

Holiday Food Drive

J.A. Long, Inc. is again teaming up with some of our long-time subcontractors and other business partners in the home-building industry to help the food pantry serving Clay County this holiday season. We are supporting the Green Cove Springs Food Pantry by coordinating drop-off locations to collect non-perishable canned goods for the non-profit agency.

The Food Pantry's biggest needs are for non-perishable items such as canned meats, vegetables and fruits, and peanut butter. In addition to food, we'll accept grocery store gift cards at our drop boxes. We will be accepting food, cash, check or gift card donations for the Clay Food Pantry from Monday, Nov. 10 through Monday, Dec. 22. In addition to a drop box at J.A. Long's office, located at 1677 Wells Rd., Suite D, other locations include:

- T&M *Electric*, 200 College Dr., Orange Park
- BB&T, 1711 Eagle Landing Pkwy., Orange Park
- A1 Stone World, 4002 J-Louis St., Green Cove Springs

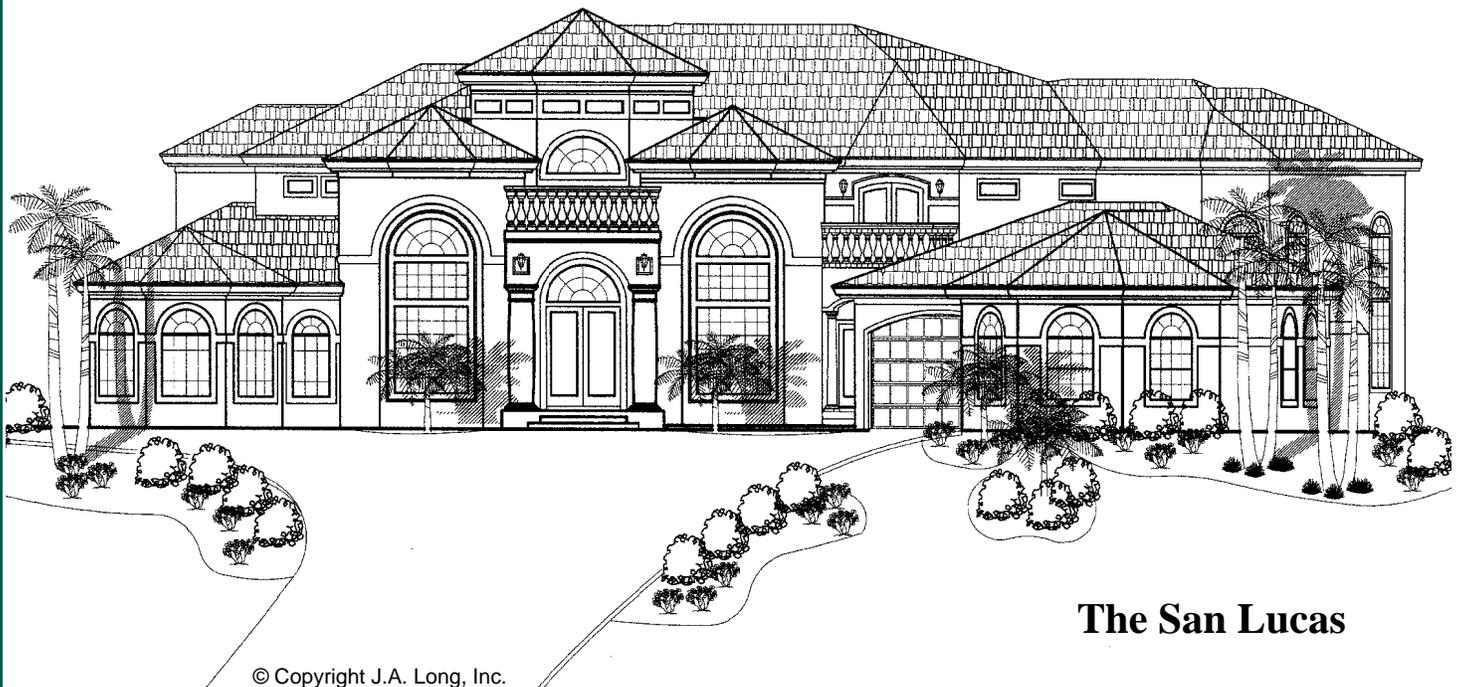
New Designs by J.A. Long

J.A. Long is proud to introduce 10 innovative portfolio homes. As always, you can expect JA Long trademarks such as open floor plans, high ceilings, long-unobstructed sight lines and large windows.

Outdoor living is also a major focus. We are designing more and more blended indoor/outdoor living spaces with stacking sliders that allow the outside lanai to become an extension of the family room. Many of our outdoor living areas feature a gourmet kitchen, fire pit, flat-screen television and pool.

Additional storage capacity and multi-use rooms are also featured prominently. Our latest floor plans include media rooms, game rooms, offices and in-law suites with dedicated outdoor entrances & exits. You will also find oversized, walk-in storage areas and plenty of accessible built-in cabinets.

We're excited about our new designs and look forward to building these portfolio homes.



The San Lucas

Now Building in New Areas

Pablo Creek Reserve

As you may know from the last newsletter, J.A. Long is currently building in Pablo Creek Reserve -- a private gated community located near the Intracoastal Waterway, Mayo Clinic, and J. Turner Butler Blvd.

Ashley Oaks

Ashley Oaks has asked J.A. Long to be a preferred builder. This new neighborhood is located on State Road 16 near the corner with SR13 in St. Johns County, near World Golf Village and offers close access to I-95 and St. Augustine beaches.

Bartram Farms Airpark & Equestrian Community

The developers of Bartram Farms Airpark & Equestrian Community have also asked J.A. Long to be a preferred builder. This unique neighborhood is located in St. Johns County, just 12 minutes from World Golf Village. Equestrian sites in Bartram Farms range from 3 to 15 acres. The community comes with 6 miles of bridal trails, a 2.29 acre community park, and 8 large lakes in Phase I. Bartram Farms also has its own 75' x 4,000' airstrip and offers direct lots with taxiway to the aircraft hanger attached to your new home.



Jimmy Mathis Retires

After working with J.A. Long for over 18 years, Director of Construction Jimmy Mathis has retired. We will all miss him very much, and wish him a happy retirement.



Winter Energy-Saving Tips

- Keep curtains closed during hours of extreme cold temperatures. If using Venetian blinds, adjust them so that they reflect sun rays inward.
- For each degree you set the heating thermostat below 68 degrees, you will see up to a 4% savings per degree.
- Consider lowering the thermostat a few degrees and using blankets during sleeping hours. Lowering the thermostat by five degrees when away from your home will generate a savings.
- In Florida, it is not recommended for the HVAC system to be turned entirely off when away for extended periods of time because of the potential for increased levels of humidity promoting mold and mildew growth inside the home as a result.
- Kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans should be run for about 20 minutes to effectively remove extra humidity added to the room.
- Check to make sure the damper is closed when the fireplace is not in use and keep wood stove doors closed.
- A dishwasher uses the same amount of electricity whether it is fully loaded or only contains a few items. Therefore, run full loads to save energy.

Source: Clay Electric

Homeowner Spotlight

We would like to congratulate the Misola family on their new home. They have recently moved into their 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom variation of the Norfolk design. The Misola's recently hosted their friends, family, and J.A. Long staff at their house warming and home blessing.

The Misola's have said of their new home and the J.A. Long staff, "It's hard to find words to express our thanks & gratitude to all of you. From the start, you have shown us professionalism, kindness, understanding, truthfulness, & patience, & many more." It was a pleasure to work with the Misola's, and we hope they enjoy their new home.



Thank You

Being a small, family-owned business, we believe providing quality service is the key to future business. In fact, most of our business comes from word of mouth. Therefore, we would like to thank you for referring your friends, family members, and colleagues. Your referrals are powerful testimony and very important to our business.

Winter Landscaping Tips

- Watering landscape plants before a freeze can help protect plants. A well-watered soil will absorb more solar radiation than dry soil and will reradiate heat during the night. However, the prolonged saturated soil conditions damage the root systems of most plants.
- Plants in containers that must be left outdoors should be protected by mulches and pushed together before a freeze to reduce heat loss from container sidewalls. Leaves of large canopy plants may be damaged if crowded together for extended periods.
- Heat radiating from soil surfaces warms the air above the soil and protects low growing plants on calm cold nights. Radiant heat loss is reduced by mulches placed around plants to protect the roots. For perennials, the root system is all that needs to be protected since the plants die back to the ground annually.
- Covers should extend to the ground and not come in contact with plant foliage to lessen cold injury by reducing radiant heat loss from the plant and the ground. Foliage in contact with the cover is often injured because of heat transfer from the foliage to the colder cover.
- During a freeze, ornamental plants can be protected by sprinkling the plants with water. Sprinkling for cold protection helps keep leaf surface temperatures near 32° F but must begin as freezing temperatures are reached and continue until thawing is completed. Water must be evenly distributed and supplied in ample quantity to maintain a film of liquid water on the foliage surfaces. Irrigation for several days may water-soak the soil and result in damaged root systems and/or plant breakage.
- After a freeze, plant water needs should be checked. The foliage could be losing water vapor on a sunny day after a freeze while water in the soil or container medium is frozen. Apply water to thaw the soil and provide available water for the plant.

Source: UF/IFAS Extension

