

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

10 YEARS

OF COMMUNITY NEWS



SCIENCE INTRIGUES
LOCAL STUDENTS

Outfitted with solar glasses, Helen Schultz’s fourth-grade students at Fishweir Elementary School hoped to see the eclipse Aug. 21, but overcast skies largely disappointed. Students learned lessons of interplanetary proportions as they readied to observe the solar eclipse. Glasses were distributed to staff and all students for the highly anticipated event.

Mayor signs bill, turns Cecil Field memorial site over to nonprofit

Twelve weeks after its introduction and just eight weeks after Jacksonville’s City Council approved the bill, Mayor Lenny Curry executed a lease agreement Aug. 23 with POW/MIA Memorial Inc. to establish a memorial at Cecil Field to honor POW/MIA service men and women.

The bill, which was jointly sponsored by District 14 Councilman Jim Love and District 12 Councilman Doyle Carter, created a lease for the existing memorial areas, chapel, and theatre so the POW/MIA Memorial can be renovated and maintained

at 6112 New World Avenue on the Westside.

Under the agreement the length of the contract is for five years with one 20-year renewal option. POW/MIA Memorial will pay an annual lease fee of \$1.00 for the first five years, then \$2,400 per year for common area maintenance costs.

Florida is home to over 1.5 million veterans with over one million of those veterans of the Desert Storm (Gulf War) and Vietnam War. Northeast Florida

Read More, Page 13



Riverkeeper
summer event a
true crowd-pleaser

Drew Cleland and Jordan Kiestler joined fellow Riverkeeper supporters for the annual Low Country Boil fundraiser hosted by Sadler Point Marina on Lakeside.

Read More, Page 29

Pajcic yard golf
proceeds presented
at ping pong match



Steve Pajcic, Jim Kowalski of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Michael Pajcic

Jim Kowalski, president and CEO of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, thought it was just another weekly Pajcic & Pajcic ping pong match the evening of Aug. 15, but he was pleasantly surprised when Steve and Michael Pajcic took the opportunity to present a check to Kowalski for JALA.

The Annual Pajcic & Pajcic Yard Golf Tournament, held May 20, raised \$46,000 and the firm matched it dollar for dollar. But Pajcic father and son didn’t stop there, kicking in another \$8,000 to reach the \$100,000 mark.

Kowalski was thrilled, as the donation will fund JALA’s litigation attorney, to help provide certain legal services for low income residents and special needs members of the community.

WHAT’S INSIDE

- Political cartoon offers unique perspective
[PAGE 2 >>](#)
- Low turnout for public meeting on Riverside Avenue road diet
[PAGE 8 >>](#)
- Mayor’s budget includes funds for improvements in historic districts
[PAGE 9 >>](#)
- Jacksonville’s “liquid assets” under scrutiny
[PAGE 11 >>](#)
- Budget cuts upset vocal supporters
[PAGE 12 >>](#)
- Murray Hill unveils plans for another block party
[PAGE 15 >>](#)
- Iconic musical arts institution getting makeover
[PAGE 32 >>](#)

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IN HOMES BY SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2017



First Day Delivers Smiling Siblings, New Head of School

Head of School Ben Ketchum welcomes Burke Baker, siblings Laney, Cooper and Gavin Glas, and siblings Charlie, Henry and Jackson Morreale to Riverside Presbyterian Day School for the 2017-2018 school year. [Read More, Page 50](#)

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Ask Allison



Q

I just got my property tax statement in the mail and it says that my market value is about \$100,000 less than it actually is (based on recent sales in my neighborhood). This affects my property tax portability because the market value minus the assessed value translates to property tax savings that I can take with me to my new house - I'm really upset!

A

You are right to be concerned - this is real money that belongs to you! You can challenge your property tax statement - but only have until September 12th to file - so do it quickly! If you need help with recent sales in the neighborhood as proof of your point or have other questions about portability, I'm happy to help. Feel free to call me at 904-252-5181.

Email your questions to steilberg@comcast.net

NEW LISTING!



3306 KNIGHT STREET, \$497,500

3BR/2.5BA, 2279 SF

In the heart of Avondale. Fully renovated home with nothing left to do except enjoy life! Large screened porch overlooking the shady backyard. BRAND NEW luxury shower with top of the line tile and rain head shower. Newly renovated kitchen. Come have a look!

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NEW PRICE!



3012 OAK STREET, \$675,000

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When a cartoon is worth a thousand words

Beginning with this issue, *The Resident* welcomes political cartoonist Ed Hall, who provides his unique take on news and issues in the historic districts we serve.

Hall, of San Marco, graduated from The University of Florida in 1986 with a Master's of Fine Art, then worked for several weekly publications in and around Jacksonville, and at The Baker County Press in Macclenny as the weekly cartoonist.

He has won 10 Florida Press Association Awards, three Newsmaker Awards, and numerous fine art awards. In 2003, Hall was presented the 53rd Annual Green Eyeshade Award for weekly cartoons by The Society of Professional Journalists. He has also received the Excellence in Journalism Award from The Florida Press Club four times, and the Sunshine State Award for Editorial Cartooning.

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Make 'n Take Rain Barrel Workshop

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program of UF/IFAS Extension Duval County will hold a rain barrel workshop, Friday, Sept. 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Duval County Extension Office, 1010 McDuff Ave. N.

Registration and pre-payment is required by Sept. 15. To take the class and leave with a rain barrel, cost is \$50 per person or \$5 class fee, no rain barrel. Additional rain barrels are \$45 each.

Register by emailing Sarah Freeman at sfreeman@coj.net or call (904) 255-7450. Class size is limited to 25.

Corrections

In the August 2017 issue, in the story on page 14 about neighborhood parks, we mistakenly attributed the Boone Park playground makeover to Cathleen Murphy, instead of Kim Clontz, who spearheaded the fundraising and design efforts for the playground.

Also, on page 36, the headline mistakenly referred to Cathedral Towers, when the renovation actually occurred at the 241-unit Cathedral Terrace, an independent senior living facility located at 701 N. Ocean St.

Cathedral Towers, a 17-story high-rise at 601 N. Newnan St., will begin a \$10 million, 184,000-square-foot renovation project in the next few months, with an estimated completion 18 months out. The 50-year-old building will receive new cabinets, flooring and fixtures, and the interior will be repainted.

We sincerely regret the errors.

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NEW LISTING-RARE FIND

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on .5-acre lot in Ortega Point



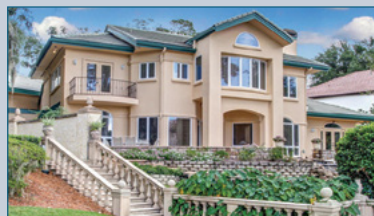
STUNNING RIVERFRONT

1870 CHALLENGE AVE - \$2,995,000
1927 masterpiece on .8-acre lot,
renovated 5/5/1, 6097sqft



UNDER CONTRACT

4346 KELNEPA DR - \$549,000
Klutho designed, built in 1925,
extensively renovated 4/2.5 w/pool



EPPING FOREST

7004 GAINES CT - \$1,499,000
Amazing custom 4/4.5, 4988 sqft, with
breezy river views



Nathan Miller
904.465.3001



SOLD

3225 ST JOHNS AVE #1 - \$239,900
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floor unit in The Kahler



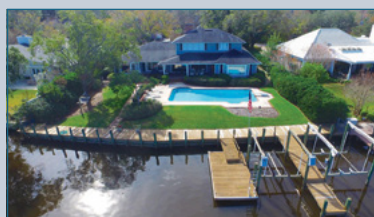
SAN MARCO

1305 RIVER OAKS RD - \$849,900
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220 N SERENATA DR #614 - \$899,000
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WATERFRONT

4333 VENETIA BLVD - \$1,195,000
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updated, pool, dock & lift



Tom Sandlin
904.237.0458



OLDFIELD CREEK - 5BR

12227 AMBROSIA CT - \$525,000
Space and charm galore! 5/4,
3,507sqft, 1-acre wooded lot, garage



UNDER CONTRACT

4170 CHURCHWELL RD - \$339,900
Completely renovated 3/2, 2,000sqft,
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UNDER CONTRACT

4738 AVON LN - \$315,000
Pool home in the Forest, 3/2.5,
2,061sqft, updated master bath



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3840 BOONE PARK AVE - \$309,900
Uniquely charming 2/3, 1972sqft, huge
master suite, detached garage

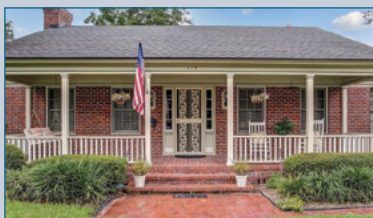


Nancy Nooney
904.710.4786



FLEMING ISLAND

1626 SANDY SPRINGS DR - \$335,000
Renovated 5/3, 2,559sqft, open con-
cept, 1st floor master, must see!



ST NICHOLAS

1328 NICHOLSON RD - \$339,900
Charming & spacious 3/2.5, 2,572sqft,
huge kitchen, det guest suite



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2723 WHITE OAK LN - \$560,000
Traditional 2-story in the perfect loca-
tion! 3/2, 2322sqft, large backyard



MANDARIN

2661 RIVERPORT DR N - \$529,000
Immaculate 4/3, 3667sqft, beautiful,
private lot, in Admirals Inlet



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8038 JAMES ISL TRAIL - \$1,699,000
Deerwood Estates, 4/3/2 main house
+ 2/2 guest house, pool + more



UNDER CONTRACT

4233 VENETIA BLVD - \$679,000
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floor plan for easy living!



ORTEGA - 5 BR

4325 VERONA AVE - \$309,000
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2,600 sqft, bring offers!



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2305 CEDAR SHORES CIR - \$549,000
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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.



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Letters to the Editor

For the last decade, JAXPORT has been working towards one of its largest economic development projects: harbor deepening. A project that will bring more jobs and attract more business opportunities to our city. And on its heels is another major economic development project: the revitalization of downtown Jacksonville. In the wake of this movement, investors and businesses are turning to the city center for new opportunities – most notably, the plan to develop the old Shipyards.

Just take a look around town and you'll see that there is much to look forward to. Our city is growing every day, and projects such as these ensure economic and social well-being for those who call Jacksonville home.

It is great to see our city taking steps to invest in its future, and more importantly, the future of our children and grandchildren. Let's not stifle this progress as we work towards being the best city we can be.

Gene Morris
Riverside

Former Avondale resident Raymond King responded to *The Resident* about the Machine Gun Kelly debunking story on page 37 of the July issue:

Pretty good summary; however, I would have preferred that the principal source for the Capone revelation had been given the credit. It was Fontaine Boutwell, granddaughter of George Boutwell, the owner of the Ortega Pier, and his wife. It was at her restaurant on Post St. that the weapon had been observed in the car and the Sheriff notified by George. George had met the "Big Guy" when the food request had been made to him privately and then identified Capone from photos furnished by Sheriff Ham Dowling.

This was all in the Ortega Pier article published a few years ago in *The Resident*. I have since corresponded with two Capone historians who confirm the likelihood of Capone being in Ortega, but have a problem with the exposure of the weapon. "He would not have been that careless" is their opinion. However, the weight of evidence shows that someone was indeed careless, if not Big Al, then one of da boys. The historians are still interested.

Capone had an associate nicknamed Jack "Machinegun" McGurn, who also came to Jacksonville, but not necessarily in a direct relation with Capone. Jack and his wife loved to dance. Perchance they did the "Wise Guy Gavotte" at the Ortega Pier one night?

Raymond H. King
Former Avondale resident

Motorists given fair warning to reduce speed, stop for pedestrians

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

New "flexible" in-street pedestrian warning sign installed near the pedestrian crosswalk at Van Wert on St. Johns Avenue.

In an effort to reduce vehicle crashes off St. Johns Avenue into adjacent properties, the Florida Department of Transportation began installation in early August of IIRPMs (internally illuminated retroreflective pavement markers) from Greenwood Avenue north to Van Wert Avenue.

The \$100,000 safety project was estimated to be completed in four to six weeks by Petticoat Schmitt Civil Contractors, Inc., according to Ron Tittle, FDOT communications officer. There were some daytime lane closures to install the solar pavement markers during non-peak hours.

Speed data collected between 2009 and 2015 in that stretch of St. Johns Avenue indicated there were 120 lane departure crashes, according to Bianca Speights, FDOT public information officer. She indicated speed data would be collected post-installation to measure the effectiveness of the IIRPMs on St. Johns Avenue, the first such installation in Jacksonville.

Ramping up pedestrian safety

Also at Van Wert Avenue, Dancy Street and Talbot Avenue, FDOT has installed new in-street signs alerting motorists to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

"These were installed to help increase motorists' compliance," said Speights. "These particular signs go on the centerline of the roadway in advance of the crosswalk or raised median."

This follows the installation earlier in the year of three Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at those same intersections on St. Johns Avenue. The beacons are intended to provide a measure of safety for pedestrians trying to cross the road.

When the beacons were installed in February, Avondale resident Pamela Telis asked workers if signage would be added to inform drivers to stop when flashing, and was told "There is no requirement for cars to stop," however Tittle noted then that FDOT would install the in-street signage advising motorists it is a state law they must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

The purpose of the RRFB is to let the motorist know that a pedestrian is waiting to use the crosswalk. Ultimately, the failure to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk is a law enforcement issue, Tittle said.

"We all hope that having these in the middle of the road will protect pedestrians in the crosswalk and slow down speeders, at least in this area of the Shoppes and Boone Park," said Telis.



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Differing outcomes for historic homes

Historic district, criteria determine destiny

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A 90-year-old Frame Vernacular style home on Algonquin Avenue in the Ortega Historic District was not able to meet at least four of seven criteria necessary for local landmark designation and thus save it from demolition.

Although the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department found the two-story house at 2939 Algonquin Ave. met the first criteria – value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural, or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation – and the last – suitability for preservation or restoration – those findings were not sufficient to recommend landmark status.

Additionally, owners Charlie Sandusky, a building contractor, and Paul Stewart argued the property was not able to be renovated or restored. After purchasing



2939 Algonquin Ave.

the property June 2017 for \$142,500, they discovered extensive termite damage, wood rot and fire damage, and requested the building be approved for demolition. In a letter to the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission, Stewart stated he intended to build a two-story Craftsman-style home on the lot.

While Property Appraiser records indicate the home was constructed circa 1926, the Planning Department staff report indicated the structure could have been constructed earlier than 1926 as reflected in its Frame Vernacular style with the steep pitched roof, drop siding, first floor wrap around porch (now partially enclosed), raised foundation on brick piers, and open rafters (now enclosed with a fascia board).

There have been at least two dozen owners, according to records, listed since 1933 and the staff report stated a “quick turnover of residents usually indicates that the house was a rental property.”

The report also stated the second floor was subject to a fire at some point in the history of the building and a previous owner covered up the burned bead board with drywall. “It appears the fire was rather strong; the majority of second floor contains some type of damage. The damage does appear to be limited to the bead board wall paneling with the exception of the roof system,” the report stated. “The roof system is severely damaged but the bead board was composed of heart pine material that may have protected



3723 Park St.

the framing from most of the damage. It appears that once the burned bead board is removed, most of the framing is not severely damaged with the exception of the roof structural area. It appears people were living with this fire damage for many years.”

The Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission approved demolition of the property at its July 26 meeting.

Avondale demolition denied

At the same meeting, the JHPC denied a request to demolish a home at 3723 Park St., built circa 1923, because the proposed demolition was not considered to be consistent with guidelines from the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, the Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Riverside-Avondale Historic District, and Chapter 307 of the City of Jacksonville Ordinance Code.

The property was deemed a contributing structure, with demolition considered a last resort. The staff report indicated relocation, rehabilitation, mothballing or reuse of the structure.

“Mothballing” is a process which would stop the assessment of code fines while

allowing the property owner time to investigate other preservation options.

The owner, Sigifredo Vivas of Orlando, applied for the demolition permit to clear the land for future sale. At one point, Vivas was offered \$180,000 for the property and an adjacent one for construction of a new single family home, but the prospective buyer withdrew the offer upon learning of the denial for demolition.

Vivas purchased the property in 1983 for \$32,500 and apparently used the single-story house as rental property. In an email to the JHPC, Vivas indicated he had received a bid of more than \$110,000 to repair and renovate the 1,062-square-foot structure. The market value of the land and the structure are estimated at \$159,317, according to Property Appraiser records.

The property is about one-tenth of a mile from a similar structure at 1423 Rensselaer Ave. whose owner also lost an appeal for demolition two months earlier.

In both cases, one argument cited against demolition was that “changing demographics and increasing demand for affordable housing, particularly for those 65 and over, have made smaller houses such as the subject property more desirable.”

CELEBRATION

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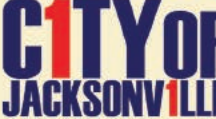
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Riverside

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Riverside

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Ortega Farms

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Anne Rain, 904-472-9809
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Murray Hill

5253 Royce Ave. Tripp Newsom/Seth
Kimball, 904-234-6117/904-270-0210
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Murray Hill

1738 Sefa Circle
Cindy Corey, 904-673-6740
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Atlantic Beach

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Disappointing attendance at Brooklyn Road Diet public workshop

Consultants present several options

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

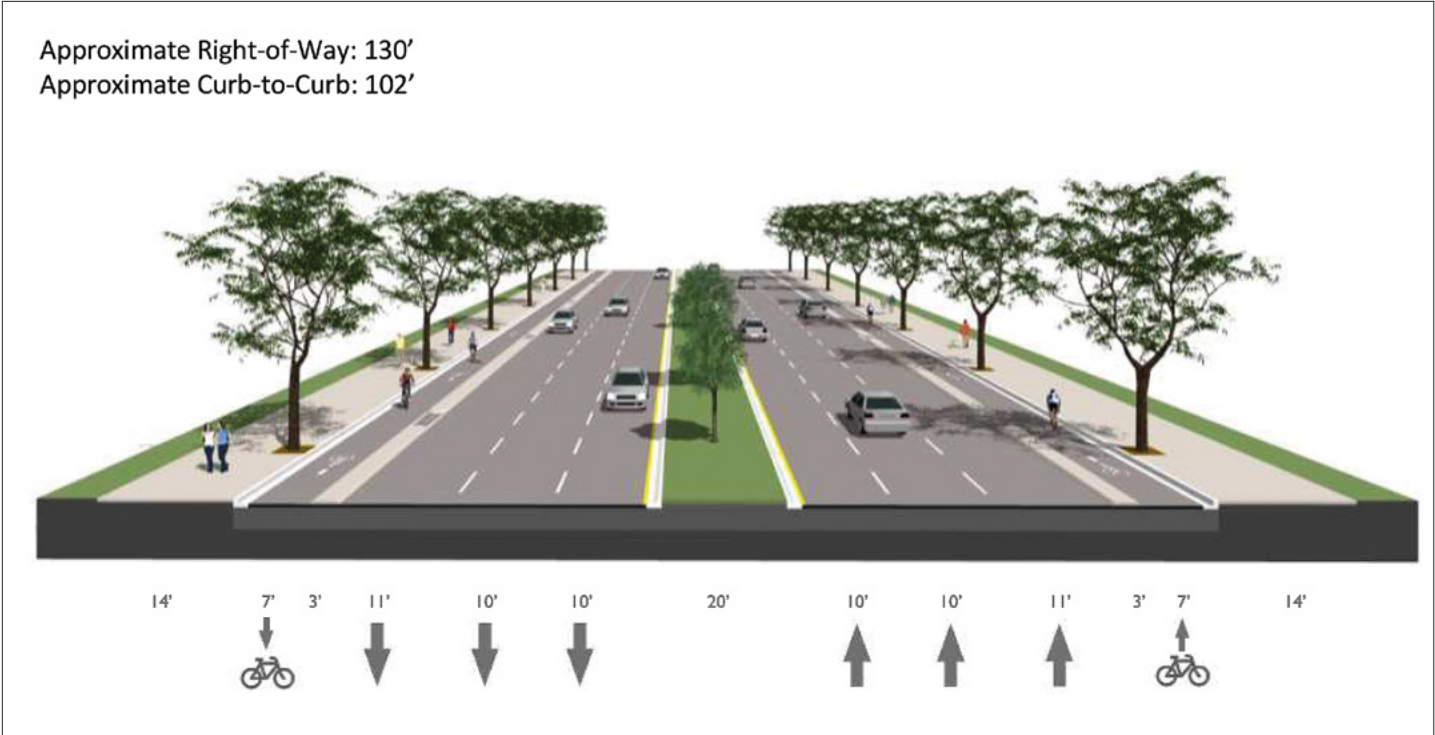
A little over a dozen people, most of whom were members of the media, the consulting group or City Hall, attended the second public workshop on the proposed Brooklyn Road Diet.

“More than a year ago the conversation began regards to pedestrian walkability within various streets downtown. Some of the targeted streets to be reviewed for a road diet include Riverside Avenue, Park Street – the connection between the LaVilla and Brooklyn neighborhoods that leads you to 5 Points and Riverside – and Forest Street,” said Aundra Wallace, Downtown Investment Authority CEO. “This is a step we have to take in order to get to a discussion, to make the case, about funding a Brooklyn road diet.”

Those who attended July 27 to provide feedback were Riverside/Avondale residents Kay Ehas, Alicia Grant, and Nancy Powell.

Allan Iosue, a POND & Company Corporation vice president, introduced the workshop with an overview of the consulting group’s goals, which include improving health and safety, making the neighborhood walkable, bikeable, increasing neighborhood connectivity and a connection to downtown, as well as spurring economic development.

“There’s a shift in transportation planning across the country to look at all modes of



This option for Riverside Avenue between Forest and Leila Streets represents the least amount of change to the current six-lane configuration. In this diagram, the lanes are reduced one to two feet to add two 7-foot bicycle lanes, and the sidewalk landscaping includes shade trees. (Rendering by POND | Dover, Kohl & Partners)

transportation, a real movement to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, transit and the vehicle all together,” said Iosue. “The hierarchy has been, through the years, the vehicle first and the other modes were lower, so now we’re trying to reverse that trend. Our goal was to create a study that would provide recommendations, how can you look at this in different increments, big picture, small picture opportunities.”

Richard Fangmann, POND & Company, and Jaimie Sloboden, Michael Baker International, discussed a variety of options for each of the three roads – Riverside

Avenue, Park Street and Forest Street – under review, including protected two-way bicycle paths, bus-bike shared lanes, parking lanes, landscaped medians, landscaped 15-foot sidewalks, Bus Rapid Transit lane and stops. On-street parking on Park Street is being considered for future retail growth of the Brooklyn neighborhood, as well as a connection to the Northbank Riverwalk from Forest Street.

“Riverside Avenue between Forest and Leila Streets is currently 102 feet curb to curb, three lanes in each direction, with two 5-foot unprotected bicycle lanes,” said Sloboden.

Iosue pointed out over the past 25 years Riverside Avenue has fluctuated well below the average daily traffic capacity of 35,000 vehicles, so the option to reduce the number of lanes is not considered to be an issue at this time. During the same period, roughly 1990 to present, Park Street was also well under its 15,000 average daily traffic capacity.

The consulting team indicated Park Street to be the safest option for bicycles and pedestrians, and providing for both would bring more businesses to that area of Brooklyn.

A fair amount of discussion centered on what Sloboden called “the elephant in the room” – the Water Street / Acosta Bridge area. The pedestrian walkway is narrow and unprotected with confusing crosswalks and refuges, while cyclists cannot continue into Downtown to Water Street, but are instead diverted across the Acosta Bridge.

In the short term, the consulting group recommended installing neighborhood

“There’s a shift ... a real movement to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, transit and the vehicle all together.”

— Allan Iosue, a POND & Company Corporation vice president

wayfinding and signage, including public access to the Riverwalk; improving the current landscaping by replacing palm trees with shade trees on Forest Street and Riverside Avenue; adding a mid-block crossing at Magnolia Street, as well as street and crosswalk re-striping.

On Park Street, further short-term recommendations include reducing redundant curb cuts, add on-street parking, and upgrade sidewalks for ADA accessibility. Additional improvements for Riverside Avenue include better street lighting, especially at the Winston Family YMCA, fix sidewalk connectivity where there are gaps, and add a buffer to the bicycle lane.

Short- or long-term, “it’s going to boil down to what can we afford,” said Wallace.

Based on the feedback at the workshop, Pond & Company will present final recommendations in September.

If you have an opinion about the proposed Brooklyn Road Diet, send your thoughts to Cantrece Jones at cjones@adgmark.com

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Historic District improvements part of proposed budget

Sidewalk, waterway and roadway projects planned

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Tucked inside Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry’s 2017-2018 budget of nearly \$2.5 billion are funds proposed for 12 capital improvement projects which will advance economic development and improve quality of life in the urban core, which includes the historic districts.

Among the projects designated to receive funds next year are several water-related projects, reaching from Brooklyn to the Fishweir neighborhood, as well as on the Southbank. In order of magnitude, the six projects worth \$3,750,000 include:

- \$1.6 million to fund the City of Jacksonville’s share of restoring the ecosystem of Big Fishweir Creek; the Army Corps of Engineers project is slated for completion in September 2019
- \$750,000 to remove pipe obstructions from McCoys Creek near Riverside Avenue
- \$500,000 in the 2017-2018 budget for a \$1.5 million bulkhead replacement for Willowbranch Creek from Sydney Street to the St. Johns River
- \$400,000 for a floating dock at the end of Post Street in Riverside (situated between the Garden Club of Jacksonville and The Cummer Museum) to be available to the water taxi as well as first-come, first-serve private vessels
- \$300,000 to install an additional floating dock to the existing water

taxi dock on the Southbank Riverwalk at Riverplace Tower to provide docking space for private vessels on a first-come, first-serve basis

- \$200,000 to add a kayak launch on the Southbank Riverwalk next to the Duval County Public School Board Building

Also on the Southbank, two major projects are slated to receive some funding next fiscal year. The five-year, \$8.5-million Southbank Riverwalk Extension and Enhancements project will receive \$1 million in the 2017-2018 budget. In addition to design and construction of the extension, the project will include pavers, benches and other amenities.

Friendship Fountain will receive a facelift to the tune of \$1.25 million. The project will include repairs to the fountains concrete structure (sealing, coating and painting) railing and corroded anchors, speakers and lighting. In addition, repairs to the pump house include grout and sealing roof cracks, slab, exterior walls, deck coating and nodes.

Quality of life improvements

Beyond efforts to activate the waterways and waterfronts in the urban core, health, safety and quality of life improvements are addressed through the \$1.87 million funding of four Public Works projects in the historic districts, including:

- \$750,000 toward the \$4 million 5 Points Improvement Project, which is slated to modify the existing roadways to enhance pedestrian use and improve vehicular safety. Within this area, the improvements will impact



Depiction of proposed improvements to 5 Points intersection (Rendering by Waitz & Moye)

Park Street, Post Street, Margaret Street, Lomax Street, Oak Street and Herschel Street. Improvements include turning Lomax Street into a one-way eastbound street, expanded sidewalk areas, reduced roadway widths for safer pedestrian crossings and the retention of the historic beacon that sits at the heart of the 5 Points intersection. The project completion date is estimated beyond 2021.

- \$536,529 to fund the construction of new sidewalks on San Jose Boulevard in accordance with the Pedestrian Safety Improvement Program criteria throughout Jacksonville. The project includes the construction of sidewalks in three segments: (1) Brookwood Road to Inwood Terrace, (2) Saratoga Drive to Granada Boulevard and (3) Phillips Place to Hendricks Avenue. Project completion is slated for 2019.
- \$425,000 for the design and construction of a biking and walking path on Children’s Way/Nira Street from the Southbank terminus of the Fuller Warren multi-use path to

Kings Avenue in San Marco. The scope of this project will also include some intersection improvements for bicycles, such as bike boxes at Hendricks Avenue and San Marco Boulevard. Project completion is estimated for 2019 in conjunction with the Fuller Warren Bridge multi-use path project under the Florida Department of Transportation.

- \$159,000 for construction of sidewalks along Lakeside Drive from Herschel Street to Wabash Avenue.

If approved, the dozen projects noted account for over \$5.6 million of the proposed \$150.5 million FY17/18 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 103 projects.

City Council’s Finance Committee and other standing committees met in August to review and debate specific line items in the budget. Council will hold public hearings on the proposed budget Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Sept. 26, beginning at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

The final 2017-2018 budget, as amended, must be adopted by City Council prior to the start of the new fiscal year, October 1.



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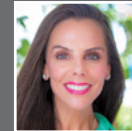
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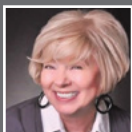
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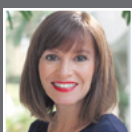
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2970 ST JOHNS AVE 8G - \$695,000

3/2-2,271 sqft. Rarely available and highly coveted direct riverfront, corner unit at Beau Rivage. Commanding views of the St. Johns River and Historic Avondale from every room as well as Downtown Jacksonville from the balcony and family room.



2523 HERSCHEL ST - \$375,000

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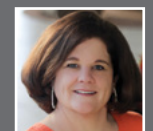


3012 OAK ST - \$675,000

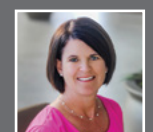
5/3/1-3,458 sqft. This gorgeous Avondale home has been fully renovated and has many features that are extremely hard to find in Historic Homes. The floor plan is open and filled with natural light.



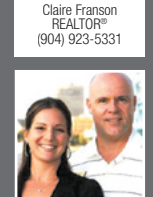
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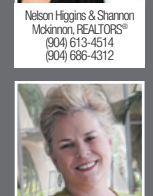
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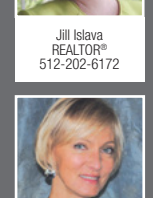
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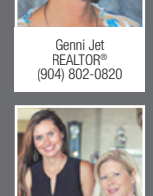
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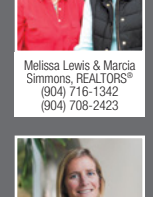
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5125 YACHT CLUB RD - \$1,795,000

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1271 WINDSOR PL

3/2-2,027 sqft. SOLD by Dylan Rigdon and Keith Combs! Situated on a large corner lot at the end of a quiet street in Historic Avondale sits a unique property across from a large park on Windsor Place.



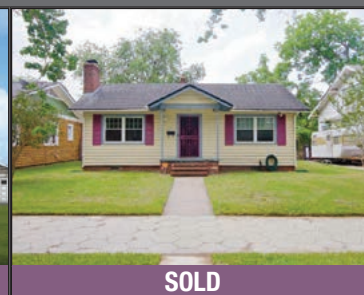
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1855 INGLESIDE AVE

4/2/1-2,778 sqft. SOLD by Allison Steilberg! Welcome to one of the most charming homes in Avondale. Just a short stroll away from the shoppes, this historic home (built in 1926) has incredible architectural appeal and simply oozes charm.

920 ACOSTA ST

4/2/1-2,436 sqft. SOLD by Julia Fattahi! A beautiful new construction craftsman style currently in progress in Riverside!! An opportunity for you to customize options on the interior. Not to mention the 2 car garage!

2144 ERNEST ST

3/1-1,224 sqft. SOLD by Beverly Brooke! This adorable 3 bedroom home is full of charm with its hardwood floors and paneled living room with built in book cases. The large hall area could make a great office space.



SOLD



SOLD



SOLD



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3899 VALENCIA RD

3/2-1,355 sqft. SOLD by Margee Michaels! Avondale park life - Enjoy the best of Avondale living from the front porch of this 1947 Updated 3br, 2ba Bungalow nestled among giant oaks on a corner lot. Across the street from Fishweir Park.

4529 COUNTRY CLUB RD

4/3/2-3,440 sqft. SOLD by CeCe Cummings and Elizabeth O'Steen! This elegant brick home has been thoughtfully renovated with high-end finishes everywhere you turn.

1389 BELVEDERE AVE

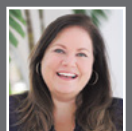
4/2/1-2,190 sqft. SOLD by Heather Buckman! Charm, charm, charm! This traditional colonial home is located right in the heart of Avondale close to the Shoppes of Avondale and the great merchants in Murray Hill.

4149 SAN JUAN AVE

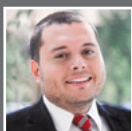
2/1-1,366 sqft. SOLD by Liz Bobeck, Josh Nugent, and Dee Burnett! Cute as a Button! Located in BOA (between Ortega and Avondale) this charming bungalow is just steps from the Ortega bridge and its park. Enjoy your morning coffee on the front porch or the back patio.



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Public awareness, grassroots involvement push waterways use forward

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

New initiatives to market Jacksonville’s “liquid assets” – including its offshore resources and a proposal to link the beaches and downtown with trails – were among the highlights of the Waterways/Waterfront Activation meeting hosted by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer Aug. 3.

Also serving as Jacksonville Waterways Commission Chair, Boyer said she wanted to focus on some of the accomplishments in the activation’s first 10 months and look at things that are in the works to better use the city’s waterfront and make it part of the city’s identity.

“It’s clearly part of our daily life and I think we are successfully raising public awareness and grassroots involvement,” she said. “I keep hearing about things that are happening and that gets me excited.”

Among those discussed were seven initiatives or projects ranging from marketing to making improvements in parks, on trails and at the beaches.

City branding

The truJAX initiative by JaxUSA has trademarked “Water Life” as a brand for the city and is making it an essential focus of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce’s decisions about promoting Jacksonville’s economic growth, ecological and human health and recreation. The city’s water assets also will be part of the new tourist development and marketing plans.

Greenway loop

A loop of trails linking the beaches to downtown is under consideration by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. The loop would be part of the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile network of trails from Maine to Key West that goes through the beaches.

The idea is to create trails from the beaches along Heckscher Drive to Main Street to downtown to Atlantic Boulevard to University Boulevard North to either Merrill Road or Lonestar Road and back to the beaches, according to Brian Burket, a national resource recreation specialist with the Parks Department. The trail would connect places like Tree Hill, the Arboretum, Norman Studios, Jacksonville University, the Riverwalk and Emerald Necklace.

The loop is still in its conceptual phase and faces several obstacles, such as wetlands and development, Burket said, but a \$1 million grant has been secured and more money is being sought.

Underwater Jacksonville

Diving expert and TISIRI (Think It, Sink It, Reef It) Executive Director Joe Kistel spoke about marketing Jacksonville’s offshore resources, including the more than 30 reefs that attract diverse marine life. He showed a 3-minute video promoting Underwater Jacksonville.

“We want to provide a web presence with content about all the amazing things offshore,” said Kistel, who also noted it will be a good resource for tourists and locals who now go down to South Florida to dive.

Public access

Work is underway at the Sid Gefen Riverwalk Park on the Northbank for a new handicap-accessible kayak launch. An old wooden footbridge has been removed and the launch area is under construction, with estimated completion this fall.



Ortega Preserve

Money is in the City’s Capital Improvement Plan for another ADA kayak launch, this one on the Southbank Riverwalk near the Duval County Public School administration building. The state is providing funds for the design.

An area of the Northbank Riverwalk known as “Corkscrew Park” for the corkscrew pedestrian ramp over the railroad tracks is undergoing rehabilitation. “The shoreline of that area has been stabilized for an irrigation system which will be installed to make way for new vegetation and outdoor fitness equipment,” said Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson. “The total cost is to be determined as the project is still ongoing.”

“I keep hearing about things that are happening [on the waterways] and that gets me excited.”

— Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman

The Hogan’s Creek Trail, part of the Emerald Necklace in Springfield, is finished but needs additional funding for upgrades and landscaping. A sculpture walk at Klutho Park, featuring 10 sculptures, is being planned with input from Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) and the University of North Florida.

South of Amelia Island, construction on a 245-foot pedestrian bridge, paid for with a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, is moving forward. The bridge across Cedar Point Creek will link 28 miles of trail in four preserves – Cedar Point, Pumpkin Hill, Jim Wingate and Betz-Tiger Point Preserve.

Several other projects are in the pipeline, including the restoration of Friendship Fountain, improvements at Pelican Plaza, Huguenot Park campground and the Betz-Tiger Point Preserve. And a \$1 million Federal Lands Access Program grant will pay for the design of the trail linking the Mayport ferry, Hanna Park, Neptune Beach and the Spanish Fort trail.

Plans to enhance the downtown riverwalks with landscaping also are progressing, Boyer said. Downtown Vision has agreed to inspect the riverwalks and alert the appropriate agency if work is needed. The

Jacksonville Chamber is looking at how to maintain the landscaping and is consulting with the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

Beaches parks

Mayors for the three beach communities also gave updates about parks projects in their cities.

Atlantic Beach Mayor Mitch Reeves said the city has 512 acres of parks and has bought more for River Branch Preserve, Dutton Island Preserve and Tide Views Preserve, and money is being sought for a pier and kayak launch at Johansen Park. The city also has recently established an Environmental Stewardship Committee to help maintain the parks and tree canopy.

Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown said the city is doing a master plan for Jarboe Park and a new trail that would link the park and the library. She showed a video taken by a drone of the proposed path.

Jacksonville Beach Mayor Charlie Latham gave an overview of the parks in his city, including Latham Plaza, which was named for his father, and Cradle Creek Preserve. The city is negotiating to buy 100 acres at the Taylor Boat Ramp to add parking and a nature trail.

Pier repairs

District 13 Councilman Bill Gulliford, who represents the beaches in Duval County, said RS&H, an architecture, engineering and consulting firm, is assessing the damage to the Jacksonville Beach pier, which lost 300 feet to Hurricane Matthew last year. The city already has some money in the budget to make the repairs. Gulliford said that once the pier is repaired, he would like to contract with the city of Jacksonville Beach to manage it.


Land purchase

Elizabeth Guthrie of North Florida Land Trust said 80 acres on the Ortega River north of the Clay County line has been purchased.


The Land Trust had previously targeted the property for preservation but was not able to reach a deal with the landowner until Fletcher Davis Management Group brought the project back to the table and helped the two parties reach an agreement.


The property, off Collins Road near I-295 and Blanding Boulevard, is mostly wetlands and one upland location is used informally as a kayak and canoe launch.

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Library budget cuts upset advocates

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

When Roxanne Henkle, president of Friends of the Willowbranch Library (FOWL), read through Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry’s 378-page 2017-2018 proposed budget, she got a sinking feeling when she saw what was slotted for the Jacksonville Public Libraries.

While funding for “same level of service” (salaries, contracts with security, etc.) was approved with slight modifications to the budget request, the line item for library materials was slashed by 14 percent, over \$485,000 less than what the JPL received last year. The proposed materials budget, which includes books, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks and databases, is just under

\$3 million, less than the 2005 budget for printed materials alone.

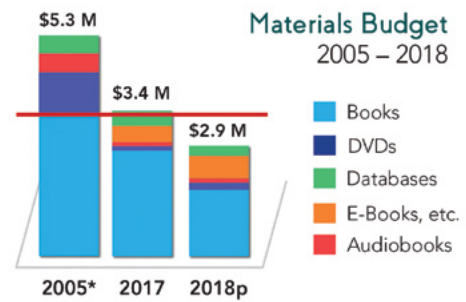
“Council gave us a one-time bump of \$500,00 for materials last year, so that money wasn’t ‘renewed’ this year in the mayor’s budget. Plus, the state cut \$150,000 for next year that it usually gives us,” said Ruth Ann Hepler, FOWL board member. “Overall, the materials budget has decreased 56 percent since 2005, so even with last year’s bump, we are still way behind the curve. That’s why we’re asking for an additional \$850,000 this year (more than what the mayor’s budget proposes) for materials.”

The nine Friends of Library groups held a press conference Aug. 8 at the Main Library on Laura Street to protest the slashed budget and to request \$850,000 for material funding as well as restore Monday hours for nine branches, including Murray Hill, San Marco and Willowbranch libraries. The investment to restore Monday hours is calculated at just over \$1 million by the Friends groups.

“There have been discussions from leaders stating, ‘Well, you have Library of the Year, why do you need funding?’” Henkle shared, lamenting the loss of the state-funded



Florence Rando, Interim Library Director Jennifer Giltrop and Judy Klein at the Library Budget presentation to the City Council Finance Committee on Aug. 11.



Murray Hill Library supporters plan 50th anniversary event

In anticipation of its 50th anniversary in 2018, the Friends of Murray Hill Library are working on beautification plans, currently focusing attention on new bicycle racks and adding plants and shrubbery to the outside front of the library.

“We are still in the process of researching the various options for bicycle racks and looking at plants that are particularly hardy and native to our area. Master Gardener Hella Shull is helping us with the landscaping plans and suggested plants,” said Judy Klein, FMHL treasurer.

FMHL member Helene Kamps-Stewart and Janet Ducat, Library Manager, are leading the team planning for the 50th anniversary.

“It will be an opportunity to honor those who have done so much to support our Murray Hill Library over the years, including Harry Brinton, who was library director when the Murray Hill Library was built in 1968, and his son and our former board member, Bill Brinton, who carried on his dad’s legacy so valiantly until his death earlier this year,” said Klein.

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7135 Eaton Avenue
4BR/1BA with kitchen beautifully updated with stainless and granite. Original solid heart pine floors throughout the house, fireplace in living area. Large laundry/utility room off kitchen. Fireplace in living room. 1,867 sq. ft. \$149,900

Waterfront project provides retail and restaurant growth along the Marina Mile

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

San Marco’s Hightide Burrito Co. has announced plans to open a second location and serve up its infamous “Beach Mex” cuisine to the riverfront along Lakeside Drive, just south of the Roosevelt Mall.

Hightide Burrito owner Alejandro (Alex) Juarez is planning to open next spring 2018 at the Sadler Point Retail Building on Lakeside Drive. Juarez’ fast-casual eatery is planned for the end of the building closest to the Ortega River, while on the street side, The Loop is still in its build-out phase.

Juarez said he had been thinking about another location for some time, but just began actively looking seven months ago. “I had been looking all over the city, as far as St. Augustine and the Beaches,” he said, “but this is a unique location with a good tenant mix.”

He also noted the proximity to his San Marco location won’t cannibalize that restaurant’s current business. “It’s far enough, yet close enough,” he said. “The water is a natural divide; as the crow flies, it’s not that far.”

Hightide Burrito intends to have outdoor seating in the mix of 150 seats, with a full bar for the full-service experience. Juarez has just begun the planning phase so had no timeline yet for the build-out.

A 2001 graduate of the University of North Florida, Juarez came to Jacksonville in 1997 from South Florida. After earning a Liberal Arts degree with a focus on international studies, he began his Jacksonville restaurant career opening two Tropical Smoothie franchises, but sold them shortly

after opening the San Marco location of Hightide Burrito in 2009.

Sadler Point

Although The Loop is making progress on its own build-out, another tenant looks to be open by the end of September. Synergy Studio, currently located in The Shoppes of Avondale, plans to hold a grand opening at Sadler Point Nov. 17, the occasion of the studio’s 17th anniversary.

“The decision to move from Avondale was in large part due to our need to expand our space with the increased demand for our services,” said Lynn Peterson, Synergy Studio president. “In my exploration of larger properties within The Shoppes of Avondale the rent is not financially compatible with our space needs.”

Peterson noted another influential factor for the move was the parking problem that faced her clients on a daily basis.

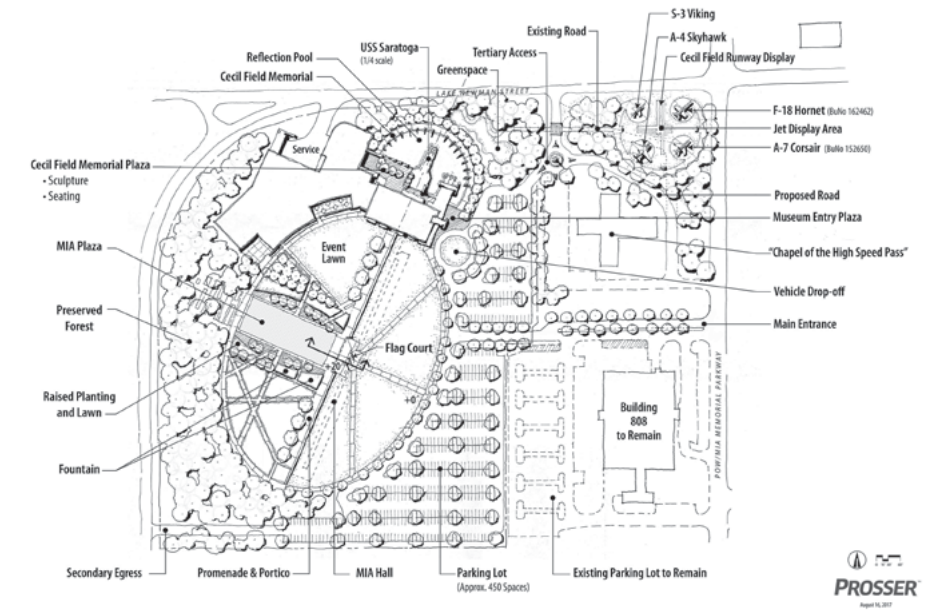
“The influx of food service establishments has also created problems with alley access, cleanliness, and maintenance greatly impacted by the frequent deliveries from full sized tractor trailer trucks,” she said.

With three tenants signed, Brooks Busey said two bays remain in the front and one or two in the back. “We will market more actively once the existing tenants are open,” said Busey, owner/operator of Sadler Point Marina and the retail building.

Busey also applied for an address change for both businesses, which were shown to be located on Roosevelt Boulevard. The address for the retail building is now 4591 Lakeside Dr., and the boatyard changed to 4599 Lakeside.

POW/MIA Memorial

FROM PAGE 1



(Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties) is home to over 150,000 veterans, making Jacksonville a key location for this Memorial and Center, according to the nonprofit, which also rolled out a strategic plan for development and use of the site.

Sam Houston, Commanding Officer of NAS Cecil Field from 1992-1994, is the board chair of POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. and its executive director is Michael Cassata.

Their plan has support from U.S. Senators John McCain, Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, as well as U.S. Congressmen John Rutherford (FL-District 4) and Al Lawson (FL-District 5).

Named after Commander Henry Barton Cecil, who died in 1933 in a crash of the USS Akron, a helium-filled rigid airship, field operations began at Naval Air Station Cecil Field in December 1941, 11 days after Pearl Harbor was bombed. It served as the principal training center for pilot combat training and was a pilot’s last stop before

assignment to the Atlantic Fleet or Pacific Fleet during World War II. Later, airmen trained at NAS Cecil Field were sent to Korea, Vietnam, the Pacific Rim and Desert Storm.

In 1974, Families of Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) dedicated the POW/MIA Memorial to honor those lost to war and ensure they were never forgotten. The site consists of markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots, a pavilion, a stage area, starburst (metal display of aircraft), and a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field.

The future plans call for renaming a chapel on the site “Chapel of the High-Speed Pass” and offering it for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings; enhancing and expanding the park and amphitheater, and establishing a new center to include interactive exhibits, videos, artifacts, memorabilia, youth programs, STEAM outreach and static displays.

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Innovation in medicine through virtual clinic



St. Vincent's new "healthcare on demand" can be accessed from a smartphone.

St. Vincent's HealthCare has launched a new virtual clinic offering 24/7 access to healthcare, filling the "middle-of-the-night" and weekend void when many common illnesses and ailments seem to require attention.

"We've all had moments when it's not an emergency, but we're not feeling well, need to see a doctor, and it's after-hours or there aren't any appointments available," said David Meyer, Chief Marketing & Strategy Officer for St. Vincent's HealthCare.

Those in need of urgent or walk-in care may describe symptoms to board-certified doctors and nurse practitioners, who will provide consultation, diagnosis and treatment for a non-emergency medical issue.

For \$49.99 per virtual visit, patients can now speak with a medical professional

from anywhere through internet-based video chat or FaceTime, using a smartphone, tablet or computer.

"The big picture for us is to invest in a variety of more convenient, more accessible services that provide healthcare that better meets the needs of our community," Meyer said.

The on-demand session can include diagnoses, prescriptions and the opportunity to arrange follow-up appointments at any of St. Vincent's HealthCare's primary care and specialist offices.

"This service is an example of St. Vincent's commitment to investing in innovations that allow us to make sure our patients have access to personalized care close to home, or even from their homes," said Meyer.

"The big picture for us is to invest in a variety of more convenient, more accessible services that provide healthcare that better meets the needs of our community."

— David Meyer, Chief Marketing & Strategy Officer for St. Vincent's HealthCare



The Florida Times-Union building has been on the market since June 2016.

Jacksonville media institution sold

New York company buys 11 dailies from Morris Publishing Group

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The Florida Times-Union, a daily newspaper serving Northeast Florida for 134 years, was sold by Morris Communications Co. Aug. 9 to GateHouse Media, a division of New York-based New Media Investment Group.

The Times-Union, with a daily circulation of nearly 45,000 and a Sunday circulation of more than 68,000, was one of 11 dailies Morris sold in the deal, including the St. Augustine Record. The \$120 million sale is set to close Oct. 2. Mark Nusbaum, of Avondale, Times-Union media president since 2012, will remain as publisher.

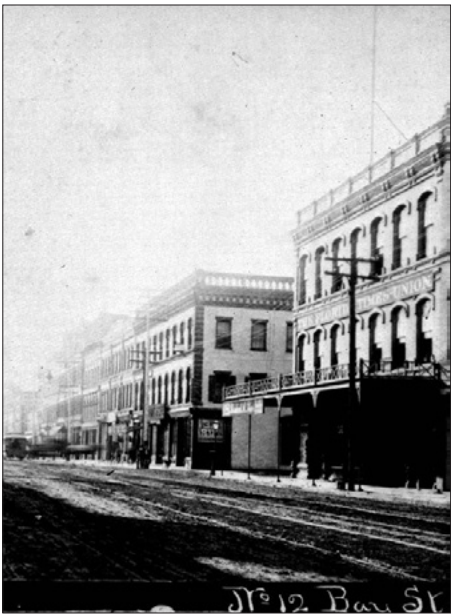
New Media formed in 2013 as a new holding company for GateHouse Media, Inc., which publishes 125 dailies, including nine in Florida.

Morris Communications purchased the Florida Publishing Company – which published the Times-Union, the St. Augustine Record and the Jacksonville Journal – in late 1982 from Seaboard Coastline Railroad, now CSX Corp. Seven years ago the publishing group filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization. Earlier this year, the company moved page design, copy editing and production to Augusta, Georgia, where Morris is based.

The 50-year-old Times-Union building, which includes administrative offices and printing plant on the 18.84-acre property, remains in the hands of the Morris family, which is looking at development options, including mixed-use with offices, hotel or residential units.

The site has been home to a fertilizer company (1920s), a roller skate complex and the Motor Transit Company in the 1940s, and Jacksonville Coach Company. In the mid-1950s, the site was home to Riverside Chevrolet.

Assessed at \$14,259,402, the property was put on the market in June 2016 without an asking price.



The Florida Times-Union, far right, in the 1880s, on Bay Street. (Photo courtesy of floridamemory.com)

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Halloween block party, parade casting wide net

Perhaps riding on the coattails of its very successful centennial celebration a year ago, the Murray Hill Preservation Association is rolling out another event MHPA President Jason Tetlak calls “Jacksonville’s largest Halloween party.”

Murray Hill-O-Ween was announced Aug. 5 but interest was sparked much earlier. “Some groups have already signed up to participate in the parade, hoping to get a jump on building the perfect float to take home the cash and prizes, but there is still plenty of room for any one that would like to create a float or entry,” Tetlak said.

The Oct. 29 the event will feature a block party beginning at 4 p.m. with food and drinks, a costume contest and many activities, along with a Halloween parade scheduled for dusk, with floats, parade puppets and costumed characters.

“An entry in the parade can be as simple as a group of friends walking together in costumes,” said Tetlak, “or as complex as you’d like it to be. We have a group doing a Harry Potter-themed float, and at least two large-scale parade puppets being constructed that we know about. There is a lot of excitement building around the parade. I think this is something that people have secretly wanted for a long time.”

MHPA is searching for a grand marshal to lead the parade and is looking for Jacksonville’s most enthusiastic Halloween fan to fill the spot. If you think you have what it takes you can post your best Halloween photo to the Hill-O-Ween Facebook page, where a winner will be chosen to be the Grand Marshal.

“We were really looking for a signature event for the neighborhood,” said Tetlak.



Jason Tetlak with District 9 Councilman Garrett Dennis

“A Halloween theme just fits perfectly with the feeling and the identity we are trying to create here in Murray Hill.”

Anyone interested in registering to participate in the parade, or who would like more information can visit murrayhilloween.com.

Two children/youth agencies face replacement by new unified entity

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Children and youth considered “at-hope” – the new term for the “at-risk” population – may be served by a single overseer by the end of the year.

In early June, City of Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry had indicated changes would be coming for both the Jacksonville Journey, established to specialize in anti-crime initiatives among youth, and Jacksonville Children’s Commission (JCC), which was launched to improve outcomes for children. At that time, Curry noted a possible merger of the two city initiatives.

On Aug. 1 Mayor Curry launched the Kids Hope Alliance: The Jacksonville Partnership for Children, Youth & Families (KHA), a collaboration that aligns the missions and programming currently provided by Jax Journey and JCC.

Legislation to streamline children’s services was filed Aug. 2 at the request of the mayor and introduced to City Council Aug. 8. The bill [2017-563] is co-sponsored by District 14 Councilman Jim Love and At-Large Councilman John Crescimbeni. A public hearing was held Aug. 22.

The bill notes the children and youth served by the two city agencies’ programs are not mutually exclusive, but “are

interconnected and overlapping children and youth populations.”

If approved, the ordinance would repeal the two chapters of the Municipal Ordinance Code which established the JCC in 1994 and Jax Journey in 2007, transferring their respective programs to Kids Hope Alliance, under Chapter 77 of the Ordinance Code.

If the 19 council members pass the bill, Kids Hope Alliance will include a Chief Executive Officer and a seven-member board appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council. After the legislation is enacted, a six-month transition period will commence, but the mayor indicated KHA should be fully operational by January 1, 2018.

KHA will contract with third-party providers or award grants for services in the areas of early learning and school readiness, juvenile-justice intervention, summer camp and afterschool programs, and pre-teen and teen programming under a \$36 million budget.

Two days prior to Mayor Curry’s announcement, he and City Council President Anna Brosche had announced \$1.071 million would be available to expand after-school programming through the JCC. City Council approved the funding and the programs are moving forward, according to Tia Ford, City spokesperson.

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Gili Wojnowich, IGY Marinas regional director of operations for the U.S., Bahamas, and South America, Kenny Jones, IGY Marinas executive vice president of marina operations and Cam Melangton, new general manager of Ortega Landing

New management group greets Ortega Landing boaters

New property managers at the Marina at Ortega Landing were welcomed by the marina’s boating guests at a Champagne and Wine bar Aug. 25. The marina, owned by Chicago-based Bixby Bridge Capital, LLC, recently underwent a property management change, bringing on IGY Marinas, which has 15 other properties in its portfolio.

“A lot of times we’re brought in for distressed assets and facilities,” said Gili Wojnowich, IGY Marinas regional director of operations. “This property is highly occupied and it’s a real treat for us as the staff and resources are in place.”

The 192-slip marina celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2016 and is home to a mix of full-time cruisers, local boat owners, and transient boaters.



Frank DeCandis with Robert Ard, Carol Shores and Mike Pierce



Cynthia and Jeff Jarvis with Scott and Jackie Summerville

Real men wear pink to eradicate breast cancer

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The second annual Real Men Wear Pink campaign kicked off July 21 when 38 prominent men pledged to raise \$2,500 each – or, in the case of one man, 10 times that amount – in the fight to end breast cancer.

Each man’s reason for accepting the challenge may differ, but in the end, the American Cancer Society will be the winner. If the goals are met by Oct. 20, ACS stands to add at least \$95,000 to its coffers for research, education, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

However, the nonprofit may gain more through the fundraising efforts of Ortega-based attorney John Phillips, who pledged \$25,000 and, as of press time, was No. 5 in the national campaign.

Phillips, who is known for handling high profile cases in personal injury, civil rights and wrongful deaths, said he would wear pink for three months to honor loved ones who suffered from cancer, including his grandmother and his father. “Even now, a very special loved one is going through it,” Phillips said in his testimony on the campaign website.

John Falconetti, owner of Drummond Press, is wearing pink for the women in his life, honoring his mother, his wife – who is a breast cancer survivor – and his



John Phillips



John Falconetti



Chris Byers

daughter, who he hopes will grow up in a world without breast cancer.

An Ortega Forest resident, Falconetti said while his mother never battled cancer, he recalls the love and care she gave the family, praying that every family would enjoy those same benefits and not lose them to cancer.

For Chris Byers, of Riverside, stepping up to fight breast cancer is a matter of making a difference in his community. “Breast cancer affects everyone – it doesn’t matter if you’re a man or a woman,” said Byers, who works in commercial real estate sales and marketing for EXIT Real Estate Gallery.

For more information on how you can support the Real Men Wear Pink campaign or to sign up for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk of Jacksonville Saturday, Oct. 21, 7:30 a.m. at Metropolitan Park, go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl.

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HabiJax’s first multifamily project funded by Delores Barr Weaver



Delores Barr Weaver

In celebration of an upcoming birthday, Riverside resident Delores Barr Weaver made a \$1 million gift to Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc. (HabiJax) to fund the construction of Legacy 8 Town Homes, a new, eight-unit development for homeownership.

The gift was made through the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and celebrates the eight decades of her life.

“My enthusiastic support of HabiJax began after Jacksonville was awarded the 30th NFL franchise on November 30, 1993. The following summer I moved into the Omni Hotel and worked on houses for a week, houses I hoped would become homes for children and families,” noted Weaver. “The success of the HabiJax model gives me confidence that the new Legacy 8 Town Homes concept will be a wonderful addition to the urban core community and I look forward with great anticipation to welcoming new families when it is completed.”

Legacy 8 Town Homes will be HabiJax’s first multifamily town home project and will consist of two four-unit buildings on a half-acre lot on the corner of Acorn and Beaver Streets in the New Town neighborhood.

“While others often receive gifts in celebration of their birthday, it is a testament to her kindness and generous heart that she would want to celebrate her birthday by giving the gift of homeownership to others,” said HabiJax President & CEO Mary Kay O’Rourke.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

New DAR officers installed for two-year term

The Jacksonville Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) installed new officers for the 2017-2019 term in May.

Known as the “Mother Chapter of Florida” because it is the first DAR chapter in Florida, the Jacksonville Chapter was formally recognized April 2, 1895 by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), which was founded five years earlier in 1890.

Some of the charter members, such as Mae Wilson Dancy, Sallie Alison Buckman, Fannie B. Stockton, Mary Stockton Young, are well-known place names today.

New officers are Betty Reed, regent; Joann Bragg, vice-regent; Claudia Cuartero, 2nd vice-regent; Trisha Gillespie, recording secretary; Susan Norwood, treasurer; Marsha Morley, chaplain; Anne Eber, librarian; Palmer Lamb, historian and public relations; Margaret Pelton, parliamentarian, Jurelle Staton, registrar, and Anita Moore, curator.



Anne Eber, Palmer Lamb, Trisha Gillespie, Joann Bragg, Betty Reed, Susan Norwood, Marsha Morley, not pictured: Jurelle Staton, Claudia Cuartero, Margaret Pelton, Anita Moore

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership.

The Jacksonville Chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., September through May. For location, contact Betty Reed at DARjaxbettyreed@att.net

Supporters of youth with disabilities honored by ILRC

Dr. Kristine Webb, a professor in the University of North Florida’s Department of Exceptional, Deaf and Interpreter Education, received the 1st Annual Youth Advisory Council Leadership in Disability award on July 28.

More than 140 people celebrated the achievements of The Independent Living Resource Center’s (ILRC) Youth Advisory Council programs at the University of North Florida.

Also recognized was Regions Bank for support of the Youth Advisory Council, a group of up to 17 members ages 13 to 25 who represent the full spectrum of disability.

Tyler Morris, Executive Director of The ILRC, along with Angie Miller, Youth Advisory Council Chair, Youth Advisory

Council Lead Facilitator Vanessa Baffour, and Julie Gilson, Youth Services Coordinator, handed out awards to the program’s participants.

Awards were given to students, teachers, mentors and partners in the RAMP program, which pairs students in the Duval County Public School System who have a disability with mentors.

Jeremiah Dixon was recognized with Most Weekly Goals Achieved by a Mentee, and Chris Noble, Most Completed Hours as a Mentee. Crecia Jones was awarded the Outstanding Mentor award; Jamie Belongie, Outstanding Teacher; Patrina Freeman, Outstanding Community Partner, and the Doubletree by Hilton, for Outstanding Employer Partnership.

Accepting for Regions Bank was Kathy Lovell, Senior Vice President, Americans With Disabilities Manager, and Alicia Somers, Central Florida Marketing Manager.



Outstanding Employer Partnership the DoubleTree by Hilton accepted by Kerry Boatwright, Billy Wells; Special Recognition of Regions Bank for their support of YAC Program accepted by Alicia Somers and Kathy Lovell; Tyler Morris, Executive Director of The ILRC

Accepting for the Doubletree was Kerry Boatwright, Director of Human Resources.

“This partnership supports Regions’ core values of doing what is right and helping people enjoy life,” said Lovell. “These are our future leaders, and we believe in giving people every opportunity to succeed.”

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Realty firm collects record 1,151 backpacks



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected a record 1,151 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 18th Annual Backpack Challenge. Last year, the company collected a then-record 1,011 backpacks for local children during the Backpack Challenge.

The backpacks and school supplies collected by the real estate firm during the campaign were donated to students throughout Northeast Florida via Dreams Come True, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice - Office of Prevention, Orange Park Junior High School, BEAM - Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, Mayport Elementary School, Operation New Hope, Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida, Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary and Charles E. Bennett Elementary Schools.

“We are filled with gratitude to all of our Realtors, employees and clients for

ensuring that so many local children have the supplies they need for educational success,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. “The Backpack Challenge is an event our team looks forward to participating in every year and we are very proud of their efforts.”

During the campaign, backpacks and school supplies were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The backpacks were purchased for students in kindergarten through grade 12, and filled with school supplies, such as pens, pencils, paper and notebooks.

Marisa Mariano, Marian Snovell, Christy Budnick, Linda Sherrer, Brenna Antram, Chantha Bisher and Maria Wilkes

Local attorney appointed to Jacksonville Ethics Commission

Mary Bland Love, Marks Gray attorney and Riverside resident, was appointed to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission by Public Defender Charles Cofer and approved by City Council in July. Her term will expire December 2019.

The Jacksonville Ethics Commission provides a local forum for consideration and investigation of ethical problems and issues.

Love was honored with The Justice Raymond Ehrlich Trial Advocacy Award by the Jacksonville Bar Association in February 2016 in recognition of her career-long “example of steadfast obedience to ethics, professionalism, preparation, and respect to all participants in the legal process, aggressive advocacy, mentorship, scholarship, and a driving force to do what is right.”

She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and served as the first woman president of the Jacksonville Chapter in 2002; she was also selected as its Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2011. As a former member of the Jacksonville Association of



Mary Bland Love

Defense Counsel, Love served as its first woman president in 1987-88. She has also served on the Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section Executive Council (1999-2002) and the Fourth Circuit Nominating Commission in 2001-2006. She has been a board member of the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, and served as its first woman president in 1986-87.

Ortega Forest resident named Lawyer of Year

M. Richard Lewis, Jr., Smith Hulsey & Busey Managing Partner and member of the firm’s Board of Directors, has been named Jacksonville “Lawyer of the Year” for his work in Mergers and Acquisitions Law by Best Lawyers magazine.

Lewis, of Ortega Forest, was previously named “Lawyer of the Year” for his work in health care law in 2014. Lewis holds both a B.A. and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University.



M. Richard Lewis, Jr.

Riverside family business celebrates 60 years serving community

Chances are, when Miron “Maw” Leggett started Leggett Heating and Air Conditioning in September 1957 as a part-time job because he also worked for Seaboard Railroad, he probably didn’t envision a third generation would celebrate its 60th anniversary.

In 1968, Leggett’s nephew, Terry Leggett, was working in Gainesville as a manager in a retail store called W.T. Grants, when Maw decided his growing business could use some help.

Terry and his wife, Gail, moved to Jacksonville, where he learned the HVAC business on the job, with a few classes. He purchased the company from his Uncle Maw in the late 1970s.

Terry’s daughter, Traci, started working at the family business over the summers when she was very young.

“He still did a lot of the work himself so I rode with him on service calls and was his gopher. As I got to be a teenager I was put in the office and ran parts,” said Traci. “I have been in the office since.”

In the early 1990s Traci Leggett started dating her future husband, Billy Warlitzer, had a metal fabrication shop at the time. While she was handling the accounting for both companies, Billy also learned HVAC from on the job training.

“He would hop in with my dad and run service calls, estimates or check on the installs. After a few years Billy and I both decided to take our State License test,” said Traci. “My dad decided to retire and sell us the business in June 2002. He worked for a few more years then totally retired.”

The company grew from two men in 1957 to up to 10 employees today, but it’s still family-owned and operated, on the same block where Maw Leggett started it.

As Leggett’s grew, Terry Leggett bought the house on the corner of King and Rosselle Streets, moved the office there and kept the metal warehouse on Rosselle Street for equipment. When the Borden Company property came up for sale next door, Terry bought that and again moved the office and warehouse, where Leggett’s has remained since 1993.

Unfortunately, founder Miron “Maw” Leggett didn’t live to celebrate the anniversary. He passed away in 2014 at age 89.



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High school dedicated for students with special needs

Nine days after students returned to Morning Star School Aug. 9 to a brand new building, the Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley Building was blessed and dedicated in a morning ceremony Aug. 18.

Thanks to the parents, organizations, corporations and Morning Star’s “Circle of Friends” who supported the “Building a Brighter Future” capital campaign, the Class of 2020 will be the first high school graduating class at Morning Star.

The ceremony was conducted by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, with Scripture readings by Deacon David Yazdiya, principal of Bishop Snyder High School, and by sophomore students Lorenzo Hall and Robert Pattan. Morning Star Principal Jean Barnes gave a “thank you” address, and general intercessions were read by students Elayna Carandang, Griff Jones, Dylan Jackson and Ricardo Foster.

“All of this is possible because friends who shared our vision stepped forward to support our mission to provide a firm foundation of faith, service and academics to students with learning differences,” said Barnes. “Bob Shircliff, Lou Walsh and Jay Demetree – three gentlemen who stood up when we called, stuck with us through our challenges, made personal phone calls on our behalf to people they knew who would be able to help us. We are here today



Morning Star High School students with mentors from Bishop Snyder High School (Photo by Woody Huband)

because of them; words cannot begin to express our gratitude.”

The 60-year-old school was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine at the request of Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley to provide a Catholic education for students who were physically handicapped. To serve students in higher grades, the school launched a \$1.6 million building addition in October 2016. As of the opening of school, the campaign goal stood at 75 percent in pledges and donations.



Robert T. Shircliff, Pat Thornton, Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, Dave Kulik (Photo by Woody Huband)

Former Naval officer joins Raymond James



Bringing with him lessons learned as a lieutenant serving in the U.S. Navy, Caleb Cronic has joined the Otterson-Allison Wealth Management team at Raymond James Associates as a financial advisor trainee and plans to take his Series 7 and Series 66 certification exams this fall. Cronic served as a commissioned officer for six years, completing multiple deployments to the Middle East, and finished his service as an Operations Officer and Intelligence Oversight Officer. “I found that many of my strengths and lessons I learned in the Navy translated very well to the financial field and helping others reach their financial goals while staying in tune with international events,” said Cronic.

Cronic and his wife, Kristin, who currently serves as an officer in the Navy, now live near the Episcopal School of Jacksonville’s boathouse on Pottsbury Creek with daughter Eleanor.

“We love the beauty and tranquility of the creek while being so close to downtown and San Marco,” he said.

Cronic is a deacon at Southside Baptist church as well as a Sunday School teacher.

Four join Public Education Fund Board of Directors

James Cameron “Buck” Williams, Latrece Brown, Dr. Patricia Willis and the Honorable Paula D. Wright will join 15 current members of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund Board of Directors.

Williams, who joined the board in January 2017 as a voting member, is a financial advisor with The Beard, Williams, Chappell Group at UBS Private Wealth Management. An Ortega resident, he is also involved with Sanctuary on 8th Street as board



Buck Williams



Dr. Patricia Willis



The Honorable Paula Wright



Latrece Brown

treasurer and is chair of the Troop Committee for Boy Scout Troop 26 at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Ortega.

Brown replaced Kay Park June 2017 as the non-voting ex officio Florida Blue Teacher of the Year representative. She is

a fourth-year teacher at Andrew Robinson Elementary School. Willis, the Duval County Public School superintendent, also joined the board in June as a non-voting ex officio member, as is Wright, the School Board chair, who joined in January.

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Leslie McPartland, ARNP

The Ripple Effect recognized for work in children’s mental health care

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded its ECCO (Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach) Award Honorary Mention to the Partnership for Child Health.

“We’re very proud of the tireless dedication provided by professionals, community partner organizations and leaders in our city,” said Vicki Waytowich, Executive Director, Partnership for Child Health. “The positive impact throughout our community in mental and behavioral health services continues to keep kids on track as we create a ripple effect providing better health and well-being outcomes for children.”

The award honors the Jacksonville System of Care Initiative, Mental Health America of Jacksonville and other community partners for The Ripple Effect annual event honoring mental health care professionals who have provided exemplary services to children, youth and families in Jacksonville. The Ripple Effect was created in 2014 by Mental Health America of Jacksonville to recognize the substantial contributions mental health care providers have made to children who they serve.



Vicki Waytowich, Executive Director, Partnership for Child Health; Lee Kaywork, Chairman, Jacksonville System of Care Initiative Board of Directors, and CEO, Family Support Services; Denise Marzullo, CEO, Mental Health America of Jacksonville

The annual ECCO Award acknowledges excellence in social marketing from more than 37 systems of care organizations across the United States. Jacksonville was awarded a grant from SAMHSA in 2010 to develop a collaborative system of care network to connect children with the resources and services they need to reach their full potential.

Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery celebrates 40th anniversary

Congratulations to Hooshang Harvesf, on the 40th anniversary of Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery. Hooshang opened his oriental rug business – sales, cleaning and repairs – at 3571 St. Johns Ave. in the Shoppes of Avondale on Sept. 15, 1977.

“I am really as excited and happy today about what I do as the first day I opened these doors,” said Hooshang, who holds a Ph.D. in economics. “I am the longest-running business in the Shoppes of Avondale at the same location and very proud of that fact.”

Hooshang, who imports his unique, handmade rugs directly from every weaving country in the world, said, “I still look forward to coming to work every day. I enjoy the community and my customers tremendously.”



Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D.

Cummer Museum exceeds challenge grant goal

Through the generosity of its patrons, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens surpassed the goal for the second year of a four-year challenge grant from National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

A comprehensive campaign that included a funder challenge from Delores Barr Weaver and Trustee Barbara Harrell to the Board of Trustees raised \$419,303.04 in gifts and pledges from all of the Museum’s donor and affinity groups, including the Ponce de León Society, Cummer Beaches, Cummer Amelia, and its general members, exceeding the \$375,000 goal by \$44,303.04.

For every three dollars the Museum raises, the NEH will match it with one dollar. At the end of the four-year grant period in 2020, the Museum will have raised \$1.5 million, matched by \$500,000 from the NEH, totaling a \$2 million endowment. This endowment will stay in place in perpetuity, and up to 5 percent will be drawn out annually to build sustainability for the Museum and ensure quality programming for years to come.

The endowment will allow the Cummer Museum to create innovative programs that more deeply impact its diverse audiences by examining art through the lenses of literature, philosophy, religion, history, and more.

Community Nutcracker brings on guest choreographers

Following the retirement of Beth Marks, founding director of Community Nutcracker, the nonprofit has brought on two guest choreographers to work with Artistic Directors Dulce Anaya, Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak.

Suzanne Saltmarsh of Saltmarsh Dance of Jacksonville and Heather Stevenson Loveland of Heather Loveland Dance Academy in St. Johns County will join the Nutcracker Ballet in its 26th season.

Saltmarsh, who holds a Master’s in Fine Arts in Choreography from Jacksonville University, will choreograph the role of Arabians, while the roles of Angels, Cherubs, Sprites and Pages will



Suzanne Saltmarsh



Heather Loveland

be choreographed by Loveland. A Douglas Anderson School of the Arts graduate, Loveland has performed in the Nutcracker Ballet.

The first production of the Community Nutcracker Ballet in 1992 starred Julie Kent, who became a world-famous ballerina. In the past 25 years, the nonprofit has donated more than \$600,000 to local charities.

Underserved children enjoy back-to-school party

For the second year in a row, the Law Offices of John M. Phillips hosted a Back to School party Aug. 8 at Eureka Gardens for about 200 children, giving away backpacks loaded with school supplies and handing out free ice cream.

“The tragedies at Eureka Gardens – mold, rust, bullets and carnage – far outnumber any other region on the First Coast,” said Phillips. “Last year was a success and saw outstanding achievement for those kids.”

Phillips opened his Ortega-based law firm in 2011, modeling his practice after his grandfather, a Mississippi lawyer, and great-grandfather, a Mississippi Circuit Court judge.



Attorney John M. Phillips poses with a few of the 200 children in Eureka Gardens during a Back to School party.

“Both were very good attorneys and served businesses and people without reservation of who they were as long as they could help,” Phillips shared. “First and foremost, it was about advocacy for those that needed the help.”



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Three local artists receive Art Ventures grants

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has awarded \$28,000 in career development grants to eight individual artists, from among more than three dozen applications, through the Art Ventures initiative.

Three of the chosen artists are local, including Performance Artist Liz Gibson, who develops her performance art at CoRK Art Studios. This will be a second Art Ventures grant for Gibson, who will use the \$3,500 award to fund expenses related to the creation of a solo performance work about using art to empower people with disabilities.

Robin Rutenberg, of Fairfax, is a musician and composer who works with various ensembles and in solo projects including The Little Books, Bear Machine, Gabe Darling, and Insel. Robi is a founder of Girls Rock, Inc., a summer music camp which fosters positive identity development in girls and trans youth. The \$3,500 grant will fund equipment upgrades in the artist's recording studio to help complete three self-composed and performed works.

Jeff Whipple, a painter, sculptor, playwright, and video artist, who also has a studio at CoRK, has been featured around the country in more than 80 solo exhibits and more than 200 group exhibitions. Whipple will use his \$3,500 grant to fund studio rental, materials and time for the creation of a series of large-scale sculptures.

Additionally, grants were awarded to Artist Erin Kendrick, owner and lead designer for E. Street Design; Director-Choreographer Roxanna Lewis; Tiffany Melanson, a creative



A creative work by Jeff Whipple

writing instructor at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Musician/Composer Ulysses Owens, Jr., and Leslie Robinson, an associate professor of art at Flagler College.

Since 1990, more than \$1 million has been granted through the Art Ventures initiative, which is funded through the Art Ventures Endowment, the J. Shepard, Jr. & Mary Ann Bryan Arts Endowment, the Anne and Sallyn Pajcic Art Ventures Endowment, the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund, and the Alynne Sharp Art Fund.



Liz Gibson



Robin Rutenberg

Sean Cronin named to 2018 Best Lawyers list

Attorney Sean Cronin, a partner at Cronin & Maxwell, PL, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2018 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®. He was selected in the practice area of Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs. This is the seventh year Cronin has been listed in the book.

Before practicing law, Cronin was a pilot in the U.S. Navy, serving as a P-3C Mission Commander, Patrol Plane Commander and Naval Aviation Safety Officer. He is an FAA-certified commercial pilot with multiple and single engine instrument ratings.

Cronin graduated from Jacksonville University and Florida State University College of Law and is a Commander in the United States Navy Reserves-Retired.



Sean Cronin

Local baker selected for entrepreneur fellowship

Meredith Corey-Disch, owner of Community Loaves in Murray Hill, has the honor of being one of 20 selected for the inaugural class of the Women in Entrepreneur Leadership Program (WEL). The fellowship is funded by The James Beard Foundation and supported by a grant from WCR – Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, a Founding Partner of the WEL program.

The annual fellowship for a class of up to 20 women includes a five-day entrepreneurship/



Meredith Corey-Disch

leadership training program, to be held Sept. 10-15, developed with and hosted at Babson College, Wellesley, Mass.

Targeted to women chefs/owners of one restaurant or food business, the curriculum will address advanced business and finance concerns related to entrepreneurship and expansion, as well as provide gender-specific training and leadership development. An emphasis on work/life balance and other cultural issues will also be part of the program.

Corey-Disch started the bakery in 2012 with former partner Sarah Bogdanovitch, beginning with a booth at Riverside Arts Market, then opened the bakery/restaurant at 1120 Edgewood Ave. South. Bogdanovitch left in 2015 to pursue graduate studies in language acquisition and communication science.

Women chosen as new leaders for two nonprofits

Two well-known nonprofits recently announced the hiring of new chief executive officers.

Hubbard House, Inc., a certified domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker Counties, will promote its Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Gail Patin, to serve as its new CEO.

Hope Haven, one of Northeast Florida's leading nonprofit providers of specialized services for children and their families, went outside the organization to select Stella E. Johnson as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Patin has been at Hubbard House for 14 years and previously served at CEO of Harbor House, a domestic violence center in Orlando.

Beyond Hubbard House, Patin's list of professional accomplishments are many and include helping to found Micah's Place domestic violence center in Nassau County, holding board and committee positions with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and, recently, working in collaboration with the City of Jacksonville, the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court and Jewish Family & Community Services on the Jacksonville Safety First Project, a nationally funded project that provides safe visitation and exchange for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Patin has a doctorate degree from the University of North Florida specializing



Dr. Gail Patin



Stella Johnson

in leadership, nonprofit management, strategic planning and program evaluation in nonprofits. She is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Florida and received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of South Carolina.

Johnson currently serves as the Executive Director of the Family Nurturing Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the needs of children and families in crisis in North Florida. She will assume her new role with Hope Haven on September 18, 2017.

An extensive background working with children and families in Florida includes 10 years at the Family Nurturing Center, serving as the Executive Director for the last eight years. Johnson has provided consultation services and program development for foster care, delinquency, and similar programs serving at-risk youth and families. Previously, she served as Program Services Director for the Capital City Youth Services in Tallahassee and Program Coordinator for the Youth Crisis Center in Jacksonville. Johnson has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of North Florida.

Yellow House opens with 'Small Matters' exhibit

Hope McMath, Riverside resident and former executive director of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, recently launched a new "art + action" venture at 577 King St., not far from CoRK Art Studios.

Dubbing it "Yellow House," McMath has created a gathering place for educational outreach and collaborations among artists, writers, organizations, and communities.

McMath's inaugural exhibition, "Small Matters," was launched at Yellow House's grand opening Aug. 31 – Sept. 2. The exhibit by 20 regional artists emphasizes the power of saying a lot with less, delivering messages of social importance through small works. It will be on display through Sept. 28.



Hope McMath reviews artwork with Princess Simpson Rashid for the opening exhibit at Yellow House. (Photo by Ingrid Damiani)

"Yellow House will aim to create transformative change for the community, by the community," said McMath. "It will be an artists' conduit, serving as a hub for independent thinking, capacity-building, and professional development."

McCall Service CFO retires from USAF

Colonel David Cooksey, who also serves as chief financial officer for Riverside-based McCall Service, is retiring from the United States Air Force after more than three decades in the Air Force.

Cooksey entered the United States Air Force in 1985 and received his Bachelor of Science in Political Affairs at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1989. He served in the Active Duty Air Force in the 9th Tactical Intelligence Squadron for over six years and then joined the McCall Service team in 1995.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Cooksey re-enlisted in the Air Force Reserves, served for 16 years and was a Deputy Group Commander in the 920th Rescue Wing at the time of his Aug. 6 retirement.

Cooksey has received multiple awards and decorations, including the Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. He deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom. He has spent significant time in Joint Operations in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt and Djibouti.



Col. David Cooksey

Riverside dentist named Florida Academy of General Dentistry president

Linda Trotter, DMD, was elected president of the Florida Academy of General Dentistry (FLAGD) for 2017 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in June during the Florida Dental Convention.

The Riverside-based practitioner has been a member of the organization since she was in dental school, achieved Fellowship status early in her career, and served on FLAGD's board of directors.

The FLAGD is one of the most active state dental academies in the nation. It represents more than 1,600 of the 37,000 members currently in the Academy of General Dentistry, founded in 1952.

"I am excited to serve as president of the Florida AGD. Like all medical specialties, dentistry is facing unprecedented challenges. The high cost of dental education, expensive technology updates, and changing dental insurance reimbursement levels to little or



Dr. Linda Trotter

no coverage of benefits for patients are three that immediately come to mind" said Trotter. "Sharing information, methodologies, knowledge and guidance is what helps our dentists, members of the Florida Academy of General Dentistry of stay at the forefront of our profession."

Trotter received her doctorate of dental medicine in 1987 from the University of Florida and established her practice in 1991, moving to 2522 Oak St. in 2015.

Gillam appointed to DIA board

Jacksonville City Council approved the appointment by Mayor Lenny Curry of W. Braxton Gillam, IV to the Downtown Investment Authority, as an Attorney, replacing Kamaria (Kay) Harper for a partial term expiring June 30, 2019.

Section 55.307(b)(1) of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code, provides that five of the nine members of the DIA board be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council, in various categories, including a practicing attorney.

Gillam, of Ortega Forest, received a law degree from Florida State University and is an Attorney Shareholder with Milam Howard Nicandri Dees & Gillam, P.A. He has previously served on the Board of Governors for the Jacksonville Bar Association and the Jacksonville Ethics Commission.



W. Braxton Gillam, IV

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Changing lives one thread at a time

Celebrating six years of changing lives, Rethreaded’s annual birthday bash held Aug. 5 its retail space on Barnett Street brought together community members who support efforts to end human trafficking in Northeast Florida.

Since its founding by Kristen Keen in 2012, the nonprofit has provided over 28,000 hours of work through its retail operation to local survivors, and has directly impacted 30 survivors of human trafficking in Jacksonville. Many of the products sold at Rethreaded are made by repurposing T-shirts into scarves and other items.

The 6th anniversary was celebrated with a lot of freebies, including a yoga class, pastries from Motion Sweets, iced coffee from Social Grounds Coffee, pops from The Hyppo, picnic lunches from Publix, Happy Hour beverages from Engine 15 Brewing Company, and drawings for Rethreaded items.



Stevie Schoof, Natalie Schoof



Carrie Smals with Ruth-Ann Moody



Christy and Emma Hilpert



Carol and Councilman At-Large Tommy Hazouri



Jack and Debby Carr, Joanne Redfield and son Scott Dennison Redfield

First Friday events draw residents to local businesses

Redfield Salon in historic 5 Points was host to the Riverside Avondale Preservation First Friday event Aug. 4, which included munchies by The Bread & Board, just around the corner.

The casual cocktail hour was instigated by the RAP board of directors over a year ago to give residents an opportunity learn about businesses and community organizations in the community and to share what’s on their minds with members of the board in a social atmosphere.

First Friday began in May 2016 at Hawthorn Salon and is hosted by RAP’s young professionals group, The Revivals.



Giovani Pepa, Joanna Kardys and Matt Windham

Over the course of the past year businesses which have hosted the monthly event include CityCycle, Anazao Galleries, CoRK Arts District, Open Road Bicycles, the North Florida Land Trust, Generation US, Green Man Gourmet and Grassroots.

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Senator Aaron Bean with his wife Abby



April Daly, Cindy Austgen, Paula Meyns, Maureen Kane and Janet Woody



Gil and Jane Pomar with Jan and Chris Kirby



Matthew Floyd with Sam Nader, Lindsay Nader and Chappy Moody

Angelwood reaches major milestone, anniversary

The 25th Anniversary Gala to benefit Angelwood’s programs serving children and adults living with disabilities was held Aug. 26 in the Champions Ballroom at the Sawgrass Marriott.

The evening kicked off with cocktails while guests left their bids in the silent auction for items ranging from a Big Green Egg grill, 10 bottles of red wine valued at more than \$500, a one-day fishing charter with former Jacksonville Jaguar Jeff Lageman, and a week-long rental at a Tennessee mountain cabin. The live auction included

two weekly hospitality passes to the 2018 Ryder Cup, a private plane ride and lunch with former Jacksonville Jaguar Kyle Brady a luxury private suite for 20 at the Jags vs. Indy game and two tickets to the 2018 NCAA Final Four in San Antonio, Texas, to name a few.

Dinner was following by dancing to the Chris Thomas Band, as patrons of Angelwood enjoyed the fun-filled event chaired by Natalie and Mike Rolewicz and Robin and Dan Wahby. The honorary chairs for the big anniversary gala were Tabitha and Jim Furyk.



Dan and Cathleen Murphy



City Councilman Aaron Bowman with his wife Debbie, Women's Center Board Chair Lisé Everly and Development Director Gillian Ticehurst



Jan Wolke, Mary Jarrett, Alicia Grant and Jean Mangu



Meg Rohal, Michelle DeLuca, Sharón Simmons and Jennifer Wolfe

Women’s Center celebrates transforming lives at annual gala

The Year of the Pearl, an evening of inspiration and sophistication, was the theme for the Women’s Center of Jacksonville’s 22nd Annual Celebration of Women. Held Aug. 18 at Queens Harbour Yacht and Country Club, the yearly event also recognized the 97th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote on Aug. 26, 1920.

Emcee for the evening was Katie Jeffries, First Coast News Anchor, and Signature Sponsor was Mayo Clinic. Guests bid on a variety of silent and live auction items to raise funds for the Rape Recovery advocacy and prevention programs, affordable mental health counseling, Expanded Horizons literacy and family education, Bosom Buddies breast cancer survivor support, and the new Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) facility. As he did in 2016, Sheriff Mike Williams served as auctioneer for the live auction and for Gifts of Love.

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Elijah and Gina Jenkins



The Sproles family and close relatives celebrate Norah, who was born with spina bifida and receives much of her specialty care from the staff and physicians at Nemours. Barry Sproles with Molly Rausch and Beth Rausch, honoree Norah Sproles (in front) with her mother, Megan Sproles.



Nemours Administrative Coordinator Joyce Moulton, Development Coordinators Kacie Shagnea and Trish Bautista and Director of Fund Development Maggie Hightower



Brandon Waked and Vanessa Sanchez with Alicia and Robert Sprecher

Downtown Library a Fundraising Oasis for Nemours

The Jacksonville Public Library downtown played host to a big night for fundraising in support of complex medical conditions for local children. Contributors to the outstanding pediatric patient care at Nemours Children's Specialty Care gathered for the 5th annual Evening of Promise to raise the bar.

A night of music, cocktails and fabulous cuisine was but the backdrop for the generosity of those who stepped up to fund preventative medical care and education programs, not to mention, life-saving research.

The host committee of Dr. Steven and Mrs. Andreoli, Mr. and Mrs. Chad Bunnell, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Vineyard welcomed guests and like-minded supporters to the atrium at the main library for a fantastic evening of festivities.



Matt, Francy, and Will Robertson with Tyler Ruppel



Kathy Devine with Mary Pat Wallmeyer



Rick Beaver, Peggy Holt and Mike Flanagan



Leslie Roberts with Florida Theatre President Numa Saisselin and Bobby Martin

Florida Theatre hosts best end of summer party

The Florida Theatre's annual summer fundraising event, Blues, Brews and BBQ, was the most well-attended of similar past events, with more than 400 showing their support of the 90-year-old venue.

"We have a number of fundraisers throughout the year, and this one tries to do three things: Support the theatre, connect the arts of cooking and brewing with the performing arts, and give the public a reasonably priced way to support the theatre," said Numa Saisselin, president. "We brought in over \$30,000 last night, and that helps support our preservation of the theatre, and the presentation of music, dance and theatre acts that really add another dimension to our life here in Jacksonville."

Presented by Publix Supermarket Charities, the Aug. 24 party showcased some of Jacksonville's best local blues music, craft beers and barbeque. Smokestack and The Snack Blues performed nonstop on the theatre's historic stage.

Blues, Brews and BBQ 2017 included more craft breweries and more barbeque restaurants this year, with samples provided by The Butt Hutt, Gilbert's Social, Mojo BBQ, Monroe's BBQ, 4 Rivers Smokehouse and The Bearded Pig on both the main and mezzanine lobby areas. Guests also enjoyed unlimited craft beer provided by Wicked Barley Brewery, Bold City Brewery, Veterans United Brewery, 7 Bridges Grille & Brewery and Engine 15 Brewing Company.

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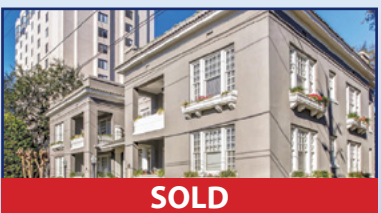
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Popular low country boil brings out Riverkeeper supporters

The annual St. Johns Riverkeeper Low Country Boil held Aug. 4 at Sadler Point Marina was bigger and better than ever. The seafood and sausage boil, complemented with music from Porch Swing, drew in a great crowd.

“The Low Country Boil is a great way for people with a shared interest in the river to support our advocacy work and celebrate the St. Johns, too,” said Jimmy Orth, executive director for the Riverkeeper. “You can’t go wrong spending an evening along the waterfront at Sadler Point Marina with so many river lovers enjoying great food, music, and fellowship.”

The Riverkeeper’s new boat was on display, courtesy of Sadler Point Marina, who will provide free storage. The Riverkeeper is accepting donations to pay for the boat and the accessories needed, such as radio, depth finder, GPS and more.

The event raise about \$5,000, thanks to supporters, many dedicated volunteers and food sponsors Saturiwa Trading Company, Ben Williams of Wetland Partners LLC who secured the shrimp from Fisherman’s Dock, and SweetWater Brewing Company.



Rob Zinn, Megan Sleasman, Chris Church



Lana Shuttleworth, Wayne Wood, Jennifer Wolfe



AngieDiGiovanni, GinaDeGiovanni, LaddyMonahan



Richard and Silken Cotter, Mike Fisher



Nancy Bailey, Alison Hill, Samantha Hill



Shannon Blankinship, St. Johns Riverkeeper Outreach Director, Alicia Smith, Courtney Williams, Geoffrey Shaffer



Joni Stout, John Pretzell, Susan and David Poole



Eli Orth, Jimmy Orth, St. Johns Riverkeeper executive director; Agnes Danciger, St. Johns Riverkeeper board secretary; Jim Schwarz, St. Johns Riverkeeper board chair



Catherine Tappouni, Randy Tucker, Mary Tappouni



Greg Steele, Jadie Lahay, Keri Schaefer, Michael and Lorraine Beall, Kimberly Harris

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DO SOMETHING

Want to get involved in the community? Sometimes it just takes a little push to do something, from the smallest gesture to the grand donation. Get ready to get nudged.

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As we celebrate National Grandparents Day Sunday, Sept. 10, there’s no better time to focus on the people and organizations in our area which provide vital services to our seniors, the bedrock of our community. Each year the number of seniors in Duval County increases by eight percent and the need for support and services also increases. That means there’s plenty of opportunity for you to make a difference.

Aging True

Aging True provides a comprehensive list of senior services to Duval County seniors such as in-home care, mental wellness support, Meals On Wheels, and support for caregivers, name a few. The goal is to ensure seniors have the assistance they need to stay in their homes, happy and healthy.

Donate: Even with financial support from the State of Florida, Aging True would not be able to provide their services without contributions from the community. If you would like to make a secure donation online, visit agingtrue.org/senior-service-donations. You can also mail a check to: Aging True, 4250 Lakeside Drive, Suite 116, Jacksonville, FL 32210.

Volunteer: Volunteers are currently needed for a new telephone service to call clients to check on them, give birthday wishes and just let seniors know they are still a vital part of the community. Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also help Aging True support seniors by volunteering for a one-time event or deliver Meals On Wheels. Ready to help? Call (904) 807-1203 or (904) 807-1266 to sign up or learn more.



A senior receives a meal through Aging True’s Meals on Wheels program.

Brittany Balok Did Something



Brittany Balok and her sons Olyver and Jazz

When Riverside area resident and Aging True volunteer Brittany Balok sets out each week on her Meals On Wheels deliveries, she is doing far more than helping bring a meal to those in need. The young mother is teaching her children what her grandmother taught her at a young age – to lend a hand to others. As Balok makes her weekly deliveries with her boys, Jazz, age 3, and Olyver, 9 months, she not only is teaching them an invaluable lesson, the Balok team is also bringing a ray of sunshine into the lives of those receiving the meals. “They love seeing the kids,” said Balok, who starting volunteering after she heard a Meals On Wheels recipient being interviewed on an NPR radio program. “The person was saying how much value the Meals On Wheels program brings into her life and I wanted to give back,” Balock said. “I really do believe ‘it takes a village.’”

“I tell the boys we are giving back to our neighbors who need help,” said Balock, who used to help her grandmother make and deliver meals to a homeless shelter when she was just 8 years old. “Just seeing the clients and how they are so happy to see the boys...I love it so much,” said Balock. “It really blesses our lives.” Balock’s volunteer work is sure to leave a lasting impression on her two sons whose little smiles melt hearts as they help deliver Meals On Wheels each week.

Hart Felt Ministries

Since 2003, Hart Felt Ministries has provided assistance to seniors with services such as grocery shopping, minor repairs and companionship. The organization plays a vital role in helping seniors stay independent and able to stay in their own homes.

Donate: Make a financial contribution to Hart Felt’s Food Gift Card Fund, which helps provide healthy groceries to seniors in need. You can also donate to buy materials to build wheelchair ramps for seniors who can’t navigate steps. Visit hartfelt.com for more information.

Volunteer: Spend just one hour a week grocery shopping for seniors, having a friendly visit or helping them with light housekeeping or yardwork. Hart Felt currently has a critical need for plumbers, electricians and general contractors for minor home repairs and wheelchair ramp construction. Visit hartfelt.com or call (904) 861-2799 for more information.

ElderSource

ElderSource serves as an information, referral and assistance agency for seniors and adults with disabilities in the Northeast Florida area. The agency helps more than 12,000 people each year and serves seven area counties through programs and activities.

Donate: Give to Friends of ElderSource, the agency’s fundraising arm, to help provide additional services to seniors and adults with disabilities. Visit myeldersource.org to learn more.

Volunteer: Want to volunteer? It’s a SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Volunteers are needed to help seniors sign up and complete application forms for SNAP. There are over 32,000 seniors in Northeast Florida who are potentially eligible for this program, but do not use this resource. Volunteers are asked to work for a minimum of four hours per week. Contact Sherrie Keshner at (904) 391-6688 to get involved with SNAP. Or you can volunteer with ElderSource’s SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) and help seniors who need guidance with their Medicare health insurance options. For more information visit www.myeldersource.org/free-medicare-advice-shine/become-a-medicare-coach-shine-volunteer/

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Design Studio at David Gray Offers Ideas for Creating a Timeless Kitchen

Renovating a kitchen can feel like a balancing act. You want the design to reflect your unique style while also having elements that will survive varying trends. It can be hard to predict what styles will stick, but Design Studio at David Gray can build you the kitchen of your dreams while integrating classic components with staying power.

Tips to Create a Classic Look

1. **White cabinets** have been popular among homeowners since the Victorian era. They are clean, fresh and offer a blank slate for the rest of the kitchen's design. With white cabinets as a classic foundation, you are free to embellish with accents that reflect your personal style, such as glass cabinet knobs or colorful dishware.

2. **Marble countertops** can be expensive, yet they have been a kitchen staple for decades. Carrara marble's polished look compliments both today's emerging styles as well as vintage looks. If you don't have the budget for actual marble, lookalike options are available that offer the same feel at a fraction of the cost.

3. **Farmhouse sinks** have seen a resurgence in the past couple of years. They feature a large open basin and are attractive to homeowners for their style and practicality. You can personalize this classic choice with stainless steel or porcelain options.

4. **Specialty lighting** is one of the best ways to transform a space. Include recessed

lighting to conveniently and unobtrusively make your kitchen shine. Also consider under cabinet lighting to give your kitchen a high-end look.

5. **Neutral colors** are always a safe bet when it comes to kitchen design. A combination of black and white is a great option, but grays, browns and beiges are also colors that rarely go out of style. If you prefer bright colors, consider integrating them with items like canisters, bowls or even barstools.

Guidelines to Get Your Dream Kitchen

Whether you prefer these classic touches or favor a more contemporary look, the most important aspect of any kitchen is ensuring it fits your family's lifestyle. Design Studio can help you balance your preferred style with functional elements and personalized touches to create your ideal kitchen, said designer Janet Myers.

"We start by visiting your space and listening to your needs," Myers said. "For instance, we not only note the types of styles, colors and materials you like, but we dig deeper to find out how you use your kitchen – whether you are a gourmet cook, regularly entertain large groups or prefer cozy breakfast nooks."

Design Studio also has a showroom with hundreds of options of fixtures, cabinetry, countertops and flooring. That means you don't have to imagine a certain color cabinet or fixture, you can actually see and feel the materials on your wish list.



Design Studio at David Gray remodeled this kitchen and can help create the kitchen of your dreams

"I've found that one of the main things that prevents people from undertaking a kitchen renovation project is feeling overwhelmed," Myers said. "We take that element out of the equation by walking you through every step – we review your estimate and selections in our showroom where you can see your project on our big screen monitor."

She says her team has created beautiful kitchens for those who just offered a glimmer of an idea and asked them to run with it, as well as for those that knew exactly what they wanted and where to place it. Fortunately, the design process can be as hands-on or hands-off as you want. The point is with Design Studio you can rely on the team's turnkey services from design and demolition to installation and completion.

Creating a kitchen that makes you happy long-term ultimately comes down to how it makes you feel when it's complete. That translates to making sure you select elements you love that reflect your family's lifestyle. It also means choosing a renovation company that understands your needs, respects your budget and delivers the dream kitchen you wanted . . . a company like Design Studio at David Gray.

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Friday Musicale director has big visions for venue

By Cheryl B. Lemine
Resident Community News

Inside the elegant, white-columned, 1930s Colonial Revival-style building of Friday Musicale’s Riverside auditorium, a second-story, climate-controlled storage room is filled with rows and rows of tables lined end to end.

Covered with white tablecloths, the items beneath are donations and artifacts of the nonprofit – some dating back to its establishment in 1890. They wait to tell their stories about this 127-year-old nonprofit whose main mission is to provide Jacksonville free musical concerts and support local music students with competitions and scholarships to pursue music study at the college level.

There amid programs, scrapbooks, photos and even printed napkins from former concerts, the past is very much alive – but so is the future and the organization’s three-part improvement plan.

When Executive Director Naomi Sheridan arrived last fall and began excavating through the memorabilia she said she knew archiving it would be important. With the help of two summer interns the items were sorted chronologically and now await the next steps.



Jeff Tawney and Naomi Sheridan sift through piles of documents for archiving.

“I thought ‘why not transform the storage room into a more usable space by making it a mini-conference room for 20 and create a small museum to feature the items?’” she said.

Within the next six months Sheridan’s vision should become reality as Friday Musicale waits on-site plans before proceeding on its second and third segments. Phase 2 will take undeveloped greenspace between the triad of buildings it owns and create a landscaped and multipurpose area.

The space is conducive to a courtyard and would improve offerings for outdoor events, explained Jeff Tawney, venue director.



After the 1995 fire

On Oak Street, L’Engle Hall can seat 150 and has its own baby grand piano. Next door, its auditorium features 39-foot ceilings, glass chandeliers, solid oak flooring, seating for 250 and a small stage. Its third building, located on May Street, is office rental space.

The changes, according to Tawney, are planned to expand Friday Musicale’s concert reach in the Jacksonville area and the options it can provide as a rental venue.

Phase 3 is the biggest project: enhancing the current auditorium. After the site plans come in and plans are drawn, they’ll provide the details Sheridan needs when she applies

Continued on page 33



Members of Friday Musicale Board in 1958-1959 at the home of Eleanor King.

“We want to get more people involved in our programs and this year moves us toward more musically diverse ones as we experiment [with genres in addition to classical].”

— Michael Currie, Friday Musicale board chair

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Leonard Bernstein was a performer at Friday Musicale in 1990.

for a \$500,000 State of Florida facilities grant next June 2018.

“We have no proper backstage area,” Tawney explained.

The green room with a restroom, for performers to relax, is the space behind the side stage. A narrow hallway behind the stage connects to another space.

The hope is to increase seating capacity from 250 to 350, add a loading dock and backstage area large enough to expand the green room area, provide classrooms for master classes with the artists and to allow for proper storage and the ability to move its two Steinway & Sons concert grand pianos, which currently dominate the 15-foot by 35-foot stage. Sheridan said the stage is so small that previous groups too large to fit there would set up on the floor. The hope, she said, is that within two years all the improvements will be completed.

“Jacksonville is host to world class cultural arts organizations like The Cummer and great community theatre but we’re virtually unknown,” said Michael Currie, Friday Musicale board chair. “We want to get more people involved in our programs and this year moves us toward more musically diverse ones as we experiment [with genres in addition to classical].”

Sheridan and Friday Musicale’s concert committee select performers.

“Since we’ve been around for so long, I get about 500 emails a year from various artists,” she said. “From there the committee and I work to narrow down whom to include.”

Beginning in October, more than 15 events will feature offerings such as the Estrella Piano Duo on Opening Night, Oct. 13, to Kai Alece & Company’s ‘50s Soul and Jazz Mar. 9, 2018, and its annual



The archival process unearthed photos and programs charred in the 1995 fire.

Outstanding Young Pianists competition, April 28, 2018.

According to Friday Musicale’s website history, the organization was originally Ladies Friday Musicale because its membership was limited to women who played musical instruments, auditioned to be a part, and paid monthly dues of \$2. It began in the home of Claudia L’Engle Adams, a highly trained musician who had studied at Baltimore’s Peabody Conservatory of Music. After moving to Jacksonville, she invited 11 ladies “in the parlor of her East Monroe Street home for weekly afternoons of musical study and performance.”

Through the years, the group grew, hosted concerts, and in 1923 changed its bylaws to “honor the contribution of men within the organization” and also dropped the word “ladies” from its name. Since its early existence, the group has supported



Former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, were guests at Friday Musicale.

Jacksonville youth with music programs. For example, it even purchased Victor Talking Machines for public school music classes and supported a Youth Orchestra for 50 years.

Since its creation in 1890, the nonprofit had volunteer staff and its membership ran the organization. In 2010, it hired its first paid executive director.



A melted clock is one piece of evidence of the 1995 fire.



Friday Musicale hosted dances for servicemen during World War II.

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Begin here, go anywhere – fun, safe gymnastics can lead to rewarding careers

Gyminators Gymnastics opens doors Sept. 9 for free day of tumbling, flipping

On the surface, it just looks like kids having a lot of fun and burning off energy. But the flipping, dancing and swinging going on daily at Gyminators Gymnastics offers more than what meets the eye.

“The benefits are many-fold,” said Paula Falls, president/head gymnastics coach since she opened the business in 2002. “What your child does here builds self-confidence, turning a shy child into a performer, but also aids in building fine motor skills, improves strength and posture, helps depth perception and builds confidence. They look good and feel good.”

Falls should know. A lifetime of working her core muscles and staying active in gymnastics has paid off. She looks far younger than her 49 years, too young, in fact, to have a grown daughter who also competed in gymnastics and is now on staff.

From the time she began learning gymnastics at age 3, competing from age 7 to 13, then going on to teach in the public school system before opening her school at 4603 Shirley Avenue, Falls has lived and breathed the benefits of fun exercise.

“It’s amazing the transformation you’ll see when your child has spent some time at Gyminators,” Falls said.

In the past 15 years, Falls has had thousands of local children, from the time they learn to walk through age 18, go through programs in tumbling and gymnastics, cheerleading, hip-hop dance and competitive events. Now

she’s even teaching the children of former students.

Gyminators’ 15,000-square-foot, airconditioned facility just off Blanding Boulevard has a staff of 25 safety-minded, fun and exciting coaches who can prepare your child to compete in USA and AAU team competitions if he or she has an inclination for more than healthy play and exercise.

Many students have gone on to excel in high school and college in sports or cheerleading. In fact, Falls can boast that former Jacksonville Jaguar cheerleaders were once students of hers.

Beyond competition, though, Falls emphasizes the brain and brawn benefits that can be enjoyed from adopting a regular gymnastics routine.

“From the time a preschool child can hold on to a bar, it helps form their fine and gross motor skills,” said Falls. “That helps with handwriting. Tumbling on mats helps inner ear stability, which means less infections. Walking on a balance beam improves depth perception and all gymnastics builds up back,

...every Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 is “open gym,” where kids can try equipment and routines or work with coaches on specific skills.”

— Paula Falls

stomach and shoulder muscles so kids sit up straight and are more alert during school.”

Not sure a gymnastics routine is right for your child? Enroll them in a free trial class!

Falls also kicks off National Gymnastics Week each year with a free day of gymnastics, dancing, tumbling, and cheerleading. This year the “open house” will be Saturday, Sept. 9, 10



a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be bounce houses in the parking lot and vendors. Also, every Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 is “open gym,” where kids can try equipment and routines or work with coaches on specific skills.

Additionally, Falls offers free “field trips” to the gym for school students, and often takes the tumbling mats and obstacles to Riverside Arts Market for free sessions. Also, any time public schools are closed, parents can drop their children off from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a very active day in a safe place.

In January, Falls and some of the coaches will begin to travel with their competition teams. “We go to Charleston, Hilton Head, Savannah, all over Florida, for competitions. I’m looking forward to a great season,” she said.

Footer: Enroll your child today and change their life forever. Contact Paula Falls at (904) 388-5533, or visit Gyminators Gymnastics, 4603 Shirley Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32210.



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Ortega United Methodist Church puts focus on children and youth

As pastor at Ortega United Methodist Church, Rev. Art McClellan celebrated the start of his second year by welcoming Kirby Tyler as Director of Youth Ministry and Connor Coats as Director of Children's Ministry, two positions that put the focus on the next generation.

In fulfillment of that focus and as part of the congregation's faith-based partnership with schools, Ortega UMC donated nine large boxes plus several copy paper-sized boxes of supplies to Venetia Elementary School. Venetia Elementary's new principal, Monique Worthen, had identified 100 students who needed supplies and, as Rev. McClellan said, "Ortega UMC met the need!"

Back at the church, fall programming at Ortega UMC begins Sept. 6, 4-6 p.m., with W.O.W.! (Wonderful Ortega Wednesdays), open to children VPK to 5th grade to explore God's love and grace through a rotation of activities including art, music and games. W.O.W. is free, but space is limited so sign up soon.

For older youth, the GOD SQUAD (6th through 12th grade) is gearing up for mission trips, retreats, worship, Wednesday and Sunday night fun and games, and the 25th annual pumpkin patch. The pumpkins arrive on Saturday, Sept. 30, then fun and football rolls around on Thanksgiving Day at the 25th Annual Turkey Bowl.

Check out these and other programs, and register for W.O.W. at www.ortegaumc.org/ministry/children



Rev. Art McClellan, Kirby Tyler, Youth Ministry director, Connor Coats, Children's Ministry director



Partial collection of school supplies donated by members of Ortega UMC for Venetia Elementary School students



Seniors on a Mission, along with members of Comcast Cares and AllState Helping Hands, at an April 19 Mission Trip

Seniors lend helping hands to other nonprofits

For more than 10 years, senior citizens have helped themselves by helping others. Although formed in 1999 as a social ministry, Seniors on a Mission began serving the nonprofit community through group-service opportunities.

Today, mission teams from various senior communities and churches have donated enough volunteer hours to save over 50 nonprofit organizations nearly \$2.2 million in in-kind services. Some of those nonprofits include Angelwood, Dreams Come True, Family Promise, Dignity-U-Wear, Salvation Army and Volunteers in Medicine.

Many of the "mission trips" include stuffing race bags, sorting clothing, toys and books, assembling student boxes, typing labels and stuffing mailings, completing craft projects for teachers, creating Easter baskets and making pillows for cancer patients.

On April 19, SOAM engaged in its largest mission trip day with 73 people donating more than \$10,000 in service to six local nonprofits. The group's 2017 service donation goal of \$130,000 was more than halfway at the end of July, with \$92,000 logged.

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THE WAY WE WERE: HUGH HOWTON

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Hugh Howton has two and a half bathrooms in his Ortega Forest home. What may seem to be an insignificant bit of information has great significance to a man who didn't have a bathroom in his home until he was eight years old.

"It was during the depression," Howton explained. "My dad worked as an iron ore miner in Alabama and we lived in a mining camp. Later he left the mines and we moved to West End, a suburb of Birmingham."

Howton graduated from West End High School and went to one year of Massey Business College. "I couldn't afford to go to college," he said, however, this enterprising lad sacked popcorn for 10 cents an hour at age 14, then ushered at the local theater and worked at Holiday (Baker's) Shoes part-time during high school.



U.S. Navy

In 1948 he was an enlisted man in the Navy and served 13 months active duty in Birmingham; then, after being turned down for flight school for medical reasons, was accepted into Officer Candidate School.

The Korean War extended his service for one more year but Howton's diligence and work ethic paid off in a big way when he got involved in organizing the Thursday evening dances at the YWCA.

As chance, or fate, would have it, the sales manager of U.S. Steel at the time was on the Board of Directors of the YMCA in Birmingham. "Through my success in organizing the dances he got to know me and I was selected to attend the U.S. Steel management course – a 52-week school. I got \$392.50 a month," said Howton. "There were 13 men in the group and I was the only non-college graduate but I graduated No. 2 in the class and was promoted to salesman in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in 1953. I covered Louisiana and Mississippi."

It was in Hattiesburg that he met his future wife, Jane Baker. "Three different couples tried to introduce us. Each one wanted the privilege of being the ones who claimed the introduction. She was at Old Miss, but had gone to New York for about a year," Howton said. "I liked her the first time I saw her and three months after we met we were engaged."

The couple married in New Orleans, Jan. 21, 1956, and took a trip to Panama City, stopping along the Gulf Coast to honeymoon. Now 61 years later, Howton is quick to recognize his wife as being a supportive partner. "She was always pushing me, waiting when I got home and supporting my business ventures."



Jane and Hugh Howton at a National Association of Convenience Stores convention

A promotion to Senior Sales with U.S. Steel brought the family to Jacksonville in 1959, where they lived in San Marco. Then, the young couple lived in Hattiesburg until Howton was transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana. He said that he got to know a customer's brother who had a convenience store a few blocks from his house and this, with backing from "one of my millionaire customers," led to him opening a store in New Orleans, then another.

"In one month we had five Pik-a-Pak Stores!" he said. "Wiley Fairchild of the WR Fairchild Construction Company said if I would quit U.S. Steel, where I was making \$15,000 a year, and move to New Orleans to open more stores he would guarantee me \$20,000 a year for five years." Howton left U.S. Steel in 1961 for the convenience store industry.

"In October of 1961 I met with 7-Eleven and the big boys to learn about the business and then had 14 stores and two under construction when I sold my interest to Li'l General Stores in 1963," Howton said. "I became president of Pik-a-Pak in Hattiesburg, then Quick Stop in Huntsville and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I sold my interest in those stores in 1966. Pik-a-Pak stores are now known as Circle K Convenience Stores. That was before they had gas pumps at convenience stores but we put in two. Today, 80-plus percent of all retail gas sold is in convenience stores," he said.

Howton related that he was semi-retired for a while – at age 40 – and played golf every day for two years. In another inspired move he bought a place called Burger Town in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

"Hattiesburg is just a fine, beautiful little city. Burger Town was right across the street from University of Southern Mississippi," he recalled. "It was a cross between MacDonald's and Burger King but also sold Po' Boys (sandwiches)."

In the first of many offices to come Howton was elected president of the National Association of Convenience Stores and "dabbled" in that for a while. He modestly stated that "it was just one of those things that happened."

By 1971 the Howtons had three children: Leigh was born in 1960, Joseph in 1969 and Hope in 1970.

1971 was a pivotal year for the Howtons since Hugh's friendship with Tom Bruner inspired a move back to Jacksonville so



Hugh Howton played golf daily at the Hattiesburg Country Club when he retired at age 40

Continued on page 37



Aging True Community Senior Services Presents

A 'Grand' Affair

Don your pearls and pocket squares to join us for a family-friendly event of tea and lunch to benefit Aging True's Relatives as Parents Program of Jacksonville (RAPPJax). Our program supports grandparents who are responsible for the care of their relative minors by providing them aid with everything from summer camp grants to family fun days to computer courses. RAPPJax strives to provide local grandparents with the essential tools needed to nurture a child and grow the relationship between them. Support our efforts and sip the afternoon away with family and friends from all of Jacksonville during our fun take on the traditional afternoon tea!

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the two businessmen could open Bell Wholesale Tire Company. “Then I bought Southern Piston Rings on Davis and Houston Streets – down in Jacksonville’s old Red Light District. We sold automotive parts and did engine rebuilding,” he said.

Also in 1971 Howton was asked to be a fourth in a golf game with Rear Admiral Larry Geis, which led to his involvement in the Navy League, serving as president of the Navy League Jacksonville Council, state president of the Navy League and also served on numerous other state and local boards.

He was president of the USO’s Local Council, then became Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in Florida and was awarded a courtesy rank of three-star general. As part of educational experiences for civilians, Howton organized visits for 215 executives to go 15 at a time to view fighter plane mid-air refueling, and



Older brother, Milton (seated), Hugh Howton



Jane and Hugh Howton with their six grandchildren



Jane and Hugh Howton, Jan. 21, 1956 wedding

arranged for 450 civilians to spend the night on an aircraft carrier.

After being invited by Gov. Bob Graham to the governor’s mansion in Tallahassee he was appointed Chairman of Military Affairs Committee and served from 1977 to 1997.

In 1983 Howton formed National Advisory Group (NAG), an association for convenience store retailers. His daughter Hope worked as an administrative assistant and son Joseph was executive vice president until Howton sold the company in 2005.

He explained that in 1983 they had nine members and 200 associate members. They held 40 conventions six months apart in 27 different cities. The goal of the organization, said Howton, was “to bring upper management people together to solve problems, learn new ways of doing business, connect store owners with retailers, learn about new products and labor laws.”

“Robin Springer and his son John, the former pianist at Timuquana Yacht Club,

traveled with us for 17 years to play; we had an open bar; we did everything first class,” he said. “People made contacts, developed relationships. It was for upper management and their families. It was personal and brought people together.”

The organization is now in its 35th year and, although considerably larger, still adheres to the goals of its founder for the development of personal relationships for all members and fills the niche for small and mid-sized convenience and petroleum store chains.

Howton credits his business model of personal connections as instrumental in his success. “I have met many nice, successful people through playing golf and enjoy the friendship of many people I’ve met over the years,” he said. “If you couldn’t answer your telephone you could not be on my payroll. Being personal – that has kept my organization going.”

Daughter Leigh Philips said, “My family and I are so proud of him. I’d like to think that I aspire to his hunger for success but, thanks to him, I didn’t have to grow up that way (in poverty). At a young age he was determined to change his future and so he did. He had an insatiable drive to get out of where he was.”

Dr. Cal Hudson is a neighbor and longtime friend. “He is so attentive to details, so dependable,” said Hudson. “A real self-made man – very successful and one of the nicest guys.”

Howton has been totally involved with community life in Jacksonville as a member of Timuquana Country Club, the Florida Yacht Club and as a member of both St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and the Meninak Club for 46 years.

After recent knee surgery and rehabilitation, Howton is now looking forward to celebrating his 89th birthday on Sept. 23 with Jane and his close family: Leigh and

Mike Philips, Hope and John Eller, Joseph and Robin Howton, and grandchildren Peyton Philips, Ashley, Anderson and Baker Eller, and Harper and Harlee Howton.

Howton is anticipating socializing with friends, and attending his Third Friday Luncheon Group. After all, he is retired now – or so he claims.



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— In Memoriam —

Walter “Wally” Mayberry Lee, III

March 1, 1948 to July 28, 2017

Wally Lee, the former long-time president and CEO of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, passed away unexpectedly at age 69 at the end of July.

Although most well-known in Jacksonville as a respected leader and visionary, Lee first studied theology at Southeastern Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, S. Carolina and subsequently pastored small parishes before beginning his business career with the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Lee retired from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce after 23 years as its president and CEO. Past Board Chair Jim Rinaman, Jr., recalled during Lee’s leadership the Chamber became more involved globally, and said Lee contributed to that presence by visiting other countries to attract business to Jacksonville.

“Also, in his first years leading the organization Wally hired Jerry Mallot to create a regional plan for seven counties in Northeast Florida,” said Rinaman, referring to JAXUSA Partnership. “Wally’s secret weapon was to convince the other counties the Chamber would market all of Northeast Florida, not just Jacksonville.”

Shortly after retiring from the Chamber in 2012, Lee partnered with Anna Valent to form the LeeValent Group, a human resources enhancement company in relocations. In addition to his knowledge and

understanding of Northeast Florida, Lee’s friendly nature and concern for others was a key ingredient to forming the company.


“He never met a stranger and could talk to anyone. He never hesitated to help anyone in need. I have heard many say that one of the reasons Wally was respected so much was because he never let power and position affect the way he treated others. Wally Lee will be missed in this city and by me personally,” said Lathun Brigman, a close friend, and member of the LeeValent advisory board.

During a Celebration of Resurrection Aug. 3 at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, Ron Autrey, chairman of Miller Electric, and member of the LeeValent advisory board, spoke about Lee’s qualities.

“To each of us, as a friend, a co-worker, from the high and mighty movers and shakers, to the floor sweepers and young workers just beginning their careers, Wally had a big and positive lasting influence in our lives,” said Autrey. “He provided a style of leadership that motivated and expanded the horizons and opportunities of individuals, as they became masters of their own success.”

“To use Wally’s terms, Wally ‘was a great American,’” said Brigman. “He was a very good friend who really loved Jacksonville and was well respected by many people in North Florida.”





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Scott Lind, MD Professor & Chair Surgery	Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, MD Associate Professor Reproductive Endocrinology	Lara Zuberi, MD Assistant Professor Hematology and Oncology

For more information or to RSVP, call 904.244.6069 by Sept. 28. Seating is limited. This event is open only to adults 18 and older.



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Saving manatees one paddle stroke at a time

The first annual Timucuan Paddleboard Race, held Aug. 5, raised \$1,260 to support the new critical care manatee facility at the Jacksonville Zoo.

From a crowd of 40 to 50, 21 paddleboarders launched from St. Peter's Episcopal Church on to the Ortega River to paddle approximately two miles, turning at Ortega Island.

Winners included David Slemp and Sarah Patterson, who won \$500 each. The event host was Walt Quinn, and sponsors were Sadler Point Marina, Black Creek Paddlesports & Outfitters, Lake Shore Dry Dock & Marina, The Loop and the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens.



David and Melissa Slemp with Carl Dawson

“Being involved with the Zoo, I am keenly aware of some of the new conservation efforts and projects and the new critical care facility for manatees is exactly one of those. If a sick or injured manatee is found in Jacksonville waters, the animal can now be nursed back to health locally (and released) instead of being sent to Sea World in Orlando by truck,” said Quinn, a member of the Animal Care and Conservation Board at the Jacksonville Zoo.

The critical care facility and accompanying exhibit not only treats injured animals but allows the public to view this majestic Florida mammal in an up-close and personal setting.



Clark Stillwell, Dylan Ward, Leah Miller, Arthur Bagourd, Amy Saltmarsh, Dylan Kiernan and Beth Kame

“Walt’s enthusiasm, drive and commitment to manatee conservation is outstanding! He is the only member of any of our board committees who also serves as a member of our Marine Mammal Response Team,” said Dan Maloney, Deputy Zoo Director/Animal Care and Conservation. “Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is proud to be associated with the Timucuan Paddleboard Race and we look forward to future community conservation events.”

Zoo staff and members of Wild Things, its young professionals group, served as volunteers at the race.



Lucy Bravo and Patrick Carney



Carl Dawson and Shane Potter

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Finding kindness between a rock and a hard place

By Phyllis Bell-Davis
Resident Community News

Lena Shore credits rocks for helping her resolve her artistic blockage. Not just any old rocks, but ones that she paints.

“I discovered rock painting a few weeks ago and find it to be very useful for relieving stress,” explained Shore. “When I was first introduced to rock painting through a friend, I said, ‘What is that?’ Rock painting is a cool thing to do.”

Rock painting is a craze that has taken wings across the globe. In Shore’s world, a rock she painted has gone internationally. “A friend traveled to the Netherlands last



Shore’s painted lizard rock is on the Thinker on a Rock sculpture, created by Barry Flanagan, in the Neude Square in Utrecht, The Netherlands, thanks to neighbor Roxanne Henkle.

month and I sent along with her my most favorite rock – a painting of a lizard – which was also the first rock I painted,” said Shore.

Shore, 48, said the idea of rock painting is simple, “You paint rocks and leave them outside for people to find. It’s a random act of kindness initiative. The hope is someone will find your rock and it will make them happy!”

Shore noted a “rock initiative” via the Facebook group, Jacksonville Rocks. Information from the group’s page revealed that the group was created last October because a few people enjoyed what other rock painting communities were doing and wanted to join in the fun locally. The group’s page now boasts over 7,800 members and is steadily growing. Shore said when she joined in July, there were about 2,500 members.

As with any initiative, there are rules, explains Shore. “No hiding rocks in stores unless you have permission; no hiding in hospitals or national parks; and, no hiding in people’s yards because the rocks can be a hazard if a lawn mower or a piece of yard equipment should come in contact with the rock.”

Shore offers more information on her blog at www.angrymartini.com to consider, including where to find rocks, suggestions on the types of paint to use, and places to hide the rocks. Her blog also features many of the rocks she has painted and hidden around the Riverside area.

“When my hubby, Kevin, and I are walking around our Oak Street neighborhood, we hide rocks. Memorial Park is a favorite spot,” added Shore. “I was in the park recently and saw what appeared to be a parent with

two children rock hunting. This is a family fun activity but I’m anxious to see if the rock painting/hiding/finding craze dies off with the opening of the new school year.”

Either way it goes, Shore is glad she found out about rock painting because it has helped her to not become so stressed in her day-to-day business of graphic art and web design. “I have a background in creativity. My mom was an artist and taught me to do things, some of which are not being taught to kids as much today, like crochet and sewing. Dad did ‘dad stuff’ and I would help him sometimes in his garage.”

Shore’s creative passion led her to Stephen F. Austin State University (Texas) where she received her degree in Illustration and Graphic Design. Before starting her business, Lena Shore Web Designer, Graphic Design, Illustrator, Shore worked in print houses, on several publications and as a freelance designer. She was in Gainesville when she decided to relocate to Jacksonville.

“I told Kevin that I couldn’t compete with the college students’ prices. I got a job in Jax as art director at MODIS and we purchased our Riverside home. We had visited Jacksonville on an earlier occasion and drove through the area looking at houses because we both love older homes. When we decided to move to Jacksonville, we knew this would be the area to live.”

Shore joked about her 23-year marriage to Kevin Pettway. “I decided I was through dating but mutual friends set us up on a blind date telling us both that we would either like or hate each other because we’re both art people. We spent a few days being brutally honest about ourselves and decided



Lena Shore places a ladybug-painted rock in a palm for a passer-by to discover.

‘I can live with that.’ Ten days later we made the decision to get married.”

The couple lives in their 100-year-old historic home with two dogs and three large freshwater aquariums. Shore promises herself that “as long as I can create what I want to and not grow weary about turning my creative stuff into work, I’m fine. I love my clients but I know at some point, I will take less clients and do more fine art...but doing the art as my release, because when it becomes work, it’s not fun anymore.”

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Pool Party with a Purpose, furry friends in mind



Birthday girls Ellie Rose Smith and Anna Conners (front) are surrounded by their friends with some of the charitable donations.



Ellie Rose Smith with Anna Conners

Two like-minded animal enthusiasts and close friends, Anna Conners and Ellie Rose Smith, recently gathered their friends for a birthday party to celebrate their 11th birthdays. The only caveat on the invitation was to bring dog food, cat food, leashes, whatever monetary donations they could muster, and toys for animals in need – not the typical presents most girls might request at such a young age.

One thing that pleasantly surprised their parents was the request to turn the party into an opportunity to give to animals in need. “They both love animals, they both have dogs, and they have a sweet spot for dogs,” said Sarah Conners, Anna’s mother, when asked about the motivations of the young ladies. “They came to us with the idea,” said Haydee Smith, Ellie’s mother. The girls and their friends made two donations. The monetary donation was

made to the Jacksonville Humane Society, and several pounds of cat and dog foods, along with other gifts for animals in the community, were delivered the next day to the city’s Animal Care and Protective Services facility on Forest Street. The joint birthday party was attended by a group of classmates from Riverside Presbyterian Day School and was held poolside at the Timuquana Country Club, August 9.

A summer camp like no other



Emily Evans with other junior counselors, Albert on the left from Sweden, Hisao from Belgium

For parents unsure of letting their child get involved with Children’s International Summer Village (CISV), Ortega resident Emily Evans has first-hand advice: Let your child experience it. “It is so different from any other summer camp your child could attend,” said Evans. “Your child will come home after having the time of their lives, as a better global citizen.” Evans, who got involved when she was 11, has participated in all the CISV programs possible, including serving as a junior counselor. “My most favorite part of being involved with CISV has been going to camp, of course, but especially being a junior counselor this past summer. It was such a unique and fulfilling experience,” she said. “With CISV, I’ve been to Austria, Portugal, Sweden and Belgium,” said Evans, who is a senior this fall at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. “Meeting people from all around the world has made me a more understanding and better person.” For information on CISV Jacksonville, visit www.cisvjax.org

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Travel abroad great experience, but camp in United States a favorite

Xander Magevney, 16, has spent time in 12 countries, but not one was a place he could practice a foreign language he has been studying since middle school. Although he will be studying Chinese at the Honors IV level as a junior at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Magevney hasn't used it much in his experiences with Children's International Summer Villages (CISV).

"I first started with a Village [program] in Stavanger, Norway when I was 11 and within the three summers after that I attended a youth meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, participated in an Interchange in Trieste, Italy, and attended a Step-up in Medellin,



Xander Magevney, right, with young CISV camper

Colombia," said Magevney, an Ortega resident.

For all his globe-trotting, Magevney said being a junior counselor this past summer at a Village in Cincinnati, Ohio was definitely his favorite experience with CISV.

"I had an incredible, experienced staff group and fantastic leaders and junior counselor group. We all worked together as one united leaders group, which allowed us to make the camp the best it could possibly be for our villagers," he said. "My favorite part of camp was watching these 11-year-old kids grow over the month, and learn about and discuss current events in the world, and also how close I became to the leaders group and the kids."

The Magevney family has hosted two villagers from France and the Dominican Republic in the past, and last year hosted two boys from Spain who were taking part in an International People's Project in Jacksonville. Magevney's father, Michael, also did an Interchange in France when he was in high school and the entire family has met up with Michael's Interchange partner twice this summer.



Jazz performance comes to Fishweir

Students at Fishweir Elementary School were treated to a jazz performance Aug. 22 by New York City musicians, courtesy of the Riverside Fine Arts Association's program, Project Listen. Jazz harpist Riza Printup and her husband, Marcus, a jazz trumpet player, presented her educational program "I Have a Song Inside My Heart," to local students last month. The New York musicians were joined by Ben Adkins, a jazz drummer and Beau Clerc resident,

along with Joshua Bowlus, pianist, and Jonathan Jean-Baptiste, bassist.

Back row: Principal Kimberly Dennis, Joshua Bowlus, jazz pianist, Michael Young, Jonathan Baptiste, jazz bassist, Ben Adkins, jazz drummer, Assistant Principal Latoya Bell; middle row: Jake Strickland, Ruby Malinas, Stella Battistini-Torres, Ethan Royce, Kendall Agee; front: Riza Printup, jazz vocalist, Mihajla Wickham and Austin Hadd



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Lower School (PreK-5) Open House for Parents Ponte Vedra Beach Campus November 8, 2017 at 9 a.m. Ponte Vedra Beach Campus November 28, 2017 at 6 p.m.	Upper School (9-12) Open House for Parents San Jose Campus October 6, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.* San Jose Campus November 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

*The October 6 Open House includes a "Bolles for a Day" experience for prospective Upper School parents and students. Please visit www.Bolles.org for additional "Bolles for a Day" dates.

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Murray Hill youth makes friends across the world

When Kaden Powell of Murray Hill is asked to share how he spent his summer vacation, he will tell his fellow eighth-grade classmates at James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School about a trip to the Czech Republic.

Powell was 12 when he joined Children's International Summer Village (CISV) in February 2016 and has visited the Bahamas and Grand Cayman, but it was this summer's CISV Interchange that caught his attention.

"I loved the experience I had in the Czech Republic. It was an unforgettable experience and I had a great time there," said Powell, who toured Prague and posed for a photo in front of the nearly 700-year-old St. Vitus Cathedral.

The Powell family hosted one Interchange student this summer, and little brother



Kaden Powell in the Czech Republic

Jackson looks forward to attending CISV when he is old enough at age 11.

“CISV has allowed me to make friendships across the globe and has given me the chance to bond with people in a new way,” Powell said. “It’s one of the best programs I’ve ever done and I will keep doing it for years to come.”



Posing in front of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, Kaden Powell is on the far right.

International travel turns shyness into confidence



Bella McQuade, right, with a friend in Prague

Bella McQuade, 13, can say “Good morning” and “Good night” in 15 languages, something that comes in handy when she participates in Children’s International Summer Village (CISV) programs.

Her first program – Village, an international camp for 11-year-olds – was held in New Brunswick, Canada.

"At Village, kids from 12 different countries come together for 28 days," said McQuade, who is a seventh-grade student at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. "You also stay with a few host families during Village and do some sightseeing."

This year McQuade participated in Interchange, spending nearly three weeks in the Czech Republic and, in turn, hosting a girl from Prague at her home in Ortega.

"Before I went on any CISV trips, I was very shy and was afraid to leave my family and I would get really homesick. When I went on my first CISV trip, they taught me to be bold," McQuade shared. "It turned out to be an amazing experience that I would do again."

McQuade said CISV is not only fun, but she learns many things and makes new friends around the world. "I made friends in our delegation, the Czech delegations, and even the German and Swedish delegations we met during minicamps," she said.

CISV participant treasures American experience the most

For Isabella Lopez, Children's International Summer Village (CISV) isn't only about traveling to a foreign country, it can also be life-changing

"I would like to think that CISV has made me more accepting of other cultures, or at least more willing to voice my own opinion," said the Ortega resident, a 2017 Stanton Preparatory High School graduate.

Lopez got involved with CISV four years ago and her family has hosted students from Italy, Mexico and Jordan. She knows the basics of Spanish but said knowing a foreign language is not necessarily helpful.

“The language barrier is not something that can be overcome in such a way due to the typical number of countries involved

in the camps," said Lopez, who will attend Northeastern University as a freshman this year.

Although she spent time in Costa Rica and this summer in the Czech Republic as a junior leader for an interchange with the Prague Chapter, Lopez's most favorite experience occurred right in the United States.

“Being a junior counselor at the Mississippi Village was so great because of the people. Our leaders were an amazing and resourceful bunch, and we were able to plan a camp that allowed the kids to grow and develop their interpersonal skills as well as become more sensitive to global topics and issues,” said Lopez. “Not to mention, I loved every single kid, as well as my peers, to death!”



Isabella Lopez, center, in 2016 with friends from Denmark

For someone who might be “on the fence” about applying to CISV, Lopez had a little advice.

"If you're not applying to be a leader, and money is an issue, do a program nationally – they are just as beneficial of an experience, and can be even better when you are not caught up in the location," she said.

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International youth program changes lives, develops leaders

Although Caroline Taylor doesn't know any foreign languages, it hasn't deterred her from gaining exposure to more than 10 countries before graduating from high school.

Since the Riverside resident joined Children's International Summer Village (CISV) six years ago, she has visited France, Brazil, Peru, Sweden, Finland, and Italy. Her family has also hosted students from Brazil, Norway, Denmark, Thailand, and other countries.

A senior this year at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Taylor spent three weeks this summer in Cortina, Italy, at a seminar camp, after having participated in a variety of CISV programs since she was 11.

"I am pretty experienced but still I was very nervous about going to camp. I had been told in training that this was not like any other CISV camp; it was much more intense," said Taylor. "It was what all of my other experiences had been leading up to."

Unlike previous summers, when Taylor served as a Jacksonville delegate to a Village program or attended interchanges (spending two to four weeks with a family in a foreign

country), at Seminar Camp Cortina, she was on her own until she met the 29 other international participants.

"I had no delegation I travelled with, so I had no one to fall back on. I was pushed to get to know the other participants faster but I also had an amazing group of people," she said.

The seminar experience proved to be a lesson in leadership, teamwork, problem-solving and conflict resolution.

"Halfway through camp we decided as a camp that the activities were not as good as they should have been. We all agreed that we need to start planning better activities that would get us to the goals we wanted to reach at camp," Taylor said. "After that, the activities improved a lot. We had discussions on topics such as feminism, First World intervention into Third World customs, and cultural stereotypes. We had activities that made us debate and take the side of the argument that we did not necessarily agree with. These types of activities opened our eyes to how other people view arguments."



Caroline Taylor in Venice

Taylor said the opportunities to go abroad or host foreign students at home have changed her.

"I have become a much more open and outgoing person than I was. I used to be very quiet but now that I have participated in CISV I am much less introverted," she

shared. "I am a lot more comfortable speaking and sharing my ideas in front of a large group of people. It is an incredible organization and has really impacted my life for the better. I don't know who I would be without it. I'm so glad I joined."



Bishop Snyder High School opens 15th school year of Catholic education

Bishop John J. Snyder High School celebrates 15 years of Catholic education on Jacksonville's Westside with the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Last year the school began a partnership with Morning Star High School (MSHS), located in Arlington adjacent to Christ the King Catholic Church and School, for students with diagnosed learning disabilities.

In 2016, MSHS expanded its grades from K-8 to a high school and reached out to Bishop Snyder High School to develop a mentor program enabling Morning Star students to experience a full high school experience, which includes class retreats, Homecoming activities, attendance at sporting events and regularly planned school-day visits to Snyder.

On Aug. 15 Bishop John J. Snyder, after whom the high school is named, celebrated its opening Mass and welcomed 29 MSHS students for the Feast of the Assumption. In addition, the BSHS mentors met their Morning Star mentees to begin another year of shared experiences.

The visit was returned on Aug. 18 when Snyder administrators and student mentors attended the dedication and blessing of Morning Star High School's new building.



Bishop John Snyder, center, and Deacon Yazdiya, left, are joined by the Morning Star High School students after the Feast of the Assumption mass.



Morning Star High School students are joined by their Bishop Snyder High School mentors in the Tierney Media Center.



Bishop Snyder High School mentors spend time in the Tierney Media Center getting to know the students from Morning Star High School.

The Harkness Method at Episcopal School of Jacksonville

A photograph showing a group of students sitting around a large wooden table in a classroom, engaged in a collaborative learning activity. They are looking at books and papers, and some are smiling.

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Back to School

Students enjoy eclipse presentation, demonstration

John Prince, with the assistance of his wife, Amanda, gave a presentation on eclipses to students at St. Matthew's Catholic School on Aug. 21. The lesson included a hands-on component to demonstrate the severity and strength of the sun's energy and the importance of wearing protective glasses.

Students were asked to draw a face on a balloon and make the pupils dark, then Prince demonstrated that light is attracted more to the dark pupil and could cause more damage to the eye. The constant light popped the balloon within a minute, which the students thought was awesome, said Tabatha Rhodes, assistant principal.

After the demonstration, students given solar safety glasses to witness the event, however, extreme cloud cover made it difficult to view.



St. Matthew's Catholic School third-graders Grace Turner, Emme Bordinca, Eva and Everly Wade strike a pose on the first day of school.



John Prince and his wife, Amanda, demonstrate the strength of the sun's energy to Natalie Knize, 8th-grade student at St. Matthew's Catholic School



Dayne Kimball with third-grade teachers Aubrey McKendree (left) and Amber Kanobroski

Easing into a new school year at St. Paul's Catholic School

St. Paul's Catholic School held a Back to School Bash the Sunday before school officially began Aug. 9. The bash is an opportunity for parents and students to meet the teacher, drop off supplies, visit with old friends and make new ones. The Riverside-based school opened in September 1923 and is now serving the third generation of families from Avondale, Riverside, Ortega and beyond.



Father George Vaniyapurackal welcomes Jennifer Roper and her son Jack, a VPK student, to St. Paul's Catholic School.



Third-grade student Kailey Repper meets her new teacher, Niki Grause.



Guillermo and Faysuby Pabon, Amy Diaz, and second-grade student Gabriella Diaz.



First-grade teacher Claire Pulignano taking a selfie with her class

Back to School



Sixth-grade patrols Ann Lowrey Eyrick and Reese Cummings

Clergy bless campus, get students off to great start

Instead of apples for the teacher, new and returning students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School were given apple props for First Day photo ops Aug. 23. The school welcomed over 50 new students, for a total enrollment of 387 Age 1 (Early Learning Program) to Grade 6. Every classroom, playground, office and garden was blessed by St. Mark's Episcopal Church clergy following a Family Chapel.



Jason Richards with Walker and Lula Kate



Kirsten Doolittle with daughters Rivers and Gracie Bell Carney



Geretha Terrell with Pre-K II daughter, Laila



Holland McKinney starts 1st Grade at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School



Sixth-graders Pedro Garces and Jack Potter



Claire and Anna Galnor

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Back to School

Technology brings Bolles' campuses together for 'First Day' celebration

More than 1,600 students on four Bolles campuses headed back to school August 22 to begin the 2017-18 academic year. This also was the first day students and faculty started navigating a new rotating schedule on the middle and upper school campuses. In another first, the four Bolles campuses came together virtually for a pioneering and spirited all-campus convocation. Through the use of new video communication technology, students and faculty convened in four separate locations but celebrated the first day back as one community.

Senior members of the Bolles Class of 2018 followed tradition and wore black ties, dresses and tiaras to their first day of school festivities, which included the annual



Bolles Class of '21: Avery Epstein, Nolan Zaepfel, Adarsh Aratikatla and Ford Milne

Senior Breakfast on the River Campus and Commencement Pointe. This year, the Bolles community is enriched by the global experiences of boarding students from 11 states and 20 countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Spain, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Venezuela, Ukraine, Indonesia, Singapore, Peru, France, Germany and Israel.



Bolles Class of '18: Kelsey Stambaugh, Mae Merritt, Alden Gulliford, Gracie Surface, Elizabeth Anderson, Savannah Majarwitz, Anastasia Scott, Stefanie Mendizabal, Stephanie Block and Vanessa Denti

Bishop Kenny High School begins 66th year of education



The entire Bishop Kenny community attended Mass in the newly renovated John Baldwin Athletic Center on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. The student body gathers for school-wide Mass monthly.

Bishop Kenny High School opened its 66th year of operation with 1,232 students in early August. The freshman class of 305 students and their parents attended an orientation program the evening of August 7, and started school the next day, when teachers and administrators were on hand to welcome the class of 2021. Before upperclassmen reported for school on August 10, they served as tour guides helping new students through an abbreviated day of classes.

Bishop Kenny High School Seniors Christian Lumbag, Liam O'Connell-Becker, John White, Nick Ferry, Alex Bennett, and Kelly Vohr acted as tour guides for new upperclassmen as part of Orientation '17. All the tour guides are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, a group that provides service to the school community throughout the year.



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Back to School

PTA helps ease ‘back to school’ angst for parents

More than 450 students were greeted on the first day of school, Aug. 14, by Fishweir Elementary Principal Kimberly Dennis, Assistant Principal Latoya Bell, teachers and staff.

Parents were welcomed by a refreshing display of juice, coffee and croissants from the school’s Parent Teacher Association.

“We wanted to provide a place and opportunity for parents to gather and reminisce about their babies ‘growing up so fast,’ but felt the support of some first day of school veterans was needed, so it became a ‘Boo Hoo / Ya Hoo Breakfast,’” said Pam Marin, who serves again this year as PTA president.

Fishweir Elementary enters its 101st school year, serving as a neighborhood school for decades before being designated as a performing arts magnet school in 1998.



Kindergartner Reese Renotas with big brother, Spencer, who is in fourth grade.



Patrick Lynch escorts his daughter, Piper, to third grade at Fishweir Elementary.



The Fishweir Elementary School PTA had coffee, juice and croissants for parents on the first day of school, Aug. 14. Brooks and Riley Burt, Temika Jones, Cassandra Agee, Dina Ferri, Donya Marshall, Marie Escriba with fourth-grader Kaley Allen and second-grader Teighlor Brown.

Students from across Northeast Florida converge on Episcopal



Sophomores Ashton Body, Ellie Riggs, Anna Donahoo, Charlotte Rosenberg and Mabel Smith wear big grins on the first day of school at Episcopal.

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville began the 2017-18 school year with 900 students, including 203 new students, from all over Northeast Florida. The Admissions Office offered the official welcome at New Student Orientation on August 14, helping both students and parents prepare for the first days of school and acclimating to the ESJ community.

“We are welcoming a beautifully diverse group of students from 63 schools and 37 ZIP Codes,” said Director of Admissions Sam Hyde Geisler, a graduate of the Class of 2000. “We are so thankful for the support of faculty, staff, Parent Ambassadors and Eagle Ambassadors who all helped to ensure a smooth transition for each of our new families.”



Sixth-grade students Morgan Rawls, Hannah Kowkabany and Charlotte Seay are new to Episcopal this school year.

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Back to School

Annual backpack give-a-way connects with community

The 8th Annual Rockin' Back to School community event, sponsored by Riverside Park United Methodist Church, may not have given out quite as many backpacks as they have in the past, but volunteers still considered it to be a successful outreach.

"Even though we only gave away 300 of the 500 backpacks we prepared, it gave us time to actually talk to the individuals and make a connection," said Jane Riechmann, event organizer. "People said it was a blessing. It's so much more than just giving away backpacks that makes the event special."

Riechmann noted they had more preschool and high school children show up than was planned for, but was able to use some of the elementary and middle school backpacks to fill in the gaps. She said several other organizations held backpack giveaways the same day, which may have affected attendance, but the church is planning to hold next year's event again on the first Saturday in August.

The Aug. 5 event, held at Riverside Park, included two bounce houses, free school physical exams by St. Vincent's Mobile Medical unit, haircuts, ID kits, and library



Summer and Shamonda and Johnnie Swain

information. The Boy Scouts had a booth at the annual event, the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department had a unit at the site, and Riverside Park UMC's pastor, Rev. Emily Knight, set up a prayer board to encourage children to share their needs and to pray for their schools.



Sarah and Shane and Caitlyn Warren



Alisha and Tryese Jones



Erica Kilbourne, David and Donald Coleman



Will and Bill Markert of Boy Scout Troop 7

RPDS students meet new Head of School, make new friends

Now in its 69th year providing education to students from six counties in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, Riverside Presbyterian Day School kicked off a new school year with 463 enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. The back-to-school activities Aug. 22 included meeting the new Head of School, Ben Ketchum, who greeted the boys and girls as they headed for new classrooms and teachers for the 2017-2018 school year.



Classmates Clancy Skeels and Greyson Smith live on opposite sides of the river.



Heicha and Rick Britton escort their daughter, Abi, to school.



School pals Alexandra Unger, Addy Spinning, Gabi Siebert, Brennan Brady



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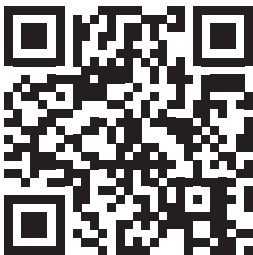
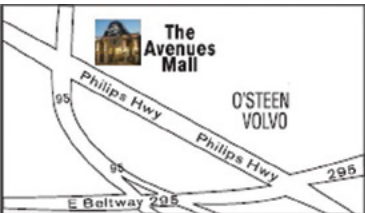
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