

Spring Issue 2013

Family!

Increase Your Blessings!



*A Visit with
Dr. Vitti*

10 Perfect
Prom Tips

Spring
Home
Makeovers

All About Baby!

***Sand & Sea Baby Shower
Rainy Day Fashions***





An artist's rendering of Paradise Key South Beach.

Home Sweet Smart Home

By Aloise Schmitt

Last year, HGTV scouts checked out towns all over the U.S. to find the right location for their first-ever Smart Home, which will be awarded to one lucky winner in July 2013. The Jacksonville Beach neighborhood of Paradise Key South Beach was chosen above all the rest because of its family-friendly atmosphere, breathtaking landscape and amazing location—only 20 minutes from downtown Jacksonville and mere steps from the Atlantic shoreline. HGTV house planner Jack Thomasson teamed with First Coast professionals Glenn Layton of Glenn Layton Homes and architect Mike Stauffer, AIA, to make sure the home's exterior will fit right into this gorgeous seaside community.

Public Relations and Media Specialist Maria Chrissovergis explains that the Smart Home is an extension of the HGTV Green Home, which was developed six years ago in response to consumers' desire to live more eco-friendly lives. The Smart Home features an impressive collection of the latest "smart" technology to control home systems, like climate and security, as well as monitor energy consumption for more green living. Details of these features will be revealed with the home in early April.

Eligible contestants can enter the sweepstakes beginning April 11 through May 31, 2013. For more information on the HGTV Smart Home, please visit hgtv.com/smart-home.

Smart Ideas for Your Home

Saving the environment—and a little cash—sounds like a smart idea to just about anyone. Inspired by HGTV's Smart Home, *Family!* has made a list of some ideas that you can try out to turn your house into your very own smart home!

1 Energy Consumption Monitors

Monitoring your family's energy consumption is good for the ecosystem—and your wallet. Several products exist to help you keep track of your family's electricity usage. From portable devices that plug into an appliance to observe its efficiency to house-wide systems that monitor your entire home's energy output, these products can help you and your family become more ecological and economical.

2 Smart Phone, Smart Home

Whether it's finding energy saving light bulbs, meter readings on your water and electricity usage, or tracking your carbon footprint—there's an app for that. There are plenty of applications you can download right onto your smart phone or tablet to help with your energy efficiency. Additionally, many companies specializing in home systems like security, lighting or climate control have apps complementing their products, so you can monitor your electricity no matter where you are.

3 Entertainment Made Easy

Now that you've outsmarted your electric bill, treat yourself to a smarter home entertainment system by connecting it to the World Wide Web. Many new televisions are now Internet-enabled to help streamline your favorite shows and music without the fuss. For the oldie-but-goodie TV sets, simply hook them up to a smart Blu-ray player or TV box to enjoy the same functionality without the expensive television upgrade.

Now that you have some ideas, you can decide how to implement smart living in your home. Share in the joy of the lucky winner of HGTV's incredible grand prize and enjoy your own First Coast smart home!



Photos provided by Trish Lobb Photography.