

# Meet our Team



**DEBRA MCGREGOR**  
Sales & Marketing  
Consulting and  
Management

Debra has been with *The Resident* since its inception in January 2007.

Although new to the newspaper business then, she has thoroughly enjoyed learning it! Her work history was in the home building industry for 12+ years. She started with a local home builder as the receptionist and over the next few years, worked her way through the

accounting department, sales assistant position, regional manager's assistant up until the company was sold to a national home builder. At that point, she was thrown into the company's land development division and became the land development manager. "I loved it! It was never the same thing every day. I was in charge of due diligence before the land was purchased, obtaining all permitting for horizontal construction, infrastructure, entranceways and roadways as well as landscaping and entry gates. It was like putting a huge puzzle together! Much like putting together ads for a newspaper." Her favorite part of working for *The Resident* is EVERYTHING! "I feel so fortunate to work for people I love and having a new adventure every day in the best neighborhoods of the city!"



**KATE A. HALLOCK**  
Editor /  
General Assignment Reporter

A newcomer to Jacksonville in late 2011, Kate has long harbored a desire to return to her journalistic roots. After graduating from the renowned University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism, Kate took a 35-year detour into public relations and marketing. She has worked for large corporations in manufacturing and banking as well as small- to medium-

size marketing agencies, most recently leaving a 24-year career as vice president with a Pittsburgh agency. To keep her skills current, Kate also published a monthly 16-page trade publication for 17 years on a strictly volunteer basis. "I knew *The Resident* was the place for me when I saw their tagline: Fiercely Local News, Fiercely Loyal Readers," said Kate. "I have a track record of loyalty to everything I undertake. Just ask my husband of 31 years!" As copyeditor and general assignment reporter, she's learning her way around Jacksonville at a fast pace.

**STEVE DIMATTIA**  
General Assignment  
Reporter / Photojournalist

Steve has lived in the same home in Riverside since 1992 so he's certainly familiar with the community. After years of receiving *The Resident* in his mailbox he began writing for the paper in 2011. His favorite stories are those that focus on solutions rather than problems and which highlight people and organizations quietly going about the business of doing great things in our community.



**VICTORIA REGISTER FREEMAN**  
Contributing  
Writer

Victoria has lived on the same Historic District street for 30 years in three different houses. A former English teacher, a nationally published author, a bike commuter, and a University of Florida Master Gardener, she and her husband Robert own the House On Cherry B&B, which is open on a limited basis. Victoria writes *The Resident's* Way We Were column and an occasional gardening column. She says, "I have been privileged to interview almost 50 individuals for WWW. Each person has given me a glimpse of the events and the people that have made this community the amazing place it is."



**STEPHEN KINDLAND**  
General Assignment  
Reporter / Photojournalist

Stephen has won several awards for writing and photography during a 20-year journalism career that began at Clay Today in Orange Park. He is considered a versatile writer and editor, having worked as a general assignment reporter, sports editor and photographer for community newspapers as well as larger publications such as the Orlando Sentinel and the Florida Times-Union. Kindland also has been a freelance writer for several years. He has been contributing to *The Resident* since 2010, and recently completed two books of children's poems that he hopes to have published sometime this year. "I've been blessed with countless opportunities to meet so many interesting people," Kindland said. "It doesn't matter to me whether I'm talking to a stranger in a diner or interviewing a homeless man, a star athlete or the CEO of a major corporation. What I've learned is that we all have the same basic concerns, and that we all feel the same emotions." A native of Jamestown, N.Y., Kindland graduated with honors from both the University of Buffalo and the University of Florida, where he majored in journalism.



**JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA**  
Contributing Writer

Julie has lived in Avondale for 18 years and works as a freelance writer, editor and professional soprano sacred and classical soloist. A native Hoosier, she was accepted into the Indiana University School of Music as a voice student at age 12 and later continued to study as an operatic vocal performance major. Also a writer from a young age, she sold her first article at 15 and was then hired by the local newspaper to report on community events. She completed her degree from Indiana University in English and Journalism. Julie continued her dual careers in Tampa and Nashville before moving to Jacksonville. She has lived in Avondale 18 years where she is active in the local arts community, supports children's charities and is immediate past president of Community Nutcracker Ballet, Inc. Julie is the mother of Alex, Lily and Olivia.



**LAURA JANE PITTMAN**

*Contributing Writer*  
Laura Jane has been writing for *The Resident* since the summer of 2009. She handles the monthly San Marco Way We Were column, in addition to helping out with business profiles and other feature stories. Laura Jane's two degrees in English – a BA from The University of



the South, Sewanee, TN, and an MEd from the University of Georgia (Go Bulldogs!) – have served her well in her nearly 20-year freelance career. She writes and edits for a variety of clients in journalism, PR/marketing, education and other industries. When not working, Laura Jane can be found spending time with her husband and three children, singing in the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and doing yoga. Laura Jane's favorite things about writing for *The Resident* are the wonderful people she has gotten to meet and the amazing tidbits she's learned about Jacksonville history.



*We hope you're looking forward to 2013 as much as we are!*

We are predicting that it will be a year of great growth for **The Resident Community News Group**. This issue marks the start of our seventh – can you believe it? – year of publication.

Some of you know our sweet little girl Sophia was born one month after our launch. We can't help but draw some parallels between giving birth to a baby and birthing a brand new newspaper.

Just as Sophia has grown from a wee infant to a kindergartner, so has the paper grown. We could not have done that without our advertisers, who wouldn't have done it without our readers! *The Resident* really is the conduit to the community and so...if you love your *Resident News*...thank an advertiser! It is because of the advertisers that you receive your paper every month and it is our pleasure to be a part of this community.

*The Resident* is going through another growth spurt, but we couldn't do it without a team of dedicated professionals, some who've been here since the early crazy days and some who are newcomers to the paper and to the area. If you see them out and about the community, feel free to say "Welcome" or pitch a story idea - we are all here to serve this wonderful community we call home.

**Resident COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.**

*Seth & Pamela*



**ROBERT L. RODRIGUEZ**  
Circulation/ Distribution

"Having lived in Avondale for over 30 years, I find this area to be pedestrian friendly and it hosts numerous fine dining establishments along with many parks and small locally owned shops. Residents of Riverside and Avondale tend to stay in the neighborhood

and find it difficult to imagine living in any other part of town." Robert has been in the diesel engine business for his entire career, managing shop operations, accounting functions, international sales and all forms of administrative tasks. It was this career that brought him to Jacksonville from his hometown of Tampa.



**GRANT THORNTON**, *Circulation/ Distribution*

Grant, *The Resident's* distributor for the San Marco business district, is a local artist who has lived in Riverside since the late 1990s.

In his spare time he focuses on his artwork and is a freelance renovator for Riverside and Avondale homes. He grew

up in southeast Georgia, and enjoys frequent trips to his family farm. Over the past seven years he has been featured in various art shows, galleries, and even completed a 450-square-foot ceiling mural in an Avondale home. He enjoys keeping in touch with the local community by working with *The Resident* crew, and finds it adventurous to explore all of the small businesses in the San Marco area.



**MARGOT STREET**  
Graphic Designer /Production Manager

An expert in publication and advertising design, as well as production management with a Bachelors of Art in Communications from New York University and an Associates of Art in Graphic

Design and Marketing from Indian River Community College, Margot started with *The Resident* in 2007. She has over 15 years' experience in newspaper layout and design.



**JOE BAHRET**, *Graphic Designer*

Joe Bahret is an Indiana native that came to Florida to get his graphic design degree at Flagler College, and moved to Jacksonville after graduation. He has lived in the Riverside/Avondale area since 1994 and cannot imagine living in any

other area. He has been working with several different publications over his 18 years of professional design and printing career and now has his own local design and printing business, Compound Graphics.