

St. Augustine welcomes new wedding, event venue

Leigh Cort

Special to The Recorder

St. Augustine has enjoyed centuries of being one of the most romantic historic cities in America. One can't take a drive or a stroll along the brick-paved streets without watching people holding hands, stealing a kiss — even hiding under a blanket in one of the pristine horse and carriages. Stories abound that tie its history to authenticity of the architecture, landmarks, cathedrals and famous people who put their mark on the beauty that is still revealed in today's city 'scene'.

Brenda Bushell and husband Tony put their own thumbprint on St. Augustine when they owned the historic Casablanca Inn on the Bayfront nearly 15 years ago. When she learned that she might be able to once again bring another vintage venue that oozed glamour and romance to locals and visitors, she chose to create The Treasury on the Plaza.

St. Augustine welcomes The Treasury on the Plaza — a grand wedding and event venue. Rich in heritage and located at one of the most prestigious addresses in America's Oldest City, The Treasury on the Plaza opens early spring in the heart of St. Augustine across from the Plaza de la Constitución and next to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.

Since 1928, the towering venue served as St. Augustine's landmark bank on Cathedral Place. The newly designed Treasury on the Plaza embraces its past from the "Roaring 20s" yet looks toward a new, celebratory era as a refined destination for dramatic wedding receptions, gala events, business functions and distinctive private parties.

Located in St. Augustine's first and only skyscraper, the six-story building and its mezzanine originally went under construction in 1927, the same year as the opening of St. Augustine's famed Bridge of Lions.

Now, nearing a century-long pedigree, it is listed as a 'significant element' in historic St. Augustine on The National Register of Historic Places, in honor of both its architectural and historical significance to Northeast Florida. Opened as the First National Bank building in 1928, the building held St. Augustine's premier bank in the downtown historic district. A decade later, the building became The Exchange Bank in 1939 and has also been known as The Espinoza-Sanchez and the Atlantic Bank Building.

This Mediterranean revival building typifies the glamour of the 1920s and its soaring freestanding columns bring grandeur and sophistication to the Grande Ballroom. Throughout its history, The Treasury on the Plaza served



Provided by Leigh Cort

The Treasury on the Plaza is housed in St. Augustine's landmark bank on Cathedral Plaza and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

as a space for art and cultural exhibits, historical shows, community gatherings and a symbol of prosperity for the City. Now it opens as a grand destination for romance and special occasions to guests who will enjoy being a part of its continued place in history.

Defining the Space

With approximately 6000 sq. ft. of space that can accommodate 350+ for seated banquets in the Grande Ballroom and 500 for standing functions throughout, The Treasury on the Plaza offers:

- The Grande Ballroom
- The Vault Bar
- The Bankers Lounge
- The Exchange Gallery
- The Plaza Lounge
- On-Site Parking

Imagine the restored Grande Ballroom with eight towering columns, marble floors, and luxurious architectural details soaring overhead to the vaulted ceiling.

Naming the Treasury

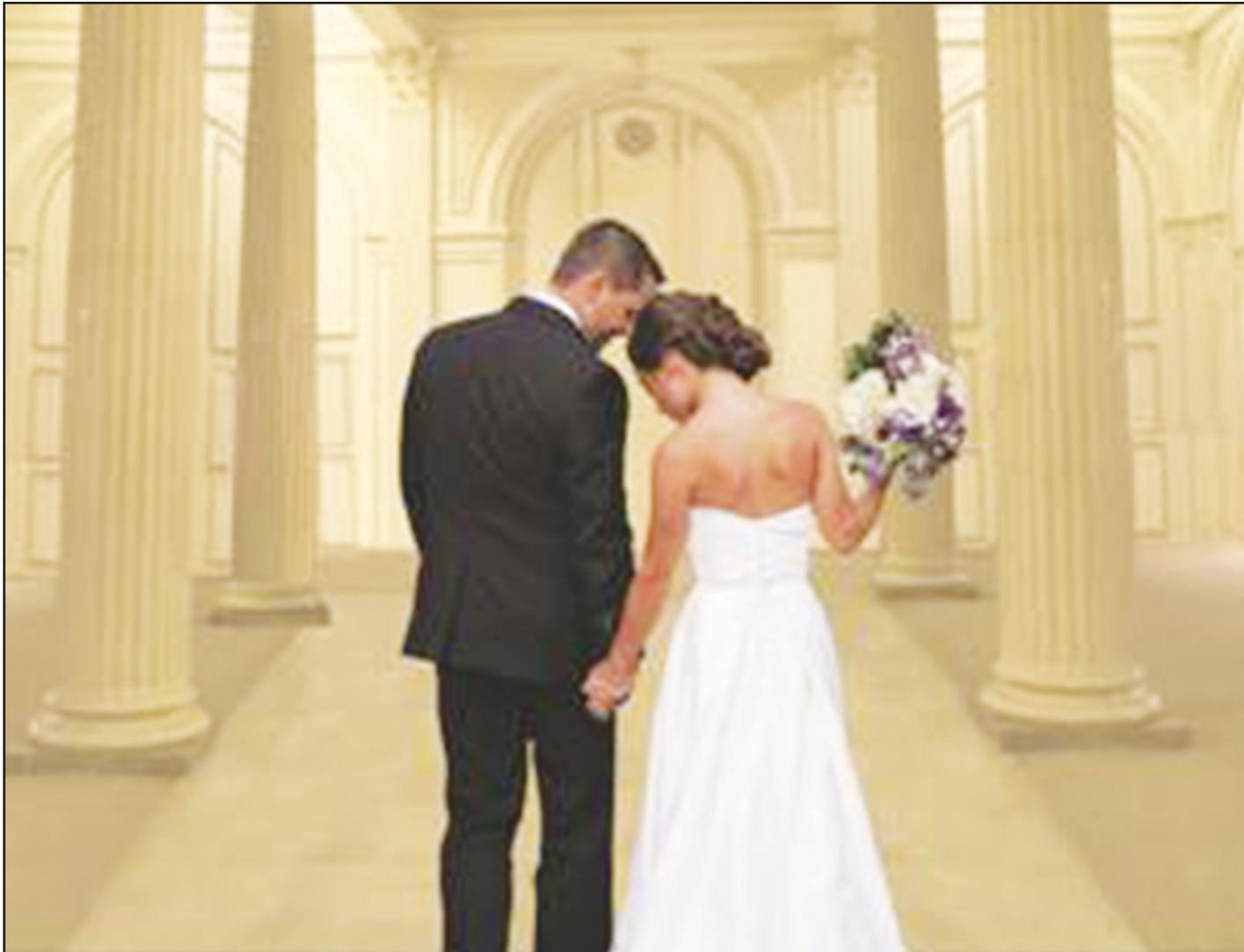
Naming "The Treasury" was clear. It represents both the history of bank-

Treasury on the Plaza

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ing in the building and the 'treasury' of love, as many newlyweds will come together to celebrate their union. The Treasury's logo features two keys crossed over one another in the universal symbol of love.

Brenda Bushell, a partner in the



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The Treasury is envisioned as an elegant, historically-informed wedding venue for the popular St. Augustine destination.

New role a natural for Casablanca owner



An alumna of Florida International University, Brenda A. Bushell combines her successful hospitality career as owner of the award-winning Casablanca Inn in St. Augustine, Florida with twenty years of creative sports consulting, sponsorships and broadcasting. Clients include Dallas Cowboys, New England Patriots, Jacksonville Jaguars and Miami Dolphins, USFL, Mike Ditka, ESPN, ROLEX and more. As President of Legacy Events & Entertainment, she blends her building, construction and design with unparalleled marketing expertise, creating one of Florida's premier event venues at Treasury on the Plaza.

Treasury

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new venture comments “The renovation of what many St. Augustinians still call The Exchange Bank Building adds another jewel to the historic district and the business area surrounding the Plaza. In addition to its core mission as a commercial wedding and event destination, The Treasury on the Plaza will also serve as a meeting place for events in the St. Augustine community, including the Cathedral Basilica next door and the City of St. Augustine”.

“It is with sincere enthusiasm that we anticipate the grand opening of our new neighbor, The Treasury on the Plaza. We look forward to hosting many Cathedral Basilica functions in the beautiful and opulent Grande Ballroom for the benefit of America’s Oldest Parish”. Fr. Thomas Willis – Pastor/Rector of Cathedral Basilica.

“The team at the Visitors and Convention Bureau is very excited to see this uniquely historic, classically attractive and ideally located special event venue in St. Augustine. The Treasury on the Plaza owners have honored the old world craftsmanship while embracing the expectations of modern event planners to produce a venue that is highly functional and supremely memorable.” Richard Goldman, Executive Director – St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors & Convention Bureau.

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