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# Resident

## COMMUNITY NEWS



Molly Wahl, Shahid Khan and Michelle Simkulet

## Mustache Mania

JCCI Stewards host Khan

JCCI – the Jacksonville Community Council Inc., welcomed guest speaker Shahid Khan to the Summer Stewards reception on Thursday, August 9 at the Florida Yacht Club. JCCI's Stewards gather for cocktail receptions twice a year, for thought-provoking, high-level discussions and presentations by distinguished guest speakers. Khan shared his vision and passion for the Jaguars and Jacksonville on the eve of the team's preseason opening win, and the energy in the room was electric. The event, hosted by fellow Stewards and Ortega resident JF Bryan IV and Lee & Clanzenetta "Mickee" Brown, was highlighted by a spirited exchange during the Q&A with Khan, new team president, Mark Lamping, members and guests.

## All-State soccer selects Prusiecki

Recent Bolles School graduate and Granada resident, Katie Prusiecki received some exciting news this summer. Prusiecki was selected by the Florida Athletic Coaches Organization to the 2012 Class 2A Girls Soccer All-State team. While the soccer season ended in February, word of who would play for the All-State teams was not released until early summer.

Prusiecki, who — along with Mandarin resident Will Collier — also was the recipient of Bolles' David O. Pedrick Memorial Award recognizing "best all around student" during 2012 Bolles graduation. The award and scholarship goes to students who "best exemplify leadership, athletic achievement, artistic ability, school spirit and compassion for all."

## It's a runoff

District 3 School Board candidates Smith Juarez and Jenkins make November elections.....see page 2

## Neighborhood real estate

Experts say slow, steady wins race.....see page 8

## bb's rooftop garden a culinary delight

The rooftop at bb's restaurant in San Marco is a hotbed of freshness. Literally.

In the growing heat of May, bb's executive chef Joshua Agan started a raised-bed garden on the flat roof of the restaurant. Chris Bredenhoeft helped install the bed frames and bring up the organic soil, compost and worm casings.

Agan and Bredenhoeft planned a lush summer landscape of fresh culinary delights — and held their breath.

They weren't always so sure the idea would work. As excited as they were to install a rooftop garden — and "take locals food to the next level" — the intense summer heat and reflective white roof were cause for worry. Three months later, the neighborhood's first rooftop restaurant garden is a wild success. It currently includes a wide variety of herbs and vegetables from spearmint to heirloom tomatoes, and even edible flowers. Every dish served at the popular Southbank restaurant now features at least one component from the garden.

Agan can be found up on the rooftop in the early morning and late evening hours — the coolest times to tend the garden. He has more plans in store for the exterior space and is excited to show it off to the local restaurant community.

"There's room to expand — my dream is to put some tables up there for VIP or wine dinners — in the evening time when the lights are coming up, the views are really great from up there," Agan said, describing how the fragrant plants lend another sensory appeal to the space. While there are currently four beds, Agan said there is room for 20 more. "But that would be a full-time job."

He hopes other chefs and restaurant operators will visit and emulate the rooftop garden.

"I want to show them what's possible," said Agan, who was inspired by his Vermont childhood. His earliest memories include harvesting fresh plants and vegetables from his family's garden. "I'd love to see more people doing it — once they see



Joshua Agan

how easy it is."

Agan is making plans already for the restaurant's winter garden, which is expected to include heirloom beets, purple Brussels Sprouts, dragon carrots and Tuscan Kale.

"This is as fresh as it can get — it's right there," Bredenhoeft said. "It will save the restaurant money and appease more customers because they're getting a fresher, better tasting product."

## Voices carry— Talk of Publix-anchored development rekindled

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The whispers began last month — several residents indicated that St. Joe Co. and Regency Centers might be taking another look at the long stagnant East San Marco mixed-use development at Atlantic and Hendricks boulevards.

And of course, anything that includes new word of the long-awaited Publix grocery store in the heart of San Marco Square gets people in the neighborhood talking up a storm.

James Nealis, aide to District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer, said Boyer plans to meet with Chris Kuhn of The St. Joe Co. and Tom Fleming from Regency Centers about the East San Marco project in early September. An August meeting was rescheduled, he said.

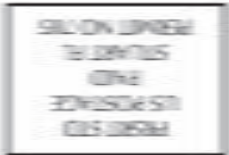
Statements from Regency and St. Joe have been equally as benign in recent weeks. Following a request for more information on Regency

Center's plans for East San Marco, a public relations representative for the company said there were "no updates at this time." That was the word from Bonnie Hayflick, public relations director for The Hoffman Agency in San Marco, which provides PR services for Regency Centers. Officials with The St. Joe Co. also were unwilling to share project details as of late August.

Publix Spokesman Dwaine Stevens, however, underscored the grocery store's interest in the East San Marco project.

"We are still part of the project — but anything further about timelines should come from Regency," Stevens said.

When first introduced in 2006, the East San Marco project included 57,000 square feet of retail space, 125 residential units above the retail space, a four-level parking garage and townhomes. Construction was expected to begin in early 2007 but stalled after site clearing of property and the advent of the recession.





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The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Jacksonville, Orange, Marion, Alachua, Duval, and St. Johns counties. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of the Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the Publisher. 09/12

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# District 3 School Board runoff: Jenkins vs. Smith Juarez



*Despite low voter turnout, competition narrows for local candidates*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The August 14 primary elections yielded a runoff between two candidates for the District 3 School Board seat — former city councilwoman and Englewood activist Suzanne Jenkins and Ashley Smith Juarez, a five-year Bolles School educator and executive director of the Chartrand Foundation . The two residents beat out contenders Jack Daniels, an area resident who took about 20 percent of the votes, and local father, Andy Cordek with 10 percent. Jenkins and Smith Juarez will be



on the Nov. 6 general elections ballot, and already have begun mapping campaign plans for the coming months.

"I am proud of the positive campaign we are running," Smith Juarez said. "I am focused on promoting education reform, engaging with the community and setting an example for students. We are thankful for the broad support we have received from folks from all walks of life."

Several experienced campaign volunteers and staff have stepped in to help Smith Juarez with her election work including former Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless spokeswoman Sara Dougherty, and Kelly Harrison, who helped San Marco mediator and attorney Suzanne Bass win her bid for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court judge Group 34 in

August. Dougherty said most of the volunteers working on Smith Juarez' campaign are people who have met the candidate, liked her ideas and wanted to support her school board bid.

Jenkins also has assembled a group of "neighborhood people, activists." Jenkins said the people helping her are ones who "want to help because they feel like education is the last piece to making Jacksonville a great city."

Jenkins, an Englewood High School graduate and Creative Community Solutions CEO whose children attended local public schools, describes herself as a "proven fighter whose past experience fits the situation we face regarding the school board and education," according to her campaign website. Her campaign slogan is Put Kids 1st. Many local groups and luminaries endorse her including the Duval Teachers Union, University of North Florida President John Delaney, State Attorney Angela Corey and W.C. Gentry, current District 3 School Board member.

Smith Juarez' battle cry is "Better Schools Now!" She aims to: deliver a school district that meets the highest expectations; ensure all schools are inspiring, relevant places for all children to reach their potential; envision school governance differently; provide autonomy to the school based level; and impart a positive, proactive, can-do culture on the school board, according to her website. She is endorsed by many local business leaders as well as Duval Teachers United, the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors and the Northeast Florida Business Association.

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# Neighborhood advocates, national experts gather for San Marco by Design event

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Representatives from San Marco Preservation Society, the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida and Healthy Kids, Jacksonville/Blue Cross Blue Shield gathered at Southside Baptist Church last month to release findings of the San Marco by Design project, a yearlong study that looked at design parameters and strategies for the San Marco community. The group also welcomed Dan Burden, executive director of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, who spoke at the event and shared his observations of the neighborhood during a walkabout through San Marco Square.

"Dan shared his insights on the plan and gave it a good review," said Valerie Feinberg, director of urban planning for the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida. The neighborhood mother of two boys also is active on the San Marco Preservation Society and authored the 64-page final report released this summer. "This plan is not one outcome, having neighborhood advocates is how things get accomplished."

Students from Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development also presented their work on the Safe Routes to School project during the morning event.

The San Marco by Design report is a

culmination of more than a year of community focus groups studying North San Marco's transportation, infrastructure, parks, schools, commerce and walkability. The final report is defined as a "Smart Growth Plan for North San Marco." In addition to SMPS, the health planning council and Blue Cross, the report was sponsored by support from the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department, Baptist Hospital Systems, Regions Bank, Mike Balanky, Keith Kimbell, Eddie Fink and Robert Harris.

Former SMPS President and San Marco engineer, Doug Skiles, describes the project succinctly in the report.

"When San Marco Preservation Society contemplated this effort, we were very clear that we didn't want another 'great neighborhood plan' that was going to sit on a shelf and collect dust. Many people were making a commitment of time and money to articulate a vision for the community — with development pressure easing, we felt it was an ideal time to pause and reflect on what makes our neighborhood special and to dream about what we would like it to become," he said in the study's forward. "It is important that we have strong support from our businesses and residents, so we have and will continue to reach out to hear those voices. We cannot be diligent enough to ensure this is a community vision, not just the goals of a select few."



Dan Burden shares design insights with local officials

Feinberg said several initiatives have come out of the study. One of the first is Skiles' effort to redesign traffic flow through San Marco Square as part of the final phase of the San Marco Streetscape project. In order to increase walkability and promote safer traffic flow, he proposed a plan to restructure traffic lights in the middle of the square and access to Atlantic Boulevard. Those plans are under consideration.

Another focus will be parking, as well as park improvements and addressing regulatory issues with the

city's planning department over time. Feinberg also is helping to spearhead a better mid-block crosswalk for Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development students using Atlantic Boulevard. San Marco by Design's focus on neighborhood walkability and Safe Routes to School helped bring small, but important community needs like crosswalks and sidewalks, into focus.

"We want to keep the conversations going," Feinberg said. "This is a big puzzle with many pieces."

## Councilwoman to host community meeting

District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer will host a community meeting at 6 p.m. on Sep. 10 at Southside Baptist Church in San Marco Square. Many issues affecting San Marco and San Jose residents will be discussed including kayak launch sites, the San Marco Streetscape, the Overland Bridge project and a proposed artificial reef for the St. Johns River. For more information, visit [www.loriboyer.org](http://www.loriboyer.org).



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# 2012 Primary election draws small crowd, big results

The Duval County Supervisor of Elections office reported low turnout for the primary election Aug. 14, but winners emerged. Now politicians across the neighborhood are gearing up for the Nov. 6 general election. For voting information and polling locations, visit [www.duval elections.com](http://www.duval elections.com). The results of the primary elections are:

**United States Senator:**  
Connie Mack, REP, 63.1 percent

**Representative in Congress District 4:**  
Ander Crenshaw, REP, 71.07 percent

**Public Defender, Fourth Judicial Circuit:** Matthew A. Shirk, REP, 63.7 percent

**State Senator District 4:**  
Aaron Bean, 58.02 percent

**State Representative District 11:**  
Janet Adkins, REP

**State Committeeman:**  
Rick Hartley, REP, 79.19 percent

**United States Senator:**  
Bill Nelson, DEM, 78.72 percent

**Clerk of the Circuit Court:**  
Brenda Priestly Jackson, DEM, 59.9 percent

**Circuit Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit Group One:**  
Brian J. Davis, NPA, 51.98 percent

**Circuit Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Group 29:**  
Mark Borello, NPA, 61.78 percent

**Circuit Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Group 34:**  
Suzanne Bass, NPA, 58.91 percent

**County Court Judge, Group 12, RUNOFF:**  
Michelle Kalil, NPA, 40.80 percent  
Rhonda Peoples-Waters, NPA, 31.45 percent

**School Board District 1:**  
Cheryl Grimes, NPA, 55.68 percent

**School Board District 3, RUNOFF:**  
Suzanne Jenkins, NPA, 36.67 percent  
Ashley Smith Juarez, NPA, 33.87 percent

**School Board District 5:**  
Constance "Connie" Sands Hall, NPA, 60.26 percent

**School Board District 7:**  
Jason Fischer, NPA, 27.6 percent  
Jon Heymann, NPA, 24.58 percent  
Source: Duval County Elections Office



## Cultural council, Creative Capital Foundation offer artists workshops

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in partnership with the Creative Capital Foundation will present two professional development workshops for artists in late September.

Applications to attend, however, are due Sep. 4 — so the groups encourage would-be attendees to consider the free public educational opportunities now.

A workshop called “Real Community Engagement” will be held at the Florida Times-Union Conference Room, 1 Riverside Avenue, on Sep. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This workshop is designed to help artists clarify their objectives and gain management skills needed to produce successful community engagement projects. Case studies from a range of disciplines are used to discuss grassroots fundraising, budgeting, negotiation, contracts, communicating

about work, working with non-arts partners, and more.

Organizers are planning a second workshop entitled "Funding Your Work," from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sep. 30. The class combines nuts-and-bolts strategies with a broad-based approach towards how to integrate fundraising into creative practice. Topics include developing fundraising materials; working with venues, donors and funders; building an individual donor base; and real cost budgeting.

Interested artists should complete the application located on the Cultural Council website: [www.culturalcouncil.org](http://www.culturalcouncil.org) by Sep. 4. Artists are eligible to apply for either one, or both. The Cultural Council is pleased to offer this workshop free of charge with support from the City of Jacksonville.



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# Proposed budget cuts cliffhanger for local libraries

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Next month, the Jacksonville City Council will vote on Mayor Alvin Brown's proposed \$4.6 million budget cut — an event that could mean big changes for neighborhood libraries like Willowbranch, Murray Hill and San Marco.

Council members will vote on the budget Sep. 29. Kathy Lussier, assistant director for community relations and marketing for the Jacksonville Public Library said specific schedules and hours for all neighborhood libraries would be known after the late-September council vote.

According to Jacksonville Public Library officials, many critical library changes are at stake including: library closures on Sundays with reduced hours during the week; books, DVD and downloadables budget slashed by \$500,000; the elimination of 71 full-time positions; and reduced hours at

the Main Library to 48 hours a week. Every library in the city's system — including neighborhood facilities like Willowbranch, Murray Hill and San Marco — faces critical closures.

Branch libraries are expected to be open for 40 hours each week and most will be closed on Mondays and Sundays, according to library officials.

Library Friends groups across the city are taking action. Harry Regan, president of the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, said library supporters are looking at long-range solutions.

He and other library supporters participated in a JCCI Study funded by the Friends of the Library to find

more suitable funding. That study, he said, recommended a special tax district.

"The first step is securing enough petition signatures for a straw vote on the question, and we are working on getting those signatures," Reagan said in an email responding to questions.

Another group, Save Our Public Libraries Inc. was formed recently to "promote active and continuous educational and multi community use of Jacksonville libraries and to ensure that all appropriate elected officials and

decision-makers have the information necessary to understand the importance and positive impact of the public libraries to the citizens and stakeholders of Jacksonville," according to its website at savejaxlibraries.com.

Library officials shared other ways concerned residents could step up to support the future of local libraries. Residents can contact city council representatives Lori Boyer (District 5) or Jim love (District 14) at (904) 630-1377 to share opinions or contact Mayor Alvin Brown at mayorbrown@coj.net or (904) 630-1776. The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library can be reached via email at harry.reagan@comcast.net. The Jacksonville Public Library also is accepting donations. For more information call (904) 630-4637 or email jpldev@coj.net.

"My advice to those who are concerned about the library is to contact their city council members," Reagan shared. "I was a member of the City Council for five years and I know contacting them can help. And I always remind people that they are represented by six council members — a district member and five at-large council members."

"The first step is securing enough petition signatures for a straw vote on the question, and we are working on getting those signatures,"  
**Harry Regan**  
President of the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library

## St. Nicholas organization leads state in adoptions

St. Nicholas-based Family Support Services of North Florida is ranked first in the state for the number of children adopted from foster care last fiscal year, according to recent reports.

The lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties was successful in placing 318 foster children in permanent homes through adoption, making FSS the No. 1 community-

based care agency in Florida for adoptions in fiscal year 2011-2012.

With 3,252 foster children adopted statewide last year, one in ten children adopted from foster care in Florida in fiscal year 2011-2012 were adopted through FSS, numbers show.

"FSS continues to work in partnership with Judge David Gooding, placing a strong emphasis on finding permanent homes for children in foster

care," said Lee Kaywork, chief executive director, FSS. "When a child becomes available for adoption, we leave no stone unturned in finding that child a 'forever home' and Judge Gooding leads the charge in ensuring adoptions do not languish in the courts."

FSS is celebrating 10 years of service in the community as part of the recent accolades.

Kaywork said FSS also focuses on family preservation services to help at-risk families thereby preventing children from entering foster care, and to provide services and training to parents whose children have been removed from the home so the children can be safely returned to their family. The group partners with local non-profit organizations including Children's Home Society, Daniel, Jewish Family & Community Services, Mental Health Resource Center and Neighbor to Family.

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# You asked for it!

BY STEVE DiMATTIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After reading last month's article about the Neighborhood Inventory of Visual Pollution survey conducted by

## What can citizens do about residential visual pollution



City Beautiful Jax and Riverside Avondale Preservation, one reader asked whether the survey includes residential areas and then what citizens can do to address concerns about visual pollution on private property.

To find the answer, we turned to Bill Brinton, president of City Beautiful Jax, and three City of Jacksonville employees: John Crescimbeni, City Councilman At-Large, Group 2, who participated in the Riverside/Avondale NIVP survey; Debbie Delgado, Public Communications Officer; and Loretta Major, Contract Compliance Coordinator.

"The NIVP survey only addresses visual pollution in public spaces," Brinton said. "We then send what we find to the appropriate government office for them to take care of it. So, our survey focuses on things such as dead trees, rusted fire hydrants, cracked sidewalks and defacement of

street signs, mailboxes and utility boxes."

Councilman Crescimbeni noted that citizens could notify the city directly of violations by private property owners – something occurring off city right of way and on privately owned property – via phone at 630-CITY (904-630-2489), online at 630city.coj.net or by email at 630CITY@coj.net.

"They will farm it out to the appropriate business unit within the city government to have an inspector go out and take a look," Crescimbeni said. "The caller will be assigned a case number and with that case number they can follow the progress of that case by going to 630city.coj.net and plugging in the number."

Debbie Delgado and Loretta Major provided detailed information about the specific ordinances that address Nuisance Properties (518.202) and Resident's Responsibilities (382.415).

To read the full codes, go to [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com).

Delgado wrote in an email: A residential property can be cited a Nuisance Property under the city's ordinance code (518.202). Residents can call 630-CITY to report (anonymously if preferred) trash, debris, tall grass, etc. in a neighbor's yard. A Municipal Code & Compliance Officer is assigned and inspects the property. If given a warning citation, the homeowner then has 15 days to correct the violation. On second inspection, if not in compliance, the homeowner can be subjected to a \$255 citation. Further non-compliance could result in abatement by the city, with the cost eventually ending up as a lien against the property, and an appearance in front of the code board. This process can take several months, and is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Also, homeowners do have a responsibility to bring their trashcans in by 6 a.m. the following day after pick-up (382.415). Residents can also call 630-CITY to report this issue. A Solid Waste officer will either call the resident and inform him or her of the code, or leave an informational brochure. These outreaches usually deter any future violations. If the violation is persistent, however, the Solid Waste officer can issue a warning citation, followed by a paying citation anywhere from \$50-\$250. This is also determined on a case-by-case basis.

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# Mobility fee numbers don't add up for moratorium extension

Deadline one month away

By STEVE DiMATTIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The deadline for the year long moratorium on the 2030 Mobility Plan fee is October 10, 2012 and to date the figures would not justify an extension, according to many – but not all – involved on both sides of the issue.

“We don’t have any intent at this time to lobby for an extension of the waiver,” said Curtis Hart, Government Affairs Chairman for the Northeast Florida Builders Association and a member of the Mobility Plan Task Force. “The question is: Did the fee waiver work to stimulate development? And the answer seems to be, ‘no,’ based on the data we have so far. We may get a big push of applicants in September and change our minds. But right now, it doesn’t look like it.”

However, not all builders agree: At press time, Tony Sleiman, CEO/President of Sleiman builders, indicated that he does intend to push for an extension of the moratorium.

“I will lobby for an extension. It’s important that we get it done. People need to get their heads out of the sand and let’s figure out a way to create jobs and income for the city. Would you build, say for example, a \$6 million building that created both construction and permanent jobs that would bring in \$100,000 a year in real estate taxes plus sales and revenue tax for 50 years. Or would you want to charge an \$180,000 fair share and it not get built. Which is the better option?”

Sleiman cited L.A. Fitness on Atlantic and Kernan boulevards, one of about 19 developments approved for a waiver that moved ahead for development, as one example.

Many groups advocating for an end to the moratorium feel that, regardless of some specific examples, the overall numbers do not warrant an extension.

Representing one such group are Doug Skiles from Envision Design Engineering in San Marco, Ennis Davis from Metro Jacksonville and a Mobility Plan Task Force member, mortgage banker and Fairfax resident Mike Field, and Janet Stanko and Linda Bremer, both local Sierra Club committee members.

“The numbers do not seem to support the claim that the moratorium stimulated growth. But there’s still time left and we want to make sure that we get word out to the public about what is at stake,” said Skiles.

What is at stake, according to the group, is a way to pay for new capital improvements that is fair to developers, does not burden taxpayers and provides incentives for redevelopment in the city core, where the infrastructure already exists to support growth. The Mobility Plan integrates land development with transportation planning and has a tiered fee system that funnels a percentage of money from the developments in a particular zone of the city back into the same zone.

“This is not a tax, it is an impact fee that affects the developers who are impacting an area,” noted Davis during a recent appearance on WJCT’s First Coast Connect that he shared with Field. “We [general taxpayers] are paying the tax right now.” He and Field also noted that developers helped to create the Mobility Plan and supported the fee at the time.

It was enacted in 2011 to replace the concurrency or “fair share” system, but the moratorium (Ordinance 2011-617) was placed on its fees soon after in order to help stimulate growth.

Under the moratorium, all mobility fees are waived, but the developer still must submit an application to the planning department and sign the waiver. The mobility fee is calculated and then the developer determines whether to proceed with a permit.

Laurie Kattreh, a transportation special-

ist in the planning department who oversees the Mobility Plan, and Mike Field provided data that indicates the moratorium has not had the desired effect.

Of 104 mobility fee applications equaling just over \$14 million, developers chose to move forward on only 19 waivers (18 percent) as of August for a total of just over \$2 million. Zone 7, which includes Riverside/Avondale/Ortega/Murray Hill, comprised just over \$2 million of the total, waiving \$396,472 for construction of a 7-Eleven, CarMax, Blanding Blvd. Medical Office and Waffle House on Roosevelt. Zone 8, which includes San Marco and much of the Southside, comprised just over \$1 million of the total, waiving \$229,567 for a CenterState Bank and Medtronic Surgical Facility Expansion. [Note: Mike Herzberg, Director of Development for Sleiman, pointed out that the L.A. Fitness project, and perhaps others, are not on the city’s mobility fee list for reasons unknown at press time.]

In comparison, \$3.7 million was collected under concurrency last year on 11 projects, according to Field.

Curtis Hart speculated developments were not moving forward because funding was not available. “That’s one of the things we need to track. But it certainly wasn’t because the mobility fee wasn’t saving them enough; there’s a lot of money involved.” Normally between 2 to 3 percent, said Field.

“Had I seen 50 percent of projects move forward then I would conclude the moratori-

um worked. If lowering the fee to zero didn’t get them to build, then there are deeper funding issues,” Hart said.

Field, the mortgage banker, agreed: “If you are scrounging in your couch cushions to fund that final 2 to 3 percent of your project, then you didn’t have a financially viable project to begin with.”

Hart also pointed out that the city has not granted waivers for single-family subdivisions and estimated that “destroyed about 50 percent of probable waivers. You have to build the lots first so they are ready for homes, which do get the waiver. If you can build now, then when the market does turn, the subdivisions will be ready.”

Moving forward, Hart plans to look into having the subdivision stipulation reversed and each side will keep a close eye on the data. Those in favor of ending the moratorium are encouraging people to contact the city council.

Davis also plans a series of articles on Metro Jacksonville describing how different zones will benefit from mobility fees, and Riverside resident Linda Bremer said the group has joined forces with the health community, bicyclist and others who have a vested interest in seeing the moratorium ended.

“The question is: Do we want smart growth that is paid for by smart development and leads to smart business; development that is paid for by the developer and not the taxpayer?” said Bremer.

Read the Mobility Plan:  
<http://www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/community-planning-division/transportation-planning/mobility-plan.aspx>

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\*\* Personal accounts meeting requirements of having direct deposit or ACH, e-statement, and 10 debit card transactions will receive ATM fee refund up to \$20 each cycle requirements are met.

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# Running Uphill

## Local Real Estate market exhibits slow but steady improvements

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

July statistics released by the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) showed some encouraging numbers. Pending sales across the First Coast were up more than 32 percent from this time last year, and the inventory of homes for sale has dropped 30 percent in a year-to-year comparison.

The median sales prices in Regions 1 and 3, which encompass our historic neighborhoods, leveled out at the 2008 price mark about a year ago and have continued to slowly increase. Lender-owned properties currently account for 39 percent of the market, but that is a drastic improvement from the 60 percent it was at one time. And it's a welcome relief, say area professionals, to see

the inventory of homes for sale dropping below a six-month supply. Six months is considered a balanced market.

"Prices have been going up consistently, and we have been seeing positive growth across the board. Slow and steady is a good thing – we don't want drastic spikes because that is what got us into trouble in the first place," explained Melanie Green, communication director for NEFAR. "It's a supply and demand issue – if there are fewer homes, people want them more."

Realtors from both sides of the St. Johns report that offices are busy. They have also noticed an increase in multiple offers on homes, which is a different scenario from what buyers have come to expect in recent years. Taft Alexander of the Avondale-Ortega office of Watson

Realty had one recent listing that received four offers after having 16 showings in two days – something that was unheard of this time last year.

"It's as if the floodgates opened, and after years of doom and gloom, we are seeing publications like the Wall Street Journal putting out positive stories," said Alexander, who had 11 homes under contract this spring.

"People who have been on the fence for a while are more motivated to buy because interest rates are phenomenally low and the market has likely bottomed out," said Wade Griffin, a realtor with the historic district office of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty. Griffin has sold three homes this year that received multiple offers.

The multi-family market is also experiencing positive growth. Ortega Landing just closed on the sale of a penthouse unit and expects to have more sales before the end of the year.

"We have a good response of serious inquiries lately," said Warren Hickernell, general manager of the

Marina & Homes at Ortega Landing. "For example, we are seeing people of retirement age who are thinking about downsizing and finally think they have a chance of selling their existing homes."

Barbara Swindell, broker-owner of San Marco-based RiverPoint Real Estate, has also seen a traffic increase and noted that her firm has seen an uptick in the number of sales more than significant changes in prices.

"I have been in the business for 32 years, and our general area usually recovers quicker than other areas," she said. "When I started, interest rates were 6.5 percent. I can't imagine that they will be any less than they are right now."

They may not get much lower, but area lenders are predicting that favorable rates are here to stay, at least for a while.

"All indicators, including 10-year treasury notes, point to an extended period of low rates, which will be friendly toward buying or refinancing," said Gil Pomar, market president at CenterState Bank of Florida. "It is encouraging that the market is changing. We are seeing more sec-

"I have been in the business for 32 years, and our general area usually recovers quicker than other areas. When I started, interest rates were 6.5 percent. I can't imagine that they will be any less than they are right now"

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► and mortgages, a bit more leniency toward credit scores, and there are good products available with lesser down payment.”

According to the numbers, our historic neighborhoods seem to have fared better overall and may be recovering more quickly than many other places in Northeast Florida. Area professionals’ opinions on this vary. Some speculate that more homeowners may have been able to wait out the market, thus avoiding more foreclosures and dramatically lowered selling prices. Others point to the character and general appeal of the city’s more historic areas and their proximity to downtown and other business hubs.

“The variety of our neighborhoods draws people in, as our demographics are broader than in many of the newer suburbs,” said Selby Kaiser, one of the owners of Legends of

Real Estate. “Older people like to hear children playing, and vice versa. Also, rising gas prices are encouraging people to look for homes closer in.”

As for what is selling best, the market is strongest at the moment in seller-owned property, said Janie Boyd of Avondale-based Janie Boyd & Associates, versus short sales and foreclosures, which typically involve a more complicated and longer buying process.

“People are snapping up seller-owned property right and left because the process of buying these is easier,” said Boyd.

“Houses under \$300,000 are selling very quickly.”

Kaiser has seen homes under \$200,000 doing well, while Griffin notes that two to three-

bedroom homes are in short supply and the high-end market of \$500,000 to more than \$1 million is beginning to take off. Investors are also beginning to re-emerge as the market stabilizes, and Alexander predicts that

the near future will see an increase in property flipping.

Anita Vining, longtime local realtor and sales leader with Prudential Network Realty, said riverfront homes are going quickly in the historic markets flanking Downtown Jacksonville.

“The choices have narrowed as the properties have been sold,” Vining said. “Avondale’s historic Richmond Street now offers only one waterfront home for sale, with a second currently under contract.”

Despite positive news, professionals in the industry are still cautious and not allowing themselves to get too excited. Appraisals are still coming in low, said Pomar, which will continue to hinder sales.

Recent increases in sales could simply be an indication that sellers are more accepting of lower prices, said Boyd. And the upcoming election is making people nervous, said Kaiser.

“People are often hesitant to make a decision when they do not know what will happen in the future,” said Kaiser. “We are hopeful that after the election, November and

December will be bang-up months for the real estate industry.”

As for the occasional doom and gloom story, such as the rumor of a “shadow inventory” of lender-mediated properties (inventory that has been held back purposely and not put on the market), Green is not overly concerned.

“We have been hearing about shadow inventory for three years, and so far, we have seen no evidence of it,” she said. “It’s an idea that people have latched on to that will probably not

be significant even if there are some properties still out there. The market is now to a point that it should be able to absorb them.”

“The choices have narrowed as the properties have been sold . Avondale’s historic Richmond Street now offers only one waterfront home for sale, with a second currently under contract”

**Anita Vining**

Prudential Network Realty

“The variety of our neighborhoods draws people in, as our demographics are broader than in many of the newer suburbs.”

**Selby Kaiser**

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BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

About 40 residents gathered last month for a community meeting at Southside United Methodist Church following several summer vandalism and burglary incidents. Representatives from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office were on hand to answer questions and share advice, research and solutions with residents.

Residents of the Granada, Colonial Manor and Miramar areas shared their concerns about auto burglaries, solicitors, theft of exterior statues, egging,

pellet gun shooting and suspicious activity in the park and neighborhood.

Lieutenant Bobby Deal, Zone 3 Commander, told residents that Zone 3 is one of the city's biggest areas — the 150-square-mile section goes from the Southbank to Beach Boulevard and from the St. Johns River to the St. Johns County line. He said the area is a "magnet for auto burglaries." There are 220 officers covering the zone, which includes San Marco, San Jose and Lakewood and other neighborhoods.

He explained how groups of teenagers will come into a neighborhood with backpacks on and

go up and down local streets "just trying door handles. That's just the nature of the beast," he said. Called car hopping, the activity is most successful when doors are unlocked. Young criminals target high-priced items in cars including GPS monitors, iPhones and guns. Officers underscored how important it is to make sure cars are locked and valuables stashed inside.

The most effective way residents can react, he said, is to call the non-emergency number of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office with concerns or suspicions. In addition to potentially catching any criminals in the act, a phone

call or report can help officers put pieces of a bigger puzzle together as they look for trends and connections. They also highlighted the city's curfew laws for citizens under the age of 18. (see box) and encouraged residents to come to the monthly ShADCo meetings at Cuba Hunter Park. Many individuals attending the meeting were interested in forming neighborhood watch groups.

Deal and Lt. Jimmy Judge, who lives in the San Jose neighborhood and was personally aware of many of the neighbors' concerns, said many crimes spike during the summer and school breaks.

"There is a direct correlation between teenagers being out of school and property crimes," Judge said. "It's not just here, it's everywhere — the kids, they're killing us."

Throughout the evening, officers encouraged residents to communicate with the JSO about any suspicious activity — big or small.

"Please call us — without your partnership, we don't know everything that's going on and in the end, the criticism's on us," Judge said. "You pay taxes to outfit us, the more calls the better because it helps us get additional manpower out there."

## Curfew alert — don't be out late!

Little known fact: Jacksonville has a curfew law in place, and JSO officials say it's enforced year-round. Who does it affect and what are the rules? People under the age of 18 years old must be off the streets by 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights and by midnight on Friday and Saturday nights.

A person under 18 is exempt if he or she is:

1. With a parent or guardian or other person 18 or over who is authorized by the parent to have control over the child,
2. At or going to or from a job, school or church function,
3. Attending an event open to the public and supervised by adults and beginning no later than 10:00 p.m.
4. In an area immediately adjacent to his or her residence
5. Running an emergency errand.

## JSO looking for Walgreens purse thief

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office officers are investigating a purse theft from a car in the Walgreens parking lot at University Boulevard and St. Augustine Road.

On Aug. 14, JSO officers responded to the Walgreens regarding the theft.

According to a JSO report, "an investigation revealed that a burglary to the victim's automobile occurred when her purse was stolen from the passenger seat of her car. The victim had been shopping at the Walgreen's and was placing her purchased items into her vehicle when the unknown suspect stole her purse. Surveillance cameras show a suspect running to the passenger side of a silver 4-door Jeep as he flees the scene."

Anyone with any information about the identity or whereabouts of the suspect or suspect vehicle is asked to contact the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at 904-630-0500 or email us at [atJSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:atJSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org). To remain anonymous and receive a possible reward, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS or email them at [rewards@fccrimestoppers.com](mailto:rewards@fccrimestoppers.com).

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# Local cyclists put pedal to metal for Bike MS

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Cyclists and bike stores across the city — including many in the historic neighborhoods — are gearing up for one of the biggest cycling events of the year: Bike MS: PGA Tour Cycle to the Shore. In addition to raising much needed awareness and funds for MS, the late September event also highlights some extraordinary local athletes who participate in the biking endeavor for the sheer thrill of the experience.

Thrill? Riding 150 miles? Just ask San Jose resident and attorney, Susan Haag. She'll say there's nothing like it — and lots of other people could do it too if they put their mind to it. Haag has participated in the event for the past 20 years.

"I'm old hat at this — my first ride was back in 1989 when I graduated from college, I was a newbie and was intrigued with the distance," Haag said. "I had such a fantastic time that I've done it every year since except three times during the last 20 years."

When she started, Haag said she didn't know anyone who battled multiple sclerosis, or MS. She only participated in it to socialize with fellow riders and enjoy the physical accomplishment. But as she got older, she met more people whose lives were affected by the disease — including a boyfriend whose mother had passed away from MS.

"The disease can affect us at any age," she said.

Haag has ridden with many local



teams over the years including Mayo Clinic, St. Vincent's and CSX, the group with which she's riding for the 2012 event. She said the training and team participation is a way to get to know people who share an interest in the sport. And it's a way to encourage people on. Haag said while the challenge sounds rigorous, riding for 150 miles is a lot easier than it sounds if you have an iron will.

"I can tell folks out there if they have the burning will to do it, it can be done even with minimal training — 99 percent of it is all in your mind," Haag said. She recalled how she trained hard one year on a prescribed schedule — and then did not bike again the following year. Even without training, she was able to be a part of the next race. "It can be done if you're young at heart and don't mind being a little miserable."

Neighborhood cycle shops like Open Road Bicycles, Zencog, Lake Shore Bicycles and others play a big part in the event. Many of the long training rides — Haag, for example, often rides 100 miles on Tuesdays and 100 miles on Thursdays — start and end at the

shops. Since they are located in the neighborhood, it is not uncommon to see many of the Bike MS participants zipping down some of the major thoroughfares in San Marco, San Jose, Riverside, Avondale and Ortega.

But no one plays a bigger role in the event than the organizers at the North Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The local staff works year-round to pull off the event and organizes more than 300 area volunteers. It's no wonder the Bike MS: PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore is the organization's largest fundraiser. Last year, in North Florida alone, the ride raised \$1.3 million toward research for a cure and programs and services for people affected by MS.

The ride will be held Sep. 26 and 27. Cyclists leave from the St. Augustine Airport and finish on the boardwalk in Daytona Beach. What originally began as a small gathering of 200 riders has grown into a major biking adventure of more than 2,000 participants. Cyclist will leave from the St. Augustine Airport and finish on the boardwalk in Daytona Beach.

"Over the past 26 years, Bike MS:

PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore has locally raised an estimated \$13 million toward a world free of MS," said Corrina Steiger, North Florida Chapter President.

While the staff spends many hours organizing the event, local volunteers play a pivotal role. The organization mentioned several standout volunteers:

- Some cyclists, such as Dan Baker, who is also on the executive committee of volunteers for Bike MS, have been involved in Bike MS since its inception. Baker volunteered for Bike MS the first two years of its existence and has been participating in the ride as a cyclist ever since.

- Bob Doughty has been riding in Bike MS for 10 years and he is over 70 years old.

- Bailey Bronner has been riding in Bike MS for a couple years and is only 15 years old.

- Bruce Reid has completed Bike MS in more than 30 states and is on the North Florida Chapter Board. He is also the Team Captain of Big Bananas, a bike team of Top Bananas (meaning they have to raise at least a thousand dollars per year for Bike MS to be called a Top Banana and be on the Big Banana team). He is one of the North Florida Chapter's top fundraisers.

The event has given physically active "frequent flyers" like Haag new perspective.

"The ability to be physical is so important in my life," she said. "If I was robbed of it, would I be able to deal with it that strongly?"

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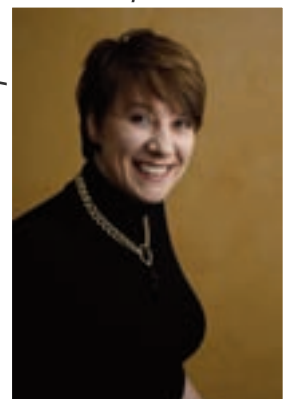
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# Episcopal continues search for new Head of School

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Episcopal School of Jacksonville leaders have started a national search for a Head of School. The search committee expects the chosen candidate to be in place and ready to serve before the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

Ortega resident Rob Clements, Chairman and CEO of EverBank and Episcopal board chair, sent a letter to Episcopal families this summer outlining the progress. The school seeks to replace longtime Head of School, Dale Regan, who died tragically during a campus shooting last spring. Former Head of School Charley Zimmer has been filling in temporarily until a permanent replacement can be found.

Rick Jones, former Episcopal board chair, is heading the search committee. Other trustees on the committee include Clements, Jim Bailey, Steve Busey, Sue Jangro, Dean Kate Moorehead, Lon Walton and Claudia

Amlie. The search committee also is in the process of forming an advisory committee made up of parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students. That group will share input that will help guide the search.

Clements said the search committee also is working with the Association of Episcopal schools and has received guidance and support from the organization, "as well as nominations of specific potential candidates," Clements added.

The school was founded in the Episcopal tradition and any potential candidate must fully appreciate and understand the nuances and expectations at an Episcopal school," he explained.

Clements said Regan's legacy

would be an important part of the search process as the school looks into the future.

"The Board of Trustees' search committee is looking for a strong, inspiring, and experienced educational leader who will appreciate and respect the history, mission, and culture of the school," Clements said. "Dale's legacy is an important one and the new head will build on the wonderful traditions and innovations that she brought and sustained, while helping to prepare the school for its next 50 years"

**Rob Clements**  
Episcopal board chair

ing to prepare the school for its next 50 years."

In mid-May, the search committee hired national search firm, Princeton, N.J.-based Wickenden Associates to help find potential candidates for the

school's top spot. Wickenden was responsible for the search bringing Zimmer to the school in 1997.

The search firm has been fielding candidates this summer and the search committee plans to select a group of semi-finalists by mid-October. In November, Clements said the finalists will come to the Episcopal campus for two days to meet with members of the community. The announcement of a new Head of School is expected in early-2013, Clements said in his letter.

Clements said there are many upcoming opportunities and changes the new Head of School will face in the school's new era — including the school's upcoming 50th anniversary.

"A new head will be integral in setting the tone for the school's next 50 years," Clements said. "The school is also looking to improve its athletic facilities, and the new head will be involved in this exciting endeavor as well. We expect all of our finalists will see any challenges as opportunities."

# Residents prepare for a mandatory back-to-school assignment

Procrastination is a term many kids are familiar with when it comes to school, but there is one subject students should not put off.

As children and families across Florida begin another school year, it is vital that all students have their required immunizations. Immunization documentation on a DOH Form 680,

Certification of Immunization, is required for all students in grades pre-Kindergarten (K) through grade 12.

The Florida Department of Health emphasizes the importance of parents scheduling an appointment with a healthcare provider or the Duval County Health Department today, instead of waiting until the last minute to schedule

their children's back-to-school immunizations.

"There is no time like the present to update children's immunizations and provide them with the required documentation to attend school," said Section Administrator of Immunizations Charles Alexander.

Accordingly, the Bureau of Immunization launched their new website [www.immunizeflorida.com/](http://www.immunizeflorida.com/) to bring together the best resources on vaccines and provide consumers with easy-to-understand vaccination information.



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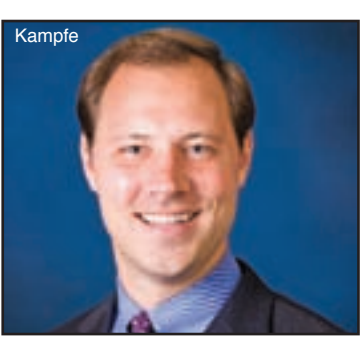
# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Towler, Kampfe elected to Leadership roles

Granada resident Susan Towler, vice president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation and executive director of Community Affairs for Florida Blue, is chair of Leadership Florida for the organization's 2012-2013 year. She was elected to the position this summer. Towler is a graduate of Leadership Florida's Class XXII and has served the organization in a number of capacities since 2004.

"Leadership Florida and our members have already done so much to make Florida a better place," Towler said. "As the new chair, I will seek to build upon its legacy, strive to identify new leaders and provide Florida's established leaders the opportunity to strengthen our great state."

Beyond her professional work, Towler is actively involved in the philanthropic sector and as a member of the Southeastern Council of Foundations and the Florida Philanthropic Network. She serves on the board of the Florida Chamber Foundation and is a graduate of the University of Florida. Fellow Granada resident Matthew Kampfe, Baptist Medical Center's director of development, was recently named chair of Connect Florida. A program of Leadership Florida, Connect Florida is a new program that helps give young



professionals the "tools they need to advance in both their personal and professional lives, with the hope they will stay in Florida and use their leadership skills to make Florida a better place," according to the organization's website. The two neighbors will work together through their leadership roles to promote the organizations' missions statewide.

## RPM supports Wolfson toy drive

RPM Automotive brought a trailer full of toys to Wolfson Children's Hospital's first-ever Christmas in July Toy Drive this summer. Wolfson held the toy drive to help restock the hospital's playrooms and teen room and help hospitalized children celebrate birthdays and other occasions throughout the year. Hospital officials said donors brought in more than 1,000 new toys and games. The value of the donations was at least \$20,000, hospital officials reported. The hospital also received more than \$4,900 through the virtual toy drive and an additional \$285 from onsite cash and gift card donations.

"We are blessed to be a part of a community that cares so much for children," said Miramar resident Michael D. Aubin, hospital president, Wolfson Children's Hospital. "This was the first year of our event, and the response surpassed our greatest



expectation. We received so many toys that we were able to make an immediate delivery many of our patients that day and put the others in storage for use all year."

RPM Automotive representatives were among the first to arrive with toys, according to Child Life coordinator Pat Kirkland. She said the toys had been collected at RPM for a month prior to the event. The event was so successful, hospital officials said they will hold another event next year.

## Bistro Aix part of national Julia Child celebration

Bistro Aix celebrated its 13-year anniversary last month by celebrating 100 recipes of famed chef, Julia Child. Alfred A. Knopf sponsored Julia Child Restaurant Week last month as a component of the JC100, and invited San Marco restaurant, Bistro AIX, to be a part of the celebration.

The event took place at more than 100 restaurants across America.

In early August, Bistro Aix featured a special menu with dishes inspired by 100 of Child's most cherished recipes. The receipts were picked from a list of more than 3,400 by a jury of culinary luminaries. Bistro AIX's Julia Child Restaurant Week menu included her favorite cocktail, the Upside-Down Martini, made with vermouth and a splash of gin (\$9); Chicken Liver Pâté and Vichyssoise, as well as two entrées.

"When selecting the menu, the sous chefs and I first looked to those that were appealing to our own tastes," explained Tom Gray,



Executive Chef / Operating Partner of Bistro AIX. "The fact that her birthday and the JC100 Restaurant Week fall within a few days of our own 13-year anniversary is icing on the cake!"

Gray, who met Child on two separate occasions, noted, "I watched her PBS television show as a kid and like everyone who watched her, was captivated. She not only demystified French cooking, but cooking in general. She inspired generations of cooks, including myself."

## Trednick, King named Miracles Gala co-chairs

San Marco resident Jennifer Trednick and Beaches resident Heather King, both Junior Diabetes Research Foundation board members, are co-chairing JDRF's 12th Annual Miracles Gala on Oct. 6 at the Sawgrass Marriott.

This year's theme is "Derby After Dark" and the attire is Hats, Heels and Southern Elegance. The Gate Foundation, with headquarters in San Jose, is this year's Corporate Honoree and Vistakon is the Presenting Sponsor.

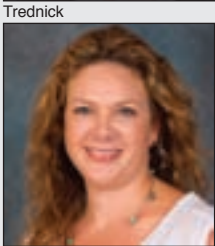
All proceeds of the event will be directed to the most promising research of type 1 diabetes (T1D), an autoimmune disease that occurs when one's pancreas does not produce any insulin.

Trednick's passion comes from her personal experience with the

disease as has she has had T1D for 30 years and has been on insulin pump therapy for 26 years.

In June 2011, Trednick was diagnosed with a rare and progressive disease of the central nervous system, Stiff Person Syndrome (SPS). An story about Trednick's rare condition is planned in an upcoming issue of The San Marco Resident. This is Trednick's third year co-chairing the JDRF gala.

JDRF's "Derby After Dark" will include silent and live auctions, hand-served appetizers, a decadent derby-style dinner, complimentary bar service, live entertainment and dancing. Most importantly, the gala is a festive and engaging way to support JDRF in its mission for a cure. For more information, call the JDRF office at (904) 739-2101 or visit [tinyurl.com/DerbyAfterDark](http://tinyurl.com/DerbyAfterDark) to register.



## JHS board expands, Munz named president



San Marco resident Michael Munz, executive vice president of the Dalton Agency, has been elected to serve as board president for the Jacksonville Humane Society. The organization also expanded its board to include San Marco resident, Kim Ward and Clear Channel Outdoor president, Brent Bolick. Ward is trustee and managing director of the Michael and Kim Ward Foundation and chairs the Founding Committee of City Year Jacksonville and co-chairs the United Way of Northeast Florida's Education Committee. Ward and Bolick will serve two-year terms on the board. As JHS board president, Munz will oversee the agency as it launches a capital campaign to rebuild the facility destroyed by fire more than five years ago.

"Michael's service to animals in our community comes full circle," said Denise Deisler, JHS executive director. "Starting at 14 years of age, he worked weekends cleaning cages and caring for animals at our Beach Blvd. shelter, while also organizing the first Junior Humane Society of young volunteers to care for the animals. Today, Michael is a tireless promoter of animals and has unrivaled experience in the nonprofit community, making him the perfect person to lead JHS into the future."

## St. Johns Cathedral expands bookstore offerings

The Episcopal bookstore at the St. Johns Cathedral in



downtown Jacksonville has increased its inventory. Under the guidance of Granada resident and store manager, Kathryn Bissette, the bookstore has now expanded its religious and spiritual book inventory to include devotionals, several types of Anglican prayer books, children's books, Bibles and young adult books.

The store also is offering imprinting services for prayer books and Bibles and has expanded its gift and jewelry lines to include Liv-N-Grace bracelets, handmade soaps and Episcopal apparel. Open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

## SMPS elects new officers

The San Marco Preservation Society has elected a new slate of officers and board members. The 2012-2013 president is Diane Martin, a San Marco resident.

Additional executive leadership of the preservation group includes San Marco residents Reese Riggle, president-elect; Heather Stine, secretary; Mary Toomey, treasurer; and Doug Skiles, immediate past-president.



Martin

Board members are: Sherri Meadows, beautification; Kelly Rubin, beautification co-chair; LeAnna Cumber, events; historic resources, Robin Robinson; Jan Beabeau, membership; Susan Masucci, membership co-chair; Desiree Bailey, merchant liaison; Anthony Edwards, electronic media; Andrew Dickson, nuisance/safety/traffic;

Janet Whitmill, parks; Barbara Hall, Preservation Hall; Blake Retterbush, zoning/land use/CPAC.

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JCCI STEWARDS HOST KHAN

JCCI – the Jacksonville Community Council Inc., welcomed guest speaker Shahid Khan to the Summer Stewards reception on Thursday, August 9 at the Florida Yacht Club. JCCI’s Stewards gather for cocktail receptions twice a year, for thought-provoking, high-level discussions and presentations by distinguished guest speakers, and this event was no different. Khan shared his vision and passion for the Jaguars and Jacksonville on the eve of the team’s preseason opening win, and the energy in the room was electric. The event, hosted by fellow Stewards and Ortega resident JF Bryan IV and Lee & Clanzenetta “Mickie” Brown, was highlighted by a spirited exchange during the Q&A with Khan, new team president, Mark Lamping, members and guests.



Helen Lane, Shahid Khan, Betsy Cox, Tyrie & Lori Boyer, Paul Harden



Renee Thompson, Bill Mason and John Thompson



Mark Lamping, Peter OBrien, Aronson & Jim Kagillary



Nathaniel Herring, Jennifer Mansfield and Shareen Ismail



TOAST FIT FOR FURRY COMPANIONS

Many new strides were celebrated at the 14th Annual “Toast to the Animals” event, held August 24 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Jacksonville. Patrons from across the First Coast were on hand to support the financial initiatives and goals for the organization. New leadership, the addition of new board members and excellent programming have begun to take shape, playing a critical role in fostering goals to help create a “no kill” city.



NIGHT FOR HEROES RAISES BIG DOLLARS FOR TRAUMA

Members Tammy Kerwin, Diane Bailey, Patti Frykberg, Diana Decker, Sister Utsey, Anna Dooley, Jeanie Tepas, Bobbie Giddings, Jamie Rood and Vickie Robinson of the TraumaOne Heroes Council stand with the 2012 GMC Yukon purchased and out-fitted for TraumaOne at Shands Jacksonville with funds raised by the 2012 gala.

More than 500 guests attended A Night for Heroes 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront earlier this year. Thanks to sponsors, ticket sales, donations and a silent auction, the fifth annual black-tie fundraising gala raised more than \$83,000 for TraumaOne at Shands Jacksonville, the region’s only adult and pediatric Level I trauma center. Donations were used to purchase and outfit a new vehicle. This will allow TraumaOne to haul equipment and resources to the more than 30 injury prevention and outreach presentations it makes each year in the Greater Jacksonville community to schools such as Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School, Julington Creek Elementary and John E. Ford K-8 School. Remaining donations were used to purchase a pediatric patient simulator and educational materials for awareness campaigns about kids injury prevention, fall prevention in the elderly, and youth anti-bullying.

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# THE WOMEN'S CENTER CELEBRATES MILESTONES

Patrons and proud supporters of the Women's Center of Jacksonville celebrated 17 years of improving the lives of women. The evening was dedicated to the organization and also to the 92nd anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The Women's Center is the only community-based resource center of its kind in Jacksonville. Its mission is to support and empower women and to nurture mind, body, and spirit.



## ART & WINEFEST A SUCCESSFUL PAIRING

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 177, hosted a fundraiser last month for Wolfson Children's Hospital. The event, Art & Winefest 2012, was held at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Ballroom in late-July. Culinary representatives from many local restaurants were on hand to share their creations. Guests sampled wines from around the world and wandered through an art exhibition by 25 local artists.



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## SMPS plans Concert in Park

San Marco Preservation Society is hosting a Concert in the Park from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Fletcher Park, 1652 Atlantic Boulevard. Musical entertainment will be provided by Klob, a local band.

## SHINDIG! To benefit Sanctuary

A Starry SHINDIG!, the Sanctuary on 8th Street's annual fundraiser, will be Friday, September 21, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. This year's event celebrates 20 years of service to the community and features a special performance by National Public Radio's State of the REunion host and Sanctuary Poet Emeritus, Al Letson; live music by local band Grandpa's Cough Medicine, an upscale barbecue feast from Biscottis, b the bakery and Bono's Catering; plus a fabulous silent auction. Tickets are \$40 per person. Casual attire. For reservations and information, visit [sanctuaryon8th.org](http://sanctuaryon8th.org) or call (904) 356-3588.

## MOSH exhibit to wrap up this month

The "most ferocious dinosaur that ever lived" will be moving on from MOSH this month. The exhibit, A T. rex Named Sue, features 42-feet long, 12-feet tall, 3,500 pound Sue—the largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus rex ever discovered.

Visitors can also take part in a dig pit, video footage, and free-standing interactive exhibits as a part of the show.

Sue is currently appearing at MOSH and will stalk the grounds through Sunday, September 23. The cost of meeting her is included in museum admission.

## Jones, Jones-Drew teaming up for kids

The Lead Block Foundation by Greg Jones and the Maurice-Drew Foundation will host a star-studded fundraising event, on Monday, September 24, at Latitude 30 to raise money for local children's charities, including Nemours Children's Clinic. The evening is entitled, "Be A Kid Again...For

The Kids". Event guests will have the private use of the entertainment facility, including bowling, an arcade with more than 70 interactive games, pool tables and two bars. Attendees can also have the chance to test their Madden skills against friends or even Jones or Jones-Drew.

VIP admission, which is \$150 per ticket, is from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., general admission, priced at \$50 per person, begins at 7:30 p.m. The event ends at midnight. Ticket prices include food, general bowling, arcade games and limited beverages. For more information, visit [www.leadblockfoundation.com](http://www.leadblockfoundation.com) or call (904) 348-0033.

## Sulzbacher to celebrate success stories

The 14th annual presentation of Transformations will be held Tuesday, September 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. The event spotlights the journeys of several current and former clients of the Sulzbacher Center as well as others whose lives are changed daily by the organization.

Michael Boylan, President of WJCT Broadcasting, will serve as Emcee for the evening

## Group planning kids fall festival

Organizers from San Marco Preservation are planning a Kids Fall Festival at the San Marco Preservation Hall in Fletcher Park on Saturday, September 22, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The new neighborhood event is expected to be fun for all ages. Local author Angela Atkins will be reading from her latest book, "I Don't Like Dogs but They Love Me," and there will be a performance by Mad Science. Admission is free. For more information, contact LeAnna Cumber at (904) 586-2727.

## Musical to help homeless

A Jacksonville Beach charity, Mission House, will present the musical Another Sign at the Wilson Center at the Florida State College, South Campus, on Thursday, September 27. Proceeds will help raise money and awareness for their cause. Mission House is a day facility, which provides basic needs and medical care to the homeless. In addition, through their various programs, they offer spiritual counseling and mental health services, as well as employment programs, job training and placement. The money raised from ticket sales will help to cover the expenses of the case management program and health clinics. Written by Mike White and local artist John E. Citrone, Another Sign portrays homelessness through the eyes of different characters. "The play really touches on the different aspects of homelessness," said Lori Delgado Anderson, the Executive Director of Mission House. "No one chooses to become homeless, and with the economy the way it is, anyone can become homeless." To learn more about Mission House, or to donate, visit: [www.missionhouse-jax.org/](http://www.missionhouse-jax.org/).

## San Marco society announces 5th concert season



The San Marco Chamber Music Society is gearing up for its 2012-13 season. The series kicks off Sunday, September 9, with a concert featuring the music of Herzogenberg, Clarke, Eccles, and Bach. This event will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

All concerts are free admission with a free will offering taken. The concerts start at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

## Wounded Warrior Project run takes off in September

The Wounded Warrior Project 8K Run will be Saturday, September 8, in Jacksonville. Event organizers invite participants to run or walk to honor and empower the country's Wounded Warriors. The organization also is hosting runs in Franklin, TN, and San Antonio, TX, this fall in addition to the Jacksonville event. The Jacksonville run starts and finishes at The Jacksonville Landing. Registration is underway at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org). Registration fees are \$35 through September 9. Packet pick-up will be at all 1st Place Sports locations on September 6 and 7. Day-of registration is available and live entertainment is planned. The opening program begins at 8:30 a.m., and the race begins at 9 a.m. Military and IK Fun Run Registration is \$15. There is a \$99 mandatory fundraising goal for each participant.

## Local charity walk makes strides against heart disease

The 2012 Heart Walk will be held Saturday, September 22, at Metropolitan Park.

Heart disease and strokes represent the number 1 and number 4 health threats to American men and women, and the 2012 Heart Walk will raise money to support critical research, as well as education and community programs to help combat these devastating diseases.

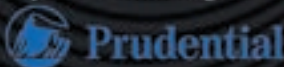
The community-wide event is composed of corporate walk teams, friends and family teams, individual walkers, as well as "lifestyle

heroes", those who have made positive changes to reduce heart disease and stroke risk factors and those who are survivors of the diseases. "Last year the walk raised more than \$940,000 and we are striving to go above \$1 million in 2012," said Dave Josseland, 2012 Heart Walk Co-Chair and Chief Strategic Officer, Dalton Agency. "I can't think of a more important goal than to raise money to fund this valuable research." For further information about this year's walk, call (904) 256-5721 or visit [www.firstcoastheartwalk.org](http://www.firstcoastheartwalk.org).

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## Up with music for the First Coast

Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Conservatory, Richard Dickson, and Nashville vocal coach, Lorna Greenwood, have decided to join forces to develop "The Song Café." The program is designed to offer First Coast kids of all ages the opportunity to participate in ongoing musical variety shows. Musical production and planning are under way and performances are being scheduled for 2013.

Auditions for singers, actors and dancers will be held at the Northeast Florida Conservatory, located at 11363 San Jose Blvd., Building 200. Audition dates and times are Thursday and Friday, September 6 and 7, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, September 8, at 1 p.m. Please be sure to bring an accompaniment CD, MP3 or sheet music in for your audition song, along with a head shot and bio/resume. Call (904) 374-8639 to inquire.

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# DOSTIE HOMES

Your dream home may be closer than you think



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Have you ever entertained the idea of building your own home? Are you weighing the costs of remodeling? Maybe you'd like to leave behind the constant repairs and maintenance of an older home, but worry that you'd miss the convenient location and atmosphere of a quaint, historic-style neighborhood.

Now, thanks to Dostie Homes, led by brothers Chris and Rick Dostie, you can have the best of both worlds when you build your dream home – just the way you want it – on magnificent oak-lined Kelsey Place situated in the Beauclerc area off of Scott Mill Road.

Spacious property this close in – and in such a well-established neighborhood – is a rare find. But the secret is out: There are only two remaining lots for sale and there's never been a better time to make your move.

Spanning three generations and with a legacy of more than 50 years of quality home-building and development in Northeast Florida, Dostie Homes, has created the perfect marriage at Kelsey Place blending new homes into a traditional neighborhood near the St. Johns River.

Taking a special interest in preserving the character and integrity of the existing neighborhood, the Dostie brothers ensured the entire street would "look complete" and that the end result would be something everyone would be proud of.

"We offer different floor plans that fit the neighborhood requirements and attributes that people want, but we also give customers the ability to personalize our plans to really fit their needs," Chris said. "That's one of the benefits we offer."

No one is more pleased with the result than homebuyers Mark and Shari Saye, who moved into their new home two months ago. The couple was able to personalize their floorplan, "flipping" around some of the rooms. They called it a "smooth process" from start to finish and said working with the in-house residential designer was "incredible."

Shari Saye, co-owner of Impressions in San Marco, had some initial doubts about moving.

"I was worried about leaving the area. I like older homes but with Dostie we got exactly what we wanted," she said. "They were flexible, accommodating and exceeded our expectations in every way. The location is a happy medium, we are convenient to everything. We love the neighborhood."

Kelsey Place has special appeal to buyers who are considering whether it's better to put on an expensive addition or to sell their house, build new and still stay relatively close to their neighborhood. It's ideal for those who don't want to live as far out as St. Johns County, or in a master planned community with HOA fees.

"Our clients typically want a nice, established neighborhood, to be with-

in minutes of their favorite places, and still have the ability to build, and personalize their home," Chris Dostie said. "We can give them that. We also give them a lot of house for the money."

With an unsurpassed reputation for superior craftsmanship in upscale communities such as Glen Kernan, Pablo Creek Reserve, Palencia and more, the Dostie Homes' advantages are countless. Energy Star-rated homes boast gourmet kitchens, wood floors and natural lighting. Dostie personalizes floorplans, provides professional in-house architecture and design services, passes along savings from longstanding relationships with vendors and subcontractors, keeps the price right and is known for ongoing, personal service.

"Our customers get a walk-through before the close of the house, after 90 days in the house, and again at 11 months," said Rick Dostie. "It is our belief that customer service is as important after the closing as it is before."



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# YOM KIPPUR



By Rabbi Joshua Lief  
Congregation Ahaveth Chesed

Yom Kippur (this year on September 25-26) is the “Day of Atonement,” when we in the Jewish community join together in worship, reflect on the past year, evaluate our behavior, and resolve to try to do better. Most Jews also refrain from food, drink, and other comforts as we focus on the higher purpose of taking a personal spiritual inventory. We reach out to those whom we may have wronged, ask for forgiveness, and strive to make repentance.

Together with Rosh Hashanah (this year on September 16-17), the “New Year” holiday observed just

ten days prior, these two sacred occasions are often called the “High Holy Days.”

Theologically, forgiveness is an external action: we ask it from, or grant it to others. Repentance is internal: we resolve to change our own behavior and we will either fail or succeed based on our future actions. Atonement is a sense of completion, when thanks to our efforts at forgiveness and repentance, we find ourselves and our relationships with others restored.

A wise sage once quipped, “Don’t read it as ‘atonement,’ read it as, ‘at-one-ment’ when we become ‘whole’ again.” Our Jewish tradition teaches that for sins committed against God, Yom Kippur offers the potential of atonement as God will forgive us if we change our ways. However, God cannot forgive us for the sins we’ve committed against other people; we have to repair those relationships first ourselves before we can ask for atonement.

There is a suggestion in our liturgy that the “Book of Life” is opened each year on Rosh Hashanah to check our progress in the year now ended, and it is sealed on Yom Kippur as we make reso-



lutions about the year to come. In reality, the “Book of Life” lies open each and every moment of our lives, not only for ten days a year each fall, and every word written therein is written by us. At every moment in our lives, we make choices that determine the path we will take. Each choice leads to new opportunities, new decisions, and ultimately to an ever changing path.

Our Jewish tradition presents a set of ethics and values that guides us in making our choices, leading us to be better people and to make our world a better place. While we don’t always make the best choices, Yom Kippur comes each fall to remind us of the power to change that lies within our hands all year long. We rarely grant ourselves a moment to ponder and consider the choices we

one” with your own idea of your better self is a task only you can handle. Yom Kippur seeks to say, “Don’t put it off; start now.” May your path in this New Year take you wherever you want to go, and may you find there happiness, health, and peace.

## Chefs to care for children

Northeast Florida’s Annual Caring Chefs event will return to The Avenues Mall on Sunday, October 14, for its 29th edition. The occasion features chefs from more than 50 of the best First Coast restaurants, as well as caterers and wine vendors, each offering their tastiest and most well-known dishes and libations.

Tickets are \$60. Proceeds from the event will benefit the efforts of the Children’s Home Society of Florida to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect. Over the past 28 years, the event has raised more than \$2.5 million. This year, the Caring Chefs committee hopes to raise a record \$185,000.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities and tickets, call (904) 493-7739 or visit the event’s website at [www.chscaringchefs.com](http://www.chscaringchefs.com).



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# The Way we Were

## Jack & Jean Cummings

BY AMANDA FORD  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jack and Jean Cummings have seen it all. Missionary trips have taken the couple all over the world to “just about any place you would think of and a lot of places that you wouldn’t” according to Jack. But wherever their travels take them, they always come back to the place they call home—Jacksonville, Florida.

In 1966 they moved to the San Jose area where Jack started his own ink manufacturing company. While at the company, Jack and a few other businessmen started up Christian Light Ministries. The organization helps pastors and missionaries administer their own finances and enable people to present the Gospel all over the world.

While Jack has traveled on many of the mission trips, he realizes that there is no place

like Jacksonville.

“I have enjoyed every minute, but I absolutely miss Florida when I am gone,” he said.

The former football captain and cheerleader married in 1950, three years after graduating from their Nashville high school. Jack’s job at a previous printer’s ink manufacturing company transferred the couple to Tampa and New Jersey before bringing them to Jacksonville.

They rented a house on San Jose Boulevard before moving with their four children into their current house in the same area two years later.

“A friend and I both had children, and we would just get out and ride around sometimes. We loved to ride over here and see the houses on the river and just go through the neighborhood. We were looking for a house during that time, and this one came on the market. It wasn’t exactly what we wanted, but we thought we’d just stay here until we found something we liked better,” Jean said.

The pair ended up falling in love with the tight-knit feel of the neighborhood and convenience of the area. They explained that back then, their children spent the majority of their time outside with other kids.

“We used to lift our daughter over the fence to play with our neighbor’s children and they would do the same. There were lots of children, and they would go out in the morning and wouldn’t come in ‘till evenings, just playing up and down the street. They were safe—you didn’t have to worry about them,” Jean recalled.

When the family did go out to shop, there weren’t too many places from which to chose. Regency was the first mall to speak of, so if they really wanted to hit the stores, Downtown was the place to be—especially around Christmas.

“We would take the kids down there, and we’d just walk all around town and look at everything. The windows were all decorated so beautifully and they had a Christmas parade. It was a great place to be!” said Jack.

Years later, shopping centers began to slowly appear around town.

“The Lakewood area had a few good shops. I remember a shoe store and a toy store.



There was also a pharmacy, but not like the ones we have now. We’d go there and eat lunch at the counter, and have a soda. Life was very different—you didn’t drive the miles you drive now to go everywhere,” Jean said.

Although the two have traveled many miles together, their

journey always leads them back to Jacksonville.

“My mother lived in Nashville, and she would always ask me ‘when are you coming home?’ I would say to her, I am at home here in Florida. And there’s really no place like home,” Jack said.

## Senior day at MOSH

MOSH will host a special program for members of the senior citizen community on Wednesday, September 5. Senior Days will include a coffee and donut reception, an educational presentation and free time to explore the museum. The program starts at 9:45 a.m. and the charge is \$6 per senior citizen. Reservations are required and are based on availability. Call (904) 396-MOSH (6674), extension 226 for details.

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# Eclectic entertaining is her cup of tea

BY OLGA BAYER

When Paula McCaffrey decided to host a shower for daughter Michelle Otto, who’s expecting a baby girl in October, she tapped into a familiar and favorite theme from her past – an old-fashioned, sit-down tea party reminiscent of the antebellum tea party she’d thrown for friends ten years earlier.

In 2002, McCaffrey’s guests wore big hats and long dresses. The recent tea party for family and friends was sans period dress – save for a few gloves – however, the exquisite table settings, garden arrangements, tasty delicacies and party favors rivaled a tea party set for a queen – or in this case, a lady in waiting.

With a flair for Southern hospitality and a knack – move over Martha Stewart – for party planning, crafting and cooking, McCaffrey treated 35 guests to a memorable experience. It was a true family affair with eldest daughter Catherine Keiter co-hosting and sons Christopher and Michael assisting as servers.

To dress the tables, McCaffrey mixed and matched from her collection of assorted vintage china, silver and linen – family heirlooms that held special memories, and handed down through generations.

Decorative vignettes included her children’s homemade teapots, her sister’s original art, and treasures amassed from living and traveling the world. Fresh flowers and greenery from her backyard added colorful embellishments.

“This is what a tea party is all about,” McCaffrey said. “It’s about using what you already have from inside your house and outside in the garden, incorporating it into your home.”

As a whimsical nod to gardens, fin-



Melissa Matthews and Anne Marie

ger sandwiches were cut into shapes of flowers and butterflies. The menu included elderflower champagne spritzers, chicken salad, Biltmore House scones with lemon curds and a variety of teas.

McCaffrey has lived with husband Brian in the San Marco area for more than 30 years. Her many and successful parties have been a labor of love. Friend Barbara Jansen agrees, calling her a “natural hostess” and someone who’s “in her element” when entertaining.

With three grandsons, McCaffrey does plenty of doting. Still, eagerly anticipating the arrival of her first granddaughter, she was inspired to celebrate with those near and dear.

“It puts a smile on my face to bring friends together,” said McCaffrey. “I just want everyone to have a good time. This was my second tea party. Who knows what I’m going to do for my third.”

No doubt it will be a big hit because as guest Bernice Parker said, “Whenever Paula has a party, you know you’re going to have a good time!”



An old-fashioned tea party was a family affair. Pictured from left to right: Michael McCaffrey, Catherine Keiter, Michelle Otto, Paula McCaffrey and Christopher McCaffrey



Rhonda Minton, Kathy Kassees, Catherine Kreiter and Amy John

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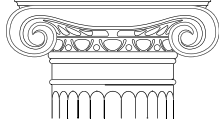


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# GOGIVERS

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## Deborah Stapp

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Deborah Stapp, 61, who has lived in her Christopher Creek home 22 years, was a passionate college classical archeology major who has had a fulfilling archeology career in North Florida while raising a family. She credits the support of her husband Fred, a local attorney, with making that possible. This accomplished grandmother also earned many other accolades during her life — including a masters degree in teaching, a Realtor license and a reputation for important volunteer work across Jacksonville. Her volunteer work in Jacksonville has been a melding of many interests.

"I was interested in art from an early age, but was never an artist, although I liked to draw and sketched a lot. I thought I would go into textile design, although mother really wanted me to get a liberal arts degree. Instead I studied art, art history and focused on Greek and Roman classical archeology," Stapp

said. “While the children were young I was able to work on some projects while I completed my masters degree. I became a Realtor after the kids were out of school.”

Some of her work included investigating Etruscan sites in Chianti, Italy (Tuscany) and working with St. Augustine City Archeologist Carl D. Halbirt in St. Augustine. Halbirt, the historic city's chief archeologist since 1990, is highly respected by Stapp.

“Every time they put a shovel in the dirt down in St. Augustine there is always something there. I also did lab work on the Maple Leaf Project, sketching and photographing leather boots in case they disintegrated during the restoration process. There were beautiful stained glass fragments that we worked on with a stained glass expert to try to recreate what the original windows might have looked like,” she said. The Maple Leaf was an 1850 Great Lakes Steamship, carrying 400 pounds of Union military and personal items

that sank near Mandarin Point in 1864 when it hit a Confederate mine. Maple Leaf artifacts recovered from 1988 to 1994 are considered among the most important Civil War collections ever found.

Stapp's most important contribution to Jacksonville might be seen in the Art Connections Program at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

"I began to volunteer ages ago as a young person in my twenties. I served as chair of the Children in Arts Program for the Junior League of Jacksonville and also worked with JMOCA art enrichment programs, especially as "Picture Lady" and doing all kinds of art activities," she said.

At that time local art patrons discussed the need for a hands-on children's museum with the Junior League, so I was involved from the beginning. When the Cummer accepted the idea and offered space we visited other city's museums and programs to develop our own Art Connections." Art Connections, which Stapp worked on for four years, opened in 1990 and is now a nationally recognized interactive art educational facility



located at The Cummer  
Museum.

Stapp, who noted that she is always doing something, has also served on the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, with the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation and participated in Leadership Jacksonville. She especially enjoyed working as a volunteer at the Arts Mania daylong free events for families and children that used to be held at The Jacksonville Landing.

Her current volunteer com-

commitments include the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital (twenty years), St. Johns Riverkeeper (she is deeply concerned about the condition of Christopher Creek and the St. Johns River) and The Cummer Museum.

When not working for one of her charities, Stapp loves flowers and enjoys gardening although she said it is not easy in Jacksonville. Or she could be with a cherished group of longtime friends who have dubbed themselves “the shabby chicks”. The women regularly lunch together to reconnect, discuss issues and problems with no topic off limits.

“Everyone who knows Fred and me knows we’re always going somewhere. We travel to Italy frequently in summer and to ski in winter. We like to hike out West and in the National Parks (just returned from the Smokey Mountains) and we visit our five children and three grandchildren who live all over... they like to come stay with us...and Fred really likes golf,” she said.

The couple enjoys their San Jose neighborhood and home although the creek floods a lot. They love to see

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► the fish and turtles, snakes, owls and hawks with whom they peacefully coexist on the acre site. Their late 60s one story brick ranch was remodeled, as Deborah puts it, “to appear as Tuscan as possible”.

When asked about the impact of her longtime volunteerism on her personal life, Stapp said that she believed the more she gives the more she gets back from those experiences.

“I believe that we can all do more to help others and to be part of our community. It is true that I have gained so much from volunteering and have learned so much too. Just the other night during one of the Cummer tours I was talking about a statue made from Lime wood. A gentleman in the group used his iPhone to research the tree and said that it was used extensively for statues because it is strong, perfect for intricate carving, resistant to splitting and worm damage,” she said. “It was so cool to know that and be able to share it.” During the Middle Ages Lime wood was also considered a sacred wood and was typically used to carve statues of the Virgin Mary.

## 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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World Relief Jacksonville

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bers and hundreds of volunteers, many of whom are former refugees. With a unique and multicultural staff, representing a dozen different cultures and languages, WRJ provides resettlement services for refugees during the first 90 days of their arrival in Jacksonville. These services include airport reception; housing and basic furnishings; post-arrival orientation; English classes; and appointments for health screenings.

**Opportunities to help:** Volunteers are needed to help with welcoming new refugee arrivals and orienting them to their new home and Jacksonville culture. Transportation to appointments is also a great need in the first few weeks of arrival.

**How to raise your hand:**  
Contact our office at 1-904-448-0733 or visit website:www.worldreliefjacksonville.org for department contacts.

## Ronald McDonald House, CSX celebrate decade of service partnership

The time, treasure and talents donated by local volunteers are critical to the success of area charities. And there are no better volunteers than the ones who show their support year after year.

This summer, San Marco-based Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, had an opportunity to celebrate the longtime efforts of such a volunteer group. In mid-July, Ronald McDonald House celebrated CSX Intermodal employees. The CSX volunteers, who call themselves CSX Intermodal Caring Chefs, have been



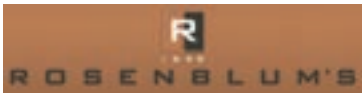
preparing meals once a month for the families of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville for the past 10

years. The meals have not been standard faire either, according to Ronald McDonald

House officials. The caring chefs have prepared everything from Hawaiian luaus to Italian feasts and Mexican fiestas. During the past 10 years, the CSX Intermodal volunteers have served more than 3,600 families of ill and injured children during their decade of volunteering. During the summer celebration, CSX Intermodal Caring Chefs were joined by company president, Bill Clement. The group wore anniversary T-shirts and aprons and prepared a festive summer barbecue for families at the house.



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# A legacy of Eagle Scouts defines the Heekin family

First Eagle Scout awarded  
100 years ago

BY STEVE DiMATTIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jim Heekin was a traveling salesman who spent a great deal of time away from his Jacksonville home. As a result, his eight sons became marked men, just like he was before them.

“In his car Monday, back home Friday,” Remembered Rob Heekin, his third eldest.

To help Jim’s wife, Mary, contend with the boys while he was away, they were enrolled into scouting. “It was an opportunity for my mom to get us involved in something good that actually helped raise the family,” said Heekin.

Like their father before them, all eight boys rose to the highest level of scouting achievement and became Eagle Scouts. There was an expectation that they would exemplify the values of the Scout Law.

“It helps prepare you for stepping up to be a leader when the situation calls for,” said Heekin, an attorney who earned his Eagle at age 15 in 1965 at Troop 106, Assumption Catholic Church in San Marco. “It gives you the self confidence that your opinion counts. As the Eagle Scout Charge says: ‘you are a marked man.’”

To be a “marked man” means that the scout accepts his position of “honor and responsibility” with a

“solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general.”

It is an obligation that began 100 years ago with the awarding of the first Eagle Scout badge on August 1, 1912. Over 2 million have since been earned, the second by a Jacksonville Scout, Earl George Marx. It spans generations, transcends scouting itself and is revered by other scouts.

Alan Wilson, scoutmaster for Troop 2 in Riverside, recently overheard one of his scouts say, “It’s not so cool to be a Boy Scout; but it’s really cool to be an Eagle Scout.”

If that is true, then the Heekins may very well be the coolest family in town.

No less than 25 of them have earned their Eagle, dating back to the first, Jim’s brother, Robert, in 1927. In addition to Jim’s eight sons, every male child through three generations (and counting) has done the same.

Becoming an Eagle in the Heekin clan was never discussed but always assumed, Heekin said. The family has always looked out for one another, encouraged and coached each other on how to advance. The tradition has passed on to the next generation in the same subtle manner.

“Becoming an Eagle was never forced on us at all, but when you see that many do it, it’s only natural that you want to do it yourself. I loved scouting; it was never a chore,” said Rob’s nephew, David Heekin, Jr., 30,



Robert Heekin and his sons, David and Jack

who earned his at age 14 and is now a third year medical student at the University of South Florida.

As seems characteristic of Eagle Scouts in general, the Heekins have gone on to success and leadership roles in their life: Six of Jim’s sons are lawyers, one is a doctor and the other an engineer. Lawyers, doctors, businessmen, artists and high achieving students are common among their children.

“Eagle Scout success starts with the Scout Law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent,” said Dr. David Heekin, Sr., Rob’s younger brother, who earned his Eagle in 1968 at age 14 from Troop 106. He carried that success to West Point and the Army, where he retired as a Colonel, and is now an orthopedic surgeon in St. Nicholas. “That carries over. Every day of my life I still use skills that I learned and practiced in

scouting.”

Rob Heekin, who has served as scoutmaster of Troop 106 since 1983, feels that those skills are valuable even if a scout does not achieve Eagle.

“As important as it is to receive the Eagle badge, it’s also important to remember that the scouting experience at all levels is valuable. It develops confidence, leadership and social skills and builds a strong character. If you can keep a boy in until at least First Class [three steps below Eagle] then you’ve done him a great service.”

It was those traits that Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman, was looking to bestow upon her son, R.J., when she enrolled him at age seven into the Cub Scouts, Troop (“Pack” for Cubs) 35, Southside United Methodist Church in San Marco. Like Mary Heekin, she took advantage of scouting to help raise her son.

“I was a widow and he was



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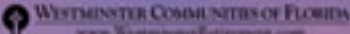
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without a father so I saw it as chance to provide him positive male role models in a structured environment,” said Boyer, who has chaired the troop’s committee and completed a variety of scout trainings.

R.J. went on to become an Eagle Scout at age 16 and is entering the University of North Carolina’s medical school this fall.

“I’ve known Lori and R.J. for a long time and they really exemplify the way that scouting can have a positive impact,” Rob Heekin said.

Boyer agrees. “The Scouts are a wonderful character building organization. I don’t know that I’ve told them enough how much I appreciate all they

did for R.J. and for me.”

David Heekin, Jr. carries a similar level of appreciation for scouting.

“I’m not some extraordinary person. It’s just a testimony to the men, like my Uncle Rob, who volunteer to run the troops, that I’ve had any success. It’s not a top down organization. The boys are trusted to make sure things happen. I think it is successful because it’s a fun, enjoyable way to learn discipline, responsibility and accountability for your actions. You also learn to look out for other people, not just yourself.”

Jim Heekin continued to instill such values as a troop leader until about 10 years before passing away at age 85 in



John Barton, Christopher Barton, scout master Mat Morgan, Stephen Barton and Robin Barton

2003, responsible for many boys beyond just his own sons earning Eagle Scout. He would no doubt be

proud of the mark he has left on the world.

# IN SEASON – Grant opportunity for local teachers, students

How does a teacher's garden grow? Local nonprofit organization, Slow Food First Coast, wants to know.

Slow Food First Coast, whose mission is a food system based on the principles of quality and pleasure environmental sustainability and social justice, is launching a \$250 grant opportunity to find out. The goal is to provide an educational garden experience for current teachers in Duval and St. Johns counties, and help local students get their gardening hands dirty in the process.

Interested can apply to receive a garden kit that includes: a four-foot by eight-foot container garden raised bed made of recycled plastic; funds for organic soil, heritage seeds and plant starters; a school garden guidebook; lesson plans correlated to Sunshine State Standards; and mentoring opportunities with local master gardeners and other teachers who have successfully implemented school gardens.

Applications are available at <http://slowfoodfirstcoast.com/gardgrantFall2012.html>. A completed application form must be sent via email to Richard Villadoniga at [rvilladoniga@yahoo.com](mailto:rvilladoniga@yahoo.com) or via snail mail to Slow Food First Coast, P.O. Box 951, St. Augustine, FL 32085 by Sep. 8. Winners will be judged and selected by a panel by Sep. 15.

Grant winners will be required to fulfill several gardening obligations including: planting an organic garden during the 2012-213 school year; building a garden that includes food, herbs and vegetables; having administrative support; developing plans to integrate the garden into classroom curriculum; using vegetables grown in the garden for students' taste experiences; continuing the garden project beyond the current school year; providing feedback to the organization; and letting Slow Food First Coast representatives visit the site.

# Mosquito awareness after the storms



The Duval County Health Department (DCHD) has issued a mosquito-borne illness alert for Duval County. Human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been confirmed and there is a heightened concern that additional residents will become ill. Duval County has five confirmed cases of WNV in 2012. The most recent cases involve 35 and 52 year-old males and 41 and 54 year-old females.

Symptoms of the virus may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Physicians should contact their county health department if they suspect an individual may meet the case definition for a mosquito-borne illness.

DCHD continues to advise the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts. The department recommends using repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR353 to protect against mosquitoes. Residents should also be aware of standing water and drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, toys, pool covers, or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Public Health website at [www.doh.state.fl.us/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/) or call your DCHD at (904) 253-1850.

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# Fifth-grade princess sees beauty in service

San Marco resident and Hendricks Avenue Elementary School fifth-grader, Kendall Cosper, recently was tapped to be the junior "princess" for neighborhood Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen, Jennifer Stehlin.

Cosper has served as Stehlin's princess as part of the Miss America organization's mentoring program. This summer, the pair visited patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital and is developing a "healthy habits" workshop for young girls.

The Resident asked Cosper a few questions about how the royal treatment has translated into a focus on others.

**How were you chosen as princess?**

I have known Jennifer a long time because her older sister, Jamie, was our babysitter before she went to college. Their family goes to our church, Southside United Methodist. She asked me to be her princess for the Miss St. Johns' County Pageant last November. Jennifer had not competed before and realized about a week before that she needed a younger girl to escort her during the evening gown competition. Who knew she would win and go on to be crowned Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen 2012!

**What have you learned from your mentor so far?**

It is important to put your relationship with God first, others before yourself and to help your community. Finding a way to volunteer that you love makes volunteering fun. We made blankets for children at Wolfson Children's Hospital and helped raise money for Children's Miracle Network. It was fun to do it together. She has been volunteering for the March of Dimes for a long time and I can tell she loves it because of how excited she gets talking about it.

**What do you admire about her and why can her strengths be an inspiration to you and others?**

She is very confident and has taught me that true beauty comes from the inside. She says, "let your light shine!" and means that if you work on being beautiful on the inside, that is most important. Just loving who God made you to be and being yourself makes it easy to focus on things that really matter and have fun serving others. She is also really silly and



during their year of service. It has made me start thinking about all the things I can do before I even graduate from college and that I don't have to wait until I'm an adult to make a real difference in the world.

**What role does charity play in your work?**

In the Miss America organization, when you win a title, the following 12 months are called your "Year of Service." Jennifer's job as Miss Florida's this coming year is to promote her platform — The March of Dimes and the official charity,

we have lots of fun being goofy together.

**What have you enjoyed doing most in your new role — where have you visited?**

We just got back from Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Competition in Orlando, FL. It was great meeting other girls from all the country and I made great friends from North Dakota, Georgia, New Hampshire & North Carolina. It was neat to meet all the teens and learn about what they have done to help others and make a difference in their states even though they are only teenagers. I got to know Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2012, Elizabeth Fechtel, and met Miss America. They are both so sweet and I learned about the work they have done

CMN. Helping others is just how we share the love God shows us with others. I am excited to continue helping Jennifer with her work, learning from her & spending time making a difference.

**What's next?**

We are working on a workshop for girls my age called R.E.A.C.H. It stands for Raise Enormous Awareness - Change Hearts. We'll talk with other girls about developing healthy habits that last a lifetime, taking care of the body God gave you and using your life in service to others. I can't wait to finish the planning and get started because it's going to be a fun way to learn and share what I've learned with other girls.

## Neighborhood schools replacing textbooks with iPads

Episcopal School of Jacksonville is the third local private school in recent months to make an announcement regarding iPad technology on campus.

University Christian School became the first school in Northeast Florida to replace textbooks with iPads in February, when the Southside school announced its new partnership with Apple Learning Initiative. It will begin implementing the iPad program this fall. Bishop Kenny High School officials released word of its iPad transition in early summer. Episcopal School of Jacksonville leaders said the

move is "the next step in providing students with the best transition to colleges and universities," according to a release. Faculty at Episcopal's middle and upper schools will receive iPads for personal and professional use. The first year of implementation will be 2012-2013, which includes Apple workshops, faculty sharing and collaboration as well as in-house iPad training and support. This year, school leaders also will be researching and studying options for textbooks and e-books. iPads will be given to students during the 2013-2014 school year.

"Our faculty is energized by the opportunity to incorporate the iPad into daily classroom use and into the curricula! Everyone is looking forward to inspiring a greater level of interactive learning in our students, as well as providing them with the learning tools and methods they need to succeed in college and beyond," said Pat Andrews, Director of Parent Relations at Episcopal.

Kate Pritchard, a long-time faculty member, will have the responsibility for training and assisting faculty with the iPad. Pat Andrews and Episcopal's Technology Department will be available for faculty support.

Episcopal was able to make the transition thanks to an anonymous gift made to the school this summer.

At Bishop Kenny, every student will begin using an iPad instead of traditional books beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

School officials shared the news with the school's 70-member faculty during a planning meeting this summer. In August, the school kicked off its pre-planning schedule by presenting each faculty mem-

ber with a new iPad and the challenge of using the iPads during the 2012-2013 school year for learning and collaborating.

"Our administration and academic team is very excited about including the iPad as part of our academic program; there's so much more to the story than just replacing traditional books with eBooks," said Principal Todd Orlando. "The iPad is expected to be an invaluable tool that will enhance the excellent academic program that has been offered at Bishop Kenny for 60 years. I believe that this technology will make the material all the more exciting and real for our students. It is compatible with technology that many of our students are using at home and will prepare them for what is already in place in colleges and universities."

The school also is investing in upgrades to the infrastructure of the campus that are necessary to provide a secure wireless environment capable of supporting this technology. The 1200 or more iPads will be activated on the first day of school in August 2013. University Christian School announced its iPad transition in February, and is expected to make more technology announcements soon.

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## Fostering community: Performers Academy cultivates FSS talent



The Performers Academy, based in St. Nicholas, hosted 15 foster children from neighbor organization, Family Support Services, for a three-week Cultural Arts Camp.

The program included individualized programs for the teenage students — and helped the 16- and 17-year-olds express their own experiences through dance and music.

Each camper worked with a professional artist, dancer, actor or recording artist to develop an original piece. The performance was an artistic rendering of their life story, and the students were able to share their work in a live venue at the end of camp. Campers performed their work — including, song, dance and

acting — Aug. 2 at The Museum on Art Museum Drive.

"It was amazing to see the transformation of these kids in just 3 weeks. Their attitude, self esteem and openness transformed. It was as if they had all this talent bottled up inside and we uncorked it. It's a testament to the benefits of the performing arts" said Executive director of the performance Academy, Kathryn D. McAvoy.

It was the first time most of the children had been exposed to art instruction, according to Performers Academy officials. The one-hour show of original material included choreographed ballet, poems, acting scenes, rap singing and digital presentations.



## San Jose CC captures River City Swimming League Championship



- Final team standings:**
1. San Jose Country Club
  2. Wahoos Swim Team
  3. Beaches Aquatic Club
  4. Julington Creek Plantation
  5. Episcopal Amberjacks
  6. Baymeadows Swim Club
  7. Flying Fish Swim Team
  8. Argyle Waves Swim Team
  9. Team Fernandina Stingrays
  10. Rolling Hills Swim Team

The River City Swim League (RCSL) administers a dual/tri meet schedule and the annual River City Championship meet that was held the last week of July at Cecil Field Aquatic Center. San Jose County Club took first place. "With another strong showing in the relays, the Dolphins finished with 1,492 points, 27 less than last year, good enough for 6th place this year," said Roger Deary of the Baymeadows Blue Dolphins Swim Club.

Baymeadows' Christopher Hodang won the 11 & 12 boys. He tied for first in 8 & Under boys. He also placed in all five individual events he swam in, and was on the Blue Dolphins first place freestyle relay. Katelin Gildersleeve, Elizabeth Bell, Ansen

Meyer and Carl Andrews all had strong showings for Baymeadows.

Deerwood Swim Team finished 11th, Timuquana Yacht Club 12th, Epping Forest Swim Team 13th, Jewish Community Alliance 16th and University Swim Club 17th. The organization was developed to provide kids with a social and competitive summer swimming program. The league has promoted excellence in coaching and conditioning for 42 years.

The basic mission of The River City Swim League (RCSL) is to develop interest and participation in amateur swimming in a safe and fun environment and afford the opportunity of skill development and team participation.

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# School security a top priority as students return to campus

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Local public and private schools have modified campus security for the 2012-2013 school year. The changes come in the wake of many national shootings, including the tragedy that took the life of Episcopal School of Jacksonville Head of School Dale Regan last spring.

Episcopal officials said they have made several adjustments to its security operations in recent months. Meg Sacks, school spokeswoman, said some of those changes include the hiring of an additional full-time security guard, the enhancement of emergency notification abilities and an audit conducted by a nationally known consultant in crisis management, vulnerability analysis and threat assessment.

She said a more comprehensive outline of Episcopal's security enhancements will be available to the Episcopal community in the late fall.

"Episcopal continually assesses its security policies and practices and makes adjustments to them on an ongoing basis — safety is our most important priority," Sacks said in an email. The Bolles School also invested in a security audit during the summer. School spokeswoman, Jan Olson, said Bolles' Director of Security Rich Williams invited a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office officer to the campus to complete a "Homeland Security Check." "The officer had some suggestions but overall we are happy to say he gave a very good report of each campus and of security measures currently in place," Olson reported. Bolles maintains three separate campuses — the San Jose site,

the Bartram campus and one in Ponte Vedra Beach. "They made some suggestions to raise trees and lower bushes, but they were impressed with our security program."

The school did make many changes, however, during the summer. The Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus now has a new welcome center at the front entrance to the school. The school also is adding an electric security gates at the front entrance of each campus, as well as additional fencing. Other new security measures at Bolles include: new monthly walks around each campus by the school's head of operations and director of security; consolidated fire alarms and emergency notification systems at the Bolles Ponte Vedra Beach campus, as well as a new system that links the buildings together in case of an emergency; the

implementation of a new traffic flow at the school's San Jose campus; and landscaping changes that have been made to increase visibility on the campuses.

Jill Johnson, spokeswoman for Duval County Public Schools, said security is a top priority at all schools — including those in the neighborhood.

She said each local middle and high school has a security officer who is part of the school's police force. "We are always reviewing our policies to enhance the safety and security of our schools," Johnson said. She said school principals review their security plan with the district's operations staff to implement any new suggestions. She said individual schools' plans are not up for public review because they are security-related. "The safety and security of the students of Duval Schools is a priority," she said.

## Back to School Jitters

BY ANGELA ATKINS M.ED., LMHC  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

For many of us parents, back to school time also means a lot of anxiety for our little ones — and frankly for us moms and dads, too. As we prepare mentally and physically for back to school, here some helpful tips to readjust to school time or prepare for first day jitters.

- Get to know your school and teachers. This is especially important for Pre-K through 2nd grade students or any child attending a new school. You can help reduce their nervousness by going to ori-

entation or open house with your child, tour the school together and shop for supplies as a family. Meet with your child's teacher as a family; get to know the teacher well...maybe point out some similarities in the child and teacher. If you notice that she likes the Jaguars from a poster in the classroom, bring that to your Jag loving child's attention. Recent research indicates that a goodness of fit between child and teacher encourages success. Get your child involved as much as possible so that your child feels some ownership of their school and education.

- Talk school "up." Have a comfortable,

positive attitude about school — this will rub off on your child in a really wonderful way. Tell them how great it will be to learn new things, make friends and be a big kid. If your big kid is inclined to cry or refuses to go to school, have several practice runs before school begins. Get up and get ready for school as if you were really going — walk up to the school or drop off and practice saying goodbye. On the first day, this goodbye ritual will be a comfortable habit.

- Expect your child to succeed: encourage them to do good work and reward their efforts. How do we motivate our children to succeed? We help them adopt learning goals that aim to improve ability, not performance —the process of learning

becomes enjoyable and the outcome will be success in school.

- Get back on the school sleep and eating schedule. Children who get enough sleep at night (10 hours) and well-balanced meals perform better at school and experience less behavior issues in the classroom.

- Finally, develop a back to school tradition. A time when we say goodbye to summer and hello to school: have a special dinner or treat the last day of summer break or say a significant blessing or prayer as a family.

Have a wonderful school year!

**Angela Atkins is a licensed mental health counselor in Jacksonville.**

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