

## Why I ❤️ My Neighborhood

The San Marco Square fountain, photographed by Granada resident Andrew Lopez.  
For contest winners, turn to page 26.



Starbucks seeks permit for suds, wine

See page 9

# Resident

San Jose — San Marco — St. Nicholas

Community News

[www.ResidentNews.net](http://www.ResidentNews.net)

Fiercely Local News ... Fiercely Loyal Readers

February 2016, Vol. 8, Issue 2

## Business owners and bicyclists debate need for Hendricks Avenue on-street parking

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

While area bicyclists cheer the prospect of having a seven-foot bike lane run the length of San Jose Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue to the Southbank, Hendricks Avenue business owners fear the removal of on-street parking from Cornell Street to San Marco Avenue will have a devastating impact on their livelihoods.

In a public meeting Jan. 12, more than 100 residents, cyclists and business owners gathered at the Florida Department of Transportation Training Center on Edison Avenue to discuss proposed safety improvements to Hendricks Avenue/San Jose Boulevard.

At issue was the proposed removal of on-street parking along the busy corridor between Cornell Street and San Marco Boulevard when the road is resurfaced as part of FDOT's routine maintenance schedule.

Also in the plans is the reconstruction of driveways at businesses at the southeast corner of the Arcadia Drive intersection as well as the reconfiguring of the merge lane at the southernmost San Jose Boulevard intersection near Miramar Plaza, replacing pedestrian signals with countdown signals and reconstructing ramps and curbs to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017 at an estimated cost of \$4.6 million.

During the two-hour open house, which was followed by the public comment session, FDOT staff was available to explain the proposed changes as members of the public reviewed maps of three different proposed plans for a three-mile section of Hendricks Avenue/San Jose Boulevard.

More than 25 people spoke during the public comment session,



Many Hendricks Avenue business men are upset with the prospect the parallel parking in front of their shops might be eliminated in favor of bike lanes when the Florida Department of Transportation resurfaces the road later this year.

and several that did not stay expressed opinions on comment cards supplied by FDOT. In a telephone interview, project manager Craig Teal said he would also accept input from the public 10 additional days after the meeting. FDOT will make a decision in mid-February, he said.

Maps of the three plans illustrated three alternatives: the *continued on page 12*

## Local support strong for ACS Campaign

The local chapter of the American Cancer Society has continued to gather support for the Hope Lodge facility planned for Northeast Florida. Patrons and supportive philanthropists continue to raise the fundraising bar by educating and introducing their friends to the mission of the campaign. For patients being treated at cutting-edge medical facilities in Jacksonville, The Hope Lodge will serve patients by acting as a home away from home for those undergoing cancer treatment at any of the world-class facilities on the First Coast. See more on page 22.



Ralph DeVitto, Carol Tucker, Rita Joost, Therese Yarochik  
(Photo by Brian Kaiser Photography)



## Protecting its Rightful Place

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Dog walkers, joggers, bicyclists and other residents who frequent Davin Park – beware! Someone may be watching you, and it isn't big brother.

In mid-January District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer was contacted by Chris G. Burns, a San Marco resident, who said he was terrorized by an owl as he jogged near the corner of River Road and Arbor Lane Jan. 19.

"It swooped once from the trees in the middle median park," he wrote in an email. "I was surprised. I got a couple lacerations on my scalp from the talons. No kidding."

At first, Burns thought it was a random event and that he must be "one in a million" until he received a text from a friend a couple of days later.

"Today a buddy of mine texted me that he had the same thing happen to him in the same location," said Burns in an email to Boyer Jan. 21. "A couple of hours later on this past Tuesday, the owl swooped but didn't make contact with him, just got very close."

Boyer said the incident happened in front of her home on River Road, and that she often hears the owl hooting when she is out in her yard.

"I bet that is the same owl," she said. "I'll have to wear a helmet when I leave my house."

Research notes the barred owl (also known as a hoot owl) nesting season begins in early January in southern Florida, leading to speculation the Davin Park owl is simply protecting its nest.

## AT A GLANCE

- Miramar property rezoned for future eatery.....page 4
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# PUBLISHERS' NOTE

## A LOVE STORY OF OUR OWN...

It's been almost 10 years since we moved to the Historic District from the beach. We had fallen in love with our new home, a place surrounded by trees with a small creek running the entire edge of the property. But the attraction was greater than a single house. It was the neighborhood that drew us in with its rich history, homes with varying architectural styles, quaint boutiques, restaurants and the tributaries of the mighty St. Johns River. We were sold, and we were here to stay.

One day, as the two of us walked along the shady streets near our home, it came to us to start a community newspaper, one we hoped would shine a light on great ideas, fascinating people, and become a vehicle to bring neighbors closer together.

Over the years, The Resident Community News Group has grown to two editions

covering historic neighborhoods on both sides of the St. Johns River, and we're proud to deliver the news each month. We also added two new magazines this past year, a Newcomer's Guide titled *Historic Life-Neighbors and Newcomers Edition* and a citywide nonprofit and social magazine that highlights philanthropy in our city titled *Circles-Social Datebook & Charity Register*.

Our work has become a labor of love, one that allows us to continue learning about the families, organizations, business owners, elected officials, cultural institutions and countless nonprofits that are so instrumental in bettering the community's quality of life. In the effort to deliver "fiercely local news", our love for Jacksonville has deepened and the thrill of its continued prosperity and growth has grown. We're grateful to be able to provide

publications that bolster our highly regarded, sought-after historic neighborhoods and amplify their collective voice.

In *The Resident* this month, you will read about neighbors who have such a fondness for the area that they wouldn't consider anywhere else to live. Some have had descendants before them pave the way and others have laid down roots of their own. The common thread is that they all find our neighborhoods to be a great place to call home.

Also this month, we received a strong response from readers for our Valentine's Day contest. We appreciate the many readers who took the time to express the love they have for our community in words and photographs, we share some of their entries on the pages of this issue.

*Sincerely,*  
Pamela and Seth Williams



## Letter to the Publisher

I just wanted to send word of appreciation for the papers you are publishing. I read both editions, as I have property in both areas, and find news in each that I cannot find in any other local media. For instance, your recent stories on the upcoming developments on the Southbank, the Skyway, and the removal of the Lady St. John were in-depth, well-written, and for the most part not even mentioned in the Times-Union.

Thank you for offering a valuable resource for our community.

- John Ragsdale, Southbank

## Students, parents thrilled sidewalk fixed near school

*"We love walking to school every chance we get, and now we don't have to worry about tiptoeing through muddy puddles or finding an alternate route."*

- Renee Farhat

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Three months after promising to repair the sidewalk on the east side of Old San Jose Boulevard near Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, the city has finally come through.

With the heavy rain in early January, parents discovered they no longer have to wade through ankle-deep water or steer their kids around flooded conditions as they walk to school.

The repairs included a side drain under the sidewalk in order to provide continuity of drainage from south to north, said Jim Robinson, a former city Director of Public Works official, in an email last September.

The repairs came at the request of Ryan Tiedeberg of San Marco, who had notified District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer of the situation as a "public safety hazard."

Since then, at least one parent is thankful the repairs have been made.

"My son and I are so excited that the flooding issue between our house and Hendricks Avenue Elementary has been fixed," said Renee Farhat, a San Marco resident. "We love walking to school every chance we get, and now we don't have to worry about tiptoeing through muddy puddles or finding an alternate route. We are appreciative of the quick and efficient attention to this problem."

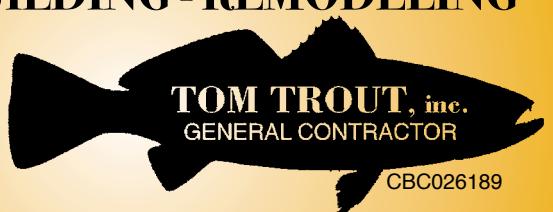
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The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2016.

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Send resume/qualifications to [Pamela@residentnews.net](mailto:Pamela@residentnews.net)

## Rezoning to allow new restaurant in Miramar

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

A former Miramar martial arts training studio may soon be converted into a new restaurant.

As of Jan. 12, property owned by the Shops of Granada LLC located at 4578 San Jose Blvd. across from the Miramar Shopping Center has been rezoned so that it may accommodate a small restaurant or juice bar.

On Nov. 10, 2015, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer submitted Ordinance 2015-774 requesting the rezoning of the property in order to enlarge its commercial use to include a small restaurant with several stipulations.

Understanding residents would be concerned about noise, dumpsters and



The building located at 4578 San Jose Blvd. has been rezoned and may become home to a small restaurant or juice bar.

parking, Boyer inserted several conditions: The restaurant will not be allowed to inhabit more than half of the existing 2,500 square-foot building, and there can be no expansion to the building; a six-foot to 10-foot stucco wall must remain and be maintained between the building and the residences surrounding it; no dumpster may be placed near the residences; dumpsters, which are positioned alongside the building or in the front or the building must be screened

so they cannot be seen from the street. In addition, the restaurant will not be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages and must close by 10 p.m. Although modest outdoor seating will be permitted, no outdoor amplified music is allowed and the outdoor seating must close down at 7 p.m.

"We want to keep it as a place for very modest restaurant use," said Boyer. "With these conditions it's a reasonable use of the property that may actually serve as a benefit

to the community."

No residents spoke against the rezoning during public hearings Dec. 8 and Jan. 5, said Boyer. Only one resident from an adjacent neighborhood, Michael Ayub, attended the public hearing before the Planning Commission and Land Use and Zoning Jan. 5, but declined to speak about the project.

After the meeting, Ayub said he was pleased with the way the ordinance was written.

"At first I was a bit concerned with the rezoning because I wasn't sure how many new permissible uses they would be requesting and wanted to make sure that, on behalf of my neighbors and myself, we would not be disturbed greatly by any possible new tenants," said Ayub in an email. "Many of my concerns revolved around the garbage and the noise because I share a wall with the business. I was very pleased with Lori's work as I believe she was integral in making sure that the residents' interests came first with respect to the rezoning. I was happy to hear the dumpster would have to be on the front of the building and that only half of the building could be used as a restaurant along with all the other restrictions involved with the rezoning," he said.

"I would love to see a great little café or bakery in that spot as I would be very close and can take full advantage of it," Ayub continued. "I am definitely all for seeing San Marco grow and develop as a very pedestrian-friendly community, and I believe we are definitely moving in that direction. With wonderful people like Lori looking out for the residents, I know we will build a great community that offers its residents great shopping and dining options close by while still maintaining the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods."





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**VALENTINE'S DAY IS  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH**

# Agency officials work to ensure future public parking on Southbank

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

More than 200 additional parking spaces on the Southbank will be available to the public as the city seeks to ensure citizens from throughout Jacksonville will have access to shops, restaurants and the Southbank Riverwalk once the southern storefront of downtown becomes more developed.

On Jan. 8, city officials met with representatives from the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and the Florida Department of Transportation in the Mayor's Conference Room to discuss future availability of public parking on the Southbank.

According to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, at least 200 additional parking spaces will be available nights and weekends in the areas of Hendricks

Avenue, under the Overland Expressway, along Kings Avenue, San Marco Avenue and adjacent to the river. "This doesn't mean necessarily that they will be free," said Boyer. "Some may be metered."

Included among the available parking will be sections of lots that are currently used by Prudential, Aetna and employees of other companies during weekly business hours, Boyer said, noting she is working to

ensure none of the parking areas leased to commercial establishments by the city be extended beyond 2026.

JTA, FDOT and the city still need to iron out specifics, Boyer said. "We still need to work out the details; nothing has been signed," she said. "But the good news is that at least 200 spaces will be publicly available somewhere on the Southbank that were not there already."

## Lakewood Village loses landmark tree



An elderly magnolia will be removed from the Lakewood Village courtyard after being struck by lightning last August.

A momentary flash of lightning was all it took to fatally injure a nearly two-hundred-old magnolia tree. The strike resulted in the subsequent removal of one of Lakewood Village's treasured community landmarks.

In August 2015, a 60-foot magnolia tree estimated to be between 180 and 220 years old was struck by lightning. Unable to recover, the tree slowly began to fail and was taken down January 13, said Ed Feren, a Lakewood resident who lives nearby.

"I do not recall the exact date, but I believe it was during a severe lightning storm one August afternoon," said Feren in an email. "I actually was sitting on my patio when the bolt struck the tree, no more than 50 feet from my position. A flash of white light with simultaneous crack of thunder! It was scary!"

Feren said after the lightning bolt hit the magnolia it gradually became a "skeleton" of its former self. He also said the tree had several "brothers and sisters" of the same age in the same proximity that will continue to shade the Lakewood Village courtyard.

"Because of its size, the procedure (to take it down) required special equipment," he explained. "There was no other choice because the other trees could have been in danger if the dead one was not removed."

## Tree-planting day planned for River Oaks Road

Although no River Oaks Road residents showed up when the San Marco Preservation Society held its public meeting Jan. 7 at Preservation Hall to discuss planting of trees in city right-of-ways, SMPS President Andrew Dickson was not discouraged.

The Preservation Society planned to send individual letters to River Oaks property owners offering them free trees, which will be provided through a GreenLeaf partnership between Greenscape of Jacksonville and JEA as part of the Jax Digs Trees initiative to improve the tree canopy.

The plan is to plant the trees from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 6 so they provide shade along the sidewalks along River Oaks Road and its cul-de-sacs east and west of Hendricks Avenue as well as on Fieldston, Thornwood, Southwood, Green Bay, Riverwood, White Oak and West Cove Lanes.

Homeowners on these streets are also able to get trees to plant in both their front

and back yards if they put forth a request, Dickson said, noting the trees will be six-to seven-feet-tall and arrive in 15-gallon containers. JEA Urban Arborist Joe Anderson has surveyed the neighborhood to identify gaps in the tree canopy and will help residents select suitable trees for each location. He will also be on hand during the tree-planting event to answer questions.

"We are offering them trees and asking them to respond," Dickson said. "We will deliver them to the homes and will plant them," he said, noting it is the property owner's responsibility to water and care for the trees after they are planted.

The Preservation Society will supply a corps of neighborhood and high school volunteers to plant the trees for the homeowners during the event, Dickson said. Anyone interested in helping plant trees should go to the River Oaks neighborhood on the morning of Feb. 6.



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## Early Winter Surge

house is well prepared, it will sell quickly no matter where it is. No doubt about it.

I am quite thankful for all this busyness. From texting during my gym workouts to preparing paperwork late at night, I appreciate every minute of your support. Does this early winter surge mean 2016 will be a banner year in real estate? Time will tell but all signs point that way. CNN doesn't always get it right...at street level, I'm seeing movement everywhere. If this activity stays the course, there will be many happy new homeowners claiming homestead exemptions in 2017.

Be on the look out for some wonderful homes soon. Adorable and beautiful two stories, one stories, pools, creeks and decks are all about to hit the market. A wonderful variety of homes are coming your way. I love the challenges you bring me. Finding a new home, selling an old home - the magic and the math of your challenges fill both sides of my brain as I doggedly meet your goals. Need a good Realtor who's all in? Why not call me...I love my job because of you and your beautiful homes.

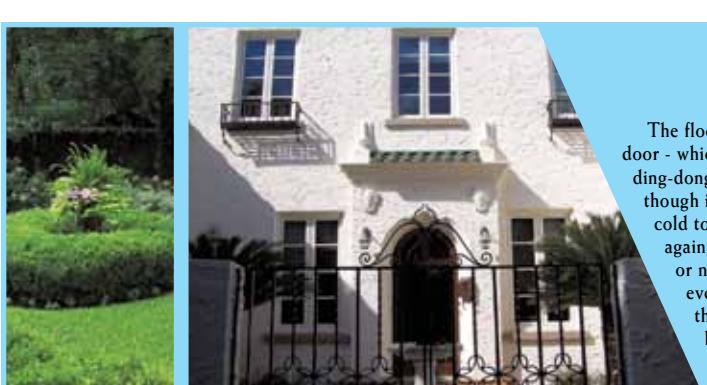
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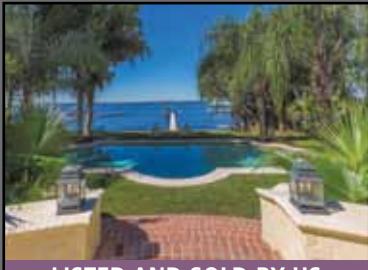
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**903 ORIENTAL GARDENS RD**  
4/4/1-4,163 sqft. SOLD by Lynne Ferguson and Anita Vining. Welcome to Paradise! This Bermuda style pool home was originally designed by architect Clyde Harris. Open floor plan has been gorgeously updated & renovated inside and out.



**13570 MANDARIN RD - \$1.850MM**  
4/5/2-4,274 sqft. Timeless Elegance with 190' of WATERFRONT on The St. Johns River! Beautifully proportioned custom built masterpiece on a gorgeous and private high bluff lot, right in the heart of Mandarin.



**SOLD**

**3447 SNOWY EGRET WAY - \$765,000**  
1/1-1,123 sqft. Welcome home to the coastal lifestyle of Jacksonville Beach! This custom Cronk Duch designed home sits at the end of one of those neighborhood streets where the kids play outside until the sun goes down.



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**6670 EPPING FOREST WAY N - \$2.3MM**

4/5/1-6,231 sqft. This incredibly well built home was custom designed by current owners with passion and love and has remained in their family since its inception. Roof is glazed clay tiles from France by well known Company called TBF.

**2564 PINERIDGE RD - \$400,000**

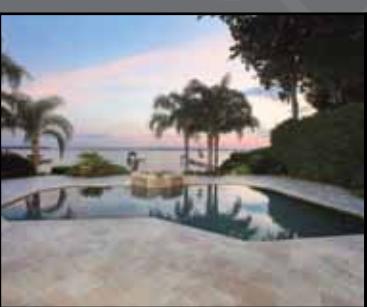
3/2-1-2,257 sqft. Designed in 1939 with an in-floor dining room service bell. Seventy six years later the home is still well planned to entertain both inside and out. New windows, family room, oversized two car garage, and paver patio.

**1619 RIVER OAKS RD - \$225,000**

2/1-1,212 sqft. Great opportunity to own the most adorable 2/1 in the heart of San Marco. Location, location, location! This charming bungalow is full of character and a short walk to San Marco Square.

**3395 CHRYSLER DR - \$249,000**

3/2-1,894 sqft. POOL home on an oversized corner lot in the sought after area of Beauclerc! Walk through the solid wood double-front doors to a bright foyer overlooking sunken living room with high ceilings and skylights.



**5222 SAN JOSE BLVD - \$2.950MM**

5/5/3-8,572 sqft. A uniquely special river-front estate, nestled among old oak, pecan and magnolia trees, awaits the discerning buyer who desires a city home with a country look and feel in a quiet river setting.

**6225 CHRISTOPHER CREEK CT - \$596,000**

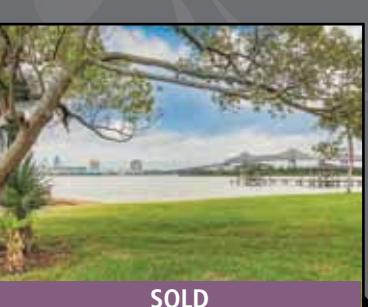
4/3-1-3,726 sqft. Custom-built beauty in San Jose. This charming 2 story is situated on almost an acre wooded lot bordering Christopher Creek. The details found throughout will impress the pickiest buyer.

**2217 MILLER OAKS DR N - \$2.450MM**

6/5/1-5,700 sqft. Looking for privacy on the river close in? Look no more! Elegant custombuilt one owner home is within walking distance to The Bolles School. Gated Entrance winds through gorgeous century old oaks.

**1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD 3602 - \$1.8MM**

3/3-1-4,244 sqft. Penthouse Perfection at The Peninsula! First time offering of this extremely rare NW Penthouse. You know you are in a special place the moment you step off the elevator into your private foyer!



**SOLD**

**1602 ORLANDO CIR SOUTH**

3/1-1-1,339 sqft. SOLD by Kathy Suber. This beautiful 1940s bungalow has original hardwood floors and built-ins throughout. Updated kitchen, separate dining room and oversized laundry room.

**2535 HENDRICKS - \$375,000**

3/2-1,750 sqft. The perfect family home is now on the market. Fifty plus years owned by one family, passed down through generations. Create your family memories steps from San Marco Square with all the shops and restaurants.

**1333 JEAN CT - \$315,000**

3/2-1,938 sqft. Fabulous San Marco bungalow in "A" rated Hendricks Elementary! This gleaming white brick home has all the bells & whistles starting with GREAT curb appeal. Circular drive leads you up to the welcoming bright red front door.

**5306 CLIFTON RD**

4/3-3,329 sqft. SOLD by Elizabeth Meux. Wonderful opportunity to purchase on the river! This property is tucked away at the end of Clifton Rd, offering privacy in a beautiful neighborhood with fantastic views of the St Johns River.



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# Millers Creek Board seeks to inspire residents to 'donate'

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Realizing slightly more than half of the St. Nicholas residents within the Millers Creek Special Tax District had not yet paid the "mandatory" donation, which was due by Jan. 22, Miller's Creek board members asked for suggestions on how to "inspire" their neighbors to get behind the dredging project in a financial way.

"The best thing about our community is the way neighbors get along. If we can inspire them, that would be great," said Board President Rene Pulido during the meeting.

As of Jan. 18, the Special Tax District had raised \$7,600. Only 13 of the 28 households had paid the minimum required donation of \$100, which is necessary to cover the costs incurred by the district until formal financing can be obtained, Pulido said, noting the donations will eventually be reimbursed to

*"The best thing about our community is the way neighbors get along."*  
– Rene Pulido, Millers Creek Special Tax District board president

homeowners, less costs, once formal financing through assessments has begun.

During a meeting at Cuba Libre Nightclub in St. Nicholas Jan. 12, Millers Creek homeowners discussed ways to reach out to the neighbors who were missing from the meeting.

One suggestion was to mail a letter, which would include a USB drive with the

video *Saving Millers Creek*, made by San Marco filmmaker Carlos Bouvier. The video includes an interview with Dr. Quinton White, a marine biologist from Jacksonville University, about the waterway.

Another suggestion was to hold a Creek Clean-Up Day on a Saturday before the weather gets too warm and the water moccasins come out of hibernation. Pulido and his brother, Dr. J. Danny Pulido, volunteered their boats to assist with the clean-up and offered to sponsor a barbecue at their homes at the end of the event. The gathering would also serve as a fundraiser, he said.

During the meeting, the homeowners also discussed the need to communicate with residents in the Mayfair Village Apartments on Beach Boulevard about properly disposing of trash in their dumpster, which rests near the head of the creek.

"There is a wooden fence separating the creek from the dumpster but it's not

big enough for all the trash from the apartments," explained Danny Pulido during the meeting. "People from the apartments throw their trash over the fence, and it goes into the creek. Because of this, a mountain of garbage has trickled down into the creek," he said.

It was suggested a letter be sent to the new owner of the complex, requesting the trash be removed. If the District receives no response, Rene Pulido suggested it investigate if it is possible to take legal action to have the trash picked up and the dumpster moved. Rene Pulido said that his brother, Danny, District secretary Sharon Johnson or he would pen the letter, and its content would be voted on at the next meeting.

Wayne Flowers, who is the Special Tax District's attorney, informed the group that a budget must be submitted to the city by April 1. In order to have a budget in place by this deadline, the homeowners voted to hold their next meeting in February instead of March. It is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Cuba Libre Nightclub in St. Nicholas.

Flowers also recommended that the Special Tax District purchase insurance to protect its board members and homeowners from liability if someone is damaged or injured by the dredging project. The homeowners also decided to spend \$11 per month for cloud-based accounting software and \$99 per year to set up a Post Office box so that homeowners can send checks and communicate with the district.

## New academic building allows Assumption School to spread its wings



In early January construction workers were on the job building a new wing at Assumption Catholic School.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Progress on the new academic wing at Assumption School is coming along nicely. The keys will be turned over to Principal Maryann Jimenez in early July and Bishop Felipe J. Estevez of the St. Augustine Diocese will say a dedication mass Sunday, August 14 to coincide with the Feast of the Assumption the next day. By fall 2016, when the new building is open, the parochial school in St. Nicholas will have enough classroom space to accommodate its burgeoning enrollment while offering smaller classes to its students.

Within the new building will be an early childhood center, which will serve children from six weeks old to kindergarten, as well as two multipurpose rooms, a state-of-the-art science lab and the entire Assumption Middle School.

The building will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, and for the first time, students and faculty will be able to travel between buildings when it rains without getting wet. A second-story covered bridge-like corridor will connect the new structure with both the Family Life Center and former middle school building.

The early childhood center, which will have two new playgrounds, will accommodate children from six weeks to kindergarten. The design of its classrooms will be unique, said Assumption Principal Maryann Jimenez. Each room will be painted a different color – red, yellow, blue or green with a complimentary colorful burst of tile on the classroom floors. "The designers wanted it to seem like a meadow," she said.

"The ceiling in the hallways will look like sky. It will be blue and play off the recessed lighting. It will complete the meadow look."

Moving the early childhood center to the new structure means the teaching order of Sisters Of The Home Of The Mother, who currently live on the second floor, can take over both floors of their convent building, said Jimenez, noting that in the past two years the number of nuns living on campus has grown from four to 10. "This means we can accommodate more sisters, which will impact other Catholic schools as well," she said, adding that the sisters not only teach at Assumption but other Catholic schools in the area.

Recently the former middle school building was named Barry Hall after Bishop Patrick Barry, the founding pastor of Assumption Parish. Moving the sixth, seventh and eighth grade classrooms to the new building frees up room in Barry Hall so that instructors teaching Spanish, science, enrichment, exceptional and ESE classes can have their own full-size classrooms. The fifth grade will find a new home on the first floor and the former middle science lab in Barry Hall will continue to be used as a lab for students in grades one through five.

The Family Life Center, which will remain largely unchanged, will sport a new music room. In Cloonan Hall, the main academic building, walls will be removed to install a new media center with a small television production studio.

All in all, the changes mean Assumption will be even better suited to offer children from six weeks to eighth grade with quality education within a Catholic community, Jimenez said.

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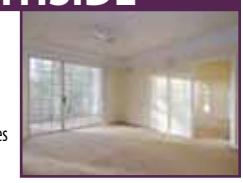
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# Residents consider changes to Riverfront Park

*City rolls out possible solutions to challenges brought about by fishing*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Fishing platforms, fencing, and turning River Road into a one-way street are some solutions city officials are contemplating as a response to resident's concerns about problems stemming from public fishing in Riverfront Park.

On Jan. 19 at Preservation Hall in San Marco, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer convened a meeting so Riverfront Park area residents could hear and respond to some of the solutions being discussed concerning public fishing in the park near their homes.

At a similar meeting in November, city officials heard complaints from residents who claimed public fishing in the park has ruined their property values as well as their quality of life.

At that meeting, residents said it was not fishing per se but "the culture of fishing" they were concerned about, particularly the fishermen's blatant disregard for park rules and hours, lack of parking, River Road traffic congestion, noise, drug and alcohol use by park users, profanity, littering, public urination and defecation,



Rendering illustrates proposed changes Jacksonville's Parks, Recreation and Community Service Department is considering for Riverfront Park in San Marco.

theft of water from the hoses outside their homes and destruction of park property, especially the bulkhead.

During the November meeting many residents called for the city to discontinue fishing in the park entirely.

While city officials again reiterated that the administration is unwilling to ban

fishing along the park bulkhead, which stretches from Landon Avenue to Laverne Street, Boyer led a discussion about four possible solutions, which might effect a compromise.

Joining her in presenting the conceptual plan were Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and John Pappas, Director of Public Works. Allison Korman Shelton, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Mayor's Office, also attended the meeting.

The first and perhaps easiest solution to implement would be making River Road a one-way street heading north between Landon Avenue and Laverne Street, said Boyer.

Also discussed were installing a fence on the city right-of-way adjacent to the residents' properties; installing a gate and putting up No Trespassing signs to close off the alley behind residents' homes on the city right-of-ways along Landon Avenue and Laverne Street; and erecting two fishing platforms or decks along the bulkhead. Once the platforms were installed, they would be the only areas in the park where fishing would be permitted, Boyer said.

"All the concepts look wonderful," said one resident and most everyone in the hall nodded in agreement.

## One-way street

Residents seemed especially happy with the idea of making River Road a one-way street. "I love the idea. How fast can you implement it," asked one resident, noting it would also help deter speeders who currently disregard the new 20 mph speed limit.

"If Public Works says it is feasible, we can do it," Korman said. Pappas and Joseph mentioned no problem with the change other than to say it would most likely take place in March because the city needs at least 45 days to erect signs needed to inform drivers of the change in traffic pattern.

Placing a vehicle gate with an access code available to only residents at the entrance to the back alley also seemed feasible, Boyer said. In addition to keeping

fishermen out of the alley, the gate would prevent cut-through traffic from commuters who might try to bypass San Marco Boulevard once the one-way street takes effect, she said.

But before committing to the idea of closing the alley, Boyer said the city needed to research whether the road behind the homes was city-owned or a private road and decide whose responsibility it would be to maintain the new gates. Also problematic is the fact that city utilities, yard service companies and garbage trucks frequently access the alley, perhaps indicating it is city property. "We normally don't close public thoroughfares," said Pappas.

"If gates are not included, it will be a highway back there," said one resident. "There's so much traffic now, drivers get mad when you try to back out of your garage," said another.

Another option was to build a four-foot high fence on the public right of way across from the park so the homeowners' front yards would be enclosed along that portion of River Road. It was also suggested the fence might hook up with the back alley gate. "This way we might keep people who are using the park from throwing trash in your yards," said Boyer. "We can have gates installed with access codes if you want."

Joseph agreed. "People might be able to jump over it, but it does differentiate your yard as private property," he said, noting the fence the city had in mind was the same as the one surrounding Landon Park.

"A fence will make it look like a public housing project," said one woman, while another man expressed concern that a fence might obstruct his view.

"The pros to the fence outweigh the cons," said another resident.

## Fishing platforms

One idea as to how to curb the number of people fishing in the park was having the city build two fishing platforms or decks off the bulkhead in the park.

Fishing would be allowed only on the platforms and restricted in the rest of the park, Boyer said, noting a locked gate could be put on the entrance to the platform, so fishermen could only access it during park hours.

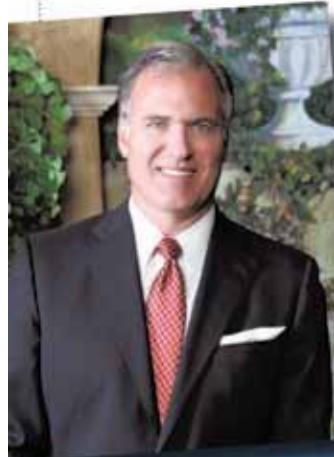
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The platforms would have the capacity to safely hold between eight and 10 fishermen apiece, Boyer said. "We don't want them huge. Maybe 18 people will be able to fish in the park instead of 45, which is more than the park can handle," she said.

Many of the residents said they preferred the idea of an extended platform rather than a deck because it would keep the fishermen further away from their bedroom windows.

"Placement is key," Joseph said, noting anything that is built will have to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. "We want to make sure they are not adjacent to anyone's front door," he said, noting more research is needed to decide how far out the platforms can extend because they can't be put in a navigable channel.

In order to prevent fishing from the bulkhead, Joseph suggested the city might install a lateral bulkhead extension or fence-like material under the water or along the base of the bulkhead. "There are various structures you can install on the bulkhead or in the water that prevent you from being able to reel in a line. We need something that can achieve that goal without being unattractive," Joseph said. "This might be something we can do so JSO will not have to enforce (the No Fishing rule) all the time," he said.

In order to prevent fishermen from urinating or defecating in public view, Boyer suggested having a screened port-a-let installed on the platform, to prevent it from being seen from the park, but that idea was not as favorably received by all the residents.

"A lot of the clients use drugs," said one man, referring to the fishermen. "If you put that up you will provide a hidden shelter for them to expand their activities," he said, adding he was also concerned about the port-a-let sending off a foul odor when a west wind blows.

But not all residents were enamored with the idea of building anything off the bulkhead. "Riverfront Park is one of the last places on the river where you can have an unobstructed view," said Anita Morrill, after the meeting. "I have concerns about putting docks into the water. They are kind of ugly. I'd like to see the process thoroughly thought through. I think they might be an eyesore."

To pay for the project, Boyer said she has \$36,000 in Loblolly funds she might be able to use and will seek to find additional funding from grants and other sources.

Boyer said she plans to hold another meeting in early March to update the residents about the project.

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## Starbucks seeks waiver from city to sell beer and wine

*By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News*

In the future, baristas may also become bartenders in the San Marco Starbucks location, if the coffee café has its way. However, not all residents relish the idea that the popular coffee meister, famous for its lattes and scones, might begin serving alcoholic beverages in the late afternoon.

In mid-December, Coffee House Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of the Seattle-based coffee company, submitted to the Jacksonville Planning Commission a waiver of minimum distance requirements for liquor license application in order implement its new "Evenings" menu, which includes the sale of beer and wine in its store located at 1980 San Marco Blvd.

The Planning Commission will discuss the application during a public hearing Thursday, Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Lynwood Roberts Room at City Hall.

As of August, at least 70 Starbucks locations nationwide were offering an "Evenings" menu where they serve beer, wine and bistro-style appetizers daily 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Within the application, Dale J. Perrott, a senior vice president of Coffee House Holdings, Inc. signed an affidavit declaring "the sale of beer and wine under the Evenings program is incidental to food and non-alcoholic beverage sales."

In its application for the waiver, Coffee House Holding's agent Brian Plewinski of E-Z Permits, Inc. requested that the city reduce the minimum distance between a liquor license location and church or school as required by law for Starbucks to obtain a liquor license from 500 feet to 308 feet.

"Starbucks is not directly visible from Southside Baptist Church. There is a Bank of America and a tree-lined landscaped Balis Park Square in between. Per Google Earth, walking distance is actually 673 feet," Plewinski wrote in the application.

"The character of the area involves a pedestrian-friendly district with multiple existing wine and food establishments, and specified that two nearby restaurants, Taverna at 1986 San Marco Blvd. and The Grotto at 2012 San Marco Blvd., are "in the immediate vicinity" and hold "existing liquor licenses in locations of a similar nature," he said in the application.

When asked whether the San Marco Square location was a future candidate for the new "Evenings" menu, Gaby, a spokesperson for the Starbucks corporate office offered this reply:

"Thanks so much for reaching out! Just as each customer is unique, so are our stores, and we consider a broad range of products and experiences for each neighborhood. And, as you've probably seen, we're in the very early stages of considering Jacksonville for the Evenings menu. It's a long and thoughtful process,

and the permit filing is just one of many steps we take. While we don't have additional details to share at this time, feel free to check back in."

However, San Marco Starbucks store manager Lily Corcoran said a comprehensive store renovation is slated for her location sometime between April and June, but added that, prior to being asked by The Resident, she had no knowledge of any plan for her location to offer alcoholic beverages in the future.

"It's the first I've heard. They've not shared anything with me," said Corcoran, noting she has worked for Starbucks for 10 years and has managed the San Marco location for two years.

San Marco Preservation Society President Andrew Dickson said some members of SMPS have voiced concerns about the change, and the society met Jan. 28 to discuss whether it intends to oppose the deviation. Their decision had not been determined by press time.

"At this point Starbucks is one of the few places on the Square that does not serve alcohol, and many folks would like to keep it that way," Dickson wrote in an email.

"Starbucks wants to start selling alcohol at four [o'clock] in the afternoon, which is when the rush from local high schools takes place. It operates till 10 or 11 p.m., and will serve beer and wine up to closing. On weekends, Starbucks is one of the few alcohol-free places that teenagers can hang out," Dickson said.

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# Second Daily's gas station slated for Hendricks Avenue



*Local dignitaries celebrate new Daily's on Atlantic Boulevard*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Participating in the ribbon cutting at the new San Marco Daily's were Julia Landon College Preparatory School Principal Tim Feagins, Duval County School Board member Ashley Smith-Juarez, JAXUSA President Jerry Mallot, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, Daily's CEO and President Aubrey Edge, Jaguar wide receiver Allen Hurns, JSO Sheriff Mike Williams, St. Vincent's HealthCare CEO Michael Schatzlein and former Jaguar Tony Boselli.



San Marco Preservation members Diane Martin and Anita Morrill join Jaguar wide receiver Allen Hurns during the grand opening of Daily's convenience store in San Marco.

No sooner than First Coast Energy opened its newest Daily's Dash location on Atlantic Avenue in San Marco, the company turned its sights toward establishing a second San Marco location on Hendricks Avenue.

In December, First Coast Energy acquired property at 3973-3975 Hendricks Avenue, between Dunkin' Donuts and Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, for the purpose of building a Daily's gas station and convenience store in Miramar. The new station will be built in close proximity to the Gate gas station and convenience store at 3938 Hendricks Avenue.

"We've just opened a station in East San Marco to serve the east-west traffic pattern. The new station will serve the north-south traffic pattern and the rest of San Marco," said Andrew Keith Daw, attorney for First Coast Energy. "We are looking to expand our service to the rest of the San Marco area."

The new station will sit on a three-parcel lot comprising a little more than an acre of land, which is currently home to ORH - Oriental Rug House and Big City Detailing Unlimited.

In early December 2015, First Coast Energy purchased the land from Chase Properties through a tax-free exchange with



Aerial photo of the Daily's ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 14 on Atlantic Boulevard in San Marco. (Photo courtesy of Joe Carlucci)

NSHE Hendricks LLC of Tempe, Arizona, serving as an intermediary for the purpose of tax treatment, Daw said. The purchase price was \$1.325 million.

Daw said the company plans to build a traditional Daily's service station with eight fuel pumps. Its convenience store will offer a Dash fast-casual food concession. No car wash will be included in the plans because the site was not large enough or "conducive" for a car wash, Daw said.

Because the location has been zoned appropriately, the new store is currently seeking construction permits and expects to break ground sometime between April and June. "On that timeline, hopefully we will be able to open at the end of this year or early next year," Daw said.

The new location will be the 14th station in Florida to offer Daily's Dash fast-casual food.

As Daily's looks ahead to building on a block that is also adjacent to the baseball fields owned by Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, Chaman Samuel and his son, Asef, owners of ORH - Oriental Rug House, are sadly looking for a new place to house their business.

"We had no choice because the landlord sold out both parcels and even the house in back," said Chaman, noting his business has been situated at the same location for the past 25 years. "We are actively looking for a new space. It's not easy. We like this area. People know us. They trust us. We would like to remain in the area."

## Grand opening celebration

Daily's celebrated the opening of its Atlantic Boulevard store, the 13th Daily's Dash location in Florida, with a local celebrity-studded grand opening Jan. 14.

Included among the dignitaries who spoke during the ceremony and joined in the ribbon-cutting event were Daily's CEO and President Aubrey Edge, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, JAXUSA President Jerry Mallot, Duval County School Board member Ashley Smith-Juarez, St. Vincent's HealthCare CEO Michael Schatzlein, Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams, Julia Landon College Preparatory Principal Tim Feagins, Jaguar wide receiver Allen Hurns and former Jaguar offensive tackle Tony Boselli.

During the event, Daily's presented a \$2,500 check to Feagins as part of the company's ongoing community partnerships with neighborhood schools and organizations. In addition, during the week of January 25-29, all proceeds from the new Dash restaurant in the San Marco store were donated to Julia Landon College Preparatory School.

"At Daily's we have always felt it is important to give back to the community and are pleased to monetarily assist with the wonderful activities at Julia Landon College Preparatory School," said Edge. "We are excited to be part of the San Marco community and look forward to offering to the local area our nicer amenities that our customers expect and appreciate."

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# Pavement glitch hampers Overland Bridge lane opening

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Since the Florida Department of Transportation opened new northbound lanes along I-95's Overland Bridge Jan. 11, it's been smooth sailing for motorists – with one minor glitch.

FDOT finished the newly built lanes Sunday night, Jan. 10, only to find at 3 a.m. Monday morning, when the road was opened to traffic, the pavement started to crumble in the far right lane on I-95 near the ramps leading to the Acosta and Main Street bridges. Conditions quickly became unsafe once motorists began to drive on it, said FDOT spokesman Ron Tittle.

"It was an asphalt issue," explained Tittle, noting that the problem was a "material failure."

To remedy the trouble, FDOT immediately closed the two far right lanes of I-95 in order to remove the faulty pavement and replace the asphalt. Workers started to pour new blacktop late the morning Monday, Jan. 11, Tittle said, adding the two lanes continued to be closed until late Monday afternoon while repairs were made.

As only one lane was open to serve all northbound traffic, traffic moved slowly through a bottleneck as it headed toward the Fuller Warren Bridge, said Tittle, who also stated FDOT is in the process of researching the reason for the asphalt failure.

FDOT instituted the major traffic shift on the I-95 Overland Bridge project during the weekend of Jan. 8-10. Northbound traffic moved to new lanes. The Main Street and Acosta Bridge ramps were temporarily closed and detours were put in place for Atlantic Boulevard and Philips Highway motorists.

By Jan. 11, just before morning rush hour, all lanes going northbound from the San Diego Road overpass to just south of the Fuller Warren Bridge were shifted to a new roadway in order for the existing bridge to be reconstructed. Signs directed traffic onto the new roadway, which will ultimately be used as a local service road that will allow traffic to enter and exit I-95 in short segments, rather than mix with I-95



Florida Department of Transportation map of the new Overland Bridge northbound traffic shift.

thru-traffic.

At no time was 1-95 traffic detoured off the interstate. There was no change for Southbound 1-95 traffic, however, the southbound traffic pattern is scheduled to be switched to new lanes this spring.

The speed limit for both north and southbound traffic remains at 45 mph.

The lane shift removes all traffic from the northbound I-95 Overland Bridge so that it can be replaced. The original structure was built in the 1950s and designed for substantially less traffic than it accommodates today. The road closure allows traffic to be removed from the older structure and reduces the impact on motorists caused by routine maintenance on the existing northbound Overland Bridge.

The traffic shift is another milestone toward the completion of the project, which is scheduled for completion in late 2016.

For up-to-date lane closure information see [www.I95overlandbridge.com](http://www.I95overlandbridge.com). A project hotline has been established at (904) 491-2110, to answer questions and concerns from the public.



Florida Department of Transportation workers repair the asphalt in the northbound lane of Interstate 95 Overland Bridge Replacement Project Jan. 11. (Photo courtesy of Florida Department of Transportation)



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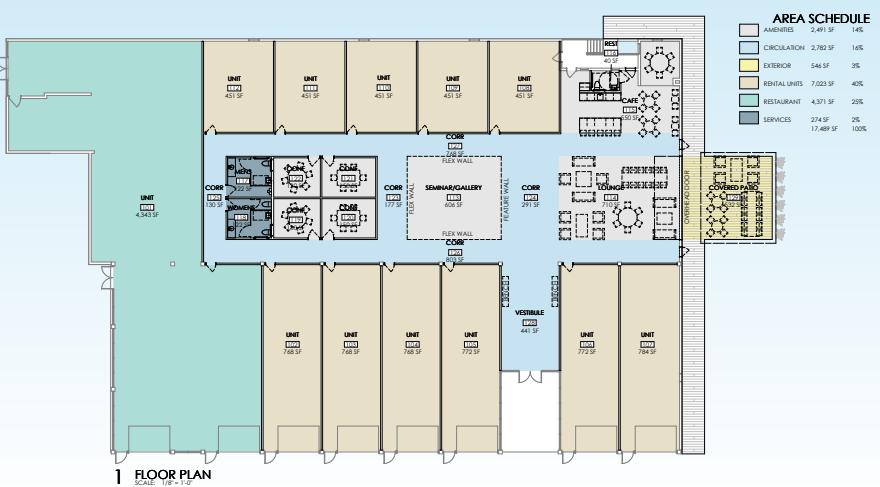
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## Hendricks

*continued from page 1*

removal of all on-street parking so that seven-foot bike lanes may be striped; keeping things as they are by retaining on-street parking and not striping bike lanes; or striping bike lanes along the entire corridor except for a two-block section between Felch Avenue to Inwood Terrace near the Metro Diner, where FDOT proposes narrowing the center median to allow both on-street parking and bike lanes.

In that alternative plan, a 4.5-foot bike lane would run alongside eight-foot parking spaces on Hendricks Avenue for two blocks near the Inwood Terrace intersection. The road would transition back to seven-foot bike lanes at Kingwood Road to the north and Hendricks Avenue Elementary School on the south.

### Heavy corridor for vehicles, common route for bicycles

Between 22,000 and 27,000 vehicles travel the Hendricks/San Jose Boulevard corridor each day, said Teal. The heavily traveled artery is also a common route for cyclists who commute downtown to work. Members of the North Florida Bicycle Club also use that corridor recreationally.

The desire to make the corridor safer for cyclists and pedestrians comes as part of the Florida Complete Streets initiative, said Ron Tittle, a spokesman for FDOT.

Florida State statute 335.065 mandates "bicycle and pedestrian ways should be established in conjunction with construction, reconstruction or other change of any state transportation facility and special emphasis shall be given to projects in or within one mile of an urban area." The statute indicates only three instances when bicycle and pedestrian ways are not required to be established: 1) where the establishment would be contrary to public safety; 2) where the cost is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use; and 3) where other available means or factors indicate an absence of need.

During the public comment period, Nicole Spradley, Assistant to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, said Boyer was unable to attend but favored the alternative plan for the area near Inwood Terrace.

"On-street parking is important in those areas where there is no parking lot behind the buildings," Boyer said in a telephone interview. "On-street parking is dangerous for cyclists. You don't want to drive people out of business, but the area was developed as residential and now many of the homes have commercial uses," she said. "Originally on-street parking on Hendricks was not part of the development plan. As homes became commercial, the business owners count on it more."

### Bicyclists, business owners in opposition

Also speaking during the public comment period was Chris Burns, a lawyer from San Marco, who chairs the city Bike-Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Burns said the three-mile stretch from University Boulevard to San Marco Boulevard is the road most heavily utilized by cyclists in the entire city. With no bike lanes, cyclists are forced to ride within traffic going 40 miles per hour or faster, he said.

"These are not people riding toys or trinkets. These are people who commute to and from work," Burns said. "To have bike lanes installed in this middle section

is critically important because it allows the cyclist to get out of the path of the cars and connects two sections so there is one continuous safe route," he said. "From University to San Marco Boulevard there is not another bike lane to be found. None of the other roads in the area have bike lanes," he said, noting when bicycle lanes are added to roadways, business in the area often improves.

Burns said a problem with the compromise alternative near Metro Diner is that a 4.5-foot bike lane is too narrow to be safe. "It creates narrower bike lanes and places the cyclist next to parallel-parked cars, which puts the cyclist at risk in what is called the 'door zone,' which means a driver or passenger can open a door right into the bike lane," he explained. "Four-and-a-half feet is not enough room for the cyclist to get out of the way without going into traffic. This also becomes a danger for motorists who are opening their car doors. They have to be aware of cyclists coming alongside them, and they are not as easy to visualize as other cars," he said.

Troy Mayhew, who cycles to work on the Southbank from Baymeadows Road, also favored removing on-street parking.

"While I'm sympathetic to the businesses, they have to understand it's a life or death situation for us," Mayhew said. "One choice is a hindrance to the businesses, while the other kills people." If a compromise is necessary, Mayhew said he approved of the alternative plan so bike lanes and parking can co-exist. "It may cost more money to narrow or take out the median, but if it's between life and death, it's what you have to do," he said.

But for Lori Taylor, owner of Trends Art & Home Boutique on Hendricks, on-street parking means life or death for her business and others along the corridor.

"How will it help the city to remove parking for businesses that are already struggling? This is our livelihood. If you take away the ability for us to have patrons, you take away the ability for us to survive," she said.

Former City Councilman Matt Carlucci of San Marco, who owns a Hendricks Avenue insurance agency with a parking lot behind his business, said he favors on-street parking and hopes a compromise can be found.

"If you take away parking you will have unintended consequences. Parking is crucial. If we can find a way to connect the bike corridor that would be great, but if there is no parking you will find people parking on residential side streets and in people's yards," Carlucci said.

Business owner Suzanne Bass agreed. "I think if we could share the road it would be great. On-street parking is usually for business hours while bikers use the road after business hours or on weekends. Before you take away the business parking, bicycle people should be encouraged to take Old San Jose Road," Bass said.

Although he does not ride a bike or own a business, San Jose resident Virgil Jernigan spoke in favor of on-street parking. He said many Hendricks area residents use it, particularly if they entertain. "How about the rest of the people?" he asked. "I realize bicyclists need a place, but I need parking on the side of my house," he said. "The state and the city need to police the area better. They need to slow the traffic down so they can leave the parking as it is."

To comment on the plan, write to Ron Tittle, FDOT Public Affairs, 2198 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville, 32204 or email [ron.tittle@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:ron.tittle@dot.state.fl.us)

# FDOT contemplates removing parking on Hendricks Avenue

Residents weigh in: Keep parking or create bike lanes



**Pat Momanbell**  
*San Marco*



**Kris Barnes**  
*San Marco*



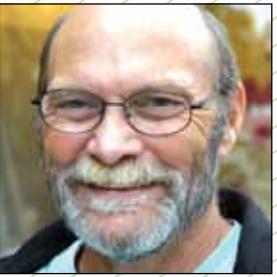
**Yves Rathle**  
*San Marco*



**Paige Moore**  
*San Marco*



**Scott Strong**  
*San Jose*



**Barry Reid**  
*Empire Point*

I'm not in favor of getting rid of on-street parking. You know, San Marco is a special place, a neighborhood and we need parking spaces so people can come from other neighborhoods and walk to the Square.

I feel it is very dangerous for bikers. I would not ride out on Hendricks without a bike lane, and taking out the center is a huge expense. I'm in favor of getting rid of it. I think we can live without on-street parking. It's terrifying to get out of my car if I park on Hendricks.

It should stay the way it is. To eliminate parking or pull out a lane is absolute madness. I don't think it's high traffic enough to eliminate on-street parking. If you do, speeds will increase and increase potential accidents. Parking slows the traffic down.

I'm neutral. I don't usually need to park on Hendricks. The residents who live there might want to keep the parking. It really doesn't affect me.

I think it should be eliminated. The on-street parking is not utilized, so I would rather see bike lanes because it helps with the safety of bikes and cars because it moves the bikes out of the way.

I don't have a strong opinion on this, but I think putting in a bike lane might be good. Also, it might be good for the residents to keep it as it is, but it also might be good for traffic not to have parking.



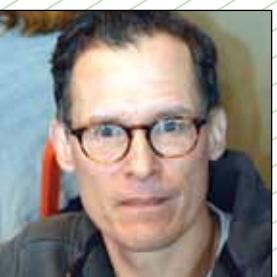
**Tiane Sommer**  
*Empire Point*



**Hunter Halloran**  
*San Jose*



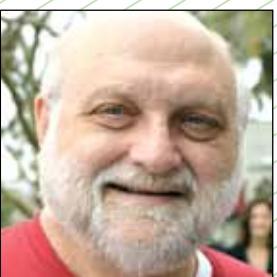
**Gina Bazan**  
*San Marco*



**Joshua Spanogle**  
*San Marco*



**Tommy William**  
*San Jose*



**Wesley Stanard**  
*St. Nicholas*

I would still want on-street parking. I think it's a good idea to keep it.

I think I support getting rid of the parking. If it was San Jose Boulevard up to Bolles, no, but the Hendricks part is okay.

I think we should have parking a lot of places so that we can walk and visit the little businesses along there.

I don't have any skin in the game. I support bike lanes.

They kind of need on-street parking, but it is an unfriendly area for bikes. We kind of need both.

I don't support getting rid of the parking. It's very useful in those areas where it already exists. Keep it the way it is.



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**6521 Christopher Point Road West** – Five bedrooms and completely renovated. This stately home sits on a gorgeous lot across from waterfront homes. Gourmet kitchen with 2 ovens, large island, glazed Schrock cabinetry and Cambria natural quartz counters. Renovated baths with custom Listello tile. Lovely walled backyard with large patio, two car garage with tons of storage and workshop. **\$619,000**

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Front: Joe Anderson, Adele Dimopoulos, Anna Dooley, Carol Worsham, Bob Chabot, Mike Robinson; back: Konstantin Dimopoulos, Susan Caven, Jennifer King, Jason Worley, Becky Henson

## Residents paint trees blue for art and awareness

**By Kate A. Hallock**  
Resident Community News

Blue is the new green – at least temporarily. Thanks to grants from The Late Bloomers Garden Club, the 2016 SPARK Grant Program and Wells Fargo, with additional support from Deutsche Bank, more than 100 trees in several locations in Jacksonville are sporting a coat of a blue pigment.

The Blue Trees, a project conceived by international artist Konstantin Dimopoulos to prompt conversation about deforestation and its global impact, was hosted in Hemming Park on Jan. 16 by Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc.

Dimopoulos, who describes himself as a humanist, uses his art to address social and environmental issues, including that of an awareness for urban trees.

"People don't realize the importance of trees...once the trees are gone, all the other issues we have won't be an issue if we can't breathe," said Dimopoulos. "Organizations like Greenspace have an important role

working for trees. Without them every city will be lessened by a huge amount. We're losing forests the size of 50 football fields every day."

Among those who came out were residents from Riverside, Avondale, Murray Hill and San Marco, who took up paint brushes to coat tree trunks and limbs with a biologically-safe, water-based ultramarine mineral pigment, which will gradually wash off.

In addition to 50 trees in containers and four large trees in Hemming Park, 27 trees at Edward Waters College on Kings Road were "painted" on Jan. 18 by students, faculty and Wells Fargo volunteers. On Jan. 20 the Late Bloomers Garden Club assisted in coloring 15 trees at three sites at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. Fourteen trees were made blue at Veterans Memorial Arena.

The container trees, supplied by the JEA, will remain on display in Hemming Park until Greenscape determines where to plant them. It will take about six months for the blue pigment to wash off.

I. REISS  
Wire Collection

## City finishes drainage problem repair, homeowners elated



The asphalt has been poured and the curbing is in along Pennsylvania Avenue after the city fixed the drainage to give homeowners relief from backyard flooding.

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

After four months of seeing their yards and street torn up, Pennsylvania Avenue residents can get back to normal now that the drainage project in their neighborhood is finished.

"I'm pretty elated," said Lee McCook, a Pennsylvania Avenue resident.

Since September, McCook and his neighbors have seen pipes laid, storm drains installed and finally sod put down behind their homes where, in the past, ankle-deep flooding frequently occurred causing significant damage to their domiciles.

As of mid-January, before the city reinstalled sod and other plantings

behind their homes, McCook said he already had seen a notable lessening in the amount of water collecting behind his house.

"We had our first minor test. It was puddles of an inch or two. In the past it could be 15 inches or more when it rains hard for two or three days," he said, adding at the time of the rain in January, the catch basins in the storm drains were blocked with plastic tarps and straw to prevent them from becoming clogged with sediment before the grass was installed.

"I'm happy as long as the drainage works," McCook said, expressing gratitude to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer for helping make the drainage project become a reality.

## JEA fuel rate decrease takes rates to 2008 level

The JEA Board of Directors approved a fuel charge decrease of \$6.85 per megawatt hour with an effective date of February 1, 2016, which will result in \$7.28 per 1,000 kWh in savings for residential customers.

This reduction translates to a 5.56 percent decrease and lowers JEA electric rates to the 2008 level. Commercial customers should receive a six to nine percent decrease depending on their rate class.

The fuel charge rate, one of four

JEA charges on each residential bill, will decrease from \$43.60 per megawatt hour to \$36.75 per megawatt hour.

When fuel costs are lower than anticipated, JEA returns excess dollars to customers in the form of fuel credits or by lowering the fuel charge. Over the past three years, JEA has returned almost \$170 million to customers in fuel credits. JEA reviews this rate annually as part of its pricing policy requirements.

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## Boyer, residents seek ways to shield neighborhood river access from graffiti, teen partying

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Fed up with graffiti on the bulkhead, overflowing litter, and frequent drug and alcohol use by teens in the city's riverfront right-of-way at the end of Inwood Terrace, neighborhood residents met with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer in January to seek solutions.

In response to a resident's suggestion that the area be turned into a public park, Boyer called the meeting Jan. 22 on the end of Inwood Terrace near the city right-of-way. Sherry Wilson, Division Chief of Recreation, Parks and Community Programs, Keith Meyerl, Parks District Manager, and Mats Nemeth, Assistant Chief with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, joined her in listening to the residents' concerns about criminal activity in the right-of-way area.

Many residents said they bought a home on the dead-end street in order to enjoy river views and close access to the water. Most residents did not count on the area being an eyesore with potential safety hazards.

Of particular concern was graffiti spray-painted on the cement bulkhead and adjacent wooden fence owned by Norma Hagan, whose home is adjacent to the right-of-way.

"What we need assistance with is the shockingly profane graffiti covering the cement walls to the water. Some neighbors have made attempts to clean the graffiti, but it keeps returning," said Tessa Gottlieb, in a letter to Boyer. "As it stands now, many parents on the street do not feel comfortable walking their children to the water for fear of what horrible drawings and words will appear next on the walls."

Other concerns Gottlieb raised were "steep declining steps" leading to the river and a "large sewage/drainage system" without a covering that someone, perhaps a "daredevil" teen could fall into. She also mentioned people frequently leave empty beer cans or liquor bottles in their wake, presumably driving off while intoxicated.

In the meeting, Hagan said she often observes kids partying from her upstairs windows and has often called police. JSO's response time has been 45 minutes or longer, allowing the perpetrators plenty of time to leave, she said. "I don't want this to become a teen hangout," Hagan said.

Fishermen often use the right-of-way, disregarding the "No Parking" signs and often block her driveway, Hagan continued.



As soon as it is painted over, graffiti reappears on the Hagan's fence and city bulkhead surrounding the city's right of way at the base of Inwood Terrace along the St. Johns River.



District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer (third from right) and Sherry Wilson, Division Chief of Recreation and Community Programs (second from right) gather with residents near the Inwood Terrace city right-of-way to discuss possible ways to deter graffiti and other criminal activity at the end of the street.

To discourage drivers from using her driveway as a turn-around, she has hung a chain across its entrance. She also said her home has been on the market for four years with no takers because of problems with the right-of-way.

In an email to Boyer, Jason Evert, who lives down the street, suggested the city turn the right-of-way into a park so it would benefit from "regular attention" in terms of garbage collection, lighting, posted park rules and benches.

"I have asked JSO for additional enforcement already and requested a neighborhood watch designation, but

there is only so much that can be done without applying the more stringent rules that apply to parks, i.e., no alcohol," he wrote. "If the area is turned over to Parks, they can enforce the park rules," he said at the meeting.

However, Boyer said she did not think park designation was a good idea.

"Once a right-of-way is turned into a city park it must be listed on the Parks website," she said, adding the park could then be inundated with people from all over the city. "Inwood Terrace has no dedicated parking and no bathroom," she said, adding, although as a park it would

officially close at dusk, park rules signs "really don't have much impact."

Boyer said making the steep staircase leading to the water's edge Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, as required for public parks is expensive. Instead she suggested the alternative of installing a street-level fence in front of the steps. A resident would receive a key and be charged with opening the right-of-way in the morning and closing it at night. "That way you will have a means to keep people out," she said.

The group also discussed installing lights in the park, mentioning that motion-detection lighting might deter the vandals who paint graffiti at night. "Without lighting it's a free-for-all," Evert said.

Boyer said her first inclination was to handle the problem in phases. "The first thing we can do is a fence and a trash can," she said. "Let's see if that helps."

She also said she did not recommend installing lights initially because of the expense to run a line onto the right-of-way. Lights might shine in the windows of the adjacent homes. She said she would research whether the city's Blight Committee could put up a video camera, possibly in Hagan's yard, to see if they could catch the graffiti artists in the act.

"This isn't totally different people," Boyer said about the vandals. "This is somebody consistently doing this and once they're gone, they're gone."

Boyer said she would have a conversation with the city's Parks and Public Works Departments to determine how the area can be regulated after sunset and how a fence can be funded. "No one has money sitting around that's available. I'll have to look for money that is left over from other parks," she said.

After the meeting, Hagan said one of her neighbors took matters into his own hands and removed the graffiti from her fence.

"One of the men on the street did some research and found at least some of the kids doing the graffiti and confronted their parents," Hagan said in an email Jan. 31. "This weekend that same man pressure washed my fence and the graffiti is gone. With the parents of the culprits providing the paint, he is going to paint over the other walls. I think it is very exciting someone is concerned enough to take back something they could enjoy from people that don't appreciate its value," she said.

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Jacksonville Humane Society earns four-star charity rating



Adoption counselor Dinah Sepulveda, with Rodger, who was adopted in November.

The Jacksonville Humane Society's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator, for the third consecutive year. According to Charity Navigator's website, out of the thousands of charities evaluated, only 25 percent earn four stars and only 14 percent have received three consecutive four-star evaluations.

"JHS supporters should feel

confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used responsibly," said Michael Thatcher, president and CEO of Charity Navigator.

"This rating means a great deal to the Jacksonville Humane Society because it demonstrates that we are grateful for every gift and take our responsibility as stewards very seriously. It is important for our supporters to know that we are using our funding wisely to accomplish our mission of saving animals," said Denise Deisler, JHS executive director.

## Real estate agency welcomes three new realtors

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty announced the addition of three new realtors to the agency. Michelle Arseneau, Kim Kessler and Michelle Legier joined the agency's locations in Avondale and San Marco.



Michelle Arseneau



Kim Kessler



Michelle Legier

## Jewish Family and Community Services honored

Jewish Family and Community Services was honored as Case Management Organization of the Year during the Family Support Services of North Florida annual board meeting Jan. 12.

JFSC is one of five local organizations contracted by FSS to provide child welfare case management services to area foster children. FSS is the lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties.

JFCS provides social and community services to enhance the lives of children, adults, seniors and families coping with various challenges in all times of life. Guided by Jewish values, with a rich tradition of nearly 100 years, its services are made available to all residents in the First Coast community.



Maria Williams, JFCS child safety associate director; FSS CEO Lee Kaywork; JFCS CEO Colleen Rodrigues; Naomi McGowan, FSS board chairperson

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## New executive director hired at ILRC

Lela Jordan has been hired as executive director for the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC), a nonprofit organization empowering independence for people with disabilities since 1978.

"I am very excited to join the team at ILRC and look forward to establishing new collaborative relationships to advance and promote programs and services for all individuals with a disability in the Northeast Florida Community," said Jordan, who was hired after a national search and selection process.

Jordan brings 17 years' experience as an executive director, most recently serving as Director of the Youth, Family & Community Resources Division for the Mayor's office in the City of West Palm Beach.

Jordan, who holds a bachelor's degree in communications, is preparing for a master's degree in education.

With her master's preparation in education and bachelor's work in



Lela Jordan (Photo by Tiffany Manning)

communications, Jordan brings passion and vision to the ILRC. Lauded for successfully obtaining Federal and State grants, as well as grants from foundations throughout the State, Jordan's special skill set in resource management will bring continued growth for the ILRC.

## New CEO, President at Feeding Northeast Florida

Luke Layow, a local fundraising professional with more than 15 years of progressive management experience, is the new president and CEO for Feeding Northeast Florida.

Layow, who previously served as the director of philanthropy at The First Tee, said he is looking forward to the opportunity to lead an organization that has "such a broad-reaching, positive impact" on the local community.

Prior to his position at The First Tee, Layow was director of advancement for Prison Fellowship; director of institutional advancement at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and managed an outsourced business development company. With degrees in exercise and sports science, he also worked in the sports industry with the Carolina Panthers, THE PLAYERS Championship, and is a board member of the Ponte Vedra Family YMCA.



Incoming President and CEO, Luke Layow, raised a cupcake toast with retiring president and CEO, Bruce Ganger.

## HandsOn Jacksonville promotes Daddario to president, CEO

LeAnn Daddario joins HandsOn Jacksonville as president and CEO following the retirement in December of Dr. Judith A.M. Smith after nearly 21 years as CEO.

Daddario started at HandsOn Jacksonville in 2014 as Development Director and then Sr. Vice-President and COO.

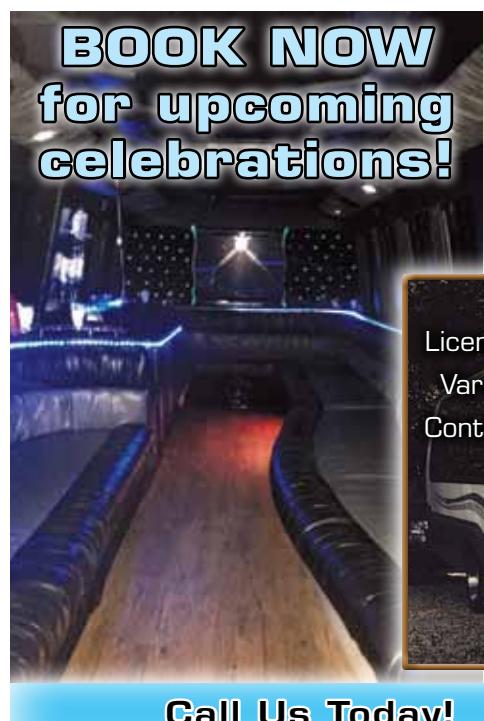
"It is both my honor and privilege to be the new board appointed CEO for HandsOn Jacksonville," said Daddario. "Dr. Judy Smith made a tremendous impact at HandsOn Jacksonville and was instrumental in promoting volunteerism in Northeast Florida."

Daddario said her vision for HandsOn Jacksonville is to continue to elevate volunteerism and service in all of Northeast Florida. Coinciding with the change in leadership, HandsOn Jacksonville has also moved its offices downtown to the Jessie Ball duPont Center.



LeAnn Daddario

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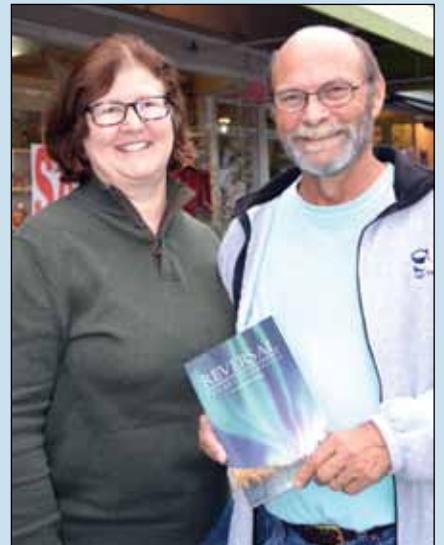
## St. Nicholas couple pen debut novel

Dramatic upheavals in the natural world arising from bizarre changes in the Earth's magnetic field threaten to destroy humanity and planetary life in the debut novel recently penned by a couple who live in Empire Point.

*Reversal: The Skyfire Begins*, written by J. Barry Reid and his wife, Tiane Sommer Reid, mixes adventure, intrigue and scientific information stemming from the shifting and possible reversal of the Earth's magnetic poles.

Reid, who holds a master's degree in geology from Memphis State University, worked as a Texas geologist in oil and gas exploration before switching over to environmental consulting in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

"I was fascinated by information about the Earth's magnetic field in my geological studies, and started wondering about a decade ago what would happen if long-overdue changes in geo-magnetics manifested in modern times," Reid said. "I decided, working with my wife, Tiane, to take these ideas further by adding a dash of adventure and dramatic twists and turns in order to explore how different types of people, good and



Barry and Tiane Reid hold a copy of their first book.

bad, might react."

Mrs. Reid earned a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Iowa and a J.D. from Harvard Law School before working with legal services, serving clients in the Navajo Nation. She later practiced utility regulation, telecommunications, retail and technology law.

Reid is currently working on a sequel to *Reversal*, while his wife is penning a prequel to their debut novel.

## Hurst family welcomes baby girl



Norma Jean Hurst

It's a girl for Miramar's Hurst family.

Norma Jean, a healthy 8-pound, 2-ounce baby daughter was born to Dane and Jessica Hurst on Dec. 22 at Baptist Medical Center on the Southbank.

The new baby was named after her mother's great-grandmother. She is the fifth generation on her maternal side to have Jean as a middle name.

"We didn't find out the gender, so the name reveal was a pretty sweet moment with my mom," Jessica Hurst said.

Norma Jean joins her brother, four-year-old Stepp, and is welcomed to the congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church, where her parents are members. Grandparents are Dr. Ralph and Jean Parks and Jay and Nancy Hurst.

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## *Building named for, dedicated in honor of long-time supporter*



Head of School Charles F. Zimmer and Jim Winston (Photo by Laura Evans)

James H. Winston, long-time supporter of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, was honored by the Jan. 20 dedication of a building in his name. Winston House, a renovated house on St. Elmo Drive will serve as the office for Head of School Charles Zimmer.

Winston was a member of the founding committee of Episcopal in 1966, served on the Board of Trustees and on the Foundation Board. He was named a Trustee Emeritus in 2002.

"Episcopal's gratitude for Jim, his family, and their deep affection and love for the School cannot be

overstated. Jim's leadership and dedication to ensuring the School's mission has never wavered," said Zimmer.

Winston raised funds in the 1970s for the school to pay for construction and start-up loans, and helped manage complicated financial and legal issues during that time. He was instrumental in bringing close friends, Jane and William Wilson Munnerlyn, Sr., into the Episcopal community. The Munnerlyn Campus is named in honor of the bequest of their entire estate to the school.

## New chocolate shop appeals to purists

Chantal Bierchen and her husband, Dirk Decoster, are bringing the authentic taste of Belgian chocolate to San Marco. The Belgium Barista Chocolate Shop is now open at 1626 Hendricks Avenue, offering handmade chocolates and cakes.

Originally from Zaventem, Belguim, the two masters of chocolate have been holding demonstrations, classes and creating the most delectable desserts for more than a combined 50 years.

The shop is managed by George Allen. For store hours, call (904) 703-4021.



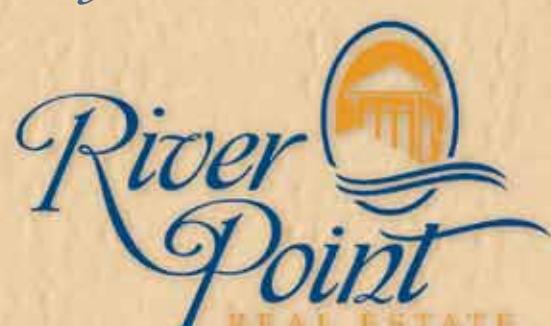
Dirk Decoster and Chantal Bierchen

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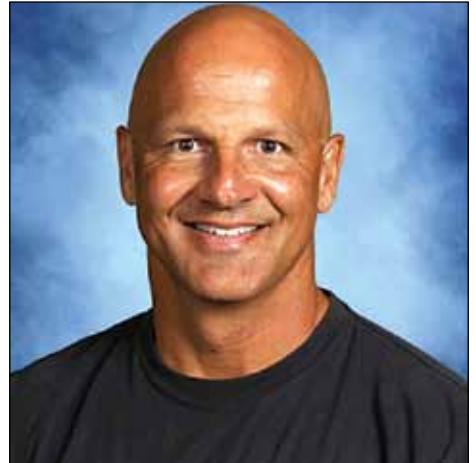


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## New appointments in Bishop Kenny athletics



Mark Thorson



Bobby Raulerson

Two familiar members of the Bishop Kenny High School staff will hold new positions when the school year begins next fall.

Mark Thorson, current head football coach and assistant dean of students, has been appointed Athletic Director beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. Thorson became head football coach in 2002 and posted a 97-55 record including 10 playoff appearances, three district championships and two appearances in the regional finals. He will replace Bob West, who will retire this spring after 39 years of service to the school.

Taking over for Thorson as Head Football Coach will be Assistant Football Coach Bobby Raulerson, who also works at Bishop Kenny as a physical education instructor. Raulerson has served as the football team's

defensive coordinator for the past two years.

"I could not be happier that Coach Thorson, who has provided such outstanding leadership to the football program for 14 years, will be overseeing our entire athletic operation," said Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando. "Mark has also been a very effective administrator in his duties as assistant dean of students, a role he has held for the past 10 years. I'm confident that he will bring the same high standards to his work in the Athletic Director's Office."

Meanwhile, Thorson had only praise for his former assistant. "I am completely confident in the decision to turn the program over to Bobby," he said. "He understands our program, our students, and our school and is an outstanding role model for our student athletes."



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*"Our only regret at closing was that we didn't have another home for Sheri to sell for us. We are very grateful for her professional knowledge and commitment to helping her clients." -Bill & Jessica*

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Judge's family donates portrait to county courthouse



John Lloyd Layton, longtime friend Nancy Nix Mahon and her son Judge Mark H. Mahon in Courtroom 212 of the Duval County Courthouse

The family of Judge A. Lloyd Layton (1902-1977) has donated to the Duval County Courthouse an oil painting of the first Duval County judge of the newly formed Provisional Criminal Court of Record. Judge Layton's portrait resides in Courtroom 212 along with other judges on display.

Layton was appointed in the early 1950s to the Duval County Court by Governor LeRoy Collins following a career as an attorney for the City of

Orange Park and as a partner in the law firm of Ragland, Kurtz and Layton.

The judge and his wife, Merceda Layton, who died in 2005 at age 101, lived in Avondale during his career. They had a son and daughter, six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

"His Saturday morning favorite relaxation was fishing from his long dock/boathouse at his riverfront home," said his son, John Layton.

## Garcia recognized by Becker's Hospital Review

Roland Garcia, senior vice president and Chief Information Officer for Baptist Health, has been named to *Becker's Hospital Review*'s list of 100 Hospital and Health System CIOs to Know, which features some of the most prominent IT industry leaders in the country.

Garcia, an Empire Point resident, was recognized for being an early adopter of electronic medical records beginning in 2005, before EMR technology was a regulatory requirement. Since 2014, he has taken the lead for the development of the technology strategy for the rollout of Baptist Health's clinically integrated network, Baptist Physician Partners, which has more than 700 participating physicians who rely on technology solutions to facilitate population health management, care coordination, integration of information across the continuum of care and digital interactions between patients and providers.

Garcia has also received numerous awards including being named as one of



Roland Garcia

the world's "Premier 100 IT Executives" by *Computer World* magazine and one of the "Top 25 Healthcare CIOs" by *Information Week*. He is a member of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2006, CIO Council, as well as Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce CIO Council and the Northeast Florida HIE CIO Council.

## JAX Chamber council boards swear in new presidents

New board presidents for the JAX Chamber councils were sworn in last month and include a local resident. San Marco resident Chris Boetcker, Member Benefits, is president of the West Council.

Other new council presidents include Jonathan Smith, of Duss Kenney Safer Hampton & Joos, Downtown Council; Mike Nolan, Global Infonet, IT Council president; Tanya Guydos, IberiaBank, Transportation and Logistics Council; Brett Goodnough, Culture Index, Mandarin Council; Ed Lombard, Ameriprise Financial Services, North Council; Kinita King, AFLAC, Professional Women's Council; JB Roth, Roth Law Firm, South Council; Shawn Devries, The DeVries Law Firm, Arlington Council; and Joanne Reinhart, New York Life, Health Council.



Chris Boetcker

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Great opportunity to buy a renovated home in Seabrook. Remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. Open living space area with tile floors. Kitchen has granite countertops. Plenty of natural light thru front windows. Split floor plan. Master bedroom is tiled and has private bathroom with walk-in closet. Additional bedrooms have wood laminate floors. Covered parking and good size fenced backyard. Extended driveway to allow additional parking space. Property sits high and dry. You don't want to miss this opportunity. Call for an appointment today. \$100,000 MLS# 792055 The Dream Home Team Jax: Gonzalo Mejia and Michael Leachman 904-472-0726



Looking for a place to build your dream home? Look no farther! This beautiful close to acre sized lot is located on a quiet cul-de-sac in Mandarin is a perfect match. The lot is one lot off of the Julington Creek and is surrounded by beautiful estate like homes, wetlands, and creek sides! JEA water and sewer available! Bring your builder! \$199,000 MLS # 807770 Call The Transition Team Bruce Homeyer and Liz Reiman 904-535-8686 today for more details!



Looking for move in ready? This is it! Beautifully finished, charming Avondale home boasting a garage apt, too! Main home offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large living area with built-ins & fireplace; den/flex room, separate dining with bay window, 2 deep china closets, 2 doors opening to outdoor living area, adjacent to ample size kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counters & deep pantry closet. Owner's retreat on 1st Floor is spacious with a private completely renovated bath. Upstairs offers 2 bedrooms, 1 features a fireplace, and a full hall bath. Garage apartment kitchen is used as an art studio, but is ready for kitchen, has a full bath & bedroom/living room. Detached 2 car garage, too! \$689,000 MLS# 796034 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288



This delightful three bedroom two full bathroom traditional house is the perfect place to call home. With a cozy fireplace and great entertaining space it is sure to charm your friends and family. You will fall in love with the spacious backyard that includes an elegant private pool. This charming home offers rich hard wood and tile floors that will thrill you. Don't let this property pass you by! \$185,000 MLS# 800951 Laura Lander 904-673-2526



Mediterranean inspired waterfront gated community of luxury townhomes & villas. Townhome lives large, boasting open interiors & a stylish décor. Garden off the living/family room gives you a quiet space to relax. 2 large terraces, granite counters/island, 2-car garage, stainless Bosch appliances, gas fireplace, tile floors... La Terrazza offers low-maintenance luxury lifestyle, clubhouse, pool & access to Goody's creek for kayaking. \$324,000 MLS# 792526 Call Bruce Homeyer & Liz Reiman: The Transition Team for more details 904-535-8686



Traditional 2-story home! Relax on your master suite balcony to catch the river breeze! Walk down by the river to the community dock. Brick accent, paver driveway, enhanced landscaping for privacy, carriage style garage doors, & concrete tile roof. Upgrades: hardwood floors, deluxe master bath & gourmet kitchen, stainless Bosch appliances, granite counter tops, tile backsplash, 3-car garage! Gated community with amenities: pool, fitness, dock, fire pit, party room.. \$690,000 MLS# 792567 Call Bruce Homeyer & Liz Reiman: The Transition Team for more details 904-535-8686



Come witness the peace and quiet at this 2 bedroom 2 and a half bath Townhouse in The Villages of Northwood. There is a bonus room that could be converted back into a third bedroom. Full bathroom features a walk-in shower for easy access. Sit and have your coffee and watch the great blue heron fishing patiently. This 2011 townhouse built by Ryland is move in ready! Community amenities include pool and children's playground. \$155,000 MLS#808344 Call 904-731-5800 for more details.



Located just minutes to San Marco/Downtown, and within walking distance to shopping, dining and grocery, this absolutely immaculate and spacious two-bedroom unit comes with an office/bonus which could easily be used as a third bedroom. Kitchen with breakfast bar is open concept to the dining and living room areas for easy entertaining and functionality. Relax in front of one of the two fireplaces, or open French doors to either balcony retreat from both living room and Master BR. Double sinks and walk-in closet in Master Retreat. One of only ten units in a beautiful tree-lined condo complex! \$119,968 MLS # 807877 Call 904-731-5800 for more details



Lovingly cared for and ruggedly built, this spacious split level mid-century home sits on a beautifully manicured, almost quarter-acre corner lot. Walkable, friendly neighborhood with sidewalks, landscaped lawns, and plenty of green space. Perfect house for family and entertaining. Generously proportioned living room with a gorgeous fireplace as the centerpiece; eat-in kitchen is the heart of this home and overlooks the beautiful backyard pool. Home features a kitchenette suite on first floor with private access to pool which could function as guest quarters or mother-in-law suite. \$219,000 MLS# 787472 Call 904-731-5800 for more details



Pool Home with Complete In-Law Suite or Media Room! Main house offers 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, loft, great room with vaulted ceilings & fireplace, plus separate dining area. The fully equipped kitchen has been updated with newer cherry wood finished cabinetry, smooth top glass range, wine cooler, refrigerator, dishwasher & microwave. Large laundry room with cabinetry & pantry shelving. In-Law Suite/Media Rm with private entry, Kitchenette, handicap ready bath & stained concrete flooring. Loaded with must haves! \$295,000 MLS # 803116 Call 904-731-5800 for more details!



Looking for San Marco charm without the price? This quaint 1940's bungalow beauty has been meticulously maintained and has all the vintage feel of the area. Situated on a large lot with gorgeous oak trees in a quiet neighborhood zoned for Hendricks Elementary. Freshly painted in- & side out, newer roof and A/C, huge living room, great floor plan with original hardwood floors, although covered with carpet in some rooms. Single car garage with newer garage door. All appliances stay. Convenient location is just minutes to San Marco Square, Downtown and I95. Lots of potential! \$147,500 MLS # 792074 Call 904-731-5800 for more details



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Come see this all brick home in University Park. Step into the foyer and immediately you will see the large living room. The over sized kitchen has a breakfast bar, a pantry closet and even a desk/work space area and it overlooks the den/family room with fireplace. The master bedroom has 2 closets and a walk in shower with a bench. It's a split floor plan with the other 2 bedrooms on the other side of the den. The park-like back yard has azaleas, camellias, tropical plants and mature trees. The 2 car oversized garage has a courtyard entry with work bench/shop area. \$150,000 MLS # 810102 Call 904-731-5800 for more details

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**Auxiliary members gather, plan for coming year**

It's a big year for the ladies of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary as they celebrate 30 years of the annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon. The milestone was discussed, along with many other items of business, at a recent mid-morning coffee at the riverfront home of Marilyn and Pete Carpenter.

The highlight of the meeting, aside from Danishes, scones, and other elegant pastries, was a guest appearance by Southside Baptist Pastor Gary Lee Webber. Webber shared a story about his adventures ringing the Red Kettle bell for the Salvation Army at the holidays. With a touch of humor and some important morals to his story, the pastor engaged the group about the meaning of service.

This year's big anniversary will be highlighted by Celebrity Chefs from all walks of the faith-based community in Jacksonville. It is scheduled to take place March 31, at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Carol Hamilton, Rita Joost and Melina Buncombe



Becky Kaloudsian with Lucy Hawkins, Mary Acosta and Linda White



Rita Joost, Mary Love Strum and Dianne Lott



Sally Evans with Marilyn Carpenter and Diane Bailey

# SOCIAL R



Debbie Tanzler, Mel Toran  
(Photo by Brian Kaiser Photography)



Dr. John Montgomery  
(Photo by Brian Kai)



Susan Williams, Wyndham Mannin, Charlie Tomm, Bunny Manning (Photo by Brian Kai)

## Evening of Awareness puts spotlight on future Hope Lodge

The American Cancer Society held an Evening of Awareness for the Richard M. Schulz Family Foundation Hope Lodge capital campaign at the Ortega home of George and Dr. Annie Egan on Jan. 19.

The Society is seeking to raise \$19.2 million to construct and operate Hope Lodge Jacksonville, a residence that will provide lodging at no cost to cancer patients visiting the Greater Jacksonville area. Over \$12 million in gifts, pledges and verbal commitments have been received, according to Kellie Ann Kelleher, Director of the American Cancer Society's Major Gifts Campaign.

Gifts of note include a \$500,000 pledge from the Bryan

Family through The Henry and of The Community Foundation of \$500,000. Carter and Cheryl Emeritus. Other naming opportunities have been secured by many local project, including the Zimmerman (Eric Friedheim Foundation), Herman Terry), Mary Virginia W.W. Gay, Sunrise Rotary Club, Mrs. Robert Shircliff, Hap and Hines Charitable Trust, Mr. and Mel and Debbie Gottlieb.

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Dr. Emily Tanzler, Debbie Tanzler, Margaret Foerster  
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George Egan, Tim Torgerson  
(Photo by Brian Kaiser Photography)



Brad and Rebecca MacKenzie with Development Director Tera Williams  
and retired Jacksonville Jaguar Jeff Lageman



Sanjeer and Dolly Chhangani with Kimberly Boatwright



Heather and Jeff Prediletto



Jim Houston with Brett and Brooks Cannon

## Winter Wine social raises funds for Angelwood

A supportive group gathered to taste over 15 varieties of French wines and pair selections with French cuisine at JJ's Liberty Bistro, located in The Shoppes at Ponte Vedra. Owner JJ Vigoureux, a native Frenchman, played host to the evening's festivities that included heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and outstanding silent auction items. The most sought after item was the ticketed drawing for Underwood Jewelers prized Ippolita necklace and pendant; tickets are still available.

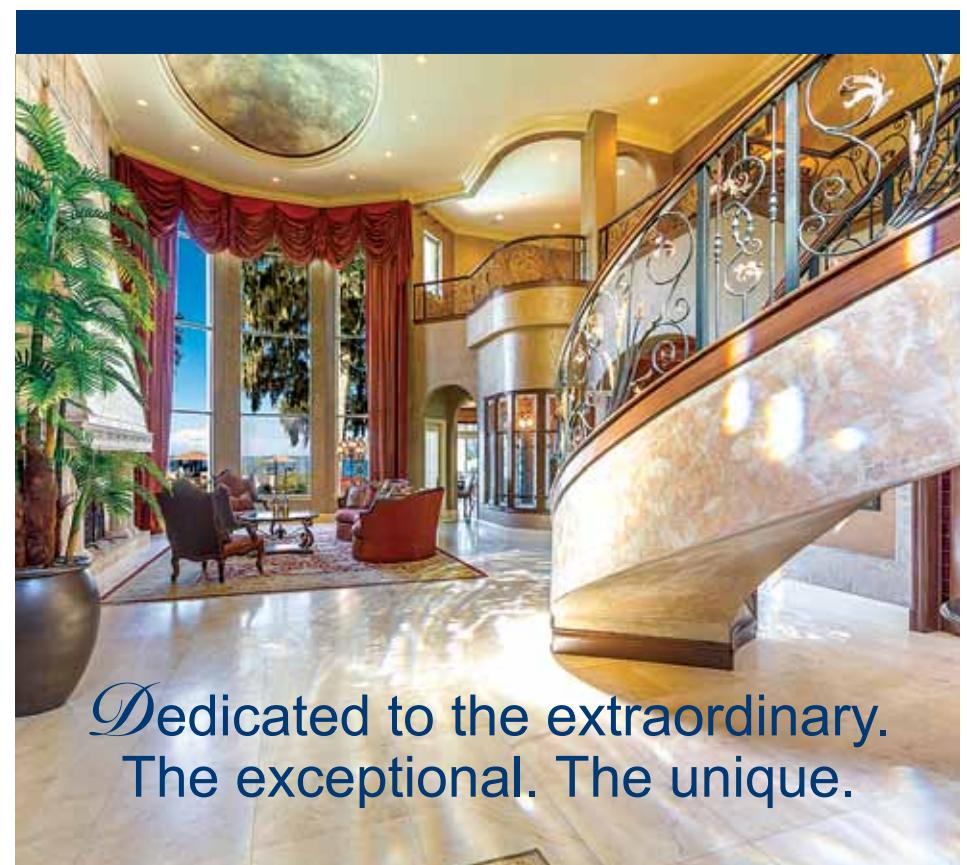
Angelwood is a local nonprofit that assists families in caring for the special needs of their loved ones through a variety of programs suited to each person's individual goals. The Winter Wine Social is one of five events the organization hosts to raise funds each year. Founded in 1993, the organization has grown from one group home for three children with developmental disabilities to serving over 300 area families. For more information visit [www.angelwoodjax.org](http://www.angelwoodjax.org), or visit them on Facebook.

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Tune in to Good for You this month to learn about advances in heart repair that give us new options, and preventive action you can take to eat and exercise your way to a healthy heart.

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# City replaces drainage swale with pipe in Whatley Park

*Preservation Society offers commemorative benches and trees*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

One portion of the long-awaited improvements to Brown L. Whatley Park has been completed.

On Jan. 14, workmen from the Beaches branch of Jax Utility Management, a subcontractor for the city's Public Works Department, completed the installation of an underground drainage pipe in the northeast corner of the park.

The pipe connects a curb inlet and storm drains on Alexandria Place North with the concrete creek that runs within the park. It replaces an aboveground drainage swale, which many Whatley Park area residents considered unsightly, and was covered with new sod to add connectivity and continuity to the other grassy areas of the park.

Wayne Gibbs, Jax Utility Management supervisor of the project, said the drainage pipe project took four days to complete. He said the work was "mostly cosmetic" and would not necessarily fix the flooding problem that often turns Whatley Park into a lake when heavy rain occurs.

"This is mostly cosmetic and for maintenance," Gibbs said. "After doing this, they won't have to worry about having the ditch cleaned out."

The drainage project is only one of several improvements slated for the park. The city also plans to begin building a concrete path through the park and installing two small circular seating areas midway along the path on the south and north sides of the footbridge. Also planned is the installation of new benches, lampposts,



Workmen from the Beaches branch of Jax Utility Management prepare to lay sod over a new drainage pipe in Brown L. Whatley Park Jan. 14.

and upward lighting of the trees' canopy.

Construction on the sidewalk and the lighting improvements should begin in early February, said Daryl Joseph, Director of the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Service. The entire project should be complete by the beginning of March, he said.

To also enhance the park, the San Marco Preservation Society is offering residents the opportunity to contribute to a dedicated account earmarked for periodic improvements and maintenance of Whatley Park by purchasing commemorative benches and trees.

Six benches will be available at a cost of \$1,500 each, while 12 hardwood trees will be planted at a cost of \$750 apiece. A bronze dedication plaque will accompany each commemorative donation.

For more information about securing a commemorative gift, email Leigh Melvin at the San Marco Preservation Society at [leigh@smajax.com](mailto:leigh@smajax.com) or call (904) 396-0081.



New sod covers the area where an open drainage swale used to feed into the concrete creek in Whatley Park.

## Charity poker tournament to benefit K9s for Warriors

Cards for K9s, a charity poker tournament benefiting K9s for Warriors, will be hosted by The Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Section on Feb. 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at bestbet Jacksonville, 201 Monument Rd. Prizes will be awarded throughout the evening, including awards for knocking out local celebrity bounties – community leaders, media personalities, and prominent attorneys – in this Texas Hold 'Em tournament.

Register online at [k9sforwarriors.donorpages.com/MyEvent/JaxBarPoker2015](http://k9sforwarriors.donorpages.com/MyEvent/JaxBarPoker2015) or contact Cyndy Trimmer at [cynthia.trimmer@ansbacher.net](mailto:cynthia.trimmer@ansbacher.net) for information.

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FEBRUARY 27 9AM-10PM



# Illustrating a true love for the neighborhoods



The Resident's  
"Why I Love My Neighborhood"  
contest winners announced

The Resident staff is proud to report an outstanding response for this year's Valentine's Day-themed contest. It is one that reflects a true love for the areas in which we live. As readers both young and old submitted essays, poems and best photographic depictions of an aspect of community that they love, we share them with their fellow neighbors. It was a difficult task to choose the winners and even harder not to share a few more, so we're printing some of the other entries that left a lasting impression. Happy Valentine's Day!



## And the winner is...

### Around Here

by Samantha Livingston, San Marco

The bird gains momentum with each new round of her staccato verse as I shake off sleep with a steaming mug, neither of us ready to depart from our respective morning rituals. The cool air moved in last night and the trees are swaying enough to drop leaves here and there, when I notice Paula emerge and waft down the driveway toward her paper, her waist loosely tied with a thick white belt. It's not uncommon around here for us to chat in the middle of the road donning plaid flannel or terry cloth and the absence of shame even as cars pass by.

Inevitably, activity revs up. I'm forced to deal with everything from plastic bags and peanut butter to stop signs and school drops but, by the

time I return home, I haven't driven more than three square miles. I finally sink my teeth into the work of the day, never losing sight of my view out the window. About the time I tire of sitting at a desk, Lucy stands up, shakes her ears, and looks up at me expectantly. When did she become such a mind reader? I wonder, as I grab the leash off the hook and, together, we set out down the road.

A group of cyclists whizzes by, bringing the smell of bacon with them from the North, and my three favorite fountains slide into view. They each spray majestically toward a clear blue sky and their only competition is a nearby oak. I've never prayed for a tree before but I make an exception. This one is still recovering from recent construction, and all of us around here will want to enjoy its splendor for many more years to come.

I make it to The Square just in time to meet our eldest and a friend who have walked over for coffee and some middle-school freedom. While there, we grab a last-minute gift before heading toward home, where I pause to survey recent events at the side-by-side renovations down the street. I marvel at the windows filling yesterday's holes and the new landscape stuffed into the dirt next door. I imagine the upward climb of my own home's value--something on my mind lately since, soon, we'll be selling. Thankfully, we're headed just a stone's throw away, where we'll surely add to this list of neighbors we call friends.

Either way, one thing is certain. San Marco will continue to tickle my senses and, each day, I'll make sure to press pause to savor it all from my perch at the window.



## Runner-up

### Why I love San Marco

by Abigail Smith, San Marco

If town criers still roamed the streets,  
I know they'd be shouting this news for all to hear:  
"Gather your families, and move to where the special  
streets meet  
The one and only San Marco that we all hold so dear."

For there in that village within a town,  
There under the palmettos, pines and palms,  
Is a community where people can be seen in jeans  
polos and evening gowns.  
There is San Marco so quaint, so lively yet calm.

San Marco is the home of my heart.  
I was raised knowing its streets and lawns.  
Strolling its sidewalks - I know all its parts.  
Give me evenings in San Marco and you'll keep me  
content and calm.



## Runner-up

### San Marco by Letter

by Mary McAllister, San Marco

**S**an Marco draws you in and wraps you in its charm, all the while inviting you to create your own unique experience as you wander through the few square miles of its official territory.

**A**rt breathes here in the little shops keeping watch over Balis Park, with sculptures of kids flying kites in the wind, and a gazebo where you can sit and contemplate. An abstract splash of color at the Stellers gallery; a surprising design on a dress or scarf in Reve; the perfect gift you didn't know you needed at the The Write Touch, and Reddi Arts, with supplies to create your own works of art.

**N**othing like the three lions, majestic in stone, except in Italy in the Piazza San Marco in Venice, from which San Marco gets its name. There they sit, watchfully guarding the water as it spills down concrete slabs, and lending their fierce grace to the paved sidewalks circling and curving 'round the fountain (at Christmastime, the stately manes bewreathed with golden ornaments and green ribbons).

**M**aybe it's the houses lining the streets around the square that bestow the feeling of a village, community-driven and peacefully acknowledging its own unique flavor and spirit. Or the 14 parks within its borders, like Brown Whatley with its stream running lengthwise down the center of it, or Landon Park, or Belmonte Park, all of which make San Marco Jacksonville's most walkable neighborhood.

**A**nd then, there are the restaurants. Food of all kinds to experience, with choices ranging from sushi to Thai to Italian, and, of course, old favorites like the Beach Diner, Taverna, the Loop.

**R**iver Oak Road floats you down past houses of every style and color, marking their distance to the river. Verdant green, palms, oaks, magnolias, and Spanish moss surround you as you come upon the magnificence of the St. John's River at the end of the street.

**C**atch a movie at the San Marco Theater, filled with people socializing, the smell of nachos, popcorn and quesadillas filling the air right up to the minute that the darkness gets darker still, and the film begins. There's even live theater at one of the country's oldest community theater troupes puts on performances, dramatic and comedic, to entertain and delight.

**O**ther cultures, other tastes, and a generous spirit are always on offer. As a transplant from a colder climate, the warmth of welcome and a little bit of quirkiness were what drew me to settle in San Marco, a neighborhood I love.



## Photo Winner



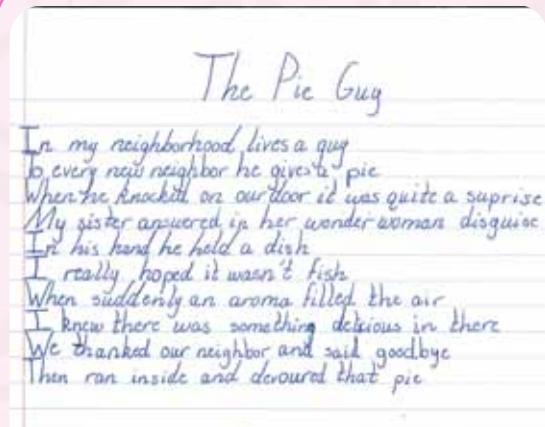
### Beauty in the neighborhood

by Andrew Lopez, Granada

The San Marco fountain is why I love my neighborhood because it represents the beauty of nature in our community. The fountain is very beautiful as with the river, the rest of the Square, and the neighborhood. The beautiful nature is why I love my neighborhood.



## Junior Winner



## Junior Runner-up

### Favorite parts of my neighborhood

by Maryann Anderson

Rising out of my bed like a butterfly coming out of a cocoon, I quickly get dressed all ready for a very fun day in my neighborhood. While eating my scrumptious breakfast, I enjoy watching my feathery friends also known as the ducks, swim around. The warm sunshine on my back as I relax on my dock located on the lovely lake of San Marco, then I say a friendly hello to the neighbor across the lake from me. I jump into a kayak ready for an adventure or maybe even a manatee sighting. On the lake that is so smooth I see a humble manatee in the distance. When I return I race my sisters to a nearby park. We cross safely because of how silent the streets are. At the provided park, we meet up with some of our neighbors to play a couple of games of Frisbee. Later that night, my family takes a very short walk to the San Marco Square for a movie night at the theater and a superb supper. We walk back to our delightful home. Ohh, ahh we made it back in time for the beautiful sunset, now this is definitely my favorite parts of my neighborhood.

## Lift a pint for epilepsy

Intuition Ale Works will host a Pint Night on Thursday, Feb. 25, 6-9 p.m., to raise funds for the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida's (EFOF) outreach program, "Heads Up for Epilepsy."

The goal of the "Heads Up for Epilepsy" prevention program, sponsored by The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, is to raise awareness by educating the community on the importance of helmets and bicycle safety. By providing helmets and fittings to the community, it will help prevent head injury, which is a leading cause of epilepsy, especially in children.

The free event will feature a Beer Basket Giveaway donated by European Street Café and a food truck. The first 20 people to enter will receive a one-of-a-kind, limited edition pint glass, provided by Renaissance Pools & Spas. Intuition Ale Works will donate \$1 of each pint sold from the events proceeds to the EFOF.

To obtain more information on the prevention and education programs, contact the local EFOF office at (904) 731-3752 or visit [www.efof.org](http://www.efof.org).

## Support libraries, buy books at two-day sale



The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library are planning a two-day book sale, offering a free bag of books for every purchase of two bags.

The sale hours are Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 21, noon to 5 p.m. Bags are provided and can be filled for \$15 each with books, music CDs, DVDs and books on CD at the University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. N.

There will be unannounced special deals offered, according to David Wells, book sale manager. "Come early to get the best selection," said Wells. "It's fun watching customers fill their bags with great bargains."

For more information, visit [www.fjpl.org](http://www.fjpl.org).



Virginia Mitchell donated yard furniture for residents to use while visiting Palmer Terrace Park.

## Resident donates furniture to St. Nicholas park

Thanks to the generosity of one St. Nicholas homeowner, residents have a place to sit when they visit Palmer Terrace Park.

In October, Palmer Terrace neighborhood residents were shocked to discover vandals smashed the concrete picnic furniture, throwing some pieces in the river in the popular pocket greenspace on the St. Johns waterfront.

According to Beth Pavlicberry of the Palmer Terrace area watch group, St. Nicholas resident Virginia Mitchell recently donated a tile-topped table and four chairs to the park. Her furniture can be used while the city parks and recreation department researches whether it is more cost-effective to repair the broken furniture or replace it with something new.

In late October, Pam Roman, a Parks and Recreation spokesperson who no longer works for the city, said the department plans to restore the furniture sometime after the first of the year.

## Two-hour parking signs ordered for St. Nicholas

By early February, parking will be limited to two hours in front of the shops in St. Nicholas Town Center.

According to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, the Florida Department of Transportation placed a work order Dec. 16 to install signs limiting the amount of time patrons can park to two hours in front of the businesses on the southwest side of Beach Boulevard between Walton Street and Palmer Terrace.

"It should take four to six weeks to complete," said Boyer, who estimated the

signs should be installed by Feb. 1.

The signs will limit the existing parallel and angle parking to two-hour increments between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The parallel spaces across the street lining the northwest side of Beach Boulevard near the Mudville Grille will not be affected, allowing patrons to park for an unlimited amount of time. In addition, the 13 city-owned spaces behind the Korean Baptist Church at 3200 Utina Avenue near Palmer Terrace are available for shoppers to park without a time limit.



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## Fourth generation church planter establishes new church in San Marco

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

As the lead pastor of San Marco's newest congregation, TheCity.church, Blake Bennett may be only 28, but has an unwavering faith that God's mission for him is to follow in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him.

Bennett's forebears were church planters. His great-grandfather, Walter Bennett, Sr., a farmer in Louisiana, did not grow up in a Christian home, Bennett said, but after recognizing Jesus as his Savior, helped start multiple churches in his rural community.

His son, Walter Jr., Bennett's grandfather, often listened in an adjacent room as his father shared the story of Jesus with other Baptist deacons, Bennett said. Walter Jr. began preaching at age 16 and helped start churches in Tennessee, Illinois and Florida, including Hibernia Baptist in Fleming Island and First Baptist in Ponte Vedra, which was sponsored by Southside Baptist and is now called Crosswater Community Church.

Bennett's father, Gregg Bennett, was living in Atlanta when he was called by First Baptist to become its lead pastor for a few months. Later when the church became New Beginnings he continued to serve as pastor for 11 years before starting up Champions Way Church in St. Johns County.

"My family moved to the Jacksonville area because Southside Baptist had started a church," said Bennett, adding that, at one time, his father used an office in the church on Atlantic Boulevard.

In starting TheCity.church, Bennett's initial desire was design a church in Jacksonville that would target millennials – young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 – who were not affiliated with any church.

"I planted TheCity.church so that people far from God can have a relationship with him," said Bennett. "A lot of people want to grow in their relationship with God, but the problem is the way church has been



Blake Bennett stands outside The City.church on Hendricks Avenue.



Music director Joel Stuckey chats with lead pastor Blake Bennett at TheCity.church.

done. Most churches are set up for people who already go to church. I wanted to set up a church for the people who don't go to church."

Ordained at age 23, Bennett was the Executive Director of YouthQuake Live when he approached Southside Baptist Senior Pastor Gary Webber with his desire to start up a church in the San Marco area. Webber's church approved the idea, giving Bennett an office, a salary and a place to hold services in the church's fellowship hall Sunday evenings.

"There are a lot of people in San Marco with different cultures and world views. We need multiple churches so they can meet different needs and different audiences," said Webber. "If the main goal is to impact lives with the gospel of Christ, it doesn't matter whose name is on it. If they do it in a way we can't, then we should support that. Too many churches are tribal. We are trying to change the culture of that and get away from polarization."

In February 2015, Bennett and fellow pastor Tyrelle Mustafa decided to take a leap, renting space at the Knights of Columbus Social Club on Hendricks Avenue, so non-denominational services could be held Sunday mornings in San Marco. The move was made possible by a \$7,500 grant from the Florida Baptist Convention, granted to Southside Baptist, the sending church.

"We're blessed to be sponsored by Southside Baptist Church and to rent space from the Catholic Church. We're non-denominational and wouldn't have it any other way," said Bennett.

On Sunday's, Bennett, his wife Cierra, and a contingent of 20 church-goers arrive at the social club at 6 a.m. in order to set up for the service, he said. To give the space an edgy, casual, hipster atmosphere, the group attaches black drapes to the walls, strings up lights from the ceiling and sets up 100 or more chairs in its rented sanctuary. It also installs a wooden floor in the club's bar, which is equipped with furniture and teaching resources as a separate room for children. The black-lined walls and dim lighting help congregants "focus on God," Bennett explained. "We want people to meet with God with few distractions," he said.

TheCity.church's music is contemporary and loud. Earplugs are available, Bennett said. A flat-screen monitor behind the band, which is led by Joel Stuckey, provides words to scriptural citations and modern hymns. In the lobby,

"empowerment" coffee from Cup of Love in Jacksonville, is served. Cup of Love is a ministry which distributes java brew from locally roasted beans to the homeless on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, Bennett said. "Anything we can do to reinvest in the city, we will," said Bennett.

The first morning service in their new digs last September attracted 127 persons, and Bennett found that in addition to millennials, the church attracts people of all ages. Homeless people attend and help guide churchgoers to the parking lot, he said. Also included in the mix are at least 10 people in recovery, he said.

"We don't want to be a one-generational church," Bennett said, noting his followers have ranged in age from four months to 76 years old. The goal of the church is to "love, honor and accept all people with inspirational hospitality, whatever their story" he said.

Bennett said he wanted to locate his church in San Marco when he heard about plans to develop The District – Life Well Lived – Jacksonville on the Southbank. "I feel like Jacksonville as a downtown community is experiencing renewal, and we are excited to be part of it," he said.

"Our target is making the city better and it starts where we are right now, making San Marco better," he said. "We don't believe that we're better than any other church, but we are really comfortable with what God's asked us to be. We're part of something bigger."

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# MOCA undergoes rebranding, unveils new look

A favorite downtown landmark has taken on a new image, a message that's fresh for the mobile age. One of Jacksonville's most prized cultural institutions continues to evolve with the times and has now reached a place where modern art meets modern technology. With over 40 percent of visitors now discovering the museum on a mobile platform, the digital front door and related logos have now been redesigned and rebranded.

With this in mind, leadership at the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville (MOCA) invited special guests and patrons to a reception titled "Have we Met?" As a play on unfamiliarity and reintroduction, the new logo and vision were shared at the special cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception Jan. 12, where patrons celebrated the new relationship with their favorite arts institution.

MOCA's new identity now spans all of its print and digital products – from signage on the building and museum directories to email communications and social media accounts. Museum officials liken the changes to a more sophisticated, metropolitan institution, one that they feel MOCA has become over the past several years under director Marcelle Polednik's leadership.

"With this reinvented identity, MOCA Jacksonville is poised to continue its growth on a national scale, highlighting Northeast Florida as a burgeoning center for arts and culture," said Polednik, who is also chief curator. "This work is the culmination of a multiyear process of identifying our strengths and goals."

The museum logos and redesigned website were managed by the collaborative efforts of a staff creative team led by Creative Director Casie Simpson. The other contributors were Polednik, Director of Communications Denise Reagan and the dynamic web development creative duo from UNF, Pasquale Ciazzo and Marian Watters. Visit <http://mocajacksonville.unf.edu> to visit the new website and see the rebranding and new logos firsthand.



Edward Hall and Dr. Dolores L. Hall



Kat Hardwick, Haleigh Hutchison and Hana Ashchi



MOCA Creative Director Casie Simpson, UNF IT and web development members Pasquale Ciazzo and Marian Watters, MOCA Director and Chief Curator Marcelle Polednik, Ph.D., and MOCA Director of Communications Denise Reagan



Bethany Anderson, Bob Smith and Gina Smith

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December 10

For more information on the Farmers Market, go to [TradsGardenCenter.com](http://TradsGardenCenter.com).



Trad's Garden Center – "Your Neighborhood Garden Center" is located at 8178 San Jose Boulevard. Hours: Monday – Saturday: 8AM – 5PM; Sunday: Noon – 5PM; 733-7549; [TradsGardenCenter.com](http://TradsGardenCenter.com).

# Spring Gardening Begins With Farmers Market at Trad's Garden Center

### NOW IS TIME TO GET READY FOR SPRING

If you want a beautiful lawn or garden this spring or if you want to enhance your home for your family or perhaps to prepare it to sell on the market, now is the time to begin your preparations.

Winter preparations should include installing new plants and shrubs; planting annuals and vegetables; preparing soil; fertilizing citrus; and applying pre-emergence weed control.

But where should you go to find a large selection of plants, shrubs, trees, annuals and vegetables; or to get a unique potting soil formulated specifically for Jacksonville shrubs and flowers; or to obtain fertilizers and weed control products, along with personal instruction on treating your lawn or garden? You need to go to Trad's Garden Center. "We're just around the corner."

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to help any level of gardener, from the beginning elementary school student to the seasoned, full-time gardener.

Founded in 1971 by Betty and Lou Trad, the company is still family-owned and operated by the family's second generation. While many upgrades and improvements have been made to the nursery, Mr. Trad keeps his hand in the business and still grows the herbs and vegetables by seed. Many of the plants sold at the nursery are actually grown there, something very rare for any nursery. That is part of what makes Trad's so different than any other franchised or retail garden shop.

### TRAD'S FARMERS MARKET BEGINS FEBRUARY 27

Trad's operates South Jacksonville's only farmers market twice a month on Saturdays on the green in middle of the garden center. Local farmers and other vendors offer fresh vegetables and goods to sell directly to the public. It's a unique outdoor setting where people can shop for various items, from arts and crafts to bakery goods to fruits and vegetables. And while there, children can visit and feed the chickens and you can pick up vegetable plants and herbs to grow on your own.

### PEST CONTROL SERVICES KEEP LAWNS GREEN AND PEST FREE

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# Men's-only 'boot camp' builds a better man

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Jumanji performs the Dying Cockroach three times a week during F3.

Translation: Brandon Speeg exercises with a free, peer-led men's fitness group, which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at Southside Park and Saturdays at Alexandria Oaks Park.

Fitness, Fellowship and Faith – F3 – is a workout with a purpose. The organization, known as F3 Nation, has spread in the past five years from Charlotte, N.C. throughout the Southeast, including San Marco. The purpose, beyond getting and staying in shape, is to become better men, husbands, fathers and leaders in the community.

"I have seen F3 change men, just in the eight months I've been part of this group," said Brandon Speeg, also known as Jumanji, who drives into San Marco from the Beaches three times a week to join the workouts. "And the physical change is probably the least impressive part. Some guys have dropped 30 to 40 pounds and are in the best shape of their life, but watching men turn into leaders and then channeling that leadership into action in their families and communities is what's really special about F3."

The pre-dawn, 45- to 60-minute workouts typically follow a boot camp format and group members take turns serving as the leader, moving the



Planks on the bank of the St. Johns River in San Marco



Circle of trust

men through exercises like the Dying Cockroach, the Merkin or the Ring of Fire.

During the morning workouts, relationships are forged and what follows is what the men refer to as the second F – fellowship. Those relationships move beyond the workouts as the men gather for coffee, breakfast and happy hours during the week.

"I think men, including myself,

have trouble forging meaningful male friendships after we leave the world of organized sports and our college years," said Jeremy Thomas, nickname SOC.

"There is something to be said for doing hard work together with other guys before most people are even awake. It builds comradery and real friendship, and that's the glue that holds F3 together."

While the group is not associated with a

particular religion or viewpoint, at the end of each workout the men form a huddle and the leader is free to express his own faith in prayer or offer an inspirational message or challenge.

"There is no sign-up required, just show up with a good attitude and be welcomed with a dose of 'get better,'" said Speeg.

To find out more, visit [www.f3nation.com](http://www.f3nation.com) or email [jacksonville@f3nation.com](mailto:jacksonville@f3nation.com).

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# Going the Distance for Customers of All Skill Levels

When Dan Wilson began training over six years ago in competitive endurance sports, he never imagined the toughest part of becoming an Ironman would be leaving a corporate career to run the uncharted course of the entrepreneur.

While brainstorming one day about his desire to forge a new path, he began soul-searching for the way to turn his passion for sports into a business. As it turns out, his search eventually led him to a local storefront in Avondale and a build-out for a unique business concept not known to most consumers in Northeast Florida.

"One day I was finally ready to take the leap and jump into something that would finally make me happy," he said. "I sat down at my computer and searched 'Triathlon Franchise'...and there it was."

Wilson discovered Endurance House online, a franchise that offers a one-stop shopping experience for endurance athletes and others seeking a unique retail destination. The pillars of the business are not based in pushing products and sales, but rather, delivering outstanding customer service, growing camaraderie, and building friendships. The mission statement of the company spoke to Wilson, it reads—to provide gold standard guest service for triathletes, runners, walkers, and athletes of all abilities in a genuine and encouraging atmosphere.

Echoing the tenets of the founders, Wilson is dedicated to the core values and has had experiences in his own shopping excursions that left him feeling ignored and often times deflated. "I want to show the customer that no matter what their skill level or fitness goals, we will serve them with respect and understanding—not intimidation."

The best part about the new concept is the opportunity that Wilson had to hand-pick his staff for the new store. "I think it's important in the culture [of business and customer service], in the process of hiring, that we have teachers and former coaches...those that understand how to help all skill levels and abilities." Wilson wants to be clear that you don't have to be a super athlete to shop, that's why he's focused on creating a place to learn, inspire others and simply enjoy good company.



From customer service to the clean atmosphere, one that includes a fireplace and lounge, the store exhibits an inviting place to shop and explore. Endurance House delivers an entirely new experience to athletes in Northeast Florida by offering a plethora of specialized equipment and technology under one roof. It will serve the young aspiring kid down the street as well as the needs of the extreme athlete preparing to board the plane for Kona to compete in the Ironman World Championship.

No longer will the multi-sport athlete have to travel to one store for shoes, one for gels and recovery products, another for the bicycle and yet another for a specialized wetsuit, better yet, online when something is unavailable. According to Wilson, "It was all too often an exhausting experience to shop for multiple products in town," he continued, "...and who wants to try and

buy a specialized wetsuit online?"

In order to get to the triathlon one had to go through a shopping triathlon, this is now a thing of the past for area athletes. Helping to solve that problem for so many who enjoy the active lifestyle that endurance athletes maintain fuels Wilson's fire for the growth of Endurance House.

## The crucial component—the right 'fit'

From running shoes to bicycles, race tires, specialized wetsuits, gels and supplements, recovery products, compression socks and gear, the needs of each athlete differ. With this in mind, the shop will be a destination for active individuals of all stripes who seek the right fit for their needs.

By utilizing a unique set of systems offered at Endurance House, knowledgeable fitness consultants help customers analyze their gait, posture and other important traits and habits. The Endurance House training tools start with a FREE, no obligations total body movement evaluation on a treadmill with an iPad interface and proprietary app integration. This program, titled Personalized Movement Profile (PMP), enables the consultant to advise a personalized approach to your equipment. From fitting to the test drive, a history can now be incorporated in order to facilitate the achievement of goals.

Another outstanding and unique sample of the equipment integrated into the Endurance House experience is the Guru Bike Fitting System. This interactive, computer-controlled riding experience allows the cyclist to pedal while riding adjustments are being made, in one fluid session, without interruption. A revolutionary rider scan analysis and comprehensive fit report are just the tip of the iceberg for cyclists, as they are then ready for the dynamic bike fitting session.

It's time to get ready for this new groundbreaking concept that's coming to your area and there's so much more in store. Get in to Endurance House for their community open house planned for February 19th so you can reach your fitness and lifestyle goals.

More information about Endurance House can be found online at [www.endurancehousejax.com](http://www.endurancehousejax.com) and you can contact a representative by phone at 904-501-3143. The shop is located in the Shoppes of Avondale at 3562 St. Johns Avenue between Biscottis and the Florida Creamery.



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# The Way We Were - Bert & Jean Oatman

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

Married 65 years, Bert Oatman has been wed so long he has a hard time recalling a time when he wasn't in love with his wife, Jean.

"I have loved that woman so long, and I still love her!" he said. "I was four years ahead of Jean in school. When I was a senior, she was in the eighth grade and it didn't seem proper, but I already had my eye on her. We talked, but no dates," he said.

However, Jean recalls one day when she was young, Bert made a prescient comment to her as she stood in her front yard while he walked past.

"I was 14 and Bert said to me, 'How old will you be when you are a senior?'" she recalled. "I told him I'd be 18 and he replied, 'That's a perfect age to get married!'"

Jean Green was 11 when her family moved from their house directly across from the tennis courts behind San Marco Library to a home on Flesher Avenue in St. Nicholas, just a few doors down from the Oatman family.

Bert's father, Herbert W. Oatman, was a native of Wisconsin and had been stationed in Columbus, Georgia with the U.S. Army during World War I. After his army hitch, he worked at Bill's Auto Parts, which eventually transferred him to its Jacksonville branch. Herbert Oatman met his wife, Lossie Wilson, through her brother Leffie, who frequented the auto parts shop.

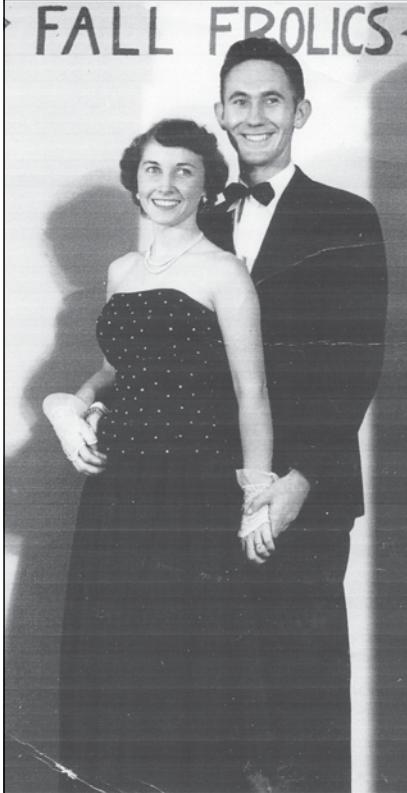
"My mother worked at King Edward Cigars for 50 years. She was a packer who sorted and graded the cigar colors for uniformity," said Bert. "When she retired, only two packers still did that job. She lived to be 88 years old and never needed glasses. Until her death in 2001, she could still read the telephone book."

Jean's father, Jerry J. Green and his wife, Coree Barbee, were both from Georgia. After moving to Florida, Jerry owned Green's Service Station and Auto Repair Garage at 1244 Kings Avenue in San Marco.

Jean had three siblings, Jerald, Patricia and Lourene. Bert first became friends with Jean's older brother, Jerald, who has since passed away. The boys also palled around with the four Richardson boys, who also lived in the neighborhood – Tex, who currently lives in Louisiana, as



Jean, age 7



University of Florida Fall Frolic, 1950

well as Jake, Charles and Everett, who are deceased. Jean's sister, Patricia, married their brother, Charles Richardson and now lives in Arlington. Her sister, Lourene Green McKnelly, still lives in the family home on Flesher Avenue.

The Oatman home, like others on Flesher Avenue, had been originally built to house shipyard workers employed at a World War I shipyard, which was located where Bishop Kenny now stands, said Bert.

"As teenagers, we hung out at the old abandoned shipyard. There were giant tanks full of trash with trees and brush growing inside. One was half underground, about 30 by 30 feet and 10-feet deep. We cleaned it out, channeled water from a nearby artesian well into it and kept the water constantly overflowing. Every kid in the area was swimming there until someone's parents called the city," he said. "It was declared a health hazard, and they filled it with hot tar."

During those days, Bert and Jean often walked to South Jacksonville Grammar School. The historic school, erected in 1916 at the corner of Flagler Avenue and Cedar Street, is now a mixed-use building,

which includes loft apartments.

The couple also attended Landon Junior/Senior High School, where Bert played basketball and football and Jean was a Landon Lionette and band majorette. In 1946, Bert graduated from Landon. Four years later, Jean followed, graduating in 1950.

After high school, Bert first enrolled in the University of Florida, but was soon took a detour to serve in the U.S. Army. He was stationed for two years at Fort Knox in Kentucky, from 1947-1948.

After completing his military commitment, Bert returned to Jacksonville. At that time, Jean was a senior at Landon, and the couple started dating in the fall of 1948. By Christmas the following year, Jean's mother had become more than curious about their relationship.

"Mother said, 'Why are you seeing Bert all the time? You need to start seeing some other young men,'" Jean recalled. A month later, in January 1950, Bert proposed.

Soon after Jean graduated from Landon High, the couple was married Aug. 11, 1950 at Swaim Memorial United Methodist Church on Naldo Avenue.

Pastor Dave Cathcart officiated. Swaim had been Bert's family church while Jean's family attended Hendricks Methodist Church, which at that time was located across from Naugle Funeral Home on Hendricks Avenue. Hendricks Methodist later moved to Spring Park Road and was renamed Faith United Methodist.

With his UF engineering degree in hand, Bert spent the next 28 years working for the City of Jacksonville, first as the Chief of Building Inspection, and later as Deputy Director of Public Works. He also served a few years as Florida State College Jacksonville Projects Officer, completing their downtown and Kent campus facilities. The last 12 years of his career were spent working for Flood Engineering before he retired in 1995.

After they were married and while Bert finished college, Jean worked for Aetna Finance Company in Gainesville. She stayed home to raise their four children – Linda, Nancy, Wayne and Leith. Later she spent 10 years working in the Landon High School counseling office, retiring in 1992.

When the Oatmans returned to Jacksonville from Gainesville, they moved into a small new Suwanee Road home in Lakewood. Although they renovated the structure, adding rooms over the next 12 years, having four children eventually required a larger domicile. Bert designed a larger home on San Souci Road in the Southside, where they lived until their youngest child went to college. Soon after, the Oatmans moved back to Rio Lindo Drive in San Marco, where they have lived for 38 years.

The Oatmans have made their faith and church the heart and center of their lives. They believe this is the strong foundation of their long marriage.

"If you're too busy to go to church, you're too busy," Bert often says. The Oatmans have been active members at Lakewood United Methodist Church for at least 60 years.

Now in their 80s, the couple volunteers with Seniors on a Mission and participates in Young At Heart Seniors activities. At 86, Bert is a swimmer, who has logged at least a mile in the pool once a week for the past 25 or more

*continued on page 31 >>>*

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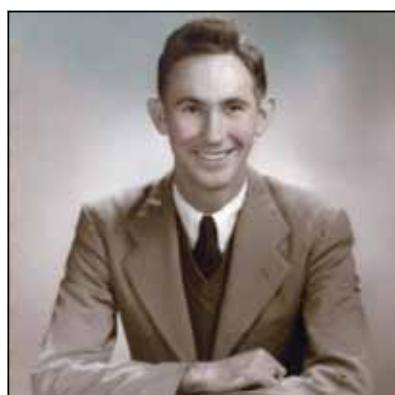
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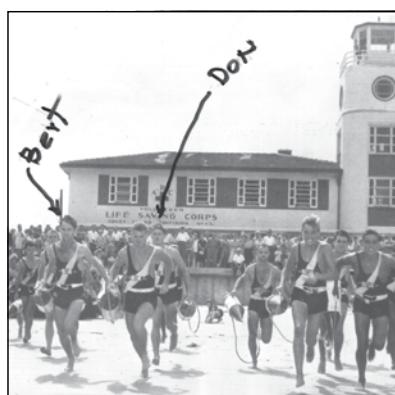
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Jean, high school senior portrait



Bert, high school senior portrait



Lifeguards, 1948



Wedding, Aug. 11, 1950



Oatman family, 1975: Linda, Nancy, Jean, Bert, front: Leith, Wayne



Jean and Bert



Jean and Bert, 2009



Bert Oatman, Don MacLean, Tex Richardson, 2010

years. He also enjoys reading historical, crime and mystery novels. Meanwhile, Jean, 83, an ardent seamstress, used to sew her daughter's dresses and enjoys volunteering on sewing projects. She loves flower gardening and is a member of the Riverside Garden Club.

Jean said cultivating hobbies together and working to stay close to each other have kept their marriage strong. Bert and she try hard to be thoughtful to one

another and have always taken good care of each other, she said.

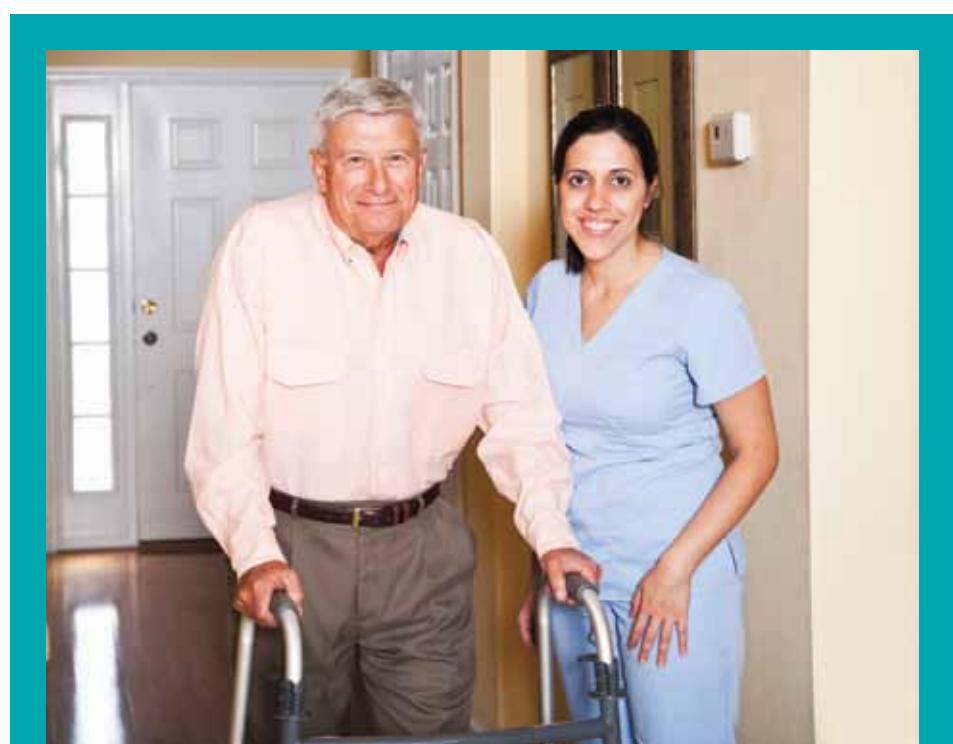
"Every person and every relationship is different," said Bert. "There is really no secret to a long, happy marriage, but it takes both working together and staying committed. Me, my closest friends and our wives meant what we said when we took our marriage vows," he said, referring to his close high school buddies Don MacLean and Tex

Richardson. In addition to attending the University of Florida together, the three classmates all married during the summer of 1950 and were groomsmen in each other's weddings.

"It's pretty amazing that 65 years later we are all alive, and we're still married to the same gals!" Bert said. "Jean and I, Don and his wife, Georgia, and Tex and his wife, Billie – we're all in each other's lives. One other thing hasn't changed

either – we're still huge Gator fans!" laughed Bert.

In celebration of their 66th wedding anniversary next August, the Oatmans plan to hold a large family reunion so they can visit with their four children, 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, most of whom, with the exception of son Wayne who lives in San Jose, live out of state or elsewhere in Florida.



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# Love for community at heart of capital campaigns

By Marian Johns and Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Wanting their community at large to be the best it can be for all residents is just one of many reasons donors support a variety of capital campaigns. Sometimes personal tragedy prompts the desire to donate, but whatever the underlying reason, several area nonprofits will see the seeds of their capital campaigns begin to sprout, and even bear fruit, this year.

From new facilities for the homeless and for abandoned pets to temporary housing for families undergoing medical care in Jacksonville, supporters share why these projects are near and dear to their hearts.

## More rooms in the House



### Ronald McDonald House Jacksonville

**Project:** Ronald McDonald House renovation and expansion

**Goal:** \$13 million, launched in 2010

**Milestone:** Almost 90% funds raised, portions of facility re-opened November 2015

With three sons, and grandchildren, the Bryan family of Ortega has sympathy for families who face the prospect of being separated while caring for a seriously ill child in another city, and therefore have been tremendous supporters of the Ronald McDonald House for many years.

"We recognize the importance of this incredible mission to help keep families with sick children together when they find themselves in Jacksonville for exemplary medical care," said J.F. Bryan. "We are honored to be a part of this incredible project."

Seeing the passion others have put into supporting and serving the Ronald McDonald House hit a nerve with Steve and Sue Day, putting a special meaning on Jesus'

admonition, "Go and do likewise."

"We have been familiar with the nature of the Ronald McDonald House mission for many years. As Jacksonville develops as a tertiary medical center, many families find themselves in dire need for a "home away from home," said the San Marco couple. "We read about the need for financing to complete the House expansion, and it hit us both that we should help. After Carol Harrison provided us a tour, we were knocked over by the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff and volunteers. We both felt that so many folks giving so much of their time and resources spoke volumes about the mission, and that very night we decided to do what we could to help make the expansion a reality."

## New Y considered 'game changer' in community health



### Winston Family YMCA

**Project:** New community health and fitness facility in Riverside

**Goal:** \$22 million, launched in 2014

**Milestone:** Almost 90% funds raised, facility to open summer 2016

Children in the Central and West Riverside Elementary School neighborhoods will be among the additional 5,000 who will benefit from literacy summer enrichment, leadership development, health-focused and other youth development programs, according to John Baker, YMCA of Florida's First Coast chairman of the board of trustees.

"For the health of the First Coast, particularly our underserved communities, the new Winston Family YMCA is a game changer," said Baker, of Avondale. "All community members will have access to the new Luther and Blanche Coggan Healthy Living Center, which offers Y and Baptist Hospital programs and services that promote good health and will increase

access to quality care and services."

Ortega resident Mike Kelly echoed Baker's sentiments about the city's youth.

"The new Winston Family YMCA is a bold and iconic addition to the bustling Riverside Avenue corridor. Those who support the Winston Y – whether as a member, volunteer or donor – are playing an important role in strengthening our greater Jacksonville community," said Kelly, YMCA of Florida's First Coast chairman of the board of directors. "Through this support, you're helping to ensure all community members have access to programs that focus on healthy living, youth development and social responsibility – three areas that are key to any community's quality of life."



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## Independence is key to achieving goals

Caring for a "differently abled" child, as Kit Thomas puts it, includes the very real worry of that child's future when the parents are gone. For Thomas, The Arc Jacksonville Village will lay some of her fears to rest.

"We, like so many other parents of a 'differently abled' child, worry about Betsy's future after we are gone. Even though she has sisters who are good to her, we want Betsy to have a place that she can call her home...a safe and nurturing neighborhood she can return to after work, and friends to socialize with," said Thomas of San Marco. "The Arc Jacksonville Village is the answer! We are so grateful to Arc Jacksonville and the many community philanthropists for making this dream become a reality for so many individuals and their families."

Joyce Eyrick also rejoices her child will have an opportunity for an independent and fulfilling life.

"As a parent, the community support for The Arc Jacksonville Village has been an affirmation that individuals with

developmental disabilities are capable of living independently and achieving whatever their individual goals may be," said Eyrick of Ortega. "Recognition of this is such a vital step for removing barriers and opening up future possibilities. What a blessing for the entire Jacksonville community."

Part of the blessing can be attributed to the Davis family, which has fond memories of their mother's generosity and caring nature for the homeless, the elderly homebound, and for battered women and children. They chose to honor her memory by supporting The Arc Jacksonville Village.

"My mother, Mary Lou Davis, always cared for folks who were seeking to become independent to make a future for themselves," said Ben Davis of Avondale. "That is what The Arc Jacksonville Village is about. Diana and I believe Mom will be pleased she inspired our gift to dedicate the Village Community Center in her memory."

For one local philanthropist, love for the members of her community drives her



### The Arc Jacksonville Village

**Project:** Affordable, independent-living apartment neighborhood for up to 120 adults

**Goal:** \$23 million, launched in 2012

**Milestone:** More than 90% funds raised, facility to open April 2016

passion for giving. Delores Barr Weaver wanted to make sure that residents of The Village didn't flounder when faced with a temporary halt in income.

"My support of The Arc Jacksonville Village is based on my belief that independence is an important factor in everyone's life. The Arc Jacksonville Village will offer that

independence. Village residents will be working at jobs in the community but just like all of us, they need a 'rainy-day fund' when faced with an illness or loss of a job. Thus, establishing an endowment that will be available to help residents weather a time of financial hardship was important to me," said Weaver of Riverside.

## Triumph over tragedy 10 years later

Plans are underway for a grand opening celebration when the Jacksonville Humane Society opens its new headquarters in April 2017, 10 years after a devastating fire destroyed its main building and killed 86 animals.

But JHS Board Vice President Lisé Everly is rightfully proud of the amazing work done by Jacksonville Humane Society staff in temporary buildings for the past nine years.

"Not only is JHS nationally celebrated for our work, we also adhere to the highest level of financial management and transparency. We were recently given a 4-Star rating by Charity Navigator for the third year in a row. We do all of this out of substandard facilities, and I can't wait to see the amazing things we can do with the new shelter," said Everly, of Riverside.

The launch of the Campaign for a Compassionate Community was

enthusiastically supported by many generous donors, including Michael Munz, President of JHS Board of Directors, and JHS Board Member and Campaign Chair Linda Stein, who each pledged \$1 million.

"Some of the most well-known philanthropists in Jacksonville have made gifts to help build the new shelter and education center. They understand, as we do, that the shelter will be a reflection of the compassionate, animal-loving community we have here. They also know that JHS is more than a shelter – it is a vital community resource," said Munz, a San Marco resident.

Just over the halfway point in the campaign, Stein is ceaseless in her efforts to raise funds to take care of the community's homeless pets.

"The Jacksonville Humane Society is nationally recognized for its work



### Jacksonville Humane Society

**Project:** Brand new animal shelter

**Goal:** \$15 million, launched in 2014

**Milestone:** Over 50% funds raised, facility to open April 2017

that enables Jacksonville to be a no-kill community. David and I felt strongly that the animals deserve a home that reflects that level of excellence," said Stein. "We have

made amazing progress, but there are still funds left to raise. We encourage others to join us by making a gift to this once in a lifetime project."

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# SAN MARCO

A big-city community with a small-town feel

*By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News*

For the past 40 years, Kris Barnes has been so enamored with San Marco and its surrounding neighborhoods that she has lived in five different houses, all less than a mile from each other, four of which are in the Granada neighborhood.

Ditto for Suzanne Perritt, who over the past 45 years has lived in four different San Marco area homes, three of which are in the River Road neighborhood.

Meanwhile, after spending her childhood years on Kingswood Road and in two homes in Granada, Watson Realtor Juliette Vaughn has owned four different houses in the area since she graduated from college. She said the reason is simple: No other community compares with San Marco.

"As a realtor, I'm in all different areas of town, and it's neat that I can help people find the right area for them. There is no other area that would work for me the way the San Marco area works for me," Vaughn explained. "I do think it's San Marco's wonderful walkability, its sense of community. A lot of neighborhoods have it. I'm just used to mine."

For all three women, San Marco is a special place, a big-city locale with a small town feel. It is that "close knit sense of community" that allows Barbara Swindell, who grew up on Sorrento Drive, to be a multigenerational realtor. "Because we are San Marco, I sell to people my age when they want to downsize and also to their children and grandchildren."

Swindell, who has lived in three different San Marco locations herself, said San Marco is attractive to people of all ages and stages of life. The area's wide selection of homes, from bungalows to Riverfront Mansions, makes it a place one can live forever, Swindell said. "It's a natural area of progression. We see that every single day," she said.

"San Marco is beautiful and has a wonderful proximity to Jacksonville. We get to places easily and don't suffer a lot of traffic. I live and work in San Marco," said Swindell, adding that both her son and daughter also reside close by. "I could walk to work if I had to. I feel like I live in the country, but right near downtown."



Christmas at Barbara Swindell's Brookwood Road home included: Bottom row: Zach Swindell, Laruen Nordvig, Shannon Atkins, Robby Atkins; Top row: Carrie Swindell Atkins, Barbara Swindell, Bob Swindell, and Chris Swindell.



Kris Barnes' Cordova Avenue home in the Granada neighborhood



Kris Barnes' "Granada Stepchild" house on Old Grove Manor Drive



Kris Barnes on the doorstep of her current home on Alhambra Drive North

## Granada's 'old' stronger pull than new construction

Barnes, who is the daughter of famed Jacksonville architect Robert C. Broward, also has deep roots in Jacksonville. Her father was born on Louisa Street, in the area behind Tidbits on the Southbank, and her grandfather built one of the first houses near the intersection of River Oaks and Hendricks when it was a two-lane dirt road, she said.

Although Barnes was born in Switzerland, Florida, she lived in the area until her parents divorced and she moved with her mother to Colorado. During that time she spent summers in Riverside with her father. At 21, she moved back permanently, residing in an apartment within an office building her father owned at 1922 Felch Avenue.

Barnes worked as a medical assistant

at Baptist Hospital, where she met and married Wade Barnes, an OB-GYN at Baptist, and moved into his house on Alhambra North in 1978. Although she didn't know it at the time, her tenure at this address was the beginning of her love affair with the Granada neighborhood.

"My current house on Alhambra Drive North is four houses down from my first house on Alhambra Drive North," Barnes explained. "It is also three houses away from my second house (on Cordova Avenue), which was across the street from my first house (on Alhambra Drive North). My second house was the third house built in the neighborhood."

During the last 40 years, Barnes had only one brief foray out of the greater San Marco community. In 1984, she and her husband bought a large home in Clifton, along the river in Arlington, but sold the house after three months due to structural issues.

"We realized the new construction, while pretty, didn't offer the same comfort and convenience of Granada and the San Marco area," Barnes said. "I'd go up to San Marco to shop for clothes for my kids. I could walk everywhere, but in Arlington I needed to drive. I was miserable. I had been the one to instigate the move, but when I got there I realized it just didn't have the same neighborhood feel as San Marco."

Looking to regain her foothold in the Granada neighborhood, Barnes and her husband settled for the only house on the market, a Spanish Mediterranean-style home on Cordova Avenue, which was too small for the growing family of four. To remedy her space issues, she asked her father to design a family room, telling him she had no more than \$25,000 to spend for the renovation. In the meantime, she had her eye on a larger home owned by her friends, Larry and Josette Reid, on Alhambra Drive South.

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Vaughn house on Alhambra Drive North in 1979



George Vaughn and his daughter Juliette at the Kingswood Road house.



A majestic tree graces the front yard of Suzanne Perritt's house on Arbor Lane.



Suzanne Perritt's home on Largo Street in San Marco

"I had jokingly told them, 'if you ever decide to sell your house, I want first dibs,'" she explained.

When her father presented a beautiful but grandiose design costing more than \$300,000, Barnes first decided to go ahead with his plan but quickly changed her mind when Reid, who was getting a divorce, called to offer her his house. "I don't think my dad ever forgave me," Barnes laughed.

The deal with Reid ended up being a fortuitous exchange for both parties. "We traded houses and coordinated the move," she said. "On the same day, his moving van went west and ours went down Cordova. It was funny."

Barnes spent 10 years on Alhambra Drive South. After her divorce, she decided to sell, and moved to 857 Old Grove Manor Road, one street over from the Granada subdivision. "I felt like it was a stepchild to Granada," she said.

At Old Grove Manor Road 19 years, she returned to the Granada subdivision when she bought her current residence on Alhambra Drive North in 2011. Initially she thought she might renovate the house to flip it, but changed her mind in April 2014,

electing to move in herself.

"Every time I came I'd think, 'I like the feel of this house. I'll fix it up to live here myself and sell Old Grove Manor instead,'" said Barnes.

"Honestly, it never occurred to me to live anywhere else," she said. "I've always had the feeling this is where I'm supposed to be. I've always felt like San Marco was home."

## In the middle of everything

Having a family in the San Marco area for four generations, Vaughn attended Hendricks Avenue Elementary, like her mother before her. "Three generations went through the school," she said, noting her kids also attended there. "When we were buying our first house, my husband threw out the idea of living somewhere else. I told him San Marco has a neighborhood feel. I'm just really comfortable here. My husband said, 'Don't you people ever leave?' and I said, 'No. We like being where we are.'

Vaughn's parents, George and Julie Carlyon DeJong, first bought a home on Kingswood

Road, signing the mortgage papers immediately after their wedding ceremony because unmarried couples could not obtain a mortgage in 1965," she said. They later moved to Cordova Avenue and Alhambra Drive North. They also had a home on Birmingham Road as well as residence at the beach.

After college, Vaughn said she purchased a duplex on Flagler Avenue, which had been bought by her grandparents in the 1940s for her great grandmother, Bessie Morris, to live in. When she married, she and her husband, Ed, purchased their first home on Pinetree Road, but later sold it to buy her parents home on Alhambra Drive North. The Vaughns have torn down that house to build a Spanish Mediterranean-style house similar to the first Granada houses.

"I love living in San Marco and chatting with my neighbors in the front yard when they walk by. You run into people you know when you go to restaurants and in stores," she said. "I like that I can be wherever I want to be within a few minute drive – Fresh Market, events downtown, Hemming Park – it's all so close. Then the beach is only 30 minutes. I love being in the middle of everything."

## Right location for roots

Perritt echoes Vaughn's enthusiasm for San Marco's proximity to downtown Jacksonville, citing it as one reason she moved to River Oaks Road from Worth Avenue in Miramar.

"We wanted to be even closer to town and the schools," she explained. "The property was very attractive with River Views over Craig Creek Park."

Perritt inched even closer to San Marco Square when she moved to a one-story house on Arbor Lane 20 years later. She lived there 15 years, only to purchase a much smaller home on Largo Lane after her husband passed away more than a year ago. "I wanted to stay in the neighborhood, only in something smaller and simpler," she said, noting her final house is the "right size and in the right location" just a few steps from San Marco Square.

"The atmosphere is a pedestrian neighborhood," Perritt said. "I've put down roots in San Marco, and I don't want to leave."

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# Jr. Residents

## San Marco Scout finishes Eagle project

Trey Calhoun, a junior at Stanton College Preparatory School, finished up his Eagle Scout project in January.

Calhoun, who is a member of Boy Scout Troop 136 at All Saints Episcopal Church, built a concrete sidewalk and slab to fix up a backyard storage area at the Children's Home Society of Florida on San Diego Road. Also part of the project was staining and sealing a wooden fence on the property.

Assisting Calhoun with the project was Andrew Melville, who donated time and supplies to help make Calhoun's project a success. Melville owns PDSI Concrete and Pavers in Jacksonville.

After finishing his project, Calhoun is continuing to work toward Eagle status with only two more merit badges to earn and expects to be granted his Eagle designation in the spring.

Prior to Stanton, Calhoun attended Julia Landon College Preparatory School. He is the son of Debbie and Deryle Calhoun.



Eagle Scout candidate Trey Calhoun and his mentor Andrew Melville stand outside the new concrete storage area behind the Children's Home Society.



Eagle Scout candidate Trey Calhoun



Trey Calhoun smooths a new cement walkway he constructed as part of his Eagle Scout project at the Children's Home Society on San Diego Road.



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## Bolles, Julia Landon Middle compete in regional LEGO Turney

The real-world problem of trash was explored by middle school students at the FIRST LEGO League's (FLL) Robotics Qualifying Tournament on Jan. 9 at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. The students competed with robotics and presented solutions in the TRASH TREK Challenge.

Sixteen Jacksonville-area FIRST LEGO League teams competed with LEGO MINDSTORMS robots they designed, built and programmed to run on a table-top playing field. The qualifying competition challenged teams in four areas: robotic missions, robotic design, project research and teamwork.

Both Bolles middle school robotics teams – the Terabyte Terrors and the B Team – finished in the top 5 and qualified for the regional tournament, hosted at the University of North Florida on Jan. 16, where the Terabyte Terrors won first place in Core Values and the B Team won first place in Research. "Neither of our teams are going to State, but we had fun getting to Regionals!" said Angela James, Bolles School Advisor/Math Teacher.

Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School also entered two teams, the Trash Exterminators and the LionBots, which got a slot in the regional tournament, where they took home a second place Strategy and Innovation Award.



Members of the Bolles Terabyte Terrors include sixth and seventh graders Nico Adair, Sophia Landy, Jake McGraw, Katerina Pate, Aman Shaik, Ava Sickler, Max Zauke, Matthew Keller and Thomas Keaveny.



Terabyte Terror team member Aman Shaik was instrumental in programming the team's robot.



Eighth grade members of the Bolles B Team include Nicholas Divita, Caru Chaturvedi, Charlie Davis, Yash Gulani, Stone Henderson, Jeremiah Johnson, Sam Levin, Paul McIntyre, Rishi Misra and Blake Perdikis.



Coaches Rajiv Gupta and Dan Geary with seventh and eighth grade members of the Landon LionBots: Anthony L., Naman G., Madeline C., Ryan H., Shrishika K., Rashmi K., Jude A., Kyle B., Jositha P.



The Landon Trash Exterminators robotics team includes seventh and eighth grade students Zetta V., Owen C., Coach Anbu Ponniah, Vireli A., Ava O., Aalap M., and two Jack Fs.

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## Bolles lower school students look at trash in whole new way



Kindergarten to second grade students at Bolles School Luke Meyers, JohnMarko James, Paris James, and Amal Shaik participated in the FIRST LEGO League Jr. WASTE WISE™ Challenge at the University of North Florida Jan. 16. The lower school students created a poster and a motorized LEGO model to display what they learned about recycling. Over 34,500 children ages six to nine in 18 countries are participating in the WASTE WISE Challenge.

## Bolles Brain Brawl team goes national



Bolles Brain Brawl team – front: Amy Song and Isabella Array; middle: Coaches Clare Lange and Melissa Tyler, Kunal Kanaparti, Ria Joglekar, Harrison Dinsbeer; back: Evan Sewart (captain), Anthony Hakim, Robert Pooley

The 2016 Bolles Brain Brawl team qualified to enter the June 2016 National Competition Quiz Bowl following a rigorous performance at the Duval County Brain Brawl single elimination tournament Jan. 9-10.

The Bolles team was one of 16 schools competing in the Jan. 9 contest. Bolles won the first three rounds, whittling the competition down to a final round match against Stanton College Preparatory School. While the Bolles team took second place in the contest, their strong performance qualified them for the national battle.

## *Art installation a first in school history*

Students in a Bolles School sculpture class taught by Jim Smith and an Honors Environmental Science class taught by Dr. Brett Moyer took part in the preparation of a massive environmental sculpture at the San Jose campus last month, with assistance from the Parent Association Environmental Committee and the Student Environmental Club.

The large installation on Bolles Hall is a visual reminder of plastic waste and depicts the number of plastic bottles generated each week on the campus. Students worked for several months prior to the installation, stringing more than 2,600 bottles set for recycling.

The goal of the project was to build off the momentum started by last year's Environmental Science class, which studied plastic's impact on the environment and shared ways the Bolles



Bolles School students string some of the more than 2,600 plastic bottles for an outdoor sculpture.

community could help lessen its plastic consumption, according to Moyer.

Smith, a renowned local steampunk assemblage artist whose work has been shown internationally, helped direct the students' vision for the Bolles Hall piece.

## *First Lady meets children at Hendricks Avenue Elementary*



Florida First Lady Ann Scott reads "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt to third grade students at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School in early January. In addition to answering the children's questions, Mrs. Scott shared pictures of her family as well as photos of the governor's mansion and talked about what it is like to live there.



Florida First Lady Ann Scott is photographed with students from Virginia Smith and Tracy Langley's classes at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School.

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# – In Memoriam –

# Hazel Monsky Wolfson

September 10, 1920 – January 2, 2016

*By Lorrie DeFrank  
Resident Community News*

Hazel Monsky Wolfson's dedication to her family and community, especially its children, is a legacy to be cherished. She passed away Jan. 2 at age 95 at River Garden.

She was a founding member of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, the hospital her late father-in-law, Morris David Wolfson, was instrumental in creating. A contemporary of Ellen Cavert, who handpicked 40 compassionate women to start The Women's Board in the 1970s, Hazel contributed her time and talents to raise money for the hospital on behalf of Jacksonville's children and their families. A breast cancer survivor, Hazel also was active in the American Cancer Society and other charitable organizations.

Beautiful, generous and determined are words frequently used to describe her.

Karen Wolfson, also a strong supporter of the hospital and a past president of The Women's Board, recalls rarely seeing her mother-in-law not perfectly dressed with makeup and jewelry. "She always looked gorgeous," Karen said. "Dressing elegantly all the time was part of that era."

Hazel glowed on the inside, too. Sweet and demure with a distinctive Alabama drawl,



Hazel Wolfson on a cruise with her husband, Saul.

according to Karen, she was devoted to her husband, the late Saul Wolfson, and the causes they supported. Karen can still visualize Hazel cooking and helping in the tea room for the hospital's benefit antiques shows, "wearing a stylish leather skirt, heels and hose and carrying dirty dishes back and forth."

"She was truly a gentle woman in every way – kind, loving and a true lady," said Grace Sarber, current president of The Women's Board and Ellen's Cavert's granddaughter. "She especially loved children and helping them."

Grace said her 96-year-old grandmother

was saddened by Hazel's death. "My grandmother loved her and Saul dearly and was grateful for their partnership in those early years of The Women's Board," she said.

The Wolfsons' children have fond memories of the loving woman they affectionately called GaGa MeMaw.

Hazel met her future husband when she was 15 on the weekend her sister married his brother. She married Saul four years later. In addition to Donald, Hazel is survived by a daughter, Maura Wolfson-Foster, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-grandson. A son, Richard, preceded her in death.

Despite the challenges of aging, Hazel never complained and unfailingly expressed gratitude to her caregivers, Karen said.

"The Wolfsons have very big hearts, passed down generationally, and Hazel is largely responsible for that," said Grace. "Jacksonville would not be what it is today without the Wolfsons."

Memorial contributions may be made through The Women's Board for the Saul and Hazel Wolfson Endowment for Pediatric Research at Wolfson Children's Hospital, 1325 San Marco Blvd., Suite 802, Jacksonville 32207, or to River Garden, 11401 Old Saint Augustine Road, Jacksonville 32258.

# Summer Dawn Gilhousen

September 13, 1979 – November 17, 2015

*By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News*

The San Marco community lost a bit of its sweetness and light late last year when Summer Gilhousen passed away unexpectedly Nov. 17, giving birth to her first child.

Gilhousen, a San Marco resident, was a longtime employee of Leila's, a boutique on San Marco Square, and a tremendous part of the San Marco community, according to Leila Williams.

"It was certainly my honor to work side by side with Summer at Leila's over the past 12 years doing what we both love," said Williams. "Summer connected with everyone she met, the relationships she developed turned out to be some of her dearest friends. There are no words to express our sadness. Our loss is tremendous, not only for her family at Leila's but the entire community. My only hope is we all remember the sweet soul Summer was."

Gilhousen was also well liked by the other business owners in the Square.

"Summer was a ray of sunshine every day," said Anita Vining, Realtor® at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices/Florida Network Realty. "My office was two doors away so it was very rare that a day or week would go by that we didn't see each other. Sometimes it was out front watering



Summer Gilhousen  
(Photo courtesy of Bridget Wood)

plants where we would chat or merely checking in to say hello as I strolled in or by Leila's to shop. Her laugh was infectious and her smile contagious. Everyone who knew her loved her."

*"Summer connected with everyone she met, the relationships she developed turned out to be some of her dearest friends."*  
– Leila Williams

will also miss Gilhousen's presence at the boutique. Wood related that she met Gilhousen in 2008 when she was shopping for a new wardrobe.

"We hit it off immediately," said Wood. "It was tough losing her, not just for me, but for hundreds who walked through that door. She never had a bad thing to say about anyone. She had a heart of gold, especially for animals and rescues."

Gilhousen suffered complications from an amniotic embolism, according to her sister Autumn Allen, on a GoFundMe page.

"Summer was 36 years old and has always wanted to be a mother. She did everything perfect during pregnancy so she would have a healthy little boy," Allen noted.

Survived by her baby boy, Wyatt, and his father Patrick Jackson, Gilhousen loved fishing, hiking, kayaking, gardening, arts and crafts, but most of all, she loved to spend time with her family, including her mother, Sandra Hobbs; brother, John Ross and his wife Liz; sister, Autumn Allen; brother, Chris Hobbs; nephews, Matthew Allen and Luke Allen; nieces, Emileigh Allen and Ava Hobbs.

Donations may be made to Patrick Wayne Jackson at Jacksonville Postal and Professional Credit Union or on GoFundMe ([gofundme.com/czc6ekcs](http://gofundme.com/czc6ekcs)) to help Wyatt and his father Patrick in any way they may need during this tragedy.

Vining said the San Marco Merchants Association purchased a brick in Gilhousen's honor for the next brick installation by San Marco Preservation Society.

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**Pajcic & Pajcic**  
Since 1974

# OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CLIENTS & COMMUNITY



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.

We were so shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of a dear friend of our firm, Compassionate Families, Inc. co-founder, Margaret Mitchell. Compassionate Families offers grief recovery and support services to families of homicide victims. Her son Jeff was murdered in 1993 at Terry Parker High School. Margaret and her husband Glen were at Pajcic & Pajcic just last fall, pictured here with Michael Pajcic. Margaret demonstrated such grace and strength in her life, always helping others while dealing with her own tragedy. We offer prayers and comfort to her family and know that her legacy will live on.



It's now been 23 years since Steve and Gary Pajcic established a \$1 million endowment for certain graduates of their alma mater, Paxon High School, to attend the University of North Florida. We are proud that in that time a total of 82 students have taken advantage of this unique offer. To qualify the students must earn acceptance to UNF and maintain their grades. They also must live in the historical school boundaries of Paxon. There are currently 5 students at UNF who are Pajcic scholars. All say they are extremely grateful for having the ability to study and earn their degrees without a financial burden weighing over them.



You may call it a case of competitive climbing. Racing up the stairs to our offices on the 19th floor has become a tradition at Pajcic & Pajcic. The goal is to beat our founding partner, Steve Pajcic, who is quite speedy up the steps. This year 12 employees were able to make it just ahead of Steve. The overall winner was Antonio Kirkland with a time of 4 minutes and 30 seconds! Steve



was very impressive beating well over a majority of the participants!



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.





Inside these walls, we have saved thousands of lives over the past 100 years.

From our humble beginnings in Springfield in 1916 to the recent opening of St. Vincent's Clay County—generations have looked upon us for hope and healing.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and this great community.

 ST. VINCENT'S  
HEALTH CARE

[jaxhealth.com](http://jaxhealth.com)