

New year marks start of Overland Bridge project

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

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

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

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

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THE Resident

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS, FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

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Celebrating Marriage

Re-consecration Shabbat to be held near Valentine's Day

According to Jewish tradition, it is the people's duty to celebrate with the bride and groom, but at Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple), the celebration doesn't stop at the wedding. Eighty-four couples will be honored at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, as Temple celebrates Marriage Re-consecration Shabbat. This year the continuum of couples celebrating anniversaries range from some who are just reaching their 5th year of married life, to one couple who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in 2013. There will be a special Oneg Shabbat following services so that friends and family can offer good wishes.



Linda Doran, Jean Montney and Rita Cannon

Women's Auxiliary

preps for celebrities and guests

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary's tasting and planning party was hosted by Marilyn Carpenter in Mandarin on January 29. Special guest was Jane Lanier, President of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, who will be a celebrity chef at the 27th Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction. The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Richard and Mary Ashley, and CSX Corporation are presenting sponsors for the luncheon on March 14 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Train quiet zones don't remove horns

I agree that train horns are nostalgic and purposeful, but if the railroad "quiet zone" is enacted it does not get rid of the train horns.

My understanding of the "quiet zone" is that it merely changes the location of the horns. Now, the train blows its horn at every crossing in San Marco. The horn is mounted on the train facing straight down the tracks and to get the necessary decibel level on the road approaching the crossing, the horn is very loud. In a "quiet zone" the train does not sound its horn

but there is a horn mounted at the crossing pointed down the road. Now to get the necessary decibels approaching the crossing, the crossing horn is blown at a much lower decibel level. If you're on the road approaching the track it sounds the same, but if you are off to the side in the neighborhood it is much quieter.

I think the quiet zone is a great idea for San Marco. We will still have the train horns, just not as loud.

— William Cesery

Editor's Note: According to various news sources, under federal railroad administration guidelines, trains must sound a two long, one

short, one long horn pattern at crossings. Under the new federal rules, as of 2009, a quiet zone must be at least a half-mile in length and have at least one highway-rail grade crossing. Every crossing in a quiet zone must be equipped with a flashing light and an automatic gate warning system. A study paid for by the City of Jacksonville in 2005 found setting up a quiet zone in San Mateo, which is crisscrossed by train tracks, would cost, at minimum, around \$170,000. Gates would have to be erected at seven crossings that would prevent vehicles from crossing the tracks when a silent train draws near. Starting in 2014, CSX will re-route some of these trains to make room for the new SunRail commuter train.

Balis Park fundraising efforts continue with bricks, bike racks and sponsorships

BY STEVE DIMATTIA

RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Imagine a time in the not too distant future when you ride your bike to San Marco Square's Balis Park, lock it up to your own personalized work of art masquerading as a bike rack and then stroll along a brick walkway that is etched with your name. You may even sit down on a bench marked for you and rest in the shade of your own tree as you proudly look upon the beautiful park that you helped to create and support.

San Marco Preservation Society and San Marco Merchants Association are

offering just such an opportunity. As part of ongoing park fundraising efforts, individuals and businesses have a limited chance to purchase customized bricks as well as naming rights to bike racks creatively designed by local artists. They also offered naming rights to 15 benches and several trees, but those have all been purchased.

"This is a unique opportunity to support a great local project while also getting personal or corporate recognition for your efforts," said Bob Warren, SMPS Public Relations Chairman.

Bricks cost \$100 and will be part of two walkways slated to replace the traffic signal, currently located between the

Lions fountain and the gazebo, as part of the Square's renovation. They can be engraved with two lines and may be purchased (as long as available) until Feb. 28.

The bike rack naming opportunity is part of an open call to local artists to design and build permanent outdoor racks that are not only functional but also uniquely creative. Naming rights cost \$1,000 and will be available until Feb. 28. Final submission date for designs was Feb. 2.

Artists will be selected from Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Baker or Nassau counties and their design may incorporate the donor's name. Local sculptor David Engdahl created the request for proposal for the competition, which will provide artists with \$500 or \$2,000 to create their one-bike or six-bike design, and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Art in Public Places program is helping coordinate the effort.

"We are excited about giving local artists a place to showcase their work in a way that is consistent with the goals of the Art Council," said SMPS Past President Doug Skiles.

Beyond the bricks and bike racks, corporate and individual sponsorships are also available for \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000. Sponsorship packages include customized bricks, membership into SMPS and SMMS, and a plaque prominently displayed in the park recognizing the contribution.

"Fundraising for the expansion and beautification of Balis Park has been picking up speed, and we appreciate everyone who has made a tax-deductible contribution already. This is a unique opportunity to support a great local project, which will make San Marco an even more desirable destination," said SMPS President Diane Martin, who noted a fundraising goal of \$150,000, which will go toward bricks, benches, trees, racks, landscaping and continual park maintenance.

For information or to donate, visit SMPS website at <http://smpsjax.com/> or contact the following:

Diane Martin: (904) 614-7814, dfurl55@aol.com

George Foote: (904) 304-1639, george@mysanmarco.com

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East San Marco showing signs of life

Developers once again optimistic that project will move forward

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After six years of dormancy, the East San Marco development project at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard is once again showing signs of life.

While key players emphasized that details still have a very long way to go before anything is worked out or released to the public, focused conversations are once again taking place and all involved remain committed to the project.

"I'm certainly more optimistic now than I was even a year ago that we will be able to move forward with the project in some form," said Tom Fleming, vice president of investments for Regency Centers, who, along with St. Joe Company, is developing the site under the name East San Marco LLC. "We are working actively with various potential team members to try to get things moving. Is anything concrete? The answer is, 'no.' But we are engaged again, which is something that hasn't really happened in the past few years. It's a good sign."

A large reason for that re-engagement is rooted in the current market-place.

"In the past few years there just hasn't been a market opportunity for that project. But the residential market seems to be recovering, with a number of multi-family, single-family and mixed-use projects getting off the ground," said Chris Kuhn, St. Joe's Director of Development. "We are excited that the overall market has provided us with the opportunity to revisit this plan."

After Wachovia Bank was built on the 5.3-acre site in 2006 construction came to a standstill in the face of the recession. Original plans called for a mixed-use development with at least 147 townhomes/condominiums, a 390-space parking garage and about 50,000 square feet of retail space anchored by a 30,000-square-foot Publix grocery. There was also a development agreement that would give East San Marco LLC seven to nine years to complete the project.

Fleming said the project would

remain mixed-use, in that there may still be residential above retail, but there's less likelihood that condominiums will be part of that mix. He also emphasized that the appearance of the building itself will remain as unchanged as the market allows.

"We have worked on this project for a long time so we have a lot of good data and will consider everything we've looked at in the past. But the original PUD [Planned Unit Development] approved some penthouse, luxury condominiums that we can no longer include. Scope is the question moving forward – what are you really going to build and what can sustain in that area?" Fleming said. "We will apply for necessary modifications to the PUD or development, once we have a plan."

Publix is still part of that plan. "We remain committed and look forward to serving the San Marco community more intimately," said Publix

spokesperson Dwaine Stevens.

Also still on board is the San Marco Preservation Society.

"East San Marco has recently become one of the most highly anticipated developments in North Florida. The combined experience, know-how and financial strength of the joint venture between Regency Centers and St. Joe ensure that this will be a unique, first class retail/multi-family development," said SMPS Public Relations Chairman Bob Warren.

St. Joe's Kuhn looks forward to building such a project specifically in San Marco.

"This is a unique site and we are excited to have the opportunity to bring a fully integrated, mixed-use development to one of Jacksonville's premier historic neighborhoods," he said.

While Fleming said that putting a time frame on the project would "just be teasing people" until there was something viable to announce, he nonetheless emphasized Regency's future commitment to the project.

"We don't want to overpromise or overhype before we have a concrete plan. But Regency is a long-term owner/operator. Our goal is not to build and sell, but to own and maintain with success a well run, high quality development. I look forward to when that happens and I think it will be a great thing for San Marco."

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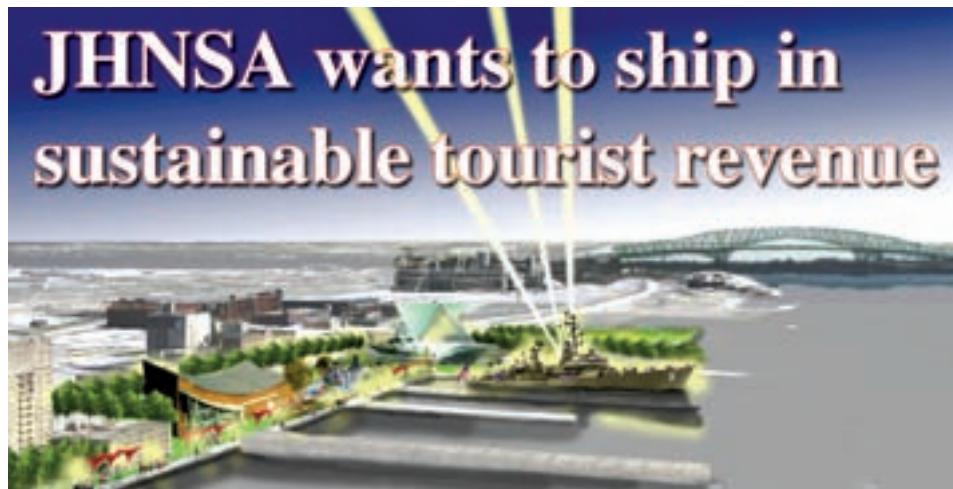
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USS Charles Adams could float millions in economic impact

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why the North Bank? Although the original proposal planned to moor the ship alongside the South Bank,

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

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

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

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

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

Take Advantage of Inventory Lows

It's time to seize the opportunity you have to sell your house before everyone else figures out the lack of inventory. This historic buyers market is rapidly slipping into a marketplace where supply is not keeping up with demand. This

is good news for sellers. The scarcity of homes for sale and an abundance of buyers who want to take advantage of low interest rates have brought multiple offers back to the negotiating table. Rock bottom offers are being replaced with higher, competitive offers. Slight pricing

increases are being seen as a result. Selling a house is not a guessing game. Speak with a Realtor who understands absorption rate pricing so that your closing will take place on schedule. Stay ahead of the market. Experience a Realtor who loves her job.

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New legislation from context sensitive street committee authorizes angled parking

Other legislation clarifies landowners' responsibility for sidewalks

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The City Council's Special Committee on Context Sensitive Streets, chaired by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, has produced two pieces of legislation geared to improve parking and more accurately codify responsibilities for property owners with respect to the construction and maintenance of sidewalks, curbs and gutters abutting their property.

The committee first convened in September to "determine the appropriateness" of guidelines put forth over a year ago by the city's Planning and Development Department in a handbook, *Context Sensitive Streets: Street Design Guidelines*. They were tasked by Council President Bill Bishop to "make recommendations for and/or draft legislation as appropriate to address this issue." The committee includes council members Greg Anderson, Doyle Carter, Kimberly Daniels and Don Redman. The two bills are the first to come from their efforts.

Ordinance 2012-635 authorizes the use of angled and reverse-angle parking on all city roadways. Boyer said it was in response to a state statute that pro-

vides that all parking, even on local roads, would be parallel unless otherwise determined by local ordinance.

"The idea was to take away the state pre-emption of that decision and allow our city engineer to make a decision as to whether or not angled parking is appropriate in a particular circumstance," Boyer said. "Now if you want angled parking you don't have to go through a whole legislative process, you just have to present your case to the city engineer."

Boyer noted angled parking is advantageous in urbanized commercial areas because it uses less space than parallel parking so maximizes parking availability. She also pointed out that, with angled parking, car doors open into a parking space and not into bike lanes or sidewalks.

"It's not only safer for bicyclists, but it also improves the streetscape by allowing for more sidewalk seating," Boyer said.

That point aligns with the planning department's street design guidelines, which defines context sensitive street design as: "*An approach to roadway planning, design and street operation, to meet regional transportation goals while enhancing neighborhoods and*

considering the adjacent uses of land. CSSD respects traditional street design objectives for safety, efficiency, capacity, and maintenance, while integrating community objectives and values relating to compatibility, livability, sense of place, urban design, cost and environmental impacts."

The second bill (2012-634) amends Ordinance Code Chapter 740 – Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters – to accurately

reflect current practices.

"When we started looking at the code we realized it did not reflect how we actually operated. This is a codification of all of the processes currently in place with respect to sidewalks, gutters and curbs," Boyer explained.

The bill clarifies the requirements for owners of land that "abuts upon a street, park or other public place":

- Owners of undeveloped land are required to construct a sidewalk when the land is developed.
- Owners of developed land that does not have a sidewalk may construct one at their own expense.
- The city may install a sidewalk at its expense by request of a city councilmember, school principal, the Department of Public Works, or its own initiative.

- Owners may petition the city for a sidewalk.

- Owners are required to maintain existing sidewalks. The city is responsible for repairs, such as cracks, not resulting from lack of maintenance.

"All of these methods already existed, they just weren't all in one place where someone could read and understand them," Boyer said.

The Context Sensitive Streets Committee will next meet on Feb. 6 to take up the creation of a full-time bicycle-pedestrian coordinator position and to discuss the composition and focus of the so-called "red book" committee, which adopts standards for things such as pavement widths, sidewalks, transit stops, etc.

"This is the bigger piece of legislation. The challenge is to get a broad enough representation – health, retail shopping center, urban, and transit perspectives, for example – without getting too big to be effective. That [red book] committee writes the rules for the whole city, so it needs to be broadened beyond just homebuilders and developers and we need to figure out how to make it work better for the whole city," Boyer said.

For more information on Context Sensitive Streets Committee:

<http://www.coj.net/city-council/council-committees-boards-commissions/context-sensitive-streets-special-committee.aspx>



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JAX2025 says 67% are “satisfied” with the city

Weather and water top the list of faves

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

“Survey says” – and there were over 14,000 of them from every neighborhood (183 ZIP Codes) in the region – that 67 percent of the area residents are satisfied with the quality of life in Jacksonville today.

In particular, you like the quality and availability of health services, the quality, cost and availability of parks and open spaces, the strength and sta-



bility of your neighborhood, feelings of safety in your home or neighborhood, the cost and availability of housing to own or rent, and the opportunities to enjoy arts and cultural activities and events.

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

When it comes to what is concerning to the region’s residents, 40-63% were dissatisfied with the vibrancy of Downtown, the quality of public education, the ease of getting around on public transportation, the ability to influence local government and the opportunities to find good paying jobs. Therefore, Downtown

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

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

San Marco residents participating in the JAX2025 event last month thought proximity to Downtown was a plus. “I’m originally from New York and I like to be close to the city,” said Gil Mayers. “Downtown is easy to

walk to.” He moved to San Marco in 1985 because “it seemed progressive and interesting...and a safe place for my mother to live.”

Andrew Dickson moved to the area 15 years ago from Delaware and appreciates that most things are within walking distance or a 10-minute ride to work downtown by car or bus. And, as far as living in San Marco, Dickson noted, “It’s safe enough that I’m not worried about turning my kid loose. There’s good community spirit.”

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



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Councilwoman Boyer seeks to revise PUD process

Recommendations benefit developers with more detailed plans

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

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

A PUD is a type of rezoning that provides flexibility in planning, design, development and innovative approaches to the design of community environments, said Bruce Lewis,

city planning supervisor. They are specific to a particular property and stay with that property even through an ownership change. PUDs cover multiple deviations and categories and are vetted through city council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jan. 10 open meeting.

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

sure: Everybody is on the same footing and understands what the process is and how we're looking at it.

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

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

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

See a draft of the PUD zoning code modifications here:

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

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St. Johns Riverkeeper offers new rain barrel program

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

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

Deadline to pre-order is February 25, 2013. There will also be a limit-

ed number of rain barrels available on pick up day. Normal retail is \$109, but through this special promotion the barrels are just \$65 or two for \$120.

Order now and pick up at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 2. Quantities are limited. Learn more on the St. Johns

Riverkeeper website, www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org, and order rain barrels (with childproof, bug proof lids) online at www.rainbarrelprogram.org/rainbarrelsfortheriver.

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



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March is St. Johns River Month!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Time to get your green on!

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

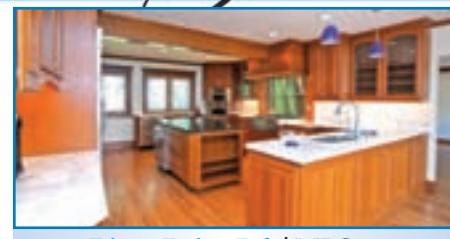
Greenscape members are invited to a private preview sale on Friday, Feb. 22, 3-5 p.m. Memberships start at \$25 and may be purchased online at www.greenscapeofjacksonville.org.

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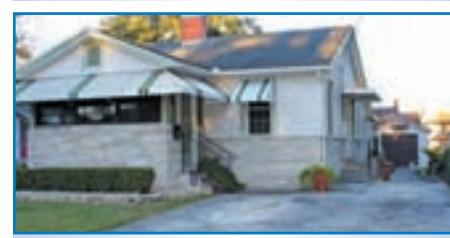
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Epping Forest Yacht Club, the former home of Alfred I. and Jessie Ball duPont, is celebrating 25 years as one of the most prestigious private clubs in the south. On Saturday, Mar. 16, members and guests will celebrate this silver anniversary at a Casino Royale party in the historic mansion.

The Mansion, constructed in the 1920s, is listed on the Register of National Historic Places and consists of a mixture of Gothic, Spanish Renaissance and Baroque architectural style, which has been trans-

formed into a private club atmosphere. The formal garden, walkways and fountains have all been restored to their 1920s original look. In 2012, The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects recognized Epping Forest Yacht Club as the 3rd Place Recreational Facility in the Florida Architects 100 Years. 100 Places competition.

Epping Forest Yacht Club, a Gate Petroleum developed community, has evolved from a historic estate to one of the finest private clubs in Jacksonville. The only private water-

front yacht club on the east bank of the St. Johns River, Epping Forest Yacht Club offers its members world class casual and formal dining in beautifully appointed dining rooms overlooking the St. Johns River, banquet facilities, a state of the art fitness center, tennis, swimming, a 72-slip marina, and an active calendar of social events.

When the club first opened in 1988, Ted Kilpatrick, Epping Forest's first managing director, stated, "Epping Forest Yacht Club is

going to be one of the most exciting clubs in the country because of its historical significance and the care with which it has been restored."

Twenty-five years later, Epping Forest Yacht Club continues to be just that and looks forward to celebrating years of history and memories that will last a lifetime!

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Stars are aligned for Southbank changes

Residents want to halt proposed BRT development

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

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

The alternate vision for Riverplace



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

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

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

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

investment that high-performance infrastructure can return to a community that is ready to take that step. The performance factors that are affected by investment in the right infrastructure include social, economic, cultural, aesthetic, functional, ecological and health performances. "Riverplace Boulevard should be designed for people and encourage street level activity," he said. "It should not be built for speed. I believe it will be a model for other urban streets in Jacksonville and in the nation."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An advertisement for Mary Airheart Salon. It features a large circular logo on the left. The text reads: "mary airheart SALON", "Now offering hair extensions", "Several extension options for ALL hair types.", "(Competitive Pricing)", "Make your appointment for a Sweetheart of a Deal with Lauren!", "Complimentary cut with any color service (New clients only)", "Voted Folio Weekly's Jax Best Hairstylist 2012", "904-434-9664 | maryairheartsalon@gmail.com", "1450 FLAGLER AVE, #14 BY APPT ONLY". There is a small image of a woman with long blonde hair.

An advertisement for a clinical research study. It features a stylized illustration of a human heart with red and blue vessels. The text reads: "Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes?", "Have you had a heart attack or stroke in the past 2 years?", "Or, do you have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or circulatory problems?", "If the answer is yes, and you are 18 years of age or older, you may be suitable to participate in a clinical research study.", "This study will look at whether an investigational medication (a new medication that is under development) is safe and effective in people with type 2 diabetes.", "The study will last about 6 years and will involve approximately 23 visits to a study center and scheduled telephone calls. Suitable participants will receive study-related medication and health assessments at no cost.", "To find out more, please contact: RIVER CITY CLINICAL RESEARCH (904) 861-3050 • rccr.jaxresearch.com".

An advertisement for Pellicer Properties. It features a large gold stylized letter 'P'. The text reads: "PELLICER PROPERTIES", "Avondale • Riverside • St. Nicholas", "San Marco • Springfield", "Phone: 904-619-4048", "2223 Atlantic Blvd.", "Jacksonville, FL 32207".

An advertisement for River City Clinical Research. It features a stylized illustration of four yellow human figures. The text reads: "To find out more, please contact: RIVER CITY CLINICAL RESEARCH (904) 861-3050 • rccr.jaxresearch.com".

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

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

BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

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

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

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The sale will take place this year at the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue in the heart of San Marco. Cash or Check - Rain or Shine.

Choose from a wide selection of native, ornamental and fruit bearing trees and shrubs, starting at \$10. Visit the website for a list of materials and, at the sale, get advice from area tree experts. New this year, as a special value, Greenscape Members can beat the rush and come to the pre-sale on Friday, February 22nd from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Memberships can be purchased at the Tree Sale or in advance.

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The 6th Annual Root Ball
Presented by Late Bloomers Garden Club

Saturday February 23 - 7 p.m.
at "The Museum"

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For more information on the Flowering Tree Sale or to purchase tickets to the Root Ball, call 904.398.5757 or visit www.greenscapeofjacksonville.org

The Flowering Tree Sale and Root Ball are annual events sponsored by Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc., a local non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich Jacksonville by planting, promoting and protecting trees.



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

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

The two continued their clearly practiced choreography for five more minutes, with Quito willingly presenting body parts as his partner gently made requests, then rewarded him for his cooperation. I was delighted when he allowed her to put a Q-tip into his ear, but the real kicker was when he opened his mouth wide to receive a tongue depressor.

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

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

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

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

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

Read Quito and Tracy's story:

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

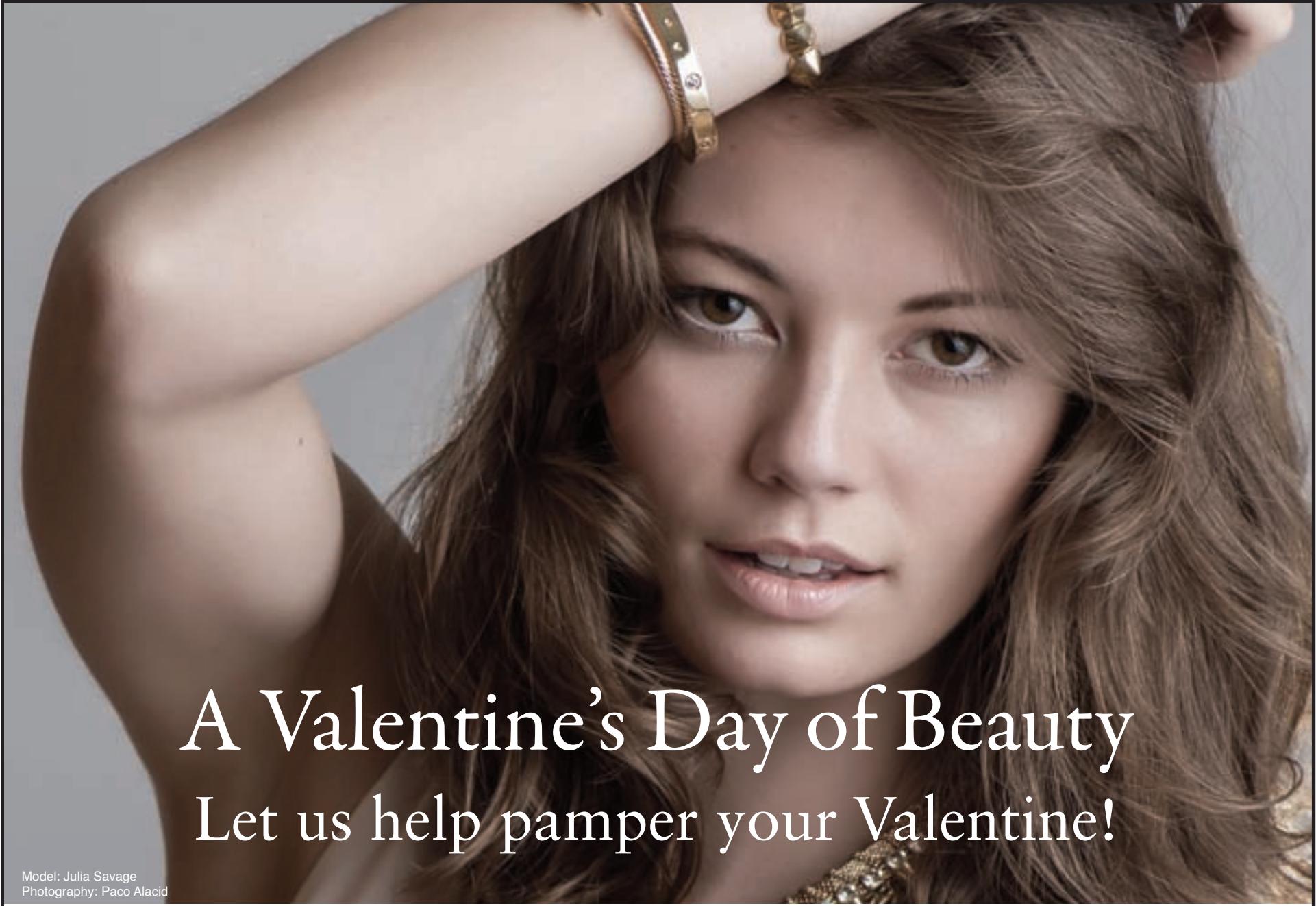
Note: Zoo guests are invited to hang farewell messages to Quito on the bamboo located on the path between the Range of the Jaguar and the first Great Apes window.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

San Marco Square icon retires

The end of the month will be a sad day for visitors and vendors in San Marco Square when Mimi Kersun shuts the door for a well deserved retirement after 28 years selling antiques and sharing cooking tips. The regionally known cooking expert and purveyor of Victorian majolica, porcelain oyster plates and Transfer ware said it was time to pare down after a successful run in the Square. "San Marco's been wonderful," said Mimi. "I have very loyal customers, who stop by to say Hello – especially at Christmas – even if they aren't in to buy." She plans to sell majolica, oyster plates and fine silver from a cabinet at Avonlea.

When Mimi was looking for a place to put a cooking school nearly 30 years ago, she was pointed to an old rug shop by fellow merchant Ward Lariscy. Mimi kept the store's pine furniture and filled it with antiques and treasures, while renovating the second floor to serve as her cooking school and complete kitchen shop. Mimi was also a food columnist for the Jacksonville Journal, a restaurant critic, radio show hostess and had a television series. "One of my customers taped all



my shows and kept a book of all the columns and articles about me," said Mimi. Sounds like she'll be missed.

Market 1 fills "natural" niche



While working at the Savannah College of Art and Design, a similar shop there was Barbara DeWitt's inspiration for Market 1, a cozy shop-slash-stopping-place at 4432 Hendricks Avenue. Filled with products and foods touted to be "all natural" or organic, Market 1 also offers local handmade soaps and gift items, refinished or repurposed furniture, and a cheery corner set up for snacks as you enjoy a game of tic-tac-toe or checkers, or make your own greeting cards. For more information, call (904) 448-4004 or visit facebook.com/JaxMarketOne.

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Shands Jacksonville names Armistead new CEO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rusted introduces vintage finds and landscape designs

Photo courtesy of Rusted Vintage Facebook

Rusted, a 10-member co-op market at 2011 Belote Place in San Marco, offers an assortment of vintage and antique items mixed with art and handcrafted jewelry. The members bring together an eclectic collection at very affordable prices, with new arrangements almost weekly. Rusted also offers classes in furniture painting and gardening, and has a monthly "Last Saturday Tag Sale". Stop by and say "Hello" to Stella, the Hemingway Cat shop kitty. For more information, call (904) 303-5413 or visit facebook.com/rustedmarket.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Former Jaguar QB now coach at Episcopal

Mark Brunell is back in Jacksonville. As newly named head football coach and program director of the 650-student Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Brunell brings years of experience – including eight years with the Jacksonville Jaguars – at the highest levels of football, according to athletic director Andy Kidd. Brunell will also serve as the Advancement Athletics Consultant for the prep school, whose football team finished 3-6 last year.



Photo courtesy of The Episcopal School

Teate named HandsOn Jacksonville Director of Strategic Advocacy and Advancement



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

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

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Sharon Light re-elected president for third term

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



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

Danford, treasurer; Cathy Smith, secretary; Georgianne Pionessa, secretary; and Carol Shelton, member-at-large.

The Federation was founded 75 years ago in 1938 and is a grassroots organization of 100,000 members nationwide to advance the power of women through political access and participation. For more information visit their website at www.rwcd.org.

Women for Christ headline best-selling author Angela Thomas

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



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Simple sound of a chime is a sign of hope

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Community is an integral part of the healing process at the Florida Proton Therapy Institute and that was never more apparent than the day Aud's Chime was rung for the first time.

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

The Anderson family was so impressed by the care and medical brilliance of the team at the Proton Therapy Institute they wanted to leave behind a legacy that could help others celebrate their road to recovery. Sue Anderson and her brother

David, both artists, put their heads together and came up with an idea for something to hang in the lobby atrium. They conferred with artist-in-residence Barbara Holmes-Fryefield and wood sculpturer David Engdahl to solidify the creation and installation of a silver wind chime that would be rung by a bell pull.

On Jan. 22, Aud's Chime was dedicated. Dr. Nancy Price Mendenhall, Medical Director at the Proton Therapy Institute, said "This facility was designed from the beginning to encourage community with and for the patients. Every patient will be able to ring the chime after completing a treatment." After Audrey rang the chime for the first time, several

other patients took turns pulling the hand dyed and hand woven rope in celebration of their own treatment progress.

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

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



Proton Therapy Institute patient Audrey Anderson and artist-in-residence Barbara Holmes-Fryefield



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

Nominations being accepted for annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful awards

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

Last year's award winners included husband and wife team Sarah Nan and Duncann Pullen, who were recognized with a Leadership Achievement Award for battling pollution in local creeks, tributaries and rivers and advocating for a cleaner environment through countless hours with local organizations.

Hendricks Elementary School was also an award winner for campus cleanup days, recycling 22,340 pounds of classroom paper, and planting eight trees on campus in partnership with Greenscape of Jacksonville and T & D Preventative Maintenance of JEA. The school also promotes its sustainability activities in a paperless

newspaper.

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

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Aardwolf Brewery opening soon

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

An aardwolf will soon be residing in San Marco. Not the small, insectivorous hyena native to Africa whose name means, "earth wolf." Rather, this one will be more closely associated with hops, grains and great craft beer in the form of Aardwolf Brewery, which has been in development for over a year at 1461 Hendricks Ave.

Co-owners/operators Michael Payne and Preben Olsen hope to open their taproom in late February, with their recently installed 15-barrel (465 gallon) brewery system up and running once the required permits come through, which may be as early as March or April. The taproom will debut with unique craft and imported beers as well as offerings from established local breweries, including

Riverside's Bold City Brewing Company and Intuition Ale Works. They will then add their own signature brews to what will ultimately be 20 taps. "It's been a long time coming, but it looks like we're ready to go," said Payne, previously brewmaster at Brewer's Pizza in Mandarin. "The changes in the building – outside, but especially inside – have been drastic. People won't recognize it as the same place."

Built in 1927 as an ice plant for South Jacksonville Utilities Company and later housing the Moyer Marble & Tile Company from 1954 to the early 2000s, Aardwolf will be 11,000 square feet with 2,000 of that taproom and other adjoining rooms with a capacity of 150 people. There is a 40-space parking lot, which Olsen said could be shared with other area businesses. Build-out costs exceeded \$300,000.

"It fits in great with the neighborhood and I'm excited that we're opening when the entire area is undergoing a revitalization," Payne said. "With us, and then San Marco Station and others coming soon, the whole stretch [along Hendricks] will look different in just a year or two. I think it will be really positive for the neighborhood."

Bob Warren, Public Relations Chairman for San Marco Preservation Society, agreed.

"Entering one of the best markets in Jacksonville for eateries and watering holes, Aardwolf Brewery should do well in San Marco. We look forward to their opening and expect they will also have a positive impact on other retailers in the area," Warren said.

Jacksonville's burgeoning craft beer community has also embraced Aardwolf.

"We've been working on some collaborative brews with Intuition, Green Room and Pinglehead [Brewer's Pizza]

for limited, special releases," said Olsen, an Avondale resident who until recently was the beer buyer for Riverside's Grassroots Natural Market. "We couldn't have asked for a better reception from the city, the neighborhood and the brewing community."

Aardwolf will join local brewers and craft beer oriented bars, such as Riverside's Kickbacks Gastro Pub, as part of the Ratebeer Winter Gathering, which will be held Feb. 21-24.

Ratebeer is a website dedicated to rating and sharing information about beer, which holds its annual event in different beer friendly cities throughout the country.

The occasion will be the perfect way to christen Aardwolf's taproom and introduce the brewery to the city.

"I have butterflies, to be sure. We're really excited to join Jacksonville's craft beer community and bring great beer to San Marco," Olsen said.

MOSH opens award-winning exhibit on race

What better time and place to release the Jacksonville Community Council Inc.'s (JCCI) progress report on race relations in Jacksonville than at the Museum of Science & History (MOSH) the day before the award-winning traveling exhibit on the story of race opened to the public on Jan. 26.

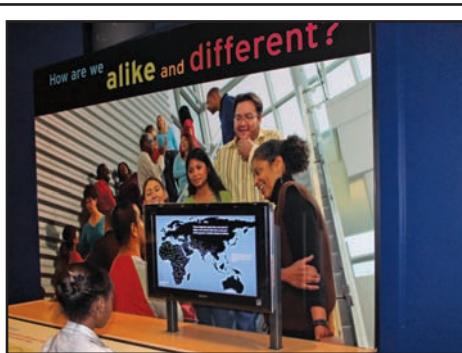
The exhibit, RACE: Are We So Different?, is a 5,000-square-foot interactive exhibit developed in 2007 by the American Anthropological Association and highlights how race and race ideas, past and present, influence people and society. It will remain at the MOSH through Apr. 28.

Jacksonville is the first city in Florida to participate in a nationally recognized project studying the origin of race and race ideas, and their impact on American society. According to the



JCCI's 8th annual report, every year since 1985 it has asked residents if racism was a problem in Jacksonville. Twenty-seven years later, an almost equal number of blacks and whites said "Yes" although this has not always been the case. The gap has narrowed but over 50% overall think racism is a problem.

According to JCCI president and CEO Ben



Warner, "Race is an issue that Jacksonville has wrestled with for a long time, but Jacksonville is not afraid to tackle it."

The progress report on race relations summarizes trendlines that indicate the impact of race in six areas: employment, education, housing, health, justice and politics. To see the report online visit www.jcci.org/race-relations-progress-report.

European Street Café to host Harpeth Rising concert on Feb. 14

Harpeth Rising – a band of four classically trained musicians – will be returning for their second performance at the intimate listening room of the European Street Café (1704 San Marco Blvd.) for a special Valentine's Day show on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. The quartet will be performing music of love, loss, and humor within an eclectic, gourmet restaurant and bar. Tickets are \$12 in advance at (904) 399-1740 or \$15 at the door. A little bit bluegrass, a little bit classical, a little bit folk and a whole lot of original, Harpeth Rising is a band to watch.

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PATRONS PAUSE, ENGAGE WITH NEW MOCA EXHIBIT

Mike and Susie Miller are embraced by Jessie Menning



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

AUTISM COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

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



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WALL OF HOPE UNVEILED AT GALLERY 1037

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



Paula Foster, Barbara Holmes-Fryefield, Sally Parsons

Linda Cunningham, Suzanne Hendrix, Jill Morrow

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

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

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

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



Oldest City Red*Trout Celebrity Classic Planning Committee (left to right): Pete Lafser, Dan Rohan, Kevin English (chairman), Chris Hutchins, Angela Costa, Steve Dear, Ryan Williams, Tommy Coleman and Jolie Patricia Sester (CFF)

SPORTING EVENTS RAISE MONEY FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of North Florida (CFF) hosted two major sporting events – the 65 Roses Golf Classic (sponsored by PlaidParty.com and W.W. Gay) and the 11th Annual Oldest City*Red Trout Classic (presented by PSS World Medical) – raising more than \$160,000 for the Foundation in the fourth quarter of 2012.

CHAMBER MUSIC RESONATES FOR PATRON APPRECIATION

It was a smaller standing ovation than usual, as patrons filled a private living room for a performance of the San Marco Chamber Music Society in Mandarin. The late-January gathering was organized by the musicians to give back to those who support the mission of the group. Comprised of Jacksonville Symphony performers, the group can be found playing world class chamber music for the parish at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church on San Jose Boulevard – their home base. The next concert will kick off the sixth season on March 17 at St. Mark's at 7 p.m. The show will feature James Jenkins on the Tuba, visit their website at www.sanmarcochambermusic.org for more information.



Gina and Ellen Olson with Mary Mittelstadt and Sue Ashby



Patrons and Hosts Rose and Larry Tallman

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BUSINESS PROFILE

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

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

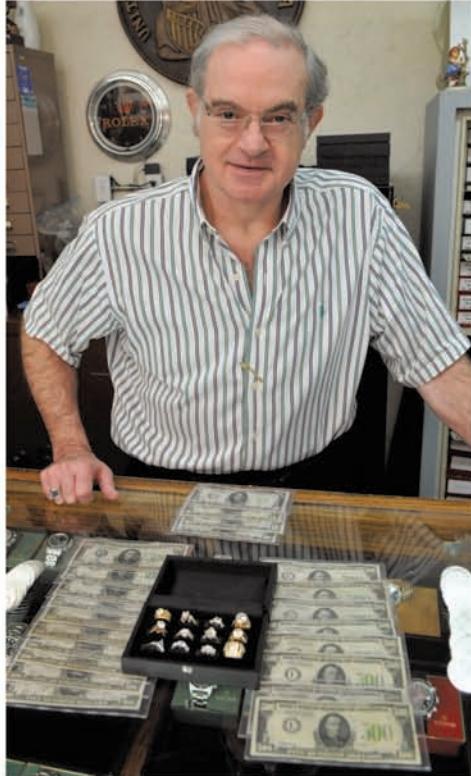
"I always had an interest in coins and began my own business buying and selling while I was still in college in 1971," said Bill, whose grandfather was the first to encourage his passion. His first big find came in 1962 when he was 10: A rare Jefferson Nickel that popped up in his Coke change for which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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Help Solve the Mystery!



Freedman's Bank Building. Constructed in 1870, this building housed the Freedmen's Bank 1870 to 1873, the First National Bank 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
Copyright 1980 by Daniel G. Cassidy

A-Coin.com

A-Coin & Stamp Gallery is located at 6217 St. Augustine Road Contact them at 904-730-2455 or info@a-coin.com. come. Visit the website at www.a-coin.com or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/acoingold. Note: A-Coin is not affiliated with Rolex USA.



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Properties For Rent:



BY NATHAN &
TED MILLER

February marks a time when weather patterns can be unpredictable. Low pressure and cold fronts push through, creating wet conditions for several days, followed by high pressure and high winds.

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

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

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

One reason some anglers prefer higher speeds over slower speeds is it allows the angler to cover more ground

High Speed Trolling



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

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

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

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

The shock leader attaches to a 5 to 6

foot steel cable which hosts your artificial lure designed specifically for high speed trolling.

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

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

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

back where the water is less disturbed.

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

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

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

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

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

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BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Years ago the Federation of Fly Fishers' dedicated fly casters set forth five principles for a good fly cast. They determined that many casters would have different styles of casting but in order to make a good cast they all will incorporate these five principles. Last month we covered the first principle, which was to eliminate slack in the fly line....which brings us to Principle 2.

Principle Number 2: Smooth Acceleration. Your casting hand should accelerate smoothly during the back cast or forward cast, increasing in speed as your hand

Fly Fishing: Principle Number 2

travels through the casting stroke to a crisp STOP. You can imagine, if you just casually waved your rod back and forth, the fly line would never load or put a bend in the rod and no energy would be built up. The line would just fall to the water. However if you accelerate the rod through the stroke the weight of the fly line causes the rod to load and when you STOP the stroke the rod unbends or unloads and the fly line propels forward in a loop. The ener-

gy of the unloading rod is transferred to the fly line and loop which carries your leader and fly along with it.



Some of the fly casting gurus call this a Speed Up and Stop. Others call it a Loading Move and Power Snap. Just remember if you use too little acceleration the fly line will not load the

rod and you will not be able to form a decent loop, if any at all. If you accelerate too fast your cast will be all jerky and again, poor loops and

possibly a crossing loop because the rod tip dipped. The proper amount of Acceleration will also help you keep the rod tip following in a Straight Line Path which is next month's principle! I'll see you in the park practicing!

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

Send your pictures, stories and favorite destinations to The Miller Brothers to Nathan at Nathan@FredMillerGroup.com or Ted at Ted@FredMillerGroup.com.

FWC kicks off python harvesting

Looking for a little excitement? How about python harvesting?

Nearly 800 people from 30 states are registered and ready to compete to bring in the longest and the most Burmese pythons from designated public lands in south Florida, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at the 2013 Python Challenge™ Kickoff in Davie.

For competitors, the challenge is to harvest the well-camouflaged Burmese python, which can grow to

more than 17 feet in the wild in Florida. Hunters will have through midnight on Sunday, Feb. 10 to find these nonvenomous constrictors.

Grand prizes of \$1,500 for harvesting the most Burmese pythons will be awarded to winners of both the General Competition and the Python Permit Holders Competition, with an additional \$1,000 prize for the longest Burmese python harvested overall. Funding for the prizes is provided by sponsors and through registration fees.

You can sign up for the Python Challenge™ at any time during the competition, even on the final day. Go to PythonChallenge.org for the required online training, official rules and registration, as well as informa-

tion on the public events. The Python Challenge™ concludes with an Awareness and Awards Event on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Zoo Miami.

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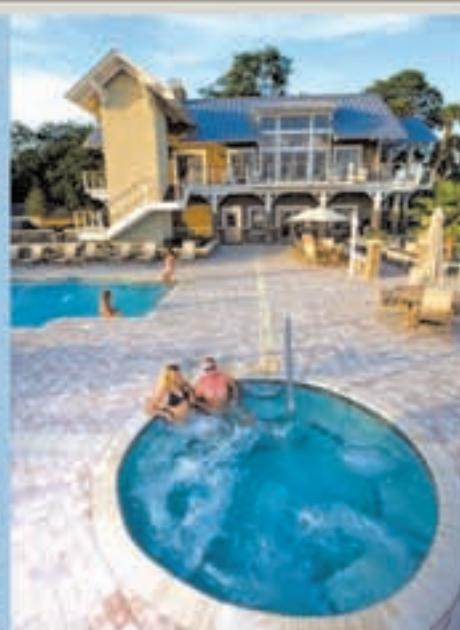


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BUSINESS PROFILE

See What's New in San Marco South

It would be a mistake not to hit the brakes in San Marco South at Hendricks Ave. near Emerson where five women-owned businesses cluster:

Trends Art And Home Boutique

Millwork Design Studio

Jennie Szaltis, Watercolorist

Annie Ru's Carry Out & Catering

Ladybug Lane Consignment Boutique



Trends Art and Home Boutique, owned by Jacksonville native Lori Taylor, offers abundant choices in new and consignment furniture, framing, as well as home décor consulting. An on-site gallery showcases local artists including Taylor's own collage, abstract and assemblage art work. A decorator and buyer in retail furniture for 20 years, she was the creative mind behind The Iron Gate. Lori now works her magic in San Marco South. "I offer custom décor services, original artwork and moderate to luxury furnishing at discounted prices," Taylor said. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Friday 10-5, Sat 11-4 and by appointment. Call (904) 346-1738 or email Ltaylor4366@comcast.net

At Millwork Design Studio, Ellen Cottrill and her husband Alan offer cutting-edge kitchen and bath designs, custom millwork, consulting and general contracting from start to finish for residential and commercial properties. "Through the years we have found our love to be the relationship with our customers, and helping them through the design and renovation process. We have worked the most traditional designs to the most contemporary," said Cottrill. MDS will be offering events throughout the year, such as the monthly Dinner Club, a "hands on", interactive cocktail party/cooking class with Chef's Garden Catering, complete with several courses and wine pairing. Visit their beautiful new showroom and see everything that MDS has to offer. For a home consultation or more information

about our upcoming events call (904) 399-1636, or e-mail Ellen at Ellen@millworkdesignstudio.com, or visit the website at www.millworkdesign.com.

Jennie Szaltis, Watercolorist, has been a prominent watercolorist in Jacksonville for 30 years. Jennie has taught watercolor and sold her artwork



Annie Ru's is now open for breakfast and lunch with downhome, southern cook'n. Ruth Daniels dedicates this restaurant in honor of her mother, Annie Lee Hayward, who had her cooking the treasured family recipes at the age of 6 in Hastings, Florida, where she was born and raised. Ruth has been catering and event planning from start to finish for private and corporate events, including weddings, showers and other special occasions for over 22 years. With husband Clifton and four sons, it is a business with incredible participation and support from her family and ministry. Serving breakfast from 6-10 a.m. with lunch until 3 p.m. Monday – Friday. For information call 904-398-1192 or email Ruthdaniels21@gmail.com, They will be having a Grand Opening Feb. 4, 1-3 p.m. at 3909 Hendricks Ave.

Ladybug Lane Tots to Teens Consignment Boutique is owned by sisters Maggie Stormal and Lee Anne McCarthy. Together, these sisters have created a cozy, warm, well-stocked boutique that offers birth to teen clothing, toys, and sports accessories, baby and children items. "We accept new items daily in new or excellent condition with no appointment necessary. Our large inventory constantly changes" Stormal said. "We are top notch and offer the very best to our customers." The shop opens 10-5 weekdays, 10-4 on Sat. Visit their website for call (904) 638-9871.

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BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Her smile is joyous, welcoming and nearly bigger than this tiny woman, but Diane Young, 76, has a heart to match and a lifelong desire to help others. A charter member of the local Uptown Civitan Club, which celebrates its 30th anniversary during 2013, Young is always happy to talk about Civitan's support for local charities and her involvement. Of the original 53 women, she and Susan Hamilton are the only two charter members still active in the local club.

"I want to give credit to our first president, the late Circuit Judge Virginia Beverly who was also an Assistant U.S. Attorney...because of Judge Beverly's involvement, other women joined until we had about 53 charter members committed to community service. I personally joined Civitan because of their pledge to

assist the developmentally disabled, both children and adults. I was president-elect

that first year in 1983, then president and later became involved at the district level. I gave as much time as I could from my 23-year career at Independent Fire Insurance Company. My final position before I retired in 1993 was vice president of human resources and administration," she said.

Young said many people do not realize that Civitan is an international community service organization and besides helping youth and developmentally disabled worldwide, it also has pledged millions in support of Civitan International Research Center at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. The local club has received the organization's highest honor, the Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club Award ten times in its 30-year history, most recently for 2010-2011.

"All Civitan Clubs throughout the world raise funds to support research

at the center in Alabama. Here in Jacksonville we'll do almost anything to raise money for our charities, from large fundraisers that bring in thousands of dollars to selling cookies at our monthly meetings," Young said. "I've been mostly involved with Ronald McDonald House, and the Pine Castle Junior Civitan Club, which we helped form in 1989. We assist with their twice monthly meetings, have speakers, do crafts and other activities. Pine Castle serves adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families.

The club also serves monthly breakfasts at the Clara White Mission and provides volunteers for a variety of ongoing service projects through Community Connections of Jacksonville.

"My parents were both active volunteers too," Young said. "My father, Jack Weatherford, was in Civitan and I remember him taking me along to many of their activities...they did so much good in the community. We lived in St. Nicholas. My mother, Marjorie, volunteered with Southside Women's Club and served as its president. She also helped at her church, Mayfair Baptist Church," she said.

Although the recent passing of her husband, Ray Young, has changed her life, Young was thankful he retired in 1998 from his position with the local Florida Department of Children & Family Services and that they had those years together. The couple had joyfully celebrated their 53rd wedding



anniversary.

Young is still an active Civitan volunteer and also serves at her church, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral. She recently spoke there and shared her story of Ray's final days and the blessings of their life together during a special annual service "When Holidays Hurt" for those suffering bereavement or separation from loved ones, illness, depression or addictions.

"Ray and I always loved to travel through the U.S. and Europe. These days I focus on church, Civitan and my interest in Alliance Francaise which I share with some of the other women in Civitan. I studied French privately and was introduced to the local club through my teacher,

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► Michelle Brown, a native Parisian," she said. "I have always loved music and play piano, especially Christmas music. I also enjoy some popular, and most sacred and classical music. I especially enjoyed seeing the operas La Traviata and La Boheme in Jacksonville!"

Young's wide range of volunteer activities and her varied interests are a reflection of her entire life. Although she completed her business administration degree from the University of North Florida in 1982, she actually started college in 1953 at Florida State University.

"I started out as a math major, but kept changing my major every semester until I realized I was never going to graduate from college if I didn't focus on one subject. I am pretty sure I majored in every subject FSU had!" she said.

Although she can no longer personally participate in fundraising walks for charity, due to her own diagnosis (currently in remission) of leukemia in 2001, Young recruited several of her friends to walk in "Light the Night". The annual November event is held to raise funds for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Young's group is called Diane's Dollies and the 10 walkers who participated raised almost \$2,000 for research.

"The research going on in leukemia and lymphoma is tremendously important," she said. "Our volunteer support and fundraising can make a real difference."

Pay It FORWARD

How can you help?

Editor's note: This month The Resident offers another opportunity that we hope inspires residents to be change-makers for community good. "How can you help?" profiles a local non-profit organization and showcase ways to support it. It is our sincerest hope that by creating awareness of local needs, we can all help generate positive solutions, funds and help for those in our community who deserve it most. Organization: The Children's Home Society of Florida - Buckner Division/Jacksonville

Mission: The Children's Home Society is dedicated to "Embracing Children, Inspiring Lives," with a goal of rescuing and helping children to heal. They work to break the generational cycle of child abuse while building and strengthening families. The society seeks to protect children from harm and help them to grow up safe, healthy and prepared for life. They also are dedicated to helping teens who struggle to survive on their own after age eighteen.

Opportunities to Help: The Children's Home Society has group volunteer opportunities available including hands-on projects like landscaping or clerical work, group activities with the children such as parties or arts and crafts. There are volunteer

opportunities for individuals to work directly with children helping in the after-school tutoring program, held Monday-Thursday, 3:45-5:30 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to help during the post-adoption meetings held the last Tuesday of each month from 5:45-8:00 p.m. Individual volunteers are also needed during the Caring Chefs (held each Fall), and Evening of Taste (held each Spring) annual events. All volunteers who will have direct contact with the children must attend a volunteer orientation. The society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and donations, one-time or recurring are tax free. Donations may be made anonymously or in honor or memory of someone. The Champions for Children Campaign is another way for individuals, groups or businesses to advocate for children, volunteer and raise funds to support children in need and the programs that serve them.

How to Raise Your Hand:

For information about how you can volunteer or help The Children's Home Society contact Myra T. Simmons, development specialist and volunteer manager, at (904) 493-7738, or visit the society's website: www.chsfl.org.

March 1 deadline for Camp Healing Powers®

Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is accepting registrations through March 1 for Camp Healing Powers® at Marywood Retreat and Conference Center. The therapeutic camp for children and teens, ages 7 to 17, helps them through the grieving process over death of a loved one, by allowing them to identify and express their feelings in a safe, fun and supportive environment. A \$35 refundable deposit will reserve space at the Mar. 15-17 camp, but a pre-camp assessment must be conducted. Call (904) 407-6222 to schedule an appointment for the assessment with Community Hospice mental health professionals.

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The Way we Were

Vincent Walker

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you have anything to do with hunting, or are a gun aficionado, you may already know Vince Walker. He is the "go-to" gun guy at Curry Thomas Hardware, holding court three days a week while he guns. Well, that's what he claims to be doing anyway. But wife Jean has another way of putting it.

"The guys come in and sit out in front of the gun counter in the assortment of chairs – there are rocking chairs, plastic ones, little wooden chairs – and they drink coffee and see who can tell the biggest lie," she smiles.

But seriously, Walker knows just about everything there is to do with guns. And he comes "highly recommended" by many well-known people in town. It's a hobby and profession that, at his young age of 81, helps "keep the old mind busy."

Staying busy has never been a problem for Walker, who has always loved hunting and began hanging out

at Curry Thomas in the 1980s, helping out former gunsmith Bob Letschner just for fun before settling in to work on guns fulltime.

"I've hunted elk for 20 years, and I've been lucky enough to go to Africa twice," said Walker. "But I've only been turkey hunting one time. It cured me. I figured I'd go turkey hunting somewhere else – like Winn Dixie."

Born at St. Vincent's Hospital in 1931, Walker learned long ago how to turn out a good joke. He attended John Gorrie Junior

High School (where he remembers a few teachers, he said, that "he doesn't ever want to see again") and graduated from Lee High School in 1949 before attending Bolles Military Academy as a boarding student. Walker graduated with the Honor Naval unit in 1950.

"I lived in Venetia while I was



ance. At the time, San Jose was a two-lane brick street, he recalled.

After he and his first wife "agreed to disagree," Walker was a bachelor for 21 more years before meeting Jean.

"Vince loves to tell people he picked me up in a filling station," laughs Jean, who met Walker while getting coffee at a gas station on her way to her first day on the job at Jones Brothers Furniture.

"High-test gas, this one," adds Walker, with a grin.

The couple dated for about four years before getting married in 1991 at Naval Air Station. Jean moved into the house on Emory Circle, transformed it into a beautiful, inviting home, and the couple have been happily together for 21 years. They stay active, laugh a lot and, despite a few heart issues, feel healthy and blessed.

"I don't have troubles, I feel fine," said Jean. "It's the doctors that have the problems."

"As one of my jeweler friends says, 'It's better to be seen than viewed,'" joked Walker. "I also like the saying, 'I don't have an enemy in the world – I've outlived all the bastards.'"

Free tax help for seniors

Once again this year AARP Tax-Aide will provide tax preparation services for taxpayers with low and moderate income with special attention to those age 60 and older. Tax returns are prepared every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning on Feb. 7. There is no charge for this service.

Note the new location at Elizabeth Swaim Memorial Methodist Church, 1620 Naldo Street (the corner of LaSalle and Naldo streets).

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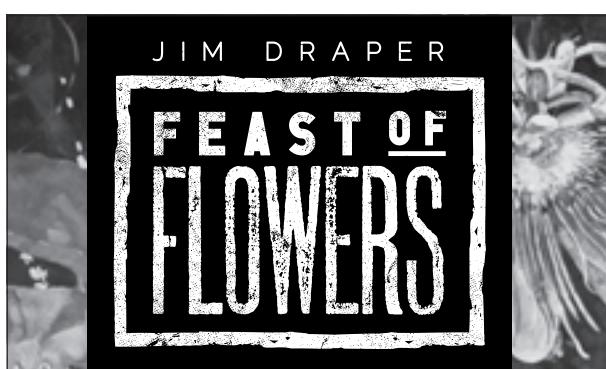
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Image Credit: Jim Draper, *Large Passion*, 2012,
oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches, © Jim Draper



BUSINESS PROFILE

Jax Couture Events & Boutique:

The perfect party is no accident!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mary Lou Prendergast
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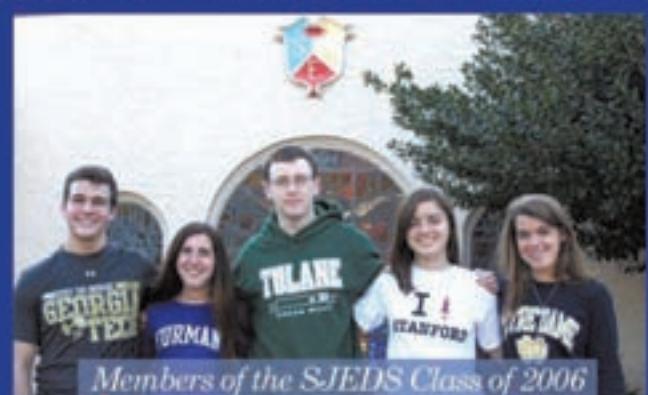
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District Spelling Bee Champion Advances to Regional Competition

Eighth-grader Ashlie Malone, student at Julia Landon College Preparatory, took home the gold – again – in the Duval County Spelling Bee. Ashlie finished first, after 28 rounds, by correctly spelling the word “desperado.” She also won in 2011 as a sixth-grader at Landon.

“Ashlie is an exceptional student, always pushing herself to a high level of success,” said Principal Sara Bravo. “She has maintained a 4.0 GPA through her three years at Julia

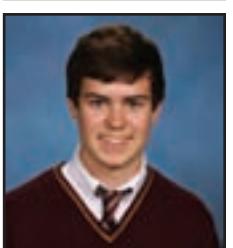
Landon, yet remains one of the most humble and kind students in our building. I am so proud to be her principal.”

The youngster will represent Duval County as she advances to the 69th annual Florida Times-Union Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Jacksonville Main Public Library. Ashlie will compete against district winners from 14 neighboring counties. The winner of the regional bee will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee during the week of May 26 – June 1, 2013.



Joe Berg Society selects 11 Episcopal students

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



Area student named semifinalist in Science Talent Search 2012

The Society for Science and the Public named Atlantic Beach resident Alex Forsyth (class of 2013) as a 2013 semifinalist in the Science Talent Search for his work done in 2012. As the nation's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition, the Intel Science Talent Search brings together the best and brightest young scientific minds in the United States to compete for \$1.25 million in awards. As a semifinalist Alex receives a \$1,000 award from the Intel Foundation with an additional \$1,000 going to Episcopal.

Semifinalists were selected from more than 1,700 entrants and hail from 190 high schools in more than 30 states and one American high school overseas.

Alex earned the recognition based on his science project in which he used virtual screening to identify novel inhibitors of cancer



tumors. Alex is continuing his work this year in a university lab, where he will conduct trials on established cell lines. From the pool of semifinalists, 30 Science Talent Search finalists will be named on January 23. If selected, Alex will receive an all-expense paid trip in March to Washington D.C., where the students will be recognized at a black tie gala and will all share \$630,000 in prize money.



Bolles School student Paul McIntyre, right

Area fifth graders attend Lewis & Clark performance

Nearly 2,000 fifth graders, teachers and chaperones from area schools attended one of five historic interpreters' performances of Lewis and Clark last month, sponsored by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America. Two fifth graders from area schools, Caroline Shore, Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, and Paul McIntyre, The Bolles School, were among several who received awards from an essay contest titled "How did Lewis and Clark's exploration influence the growth of our

country?" The certificates were signed by the speakers in character; William Clark was portrayed by Steven Edenbo and Douglas Thomas was costumed as Meriwether Lewis.

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Jr. Residents

Student art a success in contest

The National PTA Reflections Program at Hendricks Avenue Elementary was very successful with these students submitting works of art in six different art categories—dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts—to express their interpretation of the 2012-2013 theme “The Magic of a Moment”.

The entries were judged by staff from The Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens, and Reddi-Arts. Special congratulations to Sydney (Dance Choreography), Chase (Music Composition), Kylie (Film



Front row, left to right, Mac, Gretchen, Shelby, Rosalie, Mary, Andrew L, Lydia, Sophia, Betty Lou, Violet, Riley and Isabella. Back row, left to right, Malik, Chase, Kylie, Avery, Andrew L, Andrew M, Ashley, Madeline, Reagan and Jillian

Production), and Shelby (Literature) as their entries will go on to the National PTA state competition!

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

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

When asked why she participates in the CAP program, first year violin student Aldiana Ganic offered, "When we play the violin we do activities that help me learn." Others had comments about the Feast of Flowers exhibit: "There's a lot of nature here," said Alexandria Newkirk. "It really shows the beauty of the outdoors."

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



Aldiana Ganic and Alexandria Newkirk, fourth graders at San Jose Elementary School, like the Feast of Flowers exhibit

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A good deed for dogs

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

Abby's mother Amy said that her daughter feels like "dogs don't have a voice, so we need to speak for them." She wants to protect dogs and save those abused and abandoned. Abby told her parents from the time she was three years old that she wants to be a vet. Her parents have agreed to match her donations with all money going to The Jacksonville Humane Society.

If you are inclined to help, mail your donations to Abby Beaver, 919 Greenridge Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Please make checks out to The Jacksonville Humane Society.



Change Agent Leadership Scholarship applications due Mar. 1

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

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

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



Hendricks
FOR LIFE

For Better and for WORK



BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Allison & Pete Behringer



Allison and Pete Behringer (Sweet Pete's Candy, 1922 N. Pearl St., Springfield) were married 12 years ago and took the step to work together two-and-a-half years ago. "We make working together work well by staying out of each other's way and recognizing each other's strengths," noted Allison.

Cameron & Katherine Naugle

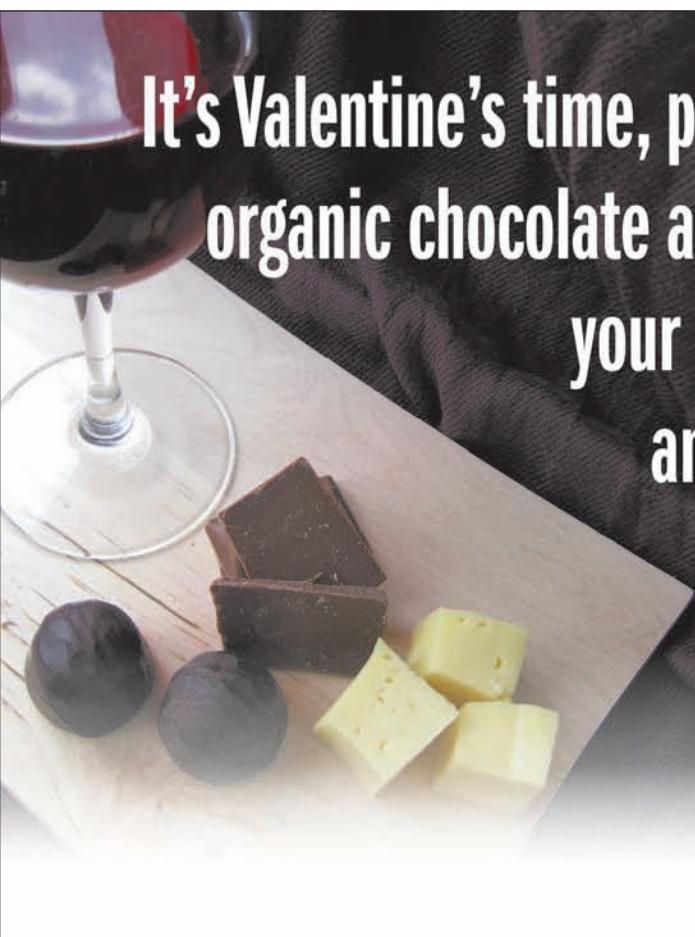


Cameron and Katherine Naugle (Naugle Funeral Home, 1203 Hendricks Avenue, San Marco). The Naugles have been married seven years, and this is their first year working together at the funeral home. Katherine, an attorney in probate and estate planning, reports, "We make working together work well by letting each person do what they know how to do best and not micromanaging what the other spouse does."

Sara & Sean Reninger



Sara and Sean Reninger (R & S Picture Framing, 5923 St. Augustine Road, San Marco) says, "We have been married for 32 years this year. We have worked together since 1991. That would be almost 22 years. We make working well together by having fun and enjoying each other's company – we also love what we do!"

It's Valentine's time, pickup some organic chocolate and wine for your valentine... and some for you too.

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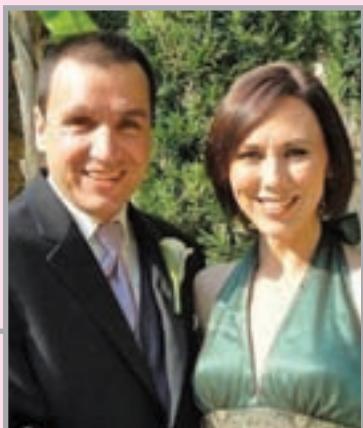
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Steve &
Kristen
Osorio



Steve and Kristen Osorio (Monograms & More, 1986 San Marco Blvd, San Marco). The Osorios have been married 10 years, working together 12 years in the family business when it was bought in 2000. While Steve notes that it's hard to separate the business from their personal lives ("It's intertwined; we can't avoid discussing business at home"), Kristen says "We make working well together by staying professional at work."

Bruce Meiselman & Gwen Lee



Bruce Meiselman and Gwen Lee (Reddi-Arts/Gallery 1037, 1037 Hendricks Ave, San Marco). Bruce and Gwen have been married and in business together 15 years. “We make working together work well by having different responsibilities and trusting each other to complete the task,” said Bruce. “On buying trips it’s working together and being open to new ideas.”

Doug &
Laura
Skiles



Doug and Laura Skiles (Envision Design & Engineering, 2002 San Marco Blvd., San Marco) have been working in business together for seven years, the last two as partners in the business, while being married for almost 19 years. "We make working together work well by not overlapping responsibilities," said Doug.

Kiley &
Sam Efron



Kiley and Sam Efron (Taverna on the Square, 1986 San Marco Blvd, San Marco). The Efrons have been married five years, working together six years in the restaurant business. “We make working together work well by sharing the same vision for our restaurant and passion for what we do,” says Kiley.

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— Michael O.



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Jon Singleton is a retired Naval Aviator who served in Bosnia, throughout the Middle East, in Afghanistan, and at the Pentagon. He has chaired the NEFAR Council, was a Trustee and Area Council President for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, and former President of the San Marco Preservation Society. He currently lives in San Marco with his wife and 2 children.

**www.JonSingleton.com
904.421.3580**

Love Transcending

(Editor's Note: The Resident asked a local pastor to address the concept of lasting love as one of the reasons why couples who work together are successful at it – at home and at the office.)

BY DAVID AUSTELL
RECTOR,
HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

We all have experiences in love or loving something or someone. When love really grabs your heart, you hope the feeling will last forever. We pray that the feeling... the joy... the hope is not fleeting but a permanent part of our life.

It is that way in our marriage. It is a covenant, not just a promise. It is designed by God and intended to last forever. Far too many times it doesn't. Far too many times, the feelings fade. The worries of the world and our own selfishness take over our hearts and we drift away from the very person we love the most; driven apart by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Our great hope lies in the strength God offers us. Scripture tells us, "Nothing can take you from the love of God." Christ's love embraces us in a hold that will never let us go. And that is the way we can love forever. Our complete love of God allows to

completely, unselfishly love others and to be interwoven into a mutual fabric of compassion

Secure in the knowledge of God's love for us, we can then come to love others. In kindness, and patience, and selflessness we love others. Loving Christ first offers us the true meaning of love for one another. Anything else is something other than the love He has set forth for us.

After years of talking to and worshipping with married couples and learning to understand just how they stay married so long, it became clear that their love transcended the events of their lives. Events didn't decide their future together, their love did. Family crisis, job issues, or financial problems could not break the hold on the marriage. The fabric of their marriage was fireproof.

St. Paul tells us in the book of Romans: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who

loved us."

The covenant they made in marriage holds them together in love. And it is God's covenant with us that holds His love for us and ours for Him. A covenant is forever, literally.

We can remain enthralled in our love for one another for our lifetime if we are first in a loving and personal relationship with Jesus. Any other kind of love is less... less complete... less lasting... less fulfilling... less loving.

Jesus tells us to "love one another as I have loved you." Boy, that is a tough task! That is a hard directive to follow. Sometimes we just don't feel like loving or even liking others, and possibly with good reason. But God loves us despite our faults and errors. So, too, should we love that same way.

Loving others as He loves us empowers us to see one another from our soul and through spiritual eyes, not through the events and issues of our earthly life. There is great beauty in that. And, great joy. It is that simple. It is that profound.



San Marco resident to exhibit new work at the Karpeles



Exciting new wood sculptures from local artist David Engdahl will be exhibited in March at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Engdahl, who is inspired by nature and, through the application of his signature lamination technique, produces pieces in quiet, sensuous, organic forms. His work will be joined by pieces from Barbara Holmes-Fryefield, the

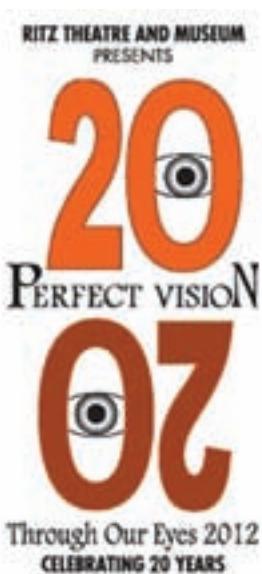
Florida Proton Therapy Institute's artist-in-residence, who integrates wood block prints into colorful acrylic paintings that reflect the continuity of life, often within a historical context. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Mar. 8, at 5:30 p.m. for the exhibition, Divergence!, which will run until April 26 at the 101 West First Street museum.



Through Our Eyes 2012: 20/20 Perfect Vision

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

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



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

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



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February a great month to shop local

San Marco Square shops have something for your sweetheart

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

This month offers one of those perfect reasons to kiss two birds with one set of lips. Shop locally for that Valentine's Day gift for your sweetheart and you'll be thanked more than once: the shop owner or restaurateur you visit will be just as grateful!

Did you know that for every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures? If you spend that in a

national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and nothing comes home (statistics courtesy Civic Economics study, 2008). And, if just half the employed U.S. population spent \$50 each month in independently owned businesses, those purchases would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue (employment statistics courtesy U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009).

What to get and where to go for great gifts in and about San Marco Square? Guys, for that special gal, you'll find everything from candy, cards and trinkets to clothing, accessories and jewelry. Gals, for the man in your life, consider tobacco and its accoutrements, sporting goods or writing implements. Cap off the evening and take her out for a very

special dinner at any of the San Marco fine restaurants and bistros.

While you're out and about, take note of the progress on Balis Park. As you navigate the easy detours via Alford, Hendricks, and Landon Avenue, keep in mind that these temporary inconveniences are harder on the merchants than they are on you. "Businesses are contributing members of the community so it's important for everyone to band together," said Taverna co-owner Kiley Wynne Efron. "This will be one of the most beautiful and exciting places to visit in the city; even now I rarely have to leave the Square to shop for things I need."

This initial phase will be about two months until the roundabout is finished sometime in early March;

then Balis Park construction will be complete in May. Parking will not be diminished and shoppers can also use the 200 parking spots between Naldo Avenue and San Marco Place behind Firehouse Subs, and between San Marco Place and Hendricks Avenue behind Southside Baptist Church.

"We had a tremendous fourth quarter in the Square and are looking forward to maintaining that momentum in 2013 with Balis Park and the overall beautification of the Square," stated George Foote, president of the San Marco Merchants Association. "With help of the community, the San Marco Preservation Society and patrons we can get through the first quarter of the year. All shops are open!"

Women, Words and Wisdom focus of 3rd annual speaker series

The 2013 Speaker Series of the Women's Center of Jacksonville kicks off Tuesday, Mar. 5 at 5:30 p.m. with a lecture by Anne M. Butler, Ph.D. at Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco. Women, Words and Wisdom is this year's theme for the events which benefit the Women's Center's Expanded Horizons Adult Literacy Program for Women. March is also Women's History Month and Dr. Butler's discussion on prostitutes and nuns in the American West reveals the stark and harsh environment that women experienced during

the period of 1850-1920.

On Tuesday, Apr. 2, Dr. Jennifer Wesely will focus on the role that violence lays in the homelessness of women and the sexualization of girls and women in our society. The series conclusion on May 7 features Madeline Scales-Taylor, who will share how retirement can impact women as we transform the "me" generation into the "we" generation. Tickets are \$90 for the series, or \$35 for a single lecture. Go to www.womenscenterofjax.org or call (904) 722-3000 to order.



For the love of fitness... and finance!

San Marco resident and Regions Bank branch team lead Martha Short is flanked by co-workers Ray Beeson, financial services specialist, and Brian Pavek, bank manager as they welcome customers to Financial Fitness Friday. Bank staff distributed free personal financial information, healthy treats and free health and fitness training information late last month. Short will speak at a workshop on electronic depositing for senior citizens on Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to noon at Edwards Waters College.



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It's easy to get lost in a big hospital. Throw in some Florida heat and an eight-week-old baby and you've got one exhausting situation for a new mom looking for medical records at St. Vincent's Southside. She stopped for water at a vending machine with only a ten-dollar bill in hand. Registration Associate Cassandra Ross didn't have change but did offer up \$1 of her own. Her kindness meant so much that the woman wrote us a letter reading, "Her act of generosity confirms the messages in your commercials—that your employees are there to help patients, not just to collect a paycheck." Our associates will always go above and beyond for patients and visitors—you can bet your bottom dollar on it.

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