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editor's note By Audrey Costa

back-to-school shopping tips





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Highlighters, binders and book bags – Oh, my! It's the time of year parents both love and hate — back-to-school! Finally, kids are back to a regular schedule and, more importantly, out of the house. Unfortunately, as our joy swells so does the list of things our children need. Spending will be sky-high this school year. In fact, back-to-school is the second largest shopping season after winter holidays. According to Deloitte's survey, roughly \$27 billion will be spent this year on back-to-school shopping. That's a helluva pile of loose leaf.

Fifty-three million children will be headed back to the schoolhouse and it's estimated that an average of \$501 will be spent on each. This includes clothing, supplies, computers, gadgets — and for all our ballin' babes, fly kicks.

Now, breathe ... There are ways of playing it smart, organized and economically while getting everything your rugrats need. Lucky for us, Florida offers a yearly tax-free weekend (Friday, August 3, through Sunday, August 5) to help alleviate the burning in our wallets, saving us anywhere from 6 percent-7.5 percent depending on the county. So, where should a parent start?

Assess current inventory

Check yourself before your wreck yourself - financially. Not everything needs to be brand-new or even purchased at all. In Florida where seasons barely change, there's no need to go ham on clothing unless your child has outgrown or worn out their threads. Go through everything and purge what's old so you can see what's lacking. Skip this step and you will overspend. Get combinable essentials: a couple pairs of jeans and shorts and a few basic tees that go with everything. For tweens and teenagers, some trendy shirts will save you hours of listening to how uncool they think they look. For supplies, you might have items around the house from last year that can cover a portion of what they need. Dig around a bit and save some money.

Stick to a list

A back-to-school list is always a good idea - usually, the school provides one. As a sassy schoolgirl, I'd try any tactic to get my mother to go off list. At the time it was anything Lisa Frank. Don't sleep on Lisa Frank, y'all! Her designs were, and remain, fire! Just thinking about a purple dolphin in outer space jumping over a rainbow gets me pumped to learn. What I'm saying is, stick to your guns but be flexible within reason.

Allot a few extra bones for one splurge item ... something that lasts. A durable pair of sneakers, a girl-tastic backpack (Lisa Frank - just a suggestion), a sparkly trapper keeper (do they still make those?!) or a well-made, everyday zip-up sweater even the moodiest teenager would love. You can trim in other areas without blowing

your budget. Whatever the splurge, make sure your kids are in on it so they can be excited.

Core stores

For in-store retail, Target and Walmart obviously lead the pack. Walmart consistently offers solid back-to-school deals on pencil sets, glue, rulers, and markers ... low priced essentials every day, all day. But if you're like me – unnaturally addicted to the red tag - Target is your promised land. Their prices can be slightly higher but I find they are better quality. The stylish dollar bin supplies and clothing selections are just a couple of reasons why Target is a winner. Use their online app, Cartwheel, and you'll save some dough.

For those reluctant to brave frantic herds of families, shop online. Amazon is Walmart's greatest nemesis as the two giants continue to outdo each other. Amazon doesn't want to miss out on back-to-school business so they, too, are bringing the heat. Also, if you're a Prime member you have free unlimited two-day shipping, so shipping fees aren't an issue.

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Coups, on coups, on coups

With all the school sales thrown our way, don't think you can skimp on coupons. Everyone knows coups work on food but there are coupons for pens, paper, notebooks, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, etc. — particulars you dare not run out of during the first days of the back-to-school grind.

We've had a great summer with our families but it's time to get working on those bright futures. Remember, we were all in our kids' shoes once and school shopping was a chance to upgrade our clothing and accessory game. There are so many affordable, fashionable, functional and cost-effective choices out there these days. If you plan ahead your kids can feel hip and you can keep some of your hard-earned cash. I know now that if my mother hadn't planned properly every year, I would never have had Lisa Frank gear - Heaven Forbid! It earned me cool points ... and she didn't have the options we have today. Be like her - plan ahead and take your kid's opinions into account while sticking to a list as much as possible. You'll pick up everything they need, some things they want and you'll get to be the cool parent, if even for a fleeting moment.



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MANAGING THE SUTTOTOS MEDICAL EXPENSES

By Resident David Carson (Ameriprise Financial)

Major medical expenses can carry a heavy financial toll. And the fact is, all of us are susceptible to an unforeseen medical event. If you experience an accident or injury, cost may be the least of your concerns initially. Yet, unexpected medical care has the potential to impact your financial situation in a big way. Before it does, take the time to prepare your strategy for dealing with surprise medical expenses. Here are several strategies to help you get started.

Plan ahead with health insurance Under today's health insurance plans, you may face a greater risk of sizable medical costs due to rising costs of healthcare, increasing deductibles and coverage changes year-to-year. These increasing costs can add up to thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses. Review your insurance coverage to ensure you understand what services or prescriptions are covered and what medical bills you may be responsible for. It's worth reviewing how these basic but important policy components may apply to you:

Deductible – Your deductible is the amount you're expected to pay each year for medical services covered by your health insurance plan. You are responsible for all expenses until you meet your deductible.

Out-of-pocket maximum - Once your deductible imum, noting co-pays and co-insurance where approis met, additional medical expenses will be applied to priate. Before paying each bill, make sure the amount your out-of-pocket maximum. When you've incurred matches the number calculated by your insurance company. In most cases, it's easier to work through this amount, your insurance will pay all expenses covered by your plan for the rest of the year. Most inany discrepancies before you pay the bill. surance providers include your deductible in your out-Next, consider using the money you have available in of-pocket maximum. For example, say a person has your HSA, FSA or savings accounts dedicated to health a \$3,000 deductible, a \$5,000 limit on out-of-pocket expenses and incurs \$10,000 in medical bills. If he or care expenses. If you still have a balance remaining on she has a major accident, the person would only incur your medical expenses, try to fit the costs into your \$5,000, with insurance covering the other \$5,000. budget. A medical expense may require you to trim spending in other areas in order to pay for these costs, either immediately or over a period of time.

In-network – In general, medical expenses must be in-network, or part of your insurance company's system of providers, for the bill to be applied to your deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. If you require out-of-network services, check with your insurance provider to see how the bill will be handled.

Co-pay and co-insurance – A co-pay is a set amount you pay each time you receive a service, such as a primary care physician visit or receiving a new prescription. Co-insurance is a set percentage of the expense you pay at the time of service. Co-pays and co-insurance may or may not apply to your deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

Strategically use savings accounts

A key way to cope with unplanned medical costs is to have money already in the bank, prepared for such an event. Among the options to consider are:

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) - These are tax-advantaged savings plans associated with high deductible health insurance policies. In 2018, individuals can save up to \$3,450 (\$3,400 in 2017) in an HSA while families can set aside as much as \$6,900 (\$6,750 in 2017). These are funds that can be used to pay out-ofpocket medical expenses this year or in future years.

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) - An FSA allows you to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain medical expenses. Typically, you must spend these funds within the same calendar year.

Savings accounts - If you don't participate in either type of plan or want to have a larger financial cushion, make sure you have a sufficient emergency fund. Set aside enough funds to cover your out-of-pocket maximum or three-to-six months' worth of living expenses, whichever is greater.

Craft a bill-paying strategy

If you incur unexpected medical expenses, first work with your insurance company to understand how each bill is applied to your deductible or out-of-pocket max-

Consider a health care directive

Lastly, have a conversation with your spouse or another trusted family member about your health care wishes and consider documenting your desires in a health care directive. Directives allow you to designate one or more people to make health care decisions on your behalf if you're unable to make them yourself. Your healthcare providers and attorney can help you get one started.

If you experience a major medical event, the least of your worries should be paying for it. Take time today to develop a strategy for how to cope with unexpected medical expenses.



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SECOND ANNUAL VENETIAN BAY WINE WALK By Jewels Miglioranzi

The Second Annual Venetian Bay Wine Walk started out with a military salute surprise flyover to honor our VB military residents who have served our country. A special thank you to the Spruce Creek pilots for the flyover and the four passes over Venetian Bay. The crowd enjoyed this special surprise flyover in honor of our military residents.

Thank you to our local VB businesses for participating and all the wine & food you served, everything was delicious! *Happy Deli Spa at Venetian Bay Pat & Toni's Sweet Things Snap Fitness Exit Realty all the vendors & entertainment (DJ).*

We had a nice crowd and all of the neighbors had a fun time. Looking forward to the next wine walk. Thank you to all who made this VB event a great success!















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Dear Jim...

Q. I would like to plant some annuals to spruce up my garden beds. Do you have any recommendations?

A. The best annuals for this time of the year are Portulaca, Periwinkle, Purslane, Salvia, and Lantana. For shade, go with Impatiens.

Q. My lawn crew wants to trim my palm trees, but I don't think they need it. What are your thoughts Jim?

A. Our crew only trims the dead fronds because trimming too much off is not good for a healthy palm tree. Also, there is a disease that is killing off Queen and Washingtonia Palms which doesn't have a cure yet, so make sure to ask about that.

Do you have questions you'd like to ask Jim? Send them in and read his answer in a future edition of "Venetian Bay Living"!

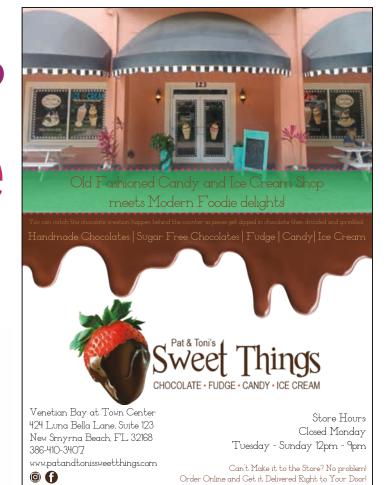
dinner AND A MOVIE

The Promenade Parke at Venetian Bay Book Club enjoyed dinner & a movie outing to see the Movie Book Club. A good time was had by all.









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After 50 Years ... The Wedding She Always Wanted





When John and Hedy Quirk moved to Venetian Bay's Savona South neighborhood from Chicagoland in 2007, they left behind a lifetime of memories. Starting fresh meant acquiring a new circle of friends. Ten years later and they've amassed quite a cohort.

This is a stark contrast to how things got started for them.

Way back on March 28, 1967, the two of them met at the **'El Presidente Discotheque'** in the Philippines. He was on R & R staying at the hotel, she was attending a bon voyage party for a friend. Immediately smitten with Hedy, John asked her to dance and proposed later that evening. Her friends made a bet that she would say no or eventually back out.

The whirlwind romance quickly turned to the long-distance variety, as John had to head back to Vietnam. With haste, preparations began for his return and their wedding day. For his part, there were loads of security clearances to contend with, as U.S. Intelligence started investigating Hedy, her family and their known associations. It didn't help any that her last name was **Castro!** As for Hedy, with the date scheduled for June 8, invitations went out to family and friends throughout the Philippines. Her brother, Al, a prominent lawyer, also began performing his own counter investigation through their version of the FBI.

Things were happening very fast and it overwhelmed Hedy. In a moment of doubt, she wondered if she should back out. But with so many people involved and all that was invested, a guilt trip from her Mom quashed that notion. Besides, there was a bet on the line.

•••



...

On June 5, just days before the big event, John arrived without any warning. And because he only was issued a limited pass they needed to get married that very day. A scramble ensued to arrange for someone to marry them on such short notice. Through her brother's connections, they managed to find a mayor who would oversee the ceremony. But it came with some conditions. It had to take place in his village (60 miles away). Aside from Hedy and John, only her brother would be allowed in the room to witness the proceeding. And because of an assassination attempt on the mayor's life, the entire area would be surrounded by security armed with sub-machine guns. Oh ... and no photos!

Later that evening, an impromptu reception was held in the hotel bar with a handful of local friends being the only able to attend. Absent were her parents, other relatives and guests, as they were still en route at sea. Also missing were any of the fanfare and pageantry a bride typically dreams about most of her young life.

So, as their 10-year residential anniversary approached, it dawned on Hedy that so too did an even grander milestone ... 50 years of wedded bliss. Not only did she think it would be a perfect time to renew their vows to one another and God but she also thought it might be an opportunity to experience what she missed a lifetime ago. So, she set about the task of planning the wedding gala they never had.

When this past June 3 arrived, months of planning went into action. And with the decorations in place, the evening began as Hedy made her way down the Church's center aisle to the organist playing Wagner's "Bridal Chorus." The vow renewal mass presided by Father Patrick Quinn at Our Lady Star of the Sea was followed by a full-blown reception that was catered by **Venetian Bay's** own Stephen of Riverside Catering.

Also on-hand was "**The Bay's**" Debbie Amatucci of Classic Photography. This time around, no lack of documented evidence would prevent Hedy from winning the bet!

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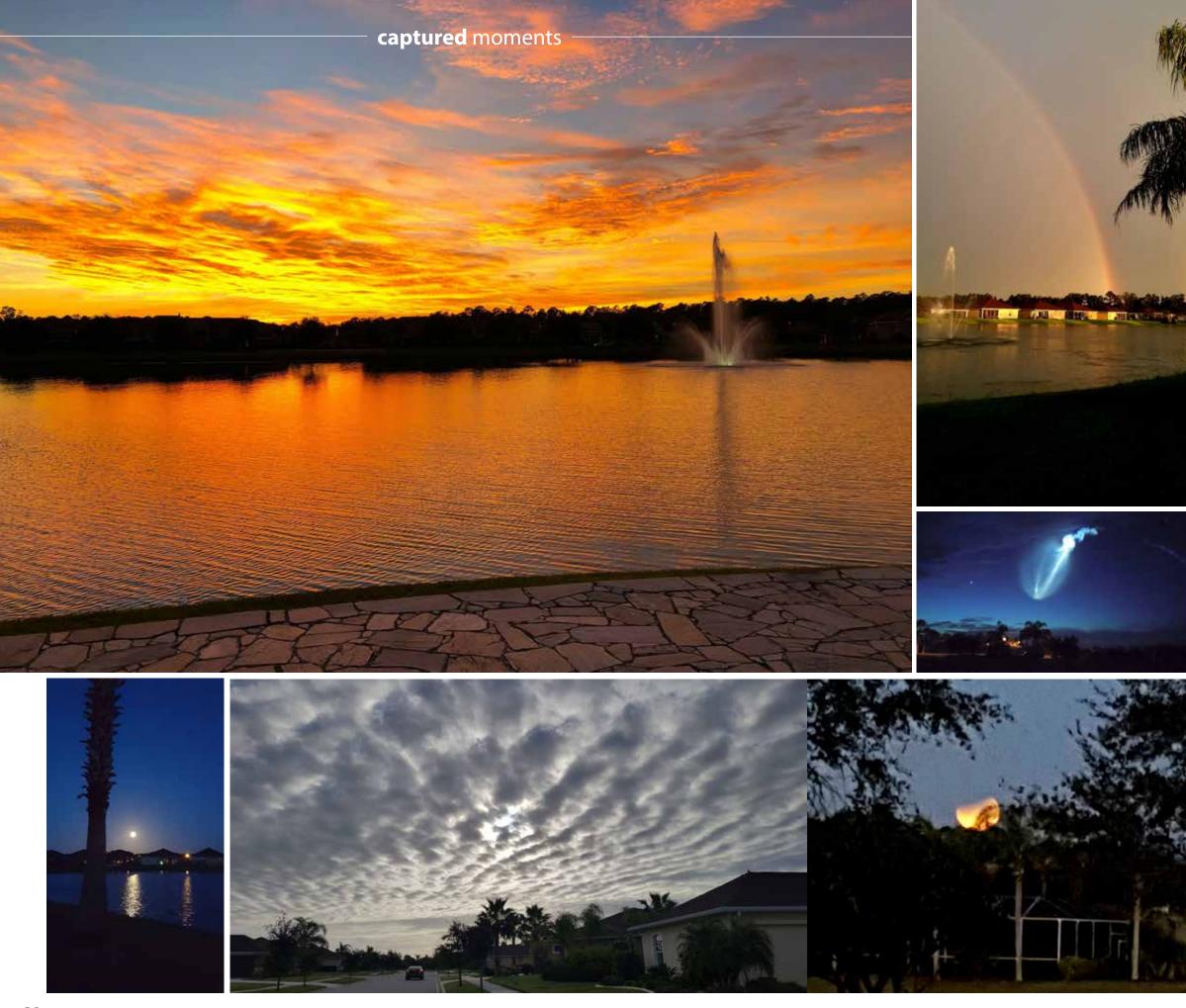


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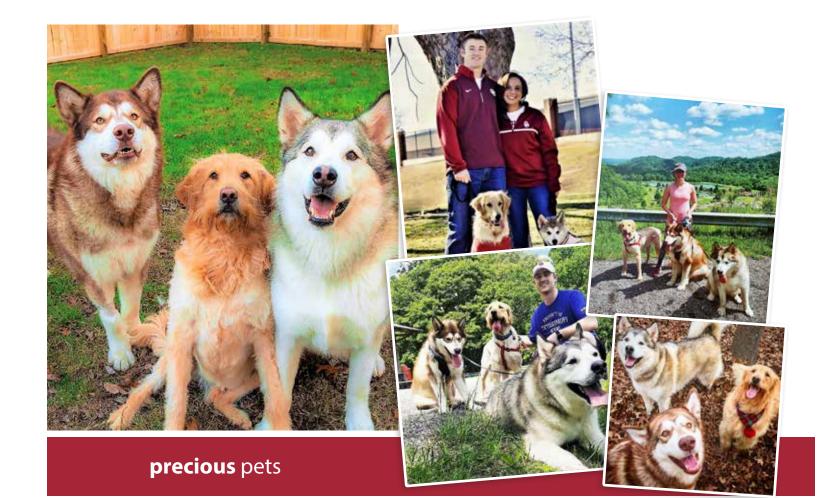




Photos submitted by VB Residents **Dustin Stock** and Faith Stouffer

We welcome our residents to submit their own "Captured Moments" photos for publication in an upcoming issue. Please send your high-resolution photos to our Publishing Assistant, Faith Stouffer, at faith. stouffer@n2publishing.com







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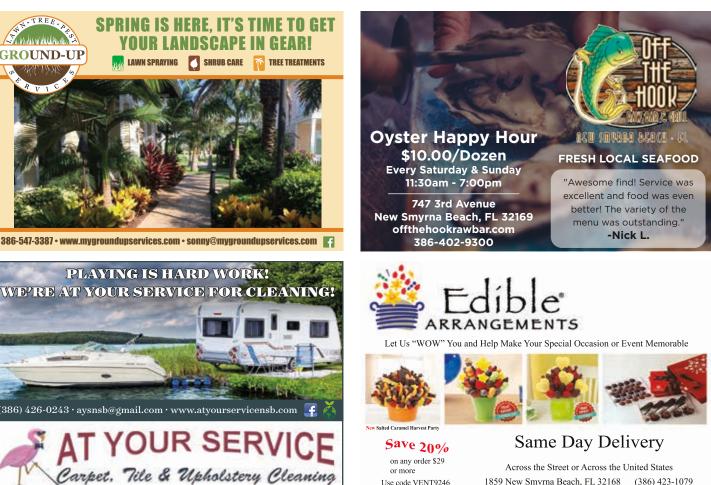
Meet COOPER, KAIA, KOVA BOWERS

Family member names: Jessica and Scotty Bowers (living in Venetian Bay with James Hogan) Pets names: Cooper (Goldendoodle), Kaia and Kova (Alaskan Malamutes) Male or female: Cooper and Kova are males; Kaia is female Pet's ages: Four, three and one

Where/why did you get your pet? We decided to get Copper when we were still dating and in College at the University of Oklahoma. He was the best boy. He hated being left home alone, so we decided to start

looking into getting another dog. Scotty's own Malevery day. Kaia uses her full weight to hold you amute had passed away and I took it upon myself to down and lick you every night. She will physically set up an appointment with a registered breeder. I push you off the couch if she doesn't have enough figured we would look at some puppies and maybe room. Kova is the sweetest boy and he definitely put down a deposit. I was wrong. The breeder had loves his dad. He will wait all day for him to get one extra puppy and she was the cutest teddy bear home. And he will holler back at you after you tell you have ever seen. Lo and behold, we then had two him you love him. dogs. After graduating we got married and moved to Cleveland where we shortly realized that Kaia had surely outgrown Cooper. Weighing almost 60 pounds more than him, we knew we needed a thir hted That's where Kova came along. I've always heard the saying that two is a party and three is a crowd the well, that's the truth! I suddenly became a 21-year act old with a brand-new minivan to transfer my "dog ith. kids" around.

What do you like best about your pets? Coo-*Thank you for your involvement in your community* per is a Diva — he needs attention constantly and screams at the top of his lungs when you get home





d.	Each month, one resident's pet will be highligh
	in your Venetian Bay Living community maga-
	zine. In order to have \mathbf{your} pet highlighted in
?-	next available monthly magazine, please conta
S	our Publishing Assistant, Faith Stouffer at fai
	stouffer@n2publishing.com

community volunteers



By Commissioner Judy Reiker, New Smyrna Beach, President, Volusia League of Cities

Volusia League Of Cities Initiates CITIZEN ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The mission of the Volusia League of Cities (VLoC) is to promote communication among the municipalities and municipal leaders in the Volusia area, foster cooperative action in meeting common needs, represent Volusia area cities to the state league of cities, the state legislature, state agencies, county and federal government and promote sound municipal government throughout Volusia County.

As part of our on-going efforts to achieve this mission, the League has initiated a citizen advocate

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(386) 424-4007 www.BaileyTrumboLaw.com BaileyAndTrumbo@gmail.com 340 N. Causeway, New Smyrna Beach FL. 32169 program, recruiting members of our respective cities to join us in carrying the message about the preservation of Municipal Home Rule Authority beyond the walls of city hall.

Venetian Bay resident Rosemary Bousquet is one of several residents who has agreed to be a citizen advocate. "When an opportunity arises to give back to my community, state, and country I step up and do it. I believe we all must do our civic duty to our country using those talents and experiences we have to help make neighbors' lives better and to protect our rights as citizens of the USA."

Year after year, lawmakers continue to share that the best and most effective time to meet with them is back home in their district. In fact, they look forward to opportunities that allow them to interact with constituents and listen to their concerns.

In partnership with local elected leaders in our cities, these citizen advocates will do just that, in part through a series of legislative roundtables to be scheduled throughout the remainder of 2018. Together we will further develop those relationships with state legislators representing Volusia County, finding opportunities to work with them on issues of mutual interests and concerns for our communities.

When asked what she hopes the group will accomplish, Rosemary stated, "This Citizen's Advocate Program has the promise of shining a light on local issues that affect our quality of life in New Smyrna Beach. The CAP can educate elected officials at the state level why these issues are so important to our local community and how their vote for or against legislation related to these issues will affect our quality of life at the local level. I am very confident that the CAP will be an effective voice for the local citizens of New Smyrna Beach".

As President of the Volusia League of Cities, I appreciate the time and the commitment that our citizens have agreed to generously lend to this very important advocacy initiative. Together we can accomplish much.







Residents joined *Venetian Bay Living* sponsor Fox Firestone for an informative bicycle demo. Be sure to reach out to them for all your cycling needs.

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venetian bay lifestyle

By Jewels Miglioranzi



family matters

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tory?

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and experiences after a service or during a visitation. After the service, personalization continues in creating a meaningful memorial or cremation placement that too will represent that person's life story. Volusia Memorial Funeral Home has facilities in Ormond Beach and Port Orange and is part of the Dignity Memorial Network. Visit our website www.volusiamemorialfuneral.com

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please send an e-mail to Kimberly.Anderson@n2pub.com

This is open to residents of Venetian Bay only.

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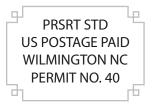
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