

Happy Holidays!

Big changes for the Morrises this year! After commuting back and forth frequently for the past 3 years, we finally made Fernandina Beach, Florida our home.

Free 'lighthouse' still available

MICHAEL MILLER
News Leader

Less than a mile south of Main Beach sits a green-trimmed lighthouse as close to the beach that no walkover is needed to dip your toes in the ocean.

Vernally anyone who has been on the stretch of South Fletcher Avenue between Main Beach and Stadler Road since 2000 has likely noticed the landmark. It's hard to miss.

The building won't be there too much longer, though. Because of the height of the building, the electric lines that criss-cross over South Fletcher Avenue would have to be disconnected and reconnected as the structure slowly crawls down the road, he said, adding that each line

The pair posted their offer on Facebook page in December and said

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One interested party suggested that he could move the building without the hassle by putting it on a large and shipping it to a new home near St. Augustine, according to Charles.

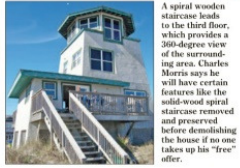
So far, though, nobody who has contacted the couple has followed through, leaving them faced with the prospect of demolishing the structure so they can continue with their plans to build a dream home on the lot later this year.

If that happens, the couple said they will have certain features of the building, such as the solid wood spiral staircase that leads to the 360-degree-view third floor, removed and preserved.

Jaco Beasor Investments, a Georgia company headed by James Green, built the structure in the fall of 1999 as a vacation rental, and the number "Green's Light" has adorned the front of the building ever since.

Charles and Betty Jo, both employees of Delta Airlines, lived in the outskirts of Atlanta before relocating to Fernandina Beach, where many of their airline co-workers congregate.

The couple can be reached on Facebook as "bjmorrise" or by calling (404) 429-7399.



A spiral wooden staircase leads to the third floor, which provides a 360-degree view of the surrounding area. Charles Morris says he will have certain features like the solid-wood spiral staircase removed and preserved before demolishing the house if no one takes up his "free" offer.



We celebrated the New Year at our Lighthouse (the property we plan to demolish to build our dream home). We offered to donate the lighthouse structure to anyone who could move it off the lot. We got lots of attention and we appeared on the local news a couple of times. In the end no one was able to justify the cost of moving it, so in January 2018, it is slated to come down. We got lots of questions about why we didn't want to live in the lighthouse. The answer is that it was built to be a rental and although it has a very unique look, the space inside is not very usable. The closets only hold a week's worth of clothes and the bathrooms are cramped. Building codes won't let us expand it because it is so tall.

We sold our Smyrna home in September after living there for 27 years! We had one contract that fell through but the second one closed and we had 2 weeks to pack and move our stuff – a rather harrowing experience. We sold lots of things on Craigslist, donated several vanloads and took a few trips to the dump. We bought another small 2-bedroom condo in Smyrna in February to keep as our Atlanta home base. We outfitted the condo and packed what was left into the one-car garage to keep until our house is built in Florida. We tell folks we're playing real-life Monopoly.

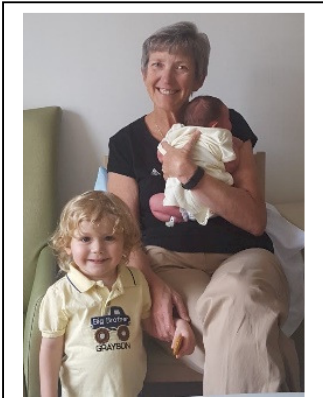
We didn't do as much traveling as usual this year. We think it is because we live in paradise and it is hard to leave. We are loving Fernandina Beach! We have a very

active social life here with old and new friends. We walk 2 miles on the beach at sunrise every morning with Lucy and some of our other dog loving friends. Lola sometimes enjoys a leisurely walk on the beach at dusk. We love riding bicycles to the market and along the tree-lined bike paths. Our Atlanta/Delta family in Fernandina Beach just keeps growing. There are about 10 of us now!

We've had a lot of visitors! They say you don't know how many friends you have until you move to the beach. Friends Bobby & Wendy were with us for New Years, then Tony's brother Tim & wife Barbara came later in January. Friends Angel & Anna came in March. Tony's brother Terry came in April. BJ's sister Mary Jane, husband Robert, friends Johnny, Lisa, David, Marilyn & Gary came in May. We got a surprise June visit from friends Tom & Christina. BJ's college roommate Joyce came in June followed by our German daughter Carina, husband Brian and precious grandbabies Grayson and Ellis. July brought Delta friends Bob, Karla, John, Tina, Marily and Ricky. Nephew Jared came for a visit in August. In September, David and Marilyn joined us again. Mary Jane and Robert came back in November.

BJ went on the Royal Caribbean Country Music Cruise in January from Tampa to Key West & Cozumel with her college buddy Beth. The performances were amazing. Beth & BJ didn't miss a single concert and there was one almost every hour of the day.

We flew to Raleigh in February to celebrate our great nephew Jack's 4th birthday and then BJ went back in March to see our new great niece Millie. There were several trips to Atlanta in March for bridal and baby showers, a poker tournament and brunch with friends. BJ flew to New York City to see a play with our friend Terri whose niece was the star.



Beautiful Baby Ellis was born on April 10! Grayson is a proud and loving big brother!

BJ, her sister Mary Jane and friend Angel attended a machine embroidery conference in Atlanta in April. The timing was perfect since that meant BJ was in town for the birth of our second German grandchild.

Our sweet niece Lauren got married in May at a winery in Dahlonega. We stayed at our friend Brian's house in Cleveland so we'd be close to the festivities. We were back in Fernandina Beach for Shrimp Fest.

August was a month for celebration! BJ had her final visit with the oncologist and is happy to be 5 years cancer free!

While we were in Smyrna in September packing up our house, Hurricane Irma came to visit Fernandina and the lighthouse. The back doors blew open and left the place in disarray with sheetrock and insulation strewn about.

Our German kids, Tim & Vivi were the first to visit us in our new condo in Smyrna in September. We went to Rock City

for Carina's German mom's birthday in October with Carina, Brian, Grayson, Ellis, Tim, Vivi, Denise & German visitors Christine, Bernd, Sandra & Senad. BJ made her annual trek to the Delta Women's Golf Tournament at the Reunion resort in Orlando.

Our one and only trip across the pond this year was in November. Five of us flew to Frankfurt, took a train to Rudesheim, a boat to St. Goar, a train to Cologne, a train to Dusseldorf and a taxi back to the airport all in 3 days so we could be back in Fernandina Beach for "Friendsgiving"!

It's been a busy year for us! We've flown the Atlanta-Jacksonville route 20 times plus a few driving trips and we're not done yet. We'll be very glad to get our house built next year. There's a lot of "togetherness" in our little 800 square foot condo. We expect to start building in January and hope to be finished by Christmas next year!

Hope you've had a wonderful year as well and that you made lots of memories!



We celebrated our 30th anniversary with a mock wedding on the beach!



BJ and Tony 