



# Snell Isle

*living*

AN EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SNELL ISLE

JUNE 2022

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR:  
**The Mullinax Family**

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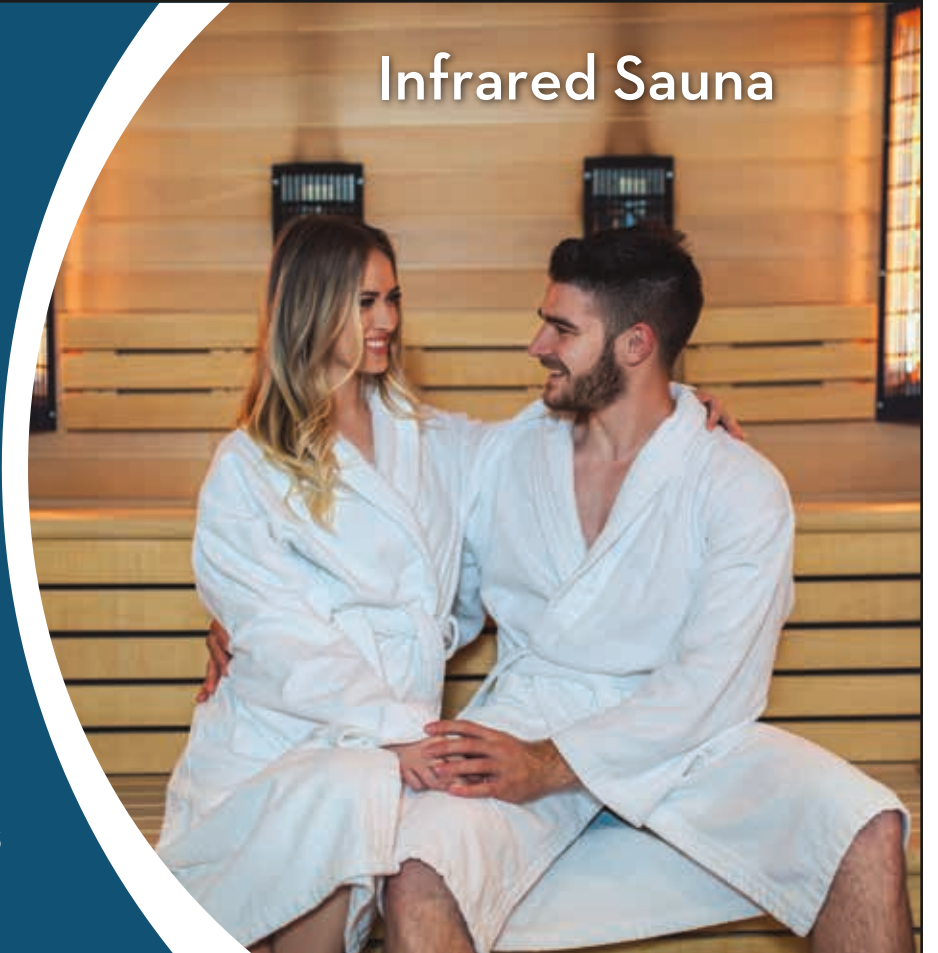
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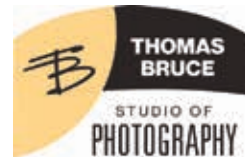
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## publisher's note

# happy summer!

Hello, Snell Isle Friends and Neighbors!

Question: Are you good at keeping secrets?

I am a HORRIBLE secret keeper. I shop early for Christmas and keeping my gift purchases a secret for two months, or more is really one of my biggest life challenges.

I was selected earlier last year to sit on an advisory board at The N2 Company. It was an honor to be nominated by my peers, and has been super insightful to learn about how our company is evolving. Our role on the committee is to help make the best decisions for our fellow Area Directors (franchisees) and then keep those decisions under the radar until the company is ready to implement and launch them!

And though I knew we would be rolling out our new name/brand, **Stroll Snell Isle**, in the July 2022 issue, I hadn't realized that I wasn't supposed to be telling you about it until now. So, I'm living up to my reputation for spilling the beans. Rest assured, friends, I did not get dismissed from the advisory board, but we did have a good laugh when they found out that I've been promoting this since April ...

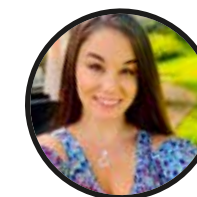
Please know that nothing else about the magazine is changing – just a more clean, uniform, and consistent brand! We will now be more easily recognized as one company, for miles and miles, all across the nation. Of course, the stories and photos you share with us will remain private to the neighborhood. I can't wait to roll out the new logo, new color scheme, etc. Just ONE more month!

Until then, I'm looking forward to strollin' through summer, strollin' through the neighborhood, strollin' into stores near you ... I think you get the picture!

We couldn't be more excited about our new look and hope you are just as thrilled! Stay tuned, and have a wonderful month of June!

*Lindsey Germann*

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P.S. Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers and grandfathers in the community!



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# Creek Ellijay Johnson, Hiker Jean Johnsons & Ralph MacNeil Johnson

**Family member names:** Daniel, Tiffany, and Izabella Johnson  
**Pet’s name:** Creek Ellijay Johnson, Hiker Jean Johnsons (his middle name comes from my father, who I just lost in august), and Ralph MacNeil Johnson. All boys!  
**Type of animal/breed:** Creek – cat (11 months), Hiker – cat (3 months), Ralph – Hedgehog (1 year)

**Tell us where/why you got your pet**  
So, this will mostly revolve around Creek and our relationship ... And how it evolved into a larger family.

So his story is cute. Where do I start ...

In July of 2021, Daniel and I traveled up to Ellijay, GA, to check out the venue of where we were going to get married in November. The venue we were getting married at is an Air BnB on a farm with an old lodge in the mountains with a big field and surrounded by a creek and miles of beautiful trees, called The Lodge at Harpers Creek.

While we were there, we got to know the owner and his family and went up to look at the property. While we were there checking out the barn and the property, they had two dogs, two sheep, and a ton of cats, 17 at that, all barn kitties. They thought all the cats had been spaded and neutered, but one cat had five kittens.

While checking out the lodge, we saw two baby kittens lying on the table, naturally, Dan and I both picked one up each. Held on to them like a little baby till we set them down and kept exploring the property. But when I put him down and walked the property, the farm, and the pasture, he followed us everywhere ...we walked all the way down to the creek in the pasture that would be in the view of where we would say our vows, and he followed us all the way down. We called him Creek, and he came running right to us. Mike told us we could take him and give him a good home. But we weren’t too sure, because at that moment we weren’t living together, so we left and told Mike we would think about it.

The next morning we went and drove up to the lodge, and as soon as we got out of the car, Creek came running to us and has responded to the name Creek ever since.

We made a promise that we would make him a little adventure cat and that we would travel with him since he did so well on the eight-hour car ride back



precious pets  
Submitted by Tiffany Johnson

here to Florida at only 3 months. We promised him he would be able to come back to his little home one day ... and that’s what we did in November. Dan and I got married on November 20th in Ellijay, GA, at The Lodge at Harpers Creek, and we brought Creek back to walk down the aisle with our little one, Izabella. He loved being back there. We could tell he remembered it. He’s such a smart cat.

After we got married, our little family of fur babies grew. Dan got his dream pet, which is a hedgehog named Ralph. He always said, “if I ever get a hedgehog, I will name him Ralph.” Dan takes him everywhere in his little pouch pocket on Dan’s hoodie. We just recently felt that Creek was getting bored, so we got him a new baby brother and named him Hiker. Our other little adventure cat. His story isn’t as unique. But we adopted him and are excited to give him a very happy and adventurous life.

**What is it that you like best about your pet?**  
He is unique, not like any other cat I have had. He is Dan and my first baby together, and he shares his love equally with all of his family – me, Dan, his sissy, his Grammie, his Nana, and Papa.

Creek and Ralph have their own Instagram. (@lilcreekjohnson and @lil\_ralph\_johnson) where you can see more pics.



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# Luc's Love *for Tennis*



Meet Luc Boulier, a 19-year-old, exceptional tennis player! He is originally from Chile and started visiting Snell Isle in 2015. It was just this past January when he moved here. Luc has been playing tennis since he was 3 at his local tennis club in Chile, but now he is playing at Isla Del Sol. Luc is Chilean and French. His dad is 100% French, and his mom is 100% Chilean. He has met many of the Chilean tennis players, including those on tour!

Luc has been playing tennis since he was 3-4 years old. Luc played many tournaments, like Orange Ball (a massive junior tournament in the U.S.) and multiple Pan-American tournaments. He even qualified for the junior Australian Open, which is featured on TV! Unfortunately, he didn't get to play in the tournament because COVID-19 hit. For a while, Luc was ranked #1 in Chile for his age group. He has traveled to many countries for tennis, including everywhere in South America, a few countries in Central America, and a few countries in Europe. His biggest tennis moment was when he won his first ITF tournament. An ITF tournament is an international tournament held by the International Tennis Federation. From all of Luc's wins and losses, he has learned that tennis is not easy, and it doesn't get any easier. The most important days are when you aren't motivated to play, but you still show up on the court.

As an avid tennis player, Luc follows everyone in the sport. His favorite players are Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. "Rafa" is a legendary tennis player from Spain, known for his great athleticism. Roger Federer, another legendary tennis player from Switzerland, is known for his calmness and composure on the court. Luc likes both of these players because they are great, and you can learn so much from them. Luc also likes Andrey Rublev because of his aggressive playing style.

Now, you may be wondering if Luc is going pro. Well, hopefully, but for now, he is going to be attending Indiana State University this fall. Luc will play tennis for them while he is majoring in business. Luc says that one of the best moments in his LIFE was when he signed with Indiana State.

Aside from tennis and school, Luc likes to hang out with his friends, go to the beach, and ski. He also loves to eat Asado, a Chilean barbecue.

If you see Luc around the neighborhood, be sure to say hello and wish him luck at Indiana State!



**Kids 2 kids**  
Written by Lucille Procaccio, Junior Writer

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# HOW TO GET GLOWING SUMMER SKIN IN FLORIDA:

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### healthy living

By **Dr. Suzanne Ben-Kane** Voyage MedSpa and Wellness

Summertime in Florida is a beautiful thing. The sun is shining, the beaches are gorgeous, and the weather is perfect for going out and enjoying all that the Sunshine State has to offer.

With the beautiful summers comes an increased risk of skin damage, dry skin, and premature aging (photoaging) caused by the intense sun rays, and this can reduce your skin's natural glow. Fortunately, there are effortless ways to protect your skin and, at the same time, have glowing summer skin all year round.

#### *The Science Of Glowing Skin*

Can skin glow naturally without makeup and glitter? The answer is yes.

Can you have glowing skin? The answer again is yes. Your skin will glow if your cells are often renewed, and you have good circulation.

New cells make your skin smoother and reflect light better. Old cells give the skin a dry and wrinkled skin appearance because it barely reflects light. Have you ever noticed how kids and teenagers have a natural glow? This is because they renew their skin cells every 28 days.

With good circulation, toxins get removed away from your skin faster, and your skin gets more moisture and

nourishment. Your skin becomes more supple and glows easily. People who work out often and pregnant women glow because they have increased circulation to their skin.

#### *The Science Of Photoaging*

When skin is overexposed to the sun, ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun easily penetrates the skin cells and damages their DNA. With the heat, you lose moisture, and your skin produces less collagen and begins to sag. This all leads to dry skin, age spots such as liver spots and freckles, skin cancers, wrinkles, and an unattractive look.

#### *Here Are Seven Tips On How To Have Glowing Summer Skin In Florida: Sunscreen*

- 1. Did you know, Sunscreen is King?** The most important thing you can do to keep your skin young and to protect against further damage is to wear sunscreen. You should always wear sunscreen every day, no matter the weather or season. Look for a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher that provides both UVA and UVB protection. Apply it generously to all exposed skin, including the face, neck, chest, and back, and reapply it every two hours or after swimming or sweating.
- 2. Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day to keep your skin hydrated from the inside out. Avoid sugary drinks like sodas and juices, which can cause

dehydration. And limit your intake of alcohol, which can also lead to dehydration.

- 3. Eat Healthily:** Eating a healthy diet is important for maintaining glowing skin. Avoid processed foods and foods high in sugar, which can cause inflammation. Instead, focus on eating fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- 4. Exercise:** Exercise helps improve circulation, which delivers oxygen and nutrients to the skin. It also helps to flush out toxins that can damage the skin.
- 5. Use A Moisturizer:** Moisturize your skin daily with a zinc oxide-based product that contains SPF 30 or higher. This will help keep your skin hydrated and protect it from the sun's damaging rays.
- 6. Exfoliate:** Exfoliating your skin helps to remove dead skin cells that can dull the complexion. When you exfoliate, your new cells come up to the surface. Use a gentle exfoliating product two or three times a week for best results.
- 7. Use A Skin Brightener:** If you have any dark spots or discoloration, using a skin brightener can help to even out the skin tone. Look for products that contain vitamin C, which is a powerful antioxidant that can help to brighten the skin.

By following these simple tips, you can enjoy beautiful, healthy, and glowing summer skin all year long. So, get out there and enjoy the Florida sun!



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4. It can reasonably be inferred from the narrator thinks her hometown has:

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# BROOKLYN BRIGHT



## senior spotlight

I attend Shorecrest Preparatory School, and I have lived in Snell Isle since 2004. One of my favorite memories from high school has been winning our school's Homecoming competition alongside my fellow seniors this past fall. During the festivities, I was a part of the girls' powderpuff football team as well as the "Brain Bowl" trivia competition. I also helped construct our grade's celebratory banner, and I had the honor of being voted onto Homecoming Court. It was so fulfilling to see my grade work toward a common goal and get closer as a group throughout the process. I am a Co-Captain of my school's cross country team, and I am the Vice President of our theatre troupe. I am looking forward to taking part in my final production at Shorecrest, *Sweeney Todd*, which is taking place April 21st - 23rd. Additionally, I give tours of Shorecrest to prospective families and volunteer at community events through the Student Ambassador Program, for which I currently serve as Lead

Ambassador. I'm excited to hear back from colleges this spring, and I plan to study biology and human health. Someone I truly admire is my older sister, Shannon. She is currently studying musical theatre at Ithaca College and has had an immense impact on my confidence, sense of humor, music taste, and outlook on life. She inspired me to get involved with my school's theatre program, which has been a catalyst for much of my personal growth throughout high school. Beyond introducing me to theatre, Shannon has taught me the power of empathy and understanding, and I am so thankful to have her in my life.



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## ask the expert

By Thomas Lambert, O.D.

### VIP Eye Care & Optical Boutique

# DRY EYES AND SCLERAL CONTACT LENSES



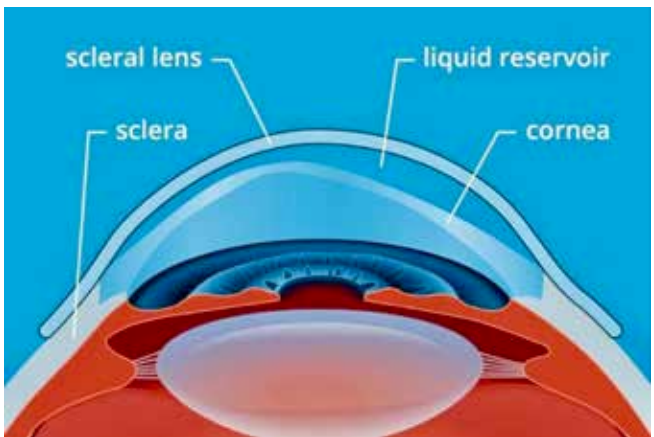
Dry Eye Syndrome (DES) is a very common condition that affects people of all ages and ethnicities. DES is considered a multifactorial condition, meaning that there are multiple causes of the dryness. While some of the common causes of DES are using electronic devices and changes in the seasons, it can also be caused by underlying health conditions, such as autoimmune disorders. For some, dry eyes can be chronic, causing problems with irritation, itchy eyes, or blurred vision. When your standard over-the-counter drop does not give enough relief to some of these symptoms, scleral contact lenses could be a great option to help.

Scleral contact lenses are hard lenses made from a special type of plastic. They are different from the standard rigid gas permeable (RGP), or rather hard contact, in that they rest on the sclera (white part of the eye) rather than the cornea (front surface of the eye) like most other types of contact lenses. Since sclerals rest on the white of the eye, they are slightly larger than the average soft contact lens. However, this helps with the comfort of the lenses due to there being less sensitivity on the sclera. The lens is

dome-shaped like a bowl and is filled with a saline solution that creates a liquid reservoir for the cornea. The lens is inserted and removed using a specific type of plunger.

Artificial tears can be a great starting point for someone experiencing dry eye but sometimes can only give limited relief. Scleral lenses are a great option for those experiencing moderate to severe dry eye when other conventional methods have not helped. They can provide longer relief for symptoms of DES due to the saline solution bathing the cornea throughout the day. This keeps the cornea constantly hydrated and, therefore, less susceptible to changes from DES such as keratitis (inflammation of the cornea).

In addition to treating DES, these lenses are also used to correct irregular astigmatism, which can be caused by corneal diseases such as keratoconus. For these patients, sclerals can provide better visual acuities than glasses. The lenses are adjusted to the prescription using corneal mapping techniques and are fitted uniquely to the curvature of the patient's eye. Usually, the fitting process takes longer for sclerals, but only because the lens is custom-made.



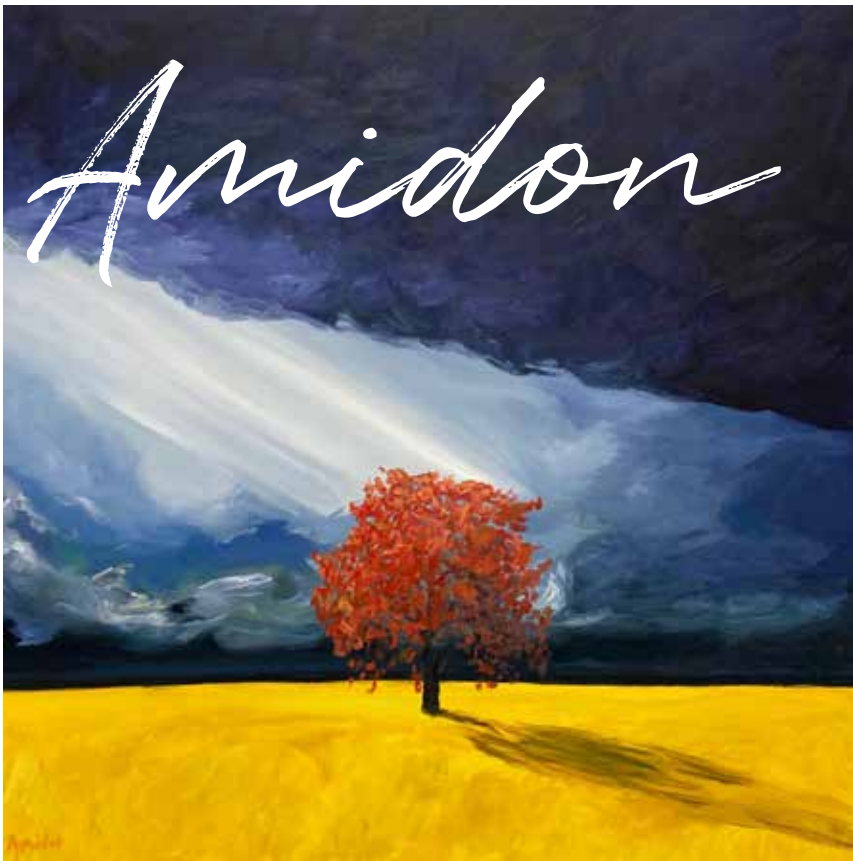
At VIP Eye Care & Optical Boutique, we are excited to offer these customized lenses to our patients. Having dry eyes can sometimes be very irritating, and it can take time to find the right regimen that works for you. If you feel you could benefit from scleral lenses or would like to discuss this option, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at our Carillon office.

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Tom



I would describe my style of painting as a blend of expressionism and Impressionism with a touch of a colorist thrown in. Trying to invoke a feeling with movement and/or color within the painting. I spend a lot of time mesmerized by the sky (especially the local sunset), and I try to capture some of the power, drama, and beauty I see. Using color and brushstrokes, I feel I am able to capture the attention of the viewer and, if I am successful, trigger some sort of emotional response.

No matter what subject I paint, I want it to go beyond a painting and be a masterful work of art.

See more of Tom's work at [tom-amidon.pixpa.com](http://tom-amidon.pixpa.com).





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# EASY CHEESY BURGER BISCUITS



## resident recipe

Written by **Ellie Perler**

### Ingredients

- 1 can flaky layers buttermilk biscuits (8 count)
- ½ pound cooked ground beef, drained and cooled
- 4 cheese slices, your choice (cut into quarters)
- ½ cup finely shredded cheese, your choice
- ¾ cup chopped pickles
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ¼ tsp garlic
- ¼ tsp crushed chili flakes

\*Double the ingredients to make more biscuits\*

Fully cook ground beef in skillet with salt, pepper, garlic, and pepper flakes. Drain well, toss in shredded cheese, and combine. Let mixture cool.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Open biscuits and split each one in half using your hands. Place biscuits in rows on the baking sheet and let sit for 10 minutes. Gently pull each piece of dough to stretch it out. Be careful not to break or make holes.

Place a quarter piece of cheese slice onto each piece. Add a few pieces of pickle, 1 ½- 2 tablespoons of ground beef, and more pickle. Cup hand and press down on the mixture. Repeat.

Gently stretch other dough piece over filling side, pressing and firmly sealing around the edges of the biscuit. Pick up if needed to reshape and make sure sides are fully closed. Press the center of the biscuit gently with your hands to spread the beef inside. Space out biscuits on the baking sheet.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake 15-20 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown.

\*To make later, cover uncooked biscuits on the baking sheet and place them in the fridge\*

Serve with your favorite dipping sauce, ketchup, BBQ, or mustard.

Enjoy!



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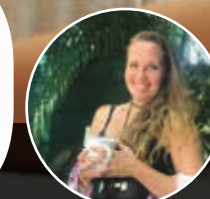
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SPWC Volunteers helping with 400 children at the Mahaffey Theater program featuring Books, Art, and Music.



L-R: President- Cathy Allen, Marianne Snyder (Volunteer of the Year), District 14 Director- Laura Connelly

## NEWS FROM ST. PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

*Although our general meetings are on hiatus for the summer months, multiple activities are keeping our members busy.*

Our membership continues to grow, with 19 new members for 2022. Our Membership Chairman, Marianne Snyder, was voted as Volunteer of the Year at the GFWC District 14 Spring Meeting. Our club achieved the honor of third in the nation in new membership growth.

Approximately 30 Club members recently had a Mahaffey Experience Evening. For a nominal fee, we were provided with appetizers and unlimited wine and beer.

We were entertained in their beautiful VIP Lounge. Some of our members reciprocated this generosity by volunteering to help with 400 children at a Mahaffey Theater Children's program featuring Books, Art and Music.

Our memory walk is still an ongoing project – for more information, contact Gail Brazzell at **(727) 542- 1833** or email: **RodorGail@aol.com**.

The St. Petersburg Woman's Club continues with multiple activities – Book Club, Bunco, Bridge, Games, and Weekly Mahjongg. Guests and new members are welcome at all activities.

To receive more information on projects, activities, meetings, membership, or club booking, please call **822-4982**. Please check out our website at **www.StPetersburgWomansClub.org**



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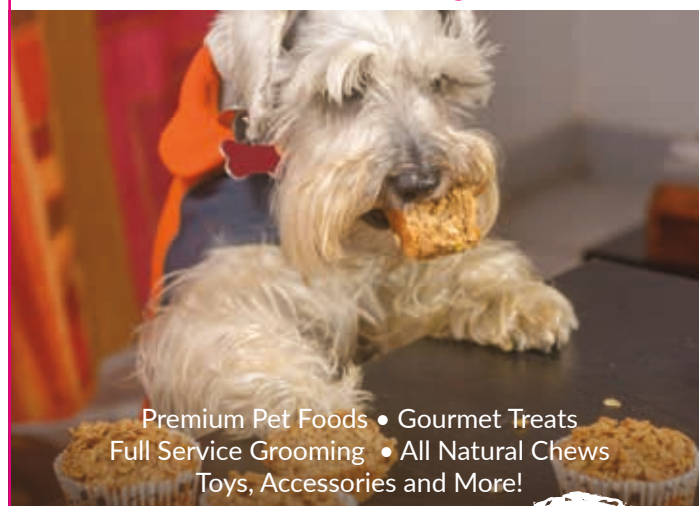
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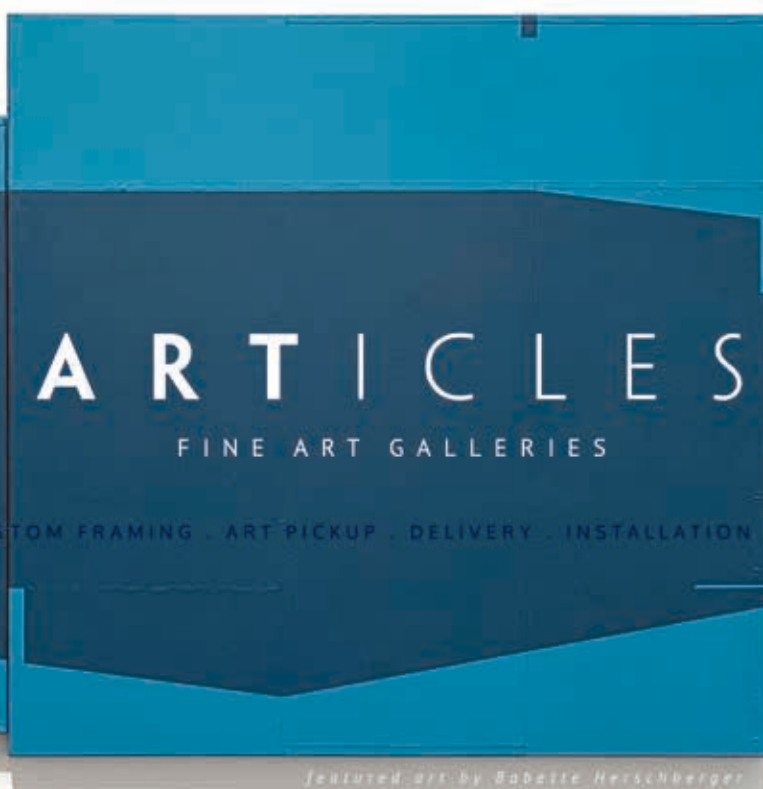
  
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Featured art by Babette Herschberger

# GET READY TO



# STROLL

## INTO SUMMER

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in the title starting in July 2022





# St. Augustine

## A TRIP TO REMEMBER

### travel tales

By Written by **Lucille Procaccino**, Junior Writer

**A**s you drive through historical St. Augustine, you see very old structures that date back to the “not yet United States.” St. Augustine was established in 1565, over 50 years before the Pilgrims had landed in Plymouth, MA. In this article, I will describe different highlights in the area: food, stores, museums, and even fountains.

Starting off with food! St. Augustine does not disappoint. The first night in St. Augustine, we went to the Forgotten Tonic. They have a range of foods, from marinated olives to fried green tomatoes to fresh fish. Each morning we ate breakfast at Avilés, the restaurant at our hotel. They had a variety of options for breakfast and dinner. For lunch, on the second day, we went to Columbia, a sister restaurant to the one in Tampa’s Ybor City Historic District, for an authentic Spanish meal. I recommend the empanadas, which are beef-filled puff pastries. On the third day, we went to Catch 27 for dinner. They have delicious tacos.



Now onto stores! St. Augustine has plentiful mom-and-pop stores, lots of art galleries, and countless gift stores. Most of the galleries in the historic art district feature works made by local artists. If you are looking for a gift store in St. Augustine, you will be able to find one easily, don’t worry.

Next up ... museums and historical sites! There are lots of historic

sites and museums in St. Augustine, so if you go, I recommend taking the trolley for an overview. Some museums that stood out to me include America’s first and oldest wax museum, Potter’s Wax Museum, the Lightner Museum, and the Old Jail. Most of all, I recommend seeing Flagler College. This college used to be called the Hotel Ponce de Leon. Mr. Flagler was a very wealthy man who







built railroads and developed real estate along the east coast of Florida. He built this \$2.5 million hotel out of concrete, and it was intended for extremely wealthy people. At the time of its completion in 1888, it cost \$9,000 to stay there for the season, roughly 3-4 months during the winter. This is equivalent to around \$200,000 in today's dollars. The hotel took a mere 18 months to build. Mr. Flagler had all of the artwork, floors, columns, rooms, ceilings, chandeliers, murals, and Tiffany glass windows finished in record time with people working around the clock. Later this hotel was turned into a college. The college hosts tours throughout the day, and I would definitely recommend taking the tour!

Now, fountains. One of the primary reasons St. Augustine was established was because of a "fountain." This mythical fountain, the Fountain of Youth, supposedly circulated special magical water that could keep a person young forever. Ponce de Leon, a Spanish explorer, absolutely needed this water, perhaps at the request of Queen Isabella of Spain, so he set out on a journey to find it. Of course, he never really found it because we still hear people talking about their wrinkles and gray hair. However, Ponce de Leon did discover "La Florida" and landed at St. Augustine in 1513. The famous fountain is located in the Fountain of Youth Archeological Park. You can drink some of the water from the fountain, but it does not taste very

good, nor does it work. Thankfully, the park has many other activities, like a cannon firing demonstration, a musket firing demonstration, and a lesson from an experienced blacksmith on how to forge a nail. Oh, and did I mention you can feed peacocks! Although the peacocks will pluck peanuts right from the palm of your hand, I don't advise doing so. My mom was nipped by a peacock, who I think had food anxiety. Man, that was a crazy peacock!

St. Augustine is a wonder with lots to see and do, and I hope you visit one day!

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266 Snell Isle Blvd NE	3/2	\$925,000	\$975,000	6
209 Bandera Way NE	2/2	\$1,050,000	\$1,100,000	2
114 Giralda Blvd NE	4/3	\$1,290,000	\$1,310,000	6
105 Estado Way NE	3/3	\$1,400,000	\$1,450,000	3
124 Estado Way NE	3/4/1	\$2,062,850	\$2,062,850	0
324 Brightwaters Blvd	4/4/2	\$2,695,000	\$2,695,000	111

Listings were sourced from the MLS

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perry, the panther

By Jonathan Decker

## APRIL'S EVOLUTION

Each month we start with the major holidays (like Easter) to author the overall theme. It started with bunny ears, and the Perry riding bunny, and then, eventually, the idea of adding Easter grass underneath the panther came about. Next, our 9-year-olds wanted Easter eggs! So Daddy added eggs. After a little trial and error, we moved the grass and eggs to the top of Perry, and then on the final day of The Master's, the flag was the perfect addition for one perfect Sunday at Augusta.

Be sure to stop by and see what Perry is up to! Or check him out on Instagram [@perrythepanther](https://www.instagram.com/perrythepanther).





# MAKE YOUR DREAM A REALITY WITH BOSWELL CONSTRUCTION INC.

## sponsor spotlight

Written by **Elizabeth McCabe**

### Trusted. Tried. True. Boswell

Construction has been helping clients make their dreams a reality since 1999. The owner and founder, Shane Boswell, has been in the construction industry for over 30 years. Trained in construction since his youth, he gained invaluable experience working for his father before branching out on his own at the age of 26.

“I mostly do residential construction, new homes, additions, and remodeling,” says Shane. His work speaks for itself, having recently completed a magnificent Tuscan custom-built home in the Jungle Terrace neighborhood.

A State Certified Building Contractor, Shane holds a BA in Technical Management and an Associate in Science degree in Drafting and Design.

“I love working with customers and helping people create their dreams,” comments Shane. The process is simple. He talks with clients about their goals, does drawings, and then builds to the clients’ specifications.

Shane oversees all operations and is actively involved in all aspects of the business. “I do whatever it takes,” he says.



### A Local Expert

A local expert in Tampa Bay, Shane has lived in the local area for 40 years. Through the years, he has established connections. Not only does he know the local area, he knows the people who live here. He has built relationships over the years.

“I also know the building department and know what the rules are,” adds Shane. That can make projects go smoother from start to finish.

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“Ninety-five percent of the time, the remodel is worth more than what people paid for it. It makes me feel good about doing projects for people,” says Shane. Not only can homeowners enjoy their remodel, but they can increase the value of their home if they put it on the market.

“Look at the return on the investment and how long are you going to keep your home,” points out Shane. “Or unload it and make money off of it.”

Although costs are higher, property values have also soared. Investing in your home can pay off. Seeing how much your home will be worth and the return on the investment is important.

Looking for a remodeler? Shane says, “Use someone who is educated and experienced and reputable. That’s more important than anything. All contractors are not created equally. Experience is the strongest asset that they can have. The longer you are around, the more you see, and the better you can handle things.”

...





“  
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WITH CUSTOMERS  
AND HELPING  
PEOPLE CREATE  
THEIR DREAMS  
”



#### Rave Reviews

Check out some of the recent reviews from satisfied clients:

“I hired Boswell Construction to build a new home. Shane and his crew were very professional and diligent in every construction phase. I highly recommend Boswell Construction Inc.” – *Gil*

“Boswell Construction completed two different projects. A complete remodel on both kitchen and bathroom. The construction team was very professional. The workmanship is excellent, and no cutting corners.” – *Raul*

“We hired Shane to do an addition to our waterfront home and couldn’t

be happier with the results. I highly recommend Boswell Construction for whatever you need!” – *Andrea*

We are honored to feature Boswell Construction in this month’s issue. For more information, check out their website, **boswellconstructionoffl.com**, or **(727) 686-0331**.

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attention  
parents:

# KID MOVIE REVIEW

## SEE A MOVIE ON US!

Attention parents of all kids between the ages of 5 and 17, we are now accepting sign-ups for our monthly Kid's Movie Review!

**Here is how it works:** Parents or kids may contact us to sign up. Then we get you two tickets to a current movie in theaters. You attend the movie, take a couple of pictures by the movie poster and write a short review about the movie with your movie rating (1-5 stars). We will place the review and accompanying photos in our monthly newsletter!

It's a great way to participate in the news-letter and get out and enjoy some entertainment in our area!

Space is limited, so please email us to sign up as soon as possible. We will contact you and make arrangements for your first Kid's Movie Review. We will be featuring one to two movies per month. Please let us know if you have any questions or are interested in participating. Parental approval is required. Please contact [Erin.Rystad@n2publishing.com](mailto:Erin.Rystad@n2publishing.com) for availability and to sign up.



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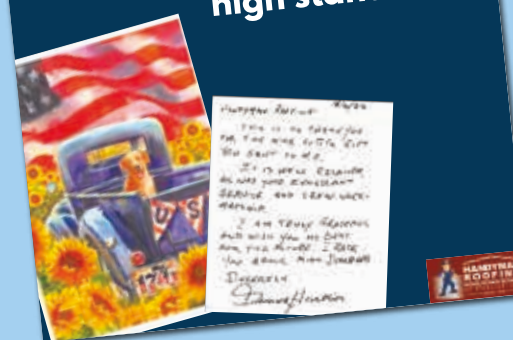
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## Meet Melody Mendoza-Auslander

Creator of the Joey Pouch Leggings

### *The Only Leggings with a Built-In Retractable Fanny Pack*

Necessity is the mother of invention. Snell Isle resident Melody Mendoza-Auslander can attest to that fact. The mastermind behind the Joey Pouch Leggings, Melody created this innovative product after she experienced a problem most women can attest to – not having a place to carry needed items in her yoga pants.

“I went to yoga, and I had to do so many errands, but I didn’t want to carry a huge purse,” says Melody. She went to Publix and tried to carry her wallet, keys, phone, and credit card but realized there had to be a better way.

“All women can relate to the inspiration I had when I created the Joey Pouch Leggings,” explains Melody. While clothing may look stylish and fit, they often lack functionality. “I decided to invent something to give women options.” Melody saw the need for the Joey Pouch Leggings. She sat downtown on Beach Drive and counted how many people wore yoga pants and fanny packs. Grabbing her notebook, she invented the Joey Pouch Leggings.

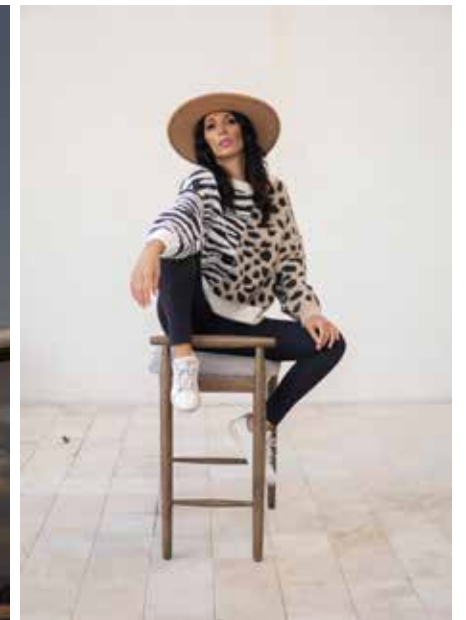
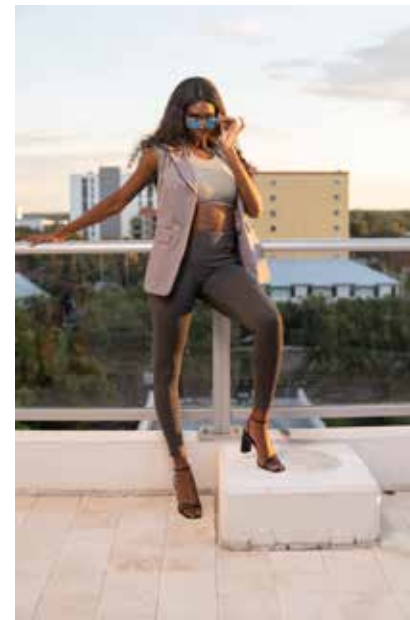
“I was inspired by the women in Florida who wanted functionality in their clothing,” says Melody. This retired principal launched the Joey Pouch Leggings in May 2021.

The Joey Pouch Leggings have a pull-out pouch that can be used to store essential items. Don’t need the pouch? Simply leave it tucked in. Currently, Melody has one style of yoga leggings available in four solid colors – black, blue, gray, and pink. With its breathable, biodegradable, eco-friendly fabric, the Joey Pouch leggings have been warmly welcomed by women.

“Clothing is the #1 pollutant in the world,” explains Melody. “When fabric doesn’t decompose, you get piles and piles of clothing garbage. I wanted to be a contributor and a problem solver. I worked really hard to find the fabric that fit my philosophy and beliefs of protecting the environment.” In the unlikely event that the Joey Pouch leggings end up in a landfill, they would decompose in several years.

What’s next for Melody? She plans on launching a collection of shorts with the Joey Pouch Leggings, which will also be reversible. A sports bra is also in the works. Their retail partners include JackieZ & Style Co., Sip Shop Hooray, BLB Spraytan, and Teeth Whitening Spa.

For more information on the Joey Pouch Leggings, check out the website, <https://labetri.com>. You’ll be glad that you did!





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meet your neighbors

Written by Elizabeth McCabe  
Photos by Carol Walker/  
Thomas Bruce Studio

Say Hello  
to

# BRIAN MULLINAX

## AND HIS TWO CHILDREN, MADELEINE & MILLIE!

“I’m new to the community. I came here in October 2020 after living in Seattle for 16 years,” says resident Brian Mullinax, a Manager at a Business Consulting firm based in California. He resides here in the neighborhood with his two children, Madeleine and Millie. They also enjoy the constant companionship of their Bengal cat, Prince, and their two Dalmatians, Portia and Lincoln.

In addition to their three furry friends, the Mullinax family has a large saltwater fish tank. This 200-gallon fish tank is filled with fish and corals. Watching it at night is a great way to relax and unwind. It has been a hobby of Brian’s since he was 5 years old.

### Brian’s Background

Born and raised in Georgia, Brian attended college at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN, followed by his move to Seattle in 2004. He is excited to be back in the south, where he has parents locally, and the girls have both sets of their grandparents living here in Florida. Some in Punta Gorda and Coral Springs. He has vacationed in Madeira Beach and found St. Pete to be a “fun, cool, and up and coming city.”

“I’ve been to Tampa for work a time or two,” says Brian. He grew weary of the dreary Seattle weather and the intense lockdown. Moving to the Sunshine State was the best move for his family. Brian comments, “We love the beach. I love all the theme parks and just being outside by the pool.”

What’s his favorite theme park? “Universal,” he comments. “It’s more adult-friendly. We haven’t graduated to the Disney park phase yet.”

### Family Fun

“We’re huge on birthdays,” says Brian. Birthdays can be a month-long celebration. For Brian’s recent birthday, he enjoyed a week-long yacht trip with friends, a couple of trips to the casino, and a new convertible – it was 40 after all!

In addition to birthdays, Brian and his girls love holidays. “We’re big on Halloween and Christmas,” he says. Expect their house to be decorated inside and out with all sorts of lights and decorations.

This tight-knit family also likes parties and throwing them at their house. “When we saw this house, we knew this was the one. It’s got a big backyard,” explains Brian. He hosted a cookie decorating and hot chocolate party for all the kindergartners at LCC, and it was a BLAST. He is hosting a crawfish boil for over 60 guests as a fundraiser for LCC in May.

Vacationing is another pastime for Brian and his girls. “We love vacations,” he says, “and we have a house in Costa Rica.” Brian visited this Spanish-speaking country once and fell in love with it. “Our house is up in the jungle overlooking the Arenal volcano,” he says. Although it rains a good amount, Costa Rica is a much slower pace and relaxing. Last year, they visited nine times. The girls, who have been flying since 6 months, are natural travelers.

...







To relax and unwind, Brian enjoys binge-watching television. He likes science fiction and mystery or suspense thriller movies. You can find him watching the *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Harry Potter*, *Game of Thrones*, *Raised by Wolves*, and *Stranger Things*. The girls like watching *Scooby-Doo* and *Trolls* movies.

### Meet the Girls

Madeleine just started kindergarten this year, and Millie is in preschool part-time and will be starting PreK at LCC. A devoted father, Brian, is involved in his girls' school and loves volunteering in activities such as the annual carnival, local farm field trip and doing what he can to support their local events.

This summer, these two girls are looking forward to getting involved in gymnastics. Madeleine will also be attending sailing camp at St. Pete Yacht Club.

In their free time, coloring and drawing are two hobbies that the girls enjoy. They also take art classes locally and enjoy making all sorts of colorful creations. The girls also love singing and doing dance at LCC.

What do the girls enjoy eating? "We're big on pasta and mac and cheese," smiles Brian. "The girls also

love Mexican food, especially eating chips and salsa." While in Seattle, they used to love Hibachi and sushi. They are looking to find something similar here in Tampa Bay to please their palates.

From Seattle to St. Pete, Brian and his girls are making a new life for themselves in the Sunshine State. If you haven't met them yet, introduce yourself! They are looking to meet more friendly folks here in the neighborhood (and that means you!).



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By Shauna Osborne



FINANCIAL TIPS  
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Congratulations – the big day has finally arrived! High school graduation is an exciting time for both students and parents. Now that your grown-up, independent future is spreading out before you, there are so many variables to consider: college? Job? Travel? Finances? Yep, that’s a big one! It can feel overwhelming if you don’t know where to begin in managing your own finances. Check out (or share with your favorite grad!) the tips below to get started on the right foot!

MAKE A BUDGET

Creating a sensible budget for yourself is a crucial first step to help you spend less than you earn. *Once you know where your money is going, you can better understand how to make it go where you want it.* There are many ways to approach setting up a budget – you might write everything out on paper or choose one of many excellent budgeting apps available (e.g., Mint, YNAB). Most important is having an accurate account of your income and your major fixed expenses, such as utilities, food, rent, etc.

ESTABLISH CREDIT

**(RESPONSIBLY)** Credit is a useful and necessary financial tool, but only if you understand how to use it properly. First, take time to research what determines your **credit score**; after all, your score affects practically every decision, including your ability to take out

loans (and those loans’ interest rates), rent a house or apartment, or even open utilities in your name. Then, when you’re ready to build some credit history, **start small!** Choose a small loan or a credit card with a low limit and interest rate and establish a regular pattern of on-time payments.

START AN EMERGENCY

**FUND** An emergency fund is money you keep in a savings account for emergencies only; it can help you deal with **unanticipated expenses**, such as car repairs, vet bills, or plane tickets home. Aim to save \$1,000, then \$2,000, working toward three to six months’ worth of living expenses put back.

Finally, **have fun!** You’re entering what is likely the most exciting and carefree time of your life, and you don’t even need to spend a lot of money to live it up! Enjoy!

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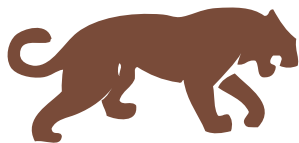


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