This Old House—
Restoring Palm Coast History, Renovating a Neighborhood

The number ‘31’ is etched into the pink bathroom countertop at 5 Clark Lane, authenticating that the residence was the 31st home built in Palm Coast by Levitt & Sons in 1972. When ITT (International Telephone & Telegraph) Corporation developed this City, they aligned with nationally-renowned Levitt to create innovative home designs that enhanced a sense of community and symbolized the Florida dream. In the early 1970’s, builders in our new planned community paid approximately $25,000 to build this DeSoto Model on Clark Lane, with the lot costing an additional $3,400. Eight months ago, Rhonda and Shawn Needham became the third owners of the property, purchasing it for $65,000. Their plan is to now lovingly restore its uniqueness and replicate the way it looked forty years ago.

“We fell in love with its character and motif,” the Needhams say.

“But when we learned more about the home’s history and tradition, we resolved to maintain its integrity and make this a base for neighborhood renewal.”

The Needhams and their 10-year-old daughter, Angel, have been systematically researching the genealogy of their home. They discovered that the pioneer settlers, the Nunzio Palladino family, built 5 Clark Lane in 1912 and eventually sold to the Goldmans, who owned it for 30+ years. This address eventually became home to the neighborhood Palm Coast Dance Club and the Daytona Beach Symphonettes. Homeowners in this Palm Harbor section would gather weekly to either sway to the hottest dance numbers or enjoy an evening of live classical and jazz music.

Viewing the home’s recent restoration is truly inspirational. Original kitchen cabinet sections have been mended. Ceiling beams have been lovingly repaired. Spanish trim has been added to model the 1970’s design. And the next steps are to repaint the outside with the home’s original color and re-plant some of the authentic landscaping.

Hopefully, the Needham’s efforts will be rewarded in the coming years with a U.S. National Registry for Historic Homes designation. But this story is hardly about recognition.

“5 Clark Lane is so much more than timber, cement and mortar,” Rhonda and Shawn state. “It is a structure that has seen joy and sorrow, dreams and heartbreaks. We hope to restore and maintain its emotional and physical integrity for future generations of Palm Coast families.”
Upcoming Events
You’ll Love

The legendary voices of the Little River Band, along with savory ribs, free trees and a celebration of diversity are each on the agenda for this season’s events in Palm Coast. We want to see you at:

Rock N Rib Fest – Little River Band will pack a big punch at this years Rock N Rib Fest, to be held on Saturday, April 14th (noon-10pm) in Central Park. One of the world’s most renowned rock groups, Little River Band will be spotlighted live onstage at 8pm. Also stop by for a Chicago tribute band, to be featured during the afternoon. More live music will rock all day, adding scumptious bar-b-que, Lil Rock Zone for kids and lots of local business vendors. For ticket information, visit www.palmcoastribfest.com

Arbor Day/3K Root Run 1 Mile Flutter Fun Run – Another day in Palm Coast to celebrate our environmental stewardship, our trees, and our beauty!! Saturday, May 5th will open at 8am with the popular 3K Root Run and One Mile Flutter Fun Run/Walk, followed by 5 hours of fun (9am-2pm) in Central Park. Trade your canned goods for a free three-gallon tree, enjoy a butterfly release, visit with many green vendors, including the Flagler County Schools’ Learn and Serve Science Fair tent. Call 386-986-3722 for more information

International Festival – We’ve all come here from different national and international places, but we all smile in the same language. Palm Coast will hold its first International Festival on Sat/Sun, June 2 & 3 to celebrate the strength of our City’s cultural diversity. The vivid collage of ethnic cultures who have journeyed to Palm Coast will stage their cuisine, dance and costumes across Central Park. Plan to be part of this dynamic new event to sample a bit of life around the world – right here in Palm Coast! Call 386-986-2341 for details