



Community News

Resident

Riverside — Avondale — Ortega — Murray Hill



The Power of Pink

Fighting the effects of cancer and sharing stories of perseverance, coverage begins on page 31

www.ResidentNews.net

Fiercely Local News ... Fiercely Loyal Readers

Vol. 8, Issue 10

Pumpkins in Ortega herald autumn

Church members Kristin Swiercek, Michelle Williams and Michelle Rader lend a hand at the unloading of Ortega United Methodist Church's annual pumpkin delivery.

Arf Basket Wonder Dog



Heather Jenkins and Madison, one of the semi-finalists in the Canine Costume Contest

The ever-popular Arf Basket pooch parade is one of the Riverside Arts Market's most crowd-pleasing events, which drew dogs and their owners from all over the city Sept. 12.

Petition drive underway to spur action on Willow Branch Creek



Willow Branch Creek along Yacht Basin Park at low tide

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Tired of the lack of progress to complete the clean-up phase from a nearly three-year-old bridge project, residents living near Willow Branch Creek have started a petition, which has garnered responses from concerned citizens outside of Riverside/Avondale.

Judging from the 150 responses on Change.org as of press time, people from Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach,

Middleburg, Saint Johns, St. Augustine, and Marathon, Florida, as well as Roswell, Georgia, McKinney, Texas, and Tacoma, Washington have signed the petition.

"Ideally, I'd like have at least 500 signatures," said Cathleen Murphy, Riverside resident and petition initiator. "Right now, Councilman Love is the only City Council member receiving emails generated from the petition signatures, so I'm sure he's the only one who's aware of it. Once we reach 500 signatures, I will email City Council and share the petition."

The petition asks city officials to remove the silt, contaminated soil and construction debris from the creek to ensure safe water flow for marine life, provide proper drainage after storms to promote driver and pedestrian safety on nearby roadways and protect residential properties and roadways from further flood damage. Those addressed include District 14 Councilman Jim Love; William Joyce, Chief of Engineering and Construction Management; Melissa

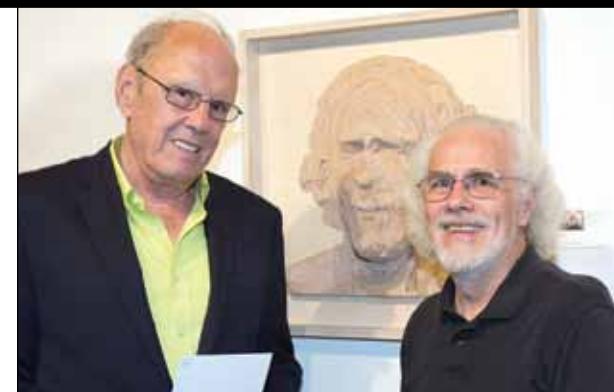
[Read more on page 16](#)

Honoring J.J. Daniel at 130th Celebration

As yellow fever took its toll on Jacksonville back in 1888, there was one man who stood out from the crowd, J.J. Daniel. Daniel worked tirelessly to eradicate the illness alongside the medical community, but he was focused on the children of the era. In his honor, the *Orphanage and Home for the Friendless* was renamed Daniel Memorial, following Daniel's death to yellow fever. See more photos on page 28.



Cole Pepper, Jackie Caldwell, Emily Pepper, Co-Chair Jackie Daniel Cook, Lauren and Tim Thompson



Local artists put best faces forward

Preston Haskell, sponsor of the Haskell Gallery at Jacksonville International Airport, with artist David Engdahl, one of 30 in the Face Forward commissioned exhibit.

[Read more on page 34](#)

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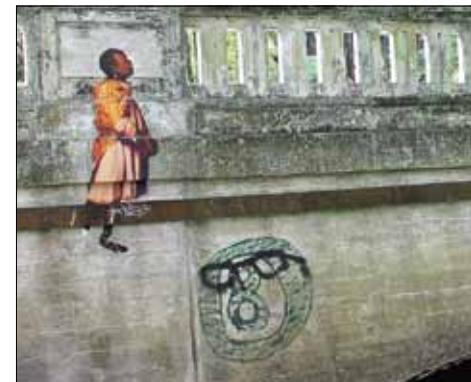
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Letters to the Editor



Our story published in the September 2015 issue on the appearance of a mysterious piece of artwork posed the questions "Should there be restrictions against placing random images on buildings in the historic district? Should there be a time limit set and enforced to remove the art? What happens when the appliqué begins to deteriorate?" Readers shared their thoughts.



Another piece of art discovered on the back side of the west end of the Little Fishweir Creek bridge over Herschel Street.

My opinion on whether the appliqué is vandalism would be based on what the owner of the building wants. When you buy an old house or building you inherit all of the history, whether that be bad plumbing, or wall art from the 1960s; they should be the one that decides if it is or isn't. Personally I do think it was in bad taste to put it up so quickly after the "Royal Crown" sign was rediscovered. There are people in the neighborhood that think it was part of the original wall, simply because they hadn't been able to see the wall without it.

Jay Stockton

Regarding the art work on the side of the Orsay building (Park 'n Dancy Streets)...I love it! It is tasteful and appropriate for our area, plus it lessens the harshness of an otherwise stark brick wall. Besides, it won't be there long, the

new restaurant construction isn't far off and she will disappear (be removed) from view. I say "thank you" to whomever placed her there.

Debra Harris

As far as I am concerned, unsanctioned Outings Project installations can stay until they wear off the wall. (Not as quick as a Tibetan sand painting but still a reminder of the transience of life and our culture). As long as they are not installed on a residence or over a business logo, etc., I love this!

Kathleen King

As beautiful and appropriate as the new artwork is, I believe the artist should be cleared to do it. So it may be beautiful but in the wrong setting, or in an appropriate place but artistically questionable.

Sonny Smith

She's beautiful. Art belongs everywhere. She's beautiful! Let her be there for us as long as the weather of this world lets her stay.

Nancy-Laurel Pettersen

Read the article on some of the appearances of different building art...I have seen others...there is one actually down the road by the drainage ditch near the tennis courts and another one downtown.

When the building was torn down I thought there was something similar to that already there and an artist came back and re painted it. Thought it was well done and represented the historical aspect of the area. If the article is correct, the art piece isn't original, that is a little bit of a downer, but I still like it none the less.

Like what you guys do, keep up the good work.

Talmadge "T" Nunnari

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1655 WOODMERE DR - \$599,000
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RIVERFRONT

5121 HARBOR POINT CIR - \$649,000
Renovated 3/2.5, 3043sqft on Pirates Cove



WATERFRONT

4756 ORTEGA FOREST DR - \$935,000
Wonderful 5/4 home on Ortega River, 198' lot



RIVERFRONT ESTATE

4091 TIMUQUANA RD - \$1,775,000
Georgian estate, 4/3/1, 4528sf, 100' x 404' lot

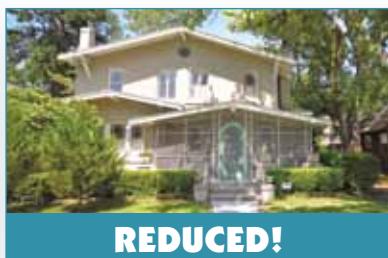


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WATERFRONT LOT

5119 YACHT CLUB RD - \$399,000
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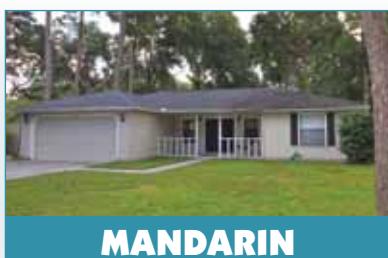


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12205 GOVERNORS DR W - \$177,000
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SOLD

12635 PINE MARSH WAY
2009 single-story 3/2 in Cedar Glen



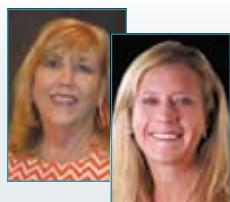
SOLD

1107 11th STREET N
Charming 3/2.5 just 11 blocks from the beach



SOLD

1233 RENSSLAER AVE
Cute updated 3/1 in Avondale



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WATERFRONT

4333 VENETIA BLVD - \$1,299,000
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JUST LISTED

3574 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$649,000
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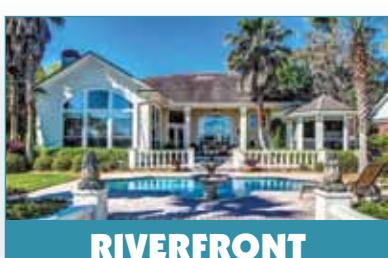


HYDE GROVE ACRES

1540 NAVAHO AVE - \$169,900
Beautifully updated 3/2.5, 2368sf, pool



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RIVERFRONT

5043 ORTEGA FARMS BLVD - \$689,000
Serene 1-story riverfront 3/3, 2649sf, pool



ORTEGA TERRACE

5128 ARAPAHOE AVENUE - \$289,000
Spacious Ortega Terrace contemporary, 2540sf



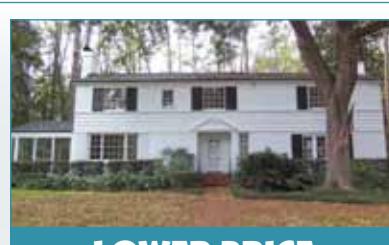
RIVERFRONT ESTATE

4939 MORVEN RD - \$3,100,000
Amazing lot, 5/4.5 home, pool & guest house



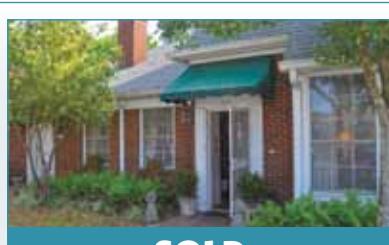
ORTEGA TERRACE

4828 ORTEGA BLVD - \$650,000
Elegant 2-story brick traditional 3/3.5, 3068sf



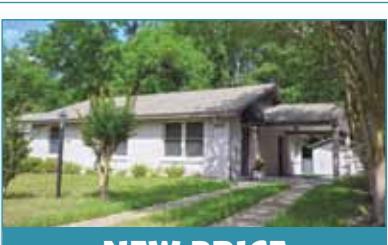
LOWER PRICE

4700IROQUOIS AVE - \$419,000
Stately 3/3, 2898sf in Ortega Terrace



SOLD

5303 ORTEGA BLVD #202
Southpointe of Ortega 3/2 townhome



NEW PRICE

3925 JEAN ST - \$199,900
Cute, updated 3/1 in Avondale



BACK ON THE MARKET

3326 PARK ST - \$285,000
Charming Colonial 3/2 in Avondale



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Students from Carter G. Woodson Elementary School on board the St. Johns River Taxi for an educational boat trip. (Photo courtesy Heather Surface)

Riverkeeper, School Board partner for on-the-water education

The St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Duval County School Board are partners in the STEAM Cultural Passport Program, providing on-the-water learning experiences for Title I fifth grade students in Duval County during the 2015-2016 school year. With additional financial support from CSX, the partnership will include educational boat trips on the St. Johns River for approximately 4,500 elementary school students from low-income families.

Boarding a St. Johns River Taxi from Friendship Fountain Park, the students will rotate through a series

of educational activities that correlate to state standards and focus on river science for the two-hour trip.

"So many of these kids have never had the opportunity to experience the St. Johns from the water," said Jennie Busey, the St. Johns Riverkeeper Education Director. "This program offers students a hands-on, comprehensive learning experience that will enhance their knowledge of the river while allowing them to develop a closer relationship to our community's greatest natural resource."

Roofing mishap closes 5 Points business

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A crew from Quality Discount Roofing was still repairing the roof nearly two weeks after three 5 Points businesses on Park Street suffered water damage from a heavy storm on Sept. 12.

The Wall Street Deli and Lounge was back in business a week later, while Birdies Jax hopes to reopen Oct. 1, but 5 Points Antiques, situated between the two nightspots, suffered enough damage to close the business for good.

Despite severe damage to her business, Birdies Jax owner Christy Frazier and her staff helped Bill Martin, owner of 5 Points Antiques, move and cover antiques to protect them from the indoor downpour.

In the midst of managing their own cleanup and repairs, Birdies' staff and DJs hosted a benefit for the vendors at 5 Points Antiques, many of whom lost inventory. Even though out of work since the disaster, Birdies bartenders worked the event for tips only.

Martin, owner of 5 Points Antiques for nearly seven years, is now renting space at Castaways, a new antique mini-mall at 4201 St. Johns Avenue. Some of the dealers who rented from Martin also moved to Castaways.

The roofers contracted to replace the roof were not able to finish the section they had removed before the rainstorm popped



"Out of Business" signs on the window at 5 Points Antiques, which closed last month after a roof leak damaged much of the contents.

up. Although they tried to cover the hole with plastic tarps, the weight of the water eventually caused the tarp to drop, flooding the businesses from the ceiling.

"It was an accident, a heartbreaking accident," said one of the crew working on the roof on Sept. 23. "But we're doing everything we can to get this fixed."

The building at 1044-1050 Park Street had been bought recently by John Grant-Dooley from William Buice, a New York attorney with properties in Jacksonville.

Prior to purchasing the building, Grant-Dooley sold his Fans and Stoves Antiques Mall building across the street from 5 Points Antiques to Jeff Morr, a South Florida real estate broker and property developer.

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Liquor bill not supported unanimously by residents

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Riverside Avondale Preservation support for a proposed amendment that would provide exceptions for space and seating requirements for liquor licenses is not in favor with some RAP members.

In an open letter to Carmen Godwin, RAP's executive director, and some of the members of RAP's board, Avondale residents Dr. Ken and Carol Tannenbaum withdrew their membership, citing an inconsistency in RAP's concerns about the neighborhood.

Dr. Tannenbaum indicated that RAP's support of the bill, as noted in the September 2015 issue of *The Resident*, was "the final straw." That bill, which would amend Chapter 87-471, Laws of Florida, creates special zones to drop seating minimums from 150 to 100 and square footage from 2,500 to 1,800, thus enabling smaller restaurants to serve liquor.

"We joined because we believed that RAP was sincerely concerned about maintaining our wonderful neighborhood," stated Tannenbaum in his email. "I assure you that

Carol and I are very consistent in our concern for and support of our neighborhood. Recent events by RAP have, unfortunately, convinced us that RAP is not as concerned about our neighborhood as we believe it should be. It is my opinion that RAP isn't very consistent in demonstrating its concern about our neighborhoods."

Tannenbaum noted, given his experience on RAP's Public Safety Committee, that excessive alcohol availability has become a problem in the Park and King area. He also expressed disappointment that input from the

residents was not considered.

Leaders in favor, local voices share opinions

The Resident wanted to know what others in the neighborhood thought about the proposed bill, endorsed by District 14 Councilman Jim Love of Avondale, and City Council President Greg Anderson of Ortega, and supported by the City Council, 16-2. News Editor, Marcia Hodgson, took to the street and polled locals who shared their thoughts concerning the issue.

Are you for or against the expansion of issuing liquor licenses to Riverside and Avondale businesses and eateries that have less than 2,500 square feet of space or seat less than 150 persons?

Julie Sutton
Murray Hill

If you have a free market, then let the free market decide.



Patty McElhaney
Murray Hill

I'm for it. They shouldn't be penalized because they're smaller. If one can get it, everybody should.



Roz Devine
Riverside

I guess I'm in favor of it because other businesses in the area have liquor licenses. There will possibly be more noise and I think the parking has already overwhelmed and crowded Avondale. It will affect parking and noise and I do care about that. But for the business and the community, bringing more people in might be a good thing except for the people who live there, which I used to do, right down the street.



Charles Gardner
Ortega

I was reading about it the other day. I'm for it for the simple reason I really don't drink much at all but I believe in it from a standpoint of profitability. Allowing the smaller restaurants to have greater margins will maybe help keep people in business and perhaps draw new business to the area. We go to Atlanta quite a bit and that's what's fun about it. Their liquor licenses aren't hard to get at all and everything is so vibrant. There are a lot of local restaurants that have specialty cocktails. It gives their neighborhood a special sense of being.



Bernadette Moran
Avondale

I'm for it. I think there is the same amount of alcohol in the average drink whether it's beer, wine or spirits. So why can you only drink beer or wine and not spirits?



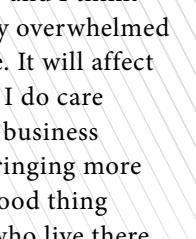
Tom Klimoski
Riverside

I don't see any problem with that. The biggest thing that your paper writes about is parking and one-way streets. I don't see how it would affect that at all.



Iris Meyers
Lakeshore

I'm against it. It seems to change the flavor of the neighborhood. It changes the demographics of the people attracted to the neighborhood. I bring my grandchildren and kids here and I want it to have a family atmosphere.



Kyle Williams
Ortega

I'm for it. I think the smaller businesses in the neighborhood should have the ability to serve alcohol just as a large restaurant should. I prefer to eat and dine locally as opposed to at a national chain, especially if the restaurants, which are local, have specialty cocktails on the menu.



Rick Meyers
Lakeshore

There's plenty already. I believe there are ample spots to drink already. You need to have ample spots for people who don't want to be around drinking. I personally don't drink but I don't oppose it for religious purposes.



Kevin Johnson
Avondale

I would need to know how many requests they have for those licenses. Is there a call for it? If there isn't a call for it than we need to address more important things. It seems our city council has enough issues to work through, and you know they're only part-time.



Iris Meyers
Lakeshore

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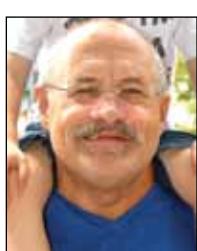


Kyle Williams
Ortega

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Harry Leen
Ortega Farms

I have no problem with it. I think most of the population that frequents the establishments around here drinks responsibly.

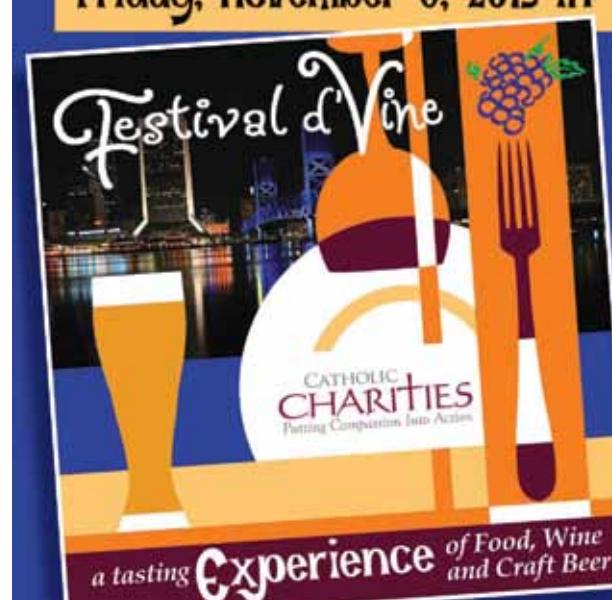


Kelly Magamoll
Riverside

Absolutely. I don't see why not. I like to be able to buy a drink anywhere. Now, wouldn't that be nice?



Friday, November 6, 2015 in Treaty Oak Park



6-9 pm

Tickets \$75
\$50 for ages 21-35
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All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program, preventing homelessness in our community.

Book sale features more \$10 bags

Volunteers for Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library are getting ready for another Book Warehouse Sale and this one includes a lot of \$10 bags. The three-day sale will be held at FJPL's Book Warehouse at University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. N.

The \$10 bag, a very popular feature of FJPL sales, allows customers to fill a grocery bag with books, CDs and DVDs for only \$10. Customers can choose from an inventory of more than 200,000 fiction and non-fiction books, plus a big selection of paperbacks, CDs and DVDs.

The sale begins with Members Night on Friday, Oct. 9, 4-8 p.m. FJPL memberships for 2015 and 2016 are available at the door. The sale continues on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 11, noon to 5 p.m. Call (904) 630-2304 or visit fjpl.org for more information.

You asked for it! Trail of dangerous debris

A reader asked "Why does there seem to be a lack of concern on behalf of the recycling company that's been leaving piles of broken glass and other materials at each stop? It creates a dangerous hazard for children, pets and bicycle riders in the neighborhood."

The city's contracted recycling company made rounds on Labor Day, Sept. 7, through the neighborhoods of Ortega, Fairfax and Lakeside picking up recyclable trash but also leaving behind small piles

of litter. The reader noted that this is not the first time this has occurred, having experienced the same issue earlier in 2015.

An issue was submitted with 630-CITY, with a request for the cause of the problem and what is being done to prevent it from occurring again. A check of the issue indicated that it was closed with no explanation, so *The Resident* reached out to 630-CITY for an answer. As of press time, there was no response.



A Lakeside resident cleaned up piles of ground glass recyclables; a hazard down the entire street.

Library opening pending final item, interior work to be done

*By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News*

There is good news for patrons of the Willowbranch Branch Library. According to library officials, the Water Intrusion Project at the Willowbranch Branch Library is substantially complete and a grand re-opening is planned for November.

In late August, Steve Lazar of VRL Architects, Inc., contractor Keith Timmons of KBT Construction, representatives of the City's Public Works department, and members of the Jacksonville Public Library staff conducted project walkthroughs and

developed a punch list of items needed to close out the contract, said Olga Bayer, Community Relations and Marketing, Jacksonville Public Library.

The team revisited the site on Sept. 4 and agreed the punch list had been satisfactorily completed with the exception of one item, a pane of glass that does not have the correct UV tinting. According to the construction contract, KBT Construction has up to 30 days to complete the final item and close out the permit.

"There is a lot of work to be done in the interior of the building, however, to make it functional and attractive for customers. This includes the work needed to make it compatible with Americans with Disabilities Act standards," said Bayer. "In addition to the ADA compliance items, some other limited upgrades will occur including carpeting in some areas, renovation of the service desk on the first floor, repainting and other maintenance work."

The Children's Room on the ground

floor has been located in the meeting room since 2012 due to water intrusion. Now that the water intrusion project is complete, the children's room will be returned to its original location and the meeting room will be available for its intended use.

"Some children's materials were damaged due to the water intrusion and humidity in the building, therefore an extensive collection review is underway," Bayer noted. "About 5,000 materials must be brought to the library that include a combination of new materials that have been purchased for the branch as well as Willowbranch items returned to another library after closing. These materials will be interfiled in the collection."

Bayer said the library is expected to re-open in November 2015, at which time there will be a grand re-opening celebration. "We know the community eagerly awaits the re-opening and we can't wait to have them enjoy the improvements!" she said.

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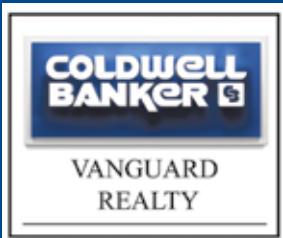
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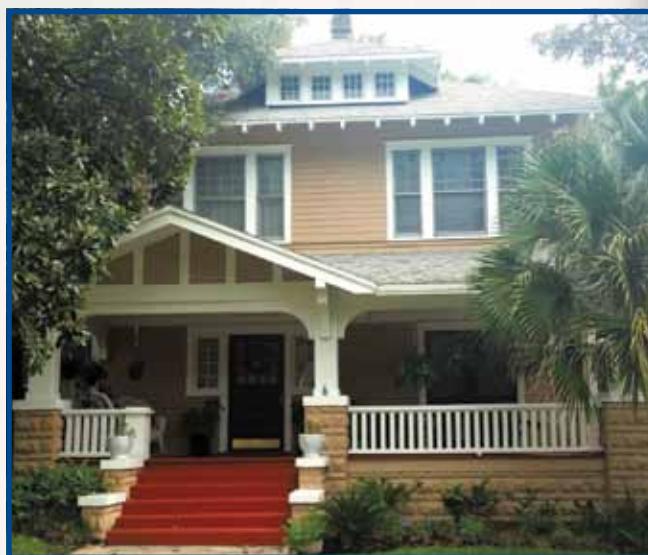


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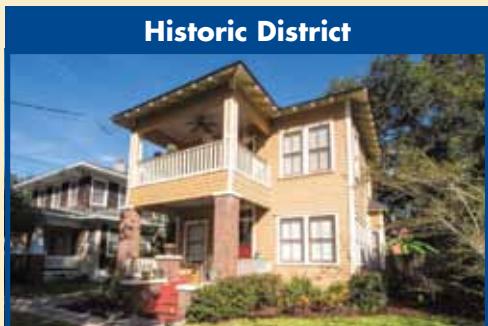
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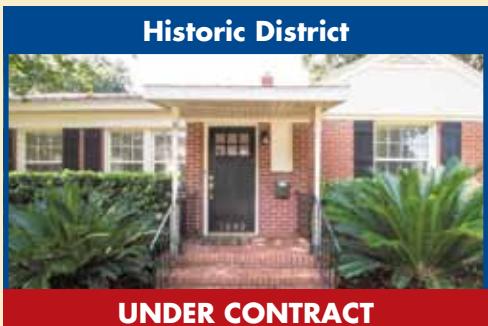
1817 Bayard Place

This property has been part of Jacksonville's History since 1909. It is located on one of very few brick streets and located in the RAP District, Florida's Largest Historic District. Enjoy the large open front porch or the shaded back deck. Many upgrades have been done and home has been loved and maintained.

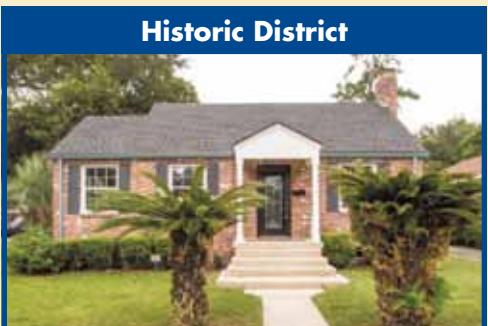
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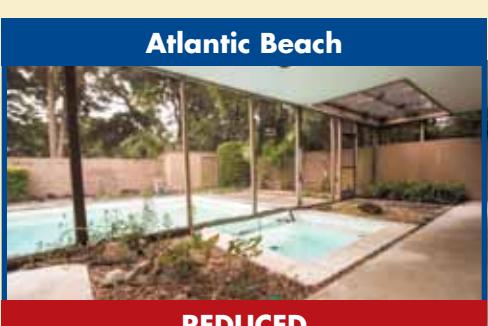
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Terry Rogers and Caleb Ginn, of David Fogg Masonry, place posts for the Riverside Avondale Community Garden.

Community garden in construction stage

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Fruits and vegetables will soon be a welcome sight in the Willowbranch Rose Garden, the site of the Riverside Avondale Community Garden.

Last month Southern Recreation and its sub-contractor David Fogg Masonry installed 79 vertical fence posts in preparation for work by volunteers, who will install tension wire on the north and east elevations. The south and west elevations will be finished with cypress fence boards, also installed by volunteers handy with electric drills.

"I'm so happy it's started," said Susan Fraser, the Avondale resident who is heading up development of the garden. "We've got calls out for volunteers – no expert technical skills needed – for basic fence and deck construction."

Although Riverside Avondale Preservation is still waiting for a permit from the City of Jacksonville as well as ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) approval for accessibility requirements, Fraser noted there are many things that can be built during the wait.

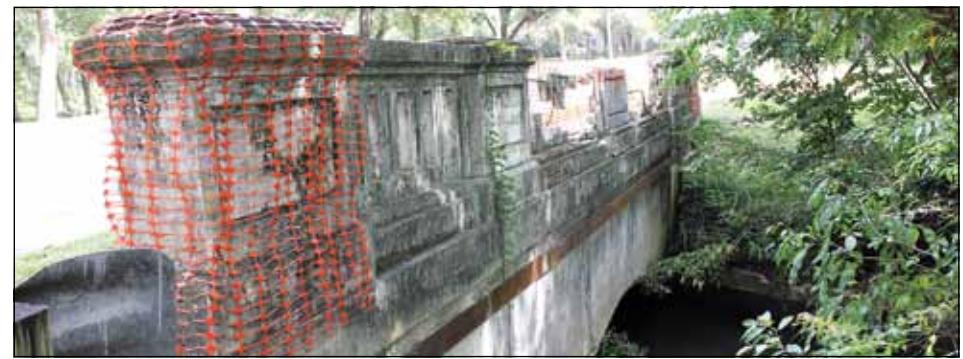
Paving for parking spaces and installation of hexagonal sidewalk pavers will be handled through Southern Recreation. Over the next month, volunteers are needed to lay irrigation lines, construct gates, benches, elevated beds and ADA accessible beds, compost bins, and spread gravel, place pavers and install plants. A comprehensive list of activities and tools required can be found on RAP's website, riversideavondale.org.

Applications are being taken through mid-October for full and half plots, including four beds to accommodate wheelchair access and five elevated beds for gardeners with bending and kneeling limitations. If there are more applicants than plots, a lottery will be held to make the assignments.

Fraser said the plan is to open the garden for planting January 1, 2016, but in the months leading up to that, the space will be used for classes in irrigation and other gardening needs.

"I would love to walk down with a cup of coffee on a Saturday and work on the garden," she said. "The plan has been dreamed about for nearly three years and many people got us one step closer."

Quarter-century wait for culvert replacement



The back of the east side of the balustrades on Herschel Street at Little Fishweir Creek shows deterioration.

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Although the wheels turn slowly in city government, eventually they do make forward progress. When the year ends, it will also close on the 24th year residents have been waiting for replacement of an arched culvert on Herschel Street that crosses Azalea Creek, also known as Little Fishweir Creek.

A CARE [Citizen Active Response Effort] issue about the culvert under Herschel Street was entered in January 2012; funding for design was approved that May and design started in August, however, it won't be until sometime in 2016 that the repair project will begin.

Back in 1991, the former Streets and Drainage Department requested that the culvert be replaced, and again in 1998, when Lynn Westbook, division chief at that time, noted that it could collapse if the structure was not replaced.

The cost to replace the culvert in 1998 was estimated at \$250,000 with anticipated completion in March 1999. Presently, the estimated cost for the repair is \$450,000 and includes replacement of the culvert, cleaning and stabilizing of the channel, new curbs, sidewalks and balustrades.

Built in the 1930s, the culvert has historical significance for Riverside Avondale Preservation. Public Works Department will attempt to match the replacement

balustrades to the existing ones, and the work will be coordinated with Riverside Avondale Preservation and the Historic Preservation Committee.

According to project information provided by James Croft, Public Affairs officer, the Herschel Street culvert running southeast located between Pinegrove Avenue and Van Wert Avenue is failing and the proposed solution is to close the road, remove the failed culvert, and replace it with a precast box culvert.

The assessment notes the current culvert is a corrugated steel plate pipe arch that is partially crushed, held up by a wooden pole at one end. Some of the metal culvert has rusted away. Both headwalls are cracked and are held together by a mounted external steel bar. The roadway shows distress with stress cracks and pothole patches. The roadway has settled along the curbs, creating standing pockets of water. The channel [under the culvert] is choked with debris and sediment.

"The project was at 90 percent design in 2014 when construction funding was requested – but not authorized – in the FY15 CIP [Capital Improvement Projects]," said Croft, in an email to *The Resident*. "It was one of the many projects reviewed by the Council CIP Subcommittee. The subcommittee has since authorized funding for the project to proceed; it is included in the budget transfer legislation 2015-622 currently in Council."



Janie Boyd

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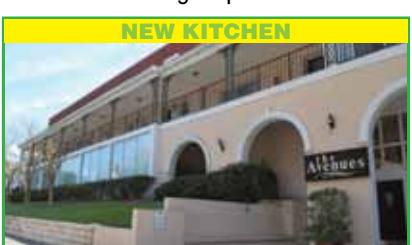
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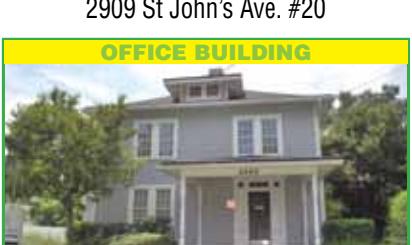
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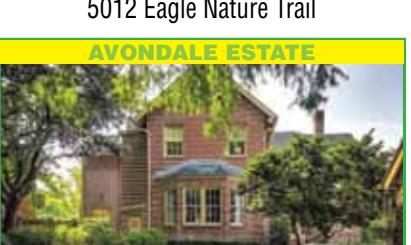
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Despite accident, no flashing signal planned for Herschel and Pinegrove

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

If the sound of a Ford F159 truck t-boning a Jeep Cherokee Laredo early on a Saturday morning on Herschel Street wasn't enough to bring residents running from nearby homes, the additional sound of the Jeep careening off a parked car and flipping upside down was a guaranteed wake-up call.

Accidents and near misses are common at the intersection of Herschel Street and Pinegrove Avenue, according to nearby homeowners, however, a study requested by District 14 Councilman Jim Love indicates just three recorded crashes between September 2010 and August 2015.

One of those three recorded is the Aug. 29 accident that resulted from a driver failing to stop at the intersection while driving at approximately 25 mph, according to the Florida Traffic Crash Report. The driver of the struck vehicle escaped with head and

neck injuries, but the 1999 Jeep was totaled. There were no injuries suffered by the driver who ran the stop sign.

Love requested the study to determine if a flashing yellow/red signal, similar to the ones at Dancy and Herschel Streets, and at Ingleside Avenue and Herschel Street, could be installed at Pinegrove.

Nelson Caparas, chief of the city's traffic division, indicated the installation of a flashing light would require clearing the trees at the intersection and the approaches to provide the required sight lines. The flashers are likely to be more obscured by vegetation than the signs under the canopy, he stated. The flashing yellow/red light will not change existing control at this intersection.

Public Works will install a Stop Ahead warning sign in advance of the intersection to supplement the stop signs and will perform maintenance on the stop signs, trimming back vegetation to clear or improve sight lines.



A driver eastbound on Pinegrove Avenue failed to stop at the stop sign and, upon entering the intersection on Herschel Street, slammed into another vehicle causing it to career off a parked car and then flip on its roof.



Officers from Zone 4, Subsector J-1 of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, along with members of City Council and the Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo) walked King Street on Sept. 18.

Sheriff's Office shows presence on King Street

The Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo) for Zone 4, Subsector J-1 of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office sponsored a walk on King Street in Riverside last month to show a presence of police enforcement and protection. The walk ended at The Blind Rabbit, the site of an unfortunate – and as yet unsolved – murder of an employee of the restaurant in July.

Six officers, two council members and one staff, and a dozen members of ShAdCo strolled up and down King Street for an hour on Sept. 18, stopping to chat with residents, passers-by and business patrons. Included in the parade were the Zone 4 Commander, Assistant Chief Larry Gayle, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, At-Large Councilman John Crescimbeni, and

Love's executive assistant, Kevin Kuzel.

While disappointed more local citizens didn't participate, Pine Street resident Karen Iwema-Smith and her three-month-old son, Hank, walked along to support the JSO.

"It's disappointing we didn't have more of a turn-out from residents that express safety concerns, especially the handful of families concerned about 'crime' down at the river at Little Van Wert Avenue," Iwema-Smith said. "Anyone concerned with crime and safety needs to make the time and be involved with our wonderful resource, ShAdCo."

Zone 4 expects to get additional officers from the plan to hire 40 new enforcement officers under the 2015-2016 budget, but will not know how many until March 2016, according to Chief Gayle.

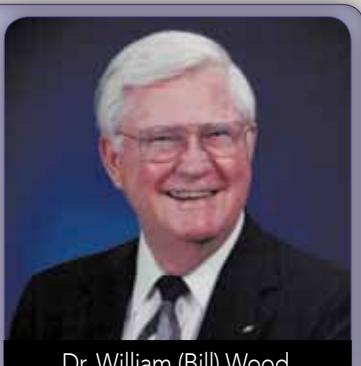
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Brooklyn booming as residential, retail tenants move in

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Although open for events for this past summer, Unity Plaza's official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony took place Sept. 29 in Brooklyn. Jen Jones, executive director, spoke about the nonprofit's growth, large-scale partnerships and site upgrades at the event attended by Charles Moreland, director of community affairs for the City of Jacksonville, and District 7 City Councilman Reggie Gaffney, among others.

"After over a decade of hard work and dedication to achieve a vision for this community, Unity Plaza is now open," said Jones. "At its core Unity Plaza was born from a need to bring Jacksonville together in a totally inclusive way to reflect our amazing self back to us."

Weekly and monthly programs and amphitheater events are scheduled through April 2016, including a Nov. 11 concert in honor of veterans, performed by the First Coast Wind Ensemble and U.S. Navy Band.

"Our site is moving from phase one construction to phase two fabulous," Jones said. She noted that an outdoor restaurant will be completed early 2016 is in the works, as well as beverage kiosks to open next month.

Jones also announced naming opportunities for nearly \$1.5 million in passive and active capital improvements including a widescreen television, bronze chess and Scrabble boards, plaza Wi-Fi, a conference pavilion, movie screen,



Jen Jones cuts the ribbon as representatives from the City of Jacksonville, UF Health, Florida Blue, Studio9 Architecture, WJXT and NAI Hallmark look on.

wayfinding mosaic embellishments, shade structures, a fire pit, band shell with lighting and sound, game court for bocce, ping-pong and more. She said that the campaign was kicked off by the Winston Family Foundation with a \$100,000 donation.

Meanwhile, three of the four retail spaces in 220 Riverside are committed and the final space is pending.

"Unity Plaza's community center has been open for several weeks and hosted many events. Both Sbraga & Co. and Hobnob will open later this fall," said Dave Auchter, Executive Vice President/COO of NAI Hallmark Partners. "220 Riverside Avenue and Unity Plaza are coming alive

just in time for the holiday season."

Brooklyn Station activity

On Oct. 1, Pollack Shores Real Estate Group hosted the grand opening of The Brooklyn Riverside, 310-unit multi-family development adjacent to Brooklyn Station on Riverside. The residential property includes a private business center and two-story fitness club.

Nine of the 15 retail spaces in Regency Centers' Brooklyn Station on Riverside have opened for business. Currently under construction is Burrito Gallery, which is anticipating a mid-November

to mid-December opening, depending upon construction, according to Eric Davidson, communications manager for Regency Centers. He said they do not have a construction schedule yet for The Hippo, while the last four retail spaces are open.

"We're actively working with two that we can't name just yet, and have two spaces available," said Davidson.

Open and serving customers are Corner Bakery Café, Marilyn Monroe Nail Lounge, Lucy's, The Fresh Market, Hair Cuttery, Navy Federal Credit Union and The Pink Nickel, which both opened in July, Burger Fi in late August, and Zoe's Kitchen opened Sept. 12.

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Annual Destination Celebration honors residents

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

In what may come as a surprise to some residents, tourism is a \$2.2 billion economic powerhouse in Duval County. With no major destination draw like Disney World or a world-class aquarium, it could be hard to believe that Jacksonville tourism has been on an upswing.

However, thanks to craft beer, Jacksonville's on the map.

Visit Jacksonville was recognized this year by the U.S. Travel Association with a Destination Council Destiny Award, for excellence and creative accomplishment in destination marketing and promotion of the Jax Ale Trail, tours of eight local craft breweries, including Intuition Ale Works and Bold City Brewery, both in Riverside, and San Marco's Aardwolf Brewing Company. The organization also won a Henry Award during the Florida Governor's Conference for niche marketing of the Jax Ale Trail, plus two silver awards for its marketing efforts.

Jacksonville's normally mild winter climate may have also led to a 2.5 percent increase over last year in overnight visitors during the first two quarters of 2015; more than three million people kept 71 percent of the hotel rooms occupied during the first half of the year, resulting in bed tax collections at an all-time high year to date.

"Jacksonville is taking off, and the entire hospitality industry is playing a major role in this new journey," said Paul Astleford, President and CEO of Visit Jacksonville, at its annual Destination Celebration lunch Sept. 16 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center. "Together we are creating the Jacksonville we want to live, work, and play in, and the world is noticing. Our destination is unique, with many enviable characteristics. But, Jacksonville can be even more if we work together to paint the canvas of what we want our city to be: a destination worth visiting time and time



Wayne Wood and Paul Astleford, Visit Jacksonville CEO/President. (Ken McCray Photography)



Bill Prescott, Allison and Pete Behringer, Brooke Behringer Joyner, Phyllis Geiger, Daniel Behringer, Paul Astleford (Ken McCray Photography)

again, and a city where our residents are proud to boast and share that pride with the rest of the world."

At the luncheon, the re-appointment of Bill Prescott for another term as Chair of the Visit Jacksonville Board of Directors was announced. Prescott, principal at the St. Nicholas-based Heritage Capital Group and former chief financial officer for the Jacksonville Jaguars, has been board chair since 2007. Sonny Bhikha, president of Shivam Properties, was selected to be the organization's next Chair Elect.

During the celebration, awards were presented to individuals and businesses which helped promote Jacksonville to both residents and visitors.

Riverside resident Wayne Wood was given the Margo Dunden Tourism Advocate Award for being a catalyst for many successful projects in Jacksonville. Some of those projects, such as Riverside Arts Market and Hemming Park, have become notable destinations for visitors and residents.

The Behringer family of Springfield received the Hall of Fame Award for making Jacksonville a sweet destination with their lifelong commitment to the art of candy making, with both Peterbrooke and Sweet Pete's, which moved from Springfield to

downtown Jacksonville last year.

Voted on by Visit Jacksonville's entire partnership, the Omni Jacksonville received the Visit Jacksonville's Partner of the Year Award for going above and beyond to support the Visit Jacksonville mission. Burnell Goldman, general manager of the Omni Jacksonville, accepted the award on behalf of the hotel.

San Marco resident Jonathan Cantor, Healthcare Market Leader for the firm Reynolds, Smith, and Hill took home the "Bring It Home, Jax! Ambassador" Award for being instrumental in the successful booking of the BioFlorida, Inc. Conference that will be coming to Jacksonville in October 2016.

"We know that there are no limits to Jacksonville's innovative spirit and the many

other ideas of progress...that are being dreamed of as we speak," said Prescott in his remarks. "All you dreamers, innovators and spirited risk-takers remember that we at Visit Jacksonville are here to amplify your message and the message that Jacksonville is a thriving destination ready to be experienced."

Next month Visit Jacksonville will again offer Kids Free November, an entire month of free admission for children at the city's top family attractions, and will kick off Winter on the Water, a campaign aimed at inviting travelers to escape the cold and spend the holidays here for unique family-friendly holiday events and shopping.

Next year Visit Jacksonville plans to begin renovation of its four visitor centers, adding an interactive component.

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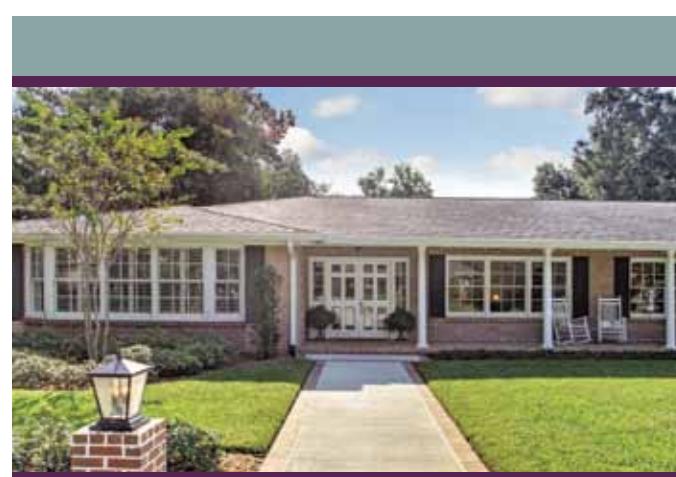
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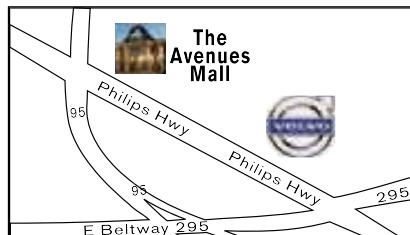


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JTA has answers for riders struggling with Route Optimization

By Vince Iampietro
Resident Community News

When Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) inaugurated its Route Optimization Initiative on Dec. 1, 2014, it expected to hear concerns from regular riders fearful of change.

The initiative overhauled Jacksonville's outdated public transportation system by reorganizing routes, doubling the number of buses to 22 that pick up riders at half-hour intervals. More evening and weekend service was added, as well as 16 routes after midnight – important for those working odd hours or enjoying Jacksonville's night life.

While JTA projected a three-percent decrease in ridership of the overhauled public transportation system, according to Leigh Ann Rassler, JTA public relations manager, it was a pleasant surprise to discover nine months later that August ridership this year was up 6.2 percent over the prior year, and Saturday and Sunday increased by 10.7 percent and 13.5 percent respectively, Rassler said. JTA keeps track of transfers, which would add minimal overlap to overall ridership numbers, she noted.

Despite improved numbers, City Hall volunteer worker Bernard Mazie, 72, of Lakewood, is less than impressed and has bold, colorful terms for the initiative.

"Route Optimization is a curse upon humanity, a kleptocratic sarcoma, and a disease of thievery," he opined, describing the increased travel times he faces due to additional transfers on his new route to his volunteer job at City Hall, and the additional transfer expenses he said other riders are forced to bear.

Prior to Route Optimization, to get to City Hall, Mazie had a direct 17-minute commute.

"I would take the B7 to Forsythe and Laura, and it was only a two-block walk to City Hall or the library from there, and no crossing San Jose or University Boulevard," he said.

After Route Optimization, Mazie's trip involves a transfer from a bus to the Skyway and takes 42 minutes, more than twice as long. He also said that a trip to Regency Mall now involves two transfers and 55 minutes versus no transfers in 44



Passengers board JTA bus downtown at Rosa Parks Station.

minutes before the route changes went into effect.

With the cost of additional transfers, Mazie said, those earning minimum wage must now put almost an hour of their wages into bus fare.

An increased number of transfers after Route Optimization is also cited by Matt Uhrig, founder of Bike Jacksonville, as a reason for his move from the Racetrack Road area into Riverside.

"I moved to Riverside because optimization made it so difficult; I had to make the move," he said. "Now people have to pay double fees because of additional transfers."

However, Rassler stated that the JTA always looks at ways it can improve routes, based on customer feedback. "If people don't give us their feedback, we don't know what their concerns are," she cautioned.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for riders to go where they want to go," said Rassler about ridership difficulties and confusion. "You can call the customer service main number at (904) 630-3100 for help. If needed, someone from Community Engagement can meet you in person to help. If someone is doing more (transfers) we're happy to work with them to find the best route."

Transfer connections highlight Jacksonville's pedestrian dangers

Safety issues are another factor for the elderly, who risk injury by getting

on and off multiple buses, Mazie said, noting how hard it is for the elderly riders to cross intersections to complete a transfer.

"The thought of crossing those streets is frightening. They (motorists) bear down on you and they don't move – sometimes they even go for you," Mazie said.

"We have the highest vehicle-to-pedestrian accident rate in the country," said Terry Barton, CEO of Aging True, a Community Senior Services organization with headquarters in Lakeside.

"Vehicles can turn right on red, even though the pedestrian has a walk signal,"

Barton added.

Jacksonville was not planned to be a pedestrian city, and now has to retrofit itself to accommodate pedestrians and bikes, she said.

In a National Complete Streets Coalition study released in 2014, Jacksonville's pedestrian safety was ranked third worst in the United States.

Rassler said JTA is working on a mobility corridor to improve stops and shelters, and is currently getting community input to help with those improvements.

As for ridership costs, a monthly pass from JTA is available for \$50 and covers all rides, she said.

JTA's Transit Commuter Tax Benefits Program allows participating employers to deduct the \$50 monthly pass fare, pre-tax, from an employee's paycheck. The employee receives a special debit card that can only be used to purchase fare at ticket vending machines, Rosa Parks Station, or through JTA's website.

Route Optimization Initiative includes an interactive, GPS guided map and scheduling tool, where riders can plan their desired route and find out when their bus is due. The NextBus app and website (www.nextbus.com/predictor/stopSelector.jsp?a=jtafla) provide real-time arrival information, allowing riders to plan their trips accordingly.

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Over the past six months in NE Florida, we've experienced extremely low interest rates, straight-up lender programs and a shortfall of houses listed. These ingredients drove our re-sale market from a 'buyers' market last winter to a 'sellers' market since. We are seeing quick sales on houses in good condition and priced correctly. We all know location is the number one factor that keeps prices up, but your home's condition is a key variable that slides your price up or down on the price scale. If you have a roof less than 10 years old, fairly recent plumbing and electrical updates and you've done

some nice remodeling in the last decade in the kitchen and bathrooms, you will likely sell at the upper end of your street's price range.

If you are thinking about selling in the next five years, my advice is to go ahead and start working your way through the above list so that you can enjoy the renovations while you still live there. When you are ready to sell, your house will be ready too. If you need help trying to decide what improvements to make on your home, why not call me? I love my job because of you and your beautiful homes.

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Hogans Creek, Confederate Park cleanup a daunting task

Groundwork Jacksonville engages youth for revitalization

By Vince Iampietro
Resident Community News

Although Confederate Park was the first Jacksonville city park to include a playground, it's not a place where children can enjoy the outdoors today. Situated along Hogans Creek, the park desperately needs tender loving care.

When garbage was used to fill in Hogans Creek's marsh areas in preparation for Springfield Park in 1899, and Confederate Park (formerly Dignan Park) in 1907, a veritable toxic-waste bomb was set for an unforeseen future time.

Residual tar contamination from the industrial age plagues Confederate Park, while overall fecal coliform rates exceeding acceptable counts by 80 percent compound the creek's pollution problems.

A posted sign admonishes park visitors that touching the water may increase risk of illness, while another warns that fish and shellfish from the area are contaminated and should not be eaten.

Compounding the cleanup issue is an ongoing battle between the City of Jacksonville and property owners. Coal tar contaminates the ground in the area, dumped there over one century ago by a long since defunct coal conversion facility.

At stake: Who is responsible for ash cleanup in the Confederate Park area of Hogans Creek and, more importantly, who will pay?

Defusing the toxic waste areas in Eastside, Springfield, and Hogans Creek will take time and is an expensive and complex issue, noted Dr. Dawn Emerick, Groundwork Jacksonville's first CEO.

Eventually Groundwork Jacksonville,



Dilapidated bridge and balustrades over Hogans Creek in Confederate Park.



Decay in Confederate Park



Health advisory sign cautions visitors to Confederate Park.

Groundwork USA's newest trust, will take on that task, but in the meantime, Groundwork Jacksonville is making positive changes in Jacksonville's Springfield and Eastside neighborhoods.

The local nonprofit joins Groundwork

USA's mission of neighborhood cleanup and revitalization, with financial support from the Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service.

Not quick or inexpensive

While Hogans Creek is Groundwork Jacksonville's charge, Emerick is optimistic that working on other projects in the near term will be beneficial to the communities involved.

"We're working on other projects to gain momentum and build trust with the communities. We want to get early signature wins so when we take on Hogans Creek, they can see we can do

it," Emerick assured.

With Emerick at the helm, Groundwork Jacksonville's long-term vision is remediating brownfields in Eastside and Springfield back into scenic parks and greenways with clean waters for current and future generations to enjoy.

Emerick holds a Ph.D. in educational leadership and social marketing, and is a principal and founder of Impact Partners, which works with private and public entities to directly foster community improvement.

The monumental cleanup and beautification projects on the horizon for Groundwork Jacksonville don't intimidate Emerick, whose numerous in-the-trenches experiences in community revitalization bolster her positive outlook for Jacksonville's Urban Core.

"I'm excited," Emerick said of the Hogans Creek, Eastside, and Springfield work ahead, "I think this is the model. We have a lot of challenges and will implement changes neighborhood by neighborhood while having a strong partnership with the city."

However, Groundwork Jacksonville efforts are not a quick fix, cautioned Emerick.

"The hardest thing to do is manage expectations. We have to continuously communicate (to the communities) to let them know this is a long process," she said.

Groundwork Jacksonville's efforts will have impact outside of the project area. According to Jimmy Orth, executive director for the St. Johns Riverkeeper, their work will benefit everyone who cares for and benefits from the river. "When we improve the water quality of each creek/tributary, regardless of location, we improve the overall health of the St. Johns River," he said.

"What Groundwork Jacksonville is doing can help serve as a model and catalyst for cleaning up other creeks and tributaries of the St. Johns and getting local residents engaged in that process," said Orth.

Can-do attitude in force

Groundwork Jacksonville's "Culture of Do" attitude permeates its activities, and cleanup work has been going on all summer.

continued on page 15 >>>

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Led by Green Team Coordinator Alyssa Bourgoyne, students ages 13 to 18 kicked off their summer of service activities in June with a day of landscaping throughout Hogans Creek greenway.

Green Team Youth Corps provided students with a stipend during their summer apprenticeship. The youth initiative will keep the community engaged and connect young people back to their communities, Emerick said.

"It's a chance for Eastside and Springfield youth to understand environmental challenges," she said. When coupled with Groundwork Jacksonville's environmental training programs for students, and direct interaction with local businesses and neighborhoods, this could inspire today's youth to become tomorrow's environmental leaders, Emerick stated.

Green Team projects address Jacksonville's deferred maintenance issues, Emerick explained, which occur when money or resources for a park dry up and the area falls into neglect. "That's doing something, not just planning," she said.

Green Team's group of 10 inner-city youth visited National Park Service parks in Jacksonville to provide them a contrast with what good conservation looks like compared to areas where they are working, Emerick said.

These cleanup projects reflect Emerick's vision to build trust with local communities while showing evidence of early progress. "We are implementers, not a planning organization," she emphasized.

Another step toward Urban Greenway

Revitalizing Hogans Creek is a step toward fulfilling architect Henry Klutho's vision of an "Emerald Necklace" – a series of parks and greenways surrounding Hogans Creek that connect urban neighborhoods to each other and to the St. Johns River.

Shannon Blankenship, Outreach Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper, said the city's vision is to connect parks and neighborhoods with trails that are currently disjointed.

Jacksonville's incomplete S-Line Urban Greenway – a rail-trail that runs through Springfield and Durkeeville – as well as the parks surrounding McCoys and Hogans creeks are only partially connected; but when connected, they would bind the neighborhoods together, potentially improving their economies.

Currently, those relying on alternate transportation – bicycles or foot power – have no contiguous series of routes, making travel to downtown locations such as worship sites, grocery stores or work, a difficult and sometimes dangerous task. This is especially

true where bicycle routes clash with automobile traffic.

"The recreational trails will be connected, like the BeltLine in Atlanta. These aren't just recreational trails, but are alternate transportation routes with greenways and native trees and plants," Blankenship said.

"A recreational trail linking the Northside and Springfield would heighten all good things we have in the communities, and bring together neighborhoods in ways they haven't been connected," she said. "If we prioritize it as something that could happen, it's very realistic."

"The ultimate outcome, if it's done right, is that usage will go up, and more usage in the neighborhoods means a better quality of life," said Ortega resident Charlie Fetzer, owner of LakeShore Bicycles on Blanding Boulevard.

Clean, beautiful parks, and a way to travel between them potentially increase property values because people like to live near parks, said Fetzer.

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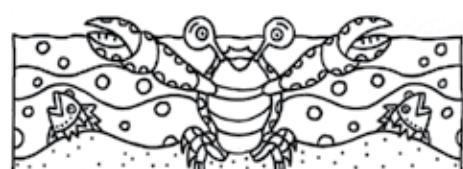
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Clean up

continued from page 1

Long, Chief of Environmental Quality Division; the US Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs; Greg Strong, Director, Northeast District, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, and George W. Robbins, St. Johns River Water Management District, Governing Board, Area 2.

Willow Branch Creek is a tidal creek that widens into a canal and flows to the St. Johns River. From 1907 to 1928, Willow Branch Creek was home to the Florida Yacht Club, and currently has two city parks along its banks, Willow Branch Park and Yacht Basin Park.

The creek is also home to a rich marine life (fish, turtles, crab, shrimp and an occasional alligator) and provides food for the many birds (ducks, hawks, osprey, eagles, egrets and herons) that fish in the creek, according to Murphy. Unfortunately, stated the petition, the creek has been ignored by the city and the lack of attention over the past 100 years is easy to see in its overgrown banks, crumbling bulkhead and dirty stagnant water.

Insult to injury

Adding to a century of neglect, in April 2013, the City of Jacksonville began a bridge project on Riverside Avenue to widen the road for a sidewalk over Willow Branch Creek.



A tire sits atop other debris in Willow Branch Creek

"This creek needs immediate attention now to clean out the debris and silting from the bridge reconstruction as well as the debris that has been trapped upstream because of the lower blockages. No excuses, no delays and no passing the buck. It's a city park and a city creek, just clean it up!"

-Alicia Grant

During construction, dams were breached by storms multiple times, and hundreds of cubic feet of dirt and construction debris washed into the creek. Two and a half years later, the project is still not complete, pending dredging.

The water in the creek is murky, it no longer flows freely, and it's unhealthy for humans, marine life and the birds that fish in the creek, according to the petition. Willow Branch Creek consistently has one of the highest levels of fecal coliform bacteria in the city and is considered a definite health risk for humans, the petition noted.

In addition to the environmental hazards posed by the unhealthy water quality, local residents are also very concerned about flooding should a storm hit before the long-awaited cleanup takes place.

Unsatisfactory response

According to Murphy, residents have met with city officials, sent emails, made phone calls and submitted online requests asking the city to take responsibility for the mess created by the bridge project and clean up the creek. She shared an email response from the city's Public Works Department dated Sept.

8, 2015, which stated: "A section of Willow Branch at the bridge construction site will be dredged under a consent order, which is pending issue by the Environmental Quality Division. Dredging other sections of the creek is not within the city's scope of responsibility."

Murphy and others completely disagree with that statement. "It is the City of Jacksonville's responsibility to clean up the entire mess that was created by the City's project, not just a portion of it," she said in the petition.

The consent order was issued against David Touring, owner of Touring Company, Inc., which was contracted by the city to widen the bridge over the creek at Riverside Avenue to add sidewalks.

Murphy hopes a petition will show city officials how serious residents are about the problem. She has the support of the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

"As a resident of Riverside and a representative of Riverkeeper, I share the community's frustration and concerns regarding the lack of progress by the City on this issue," said Jimmy Orth, Riverkeeper executive director. "We know who is responsible for the damage and what needs to be done to remediate the creek. There is no reason that it should take this long to resolve."

"As a resident of Riverside and a representative of Riverkeeper, I share the community's frustration and concerns regarding the lack of progress by the City on this issue, we know who is responsible for the damage and what needs to be done to remediate the creek.

There is no reason that it should take this long to resolve."

-Jimmy Orth

Riverkeeper Executive Director

It is obvious that the City needs to do a much better job of preventing these type of impacts from occurring in the first place and then remediating the problems as quick as possible, if they should occur, Orth stated.

"If we can't fix this problem in a timely manner and hold respond the responsible party accountable, what does that say for the prospects of cleaning up all of the other impaired tributaries that feed into the St. Johns River?" he asked.

Avondale resident Alicia Grant is one of those who signed the petition and provided a comment.

"For several years I owned the old Chitty house. This is the house sitting above the bridge at the intersection of Riverside and Willow Branch. We enjoyed many nights sitting on our porch looking out over the creek and the park.

"During the heavy rains in September in the late 1980s, while my boys enjoyed canoeing in the park, many neighbors had to help those less fortunate who lived across the park on lower elevations when their homes flooded along with the entire park between Park Street and Riverside. In one case, we had to move furniture out of a house and across the street to a neighbor's garage. In another home, we moved furniture upstairs and rescued a cat stranded in the engine of a car trapped in a flooded garage.

"This creek needs immediate attention now to clean out the debris and silting from the bridge reconstruction as well as the debris that has been trapped upstream because of the lower blockages. No excuses, no delays and no passing the buck. It's a city park and a city creek, just clean it up!"

If interested in the petition, go to www.change.org, and search for Willow Branch Creek. You may also send your thoughts on the issue to editor@residentnews.net.

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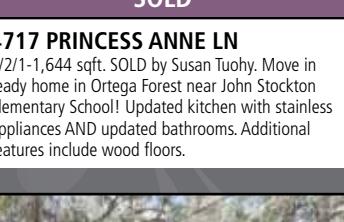
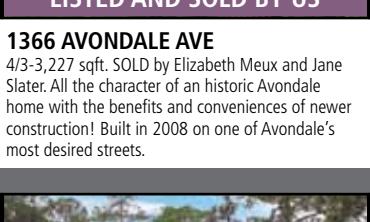
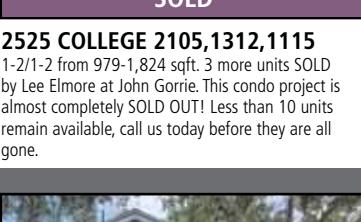
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Priest, fire chief organize 9/11 memorial mass

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Father Silverio "Sal" Di Fazio has more than just a soft spot in his heart for firefighters.

Before he entered the priesthood after his wife's death in 2005, Father Sal was a volunteer firefighter in Farmingdale, New York. His next door neighbor was a captain at one of the New York City fire stations, but had taken the day off on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I served with all my heart," said St. Paul's Catholic Church pastor about his time in New York. "Once you have been a firefighter, it's in your heart, in your blood."

Father Di Fazio's strong bond with the men and women who put their lives on the line every day prompted him to hold a special Mass this Sept. 11 in memory of those New York City firefighters who perished during the event of 9/11 and in honor of Jacksonville's Fire and Rescue Department.

"We cannot forget [the events that day]," said Father Di Fazio, who came to the United States from Italy at age 16. "We can be nice, but we must be alert."

Approximately 60 off-duty firefighters joined more than 100 students at St. Paul's Catholic School for the special 9 a.m. Mass. Fire trucks from a dozen or more stations filled the parking lot, then paraded down to Memorial Park for a

continued on page 19 >>>



JFRD Pipes & Drums Highland Bagpipe Band: Ron McDonald, Ed Cobb, Christine Booras, Kyle Foley, Dave Adler, Chris McKeown, Chris Jones, Mike Perryman, Lanny Wilson



Chief Jack Griggs addresses the gathering in Memorial Park



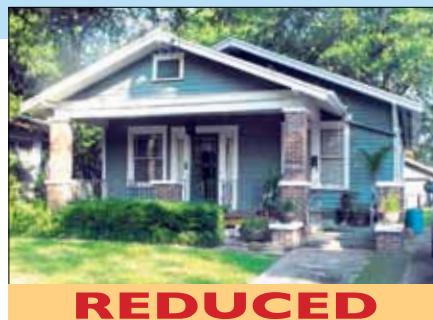
Fire trucks line the parking lot at St. Paul's Catholic Church and School.

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A well maintained 3BR/2BA condo with a screened patio, wood view, granite counter tops & stainless steel appliances, refrigerator, range, dishwasher, microwave. 1,262 sq. ft. \$127,500



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3675 Riverside Avenue
Spacious 3BR/2BA two story home featured on RAP Home Tour 2011. 60' wrap porch. Huge master suite/private bath 2nd floor. Off-street private parking pad for 3 cars. 1,815 sq. ft. \$197,500



REDUCED

4652 Crescent Street
Nice Murray Hill home features 2BR/1BA, hardwood floors throughout, sunroom, detached garage, patio area, updated kitchen and bath and laundry area off the kitchen. 1,192 sq. ft. \$128,000



4561 Prunty Avenue

3BR/2BA Vaulted Ceilings, Kitchen w/granite tops, 42" Maple Cabinets, Stainless Appliances, wood laminate floors in living spaces. Covered screened lanai, and 2-car garage. 1,214 sq. ft. \$189,000



2047 Market Street

Charming 2BR/1BA brick bungalow in Historic Springfield. High ceilings, decorative inlay hardwood floors, updated with period details. Private outside patio. 1,008 sq. ft. \$109,000



2163 College Street

2,480 sq. ft., 3BR/2BA brick home has it all! Spacious rooms with separate dining and living rooms. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Updated kitchen with beautiful built-ins. 1 car garage/workshop with a 1/1 apartment above. \$425,000



3027 St. Johns Avenue

Restored home across street from St. Johns River, and within walking distance of Shoppes & Restaurants of Avondale. 2 car garage with an apartment above serving as a complete guest house. 5BR/4.5BA and 4,317 sq. ft. \$874,000



1474 Talbot Avenue

Charming bungalow located in Avondale. 2BR/2BA with a private detached 2-car garage. Walking distance to the shoppes and restaurants of Avondale. 1,633 sq. ft. \$289,000



1813 Walnut Street

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1842 Hubbard Street

Completely remodeled in 2006 while retaining its historic charm. Living room, dining room and gourmet kitchen which includes custom cherry cabinets and granite counters with a gas range and stainless steel appliances. 1,920 sq. ft. 3BR/3BA. \$215,000



Chief Jack Griggs and his son Trey, fifth grade student at St. Paul's Catholic School and member of the safety patrol.

wreath-laying ceremony after the service.

"Father Sal came to me about six months ago and said he wanted to do this and make it an annual thing," said Chief Jack Griggs, coordinator of the event and a 20-year-member of the JFRD. "They've all been positive about this event," he said, speaking about the mood among the firefighters.

Chief Griggs, an Avondale resident, and lifelong member of St. Paul's Catholic Church, worked with the City of Jacksonville's new Director/Fire Chief Kurtis Wilson to make time available for off-duty

firefighters to attend the special Mass.

"I don't want people to forget that day," said Father Di Fazio, after he put into the St. John's River a wreath made by the St. John's Flower Market. "Most of our young people don't know what Sept. 11 means."

Griggs' son Trey, a fifth grade student at St. Paul's Catholic School, wants to be a firefighter like his father. A member of the school's safety patrol, Trey attended the event at Memorial Park with his mother. "This is the respectful thing to do," he said.



Karin Tucker, of Biscottis, pauses to read a few of the sentiments posted at GottaHaveIt.

GottaHaveIt posts "gotta do it" notes on shop window

The annual community bucket list was up again last month at Iva Keyworth's shop, GottaHaveIt, in The Shoppes of Avondale.

The third year for Keyworth's Before I Die display is a tribute to her husband, who suffered a traumatic injury while serving in Afghanistan and can no longer make memories.

She usually leaves the display up until Sept. 23, her father's birthday.

Many of the postings reflected health issues, such as finding cures for Huntington's disease, solving lactose intolerance, while others included travel to Alaska or to Paris, or simply finding love or spending time with family.

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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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TraumaOne Flight Services flies through its first 30 years

By Vince Iampietro
Resident Community News

Trauma, which does not discriminate, can happen to anyone at a moment's notice.

For those suddenly encountering a life-threatening situation, survival can hinge on the speed in which treatment is delivered. One minute can mean the difference between life and death.

Today, thanks to advances in aviation, modern medical helicopters provide swift access to the scene of an accident, lifting critically ill patients above traffic-clogged roads to trauma centers miles away.

"The 'golden hour' is the first 60 minutes," said Chad E. McIntyre, Manager of TraumaOne Flight services at UF Health. "For stroke, heart attacks and trauma you've got to resuscitate before this time. But we call it the platinum 10 minutes; the first 10 minutes are the most critical. We can do that with a chopper flying in at 140 mph, treating them, and getting them out of there," said McIntyre, who is also a National EMS Advisory Council Air Medical representative.

TraumaOne Flight Services recently celebrated 30 years as one of the region's main lifelines for critically ill patients with a celebration on its 8th Street campus Aug. 28. Working in conjunction with Jacksonville's only Level 1 trauma care center, UF Health Jacksonville, which was originally named University Health, TraumaOne's helicopter transport teams are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Original TraumaOne helicopter in flight

Combat triage genesis for trauma centers

The development of University Hospital's trauma services originated from a study funded by the Florida Medical Association in the late 1970s or early 1980s, said Joseph Tepas III of Riverside, Chief of Pediatric Surgery at UF Health Jacksonville. Dr. Ray Alexander, former Chief of Surgery and Medical Director of the trauma program at University Health Jacksonville, was the study's principal investigator.

"Thirty years ago, we just finished Vietnam and had developed lifting people out of combat conditions," Tepas said. "A lot of combat pilots and medics came back to work in this field. Replicating what trauma centers did in Vietnam is what we looked at – how we could benefit from such a system."

"We had a large metropolitan area with no organized trauma center," said Dr. David Vukich, Professor of Emergency

Medicine at the University of Florida. "Because of support from University Hospital and city support, funds were appropriated, along with some state funding, for (an) inner-city safety-net hospital."

TraumaOne was born when Vukich, Alexander and their colleague, Dr. James Vretis II, went shopping for a helicopter.

It was 1984 or 1985 when the trio flew to Pennsylvania to see an MBB BK117 helicopter being prepared for medical service.

"That's when it started, when we were actually shopping for a helicopter," Vukich said, noting that Alexander deserved most of the credit. "He's the one who had the vision and managed to get this all done with not a lot of resources," said Vukich.

"He was a good trauma center leader, a great clinician, and a great marketer. We had TraumaOne pins we wore on our lapels. Whenever Ray met someone, he wouldn't reach in his pocket for one to give; he'd remove the pin from his lapel and place it on theirs," Vukich said, noting Alexander died in 1992.

Vukich, Alexander, and Vretis served as the first three TraumaOne Flight Services pilots and crewmembers. Soon a dozen more crewmembers were brought in to assist.

Pilots still saving lives

Early on it seemed more effective to have doctors remain at the hospital rather try to

work in the air, said Tepas. Well-trained flight medics and nurses were sent out instead.

One original TraumaOne pilot is still on duty today. John Barber, founder of the National EMS Pilot's Association, flies for the service out of Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine. Barber served in Vietnam in the early 1970s, then transferred his military expertise into civilian work.

"I enjoy it," Barber said, "It's a pretty good life for a pilot. You feel great because you're going out and saving lives."

The original TraumaOne helicopter was a BK117, which was jointly developed by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Germany and Kawasaki of Japan. It featured a smaller rotor disk with a rigid blade system. Present on medical helicopters today, those features facilitate landings in limited access areas. When on the ground, the higher rotor blade tips prevent injuries to emergency personnel on the scene.

"It was the newest, best thing to have in aviation. Back then it was the aircraft to have," Barber said.

From trailblazer to staple

Though the number of trauma centers nationwide increased in the 1980s and 1990s, many have subsequently closed due to expenses and a lack of trained personnel.

"Trauma centers require expensive and extensive commitment," Tepas said.

continued on page 21 >>>



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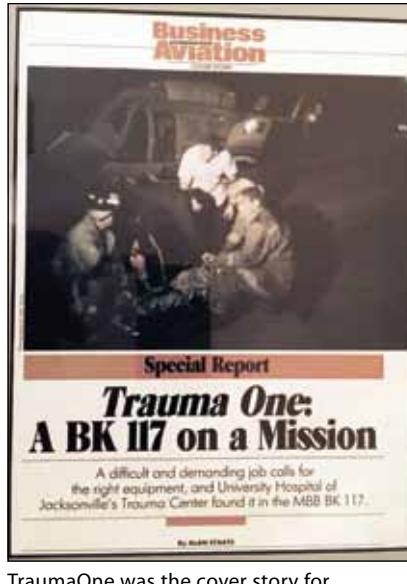
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John "Ace" Barber at the controls of the original TraumaOne BK 117



John Barber still flying for TraumaOne, out of Flagler Hospital



TraumaOne was the cover story for *Business & Commercial Aviation* magazine in the late 1980s.



Dr. Ray Alexander, one of the founders of TraumaOne, with Lorraine Vukich Keith, TraumaOne's first Chief Flight Nurse and first director

"Physicians who are up all night can't take care of their regular patients the next day, and (emergency) payments to physicians were not clear."

Today, TraumaOne at UF Health Jacksonville continues to be the only Level 1 trauma center in Northeast Florida.

In 2013, TraumaOne increased its fleet when Med-Trans Air Medical Transport of Dallas, Texas, delivered a Bell 407 and two Eurocopter EC135 helicopters. These helicopters allow TraumaOne to provide a "triad of care" to hospitals and EMS providers within a 150-mile radius of its Florida flight centers in St. Augustine, Yulee, and Lake City.

With three new helicopters at the ready, TraumaOne Flight Services has cut flight times in half compared to 1985, when its only helicopter was stationed on top of Shands Jacksonville Medical Center.

Each helicopter's FAA tail identification bears the initials of one of the program's founders, with 655 indicating the street number of UF Health Jacksonville: N655JT – James Tepas, III; N655RA – Ray Alexander; and R655DV – David Vukich.

Each helicopter has a crew, which is required to be at the top of their game every time, McIntyre said. These highly trained professionals allow people who ordinarily would not survive, to walk out of the hospital without the use of a wheelchair or other transportation, he said.

Night vision, advanced GPS systems, community-provided landing zones, larger and more technologically advanced operational control centers, and less fatiguing on-and-off-duty hours for pilots and crew, lead to safer, faster flights than in the past, Barber said.

Crews today have closer medical control

from doctors qualifying them to clear airways or provide medication on the scene that can't be administered by paramedics or fire personnel, McIntyre said.

TraumaOne Flight services are not publicly funded in Florida, McIntyre said. Flight program funding is a shared risk between Med-Trans Corporation, and TraumaOne. Med-Trans Corporation supplies the helicopters and pilots, pays for their living quarters, and handles billing. TraumaOne provides medical oversight.

"Early on, there wasn't a book on how to do this and keep it safe for the crew and pilots," Vukich said. "People who started (the program) were pioneers and, today, a lot of risk has been engineered out of all areas. It's matured, this part of the industry, and has become a staple. Back then it was remarkable. We have a great sense of pride to make something that wasn't a cookbook and

we're proud of our work," he said.

Curry Pajcic, Ortega resident and personal injury lawyer at Pajcic & Pajcic, said he is impressed with the work TraumaOne at UFHealth Jacksonville does. "They treat my clients and do a tremendous job. I know what caring and wonderful people they are, and I've seen them perform miracles."

Pajcic's firm sponsors Night of Heroes, an annual gala that honors doctors and medical staff who improve the outcome of trauma patients and raises funds to support TraumaOne. "It's an honor to support them," he said. "These are state employees who have chosen to serve, and it's an honor to support them with funds to help buy needed equipment."

For photos of the 30th anniversary reception in honor of TraumaOne's Flight Program, visit residentnews.net.

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Ortega River Marina Offers Yacht Club Amenities in a Casual Atmosphere

Recent Upgrades Help Make a Special Place to Home Port



If you are looking for a premier marina on the river that also enjoys a casual atmosphere, Ortega River Marina awaits your arrival. While always enjoying a protected harborage that has made it the favored choice of mariners for decades, Ortega River Marina now provides a superior amenity package unrivaled in the area.

Ortega River Marina customers are now enjoying four bathroom suites that provide a private shower, toilet and mirrored vanity. The marina also boasts a state of the art Wi-Fi system that supports the latest 802ac protocols allowing lightning fast Internet response.

After a day on the water take a refreshing plunge in the recently completed swimming pool, then fire up the commercial grade grill for a leisurely meal. You can end your day gathered with family and friends relaxing and cooking S'mores by the gas fire pit.

While proud of its new facilities, Ortega River Marina continues to enjoy what is arguably the most convenient

location for any marina anywhere with a Publix grocery store, West Marine, Chamblins Book Mine, and a wealth of stores and restaurants essentially across the street.

Ortega River Marina, originally known as Ortega Yacht Club Marina, has enjoyed consistent ownership since 1985. The name change to Ortega River Marina reflects that they have always

been open to the boating community without any type of membership requirement and also to celebrate the completion of its state-of-the-art amenity package.

Paul Howe, Dockmaster at Ortega River Marina, is rightly enthusiastic about the new facilities. "The bathrooms are as nice as you would find in an upscale home with full designer tile and wooden vanities," said Paul. The gas fire pit is a unique amenity and has already become a focal point in the evening.

Paul also remarked that boaters have always "loved the wide fairways which make getting in and out of your slip a breeze."

"Pull into your slip bow first or stern first whatever makes you comfortable," said Paul, celebrating the casual lifestyle at Ortega River Marina. "Boating is a recreational thing and we want people to feel welcome and at ease."

Located one and a half miles from the main channel

of the St. Johns River, the marina is only four miles from Jacksonville by water, yet is a natural hurricane harbor. "We're 25 miles from the Atlantic," Paul noted. "Storm surges aren't going to happen."

Want quality social time? Bring your side dishes to the marina and Paul will provide the entree, every second Saturday of each month, all year long.

On October 10, Ortega River Marina invites you to a kickoff cookout to celebrate its new, yacht club quality accommodations. Paul and crew will provide the catered dinner featuring delicious entrees and side dishes.

"You need your boat near your house, so get to Ortega River Marina today," said Paul.



The marina is located at 4585 Lakeside Dr., next door to the former Pier 17 Marine and Sadler Point Marina, directly across the street from Ziegler Yacht Sales. Contact Paul Howe at (904) 389-1199 for slip rates and a tour.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Crenshaw receives 'Hero of Main Street' Award

For his commitment to policies that support growth and strength in retailing, Congressman Ander Crenshaw, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, recently received the National Retail Federation's (NRF) "Hero of Main Street" Award.

"The retail industry of our economy deserves the support of common-sense policy, including measures that will enhance international trade, keep taxes low, and cut burdensome red tape," said Crenshaw, of Riverside. "Doing so will help it contribute to our economy and create jobs – goals that I am committed to providing so the retail industry may continue to grow and thrive in Florida and across the nation."



Ander Crenshaw

Riverside resident confirmed as general counsel for city

Jason R. Gabriel, of Riverside, will continue as general counsel for the City of Jacksonville. He has been with the Office of General Counsel for more than five years, and has served as general counsel since July 1, 2014, when Cindy Laquidara resigned.

After the General Counsel Search Committee, headed by former Mayor John Delaney, advertised, interviewed, and then unanimously recommended Gabriel for the position, Mayor Lenny Curry appointed Gabriel as general counsel for the City of Jacksonville.

In this capacity, Gabriel leads a legal staff serving the mayor, the city's five constitutional officers, the 19 City Council representatives, seven School Board members, 30 boards and commissions, five independent authorities and all 10 executive branches of Jacksonville's city government.

"Jason has an enormous scope of responsibility and he has done an amazing job," said Mayor Curry. "He is one of only six attorneys in Jacksonville who is Board Certified in City, County & Local Government Law by the Florida Bar."

Prior to joining the Office of General Counsel, Gabriel specialized in the areas of Land Use, Zoning, and Local Government Law as well as Real Estate and Financial Transactions, Development and Preservation



Jason Gabriel

initiatives, with the law firm of Edwards Cohen.

Gabriel received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Cum Laude, from the University of Florida in 1998 with a major in Philosophy, and a Juris Doctorate Degree, from the University of Florida in 2001. Gabriel is a Board Certified Specialist, as designated by the Florida Bar, in City, County & Local Government Law.

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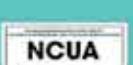
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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Puppy tale benefits homeless pets



Charles Gardner

The palace-to-pound tale of a pampered Pomeranian who learns the hard way what really makes a good home was recently self-published by Ortega resident Charles Gardner. His love for dogs, especially rescues, prompted him to write the children's story, *Santa Poodle*. Gardner, who has three pound rescues, pledges to donate a portion of the proceeds to First Coast No More Homeless Pets. The book was illustrated by Evan McIntyre.

Episcopal Children's Services supported by Delores Barr Weaver Fund grant

Episcopal Children's Services recently received a grant of \$30,000 from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, which will provide intensive mental health therapy services for Head Start children in Northeast Florida. Young children's healthy social-emotional development is a critical

piece in preparing children for school and ensuring positive outcomes. By providing these early intervention services and treatment, the long-term negative impacts of traumatic experiences can be mitigated, allowing children to achieve their full potential.

Riverside resident leaves investment sales for real estate



Kate Stanley

Riverside resident Kate Stanley has joined Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty. Previously employed at a New York City investment sales firm, Stanley has expertise in the areas of commercial real estate and international investments. A Jacksonville native, Stanley is an avid world-traveler who has lived in London, Geneva, Mumbai and New York throughout the past decade.

"We could not be more excited to have Kate join the team at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. With her international real estate experience and affiliation with one of the world's most admired brand, Kate will be unstoppable," said Sheron Willson, Broker/Manager of the metropolitan office of BHHS with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

Mobile coffee shop finds roots in Murray Hill

Will Morgan, owner of Vagabond Coffee, 934 Edgewood Ave. S., found a good fit in Murray Hill for his first storefront.

"We decided that Murray Hill was the best fit all around for us," Morgan said. "We are 'boot strapping' so the numbers have to be right and the numbers for our location are perfect."

The jumping point from Morgan's

mobile coffee shop parked daily in Hemming Park, the new store offers coffee and baked goods, neither of which are the ordinary fare.

"There is no better place than a coffee shop for a place where everyone is welcome and loved," said Morgan.

Vagabond Coffee can be found on Facebook or call (904) 402-2373 for information.



Will Morgan

Meals to go opens in Avondale

Kim Michael, who worked on a farm during summers as a youth, and Louise Reeder, who spent her teenage summers working at a 5 Points restaurant, have partnered to introduce 3 Squares To Go, a take-out business in Avondale.

The home-style meals include entrees and side dishes, breakfast casseroles, salads and desserts. Meals to go for those on the go can be purchased at 3945 St. Johns Ave. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information or to see the weekly menu, visit 3squarestogo.com or call (904) 379-0020.



Louise Reeder, Kim Michael



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Toy Scott



Linda Shepherd



David Taylor



Lisa Anthony Tucker

Antiques, collectibles dealers find new home at Castaways

Lakeshore resident Wendy Stanley-Thompson, with help from her mother, Margo Torres of Ortega, has opened Castaways, a vintage-to-modern shop with an eclectic group of dealers. Stanley-Thompson, an oncology nurse at Baptist Health, said the shop will also feature a stall consisting of items made by nurses, patients and their families, of which a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The women have managed a variety of small businesses in different locations through the years, including a costume shop on the Southbank Riverwalk, but wanted something closer to home, said Stanley-Thompson. Castaway's location at 4201 St. Johns Ave. is little more than a hop, skip and jump from their homes. Hours are not set yet, so call (904) 672-7705 for details. Medical professionals and patients interested in the "benefit booth" are encouraged to inquire.



Wendy Stanley-Thompson

Fresh breakfast, lunch now available at Daily's



Cody Middle, DASH manager and Robert Fallon, Director of Foodservice

Daily's Convenience Stores, operated by local company First Coast Energy and Avondale resident CEO Aubrey Edge, has opened its 10th new fast-casual café concept called DASH at its Westside location at 4225 Roosevelt Blvd. DASH cafés, located within the convenience stores, offer a variety of fresh, wholesome, all natural, made-to-order breakfast and lunch sandwiches, soups, salads and specialty coffee drinks, all made from the highest-quality ingredients.

Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery turns 38

On Sept. 15, 1977, Hooshang Harvesf opened his oriental rug business, Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery. The shop is still located in the same location, at 3571 St. Johns Ave. "I am the longest-running business in the Shoppes of Avondale," he said. "Same owner same business, same location. I take pride in that fact." Despite the ups and downs of the economy through the years, he has managed to remain solvent and successful.



Hooshang Harvesf

Realty agency makes children's dreams come true



Tyler Harpe hugs a dolphin at Discovery Cove.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty raised a record \$61,438 for Dreams Come True, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children with life-threatening illnesses. Monies raised by the company sponsored numerous dreams for children including vacation packages to the theme parks and attractions such as Disney World, Discovery Cove and Hawaii. The company recently hosted a party to present a dream package to Dreamer Tyler Harpe and his family. Harpe enjoyed the opportunity to hug a dolphin on his dream trip to Discovery Cove at Disney World.

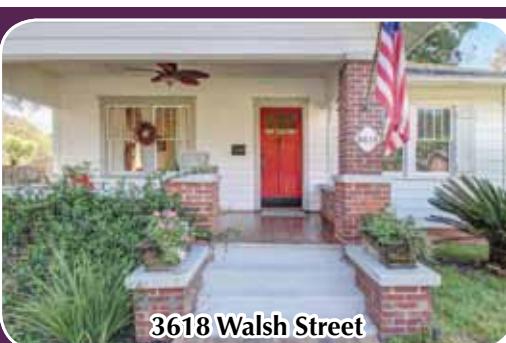


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Caroline Busker, Tayloe McDonald, Michelle Cavendish, Estelle Michelle Witchen and Shaneka Brooks

Equality Florida celebrates advocates, supporters

The local chapter of Equality Florida rallied around its most prominent supporters during a recent evening soiree on Sept. 26 at the Florida Yacht Club. Patrons and special guests traveled across the state to help bolster support for the nonprofit.

A rallying cry for the coming Human Rights Ordinance deliberations was heard throughout the speeches, as well as praise for work already being done to further the organization. Peaceful means were encouraged, as the fight for equality remains at the core of the group's mission statement. Passionate pleas and peaceful means were encouraged, as the fight for equality remains at the core of the group's mission statement. Awards were given to UNF's Haiden Baier, Ginger Harris and Steve Halverson of the Haskell Corporation.



Co-Chairs Dan Tice and Brent Tuten presented Ginger Harris with the Voice for Equality Award for her advocacy and support of the Equality Florida initiatives. Harris has been instrumental in the push for equality and has been an ardent supporter of the LGBT community for many years.



Troy Spurlin and Scott Redfield



PNC Bank represented by Kregg and Shya Spofford, Sharon Licamara, Nicole and Todd Bruner

Jaguars' president honored by Community Connections

Community Connections honored longtime supporter Mark Lamping, president of the Jaguars, and the Jaguars Foundation during its largest fundraising event of the year Sept. 24 at Everbank Field's US Assure Club.

Lamping, who was unable to attend the event in person, and the Jaguars were the recipients of the 2015 Florence N. Davis Award for Community Achievement. They were celebrated for their contributions to the Jacksonville nonprofit community and their role in raising funds to help Community Connections' mission, to assist local families in need.

Lamping serves on several nonprofit boards including the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Civic Council, the American Heart Association, JAXUSA Chamber of Commerce, the JAXUSA Chamber of Commerce Business Development, and the JAXUSA Policy Council.



Erin Skinner, Peyton Clark, Daniel and Rebekah Davis



Marianne Hillegass, Jaguars Foundation President Peter Racine and Carla McIntosh



Virginia Norton with Jake Peek



Leigh Ann and Mike Fleming, Kimberly Jones, Debbie Buckland, Sandy Bartow and Luke Posson

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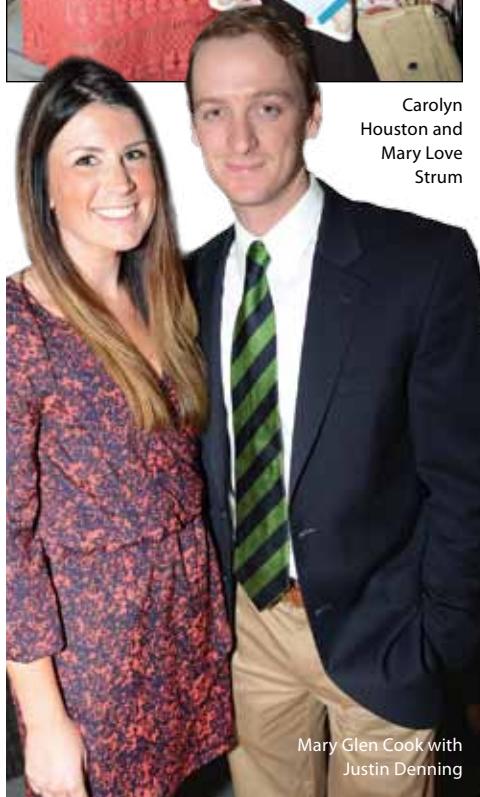
ST. VINCENT'S
HEALTH CARE



Improving the odds for kids for 130 years...and counting

The Haskell Corporation headquarters in the Brooklyn area played host to a celebration, a milestone for Daniel Kids. As the oldest child-service agency in Florida, the history runs deep and the organization's commitment to helping children who have been orphaned, abused or homeless to find hope and better outcomes for their lives, has been lasting.

What started as the *Orphanage and Home for the Friendless* back in 1884, Daniel Kids evolved over the years to meet the changing and challenging needs of children and families in Northeast Florida and beyond. Nearly 2,000 children are served every day through counseling, foster and adoptive home programming as well as helping homeless children to find housing and jobs. The event took place Sept. 25.



Carolyn Houston and Mary Love Strum



Joe and Barb Krier



Drs. Samer and Nina Garas



Jennifer and Henry Brown, Becky and Ed Witt, Jr., Susan Walden, Daniel and Jacqueline Brown



Dr. Paul Crum with his wife Angela



Steve and Kelly Kunz with Michael and Barbara Bredehoeft



Dr. Sidney Simmons and Ruthie Simmons

Delicious Destinations: A culinary Tour de Force

Some of the world's greatest chefs shared their tastiest gourmet fare during the 14th Annual Delicious Destinations event at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, Sept 10-12.

The three-day event raised more than \$300,000 for St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs, which provide access to free medical care for underprivileged men, women and children throughout Jacksonville.

This year's celebrity chef was Jean-Pierre Brehier of Chef Jean-Pierre's Cooking School in Ft. Lauderdale. Participants also enjoyed mouthwatering cuisine by executive chefs from the Mar-A-Lago Club, the

Greenbrier, the Ritz Carlton Amelia Island and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club as well as other exclusive restaurants and resorts.

Brehier provided food during the Sea Luncheon Sept. 10 and event sponsors were treated to an exclusive evening patrons reception Sept. 11. The grand event, the Delicious Destinations Gala, was held Sept. 12 and featured food and fine wine as well as a live and silent auction.

Serving as chairman for the event were Jennifer and Henry Brown, Kelley and Stephen Kunz, and Kirsten and Josh Martino.



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Michael Mussallem with Elizabeth Kramer



Bill Hatchett and Cassie Jacobs



Joann Desmarais with Bryan Brocato

Puttin' on the Ritz, Celebrating 20s

The Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) has been in the midst of a celebration, as the anniversary year has been full of special occasions. This year's Roaring 20's party was quite fitting as the organization reaches its 20-year mark. The cocktail party was a 'first' for the organization and if turnout and support were the litmus test, it certainly won't be the last.

Proud patrons of the local youth singing groups, including host Gary McCalla, were unwavering

in their support for the inaugural event. The organization drew a crowd from parents, corporate sponsors and partners throughout the region. The world-class choral program delivered a stunning performance complete with dancing, singing and swing music by Freudian Slip, who jammed the night away in the courtyard of the estate home on the St. Johns riverfront. Guests donned their best flapper attire and zoot suits and danced the night away.

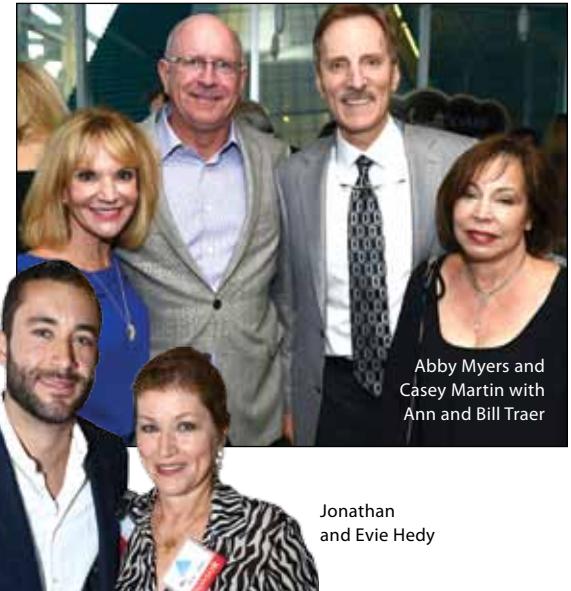
A major gift elevates *Toast to the Animals*

The Jacksonville Humane Society delivered on its promise to make the 17th *Toast to the Animals* a smashing affair. Animal lovers and passionate supporters from across Northeast Florida were on hand to enjoy EverBank Field's Terrace Suites and video boards. After a brief video presentation, a surprise gift of \$1,000,000 dollars was delivered by the Petco Foundation.

The night was energized by the big donation and those working tirelessly to raise funds for the organization welcomed the gift that will grow the capital campaign totals. The effort has been underway since February of this year to replace facilities badly scorched by fire back in 2007. It was the second year Jaguars' General Manager Dave Caldwell and his wife, Joelle, chaired the event. The Caldwells have rescued three dogs—Nala, Coco and Monkey, two of which they adopted from the Jacksonville Humane Society.



Amy Levy, Heidi Fischer, Co-Chair Joelle Caldwell, Annie Tuttle and Linda Lisowski



Abby Myers and Casey Martin with Ann and Bill Traer



Jonathan and Evie Hedy



Dina Vickers, Lisé Everly, Lyndon Johnson, Amy Pierce and Pam Johnson

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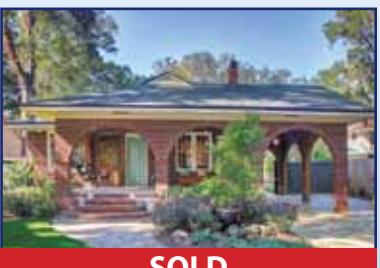
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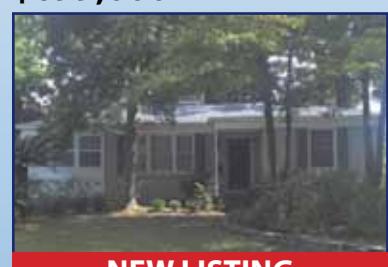
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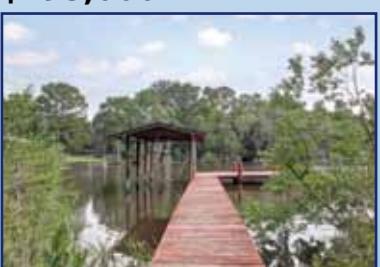
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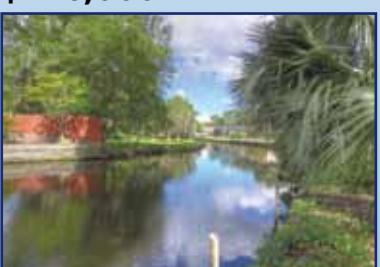
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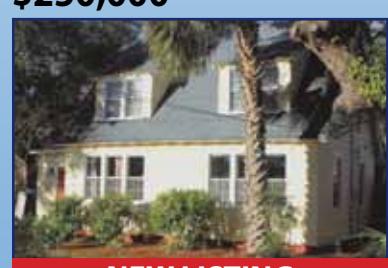
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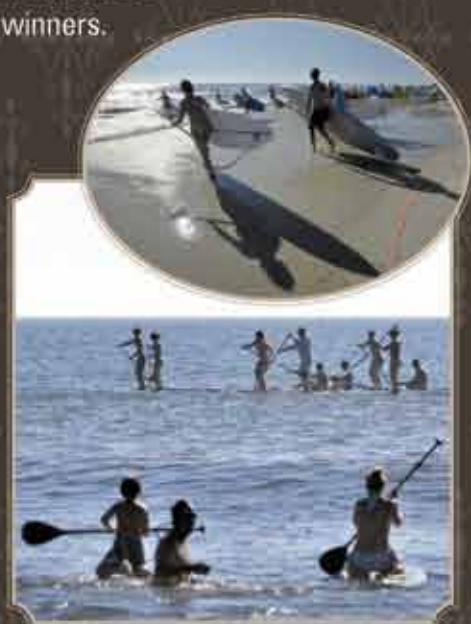


The Law Firm of Pajcic and Pajcic takes great pride in being able to give back to our community. The success Pajcic and Pajcic has had in the courtroom not only benefits our seriously injured clients, but other deserving members of our community that the law firm cares so much about.

It was an unfathomable crime that shocked all of Jacksonville. 14-year-old Jeff Mitchell was shot and killed while waiting for his father to pick him up at Terry Parker High School. More than 20 years later Jeff's parents, Margaret and Glen Mitchell, continue to support victims of violence through their group Compassionate Families, Inc. The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and Steve and Anne Pajcic donated a total of \$25,000 to the organization. Michael Pajcic was on hand for the presentation. The non-profit group provides immediate and long term grief support and counseling to families who've lost loved ones to crime. We are so fortunate to have this valuable support system in our community.



They were paddling for a purpose! Hundreds turned out for The Great Ponte Vedra Paddle Board race on Labor Day to raise money for the HEAL Foundation to benefit autism. The money raised will go towards Autism ESE classrooms, iPads, camps and other programs. The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic is a proud supporter and one of the sponsors of the event. While there were winners in the 5 mile, 3 mile and 1 mile sprint race, the co-founder of the event said it is the children with Autism who are the true winners.



There's very little turnover for employees at Pajcic & Pajcic. And with good reason. One of the many perks of working at the firm is the special 20 year anniversary bonus. Employees who reach the 20 year mark can take an all expenses paid vacation to anywhere in the world. Sherry Bevis was the most recent recipient and she chose to travel to Barcelona, Spain. Sherry said she is grateful to The Pajcic Firm for giving her the trip of a lifetime. And Sherry added that she is thankful to have a wonderful place to work.



Pajcic & Pajcic has eleven AV rated "preeminent" attorneys and is one of the few firms on Martindale-Hubbell's list of Top Ranked Law Firms in the Southeastern United States to receive the perfect 5.0 rating in client satisfaction.



Remission Rocks sports pink for power of the cure



Women's Center Development Director Gillian Ticehurst, founder and Executive Director of the Women's Center of Jacksonville Shirley Webb with Sharón Simmons and Marsha Base

The 5th annual Remission Rocks, a musical benefit for Bosom Buddies, was a sea of pink at River City Brewing Company Sept. 25. Guests wearing T-shirts and tutus, feather boas and facepaint all sported the signature pink color of breast cancer support.

Bosom Buddies, based at the Women's Center of Jacksonville, provides free support groups, educational materials and personal health advocates for breast cancer patients and survivors across Northeast Florida.

In addition to performances from several bands, including No Known Cure, the event featured a silent auction, light appetizers and beverages. Sponsors were Life Care Centers, Apex Home Healthcare, Vitas Healthcare, Greystone Health Network and Avante.



Ready to race were several members of the Jacksonville Mammoglam, a Jacksonville Dragon Boat Club team comprised entirely of breast cancer survivors. Paddling for the squad were Martha Sweet, Denise Grabow, Eileen Troxel, Laura Brown, Sheila Hickson-Curran, Kristen Mann, Cathy Serb and Dollie Lim, who dressed as Cleopatra.

Paddling for breast cancer

Breast cancer survivors were honored with a special race during the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival Sept. 26 at the Jacksonville Landing. Survivors from Jacksonville, Indianapolis and Orlando challenged each other in 42-foot canoes on a 350-meter course on the St. Johns River.

During a lunchtime intermission, the breast cancer survivors were honored with a special ceremony organized by Jeri Millard, owner of In The Pink, a shop that caters the needs of women struggling with

breast cancer.

During the ceremony, Marie Dodson, a member of the Jacksonville Mammoglam team, spoke about the role Dragon Boat racing has had in her recovery. The women were also serenaded by Tim McGraw, who had taped a special song for the occasion, which was shown on a large screen above the center concourse.

Each survivor was given a pink carnation, which they threw into the St. Johns River after the ceremony.



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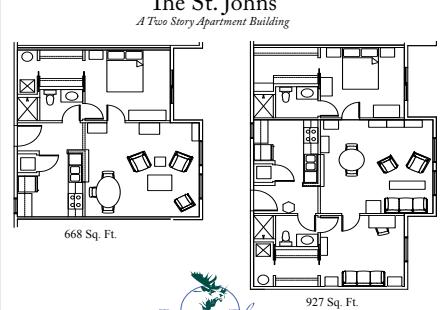
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Triple cancer diagnosis didn't slow down nonprofit founder

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Shirley Webb received the most unpleasant birthday present she could imagine.

The day after the founder and executive director of the Women's Center of Jacksonville celebrated her 65th birthday in early February, her doctor told her she had uterine cancer. Shortly after that bombshell, a CT scan ordered by her gynecological oncologist revealed two kinds of cancer in her right breast.

What followed this year, in the midst of planning her retirement from the Women's Center, was a very long journey of treatment and healing.

"When you're first diagnosed, you just want to deal with what's going on and you don't want to announce it to the world, but that goes away pretty quickly when you realize how big this group of people is that have been diagnosed with breast cancer," said Webb, a Riverside resident.

"It's huge. When you have it and are going through treatment, every time you turn around people just disclose to you 'my mother, my sister, my friend...'"

There is no history of breast cancer in Webb's family and genetic testing revealed nothing that she passed along to daughter and granddaughters. "The ductile cancer was garden variety in a very early stage," she said. The lobular cancer was stage 3, indicating more extensive lymph node involvement.

Webb's doctor, Wade Barnes, told her "Shirley, this is just the beginning. I know it's scary and shocking, but the



Shirley Webb

through all the choices, what the treatment would be. The protocols are so varied, they've really got it down to a science, to what stage, where, whether it has spread. It's interesting how it varies from patient to patient, situation to situation."

Due to the need for radiation treatment, Webb could not have breast reconstruction done at the time of her mastectomy, and is even now not yet sure she will pursue it.

"I'll think about it. I've raised two babies and breastfed both and have had a wonderful life and I'll decide whether it's worth going back through that," she said. "I just want to get through this treatment."

Inside support

Webb's care came from a vast network of friends and family and, with Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support program located right inside the Women's Center, she had on-the-job support and research.

"I have Bobbi de Córdova-Hanks following me around constantly, sending me articles, and I drop in to the support groups," she said. "But it was amazing and overwhelming how many people in the community heard about it and sent cards, made soup, sent this sent that. Everybody just chipped in to be there for me. People are really wonderful."

Webb continues to work while she is going through treatment, preparing for her exit at the end of the year from the Women's Center. Her cancer diagnosis did not precipitate her decision to retire, which had been planned for three years.

After she retires in December, Webb is planning to take it easy for a while and regroup.

"I don't think you can have this kind of experience without thinking about life and how fleeting it is. You still don't know what the outcome will be, staying in remission or the recurrence," Webb said. "Next year is a year to rejuvenate, to rebuild my strength and my body and grow my hair, and I want to be healthier."

Webb has advice for others going through the overwhelming process of treating breast cancer.

"Learn as much as you can, but don't panic. You're going to get through it, but it's step by step. You have to go through the early phase of getting diagnosed, what treatment is expected," she said. "Come to Bosom Buddies support group. There are women of all ages and stages of the disease and hearing their experiences decreases your isolation."

BRA Day October 21

Breast cancer survivors considering post-mastectomy breast reconstruction will have an opportunity to chat with doctors, including Dr. Michael Fallucco, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, on Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day. Attendees will meet survivors and their families, and hear about reconstruction experiences. The event will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m., at Maggiano's Little Italy at the St. Johns Town Center, and is sponsored by St. Vincent's HealthCare. To RSVP, call (904) 262-3372.

journey is yet to come and it's going to be kind of lengthy."

And lengthy it is. Three weeks after the diagnosis, Webb had a hysterectomy, then two weeks later, a double mastectomy. She took a month to heal before starting the first of two courses of chemotherapy in April. Her second three-month course started in July and in November she will start six weeks of radiation therapy.

For all that, it's run pretty smoothly, she said. "I had good friends to help me sort

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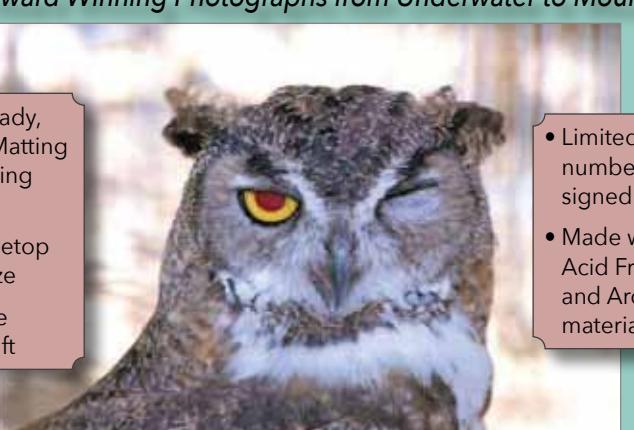
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Artist paints new 'face' of breast cancer

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

At the impressionable age of 13, Nadine Terk assisted as caregiver for a beloved aunt during her struggle with breast cancer. This extremely personal experience inspired, in part, Terk's documentary project, *There For You*, consisting of oil on canvas portraits of women brave enough to reveal their breast cancer scars, both physical and emotional.

Each intimate visual is accompanied by an audio of the individual's transformative story. "The stories are important as an educational tool," said Terk. "The hardest thing is telling people that you have cancer. Others don't know what to say – people are afraid they will say something wounding."

Terk wanted to include women who were representative of different situations.

"Sometimes it is the change in family dynamics, the rallying around of female friends, the supportive husband or the fact that 1 in 3 marriages doesn't survive breast cancer – people just don't want to tell," Terk said. "The idea is to normalize through narratives and images."

Terk holds a master's in art history and archeology and has enjoyed mentorships with world renowned portrait artists, so this project was a challenge.

"Having a very academic training, this was challenging work on so many different levels," she said. "They are sketchy portraits, two or three hours each. I was moving paint around quickly – it was really very exciting. We used a videographer to record the process."

Carol Meyer's intuition told her that posing for the project would be her coming out as a breast cancer survivor.

"I was tired of giving it so much energy, talking about it all the time. I didn't want a pity party," said Meyer. "Something

magical happened in that studio. I left there totally pumped. It led me to another layer of feeling."

Terk reflected, "Posing and participating in the commentary was a huge healing experience for Carol. She was so amazing, so brave."

Several women brought a representative item to the sitting or chose a pose which expressed something about her (or his) experience: Carol in a yoga pose, fingers touching, symbolic of recycling energy; Anna in a tutu to express femininity; Pam with a tennis racquet.

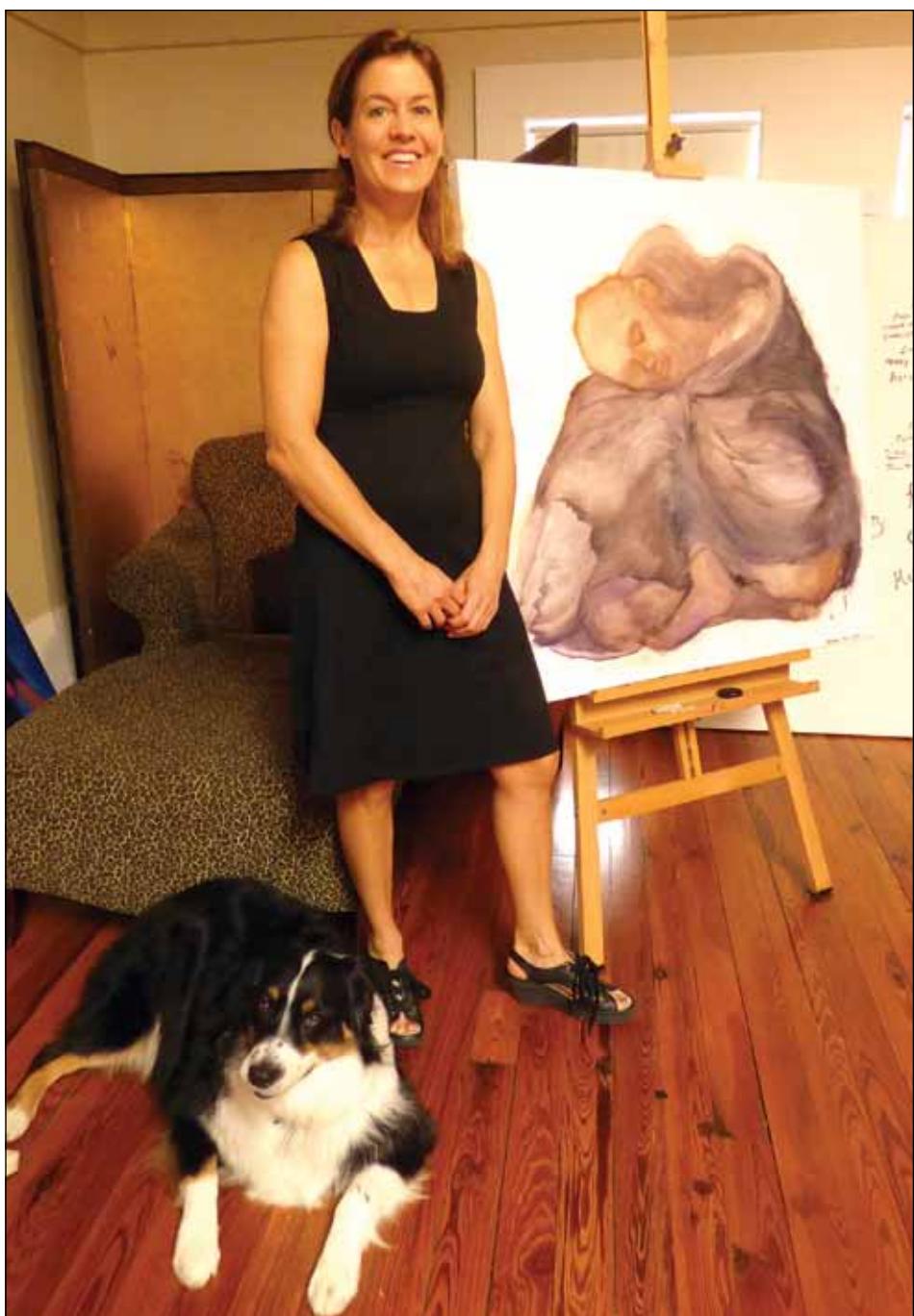
Much of the experience of breast cancer has to do with body image so, despite stigma, Terk wanted the portraits with bare breasts since that is so much a part of a woman's identity. Barre Barrett, also an artist, sat for a portrait, sharing his experiences as the only male breast cancer survivor depicted.

The artist's husband, Dr. Mitchell Terk, a radiation oncologist, was thrilled with the concept, according to Terk. "He's curing people on a physical level and I'm working on an emotional level. It was a way for us to connect professionally," she said.

The project also gave Terk extra bonding time with her mother. "At first Mom was speechless – she's so private – but she is a great supporter of my artistic endeavors. She posed for me and now, 20 years after cancer and reconstructive surgery, she has seen herself through a different lens."

There 4 U: Painting the New Face of Breast Cancer will be exhibited at Jewish Community Alliance on San Jose Boulevard Sunday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Ear phones will be available to listen to the stories of healing and self-discovery and visitors may honor their loved ones by signing a tribute poster.

"Seeing the show in person and hearing the voices is super powerful," said Meyer.



Nadine Terk

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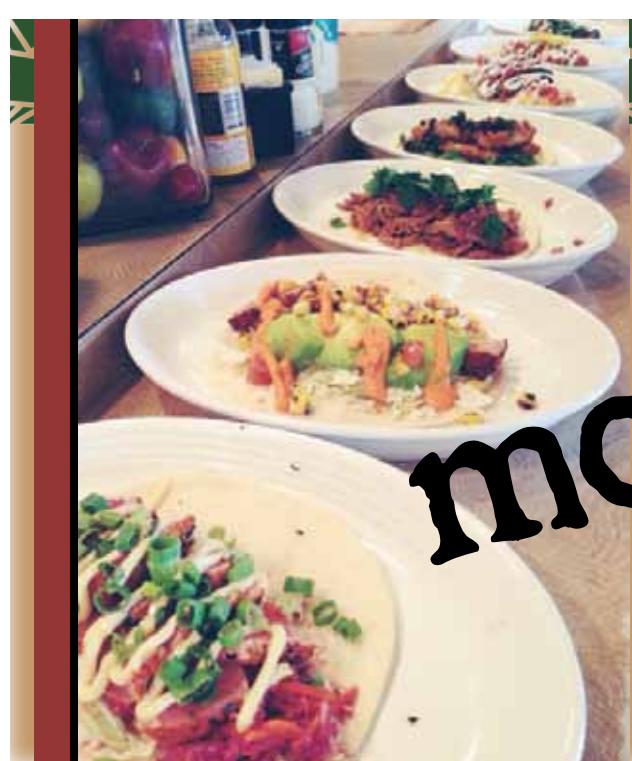
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JIA Arts Commission hosts one-night exhibit at CoRK

The Jacksonville International Airport Arts Commission held a one-night preview show of its newest exhibition, Face Forward, of self-portraits by 30 regional artists.

The Sept. 24 show at CoRK Studios in Riverside preceded the exhibit's display at the airport beginning Oct. 1 in the Haskell Gallery.

The Arts Commission provided each artist with a 24" x 24" x 3" panel and instructions to create a never-before-seen portrait in any style and with any medium, such as traditional oil, clay, wood, mixed media, photography, acrylic, pencil, charcoal and pastel, to represent the artists' own interpretation of themselves.

"It is thrilling to be able to showcase local artists in a show at the Haskell

Gallery at JAX, and it is just as exciting to give the show's first look to artists and friends at the CoRK Studios," said Robert Arleigh White, Arts Commission Chair.

Artists participating include Adrian Pickett, Bill Yates, Chip Southworth, Christie Holechek, Daniel Wynn, David Engdahl, Doug Eng, Dustin Harewood, Enzo Torcoletti, Franklin Ratliff, Hiromi Moneyhun, Jason John, Jim Benedict, Jim Draper, John Bunker, Kevin Arthur, Larry Wilson, Laurie Hitzig, Louise Freshman Brown, Mary St. Germain, Mindy Hawkins, Overstreet Ducasse, Paul Ladnier, Robin Shepherd, Sara Pedigo, Shaun Thurston, Steve Williams, Susan Ober, Thony Aiuppy, and Tony Wood.

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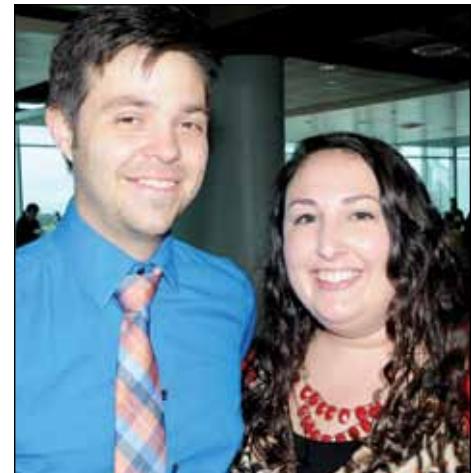
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Wine, fries an unbeatable combo for Ronald McDonald House

The Red Shoe Crew's premier event, the 7th annual Fries With That Wine, was enjoyed by friends and supporters of the Ronald McDonald House on Sept. 17. The Red Shoe Crew is Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's young professional group. The philanthropy group holds a number of fundraising events throughout the year. This popular annual party, presented by EverBank in the Terrace Suites of the stadium, pairs wine (and beer) with McDonald's fast food favorites, including French fries, cheeseburgers and more. Live music by Evan Michael and the Well Wishers rounded out the evening of fun and networking.



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Traci Driggers, Hazel Peters, Erin Kendrick, Jennifer Wood and Joe Peters



Melissa and Chris Bagley, Barrett and Christina Bottomley

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PETERBROOKE ROLLS OUT BAKE STUDIO, A FRESH CONCEPT FOR CHOCOLATIER



Peterbrooke Chocolatier's delectable European style chocolate creations have delighted customers' taste buds in Jacksonville since opening of their original San Marco store in 1983...and now, it's time for their customers to eat cake.

With Peterbrooke Bake Studio, the company is adding delicious baked goods to its preeminent line of exquisite treats, such as their famous chocolate covered popcorn, elegant truffles, addicting chocolate-covered graham crackers and pretzels, crunchy toffee, and hand-dipped scrumptious strawberries.

The studio produces delectable cakes, cookies, cupcakes, and other treats, all of which will be increasingly found in Peterbrooke Chocolatiers retail locations.

Cakes can be custom ordered by individuals and wholesalers for weddings, parties, or any occasion where a run-of-the-mill, pre-packaged cake simply won't do.

In the company's tradition, only real milk, butter, sugar, UTZ-certified cocoa, and other wholesome ingredients permeate its baked goods recipes.

New kitchens and production areas revitalize a former food plant in Jacksonville's Brooklyn neighborhood, which now houses the new Peterbrooke Bake Studio, along with corporate offices, and production, packing, and shipping areas.

Popcorn, gelato, baked goods, chocolate, toffee, caramel, marshmallows, and other goodies are produced in the facility's kosher-certified kitchens, which feature windows for public viewing when the new retail, tourism, event and meeting spaces are finished early next year.

Branching into baked goods wasn't a difficult move for Peterbrooke Chocolatier, explained marketing manager Elizabeth Cordell. "Being a chocolate company focusing on treats, we knew this would be a natural way to grow. With the expansion of the factory, we wanted to add baked goods," she said.

Also natural was a local company combining forces with a locally known baker and, through local connections, Cordell said, Peterbrooke brought in Anita Adams because "we wanted the best and she's the best."

Adams, the former founder and owner of Let Them Eat Cake, a prominent bakery in Avondale for 15 years, was also looking for a bakery desiring to create hand-crafted desserts and quickly found herself in Peterbrooke Bake Studio.

Though out of the baking business for three years since selling her shop in Avondale, Adams said her interest in baking was rekindled by a resurgence in hand-crafted from scratch baked goods, made of all natural ingredients.

"I can fit into this," she said.

From the beginning of her own bakery days in Avondale, Adams used only all natural ingredients in her recipes.

"I only used real cream, butter, eggs, flour, sugar – no shortening or hydrogenated fats. I was a stickler, even in the late 1980s, who didn't use margarine or shortening," Adams said.

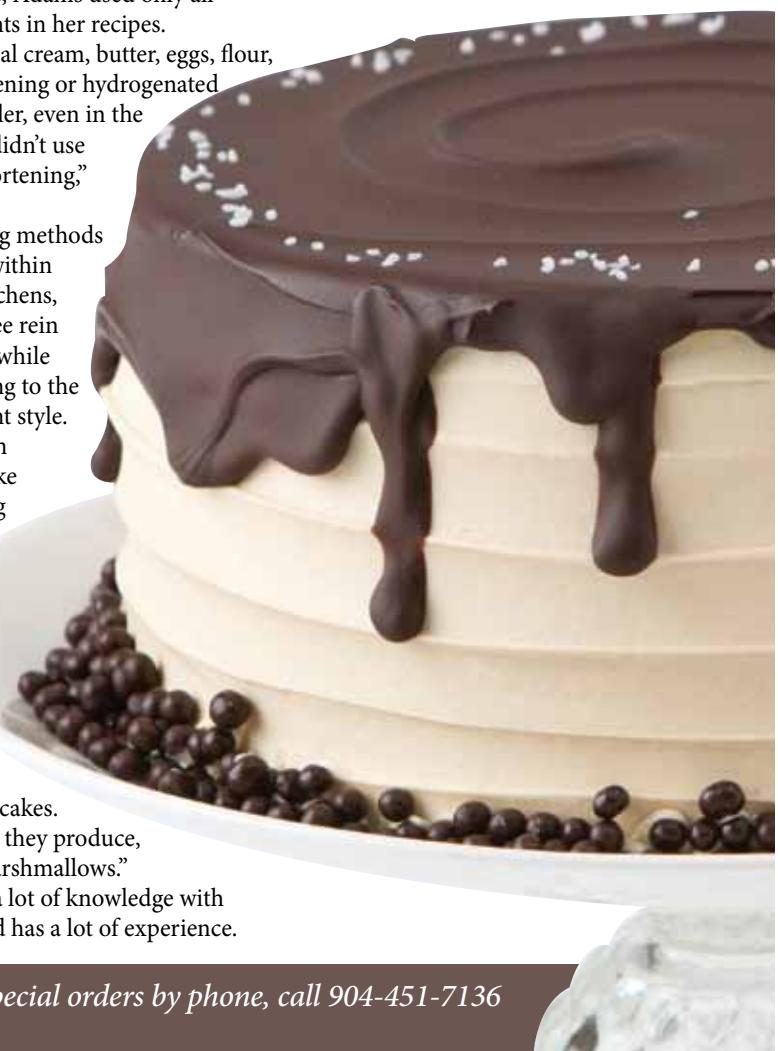
Adam's baking methods are a natural fit within Peterbrooke's kitchens, where she has free rein to try new ideas while creating according to the company's elegant style.

"So far it's been fantastic. I feel like Lucille Ball doing all different things," she said, adding "I watch them make candy and get ideas to incorporate into cakes. I love everything they produce, especially the marshmallows."

"Anita brings a lot of knowledge with baked goods, and has a lot of experience.

She's a great addition to the Peterbrooke family," Cordell said.

"We're expanding in a way that maintains the quality standards Peterbrooke has always stood for," Cordell said, meaning their world-famous, chocolate covered popcorn and new bakery goods alike will please palates for years to come.



The Bake Studio is located at 249 Copeland Street. Customers can place special orders by phone, call 904-451-7136 or email bakery@peterbrooke.com.

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Dog lovers get 'doggie fix' at annual Strut Your Mutt

The day dawned hot and muggy for Strut Your Mutt, the annual fall event in Riverside Park, to raise awareness of and funds for local animal shelters, many of which had adoptable pups present.

As in years past, the charity event included a leisurely dog walk, and (new this year) a 5K run with or without dog, followed by a festival with pet costume contest, pet fashion show, an agility course, and many booths. This year's goal was \$140,000; the amount raised prior to the event was \$87,642, with Michelle Barrett the top fundraiser at \$18,697.



Erik Stordahl, owner of Old Dog House, a senior canine rescue nonprofit in Riverside, and Sadie, available for adoption. Stordahl and his wife, Kim, started Old Dog House in 2006, fostering older dogs in shelters who may not get adopted.



2015 Uptown Civitan award recipients: Front row: 2014-2015 Civitan President Wynester Sherrer and Civitan Philanthropic Chairman Mary Jo Margenhoff; back row, Alexis Woods, Angelwood; Beth Wilson, DESC; Ju'Coby Pittman, Clara White Mission; Tom Hackney, Chief of Investigation, Jacksonville Sheriff's Department; Melanie Jensen, North Florida School of Special Education; Julia Steffen, The Arc; Michelle Corum, WJCT, Radio Reading Service.

Uptown Civitan distributes checks to nonprofits

Seven local nonprofit organizations and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office received cash awards when Jacksonville's Uptown Civitan Club distributed the proceeds earned from this summer's reverse drawings auction.

During its annual meeting at the University Club in San Marco on Sept. 8, representatives from the eight local agencies were on hand to divvy up funds totaling \$13,175.

During the luncheon, Civitan Philanthropic Chairman Mary Jo Margenhoff presented a check to each agency. Receiving funds this year were Alexis Woods for Angelwood, \$3,400 for

defibrillators; Julia Steffen of Avondale for The Arc of Jacksonville, \$800 for a wheelchair scale; Wynester Sherrer for The Civitan International Research Center, \$1,000; Ju'Coby Pittman for the Clara White Mission, \$1,300; Beth Wilson for the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, \$1,300; Chief of Investigation Tom Hackney for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department, \$1,875 for three sexual assault testing kits; Melanie Jensen for the North Florida School of Special Education, \$2,000 for nature-inspired play and learning outdoor classroom; Michelle Corum, WJCT Radio Reading Program, \$1,500.

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Fleet Center opens for business

In its 139th anniversary year, the Florida Yacht Club has returned to its roots of promoting yachting and social enjoyment. On Sept. 7, the club hosted a ribbon cutting and reception for its new Fleet Center, located behind the tennis courts.

A vast improvement over the 10x15-foot wooden shed that is being re-purposed, the new building is one of several projects completed in the yacht club's Big Plan Phase I.

"We had a small sailing shed that our junior youth sailing program worked out of," said Jodi Weinbecker, Waterfront Director. "All their gear went in there, the boats were on dollies spread out all over the place."

The junior sailing program has gone from about six youth a few years ago to 34 currently, which means a lot of equipment needed a place to be stored.

"The board had a vision to have a new facility to house youth sailing and to host fleet and boating-related parties," said Weinbecker. "It's all part of the Big Plan."

The new facility includes Weinbecker's office, a classroom, restrooms and storage

— already maxed out — for junior sailboats. The old shed was converted to hold paddleboards, kayaks, canoes and fishing gear for the Waterman's program.

"This sailing center is sort of a rebirth," said Palmer Clarkson, club commodore. "This club had lost a little bit of its focus on sailing in the last four or five years."

Bringing Weinbecker and the club's new general manager, Carol Edell, on board a year ago has resulted in bringing the focus on sailing back to the forefront. "It's about time we go back to our roots. There's a lot of enthusiasm around the club now," said Weinbecker, of San Marco.

The campaign for phase one raised \$1,300,000 to build the Fleet Center, tennis courts and the new croquet lawn. Phase two includes re-design and upgrade of the fitness center.

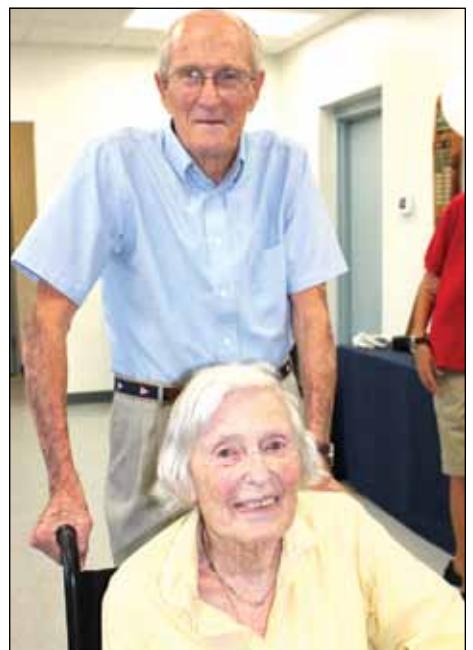
"Every bit of the additions and improvements we have made were possible without assessing the members or raising dues," said Bobby Steeg, immediate past commodore. "It's been great that the club has been so supportive."



Lynne Currie, Brooks and Jennie Busey, Darryl Currie



Caroline and Jay Busker



Ed and Taylor Graves



Jacksonville University sailing team members Kelsy Waack, Peter Steo, Stephan VerHulst, Josh Kusmierz, Sierra McKie



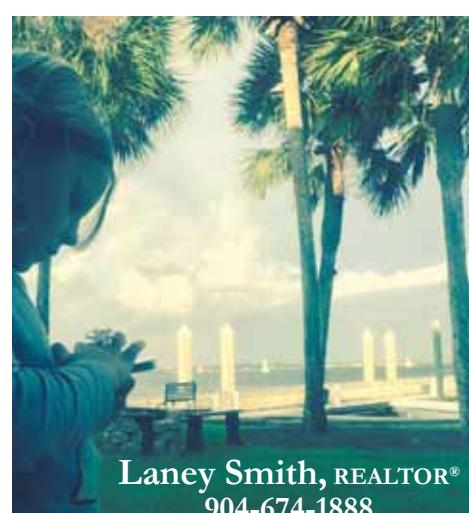
Catherine and Jim Monahan, Laddy Monahan



Jeff Lane and daughter Sumner Lane, architects of the Florida Yacht Club Fleet Center



Carol Edell, general manager, snaps a photo of J. Palmer Clarkson, Bobby Steeg and Tom Bryn cutting the ribbon for the new Fleet Center at the Florida Yacht Club as Patrick Kunz, Alexander Bryan and Downing Nightingale, IV, members of the Junior Sailing Team, hold it taut.



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Speakeasy, bootlegging theme an annual crowd pleaser

Riverside Avondale Preservation's 4th annual Bootleggers Ball, held again at Worsham Hall at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, drew nearly 300 flappers and their gangster gents from far and wide.

Although the neighborhood was well represented, guests also came from St. Augustine, Mandarin, Orange Park, Springfield, East Arlington, Palm Coast and the beach.

"We truly had the best community support for this event this year, we had partners who helped with everything from the sound equipment to photography and restaurant partners to all of our fabulous giggle water partners," said Heather Bailey, event co-chair, along with Tammy Terry.

Riverside Dental was event sponsor for this year. "Dr.

Michael Spencer, with Riverside Dental, was the one who originally approached us four years ago about putting this event on, and we're so honored that he's made sure the event happens every year," Bailey said.

Many of the guests posed for photos with the Ford Model A owned by Ellis and Nancy Ulrich. Entertainment by Gin Mill George & The Dapper Flapper Hounds, Canary in the Coalmine, and The 77ds, ensured that a roarin' good time was had by all.



Harold McKeon,
Pamela Telis



Meghan Moore,
Steve Congro



Andrea Fershtman,
Hannah Esposito



Peter Mauch, Lianne
Stricklen

Casual shindig hits spot for Sanctuary patrons



Front: Janet Reagor, Abby Donahoo, Charlotte Rosenberg, Madison Clark, Debbie Grisnik, Vicki Watkins; back: Robert George, Bill Hoff, Lara Dietrich, Alonzo Jackson, John Grisnik



Robert and Patrick George,
Patty Barksdale



Kelly Camp, Cheryl Virta, Casey Steel, Crystal Browning, Jenny Stanelle



Michelle Kruger, Jo Miller, Rebecca Hoadley

The annual Shindig for the Sanctuary, held Sept. 18 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, drew about 225 supporters from all over the city and garnered an estimated \$115,000 for the nonprofit. Catered by long-time supporter Biscottis, French Pantry, and Bono's Catering, the event also spotlighted the handcrafted items made at the Sanctuary by former and current students.

Pallets for a Purpose and other handcrafted treasures, such as card displays and birdhouses, were sold to willing patrons,

while students from Episcopal School of Jacksonville served as door greeters and gentle arm twisters for donations to the Wishing Well.

Over 20 years ago, what began as Urban Ministries of Springfield in 1992 has become a real sanctuary for children in a struggling community. Renamed in 2001 The Sanctuary on 8th Street after the program relocated to a historic post office building, today the nonprofit offers afterschool tutoring and summer camp.

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It's no wonder people avoid them in droves; they've had every reason to... Until now.

Enter Vərb Jax. It's not another smelly gym, though any good workout here will make you sweat.

Perched above Black Sheep restaurant on Margaret Street in Jacksonville's vibrant 5 Points area, Vərb Jax brings exclusive yacht club style and atmosphere to everyone, with top-shelf amenities to match.

"I worked at Epping Forest, University Club, Florida Yacht Club, and Timuquana Country Club, so why not bring that upscale style to the public?" reasoned Ferdinand Mendiola, who co-owns the gym with his wife, Toni.

The idea for a gym came when a local country club eliminated positions, including Ferdinand's, and several of his clients suggested he open his own gym.

Ferdinand explains the Vərb Jax name as describing action, saying "I think that fits the community here, the name is easy to remember, and the phonetic ə adds a little funk."

To keep Vərb Jax from being just another gym, the Mendiolas created a personal service atmo-



sphere with surprising amenities.

"If you're going from here to work, you want as much as possible included in membership," said Toni of the monthly membership offerings.

Here, Vərb Jax shines with laundry service for your workout clothes; shirt steaming for a professional look; child drop-off during your workout; daily lockers, and a ready supply of toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, shampoo – even Q-tips and cotton balls – to help you primp for your day.

Personal service is always on hand for Vərb Jax members. "Staff is here at all times, from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday -Thursday, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, and 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends," said Toni.

Vərb Jax keeps training sessions fresh for its members by offering a variety of workout styles.

"We're not a specialty gym, but more of a hybrid; we do a lot of everything so you're not stuck to one style of training," said Ferdinand.

Unlike more mundane gyms, the Mendiolas interact directly with members, who are always welcome to provide input.

"Whether it's a different class or hours," Toni pointed out, "we listen to our membership – that's what we can do as a non-franchise gym."

For the flexible, or those wanting to be, Vərb Jax's comprehensive selection of group classes in yoga, barre, Flexx It, Pilates, along with spinning and boot camp classes, are there to get you into first-rate shape.

Also waiting to test your mettle are brand new treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, including spinning

and recumbents, a stair stepper (with recirculating stairs), strength equipment, free weights, and group class apparatus.

Helping utilize Vərb Jax's top-flight equipment are experienced trainers, who also offer individual training sessions in addition to group classes.

When you're finished building a body fit for a yacht cruise, an onsite massage therapist is there to work through your post-workout kinks.

For final cleanup before heading out, rich, wood-faced lockers await you in an opulent setting that features elegant sinks and fixtures, private bathrooms and individual showers, and for the ladies, a grand chandelier to shed light on the large mirrors and seating in the make-up area.

Children also have their own regal area in Zoe's Den at Vərb Jax.

Zoe's Den is ready for play with activity boards, a tall tepee, and a friendly, CPR-trained, fully background-checked staff.

"We think this child drop area is a good tool for young families who want their child to be safe, but still have fun," said Ferdinand.

"We're full service and feel that's what's going to keep you here," said Toni, "You're going to want to stay."



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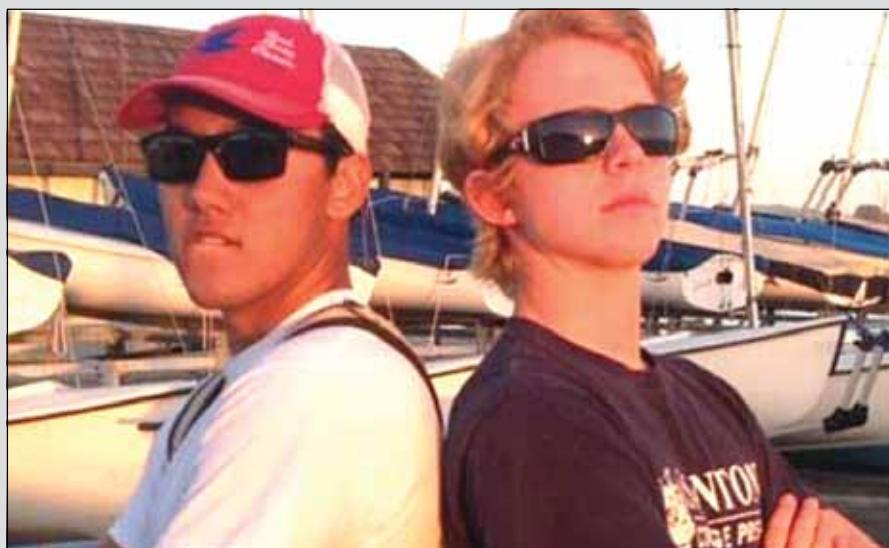
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Yacht Club sailor races in Italy for USA



Racing in Talamone, Italy at the Snipe Worlds Championship



Andre Guaragna and Johnny Fewell at the Snipe Nationals in San Diego

Ortega resident and Florida Yacht Club member Johnny Fewell teamed with Andre Guaragna from the Lauderdale Yacht Club to represent the United States in the Junior Snipe Worlds Championship in Talamone, Italy, Sept. 12-19.

Fewell and Guaragna have sailed against each other for years and have always been friends but just recently started sailing as a team. Their first event together was Nationals in San Diego this July.

"I was introduced to sailing at a very young age because my dad raced sailboats

a good bit," said Fewell. "I think I was sailing with my dad in our backyard when I was 4 and started sailing Optis when I was 5 or 6."

This was Fewell's first time racing in Europe and, although qualifying as a skipper, decided to crew instead for the Snipe Worlds Championship.

"It was more adrenaline than anything, just the realization of the scenario pumped me up," Fewell said about how he felt during the racing events in Talamone. Fewell and Guaragna finished 19th place out of 36.

Photography student prepares for MOCA show



Amanda Rosenblatt photographing UNF student Cassandra Salmieri, model for the tarot card, which represents the cyclical nature of chance

*By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News*

Amanda Rosenblatt is learning what it's like to be on the object side of a camera lens.

A student at the University of North Florida's College of Art and Design, Rosenblatt recently started a photography residency at the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville.

This is the second residency awarded by UNF in collaboration with MOCA, which grants the artist a work space, access to the media and a show.

"Amanda was selected based on the thoroughness of her proposal, her plan for the use of MOCA space and her interview," said Paul Karabinis, photography professor at UNF. "The UNF/MOCA residency gives her the opportunity to further develop her skills, talent and the dedication that are crucial to success after her graduation."

"We are pushed as artists. It helps with the transition from being a student to professional life," said Rosenblatt, of Riverside. Describing herself as a loud, shy person, Rosenblatt is more accustomed to being behind the lens than in front of it, but as student Artist-in-Residence she is frequently in the spotlight. "All the attention, it's strange but nice," she said. "I'm not really an attention-seeking person."

Rosenblatt is completing a series of interpretive portraits of the 22 major arcana of the tarot deck, which intertwine the spiritual paths of the cards, their visual, historic and spiritual symbolism.

Her goal for the project is to use fashion photography as an imaginative tool, not just for selling products but to create something visually intriguing. Karabinis provides weekly consultations on Rosenblatt's progress with both her portfolio project and the residency.

Rosenblatt's models are "friends, friends of friends, some aspiring models – who ever will work for food," she said. "I cook dinner for them or treat them to coffee. I use lots of costuming – some from local designers, some I make, borrow or have in my personal collection. The models are playing a part, but the best way to put it is they are not just dressing up, they are adorned to represent the card."

Falling in love with photography at age 14 helped her break out of the "quiet kid shell; it made me feel interesting and cool," she said. At age 16 her pieces were in the National Scholastic Art and Writing show. "It was the most exciting thing in my young life," Rosenblatt said. "I credit a lot of my drive and passion to my early teachers."

That passion is now directed into completing the project for the Dec. 13 opening of her show at MOCA. "I have until early November to finish the pieces, and I'll also be printing smaller versions using a matte (salt paper) method for my senior portfolio."

After her show is over, Rosenblatt is not sure where her passion for photography will lead. "Part of me wants to stay in Jacksonville and part of me wants to see what's out there in the world," she said.

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Bolles' Corky Rogers named 'Greatest Football Coach in Florida'

Victory secondary to teaching athletes to work and to win the right way

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

To hear Bolles football coach Corky Rogers talk, you wouldn't think the W's mattered much.

"I'm not in it for the record," said the 71-year-old coach. "If you're in it for that, you're in it for the wrong reasons."

But oh, what a record it is.

Over the past 43 years overseeing football teams at both Robert E. Lee High School and The Bolles School, Rogers has racked up a 449-80-1 coaching record. Over 16 years at Lee, his record was 141-39-1. Over 27 years at Bolles he's tallied 304 wins, 41 losses, as well as 10 state championships.

Rogers ranks fifth nationally in career wins among active coaches. He is the eighth coach in the history of high school football throughout the United States to reach 400 wins and was named National High School Football Coach of the Year for 2004-05 by the National High School Coaches Association.

Rogers is also a member of the National High School Hall of Fame (2015), the Florida Sports Hall of Fame (2013), the Robert E. Lee High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame (2013), the Gator Bowl Hall of Fame (2012), the Florida High School Athletic Hall of Fame (2005), the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) Hall of Fame (2002) and the FACA Life Membership Award winner for outstanding contribution to high school athletics and the coaching profession.

Rogers latest accolade is to land on top of a field of 28 high school, college and NFL head coaches in the "Greatest Football Coach in Florida" bracket set up by the *Orlando Sentinel*. The former Murray Hill resident advanced through three rounds of fan voting in the high school coaches



Wayne Belger and Corky Rogers

category to land in an all-level final four with Bobby Bowden of Florida State, Steve Spurrier of the University of Florida and Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins. To gain the title, Rogers won a head-to-head matchup against Spurrier and received more votes than Shula in the final round. *The Sentinel* announced Rogers the winner in an article printed Aug. 26.

It's how you play the game

This winningest football coach, who holds the state record for state titles among Florida coaches with 10 and playoff victories with 79, said he almost never talks about wins and losses. "That's not what it's about," said Rogers.

Instead Rogers focuses on infusing players with the character-building skills necessary to win at both football and life.

"For 95 percent of the kids, most of their playing is over when they are done playing with you," said Rogers, noting he is always very happy to visit with former players who have families of their own and have done well in business. "Almost to the person we never talk about the state championship," he said. "They usually say that more than anything they learned to work and work the

right way through our program."

Coaching at Bolles, which is known primarily as a rigorous academic institution, creates additional challenges for a football coach. Rogers said his players are smart – "smarter than I am" – but often do not match up in physique to the much larger players from opposing teams. To win, he tries to capitalize on his player's individual strengths. "I tell them they don't need to be a perfect football player, you just need to do what you're capable of doing," he said.

Rogers credits his coaching staff, many who have coached alongside him for years, with his success. His right-hand man, Wayne Belger, a San Jose resident who grew up in Lakawanna, played quarterback on his first football squad at Lee and returned to coach with him at Lee after graduating from Gardner-Webb College in North Carolina. When Rogers took the top job at Bolles in 1989, Belger moved with him.

"Continuity of staff is a major reason for my success," Roger said, noting he expects his colleagues to lead his players by example. "It's very important to the kids who are here every day, when you ask them to do their best," he said. "You can't kid young people. They know if you're doing your best and working hard."

Blessed by good coaches

For his training as a coach, Rogers credits his father, who played football at Lee High School and the University of Florida, as well as his coaches at Lee, Florida Military Academy and Georgia Tech.

"I was around good coaches. I was blessed to be on good teams that were well coached. If you are around people like that you pick up different traits," Roger said. "I learned a lot from him (his father) about competing and how to compete the right way. You want to win, but not at all costs. You want to learn to win the right way. Many of my coaches had this same trait, but a lot of it is being lucky, too, if I'm being honest with you."

"Tough but fair," is how Steve Hyers, of San Marco, describes the coach he played for at Lee High School. "On the field he was regimented and you knew exactly what he wanted you to do," he said, noting Rogers would walk up and down the practice field with his arms crossed looking like he "would kick you in the ass." However, after practice, he was different.

"Off the field he would listen to you. He was approachable. He'd give you a listen, but his was not always the answer that you wanted," he said, adding Rogers was instrumental in getting him a full ride to the University of Tennessee-Martin.

"He was a stern guy, but if he could find an opportunity to help you, he would and he wouldn't tell you about it," Hyers said.

"Corky comes across honest with no BS," said Harmon Wages of Riverside. Wages played alongside Rogers at Lee and later became an NFL running back. "He has earned the respect and trust of all around him: players, coaches, whoever."

Rogers, who turns 72 in December, often thinks of retirement. "Every day I think about it, and when I think retirement somebody says, 'Let's stay one more year.' I don't want to let other people down. I could have gotten out seven years ago, but I'm not in it for the record," he said.

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Arts center celebrates 10 years serving community's children

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Residents with long memories will recall *A Little Walk Through the Woods*, a locally written and produced play with a new twist on an old theme. Ten years ago, Little Red Riding Hood took a brave journey to raise funds for a new community program.

The play, written by Jeff Hess and starring his wife Suzanne, launched what would become a \$50,000 fundraising campaign to start the Riverside Children's Arts Center. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Arts Center is again on a fundraising journey.

"2015 will be a celebratory year," said Beverly Alexander, chair for the Board of Managers at Riverside Avenue Christian Church, which supports and houses the Arts Center. "Although our vision of being involved in the community predated 2005, a number of things came together then that evolved into the opening of the Arts Center. We are a congregation that likes to be in the community, with outreach as service opportunities."

A decade ago public schools were reducing art programs and the congregation's new pastor, Rev. Richard Hull, supported the idea of community outreach. According to Alexander, a Reflective Process Grant from The Community Foundation enabled the church to take a survey within the community, including nearby elementary schools, to determine its greatest needs.

"We found that arts and sports were the two greatest afterschool needs, and art was something we could provide with our building set-up," said Alexander. "We started with a couple of afternoon programs and camps, then 10 years later it has grown to a year-round program."

The Arts Center opened in September 2005 with four to five afterschool classes for kindergarten to fifth grade, plus a summer camp, and then, after Kelly Paterno became full-time director in 2009, it expanded to 15 classes each semester and opened to preschool children.

"We are also open for homeschool classes in the mornings and early afternoons. We can tailor classes for homeschool groups, which are typically



Jocelyn Benedict and Joshua Allen in Mixed Media Art Class



Hannah Davis learns to play the guitar.



Instructor Christianna White leading a lesson with Mixed Media Art Class of kindergartener to second graders



Sophie Reed and Anna Benedict take weekly guitar lessons.

multi-age classes," said Paterno.

Alexander said initially they thought it would be a grant-funded program, but it has been supported largely by the congregation, with donations from the community and nominal fees for classes.

"We are very lucky that the church really supports this and feels strongly about offering it to the community and keeping it going," Paterno said. "We estimate that we have served over 1,000 kids since our inception in 2005."

The goal of the Arts Center has always been to give kids a safe, comfortable place to try things, at a low cost. "It's an affordable way for families to let them try a little bit of everything," noted Alexander.

The range of class offerings is wide, dependent on the availability of

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St. Mark's students sweep golf tournament

All the Timuquana Country Club Junior Golf Championship division winners happened to be current or former St. Mark's Episcopal Day School students. The tournament, held the last weekend in August, included 34 players in five divisions.

St. Mark's alumni Jack Baker (Class of 2011) was the 2015 Junior Club Champion. Jack Adams (Class of 2015) and current students Cort McCarthy, Declan McCarthy and Robert Adams, were winners in their divisions.



Cort McCarthy, Tomahawk Flight winner



Jack Adams, Timuquana Flight winner



Robert Adams, Little Fairway Flight winner



Declan McCarthy, Fairway Flight winner

Coffee time brings Fishweir community together



Dina and Elena Ferri, Tara and Josie Banta (Matthew is hiding), Renee Thorsen, Corrina Madrid and Harper Naggy, Piper Lynch, Tanya and Daisy Hardaker



Elena Ferri, Josie Banta, Harper Naggy

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One Friday each month, the Fishweir Elementary School PTA mothers meet to share coffee time, courtesy of Maple Street Biscuit Company, and to engage parents dropping their children off at school. Tara Banta, president of the PTA, also has a daughter in second grade, Josie.

"It's a chance to get to know one another and to encourage parents to sign up for the PTA," said Corrina Madrid, whose daughter Harper

is in second grade. "It's really a community builder."

As parents sign up for PTA memberships, their children can spin a wheel for a small prize. The gathering is held in front of the school starting at 8 a.m. until the first bell rings.

"We drink coffee (often donated by local restaurants) and chat and connect," said Sarah Lynch, who has two children at Fishweir.

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Brittany Dunning with Gray Chunn and Ann Palmer



Alex and Corinna Stone



Ann Freeman, Natalie Rosenberg



LeeAnn Buck, Linda Ostoski, Jacob (in kidney costume) and Lauren Davis from the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation displayed at the Festival of Flight.



Reed Hanigan, Beville Anderson, Beth Pulignano

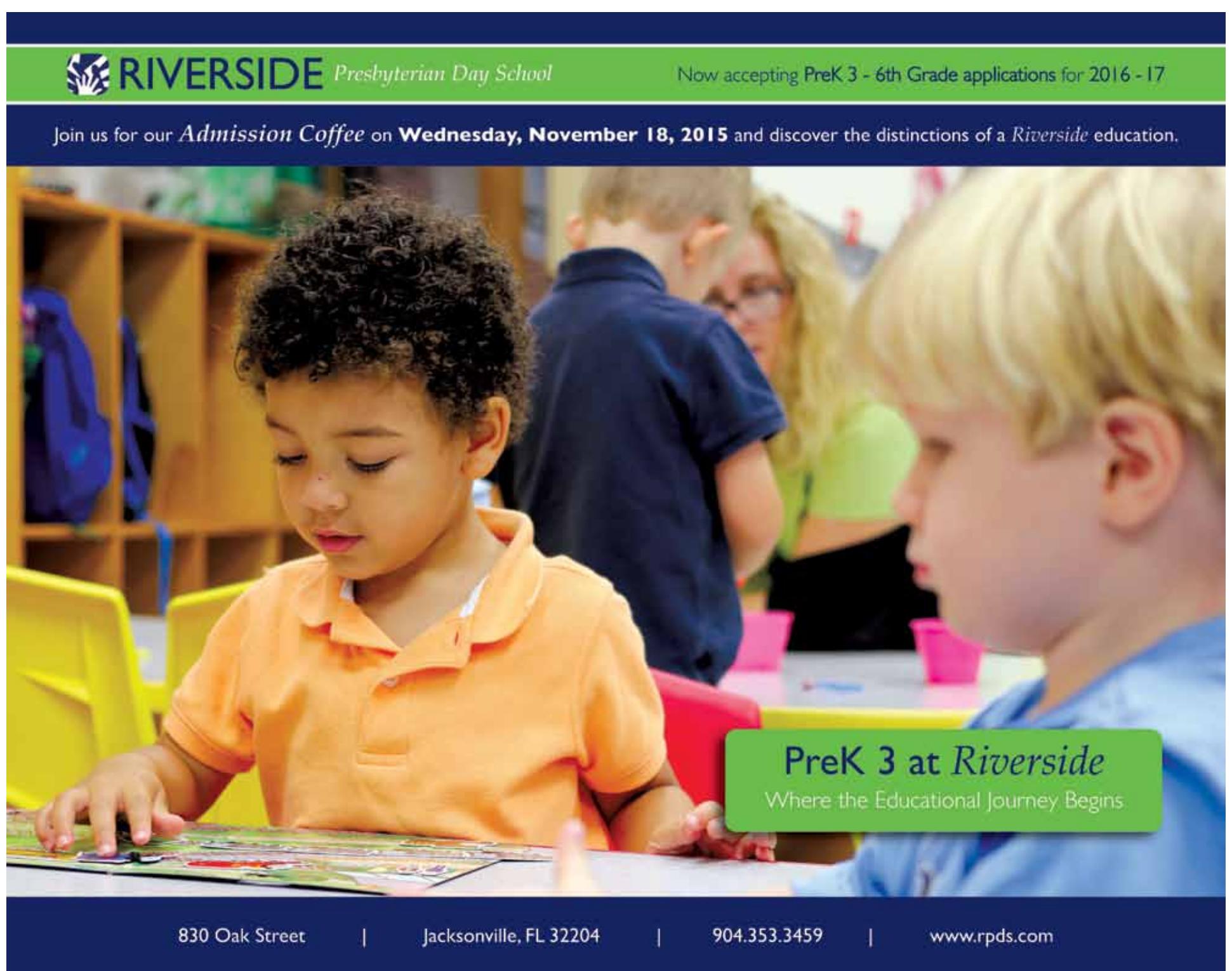


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Where the Educational Journey Begins

Students strut their stuff for ribbon-cutting ceremony

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The artistic talents of many Douglas Anderson students were on display Sept. 10 during the ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the new \$13 million addition to the prestigious arts school.

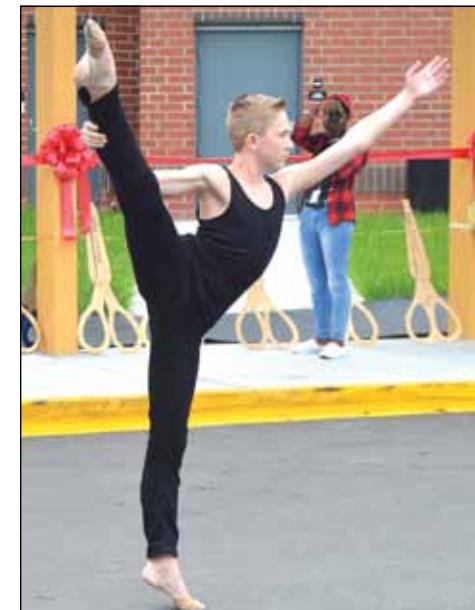
DA's wind symphony greeted guests with *Olympic Fanfare* by John Williams before the hour-long VIP-studded ceremony, which took place in front of the new 60,000-square-foot addition.

While students from the cinema arts department documented the proceedings, Principal Jacqueline Cornelius opened the festivities with the poem *New World*, which was written by the DA Senior Poetry Class of 2015. Soprano Savannah Buice sang the *Star Spangled Banner* before leading the celebrants in the Pledge of Allegiance. Theatre student Preston Pittman introduced visiting dignitaries and special guests, who joined him on the podium. The Silhouettes, one of many vocal performance groups at the school, performed the musical dance *Saturday Night Fish Fry*, and dance student Joe Markey wowed the crowd with a solo rendition entitled *Redemption*, which had been choreographed by Jennifer Turbyfill and was accompanied with music by Zach Hemesen.

Speaking at the event were Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Duval County



Students in a string quintet serenade dignitaries during a reception at the school after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Dance student Joe Markey performs during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.



Wielding golden scissors at the Douglas Anderson Ribbon Cutting were Lon Newman, Helen Lane, Rep. Charles McBurney, Joyce Lawson, Jeff Dunn, Dr. Nikolai Vitti, The Honorable Cheryl Grymes, Jacqueline Cornelius, The Honorable Ashley Smith-Juarez, The Honorable Becki Couch, The Honorable Paula Wright, Deborah Knauer, and Paul Soares.



Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Advisory Board co-chairman Helen Lane and Jeff Dunn, President of the DA Foundation.

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Schools, Florida Representative Charles McBurney (R) of District 16 and the Honorable Ashley Smith-Juarez, School Board member of District 3.

The construction of the new wing is a testimony of the county's investment in excellence, Vitti said in his remarks. The addition includes 20 new academic classrooms, a new cafeteria, new metals shop, large outdoor amphitheater and covered pick-up and drop-off area in front of the school. The new addition freed up several classrooms in the existing structure, which were transformed into two new dance studios with maple-wood flooring, three creative-writing classrooms, a costume lighting technical theatre shop and a welding and casting sculpture studio.

"I think it's wonderful to have this

new addition," said Allison Svagdis, a musical theater senior from San Marco. Svagdis gave tours of the new facility to special guests after the ceremony. "The opportunities this will allow us to have are phenomenal. I'm so happy I was still here and could be part of it," she said.

Thirteen VIPs cut the golden ribbon during the ceremony and were showered afterward with confetti. Wielding golden scissors at the event were Lon Newman, director of operations AJAX Building Construction; Helen Lane, co-chair of the Douglas Anderson Advisory Board; Rep. Charles McBurney (R), Florida Representative for District 16; Joyce Lawson, granddaughter of Douglas Anderson; Jeff Dunn, president of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation; Dr. Nikolai Vitti,

superintendent of the Duval County School System; The Honorable Cheryl Grymes, chairman of the Duval County School Board; Jacqueline Cornelius, principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; The Honorable Ashley Smith-Juarez, School Board member District 3; The Honorable Becki Couch, School Board member District 6; The Honorable Paula Wright, School Board member, District 4; Deborah Knauer, School Advisory Council chairman; Paul Soares, assistant superintendent of operations, Duval County School Board.

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Quick thinking teen saves drowning toddler



Dani and Gavin Westcott, Matthew Christenson

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Matthew Christenson, 13, didn't set out to be a hero on Sept. 4, but that's exactly what he is in the eyes of toddler Gavin Westcott's parents, Gilliam and Dani.

The Westcott family live in Lakeside next door to Matthew and his parents, Dan Christenson and Kimberlee Stewart, and his brother Luke, 8. The Westcott's two sons, Cameron, 8, and Gavin, 2, both enjoy swimming in their neighbor's backyard inground pool and that's where they all were on the Friday afternoon before the Labor Day weekend.

"We use the pool all the time," said Dani Westcott. "Gav and his big brother were swimming until it was time for Cameron's baseball practice, then we all went home to get ready."

Perhaps the gate between the neighboring yards didn't latch securely, but within a short time after his swim floaties were removed Gavin found his way back into the pool.

With the car running and everyone ready to go to baseball practice, both Gilliam and Dani realized neither one had Gavin in sight. Dani made several laps around the house and even looked over the fence into the pool, but didn't see anything.

"I don't know how many times I circled the house," said Westcott, a nurse at Orange Park Medical Center. "There was not a long time lapse; there were three adults in the yard actively transitioning from the pool to the car."

"I was on the phone talking to a friend about video games and decided to go

swimming again," said Matthew. "At first, when I saw Gavin, I didn't think it was real, but I dropped the phone and grabbed him."

The seventh grade student at Cedar Creek Christian School raced into the front yard with the toddler in his arms, yelling for Gavin's father, Gilliam, who is an emergency room nurse at Memorial Hospital.

Gilliam Westcott immediately began administering CPR as Dani called 9-1-1. Soon Engine 14 and Rescue 23 showed up, where emergency medical technicians took over.

After spending a night at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Gavin was released the next day, and promptly went swimming.

"I'm so proud of Matthew. I'm still trying to figure out how to properly thank him," said Gilliam Westcott on his Facebook page, "He carried my son to me blue to the core, not breathing and pulseless. I'm not exaggerating when I say he saved his life."

The incident was a wake-up call for both families, said Kimberlee Stewart, Matthew's mother. She said Gilliam Westcott is putting together a CPR course for the neighborhood, and security measures are in place for the gates between the families' homes.

Stewart also recommends infant swim self-rescue survival courses, which both her sons went through. "They have been swimming since they were less than a year old," she said. "It was hard to swing the cost, but we felt that it was a priority."

Matthew's father said he is very proud of his son. "Not many people have the opportunity to do something as great as that, to save someone's life," said Dan Christenson.

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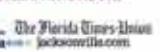
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Avondale resident named National Merit semifinalist



Woody Moore

Woody Moore of Avondale is one of five members of The Bolles School Class of 2016 who are semi-finalists in the 61st Annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Joining the elite group of 16,000 nationwide with Moore were Nikita Raheja, Audrey Trieu and Jack Cellar, all of San Jose, and Amy Song, Jacksonville Beach.

Moore is completing her high school education at the United World College of the Adriatic in Duino, Italy. Raheja and Song are current Bolles' seniors while Trieu is enrolled in the Resident Honors Program at the University of Southern California, an early entrance program for high school seniors. Cellar completed his high school requirements early and is enrolled at Vanderbilt University.

The students received honors for high marks on the PSAT taken during their junior year. They now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million offered this spring.

About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing. More than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship thus earning the Merit Scholar Title, according to National Merit Scholarship organizers.

Riverside resident wins scholarship to study abroad

What Carter Hess did on his summer vacation could be the envy of many college students. The Riverside resident, a 2014 graduate of Stanton College Preparatory High School, went to Paris, France.

A student at Florida State University studying Motion Production, Hess was awarded a \$7,000 scholarship by the Winthrop King Foundation to study at the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris.

"I had to prepare an essay, and submit my French academic record," said Hess. "The scholarship covered the cost of the program through FSU, but I was responsible for my own airfare. We stayed in the French house of the Cité Universitaire, which hosts international students."

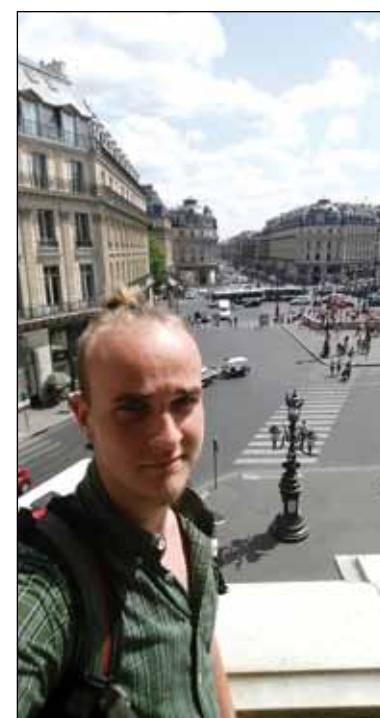
The program ran from June 30

to July 31, and Hess' time was spent between French language classes at the Institut Catholique de Paris and group outings, including historical tours and cultural hotspots.

"The local Parisians were always excited to learn about life in America, and were very friendly to us as students," he said.

The FSU sophomore developed an interest in film from a Film Studies class at Stanton, primarily from an experience at Jacksonville's 48 Hour Film Festival.

"I was about seven when I made my first video, a sci-fi movie with stuffed animal aliens, shot on my family's video camera. I hope to move to New York City or Los Angeles to pursue work in the motion picture industry," Hess said.



Carter Hess in Paris

Faculty beats students at annual basketball scrimmage



Drew Fluegel, a St. Matthew's ELA teacher and computer teacher, tries to evade Peyton Poitevint, 6th grade student.

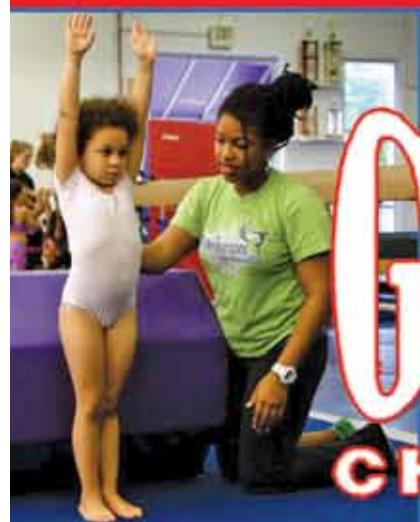
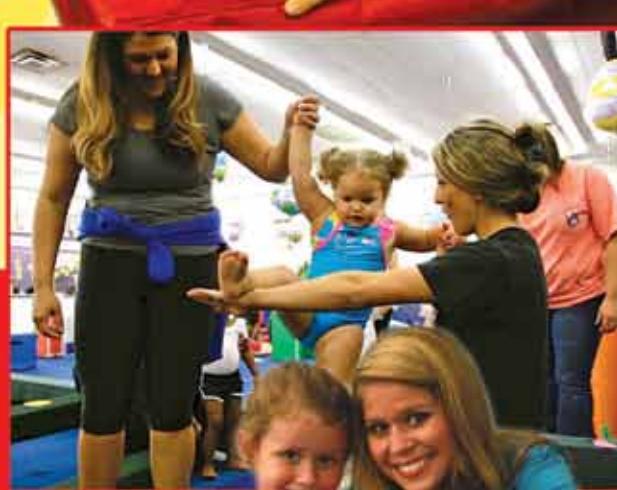
St. Matthew Catholic School kicked off its basketball season in September with the ever-popular faculty-student basketball scrimmage. The teachers won, but the students certainly put up a great fight! The SMCS Falcons are just about to wrap up their girls' and boys' basketball seasons, and both teams put on a great showing.

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St. Johns Country Day School Students Achieve Outstanding Advanced Placement Scores

Ortega resident Colin Montgomery was one of 55 students at St. Johns Country Day School whose scores in Advanced Placement (AP) exams earned the school an average score of 3.9 out of 5.

Ninety-two percent of the 105 exams taken by 55 St. Johns students were graded by the College Board as passing, with 71 percent earning scores of 4.0 or higher.

"Our students' AP scores are extraordinary," said Mary Virginia Fisher, Head of the Upper School and Assistant Headmaster. "What is even more remarkable is that they were achieved while these students were fully engaged in their other academics, arts, and athletics activities. The students worked very hard under the guidance of incredibly dedicated teachers."

The AP tests are a culmination of a year-long course that meets every school day. St. Johns provides tutorial sessions, mock exams, Saturday sessions, extra help sessions (daily if needed), and study guides. The students study for these college-level courses to prepare for the exams, but also to prepare for higher education and careers.

College admissions officers use a wide range of criteria in selecting students for admission to their institutions. These criteria include test scores, grades, writing skills, activities, and

teacher recommendations. There is an increased opportunity for students with high AP scores to get into more selective colleges and universities. Also, many colleges and universities award college credits, advanced placement, or merit-based scholarships based on AP scores.

"It is not unusual for a St. Johns student to earn 12 - 16 hours of college credit through AP exam scores," said Justine Worthington, Director of College Counseling at St. Johns. "Some students start college at the sophomore level. The AP program continues to benefit our students while they are here on campus and as they plan their careers."



Front: Maddie Schultz, Zhanne Anderson; middle: Eric Wang, Daniela Stroud, Auriel Haack, Emily Patterson, Serena Shah, Colin Montgomery, Ally Campbell; back: Dino Varelas.

Child's Day Out welcomes new students



Erin Meyer with Matthew and Lily; Charlene Barr and her daughter Emma; Payton Chunn and Sadie Mae

Avondale Child's Day Out began its 34th year last month serving the community with classes for children from one to five years old. Continuity is key at the school, with a staff of seven who have been there for a cumulative 60 years. Returning students also play an important role in welcoming new youngsters to the school.

"Typically almost half of our school are 4-year-olds so each year we have about half returning and half new students," said Cindy Lawrence, director of the school. This year the school has 40 children enrolled.

Bishop Snyder students welcome international peers



Bishop John J. Snyder High School welcomed 16 international students this fall, all of whom are living with host families in the community. The students are from Brazil, China, France, Germany and Spain (not all pictured). "It's a great way for our students to learn about the world by meeting and working with these students from other countries," said Shelley Gudzak, director of development.



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Whitehurst Campus | November 10, 2015 9 a.m.

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Middle School (6-8) Open House for Parents
Bartram Campus | November 4, 2015 9:30 a.m. | November 5, 2015 7 p.m.

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Episcopal science students compete for \$20,000 grant

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Thanks to a sizeable grant from Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation, students in Marion Zeiner's Honors Science Seminar at Episcopal School of Jacksonville will have the opportunity to experience first-hand what it is like to be in the competitive world of medical research.

Zeiner's seminar allows high school students at all four grade levels to turn original scientific research into prize-winning projects at state and national science fairs.

In fact, last year three of Zeiner's students – Carly Crump, Alice Choi and Andre Royce – were finalists at the Intel International Science Fair in Pittsburgh, where Crump won several major prizes as well as the prestigious Dudley R. Herschbach Stockholm Seminar Award for her research on ways to eradicate the dengue virus through mosquito studies.

Because of her achievement, Crump, a Riverside resident, had an asteroid named for her by associates at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and will travel to Stockholm, Sweden, to attend the week-long Nobel Prize ceremonies, all expenses paid.

Granted Crump, who graduated last spring and is a freshman at the University of Florida, set a high bar. But this year, because of a \$20,000 grant from the Judy Nicholson Foundation, Zeiner will be able to give her students an even better taste of the competitive world of academic research.

The Jacksonville-based foundation granted Episcopal's Science Department the money so students can try to find an early way to detect kidney cancer. Students in Zeiner's class are still able to study a variety of subjects, but only the students who choose to study some aspect of kidney cancer detection are eligible to compete for the grant money. Zeiner will award the entire \$20,000 to the student or team of students whose proposal is selected by a panel of doctors from Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic and the Judy Nicholson Foundation. She announced the winner September 28.

"It's like real life," said Zeiner, noting that the money will be available only to the winning student or team for supplies, travel and equipment to support the research.

Of the 12 students studying under Zeiner this year, five have committed to the challenge: senior Andre Royce; junior Katie



Episcopal's Director of Scientific Research Marion Zeiner with her students Courtney Crawford, Elizabeth Bauer, Zach Adam, Kiara Royce, Katie Leeper and Carl Young

Leeper, sophomore Courtney Crawford, senior Zachary Zeller, and senior Alice Choi. Crawford and Zeller will work as a team.

Choi, who took the class last year, is not officially enrolled in the class this year but will compete for the scholarship and do research as an extra-curricular activity, Zeiner said. Last year, Choi won her category at the Florida State Science Fair and was a finalist at the Intel International Science Fair with a project on the effects of methylparaben, a food preservative, on ghost shrimp.

In the class working on other research subjects this year are junior Carl Yang of Ortega, sophomore Tara Martin, junior Kiera Royce, junior Elizabeth Bauer, junior Isaiah Nields of San Jose and sophomore Zach Adam.

Wife's death leads to foundation, grant

Judy Nicholson Foundation Chairman Emeritus Nick Nicholson started the nonprofit after his wife, Judy, died of kidney cancer. Mrs. Nicholson fainted one day out of the blue. After consulting with her doctor, she discovered she had Stage 3 kidney cancer. Prior to fainting, she had experienced no symptoms of the disease, and she died a few months after her diagnosis. Nicholson believes that had a screening test been available to detect kidney cancer, his wife might still be alive.

"We want to inspire young minds at Episcopal School of Jacksonville under Mrs. Zeiner's guidance to begin research that may lead to the early detection of renal cell carcinoma (kidney cancer)," said Nicholson. "We were inspired by the incredible work of

a high school senior from Maryland, Jack Andraka, who made inroads into the early detection of pancreatic cancer."

Conducting research like this is similar to what students encounter in graduate school, and Zeiner doesn't believe in coddling her students. The class is structured so they are forced to work hard and to figure things out independently. "To be in this class they need to be willing to be the directors of their own learning. My students are very self-driven," she said.

Before writing a project proposal, her class heads to the library to search Episcopal's vast Internet data base of scientific articles from publications such as *The Journal of Environmental Health and the Russian Journal of Molecular Biology*. Reading obscure scientific studies might seem daunting to many, but Kiera Royce said the class has taught her a lot about how to approach them.

"Some articles are way over my head," she said. "I'm learning how to get a general idea about them. The titles can be scary with long names, but you have to pull through and learn how to piece things together. Eventually you realize the idea is very simple. You can find stuff on your project through simplifying everything."

Her brother, Andre, said he expects to focus on early cancer detection, through bio-markers and proteins in blood and urine samples. "I'm not sure whether I want to redo some other proposal or take the information and go a step further and see if there is another protein that hasn't been analyzed yet," he said.

To do the research most students work with doctors or academic researchers in the Jacksonville area although occasionally

students travel out of state, Zeiner said. Crump worked with Dr. Rhoel Dinglasan, a prominent researcher in the field of mosquito-born viruses at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, and Zeiner took her class on a field trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to tour research labs at MIT and Harvard.

"It's important to instill in the students an enthusiasm for scientific discovery," Zeiner said. "It's important to visit labs where novel research is happening. That's what gets them thinking about this."

Andre said hopes to work with Dr. Shriram S. Marathe, a nephrologist in St. Augustine. He also hopes to do his research at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

Competing against each other for the grant money is a good thing, said Zeller. "It drives us to be as competitive as possible and to have all our projects be really good," he said, noting the class has taught him to work independently and manage his time well. "It has sparked my interest in science. It provides me a way to test the waters (in the field) and gives us first-hand experience because we are actively participating."

Learning how to communicate well is also a facet of the class, said Andre. "Research doesn't mean anything if you can't clearly convey the research and draw attention to why it matters," he said. "It's important to be able to clearly articulate what you want to say so that everyone clearly understands."

Even though he is competing against his schoolmates for the grant, the class still feels like one team, said Andre. "All together at Episcopal we are one research team. When we get to the Northeast Florida Science Fair, we represent Episcopal as a whole. In the end we are still here for each other," he said.

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Running Avondale 5K Classic for health and a great cause

The 7th annual Avondale 5K Classic, supported by the merchants of the Shoppes of Avondale and sponsored by TD Bank, saw 427 runners cross the finish line in the 5K and the 1 Mile Fun Run. In the men's category, 216 runners finished, of which 20 were age 60 or older, while in the women's category, 15 of the 211 runners were 60-plus. For Jean Schubert, 64, this was the Westside resident's 139th race in three years.

The race benefits Sanctuary on 8th Street to help fund the afterschool, home school and summer camp programs. Shopkeepers and other groups created a street-fair atmosphere, with tents and tables offering hot and cold drinks, treats, and a chance to feed blueberries to a couple of hens, owned by Riverside resident Genora Crain-Orth.



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Judge Emmet and Julie Ferguson and their daughter Emma Ruth



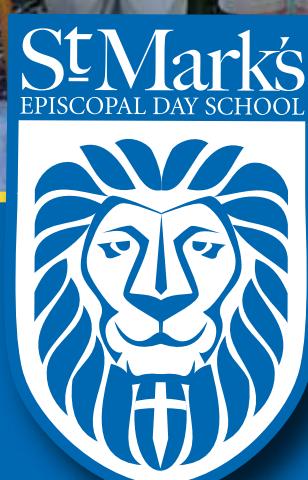
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Paula Brice with Tommy, Audrey and Kate, Cantell and Louis Preziosi



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The Way We Were – Pansy Watts Helms

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

While Pansy Helms, 77, of Ortega Farms, has fond memories of moving into her tidy cul-de-sac neighborhood near Timuquana Road with her husband Doyle and two young children in 1971, she didn't appreciate what her children had to go through for school.

The Helms were unhappy that their children had to attend so many different schools. They were bused to Smart Pope Livingston Elementary for sixth grade and to Eugene Butler Middle School for seventh grade because of Duval County's court-ordered desegregation plan. They attended eighth and ninth grades at J.E.B. Stuart Middle School and graduated from Nathan Bedford Forrest High School (now Westside High School).

But the memories are mostly good ones, of friends made and kept. A few of Helms' friends and original neighbors still live nearby including Janet (Bly) Jones and Betty DeGuzman.

"My husband was in the military and we relocated here from our hometown of Thomaston, Georgia, for his assignments at Mayport and NAS Jax. Our son Ken was seven and our daughter Crystal was five years old," Helms said. "Doyle's elderly Aunt Minnie lived in Springfield so we were happy to have family already here. We stayed with her until our home was finished."



Ken, Pansy and Crystal Helms



Pansy Helms (back row, right) and the Red Hat Society at a holiday white elephant gift exchange.

The couple chose a modest one-story brick home where they raised their children and where Helms would still be comfortably living 44 years later in 2015. The couple divorced and Doyle lives in Georgia.

"Many houses around here were under construction then, but there were still woods and open areas. Timuquana Road was just two lanes. There was hardly much traffic, nothing like now," she said. "Our street was designed for 14 homes and there were approximately 40 children living here."

During weekends and summer, neighbors played charades or card games while their children created their own fun, according to Helms. There were block parties where everyone brought their favorite dishes and ate together. Helms especially enjoyed cooking and baking and was usually asked to bring her specialties.

"I'm a friendly person and our house was Grand Central Station. I was happy to have my children's friends over and always had freshly baked peanut butter, sugar or chocolate chip cookies for them. Whoever was still here at five or five-thirty ate dinner with us," she said. "They played hide-and-seek or rode bikes within our neighborhood because everyone knew each other. For our pitch-in block parties I usually made my Mississippi Mud Cake, Fruit Cocktail Cake, lemon or apple pies."

Both Helms children and their friends played sports through Wesconnett Athletic Association. Son Ken was quite a pitcher

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Ken Helms dressed for a Bullets football game.



Crystal and Ken Helms



Pansy Helms is a member of the Red Hat Society.

with his Little League baseball team and helped them attend several tournaments. He also played on a Pop Warner football team, the Bullets, and Crystal played softball. Helms was a continuous team mom for 10-plus years and never missed games.

Crystal was a Camp Fire Girl in the Bluebirds troop which met in members' homes; her mother was assistant troop leader. The family bowled together at the old Phoenix Bowling Lanes on the corner of Lakeshore and Blanding Boulevard near Cedar Hills.

Crystal and two best friends from her street, Dawn (Wigg) Trinidad and Shenna (Cruselle) Chapman, attended school together and were all cheerleaders. Crystal remains close to Dawn who moved into the Wigg family home (her parents, Bill and Joan Wigg are deceased)

on the same street across from the Helms. Shenna lives in Georgia but keeps touch with her childhood friends.

"We played kickball and Four Square games, the boys played football and our cul-de-sac was perfect for that. There were always friends at our house, or the neighbors came for dinner or holidays. I had slumber parties and we had big birthday parties," Crystal said. "Mom's the best Southern cook, makes everything from scratch, no boxes, no cans. Her fried chicken makes your mouth water and there's nothing she can't cook or bake. My favorite thing is her Chocolate Fudge Cake with the best fudge icing you ever tasted. Everybody loves her Mississippi Mud Cake (secret ingredient, marshmallows). Mom's a great lady. She's been our rock...always

there for us no matter what."

While her children were in school, Helms worked during the 1970s at the Navy Exchange, enjoyed her job and made friends. She said the best part of military life is meeting so many people; the downside is moving and leaving friends behind.

Helms went to work as a lab technician for optometrist Dr. Seymour Marco in 1980 when he opened the Jacksonville branch of Frontier Contact Lenses. She said it was a small completely manual business on the corner of Nira and San Marco Boulevard. There were traditional eight-hour shifts and 40 employees. Dr. Marco bought out the New York owners as the company grew. In 1981 he sold it to Johnson & Johnson (J & J), and Helms continued to work for the company until 2000.

"J & J had a contest asking employees to submit, then vote on names for the growing company, which we did. Vistakon was the winning name. In 1987 we moved to Richard Street off University where we began continuous operation with automation," Helms said. Vistakon, now located at Deerwood Park, is the world's leading manufacturer of contact lenses.

Helms supports several charities, is a member of the Red Hat Society and plays Bunco with 12 friends including Marie Jean, Jan Poley and Eloise Collins. The women have played together in each other's homes for at least 40 years. She's a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian and will celebrate her 78th birthday in November with her children and both grandchildren, Kayla, 24, and Kyle, 15.

absence

Written by Peter M. Floyd

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*For more information contact:
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Press Release Jacksonville, Fl. – A free reading of the play, "Absence", at the University of North Florida will offer families and caregivers an opportunity to explore the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The Arbor Terrace memory care communities of North Florida are sponsoring the reading.

Boston-based playwright Peter M. Floyd wrote "Absence" after witnessing his mother's journey with dementia and the impact it had on his family. The play helps families and caregivers better understand the progression of dementia disorders and the event will help them connect to additional resources for support.

In the play Helen, a strong-willed 75-year-old wife and mother, begins to lose her memory. Her steely façade crumbles, words lose their meaning, and her reality fragments around her.

Family members, caregivers and others who support people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia disorders are encouraged to attend and can register for tickets by visiting <http://arbr.co/absence>.

Too blessed to be stressed

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Brett Foster embodies the Biblical challenge "to whom much is given, much is required."

Blessed with many talents, Foster juggles a number of "gigs," the first performing as Associate Chaplain at Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

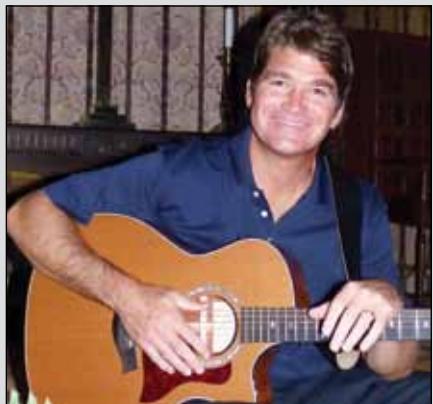
Whether teaching, working with chapel band and ensemble, writing music or leading worship, Foster reflected that his gifts and training in education, theology and music crystallized at Episcopal. "I feel so blessed to be there," he said.

Afternoons might find him giving guitar lessons or serving as a Big Brother. Evenings he can be found playing with the Brett Foster Band interspersing a Rolling Stones hit with songs from one of his four indie rock-style CDs.

Foster, a husband and father of three, is also senior pastor at Riverside Baptist Church, following nearly 15 years as worship leader for Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church.

"Everything in my life is interconnected. God continues to put people in my path whose needs get met by my gifts – a student, a musician with alcohol issues, a homeless person – I do a lot of pastoral care," he said.

Foster has written dozens of songs and said his song "Holy Invitation" is a summary of his lifelong gig. "It



Brett Foster, minister and musician

reminds us that the call from our Creator is to "sow peace, sow healing, sow hope and sow dignity," said the St. Nicholas resident.

To people who wouldn't expect to see a minister in jeans and T-shirt rocking out at Freebird Café, he explained, "Jesus went out to the margins of society. My call is to help people understand how dearly they are loved by God, that they are worthy and valuable."

Foster feels that the separation of the sacred and the secular can be dangerous to the church and society. "The goal is for us to be complete people and the proportion to which we interconnect with people who are different from us influences that," he said.

While some might balk at the pace of the Rev. Dr. Foster's life, he's busy counting his blessings. As he wrote in his song, "He is too blessed to be stressed."



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In Memoriam

Dr. Jack Edward Surrency

July 16, 1941 – August 28, 2015

The man known to many in Jacksonville as Dr. Grammar has passed away.

Jack Edward Surrency, a former Humanities professor at Florida State College and author of the widely read newspaper column "Watch Your Language" died August 28 after a brief illness.

A published writer and founder of the Writer's Festival, Dr. Surrency taught communications, literature, humanities and religion classes at FSCJ and was Chairman of the Humanities Department. He once based a class on the religious principles found in Mayberry, North Carolina, the fictional small town made famous in the popular television show, *The Andy Griffith Show*.

Ortega neighbors remembered him as a friendly, amusing person who loved literature and creatures great and small. His wife of only 96 days, Doriana d'Aragona Atkinson-Surrency of Riverside, said her husband was a very spiritual man. She recalled that after his beloved dog Atticus died, two cats showed up and adopted him. Atticus was named for Harper Lee's character Atticus Finch of *To Kill a Mocking Bird*.

"No matter where we were or what we



Jack Edward Surrency

were doing, he would run home to see about the kitty cats! No matter what it was, Jack was a very dedicated person. He had great morality," Atkinson-Surrency said. "We were very happy. We married on May 23. It was a 24/7 kind of marriage and we had 90 days of heaven."

Dr. Surrency had no children and is survived by his bride, sister, stepchildren and two cats that will miss him greatly.

Local church reaches out to others in need



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday was celebrated with outreach and service to the community Sept. 13 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on McDuff Avenue, as part of a nationwide event. Trinity members collected single-serve food items for children and families and filled more than 175 bags with food for children to take home as part of Nourishment Network of Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida's Children's Backpack program. The intergenerational event was a highlight of the congregation's Ministry Fair, which shares ways that members can serve others in the immediate neighborhood and larger community of Jacksonville.



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