



## New Home Buyer Tax Credit

A tax credit of up to \$8,000 is now available for qualified first-time home buyers purchasing a principal residence on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009.

Unlike the tax credit enacted in 2008, the new credit does not have to be repaid. For more information, visit <http://www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com/>.

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Annual Food Drive, benefiting the Clay County Food Pantry, a huge success. We would like to extend a special thanks to our participating trade partners – A1 Stone World, BB&T, and T&M Electric. The Clay County Food Pantry appreciated all the donations, and we look forward to making our 2009 Food Drive just as successful.

## Additions

As demand has risen over the last few years, we have designed and built more home additions, and the feedback from these projects has been outstanding. By combining customer requests with our expertise and creativity, we have been able to create structures that not only satisfy customers' practical needs, but also their aesthetic ones. If you are interested in a J.A. Long custom addition, we encourage you to start your project while conditions and pricing are ideal.

## Creating Outdoor Sanctuaries

Are you considering a great outdoor kitchen design for your home? If so, you aren't alone! A growing number of J.A. Long homeowners are deciding to expand their outdoor living space by creating a functional yet beautiful summer kitchen design that allows them to spend more time in the great outdoors.

It should come as no surprise that the popularity of summer kitchens continues to rise. After all, installing an outdoor kitchen offers a number of benefits:

- Summer kitchens provide you with more entertaining space to cook while being surrounded by family and friends. They are a great way to socialize and not feel ostracized inside while your guests are outside enjoying the weather.
- Summer kitchens help reduce your utility bills by allowing you to cook outdoors, preventing extra heat from building up inside your home.
- By keeping the messes and smells involved with cooking outside, your home can remain clean and smelling great.
- Some foods just taste better cooked outdoors. Whether it's a lobster and clambake or a plain hamburger, nothing really beats a grill for flavor.
- Outdoor Kitchens increase the value of your home. In fact, the National Association of Home Builders estimates that summer kitchens can add as much 130% of their cost to the purchase price.
- Most of all, summer kitchens are fun. It's enjoyable to be outside.

If you're ready for a new outdoor living area, give us a call.



# Spring Landscaping Calendar

## March

- Decide on a maintenance plan for your St. Augustine lawn this year. For a moderate lawn maintenance plan, fertilize your St. Augustine grass three times a year – March, June, and September. Avoid fertilizers that are very high in nitrogen.
- Rake dead grass to allow new grass to grow. This will increase the effectiveness of fertilizers and pesticides applied to the lawn.
- Prune and fertilize azaleas as soon as they finish blooming. Use an acid fertilizer, such as azalea-camellia-gardenia special, and follow label directions.
- Prune any cold weather-damaged plants after new growth appears. If the plant is pruned before new growth begins, too much may be removed, and it will take longer to recover.
- Begin heavy pruning of hedges anytime after mid-March. To encourage bushy growth, prune just prior to bud swell. To retard growth, prune just after growth flush, once leaves have fully expanded.
- Fertilize palms every 2 months from March to September.



## April

- Repair dead or damaged spots in the lawn with sod, plugs, or seedlings. Keep lawn watered well if the weather is dry. To establish a new lawn, water frequently but lightly for the first two weeks. Then, gradually decrease the frequency and length of irrigation.
- This is the month to begin mowing lawns in Northeast Florida. Grass mowed too low has a short root system and is more easily damaged during dry weather. It's also weaker and more likely to have serious weed problems. As a rule of thumb, St. Augustine grass should be mowed at 2 to 4 inches, Bahia at 3 to 4, and centipede at 1.5 inches.
- Begin watching roses for black spot fungus disease, small black spots on the leaves that quickly worsen. Control it by spraying every seven to 10 days with a fungicide.
- If the weather is dry, water your lawn. Apply approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch of water at each watering as needed. Water only when blades fold. The water should be applied no more than two times per week. The best time is between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m., before temperatures rise and water evaporates in the air.
- Recycle grass clippings by not catching them when the lawn is mowed. Removing the clippings carries off fertilizer that has been applied to the lawn. Grass clippings don't cause thatch to build up if only the top third of grass is removed when mowing. Almost all yard trash can be used as mulch or in a compost pile.

## May

- Begin watching for chinch bug damage in St. Augustine lawns. The damage usually occurs in sunny locations near the street, sidewalk, or driveway. The grass dies in patches and turns straw brown. Damaged areas do not recover and must be plugged or sodded. Treat damaged areas with an approved insecticide or ask a pest control company to treat them.
- If the weather is dry, water the lawn when grass blades fold or every three days at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch per application.
- Mole crickets are the number one lawn pest problem in Northeast Florida. Control them when mole crickets are small. Water the lawn before applying insecticide. Use Bifenthrin, Cyfluthrin, Fipronil, Imadacloprid, Lambda-cyhalothrin, or Permethrin. Another option is to introduce a nematode (*steinernema scapterisci*) that won't harm plants.

Source: Horticulture Extension Agents with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida



# Featured Homes

## **Paradise Moorings 15**

1835 Moorings Circle  
Middleburg, FL 32068

This 2-story Savannah model is 2,922 square feet and has 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. This traditional home features a 2nd floor bonus room and a 3-car split garage, allowing for hobby use of one garage space. This exclusive gated community offers great views and a convenient location. Enjoy the country views and grazing horses from your rear lanai. You can also enjoy the community boat ramp and dock.



\$450,000



\$592,000

## **Lot 80, Glen Eagles at Eagle Landing**

4072 Eagle Landing Parkway  
Orange Park, FL 32065

With 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms, the 3,450 square foot Marbella is a 2-story home with a 3-car, side-entry garage. This innovative design features a wrap-around porch, detached suite with a full bath, and stacking sliders which bring the outside in. This is a big, open space plan with flexible uses—the living areas flow together. This house is great for a secluded privacy pool, hot tub, or Koi pond in the rear.

## **Lot 33, The Preserve at Eagle Harbor**

1226 Salt Marsh Lane  
Orange Park, FL 32003

The 4,543 square foot San Marcos is located on 2.39 acres on Doctor's Lake and has a dock. This 2-story home has 5 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms, along with a 4-car, side-entry garage. This great waterfront property is nestled under a canopy of live oak trees with 93' of frontage on Doctor's Lake. This exquisite custom-built Mediterranean beauty features a fresh, innovative floor plan. Entertaining is a dream with the gourmet kitchen, game room, family room, dining room, and wine cellar all overlooking the spacious lanai and mature woodlands. Quality details are evident throughout—soaring ceilings, custom wood trim, hardwood floors, granite in kitchen and baths, and iron railings.



\$1,073,000

# J.A. LONG

DESIGN BUILDERS

1677 Wells Road, Suite D  
Orange Park, Florida 32073  
Phone: (904) 264.3073  
Fax: (904) 264.6166  
Email: info@jalong.com

[www.jalong.com](http://www.jalong.com)

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*Building unique custom homes with superior value since 1972*



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

