



### Having a ball with dolls

Posing with their look-alike dolls during American Girl Camp are Katherine D'Arienzo, Averie Pyron, Ryleigh Templeton and Chloe Holmes.  
*Read More on page 30*



### Nursing society celebrates 25 years

Lambda Rho Chapter members Diane Raines, Pam Chally and Tammy Carroll shared a memorable occasion.  
*Read More on page 23*



# Resident

Community News



San Jose — San Marco — St. Nicholas

www.ResidentNews.net

Fiercely Local News ... Fiercely Loyal Readers

Vol. 7, Issue 07



Veronica Scott-Fulton and Dwight Fulton

### A Night in the Garden helps grow funds

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, headquartered locally on Children's Way in the San Marco area has big plans for the future. The annual gala will help deliver much needed support to help build a sanctuary, a rooftop garden, on the grounds in the coming months. The addition to the current facility will expand, creating more family residences and delivering on more amenities for visiting families dealing with the difficulties of childhood illnesses.

*Read more on page 18*



## ON THE ROPES

Foster teens from Jacksonville tested their mettle when they faced the challenge of an intense ropes course and zip line at the University of North Florida June 17.

San Marco-based Family Support Services of North Florida provided the outing to enable foster youth to overcome their fears and challenge their physical abilities while developing trust, communication and team building skills.

The event was part of The Challenge, an FSS enrichment program that incorporates challenging fun activities with life skills that focus on education, career, health and community service.

FSS is the lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties.

### Merchants Mixed and Mingled

The San Marco Merchants Association hosted a mixer for local business owners to network and build local rapport. The event took place May 14 at Regions Bank, located at 1600 Hendricks Avenue. Special hand-crafted cocktails were provided by the Grape and Grain Exchange.

Hannah Custer and Ashley English of Bella Bridesmaids



In order to slow the traffic on River Road and its adjacent streets, the speed limit may drop from 30 mph to 20 mph if local residents get their way.

### Locals learn of option for traffic calming Goal is to slow motorists, improve safety

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

San Marco residents who live along River Road and its adjacent streets are a step closer to having something done to calm speeding traffic in front of their homes.

During a June 15 town meeting called by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, most residents agreed the proposed ordinance to lower the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph on River Road should be expanded to include the neighboring streets that feed onto it. Roads considered in the proposal include Sorrento Road, Largo Road, Arbor Lane, Elder Lane, Maple Lane, Laurel Road, Marco Place, Holly Lane and River Oaks Road as well as River Road from River Oaks Road to Landon Avenue.

*Continued on page 25 >>>*

## AT A GLANCE

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- Hens call San Marco home...see page 12
- A final bow for local ballet legend...see page 26
- Local strider wins top honors...see page 34

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# Tearing up the tracks at local crossings

## Construction continues on FEC rails

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Since mid-June drivers in north San Marco have been inconvenienced and there are more detours on the way as the Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC) replaces the tracks at three key train crossings.

On July 6-10 the San Marco Blvd. train crossing close to Baptist Hospital near Gary St. and Prudential Drive will be closed. No detours were announced by press time. Drivers are on their own to find alternative routes, said an FEC workman at the site.

FEC first replaced the tracks at the Atlantic Blvd. train crossing near Arcadia Place and Perry Place during the third week of June. A week later, June 28-July 1, the railroad moved on to the crossing at Hendricks Avenue just south of Nira Street. Cars traveling south on Hendricks were diverted to Nira Street, San Marco Boulevard and Lasalle Street. Traffic heading north on Hendricks was forced to detour to Cedar Street, San Marco Blvd. and Nira Street.

The closures are necessary because the railroad crossings need routine maintenance, said Bob Ledoux, senior vice



A work crew pulls up asphalt near the Hendricks Ave. train crossing June 29. Florida East Coast Railroad work continues in the local area through early July.

president, Florida East Coast Railroad. The railroad has approximately 600 crossings between Jacksonville and Miami and inspects them each year as part of its regular maintenance program, Ledoux said. Approximately 10 percent of the tracks at the crossings need to be replaced each year. The tracks and ties need to be anchored well so they don't sway side to side due to wear and tear from thousands of cars driving over them each day, Ledoux said. "If it is not taken care of, it can cause a derailment."

To ensure the crossings are safe, FEC dismantled the existing railroad crossing

and replaced it with a section of new tracks and concrete, which is designed to hold up better under heavy traffic. Crews resurfaced the area after the crossing was replaced. The change at Hendricks Ave. should offer drivers a "smoother ride," said Debbie Delgado of the Florida Department of Transportation, noting that the concrete is "more durable and longer lasting." According to FDOT, an average of 14,600 vehicles travel on this section of Hendricks Ave. daily. Law enforcement officers were available to assist with the road closure and detour, Delgado said.

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## Lane closure on San Jose Blvd.

A travel lane of San Jose Boulevard was closed due to construction in between rush hours from June 25 through July 2.

To accommodate the construction of a new eight-inch water main for the new Watercrest of San Jose assisted living facility, which is under construction, one northbound travel lane was closed during the daytime hours of 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Approximately 80 feet of sidewalk was removed and replaced near the intersection of San Jose Boulevard and Beauclerc Road.

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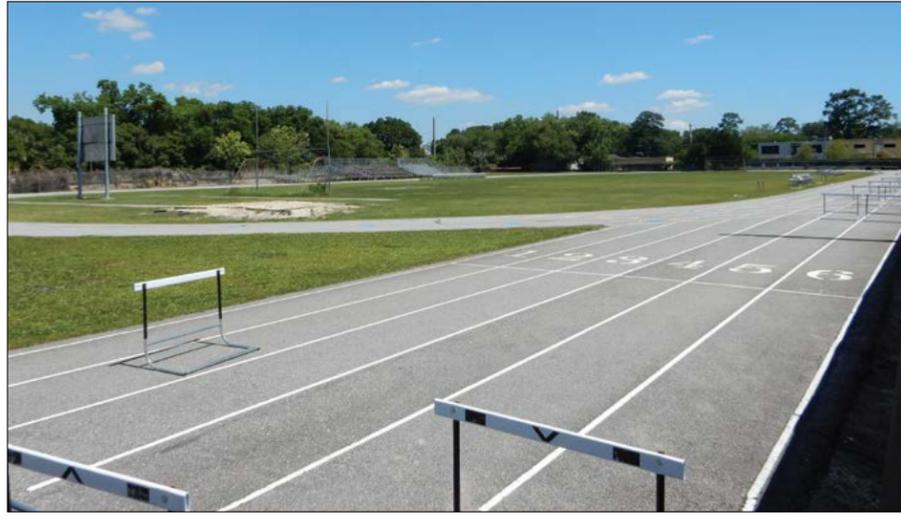
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# Drainage fix at Landon track means public usage in future

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Landon Middle School in San Marco will receive city money to pay for improvements on its playing field and surrounding track.

In early June, after a joint-use agreement was signed between the Duval County School Board and the city parks department, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer executed a transfer form to allocate \$75,000 from her Loblolly Recreation/Parks account to upgrade the drainage at the occasionally soggy facility. "The field has always had drainage difficulties," said Duval County School



The track and field at San Marco's Landon Middle School

Board District 3 Representative Ashley Smith-Juarez. "This is an important example of how the city government and school board can work together. I want to thank Councilwoman Boyer. This couldn't have been done without her commitment to the project."

The design for the improvements has been completed and the city has received a preliminary estimate for the work, said Tia R. Ford, a spokesperson for the Duval County Public Schools Operations Department. According to

Ford, the current costs exceed the budget for the project, and the city and school department are working to review the scope in order to bring it into budget. At this time, there is no estimated timeframe for bidding and completion of the work; however, it is anticipated that the project may be able to be completed in the fall of 2015, she said.

"I will work with the school district to see what I can do to look at the scope of the project," said Smith-Juarez, noting that she will work to "get it completed

before the school year begins so the students are not disrupted."

Once the improvements are complete and new sod is planted, the facility will be named Landon Middle School Park and will be open for public use during evenings after school sports practices are finished and the district is no longer using the facility. The track and field will also be available to the public on weekends and during the day during the summer. As with other parks in San Marco, the track and field will only be open until dark because there are no lights at the facility.

"For years I've had requests from individuals in the community to use the track for walking and jogging," said Boyer, who added that many residents regard the cushioned surface of the track as a safe place to exercise. No organized league play will be allowed on the field, but the grassy expanse inside the track will be available for pick-up soccer games or for neighborhood youth team practices.

"We are hoping residents will pay attention to the park rules and clean up after themselves so that this can be a relationship that will continue," Boyer said. "The school won't allow continued public use if we abuse the facility."

## Overland Bridge project two-thirds complete

As of the end of May the Overland Bridge project is now more than half-way finished, said Ron Tittle, Public Information Officer, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The time used on the project is 67 percent. "We still anticipate it to be completed by late 2016 or early 2017," he said.

Most of the work over the summer will be near Atlantic Boulevard. Traffic

traveling southbound on I-95 will exit on the new off-ramp so that FDOT can shut down the old exit ramp. Later this year, FDOT will finish building the northbound collector-distributor road (a service road) to open up the work zone in the middle of the project in order to demolish the old lanes. A ramp from southbound I-95 to eastbound Atlantic Boulevard will be open by mid- to late summer.

For more information go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5O9PP8PzuY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5O9PP8PzuY), [www.i95overlandbridge.com](http://www.i95overlandbridge.com), or call the Overland Project hotline at (904) 491-2110.

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# 60-year-old Baptist hospital building to get \$5.6 million facelift



The façade on the original Baptist Hospital building gets an upgrade.



The building will be covered with a new exterior.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

In order to better reflect its cutting-edge facilities, Baptist Medical Center is giving a \$5.6 million facelift to the outer façade of its main building at 800 Prudential Drive.

The project involves removing the brick on the outside of the five-story structure, which was originally opened in 1955. The façade will be repaired and the inner clay tile wall replaced where necessary. The building will be covered completely with a new exterior, which will aesthetically blend in with the rest of the campus, said Michael Mayo,

hospital president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

Construction on the project began March 17 and is expected to be complete in December.

“In order to maintain the functionality and appearance of our campus, these renovations are undertaken as a part of our commitment to provide state-of-the-art facilities for our community,” Mayo said.

Repairing the window ledges will be included in the renovation. New energy-efficient, impact-rated windows and windowsills will be installed. Minor repairs will be made to the electrical wiring, exhaust vents and exterior doors. The roof will be replaced and new roof drains and access ladders will be added.

The first floor of the main building includes medical staff and other offices. The upper stories of the building are currently used for support services, office space, educational space and volunteer offices. No patients are being cared for in the building. No decision has been made on what the building will be used for once the renovations are completed, Mayo said.

Batson-Cook Construction is in charge of the project. “We find it very rewarding to participate in this project to preserve a historic building that has played a significant role in healthcare in this area since it opened in 1955,” said a company spokesman.

## Ronald McDonald House expansion progressing nicely

The construction of a new wing on Ronald McDonald House in San Marco is going well and right on schedule.

The bones of the new wing – the structural steel girders – that frame the Ronald McDonald House expansion are expected to be complete at the end of July, said Executive Director Diane Boyle.

The new three-floor extension, which will include 24 bedrooms, a rooftop “healing” garden, and plenty of parking on ground floor level underneath, will most likely meet its target completion date of February 2016.

Meanwhile, the first phase of the interior renovations – refurbishing the

administrative offices in the existing structure, is coming to a close. Once complete, the heart of the home – the kitchen, living room, dining room, community room, playroom, entryway and check-in room – will be overhauled and an additional kitchen for the volunteers added so it can be completed within 90 days, before the end of year holiday season.

With neighboring Towers of Jacksonville also undergoing renovations simultaneously, parking in the area has been at a premium, Boyle said. Ronald McDonald House has temporarily leased parking a few blocks away on San Marco Boulevard for its staff and volunteers to use. Meanwhile the construction workers working on the new addition park behind the house, leaving the spaces close to the facility for the families it serves. During the weekends, Nemours is allowing space in its lower lot to be used by Ronald McDonald House volunteers.



Construction on the new wing of the Ronald McDonald House in San Marco is progressing nicely. The project is expected to be finished on time in February 2016.



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**1738 MORO AVE**  
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# Local businessman buys Peterbrooke building

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It may be fair to say that the area around the northern end of San Marco Blvd. is becoming a design district in Jacksonville. Hollingsworth Decorative Tile and Plumbing is moving its designer showroom from Hendricks Avenue to San Marco Boulevard and will share the neighborhood with several other design firms nearby.

On June 19, Worth Turner, owner of Hollingsworth, closed on a deal with Insetta Family Properties to buy 1458 San Marco Blvd., for \$720,000. The building, which was the former home of the Peterbrooke Chocolate Factory, was listed for \$860,000.

“We’re thrilled to move into such an iconic building and to be keeping our roots in the San Marco neighborhood. I’ve had my eye on the building for a long time,” Turner said, noting he grew up in San Marco. “I’ve known of it since I was a little kid. It’s great to obtain such a great piece of property. This is exciting for me.”

The former Hollingsworth showroom at 1903 Hendricks Avenue will remain in the Turner family and continue as the home of Turner Plumbing.

Turner’s grandfather, Charles Hollingsworth Turner, opened Turner Plumbing in San Marco in 1942. Turner said his grandfather plumbed the edifice at 1458 San Marco Blvd. when it was built in 1945.

Phyllis Geiger, founder of the Peterbrooke Chocolate Company, bought the building on San Marco Blvd. in 1996 for \$297,500 and used it as a factory for her chocolate business. In 2009 the building was sold to Insetta Family Properties for \$1,051,700, and Peterbrooke continued as a tenant. Geiger sold Peterbrooke Chocolates to Hickory Foods in 2012. Earlier this year, the Peterbrooke factory moved from San Marco to a larger facility across the river in Brooklyn.



The iconic Peterbrooke Building will become the new showroom for Hollingsworth Plumbing.

Turner said he plans to convert his new 9500-square-foot location into a destination showroom, expanding it so that it will include high-end bathroom and kitchen fixtures, a full tile gallery as well as decorative lighting. The building will have three entrances and customers will be able to access the section for each product from a different entrance. Construction will begin right away and he hopes to have his doors open in early November of this year.

Turner also said he is excited to locate his business in the close proximity of other fine San Marco design firms such as Catlin Design on Dante Place, Schulte Design, OES, San Marco Design, also on San Marco Boulevard and Thomas A Ranney Interiors on San Marco Place. “Perhaps this part of San Marco will be a little design mecca,” he said.

## Hendricks Day School shuts down after 45 years

Just months shy of its 45th anniversary, Hendricks Day School at 1824 Dean Road has decided to close its doors forever due to declining enrollment.

The school’s board of trustees made the

decision May 1 and delivered the news to parents the next morning via an email from Trustees Chairman Jason Porter. Because the board could not guarantee the school could continue operations

through the whole of next year, it decided to close at the end of this school year enabling families the time to transfer to a new school for next year.

“We share your disappointment in this unfortunate event,” Porter stated in the email. “We wish our students and their families all the best in the coming academic year.”

When contacted by *The Resident* about the school’s demise, Head of School Dr. Linda Johnson responded, “The board has decided there will be no comments. Thanks for understanding.”

The Hendricks Methodist Church in San Marco created the school 45 years ago as an alternative to the federal government’s busing mandate in Duval County. At that time it was named Hendricks Methodist



Day School. In 2004, the school separated from its founding church and became Hendricks Day School of Jacksonville, a non-profit corporation. Prior to closing, the school drew its student body from throughout Jacksonville.

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# The sky has quite the limit

## Drones proven useful, despite regulations

By Vince Iampietro  
Resident Community News

As it rested on the ground, its 4k video camera whirred back and forth in a self-check sequence while red, amber, and green lights alternately flashed under the vehicle's four arms, thus completing its pre-flight electronics check. Four electric motor-driven carbon fiber blades sprang to life, lifting the buzzing little device into a hover inches from the ground. In a moment, it zoomed into the clear, warm spring sky over San Marco Square as operator David Green began video recording ground level and aerial scenes for use in his personal, self-produced "music montage of iconic stuff around Jacksonville."

Green, a Jacksonville University student, said that his Phantom 3 Professional quadcopter drone "gives you a new perspective. You can do a lot of stuff you couldn't before because you don't need a (camera) jib – you can pop out a drone and (film) quickly."

These latest high tech, small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – sUAV, or drones, in parlance adopted in the 1990s – follow a near century-long pursuit by both individuals and military to create self-powered, remotely controlled Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) for use in tasks too dangerous, expensive, or tactically risky to be performed by humans.

A number of discrete systems need to work in harmony for a drone's flight to be well controlled and safe. The evolution of those systems began over one century ago with inventor Nikola Tesla's tele automaton, a radio-controlled boat demonstrated in 1898 by Tesla to an enthralled crowd at New York's Madison Square Garden.

While Tesla failed to interest the military in using the boat as a type of remote controlled torpedo, the novelty of using radio to control machines would continue. Tesla himself imagined a time when fleets of remote controlled, aerial fighting machines would replace piloted aircraft during military engagements.

Late in World War I in the U.S., the Sperry-Hewitt Autonomous Airplane was developed for bombing runs behind enemy lines. This bi-plane style flying bomb was controlled by a gyroscopic system created by Elmer Sperry and autopilot system developed by early radio control developer, Peter Hewitt. While the Autonomous

Airplane did not see combat, its design bolstered the feasibility of Tesla's idea.

During World War II, it was U.S. bombers against German drones as "Operation Aphrodite" sought to quell Germany's V1 program. Remote control television guidance systems, installed in "war weary" Liberators and B-17s loaded with explosives, helped remote operators guide the stripped down bombers in attempts to crash them into Germany's unmanned V1 rocket launch sites and other targets. With this operation came the genesis of the modern drones' key feature: the live video camera feed.

Through the proving grounds of several more wars and years of advancements in GPS, radio, and optics technology, drones expanded from military operations to become the go-to choice for those seeking bird's eye views for anything from music videos to real estate speculation.

### Using drones for good

Hallmark Partners, Inc. Principal Bryan Weber relates how a drone was used to help develop material for the sales center of Beacon Riverside, an upscale, 15-story condominium tower to be built along the St. Johns River in Riverside. "We have Beacon Riverside elevations and panoramics so we can show clients what their individual views will be. Before this, we'd have to get a helicopter or balloon. The beauty of it is you have video. (Drones are) certainly useful tools when trying to sell views," he said.

A commercial photographer with a pilot's license flew the drone for Beacon Riverside's pictures and video footage. While the FAA at that time had not solidified drone flight guidelines, Weber said "It still worked well on site" despite several flight restrictions. Weber further stated that drones can be used in real estate development "to preview views of new, potential sites to guide building design."

While wireless, self-powered drones offer speedy deployment and ease of use, their light payload rating and relatively short flight times remain unsuitable for use in certain industrial, agricultural, or even military applications.

Enter the tethered drone.

Although it restricts free horizontal flight, tethering offers its own advantages including extended flight time by drawing



Drone hovers over the fountain in Balis Park

power from its host, use of military grade optics and surveillance equipment, higher payloads, stability in winds, and compliance with FAA guidelines.

According to their website, Drone Aviation Corp. (DAC) in Jacksonville is "a developer and supplier of unique and specialized aerial solutions to the U.S. Government, State municipalities, and commercial entities." DAC's tethered drones, while used in military applications, offer commercial operations robust equipment capable of functioning less than ideal weather and, when properly equipped, at night.

In spite of their usefulness in many arenas, the sight and sound of a high-def camera-equipped drone buzzing across one's back yard is sure to raise an eyebrow or two. Concerns about flight safety and, more importantly, personal privacy, are at the forefront of burgeoning FAA regulations and local law.

Until this year, ambiguous FAA regulations put off development of novel but viable commercial applications, such as Amazon's news-leading plan to deliver packages to residences using drones. This plan alone quickened social media wags and bloggers alike to suppose shooting down an Amazon drone, or any other drone, might make for good target practice.

The FAA isn't amused. In its current iteration of developing guidelines, commercial drone flights – even those involving a small exchange of money – were banned. Planning to upload your drone's flight footage to YouTube? Expect a post from your friendly, nearby FAA office. Filming for fun, no money, and no fame while flying a drone weighing under 55 lbs., traveling at a velocity under 100 mph, and under 500 feet? Congratulations, you're a friend of the

FAA's new guidelines. Commercial operators, however, are more than welcome to apply for an exemption, which may be granted if their cause is grand enough. Also, note that shooting down a drone will land you in jail.

Florida's "Surveillance by a Drone" Bill, signed by Governor Rick Scott this year, and going into effect on July 1st, attempts to address privacy and safety concerns while allowing for immediate, exceptional use by law enforcement officials.

According to the law's text, anyone flying any drone with an intent to conduct surveillance without prior written consent of the property owner may be find themselves on the wrong end of a civil action. Surveillance in this instance includes:

"...the observation of such persons (anyone on the property) with sufficient visual clarity to be able to obtain information about their identity, habits, conduct, movements, or whereabouts; or...the observation of such property's physical improvements with sufficient visual clarity to be able to determine unique identifying features or its occupancy by one or more persons." "Surveillance by a Drone" Ch. 2015-26, Section 1. Section 934.50 e - 1, 2, Florida Statutes (2015)

Coming together for a century, yet still in their infancy in both purpose and law, drones will become an increasingly commonplace sight as technology improves and hardware prices drop. As with most technological advances, drones could be employed equally for good or nefarious activity.

So, for the time being, be like David Green: keep your drone moving, keep it low, keep it slow, keep it free, and the sky is yours.

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# Reflections project overlays time and place

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Fans of internationally acclaimed sculpture artist David Engdahl are in for a surprise when they visit The Cummer Museum of Art & Garden's *Reflections: Artful Perspectives on the St. Johns River* exhibit.

Engdahl, who has worked with wood laminates for nearly 45 years, was assigned to interpret Herman Herzog's *Figure in a River Landscape*, a 1910 oil painting.

His first thought about how to interpret the assigned painting was how he might apply his familiar laminated wood technique, and that's what his fans may have expected to see.

"Herzog's painting has a rather dark foreground, with a brilliant sky background shining through, and I considered how I might reflect this contrast in a sculpture," said Engdahl. "However, the more I thought about interpretation of the painting, the more I thought that it is about more than technique."

Engdahl instead drew on his architectural background of 44 years, including 28 as senior vice president and chief architect for Haskell Company, for this project.

A San Marco resident since 1973, Engdahl is one of 10 diverse, recognized regional artists working in different media to be invited by the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens to participate in its Reflections exhibit, on display through Oct. 18.

"Herman Herzog presented in his work a pristine and idyllic view of the natural Florida river landscape existent in the early 1900s including one figure responding to that landscape and time," he said. "I decided to create a drawing which overlays that time and place with how we have, in many areas over a century, transformed our perspective of the river environment and our individual and collective response to it."



An image of the original 16" x 20" Herzog painting



David Engdahl

***"I decided to create a drawing which overlays that time and place with how we have, in many areas over a century, transformed our perspective of the river environment and our individual and collective response to it."***

— David Engdahl



David Engdahl's two-layered interpretation of Herman Herzog's painting

He titled his piece *Figure in a River Landscape - 2015* to reinforce his message about the transformation of community perspective of the river. He worked on this drawing over a period of months, collecting real images from around Jacksonville, and experimenting with materials and technique.

A graduate of Penn State University, Engdahl moved to Jacksonville to work for nationally-known architect William Morgan. His first commissioned piece was a cross for a church in Mandarin. The commission was at the invitation of

well-known Jacksonville architect Robert Broward, who always tried to incorporate artwork in his projects, said Engdahl.

"I like to say that I have had two parallel careers, architecture and sculpture. Architecture always took precedent since it provided a living, but that also gave me the freedom in my sculpture to use only my own criteria, not having the limit of the criteria of others except for an occasional commission," he said. "I don't perceive much design crossover between my architecture and my sculpture. However, my sculpture

technique is very much an architectural process (2D drawing to 3D object)."

Engdahl has been commissioned to create many awards in his career, among them The Cultural Council's Awards for Excellence in the Arts (1999); The Haskell Company Quality Project of the Year Award and the Engdahl Award for Design Excellence (both commissioned by The Haskell Company in 2007); and the Pillars of the Arts Award (2012) commissioned by The Museum of Contemporary Art-Jacksonville.

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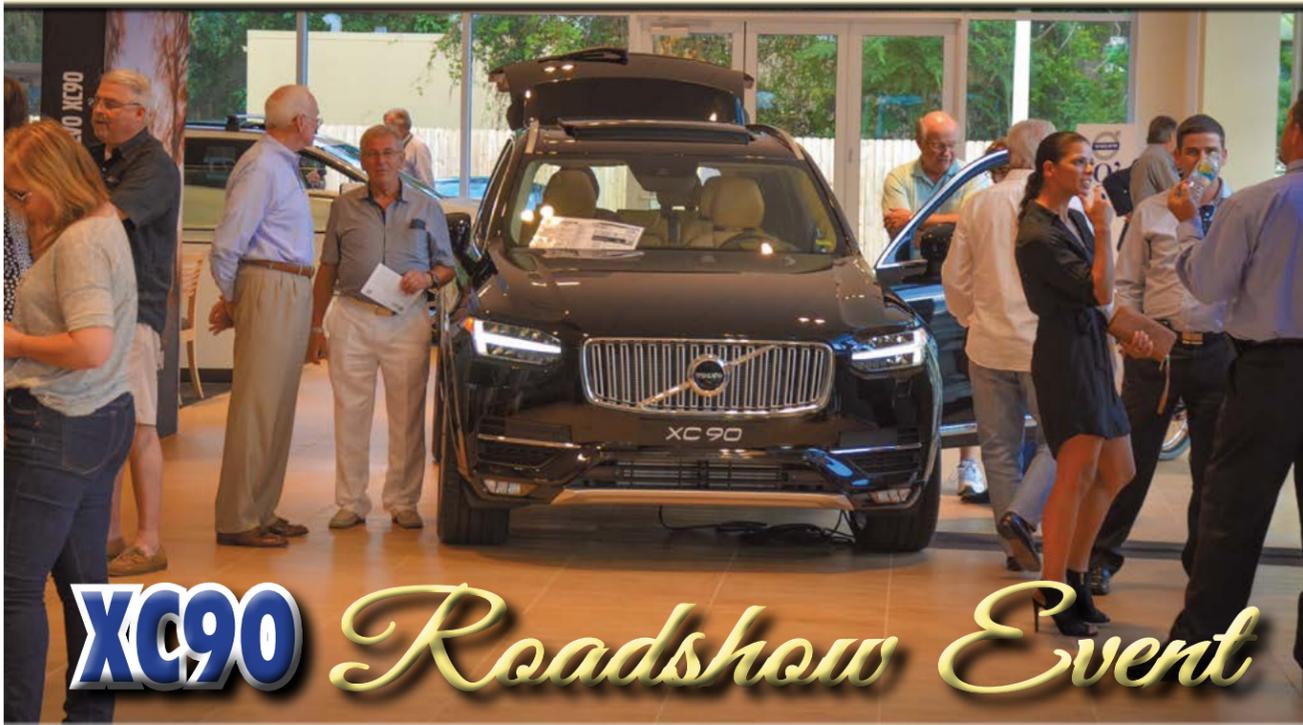
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# Lexington Hotel & Conference Center finds new home on Riverwalk

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Since it was built in 1981, the Southbank hotel at 1515 Prudential Dr. has sported many brands – Sheraton, Radisson, and Wyndham. As of June 1, a new brand was added to that list: Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville Riverwalk.

In early June, LexDevCoJax, Inc., an affiliate of Vantage Hospitality Group of Coral Gables, purchased the former Wyndham Hotel from Torchlight Loan Services LLC, a Miami company that specializes in distressed property, which purchased the mortgage in 2012. The price was \$9 million. The property had previously been foreclosed upon and bank-owned.

The sale was brokered by Brown Nester Hospitality Services, which represented the buyer. The Lexington Hotel & Conference Center will be managed by Cal-Vegas Ltd. Both Brown Nester and Cal-Vegas are affiliates of Vantage Hospitality. The Vantage Group, which offers a collection of mid to upscale lodging facilities, is considered worldwide to be a Top 10 hospitality firm with more than 1,200 properties.

The five-story, 323-room hotel sits on 5.8 acres of prime Southbank real estate and features 35,000 square feet of event space, second only to the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Included in the building is a 10,000-square-foot grand ballroom and the only rooftop amphitheater in North Florida. Other amenities include an onsite restaurant and lounge, a 24-hour fitness center, an outdoor pool with beverage service, free Wi-Fi and a 24-hour business center.

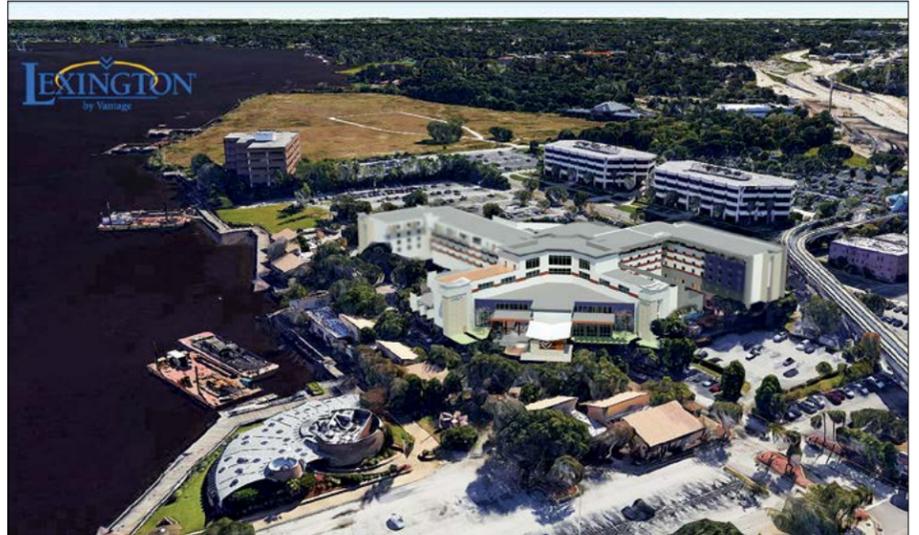
In a telephone interview, Vantage Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer Bernie Moyle said Vantage was interested in the Wyndham property because it wanted to establish the Lexington brand in Florida's largest city, which is growing and making an effort to revitalize its urban core.

"Jacksonville is a unique city with a different mix of business more than the other large cities in Florida. The city in general is steady with a solid foundation," he said, adding that Jacksonville is attractive because it is one of the top 50 hotel markets in the United States. "As the tide rises, all the ships rise. There's lots going on in Jacksonville, on both sides of the river."

Moyle also regards the Lexington's



A new hotel has moved into the neighborhood as the upscale Lexington brand of the Vantage Hospitality Group takes over the Wyndham located at 1515 Prudential Dr.



An extensive 18-month renovation will transform the old Wyndham property into upscale Lexington digs.

location as plumb because it is on the river with easy access to downtown by way of the Main Street Bridge, water taxi and skyway, which is just across the street from the property. "They're putting in a new exit of I-95 nearby so it is good location," he said.

### Top down renovation

The hotel is surrounded by 10.37 acres of land owned by the Riverwalk Jacksonville Development LLC, which has been for sale for several years. The surrounding land has been divided into three parcels, which are being marketed by Collier's International for \$14.9 million.

Moyle said Vantage was not interested in also buying the surrounding land because the property it purchased is sufficient for its needs.

"We're hoteliers, not residential developers," he said. "We have an agreement with Riverwalk Jacksonville Development Company to use one or more of their lots," he said, noting if there is a "capacity issue" with parking, his hotel will use a parking lot on the adjacent property between the Duval County School Board building and the hotel, as well as space rented from the city in a nearby garage.

Already the hotel is in the process of getting new signage, having covered the Wyndham signboards with a temporary Lexington sign and logo. Over the next 18 months the hotel will receive an extensive renovation, incorporating a nautical theme to honor the St. Johns River and the U.S. Navy, Moyle said.

"We want to give the property the personality that belongs there. We want to give it a proper conservative naval look," he said, noting that discussions with an interior designer commenced at the end of June and many of the colors used throughout the hotel will be deep blues and shades of teal. "The area has a long history with the military and maritime industry, so we plan to pay homage with art, décor and monuments throughout the property," he said.

The lobby will be reconfigured to incorporate elements of Lexington's prototype. Better traffic patterns will be developed and a covered, open-air extension with fireplace and water

features will be added. Guest rooms and bathrooms will include new furniture as well as modern conveniences and be remodeled to incorporate a more contemporary design. The meeting areas will be redecorated and include new flooring, walls and lighting. The renovation process will transpire one wing at a time from the roof on down.

Changes to the exterior include replacement of the entire roof and all windows, an updated more modern porte cochere, new entry drive and new landscaping. The pool area will be changed to incorporate a "Florida-style" resort atmosphere and to become more "guest friendly."

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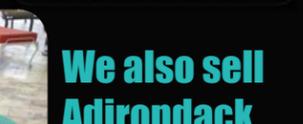










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# Residents spearheaded fight for hen bill

By Marian Johns  
Resident Community News

The new legislation recently passed by the Jacksonville City Council to expand what has become known as the “chicken ordinance” has deep roots in the Riverside and San Marco neighborhoods. Several residents of the area were not only some of the first permit holders to have backyard chickens, but were also catalysts behind the movement for the City to allow backyard hens on residentially zoned properties in Jacksonville.

“It’s awesome,” said Genora Crain-Orth of the new ordinance. Crain-Orth is a Riverside resident and founder of River City Chicks, a community-based group created to support urban chicken keeping.

“It’s been a lot of hard work the last two years. I talked to a lot of people, and have been to a lot of great events with the chickens promoting this,” said Crain-Orth.

Ordinance 2015-337, passed by an 18-0 vote, is an amendment to the original ordinance which established a pilot program back in November 2013. The pilot program was set to expire this November. It allowed the City to issue up to 300 permits for hens to be kept at single family residences in some zoned residential areas. The new ordinance opens up the program and establishes

a permanent process for permitting backyard hens in residential districts.

Many of the regulations from the old ordinance and pilot program will spill over into the new law, which still requires those who wish to keep chickens to get a permit, take the Duval County Agricultural Extension’s training seminar and pay a \$25 permit fee.

The ordinance also includes a limit of up to five chickens on each residential lot. Additional chickens may be permitted on lots larger than one acre. Limits on how far away from neighbor’s yards the hens must be kept, as well as requiring shelter for the chickens is also part of the ordinance. A section of the ordinance also allows neighborhoods to opt in or out of the program through either vote of the Homeowners Association (HOA), governing board or vote of the residents if there is no HOA.

### Grassroots involvement

San Marco residents Glen Wieger and his fiancée Emily Brown have also been part of the City’s pilot program and have five backyard chickens. Wieger, another strong proponent of the program, has been involved in the two-year effort to pass the ordinance.

“I think it’s great,” said Wieger,



Emily Brown and Glen Wieger with Snow

who explains he is pleased about the expansion of the program, but a little puzzled by the educational portions of the ordinance. “While I think it’s well intentioned, I don’t know how raising this animal (chickens) needs an educational requirement, and cats and dogs or even having a child would not,” he said.

Some permit holders like Crain-Orth feel the educational aspect of the ordinance was a component that helped make the pilot program successful.

“It was so successful because there was an educational component that was required,” said Crain-Orth. “Importantly, you had to also sign a waiver that says if one of your neighbors complains that you were being irresponsible, you would allow code enforcement to come into your backyard with a notice visit and inspect your setup,” she added.

“There was a huge concern in 2013 because there was a lot of information floating around the Internet about ‘hipster chicken keepers’ that would

go out and get a flock of chickens and realize there is work involved, there is not just eggs. So then they would just let their chickens go. It’s important to mitigate that concern with an educational component,” said Crain-Orth.

### No complaints

As far as neighbors having issues about chickens in a residential area, backyard hen permit holders say they have no complaints from their neighbors. In fact, they claim the majority of their neighbors don’t even realize there are chickens on the property.

“The only thing our neighbors know is that we have eggs if someone needs to borrow one,” said Brown, who proudly displays a large bowl of fresh eggs from their hens, Ser Cluck, Snow, Red, Happy and “Princess Turkey,” a name their friend’s five-year-old child picked out.

“We know exactly what’s in these eggs and which hen they came from. There really is a lot of pride and power in

*continued on page 13*

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Glen Wieger in his backyard with four of his hens

cultivating your own food," she said. "For us, they are absolutely pets and we treat them that way."

Crain-Orth says neighbors have not had issues with her hens. Crain-Orth said she spoke with her surrounding neighbors before obtaining chickens and one neighbor even commented after her hens had been living on her property for quite a while, that you would never know the chickens were in Crain-Orth's backyard.

A recent Jacksonville Municipal Code Compliance Division report shows there does not appear to be any major issues with backyard chickens among neighbors. The report stated: "In conclusion, we believe that the pilot program would be deemed a success. It has worked well without problems with

the initial concerns raised and no permit holders have been cited."

According to the Compliance Division report, Animal Care and Protective Services reported 28 "chicken complaints" in 2013 with about a 25 percent increase in complaints in 2014. However, none of the complaints resulted in citation or enforcement action, according to the report.

"No permit holders have been cited. That's important because there's not many other pilot programs in this city that have a 100 percent success rate," said Crain-Orth. "A lot of this is just educating people," she added. "People to this day, still ask me... 'How do you get eggs without a rooster?' It just goes to show you how far removed we have become from our food sources."

## Doctors, nurses recognized for outstanding care

Baptist Health held its second annual Spirit of Magnet Year in Review 2015 on June 11, again honoring nurses – and this year, physicians – for outstanding care. The Spirit of Magnet Award was created to acknowledge clinicians who contribute to Baptist Health's success as a Magnet health system, an international quality

designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Nurse of the Year is Tricia Doyle and Physician of the Year is Dr. Timothy Groover, an anesthesiologist and past chief-of-staff at Baptist Jacksonville.

The Wolfson Children's Hospital Nurse of the Year is Jennifer Munson and Physician of the Year is Dr. Eric Loveless, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon with Nemours Children's Specialty Care.

Nurses and physicians at Baptist Health's other campuses and centers were also recognized.



Tammy Daniel, vice president of Patient Care Services for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, with Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Nurse of the Year Tricia Doyle, assistant nurse manager, in the Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit, with Michael Mayo, hospital president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. Not present: Dr. Timothy Groover, Physician of the Year.

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The Law Firm of Pajcic and Pajcic has made it possible for a second generation student to attend college. Don Jackson played on Steve and Gary Pajcic's youth basketball team long ago, along with Steve's son Michael. The Pajcics promised to pay the tuition of any player accepted to college and Don was one of the success stories. Now Don's daughter Dontonique is being honored with a Pajcic Scholarship. She will attend Florida A&M in the fall to study nursing. Dontonique was an athlete and an A-B honor roll student throughout her time at Ribault High School. This scholarship will allow her to pursue her dream of becoming a neonatal nurse.



Over the years Pajcic & Pajcic has welcomed countless law clerks and interns to spend their summer working at the firm and learning about the civil justice system and the deserving clients we represent. This summer Pajcic & Pajcic is proud to have four exceptional student clerks shadowing the firm's lawyers. The interns say the experience has been invaluable and has given them a great opportunity to see all that goes into a case first hand. We are confident they will become excellent attorneys in the near future.



Congratulations to the Pajcic and Pajcic Braves Baseball team for winning the Navy-Ortega-Lakeshore Minor League Championship! The Braves range in age from 8-11 years old. They completed a spectacular year with a 15-1 record. Coach Curry Pajcic was proud of all of his players for their hard work and dedication the entire season.



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Rock My Image celebrates two years in San Marco

Jen DeVore Richter, Kenny Harper and Manny Torres, partners in Rock My Image of San Marco, celebrated their two-year anniversary as a successful digital marketing firm in June.

The trio, who work out of the Broward Studios in San Marco, combined their talents – Richter in marketing, Harper as web developer and Torres in graphic design and printing – after working as referral partners that passed business between each of their respective creative service agencies.

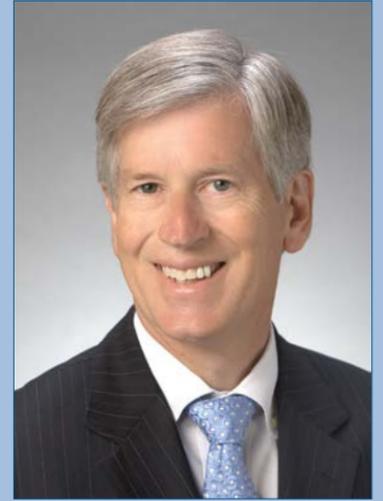
The mission of their firm is to create tools and systems needed to empower business owners to reach their goals by leveraging their unique brand and the power of the internet. In the past two years, Rock My Image has grown beyond the three partners to include a full-time web designer and video specialist, a social media manager and student interns each semester.

By having its headquarters in San Marco, Rock My Image has easy access to the business community downtown. “For our



Manny Torres, Kenny Harper, Jen DeVore Richter

team, working from San Marco has been a big contributor to our success,” said Torres, a San Marco resident. “We are close to downtown, feel reenergized after lunches in the square, and our clients enjoy meeting in the beautiful Broward Studios.” To learn more, visit [www.rockmyimage.com](http://www.rockmyimage.com).



### Hedrick named Leadership Jacksonville board president

Leadership Jacksonville announced that its 2015-16 board of directors will be led by San Marco resident Chuck Hedrick, partner at Foley & Lardner LLP.

In addition to the election of Hedrick as the board president, the organization announced the election of the following officers to the board: Karen Mayfield, client advisor/senior vice president, SunTrust Bank North Florida, as president-elect; Clark Robertson, assistant vice president, CSX Transportation, Inc., secretary/treasurer, and immediate past president Deborah Moore, senior vice president and marketing director, EverBank.

“Leadership Jacksonville is a great organization to be a part of, and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead a board which strives to make Northeast Florida a better place,” said Hedrick. “I look forward to working with the talented people of Leadership Jacksonville to administer and improve the Leadership Jacksonville programs while fulfilling its mission.”

## School Board member honored for work in mental health

Duval County School Board Member Ashley Smith-Juarez of San Marco was among the 2015 Ripple Effect Award winners celebrated by Mental Health of America of Northeast Florida during an awards ceremony May 7 at WJCT studios. Smith-Juarez was honored as Elected Official of the Year.

The Women’s Center of Jacksonville and Baptist Health were also among the honorees, with the Women’s Center being named “Small Agency of the Year” and Baptist Health being recognized as “Large Agency of the Year.”

“I was truly honored,” said Smith-Juarez. “It is critically important in achieving the



Ashley Smith-Juarez

teaching and learning goals for students to provide for their mental well-being and safety. I am honored that an organization such as Mental Health of America would recognize my work in that area.”

Each year Mental Health of America of Northeast Florida presents mental health awareness awards to individuals and organizations who have made an outstanding contribution in the positive improvement of youth and adult services and systems in the areas of mental health, homelessness, substance abuse, juvenile justice, education and child welfare.

Mental Health America partnered with the Jacksonville Children’s Commission in hosting this event. MHA focuses on awareness, advocacy and education, recognizing that mental illness is treatable and seeks to encourage all people to achieve their full potential while treating them with the respect and dignity they deserve. The Children’s Commission is committed to helping children realize their potential to become healthy, safe, educated and contributing members of the community.

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## WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE?

### Councilwoman honored twice by her peers

Hard work is paying off for Lori Boyer of San Marco. The District 5 Councilwoman has received public recognition from her peers twice within the past six weeks.



On June 25, Boyer was sworn in as Vice President of the City Council during a special ceremony held at the Times-Union Performing Arts Center. Boyer was elected to serve in the new post by her fellow city representatives during a special City Council meeting June 3. She will serve alongside Greg Anderson, who was elected president.

“Clearly I am excited about and honored to have the opportunity (to be vice president of the council),” said Boyer. “I’m looking forward to working with the new councilmembers as well as my friends from the Council. I’m really optimistic about the opportunities for Jacksonville in the next year.”

Boyer was also honored for her work as an attorney during the Jacksonville Bar Association 2015 Law Day luncheon May 13 at the Omni Hotel downtown. Boyer received the 29th annual *Financial News & Daily Record* Lawyer-of-the-Year award from Publisher Jim Bailey.

Also receiving top honors during the Law Day luncheon was Michael Dewberry of San Marco, who received the Bar Association’s 2015 Professionalism Lifetime Award.

### Realtor adds new agents

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has added three new agents to its office in San Marco.

Joining BHHS are San Marco resident Kristin Nimnicht, a Jacksonville native

with 13 years’ experience in real estate; Illinois native Kathleen Suber has a background in education and has lived in Northeast Florida for 40 years; and Kentucky native Tracy Thompson, originally in sales and marketing, who has lived in San Marco for 10 years.



Kristin Nimnicht



Kathleen Suber



Tracy Thompson

### Shelton appointed to JU Board of Trustees

Jamie C. Shelton, San Marco resident and president of bestbet Jacksonville, was appointed to the Jacksonville University Board of Trustees. Shelton will join the existing board which serves as the governing body in policy making and overseeing sound management of the university.



Jamie Shelton

Shelton stated that he is honored to join the board and support the university’s mission to prepare each student for life-long success in learning, achieving, leading and serving. “Since 1934, JU has maintained its outstanding academic standing in our region as an accredited, four-year school located on the St. Johns River,” said Shelton. “JU is going places it has never been before and this is in no small part due to their highly energized, motivated and get-things-done president, Tim Cost.”

Shelton also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Sulzbacher Center in Jacksonville and on the Board of Directors of Leadership Jacksonville. Additionally, he is a member of the Jacksonville Civic Council, JAX Chamber and serves on the Game Committee and chairs the Hospitality Committee for Gator Bowl Sports (the TaxSlayer Bowl).

### New gym comes to San Jose

Hard Exercise Works, San Marco’s newest gym, has come to The Shoppes of San Jose Plaza on University Blvd.

The 6800-square-foot facility offers group-led fitness classes comprised of body-weight, Olympic and gymnastic movements and free-weight training.

Owned and operated by Mark and Liz Jankovich, HEW offers a program similar to CrossFit, except that the coaches modify their movements based on their clients’ individual needs, whether it be building strength and muscles, or losing weight and inches. Two coaches are available in each class to assist patrons.

“We want to help our clients reach higher in their fitness goals but not to push somebody to do something they aren’t comfortable with,” Liz said.

At HEW the emphasis is on superb customer service and cleanliness, Liz said.



Liz and Mark Jankovich

Also offered is a separate room with large windows where kids can play or watch television while their parents work out.

The original HEW gym is based in Jupiter. The Jankovichs brought their franchise to San Jose because there is no other gym like it in the urban core of Jacksonville and they felt that The Shoppes of San Jose offered a central location.

“The HEW community is so great. It’s like a family. We wanted to share this sense of community and help people reach their fitness goals,” Liz said.



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## Raising up new leaders for Jacksonville

Leadership Jacksonville recently selected its 2016 class, among them Vickie Robinson and Veronica Scott-Fulton of San Jose, and Dr. Ali Kasraeian of San Marco, and Kelly Coker-Daniel of Empire Point.

The members will engage in two weekend retreats, nine day-long programs and independent course work. The opening retreat provides structured exercises that explore the dynamics of the urban society, leadership styles and decision-making through group process. Participants learn about the community, analyze critical program areas and issues and engage in networking and leadership development opportunities. The program culminates in a closing retreat that focuses on developing a personal vision and trustee commitment.

“Remaining engaged with the changes and advancements within our community is crucial for leaders. The Leadership Jacksonville program encourages interaction with community trustees regarding critical topics to learn more about Jacksonville and how we can make improvements together,” said Jill Langford Dame, executive director for Leadership Jacksonville, an Ortega Forest resident. “We value our graduates and look forward to another great program year.”

The organization will be relocating its office to the Jessie Ball duPont Center in December. To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit [www.leadershipjax.org](http://www.leadershipjax.org) or call (904) 396-6263.

## Karasek steers local agency to awards

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Barbara Karasek, executive vice president for Burdette Ketchum, was instrumental in the agency winning six healthcare advertising awards from *Healthcare Marketing Report's* 32nd Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards.

This largest and most widely respected healthcare advertising awards competition honored the San Marco-based agency with awards for their work with Sheridan Healthcare; Hu-Friedy Manufacturing; St. Vincent's HealthCare, and Volunteers in Medicine.

“Healthcare is an important industry of focus for the agency, both nationally and locally, and the award wins prove that our marketing strategy, creative and tactical executions yielded the results we intended for our clients,” said Karasek. “Our clients' business success are the best rewards of all and also how much fun we all have along the way!”



## Shelton hired by Mayor Curry, joins JTA board

San Marco resident Allison “Ali” Korman Shelton was recently hired as director of intergovernmental affairs in the office of Mayor Lenny Curry and was also appointed to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's Board of Directors by former Mayor Alvin Brown.

Shelton is also vice president of the Jewish Community Alliance, a member of the boards of directors for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida and Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club. She is a graduate of Florida State University, Leadership Jacksonville, Leadership Florida and the Community Foundation's Philanthropic Initiative program.

## St. Nicholas man wins SBA award

David Marovich, vice president of business services at 121 Financial Credit Union, was awarded the Small Business Administration's Florida Financial Services Advocate of the Year. The St. Nicholas resident received the award during the 23rd annual Small Business Week Celebration at a luncheon held at the University of North Florida.



## Lifetime of giving garners award

Ellen Cavert, long-time San Marco resident, was the recipient of the Times-Union's EVE Lifetime Achievement Award named for Arnolta J. “Mama” Williams. Cavert, who received the award on June 5, is well known to Jacksonville residents as the founder of The Women's Board, which has raised more than \$26 million for Wolfson Children's Hospital in the past 40 years. Cavert's granddaughter, Grace Sarber, is the current board president.

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**1842 Colwood Court** – Exceptional “Forest Home” in 24-hour guard-gated Epping Forest featuring three bedrooms, three baths, over 2,500 square feet, an open floor plan, a magnificent updated Kitchen, two large walk-in closets in the Owner's Suite, an exquisite owner's bath, beautiful neutral décor, two wood decks, two-car garage and more. **\$635,000**

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### McGala raises \$300,000 for Ronald McDonald House

The future rooftop garden at the Ronald McDonald House in San Marco was the inspiration for the 21st Annual McGala: An Evening in the Garden on May 30 at the Sawgrass Marriott.

More than \$300,000 was raised at the event, which benefitted the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

Partygoers from all over the city – 480 in all – enjoyed the evening, which included cocktails, dinner, live music, dancing, and a live and silent auction.

House Executive Director Diane Boyle, Board President Curt Cunkle, local news anchor Jennifer Waugh and Billy Horshel, 2014 FedEx Cup Golf Champion, gave presentations. Cole Fox, an 11-year-old boy who stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville while undergoing proton therapy treatment at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute, shared the story of his eight-week visit.

Emily Dostie and Maryellen Williamson were co-chairs of the event.

The McGala is the annual signature fundraising event for Ronald McDonald House. The benefit ensures that more than 1,100 families have a place to stay when they travel to Jacksonville for pediatric medical treatment.

In early 2016, a rooftop garden will sit atop the new expansion of Ronald McDonald House. It will be a key amenity for the health and wellness of the families who stay there.



Jim and Kristi Aiello



Mike and Cathy Caldwell



Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle and her daughter Alexandra Boyle



Co-Chair Maryellen Williamson, Past Chair Meg Kuchar with Co-Chair Emily Dostie

# SOCIAL R

Supporting thousands with h

Beach casual/Hawaiian was the attire of choice as patrons supported the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center during its FinFest 2015: Return to the River May 30 at Timuquana Country Club.

Last year, the nonprofit agency helped almost 5,300 people with speech and hearing disorders in Northeast Florida through profes-



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## Hearing and speech disorders

sional speech and audiology therapies. More than 75 percent of these people were not insured or underinsured so these services were made possible by the funds raised by FinFest.

Katie Jeffries was mistress of ceremonies for the event. Entertainment was provided by Henry and the Seahawks.



Lee Hayes, Katie Jeffries, Shannon Miller and John Falconetti



John Delaney and Martha Barrett



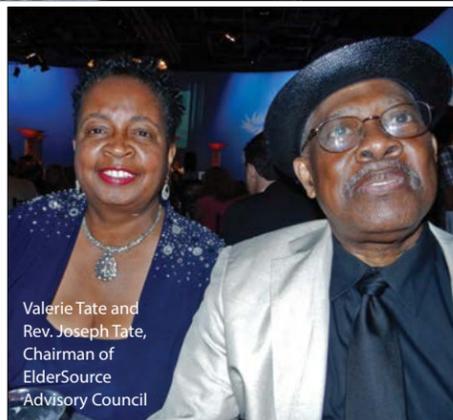
Sally and Walter Suslak



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Mary Jarrett, Lynn Jarrett and Alicia Grant



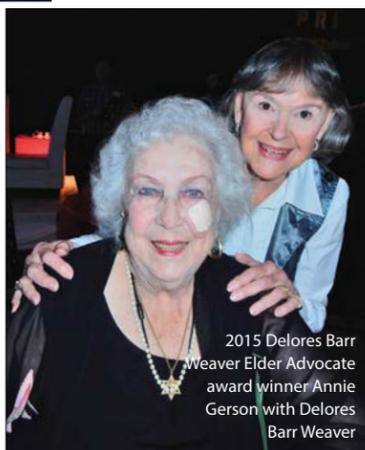
Valerie Tate and Rev. Joseph Tate, Chairman of ElderSource Advisory Council



Tina and Mike Jorgensen



Hope Jackson of ElderSource and Heather Adams



2015 Delores Barr Weaver Elder Advocate award winner Annie Gerson with Delores Barr Weaver

## Crooners, cars and cocktails

It was an evening of crooners, cars and cocktails. Patrons traveled back to the classic era of the 1950s when stepping out to enjoy A Night with the Stars, a benefit to support ElderSource, which took place June 6 at WJCT studios in downtown Jacksonville.

Donors danced to the big band sound of the 15-piece Crescendo Amelia Big Band and reveled in the excitement of an old-time night-club atmosphere, which featured classic cars, signature cocktails, casino gaming and an array of heavy hors d'oeuvres.

During the evening, Anita Gerson was recognized as the winner of the 2015 Delores Barr Weaver Elder Advocate award. Gerson is former chairman of the ElderSource Advisory Council and a Lifetime member of ElderSource Advisory. She is the fourth individual to receive the award.

The event raised funds for ElderSource, the Area Agency on Aging and the Aging & Disability Resource Center for Northeast Florida.



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# Delicious Destinations Gears Up for 14th Savory Event

Philanthropic endeavors are never so pleasing to the palate as they are during Delicious Destinations, the annual tour de force of culinary delights benefiting the St. Vincent HealthCare Foundation.

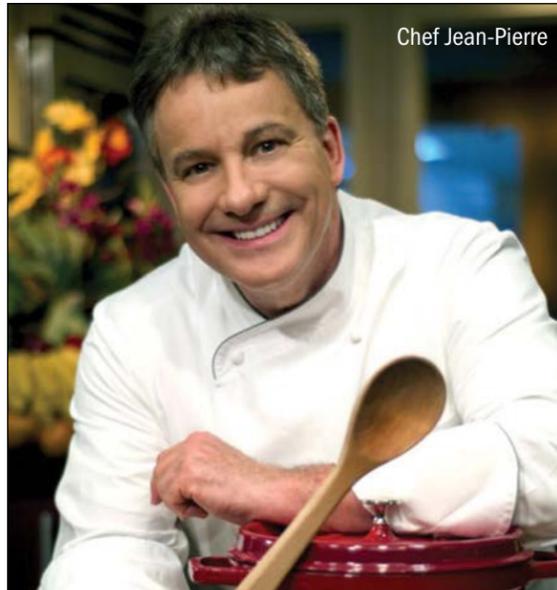
Graced this year by its Tour de France theme, Delicious Destinations patrons will experience artful fare created by acclaimed chefs Sept. 10-12, 2015 at the prestigious Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, a founding partner of the event.

The Celebrity Chef by the Sea demonstration-style luncheon opens the events on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 11:30 a.m. Restaurateur, cooking show host, and cooking school founder Chef Jean-Pierre Brehier is pleased to headline this event, saying "I haven't quite decided what I'm going to do but you can bet it's going to be French! I love to entertain, demonstrate great food, and explain the 'why' of doing things with ingredients. I'm going to have a great time."

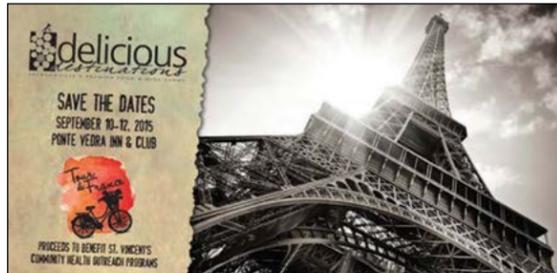
Fastidiously matched wines accompany Chef Jean-Pierre's creations while Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Executive Chef Hermann Muller and his team of top chefs provide delightful interpretations of those creations. Chef Muller says "This is an opportunity for chefs to give back to the community...it's good to raise funds for St. Vincent's and have camaraderie (while) refreshing friendships." The revered leader and Executive Chef for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club says, "I enjoy it every year."

Next up is the Sponsor's Private Evening Reception on Friday night at 7 p.m. Chef Muller said he and his team will create "...food with a French accent and American twist" for this year's Tour de France theme. Adding to their enjoyment of culinary delights, patrons will meet the weekend's masters behind their scrumptious works of art.

Delicious Destinations Food and Wine Event tops the menu on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. with Chef Darin Sehnert, founder of Darin's Kitchen Table cooking school in Savannah, GA, among the top chefs creating this event's exquisite fare. Event founding



Chef Jean-Pierre



sponsor Southern Wine and Spirits will furnish the complementary carte de vins along with a nationally known wine educator to discuss their distinctive features.

Talented chefs also in attendance hail from distinguished kitchens such as the Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Ritz-Carlton at Amelia Island, and The Greenbriar in White Sulphur Springs, WV, to name a few.

The event's live auction features many food and wine experiences. Chef Muller's live auction event offers one lucky winner and seven guests an in-home feast of New American Fusion cuisine prepared at their home. A selection of fine wines, generously donated by Southern Wine and Spirits accompanies the meal.

Another fabulous live auction item is a getaway to New Orleans, including an exclusive Chef's table for four at Emeril Lagasse's restaurant and accommodations provided by Vail Valley Luxury Rentals in the historic French quarter.

Live and silent auctions, drawings for spa visits, gift certificates, and weekend getaways are also on the menu.

Speaking about the event, Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, President and System Chief Development Officer, St. Vincent's Foundation said, "Delicious Destinations is our signature event and has a huge following." Lanier invites everyone to come to this celebration of life and health in our community.

Proceeds benefit St. Vincent's Outreach Programs, with St. Vincent's being "The only hospital system that provides comprehensive mobile care to the city's children," said Lanier.

St. Vincent's Outreach mobile units provide medical care to Jacksonville's underserved schools and communities. St. Vincent's Outreach programs also provide diagnostic, preventive, and medical support services throughout all of North Florida.

To find out more about attending the event, to become a sponsor, or to donate auction items, visit [deliciousdestinationsjax.com](http://deliciousdestinationsjax.com).

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# Symphony Guild elects new board at cotillion luncheon

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

New board members were elected and scholarships were awarded during the Annual Guild Cotillion Luncheon for the Jacksonville Symphony June 2 at San Jose Country Club.

To celebrate the Guild's 65th anniversary, the theme of the festive luncheon was "65 years a debutante." The event was set up similar to a cotillion, and included a "presentation and procession of debutantes past and present" led by three-year-old fraternal twins, Sophia and Giuliana Perez, who served as flower girls. Jennifer Hibbard-Perez, the twins' mother, accompanied them in the procession.

Rose Littlefield and Kathy Cosnotti were co-chairmen of the event. During the luncheon, members were treated to a movie edited by Littlefield entitled "65 years a Debutante" where members reminisced about their years in the guild.

Serving on the board of the guild next year will be President Allene Groote; Secretary Dottie Nutant of Avondale; Operating Treasurer Ric Goodman of Riverside; Special Events Treasurer Pat Teems of Avondale; Vice President of Ways and Means Hope Ferrigno; Vice President of Membership Cindy Bergren; Vice Presidents of JSA Activities Marcia Gardini and Sandy Pawek; Vice President of Education Mary Jeanette Howle; Advisory Committee members Monica Boccieri, Jane Estes and Cheryl Barnett; Public Relations Chairman Sandi Hibbard, and Parliamentarian Bonnie Ennis.

The guild also awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Bryce Martin and Hamza Abouelhouda, both members of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Martin, 15, who is home schooled, plays violin and began studying music 13 years ago. "My mother started me when I was little on a pretend violin," he explained, noting that he also plays



Symphony Guild Board members Pat Teems of Avondale, Ric Goodman of Riverside and Guild President Allene Groote.



Symphony Guild scholarship winner Bryce Martin and his parents Mike and Melanie Martin.



Three-year-old Giuliana Perez, grandmother Sandi Hibbard, three-year-old Sophia Perez and her mother Jennifer Perez.



Symphony Guild scholarship winner Hamza Abouelhouda and his accompanist Viann Wu.

piano. Martin moved with his family from Memphis, Tenn. last summer and has been studying with Jacksonville Symphony violinist Piotr Szewczyk. He said his goal is to attend Berklee School of Music in Boston to study music composition. "I have an interest in writing music and game scores," he said.

Abouelhouda, 17, will be a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts next year. He is currently the principal percussionist with Douglas Anderson Wind Symphony and the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra.

A native of Casablanca, Morocco, Abouelhouda moved to the United States in 2008 and began playing percussion five years ago at age 12. From the start, "I loved it," he said. "In the whole wide world of music you can go from rock to classical to Latin to jazz with all the percussion instruments. It's something different than anything else, especially in the expression of it and the amount of work you have to put in."

He has attended master classes with Jacksonville Symphony percussionists Joel Panian, Kevin Garry, Thad

Anderson, Kirk Gay and Jeff Moore. He has earned "Superior with Distinction" awards at the State Solo and Ensemble Music Performance assessment and has performed with the Douglas Andersen Chamber Orchestra at the 2013 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Abouelhouda said his goal is to attend either Cleveland Institute of Music or Manhattan School of Music. He wants to be a professional percussionist and eventually play with an orchestra on Broadway or with a symphony.



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## All about hats at Ritz Chamber luncheon

Hats of all shapes, colors and styles adorned the guests during the Ritz Chamber Players' Inaugural Hat Luncheon May 30 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. It was the first large-event fundraiser mounted by the nonprofit music group now in its 13th season.

"This is the start of a new tradition in Jacksonville," said Terrance L. Patterson, executive and artistic director of the Ritz Chamber Players. "When people think of the Ritz Chamber Players, they'll remember the hat they wore, or that they saw at the Hat Luncheon and they'll remember hearing and enjoying chamber music, perhaps for the first time."

In addition to wearing their favorite hats, guests dined on food catered by Chef's Garden, while listening to music performed by virtuoso musicians. The luncheon attendees also had the opportunity to meet the performers.

Velma Monteiro-Tribble of San Marco co-chaired the event, which was presented by Florida Blue with additional support from Bank of America, Kilwins, Nancy and Gary Chartrand, and Monica and Bob Jacoby. All funds that were raised were matched one-to-one by the Delores Barr Weaver Fund.

The Ritz Chamber Players includes African American musicians who belong to prestigious orchestras from all over the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony and London Symphony. The group was founded and is based in Jacksonville.

The group performs an annual series of



Velma Monteiro Tribble with Leon King, Sharon Wamble-King, Delorise Gay and Vertie Gay



Reva Oliver, Collette Black, Erwin Lax, Nigel Lax, Terry Fields and Voncille Frederick with Mario and Sara Payne

concerts in Jacksonville to foster an appreciation for chamber music. Members often visit Jacksonville-area schools to engage students in musical endeavors. They also hold open rehearsals for participants in the Cathedral Arts Project so they might experience live classical music and a behind-the-scenes look at how professional musicians work.

## Planet Philanthropy ignites passion to impact world

Planet Philanthropy, the Association of Fundraising Professionals' statewide conference, was held at the Hyatt Riverfront June 8-9. Riverside resident Joshua Zmroczek, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, was chair of the event.

Keynote speakers included Richard Hadden, chair of the board for the Jacksonville Children's Chorus and Brad Montague, creator of Kid President videos. Over 400 participants chose from 36 sessions in six tracks in philanthropy, giving and fundraising, among others.

"Montague was incredibly motivating and really made all of us, who are fundraisers, feel like our jobs mattered," said Courtney Weatherby-Hunter, philanthropy director at Children's Home Society.

Weatherby-Hunter, along with Anthony Sutton, St. Vincent's HealthCare, planned a social sponsored by the AFP First Coast Chapter, which was held at Sweet Pete's and was attended by 160 who enjoyed food, drinks, and a candy demonstration.



Anthony Sutton, St. Vincent's Healthcare, Toni Paz, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Joshua Zmroczek, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Courtney Weatherby-Hunter, Children's Home Society

## "Justice for all" theme of annual judicial reception

Founded in 1982, the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (JWLA) holds an annual Judicial Reception to recognize the judges of local state, federal and administrative benches for their contributions to the legal community. This year, JWLA Woman Lawyer of the Year Award was presented to Ann Finnell of Cedar Shores at the June 3 event at The River Club.

Also receiving awards were San Marco attorney Connie Byrd, Susannah Collins of Ortega, Christie Guerrero, and Kate Mesic, Southside. They were named 2015 Florida Association of Women Lawyers Leaders in Law.

This year's theme, "Justice for All," recognized the hard work and dedication of the judges, magistrates, and hearing officers to ensure the fair administration of justice to all in the community. The program included live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails.

JWLA provides support and networking for women lawyers in Jacksonville but membership is open to all attorneys, male or female, in Duval and surrounding counties.

The organization supports Hubbard House, the local women's shelter, and has established a mentoring program in conjunction with the Florida Coastal School of Law and promotes legal scholarship.



Jennifer Pruden, Steve Brust, Vanessa Hodgerson



Becky Barlow, Steve and Kathy Watrel



Paula Parker, Sharon Simmons, Debbie Buckland

## Nursing Society chapter celebrates 25 years

The Lambda Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing, celebrated 25 years of excellence in Jacksonville with a reception at the Garden Club on June 18. The chapter members are graduates of schools of nursing at the University of North Florida and Jacksonville University.



Pam Chally, past president, Emily Verone, Public/Member Relations co-chair



Kelly Hunt, Nancy O'Rourke, past president, Carol Whitefield, nominated for Nursing Excellence in Scholarship



Shellie and Gerald Hines, 1956 wedding



Catherine, Bobbie, Mildred, Shirley, Shellie

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Ethel, Shellie, Bobbie, Eleanor

# The Way We Were - Shellie's Norris Hines



Shellie Hines

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

It never occurred to Shellie Hines of Beauclerc that she was forging a path for other women when she graduated from Jones Business College and accepted a job at Florida National Bank in the 1950s. It was a rarity then for women to build an executive trust management career in Jacksonville's banking and financial industries.

"In the early 1950s, when ladies still wore hats and gloves, I went to work in a temporary clerical position in the old Marble Bank Building at Laura and Adams Street. Then Wayne Cahoon, Florida National's Vice President of the Trust Department hired me as his secretary. I frequently saw Ed Ball, whose office was also there; a whirlwind of activity always surrounded him," Hines said. "My career advanced and by the early Seventies I was elected Junior Trust Officer. In 2001, when I retired after 48 years, my last position was Vice President and Trust Officer. I was among very few women to be given a title."

Jacksonville's top financial institutions were a far cry from Hines' rural upbringing on a cattle and vegetable farm on U.S. 41 near Stephen Foster State Park, White Springs. One of four daughters born to Forrest and Marie (Box) Norris, their farm was the only one in the area not growing tobacco as the main cash crop.

"My father worked an outside job, at Duval Engineering and Contracting, so we weren't entirely dependent on farm

income," said Hines, who will turn 81 this September. "Everyone helped with chores...even in the cold months we gathered pecans from our grove. Mother's friends came over to quilt...my sisters and I played under her quilt frame. We were stair-step children, close in age."

The Hines family valued education and hard work. In 1952 when Hines, 17, graduated Valedictorian of White Springs High School she received a Florida State University scholarship. She declined, instead moving to Jacksonville to work her way through college.

"I knew my parents couldn't afford any expenses and I didn't want to live on a



Shellie, 1952 high school graduation

farm forever," she said. "So I rented a room in a private big old home downtown near St. John's Cathedral from Miss Ellend. I had a nice room upstairs next to hers with a hot plate (no meals provided) and we shared her refrigerator. I attended morning classes, then worked part-time at Duval Jewelry Company, in 5 Points."

Later Hines moved into a three-story girls' boarding house, The Elizabeth

Edgar Hall est. in 1910 at 119 W. Beaver Street near First Baptist Church. Its beautiful grand staircase stood just inside the entrance. Approximately 20 young women from North Florida or South Georgia, including her younger sister Bobbie, boarded there while attending school or working.

"We actually had a house mother and 10 p.m. curfew! We had to call ahead if late or we could be locked out," she said. "Only breakfast was provided. There was a large comfortable living room and piano. Guests were allowed, but only on the first floor. We walked downtown and felt safe, even at night, or over to the store in the St. Johns Apartments for ice cream and our parents didn't worry about us. We shared one house phone."

In 1955, eager for a kitchen and home-cooked meals, the Hines sisters and three girlfriends rented an apartment in a building at Park and Cherry Streets which still stands. Through another student, Shellie met Gerald Hines who drove all five girls to the grocery store, skating or for picnic lunches at the beach.

"At that time no one owned a car, everyone rode buses, so Gerald always had a car-full and was happy to take any of us wherever we wanted to go. He was originally from North Carolina and drove a real sporty blue Oldsmobile. Our friendship led to our wedding in 1956 and 41 happy years of marriage until he passed in 1997," she said.

Hines served four years overseas in

*continued on page 25*



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## Traffic Calming FROM PAGE 1

During the meeting City Public Works Division Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Bill Joyce and City Traffic Engineer Nelson Caparas distributed maps of the area and answered questions.

With construction on the Overland Bridge Expressway, many commuters use River Road and its adjacent streets as a way to avoid heavy traffic along Hendricks Avenue, San Marco Boulevard and I-95. The problem started three years ago when the rotaries were built into San Marco Boulevard, and River Road was used as a detour, Boyer explained. Drivers have continued to use River Road as a thoroughfare, even though the detour has been discontinued, she said.

The residents who spoke at the meeting agreed the situation is urgent. Because drivers travel faster than the posted speed of 30 mph, residents in the area surrounding River Road often fear for their safety.

After the meeting, Pat Andrews, a River Road resident, said morning traffic is so heavy she often can't back out of her driveway. Doing yard work close to the street is hazardous because of the speeders, and cars parked in the street are occasionally sideswiped by oncoming traffic, she said, adding that her own car was scratched in this way. Although no major accident has occurred, she fears for young parents with jogging strollers, kids on skateboards, cyclists who can't ride on the sidewalk, small children and pets.

"We who live on River Road live on a raceway," said Andrews, noting that one of her neighbors sold her house and moved to San Jose because "she couldn't take it anymore."

"It's dangerous. I've lived here 30 years, and it used to be a nice, quiet neighborhood. (The speeding traffic) is not only an endangerment, but it's changed the quality of life here."

To lower the speed limit, residents must take ownership of the process and get their neighbors to sign a petition requesting the speed limit be reduced in their neighborhoods, Boyer said during the meeting. At least 75 percent of the property owners in the area - 211 - must sign the petition in favor of the proposed speed limit change, Joyce said.

If the streets are not posted at 20 mph, state statute allows drivers to assume the speed limit is 30 mph, Caparas said. "It has to be posted to be enforceable," Boyer said.

Once the petition process is complete, the city Public Works Department will invoice the neighborhood for 50 percent of the cost of the new signage and other applicable

costs. To complete the process, the City Highway Engineer will determine if the changes are reasonable and conform to Florida Department of Transportation criteria for speed zoning. Approval from the Jacksonville Sheriff's office is required as well.

The city recommends that 19 new speed limit signs be installed near intersections in the expanded area. Each sign costs \$200, making the total estimated cost of the speed limit change to be \$3,800. The city is willing to pay 50 percent of this cost, requiring the residents to pay approximately \$1,900 toward the cost of the installation. The estimated cost per homeowner is between \$9 and \$15.

Boyer said there are many ways residents can collect the money, and not everyone need pay if some residents are willing to make a larger donation to fulfill the neighborhood obligation. She also suggested the San Marco Preservation Society could be used as a depository to receive the funds and pass them along to the city.

Several residents volunteered to go door to door with the petitions, and Boyer suggested they be returned to her office within 30 days, but that she will accept them earlier.

"As far as River Road is concerned, I know we can get this done by Friday," said Andrews. "People are hot about this," she said.

Kathy Moore, a resident of Arbor Lane, said speeding traffic has made her afraid for herself and her children. "My kids are not allowed in the front yard without me," she said, adding slower speed limits will help to make drivers conscious of the need to slow down.

"Lowering the speed limit is important. I want to walk and enjoy my neighborhood and take my kids on bicycles. I want to walk down to the park in a safe way," Moore said. "This is a great step. It's our responsibility as neighbors to follow through with what Lori Boyer has asked us to do. It's up to us to make it happen."

Andrews said she hopes the city will take quick action after the petitions are signed because after many previous meetings nothing tangible was accomplished.

"We all know government happens at glacial speed, but nothing has happened on this at all. And it's getting worse," she said. "Our Councilwoman is an A+. You can tell her heart is in it. And it's not the engineers (who were at the meeting), but somewhere there is a missing link," Andrews said, adding she is now hopeful of change. "It's been a low priority, but it will be a high priority when a child is killed."



Boarding house on W. Beaver Street



Shellie, 1949



Norris family farm

the U.S. Air Force as a radio operator and head of communications. After his discharge he worked for the Auchter Company and for Anderson Masonry & Construction until his 1965 retirement. The couple lived on San Marco Boulevard and later bought property on the Northside, where Hines designed and built their second home near the Trout River. The Hines moved to Beauclerc when there were only 12 homes on their street. San Jose Boulevard was a dark two-lane road with pine trees and little else. They had no children, but dearly loved their family and friends' children.

Hines was a member of the National Association of Bank Women, which promoted women in business careers, and a charter member of Uptown Civitan Club. Civitan's first president, Judge Virginia Beverly, was her dear

friend and mentor. Hines is an active member of P.E.O. Jacksonville Chapter (Philanthropic Education Organization for women), and the 21 Club women's investment group that meets at San Jose Country Club. She's a choir member and volunteer at Southside Baptist and enjoys gardening.

"We kept the Box Farm that's been in our family since 1936 when grandfather Box purchased it, where mother always had an open door policy. We have wonderful family holidays together...always a big crowd where all are welcome," she said. She's glad to still have two of her original Beauclerc neighbors, Bob and Gail Reese and Claudette Long, living nearby. Hines feels blessed to have all her siblings and their families, including four nephews and five nieces in her life.

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# Choreographer, dance educator takes final bow

By Peggy Harrell Jennings  
Resident Community News

The marquee at the Florida Theatre was ablaze with the message “Thank you Miss Beth” for Beth Marks, artistic director of Ballet Arts Centre in St. Nicholas, who took her final bow on June 13.

Following Marks’ spring concert “Fantasia,” alumnae and current dancers joined her onstage for an encore, performing her jazz warm-up routine. Students and parents celebrated her dedication to dance with a reception afterward in the Florida Theatre lobby.

After 30 years as choreographer and dance educator Marks said, “There is a lot of history. It’s tough – very emotional.”

The show will go on, as instructor Sydney Keister steps in as new artistic director of the Ballet Arts Centre.

Marks donned her first ballet slippers around age three at Ballet Arts Centre, which was founded by her mother, Betty Balfour Marks, over 50 years ago. After training locally and with internationally acclaimed master teachers such as Alvin Ailey, Luigi and Martha Graham, Marks performed professionally throughout Europe for five years before returning home to assume responsibility for the studio.

The St. Nicholas resident has been actively involved in the Jacksonville dance community having served as ballet mistress for Florida Ballet, Director of First Coast Nutcracker, as adjunct faculty



Sound technician Nick Ciccarello and Beth Marks; one of his first jobs was with Marks’ mother Betty.

at Douglas Anderson and is a founding director of Community Nutcracker now in its 24th year.

Riverside resident April Nudo Patterson, who trained with Marks in high school and in the 1990s, has a daughter who has studied at Ballet Arts Centre for five years.

Patterson said, “Beth taught students to develop sound technique and showed diligent care with instruction. She has a way of keeping up with music and trends of the era – just one of the ways that she related to her students.”

Keister, who has worked with Marks for the past three years, trained locally, including at La Villa School of the Arts and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and graduated with a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts in dance from Florida State University. She said she is achieving her dream of having a dance studio and remarked, “It is an honor to continue the Ballet Arts Centre legacy. I want to give it the love and passion that Beth has given – I want to make her proud.”



Emily Trotter, a student of Beth Marks, in front of the farewell marquee



Beth Marks and Sydney Keister



Backstage at dress rehearsal

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# Special needs adults join fun at All Saints Episcopal VBS



Barbara Hicks, program director for adults at All Saints Episcopal, assists Marybeth Cox while Ryan Hicks watches Gracie Maynor color a craft bag during Vacation Bible School at the church June 16.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It was the first year that All Saint's Episcopal Church has included both children and special needs adults in its Vacation Bible School program and things worked out "as smooth as butter," said Hillary Citrano of San Jose, director of Christian Formation and Children in Need at the church.

During the third week of June, 10 special needs adults from the church's adult day care center joined 81 children from both the parish and community at large in the week-long program, meaning that the VBS students ranged in age from four to 70.

"We want to invite children from all over our community and our special needs adults to come to VBS and learn that any challenge life may throw at you can be conquered with God," Citrano said. "We've worked really hard to create a safe, fun and loving environment for everyone, including the wonderful volunteers. Keeping it fun, sweet and simple is key, and reminding everyone that we are all God's children no matter what."

The theme of the instruction this year was "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power" and it was proven in the ease that the various age groups were able to mesh so effortlessly in the program, said Citrano. "It's really working out," she said, adding that the church might again include the special needs adults next year. "The lesson was, 'we're all God's children.' It's a precious ministry on steroids, a B12 shot for your spirit."

Helping with the program this year was Marian Wilcher, head of the All Saints Learning Center, Michael Masticola of San Marco, music director of the church, Barbara Hicks, program director for adults at All Saints, and Nate Huddleston, a seminary student at the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Masticola included a religious music therapy component in his program for the adults.

Also teaching in the VBS program was Renee Black and Marla Anderson, both of San Marco. Assisting the teachers were Henry Ferguson, Gabi and Tori Zlatanoff of San Marco, Carly Mosley, Emily Citrano and Nick Mosely of San Jose, and Gracie Maynor, Emma St. John, Mary El Hassen, and Hailey Rosenfeld.

Citrano also expressed appreciation for All Saints Episcopal Rector, Father Donavan Cain. "Without his support and efforts none of this would be happening," she said.



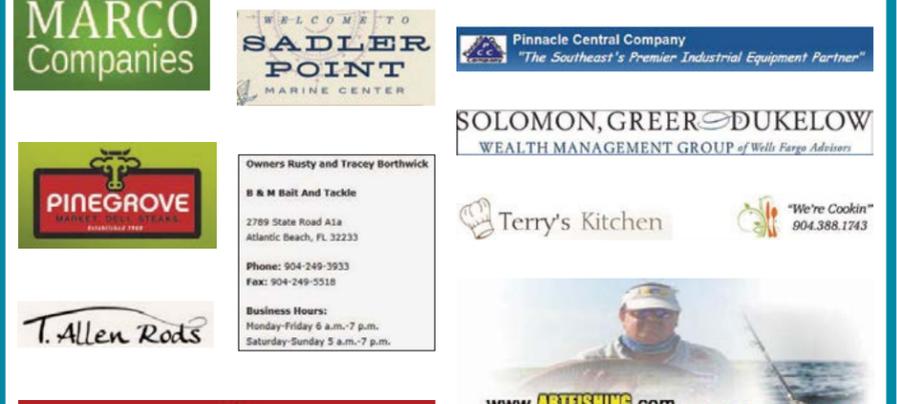
Gabi Zlatanoff of San Marco works with Kenneth McAvoy and Scott Miller as they color craft bags during Vacation Bible School at All Saints Episcopal Church in San Marco June 16.



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# San Marco writer hears favorite authors at Hemming Park

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Karina Cadora, a creative writer from San Marco, was thrilled to be among an audience of more than 50 listeners when two of her favorite authors read from their newly published books during the first Abridged Reading event offered at Hemming Park May 28.

Sponsored by Jacksonville's *Bridge Eight* literary magazine and Burrow Press of Orlando, the event was the first open-air



Karina Cadora chats with her writing mentor Jeff Parker about his newly published book during the Abridged Reading event at Hemming Park May 28.

reading in the newly revitalized park. "One of the benefits of living in San Marco is being able to attend different artistic and writing events," said Cadora, a writer who graduated with a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Tampa May 9. But what made the event even more special was that Cadora was closely acquainted with two of the three authors – Jeff Parker, author of the newly published non-fiction book, *Where the Bears Roam the Streets: A Russian Journal*, and Shane Hinton, who read from his debut short story collection, *Pinkies*. Parker served as a fiction mentor for Cadora for two semesters during her tenure in the Tampa program of which he was the founding director. Hinton, who hails from south Florida, was a fellow classmate of Cadora's in the fiction genre, and she had the opportunity to critique his work during writing workshops a few months ago.

"It was an honor to see my former teacher and colleague read at Hemming Park and to see them be so successful," Cadora said, noting that both writers also had a chance to visit the San Marco Bookstore, where they promised to come back for another reading. "You could tell from the audience's laughter they enjoyed listening to Jeff's stories about Russia and Shane's stories about Florida. Writers work laboriously to perfect and share their stories. Seeing Jeff and Shane on stage made me feel proud," Cadora said. "I was proud that Jacksonville had an area such as Hemming Park to conduct the event." Teri Youmans Grimm of Jacksonville, who teaches in the University of Nebraska low residency program, also read during the evening. She is the poetry editor for *Bridge Eight* literary journal and the author of a collection of poetry entitled *Dirt Eaters*.

# Foster children enjoy shopping spree

Family Support Services of North Florida hosted a shopping spree for 150 foster children who live with relatives and family friends on June 27. Each child was able to buy \$300 worth of clothing, shoes and accessories.

"Family Support Services is reaching out to the relatives and family friends who care for children whose parents are unable to do so," said Lee Kaywork, Chief Executive Officer of FSS. "Kinship caregivers open their homes to children with whom they

already have a relationship to provide them much needed continuity in their lives as well as a safe and loving home. We admire their commitment to the children and are pleased to give them a helping hand."

Although foster parents receive a clothing allowance from the state for the children in their care, kinship caregivers receive no such provision.

The children shopped at Kohl's on Atlantic Blvd, which gave the families a special discount and opened its doors for the FSS families and hour earlier than its official opening time.

FSS is the lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties.

# Community support keeps reading program alive

Thanks to renewed interest and community support, Learn to Read Jacksonville is continuing to improve adult literacy in Duval County.

Executive Director Judy Bradshaw, who became acquainted with the program five years ago as a member of the board of directors, said, "The thing that hooked me – hook, line and sinker – was that this has such a far-reaching impact on Jacksonville. You talk about failing schools...parents who cannot read cannot help with homework and are not going to attend the conferences."

She also noted that health insurance rates, workforce development and the crime rate all have a correlation to the inability to read. "Twenty percent of the adult population cannot read," she said.

Although the current level of 50 volunteers is at about 50 percent of where Bradshaw wants to see it, this

year Learn to Read will have served over 700 adults.

"We're the only organization who will take anyone, regardless of gender, residence, reading level, or who are re-learning to read due to an accident or health issues," she said.

For a program that almost closed for good back in 2009, Learn to Read now also offers math tutoring. Bradshaw said that many of their clients came back from taking the GED exam requesting help with math in order to pass that portion of the exam.

Later this month, Learn to Read will host A Night at the Library, a fundraising gala to continue to garner community support. Supporters are invited to don costumes as characters from favorite books on July 18 at the Jacksonville Main Library. Honorary chair is Betsy Lovett, of Ortega.

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# Annual tournament tallies results, presents checks

A local Father's Day weekend tradition, the Eighth Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam and Junior Angler Fishing Tournament reeled in results June 20.

"Thanks to all the sponsors, participants and volunteers, the tournament was, once again, a complete success," said Gary Roberts, president and founder of In River or Ocean and Fish with Clay.

The competition had 71 participants weighing fish with well over one hundred participants wetting lines. Twenty-nine teams and 11 slams (the catch or catching and releasing of three selected species over the course

of the tournament) were weighed in by the four o'clock deadline. The slam incorporates the redfish, trout and flounder in the Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam.

Top honors went to Scott O'Brien's team, whose first-place slam, sponsored by American Electrical Contracting, weighed in at 11.93 pounds, O'Brien took home a \$1,500 check for the top spot. Local resident Jeffrey Crabtree's team placed second in the slam (11.15 lbs.), taking home \$1,250 and Jim Price placed third (11.06 lbs.), taking home \$1,100.

Other first place results included Jimmy Pausche, who

weighed in a 7.24-pound redfish, taking home \$1,000, thanks to Miller Electric Company's sponsorship. Chris Kellem weighed a 4.93-pound trout, taking home \$1,000, thanks to American Electrical Contracting and David Merry weighed a 3.59-pound flounder; he also took home \$1,000, thanks again to Miller Electric Company. Eight Junior Anglers weighed in and the winner, sponsored by Key Auto Group, was Joshua Parks with a 2.6-pound redfish.



Terry, Gary and Casey Roberts with the Scott O'Brien Fishing Team, winner of the Slam Category with a total of 11.93 lbs. weighed in.



Key Auto Company Jr. Angler Winner Joshua Parks with Terry, Gary and Casey Roberts

## New Cub Scout hiking club formed

Summer vacation is time for outdoor adventures, and Cub Scouts from all over North East Florida have joined the newly formed Cub Hiking Club.

Scouts from Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties have eagerly joined the new club. They have had adventures at Tillie Fowler Regional Park and Camp Milton Historic Preserve.

While at Tillie Fowler Regional Park the Scouts hiked through the woods to the tower. At the tower they climbed up 35 feet, and were rewarded with a spectacular view of the woods and wetlands leading to the Ortega River.

At Camp Milton, they hiked to an 1882 farmhouse and garden, hiked on the adjacent nature trail, and experienced firsthand a replica of a Civil War defensive position.

The Cub Hiking Club has more adventurous hikes planned. Join them for their next hike on Sept. 12. For more information contact Frank Ross at [f\\_ross@bellsouth.net](mailto:f_ross@bellsouth.net)



Hiking the 35-foot observation tower at Tillie Fowler Regional Park



Members of the new Cub Scout Hiking Club



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# Summer camps and Bible schools help ease transition from school year to summer fun

The variety of summer camps and schools does more than fill the day's schedule. Creative programming ensures that boys' and girls' brains are engaged and their muscles exercised while having tons of fun. Such activity may prompt more than one youngster to say, "Mom, when does school start...so I can rest!"

## All Saints Episcopal



Nathan Huddleston, a seminary student from Sewanee School of Theology in Tennessee, gives a spiritual talk as "Everest Earl" during Vacation Bible School at All Saints Episcopal Church. The theme of the Bible school this year was Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power.



Assisted by Carly Mosley, All Saints Episcopal Church music director Michael Masticola leads the children in a music segment. Enrolled in the school were 81 small campers and 10 special needs adults from All Saints Learning Center.



Children in the four- and five-year-old age group enjoy popsicles to keep hydrated after playing a rousing game of tag during Vacation Bible School at All Saints Episcopal.

## Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club



Kids Camp Fashion Show at the Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club



Kids Camp at the Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club



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# SUMMER ART WORKSHOPS

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**Bishop Kenny Summer Camps**



Campers grades six through nine trained in 90-degree temperatures on the fields near the St. Johns River during Euro Extreme Soccer Camp at Bishop Kenny High School.



A camper looks for an opening during a scrimmage at Bishop Kenny's basketball camp.



Sergio Saab goes after the ball during Euro Extreme Soccer Camp at Bishop Kenny High School.

**Bolles Camp**



Bolles Day Camp is one of the only summer camp programs in Northeast Florida to offer daily water sports, boating and tubing on the St. Johns River.



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Bolles Baseball Camp has been a home run this summer with plenty of moments for rest, hydration and fun in addition to enhancing baseball skills and learning new ones.

**Eagle Arts Summer Camp**



Counselors at the Eagle Arts Summer Camp at Episcopal High School wait to play the drums prior to the start of their final show at Munnerlyn Center. Pictured are Annabelle Combs, Janelle Sessions, Julia Corbin, Danielle Corbin and Margaux Halloran.



Campers at the Eagle Arts Summer Camp perform their final show at Munnerlyn Center at Episcopal High School. During the camp, which is in its 40th year, nearly 50 children ages six to 14 spent two weeks learning how to play the drum, dance, sing and do artistic projects. The theme of the camp this year was Earth, Wind, Fire: Passing the Torch. Sally Deming served as Fine Arts Director. The camp was one of several athletic and academic summer camps offered at Episcopal this year.

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### Lakewood Presbyterian VBS



Children raise their hands during the closing ceremony of Lakewood Presbyterian Vacation Bible School in June. During the week-long program entitled Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power, 120 children ages three through 11 learned about the power of God's love through music, drama and arts and crafts. This year the VBS mission program included collecting 690 Capri Sun juice pouches to be donated to the United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM) for its program to help feed local children during the summer break from school. The mission program also collected funds to help send a child to summer camp at the Montgomery Presbyterian Center in Stark, Fla.



Doris York, director of Lakewood Presbyterian Vacation Bible School, retired after 10 years running the annual VBS program. The program flourished under York's direction as she has helped hundreds of children from the Lakewood church and surrounding community learn more about God. To honor her, the church presented York with a handmade quilt depicting the themes of the past 10 VBS programs.

### Lakewood UMC VBS



More than 135 children between the ages of three and 11 attended a week-long Vacation Bible School at Lakewood United Methodist Church. Sixty volunteers under the direction of church Children's Ministry Director Bethany Coleman helped out during the event.



Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power was the theme of Vacation Bible School at Lakewood United Methodist Church. Serving the group as "Sherpa" was Erica Blythe, who joined puppeteer Billy O'Brien and his muppet Everett on stage at the start of the program.



Maddy Katsikas and Brady Wellman make snowflakes during arts and crafts class at Lakewood United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School in June.



Amil Ayoub, DJ Justice, Walker Coleman and Blake Bergeron show off their artwork during Vacation Bible School at Lakewood United Methodist Church in June.



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**Theatre Jacksonville  
Summer Camp**



Campers in the Gold Star group warm up before starting their dance segment during the Theatre Jacksonville Summer Camp at Southside Baptist. During its four-week session, 80 to 100 campers learned improvisation, acting, musical theater and dance. At the end of the session the campers will perform an original show entitled "Rollin' on The River City."



Ripley Patterson tries to make her team guess the name of the movie *Monster University* during a game of charades during acting class at Theatre Jacksonville Summer Camp at Southside Baptist Church.



Campers in the Gold Star group practice their dance moves under the direction of Curtis Williams during the Theatre Jacksonville Summer Camp at Southside Baptist Church. Also teaching at the camp were Director Juan Unzueta, Acting Coach Laura Mauldin, Assistant Director Leanne Gullo, Improvisation Coach Ron Shreve, and Musical Theater Director Erin Barnes.

**San Jose Episcopal Day School**



The 17th Annual Art Camp at San Jose Episcopal Summer Camp.



Alumni Junior Counselors at San Jose Episcopal Summer camp: Sydney Schmidt, Lilli Kulik, Danielle Corbin, Juliana DiFilippo and Judy Bryan.

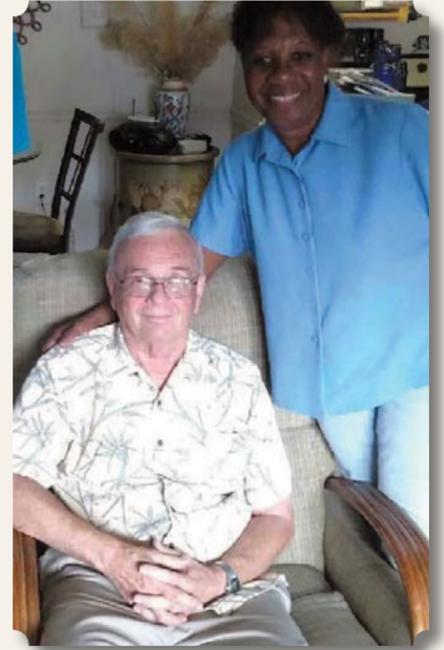


Campers in Wendy Monger's American Girl Camp at San Jose Episcopal Summer Camp.

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# Jr. Residents



Connor Vaughan won the one-mile and two-mile races at the State track meet at UNF in May.

## Track athlete sets, achieves lofty goals

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Attending six schools in 12 years might be enough to throw any teen off his game. For Connor Vaughan, it just made him more determined.

By the end of his sophomore year at Paxon School for Advanced Studies where he played soccer, it became obvious that Vaughan was more interested in focusing his self-discipline and motivation on his athletic talent than on his academic endeavors.

Then Vaughan's mother Connie thought the smaller class sizes and excellent academic experience at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville would encourage him to focus on his studies, but by the end of his junior year there Vaughan had set his sights on something else – and it certainly wasn't the foreign language requirement in order to graduate.

Vaughan wanted to be one of the top high school runners in the state of Florida. He ran on the cross-country team at

Episcopal, when a fifth place showing at a regional track meet hit him hard. "He needed to make some significant changes if he hoped to become a state champion," said Connie. "That defeat was really a pivotal point for Connor."

According to Connie, at the start of her son's senior year in the Academy of Finance magnet program at Wolfson High School "he set for himself the lofty goals of becoming a Division 1 college athlete and receiving a track and cross-country scholarship to a top-tier university."

With at least 10 medals – mostly gold – this year alone, Vaughan, a Granada resident, has been tearing up the track at conference, regional and state meets.

### The payoff

To train for his dream Vaughan ran between 45 and 60 miles per week during his senior year. "My Wolfson coach (Coach Mark Farrar) gave me workouts twice a week but I would run on my own the other five days," Vaughan explained.

All those miles paid off.

Vaughan won gold medals in both the one-mile and two-mile race at the Florida High School Athletic Association State Track Meet on May 1. He realized his goal with scholarships from the University of South Florida, Florida State University and the University of Florida, and he was also accepted at four other colleges.

"The fact that he established himself as

a premier runner pretty much on his own during his senior year was really quite a remarkable feat and also something that the college coaches found to be very attractive about Connor," said his mother.

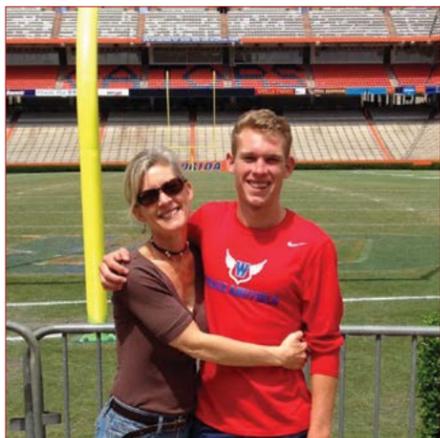
And there was more to come.

"Connor was recently notified that he was chosen as the Times-Union High School Track Athlete of the Year this year," said his mother. "Needless to say, it's been a very exciting year for Connor!"

Connie said that her son is, by far, the most self-disciplined and motivated child she has ever known.

"Connor knew exactly what he hoped to achieve with his running, and I completely trusted that he could figure out how to achieve his goal," she said. "I let go of the process and took on a much more supportive role, allowing Connor to lead himself to victory. Having the opportunity to be there with him to celebrate his success each step of the way was the greatest reward for me!"

Vaughan accepted the University of Florida's offer to be a cross-country and track athlete and to major in business. A critical part of his application process was the help of neighbor Julie Drew, who assisted Connor through each step. "We couldn't have done it without her," said Connie, who noted that "Team Connor" also included Wolfson classmate and cross-country runner Mark Edward, who provided a lot of emotional support and will also attend UF this fall.



Connie and Connor Vaughan

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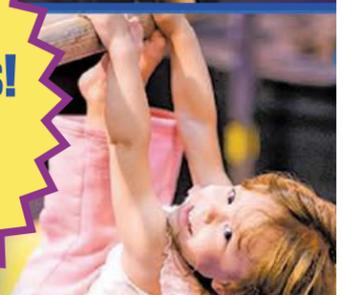


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# Kids helping kids make dreams come true

Dreams Come True announced that more than 25 schools participated in the Kids Helping Kids program during the 2014-2015 school year, raising \$55,908 and sponsoring the dreams of 20 local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

Kids Helping Kids brings together students and young people with dream recipients. Through the program, money is raised to sponsor the dreams of local children who are battling a life-threatening illness. Fundraising projects can include car washes, bake sales, dances, talent shows, coin collections and many more activities.

Following the events, 100 percent of the funds raised go directly to dream fulfillment. Each group is given the chance to host a Celebration of Life dream party, which in turn provides an incredible opportunity for the students to meet and spend time with their sponsored dream child.



Dreamer David Shepherd with the 5th grade class at The Bolles School. Through Dreams Come True's Kids Helping Kids program The Bolles School sponsored David's Disney Dream this summer.

## Bolles students selected for Youth Leadership Jacksonville

After a rigorous application and interview process, San Jose resident Alex Pogrebniak and two other Bolles delegates were selected for the Youth Leadership Jacksonville 2015-16 school year. The rising senior will be joined by John Norcross and Graham Ungrady in the program.



Alex Pogrebniak

The Youth Leadership Jacksonville program, founded in 1989, is a year-long program bringing together a select and diverse group of high school juniors with demonstrated leadership ability. The program prepares them to be ethical leaders committed to active community involvement.

The group's "Program Days" deal with specific facets of the community such as government, criminal justice, human services, diversity and business.

## Students rewrite ending to La Caroline



Jennifer Chase

Last November, under its Artist in Residence program, the Museum of Science & History presented *La Caroline: Jacksonville's Rock Opera*, the original work by Riverside playwright Jennifer Chase, in celebration of the 450th anniversary of the founding of a French settlement at Fort Caroline. Chase also facilitated an essay competition, *La Caroline: How would you end this story?*, that encouraged students in Jacksonville and in its sister city Nantes, France to consider the narrative of the opera and challenged them to rewrite the ending.

Reece Braswell, of San Jose, and a student at Alford DuPont Middle School, won first place at the middle school level, and Walker Miller, of Avondale, won first place at the high school level. Miller attends Stanton College Preparatory School. Their winning essays were on display in the Museum throughout the month of June.

Braswell took a first-person narrative approach by a young girl named Satura Re, a Timucuan who helps Jean Ribault escape death by Pedro Menendez, while Miller re-imagined the fate of Fort Caroline by having Ribault get needed supplies to the French Huguenots in time to foil attempts by Menendez to destroy the struggling colony.

## Episcopal names new head of school

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Board of Trustees announced that it would name the Rev. Adam S. Greene, of Houston, Texas, its new Head of School, effective July 2016.

Greene currently serves as Dean of Spiritual Life at Episcopal High School in Houston and will succeed ESJ's current Head of School Charley Zimmer, who retires next year.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in political science, Greene spent more than 20 years in global investment banking and finance



Adam and Martha Greene and daughter Knox

before earning a master's of divinity from Yale Divinity School in 2009, when he was also ordained as an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Atlanta.

## New hires at San Jose Episcopal Day School



Emily Stovall



Caitlin O'Keefe

San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS) hired two administrative leaders, Caitlin O'Keefe, Director of Education and Curriculum, and Emily Stovall, Director of Finance and Operations.

San Jose resident Stovall previously worked for 10 years at Bi-Lo Holdings, LLC (formerly Winn-Dixie Stores) as the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis of Corporate Planning and

Treasury. She has also held positions as a senior manager and senior analyst at Bi-Lo Holdings. At SJEDS, she has also recently served on the Board of Trustees Finance Committee. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and a minor in Economics from the University of Florida.

O'Keefe, who will live in the Gate Parkway area, most recently served as the Curriculum Coordinator at St. Thomas Episcopal School in Coral Gables, Florida, where she directed academic programs for Pre-K3 through fifth grade. Her areas of expertise included developing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programs and facilitating professional development for the faculty. She earned her bachelor's degree at Bryn Mawr University and is currently working toward her master's in educational leadership from Walden University.

## Clarke wins first place in PBS Kids Writers Contest



Reilly Clarke

San Jose Episcopal Day School second grade student Reilly Clarke, of San Jose, won first place in the WJCT PBS Kids Writers Contest. Her story, "Charley's Big Day," will now compete with other second grade entries in the national level of the contest. Over 180 local entries were received from kindergarten through third grade, and entries were judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations.

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