



Dale and Kathy Walker, Joni Lawler, Hugh and Mary Owen

The silent auction at the fairgrounds was quite the scene as the crowd "stampeded" to the American Cancer Society's largest annual fundraiser. Patrons donned their best Cowfod attire and boots, hats and rhinestones lit up the night. The youngest members of our community became the focal point, as guests came together to raise funds for children's cancer programs, patient services, prevention education, early detection and cancer research. See more photos.....page 24

Best in JAX BBQ Chefs compete for good cause



Ted Alexander, Cole Pepper, Todd Ogletree, Perry Walthour

Sixty teams competed in the 5th Annual Jacksonville Backyard BBQ Championships to raise funds for the Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship for formerly homeless kids from Daniel, Florida's oldest child service agency. EverBank Field was filled with the tangy scents of sauce on Apr. 27 as celebrity judges State Attorney Angela Corey, Duval County Tax collector Michael Corrigan and Jaguars players Jasin Babin and Will Rackley tasted their way through amateur and professional entries to award Elkins Not So Famous BBQ Team #2 the 2013 Grand Champion.

Changes proposed for 50-year-old retail center, apartments

New vision for high-density residential complex upsets neighbors

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A couple dozen residents attended a public meeting late in the day on Apr. 29 to share their thoughts about a proposed redevelopment of nearly six acres along St. Johns Avenue in Avondale.

At the heart of the issue is a land use amendment that would change the site, where the 99-unit Commander Apartments and the St. Johns Village Center currently stand, from community/general commercial to High Density Residential.

Along with the land use amendment is Companion Zoning Application 353, which addresses the future of the current 99,000 square foot apartment tower and the 43,000 square foot retail center. Both would be demolished to make room for development that would include up to 350 units in a mix of residential as well as office/professional/commercial space and a parking garage.

Attorney Steve Diebenow, representing the developer Michael Balanky, president and CEO of Chase Properties, listened to objections and answered questions for nearly an hour from area residents who expressed concerns with the scope of the project.

Those concerns ranged from the number of units in the proposed multi-family development to increases in traffic and noise to the potential for more dog owners not willing to pick up after their pets while walking them on nearby neighborhood streets. Michael Fisher, a representative for Fishweir

See **CHANGES** on page 8

Stormy weather doesn't dampen show exhibitors' work or spirits



Christine Lyons and Amy Mitchell are still all smiles despite the setback

Though wind gusts were strong enough at times to topple a few exhibits, the second day of the annual Jacksonville Fine Arts Festival was better than the rainy, chilly day before. Exhibitors from out of town were unprepared for the damp and sales were slow on Saturday, but residents came out the next day to enjoy fine arts and crafts, food from Avondale shops, music and activities for children.

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Construction UPDATES



F-DOT contractors sensitive to neighbors of Overland Bridge



Willowbranch at Riverside detour to last until fall

According to Thomas McKnight, City of Jacksonville project manager for the work on Willowbranch at Riverside, the scope of work for this intersection improvement project "shall include, but not be limited to, replacing the existing bridge/box culvert and intersection drainage at Willow Branch & Riverside Avenues, removal of an existing pedestrian bridge, sidewalk and asphalt removal and replacement, asphalt milling, utility construction and coordination, decorative balustrades, pedestrian bridge construction and fill and sod where required."

The expected completion of the project is August-September 2013; residents should expect the detours off Riverside at Willowbranch to be in effect for the duration.

City Council agrees to Mobility Plan compromise

Despite opposition, a compromise is reached

On a side note, the construction-related legislation known as the Mobility Plan was modified by City Council approval early in April. After critics in the construction industry and plan supporters in the community went head-to-head before a joint committee in late March defeating Councilman Richard Clark's proposed three-year waiver, councilman-at-large John Crescimbeni stepped to develop a compromise.

The result of the compromise is a new waiver of the mobility fee. After a three-month ramp-up period when the new waiver would not be in effect, the city will then waive fees on development projects in three stages over 18 months: a 75% waiver for the first six months, a 50% waiver the following six months and a 25% waiver the last six months.

Linda Bremer, a Riverside resident and member of the Sierra Club, was not totally happy with the compromise. "As a taxpayer, a lot of people are upset that developers are not paying the [full] fee. Though this is better, when is this [the waiver] going to end?"

Overall, the Overland Bridge construction project is going smoothly. As of April, it's on schedule, about 17% finished with a summer 2016 completion.

Although the Doll House has been closed for several months its owners have a lease with the state to keep fixtures in there until it must be removed by the end of May. Demolition of the former strip club will occur sometime during the summer; the contractor will be working in that area late summer, early fall. The pile of debris and rock adjacent to the Doll House will be broken up and disposed of during the day.

Residents need to be aware of upcoming detours and closures. Currently, traffic coming across the Main Street Bridge and moving over to Hendricks Avenue has a precarious jump across several lanes; that movement will be shut down permanently, possibly in June or July, subject to change based on unforeseen field conditions or weather.

Traffic over Main Street Bridge will be re-routed to Riverplace Blvd. or Prudential Drive. To get to San Marco, drivers need to take Hendricks or Kings Avenue. Since this will create additional traffic on those roads, the DOT will take a look at timing of the lights.

Prior to this, night time work is planned from mid-May to early June in the same area.

The contractors will remove 300 feet of concrete median walls above the ramps, so there will be closing of onramps for several nights. Drivers will be directed to detour from the Acosta Bridge southbound to I-95 via Prudential Drive, and from the Main Street Bridge via the Museum Circle exit to Museum Circle to the southbound Acosta onramp I-95. When both onramps are shut down at same time, detour from Acosta will be to Prudential Drive to Kings Avenue to Philips Highway to I-95 southbound. All shut downs will be from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. only. The only daytime detours will be for brief closings of Gary Street and Hendricks Avenue re-routing traffic to Kings Avenue and Louisa Streets.

Any pile driving will be done during the daytime to minimize noise at night and Archer Western [the contractor] has issued strict instructions to sub-contractors to stay out of residential neighborhoods. "We are trying to be extremely sensitive to residents of the area," said Michael Goldman, Florida Department of Transportation Public Information Officer. "Archer Western had a really delicate job with I-10 and I-95 and they have a good track record; they kept neighborhood distractions to a minimum. We don't want construction vehicles going into residential areas."

Poor roadside drainage not on city's radar

After every storm, you can be sure of one thing. There will be really big puddles on Riverside Avenue between Barrs and Osceola streets, especially near Stockton Street.

According to Robert Scott, City of Jacksonville project manager, there is currently no drainage project scheduled for the intersection at Stockton and Riverside. "There are no Citizen Active Response Effort (CARE) issues currently open for that location," said Scott. "There have only been two drainage-related CARE issues entered for this location since 1999."

If you have a complaint about drainage or anything else the City is responsible for, call 630-CITY and ask to have a CARE issue entered.

The JEA's sewer and water main project currently underway along Riverside Ave. do not address those particular drainage issues. The JEA's project responsibility extends only to repaving the street curb to curb where work was done. Also, for drivers slowing to navigate the manholes along Riverside Avenue, the JEA said that all manholes will be up to grade when the milling/resurfacing is done.

Closing final chapter on bridge repair

What may seem to be a long, drawn-out saga to Ortega and Avondale residents may soon have a final chapter. According to Florida Department of Transportation Public Information Officer Michael Goldman, the final repairs to the Ortega River Bridge are forthcoming with minimal impact on road and river traffic. Replacement of the brakes will begin the week of Apr. 29 with targeted completion of May 10. All work will occur under the bascule leaves, requiring single leaf openings for boat traffic as the brakes will be inoperable on the side that they are working.

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You asked for it!

Will repaved Riverside Avenue include bike lanes?

From time to time, readers ask us to help get important questions answered. An active cyclist expressed concern about parking and bike lanes. His question and an answer from the JEA and the Florida Department of Transportation are below. Do you have a question we can address in an upcoming issue of *The Resident*? Let us know by sending an email to editor@residentnews.net.

Has anyone heard if the construction on Riverside will have bike lanes after it is repaved? The parking in Avondale, and now Five Points near Mossfire, has become critical with the addition of Mojo's, and Blacksheep. And more to come. – Drew Johnson

The Resident reached out to both the JEA, which is responsible for the water main improvements along St. Johns and Riverside avenues, and to the Florida Department of Transportation about this question.

Gregory Corcoran, JEA Project Outreach Coordinator, said "The current plans call for the striping of Riverside Avenue and St. John's Avenue to be replaced with what is existing (no bike lanes). Any changes would have to be approved and made by the Florida Department of Transportation."

According to Chris Ledow, of the Florida DOT, there will not be a bike lane installed on Riverside Ave., between King St. and Post St., with the upcoming project (209342-5-52-01). But the "sharrows" will be re-installed between Post St. and the I-95 Bridge.

Ledow also noted, "Unfortunately, there is not enough room to provide travel lanes, on-street parking and a bike lane on most of Riverside Ave. We do not recommend using "sharrows" because there are parallel routes available, like Oak Street, that are more conducive to cycling. The section of Riverside between Post St. and I-95 is a special case. It is a bottleneck which connects the Riverwalk multi-use trail with the Riverside area of town. It is a short length, with narrow travel lanes. It is the most reasonable route for bicyclists travelling from Riverside to the Riverwalk."

In Memoriam

GRACE BELL SEGRAVES ROGERS

Former marine shop owner honored with memorial scholarship

It's only fitting that the area's oldest marine association would honor its longest continuous member, even posthumously. Jacksonville Marine Association recently created a scholarship in Grace Bell Segraves Rogers' name to commemorate her nearly 50 years of support of the marina industry in Jacksonville.

Rogers' daughter Cynthia Segraves accepted the honor at the March meeting of the association on behalf



of her mother, who passed away in 2009, two weeks shy of her 96th birthday. Rogers owned and operated Pier 17 Marine since 1963, serving sailors and motor boaters as well as canoers and kayakers from a store filled with every nautical need imaginable.

Mark Zeigler, president of Jacksonville Marine Association, said that the organization is blessed to be such a strong one, thanks in great part to Grace Rogers and the others who started it in 1946.

GORDON KEITH WATSON

Lee High School and Jacksonville University alumnus passes

Local attorney and philanthropist Gordon Keith Watson died Apr. 2 after a lengthy illness from the long-term effects of diabetes. He battled diabetes from his childhood and had kidney and pancreas transplants in 1998.

Born May 26, 1949 in Jacksonville, Watson was the owner of Keith Watson Title Insurance Services and founding director of Oceanside Bank. He started with Crider & Helwig, P.A. and eventually became Senior Partner at Watson & Osborne, P.A., and served as General Counsel, Watson Realty Corp. and Stockton Realty Group.

Watson posted a 35-13 career record with the JU tennis team and



is the only JU men's tennis player ever to participate in the NCAA Championship, losing to Jimmy Connors, who became the world's No. 1 player. Watson was honored as an Outstanding College Athlete of America following the 1971 season and is a member of the JU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Watson was a JU Trustee since 2006. The tennis complex at JU, which was donated by Watson, bears his name.

Watson is survived by his wife, Carol Watson; two sons, Gordon Keith Watson Jr. and Parker Alexander Watson; brother, Bill Watson Jr.; and his sister, Claire Taylor.

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JCCI asks for help with action strategies

Release event scheduled for May 18

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One of the most critical sessions of the JAX2025 vision workshops was, by far, the most under-attended. Although, according to JCCI president Ben Warner, and moderator of the event, its RSVPs were the highest of all the events, that warm, sunny Saturday may have created other priorities.

At least six tables of eight were set up for each of the 10 vision categories, anticipating a small crowd of close to 500. But less than 300 turned out on Apr. 27 to first identify the organizations, institutions, agencies and coalitions that need to be involved in implementing the JAX 2025 vision, and then to create the action strategies that these groups should consider.

The participants continue to be a diverse mix of community and business leaders, educators and politicians, young adults (and a few children) as well as those who are under- or unemployed or retired, and those who are new to Jacksonville versus people for whom the Great Fire of 1901 is part of family history.

The issues discussed at a table for "A Vibrant Economy" were similar to those at other categories' tables: the city already has a plethora of organizations working on their own visions

instead of coming together focused on a single purpose.

"Jacksonville [groups] are unintentionally blocking each other and not working on a common, collaborative vision," said relative newcomer Paul Astleford, president and CEO of Visit Jacksonville. "There seems to be a silo-driven, project-driven mentality."

Former JCCI president Skip Cramer chuckled. "That's Jacksonvillians!" But he went on to ask, "Isn't JAX2025 to be that organization to bring them together?"

Kandace Knutson, who says that she is underemployed alternating with stages of unemployment, suggested that the gate has long been opened and perhaps it is too late to try to "bring them back off the range." Cramer responded, "We shouldn't try to herd the cattle back to the corral, but instead point them to an end destination, a shared vision."

Sharing a single, all-encompassing vision is easier said than done when there are 10 sub-visions under development, but the goal is to unite them under the vision of a positive future for Jacksonville by 2025.

One of the keys to a positive future

is a stronger economy in the city and its neighborhoods. Janice Donaldson, regional director of UNF's Small Business Development Center, said that "traditional economic development is to find a big company and get them to relocate to Jacksonville, to

Downtown. That doesn't speak to small businesses."

While small businesses in Florida account for nearly 99% of all employers and employ over 40% of the private-sector workforce, they typically do not provide health benefits or full-time work schedules.* To move the needle on the under/unemployment rate,

Jacksonville needs to attract large companies to the area.

According to Astleford, this starts with visitors to the city, but "the power of the visitor isn't just filling a hotel room," he said. "You're exposing the city to bring people to live in the community." Cramer, currently the interim Regional Volunteer Management Director of the North Florida Region of the American Red Cross, shared that sentiment. "We have to be ambassadors for our own community and get past our [Jacksonville's] inferiority complex."

The recent five-day One Spark event held Downtown certainly exposed the city, but the majority of visitors were likely area residents, as less than 25 percent of the projects came from creators outside of Northeast Florida.

Donaldson said she spoke to some of the creators to see if they were aware of the SBA or UNF's Small Business Development Center.

"Younger people think of entrepreneurship so differently; they did not take advantage of the SBA or SBDC. How do we modernize ourselves?" she asked.

"We're the ones who have to facilitate the transformations and invite young people into leadership," said Astleford of Visit Jacksonville.

UNF recently did just that, hiring Jared Bailey, a former graduate student, for a full-time position in the SBDC. "The plan is for Jared to play an active role in the young entrepreneur community, representing the SBDC," said Donaldson. "He will be consulting with prospective and new business owners in the Center, in addition to teaching workshops on new media topics."

Just one more event remains in the JAX2025 schedule. On May 18, participants are invited to come together for the "release and launch" of the action plans. That event will be held at the West Touchdown Club at EverBank Field, beginning at 9 a.m.

* Statistics available from www.sba.gov.

"We shouldn't try to herd the cattle back to the corral, but instead point them to an end destination, a shared vision."

Skip Cramer

Former JCCI president

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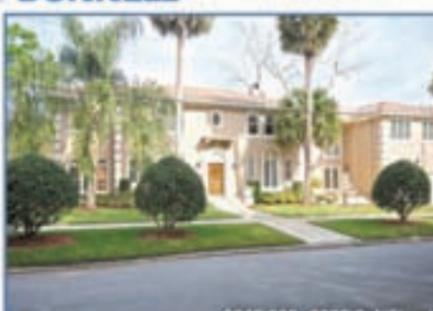
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One Spark puts a spotlight on Downtown Jacksonville

BY REBECCA FARMER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Founded on the belief that ideas can come from anywhere, One Spark executive director and co-founder Elton Rivas gathered ideas from different art festivals around the world, but took it a step further with One Spark.

By incorporating a crowd funding aspect, One Spark attracted artists, innovators and creators interested in establishing their creations, and receive on-the-spot contributions from the public.

Over the course of five days, creators were hoping to see visitors pack their venues to see what they had to offer; but bad weather thwarted some visitors plans and lower than expected prizes had some creators wondering why they even participated.

MOCA, one of the sites located in the heart of the festival, showcased Al Letson, creator of "The Wall", a public media delivery system. It won first place in the Technology category. Letson said he had a very positive experience working in the venue, but overall was hoping to get more money from the crowd fund.

"Seeing all the people downtown and connecting in ways they normally don't is a total win for the city," Letson said, "but in the end, with the cost of the man hours I really only earned enough money to cover the

cost of putting the project together at One Spark."

Out-of-town visitor Todd Herring, a marketing director from a similar festival called ArtPrize, observed that, unlike One Spark, ArtPrize is strictly for artists. In addition, the winner is decided by public vote but receives no crowd funding.

Herring spoke to a crowded Hemming Plaza during the closing ceremonies and was excited by what he saw over the course of the five days.

"In Grand Rapids [Michigan], we have a population of just about 200,000 people and we bring in over 500,000 during ArtPrize," Herring said. "If One Spark continues, imagine the potential of One Spark with over a million people living in Jacksonville."

Peter Rummell was one of the kickstarters for One Spark. He helped fund the world's first crowd funding festival by providing close to \$750,000 of One Spark's \$1 million budget. Rummell, along with corporate sponsors, have agreed to continue supporting the festival over the next three years. He was anxious to

see the numbers to determine the success of the event.

"The best way to see something is by the number of people that attend an event, and this gives us the basis

Al Letson's The Wall. Overall, 53,299 votes were counted, making each vote worth about \$4.69.

The Kona School received the most amount of money donated directly to the school.

On top of winning second in their category and receiving \$3,137.96 in crowd fund, they also earned \$2,320 in contributions from attendees.

Shad Kahn and the Stache Investment Corp. are planning to invest in businesses that want to establish in Northeast Florida. Before One Spark, they pledged \$1 million to invest in dif-



Al Letson and "The Wall" technology winners

to go forward," Rummell said.

With over 900 creators and 446 projects, One Spark organizers know that about 100 of those projects came from creators outside of Northeast Florida. As far as crowds go, One Spark organizers were very pleased.

"With an estimated 130,000 over five days, I think we exceeded our expectations," said Abel Harding, One Sparks spokesperson.

A total of \$250,000 guaranteed crowd fund was awarded to creators based on the percentage of votes they received. The top three winners in the categories of Art, Music, Science and Technology received the biggest portions of the crowd fund. The following projects were voted number one in their respective categories: Rethreaded submitted by Kristen Keen; Fathom Sphere, a creative collective; Tiger Trails by the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, and



"Sgt. Quackers" the giant yellow duckie in the pool at Hemming Plaza by Jenny Hager's UNF Enliven Spaces class

ferent creations participating in One Spark. Creators pitched their business plans to the company to find out if they are eligible for the money.

At the closing ceremony The Stache fund announced it has extended its selection process over the next six months. They have narrowed down their pool to 30 companies and plan to interview them to determine whether they fit the Stache fund qualifications. They will then narrow the search to six or seven businesses and will help them develop and grow in the Jacksonville community.

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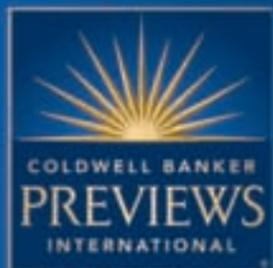
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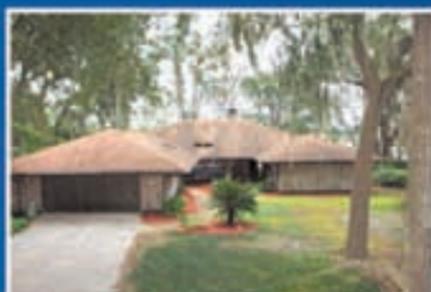
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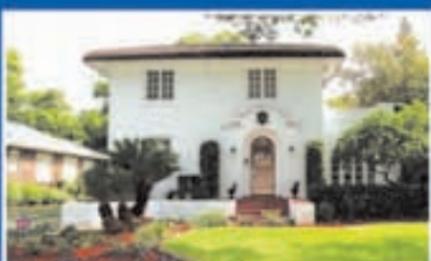


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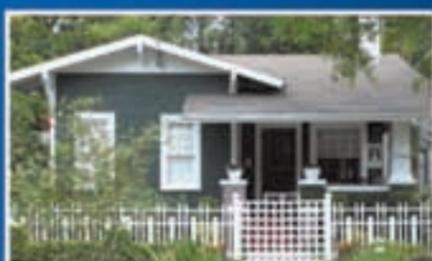
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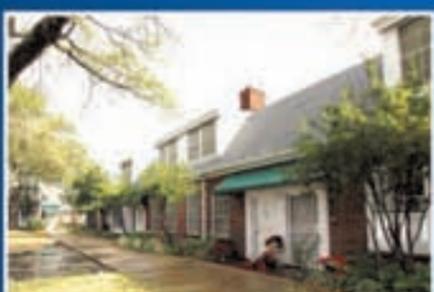
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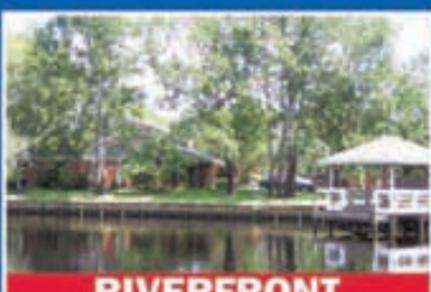


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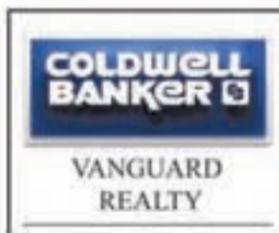
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will dictate the type of windows you can install. Work with an architect and builder who understands the process to avoid frustration. What you do to your new old house is important to your neighbors who care about the value of their street as much as you do. Always do the right thing when remodeling so that when it's time for you to sell, you will get top dollar. No one wants a bad remodel. Keep in mind historic beauty and modern conveniences as you envision your plans.

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Elementary School, also noted that an influx of families with school age children could not be accommodated in the already at-capacity school.

While Avondale homeowners might logically appear to be the most invested in what could be another development battle for Diebenow, who recently wrapped up a neighborhood fracas on behalf of Mellow Mushroom, residents from Ortega and Riverside also spoke up at the workshop. The opposing side in the Mellow Mushroom development included the Riverside/Avondale Preservation Society and I Love Avondale LLC.

Linda Bremer, a Riverside resident and member of the Sierra Club, asked about the plans for Big Fishweir Creek, noting that the 2005 PUD included a marina. That PUD also had a provision for an \$800,000 escrow deposit for dredging the creek.

Diebenow responded that plans for the property include a riverwalk along the southern boundary and a kayak/canoe launch and that the Army Corps of Engineers will determine the actual cost of dredging following a \$100,000 study.

Ortega resident Erik Olsen noted that within 1,100 feet of the Commander is an active bald eagle nest with a mated pair that has had successful broods. "This could make it

with amendments in March 2006. According to Diebenow, there are differences between the 2005 PUD and the new one, primarily the increase from 166 units to 350 and a quadru-

around by residential units on the river side of the property.

Gayle Granger, who owns a 100-year-old home on the corner of St. Johns Ave. and Dupont Circle, said "If this property is rezoned as HDR, it would be an overuse of the property and cause a lot of congestion and increase the noise factor. That is not right for this neighborhood. A massive development will have a profound effect on the neighborhood."

While no one seemed to be in favor of the proposal, several residents did offer a preliminary olive branch.

Thirty-three-year Avondale resident Douglas Coleman noted that this is the third rezoning attempt he's

been through. "We want this done so that it doesn't negatively impact the neighborhood. But...there's a bunch of us who will fight you all the way if a five-story, 367-car garage is part of the plan."

Kyle Billy, who lives on Glendale Street, said "I'm not against a good development, but all we've heard so far is about a 350-unit development. In one location, that seems like too much for this space."



This preliminary, unofficial architectural site plan for 3946- 4000 St. Johns Avenue is under revision based on residents' concerns

difficult to bring down a building or put another one up," said Olsen.

Although the property at 4000 St. Johns Avenue is outside of the Riverside/Avondale historic district, it is under the 2008 Riverside/Avondale Zoning Overlay. This means that the developer is obligated to follow the requirements in the overlay or address any changes in a new Planned Unit Development (PUD) request.

The current PUD was filed in 2005

pling of project scope from 142,317 square feet to 595,000. In addition, another objection to the 2005 PUD was the proposed height of the condominium that would replace the Commander Apartments. The new PUD would propose more multi-family buildings of shorter height, spreading out the density over the site.

Another concern to area residents was the plan for a five-story parking garage, which would be wrapped

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Now and Then



The land around the house at 3932 Dupont Circle was considered "country" back in 1913. Today, the residents live in the shadow of the 17-story Commander Apartments and hope new development isn't a change for the worse.

► "I was thinking it could be a good thing as it [the new plan] would be under the 2008 [Riverside/Avondale Zoning] Overlay, which limits building to five stories," said Julie Banks, who has lived under the shadow of the Commander since 1984. She would endorse it if "it was done beautifully and tastefully without the obscene height [proposed in the 2005 PUD]."

The 2013 PUD would have to be approved by City Council and the Planning Commission. The approval timeline for the new bill includes introduction of the bill to City Council on May 28 with the first City Council public hearing on June 11 and a Planning Commission hearing on June 13, a Council Committee public hearing on June 18 and, finally, a second

City Council public hearing on June 25 (all dates subject to change).

District 14 Councilman Jim Love has proactively set up a second meeting between the developer and area residents to keep the momentum going in the direction of positive change. "It's the right thing to do right now," said Love.

A townhall meeting with developer Balanky and attorney Diebenow is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 7 p.m. at FSCJ Kent Campus Auditorium to provide a new plan and receive residents' feedback. Be sure to check for updates at www.residentnews.net, and send comments or concerns that you would like to share with the community about this development to editor@residentnews.net.

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Daily's helps expand St. Vincent's mobile health fleet

A blessing and dedication ceremony for the newest unit in St. Vincent's mobile clinic fleet was held April 3 at the Daily's convenience store, 4225 Roosevelt Blvd.

The Daily's Mobile Health Clinic is a brand new "doctor's office on wheels" with bi-lingual physicians and nurses that will travel throughout the region to serve uninsured children and their families who are medically underserved. This Clinic, like the others in the program, will offer services ranging from providing school children immunizations and school or sports physicals to health screenings, diagnostic testing and disease management for adults.

Last year, St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry provided more than 31,000 free adult and pediatric services to nearly 15,000 patients. Among those, 26 percent were from



Father Leonard Chuwa, Pastoral Care, St. Vincent's HealthCare; Aubrey Edge, President & CEO, First Coast Energy/Daily's; Jay Demetree, Chairman, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation; Sr. Joan Drega, DC, Foundation Liaison, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation; Moody Chisholm, President & CEO, St. Vincent's HealthCare; Dr. Jonathan Schneider, Medical Director for the Pediatric Mobile Health Unit, cut the ribbon for the new Mobile Health Outreach unit.

rural areas, 18 percent were inner-city working poor and 56 percent were children living in low-income neighborhoods.

For the last five years, Daily's THE TRADITION golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass has raised funds to purchase this new St. Vincent's Mobile Health Clinic and support some of the program costs.

Dog playground ribbon cutting at city animal shelter

Through a generous anonymous \$10,000 donation to Friends of Jacksonville Animals, homeless dogs will now enjoy a new outdoor play area at the City of Jacksonville's Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) shelter on Forest Ave. The outdoor play area will be used by ACPS staff and volunteers to exercise and enrich the lives of dogs as they await adoption or foster care. The new, fenced area includes three separate outdoor spaces located on the west side of the ACPS facility.

Deborah Travis, of Watson Realty's Ortega office, is a volunteer with Friends of Jacksonville Animals. "It's a wonderful experience to have received this donation for the doggies to have more room to roam and roll – how beautiful!" she said. "It's all



Becky Hamilton, vice president, Friends of Jacksonville Animals; Mayor Alvin Brown; Scott Trebatoski, ACPS Division Chief; and Tim Blombach, Project Manager, Auld & White Constructors, LLC, cut the ribbon for the new dog play area.

about the dogs and cats – their quality of life and finding them a forever home!"

New e-classroom opens at Webb Wesconnett library

The Jacksonville Public Library celebrated the opening of a new e-classroom at the Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, Apr. 13. Created from a niche space, the e-classroom at the library will be used for computer classes in English and Spanish, e-reader instruction, and sessions on navigating online government services.

The Webb Wesconnett Regional Library reports the highest computer

usage of all the branches – second only to the Main Library. The e-classroom at the Webb Wesconnett Regional Library was funded through a State Aid to Libraries grant.

The self-contained e-classroom, constructed out of a Steelcase post and beam system with surrounding privacy walls, will accommodate up to 10 students and an instructor. The lab is outfitted with 10 computers, a printer, new desks, chairs and a state-of-the-art interactive whiteboard and

projector system for instructional use.

A variety of core classes will be offered year round such as introductory courses in how to use a computer, Windows, Internet, keyboarding, e-mail, MS Word, MS Excel, and PowerPoint; intermediate classes in MS Word and MS Excel; e-instruction, e-government, downloading library e-books and "Petting Zoos" to learn about the Kindle, iPad, Nook, and other tech devices.



At ribbon cutting, left to right: Board of Library Trustees Chair Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins; Board Member Jackie Perry; Board Member Ronnie King; Branch Manager Sharon Kirkes (holding scissors); Library Director Barbara Gubbin; Region Manager Marshelle Berry; Friends of the Murray Hill Library Vice President for Social Media John Louis Meeks

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Neighbors of Stockton Elementary alerted to vandalism at the school

In a letter to community members and parents of Stockton Elementary students, Principal Charlene McEarl addressed recent acts of vandalism at the school.

"I am writing to advise you of the extra steps we are taking to address the incidents of vandalism that have recently occurred on and near our campus. As many of you know, we share a joint use agreement with the city of Jacksonville, permitting use of our campus to community members during after school and weekend hours. It is a great source of pride to share our beautiful facility with citi-

zens, however, we expect and hold them accountable to treating it with a high-level of care and respect.

"Of late, we have discovered graffiti and damage to our premises that security officials report have occurred during weekend and after-hour use."

According to McEarl, a comprehensive search of the property – both on and near the campus – was conducted and it was determined that there are no threats to the safety of the students or the building.

"While we are pleased with the responsiveness of our security officials, we request your support in alert-

ing us to any activity that you may see during non-school hours. In the meantime, we will maintain an increased security presence to ensure that persons understand the commitment we hold to maintaining a safe and secure campus for all attending or visiting John Stockton Elementary School." If you have questions, please contact McEarl at (904) 381-3955.

In support of McEarl's communication, Lee Norville, president of the Ortega Forest Association, said, "Ortega Forest is one of the greatest subdivisions in America, and John Stockton Elementary is one of the

jewels in our crown. The recent vandalism is a shame but it happens everywhere. However, the vandalism in Ortega Forest has dropped significantly since we installed security cameras at each entrance," Norville said. "We hope that residents will come forward with vehicle descriptions and times of the incidents so that we might review the surveillance video and catch the vandals."

The Ortega Forest Association also has a website, and sends email alerts regarding suspicious persons, lost pets, acts of vandalism, etc. "We are a vigilant group and the distribution of Principal McEarl's letter to our residents will make everyone keep a watchful eye and hopefully put an end to these unfortunate acts," Norville concluded.

Hallmark Partners deeds plot to Unity Plaza

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

On Tuesday, Apr. 30, Mayor Alvin Brown and new executive director Jen Jones accepted the deed to Jacksonville Unity Plaza, Inc., the future urban public square that will operate under a unique public-private partnership between Hallmark Partners and the City of Jacksonville. The partnership is part of a redevelopment agreement that obligates the private developers of 220 Riverside to donate the Unity Plaza property, establish the 501(c)(3) non-profit and fund the basic operations of the non-profit entity that will manage

the property as a community 'central park.'

The proposed Unity Plaza will be adjacent to the housing and retail space currently under development at 220 Riverside in the city's Brooklyn area north of Riverside. Hallmark Partners are also committing a portion of the rents from retail space to fund the cost of operating the facility, including full-time staff and programming.

"This project is an iconic Central Park for Jacksonville. It's too easy to just look at this as a real estate deal; that so dramatically understates what we're doing," explained Alex Coley, principal and co-founder of Hallmark

Partners. "We believe we are bringing a heartbeat, a new central focal point, to the city. We are bringing our living room to life in the community."

Approximately the size of a football field and able to accommodate more than 1,000 people, Unity Plaza will support more than 260 days of programming and special events throughout the year.

Jones noted, "This will become known as the place to go in Jacksonville. It sits in such a phenomenal location to create a nucleus for the historic districts and Downtown. It's the perfect logistical space for the heartbeat."

Jones is owner of and lead designer at Jen Jones Art Consulting in Avondale and is a member of the Board of Directors for Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"We are so excited to have someone of Jen's caliber breathing the life we've had in our hearts for such a long time into this project," said Coley. "We've studied this for a long time and seen how other people do it and could not have found a more ideal fit than Jen."

"I have been a major a community volunteer and advocate for my entire career, including bringing major monumental art opportunities to Jacksonville," Jones said. "Unity Plaza is an incredible opportunity to bring every piece of what I love into one space and give back to the city."



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What is Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers is a partnership between the Community, the Media, and the Law Enforcement, whose mandate is to "Work Together to Solve and Prevent Crime."

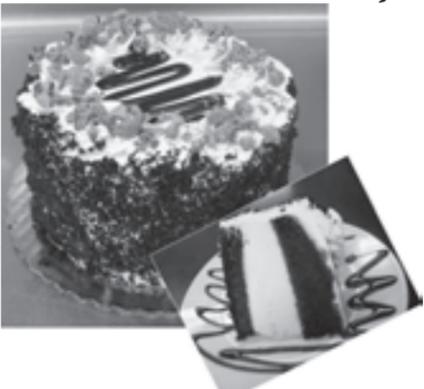
The program is a community based, non-profit registered corporation, managed by a civilian volunteer board of directors. It is a crime information collection operation, which enables anyone with information about a crime, and who wishes to remain anonymous, to pass that information on to law enforcement through a neutral organization.

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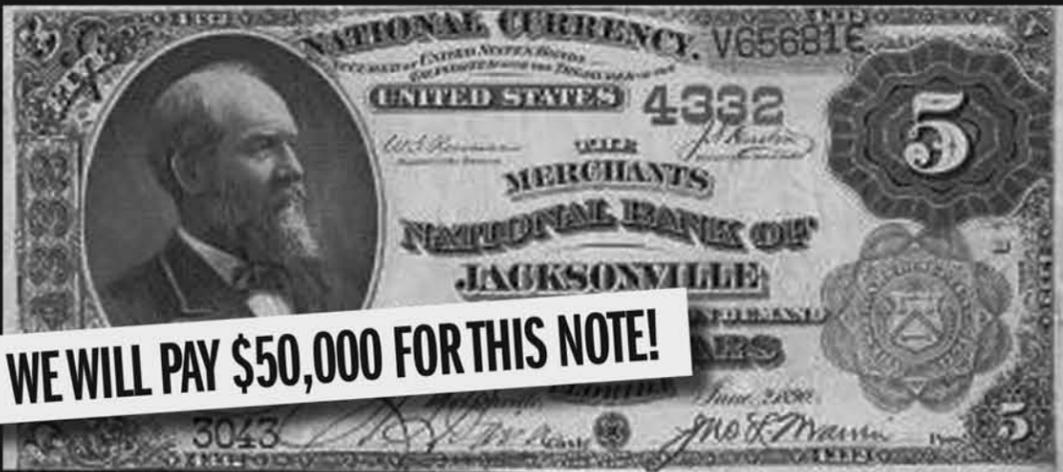
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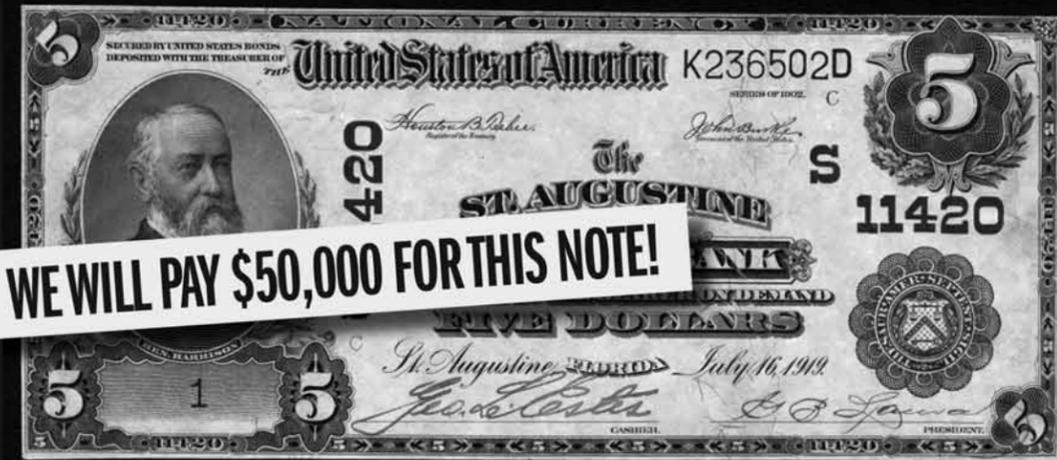
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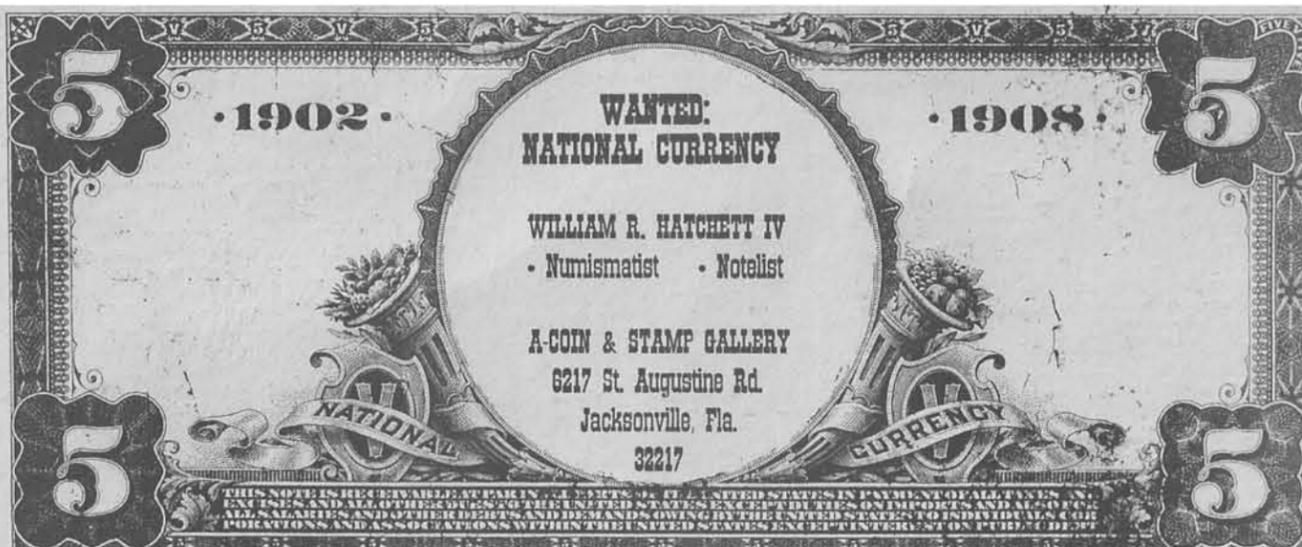
Freedmen's Bank Building. Constructed in 1876, this building housed the Freedmen's Bank 1870 to 1871, the First National Bank of Florida 1874 to 1876, and the National Bank of Jacksonville 1877 to 1890. The building was destroyed in the fire of 1891.

Source-The Illustrated History of FLORIDA PAPER MONEY
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Avondale sculptor donates military busts to families

Leonard doesn't want KIAs to be forgotten

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

By his own admission, Cliff Leonard is not an artist. However, one only has to view his works in woodcarving and clay sculpting to call the 66-year-old's bluff.

"I don't see myself as being an artist," Leonard mildly protested. "Sometimes I feel like I'm on the outside looking in [on the arts community]."

Not a Jacksonville native, the 40-year Avondale resident started his career here as a school psychologist and then became a real estate investor, buying properties to fix up and flip. About 15 years ago, Leonard read a newspaper article about a local carousel horse carver and decided to try his hand at woodcarving. He started with a series of non-functional decorative rolling pins from different types of wood, then moved on to a rocking horse. Several carved animals later, and after coming to the conclusion that working with wood required more precision than for which he had patience, the erstwhile psychologist took some classes at FSCJ in drawing and in sculpting in clay.

What led to his interest in creating clay busts? Leonard, a Vietnam veteran, belongs to the Semper Fidelis Society of Jacksonville. Six years ago another member suggested that Leonard create a bust of a young Marine killed in action to be installed at the cemetery. Although the cemetery installation didn't pan out, Leonard gave the bronze-painted clay bust to the Marine corpsman's grandparents who donated it to Terry Parker High School.

"I saw how much the family and

fellow Marines appreciated that," recalled Leonard. "So I decided to create busts of Jacksonville Marine and Navy corpsmen that had been killed in action and offer them to the families."

Of the dozen or so corpsmen he had in mind, Leonard has been able to make and gift eight busts. Some of the families he contacted never returned his calls. "The most difficult part is making that initial contact," he said. "Then, it's the delivery of the finished piece. It's very emotional."

Emotional, but cathartic. The humble sculptor says working on each bust is a cleansing process for him. "I look at those killed in action and don't want them to be gone and forgotten," explained Leonard, who served in the 3rd Battalion Recon from 1966 to 1968. Some of the busts are for Vietnam KIAs, including four Medal of Honor recipients, and others are for servicemen in more recent wars and conflicts. His current piece is for a young Marine killed two years ago in Afghanistan.

When Leonard contacts families of deceased troops out of the blue, he's usually met with skepticism. Even after he is able to convince them of the sincerity of the offer, some families still decline the gift. "Some just don't want the physical reminder of their loss," the former Marine noted. "I usually have an easier time dealing with the mothers than the fathers, but one woman never picked up her son's bust so now it's in the ROTC Building

at the University of North Florida."

It initially took Leonard over two months to do one bust, working from the official military photo, but now he can complete one in a month. If he can get one close-up profile photo of the subject taken around the same time as the boot camp photo, it makes it easier to nail the likeness. "Photos only show a nano-second in time of someone's life," observed Leonard. "Sometimes multiple photos are too dissimilar to use effectively."



Leonard works from the official military photo for each bust.

Leonard doesn't share photos of his progress because he's fearful of too much input. "I don't do commissions for that same reason," he said. "Plus I don't work well under pressure when there's a deadline."

He works at his own pace in a studio behind the garage of his Avondale home on Windsor Place. First he builds a base – a body from a mold – then adds the head, tweaking eyes, ears, nose and mouth until he's satisfied with the resulting likeness. "Adding the cover [the Marine hat] makes an unbelievable difference," Leonard pointed out.

The difference, though, is believable for the families of those honored by Leonard's gift.

Trenton, FL resident Karen Latham lost her son Richard "Ricky" Lord just a couple of days before his 25th birthday. Lord was a weapons specialist with the Marines, and serving his second tour in Iraq. "Cliff went above and beyond; you can't even begin to imagine what it means. He didn't expect anything in return. He just did it out of the kindness of his heart," related

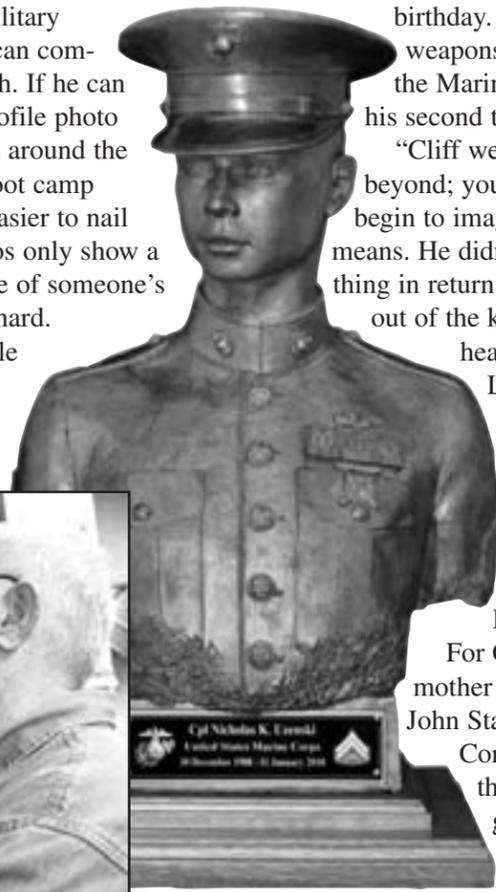
Latham. "But it didn't end there; he's a friend for life." Latham and Leonard stay in touch on Facebook.

For Crystal Merillat, mother of Corporal John Stalvey, a Marine Corps scout sniper, the unexpected gift provides

guests in her Brunswick, GA home an easy way to allow her to talk about her son.

"It was quite an honor for someone to tell us they wanted to do this bust of our son. It took him a while to find us because John enlisted in Texas, where his uncle lives," Merillat shared. "It was really ironic because John took up sculpting in high school; he enjoyed it and was going to continue doing it."

John, formerly of Orange Park, was just 22 years old when he died on a mission in Iraq in October 2005. "It was incredible how Cliff was able to capture the likeness of John from his photo; he was able to capture the things I knew about John. I'm so grateful for what Cliff did for our family," said Merillat.





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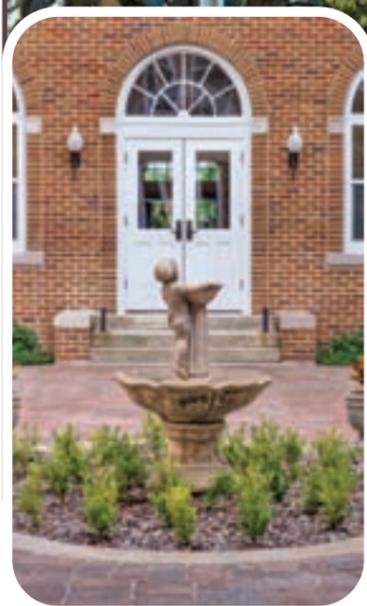
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The former principal's office now serves as a reading room for residents.

The original restored courtyard provides the perfect escape.

The John Gorrie a condominium, Jacksonville's premier condo community, offers homebuyers more than beautifully appointed homes in meticulously restored historic school

buildings. The condominium and surrounding community provides residents with all the benefits of urban living.

"The John Gorrie isn't your typical cookie cutter condo," said Lee Elmore, sales representative for Prudential Network Realty and The John Gorrie. "Residents appreciate its architecture and history, which makes it stand apart from any other place you will find in Jacksonville."

The historical elements of

the renovated schools coupled with modern conveniences provide residents with the best of both worlds. Residents enjoy a unique place to call home since all the condos feature different architectural characteristics. One residence features the original flooring from the former auditorium stage while another has the original crest from the auditorium, and other units include private balconies. Modern luxuries including stainless steel GE appliances,

CaesarStone countertops, gourmet kitchens and pedestal sinks in bathrooms complete each home.

An important component of true urban living is engaging in the environment around you. The Riverside Avondale neighborhood is home to some of Jacksonville's most popular locally-owned shops and restaurants and The John Gorrie positions residents only a short walk away along riverfronts and canopied sidewalks

to their favorite coffee shop or café.

"Living at The John Gorrie provides the perfect escape and is also convenient to the locally owned hot spots," said resident Tom Schaefer. "It gives me the opportunity to be a part of a thriving community."

Couples, families and individuals alike enjoy urban living at its finest. Make an appointment today so you can find out why they 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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Traditions Realty Expanding to Meet Market Demand

Company celebrates anniversary and growth

The real estate market is recovering from a multi-year slump and Traditions Realty, a Riverside-based full-service company, is eager to help sellers, purchasers and renters take full advantage.

Strong demand for homes coupled with tight inventory and record-low mortgage rates are driving up prices and activity, according to a report from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. Pending home sales were up 41.2 percent and inventory levels shrank roughly 32 percent in March compared to the same month last year, the report states.

“It’s a sellers’ market right now,” said Sally Suslak, the Managing Broker of Traditions Realty. “The market is way above last year. We’re back to getting multiple offers on properties.”

An independent company with seasoned realtors, Traditions Realty is staffed with avid listeners and negotiators who have their fingers on the pulse of the community, who look out for your best interest and guide you through the complex process.

It’s that kind of service that helped Traditions Realty grow from a handful of agents when it opened in 2009 to a present staff of more than two dozen agents, said Sacha Higham, a Realtor® and partner in the business.

“We’re just busting at the seams,” Higham said. “In 2009, everyone thought we were crazy to open a new real estate office. Four years later we’re moving into three times the space.”

To make room, Traditions Realty is relocating to a charming two-story brick house at 1046 Riverside Ave., just a block south of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. By May 15, the company plans to be out of its original office at 2021 Park St. and working from its new site.

Built in 1935, the new office, with its wooden floors and tall ceilings, is well suited for the mission.

“When you say ‘Traditions’ it’s really a great match,” said managing broker Sally Suslak.

The name Traditions also refers to history and experience, which is why investors with income

properties seek out Traditions Realty’s property management services. The Realtors® broad range of personal experience owning, renting and managing condos, houses, townhouses, apartments and commercial spaces makes Traditions Realty particularly appealing to investors.

With the new market activity, sales now comprise a greater share of Traditions Realty’s business. Presently, the company has homes ranging from \$1.3 million to \$25,000 under contract, Suslak said.

The Realtors® at Traditions Realty also find it gratifying to meet people and build relationships. That is why customers who sought their help a few years ago to find the right apartment have been referring friends and are now coming back to buy a house.

“We bring a lot of joy into people’s lives, both when they come to us to help them find an apartment or when they are looking to buy their dream home,” Suslak said.



Traditions Realty is moving to 1046 Riverside Ave., just one block south of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The new office is scheduled to be open by May 15. The phone number is (904) 683-5230. For additional details on the company, please visit www.traditionsjax.com.



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Astleford brings expertise and knowledge to Visit Jacksonville

Paul Astleford, of Epping Forest, was hired as Visit Jacksonville's president and chief executive officer. Astleford came from Columbus, Ohio, where he served as president and CEO of Experience Columbus since 2000.



"I see Jacksonville as a city with huge potential as a destination for corporate, group and leisure travel," said Astleford, who has more than 42-years of hospitality industry experience, including destination-marketing experience as president and CEO for the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau. He worked as Vice President of Sales and

Marketing for Disney Resorts and Hyatt Hotels Corporation, as well.

Janice Lowe, chair for Visit Jacksonville's board of directors, said the decision to hire Astleford was based on his strong experience and knowledge of the industry.

"The tourism industry brings in over 3.2 million visitors annually to Jacksonville which have an economic impact of over \$1.6 billion dollars," said Lowe. "Visit Jacksonville's sales efforts bring in over 400 conventions, meetings and sports groups annually into Duval County and help to support the 43,000 hospitality industry employees in Northeast Florida."

Boecklen new Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Museum Educator



The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens added San Marco resident Karl Boecklen to the education staff as a Museum educator. Boecklen will continue the integration of the Gardens and its riverfront campus into the arts education programs. As the new educator, Boecklen is responsible for integrating science into all of the Museum's programming to bring a new light into how the galleries are viewed.

"Karl brings a great enthusiasm and joy to introducing children and adults to the natural world through art, language arts, math and science," said Lynn Norris, Director of Education

at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Boecklen has worked as a classroom educator, a scientist and most recently for the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens as supervisor for educational programs. Known throughout the local public school systems as "Mr. Karl", Boecklen brings a great enthusiasm and joy to introducing children and adults to the natural world.

Boecklen claims that his favorite thing about working at The Cummer is the welcoming and understanding environment it harbors. "Anytime I can get an 'Oh yea! I understand,' from an individual, that is a great accomplishment," Boecklen said. "We will be sure to reach many individuals' understanding with our new innovative ideas here at The Cummer."

Aveda salon under new ownership

Daniel James Salon, 3574 St. Johns Avenue, opened for business with a big heart on Mar. 16. After first participating in the annual River Cleanup & Celebration by taking trash bags to the streets in Avondale, Daniel James and his stylists committed to donate the proceeds of that grand opening day to the St. Johns Riverkeeper. "We like this location because of the community," said James. "The merchants look out for one another. We already feel we're part of the community." To schedule an appointment, call (904) 389-6221 or just drop in. "We love the window shoppers and leisurely pace!"



The staff at Daniel James Salon is ready to serve you

St. Marks adds Spanish service to worship schedule

To reach the Hispanic community of Jacksonville's Westside, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4129 Oxford Avenue, will begin holding Spanish worship services, starting Sunday, May 5 at 6 p.m. The Rev. Miguel Rosada, rector of San Lucas Episcopal Church, will conduct the services in the McRae-Winston Chapel. You can be part of this exciting new ministry, too. Contact Jan Arnold at (904) 388-2681, ext. 202 or jarnold@stmarksjacksonville.org to learn more. For more information en Español, contact Haydee Smith at (904) 381-6946 or smithhaydee@bellsouth.net.

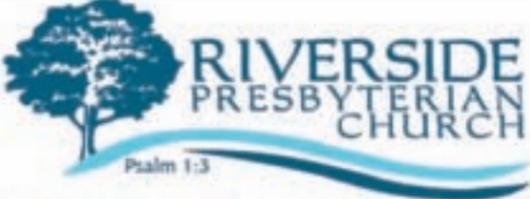


New advice book for teachers hits funny bone

San Jose resident Susan Eubanks Stepp was a Jacksonville teacher for 20 years. During that time she encountered funny, frustrating and absurd situations that have resulted in a laugh-out-loud book, *Honest Advice for Teachers*. The book has a "no-holds-barred" approach to disrespectful students, obnoxious parents and meddling administrators based on examples of real teaching adventures.



Stepp was born and raised in Jacksonville, and graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in Education. She has written over 100 one-act comedies. The teacher-turned-author will be hosting a June 5 book signing at Chamblin Bookmine downtown, during Artwalk. To learn more about her upcoming appearances visit her website at www.SusanStepp.com. *Honest Advice for Teachers* was released in February 2013 by Martin Sisters Publishing.



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Summer in the City
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For additional information about the benefits and risks of the study please contact us:

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Heekin Orthopedic adds joint replacement specialist to staff

Just in time for National Arthritis Awareness month, Heekin Orthopedic Specialists adds its tenth provider to the practice. Dr. Maximilian (Max) Lincoln, Joint Replacement Specialist, is a board-certified, orthopedic surgeon specializing in adult reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Lincoln's completion of two fellowships in adult reconstructive surgery has given him extensive experience in the treatment of pre-arthritis hips, as well as primary and revision hip and knee replacement. He brings a wealth of knowledge and talent to the Total Joint Replacement team of Dr. R. David Heekin and Dr. Gavan Duffy.

"We are so pleased to be able to expand our continuum of care with yet another talent-

ed surgeon," commented Dr. R. David Heekin, founder of the practice. "It is one more successful step in an endless pursuit to continually provide the best service and options for care to our patients."



Beginning May 1, Dr. Lincoln will see patients in clinic at the Heekin Orthopedic Specialists Riverside location, performing all of his surgical procedures at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside. "It is an honor to join the Heekin team and become part of a group of providers with a solid history of patient care in the Jacksonville area," he shared.

With four office locations throughout Jacksonville, and a fifth location opening in the fall of 2013, Heekin Orthopedic Specialists continues to ensure its patients benefit from the very best in orthopedic facilities and expert care.

Local watercolor artist achieves rare feat on national level

Leigh Murphy, Riverside/Avondale resident was notified of her acceptance into the prestigious Oil Painters of America 2013 National Juried Exhibition to be held in Fredericksburg, TX, May 18-Jun. 17. One of the most prestigious oil painting exhibitions in the U.S., an artist's work must be juried in to the organization even before applying to their exhibitions. "Competition is fierce; shows like this are open to entrants worldwide and it can be a career maker for an artist's work to be chosen for the national exhi-



bition," said Murphy. "And the prize money doesn't hurt either."

What makes this even more unusual is that Murphy is primarily known for being a watercolorist. She was awarded her signature membership in the Florida Watercolor Society and later her signature membership in the American Watercolor Society. In order to achieve this, an artist must have been accepted into at least three juried exhibitions.

"In the American Watercolor Society, that is no mean feat," explained Murphy. "There are only about 500 artists worldwide who can sign 'AWS' after their signature on a painting. Of those, only a small handful has successfully made the transition from participating in national level watercolor exhibitions to exhibiting artwork on a national level with a different media, such as oil painting."

Graffiti catcher Duckworth honored for his work

Police Officer Michael Duckworth received two awards in March, both for work done in the investigation and eventual arrest of five graffiti vandals late last year. First, Officer Duckworth received the Officer of the Year Award for Zone 4 in a presentation at Brumos Motors, which is the sponsor for the award.

Chief Ron Lindvey and Sgt. Dennis Pellot nominated Officer Duckworth for the Zone 4 Officer of the Year Award for his long investiga-

tion and arrest of the graffiti vandals that called themselves the Bastard Sons of Vandalism.

Brumos' award includes three nights at the Omni on Amelia Island and Vouchers for over \$600 worth of services plus the use of a Lexus for the weekend.



Officer Mike Duckworth of Zone 4, a Walking Beat Officer assigned to Riverside/Avondale. His wife, Lisa, is a Supervisor in Dispatch for JSO photo courtesy of Paul Bremer

Then, in late March, Duckworth was awarded the Police Officer of the Month for the JSO's Patrol & Enforcement Division / Zone 4, which was sponsored by Nimnicht Chevrolet. He received gift certificates for Stein Mart. His wife, Lisa, who also works for JSO as a dispatch supervisor, is urging him to keep winning awards. "Spa day at the Omni!" she said.

Duckworth is planning on retiring in 2014. "He is going to be hard to replace in this community," said Paul Bremer, Riverside resident.

New name, new look for The Community Foundation unveiled

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, formerly The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, has unveiled a new name and new look.

The new name reflects the Foundation's expanding reach, as it now provides philanthropic services for donors and organizations from Lake City to Palatka and St. Augustine to Amelia Island.

"Donors from across the region have connected with us in recent years," said Nina Waters, president of the Foundation. "They recognize the many ways that we can add value and help them achieve their philanthropic goals."

The new logo incorporates the organization's three-sided emblem – which reflects the Foundation's three core missions: donor services, philanthropic leadership and civic leadership – but with a more rounded shape and more contemporary colors.



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And it introduces a new tag line: Giving Back. Giving Forward. "We say that philanthropists 'give back' to their communities. They also 'give forward' to the future of the community," Waters said. "They are paying it forward to ensure that the charities and organizations that they care about are funded now and in the future."

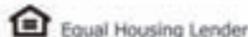
The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is the oldest community foundation in Florida, it has assets of \$257 million and has awarded \$242.5 million in grants since 1965.



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BUSINESS PROFILE

Dynamic Realtor Team Knows Their Community

Moving into the fifth year of their partnership, the Powell Steilberg team has great news to share.

The market is back. "There's an electricity and energy in our office that we haven't seen in a long time. The copy machine is humming, the phones are ringing and our parking lot is full. With a huge pent up demand, historically low interest rates and shrinking inventory, we're moving quickly back into a seller's market," said Allison Steilberg.

One of the primary reasons for this is that with interest rates as low as they are, you can often afford to buy a home for less than it costs to rent.

We've seen a 100% increase in the number of riverfront sales in the last year. There were 22 sales in the last 12 months vs. only 11 the year before.

The \$300,000 - \$500,000 category is hot and homes priced from \$100,000 - \$300,000 are in high demand! In the last 30 days alone, there have been 8 sales and 15 pending sales between \$300-\$500K with 9 sales and 17 pending sales between \$100K - \$300K.

The Powell Steilberg team makes it their business to stay on top of local market statistics - it's critical for helping sellers price their

properties appropriately and helping buyers make an offer that's likely to be accepted. The

team often refers buyers to William Milne, an Everbank loan officer who works out of the Avondale office, for pre-qualification letters and home financing needs. Buyers can often get a pre-qual letter after a 10 minute phone call, so don't hesitate to get this done.

Another key component of their business model is to have a strong online presence through both their website AllAboutAvondale.com and their blogsite JaxRealEstateFacts.com.

"We were recently hired by three out of town

buyers who found us online and were impressed with our local area market knowledge," Steilberg

says. "If you need heart surgery, you go to a specialist and that's what we offer in the real estate marketplace," adds Powell.

One of their sellers, Ortega residents Annette and Bill Boling, recently hired the Powell Steilberg team. They went into high gear, studying recent neighborhood sales, utilized expert stager, Scott Hill of Red Bench Designs, to help prepare the house for showings and established a fair asking price. The result was a quick sale - only 13 days after coming on the market. "The whole thing went so well, they knew what they were doing," Boling said.



Recent Market Data

- 22 Riverfront Homes have sold in the last 12 months
- Properties priced between \$250,000 and \$450,000 are in HIGH demand and SHORT supply
- Interest Rates for a 30 year fixed mortgage remain below 4%
- It's often less expensive to BUY than it is to RENT
- Properties less than \$250,000 often sell within the first 14 days on the market

The Powell Steilberg Realtor Team is Showcasing Four Properties:



A newer home at 4155 Venetia Blvd. with high ceilings, a shimmering pool and a gorgeous view across the river of downtown Jacksonville. It's within walking/biking distance to both Timuquana Country Club and The Florida Yacht Club.



A two-story, red brick Georgian home at 3554 Richmond St. that offers an old fashioned neighborhood lifestyle and walking distance to the shops and restaurants of Historic Avondale. Also has a stunning downtown skyline view from the dock!



A stunning 3 bedroom condo at Riverside's most popular condominium building, Villa Riva. Priced very attractively with a deep balcony, gas appliances, fireplace and more!



A brand new listing on Woodmere Street in Fairfax manor. This two story home is in an ideal location between Avondale and Ortega and has gorgeous, recently refinished hardwood floors.

Allison Steilberg and Caroline Powell are a team of independent Realtors at Prudential Network Realty at 3627 St. Johns Ave. in Avondale. Call Allison Steilberg at (904) 252-5181. Call Caroline Powell at (904) 463-1898. For additional information, visit their website at www.AllAboutAvondale.com, where you can search for properties and what's recently sold.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS



Front: Jill Langford Dame, Cindy M. Sanborn, Shannon Miller; back: Rita Perry, Isabelle Owen Spence, Estelle W. McKissick photo courtesy of Aaron Mervin

GSA honors six Women of Distinction

Six women were honored on Apr. 11 at the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council 24th Annual Women of Distinction luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Award recipients included Jill Langford Dame, Executive Director of Leadership Jacksonville; Estelle W. McKissick, educator, speaker and community religious leader; Shannon Miller, two-time U.S. Olympic Hall

of Famer, lawyer and motivational speaker; Rita Perry, publisher of the Jacksonville Free Press; Isabelle Owen Spence, former Executive Director of Leadership Jacksonville, member of Women's Giving Alliance, trustee of JAXChamber; and Cindy M. Sanborn, vice president and chief transportation officer of CSX Transportation.

Presenting sponsor for the event was Publix Super Markets Charities. Nearly \$100,000 was raised to provide the Girl Scout program for local girls.



Meg Sacks, Karen Smith, Meredith Guess of the Junior League of Jacksonville



Cheryl Townsend, Selena Webster, Heather Castillo, Dae Lynn Helm, Keri Corey, Mary Nash, Jill Dame, Maggie Oroza, Ginger Peacock Preston, Leticia Burns, Lenora Wilson of the Jacksonville Children's Commission



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Prudential Network Realty announces 2012 winners



The President's Circle recognizes Prudential Real Estates top three percent of residential sales professionals who exemplified great sales measures in closed \$185,000 residential GCI, or closed 50 residential units for the year. The 2012 winners include Beverly Brooke and Allison

Steilberg of the Avondale office. Winners in the 2012 Leading Edge Society are those who exemplified great sales measures in closed \$120,000 to \$185,000 residential GCI, or closed at least 35 residential units for the year. The Avondale/Ortega Office winners are Caroline Powell, Liz Bobeck, Josh Nugent, Jane Slater, Elizabeth O'Steen and Susan Donnell.

"We are very proud of these dedicated agents and their commitment to their clients and Prudential Network Realty," said Linda Sherrer, president and CEO of Prudential Network Realty.

Donna Klein Gordon joins Prudential



Prudential Network Realty welcomed Donna Klein Gordon last month to the award winning Avondale/Ortega office sales team.

An Avondale resident since birth, Donna has been in real estate for 10 years. Formerly in property management

with North Florida Builders, she enjoys helping her clients discover their perfect home.

"Donna's management and real estate experience match perfectly with the vision of Prudential Network Realty," said Sheron Willson, broker/manager of the Avondale/Ortega office. "We look forward to her expertise and community connections that will create a win for her clients and our team."

Avondale Gift Boutique celebrates 30th anniversary with special events

Celebrating its 30th anniversary as a landmark in the historic Shoppes of Avondale, the newly painted Avondale Gift Boutique will offer trunk shows and signing events to loyal customers and to those just discovering the shop's unique yet affordable giftware and jewelry. Bette Mackoul and her husband Edward worked hand-in-hand to make the boutique a place where local residents can find special home décor and accessories.

Bette said the women who serve in the shop make a special effort to remember customers' requests and suggestions when they visit Atlanta for new items. She also wanted to "personally thank all of my special friends and family who have been supportive through the years. You are all a part of our celebration and success. In life, one of the greatest gifts is friendship - we thank you for yours."



Seated, Cindy Manouilidis and Bette Mackoul, standing left to right, Samantha Wyatt, Lori Byers, Donna Pedder and Carolyn Duncan

Avondale's Onstead appointed to Wolfson Children's Hospital Board of Directors

Wolfson Children's Hospital announced that community volunteer Pamela K. Onstead, RN, BA, joined the Wolfson Children's Hospital Board of Directors.

"We are so pleased that Pam Onstead has joined our Board of Directors at Wolfson Children's Hospital," said Deborah Pass Durham, Chair of the Board. "With her clinical background as a nurse and in administration, and her demonstrated commitment to the communities in which she has lived and worked, she will bring a wealth of governance experience to our Board."

Onstead, an Avondale resident, currently serves on the board of the Jacksonville



Chamber of Commerce Foundation and is a member of the Jacksonville Women's Giving Alliance.

A registered nurse specializing in perioperative nursing for more than 18 years, Onstead has also worked in the fields of education and consulting. She has held positions in nursing management and administration, including serving as director of Surgical Services at a 388-bed hospital with a Level 2 Trauma Center. She is also a Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) completing the RNFA program at UCLA. Onstead has taught at the secondary and post-secondary levels in the areas of Foods and Nutrition, Health, Family Studies and Child Development.

Bookstore blessed to be a blessing

Leslie Fraleigh is more than book smart; she's also clever when it comes to marketing books. When Fraleigh took over as manager five years ago, the St. Marks Bookstore was struggling to make ends meet. "It was not an inviting place to come," she noted.



Leslie Fraleigh, bookstore manager, with Kathy Mabry, volunteer

The St. Marks Bookstore has been around for at least 30 years, beginning as a small room, moving from building to building at the church and is now in a brick house adjacent to the church at 4149 Oxford Avenue in the Village of Ortega.

"I was hired part-time and given the impossible task of turning it around to be a profitable or at least self-supporting business and I didn't have long to do it," Fraleigh said. "Even though it is the bookstore for the Diocese of Florida the vestry of the church wanted it closed because it was losing money."

The bookstore manager's goal was to make the store very inviting. She began by cleaning it up, getting rid of out-of-date books, painting it to brighten it up. She had no budgeted funds so Fraleigh partnered with St. Marks School and

started carrying school merchandise. She also began offering a room for Bible studies. "We had wonderful volunteers who donated their time to help clean, fix, spruce up and do whatever else was needed."

Now the bookstore has jewelry, clothing, home décor, ornaments and gifts as well as new books, showcases local artists, and supports two community organizations, the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation and the Angels for Allison Foundation. "I think it is so important to give back. God has blessed this little bookstore in so many ways," Fraleigh shared. "I am amazed daily at the generosity of people to give of their time to volunteer, even to work in the yard to landscape."

Sam Bryie from CLS Landscape volunteered a whole day to design and install the landscape. The cute red chairs outside were donated by the JBL Corporation, the red and white awning out front was bought totally with donations from individuals.

Call (904) 389-4422 for store hours or visit St. Mark's Episcopal Bookstore on Facebook.

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A TIP OF THE HAT TO OLD COWFORD, BALL RALLIES SUPPORT

Donations were really moo-ving on Apr. 27 at Viva Las Cowford, the American Cancer Society's 18th annual Cowford Ball at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Patrons rang the slots, boot scoot and boogied at the vintage Vegas-style event April 27. Party proceeds fund patient services, prevention education, early detection and cancer research. Hardworking chairs were Susan and Jay Williams, Francy and Matt Robertson, and honorary chairs Hilah and Ron Autrey.



Laura and Michael Magevney

THE MAGIC NUMBER FOR HABIJAX IS 25!

"Home Sweet Home" said it all for Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville's 25th anniversary gala at the Jacksonville Public Library Courtyard on Apr. 18. More than 160 generous donors and volunteers turned out to celebrate with homeowners 25 years of turning the dream of homeownership into a reality for more 1,850 families. HabiJax raised more than \$25,000, which will all go back into building houses for more Jacksonville families.



Genie Cook, Vonnie and Steve Vance with Ham Cooke



David Hicks, Delores Barr Weaver, Ann Hicks and Wayne Weaver



HabiJax Executive Director Mary Kay O'Rourke with Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan T.M. Reckford



Corelous Bryant, Cultural Council Executive Director Robert Arleigh White, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Executive Director Hope McMATH with Ritz Chamber Players Artistic Director Terrance Patterson

ART AWARDS RECOGNIZE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

The 37th Annual Arts & Culture Awards honored three special local innovators, as the Arts Educator Award was presented to Claudia Keundig-Williams, The Innovator Award went to Doug Engdahl and the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects took home the Business Arts Award. The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville rolled out the announcements April 12 at the Main Library downtown, to learn more or read further about the awards visit www.culturalcouncil.org.

BLACK, WHITE AND LOTS OF GREEN COLOR GALA



Jennifer Garizio, Catholic Charities executive director with Rev. Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president and Laura Hickey, Catholic Charities Diocesan director
Photo by Tim Yokum

More than 500 loyal supporters filled the ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront on Apr. 13 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Catholic Charities Black & White fundraising gala. Over \$230,000 was generously raised, providing the gift of hope for the thousands served by Catholic Charities. The Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA was the special guest speaker at the event that included music by The Mystery Band, dinner, dancing, Heads or Tails and more.



Leigh Ann and Franklin Danley of Regions Bank



Jon Donahoo and Betsy Lovett



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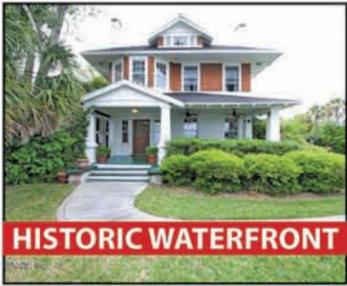
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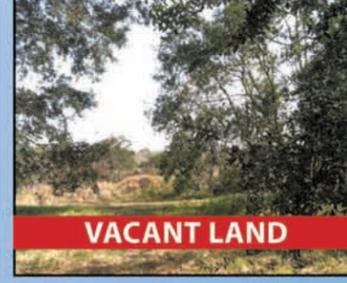
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Ortega resident to be honored for work with children



The annual Episcopal Children's Services Children's Champion Award Luncheon will honor Ortega resident and noted philanthropist Betsy Lovett on May 22 at the UNF University Center.

The Children's Champion Award Luncheon began eight years ago and since has honored Mayor John Peyton, Delores Barr Weaver, Ed Burr, Pamela Y. Paul, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, John Baker, and Joannie and Russell Newton. The honorees are outstanding

child advocates and have dedicated time, talent, philanthropic dollars, and passion to make Jacksonville a better place for the area's youngest citizens.

In addition to honoring a child advocate, the event raises money for programs provided by ECS. Episcopal Children's Services is one of North Florida's largest not for profit child-focused organizations serving children from birth to age 5 in Northeast Florida. Last year ECS provided services to over 27,000 children in Duval, Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Union, St. Johns, and Putnam counties.

"Betsy has made extraordinary contributions to children in our community," said ECS CEO Connie Stophel.

While her philanthropy extends beyond

Florida, her extensive community support in Jacksonville includes The Betsy Lovett Courtyard at the Main Library, the Betsy Lovett Performing Arts Center at The Bolles School Bartram Campus, and the Betsy Lovett Surgery Center at St. Vincent's Medical Center. She has supported numerous child-focused organizations that help at-risk youth. Her greatest joy is personally interacting with children...providing hands-on contributions.

"Through her generous support, Betsy has enhanced the lives of thousands of local children. We couldn't be more thrilled to honor Betsy at this year's luncheon," said Stophel.

Luncheon tickets and table sponsorships are available by calling ECS at (904) 726-1500. Website is www.ecs4kids.org.

Charitable "girls' night in" honors sister



Kerri Napoleon, Kristin Swiercek, Jane Owen, Kelly Camp, Dabney Ware, Cheryl Virta, Beth Rasch, Joanna Schnieder, and Jenny Stanella

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Birds of a feather may flock together, but the united hearts of a unique group of women who gather to raise money for local nonprofits make spirits soar.

Avondale resident Cheryl Virta created Hearts of a Feather, a group that trades a girls' night out for an evening at a member's home, donating to charity the money they would have otherwise spent.

Virta established this group as a way to honor her sister who passed away five years ago.

"Her name was Heather and throughout her life Feather was one of her nicknames," Virta explained. "She had a huge heart. So to me, this is a perfect way to honor her life and become part of her legacy."

Hearts of a Feather meets every other month to support an organization that focuses on women, children or families. Since its September inception they have raised \$4,670 for four separate non-profits.

"Typically the hostess picks the

charity and someone from that organization comes and speaks to us about what they do," said Virta.

Last month they raised \$1,000 for Community PedsCare, a program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, a pediatric palliative and hospice program for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

"What an awesome bunch of women with a phenomenal passion," said Terry Eason, Director of Community PedsCare. "Our services are minimally funded, so donations like this really help us serve the community. The other very important thing is they raised awareness in case they know anyone who needs our services."

MaliVai Washington, former professional tennis player and founder of the same-named foundation, will speak at May's meeting. For information on joining, visit the Hearts of a Feather Facebook page.

The soaring mission of this group has undoubtedly taken flight. "The response has been amazingly positive, and is gaining momentum," Virta said.

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American Cancer Society fundraiser a labor of love for committed volunteers

Emily Riera, Mary Anne Freeman and Allison York



Generations spend countless hours on annual Cowford Ball

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

What else but a labor of love could result in more than \$6.6 million raised in nearly 20 years for one cause?

The American Cancer Society's (ACS- Duval County) held the 18th annual Cowford Ball, Viva Las Cowford, Apr. 27 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds with the goal of raising \$525,000. Proceeds will fund patient services, prevention education, early detection and cancer research, according to Therese Yanochik, ACS Area Director for Leadership Giving.

The ACS, local cancer survivors, their loved ones, families, friends and other caring volunteers have come together to present the annual event since 1995.

Yanochik described volunteer leaders who serve year-round for the event as tireless advocates passionate about the cause. They often work side-by-side with several generations of their families for the event. This year's Ball Chairman Susan Williams and Ball Publicity Chairman Mary Anne

Freeman are typical examples.

Williams began helping the society because of her family's experience with cancer and to spread the word about patient services ACS offers. She and co-chair husband Jay logged countless hours to ensure the vintage Vegas-style Ball was a success.

"Two years ago, Bunny Manning, chairman at the time, asked if I'd serve as vice chairman. I had been caring for my parents and had been unable to do any volunteer work. I knew nothing about the society although our youngest daughter, Carolyn, now 26, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer at age 11. She's fine now. Coincidentally, our other daughter, Lindsey, 30, began to volunteer at about the same time for Relay for Life," she said. "My eyes are wide open now. I'm constantly learning about all the things ACS does. I'm on a mission to get the word out about their services and programs." The Williams live in Ortega. Susan, the daughter of the late Idwal and Peggy Owen, grew up on McGirts Blvd.

Williams goes full force for ACS, recruiting extended members of her family to volunteer. Her brother Hugh Owen worked as one of the main builders for the event, her sister-in-law Amy Williams (husband is Jamie – they live in Venetia) worked as a financial volunteer and another sister-

in-law, Mary Owen, was co-chair of the display committee. Jay's sister Moody Baker volunteered and her husband, noted artist Tim Baker donated artwork. The Bakers live in Ortega

"Our family is close; we don't branch out

far...and volunteering for the American Cancer Society and Cowford Ball is a family affair. They can't get rid of me; I plan to keep right on working and since this is a year-round effort – we start planning for the next year right after the event – there's always plenty to do!" she said. Susan trained other ACS volunteers, locally and elsewhere, in major event management.

Publicity chair for the Ball was Mary Anne Freeman, a 26-year breast cancer survivor and 25-year volunteer for the ACS. Like Susan, Mary Anne wants to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 35, when my twins were nine.

My mother and her sister (my aunt) both died of it at age 46. My aunt's granddaughter developed breast cancer in 2010 at age 29. After her diagnosis, we discovered that I and my twin daughters all carry the BRCA -1 (breast cancer) genetic mutation. During that testing my daughter Emily Riera was diagnosed with breast cancer – she was 31," Freeman said. "My other twin daughter, Allison York, opted for preventive mastectomy. My daughters are 35 now and doing fine."

Julie Pope, Lynn McClow, Bunny Manning, Susan and Jay Williams, Franci Robertson, Randle Marchman, Hugh Owen



Freeman is a former chair of the ACS Duval Unit. She also volunteers with the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and Reach to Recovery Volunteer Visitation Program. She's an advocate traveling to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. to share her story and urge legislators to fund cancer research and raise awareness of uninsured and under-served cancer patients.

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BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Let's face it. Some facts of life bring smiles and some bring sobs. At least that is the way it goes in the world of my elementary school gardeners. Recently an eight-year-old girl, a serious sunflower grower, whispered to me that she had just learned in science class that cardboard was made of ground up trees. "And then the boxes are just smashed up and put out for trash," she said with a quiver in her lower lip. That certainly seemed a poor use of resources to her.

After a little reflection, I agreed.

And so began my quest to find some additional use for ground up trees, aka the cardboard cartons that creep into my house carrying books, computer equipment, esoteric garden additives, etc. My supply of boxes is enlarged by my neighbor's stash. It seems he orders almost all of his life's necessities from Amazon.



Spending a few minutes in Google-land, I found cardboard boxes work as plant containers. According to numerous frugal urban farmers, cardboard stands up for a season and then can be ripped and tossed in the compost pile as a credit on the brown side of the compost ledger. The money saved can be invested in the plants that fill the cardboard container. If one's inner artist tiptoes forth, the boxes can also become mini-canvases to display art work.

But what about evil additives?

According to Jeff Gillman, author of

"Truth About Gardening Remedies," cardboard gardeners need to be aware of what the cardboard held before it is selected to grow food crops. "If it was used for shipping industrial chemicals, for example, it might be best to avoid it. But, in general, cardboard should be fine. Formaldehyde used in the glue is at such a low level that it really shouldn't do

anything. Furthermore, as time goes on, the amount decreases."

Box gardening works especially well as a litmus test for serious horticultural commitment. Just as one can now lease a horse or rent an instrument before purchasing, one can outfit the wannabe gardener before investing in big ticket items like raised beds or rototillers. Planting a square foot box using the same directions as one would use on a raised bed will show how serious the novice gardener really is.

Nan Darlow, owner of the UPS

franchise in 5 Points, is the Historic District's most enthusiastic proponent of cardboard box gardening. "It is the cheapest most creative type of gardening I have ever done. I put the box in my garden where I am trying to rebuild the soil. When the season is over, the box dissolves, and I have harvested my crop, I have a wonderful new planting area in my garden."

If gardening in the box does not appeal, but keeping excess cardboard out of the diminishing landfill space does, cardboard boxes can be flattened and used as a weed barrier for new garden beds or as weed preventing liners for paths.

If any use of cardboard besides a trash pile additive seems a bit alien, it might be helpful to remember the modern metamorphosis that saddened my eight-year-old friend. Cardboard really is simply a tree that was processed and ground up just the way wood mulch is ground up.

And to paraphrase one of my eight-year-old friend's favorite poets, I say, "I think that I shall never see a box as lovely as a tree."

St. Johns Riverkeeper and Sierra Club decry Green Slime legislature



Jacksonville media turn out for the Green Slime protest on Apr. 15. St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman, right, and Janet Stanko, chair of the Sierra Club of Northeast Florida, speak about the toxic effects of algae outbreaks in the rivers

The St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group, and concerned citizens and businesses came together in one of 10 state-wide events on Apr. 15 to demand clean water and urge legislators to oppose HB 7115 and SB 1808 – bills that would leave the St. Johns River and Florida's waters and our communities without protection against toxic algae outbreaks.

Janet Stanko, Sierra Club, said the difference between prevention and restoration is two-fold. First, it costs more to restore; second, who pays? "Polluters pay for prevention," she said. "But the taxpayer pays for restoration." She also noted that this will be a financial issue for future generations.

St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman echoed Stanko's statement. "The bills have many loopholes to let the polluters not pay their fair share," she said.

"Defeating these bills is so important now; it's more cost-effective to do it now because this is a problem we can't buy our way out of." She noted that not limiting nutrient pollution is both a health and an economic problem, especially for those who earn a living off the water.

Ray Hetchka of Kayak Amelia stated that what goes into the St. Johns upriver ends up in Amelia and he can't put customers on the water when the quality is compromised. "The issue is not new though," he explained. "We're finally getting the gumption to stop pushing it off."

Ten communities across the state are at risk from toxic algae fueled by nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorous) pollution: Jacksonville, St. Petersburg, Gainesville, Sarasota, Merritt Island, West Palm Beach, Palm City, Ocala, Ft. Myers, and Orlando.

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Garden Club has sunny day for annual sale



Girl Scout Troop 896 and Junior Gardeners Brooklyn Neas and Gina Pell, front; Heather and Hannah Medeiros, back



Lydia Dunaway (Succulent Designs of Vilano) and publicity chair Debbie Byrd

Warm sun, cool breezes and the lure of great plants and flowers at bargain prices brought out neighboring residents for the Garden Club of Jacksonville's annual Blooms & More sale. Add in a nice mix of vendors selling jewelry, crafts, clothing, books, artwork and more, and you'll know why parking spaces were hard to come by. Girl Scouts from Troop 896 were on hand to trundle purchases to buyers' vehicles and Garden Club volunteers made sure no one went home empty-handed.

Proceeds from the Blooms & More sale will help support the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, this year's recipient of the Garden Club's fundraising events.

Don't miss the May 3-4 Art in Bloom & Gala in The Garden, a unique flower show of juried art and floral design in four categories, including miniatures, and designed inspired by artists like Picasso, Calder and Degas and local artists from the Jacksonville Artists Guild, plus selections by amateur gardeners and the Club's Junior Gardeners.

The \$10-a-ticket show is open Friday, May 3, noon to 2 p.m. and Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Gala in the Garden event will be Friday, May 3, 5 to 8 p.m. For \$25 (purchase in advance) you'll enjoy music, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and special viewing of the show.

Deadline extended for Keep Jacksonville Beautiful awards

The City of Jacksonville and the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission extended the deadline to May 17 to accept nominations for the 6th Annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Awards.

The awards recognize individuals, businesses, organizations and schools for making strides to keep the city clean. Applicants should demonstrate that the nominee has made outstanding and ongoing efforts in beautification, litter prevention or litter cleanup in Duval County.

Nominees must complete an application, attach a summary of their achievements and any supporting documentation. Mail applications to Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Awards, Attention: Dan Durbec, 1321 Eastport Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218, or email to ddurbec@coj.net no later than Friday, May 17. The applications can be downloaded from <http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/environmental-quality/clean-it-up,-green-it-up.aspx>.

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Uptown Civitan to celebrate 30th anniversary



Polly Forestier, the first female president of Civitan International, will be the keynote speaker at the Uptown Civitan Club's 30th anniversary luncheon, May 28 at noon at the University Club.

On May 24, 1983, the Uptown Civitan Club became a part of Civitan International as an all-female club sponsored by the Civitan Club of South Jacksonville. The late Bill Kelly, a member of the Civitan Club of Jacksonville, was the club builder.

During these three decades, Uptown has made an impact in the Jacksonville community holding major fundraising projects for many

charities including, among others, PACE Center for Girls, Pine Castle, Gateway Nursery and Kindergarten, Angelwood, The Bridge of Northeast Florida, SeaMark Ranch, and Dreams Come True. Its hands-on and philanthropic activities have included Ronald McDonald House, Clara White Mission, Girls, Inc., Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, Dignity U Wear, plus many more.

Uptown has received numerous International and District awards. Among them is the prestigious Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club Award, received an unprecedented 10 times, as the most outstanding club among all in 38 countries.

If you were a member of the Uptown Civitan Club and would like to join them for this special celebration, contact Mattie Fraser at mandfraser@yahoo.com or at (904) 221-8763.

Civitan is a worldwide organization of service clubs comprised of men and women volunteers whose mission is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

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A seasoned restaurateur opens his latest creation 'Terra'

If you consider yourself a foodie, or perhaps you like to dine in some of the finest restaurants in Jacksonville, then you should be familiar with the name Michael Thomas.



BUSINESS PROFILE

If you consider yourself a foodie, or perhaps you like to dine in some of the finest restaurants in Jacksonville, then you should be familiar with the name Michael Thomas.

When names like 24 Miramar, Slider's and Sterling's are mentioned in most circles, many people in town could tell you some of their fondest memories were made at the tables of these great dining establishments. This is where Thomas had made his mark, igniting the dining scene in Jacksonville after purchasing his first restaurant over 25 years ago.

He's back at it again and poised to raise some eyebrows and some expectations with his newest creation Terra, "a deceptively simple, innovative dining concept". After a brief hiatus from running restaurants, Thomas has emerged back on the scene and finds himself in a location familiar to many of Jacksonville's discerning diners. Thomas now occupies the former Pastiche location in the quaint Fairfax neighborhood, just outside historic Avondale at 4260 Herschel Street.

When asked about why he chose to open his tenth restaurant, Thomas said, "It seemed as though there is plenty of room for another

great place to dine. We wanted to bring a restaurant to people who love great food and wish to relax while dining. Our goal is to deliver great service and excellent food in a casual atmosphere- where the servers don't out dress the guests."

What Thomas missed the most from working in the restaurants was putting smiles on faces. "I've had so many people already say- "When you left 24 Miramar, it changed the face of fine dining in Jacksonville," said Thomas of his recent conversations with former patrons. "It's been really good thus far to reconnect with former patrons. I've been really pleased with the pace of the restaurant, especially on Friday and Saturday nights, so I encourage everyone to make a reservation."

The latest work being done at Terra has been listening to the reviews of customers and having the menu reflect the choices of diners. "We have changed our menu three times based on guest suggestions," said Thomas. "Our latest change is the Blue Plate Special, reflecting our desire to keep our menu prices reasonable, while delivering familiar favorites." Reservations are recommended by calling 388-9124, Terra welcomes you to come in and become a familiar face.

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Sample Dinner

APPETIZERS

Chorizo Stuffed Mushrooms- Mushrooms filled with Palacios Spanish Chorizo

Pork Belly Skewers- Black Hog pork belly, skewered with sautéed apples and served with a balsamic reduction

SALADS

Wilted Frisee- shallots, bacon, tomato, warm bacon vinaigrette, Black Hog Farms poached eggs

Gorgonzola and Spiced Seasonal Fruit Salad- baby greens, balsamic vinaigrette, candied nuts, Black Hog cherry tomatoes, shaved red onion

ENTREES

Ribeye- Buckhead Beef Ribeye, hand-cut, served with blue cheese fingerlings and caramelized shallots

Black & White Seared Tuna- Seared Sashimi Grade Tuna, coated with Toasted Sesame seeds, served over haricot verts, potatoes, Niçoise olives, and roasted tomatoes

DESSERTS

All desserts are hand made from scratch, changing daily

Sample Lunch

APPETIZERS

Charcuterie Plate- Serrano ham, Sopressata, Genoa salami, Maille Dijon grainy mustard, crostini, house made pickles

French Fries- parmesan cheese, truffle oil, garlic aioli

SALADS

Ortega Chicken Salad- House made, served with garnishment of lettuce, tomato and onion

Romaine and Bacon- buttermilk blue cheese dressing, Black Hog cherry tomatoes, shaved red onion, chives

ENTREES

Mahi- Grilled or Blackened with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

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Cummer opens Olmsted Garden after renovation

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

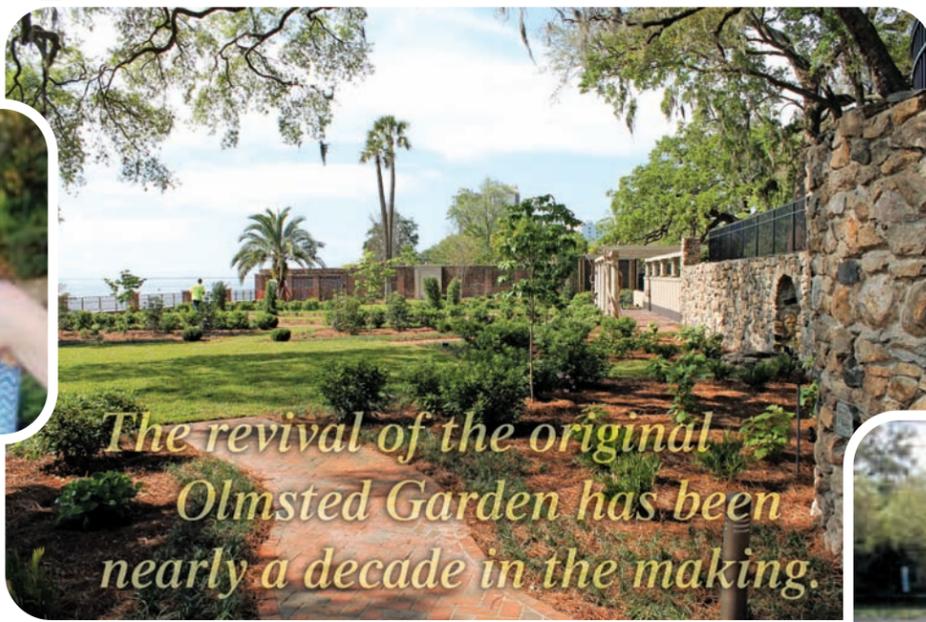
One of Jacksonville's gems in both art and gardens has put the same creative effort into designing a parking lot as it does into its exhibits and collections.



Holly Keris - photo courtesy of Max Marbut

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has designed an experience that starts in the parking lot across Riverside Avenue and leads the eye - and the visitor - straight to the portals of the Museum.

Following on the heels of the re-opening of the lot in late March, the Cummer also threw open the figurative doors of the Olmsted Garden, the last of three beautiful but different places of earthly delights. First developed in the early 1930s by the renowned landscape firm Olmsted Brothers for homeowners Waldo and Clara Cummer, the garden was maintained by the firm until 1958 when it sold the property to Barnett Bank. For several decades employees of the bank used the garden property as a place for picnics and recreation, including a shuffleboard court.



After the Museum was established, it bought the property in the early 1990s and used it for a summer camp, creating faux archeological digs, according to Holly Keris, chief curator. "The Museum staff 'planted' archeological items from various periods so that children could get involved in uncovering history."

The revival of the original Olmsted Garden has been nearly a decade in the making. Although Olmsted the architect didn't document the results with "as-built" drawings, correspondence between the firm and Clara Cummer, as well as archival photos, provided a good blueprint for the Cummer's current staff and contractors to create a near-faithful 21st century facsimile.

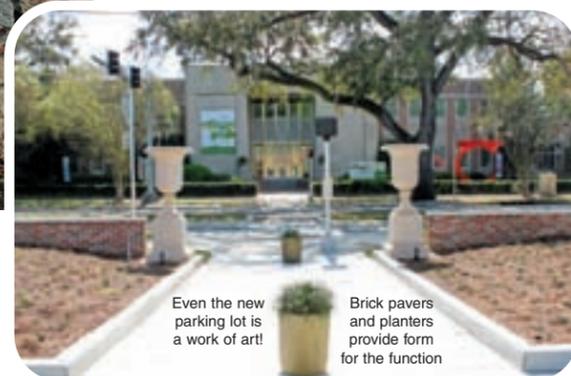
"Some plant types are simply no longer available nearly 90 years later," said Keris. "Some, like junipers, just don't do well in Florida climate. It was more important to have something that will grow into the right size and proportion than to find exact matches."

The plants were sourced from a number of locations, including a particular variety of Heirloom roses grown only in Oregon. Keris often finds herself in the position of having to turn down the well-meaning offers of residents who want to give plants and trees from their homes.

The Cummer put Keris in charge of the restoration in order to continue the curatorial and archival mindset that

she brings to the museum's art collections. "All the gardens are registered with the National Registry of Historic Places," Keris noted. "So it was important that it's bound to the integrity of the historical precedent set by the Olmsted Brothers."

Aside from three majestic oak trees, the curved stone wall at the back of the property, the pergola and the feature wall that separates the Olmsted



Even the new parking lot is a work of art!

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Garden from the Italian Garden, almost everything else is brand new. One historic piece - the Mercury statue - was tracked down in Melrose, FL and returned to sit proudly in the center of the garden.

Keris isn't resting on laurels though. The third phase of the renovation project - the outdoor TreeCup Café and sculpture garden - was recently launched, with a target completion of October 2013. By that time the Museum's chief curator will be a new resident of Riverside, much closer to the work and the place she loves.

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A Lifetime at the Cummer

Vance Shrum in 35th year as Exhibition Designer

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If the paintings on the walls and the porcelain on the shelves could talk, what tales they might tell about the person who has lovingly cared for them for three and a half decades.

From the 14-year-old eighth grade student dragged by his art teacher to The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens to the man behind the scenes nearly 50 years later, Avondale resident Vance Shrum certainly has a lot of stories to tell.

“Our family spent time in Europe visiting museums,” Shrum said, “so that my sister and five brothers and I could gain an appreciation of art. Now, you could say I’ve grown up with the [Cummer] Museum.”

Yes, despite offers from other museums, Shrum has spent nearly his entire post-graduate career in Jacksonville’s gem. After earning a degree in Studio Ceramics from the University of South Florida, and spending another three years in graduate school, Shrum was asked by former Museum Director Robert Schlageter to put together an exhibit for the Florida Craftsmen Guild in 1978.

The Museum’s trustees and Director Schlageter were looking for someone who could create exhibits and displays

to attract a younger crowd and dispel the perception that The Cummer was a stuffy place, according to Shrum. They hired the then 29-year-old to create a balance that would bring in younger visitors but still attract the people who financially supported the Museum.

“It was my first exhibit, first time working with The Cummer, and the Director wanted something more contemporary,” reminisced the 63-year-old Exhibition Designer.



Temples and Tombs: Egyptian Treasures from the British Museum, December 2006-March 2007

“I used plexiglass and neon lights for the display and he [Schlageter] loved it!”

Shortly after starting what has turned into a 35-year career, Shrum noticed a woman with a kindergarten class painting with egg tempura on a canvas spread out on the floor in one of the galleries. “I was aghast and said ‘What are you doing here?’ but she assured me that she had the Director’s permission,” Shrum recalled. “She – Jean C. Dodd – ultimately became our first director of education [in 1992].”

Dodd’s vision for Art Connections’ innovative educational services led to the 1994 awarding of the coveted National Award for Museum Service for outstanding community service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Shrum has served under five Museum directors and six curators, worked through two renovations, and knows enough stories about the pieces of art to fill a book. It’s been during his



tenure here that the highest quality pieces were acquired and that, he acknowledges, is mostly due to Schlageter’s insistence that for every dollar spent on operations another dollar must be spent on acquisitions.

The department of exhibition design is a small one. Out of the Museum’s staff of 35, only Shrum, co-worker Mark Warren, and Shrum’s younger brother Brian who provides contract help, are responsible for the rotating exhibits that change every three months in four of the 15 galleries. He also gets help from Kristen Zimmerman, the registrar, and from many volunteers.

“We couldn’t survive without the volunteers,” Shrum stated. “Volunteers enmesh us with the community.”

Of the 15 galleries in the Museum, about half display European art and collections, while others showcase art from American artists and from the Orient. Does Shrum have a fondness for one gallery over another?

“My favorite gallery is the [Betsy & William D.] Lovett Gallery,” shared

Shrum. “It took Mark and me six months to create the individual mountings for the Ralph Wark Meissen Collection in order to display each piece for viewing by all visitors.” The Museum is now ADA compliant thanks to observing his wheelchair bound former eighth grade art teacher try to view pieces sitting up too high on shelves above her head.

Shrum has made many trips overseas to personally escort pieces on loan to other museums, but feels those days are coming to an end. Problems with a knee have slowed him down a bit and he’s beginning to contemplate retirement. Although the Avondale resident cagily won’t reveal just when his decades-long career with The Cummer will terminate, he admits he is looking forward to spending time at his property on the Black Creek down in Middleburg.

When that day comes, The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens – and the community – will be all the sadder for it.

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Physical Therapy moves patients from pain to confidence

Marso Ross walks with a slight limp as he enters Focus Physical Therapy, smiles at his therapist and gets on the exercise bike to warm up for his therapy session.

"When I first came, I was using crutches," Ross said, referring to his back surgery in February. Now he is focused on building strength in his left leg and knee so he can safely climb stairs and return to work. "I love it," Ross said about Focus Physical Therapy. "The staff is really energetic, courteous and respectful. I think it's a great place."

Another patient, a former dancer who has undergone surgeries for joint issues, agreed. "You can go to other places and get therapy, or you can come to Focus and get healed," said Diann Catlin. "At Focus you are interviewed to establish the problem and plan of attack, and you're treated with kindness, knowledge and finesse."

Focus Physical Therapy at 869 Stockton Street is a neighborhood business that opened in 2005 to serve Riverside, Ortega, Avondale, Murray Hill and the Westside of Jacksonville. The clinic treats most physical therapy needs: sports injuries, sprains and strains including neck, back, arms and legs, work or auto-related injuries, balance issues, generalized weakness, nerve pain, arthritis and reconstructive joint surgery.

Focus Physical Therapy focuses on the whole person to help restore body, mind and spirit through a caring personal touch that builds patient trust. "We take a holistic approach to a patient's recovery," says owner and Physical Therapist Scott Crawley, noting that's partly why so many doctors refer their patients to Focus Physical Therapy.

Many patients arrive in pain, unsure of their future ability to lead active, independent lives. In

said Crawley, who has 20 years of experience in Physical Therapy.

That includes therapeutic exercise, thermal modalities, manual therapy, which involves hands-on muscle and joint stretching, and massage. These treatments promote pain relief, increased flexibility and strength while allowing the therapist to assess the patient's progress.

Focus Physical Therapy also offers massage therapy, onsite ergonomic evaluations and aquatic therapy at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd pool in Riverside to help patients overcome lower back pain, joint pain, fibromyalgia, arthritis and other degenerative diseases.

As a neighborhood Physical Therapist, Crawley routinely runs into clients he has worked with at the local grocery store, restaurants or community events and enjoys this connection. He regularly volunteers his services to two local rugby teams as well as community events like the Daily's Ortega River Run.

Crawley says it's satisfying to see his patients genuine appreciation for the progress they have made during their journey. On graduation day, they receive a final home exercise plan and a Focus Physical Therapy t-shirt.

"We strive for the best outcomes for our patients," Crawley said. "We're in a unique profession that allows us to help a lot of people." His patients agree – there are other physical therapy businesses, but at Focus you 'get healed'.



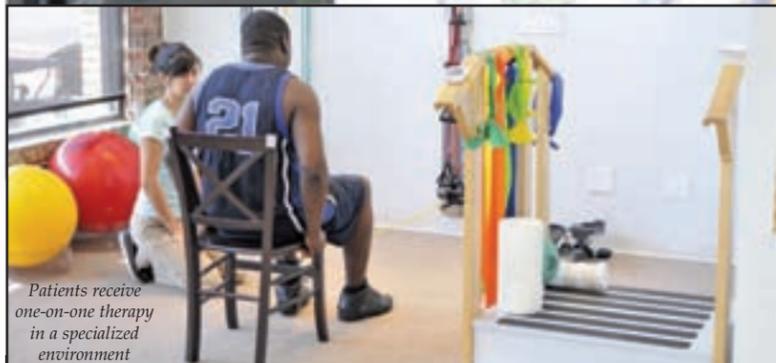
We offer Physical Therapy as well as Massage and Aquatic Therapy

order to build a patient's strength, restore function and improve flexibility, Crawley and his highly trained staff must first listen to the patient's story and reassure them in order to generate confidence in the staff's ability. "You really have to listen to the patient during that first visit. It's important to understand how the problem is affecting their life. We want to help them get back to a normal way of living," said Crawley.

A therapist-owned clinic with a passion for making a difference in people's lives, Focus Physical Therapy uses the latest evidence-based therapy principles to help patients achieve faster recovery. "We stay on top of the research,"



"We strive for the best outcomes for our patients," said Crawley, who has 20 years of experience in Physical Therapy.



Patients receive one-on-one therapy in a specialized environment

Focus Physical Therapy is at 869 Stockton St., Suite 3. For more information call them at (904) 388-1300 or visit www.focusptjax.com. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Local **SPORTS**

Endurance race appropriate memorial for triathlete Jared Bynum

First annual Mt. Acosta Classic Endurance Race benefits scholarship fund

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Residents may recall the news last fall about the fatal vehicle-hits-cyclist accident that cost the life of triathlete Jared Bynum. This was one loss that hit hard in neighborhoods on both sides of the St. Johns River.

A resident of Riverside and a project manager with The Haskell Company, 30-year-old Bynum and his wife Kelli were members of Southside Baptist Church and mentors at Landon Middle School.

It was at both those San Marco institutions where Bynum left a lasting legacy, and now one is working to benefit the other.

In Jared's memory, Southside Baptist Church created the Jared Bynum Scholarship Fund to benefit former Landon Students who participated in the Southside Mentoring

Program, go on to complete high school in four years and are accepted and attend a college or trade school. It is the hope of those managing the fund that each year's scholarship be no less than \$5,000.

According to SBC's pastor, Gary Webber: "[Jared] loved people. He invested in people even if he didn't know them." Jared spent the 2010-2011, 2011-2012 school years mentoring the same quiet, stand-offish student through seventh grade and eighth grade. Although the first year of mentoring was awkward because the boy just wouldn't talk, "Jared was persistent. He never gave up on that kid. And so the second year came around and Jared signed up again and went back and had the same student. And Jared told this story – he sat in the room waiting for his student to come in, and when the student walked in, the boy said, 'You came back!'"

Sara Bravo, principal of Landon Middle School, said "I was just incredibly in awe of Jared. The majority of times when a mentor has this kind of experience, either the child says 'I

don't want to do this anymore' or the mentor says this isn't working. Never once did Jared say 'I'm done, I don't want to do this anymore.'"

Bynum's persistence – his endurance, if you will – extended into his love of sports and the outdoors. So it was appropriate that the first annual Mt. Acosta Classic Endurance Race was run last month to benefit the scholarship fund.

Haskell co-worker and running partner Marie Vogler, a San Marco resident, ran the 3-hour endurance race but also enlisted a great number of sponsors, particularly local restaurants, for prizes and donations to the scholarship fund.

"When I was introduced to Jared, I was told, 'Marie, I'm going to introduce you to your new running partner.' Jared was also a big promoter of local businesses," she said. "We never ate at a chain restaurant."

Preston Robinson, another Haskell co-worker and cycling partner, shared memories about the business side of Bynum. "Jared was the calm person in the room; when things got out of hand in meetings he brought everyone back

The first annual Mt. Acosta Classic Endurance Race was run last month to benefit the Jared Bynum scholarship fund



to reality. He was a good anchor for us. He was able to handle the heated debates very well."

Anyone wishing to donate money to the fund should make the checks payable to Southside Baptist Church, 1435 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207, with Jared Bynum Scholarship Fund printed in the memo line. All funds are tax deductible.

Piranhas Swim Team coach to compete in national meets

Swimmers at Julington Creek Meet



The Piranhas Swim Team, which trains at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, recently competed at a local meet at Julington Creek, earning many personal bests and winning ribbons. Coach Eric Wendorf is enthusiastic about the young team. "It was

a fantastic meet to show how hard we've been working these past months. We are really starting to put this team on the aquatic map!"

The Piranhas have two meets in May, one at The Bolles School and one at Episcopal School. Then Wendorf will be competing at the U.S. Masters Swimming Association

National Meet in Indianapolis, May 9-12, and also in the U.S. Masters Pan Am Games in Sarasota June 5-13.

Since starting the Piranhas, Wendorf has competed in the same meets as the young swimmers, as a

U.S. Swimming competitor but in the open division to provide a dual role as a coach on the deck but also one in the water as a competitor.

"This was done so that I could compete against the best swimmers in the area no matter what age to prepare me for these Masters events and to show the kids that I was, too, experiencing the same feelings they were facing," said Wendorf. "I think this is what makes our team closer and more of a team than most."

After finishing these events, Wendorf, who is a musician, will be heading to Uganda, Africa to help feed children and teach some of them the harmonica, Jul. 29-Aug. 9.

The Piranhas practice Monday and Wednesday 7-8 p.m. and Friday 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd pool. For more information visit www.piranhaswimming.com.

Number 7 significant for Hale & Hearty Run

Years ago, leaders and residents of the Riverside community developed a vision that would connect the relationships between economic, social and political factors with health and mental well-being status – a forward-thinking strategy that improves the quality of a healthy life.

On Saturday, June 1, the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida will host the Community First Credit Union Hale & Hearty 7K RIVERSIDE/AVONDALE to celebrate that vision, to assist the Health Planning Council to cover the expenses associated with its annual regional health care utilization studies and to expand the features of Northeast Florida Counts, its health-related quality of life indicator dashboard.

The Health Planning Council chose a 7K (4.37m) distance to align the number 7 with the number of counties it serves and with the 7 qualities that describe healthy and sustainable communities. Community First Hale & Hearty 7K-RIVERSIDE/AVONDALE will start at the Riverside YMCA with a 7:30 a.m. start (a 1 mile fun run starts at 9 a.m.) To register, visit www.HaleandHearty7K.com or go to www.signmeup.com and search for Community First Hale & Hearty 7K –Riverside.

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The GREAT outdoors



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Experiencing a boat crossing from the east coast of Florida to the Bahamas can be a lot of fun. There is something magical about a family vacation in a tropical destination, and running the ocean to get there.

Over the years I have heard great stories shared by my wife of the crossings she experienced earlier in her life.

Her family began making crossings when she was around the age of 10 and continued through high school and well into her college years. Her family shared this passion with another family, and they traveled together many times through the years. Some crossings were made in their sports fisherman, while others on a sail boat. Either way, the memories and experiences shared by these friends and family members created lifelong memories and many great stories along the way.

One story she recently shared was about a time they were in route to the Abacos. This particular trip they were traveling by sail boat. The two families left out of Jacksonville and were well into the several hundred mile trip to Hopetown. As the evening went on and the kids went to bed, the parents stayed up to navigate and look out for ships passing in the international waters. My wife, who was 10 at the time, remembers it being very rough and windy.

At some point well into the night, the dinghy they were pulling became untied and floated off. Time had passed before anyone noticed it was gone. Once it went missing, they were determined to find it.

My wife remembers waking up to loud fathers pulling out charts, listening to the weather channel and discussing tides and currents.

Getting there is half the fun

Once they determined the projected location, they turned around and went to go find it...in the middle of the ocean.

Miraculously, it was right where they thought it would be.

Making the 200 mile run to the Abacos from the central east coast of Florida can be a lot of fun. On a calm day, the first leg (a 60-mile run to West End) can be achieved in just over an hour. Once through customs, the remaining 140 miles can be spent island hopping and with brief swim breaks to cool off. Make sure you watch the time. You want to be pulling into your destination with plenty of daylight to spare.

Technology has changed a lot over the years. Crossings many years ago were performed with compasses and headings. Understanding tides and currents was also important. Today, we have GPS and chart plotters on high definition monitors that show your ships exact location which overlays on an image of a map.

There are many safety devices one should plan to take for a crossing.

First items are signal flares. Boats that are a certain length are required to carry flares anyway. But it is important to keep in mind signal flares have an expiration date. This date should be checked before you leave and new ones should be purchased if your current ones have expired.

Carrying an extra portable hand held VHF and GPS is also a good idea. In the event of a power loss (along with your ability to use the ships electronics), the portable VHF will help you radio for help and the GPS will allow you to give your location.

Traveling many miles from land means that an effective use of flairs and radio communication through with a VHF radio may not be possible. This is when Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) are critical.

Both devices use satellites to transmit your distress signal. Once activated, the satellites will send your distress call to the coast guard, giving your exact location. Both devices offer built-in GPS for accuracy, but they do have some differences.

EPIRBs (though NOAA) are registered to your vessel. In the event your EPIRB is activated and the distress signal is received, the coast guard will know the make and description of the vessel they are looking for. EPIRBs can be manually activated with a push of a button or automatically activated within a few seconds of

becoming in contact with water.

Either way, a distress signal can be sent very quickly for satellites to pick up and transmit your location.

PLBs, on the other hand, are registered to an individual, not the vessel. However, the distress signal works the same way as the EPIRBs. Some people prefer the portability of a PLB over an EPIRB. PLBs are smaller and since they are registered to you and not your



Brief swim breaks will keep you cool during the long journey

vessel, you can carry with you on other vessels or use while enjoying other outdoor activities like camping or hiking.

The battery life of a PLB once activated (24 – 36 hours) is slightly less than that of an EPIRB (up to 48 hours), so some people prefer the longer life of an EPIRB. Both antennas need a clear line of sight to the sky to ensure a clear transmission. EPIRBs will keep afloat, enabling the antenna to point upward continually. PLBs will need to be positioned or held with the antenna upright. Either way, carrying a device that is monitored by satellites is a wise decision.

It is important to know the details of the devices if you are looking to purchase one. Some PLBs do not have a built in GPS feature. These units are slightly less expensive than the GPS models and also slightly less accurate with our exact location. They will still have an accuracy of several hundred feet, which is still effective being many miles from land. But the GPS devices will have an accuracy of several feet.

Carrying an extra portable hand held VHF and GPS, like this one, can be a lifesaver.

If you are disconnected from your boat, a device like this will help you not only be located but contact the coast guard for rescue.



Inflatable rafts are certainly a good idea as well. These are pricy, starting around \$1,000.00. Along with the initial shock of the purchase, these devices have mandatory schedules of inspection and recertification (every one to three years, depending on the manufacture) which will also run several hundred dollars each time. This does get expensive but certainly well worth it in the event you have to ditch.

Speaking of ditching, a 'ditch bag' is a must. A 'ditch bag' is a bag that is easily accessible and allows you to carry very important items in one place. You never know when or how quickly you may have to depart your vessel. The less you have to think about the better.

Ditch bags are designed to store the following items:

- Flair kit
- Hand held GPS
- Hand held VHF
- Extra lithium batteries
- Flashlight
- Strobe lights (attachable to your life vest)
- PLB or EPIRB
- Sun screen
- Motion sickness medication
- First aid kit
- Drinking water

Carrying extra mechanical supplies with you can also be a good idea. Extra propellers prop nuts and washers, prop wrench, fuel filters and engine oil are all great to have with you. These supplies may become very important in the event you need them while you are crossing. Once safely in the Bahamas, finding boat parts on land may be difficult as well.

Filing a boat plan with others is important. Giving information like your departure port, time of departure, arrival port and estimated time of arrival is always a good idea. Inform them you will check in via email or phone call by a certain time and this will ensure someone will know quickly if you don't arrive. The departure and arrival port information will also give the coast guard a projected route which could help narrow in on our location.

Many Bahamian islands have fresh water restrictions. Water is available at marinas but you have to purchase. For example, water in the Abacos can be purchased for around \$.50 per gallon. Have a plan to effectively and efficiently wash your vessel if needed.

Also, ice can be very expensive. It was recently recommended by a friend to take six half-gallon milk jugs full of water and freeze before your crossing. You can re-freeze as needed over there which can drastically cut down on the amount of ice you have to purchase.

Meat and poultry can be hard to find on some Bahamian islands and expensive when you do. Taking a good cooler packed with your food and ice (along with your homemade ice packs) is a great way to insure the quality of your food and your meals stay at a reasonable price.

One of the first things I hear when people discuss crossing to the Bahamas is "there is safety in numbers." Travel with a group if at all possible. It will be a lot more fun.

More importantly, it will be safer!

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Weather holds for four days of regatta activity at FYC

Snipe Tea Party Regatta – photos by Deb Fewell

The Florida Yacht Club (FYC) was the place to be Apr. 11-14 for the annual running of the Snipe Tea Party and the Cowford Cup regattas. Thankfully, the storms held off until after the last race on Sunday.

Eleven Snipe teams from the Southeast United States competed in the two-day Tea Party Regatta at FYC. Hal Gilreath, of FYC, took first in the Snipe regatta. The Tea Party name is not political; it was established years ago due to the color of the St. Johns River. Florida waters are often a natural brown-tea color caused by tannins from decaying native vegetation.

In the two-day 3rd annual Cowford Cup Regatta, for juniors ages 8-18, Ortega resident Johnny Fewell took first in the Laser Radial series.



Safety first leads to most fun on the water

BY KEVIN KOEHL

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, FLOTILLA 14-8, 7TH DISTRICT, U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

My wife Marlene and I have been lifelong boaters. Over the years, we have attempted to make our passion for boating safe for our children, grandchildren, family and friends. Our boating experiences have evolved from small lakes in Illinois, to Lake Michigan, to the waterways of Florida. This past winter we traveled to the Florida Keys, living on our boat for more than three months and traveling over 1,000 miles. Even after boating for more than 30 years, new experiences continually cause us to redefine safe boating.

Our foundation for boating safely is knowledge. Years ago we decided to take a boating safety course offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. We learned the basics about handling boats, navigation, weather, radio operation, and safety equipment. Federal and State laws mandate the safety equipment required for various sizes and types of boats.

There is no more important piece of safety equipment than a PFD or personal flotation device. While we don't always wear our PFDs when underway, they are always out and quickly available, if needed. Children under six are always in a PFD on our boat.

Every year we take advantage of a free vessel safety check by the Auxiliary. A volunteer vessel examiner reviews the required safety equipment on our boat and informs us of any deficiencies. If we have all of the required safety equipment, a decal is issued indicating we have successfully passed a safety check. This year, and in years past, we were boarded by the Coast Guard to verify our required safety equipment. Properly equipping our boat may save our lives and avoid a citation.

Boating safely includes understanding and preparing for the waterways we will be traveling. Wide expanses of water can be deceptive as much of the depth in waterways can be extremely shallow. Tides can make land appear where water prevailed only minutes before. It is not uncommon to see boats aground waiting for the tide to come in to

refloat their boat. If the next high tide is after dark, getting home safely can be an additional challenge. Navigational charts, chart plotters, depth finders and local knowledge are all key to keeping our boat safely afloat.

No matter how much we have learned, experienced, or equipped our boat with safety equipment, we cannot control the environment in which we boat. In our travels, we have experienced large boats travelling at high speeds suddenly overtaking us leaving huge wakes that severely rock the boat from side to side. We have had severe weather appear that defied the weather forecast. Our boat has run aground in water charted deep enough to pass.

In the event we do experience an emergency, we want to make sure we can get assistance as quickly as possible. Rapid communication describing the nature of an emergency and exact location is critical. Response time can be long due to the distance and travel time for first responders to arrive. Cell phones and VHF radios are critical tools in calling for assistance, but neither should be relied on as a sole method of communication due to the remote location of many waterways. We have a newer VHF radio which is capable, with the push of an emergency button, of automatically communicating our vessel description and exact location to the Coast Guard and boaters in the vicinity. Many people have this new technology, but fail to properly register their boat's information online rendering this feature useless.

When traveling, we also file a "float plan" in the form of an email informing a friend of our planned trip, who is on board, departure and arrival times. If all other methods of communication fail, a float plan can help inform authorities with useful information to help locate our boat.

Regardless of what type of water activity you love, simple steps to prepare can help insure a safe experience and keep your day on the water fun and relaxing.

For more information on boating safety classes or vessel safety checks, visit www.safeboatingjax.com.



40 Optimist sailors from the Southeast competing in the Cowford Cup regatta at the Florida Yacht Club



Emma Newton, Johnny Fewell, Bobby Guild



Reedy Monahan

Coast Guard volunteer emphasizes the importance of National Safe Boating Week

Whit Vick, Immediate Past Flotilla 14-8 Commander and current Flotilla 14-8 Staff Officer for Operations, is a lifelong boater. Though the San Jose resident keeps very busy as a radiologist at the VA Outpatient Clinic, he finds time after work in the evenings, and one weekend a month, to volunteer with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Vick has volunteered for nearly 15 years with the USCGA in various locations and gets a great sense of reward from doing so. "It's very satisfying in that you're giving your time as a volunteer helping the Coast Guard and the boating public," said Vick. "I've learned things too, having taken a number of courses to learn how to do things the CGA way, use the radio, tow a boat, safety checklist, in a time-tested way."

To emphasize National Safe Boating Week, May 18-24, Vick has one important safe boat-



Whit Vick, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 14-8

ing tip, among many: "Take a boating safety course," he said. "Some online courses are adequate, but you will get more when you are face to face with an instructor."

Flotilla 14-8, based in Mandarin, offers a monthly one-day course for a minimal fee. To learn more, visit www.safeboatingjax.com.

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BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Reta, 56, and her husband Frank, 66, are steeped in family traditions that began in the Avondale/Murray Hill area. They live in Avondale on Ingleside Avenue in his grandparents' home (Louie and Francis Rocher), just three blocks from Edgewood Avenue Christian. The two Houghton children were the third generation to attend Ruth Upton Elementary on Dancy Street and their daughter also attended what was the former Lackawanna Elementary nearby on Lenox Avenue where Grandmother Rocher went to school in the 1920s. Reta, retired Navy and former teacher, now volunteers at The Teacher Depot where Lackawanna was located.

"We met in the Navy, have been married 29 years and in Jacksonville for 21 years. Frank is retired and after I retired in 2003 I started helping out at The Teacher Depot when it first opened about 16 years ago. It was first located in San Marco on Nira Street, then at John Gorrie Elementary and then moved to Lenox about five or six years ago. I've been involved on nearly a fulltime basis, every weekday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and sometimes a Saturday," she said.

Houghton's husband also volunteers to help her with Teacher Depot projects, especially building small (30 inches) to large (5 foot) totem authentic totem poles for teachers and media spe-

cialists to use in the classrooms or libraries every year. "It's a huge project and we never know how they will turn out. Each is totally unique. The rule is we keep it traditional and authentic – Gator or Seminoles are okay – but absolutely no pink paint!" Houghton said.

The Depot collects and warehouses donated materials of all kinds given by individuals and businesses throughout Jacksonville. The items are then distributed for free to local teachers and schools. Donated items include art, office, paper and science supplies, furnishings, equipment, student incentives and an alphabet of miscellaneous, new or still-useful supplies. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Depot operates with one paid employee and dedicated volunteers. Approximately \$20.5 million worth of supplies have been donated since the Depot opened in 1996. The donations become part of a valuable recycling program, going to good use by students and teachers instead of ending up at the city landfills, according to Houghton.

"We have community, church and civic groups come to volunteer, sorting and organizing donations of all kinds. They also watch the business section of the newspaper to see if a corporation is moving or closing," she said. "When a



large company moves, changes names or downsizes we are often able to salvage so many useful supplies such as pens, pencils, envelopes, office equipment or furniture. We also contact the Better Business Bureau, local companies and civic clubs to inform them that we can make great use of unwanted items that could be used by schools. Many of them now contact us with donations."

The Depot holds open house dates when teachers are invited to come and shop through the supplies during three-hour time slots. Then teachers can pull their vehicles up around the Depot's

circular drive and volunteers will load their selected supplies, Houghton said.

"I have so much fun helping teachers find what they need and giving them ideas about what they can do with the craft and art materials. It's like a big toy store," she said. "I love to re-purpose and craft things or figure out what something could be used for. You have no idea what all I can make out of a toilet paper roll!"

Houghton is also an artist who volunteers to teach art classes at Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. She believes that art is fundamental to education and that it enhances all learning. Providing teachers with creative ideas and art projects for their students gives her special joy and fulfillment.

"Cultural literacy and art are so important in learning. Art teaches perspective, sequence, analysis and how to basically solve a problem," she said. "It doesn't have to be difficult or perfect. It should just be fun and something everyone, student or adult can do. It may give students who struggle in academics, something they can do and enjoy with success."

The Depot always needs volunteers and offers training and flexible schedules for volunteer jobs that last about an hour up to a day or longer.

"We have a 92-year-old volunteer who has helped out for years, so you are never too old to volunteer and there are all kinds of different jobs and projects to choose from whether it's an individual or a group," Houghton said.



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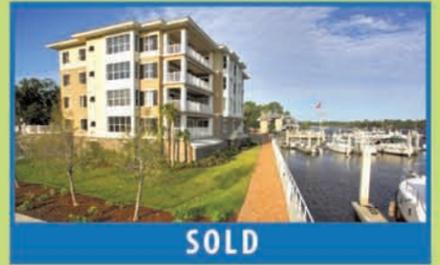
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3609 Boone Park Ave

3/2-1,826 sqft. This three bedroom, two bath Avondale home is ready and waiting for a new family! It features a wonderful, open floor plan with the kitchen opening into the family room with wood burning fireplace.



4236 Melrose Ave - \$275,000

3/1/1-1,650 sqft. Absolutely charming one-of-a-kind historic home lovingly updated with a sparkling pool. Built in an era of true craftsmen and attention to detail.



4607 Ortega Blvd - \$1,950,000

4/4/2-6,260 sqft. Enjoy the River breeze and Downtown lights from the covered porches of this traditional brick home. The large remodeled kitchen opens into a cherry paneled family room with 2 fireplaces and a large Butler's pantry w/wet bar.



NEW PRICE

2970 Saint Johns 9B - \$219,900

2/2-1,480 sqft. Rarely available high floor full city and st johns river view unit at Beau Rivage Condominium. This is a 2 bedroom 2 bath unit with the second bedroom that has been modified to double as a den/guest room. Gleaming wood floors and lots of updates.



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4238 Lakeside Dr, 402

3/3-2,659 sqft. Where the Ortega and St. Johns Rivers meet sits one of the most unique condominium developments in all of Northeast Florida. Unit 402 is corner unit that lives like a house and feels like you are on a luxury yacht moored in the marina.



4911 Arapahoe Ave - \$550,000

3/2/2-3,086 sqft. This home is a surprise from the moment you enter and are wowed by the hardwood floors, wonderful kitchen/family room, and the 900 SF Master Suite with walk-in closet that has been totally built out with custom shelving!



5051 Yacht Club Rd - \$950,000

Vacant Lot - Beautiful Ortega lot on the west bank of the St. Johns River with a lovely downtown view. Short walk to the Florida Yacht Club and very convenient to Timuquana Country Club. Lot is ready to be built on.



SOLD

4928 Arapahoe Ave

5/6/1-4,760 sqft. Dreamy home! Open the door and be swept away! Welcoming entrance with large living room, dining room, and office with cathedral ceiling. Cozy paneled library with wet bar.



4867 Water Oak Ln - \$285,000

3/2-1,950 sqft. Wow! This is an adorable brick home in Ortega Forest on a large lot ready to move in! Beautiful hardwood floors in most of the house, formal living and dining rooms with great light, spacious kitchen.



NEW PRICE

4125 Timuquana Rd - \$260,000

3/2-1,586 sqft. The Beautiful Double Lot adds to the many extras offered in this Lovely Home in the Ortega Area. In the immediate area of the Timuquana Country Club, The Florida Yacht Club, and NAS JAX.



NEW PRICE

4760 Ortega Blvd - \$315,000

3/2-2,381sqft. Traditional one story brick fronting Ortega Boulevard, with driveway and backyard access on Choctaw for ease. This home has everything and more - large rooms - spacious living areas - great flow for entertaining.



4730 Prince Edward Rd - \$1,250,000

4/4/1-4,895 sqft. Main house plus 300 sf Pool house with 1 bedroom and full bath. This home has it all. Hardwood floors, large open kitchen/family room space, formal living and dining. Gorgeous heated pool + Spa and Sauna.



SOLD

3759 Glencove Ave

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4906 King Richard Rd

4/2/1-2,093 sqft. Great floor plan with 4 bedrooms or 3 bedrooms and an office, formal living, formal dining and a wonderful large family room with bar, large laundry, eat-in kitchen, and covered patio

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The dilemma of Senior Housing

changing opportunities & tough choices...

BY CAREN BURMEISTER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Rita Pugachevskaya arrived at the River Garden retirement community in Mandarin nearly two years ago she feared it was the beginning of the end.

"I was depressed when I came here," the 81-year-old said, noting she could hardly walk.

But the complex on 37 acres of beautiful woods and a lake, set way back off the road at 11401 Old Augustine Rd., inspired her and drew her outdoors. Now she walks on a grassy path around the center every morning and evening, and she's made many friends.

There's a "spirit in the place," she said. "I'm so happy here. I love all the support, respect, help and attention. I'm so thankful to God that I found it."

Seniors like Pugachevskaya and their families face difficult choices shopping for the right place to spend their last years.

In Jacksonville, there are 16 independent living retirement centers, 85 assisted living centers, 29 nursing homes and two continuing care retirement communities.

•Independent living retirement centers: The least restrictive, offering private homes or apartments for people 55 and older. Their costs are similar to the standard market rate.

• Assisted living centers: A high level of independence with assistance for everyday tasks like cooking, cleaning and laundry. In Florida, the average annual cost is about \$33,000.

• Nursing homes (or skilled nursing centers): The most intensive care – increasingly for people with memory impairments. In Florida, the average yearly cost is about \$80,000.

• Continuing Care Retirement Communities: Offer all three levels on one campus. Usually charge a hefty entrance fee, starting at \$100,000, plus monthly fees of \$3,000 – \$5,000.

Seniors face a dizzying array of decisions based on level of care, quality of care and costs.

Some facilities are subsidized by Medicaid and Veteran's benefits. Others – like River Garden and Moosehaven in Orange Park – are

sponsored by charitable institutions that help offset the costs for modest income residents.

Some, like most Continuing Care Retirement Centers, only accept private pay and insurance.

Like everyone else, seniors and the centers that serve them suffered during the recession.

Driven by the economic downturn, the average age of a resident moving into a center shifted from 82 to 87, according to Allison Guthertz, Vice President of Quality Resident Services at Benchmark Senior Living.

Despite the recession, River Garden – a 180-bed not-for-profit with 5-star ratings from state and federal regulators and the recipient of several state awards for excellence – maintained a high occupancy rate and is now 96 percent full, said CEO Martin Goetz.

It's now completing a \$7.5 million refurbishment, which added an adult day care center, rehabilitation and therapy center and home health care services.

More than 50 percent of its residents are on Medicaid, Goetz said. They can afford to live at River Garden because it's subsidized with \$1 million a year from a combination of fundraisers and sponsorship by the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville.

While it began as a Jewish home, "the River Garden accepts residents of all faiths and backgrounds and a large percent of its residents aren't Jewish,"



Goetz said.

Like other centers, it has experi-

enced Medicaid cuts in the last five years but those cuts have stabilized somewhat, Goetz said. Recently, it lost \$85,000 from the two percent sequestration cuts to Medicare.

So, how might it be affected by the Affordable Health Care Act? "Who knows," Goetz said, stressing that the rules have yet to be written and are a long way from implementation.

Moosehaven, a 72-acre continuing care retirement community at 1701 Park Ave. in Orange Park, saw a tremendous rise in sales last year, said Marketing Director Sandy Duggan.

Seniors had been holding out, reluctant to sell their homes at low values. Eventually, for health reasons, they concluded they couldn't keep putting off their decision while waiting for property values to approach their former levels.

Until recently, Moosehaven was only open to seniors with at least 15 years membership in the Loyal Order of Moose.



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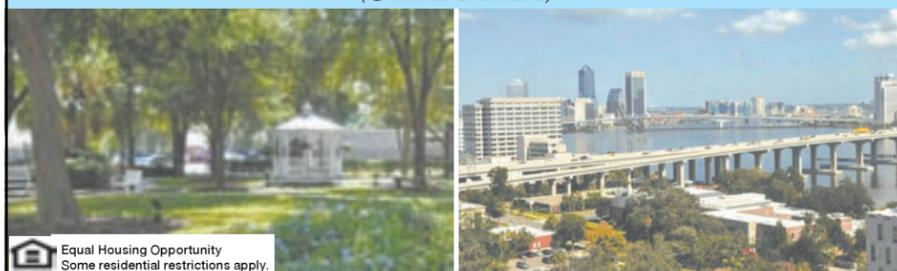
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Those rules have relaxed at Brandon Place, a new complex of riverfront units at Moosehaven where residents only have to have 6 months membership. However, Brandon Place requires a more substantial investment and monthly fee because those riverfront units aren't subsidized by the Moose.

Brandon Place presently has 26 homes, but that number will grow to 62 by the time the first phase of construction is finished.

While many assisted living facilities in Jacksonville have a waiting list, Duggan likes to point out that Moosehaven residents are guaranteed to receive care regardless of their health status because of their continuing care contract.

"It is truly peace of mind," Duggan said.

There are two facilities in Riverside with waiting lists. One of those is Riverside Presbyterian House, a tower with 188 apartments at 2020 Park St. that includes some assisted living units and some units subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"We took a dip last year," said Administrator Theresa Mark. "But our occupancy has just gone back up. We already have a waiting list for assisted living and HUD units."

One of Riverside Presbyterian House's most pressing challenges is the mandatory meal plan, which is required because the apartments don't have kitchens.

On the flip side, Riverside Presbyterian Apartments (RPA), which is also 100% occupied, is a

totally independent rental facility, with studios, one- and two-bedroom units. Even though many residents left to live with families during the economic downturn, RPA quickly filled the empty units.

Although the average age of RPA's residents is 77, "people are knocking

Senior Housing List

In Jacksonville there are 85 assisted living centers, 29 nursing homes and two Continuing Care Retirement Communities. Here are 10 that are nearby in the Riverside/Avondale/Ortega/Murray Hill area:

- **Arbor Terrace Ortega:** Alzheimer's and dementia center being built at 5760 Timuquana Road. Scheduled to open the fall of 2013.
- **Autumn Village:** Assisted living center at 1103 Barrs St.
- **Cathedral Gerontology Center:** Skilled nursing facility at 333 E. Ashley St.
- **Moosehaven:** Continuing-care retirement community at 1701 Park Ave. Orange Park for members of the Loyal Order of Moose. Includes Brandon Place.
- **Park Ridge Nursing Center:** Skilled nursing center at 730 College St.
- **Riverside Presbyterian Apartments:** Independent living at 1045 Oak St.
- **Riverside Presbyterian House:** Independent and assisted living at 2020 Park St.
- **St. Catherine Laboure Manor:** Skilled nursing facility at 1750 Stockton St.
- **Sterling House of Merrimac:** Assisted living center at 4455 Merrimac Ave.
- **Windsor Assisted Living and Memory Care:** Being built at 5939 Roosevelt Blvd. Scheduled to open in early 2014.

on the door the day they turn 62," said Jeanie Rose, administrator. "We have been taking steps to get ready for the demands of the Baby Boomers, installing a wellness center with exer-

cise equipment, more bike racks, outdoor grills, and washers and dryers in upgraded apartments."

Mark isn't as concerned with dealing with the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act as she is with dealing with the requirements of the surging baby boom population.

"We feel confident that we'll be able to get through it," Mark said, noting there's growing demand for assisted living centers and other senior

For More Information

Assisted living facilities are overseen by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. To locate them and research their facilities, visit www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov.

Continuing care retirement communities are regulated by the Office of Insurance Regulation. For a list of those nearest you, visit <http://www.flair.com/siteDocuments/CCRCHyperlinkMap.pdf>

For help making informed decisions and evaluating the many alternatives available, consider Senior Counsel Attorneys at Law, www.SeniorCounselLaw.com, (904) 619-8890.

services.

Goetz felt the same way. He said he's more concerned about preparing for the aging of baby boomers, of which 10,000 a day will be turning 65 for the next 20 years. And he isn't the only one.

"Housing America's Future," a bipartisan report that included input from the AARP, said "We are still largely unprepared to meet the needs of the overwhelming numbers of sen-

iors who wish to 'age in place' in their own homes and communities."

Aging at home will likely become the thing of the future, since we can't build enough for all the baby boomers, Goetz said.

Until then: "I stay on very good terms with my children," Goetz said. "They're the ones choosing my nursing home."

Goetz is correct. It's not just the seniors themselves who are actively researching housing options for the aging. Often it's the children of Baby Boomers and older who are seeking places that provide care for parents experiencing memory loss.

According to representatives of Arbor Terrace, currently under construction on Timuquana Road, the Jacksonville market at large, and the Ortega market in particular, appear to be underserved in the area of specialized dementia and memory care services.

"The existing communities offering a secured memory care unit have limited availability and none are a stand-alone, purposefully designed community, built to address various levels of memory care progression," said Shirley Paulk, vice president of sales and marketing for Arbor Terrace Ortega. "With the aging population growth, as well as the rapid increase in dementia and related memory loss disorders, it was determined that the time is right for this unique and distinctive living development."

The Jacksonville area may soon see more memory care facilities in progress in the coming decade.

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The Way we Were

Robert C. Broward

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Author and award winning architect Robert C. "Bob" Broward stood recently in his former San Marco office and greeted family, friends, former colleagues and admirers. The office, repurposed by his daughter Kristanna Broward Barnes and architect Catherine Duncan, is now available for rent as creative space to architects, engineers, contractors, graphic designers, and other folks who want to be in an exciting studio environment. Forty-eight years of good karma is listed on the rental brochure as one of the office's many attributes.

If, as the dictionary says, positive actions produce good karma, Bob Broward provided such actions. A father of two and grandfather of five, he has a recognized legacy of architectural excellence, having received over 40 merit and honor awards including three "Test of Time" awards. In 2011 he was selected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture, his profession's highest award. In early 2012, he was inducted into the Florida Artists' Hall of Fame.

He has been a mentor to many aspiring architects, an Adjunct

Professor of Design at the University of Florida, and an advocate for historic preservation. His work exhibited a reverence for nature long before that stance was a popular one. As he is fond of saying, "Everything is a habitat for some living creature."

Asked to identify the source of his reverence, Broward points to two factors. "First, my family home was on



Bob around age nine in White Springs, with another family showing off their new Ford Coupe!

River Road in San Marco, but that road was an unpaved stretch of dirt when I was a boy. It led to the swamp which is now a park. I was the youngest of six children in my family, youngest by nine years, and there were no neighbors until the mid-30s. Even though I was not allowed the swamp, its mystery and lure were irresistible. With Craig's creek running through it, it became my personal playground. During the day I could see the critters. At night, I could hear alligators bellow and occasionally a panther scream. It was a time before television when we created our own images.

"Second, after a tour flying B-17's with the Air Force, I enrolled at Georgia Tech to study architecture. I had always loved to draw and remem-

ber selling my original drawings of houses with wide eaves to my mother for two cents. I think I charged other folks five cents. At Tech I was reading a copy of Architectural Forum and saw the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. I knew that was the kind of architecture I wanted to create. His buildings were a part of the environment rather than an intrusion."

Broward went to Lakeland, where Wright was building Florida Southern College and found a job laboring on the site. As a result of that contact, Wright awarded Broward fellowships to study at both of his compounds, Taliesin East, in Wisconsin, and Taliesin West, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Broward grins when he relates how he inadvertently tipped "the master's" bulldozer over in a bold but failed attempt to impress Wright.

Honoring Wright's legacy, Broward's buildings use open space, natural forms and natural materials to embrace the environment. An excellent example of his style is the Unitarian Universalist Church in Arlington.

"I went out and spent the night on that site before I began to work on the project," Broward recalls. "It faces a pool of water that reflects the building and curving members of the structure attach it to the land. There is also a nature walk designed as a memorial to one of the church members. I had survived a serious car wreck before I began work on the church and I felt that I had been given a second gift of life which allowed me to express gratitude by giving back. I put so much into that building. Every little detail came out of my heart."

Another detail of the Unitarian Church was the inclusion of a wall hanging by Jacksonville fiber artist, Memphis Wood. Broward frequently commissioned the work of other artists for his projects. "Memphis Wood was a teacher of mine at Landon when I

was in high school. She was a young red-head and quite a lady. Another teacher I remember fondly is Harold Bess, my drafting teacher."

Broward's connection with water has informed his architecture. One warehouse he designed has a roof that collects water and shoots it forward in an aesthetic spray. "High winds and heavy rains are normal for us. I would like to see architecture in Jacksonville relate more to the city's location. We're on the river, a big water park. It's such a magnificent river and it's not respected enough."

At the other end of the architectural style spectrum, Broward has worked to preserve numerous historic structures. Having authored a book in 1983 on Henry John Klutho's influence on Jacksonville's architecture, Broward was a consultant for the restoration of Klutho's St. James Building when it was turned into Jacksonville's new City Hall in the mid-'90s. Broward also restored the interior of the marble bank that is now in disrepair. He tried three times to help restore the Downtown Laura Street Trio, a group of structures that has been cited as crucial for Jacksonville's historic urban identity.

Broward's stories of early Jacksonville capture a city that is unknown in historic photographs. "My father, who held the record for river crossings, ran the St. Johns River ferry that provided access to both banks of the river. He went to work at 3 a.m. and finished at 3 p.m. seven days a week. If something happened and he had to call in a substitute there was only one, Mr. Westcott, a Dutchman who lived in a boat house off the Southside docks where Prudential is now. I remember walking those docks and seeing lots of people living there. It was the Depression and folks were poor, really poor. I have never seen a picture of the boat houses, as they were called."

Asked what advice he would give aspiring architects, Broward pauses for a moment and looks out his living room window at the panoramic river view he and wife Myrtice Craig enjoy from their home. It is evident that this is a question he has been asked many times, one that he takes seriously from a legacy perspective. "I would tell them to be prepared to devote their life to their craft. Architecture is not a business; it is an art. You must never be half-hearted in its practice."

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It takes a Mommy Village

Building friendships while strengthening motherhood

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The saying “It takes a village to raise children” is true in our closely-knit neighborhoods, where mothers have helped each other through generations. A more formal organization – that typically meets at churches – is MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), helping moms connect and form friendships.

“When we moved to Jacksonville from Clearwater, our son Isaac was 11 and I had a newborn daughter Mya. With no friends here, although I was an experienced mother, it was difficult. I needed to meet other women besides baseball team parents...so I joined the MOPS group at Murray Hill Presbyterian Church,” Lauren Atwaters said. “My son is 15 now and Mya is 4. I can truly say I established another family there.” Atwaters is currently director of that MOPS group and owns Ten23 Designs, a personalized home and event décor company.

Shortly after their relocation the Atwaters’ son Isaac underwent surgical removal of a facial mass. Lauren and husband Gerald were in a state of shock.

“Before, during and after Isaac’s surgery, my MOPS sisters, the church, Pastor Drew Marshall and wife Suzi, who barely knew me, rallied around us with food, visits, phone calls and prayers. I’ve never asked anyone for help in my life...it was beautiful, what they did for us. Thankfully Isaac had a non-cancerous tumor and is fine,” she said. “But we will never forget that.”

Suzi Marshall praised MOPS’ supportive, caring network for mothers and families.

“These days, many mothers do not

have their own moms or an extended family living nearby or even in the city,” Marshall said. “It makes finding other moms and a support group so important.”

Tanya Hardaker, mother of Drew, 6, Lily, 4, and Daisy, 2, becomes mom and dad when her husband Andrew travels for work.

“I have several friends whose husbands also work a lot. We swap the kids to run errands, do laundry, grocery shop, clean or just have some alone time,” she said. “Not only do we trust each other with our children, we also know they are forming lasting friendships and having fun while we save babysitting money.”



Moms and toddlers on a group outing visit a local fire station for a fun learning experience.

Hardaker met several moms through St. Mark’s Episcopal Church MOPS group and young mothers’ Bible study group. They plan Cummer Museum play dates, turn the kids loose to run around in the gardens, or enjoy their version of “happy hour”: visiting at Boone Park while their children play.

“We love, pray for each other, put each other’s children down to nap while the realtor shows the house, or cook extra dinners to share. These are lasting friendships between women who understand each other and also have absolutely no time to do Facebook!” Hardaker said.

During her first two years in Jacksonville, Christine Burkett said that she would never have survived without her MOPS friends. She and husband Hugh have son H, 5, and daughter Mamie, 3.

“I arrived seven months pregnant and had a caesarean section, then back surgery and was bedridden for six weeks. The other mothers barely



MOPS director Lauren Atwaters and family (photo by Christy Whitehead)

knew me but did everything to help,” Burkett said. “A great thing we’ve done to get some home-cooked meals prepared while having fun is to divide tasks, cook six

recipes together and everyone leaves with casseroles. Sharing holidays and enjoying our families is also special. MOPS offers a balance of social outlet, friendships, play dates and even community service through philanthropy projects, helping needy mothers and charity fundraisers.”

Alison Watson, who has a son Reynolds, 16 months, was a teacher and now tutors privately. She and husband Jason expect another baby, due in August.

“I tutor privately; my husband owns Watson Martial Arts and FightFit Fitness, so it’s busy. I joined MOPS at Southside United Methodist Church and the mothers’ Bible study group. They have educational/parenting programs, do crafts and we can carve out time every week to be together, share advice and support each other,” she said. “We know the joys and trials of motherhood...there’s always so much to learn. We walk, exercise or go to Granada Park. It’s wonderful to see our children growing up together, getting to know their friends’ parents as the families become close. That isn’t always possible with parents of their school friends.”

Many mothers believe their friendships strengthen them in what can be a monotonous, often under-appreciated job they consider to be the most important.

“We need uplifting messages about motherhood – it’s such a special gift and the most important job any of us will ever do, but we have so many things to juggle every day, we need to be reminded,” Katherine Ridge said. “We’re encouraging each other, praying the scriptures for our children and planting seeds – these children are the future.” Ridge and her husband Alan live on River Oaks Road with sons Lee, 5, and Logan, 3.

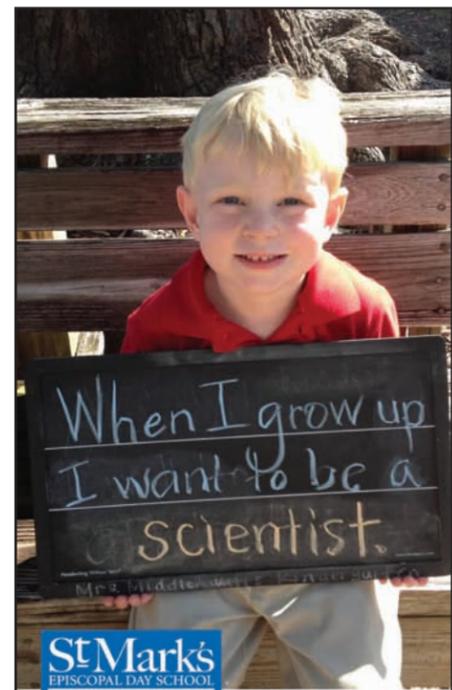
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Children's Enrichment Workshop holds awards banquet



Students from Central Riverside, West Riverside and Fishweir elementary schools played a lot of basketball in the Children's Enrichment Workshop basketball program during the 2012-13 school year.

Former CEW participants, who now attend middle and high schools such as Lee and Lakeshore, enjoyed the environment and team coaching so much they return every year.

Michael Jones (holding the Under 16 Division Trophy) has been head coach for 15 years; other coaches include Milton Latimer, Ashanti Williams and Eve Moad, coach for the Bling Blings, the girls' team. Rev. Robert Kinley, far left, is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. The awards banquet was held Apr. 3 at the church.

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Butterflies are finally freed

Stella and Ruby, students at St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten & Preschool, enjoyed the annual butterfly release in the church courtyard in early April. The PreK classes began a science unit with 15 caterpillars in early March; 14 emerged as butterflies.

Keeping it in the family – another McAfee boy wins poster contest

Yet another artistic McAfee boy wins a poster contest...and goes to the White House. Not to be out-drawn by older brother Stuart, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School second grader Kevin McAfee won a family trip to attend the annual White House Easter Egg Roll.



Kevin, 8, was a co-winner with a 12-year-old girl from Woodstock, VA. Kevin's poster was chosen to be the official 2013 Easter Egg Roll Poster and was handed

out to participants at the egg roll on Apr. 1.

This is the fourth poster contest Kevin has won in the past several years; fourth grade brother Stuart recently won a poster contest sponsored by the Florida Division of Energy Management for Severe Weather Awareness Week. Their mother, Seana McAfee, attributes some of her sons' success to good genes. Their aunt, Kelly Delaney, is an art teacher at Atlantic Coast High School.

Girl Scouts give St. Paul's garden a makeover

Daisy Troop 543 and Leader Adrienne Baldwin recently gave the Girl Scout garden at St. Paul's Catholic School a much-needed makeover. Plants were selected by Quana Register, a Girl Scout parent who happens to be a butterfly expert. Milk weed, lantana, midnight violet and some herbs will attract and serve as a home for the butterflies. The Scouts will be responsible for keeping the garden watered over the summer.



Carolina Baldwin, Olivia Yuhas, Jayden Register, Lola Mangram, Ariana Arroyo, Alena Arroyo, Georgia Witt, Emily Wheldon, Mia Sandhu and Kayla Shanks



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Riverside young man wins coveted USNA spot

Riverside resident Patrick Glover was one of approximately 2,550 young men and women from around the nation and abroad from a pool of over 8,000 applicants selected by the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) to attend the Naval Academy Summer Seminar program this June.



Glover, a junior at The Bolles School, will participate in the 2013 U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar program, a fast-paced leadership experience for rising seniors in high school. This program helps educate, motivate, and prepare selected students who are considering applying for admission to USNA.

Glover will attend a six-day session and experience a glimpse of USNA life. He will have the opportunity to participate in academic and leadership workshops as well as daily

physical training involving group runs and conditioning exercises. Glover will experience firsthand what the Naval Academy has to offer through its exceptional academic, athletic, extracurricular activities and leadership training programs.

Summer Seminar has an academic focus, with each student attending eight 90-minute workshops, covering subjects from information technology, naval architecture and mechanical engineering, to oceanography, mathematics, history and meteorology. Along with other students, Glover will also participate in seamanship and navigation classes and will take a cruise aboard a Navy Yard Patrol Craft to apply what he will learn in class.

For more information about the Naval Academy visit www.usna.edu or the USNA Admissions Facebook page.

Residents honor founder in Grace Episcopal dedication



Front row: Tom and Ellen Schifanella and Earline Johnson; second row: Jim and Dodie Horsfall

Jan Burton, formerly of Orange Park, was ahead of her time when she established the Grace Episcopal Pre-School and Kindergarten of Orange Park in 1950. Since then the school expanded in 1995 adding elementary classrooms and again in 2010 to add middle school grades.

At the Apr. 3 dedication of the Jan Burton Transition Five Classroom, Head of School Martha Milton said, "Jan was so progressive in

her day." Burton developed the "transition five" classroom concept to give kids one more year to get ready socially and emotionally for kindergarten.

Burton, who lives with her daughter in the Pacific Northwest, was supported by area residents in funding and maintaining the school. On hand to celebrate the dedication of the Transition Five Classroom they support were Tom and Ellen Schifanella of Atlantic Beach, Earline Johnson and Windy Gains of Ortega, Jim and Dodie Horsfall of San Jose, Susie Smith of San Marco, Cindy Archibald Purcell of Lakeshore, Owene Courtney and Karrie Massee of Orange Park, Muffet Moran of Green Cove Springs and Sally Harasz of Neptune Beach.

RPDS celebrates 26th Capers fundraiser

RPDS third grader Charlie Medure with chef dad and Capers caterer Matthew Medure



Parents, alumni, faculty, staff and administrators of Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) gathered at the Museum and Gardens on Art Museum Drive on Apr. 13 for Capers – "Bubbles and Bar-B-Que" – the school's 26th annual auction fundraiser.

Chaired for the second year in a row by RPDS parent Michelle Wright, the event featured live and silent auctions, a bluegrass band, and dinner catered by Matthew's. As the sun set, Senator Aaron Bean emceed a highly entertaining live auction under the oak trees for the 325



Jonathan and Michelle Wright (event chair), and Morgan Storm (RPDS alum, parent and Assistant Dir. of Advancement) and Whit Storm

guests in attendance. For 26 years Capers has been the signature fundraising event for RPDS. The proceeds raised from Capers provide essential revenue to supplement the school's tuition, and support a variety of mission-based activities. Over its 26-year history, some of the projects Capers helped financially support include cutting-edge technology such as iPads and the Mac Computer Lab, innovative academic curricula like Singapore Math, need-based financial assistance, and updates to the campus and facilities.

Lee High School to dedicate Fallen Heroes statue

Shortly before Robert E. Lee High School celebrated the completion of much-needed renovations in February, the school marked its 85th anniversary. One of the two oldest high schools in Jacksonville, it was originally dedicated on Jan. 19, 1928. Eight and a half decades later, current enrollment is just about double that of the original 954 students.

This month the school on McDuff Avenue South dedicates the Fallen Heroes statue in the new courtyard on Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m., which commemorates 173 graduates who have died while serving in the military. Since there are areas still to be completed – such as a courtyard

fountain and paving around a flagpole – that will not be financed by the original budget, alumni groups have come together to support them with donations for personal brick pavers.

Former students of the historical high school can purchase brick pavers for \$100. Contact Kathy Martin, martink@duvalschools.org or (904) 381-3930.

In addition, the alumni association will host a BBQ fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 18, and provide tours of the newly opened classrooms and additions. The fundraiser will benefit book scholarships for Lee graduates.

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