

Profile

Kay Clarke: Family Roots Run Deep



By **LINDSEY ADKISON**
The Brunswick News

Kay Clarke's family roots run deep in Brunswick. A native of the Golden Isles, she understands this area well.

"I grew up here and attended grammar school, junior high at Glynn Middle and graduated from Glynn Academy in 1965," she said.

"I was captain of the cheerleaders, as well as captain in the Pirates of the Spanish Main, which was initially started by Howard Coffin, founder of the Sea Island Resort."

It is this special relationship and love of her hometown that has made Clarke such a success in the real estate business.

"It really has a magical quality. There is just a feeling of peace and tranquility," she said.

As a property manager with Cantrell Properties on St. Simons Island, Clarke is responsible for a number of tasks, but she works primarily with those who are visiting Brunswick and the Golden Isles. She assists clients who want rent a vacation home and property owners looking to rent properties.

"It's a wonderful thing," Clarke said. "You're so involved in every aspect. From taking care of guests to taking care of properties. I enjoy wearing those different hats."

Clarke says she enjoys working with a number of different clients, each one having a specific and unique need.

"I have tenants on yearlong leases and visitors who stay for months during the winter. And we're so glad to have them here, our 'snow birds' as we lovingly refer to them," she said.

After working in the industry for more than 20 years,

Clarke says that she has noticed many changes. For example, she's seen a difference in the types of customers as well as their needs.

"Both guests and visitors are different in terms of family dynamic than 20 years ago. Before, grandparents, parents and kids wanted a big beach house. Now there is much more of an emphasis on amenities like tennis and swimming," she said.

Another thing Clarke has noticed is that her customers enjoy bringing furry friends along.

"I've seen more and more people who want to travel with their pets. So I encourage my property owners to be pet friendly."

But Clarke she says she can understand. An animal lover herself, she has three "beautiful dogs," Charlie, Penny and Cheyenne.

In addition to the four-legged members of her family, Clarke also is married with a son and daughter-in-law, Zach and Lisa. She also has two grandchildren, Taylor and Patrick.

When she's not with her family, Clarke says she enjoys going to the beach and boating. And she is also involved with local gardening as a member of the Cherokee Garden Club and St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs.

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