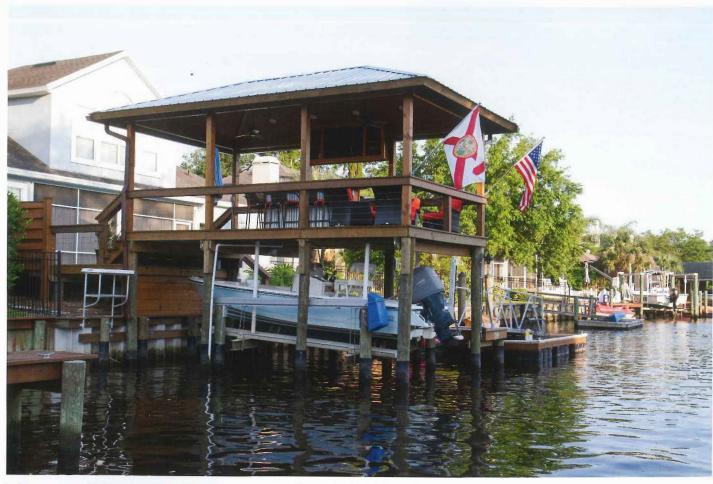


By Christi Elflein | Photography by Woody Huband



sle of Palms isn't your average neighborhood. From the car window you see only a fraction of the picture. "We have two streets running by our house," homeowner Amy Anderson says. There's a paved street in the front, and a water street in the back - and the activity along the water street is what makes the neighborhood unique.

Isle of Palms was established in the late 1950s, and has developed in phases over the last 60 years. It is located in Jacksonville on the west bank of the Intracoastal Waterway where it meets Beach Boulevard. The community's location inspired the early developers to build canals running parallel to the streets so many homeowners could be connected to the Intracoastal. The result is a little slice of Venice in Jacksonville.



Build your dock with the future in mind, just in case you upgrade your boat to a bigger size.





A popular addition to your dock would be an outdoor kitchen and dining area.





Carter Barksdale, holding up a mullet fish he caught in his crab trap attached to the dock.

The canals running behind the homes are alive with neighborhood activity - you might see young boys exploring in small motorboats. their sisters in paddleboats, and adults dock hopping during happy hour. Each home has a dock, which is part of the backyard fun. Gourmet summer kitchens are fired up for dinner. Crab traps lie underneath the docks. Kayaks and blow up toys await the attention of the children. And then, of course, there are bigger toys - motorboats, jet skis and sailboats.

Anderson enjoys just sitting on her dock. "I love watching people as they go by," she says. "You should see what people catch!"

Fishing is a popular sport in the neighborhood. "We mostly fish in the ICW and sometimes go to the jetties," says homeowner Ronnie Leinwohl. A favorite neighborhood event is the kid's annual fishing tournament.

The residents of Isle of Palms take the dock life seriously - and enjoy every minute of it.

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