

VENETIAN BAY

OCTOBER 2017

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A Social Newsletter Exclusively for Venetian Bay Residents

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AREA INFORMATION & POINTS OF INTEREST

Area Information & Points of Interest

Contact Information for City members:

Mayor - jhathaway@cityofnsb.com
City Commissioner - jreiker@cityofnsb.com
City Commissioner - jsachs@cityofnsb.com
City Commissioner - jmcguirk@cityofnsb.com
City Commissioner - kjones@cityofnsb.com
City Planner - jgove@cityofnsb.com

Police Department

(386) 424-2000

Schools

Cross Creek Community Church
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City of New Smyrna Beach
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Utilities (Electric, Water & Sewer)

Utilities Commission

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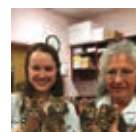
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Lincoln Eckelbarger Turns *two*

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We all remember our neighborhood superstar Jaxson Eckelbarger. Well, his little brother, **Lincoln**, featured in the very first issue of the magazine recently turned 2 years old.

Happy Birthday, Lincoln!!



geosam
By Todd Mosley

Neighborhood News

The Johnson Group is now managing the VB golf course.



From day one of management in early June, the Johnson group began making improvements to the course. Work continues to improve and keep Venetian Bay Golf Club as the premier club in New Smyrna Beach.



Pat & Toni's has purchased Hershey's ice cream shop in the town center and is continuing the tradition of the 50's style soda shop, but also adding their famous chocolates and fudge. They have their original shop in Deland as well.



Amalfi's Italian restaurant has a new head Chef Angelo Morinelli.

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family Hurricane preparedness plan



The recent Hurricane Harvey should give us pause to prepare for a major natural disaster. The following provides some guidelines and key contact information that you should review to help you put a written family hurricane preparedness plan in place.

Hurricane Mathew was no comparison to the devastation brought on by Hurricane Harvey, so how would you best plan for this type of storm? Since 1980, HIG Insurance owners have been through hurricanes, windstorms, tornadoes, floods, and fires and have found the difference in those who planned well, as they had a better outcome than those who planned poorly. Quality property insurance protection may relieve some of your concerns, but the

interruption and displacement of your family after a major event is often so much worse.

Since about 1960, Volusia County has experienced approximately nine hurricanes, but none have ever made direct landfall. We have also experienced tropical storms, major tornadoes, damaging windstorms and rain storms that have produced severe regional flooding. Hurricane Harvey not only was a direct hit with damaging storm surge, but it also brought several feet of rainfall. Although our topography is different, if we ever had the same scenario we would experience not only damaging wind but major flooding well beyond our coast.

VOLUSIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Volusia County Emergency Management's 43,000 sq-ft facility houses our county's emergency operations and Sheriff's communications activities, including 9-1-1. The County of Volusia prepares for natural and man-made disasters and offers residents information for shelters, transportation, evacuation, recovery, clean-up supplies and more. Important telephone numbers and public information are available below and more by opening their website at Volusia.org.

A FEW QUICK PREPARATION TIPS

Our motto is "prepare for the worse and hope for the best"; therefore, HIG Insurance provides our customers with an extensive Family Hurricane Preparedness Plan to prepare them for the worse case scenario. It's impossible to provide you with a comprehensive plan here, but I will provide some useful planning ideas to get you started.

1. Have your insurance policies and all other important documents ready, should you have to leave your home voluntarily or by order.
2. Take pictures and video of the interior of your home including personal property and furnishings plus the exterior. If you have receipts for large items take them with you. It will make adjusting your claim so much easier for you and the adjuster.
3. Remove and secure all exterior property, pool items, chairs, trash containers, dumpsters, umbrellas and any other items.

4. It's best to unplug all Electronics, Appliances, AC systems or any electrical components. Clean out your refrigerator incase the power does go off.
5. Propane tanks should be shut off and secured, and turn off the irrigation system.
6. Unlock and open any entrance gates.
7. Take a list of vendors that you currently use, such as an electrician, handyman, water extraction, etc.
8. Prepare your home with plywood and hurricane shutters, and put towels in the tracks of your sliding glass doors to prevent water intrusion.

LOGISTICS

1. Plan well ahead where you plan to seek shelter locally or out of State. If you plan to go to a local shelter take a small cot.
2. Know the evacuation routes to determine what your best option is.
3. Stay Tuned: Keep the radio or TV tuned to emergency frequencies, the local news, or the weather channel for regular updates.
4. Keep in touch with all family members and have a plan between each of you.
5. How do you plan to take care of your pets?
6. Keep in mind, your cell phone carrier may not work but have your phone charged and a backup battery just in case.
7. Take plenty of clothing, medication and other survival items,

such as flashlights, depending on where you plan to stay.
8. Take food and plenty of water.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Access Volusia.org for in depth information for any emergency

CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTER (CIC)

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Fall is in the air. Let's all be safe as you start leaving windows open for fresh air in your homes. As the weather turns cooler at night, we see a lot of people wanting to sleep with the bedroom windows open.

This is how to do it safely. Use security screening in your windows. This is the best. If someone cuts the screen or removes it from the window it triggers your monitored alarm, and the police will show up. The next best thing to do would be to only open your windows 6" and have vent switches on your alarm system. The least you should do to stay safe would be to install window locks on your windows that only allow them to open 6". Anyone trying to get thru a 6" opening will most likely cause a commotion that will hopefully wake you up to handle the situation.

October means Halloween is near. There will be people that dress up to conceal themselves so that they can vandalize or break-in homes. There are several things to consider to keep you and your family safe. Turn on your front lights. This will welcome the kids and make it harder for the others to conceal themselves. Make sure your shrubs are trimmed in front of your cameras so that you get a clear video of people on your property. Watch your neighborhood for strangers wandering about.

Neighbors are great. Do you know yours? Too often we go to work and then come home and go in the house with the



By Peter Stanton (Security Center)

SECURITY & SAFETY news

AC on. The best protection you can do for yourself and family is to get to know your neighbors and neighborhood. You should know all of your neighbors on the street you live on as well as the ones behind you. The more people know about the neighborhood the better it is for everybody. You are the eyes that see and notice things if something is amiss. Staying vigilant will make your neighborhood a better place.

As you start planning for the holidays, it is also a good time to update your call list with the alarm company. Make sure you have someone on your contact list who is in town and has a key to your home if something were to happen. This person can also check your driveway and pick up the newspapers and stuff that is thrown in your driveway. You don't want papers left in your driveway as it invites crooks to break in, thinking you aren't home. Often times, as you meet your neighbors, you become their contact person and they become yours.

If you haven't tested your smoke detectors and alarm system in a while, this is the time to do it. Please call the alarm company before setting your smoke detector off. We don't want the fire department showing up for a false alarm. If you only have the battery operated smoke detectors, please change the batteries. If something isn't working, please call your local alarm company to get it fixed. Be Safe.

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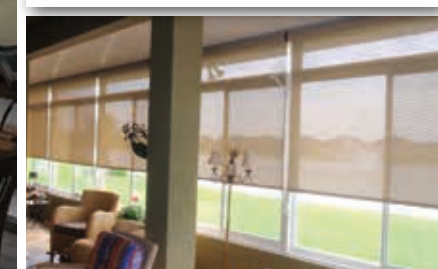
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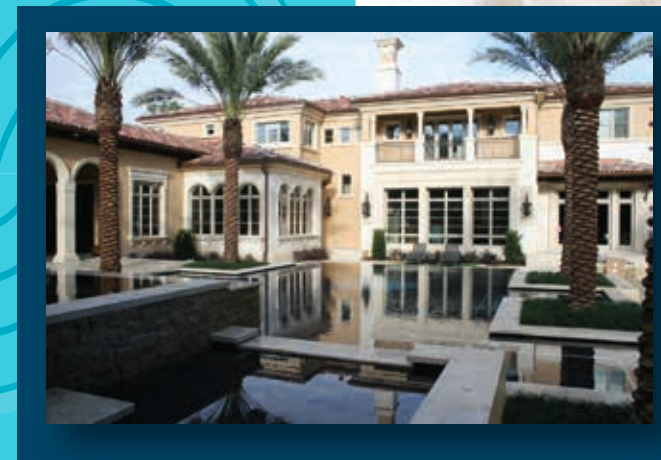
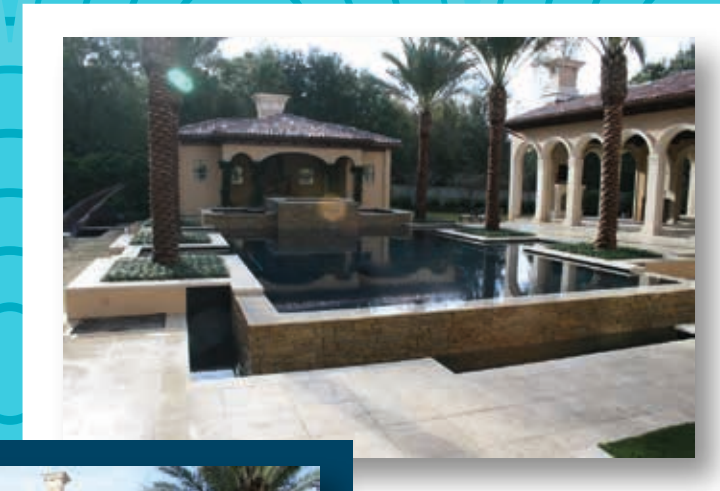


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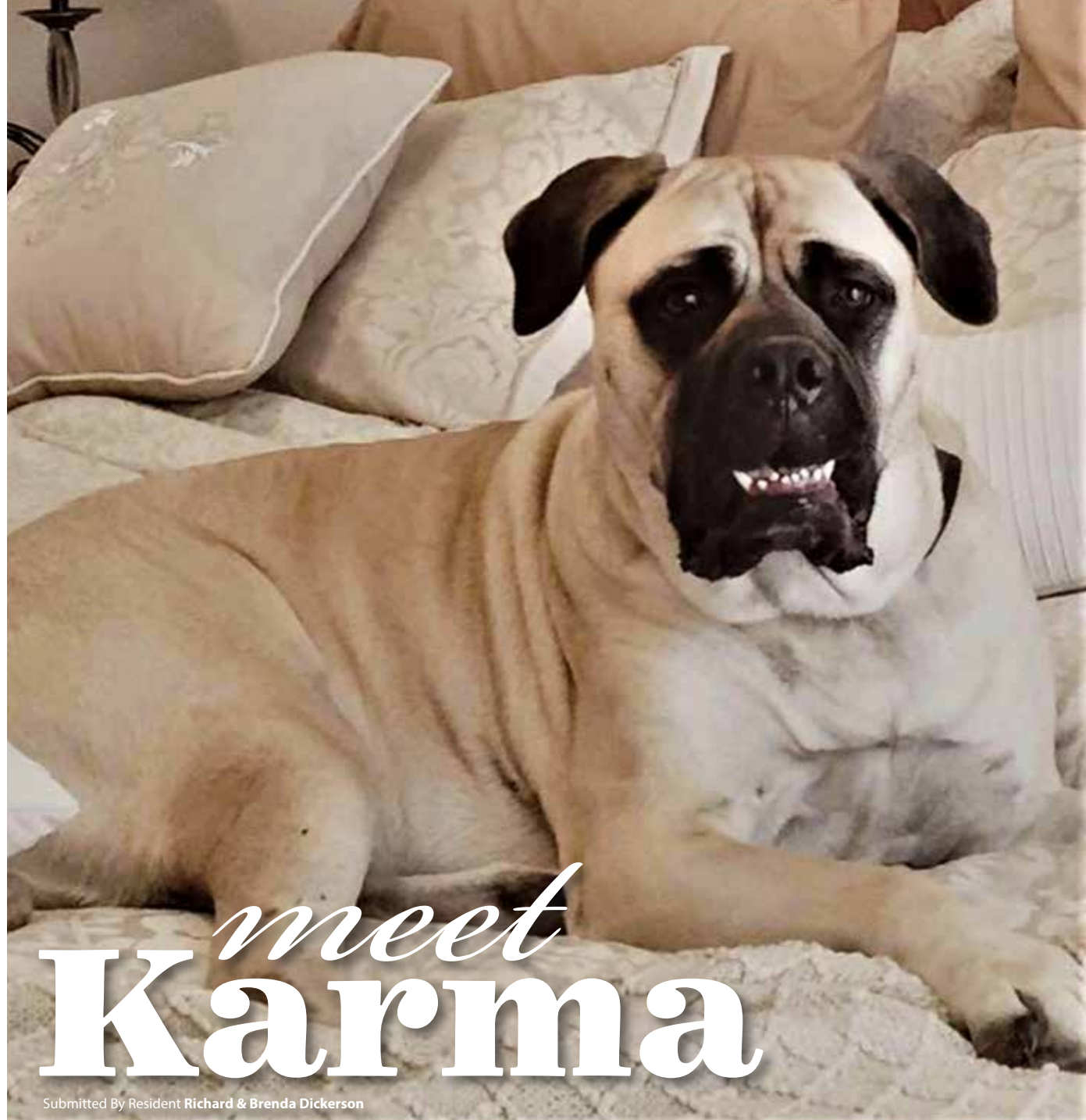
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meet Karma

Submitted By Resident Richard & Brenda Dickerson

Family member names:

Richard, Brenda, and Karma Dickerson (yes, Karma is our child)

Pet's name(s):

Karma

Type of animal/breed:

Mastiff

Male or female:

Female

Pet's age(s):

2 ½ years old, weighs 200 lbs.

Where/why did you get your pet?

We knew we wanted a big dog, so we had researched different breeds for over a year and de-

ecided on a Mastiff. One day, we just happened to see her picture on the internet, being offered for sale by a breeder near Tampa. As we made the drive over to Tampa, I told my husband that if I didn't feel a connection with her, we weren't going to get her. Well.... when we got there and opened the back door, she was sitting there all dressed up in a pretty pink dress, and I FELL IN LOVE. And needless to say, she came home with us.

Her mother was a 210 lb. English Mastiff and her father were a 260 lb. Bull Mastiff. Karma was the runt of her litter, and when we adopted her, she was 12 weeks old and around 40 lbs. She is not yet fully grown and will likely get up to around 240 lbs.

Is there a story behind her name?

She was named Karma by her original owners, and we decided



to keep the name. The original couple she had been sold to had another big dog who attacked her and beat her up badly, so the breeder bought her back in order to find her a better forever home. She still has scars from the attack, so even though we paid a lot of money for her, she was also kind of like a rescue.

Anything special or unusual about your pet (talents/quirks)?

Her favorite food treat is toast. She gets all excited whenever she hears the toaster pop, and then she and her daddy eat their toast together.

What do you like best about your pet?

She is sweet and loveable, yet extremely protective, and is truly a member of our family.

Any funny stories about your pet?

She loves to shred paper – any paper – paper towels, lottery tickets, magazines. She never eats the paper, just shreds it to bits and spits it out.

How spoiled is your pet?

Karma is EXTREMELY spoiled. She eats twice a day, and every day I cook her fresh chicken breasts and fresh vegetables and mix them with a cup of dog food. She sleeps all stretched out in the bed between us, sits on the sofa and watches TV like a human, and loves going for rides in our BMW. She gets in the back seat with the windows rolled down, and we just drive around. We get a lot of smiles when people see a blonde driving around in a BMW with a 200 lb. Mastiff just hanging out in the back seat.

What else should we know about your pet and/or how your pet has enriched your home/family? She is the best dog ever, and she is definitely Daddy's baby. She is like our child. It's ridiculous - we have more pictures of her than we do our grandkids.





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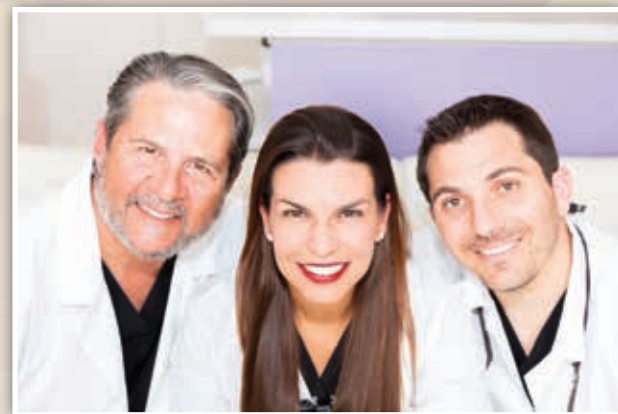
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FAMILY MATTERS

By resident **Brenda Campbell**
(Volusia Memorial Park)



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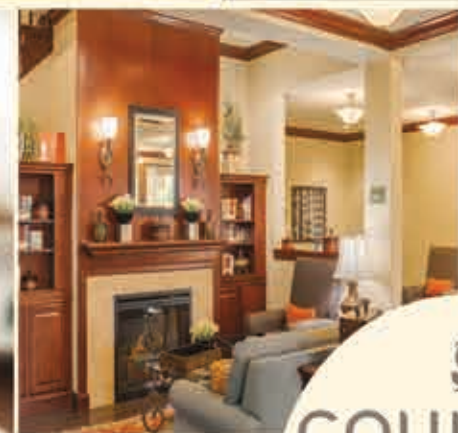

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Meet
Opera Singer
*Carmel
Vaden*

By J.R. Anderson, Photos By DAndersonPhotography

The first profession I can remember aspiring to be a part of was an astronaut. There was nothing more captivating than the Space Shuttle missions—at least until I discovered video games. My next fleeting dream was to become a video game designer, oblivious to the fact that designing them was nothing like playing them. Later came the desire to become a baseball player, accountant, chef, etc. My indecisiveness led to a high school diploma sans plans for adulthood—ergo a career in the military as an aircraft mechanic. Fifteen years later, I am on a journey to becoming a college professor of the humanities, far from any other field I'd ever considered, yet I can't imagine ever doing anything else. This journey has brought about a deep-seated appreciation for the arts and the human experience.

So when Carmel Vaden, a soprano coloratura opera singer, said she knew she was going to be a singer/actress since early childhood, I could only think of just how seldom childhood fantasies become reality. A self-described introvert, Carmel was not as outgoing as some of the dynamic personalities who pervade show business.

"I always found a very quiet corner and became very, very quiet—literally praying because I was so nervous," said Carmel. "But when I got on stage, it was like I released my nerves to God."

Carmel's journey began when her parents took her to see *The Sound of Music* as a child. She has performed in recitals, plays, musicals, weddings, funerals, and concerts ever since. Originally from a small town in Canada with no traffic lights, Carmel's Acadian upbringing inspired much of her interest in the French-classic

genre—let alone classical music altogether. While her husband, Dave, was stationed at Fort Benning, GA, they heard an ad on the radio calling for auditions for *The Sound of Music* on the way home from church. The musical was to be performed at the Springer Opera House, Georgia's premier historical theater.

"I had to audition for it," Carmel said. "I didn't care if they asked me to sweep the floors or work in the green room—I had to be a part of it. So I auditioned, and the director, Roberta Illg, cast me as Maria!"

Carmel had never acted before. She wasn't familiar with terms like down-stage, left-stage, right stage,



...



...

and she had never sung with an orchestra. The board was furious with Roberta for casting Carmel over their ringer (their go-to who typically lands all of the lead roles). Roberta didn't choose their ringer because her voice was too mature for the role of Maria; Carmel's voice projected youthful innocence and naiveté, which was an essential ingredient in the casting of Maria.

Carmel recalled a moment when someone once remarked, "I think I just heard the voice of an angel" and another when a World War II veteran claimed he would carry the American flag, march, and follow her wherever she sings. Humble and grateful, she views her talent as a "gift that's been lent to her." There is a reason Carmel was booked a year in advance to sing at weddings as a teenager. Her voice has a quality that seems to transcend time and space. I say this because she was kind enough to perform during the interview:

Clearly exhibiting both hesitance and passion, Carmel taps a key on her piano, mentally calibrating her vocal intention with the musical note. She then performs a verse of "O Mio Babbino Caro" ("Oh My Beloved Father"), from the opera *Gianni Schicchi*, about a woman begging her father to allow her to wed the man she loves, threatening to throw herself over a bridge if he doesn't. Her beautiful voice reverberated off the walls and tile floors of her living room as if there had been a microphone and amplifier. She followed with

a verse from "Ave Maria," exuding equal parts humility and grace. Paralyzed as she concluded, I can only remember thinking how silence had never seemed so loud.

Although it is clear Carmel is gifted, she has spent most of her life honing her craft. She began piano lessons at a convent at the age of six, as the piano is an integral part of learning and applying musical theory as a singer.

"Ten years later, I would go to the convent to take piano and voice lessons after school," Carmel said, "then I'd get on the bus back home

and start my school studies at 10 o'clock at night. That's how devoted and dedicated I was."

Sister Martine LeBlanc, Carmel's voice teacher since the age of 15, was getting all of the sopranos ready for a specific solo in Fauré's *Requiem Mass* during her first year of college. The "hauntingly beautiful" solo, *Pie Jesu*, which, according to Fauré, is "dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest," was to be auditioned for, the soloist voted by the choir.

"I was just a freshman among juniors and seniors with much more experience," said Carmel. "So you can imagine how nervous I was. After the vote, the director said to everyone, 'I appreciate your voting, but I've made my decision; I'm selecting Carmel.' He chose me for the same reason Roberta chose me—I had a lighter lyrical voice. After the concert, my dad told me he wanted me to sing *Pie Jesu* at his funeral. He passed away in 1998. It was one of the most difficult days, but I honored his wish."

Carmel has led a colorful, storied life of the arts. She has performed at the Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg, VA, where every night chandeliers are lowered, lit, and people gather from off the street to listen to the night's performance. She was also asked to be on the board of the Smith Mountain Lake Good Neighbors, a non-profit that helps kids who lack adequate sustenance but instead decided to sing at events to raise awareness for the organization's cause. But one of her most notable performances was yet to come:

"One of our friends, Lieutenant Colonel Ernie Jackson, invited us to the Pentagon," Carmel's husband, Dave, said. "He was the principal of an elementary school, and he set up a direct feed from the Pentagon to Afghanistan. His elementary kids and Carmel sang for the troops in Afghanistan via the internet."

I remember the Star Spangled Banner would play on the base loudspeaker every day at 5:00 p.m. sharp. Whether driving, walking, or standing, if outdoors, we all had to stop while the anthem played. The same occurred as Carmel sang in the Pentagon; aids and officials alike halted immediately throughout as her elegant voice penetrated the halls of the Pentagon. Her vibrato rippling across the Atlantic both literally and figuratively, the impact of her performance was felt half way around the world.

What it must feel like to penetrate the souls of so many over a lifetime of performances. Although, like anyone else, Carmel has had opportunities seized and passed upon, but no one can deny that she has touched the hearts of many with eloquence and elegance through the sound of music.



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COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SIBLINGS

About Money & Aging Parents

Many adult children are called upon to help their aging parents as life changes set in, yet only 65 percent of siblings report talking about money with one another, according to research by Ameriprise Financial. While only 15 percent of siblings have conflicts over money, when siblings do spar over finances, it's usually about their parents' situation. Financial conversations between siblings become inevitable, as brothers and sisters manage their parents' money matters, including estate planning, healthcare, retirement income and wills.

In the event that you have shared responsibilities with your siblings down the road, it's important to make sure your family is on the same page. Here are some tips to help you and your siblings have civil conversations about money-related family matters.

Set aside your differences. When your parents need help, don't waste your time rehashing old family feuds. Keep yourself in check if you are tempted to fall into old patterns of behavior that may alienate grown-up siblings. You may not be able to control how your siblings behave, but you can control your own actions.

Determine key priorities. You'll accomplish more – and potential-

ly spar less – when everyone is committed to common goals. Assess what financial matters you and your siblings will need to manage together. If your parents' safety is a primary concern, find agreement about the support and services they need to remain safely in the family home. If it's time for your parents to move to an assisted living facility, put your energy into seeking a solution.

Schedule time to talk. Schedule regular check-ins with your siblings to discuss pressing topics related to your parents' care, including how finances are being managed. Frequent conversations can help diminish anxiety and improve collaboration. Ongoing dialogue will help prevent misunderstandings from blowing up into full-fledged battles and help keep your parents' best interest top-of-mind.

Divide and conquer. It's important to set responsibilities, with the understanding that each sibling may be able to contribute different amounts of time, money and expertise. Be forthright about what you can reasonably handle and open to taking on more tasks if you have the capacity. Keep in mind that responsibilities may shift over time, as circumstances change for you and your siblings.

Be open to advice. Bringing outside sources into your inner circle can help provide unbiased guidance as you enter this new phase of life. Your parents' tax preparer, financial planner and other trusted advisors could provide an important bridge to understanding their current financial situation. Once you're ready to plan the next steps for your family, consider working with a single financial advisor. This approach allows

the advisor to help you create a comprehensive plan that addresses everyone's needs and concerns.

Money conversations can be emotional and hard to initiate, but keep in mind that there are benefits to having open communication. Families who are willing to tackle money-related topics are often more confident about their ability to handle financial challenges and work toward their goals.

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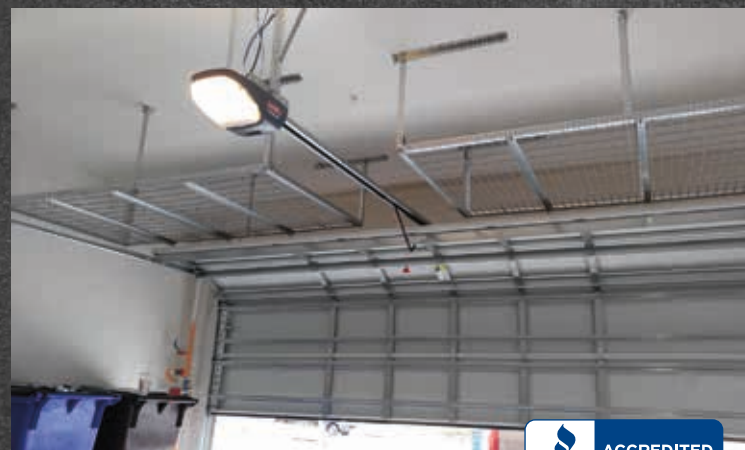
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Precision Carpet,

TILE AND UPHOLSTERY

By J.R. Anderson, Photos By DAndersonPhotography



Most Americans have lived in carpeted homes for most of their lives. Although hardwood, tile, and laminate flooring have become immensely popular over the years, carpet still seems to remain as the standard. Having lived several years abroad, I've become used to living without carpet, so moving back to the US has meant reacquainting myself with it, among many other adjustments. Unfortunately, many people, myself included, tend to neglect their carpeting, making it an afterthought compared to the rest of the responsibilities of maintaining their homes.

Steve Gois, co-owner and operator of Precision Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning, has not only highlighted the importance of proper carpet maintenance, but he has also changed my perception of carpeting, its care, and whether it is an asset or liability to my home. Precision Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning is a family owned business that started with Steve, his father, and his wife. He and his father, having been in the janitorial service industry for years up north, decided to take over a friend's janitorial service in Florida. After establishing a number of commercial clientele, a flourishing janitorial business was formed.

Eventually, clients began to request carpet cleaning services. Rather than limiting the company to janitorial services, Steve decided to attend carpet cleaning school and added certified carpet cleaning to the company's repertoire. Precision is now about 65 percent janitorial services and 35 percent carpet cleaning, employing 40 personnel. Additionally, it is also a full-service commodities dealer, supplying products (trash bags, paper towels, soap, soap dispensers, etc.) to the clients they serve.

Carpet serves as much more to a home than a source of comfort and aesthetics: it absorbs sound, provides

warmth (which can be viewed as a positive or negative in Florida), but, most importantly, it serves as the home's most critical filter.

"People seldom realize the largest filter in the home is the carpet," Steve said. "It's filtering everything; all of the dust in the air is being filtered through the carpet. A common misconception is that people think they should remove the carpet if they have allergies. That's incorrect; if you look at light beaming through your window, you'll see many dust particles floating through the air. The dust has to settle somewhere, so if you have hardwood or laminate flooring, that dust just moves all over the place—carpeting collects the dust and filters it. The key is to clean and maintain it once a year, at least."

Steve emphasized that families with pets and/or heavily trafficked areas in the home should get their carpets cleaned every six months. Those with no or low maintenance pets and less trafficked areas will most likely be fine with an annual cleaning. It is when people fail to clean and maintain their carpeting that it becomes an allergen farm.

But what about the period between cleanings? It would be nice if spilled wine, tracked mud, and pet accidents only happened just before a scheduled cleaning, but life isn't always so forgiving. One of the most common

problems the technicians at Precision see when servicing a home is that people often use poor or improper cleaning products when trying to spot-clean their carpets.

"People often buy one of those over-the-counter spot removers from the store, and they usually create more of a problem," Steve said. Such products typically just mask odors and leave a chemical residue in the carpet's pile. Just as with pool and automobile maintenance, the best decision is to use the same products as the professionals.

The vast majority of Precision's customer base are repeat customers—95 percent. This is primarily because customer satisfaction is paramount. Just as with any industry, there are legitimate, reputable companies and poor, fraudulent ones. It is important for consumers to discern between the two. According to Steve, there are a number of disreputable and/or fly-by-night operations in the carpet cleaning industry that over-soak carpets, use improper chemicals, and apply too much pressure and detergent, resulting in bacteria buildup, residue, and compressed dirt and allergens.

"Some companies will advertise \$10 per room, but when they get to the house, they will charge another \$15 per room for water and yet another \$10 per room for detergent," said Steve. "When they leave, they've actually charged \$80 per room, and a

\$29 job just became a \$300-400 job."

"For the last few years, we've been dealing with this company out of Jacksonville, called Precision Carpet Care," said Steve. "We're Precision Carpet, Tile, & Upholstery Cleaning. They've been around for a couple of years, as a bait-and-switch operation. They go in and advertise five dollars per room—I can't even pull my hoses out of my \$100,000 machine for five dollars! Then, they go into the house, because they prey on the elderly, and walk out with 500-700 bucks! And then they change their phone number, so when a customer tries to call them back to fix what they did, they can't get a hold of them. They then look up the company online, and what pops up is my company!"

One day, Steve logged on to Facebook, only to find that the mother of actor Cuba Gooding, Jr., who lives in Palm

Coast, had left a scathing review of his company. It turned out that she had contacted Precision Carpet Care in Jacksonville, mistaking them for Precision Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning, and they had totally ripped her off. Steve replied to her message and explained what happened. Fortunately, she apologized and deleted the post.

"No legitimate carpet cleaning service can go in and service your entire home for \$30," Steve said, "not if they're using the proper equipment, chemicals, and techniques. A standard 2-3 bedroom home should cost around \$80-100."

Steve recalled another time, a couple of years ago, when he was out on a job in Port Orange. Another carpet cleaning company was servicing a home up the street at the same time. The lady from that home walked over

to the neighbor Steve was servicing and asked if she could take a look at how they were doing. What compelled her to come over was the fact that she could hear Precision's machinery from up the street and could barely hear the machinery from the company she hired. The other company had been using a portable unit out of a van with a small generator. Steve went out the following week to clean up their mess.

"Customers need to be wary," Steve said. "But there are other legitimate carpet cleaning companies besides us, and there's plenty of business for all of us."

I'm sure we can all agree that sometimes saving money initially can end up costing more in the long run. I often have to remind myself that we vote with our dollars; therefore, when it comes to the proper maintenance of your carpet and your home altogether, be sure to cast your "vote" for a reputable company that values its customers and their hard-earned money, like Precision Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning.

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neighbors night out

By Resident **Debbie Jackson**

Sip-n-Paint;

A Little Paint, A Little Wine And A Whole Lot Of Fun!

Looking for a fun girl's night out? Try mixing a good wine with a little paint.

That's exactly what several groups of friends did when they attended the recent Art Rageous Sip and Paint event at the Venetian Bay Clubhouse. This is not your typical art class. The fun two-hour session gives women a chance to hang out with their friends while channeling their inner Van Gogh.

The amount of artistic talent needed to participate? Zero. Participants are provided with two wine glasses, paint, brushes and stencils. As they sip their wine, Art Rageous owners Tina and Chip Hayes guide them through different ways to have fun expressing their creativity.

Operating under the premise that "everyone can be an artist," the Sip and Paint sessions require no

Art Rageous owner Chip Hayes and Wendy Cappers



Jane Waggoner



talent – just enthusiasm. "Our goal is for everyone to have a good time and make something they like," said Tina, who has been teaching local art classes for the past two years. In addition to the Sip and Paint events, the Hayes family offers an array of classes ranging from canvas painting and mixed media to ceramics and fused glass at their art studio in Port Orange.

A lot of first-timers at the Sip and Paint nights start off the class by telling Tina they can't paint. "But I try to prove them wrong," said Tina, who firmly believes that everyone has some degree of artistic ability. She noted that with a little guidance, it's amazing to see what people, who feel they have no talent, end up with at the end of the night. Everyone comes away with their own work of art – and a new level of confidence in their creative abilities.

Art Rageous Art Center is located at 4649 South Clyde Morris Boulevard in Port Orange. Art classes and upcoming Sip and Paint events are listed on their web site: arageousfl.com.

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Painting is just the beginning.....What can we do for you?

tour & travel

By N2 Staff Writer, Tracy Lafon

& A Spooky GOTHIC Getaway

Romania's Beautiful Transylvania



This October, instead of stressing over costumes, making messes with carved pumpkins and haunting the aisles of your local grocer trying to decide which candy will be the least tempting to polish off before Halloween, why not treat yourself to a spooky getaway? Visit the most notoriously haunting place of all – Transylvania, Romania. If thoughts of vampires, werewolves and dank crypts are not enough to persuade you to book a flight, then you should know that Romania's central region is also a place of breathtaking beauty, unspoiled nature and intriguing history – all well worth the trip.

The Transylvanian region is bordered by the Carpathian Mountains, which slope down to green lush forests, flower-dotted meadows and quaint hamlets. Because the area is still remote, unlike the bustling commercialized cities of its European neighbors, travel is at a slower pace. This gives visitors a chance to relax and take in all the region has to offer.

Bram's Castle

Perched on a mountainside ledge and surrounded by 14th-century towers, this infamous castle isn't the actual home of Vlad but fits the description of Dracula's sanctuary and is preserved in a way to represent its reputation. Located just outside of Brasov, the castle is open to visitors year-round. This fortress has been the home to both Hungarian and Romanian royalty with history filling every room.

Tampa Mountain

Brasov is nestled at the bottom of this beautiful mountain. Visitors enjoy hiking trails and paths to the peak. For those not interested in climbing, a cable car will lift you to the top where you will find a spectacular view of the lively medieval town below.

Therapeutic spas

Several resorts dot the area to provide relaxation and enjoyment. The balmy waters of Ocna Sibiului are said to be famous for helping with arthritis. Bear Lake provides both mud and salt waters treatments rich with soothing minerals.

Salina Turda Salt Mine

An enormous salt mine dating back to the 17th century now houses a museum and the world's deepest underground theme park. After a ride racing down 400 feet, visitors can ride a Ferris Wheel, take a paddle boat trip on an underground lake and even go bowling or play mini golf.

National Parks and Bear Sanctuary

Romania has a developed park system with landforms, underground rivers and unique ecosystems. Caves are a big attraction for both professional and amateur spelunkers. At Liberty Bear Sanctuary visitors can interact with a guide while observing bears that have been rescued from zoos and circuses. Although not released into the wild, these bears live a peaceful existence in a suitable habitat.

This year, forget the tricks and treat yourself to a wonderful (and maybe just a little spooky) vacation in the beautiful land of Transylvania, Romania.

home of the month

3338 TESORO CIRCLE

By Tom & Kelly Beechler (Beechler Realty Group)

Gracefully blending artful detailing and sun-washed spaces within a peaceful setting sets a mood of quiet elegance. At the same time, this residence offers a carefully conceived and effortlessly flowing single level floor plan with lovely rooms for entertaining but welcoming family spaces and outdoor living.

3Bedrooms-3Baths plus den or office.

Kitchen features GE profile stainless appliances with a dramatic center island highlighting a 36" 5-burner touch cook top and suspended range hood; beautiful glazed wood cabinetry with soft close drawers, stacked stone backsplash compliments the granite countertops; and the level breakfast bar is great for entertaining.

Great room boasts 12' hardwood coffered ceiling.

Formal and casual dining—the choice is yours.

Entertaining space is extended year-round by simply opening the doors to the spacious glass enclosed lanai with it's own heating & cooling system (Plumbed for a summer kitchen).

The solar-heated salt-water pool features cascading water fountains creating a relaxing environment and is surrounded by a "NoSeeUm" screened enclosure.

The master suite is situated for privacy with a luxurious bath including a tiled walk-in shower.



Laundry room with utility sink and storage cabinets; 3-car garage w/attic storage.

8' leaded glass entry; 7" crown moldings throughout the home including window and door trim; 21" diagonal tile throughout the main living area; engineered hardwood in the master suite and den; security system; outdoor LED landscape lighting.

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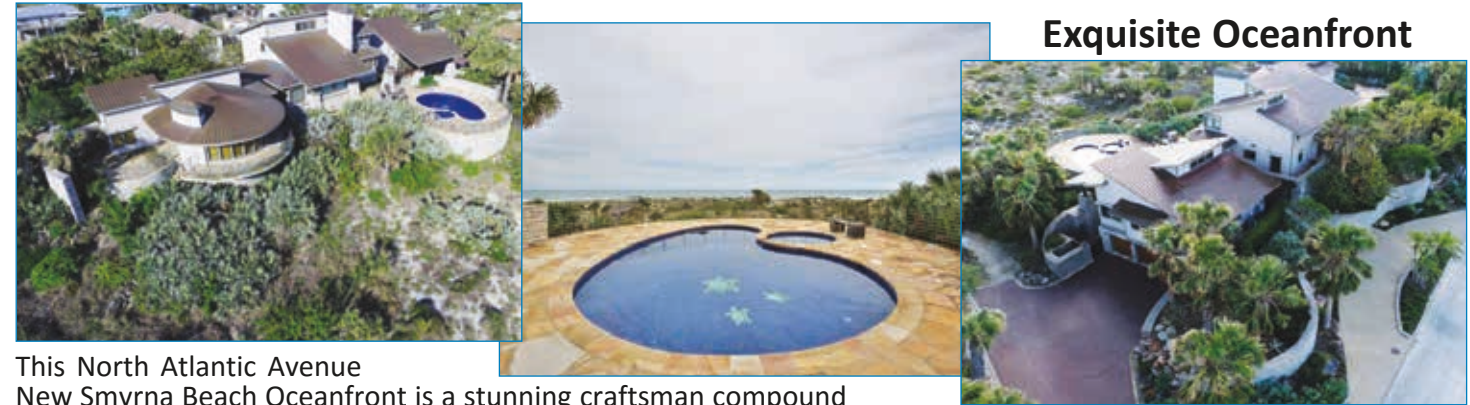
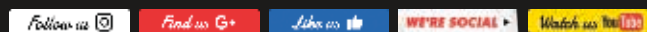


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Exquisite Oceanfront

This North Atlantic Avenue New Smyrna Beach Oceanfront is a stunning craftsman compound surrounded by hand-laid stone walls, beautiful terraces and art-filled gardens, providing some of the loveliest beach front vistas on Florida's east coast. With 180 oceanfront feet of beach dunes, approximately 1.15 acres and high property elevations, this compound provides natural beauty and shelter from the glistening Atlantic Ocean.

The home has a beautiful main home and guest cottage, connected by gorgeous hand-placed terraces. The main home includes 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths and two half baths, a chef's kitchen and butler pantry, dining room, living room and reading room, all with incredible windows overlooking expansive terraces, pool, spa and the ocean. The first floor continues with a library-media room, bar enclave and an extensive owners' retreat semi-circular in design with panoramic views of the ocean, a walk through closet of substantial proportions, leading to a tasteful master bath. Moving upstairs, the second floor includes two guest rooms with a shared bath and a second master bedroom with a beautiful in-suite bath and walk-in closet.

The adjacent guest cottage is magnificent craftsman style architecture complimenting the master home in every way. The fine interior appointments and material selections are visible through the beauty of the exposed massive oak beams, to the custom cabinetry throughout the main home and guest cottage. The guest cottage has a beautiful and spacious living area with an adjacent kitchen and dining room overlooking the exceptional stonework terraces and ocean. The interior is finished with a large bedroom and bathroom ensemble. Cottage egress is via a handsome covered porch perfect for cocktails or simply enjoying the sounds and sights of the ocean. It all sits atop an oversized three car garage with a climate controlled wine cellar, large enough to please any sommelier.

The home features are essential to understanding the design and beauty of the property, which surprises with cleverness and attention to detail inside and out. The main entryway is hand cut and laid stone leading to an impressive front gate that is an original creation. The front of the property has a circular drive backed by soaring stone walls and beautiful landscape which summons a feeling of privacy. The interior wood work, all hand crafted on site, compliments beautiful walls, beams, ceilings, cabinetry, staircase and more, all made from African mahogany, oak, white oak and cherry. The colors are warm and appealing and the craftsmanship imparts strength and beauty.

Stained glass accents artfully compliment several features within the home, as does the exterior artwork throughout the property. Exceptional views to the east, initially formed by the glass in-laid kidney shaped pool and spa, are naturally extended by the vast dunes and ocean beyond. A private terrace off the owners retreat and walk around stone balcony enable enjoyment of the outdoor surroundings day and night. An outdoor kitchen and several outdoor dining options are present, further complimenting the symbiotic transition from inside to out in this one of a kind oceanfront retreat.

Pat Collado
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(386) 690-9999



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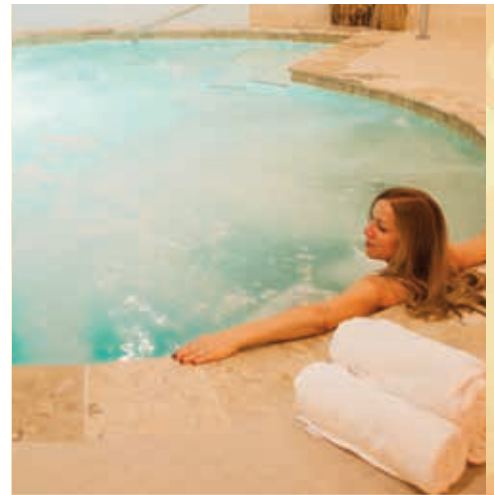


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