

Showroom brings coastal vibe to Amelia Island

For the News-Leader

Coastal Cottage of Amelia, or CCOA, brings a completely refreshed showroom with a focus on home design services, fine furnishings, custom framing and local artisans to meet the design needs of the growing Nassau County community and surrounding areas.

The coastal inspired company changed ownership at the beginning of 2022. CCOA provides design services that turn houses into dream homes through the vision of its resident designers and owners, Jeanette Gaskill and Yvonne Fenn.

CCOA's approach to design is a collaborative one. Whether the client is a full-time resident of the area or a

snowbird, participation in the selection of purchases as well as the design aesthetic is a partnership.

Being involved in and supporting the community is a commitment CCOA has made to numerous local charities and events. The design company has also extended the benefits of the store's services to local designers with a goal of making the design experience easier.

Local designers and artists appreciate the savings of time and money by buying directly through CCOA.

Local designer and artist Linda Speed, of Nestology, said, "I enjoy the ease of being able to bring my customers to a local showroom where they can find all their design, furniture and fixture needs versus the need to travel

out of the area and, potentially, to multiple locations."

Community support extends into the local art community in the form of displays of unique art from local artists in the showroom. New artists are featured every few months, which adds variety and unique options for customers who shop regularly at CCOA. Through commission services, artists frequently connect with art lovers to design a perfect bespoke piece of art.

Visit the Coastal Cottage of Amelia showroom at 1439 Sadler Road in Fernandina Beach, and experience a wide range of high-end brands and unique items to satisfy any design craving, whether it is for a full interior redesign or some accent pieces to freshen up a space.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Why do I care?

BOB ALLISON
For the News-Leader



Allison

Perhaps you are paying attention to the lively discussion in local media surrounding the future of the city's waterfront.

Some at City Hall would have you believe the expansive mud banks shown and on the city's waterfront cannot be filled over to create new land. This is simply not true. With ordinary permits from the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing mitigation for the small patch of marsh grass on the south end, the city-owned waterfront can actually come alive with new land and new opportunities.

You might wonder why do I care what the city does with its waterfront? Maybe I should share a little personal history. Back in the '80s, when I first stepped before the City Commission, as a well-intentioned but perhaps naïve 28-year-old, with my plan for building Fernandina Harbor Marina, I fully expected to be received with open arms. At the time, more than half of the retail storefronts on Centre Street were actually boarded up with plywood. There was simply not enough commerce downtown for many small local businesses to make ends meet. Down at the west end of the street, there was a steady stream of boats and magnificent yachts on the Intracoastal Waterway passing the city by every single day.

I can remember being on the city's small fuel dock early one evening with Tommy Purvis, who managed the fuel sales. Two gorgeous yachts

boats in the dark to get to either Jekyll Island or Jacksonville to find another marina. It was then a light bulb went off. You have all these rich people wanting to get off their boats after nearly a full day's travel from either Jacksonville or Jekyll or St. Simons islands, and then you have all these businesses struggling to survive on Centre Street. All that was needed was a bridge between the two and life would be better for everyone. When I stepped before the City Commission for the first time with my idea for Fernandina Harbor Marina, I fully expected the idea to be received with open arms. I was wrong. This is not what happened.

Suddenly and without any warning or expectation, my great sensible idea was being pummeled from all sides. I like former City Commissioner Ron Sapp a lot but he was the first to chop me up into small little pieces. After all, I had only recently moved from Jacksonville and was still considered a foreigner. I can still remember Ron's tough pointed questioning... "Do you really believe the

Corps of Engineers would ever permit such a facility?" and "Where do you propose to find the money to build such a thing?" and "Don't you understand the folks here in Fernandina Beach really don't want to see the place changed?" Very soon thereafter I was being shot at from multiple directions. There was one angry group of citizens who opposed the marina because it would disrupt the pelicans roosting on the old, broken and dilapidated docks, which were numerous along where the marina now sits. There was another group who objected to anything that might inconvenience the shrimp boats, and then yet another group who were in love with the gifts of small 2-ounce plastic cups of orange juice provided by the staff at the previous Florida Welcome Station. This was a post-modern, mostly-glass, tee pee-shaped building which sat where Brett's is currently located today.

For many months, not one single person came forward to support my great idea. There was just me with a set of plans under my arm surrounded by a small army of angry folks all saying "no." However, I am glad I held out. Here, I can add a caveat, and I do so with no intent to boast. I am the only person who has delivered important, meaningful improvements to the city-owned waterfront in over 60 years. I am proud to have accomplished this without spending a dime of city money. All of the improvements were paid for by others.

This was not easy and it will not be easy to make new important improvements to the city's property. There will have to be compromise. Hardened opinions will have to soften. Viewpoints

will have to shift to recognize the realities of the tough economic circumstance created by the city building yesterday's marina instead of tomorrow's. There are those who say "no commercial development on the waterfront," but are they recognizing how severely the marina and its requirement for expensive dredging affects their taxes? Do they fully appreciate that if the marina bulkheads are relocated to create several acres of new land that only a small percentage of this new land can be built upon to generate enough revenue to the city to fully offset the hemorrhage of funds from the marina? There are many types of businesses that are entirely appropriate for being on the waterfront. Obviously, Atlantic Seafood is an excellent example, but there are also others. What is easy to overlook is that tastefully designed buildings can complement the city's current inventory of Victorian turn-of-the-century architecture. If they are properly located on the city's property, they can provide important visual and sound buffers to neutralize the industrial influence of the railroad, making a new waterfront park a delightful place to visit and enjoy.

I am a business man, a land planner and a real estate investor, and I don't presume for one minute to have all the answers. Watching City Hall waste millions of dollars on the waterfront should be painful for any city taxpayer. It is like witnessing an evolving economic disaster in real time. If you want to personally be helpful in making something positive happen on the waterfront, please voice your opinion. Your ideas might just tip the scales and jump start real progress downtown.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT

8.3 – Library Media Materials Selection and Challenges
8.31 – Parental Access to Information

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVISE

5.01 – Student Assignment
5.12 – Non-Resident Enrollment
5.122 – Controlled Open Enrollment

5.47 – Use of Time-Out, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint for Students with Disabilities

8.16 – Management of Textbooks and Instructional Materials
3.58 – Report of Employee Misconduct

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REPEAL

8.17 – Challenges to Adopted Instructional Materials

In compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statute, a public hearing may be held if requested within twenty-one (21) days of this notice at the place, time, and date indicated below:

Place: Bryceville Elementary School
6504 Church Avenue
Bryceville, FL 32009

Time: 6:30 P. M.

Date: February 27, 2023

No significant economic impact is anticipated.

Copies are located in all schools, and the School Board office.

Ballroom On Amelia

Group classes on Tuesday at 7 P.M.
February – Salsa & American Tango

2 for Tuesday

1 Class \$15 or 2 Classes for \$20 (per person)

*No reservation or partner necessary

Located at 1897 Island Walkway
(Royal Amelia Dance Academy) Studio #1

~ ~ Private lessons available by appointment ~ ~

For more information, contact Michelle at:
904.624.0886
michelle@ballroomonamelia.com
Visit our website at www.ballroomonamelia.com
OR our Facebook page.

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March 11 @ 1:00 PM
Callahan Community Center

Age Groups: Girls Under One, One Year, 2 & 3 Years, 4-6, 7-10, 11-13, 14-17, 18-27 years
Boys 0-23 months, 2-4 years, 5-9 years

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