



'Tis the Season

Malcolm Harmon, grandson of San Marco residents Floyd and Karen McCombs, struggles to keep his father's sunglasses on after the family decorated the Lions Fountain for the holidays. For more seasonal inspiration, see our special Holiday Guide section.

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# Billboard battles over, waiting for ink to dry on settlements

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Four years and millions of dollars later, lawsuits may soon be settled and the Battle of the Billboards may come to closure. If City Council passes two bills and two others are withdrawn, the advocates for a billboard-free Jacksonville will be satisfied, if not totally happy.

"It's a compromise," said Alicia Grant, Scenic Jacksonville board member. Grant, along with William Brinton, Tracey Arpen, Susan Caven, president of Scenic Jacksonville's board, and others have been united their efforts to reduce the number of billboards proliferating across Jacksonville despite City Charter Article 23 that was designed in 1987 to ban new off-site billboards. "We are happy because it protects the Charter."

Brinton, a shareholder with Rogers Towers and a Florida Super Lawyer in environmental litigation, explained that settlement agreements were negotiated



William Brinton stands before a CBS Outdoor billboard (City Sign No. 1618) at 2400 Gerard Avenue. Visible from I-95, the sign stands on property right next to a City-owned community park and is the backyard view of half a dozen homeowners on that road.

separately between Scenic Jacksonville, the City of Jacksonville, Clear Channel Outdoor and CBS Outdoor, now known as OutFront Media. There are slight

variations in the two agreements, but each billboard defendant was given an opportunity to review and then opt in to the variations of the other.

"Although there is some tweaking going on, the agreements are all but signed," said Grant. "Because they were negotiated in confidence, neither company knew what the other was asking for or getting."

Ordinances 2014-716 (Clear Channel Outdoor) and 2014-717 (CBS Outdoor) will move those individual settlement agreements through City Council. Bills 2013-493 and 2014-562 will be withdrawn since the settlements will trump the issues in these older bills. City Council was expected to vote on the bills on Nov. 25.

"Clear Channel Outdoor is pleased that the agreement establishes consistent regulations for the sign industry and properly allows billboards in high traffic, non-residential areas," said Brent Bolick, Division President, Clear Channel Outdoor. "It also recognizes that billboards play a vital role promoting

see Billboard page 11

# BK Crusaders win volleyball championship

The state trophy was theirs for the taking. It was a sweet moment for Bishop Kenny Volleyball Head Coach Suzanne Winkler when the varsity team bested Merritt Island in the FHSAA Class 5A championship last month. The team included eight seniors, five juniors and one sophomore; team captain is Nadine Williams.

The Crusader's 26-1 record (losing only to Oviedo High School) in regular season matches took them to the Florida High School Athletic Association district tournament, where they beat Paxon and Stanton, then on to the regional tournaments in late October/early November. The Crusaders last made it to State Finals in 2006.



Kneeling: Suzi Airheart, Molly Burkhardt, Emily Hudson, Ila Elstein, Amanda Marr, Nicole Najem, Brenna Edwards, Chelsea Forbes; standing: Coach Matt Heffner, Rose Waggoner, Denvyr Tyler-Palmer, Coach Brad Winkler, Natalie Chebi, Erin Hudson, Sophia Ligouri, Kaki Freel, Nadine Williams, Rachel Rukab, Coach Brittany Eppley, Head Coach Suzanne Winkler, Coach Eleonor Damasco, Coach Orlando Berrios

# Downtown development creeping along

It's been two years since the Laura Street Trio and the Barnett Bank building were purchased by a local developer. Where's the progress and what's the hold up? DIA needs to give stamp of approval.

Turn to page 3 for the story

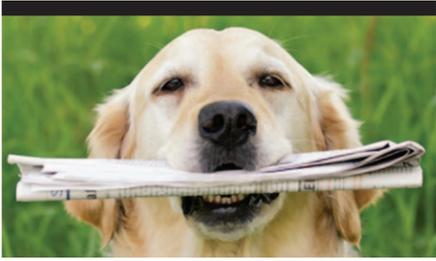
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# Editor's Note Christmas is...



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If you find yourself humming along to *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year* – and believing it – you are probably in one of two camps: those who successfully embrace the season's commercial aspects without forgetting the real reason, or those who don't let Christmas be ruined by stress, no matter what doesn't get done or go according to plan.

For many, Christmas can be full of stress brought on by the expectations that *this* year things will be different. Surely I will find the time to...

...buy the perfect gift for every member in the family, from mother to grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews and everyone in-between.

...decorate more elaborately instead of throwing up a tabletop tree.

...bake delicious cookies and candies to give to friends and family.

...send my Christmas cards and annual letter out *before* Christmas.

Yes, there are many "oughttas" this time of year, so many that I'm in danger of forgetting that it's called Christmas for a reason.

For me and my husband, the Christmas season begins when we kick it off with tickets to the annual Handel's Messiah concert. This year we're lucky because our tradition will occur early in the month and we can hum the *Hallelujah Chorus* all month long. Some years, when the performance is closer to Christmas, it's been our anniversary date night.

Traditions trump all else this month, whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, or something else. Try not to wear yourself to a frazzle in your attempts to dazzle. Friends and family will soon forget the fancy wrappings but they will always remember the time you spent with them.

No matter whether you hum a Christmas carol or put on your Grinch suit, I wish you, dear reader, a very Merry Christmas.

*Kate A. Hallock*  
Editor

## Urgent Request from Sulzbacher

Last month's cold snap left homeless shelters caught without enough blankets. When temperatures dip below 40 degrees, Sulzbacher Center opens its doors to allow the homeless to sleep in the dining room and library. To accommodate the influx this winter, the Center needs more blankets and comforters. Consider donating a little extra warmth so that those less fortunate don't experience hypothermia. To schedule a drop-off of blankets and comforters, call (904) 394-8084.



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I love Christmas because I love the Holiday Spirit that fills our homes and our hearts. The magic of the season delights my spirit and gives me hope that our world will stop, take a few breaths and recognize how people get along when we have hearts full of giving.

Thank you for all the memories we made this year, thank you for your trust in me as a business woman and thank you for allowing me to share your lives. I am not just a Realtor, I am a neighbor who wants you to be happy in your home. Remember those less fortunate, remember your loved ones and

remember that this time of the year is about family and friends, not shopping—but hey, if you want to buy a new home...why not try me? I love my job because of you.

—Anne Rain

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# Laura Street Trio preparing for facelift *City, developer playing a waiting game*

By Nancy Lee Bethea  
Resident Community News

The Bisbee Bank Building, the Marble Bank Building and the Florida Life Building – the Laura Street Trio in downtown Jacksonville – share a rich history and, if current plans come to fruition, a bright future.

Located on the corners of Laura Street and Forsyth Street, the buildings, along with the Barnett Bank building, were purchased in April 2013, by SouthEast Group, a development company headed by Stephen Atkins. Though the timeline for repurposing the buildings has changed, the goal of using the buildings to lead revitalization efforts in downtown Jacksonville has not.

### The Developer

Stephen Atkins, Principal and Managing Director of SouthEast Group, believes performing a facelift

on the Laura Street Trio will yield positive change. “It’s a catalytic project for Downtown,” Atkins said. “It will change the face of Downtown’s business district.”

Financing is in place to begin refurbishing the buildings and preparing them for tenants, Atkins said. At this point, he is waiting only for the City of Jacksonville’s Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) to approve the development plan. After DIA gives the thumbs-up, the plan will go before Jacksonville’s City Council for final approval.

“It’s a catalytic project for Downtown.  
It will change the face of Downtown’s business district.”

–Stephen Atkins, Principal and  
Managing Director, SouthEast Group

### The City

The DIA, created to enhance revitalization in Jacksonville’s urban core, is headed by a nine-member volunteer board of directors. San Marco resident Oliver Barakat is Chairman of the Board for DIA. Though unable to comment on a specific timeline for the Laura Street Trio project, he said negotiations would hopefully be finalized by the end of 2014.

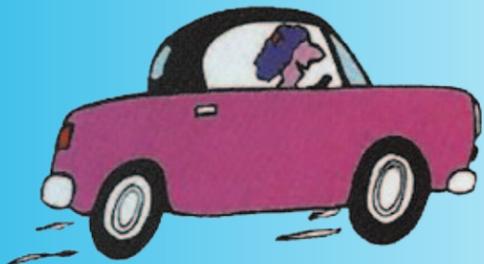
“Laura Street Trio is a catalytic project for Jacksonville,” Barakat said, echoing Atkins. “It will officially put us in revitalization mode.”

### Potential Tenants

Several potential tenants are lined up to occupy the buildings including a Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, a neighborhood bodega grocery store and a branch office of CenterState Bank, according to Atkins.

Gil Pomar, North Florida Regional President for CenterState Bank, confirmed his bank has signed a letter of intent to occupy a 2,700-square foot space within the Laura Street Trio cater-corner to the old Barnett Jewelers location.

“We’re hopeful they’ll get the money together, and we’ll be there,” Pomar said. “Laura Street Trio is in one of the best locations Downtown. It will be great for the City if [the revitalization of the area] does happen,” he added.



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# In Memoriam

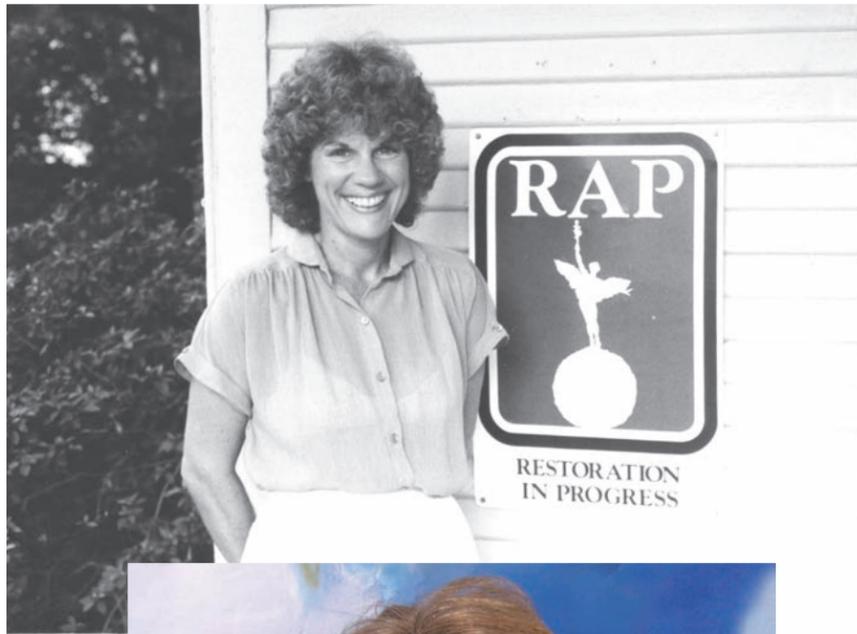
## Myrtice Harris Craig – October 11, 1942 - September 26, 2014

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

Myrtice Craig was an important light in Jacksonville, a woman who loved the city, its historic districts and neighborhood preservation. She championed Downtown revitalization for 25 years. Craig, with a vibrant spirit and open-hearted laugh, was an advocate for women’s rights, a passionate patron of the arts, a devoted wife, mother of two with two beloved grandchildren she doted upon.

She shared the last 20 years with her husband and partner in all things, Robert C. Broward, one of Florida’s most famous, respected living architects. They designed and built their beautiful Empire Point (St. Nicholas) home, where they loved to share fruit from their yard with friends and neighbors. It was typical for Craig to arrive at the door with a home-cooked meal for anyone ill or bereaved.

A 1950s Lee High School graduate, Craig’s classmates say she stayed the same smart, happy girl they knew in high school, until the end of her life. She was a University of Florida graduate, successful licensed realtor, board member of The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, with many professional awards. She renovated six properties and was considered



a restoration and income property investment expert.

Linda Sherrer, CEO/President of Berkshire Hathaway and Sheron Willson, Berkshire’s Avondale/San Marco Broker Manager worked with Craig 13 years. They called her a vital part of the company and their lives, greatly missed, someone who kept touch even after cutting back to care for Bob. She had a shining attitude, smiles and hugs for everyone and delighted in introducing newcomers to her all-out tour of Jacksonville. She shared her time and knowledge generously.

According to her son Mark Craig, a professional photographer and teacher, the family had hoped to spend another Christmas together. Mark said his mother touched countless lives and despite her own illness, spent the last decade caring for those she loved, nursed her brother Tyre Harris through liver transplant and tenderly cared for Bob.

Myrtice was fearless. Mark remembers years ago how she packed him and his sister Daphne in their wood-paneled station wagon and drove to Tallahassee to march together in an ERA rally. He remains thankful that her strength, despite cancer, helped her to share every last moment with her family.



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# Wolfson unveils new media center, technological breakthroughs

## Children in isolation have renewed visitation, connectivity

By Seth Williams  
Resident Community News

Wolfson Children's Hospital is out in front when it comes to investments in the hospital experience, especially for area children. Not only do they serve the children, but a breakthrough has been funded for parents and other visitors to connect with patients. A partnership between Walmart/Sam's Club and the Children's Miracle Network has helped the hospital build a new, technologically advanced media center.

The newly minted, state-of-the-art facilities on the hospital campus are a key component for providing parents, grandparents and other visitors a place to escape the challenges of the hospital. In addition to providing a getaway and entertainment, the connectivity via KUBI – a hands-free, remote-controlled videoconferencing tool – is a game changer.

While children have always had amenities in their rooms, on the floors and on the campus, there was a lack for the parents that's been fulfilled as well. "For parents there are lots of very long hours that happen here. And, in those cases where they get a rare break, it's more like, 'Where do I go? What do I do? How do I escape?'" shared Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin.

For parents, the visits were usually accompanied by siblings and relatives in tow. Often the visits were cut short or nonexistent, as many had to miss the interaction with the most sensitive patients. "The children's hospital has

about 50 percent of all of our kids in some form of isolation because of infectious diseases or because of what their illness is or immune-compromised situations, so it really limits the number of visitors they can have," said Aubin. Now, with the technology and groundbreaking iPad interactions with the most sensitive cases, they can interact without compromising either patient or visitor.

"Every child deserves a chance to live better, and that's why we've supported the Children's Miracle Network for over 25-years," said Market Manager Michael Brown of Walmart. More than just raising hundreds of thousands of dollars, Walmart employees also volunteer countless hours through Children's Miracle Network. "It's through the generosity of our associates, our customers and our members that allow us to help children right here in the Jacksonville area," shared Brown.

Over \$750 million has been raised by the company since 1987 for various programs. Over the last three years \$750,000 has been contributed to Wolfson Children's Hospital; the donation from their work and the generosity of Walmart customers is the reason that this media center has been made possible. As of the opening, \$266,000 has been raised thus far in 2014; the goal is \$300,000.



Jenny Tillett and her son Hayden explore the new computers



Cutting the Ribbon were Kerri Clark, director of Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals, Holly and Charles Breen, Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin and Walmart Market Manager Michael Brown



Walmart Market Manager Michael Brown, Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin and Kerri Clark, director of Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals presented the check

"We are so fortunate to be partnered with such an elite hospital like Wolfson Children's Hospital. At Children's Miracle Network we believe that every dollar we raise should stay local," said Kerri Clark, director of Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals.

The center will not only incorporate the technological advances, but the PCs are now loaded with Pandora Music Channels, DVD players and movies at no cost, KidsHealth.org children's health libraries for parents and caregivers, as well as iBooks for children and adults. The opening took place Nov. 6 on the hospital campus.

Walmart Staff Member Tanya Turpin speaks to a patient in isolation via an iPad



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# New hospital garments safer, comfortable, private

## Baptist Health's first in nation to roll out Vestex for patients

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

While much of the country's medical centers scramble to put measures in place to grapple with and contain highly infectious diseases – such as the Ebola virus – Baptist Health started taking steps to ensure both patient and staff safety about three years ago when they began exploring the Vestex® technology being developed by Orlando-based Vestagen.

In July Baptist Health distributed specialized staff garments that made it the first health system in the world to widely adopt textile technology that repel fluids and minimize the risk of transmission of organisms.

"This is an ongoing commitment that our organization has made to the community, and to those who are part of our team, to provide protection [against infectious diseases]," said Michael Mayo, president of Baptist Medical Center. "We rolled it out to our staff several months ago and now we're taking that next step to provide this for our patients as well."

In mid-October Baptist began a phased roll-out of the technology-enhanced, modified gowns and shirt and sports-style shorts to its inpatients across its medical centers, finishing up with Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville early last month. Wolfson Children's Hospital patients will begin using the Vestex apparel in January.

Baptist Health was the first medical center in the United States to adopt this technology. According to Diane Raines, senior vice president and chief nursing officer, there are a few other hospitals considering it, primarily for emergency rooms.

"It's a pretty significant investment to do it for everyone," said Raines, a San Marco resident. "You want to channel your resources toward infection prevention, which is our top priority."

The patient garments feature a fluid barrier bonded to individual fibers, resulting



Diane Raines, senior vice president and chief nursing officer, Nancy Simon, vice president of patient care services, Michael Mayo, president of Baptist Medical Center



Patient Anthony Roesch models the new Vestex shirt and sports-style shorts

in material that is highly repellent to bodily fluids, water, oil and dirt. High repellency has been shown to synergize with embedded antimicrobial technology to prevent organisms from being acquired and retained on the fabric. Soft surfaces, like patient gowns, are vectors for the spread of organisms in acute care settings.

"What we know from the studies that were done [on Vestex] is that the amount of organisms on the garments changes dramatically," Raines noted. "We have our own study going on for our patients in ICUs. We took measurements on the regular gowns and once everyone is converted we'll go back in and measure again."

She explained that all of the measures taken by Baptist Health to prevent infection

contributes to the reduction of infection, so it may be challenging to say "and because of this, this happened..."

"It's part of the arsenal we put together to combat infection and it's our commitment to do as much as we can; this is just one of those components," said Granada resident Mayo.

Designed with input from Baptist team members, patients and their families, patient shirts, shorts and gowns provide full coverage, as well as pockets, for convenient storage of personal items such as mobile phones. The designs feature full fabric panels on both sides that wrap, snaps along the tops of both shoulders for quick and easy access, ties at the waist and two pockets.

Westside resident Anthony Roesch is already

a fan of the patient garments. He was one of the first to wear the shirt and sports-style shorts while undergoing chemotherapy treatment for stomach cancer. During his first two treatments he wore the traditional "open-in-the-back" gown, but when he went in for his third treatment last month he was given a set of the new Vestex garments.

"The snap at the top in the back is easier than the string; a lot of people can't tie the string without seeing it," he said, demonstrating. "It's got pockets and you can put your stuff in there. This is a lot more comfortable than having your backside hang out. It makes me feel like they care."

A small percentage of people may experience an adverse skin reaction to the dye in the fabric, but Baptist will continue to make the traditional gown available for those who do.

"Out of over 5,000 staff members, we've had about 50 that have had some sort of skin reaction," said Raines. "To screen our patients, we ask if they have auto-immune diseases or any type of skin reaction normally, and if they do, put them into the traditional gowns."

She thought that the one percent of the staff who had reactions to the dyes may not have laundered the uniforms adequately prior to wearing them for the first time, but the patient garments are commercially laundered several times before distributing them to the patients.

If adopted on a large scale by hospitals and health systems nationwide, garments with Vestex technology could help significantly reduce the spread of infection and incidence of hospital-acquired infections such as antibiotic-resistant Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports about one in 25 hospital patients has at least one health care-associated infection. Hospital-acquired infections result in up to \$4.5 billion in additional health care expenses annually.

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# Kitchen on San Marco to open spring 2015

Kitchen on San Marco, 1402 San Marco Blvd., plans to open its doors early spring 2015 and will operate for lunch and dinner as well as Sunday brunch.

Kitchen on San Marco expects approximately \$600,000 will be spent on the 4,533 sq.-ft., full-service restaurant that will feature dining, private dining and booths as well as a bar. The dining areas should seat 125 to 130 patrons, and the bar will add another 15 seats.

The restaurant's menu will consist of a wide variety of fresh, contemporary American food, which guests can enjoy in small plates or bowls or as larger traditional entrées. When possible, locally sourced ingredients will be used to provide patrons with the fresh, bright flavors of the region while providing the healthiest, highest-quality foods at an affordable price. An extensive selection of fine wines will also be offered.

"I could not be more thrilled about the grand opening of our new restaurant, Kitchen on San Marco," says Randy Mueller, group president of Education Corporation of America, parent company of Virginia College in Jacksonville, which owns and operates Kitchen on San Marco. "We hope to offer the residents of Jacksonville a new place to enjoy meals featuring fresh and local food, a wide variety of beer and cocktails as well as a

warm and welcoming atmosphere." A grand opening event will be planned and scheduled closer to the opening date. Kitchen on San Marco supports Culinar, the Culinary Institute of Virginia College in Jacksonville, where a staff of professional chefs provide a learning lab and teaching establishment for culinary and pastry arts students. This allows students to gain real-world experience while working as externs at Kitchen on San Marco.

# JTA breaks ground with first portion of BRT



JTA Board Member Kevin Holzendorf, JTA CEO Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., JTA Board Vice Chair Scott McCaleb, JTA Board Chair Donna Harper, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Mayor Alvin Brown, Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Therese W. McMillan and JTA Board Member Isaiah Rumlin.

Working from the inside out, the first phase of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's *First Coast Flyer* Bus Rapid Transit system began with a groundbreaking Downtown last month with local and federal officials.

This portion of the project is 5.87 miles and consists of 12 enhanced Downtown stations and will provide peak hour busways on Broad, Jefferson, Bay and Forsyth streets, a queue jump on Forsyth Street and streetscaping to Downtown standards. The cost of the first segment of the Downtown phase is \$7.2 million; final design has been completed and the project has been awarded to Superior Construction.

This portion is the beginning of a 55-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system with five distinct projects: the Downtown project, which will connect four corridors and be followed by the North, Southeast, East and Southwest corridors. The North Corridor is expected to begin in December of 2015.

The *First Coast Flyer* BRT service will operate in both mixed-use traffic and dedicated bus lanes during peak hours. Transit Signal Priority and queue jumps at select locations will provide more efficient movement of buses on the corridors. The project funds the acquisition of low-floor Compressed Natural Gas buses, which will be quieter and more fuel efficient. Branded BRT stations will include real-time passenger information and ticket vending machines at the hubs. The proposed service will operate with 10-minute headways during weekday peak periods; 15-minute headways during weekday off-peak periods; and 30-minute headways on weekends.

Total project cost is \$132.3 million; broken out by corridor: Downtown, \$13.4 million; North, \$33.2 million; Southeast, \$23.8 million; East, \$42.9 million, and Southwest, \$19 million.



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# Merry Christmas to all and a very Happy New Year!



## Community Santa Party!

*Photos with Santa*  
Saturday, December 6th  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
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RIVER VIEWS, 2/2 Condo, hardwood floors, sitting area in Master bedroom, 2 balconies catch river breezes. \$179,000. #739773 The Transition Team 904-535-8686



BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT 4/3+, Mandarin area, tile floors, fireplace, screened lanai, downstairs master suite, shade trees. \$579,000. #742094 Transition Team 904-535-8686



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LAKEFRONT HOME 3/2, new metal roof, existing home warranty, spectacular views looking down length of lake. \$154,900. #743627 Charles Anno 904-993-7487



HEART OF SAN JOSE 4/3, hardwood floors under most of carpet, fireplace in living room, master suite has sitting area. \$259,900. #742360 Charles Anno 904-993-7487



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LAKEFRONT HOME, 4/2.5, formal living & dining, fireplace, surround sound & 3-car tandem garage. \$310,000. #715184 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



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RIVERSIDE HOME 4/2+ on deep lot, built in 2013 with historic look, open floor plan, covered front porch. \$330,000. #743820 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



PARK-LIKE SETTING 4/2, spacious living area, new roof, gas appliances, big patio deck, double carport. \$215,000. #737397 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



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# Raising up urban planners for the future

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Even as Jacksonville's blighted Brooklyn neighborhood is beginning to emerge as the newest reclamation in urban infill and even as the JEA's brownfield on the Southbank is piquing interest among local developers, students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville are learning a little bit of what it takes to create a "built environment" – and perhaps become future urban planners and developers.

Last month, 55 students took part in an UrbanPlan program – a classroom simulation exercise to expose high school students to the fields of Urban Planning and redevelopment.

UrbanPlan was created for high school and college students by the Urban Land Institute and is supported by trained volunteers. Students work in development teams to analyze and respond to a hypothetical RFP "Request for Proposal" for the redevelopment of a specific urban area.

Bert Brown, of San Jose, said "It's a phenomenal opportunity. The learning that takes place and the way the students are able to understand what goes into creating the built environment is very rewarding." Brown is a member of Northeast Florida ULI, serving as a vice chair for the UrbanPlan project.

Brown noted that this was the fifth year that UrbanPlan was held at Episcopal. "It helps teach the concepts of risk and reward, supply and demand, and [the students] understand and learn how to be better stakeholders in what goes into creating the built



Sydney Fletcher, Kyle McKnight, Kaleigh Hyers

*"UrbanPlan gives a real-world example of how to build a city and how everything works within a city."*  
— Kaleigh Hyers

environment," he said.

Over the course of the exercise, five volunteers from the different aspects of the building and land use community – including engineers, attorneys, bankers, realtors and others – interact with the students as facilitators in the classroom, according to Brenda Bush Franklin, UrbanPlan Director. "They

challenge the students to think more critically about the UrbanPlan issues and the specific responsibilities of the students' assigned roles as finance directors, marketing directors, city liaisons, neighborhood liaisons, and site planners," she explained.

The students, primarily seniors, are from two economics classes taught

by Perry Walthour, an Ortega Forest resident. He has led the UrbanPlan project at Episcopal for the past two years.

"I believe that UrbanPlan makes our students aware of the various development projects that are going on now in Jacksonville, and they are able to understand all of the components involved in creating mixed use development," Walthour noted. "They come out of their projects with an understanding of the intricate planning that goes into projects like Brooklyn."

Following the facilitation sessions, the development teams use Legos and a customized financial model to present their redevelopment vision to a fictitious city council made up of UrbanPlan volunteers.

Both the classroom experience and the presentation provide invaluable lessons for the students. "It's a great way to see how the construction process actually works and to see what goes into building a new urban environment," said Sydney Fletcher of San Marco.

Kaleigh Hyers, also of San Marco, noted that UrbanPlan "gives a real-world example of how to build a city and how everything works within a city."

Even though there was only one winning team Brown said that all the students will get an opportunity to tour Brooklyn Riverside as part of the program.

"I have been impressed by the preparation of our students and their ability to defend and sell their planning decisions to the council in an articulate and knowledgeable manner." Walthour concluded.

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**9297 Waterglen Ln**  
3/2-1,716 sqft. Popular Cypress floor plan in 55+ gated community. Spacious open floor plan features split bedrooms, neutral colors throughout, recessed lighting & laundry room w/utility sink & storage. Nice kitchen boasts corian counters, breakfast bar & separate breakfast nook.



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**826 Cedar St 826**  
2/2-1,610 sqft. Stunning waterfront condo located in The Alexandria. This condominium has undergone a 2-year total renovation by integrating state-of-the-art upgrades into the careful restoration and preservation of the historical character of the building and grounds.



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**1922 River Rd - \$2.250MM**  
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**1431 Riverplace Blvd 3701 - \$1.2MM**  
3/3/1-3,284 sqft. Breathtaking Peninsula Penthouse suite on the southwest corner. Incredible floor to ceiling windows with stunning views in every room of Jacksonville & St. Johns River. Private elevator opens into Foyer. Marble floors throughout.



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# Billboard

Continued from P. 1

local businesses, assisting non-profits and partnering with law enforcement, and the agreement ensures the outdoor advertising industry will continue to benefit the Jacksonville community.”

## Back story on billboard bills

Sponsored by District 3 Councilman Richard Clark on behalf of Clear Channel, Ordinance 2014-493 was proposed in an attempt to remove the ban on the installation of new billboards. Under its negotiated settlement, the company will remove 170 billboards and posters at more than 85 locations throughout Duval County. According to an Aug. 7, 2014 Planning Commission Staff Report, there are 476 billboards in the Building Inspection Division database.

Brinton shared that 1200 to 1400 billboards have been removed in the past two decades, but not without several legal battles. There were four lawsuits in the 1990s that resulted in 12 settlements, yet some of those agreements were breached.

A controversial proposal from FDG duPont, a Coral Gables-based company, to replace and relocate within the Downtown Overlay Zone a CBS

Outdoor sign (commonly known as the Ida Boyd Billboard) was first rejected by the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) in 2013. An appeal of that decision was rejected by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) in 2014. A resolution (2014-562) currently rests with the Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) upholding the denials by DDRB and DIA. That resolution will also be withdrawn and CBS Outdoor will not pursue putting up the billboard.

A digital billboard that was placed – against regulations – by CBS Outdoor at 2700 Atlantic Blvd. in February 2012 will “go dark,” according to Grant, within six months of the approval of 2014-717. The billboard will revert back to a static billboard and perhaps, eventually, be relocated away from that site in St. Nicholas.

Ironically, Citizens for a Scenic Florida owns property upon which three billboards rest. That property, next to City-owned Palmetto Leaves Regional Park, originally belonged to the Trust for Public Land, which tried to give it to the City about 10 years ago. The City would not accept the property because it had billboards on it. The property was transferred to Citizens for a Scenic Florida with the understanding that they would have the CBS Outdoor billboards removed.

Grant, who is treasurer for Citizens for

a Scenic Florida, said the billboards are there illegally and there is no lease. “With everything else going on, we have not fought it, but we are now negotiating to get those taken down,” said Grant. “The hope is once we get those billboards removed we can transfer that property to the City.”

Brinton’s wish is to use that narrow strip of land next to the City ballpark to erect a landscape memorial to an attorney he knew who was on United Airlines Flight 93 when it crashed in Shanksville, PA on Sept. 11, 2001.

## Watch doggers

What’s next for billboard opponents now that four years of legal battles and more than 10,000 hours of Brinton’s life – plus many more from Grant and the other advocates – are nearly over?

Scenic Jacksonville will continue to

serve as unofficial watchdog to protect the beauty of the City of Jacksonville, for one.

“The settlement agreements will lead to more than 25 roadways becoming billboard-free over the next 15 years,” said Brinton. “Most of us know that beauty is good for business, and that our City will benefit from collective efforts to enhance our neighborhoods. We should redouble our efforts to protect our City from visual pollution, water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, or any other degradation of our natural or built environment.”

Grant noted that the City would not agree to create any kind of mechanism, online or otherwise, so that the group could monitor the progress. “We will create our own database; we’ll just do a schedule and make sure these things happen when they are supposed to happen,” she concluded.

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Berkshire Hathaway hosts customer appreciation chili cook-off



Lee O'Quinn, Laura Wesson, Klement, Natalie Reese, Julio Caesar Mendez and William Milne



Jane Slater and Anna Marie Williams



Sheron Willson, Lisa Nguyen and Leighton Tesche

The Avondale and San Marco offices of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty paid tribute to clients with a customer appreciation chili cook-off in early November. The offices, awarded the combined Top Office of 2013 for Northeast Florida, didn't take time to bask in the glow of awards, rather, they took time to raise funds for a worthy cause.

The group cooked up a storm, played movies for the kids and competed for top

chili honors in the office all while taking time to thank their long list of clients. The MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation was the beneficiary of the funds raised during the event. The competition was fierce as Jane Slater, a native Texan, was the strong favorite going into the voting but Michelle Williams was giving her a run for her money. The event took place Nov. 6 in the parking lot at the Avondale office at 3527 St. Johns Ave.

## Dog's life is pretty plush at Groomingdales



New to San Marco, Groomingdales Dog Salon tailors services to your pet's needs. The full service dog grooming salon provides bathing, grooming, teeth brushing, nail filing, flea baths, mud treatments and much more. New clients will enjoy 10 percent off bathing or grooming; valid through Dec. 31, 2014.

Owner Morgan Murphy has been professionally grooming for over seven years and is certified in Pet Tech Pet CPR and First Aid. Murphy attends multiple grooming seminars and trade shows every year to stay up to date on the latest products and grooming techniques. Call (904) 683-7077 for appointments; open Tuesday through Saturday at 4424 Hendricks Ave.

## Local professor publishes textbook

San Jose resident Carolyn Dehlinger, Professor of Biological Sciences at Keiser University, recently published a 305-page college textbook on molecular biology.

It took Dehlinger 20 months to complete the work, which is designed to provide a holistic, comprehensive view of molecular biotechnology that makes it ideally suited for undergraduate majors in molecular biotechnology and biomedical sciences.

"I was motivated to write the book, called Molecular Biotechnology, for our new Biomedical Sciences degree which has several biotechnology courses," said Dehlinger. "We weren't finding a suitable option already on the market, so I made my pitch to Jones and Bartlett Learning."

Beginning with the background of this rapidly expanding field, Molecular Biotechnology covers major discoveries, regulation of the biotechnology industry, and significant innovations. A strong emphasis on careers in molecular



biotechnology, profiles of major projects and researchers, and expansive discussions of bioethical concerns and current research, all come together to make this text an engaging and highly relevant resource for biotechnology students.



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## St. Nicholas native recognized by DAR

On the occasion of their 65th birthday celebration, the Fort San Nicholas Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution presented a certificate to retired Air Force Colonel Herb Eastman on Nov. 8 at San Jose Country Club. The certificate recognized a continued life of good citizenship modeling the ideals of honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism and being an example of good citizenship to his community and beyond for over 60 years.



Herb Eastman, Past Regent Benita Boyd and Regent Becky Bathen

Herb Eastman grew up in St. Nicholas and attended Southside Grammar School. He received the DAR Good Citizenship Medal from Fort San Nicholas Chapter in 1954 and continues to wear the original medal to special patriotic events.

## Three honored in Jewish community

The Jewish Federation Campaign and Awards Celebration honored Michael DuBow, recipient of the Joe P. Safer Community Service Award, and Nancy Davis and Daniel Miller, recipients of the Ilene Sari Selevan Young Leadership Award. Held on Oct. 23 at the Cohen Auditorium on the River Garden campus, attendees were thanked for past generosity which enabled the Federation to fund local partnerships with the Jewish Community Foundation of NE Florida, Jewish Community Alliance, Jewish Family & Community Services, River Garden Senior Services, Martin J. Gottlieb Day School and the Torah Academy of Jacksonville. Event leaders were Sandy Zimmerman, Jen Plotkin and Andrew Jaffa.



Michael DuBow, Daniel Miller and Nancy Davis

## Gabriel House of Care expands staff



JoAnne Krestul, of San Jose, has joined Gabriel House of Care as Development Officer. She joins Kate Hightower and Bhavin Patel as new additions to staff.

Krestul will focus on community outreach and donor cultivation. She previously served as the director of parents and events for The Bolles School.

Hightower serves as a Development Associate and Patel as the Financial & Operations Manager overseeing the business office.

"We are excited to add these outstanding professionals to our team as we continue to serve organ transplant and cancer patients who come to our area for medical care," said Valerie Callahan, executive director. "They bring a unique skill set that will help us grow the programs and services we provide to those who stay with us long term."

## San Marco resident named Woman of the Year

San Marco resident Elizabeth Tucker, a 2010 graduate of Bishop Kenny, was named the 2014 NCAA Woman of the Year earlier this fall. Tucker is a 2014 Notre Dame grad and the school's first NCAA Woman of the Year. Tucker bested 445 other student-athlete nominees for the NCAA Award.

During her time at Notre Dame, Tucker made four NCAA tournament appearances, was team captain twice, held a 4.0 GPA for a degree in business administration, and was also named 2014 ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) Scholar-Athlete of the Year. On campus she served in 12 different groups and activities and also volunteered in the South Bend, Ind. community. She now works as a consultant at McKinsey & Company in Chicago.



## Lovejoy named 2015 Humanitarian



San Jose resident and orthopedic surgeon Dr. John Lovejoy, Jr. is the recipient of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' 2015 Humanitarian Award. This prestigious award was bestowed on Lovejoy for his "extraordinary compassion, volunteerism and philanthropy." For 30 years, Lovejoy has traveled to Haiti, half of them as a medical volunteer at Hôpital Sacré Coeur, in Milot, Haiti. He also designed and constructed one of the first prosthetics labs in the country; it opened in April 2010. The award will be given at the Academy's annual meeting next March in Las Vegas.

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# Gourmet cuisine builds healthier babies

Helping mothers bear stronger, healthier babies is what the March of Dimes – and its annual Signature Chefs Auction – is all about.

About 200 of Jacksonville’s philanthropy-minded finest gathered for the 24th annual event at the Omni Hotel on Nov. 13 to benefit the March of Dimes, whose

mission is to reduce premature births by helping moms have full-term pregnancies and research the problems that threaten the health of babies. Chefs from 11 top area restaurants volunteered with their culinary teams to cater the event, which was expected to raise approximately \$100,000.



Luisa Felix, Chef Alexander Yim of Matthew's



Jay and Holly Howanitz



Betty Raimondo and Vera Meyerholtz

# Uptown Civitans give both time and treasure

Members of Uptown Civitan share their hearts and their time to meet twice a month with the Pine Castle Civitan chapter to work on projects and do fun activities.

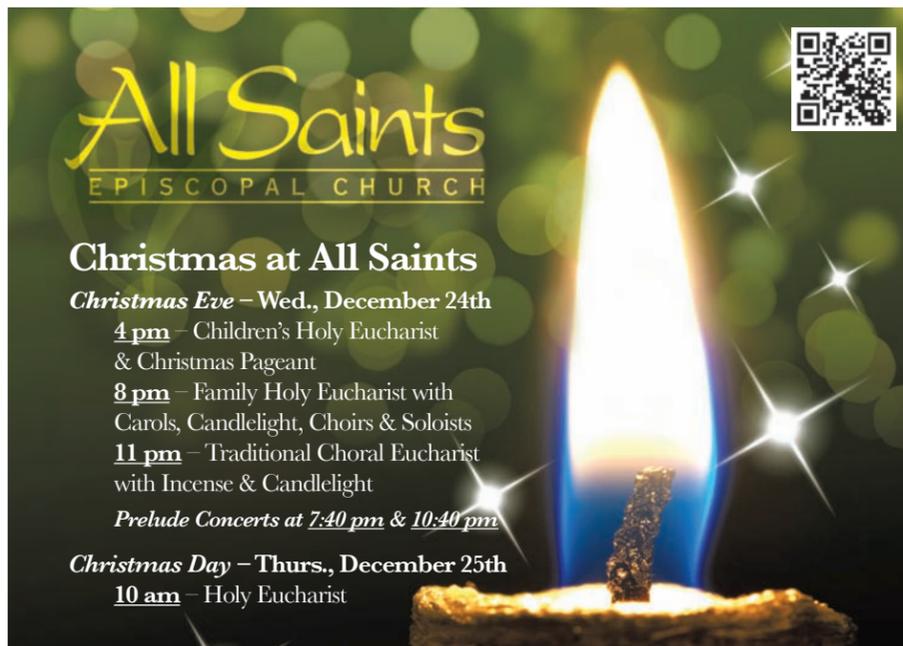
“Uptown Civitan Club sponsored the formation of Pine Castle Civitan Club almost 30 years ago to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to engage regularly in civic and social activities,” said DuVal Malone, Pine Castle director of community relations. “One of the founders, Diane Young, is part of the dedicated team of Uptown members who continually and generously give of

their time and resources to support Pine Castle’s Civitan Club, as well as the needs of Pine Castle participants.”

Uptown Civitan also awarded Pine Castle \$2,000 to support the Seth Tenenbaum Memorial Assistance Fund. The Fund ensures that critical training, education and full care services are available to people facing state service funding shortfalls each year. “These services prevent people with disabilities from losing services they need to become more personally independent within the community,” said Malone.



Sharon Rosenblum, Nancy Darlow, Wynester Sherrer, Elaine Hall, Diane Young and Sharon Kantor helped participants create holiday placemats.



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- 8 pm** – Family Holy Eucharist with Carols, Candlelight, Choirs & Soloists
- 11 pm** – Traditional Choral Eucharist with Incense & Candlelight

*Prelude Concerts at 7:40 pm & 10:40 pm*

**Christmas Day – Thurs., December 25th**

- 10 am** – Holy Eucharist

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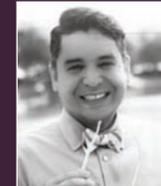


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BUSINESS PROFILE



# A Unique Experience for Unique Occasions

*Harby Jewelers sits high above the retail landscape*

Think of a jewelry store at the holidays and what comes to mind—a bustling shopping center, a busy mall, or a neighborhood boutique with window-shoppers making their way past storefronts. What may not come to mind, unless you're already a client, is an elegant, sunlit showroom on the 25th floor of an urban high-rise. That experience exists, but only at Harby Jewelers, a swift elevator ride high above Jacksonville's skyline.

Accompanied by sweeping views of the St. John's River, Harby Jewelers has, by design, located their jewelry business away from the typical hustle and bustle. "Clients don't come to us by accident," said Hugh Harby. "But once they visit, they rarely go to other jewelers."

Hugh Harby and son Brad, respectively the third and fourth generations of Harby Jewelers, have earned a reputation for unsurpassed attention to their clients. Because of our unique location and showroom, we are able to be extremely receptive to client concerns because we have that one-on-one interaction," said Hugh. "We have the opportunity to work closely with the client, walking alongside the client versus working 'over a case' in a retail setting."

The Harbys choose individual pieces and jewelry lines based on thoughtful responsiveness to trends combined with careful selection of classic designs. "With a rebounding economy, we're seeing a resurgence of yellow gold, both in fashion pieces and classic pieces," said Hugh. "My generation has always worn white gold and platinum, but in the last year we're seeing more women choosing to look at yellow gold for the first time. This is a return

to what they saw their mothers wear," added Brad. "Women will come in with the idea that they are looking for a white gold piece, and when they see the yellow gold, and try it on, they completely change their mind." To accommodate the rising demand for yellow gold, Harby Jewelers has added an exquisite new line by I. Reiss. Necklaces, bracelets, and earrings feature textured, organic designs, and an open, airy appearance with a substantial impression without a heavy feel. Diamonds make a subtle impact in many of the pieces. In fact, glancing around the Harby Jewelers showroom, you will find that diamond pieces are a centerpiece. "We love it when clients choose colored gems, but when considering what to wear day in and day out for years to come, most of the time it is diamonds. Rubies, sapphires, and emeralds are all gorgeous, but diamonds are the classic gem. They will never be out of style, and diamonds don't require you to plan your outfit around them," Hugh shared.

Harby Jewelers has an outstanding reputation and their status online with Google and other reviews speaks for itself. "We owe most of our first-time visitors to word-of-mouth and web reviews from previous happy clients," said Hugh. Both Harbys pride themselves on a level of service that will create not only a satisfied client, but a lifetime client who will return to Harby Jewelers for future jewelry needs.

Always a busy and festive time, the holidays tend to see a swell in proposals and other celebratory occasions. With the hubbub of the season well underway, Harby Jewelers is prepared for both your long-planned and last-minute gift decisions.



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# Social REGISTER

## Working tirelessly for area children



Jill Dame, Barbara Drake, Joyce DeVillez and Alicia Grant

Each year patrons who support Episcopal Children's Services gather to honor those who have gone above and beyond as children's advocates. The 9th annual Children's Champion Awards Gala, held Nov. 6 at EverBank Field Terrace Suite, acknowledged Ortega resident J.F. Bryan, IV (volunteer/philanthropist), Drs. Warner Webb and the late Albert Wilkinson (health care), Avondale resident and former United Way president Connie Hodges (nonprofit), Tony and Angi Boselli/The Boselli Foundation (education) and Wells Fargo (corporate). ECS currently works with more than 27,000 children and families in Northeast Florida preparing the most at-risk children to enter public school ready to learn.



Missy Ketchum and Samantha Hyde

## Annual wine festival funds charitable

Catholic Charities hosted its 11th Annual Festival D'Vine fundraising event on Nov. 8 offering more than 200 wines from Ovinté for tasting and purchase. At Treaty Oak Park on the Southbank for the third year in a row, the festival brought the wares of 26 of Jacksonville's restaurants to more than 800 guests. The event raised an anticipated \$100,000 for the Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Program, which has a goal of preventing homelessness by helping families facing eviction to remain in their homes.



Michael and Zoie Morales, Ashley and Don Halli



Chip Moore and Steve Warren, Volunteers



Debbie Moore, Director of Development with Jay

## Patrons of the Hearts celebrates 10th Artscapade

Caribbean Tales: One Heart at a Time was the theme for the 10th annual Artscapade, held Oct. 24 at The Museum. Patrons gathered for art, music, food and fun to celebrate the lives of children saved and the donors who made it possible.

Founded by Dr. Jose and Hilda Etedgui, the event supports a partnership between the community, UF Pediatric Cardiovascular Center and Wolfson Children's Hospital to save up to 10 children born in remote or underdeveloped countries through cardiovascular treatment each year.



Zack Workman and Maggie Walsh, Hilda Etedgui, Founder

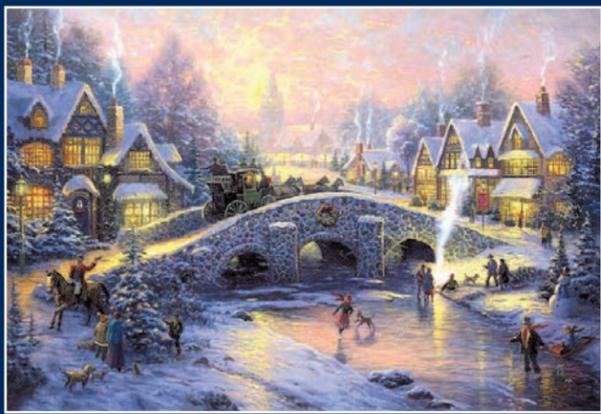


Dale and Marilyn Antram, Dr. Jose Etedgui, Founder



Laura McCalvin, Fred Caldwell

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## An elegant setting for food and wine tasting benefit

The mood was celebratory the Friday before Veterans' Day as we were supporters for the North Florida School of Special Education. Fine wines, gourmet food and the exquisite design of Gary McCalla's riverfront home in the Granada neighborhood together created an atmosphere of good will and giving.

Although the school is less than 25 years old, already it has grown to serving more than 100 students age 6 to 22 with mild to moderate disabilities this school year. The annual Red, White and Blues event raises funds to keep the school's doors open, provide tuition assistance and maintain its nonprofit status.



Frank and Sutton Houston, Virginia and Ryan Hinckley



Theresa and Mark Abood with Melanie Jensen and host Gary McCalla



Fadi Chalhoub, Judy Noon, Catherine Chung and Ken Noon

## A roast fit for river advocacy

The most relaxed, casual event of the season is referred to often as the best party of the entire year. All you can eat steamed oysters, great food and good company all help pay tribute to the St. Johns Riverkeeper and its mission to better our waterways. The best part is the fact that the river runs the length of the back yard soiree on the St. Johns River at the Garden Club of Jacksonville.



Bill Bell, Nora and Doug Milne and Linda Strickland



Celeste Krueger with W.C. Gentry



Jennifer Ross with Bill Parker



Diane Brunet-Garcia, Jack Twachtman, Jorge Brunet-Garcia and Linda Cunningham

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# Annual Art Festival in San Marco delivers at the holidays

An overcast start didn't put a damper on the San Marco Art Festival, as the weekend event sparked the holiday shopping scene in the Square. San Marco continues to be the ideal neighborhood location to play host to the traditional art show, as its original architecture, cultural diversity and historic charm still draw festival goers and art enthusiasts.

The 15th annual event was produced by Howard Alan Events and organizers put together a great show full of original handmade works of glass, photography, painting, mixed media, fiber, jewelry among other unique objects and art. Artists shared their inspiration for each uniquely-crafted piece and were on hand to share their stories with patrons.

This year, a unique father-daughter artistic duo were present from the local area. Artist and painter Michelle McDowell Smith was only a few blocks from her father, as they presented art at this year's festival.

"My mother was a painter and it was obvious from the age of three that she [Michelle] started showing signs," said proud father Donald McDowell. McDowell, a retired economics professor has always tinkered with art, but never put a collection together. He works in metals, making his signature 'wine wenchers' and other unique creations from metal scraps. His daughter is a painter who works professionally as an artist in the local area and is a graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design or SCAD.



Judy and Jake Hughes pick up one of Donald McDowell's metalwork designs



Talton and Kim Williams with Loli



Exhibitors Amy Mitchell and Artist Christine Lyons



Lauren Spiegel, Matthew and Eric Wilson



Artist Michelle McDowell Smith with her husband Toby and family friend Deborah Bohler

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**2757 Forest Mill Lane** – Almost half an acre covered with stately live oaks, gorgeous newly landscaped pool and approx. 3,500 square feet. Five bedrooms, three baths, gleaming hardwoods, totally renovated gourmet kitchen with Wolf gas range, Kitchenaid s/s appliances, warming drawer, granite, wine cooler, Franke sinks, travertine backsplash, etc. All rooms are large and the entertaining flow is exceptional. \$544,000

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*Mike & Jennel L. with Mark O'Steen  
at the Gothenburg Factory Delivery Center,  
picking up their 2013 S60*

# Cathedral Arts supporters feted at reception

The annual donor appreciation party, Angels of the Arts, was hosted by Marisa and Frank Martire at their Ponte Vedra Beach home where more than 130 guests assembled to be thanked by the CAP board of directors and its staff.

“Marisa and Frank Martire have been supporters of CAP from the moment they moved to the First Coast. Marisa has served on the Cathedral Arts Project board four years and has contributed significant amounts of her time and other valuable resources to help fund our afterschool arts education programming in Duval County,” said Forrest Holland, COO, Cathedral Arts Project. “They are admirable leaders for significant change in our community to provide equal access of quality arts education.”

“The Angels of the Arts reception is our annual thank you for major donors, and this was our biggest event yet,” said The Rev. Kimberly Hyatt, President & CEO, Cathedral Arts Project, “which is an indication of the growing support in Jacksonville for arts education.”



Karen and Greg Montana, Anne Mayo

Hugh Greene, Russ Armistead, Wayne Weaver



Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez, Jeff Stone, Tiffany Manning, Ron Hubbard

# Filling empty bowls, stomachs for 30 years



Jacksonville Country Day School 4th graders Lillie, Mia and Hailey

Approximately 700 supporters attended the 30th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon, sponsored by Winn Dixie, at Prime Osborn Convention Center on Nov. 18. Hosted by Lutheran Social Services through its hunger-relief program Nourishment Network, the luncheon raises funds and awareness to help end hunger in Northeast Florida, according to Wayne Rieley, president and CEO. In his remarks, Rieley stated that one out of four area children and one of six adults is hungry or food insecure.

Luncheon attendees were greeted by tables covered with hundreds of unique handmade ceramic bowls, created by volunteers and children in local schools. Each attendee selected one bowl to take

home as a reminder of their efforts to help feed the hungry. Local celebrities and community leaders, including District 14 Councilman Jim Love, served Chick-fil-A soup and bread, with performances by the Jacksonville Country Day School children’s choir and The Blank Canvas band from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

Sponsors included BJ’s, WHATABURGER, Adecco Group North America, VyStar Credit Union, SMG, Futch Printing & Mailing, Doing Dishes Pottery, Pink Flamingo Mobile Arts, Atlantic Pottery Supply, Inc., Swisher International, Inc., Childs, Hester & Love, P.A., Julie and Michael McKenny, among other corporate and non-profit sponsors.

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# GO GIVERS

## Lee Mercier

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

Lee Mercier remembers how hard his father worked as a General Electric Plant employee when he was growing up in Trenton, New Jersey. He also remembers his father volunteering to serve on the board of an orphanage, where Mercier attended Christmas parties for children who looked sad despite their gifts. Later, he learned that those were the children of workers killed in industrial accidents.

"They aren't called orphanages anymore, but those experiences I had as a boy probably are why when a close friend talked to me about the Children's Home Society [Buckner Division] I wanted to help. It wasn't long before I was hooked, committed to the cause of trying to reunite families where possible, caring for children, offering services to children and families, including foster care and adoptions," Mercier said. "The board work is important but I really like finding other volunteers."

Mercier also cares greatly about individuals with developmental or acquired disabilities,

whom he says are unfortunately sometimes regarded as, or feel like, society's outcasts. "People are often fearful or uncomfortable around those with disabilities and sometimes choose to ignore or avoid interaction which is exactly the wrong thing to do. That is why I volunteer for Pine Castle where these individuals are given opportunities to learn, work, socialize and live within the community," he said.

Despite his busy legal practice, Mercier continues the volunteer work he began in the 1960s right after college when he joined the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to spend two years working in Ghana, South Africa. His personal faith and commitment to serve others was strengthened by that experience. He served in the military, was stationed aboard a destroyer in Jacksonville and later finished law school. Mercier describes his legal practice as faith-based.

"One of the things I do, and that I am



*"I care very much about these special needs children and adults and I know how their parents loved them. I do whatever I personally can as trustee to ensure their wellbeing and that their parents' wishes are carried out, as if they were my own family members."*

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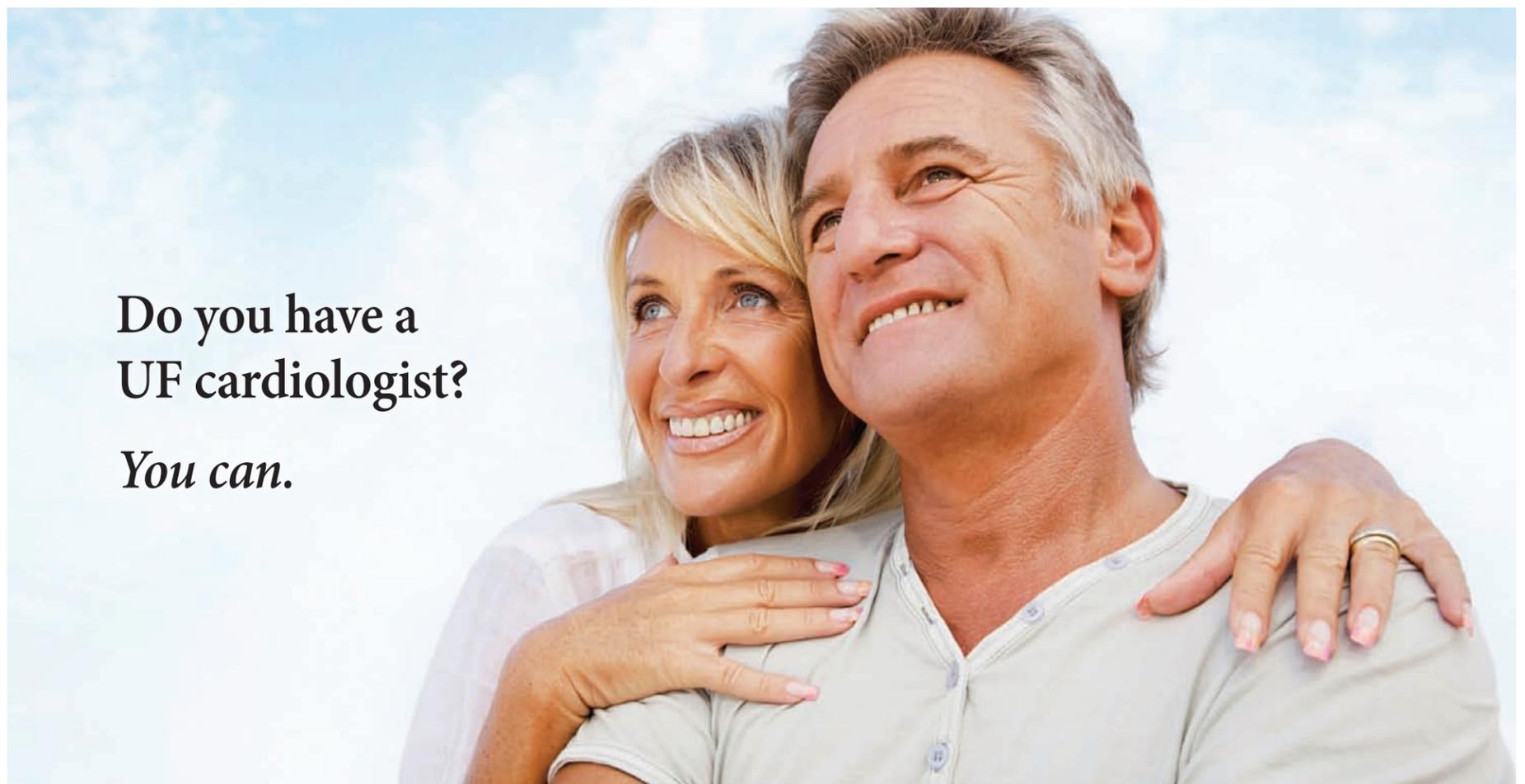
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committed to, is special needs trust work. In the process of helping my clients with estate planning, some have had special needs children. In those cases the trust planning becomes even more important," he said. "I care very much about these special needs children and adults and I know how their parents loved them. I do whatever I personally can as trustee to ensure their wellbeing and that their parents' wishes are carried out, as if they were my own family members."

Mercier said his wife Roberta (Bobbie), a retired Episcopal French teacher, is his behind-the-scenes supporter. The couple loves their two-story brick home, the first one built in 1925 or 1926 in San Marco proper. They are active at their church, All Saints Episcopal. Lee is past president and involved in South Jacksonville Rotary Club. A favorite activity is visiting San Jose Elementary to read to and tutor a young foreign student in reading and language skills.



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# Bleeding kindness for kids and community

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Kind, committed and hardworking – qualities that describe both a bus driver and a blood donor, who just happens to be one and the same: Harold Green.

Green, 74, has driven a school bus from pick up locations in Ponte Vedra Beach to the Bolles School Bartram Campus and back for the past nine years. He's also given blood platelets for 51 years.

Green drives 500 miles a week making three round-trips to Ponte Vedra Beach a day. "Mr. Green is one of the nicest people I have ever met," said one Bolles mother, whose children have all ridden Green's bus. "The kids on his bus absolutely love him."

While the 35 Bolles students on his route know Green for his kind-hearted demeanor, more than 1,500 blood recipients only know that someone's heart has made their lives and the community a better place.

A 1963 Army assignment in Texas for gun school set the path for Green for years to come; it was during that time that Green donated his first pint of blood. In 1986, he started to donate platelets with The Blood Alliance and each of his donations were made in Duval County to help fellow residents of Northeast Florida. He has made 503 local donations which equates to

enriching or saving the lives of more than 1,500 local patients.

He is now one of the biggest blood donors in the country, and the 10th person in Northeast Florida to reach a milestone giving level – 100 gallons of donated blood.

The Blood Alliance and the Bolles School celebrated Green's century mark on Nov. 17 as he became a member of a very



elite group of donors, but remains humble about his accomplishment.

"The importance for me to keep giving blood is because it really boils down to a matter of life and death...and if you have the choice to choose helping someone live wouldn't you try to help any which way you can?" said Green. "It's about saving lives, and most folks don't even realize it's just a 30-minute effort that can make the difference between life and death for someone living in our community, maybe even someone you know."

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Volunteers in Medicine—Jacksonville kicked off its annual fundraising late last month, announcing a \$300,000 goal for the 2015 campaign to fund ongoing medical care and services provided by the clinic, according to Mary Pat Corrigan, CEO, Volunteers in Medicine.

"It was an evening of reviewing the organization's mission and purpose and highlighting our successes, including introducing and sharing the stories of two of our patient heroes. Lorraine Parker and Stephanie Rodriguez have very different stories, but together they represent the full spectrum of what we are all about and how our services can turn lives around," Corrigan said. Honorary campaign chairs were Dr. Ken and Leinesa Adams.

In 2014 over 200 volunteer doctors, nurses and administrative staff logged more than 6,000 patient appointments providing primary and specialty care across an array of medical disciplines.

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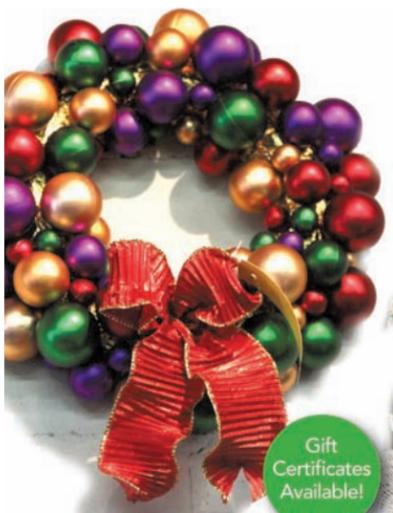
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# The Way we Were

## Marianne Ferlisi Jordan

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

Marianne Jordan, 76, has always lived in the St. Nicholas area because of its proximity to Assumption Catholic, her family's church, and its school. In the 1970s her three children could walk from their home on Tiber Street to Assumption Catholic elementary and middle school. Later they attended Bishop Kenny High School. Jordan takes great joy in her growing family of eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two more on the way.

Christmas Eve always brought Jordan's big extended Italian family together at her home and she remembers the cooking went on for days before. They never missed the midnight Mass at Assumption.

"I'm from a family of great cooks. Italians traditionally have seafood at Christmas. My grandmother Marietta and my mother Josephine would lightly bread, then pan-fry smelt fish that Grandfather Nick had shipped to us from the New York fish markets. They were small, cooked with heads on and absolutely delicious. I haven't been able to find them here," she said. "My mother always made seafood gumbo and her Italian Pecan Nut Cake from scratch."

On Christmas day, after her children opened their gifts, Jordan and the whole clan would again gather together, but at her parents' home on Vale Orchard Road in San Marco. Frederick Angelo and Josephine "Josie" Ferlisi always served turkey, ham, sausage and oyster dressing.

"St. Nicholas and Tiber Street were a wonderful family community. I was divorced at the time I lived there, but in 1975 I met Ray Jordan and we were married. In 1976, the day after Thanksgiving, we moved just a few streets over to a larger family home on Nicholson

Road," she said.

Jordan first moved to Jacksonville in 1960 after her father Frederick Angelo Ferlisi opened his marine supply business, Industrial Warehouse, on Bay Street next door to Maxwell House Coffee. The company thrived across from the shipyards and Jordan worked at their Talleyrand office as bookkeeper for her father until 1965.

Health problems kept Jordan in and out of St. Vincent's Hospital frequently. By the time her health improved, Jordan felt so inspired by the care she received from the nurses and doctors there, she decided to pursue a career in nursing.

"The medical staff was so caring I could not believe how hard they worked and how compassionate they were despite their long hours in the hospital," she said. "I decided to go into nursing. I finished my RN training at the old Duval Medical Center on Jefferson Street and worked at St. Vincent's Hospital from 1968-1974. Then I moved to Shands Hospital and worked there from 1974 until I retired in 1997," she said.

Jordan first began working as a volunteer in 1989 helping the needy and visiting those in nursing homes through Assumption Catholic's St. Vincent DePaul Mission. She collected clothing and organized food donations for families in need. She has tremendous compassion for those with special needs who are elderly, poor or in nursing homes or who have no family in the area. Jordan is also concerned about the growing number of grandparents raising their grandchildren, who need a lot of help.

"There is such a need for younger



Marianne Jordan, center, with her parents Frederick Angelo and Josephine Ferlisi



when he arrived in New York. They moved to St. Augustine with their two children, my mother Josephine "Josie" and their son Dominic. Nick bought a shrimp boat and went out every day to shrimp in the Atlantic Ocean. Dominic joined his father and in 1944 they opened a successful St. Augustine marine supply company still in business on Riberia Street, Marine Supply & Oil Company," she said.

Her father, Frederick Angelo Ferlisi, traveled to St. Augustine from his home in Alabama to accept a job hauling blocks of ice on the back seat of his Model T from an ice plant on Riberia Street down to the fishing docks. That's where he met Nick Poli, who invited him home for a real Italian dinner and introduced him to his daughter Josephine.

"That's how my parents met and married in 1937. My father began shrimping and working in the marine business with Grandfather Nick and Uncle Dominic and then opened his business in Jacksonville," Jordan said. "The Poli and Ferlisi families are forever part of the history of the shrimping and marine business in St. Augustine and Jacksonville, something we are very proud of."

volunteers. Many of us are getting older and need to be replaced," she said.

Jordan loves going to Disney World in Orlando with her grandchildren and traveling to see family in between outings with close friends. She is an amateur expert in the history of local shrimping and marine industries. Her recounting of her grandfather's Sicilian heritage, immigration from Italy through Ellis Island and the Poli and Ferlisi families' local history are detailed and fascinating.

"My grandfather, Nazzareno "Nick" Poli, met and married my grandmother Marietta



### First Coast Cardiovascular Institute is pleased to welcome world-renowned Dr. Issam D. Moussa as Chief Medical Officer.

After three years as Chair of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases and Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Dr. Moussa joins First Coast Cardiovascular Institute (FCCI) with the same focus on innovation and the highest standards of care.

With over 200 medical publications, lectures all over the U.S. and around the world on cardiovascular health, and initiatives to improve outcomes, Dr. Moussa, is here to further assert our commitment to excellence, says Dr. Khatib co-founder and president of FCCI.

As an Interventional Cardiologist and Endovascular Interventionalist, he specializes in performing catheter-based cardiovascular procedures in patients with valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease and peripheral arterial disease (PAD). He performs minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), as well as other innovative minimally invasive procedures for mitral valve repair and procedures geared at reducing the risk of stroke.

A graduate of Damascus University Medical School, Dr. Moussa spent the last 20 years at prestigious medical institutions in the U.S. initially as a trainee and then as an educator training an entire generation of younger physicians. The highly regarded Lenox Hill

hospital, Columbia University Medical Center, and Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City are among the places where he served.

Dr. Moussa sees a paradigm shift in the future of health care in the U.S. He says although hospitals will always have a crucial role to play, that role will become limited to treatment of the acute, very ill patients. Healthcare will be moving towards an outpatient service at home or in a large group practice, such as FCCI. Group practices will no longer be just a few doctors but a team of doctors and allied health professionals with various specialties. While FCCI will continue to specialize in cardiovascular health, Dr. Moussa says FCCI is recruiting doctors in other specialties such as podiatry, neurology and primary care.

The driving force behind this new healthcare model is for patients to take care of all of their medical needs in one location and reserve hospital visits for only serious health needs. "We at FCCI have a commitment to both high quality and affordability," he says. "We can address multiple needs and provide quality and convenient care."

Clinical research currently being done in hospitals will increasingly be done in outpatient organizations such as FCCI. With providing high quality care comes the drive to take part in new and advancing treatments. Dr. Moussa is excited to build on the 8 year tradition of research taking place at FCCI. "We want to bring more cutting edge technology to Northeast Florida," Dr. Moussa says, "We're always looking for new treatments, whether it's medicine or devices."

Dr. Moussa also lauds programs at FCCI such as continuing education programs for local and regional groups of doctors. He expects those to grow and possibly go national. Dr. Moussa is excited to serve and educate his patients. He says FCCI will soon hold patient educational conferences with groups of up to 100 patients, giving patients the opportunity to ask questions about their health concerns.

Dr. Moussa will also be working with the entire FCCI staff on organizational and quality initiatives, with the majority of his time focusing on patients.

Dr. Moussa is involved with several national medical journals. He has been the editor-in-chief of "Acute Cardiac Care" and associate editor of "Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions" since 2011. He also currently serves as Chair of the Steering Committee of the American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Data base which sets the quality measures for cardiovascular care in the United States.



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Five generations: Marianne Jordan with son Richard and grandson Brendon; center, grandmother Marietta Poli, right, mother Josephine Ferlisi



Marianne Ferlisi's First Holy Communion



Monsignor Harold Jordan and Father Roch with Marianne Jordan (left), a daughter, and Jordan's mother Josephine Ferlisi in 1999.

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**Mind your own mind-set.** Acknowledge all of your emotions, focus on the positives, celebrate what your loved ones can do, and appreciate the help you are receiving.

**Keep self-care at the top of the list.** Make time for exercise; it can boost your mood. Get outside for some vitamin D from the sunlight or consider therapeutic lighting if you suffer from season affective disorder. Relax with some aromatherapy.



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# Running for Ryan brings community together



J.M. Magyar and his son Clay (left) with Patrick Dussinger and Sammy



Erin and Jeremy Raynor with sons Jack and Evan

More than 200 runners turned out on a chilly Saturday morning in Ortega for the 2nd Annual Ryan's Run 5K. Some were Bolles students, former classmates of Ryan Perry; others were co-workers of his mother Elizabeth, an anesthesiologist at Baptist Medical Center; some were friends and family from out of town. All were there for the run in Ryan's memory, hosted by Ortega United Methodist Church, where the Perry family attend.

Presented by Janie Boyd & Associates Real Estate Services, the event benefits the Ryan D. Perry Foundation at OUMC, and

the church's goal of growing children's ministries in the community. Alan Perry, father of the late Bolles student, said that the proposed Family Life Center is now completely funded and the church plans to break ground by the end of the year with the goal of having the \$2 million center open and ready for use next fall. According to Perry, an anonymous donor contributed half of the funds.

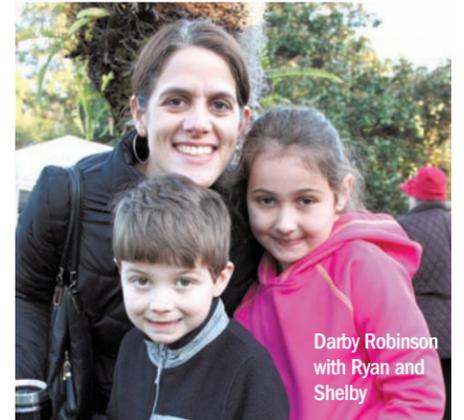
Riverside resident Dean Krueger finished first with a time of 18:11 followed by event organizer Matthew Worsham (18:18) and Michelle Krueger (18:42).



Scott and Caron Gutovitz



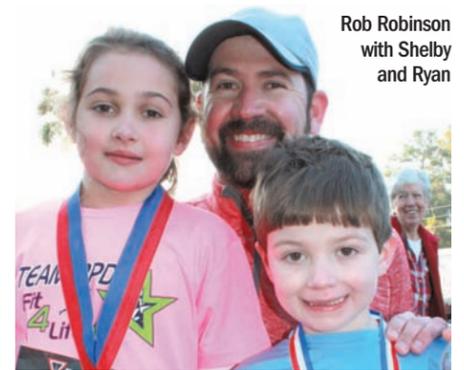
Dr. Maryellen Wechter with children Carolina, Elena and Lucca Martinez



Darby Robinson with Ryan and Shelby



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# Young pianists perform for patients

For the third year, students from the Douglas Anderson Chapter of The Tri-M Music Honor Society performed for patients and their families at the Proton Therapy Institute on Nov. 18. The program included classical pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, and Chopin; Christmas music; contemporary pieces including one student's own composition, and two classical guitar pieces. Bradlee Robbert, Director of Patient Services, hosted the recital, which was followed by a reception.

The students will perform additional recitals on Dec. 13 from 1-3 p.m. at the Jacksonville International Airport and on Mar. 3, 2015 at the Main Library. Douglas Anderson will also host a piano sonata marathon and competition in January 2015.



San Jose resident Matthew Cunningham performing his own composition, Golden Season Suite.



This is the third year that Douglas Anderson piano students have performed a recital for patients and families at the Proton Therapy Institute: Chamille Boyd, Emma Webber Miranda Caprio, Jessica Wu, Janine Albrecht, Sen Valeski, Amanda Winnicki, Brian Camp, Dalton Thrift, Asia Strong, Camille Titus, Matthew Cunningham and Jacob Skiles. Not pictured, Emily Taylor.


Upcoming Events



**Wyonna and the Big Noise: A Simpler Christmas**  
 Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM  
 Be reminded of the simple blessings as you ring in the holiday season as she performs some of her holiday favorites as well as her greatest hits.

**Anthony Hamilton Home For the Holidays**  
 Thursday, December 4 at 8:00 PM  
 An American R&B singer-songwriter, and record producer who rose to fame with his platinum-selling second studio album 'Comin' from Where I'm From.

**Chinese Acrobats**  
 Friday, December 5 at 7:00 PM  
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**Jeanne Robertson**  
 Saturday, December 6 at 8:00 PM  
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**Community Nutcracker**  
 Friday, December 12 at 8:00 PM and  
 Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM  
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**A Peter White Christmas**  
 Tuesday, December 16 at 8:00 PM  
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**Joe Bonamassa**  
 Wednesday, December 17 at 8:00 PM  
 Joe is hailed worldwide as one of the greatest guitar players of his generation and this will not be a show you want to miss!

**Bowzer's Rock N Roll Holiday Party**  
 Thursday, December 18 at 8:00 PM  
 Bowzer is best known as the gangly, slender armed greaser from the band Sha Na Na, who played Woodstock.

**Trace Adkins Christmas Show**  
 Friday, December 19 at 8:00 PM  
 A family-friendly theatrical production that features songs from his Celtic Christmas album, The King's Gift

**A Swamp Radio Christmas**  
 Sunday, December 21 at 3:00 PM  
 Scripted variety series which draws from the songwriters, poets, playwrights and storytellers of the area to create an audio tapestry of the place many call home

**Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer—The Musical**  
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**70s Soul Jam**  
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**Tedeschi Trucks Band**  
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# Jr. Residents

## Walkathon kicks off with planning meeting

The Friends of Hendricks Walkathon Committee met last month at the home of Dayna Duncan to plan a Walkathon to raise funds for items that are budget shortfalls and projects that enhance overall learning at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School. The event will be held on Sat., Feb. 28, 2015, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Hendricks Avenue campus.



Walkathon 2014 raised \$49,133. Of that, 95% was spent on school needs to benefit every student at Hendricks. In addition, Hendricks students and families walked 932 miles.

Currently, the Walkathon 2015 committee is reaching out to the local business community to establish partnerships through The FOH Business Partners Program. There are several partnership levels with associated benefits that allow for the business to gain exposure within

the Hendricks community while supporting their local neighborhood elementary school. Last year, The Friends of Hendricks had 43 business partnerships that raised \$16,700.

If your company is interested in being a business partner, contact Dayna Duncan at [daynaduncan@gmail.com](mailto:daynaduncan@gmail.com). For more information regarding Walkathon 2015, The FOH Business Partners Program, or to make an on-line donation, visit The Friends of Hendricks at [www.FriendsofHendricks.org](http://www.FriendsofHendricks.org).

## Echo Taps poignant, stirring in honor of veterans



Josh Calhoun of San Jose plays in a performance of "Echo Taps" with fellow student Grant Hill in the north and south towers of Bolles Hall on Veterans' Day at The Bolles School, San Jose Campus. The color guard shared a demonstration in Ulmer Courtyard following the service. The Missing Man's Table, a tradition begun by longtime Bolles faculty and administrator Julie Babcock, was on display in the Bolles Hall Lobby to honor faculty and staff members who are veterans.

## STEAM Lab partners

Hendricks Day School hosts Hogan-Spring Glen Elementary School 5th grade students in its STEAM lab once a month. The new lab integrates science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics so students and teachers can exchange the multidisciplinary nature of scientific concepts, principles and scientific exploration.



San Jose area resident Peter Blay is Hendricks Day School's science teacher and STEAM Lab Educator. Blay was excited to share Hendricks' resources with the surrounding community and in turn receive stimulating ideas in the area of STEAM and STEM disciplines. The first exchange with Hogan-Spring Glen went extremely well, and the chair of their science department, Jeffrey Braden, was very pleased with the labs performed.

"My 5th graders really enjoyed and were engaged during the Physical Science STEAM Lab activities," said Braden. "The best thing was reinforcing the science concepts previously taught in my class. Thank you, Peter and the staff of Hendricks Day School, for inviting the 5th graders and making us all feel welcomed."

## Warm, fuzzy bears for cancer patients



Students at Hendricks Day School collected over 200 new bears in October for the Buddy Bears Project and presented them to Jeannie Blaylock, First Coast News. Hendricks student Tori Williams shared about her own battle with cancer and that her Hendricks family helped her beat it by loving and supporting her.

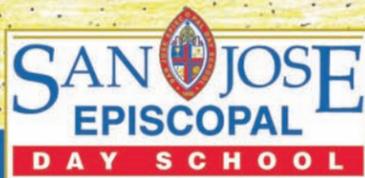


Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

# Merry Christmas!

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Artwork by Emma Greer, 5th Grade Student

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# SJEDS honors military veterans, students learn the value of service

Veterans and military personnel from all branches of the United States military as well as the Royal Air Force were honored last month for their service to the country by students, faculty and staff and family members of San Jose Episcopal Day School.

Special guests included the Naval Honor Color Guard, who presented the colors in true ceremonial form in honor of past, present and future military personnel.

"This is one of the most important

programs we do each year," stated Lori Menger, Head of School. "We think it is incredibly important to honor those who have served our country and given their lives, and at the same time teach our students about service and the value of our freedom."

Father Steph Britt blessed a new American flag, which was presented to Navy veteran Tanya Mauro, Director of Finance and Operations for the school, and which now flies proudly above the campus.



## Mock trial team scores in national competition



Described as "one of the strongest teams Bolles has ever fielded," the Bolles Mock Trial Team received high marks during the Oct. 10 Bulldog Invitational High School Mock Trial Tournament at Yale University. Bolles defeated some of the strongest mock trial teams in the country, including Phillips Exeter Academy and American Heritage Plantation, despite being new to the national competition.

The Bolles team followed a tough schedule of four three-hour trials against the schools, as well as Choate Rosemary Hall and two American Heritage campuses. Bolles' overall

record was two wins and two losses. Co-Captain Sara Meadow took home a top attorney award.

"The team made a strong debut in a national competition, put Bolles on the interstate map as a real contender and shone as individuals at the highest level," said team faculty sponsor Andrew Dickson, a San Marco resident.

The Bolles Mock Trial team includes Elina Doolabh, Sara Meadow, Amanda Segel (San Jose), Ari Dixon, Ben Kobrin (San Marco), Ian McCutcheon (San Marco) and Kiera Geraghty.

## Bolles Bulldogs wrap homecoming with a win

Bolles Homecoming Week 2014 wrapped up with an exciting 57-0 Bulldog win over the Baldwin Indians on Hodges Field on Oct. 17. The game topped off a fun-filled, busy week of theme dress and spirit days on all four campuses and a half-day of parades, parties, pep rallies and Powder Puff plays on Thursday.

Following a shortened schedule Oct. 16, students on the Upper School Campus flocked to the River Campus for a picnic lunch and bluff seats for the annual Homecoming Parade. The Homecoming Sweetheart Court, football players and cheerleaders rode in trucks and convertibles along the river road and through the Whitehurst Campus, throwing candy and sharing their Homecoming enthusiasm. Performances by the Bolles cheerleaders and Dance team also added to the afternoon spirit.



2014 Homecoming Sweethearts are seniors Amelia Hartje and Max Michael, both residents of San Jose. (Photo by Snappy Shots by Bev)



# Come experience the start of something wonderful.

Discover a wonderful place for your child. Bolles provides the education and experiences for your child to achieve amazing things. Join us for an **Open House**, and see for yourself the exceptional teachers, advanced curriculum, positive learning environment and grade-specific campuses. Bolles is a world leading to great opportunities.

Mark your calendar now to join us for an **Open House** or schedule an individual tour and start something wonderful for your child...at Bolles.

**Lower School (PreK-5)**

Whitehurst Campus — **January 12**, 9:00 a.m.  
 Ponte Vedra Beach Campus — **January 15**, 9:00 a.m.

**Middle School Bartram Campus (6-8)**

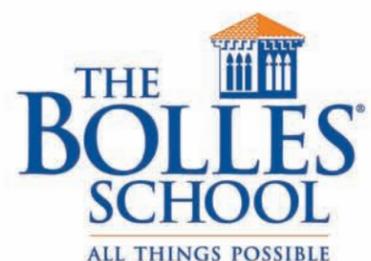
Call to schedule your individual tour.

**Upper School San Jose Campus (9-12)**

"Bolles for a Day" — **January 9**, 8:30 a.m.

For more information and to reserve your space at our Open House, please visit [www.Bolles.org](http://www.Bolles.org) or call (904) 256-5030.

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# Flashbacks

By Robin Robinson  
Resident Community News

## Enduring and endearing community tradition

The San Marco Garden Circle, formed in 1932, has always been very community-minded with their projects. Starting in the early 1990s they put up a Christmas tree in the gazebo in Balis Park every year as a gift to the community. The tradition has been carried on for nearly 25 years by this dedicated group. The decorations and tree which they install are the focal point of San Marco Square during the holidays and provide a festive setting for Santa to greet children during the merchant sponsored Holiday Magic event in early December.



In the early years of the Christmas Tree Project, Wes Taylor of Oaklawn Cemetery donated live trees to be used. The decorating committee, including Judy Brown, Debbie Barnes, Barbara Hall-Elmore, Cathy Watkiss, Lori Boyer, Suzanne Peritt and the late Barbara Puckett, is shown here with Taylor the day the tree was delivered. Many of these women continue to be members of the San Marco Garden Circle today.

**Attention: Seniors!**

Beginning January 1, 2015, seniors 65 years of age and older may enjoy a complimentary ride on JTA fixed route buses if they have a valid Senior STAR Card. Only seniors with a valid STAR Card will receive the complimentary ride. So get your card today!

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*Happy Holidays*

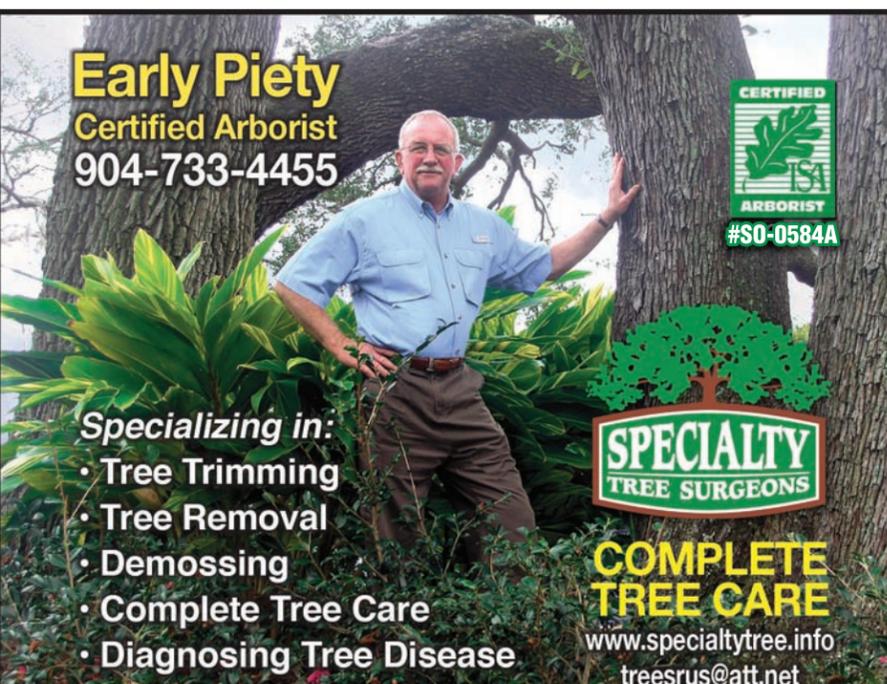
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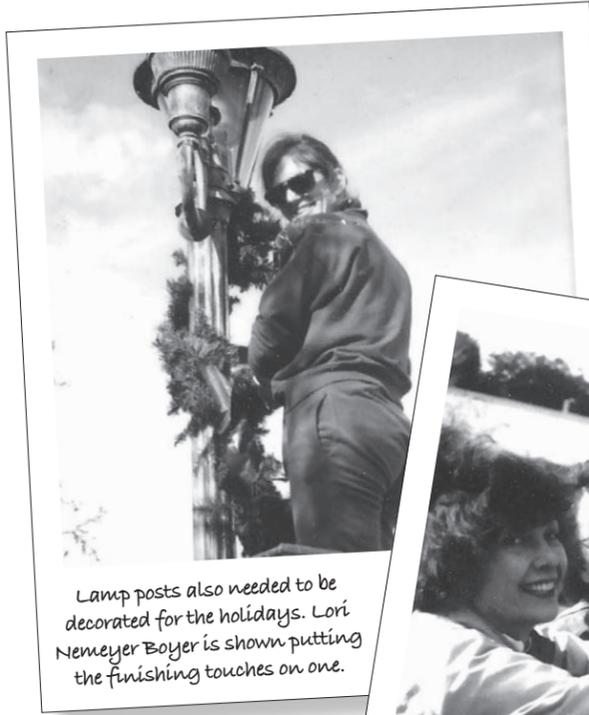
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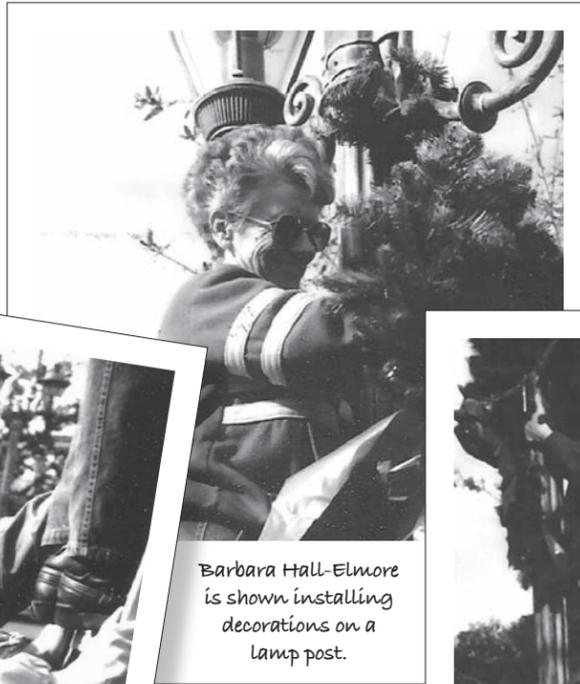
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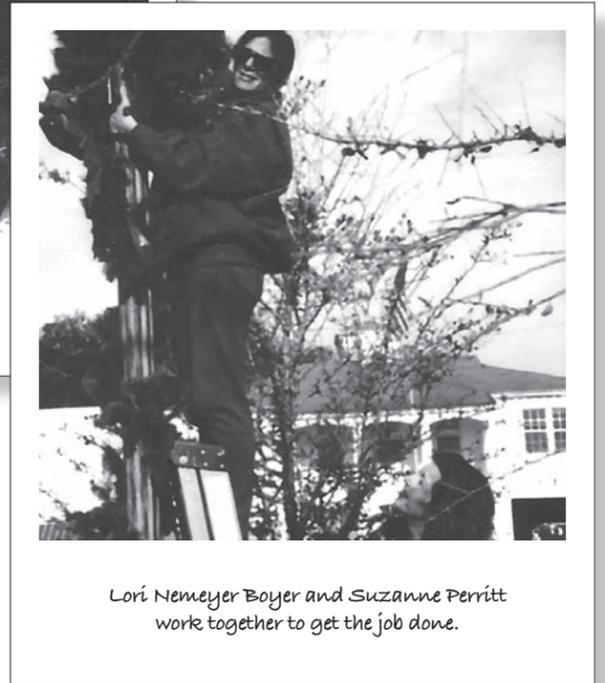
Lamp posts also needed to be decorated for the holidays. Lori Nemeyer Boyer is shown putting the finishing touches on one.



Barbara Hall-Elmore is shown installing decorations on a lamp post.



The late Barbara Puckett is shown with Janet Hogshead steadying the ladder for a fellow volunteer.



Lori Nemeyer Boyer and Suzanne Perritt work together to get the job done.



*Merry Christmas  
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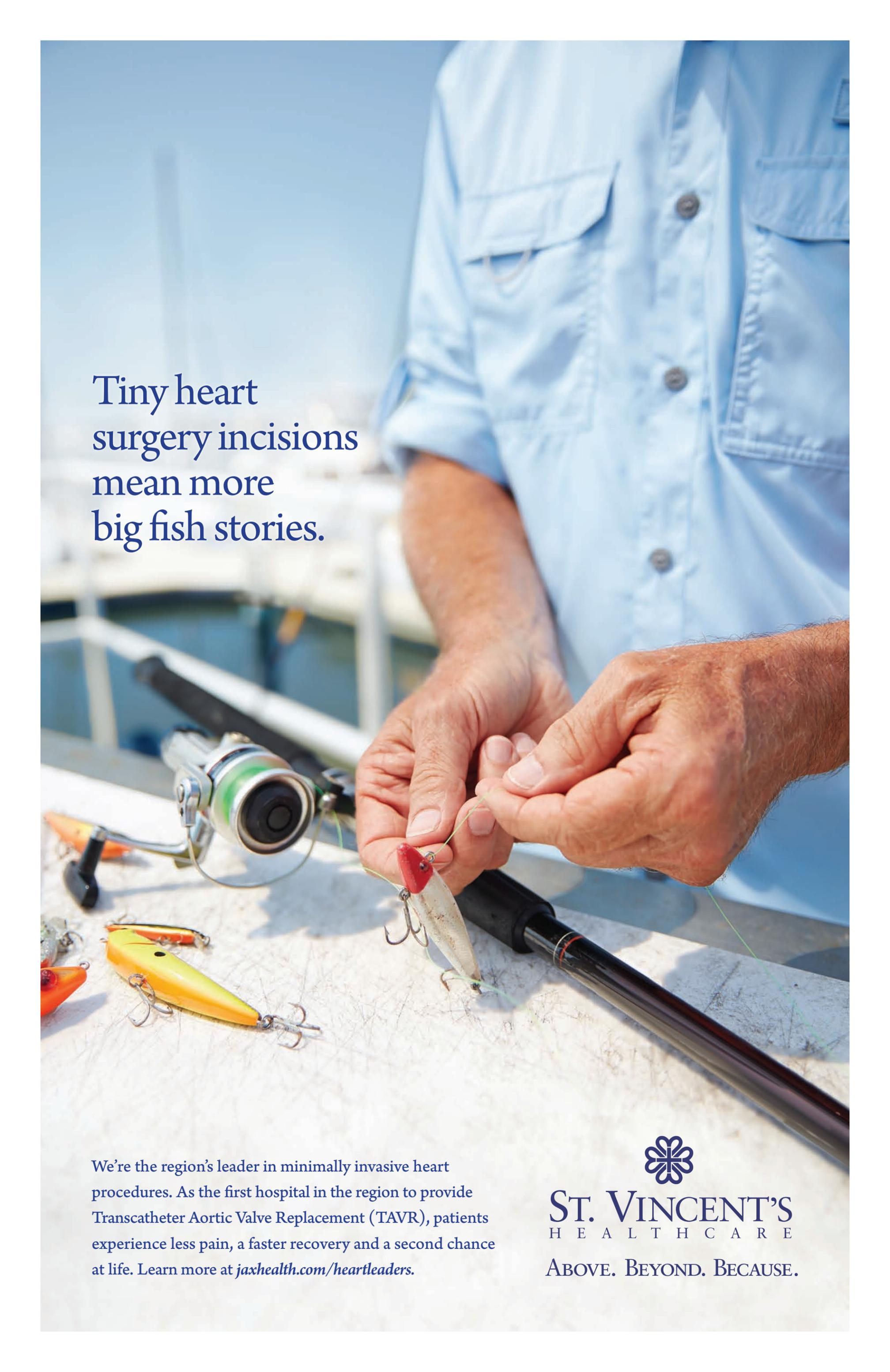
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