

Back-to-School Smiles

Michelle Krueger takes Stella and Reed back to school at Riverside Presbyterian Day School.
Read more on page 44



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Avondale residents challenge others to support Hemming Park



Steve Pajcic and Wayne Wood square off for a game of chess in Hemming Park following announcement of Pajcic's \$75,000 "challenge gift."

Annual Rockin' Back to School a hit

Victor Vega, with Mariah and Maniyah Young were among 400 youngsters who queued early for a free backpack.

Read more on page 42

Young guns drawn for Ole Cowford



Cowford co-chairs Heather and Will Courtney

Under the tutelage of Heather and Will Courtney, the youngest couple ever to chair a American Cancer Society event in Jacksonville, the Cancer Society hopes to ignite a gold rush of donations during its Old West-themed Cowford Ball this year.

Read more on page 27

Pajcics make gift to kickstart fundraising

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A little more than two months after City Hall withheld the \$150,000 June payment to the Friends of Hemming Park – which prompted CEO Vince Cavin to loan the nonprofit \$7,000 to

meet payroll in July – City Council voted 18 to 1 on Aug. 11 to approve a bill that would change the fundraising agreement.

Council decided to honor the original intention of the agreement after Councilman John Crescimbeni found draft versions of the contract, which did allow concession sales to count toward the \$250,000 fundraising goal.

The icing on the cake came two days after City Council's action, when philanthropist Steve Pajcic, of Avondale,

presented a \$75,000 check to Dr. Wayne Wood, Friends of Hemming Park board president.

"I don't think you can really feel good about Jacksonville unless you can feel good about Hemming Park, which is our heart and soul," said Pajcic. "I grew up here, and we used to take the bus down here, the 32 Woodstock, with our mother to pick up our school clothes in the St. James Building and we would make it a day down here and have lunch

Read more on page 40

Local philanthropists support polio eradication

Riverside residents Delores Barr Weaver and Wayne Weaver took their philanthropy international when they presented a gift of \$250,000 to the Rotary Club of Jacksonville for its participation in The Rotary International Foundation's *End Polio Now!* campaign.

The Weavers' gift will be matched 2 to 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, resulting in a contribution of \$750,000 to the 30-year Rotary effort, which has contributed nearly \$1.4 billion

to fight polio. The Gates Foundation has committed up to \$35 million each year through 2018 for matching donations.

The Weavers' matched gift will help inoculate 1.5-million children in the three countries – Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan – still dealing with polio. The \$250,000 gift was made jointly from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund and the Weaver Family Foundation Fund, both at The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.



Wayne Weaver, Rotary International Director Robert Hall, Delores Barr Weaver, Rotary Club of Jacksonville President John Fryer, Mayor Lenny Curry, and Rotary Past District Governor Tommy Grimes hold their fingers up to signify they are 'this close' to eradicating polio. (Photo by Bill Learn)

Mystery Art?

Fine art appears mysteriously in Avondale.

Read more on page 11



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DIA stamps approval on major Southbank development

Healthy Town opens naming opportunity following announcement

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The vision of a San Marco-based development team to "create a place where you can live healthily," is a large step closer to becoming a reality.

On August 26, the Downtown Investment Authority approved a resolution that clears the way for Elements Development of Jacksonville LLC, a partnership between Peter Rummell and Mike Balanky, to build the future Southbank development currently known as Healthy Town.

The 29-acre parcel, a former brownfield site owned by JEA, is now poised to house a precedent-setting development on the Southbank, which is unique in its nature and unlike anything currently in existence. The property sits adjacent to the Duval County School Board building on Prudential Drive and incorporates approximately 2,000 feet of St. Johns River frontage.

DIA's approval means that Rummell and Balanky have 24 months to negotiate a development agreement with the city.

The Healthy Town property formerly housed JEA's Southside Generating Station from 1947 to 2001. JEA spent more than \$28 million to clean up and remediate the soil over the years to mitigate concern over environmental contaminants while preparing the site for sale.

Elements Development offered JEA slightly less than \$18.6 million for the property. The development firm is set to close the deal in early 2016, said Michael Munz, of San Marco, a spokesperson for Elements Development.

On August 26, Elements Development released renderings of the master site plan for the urban resort and asked the public to engage in a naming contest for the new mixed-use development.

Rummell intends to make Healthy Town a "cutting-edge living environment with



The new Healthy Town community will be pedestrian, bike and dog friendly. (Rendering by Elkus Manfredi Architects)

all the elements, facilities, amenities and resources necessary to promote the optimal health of the people who live and visit there."

At a cost of \$400 to \$500 million, the development will feature a total of 1,170 homes for rent or sale, 200 hotel rooms, 288,500 square feet of commercial/retail space and 200,000 square feet of office space. The architecture will be an eclectic mix of complementary styles and the community will be built in three phases.

Healthy Town will be a development where the core focus will be mind, body, soul and the social aspects of one's life. Included in the plan will be a "base camp," which the developers call a virtual "concierge on steroids." It will serve as an alternative to the traditional clubhouse and as a community focal point where "hardware and software" integrate harmoniously.

Healthy Town intends to take full advantage of its riverfront location. The proposed marina will include public and private access to the St. Johns River and feature 125 boat slips as well as a water taxi stop, enabling patrons to have transportation to and from river venues throughout the downtown area.

Rentals will be available for boating, jet skiing, sailing, kayaking and paddle boarding in the marina. The new waterfront area, combined with the city's recent \$17 million renovation to the Southbank Riverwalk, will make the community a "recreational haven," said the developers.

In order to make the marina a reality, the developers will need to go through an additional regulatory approval process.

The Southbank Riverwalk, which currently ends at the Healthy Town property, will be extended, allowing nature trails and walking paths to circumnavigate the entire project.

Rummell and Balanky plan for the non-gated community to include the "coolest" riverfront restaurants and bars in northeast Florida. Several acres will comprise public park space with an emphasis on a riverfront park. The new community will be completely pedestrian, bike and dog friendly for all to enjoy, they said.

Elements Development opens invitation for naming rights

Elements Development plans to set aside the Healthy Town brand for their new community and is asking help from the public to select a suitable moniker. To suggest a new name, access the website www.HealthyTown.com and click a button on the top right corner of the home page. In mid-September, a selection will be made from the entries. The winner will receive a free one-year membership to the "Base Camp," the development's concierge community center, and public recognition during the project's grand opening.

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Public river access preserved, park status under determination

Parties to hammer out memo of understanding

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

A proposed bill to permanently close an access to the St. Johns River in Avondale via a city-owned right-of-way has finally been withdrawn. The bill was originally put on the fast track with the Jacksonville City Council and its removal has left the 60- by 435-foot city property open to the public.

The bill, 2015-360, was introduced to Council on May 12, 2015 and subsequently reviewed, then deferred, by all five standing committees. District 14 Councilman Jim Love is now working on next steps to turn what was once an overgrown, barely visible path into a small waterfront park.

"We are very glad the petition was finally withdrawn, but unfortunately there is still no resolution on any of the key Friends of Van Wert Park consensus points," said Kim Clontz, a Pine Street resident, whose husband Bryan founded FOVW to maintain the access for public use.

Love said he intends to meet with all the interested parties soon to discuss park hours, maintenance and parking. Those parties include the neighbors on either side of the property – John and Kristen Surface and Charles and Joan Cousar – along with other

homeowners on Richmond Street who have formed a nonprofit group called Richmond Street Neighborhood Group (RSNG); Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), and Friends of Van Wert Park (FOVW).

Despite the successful petition drive by FOVW to have the bill withdrawn, other issues have sprung up, including an attempt by the Richmond Street group to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city, to the exclusion of Friends of Van Wert Park.

"Designating the access as a park for permanent protection, scheduled maintenance and enforceable rules has not occurred nor an agreement on parking," Clontz said. "The withdrawal was one step in the process to make this a safe, maintained and perpetually conserved community asset for the public to enjoy."

Multiple MOUs

Typically, a Memorandum of Understanding allows a third party, such as RSNG or FOVW, to work with city departments in a joint effort to improve, enhance or maintain city-owned property. Memorial Park Association and Friends of Boone Park South, for example, have agreements with the Parks Department to maintain and/or replace landscaping as permitted. The MOU also provides for liability releases to be signed by the third parties in the event of any injuries incurred while working in the parks.

According to Love, an MOU is "a handshake, not a contract," and there can be multiple MOUs for the same property.

The Memorandum of Understanding prepared by attorney Paul Harden on behalf of RSNG dictates some rules that are disturbing to residents who have been fighting for public access.

"Moving the bollards to Richmond Street blocks off the existing parking on the stub end of Van Wert, a not-so-subtle tactic to discourage fisherman and other members of the public from actually using the public space," said Donna Lewis, a Hedrick Street resident and vocal opponent to the original bill. "Existing parking within the public access is more than adequate for the current demand and should be preserved.

"Also bear in mind that if the bollards are moved, the existing asphalt becomes a problem in terms of both aesthetics and maintenance. Why should the City expend scarce resources to remove asphalt, grade the land and then landscape the area when the asphalt serves a public purpose?" she asked.

Lewis is also unhappy with the RSNG memorandum that seeks to prohibit on-street parking on Richmond Street.

"Public parking on Richmond Street will not be an issue unless and until the existing parking within the public access is eliminated," she noted in an analysis of that MOU. "So, the simple solution is to leave the existing parking within the public access."

To meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance for at least one

handicap parking spot at a city-owned park, the current paved section from Richmond Street to the access point would be sufficient, according to Lewis. However, Love is working with Beth Meyer, Chief of Disabled Services, to determine if a paved path continuing to the river's edge would be part of ADA requirements.

Next steps

In order to turn the right-of-way into public access culminating at a riverfront park, Love is currently putting together an "if this, then this [proposition]" for review at the meeting.

"I would like the citizens to decide what they would like for this park, and would like them to help, particularly with the labor, to accomplish it. If they can, the buy-in would be good," said Love.

In the meantime, the councilman is trying to push the transfer from Public Works to Parks in order to get the property on a regular mowing schedule and have the fence, which was installed 10 to 15 feet into the right-of-way, torn down. Love said John Surface indicated he will build an eight-foot privacy wall on his property line, restoring that footage to the city property.

"The city, JEA and Friends of Van Wert Park continue to make improvements to the landscape and we are eager to implement a comprehensive landscape plan when the park designation is achieved," said Clontz.

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Workers from KBT Contracting paint trim under the windows at the Willowbranch Branch Library early in August. The lower windows were removed for offsite cleaning and repainting.

Library approaches first anniversary of closing for repairs

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

Although patrons' hopes were high that the neighborhood library at the corner of Park and Cherry Streets might re-open in time for the new school year, such was not the case. Windows on the Willowbranch Branch Library were still being repaired as of August.

After all construction is complete, it will take six to eight weeks to put the building back in shape as a library before it can re-open, more than a year after service was suspended.

The library was temporarily closed Sept. 11, 2014 after heavy rainfall caused flooding inside the building.

At a community meeting in October, the optimistic view was an early 2015 re-opening. The discovery of lead paint in early January 2015, then not finalizing until April the repair of the main windows while in place, ran the project

timeline out further. Lead abatement testing on all windows was completed by mid-May, and a change order was finally approved in late June to remove the lead and complete the project.

In early July vandals defaced the library with spray paint but it was painted over before the end of the month. Elaine Burnett, president of Friends of the Willowbranch Library, said in an email, it "added salt to the wound of Willowbranch Library being closed for repairs. I only hope that if the police don't find the [person] who defaced this historic and well-loved edifice, he/she will go read a book, preferably one about the importance of history."

As of press time, there was still no firm date for the re-opening of the community library, according to Kathy Lussier, Jacksonville Public Library communications officer. A blog is maintained at <https://willowbranchlibraryupdates.wordpress.com/2015/06/> to keep the public informed.

Memorial Park challenge grant met in short time

In nine short weeks, the Memorial Park Association received over \$20,000 for the Delores Barr Weaver Restoration Challenge Grant campaign fund.

The fundraising campaign was launched June 5 after the Delores Barr Weaver Fund offered to match \$20,000 raised specifically for restoration. All funds from this campaign will support restoration of the park's facilities, such as the entry gate and the fencing along Riverside Avenue.

Agnes Danciger, president of the Memorial Park Association, noted how appreciative the association was to Delores Barr Weaver for offering the Restoration Challenge.

"Not only did it provide an opportunity to earmark money for numerous restoration needs, it

widened the circle of supporters and network of patrons of the park," said Danciger. "Donations ranged from \$1 to \$5,000 and came from both longtime supporters, as well as individuals who have never contributed before. "Being able to meet the challenge within a two-month window is evidence of how much Memorial Park is treasured by our community."

"I'm delighted that those who cherish this wonderful park have come forward to help restore and preserve it for everyone to enjoy," said Delores Barr Weaver. "This is a wonderful demonstration of substantive support and I applaud the Memorial Park Association for achieving this match so quickly."

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Avondale home has national curb appeal

Secret was kept for more than a year

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Terry and Walter Woodlief's "15 minutes of fame" was planned, but still arrived unexpectedly.

It all started in April 2014 when the Woodlief's were invited to participate in a hush-hush project. Although Terry Woodlief first thought the invitation was at best a ploy to sign up for a magazine subscription or at worst a scam, she did some Internet research to validate the person behind the offer that had been shoved through her mailbox slot.

"It had the magazine's logo but it wasn't sealed or stamped, so I thought 'that's odd.' I found the person on the letter was connected with the company, so I sent an email," said Woodlief.

After determining it was legitimate, the Avondale couple agreed to participate and was asked to keep the agreement confidential.

A month later neighbors in their block of Avondale Avenue noticed some suspicious activity at the Woodlief's home. Spotting ladders leaning against the 1923 Mediterranean-style home and photographers snapping pictures, neighbors thought for sure the home the Woodlief's have lived in for 20 years was going on the market.

Terry and her husband kept the secret from all but close family for well over a year. They didn't know exactly when the secret would go public, so they were surprised when the big reveal finally occurred.

"We were on a cruise, without Internet access," said Woodlief. "When we pulled into the Jacksonville port, I checked my email and Facebook and spotted a posting from a neighbor who used to live across the street."

The cat was out of the bag. The Woodlief's home was featured in the Curb Appeal section of *HGTV Magazine's* September



Terry Woodlief holds a copy of the *HGTV Magazine* that features their front porch, while her husband Walter relaxes in his favorite chair.

issue, which hit newsstands in August.

Terry and Walter's home, along with other houses in Plymouth, Michigan and Louisville, Kentucky, were shown as examples of how readers can copy the landscaping, house paint colors, porch furniture, potted plants and even the mail slot in the front door.

"After they took pictures, they asked me to identify certain elements, such as specific plants and flowers, and porch furniture," said Woodlief, art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary School. She even took the photos

to a home and garden center to confirm the care of the flora, as that was part of the lengthy questionnaire.

A minimum of retouching was done to the final photo, which appeared in the magazine.

"They cleaned up the front walk because when it gets wet it looks kind of yellowish," said Woodlief. "They also cleaned up the roof. It's darker than that," she said, pointing to the photo.

"We were proud, but very humbled, to be chosen when there are so many beautiful homes in our neighborhood," Woodlief said.

Financial support for Mayport ferry on, off...on again

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Tossed from agency to government and back again more than once, the Mayport ferry has been more of a hot potato than a cool way to get across the St. Johns River.

Within the past decade, ownership of the ferry has been transferred from the Florida Department of Transportation to the City of Jacksonville (after former Governor Charlie Crist vetoed the Mayport Ferry line item in the 2007-2008 state budget) to the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT), then back to the City, which had hoped to transfer ownership to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority by Oct. 1, 2015.

While there seems to be a lot of public love for the St. Johns River Ferry service, financial support has been an on-again, off-again affair. Governor Rick Scott's veto of \$1 million in state funding initially put

in jeopardy the Jean Ribault's required maintenance and potentially the transfer of ownership to the JTA.

However, at its Aug. 27 meeting, the JTA Board of Directors agreed to authorize up to \$900,000 for the maintenance haul-out and repowering of the St. Johns River Ferry. The remainder of the repair cost is in Mayor Lenny Curry's proposed 2015-2016 budget.

"This collaborative agreement will benefit residents and travelers that count on the Ferry as a transportation link on State Road A1A," said JTA Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. "The Ferry is a vital link to the community, helping them save time and money by reducing fuel costs associated with the 26-mile alternate land route."

The mandatory haul-out and dry-docking of the Jean Ribault, the 206-passenger, 40-vehicle ferry that provides the service, is estimated to cost \$1.8 million for regular maintenance and

repowering of the main engines, stated Mark Fernandez, general manager for HMS Ferries, a division of HMS Global Maritime Company, who lives in Ortega. The last haul-out was December 2013, of which \$1 million was provided by FDOT.

To maintain the vessel's Certificate of Inspection (COI), the U.S. Coast Guard requires the ferry to be dry-docked twice every five years, according to Fernandez.

While the ferry is being overhauled, the JTA will contract for the repairs of the slip wall. When both projects are complete, the transition from the City to JTA will most likely occur next March 2016, according to Leigh Ann Rassler, JTA public relations manager.

A longer commute

With the hot potato labeled "ownership" resolved and funding procured to make the repairs prior to the Coast Guard's Jan. 5,

2016 inspection deadline, the next issue to be addressed is interruption of service.

"Maintenance and inspections typically require the ferry to be out of service for four weeks. This particular year, the ferry will be out of service for six to eight weeks," Fernandez said. "Additional time has been requested to give the slip wall contractors extra time to complete their heavy work on the slip wall renovation project."

Ferry service for the St. Johns River crossing at Mayport has provided a transportation link connecting the north and south banks of the St. Johns River along State Route A1A since 1948. The alternate for drivers is a 26-mile route over the Dames Point Bridge, however there may be an interim solution.

"There is talk about running a passenger-only ferry between Mayport and Fort George," said Fernandez. "The focus will be on accommodating the regular commuters who rely on the ferry to get to work."

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Ortega Forest was once an island until Roosevelt Blvd. filled in the water at the southern tip. It still feels like an island with no commercial in the neighborhood. Kids on bicycles roam the neighborhood known as one of the safest in Jacksonville. During the nearly two years of construction, the owners of 4200 Ortega Forest Drive lived in the original house that was on the land so that they could be actively involved. We heard some wonderful stories about how the house went up. One of our favorites was about some Cypress trees that had to come down to make way for the pool. The owners decided to mill them and use the beautiful wood to make some cabinets for the pool cabana and panel the downstairs den with it. The double sided staircase in the front entry hall was designed by the owners and the treads and the front doors were hand milled on site out of mahogany. About an acre and a quarter allows the nearly 8500 SF home to easily fit on the lot leaving large front and back yards. It is nicely tucked back off the street with a meandering drive that welcomes you home.

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TPO plan offers solutions for safer roads in historic districts

Consultants rode every route for study

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Members of the city's Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) had only one day to provide consultants hired by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) with feedback after hearing the results of a study of inexpensive solutions to make Jacksonville a safer city for walkers and cyclists.

The meeting was held Aug. 6 in the Training Room of the Ed Ball Building near City Hall. The window in which the consultants would accept comments from the public closed August 7, said Marci Larson, Public Affairs Manager for North Florida TPO. The consultants will present final recommendations from their study before the four-county TPO board Thursday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. at TPO headquarters in San Marco, she said.

North Florida TPO is a federally funded, independent regional agency for the counties of Duval, Nassau, Clay and St. Johns. The one-year bicycle and pedestrian study was an update to the TPO's 2040 plan for the region, which was approved by the TPO Board in November 2014, said Larson.

Instead of studying bicycle and walking



Sprinkle Consultant Theodore Petritsch discusses elements on the public input map during a presentation before the city's Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee Aug. 6.



Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chairman Christopher Burns of San Marco and Larry Roberts of San Jose scrutinize the San Marco map of recommended walking and bicycling routes that are part of a North Florida Transportation and Planning Organization study presented by the Sprinkle Consulting Firm.

routes for the entire Duval County area, the consultants selected the specific focus areas of Riverside, San Marco and the Beaches, said Theodore Petritsch, of Sprinkle Consulting Group, which was hired by the TPO to conduct the study. Petritsch said the key idea of the plan was to provide "low-cost solutions" that could be implemented quickly "so you can get from point A to point B sometime next year."

The idea is to get the plan implemented fast, Petritsch said. "It won't be worth the paper it is written on if it is not implemented within five years."

The cost of the study for the three

focus areas was \$110,000, said Larson. A connectivity study linking downtown to the beaches cost \$24,000, said Elizabeth De Jesus, TPO Commuter Services Manager.

'Dire' need for bike/pedestrian plan

During the meeting, Petritsch presented an overview of the study, which included maps charting safer bike routes through San Marco and Riverside. A map outlining areas where different facilities could make roadways safer for cyclists was included. In addition, a map delineating frequent bicycle and pedestrian routes gleaned from the public comments was on display. Petritsch said he and the other consultants had personally ridden every route within the study.

Even though they had only one evening to form a response to the study, members of BPAC came up with a list of 13 recommendations, which they hope the consultants will incorporate into their final presentation before it goes to the TPO Board and other transportation agencies in the Jacksonville area [see Making Jacksonville safer for cyclists, next page].

BPAC Chairman Christopher Burns said he appreciated the effort made by Sprinkle to discuss their findings with BPAC. Members might have made even more suggestions if they'd had more time to formulate their concerns before the window for public comment ended, he said in a phone interview after the meeting.

"Part of the problem was the way the plan was disseminated before the meeting.

Many of us were hearing the explanation for the first time," he said.

After the meeting, BPAC member Cindy Lecompte of St. Johns Park said she was happy with what she heard. "I think it's very positive. I see a lot of stuff that we proposed years ago and now it's happening," she said. "My main thing is that it takes time for people to plan it, get the money to do it, and then build it, but at least it's a positive path," she said noting she is especially grateful shared lane markings have already been painted in the lanes on the Acosta Bridge.

Alice Gould of Riverside was also upbeat about the presentation. "Some changes to the TPO recommendations were made by the BPAC, but I was impressed that all of the proposed routes for the study had been ridden by bicycle in order to identify potential hazards rather than just plotted by map. I hope the City of Jacksonville will fund and complete projects based on the TPO study once BPAC's input has been added," she said.

"In Riverside and Avondale, we already have neighbors that commute to work by bicycle or enjoy riding to their favorite restaurant. I would like to see the people we care about, our friends and family have safe places to ride," Gould said.

"I was excited to see buffered bike lanes were one of several proposed facilities for our neighborhood," she continued. "Bike lanes and buffered bike lanes are shown in countless studies to increase the safety of our streets for people riding bikes and people driving cars. An added bonus is that there frequently is an increase in property values when properly

continued on page 9 >>>



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Glenn Landers and Doug Alred study a map of proposed walking and cycling routes during Sprinkle Consulting Firm's presentation before the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Aug. 6.

Making city safer for cyclists, walkers

The Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee made the following recommendations to Sprinkle Consulting Group, which it will take into consideration when it prepares its final recommendations to the TPO Board Sept. 10.

- **Laura Street Cobblestones** – The city should remove or improve the cobblestones, which are a safety hazard for bicyclists often causing them to invade areas designed for pedestrians.
- **Sidewalks** – All roads in the study area should have sidewalks on each side of the roadway.
- **Bike lanes** – Bike lanes should be placed on all roads which have adequate right of way. Road lanes should be 10-foot wide whenever possible to accommodate the bike lanes.
- **Shared-lane markings (Sharrows)** – Bike lanes are preferred for all “way-finding” routes for cyclists. Sharrows should be a “secondary” alternative when routes cannot accommodate bike lanes, and only after a thorough consideration of “road diet” options, such as securing additional rights of way, have been explored. Identification of “way-finding” routes without bike lanes or shared lane markings is a “distinctly less-appealing” option.
- **Change colors for route designations on proposed study maps** – The colored lines designating the bike/pedestrian routes on the study maps should be changed to improve differentiation.
- **Gate Parkway between Southside and Town Center Boulevard** – Between Spring Park Road and Gate Parkway near St. Luke’s Hospital, bike lanes should be installed.
- **Signal detectors for bicycles at intersections** – Bicycle friendly signals should be installed at all intersections.
- **Improved access for pedestrians and cyclists on bridges** – The Main Street and Acosta Bridges are “sub-optimal” for use by walkers and cyclists. On the Main Street Bridge, retrofit materials should be installed to the metal grating to make it safer and the narrow separated pedestrian walkway is inadequate to allow concurrent cycling and walking on the bridge. The Acosta Bridge has too steep a gradient and poor signalization at its south end making it difficult and dangerous for cyclists.
- **A route from the beaches to downtown Jacksonville** – “Superficial” consideration for an optimal route from the beaches to downtown was made in the study. Building a shared-use path adjacent to J. Turner Butler Boulevard should be studied and coordinated with the city, the beaches communities, BPAC and the East Coast Greenway Association.
- **Install a raised median with mid-block crosswalk on Riverside Avenue** – For safety, a raised median with a mid-block crosswalk should be installed from the future Fuller Warren Bridge shared-use path to the Northbank Riverwalk and Riverside Arts Market area.
- **Hendricks Avenue** – Obstructions such as light poles, utility poles, trash receptacles, and landscaping create a dangerous condition for pedestrians and should be removed. These obstructions reduce the use of the sidewalks by pedestrians and make them impassable to people in wheelchairs. Also, the bike lanes on Hendricks Avenue, in the area adjacent to Southside Tennis Courts, are too close to parked cars and create a dangerous “door zone.”
- **Input, comment and discussion** – BPAC should be routinely consulted about opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- **Meeting invitation** – Jacksonville Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Denise Chaplick should be invited to the TPO Board and technical meetings when the results of the study are discussed.

designed and maintained bike lanes and trails are added to the community.”

Gould said the TPO study was a “great start” because it suggests small immediate improvements, and highlights the need to improve connectivity and safety in the community for cyclists and pedestrians.

“I would like to see the City commit to becoming nationally recognized as a League of American Bicyclists’ ‘Bicycle Friendly Community’ and aim for much larger improvements,” she said, noting Jacksonville currently has some of the lowest ratings in the nation. “We stand to gain so much by creating a safe network of bike lanes, multi-use paths and sidewalks. We will be saving precious lives, increasing community health and boosting the economic outlook,” said Gould.

Public school staffs enjoy support from local churches

The United States Constitution may prescribe separation of church and state, but in Riverside four local churches have supported three public elementary schools for 15 years – without adverse effects.

Children’s Enrichment Workshop, a collaboration between Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, and Riverside Avenue Christian Church, began in the late 1990s to provide after-school activities in a safe environment for children attending Fishweir, Central and West Riverside Elementary Schools.

Each year a week before the Duval County Public Schools begin the new school year, the four churches host a School Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

This year 120 attended, according to Kelly Paterno, Children’s Art Center director at Riverside Avenue Christian Church, where the event was held.

“This is our 15th year and we’ve had the same menu, chicken salad, every year, because they all look forward to it,” she said. Fresh fruit, croissants and dessert round out the menu.

Each church “adopts” a school and collects supplies for the teachers; one school collects office supplies for all three schools.

“It’s not easy to be a teacher in a public school these days,” said Paterno. “This shows them how much we appreciate what they do for the children in our community.”

The program included words of



Dr. Sylvia Johnson, West Riverside Elementary principal, Shawna White, West Riverside Elementary assistant principal, Kimberly Dennis, Fishweir Elementary principal, Shawnta Pride-Brathwaite, Fishweir Elementary assistant principal, Carol Coston, Central Riverside assistant principal, Dinah Stewart, Central Riverside principal

inspiration and encouragement from the hosting churches and the guests were given a “worry stone” with the word Warrior

inscribed, helping turn worriers into warriors, based on the guide to conquering a child’s fears by Daniel B. Peters.

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SOLD

5044 ORTEGA BLVD
3/2/1-2,242 sqft. SOLD by Jane Slater. Beautifully built with modern updates - new kitchen, new enlarged master bath, new roof and perfect layout for today's lifestyle. Nestled beneath old growth oaks in the Heart of Ortega, one of Jacksonville's Great Neighborhoods!



SOLD

5117 CHARLEMAGNE RD
4/4-2,141 sqft. SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen. This Riverfront home welcomes you into a bright, sunny, plant filled Atrium. Continue through the Atrium to the spacious Great Room opening to a large covered Lanai--allowing this to be a fabulous place to entertain.



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1805 SHADOWLAWN ST
3/2-1,780 sqft. SOLD by Taft Alexander and Susan Tuohy. This charming, well maintained mid-century brick home is located on one of Avondale's most sought after streets. Situated on a double lot, this home is within a few blocks of the shops of Avondale and the St. Johns river.



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1308 DANCY ST
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SOLD

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Artwork mysteriously appears on Orsay's building

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

When an old painted advertisement was revealed earlier this summer on the side of Restaurant Orsay, it generated a bit of local excitement. Now, some neighborhood residents are not amused at the recent addition.

Early in August after the debris was cleared from the demolition site of the former Yesterday's restaurant and bar, a mysterious image was affixed to the red brick wall to the right of the decades-old Royal Crown Cola sign. One resident thought it might be the work of a graffiti artist.

"Have you seen the addition of 'artwork' to the brick wall with the RC Cola sign next to the old Yesterday's location?" asked Elaine Starling, in an email to The Resident. "Someone painted a bust of a woman. Too bad, totally inappropriate. I don't know if it was a 'tagger' [graffiti artist]."

The style of the image suggested a similarity to those seen in Downtown Jacksonville, so The Resident reached out to the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens to see if it was a sanctioned project.

"This is technically part of the Outings Project, even though we did not install it. The idea behind the project is that artists and individuals in the area are supposed to expand on our work, so it is not so much a copycat as it is a participant," said Amber Sensnick, Cummer marketing and communications coordinator. "This is one of a few pieces that have been installed by local individuals."

The Outing Project is a global effort to present portions of classical works of art in a contemporary way. With the help of local artists Dolf James, Corey Kolb and Doug Eng, the museum takes [copies of] figures out of paintings from its collections, creates a wheat paste and paper applique and affixes them to unattractive walls and buildings, primarily downtown.

It appears the project has migrated to the historic district and, in keeping with the Outings Project goal, has generated conversation.

Avondale resident Kris Fletcher walks past the artwork on her daily walk and had a positive reaction.

"When the old building was torn down



This pretty lady appeared on the side of Restaurant Orsay in early August.

Be alert for JEA posers

Neighborhood watch groups, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Energy Authority are asking seniors who live independently to be wary of individuals posing as subcontractors for JEA to gain access to homes.

In late July, JSO officers responded to a call regarding a theft that occurred when a person claiming to be a subcontractor for the JEA asked to check the residence for electrical and water issues. Working with a second unknown individual, the men separated the couple in different areas of their home, and a third individual then stole about \$50,000 in jewelry from the homeowners' bedroom.

Although officers canvassed the neighborhood, they were unable to identify the three men posing as employees of a company they called TNT.

JEA doesn't subcontract inspection

work, according to a JEA spokesperson.

"While this was an isolated incident, it is a sober reminder about using caution when allowing anyone into your home without knowing who they are and who they represent," said Gerri Boyce, JEA Media Relations. "It is important to verify identity before allowing anyone entry into a home. Should someone come to your home or business claiming to be a JEA employee, please call 665-6000 to verify identity."

Boyce also said scammers claiming to be JEA have aggressively called local businesses and residents demanding payment on a pre-loaded card for past due accounts or meter changes.

"The best line of defense is knowing your balance so you will not be intimidated to make a payment you do not owe," she said. "JEA would never ask customers to purchase a pre-loaded card for payment of any kind."

and the wall art revealed, I felt like a time capsule had been unearthed. All types of questions ran through my mind. When was it painted, who painted it, what type of establishment had it been before Orsay's?" said Fletcher. "When I learned it [the lady] was a recent appliqué, it lost some of its magic but it still seems to fit the era of the area. I like it."

The Cummer wants to expand the project outside of its 10 current downtown locations and into more neighborhoods.

"We are working to add any images we are aware of to our list on the website, even if we did not install them," said Sensnick. "We do plan to install more images in the coming

months, but do not have a definite plan yet."

Whether the mysterious beauty endures on the building during the upcoming construction of South Kitchen and Spirits restaurant remains to be seen.

Art or vandalism?

What do you think? Should there be restrictions against placing random images on buildings in the historic districts? Or should there be a time limit set and enforced to remove the art? What happens when the appliques begin to deteriorate?

Let us know what you think and send it to editor@residentnews.net.

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Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons recently welcomed a tenth physician to their practice. David Hayes, D.O., a fellowship trained glaucoma surgeon, joins Clay Eye after finishing his fellowship training at West Virginia University. Dr. Hayes was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, and recently relocated to Jacksonville to begin his tenure with Clay Eye.

"I wanted to join a group of physicians who had high ethical standards, a strong community reputation and tremendous dedication to their patients."

Dr. Hayes is now accepting new patients.

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Chicken ordinance may have been passed in haste

Avondale man in three-year battle over loose chickens

By Marian Johns
Resident Community News

Three months after the Jacksonville City Council passed an ordinance expanding a backyard hen pilot program, the City now finds itself moving quickly to establish a protocol for dealing with residents' complaints about nuisance chickens and roosters.

In July, *The Resident* reported on the Jacksonville City Council's passage of Ordinance 2015-0337 with an 18-0 vote. The new ordinance expanded the backyard hen "pilot program" that originally was limited to 300 permit holders. Since that story was published, some residents have voiced their concerns that the City might have passed the legislation too quickly and without taking into account some of the problems that had already been caused by backyard flocks in neighborhoods.

Tenants move out, leaving hens behind

Avondale resident Kevin Johnson knows all too well how important it is for the City to have a way to deal with

nuisance hens and roosters. Johnson said he battled with the City over nuisance chickens during a three-year ordeal in his neighborhood near FSCJ's Kent Campus.

Even before Jacksonville's backyard hen pilot program came into focus, Johnson began his fight with the City of Jacksonville over loose hens and roosters running through his neighborhood. A rental home around the corner from Johnson's house had tenants who moved out and left their flock of hens and a rooster behind. Soon, the birds began to multiply wreaking havoc on neighborhood cats, dogs and landing on residents' cars, explained Johnson.

"This went on for three years," said Johnson who made several calls to the ACPS, City Council members as well as former Mayor Alvin Brown's office.

Johnson said he was told by the various City departments they don't handle birds and he could hire a trapper to round up the loose chickens. He said the City also cited they could not enter onto someone's property without permission to round up the loose birds as a reason they could not assist him.

"I was told 'this is not our problem and we don't deal with that type of issue' by several people with the City," said Johnson. "Every time I called a City department, the calls did not have any place to go, because no one is set up to handle this," explained Johnson, who said at one point, he was asked by city personnel, "Can't you just

shoot the birds?"

"I have no qualms at all about people having hens as long as everyone does it right," he said.

Chicken round-up

After a meeting with District 14 Councilman Jim Love, things slowly started to happen, said Johnson, who is still not happy with the way he was treated by the City.

"I will say that Mr. Love was the only one that would listen to me," said Johnson.

Love said he purchased some cages and gathered several volunteers to go out into Johnson's neighborhood early one morning to trap the birds. Johnson claimed they captured only three of the nuisance birds.

Nikki Harris, Division Chief for Jacksonville's Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) said among those volunteers were about 10 officers from her department who also continued to trap the chickens for several weeks.

"I have not heard any more complaints about the loose chickens," said Love who explained these "outlaw chickens" as he calls them, were an issue way before the recent backyard hen ordinance was even passed.

"If people follow the rules, there should not be a problem," said Love. "I feel the mandatory educational class is an important part of the program."

Johnson dismayed over hen expansion

Johnson said he never attended the public hearings prior to the City Council's vote on Ordinance 2015-0337 in June. Johnson said he did, however, contact City Council members prior to the vote to voice his concerns.

"I contacted six council members before the second vote," said Johnson. "The feedback I got, was that it would not pass."

Even though the loose chickens from Johnson's neighborhood were rounded up, he said the issue opened his eyes to the City's politics.

"What I uncovered as a private citizen throughout this [process] is unbelievable," said Johnson. "You can't

just say you will write a whole new ordinance unless you can keep up with it - and where is the money coming from to monitor this process? I still don't know, there are a lot of unanswered questions," said Johnson.

"There was such an overwhelming group of people in favor of this [ordinance], that is why we passed it," said Love, who pointed out that the ordinance does have guidelines and rules. "We tried to pass a bill that covered the issues opponents were addressing," he said.

The City is now in the process of developing a system for complaints, according to Harris, who said her department must direct its limited resources towards urgent calls for things such as animal attacks.

"Animal Care and Protective Services is responsible for handling dog- and cat-related calls for the City of Jacksonville," said Harris. "Animal code enforcement prioritizes many types of calls received by the City and gives high priority to requests for assistance, such as animals in distress, dog and cat bites and suspected animal cruelty," she said.

Backyard hen group offers assistance

Harris said she is working with Genora Crain-Orth, founder of River City Chicks, a local 501(c)(3) organization, who was instrumental in fighting to establish the backyard hen program in Jacksonville, to come up with a solution for nuisance chicken complaints.

"While catching loose chickens is not currently in ACPS' purview, we hope to develop a plan, in cooperation with River City Chicks, to address related concerns in Jacksonville," said Harris.

For now, Harris said residents who have an issue with loose chickens in their neighborhood can call 630-CITY to report the problem. Crain-Orth said River City Chicks is willing to work with the City to assist residents who have an issue with nuisance chickens.

"In the past, River City Chicks has helped neighbors trap unwanted chickens in a few neighborhoods around town," said Crain-Orth, of Riverside.

continued on page 13 >>>

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“While we’re willing to partner with ACPS, most of the feral flocks around town have been there for some time and are not the result of the ordinance approved in 2013 and finalized in 2015. Neighbors in those parts of town are pretty evenly divided between those that want the feral flocks and those that don’t,” explained Crain-Orth.

“The easiest way to trap a chicken is to find out where they roost [sleep] at night and pick them up after dark,” said Crain-Orth. “Other options are humane traps baited with stale white bread, if the chickens are hungry enough. You can also take them to Standard Feed and turn them over, hen or rooster,” said Crain-Orth.

According to a Jacksonville Municipal Code Compliance Division report which came out prior to the June City Council vote and the expansion of the backyard hen pilot program, ACPS 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.

Councilman Love said that he thinks the City can equip ACPS with the resources to deal with nuisance chickens running loose.

“The budget is getting a little stronger,” said Love. “I think we can help animal control pick this up. The question is, how bad of a problem will it be? If we have to go out every day and round up loose chickens, then maybe we need to look at the law again,” said Love. “If people do it right and follow the rules, it won’t be a big deal,” he said.

Create an urban backyard barnyard

Try before you buy

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

If you aren’t quite ready to put all your eggs in one basket by turning your backyard into a barnyard, there’s a way to feather your nest without having it stick in your craw. Consider Rent The Chicken.

The hens come home to roost in your own backyard complete with a coop and feed for a six-month trial period. Renting the chickens gives you a chance to avoid getting egg on your face by making a big investment before realizing you want to chicken out on being a chicken farmer.

After the commitment period, you can buy the chickens and the coop, build your own coop or return coop, chickens and all. Two hens produce about a dozen eggs a week so you may not be able to put all your eggs in one basket.

Rob Davis, owner of Standard Feed Store on Beaver Street, is the go-to guy for Rent The Chicken. He explained the contract includes two to four hens, a portable coop, feed for the



Tripp Larkins and his Silkie, Black Beauty

six-month period, water containers and instructions about keeping your chickens happy and healthy.

It may ruffle your feathers but having chickens is subject to the law. You must have a fenced yard; you are required to take a class (Backyard Poultry Seminar IFAS Extension) from which you get a certificate, and you must get a permit from City Hall.

Although Standard Feed Store has sold chickens for over 70 years, Davis

just recently became a Rent The Chicken affiliate. He laughingly said he probably won’t see much of a return on his investment. “Now that the ordinance has passed we may see an increase of people getting chickens but most people already had chickens,” said Davis. “It’s just that they are legal now!”

Sean and Devon Larkins of Ortega have five children and five chickens. Son Tripp Larkin’s duties include collecting eggs, checking food and water each day and cleaning the coop every week. Even though he doesn’t care for eggs, Larkin said, “I like the chickens. They are fun to hold and pet.”

The Larkins are trying to leave a smaller footprint by being more self-reliant, raising their own vegetables and having the chickens provide eggs. With breeds like Rhode Island Red, Buff Orpington, Silver Lace Wyandotte and Silkie, the chickens are beautiful as well as productive and affectionate.

If you’re thinking of chickens, don’t brood over it; rent for six months, then decide if you want them to rule the roost or fly the coop.

St. Johns Park residents enjoy improved water pressure

Woodmere Street residents on the block between Fair Street and Roosevelt Boulevard can look forward to improved water pressure now that the water main in that section of St. Johns Park has been replaced.

The Jacksonville Energy Authority’s Fair Street Water Improvement Project was completed early last month by PM Construction when the final lengths of pipe were laid in that last stretch of Woodmere Street. The project had begun earlier in the year and replaced old clay water mains on Fair Street, Merrimac Avenue and Woodmere Street with new PVC pipes.

For some residents that meant the installation of new individual water services to the property line, although for the most part the work was done in the City of



A worker with PM Construction, a contractor for the Jacksonville Energy Authority, fills holes with a back hoe on Woodmere Street.

Jacksonville’s rights of way and easements. Mickey and Barbara Cecil, who live on Woodmere Street, said the construction workers tried to be as undistruptive as possible, but noted the street had just been completely re-paved within the past two years. “Now it will probably be patched,” said Barbara.

According to the JEA, restoration of the project area will return affected pavement, grass, driveways and sidewalks to pre-construction condition.

Walter Buck, Sr., watched some of the work from the front lawn of his son’s home on Woodmere Street, waving to workers as they glanced his way. “They are real friendly,” he said, “and hard at work. They don’t seem to take much time off.”

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Right now, buyers are pouring in like crazy with military relocations ranking high on the list. I wrote an offer a couple of weeks ago

for a man who just got to Jacksonville from deployment. Yesterday he and his wife had their first beautiful baby and in a couple of weeks they will be moving into a home of their own in Riverside. About a week ago I closed a house with another Navy couple newly transferred to NAS. They were so gracious throughout the home-buying process that it made me a more gracious Realtor. Here’s a big thank you to all our new Military residents.

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Fifth most traveled bridge to be replaced

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

For the more than 14,000 motorists that regularly use the Lakeside Drive Bridge to cross the Ortega River canal, it is no comfort to learn the thoroughfare they use daily was ranked fifth among “most traveled bridges in need of repair” in Northeast Florida, according to a report from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The bridge, which was built in 1960, is not ancient as far as infrastructure in the United States goes. Barely more than a car’s length at just under 30 feet, the narrow bridge – 38 feet from curb to curb – received a “structurally deficient” rating of 48.3 on a scale of 100 by the National Bridge Inventory as a result of its last inspection in February 2014.

While the evaluation stated the Lakeside Drive Bridge met the minimum tolerable limits to be left in place as is, its substructure was deemed in “poor condition, with advanced section loss, deterioration, spalling or scour [holes caused by swiftly moving water].” The report also noted that its railings and guardrails were not meeting currently acceptable standards or required safety features.

Factors used to calculate the sufficiency

rating include structural adequacy and safety; serviceability and functional obsolescence (which considers number of lanes, average daily traffic, roadway width, and 10 other factors), and essentiality for public use (considering detour length and average daily traffic), according to the Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation’s Bridges (Report No. FHWA-PD-96-001; online at www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/mtguide.pdf).

The bridge inspection report also noted that trucks constituted five percent of the average daily traffic and projected in 20 years the number of all vehicles using the bridge would be close to 25,000.

The cost of bridge safety

Florida ranks 42nd nationally in the number of structurally deficient bridges. Two percent of its bridges – 243 – are currently in need of repair.

When the U.S. Department of Transportation released its 2014 National Bridge Inventory database in April 2015, the Fuller Warren Bridge topped the list of Florida’s 10 most heavily structurally comprised bridges. It was built one year earlier than the



Lakeside Drive Bridge ranks fifth among Florida bridges in need of repair.

Lakeside Drive Bridge and has 146,000 daily crossings. According to a report by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, it would take \$150 million to repair the Fuller Warren Bridge – but that’s on the state’s dime.

To address the structural issues of the Lakeside Drive Bridge, Jacksonville’s City Council voted in May to appropriate \$700,000 to replace that bridge. The city anticipates that construction will begin early in 2016, according to James Croft, City of Jacksonville public communications officer. Based on the bridge inspection report, 50 feet of structure improvement is recommended, working out to \$14,000 per foot.

“The Lakeside Drive Bridge project replaces the existing bridge with a precast box culvert, realigns the roadway to

provide a safer travel path by decreasing the turning radius and lowering the elevation, improves drainage at the intersection with Wabash Avenue, provides new sidewalks, corrects curbing deficiencies, and coordinates with various utilities to improve their crossing of the drainage outfall,” Croft said in an email to *The Resident*. “The design phase is already underway and Public Works is currently coordinating utility relocations.”

According to Gerri Boyce, media relations for the Jacksonville Energy Authority, water and sewer pipes, as well as overhead utilities, will require relocation prior to and during the contractor’s work.

“The City’s consultant engineer is in the process of finishing up their design work with all utilities so that the project can bid and move forward,” said Boyce.

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Merchants, JSO discuss safety measures in Park and King corridor

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Three weeks after the murder of Daniel Rowe, a busboy at the Blind Rabbit restaurant on King Street, area merchants had the chance to sit down with eight members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and discuss crime in the Park and King retail corridor, as well as the measures being taken by the JSO to combat it.

"We're looking at everything – staff numbers, crime statistics, adjusting resources, and working on bringing more officers to Zone 4," said Ray Walden, new Director of the Department of Patrol and Enforcement, and previous Commander of Patrol Zone 4, which includes the Park and King area. "The area here is getting better, but there are challenges due to the growth of businesses. This is no longer a residential area."

Larry Gayle, the new Zone 4 Commander, noted JSO fields more than one million calls annually, with 26.6 percent in Zone 4. Duval County is divided into six law enforcement zones, which are divided into nine sub-sectors.

"I personally feel a need to take care of this zone," said Gayle, who grew up in the area.

911 response times questioned

Blind Rabbit owners Anne Stanford and her son, Jeff, were vocal about their disappointment in dispatch response times. Rowe's murder wasn't the first incident in the past three years that prompted staff to pick up the phone and call 911 for help, but recently they have given up.

"Prior to the shooting, we just quit calling," said Anne Stanford. "The response times were 30 to 45 minutes, sometimes an hour and a half. We quit calling you

"We're looking at everything – staff numbers, crime statistics, adjusting resources, and working on bringing more officers to Zone 4 which includes the Park and King area. The area here is getting better, but there are challenges due to the growth of businesses.

This is no longer a residential area."

- Ray Walden

Director of the Department of Patrol and Enforcement, and previous Commander of Patrol Zone 4

because you flat don't respond."

Earlier this spring, unruly customers disturbed the lunch hour, threatening employees; the same customers returned a month later, tried to leave with an unpaid tab and threatened to beat the general manager, who happened to be Jeff's pregnant wife.

Assistant Chief Adam Pendley, who manages the Police Communications Section, noted the officers were handling a domestic dispute when the call came in. The 14 minutes it took for the officers to respond to the lunch time incident probably felt like 45, he said.

"You have every right to be upset," Pendley told the Stanfords. "The murder has amplified the issue. The spotlight this terrible incident has put on this area will give us all an opportunity to do something a little bit better. Our perspective in this area is very keen right now because of Daniel's murder."

Pendley urged all the merchants to "hit the re-set button, reboot, and give us a chance to make a difference moving forward."

Changes in place, more to come

Commander Gayle said some changes that have already been put in place include the clean-up of overgrowth in the alley behind the Blind Rabbit and the other businesses in that block. "We asked the JEA to increase the lighting back

there," he said. The Stanfords also added more lighting around their restaurant.

Pendley offered advice to the business owners for dealing with crimes in progress at their establishments. "Make sure all employees know the street address," he said. "Don't get frustrated by all the questions [the 911 operator will ask], because the police are already on the way."

Disappointed because Sheriff Mike Williams and Undersheriff Pat Ivey were not able to make the meeting due to budget hearings, the Stanfords had requests of their own.

"The amount of unreported crime [in this block] would blow your mind on a day-to-day basis," said Jeff. "I urge for an increase of patrols between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m."

Anne concurred, asking for a "continuous, consistent presence in the neighborhood. We need to be concerned about this [the murder] happening again."

District 14 Councilman Jim Love, who owns an insurance agency across the street from the Blind Rabbit and next door to Kickbacks Gastropub, said he has installed cameras and additional lights on his building and cut back the landscaping around it.

Officer James Anderson, with the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Unit, said every single business in the Park and King area has lighting and landscaping

issues. He also noted the street lighting there is not sufficient at 70 watts.

Love said he is working with the Public Works Department to get energy-efficient LED lighting at a higher wattage installed on King Street.

Watch groups encouraged

There are also efforts by Riverside Avondale Preservation to have a community watch group started in the Park and King retail area. Kevin Kuzel, who is on RAP's Public Safety Committee, said their goal this year is to ask all the major commercial merchants associations to be part of a neighborhood watch group.

Officer Michael Duckworth, who has been the beat officer in Riverside and Avondale for many years, said neighborhood watch groups were very effective, citing the RAP Neighborhood Watch up near 5 Points as being very active.

"The neighbors come out and stop us on the golf cart and tell us stuff," he said. "They don't call downtown [the non-emergency number]."

Duckworth is due to retire in December, on the heels of last month's retirement of the community's other long-time beat officer, T.C. Edwards. Both officers regularly patrolled on golf carts and bicycles, and engaged with the residents to provide a calming presence to prevent minor issues from escalating into major ones.

"It has changed a lot since I first trained here under that guy [pointing to Ray Walden] over 25 years ago. These types of gatherings never occurred back then," said Duckworth. "We're fortunate to be involved in these types of groups as residents, as officers and as business owners. That long ago we didn't have this opportunity to come together and work with the community."



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Local agencies left out of state budget look for other sources of funding

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Even with donations from patrons, benefactors and corporate “angels,” nonprofit organizations wage a continual struggle for funds in order to grow or to keep their doors open.

Some of those funds come from state coffers, and some from the City of Jacksonville, which will finish its 2015-2016 budget review later this month and hold public hearings during regular City Council sessions.

Several local nonprofits, including Riverside Fine Arts, the North Florida School for Special Education, The Arc Jacksonville, as well as the St. Johns River Ferry, lost hoped-for state funding when Gov. Rick Scott vetoed millions slated for Jacksonville.

In rejecting dozens of applications state-wide, Scott indicated some of the applicants “circumvented current established grant review processes.” He said others could seek funding through other sources.

Among the losers was Riverside Fine Arts, which requested \$50,000 for expansion of its 10-year Project Listen, an arts education outreach program which reached 27,000 elementary students last year at Fishweir, Ortega, Central and West Riverside Elementary Schools.

“We were small change in that cut but at the same time our area children aren’t going to be able to experience as much



Project Listen funded professional jazz singer Sara Gazarek for a visit at Lee High School and a session with the school choir.

free art and music education,” said Stacy Aubrey, Riverside Fine Arts executive director. “We take it into the schools at no charge, for kids not normally exposed to art and music.”

This was the first time the organization had applied for this type of state funds to expand the program.

“Art organizations can apply for funding through the state but the last time we applied we got less than \$1000 and it’s a very rigorous process. We

applied through a different source to get funding and Gov. Scott axed it,” Aubrey said. “It’s really hard to get funding from the state of Florida for the arts; it’s the first to get cut and the last to get money. We were excited to hear we made it through the Senate and the House, so it was disappointing to be cut.”

To fill the financial gap, Riverside Fine Arts is hosting a 5K run on Sept. 26, which will start at Bold City Brewery at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to Project Listen.

“We rely on individual sponsorships, and foundation donations and grants to fund regular programming,” Aubrey said. “To expand we need more funds. We needed to come up with other fundraising sources or we’re not going to be able to grow the program.”

Bigger disappointment

The North Florida School of Special
continued on page 17 >>>

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Education (NFSSE) also fell prey to cuts by Gov. Scott, who stated its application for \$2 million did not have a “clear statewide return on investment.”

“I don’t think his staff nor he really understood the scope of what we want to do,” said Sally Hazelip, NFSSE executive director. “People who aren’t in the trenches of special education daily don’t understand that there’s not another school like this in the state, nothing like the magnitude we offer.”

Since the school serves five counties in northeast Florida, it has a waiting list. Hazelip hoped the \$2 million in state funds would “seed” a \$5 million capital campaign to expand the school, utilizing 4.8 acres donated by the Ida Mae Stevens Foundation.

Hazelip said the 31,000-square-foot expansion would house elementary and intermediate students, therapies, a commercial kitchen, and a gym.

Although it would be good to have \$2 million already in the campaign coffer, Hazelip said she would begin casting the vision to various philanthropic people in the community.

“Our goal is to be a model school for the state. When I meet with all the major private schools in the state, I continually hear ‘If only we had a school like yours in our community,’” said Hazelip, a San Jose resident. “We’re not giving up. There are very few [schools] that do what we do, incorporating the garden, the food truck and all the different aspects we offer in primary, secondary and vocational education. We’re getting these kids ready to work in the community.”

Biscottis, Casbah may finally get liquor licenses

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

In a resolution barely 250 words long, District 14 Councilman Jim Love and City Council President Greg Anderson introduced support of a special Florida bill that would create nine “commercial character areas” in Riverside and Avondale to allow small restaurants to serve liquor.

Currently the state requires restaurants to have at least 150 seats for a permit to sell liquor, making it difficult for popular dining favorites such as Biscottis and the Casbah in the Shoppes of Avondale to cater to patrons who prefer something other than beer or wine.

The Florida legislature has proposed an amendment to Chapter 87-471, Laws of Florida, which would add this special zone to provide an exception for space and seating requirements for liquor licenses. The zone would drop the seating minimum to 100 for businesses with at least 1,800 square feet of floor space.

Anderson and Love’s resolution was co-sponsored by At-Large Council member Tommy Hazouri, who said, “I am joining Council President, Greg Anderson, and District 14 Councilman Jim Love, with the endorsement of the Riverside Avondale Preservation

(RAP), in support of the bill because all businesses, big and small, deserve the opportunity to compete in this growing Jacksonville neighborhood.”

Riverside Avondale Preservation is also supportive of this bill.

“This measure applies only to bona fide restaurants that must demonstrate that 51% of their receipts come from food sales, which is regulated by the state. Similar legislation already applies downtown and in the urban transition area, aka 5 points,” said RAP board president Sunny Gettinger.

“We believe it will incentivize the right kind of development in our neighborhood, allowing our existing mid-size restaurants to compete, and reconsideration of very large or alcohol-only projects. Restaurants will still have to meet all zoning and overlay requirements. RAP is committed to working with both the business and residential communities to ensure our neighborhood looks at all development through the lens of smart growth,” Gettinger said.

The resolution, introduced Aug. 25, is in debate with the Rules and the Land Use & Zoning committees. A public hearing is scheduled with the Duval County Legislative Delegation on Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. at City Hall, 117 W. Duval St.

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2042 Dellwood Avenue

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4566 Country Club Road

Spacious and light Ortega home on huge corner lot. Deck in back for entertaining formal living with fireplace, built-in shelves and cabinets. Oversized 2-car carport w/workshop. 2,073 sq. ft. 3BR/2BA. \$255,000

Shoppes of Avondale to gain more parking spots

Last month *The Resident* reported an Avondale resident had issues with the amount of space along St. John's Avenue that had been striped to prohibit parking.

After speaking with Tom Cavin of the Florida Department of Transportation, Ed Walker wrote in to say "FDOT concurs with me and will remove the long hash-mark striping on the south side of St. Johns Avenue near Edgewood Avenue."

Walker was told Cavin would issue a work order and send a crew out there the week of August 24 to remove those hash markings and stripe out new parking spaces.

"He does not want to eliminate any hashing on the north side of St. Johns Avenue at Talbot Avenue, but he thinks he can create a few new additional spaces along St. Johns Avenue between Dancy Street and Van Wert Avenue," said Walker.

The work order was completed on Aug. 25, following a crash analysis of that intersection, according to Ron Tittle, FDOT public information officer. He stated the work should be completed by the end of this month.

The study looked at a three-year period and found seven crashes occurred between Talbot and Edgewood Avenues, only one of which involved a vehicle parked on the shoulder, which was struck when attempting to enter traffic.

The excerpt provided by Tittle noted, "No overwhelming reason exists for the area being marked as no parking other than a concern for the shoulder being damaged by vehicles parking on the grass."

Beer and brats restaurant planned for former Woolworth's

The historic 5 Points neighborhood will soon see doors open to another restaurant, one that bills itself as "Bavarican" – a blend of a Bavarian beer garden with an American twist on bratwurst.

Steve Williams, who bought Peterson's Five & Dime last February, announced an agreement with Hoptinger's Bier Garden & Sausage House to occupy the ground floor space of the 10,000 square foot building at 1037 Park St.

Williams, CEO of Harbinger Sign and owner of the Florida Mining Gallery, said he had considered several tenants, including some national brands.

"I can tell you that of the national brands, one was quick serve, one was a tap room, one was a retailer on the very, very cheap side and it would have been a horrible fit," Williams said. "We considered a lot of local

start-ups and even some local celebrity chefs, but nothing worked out on paper even though some of the ideas were brilliant."

Williams bought the former Fuel Coffeehouse building, which was initially a Woolworth's, for \$820,000 and said he will be investing a lot more in the renovation.

"We are putting in an elevator, complying to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and an installing a full-life safety fire system with a ramp in the back for access and two stairwells, one in back and one in front," he said. "With the purchase, by the time we get done, it will be almost \$2 million in the overall investment. But as we are still in the process of collecting bids, any number is a guess still at this time."

Hoptinger also plans to put \$1 million into the build-out, breathing some expensive new life into the iconic building.

This will be Hoptinger's third location, with one in Jacksonville Beach and a second just opened in St. Augustine. The 5 Points restaurant will most likely open next spring.

Meanwhile the second floor – approximately 5,000 square feet of space – is available for another tenant or a gallery. Despite local speculation that Williams would move the Florida Mining Gallery to 5 Points, he said, "I would not move Florida Mining there. I might consider a gallery or a side space for it [in 5 Points], but we will always be where we are [at Harbinger Sign] as long as that is where our main business is."

The Avondale entrepreneur has other projects he is contemplating, but said, "We really want to get this one up and running and to a level of quality that we think is important."

Willow Branch Creek bridge project nearing completion



Eric Kelly, owner of EK Masonry, mixes concrete to affix the balance of the 48 balustrades on the west side of Riverside Avenue. Kelly and his two-man crew of Mark Wilder and Nick O'Neil will finish the project, weather permitting before Labor Day weekend, with 52 balustrades on the east side. Installation began Aug. 27 and marks the next-to-last step in the nearly three-year project, which will be considered complete when construction debris and sediment is dredged from the creek. The schedule for that portion of the project has not been determined.

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VFW kicks off two annual competitions

Youth can enter essay, scholarship competition

Commander Richard Paz of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1689 announced the kick off last month for two annual competitions, one for middle school students and one for high school students.

The VFW's annual Patriot's Pen youth essay competition is open to students in grades 6-8. The 20th anniversary theme of the Patriot's Pen competition is "What Freedom Means to Me." Deadline for entries of 300 to 400 words is Nov. 1.

State first-place winners compete for their share of thousands of dollars in awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Each year, more than 125,000 students participate nationwide.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship competition is open to

high school students. The 2015 theme selected is "My Vision for America." Students in grades 9 to 12 must write and record a three- to five-minute essay on the selected theme using an audio CD or flash drive and present their recording, typed essay and completed entry form to VFW Post 1689 by Nov. 1.

All state first-place winners receive a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. and the chance to compete for their share of more than \$150,000 in scholarships. The first place winner receives a \$30,000 college scholarship.

Although the Voice of Democracy Scholarship program is 68 years old, the VFW assumed sole responsibility for it in 1961. Around 40,000 high school students participate in the competition each year and VFW awards more than \$2 million in scholarships every year.

For either competition, interested students and teachers should contact VFW Post 1689 at (904) 399-1689 or email post1689@flvfw.org for details. Participants can also visit www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen and www.vfw.org/VOD for more information.

Property owners receive notice of proposed property taxes

Property owners in Duval County received notices of proposed property taxes, often called "Truth in Millage" (TRIM) Notices, in late August.

Each notice lists proposed property values, applicable exemptions and property tax estimates based on tax rates proposed by the taxing authorities. The notice also includes a schedule of public hearings held by each taxing authority.

Property owners who have questions regarding their notice or disagree with the proposed market value, may visit the Duval County Property Appraiser's Office downtown at 231 E. Forsyth Street or call (904) 630-2011 for an informal review.

All formal petitions to the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) to appeal the market value of property or the denial of an exemption or classification must be filed within 25 calendar days of Aug. 20, 2015. This year's deadline to file a formal petition with the VAB is Monday, Sept. 14, 2015. Petitions must be directly mailed or hand-delivered to the VAB office at City Hall, 117 W. Duval Street, Suite 305, Jacksonville, Florida 32202 and received by 5 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2015.

"TRIM notices inform property owners of the taxes they will owe which are determined by the millage rates set by each taxing authority based on the values determined by our office. If you have questions or concerns about your notice,

please feel free to contact my office. We strive to be fair and accurate for all and look forward to serving you," said Jerry Holland, Duval County Property Appraiser.

The notice is not a bill. Property tax bills are mailed by the Tax Collector on or about November 1. More details regarding the Notices of Proposed Property Taxes, petition forms and other information are available on the Property Appraiser's website at www.duvalpa.com.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Real estate professionals send kids to school with new backpacks



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected a record 733 backpacks filled with school supplies for local children during the 16th annual Backpack Challenge.

A record 733 backpacks filled with school supplies were collected by real estate professionals at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida during its 16th Annual Backpack Challenge.

“We are grateful to be able to play a role in ensuring that as many children as possible are prepared for educational success,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. “The Backpack Challenge is something that our team looks forward to every year.”

The backpacks were purchased for students in kindergarten through grade 12, and filled with school supplies such as pens, pencils, paper and notebooks.

Numerous volunteers, including students from area high schools, assisted in assembling the backpacks.

The backpacks and school supplies were donated to students via seven nonprofit agencies and schools in Northeast Florida.

“Words cannot express how much we appreciate the numerous donations and generous support we received from our team members and the community during The Backpack Challenge,” said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. “We know that beginning the school year with a new back pack filled with supplies makes a difference in the lives of children living in our communities, and this effort helps us accomplish that goal.”

SNL documentary co-produced by Jacksonville native

Rubbing elbows with the famous, fabulous and funny is just part of the job for former Jacksonville native Sarah Cowperthwaite.

The Florida State University alumna was one of six producers on the *Saturday Night Live* 40th anniversary documentary, *Live from New York!*, created and co-produced by her boss, J! Pomeroy, of JumpLine.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in theater from FSU, Cowperthwaite headed for Los Angeles, where she has lived nearly 15 years and works as a supervising and talent producer for JumpLine. She also resides in New York City, where she is a producer with BehindTheLine Productions.

While in Los Angeles, Cowperthwaite became close to Tom Broecker, costume designer for more than 20 years on *Saturday Night Live!* When Broecker and Pomeroy masterminded the idea for *Live from New York!*, they selected Cowperthwaite to book and coordinate interviews with more than 50 actors, politicians and other celebrities.

“They [Broecker and Pomeroy] wanted to look at how SNL has influenced American society and how it is a reflection of the culture,” she said. “It was a dream job, to take something that everyone is familiar with and look at it in a different way...look at what the conversation was about in those periods.”

Among those whom Cowperthwaite booked for interviews were Chevy Chase, Laraine Newman, John Goodman, Tina Fey, Candice Bergen, Chris Rock, Amy Poehler, Alec Baldwin, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Tom Brokaw.

“People took the interviews very seriously,” she said about the people who shared their thoughts about the show and its four-decade run. “They enjoyed the



Sarah Cowperthwaite (Credit: Stefanie Keenan/Getty Images)

opportunity to talk seriously about it.”

She especially enjoyed meeting Baldwin and Brokaw.

“Alec Baldwin cracked himself up as he remembered sketches and favorite moments onstage, which, of course, was hilarious,” Cowperthwaite said. About Brokaw, she noted “To have a journalist who is so well respected and revered be excited about *Saturday Night Live* and the chance to use it as a way to discuss the changes in our society was an honor for all of us.”

Cowperthwaite is the daughter of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church’s former interim rector, the Rev. Bob Cowperthwaite.

Live from New York! debuted in April at the Tribeca Film Festival and is now touring the country through Tugg.com, which allows fans to request screenings at local theaters.



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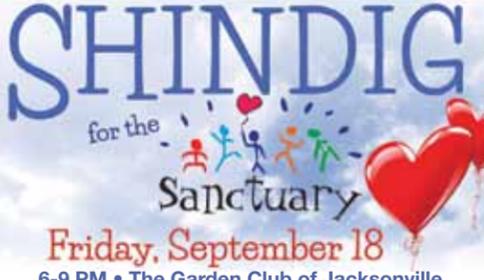
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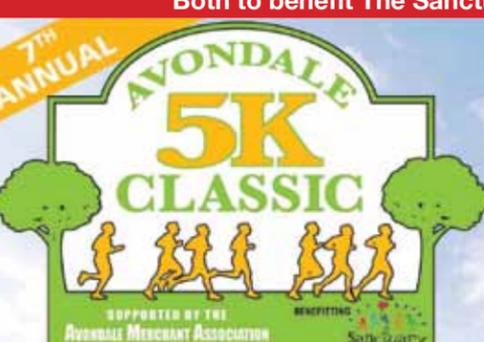
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Credit union opens 270th office at Brooklyn Station



Seated: Assistant Manager Katherine Lofton, Branch Manager Rodney Lewis. Standing: Member Service Representatives Dante Glover, Darlene Castillo, Crystal Hartson, Blake Garces, Aleksandra Nettles, Stephanie Abel and Stephon Angry

Staff in the spacious and sleek new office of the Navy Federal Credit Union at Brooklyn Station on Riverside are now greeting new customers, according to Rodney Lewis II, branch office manager.

“The grand opening was a huge success,” he said, of their July 27 event. Touted as the largest credit union in the world with more than five million members, the new office serves downtown Jacksonville as well as the nearby historic neighborhoods.

“Brooklyn Station is a prime location for providing convenience for our members,” Lewis said in a statement. “This branch is in the middle of a booming downtown area.”

For more information, the credit union’s number is 1-800-842-6328 and their address is 150 Riverside Avenue.

Ortega resident named to Mayor Curry’s staff

Ortega resident Marsha Oliver has been appointed Director of Public Affairs by Mayor Lenny Curry. Oliver previously served as Chief of Public Relations and Marketing for the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS).



Marsha Oliver

Oliver has spent more than 20 years helping to advance the communications and marketing goals of numerous corporate, non-profit, educational, and philanthropic organizations throughout the region. Prior to working for DCPS, Oliver served as president of O. Communications, LLC, a Jacksonville-based public relations firm specializing in strategic marketing communications services benefiting a number of organizations including The Chartrand Foundation, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, March of Dimes (Florida), Museum of Science & History (*Race: Are We So Different?*), and others.

Oliver’s awards and recognitions include designation as a 2015 Women of Color Cultural Foundation Outstanding Education Leader; 2014 Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council; Business Journal Up and Comer (2003); Super Bowl XXXIX Host Committee Program Chair; Chair, Mayor John Peyton’s Community Services Transition team; and a Rotary Foundation of Rotary International Group Study Exchange team delegate representing Northeast Florida in South Africa.

Schnauss Naugle named a Florida “Rising Star”

Super Lawyers selected attorney Katherine Schnauss Naugle to its 2015 Florida Rising Stars list. Each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in Florida are selected to receive the Rising Stars honor that recognizes lawyers 40 years and younger or have practiced law 10 years or less.



Katherine Schnauss Naugle

Schnauss Naugle is founder of the Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, P.L. With offices in Riverside, her practice focuses on estate planning, guardianship, probate and elder law. Active in the community, she is a past president of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association and a member of the Jacksonville Bar Association, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Small Business Resource Network.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Resident named a Member of Distinction

Nancy Hogshead-Makar, a three-time Olympic gold medal swimmer, lawyer, scholar and author from Riverside, recently received the prestigious Member of Distinction Award from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women.

Hogshead-Makar is CEO of Champion Women, a nonprofit that leads targeted efforts to advocate for equality, accountability and transparency in sport. She received the biennial award as a member of Pi Beta Phi who has distinguished herself and received recognition and success within her profession, during Pi Beta Phi's convention in June.

"Nancy's impact on Title IX and women's equality is truly inspiring," said Pi Beta Phi President Paula Shepherd. "It is with great pride we honor Nancy's work and achievements. She makes an amazing role model for young women across the globe."

Hogshead-Makar is a lifelong advocate for access and equality in athletics. She is frequently a keynote speaker and regularly contributes to shaping athletic policy for girls and women. A board member for the Association of Title IX Administrators, the Aspen Institute's Sport and Society as well as the World



Nancy Hogshead-Makar and Pi Beta Phi President Paula Shepherd

Olympian's Association, Hogshead-Makar also served for nine years – from 2003-2012 – as Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Committee on the Rights of Women. She is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport*, and *Sports Illustrated* magazine has listed her as one of the most influential people in the history of Title IX.

In addition, Hogshead-Makar has also been the recipient of the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Award for The Americas and has been inducted into multiple athletic Halls of Fame.

Resident honored with award from Nevada Air National Guard

Doug Milne, a media official with the PGA TOUR, received an unexpected honor from a member of the U.S. Air Force and Nevada Air National Guard.

Milne was in Reno, Nevada, covering the Barracuda Championship Pro-Am tournament where he interviewed U.S. Air Force Chief Sergeant Joe Martini for a story. Sgt. Martini, who has more than 30 years in the service and spent time in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, was a guest at the PGA Tour through a program called Doctors Supporting Troops.

After Milne's story was published (<http://together.pgatour.com/stories/2015/august/barracuda-pro-am.html>), he had a second meeting with Sgt. Martini and, at the end of the tournament, the sergeant and his wife appeared at the media center.

"He shook my hand, looked me square in the eyes and told me I was one of the good guys," shared Milne, an Ortega resident. "He presented me with this Chief's Award medallion. He said they are given neither lightly nor frequently."



Doug Milne, right, is interviewed by Fox News TV-Reno.



Chief's Award for Outstanding Performance, presented to Doug Milne

Ortega couple chosen as Guardians of the Arts

Poppy and Rob Clements, of Ortega, have been chosen as recipients of the 2016 Guardian of the Arts Award by the Cathedral Arts Project. Supporters of the nonprofit for nearly a decade, their impact on Jacksonville goes much deeper.

Poppy is vice chair of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund board, serves on the boards of City Year Jacksonville and the Baptist Foundation, and is an active member of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

"Rob and I are thrilled to be honored by the Cathedral Arts Project," said Poppy Clements. "The arts make a huge, positive difference in the lives of young people and our entire community, and we're very proud to be a part of the Cathedral Arts Project family. We're especially proud of the work the Cathedral Arts Project has done to empower underserved children in Jacksonville, opening up whole new worlds of possibilities for them not only

in the arts but in every aspect of their lives and education."

Rob is chairman and CEO of EverBank Financial Corp, serves as board chair for the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, sits on the boards of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Jacksonville University, and is a member of the Downtown Investment Authority.

"Poppy and I became involved in the Cathedral Arts Project because we saw the tremendous work this organization does nurturing young people," said Rob Clements. "We've seen first-hand the incredible impact the arts can have on the lives of children, helping spark so much creativity, imagination and interest in education and personal growth. We feel very fortunate to be part of a community that is so deeply committed to developing the full creative and academic potential of every child, and we hope that others will join in and help support the Cathedral Arts Project and its many vital programs."



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay or just not sure, filthy rich, dirt poor, no habla inglés. And a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds. We don't care if you're more churchy than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We welcome you if you are over 60 but not grown up yet, or a teenager who is growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because Grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We welcome those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts... and you!

We welcome you because if you're good enough for God (and you are!) then you are good enough for us!

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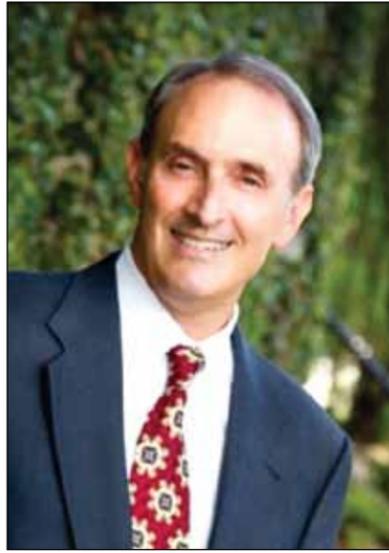
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Riverside lawyer a 5-year honoree

Riverside attorney Sean B. Cronin, a partner at Cronin & Maxwell, PL was chosen by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America © (2016), in the practice area of Medical Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs. This is the fifth year he has been listed in the book.

Before his legal career, Cronin was a pilot in the U.S. Navy, serving as a P-3 (C) Mission Commander, Patrol Plane Commander and Naval Aviation Safety Officer. He is an FAA-certified commercial pilot with multiple and single engine instrument ratings. Cronin is a member of The Trial Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar, The Florida Justice Association and The American Association for Justice. He is a graduate of Jacksonville University and Florida State University College of Law.



Sean Cronin

O'Malley Johnson joins Community First Credit Union

Meredith O'Malley Johnson, of Riverside, has joined Community First Credit Union as its director of corporate partnerships, a new position for the organization. Johnson will be responsible for attracting new membership by creating and nurturing relationships with key employers, educators and community groups, as well as developing products and services designed for targeted employer groups.

An original team member at the One Spark festival, she served as the community and public relations director for three years. In 2014, she founded the nonpartisan Jax Young Voters Coalition and currently serves on its board of directors. She is also on the boards of the Civic Round Table of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation, and Party, Benefit & Jam (PB&J).

Johnson has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Florida and earned a master's degree from the University of Florida in political science with a specialty in campaigning.



Meredith O'Malley Johnson

Avondale resident promoted within Jacksonville Symphony

Toni Paz, an Avondale resident, has been promoted to Senior Director of Major and Planned Giving within the development department of the Jacksonville Symphony Association.

Robert Massey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jacksonville Symphony Association, announced Paz' promotion, along with three others: Jennifer Barton-Behr has been named Director of Patron Engagement, Iris I. Simmons is now Institutional Relations Manager, and Lorraine Roetges is Director of Leadership Giving.

Major gifts will focus on growing the high end donations that are critical to the support of any nonprofit.



Toni Paz

Residents win grants from Arts Venture Fund

Riverside resident Kate Garcia Rouh and Murray Hill resident Roy Berry were two of eight recipients of grants from the Art Ventures Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Rouh and her husband Kenny, the RouxArt team, will receive \$3,500 to fund their participation in a masterclass of the Zager method of creating mosaics, resulting in a completed public project using the method. Berry will also receive \$3,500 to produce a new photographic series, "Nostalgia," an urban landscape project shot on film, which explores flawed perceptions of the past, particularly of the Old South.

Along with Rouh and Berry, visual artists Fabricio Farias and Hiromi Moneyhun, film producers Patrick Barry and Ana Paula Habib, playwright/actor Darryl Reuben Hall, and theater producer Tony Walsh all received grants to take their artistic achievements to the next level.

The 2015 Art Ventures recipients will be featured in an exhibit at the UNF Gallery at MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Dec. 2, 2015 to Jan. 17, 2016 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Art Ventures Fund.

The Art Ventures initiative is funded through the Art Ventures Endowment, the J. Shepard, Jr. & Mary Ann Bryan Arts Endowment, the Anne and Sallyn Pajcic Art Ventures Endowment, the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund, and the Alynne Sharp Art Fund.



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Roy Berry

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St. Vincent's HealthCare names new president/CEO

Michael H. Schatzlein, M.D., has been selected as the new President/Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent's HealthCare and Senior Vice President and Ministry Market Executive of Ascension Health.

Dr. Schatzlein, a heart transplant surgeon, was the President/CEO of Saint Thomas Health in Nashville, Tennessee, from June 2010 until last month. He also serves as the Senior Vice President, Ascension Health/Group Ministry Operating Executive, providing strategic advice and guidance to the Ministry Market Executives of Indiana and Tennessee. He also holds an MBA and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Michael Schatzlein, M.D.

"This has been a most deliberative and reflective process over the last several months," said Sidney Simmons, St. Vincent's HealthCare's Board Chairman. "Speaking for our Board, we could not be more excited to have Mike join St. Vincent's."

Dr. Schatzlein will assume his Jacksonville duties after Labor Day. He and his wife, Liz, a broadcast journalist, live in Nashville, and will also establish a residence in Jacksonville.

New HabiJax board includes Avondale resident



Greg Matovina, Past Chair, HabiJax President and CEO Mary Kay O'Rourke, Jane Upton, Incoming Chair, and Sheila Cribb, Vice Chair

Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc. (HabiJax) announced its 2015-2016 Board Officers at its June Board of Directors meeting. Serving on the 2015-2016 HabiJax Board Officers are Jane McFarland Upton, Chair, of San Marco; Sheila Cribb, Vice Chair, of San Jose; A. Hamilton Cooke, Secretary, of Avondale, and Robert Dilts, Treasurer,

also of San Jose. "We are fortunate to have such an involved and dedicated Board of Directors and Officers," said HabiJax President and CEO Mary Kay O'Rourke. "The expertise they provide in each of their respective fields allows for great collaboration, and we look forward to the coming year."

Ortega Forest resident heads school anniversary committee

Ortega Forest resident Jill Langford Dame has been named chairman of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville 50th Anniversary Committee.

Dame, who graduated from Episcopal High School in 1974, is Executive Director of Leadership Jacksonville. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts from Queens University in Charlotte in English and history as well as the University of Florida College of Law where she received a Juris Doctor degree with honors. She also earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Jacksonville University.



Jill Langford Dame

As chairman of the anniversary committee, Dame will oversee the planning of numerous anniversary activities throughout the year.

Dame and her husband, Peter, are parents of twin daughters, Brooks and Darby, both of whom graduated from Episcopal in 2012.

New lifestyle concept shop opens in Avondale



Jen Bryie, Christian Miller

Blend Indoor Outdoor, owned by first-time proprietors Christian and Georgia Miller, opened in The Shoppes of Avondale last month.

The Ortega Forest residents, along with manager and designer Jen Bryie, help customers blend their indoor outdoor lifestyle through a mix of modern accessories and furniture with traditional styles.

Christian said about the Avondale location, "Our family loves eating and shopping there, almost every weekend. We just think it has a great feel. My mom, Anita Miller, has had a shop there for many years so we are confident this is a great place for our new concept."

The shop is at 3639 St. Johns Ave. Call (904) 222-0784 for information about their indoor and outdoor furniture plus pillows, linens, lamps, mirrors, containers and more.

BurgerFi anticipates strong lunch crowd

BurgerFi, Brooklyn Station on Riverside's newest tenant, opened its doors last month and is expecting a strong lunch business.

John Peavy, general manager for the second Jacksonville location, and area manager for the company's Florida restaurants, said "I love this area, always have, and now with the redevelopment of these new neighborhoods, we thought it was the best fit for BurgerFi."

BurgerFi offers gourmet Angus beef burgers, veggie burgers, beef hot dogs and a variety of sides and drinks, including wine and beer.

The 4,000 square-foot indoor and outdoor dining space is located at 108 Riverside Ave., in the shops at Brooklyn Station. Call (904) 355-3066 for hours or visit BurgerFiJacksonville2 on Facebook.



Scott Gaylord, John Peavy

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Steve Pajcic enjoyed Hemming Park as a young child and he wants to ensure it is a thriving place to go for future generations. Steve and Anne Pajcic donated \$75,000 to the Friends of Hemming Park to help energize the urban area. The Pajcics are hoping the donation sparks others in the community to give to the park, which is right across the street from City Hall. As a centerpiece of downtown, Steve believes everyone in the city will benefit from its revitalization.



Education is so important to all of us at Pajcic & Pajcic so we are proud to sponsor the Role Models Foundation in its annual school supply giveaway. Close to 500 backpacks and supplies were handed out at the event this year. Having the proper tools is so vital to getting the kids off to a great start for the school year.



It was a most unique way to thank Steve and Michael Pajcic for all they have done for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. They each got their very own bobble head doll! Steve and Michael were the force behind a wiffle golf tournament that raised more than \$40,000 for JALA, an organization that provides certain legal services to those who can't afford them. The dolls were handed over during a special presentation at the Pajcic Firm that included JALA Board Members, the JALA Executive Director and other supporters. We were amazed at how much the bobble heads actually resembled Steve and Michael!



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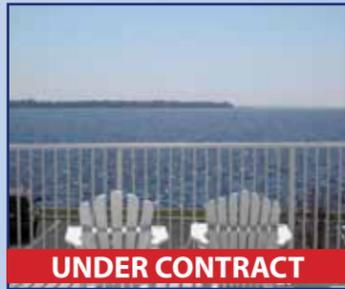
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Price, Women's Center of Jacksonville interim director, and K. Webb, retiring executive director



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Joan Van Vleck, Lisé Everly, John Ivalts

Women's Center honors retiring executive director

Women, and supportive men, came from all over Jacksonville to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of Women's Center of Jacksonville, and the retirement of its founder and executive director, Shirley K. Webb.

"I've known Shirley for almost 40 years and have worked with her as a volunteer for many years in other organizations and with her at the Women's Center for 11 years. I am going to miss her as our fearless leader, it's not going to be the same without her," said Gillian Ticehurst, development director. "We are very grateful for what she's done and wish her all the best, and we'll keep things going at the Women's Center."

The Aug. 21 evening affair was held at Deerwood Country Club, and was sponsored

by Mayo Clinic (Legacy Year Signature Sponsor), among many others, including local philanthropists Delores Barr Weaver, Helen Lane, Joannie Newton and Joan Van Vleck.

"Shirley is my shero. I first put Bosom Buddies together 27 years ago, then in 2000 I was diagnosed with a second metastatic cancer and thought before I left this earth I wanted to find the perfect place for Bosom Buddies to have a home," said Bobbi de Córdova-Hanks, founder of Bosom Buddies. "There was Shirley and the Women's Center and it's been a dream for the last 15 years since we've all worked together. She's a wonder and we'll miss her a great deal."

Webb will support interim director Laurie Price through the end of the year.



Bobbi Blancq, Jeremy Ticehurst, Lisa Rinaman



Hal and Heather Houston with Annie and Josh Bryan



Edward Bawroski, Nikki Sutton and Courtney Hunter



Robbin Seago, Veronica Scott Fulton and Maci Fulton

Donors enjoy sweet evening in support of Nemours

Donors enjoyed spectacular cuisine, live music, a whisky and chocolate tasting, and plenty of candy in support of Nemours Children's Specialty Care during a delectable fundraiser at Sweet Pete's Aug. 21.

Dubbed "An Evening of Promise," the event raised \$97,290 for the children's specialty facility, said

Ashley Scott, Development Specialist at Nemours.

The proceeds will help Nemours Fund for Children's Health provide outstanding pediatric patient care, support prevention and education programs, and fund the research that leads to better treatments so children in Northeast Florida can have a healthier future.



Sal and Heather Altoum



Carson Vandergriff, Mary Tsighis, Ted Tsighis and John Marees



Emily McLaughlin, Heather Courtney, Patton Weber, Helen Skinner, Callie Hugo and Tara Lee

Youth takes the reins at 2015 Cowford Ball

In an effort to rally support among younger donors for the 20th Annual Cowford Ball, committee organizers hosted a pre-ball fundraising event Aug. 16 at Mellow Mushroom in Avondale.

The kickoff event drew approximately 70 potential supporters for this year's Cowford Ball, which raises funds for the Florida Division of the American Cancer Society. Formerly held earlier in the year, the ball has been moved to Saturday, Oct. 3.

This year's gala will have a Gold Rush theme, inviting celebrants to don jeans, hats and cowboy boots during the event, which will be held at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.

Heather and Will Courtney will chair the event alongside honorary chairs Margaret and David Hicks. The Courtneys are the youngest couple ever in Jacksonville to head an American Cancer Society fundraising event.



Tim Miller and Katy Disdelle



Laurence and Tara Lee with Billy Catlin



Andrew Combs, Helen Skinner and Alexis Wilson

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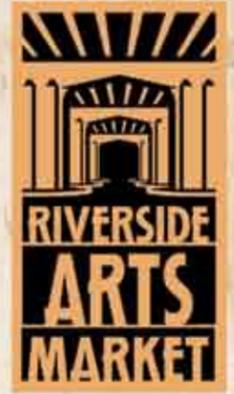
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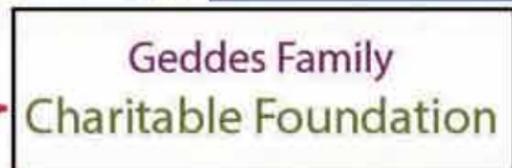
Angels for Allison helps with the financial needs of families who are suffering the loss of a child. For more information go to www.angelsforallison.org



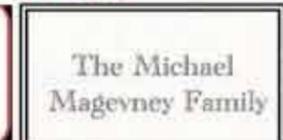
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Donors play childhood games to fight hunger



The Swisher Emojis: Megan Cunningham, Chelsea Virta-Steel, Shelby Abisnay, Ria Saldajeno, Caroline Casey, Annie Goodwin, Ava Carrillo, Rose Montana, Emma Dodd, Christina Salvatore and Kendall McAvoy; not pictured, Kylie Maldonado

over-the-head race, sack race, tricycle race, hula-hoop race, three-leg race, tug-of-war and a trivia contest.

Tijuana Flats of Riverside won the event with the lowest accumulated time over all the events. Placing second was Orangetheory Fitness, a team manned by athletes from its Hodges Boulevard location but financially supported by employees at its Ortega, Mandarin and Hodges locations. In third place was Watson Realty of Lakewood.

The Emojis, one of three teams sponsored by the cigar company Swisher International, won a trophy for the most creatively designed t-shirt. The Emoji team was comprised of students from Assumption Catholic School, LaVilla School of the Arts, Alice B. Landrum Middle School in Ponte Vedra and Fruit Cove Middle School.

Other teams competing in the event were: Digital Risk, United Healthcare, Coggin Honda, GE, PCA, BJ's, St. Johns Cares, Kohl's and two other teams sponsored Swisher International – Swisher Kings and Swisher Sweeties.

"It's just a fun way to raise money to buy the ingredients we need for the meals we pack," said Hunger Fight Board Member Lenora Bodway.

There are 342,000 hungry people in Jacksonville and 125,00 are children, said Dean Porter. Each dollar provides a meal for a hungry family of four, Porter said.

More than 150 participants raised more than \$5,400 to help feed hungry families in Jacksonville when they competed in the First Annual Hunger Fight Games at The Bolles School's Skinner-Barco Stadium Aug. 15.

Organized by Sherri and Dean Porter of San Marco, the event was a fundraiser for the nonprofit Hunger Fight, Inc. of North Florida.

Fourteen teams competed in the relay events that included the bat spin, water-balloon toss, egg toss, big-foot race, bag-

Beauty queens greet patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital

Patients on the oncology and cardiovascular intensive care units of Wolfson Children's Hospital had the opportunity to visit with four beauty queens when participants in the Miss International and Miss Teen International pageants came calling July 29.

Greeting the children and their parents were Miss International 2014 Samantha Riddle of Los

Angeles, California, Miss Teen International Blair Wortsmit of Little Rock, Arkansas, Miss Australia International 2015 Deedee Zibara of Sydney and Miss West Indies International 2015 Regine Pierre of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

During the visit, the women distributed 74 handmade blankets for the patients, which contestants made as part of their community service work during the final week of competition. The blanket-making session was sponsored by the American Heart Association as part of its Go Red for Women campaign.



Miss West Indies Regine Pierre, reigning Miss Teen International Blair Wortsmit, reigning Miss International Samantha Riddle and Miss Australia Deedee Zibara hold four-month old Sebastien Fiumano of Orange Park.

Elise Banks, 27, of Texas was crowned Miss International 2015 at the pageant held August 1 at the Times-Union Center. Jules Fletcher, 16, of Arkansas won the Miss Teen International 2015 crown from among 40 contestants. Miss West Indies International 2015 Regine Pierre was voted People's Choice winner and was among the top 11 finishers.

This is the second year International Pageants hosted its final competition in Jacksonville, and the second time pageant title-holders distributed fleece blankets to children at the hospital.



It was the next best thing to seeing Princess Elsa from the movie Frozen. Miss Australia Deedee Zibara, Miss International 2014 Samantha Riddle, Miss Teen International 2014 Blair Wortsmit, and Miss West Indies Regine Pierre, four-year-old Kendra Cameron of St. Augustine.

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Run benefits Early Learning Coalition

Young children were the center of attention at the first-ever Unity Plaza Children's Festival and Birth to 5K run on Aug. 8. The event supported the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, a one-stop resource for information about early learning experiences in Jacksonville and Duval County.

The nonprofit helps families get their children into early learning care, provides child care financial assistance, and

helps child care providers improve the quality of their early learning program.

One hundred percent of proceeds from 145 race registrations will accelerate the mission of ELC of Duval, according to Jennifer Jones, Unity Plaza's executive director.



Kindergartener Kaitlyn Alsbrook shows off her face paint after running the 1 Mile Fun Run.



Izzy and Jen Jones, with Leigh-Ann Sullivan



Patrick and Misty McCool with sons Connor, a Landon Middle School sixth grader, and Nolan, second grade student at Fishweir Elementary, with Emmy, their Bassett hound-Corgi-pit bull mix, a former therapy dog



Essynce Callahan, 3, gets a lesson in yoga from Bridget Tete, owner of Artoga, at the Early Learning Coalition 5K and Fun Run on Aug. 8 at Unity Plaza.



Geri Bernard, owner of Painting with a Twist, shows visitors how easy it is to paint.



Twins Wyatt and Brandon Alsbrook, 4, participated in the Early Learning Coalition 5K and Fun Run on Aug. 8 at Unity Plaza.

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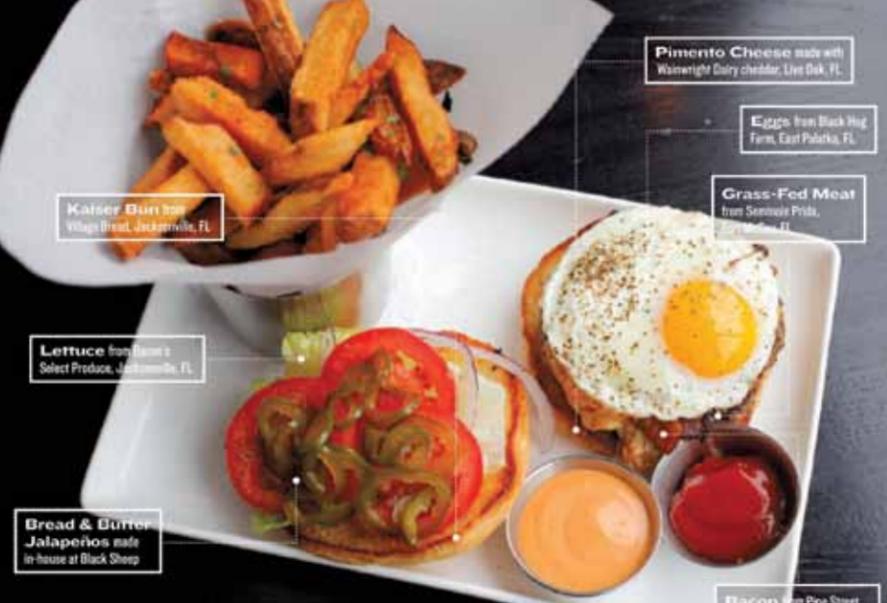


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Fashionistas support Angelwood in Ponte Vedra

More than 100 models strutted the runway during the 14th annual Angelwood Fashion Show and Luncheon at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra August 7.

Over 500 donors enjoyed a silent auction, live auction of a VIP suite at a future Jaguar's game, and a fashion show, which featured clothes from boutiques in 5 Points, Avondale, Ponte Vedra and the Town Center.

Robin Wahby was chairman of the event. Kim Wheeler of San Marco chaired the committee which oversaw the silent auction.

Angelwood assists area children and adults with developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida and intellectual impairments. Funds raised during the fashion show support six residential group homes, respite care, behavioral services, summer camp at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, adult training, employment and transportation programs.



Angelwood Director Emeritus Nadine Gramling, Alex Davis, Angelwood Development Director Tera Williams



Mary Marx and former Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford



Emily Heeg and Judge Angela Cox, president of Angelwood's Board of Directors

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CSX Corporation's Michael Ward to be honored at Miracles Gala

Michael J. Ward, Chairman and CEO of CSX Corporation, will be presented with the Living and Giving Award at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) North Florida Chapter's 15th Annual Miracles Gala.

The event "One Night in Paris" will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott on Oct. 10, and will directly help advance JDRF's mission of improving lives and curing Type 1 diabetes.

"It's an honor to help the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation accelerate their mission by serving as this year's gala honoree," said Ward, a San Marco resident. "I've seen firsthand the impact that Type 1 diabetes can have on individuals and their

families. It's an important cause to many employees at CSX. I want to help put JDRF out of business by finding a cure and that's the goal of this gala."

Ward's commitment to personal philanthropy and corporate citizenship has been recognized with City Year's prestigious Lifetime of Idealism. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of American Railroads, and also served on the boards of Ashland Inc., City Year, United Way of Northeast Florida, and Hubbard House.

"We are most grateful to Mr. Ward for his exemplary leadership to our community and for his commitment to

our organization and cause by serving as honoree for this year's gala. It's a true honor to have the opportunity to present him with the Living and Giving Award," said Brooks Biagini, Executive Director of JDRF North Florida.

The JDRF North Florida Chapter is striving to surpass their \$340,000 fundraising goal this year. Chairing this year's Gala Executive Committee to help achieve that is David Boor (retired CSX), and serving on the committee are Lathun Brigman (Beaver Street Fisheries), Wally Lee (Wine Decadence & LeeValent Group), Jane Badger (Fifth Third) and Francis Chinnici (Florida East Coast Railway).



Michael Ward



Festival of Flight 2013 teen volunteers Lindsey Monger, Jaycee Crawford, Regan Laine, Katie Cofran

5th Annual Festival of Flight moves to RAM

Angels for Allison's 5th Annual Festival of Flight will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Riverside Arts Market (RAM), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival will begin with a service of remembrance and will feature live music from Canary in the Coalmine, Jordyn Stoddard and Faze Wave throughout the day. There will be food, a Kid Zone, a Beer Garden, as well as crafts for children and their families, and all the other exciting things that RAM has to offer.

"Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to benefit our mission of helping bereaved families

in Northeast Florida," said Karla Newton, Angels for Allison board member.

Since its establishment in April 2011, the nonprofit organization has helped 156 families and distributed nearly \$220,000 to provide financial assistance for expenses associated with the death of a child. The Festival of Flight is the organization's largest fundraiser and proceeds from the event make this community outreach possible. For additional information visit www.angelsforallison.org/festival-of-flight/



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Yacht Club throws summer party

Over 220 adults and children enjoyed a summer afternoon member-guest reception at the Florida Yacht Club on August 9. Hardy souls tried out the new croquet lawn despite the blistering sun,

while kids took a refreshing dip in the pool. Guests took to the river on boats, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards, and even an enormous raft, in an effort to beat the heat.



Brooklyn Stevens



Patrick Emmett and granddaughter



Cheryl Brooks, Stephen Brooks, Pamela Yonge, Peg Greene



Liz Bobeck, Rose Rondeau, Jack Bobeck



Kids learn good dental hygiene early

Dr. Jila Mahajan, owner of Kids First Dentistry, encourages early dental hygiene for children by letting this toddler pretend to brush Mojo's teeth. The Kids First Dentistry booth at the Riverside Arts Market Back to School Bash on Aug. 22 included free toothbrushes and a chance to win a Target gift card. Mahajan takes her education program on the road to local schools each year.

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Pets purring in delight with new owners

Cats and kittens in a variety of colors and markings were up for adoption at a Caturday Adoption event sponsored by Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty on Aug. 15 in the Shoppes of Avondale. The four-hour event began at 10 a.m. with 16 felines and by the end of the day, seven were adopted into "fur-ever" homes. The agency partnered with Friends of Jacksonville

Animals (FOJA) and Animal Care and Protection Services (ACPS).

Eunity Thornton, of St. Nicholas, a volunteer for both FOJA and ACPS, has fostered cats and kittens for about a year. She was on hand to assist adopters with their new pets. All the animals were up to date on shots, were spayed or neutered and micro chipped; most were under one year old.



Stephanie Towers doesn't mind the nibble by Justice as she and Courtney Jackson consider an adoption.



Matt Crivaro grins at Ben, a black and white cat in the arms of Amy Minton.



Woody Moore and her pup Shelby check out one of the 16 cats and kittens for adoption.



Laura Darus with Starlight



Heather Leigh cuddling with Lucky, Kevin Kirby



Tony Caribaltes and Lucky, Clark LaBlond, Dulce Lake, Colleen Winters, Erica Davis, the Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty team that sponsored Caturday Adoption on Aug. 15.



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David Taylor



Lisa Anthony Tucker

Artist depicts ‘fragile balance of nature’

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

It’s far from unusual – in fact, it could almost be a predisposition – that a landscape artist is also an environmentalist. Consider the paintings of two Florida artists separated by more than 100 years in time but joined by an emotional connection with their subject: the St. Johns River.

Allison Watson, a Riverside artist, is one of 10 diverse, recognized artists invited by The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens to participate in its *Reflections: Artful Perspectives on the St. Johns River* exhibit on display through Oct. 18.

Watson was paired with Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904) a landscape painter who spent the last two decades of his life in St. Augustine. Coincidentally, Watson’s mother’s family lived in the area at roughly the same time.

“My maternal ancestors have been in the area for five generations and came from Switzerland and settled in St. Augustine and what is now Switzerland, Florida on the St Johns River in the late 1700s,” she said. “Heade worked in St Augustine the same time that my ancestors lived there and I wonder if they ever met.”

Sometime during the 1980s, Heade painted his oil on canvas, “The St. Johns River,” at a time when he was becoming concerned about the encroachment of “progress” on the natural world. Watson’s acrylic on canvas, also called “St. Johns River,” echoes Heade’s theme of the endangered wilderness.

“The painting by Heade is a very popular painting and I am so glad that it was the painting that I was given for



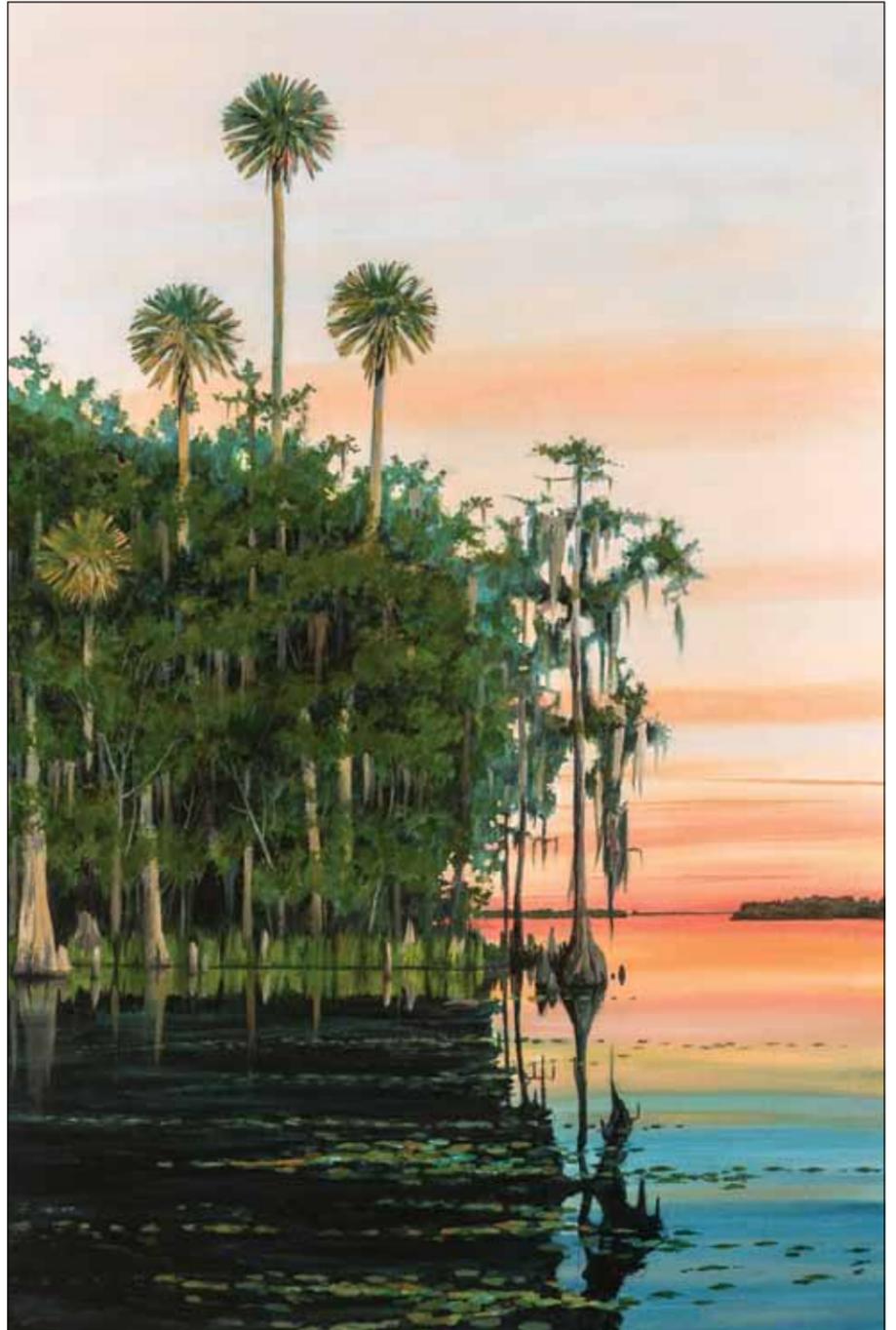
Allison Watson

inspiration for this project,” Watson said. “Heade was not only a magnificent painter, he was correct and had sense of what the future may hold because of sprawling population and over-building and unwise use of the land.”

While Heade’s style was often compared to that of the Hudson River School even though only 25 percent of his paintings fit that genre, Watson said her style is contemporary, impressionistic and reflects the natural environments of the Southeast.

“I grew up on the river and the tributaries and springs that feed the river. This exposure to the river and nature in general has influenced my work profoundly,” she said.

“You can tell much about an artist by looking at their work – where they live, the period in history they lived, their experience and influences. All the landscape painters I know are environmentalists,” Watson shared. “An artist must know and love their subject.



“St. Johns River” by Allison Watson is on display at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

They should also have an emotional connection to it. So, if you know the natural world, and know the wonders of nature, you will know how fragile the balance of nature is.”

Watson encourages newcomers and residents to visit the springs, beaches, and upland forests in the area. “I believe

that children must be introduced to nature at an early age so they can have an appreciation and respect for it, and education would help them understand the importance of preserving the beautiful wild places for the future,” she said. “I spend a lot of time in my kayak or hiking with friends.”



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Classmates share 65 years of memories

Approximately 70 classmates of Robert E. Lee High School Class of 1950 and their spouses enjoyed a 65th anniversary luncheon at Florida Yacht Club on Aug. 21. Although no one is sure how many graduated, claiming the range was somewhere between 300 and 400 "or more," the memories recalled were more precious.

"When we got in trouble, we had a

choice of working outside on the school grounds or getting a licking from Coach with a paddle," reminisced Jimmy Tidwell. "I got a licking twice."

Chair of the event was Barbara Brock Bloesing, but she could not attend.

Eleanor Lanford Carswell, of Avondale, wrote a poem commemorating the Class of 1950.



First grade Fishweir classmates Ann Baxley Pope, Linda Fink Wilkinson, Billy Ketchum, Mary McCrea Laseter, Darlene Duguid Scott, Mary Ann Esser Danese



Doris Shea Maltby and Eleanor Lanford Carswell started first grade together at West Riverside Elementary School, and attended John Gorrie Middle School, Lee High School and Jacksonville University together.



Faye Kennedy Irvin, Rachel Dickson Mathis (Class of 1951), Wanda Morgan Spooner



Carolyn Arnold Owen, Jimmy Tidwell, Lolita Boatwright Clark, Connie Travis DeLoach, Sarah Towers Van Cleve, Gilbert Pomar, Jr.

Tribute to 1950

*When I sat down to pen some type of a rhyme
I thought - sixty-five years, what a very long time!
Where do we start as we gather together
To reminisce about old times we now treasure?
The building which once seemed so regal and grand
Now shows great changes by an architect's hand.
Old places holding memories of the past we enjoyed
Have been replaced by ideas a modern builder employed.
No more mud-filled places to park,
In dry weather to do wheelies with dust to impart.
No students languishing on the terrace like we
With an occasional cigarette hidden by the limb of a tree.
Teachers long gone to a better place;
Some students now meeting them face to face.
Much fun it would be to see a guy six feet high
Shaking hands with Miss Durence as St. Peter stands by!
Now 65 years later we're found right here in this place
To celebrate those years gone by in such haste.
On the serious side we must forever thankful be
For the days we all spent at Robert E. Lee.*



Bunky Johnson, Lucille Crouch Garrick, Jim Dressler, Beverly Hucabee Fletchall, Stacy Hannum Giedzinski, Wanda Greeson Phillips

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Topic: Managing Afib
with diet and lifestyle
changes*



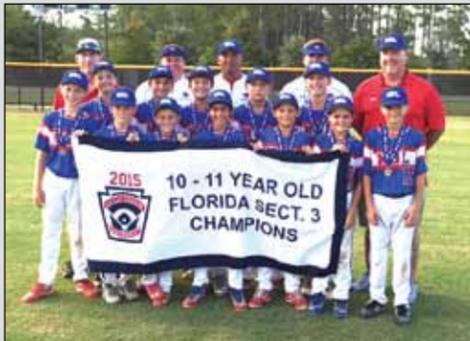
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Navy-Ortega League celebrates two championships



The Navy Ortega League (NOL) is celebrating this year for two reasons. The league is in its 55th year as a chartered member of the 75-year-old Little League of America. And, even more exciting, two teams are District Champions.

The 10U Baseball Team won the District 11 Championship and had a great showing in the Sectional Tournament. The 11U Baseball Team won both the District and the Sectional Tournaments, and continued to play well in the State Tournament, finishing third for the second consecutive year out of nearly 300 All Star teams across the state.

Learning leadership skills early



Maria Croft, American Heritage Girls leader, Daisy and Lily Hardaker, Layla Croft, Piper Lynch, Lucrezia Gowdy and Bea Croft welcome new girls to American Heritage Girls registration.

American Heritage Girls, a faith-based scouting organization, helps girls ages five to 18 learn leadership skills, grow in their faith, and have a lot of fun earning badges. The national organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2015.

“One of our goals is to give back to the community. Last year we did a pancake supper for the church, but this year we hope to partner with a local nursing home as well as Operation Christmas Child and others,” said Maria Croft, leader of one Jacksonville troop.

The group meets at Holy Trinity Anglican Church the first and third Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. and will kick off the new program year on Sept. 3.

Residents learn how to beat predator with a fork

Boys and girls from Avondale and Ortega had an up-close-and-personal opportunity to learn about lionfish, an invasive species, which can cause great destruction among area marine life.

Last month Meaghan Faletti, an environmental specialist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, addressed the issue with the Commodores League, the Riverside Rotary of Jacksonville, and a gathering of youth at the Ortega home of Tim and Laddy Monahan.

With few known natural enemies, lionfish are carnivores that feed on small crustaceans and fish, including the young of important commercial fish species such as snapper and grouper.

While sharing with all three groups the magnitude of the negative effects on reef habitat and on the grouper and snapper population, Faletti demonstrated how to safely clean and fillet a lionfish, also known as a zebra fish. While their spine is venomous, their flesh is not and is considered a delicious, light-tasting delicacy, similar to hog fish.

“Meaghan told us the best way to help rid our waterways of lionfish is to ask for it when dining at a restaurant,” said Laddy Monahan. “If it becomes a regular menu item it might help keep them in check.”

Divers and anglers can help combat the lionfish invasion, according to Faletti.

“There is currently a high demand for lionfish throughout the state of Florida, and we hope to encourage more divers



Chase Commander, William Cook, Stuart Cook (front), Andrew Gardner Tom Commander, Meaghan Faletti of the FWC, Brennan Doherty, Bridget Monahan, Mary Emma Cook, Parklyn Gardner, Mary Kat Monahan, Ann Commander, Reedy Monahan

to commercially harvest and sell their lionfish,” Faletti stated. “Divers can actively harvest lionfish while SCUBA diving or snorkeling and using spearfishing gear; saltwater anglers can also harvest lionfish on hook and line (though this is less frequent).”

The Third Annual Northeast Florida Lionfish Rodeo was held on Aug. 9 at Beach Marine, where 29 participants harvested 2,584 lionfish, the largest of which was 17.5 inches, earning that angler a \$1,500 prize. The charity event coordinated by Ortega Forest resident Walt Quinn helped to raise awareness about the predator and to remove them from local waters.

Church youth spend time serving others



Youth from Riverside Avenue Christian Church choose tools for cleaning the outdoor prayer labyrinth at Christmount Conference Center.



Samantha Beaver, Elena Holt and Daniel Umberger help sort produce at a food pantry.

To inspire and encourage youth to use their time and talents to serve others “from their doorsteps to the ends of the earth,” two adult leaders and 10 youth from Riverside Avenue Christian Church set out for Black Mountain, North Carolina, in late July. They arrived at Christmount Conference Center where the middle and high school students joined a

West Virginia youth group in a week of mission projects with the Asheville Youth Missions organization.

The kids spent a day sorting fresh fruits and vegetables at a local food pantry to help prepare for distribution to needy families. They also helped prepare the exterior of an elderly woman’s home for painting. Finally, they assisted with clearing the grounds

and upkeep of the outdoor prayer labyrinth at Christmount. In the evenings, the groups participated in worship and fellowship activities.

The trip was a great start towards what is hoped will be a lifelong desire to give back to their communities, locally, nationally and globally, according to Kelly Paterno, director of the Riverside Children’s Arts Center.

St. Mark’s renews Cuba mission ties



St. Mark’s mission team members in Cuba: Gretell Garces, Kathryn Kelly, Sandra Kidd, Laura Magevney, Grace Egan, Thomas Magevney, Xander Magevney, Bob Kidd and Dennis Kelly.

For a quarter-century, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Ortega has cherished a sister parish relationship with La Iglesia Santa Maria Virgen (St. Mary’s Church) in Itabo, Cuba. The ongoing support has helped provide critical renovations and additions to the rural church as well as support for its staff, according to Bob Kidd.

In July, a nine-member mission team from St. Mark’s traveled to Itabo to provide Vacation Bible School for more than 100 children, youth and adults in cooperation with the St. Mary’s staff.

“The faithfulness and appreciation of the Cuban people make this trip more rewarding each year. It is an absolute joy to go there,” said team leader Laura Magevney.

Avondale resident places in top 10 at World Rowing Championship

By Marian Johns
Resident Community News

Mary Ann McNulty recently found herself in a heated, one-on-one race with her Russian counterpart during the World Rowing Championships and, although her competitor made it across the finish line a mere 10th of a second faster, the Avondale resident earned a ranking of 10th overall in the world.

McNulty, a 21-year-old senior studying public policy and economics at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, started rowing in seventh grade at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Eight years later she rowed as a member of the U.S. Women's Team at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The event included five days of racing with 24 nations participating. McNulty came away from the event placing fourth in the B final of the Women's Single, ranking her 10th fastest in the world championships.

"I wanted to place in the top 10, so I was overall pretty happy with my performance," said McNulty, who explained the love of competition is in her family genes. "In my family, everyone played a sport. We are all really competitive and it's awesome to



Mary Ann McNulty at the U 23 World Rowing Championship trials



Mary Ann McNulty with her coach Bob Schumacher after the world championship races in Bulgaria.

channel that into athletics."

Her journey to the rowing championships began in June when she won the Women's Single event at the U.S. Rowing Under 23 World Championship trials in New Jersey. McNulty, along with 22 other young women, earned a spot on the U.S. team to compete at the world championships in Bulgaria.

McNulty was the only woman from Florida on the U.S. Team. She said the trials lasted four days with a timed trial, a heat, a semifinal and a final. "The goal is to simulate international competition," she said. "If you win the final, then you win the opportunity to represent the U.S. at the World Championships."

"For Mary Ann to finish 10th fastest in a world championship is quite an achievement," said her sculling coach, Bob Schumacher, who accompanied her to Bulgaria. "Particularly given that she is generally smaller than her competitors and she only trains in a single shell (one person boat) outside of her school year. She is a fierce competitor," added Schumacher, of San Marco.

McNulty may be a tough competitor, but a softer side peeks through when she talks about her relationship with her teammates on the Princeton rowing team and on the U.S. Women's Team.

"I definitely had more of a special experience because of my (U.S.) teammates. I

got to watch them race and one team member even got a gold medal," McNulty said.

"The best thing about rowing is racing down the course with my teammates. In a single (scull), it's hard because I am alone on the water, but at trials and the Worlds (championship), I could hear my teammates cheering for me as I came down the course, which was almost as good," said McNulty.

It is evident that McNulty's teammates, both on her U.S. team and her Princeton team, have a mutual respect for her. This fall when she returns to Princeton, she will lead Princeton's Open Women's team.

"I was voted captain by my teammates for next year, which is a huge honor. We competed as a team in California at the national championships where only the top 20 teams in the country are invited," said McNulty, who last year rowed in Princeton's first varsity eight.

McNulty's next focus will be on heading back to school and working with her Princeton rowing teammates to prepare for the "Head of The Charles," one of the largest regattas in the world which takes place on the Charles River.

"The training we go through is really validating when we get out there on the national stage. It's so awesome," said McNulty.

Contra dance popular with young and old

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Contra dance is still going strong in Riverside, bringing residents of all ages and expertise from all over town to work up a glow for an hour or two.

Ortega Forest resident Nanci Murphree has been contra dancing for about eight years.

"I just fell in love with it. I meet the nicest people and it's so fun," said Murphree, a registered nurse. "It's healthy and it doesn't seem like exercise but you get a workout."

Contra dance, a lively folk dance from the 17th century with origins in England, Scotland and France, influenced the Virginia reel and square dancing, and is currently found in all 50 U.S. states.

Sponsored by the Jax Country Dance and Song Society for more than 15 years, Jax Contra Dance has had several venues, including Episcopal Church of the Good



Eric Wendorf and Sue Barry dance down the middle of the line.

Shepherd, but now meets at Riverside Avenue Christian Church on the third Friday of each month.

"There is always live music, four or five bands play each year. We have several different callers, said spokesperson and

organizer Carole Wetzel, of San Marco. "It's so much fun."

At a recent gathering of more than 50 dancers, the band Meridian – with Al Poindexter on guitar, Ron Spencer on double bass, Carole Wetzel on keyboard,

Martha Hotz on fiddle and Dr. Arnold Graham Smith on hammered dulcimer – kept the dancers moving in a do-si-do and allemande left, allemande right.

In this popular form of social dancing, pairs are lined up with gents on the left and ladies on the right as they progress up and down lines doing a sequence of figures or patterns designated by a caller. Dancers begin in two facing lines or "contra," meaning across from each other.

Leanna Manica of San Marco and Beth Pascoe of Ortega Forest were in attendance for the first time. As members of the Jane Austen Book Club they felt transported. Manica said, "I feel like I'm dancing in a Jane Austen book." Pascoe added, "I love to dance and everyone is so friendly."

For information, visit www.danceflorida.com. The cost is minimal and you may bring your own snacks.



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For local VIPs, it's Hemming time!

Nearly 80 local dignitaries, including City Council representatives and downtown business leaders, tasted local and craft brews during the Aug. 27 VIP Launch of the Hemming Park Beer Garden.

For those who were fortunate enough to receive a special invitation, the evening was filled with live music, small bites, select wines, as well as specialty cocktails and, of course, a variety of special beers.

The event was a precursor to the opening of the park's upcoming public Hemming Park Beer Garden Thursday, Sept. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. During the first garden event, Spice and the Po Boys will



Friends of Hemming Park's Executive Director with Vince Cavin, Downtown Vision Board Chairman and Market President of BB&T Bank Debbie Buckland with Sean Hall



District 14 Councilman Jim Love, District 10 Councilman Reggie Brown with Hyatt Regency Jacksonville General Manager Gina Caliendo and his wife Kyla

provide entertainment as participants enjoy beer, wine, and specialty cocktails served by bartenders from local establishments around the city.

"We're thinking of it as more of a place and not an event," said Sarah Collins, a marketing representative for Hemming Park. "It's kind of like we're

opening a bar. We're hoping people will stay in town Thursday nights for happy hour and then go out to the restaurants around here."

Hemming Park

continued from page 1

in the park. It's a special place."

Pajcic originally had a law office in what is now the Museum of Contemporary Art, overlooking the park. "I felt badly about it when they decided to cut the trees down and then it went into disrepair," he said. "Now Wayne [Wood] and his group have brought it back to life and I'm so proud of that and want to support them wherever I can."

Pajcic and his wife, Anne, made the gift to spur others to throw their support behind revitalizing Hemming Park. Anne could not

be present, but Pajcic said, "My wife totally supports this, too."

"I think their gift shows that individuals see this as a really important centerpiece for Downtown, and they are willing to come out and put their own money in as an investment for the future," said Cavin. The Pajcics' unrestricted \$75,000 gift will be used for operations and improvements in Hemming Park.

Referring to the controversy over the fundraising agreement, Wood said, "It has been a rollercoaster ride. Our concern was that we fix the park and use every means we can to do it, and these little side issues, whether political or legal issues, come up when you have a project this enormous.

"We've ridden through it and we have great support from City Council which realizes this park has to be revitalized, has to be fixed. We got past the little tempest in a teapot and we are ready to roll into the next stage, which is going to have great things in the park. We want the place to not just be a pleasant park, but a showplace for Jacksonville," he said.

Park's next steps

Cavin said the temporary halt in City funds "definitely spurred into action the urgency of the nature of the request that we needed to bring in private donations as quickly as possible. We've been talking to

this particular donor for a while about giving and he said, 'It's needed now so I'm going to step up the plate and make this investment.'"

The City receives quarterly reports on the progress of the park's revitalization, showing where it's headed and listing the accomplishments, according to Cavin. Now Friends of Hemming Park are undergoing a thorough strategic planning process, prioritizing from "a huge menu of things we can do, which includes fundraising, sponsorships and the sustainability of the park," said Cavin. "That's a big discussion topic we're going to share with City Council."

Partnership events, such as GastroFest, provide income, but the park's own events, like the Beer Festival last month, represent net profits. "Our plan for next year and the years moving forward is every month to have a significant event and every quarter have some really huge bash, something large we can plan revenue around," Cavin stated.

Many of the ongoing events in Hemming Park are free, designed to lure visitors downtown to experience the park. Friends of Hemming Park, MOCA, Sweet Pete's and the Candy Apple Café regularly provide entertainment and dining options in the one-block core.

"We are trying to follow some clear principles set forth by the Project for Public Spaces, such as the Power of 10, which states if you have 10 good things to do in a small area it increases that attraction," Cavin said. "We're starting to build that Power of 10 concept out.

"We'll be holding a community charrette [in September] with the Project for Public Spaces, to share all of our ideas and talk about what's been good and what we need to work on."

BEHIND THE WHEEL
with Paul Smith

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Paul Smith, along with my wife Cindy and our son Derek, we own Ortega Car Care.

This column is here to inform and hopefully help with the often times frustrating world of your automobile.

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The problem is not always serious or expensive. The best advice is to at least have it checked. Even if the light goes out, it will usually leave a trouble code behind for a period of time.

Thanks for reading and I hope to keep the info coming.

Paul

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Line forms early for annual tradition

The line had already started to form in Riverside Park an hour before the 6th annual "Rockin' Back to School" officially commenced, while staff were setting up. "Some folks standing in line volunteered to help tote the supplies," said Tim Bush, lay minister at Riverside Park United Methodist Church. "That's a happy first!"

The August 8 event, coordinated by Riverside Park UMC member Susan Bush, ended with 400 backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies given to pre-kindergarten through high school students, most attending Westside schools, but also some from Mandarin and the Northside.

Additionally, 175 children received physicals and vaccinations provided by St. Vincent's Medical Center, and were enrolled in the Florida Masonic Child ID Program by the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts. Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts were on hand to provide information and take names and addresses for potential Scouts, and Bonnie Allen, director of the School for Abundant Living at the church, showed off some of the hand bells for the children's handbell class. The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department also brought a truck for the enjoyment of kids large and small.



Tyler Talbot and Bailey Smerdon



Young bell ringers from Riverside Park United Methodist Church: Fishweir kindergartener Brayden Briscoe and Julia Allen, John Stockton third grader; back: Jeb Allen, fifth grade student at John Stockton, and Cooper Crowell, fifth grade at Central Riverside Elementary.



In the Girl Scouts booth were Chelsea Buford and her mother Amanda alongside April Laflash and Sydney Buford, in back are Scott and Kristene Laflash



Jennifer Brazell, Tammi Crowell, Linda Stimpson with daughters Bailey and Skylar, Joan Miller, Annekin Ove, Melinda and Mackenzie Starling



Kim Walker with Tyshawn and Infinity; front, Roman, Kirmarria, Trinity and Iyannah



Representing the Boy Scouts were Bill and Will Markert



Summer Twiss, front; Skyla, Savannah and Sierra Twiss



Tony and Shakiya Lowry and Shakiera Sirmon



Joshua Olivera, second grader at Bayview Elementary with Lakeshore Middle students Austin Bevis, seventh, and Matthew Bevis, eighth grade

Boys & Girls Walking to Age 17

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Venetia Athletic Club kicks off football season



Ian Mayo and Curt Pajcic are two of more than a dozen coaches and assistant coaches, including Mayor Lenny Curry, for the Venetia Athletic Club



Pushups are part of conditioning training for the Venetia Athletic Club football players



Helmets on, these boys are ready for the first day of practice for the Venetia Athletic Club football season



William Green, Thomas Green, Jack Pruden, Mathew Cherry, Will Riggs



Thumbs up for a new season with the Venetia Athletic Club



Hands on helmet, this youngster is in perfect lunge form.

Beginning its fifth season of play, the Venetia Athletic Club embraces boys – and thus far, one girl – from many Jacksonville communities. The club was formed in 2011 by Brad Walters, Todd Froats, John and Deana Green, and Jason and Sara Brackin to provide a focus on developing the player.

“We’re teaching the players to learn how to play the sport and follow rules,” said Ortega Forest resident Ian Mayo, an assistant coach.

The club is run in a controlled environment – all practices and games are played at Venetia Elementary School so parents with more than one player can keep an eye on them all.

Walters, of Avondale, said the teams in each of three divisions play six games, a playoff and a championship. Practices are held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays leading up to the first game on Sept. 12.

“Each coach addresses specific aspects of the game,” said Walters, whose son Mac plays in the Seniors Division. “The focus is on developing their skills to help them be the best players they can be, without overemphasizing winning. It’s about the kids.”

The club has three age divisions and each division has up to four teams. They all play on Saturday mornings on two fields, so everything is finished by noon.

J.T. Williamson began as a volunteer in 2012, joined the board in 2013 and then took the position of executive director in

2014; this year he is league president.

“I never intended to ‘take over the reins’ when I started with VAC but it just worked out that with my experience in athletics and dedication to improving youth sports they (the board) decided I was most fit for the job for the long term,” said Williamson. “I plan to be at VAC for a long time, and we have tons of ideas for how we are going to grow and improve the league.”

For more information, contact J.T. Williamson, executive director, at (904) 382-6639 or director@vacjax.com.

Back to school smiles win over first day jitters

There's nothing sweeter than the confident smile of a child as marching proudly toward a new class on the first day of school. Despite first-day jitters from parents, teachers and students alike, by the end of the day a sigh of relief signified the tradition was tucked away for another year. Area schools shared photos of first-day faces and *The Resident* snapped a few too.

St. Matthew's Catholic School



Pre-kindergarten students enjoy play time on the first day of school Aug. 12 at St. Matthew's Catholic School.



The sun shone on 250 students enrolled for 2015-2016 at St. Matthew's Catholic School as they queued on the first day of school Aug. 12.

John N.C. Stockton Elementary



Aaliyah Diaz walked hand-in-hand with her mother, Sonia, as they made their way into John N.C. Stockton Elementary, Aug. 8, the first day for Duval County Public Schools.

St. Paul's Catholic School



Carolina Baldwin, fourth grade, with little brother Tyler, in first grade at St. Paul's Catholic School. First day of school was Aug. 12.



Mason Schiller and Meagan Meadows are in kindergarten at St. Paul's Catholic School. First day of school was Aug. 12 and 217 are enrolled for the 2015-2016 school year.

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School



Grey Chunn was all smiles on her first day of school Aug. 18 at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School.



Beville Anderson, Assistant Head of School, watches as Rev. Thomas Murray blesses the music classroom for teachers Marissa Dickerson and Susanne Dailey, at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School on Aug. 18.

Episcopal School of Jacksonville



Freshman Curry Pajcic and his sister, Daley, who is a senior, are ready to head to classes at Episcopal School of Jacksonville.



Jackson Ravis, Ben Ketchum, Michael Hodges and Henry Page are ready to tackle freshman year at Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

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Central Riverside Elementary School



Central Riverside Elementary School second grader student Lauren Austin gives her father, A.J., a last minute hug before the first day of school on Aug. 24.



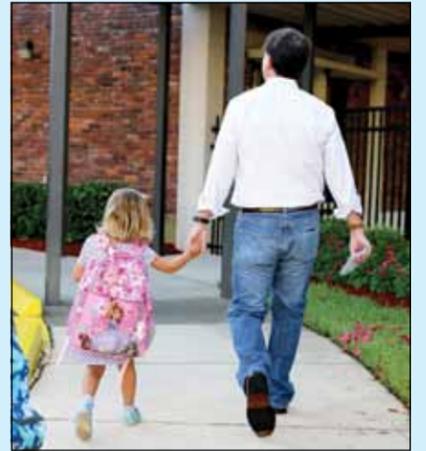
Lori Morgan, Gavin (first grade), Griffin (fourth grade) at Central Riverside Elementary School on Aug. 24, the first day for Duval County Public Schools.

St. John's Country Day



Juliet Moody, Fifth Grade, at St. John's Country Day School on the first day of school Aug. 17.

Riverside Presbyterian Day



Charlotte Herford holds her father's hand as she enters Riverside Presbyterian Day School on Aug. 18.

Ruth N. Upson Elementary School



Ruth N. Upson Elementary School's new theme, The Journey... Where Ordinary Ends and Extraordinary Begins, was unveiled on the Murray Hill campus through a number of special events including a back-to-school assembly and an animal presentation by the Jacksonville Zoo. Students like first graders Ty Nelson, Cheyenne Knight, Nathan Dixon, Isabelle Levine, Henry Massey also had the opportunity to play in a 72-foot obstacle challenge bounce house.

Avondale Child's Day Out Play School



Avondale Child's Day Out Play School (CDO) is starting the new school year with facility upgrades including new carpet throughout the school, freshly painted walls, a new sign on the door and an awning. The academic program was strengthened with after-school enrichment programs such as Music, Dance, Spanish and Jumping Jax, and a "Fun Friday" program. "Our goal is to provide fun options for children at affordable prices in a convenient after school setting, while giving busy moms and dads an extra hour in the afternoon" said Cindy Lawrence, School Director.

Fishweir Elementary School



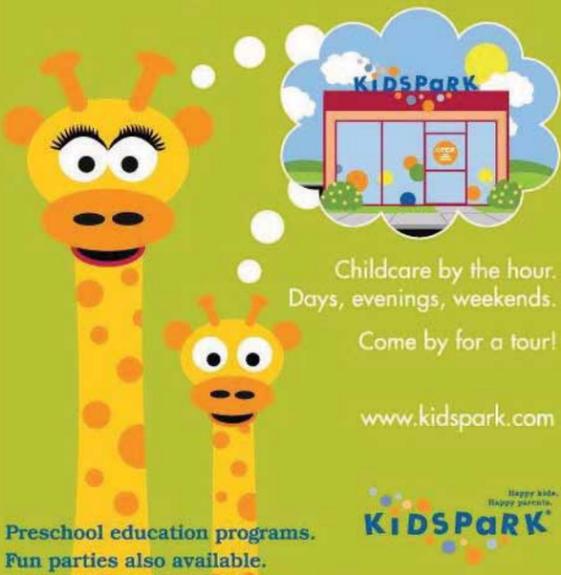
The Grubbs family heads to school at Fishweir Elementary. The elder siblings are in third and fourth grade, while the littlest one practices for elementary school by wearing his backpack.

Bolles' Bartram Campus

Jack Milne of Avondale, Head of School on the Bolles' Bartram campus, greets Soraya Bata and Alexis Garas of Ortega on the first day of school.



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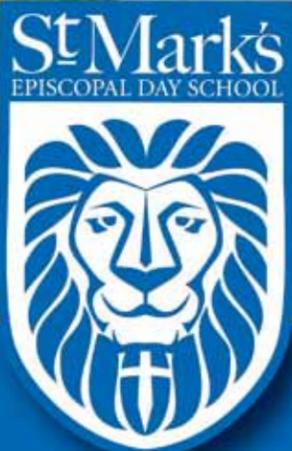


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Aging True Programs Give Seniors the Edge to Graceful Aging

When it comes to reasons for a celebration, getting older isn't something that tops everyone's list. However, Aging True in Jacksonville, Florida is one place where celebrating independent, graceful aging is its core mission.

Two of the programs Aging True offers to help seniors age gracefully while maintaining dignity are the Daily Money Management Program and the Memory Enhancement Program.

Aging True's Daily Money Management Program assists seniors in navigating their finances. Topics cover areas such as check writing, navigating a difficult Social Security website, and keeping important documents in order, to name a few. The process begins with an assessment of needs and capabilities to establish which level of programming is appropriate.



Aging True hosts a group of seniors for classes at their headquarters in the Lakeside area of Jacksonville.

For example, a senior might have recently lost the spouse who exclusively handled the finances; the Daily Money Management Program helps with everything from writing checks to organizing bills and having them paid on time.

An important aspect of the program is helping with "advanced directives and assisting individuals to make sure documents are in place before anything debilitating happens," according to Tammy Horn, Director of Care Management at Aging True.

Esther McMillan, Daily Money Management Manager, helps set up advanced directives for seniors, their families, or even caregivers. The directives reflect the wishes of the individual, helping families know how their loved one's money and affairs are to be handled once an illness has advanced.

Aging True can completely handle the advanced directives and money management for families. "Caregivers and children find that having a third party take care of finances relieves family stress and helps prevent exploitation of seniors' finances," said Horn.

With the senior population expected to grow to almost 30 percent of Florida's population by 2020, this is a vital area of concern.

The program also educates seniors "...in who to trust with finances when they can no longer manage them on their own," said Horn.

Daily Money Management Manager Esther McMillan is a nationally certified guardian for clients deemed by courts to need a nonprofit corporate guardian. Bolstering the Daily Money Management Program's capabilities is Kevin Hansen, Aging True's in-house certified financial counselor.

According to the Alzheimer's Foundation, Alzheimer's disease "is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain's nerve cells, or neurons, resulting in loss of memory, thinking and language skills, and behavioral changes."

The good news is, Aging True's Alzheimer's Memory Enhancement Program can help. According to Horn, the program focuses on individuals who are self-sufficient, but illustrate signs and symptoms

of slight memory loss. "The program's event-based curriculum helps abate the onset of Alzheimer's symptoms."

The participants, of their free consent, attend the Memory Enhancement Program's workshops. The curriculum takes them through memory and cognitive activities, such as reading the local paper and discussing topics in the stories. Music is also part of the program, where participants research how to tie in a song with the topic of the day.

Early intervention is the key because, as Horn said, it keeps the brain active, which helps slow the onset of the disease.

Horn credits St. John's County Council on Aging for helping Aging True adopt their memory program.

To find out more about Aging True's Daily Money Management and Memory Enhancement Programs, call Esther McMillan at Aging True, (904) 807-1203.



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Dance troupe performs for Windsor residents

Dancers from Na Mana 'O Kipona Aloha Halau, which means the Power of Deep Love Hawaiian School of Hula, performed to the delight of about 100 residents and guests of The Windsor Assisted Living Facility on Aug. 15.

Jean Forrest, who owned Jean's Professional Dance Academy for 49 years, gave the performance two thumbs up. "They were excellent," she said.

The troupe members, from toddler to adult, showed the seniors the difference between Hawaiian Hula and Tahitian Hula, and encouraged participation in dance and music-making with drums, pipes and sticks. Following the hour-long performance, tours were given for visitors and all enjoyed a mid-afternoon Hawaiian buffet.



Jean Forrest, Jan Thorp, Clare Warwick, Kim Hines, Sue Andrews



Marie Todd, Peggy Condon, Rosemary Condie



Felicia Ford, Karen Pfeiffer



Mike Payne, Residence Director, and a guest, learn a Tahitian hula

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The Way We Were — Philip Stockton May, Jr. & Gloria May

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Phil May, who celebrated his 90th birthday in June, was born in 1925 at the old St. Vincent's Hospital. He and his wife of 50 years, Gloria (Binzel) Sullivan May still reside in the Avondale-Riverside area where they first met.

"We met in 1964 on a blind date to a Riverside Garden Club Christmas party. The Avondale friends I was supposed to go with, Helen Dunlap and her husband Dave, had to cancel. Helen said she knew a wonderful fellow who'd be delighted to escort me and that's how we met," Gloria said. "Phil was 39, a confirmed bachelor. He still tells me he 'needed a lot of training.' I was a Navy widow with three children ages two, four and six."

Phil fell in love with Gloria and her children, daughter Gloria, 6, John, 4, and Susan, 2 at the time. They married in 1965 at St. Paul's Catholic Church on Park Street. Later they welcomed a son, Philip Stockton May III, nicknamed Tiger.

The May family first lived on Rapallo Road in Venetia Manor and then bought a riverfront home, 4324 McGirts Boulevard. They renovated, adding a downstairs master bedroom and large family room/kitchen. They repaired the dock and enjoyed crabbing, fishing, boating and water-skiing during the 32 years they lived there. Their garage apartment was rented to a succession of local singles who never



Phil and Gloria May with Gloria, John and Susan



Phil and Gloria May

stayed single for long.

"Over the years several bachelors rented that apartment and one by one they'd get engaged and marry. We attended so many weddings. Some were our children's friends, like Mayor Peyton who was Tiger's friend...it became sort of a joke that you wouldn't stay single long if you moved into our apartment," the Mays said, laughing.

McGirts families held many neighborhood get-togethers. The Mays recall countless numbers of teens at their home, including an all-time record of 60 girls their daughter Susan invited for a sorority rush party/sleepover when she

was a Lee High School senior.

"They were sleeping everywhere inside and out, the backyard, the dock, on the boat...and of course with that many young ladies at the house, our phone rang off the hook with calls from young men who just had to speak to one of them," they recalled. "We'd rather see a hurricane coming than try that again!"

Phil grew up in a 1912 Avondale-Arden home at 3914 St. Johns Avenue, which still stands. His only sibling, Anne Hill May, is deceased. His father was Philip Stockton May, Sr., a descendent of the Stockton family who came to Jacksonville

in the 1890s, and his mother was Anne Thompson Hill of West Virginia. His paternal grandparents were Anna Mary Stockton and Franklin Pierce May.

His father, U. S. Army Veteran Philip Stockton May, Sr., was discharged from the military in 1918, returned to Jacksonville and met Anne Thompson Hill. She was an instructor at the downtown YMCA, then located at the corner of Laura and Duval Streets, where she taught ladies physical fitness and sports. The couple married later that year.

May's father graduated from the
continued on page 49 >>>

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Phil May attends house party at Princeton College, June 1951.



Phil May displays foot wound, March 1946.



Phil May, returning from service as a wounded veteran, March 1946.



Youngest son Philip with Wolfgang



Front, oldest daughter Gloria Sullivan Phillips holding first grandchild, Elizabeth. Back: Reid Phillips, son-in-law, Phil May, daughter Susan Sullivan, son Tiger (Phil May III), Gloria May and oldest son John Sullivan.

University of Florida and law school. After his military service he returned to Jacksonville to accept a job with attorney John T. G. Crawford. Crawford lived in the Avondale riverfront home 1844 Cherry Street, known as the House on Cherry Street Bed & Breakfast [most recently the home of longtime *Resident* writer Victoria Register-Freeman]. Their law practice eventually became Crawford & May Attorneys.

"I could walk from our home on St. Johns Avenue to Fishweir Elementary. I have great memories of Fishweir. We put on a class play about the founding of the U.S. and I was chosen to play George Washington. The prettiest girl in the whole class was Dorothy Ann Skinner and she played Martha Washington...we had a lot of fun," Phil said. He attended John Gorrie Junior High and graduated from Robert E. Lee Senior High School in 1943.

After high school graduation Phil entered the U.S. Army, sailing to England with the 87th Infantry Division aboard the British steamship Mauritania II. May recalls feeling thankful they only saw endless schools of flying fish instead of enemy submarines during the five-day Atlantic crossing. Later at Omaha Beach, May was surprised to see debris still littering the shore as his division marched through carrying 100-pound backpacks. They couldn't imagine any survivors of that deadly battle. He cried and all around him soldiers were crying too.

In late 1944 May sustained a serious thigh wound from a shell fragment. He was eventually evacuated home on the

RMS Queen Elizabeth ocean liner. His landing in New York on April 12, 1945, brought no celebration. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had died.

"Another memory I'll never forget happened at a Georgia hospital where I went to recuperate from osteomyelitis infection in my leg. Helen Keller visited, came to my bedside and sat with me. I don't remember exactly what was said...a lady interpreter was with her (probably Polly Thompson, Keller's second interpreter/companion after her famous teacher Anne Sullivan's death in 1936). I felt her deep empathy," he said.

In 1946 May returned to Jacksonville to celebrate Christmas. Healed enough to drive, he bought a green 1939 LaSalle four-door sedan, so large he called it The Green Monster. Before his discharge in 1948 May endured 35 leg surgeries. He still keeps in touch with one of his nurses and two fellow wounded soldiers.

He graduated from Princeton in 1952 with a history degree and became a traveling bookseller for Macmillan Publishers. Macmillan had famously published *Gone With the Wind* (1936).

In 1955, weary of constant travel, May interviewed with Johnson Lane Space & Co., a Savannah investment firm. May became a successful stockbroker who opened their Jacksonville branch.

"I spent the next 25 years in the investment business. The first Jacksonville office of Johnson Lane Space & Co. was on the eighth floor of the downtown Graham Building, then in a street level office between Bay and Forsyth. In 1960 when

the market sank, the newest affiliates, including Jacksonville closed," he said. "I became an independent broker, sharing an office with broker Victor Hughes in the Riverside James Winston Building and later, in the Independent Life Building."

In the late 1970s May, a self-proclaimed 'book nut,' began his ideal retirement job. He went to work for Mumford Library Books in Jacksonville, where he stayed until 2012.

Gloria is a graduate of George Washington University with an economics degree and language minors in French, Spanish and Portuguese. Her Uncle Louis Miller from Missouri was serving in Congress while she was there. She dreamed of a career as a United Nations interpreter but accepted a position briefly working with an import/exporter's international clients. In 1950 she married Navy Pilot Jack Sullivan who was lost off the USS Forrester in 1959.

Gloria was a volunteer for many organizations including Gray Lady for NAS Hospital, Salvation Army and Scout troops. She loves to knit for her family, including eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They are close to their immediate family, including Phil's nephew and nieces who live in the Northeast. Their daughter Gloria (Reid) Phillips and her family live in North Carolina. Son John resides in Old Ortega, Susan (John) Scott's family and Philip May III (Stacy) also live in Jacksonville.

Your Story in Print

Seeking willing participants for *The Way We Were* column. If interested or know someone who has a story to tell, contact editor@residentnews.net.

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Episcopal celebrates 50th anniversary with full slate of activities

By Marcia Hodgson,
Resident Community News

This fall, the Episcopal School of Jacksonville has planned many activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding.

"In 1965, ESJ was just a dream as discussion began about an Episcopal high school that would 'develop doers of good and leaders of men.' In 1966 that dream became a reality as the school was incorporated and construction was underway," wrote 50th Anniversary Chairman Jill Dame of Ortega Forest in a letter to the greater Episcopal community.

Also serving on the anniversary committee are Skip Booth and Wendy LaPrade of San Marco, Jeff Bryan and Heather Johnson of Ortega, Charles Chunn and Robin Virtue of Ortega Forest, Missy Ketchum, Jim Moseley and Jennifer Windley of Avondale, Meg Sacks of Riverside, Clare Berry, Sally Maguire Deming, Sherry Hieb, Anne-Marie Hulsey, Julie McQuiddy, and Pamela Steitz.

To celebrate the occasion, a book chronicling the school's first 50 years was released this fall. Entitled *Episcopal School of Jacksonville: True to the Dream*, the book includes an early history of Jacksonville, and pictorially details the school through the years. This book is available in the campus store.

An artistic showcase presented by Episcopal's current and former Fine Arts faculty and alumni kicked off the



The student body when The Episcopal School of Jacksonville opened in 1966.

50th Anniversary celebrations Aug. 29. Included in the show were acting, singing, dancing and music.

Grandparents' Day will be held Oct. 9 and will offer students and their grandparents, many of whom attended the school, an opportunity to share the morning and lunch on campus together.

Homecoming, scheduled this year for Oct.

23, is a time when alumni and their families will gather on campus for a barbeque behind Advancement House prior to the annual homecoming football game.

The 50th Anniversary Golf & Tennis Tournament will be held at San Jose Country Club on Nov. 16. Tamara Bogan of San Marco will chair the tennis tournament and Niels Murphy of San

Marco will head up the golf tourney.

Upper School singers and actors will perform the musical *Godspell* Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 19-21. This musical was one of the first Episcopal theatre productions and has been performed nearly every decade of the school's existence.

In March, the Founder's Day Chapel will be held on Dale D. Regan Plaza. In addition to worship, music and the induction of Honorary Trustees and Trustees Emeriti, this event will feature remarks by Sherry Magill, Executive Director of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Jessie Ball duPont was an original benefactor of the school.

Thursday and Friday, April 28-29, the 50th Anniversary Fine Arts Honors Students will put on a show celebrating their artwork and performances. Also on April 29, Episcopal classes ending in the numbers six and one will celebrate quinquennial reunions at the Walton Boathouse. On the following day, the 50th Anniversary Gala, a formal occasion under tents along the St. Johns River, will be held.

The final event in the celebratory anniversary year will be the Alumni Hall of Honor induction on May 9. Episcopal will inaugurate an Alumni Hall of Honor with a ceremony to induct its first members, alumni who have distinguished themselves in the arts, athletics, service or business.



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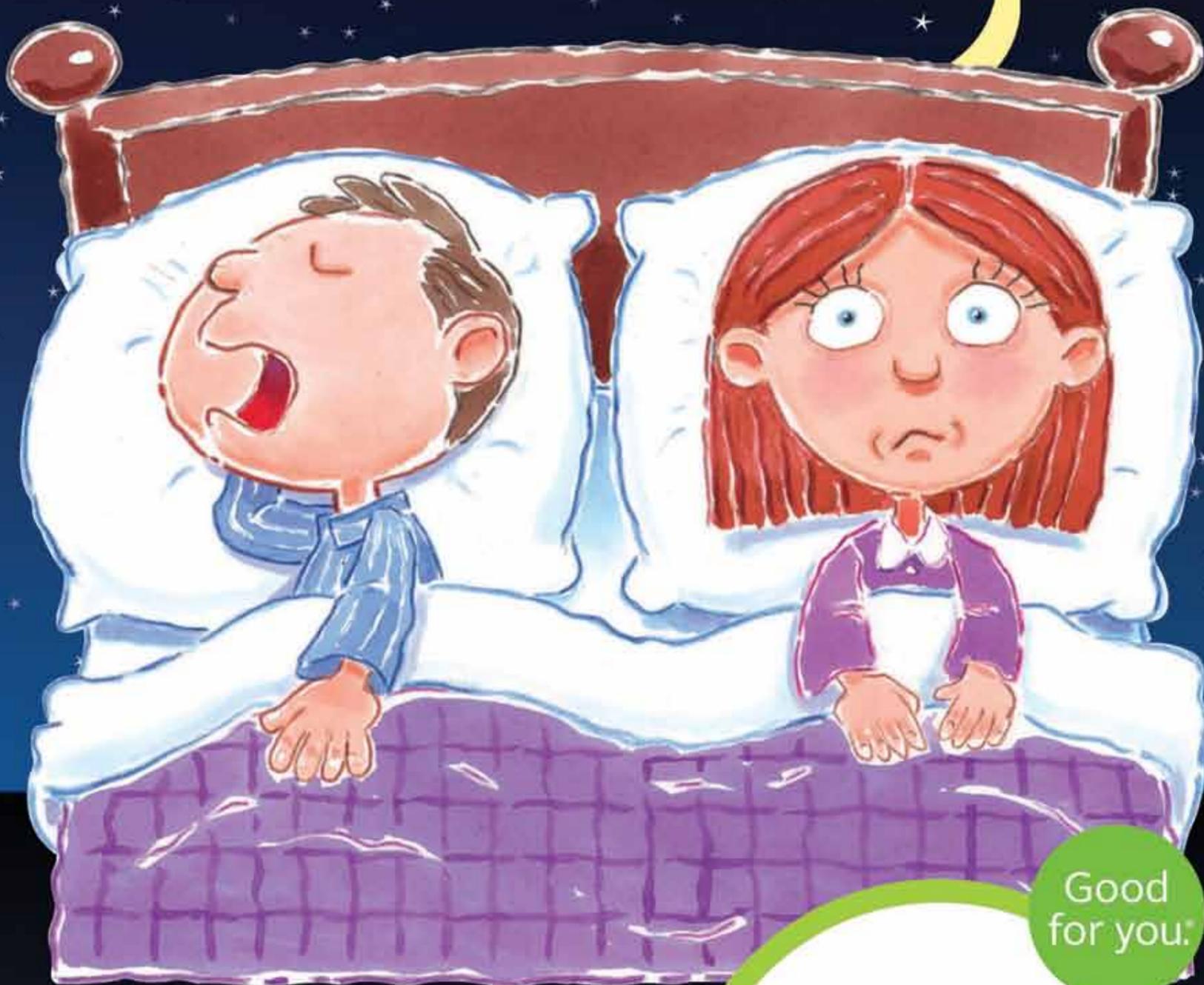
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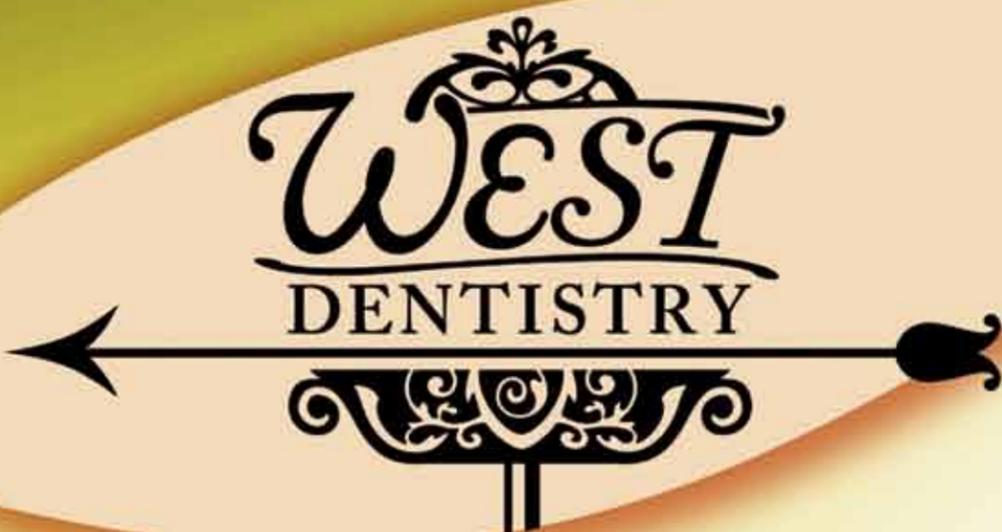
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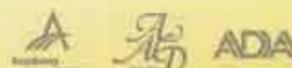
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