

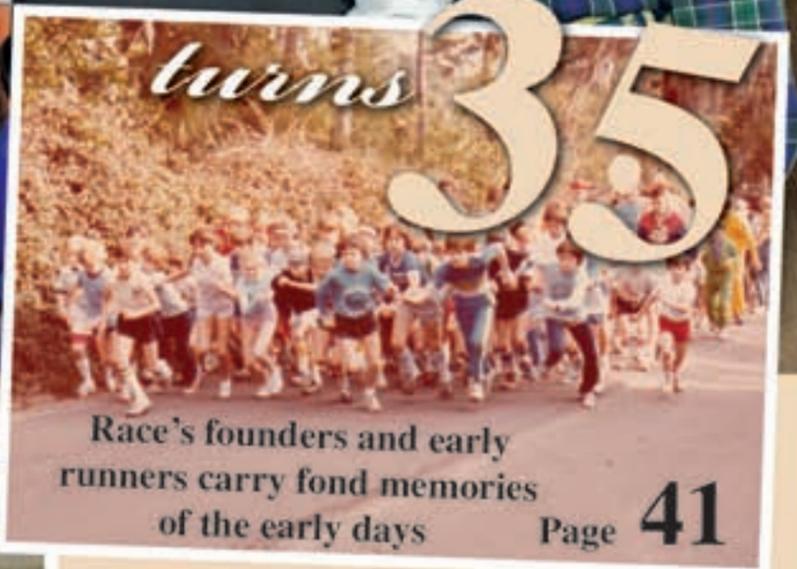
Resident

Community News

Fred Miller, Jay Birmingham, Mike Wachholz and Wirt Beard



ORTEGA RIVER RUN



Race's founders and early runners carry fond memories of the early days

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Good Ship USS Charles Adams
Floating museum could bring in millions
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For better AND for work!
How business couples make it work well
.....p. 42

Save the Date
Riverside Arts Market Opens
March 2

Jacksonville's premier outdoors arts and entertainment market is set to offer a fifth season of diverse art, entertainment, food and produce on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the Fuller Warren Bridge. Opening day is Mar. 2, 2013!



Taking the time to go 'SLOW'

Jack and Laura Allen on opening night with Dr. Marcelle Polednik, MOCA Jacksonville director and curator of the museum's newest landmark exhibition. See page 22

Historic District parking study stalled in planning department

RAP's transportation committee awaiting response since September

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In response to the growing concerns over parking in the Historic District, Riverside Avondale Preservation's Transportation Committee submitted a recommended scope of services for a parking study to the Planning and Development Department. The anticipation was that it would be a relatively quick turn around, considering the mounting pressures on city officials, business owners, developers and citizens groups to come up with long-term, viable solutions that work for everyone.

That was in September.

"We submitted the plan in September to get it in before the end of the fiscal year, but still haven't heard anything back," said Kay Ehas, chair of RAP's Transportation Committee. "I've asked Calvin Burney if there was anything we could do to speed up the process and he said, "No."

Burney is head of planning and the one overseeing the scope's review.

In an email exchange with a Resident reporter dated Dec. 4, he confirmed: "I have received the [RAP] scope and am utilizing part of it in the development of the final scope."

Martha Moore, from Ghyabi & Associates, a local planning and engineering firm that has an open-ended consulting contract with the city and would likely conduct

See **STUDY** on page 18

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Neighborly Love in action

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

February is the time when Historic District displays go from holly to hearts. Portly gentlemen in red suits are replaced by androgynous cherubs with bows and arrows. Sacks of candy canes are replaced by three-pound boxes of ambiguously-filled chocolates. Love is in the air.

Granted, for most folks, February's message of love is confined to the romantic love of Valentine's Day itself. It is a day featuring affections increasingly expressed via giant cards, competitive dessert sharing, double-click cyber greetings or bouquets composed of hothouse flowers or grinning lollipops.

Still, February could be considered a MONTH of love, not merely a day, because love in action fills the Historic District. What's community Love in Action? It is the name for the

kindnesses that weave the fabric of community; the kindnesses that are freely given and without which life would not be quite as good.

A few examples of neighborhood Love in Action can be traced to specific individuals. Dr. Wayne Wood, author, retired optometrist, historic pop-up creator, and godfather of RAM, can be sighted picking up stray bits of roadside trash on his fitness walks around the neighborhood. "Why not?" he answers when asked why he takes his time to pick up items others fling.

Dr. Rupert Bliss, dentist and urban gardener, began to garden publically long before the tidal wave of Community Gardening, Squarefoot Gardening and Therapeutic Horticulture crashed on the cultural shore. His colorful urban landscape has encouraged others to look for public places to care for and cultivate.

In 2012 Jake and Pam Ingram spearheaded the restoration of Avondale's Native Park. They gave, and continue to give to the project, the three gifts of true love – time, talent and treasure. Many Saturdays they can be found watering, pulling weeds, mulching, and

installing native plants. They also pioneered poetry postings. Joggers, dog walkers, and stroller pushers read the weekly poetry posts on Pine Street. Tom and Ila Rae Merten open their B&B porch every Tuesday for the distribution of Down To Earth Farm's bags of organic produce. D2E is the geographically closest Community Supported Agricultural family farm and is the project of longtime District residents Bryan and Kristin Lapinsky. The 30 families who subscribe to the farm have created a micro-community as they greet one another on the Jenk's House porch.

Lots of Love in Action community outreach is anonymous. A single couple spearheaded the establishment of cigarette butt containers on the

St. Vincent's bulkhead. As a result of their efforts, thousands of butts have been kept out of the St. Johns River.

At one local bakery, the price of a chocolate cupcake was suddenly reduced when a tired construction worker laboring on the S-curve renovation was short a quarter. In 5 Points, a young man put his totally tattooed arm out to stop the SUVs careening around the circle from annihilating an elderly resident who was pushing her walker slowly across Park Street. To reduce the detrimental effect of dog poop on the river's water quality, someone anonymously refills the doggie bag kiosks nailed to the fence surrounding Cherry Street's pocket park.

Of course, there is lots of Love in Action gifts given by churches, organizations, and individuals. As for Valentine's Day itself, I will start it by re-reading my favorite card (which in the interest of full disclosure came attached to a jumbo bag of chocolate encrusted popcorn). It said, "We are angels with just one wing, and we can only fly by embracing one another."

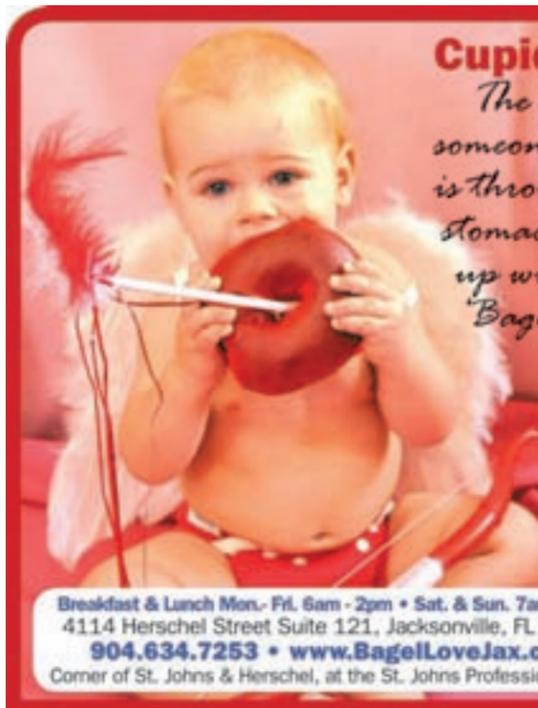
Here's to February as a month of embracing our environment and each other.

"I love the proximity to the restaurants; you can just walk or ride your bike anywhere. It's so easy, so many great places to walk. There a sense of more community, diversity, and eclectic nature than in most neighborhoods."

JIMMY ORTH
Riverside resident & Executive Director,
St. Johns Riverkeeper

"I've lived in Riverside and in Avondale and enjoyed both communities, but I really like the quiet, the trees, the diversity of the homes in Old Ortega."

CHARLIE COLD
Ortega resident



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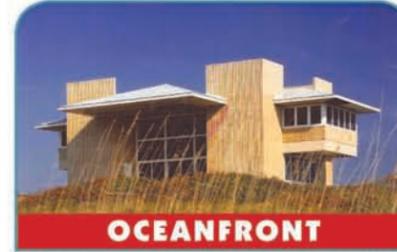
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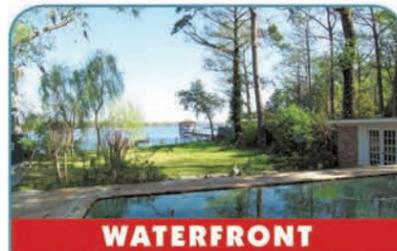
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Goozlepipe & Gutyworks construction under way

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The large crane towering over 914 King St. in Riverside signaled the start of construction for Goozlepipe & Gutyworks restaurant.

"Depending on weather delays, particularly rain during basement construction, we hope to be substantially complete in nine months. Sometime in October would be my guess [for opening]," said Ed Salem, co-owner along with Steve Flores, in an email.

That would mark one year after Salem and Flores were initially granted approval by the planning commission to build Goozlepipe next to their current restaurant, Kickbacks Gastropub.

That approval included provisions for parking credit from the demolition of the then-existing, non-contributing structure, which kicked off a firestorm of controversy and legal appeals from Riverside Avondale Preservation and local residents.

It took until May for the two sides to reach an agreement and city council to give final go head for the project, but only after Salem and Flores were able to provide 30 to 31 off-site parking spaces by securing the lot behind Panda House Chinese Fast Food on Post Street.

"We always strive to be good neighbors and hope that upon completion [of the restaurant] many of the fears that some of our neighbors had will prove to be unfounded," Salem said.

Moving forward, tree removal on the parking lot site has begun and will

be used for construction staging prior to the completion of the parking improvements.

Construction costs on the 9,881-square-foot restaurant will be \$1.5 million including parking lot and all kitchen equipment. The final building will be three stories encompassing a 3,309-square-foot basement used largely for beer storage, a 3,309-square-foot main restaurant level including an outside patio, and a 2,669-square-foot upper level with a balcony and office space.

The restaurant will have 249 seats, but Salem said the agreement with

RAP allows flexibility as to their location. His current guess is 181 inside, 50 on the patio and 18 on the sidewalk. It will operate seven days a week, 20 hours a day and Salem anticipates 30 or more new employees, although only about eight in addition to their existing Kickbacks staff will be needed at any one time.

As for some of the finer details, other than offering all items currently available at Kickbacks, the menu remains a work in progress. Salem did note that he is working with a local artist who is constructing "Steam Punk" artwork that will be displayed prominently throughout the restaurant.

"Upon completion, we hope to have a restaurant that will be unique and inviting to the residents of Jacksonville," Salem said.

Toney Construction Co., Inc. is doing the construction. The architect is Lane Architecture and the food-service design is by JAX Design Group, Inc.

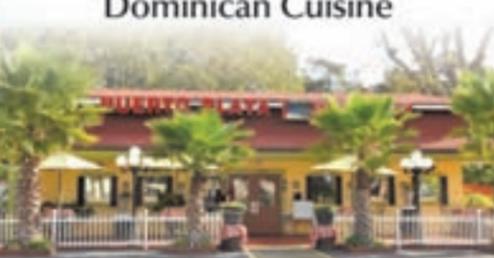
"We always strive to be good neighbors and hope that upon completion [of the restaurant] many of the fears that some of our neighbors had will prove to be unfounded,"

Ed Salem

Co-owner, Goozlepipe & Gutyworks

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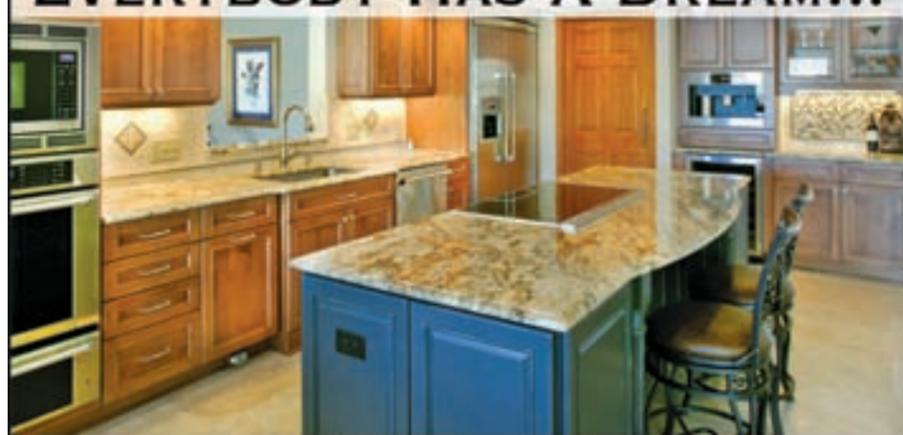
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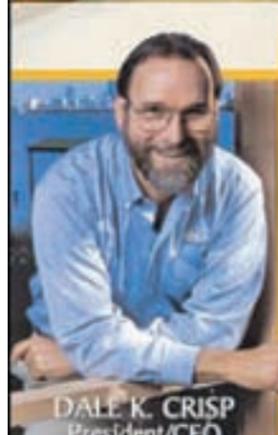
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JEA's Riverside project delayed until at least March

\$3.69 million Water Main Improvement Project will bring better water pressure

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Some Riverside area residents who were hoping for improved water pressure to start the New Year will have to wait a little longer.

Jacksonville Electric Authority's Water Main Improvement Project, which was originally scheduled to begin in January, has been delayed until at least March while awaiting the necessary permits and delivery of piping material, said Greg Corcoran, JEA Project Outreach Coordinator in an email correspondence.

Corcoran said JEA town meeting notices would be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to residents and businesses within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

The \$3.69 million project will upgrade the pipe size of the water main from 6 to 8-inches or from 8 to 12-inches in areas along Riverside Avenue from Edison Street (Everbank) to King Street (St. Vincent's Medical Center), and then along St. Johns Avenue to Avondale Circle (just before the Shoppes of Avondale). The entire project area will be milled and resurfaced upon

completion. The work is scheduled for 210 days with a Fall 2013 completion date anticipated.

"The upgrade of the water line will greatly improve water reliability and upgrade the water pressure to our customers along the project route," Corcoran said. "JEA has chosen to install the new water line with an installation method called 'pipe bursting,' which greatly reduces the duration of the installation and overall construction project. This method of construction also decreases the amount of excavation required for installation."

JEA is attempting to minimize traffic and logistical issues for residents, businesses and commuters within the project area by working only 2 or 3 blocks at a time to reduce detours and adjusting the detour and water outage schedule to accommodate businesses. The water supply to St. Vincent's will never be interrupted.

Most water outages and detours will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, but not all. The section along Riverside Avenue from Powell Place to Osceola Street will see detours and outages from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays from 4 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next Monday morning.



"The upgrade of the water line will greatly improve water reliability and upgrade the water pressure to our customers along the project route."

Greg Corcoran

JEA Project Outreach Coordinator

"This is due to constraints related to Maintenance of Traffic requirements from the Florida Department of Transportation and from medical offices on Riverside Avenue that require water for their operations during the day," Corcoran explained.

Residents and businesses will be notified at least 48 hours in advance of any planned water outages via door hangers or other means and it is a contract requirement that every customer will be back in service at the end of each business day.

The idea of early morning work

hours might bring shudders to residents who remember the extremely loud machinery used during the "pipe bursting" during the Avondale Town Center utilities work two years ago, but Corcoran made assurances this project uses much quieter equipment and not on a continuous basis.

Residents and businesses can contact JEA Project Outreach at 904-665-7500 or projectoutreach@jea.com. Project updates will be posted on the JEA website at construction.jea.com.



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St. Johns Avenue “S-curve” receives drainage improvements that should fix flooding

\$87,000 roadwork project expected to be completed by end of February

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When it rains it doesn't just pour, it floods into Vance Shrum's yard.

"They've re-paved the road so often that it's 6 to 8 inches above the original curve line. That has narrowed the entrance to the drain line, so it can't handle the rain and it all runs into my yard," said Shrum, who lives at 3831 St. Johns Ave., just at the "S-curve" between Pine Grove Avenue and Montgomery Place. "It's just washing my yard away."

But it looks like the fix is in the works.

The Florida Department of Transportation began an \$86,970 drainage improvement project in the

area on December 13 that is designed to alleviate the problem.

"The drainage improvements are intended to keep groundwater from seeping onto the sidewalk," said Mike Goldman, FDOT Public Information Officer, in an email.

Although there was major roadwork completed along the curve just a few years ago, Goldman said that the two projects are not related.

"This [is] an enhancement which required additional design to improve the drainage. This was encountered after the earlier project began," he explained.

"The FDOT had maintenance calls [and] it was determined by drainage specialists that a long-term fix was needed."

Shrum said his house is the only one affected by flooding and noted that the problem became only "slightly worse" after that original



project. He was one of those maintenance calls to FDOT and is impressed with their response.

"I kept complaining about water flowing through my yard and they listened to me," said Shrum, who had already taken matters into his own hands by raising the sidewalk from the road to his house. "Now, it looks like they're getting rid of the problem."

Goldman said the work could cause one westbound lane to close between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., but that there will be no night work in the residential area of the project. He encouraged pedestrians to stay on

the street's south side to avoid the construction.

The project is currently scheduled to end Feb. 8, but Goldman cautioned, "This will likely be extended by several days since adverse weather prevents the contractor from working." He also noted that the project's price tag could increase slightly due to "minor" expenses incurred for protecting trees in the work area.

As far as Vance Shrum is concerned, surely no price is too large for getting his yard back.

Contact Mike Goldman at FDOT with questions: (904) 360-5457 or Michael.Goldman@dot.state.fl.us

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In February, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida will open its sixth Center for Caring. Located at St. Vincent's Riverside, it is designed for short-term, acute care needs for those with advanced illness.

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Order Up – Will Metro Diner open in Roosevelt Square Mall?

The highly anticipated arrival of one of the city's most sought after diners has the Internet, social media and other avenues buzzing with chatter. According to a source within the Metro Diner corporate office, a fourth Metro Diner is poised and ready to arrive in the former Harry's Seafood Restaurant Bar & Grille location in the Roosevelt Square Mall.

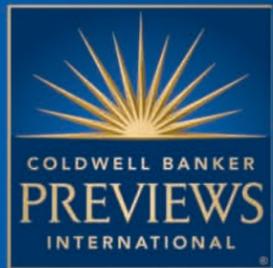
Initial reports of the restaurant arriving have been premature, as signatures have yet to hit paper to finalize a lease, said the source, but it may

happen in a matter of days. The restaurant space at 4495 Roosevelt Blvd. has been vacant for five years and much speculation has been made on tenants over the years – none this close to an actual lease agreement. Residents of Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill and the greater Westside will have to wait for further news as a deal had not been reached as of press time.

For updates and breaking news, visit our website at www.residentnews.net.

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LOCAL REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Supporting District Development Increases Home Values

As I was driving to show a beautiful home in Avondale this morning, it was a sunny 68 degrees. At the house, we wanted to lay down by the pool to take in the sunshine on this warm January morning in Jacksonville. Afterwards, I headed up King Street where it really is becoming a corridor through a revitalizing neighborhood that for years was stagnant. Couples were walking past Peles towards the new Salty Fig. My friend Robert was painting at his studio in CoRK. I made my way over to Bold Bean for some real vanilla bean in my latte served in a ceramic cup which I almost dropped because I forgot how a real cup felt, I picked up some locally grown food at GrassRoots and it hit me...I don't want to be anywhere but here.

The quest to find cities with perpetual sidewalk traffic and nightlife is human. We need to experience community. Park Street in the 60s and 70s was a vital artery with thriving businesses that connected us to downtown. Then, the Malls came and our

locally grown town centers fell apart. We expanded away from the pulsing heartbeat of local to the interstate centric chain stores where personality became impersonal. Only a drive to the mall would connect us to our neighbors who we didn't even know. Well, the times they are changing back to the future. Connectivity not only to the Internet but to each other is alive and well in our community. We are re-establishing 'home'. Our children need this, our parents need this, we need this. Forget Asheville, forget Charleston, forget Paris (well, maybe not Paris), I'm staying here!

This entire area is becoming Jacksonville's heartbeat connecting downtown to Brooklyn to the King and Stockton Street District to Riverside to Avondale to Ortega to Venetia. It will pull Murray Hill up once again as the movement heads towards Edgewood. What a sweet forgotten gem Murray Hill is. We are in the midst of seeing a rebirth of the entire quadrant. As we count on the success of this development to become our local pride and joy,

we need to get out there and show our support.

Community-centric means home prices increasing in the district. The uniqueness of what we offer will be rewarded with higher demand for our homes. Our home values in Avondale have stayed strong (relatively) because of the uniqueness of our Shops, and this strength will carry to homes around each little town center throughout the district. The current trend is to move back to the center of the community. Our out of town buyers are looking for this - a walkable/bikable/accessible community that offers dining and socializing near home. What we are doing here will provide an abundance of buyers. Watch how your home value begins creeping up again as more shops in the neighborhood become successful. I look at Pinegrove Deli as proof that we want to know our shop owners, we want to like them, we want to give them our support. Why? Because they support and like us

back. We have come full circle.

Words of wisdom: Investors - it's time to buy properties around this development while prices are still low. Sellers - It's time to sell your home while prices are still low so you can purchase the larger home of your dreams. It's always better to sell low and buy low than sell high and buy high. Buyers - it's time to make your offers before rates and prices go up, because they will.

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- Anne Rain



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Mellow Mushroom and We Love Avondale/RAP reach agreement in private after many public debates

Restaurant aiming for August opening

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The two sides debating conditions under which to build a Mellow Mushroom restaurant in the Shoppes of Avondale reached a compromise behind closed doors after nine months of public disagreements. Mellow Mushroom owner John Valentino said he is now aiming for a mid August opening.

The settlement agreement was privately hammered out between opposing sides from Dec. 7 to Jan. 4 under the mediation of District 14 Councilman Jim Love. After being vetted at a special Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting on Jan. 5, Amendment 2012-690 was unanimously passed by City Council on Jan. 8 and contains 23 conditions placing restrictions on the restaurant's size, noise control and parking.

Of particular note:

- Total seat count is 204 with 40 of those permitted outdoors.
- Average number of employees permitted on a shift is 14.
- Employee parking is offsite.
- No valet parking.
- Parking lot cannot be used for special events without permit.

- No amplified music in parking lot.
- Live music will only be permitted in the patio when all windows are closed.
- No televisions on any exterior façade.
- Outside sales and service ends between 10 p.m. and midnight or will not be permitted at all depending on the location or "zone" within the restaurant and the day of the week.
- Windows and doors will be closed between 9 p.m. and midnight, depending on their location and the day of the week.
- Security provided Thursday-Saturday nights starting 10 p.m.
- Last call 1:30 a.m.

Enforcement of the conditions was the only major point of discussion that arose during the council meeting. In addition to concerns voiced by several residents, Councilman John Crescimbeni pressed representatives from Mellow Mushroom about their commitment to the agreement. His concern arose from a quote in the Jacksonville Business Journal in which Valentino suggested that he might seek an administrative deviation to increase the number of seats

above what was agreed upon.

In response, attorney Steve Diebenow, representing Mellow

Mushroom, noted that Valentino's quote was given prior to the final agreement and said, "Mr. Valentino intends to stick by the settlement agreement, and everything that's in there he is going to live up to."

Riverside Avondale Preservation President Jonathan Oliff said that RAP was comfortable with

the terms of the settlement and noted, "If the applicant intends to come back later [to apply for a deviation] he will face opposition." Oliff spoke on behalf of other opposition neighborhood groups, individuals and We Love Avondale, LLC, who had worked out the agreement.

In a final statement before the vote, Councilman Love said, "We worked very hard on coming up with these conditions and I believe that both parties are ready to keep them just the way they are... I'm going to

hold him [Valentino] to his word and I believe he'll keep it."

Valentino said that he and his team were heading back to the drawing board to finish up the restaurant's design. "We pretty much put the breaks on that during this whole process."

Mellow Mushroom spokesperson Simon Keymer said in an email that they hope to break ground "within the next couple of months" and that they are "identifying the prep work now" for demolition of the old Shell gas station on the corner of St. Johns and Ingleside avenues that will be turned into the restaurant's parking lot. In a separate interview, Valentino said that there was no special toxic cleanup necessary for the gas station site because previous owners worked with EPA to clean it up and that he (Valentino) had his own testing done.

Valentino posted a statement on the Mellow Mushroom website indicating that he has put the "long and sometimes painful process" behind him: "Now we are focusing on the future. I hope by mid-summer we will have established a wonderful neighborhood restaurant that we can all be proud of. We look forward to serving our friends and neighbors and establishing ourselves, as we have elsewhere in the city, as a popular focus and venue for the local community."

"We worked very hard on coming up with these conditions and I believe that both parties are ready to keep them just the way they are... I'm going to hold [Valentino] to his word and I believe he'll keep it."

Councilman Jim Love



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ONE by ONE Community Agreement: Top priorities for improving public education

By STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you had to name the top four priorities for improving public education, what would they be? And would you be willing to work to ensure those priorities become a reality within Duval County's public schools?

More than 170 diverse community members came together on Saturday, Jan. 5 to select those four top priorities. In the month since, nearly 1,500 more have "ratified" the priorities on an online petition and begun to put conversations into action.

The ONE by ONE Community Agreement Convention, sponsored by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and hosted by the Main Library Downtown, used data from 169 conversations held with nearly 1,700 people throughout the county over the past year as the starting point.

The four priorities were:

- **Educate the whole child:** Individualize instruction to meet the unique needs of each child; ensure art/music/counseling/vocational education opportunities; prepare students for a global world as a moral obligation.
- **Great teachers and leaders:** Focus on training of new and existing teachers and leaders; purposeful, focused and ongoing professional development; teachers and leaders need time to teach and train, without being taken away from their classes; recognize, respect and pay teachers as professionals.
- **Policy and political reform:** Need for autonomy, flexibility and local control; ensure transparency; use research and evidence-based practices; highly qualified, responsive and informed elected officials.

• **Family and caregiver involvement:** Increase two-way communication; ensure that schools are physically and emotionally accessible and welcoming of schools; educate and empower families and caregivers.

"I'm so excited to see the passion of the community behind these issues," said Trey Csar, President of JPEF and Riverside resident. "This is not a situation where we have the luxury of just pointing at the school district and saying, 'You fix the problems.' This is a conversation where many diverse stakeholders say, 'Here's what we're looking for and here's what we're willing to do to help make it happen in the community.' I think that's the major difference between this and some similar efforts in the past."

Another difference might be that top city and school officials are involved in the process.

While no city officials attended the Jan. 5 convention, Education Commissioner Dr. Donnie Horner has participated in several JPEF committees and Horner and Mayor Alvin Brown have since added their signatures to the ONE by ONE Community Agreement ratification.

Present at the convention as invited "delegates" were current school board members Becki Couch (District 6) and San Marco's Ashley Smith Juarez (District 3) and past District 3 representative W.C. Gentry, among others. Most notably in attendance was Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti, who told participants the level of civic involvement and civic

The first step in that direction was a formal report to the school board on Jan. 23 outlining the four priorities and a strategic plan for "moving from conversation to action."

While Gentry voiced some skepticism of how easy it would be to get to some of the desired outcomes detailed in the plan without devoted resources – noting disappointment that "resources," namely, money, was not among

the final four priorities – he nonetheless enthusiastically endorsed the convention's results and sees the broader vision present in the plan as one of the initiative's strengths.

"In the past we've had a lot of community groups organized around specific issues as opposed to a large community commitment to a simple vision. This way, there is possibility for huge synergy," he observed.

Csar sees maintaining this synergy as JPEF's main role in the process.

"I'm over the moon that the community has stepped up and said we are part of the solutions. We [JPEF] provide the infrastructure to enable the community do what it's always wanted to do, which is to have better schools."

To sign the ONE by ONE Community Agreement ratification or read the report submitted to the school board, visit JPEF's website at: <http://jaxpef.org/>



Participants strategize during the ONE by ONE Community Agreement Convention Jan. 5.

engagement in Jacksonville is unprecedented and that he was committed to helping them move their vision forward.

"I commit as superintendent that the work that you've already done and are going to do today will be funneled and incorporated into the strategic plan," Vitti said.

Smith Juarez echoed Vitti's call to action.

"It was instructive that district officials were here with community members engaging on a horizontal platform," she said. "This type of process with that kind of engagement calls public officials into action. And action is the key component so that this is not just a great conversation but then we go back to doing business as usual. As we go through the strategic planning process it's important that we keep these priorities in mind as we look at the full vision of the district, and that we are intentional about how we implement them."

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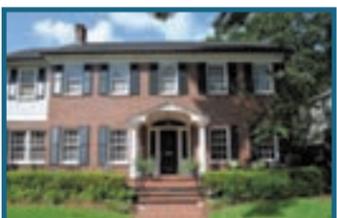
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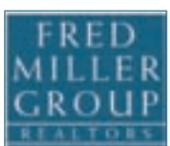
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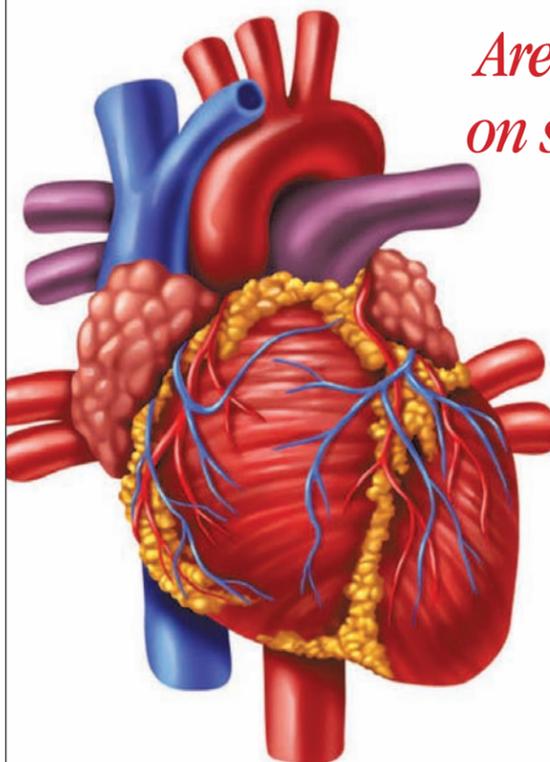


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A personal tribute to the Jacksonville Zoo's iconic silverback gorilla

Quito



...the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' greatest animal ambassador...

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

I owe my writing career to Quito, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' greatest animal ambassador, who passed away last week.

In August 2009 I walked up to the observation window at Quito's enclosure and found the iconic gorilla squatting at the far end with his back to me. He was clearly distracted by something, but I couldn't tell what.

Then, methodically, he lifted his left leg a few inches off the ground, held it steady for a moment and put it back down. A few seconds later he repeated the motion with his right leg, slowly lifting it into the air, holding steady,

then letting it rest on the ground.

I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me. But it turned out that Quito was the trickster. He next jerked his left arm high above his head and held it there for a few beats before letting it drop. The right arm followed with a slower movement.

At this point, I was going great ape. Then, the mystery was solved, sort of.

The majestic silver back deliberately turned sideways and I could see on the other side of a barred barrier a petite blond woman, dressed in a zookeeper outfit, sitting on a stool. I was completely riveted as she reached ever so slightly through the bars and touched his arm, then gave him a treat. She made a motion, said something, and, to

my total amazement, he lifted off his haunches and turned to present his other side to her.

The two continued their clearly practiced choreography for five more minutes, with

Quito willingly presenting body parts as his partner gently made requests, then rewarded him for his cooperation. I was delighted when he allowed her to put a Q-tip into his ear, but the real kicker was

when he opened his mouth wide to receive a tongue depressor.

I quickly cornered one of the roaming zoo educators and got the scoop: Quito and his partner, Tracy Fenn, were part of the zoo's gorilla training program. My first thought was, "Why don't more people know about this?"

That evening I went home and sent off an email to an editor at the Florida Times-Union proposing a Quito story. I had never published anything in my life but I figured if a 500-pound gorilla and a small, gentle woman could communicate like that, than I could tell their story – and it was worth telling.

Shortly thereafter, I found myself sitting within a few feet of Quito as

Tracy put him through a similar routine to the one I first witnessed. But it was more than just tricks. There was clearly a trusting relationship there, built upon years of nurturing words, gentle gestures and tasty treats. And it was designed to keep Quito healthy by getting him used to being touched and lightly prodded in case they needed to give him a shot or treat a wound. Turns out most animals at the zoo are in some training program, but it was particularly important for Quito because he had an inherited heart disease.

It was the same disease that zoo officials speculate took his life at age 31.

I published the article about Quito, Tracy and the gorilla-training program and then went on to cover several other zoo stories. I got to watch him train again, and once when I was in the ape house covering a bonobo birth, he made us all laugh by poking his head through a peephole to see what all the fuss was about. But regardless of where my pen may take me in the future, Quito will always be my first. And, of course, you never forget your first. It is ironic that he died of a bad heart because he always made mine feel very good and he will forever hold a place there.

Read Quito and Tracy's story:

http://jacksonville.com/lifestyles/2009-09-14/story/how_do_you_give_a_500_pound_gorilla_a_physical_exam_lots_of_training

Note: Zoo guests are invited to hang farewell messages to Quito on the bamboo located on the path between the Range of the Jaguar and the first Great Apes window.

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Through Our Eyes 2012: 20/20 Perfect Vision

To mark the twenty year milestone of Jacksonville's longest running visual arts exhibit showcasing new works by African American artists, Through Our Eyes 2012 features 20 artists, including San Marco resident Gil Mayers, in the exhibit "20/20 Perfect Vision." The show will run through Jun. 30 in the gallery of the Ritz Theatre and Museum at 829 N. Davis Street. To date, about 75 different artists have participated in the annual show.

Through Our Eyes was conceived and has been curated since 1993 by Lydia P. Stewart, who was a Public Affairs Producer, at PBS station WJCT, where the exhibit



was first presented in celebration of Black History Month. Through Our Eyes found a new home at the newly created Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum in 1999, when Stewart was appointed Museum Administrator.

Now a permanent fixture in Jacksonville's cultural landscape, Through Our Eyes is committed to nudging artists to create and present fresh, innovative, experimental and non-traditional works that explore a wide range of subjects and may utilize new media or inventive installation techniques.



Ortega resident to exhibit new work at the Karpeles



Exciting new work from local artist Barbara Holmes-Fryefield, and the Florida Proton Therapy Institute's artist-in-residence, will be exhibited in March at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Fryefield's work integrates wood block prints into colorful acrylic paintings that reflect the continuity of life, often within a historical context. Her work will be joined with wood sculptures by San Marco artist David Engdahl, who is inspired by nature and, through the application of his signature lamination technique, produces pieces in quiet, sensuous, organic forms. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Mar. 8, at 5:30 p.m. for the exhibition, Divergence!, which will run until April 26 at the 101 West First Street museum.

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Women for Christ headline bestselling author Angela Thomas

The Women for Christ 28th annual luncheon will be Feb. 12 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (doors open at 11:10 a.m.). The cost (if post-marked by 2/4/13) is \$30, after it will be \$35 and seating will be limited. The speaker is bestselling author Angela Thomas, who has also published quite a few Bible studies. For more information, visit www.jaxwomenforchrist.org or call (904) 388-3903 or (904) 384-2999.

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UPTOWN Civitans to celebrate 30 years

What better way to celebrate the past than re-live it! The Uptown Civitans will bring back successful fundraisers this year, beginning with a three-home progressive dinner in San Marco last month, where 55 members and guests enjoyed outstanding food.

Pat Ellis and Lois Lawrence



Laura Crooks, progressive dinner chair; Nancy Greene, fundraising chair; Karen Taylor, president, and Mattie Fraser, winner of the Alhambra Dinner Theatre basket.



Iris Eisenberg and Richard Axelberg



Wally Suslak finishing up the crème brûlée



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Councilwoman Boyer seeks to revise PUD process

Recommendations benefit developers with more detailed plans

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Lori Boyer is on a mission to streamline the planned unit development process, making it more efficient for developers and more user friendly for citizens.

The District 5 Councilwoman, informed by two years as a member and current chair of the Land Use and Zoning Committee, has revised the PUD portion of the zoning code (sections 656.340-344) to bifurcate the process and create restricted conventional zoning categories.

Her revisions provide two process options, depending on whether the PUD is more broadly written or more specific in its details. They also create an additional category within each of the current commercial zones that would be more restricted as to use, lighting, buffers, etc., but stay within the conventional category. An applicant could choose this option in lieu of a PUD, and satisfy many of the standard concerns of staff and adjacent property owners, according to Boyer.

A PUD is a type of rezoning that provides flexibility in planning, design, development and innovative approaches to the design of communi-

ty environments, said Bruce Lewis, city planning supervisor. They are specific to a particular property and stay with that property even through an ownership change.

PUDs cover multiple deviations and categories and are vetted through city council.

“Their purpose is to allow for a mix of uses that you can’t find in a conventional zoning district. For example, residential and commercial adjacent to each other,” Lewis said.

Currently, PUDs are all evaluated equally and go through the same channel regardless of how specifically or broadly they are written. Boyer’s recommendations would benefit developers who provide detailed PUDs by presenting a way for them to more quickly navigate the process. She is also concentrating on when in the process city officials and the public have an opportunity to present feedback.

“The PUD change is designed to allow the very general ‘bubble plans’ [more broadly written], but require subsequent site plan approval of that type, where more specific PUDs could

follow a streamlined process that includes site plan approval at the time of adoption,” Boyer explained in an email – to which a draft of her revisions was attached –

“[PUDs] purpose is to allow for a mix of uses that you can’t find in a conventional zoning district. For example, residential and commercial adjacent to each other,”

Bruce Lewis

City-planning supervisor

sent out to constituents and various stakeholders, including citizen’s groups, preservation societies, developers, realtors and attorneys.

Boyer described three main reasons for the revisions during an interview in her office shortly after she presented the plan for vetting to a group of interested developers, business owners and city officials during a Jan. 10 open meeting.

“First, Someone who doesn’t have an attorney or some organization that wants to get involved in a PUD that has been filed should be able to look at the ordinance code and clearly understand what the criteria are, how it’s going to be evaluated and then have the opportunity to have valid input. The way we currently operate tends to make it very difficult for the person who is not a regular in the process to follow the process and to

know what hoops to jump through,” Boyer said. “So, it’s public disclosure: Everybody is on the same footing and understands what the process is and how we’re looking at it.

“Second, there’s currently an overuse of the PUD process stemming from an overly broad expansion that has allowed us to approve very general plans without any later input from the planning commission, city council or public. That leaves subsequent decisions totally to the discretion of planning department staff, which often is very good, but they don’t always agree on what the public and council members’ positions are or on what planning commission members might think.

“Third, the PUD is a time consuming and costly process that causes a lot of uncertainty for applicants and for people who have some vested interest in the plan. I think from everybody’s standpoint, we’re all about efficiency in government. And from an economic development standpoint, for those where we do have a very specific site plan, let’s streamline the process. Let’s save some administrative dollars on that.”

Boyer is pushing to have her modifications vetted and to committees by the end of February.

See a draft of the PUD zoning code modifications here:

<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102833733752-49/draftPUDrevision.pdf>.



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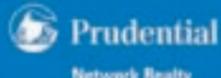
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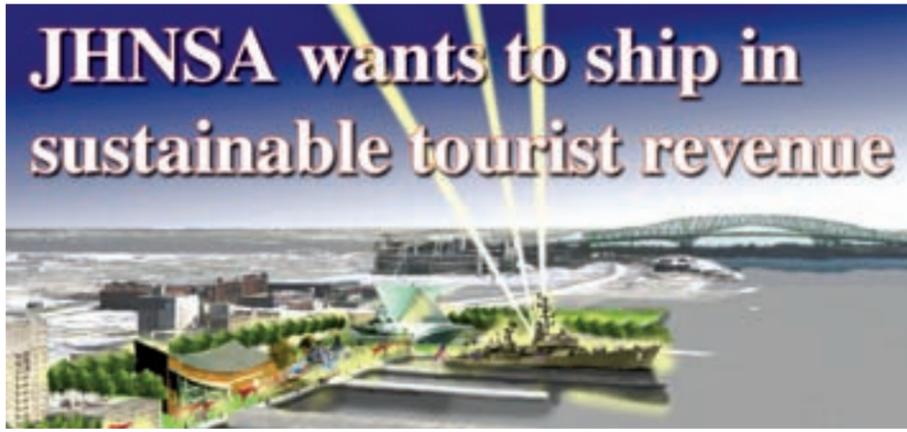
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JHNSA wants to ship in sustainable tourist revenue

USS Charles Adams could float millions in economic impact

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

To the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, the decision is a no-brainer. On the one hand, put together \$2.5 million in funding to eventually generate over \$4 million annually in revenue for are hotels, restaurants, shops and services. On the other hand, take too long to make the decision and let the positive economic impact slip through city fingers.

Time really is of the essence in this case. The guided missile destroyer USS Charles F. Adams, commissioned in 1960 and in service until 1990, is sitting in a naval shipyard in Philadelphia waiting for a new home as an interactive museum. And the Navy isn't inclined to wait forever. In late 2011, the Navy determined that Adams is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as an historic vessel.

According to Daniel Bean, president

of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) and a retired Navy captain, after five long years of working to bring the destroyer to the North Bank, the final hurdle is the financing. "We are trying to put together \$2.5 million through various methods, such as private donations, a line of credit and a gift (in labor) from BAE Systems Southeast Shipyard," said Bean. "A lot of the employees at BAE served and worked on the Adams and are eager to see it here."

Jacksonville City Council unanimously approved the venture in the Fall of 2010, but there was some worry that the project would fail. That hurdle was successfully negotiated late last year when the JHNSA created a \$300,000 "exit strategy" that would guarantee removal of the ship from Jacksonville if it did not live up to expectations after three years.

The revenue-generating expectations, after covering an anticipated \$1 million annual budget, could be met through tours, private meetings and events, such as parties, weddings and overnight stays. Although there will be

no restroom facilities on the ship (they will be available on the pier), the ship's Ward Room and Mess Deck will be renovated for events and the officers' quarters and crew berths for overnight guests.

Bean feels that the Adams could create 28 jobs and bring 150,000 visitors to the city each year and with an average expenditure of \$26 per person, the economic impact would amount to close to \$4 million. "There are over 200,000 military in alumni groups who served on the 23 Adams class ships during those three decades; only the USS Charles Adams is still floating," he said. "This would be the youngest ship in display in the U.S. It was the lead ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and has a lot of historic value."

The JHNSA's vision also includes an all-day water taxi pass to take visitors from the Museum of Science and History to the Jacksonville Zoo to the destroyer and back. "That would create a nice attraction for Jacksonville," Bean noted. "IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge experts were here in August to do a study...they indicated that the river is most attractive thing about the city but is not utilized, except for the proposals from the Adams." In fact, their Jacksonville Report for downtown revitalization and economic growth specifically mentioned the ship museum project in "Recommendation 2-2: Another example is the USS Adams Naval Ship Museum initiative. Interviewees suggest it is of low cost to the City, sustainable with funded exit strategies if it did not succeed, may reuse City property that is currently under-utilized and is likely to create significant draw."

The current goal is to have the destroyer ready for public visits on Veterans' Day 2013. In order to make that happen, funding needs to be in place within the next 30 days and EPA approval would need to be gained by the end of May. In addition, dry dock time at BAE (for refurbishments such as removal of both screws and both SONAR domes, repair hull plating as needed before sandblasting, preserving and painting the hull and the above decks to the top of the masts, along with various other fixes) would require up to six weeks before interior renovations can be started.

Why the North Bank? Although the original proposal planned to moor the ship alongside the South Bank, under the afternoon shadow of the

Acosta Bridge, it would cost nearly \$6.5 million to construct a pier there. The North Bank has mooring at the former Jacksonville Shipyards property providing a solution that is much less costly. Most of the work needed would be removal of built-up dirt under the pier so that the 437-foot ship with a 20-foot draft can float rather than get mired in the muck and mud. The JHNSA is again back in front of City Council with a request to move the proposed location from the South Bank to the North Bank. The proposed modification to city Ordinance 2010-675-E will allow the use of approximately three of the 23 total acres at the former shipyard site as a temporary location that could lead to a long-term/mooring location.

Much has been done. The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association and the Adams Class Veterans Association (ACVA) have been working together, have raised almost \$500,000 to date, and have funded many of the necessary studies and advance work to demonstrate to the Navy their resolve in meeting the many requirements to safely obtain and tow the ship to its final berth.

Many people have been involved. The JHNSA Executive Steering Committee consists of Admiral Kevin Delaney, Admiral Gene Kendall, William Gay, Sr., Jim Bailey, Toney Sleiman, Bob Rhodes, Karen Bowling, Bob Buehn, Dan Welch, Paul Anderson, Mike Hightower, Sheriff John Rutherford and Tony Boselli. Public support continues to grow and includes Governor Rick Scott, Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll, Congressman Ander Crenshaw, City Council President Bill Bishop, as well as the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

Much is at stake. Bringing the Adams to Jacksonville will help the Downtown Vision Inc.'s mission to build and maintain a healthy and vibrant Downtown community and to promote Downtown as an exciting place to live, work, play and visit. JHNSA leaders have been working closely with urban designer Chris Flagg of Flagg Design Studio LLC, who produced poster renderings that brings the vision to life.

The JHNSA looks forward to working with anyone who can help "Bring Home the USS Adams." For more information on this exciting project, visit www.adams2jax.org.

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JAX2025 says 67% are “satisfied” with the city

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The beach, the weather and the rivers as “things we like” dominated the word cloud presented to a cross-section of city residents at the first JAX2025 “visioneering” event last month at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

And, residents from Ortega/Murray Hill/ Riverside/Avondale and San Marco/San Jose/St. Nicholas dominated the surveys completed, with nearly 22 percent of the top 50 ZIP Code responses from those neighborhoods.

“Survey says” – and there were over 14,000 of them from every neighborhood (183 ZIP Codes) in the region –

that 67 percent of the area residents are satisfied with the quality of life in Jacksonville today.

In particular, you like the quality and availability of health services, the quality, cost and availability of parks and open spaces, the strength and stability of your neighborhood, feelings of safety in your home or neighborhood, the cost and availability of housing to own or rent, and the opportunities to enjoy arts and cultural activities and events.

Our natural environment – beach, rivers, parks and open spaces – were at the top of the list of what should be preserved.

When it comes to what is concerning to the region’s residents, 40-63% were dissatisfied with the vibrancy of

Downtown, the quality of public education, the ease of getting around on public transportation, the ability to influence local government and the opportunities to find good paying jobs.

Therefore, Downtown Jacksonville, education and transportation topped the list of areas that need to be improved.

There’s no doubt that readers of The Resident News are among the city’s most active and supportive when it comes to Jacksonville at large and Downtown. The proximity of these historic districts on both sides of the St. Johns River provide quick and easy access for both planned events and spur-of-the-moment dining and shopping downtown.

“It was surprising to see that

Downtown was such a big priority for other neighborhoods,” said District 14 Councilman Jim Love at the JAX2025 Community Launch Meeting on Jan. 19. “It’s obviously important to everyone and needs to have some action going all the time.”

Love felt that putting an emphasis on sports is the right strategy to bring people downtown, but he also continues to support his district.

“With a home in Avondale and an office in Riverside, I have a vested interest and have invested in these neighborhoods for a long, long time,” said Love.

Four more two-hour monthly planning events are planned, all at the Prime Osborn, for Feb. 2, Mar. 19, Apr. 27 and May 18. Visit www.jax2025.org for details or to register to attend an event.

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Stars are aligned for Southbank changes

Residents want to halt proposed BRT development

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The turnout was much better than expected at the first gathering of Southbank residents and business owners to discuss the Jacksonville Transit Authority's plans for Bus Rapid Transit lanes along Riverplace Boulevard.

The meeting of an estimated 120 people was held at the Wyndham Hotel late last month to present an alternate vision of transportation and infrastructure development primarily along Riverplace Boulevard. Brad Wallace, a Southbank resident and neurosurgeon at Baptist Health opened the meeting "by and for residents of the Southbank area who have invested in an area that has the most beautiful downtown in the United States."

Wallace also noted that the economic downturn – among other reasons – thwarted the momentum to turn the Southbank into a destination rather than a thru-way. Those other reasons include a lack of Downtown residents and a lack of cohesive effort on common goals and understanding how to affect change. "The stars are finally properly aligned to achieve change in Southbank," he said. "The one significant issue, however, are the plans to implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Riverplace Boulevard.

The alternate vision for Riverplace



Boulevard was actually created back in 2009-2010 by Chris Flagg, chair of Downtown Vision Inc. (DVI) and president of Flagg Design Studio. A landscape architect by profession and urban designer by trade, Flagg presented before and after photographs and renderings of Prudential Drive and Riverplace Boulevard in two phases of enhancements and improvements.

"There are a lot of opportunities for aesthetic embellishments along these streets," Flagg noted. "There's just tremendous potential to improve Southbank."

Phase 1 of the enhancements could include a streetscape, with trees, lighting, banners, utility box screen, buffers, on-street parking and sidewalk improvements, while greater and more costly improvements in Phase 2 would include intersection improvements such as roundabouts, landscaped medians, branding of Southbank, particularly with the Skyway, and creating an ambience conducive to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Following Flagg's presentation, Steve Lovett, principal with the environmental design firm ELM Studio, offered real city examples of the

investment that high-performance infrastructure can return to a community that is ready to take that step. The performance factors that are affected by investment in the right infrastructure include social, economic, cultural, aesthetic, functional, ecological and health performances.

"Riverplace Boulevard should be designed for people and encourage street level activity," he said. "It should not be built for speed. I believe it will be a model for other urban streets in Jacksonville and in the nation."

Unfortunately, the JTA's vision for the Southbank includes the use of a "fossil-fueled, rubber-tired" transit system, according to Lovett. That vision is predicated on an \$18 million federally funded project as long as there is a minimum of 20 percent dedicated lanes to mass, rapid transit.

Doug Skiles, owner of EnVision Design+Engineering and past president of the San Marco Preservation Society, presented the cons of moving forward with the BRT as planned. His diagrams showed the redundancy of the proposed busway with the current Skyway route and stops; the risky result of creating a 90-foot intersection across five lanes of traffic; and the increased potential for fatal accidents along a 40 mph-plus stretch. And, timing is critical. "Once the government releases the funds and construction starts, there's no going back," he cautioned.

Skiles conducted an unofficial and nontechnical study of traffic patterns at the same time on two mornings along the five-lane Riverplace Boulevard and along Hendricks Avenue, which has three lanes and lower speed limit. There were 53 vehicles which traversed both roadways between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The average speed on Hendricks Avenue was actually slightly higher (by 1.4 mph) than along Riverplace Boulevard, which has more stoplights.

"There is definitely no need for dedicated bus lanes," Skiles said. "According to my study, it would only save 10 seconds per trip."

Ron Moody, CEO of Broom, Moody Johnson & Grainger, real estate appraisers and consultants, spoke briefly on the impact that a BRT would have on real estate in the Southbank area. "It will not drive up home values," he indicated starkly.

Members in the audience wondered what was next. "We need to communicate 'Stop BRT' to the JTA," said Wallace during the closing of the meeting. "There is new leadership in the JTA who are interested in community feedback. We need to organize as a community."

Next steps for this group include another meeting to create a master community "wish list" of enhancements, prioritization of items for feasibility and impact, and organization of efforts to work with public officials. Wallace indicated that there were beautification funds available through the Downtown Investment Authority but a plan must be presented.

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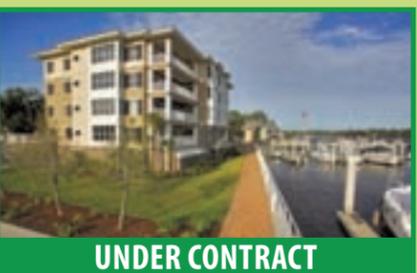


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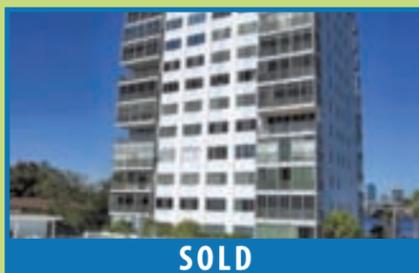
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STUDY continued from 1

the study, said a scope of services helps to define components that the city might like to address in a study.

Ghyabi submitted a scope to the planning department in May that proposed a \$60,000 study for the Shoppes of Avondale, but no action was ever taken. Burney has indicated that it may be incorporated along with RAP's and others' recommendations into a final scope.

When asked if planning had vetted or approved RAP's scope, Burney replied in the Dec. 4 email, "The Department will possibly have a final scope for the study by Friday [Dec. 7] or Wednesday [Dec. 12] of next week at the latest" and, "A final scope will be finalized over the next few days."

Those dates came and went. Recent communication with Burney has shed no light on the scope's progress beyond the fact that the planning department has committed to \$65,000 for a study.

District 14 Councilman Jim Love has taken a special interest in RAP's scope, which focuses on the Shoppes of Avondale and the King Street business corridor. As of January 19 he had not received any information about the scope's status.

Love said the recent boom in restaurants and bars in the Historic District has instilled within him a strong sense of urgency for a study.

"With Goozlepipe and Gutyworks,

Salty Fig and Mellow Mushroom all online or moving forward, a comprehensive parking study is becoming more and more important. I look forward with anticipation to the completed study," Love said.

Love is not alone in his anticipation, or the lack of response from the planning department. Aside from RAP and Ghyabi, Mike Field, from Transform Jax also submitted a scope last year without response and Mellow Mushroom's attorney, Steve Diebenow said in August, "We offered to incur some of the costs [of a study] but no one has taken us up on the offer."

So, for now, it remains a waiting game as the planning department considers its options for a study. Meanwhile, RAP's Ehas is looking ahead to where a study fits into solving the Historic District's overall parking issues.

"RAP's transportation committee supports a parking study as one piece to a larger mobility plan for the historic district. We submitted a scope proposal to Calvin Burney quite a while ago that includes walking and biking facilities as well as parking. We think it is very important that a steering committee made up of neighborhood merchants and residents guides the study consultant and the scope includes community outreach and input. We do not know what is holding up the study but very much look forward to getting it done," Ehas said.

JCCI to speak at annual Friends of Murray Hill Library meeting

The public is invited to attend the Friends of the Murray Hill Library Annual Members Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edgewood Bakery Banquet Hall, 1012 Edgewood Avenue South. This is an opportunity for the community to meet the Board of Directors and library staff, and to learn about the activities happening at the library.

Representatives of Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (JCCI) will highlight findings of their recent study regarding Jacksonville Public Library's Funding (JPL). As library hours, staff and materials are annually forced to be cut, the JCCI report noted, "The JPL is a significant repository of knowledge that educates children, enhances adults' careers, and offers improvement to the overall quality of life for all Duval County residents. These benefits of lifelong learning are at risk. Current financial and gov-

ernance controls under which JPL operates make long-range planning and innovation difficult at best. Because the JPL is unable to predict revenue and how much it will be charged for overhead by the City (currently 39 percent of its budget), it is prevented from gaining possible cost savings that could be passed on to taxpayers. Nor can it save funds for planned projects and 'rainy days.' A key way to ensure the JPL will not experience further 'graceful degradation' is to promote its budgetary independence as well as stable and reliable funding streams."

Murray Hill Library sits in the heart of Murray Hill neighborhood and is vital to that community. Attend to show your support for libraries, engage in advocacy, and get to know your neighbors. Refreshments will be provided.

St. Vincent's HealthCare first in area for bariatric accreditation

With St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside's recent designation as a Level 1 Accredited Bariatric Center, St. Vincent's HealthCare becomes the first health system in Northeast Florida to have both of its hospital facilities awarded the status.

St. Vincent's Weight Loss Services Directory Jeff Berry noted, "Accreditation symbolizes our institution's commitment and accountability for safe, high quality care [in the area of bariatric surgery]." This is the highest

designation that is awarded by the Bariatric Surgery Center Network Accreditation Program of the American College of Surgeons.

In the United States, more than 11 million people suffer from severe obesity, and the numbers continue to grow. "Having a program in place that meets such high standards of care means our patients can count on us to help them lose weight and gain control of their lives," said Dr. Miro Uchal, a North Florida weight loss surgeon.

Bold Bean competes for title

Move over Starbucks, Bold Bean Coffee Roasters could swipe your crown! The Riverside-based roasting wholesale operation and coffee shop at 869 Stockton Street is one of 14 coffee shops competing in the Eastern Region of the America's Best Coffeehouse

Competition. Jay and son Zack Burnett opened the coffee shop in December 2011 and would like your vote at www.coffeefest.com to send them to the national trade show in New York in March. Vote today because it's over Feb. 13th!

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THE JOHN GORRIE ACHIEVES TAX REDUCTION STATUS FOR HOMEBUYERS



The former principal's office now serves as a reading room for residents



The restored original private courtyard provides a tranquil outdoor space

THE JOHN GORRIE
a condominium



Offering homebuyers a diverse array of beautifully appointed homes in meticulously restored historic school buildings

The John Gorrie a condominium, Jacksonville's premier condo community, is offering homebuyers yet another reason as to why it's the perfect place to call home. The historically renovated school building has been granted a 10-year tax abatement towards each homeowner's tax bill. This translates into approximately a 50 percent reduction in the resident's real estate taxes, which equates to a range of \$1,000 to \$2,300 in tax savings for properties at The John Gorrie.

"This is an incredibly unique opportunity for homebuyers who are interested in purchasing in The John Gorrie," said Prudential Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda H. Sherrer. "I would encourage homebuyers to make an appointment to visit The John Gorrie and receive information on how they can benefit from this exemption."

The John Gorrie a condominium offers homebuyers a diverse array of beautifully appointed homes in meticulously restored historic school buildings. Sixty-eight residences including studios, one- and two-

bedroom condominiums and two-story townhomes range in size from 800 square feet to 1,800 square feet and starting from the low \$100,000s. Boasting modern conveniences, many of the floor plans offer distinctive layouts based on the original John Gorrie Junior High School classrooms. One residence features the original auditorium stage and flooring, while another home features the original crest with reproduced molding around the front of the stage. The hallways display as artwork original windows and doors, chalkboards, radiators and a teachers' mail cubby.

Residents enjoy contemporary amenities including a custom-designed fitness center, elevators, private gated parking and a resident reading room with Wi-Fi internet access. The restored original private courtyard provides residents with a tranquil outdoor gathering space.

Make an appointment today and see why so many have chosen to call The John Gorrie home.

For more information or to schedule a sales appointment with Prudential Network Realty representative Lee Elmore, call (904) 383-3688 or visit www.TheJohnGorrie.com

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Teate named HandsOn Jacksonville Director of Strategic Advocacy and Advancement



San Jose resident Suzanne Teate, Ph.D., will serve as the Director of Strategic Advocacy and Advancement for HandsOn Jacksonville, according to Dr. Judith A.M. Smith, president and CEO. "We are extremely pleased that Dr. Suzanne Teate was available to serve as an advocate for our projects and clients in this timely role to optimize both financial and human resources in the community."

Dr. Teate has an extensive background with local, state and federal operations, including past positions such as Director of Cultural Affairs for the Florida Department of State, Statewide Coordinator of Museum Services for the National Endowment of the Arts and Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Special Performing Arts Project, and Interim Director of both the Pensacola and Jacksonville Museum of Art.

Cassady leaves Stockton after 23 years

With mixed emotions, Joye Cassady announced her retirement from John Stockton Elementary School after 23 years. She fondly recalled her early days in 1990 as a volunteer until she joined the staff in 1997 as a grant writer. Through Cassady's efforts, the school received a \$165,000 Retro Fit Grant to provide electrical upgrades, TV, data, phone and new intercom for each classroom, as well as the beginning of the television studio. Since then other grants have provided a build out of the TV studio, a computer lab and a total A-V makeover of the cafeteria.

As the school's information technology specialist, Cassady was also instrumental in

seeing that Stockton was the first school in Duval County to have Internet access in every classroom. She noted "the excitement (and maybe some fear) of our staff when I created an email account for everybody and introduced electronic communication. Now, we all have district email accounts and take all of that for granted, we have come so very far."



Shands Jacksonville names Armistead new CEO

Russell E. Armistead, M.B.A., has been named chief executive officer of Shands Jacksonville, replacing James R. Burkhart, D.Sc., who announced his resignation early last month.

Armistead has broad experience in academic health center and medical school administration. Since 2004, he has served as associate vice president for finance and planning for the University of Florida Health Science Center in both Gainesville and Jacksonville, working directly under David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs at the University of Florida and president of UF&Shands, the University of Florida Academic Health Center. The Health Science Center includes the colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine. The HSC, which is part of UF&Shands, generates approximately \$1 billion in annual revenue, with more than 6,000 students and 1,700 full-time faculty across both campuses.

Since March 2012, Armistead has worked closely with Daniel R. Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., vice president for health affairs at the University of Florida and dean of the UF College of

Medicine-Jacksonville, on matters pertaining to the faculty practice in partnership with Shands hospital leadership. He has led initiatives to improve profitability, managing financial and planning projects affecting the Jacksonville campus.



"Russ has a long history of effecting change that has led to positive results for our patients and our employees. He was instrumental in leading the recent strategic planning process for the UF&Shands system, which we call 'Forward Together.' Our plan sets the vision for our organization as a place where the patient comes

first, and where we make careful use of our resources in support of that goal," Guzick said.

Prior to joining UF, Armistead was president of Armistead Consulting LLC, a North Carolina firm that provided management and consultation services to academic health centers, hospitals and other health care organizations. Before starting his consulting firm, Armistead held leadership positions at Wake Forest University School of Medicine over the course of 24 years, including vice president for health services administration and associate dean for administrative services.

Cultural Council grant deadline approaches

The deadline for Duval County arts and cultural organizations interested in applying to the 2013-2014 Cultural Service Grant Program (CSGP) is Thursday, Feb. 28 to submit a Letter of Intent to the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville.

The Letter of Intent is a mandatory prerequisite for completing a full CSGP application and must be submitted online through the Cultural Council's website at www.culturalcouncil.org. The Cultural Council re-grants funds made available through the City of Jacksonville. CSGP awards are granted based

on an organization's management and fiscal accountability, community outreach, programming excellence, and contributions to Duval County's quality of life. The CSGP grant review panel includes five Cultural Council Board members, five members from the community at-large, and ex-officio representatives from the Mayor's Office and City Council. In 2012-2013, 22 organizations were awarded \$2,465,250 in general operating support.

For information on the Cultural Service Grant Program, contact the Cultural Council at (904) 358-3600 or info@culturalcouncil.org.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

St. Vincent's Clay County receives gift from Reinhold Foundation and Family



Left to right: Jane R. Lanier, CFRE President & Chief Development Officer; Jeff Bryan, Trustee, Reinhold Foundation; George Egan, Trustee, Reinhold Foundation; Kristin Pilgrim, Trustee, Reinhold Foundation; J.F. Bryan, Chairman, Reinhold Foundation; Paul Myers, Trustee, Reinhold Foundation; Jack Myers, Trustee, Reinhold Foundation; Amy Parker, Executive Director, Reinhold Foundation; Reinhold Foundation Trustees absent from the photo are Neely Towe and John Myers

The Reinhold Foundation and Reinhold Family recently made a gift of \$500,000 to St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County, enabling expansion of St. Vincent's HealthCare and its mission of faith-based healing to residents of that community. The gift will be recognized with the naming of the Medical Mall at St.

Vincent's Clay County in memory of the family's grandparents, Paul E. and Klare N. Reinhold. Said J.F. Bryan, chairman of the Reinhold Foundation, "We cannot think of a better way to honor their memory than by naming the area that will welcome our friends and neighbors into the hospital."

New year marks start of Overland Bridge project

The \$227 million project to replace the series of overpasses that carry traffic over Hendricks, Kings and Montana avenues along 2.3 miles of I-95 near downtown Jacksonville commenced in mid-January, according to the Department of Transportation.

According to DOT public information officer Michael Goldman, "The initial stages of the project will be setting up required traffic and erosion control devices. No lane closings are scheduled for at least two or three weeks [as of Jan. 14]."

As construction on the project progresses,

traffic will use parallel roadways which, upon completion of the I-95 bridge structures, will remain and provide additional capacity for traffic between the Fuller Warren Bridge and north of Emerson Street. Lane closings are allowed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Pile driving will occur during daytime hours.

The Overland Bridge was built in 1959 and reconstructed in 1989. It is classified by inspection reports as "structurally deficient" which means the structure needs to be replaced or repaired. The project should be finished by mid-2016.

Sharon Light re-elected president for third term

Florida Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll presided over the installation of officers of the Republican Women's Club of Duval Federated. Sharon Light, Ortega resident, was unanimously elected to a third term of office as president at the well-attended event at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel on Jan. 10. Other officers installed include: Vanessa Williams, 1st vice president; Gloria Rhoden, 2nd vice president; Joyce Stokes, 3rd vice president; Vanessa Danford, treasurer; Cathy Smith, secretary; Georgianne Pionessa, secretary; and Carol Shelton, member-at-large.

The Federation was founded 75 years ago in 1938 and is a grassroots organization of



Left to right, Carol Shelton, Vanessa Danford, Cathy Smith, Georgianne Pionessa, Gloria Rhoden, Joyce Stokes, Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, Sharon Light

100,000 members nationwide to advance the power of women through political access and participation. For more information visit their website at www.rwcdf.org.

Traditions Realty owner named NEFAR treasurer; Eaton joins firm

Sally Suslak was installed as treasurer last month for the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) for 2013. The broker and owner of Traditions Realty in Riverside has been on the NEFAR Board of Directors for three years and served as secretary in 2012. A realtor since 1977, Suslak is also currently serving the final year of a three-year appointment as a Director of Florida Realtors® and is also the former Chair of the Downtown Council of Realtors®.

Suslak's firm welcomes Jennifer Eaton to the agency. Eaton is a recently licensed real estate sales associate who chose to work



with Traditions, founded in 2009, because of her personal experience with the company. Traditions served as her real estate agency when she became a first-time home buyer.

Eaton said "Traditions' growing presence in Jacksonville and their diversity of services also made the company attractive to me."

Eaton is a Jacksonville native and a graduate of the University of Florida, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration. She is an avid softball player, pitching in high school at Robert E. Lee and now playing in local adult slow-pitch leagues.

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AUTISM COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

HEAL, a local nonprofit for autistic children and their families, won big recently when a two-day gala and golf event raised over \$143,000 for the autism community living across northeast Florida. "HEAL does such wonderful work in our local community that benefits so many people," said Alan Pickert, St. Nicholas resident and current president of HEAL (Healing Every Autistic Life). "These funds are directed toward camps, educational programs, sports teams, the arts, and community projects solely for families with autistic children on the First Coast." You can find out about HEAL at www.healautismnow.org.

Alan and Linda Pickert, Lynette Blount and Denise Woodard



William Dixon, VP— Merrill Lynch and Jenny Dixon



WALL OF HOPE UNVEILED AT GALLERY 1037

Stuart Klein, Executive Director of the Proton Therapy Institute, Barbara Holmes-Fryefield, Artist-in-Residence



Reddi-Arts and Gallery 1037 kicked off the January/February show "Wall of Hope" with a reception late last month. The show, in conjunction with the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute, features artwork by cancer patients, their families, friends, staff and artists, as well as busts by Riverside sculptor Cliff Leonard.

The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute Artist-in-Residence and Ortega resident Barbara Holmes-Fryefield encouraged patients, their families, staff, and artists to create artworks on 6x6 blocks of wood inspired by the word "Hope."

The collection of wood blocks created by patients and their families benefit their treatment though a creative outlet. A wall of wood blocks at Reddi-Arts/Gallery 1037 gives viewers an opportunity to be lifted by the spirit of hope.

The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute is the first treatment center in the Southeast U.S. to offer proton therapy. Florida residents, as well as patients from the region, the country and the world, have access to a new cancer treatment option delivered in a supportive, healing environment, with all the resources of a non-profit major academic medical center.

George, Mary Jane and Glen McClary



PATRONS PAUSE, ENGAGE WITH NEW MOCA EXHIBIT

SLOW: Marking Time in Photography and Film premiered Jan. 26 at the Museum of Contemporary Art and runs through Apr. 7. The exhibition features the works of seven American and European artists who explore the questions of time and duration through photography, film and video.

David Engdahl with Paul and Laura Karabinis



SCOTCH, CIGARS AND FOOTBALL

Colleen Rodriguez, Executive Director of JFCS, David Stein, event co-chair, Mark Lamping and David Robbins, co-chair



Mark Green and Jamie Shelton

Jim Kempner and Brian Bialik



Sheriff John Rutherford and Michael Rutherford



Mark Lamping, president of the Jacksonville Jaguars, was the guest speaker at the 2nd Annual JFCS Men's Event held at Epping Forest on Jan. 17. Guests enjoyed samplings of scotch and other libations, cigars and a wonderful meal.

Net proceeds benefit the programs of Jewish Family & Community Services, a full-service social service agency, that has been "helping people help themselves" for nearly 100 years.



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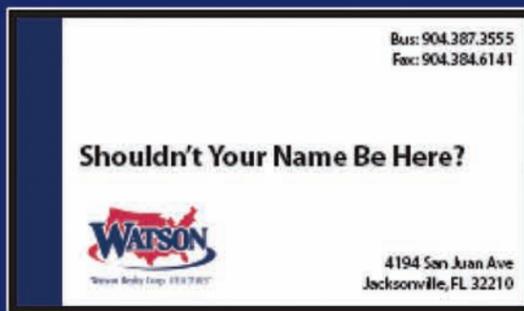
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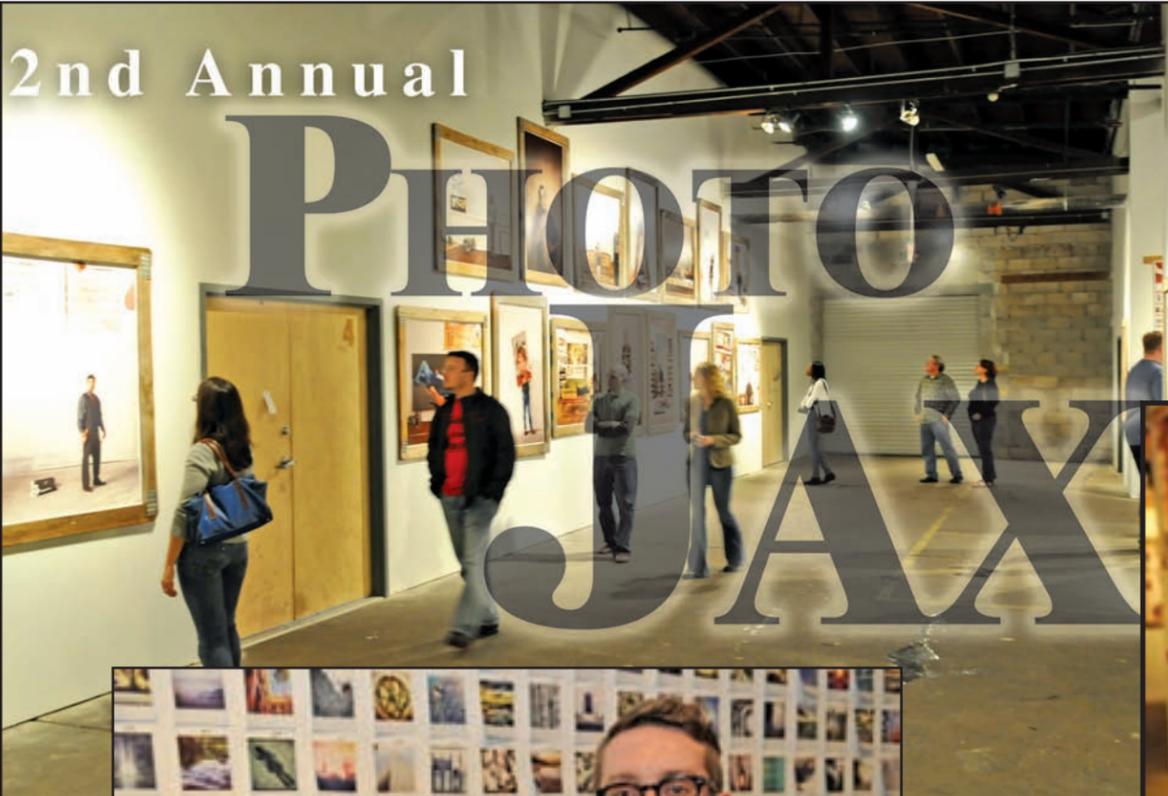
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Above: Sarah and Jensen Hande



Left: L. Gustavo Cooper

Dustin Wooten



Exceeding expectations again

There was something for everyone at the second annual PHOTOJAX festival and exhibition this year. From students to patrons, fans of local photographic art spent an eye-popping four days browsing through photography exhibits, watching Instagram projections and attending parties. Venues at this year's festival included MOCA Jacksonville, the Florida Mining Gallery, Gallery 725, and the CoRK Arts District.

This year's festival, PHOTOJAX 2013, was again produced by Riverside resident Missy Hager, who enlisted the help of Avondale photographer Jensen Hande to select the final 500 for display out of 1800 Instagram images submitted. Hande, who has his own studio at 1506 King Street, also mounted the works of nine professional photographers at CoRK, along with an exhibit by UNF photograph students. "I'm

used to working solo, so while hanging these images I would get suggestions and help from other artists," said Hande. "It was great to see the different skills that people bring to the arts community."

The digital version of the Instagram photos were projected on screen in from of MOCA on the same Friday evening that the museum previewed SLOW: Marking Time in Photography and Film.

The first event, PHOTOJAX 2011, was the brainchild of Avondale resident and MOCA board member Charles Gilman III, whose mother Sondra Gilman has one of the top 10 photographic collections in the country. Gilman and Hager, among others, wanted to celebrate photography as a distinct visual art form and created the nonprofit organization in 2011.

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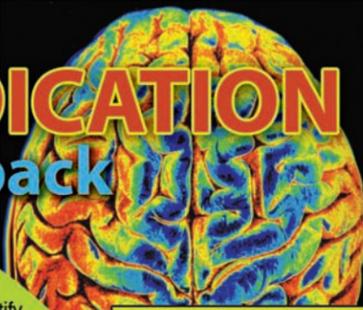
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Quality, Honesty and Integrity Drive the Business



If quality of service, honesty and integrity are what drive Hugh Gunter's family automotive business, then investing in technology is the fuel that keeps it going in its eighth decade as a Riverside business.

"The day of the shade-tree mechanic is gone," says Kathy Gunter, co-owner with husband Hugh since they bought it in 2004. "Technology has left them behind," adds Hugh, "but we invest a lot in technology and education."

Unlike a dealer, whose technicians only know the models they sell, the technicians at Hugh's Riverside Automotive know how to service the 90+ makes and models, whether they are gasoline- or diesel-powered, hybrid electric or total electric. The mechanics are sent to continuing education courses, sometimes attending six to eight classes per month. The master technicians are learning all about biodiesels, alternate energy, fuel cells, hybrids and electric models through an online course and will be the first to be certified with Go-Green in north Florida.

"There will be a few million hybrids coming off of warranties soon, so we want to be ahead of the curve and ready to service those cars," Hugh notes. "We will be able to repair them less expensively than would a dealership. Through Go-Green we'll



have accessibility to parts that we would not otherwise have."

There's a reason why the third generation of customers are bringing their vehicles to Hugh's Riverside Automotive. "We service them to death," Kathy says. Well, not literally, but "our customers are like family so it's important we service them so they keep coming back," Hugh explains. "We want the business to be here for a long time, and the only way to do it is to take care of the customers properly."

He continues, "Our emphasis is on quality, not so much on pricing, but we try to be as competitive as possible. Everyone is looking for the best deal so we try to make people happy without comprising our principals." Kathy notes that they do regular discount

mailings to customers as well as offer coupons when visiting their website.

Hugh and Kathy are planning to hand off the business someday to daughter Marie and her husband Eric Juchniewicz, the shop's service manager. Eric's dual expertise in computers and the automotive industry, serves the business well. He's a certified master automotive technician with certification in advanced drivability diagnostics and also holds computer industry certifications through Cisco, Microsoft and Comptia.

Hugh's Riverside Automotive also specializes in fleet business and has been servicing USPS trucks for many years, as well as the vehicles for Florida law enforcement, Meals on Wheels, and the state attorney's office. "We have an A+ rating with the BBB. You don't get that by cheating people," concludes Hugh.



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Hugh's Riverside Automotive is located at 620 Chelsea Street in Riverside. Call (904) 354-7425 to make an appointment or visit their Facebook page or website www.hughsriversideautomotive.com.

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The Way we Were

Violet Coleman Parker

BY VICTORIA FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Violet Coleman Parker is a Historic District dweller who embraces the challenge of change. Born at home in 1924, Parker and her five brothers and sisters lived upstairs above their father's Riverside grocery store until William Coleman lost his store in the years just prior to the Depression.

In 1928 the Coleman family moved into a rental house on the corner of Park and Pinegrove, a home that was made possible partially by the salary of Coleman's 16-year-old brother. She recalls, "My brother was hired by Southern Bell to climb poles and string wire. There was a lot of that going on then. He retired at 70. Of course, he had not climbed any poles for some time.

"It seemed we had cousins everywhere. Folks came into the city from the countryside because there were still some jobs here. Families pooled money and food so that they could make it through hard times.

"Eventually, my family moved to Arlington where we could get free

rent. The Aldermans wanted someone to live as caretakers in a house they owned. The house was fairly rundown, but the property was large and allowed us to have a garden, a cow and some chickens. Actually, thinking back on it, there was something magical in the Arlington surroundings. I could roam freely in the woods and swim in a creek. Mamie Geiger Coleman, my remarkable mother, always found some way to keep a roof over our heads and clothes on our body. She died at 82.

"In 1930 I started school at Arlington Elementary. My older sisters had already taught me to read and write, so I was considered gifted and bumped up a half grade. This happened again until finally I was a year ahead of my age group. There was no problem with this until a teacher found out that I couldn't use a dipping pen. Evidently I missed the third grade instruction, so I messed up a sheet of paper. To my embarrassment, the teacher took the pen away from me. There were other embarrassments like having to show a free food ticket



for lunch.

"My family moved again when I was 10. This time the move took us to Belmont Avenue in San Marco. There were other moves after that and because of them, my education took place in a wide variety of schools:

Landon, Kirby-Smith, Andrew Jackson and, finally, Robert E. Lee. I graduated from Lee in 1941 after having had the pleasure of being taught by English teacher Edith Cowles, who saw that I had writing talent and encouraged me to develop it.

"Some time after graduation, I enrolled in a trade school on Ocean Street to study bookkeeping and typing which were the accepted feminine skills. In the afternoon, I helped my 15-year-old brother throw his Times-Union paper route in Riverside. We had a car by then and I could drive from my home in the Brentwood projects. Years later I repeated the paper delivery experience with my son.

"My aunt who subscribed to the T-U saw an ad that said there were jobs opening at NAS. I went there and took the test and scored high enough to be hired by the Army Corps of Engineers. In the summer of 1942, I received six weeks of training in drafting from an elderly architect.

This was very helpful as my first job was making maps. A few months after the initial six weeks of training, I was sent to Key West where the Corps was creating a safe turning basin for American ships because there were many German submarines lurking in the waters nearby.

"I had to plot soundings in the harbor and spent many days out in boats surrounded by pile drivers. At one point I got a really nasty sunburn, but that was just part of the job. This was the beginning of a career that I had for 38 years, retiring as the Chief of Computing for the Corps when I was 56 years old. I met my husband-to-be, Cecil Lamar Parker, on that assignment. We have two sons, Cecil and Charles, and five grandchildren.

"My husband, who died in 1968, came to live in the Riverside home I had purchased with my mother in 1945. At the time of purchase, we had to put two thousand dollars down which was 1/3 of the total price. I have now lived there for 66 years.

"After retiring from the Corps, I went to UNF and earned a Masters in Allied Health with an emphasis on biofeedback, a mental health tool I was introduced to by a Colonel in the Corps. I feel like there is much more to know."

And thus ends the conversation with an amazing Historic District dweller, a woman who has embraced cultural and generational change, a woman who exemplifies the model of the lifelong learner, a woman who was named Violet because of the color of her eyes.

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Roberts adds Cross of Military Service award to 29 others

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) William Howard Roberts is a well decorated man. In a December ceremony at the Florida Yacht Club, Roberts' granddaughter Abaca Davine Dowling had the honor of bestowing the Cross of Military Service Award upon the descendant of Michael Shaver, Jr., a Confederate soldier who fought in the War Between the States in 1861-1862.

Roberts served 22 years in the U.S. Army – including two years in the Vietnam War – and already had 29 medals, ribbons and badges to his name. During his career he received a Silver Star, four Purple Hearts, five Bronze Stars, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Army Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, two Vietnam

Service Medals, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, a Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, two Army Overseas Bars, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

This newest award – the Cross of Military Service – is an outgrowth of the Southern Cross of Honor bestowed on Confederate Veterans by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and has been established as a testimonial to the patriotic devotion of certain Confederate Veterans and their descendants. Crosses of Military Service are the most prized awards bestowed by the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Roberts' wife and granddaughter are members of the Martha Reid 19 Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Dianne Boren, Martha Reid 19 Chapter President; Abaca Davine Dowling, Chapter Recorder of Military Service Awards and Roberts' granddaughter; LTC (Ret) William Howard Roberts, recipient of the Cross of Military Service Award; and his wife, Davine, member of Martha Reid 19 Chapter

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GO GIVERS

Laura Crum McLaughlin

By JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When a friend invited her to an Uptown Civitan Club meeting, Laura McLaughlin, an energetic, engaging 60-something years young, had long been involved with community service organizations. A realtor with Norville Realty and 20-year Avondale resident, McLaughlin is also a long-time community volunteer with a belief in service to others. At that first luncheon meeting she realized that Uptown Civitan Club, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, was something special.

"I've been a volunteer for many other service organizations and this group of about eighty professional women gets more done for youth and the developmentally disabled – and I mean really does more – than any service group I've ever known!" she said. "They are so effective, and for a professional woman in Jacksonville it is a great place to meet other like-minded women. Civitan International was formed in 1917. There are 35 clubs in Florida and more in 32 countries worldwide, each dedicated to helping people in their local communities."

Jacksonville's club, among the largest in Florida, has been locally and nationally recognized for its serv-

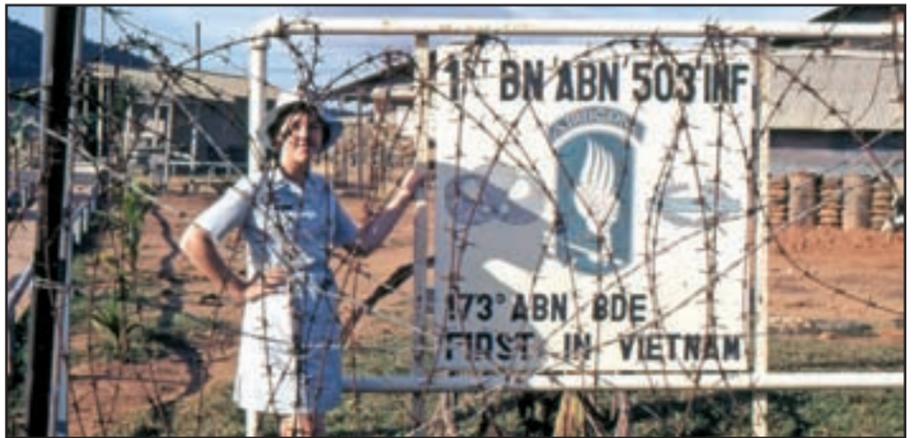
ice. They received the highest honor – the Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club Award – 10 times during their 30-year history. The award is annually given to honor one club selected worldwide from the international organization for outstanding community service. Uptown Civitan most recently won this award in 2010-2011.

"Civitan contributes volunteer hours and funds in support of Clara White Mission, Pace Center for Girls, Seamark Ranch, Girls, Inc., Angelwood, Ronald McDonald House, Pine Castle (where we also sponsor a Junior Civitan Club), and Beaches Fine Arts. Collectively Civitan clubs have pledged millions in support of the Civitan International Research Center at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. The center conducts research related to human development, mental retardation and developmental disabilities and was the first institution in the U.S. solely dedicated to developmental disabilities research," she said. McLaughlin has been a member of Uptown Civitan Club for 15 years and is immediate past president.

McLaughlin chose to live in Avondale because it reminded her of the traditional neighborhood where she grew up in Charleston, West Virginia.



Laura, third from right, kneeling, AnKhe, Vietnam, 1969



Laura at LZ Uplift.jpg: Loading Zone English, headquarters of the 173rd Airborne, 1969

"In 1981 when I transferred to Jacksonville for work, and found my Pine Street house, it felt like I had come home," she said. "The area is so eclectic with many different, interesting people."

Outside of her career and volunteer work with Civitan, McLaughlin is active in her church, First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. She likes to exercise, walk her neighborhood and participate in annual walks to raise money for cancer research. She likes to garden, read and travel the U.S. and Europe. She has enjoyed investing in her neighborhood and restoring Avondale properties. McLaughlin's travel often is to spend time with a unique group of dear friends who, with her, played a part in U.S. history.

"Right after college graduation in 1969 when I was 21 years old, I traveled to Vietnam with a group of other young women, to work for the American Red Cross. We were called 'Doughnut Dollies' but doughnuts didn't have much to do with it...we ran recreational centers on military base camps during the war. We were sent by helicopters forward, ahead of the troops to prepare the fire support bases before they arrived. It was a one year position, by invitation from the military," she said. "The name 'Doughnut Dollies' was given to the women who served hot coffee and doughnuts to soldiers from trucks during World War II."

McLaughlin has remained in touch with the Doughnut Dollies through reunions, phone calls and Internet. There are approximately 680 of the women who maintain contact, and within that larger group she has a smaller group of close friends.

"It was such a special time in my life with a wonderful group of women. We were all just out of college and too young to fully realize or even care about the dangers of traveling and working in a war zone," she said. "...and I've enjoyed a unique life. My last trip to Russia, in St. Petersburg especially, was depressing but very eye-opening. Russians hate the U.S., but they know nothing about us...they are miserable and unhappy, so oppressed. They have never known freedom. It was such a reminder of what makes America so great, how blessed we are to be free and the importance of our belief that all people have the right to freedom."

McLaughlin said that in celebration of its 30th anniversary, the club will host as guest speaker the first woman who served as president of the international Civitan organization. Women interested in exploring Uptown Civitan volunteer activities and membership can visit the club's website. Luncheon meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

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BY VICTORIA FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Roses?

For a long time I did not allow the leggy beauties in my garden. Why? Well, my earliest image of rose care is a grim one. It comes from a picture in my mothers' Better Homes and Gardens coffee table tome. There, caring for her roses using the required spraying apparatus is a well-coiffed 1950s' housewife in total Hazmat garb – goggles, overalls, etc. For obvious reasons, that image discouraged me from ever planting roses. The legendary Valentine's flowers would surely die amongst my organic collards, free range citrus and other sustainable edibles.

But time has passed and two roses have won my heart and a place in my sustainable garden. After all, they

attract pollinators. They scent the surroundings. They produce lots of Christmas gift potpourri petals. And, best of all, these two roses require NO poison – although they do enjoy liberal doses of coffee grounds and banana peels – and on this meager fare they bloom their hearts out. Their names are Cecile and Louie.

Cecile's full name is Cecile Brunner. Introduced to America from the French Court in 1881, Cecile is one of those beauties that will tolerate almost any kind of soil. She will grow 20 feet into the nearest oak tree, leap over into your neighbor's yard and survive all kinds of neglect. Her drawback is that she has exceedingly sharp thorns and will attack and draw blood if she is not trimmed back on occasion.

Cecile's blossoming occurs with time lapse speed. In less than 24 hours, Barbie-sized pink buds unfurl into Barbie-sized perfect roses. The flowers are profuse, so much so that she has been dubbed "The Sweetheart Rose" by generations of garden writers.

Playing Ken in my garden to Cecile's Barbie is Louis Philippe. According to the rose folks who specialize in floral history, Louie originated in China in 1834. He was brought to Texas by Lorenzo deZavala following



his posting as

Ambassador to France. Louie is a four-foot-high constant bloomer who loves the Florida heat and the sandy soil. He, too, exists almost entirely on coffee grounds and banana peels. And he, unlike Cecile, does not try to get additional nitrogen in the soil by puncturing human flesh with his thorns.

My newest Louie comes from a fellow gardener at Fans and Stoves. She prunes her roses and pops the pruned pieces in random buckets of soil. One Louie Philippe can evidently populate an entire cemetery. Indeed, both Cecile and Louie are known in the South as

cemetery roses because they were frequently planted in both public and private burial grounds. On a diet of dirt and water, they made beauty for the bereaved.

For gardeners who want to branch out and acquire roses not associated with the deceased, several other types that can be grown organically in the Historic District. They are: Madame Alfred Carriere, Lindee, Little Buckaroo, Linda Campbell, Madame Hardy and Mister Lincoln. And not one of them requires poison for their perfection.

Nominations being accepted for annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful awards

If you or someone you know has made an outstanding and ongoing effort in beautification, litter prevention or litter cleanup in Duval County, you have until Mar. 29 to submit an application for the 6th Annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Awards.

Last year's award winners included husband and wife team Sarah Nan and Duncann Pullen, who were recognized with a Leadership Achievement Award

for battling pollution in local creeks, tributaries and rivers and advocating for a cleaner environment through countless hours with local organizations.

Hendricks Elementary School was also an award winner for campus cleanup days, recycling 22,340 pounds of classroom paper, and planting eight trees on campus in partnership with Greenscape of Jacksonville and T & D

Preventative Maintenance of JEA. The school also promotes its sustainability activities in a paperless newspaper.

Applications can be found online at www.coj.net under Departments/Neighborhoods/Environmental Quality, then click on Clean It Up, Green It Up in the left margin. Navigate to the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful page and scroll down for the application.

Time to get your green on!

Greenscape of Jacksonville's 26th annual flowering tree sale is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 23, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a new location this year. Courtesy of East San Marco LLC, the sale will take place at the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue. A wide variety of trees, including Japanese Magnolias, Live Oaks, Hollies, Crape Myrtles, Drake Elms, Bald Cypress, Red Maples, Redbuds and Hibiscus, will be available for \$10 each, as well as native plants, edibles and ornamentals and a full array of flowers.

Greenscape members are invited to a private preview sale on Friday, Feb. 22, 3-5 p.m. Memberships start at \$25 and may be purchased online at www.greenscapeofjacksonville.org.

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Riverkeeper offers new rain barrel program

St. Johns Riverkeeper, a nonprofit advocacy organization for the St. Johns River, is offering the public the opportunity to purchase high-quality rain barrels at a discounted price for a limited period of time. The Rain Barrel Program has been initiated to encourage residents to conserve precious water resources as well as to protect water quality. St. Johns Riverkeeper is partnering with The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and Riverside Avondale Preservation on the project.



Rain barrels capture rainwater from roof-tops by connecting to the home's downspout. This water would typically be sent down storm drains carrying potential contaminants and other debris to the St. Johns River and its tributaries. The cumulative effect of rain barrels implemented throughout a geographic area can have a significant impact on storm water management and water quality. Water collected by the rain barrels can be used for gardens, lawns, and to wash cars and pets.

Deadline to pre-order is February 25, 2013. There will also be a limited number of rain barrels available on pick up day. Normal retail is \$109, but through this special promotion the barrels are just \$65 or two for \$120.

Order now and pick up at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 2. Quantities are limited. Learn more on the St. Johns Riverkeeper website, www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org, and order rain barrels (with childproof, bug proof lids) online at www.rainbarrelprogram.org/rainbarrelsfortheriver.

“This program is an important step toward protecting clean water in our community, because it offers an inexpensive and proven option to help people make a difference in their own backyards,” says Shannon Blankinship, St. Johns Riverkeeper Outreach Director. “We are committed to protecting our water quality and managing the damaging effects of storm water runoff. The use of rain barrels will provide residents the tools they need to conserve water, prevent water pollution, and reduce sedimentation in our lakes, rivers and streams.”

“We are committed to protecting our water quality and managing the damaging effects of storm water runoff. The use of rain barrels will provide residents the tools they need to conserve water, prevent water pollution, and reduce sedimentation in our lakes, rivers and streams.”

March is St. Johns River Month!

The St. Johns Riverkeeper has quite a few exciting events planned for the month of March. Here's a sneak preview to save the dates on your calendar:

Mar. 2 – Rain Barrel Pick Up at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mar. 2 – Family Day Boat Trip: Learn about the ecology of the river through hands-on activities while on a two-hour tour from the Riverside Arts Market into the Ortega River.

Mar. 5 – Free workshop on native plants in landscape design at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

Mar. 16 – River Cleanup Expanded: Residents of Riverside/Avondale are encouraged to participate in a community cleanup around neighborhoods and parks. There will be four cleanup check-in sites to register and pick up bags and gloves: Derby on Park Street - 1068 Park Street in 5 Points; Kickback's Gastropub - 910 King Street; Bold Bean Coffee - 869 Stockton Street; Open Road Bicycles - 3544 Saint Johns Avenue.

Mar. 19 – Free workshop on river-friendly irrigation system practices at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. In addition to these March activities, the St. Johns Riverkeeper is gearing up for its semi-annual eco-heritage two-day river tour in mid-April. For details, see the website www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/2-day-eco-heritage-boat-trips-1/.

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The GREAT outdoors



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

February marks a time when weather patterns can be

unpredictable. Low pressure and cold fronts push through, creating wet conditions for several days, followed by high pressure and high winds.

These conditions, along with dense fog, are common during this time of the year making it difficult to safely make the long 60+ mile run to the gulf stream and back. But occasionally Mother Nature will give you a narrow window of a day or two. When seas calm, it is time to get out and chase wahoo.

In years past, artificial and dead bait (ballyhoo) would be pulled at a slow pace of 6 to 7 knots in search of these pelagic species. But there has been a recent shift away from this method by some anglers.

The method that has become popular is high speed trolling. This is when anglers troll artificial lures at higher speeds between 12 to 18 knots (or even faster). Wahoo are some of the fastest fish in the ocean swimming at speeds of up to 60 mph, so these high speeds do not deter bites when you find the fish.

One reason some anglers prefer higher speeds over slower speeds is it

High Speed Trolling



Capt. Jeffrey Crabtree and Chuck Montford wahoo fishing

allows the angler to cover more ground more quickly in search of sea-surface temperature breaks and schooling fish. Watching your depth and running zigzag patterns over the ledge can be a great way to target these fish.

The tackle for high speed trolling is very important to ensure success.

The 60 to 80 lb. mono main line (120 lb. + braid line can also be used) attaches to a trolling weight of 24, 36 or 48 ounces with a snap swivel. Trolling weights are used because pulling lures at these speeds would cause the lure to skip across the surface. The weights keep the lures running below the surface. The trolling weights have short steel cables on each end to ensure an accidental bite from a wahoo does not break the entire rig off.

The trolling weight connects to a 300 lb. mono shock leader of 25 to 30 feet in length. This ensures the pressure of a striking fish is absorbed by the large leader, and not solely on the lighter 60 to 80 lb. main line, potentially breaking the main line.

The shock leader attaches to a 5 to 6 foot steel cable which hosts your arti-

cial lure designed specifically for high speed trolling.

As for your reels, the pressure due to the high trolling speeds and weight of the rigs will be very demanding on the drag. Offshore 50s are equipped with heavy drag capability and will have plenty of main line capacity which will be needed with the larger fish.

Putting the lines out requires some precision. The longest lines with the lighter trolling weights (24 ounces) need to be put out first and the shortest lines with the heavier weights (48 ounces) will be put out last. No two lines should be put out at the same length. With all lines set at different lengths, and the heavier trolling weights in close, this will help ensure the shorter lines with heavier trolling weights run under the longer lines with lighter weights when the captain is making slight turns. Running the longer lines using outriggers and tag lines will help keep the lines separate as well. Tag lines are important and are designed to bear the brunt of the pressure of high speed trolling so your outriggers do not. You could damage your outriggers without the use of tag lines.

High speed lures come in different sizes. Make sure you set the larger lures in close. The disturbed water from the prop wash directly behind the boat will make smaller lures harder for the fish to see. Run the smaller lures further back where the water is less disturbed.

Once all the lines are out, make sure

the clickers on all the reels are set. With the trolling speeds and the pressure of a 40+ lb. fish strike, line will scream off the reel for a few minutes. The clickers will ensure you hear this without unknowingly losing all of your main line from the initial strike.

When the strike comes, mark your position on your chart plotter. You may have run through an area of good water temperature and there may be more fish to target once you land this one. Also, keep the boat speed and the direction the same for a minute. If you ran through multiple fish, keeping the boat running the same speed will increase your chances of multiple hook-ups.

Once you are ready to fight this fish, slow down but keep the boat in gear making sure you always maintain pressure on the fish. Slowing the boat too much may introduce slack in the line, allowing the fish to turn and throw the hook.

Once the wahoo is boat side and the fish is ready to gaff, make sure all anglers are clear from the deck when the gaffer brings the fish on board. High speed lures are equipped with multiple hooks that can be very dangerous to anglers when swinging around from an angry fish. And with a movable upper jaw, a wahoo's mouths hinges like a pair of scissors and can cut or tear with ease. Wahoo have been known to take a bite out of seat vinyl or flesh, so it is important that the gaffer controls the fish and everyone is out of the way.

Once the fish is under control, let the pictures begin.

Fly Fishing: Principle Number 2

Years ago the Federation of Fly Fishers' dedicated fly casters set forth five principles for a good fly cast. They determined that many casters would have different styles of casting but in order to make a good cast they all will incorporate these five principles. Last month we covered the first principle, which was to

eliminate slack in the fly line....which brings us to Principle 2.

Principle Number 2: Smooth Acceleration. Your casting hand should accelerate smoothly during the back cast or forward cast, increasing in speed as your hand travels through the casting stroke to a crisp STOP. You can imagine, if

you just casually waved your rod back and forth, the fly line would never load or put a bend in the rod and no energy would be built up. The line would just fall to the water. However if you accelerate the rod through the stroke the weight of the fly line causes the rod to load and when you STOP the stroke the rod unbends or unloads and the fly line propels forward in a loop. The energy of the unloading rod is transferred to the fly line and loop which carries your leader and fly along with it. Some of the fly casting gurus call this a Speed Up and Stop. Others call it a Loading Move and Power Snap. Just remember if you use too little acceleration the fly line will not load the rod and you will

Tom Bishop fly fishing in the Andros Islands



not be able to form a decent loop, if any at all. If you accelerate too fast your cast will be all jerky and again, poor loops and possibly a crossing loop because the rod tip dipped. The proper amount of Acceleration will also help you keep the rod tip following in a Straight Line Path which is next month's principle! I'll see you in the park practicing!

Capt. Lawrence Piper is a San Marco resident who fishes out of Amelia Island. He is a FFF Certified Casting Instructor and a member of the First Coast Fly Fishers. The FCF meet the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Southpoint Marriott Hotel. Capt. Piper can be reached at www.TheAnglersMark.com, (904) 557-1027 or lwpiper@comcast.net.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Discover wealth in currencies and collectibles, rare bills *'A-Coin' has helped discover treasures- for over 35 years*

Pull those old coins and dollars out of the dresser drawer because they could be worth some serious money, according to Bill Hatchett of A-Coin & Stamp Gallery. Hatchett is an expert in coins, stamps, currency, antiques and collectibles of all kinds.

"I always had an interest in coins and began my own business buying and selling while I was still in college in 1971," said Bill, whose grandfather was the first to encourage his passion. His first big find came in 1962 when he was 10: A rare Jefferson Nickel that popped up in his Coke change for which he was offered \$25.

"That taught me that I could make money. I started buying and selling coins at a profit and never stopped. Later I'd do odd jobs and neighbors would pay me in old coins. I started to build my collection and only sold duplicates or those I didn't want."

That early passion for coins has vastly expanded to include jewelry, diamonds, watches and firearms, all of which are available at A-Coin & Stamp Gallery at 6217 St. Augustine Road. They boast one of the largest pre-owned Rolex watch collections in the Southeast and also offer expert watch repair, custom jewelry work and appraisal services.

"Our business model is simple: We pay the most and sell for the least. We have been doing business in Jacksonville for over forty years. Our buying power, coupled with the many relationships that we have with collectors all over the world, enables us to give you top dollar for your valuables," Bill proclaims on his website.

Bill's credentials can not be denied: He is a 35-year member of the Antique Appraisal Association of America, a 20-year member of the International Watch



& Jewelry Guild the ANA or American Numismatic Association, and a life member of the several state and national numismatists (study or collection of currency) societies. He is a PCGS (grading

"The money was called National Currency and of the nine banks in Jacksonville that issued notes, no note has ever been discovered from the First National Bank of Jacksonville."

of coins) and NGC or Numismatic Guaranty Corporation authorized dealer and is licensed and bonded in several states. A-Coin is accredited by the Better Business Bureau.

That expertise has brought him to testify as a rare coin expert witness in a number of local, state and federal court cases. The clients that he has represented have never lost a case.

Bill's enthusiasm for rare and valuable collectibles is contagious and his knowledge is encyclopedic. His most recent focus has been on extremely rare currency that was issued from local banks under the National Banking Act. Those monies ceased issuance in 1935 and have become part of Jacksonville's and the nation's monetary history.

"The money was called National Currency and of the nine banks in Jacksonville that issued notes, no note has ever been discovered from the First National Bank of Jacksonville. Meaning, out of the nine banks- eight have had currency notes discovered by collectors on record. Currency was issued in Jacksonville, Fernandina, St. Augustine, Deland, Palatka, Live Oak and other towns. It is generally believed that most notes were probably destroyed in the 1901 Great Fire of Jacksonville."

Bill said that no notes have surfaced in more than 100 years and that one in good condition could be worth up to \$100,000. This First Bank of Jacksonville currency mystery is just the story that fuels Bill's passion and drives him to share that passion with others.

"It's like a treasure hunt and highlights an important part of history. It's my quest to find these rare items and help owners reap the gain from their value."

NEED EXTRA CASH- JACKPOT

If you've been gifted currencies and coins, or if you've been collecting National Currency- it's time to cash in. Reach out to the experts who know what your valuables are worth, as you may be sitting on a pile of cash- for one bank note. Any note that came from the First National Bank of Florida may put up to \$100,000 dollars in your pocket, call today if you know someone with these historic bank notes.

Help Solve the Mystery!



Freedom's Bank Building. Constructed in 1870, this building housed the Freedom's Bank 1870 to 1874, the First National Bank of Florida 1874 to 1876, and the National Bank of Jacksonville 1877 to 1890. The building was destroyed in the fire of 1891.

Source-The Illustrated History of FLORIDA PAPER MONEY
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www.**A-Coin.com**

A-Coin & Stamp Gallery is located at 6217 St. Augustine Road Contact them at 904-730-2455 or info@a-coin.com. Visit the website at www.a-coin.com or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/acoingold.

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Simple sound of a chime is a sign of hope

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Community is an integral part of the healing process at the Florida Proton Therapy Institute and that was never more apparent than the day

Aud's Chime was rung for the first time.

In 2011, 5-year-old Audrey Anderson of Melbourne, Australia, was diagnosed with a rare and inoperable brain tumor. Her parents, Wendel and Sue Anderson, brought her to the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute for treatment, where the little girl's bright and cheeky spirit served as an inspiration to other patients and their families.

The Anderson family was so impressed by the care and medical brilliance of the team at the Proton Therapy Institute they wanted to leave behind a legacy that could help others celebrate their road to recovery. Sue Anderson and her brother David Atkinson, both artists, put their heads together and came up with an idea for something to hang in the lobby atrium. They conferred with artist-in-residence Barbara Holmes-Fryefield and wood sculpturer David Engdahl to solidify the creation and installation of a silver wind chime that would be rung by a bell pull.

On Jan. 22, Aud's Chime was dedicated. Dr. Nancy Price Mendenhall, Medical Director at the Proton Therapy Institute, said "This facility was designed from the beginning to encourage community with and for the patients. Every patient will be able to ring the chime after completing a treatment." After Audrey rang the chime for the first time, several other patients took turns pulling the hand dyed and hand woven rope in celebration of their own treatment progress.

Proton therapy is a relatively recent alternative and advancement in the treatment of various forms of cancer, including bone, brain, eye, head and neck, Hodgkin Lymphoma, lung, pancreatic, pediatric, prostate cancer and sarcoma. It targets tumors with high accuracy and a low risk of side effects, allowing for more favorable outcomes.

The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute is one of only 10 in the United States and treats patients from all over the globe. For more information, visit the website at www.floridaproton.org.



Sue Anderson hugs daughter Audrey as she rings the chime for the first time.

Terry Vereen
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February 13 - Ash Wednesday
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- Dinner 5:45 p.m.
- Service 6:30 p.m.

March 20
Lent Festival

March 24 - Palm Sunday

- Palm Procession with children
- Palm Sunday Luncheon
- Easter Egg Hunt

March 28 - Maundy Thursday
Open to the Community
Service at 6:00 p.m.

March 29 - Good Friday
Open to the Community
Service at 12:00

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Image Credit: Jim Draper, Large Passion, 2012, oil on canvas, 48" x 60 inches. © Jim Draper.

Jax Couture Events & Boutique:

The perfect party is no accident!

The idea for Jax Couture Events & Boutique began as a happy accident that very soon went over the top.

"I was planning my daughter Christianna's fifth birthday party and really went all out," said Hilda Alexander, founder and co-owner along with husband Chris. "It just got bigger and bigger. I never knew how much I would enjoy party planning!"

Her enthusiasm was contagious and before long she found herself in great demand helping with soirees, parties and other special events. Her creative and unique vision led to an online site in 2008 and officially blossomed into a business in October 2010 with a safari backyard bash.

After quickly outgrowing a small Park Street cottage, Jax Couture is now appropriately housed in a former dance studio at 4201 St. Johns Ave., (after all, what's a party without a little dancing!). Complete with a stage, professional quality sound system and ample seating, the space is perfect for special performances and karaoke parties.

"Small parties in a relaxed atmosphere can be held here on-site for up to 25 guests," Hilda said.

Or they will enthusiastically bring the good times to you. That recently meant hosting a fifth birthday party in Ponte Vedra with 200 guests and all the bells and whistles.

Whatever the occasion – from children's birthday parties and sweet 16 celebrations to baby and bridal showers and every other important milestone...or just for fun! – Jax Couture offers a unique, creative and all-inclusive alternative to the typical party.

"From planning the theme, décor, activities, food, desserts, party favors, special activities and entertainment, to the invitations, RSVPs,



For more information, to purchase items or to register for special events visit Jax Couture Events & Boutique online at www.jcenb.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jaxcoutureevents. Contact Hilda at info@jcenb.com. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday and closed Sunday and it is located at 4201 St. Johns Ave

providing hosts and/or hostesses and doing all the clean-up. We even prepare the thank you notes," Hilda exclaimed. "We've come up with everything from flowers to a Ferris wheel; I especially like to book movie characters. Whatever the client wants."

Jax Couture offers several all-inclusive party packages, customizes every aspect for clients and makes special requests a priority. They have a team of talented professionals and a wide variety of creative resources to provide original graphics, printed materials and décor.

They also provide a wide range of special events including Toddler Tuesdays, holiday parties and several ticketed events including Kids Night Out – a three hour ticketed party for ages 3-12 – and Pinterest Pin Parties full of crafts with plenty of instruction.

Then there's the "boutique" side of Jax Couture Events & Boutique. If you're looking for high fashion and party attire in customized colors with embroidered names, then the retail store is the place for you (or visit them online to view and purchase items). If you don't want to buy, then you can also rent hard to find specialty party decorations in a variety of themes.

"Renting customized items can save money while providing high quality event or party decorations," Hilda said.

While it may have begun by "accident," Hilda and Chris never forget that, at the heart of it all, planning that perfect party is normally about making that special someone feel loved.

"Christianna is the reason for Jax Couture Events & Boutique," Hilda said. "She's the only person known that loves parties as much as her mom! I just never thought it could be such a fulfilling and creative career."



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Jr. Residents

Stockton fourth grader wins tennis assembly

Adkins named Teacher of the Year semi-finalist

Central Riverside Elementary School's Stacey Adkins was one of 15 outstanding teachers named as semi-finalists for the 2013 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year. These 15 go on to the next selection round of five finalists and then a winner will be named at the EDDY Awards on Mar. 14 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. "We are excited to showcase our county's best educators," said Trey Csar, President of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. "We have so much to learn from these talented professionals."



Wallace Grissett, a fourth grader at John Stockton Elementary, took home first place in a Duval County Public Schools' district-wide writing contest, answering the question "How does tennis make you a healthy person?" The prize included a tennis assembly at the school on Jan. 29 featuring five of the U.S. Davis Cup Men's Tennis Team. Stockton Elementary also received \$1,400 worth of tennis equipment and 40 tickets to the Davis Cup match between U.S. and Brazil on Feb. 2.

Wallace is one of the top USTA "10 and under" tennis players in North Florida. In his essay, Wallace wrote, "Tennis helps you have a healthy body...It makes your arms, legs, heart and lungs strong when you run around the court hitting the balls...Tennis teaches you about having a positive attitude and to never give up. Even if you lose many points, you can still come back and win."

The assembly may have been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many of the Stockton Elementary students, as this is the first time the



Left to right: Assistant Principal Ms. White, Deb Grissett, David Grissett, PE Director Dr. Gresham, Principal Ms. Charlene McEarl, Wallace Grissett in front.

Davis Cup has appeared in North Florida since the competition was founded in 1900. The U.S. is undefeated in Florida (6-0), and this will be the seventh Davis Cup tie played in the state, and the first since the U.S. defeated Sweden 4-1 in the 2004 quarter finals at the Delray Beach Tennis Center.

Area fifth graders attend Lewis & Clark performance



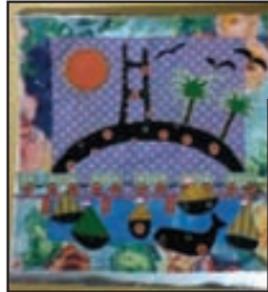
Stockton Elementary School student Andrea Reyes, center

Over 1500 fifth graders, teachers and chaperones from area schools attended one of three historic interpreters' performances of Lewis

and Clark last month, sponsored by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America. Two fifth graders from area schools, Andrea Reyes, Stockton Elementary School, and Alice Creed, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, were among several who received awards from an essay contest titled "How did Lewis and Clark's exploration influence the growth of our country?" The certificates were signed by the speakers in character; William Clark was portrayed by Steven Edenbo and Douglas Thomas was costumed as Meriwether Lewis.

Prize winning quilt blocks on display at national museum

Third grade students at the Ortega Museum Magnet School participated in the National Quilt Museum's School Block Challenge 2013 where they were awarded the Grand Prize for their quilt block entitled "Coming to America" and 2nd place in the K-4 category for their block entitled "Port City." Ortega is the first Museum Magnet in Jacksonville and the 11th in the nation. These quilt blocks were created in art and were part of a museum learning unit on



immigration entitled, "Coming to America" This project is an example of the integrated approach to learning that students and teachers



are a part of at Ortega. The art teacher integrates science and social studies content into art classes. Students produce "museum quality" pieces that are displayed in student exhibitions

at the school and now at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY until Apr. 2.

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Joe Berg Society selects 11 Episcopal students

Eleven Episcopal students were chosen to participate in Jacksonville's Joe Berg Seminars, one of only two such programs in the nation, which is partnered with the University of North Florida's Science and Culture Initiative. Joe Berg offers evening enrichment seminars in the sciences and humanities for outstanding high school sophomores in Jacksonville and has been doing so for more than 50 years. The following students were selected in Science: Austin Rankin, John Fletcher, Erin Coonan (San Marco), Morgan Lucey and Lucy Swett, and in Humanities: Jessica Fondo, Jordan Smith, Reilly Edwards (San Marco), Allyssa Taylor, Christine Riley and Gracie Shepherd.



Back by popular demand: casino night at St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's Catholic School (Blanding Boulevard) will hold a casino night fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Schiavone Parish Hall. Proceeds from the annual event benefit the school for educational and technology enhancements. Call the school office at (904) 387-4401 for tickets.

Cathedral Arts Project students see and hear the arts at The Cummer

Students of the Cathedral Arts Project had an exciting afternoon and early evening last month at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, viewing the Lobby for the Arts traveling exhibit, Jim Draper's Feast of Flowers, and other parts of the museum before settling down to listen to performances by the Ritz Chamber Players and by CAP violin students.



Ruth Upson Elementary School students and Murray Hill residents Gareed Schultz, Alexa Booth and Simmeon Davis ponder a sculpture

When the students were asked why they participate in the CAP program, they said "It's something new to me." "It's fun and exciting." And "If you practice a lot, practice makes perfect." Others had comments about the museum's art exhibits: "Art means something different to different people," said Gareed Schultz. "[This sculpture] can be looking for food or it can be watching over its family."

With the visual and performing arts exhibit, CAP is celebrating the achievements of its students, the importance of arts education, and its 20-year history serving the Jacksonville community.

For more information about Cathedral Arts Project or the Lobby for the Arts program series, visit www.capkids.org/.

A good deed for dogs

Abby Beaver of San Marco made a flyer to raise money for The Humane Society: "I am 9 years old. I am trying to help save dogs lives. I have loved animals ever since I was born. I need help raising some money. It is my dream. You can help by donating any amount of money to help make my dream come true. Thanks!"



wants to protect dogs and save those abused and abandoned. Abby told her parents from the time she was three years old that she wants to be a vet. Her parents have agreed to match her donations with all money going to The Jacksonville Humane Society.

If you are inclined to help, mail your donations to Abby Beaver, 919 Greenridge Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Please

Abby's mother Amy said that her daughter feels like "dogs don't have a voice, so we need to speak for them." She

make checks out to The Jacksonville Humane Society.

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Piranhas Swim Team at Good Shepherd Pool

Front: Kaden Powell and Machi Martin; back: Coach Eric Wendorf, Leann Podeyn, Catie Ferrari, Billy Fetzer, Taylor Scaff, Lauren Martin and Coach Colin Hardy



BY CAREN BURMEISTER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The roar of laughter and splashing water now echoes from the walls enclosing the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd pool.

A few years ago, the pool at 1100 Stockton St. nearly shut down. But it's been an oasis of activity since the Piranhas Swim Team came on board a few months ago.

Built in 1923, Ninah Cummer sponsored the pool's construction for community recreation.

It's where Richard and Orchie Lea Podeyn swam when they were growing up in the 1970s and '80s. They still live in the house where Orchie Lea was raised, just two blocks from the pool.

"We would come on Saturdays and wait to get in," she said, recalling it only cost about 25 cents back then. "That was a lot of fun for me and my girlfriends."

The couple recently watched their 14-year-old daughter, LeAnn, practice with other

members of the Piranhas team.

"We're just glad they're here," Podeyn said. "They support each other. It's a good little group."

The Piranhas, a year-round competitive swim team that participates in USA Swimming governed meets, moved to the pool in October 2012. The team is grateful for its new home.

"The church accepted us with open arms," said Piranhas Head Coach Eric Wendorf.

In the last year or so the pool ministry – jokingly referred to as Church of the Good Swimming Pool – has experienced a resurrection of sorts.

Pool members, volunteers, church staff and a new pool director, Dave Cullen, pushed to revive the pool and its place in the community. They raised the pool's temperature to 82 degrees to make it more comfortable, added lane markers and a handicap chair lift and improved the locker rooms.

Colin Hardy, the Piranhas other head coach, said the pool hasn't had a competitive swim team for decades and there are no other

competitive swim teams in the Riverside area.

Having moved from the Cecil Aquatic Center on Normandy Boulevard, the Piranhas team is rebuilding, too. It once had 20 young swimmers. It now has seven members and room for more. The team practices Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights.

The new Piranhas team competed for its first time at the JaxParks Swim Classic against clubs from Bolles and Episcopal high schools on Jan. 19-20. It's preparing for the Daytona Beach Winter Open in Port Orange, Fl. on Feb. 2-3.

During practice, Hardy and Wendorf evaluate hand and body positions and individual strokes and make suggestions. Swimmers can make great strides from small adjustments.

Catie Ferrari, 15, recently shaved a minute-and-a-half off her time in the 500-yard freestyle.

"I was actually very surprised," said Ferrari, who came in 16th in the JaxParks Swim Classic. "I came to practice and I worked hard."

Team members not only learn sportsmanship, confidence and teamwork but can become certified lifeguards or swim instructors, accomplishments that can help them earn community

service points and, sometimes, paid jobs, Hardy said. The training may also help them get college scholarships.

"They do it to diversify their backgrounds," Hardy said. "They're good kids who want to compete and get better."

Church of the Good Shepherd is fully behind the team, Hardy said, noting that one member donated \$2,000 to fund Piranhas team scholarships.

The Piranhas team is also sponsored by Jumping Fish, a non-profit founded by Jim Alabiso, who swam a 3.5-mile section of the St. Johns River in 2011 to promote the river's beauty.

Alabiso introduced Hardy to Wendorf, the Good Shepherd pool lifeguard who won bronze medals at the 2009 World Master's Games in Sydney, Australia. Hardy and Wendorf had both dreamed of starting a swim team someday. With the pool, church support, and their collective years of certifications and high school team coaching, it became a reality.

"We're a young team and we have a lot of fun," Wendorf said.

How to Get Involved

The Pool: The 80-by-30 foot swimming pool is considered a meter short course. It has a depth of 4 to 11 feet. Swimming lessons, lifeguard training, arthritis therapy and aqua aerobics classes are offered throughout the week. Passes are available on a daily, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual basis. For more information, call (904) 387-4298 or visit www.goodshepherd23.org and click on pool.

The Piranhas Swim Team: There is a \$100 registration fee and a \$60 monthly fee to join the team, which is open to youth ranging from grades K through 12. Sponsorships are available. To sponsor or participate in the Piranhas Swim Team, visit www.piranhaswimming.com, or call Head Coach Eric Wendorf at (904) 350-8076.



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Halos raise money for Angels



John Goodman, Mitchell Donahoo and Bruce Jackson



Mary Elizabeth Cofran, Cynthia Anne Wyatt, Kate Adams, Amelia Dickson, Celia White, Townsend Munding, Sophia Lipari and Annie Aflack

The Halos Chapter at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School in Ortega raised \$1,001 at a school dance for Angels for Allison, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping families who have lost a child. Halos, for children in grades 3 through 6, supports the Angels for Allison Foundation by getting younger kids involved.

Change Agent Leadership Scholarship applications due Mar. 1

High school and college students whose visionary aptitudes and leadership abilities can be used to transform communities into vibrant, healthy places to live, work and play are invited to apply for a one-time scholarship granted by the partners of Northeast Florida Counts.

The 2012-2013 Change Agent Leadership Scholarship (CALs) will be awarded to two high school and two college students and is applicable to students across many education disciplines, not just those focused on health. The first place award in each category will be \$2,000 and the runner-up award will be \$500; deadline to apply is Mar. 1 and applications can be found

online at www.nefloridacounts.org.

"Our goal is to attract students from diverse educational disciplines to reinforce the comprehensive nature of health and wellbeing. The work of every discipline impacts community health; and every policy is a health policy," said Dawn Emerick, Ed.D., President & CEO of the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida. "We hope students will learn it is in the community's best interest to make health and wellness a priority. Our goal is to reward and recognize forward-thinking young people who want to transform Northeast Florida into the healthiest region in the Southeast."

Kids Together Against Cancer workshops at RPDS

Parents, grandparents or family caregivers diagnosed with cancer can learn how to start the conversation with children through Kids Together Against Cancer (KTAC), a free program offered by St. Vincent's HealthCare. The free workshops are held at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, but attendees must register to participate in the KTAC program by calling 904-308-KTAC or emailing info@ktacjax.com.

KTAC helps adults and children ages 5 to 17 navigate the family concerns and anxieties about facing a cancer diagnosis. The program,

a collaboration with the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, includes five sessions, the first of which was held Jan. 29. Dinner is served at the meetings and all workshops are open to any patient no matter where they are receiving treatment in North Florida.

Each session in the workshop includes a specific topic. Art educators and clinical social workers help the children complete an interactive and fun project that promotes discussion of emotions and feelings. Adults meet separately in a group led by a clinical social worker to learn how to effectively communicate with their children. For more information visit www.ktacjax.com.

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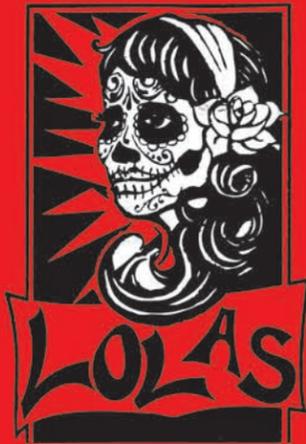
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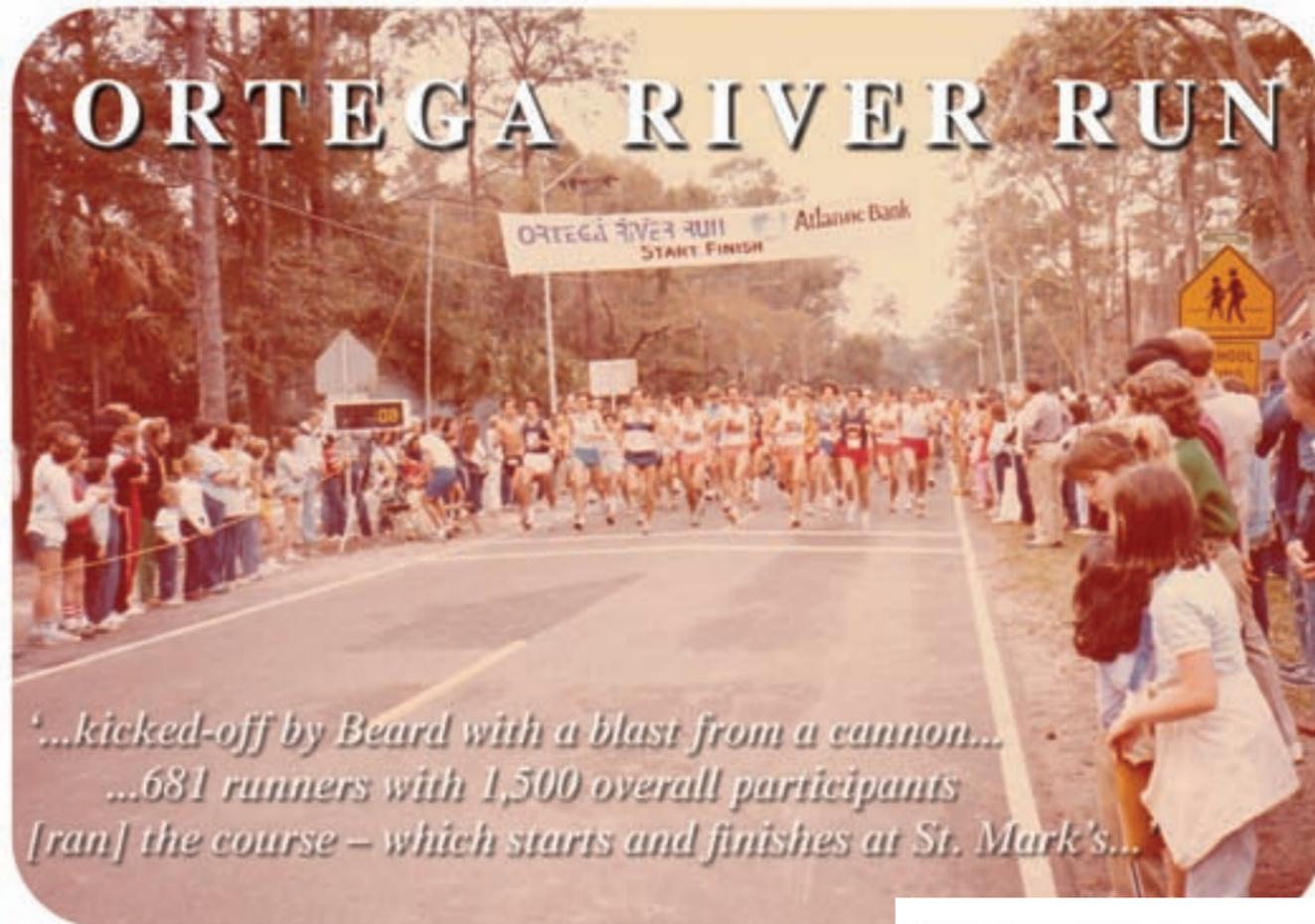
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BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Mike Wachholz's starting line for the 1979 Ortega River Run was a little different than the rest of the field.

"I was in the restroom when the cannon went off to start the race," said Wachholz, an elite local runner competing for the first time in the event. "They said I had some time, but it didn't work out that way."

It was only the second running of what has become one of Jacksonville's longest consecutively held road races, so there may have still been some kinks to iron out (not to mention that road races in general were a relatively new thing back then for runners and organizers alike).

Wachholz burst from the restroom in a panic and rushed through the crowd to try to catch up with the other 600 or so runners over the five-mile course.

"It was like the parting of the seas. People moved out of the way to let me pass and I was running out of my mind trying to get to the front. It was actually very motivational, with people cheering me on," recalled Wachholz, who was 22 at the time and lived near St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, which has held the event since its inception.

The crowd support propelled Wachholz to an impressive second place finish in 25 minutes, 50 seconds, behind winner George Burns' 25:30.

"It was an inauspicious beginning," mused Wachholz, who was among the race's top finishers throughout the 1980s and is currently the track coach for Lee High School. "I still hear about it from older runners."

Many of those "older runners," as well as the race's original organizers from St. Mark's, remain active today within both the school and running communities. Like Wachholz, their fond memories hold a few colorful mishaps and a high regard for the event, which celebrates its 35th anniversary on Feb. 23.

"The Ortega River Run was a great race from the start," said Doug Alred, owner of 1st Place Sports, who ran

the race in its earliest days and has been its longtime coordinator. "It's a beautiful course that's also challenging with its two bridges. It's always had a strong support system of St. Mark's organizers and volunteers."

Top among those organizers are Wirt Beard and Fred Miller, who, along with St. Mark's Church Rector Barnum McCarty, Tom Donahoo, Sr., and Bill Ketchum, Sr., came up with the idea for the run and were pivotal to its early success. Also on board as technical advisors were Jay Birmingham, a pioneering ultra distance runner who currently coaches track at St. Johns County Day School, and John TenBroeck, a founder of the Jacksonville Track Club.

"We began working about eight months before the event. We really didn't know what it could be. We just thought it would be fun and we wanted to not lose money," said Miller, an avid runner who not only served on the organizing committee but also ran in many of the races, including the first.

"We were really just a bunch of parents trying to do good for the school and the community," Beard said. "We got the idea to put on a race, but then what? So, Fred and I met Jay for breakfast and he really helped us get it started the right way. We were certainly shocked and pleased by the success of the first race."

That inaugural race – kicked-off by Beard with a blast from a cannon he borrowed from Jacksonville Yacht Club – occurred Oct. 28, 1978, had a \$4 entry fee (including T-shirt), tallied 681 runners with 1,500 overall participants, and profited \$1,838.91 for scholarships. Mike Yarbrough won with a time of 26:33. The sponsor was Atlantic National Bank (sponsorship later changed to Daily's). Rector McCarty said there was also a beer keg cracked opened in the school's carport to celebrate the successful running, but it is unclear if that tradition has continued.

Adult beverages aside, the event has always featured a one-mile "novice" or "fun" run along with the five-mile race, and the course – which

trademark of the race. That included creative ways to ensure that the Ortega River Bridge did not go up during its running.

"That first race we had someone standing next to the bridge tender with \$20 at the ready to encourage him not to raise it," joked Beard. Birmingham, who coached at Episcopal High School at the time, remembers one of his student's fathers arriving one year with a dump truck that he was prepared to park in the middle of the bridge to prevent a rising.

Regardless of these best-laid plans, the bridge did go up during one of the earlier runs, adding about five minutes to everyone's finishing time.

"Some runners were mad, but most of us just thought it was funny," said Lanier Drew, an elite runner who has rarely missed a race since 1980. "Nobody had crossed before it went up, so it was all good."

Beard noted that the original course went around Ortega Point first, and then crossed the bridge. "After that, we changed it so that we cross the bridge as soon as possible." Now, permits ensure an uninterrupted crossing.

There have been other changes in the race over the years in terms of technology, style, and the scope of the event itself, which has long expanded to include a huge street fair

with food and games. Unchanged has remained the enthusiasm and appreciation for the race. Ortega, which is marked as one of the city's best road races by its inclusion in the Jacksonville Grand Prix series, now typically attracts over 1,500 runners and even more participants, and this year will raise over \$65,000 in scholarship donations.

Routinely found among those participants are the founding organizers and runners, as well as their children, grandchildren and students who have added over the years to Ortega River Run's growing legacy by their own participation in the race.

"We never really envisioned what it has become today. Turns out, we were fuel for the running community," said Miller, who, like Beard, has proudly seen his own children and grandchildren run the race. "We really just wanted to promote the school and create good will in the neighborhood. I think we can say that we accomplished our goal."

The 35th Annual Ortega River Run is Feb. 23 at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, 4114 Oxford Avenue. The one-mile run begins at 8 a.m., five-mile run begins at 8:30 a.m. (Mike Wachholz would like to remind everyone to be sure to arrive in plenty of time to use the restroom before the race). Go to St. Mark's or 1st Place Sports websites for registration and race information: www.stmarks-dayschool.org/support/dailys-ortega-river-run/register/ or www.1stplacesports.com/index.html



starts and finishes at St. Mark's and winds through Ortega, crossing the Ortega River and Roosevelt Boulevard bridges – has remained virtually unchanged (with the exception of 2012, when bridge closures forced a new route. There was also the incident early on in the race's history where a lead car mistakenly took a wrong turn, greatly reducing the course distance for the runners who followed. The only ones who count that as a true course change, however, are those who showed marked improvements in their personal record as a result).

"I used a calibrated bike to map out the course, with Fred and Wirt riding along in a car stopping every mile to place a marker," Birmingham recounted. "I also put everything in place to make sure it was [USA Track & Field] certified. Another important thing was moving it from October to February. That puts it a couple weeks before the Gate River Run, so runners use Ortega as a warm up."

Gate (15K; 9.3 miles) began just seven months before Ortega, in March 1978, making Ortega the fourth oldest race in town behind Gate and the Summer (1964) and Winter (1975) Beach Runs, according to Alred.

"Ortega started as a small race, but once it was moved into the Gate timeframe, after its second or third running, it grew in size. They realized the power of that date one year when they forgot to submit permits and ran it in May instead. The number fell to 500," Alred noted.

Despite that permit oversight, attention to detail has long been a



BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Even in the best of marriages, it's hard to make it really work 100 percent of the time. Throw in a family business and the relationship can sometimes go off like a pressure-cooker when the couple also works together. To find out what they do to make working together work well *The Resident News* reached out to several husband-and-wife-in-business teams. See if you can detect a pattern in their responses!



Eddie & Irene Sweda

Eddie and Irene Sweda (Tres Leches Bakery and Café, 869 Stockton Street, Riverside) feel that they make working together work well by "realizing that nothing good, or great, comes easy, so when adversity strikes we take a deep breath and remember what got us here. Believing and keeping a strong faith in our goals, maintaining a positive attitude without taking ourselves too seriously, and treating each other as we would like to be treated ourselves," said Eddie. "Knowing what we have sacrificed already, being driven by a mutual desire of the Big Picture and constant reminders that we are in the right direction, helps us to stay focused and determined."

Richard & Evalee Grenamyer



Richard and Evalee Grenamyer (Blue Fish Restaurant, 3551 St. Johns Avenue, Avondale) have been married for 18-1/2 years. In business together for 16 years, the couple has managed six restaurants during that time, and makes working together work well by respecting each other.

Tony & Laurie Jarvis



Tony and Laurie Jarvis (The Cool Moose Café and Bistro, 2708 Park Street, Avondale) have been married for three years and working together for three years prior, for a total of six years in the business. According to this cool couple, "We make working together work well by trusting each other's decision-making; trust is everything! By managing the restaurant together, we make our work run smoothly."

Fred & Carol Miller



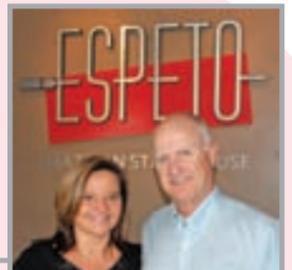
Fred and Carol Miller (The Fred Miller Group Realtors, 2905 Corinthian Avenue, Ortega) have been married 17 years, and also in business together almost 17 years. "We make working together work well by keeping a sense of humor, looking out for each, and enjoying each other's company," said Carol. "It's about having a high degree of trust and mutual respect for each other, and being compatible," added Fred.

Leslie & Dale Crisp



Leslie and Dale Crisp, (Kendale Design, 4501 Beverly Avenue, Ortega). The Crisps are married 30 years, and working together 5-1/2, but as Dale noted, Leslie lived with the business at home for nearly 25 years before joining the company. "Instead of being told about the business in the evenings, now she lives it every day," said Dale. According to Leslie, "We make working together work well because he brings me coffee every morning and a glass of wine in the evening!" Seriously though, says Dale, if you start off by being best friends, then it all comes together.

Rosane & Breno Verlangieri



Rosane and Breno Verlangieri (Espeto Brazilian Steak House, 4000 St. Johns Avenue, Avondale). The Verlangieris have been married for 29 years, and have worked together for seven years. They attribute making working together work well by respecting each other's opinions.

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Charlie & Cathy Fetzer



Charlie and Cathy Fetzer, (Lakeshore Bicycles, 2108 Blanding Blvd, Ortega) are married 30 years, and have been working together 28 years at the cycle shop. Both agree that “We make working together work well by spending time together away from the business; eating lunch together every day away from the shop, and enjoying what we do for a living.”

Sandy & Gary Polletta



Sandy and Gary Polletta (Edgewood Baker, 1012 S. Edgewood Avenue, Murray Hill). Married 23 years and in business together for 21 years at the bakery. Sandy shared, “We make working together work well by establishing areas of responsibility and having the same goals in mind. It also takes lots of love, lots of patience and being able to laugh at ourselves and sometimes at each other!”

Tom & Laura Turnage



Tom and Laura Turnage (The Turnage Companies, 4114 Herschel Street, Avondale) have been married nearly 40 years and in business together for 19. They make working together work well by having patience, according to Lauren and, said Tom, “By having mutual respect for each other and knowing when to bite the tongue.”

Hugh & Kathy Gunter



Hugh and Kathy Gunter (Hugh’s Riverside Automotive, 620 Chelsea, Riverside) have been married 30 years and in business together for 19 years. According to Hugh they make working together work well because “she has her responsibilities and I have mine and we try not to let them overlap.” Kathy added, “You have to keep your jobs totally separate and when we leave here, we leave the work here...most of the time!”

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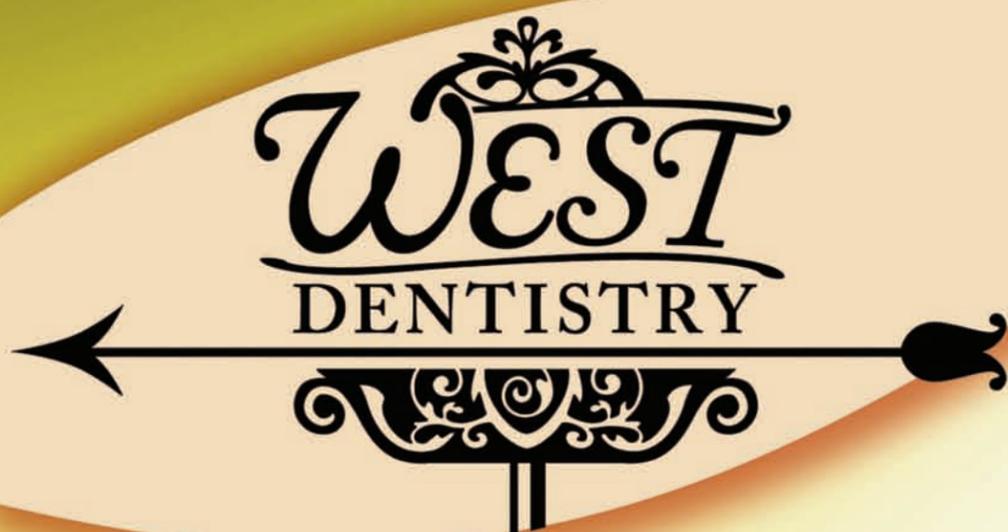
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