47  Something special

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.

ON THE COVER: "Trees of diamonds" (photo by John Muuss)
For residents grown accustomed to Florida-like temperatures during the later months of 2017, December 30 dawned in St. James with a harsh reality — a hard freeze. The abrupt change in the weather had consequences, noted by the absence of outdoor activities. As Gina Mancinelli writes in her story on page 39, the streets were vacant, with “no one to wave to, no moving out of the way of bikers, no petting doggies.”

One man was up and about, however. John Muuss, our photo editor who is constantly on the prowl for a good picture, was investigating a report from POA Community Manager Dan Davis that the sudden cold snap had created an unusual and picturesque situation. Parts of the golf courses use reclaimed water from the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District for irrigation. On occasion, this water also irrigates the woods along the St. James Drive Green Mile.

As it happens, the morning of December 30 was one of those occasions. John’s photo of the water mixed with the freezing air and the trees creating a wonderful crystalline display that appears on this month’s cover.

It turns out John wasn’t the only photographer taken with this remarkable scene. As the morning progressed, more resident shutter artists appeared, causing what passes for a traffic jam on St. James Drive. Working with members of the St. James Photography Club, John collected some additional photographs, which we’ve included with his work.

But that was only the first segment of John’s remarkable St. James winter tour. Days later, a rare snow and ice storm blanketed St. James, leaving us with a spectacular winter display and more photographic opportunities for John and others. The results of their work are included with the photos of the Green Mile ice show in what became a memorable and unique early winter celebration. The photos of the winter wonderland begin on page 12.

Meanwhile, the Town Council, with its mix of new and old members, is well into its legislative season. JoAnn Franklin, whose byline last appeared in an informative series of articles on POA committees, has collected the hopes and aspirations of each council member in a comprehensive story that begins on page 9. Completing our profile on the Town’s government is Cat-Tales managing Editor Cheryl Serra’s story on Jean Toner, our new mayor.

From politics to Valentine’s Day, don’t miss contributor Bill Eberle’s “Glimpses and glances,” a personal paean to the love of his life (page 41). Bill’s story takes us beyond the usual celebration of candy and roses, adding meaning to February 14.

Finally, the hardy but diminutive band that makes up our editorial staff has taken on reinforcements. Joining us are new associate editors Mariza Arantes, Laurie Danko and Russ Yarrow. They will work with Marilyn Rudolph and Robyn Smith, who have served the magazine nobly over many months and could use a break. As always, Judy Wagner will continue working with John Muuss as our associate photo editor.

For some, it takes a village. For Cat-Tales, it takes a community of volunteers for whom we are most grateful.
For this month’s article, I would like to summarize our 2017 accomplishments. In many ways, 2017 was a watershed year. We completed several projects that had been in planning for many years.

**Grove Gate:** The Town of St. James (TOSJ) began planning for the Grove Gate in 2009. The project that emerged was a joint effort of TOSJ, the Developer and the POA. TOSJ funded the road from the gate to Middleton Boulevard. The Developer and the POA shared the cost of the gatehouse, the road and landscaping inside the gate. The POA also funded the new emergency exit from Woodlands Park to the new gate. The Grove Gate opened on April 10.

**Polly Gully causeway:** The Grove Gate opening allowed us to move forward with the repair of the Polly Gully bridge and causeway. Planning for this project also began in 2009, when we started putting money aside for the refurbishment. Work began last April, and the road reopened on June 30. Due to issues with the Coastal Area Management Act permit, some of the work was delayed until December, when the bulkheads, lighting and stone facing were completed.

**Beach Club parking:** For the past four years, we have explored alternatives to allow more property owners to enjoy the Beach Club during the summer. For the past two years, we have been in negotiations to buy property for expanded parking. The purchase of 1.3 acres of land, effectively doubling available parking spaces, was completed in November.

**Woodlands Park pavilion:** About five years ago, we developed a three-phase plan for upgrading Woodlands Park. A major part of that plan was a new pavilion, since the Waterway Park pavilion has become too small to support scheduled events. We awarded a contract for this amenity in December and work began last month.

**Source selection and contracting:** We awarded new contracts for landscaping, vacant lot maintenance, Waterway Park expanded parking, Beach Club pool maintenance, Spectrum revenue sharing — plus the contracts for Polly Gully refurbishment and the Woodlands Park pavilion mentioned above.

**Roadways, bridges, and parks:** To maintain our roadways we: (1) rejuvenated 10 miles of road in the Players Club area and Beaver Creek; (2) repaved Ridgecrest Drive and a portion of St. James Drive; (3) added striping on several roads; (4) filled potholes, repaired “edge break off” and replaced failed pipes; and (5) replaced planks on the Woodlands Park and Players Club bridges. At Waterway Park, we expanded parking to 46 spaces and installed a third bocce court.

**Beach Club:** We made numerous improvements at the Beach Club, including: (1) replacement of more than 400 bolts and hangers supporting the pavilion; (2) refurbishment of beachfront showers; (3) installation of Trex decking from the parking area to the beach; and (4) refurbishment of both bathrooms.

The exceptional amount of work accomplished last year was due to the efforts of our hard-working volunteer committees and the professional POA staff. When you see these individuals, tell them thanks for a job well done.
An interview with Mayor Jean Toner

By Cheryl L. Serra • Photo by John Muuss

When Jean Toner, the newly elected Town of St. James (TOSJ) mayor, lived in Pittsburgh, she worked on national political campaigns. Now her politics are local.

Volunteering, she says, is a great way for new residents to get involved and support their community. From the volunteer fire department to committee assignments to the Town Council, a strong spirit of volunteerism is a driving force behind the success of the TOSJ. And that’s one of the factors that drew her to initially run for and get elected to Town Council.

Prior to moving to St. James in 2010, Jean worked in human resources and labor relations at the University of Pittsburgh and Westinghouse; she also taught at the University of Pittsburgh.

During those years, the thought of running for office didn’t cross her mind. Instead, she worked, volunteered and raised two children, Matthew, an attorney now 34, and Andrew, 30, a facilities manager. “I was more involved with tennis and Little League,” she says.

When Jean and husband Jeff came to St. James, she wanted to get involved in the community. A neighbor took her to a meeting of the St. James Service Club (SJSC) shortly after her arrival. She signed up for the SJSC, which she says is “a wonderful organization that does so much.” (According to the POA website, since its inception in 1997, the SJSC has donated more than $1 million to local Brunswick County charities.)

Jean later became secretary, vice president and president of the SJSC, a role that put her in touch with many in St. James as well as in neighboring towns.
communities. It was an experience, she said, that gave her “much more of a connection to the area.” She also served on the Clubs of St. James Advisory Board and taught a class at Brunswick Community College that helped the unemployed develop job skills.

People then approached Jean about running for Town Council. She had regularly attended POA and Town Council meetings and was familiar with how the community ran. Jean talked to current and past Town Council members to better understand its responsibilities.

“I like to stay busy and I like to feel that I’m doing something worthwhile,” she says of her decision to run for office as a member of the Town Council in 2015.

Jean encourages anyone interested in running to talk with the mayor, members of the Town Council and the town manager, who directs the day-to-day operations of TOSJ. Gary Brown, then and now the town manager, provides what Jean says is an informal but comprehensive orientation on the structure of state government, the responsibilities of the Town Council, the services the Town provides and a host of other relevant topics. “The staff here is wonderful,” she says. “They make you feel very welcome and they provide great professional support, so it makes the job seem easy.”

Jean believes the transition from the Town’s former elected representatives to the new Town Council and mayor will be seamless.

Jean says being non-partisan when running for council and mayor is an advantage. It allows candidates to focus on the issues facing the Town, rather than getting mired in politics. Residents may dwell on national politics, but the mayor and Town Council members focus on issues that impact residents’ daily lives, like the widening of 211, street lighting, the fire substation and emergency management center.

Jean reports the state’s Department of Transportation has communicated well with the Town and residents on the 211 project, showing renderings of how the project might look and responding to comments and suggestions. The Town is already working on a communications plan that will keep residents up to date on the progress of construction, even though the project has not yet started.

This year, the Town will break ground on the fire substation on Oceanic, a project expected to be completed within 12 months. The station will also serve as the permanent home for the emergency management center, allowing volunteers to address issues “quickly and effectively.”

Being a good municipal neighbor is another continuing priority of the Town Council. Former TOSJ Mayor Bob Morrow initiated monthly meetings with mayors of nearby towns, a practice that continues today. Jean’s council assignment also involves attending quarterly meetings of the Brunswick County mayors and county commissioners.

Jean believes the transition from the Town’s former elected representatives to the new Town Council and mayor will be seamless. All five council members have separate assignments, but they communicate regularly and work collaboratively to achieve common goals.

“I think St. James is unique in that it’s young and built from scratch,” said Jean. The majority of residents moved to St. James from other states — people, she says, who “just took a deep breath, picked up and transplanted their roots.” This provides residents a common ground, literally and figuratively. “I think, because of that, everyone, to some degree, is interested in the Town,” Jean says, adding that their common interest is a benefit to those in government.

“It’s rewarding to talk to people about what they care about and then be able to join with others on Town Council to address those issues,” she said.
This month, as we celebrate Valentine’s Day, Chief Dahill has offered a suggestion to maintain the romantic flair while mitigating potential house fire opportunities. (I have never seen the chief’s romantic side, but Mrs. Chief assures me there is one.)

Rather than real candles to set the mood, the chief suggests using LED candles for that soft glow effect. This option maintains the romance without the chance a candle’s flame will light anything other than the mood. Real flaming candles can and have caused major fires, especially when left unattended.

The driver doesn’t pull over to the side of the road and stop (note: STOP!) so the emergency vehicle can pass.

We really need you to pull over, perhaps even go over the curb so we can get around you. Curbs aren’t that difficult to surmount, as you have undoubtedly found when driving a golf cart. The worst situation we have encountered is when two cars next to each other stop and expect us to thread the needle between them.

And then there are those who don’t immediately see the flashing lights of a big red truck or an ambulance. Nor can they hear the horns and sirens blasting away behind them. When situational awareness finally kicks in, they hit the brakes instead of pulling over and stopping.

When the members of your SJFD are responding to a call, it’s because your friends or neighbors are in distress. Please be courteous to emergency vehicles, allowing them to safely pass you. Not only is it helpful of you to do so, it’s the law.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Now another important topic — how to help your fire department when it’s responding to an emergency that may jeopardize the safety of your loved ones. Many times, when we’re navigating our way to the site of the emergency, we’re impeded by a driver cruising down the road and enjoying tunes or talking on the phone. He or she doesn’t notice the flashing lights behind them.
Meet the Town Council

By JoAnn Franklin • Photos by John Muuss

With the campaign for Town Council behind us, we thought you would like to know more about its members.
To refresh your memories, Dave DeLong and Jeff Mount won a first term. Wayne Deutscher returned to join Don Lund, another sitting member, and Jean Toner, a former sitting member and now the Town’s new mayor.

When asked about upcoming challenges, members mentioned the construction of the fire department/emergency management team substation, development of adjacent property, the reduction in developer influence and emergency management.

Each addressed the widening of state Route 211, a project that will impact St. James for the next five years. The widening is needed, and it’s coming because the “corridors around St. James are poised for development,” Jeff said. “Living through years of roadwork in the D.C. area makes me very aware that allowing our residents to make a doctor’s appointment or getting to work on time should always be a priority.”

“This will cause significant disruption in the traffic flow in and out of all gates in St. James,” Wayne said.

But, as Don pointed out, this widening is “an opportunity to improve the approaches to St. James.” He noted the formation of the state Route 211 enhanced median committee to oversee that beautification effort.

Dave noted the importance of “not losing sight of other business and priorities.”

Fundamental to meeting challenges are the plans members suggested to manage long-term issues:

• Maintain constant contact with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and supervisory personnel on the state Route 211 project.

• Work as a team. Communicate with each other, coordinate with one another and collaborate.

• Inform residents of access issues and detours, and act as a communication conduit with periodic progress reports from the planning stage through construction.

• Establish a long-range facility plan for the St. James Community Center and City Hall buildings, anticipating needs for those building 10 to 20 years into the future.

A second major challenge is the annexation of adjacent properties and evaluation of requests. “Adjacent property owners will have to request annexation from the council for any process to begin,” said Wayne. “After this request, we will perform an extensive evaluation of the pros and cons to TOSJ. Some items to be evaluated include roadway ownership, security, access to property, fire department support, type of community (HOA) and size . . . when and if a request is submitted to TOSJ.”

“Living through years of roadwork in the D.C. area makes me very aware that allowing our residents to make a doctor’s appointment or getting to work on time should always be a priority.”

As every good storyteller knows, external actions are fueled by inner motivation, which is why we asked members about their hopes and dreams.

Don said, “I would like our residents to have confidence that all council members are trying to do their best for the common good of our Town. That our decisions are clear, well thought out, even-handed, and that, as a council, we do not have hidden agendas. After all, we are your neighbors.”
Dave Delong said he wants to be “part of the efforts and initiatives of the Town and the Town Council as we meet the challenges of smart growth, developer influences being reduced, the state Route 211 widening, and commercial and further residential growth near our gates.”

Jeff Mount said, “The lion’s share of my hopes and dreams is that as our community grows, we grow together, not apart. I want the Town Council to be communicating with our citizens on whatever issues come before us.” He added, “I would hope that we could enjoy our blessings and work together.”

Wayne Deutscher discussed four previous visions — the fire station on Oceanic Drive and the dedicated emergency management team substation to be housed within it, additional parking for the TOSJ town hall and community center complex and the NCDOT widening of state Route 211. “My main vision for TOSJ is to keep the town an efficient organization that provides needed services to the residents at a reasonable tax rate,” he said. “We need to evaluate any requests for annexation beyond the current TOSJ boundaries. Additional annexations will incur additional costs and services.”

To help make their visions happen, Wayne is the council representative to the St. James Fire Department Board and to the Emergency Management Team. Don has helped formalize the contract and purchasing policy, introduced monthly finance reports into agendas and a different vendor for yard waste pickup, and supported council initiatives like the construction of the fire station, improved street lighting and the Grove Gate.

Jeff and Dave are without TOSJ Council experience, but Dave wants to implement further fiscally sound budget policies and maintain a forward-looking agenda. Jeff has plans for coordinated communication using the website and other communications venues. He thinks a series of videos that articulate the roles and responsibilities of the Town Council would help residents better understand its duties.

Finally, we asked each member to share something about themselves that our readers would enjoy learning.

“I am an avid collector of Kentucky bourbons and ryes,” Dave said. He has a collection of more than 80 bourbons and 12 ryes. “I am a true believer that bourbon is to be drunk only two ways — neat or over ice.”

Wayne said, “I have been a member of the Council since 2012, and I have and will continue to represent all residents of TOSJ equally.” He has lived in St. James for 11 years and has served with the fire department, the POA Architectural Control Committee, and is a member of the North Carolina 4th of July Festival committee, held each year in Southport.

Don builds homes for Habitat for Humanity, sings with the Sea Notes and plays pickleball. “Travelling is an interest, whether visiting our seven children and six grandchildren or exploring international venues,” he said. “In addition, St. James is full of generous people I enjoy being with.”

Jeff volunteers at the Southport Elementary School, where he teaches chess, and at South Brunswick Middle School, where he helps in English classes. He is also treasurer of the St. James Service Club. “I grew up in a small town in Kansas and somehow ended up working at The National Aeronautics and Space Administration HQ in D.C. for a decade,” he said. “I still don’t know how that happened.”
SUNAIR® HAS THE RIGHT RETRACTABLE AWNING SYSTEM FOR YOU!

EXPAND YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE AND MORE...

A Sunair® Lateral Arm Awning offers the ideal solution for creating a comfortable outdoor environment the whole family can enjoy. Imagine staying cool on your deck and protecting your family from the sun’s harmful rays. Finally you can enjoy cookouts and entertaining the way it is meant to be with a Sunair® Retractable Awning.

ADDED BENEFITS!
• Energy savings - reducing cooling energy
• Sun protection from harmful UV rays
• Add value to your home without the cost of a permanent installation.

1046 S. Kerr Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-799-2782
info@wilmingtonawning.com • www.wilmingtonawning.com

Southern Exposure Offers:
• Custom Design
• Award Winning Craftsmanship
• World Class Product
• Genuine Value
• Precision Installation
• Don Oakley, your St. James Neighbor

910-793-2762 • 412 S. College Rd
Wilmington NC 28403
SouthernExposureSunrooms.com

Precision Watch Repair
Specializing in:
Rolex Watches
Antique Pocket and Wrist Watches
All High-Grade Watches
Southport, NC All work guaranteed.
(910) 845-3434

Affordable Blinds and More
910-602-1648
5751 Suite 8 Oleander Dr. Wilmington

Blinds • Shutters • Shades • Closets, and more.

40% off SELECT WINDOW COVERINGS

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE
Call our office at 910-793-2762, or call 910-253-4486 to get Don Oakley, your St. James neighbor who has added value to more than 600 homes in your neighborhood.

Ray Carteret,
Master Watchmaker
50 years experience
Serving Southeast NC for over 41 years.

Prism Psychological Services
Ronald S. Field, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Licensed Psychologist / Neuropsychologist

3960 Executive Park Blvd. #3
Southport, NC 28461
Phone/Fax: 910-505-9122
Email: mail@prismpsych.com
Website: www.prismpsych.com

Enjoy St. James lifestyle and add value to your home.

Award Winning Craftsmanship

www.AffordableBlindsAndMore.com

Wilmington Awning & Shutter, Inc.
1046 S. Kerr Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-799-2782
info@wilmingtonawning.com • www.wilmingtonawning.com
Your Dream Home Came True!

Your Imagination & Vision + Our Experience & Quality

Yes: We Are Open To The Public!

LARGE MATERIAL YARD
FULLY PERMITTED VEGETATIVE DUMPSITE
SAND GRAVELS RIVER ROCK
LANDSCAPE BOULDERS RECYCLED GRANITE
CYPRUS BASED MULCH HAND BALED PINE STRAW
AND MUCH MORE...

Ask about our Organic Screened Topsoil

4923 Trails End Rd
Southport, NC 28461
HoffmanEcoworks.com

Bill Epstein – Builder Since 1978 – Certified Green Builder
Office: 910-457-4763 • Cell 908-507-4061 • BEpstein@earthlink.net
www.W EpsteinBuilders.com

SHIANO
DEVELOPMENT CORP.
THE HAMPTONS THE GOLD COAST, NY NORTH CAROLINA
631-774-6663

2017 Diamond Award Winner
Early winter in St. James
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
Did you know?

By Nancy Seyferth

I’ve heard a lot of people lamenting the harsh winter weather. Days of lower temperatures can be uncomfortable for many outdoor activities, but they’re also a good time to notice nature’s wintry beauty. In St. James, most deciduous trees have fully shed their leaves, revealing features not noticed previously, such as gumballs, mistletoe and squirrel nests.

Gumballs are the hard, prickly seed balls of the sweetgum tree. They’re notorious for sticking to any manner of clothing they contact. The sweetgum tree has pointed, star-shaped green leaves, which turn yellow, orange, red and purple in the fall. When the branches are bare, it’s easy to spot the gumballs. Some may stay attached to the tree long after the winged seeds have been released, though others might fall to the ground.

Another sight that emerges in fall is clumps of native American mistletoe, the bushy green vegetation among the branches of otherwise leafless trees.

From the Cat-Tales archives

By Cheryl L. Serra

Dated dating: A February 1996 issue article titled Calling all Sweethearts invited readers to a Valentine’s Day dinner dance that cost $25 per couple or $15 a person. If that’s not enough to show how the times have changed, the article goes on: Attendees are urged to bring a disc or tape with favorite dance music.

In other, less trumpeted news, golf enthusiasts were told Cat-Tales editors had hoped to report the success of the St. James Brunswick Cup team this month, but decided to delay until the following year. “It seems that we resumed our position to the level it has now been for three of the last four years — Second from the bottom,” the editors reported (de-emphasis intended). “Only last year was a bright spot when we finished second from the top.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that infects oaks, maples, sycamores and many other trees. Although it produces some food through photosynthesis, it also produces specialized tissues that invade the host’s branches, soaking up water and vital nutrients. Also, the mistletoe berries are a staple for songbirds.

Then there are the squirrel nests that are built in tree cavities out of leaves, twigs and moss — with a concealed entrance facing the trunk of the tree. Squirrels use leaf nests mainly in the summer. However, these ragged treetop shelters become visible once the trees are bare.

So before you throw another log on the fire and bond with your sofa, consider taking a stroll outdoors to observe the gifts of winter.
Meet your future with confidence.

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.

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

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)
Architectural FAQs: What to know about property setbacks  By Genna Porter

When building on your lot, all structures are subject to setback requirements.

“What is a setback?” you may ask.

According to Wikipedia, a setback is defined as the distance a building or any other structure is from the street or road, body of water or any place deemed in need of protection. Setbacks are measured from the front, side and rear property lines of a parcel to establish the buildable area of a lot. These lines come together to create a “setback envelope” where buildings and structures can be built.

Setback requirements prevent homes from crowding adjacent lots. They also help preserve natural areas and create privacy between neighbors. When looking at a property’s site plan, setbacks are typically depicted as dash lines with the footage requirement noted. Each lot in St. James has a specific setback requirement. You can find this information on the POA’s website under “ACC Documents.”

Editor’s Note: If you have questions about setbacks, email Genna Porter, the POA’s Architectural Committee administrator, at gporter@stjamespoa.net.
TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND FRIENDS
we grieve, share feelings and memorable moments.

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
By now you’ve probably heard, but just to reiterate: The Clubs at St. James have been sold to Troon Golf, which has been managing the Club’s amenities for the past 12 years. St. James Development General Manager Bobby Masters sent an email to Club Members January 9 detailing the history of Troon’s involvement with St. James Plantation. “Owning and operating 81 holes of golf, along with social and dining clubs, as well as fitness and recreational facilities is no small undertaking,” the email says. “Twelve years ago, we realized that to better serve our members, The Clubs at St. James Plantation would need to bring on a partner to manage the facilities.” That partner was Troon.

“…we are confident today in announcing our decision to sell The Clubs at St. James Plantation to Troon Golf. We entered into a purchase contract with Troon on December 20, 2017. Troon Golf is a part of Troon Privé, Troon’s private club management service, and focuses on elevating private clubs and creating a sustainable organization. By selling The Clubs, Troon will continue to bring even more best-in-class services to The Clubs, based off its experience managing properties across the U.S. and globe, ensuring The Clubs can stay relevant and up-to-date as property grows over time.”

The announcement was picked up in “C&RB” (Club & Resort Business), a trade publication, as well as in WilmingtonBiz.

In addition, The State Port Pilot reported approval of the St. James Center, a 139-acre planned development by Homer Wright, St. James Plantation developer. Brunswick County Planning Board members approved the conceptual plan at its meeting in January. The plan calls for multi-family housing and commercial space and will make use of 11 parcels that surround the St. James Community Center and town hall property.

St. James by the numbers

Compiled by Rick Margin

Organizations/Clubs

Standing committees – 13
Arts and hobbies – 19
Games and cards – 11
Environment, garden, service and social – 7
Special interest – 10
Sports – 21
Total – 81

Source: POA website; Service Club
Your Dream Home is in Our Showroom

SHALLOTTE ELECTRIC STORE
Serving Brunswick County Since 1971.

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

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

Experience the New Buick

The New 2018 Buick Enclave Avenir

Bell & Bell

We’re Closer Than You Think.
All Roads Lead To Bell & Bell.
Highway 57 & Highway 9
Little River/North Myrtle Beach

www.bellandbell.com • 843-399-8300 • Toll-Free 1-800-635-1693

The New 2018 Buick Regal Sportback/GS

The New 2018 Buick Enclave Avenir
Apple received a lot of bad press recently when the media said the company intentionally slowed down its older devices to prolong battery life. But what does this mean to you? How can you tell if battery draining and device slowness is normal wear and tear or some nefarious plot to harm your device?

I’ve yet to read what the definition of “slowing down” means in precise time studies. Does it take an extra tenth of a second, one second or 10 seconds longer for apps to open or work?

Also, what does “battery life is low” mean? Is there a too low and if so, what’s the result of running the battery too low? How do you know if the app is running slow due to your battery and not some other reasons?

Our mobile devices, like computers, have processors that run them and their apps. New processors allow apps to run faster and smoother, but they generally require more power. That’s where the battery comes into play.

Apple admitted it slows older devices because slower, older processors running a new operating system and apps can cause their batteries to drain faster. Engineers intentionally slowed the devices to help preserve battery life.

The big question is, how does this affect you? And the answer isn’t clear. Free apps like Battery Life from the iOS App Store or Google Play Store test the health of your battery. Note: This isn’t the same as looking at your battery’s charge at the top of the device.

Over time, batteries wear down and won’t recharge to the highest level. Your device may show 100 percent power. But this means you have 100 percent of remaining battery power, which may not be the highest level your device can have. It’s not an indication of the battery’s health. The Battery Life app looks at wear level and other factors affecting your battery’s condition. Check out Run Time under the menu bars if you’re interested in Battery Health more than battery charge.

Aside from replacing the battery and running through the same apps before and after battery replacement, there’s no easy way to quantify how slow is too slow. Fortunately, Apple has reduced the cost of battery replacement from $79 to $29. If you believe your battery’s health is poor, drop by an Apple Store or call Apple at 800-275-2273 to say you’re concerned about your battery. Like most experts, I advise against replacing batteries yourself. Take your device to an Apple store or Batteries Plus or to someone who has the experience, tools and knowledge to open Apple devices.

In my opinion, Apple was right to slow down how fast the battery drained so users don’t have to continue buying new batteries. I fault them, however, for not being up front about it.
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.

CAROLINA SOLAR SECURITY
www.carolinasolarsecurity.com
910.791.5820
Since 1985

Josh M London, Agent
1112 E Cutlar Crossing Ste 104
North Carolina
Bus: 910-383-1303
josh@joshinsuresme.com

Will Rogers, Agent
4330 Southport Supply Rd., Unit 202
Southport, NC 28461
Bus: 910-477-6530
will.rogers.uyiq@statefarm.com

个人耐心
定制建筑。
三十年。

SCHMID HOMES

EAST COAST MOVING
A smooth move, it's a "shore" thing!
eastcoastmovingllc.com
Call 866-279-MOVE

EXPERTS IN RESIDENTIAL
& COMMERCIAL MOVING

Local & Long Distance Moving
We move Pianos and Pool tables
Labor only, now offered also
Locally owned & operated since 2013
Full Licensed & Insured

State Farm
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.

CAROLINA SOLAR SECURITY
www.carolinasolarsecurity.com
910.791.5820
Since 1985

Josh M London, Agent
1112 E Cutlar Crossing Ste 104
North Carolina
Bus: 910-383-1303
josh@joshinsuresme.com

Will Rogers, Agent
4330 Southport Supply Rd., Unit 202
Southport, NC 28461
Bus: 910-477-6530
will.rogers.uyiq@statefarm.com

个人耐心
定制建筑。
三十年。

SCHMID HOMES

EAST COAST MOVING
A smooth move, it's a "shore" thing!
eastcoastmovingllc.com
Call 866-279-MOVE

EXPERTS IN RESIDENTIAL
& COMMERCIAL MOVING

Local & Long Distance Moving
We move Pianos and Pool tables
Labor only, now offered also
Locally owned & operated since 2013
Full Licensed & Insured

State Farm
2017 St. James bird count

By Beth Erskine • Photos by Neil Rosenberg

As the coldest New Year’s Day in recent memory dawned, 13 intrepid and bundled-up volunteers led by veteran bird-counters Hugh Shaw and Margie Foote began their quest to count the birds of St. James for the annual 2017 Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Equipped with binoculars and “Sibley’s Guide to Birds,” two groups began tracking their quarry throughout St. James. Their objective: to count the number of species within our community. Targeted destinations were woods (which become scarcer as new developments are built), ponds and prairie-like areas. Spots that usually reward the counters did not disappoint in 2017, as Waterway Park proved a popular habitat. Ponds are always a favorite haven, especially the ones containing reclaimed water like those around Players.

From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. the birders logged up to five miles on foot and drove an average of 25 miles to cover their spots. By day’s end, the count was tabulated at 60 different species.

Although only a winter visitor, the yellow-rumped warbler proved the most popular bird, with 565 counted. Among the remaining variety of observed birds, the most common were the eastern bluebird, northern cardinal, Carolina chickadee and the mourning dove. From December to March, the ponds of St. James host the hooded merganser and bufflehead ducks. The mallards are year-round residents, along with woodpeckers, hawks and the great-horned owl. There were no new species sighted in this year’s count.

The bird count has an interesting history. It evolved from a nineteenth century tradition known as the “Side Hunt,” whereby hunters on horseback with guns would choose "sides" and compete to amass the largest pile of feathers and furs. However, the declining bird population began to concern members of the emerging conservation movement. By Christmas Day 1900, the nascent Audubon Society proposed a new holiday tradition — “A Christmas Bird Census,” which would count birds rather than hunt them. And so the annual bird count began. The data it provides help guide conservation efforts and monitor the health of local bird populations.

Other participants in the St. James bird count this year were Deborah Shaw, Neil and Elisa Rosenberg, Kathleen Bowman, Amanda Kiel, Deborah Dougherty, Cheryl Manger, Joanne Parker, Pat MacPherson, Ann Bobeck, Janet Ball and Janet Kurz.

More info on the St. James Birders, including a checklist of birds common to our area and whether they are seasonal or year-round, can be found on their website. Go to www.stjamespoanc.org, then navigate to Clubs and Groups/Environment/Birders. You can also email them at St.JamesBirders@gmail.com.
At the beginning of the new year, 110 people made up an active St. James singles group. Members have been meeting for fun social gatherings at least once each month. November was the Halloween party, hosted by Stacey Saveth at her home in Seaside. About 25 people attended, some in costume looking spectacular, and all enjoying the plentiful delicious food.

December’s holiday party included cocktails and appetizers at the Reserve Club. There were lots of laughs while attendees opened their white elephant gifts and then played Christmas trivia. The party, attended by 45 people who all seemed to enjoy themselves, was a fun way to start the holiday weekend, which can be a difficult time for those who are alone.

The singles group has grown steadily since its formation four months ago. It appears to be a viable social group that will continue through 2018. Members are working on organizing special interest groups and committees to help plan activities. Attendees note the group is not about finding a mate, but rather about making friendships that can enrich members’ lives. If two people happen to meet and click, fantastic. But the purpose is friendship.

For more information, or to be added to the group’s mailing list, contact Stacey at sevanlee53@gmail.com. You must be a resident or a St. James property owner to join.
St. James Plantation Activities Committee to host Irish pub night

By Elizabeth McGuire

A night of Irish songs, folklore and storytelling with Tom O’Carroll will be held on March 3 and 4 from 6-10 p.m. at the St. James Plantation Community Center (SJPCC). The event is sponsored by the St. James Plantation Activities Committee (SJ PAC). For more than 30 years, O’Carroll, an Irish-born folk singer, has been singing the songs and playing the tunes of his native Ireland, infusing his appearances with humorous stories and anecdotes. Last year, O’Carroll played to a sold-out evening, so another night was added.

Middle of the Island will cater the dinner of corned beef and cabbage, bangers and mash. For those who don’t enjoy authentic Irish fare, Penne a la Vodka and salad will also be served. Tea and beverages will be available. Otherwise, bring your own wine, beer or soda and be ready to sing. Be on the lookout for more event details and ticket sale information. Please contact Liz Ventura at lzvent02@verizon.net or Barbara McGreevy at bmgreevy@aol.com for additional information.

Women of Words (WOW) Book Club

By Nancy Bauman • Photo by Paul Kremkau

The WOW Book Club attended a holiday gathering hosted by Mary Kremkau. On the members’ reading list are “Before We Were Yours,” “Commonwealth,” “Elephant Company,” “Women of the Orient Express” and “The Glass Castle.”

(l to r) front: Barbara McCabe and Linda Eckman; back row: Sue Kleine, Denise York, Julie Hackett, Mercedes Evans, Dorothy Erard, Mary Kremkau, Nancy Bauman and Sherrill Sykes
Sea Grass Model

EXQUISITE TRIM
CUSTOM HARDWOOD FLOORS
FILLED WITH LIGHT
COASTAL OUTDOOR LIVING

BARKER & CANADY
FINE CUSTOM HOMES SINCE 1981
910.509.2014 | BarkerCanady.com

H&N Custom Landscaping and Remodeling, Inc.

• Landscaping Design and Installation
• Grading & Clearing
• LED Outdoor Lighting
• Retaining Walls
• SOD
• Irrigation
• Outdoor Living
• Patios and Decks
• Fences
• General Lawn Maintenance

910 409 7521 • www.handninc.com
After six years of teaching Zumba in St. James, instructor Pattie Powderly Accordino will now be dancing in the back row.

Pattie was hooked on the exercise and dance form after attending her first class eight years ago. Two years later, she received her first Zumba certification and began working as substitute teacher. Later, she taught at fitness facilities in the area.

Pattie taught her first class — which was packed — in November of 2011 and says she’s never looked back. “I always had my sights on the St. James Community Center,” she recalls. “It just felt like the perfect location to be, and I wanted to be the first person to bring a fitness class into the building.”

For Pattie, it’s never been about the pounds or calories her students burned, but about the friendships she formed. “I will treasure all of my memories and look forward to dancing in the back row for a change in 2018,” she said.

Zumba will continue at the community center with Kathy Rossi as the primary instructor.
Remember the days when healthcare was fairly simple? It’s not that way anymore. A medical diagnosis can trigger swirling thoughts, uncertainty, confusion and sometimes fear. Quite often, a diagnosis leads to several testing and treatment options, followed by handoffs to numerous care providers who may or may not talk to each other about your care.

And don’t even mention medical charges and bills that begin to trickle in from several sources, making little to no sense at all (let’s save this topic for another time).

The intricacies of today’s healthcare should prompt everyone to consider having an advocate — professional or personal — in their back pocket. A personal advocate is usually a spouse, relative or friend who can serve in this role. A professional advocate, such as a social worker, nurse, care manager or other healthcare professional, can be hired to help patients better understand a diagnosis, sort through the complexities of healthcare and make well-informed choices.

Johns Hopkins physician John Burton states, “The older you are, the more important it is to have another person with you during visits.” Aging usually brings on additional health issues. “Having two people hear the discussion and making sure they understand is much better than just one set of ears,” said Dr. Burton. “It’s difficult for one person to remember everything that’s been discussed.”

Although Dr. Burton encourages 100 percent of his patients to have an advocate, only about 70 percent do.

An Internet search for healthcare advocates will produce many organizations that provide advocate services. But advocates are not required to be licensed or certified, so assess potential selections carefully. Ask for references, experience and background. Select an advocate who is trusted, knowledgeable, politely assertive, has excellent communication skills, understands when help is wanted, and most of all, has your personal welfare at heart.

Whether or not you have an advocate, prepare for healthcare appointments by having several “go to” questions at your fingertips. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (the federal agency charged with improving the safety and quality of America’s healthcare), 10 questions can help individuals take better care of themselves and may even save a life:

- What is the test for?
- How many times have you done this procedure?
- When will I get the results?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- Are there any alternatives?
- What are the possible complications?
- Which hospital is best for my needs?
- How do you spell the name of that drug?
- Are there any side effects?
- Will this medicine interact with medicines that I’m already taking?

Be prepared to take charge of your healthcare by having your questions and an advocate ready. Write the answers to the questions. Along with your advocate, these actions will help lessen the stress of a medical diagnosis, build trust with caregivers and lead to better individual and overall healthcare quality, safety, satisfaction and outcomes.

Editor’s note: In addition to being a Cat-Tales writer and associate editor, Marilyn holds an RN, BSN and MBA and provides healthcare consulting to large hospital systems and ambulatory physician practices.
Mt. Agung provided a beautiful view from the safety of the Bloomers’ rental. The family, inset, had masks ready, but thankfully didn’t need to use them.
Travel plans go awry: Spewing volcanos and derailed schedules

By Laurie Danko and Cheryl L. Serra • Photos by Jenny Bloomer Snyder

If the demand for pet sitters is any indication, a favorite St. James pastime is globe-trotting. Whether overnighting to New Bern or exploring the farthest spots on the planet, people here love to travel.

As travel veterans, we know no matter how careful, thorough, or meticulous our planning, the unexpected can always leap out and yell, “Surprise!” Sometimes, it’s delightful, like a free upgrade to first class. Or thrilling, like coming upon a thundering herd of migrating wildebeest while on safari.

More often, though, travel surprises can be unwelcome, requiring resourcefulness, patience, flexibility and a sense of humor. They also make the best stories.

Tom and Diana Bloomer have been St. James residents since 2013. Their daughter Jenny, son-in-law Jimmy and grandchildren Sam and Katie live in Okinawa, where Jimmy is stationed as a master gunnery sergeant in the Marines.

The Bloomers just returned from a six-week visit there — first a family rendezvous in Bali and then back to Japan for the holidays.

Getting to Bali turned into an ordeal. One of Bali’s two active volcanoes, Mt. Agung, had been quiet for 54 years. About a week before the Bloomers’ departure, it erupted. Air space was closed, then reopened. Then closed. Then reopened. Anxiety, relief, anxiety, relief. When travel day finally arrived, Tom and Diana were assured before wheels up that all was thumbs up.

Landing 15 hours later in Shanghai, the Bloomers were greeted with the news that their connecting airline had cancelled without notice all flights to Bali for the rest of December. While agents scrambled to find alternative arrangements, the Bloomers were stranded at the airport. Shanghai’d for 17 hours.

Finally, they boarded a plane for a six-hour flight to Singapore; then on to Bali. More than 40 hours of travel. Or as someone put it, a work week. Now safely home, Tom and Diana have memories of spectacular Mt. Agung’s steady plume of white frothy smoke and an unforgettable trip.

Also last December, Dick and JoAnn Franklin had planned to go to Iceland. JoAnn says the Northern Lights have long been on her bucket list. They signed on with a tour group and attended seminars to learn about Iceland’s climate, geology, innovative farming methods and much more.

The travelers boarded a bus for the ride from Wilmington to Raleigh-Durham International Airport. There, they learned their flight had been cancelled due to weather. The cancellation put their flight to Reykjavik in jeopardy, with the loss of two or three days of their seven-day trip, making their Northern Lights exposure less probable.

After much deliberation, conversation and debate, the tour group said they would honor Dick and JoAnn’s trip insurance. “We had a late lunch at the airport, boarded the bus and came back home,” JoAnn says. Here are a few travel lessons learned from St. James wanderers:

Always buy trip insurance. You never know what chaotic event will change your plans. Dick and JoAnn bought it again when they rebooked their trip to Iceland.

Make the best of wherever your travels take you. Sure, you hadn’t planned to be in Chicago — the brand-new swimwear you bought won’t do much for you there — but see what there is to do. Go to a museum, or find delicious culinary delights you wouldn’t have found otherwise.

Make sure to pack more medicine than you’ll need. Sometimes, especially if traveling overseas, medications may be different or unavailable. It’s also a good idea to pack some essentials like aspirin and a first aid kit.

Tell friends and families of your travel plans. If possible, leave them a key so they can check your house if you’re gone longer than expected (or if bad weather causes a possible threat to plants and heating systems).

We can plan as meticulously as possible, and then life happens. Embrace it.
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
Actually, I have a wonderful memory of this past Christmas, one that has been captured with lots of photos. My son, daughter-in-law and grandbaby not only came to spend time with us for Christmas, but also to celebrate Drea’s first birthday. Oh, the planning that went into this great event. Hit the neighbors and Grandma’s Gear up for equipment (can’t thank you all enough), plan activities so they think I’m the cool granny, stock the pantry and plan a birthday party, which I held at Southport’s own San Felipe restaurant.

“I have a wonderful memory of this past Christmas, one that has been captured with lots of photos.”

What a hoot! She’ll clap and sing and smile at the staff while they serenade and present her with her birthday cake. Not so much. She did keep her queen crown on the whole time, but she maintained a blank stare in a frozen position in her highchair. Granted, we all were immensely entertained, but clearly she just wanted to dig into her cake.

We also attended the St. James Fire Department Christmas party. I can’t tell you what a wonderful time we had and how well organized this event was. It was so great to see my friends’ grandchildren. Even though I’ve seen pictures of the little darlings, it was great to meet all of them in person. In case any of you caught the scream that was heard around the world that afternoon, that would have been Drea. This playful, smiley, giggly kind of baby got her first look at Santa and made it known they were not going to be friends, at least not this year. Still, I persevered and made this the happiest and merriest Christmas/birthday ever.

Let’s all go for a walk at Waterway. Finally, a hit and at a cost of $0. She had her first swing ride and laughed so heartily that other kids came over for a swing as well. We went squirrel watching. Again a $0 hit. Walking round and round, soaking up the sun, pushing a giggling baby and having an actual conversation with my son: priceless.

I guess simple pleasures can sometimes make the best memories and make the aftermath of a great Christmas bearable.
The AUSTIN

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

Connect with other smart-home systems. The PowerView system is designed for compatibility with most automation system technologies on the market today, as well as Apple® iOS and Android™ tablets and mobile devices to expand the function of your wireless home.

Please be sure to visit the PowerView Compatibility page at hunterdougles.com for the latest information on compatible system devices.

Custom Window Treatments | Sewing and Alterations
Interior Design Consultations | Free Shop at Home Service

Frank D. Galtieri, St. James resident and Owner
910-854-0028 | www.francosinteriors.com

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
Glimpses and glances

By Bill Eberle

I attended a boarding school for boys during my last years of high school and then an all-male college. On February 10, 1967, my freshman year, after five months working my way through mixers with girls from the “seven sisters” women’s colleges, I was smitten after just a glimpse at a mixer in exotic New London, Connecticut. I moved closer, introduced myself, and monopolized Linda for the rest of the evening. Then, I went back to Yale and mailed her a Valentine’s Day card, hoping it would make it from New Haven to New London in four days.

The rest, as they say, is history. It is a history of many, many glimpses and glances. There was seeing her at the head of the aisle in church as my bride, just as my father-in-law stepped on the train of her gown. Could I be any more smitten? Yes. I remember pregnant Linda on a cable TV show teaching other pregnant ladies appropriate exercises to stay fit.

Here’s the deal — with so much experience with the one you consider the most beautiful woman in the world, I am still aware of other women. One night, with three kids ages 3, 5 and 8 in tow, we were at a fast food restaurant. We used to call this “going out to dinner.” I had the heroic task of remembering what everyone wanted, placing the order, then finding the table where Linda had corralled three kids after negotiating past the play area, probably with a potty stop thrown in. She accomplished all this, performing with good grace and only two hands to manage three kids. In our family, tasks were assigned according to ability.

I was waiting in line when I saw a lovely woman framed in a window of a door into the dining room. WOW! A married man is not supposed to react as I did. It was spontaneous, but that doesn’t count. Then, as a married man, I tell myself, “I hope Linda didn’t see my glance, because she would know.” BIG TROUBLE doesn’t begin to describe the consequences of such a glance. I looked for her — did she see? In a flash, I realized SHE was the lovely woman framed in the window.

Glimpses — they shape us. There was seeing grandma with her first grandchild. It was worth being married to a grandmother and even becoming granddad. I can’t begin to describe seeing her at the finish line of the Myrtle Beach Marathon after seven hours of running. I wasn’t quite the last person to finish — close to it — but I had something the first-place winner didn’t have: seeing my Linda.

Glimpses in yoga class, walking the beach, walking the dog, too many to remember and always another one to enjoy. Glimpses lead to glances that lead to… Happy Valentine’s Day!
BUILDING homes designed FOR YOUR FUTURE.

- Wynd Song

• Building in St. James for over 15 years.
• Unlimited licensed N.C. builders, No Hidden Fees, licensed real estate agents, an interior designer and licensed landscape contractor all on staff.
• FOR SALE our latest model home at 3045 Moss Hammock Wynd, located in St. James.
The great gym class square dance caper

By Fred Ammann

I loved gym class in elementary school. It was the only sure A on my report card. So, life was good in January 1961 when we returned from Christmas break, ready to start the basketball unit. Except it didn’t work out that way.

The first hint that something was amiss was when we were on our way to gym — the girls didn’t peel off to the basement gym as they normally did. Together, we marched to the main gym and were told we wouldn’t need to change into our uniforms. Up front, where the ball rack should have been, was a rolling cart with a phonograph.

We were then informed that for the next four weeks, we would be participating in a new square dance unit. I didn’t know a do-si-do from an allemande left. But there I was, fumbling around the gym with two left feet, trying to avoid female contact and thinking we should be practicing layups.

At the end of the month, things hadn’t turned out badly. For the most part, we could negotiate several intricate maneuvers at the caller’s direction. I could have done without the bow and curtsey, but no one had contracted cooties and been sent to the nurse. The only bruises were to our male egos. Still, I was glad when February arrived and the ball cart reappeared.

By sixth grade, our attitudes toward square dancing changed when most of us guys realized that, in addition to already being intellectually superior, the girls were also maturing in other ways. As a result, the unit wasn’t as dreaded as in the previous year. For someone like me, good at logistics and spatial relationships, it was possible to properly place yourself in the line, giving the opportunity to promenade with Gigi Brush or Gayle Maloney. I doubt they felt as lucky as I did.

As the month ended, we were told that in preparation for a first-time-ever Valentines Dance we would learn other dances. After all, you couldn’t have two hours of just swinging your partner! So, we were taught the Lindy, giving us just enough individual creativity to showcase our moves.

We also learned, for lack of a better term, how to slow dance. I still remember — left hand out front, right hand center of your partner’s back, at least a foot separation. Considering Shelia Sheridan was a head taller, I had other issues to deal with when we danced to “I Only Have Eyes for You.” Some of the guys were sad to see that two-week extension end, but it was good to get back to real sports.

Writer’s Note: By ninth grade, that foot of separation had closed considerably and our right hand had become a textbook case in proving Sir Isaac Newton’s Law of Gravity. Unfortunately for me, I had transferred to a Catholic high school, where Brother Ronald David roamed the floor reminding us to leave some room for the Holy Ghost.
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) 470-3456 to schedule a tour of new model homes in St. James Plantation.

Visit our website: www.hagoodhomes.com

Family Owned and Operated Since 1976

Renee’s Fine Jewelry

602 N. Howe St Southport, NC 28461

(910) 457-7714 - www.ReneesFineJewelry.com

Island Way

Fine Dining Featuring Steaks & Seafood

“The only thing we overlook is the ocean.”

Open for dinner at 4:30 pm & Lunch served Memorial Day thru Labor Day.

Oceanfront Dining

1407 East Beach Drive • Oak Island, NC 28465

www.islandwayres.com 910-278-7770

Desgining Homes in St. James Plantation and Brunswick County for 18 Years

Thorpe Design Group

Custom Home Design and Renovation Design

(910) 279-4136 ~ thorpedesigns.com
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.

Call Us For A Free Estimate

Compare Our CD Rates
Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>APY*</th>
<th>Minimum deposit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-month</td>
<td>1.65%</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-year</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year</td>
<td>2.40%</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective January 18, 2018. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to $250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Teresa A Carroll
Financial Advisor
4961 Long Beach Road
Suite 6
Southport, NC 28461
910-457-6644

www.coastalglassnc.com
STJ Resident Sales Rep
Frank Galtieri
910-392-6860

4805 Wrightsville Ave
Wilmington, NC 28403
www.coastalglassstinting.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
Something special

Photo by John Muuss
When it comes to your health, having access to the best care in a convenient location is a must. That’s why Novant Health Oceanside Family Medicine in Southport has moved to a new location at Pine Forest Plantation and changed our name to Novant Health Family Medicine Pine Forest.

From routine check-ups to injuries and illness, our providers are trained to care for every member of the family, from infants to seniors. And with special conveniences like extended hours, same-day sick appointments, online appointment scheduling and MyChart, a free electronic health management tool, we’ll make your care easier than ever. We’re accepting new patients and can see you soon.

Visit our website at NovantHealth.org/familymedpineforest or call 910-454-4032 to schedule an appointment.