



# Celebrating Success

First Place Slam Winners Captain D.J. Cabler and his teammate receive the Grand Prize Slam and \$1,500 prize. The slam was a Clay Roberts record slam weighing in at 16.46 pounds.

.....See more pg. 23

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS VOL. 6 ISSUE 4 • JULY 2013 FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

San Jose San Marco St. Nicholas

# THE Resident

## Councilwoman Boyer keeping finger on pulse of San Marco

*Looking forward to checking off completed projects*

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer is a very busy woman. As chair of the Land Use & Zoning Committee (LUZ), she's keeping her eye on the

development, building and remodeling that's heating up again after five long years of stasis.

In a 30-minute meeting at her office in City Council Chambers late last month, Boyer quickly went through a list of different construction projects in San Marco that begin with the Southbank Riverwalk, jump down to the north end of San Marco

Boulevard and stretch down to San Marco Square and Balis Park, then back up Hendricks Avenue.

According to Boyer, renovation of the Southbank Riverwalk is slated to begin Sep. 1 and be completed in less than one year.

See **PULSE** on page 10



*Prom Night*  
with a mission!

## San Jose Tower finally receives national recognition



*Rotarians celebrate landmark's status on National Historic Registry*

Beginning construction in the early 1920s, the San Jose Tower has finally received proper recognition, thanks to the tireless efforts of these San Jose Rotarians.

.....See more photos and the full story pg.18

Dressed in prom garb from past eras, JCCI members gathered in style to celebrate the organization's accomplishments. Tommy Hobin, Uli Decker posed for a picture with a stylized, '80s-themed backdrop.

.....See pg. 19

### JULY HIGHLIGHTS

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# DONALD EDWARD BARTON

MAY 12, 1930 – JUNE 8, 2013

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

From some standpoints, the motion picture industry and Godliness are about as far apart as, according to the Psalms, “the East is from the West.” Unless, that is, you happen to be reminiscing about Jacksonville’s own Donald E. Barton, co-founder of the Florida Motion Picture and Television Producers Association and former president of Barton Film Company.

Barton’s legacy is deeper than the numerous awards for excellence in documentary production. He will be remembered most, according to family and friends, for his strong and abiding faith.

Shirley Barton, who married the former filmmaker on Sep. 3, 1955, said of her late husband, “His faith was his strongest motivation. I’ve never seen 10 priests at the altar unless it was some type of diocesan event, but they were there at the funeral.”

Barton was two years ahead of his future wife when they attended St.

Paul’s Catholic High School, the forerunner to Bishop Kenny High School, but they didn’t date until their college years. Shirley’s first impression of Don was that he was quite respected by the other students. “They called him the ‘old man’; he wasn’t a typical teenager, he was very mature,” she said.

Lifelong friend Stella Parsons echoed Shirley’s remarks about faith. “Don Barton really was amazing...I’ve known Don all my life; our families were friends. Don was a kind and gentle man. He made us all look pale compared to his spirituality. He and Shirley attended daily mass, he was a lector and helped with many ministries in our parish. He was head of his family both physically and spiritually. This world of ours needs more Don Bartons.”

Dick and Emma Spence, close long-time friends, spoke highly of Barton as well. “He was a good man. His goodness came through in all areas of his

life,” said Emma. “I’ve known him all my life; our mothers were the best of friends. I went to grade school and high school with Don, and Shirley was my college roommate.”

“He was quite religious and it showed,” said Dick Spence, while Emma added, “he was a very, very dear friend and loved his God and his family.”

She went on to share that “he was always a person with an active mind, always thinking of what he could do next. One year when his kids were young, on Christmas Eve he asked

Dick to bring over bolts at midnight to put a swing set together. He had wonderful intentions. He was very creative.”

“But he was not a very handy person with tools,” said Dick. “He could hold a flashlight pretty well.”

Shirley talked about their nine children, who were all born at St. Vincent’s, as was Barton. “They loved him and had such great respect. He was always kind and understanding. Our son John said he never heard his parents have cross words; we didn’t argue, but I probably bit my tongue some. Don worked really hard but spent time with the kids when he got home every day. He would give them all one sip of his one beer.”

Barton was a good friend to many. “He was always happy, kind and loving. He always had something good to say about everyone and was never too busy to lend a helping hand,” said Bibbie Riley, who knew Barton for more than 30 years. “Don and I shared a birthday and on our last one he was upset that there wasn’t room for me to

sit next to him in church so we could stand up together and be recognized on our day.”

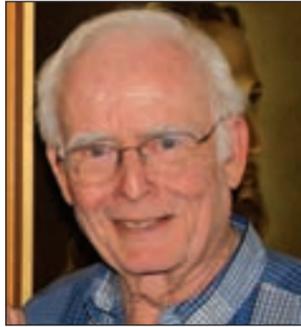
In 1984 Barton left the film industry – leaving his company in his sons John and Michael’s hands – and became Vice President of Marketing at St. Vincent’s Health, and later Executive Director of the St. Vincent’s Foundation until 1999.

Jane Lanier, president of St. Vincent’s Foundation, said that Barton loved all things St. Vincent’s, the Sisters, the employees, the physicians, the community people who advise and serve on the boards. “He loved every part of that and mostly loved the mission to provide the healing of Christ to everyone who comes to our doors, the sick and the poor,” Lanier commented. “So many people recognize his contributions of time, talent and treasure to further the mission of St. Vincent’s. We’re just really going to miss Don.” She noted that he remained active after leaving employment, continuing to be a friend to the Sisters.

In his retirement, he and his wife Shirley founded and administered Holy Spirit Communications, a non-profit company dedicated to world peace through prayer and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Riley said “Don started Holy Spirit Communications in the hopes of getting everyone to pray to the Holy Spirit for world peace. He and Shirley worked tirelessly to accomplish this.”

Don Barton is survived by his wife of 57 years, Shirley Hodge Barton; four sons, John (Robin), Michael (Katie), Mark (Cathy), Paul (Gay); five daughters, Elizabeth Till (Quentin), Anne Petty (Patrick), Mary Ellen Sanchez (Mark), Catherine Sanneman (Bruce), Teresa Campbell (Kirk), and 23 grandchildren.



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# Jessie Ball duPont Fund to purchase, repurpose Haydon Burns Library

## Burns Library

*Downtown building to provide green home for nonprofit, philanthropic organizations*

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Haydon Burns Library, located at the corner of Downtown's Ocean and Adams streets, housed books, periodicals and more for four decades in its lime green and lemon yellow interior. Now it holds memories of generations who grew up watching puppet shows or fingering white cards in wooden catalog drawers.

The building may be ready for occupancy in late 2014 or early 2015. With the due diligence review of the Haydon Burns Library completed June 19, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund's plans to repurpose the structure into a hub for philanthropic and nonprofit organizations are moving ahead.

The 90-day review revealed no cost-prohibitive environmental issues with the building, according to Sherry Magill, President of the Fund.

There are, however, mechanical considerations.

Converting the structure built in the mid-1960s into one with a light carbon footprint will be challenging, Magill said. Preliminary plans include transforming the roof proper into a 'cool' roof, installing low-flow toilets and faucets to conserve water and using energy-efficient lighting to save money. "The garden on the Forsyth Street side can be used to help recycle water," she added.

Bringing the Library up to speed technologically is another consideration. A building-wide technology strategy will be developed along with plans for construction, interior design and occupancy.

In a broader sense, the Library's downtown location with its proximity to the St. Johns River, the local business community, the local government and the Chamber of Commerce will benefit the non-profit sector, Magill said.

In addition, the community at large will profit from investment in Downtown. "We hope to contribute in our own small way to the restoration of what clearly could be a great place to live, play, and work," Magill said. "We hope to also illustrate that downtown Jacksonville matters a

great deal, and that it is a neat place to be. It's beautiful. The historic buildings are incredible and worth repurposing," she added.

Still, Downtown battles for positive public perception. A dearth of free parking is one factor, according to Magill. "We have more [parking] than we need," she said, "but it's not free."

Crime is another factor keeping people in the suburbs, Magill said, yet crime rates are down. In fact, statistics from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office show a decrease in violent crimes from 8,032 in 2008 to 5,168 in 2012 and in property crimes from 46,198 in 2008 to 34,674 in 2012.

Potential tenants of a repurposed Haydon Burns Library are yet to be determined. The duPont Fund plans to survey interested parties next spring before space planners tackle the interior, Magill shared. The Fund, now housed in the Wells Fargo Building (formerly the Independent Life Building), will move into the Haydon Burns.

Magill sees the Haydon Burns as a future center of thoughtfulness and planning where nonprofit organizations, which represent up to ten percent of the work force, will co-locate. "Does everyone need their

own kitchen? No," Magill said with a chuckle. Co-locating is beneficial because it can produce efficient operating budgets which can yield money to help communities flourish.

To Magill, the building will give the area's 'idea people' time and space to work together for the public good.

"I've heard from a range of people, and the sentiment is the same," Magill said. "They've come out of the woodwork to say, 'Thank you for saving that building,' or 'Oh please, buy that building!'"

"The public owned the Haydon Burns," she added, "and this too will have a public purpose."



## District 5 residents polled for thoughts on services, taxes

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you had to choose between cutting services or raising taxes, which would you prefer?

That was one of several questions that District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer is asking her constituents in an informal survey distributed at various meetings. Boyer is looking for feedback about 630-CITY CARE system and how well her office is doing serving the residents.

In addition, the survey asks two critical questions that may help guide Boyer's vote on City Council matters.

The first addresses cutting services vs. increasing taxes. Although Boyer had not yet reached out to all neighborhoods at time of press, she did have preliminary results from residents of San Marco and Briarwood, and found a surprising number. "At this point, 60 per cent of those polled are in favor of raising taxes," said Boyer. "That's the first time this has happened." She noted this was a small sample set and wants to compare responses to other neighborhoods and demographics before determining whether a majority are in favor of raising taxes.

The second critical question looked for constituents' feelings about the proposed police and firefighter pension reform bill that will be voted on by City Council. The options were choosing a settlement that would ease budget problems for the next fiscal year but reconfirm the long-term obligation that will ultimately strain future budgets for many years versus grappling with a significant budget problem next year in return for a more palatable long-term solution to the police and firefighters' pension plans.

"People are expressing a lot of reservations about the proposed pension reform," Boyer said. "I would say that 70 to 75 per cent are concerned about it."

One issue that City Council will need to grapple with, according to Boyer, is an existing 30-year agreement between the Pension Fund Board and the City of Jacksonville, which has the position that the fund is a collective bargaining item, on the table every three years. The Mayor's plan will modify that 30-year agreement, saving \$50 million next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

When discussing the reasons why Boyer is asking voters about the 630-CITY/CARE system, she said, "Things are not getting addressed in a timely manner. It is budget? Lack of direction? Staffing?"

Most of the items in the list of complaints are currently within the Public Works Department budget and, according to Boyer, staffing levels are still at the increased level for the Better Jacksonville Program. "So, it must be something else," she concluded.

In the meantime, homeowners on Peachtree Circle, Rio Lindo Drive, San Jose Boulevard and other streets are contending with flooding. The Southside Courts have been languishing with cracks for two years even though funding is in place. The children's crawl tunnel has also been inoperative for that period.

For residents frustrated with the lack of response to 630-CITY complaints, it probably doesn't matter much what the reason may be. The work still isn't getting done.

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# Study recommended for Metro Park event alternatives

*Concert promoters not interested in other venues*

BY LARA PATANGAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Ongoing discussions involving the future of mega concert events at Metropolitan Park appear to be on their own version of a summer road trip, with ideas traveling west from Cecil Commerce Center, to a potential new facility on the Northside, south to St. Augustine and back to the concert promoter's dream destination – Metropolitan Park, which remains both at the center of town and center of controversy.

In order to address promoters who want to schedule 2014 events, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer is working with Paige Johnston at the Office of the General Counsel to prepare legislation that maps standards on decibel levels, the number and location of temporary stages, operating hours and fees for lease contracts.

District 4 Councilman Don Redman, who represents St. Nicholas and South Shores neighbors most affected by the noise from Metropolitan Park, suggested one possible solution is to move outdoor concerts to the Equestrian Center on the City's Westside. According to the minutes from the June Metropolitan and Urban Parks Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Redman said this would address previous concerns that have surfaced during the budget process of

closing the Equestrian Center due to lack of its use, noting that hotels and amenities would follow the concerts.

But records show that District 13 Councilman Bill Gulliford said he would prefer to see a new outdoor concert facility constructed near the airport because the infrastructure of necessary hotels, restaurants and shopping already exists.

Mike Yokan, a concert promoter who attended the meeting, said that he has unsuccessfully looked for an appropriate spot on the Northside for 10 years. "The current mayor is focused on bringing events downtown. We are not interested in moving Welcome to Rockville away from Metropolitan Park. That would be like bringing One Spark to the airport or Equestrian Center," Yokan said. "Why would you ask people to travel to an out of the way space?"

While Tonisha Gaines, Special Events Manager for the City of Jacksonville, told the committee that Metropolitan Park is already receiving calls about possible 2014 events, talks traveled to the success of the St.

Augustine Amphitheatre. It was mentioned how St. Johns County is an active participant in attracting business to its amphitheater and shares in its profits.

Councilwoman Boyer thinks that before another venue is constructed which would compete with existing city facilities such as the Veterans Memorial Arena and the Times-Union Center, a study should be conducted. She asked for an item to be added to the next meeting's agenda asking the Parks and Recreation Department to look into alternative places for events.

Meanwhile, an update on Councilwoman Boyer's website said that she is preparing legislation which will provide guidance for staff negotiating future event contracts that will allow bookings to proceed on a short-term basis. One of the recommendations includes limiting the dBA at the soundboard to 105 and limiting lower octave bands that are responsible for the noise vibrations.

"This park is a gem, it provides expansive waterfront access, and it is underutilized and under-developed at the moment," Councilwoman Boyer wrote. "It could be so much more."

"The current mayor is focused on bringing events downtown. We are not interested in moving Welcome to Rockville away from Metropolitan Park."

**Mike Yokan**

Concert Promoter,  
Welcome to Rockville

With so many alternative routes mapped, it remains unclear which direction the issue of noise traveling from Metropolitan Park to surrounding neighborhoods will go before a resolution reaches its final destination.

## Your favorite park could be a Coca-Cola prize winner

Coca-Cola is looking for America's favorite park and it could be a Jacksonville public park, a Florida state park or a national park located in Florida. The winning parks are eligible for up to \$100,000 in grants, with lesser grants of \$50,000; \$25,000 and \$15,000, which can be used to help restore, rebuild or enhance activity areas in parks.

Currently there are more than 8,000 parks across the country participating in Coca-Cola's Take It To The Park contest and the biggest vote-getter, as of press time, was Veterans Memorial Park in tornado-leveled Moore, OK.

Brown Whatley Park on Alexandria Place in San Marco has drainage issues that keep it from reaching its potential as a great park, according to Andrew Dickson, Parks Chair for the San Marco Preservation Society, and a major grant could go a long way to solving its problems.

Anyone age 13 or older is eligible to register and vote daily. To vote, go to <https://parks.livepositively.com/parks/index.html>. Register, enter ZIP Code 32207, and choose Brown Whatley Park. Use Foursquare and MapMyFitness Apps to increase your votes to five or 10 per day. Contest ends July 15 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.



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# Bostwick Building: Bringing Back a Sense of Place

*Jacksonville executive and business partners plan to purchase and renovate Downtown building*

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Cats have nine lives, or so the adage says. If true, the Jaguar painted on the river side of the Bostwick Building at 101 East Bay Street in downtown Jacksonville may lend new life to a group of investors planning to purchase the historic structure.

Dixie Egg Company CEO and Avondale resident Jacques Klempf, and two business partners, Chad Munsey and Fraser Burns, are under contract to purchase the historic Bostwick Building at the corner of Ocean and Bay streets. They plan to establish a restaurant there.

The first due diligence review period ended in mid-June, and the building is undergoing a second review to be completed this month. Meanwhile, an architect, a design group and an engineer have been hired, according to Klempf.

"I love the location of the Bostwick," Klempf said. "You can go right or left on Bay Street, there's plenty of parking. The Florida Theatre is behind the building."

A restaurant would work in the area, Klempf said, because it could provide eating, drinking and possibly a shuttle service to other downtown venues. He envisions adding a rooftop lounge with views of the Main Street Bridge and the St. Johns River.

Klempf grew up on Jacksonville's southside near The Bolles School. He remembers Sunday afternoons spent in a more vibrant Downtown with his

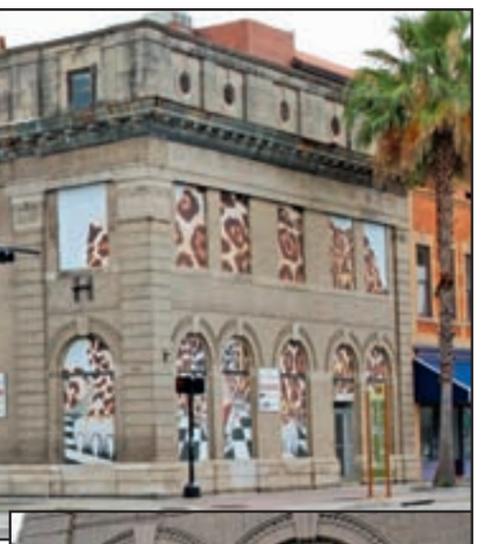
big brother. As a 10 year-old, Klempf relied on his 13 year-old brother to read the schedules and get them on the correct bus. "We'd get out of Sunday School and ride the city bus downtown," Klempf recalled. "There were movies and restaurants. My brother was an avid reader. He loved Jake's Newsstand. There was a juice bar with fresh coconut milk."

Klempf also remembers swimming in a pool on the roof of the Roosevelt Hotel now an apartment community called The Carling.

"As I got older, I went downtown less," Klempf added. He ventured to the City's urban core for specific events at the Arena or Metropolitan Park, but not to enjoy Downtown as a destination.

In 1880, the First National Bank was located where the Bostwick now stands. General Francis E. Spinner, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury under Presidents Lincoln, Johnson and Grant, served as one of its first directors, according to Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future by Wayne W. Wood.

Built in 1902, a year after Jacksonville's fire, the Bostwick was doubled in size in 1919. Its sturdy architecture inspired feelings of safety and success in its patrons, according



to Wood. In addition to housing banks, the Bostwick also provided space for downtown workers including architect, Henry John Klutho, who had offices there from 1944 until 1960.

Klempf sees two main obstacles to overcome before the building is operational. The first is structural. "The damage to the building occurred in the 1990s when a water main broke at Ocean and Main," Klempf said. The resulting deterioration led owners of a neighboring building to take legal action. "The lawsuit is five or six years old," Klempf said. "It needs to get resolved. We feel like it will. We are having conversations with their legal team."

The second obstacle is lack of use, Klempf added. Since the building has been vacant for 30 years, it needs extensive interior renovation.

"We're all trying to work through this," Klempf said. "The time is right, especially for that location."

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# Advocates 'blown away' by attorney's suggestion of giving trees, rivers legal rights

By STEPHEN KINDLAND  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Avondale resident Jennifer Virzera expected to hear the latest information about the future of Silver Springs when she attended a recent public forum at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Jacksonville. What she came away with is a notion that is almost too good for many environmentalists to believe could ever become reality.

Virzera and many of the 275 other concerned citizens who took part in the June 17 forum were blown away by a concept introduced by attorney Patricia Siemen, one of several advocates who are protesting Adena Springs Ranch owner John Stronach's request to pump 5.3 million gallons of water a day from Silver Springs, Florida's first major tourist attraction and one of the largest artesian spring formations in the world that springs experts say is in decline.

Stronach wants to use the water for irrigation and to raise 15,000 head of cattle on about 25,000 acres of his ranch in Marion County, situated between Ocala and the Ocala National Forest.

Environmentalists who spoke during the forum believe that if the St. Johns River Water Management District approves Stronach's request, the effect would be devastating not only for Silver Springs, but the Silver River, the largest tributary on the Ocklawaha River that ultimately feeds the St. Johns.

Virzera already was familiar with the issue, but it was a concept presented by Siemen that caught her attention. Siemen, a Dominican Sister from Michigan and director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence at the Barry University School of Law, introduced the notion of granting legal rights to natural entities such as trees, rivers and waterfowl that "blew her away."

Virzera said the concept gained

credibility when Siemen said that Ecuador's Constitution has been protecting the rights of nature since 2008; and that the Whanganui River in New Zealand was given new life after being granted "personhood rights" last year.

"When she talked about Ecuador I got goose bumps," Virzera said. "This is the first time I've heard about something like that."

Alicia Smith of Riverside had a similar reaction.

"I'm happy to hear about the [idea]," Smith said. "I mean, a river is a living being. Why not fight for a river?"

After calling for a revamping of the American legal system in which "all living things" would have legal standing and could be represented by guardians, Siemen quickly placed into perspective that such change would be radical by pointing out that 150 years ago, "People thought slaves should have no rights."

But, she said, "Our current legal system will never get us out of the mess we're in."

Smith said she felt somewhat empowered by the concept, but conceded that "it's a good idea on paper" and would take a great deal of time and effort to materialize.

"Everyone was nodding their head," she said. "We were all thinking the same thing. It's a great concept, but how would you make that happen?"

Until then, environmental protection agencies such as St. Johns Riverkeeper will continue their fight against the Adena Springs Ranch water-use request.

Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman, whose privately funded not-for-profit agency in downtown Jacksonville serves as a



St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman spoke out at the forum regarding adverse effects of the approval of the water-use permit.

voice for the St. Johns River, said before the forum that the Silver Springs issue "is at the tipping point of disaster" and could have adverse effects locally if the water management district approves the water-use permit.

"Silver [River] makes its way to the St. Johns and it will hurt us," she said. "We have to look at the big picture. The stakes are high on both sides."

Speaker Robert Knight agreed. "Silver [Springs] is going down fast," said Knight said, board president of the Florida Springs Institute that he helped to establish after state legislators all but abandoned their support of Silver Springs. "The death knell could be in our life time."

Knight, who also is an adjunct professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida, said that most people are surprised to hear that

those who pump water from Silver Springs are getting the water free.

"We shouldn't be doing that," he said.

Knight said during a previous forum that the time is now for concerned people to act.

"We all think we can do something about it," he said during a recent forum on the same topic. "We think by yelling enough and shining a bright light on these issues and putting facts out to the public that something will change."

"It's going to take a lot of public opinion changing to get our leaders to change what they're doing because everybody's...trying to build the economy; but we're doing it at the expense of Silver Springs."

"The threat to Silver Springs' future is a very big one a very real one," Knight said.



Attorney and Dominican Sister Patricia Siemen was among several Silver Springs advocates who spoke to more than 275 people during a public forum held in June at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Jacksonville - Photos by Stephen Kindland

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# THE Handy San Marco ROUNDABOUT Quiz

BY ANDREW DICKSON, PARKS CHAIR  
SAN MARCO PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Now that it's finally open, San Marco Boulevard is one of the few roundabout regulated streets in Duval County. Do you know what to do in a roundabout? Whether you're an expert from your European travels, or a relative newbie, you can test your knowledge of roundabout laws below. Ready? Let's go!

1. **Traffic in a roundabout flows:**
  - a. Clockwise (to the left)
  - b. Counterclockwise (to the right)
2. **In a roundabout, who yields?**
  - a. Entering traffic yields to roundabout traffic
  - b. Roundabout traffic yields to entering traffic
3. **True or false:** Roundabouts and traffic circles are the same things.
4. **The purpose of a roundabout is:**
  - a. to slow down traffic
  - b. to keep traffic moving
  - c. both
  - d. neither
5. **True or False:** Roundabouts are safer for pedestrians than 4-way stop lights.
6. **The safe top speed for a San Marco roundabout is:**
  - a. 15 mph in peak traffic
  - b. 25 mph in off-peak traffic
  - c. 15 mph in all traffic
  - d. a and b only

7. **Roundabouts reduce:**
  - a. intersection maintenance costs
  - b. fuel costs
  - c. crash costs
  - d. all of the above
8. **At the roundabout crosswalks, cars must:**
  - a. yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk
  - b. yield to pedestrians waiting to cross
  - c. disregard pedestrians, cars have the right-of-way
  - d. a and b only
9. **At roundabouts, pedestrians must:**
  - a. use designated crosswalks only
  - b. cross one lane at a time
  - c. wait in the median refuge until it's safe to cross
  - d. wait for traffic to yield at the crosswalk
  - e. all of the above
10. **At roundabouts, pedestrians must NOT:**
  - a. cross the center island
  - b. step out in front of swiftly approaching traffic
  - c. assume traffic will stop just because you're in the crosswalk
  - d. all of the above
11. **If you miss your turn in the roundabout:**
  - a. take the next turn and bushwhack
  - b. stop and back up
  - c. just go around again!
12. **Balis Park now functions as:**
  - a. A giant roundabout
  - b. A pedestrian refuge
  - c. A central park
  - d. All of the above

How did you do? Whether you aced it or bombed it, remember these answers the next time you drive in San Marco!

**Answers:** 1. b 2. a 3. False: traffic circles handle large amounts of traffic at high speeds. 4. c 5. True 6. d 7. d 8. d 9. e 10. d 11. c 12. d

Sources: Wallwork, Michael. "A Traffic Circle and a Roundabout Are Not the Same." Editorial. Herald-Tribune.com. *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, 21 June 2009. Web. 27 Jan. 2013.

"A Guide to Roundabouts." *A Guide to Roundabouts*. Florida Department of Transportation, n.d. Web.

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# Hen owners crowing over draft legislation

*Four hens per acre better than one for the pot*

BY LARA PATANGAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The town once called Cowford is one step closer to sharing a new commonality with the progressive metropolises of Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco, but not with an urban amenity – instead by reconnecting with its rural roots and the chickens that historically clucked upon them.

Last month Ordinance No. 2013-415, which would allow single family homeowners to have up to four backyard hens, was filed, delighting hen advocates who have long pleaded for City government “to give peeps a chance.”

“I’ll be ecstatic when this is over and done,” said Riverside resident Genora Crain-Orth, who has been involved in the campaign to legalize backyard hens. “Decades ago, local residents, both rural and urban, depended on hens to produce eggs to nourish their families. There is no reason that we should not have the same rights today to take advantage, right in our own backyards, of the benefits of these wonderful pets.”

The legislation sponsored by Councilmen Don Redman and Doyle Carter states that no more than four hens will be allowed on a single family dwelling unless the property

is larger than one acre. For such properties, four additional hens are permitted per each additional half acre. Roosters, the animals notorious for their boisterous crowing, will only be allowed in agricultural and rural residential districts.

The draft legislation also requires hen owners to provide a shelter for their flock, cautioning against allowing chickens “to run at large upon streets, alleys or other public places, or upon the property of any other person.” The City would deem such run-away chickens as a nuisance and their owners would be subject to standard nuisance laws.

According to minutes from the June 11 meeting, Councilman Redman does not anticipate any problems as long as chickens are kept on their owner’s property.

Lauren Trad, a San Jose resident who founded Hens in JAX, the non-profit grass-roots group organized to change the existing ordinance to legalize backyard hens, said she believes people shouldn’t be restricted from doing something that doesn’t cause any problems.

“Having hens doesn’t cause an issue. This ordinance is written to protect the animals and the neigh-

The legislation sponsored by Councilmen Don Redman and Doyle Carter states that no more than four hens will be allowed on a single family dwelling unless the property is larger than one acre. According to minutes from the June 11 meeting, Councilman Redman does not anticipate any problems as long as chickens are kept on their owner’s property.



bors,” Trad said. “People should be given the opportunity to do the right thing – they should be given a chance to follow the laws.”

Crain-Orth agrees. “Noise and odor ordinances already exist to protect neighbors should negligent hen owners not properly manage their pets.”

The ordinance is scheduled for review by the Land Use and Zoning Committee on July 16. Trad said she is optimistic that things will move quickly and smoothly from this point.

“I would have never thought this would have taken this long or been this hard,” said Trad. “Large cities all over the country are allowed to keep hens and are doing it without any problems. People want these rights.”

If all goes as planned, Jacksonville will soon join the ranks of other big cities, simply by coming home to roost on its rural origins.

Visit the Hens in JAX Facebook page to stay informed about the proposed legislation.



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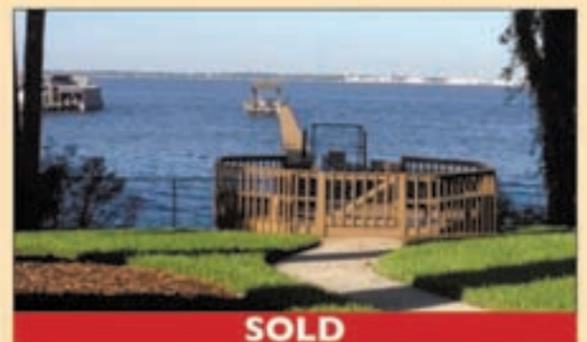
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# Generosity of residents ensures Balis Park completion

The benches are gone. The trees, too. Only a few bike racks remain. Thanks to the generosity of donors and patrons of San Marco, the list of Balis Park's needs are nearly met.

The San Marco Preservation Society's list of items needed to make the park a beautiful, comfortable and safe place to spend time has been whittled down to a couple of bicycle racks.

Shout-outs go to the following for their gifts: Jorge and Margie Morales, Joel and Mary Toomey, Marty and Wendy LaPrade, Tyrie and Lori Boyer, Jorge and Ann Gamba, Frank and Colleen Sanchez, Ryan Schwartz, James and Jennifer Newman, Jan Bebeau, Jay and Robin Robinson, Philip Sharp, Mitchell and Diane Rothstein, Scott and Erin Nooney, and John and Barbara Lanahan donated towards benches; Paul and Shelly Boynton, Jed Davis, the Garden Circle, John and Barbara Lanahan, Raymond James & Associates, Lindsey and Ryan Riggs gave trees; Bob Smith of The Grape and Grain Exchange, Carolyn Wilson, Melanie and Brad Wilson and Frank and Suzanne Perritt donated bike racks, and patron status belongs to Keith and Joyce Kimball, Eddie Fink, Michael Balanky, Robert P. Smith and OES. The Rose Garden Circle was a donor, too, for the new park.

Bank are awaiting resolution for a reconfiguration request that was made after the bank's request for a deviation from plan was approved.

Concerns by residents over another egress from the bank's drive-thru onto Thacker Avenue across from the Julia Landon College Preparatory School resulted in a subsequent request that would require adjacent property owners to make accommodations. According to Boyer, Chase officials are willing to make adjustments if the property owners are agreeable.

Moving over and up Hendricks Avenue, northbound toward I-95, the San Marco Station redevelopment is underway. Unfortunately for the tenants in the former South Jacksonville City Hall building, the parking lot was demolished as part of the overall construction plan. Although final plans provide for eight dedicated parking spaces for the San Marco Preservation Society and Greenscape, the question is how long before those spaces will be available. "There is no indication that repaving is imminent," said Boyer.

**PULSE** continued from 1

"It's long overdue and an insurance liability," Boyer noted regarding the splintering, and sometimes missing, boards.

The current hang-up, however, she explained, is concerns by the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville-Riverfront hotel about construction noise and also whether they will be part of the plan to allow public access to the Riverwalk. The hotel wants to limit or even prevent activity along the boardwalk

directly behind the hotel so has not, to date, been amenable to providing public access on either side of its property. Two access routes (see drawing) are available, but require bicyclists and pedestrians to take a roundabout way.

Also in the Southbank area, plans for the Southbank Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) are stalled while the Jacksonville Transportation Authority is waiting to hear back from the Florida Transportation Authority regarding flexibility on either expand-

Moving southbound along San Marco Boulevard, travelers will notice that the Square re-opened in May and Balis Park was completed in time for Fourth of July.

ing the project boundaries or changing what streets qualify in order to remove Riverplace from the equation and not lose the federal funding.

Visitors and regular commuters to Downtown may have noticed the paving recently done under I-95 southbound off the Fuller Warren Bridge. The center portion, between Palm Avenue and San Marco Boulevard, will be a dedicated parking lot for Baptist Hospital, replacing the lot they are losing to the east due to the Overland Bridge project.

The portion of the underpass area to the west of Palm Avenue is being considered for a public venue space, perhaps an "activity" park that would help promote the healthy living missions of the nearby hospitals and clinics. According to Boyer, the area is too small for a jogging trail and it is not a good place for a playground. "I don't see this as RAM II," said Boyer, referring to the Riverside Arts Markets.

Boyer mentioned that a group of people, including representatives from Florida Department of Transportation, Melody Bishop from the Downtown Investment Authority and Doug Skiles of EnVision, a civil engineer who specializes in unique public land use, will meet in early to mid-July to discuss design options for that potential public place.

Moving southbound along San Marco Boulevard, travelers will notice that the Square re-opened in May and Balis Park was completed in time for Fourth of July. Reese Riggle, newly elected president of San Marco Preservation Society, said that there are plans for a celebration in late summer/early fall.

Beyond the Square, across the street from Southside Baptist Church on Atlantic Boulevard, plans for a Chase

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"While I have physically relocated to Jacksonville, I still maintain great relationships with the customer base I established in the northeast part of the country," said Poletto. "Real estate is my passion. I pride myself on investing time and energy into serving my clients and I work hard to ensure that all of them have a positive experience."

Having owned properties in Boston, Provincetown (Cape Cod), New York City, New York, New Jersey, Tennessee and here in Jacksonville, he is intimately familiar with the intricacies of the real estate process, from securing loans to helping clients coordinate appraisals and inspections. Of course, all of that doesn't happen until he finds the buyer the perfect property.

"I have been on both sides of many real estate transactions. I know what buyers and sellers go through and I use my years of experience to streamline the experience so clients can focus on the important details," he explained.

These past few years, Jacksonville's real estate market has gone from lukewarm to hot. "It's a great time to buy and sell. There is so much opportunity in this

city. Currently, interest rates are incredibly low," noted Poletto. "Consumers are more optimistic than they were a few years ago and things are moving."

Poletto considers Jacksonville's real estate to be very reasonable and even markets it to out of state clients who are seeking a local property. "What makes Jacksonville and the surrounding neighborhoods unique is their charm and walkability. People are willing to pay for these attributes," Poletto said. "Being able to park your car on Friday and walk everywhere for the weekend is a huge draw."

When people list with Poletto, it is his personable approach and strategic thinking that wins business. Utilizing an array of marketing media, Poletto also knows the importance of being proactive and paying attention to details.

"I don't wait for the phone to ring. Moving forward is the only direction I know. If a property isn't moving or receiving any visibility, then something's amiss," Poletto said. "I work hard to bring attention to some great properties on behalf of my clients."

Poletto is currently welcoming new clients and promises a positive experience for everyone. "Clients deserve an agent who is willing to go above and beyond. Someone who can anticipate any issues and close a deal that's in their best interest. I treat my clients the way I would want to be treated. It's a mantra that's served me and my business well!"

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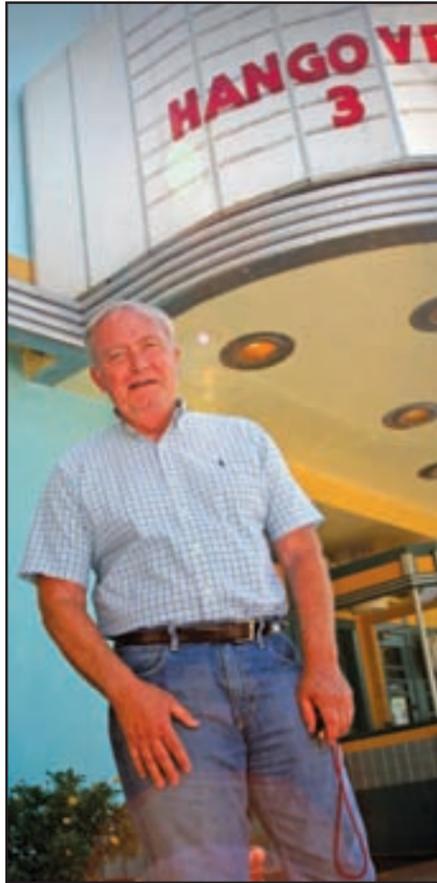
*Nine receive awards and recognitions*

Immediate past president Diane Martin opened the spring meeting of the San Marco Preservation Society with the comment, "Now I know what it takes to raise the attendance at these meetings!" Aardwolf Brewery was a packed house on May 20 for the annual beautification awards and election of officers.

Historian Robin Robinson presented historic awards to the San Marco Movie Theater for 75 years of operation, Assumption Catholic Church for 100 years, accepted by Father Fred Parke, and the South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church also for 100 years.

Robinson shared that the original plans for San Marco Square were laid out in 1926, which was an appropriate segue into a special recognition to Doug Skiles, project engineer for Balis Park. "This was the fastest a project has ever been conceived, approved, funded, constructed and completed," said Martin. Skiles noted that one year ago almost to the day he pondered the traffic flow issue in conjunction with the proposed San Marco Streetscape and took some ideas to past SMPS president Rob Smith.

Beautification awards were presented to Aardwolf Brewery, The Grape and Grain Exchange, Maple Street Biscuit Company, the Bath/Blackman

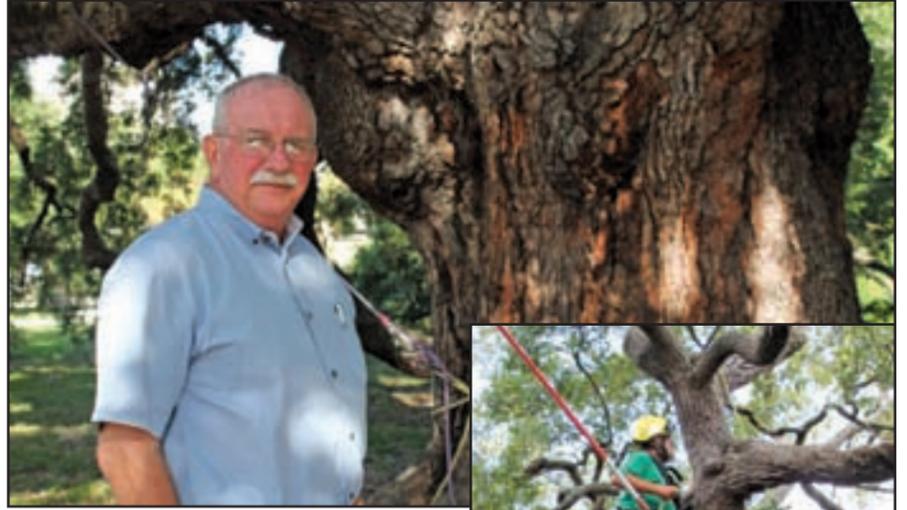


In recognition of 75 years of providing residents with movies, David Blue and the San Marco Movie Theater received an historic award from the San Marco Preservation Society - Photo by Heather Stine

residence at 2555 Laurel Road, and Thomas and Ames Kohn's home at 1805 Naldo Avenue.

New officers for 2013-2014 include Reese Riggle, president; Mary Toomey, president-elect, Heather Stine, secretary, and Jim Stevens, treasurer.

# Historic tree gets TLC from its PCP



After 25 years of annual and biennial checkups, Early Piety could be considered the primary care physician for the 250-year-old live oak tree known as Treaty Oak.

Over the years Piety and his company, Specialty Tree Surgeons, has removed deadwood, ensured that no infrastructural changes or improvements to the Jessie Ball duPont Park interfere with the tree's root system, and consulted on the installation of the under-tree decking and the watering system.

"This tree is too old for foot traffic on the root system or tree climbing," said Piety, who has owned the business since 1980. "The decking was built to protect the soil from getting compacted. It's tree-compatible."

During an all-day checkup on May 31, Piety kept a watchful eye on tree climbers Glen Westfall, Logan Patterson, and Doug LaFortune (who drove up from Winter Park for the privilege of climbing the 250-year-old tree). David Markley, foreman for 31 years, was also on hand to monitor the careful trimming.

The live oak, whose girth is far wider than its 70-foot height, has been witness to a lot of history, including weddings held under its



boughs and, according to Piety, a lot of cremated remains are scattered under the tree, but the story about a treaty signed by Native Americans and early settlers is probably apocryphal.

According to Piety though, back in the 1930s-40s "shade tree mechanics" would change oil or work on the engines, polluting the ground, and that was bad for the tree. "No one took care of the tree before it was deeded to the city in 1940," noted Piety. But it endured because it has perfect growing conditions of high, well drained sandy soil. The irrigation system was installed about 10 years ago when Piety determined that the majestic oak was suffering from lack of water during a 10-year drought.

# Annual Environmental Awards nominations deadline July 29

The City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board (EPB) is seeking nominations for its annual Environmental Awards. The awards recognize individuals and organizations for having a positive impact on local conservation and sustainability efforts and outstanding environmental accomplishments. The deadline to submit nominations is July 29.

The three categories for awards to be issued are the Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award which recognizes individuals who have exhibited professionalism, diligence and unwavering commitment as a champion of the environment in protecting or preserving the natural resources of Duval County; the Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award which recognizes individuals in Duval County who have consistently promoted envi-

ronmental education and outreach, exhibited long-term environmental awareness, and displayed superior environmental initiative; and the Environmental Achievement Awards which recognize individuals and organizations in Duval County for superior, creative and innovative efforts by an individual, a public sector or educational institution, a nonprofit, social, civic or neighborhood group, a business of 50 employees and/or more than \$5 million in annual sales, or a small business of less than 50 employees and/or annual sales of \$5 million or less.

To nominate individuals or entities contact James Richardson, EPB Administrator at [jrichard@coj.net](mailto:jrichard@coj.net) or (904) 255-7213. More information about the awards can be found at [www.coj.net/epb](http://www.coj.net/epb).

# Share your favorite vacation!

Was your summer vacation out of the ordinary this year? Did you pack the family off on a serious hiking expedition or explore the many things that Jacksonville and Northeast Florida have to offer? The Resident wants to know about the memories you made this summer! Send your best vacation photo with a 100-word caption to [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net) no later than July 15. Perhaps you'll convince your neighbors to try your summer getaway next year! (No guarantees of publishing; first come first considered.)

Lynne

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Proctor joins Lakewood Presbyterian as Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Emily Proctor was hired at Lakewood Presbyterian Church as Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. Her husband, the Rev. Richard Proctor, joined St. Mark's Episcopal as Associate Rector for Youth and Young Adults.

Proctor graduated from Williams College in Williamstown, MA in 2003, and from Columbia Theological Seminary with a Master



of Divinity degree in 2009, where she met her husband. Before attending seminary, Proctor spent a year in South Africa studying the Presbyterian Church's response to AIDS. She spent the past four years as an Associate Pastor at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD.

Proctor and her husband celebrate their third anniversary this month.

## Feinberg hired as DVI's Director of Strategic Partnerships



San Marco resident Valerie Feinberg, AICP, was recently hired as Director of Strategic Partnerships for Downtown Vision, Inc. Feinberg will serve as lead strategist to create a multi-year plan for development and fundraising initiatives, in addition to the formation of meaningful, strategic partnerships on behalf of DVI.

"It's an exciting time in Downtown's history," remarked Feinberg. "I look forward bringing my passion for healthy community

design, walkable places and beautification to capitalize on the momentum Downtown and enhance the Downtown experience."

Feinberg brings more than 20 years of experience in public, private and non-profit sectors with a background in urban planning and project management, including strategic planning, program development and implementation. She worked most recently for the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida developing partnerships and writing grants. She is a past president of the San Marco Association and JaxPride, and managed the San Marco by Design project, which resulted in numerous beautification and street-level improvements.

"In the short time that Valerie has been on board at DVI, her ideas for enhancements to the Downtown environment have been inspiring," commented Terry Lorince, executive director for Downtown Vision, Inc. "Her skillset will enable our organization to make a stronger impact Downtown through her innate understanding of strategic planning and cross-sector collaboration."

## Carroll's Original Meat Shoppe more than just meat, it's an experience



For quality fruits, vegetables, seafood and, oh yes, meat...the place to go is Carroll's Meat Shoppe, 6861 St. Augustine Road in Lakewood. Be prepared to spend time browsing the baskets and bins of seasonally fresh fruits and vegetables, then tear yourself away and head for the meat counter at the rear of the store, where you'll find choice cuts of beef, pork and poultry and you can get it fresh, smoked or fresh frozen.

Since 1966, Herman "Smitty" Shuman has been a tradition for at least two generations of discerning meat lovers, beginning with his Pearl Street shop at a time when Shuman

worked for the City of Jacksonville in the Parks Department. After 25 years he retired in 1976 to devote himself full time to bringing quality meats all the way from Iowa to Jacksonville households.

At the June 1 ribbon-cutting for the new store in Lakewood, John Rose (president and husband of Shuman's granddaughter Krista) had this to say about the founder: "He is the most loving man I have ever met and I think that's why he's done so well. Over 350 people showed up for his retirement from the City in 1976; that's how well liked he was."

## Leslie A. Goller named Woman Lawyer of the Year

The Jacksonville Women's Lawyers Association (JWLA) chose Leslie A. Goller as its Woman Lawyer of the Year.

"Leslie Goller was an obvious choice for this award. She exemplifies all of the qualifications that we look for," said Katherine Naugle, JWLA's President. "Very early on she earned the respect of others professionally, has been involved in more activities that I can count for the betterment of our community and is the picture of a positive role model. On a daily basis she advances the causes of women in the community."



Goller is a trial attorney at the Terrell Hogan personal injury and wrongful death law firm, where her practice focuses on consumer litigation. She is an environmental advocate, election lawyer and community activist.

Through her pro bono service, she's helped keep the air cleaner by stopping incinerators from polluting the air and helped protect the St. Johns River by serving on the legal committee for the St. Johns Riverkeeper. She also serves on the Election Advisory Panel for the City

of Jacksonville and coordinates and trains volunteer election lawyers. Recently, Goller is focusing on keeping roadways safer by giving distracted driving educational presentations to local high school students and employers.

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# Baptist adds four new members to Board of Directors



Baptist Health Foundation announced four additions to its Board of Directors, including San Marco resident William Mason, Ed.D., FACHE, President Emeritus of Baptist Health. Mason recently retired from the Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital Boards of Directors, on which he served for 15 years after retiring as President and CEO of Baptist Health. Mason was recently named an emeritus member of both boards and he has also previously served as President of the Baptist Health Foundation.

The other three directors include Dan Edelman, CPA, managing partner of the Florida practice of Dixon Hughes PLLC; Jane Rollinson, president and CEO of Criterion Consulting Solutions where she heads the Healthcare Division; and Terry West, president and CEO of VyStar Credit Union.

# Budding novelist finds great success in U.K.



Bruce "Bud" Baker, who works in the Environmental Services Department at the Museum of Science and History, has recently published his first novel, "The Earthling/Alien Chatroom." Book 1 of "The Futurist Trilogy" has sold remarkably well, according to Baker's agent, and is currently available through Amazon, Waterstones, The Book Depository, and Blackwells.

Baker, who bicycles everywhere and has

never driven a car, has lived in the San Marco/St. Nicholas area for nearly two decades. Literary agent Patsy Reynolds & Associates in the United Kingdom believed enough in his storytelling ability to represent his work. Future works by Baker are "Big Bang Bunnies," a children's book that teaches scientific facts and theories regarding the universe, and "Brain-Treks," a guide for personal improvement through the process of "rewiring" one's own brain.

# Animal hospital chosen as Wells Fargo Community Partner 2013

St. Francis Animal Hospital, a not-for-profit veterinary hospital located in San Marco at 2107 Mango Place, was chosen by the San Marco Wells Fargo to be the Community Partner for 2013. San Marco Wells Fargo Store Manager Matt Moberg presented a \$1,000 donation check to St. Francis Animal Hospital at the Wells Fargo Community Partner breakfast at The Cummer Museum and Gardens on May 15.

"St. Francis Animal Hospital is honored to be chosen the San Marco Wells Fargo Community Partner for 2013. It is wonderful that a San Marco business is supporting a

San Marco nonprofit. Thanks to the generous support from our San Marco Wells Fargo neighbors, we will be able to help more pets in need of medical care," said Sandy Golding, Director of Development for St. Francis Animal Hospital.

Wells Fargo proudly supports organizations working to strengthen their local communities and believes that grant-making decisions are more effective when made locally.

Founded in 2003 by San Marco resident and veterinarian Dr. Susan Green Shelton, St. Francis Animal Hospital's mission is to provide affordable veterinary care to all owned pets in the Jacksonville area.



Sandy Golding, St. Francis Animal Hospital, Director of Development and Matthew Moberg, San Marco Wells Fargo Store Manager

# Family automotive business caters to soccer moms



Tony Mossuto is just as comfortable among Legos and dollhouses as he is around torque wrenches and diagnostic computers. The father of four home-schooled children is also the owner of Everything Automotive, a full-service repair shop in San Marco.

After 25 years as a master technician, Mossuto decided it was time to be his own boss. In July 2012, with two business partners, Mossuto bought an empty shop known to residents as Randy's Automotive. By February 2013, he was sole proprietor and with wife

Vicky, Mossuto turned the waiting area into a mother's delight.

"We want this to be an enjoyable place to spend time, especially with children, when you're waiting for your car to be serviced," said Mossuto. To that end, they provide complimentary hot and cold beverages, snacks, a microwave, television, comfortable sofas, a fully stocked changing table and a lot of toys.

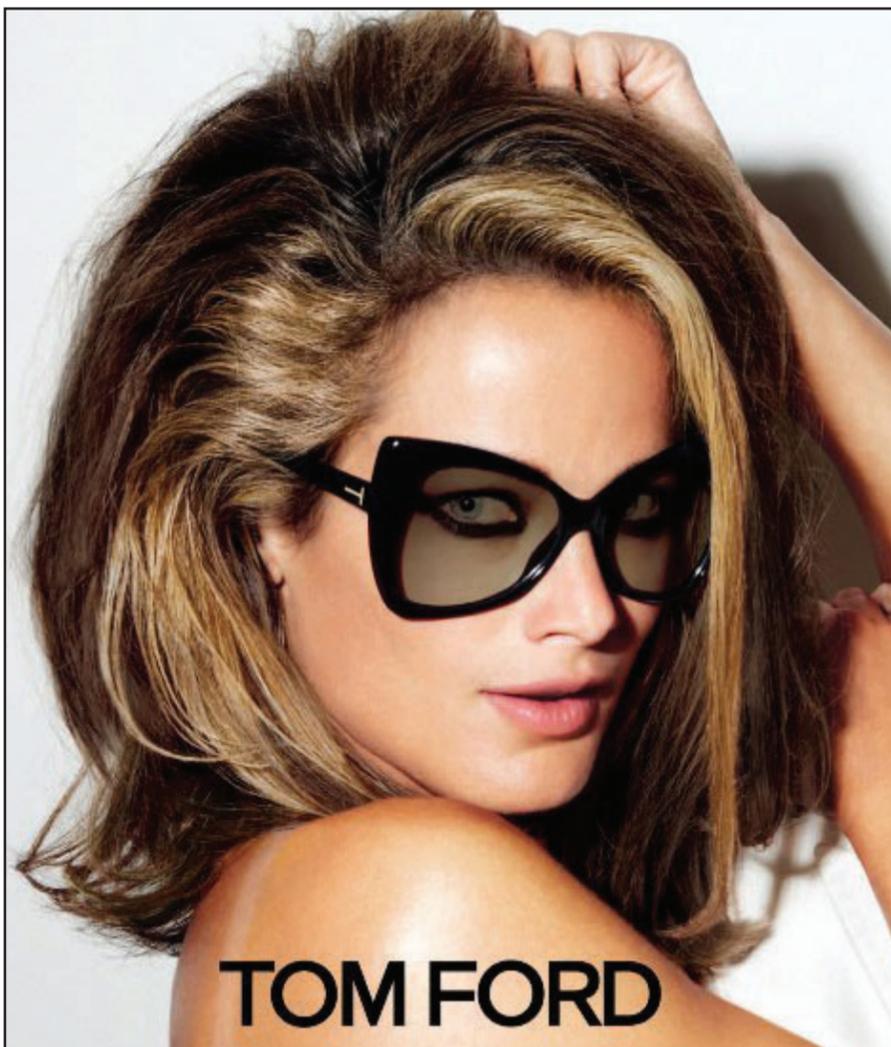
Everything Automotive is located at 1844 Kings Avenue and Mossuto can be reached at (904) 800-2714.

# Jacksonville church reaches across country to tornado victims

Assumption Catholic Church (and all Catholic churches of the Diocese) took up a special collection one weekend last month to send to Catholic Charities for the specific use for the tornado victims in Moore, OK. Assumption Catholic received \$4,683 in a cash collection and Father Fred Parker noted, "I always repeat what St. Francis of Assisi once said when he was a person who was sick or injured or in trouble: 'There, but for the grace of God, go I.'"

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# Area churches help take sting out of being a homeless family

BY BETH MIXSON  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
FAMILY PROMISE OF JACKSONVILLE

At 5 a.m. each week day morning the Family Promise van quietly pulls up to a local church. Despite the early hours, the van driver Jim McKenney cheerfully greets the families waiting for him. These homeless families have spent the night at the church with volunteers as part of Family Promise of Jacksonville.

Family Promise is different than the traditional emergency homeless shelter. It provides shelter to three families staying at churches and three families at City Rescue Mission. In addition, five families live in its transitional houses.

Mark Landschoot, executive director, explains, "After entering our shelter, one group of our families moves week to week to different churches. Each family is provided its own space for sleeping and volunteers prepare dinner for the families every night. The second group of single mothers and children stay in the family shelter at City Rescue Mission."

During the day all families return to a day center housed at the First United Methodist Church. Working with the case manager, the adults seek employment while the children attend school. Family Promise also partners with other social service agencies that provide job training, childcare, health services and more.

One quarter of the church partners are in Riverside, Ortega or Southside. Ortega Methodist Church has been one since the beginning in 2006. Volunteer coordinator Kathy Nipper shares one of the most memorable host weeks.



A Family Promise guest shows off the cookie she decorated

"It was Christmas 2007 and the family arrived with a newborn baby boy. It was just an incredible way to remind us why we volunteer," she exclaimed. She added that being part of Family Promise has encouraged the church to do even more in the community. "Every group in our church helps during host week – families, singles, seniors, teenagers," she said.

Christmas week 2009 was the first time that St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lakewood hosted. "We weren't suppose to start until 2010 but Family Promise called and asked if we could take Christmas week," said Lynn Doiron, the church's volunteer

coordinator, "We were debating if we could pull it off until someone quoted 'no room in the inn'. Then we committed!" She describes hosting "as the best thing we do". St. Mark's became involved when the church realized a homeless man was sleeping in its dumpster. The pastor and congregation decided to help homeless in Jacksonville and Family Promise was the answer.

"Being a host church has fundamentally changed our understanding of the homeless," said Bruce Jones, pastor of Southside United Methodist Church. "It allows us to develop relationships with hard working, honest people who have had a hard time." He compares it to a mission trip that doesn't require traveling and believes that the experience helped Southside to become more mission driven.

"People have turned into leaders and become more confident about their contributions to the mission," said Kristin Adams of Riverside Baptist Church, "It has helped us to broaden our ability to gauge what is really important." She confessed to being nervous the last week that the church hosted. "We had to house one family downstairs because the teenage son had a broken leg. We are in the midst of a renovation and I was concerned about the mess. The family didn't care. They were just happy to be together."

Landschoot explains, "One critical difference from other shelters is we keep families together at all times." He added, "Even shelters that accept families require them to separate by gender in living and sleeping spaces. Fathers and teenage boys are housed separately from women and children even if they are a family. We are in the only shelter in Duval County that accommodates single fathers with children."

Family Promise was founded more than 25 years ago in New York City. Today there are more than 180 affiliates across the country. "Nearly 40% of the homeless are now families with children," said Landschoot, "That's in contrast to the mid '80s when families were only 1% of the homeless." Every Duval County Public school has at least



Anita Renfro

one homeless student. With Florida leading the nation on foreclosures, the situation will not change soon.

In Duval County the five agencies serving homeless families have a total of 158 emergency shelter beds for them. Among these agencies, the wait list exceeds more than 100 individuals on a year round basis.

"We receive a minimum of government funding," says Landschoot, "We rely on community funding to keep our doors open."

## Help Family Promise and have fun doing it

Two upcoming events for Family Promise give you the chance to help while having fun.

Anita Renfro became a viral hit four years ago with her YouTube video singing everything a mom says in a day to The William Tell Overture. This Christian comedian nails the funny side of life and parenting. Her only Florida show this year will be Friday, July 12 at 7 p.m. at CrossRoad Church. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at [www.familypromisejax.org](http://www.familypromisejax.org) or call 354-1818. Seating is limited, so don't wait!

CrossRoad Church is also the setting of Family Promise's Cardboard City November 15-16. Participants spend the night outside in cardboard boxes, tents or in cars to raise awareness of the homeless in Jacksonville while also raising money for Family Promise.

To learn more about Family Promise and how you can help homeless families, visit [www.familypromisejax.org](http://www.familypromisejax.org) or call (904) 354-1818.



Ortega Methodist members at the dedication of the Family Promise transitional house that they furnished and decorated

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Board of Governors (in the back) Alex Harrison, Bruce Homeyer, Ricardo Morales, Bennet Brown, Nathan Franzblau, Past Commodore Mike Balanky, Mark Gelman, Dennis Guidi, Jim Linn, and Juan Diaz (front row) Missy Pearson, Kimberly Zlatanoff, Founder Herb Peyton, Vice Commodore Debra Braddock and Commodore Rich Brew

## BALANKY TURNS HELM OVER TO BREW AT ANNUAL CHANGE OF COMMAND

The traditional roasting of the Commodore was just one of the many fun events at the April 19 "Change of Command" at Epping Forest Yacht Club. Immediate Past Commodore Michael Balanky also presented the Fitness Program Award to Dr. Eduardo and Isaida Sanchez for their support of one of the club's departments. The ceremony, held at the marina flag pole, welcomed new Commodore Rich Brew to the helm.

## A MATCH MADE IN MEDIA HEAVEN



Ilyssa Trussel and Joe Drumm covered a lot of stories together but their favorite is the one that didn't make the evening news – their personal love story.

Trussel came to Jacksonville in 2007 as a reporter for Action News where Drumm was working as a videographer. Drumm says he had his eye on the blonde reporter right away, even though she was focused on her new job.

A few days after Trussel started at the station, the two were paired up to cover a story in Brunswick, GA. Trussel said she recalls being nervous because they were the lead story at 5 p.m. Drumm, a Philadelphia native who is known his care-free and laid back personality, had a way of putting Trussel's mind at ease while

standing on the other side of the camera. For several months the two were nothing more than co-workers and friends. But eventually, their relationship blossomed into something more romantic, and Drumm eventually asked his co-worker on a date.

Trussel now works in Marketing and Communications at St. Vincent's HealthCare. Drumm is still in the TV news business and works as a special projects videographer for WJXT, Channel 4 News. The two live on the Southside and make the drive to San Marco and Riverside each day. They exchanged vows during a seaside ceremony at Serenata Beach Club in South Ponte Vedra Beach on April 13 and the Drumms honeymooned in Hawaii.

# ROTARIANS CELEBRATE DEDICATION OF SAN JOSE

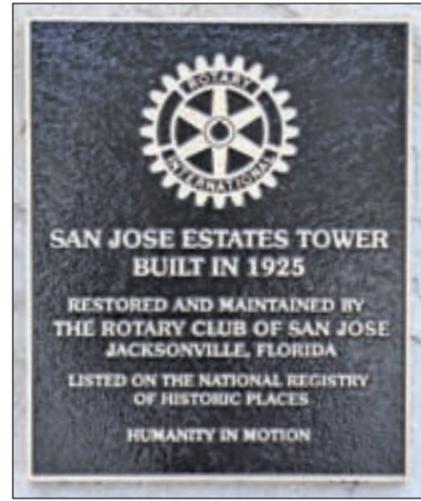
## Landmark now on National Historic Registry

The infamous San Jose Estates, which began to be built during the 1920s, now has an official symbol to represent the development's place in history. Thanks to the efforts of a group of dedicated Rotarians, the attractive Marsh and Saxelby designed Mediterranean Revival, two-story stucco-covered tower now has historic designation status on the National Historic Registry.

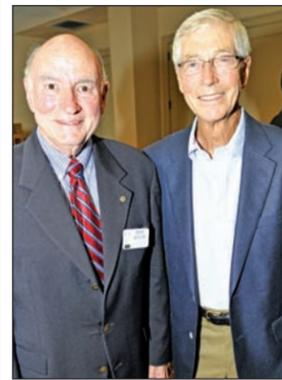
This remaining tower [of four], located at 1873 Christopher Point Road N., marked the northernmost entrance to the San Jose Estates during the late Florida land boom. Highlighted by a cartouche incised with SJE (San Jose Estates) just above the the gatehouse keystone during the original construction, the detail still remains a part of the facade.

San Jose Rotarians, led by Tower Chairman Jim Culp, worked tirelessly to dedicate the historic tower since 2007, a lengthy five-year

process. The landmark status had faced a series of setbacks during property negotiations, permitting, engineering and compliance with the city's Historic Commission policies. "We, as a club, have preserved a piece of history, the San



## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH A NIGHT OF GIVING



Mike Mickler and Buddy Lawrence



Left: Sherry Murray and Mary Ellen Granuzzo



Below: Founding Member John Curtin, President Doug Sovich, Sergeant at Arms Michael O'Brian and Treasurer Rogers Joseph



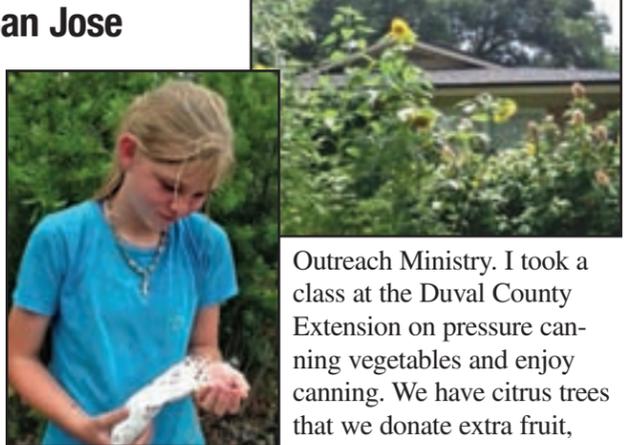
# How does your garden grow?

Summer gardens are fascinating. Some provide staples for cost-conscious families. Others are good objective lessons for kids. And some are just plain fun to take care of and watch what comes up. *The Resident* reached out to local gardeners to see what they're growing this summer. Join us for a quick tour of what your neighbors might be cultivating in their yards.

## Rebekah Duvall, San Jose

I like to grow both vegetables and flowers. Right now in the garden I have green beans, tomatoes, a variety of herbs, and peppers. Also, for the first time, I'm growing shallots. I have lots of zinnias, sunflowers, and black eyed susans. My husband grows beautiful day lilies. It's a family affair in the garden, my husband John, daughter Lizzi, and me.

We usually grow things we enjoy eating. We share with neighbors and donate surplus to United Community



Duvall uses ladybugs, a natural pest control, in her garden

Outreach Ministry. I took a class at the Duval County Extension on pressure canning vegetables and enjoy canning. We have citrus trees that we donate extra fruit, enjoy ourselves, share with neighbors, and make yummy grapefruit sorbet. We hunt and squish pesky pests! It is much more satisfying. We use organic fertilizer and a slow release fertilizer.

## Donna Janesky with Stuart Walling, St. Nicholas

Our yard has separate areas, with a vegetable, perennial, shade, succulent garden and we have orchids growing under our pergola. We also have several types of citrus trees. Our garden is definitely a joint venture. It couldn't exist without both of us doing our part.

We seem to have taken over specific gardening jobs; I fertilize, weed and water and plan; he trims, digs wonderful holes, and waters and weeds as



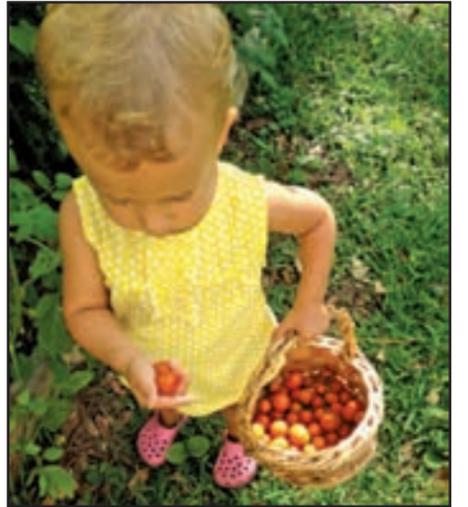
well. Stuart has built a small greenhouse, a pergola, and a wonderful sacred space deck, and put in an amazing irrigation and lighting system throughout the yard. We try to use what we plant, but occasionally all the beans or cucumbers, figs, or oranges come in at once. That's when I put them in a basket and go ringing doorbells in the neighborhood. We often

do treasure hunts with our grandchildren in the garden with hidden clues, or ask kids to find various items in the garden.

## Donnie Pellicer, St. Nicholas

This summer we're growing a Lebanese squash, called a Dirani squash, which resembles a zucchini and it has been very prolific. We also grow lots of herbs, including Thai basil, Spanish lavender, lemon balm, and probably five different varieties of mint. My six-year-old son Jude is an excellent gardener and he helps with everything from starting seeds to pest control (spotting and removing bugs), and my 2-year-old daughter Juni is already well versed in the task of harvesting!

Christy, my wife, takes Juni out to pick tomatoes every morning after breakfast. This year we have an abundance of squash and cherry tomatoes. We love to cook and use most of it, but we have definitely given away quite a bit. This



season, our daughter has been our most pesky herbivore, since she has been pulling green tomatoes. Luckily, with a little help from mom and dad, she's getting the hang of things!

## Harold Whinery, San Marco

Gardening is a family affair although I do most of the heavy stuff. Sheri makes decisions on what we will plant and picks weeds, and finds bugs and caterpillars. Ian, our son who is 10 years old, is our chemist; he runs the soil testing for me and I get him involved a little with each phase of growing. Each year we try to grow something we have never grown before.



Ian Whinery, 10, runs soil testing

This year I have four really large growth areas of potatoes. We try to keep everything organic. It is very difficult to do as the plants do need fertilizer to do well and certain times of the summer are heavy with bad insects. We love bees and usually name them and talk to them each day. If the bees are working the garden, it does really well. This summer we are growing tomatoes, okra, potatoes, cucumbers and bell peppers.

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BUSINESS PROFILE



# Gourmet food every day is no illusion

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While having a gourmet dinner delivered to your home in the middle of a hectic week may seem like a fantasy, The Phantom Chef is no illusion.

The San Marco-based company provides an array of services including traditional catering, prepared meals, and personalized chef services, all of which provide an excellent culinary experience for The Phantom Chef's clientele.

Executive Chef and Owner Michael Isacco caters traditional events including weddings, family reunions and holiday parties, but it is his focus on personal relationships with the client that is the unique allure of The Phantom Chef.

"I provide a real, personalized service. I always do an initial interview with my clients to discuss their food preferences, any allergies or dietary requirements," Chef Michael explained. "Then I tailor the menu based on those conversations."

Chef Michael is in the business of delivering tasty meals to private homes in order to make the lives of busy, working people more manageable. As most families try to keep up with their hectic schedules, often left behind is the time it takes to prep and cook healthy meals for

the family- not to mention cleaning up afterward. Time is at a premium in most households these days and the service helps to defray the typical routine of shop, prep, cook, eat and then clean up.

A typical meal might be a piece of fish, a side of risotto and some asparagus. "I love to cook with fresh seafood," Chef Michael said. "We are so lucky to live in this part of the country where we can literally cook seafood that was just pulled out of the ocean."

The meals, delivered to your door, are designed to be simple to rewarm and have a three-day shelf life. "In fact, some customers prefer to only order meals for three days a week, finding it provides a certain flexibility as well as convenience.

"All of the ingredients I use are fresh," Chef Michael promises. "Nothing you get from me is ever going to be a processed food product."

The cost of most meal ranges between \$14 and \$19. "I think people see the value in it," Chef Michael said. "By the time you factor in the time and cost associated with a grocery store run, the time it takes to prepare a healthy, satisfying meal and the time it takes to clean up the mess afterward,

it's more than a reasonable expense. A lot of people are beginning to realize the true cost of their time and they're making decisions to allocate their money towards things that make their time more efficient."

Aside from catering and meal deliveries The Phantom Chef provides personal chef services for people in their homes. This service is targeted toward customers who want to host a gourmet quality meal for smaller groups to celebrate holidays or special occasions in the privacy of their own home. "I come in and prepare a meal or an array of heavy hors d'oeuvres," Chef Michael explained. "These experiences are often interactive, and clients and their guests really seem to enjoy the show and if they really paying attention they might even learn a little something."

The Phantom Chef takes care of everything. "I bring in the fresh ingredients, cook the food and even wash the dishes when I am done," Chef Michael said. "Sometimes people pull out their fine china the way mom did at Christmas, and sometimes the events are more casual, either way, people always have fun."



Let the Phantom Chef create a delectable gourmet meal for your family or your next gathering. Call (904) 378-5335 to enjoy the personalized service of The Phantom Chef.



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# Creating memories on the Bahamian waters



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

With summer here, and family vacations in full swing, I wanted to share a summer vacation our family recently took.

Many months ago, we began planning this trip with my wife's parents and brothers

and all the nieces and nephews and cousins. It was to be 17 people total, but we ended up only 15 – missing two key members. We missed them greatly.

The trip was planned for the Abacos in the Bahamas, a place where my wife's family spent many vacations over the years.

My wife and oldest daughter were to fly over on Saturday with my wife's brothers, their wives and kids. My wife's parents were making the crossing earlier in the week. My plan was to cross over with my youngest daughter (10) on our 25' boat alongside another family on their 30' boat on Friday.

As luck would have it, Andrea, the first named storm of the year, was building in the Gulf of Mexico. Rain bands and high winds were forecasted to be crossing south Florida and into the Atlantic later in the

week, so our crossing window was becoming narrower by the hour. If we delayed, it could be many days before the seas would calm enough allowing us to make the 180 +- mile run from West Palm Beach to Elbow Cay.

The marine forecast showed Wednesday morning tolerable for a crossing in a small boat, but also showed the seas building throughout the day. Thursday, Friday and Saturday looked worse, so we knew that if we did not get underway

Wednesday morning, we could be looking at a Sunday or Monday crossing.

So phone calls were quickly made to make sure business affairs were taken care of and our cars were packed and boats put on trailers in record time.

We left Jacksonville on a Tuesday evening with a goal to launch in West Palm Beach sometime early the following morning and beat the building weather.

Due to several unforeseen delays Wednesday morning (a blown trailer tire being one of them) we were not able to launch and exit the Lake Worth inlet in West Palm Beach until around noon. By then, the rain bands had already reached the east coast of Florida from the Gulf, and the seas were beginning to build.

With our first waypoint being West End, Bahamas (only 60 miles away) we decided to proceed with caution.

This first leg of the trip on a good crossing day should take no more than two hours. But with the short sequence of the three- to four-foot easterly swells coupled with the choppy conditions from the wind we experienced, it took over four hours.

We eventually made it to West End a



Kat Miller, Matt McAfee with an Abaco Durado

little after 4 p.m. By the time we made it through customs, it was 4:30 and the weather had gotten worse. We had no time or daylight left to make the next leg of the trip (100+ mile run to Green Turtle), so we checked in to Old Bahama Bay, got cleaned up and went up to the restaurant to get some dinner and decompress.

The following day, we woke up to more unfavorable marine forecasts. Although our run through the open ocean was behind us, the Bahamas bank (while only 10 feet deep for the most part) is still open water and can become very choppy in windy conditions, making for another wet and long run.

We departed West End around 11 a.m. on our way to Green Turtle. To keep from running aground, the route from West End to the Abacos in which we would need to follow consisted of running in close proximity to a number of waypoints like Indian Rock, Mangrove Cay, Great Sale Cay, Carter's Cay, and Crab Cay just to name a few. The run to Green Turtle was bumpy, but we successfully made it in about five hours.

Our plan was to stay on Green Turtle for



Mark Hutto with an Abaco Wahoo

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two nights, as our rental house on Elbow would not open up for two more days. At dinner we ran into an old classmate of mine, a dentist from Melbourne and his family. They joined us for dinner, where they shared their fresh yellowfin tuna catch that the restaurant was preparing for them. The next two days were spent exploring New Plymouth on Green Turtle in golf carts, being hosted by my classmate for dinner the following evening, buying and storing key lime (heavy on the meringue) pies, and counting down the days in which I would see the rest of my family.

After a couple of great days on Green Turtle, Saturday morning came. We loaded our two boats once again to make the final 20-mile run east from Green Turtle toward our final destinations of Elbow Cay and Tahiti Beach. We exchanged emails and wished my classmate well as they were heading west back to the states.

We made it to Sea Spray Marina around noon, and began the fun task of transporting the provisions via golf cart from the boats to the rental house. Boat runs were made from Elbow to Marsh Harbor

throughout the afternoon to pick up family members flying in. One flight was delayed by three hours. By 8 p.m. everyone was

safely there (with the exception of two loved ones who stayed home).

June is a great time to be in the Abacos. Although the pelagic fishing season was winding down, we managed to get there in time to catch the tail end of it. Many boats were still releasing a good number of billfish and we were seeing a lot of mahi and wahoo were being brought to the dock.

Each family in our group had agreed earlier on to be in charge of several dinners during our stay. My wife's and my dinner commitments were centered around catching and preparing edible fish. We managed

over the next several days (with the help of Mother Nature) to make the short run offshore to 1000+ feet of water and catch our share of mahi and wahoo. Fishing the reefs for bottom fish like snapper, grouper, almaco jacks and trigger fish also proved to be extremely productive.

With plenty of fish to eat, we shifted our focus to billfish.

The first day we targeted billfish, we fished my father-in-law's boat the Blue Max. We made the run through the south Man O War cut, successfully navigating the reef and made our way to the 1000 foot

depth. There we began trolling.

Once we had our lines in the water and with a few modifications to ensure the baits

looked natural, the waiting game began. It did not take long.

At the time, I was watching the baits running directly behind the boat in the prop wash. A thick-striped back with a rigid dorsal followed by a tall fluorescent-blue tail fin came from my right-to-left and hit the starboard side bait. Line began peeling off the reel. We picked the rod up from the transom and were in the process of moving it to the chair when the line went slack. She had spit it. We immediately changed the drag setting on the reel to free-spool to allow the bait to fall in the water column in close proximity to where the bait was released. This would allow the fish to eat again. We waited about eight seconds and tightened the drag once again. The line went tight and she was back on.

After a few seconds, she jumped once, spit the hook and she was gone. She was a large blue marlin, barely able to get half her body out of the water. Seeing her jump once was well worth the effort.

Several days later, I took my wife, sister-in-law and four kids trolling targeting billfish. Within minutes of reaching the 1000 foot depth, we had a fish on. It hit the port side outrigger and immediately began jumping. Within 20 minutes we had a white marlin boat side. While keeping the entire fish in the water, we removed the hook, took a few pictures and watched her swim

off. This was my first marlin successfully caught, and first billfish on the MaryAnn.

After a few more great days of island hopping, the family vacation came to an

end. Many family members went back to the airport for the short flight home. My youngest daughter, brother-in-law and I returned home by crossing on Friday. Fortunately this time, we had a beautiful and very calm day. We made the entire 180 mile run back to West Palm Beach in just a few short hours and made it back in Jacksonville that evening.

Many other family vacations were going on around the same time. Other families from Jacksonville were

enjoying the gulf coast of Florida. Later on in the summer, some are heading toward cooler temperatures in the mountains, while others are heading to the Keys in quest for lobster.

Regardless of the destination, the objective of the family vacation seems to be the same: Spend quality time and to share in new experiences together. And in the process, create memories along the way that will last a lifetime.



Heather Gardner and Andrew, age 11 hold up a pair of snapper destined for the dinner plate



Sam Williams, age 12, with a fine Bahamian snapper

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

## Annual fishing tournament a 6th-year success



Ortega resident Captain Jeffrey Crabtree receives \$500 from In River Or Ocean - pictured with President Gary Roberts, Crabtree won third place with a flounder

Top honors in the 6th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament, sponsored by In River Or Ocean, went to the D. J. Cabler's team whose Clay Roberts' record slam weighed in at 16.46 pounds. Terry Sturgeon's team placed second in the slam (14.27) and Tom Riley placed third (14.06).

Gary Roberts, of Roberts Pharmacy in San Marco, considered the tournament "a complete success. Eighty boats registered for the competition. Half of the teams weighed

in fish. Nineteen slams were weighed in. Four Junior Anglers weighed in."

Other winning results include: Bob Morris weighed a 7.46 pound red, Ron Schurr weighed a 6.10 pound trout and Deedo Nelson weighed a 3.69 pound flounder. Kyle Mullaney of San Marco won the "Yellow Bread Award" given for the Bishop Kenny alumni with the biggest catch.

The sixth Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship winner, Hunter Parry, along with three previous scholarship

winners - Sean Brown, Thomas Lemmon and Brendan Coster - all fished this year's tournament.

All proceeds from the tournament will be added to the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship Fund at Bishop Kenny High School. As next year's dates are not set determined, mark your calendars for June 14 and June 21, 2014 (one date to be announced) and plan to participate in the Seventh Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament.



Ortega resident Captain Jesse Rain and his teammate won the second place Red Bass category and received a check for \$750

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# Go GIVERS

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Volunteer Pat Bloebaum, 82, likes to share her story with anyone interested in volunteering, but especially with seniors who think they can't volunteer. Bloebaum's creativity and energy defies her age and she does important work for Hubbard House, according to Ashley Johnson Scott, Hubbard House Community Relations Coordinator, and Shelter Manager Starletha Cherry.

"Mrs. Pat is an angel who had a vision to create Welcome Bags to help make the entrance process into Hubbard House less fearful for parents and children. She shared that vision with others and formed The Bag Ladies, a volunteer group who show their care for others by making hundreds of comfort bags year-round," Cherry said.

Bloebaum's relative was helped by Hubbard House and through that experience Bloebaum saw that the charity had many needs for incoming men, women and children. It became Bloebaum's labor of love to create Welcome Bags for those in crisis, to help them during such a stressful and upsetting time in their lives.

"I started the Bag Ladies of Lakewood Presbyterian Church in 2008 because of my own personal experience with Hubbard House,"

Bloebaum said. "We work just like an old-fashioned quilting bee, but our volunteers put together colorful, drawstring Welcome Bags that include donated toiletries and comfort items such as soft blankets, flashlights, books and toys for children. We now have children, teens and several members of other churches helping us, and there are Bag Ladies

groups that have formed at other churches. Anyone can help do something and we leave feeling re-charged and so uplifted." The Bag Ladies sew and assemble about 45 bags per month, deliver 500 welcome bags and expect to top 3,000 bags delivered to Hubbard House as of January 2014.



Bag Ladies mark their 1000th welcome bag for Hubbard House; founder Pat Bloebaum is seated above young Rebecca Franklin

A capable and take-charge type of woman, Bloebaum had never created a website, described it as quite a headache, but she figured it out on her

own (bagladiesoflpcjax.weebly.com). She is quick to admit she has a much greater goal in mind than simply encouraging others, especially seniors, to volunteer.

## Pat Bloebaum

"I really hope, through the website, publicity and word-of-mouth to see other groups start doing volunteer efforts like this, not just in Northeast Florida, but in other states too. I hope this idea for Bag Ladies groups grows

and spreads to other communities," she said.



Pat Bloebaum is seated above young Rebecca Franklin

Bloebaum has learned a great deal about domestic violence and abuse through her personal family's experience and through her volunteer work at Hubbard House. She is alarmed at the large numbers of victims and children who must seek emergency help or shelter, and that abuse is widespread among all ages, educational and income levels. Victims may be too frightened to seek help and abuse is usually unseen. She said that abusers are masters at convincing their victims that they are the problem and often appear to be genial neighbors and co-workers whom no one would ever suspect of abusive behavior.

"There is a stereotype that abusers and those they abuse are poor or uneducated, but that is far from true. I met a minister's wife who was abused for 25 years and was too terrified to tell anyone or leave," Bloebaum said. "Unfortunately abusers may be so popular and outgoing outside of the home, no one ever suspects, and may not believe, that they are abusive. Most of us know someone who is being abused, but that person is hiding it."

According to Bloebaum, Hubbard



House is a certified domestic violence center that serves several purposes within the community: safety for male and female victims of domestic abuse and violence; it works to empower victims through counseling, classes and support; works for social change through education and advocacy.

U.S. domestic violence laws focus on violent acts but there is often a pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors. The four main types of abuse are physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse. Hubbard House has a 24-hour emergency hotline: (904) 354-3114. Their website contains a variety of information and educational resources.

Always a volunteer wherever she lived, Bloebaum found ways to help in her community whether as a Red Cross Volunteer during the Vietnam War while her husband, Edward, was stationed at Ft. Bragg or in smaller ways. She and Edward have two grown daughters and five grandchildren. They are proud of their two grandsons, 13 and 17, who were inspired by their grandparents to start the Grocery Bag Kids. The youth group collects non-perishable foods and fills brown paper bags with breakfasts and lunches for children at Hubbard House.

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## BUSINESS PROFILE

## SUSAN THE SCRIBE

## Remember who you are!

*Susan D. Brandenburg* is a professional biographer who is passionate about her work and the value it brings to her subjects. "It is a privilege to be invited into the lives of remarkable people and allowed to chronicle their experiences for family, friends and future generations," says Brandenburg. "God gives me the words and I thank Him for that daily."

Writing legacy books comes naturally to this biographer. Her mother was born into a long line of Texas artists and writers with a rich family history going back to George Washington, the Royal Plantagenets of Great Britain, and even as far back as Charlemagne. Her father, an Air Force Navigator who flew in the Berlin Airlift, came from the prominent Pittsburgh Symington family whose ancestor, Francis Scott Key, wrote the Star Spangled Banner.

*Susan has written 12 books, including Sharecropper's Son, the Story of Doc Garland Granger, which won the 2010 Florida Writer's Association Royal Palm Literary Award*



As an Air Force brat, Susan traveled the world. In Germany, her family lived in a war-torn chateau, complete with ballroom and bullet holes. In Japan, she climbed Mt. Fuji and ate Kobe steaks at Genghis Khan's. She was even once marooned in a typhoon on Wake Island in the South Pacific, has panned for gold in California, skied Lake Tahoe, swam across the Guadalupe River, rode the Conch Train in Key West, and toured the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Her childhood adventures were enhanced by the fact that her mother taught her to read and write at the age of three. By the time she was 11 years old, Susan was typing away on her Great Aunt Emily Edwards' book, The Painted Walls of Mexico. Emily Edwards had a profound influence on her great niece. A South Texas author, artist, activist and educator who studied with Diego Rivera and Georgia O'Keeffe, she taught at Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago, and saved the San Antonio River with a unique puppet show. Susan vividly remembers growing up with the family admonition echoing in her ear: "Remember WHO You Are!"

A journalist and newspaper columnist who has written feature articles for local and national magazines, Susan's penchant for writing personal profiles of prominent newsmakers has naturally evolved into writing biographies. Her own exciting journey as a child of history and travel, a single baby boomer, mother, grandmother, and writer for nearly four decades has

prepared her to understand, appreciate and compassionately chronicle the life experiences of others.

Since Jacksonville businessman and philanthropist Carlton Spence hired Susan in 2009 to write his biography, GUTS, she has written 12 books, including the 2010 Florida Writer's Association Royal Palm Literary Award winning biography, Sharecropper's Son, the Story of Doc Garland Granger. Most recently, Susan wrote and published the history of Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, Florida's oldest Christian children's home. Having founded Susan the Scribe, Inc. Publishing in 2011 ([www.susanthescribe.vpweb.com](http://www.susanthescribe.vpweb.com)), Susan now offers clients the opportunity to take their story from the initial interview to the final book in hand.

"Susan can take your life story from conception to completion. It is so good to deal with one dedicated and uniquely qualified individual," said retired USAF Major Joseph C. Bracewell, Jr., whose biography, These Things Did Happen, was co-written by Brandenburg, and published by Susan the Scribe, Inc. Publishing in 2011.

"Biographer Susan D. Brandenburg is excellent," said philanthropist W. Scott McLucas, founder of One World Foundation, Inc., whose memoir, Lucky Life, was published in May of 2013.

"She has the ability to give full meaning

to the words when spoken ...," McLucas added. "She helps create text that is a movable feast."

Whether writing a personal memoir for family, such as those she recently completed for Marilyn Peyton (Teemie) and

Bess Turk (Rainbow's End), or a biography like Hummingbirds & Hard Hats, The Ingrid Reeves Circle of Love Story, which is currently under consideration for a Hollywood movie, Brandenburg approaches each new project with the goal of achieving excellence. "I've learned that there is no such thing as an ordinary person," she says. "Everyone has an extraordinary story to tell."

*"She has the ability to give full meaning to the words when spoken... She helps create text that is a movable feast."*

**W. Scott McLucas**

*Founder of One World Foundation, Inc., whose memoir, Lucky Life, was published in May of 2013.*

Susan D. Brandenburg is an officer in the Jacksonville Branch of the National League of American Pen Women and a member of the Florida Writer's Association. She teaches a course, "How to Write Your Life Story," through the University of North Florida's OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and presents seminars, including "Remember Who You Are" upon request. She can be reached at 904-543-0730 or by emailing her at [susanscribe@comcast.net](mailto:susanscribe@comcast.net).



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- "She truly knows what dementia looks like. She described my mom to a T." B.D.
- "Today, I learned ways to communicate so much better than I had been doing." S.B.

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# The Way we Were



### Sam I. Smith

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

"I married a wonderful man." These were the first words out of Rosa Smith's mouth when she sat down to talk about her husband, Sam I. Smith.

A longtime educator and influential Jacksonville figure, Sam was the principal of Englewood High School when the love story between the two began. In March 1964, Rosa came in to apply for a job. Divorced and with no childcare, Rosa brought her five-year-old daughter Karen along to the job interview.

"It was 6:30 in the evening, and I figured if they didn't like children, I wouldn't want to work there anyway," said Rosa. "He was a bit late, and I remember him bouncing in, looking so good in his Reserves uniform. He was so kind to both of us."

Rosa was hired as an assistant bookkeeper, and later, Sam hired her as his secretary when he was transferred to the Superintendent of Athletics office. Small gifts on her desk turned into a necklace, which eventually turned into a romantic poem.

"I was his secretary for a year and a half before I let him take me to his class reunion at Andrew Jackson," recalled Rosa. "He was very persistent. And when I asked him what initially attracted him to me, he mentioned that first job interview and said, 'You loved your children so much you didn't leave them alone.'"

On February 11, 1966, Sam and Rosa tied the knot at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. And they enjoyed 47 amazing years together, with Sam wishing her a "Happy Anniversary" on the 11th day of every month of the year.

As a tribute to Sam, who died recently, Rosa wanted this column to mainly be about him. Sam has been recognized as one of the outstanding educators in the State of Florida. A scholarship has been established in his name – providing \$2,000 in need-based aid to a secondary education major.

Rosa wanted people to know about his amazing gifts – he had a Master of Education from the University of Florida and was certified to teach in eight subjects. About his amazing career – he worked as principal at many schools, including DuPont High, Englewood, Lakeshore Middle, and Ft. Caroline Middle, chaired many committees and departments, including a stint as an Energy Conservation Officer, and served as the county's Director of Secondary Education for a time. About his amazing service to his country – he was captain of a marine sweeper in the Atlantic and the Pacific when he was 26 years old and subsequently stayed in the reserves for 28 years. And last, but certainly not least, about how he was a devoted husband and father for nearly five decades.

"He was very smart and very humble," said Rosa. "He was a wonderful husband and he took care of us and did everything he said he would do. He did an awful lot of good."



Sam has been recognized as one of the outstanding educators in the State of Florida. A scholarship has been established in his name – providing \$2,000 in need-based aid to a secondary education major.

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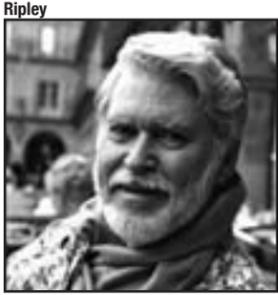
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## Florida Bar honors attorneys for 50 years of service



Ripley



Zisser

The Florida Bar honored 165 attorneys for 50 years of dedication to the practice of law during a luncheon at The Florida Bar's Annual Convention at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. Two local attorneys, Joseph Mills Ripley, Jr. of San Marco, and Barry L. Zisser of San Jose, were among eight honored from Jacksonville (the 4th Circuit).

Attorney Joseph Ripley of Joseph M. Ripley, Jr., P.A., holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in business

administration, as well as a juris doctor in law. He notes that 50 years ago there were only some 6,000 lawyers in Florida and today there are over 90,000.

"Nonetheless, the same principles apply," said Ripley. "Treat each client as

if he/ she is your only client and do the best job possible. Word of mouth is your best advertisement. Find a place to practice that is long on people and short on lawyers. Involve yourself in community activities, work hard and the clients will come."

Ripley, who lives in San Marco, has practiced both civil and criminal law, at the trial and appellate level, in both state and federal courts. "If I have a favorite part, it is representing plaintiffs

in torts claims: personal injury, wrongful death, products liability and medical malpractice," Ripley shared. "I have also enjoyed the eight years in the late 1960s and early 1970s I spent as the last city judge for the City of Fernandina Beach."

Although in his 70s, Ripley says that law is so rewarding and satisfying, he cannot envision stopping. He recently entered into a practice with a lawyer who has a thriving practice on the Westside and wanted some help. "I look forward to many more satisfying years of active practice."

San Jose resident Barry Zisser, of Zisser, Brown, Nowlis & Cabrey, P.A., was also honored at the luncheon last month for 50 years in practice.

Zisser received the Emeritus status with the American Inn of Court and has

also been selected to the 2013 Florida Super Lawyers list, making it his 8th consecutive year on the Florida Super Lawyer List. In addition to Super Lawyers, Zisser has been recognized in Florida Trend Magazine's Legal Elite list, has a Superb AVVO.com rating, and holds the AV Preeminent 5 out of 5 Review Rating with Martindale-Hubbell.

Zisser's brother and partner, Elliot Zisser, also works in the firm. Elliot's son and Barry's nephew, Jonathan Zisser, is following in their footsteps as a family law attorney.

Other Jacksonville attorneys noted for 50 years of practice include Kenneth George Anderson, John Gall Grimsley, Robert Carlton Nichols, and Edward Alfred White.

## Going long and going strong



BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Modeling her mother's dress from the early 1900s, Patricia Jennings Hart poses for her 95th birthday portrait. It's a wonder that she had time to sit still long enough for the photographer to snap the shot. Jennings Hart is one busy woman.

On Wednesdays she is the voice of Lakewood United Methodist Church as she works in the church office. On Fridays she is going to lunch with

friends or to Seniors on a Mission for which she has completed 42 volunteer missions for nonprofit agencies – everything from sorting and folding clothes to packing goodie bags for breast cancer walk participants. She attends luncheons and meetings of Young at Heart, Sunday School functions, and is involved in social activities with her children, grand-children and great grand-children. She attends school functions and performances of her 12-year-old grandson and is a great supporter of her children and grands in all their endeavors.

When asked what helps her stay young and active, Jennings Hart responds, "I have no idea, beyond good genes. After all, Mother lived quite a long time. Elizabeth (her sister) and I accompanied Mother on a cruise on the Queen Elizabeth 2 when she was around 97. We were in our 70s. She was horrified that Elizabeth drank a sip of champagne at the Captain's table!"

Although the nonagenarian insists that she doesn't do anything any differently than other people, when pushed on the subject she laughingly advises to: "Keep moving! I just keep moving! Although lately I'm pretty good at sitting down, too!" She admits to bicycling her legs 40 or 50 times every morning before getting out of bed and expressed an interest in owning a pedometer, "Just to see how far I walk during the day."

This can-do attitude is evident in all of her activities. In a rare admission that her arm hurt from moving something in the yard, she told her son she'd just have to mop her kitchen with the other one!

As a physical education teacher, coach and then reading teacher in the Duval County School system for 27 years, Jennings Hart stayed active coaching and teaching archery, basketball and softball. In 1997 she was inducted into the Willoughby Union High School Hall of Fame in Ohio for her many achievements there. She humbly admits to "setting a few records" at Miami of Ohio University in broad jump, hurtling and running. If the numerous newspaper articles about her are any indication, there were more than a few records set and some of them still stand!

After being widowed for several years, Jennings Hart re-married at the age of 80 to a childhood friend, Richard Hart who had lost his wife to cancer. They were reunited when Hart served on the committee for the Hall of Fame and Jennings Hart was in Ohio visiting her sister. A five-hour luncheon "date" led to a long distance romance, then marriage to the man she had known since first grade!

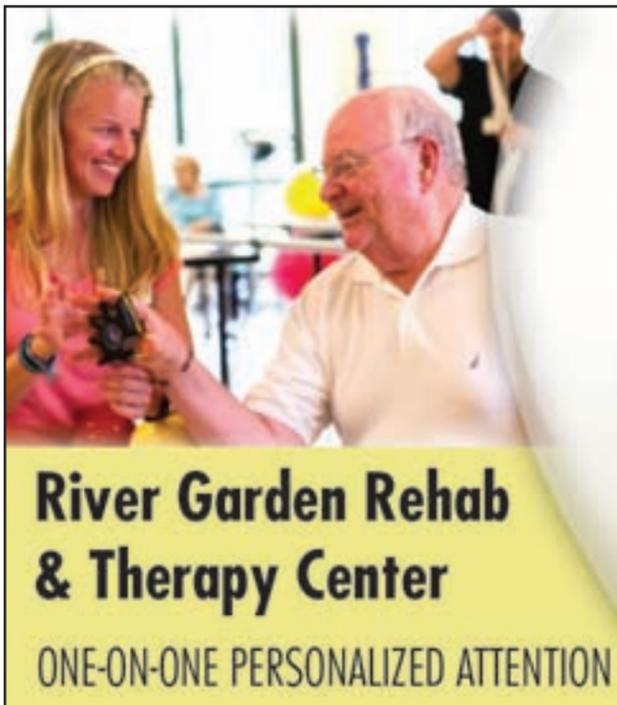
"There was lots of writing, lots of calling; Rich wrote the most wonderful letters," Jennings Hart muses, "His letters were so interesting and entertaining. It was so nice to have someone writing who didn't sound like a 5th grader."

This romance included Hart's five grown children and numerous grandchildren with whom Jennings Hart has kept up an active correspondence even after Hart passed away. Her letter writing is just one of the ways that Jennings Hart keeps her mind sharp. She is an avid reader and stays abreast of current events with newspapers, Smithsonian and National Geographic magazines, and other journals which help with the crossword puzzles she does every day. At all times there is a jigsaw puzzle on the coffee table which is in the works, nature scenes or famous works of art and as Jennings Hart says, "They are not easy ones."

Her social life revolves around her family which she says is her greatest joy, and her second family – her church friends and wonderful neighbors. Jennings Hart maintains that she "wilts" around 4 p.m. and "doesn't have much push." She checks in with her daughter and sons to let them know when she is attending a play or ball game in the evening and they just shake their heads at their energizer bunny of a mother.

When asked about future plans she says she is thankful for each day but going to Alaska would be nice. "Hopefully, just keep moving. I have no grandiose plans."

Given Patty Jennings Hart's example, we should all just keep moving – she has certainly stayed strong and there is every indication that she will keep going longer even if she wilts a bit in the afternoon.





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# Local companies help create prosthetic lab in Haiti



Lovejoy

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Haiti continues to be a challenge, with hurricanes, mudslides and cholera, according to Dr. John Lovejoy, a retired orthopedic surgeon who lives in St. Nicholas. But due to the support (to the tune of more than \$250,000) from local companies such as Atlantic Marine, Suddath Van Lines, Jack Becker Distributors, Exact Inc., Lambs Yacht Center, All Saints Episcopal Church, the Meninak Club, Advanced Prosthetics and others, the prosthetic lab is a shining star in a dark sky.

Lovejoy, as many readers may recall, has been volunteering for more than 10 years at the Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti. He and his son, Dr. John Lovejoy, III, were part of a response team when the 2010 earthquake devastated so much of the Haitian community.

To continue the work of supplying prosthetics to amputee victims, an old insulated shipping container that had been converted into an office was purchased and then transformed into a state of the art prosthetic shop. "There were so many amputees from the earthquake and, as the medical team later realized, over 1,500 untreated amputees in northern Haiti," said Lovejoy.

"With a population of more than a million, there were no certified prosthetists to treat them, and it is not just a matter of making a one-time prosthesis because each one needs to be serviced and replaced every year or two."

To make the lab sustainable, the CRUDEM Foundation, which supports Lovejoy's volunteer efforts, needed to train Haitians to become certified prosthetists. This required enrolling them in a university, and the University of Don Bosco in El Salvador had such a program designed for Central America and the Caribbean. "Eventually we found Oscar, a certified prosthetist from El Salvador, who had trained in the UDB, worked in Haiti after the earthquake, and was willing to come and work and teach students," Lovejoy continued. "In a very professional way, he developed a screening process and exam for potential students. The response to the announcement was overwhelming, but he narrowed it down to two students.

Dantus and Daniel have proved themselves by passing the first of six sections to become certified with the

highest marks. This is a real tribute to Oscar's tutelage and involvement in their education."

The first year is near completion, according to Lovejoy, and he says that Oscar has agreed to stay on for another year. The program takes three years and has six modules the students have to pass. "So far we have been able to support the project with donations to CRUDEM designated for the prosthetic lab. It is expensive, about \$26,000 for the educational component, \$22,000 for operational expenses and \$31,000 for the prosthetic components annually – we do not charge the patients anything. When you consider what it costs in the U.S. for prostheses, tens of thousands of dollars per patient, we are providing a service at a phenomenal price. So far this year the lab has produced 42 artificial limbs, 15 orthosis (braces), 20 repairs or replacements of existing prostheses and has a waiting list of 10 patients who need prosthetics," he concluded.

The students agreed to stay on for three years after getting their degrees to teach three more students.

With continued support, says Lovejoy, "hopefully it will be an ongoing project. It is near the end of the year and any financial support you would like to give to the prosthetic lab would be a blessing."

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**BUSINESS PROFILE**

# New College Prep Schools in Mandarin

*San Jose Academy and San Jose Preparatory High School to open in August*

Jacksonville's newest college prep schools, San Jose Academy and San Jose Preparatory High School, are preparing to open on August 19 on Sunbeam Road in Mandarin. These schools will serve grades 6-12, with San Jose Academy serving Middle School grades 6-8 and San Jose Preparatory High School serving grades 9-12. Total expected enrollment is 300 to 400.

The campus is located at 4072 Sunbeam Road, just east of San Jose Boulevard at the former Beth Shalom synagogue. Construction is underway, and students and parents will enjoy a completely renovated facility when the work is completed.

Both are charter schools within the Duval County Public School system and will be operated under the leadership of Dr. Mary Webster, an educator with over 20 years of educational experience in the United States and the United Kingdom. Dr. Webster says she is "delighted to bring her experiences as a teacher, administrator, Head of School, and International Baccalaureate examiner to the San Jose schools."

The schools will prepare students for college through their educational programs which combine project-based learning, integration of technology in all lessons and classrooms, and professional internships. San Jose also plans to have a strong integration of the arts which will include an "Artist in Residence" and partnerships with some of Jacksonville's best known members of the arts community.

Dr. Webster is excited to create a school in South Jacksonville that will be a



centerpiece for the entire community. As the international educator puts it, "Our schools are founded on a strong curriculum which uses integrated technology and project-based learning to deliver individualized instruction to each student. Our educational program focuses on each student's strengths and develops a passion for lifelong learning, service, and provides opportunities for everyone to learn to lead."

The curriculum includes hands-on opportunities for the high school students to spend one day a week in a business internship. "The goal is to have them college-ready and informed about the career of their choice," said Webster. "They will learn and grow an understanding of their life choices."

Students will participate in professional internships developed in partnership with local businesses and nonprofit agencies. These internships will help students to get real-world experience in their desired

profession and give them the information to make sound decisions about their desired career. "As an added bonus," states Dr. Webster, "our students will have an advantage on college applications with their internship experience."

Dr. Webster was a School Leader at Lincoln Park Academy (Ft. Pierce, FL) which was frequently named in Newsweek's Top 100 schools in the nation, and she is enthusiastic about offering students and parents in the community a similar high-quality school.

The school will hold informational events for parents who would like to meet Dr. Webster or learn more about the schools. You are advised to act quickly as seats are filling rapidly; you can avoid the lottery and waiting list if you enroll now. To be eligible for enrollment you must live in Jacksonville and be entering grades 6-12 for the upcoming school year.



Dr. Mary Webster Ph.D.

If you are interested in learning more about the schools, visit [www.SanJoseAcademy.org](http://www.SanJoseAcademy.org) and [www.SanJosePrep.org](http://www.SanJosePrep.org), or call the school at (904) 425-1725.



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# To Be Young & INDEPENDENT

In honor of our great country, young and struggling for independence in 1776, **The Resident** would like to share a few profiles on local Young Independents. From entrepreneur to small business owner to corporate professional, these young men and women talk about their work/life balance, taking risks and what they like about working and living in Jacksonville.

## Preben Olsen Downtown, age 28

Co-Owner, Aardwolf Brewery

Preben Olsen is putting his B.S. in Business Administration from Auburn University to good use. "If you had told me two years ago that I would be partnered in a brewery, I would have laughed," said the co-owner of the popular San Marco craft brewery.

"I graduated from college in May 2008 during a tanking economy – clearly not the best time for seeking employment in the marketing industry. I had a growing interest in craft beer and was fortunate to be offered employment at Grassroots Market in Five Points. Over time, I oversaw and significantly expanded their craft beer section. As my product knowledge grew, I continued to study and learn about the ever expanding national craft beer scene, its marketing, its production and, most importantly, its potential. When I was approached about opening Aardwolf Brewing Co., I was mentally prepared."

But he was not prepared for the bureaucratic struggles with the City of Jacksonville. "My biggest gripe to date is that when we were trying to develop the brewery and tap room in a former ice house built in the 1920s, we had to deal with the various codes, zoning requirements and restrictions that severely challenge the redevelopment of historic buildings. Counterbalancing those impediments to our progress was the cooperation and encouragement for our efforts by the San Marco Preservation Association, as well as



the local community in general. We have really appreciated their support."

Olsen also had the support of a strong mentor and business partner. "Michael Payne has been very influential in the personal choices that have fostered my present day career path," Olsen shared. "Since getting into the beer industry Michael, who is both a formally trained and widely respected brewer, has been an invaluable wealth of not only very, very, technical beery information, but of unique industry opportunities as well."

When it comes to taking risks, Olsen is principally an educated risk-taker. "To say that I always know what I am doing is certainly not the case. However, I try to do as much research as possible before making an informed decision. As a result, I read about this industry constantly. Building and operating a brewery from scratch (like any new business venture) is not always a linear decision-making process. There is no 100% right or wrong answer."

Wise words from one young entrepreneur to others.

## Jason Hunnicutt Downtown, age 28

Owner, Urban Organics and the 1904 Music Hall

Talk about driven. "I own two small businesses in Jacksonville," said Jason Hunnicutt. "Urban Organics is a natural gardening supply store that I am currently in the process of moving to San Marco at 1738 Kings Ave. We should be completely moved in by the end of July. My other business is a live music venue called 1904 Music Hall, located in downtown Jacksonville at 19 N. Ocean St., which I opened last year with two partners, one of whom is Duane DeCastro. He is always quick to offer advice and support when dealing with the trials and tribulations of owning a small business."

Hunnicutt has been an avid gardener most of his life and saw an opportunity to fill a niche for Jacksonville's gardening community. "We supply sustainable products that are good for the garden as well as earth friendly." The other business, 1904 Music Hall, started out as a project with two friends to fill the entertainment void in downtown Jacksonville. "We are all musicians and understood that Jacksonville needed more spaces for art and music, especially to revive our amazing downtown. Since we've opened, we have had amazing support

from the city and the people of Jacksonville, and now downtown is back on the rise."

The young entrepreneur has a personal and professional style that he calls "forward and progressive. Urban Organics is a gardening shop with emphasis on a sustainable living so we are definitely pushing a forward thinking lifestyle," he explained. "And at 1904 Music Hall we are always bringing new artists through with progressive sounds and really pushing the limits of musical genres."

Hunnicutt likes owning a business – or two – in Jacksonville. "Jacksonville is amazing city to own a business. There is pretty much every type of industry and service you can think of in this town. It also seems like the city is growing and there are even more opportunities for a young person like myself."



## Worth Turner San Marco, age 27

Water Designer and Owner, Hollingsworth

Few people are lucky enough to enjoy a career in the field in which they were educated. But Worth Turner started down his career path at an early age.

"I was pretty much born into the plumbing industry, being the fourth generation of Turner Plumbing, also based in San Marco. I spent my first four years out of college in New York working for Esquire Magazine running their design show house 'The Ultimate Bachelor Pad' and being surrounded by some of the leading interior designers around the world."

A business degree in entrepreneurship from Palm Beach Atlantic University worked in Turner's favor when he decided to launch Hollingsworth, a high-end decorative kitchen, bath and tile showroom. "My career now fits right into the fold of what I thought I would be doing post-college."

Also running in Turner's favor is his perfectionism coupled with risk-taking. "Everyone knows that I am a perfectionist, whether at the office or at home.



Having an organized house and office keeps my energy high and my creativity at its peak," he said. "Risk and new ventures are what keep life exciting for me. As soon as I finish one project I am quickly onto the next. Most would say I fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants, because while they are busy looking at something I just finished I am already onto the next best thing. The creative process never stops."

Turner credits his parents, who have always been behind whatever project he takes on, and Barbara Sallick owner of Waterworks, with some of his success. "Barbara sat me down when I first decided to embrace the high-end bath market and gave me some great tips and advice that I have carried with me through the whole process."

The water designer also says Jacksonville is a great city to be a business owner. "I love the small town feel and pace of the city. I also love our airport. Whenever I need to get inspired or feel the heartbeat of a big city again Manhattan is just a quick flight."

## Jennie Crosby Hugo Ortega, age 27

Owner, Crosby Designs for Hugo's Fine Furniture and Interiors

Graduating from Flagler College with a degree in fine arts and also having "intensely studied art history," Jennie Crosby Hugo says she didn't choose to be an interior designer. Instead, "I think I have recently come to terms with my profession choosing me. It's in my blood and I've been 'working/living' in the field since I was in high school, sneaking away to go to High Point Market, driving my father crazy with showroom changes, and drawing ads for the Times Union," said Hugo. "However, there is no better way to learn interior design than being in the field. I don't believe talent or style is something that can be taught."

The young designer says her father, Richard, is her biggest mentor, along with Terrell Bowman, a designer at Hugo's main location. "Without Terrell's endless knowledge of everything design related and Dad pushing me to learn, excel and challenge myself, I don't know where I would be."

Leaving work at work is difficult for Hugo. "Honestly, having a balance life is hard right now...but I don't see that as a bad thing! You have to work extremely hard when owning a new business to really make it successful," she noted. "When I'm not working, I love sneaking away to Highlands, NC or just up to Savannah! If in town, I love visiting the

Cummer Museum or MOCA or treating myself to a Planters Punch by the pool at the Yacht Club!"

Hugo is trying to move the interior design needle in Jacksonville. "I love being here in Jacksonville as it my home town and where our legacy began, but I do think Jacksonville is a tad behind on today's interior design. We are excited at the response we are receiving here at Crosby Designs. Transitional is the new traditional and I love seeing people jump out of their comfort zone and making their home represent them! We tried to bring a little bit of Atlanta's design flare to Jacksonville and we see it working already!"



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# Jr. Residents

## Douglas Anderson student re-elected as class president

Two-time winner Michael McGregor has a lot going for him heading into his senior year at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

McGregor holds a distinction for being elected class president for both his junior and senior years. The Class of 2014's 254 students thought highly enough of McGregor to put him in office again.

"I feel honored to have earned their respect to an extent that reached beyond the temptation for a change in class officers. The trust and esteem I have earned from my companions leaves me in a state of permanent gratitude," said McGregor. "I'm extremely grateful for the opportunities, and this upcoming year I aim to integrate more demonstrations of school spirit, especially for the Class of 2014."

After high school, McGregor said he would



like to go to a state university, "but Georgia Tech seems very promising in that its civil engineering program exceeds expectations for grads in that major which is, more than likely, what I want to do with my life."

McGregor also participates in the school's first Jazz band, which involves a lot of traveling. The National Honor Society member also took a seat in the FMEA Guitar Allstate Competition in January, for which selected players met in Tampa to be part of a guitar ensemble.

## Bolles Fourth Grade hosts annual Florida Day

The fourth grade classrooms on the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus were transformed recently into a museum-like setting highlighting Florida's most notable historical figures and cultural icons, including St. Nicholas residents Aiden Hellein as a Calusa Indian and Kyle West as Juan Ponce de Leon.

Whitehurst Campus Grade 4 Florida Day is a much anticipated event for Bolles students, who spend the entire year preparing for the event.

Each student studied a prominent Floridian, fashioned a costume characterizing their subject, prepared a food related to their studies, gave a detailed presentation about the person they portrayed in booths that had been decorated to match the setting of their historical figure.

Others of the historical and Florida-familiar figures represented during Florida Day included Jimmy Buffet, Henry Flager, scuba divers, Southern Belles, Lily Pulitzer, hurricane experts and Walt Disney.



Kyle West



Aiden Hellein

## San Marco resident named a Caldwell Fellow at NCSU

Annie R. Wilt, a Paxon School for Advanced Studies and International Baccalaureate 2012 graduate, and of the South Shores neighborhood, was recently named a Caldwell Fellow at North Carolina State University. The University chooses 20 students from the entire Freshman Class to receive the Fellowship for the next



three years. "She has a tremendous work ethic, and is amazingly intelligent, so I wasn't too surprised when she was awarded the Caldwell Fellowship," said Wilt's mother Janet.

The Fellowship, along with a scholarship, not only funds classes but provides enrichment programs such as studying abroad and wilderness skills training. The Caldwell Fellows program is alumni funded and is designed to teach both leadership and service to the community.



Rachel Thomas-Reflection

## Five San Marco girls among top 15 in photo project

Girl power. That's what it might take to create the 2025 vision of positive social change in Jacksonville. Seventy-two girls in the Girls Inc. After-School program, ages 6 to 13, participated in a PhotoVoice project to create a vision of their communities, careers and the environment 13 years from now.

The photos were judged by Laura Evans, of Laura Evans Photography, and Hope McMath, Director of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The top 15 – of which five were taken by San Marco junior residents Asia McGhani, Eboni Dixon, Jaira Lunsford, Kanera Francis and Rachel Thomas – will be on display in various locations. A collage of all 72



Kanera Francis-Self-portrait

photos will also be displayed.

The PhotoVoice Exhibit is just one example of the Girls Inc. mission to advocate for girls. For more information, contact Beth Hughes Clark, CEO, Girls Inc. of Jacksonville, at (904) 311-9933 or visit girlsincjax.org.



Jaira Lunsford-Railroad



Eboni Dixon-Church



Asia McGhani-Azaleas

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# Local SPORTS

Competing over three days, June 7-9, at the USRowing Youth National Championships on Melton Hill Lake, in Oak Ridge, TN, the Jacksonville Rowing Club's Men's Youth Double entry of Jack Kelley and John Gangi finished first among the 19 entrants that qualified to compete for the national championship.

Ponte Vedra resident Jack Kelley also finished fourth in the Men's Youth Single.

Granada resident Bob Schumacher and Jacksonville Rowing Club's sculling coach, commented "What was particularly impressive about the boys'

## Granada resident coaches winning rowing team

win in the double was that before each race in the double, Jack competed in his singles event. After his singles race, he would get out of one boat, hop into another, and head back to the starting line. Jack and John principally trained rowing in singles and they pushed each other hard every day in practice, so I was confident of their stamina. While they had not spent much time training together in the double, they blended together quite nicely. It was gratifying to see the boys do so well, given how hard they worked all year."

Both Kelley and Gangi, a resident of the Arlington area, have been invited to the USRowing Junior National Selection Camp in Seattle, WA. Both

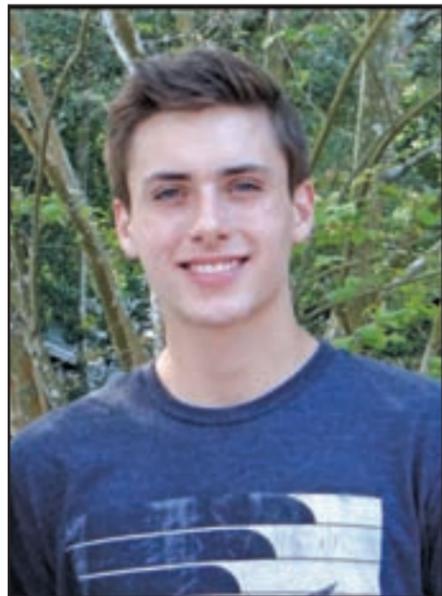


Jack Kelley, Coach Bob Schumacher, John Gangi

hope to be competing later this summer at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Trakai, Lithuania.

Scullers from the Jacksonville Rowing Club have now won a USRowing National Championship in each of the last three years.

## Local basketball unknown perseveres for scholarship



Matthew Wright, of Lakewood, has been awarded a very significant academic and athletic scholarship to play college basketball with St. Xavier University in Chicago, IL.

Since 6th grade Wright attended a very small Christian school, Harvest Community School, located on St. Johns Bluff Road, receiving very little recognition as a high school basket-

ball athlete because Harvest was a small school and did not get much media coverage.

Wright was a four-year letterman for Harvest, Team Captain his junior and senior years, stat leader in all categories, All Conference / All Star selection and MVP for his team as well as a leading statistical leader in most categories in the Florida Times Union.

While Wright had a great senior year he was not on anyone's radar for recruiting. At 6'5", 200 lbs., the skilled ball handler and shooter was not on school's basketball radar, so after the season was over in February, Wright and his father went on numerous road trips to try out at different schools. They traveled over 10,000 miles, made seven tryouts in five states in less than 10 weeks.

They contacted scouting services via email and hundreds schools and coaches via phone calls. Wright tried to get schools in Florida to give him a look but to no avail. Finally late in April, Coach Tom O'Malley of St.

Xavier contacted Wright's basketball coach and finally convinced him to fly to Chicago to visit the school and try out.

Though his parents did not necessarily want their son to attend a college so far away, the visit proved to be very enlightening, according to Michael Wright. "St. Xavier is a top tier university with a superb athletic program. The men's basketball team is a top 10 NAIA program. Chicago and the surrounding areas, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Kentucky are very fertile recruiting grounds for college athletics," said Mike Wright. "I never expected that Matt would be competing at this level and with this

caliber of athletes." Wright had an excellent workout/tryout with St. Xavier. Coach O'Malley and the Wright family saw a great fit for Matt at SXU. "I am proud to say that he was award a very significant scholarship to attend there as a student athlete. I am most proud of Matt for his persistence in training several hours every day after the season, enduring all the travel and pressure of tryouts to make his dream come true," said his father. "We are especially grateful for all his coaches, mentors and teachers for helping him make the grade to be able to compete on the college level. We want to thank the Lord for keeping him healthy and opening up the doors for this special opportunity."

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# Flashbacks

## The legacy of Stockton, Whatley & Davin

BY ROBIN ROBINSON  
PRESIDENT, JACKSONVILLE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jacksonville, South Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Beach have all been touched by the visionary genius of Telfair and James Stockton, Brown Whatley and Joseph Davin. The creation of their modern neighborhoods in the 1920s to 1940s said goodbye to the grid layout and hello to curved streets, sidewalks and parks.

Telfair Stockton, the patriarch of it all, moved to Jacksonville at the age of 10 when his widowed mother moved her family here in 1870. She opened a boarding house in order to support her family of seven. Stockton went into the business world at an early age and went to work in the real estate, mortgage, insurance and investment business at the age of 24. Later on he ventured into land development in 1908 as president of the New Springfield Company which contributed to the residential growth of Springfield after the Great Fire of 1901. In 1910 he formed Telfair

## Early visionaries of the modern neighborhood

Stockton & Co. (TSC) and subsequently became the first president of the Board of Realtors.

James R. Stockton came to work for his father's company at the end of WWI and soon took over management TSC. Having witnessed

Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901 and the subsequent rebuilding of the devastated area as a young boy, he saw what it was like to start with a blank canvas and turn it into something worthy of pride. When he returned from the war he promoted Jacksonville like none other to foster civic pride through the formation of a group called "Believers in Jacksonville" which mounted a nationwide advertising campaign to create an image and presence for the city.

Brown Whatley and dozens of other businessmen joined him in this effort.

Brown Whatley, with his extensive background in advertising and publicity, moved to Jacksonville and joined TSC in 1922 as its Advertising and Sales Manager. The Florida Land Boom was in full swing and the company had properties throughout the

state. Once the boom crashed, Whatley was charged with the responsibility of reselling the houses on which the company held mortgages, which were defaulted. He became a leading force in the company as well as the community.

*LakeMarco1920s: Aerial view of San Marco subdivision taken in the 1920s shows the unique layout of the square and the residential streets around Lake Marco.*



joined TSC Company in 1929 as a real estate salesman. He built and sold homes on his own as well as working as a salesman for the company until 1937. He worked closely with Brown Whatley who served as Executive Vice President during that time period.

TSC's first sizeable development was that of Avondale in 1921. It was designed to be an upscale version of the adjacent Riverside subdivision. It was the most extensively planned community Jacksonville had ever seen. It featured architecture predominately in the Mediterranean style. It is recognized as Jacksonville's first modern home development. Having grown up there in the 1950s, Helen Davies describes what a wonderful neighborhood it was where everyone walked everywhere and the merchants knew everyone by name, so much so that the local meat shop featured home delivery. "I felt like I was the luckiest girl in the world to grow up there," says Davies.

Once the St. Johns River Bridge was opened TSC turned its attention to South Jacksonville on the south bank. The area was ripe for development with its large tracts of land and easy access across the river. Telfair Stockton



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envisioned development of the area based on his visits to Venice, Italy, and St. Marks Square. He set out to design San Marco Square with its Mediterranean influence, centered on a fountain. San Marco subdivision was platted and roads were given Italian names such as Rialto Place, Sorrento Road, and Largo Place. TSC believed in strong advertising for its developments and the subdivision sold out the first day it was offered to the public in September 1925.

TSC then purchased the Villa Alexandria property of the Mitchell estate and created the Better Homes & Gardens 1st Addition to the San Marco subdivision. Today it boasts grand homes, both new and old. Two of the first homes built in this subdivision were built for John and Carl Swisher, the father and son team which owned John Swisher & Son Tobacco Company. Later another

They hired TSC to manage the property on which they had built a small clubhouse and golf course. When the minerals played out and NLC was ready to move on, they hired Stockton to market the property for sale. He told them no one would want it because the area was so remote. They then offered the land to Stockton himself and he agreed to buy it at a much-reduced price in 1942.

So it was that TSC came into possession of the clubhouse, golf course, oceanfront and inland properties that today constitute the Ponte Vedra Resort. He may have made a good bargain on its purchase, but he also took a huge risk. It was wartime and the property was so isolated it took a major effort and a day's trip to go to the beach.

In 1937 Whatley and Davin left the company to form their own firm of Whatley, Davin & Company. They wanted to pursue further development

of the south bank. They developed many outstanding subdivisions including Ardsley, Brookwood Terrace, Colonial Manor, Glynlea Park, South Shores, San Marco Circle and Alexandria Place among

others. They took over the bankrupt San Jose Place subdivision, a victim of the land boom bust, and replatted it as River Oaks subdivision. They were very conscious of blending their properties with the natural setting and providing plentiful parks.

According to Whatley Law, grandson of Brown Whatley, it was a quality of life issue. He remembers his grandfather telling him "to take care of the parks and make certain they are always there." Law says "It is a legacy that I am proud to pass on to my children."

Mimi Pearce, who grew up in what was once the "model home" for Alexandria Place subdivision, said in

Caron Beach 1941: Travel to the beach was extremely arduous and required a day's trip with a stop along the way to get supplies such as ice. Pictured here are

Mr. & Mrs. John Robinson of Jacksonville showing their St. Louis cousins the Florida beaches. The location is on the beach south of Ponte Vedra.



Davin Construction: Joe & Lillian Davin with friends look over the plans for the construction of their home located at 903 River Oaks Road



Swisher home was built across the street for the grandson, Herbert Swisher.

The partners were committed to the communities they developed. According to Mimi Pearce, niece of Joseph Davin, "because Southside was relatively undeveloped and they wanted to encourage people to move there, they each committed to building a home and living in the San Marco area."

In the 1930s the beach as far south as present day Ponte Vedra was the isolated domain of the National Lead Company which mined the sands for minerals. Appropriately enough, it was given the name Mineral City.

a recent interview that "They were concerned with more than just laying out lots. They wanted parks, green spaces and a pleasing visual appeal to be an integral part of their designs."

In 1946 Whatley and Davin again joined hands with TSC and merged the companies creating Stockton Whatley, Davin & Co. (SWD). SWD simultaneously merged with the Ponte Vedra Company for the development of the Ponte Vedra Resort. As mentioned earlier, beach property was a hard sell because it was so difficult and time consuming to travel to the beach. Once again, people needed to be encouraged to move to a previously unsettled area. The first 12 houses built in the development were homes for the officers of SWD to kick off the residential neighborhood and attract others to the area. SWD over the years developed in excess of 20 subdivisions including Ponte Vedra, Deerwood, San Marco, Avondale, Fairfax Manor, Pointe La Vista, Beauclerc Bluff and Oriental Gardens. SWD also continued in their related business practices and became one of the largest mortgage banking firms in the country.



Stockton Advertising: An early advertisement promoting Telfair Stockton's San Marco Subdivision.

The principals of SWD were intelligent, forward thinking men who changed the face of our area in big ways. They were each deeply involved in the community and brought a vision to the area which reflected their community mindedness. They were not afraid to go into uncharted territory and delve in headlong to turn their dreams into reality. The staggering number of attractive, well-built neighborhoods they created changed the face of Jacksonville.

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