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PUBLISHERS NOTE

Savoring the Spirit of Summer

As Summer lingers and back-to-school hides around the corner, we find ourselves holding on while opening up to what’s ahead



JUST LAST WEEK, I caught my neighbor determinedly dragging an inflatable pool across the lawn, a bright blue popsicle in one hand and a garden hose in the other. “Summer’s not over,” she shouted; part laughing, part eye-rolling, part daring the calendar to disagree. That moment made me giggle a little: a cheerful reminder that we don’t have to pack away the season entirely because back-to-school sales have begun.

August has always felt like borrowed time. The days are still long, and the air still warm, but you can sense change around the corner. Maybe that’s what makes this stretch of summer feel so special; it invites us to squeeze in every last bit of magic before the routines return. One more bike ride at sunset. One more dinner eaten barefoot by the pool. One more bug-bitten walk beneath the stars.

August holds space for both holding on and looking ahead, carrying a unique energy that comes with seasonal transition.

There’s promise in crisp notebooks waiting to be filled, in the quiet potential of fresh starts. Back-to-school season isn’t just for students; it nudges all of us to refocus, refresh and rediscover what inspires us. So be inspired!

Inside this issue, you’ll find stories that speak to the season, creative ways to prolong your summer joy and thoughtful ideas for what’s next. We’re grateful to our partners who help bring these pages to life and to you, our readers, for being at the heart of it all.

On August 3rd, we observe National Watermelon Day (haha!), so grab yourself a cool, crisp wedge of summer, fill the kiddie pool and make some final summer memories with the ones you love. There’s still time to stretch out summer- and enjoy every minute!

Your Jacksonville Editorial Team

West Dentistry

& the Family Behind the Practice



Meet the West family; Grant, Jacqueline, Charlotte (14), and Walker (10), a vibrant and active family who have called Jacksonville Golf & Country Club home since 2016. After living in the Avondale/Ortega area for 11 years, near Jacqueline's dental practice, they were ready for a neighborhood with a genuine sense of community. "We wanted a place where families thrive and neighbors look out for each other," Jacqueline says. "Moving closer to the beach was a bonus!"

Charlotte is entering 9th grade at Providence School this fall and has a deep love for indoor and beach volleyball. A defensive back-row player, she plays the position of libero and discovered her passion for the game during the COVID pandemic. Since then, volleyball has become a major part of her life. Off the court, Charlotte is a responsible and

dependable babysitter within JGCC. She's CPR certified and listed under the neighborhood's babysitter connection.

Walker, a rising 5th grader at Providence, was an All-Star baseball player for the Jacksonville Beach Barracudas for five years before discovering a new love, golf. In 2024, he competed in the JGCC Junior Golf Championship and proudly took home first place with an impressive score of 45 over nine holes.

Originally from Miami, Jacqueline moved to California after high school to attend Pepperdine University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine in 1997. She then returned to Florida to attend the University of Florida College of Dentistry, earning her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 2001. After working as an associate for four years, she purchased a dental practice in Riverside from a retiring





dentist in 2005. Around that same time, she met Grant in Jacksonville Beach, and the couple married in 2006, just after West Dentistry officially opened.

Since then, West Dentistry has grown steadily. In 2018, the practice underwent a major expansion to accommodate its growth, and that same year was honored by the University of Florida as one of the Gator100 fastest-growing Gator-led businesses in the world—an incredibly proud milestone for the team.

Now celebrating 20 years in practice, West Dentistry remains a boutique office with a small but mighty team of five women who see one patient at a time and deliver personalized, high-quality care. “We’re proud to be a true private practice—not owned by a hedge fund or corporate group,” Jacqueline explains. “Our focus is on building trust and providing a great experience.”

The office features massage chairs, modern technology, noise-canceling headphones, and an in-house surgeon for implants and wisdom tooth removal. They even offer Botox and dermal fillers for patients looking to feel refreshed. West Dentistry accepts most PPO plans, but does not participate in HMO networks to maintain the highest standard of care.

Jacqueline’s true passion is cosmetic dentistry. With over 200 hours of additional training, she helps patients transform their smiles with services ranging from whitening to veneers. “It’s emotional when someone sees their new smile for the first time,” she says. “It’s a beautiful thing.”

For complimentary cosmetic consultations or second opinions, visit www.westdentistry.com, call 904-387-3333, or stop by at 2301 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204. Follow along on Facebook (West Dentistry) and Instagram (@westdentistry).

“It’s emotional when someone sees their new smile for the first time, it’s a beautiful thing.”

—JACQUELINE WEST



MAX THE GENTLE GIANT: A RESCUE DOG WITH A HEART OF GOLD

KAREN WAUGERMAN, FENWICK ISLAND DRIVE

For over 30 years, one family has called Jacksonville Golf & Country Club home, drawn to its lush, tree-filled landscape and down-to-earth charm. “We love that the developer didn’t come in and mow all the trees down,” they shared. “It feels natural, peaceful, and it’s centrally located in Jacksonville, which is a bonus.”

At the heart of their home is Max, a three-year-old rescue dog with a big personality and an even bigger heart. Max isn’t your average mutt—after a DNA test, the family discovered he carries traits from 19 different breeds, though his appearance and personality are mostly shepherd and husky. “We see shepherd coloring in him, but he has this fluffy tail, and these ‘wings’ of hair under his ears—he talks to us like a husky. He’s just precious.”

Max came into their lives as a perfect compromise. The husband had always loved German Shepherds, but the family was hesitant about managing such a large dog. Max turned out to be the ideal middle ground—smart, loyal, and just the right size. His name, short and strong, was inspired by a movie the couple had watched about a heroic dog named Max. It seemed like fate.

What makes Max truly special is his politeness. “If you hand him food, he gently takes it from your fingers. When we prepare his meals, he patiently waits until we tell him it’s okay



to eat.” It’s a sweet and unusual trait that continues to charm visitors and friends.

Max also has a passion for frisbee—he’s an airborne athlete when it comes to catching them, though capturing the perfect mid-jump photo has proven elusive. “He jumps so high, but I’ve never been able to get that shot,” his owner laughed.

Another favorite memory is watching Max run freely at a friend’s farm. “He just loves to run, and he’s so fast. We let him go as long as he wants—he’d run for hours if we let him.” Whether it’s chasing a frisbee or playing tag with his neighborhood best friend Henry, Max is all about joyful movement. He also loves roughhousing with his cousin Berkley during family visits, their play sessions ending only when they’re completely exhausted.

Max enjoys outings to friends’ homes on the river, especially long walks down their docks. But if he had to choose his dream adventure, it would probably be a long hike through the woods that opens into a giant field—frisbee in mouth, of course.

In a neighborhood full of charm, Max adds a little extra magic. With his sweet nature, love for the outdoors, and zest for life, he’s more than just a pet—he’s a beloved member of the family, a source of laughter, and a constant reminder of how special rescue dogs can be.

BACKPACKS, BEDTIMES & BENEFICIARIES: The Parenting Hack No One Talks About

SABRINA BATEH KURUVILLA - JGCC RESIDENT



AN OPEN LETTER FROM ONE PARENT TO ANOTHER

August is in full swing, and here at Jacksonville Golf & Country Club, families are sliding back into familiar routines. There are Target runs for school supplies, endless lunch-packing, and that sacred moment when you sit down to label *all the things*. It's the back-to-school hustle—chaotic yet strangely comforting.

If you're a parent like I am, you know this season all too well. It's a mix of dread and excitement, often hitting at the same time. There's the rush to plan and set new routines, the early morning wake-ups for school drop-offs, and the hopeful dreaming about the adventures and growth the new year will bring for our kids. It's a season full of anticipation, and if we're honest, a little bit of stress.

As parents, we're planners by nature this time of year. We organize schedules, coordinate activities, and make sure our children are set up for success. But I want to gently bring up one more piece of planning—what I consider the ultimate parenting hack. It's not about backpacks or after-school programs. It's about something far more important:

What happens if something happens to you?

At Three Oaks Law, we talk about the things no one wants to talk about. Not to add more stress, but to help. We ask the tough questions because we know one important truth: once those hard conversations are had and the difficult decisions are made, the relief and peace of mind that follow are worth everything.

Estate planning often sounds intimidating or like something only wealthy families do. But let me reassure you—it's for *every* family. It's for anyone with children, responsibilities, or assets (even modest ones). The real purpose is simple: to make sure your family is protected and your wishes are honored, without court battles, unnecessary costs, or added chaos during what would already be a hard time.

Think of it as your ultimate parenting backup plan.

A proper estate plan will:

- **Name guardians for your kids** so a judge doesn't have to decide.
- **Designate who handles your money** and when your children can access it.



- **Keep your family out of court** by avoiding probate.
- **Provide peace of mind** so you can sleep better at night, knowing you've done all you can to protect your loved ones.

This isn't about fear. It's about preparation. It's the same mindset you already have every school year—you plan ahead, you get organized, and you make sure your kids are covered no matter what.

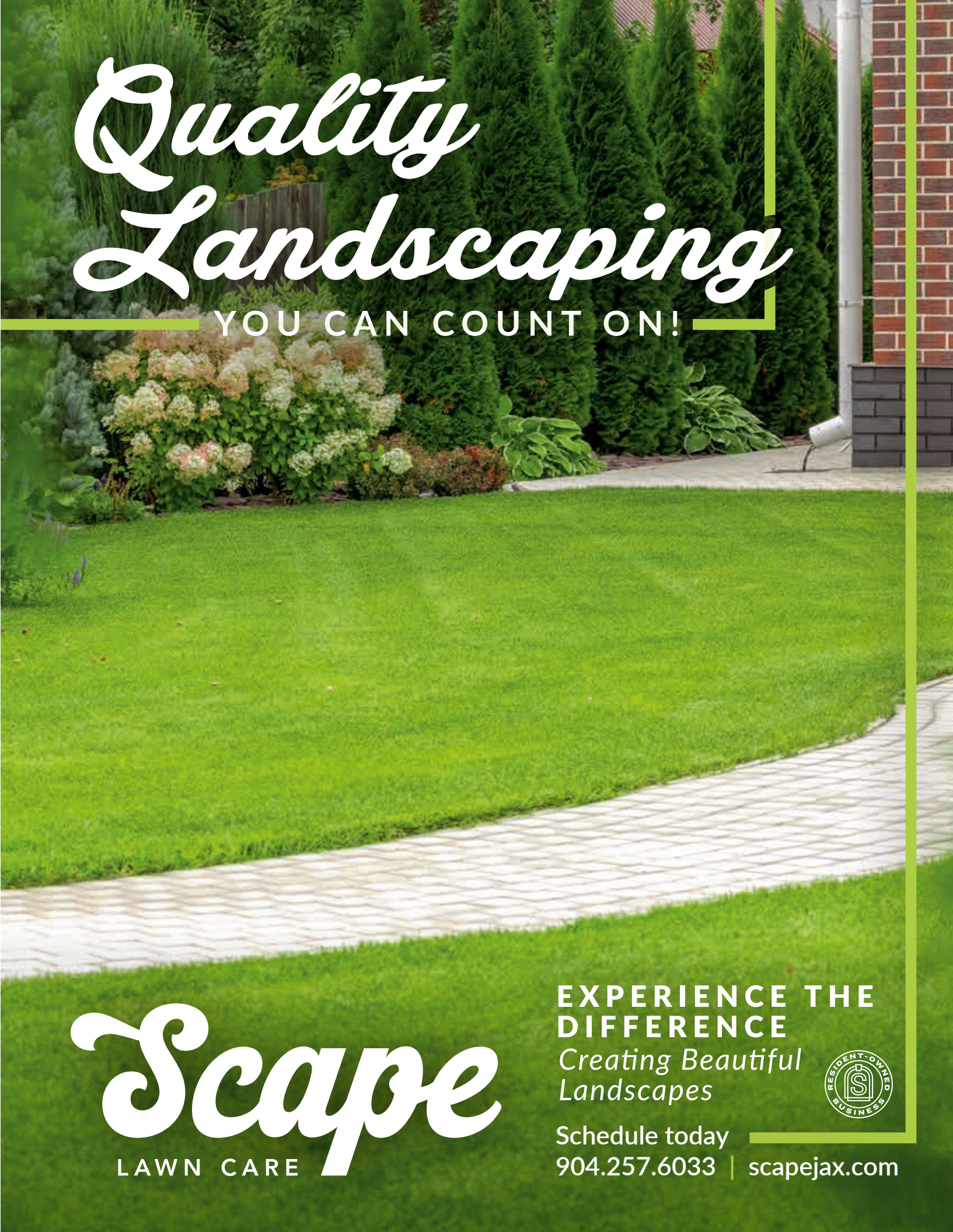
From one local family to another, parenting is tough. Let us help where we can so you can focus on what truly matters most.

Warmly,

Sabrina Bateh Kuruvilla
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AUGUST FESTIVALS IN FLORIDA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

August may be the slow season in the Sunshine State, but it's packed with unique festivals celebrating art, food, culture, and community. Whether you're looking for family fun, cultural immersion, or a quirky Florida experience, there's something for everyone. Here's what's happening in **chronological order** this August:

AUGUST 3

- **16th Annual NSB Shrimp & Seafood Festival – New Smyrna Beach** Flagler Avenue closes to traffic for this seafood celebration. Sample award-winning local dishes for \$5–\$8 as restaurants compete for “Best of the Beach” in four categories: Shrimp, Shellfish, Fish, and Specialty Seafood.

AUGUST 4–5

- **DanceAfrica Miami – Miami Gardens** This celebration of African dance, music, and culture features workshops, drum performances,

and a Children's Village with stories and face painting.

- **Wausau Possum Festival – Wausau** Florida's quirkiest festival kicks off with the Possum King & Queen Contest Friday night. Saturday brings a parade, a Possum 5K (for people, not possums!), and the release of a passel of possums back into the wild.

AUGUST 4–6

- **DanceAfrica Miami continues** with more performances, music, and cultural workshops.

AUGUST 5

- **Delray Beach Unity Festival – Delray Beach** Held at Pompey Park, this free family event includes live music, a kids' zone, pop-up shops, back-to-school giveaways, and even an adult basketball tournament.
- **Full Moon Festival – Loxahatchee** The 24 Karat Ranch transforms into a metaphysical oasis for an evening

of cacao ceremonies, sound healing, bonfires, and farm-fresh meals.

- **Florida Underground Festival – Orlando** (continues August 6) A two-day punk rock fest featuring local bands like Wolf-Face and Dial Drive at Orlando's top music spots.

AUGUST 5–13

- **Jacksonville Caribbean Carnival – Jacksonville** Nine days of Caribbean celebration, with Carnival Day on August 12 featuring a parade, food, music, and an International Village.

AUGUST 10–13

- **Key West Lobsterfest – Key West** Florida lobster season kicks off with a weekend of fun: a lobster boil, street fair, live music, pool party, and a decadent lobster brunch.

AUGUST 11

- **Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween – Lake Buena Vista** (select nights

through Nov. 1) Disney's family-friendly Halloween celebration includes trick-or-treating, fireworks, and character meet-and-Greets.

AUGUST 12

- **Chroma Art Film Festival – Miami Beach** A showcase of innovative filmmaking, from documentaries to AI-driven films.
- **North Central Florida Outdoor Expo – Ocala** Held at the World Equestrian Center with 150+ vendors, kids' activities, and giveaways.

AUGUST 12–13

- **Florida Kids & Family Expo – Orlando** A massive back-to-school event with over 200 vendors, pony rides, giveaways, and fun zones at the Convention Center.

AUGUST 17–21

- **Miami Beach Kizomba Festival – Miami Beach**

Five days of music, dance, pool parties, and African cultural celebrations.

AUGUST 18–20

- **Orlando Boat Show – Orlando** See over 400 boats, shop marine gear, and catch Twiggy the Waterskiing Squirrel at Twiggy's Lagoon.

AUGUST 19

- **Arts & Craft Festival – Port Charlotte** An indoor event at Port Charlotte Town Center featuring handmade jewelry, art, and candles.
- **Hippie Fest – Tarpon Springs** VW Bug shows, costume contests, hula hoop contests, and plenty of tie-dye fun at the Sponge Docks.

AUGUST 19–20

- **Brick Fan Fest Tampa – Tampa** A LEGO lover's dream with giant displays, build-your-own stations, and rare pieces from vendors.

AUGUST 25–27

- **Big Gay Weekend – Sarasota** A Pride-themed weekend at Golden Host Resort with a Luau, pool party, Drag Bingo, and more.

AUGUST 26

- **Tallahassee Beer Festival – Tallahassee** Sample beers from 100+ breweries, support a local cause, and join the Beer Mile race before the main event.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 18


- **Epcot International Food & Wine Festival – Bay Lake** Disney's epic food festival features 25+ food booths, concerts, and family-friendly fun.

Wherever you are in Florida this August, there's a festival to make your summer unforgettable!

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YOUR HOME, YOUR STORY: The Transformative Power of Murals

BY KELLY ABEL RESIDENT OF JGCC



Fabulous color you can't ignore

Your home is so much more than just a place to live—it's a reflection of who you are. Every choice you make, from the furniture you select to the colors you paint on the walls, tells a story about your personality, your experiences, and your values. It's an extension of you and your family, a living canvas that evolves over time.

I remember the excitement of having my very own home for the first time. I couldn't wait to handpick every detail, mixing textures, materials, and colors to create a space that felt uniquely mine. One of the most impactful ways I've found to

bring a personal story to life is through art. Whether it's a bold, large-scale mural that transforms an entire wall or a carefully curated collection of smaller pieces, art has the ability to completely change the energy and feel of a room.

Murals, in particular, have a way of making a space unforgettable. I've loved drawing and painting ever since I was young. I always knew art would play a role in my future, though I didn't quite know how at the time. Eventually, I graduated with a degree in Fine Arts, and my love of painting only grew. Over time, I realized that nature—especially

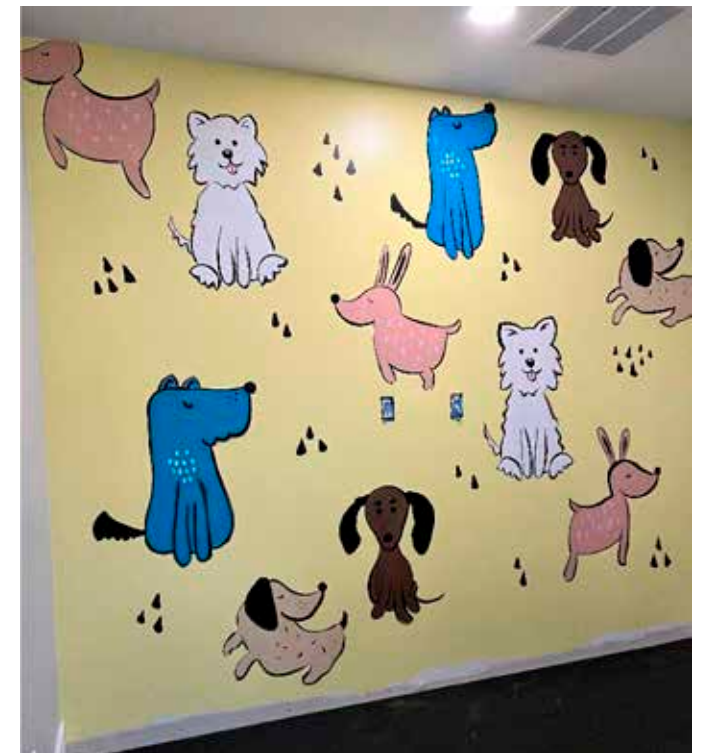
trees—and large-scale work resonated most with me. That discovery opened the door for me to transform people's homes, bringing their walls to life with murals.

There's something truly special about walking into a living room or entryway and being Greeted by an expansive, hand-painted mural. It makes an instant statement. Sure, a painting on canvas can leave a lasting impression, but when the wall itself becomes the art, the impact is on a whole new level. The colors, the design, and the sheer scale set the tone for the entire room. Whether it's a serene, nature-inspired landscape, a playful abstract design, or a whimsical theme for a child's room, murals serve as focal points that draw people in. They don't just decorate a wall—they *are* the wall.

Over the years, I've had the joy of creating all kinds of murals for people. In playrooms, I've seen lively designs spark children's creativity and imagination. In bedrooms and living spaces, simpler or more calming designs create a sense of peace and focus. I've painted outer space adventures, cute cartoon animals, bright floral scenes, ocean views, towering trees, and even sports-themed rooms. Not one has ever been exactly the same because each mural is customized for the client and the space. It's deeply personal and unlike anything mass-produced.

And that's the beauty of custom art. It tells *your* story. It evokes memories, reflects your passions, and creates an environment that's meaningful to you and your family. My husband always laughs because he dislikes mass-produced décor, but even he agrees that a mural brings a one-of-a-kind feeling to a home.

Adding a mural isn't just about decoration—it's about creating a space that feels uniquely yours, a space that sparks joy every time you walk in. So, if you're looking for a way to make your home stand out while allowing your story to shine through, consider the transformative power of mural art. It's not just paint on a wall—it's a lasting expression of who you are.



A mural in a grooming salon adds a special touch



A fun kids room



A Star-Spangled Celebration at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club



There's something truly special about celebrating the Fourth of July in Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. This beloved neighborhood, known for its tree-lined streets, its welcoming sense of community, and its family-friendly atmosphere, pulled out all the stops this year to create a holiday that residents will not soon forget. From the lively golf cart parade that brought joy to every corner of the neighborhood to the spectacular fireworks show that capped off the evening, it was a day filled with patriotism, fun, and plenty of neighborly cheer for all who attended.

The festivities began at the Country Club, where neighbors gathered to enjoy the first part of the celebration. Families arrived dressed proudly in red, white, and blue attire. Children waved small flags with excitement, while parents exchanged Greetings and caught up with friends and neighbors. The streets were alive with laughter, conversation, and the unmistakable buzz of a community coming together for one of the year's most anticipated traditions. The sense of pride in the neighborhood was clear, with longtime residents mingling easily with newcomers, everyone sharing stories and soaking in the festive atmosphere that filled the air.

The highlight of the afternoon was, without a doubt, the annual Golf Cart Parade. This JGCC tradition continues to grow more creative and colorful each year, and this year's parade certainly did not disappoint. Golf carts rolled through the neighborhood in a dazzling display of patriotic spirit, decorated with bright streamers, vibrant balloons, fluttering flags, and imaginative themes. From classic Americana décor to over-the-top designs that could rival a float in a much larger city parade, the residents truly outdid themselves in both creativity and effort, making the parade a visual delight for all who watched.

After the parade wound its way through the community, it was time for one of the most anticipated moments of the day—the announcement of the parade awards. This year's winners



were: Best Cart went to the Wilcox Family, whose golf cart dazzled the crowd with its vibrant decorations and meticulous attention to detail. Best Dressed Male was awarded to Ryan Kramer, who embraced the holiday spirit with an outfit that impressed everyone. Best Dressed Female went to Lisa Vining, whose patriotic style turned heads and perfectly captured the theme of the day. Best Dressed Kids were Quinn Vaughn and Gregory Wellington, both of whom stole the show with their adorable, creative, and festive holiday attire.

After the awards were announced, neighbors returned to their homes to prepare for the evening's grand finale. As the sun began to set, residents made their way back to Woodland Parke and other favorite viewing spots around the neighborhood for the annual Fireworks Show.

The fireworks lit up the night sky with brilliant bursts of red, white, and blue, accompanied by the delighted oohs and

aahs of the crowd. Families spread out blankets on the grass, children ran about chasing fireflies between the trees, and the warm summer air was filled with the smell of fresh popcorn and the soft sounds of music and conversation.

It was the perfect way to end a day dedicated to celebrating our nation's freedom—and the tight-knit community that makes Jacksonville Golf and Country Club so special. Events like these remind everyone that JGCC is more than just a beautiful neighborhood. It is a place where friendships are formed, traditions are cherished, and families create lasting memories together.

The Fourth of July festivities are just one of the many reasons residents are proud to call this vibrant community home. Here's to another year of fun, togetherness, and wonderful celebrations at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club!

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