

# TREASURE COAST

Volume 5 Issue 6

Articles inside about Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin county!







**Angie Schepers** Publisher & Sales



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#### **2024 Ad Materials Deadlines**

July Thursday, June 13 August Tuesday, July 16 October Friday, September 13

November Thursday, October 17 **December** Wednesday-November 13 September Tuesday, August 13 January Thursday, December 12



For advertising info please contact:

Angie Schepers 772.633.3777 / salestchl@gmail.com

Austin Schepers 772.766.2744 / salestchl@gmail.com Dear Readers,

As we welcome the vibrant month of June, the Treasure Coast Home & Living team is thrilled to present to you our latest issue, brimming with inspiration, tips, and ideas to elevate your living experience.

June heralds the arrival of summer, a time for outdoor gatherings, beach adventures, and making cherished memories with loved ones. This month's issue is dedicated to capturing the essence of summer living on the Treasure Coast, from refreshing home décor ideas to delicious seasonal recipes that will tantalize your taste buds.

As we revel in the joys of summer, we also take a moment to honor the special men in our lives. Father's Day, a celebration of paternal bonds and fatherly love, falls this month. It's a time to express gratitude to the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who have shaped us with their wisdom, guidance, and unwavering support. Whether you're planning a heartfelt gift or crafting a memorable experience, let's make this Father's Day one to remember.

In this issue, you'll find a variety of articles tailored to enhance your summer living experience. From tips on creating the perfect outdoor oasis to exploring local hidden gems for family-friendly outings, we've curated content to inspire and delight readers of all ages.

As always, we invite you to explore, engage, and embrace the spirit of community that defines the Treasure Coast. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey as we continue to celebrate the beauty of home and the joys of coastal living.

Wishing you a June filled with sunshine, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

Warm regards,

#### **Angie Schepers**

Editor-in-Chief Treasure Coast Home & Living











**NEW ON MARKET** 



Coveted First Floor, beautifully updated, upgraded 2/2 condo on peaceful Warner Creek. Furnished, as seen. Full hurricane protection. Waterfront community with ocean access. Docks available. \$349,900. A MUST SEE!

#### **STUART**



Like to Golf every day? Included in condo fee! 2/2, 2nd floor, corner unit. Furnished. Golf & water views. Cheerful & ready for you! \$149,900.

#### **RIVER CLUB/JENSEN BEACH**



Boater's Paradise! East of RR Bridge, EZ access to inlet/ocean. 2/2, corner unit, furn. 1220 sq.ft. condo. Peeks of river. Docks are available to purchase or lease. \$310,000.

#### **STUART**



Furnished & ready for YOU! 2/2 condo, 2nd floor, end unit. Glass enclosed porch. Overlooks water. Quiet location. \$175,000.

#### 935 E Causeway Boulevard Vero Beach • \$324.900



Riviera. RR is an active adult community offering bringing European elegance to the Atlantic Ocean. Immaculately needed to the Atlantic Ocean. Immaculately needed to the Atlantic Ocean. Immaculately and process of the ocean of the moment one enters the foyer, the attention to maintained, this unit has wood plank tile, crown and river along with clubhouse and pool. This detail is evident at every turn, from custom lighting molding and plantation shutters throughout. The unit comes fully furnished with tile flooring to designer woodwork and taylor-made closet systems. kitchen offers nautical elegance with wood cabinetry, with neutral tile flooring thro throughout, updated front windows and complete The kitchen is a chefs dream with LG stainless steel granite counters, SS appliances and full size Washer/ of windows; allowing natural light to illuminate the hurricane protection. Enjoy a private, enclosed appliances, natural granite counter tops and sleek dryer. Downstairs, the primary bedroom and ensuite entire space. Upstairs, the primary suite includes of porch providing the perfect spot unwind. Being espresso cabinetry. Both bathrooms feature modern that will wow you as will the guest quarters. Enjoy large walk-in closet and a 5 piece ensuite complete



#### 2800 N. HWY A1A, #408 Hutchinson Island • \$568,000



porter providing the perfect spot unwind. Being just steps away from South Beach allows for easy access to the sandy shores and great local fixtures and ample lighting. This corner unit is both windows/sliders allowing for uninterrupted views stylish and functional, offering a unique layout with floor to ceiling windows, gorgeous 24x24 porcelain investors - can be rented 4x a year - 3 month minimum.

Some back patio to unwind or catch of the coastline. BWV offers resort-like amenities including an heated, saltwater pool/hot tub, private lite throughout and views of the ocean from its wrap grilling area, and a private beach entrance from the private back patio to unwind or catch a captivating fireworks display from your front lawn, a distinctive perk of this prime location. Amenities including an heated, saltwater pool/hot tub, private tile throughout and views of the ocean from its wrap grilling area, and a private beach entrance from the private beach entrance from the private back patio to unwind or catch a captivating fireworks display from your front lawn, a distinctive perk of this prime location. Amenities including an heated, saltwater pool/hot tub, private to distinctive perk of this prime location. Amenities including an early and private beach entrance from the private back patio to unwind or catch a captivating fireworks display from your front lawn, a distinctive perk of this prime location. Amenities including an heated, saltwater pool/hot tub, private to your private back patio to unwind or catch and functional, offering a unique layout with of the coastline. BWV offers resort-like amenities and distinctive perk of this prime location. Amenities including an early and a private beach entrance from the private back near quarters. Enjoy with serior and a 5 piece and with serior to will wow you as will nearly an early to with separate soaking tube and newly tiled shower. Step of the coastlines with serio center, clubhouse with social activities, shared tennis premium rental rates both in and out of season, it's within easy walking distance. courts and so much more! Indulge in luxury coastal a savvy investment for those seeking luxury and ivina at its finest!

Kasia D'Auria, Realtor 772-485-6435 kasiadauria@remax.net www.livethetreasurecoast.com 729 SW Federal Hwy., Suite 100 Stuart FL 34994

#### 2355 NE Ocean Boulevard # 4A Stuart • \$699.999



This bright and spacious first floor 2/2 condo is located in the highly sought after Royale transformation with top-to-bottom renovations, potential rental income. Don't miss out on this idyllic beach retreat!

#### 10472 SW Ashlyn Way Port Saint Lucie • \$380.000





2 Treasure Coast Home & Living Treasure Coast Home & Living 3

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## **EXPERIENCED**

#### **1556 SE South Niemeyer Circle Port St. Lucie**



Centrally located Industrial Warehouse space with air conditioned office. Neimeyer Industrial Condo is a great fit for your business. Prime location. Zoned for WI use. Single unit. Ideal for industrial and flex space investors. \$380,000



7995 Southwest Jack James Drive | Stuart Commercial kitchen only. Fantastic opportunity for a ghost kitchen or restaurant support Lease \$29.75 SF/vr (MG)



**433 Southeast Lake Street | Stuart** Prime investment opportunity. Multifamily property. 7 units, all fully occupied \$950,000



290 SW Dixie HWY | Stuart

Prime leasing opportunity. Strategic location and high visibility. Sought-after Stuart address. Lease \$24.50 SF/yr (MG)



1566 SE South Niemeyer Circle | Port St. Lucie Prime location. Zoned for WI use. Single unit. Ideal for industrial and flex space investors. \$490,000



1801 SE Hillmoor Drive A-101 | Port St. Lucie Unit located at front of building. This space is well-equipped for a variety of uses. \$225,000



This site sits adjacent to the new 101 Dania Beach, a luxury mixed-use development. 950,000

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# Homes On The Water Specializing in Martin & St Lucie Waterfront

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772-530-3388



772-302-0888



Intracoastal waterfront 7.4 acre property! Estate & guest house with spectacular picturesque intracoastal views and a private 450-foot, high-quality newer dock. This 4-bedroom 4.5 bath home offers a large theater/ media room, gym, 5 car garage, wood burning fireplace on the second floor, and a third-floor spiral staircase that leads to a perfect private space for an office/loft. Resort quality 60,000 gal. saltwater pool includes a 6 ft. walk out jacuzzi & water slide. Combined Impact glass, accordion & electric shutters, a 2022 Aluminum roof and 22KW generator protect the house. The home has a base elevation of 30 +feet above sea level too! Horses are allowed. 1 per acre. At low tide there is a beach along the Intracoastal frontage. \$5,200,000



Your own private beach access just steps away! Gated Community of only 12 homes. Key West style home with multiple French doors that open to a lovely courtyard, pool, and poolside cabana/quest suite/ bath. Enjoy sunrises on the beach & sunsets

from the community intracoastal dock, both just steps away! The interior offers high ceilings & a freestanding double-sided, coral stone fireplace. Lush tropical landscaping provides privacy. Metal roof, cement siding, impact glass & accordion shutters provide protection. Exterior workshop/gardening room. Conveniently located to downtown Stuart just 10 minutes. Coastal living at its finest! Enjoy Island living & uncrowded beaches! \$1,499,000



Direct riverfront **CBS** home with dockage for a 40-foot boat and a 12,000 # boatlift! 3 bedrooms & loft with balcony offering sweeping views of the St Lucie River, 5 minutes to

downtown Stuart by boat and 25 minutes to world class fishing offshore! Screened pool for outdoor enjoyment any time of day. Community launching ramp, park & playground too! Bring your RV, trailer, truck, etc. High rated Martin County Schools plus a convenient commuting location to the Palm Beaches. Located on a quiet street with multi- million-dollar waterfront homes in the neighborhood. \$1,950,000



A rare find! Florida Green Building Coalition certified "Green Home"! Plus ICF poured concrete with impact glass, Icynene insulation & metal roof. Extremely economical for energy usage and very affordable to insure. You will save thousands of \$\$\$ every year!! Pergola covered private courtyard area has room for a pool. Primary suite & office/ potential fourth bedroom are on the first floor. Open entertaining kitchen area with Italian Calacatta gold marble island, beautiful quartz countertops, & dependable Kitchen-Aid appliances. All bedrooms are en-suite. No HOA so bring your boat, RV, etc. Located on a quiet dead-end street, walking distance to highly rated Palm City Grade School & Hidden Oakes Middle School. Publix, shops & restaurants just blocks away too! Extra deep & wide garage with generator hook-up. Convenient commuting location with I-95 and FI Turnpike nearby. Come live the good life here! Quaint downtown Stuart and the beaches are both just minutes away! Furniture available. \$990,000



This lakefront 2BR, 2BA, 2nd floor condo has been maintained in top notch condition with an upgraded island kitchen and a fully renovated guest bathroom. The property has newer air conditioner, water heater and ceiling fans and features all



impact windows except for the "Florida Room" patio. Detached carport for one vehicle. Living room couch, main bedroom dresser and guest bedroom queen bed with linens convey. Twin Lakes is a vibrant 55+ community with a very active event calendar with various activities and many amenities including a community pool, library, pickleball, weight room, ping pong, shuffleboard, and more! Plus, a low monthly maintenance fee. MLS#M20043250 \$249,000



Welcome to Whispering Sound, a vibrant 55+ gated community. Nestled in a serene setting with a view of the clubhouse & pool, this "Grande" villa is the largest 3 BR model at 1577 sf with 3 BR, 2 BA & 2-car garage. Vaulted



ceilings, freshly painted interior, all tile floors & open floor plan. Spacious main BR suite with large walk-in closet. Large Pantry & tons of cabinets in Kitchen. Whispering Sound boasts a community pool & clubhouse, pickleball, tennis, shuffleboard and other recreational activities, including a monthly pancake breakfast. 2 pets under 35 lb ok. Close to shops, restaurants and cultural attractions. MLS#M20043843 \$380,000

#### 775 SW Alton Circle / Port St. Lucie





Welcome to this stunning two-story home on Alton Circle in Port St. Lucie, with no Homeowners Association. Enjoy a custom granite kitchen with ample cabinet and counter space, tile floors on the ground floor and hardwood floors on the second level. The home boasts 4 bedrooms, with room for a 5th, and 3 full bathrooms. The downstairs bathroom conveniently connects to the laundry room with extra storage. You can work from the in-home office, entertain family and friends in either of the two living rooms, and relax and unwind on the beautiful screened patio. Centrally located near the Florida Turnpike, I-95 and Tradition Parkway, with great shopping and restaurants nearby, your dream home awaits! MLS# RX-10962022 \$499,999

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JULIA C. SANSEVERE, P.A. Broker Associate 772-919-1385 COLDWELL julia@juliasansevere.com juliasanseveregroup.com

6 Treasure Coast Home & Living



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THE BEACON • 2187 FALLS MANOR, VERO BEACH, FL 32967 | LOT 75 MOVE-IN-READY NOW! • \$711,161







Whether taking a dip in the Grand Harbor Beach Club pool, playing golf on one of the two award-winning golf courses or partaking in a game of tennis, there is something for everyone at Grand Harbor. Located in the Falls of Grand Harbor, the 3 bedroom, 2 bath Beacon boasts a 2-car garage, Waterwood white Oak 8"x40" plank tile throughout, KitchenAid appliances, a gourmet kitchen package, quartz countertops, crown molding, white cabinets with soft close drawers and doors. What's more? GHO Homes will pay the initial upfront fee for the Grand Harbor Sports Membership which includes the Grand Harbor Beach Club!

Priced at \$711,161 • Call Catherine Garofalo at 772.342.0061 for an appointment today!



Scan this code to learn more about this home NOW!





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# A mortgage you can rave about with the customer service you want!

It is no secret that the way people are buying and selling real estate has been different since 2020. Yet, the need for experienced mortgage lenders is stronger than ever, despite the trend in cash sales that have been recorded for the past four years.

Now with a new company to support their expertise and product demand, Shannon Pohl and Lucy Kranker and team are excited to unveil their new office and portfolio to the realtors and future customers they serve throughout the Treasure Coast.

For the past 22 years, these ladies have been able to collaborate side by side. "It is a crazy market, has been before and will again, yet we have been by each other's sides every step of the way and are always here to strategize out-of-the-box solutions," Shannon shares. In fact, they started at a community bank Harbor Federal together back in 2002 and have always believed in the power of local. Perhaps that is what made them fall in love with Union Home Mortgage. As a private company that services its own loans, the new Treasure Coast team will continue to serve their clients before, during and after the closing.

For many the purchase of a home is the biggest investment of their lifetime, and this is an aspect of the business that the ladies enjoy because they have been there themselves and love being a trusted, local resource for their clients. By phone, email, or for an impromptu walk-in visit with a fresh cup of coffee, the team at Union Home Mortgage knew that being an entirely virtual office was not a reality for them nor something their realtor partners would expect in the tri-county area.

The team is thrilled to announce their new office at 93 Royal Palm Pointe in Vero Beach. Excited to show off the new space and educate friends and supporters of the various offerings they will have to provide, there is a fun filled ribbon cutting set for June 11th. Hosted alongside the Indian River Chamber of Commerce, the event will take place at their new location and will start at 5pm with food, drink, prizes, and a commitment to the community to be a valued mortgage industry resource throughout the Treasure Coast.

One of the aspects that has always set Shannon and Lucy apart, is their commitment to providing consistency for referral partners and clients alike. Keeping up with the latest technology, market trends and industry updates are just the beginning. They use local appraisers who know and live in our towns. "Our appraiser panel is hand selected with local appraisal experts we have had a relationship with for guite a while and know they are responsive, deals get done faster and more accurately as a result, we are really proud of this." In fact, many times these lending aficionados are asked to "save a deal" and they are confident that being locally headquartered, using local appraisers, and backed by a company that truly cares helps reinforce those relationships.

Since its inception in 1970, Union Home Mortgage has built a world-class company where people come first. With a culture that stands out in the mortgage industry, it's no surprise that Lucy and Shannon felt the move to UHM team was the perfect fit. Lucy expressed, 'After all these years together, our team feels like family, making it essential to join a company that prioritizes its people."



Lucy Kranker and Shannon Pohl

As to be expected, UHM has all the conventional and government products that are seen in the mortgage world. However, with new construction on the rise, the duo is excited to be able to offer CP and renovation loans with minimum down payments: 5% for conventional, 3.5% for FHA, and zero down for VA. Additionally, there is a solution to second home/investors at a very sharp price not offered via the secondary market, plus HELOCS and more. Setup for a complimentary consultation and save the date for June 11th, these ladies are known for throwing a good party and providing even better service.



### HONORING DAD: CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY

Every year, on the third Sunday of June, families around the world come together to celebrate Father's Day a special occasion dedicated to honoring and appreciating the remarkable men who have played pivotal roles in our lives. Whether it's a biological father, stepfather, grandfather, or father figure, Father's Day offers an opportunity to express gratitude for their love, guidance, and unwavering support.















Father's Day is more than just a date on the calendar; it's a heartfelt celebration of paternal bonds and the enduring influence of fathers in shaping our lives. It's a day to reflect on the countless sacrifices they've made, the lessons they've imparted, and the memories they've helped create. From teaching us how to ride a bike to offering sage advice during life's challenges, fathers leave an indelible mark on our hearts that lasts a lifetime.

Father's Day celebrations come in many forms, ranging from intimate family gatherings to grand gestures of appreciation. Some may opt for a leisurely brunch or barbecue, complete with Dad's favorite dishes and desserts. Others may plan outdoor adventures, such as fishing trips, hiking excursions, or rounds of golf, to create lasting memories together. Whether it's a simple gesture or an elaborate surprise, the essence of Father's Day lies in spending quality time with Dad and letting him know just how

While gifts are not the essence of Father's Day, they serve as thoughtful tokens of appreciation and love. From personalized keepsakes to practical gadgets and tools, there's no shortage



that speaks to his interests and passions, the most meaningful gifts are those given with love and thoughtfulness.

While Father's Day is officially celebrated on one designated day each year, the spirit of appreciation and gratitude extends far beyond a single day on the calendar. It's about recognizing and honoring the invaluable contributions of fathers every day—through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and moments of shared laughter and love. Whether it's a simple "thank you" or a heartfelt embrace, let's take the time to celebrate the remarkable fathers in our lives not just on Father's Day, but every day.

For many, Father's Day is also a time to remember and honor dads who are no longer with us. While their physical presence may be missed, their love, wisdom, and cherished memories continue to live on in our hearts. Father's Day offers an opportunity to pay tribute to these beloved fathers, celebrating the profound impact they had on our lives and the lasting legacy they left behind. Whether through sharing stories, visiting their favorite places, or simply taking a moment of quiet reflection, let's remember and honor the fathers who have passed with love and gratitude on this special day.

As Father's Day approaches, let's take a moment to celebrate the extraordinary men who have shaped us into who we are today. Whether near or far, let's reach out to Dad and express our love, appreciation, and gratitude for all that he does. Happy Father's Day to all the incredible fathers out there—you are truly appreciated and loved more than words

For many, Father's Day is also a time to remember and honor dads who are no longer with us. While their physical presence may be missed, their love, wisdom, and cherished memories continue to live on in our hearts. Father's Day offers an opportunity to pay tribute to these beloved fathers, celebrating the profound impact they had on our lives and the lasting legacy they left behind. Whether through sharing stories, visiting their favorite places, or simply taking a moment of quiet reflection, let's remember and honor the fathers who have passed with love and gratitude on this special day.

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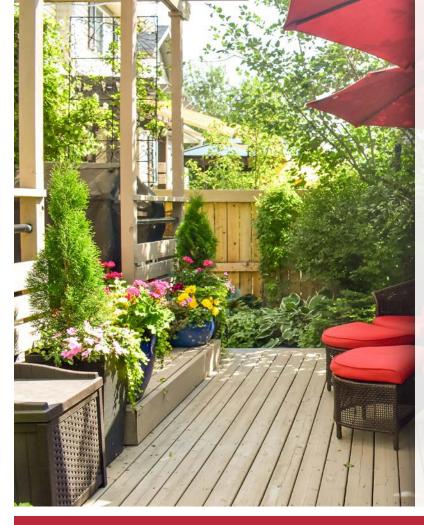
Stuart • 3rd Wednesday of each month at Michelina's • 11:30am-1:30pm

Vero Beach • 2nd Friday of each month at Waterfall • 11:30am-1:30pm

Port St. Lucie • 1st Tuesday of each month at Tutto Fresco • 11:30am-1:30pm

Promote your business/event while also creating referral and resource partners!

TCPremierWomensNetwork.com



#### **Creating Your Perfect Oasis**

As the warm breeze whispers through the trees and the sun casts its glow, there's no better time to transform your outdoor space into a tranquil oasis. From a sprawling backyard or a cozy balcony, a little creativity can create a serene retreat.

Define Your Vision: Before diving into the details, take a moment to envision how you want your outdoor oasis to look and feel. Let your imagination define your vision.

Embrace Nature: Consider adding lush greenery with potted plants, hanging vines, a vertical garde and a water feature to infuse the space with the sound of water.

Comfort is Key: Invest in quality outdoor furniture that looks stylish band provides ample comfort and support. Opt for plush cushions, cozy throws, and soft outdoor rugs.

**Set the Mood:** The right lighting can transform your outdoor space from day to night, creating a magical ambiance that enchants and delights.

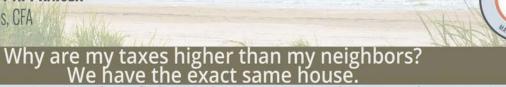
**Create Zones:** Divide your outdoor space into distinct zones for different activities and functions, allowing you to maximize the functionality of your outdoor oasis.

Personal Touches: Infuse your outdoor oasis with personal touches and meaningful details. Incorporate elements that resonate with you to make it feel like home.

Embrace the Season: By embracing the season, you can ensure that your outdoor oasis remains a welcoming retreat year-round.

Creating the perfect outdoor oasis is all about crafting a space that speaks to your soul and soothes your senses where you can escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reconnect with the beauty of the great outdoors.

#### MARTIN COUNTY **PROPERTY APPRAISER** Jenny Fields, CFA



The "Save Our Homes" (SOH) tax benefit limits the amount your homestead property's assessed value can increase to 3%. Accumulation of "non-taxed" assessed values can cause this disparity. Your neighbor has enjoyed the benefit of an increasing "capped" differential over time, whereas, you just purchased your home. Once you file for your homestead exemption, in all subsequent years, your assessed value will be subjected to this same cap.



Market Value: \$725,000 Taxes: \$11,515



Market Value: \$725,000 Taxes: \$6,657



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#### **Specializing in Veranda Gardens**



**628 SE Monteiro Drive** \$699,900

Meticulously maintained home features 3bd, 3bth, plus den/library, 3-car garage Gourmet kitchen KitchenAid appliances, wall oven, gas cooktop w/hood, quartz countertops, 12' island, designer lighting. Spacious open concept living/dining/ kitchen, crown molding, plantation shutters, blinds, ceiling speakers, impact windows, doors, 8ft doors, hardwood floor, French doors, A/C, alarm system. Enjoy the sparkling long lake view from



#### 701 SE Villandry Way \$690,000

Exquisite 4 bd, 3 bth, 3 car garage w/ epoxy floor, den/office w/French Doors, DiVosta Palm model features private screened-in saltwater pool, surrounded by lush landscaping and breathtaking lake view. Relax poolside on extended covered roof patio. Island, Quartz countertops, s/s app, pendent lighting. Master is a private oasis. Impact Windows and Doors, Whole House Generator, Security System. Seize the opportunity to make this exceptional property your new home.

Veranda Gardens is a Gated Community known for its warmth and hospitality with a Clubhouse resort-style heated

pool, spa, lap pool, cabanas, pickleball, tennis, basketball, fitness center, dog park, playground, sidewalks and



#### 600 SE Villandry Way \$549,000

Fabulous Prestige Model features 3 Bed. 2.5 Bath, w/gourmet kitchen, large island, quartz, gas cooktop w/hood, ss app, soft close drawers, glide out shelves, backsplash, designer light fixtures. Open concept living with gathering room w/ wood plank tile floor opens to enlarged patio w/fans, lights, tv mount, gas hookup and tranquil view. 10'+ ceilings,



**343 SE Courances Drive** \$629.999

This home is a dream come true for families! The DiVosta Citrus Grove Model offers a fantastic layout, with a large loft that can serve as a fun hangout or game room for kids, along with 3 bdrms and a full bath upstairs, providing plenty of space. Primary suite on the main level. Den/office with French doors for work or relaxation. Features impact 8' solid doors, IMPACT windows & doors, glass windows and doors, designer 42" built-in drop zone, utility room, tankless kitchen cabinets, quartz countertops, a large island, and wood plank tile floors. HUGE screened-in covered patio offers the perfect spot to enjoy lake view and outdoor activities. It truly is an ideal place to create lasting memories with



Kelley Whitt REALTOR 772-251-9495 • Kelley.whitt@gmail.com 3341 SW Martin Downs Blvd • Palm City, FL 34990 kelley-whitt.remax-stuart-fl.com

streetlights. Low HOA. Close to the Turnpike, I-95, Dining, Beach and Shopping

### **EXPLORING THE TREASURE COAST & BEYOND**

# River Roamin's with the Tillerys

Riverroaminwiththetillerys.com Making Memories Exploring & Glamping By Anna Valencia Tillery



#### **Everglades via Miami River 105-113**

A 40' foot aluminum houseboat was our weekend getaway for my husband, Michael's, birthday. In taking the back roads, we made it into



the Everglades National Park eastern entrance outside of Florida City in about 4.5 hours from our front door. With our son and his buddy, Ryan, driving separately from us in my car, we paid \$35 per

vehicle upon entry then drove another 40 minutes to get to Flamingo Adventures. It is the southern most tip of Florida's Everglades civilization with an array of offerings for activities and lodging.

Once loaded and a whole lot of rules and paper signing, we were on our way. A captain helped usher us to the Coot Bay, where another smaller boat followed behind. As we approached the middle of the

bay, the captain hopped off onto the other boat and we were left to our own devices equipped with 15 gallons of backup fuel and big goals of hitting 7 rivers.

With the wind at our faces, we made it all the way into the large Whitewater Bay and veered to the west to hit the Joe River before nightfall our #114. The two massive anchors at the helm of the houseboat weighed a ton, yet once they hooked in the shallow waters of the water's bottom; it was time to relax and prep for dinner. The tiny, round grill was on the back of the boat where the teens hung out. So, Charles, our son oversaw the grilling the burgers and hot dogs for our first night's dinner. We shut off the generator and opened the windows, played a

**Flamingo Adventures** 

1 Flamingo Lodge Hwy Homestead, Florida 33034 (239) 695-1095 flamingoeverglades.com

few hands of cards and fished a bit after dinner. Soon, the sun began to set and hundreds of bugs, way out in the middle of the bay, swarmed upon us! We all hustled to combat them and close the windows; what a lesson we learned.

Next morning it looked as

if a massacre of sorts had occurred. Thankfully, the sun was shining and the goal to circle the bay and hit the mouth of each of the other six rivers kept us outside on the porches. At multiple spots throughout the day, we were guided by beautiful dolphin that enjoyed our company so much, they brought friends. It was incredible to witness up close and for long periods intervals. Halfway through the day, Charles grilled chicken thighs for sandwiches; they were delicious. In fact, we have decided to leave our boy in charge of the grill whenever he wants as we continue our family's mission of going down each river in Florida. With perseverance, we hit all the rivers on our list and strategically anchored out to put ourselves as close to the mouth of the bay as possible for an easy departure the next morning.

Good news, we learned from our mistake the night prior and had all the windows closed and generator back on prior to nightfall. The boy's fished a bit while the grownups played Bananagrams and listened

to music. With the waves from the water, we all slept well and enjoyed a leisure morning prior to tool back to Cootie Bay for pickup. Flamingo Adventures was running late for the captain to bring us in by more than an hour, we felt lucky to have enough gas to get back. Captain Nick jumped onboard and topped us off with the bit of fuel left for the generator, he was a fun character to end the trip. Clearly a man who enjoys maritime adventures and full sun, he even shared a story how he saved a man from his small sailboat that had capsized and was crocodile bait, never a dull moment in the Everglades!

Headed home we took the Turnpike and 195, big shout out to Pawprints in Vero for staying open a bit

longer for us to bring home our dog. Charles helped ensure he was picked up by 3:30pm and his buddy, Ryan was able to be home in time for dinner too. Dad and I stopped off at Trader Joes' off the Turnpike and grabbed a pizza from Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza to share; perfect ending to a wonderful trip adding checkmarks to rivers 105-113.









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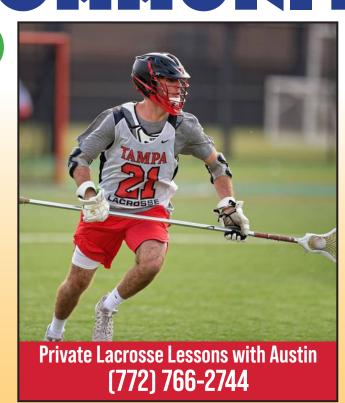
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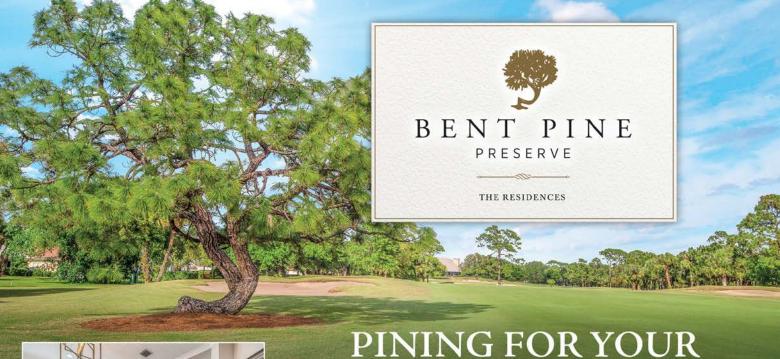


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