Since 1949 – over six decades – Alex MacWilliam Real Estate has maintained a single business philosophy, based on integrity and respect for our clients and each other. Our long history in Vero Beach gives us a unique perspective on the local real estate market, which periodically rises and falls and rises again, much like our ocean tide. We have weathered a few storms and have stayed the course to see our area grow and thrive, keeping our hand on the pulse of the real estate community.

The charm of Vero Beach lies in its ability to function as a small town, while offering the amenities of a larger city. Our world-class Vero Beach Museum of Art, Riverside Theatre, Environmental Learning Center and McKee Botanical Garden are only a few of the sophisticated organizations that offer classes and tours. For younger residents, public and private schools offer a wide spectrum of educational and athletic programs, while the very special Riverside Children’s Theatre has acting classes and performances geared specifically for their age group.

State-of-the-art medical care is also readily available here as our two local hospitals continue to expand. Excellent physicians in Vero Beach and Indian River County provide a vast array of healthcare services, from elective surgery to critical care.

For the majority of our clients, the thought of moving to a new area raises an abundance of questions. In this guide, we hope to answer many of those questions and offer additional insight into all the activities and resources that our area has to offer. Welcome to Vero Beach and Indian River County – remember that we are always here to answer your questions.
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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
AREA
Indian River County ............... 503.23 sq mi
Vero Beach’s Barrier Island ......... 17.3 sq mi

POPULATION
Indian River County ................. 144,000
Vero Beach’s Barrier Island ........ 15,334

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
Indian River County ................. 79,354
Vero Beach’s Barrier Island ........ 12,145

AVERAGE AGE
Indian River County ................. 49.1
Vero Beach’s Barrier Island ......... 64.3

HOME VALUE [2011 median]
Indian River County ................. $166,324
Vero Beach’s Barrier Island ........ $587,300

HOUSEHOLD INCOME [2011 median]
Indian River County ................. $46,363
Vero Beach’s Barrier Island ........ $277,904

DISTANCE FROM VERO BEACH [Miles]
Kennedy Space Center ............... 83.4
Orlando .................................... 107
Palm Beach ............................... 79
The Bahamas ........................... 110
Naples ..................................... 197
Miami ..................................... 138
Key West ................................. 297
Savannah, GA ............................ 352
Charleston, SC ......................... 460
Washington D.C. ...................... 918
New York, NY ......................... 1143
Boston, MA ............................. 1357

Sources: US Census Bureau; city-data.com
It began in 1949 as a small, one-man-and-a-secretary business in downtown Vero Beach next to the post office. Called simply Alex MacWilliam Real Estate, the name it has used ever since, it was the brainchild of Alex MacWilliam Jr., a veteran of World War II who had seen service with the U.S. Army Air Force in the Pacific.

Like many veterans, the 21-year-old Floridian had returned to the U.S. without much notion of how he wanted to earn a living, except for a fervent desire to do something worthwhile in the brave new post-war world.

He knew it would not be easy since he was following in the footsteps of a distinguished father. Alex Sr. was a Scottish immigrant from Edinburgh who had established himself as a landscape architect in Cleveland, Ohio, then fought with such courage in the First World War that his medals included a Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and the French Croix de Guerre.

Ironically, Alex Sr. would never have come to Vero Beach at all if he hadn’t been the victim of a mustard-gas attack while serving in France. The attack resulted in stomach problems that would haunt him the rest of his life, and it was while he was undergoing a medical checkup in 1919 that his doctor, John Sawyer, casually mentioned he had just purchased 160 acres for $5,000 in a little Florida town called Vero Beach. Along with two partners, he told MacWilliam, he was planning to develop the land into a golf course and clubhouse – the area’s first.

MacWilliam and Sawyer became friends, and a few months later Alex Sr. agreed to move temporarily to Vero Beach to oversee the construction of the golf course in an area known then as the Cleveland Colony and, later, as Riomar.
He would also supervise the building of the houses being built around the clubhouse by part-time residents from the north. It wasn’t until he reached Vero Beach that he discovered the development was located on Orchid Island, which at that time could only be reached by boat and was still mainly populated by black bears, panthers and wild boar.

A year after his arrival, Alex Sr. married 21-year-old Jeanette O’Flaherty, an Irish immigrant he had hired to work at the clubhouse. Although he resigned as manager of the club four years later, he and Jeanette decided they would like to stay in Florida and continued to live in the house he had built for them on five acres adjoining Riomar. Here, they would raise their eight children, including Alex Jr.

In 1927 Alex Sr. became the mayor of Vero Beach after playing an important role in creating Indian River County as a separate county from St. Lucie in 1925. During his 20-year tenure as “Mayor Mac,” he did much to create Vero Beach we know today. Among many innovations, he formed the Indian River Mosquito Control Board, which turned Vero Beach from a bug-infested backwater to a livable oceanfront town, and introduced the first of several ordinances restricting the height of buildings throughout the city.

Alex Jr. had vivid memories of those days. “There were only two families who lived on the island full-time,” he recalls. “We were one and the other was a woman named Lily Rogers, who owned the Beachland Casino, a hotel that stood where the Oceanside Holiday Inn stands today.”

Given the isolation, Alex and his siblings learned to create their own entertainment. “We used to sneak out in my dad’s Model-A Ford and put a spare tire in the rumble seat. One of us would perch on the tire and the other would then try to toss him out of the car by driving at high speed up and down the sand dunes. You might say it was our version of a mechanical bull.”

Shortly before Alex Sr. retired from politics in 1951, Alex Jr. finally made up his mind what he wanted to do. Since returning from the Pacific he had worked in a restaurant and a citrus grove while pondering his future. Neither kind of work appealed to him, but it was clear that the time had come to make a decision since he was now married to the former Jean Rymer, whom he had met when both attended Vero Beach High School. The young couple were anxious to start a family – the family that, as well as Alex III, would include daughters Sandy, now the wife of citrus entrepreneur George Streetman, and Cynthia, who later married Alex III’s partner Joe Beasock.

After reading several books about the real-estate business, Alex decided to try his luck as a Realtor. “At the time there were only three realty firms in all of Indian River County,” he says. “In those days, you didn’t need a license to go into the business. Deals were brokered with friends.” Invited to the monthly meeting of the Vero Beach Board of Realtors, he recalls, “I ate lunch with the entire membership. It took a table for five to seat us!”

A few weeks before Christmas 1949, Alex MacWilliam Real Estate officially opened for business at the intersection of Route 60 and 13th Avenue, which is now the south-side parking lot of the downtown post office. At the time, even four real-estate firms seemed a lot, given the paucity of business. There were fewer than 1,000 homes in the area; inland lots on the beach sold for $500-$750 and oceanfront lots for $15-$30 a front foot. Agricultural land sold for $5-$10 an acre.

“The only two businesses that stayed open year-round on Ocean Drive were the Driftwood Inn and the Ocean Grill,” Alex Jr. recalls. “North of the fishing pier there was nothing until you reached Winter Beach.”

The changes Alex Jr. witnessed over the past six decades have been extraordinary by any standard. Back in 1949 there was no Multiple Listing Service and the county population was a mere 12,000. Today, the population has soared to over 144,000 and the typical 2,000-square-foot home that sold for $5,000 in 1949 now sells for $200,000-$300,000, even allowing for the recent drop in prices.

Alex MacWilliam Jr. relinquished control of the business in 1991 to his son, Alex “Buzz” MacWilliam III.

Buzz, like his father, attended Vero Beach High, then earned a B.A. in Political Science at the University of Florida. It was while he was a small boy that he acquired his nickname, supposedly because when his sister Cynthia tried to pronounce the word “brother” it came out as “buzzer.” Married since 1986 to the former Stephanie Olsen, he has two children, Alex IV (“We’re beginning to sound like a royal dynasty!”) and Chandler.

Buzz had originally planned to study law, but at the last minute changed his mind and joined his father’s firm in 1981. Six months later his brother-in-law, Jerome (Joe) Beasock, would join him as a partner.
The two men had first met as teenagers at VBHS, which Joe began attending when his family moved to the area in 1965. Like Buzz, he has fond memories of those “quiet” days in Vero Beach. “In the mid-’60s I delivered the Press Journal south of Beachland Boulevard on the island,” he says. “In summer there were no more than 50 houses that took the paper. Even in winter, when the snowbirds returned, I never delivered more than 80.”

Even after Joe married into the family, he continued working at Piper Aircraft until Alex Jr. suggested to his son-in-law that he join the family business. Joe agreed and ran MacWilliam's mainland office on Route 60 until last year, when it was decided that it made more sense economically to centralize the entire operation at the Ocean Drive office.

Joe’s years on both sides of the Indian River have given him a keen insight into how properties on the island and mainland differ. “So far as real estate is concerned, they’re two separate towns,” he says. “As the recession ends, the beachside will recover more quickly because there were fewer foreclosures and the backlog is smaller.”

In the 25 years since Buzz took over, Alex MacWilliam has grown from 10 sales agents to over 70, and sales revenues increased from $20 million to more than $170 million in 2014. Under Buzz, the firm’s marketing strategy has changed from traditional print and radio advertising to primarily a mix of Internet and social media marketing and print media. Properties now are digitally marketed worldwide, and agents who used to use folded maps to help themselves and their clients find listings now use MapQuest, their TomTom, or cell phone apps to find their way.

“As recently as six years ago less than 50 percent of home buyers began their search on the Web,” says Buzz. Today more than 90 percent of buyers start their search online figures show.”

Fortunately for Realtors, the use of the Internet seems to have had little ef-
fect on the real-estate business, since most people, having seen a property online, will ask an agent to get them into the house itself and negotiate on their behalf if they like it.

From 2012-2015 sales numbers and dollar values have been on the rise. During that period prices in Indian River County increased 30 percent and number of sales increased from 2,900 homes per year to 3,600 in 2015. Buzz believes that the market will show a steady improvement, but does not expect a return to the kind of frenetic buying that occurred in the early 2000s. "As the market recovers, I expect it to reflect the 1990s a lot more than the 2000s," he says. "Slow and steady, but heading in the right direction."

Vero Beach, Buzz points out, is a "discretionary" market. "People who buy and sell here rarely have to buy or sell right away. We're not like cities where people are constantly changing jobs and have to move at the whim of their employers."

Buzz also notes a new trend in the demographics of buyers checking out the Vero Beach market: "At one time most of our clients were from the Northeast, but today at least one-third are from South Florida. These folks are looking for a weekend getaway from high-stress cities like Miami and Fort Lauderdale, or for a home to retire to. Part of the surge is also due to the number of baby boomers reaching their 60s."

There is a third important segment, Buzz says. "This consists of locals who are thinking about downsizing – empty nesters and the like. There are plenty of people living in 4,000-square-foot homes who are looking at 2,000-square-foot homes. In a few cases, the opposite is true – people who want to upsize to accommodate their growing families."

A smaller group of clients fall into what might be called the "oops!" category. "These are the folk who visited Vero Beach, then purchased homes in Stuart or Naples. Two years later, they're back, saying "We made a mistake, we want to live in Vero Beach!"

Another small group is from overseas. "The Vero Beach market for foreign buyers is not large compared to several other Florida cities because we do not have an international airport within easy driving distance," Buzz explains. "For instance, there are direct charter flights from Germany to Naples, but nothing like that exists where Indian River County is concerned."

The change in demographics has also led to adjustments in the percentage of homes sold to full-time residents. "Around 40 percent of the homes we sell are for winter living only," says Buzz. "The other 60 percent are to buyers who plan to live here year-round. Ten years ago, it was the other way round."

Will the influx of new hotels in Vero Beach – Caribbean Court, singer Gloria Estefan's Costa d'Este Hotel, Marriott's Springhill Suites, the Vero Beach Hotel & Spa and Miracle Mile's Hampton Inn – mean that the city is gradually moving from a community of many part-time residents to a market dependent on tourism? Buzz doesn't think so.

"Sure, the number of hotel rooms has increased dramatically," he says, "but Vero Beach is still too small to accommodate a big influx of tourists. And we just don't have the scale of attractions you find in Orlando and Miami."

He remains confident, however, that the area will continue to appeal to large numbers of discerning home buyers. The respected website CNNMoney.com, he points out, recently placed Vero Beach at No. 1 on the list of undervalued housing markets in the nation and projected a 64 percent increase in local home prices over the next five years. Buzz is a little skeptical about this prediction, but says that the optimism bodes well for Vero Beach.

"Generally speaking, we've had good government over the years, and because of that we have a lot to offer," he says. "Vero Beach is a scenic, laid-back town with beautiful beaches, plenty of golf and, compared to South Florida, minimal traffic."

One of its biggest attractions, he thinks, is the height restrictions pioneered by his grandfather. "Vero Beach's low-rise silhouette has tremendous appeal to folks coming from 20-story concrete canyons," he says, "whether they're in the Northeast or South Florida."
Over the years Alex MacWilliam Real Estate has developed an exclusive Buyer’s Agent Program to provide the ultimate service – to help you find your dream home and negotiate the best possible price, all at no cost to you.

**THE BUYER’S AGENT PROGRAM**

**OUR GOAL: TO OBTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE AND TERMS ON THE PROPERTY YOU WANT**

1. **INITIAL COUNSELING SESSION**
   Our program begins with a complete evaluation of your needs and desires, developing an outline of the size, style and location of your ideal property.

2. **WIDE-SPECTRUM SEARCH**
   Then, we conduct a search for all properties that could match your ideal – utilizing all of our corporate resources, the internet, the Multiple Listing Service and researching homes for sale by owner, builders’ new homes and bank foreclosures.

3. **SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS**
   Next, we schedule appointments at the properties most appealing to you and together we visit each one.

4. **ASSIST IN MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS**
   Many home buyers request assistance with the details of mortgage qualifying – we help with that, too.

5. **COMPARATIVE MARKET ANALYSIS & TAX RECORD SEARCH**
   Once a selection of possible properties have been determined, we conduct a comparative market analysis and tax record search to assist in the development of an offer and the ensuing negotiation process.

6. **ANALYZE INFORMATION PRIOR TO OFFER**
   Prior to making an offer, we meet with you to review all the information gathered up to that point. Together we discuss the parameters of your offer.

7. **PREPARE CONTRACT**
   Once an offer has been accepted, we assist you in preparing your Contract for Sale and Purchase.

8. **PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION**
   We professionally represent you through negotiations with the seller and the seller’s agent to ensure an excellent conclusion.

You’ve Got A Friend

Our commitment to you does not end with the purchase. We are here to assist you with other concerns, like:

- Provide Homeowners’ Warranty options.
- Offer guidance in contacting qualified inspection companies for appropriate and desired property evaluations, termite inspections, roof reports and surveys.
- Monitor the post-contract, pre-closing process in order to insure that all necessary documentation is complete and available for closing.
- Conduct a final walk-through or re-inspection on the day of closing.
- Attend the closing with you to review all figures and documentation for accuracy.
- Recommend moving companies to help with your move.
- Help to set up your utilities, such as telephone, television and garbage pick-up.
- Assist with any other unresolved or unforeseen problems after closing.

The Trusted Name in Real Estate Since 1949
Strategy for Sellers

The Alex MacWilliam Real Estate four-step Seller’s Agent Program assures you that your home will be marketed in an ethical, results-oriented way to qualified buyers, using all the technology of the 21st century.

THE SELLER’S AGENT PROGRAM
OUR GOAL: TO SELL YOUR HOME IN A TIMELY MANNER FOR THE MAXIMUM PRICE

1. SALES PROMOTION & ADVERTISING

- Provide a Competitive Market Analysis to help determine the most effective listing price for your home.

- Offer a Home Enhancement Review to cosmetically improve or “stage” your home and landscaping or “curb appeal” to achieve the best possible price.

- Execute Exclusive Right of Sale Listing Contract.

- Photograph the interior and exterior of the property.

- Prepare Multiple Listing Service (MLS) Profile Sheet.

- Distribute MLS Profile Sheet to all members of Alex MacWilliam Real Estate’s sales team.

- Submit listing to MLS with over 1,200 Realtor members.

- Check the MLS system regularly to ensure continuity and accuracy of information.

- Place “FOR SALE” signs on your property where appropriate.

- Arrange Realtors’ caravan to see your home following the Alex MacWilliam Real Estate’s weekly sales meeting.


- Send “Just Listed” notices to your neighborhood.

- Print and distribute a promotional flyer notifying sales associates and potential buyers of any significant changes to your listing or motivation for selling.

- Schedule and host public open house events at times convenient for you.

- Digitally promote your home on hundreds of websites including: alexmacwilliam.com, Realtor.com, Trulia, Zillow and more, and on social media via Facebook, Twitter (@AmacRealEstate), Instagram, LinkedIn, Google+, and YouTube.

- Produce a virtual tour of your home for viewing on the internet.
We have developed an impressive internet presence by acquiring and maintaining internet domains for neighborhood listings and individual agents, such as:

- www.alexmacwilliam.com
- www.charlotteterry.com
- www.verobeachgolfhomes.com
- www.verobeachwaterfronthomes.com
- www.grandharborproperties.com
- www.verohomesales.com
- www.realestate-verobeach.com
- www.grandharborbydianeandstacey.com
- www.athomeinvero.com
- www.jtjhomes.com
- www.veroechoast.com
- www.islandhomesofvero.com
- www.realestateofvero.com
- www.loiswork.com
- www.gablesvero.com
- www.premierpropertiesverobeach.com

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

- Send you samples of all print ads and links to other digital advertising sources.
- Call or visit with you frequently to report progress on the sale of your home, response from showings and general market activity.
- Re-evaluate marketing plan, as needed, in response to changing market conditions.

4. PENDING SALE TO CLOSING

- Coordinate inspections, appraisal, and survey once your home is under contract; report all pertinent information to you.
- Organize with title company and lawyer all documents and information necessary to close the transaction in a smooth, timely manner.
- Maintain constant communication until the transaction is completed.
- Remain available after closing to assist you with any unresolved or unforeseen issues.
- Provide moving assistance and homeowners warranties upon request.
Alex MacWilliam Real Estate offers an exclusive marketing program, at the seller’s discretion, for homes valued from $1,500,000 or more, which includes:

- Creation of a unique website for the property.
- Professional photography of the home and grounds.
- Virtual tour posted to MLS.
- Video interview with the seller.
- A full color brochure with multiple photographs and the home’s unique web address.
- Invitation to a private Broker open house.
- Invitation to qualified prospects to a private open house.
- E-brochure to area Realtors and prospective buyers.
- Property posted on Alex MacWilliam.com website.
- Property posted on sales associate individual website.
- Property featured on Leverage Global Partners (leveragere.com) and LuxuryHomes.com.
- An “enhanced listing” posted on Realtor.com with the web address of home.
- Web address for the home on all printed material and advertising.
- Featured in company ad in Vero Beach Magazine and/or other publication.
- With your permission, a special charity event hosted at the property.
- Timely market updates from your agent.
- Agent feedback after every showing.
The earliest trace of human habitation in Indian River County is the Vero Man, an Ice Age skeleton discovered in 1915 in a drainage ditch next to the current site of the County Administration buildings. Found along with fragments of Ice Age tapirs, mammoths, and other now-extinct mammals, this monumental archeological discovery makes Vero Beach one of the few places in the United States that can prove humans and mammals lived together from 11,000 to 13,000 years ago. To find out more about the Vero Man, visit the Indian River County Main Library’s Florida History room in Vero Beach.

As the landscape gradually changed after the Ice Age it finally settled into the subtropical temperature of today. Although the climate is mild compared to other locations, the area has seen several turbulent storms. One notable hurricane, on July 31, 1715, wrecked eleven ships of the Spanish Treasure Fleet just off the coast of Vero Beach. Experts estimate that not even half of the treasure has been found. Coins, jewelry and other artifacts still wash up on the beaches periodically. The McClarty Treasure Museum, a Florida State Park on North Highway A1A in Vero Beach, has records from salvage divers, samples of found treasure and a multimedia presentation about the historic wreck.

When the ships’ survivors reached shore, they were doubtless met by the Ais, a Native American tribe that lived in villages and towns along the Indian River lagoon. (In fact, the Indian River had been previously named *Rio de Ais* by the Spanish in the 17th century.) In the early 1700s, settlers in Carolina began a series of raids to enslave the Ais people. By 1743, when the Spanish established a mission among them, the Ais numbers were declining due to slave raids, disease and rum. The Ais were completely gone from the area by 1760.

Florida was under colonial rule by Spain and Great Britain until becoming a territory of the United States in 1821 after the First Seminole War. Conflicts between Native Americans and settlers continued. On July 12, 1849, four members of a nearby tribe attacked a farm on the Indian River, killing one man and wounding another man and a woman. The news of this raid caused many of the local settlers to flee north to Saint Augustine. Peace with the Native Americans was established in 1862, just in time for America’s Civil War.

The area saw little or no Civil War-related activity other than from blockade runners and smugglers using the Indian River Lagoon for transport. After the war, Indian River County was sparsely settled by farmers, ranchers and traders. In 1880, a farmer named John LaRoche claimed an area of land on the barrier island, now called John’s Island, and established a small community. The settlement was abandoned by 1920, however, as residents sought opportunities brought to the mainland by the new railroad.

The town of Vero (pop. 793) was incorporated in 1919 as a part of Saint Lucie County. The origin of the name “Vero” has triggered contentious debates, with theories ranging from the name of an early settler’s wife (Vera) to a Spanish word meaning *true* or *real* (de vero).
The same year, Riomer Country Club was established by a group of intrepid winter residents, including Alex Mac-William Sr. from Cleveland, on the barrier island in Vero. Early home owners reached Riomer by boat from the mainland.

On Labor Day 1920, the first bridge opened linking the mainland with the barrier island – the Barber Bridge. Originally a wooden drawbridge, it was replaced by the current Barber Bridge in 1995.

Local legend credits a disagreement over the hours of a movie theater (still standing on 14th Avenue) for the eventual split with Saint Lucie County and the formation of Indian River County in 1925. The new theater owner wanted to show movies on Sunday, the government leaders in Saint Lucie tried to close him down, and the rest is history.

Upon the establishment of the new
Indian River County in 1925, the town of “Vero” became the county seat of “Vero Beach,” and four other incorporated municipalities were eventually added: the Town of Indian River Shores, the Town of Orchid, the City of Sebastian and the City of Fellsmere.

Since then, Indian River County has grown to a population of 144,000 and has added two other bridges across to the barrier island – the 17th Street Bridge in the south and the Wabasso Bridge in the north.

The Indian River Lagoon is no longer used for trading and commercial fishing, however it is North America’s most diverse estuary with more than 2,200 different species of animals and 2,100 species of plants. In addition to an active community of dolphin, the lagoon also has one of the most diverse bird populations anywhere in America. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt
established the first national wildlife refuge in the United States here on Pelican Island, created to protect egrets and other birds from extinction by plume hunters.

Nearly a third of the country’s manatee population lives in the Indian River Lagoon or migrates through it seasonally, and the county’s ocean beaches provide one of the densest sea turtle-nesting areas found in the Western Hemisphere. The Environmental Learning Center offers tours with a naturalist and other programs to connect with wildlife firsthand.

Throughout its history, Indian River County has attracted residents seeking a peaceful life in the tropics, and gradually each of the county’s municipalities has developed its own unique identities.

The area often referred to as Vero Beach encompasses almost all of the barrier island and the majority of the mainland of Indian River County. The actual City of Vero Beach, however, is only 13.1 square miles, extending from approximately a mile south of the 17th Street Bridge to a mile north of the Barber Bridge and west to 43rd Avenue.

The Town of Indian River Shores, incorporated in 1953, extends for seven square miles along Highway A1A, north of the City of Vero Beach. Indian River Shores maintains its own law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, post office and community center serving 3,901 residents.

In 1965, the Town of Orchid, north of the Wabasso Bridge, was incorporated by local grove owners and had only seven registered voters. However, in 1986 the area was rezoned after a large portion was purchased by a Connecticut developer. The grove properties returned to unincorporated Vero Beach, and the town now only encompasses the property that is the Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club.

Sebastian, in northeastern Indian River County, is a city of approximately 22,000 residents and 13.6 square miles. In addition to an active riverfront dining and boating district, Sebastian is also home to the Sebastian River Inlet State Park on Highway A1A, renowned as one of the best salt-water fishing and surfing areas on Florida’s east coast.

In the northwest corner of the county is Fellsmere, a small agricultural city of 5.4 square miles and 4,979 residents, mostly employed in farming. Since 1990, Fellsmere has also presented the Frog Leg Festival, held in early January every year. In 2010, an estimated 80,000 people attended the four-day event, raising funds for children’s resources in the city.

Although often referred to as a “best-kept secret,” Vero Beach has been rated the top Florida city and ranked #12 nationwide on the list of 219 communities in The Rating Guide to Life in America’s Small Cities. A 2009 CNN article also rated Vero Beach as #1 on the list of undervalued real estate in the country.

Among the best reasons to live in Vero Beach is the climate. Average temperatures are coolest in December, with a daytime temperature of 73°F. January through May is considered to be the height of the winter season with dry, warm days ranging from 60°F to 85°F. Vero Beach’s average number of sunny days is 228 annually, well above the national average.

Throughout the years, Alex MacWilliam Real Estate has worked to be the most knowledgable resource for those buying and selling property. The following is a helpful list of the most popular lifestyle communities in Vero Beach. Visit www.alexmacwilliam.com for details or call (772) 231-6509 to explore a neighborhood.

**WINDSOR**

Windsor is a magnificent 416-acre private sporting and social club situated along a stretch of north Vero Beach. Amenities abound with a polo field, equestrian centre with trails, 18-hole championship golf course, tennis centre and croquet lawn. A trap and skeet shooting facility is nearby.

In the heart of Windsor is the Village Centre with a post office, general store, business centre and support offices. Windsor’s beach clubhouse has a swimming pool, library and cabanas.

The elegant modern golf clubhouse also maintains a world-class art museum with shows running throughout the winter season.

Among Windsor’s 395 residences, the remaining homesites range from $800,000 to $1,000,000 and homes start at $1,950,000. Residences on the ocean start at $8 million.

**ORCHID ISLAND GOLF & BEACH CLUB**

Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club is a 600-acre community styled with tropical Caribbean elegance.

Situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River just north of Vero Beach, and south of Windsor, this club features a championship 18-hole golf course designed by Arnold Palmer with exclusive golf clubhouse, a charming tennis center, Town Square Shops, and an elegant beach club with terrace bar & lounge, dining room and oceanside pool.

Oceanfront homes start at $8 million, golf course homes at $800,000 and oceanfront condominiums at $1 million.

**JOHN’S ISLAND**

John’s Island is Vero Beach’s most established luxury community, offering three championship golf courses, tennis club, oceanfront clubhouse and fine dining.

Noted developer E. Lloyd Eccleson had a vision and real estate broker Alex MacWilliam Jr. helped to make it happen in 1969 when he brokered the land sale.

Today, Georgian architecture graces
this community with condominiums priced from as low as $600,000 to a high of over $2 million. Courtyard homes are also available. Single family homes begin at $1.2 million and exceed $14 million. Only a few homesites remain.

**THE MOORINGS**

The Moorings has over 7.5 miles of bulkheaded riverfront living, as well as oceanfront estate homes and condominiums. This is truly Vero Beach’s boaters’ paradise and is located just six miles from Fort Pierce’s inlet to the ocean.

A golf course with stunning river views, tennis facilities, riverfront fitness center, health spa, private beach and expansive golf clubhouse complete the amenities.

The Moorings offers one of the largest choices of condominium styles, views and price ranges to be found anywhere in Vero Beach. In addition, single family homes start at $500,000, with riverfront homes ranging from $1 million to $4 million.

**GRAND HARBOR**

www.grandharborproperties.com

Located on the western banks of the Indian River, Grand Harbor is Vero Beach’s only mainland community that offers a full-amenity “Grand Lifestyle” package.

Activities abound, from the two championship golf courses, tennis center, oceanfront and golf course clubhouses, and one of Florida’s largest deep-water Atlantic marinas.

Grand Harbor offers single family homes on either the golf course or river, plus condominiums, duplexes or villas. Selections include 1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms in every size and price range from $150,000 to $2 million.

**OAK HARBOR**

Oak Harbor is one of Vero Beach’s premier senior living communities, offering a variety of senior services in a stress-free, country club environment.

The community offers on-site assisted living facilities, 42,000-square-foot clubhouse with wellness program, dining options, transportation services, property maintenance and housekeeping services.

Bermuda-style architecture defines Oak Harbor while offering condominiums, golf cottages, and both detached and attached villas. Prices range from $150,000 up to $650,000.

**SEA OAKS**

Sea Oaks is a master-planned community of approximately 125 shaded acres, encompassing 2,400 feet of Atlantic beach and 1,500 feet of riverfront on the Indian River Lagoon.

Sea Oaks boasts two major recreational centers. One is the outstanding Tennis Club complex. The other is the private Beach Club on the ocean. Both facilities are designed to the caliber of other renowned residential sporting clubs throughout the world.

Amenities include the oceanfront beach clubhouse, tennis clubhouse, 16 fast-dry clay tennis courts, 48-slip marina, seven swimming pools and health club.

A variety of residential accommodations are available, including ocean and riverfront condominiums starting at under $500,000. Also offered are lakeside villas, townhomes and tennis cottages starting in the low $200,000’s.

Exploring Vero Beach and Indian River County can occupy a day or a whole lifetime, as those of us at Alex MacWilliam Real Estate can attest.

Whether seeking a winter escape to a private, tropical beach or a year-round, stress-free lifestyle, we can help to find the home that is perfect for you.

Welcome to the neighborhood!
River dolphins ride the wake of a motor boat in the Indian River Lagoon.
Vero Beach’s abundant wildlife is usually surprising for newcomers to the area. After all, how often do you emerge from the supermarket only to find a great blue heron waiting by the door? Usually, the best way to see birds, dolphins and manatees is from the water; kayak, canoe and boat rentals (with or without a captain) are available at several marinas in the area. Experienced fishing guides are also ready to take guests to find fresh or saltwater fish, including sailfish, grouper, dolphin, wahoo, trout, red fish, snook, snapper and flounder. Local fishermen may travel as far as the Bahamas for a day of fishing.

To see alligators and other intriguing native creatives, airboat captains offer excursions into the vast marshlands west of Vero Beach.

From May 1 to October 31, giant sea turtles emerge from the ocean to lay eggs in nests on the beach. The turtles are an endangered species and protected under federal law. As one of the primary nesting areas in the western hemisphere, Vero Beach maintains strict limitations on beachfront lighting, especially during nesting season, to allow the sea turtles to complete their annual pilgrimage.

For those interested in learning more about native Vero Beach, the Environmental Learning Center maintains a 64-acre educational facility on an island midway over the Wabasso Bridge (from north Highway A1A, turn west at Disney’s Vero Beach Resort). Programs for every age are available all year, as are canoe tours and hikes with naturalists.

Another popular water adventure is scuba diving off the Atlantic coast. Vero Beach also has exceptional walk-in shore diving and snorkeling, especially in the summer months. Local wrecks and coral reefs provide habitat for aquatic life, including tropical fish, sponges and rays.

The Sebastian Inlet State Park on Highway A1A, at the northern end of Indian River County, is renowned as one of the best saltwater fishing and surfing areas on Florida’s east coast. Three miles of beaches provide opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving and sunbathing, and visitors can relax with a stroll down the mile-long Hammock Trail. Waterfront pavilions, campsites and picnic areas are great for family outings, and a boat ramp is also available.

Just south of Sebastian Inlet is another notable attraction, the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, founded in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing the island as a federally-protected preserve. It was the first time in U.S. history that the federal government had set aside land for the preservation of wildlife.

If sunbathing is more your style of adventure, then Vero Beach has 26 miles of sandy beaches from which to choose. From Sebastian Inlet south to Round Island Park, Indian River County has a multitude of free public beach access points – some just a small parking lot, others with larger facilities and showers, playgrounds and picnic tables.
Professionals and amateurs agree that Vero Beach has something for every golfer.

Vero Beach has the perfect climate for golf and tennis all year. The summer months find athletes playing earlier in the cooler part of the day, but in the winter the games go on all day, sometimes even into the night.

Private clubs have an excellent network of professionals available for lessons and hints on improving your game. Most clubs also have tournaments and events going on all year, and host charity events to help local non-profit organizations.
I had the fortune of being introduced to golf at the age of six by my father, Alex MacWilliam Jr. After nearly 45 years, I am still just an average golfer with a 12-handicap at my home course. I don’t believe you have to “go low” to enjoy golf. I can have just as much fun shooting 90 as I can 80. The weather, scenery, camaraderie and challenge make the game of golf eternally fun for me. I’ve played every golf course in the Vero Beach area nearly a dozen times. Each course and each community offers both subtle and dramatic differences that make them unique. Whether it is the style of the homes or terrain of the golf course, Vero Beach golf has something for everyone.

If you want to talk about Vero Beach golf feel free to e-mail me at buzz@alex-macwilliam.com or call me at 1-772-231-6509. I’d also love to talk about Vero Beach Real Estate.

– Alex “Buzz” MacWilliam III

As President of the Tour of Champions I have found that Vero Beach offers a unique golfing experience, with all clubs, both public and private, showing great hospitality and a friendly spirit to newcomers.

I am happy to recommend Vero Beach to both visitors and new residents. Be assured that your golfing expectations will be met in a most gracious manner.

– Dr. Norman “Bill” Becker Jr.
President, Tour of Champions
FINE ART

Vero Beach has attracted fine artists since its earliest years. Galleries and open studio tours have created a stimulating environment for both artists and their collectors.

THE VERO BEACH MUSEUM OF ART in Riverside Park is an accredited museum and the largest cultural institution of its kind in the area. Hosting both national and international art exhibitions, the museum also is the home of a very active art school. Classes and lectures on painting, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, art history and other disciplines are offered all year for every age group.

A café and gift shop can also be found at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, two favorite destinations for many younger visitors.

The museum provides a gathering place for the local Vero Beach Art Club. The club’s mission is to encourage and support both the appreciation and creation of the fine arts with emphasis on painting, drawing, collage and sculpture. Every month from October through April, club members display and sell their work at “Art in the Park” on Ocean Drive. The Art Club also holds an annual Studio Tour.

The highlight of the season occurs in March when a three-day, juried fine art show featuring more than 200 artists from all over the country is held “Under the Oaks” in Riverside Park. One of the largest public events on the Treasure Coast, the show draws more than 80,000 visitors each year. Food kiosks
and impromptu outdoor cafés provide hot and cold beverages, popcorn, ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue, and salads.

**THEATRE**

**RIVERSIDE THEATRE** in Riverside Park is a professional producing theatre with a full season of on- and off-Broadway productions and musical groups. In 2007, the theatre underwent major renovations that increased its capacity to more than 700 seats. The renovations also added a “black box” stage for greater versatility, and an expanded lobby.

A second facility on adjoining property houses the **RIVERSIDE CHILDREN’S THEATRE**, offering both professional performances and theatrical workshops for local children.

**THE VERO BEACH THEATRE GUILD**, founded in 1958, is a 312-seat community theatre with volunteer productions throughout the year. A rich part of Vero Beach’s history, many local performers can be seen on stage in dramatic and musical roles. The theatre is located on the mainland at 2020 San Juan Avenue in Vero Beach.

**MUSIC**

**THE ATLANTIC CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA** is dedicated to enriching the musical culture of Indian River and Martin counties by supporting performance opportunities, music appreciation, and educational programs for youth. High-quality, live performances of classical orchestral music are offered in both Vero Beach and Stuart.

**THE INDIAN RIVER SYMPHONIC ASSOCIATION** offers seven performances annually by nationally and internationally renowned symphonic orchestras and soloists. Performances have included the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra of London.

**THE TREASURE COAST JAZZ SOCIETY** was formed to expand the appreciation of jazz by bringing the finest national and international jazz musicians to the Treasure Coast. The society also maintains a scholarship fund to perpetuate jazz talent by supporting the education of young musicians in the area.

**THE VERO BEACH OPERA** promotes and supports opera and conducts study classes on opera and the enjoyment of operatic performances. The organization sponsors professional singers of classical and semi-classical music in recital for the community, and introduces operatic music to local schools with stories of opera and excerpts from its music.
FINE DINING

Bijou Noche .................................... 226-5254
1920 14th Ave.

Citrus Grillhouse ................................ 231-4114
1050 Easter Lily Ln.

Cobalt at VB Hotel & Spa .................. 469-1060
3500 Ocean Dr.

French Quarter ............................... 770-4870
1920 14th Ave.

Maison Martinique .......................... 231-7299
1601 Ocean Dr.

Ocean Grill .................................... 231-5409
1050 Beachland Blvd.

Osceola Bistro ................................ 569-1299
2045 13th Ave.

Polo Grill ........................................ 231-4090
2855 Ocean Dr.

Sonya’s at Disney Resort .................... 234-2180
9250 Island Grove Terrace

The Tides ........................................ 234-3966
3103 Cardinal Dr.

Trattoria Dario ................................. 231-1818
1555 S. Ocean Dr.

Vero Prime ..................................... 226-7870
901 21st St.

The Wave at Costa d’Este Hotel .......... 562-9919
3244 Ocean Dr.

CASUAL DINING

14 Bones BBQ ................................. 770-5646
1500 U.S. Highway 1

14th Avenue Steakhouse .................. 778-1020
2023 14th Ave.

Barefoot Café ................................ 770-1733
2036 14th Ave.

Blue Agave ...................................... 999-3484
1979 14th Ave.

Blue Star Bourbon Bar ..................... 492-9057
2227 14th Ave.

Bobby’s Restaurant & Lounge .......... 231-6996
3450 Ocean Dr.

Boston Market ................................ 564-0485
1775 U.S. Highway 1

C.J. Cannon’s ................................. 567-7727
3414 Cherokee Dr.

Casey’s Place ................................. 231-4790
917 Azalea Lane

Chili’s Grill & Bar .......................... 564-9040
940 U.S. Highway 1

Chipotle Grill ................................. 907-0635
5855 20th St. #201

Chive ............................................ 492-9166
1785 Old Dixie Highway
8 Royal Palm Pointe ................. 999-5452

Citron Bistro .................................... 231-6556
6260 Hwy. A1A

Counter Culture .............................. 999-2150
1901 14th Ave.

Cracker Barrel ................................. 563-0066
9380 19th Lane

Dockside Grille ............................... 569-6865
41 Royal Palm Pointe

Einstein Bros Bagels ......................... 257-6039
1226 U.S. Hwy. 1

The Fishack ..................................... 770-0977
1931 Old Dixie Hwy.

Five Guys Burgers & Fries ................. 299-4355
1355 U.S. Highway 1

Hurricane Grill & Wings .................. 562-2226
1555 U.S. Highway 1

Joey’s Seafood Shack ....................... 918-8855
1800 U.S. Hwy. 1.

Killed Mermaid ................................ 569-5533
1937 Old Dixie Hwy.

Kountry Kitchen .............................. 567-6733
1749 Old Dixie Highway

La Tabla ......................................... 205-2772
29 Royal Palm Pointe

Lemon Tree ..................................... 231-0858
3125 Ocean Dr.

Lov Juice ........................................ 584-3956
518 21st St.

Mr. Manatee’s ................................. 569-9151
30 Royal Palm Pointe

Mrs. Mac’s Fillin’ Station ................ 564-8400
951 Old Dixie Highway

Mulligan’s Grille & Raw Bar ............ 492-6744
1025 Beachland Blvd.

Outback Steakhouse ....................... 226-0674
1475 U.S. Highway 1

Panera Bread .................................. 794-0188
2001 Indian River Blvd.

The Patio Seafood Tavern ............... 774-8232
1103 21st St.

Patisserie ....................................... 770-4122
1910 Old Dixie Hwy.

Quilted Giraffe ............................... 978-4242
500 U.S. Highway 1

Red Onion Eatery ............................ 564-0804
3727 10th Ct.
3001 Ocean Dr. #107 ............. 492-8881

Riverside Café ................................. 234-5550
3341 Bridge Plaza Dr.

Ruby Tuesday .................................. 569-6464
1825 58th Ave.

Seaside Grill at Jaycee Park ............ 231-1911
4200 Ocean Dr.

Shutters at Disney Resort ................. 234-2180
9250 Island Grove Terrace

Sonnny’s Real Pit Bar-B-Q ............... 770-4190
5001 20th St.

Southern Comfort Grill .................... 794-0567
642 21st St.

T.G.I. Friday’s ................................ 770-3170
6200 20th St., Indian River Mall

Tooley’s Gourmet Deli ..................... 569-6070
555 21st St.

Tropical Smoothie Café .................... 226-9988
1555 U.S. Highway 1

VB Sports Grill ............................... 563-9600
1902 U.S. Highway 1

Vinz ............................................. 224-1500
4885 Hwy. A1A

Waldo’s at The Driftwood Inn .......... 231-7091
3150 Ocean Dr.

Woody’s Bar B Q ............................. 581-5767
13600 U.S. Hwy. 1

ASIAN

Chef Lin ....................................... 778-6989
1850 U.S. Highway 1
THE OCEANSIDE BUSINESS DISTRICT, offers a variety of clothing stores, restaurants, salons, jewelers, galleries and unique boutiques adds to the carefree beach atmosphere. The district sponsors a free jazz concert on the second Saturday of every month, and a Saturday morning Farmers’ Market with fresh local produce.

THE VILLAGE SHOPS and PELICAN PLAZA are both on Highway A1A. The Village Shops is an enclave of boutiques, shaded by ancient oak trees. Pelican Plaza is a commercial center next to the Village Beach Market, with a range of shops that includes a barber shop, a computer consultant, a jeweler, a liquor store and a travel agency.

ROYAL PALM POINTE was once the mainland approach to the Barber Bridge and is now a destination for shopping, dining, boating, and professional services. The peninsula ends with a large park with an interactive fountain.

MIRACLE MILE is, in many ways, a hub of action in Vero Beach. Both Publix and Fresh Market grocery stores are found there, as well as several restaurants, clothing shops, and a bookstore for all ages.

MAIN STREET VERO BEACH was founded by a group of residents dedicated to the preservation of Vero Beach’s historic downtown. Based on 14th Avenue, the non-profit organization arranges a number of events throughout the year including “Downtown Friday” block parties and the annual Hibiscus Festival, which kicks off with the crowning of Miss. Hibiscus.

OUTLETS AT VERO BEACH are both located west of Vero Beach on Route 60. The anchor stores for the Indian River Mall are Dillard’s, JCPenney, Macy’s and Sears, with additional smaller shops, restaurants and a 24-plex movie theater. The Vero Beach Outlets features an impressive and growing collection of more than 60 leading designer and brand-name outlet stores, with products ranging from housewares to fashion.
LOCAL SCHOOLS

PUBLIC
Alternative Education Center ..... 564-6240
Beachland Elementary .............. 564-3300
Citrus Elementary .................. 978-8350
Dodgertown Elementary ............ 564-4100
Fellsmere Elementary .............. 564-5970
Freshman Learning Center ......... 564-5800
Gifford Middle ...................... 564-3550
Glendale Elementary ............... 978-8050
Highlands Elementary .............. 564-3390
Liberty Magnet Elementary ....... 564-5300
Osceola Magnet Elementary ....... 564-5821
Oslo Middle ......................... 564-3980
Pelican Island Elementary ......... 564-6500
Rosewood Magnet Elementary .... 564-3840
Sebastian Elementary .............. 978-8200
Sebastian River High ............... 564-4170
Sebastian River Middle ............ 564-5111
Storm Grove Middle School ........ 564-6400
Thompson Elementary .............. 564-3240
Treasure Coast Elementary ......... 978-8500
Vero Beach Elementary ............ 564-4550
Vero Beach High School ............ 564-5400
Wabasso Exceptional School ....... 978-8000

PRIVATE
Master’s Academy .................. 794-4655
Saint Edward’s......................
Lower School ....................... 231-5357
Middle School ..................... 231-4136
Upper School .................... 231-4136
Saint Helen Catholic School ....... 567-5552
Willow School ..................... 770-0758

CHARTER SCHOOLS
Imagine Schools at South Vero .... 567-2728
Indian River Academy ............. 564-3390
Indian River Charter High School 567-6500
North County Charter School .... 571-0153
Saint Peter’s Academy ............. 562-1963
Sebastian Charter Junior High .... 388-8838

EDUCATION
Kindergarten is required by the state of Florida and children must be 5 years old on September 1 to enroll. Many public elementary schools and three public high schools provide a broad spectrum of educational opportunities.

SAINT EDWARD’S SCHOOL, MASTER’S ACADEMY and SAINT HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL are the major private schools in the county. Saint Edward’s offers programs from Pre-K to 12th grade, as does Master’s Academy. Saint Helen offers programs from kindergarten to 8th grade.

At a college level, INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE provides schooling for over 40,000 residents (9,800 full-time). Two-year Associate degree programs, technical and vocational certification programs, and adult education are all offered.

MEDICAL RESOURCES
Indian River County’s medical community is based around two major medical facilities.

THE INDIAN RIVER MEDICAL CENTER, founded in 1932, is a fully accredited, 335-bed, not-for-profit facility offering in- and out-patient care. The 80-acre campus includes the In-
dian River Regional Cancer Center, the Center for Emotional & Behavioral Health, the Ambulatory Surgery Center, the non-denominational Post Chapel and Meditation Garden, and a Human Services building.

The Heart Center, in affiliation with the Duke University Health System, provides open-heart surgery, angioplasty and a full array of cardiac services. In 2009, the nation’s leading cardiothoracic surgery organization – the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) – awarded its highest quality achievement rating to the Heart Center, recognizing it as one of the top heart centers in the United States.

The SEBASTIAN RIVER MEDICAL CENTER, founded in 1974, is an accredited acute-care facility owned by Community Health Systems. The Center recently underwent a $25 million expansion that added 56 new private patient suites and a new 16-bed intensive care unit. Additional on-site services offered are open Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), mammography, nuclear medicine, spiral CT scanning, and ultrasound with color vascular capabilities.

Vero Beach and Indian River County also offer a wide range of assisted living and physical rehabilitation facilities, as well as the VNA Hospice House for patients facing life-limiting illnesses.

More than 150 physicians are available, representing all medical specialties. For further information, please call the Indian River Medical Society at 562-0123 or visit www.ircms.org.
Visiting Vero Beach: Hotels & Airports

The number of hotels in Vero Beach has grown dramatically in the last several years due to increased demand. The five largest hotels are listed below.

**COSTA D’ESTE RESORT** (www.costadeste.com), owned by famous Cuban-American singer Gloria Estefan and her husband, Emilio, is an oceanfront hotel offering 94 guest rooms and suites, a restaurant and bar, and spa and fitness center. Other attractions include an infinity-edge pool and participation in such area activities as kayaking, biking, scuba diving, boating, fishing and surfing.

**HAMPTON INN & SUITES VERO BEACH DOWNTOWN** (www.hilton.com/search/hp/us/fl/vero_beach), is located in the Miracle Mile shopping district, a short drive to the beach, hospital and the Vero Beach Airport. This new hotel has 90 spacious guest rooms and studio suites, including accessible rooms, a health and fitness center, pool and free hot breakfast.

**HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES OCEANSIDE** (www.holidayinn.com), is located on Ocean Drive in the center of the boutique shopping district. This oceanfront hotel has 104 rooms, 16 suites, a health and fitness center, pool and a casual restaurant, Mulligan’s.

**SPRINGHILL SUITES** is the most recent addition to the local hotel scene, located on the mainland near the Indian River Medical Center and Grand Harbor. A member of Marriott’s popular chain, the hotel offers 83 suites on three floors. All the usual Marriott amenities are provided, including complimentary breakfast, a business center, and complimentary internet access.

**VERO BEACH HOTEL & SPA** (www.verobeachhotelandspa.com), just north of the Holiday Inn Oceanside, offers an attractive West Indies-style layout with 113 rooms and suites. One-, two- and three-bedroom suites are also available as long-term vacation rentals.

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**ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** (www.orlandoairports.net)

Orlando International Airport offers the most airlines to and from Florida, including Aer Lingus, AeroMexico, Air Canada, Air Jamaica, AirTran, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Bahamasair, British Airways, Continental, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Lufthansa, Mexicana, Miami Air, Southwest, United, US Airways and Virgin Atlantic, among many others. Orlando International also provides Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, L&M Car Rental and National on the airport’s property. Accessible Minivan Rental, Anchor Auto Rental, Carl’s Rent A Van, Eagle, Enterprise, E-Z Rent-A-Car, FLOMCO/Payless Car Rental, Florida Continental, Hertz, Orlando Rental Car, Thrifty, USA Car Rental, U-Save
Auto Rental and Velco Rentacar provide shuttle services from the terminal. The airport is equipped with a food court, many restaurants and the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

**Palm Beach International Airport**
(www.pbia.org)

An hour-and-a-half drive south of Vero Beach, PBIA also hosts many airlines, including Air Canada, AirTran, American Airlines, Bahamasair, ComAir/Delta Connection, Continental, Continental Connection, Delta, Gulfstream, JetBlue, Northwest, Southwest, US Airways and US Airways Express.

Private ground transportation to and from the airport can be arranged through a variety of local limousine services. Public transportation is provided by Amtrak, Imperial Transportation PBC Inc., Palm Tran, Supershuttle, and Tri-Rail, as well as the shuttles provided by many local hotels.

Car rental service is available through Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz and National.

**Melbourne International Airport**
(www.mlhair.com)

Melbourne International Airport offers Delta Air Lines and Delta Connection non-stop jet service to Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, with links to over 500 destinations daily in 94 countries. Charter airlines fly to the Bahamas daily.

The airport is equipped with eight gates and seven jetways, currently services over 400,000 passengers a year and is designed to accommodate up to 2 million. It features a restaurant, wireless internet access, snack bar, electronic flight information, a gift shop, game room, ATM machine, CNN TV, and a visitor information desk.

Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz and National car rentals are available. There is also a Greyhound bus station in the terminal, as well as transit bus service, taxis, limos, shuttle vans and charter buses.

**Vero Beach Municipal Airport**

Vero Beach Municipal Airport is even closer to home, welcoming a regular flow of private and corporate aircraft to its runways with fuel, van service, snooze rooms and passenger/crew lounges.

Carved out of a vast World War II Naval Air Base, the airport is also known for two firms with large premises on its perimeter: Piper Aircraft and FlightSafety Academy. One of the largest pilot-training companies in the world, FlightSafety was founded in 1951 by Vero Beach-based resident Albert Ueltschi.

Helping to keep Vero Beach one of the busiest municipal airports in Florida are several charter flight companies offering trips to the Bahamas, the Florida Keys and beyond.
In addition to Vero Beach’s regular schedule of theatre performances, weekly farmers’ markets, symphonies, operas, polo matches and art shows, the community has a full calendar of special events. The list below is a general outline of some of these events by month – for more details consult www.culturalcalendar.org or the organization directly.

**JANUARY**

**Annual Benefit.** St. Helen Catholic School. www.sthelenvero.org

**Antiques Show & Sale.** Vero Beach Museum of Art. www.vmuseum.org

**Art by the Sea.** Vero Beach Art Club. www.verobeachartclub.org

**Coin & Currency Show.** Treasure Coast Coin Club. www.treasurecoastcoinclub.com

**Have a Heart, Play Bridge for the Children.** Children’s Home Society. www.chill.org

**King of the Hill Tennis Tournament.** Youth Guidance. www.iycyouth.com

**Patriots 5K Run/Walk & Funfest.** Master’s Academy. www.mastersvb.org

**Quail Valley Charity Cup.** Quail Valley Charities. 492-2020

**Supper Club.** Riverside Theatre. www.riversidetheatre.com

**Valentines For Heroes.** Military Moms Prayer Group. www.militarymomsprayergroup.com

**Vero’s Top Chef Challenge Qualifying Event.** Homeless Family Center. www.homelessfamilycenter.com

**FEBRUARY**

**Annual Benefit.** Vero Beach Museum of Art. www.vmuseum.org

**Annual Benefit.** Vero Beach Opera. www.verobeachopera.com

**Annual Fashion Show.** Saint Edward’s School. www.steds.org

**Art Show & Sale.** Sebastian River Art Club. www.sebastianriverartclub.org

**Bridge Luncheon.** Grand Harbor Outreach. 562-8840.

**Children’s Cup Polo Match.** Childcare Resources and Homeless Family Center. www.childcareresourcesir.org; www.homelessfamilycenter.com

**Citrus Golf Tournament.** United Way. www.unitedwayirc.org

**Dancing with Vero’s Stars: Prelude.** IRC Healthy Start Coalition. www.ishealthyart.org

**Gardenfest!** Garden Club of IRC. www.gardenclubofirc.org

**Golf Classic/Hab-A-Cocktail.** Habitat For Humanity. www.irchabitat.org

**King of the Hill Tennis Tournament.** Youth Guidance. www.iycyouth.com

**Pony Up for Special Equestrians.** Special Equestrians. www.special-equestrians.org

**Premier Benefit.** Riverside Theatre. www.riversidetheatre.com

**Pro-Tennis Exhibition Series.** Indian River Tennis Foundation. www.irtleague.com

**Rock & Gem Show.** The Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society. 770-0005.

**Stomping The Divots Gala.** Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. www.cff.org

**Vero’s Top Chef Challenge.** Homeless Family Center. www.homelessfamilycenter.com

**Tie-Bration.** Dollars For Scholars. www.dfsindianriver.org

**Wine & Dine.** Hibiscus Children’s Center. www.hibiscuschildrencenter.org

**MARCH**

**Alzheimer’s Caregiver Conference.** Alzheimer & Parkinson Assn. of IRC. www.alzpark.org

**Angels Help Our Kids Take Flight Annual Dinner.** Boys & Girls Clubs. www.bgirc.org

**Annual Gala.** American Cancer Society. www.cancer.org

**Annual Benefit.** Riverside Theatre. www.riversidetheatre.com

**Art In Bloom Luncheon.** Vero Beach Museum of Art. www.vmuseum.org

**Bingo Lunch.** Senior Resource Association. www.seniorresourceassociation.org

**Cause for Paws.** Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County. www.hsve.org

**Cocktails With A Twist.** Planned Parenthood. www.plannedparenthood.org

**Color Me Rad 5K.** Senior Resource Association. www.ircoa.org

**EcoFest: Our Own Backyard.** Environmental Learning Center. www.discoverelc.org

**Firefighters Fair.** Indian River County Firefighters. www.firefighterisfl.org

**Flower Show.** Garden Club of IRC. www.gardenclubofirc.org

**Goby Fest Nature Festival.** Coastal Preserves Alliance. www.rbpd.com/rpc/pca/

**Habitat Cracker Hoedown.** Habitat For Humanity. www.irchabitat.org

**Home Is Where The Heart Is.** Samaritan Center. www.samaritancenter.org

**March For Babies.** March of Dimes. www.marchforbabies.org

**Pelican Island Wildlife Festival.** Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. www.fws.gov/pelicanisland

**Saint Edward’s Trunk Show.** Saint Edward’s School. www.steds.org

**Thank You Celebration.** United Way of IRC. www.unitedwayirc.org

**Touch A Truck Family Fest.** Childcare Resources. www.childcareresourcesir.org

**Tour of Homes.** Junior League of Indian River. www.jlir.org

**Under the Oaks.** Vero Beach Art Club. www.verobeachartclub.org

**Walk for Life.** Care Net Pregnancy Center. www.carenetirc.org

**Women’s Luncheon & Physician Symposium.** Women’s Refuge. www.womensrefugevb.org

**APRIL**

**Annual Benefit.** Beachland Elementary School. www.indianriverschools.org/beachland

**Annual Benefit.** Saint Edward’s School. www.steds.org

**Annual Charity Shoot.** Education Foundation. www.edfounditionirc.org

**Annual Golf Tournament.** Big Brothers Big Sisters of IRC. www.bbbsirgi.org

**Annual Orchid Show.** Vero Beach Orchid Society. www.verobeachorchidssociety.org

**Art Show & Sale.** Sebastian River Art Club. www.sebastianriverartclub.org

**Blue Ribbon Luncheon.** Hibiscus Children’s Center. www.hibiscuschildrencenter.org

**Children’s Art Festival.** Vero Beach Museum of Art. www.vmuseum.org

**Duplicate Bridge Charity Tournament.** Women’s Refuge. www.womensrefugevb.org

**Fairy Festival.** McKee Botanical Garden. www.mckeebotanicalgarden.org

**Golf Tournament Benefit.** Holy Cross Catholic Church. www.holycrossverobeach.org

**Golf Tournament.** Abilities Resource Center. www.arcir.org

**Habitat Trot to Higher Education 5K Run/Walk.** Habitat For Humanity. www.irchabitat.org
**Society.**

**American Cancer Relay for Life.**

www.marchofdimes.com

March for Babies. March of Dimes.

www.marchofdimes.com

**Relays for Life. American Cancer Society.** www.relayforlife.org/

Indianriverfl

**Spring Swing Golf Tournament. SunUp ARC.** www.sunupforir.org

**MAY**

Bernard & Betty Egan Memorial Golf Tournament. Samaritan Center.

www.samaritancenter vero.org

Blessing of the Animals. Humane Society of Vero Beach & IRC.

www.hsvb.org


Dancing with Vera’s Stars. IRC Healthy Start Coalition. www.irchealthystartm.org


May Pops. Indian River Medical Center Foundation. www.maypopsinvero.com

Mother’s Day at McKee. McKee Botanical Garden. www.mckeegarden.org

Pioneer Dinner. Vero Heritage Inc. www.veroheritage.org

Spring Fiestas. Riverside Children’s Theatre. www.riversidetheatre.com


Treasure Coast Gator Toast. Treasure Coast Gator Club. www.tcgatorclub.com


**JUNE**


Bounce-Tacular Family Fun Day. The Samaritan Center. www.samaritancentervero.org

Genie Awards Gala. Vero Beach Theatre Guild. www.verotheatre.com

Offshore Big 3 Fishing Tournament. Hibiscus Children’s Center. www.hibiscuschildrencenter.org

Water Lily Celebration. McKee Botanical Garden. www.mckeegarden.org

Youth FunShop. Vero Beach Museum of Art. www.vbmuseum.org

**JULY**

Compe to Defeat Drug Abuse 5K Run/Walk. Substance Awareness Council. www.saicrc.org

Vero’s 4th Of July Fireworks. Vero Beach Recreation Department. www.vcovb.org

**AUGUST**

Back to School Bash. Gifford Youth Activity Center. www.gyac.cc

School Supply Drive. Education Foundation of IRC. www.edfoundationirc.org

**SEPTEMBER**

Candlelight Vigil. Treasure Coast Ovarian Cancer Alliance. 231-0432

Community Leaders Breakfast & Spirit of IRC Awards. United Way of Indian River County. www.unitedwayirc.org

Day Of Caring. United Way of IRC. www.unitedwayirc.org

**OCTOBER**

Angels Holiday Gift Drive. Guardian ad Litem. www.guardianadlitem.org


Bowl To Build. Habitat for Humanity. www.irchabitat.org

Community Appreciation Day. McKee Botanical Garden. www.mckeegarden.org


Football Classic. Scholarship Foundation. www.slidinriver.org

Golf Tournament. Women’s Refuge of Vero Beach. www.womensrefugevb.org


**NOVEMBER**


Patric Classic Golf Tournament. Master’s Academy. www.mastersvb.org

**DECEMBER**

**An Evening of Hope Benefit. Daise Bridgewater Hope Center.**

www.dasehope.org

**Annual Campaign Kickoff. United Way of Indian River County.**

www.unitedwayirc.org

**Annual Dinner. Homeless Family Center.**

www.homelessfamilycenter.com

**Annual Benefit. Education Foundation of IRC.**

www.edfoundationirc.org

**Annual Fundraiser. Big Brothers Big Sisters. www.bbbsbigsis.org**

**Celebrate Land Water Wildlife. Indian River Land Trust.**

www.indianriverlandtrust.org

**Chairman’s Club Dinners. Vero Beach Museum of Art.**

www.vbmuseum.org

**Charity Golf Tournament. Environmental Learning Center.**

www.discoverelc.org

**Festival of Trees. Riverside Children’s Theatre.**

www.riversidetheatre.com

**Friends Fall Luncheon. Riverside Theatre.**

www.riversidetheatre.com

**Harvest Festival. St. Helen Catholic Church.**

www.sthelencatholic.org

**Holidays For Heroes. Military Moms Prayer Group.**

567-6513

**Impact 100 Kick-Off Breakfast.**

www.impact100ir.org

**King of the Hill Masters Tennis Tournament. Youth Guidance.**

www.ircoyt.com

**National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week.**

Homeless Family Center. www.homelessfamilycenter.com

**National Philanthropy Day Awards.**

Association of Fundraising Professionals. www.mpaturecoast.org

**Photos with Santa Paws. Humane Society of Vero Beach and IRC.**

www.hsvb.org

**Pro Am Golf Tournament. Boys & Girls Clubs of IRC.**

www.bgirc.org

**Santas’ Forest Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale.**

Exchange Club of Vero Beach. www.santasforest.org

**Signature Chef’s Auction & Wine Extravaganza.**

March of Dimes. www.marchofdimes.com

**Soup Bowl.**

Samaritan Center. www.samaritancentervero.org

**Trot Against Hunger.**

Harvest Food & Outreach Center. www.harvestfoodoutreach.org

**Walk to Remember.**


**ANNUAL BENEFIT.**

**Annual Benefit.**

Hibiscus Children’s Center. www.hibiscuschildrencenter.org

**Annual Photographic Print Exhibition.**

Indian River Photo Club. www.irphotoclub.org

**Art Trail.**

Vero Beach Art Club. Tour of artists’ studios. www.veroartclub.org

**Boat Parade & Tree Lighting.**

Vero Beach Recreation Department. www.vcovb.org

**Christmas at the Hallstrom Farmstead.**

The Indian River County Historical Society. www.irchistorical.org

**Christmas at the Museum.**

Vero Beach Museum of Art. www.verobeachmuseum.org

**Christmas Parade on Ocean Drive.**

Indian River County Recreation Department. www.icrec.com

**Holidays At McKee.**

McKee Botanical Garden. www.mckeegarden.org

**Holiday Bazaar.**

Sunshine Physical Therapy Center. www.sunshinept.com

**Moore’s Clambake.**

Moorings Club Boat Parade. www.sunshinept.com

**Rudolph Run.**

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. www.lls.org

**Swing for Health Golf Classic.**

Indian River Medical Center Foundation. www.irmc.cc
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The Best In The Business!

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**Important Information**

**LICENSE PLATES, TITLE & VEHICLE REGISTRATION**
License plates, titles and registrations are issued from the Tax Collector’s Office in the County Administration Building. The registration fee is approximately $185 per vehicle. 226-1338

**DRIVER’S LICENSES**
New residents must obtain a Florida driver’s license within 30 days. For an appointment call one to two weeks in advance or make an online appointment at www.gathergoget.com. Florida vehicle registration and license plates are required before a new license will be issued. 226-1338

**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE**
All private passenger motor vehicles registered and licensed in Florida, and vehicles of non-residents that have been physically in Florida for more than 90 days, must carry property damage liability and personal injury protection insurance, according to Florida state law.

**HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES**
The Tax Collector’s Office also issues hunting and fishing licenses. Pet licenses, required by Indian River County, must show proof of annual rabies vaccination. 226-1338

**VOTER REGISTRATION**
Voter Registration is available at the Supervisor of Elections Main or Branch Office. You must be a U.S. citizen, over 18 years old and a permanent resident of the county. 226-3440

**INHERITANCE, STATE & GIFT TAXES**
In Florida there is no state inheritance tax, no income tax, and no lifetime gift tax.

**REAL ESTATE TAX & HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**
Property owners are assessed ad valorem (based on value) and non-ad valorem taxes by county, city, school districts and special districts. A Homestead Exemption, currently $50,000, is available for homeowners who are permanent residents and who own or reside on the property as of January 1 of the tax year. Exemptions are also available for widows and disabled individuals.

**SALES TAX**
Total sales tax is 7%. State sales tax is 6%, excluding medicines, medical services and most food products. Indian River County levies an additional 1% sales tax.

**TANGIBLE TAX**
Business property, furniture, fixtures in rental units and other physical property are subject to an ad valorem tangible tax, based on the same rates as real estate.

**INTANGIBLE TAX**
Stocks, bonds and other securities are taxed by the Florida Department of Revenue in Tallahassee.

**DOCUMENTARY TAX**
Certain documents, such as the records of mortgages and deeds, are subject to a State Documentary Tax. Mortgages are also subject to intangible tax.