

October 10, 2010  
Sunday

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT Tallahassee.com

HomeFinder.com

apartments.com

# Real Estate

Weekly

Serving Tallahassee, Leon County & the surrounding areas



## Give Lakeshore a closer look

*You can admire Lake Jackson from a kayak, canoe or boat, or from a home along winding Lakeshore Drive, one of the most scenic streets around. For more on the area, see the story on Page 2.*

Lake Jackson offers yet another view of the scenic waterfront area and the homes along Lakeshore Drive. Realtors have a number of open houses in the neighborhood this afternoon.

Special to Real Estate Weekly



# Lakeshore's scenic and convenient

By **Christie Orros**  
SPECIAL TO REAL ESTATE WEEKLY

Recently, my husband and I met for an early dinner after work at a popular North Monroe Street restaurant. After dinner, we took off in our separate cars, but I made it to our Rhoden Cove area home a few minutes before Nick did. "What took you so long?" I asked.

"The weather was too nice not to take the Lakeshore route," he said with a smile.

As many Tallahasseans will attest, the Lakeshore Drive area is one of the prettiest to drive through and one of the best areas to live in town, with those dramatic hills circling beautiful Lake Jackson.

Lucky Lakeshore residents are greeted with everyday scenery surprisingly different than most local landscapes. My husband says it reminds him of the hills of northern New Jersey where he grew up.

A buyer I'm working with recently decided to trade her well-appointed, new eastside house on a flat, cleared yard for a 1970s house in Lakeshore full of character and surrounded by trees. Why? Because Lakeshore Drive reminds her of her native New England.

The location is not

only pleasant to look at, but a breeze to commute to and from. It's a quick zip from the Lakeshore neighborhoods to the FSU/downtown vicinity and an easy trek to popular northeastern shopping areas.

See it for yourself this afternoon as several local Realtors team up to host a tour of open houses in the Lakeshore Drive area. (For details on the open-house event, see the advertisement on Page 11.)

There is something for everyone on these hills. Cottage-like garden homes can be found in Terre Bonne and Hunter's Crossing. Huge houses, older and newer, hidden down winding driveways can be found along the banks of the lake.

Sturdy, 1960s classic brick ranch houses line such streets as Robinhood and Sharer.

Houses with a contemporary flair built in the 1980s can be found in Linene Woods and Brandon Woods.

Boaters in Lake Jackson are dazzled by the steep bluffs dotted with century oaks along Lakeshore Drive that plunge down to the water. This topography makes for some amazing views from hous-

## LAKE

From Page 2

es atop these bluffs. A buyer I showed a Lakeshore Drive house to seven years ago called the water view from the back porch "intoxicating."

Unless you stare at an 8-by-8-foot wall map of Leon County every day like most Realtors, you may not notice how unusually curvy the path of Lakeshore Drive is compared to most other local roads.

Realtor Don Pickett, a resident of the Lakeshore area since 1977, has an idea why that is.

"Over a half century ago, landowners had virtually no usage restrictions for their property," he said. "Local legend has it that Harry Middlebrooks, who owned a plat of land that stretched from present-day Waverly Hills to Lake Jackson, decided he wanted to create a scenic lakeside road on his homestead. He wanted to take advantage of every hillcrest and water view, so he directed a bulldozer himself to carve out



This home at 3533 Lakeshore Drive and its surroundings, shown at left and below, capture the flavor of the scenic neighborhood and the winding street that overlooks Lake Jackson.

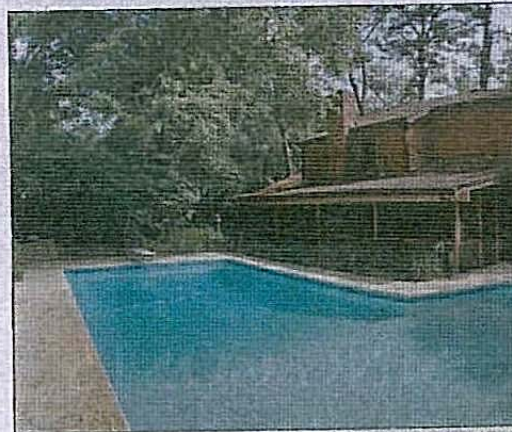
Special to Real Estate Weekly

the many curves and turns of what is now the meandering borders of Lakeshore Drive."

Pickett was able to trace the ownership of the land back even further than the Middlebrooks family's ownership.

The original 33-year-old abstract of title for his house shows many interesting things about the Lakeshore area, including the fact it was originally owned by a native of Scotland in 1907 who resided on the property and bequeathed it to his children.

■ Realtor Christie Orros is an agent with Coldwell Banker Hartung & Noblin and a Tallahassee native. Contact her at tallyagent@yahoo.com.



Special to Real Estate Weekly

WHEN IT COMES TO

# OUTSTANDING

ARE THEIR

## SIGNUP & GETAWAY

Sign a contract to build before Oct. 31st and receive a free getaway to New York, Las Vegas, Disney or the Caribbean!

Getaway redeemed after house closing.

**FOUNDATION OF NORTH FLORIDA**

Build Your Future

WWW.FOUNDATION-H