

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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Florida Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind To See Again

Specialist in Low Vision Care helps those with Macular Degeneration to keep reading and driving

By Lois Neinken
Freelance writer



PATIENT NORMA GOLDSTEIN DEMONSTRATING MINIATURE TELESCOPES FOR DRIVING, WATCHING TV, AND THEATER, ETC.

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida—Just because you have macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, or other eye diseases doesn't mean you must give up driving or participating in the activities that make your life full.

Ever look through a pair of binoculars? Things look bigger, closer, and easier to see. Florida Optometrist, Dr. Marc Jay Gannon, is using miniaturized binoculars and telescopes to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and many other eye conditions.

"Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss," said Dr. Gannon, a low vision specialist with offices in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, and Stuart.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced and well-versed in low vision care." Dr. Gannon is a panel member of the Florida Division of Blind Services, and the

founder and director of the Low Vision Institute and the American Foundation for Visual Rehabilitation.

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease amongst the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is a very small part of the retina, but is the center of the retina in the back of the eye. It is the most sensitive part of the retina and is responsible for giving us the ability to see sharply and clearly. When it degenerates, it leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration, but it is known that UV light from the sun is

a major contributing factor. Other factors are smoking, aging of course, poor nutrition, and genetics.

There are two types of macular degeneration, wet and dry. The wet type involves leaky blood vessels and can be lasered shut. There are other newer modalities of treatment as well. Unfortunately, most are only temporary since additional leaks usually occur.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Gannon.

Even if it's driving, or reading.

Donald Papuette, 72, a former county assessor from Anaheim, California, said, "I could not read the street signs soon enough when driving and I couldn't read my saxophone music anymore."

The doctor fit him with bioptic telescope glasses. "Amazing," says Donald. "I can read the street sign twice as far as I did before. I can play my sax again. Happy Day!"

Dr. Gannon also provides special microscopic reading glasses to make the newspaper print much easier to read.

Dorothy Weston, 80, from Broward County, Florida was unable to perform her job as a bookkeeper before visiting Dr. Gannon. She received a pair of special tele-microscopic glasses for reading her spreadsheets and

viewing the computer. "I am thrilled to be able to keep working," said Dorothy.

"A while back I worked with a world class tournament bridge player who could no longer see the cards in her hand or the cards on the table," said Dr. Gannon. "I designed a special split tele-microscopic system for her to function like a bifocal. The top part allowed her to see the cards on the table and the bottom was for those in her hand."

Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2,000," says Dr. Gannon, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass lens system."

Ellen Imboden traveled from Sweden and was helped with two pairs of glasses: special \$475 prismatic glasses that let her read newsprint, as well as bioptic telescopic glasses for her to continue driving in Sweden.

Low vision devices are not always expensive. Some reading glasses cost as little as \$475 and some magnifiers, \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.

Dr. Gannon can be reached at 1-866-942-2020. Or visit Dr. Gannon on the Internet at www.lowvisioninstitute.com. He is available to speak to interested support groups without any fees.

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they arrived and survived through three wars in the hostile environment of the Everglades. The Members of the Seminole Tribe are living representatives of Florida's history. Most importantly, their work plays a major part in the economic development of Florida in the future.

(For more information about Donna Frank

and to see her perform this spectacular art in person, go to Seminole Okalee Indian Village located at Seminole Paradise, outside of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino property in Hollywood, FL. For more information, call 954-797-5436.)

We will be happy to assist you with group rates, show times and other pertinent information. We are "Wheelchair Accessible." Visit www.semtribe.com.

INSPIRATION

If your get-up-and-do-it got up and took a hike a long time ago, try listening to inspirational or motivational tapes while you drive. Your local library has them, no charge to you.

Don't Clam Up

The next time you have clam chowder, thank Ruth Alden Bass of Duxbury, Massachusetts. Ruth was just a starving colonist in the seventeenth century when she spied a pig rooting in the sand along the seashore. She followed suit and came up with a handful of clams. The enterprising Ruth decided that if they were good enough for Porky, they were good enough for her.

(From: *Wild Women in the Kitchen*)



Preview Opening at Vizcaya Falls' Exclusive Adult Community

Active adults in search of an all-inclusive community with quality built single-family homes, modern amenities, a full range of leisure activities and nearby conveniences, now have one more reason to come to Vizcaya Falls in Port St. Lucie...a limited time Preview Opening.



Vizcaya Falls' lavish 15,000 square-foot Grand Clubhouse will be the social centerpiece of the community.

Premier homebuilder Centerline Homes is now holding a special on-site preview of Vizcaya Falls, the Treasure Coast's newest, most exclusive adult community priced from the \$200's. Visit today and choose from

the best homesites at unbeatable pre-construction prices.

"Active adult communities offer a country club lifestyle that continues to grow in popularity," said Marc Friedman, vice president of sales. "As we are all living longer, retirement brings with it the ability to finally enjoy the fruits of our labor. And what better way to do that than live in a community that has everything you need just outside your door!"

The lavish 15,000 air-conditioned square-foot Grand Clubhouse complex will feature a fully equipped fitness center, a resort-style swimming pool and heated spa, six Har-

Tru tournament-style tennis courts with stadium seating, a grand ballroom/auditorium with dance floor and well-planned areas for other activities.

Vizcaya Falls will consist of 457

homes. Buyers can select from eight individually unique floor plans that accommodate a diverse range of options and lifestyles. Homes range in size from 1,522 to 1,938 square feet of air-conditioned living area with two bedrooms plus den and two bathrooms, breakfast area, covered patio and a one or two-car garage.

Filled with standard luxury features, the homes include Roman tubs in the master baths, tile flooring in foyer, kitchen, breakfast area, laundry room and powder room, and a Whirlpool appliance package complete with a large capacity washer and dryer.

Vizcaya Falls' prime Treasure Coast location offers the conveniences of great shopping, dining, entertainment venues and pristine beaches. For golfers looking for world-class play, only a short drive away is the PGA's largest facility in South Florida featuring three extraordinary courses.

Nearby is the New York Mets' spring training facility at Tradition Field Stadium.

Over 10 years, Centerline Homes has been recognized as an industry leader for building impressive communities with outstanding value, award-winning designs and impeccable customer service. Their mission is "To build our customers' dreams through a teamwork approach to quality construction." For more information about a Centerline Homes' community, go to www.centerlinehomes.com or call 954-344-8040.

To visit Vizcaya Falls during the Preview Opening, take I-95 to St. Lucie West Blvd. Head east on St. Lucie West and make a left onto NW Peacock Blvd. Head north on Peacock for approximately 2 miles. At the roundabout exit onto NW California Blvd. Head north on California and make a right onto NW East Torino Parkway. Travel approximately 2 miles and the entrance to Vizcaya Falls will be on your right. For more information on Vizcaya Falls, call 772-336-6115.