

Talks continue over Mellow Mushroom plans

See page 4

Proposed Shoppes of Avondale parking study awaits action

Parking analysis service could cost city \$60K

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It could cost the City of Jacksonville \$60,000 to conduct a parking study in the Shoppes of Avondale according to a Scope of Services for Parking Analysis prepared by local planning and engineering firm Ghyabi & Associates.

The scope is dated May 24 and was delivered to the Planning and Development Department more than a month ago — but it has not been vetted or approved nor has a timeline yet been established for doing so, said department head Calvin Burney in an email.

“Some people may get frustrated by the process, but you have to consider the necessary time spent up front to make sure you have the framework laid down,” Burney said in a previous conversation. “If you don’t put the thought into it up front then you risk not getting it right. You want something that is going to be beneficial to the area.”

A scope of services helps to define components that the city might like to address in a study, said Martha Moore, an associate with Ghyabi, which has an open-ended consulting contract with the city.

The scope identified seven basic areas of focus: Land use inventory, parking inventory, parking utilization/turn over study, parking demand, traffic circulation, community outreach and best practices. “There are so many issues to look at, so you talk with the client and see what limitations they want to put on the scope and study,” Moore said.

One limitation imposed here was the boundaries of the study area: The Shoppes of Avondale – Van Wert Avenue (west),

See **PARK** on page 32

Survey targets Riverside Avondale to rid streets of visual pollution

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A dead tree. A rusted fire hydrant. A cracked sidewalk. Graffiti on a road sign.

You may travel Riverside/Avondale daily and not necessarily notice these signs of degradation among all of the otherwise historic beauty of the neighborhood – “we get used to ugly,” the saying goes.

But for 70 City Beautiful Jax and Riverside Avondale Preservation volunteers who came out recently to conduct a Neighborhood Inventory of Visual Pollution survey, they were hard to miss.

“It’s amazing how much you see when you’re in tuned to it and you actually get out of your car and walk an area,” said Bill Brinton, the president of City Beautiful Jax and a long time beautification advocate.

The volunteers gathered at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Riverside early in the morning to get their marching orders. Then, armed with only a clipboard, a pencil, a survey, a map of the targeted survey area and a camera, they enthusiastically set out in groups of two, three or four to cover the three-mile neighborhood – divided into eight areas, each with six zones – determined to identify and record every manifestation of blight in public spaces.

They diligently filled out one survey sheet for each offense, marking the location and nature, and snapping a photo with a digital camera provided by City Beautiful Jax.

“It’s a lot more work than I thought it was going to be, but it’s well worth the

See **SURVEY** on page 32

Rugby Rocks in Jacksonville

Murray Hill’s John Hamilton signs autographs for fans after the Axemen defeat the Rhode Island Rebellion at home 54-22.

Your local rugby franchise makes the playoffs with home field advantage at UNF’s Hodges Stadium, August 11th. The Jacksonville Axemen have become one of the teams to beat as they pound opponents in the River City. Check out video, news and content at www.jaxaxe.com to learn more about your local team.

Summer Cleanup

Volunteers set record with butt, litter collection

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

There’s no butts about a local litter campaign that is helping stamp out cigarette trash in the 5 Points area. During a recent gathering this summer, volunteers picked up more than 8,200 cigarette butts on one block of Park Street — in just an hour’s time. Organizers with Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission said it was the largest number of butts collected at one location

See **BUTT** on page 32



ABOVE: Riverside resident Maria Barton cleans up the streets

LEFT: UNF student volunteers get their hands dirty



Publishers

Seth Williams
seth@residentnews.net

Pamela Bradford Williams
pamela@residentnews.net

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Editor: Susanna P Barton
susanna@residentnews.net

Send us news!

Email: editor@residentnews.net
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Mail: 1650 Margaret Street # 310
Jacksonville, FL 32204
FAX: (904) 388-2209

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Stories bring other issues to surface

I enjoyed the recent issue of your newsletter. I did note several items you may wish to consider for a future issue:

1. As a resident of Ortega Forest, I read with interest the story about building a running track at Stockton School. I know it was hard to find a current site plan of the school and you probably had to use a much older version. I noticed the one printed in the

paper lacks the 7 or 8 mobile classrooms as well as the trailer for the police officer who resides on site. The green adjacent to the school is the only play area located in Ortega Forrest. Over the years as more and more of the portable classrooms have been added, we have seen the amount of play area steadily decrease. I am glad to see plans for the running track and would hope the long term solution for the school's over crowding will be to build another school not more classrooms stuck in our back yard. It is to bad the elementary school on Wesconnett at 105th Street remains vacant.

2. The story regarding the rebuilding of a portion of Ingleside Avenue east of St. Johns Avenue also caught my eye. I am sure it will be a wonderful addition to our city streets. Yes, there would be some water pooling after a heavy rain but the additional sidewalk on the south side of the street will result in the loss of two and sometimes three cars

depending on how people parked. At least with the new sidewalk, the obnoxious no parking, cars will be towed signs on the wall of the real estate office can be finally taken down. I tried unsuccessfully to have those two signs removed for a long time since it just didn't seem right to tow a car parked on a city right of way. I don't know if any spaces will be lost on the north side of Ingleside, time will tell.

3. One of the problems Avondale is having with the parking is a result of several real estate firms setting up shop it what had been a retail location. Employees of such a business tend to park much longer, can we say six to eight hours, in a spot rather than the short time it takes to buy a dress or run some other errand.

Keep up the good work.

— John T. Burrows

Resident fears losing Mellow Mushroom 'opportunity'

Like many of my friends I was mildly shocked to hear that a group calling itself “We Love Avondale” had incorporated to fight the establishment of a Mellow Mushroom restaurant in a derelict building in the Shoppes of Avondale. If you are from the South, Mellow Mushroom is an institution. It amazes me that a small number of people would rather stop this high-quality restaurant (with a native local owner) coming to Avondale than focus their efforts on persuading our political leaders to take action to find solutions to parking.

My shock has given way to fear when I consider what Avondale would lose if we blow this opportunity to bring a Mellow Mushroom into the mix. I have visited many Mellow Mushroom restaurants over the years, and each is different. The best ones are those in places like Piedmont Park (in Atlanta), Charleston, Raleigh, Dilworth (in Charlotte), and Asheville, where they are at the heart of vibrant communities and people walk and cycle to

them as much as they drive. This is the opportunity Avondale has now. If this group of people is allowed to run Mr. Valentino off, what will go on that site instead? It seems some favor putting a parking garage there, which seems a little simplistic, unsightly and, I hope, unlikely. Whatever goes there, it is unlikely to be as welcome to the families of Avondale as a sensitively established and well run Mellow Mushroom. “We Love Avondale LLC” should be careful what it wishes for.

So my message is this: Let's look for compromise and unite as a community to pressure the city and others to take action on Avondale's parking challenges. Let's stop pitting neighbor against neighbor and bad-mouthing each other to make our points. Let's show what we can do together to tackle our challenges. Better managed parking must not come at the expense of Mellow Mushroom, but as well as Mellow Mushroom.

— Russ Brockman



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Talks continue over Mellow Mushroom plans

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

There has been no mellowing of discussion between Mellow Mushroom restaurant planners and the newly formed We Love Avondale partnership over the summer. Lunches, meetings and conversations between the opposing groups have been ongoing, according to We Love Avondale founder and Avondale resident Tommy Donahoo. A mid-July meeting, in fact, produced a deviation-free, reduced-scope plan that restaurant designers currently are mulling.

"We're talking," Donahoo said. "What they want is for us to tell them specifically what's wrong with their plan, and what we want to say is, 'look, it's about size, scale, density, parking and late night noise.' It's that kind of conversation."

We Love Avondale LLC is a group of Avondale residents and merchants who take issue with the scope, density, parking, traffic and safety impacts of the planned 220-seat Mellow Mushroom restaurant. Mellow Mushroom wants to build a restaurant in the space formerly occupied by 'town



The Mellow Mushroom site includes the old gas station and the retail space next door formerly occupied by Emly Benhman and 'town. Photo by Glenn Caton.

and the gas station adjacent to the building. Outdoor seating and a green space also are part of the restaurant's plan. We Love Avondale, and others in the neighborhood, feel the Shoppes of Avondale already is squeezed for parking — and that the emergence of another large-scale restaurant would push the retail area's capacity past the tipping point.

While restaurant owner John Valentino originally applied for a PUD zoning modification, that plan has been dropped. Instead,

Mellow Mushroom will attempt to remedy parking requirements and impact through an administrative deviation process.

The two groups met to discuss some of the larger issues in mid- and late-July. Riverside Avondale Preservation Chair Jonathan Oliff and executive director, Carmen Godwin, attended the first meeting. During that gathering, a We Love Avondale designer presented some ideas for a new plan that would be more in line with parameters allowed

under the current zoning regulations.

"What they presented was interesting — it showed them there's a way to do the project, but within the confines of the overlay," Godwin said. "In that respect, it's probably something we'd like them to look at."

Simon Keymer, who is handling community relations for Mellow Mushroom in Avondale, said there are some concerns that We Love Avondale is asking Mellow Mushroom to "compromise the vision for the restaurant in

a way that runs counter to the best interests of Avondale."

"Our plan was always 'adaptive reuse' of the derelict gas station," Keymer said in an email following an interview about the discussions. "Their plan, though not without its merits, seems to require us to demolish it and build a new building instead. Though the gas station is a non-conforming building, we think it has real potential and that to adapt and reuse it would be more in keeping with the ethos of a historic district."

But Keymer said Mellow Mushroom owners would look carefully at what they'd been given and hoped they could work toward a solution that "works for everyone in our community."

He indicated a compromise design was in the works.

Donahoo said We Love Avondale's ask is simple: "follow the law. The historical overlay is there for a reason."

Since last month, We Love Avondale has established an online presence for communication about future meetings and plans. The site is at www.weloveavondale.com. Mellow Mushroom also launched a website for community engagement. That site is at www.igetmellow.com.



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In Memoriam

Dr. John J. Ross

A longtime University of Florida pediatric neurologist who helped found a novel program for children with learning disabilities and in recent years became an advocate for patients in need of lung transplants, Dr. John J. Ross, passed away July 17. He was 83.

A native of Jacksonville's historic district, Ross was a lifelong athlete who spent his early years on the court or on the track. At Robert E.



Lee High School, he was a champion hurdler and part of a track team that won five straight state titles in the 1940s. He was accomplished on the tennis court, too. He started playing at age nine and played competitively throughout college and the grueling years of his medical training. This passion inevitably led him to face off against Arthur Ashe in a doubles match in 1962, and he continued playing throughout his life.

Ross was a graduate of Duke University and Harvard Medical School. He completed his residency training at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, where he

met his wife, Nancy. Following residency, he completed fellowships in pediatric neurology and neuropathology and received additional training in adult neurology. A professor emeritus of pediatrics, Ross joined the UF faculty in 1965 as chief of the division of pediatric neurology, a position he held for decades. In 1981, he teamed with UF special education experts from the College of Education to establish a novel program for children with learning disabilities. Called the Multidisciplinary Diagnostic and Training Program, it took a comprehensive approach to helping children with learning disabilities, from figuring out the underlying cause of the problem to tailoring classroom strategies to meet children's specific needs. Funded by the Florida Legislature, the program quickly became a model for efforts in other states.

He received numerous accolades throughout his career, such as being named School Administrator of the Year for his work with MDTP, and even ran for a

seat in the Florida House of Representatives in 2002. But what friends and colleagues say they will remember most are his integrity, his unwavering commitment to his wife and three children, and how he treated others.

He was not just a great tennis player, which he was; a great doctor, which we all know; and a wonderful family man, friend and mentor. He was also someone who made others feel like they mattered," said Paul Carney, M.D., chief of the division of neurology in the College of Medicine department of pediatrics. "We will miss him. He is one of a kind."

Ross is survived by his wife of 52 years, Nancy Hays Ross of Gainesville; children, MaryAnn Ross Neill (Michael), John Joseph Ross II (Alexandra), and Edward Hennessey Ross; brother, Robert Ross; twin sister, Jeanne Jinks (Bert); nine grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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Historic District Overlay modified to require more parking

Parking study waiting for go ahead from planning department

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The parking issues in Riverside/Avondale may have received some relief.

Larger restaurants and all nightclubs and bars in Riverside/Avondale will now be required to provide parking regardless of whether they are developed within a historically contributing or noncontributing structure, as per the unanimous passing of Ordinance 2012-339 by the city council on June 24.

The bill, sponsored by Riverside/Avondale District 14 Councilman Jim Love, amends the Riverside/Avondale Overlay to require new restaurants with more than 100 seats and/or 2,500 square feet, and all new bars and nightclubs to provide 50 percent of the city's regular parking provision (regular code is one space per four seats and one space per two employees; 3 spaces per 1,000 square feet). Parties that filed a building permit prior to July 1, 2012 and are in the process of providing a historic structure designation by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission are exempt from the new ordinance.

"The Overlay didn't account for intensity in these contributing structures, like when a restaurant with a large number of employees and steady

stream of customers might replace a smaller, less busy retail store," Love said. "We certainly need a much more comprehensive solution, but hopefully this will help us manage some of the parking problems moving forward."

The Overlay previously provided a zero parking variance for contributing historical structures that were not expanded.

"That worked to stimulate growth and put those historic structures into use, but we have become a victim of our own success and now have to find a balance," said Avondale resident Karin Tucker, co-owner of 19-year-old Biscotti's restaurant in the Shoppes of Avondale and one of several business owners who supported the ordinance.

She and about 30 other residents and business owners came out in support of the ordinance over a course of several public hearings dating back to May. This contrasted with one person who spoke in opposition, Allan DeVault from Black Sheep Restaurant Group.

In addition to thinking that the ordinance might stifle development during a down economy, he also took issue with the 2,500 square foot requirement. As per the ordinance, smaller restau-

rants will not have to contribute parking.

"One-hundred seats doesn't really equal 2,500 square feet," DeVault said. "The 2,500 square feet is the minimum amount required by the state for alcohol licensing. But when the state says 2,500 square feet, that's service area, not total area." He recommended that the ordinance allow for at least 4,000 square feet.

DeVault noted that, if you have 100 seats in 2,500 square feet of total area, that is only 25 square feet per seat. "Three popular Avondale restaurants – Brick, Biscotti's and Mojo's – all have square footage per seat in the mid 30's."

In spite of DeVault's argument to go larger, many residents did not even want to allow for the 100-seat minimum, which Love added so as not to discourage development of smaller restaurants.

"We get a lot of flack when we compromise," said Carmen Godwin, executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation. "We were drilled by residents after the meeting that added the 100 seat amendment. But we are trying to meet in the middle and create a situation where smaller businesses can

actually develop at a scale that may not please residents but allows for a workable business model that fits the character of the neighborhood."

Mark Rubin, a developer with Accubuild companies, thinks that those supporting the bill have a "myopic" view and feels that they may forget when the Avondale area was a "ghost town." He was also concerned with how quickly the bill rushed through without any community meetings and no real input from developers. But having said that, he also thinks that the ordinance is not unreasonable from a real world, business perspective.

"While I think it's best to let the free market take care of itself and not interfere with these types of ordinances, any good business person that has a facility greater than 2,500 square feet is going to have to account for parking and 50 percent of the requirement is a reasonable target. You're going to provide for parking or you're likely not going to succeed."

Love is currently pushing for a parking study so that long term solutions can be found. A Scope of Services for Parking Analysis prepared by Ghyabi & Associates was delivered to the planning department over a month ago but no action has yet been taken.

"Shared parking lots, shuttles, employee lots, bicycle racks: These are all things we can look at in a study," Love said. "For now, I hope the ordinance just gives some relief to the situation until we can get the big picture figured out."

"We certainly need a much more comprehensive solution, but hopefully this will help us manage some of the parking problems moving forward."

Jim Love
District 14 Councilman



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Mobility fees: Moratorium ordinance up for review this fall

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While City Council member Jim Love’s proposed moratorium restricting certain types of development has been a hotly debated topic in Riverside/Avondale, there is another moratorium that has been in effect for almost a year that has had a much further-reaching impact on both sides of the river.

“Right now, Love’s moratorium is only a proposal on paper that has no legal standing,” said Mike Field, a local banker, Fairfax resident and neighborhood renovation advocate. “But the Mobility Plan fee moratorium is an ordinance that has been in effect since October. That means that mobility fees from new development that has taken place in that time have not been collected. That’s money that could

have gone toward specific capital improvement projects throughout the city. One of those projects is streetcars connecting Riverside to Downtown.”

The mobility fee moratorium (Ordinance 2011-617) expires October 10, 2012 unless city council grants an extension. It was originally imposed to offset the effects of the recession but whether it has spurred development remains to be seen.

“Our intent is to gather data before October to see if the waiver created jobs,” said Curtis Hart, a developer with Hart Resources and Government Affairs Chairman for the Northeast Florida Builders Association. “The council will want proof that it worked. If it did, then we will make our case for an extension; if not, then we will let the moratorium deadline pass.”

So far, the case is not great: Of 110 mobility fee applications equaling

nearly \$16 million, only 10 were waived as of July 16 for a total of \$911,233. Riverside comprised just over \$2 million of the total, waiving \$323,571 for construction of a 7-Eleven and San Marco comprised just over \$1 million of the total, waiving \$62,446 for a CenterState Bank, said Laurie Kattreh, a transportation specialist in the planning department who oversees the Mobility Plan.

Hart pointed out that most developers did not apply for a waiver for the first few months while waiting for legal details to be worked out in Tallahassee. “In reality, the waiver will have only been in effect about nine months,” he said. “I expect a rush on applications as the deadline approaches.”

Riverside/Avondale District 14 councilman Love and San Marco District 5 councilwoman Lori Boyer, each of whom voted for the moratorium, agreed that they would need to see overwhelming proof to justify an extension.

“I was willing to try it for a year to see if it stimulated the economy,” Love said. “You can’t really say without all of the data, but I’d like to avoid an extension.”

Boyer also said she needed to see data to support an extension, but conceded the waiver did not have a full year, so may be willing to extend it to that point. “I would not be receptive to any extension beyond the year time frame,” she said. “There was an implementation delay, so I may be open to another three months so that it can have its full year.”

In contrast, Council President Bill Bishop, who originally sponsored the moratorium ordinance, said that he “suspects an extension would stand a good chance of passing. I’m not aware that the first effort did much and construction is still at depression era levels. One problem is that banks are not granting loans. My gut feeling says it would be extended.”

The 2030 Mobility Plan was only in effect for about two months before the fee moratorium was enacted, but there has never been any doubt as to the benefits of the award-winning plan.

“The Mobility Plan was ahead of its time,” said Hart, a member of the Mobility Plan Task Force.

The Mobility Plan was originally crafted over a two-year period beginning in 2009 and adopted in 2011. It was a response to revisions in Florida’s Growth Management laws and coincided with other city plans that promoted modes of transportation

other than automobiles. There was also a general consensus among local developers, city planners and legislators that the concurrency or “fair share” plan then in place was not working.

“The Mobility Plan integrates land development with transportation planning in unique ways and has a tiered mobility fee system that does not burden taxpayers,” said Bill Killingsworth, the plan’s main architect and Planning and Development Director during its creation. “It was good timing for this kind of approach.”

“It’s probably the first time in the history of mankind when developers and the Sierra Club agreed on the same proposal,” Field joked.

The reason for such wide acceptance is that it puts the cost of capital improvement projects on the end-user rather than taxpayers and offers strategies and incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy-efficient land use patterns that may substantially lower those costs.

“It is predictable, fair and efficient for developers and taxpayers alike,” said Ortega resident T.R. Hainline, chair of the Mobility Plan Task Force.

“The plan encourages infill versus greenfield development – reducing sprawl and automobile dependency by ‘incentivizing’ development closer to the city core rather than in less populated areas; it promotes pedestrians, bicycles and mass transit over automobiles,” Killingsworth explained. “We wanted it to affect policy as well as facility.”

Under the plan the city is arranged into 10 Mobility Zones (Riverside/Avondale is Zone 7; San Marco Zone 8) and any new development that takes place within a particular zone is charged a fee based on a calculated sum that measures vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in relation to specified Development Areas. That fee can then be adjusted down if developers apply mobility-friendly land development patterns.

“The fee goes back into prioritized projects within the zone where the development takes place, so there is a direct connection between the development, the fee and the projects,” said Ennis Davis, a former associate with planning and engineering firm Ghyabi & Associates who determined the fee formula. “If developers design projects that use sustainable strategies, then they can lower their cost.”

Some of those strategies include: developing within the city core;

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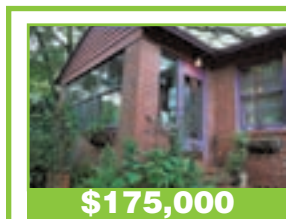
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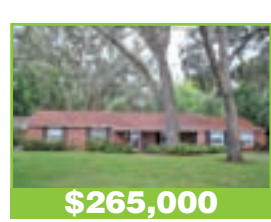
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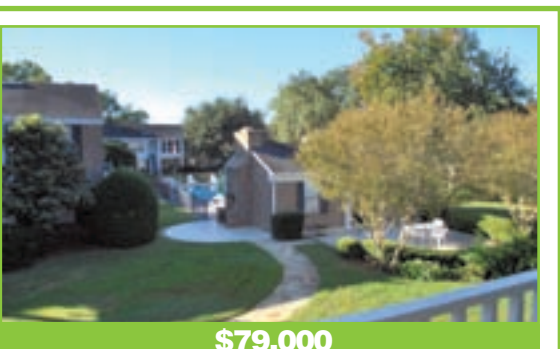
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► incorporating bike paths, sidewalks and mass transit; locating parking behind buildings; mixed use developments; employing larger numbers of people; and building close to retail establishments.

They all go toward meeting the plan's five objectives: support a variety of transportation modes; reduce vehicle miles traveled; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; promote a compact and interconnected land development form; and improve the health and quality of life for Jacksonville residents.

"We already have the groundwork set to meet all of the plan's objectives," said Doug Skiles from Envision Design Engineering in San Marco who advocates ending the moratorium. "The great thing is that community members have a say on what projects the mobility fees go toward in their neighborhoods and it is evaluated every five years so that projects can be reassessed."

Projects include: roadway capacity and Intelligent Transportation System improvements; Bus Rapid Transit, commuter rail, and streetcar; Facilities to improve bicycle network connectiv-

ity; and Pedestrian improvements design to achieve sidewalk connectivity. Eleven percent of all fees collected in any zone goes toward pedestrian and bicycle projects.

In Riverside's Zone 7, the top priority project is a streetcar connecting Downtown to Riverside, which some, like Mike Field, feel might relieve some of the parking issues that Love's moratorium – as well as his proposed ordinance to amend the Riverside/Avondale Overlay – are designed to address. Field believes that beyond providing funding, the Mobility Plan also offers a ready-made philosophical blueprint for moving forward.

"Rather than going for short term parking solutions, it's important to align all of the area's transportation goals with the Mobility Plan," Field said. "It not only provides great short and long term road maps in terms of ideas but also provides the funding to get there. It's just a matter of us getting it back into place."

www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/community-planning-division/transportation-planning/mobility-plan.aspx

TOP 3 PRIORITIES—Riverside's Mobility Zone 7
Totaling \$81 million

- 1) A streetcar connecting Downtown to Riverside – \$50 million
- 2) Commuter rail from Downtown to I-295 – \$29 million (25 percent local match from mobility fees and 75 percent federal/state dollars)
- 3) Widening of Harlow Boulevard from Lane Avenue to 103rd Street – \$1.75 million.

TOP 3 PRIORITIES—San Marco's Mobility Zone 8
Totaling \$149 million
(includes a large section of Southside)

- 1) Widening of Philips Highway – \$54 million
- 2) Widening of Southside Boulevard – \$40 million;
- 3) Commuter rail from Downtown to the Avenues Mall – \$20 million (25 percent local match for 75 percent federal/state dollars)

Short-term Riverside bike projects include bike lanes on Edgewood, Riverside, and St. Johns Avenues. Long-term bike projects include multi-use paths paralleling the CSX A line between Forest Street and the Clay County line and the FEC (starting in San Marco) between the Southbank Riverwalk and Southside Boulevard.

SOURCE: Ennis Davis, Ghyabi & Associates



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Resident COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.

Restaurant serving up economic development

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One of the neighborhood's biggest new job-makers is Black Sheep Restaurant, the primary tenant in 5 Points' nearly complete 1534 Oak Street multi-use building. The business has begun hiring process to bring nearly 65 people onboard, according to spokesman, Allan DeVault.

The company is hiring for all positions but does not expect to make any firm hiring decisions until the first of August, said a post on the restaurant's new Facebook page.

The 65-person employment figure is one of the neighborhood's largest in recent months — adding to a healthy professional, retail and culinary job pool in the neighborhood commercial corridor. The restaurant provides new opportunities for wait staff and cooking crews that formerly were available Downtown. Black Sheep will be an evolution of popular downtown eatery, Chew, which closed recently for its relocation to 5 Points.

Black Sheep Restaurant is the first named tenant in the 1534 Oak Street project.



When complete, the building will include commercial office space and a rooftop lounge. The distinctively designed, sharply angular building is located at the corner of Margaret and Oak streets on a small site that sat vacant for many years. The development team behind the building's construction includes Black Sheep Restaurant Group, DW Meyers Construction and Design Cooperative.

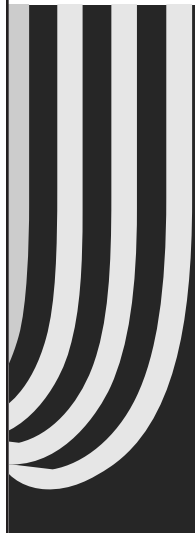
DeVault said they are still

looking at a late summer 2012 completion date. Glass has been installed on the building's exterior and tile was being installed in the restaurant's kitchen.

No additional tenants have been signed yet at the building, but DeVault said there have been "lots of inquiries."

As far as parking goes at 1534 Oak Street, developers will be putting in 12 spaces on the east side of Margaret Street, nine spaces on the west side of Oak Street and

11 additional spaces on the east side of Oak. DeVault said the 11 spaces were not required by the development's PUD, but the group felt they were important to create. All of the spaces located along the city right-of-way, he added, would be open to all. Building officials expect to put time restrictions on some parking spaces so office workers and employees won't tie them up throughout the day.



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Local nonprofits' ED searches yield interest, new hire

Two Riverside-based nonprofit organizations have been looking for new executive director leadership. The Riverside Arts Market is seeking a replacement for two-year market director, Terri Coutu, while nearby Friday Musicale — Florida's oldest musical organization founded in 1890 — recently hired its second executive director after a summer search.

Chris Heacox, who was hired by the volunteer music group as its first director in 2009, began a new job as executive director of the 7 Days of Opening Nights Festival at Florida State University Aug. 1. Henson Markham, president of Friday Musicale, announced the appointment of Mandie McKenzie as the group's new executive director. She was hired July 26, according an a release.

McKenzie has been a Friday Musicale employee for the past two years and worked as an event manager for Destination Planning Corporation for more than three years prior to her Friday Musicale employment. Pam Franklin, Friday Musicale's vice president elect, said McKenzie's experience in the organization provides a seamless transition in philosophy, day-to-day organization management and working relationships among the board, members, performers, renters, vendors and community while also bringing new concepts and ideas for furthering the mission of Friday Musicale.

In her new role, McKenzie will manage the day-to-day operations of Friday Musicale "which includes but is not limited to artistic programming, financial management, fundraising, market and public relations, community collaborations and property management of the group's 1930s Greek Revival building and musical hall on Oak Street. She also will help the organization continue a long legacy of local musical support efforts. The group

annually supports young musicians through recitals, competitions, scholarships and master classes and in 2002 began its highly regarded Outstanding Young Pianist Competition, which includes eight categories for students in grades 5 through 12. Friday Musicale also recognizes outstanding music teachers through its Carolyn Day Pfohl Music Educator Award.

Meanwhile, the Riverside Arts Market continues its search for a new market director. The new director will be the market's third following former market leaders, Tony Allegretti and Terri Coutu. The interim director for the market is Torrie Parette, according to a recent release from RAM. Parette has been the volunteer coordinator for the market since April 2011.

"Torrie is exactly the right person for this job," said Carmen Godwin, Riverside Avondale Preservation's executive director in the announcement. "She offers continuity you our market vendors, she's organized, professional and high energy, which will ensure that RAM continues to thrive."

RAP's board has assembled a search committee to find a full-time replacement for Coutu, who left the organization in June. RAM Advisory Committee Chair and resident, Sunny Gettinger, is heading the committee.

"We are looking for someone who has a vision for the market's future, ideas for increasing RAM's visibility and a keen business sense," Gettinger said in the release.

Godwin said the group received many excellent resumes.

The market director's duties include logistics and being the main point of contact for the city, vendors, marketing outlets, sponsors and volunteers. RAP's application deadline for the RAM director position was early July.

St. Vincent's Launches Occupational Health Program

St. Vincent's HealthCare has launched a new occupational health program.

Formerly known as CompCare, St. Vincent's First Care will offer businesses in Northeast Florida prompt access to employee physicals, drug screenings, lab tests and quick assessment of employee injuries.

The program comes on the heels of a growing need in the community.

"Our new St. Vincent's First Care program will fulfill an important need in our community—providing businesses with high

quality and reliable occupational health care," said Moody Chisholm, president and CEO of St. Vincent's HealthCare.

According to the Florida Department of Financial Services, there were more than 3,600 reported work-related injuries in Northeast Florida in 2011.

St. Vincent's First Care services are currently offered at 5600 Spring Park Rd. with additional facilities opening soon. For more information about clinic services, contact St. Vincent's First Care at 904-379-1203.

Weaver Foundation makes strides to fight breast cancer

The North Florida Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure has received a matching grant from the Weaver Family Foundation. The Foundation will match other donations and contributions, dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000 made before March 31, 2013.

The Weaver grant is being offered as Komen gears up for its North Florida Race for the Cure, scheduled for October 20th at Metropolitan Park. Funds raised as part of the race will qualify as matching funds for the grant.

Registration has begun and teams are

now being formed for the race, which attracted more than 5,400 people and raised \$475,000 in 2011.

"This grant also speaks volumes about the importance of working together to end breast cancer," said Bruce Grob, executive director of Komen North Florida. "The Weavers feel strongly—as we do—that women's healthcare should not be politicized. It's not rhetoric; it's real. It's here. It's now. And they know that people are still being diagnosed—and dying—of breast cancer. Joining forces, we can all change that story."



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School grades reveal improvement at Fishweir, Spring Park

Duval only district in Florida to increase 'A' schools, decrease 'F' schools

The Florida Department of Education has released the 2012 school grades for Duval County Public Schools. Despite the anticipated decrease in school grades, Duval County Public Schools was the only school district in the state to increase the number of "A" schools and decrease the number of "F" schools.

"A decrease in school grades was expected because of the increased rigor," said Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals. "While we have seen some reductions, they are not as drastic as we

anticipated. I commend our teachers and principals for their hard work in preparing our students for the most rigorous expectations in the country."

Neighborhood schools Fishweir Elementary and Spring Park led the charge. Fishweir's letter grade jumped from a C to a coveted A status. Spring Park's grade also improved from a C to an A.

The higher standards were implemented to better prepare students for college and the workforce. Florida Department of Education officials have been moving to higher academic standards, new assessments that measure students' progress toward meeting the standards, and higher achievement levels for reading and math. The higher standards, assessments and achievement levels were used to determine

school grades this year. Commissioner of Education Gerard Robinson addressed a letter to parents and guardians earlier this month explaining the anticipated drop in students and schools' grades.

This year in Duval County, 115 schools out of the 142 schools earned excellent, good or satisfactory grades, while four schools received a "D" or "F." All of our 21 high schools are still awaiting their grades, which incorporate access to and performance in accelerated coursework, college readiness and graduation rates. High school scores are scheduled to be released in December.

School grades are based on the following items:

- Student proficiency in FCAT Reading, Math, Science and Writing,

including students with disabilities and English language learners;

- The percentage of students making one year gains in reading and math; and

- The percentage of the lowest performing students making one year gains in reading and math

Additional criteria for high schools includes:

- The percentage of students who participate in college level courses (AP, IB, AICE and Dual Enrollment);

- The percentage of students who successfully complete college level courses;

- Overall graduation rates and at-risk students' graduation rates; and

- College readiness in reading and math.



Pet adoption event largest ever for city

The Mega Pet Adoption Event at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds helped 950 dogs and cats — 96 percent of the available animals — find forever homes. Organizers said it was the largest pet adoption event ever held in Jacksonville, attracting more than 10,000 potential adopters.

The three-day event was a collaborative adoption effort between First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services, the Jacksonville Humane Society and many other animal rescue groups from across Northeast Florida. More than 500 people volunteered their time to organize and host the event.

"The cooperation that was shown among all the shelters, rescues and groups is unheard of anywhere else in the country," said Rick DuCharme, founder and executive director of First Coast No More Homeless Pets. He gave special recognition to PetSmart Charities and Best Friends Animal Society for their support.

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3/3 – Live on the river in a one of a kind custom home with 3/3 main house plus separate bedroom/bath for guests. Large screened courtyard pool area.



SOLD

4134 McGirts Blvd.

Park like setting on the Ortega River with downtown views.



SOLD

4261 Pawnee St.

3/3.5 – Ortega classic on a great street close to the river.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

2970 St. Johns Avenue #10F

2/2 – 1,755 sq. ft. Completely redone Beau Rivage Condo, with spacious rooms/closets.



UNDER CONTRACT

3524 St. Johns Ave. **\$400,000**

Traditional home in the heart of Avondale within walking distance of shops and dining.



WATERFRONT

3781 Ortega Blvd. **\$2,750,000**

Prime riverfront lot in Ortega. 6,311sf, LR, DR, family room, river room, exercise room, guest suite retreat, 3c garage and more!



WATERFRONT

5090 Ortega Forest Dr. **\$1,250,000**

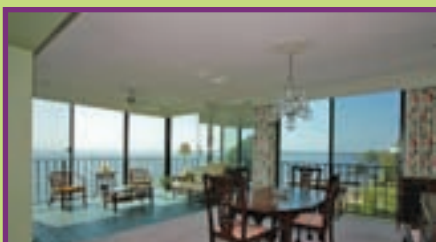
4/3.5 4,150 sq. ft. gorgeous Florida room across back of home with magnificent St. Johns River views, includes boathouse and lift.



SOLD

2970 St. Johns Ave. #6A

3/2 – Beau Rivage beauty with river views from all bedrooms.



WATERFRONT

2970 St. Johns Ave. #4G **\$299,000**

3/2 – Gorgeous Beau Rivage condo with 2,271 sq. ft. that overlooks pool, river and trees.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

3862 Arden St.

3/2.5 – 2,715 sq. ft. Fabulous Mediterranean home in the heart of Avondale sold before it hit the market.



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River LIFE

special section

Welcoming waters: Marina Mile lifestyle in sights

Florida's abundant sunshine, warm temperatures and pristine waterways make it the ideal destination for boaters and sailors nationwide. And many cruisers chart a course for Northeast Florida — specifically Ortega's Marina Mile.

Cruisers from around the world call Marina Mile, a strip of marinas and businesses on the Ortega waterway, their Florida home away from home.

According to Avondale resident Brooks Busey, part owner and manager of Ortega's Sadler Point Marina, the area's military and medical facilities are an important appeal to out-of-town boaters. Many cruisers have family or friends stationed at Naval Air Station Jacksonville or Mayport, he explained. So instead of driv-

ing or flying in for a visit, skilled sailors and cruisers take their boat, where they can enjoy a vacation lifestyle on the water. Busey also discussed the appeal of Jacksonville's many top medical facilities, making it an ideal destination and focal point for many cruisers.

Mike Webster, a yacht broker based out of Lambs Yacht Center on the Mile, said the waterway access is the real draw to this area.

"When you think about what defines the San Marco, Avondale and Ortega areas, it's the waters," he said. "There's a lot of cruising to be done."

The Resident went down to the docks to see what draws some of its occupants to this backyard gem...

Bill & Kate Hallock

Boats have been a part of river yacht owner Bill Hallock's life since he was a boy. When he was in junior high school, his parents felt that he and his brother should learn the trades and decided the best way to teach them was to build a houseboat together. After college and a stint as a Navy pilot, Bill continued his career as a pilot in the manufacturing, corporate and commercial sectors. He finally decided he was ready to land for good, and six years ago bought his wife Kate a 20-year-old pre-owned



river yacht for her birthday.

Originally from Pittsburgh, the couple decided to move somewhere with a little less ice on the water. They considered many cities across the south, and looked at many marinas before deciding on Ortega Landing, where their 52-foot Harbormaster "Pure Grace II" is located. She said that when choosing the perfect marina, the couple considered such criteria as cleanliness, openness to the sun and how well boats survive tropical storms and hurricanes. Ortega Landing, she said, had it all.

"We came from a 5-star marina in Pittsburgh and would not settle for anything less," she said.

Kate still works remotely for her company in Pittsburgh, traveling there monthly. Bill now works at the marina.

Richard & Paulette Paliana

Paulette and Richard Paliana first began boating when they got married 45 years ago. The more time they spent on the water, the more they fell in love with it. Paulette explained that she loves the simplicity of the boating lifestyle.



Jacksonville to spend some of their retirement years. They discovered the Ortega Yacht Club Marina, where their 36' Senator Sundeck Trawler, "Morning Star," currently is docked. She said they were hooked once they saw how nice the area was.

Paliana described the boat as the perfect venue for entertaining and getting to know other people. The marina also hosts a monthly dinner during which boaters socialize and share their stories, an event Paliana looks forward to every month.

"There are always adventures to hear about," she

said. "The view out here is just beautiful. We love just watching the sun rise and set every day. We'll go outside and throw out a fishing pole or something, but I usually don't catch anything, so I will just go back to enjoying the scenery!" she said.

Originally from Central New York, they put Marina Mile on their map in December 2009 when they decided to come to

said. "It's like a little family here that just loves this lifestyle. When people from out of town come and stay for a couple of months, they become part of the family, and they keep coming back."

The couple plans to continue boating with the dream of embarking on the Great Loop, a continuous journey through the eastern portion of North America.

Tom & Vicky Anderson

Jacksonville native Tom Anderson has lived on the Ortega River his whole life, where boating became his choice lifestyle. His wife Vicky, however, was not always prone to the water. A California girl used to the beaches, Vicky knew little about boats before moving to Jacksonville. After falling in love with Anderson, she quickly learned to love boating as well.

About four years ago, the couple decided to get even more seriously involved in boating and became involved with the Jacksonville Power Squadron. Through this organization, the couple took classes focusing on boat safety and education, which



Vicky said helped her to become much more comfortable with the lifestyle. They now participate in many events including the annual Kingfish Tournament through the Squadron.

Another annual event they partake in with the organization is the winter boat parade in downtown Jacksonville. The event is a family affair for the Andersons. Each year their

children and grandkids help to decorate their boat, Anders' Castillo, which currently is docked at Lamb's Yacht Center.

She said the Squadron and boating has introduced them to a community of people with a common interest and with many stories to share, one of her favorite aspects of the lifestyle.

She and Tom hope to one day know have enough safety and boating knowledge and tools to complete the Great Loop.

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special section

Eco-heritage boat trips launch in October

Boating opportunities are endless along the St. Johns River and its waterways. And who better to act as a guide than the St. Johns Riverkeeper, which is planning a pair of two-day Eco-Heritage Boat Trips this fall.

They are two of many river adventures the local organization has planned over the years. The Oct 11-12 trip will showcase some of the scenic beauty along the St. Johns River between Palatka and Sanford.

The boat leaves at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 11 from the Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka and arrives at Monroe Harbour Marina in Sanford at about 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 12. Guests and passengers will spend the night at Blair's Jungle Den.



An Oct 13-14 trip begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe Harbour Marina and arrives back at the Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka on Oct. 14 at 4:30 p.m. As before, guests will spend the evening at Blair's Jungle Den.

For more information about reservations and cost, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/boat-trips.

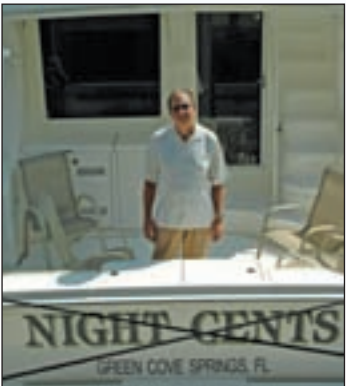


RiverLIFE

What's in a name?

Call them curious, creative, captivating or cryptic — but boat names are important identifiers with plenty of meaning behind them.

The Resident went out to area marinas to get a little background on some of the monikers of neighborhood vessels. Have a good boat story to share? Let us know with an email to editor@residentnews.net.



Tom Jones

Type of boat: Silverton 50C
Boat name: Night Cents

"I work nights at a tele-radiology facility, and it's like earning a little bit of money for each case, hence Night Cents. I have had a few boats in the past. The first boat I had, I told my wife, 'We should buy a boat.' She joked and said, 'I think we need to get a marriage counselor.' I then said, 'How about we get a boat and call it Marriage Counselor.' We did, and I do think it helped to pull us together!"



Butch and Janet Elliott

Type of boat: Steel Trawler
Boat name: Scorey

"I had heard that you need to name your boat something so different that if anyone needs to find you at the marina, they know where to go. It needs to be something people remember. My wife's mother used to call her 'Scorey.' Nobody really knows why, but we figured that no one would have that name except for her."



Tom and Vicky Anderson

Type of boat: Hatteras motor yacht
Boat name: Anders' Castillo

"The story behind our name is simple. Your home is your castle. Our castle even has a moat around it!"



Downing Nightingale, Sr.

Type of boat: Hatteras
Boat name: Capella

"It's been said that seven letter, double letter words make for lucky boats. Capella is also the name of a prime navigation star. It's not seen regularly, but it's one of the brighter stars."



Steve Miller

Type of boat: Choi
Boat name: Silent Dove

"It's a Psalm set to the tune of 'in distant lands.' It just rang."

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Open water swimmer glides forward

Successful June event encouraging start for long term plans

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Riverside resident Jim Alabiso reflects on the recent "Up the River" 12-mile swim for the St. Johns, he says he's so pleased has to pick his jaw up off the floor.

"We had 42 volunteers and 100 supporters and sponsors, it's just incredible," Alabiso said last month in the wake of his much hyped 12-mile river swim from the Mandarin county dock to the Riverside Arts Market. "I'm so pleased with the community response."

Alabiso's organization, Jumping Fish, has been spearheading river swims to fulfill its mission of "advocacy for our waterways through athletics." The gatherings usually include a small group of swimmers accompanied by kayakers and boaters. The June 9 swim from Mandarin to Riverside was one of its biggest undertakings yet. Not only did local bank, Community First, fund the endeavor with a \$1,000 grant, but also Riverside

Avondale Preservation led a happy homecoming for the swimmers and kayakers at the Riverside Arts Market and helped generate community interest in the undertaking. The St. Johns Riverkeeper boat, Kingfisher, also came along for the fun and provided updates to supporters following the swim.

The swim was the first long distance swimming event in the St. Johns River. Alabiso — along with other swimmers, kayakers, paddle-boarders and boating enthusiasts — hope the event will open doors for additional water events in the St. Johns. Ultimately, the goal is to bring so much athletic interest to the St. Johns River that it becomes an important revenue source for Downtown hotels, restaurants and entertainment areas. And as a money generator, the events and river would have a better chance at being protected when companies want to pipe flow in — and out — of the St. Johns River.

"What we're doing is a several year strategy — we want to get people used to swimming in the river before we push too hard," Alabiso said.

Alabiso likened the river's future to the Hudson River. Long considered dirty, the Hudson now is the site of "The Eight Bridges Swim" and other events that



Swimmers take to the downtown riverfront during the recent Race for the St. Johns open water swim.

Photo by Mike Addison

attract athletes from all over the world.

He sees similar interest in the upcoming "Race Across the St. Johns" planned for Oct. 20. Details are in the works, he said, but it has generated interest from swimmers all over the country.

In the meantime, JumpingFish has added a new course to its roster — the "Downtown Rebel Mile." The course goes from the Fuller Warren Bridge to the Main

Street Bridge at The Landing. The swimmers' other two venues include: the Swim Across the St. Johns, a four-mile swim from the Fleming Island Marina in Orange Park to the County Dock in Mandarin; and the St. Johns Marathon Swim, an 11-mile course from the County Dock in Mandarin to the Fuller Warren (also known as the 12-mile Swim for the St. Johns).

Fine day for a boat ride



Larry Redmond of Redmond Boats and Yachts out of Fernandina Beach came down to RAM to show Tidewater boats for the day

"The Art of Boating" was the theme of a midsummer morning's Riverside Arts Market on the St. Johns River last month. A selection of boats was on display at the market's dock, along with nautical accessories and displays from local boating clubs. Many boaters arrived at the market by boat to tie up and have lunch under the bridge. As part of the seaworthy adventure, pirates also were spotted lurking around the dock — looking for artistic treasure and food to plunder!



Lisa Almeida, franchise owner of the Freedom Boat Club at Julington Creek Marina



Barton Holmes, of Holmes & Owen boat brokerage was on hand to support the local boating interests. Holmes brought out a Pursuit D.C. 235, a 2013 dual console model



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If you enjoy the lifestyle you lead when you are on vacation, why not try your best to accomplish it right where you live. There's an opportunity that awaits, especially if a resort-style property with an active boating community, a safe harbor and a social environment are on your radar- you need to visit the Marina and River Homes at Ortega Landing.

The impeccably maintained property, located at 4238 Lakeside Drive, 32210, features River Homes and a Marina, a truly unique setting that affords both boaters and residents an amazing place to live life to the fullest. The Marina Homes are one of the safest, most secure and maintenance-free properties available on the market



today and the marina is a unique, state of the art property with countless amenities.

Waking up in the morning to the placid, still waters on the Ortega River with the sunrise is breathtaking and the views are captivating from anywhere on the property. One thing that sets this community apart is that it's so close to all of the amenities that the area has become known for such as top notch dining, excellent retail shopping, large local parks in which to play, museums to explore and other marquis events on the city calendar.

Ortega Landing is in close proximity to the essentials, as the Publix grocery store and shopping center at



Roosevelt Square are four blocks away. The Shoppes of Avondale are down the road for a fantastic shopping and dining experience. One can't forget about the

lineup of downtown sporting events like the NFL's roaring Jacksonville Jaguars, The Florida-Georgia weekend festivities, the Gator Bowl and many other annual events that are a hit with visitors and residents alike. The docks downtown become a floating party for many of the games, as tailgating takes on a whole new meaning. There's a lot to like about living and boating from this little corner of the river, where the life is good and the river life is teeming with activity.



River Home Highlights

For the homeowner, each of the newly constructed units boast 2,650 sq. ft. of spacious air conditioned living, with 280 sq. ft. of outdoor patio space overlooking the Marina. The units are all three bedrooms with three beautifully appointed baths and stainless GE Monogram appliances outfitting the open kitchens. The layouts of the units are designed for entertaining and maximizing the views of the river. Living spaces engage families and guests in the expansive square footage of the living room, kitchen and dining areas. Two sets of triple sliding paneled glass doors open up to the views of sailboats, yachts, powerboats and the island of Ortega, a fantastic design element.

With fully-integrated security in the building, residents have the ability to travel and leave their property, feeling safe, secure and worry-free. Unlike owning a home and relying on a security system, the River Homes are looked after by the management with 24-hour monitoring on numerous cameras throughout the building, offering peace of mind. Doors to the building are key coded and your private elevator entrance is also on a coded entry. All of the upgrades make for 'state of the art' living for those who choose to live a life of travel, or just enjoy the safety and security for their family and investments.

Parking is never a problem either as there is a private, gated space with your name on it under the building. This is one amenity that you won't soon take for granted in a downpour while taking in the groceries. It adds a secure, dry place to come in from the elements- straight to the elevators. Storage facilities are also paired with each parking space, offering an oversized space for boating supplies, tools and any other storage needs. With no lawn to mow and maintain, no worries of intrusion and the knowledge that your community is active and full of safety features just adds to the appeal of this unique river community.

The Marina Highlights

From an owner's perspective, Ortega Landing is a place full of entertaining space outside your unit, with the ability to relax in the summer sun on your own boat or perhaps the opportunity to sit poolside any day of the week. A full schedule of events planned by the management has helped to promote community and is growing to rival those of local yacht clubs, so there's never a shortage of good times. The 2,300 sq. ft. Club House on the property boasts 'endless hot water' showers, washer and dryer, ice machine, a library and an upstairs (elevator accessible) entertaining space- ideal for gatherings and events. It's the perfect place to recharge your sea legs, as a sparkling pool and hot tub are all part of the gated, riverfront amenity center. Don't overlook the grill by the river, as you can cook out the family dinner and eat poolside or bring it back to your yacht.

From a boater's perspective it's the ideal place to rest, relax and know your investment is safe, secure and that close attention is paid to your vessel. The harbor is also safe in the Hurricane Season and this has been a traditional spot to dock a boat in the case of poor weather. Boaters from all over the Eastern seaboard understand the importance of their prized possessions remaining buoyant and the Marina is in demand for this very reason.

The 'Bellingham Marine' built docks are keypad secured and completely lit up at night and the entire distance of the dock is loaded with dock boxes (one per slip), shore power, water and pump out capabilities. The concrete construction has been built to last and the staff capabilities ensure a concierge-style visit to the marina. The crew is always ready to welcome you with a smile, stellar service, knowledge and extreme care is taken in regard to of all your questions and marine based needs. Recommendations for boat work are offered by the marina, as the riverfront "Marina Mile", as it's commonly referred to, is known for its resources for the boating community.

2012 Ortega Landing Docking Rates

Slip Length	Monthly	6-Months	12-Months	Active Military Monthly	Retired Military Monthly	Hurricane Special 5-Month
35'	\$355.95	\$2028.92	\$3844.26	\$302.66	\$320.36	\$1779.25
45'	\$457.65	\$2608.61	\$4942.62	\$389.00	\$411.89	\$2288.25
50'	\$508.50	\$2898.45	\$5491.80	\$432.23	\$457.65	\$2542.50
55'	\$559.35	\$3188.30	\$6040.98	\$475.45	\$503.42	\$2796.75
60'	\$610.20	\$3478.14	\$6590.16	\$518.67	\$549.18	\$3051.00
65'	\$661.05	\$3767.99	\$7139.34	\$561.89	\$594.95	\$3305.25
70'	\$711.90	\$4057.83	\$7688.52	\$605.12	\$640.71	\$3559.50

Must have proper insurance on vessel. Vessels over 10 years old must present a recent survey. Must be paid in advance with applicable deposit. Marina lease rules apply. No proration or refunds.



A Place to Relax and Call Home

Whether you lead the boating lifestyle or you would just like to find the best opportunity to remain in Jacksonville with a sound investment in a riverfront property, there's no comparison to the value of the real estate found here. Call and make an arrangement to visit the Marina Homes at Ortega Landing, call Warren Hickernell at 387-5538 today to experience the best of what the area has to offer in a riverfront, boating community. For other boating inquiries, see the charts and listings of available price points for the boat slips and marina amenities and Hurricane Specials. The club facilities at Ortega Landing are also open for special events and boat clubs to enjoy- book your weekend today by calling the clubhouse at 387-5538. You can also check out the Marina and floor plans at www.ortegalanding.com for further information or send an email to office@ortegalanding.com.

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BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

When I think of fishing our coastal waterways, and the tradition of generations of anglers exposing their sons and daughters to the battle of majestic giants vs. rod and reel, I think of the elusive silver king. Many of our coastal towns and municipalities along the west coast of Florida were built on the ritual of landing one of these beasts, an achievement that could simply be defined as a rite of passage.

From Homosassa, Tarpon Springs, Pineland, FL near Boca Grande and into the Florida Keys, we see tarpon lodges near every inlet hosting large porches, rocking chairs, and great southern architecture. When you walk into one of these Florida cracker-style buildings, you will always see old and worn-out tarpon mounts hanging over doorways and behind friendly bartenders. I catch myself wondering who caught it, how much fun they had and where are they now?

Tarpon fishing has changed a lot over the years. In the past, tarpon were caught and drug over the transom where they met their fate. The sole purpose of the angler was to haul their trophy home. There was something magical about harvesting one of these giants.

Today is different. During the past few decades, conservation has become a large part of our culture and has had a positive impact on tarpon numbers. Today, the reward for tarpon fishing is not a kill, but a successful release.

The tackle we use is important in the conservation and successful fighting and releasing of tarpon. Tackle too small will not hold up. The line capacity in small reels will be insufficient for

the long runs they make in open water, and the rods will not have enough backbone to effectively apply pressure against the fish's strength and will to live.

Tackle too large will take a lot of the fun out of the fight. Fighting these fish can sometimes take an hour or more, and holding heavy conventional tackle can be very clumsy and cumbersome.

Large spinning reels have become popular for this type of fishing with the ability to effectively cast to feeding fish. And these reels can be purchased along with a good 30 lb class rod that will hold up to the fight.

Anyone who has spent a good bit of time chasing tarpon knows the frustration associated with their feeding habits. They can be very finicky. Tarpon live and feed in many different environments along our coastlines, salt-water marshes, and throughout the St. Johns and Ortega Rivers. Their eating habits and sensitivity to tackle seem to change based on their surroundings. It is common to see a good number of fish, only to be shut out. You have to be prepared to try different tactics.

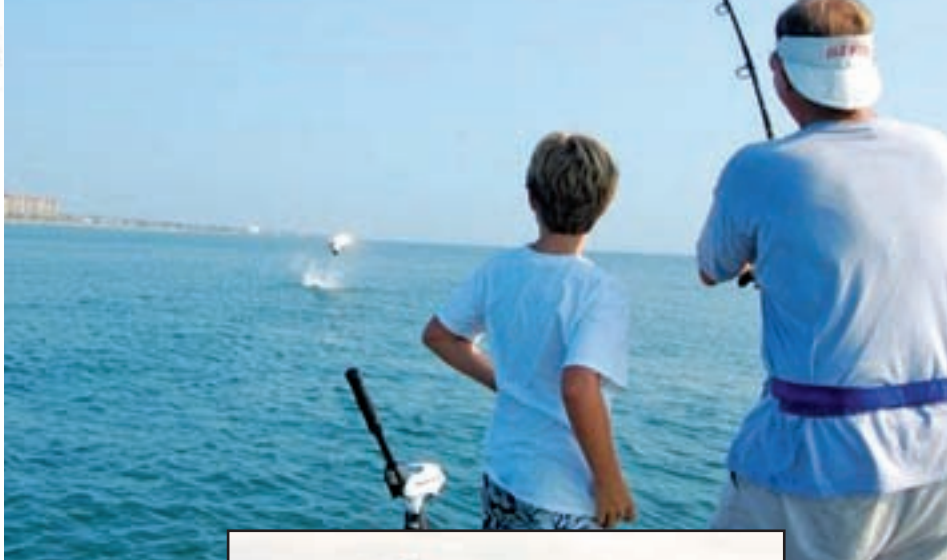
Tarpon busting the surface through large numbers of baitfish will seem to hit anything. Large baits (either live or artificial) with larger hooks and leader will not discourage them from striking.

Tarpon feeding in currents around bridges, docks and jetties seem to be more sensitive to tackle. Their feeding in this environment seems to be more of a 'wait and see what comes to me' approach. Changing your tactic with smaller tackle (hooks and leader) and smaller baits (small shrimp or crabs) may help induce a strike. Also, casting up current and letting it drift back with the current can offer a more natural presentation making a difference.

Tarpon will hide in the shadows of docks during moving tides busting the

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TARPON FISHING FUN



ABOVE: Ford and Joey Milne

RIGHT: Ted and Quinn Miller practice conservation with catch and release



surface when unsuspecting bait comes by, then go back in the shadows and wait again. One would think drifting live bait by this dock would guarantee a strike. Often times with this behavior, tackle hanging from the bait is readily seen by your target species, and is passed on. This is a great time to scale back on hook size and leader. You may lose more fish from break offs, but you will increase your chances to jump a few.

Tarpon fishing can be a lot of fun for kids. The best time runs in the heat of the summer when they are out of school. Any boat size will work. My boat of choice is an aluminum boat with a trolling motor. Once you hook up and the acrobatics begin, the child's anticipation turns to excitement, and

their time will surely be spent resting their palms on the transom leaning over in hopes to catch a glimpse of the massive fish.

I remember my first tarpon fishing experience. I was 7. I was with my father and another father / son combo. The day started out like any other day, fishing for several hours with no action. Our father's friends were fishing near by, and motored

up about mid-day. There we were, two boats tied together, adrift in the ocean, socializing. It was a hot August day off Ponte Vedra Beach, so the dads enjoyed something cold to drink. My friend and I cracked open a Country Time lemonade. We were all busy chatting, and forgot about the lines we had in the water. That's when the fun began.

I remember hearing the high-pitch whine as line peeled off the old Penn Senator 4/O reel while being mesmerized with acrobatic jump after jump. I recall the humming and drumming vibration of the tarpon's gill plates slapping together violently as she tried to break free. My dad leaped from boat to boat, grabbed the rod and the

fight was on. After an hour or so and dozens of jumps, the fish was landed and many laughs and high-fives exchanged.

Last summer my brother and I on separate occasions were fortunate enough to give his son and my youngest daughter the experience of watching their fathers hook, fight and release a silver king. I can remember being their age and the pride I felt the day I watched my father hook and land his tarpon. I truly hope our kids feel the same.

Send your pictures, stories and favorite destinations to The Miller Brothers at Nathan@FredMillerGroup.com or Ted@FredMillerGroup.com.

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Summer Social Days

It's summertime in the neighborhood and the social interludes move from the art galleries and event halls to community pools, walking paths, playgrounds and front porches. Think flip flops, bathing suits, jeans, sundresses. Summer socializing is all about keeping cool, staying active and making the most of the back time of the year. Whether on the beach or on the courts, at local restaurants or around the barbecue, it's time in the neighborhood to enjoy a healthy, relaxed time to bond about enjoying all the incredible amenities this historic community has to offer. The Resident magazine has you this month with a photographic spread of how your neighbors have been enjoying summer days!



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Avondale, San Marco real estate offices win national award



Prudential Network Realty's Avondale and San Marco office achieved a national award for top gross commission income in the southeastern region. The team of Realtors has won the national company award during the past three quarters.

"I am very proud of the team, they work extremely hard to provide exceptional service and the results show," said Sheron Willson, broker manager of the Avondale/San Marco metro offices.

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Riverside company warms hearts, cools homes



Vice President of Operations Danny Towers with Kayla and Dan Griffin, and winners Samantha, Montana and Shelly Jenkins

Dan and Patty Griffin have done a lot during their nearly 50 years as owners of Weather Engineers, but nothing that compares to their most recent contest.

The couple and their two children, Kayla and James Griffin III, asked members of the community to submit a video of them conducting an "indoor weather forecast" from inside their homes.

They offered a new Bryant heating and cooling system in exchange for the best video.

After viewing many submissions, the Jenkins family video was chosen as the prizewinner. Montana Jenkins filmed her sister Samantha describing how temperatures in their house

get up to over 95 degrees, especially when their mom, Shelly cooks.

Samantha also explained how her father was an "a/c guy" and always fixed their unit, but since his death over a year ago, the unit finally gave out.

"Their video really just tugged at our hearts," Patty Griffin said.

Griffin described that due to the economy, many people put off major purchases like new air conditioning units. She said this contest was the perfect way to give back to the community.

"This community has been so good to our family, and we are trying to help them out as much as possible," she said.

Murray Hill musician to release first CD



Murray Hill resident and acoustic singer/songwriter, Garrett Harbison, plans to release his debut album on Aug. 17. The album is titled "Avenue of Progress," and named after a historic moniker for Murray Hill's Edgewood Avenue.

The homage is his way of embracing the community in which his album was created, but also reflects the progress he has made, and continues to make, as a musician.

The CD release show will be held Aug. 17 at Jack Rabbits in San Marco. The 10-track disc features all original songs by Harbison highlighting a mix of upbeat rock, smooth reggae, strong ballads and a splash of a soul influence, with a variety of acoustic instruments performed by Harbison, who also recorded and mastered the album himself.

"My goal was to record the music with an analog approach on digital equipment," said Harbison, who opted against using many of the artificial sound enhancements available with today's recording equipment. "I wanted to focus on the natural sounds created by the acoustic instruments themselves."

Harbison began performing his solo act a year and a half ago. Since then, he has played in venues all over Northeast Florida, including Burro Bar, The Pit, Murray Hill Theater, Downtown's First Wednesday Art Walk, Riverside Arts Market, Atlantic Beach Songwriters' Night and numerous other open mic nights. After a year of playing, he compiled enough new music to begin recording an album.

Copies of Harbison on Acoustic's "Avenue of Progress" will be on sale at the Aug. 17 show and will also be available for download on www.garrettonacoustic.com and iTunes.

New GM for FYC

There has been a change at the helm of club management at the Florida Yacht Club.

John McCranie, longtime general manager of the city's oldest yacht club, left the club in recent months for another opportunity in the Bahamas, according to club officials.

Now Darren Betz, a professional with a long history in Florida club management, has taken over at the wheel. For the past 10 years, Betz has been general manager of the 70-year-old, 1,000-member Lauderdale Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale. Betz was also general manager for he



Pensacola Country Club for several years as well as for La Gorce Country Club in Miami Beach and The Bankers Club in Miami.

In addition to achieving his certified club manager designation in 2005, Betz is an active member of CMAA and a triathlete who has completed numerous events.

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Dr. Abram, pediatric hospitalist, and Seth, pediatric nurse, are just two of the many Baptist Health nurses, physicians and staff whose commitment to quality is reflected in our Magnet redesignation.



The New Green

*Sustainable renovations
& urban agriculture news*

GoLO

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Historic neighborhoods can be sustained in many ways, from preservation to legislation. One of the easiest and most accessible is to “GoLO” or Go Local – patronize locally owned, locally operated businesses.

“When you shop in historic neighborhoods you not only support the local economy but you also promote sustainability because many of these businesses operate out of older buildings that might otherwise have been torn down,” said Sarah Marie Johnston, marketing director at Bistro AIX and member of GoLO Jacksonville, an initiative designed to support locally owned, locally operated businesses (called LOLOs) by informing and educating consumers. “Shopping locally

ident and neighborhood renovation advocate. “I think once people get out to the different areas they are not only pleasantly surprised but it also instills some city pride.”

To help spread that pride and financially support local businesses, Field, along with his girlfriend, Caron Streibich, co-founded a dynamic series of neighborhoods alive in so many ways.”

Neighborhoods like Riverside, Avondale, San Marco, Murray Hill and Springfield virtually challenge you not to GoLO because they offer so many unique shopping and dining experiences within walking distance from each other. The Riverside Arts Market, King Street Farmers Market and Jacksonville Farmers Market on Beaver Street offer a variety of local food and retail vendors in one spot. Throw in The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and Sun Ray Cinema in Riverside or the San Marco Theatre and Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco and it is easy to build a day trip around entirely LOLO businesses.

“Our historic neighborhoods’ business districts have really grown to have a nice mix of interesting retail shops, special entertainment and great watering holes,” said Mike Field, local banker, Fairfax res-

ident and neighborhood renovation advocate. “I think once people get out to the different areas they are not only pleasantly surprised but it also instills some city pride.”

To help spread that pride and financially support local businesses, Field, along with his girlfriend, Caron Streibich, co-founded a dynamic series of



Mike Field markets the Cash Mob Today sign.
Photo by Caron Streibich.

monthly events called Jax Cash Mob. Modeled after a growing national phenomenon that began in Buffalo, NY in August 2011, the Jax Cash Mob is based on three simple steps:

1. Learn about the Cash Mob event via Facebook or word-of-mouth and then bring friends and meet the organizers at a specified LOLO restaurant.

2. Once there, a nearby LOLO retail business will be identified and all participants walk together as a peaceful mob where each person spends \$10 to \$20.

3. After shopping, everyone returns to the restaurant for good food, drink and socializing – and more spending to support a second LOLO.

“The call to action is what sets the Cash Mob apart,” said GoLO’s Johnston at the June Cash Mob event at The Write Touch and Pizza Palace on San Marco Square. 80 other participants who spent \$2,200 at the store and an additional \$470 at the restaurant joined her.

“It provides a nice economic boost for the businesses and is just a great social event,” said San Marco Merchants’ Association President George Foote. “I will definitely encourage people to participate in other Cash Mobs in other neighborhoods.”

Locally owned businesses reinvest about 65 percent of their revenues back into the community compared to 33 percent by chain stores, according to Field. He and Streibich have also organized mobs Downtown at Chamblin’s Uptown/Burrito Gallery, in Avondale at Green

Man Gourmet/Mojo4 and at King Street Farmers Market attracting over 200 people for a total input of well over \$5,000 since April. The mob will visit Springfield on August 4. The events cost nothing to put on because they are promoted strictly through Facebook and word-of-mouth.

“A lot of stores, like the Green Man Gourmet in Avondale, carry locally produced products, so the impact is multiplied – not only are you helping the retailer, but you’re also supporting other local businesses,” said Streibich. “Also, surrounding stores often offer discounts the day of the event. It all sort of feeds on itself to keep the neighborhoods strong, vital and relevant.”

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/jaxcashmob> for more information, updates and to offer suggestions about where future Jax Cash Mob events should occur. For a video of Mike Field talking about the benefits of Go Lo at The Write Touch/Pizza Palace event, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYtfwPoeVo0&feature=player_embedded. Visit the GoLO website at www.goljax.com or their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/GoLO-Jacksonville/177419488939518>

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Community garden interest budding

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Plans for a community garden at the old Willowbranch Branch Rose Garden Park are beginning to take root.

After years of discussion and planning, Riverside Avondale Preservation's "Green Team" committee has met with city officials and gauged local interest in the garden — which would start with 20-25 garden plots, showcase native landscaping and feature a potential partnership with nearby West Riverside Elementary School.

The group is considering a plan designed by local landscape architect, Jake Ingram, developed more than five years ago.

"We're going to have him work on a plan that provides plus that are four by 20," said Carmen Godwin, RAP's executive director. "That will feed a family four."

Godwin said she and RAP green team leaders, Amanda Searle and Sally Robson, met with city parks and recreation director Kelley Boree this summer about the community garden project at Willowbranch. Godwin said

Boree was "really excited about it."

The Willowbranch Rose Garden site was chosen because it already has a water meter installed. Robson said there are also plans to incorporate a few "lower maintenance rose bushes along the fence that will surround the community garden to commemorate the era in which it was an active rose garden."

"We'll pay for the build-out, the irrigation and the building of the beds," Godwin said. Funds from Party Benefit & Jam's recent "Pop Up Party" under the Fuller Warren Bridge could help support some of the start up costs, she added. Robson said the cost to irrigate the garden plots would be covered by a membership fee paid by each gardener. While the fee has not yet been set, Robson said, organizers anticipate the cost to be about \$50 per gardening cycle, or January through June and July through December. The fees also would cover insurance for the garden, another substantial cost to the project.

All of the beds would be raised beds, and some would be raised to another height for those with disabilities. Fencing would be the project's most expensive component, Godwin

said, and native plants would be donated. While RAP does not have a project estimate for the community garden project, she thought \$3,000 could be a ballpark figure.

To move forward, the garden plans must achieve a Certificate of Appropriateness from the city's historic division.

"A lot of other community gardens are not on public property, and because this is it will take a little longer to do," Godwin said. "We have to have an agreement with the city that outlines what we intend to do — we'll take the maintenance away from them, which will reduce the city's cost."

She said the current garden on site only takes up about one-third of the parcel, so there is also room to expand.

That's good insurance because already, the waiting list to have a garden plot at the proposed community garden is already full at 20 people.

Adding an educational component to the plans is an outreach relationship with West Riverside Elementary School. The school is interested in having a plot or two at the garden for students at the school.

Tales of a secret garden



Here's a little history on the Willowbranch Rose Garden Park from the City of Jacksonville: Willowbranch Rose Garden Park is located in Riverside between Mallory St. and Azalea Terrace, across from Willowbranch Park. In 1916, the site was part of the City's initial purchase for the land to create Willowbranch Park. It remained part of the park until 1955, when members of the Jacksonville Rose Society established the Variety Rose Garden on the site. The Society and other volunteers (with the City's help) maintained the roses for many years. However, eventually the garden deteriorated until in 1998 two teenage brothers, Adam and Joseph Bierce, took over restoration of the remaining garden. At the request of Riverside Avondale Preservation, the park name was changed in 2002, and today it contains two rose beds with timber borders, a bench for relaxing, and parking for approximately eight cars.

Council honors Garden Club's 90th with proclamation



Garden Club President, Patsy Gaillard, with publicity chair, Debbie Byrd, proudly displaying the proclamation on behalf of the membership

The Jacksonville City Council recognized the Garden Club of Jacksonville's 90th birthday celebration before its June 26 meeting.

District 9 City Councilman Warren Jones presented the proclamation. Members of The Garden Club attended the meeting to receive the honor.

The Garden Club has a rich history in the Jacksonville area. Founded in March 1922 by Ninah B. Cummer, the club began as a small gathering of Cummer's close friends. Her intent was to introduce Jacksonville to the beautiful European and American gardens Cummer had seen during her world travels. Cummer's goal was to provide a forum that would encourage the study of flora and fauna, garden design and the sharing of information and the propagation of plants.

The club was one of the four clubs

founding the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. on April 24, 1924.

Today, the club continues its mission nearby its original meeting site. The club is located at 1005 Riverside Ave. on the St. Johns River. It is one of the largest Garden Clubs in America. The

Jacksonville Garden Club focuses on education, beautification and conservation and works with many local organizations including the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, Tree Hill and the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens to promote its mission.

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The Way we Were

Betty & Tesch Brundick

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Betty Blount Brundick likes to point at the letter B cast in concrete above the front door of her home. Her eyes twinkle when she says, “Tesch married me for the B.”

The couple met at Lakeshore Junior High School in seventh grade. Betty remembers, “My class opened Lakeshore. For part of seventh grade the junior high wasn’t completed, so we had to stay on the top floor of Ortega Elementary. When we finally moved over to Lakeshore, there was no electricity, no lockers, and no heat. I remember one rainy afternoon when our teacher had to move over to the window to read to the class because there was no light. We also had to bring our lunches and sit on the floor

to eat them. When I heard a new boy was coming, I declared that he would be my boyfriend. And he was--- for a week.”

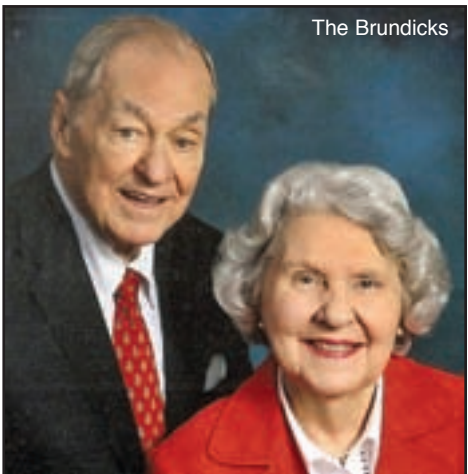
Forty years later, the couple met again at a wedding. Both single now, they dated for two years before becoming husband and wife January 26, 1991 thus creating a blended family of eight children and twelve grandchildren. “We had thirteen grandchildren, but lost one tragically in an accident on the Buckman Bridge,” recalls Tesch.

Growing up in the Riverside, Avondale, Ortega area, both Tesch and Betty were connected to North Florida’s waterways. Fannie Stockton, Betty’s grandmother, had a house near Sixth Street on Atlantic Beach and Betty’s mother, father and three sisters moved to the beach for a month each summer. “I walked up and down the beach with my friend Ann Yerkes. I really looked forward to my father’s arrival from his job downtown as the Duval County attorney. After work, he would come home to the beach and

take me out to jump the big waves, always an exciting event. I remember also when my father was honored by having Blount Island named after him. I think he said it had been called Goat Island and he thought maybe Blount Island was a better name.

As far as bad outdoor experiences go, I got my worst sunburn ever not at the beach, but sitting on the sundial at the Yacht Club back when the pool was oriented in another direction. It was a windy day and I was talking to some friends, not realizing that I was frying. Something else I remember about the Yacht Club then was the fact the pool water was ice cold. I think it was spring fed which was not unusual. Betsy Lovett lived in Green Cove at the time and her pool was spring fed and freezing also. We didn’t complain because we were used to seriously cold water.

Tesch whose unique first name was his mother Fannie’s maiden name was connected to the St. Johns River via sailboat. “Frederick William Brundick, my father, took me out on the river when I was 11 or 12 and taught me how to sail. I loved it. Later, I became a member of the Rudder Club and



The Brundicks

spent lots of afternoons racing my Snipe class boat. I’ve done some ocean racing and won a few trophies. Billy Ross, Johnny Fewell, Tony Robida, Fred Cates and Bucky Mills were all part of the sailing adventure.”

After Lakeshore, Tesch transferred to Bolles, which was then an entirely male military academy. He remembers very formal dress parades wearing dark blue jackets, white pants. After the parades, the cadets handed flowers to their girlfriends.

Another early memory from Bolles is walking the Bull Ring. “When we got any demerits, we had to walk the Ring, a circular path at the school.





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Celebrating a century

Happy birthday to Addie K. Mallory

Timuquana-area resident Addie K. Mallory will be the center of family and friends' attention when she is regaled with a centennial barbecue celebration next month in Georgia.

Mallory's 100th birthday open house will be at her lakefront home in Blakely, GA.

There will be many fun memories to share. Born August 7, 1912 in Blakely, Mallory married R.C. "Pat" Mallory and lived in Tifton, GA for a short while before moving to Jacksonville, where they settled in the Marietta area. Daughter Linda Lockwood of Ortega, who is helping plan the birthday fete, said her parents enjoyed going to Florida-Georgia games together. As she and her siblings became school-aged, their mother played a big role in all of their activities including bake-offs, raising money for events, assisting with school trips and chaperoning cheerleaders. She was president of the PTA.

In addition to Lockwood, Mallory's children include Carlton A. Mallory of High Point, N.C. and J.W. "Bill" Mallory of Atlanta.

When grandchildren came along, Mallory enjoyed taking them to the zoo, Silver Springs and Disney World. Her grandchildren include: Tim Lockwood of Ortega; Kelly Summers of Avondale; Heather A. Mallory-Sobsey of Durham, N.C.; Stuart C.



Mallory

Mallory of Allandale, Va.; Tony Mallory of Live Oak; Billy Mallory (deceased); and Diana Mallory of Alaska.

Great grandchildren are Mallory C. Lockwood, Miller E. Lockwood, Campbell E. Summers, Harper A. Summers, Bo Summers and Elizabeth Mallory. Two surviving sisters are Annette Chandler of Blakely, GA and Neta Thompson of Plano, TX.

What has been Mallory's secret to long-life and happiness? Lockwood said eating healthy, a strong faith and just doing what she enjoyed were her life focus. She has always believed anything was possible and never believed in giving up, Lockwood shared. When Mallory had a hip replacement in March 2011, her doctors were amazed at her recovery given her age. They agreed it was drive, determination and sheer perseverance that made it possible.

Mallory still goes to the hairdresser weekly — and still makes her checks out. Happy 100th birthday Addie K. Mallory!

► I remember once I had to call a date and tell her that I had to cancel because I was walking. Her father got furious about my cancellation and called my father. I got out of the Bull Ring but had to make it up later. After that experience, I was a model cadet.

We had dances at Bolles. Some cadets had cars and they were sent out to bring the dates to the event. Of course they had to walk up to each door to get the girls. There was no tooting the horn in the driveway. At the dances there were almost more chaperons than dancers. And the chaperons took their jobs very, very seriously."

Both Tesch and Betty remember the less chaperoned sorority and fraternity tea dances held at the Ortega Pier on Saturday afternoons. "I think they cost

a dime or fifteen cents to get in," recalls Tesch. The music came from a jukebox that we could tilt and make it play. Those were great afternoons." Then after the "great afternoons" it was on to Sewanee for Tesch and Mary Baldwin for Betty.

Not far from the site of the former pier is the Southern Museum of History, a place Tesch, who saw much of the world in the Coast Guard, likes to support now with time, talent and treasure. Betty has been active in a number of civic organizations including Junior League and Colonial Dames.

Indeed, the baronial B on the front door could stand for Best Buddies because that is the feeling one gets around this delightful couple.

Staying safe as a senior driver

The Florida Safe Mobility for Life Coalition has created a new guide designed specifically for senior drivers. The Florida Guide for Aging Drivers aims to help aging drivers strike a balance between safety and the need for independence.

Inside the book, users will find safe driving tips, licensing information, lists of resources and community contacts for every county in the state.

"It is important for everyone to understand the impact that aging can have on their driving and learn the warning signs and resources that are available to them so they can make the transition when driving may no longer be a

safe option," said Gail Holley, FDOT's Safe Mobility for Life program and research manager.

This proactive approach follows the increasing age of Florida drivers.

According to an announcement from the FDOT, Florida leads the nation with 18 percent of its population age 65 and older. By the year 2030, over 27 percent will be over age 65, with half of those 75 or older. Currently, nearly 3 million drivers in Florida are over age 65.

The book compliments the website www.SafeandMobileSeniors.org and is available at no cost to senior drivers. To obtain a copy send an email to safe-mobility-for-life@fsu.edu or write to:

Safe Mobility for Life Resource Center
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1944 Riverside plane crash first to receive 'Pop Up History' treatment

Group uses social media to bring Jacksonville history alive

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jay Robinson was just seven years old when two low flying P-51 Mustang fighter planes hit some trees and crashed in Riverside near Post and James streets on July 20, 1944.

"I saw it happen — It was around 7 o'clock in the morning and I was awake in bed. They came over and it was so loud and the two planes were so low that I jumped out of bed and looked out my window. I thought they were going to crash into my house, they were that low," said Robinson, 75, now a San Marco resident.

The crash was the largest in Jacksonville history, damaging 18 houses, four apartment buildings, a dozen garages and eight vehicles. John Egar and James Cope, the two pilots, were

"buzzing" Egar's childhood home at 2749 Post Street instead of conducting training exercises from Pinellas Army Air Base near St. Petersburg. Both died, as did Millard McGee, a resident who was in his bathroom shaving when the engine from Cope's plane burst through the wall.

"I tell people about it and they don't believe it," Robinson said. "They're like, 'you must be pulling my leg.' I'd bring them to Post Street where part of the engine went through the side of the house. I'd relive some of those memories to sort of substantiate the fact that it did really happen."

That fact was substantiated in a big way on July 21 when over 200 history buffs of all ages "popped up" at the Jenks House Bed and Breakfast to commemorate the occasion with a tour of the crash site, slideshows, a scavenger hunt, a food truck and recollections from Robinson and nine other witnesses. The Jacksonville Historic Society, in partnership with Jax Truckies, sponsored the occasion.

Announced at the last minute via email and Facebook ("Shhh, it's a secret...tell everyone!"), it is the first of "several a year" Jax Pop Up History events that will use social media to "bring attention to history in our own backyard," said Riverside Avondale Preservation founder Wayne Wood, who organized it along with Emily Lisska, executive director of JHS.

"Standing on sites where events took place helps make history come alive," Wood said.

History was not only brought alive but passed on for Robinson, who was joined by his two granddaughters, 10-year-old twins Haley and Morgan Williams. They did not know about the crash until Pop Up History.

"It was cool that he [Robinson] told us that after the plane crash he could go just up the block and find pieces of the plane," Haley said. Morgan was saddened about the loss of life, especially that of Millard



McGhee.

The loss of live still resonates with Robinson. "Today is a reaffirmation of what the guys sacrificed in the war and what affect it had on Jacksonville. I'll never forget it."

As far as the next Pop Up History event? "I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you," Wayne Wood said.

To see video of the crash: http://www.t3licensing.com/video/clip/5110066AA7181_006.do

Jax Pop Up History Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jaxpopuphistory> or Jacksonville Historical Society: <http://www.jaxhistory.com>.

ABOVE: Attendees gather for the presentation. BELOW: Wayne Wood shares the story — Photos by Glenn Caton







ST. HEALING

People don't normally come to hospitals for the food, but one family will never forget the fine dining experience St. Vincent's HealthCare provided to their loved one. After a period of long illness, the patient decided it was time to begin end-of-life care. Registered nurse Scott Moody offered comfort and support to the man through this difficult process. One evening the patient made a simple request for a shrimp cocktail. When Scott learned the hospital did not have any, he went above and beyond by driving to a downtown bistro after his shift to pick up the patient's favorite meal. Scott may not be an actual saint, but to one grateful patient, he came pretty close.

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Murray Hill celebrates 17 years with two-day music fest

Murray Hill Theatre, one of the city's longest running live music venues, is planning a two-day music festival to celebrate its 17th year in business.

Slated for Aug. 17-18, the festival will feature some of Christian rock's biggest names including: Disciple, Bleach, A Plea For Purging, Sent By Ravens, House Of Heroes, Nine Lashes, My Epic, Run Kid Run, The Wedding, As Hell Retreats, Onward To Olympas, To Speak Of Wolves, Becoming The Archetype, and several local bands; plus acoustic singer/songwriters on the Café Stage, a live DJ in the alley and greater selection and expanded food options.

Doors open at 3 p.m. on Aug. 17

and 11 a.m. on Aug. 18.

Murray Hill Theatre, a non-profit nightclub on the west side of Jacksonville, has offered a safe place for young adults to enjoy live entertainment without drugs, alcohol, second hand smoke and uplifting music. Murray Hill Theatre has put on more than 2,000 live music events bills itself as one of the nation's premier Christian rock venues. Murray Hill Theatre is located at 932 Edgewood Ave. South. More info available on the Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/210644389057192/> and advanced tickets are available for purchase online on Murray Hill Theatre's website: www.mhtrocks.com.



Eagle Scouts celebrate 100th anniversary

North Florida Council holds Eagle Scout alumni BBQ

Eagle Scouts, get out your badges and wear them proudly at work, school or play to celebrate National Eagle Scout Day on Aug. 1. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the first achievement of the Eagle Scout Award, the North Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America will host an Eagle Scout Alumni Bar-B-Q and gathering of Eagle Scouts at the Council's Camp Echochotee, located on Doctors Lake in Orange Park. The event begins 6:30. \$10 admission fee. Reservations required: 904-265-3813 or www.nfscouting.org.



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Price per person, does not include tax or gratuity. Some restaurants offer additional prix-fixe menu options. Reservations recommended. Street parking is free after 6 p.m. and on weekends. Additional information is available at eatupdowntown.com or by calling 634.0303. Local area code: 904.

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Lanier top performer in national CrossFit competition

Neighborhood optometrist, James C. Lanier — better known as "JTrain" by his friends and workout buddies at CrossFit West Jax's Field House Gym — has set the bar pretty high when it comes to neighborhood fitness. Lanier, who practices eye care at the

Riverside firm of Wood Lanier Bowman & Rogers, finished 13th in the world at the 2012 Reebok CrossFit Games, held July 13-15 at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.

The CrossFit Games include a "broad range of functional movements" and are designed with a goal of fixing the "fittest athletes." The games worldwide open, a five-week competition, began in late February. The top contenders from the open in 17 regions qualified for regionals, which were held from late April to Late May in various locales around the country. The competition culminated with the games in California, which produced "100 of the fittest men and women in the world," according to the CrossFit games site. Lanier is one of those named.

Lanier, who can now claim the title as the fittest person in Jacksonville according to the CrossFit standards, shared more of his story with The Resident.

Resident: When and where did you begin training for the competition and why do it?

Lanier: For the last few years Crossfit (HQ-headquarters) has held the Crossfit Games competition, which is a worldwide competition. The Masters division (40 years old and older) bypasses the regionals and go straight to Carson. I did well in the Open competition, finishing 9th in the world in my age group (60 and up). The top 20 worldwide are invited to compete in the Games and I was delighted to be invited and jumped at the chance to participate. My gym owner and instructor (Nick Hawkes) became my coach and set out a pretty rigorous eight-week workout routine that included morning and evening workouts daily. He also included

nutritional advice and the appropriate amount of rest days (usually two a week). Firefighter, Chris Stover elected to join me in the training and became a super workout partner. Both these men were just awesome in their dedication and support and really helped me push myself to become better. I feel lucky that they wanted to jump in and push me. As far as why, I've always enjoyed competitive sports and enjoyed the work that is required to get better. This was a pretty unique opportunity for me to see how I would stack up against the best Crossfit athletes in the world.

Resident: How was your morale, any low or high moments?

Lanier: My morale was pretty good the entire two months. I was constantly lifted up by family and friends. Training was long and hard but having a good support infrastructure at the gym and in the community was wonderful. Chris and Nick were so super special in helping me on this journey. They both seemed to know when to get on me and push me and when to pat me on the back. They are great guys and great friends. I pulled my hamstring with three weeks left of training, which gave me a little anxiety, but good therapy (thanks AJ) and good coaching helped me work around it.

Resident: How did you place in the games?

Lanier: I finished the Games at 13th in the world. I was pleased because the competition was pretty good among these men and I feel like I gave it my all. The competitor in me



was a little disappointed not to finish on the medal stand. But it is what it is and I am delighted to have ranked so high.

Resident: Now what?

Lanier: Crossfit is a healthy addiction. It gets in your blood. Crossfitters call it "drinking the Koolaid". I'll always be a Crossfitter. I like everything about it and strive each time to get better, stronger and faster. My overall health is wonderful for being 60 years old. My doctors (Jose Garmendia, M.D. (also a crossfitter), and Mark Hayes, M.D.) both seem pleased that I am in good shape and have better than average health. Overall, this has been a remarkable experience that I will hold onto fondly for ever. Would I do it again? Probably. But each year more and more people join in the competition (more than 30 thousand this year) so the odds of making it to Carson get more and more difficult. I'll just keep working hard and see what happens!

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Kevin Kuzel

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



In 2001 Kevin Kuzel, a former U.S. Navy Pilot who heartily calls himself a diehard Texan, moved to Jacksonville from Dallas. His roots in a Dallas historic district neighborhood meant that Commander Kuzel was immediately drawn to the Avondale Riverside area. The Kuzels are currently in the midst of a two-year restoration of their 1915 home, doing most of the work themselves.

"I met my wife Cindy, an accountant and Jacksonville native, at a chamber of commerce event, the Ham Jam. Cindy is the love of my life. My daughter Julia, 37, resides in West Palm Gardens. She was a nationally ranked gymnast, became an architect and presently is part owner of a yoga studio. She and Cindy have created a line of Yoga accessories," Kuzel said. "We also have a standard poodle, Holly, who is the real boss of the family."

Upon his retirement after more than 17 years with the military, Kuzel owned a military electronics business for 16 years. He is currently the executive assistant to Jacksonville City Councilman Jim Love of District 14. Despite his full work schedule, Kuzel is a longtime, active community volunteer who currently helps several local non-profits.

The first charitable organization he will mention when asked is the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) Nurse and Learn located in Murray Hill. Kuzel serves on the DLC Board of Directors and does not hesitate to share his deep commitment to help children with severe disabilities and their families. His primary focus on the board is fundraising and he credits a nurse, Janice Kelly, with introducing him to the non-profit organization and their unique mission.

"When I learned what the DLC is doing through therapy and education for children ages birth to 22 years to make sure they get a firm start in life, I wanted to be a part of that effort. The center offers year-round nursing care and therapies to children with severe disabilities. Their programs can have a

profound impact on a disabled child's overall development and education," he said.

Kuzel has volunteered with Riverside Avondale Preservation for the past five years, where he has primarily worked with the Riverside Arts Market and the annual Luminaria events held in the historic district each December. Concerned with security issues, he most recently has headed the RAP Public Safety Committee.

He also is on the board and serves as treasurer for St. Paul Catholic Church's Chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul charitable organization, dedicated to assisting the poor and homeless. Kuzel expresses his musical side through singing as a tenor in the church choir.

On the board of the Park & King Area Association for ten years, Kuzel serves as their treasurer. He stays involved with safety and security issues and helps with projects and problems as he described it. A favorite activity is chairing the Halloween event, something he and Jim Love thoroughly enjoy, complete with wearing their own costumes. There is one other routine task in the Park and Kings Streets area he regularly takes on that is much appreciated by local residents, but isn't exactly in the job description.

"Anyone can see me with Jim Love climbing the ladders to take care of putting up and taking down the holiday and seasonal banners!" he said.

He was also active with the West Riverside Elementary School Advisory Council where he served as chairman for four years. Now taking a year-long sabbatical from that volunteer position, Kuzel would like to return to volunteer work at the neighborhood school at some point in the future.

Cindy is also a volunteer who previ-

ously served on the board of Quigley House Shelter, a Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center serving Clay County. In her free time, Cindy assists Kuzel with his many activities and enjoys sewing and embroidery. Cindy, also musical, is a clarinetist who played through high school, college and performed professionally with the First Coast Wind Ensemble.

"We all have an obligation to help people in our community who need whatever we are able to offer. I don't believe in that concept of 'giving back' people talk about. We are all obligated, every single person, to give back what-

ever our circumstances...there is some way we can each help," he said.

Kuzel is an avid horseman and enjoys photography in his free time although he admits some frustration with his penchant for taking hundreds of photos to get one great shot. At the top of his list of favorite things is aviation, which he described as the second great love of his life. Although he has committed the next four years to his work with Councilman Jim Love, he said that in the future he might want to return to the aviation field in some capacity.



How can you help?

Editor's note: *This month, we continue a new feature at The Resident that we hope inspires residents to be change-makers for community good. "How can you help?" will profile a local nonprofit organization and showcase ways to support it. It is our sincerest hope that by creating awareness of local needs, we can all help generate positive solutions, funds and help for those in our community who deserve it most.*

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Get ready to Eat Up Downtown!



Don't ruin your appetite — save room to support the many restaurants in Downtown Jacksonville next month during Eat Up Downtown. And why not, since Downtown is a key area to the success of the historic

neighborhoods to its south. Organizers announced 23 restaurants in Downtown Jacksonville — and several in the San Marco/Southbank area — will offer three-course, prix-fixe menus at \$15, \$25 or \$25 price points Aug 13-26. Participating restaurants include: Basil Thai & Sushi, bb's, Big Pete's Pizzeria, Brew House Lounge @ River City Brewing Co., Café Nola @ MOCA, Casa Dora, Chart House, Chicago Pizza Sports Bar & Grille, Chomp Chomp, Cinco de Mayo, Fionn MacCool's Irish Restaurant & Pub, Indochine, Juliette's Bistro, KOJA Sushi, Northstar "The Pizza Bar," Olio, River City Brewing Company, Sake House, Underbelly, The University Club, Vito's Italian Café, Wine Cellar, and Zodiac Bar & Grill. Downtown Vision is organizing the event in partnership with the Office of Economic Development, Jacksonville Magazine, 904 and The Core.

Cake store opens in Avondale

For the Love of Cake opened this summer in the Shoppes of Avondale. Owned by Leslie Danson and her daughters, Lauren and Taylor Danson, the store is located at 4205 St. Johns Ave. next to Casablanca hair salon. While the business specializes in custom cakes for all occasions — including birthdays, weddings, baby showers, bridal showers and celebrations of all kinds — the Dansons also offer walk-in customers fresh cupcakes. Patrons wanting custom sculpted cakes are in luck at For the Love of Cake. The Dansons say they can make just about anything out of cake. The store's walk-in hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Consultations and cake pick-ups can be scheduled at the customer's convenience.



Event organizers announce guest chefs

Delicious destinations benefits St. Vincent's community outreach

Plans for the 11th Annual Delicious Destinations, an event that has become one of the region's most regaled culinary events, are coming together in true gourmet fashion. Organizers recently announced the featured chefs for this year's event, which raises important funds for the community outreach programs of Riverside-based St. Vincent's Health. If the caliber of the 2012 guest chefs are any indication, it is no wonder a growing number of guests make a getaway weekend out of the Ponte Vedra benefit. This year the event will be September 6-8, 2012 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. This year's guest chefs include...

- **Tony May and Matteo Bergamini**, SD26 — New York City, New York
- **Olivier de Busschere**, Executive Chef, Nikolai's Roof, Atlanta Hilton — Atlanta Georgia
- **Karl Edlbauer**, Corporate Executive Chef, Peabody Hotel — Orlando, Florida
- **Aaron Fuller**, Banquet Chef, Mar-a-Lago/Trump International — Palm Beach, Florida
- **Dusty Grove**, Executive Chef Marshwood Clubhouse, The Landings Club — Savannah, Georgia
- **Steve Mengel**, Executive Sous Chef, The Greenbrier — White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
- **Hermann Muller**, Executive Chef, Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, — Ponte

Vedra Beach, Florida

- **Mitchell J. Pagan**, Executive Sous Chef, Mariner Sands Country Club — Stuart, Florida
- **Darin Sehnert**, Culinary Director, 700 Kitchen Cooking School at Mansion on Forsyth Park — Savannah, Georgia
- **Thomas Tolxdorf**, Executive Chef, The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, — Amelia Island, Florida
- **Elmar Wolf**, Executive Pastry Chef, The Breakers—Palm Beach, Florida

Many of the celebrity chefs have supported the annual event particularly because it benefits the migrant farm workers, who are providing local produce for our area, and their children. The stars of the gourmet food and wine event are world renowned restaurateur, Tony May and his executive chef, Matteo Bergamini of New York City restaurant, SD26. The chefs will prepare a fine dining experience at the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Champagne Reception and Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Sep. 6 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. May, Matteo and the other chef lineup will showcase their talents on Sep. 8 at Delicious Destinations — Jacksonville's Premier Food and Wine Event. Each of the chef's presentations will be paired with a variety of exceptional wines selected by Southern Wine & Spirits of North Florida. Reservations for the Saturday food and wine event are avail be for \$250 per person. For more information, visit www.DeliciousDestinationsJax.com



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Called to the office: Meet your new principal!

There's a new teacher at the helm of John N.C. John Stockton Elementary School in Ortega Forest. The Resident is pleased to introduce you to Charlene McEarl, who was named principal of the neighborhood school this summer. Join us as we welcome McEarl to the neighborhood and get to know this longtime educator:

Name: Charlene McEarl

Hometown: Myrtle Beach, S.C. (I was an Air Force Brat)

Neighborhood of residence: Mandarin area

Family: Husband of 22 years, adult son and five pets. Yes, five. I love animals!

Teaching/administration experience: I began teaching elementary students in South Carolina during August 1992. Five years later, my family and I relocated to Jacksonville where I continued teaching and furthering my leadership development

and education. In 2006 I began administrative leadership at Kings Trail Elementary as assistant principal. Since then I have served at Mandarin High School (Curriculum and Instruction), Hendricks Avenue Elementary and San Jose Elementary in the same capacity.

Why are you excited about this new leadership opportunity? John N.C. Stockton has a strong history of tradition. I am looking forward to working with the students, faculty, staff, parents and community as we continue to build on its record of excellence!

What are some of the plans you have in store for the 2012-2013 school year? During the upcoming 2012-2013 school year I plan to bring our vision to life!

Vision: Stockton is a learning community where highly qualified staff, motivated students, devoted families, and committed business partner's work together to create a positive school culture meeting the needs of the 21st century student.

What kind of roles should teachers, students, staff, parents and the community play in the education of your school's students?

I'm all about the students and am committed to achieving high standards. I strongly believe that building productive relationships between students, faculty, staff, parents and community provides a school with diverse perspectives and a strength that positively impacts student achievement and the educational experience of the whole child. I am excited to meet the dedicated Stockton Family and look forward to making it my home away from home!

What should students, teachers, parents know about your leadership style? I think Stockton will find that I am accessible and open to ideas while at the same time committed to making decisions in the best interest of Stockton's students.

What might your students find you doing when you're not behind the principal's desk — in your free time?



To help me balance work with play, when I'm not in the classroom I enjoy reading, gardening (with my pets), being outdoors, especially on the beach, traveling with my family and if the weather is comfortable a long motorcycle ride.

Messy fun part of Mud Day celebration



Students at St. Johns Presbyterian Preschool got their hands dirty with a distinctive summer celebration. In honor of International Mud Day, the children helped create a slimy mess on the school play yard and even shared commemorative mud pies.



Rockin' back to school

Riverside Park United Methodist Church will be giving away 350 backpacks filled with school supplies to school age kids Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Riverside Park.

This free event is set to feature fire trucks, bounce houses, face painting and many other activities. Free school physicals and vaccinations will be available courtesy of St. Vincent's. In addition, free toothbrushes and exam vouchers will be given courtesy of Riverside Dental.

Gyminators hosts annual event



Gyminators Gymnastics is hosting its annual National Gymnastics Day event on Sep. 22. Due to the Olympic games, organizers expect this year's gathering to be the biggest yet. For more information, contact Jessica Peyton at (904) 388-5533 or jessica@gymniators.com.

Does your child have Autism, Asperger's Disorder, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified?

Nandita Joshi, MD, with CNS Healthcare invites parents of children who have or may have Autism, Asperger's Disorder, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) to learn more about a clinical research study for an investigational study drug.

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Tips for dealing with child bullying

By Dr. William L. Scott
Guest Contributor

Question from Parent: *My child comes home everyday in tears and tells me she has been bullied. I want to help but I don't know what to do. How much should I get involved and how much should I let my kid work it out on her own?*

Answer from Behavioral Bill:
The problem of bullying seems to get more pervasive as time goes by. National statistics show one out of every four children in our country is being bullied by other kids at school. What responsibility should parents take on to help their child when the kid finds themselves the target of another kid's verbal cruelty or physical aggression? It's a good question.
Bullying is really just another form of abuse. Anytime one person exerts power over another to control them it is abusive. Adults can be bullied too. In this case it is about kids using power to control other kids, sometimes with the intention to cause harm.
Bullying is no joke. Bullying hurts feelings and humiliates the victim. Usually the controlling behavior is repeated by a single individual or a group. Social media and cell phone texting make it possible for bullies to reach their victim 24/7. The

affects can be pervasive and last for a lifetime. Parents must take bullying seriously.
Almost all parents can remember being bullied but the difference is that with the new technology bullies can get to your kid anytime. That is what makes bullying more serious today than back in our day. I remember how much it hurt then too.
Some states, including Florida, have passed laws to protect children from bullies. That is an indication of how serious and long lasting the affects of bullying can be for the kid.
Many kids will not tell a parent that they're being bullied. A child might feel ashamed or worried that they are to blame somehow, and they become experts at keeping it all inside. Here are five signs you need to be aware of as the parent?
• Fear about going to school or to getting on the computer.
• Mood changes after receiving a text or signing into Facebook and other social media.
• Refusal to board the school bus and begging you for rides to school.
• Often wants to stay home from school for health reasons.
• Injuries or bruises you cannot account for.

What can or should parents do if bullies are victimizing their child?
First, you need to listen to your child.

You should take her seriously. Stay calm but empathize. Reassure her that bullying is wrong in whatever shape it takes. Support their right to take steps to stop the unwanted and undeserved behavior. Assure her you will support her and that you will assist her in getting her help with the problem. Here are some good guidelines for parents to follow when dealing with this difficult situation:
• Don't over personalize the situation: Stay calm and keep in our role as parent.
• Don't take over the solution: You will want to fix everything but that will leave your child feeling powerless.
• Don't minimize the situation: Take the situation seriously and know she needs an advocate that is more powerful than the bully. Talk to them about the situation and let them know you understand and that you are here to help.
• Don't blame your child for what is happening: Don't ask her what she is doing to create the situation. Instead, explain to her that his is not her fault.

Problem solve with your child to correct the situation by empowering her through strategies.

• Teach her not to react fearfully. Bullies want a reaction with which they can humiliate the victim. Take the reaction reward away from them.
• Develop preplanned responses: Teach her to say something short, simple and neutral like; "stop" or "cut it out" or

"that's enough." Above all teach her not to allow the bully to pull them into a verbal or physical fight. Teach her to walk away preferably into a safe area like a school office or teacher occupied classroom.
• Ignore the Bully: Teach her to pretend she does not hear the bully's remarks and therefore does not to react to them. Walk away without comment or reaction.
• Use the buddy system: This is the strength in numbers idea. Tell her to get a friend to be allied with her and against the bully. They should both follow these guidelines.
• Teach her to talk to an adult: Schools are full of helpful people. She should find a safe and empathic person to talk with. A teacher, school administrator or guidance counselor are good choices.
• Step in: Step in only when things have escalated to the point that these strategies are not working and when not stepping in will make the situation worse. Your child needs to know that you are more powerful than the people causing her misery.

A terrific resource and a place where many of these ideas originated can be found at:
<http://www.empoweringparents.com/>

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NOL stops games to honor fallen soldier during NAS procession

Recently, players, coaches and families of NOL (Navy-Ortega-Lakeshore) Little League stopped play and left the ball fields, stands and concessions to honor U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Dick Lee, who died in Afghanistan.

Tommy Brooke, president of NOL, asked players, coaches and families to be part of a NAS Jacksonville tribute along the base's Yorktown Avenue.

"This was an opportunity to honor a fallen soldier and show a grieving family that they are not alone and that the men and women of NAS Jacksonville and our NOL family stand behind them," Brooke said.

NAS Jacksonville received the remains Lee, 31, of Keystone Heights. He died April 26 in Ghanzi province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Sembach, Germany.

"I was so proud of all of our NOL players and families. It was a privilege to take part in honoring a local hero," said NOL parent Cathleen Murphy.

MHAA holds closing day activities

On closing day at Murray Hill Athletic Association (MHAA), Murray Hill Baptist Church came out with sound systems to announce the baseball, softball and t-ball games. Jay Stuckey organized the event for MHAA. This is the fourth year they have done this for the park and it's always a special way to end the season.

VAC looking to football season

Venetia Athletic Club (VAC) is preparing for their second season of developmental tackle football. VAC a nonprofit sports league for children 7-12 years of age.

They are currently accepting registrations and are limiting the number of teams to four within each age division. The majority of games will be played at Venetia Elementary School.

For more information, contact Sara Brackin, league director at venetiasports@gmail.com or 904-226-4024. Or visit www.venetiasports.com.

Local students participate in cross-culture exchange



Front: Delaney McClure; Holding Flag (from left): Diogo Bueno, Cissa Braune, Caroline Taylor, Hayla Duarte; Middle Row (from left): Ann-Marie Walton, Pepe Lima, Luca Drummond, Bryce Bongiovanni, Jack Barksdale, Whit Hutto, Kenya Smith, Courtney Dalmida, and Jada Kirkland; Last Row (from left) C'Nae King, Kerry McClure, Connor McClure, Mac Lyrerly, Desiree Wright, Joe Kolb-Lugo, Timiquana Williams, Caio Braggio, Joao Morales, Darieelle Pates, and Sarah Davis

A group of 11 students from San Marco, Riverside, and Ortega is participating in CISV Jacksonville this summer.

CISV is a global community of dedicated volunteers, creating opportunities for all ages to experience the excitement of cultural diversity through educational programs. CISV was founded on the belief that peace is possible through friendship – and that the real difference can be made by starting with children.

Several students are involved in a Brazil interchange including: Jack Barksdale, Bryce Bongiovanni, Whit Hutto, Mac Lyrerly, Caroline Taylor, and Ann Maris Walton. The Interchange engages the whole family — not just the student delegate. As part of the program, seven delegates from Brazil and their team leader visited Jacksonville for two weeks. Then the Jacksonville students will travel to Brazil, where families there will reciprocate hosting.

While in Jacksonville, the U.S./Brazil group participated in a variety of activities. One of the most engaging events included a meeting with children from the Sanctuary on 8th Street. The day started with energizers

to help the kids get to know each other and get excited for their activities. The interchange led the first few energizers, but as the Sanctuary on 8th Street girls felt more comfortable they jumped right in. When everyone felt more acquainted, the first activity started, where three groups used team-building skills to raise a rolled newspaper (like a stick) from the floor to the ceiling as a group. The catch? Each person could only use one finger! No grabbing or holding was allowed.

After 10-15 minutes, the delegates gathered for a debriefing.

"The debrief is the most important part," said João Moraes, Brazil Delegation Leader. "That's where you try to understand the lesson."

The second activity focused on cultural understandings. Riverside Presbyterian Church hosted the activity.

Several other neighborhood residents are participating in CISV this summer including: Paige Charron (Norway Village), Eric Chiotti (Faroe Islands Summer Camp), Emily Evans (Austria Village), Xander Magevney (Austria Village), and Will Taylor (Faroe Islands Summer Camp).

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Big changes in play at some neighborhood schools

St. Matthew's Catholic School

St. Matthew's Catholic School has refitted the 35-station, networked computer lab this summer. A commitment to providing teachers and students with up to date technology learning tools is present. Students and faculty have access to online resources including electronic textbooks, communication tools, and a wireless infrastructure. The computer lab is

As families enjoy the final weeks of summer this month, neighborhood school administrators have been wrapping up many changes and improvements on area campuses. From staff and leadership adjustments to sweeping physical developments, local schools may not look exactly the same come the First Day of School.

Curious about what's happening where? Several neighborhood school leaders pulled back the curtain a little to reveal some of the exciting changes underway.



currently comprised of more than 30 PCs, a 6-foot long "Smartboard," and eight individual networked student workstations in the media center.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School

With a major campus improvement, the Rice Sports Zone, recently complete, Riverside Presbyterian Day School has enjoyed a quiet and productive summer. The school recently hired Jacksonville native, Elizabeth Ingram, as its new



director of advancement. Ingram will lead the way for the Riverside's various fundraising efforts and the Business Partners Program. She will also coordinate Riverside's special events and work closely with the Riverside Parent's Association. Prior to joining RPDS, Ingram served as the Funding Development Specialist for the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AAEC).

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School

Students, parents, and teachers at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School will return to school in August to the completion of

several final projects that were a part of a recent \$5 million dollar capital campaign. Students will enjoy performances, indoor sports, and freshly prepared lunches in the new multi-purpose Lori Schiavone Commons building. They will also enjoy outdoor sports and P.E. classes on the refurbished Berg Family Playfield. Parents will appreciate new paved parking areas around the campus easing morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up.

Episcopal School of Jacksonville

Episcopal School of Jacksonville has made several key staff and faculty changes for the 2012-2013 school year. One of the biggest announcements was that of Mimi Bryant to the position of Head of the Middle School for 2012-2013. Charles F. Zimmer, Episcopal's acting Head of School, made the announcement this summer.

Bryant has worked at Episcopal for 17 years and most recently has served as the Learning Specialist and Life Management Instructor. In addition, she has taught



English, Eagle Living, Study Skills and Leadership. Mimi has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Radford University in Virginia and a Master of Education degree from the College of William & Mary. Bryant replaces Pat Andrews, who served as Middle School Head for six years and four years as Dean of the Middle School. Andrews has chosen to change roles at ESJ. She will now work in a part-time capacity

with the Admissions Office and Technology department on specific projects.

In other staffing news, Lisa Allen is the new director of The Episcopal Fund while Beth Smith was named girls basketball coach at the school.



Brian E.M. Johnson

The Bolles School

The biggest change at The Bolles School this summer is in leadership. John E. Trainer Jr., Ph.D. retired after 11 years of strong guidance at the School. Brian E.M. Johnson entered office in July as the School's seventh president and head of school. Johnson most recently served as headmaster at Alexander Dawson School in Boulder, Colorado.

Facility improvements are also taking place on each of the four Bolles campuses. The parking lots are being improved and repaved on the Upper School San Jose Campus including new lights posts added and the bus lanes being moved for more efficient drop off and pick up of students. Also on the San Jose Campus, continued renovations of Bolles Hall are taking place including resident halls and refinishing the original wood floors in the hallways. The Admission Office and Finance Center are switching locations with each building being renovated. Changes on the Lower School Whitehurst Campus include a renovated administrative office and a new building for an additional section of fifth grade. A new cafetorium and a bookstore are being constructed on the Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus. At the Middle School Bartram Campus, a new gated welcome station is being placed at the campus entrance.



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