

In unison, Riverside Resident Jim Albiso alongside Diego De Los Rios and Eric DePatis crashed the 12 miles from Mandarin's 'County Dock' to the Riverside Arts Market, to raise awareness for the St. Johns River. The swim, meant to highlight the liquid fortune we all take for granted, illustrates the passion and push for advocacy many have for our greatest resource in Northeast Florida, the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Read more about 'Up the River' and the goals of Jumping Fish in the August issue of The Resident.

RIVERSIDE • AVONDALE • ORTEGA • MURRAY HILL



Matthew McGowan scored the Inshore Jr. Angler first prize at the 3rd Annual Fishing for a Cure Tournament. See page 20



Ringhaver improvements get the 'thumbs-up' from neighborhood's athletes

Kate Jordan, Amy Jordan, Bob Olson, Mike Tibble, Ed Gonzalez, Tyler Trevino and Dawn Kieffer certainly approve of the city's recent decision to make more than \$188,000 in improvements to Ringhaver Park's soccer fields.

See page 9

Group forms to birddog Mellow Mushroom plans

'We Love Avondale LLC' also seeks long term plan for area parking, safety, traffic

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A group of Avondale neighbors and business owners have formed a new partnership called "We Love Avondale LLC." The group intends to keep an eye on Mellow Mushroom's rezoning application process and its plans for a 220-seat restaurant in the Shoppes of Avondale.

"We won't be in opposition, but we just want to be aware of the process — we want [Mellow Mushroom] to follow the law," said

Avondale resident and local attorney, Tommy Donahoo.

Fellow Avondale resident Mark Anderson said many home and business owners in the area have been confused with the lack of communication about the project and the rezoning process. The hopes are to curtail that issue by sharing information through a website or Facebook page, as well as meetings and other communication tools.

"We just want people to be informed," Anderson said. "As a grass roots effort, we'll do our best to keep up with what's going on."

The group began meeting informally after Mellow Mushroom and Riverside Avondale Preservation convened an informational meeting about the restaurant plans in April. Donahoo and Anderson realized during the gathering that many neighbors weren't just "pizza

See BIRDDOG on page 32

Residents, merchants weigh Love's moratorium, ordinance

Parking concerns at the center of debate

BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Love letters typically evoke a lot of emotion and one recently addressed to city Planning and Development Director Calvin Burney is no exception.

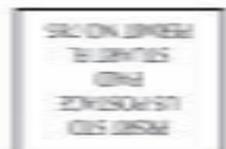
This one, written by Jim Love, city councilman for Riverside/Avondale District 14, proposed a moratorium on any new commercial development requiring Planned Unit Development (PUD), deviations or variance exceptions in several key Riverside /Avondale retail corridors. Those include St. Johns Avenue between Talbot and Van Wert avenues and King Street between Herschel and College streets.

The moratorium — along with Love's separately proposed ordinance that would increase parking requirements within the Riverside/Avondale Overlay — have residents, merchants, developers, preservationists and restaurant owners either hailing the councilman for his vision and initiative or criticizing him for forcing government into the free market and stymieing growth in a down economy.

"My purpose with both the moratorium and the ordinance is to address parking and development issues with what I hope will be long term solutions. I'm not trying to stop growth in the area. I just want us to go about it in a smart way," Love said. "If nothing else, I hope to start committed, goal-oriented conversations that involve all stakeholders."

Mark Rubin, president of Accubuild Companies,

See LOVE on page 32





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avondale overrun by parking, traffic

In response to opinions and an editorial published in last month's Resident, it must be stated that the residential neighborhood surrounding the Shops of Historic Avondale is currently being overrun by parking and traffic. Friday and Saturday nights bring with them traffic and cars lining every residential street within a block of the restaurants. The possibility of adding a new 220 seat restaurant (Mellow Mushroom), along with an outdoor bar and outdoor live entertainment (proposed to stay open until 2:00 AM), will overwhelm the neighborhood.

The commercial district on St. Johns Avenue between Talbot Avenue and Dancy Street was constructed after the Avondale neighborhood was developed in the early 1920s. These two blocks were established to serve the needs of the neighbors with various shops including a

pharmacy, small grocery, bookstore, dress shop, shoe store, etc. Years later these buildings included a few small bars and restaurants such as Monty's, the Fox and Yum Yum Tree. These establishments could be served by the limited parking along St. Johns Avenue. Much of their trade was with neighbors who could walk to do their shopping. This changed with the introduction of larger restaurants about thirty years ago. The opening of Blue Fish, Casbah and Brick started the encroachment of restaurant parking onto the streets around the shops, but it remained workable.

Mojo no.4 was established under an existing law that allows contributing structures to change function and not add parking. It holds approximately 180 seats, that when filled, added 60 cars to the area. With the parking spaces in front of the shops filled to capacity, the parking has migrated to the paths of least resistance: our neighborhood streets! The delicate balance between residential, restaurant, and the nearly forgotten retail has tipped so that the restaurants are dominating the other two. This leaves the area in danger of devolving from the wonderful neighborhood we all rightly love.

Mellow Mushroom, at 220 seats, will be the largest restaurant in the area. The removal of 'Town and its 80 seats, represents an increase of 140 seated patrons.

At a minimum, this will contribute 50 cars to our already overwhelming situation. Add to this the lost parking spaces at the Shell station that up to 40 cars now enjoy, and the proposed restaurant will add 80-90 cars to the area. And there is no place to reasonably add new spaces to the district.

I understand that one of the parking options proposed is valet parking, with cars to be driven to Grace Church, four blocks away from the restaurant. There are serious logistical issues with this option, including finding a location for drop off and pick up near the restaurant. In addition to this, everyone using this service will add two trips in the immediate, clogged residential streets by having their cars driven to and from the parking area.

The residents have always supported reasonable development along the commercial strip, but now we know the reduction in our quality of life caused by Mojo no. 4 and the new parking issues. We need to pause and encourage the local government to conduct a study of the traffic, parking, public safety, and the appropriateness any future restaurant. Once this is established, and sustainable development allowed, then the three elements of the area: residential, restaurant, and retail can continue to happily and profitably co-exist.

— Bill Leuthold

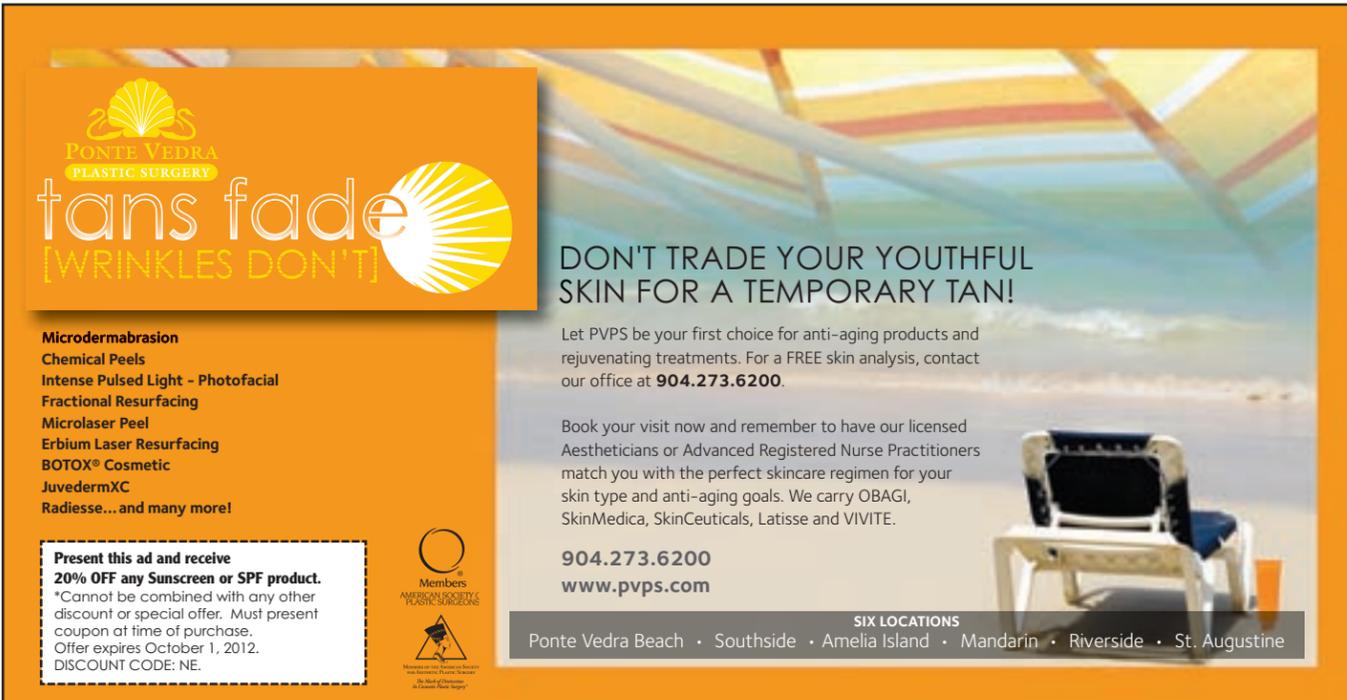
Riverside Presbyterian Church to present patriotic music

The choirs of Riverside Presbyterian Church will present their 22nd Annual Concert of Patriotic and American Music at the church at 5 p.m. on July 1. Participating will be the Chancel and Celebration choirs, baritone David Scheininger, pianist Alfred Harding, Jr., and the Ancient City Brass Band. Music director Andrew Clarke will be organist and conduct the choirs in a program that

will include a medley of songs from "South Pacific" by Rodgers and Hammerstein and portions of "The Testament of Freedom" by Randall Thompson featuring the writings of Thomas Jefferson. The concert also will include a congregation singalong of favorite patriotic and American songs. Admission is free and the public is invited. The church is located at Park and Post streets in Riverside.

Star spangled fun

The city's Independence Day Fireworks begin at 9:45 p.m. on July 4, so get your seat early! River barges holding fireworks will be docked near The Jacksonville Landing and the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Parking can be tricky on this celebratory downtown evening, but the following city garages and lots will be open and available with a special \$5 to \$10 per vehicle events rate: West Lot, 300 Courthouse Drive; Water Street Garage, 541 Water St.; Bay & Ocean Lot, 112 E. Bay St.; Forsyth Lot, Corner of Main St. & Forsyth St.; and Yates Garage, 200 E. Adams St. For more information visit www.makeascenedowntown.com.



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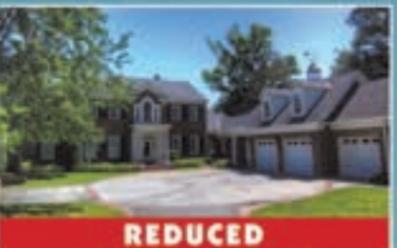
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Retail rumblings

New activity abounds on the local restaurant, bar and retail scene. The Resident has been sniffing out some of these mouthwatering, yet unconfirmed projects. If you know of something that's in the works or on the drawing board, let us know! Send your whispers to rumor@residentnews.net.

In 5 Points there is talk of turning the old Caribbean Connection space into a wine bar. We'll toast that! To further sweeten the news, a cupcake shop is considering space in the old Broadway Cafe storefront. Could Le Chat Noir Cupcake Bordello and Bakery be considering the site? Local baker, Patti Kirkey, staged a Kickstart fundraiser this spring to generate funds for a new business storefront. Kickstart is a funding initiative that allows everyday folks invest in a local business startup. For updates on the project, visit www.cupcakebordello.com.

Also, we smell roasted beans — could the former Nest Living space accommodate a new coffee shop?

No rumor here: Jimmy Johns Gourmet Sandwiches has opened a new restaurant just two blocks north of 5 Points at

630 Park Street. It's the second in the vicinity for the sandwich store chain, which has been operating a successful store on Hendricks Avenue in San Marco.

Miss your pizza? So do we! Here's the skinny on Pizza Palace's recent closure of its 5 Points location:

The Pizza Palace on Margaret Street quickly and quietly in May following news that a national retailer would be taking over the space.

Pizza Palace owner Elias Demetree said he is grateful to the Riverside/Avondale area for supporting his store over the years and is "actively looking" for another neighborhood site.

"This happened so quickly — hopefully something will come up in the future," said Demetree, a San Jose resident who bought his first Pizza Palace more than 19 years ago in Riverside on King Street. "We'll let the dust settle and keep looking — we really love the area, it has been so good to us."

Citing confidentiality issues, Demetree did not disclose which tenant would be occupying the popular site on Margaret Street near the 5 Points roundabout.

While there has been local buzz that 7-Eleven was interested in the space, officials with the national convenience store chain said no firm plans are in place.

"We are looking in that area but have no deals or contracts yet," said 7-Eleven spokeswoman Margaret Chabris.

You asked for it!

5 Points statue draws interest from readers

For the past few months, a distinctive metal sculpture has brightened the 5 Points roundabout on Park Street.

Readers have asked The Resident staff for the skinny on this artwork. While we were out-and-about one afternoon, a Resident photographer took this photo — and the editorial staff set out to discover more information about the artwork's genesis.

Here are some basics: The sculpture, "Manifest Destiny," was created by local artist, Robert Noelke; it is made of forged and fabricated steel; the artwork is 14 feet tall, six feet by six feet at the base; it weighs 600 pounds; and the piece was created in 2005 at Noelke's friend, David Ponsler's Riverside shop.

Originally, Noelke made the sculpture to be put on display in Fort Pierce for the 2005 Art Without Walls public art exhibit. Later, the sculpture won a public arts competition in Jacksonville Beach — but did not end up on display. Following a show at The Bolles School, Noelke brought the sculpture to 5 Points where it was temporarily installed this spring in collaboration with the 5 Points Merchant Association, he explained.

"It was also an experiment to see how people reacted to public art in the space," Noelke said in an email. "So far I have gotten an overwhelmingly positive response from the community. Its amazing to me how a little thing like art can brighten a person's day, encourage thought and dialogue, while creating a sense of pride for the area."

Residents who haven't had a chance to notice some of the sculpture's details may

enjoy hearing about them from the artist himself. He explains the sculpture's significance and inspiration: "The first things that one will notice are the beautiful swans at the base. These symbolize our ancestors gracefully encompassing the globe and exploring the four corners of the earth, all while gobbling up everything in their path. The swans also make up the hull of a ship. A mast sprouts from the center with full sails, symbolizing our mastery of the seas. The same mast and sails then morph into a rocket blasting into the remote reaches of our galaxy. Now that we have probed our physical world and solved the world's mysteries, we are now left to explore the true final frontier, the mind. The term, manifest destiny now has a whole new meaning, and that is that we are the masters of our own lives.

Quantum Physics tells us that each person is responsible for manifesting their own existence. Whether it be positive or negative we bring that energy into our lives by simply focusing on it. Although

times may be a little dark right now, they are also some of the most exciting. The quantum not only makes it possible to turn it all around, but it also gives our curious species a true challenge to try and explain the unexplainable."

But it might not be there for long. Noelke plans to temporarily install a new piece of art at the 5 Points roundabout to replace Manifest Destiny this July. The new piece is called, "For Brian."

The new sculpture for the 5 Points roundabout site looks like a "large xylophone type of instrument made by cutting the bottoms of five bottles at different lengths to produce different tones," Noelke explained. The artwork is a memorial for one of Noelke's good friends, Brian Hicks, who lost a

battle with cancer two years ago. July 4 is the anniversary of his passing, Noelke said, and he'd like to install the new statue that day as a commemoration.

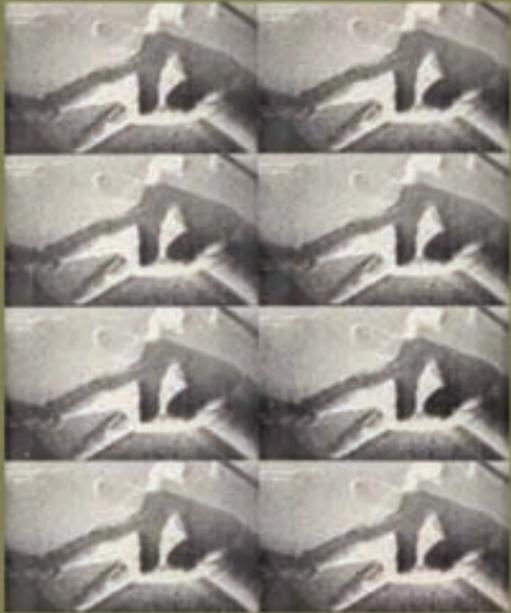
"I cannot think of a better way to remember him than to have fun and play our hearts out," Noelke said.

There is still a neighborhood future for Manifest Destiny, however. Noelke said he would like to see the Manifest Destiny sculpture used for a bike rack — potentially at the entrance of Riverside Park. He said sculpture would be part of a four-foot circular picket railing with spaces large enough to pass a bicycle through them. The statue would rest on a platform on top. His thought? A rotating show at the site to "keep things fresh and exciting."






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RAP hopes to fetch approval from city on dog park



Riverside resident, Sarah Pelham, works on training techniques with Solomon, her six-month-old companion. Pelham said it's hard to work on training with a lead and that a dog park would be an amazing addition to the neighborhood.

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Plans for a dog park at Riverside Park are inching forward, according to officials with Riverside Avondale Preservation.

The city of Jacksonville has a proposal from the state Department of Transportation to use land under the Interstate 95 bridge for the dog park, according to RAP Executive Director Carmen Godwin. The one-acre parcel would be part of the three-acre design.

"That's a huge step and the next step after that is essential raising money for the engineering," she said. "It may still be year off, but we haven't taken it off the table."

The dog park plans call for two acres in Riverside Park's

northwest corner. Eric Lycke, a landscape architect with The Haskell Co., helped design a plan which includes several different areas for different size docks. According to plans outlined on the RAP website, the park will include space for large and active dogs and another for small or passive breeds. The larger dog area ground cover will be made of decomposed granite. A walking path and shade pavilion are also part of the more than one-acre section. The small dog section, also

just over an acre in size, includes tree coverage and bench seating.

Other features include the creation of more on-street parallel parking spaces, double-gated entries and a new sidewalk connecting Park and College streets. Godwin said RAP also is working with the Riverkeeper to design a bioswale at the park that would help with water runoff from the bridge.

Cost to build the dog park is estimated to be \$200,000.

"We'd be spearheading a fundraiser," Godwin said. "We've gotten a lot of feedback about how important a dog park is for Riverside and Avondale. It's great space for dogs to interact with one another, and for people — there are many social aspects for humans, too."

The project still has hoops through which it must jump. Officials with the FDOT said no agreement has been reached yet with the city

regarding the dog park.

"FDOT provided a draft agreement for the city to review and decide if they wanted to move forward with the project," said spokesman Mike Goldman. "To date, the city has not responded as to whether they want to move forward or not."

City spokeswoman Debbie Delgado said the FDOT provided a draft agreement utilized in other locations for uses on their land such as a dog park. She said the concept was discussed with RAP and Councilman Love, but "there are no plans or funding at this time."

Expansion in play for 5 Points center

The owner of the retail center in 5 Points seeks to improve and expand the property, according to an ordinance introduced at a recent city land use and zoning committee meeting.

The retail center, which includes Wasabi and other tenants that were damaged during an early morning mid-June fire, is owned by Retail Properties Inc. Business owner Peter Sleiman has owned the center since 2009, according to attorney, Steve Diebenow.

Ordinance 2012-367, introduced by the LUZ committee in early June, asks for a rezoning

of the 1.3-acre parcel behind the center at 2030 Post Street from the zoning designation Residential Medium Density-B and Commercial Community General-1 to a Planned Unit Development status, according to the bill.

Diebenow said Sleiman is proposing a 2,500-square-foot expansion at the site as well as a renovation and upgrade to the entire center. He said there is "no particular tenant known" for the site and there is sufficient parking for the project even after the expansion.

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On your mark: Local groups ready to build Stockton track

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Several neighborhood groups are partners in a plan to build a new running track at John Stockton Elementary School in Ortega Forest.

The Riverside Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, the Stockton PTA, Friends of Stockton and the Shannon Miller Foundation have joined together for the project, which would bring a new track and field area to the southeast section of the school campus. In addition to being used by the school's Physical Education classes and Running Club, the track also would be available to the community during non school hours.

Pending the approval of a spending plan and confirmation of funding sources, the track construction could commence as early as Aug. 1, according to a presentation from the Rotary clubs.

The track is expected to cost about \$166,000. The construction would be structured in two phases. The first phase includes the creation of an asphalt walking and running track,



fencing, miscellaneous demolition and drainage. The second phase would include irrigation, new turf and a new baseball backstop, according to preliminary plans.

The track would be well used at the neighborhood school, which boasts one of the highest number of participants in Shannon Miller Foundation's

running club in the city. Students train annually for the foundation's annual marathon.

The Rotary clubs are waiting to hear from Rotary District 6970, which covers all of the Rotary activities in Northeast Florida, to see if there is any grant money to assist with the project, according to Rotary Club of

West Jacksonville President Marshall Butler. He said both Rotary clubs are in the process of forming a joint committee.

The Stockton Parent Teacher Association presented the club with a \$10,000 check on May 23 to jumpstart the project, Butler indicated.

Ruth Upson Elementary School marks 95-year anniversary

BY AMANDA FORD
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

At 95 years, Ruth Upson Elementary School is looking toward the future as it reflects on its past.

Students, teachers, family and friends of the historic neighborhood school celebrated the milestone with members of the community last month. The 95th anniversary "Lights Camera Action" carnival, helped revelers look ahead to the 2012-2103 reading initiative — an academic initiative sharing the same theme.

More than 300 people came out to enjoy the games, red carpet cake walk, and "paparazzi" picture booth at the school campus.

Principal Calvin Reddick said the amount of community support makes the anniversary even more enjoyable.

"It is a great experience to be principal during this time," he said. "The neighborhood truly supports the school."

Avondale resident Susie Morris has been teaching at the school since 1998, and remembered helping out with the 90th anniversary. She

explained that knowing the past generations of students and seeing the current children is part of what makes Ruth Upson a one-of-a-kind academic environment.

"These neighborhood schools — ones like Ruth Upson, that have been the anchors for the neighborhoods for decades — really are treasures," she said. "There are students here whose grandparents went to school here. It's really a special thing to be a part of."

Reddick said he hopes that in the next 95 years the school will undergo some renovations needed to keep up with the growing population of the students. He is also confident that the school will maintain its "A" status and continue to be a "pillar" in the community.

"Even at 95 we've never felt so good!" he said.

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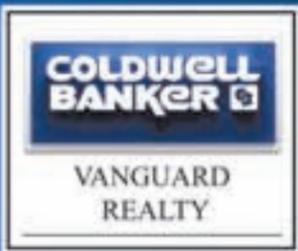
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Epoch developers suspend plans

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Epoch Project's Riverside/Avondale masterminds have decided to forgo plans for the April

2013 downtown art event. Citing funding difficulties, Epoch's organizers have instead thrown their support behind another public art initiative planned by a creative professionals group called "One Spark."

"Working on the Epoch Project for the past six months has been an amazing adventure and we are

very grateful for your support and confidence," said Wayne Wood in a June letter to supporters.

He and resident Doug Coleman, who also helped develop the successful Riverside Arts Market, joined local artists last year to announce plans for The Epoch Project. Plans included and 11-day public art demonstrations and exhibits in 150 downtown venues. Wood and Coleman projected the event would attract 250,000 visitors and the plans were supported by Mayor Alvin Brown, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and many cultural institutions. But organizers needed \$1.5 million in funding to make the historic large scale project a reality.

"We have been out of the limelight

for the last month or so while doing research and financial analysis of how to move it forward, in the face of difficulties in getting commitments for the large amount of money needed to make this event successful," Wood continued

in his letter. "Our goal has been to create an event that would have a substantial and lasting impact on Jacksonville."

Wood and Coleman have "turned over the reigns to a young, new team," according to an announcement. They were introduced to an

"Our goal has been to create an event that would have a substantial and lasting impact on Jacksonville."

Wayne Wood

Epoch Project's Initiator

organization of young professionals known as One Spark. The group's mission is "fostering an environment in Jacksonville to start, build and scale new ideas."

"The leaders of 'One Spark' have developed a plan to produce an event similar to the Epoch Project, on a somewhat smaller scale with many similar goals," an announcement from Wood and Coleman explained.

On its website, One Spark is described as "an active community focused on encouraging idea generation and disruptive thinking" and a movement that supports the "creation, relation and execution of ideas." For more information, visit www.beonespark.com.

City rebuilding Ingleside

City crews began a complete overhaul of Ingleside Avenue between St. Johns Avenue and Pine Street in mid-May that is expected to help with drainage problems in the neighborhood and shopping district.

"It's a pond after a rainstorm," said District 14 City Councilman Jim Love. "That street has not been draining properly and we're redoing it so there is better drainage. This should relieve the puddles and pools."

The project, which includes the milling and resurfacing of an angled parking area nearest the Shoppes of Avondale, is expected to be complete July 12, according to city officials.

City crews also plan to pour new curbs and gutters and replace brick and concrete sidewalks in that section. The other part of Ingleside will be rebuilt with new base and asphalt pavement, shared Marcy Cook via public information officer, Debbie Delgado. In that section of the street, Miami curb and gutter will be poured.

Crews also have been working with city forester, Don Robertson, to help work around large live oak trees bordering the roadway. Cook said the contractor employed tree surgeon to direct the root pruning.

"This project has been in the works for awhile — it will make the area much nicer," Love said. "It needed to be done."



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City approves field improvements at Ringhaver

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON,
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It's lights, soccer, action at Ringhaver Park's soccer fields now that the Jacksonville City Council approved more than \$188,000 for new lighting and electrical improvements. The council sealed another 10-year license agreement between the city and the Westside Soccer Club for use and management of soccer programming at Ringhaver Park.

In an email sharing the news, Bob Olson, past President and new fields co-project officer of Westside Soccer Club, wrote, "this project involves a private-public venture approach which is a great example of community working with city government to address the needs of the community. As you can imagine, the club is over the moon with this great news to address a significant need and meet the continuing growth of our soccer participation." Olson's co-project officer was Mike Tibble.

The improvement bill, approved during the mid-June city council meeting, appropriates \$188,500 to the park's lighting project. More than \$78,000 of that total are

from the Ringhaver Park Improvement account, while \$25,000 came from private contributions. About \$84,000 came from District 14's Autumn Bond funds, according to the legislative summary.

Westside Soccer Club also will be paying for 25 percent of the soccer fields' electric bill each year.

As part of the plan, the funds will use the funds and donations to fully light one soccer field. Utilities for the lighting of two additional fields at the park also will be installed, as well as electrical service to a park concession stand.

Olson said the lights will be installed this summer, when fewer players utilize the fields. M Gay Constructors Inc. and Musco Sports Lighting LLC will install the fields' lighting, according to the ordinance.

Westside Soccer Club is a 501c3 nonprofit organization established in 1997. It first partnered with the city in 2002 to open the soccer complex at Ringhaver as the number of participants began to climb to about 1,000. The club's size grew larger in 2009 following its merger with Oakleaf Futbol Club. The two groups now represent more than 4,500 players and families.

Roosevelt tree replacement project has deep roots

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Tree removal and replacement along Roosevelt Boulevard may have caught some local

commuters by surprise, but the project actually has been long in the making.

Replacing the existing trees and soil and Roosevelt from the river south to Timuquana Road is the first phase of a two part effort to "provide a healthier and more beautiful

tree canopy for this busy thoroughfare," said Greenscape of Jacksonville executive director, Anna Dooley. Called The Roosevelt Boulevard Reforestation project, the replacement was spearheaded by late Ortega philanthropist, Ann Baker, through Greenscape of Jacksonville. It has been several years in development, she said.

The problem? The existing trees have been in decline to to poor soil and high stress. To remedy the trees plight, the city used a larger spade to plant a new variety of trees that can weather the roadway conditions better.

Dooley said District 14 City Councilman Jim Love hosted a town hall meeting in the spring to share

word of the replacement project. "The re-vegetation of the median on Roosevelt, it looks like will be finished by end of month," said District 14 City Councilman Jim Love in early June.

He said the city is using a spade twice as large as the old trees to plant 178 new crape myrtles, magnolias, oaks and some cypress in the medians. The smaller spade and soil had been a problem before, he said.

"We're dressing up the islands with proper soil and that should make them live a lot better," Love said. The city also is installing better temporary irrigation for the new trees, which will be in place for the next year.

Some of the existing healthy trees will be removed and replanted elsewhere in the city, he said.

The tree replanting will not come out of the city's general fund, Love indicated. The new trees are covered by the city's tree mitigation fund.

The project's second phase will go out for bid soon, Dooley said. The fall planting will include medians on Roosevelt Boulevard from McDuff Avenue south to Park Street.

Amanda Ford contributed to this report.

"...to provide a healthier and more beautiful tree canopy for this busy thoroughfare."

Anna Dooley

Greenscape of Jacksonville
executive director

Changes for Stockton leadership

There is a change at the helm of John Stockton Elementary School.

School principal Lacy Healy was named principal of Hendricks Avenue Elementary School in San Marco, according to a recent release from Duval County Public Schools. Former Hendricks principal BR Rhoads

announced his retirement this spring, leaving the position open.

The new principal at John Stockton will be Charlene McEarl, assistant principal of San Jose Elementary School.

The changes were announced in mid-June and will be in effect for the 2012-2013 school year.

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South African archbishop visits Avondale



Julius Jackson, partner in the African Business Development Group, The Rev. Dave Austell of Holy Trinity Anglican, The Most Rev. Dr. Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town and Cleve Farnell

A religious leader from the global scene was in Avondale last month calling for peace, reconciliation, understanding and jobs.

The Most Rev. Dr. Thabo Makgoba preached at Avondale's Holy Trinity Anglican Church at 3889 Eloise Street. In addition to calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's resignation, he asked for members of the United Nations Security Council and the international immunity to increase efforts to end violence. He also called for more partnerships between the church and the business community to create jobs and elimi-

nate poverty.

Makgoba is the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town and serves as Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. He also is Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, a position once held by the Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Holy Trinity Anglican Church was formed in recent years in response to the need for Bible-based liturgical worship. The church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion and a member of the Anglican Mission in the Americas.

New young professionals group focuses on philanthropy



The Shircliff Society Board: Charlie Hardage, Justin Markley, Bobby Siddell, Alden Howell, Holly Crews, John Roberts (President), Kyle Crisp and Scott Ennis, not pictured Conan Raspa

BY AMANDA FORD
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Vincent's Medical Center has always been known for providing much more than healthcare to its patients and the community. A new group of people wants to continue that tradition by participating in the recently formed Shircliff Society.

The St. Vincent's Foundation launched the society, a young professionals group with a focus on philanthropy, late last year.

Named after longtime Riverside/Avondale resident Robert "Bob" T. Shircliff — a pillar of giving in the medical center and community — the organization strives to follow his philanthropic example. "Bob is the epitome of philanthropic giving," said Jane Lanier, president and system chief development officer, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. "He really knows how to inspire others to give."

Lanier said St. Vincent's has a fol-

lowing from generation to generation when it comes to giving. The younger people of giving families embrace the gesture, and in a more hands-on way than in previous years, she said. The society holds monthly events and get-togethers to offer members the chance to give back to the community while meeting new people and networking with others who share the spirit of volunteerism.

This year, the society plans to participate in events benefitting the St. Vincent's food pantry and help out with the Early Childhood Literacy Intervention Program. The group expects to host its annual Christmas party at the Brumos Car Museum, and other ideas are evolving.

Since its start a few months ago, the group already has grown to about 50 members, according to Lanier.

"The group and board are energetic, and momentum is growing," she said. "We're really changing lives here!"

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In Memoriam

Trudye Margaret Weaks Blackard

Trudye Margaret Weaks Blackard passed away peacefully on May 18, 2012, with her daughter, Blair, at her side. Trudye was best known for her beauty, poise, grace, and her generous spirit. She was a supportive teacher, community volunteer, loving mother, and a true Southern lady. Her unexpected death was deeply felt by the many lives she touched, both here in the Jacksonville community as well as across countless miles.

Trudye was born on September 15, 1943 in Sikeston, Missouri. She attended The University of Mississippi at Oxford where she was the social chairman of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She was known as a Campus Cutie and was voted as one of the Best Dressed in the class superlatives for both her sophomore and junior years. Upon leaving 'Ole Miss where she majored in retailing, Trudye moved to Memphis, TN. There, she modeled extensively and worked as an advertising copy writer and fashion youth coordinator for Levy's. In 1969, Trudye was named Tour Manager for the Maid of Cotton and traveled around the world for the National Cotton Council.

"The good Lord gave me something special when He gave me your mother. She was a kick up your heels girl who made our year of amazing travels the most fun. We laughed from beginning to end. She was the neatest person in the world. [Trudye] was a woman before her time – she was a dream, just a dream," Gayle Callahan, who travelled with Trudye and the National Cotton Council, told Blair.

Upon her return, Trudye moved to New York City and shortly after married. The couple relocated to Jacksonville in the early 1970's where Trudye graduated from the University of North Florida and began to call Jacksonville home.

From the time she arrived in Jacksonville until now, almost 40 years later, Trudye has stood out as one of the most fun loving, engaging, glamorous, and charming women the city of Jacksonville has known.

"Growing up, we couldn't go anywhere without my mom knowing someone and stopping to talk and quickly become

engaged in a story or life update. As I got older, I realized – this is just my mom – genuine and engaging, and who wanted to hear your life," her daughter, Blair C. Blackard, of Seattle, WA, recalled with a smile. "Anytime I tell someone my last name, give my driver's license or my credit card, it seems, they recognize the name and I can guarantee that I'll be there for a bit longer to hear about how much people loved my mom or how she changed their life."

As a caring and supportive teacher, Trudye touched the lives of hundreds of students during her 30-year career with Duval County Public Schools. She taught fashion marketing and diversified cooperative training. She instructed students on business skills, interviewing techniques, etiquette, communications, human relations, and life skills. In addition, she prepared students for competition on district, state, and national levels. Trudye was selected as Ed White High School's "Teacher of the Year" in 1982 and "Teacher of the Year" at N.B. Forrest High School in 1998.

Trudye's career in education also included working as a librarian's assistant at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, and as a guidance counselor at Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Trudye also worked as an assistant at R.L. Brown Elementary and Ramona Elementary schools.

"Trudye loved teaching, but what she really loved were her students. She taught from her heart and gave them 100%. In turn, they learned valuable life lessons and loved her too," said her close friend and former colleague, Jennifer Lomax. Trudye cared for her students as if they were her own children. Her students' problems and successes became her own. She drove students to work, took them home when they needed rides, and gave them clothes and lunch money. She didn't think twice before bringing a student to her home for a meal and was always willing to help in any way she could. "In Trudye's classroom, you were always welcome and greeted with love," added



Lomax.

Trudye was a quality teacher and stellar role model for the young women and future leaders of our community.

In many ways, Trudye made a difference in our quality of life on the First Coast as a community volunteer. Trudye, with the help of her friend, the late U.S. Rep., Tillie K. Fowler, steered the development of innovative programs sponsored by the Junior League of Jacksonville during the 1970's and 1980's. Trudye was involved in the organization of the Children's Visitation Center and with child abuse legislation, was part of Leadership Jacksonville, and advocated for the establishment of the Riverside House. At the time of her death, Trudye had served more than 30 years on the Wolfson Children's Hospital Women's Board. She had a great appreciation for and was a true supporter of Young Life as well. Trudye was dedicated and committed and made every effort to make Jacksonville an enriching and nurturing community for those in need.

As a little girl, Trudye's father nicknamed her "Lady." "She once told me that the only time her father called her by her given name was when he was mad at her for getting a speeding ticket or spending too much money on her clothes," laughed friend and neighbor Betsy Towers. "And, that nickname was so appropriate because Trudye was the quintessence embodiment of the word," she added. Blair recalled, "My mom could light up a room

like nothing I've ever seen before. Her smile was infectious and her laugh was contagious." With a glimmer in her eye, she added, "She was stunning. She was always polished, poised and glamorous – with a perfect manicure at that. If you can imagine, as a little girl – playing dress up in my mom's jewelry and her closet was truly incredible." Trudye had a flair for fashion and decorating, was hospitable to everyone, loved a good game of bridge, and could tell a story and throw a party like none other. Trudye was a strong Christian lady to the core who exemplified her faith. She treated everyone with the same dignity and charm, whether a person in need or someone more fortunate; regardless, everyone was equally important to her.

At the celebration of Trudye's life, held at First Presbyterian Church on May 23, Blair gave words of remembrance on her mother. "She was the best mother anyone could have. I am honored and privileged to be able to call her my mom, that she is mine. ... She was selfless, taught me what it means to be a lady and the importance of manners, she encouraged me to follow my dreams even if they took me across the country or to different continents, and she always forgave me and showed me grace. She was beautiful inside and out. She loved me with every fiber of her being and nothing would change her love for me. She was the most beautiful person I have ever known and I miss her deeply."

The Jacksonville community, and beyond, will miss Trudye deeply as well. Trudye was born a lady, died a lady, and in between she graciously showed the world what it meant to be a lady. To borrow (but yet edit) the famous line spoken by Horatio in Shakespeare's Hamlet, "Good night, sweet (Lady). And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." Thanks be to God for the life of Trudye Margaret Weaks Blackard.

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Murray Hill poet makes Queen's Jubilee history



Jan Bevan, a lifetime resident of Murray Hill and was an eight-year author in residence at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, played a role in Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee celebration last month in England.

Bevan was asked to write a poem for the queen to represent the residents of Noke, Oxfordshire. Bevan was in the English town visiting friends during her annual pilgrimage to the area. Along with other pictures and prose from area residents, the poem was sent to Buckingham Palace and now is part of history at the Oxford University library — an institution with

roots dating back to the 15th century.

"Not only did I go for the Jubilee, but I am now a part of it as a writer and author," said Bevan, now a medical case manager with the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. "I am very honored to be a part of that."

She said the prose poem reads like a letter or newspaper in poetic voice. It is included below, along with photos from Bevan's recent visit to Oxford.

"I am delighted and very proud to be in Murray Hill and to have been able to take part in a very special way with her majesty's Diamond Jubilee," she said.

The Reign of Elizabeth II

Britain's Second
Elizabethan Age
1952 - 2012

It is most fitting that in this village of Noke, meaning 'at the oak trees', a young oak tree was planted as a living tribute to the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Under a clear bright sky, trowels in hand, children clustered around the prepared earth waiting for the new tree to be lowered into the ground. Old and young laid hands together to lower the tree into the land where people have lived for five thousand years.

Across the green lush fields in the middle of Noke a road was built. It was not just any road but a Roman road. At that time 'all roads', may have, 'led to Rome', but on this day of celebration the hearts and minds of the village were focused on sixty remarkable years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Such an event shall not be seen again in some of our lifetimes.

As the tree was lowered into the permanent place where the earth would give it life, the celebrants stood in silence. I could not help but wonder if perhaps some of them were remembering their loved ones who had gone before them. In that brief moment, they could share the joy of this occasion with those whom they loved.

The whimsical saying 'Noke, the place where no one spoke', was only in folly. For on this significant day, eloquent words will be remembered as the hearts of villagers and visitors offered a champagne toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

A Queen after all, is the person who has the love of her people, the sorrows of her country, the sacrifices of her duty, and the joy of knowing for sixty years she has ruled with dignity and grace. The true diamond that sparkles beyond all others is Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

— Jan Atchley Bevan,
Author in Residence 2000-2008
The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens,
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Before and After: TCC renovations bring new style to old venue

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Timuquana Country Club recently concluded a massive renovation to the clubhouse, after several years of planning and a brisk nine-month construction schedule.

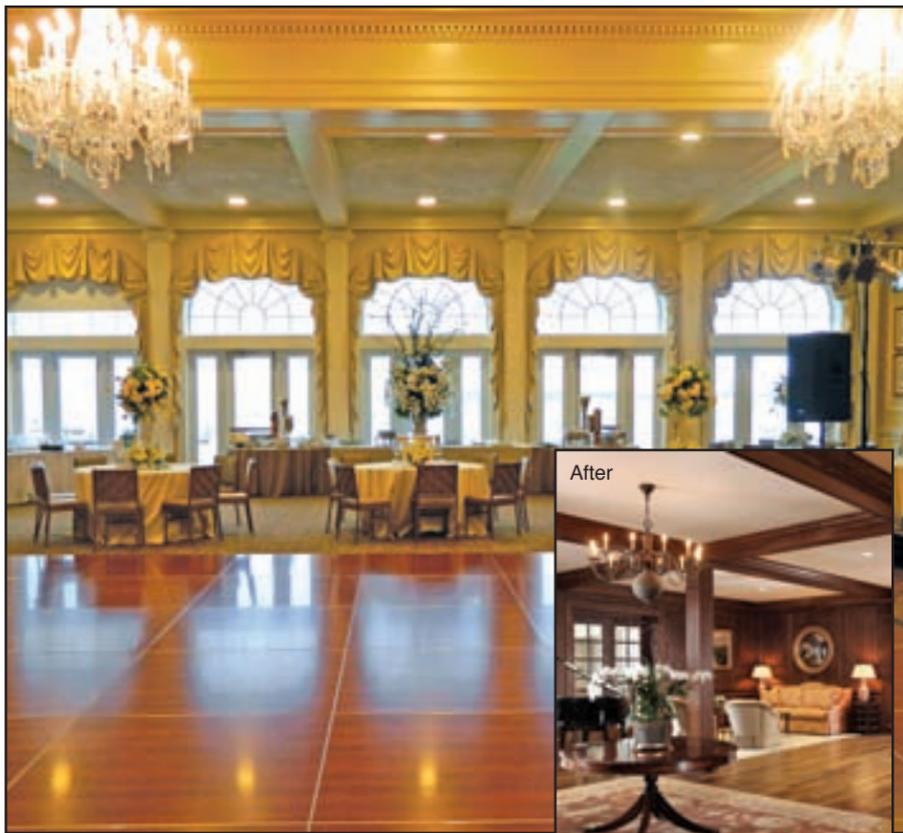
The clubhouse, originally built with Mediterranean-inspired architectural features, has only experienced few major transformations since the club's founding in 1923. The first occurred during the 1950s, when the clubhouse exterior was redesigned to accommodate its current Southern Plantation-style appearance. Additional physical improvements to the club were ongoing through the decades and a new bar, fitness center and 19th hole were added about 15 years ago. The club's banquet facilities, however, were reminiscent of "a 1970s Holiday Inn," said Rick Morales, chairman of the club's construction committee.

Other members and residents on the committee included Mark Higby, Ed Whelen, Steve Lovett and Larry Lee. Elkins Constructors was the project contractor. Riverside-based architects Jeff Lane and Richard Skinner provided architectural design services for the renovations.

Most of the clubhouse's facilities to the south were updated and renovated. That work resulted in a new kitchen and larger banquet facilities with new bathrooms. The expansion included a new adult riverfront dining area at the rear of the clubhouse. An employee lounge, locker room and facilities department also were part of the project.

Even the club's historic greens got a facelift during the renovation project. The entire course was re-sodded, Morales said.

"The members seem thrilled and so were we — the project was an overwhelming success and came in under budget and on schedule," Morales said.

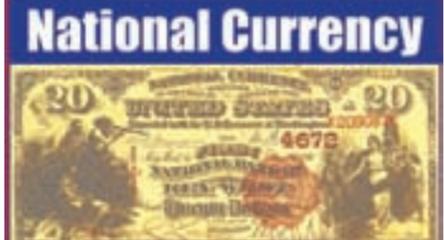


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Community effort gets Lee Adams mural back in public eye

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

For many years, it lived in a coffin-like box. Once it hung behind a couch. And for many years, it was suspended within splashing distance of middle school cafeteria diners.

The historic mural, Ribault's Landing, has had many homes since it was first painted in 1958 by renowned botanical artist, Lee Adams. But thanks to the diligence of several local residents, the mural now has a more suitable "forever home" in the downtown public library.

An installation ceremony for the mural was held in early May at its new location on the library's fourth floor. The unveiling drew a host of neighborhood supporters including St. Nicholas resident Lynn Corley, Ortega resident Helen Lane and Riverside artist, Jim Draper.

Corley, married to Ortega Baptist Church pastor Ted Corley, has been working to save the mural for more than a decade.

"I began this campaign 10 years ago," Corley said. "It was 10 years ago when there was no downtown public library."

The mural certainly has come a long

way since it was painted by Adams in 1958. But it hasn't traveled too far from its roots. Originally commissioned by Sears Roebuck & Co. for its downtown flagship store, the 31-foot mural depicting Jean Ribault's landing 450 years ago hung in the store's dining room.

"When the store closed in 1981, the mural was very indelicately removed," said Corley, who added plans for a \$3,000 restoration and move to the city's civic center, never were realized. Somehow or another, the mural ended up at Lee High School in Riverside — in a box, known as "the coffin." A Lee teacher used to remove the mural from its casing once a year and share stories with the students about Northeast Florida's first inhabitants, the Huguenots and the Timucua. Following a 1986 fire at Lee, the mural was salvaged and made its way to a new home with slightly more prestige: a wall behind a school administrator's office couch.

That's when Avondale resident Jim Overton — former District 14 City Councilman and current city property appraiser — caught wind of the mural's existence and condition. Corley said he was able to get designated funds to have the mural restored. Some hoped the mural would be placed in the City Hall building, but alas the mural would not



Lynn Corley, center, helped Mayor Alvin Brown cut the ribbon for the unveiling of Ribault's Landing at the downtown Library on May 1

fit into the rotunda. The National Park Service also wanted the mural, but there was no room at the inn. La Villa School for the Arts, however, it had room — it made room. Corley said the school built a special wall for the mural in its cafeteria. And that's where it sat for many years — behind trash cans, with mops leaning up against it, Corley lamented.

"This mural is the hidden history of our city and shows the history of the first Americans who were here 57 years before the pilgrims," she said.

Momentum for the refurbishment and permanent placement of the mural really got going last year as plans for the 450th anniversary of Ribault's land-

ing approached. With help from the Jacksonville Historical Society and the Jacksonville Cultural Council, the mural later was released from the school board's possession and made its way to the library — by way of Riverside artist Jim Draper who assisted in the \$10,000 mural refurbishment.

The ribbon-cutting was a culmination of a long journey — and also a new beginning for the mural.

"This is a great opportunity to remind people that it's there," Corley said. "Two brides already have asked to have pictures for their bridal photos there. It's becoming a real thing of interest for the library."

JAA wins marketing awards, scores new flights

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority, the agency flying residents safely in and out of the historic neighborhoods each day, won a marketing

award — and several new flights.

The JAA won a first and third place in "Excellence in Airport Marketing & Communications" at the Airports Council International-North American, held recently in Sacramento. JAA's received a forest place award for its airport mobile website, JAXMOBILE, and a third place award for its 10th Anniversary Special Edition Newsletter.

"We're all extremely proud of our

marketing and external affairs teams for working together to earn these distinguished awards," said JAA Executive Director and CEO Steve Grossman.

"They consistently deliver high-caliber marketing programs and community involvement initiatives that successfully highlight Jacksonville International Airport, our three general aviation airports and the Northeast Florida area."

The JAA scored another win last month with a new direct service flight to Tampa. For residents, that means

easier flight access to Key West and Pensacola.

Silver Airways, which operates under the United Airlines code, will begin daily scheduled service from Jacksonville International Airport to Tampa International Airport beginning Aug. 13. Tickets come at a special introductory rate of \$39 each way plus tax and other charges. Flights will operate three times per day Monday through Friday and twice daily on weekends.

"Maintaining our Tampa service is extremely important to the Northeast Florida business community," said Barbara Halverstadt, JAA's manager of marketing and development. "The additional opportunity for the direct connection to Key West opens up a great new leisure market as well."

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Nestled in the historic Riverside Avondale neighborhood near Five Points, The John Gorrie a condominium sits at the corner of College and Stockton streets. Across from the former junior high school turned condominium homes is a row of locally-owned shops featuring a trendy salon, chic bakery, award-winning tapas restaurant and more. The convergence creates the perfect setting where hip meets historic.

"The restored and renovated John Gorrie Junior High is the perfect counterpart to the businesses along Stockton Street because it adds to the visual landscape of the area," said Nathalie Mockler, owner and pastry chef at Bakery Moderne, located across from The John Gorrie. "What was once an abandoned building is now part of a beautiful and walkable streetscape that guests meeting for coffee or lunch in our bakery can enjoy."

Bakery Moderne is open Tuesday through Saturday and offers classic pastries, artisanal breads and desserts baked fresh daily by Mockler. A full lunch menu featuring daily specials and a variety of beverages are also available in the café.

Also located on Stockton across from The John Gorrie is Shampoo, where owner Jayme Hawarah and his staff offer clients an individualized approach to style and a healthy dose of pampering. The salon features a modern but casual atmosphere where many of Riverside's trendiest neighbors sip wine while having their hair styled.

"The John Gorrie definitely adds an element of style to the area, which is helpful for us in attracting new clients," said Hawarah. "We are excited that as residents move into The John Gorrie, the neighborhood will continue to flourish as a place for people to live, work and play."

The John Gorrie a condominium offers homebuyers a diverse array of beautifully appointed homes in meticulously restored historic school buildings. Sixty-eight residences including studios, one- and two-bedroom condominiums, and two-story townhomes ranging in size from 800 square feet to 1,800 square feet boast cultural ambience with modern conveniences. Many of the floor plans offer distinctive layouts based on the original John Gorrie Junior High School classrooms. One residence features the original auditorium stage and flooring, while another home features the original crest with reproduced molding around the front of the stage. The hallways display as artwork original windows and doors, chalkboards, radiators and a teachers' mail cubby.

Residents enjoy contemporary amenities including a custom-designed fitness center, elevators, private gated parking and a resident reading room with Wi-Fi internet access. The restored original private courtyard provides residents with a tranquil outdoor gathering space. Modern luxuries in all residences include stainless steel GE appliances, CaesarStone countertops, gourmet kitchens and pedestal sinks in bathrooms.



Cultural ambience with modern conveniences



Shampoo Salon features a modern but casual atmosphere with plenty of style.



Bakery Moderne is the perfect spot to grab coffee and a pastry with friends. Photo Credit: Cari Sanchez-Potter

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

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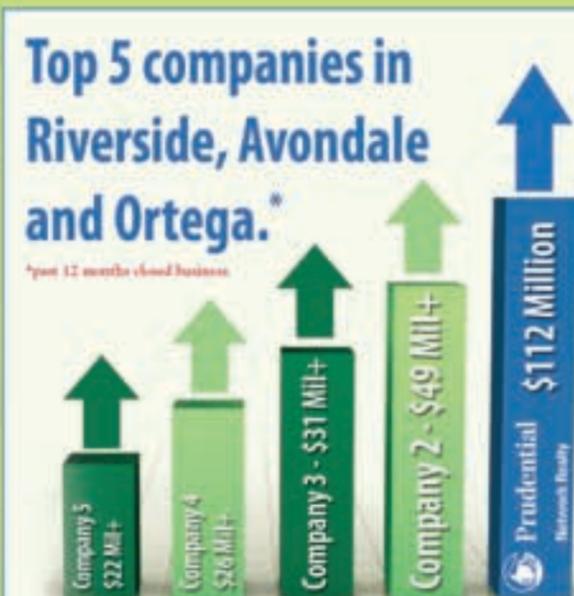
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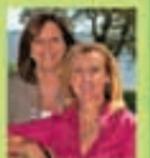
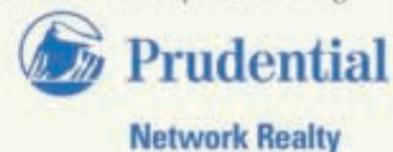
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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Bryan wins EVE award for lifetime achievements

Ortega resident Cheryl Bryan was named the 2012 EVE Lifetime Achievement Award winner during an awards luncheon last month. The Florida Times-Union's EVE Awards have been an annual event since 1969, showcasing the city's top women in volunteer service, education and employment. The lifetime achievement award was first given in 1987.



Bryan, a graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and Wheaton College, has been a committed volunteer for the American Cancer Society for more than 40 years and has shared time, talent and treasure with such groups as St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation, Vision is Priceless and the Junior League of Jacksonville.

"To say the least, I am very honored and humbled by this award," said Bryan. "I have always found it a privilege to do what I did and work-

ing with so many wonderful volunteers all these years has made it even more so."

She said her work has always been a "team effort."

"I have been truly blessed with amazing teammates — I should have been surrounded by all of them, as it certainly was a joint award," she said.

McCullough named symphony chorus director

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus has a new director — Donald McCullough, a Jacksonville native who will lead the chorus beginning in the 2012-2013 season.

McCullough conducted the Master Chorale of Washington at the John F. Kennedy for the Performing Arts for more than a decade.

The announcement marks the end of a season-long audition and performance process. McCullough was one of three finalists who directed the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus this season. Fabio Mechetti, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra's music director and principal director, made the final decision last month. Chorus members participated in the evaluation of the three choral conductors during the season and symphony executive director Stacy Ridenour

and Richard Naylor, general manager, also participated in the selection process.



"This has been a great year for the chorus, which has grown remarkably through the experience of three very talented and gifted conductors from our Jacksonville community," said Mechetti. "As we continue building and improving the many talents of the Chorus, we believe that Donald McCullough will

be the best able to lead them to a new singing level."

Auditions for the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus will be held in late summer. Those interested in joining their voice with the Symphony Chorus may call the Jacksonville Symphony Administrative Office at (904) 354-5479, ext. 221, and leave their information to be contacted when audition dates are set.

Baker named 'Distinguished Community Leader'



Avondale resident and local businessman, John D. Baker II was one of four business leaders recognized by the University of North Florida's Coggin College of Business at its 15th Annual Prime F. Osborn III Distinguished Business Leaders Award Luncheon.

In addition to Baker, those recognized included Audrey M. Moran, Dr. Reinhold P. Lamb and Mark P. Vitner. Baker and Moran received the Distinguished Business Leader Award, while Reinhold received the Distinguished Professor Award. Vitner, managing director and senior economist for Wells Fargo Corporation, received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Baker is executive chairman of Patriot Transportation Holding Inc., and formerly was president and CEO of Florida Rock Industries. Baker helped establish YMCA's Tiger Academy and the KIPP School in Jacksonville, and his civic involvement includes board and trustee work with YMCA of Florida's First Coast and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

Coggin College has recognized 48 honorees during the last 15 years. Corporate sponsors for this year's awards luncheon include The Florida Times-Union, SunTrust Bank and CenterState Bank.

Schultz paintings brighten St. Vincent's

Local artist Nancy Schultz painted and donated a series of pieces for St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside. The artwork, called "Flowing Fantasy" and framed by Jack Slaughter of the Framing Establishment, is now located in the Gary and Nancy Chartrand Heart & Vascular Center. Jane Lanier, president and system chief development officer of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation said the foundation is grateful for the sup-

port Nancy Schultz and her late husband Frederick H. Schultz and their family have supplied to St. Vincent's over the years.

"When you drive up to St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside near King St. and St. John's Ave., you can't help but notice the beautiful colors and fluid motion of Nancy's modern works lighted and displayed for our physicians, nurses, patients and their families to enjoy," Lanier said.

Schultz said her inspiration was her husband Fred, who gave her "the courage to start painting at the age of 68. He loved to sit and read and study while I painted — it was a special time for us."

Schultz said the family's support of St. Vincent's began in 1929 when Fred was one of the first babies to be born at the Riverside hospital.

"I am honored and thrilled to have my art where they can provide joy to patients and staff," she said.



Jack Slaughter of the Framing Establishment with Jane Lanier, president and system chief development officer, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation with artist and philanthropist Nancy Schultz

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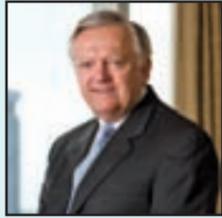
Local Smith Hulsey Busey attorneys share accolades



Busey



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Several neighborhood attorneys from Smith Hulsey & Busey were recognized in the 2012 Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Rising Star lists. Published in the June issue of Florida Super Lawyers magazine, the lists distinguish the state's outstanding lawyers. The listings are compiled from peer nominations and are vetted by an

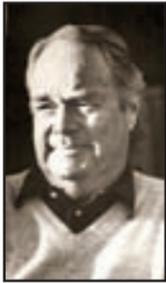
attorney-led research team. Resident firm attorneys listed as super lawyers include Ortega residents: Stephen D. Busey, firm chairman, business litigation; William E. Kuntz, personal injury defense medical malpractice; and Harry M. Wilson III, chair of the firm's real estate department. Firm eminent domain attorney, Lee D. Wedekind III, an Ortega resident, was listed as a 2012 Florida Rising Star.

San Marco resident, Charmaine Chiu, a healthcare attorney, also was listed as a 2012 Florida Rising Star.

Ortega resident publishes book

Ortega resident Robert E. Sonntag has published his new book, *The Fun Entrepreneurs Have with Free-Market Systems and Principles*.

The book works to identify the principles behind America's prosperity and wealth, while describing



characteristics of "free choice."

Sonntag's work is published by Silent E Publishing, located in San Marco. It is currently available on Amazon.com for \$16.95, and is soon to be in local bookstores, Sonntag said.



Photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

Gators to meet Hoyas in Navy-Marine Corps Classic

This year's Navy-Marine Corps Classic men's college basketball game will feature the University of Florida and Georgetown University on Friday, Nov. 9 at Naval Station Mayport. Navy Region Southeast Commander Rear Admiral Jack

Scorby (left), Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Jacksonville Jaguars President Mark Lamping were on hand for the announcement. The game is expected to be broadcast on national television.

Avondale shop under new ownership



Let Them Eat Cake, located at 3604 St. Johns Ave. in Avondale, is under new ownership.

Original owner Anita Adams recently passed the bakery along to Liz Kerns after working together for more than five years. Kerns now does a lot of the baking, while her husband Scott helps with other business responsibilities.

She explained that she wanted to be able to run a business on her own, and the bakery was the perfect outlet for her to incorporate her fine arts degree and creativity.

"When Anita wanted to retire, everything just came together," she said.

The bakery currently specializes in custom cakes and cupcakes in addition to a variety of desserts, but the duo has many plans for the future.

Liz hopes to offer seating in the shop one day for customers who want to come in with their families or socialize while enjoying the bakery's freshly made treats.

Tapas-style restaurant opens in 5 Points

A new 5 Points restaurant is tapping into a different dining approach.

Brother and sister duo, Arielle and Michael Coutu, recently opened Tapa That. Located at 820 Lomax St., the restaurant offers guests tapas-style dishes.

The team changes the menu nearly every day to give customers the chance to try new items.

"It works perfectly because people get to see a lot more of what we can do, and I get to showcase a lot more creativity with the changing



menu," Arielle said.

When choosing a location, the duo was drawn to the eclectic atmosphere of 5 Points.

"I think this area really understands and accepts new and different things," she said. "The locals here really support each other."



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The 22nd Annual Jacksonville Foodfight, held June 7 at Everbank Field's Touchdown Club East, was a real rumble of an evening with more than 60 area restaurants joining in to fight hunger in Jacksonville. Organizers hoped to raise at least \$100,000 this year for Second Harvest North Florida. Proceeds from the party will allow the food bank to supply 700,000 meals for local families in need. The event has raised more than \$1 million during the past 20 years.

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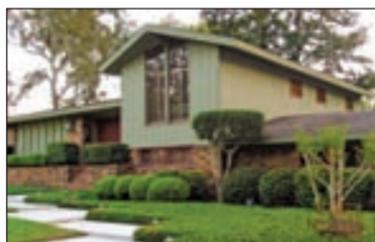
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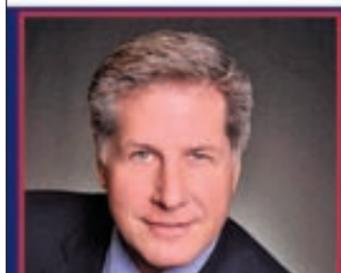
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Stop by and pick up...



The community united with NFL players and other sports professionals in early June during the 3rd Annual Fishing for a Cure Tournament.

About 300 people came out to support the David Garrard Foundation, which will apply proceeds from the event to a fund supporting Danijela "Dani" Hughey. Hughey is a single mom who is battling acute metastatic breast cancer while raising a 3-year-old daughter.

Many special guests were in attendance including Miami Dolphins players Anthony Fasano and Marlon Moore, as well as Jaguars players Derek Cox, Kyle Bosworth, Zach Miller, and Eugene Monroe.

Several of the stars spent the morning fishing, and Moore took the prize for top offshore angler. Other winners included Scott O'Brien for top inshore angler and Matthew McGowan and Morgan Yonge, junior inshore and offshore anglers.

Guests enjoyed music by Split Tone and wrapped up the night with a silent auction. The auction included star-studded packages like a trip to see a Dolphins game with field passes, a catered dinner at a riverfront home with Garrard and friends, and a round of golf with Jim Furyk.

DUCKS UNLIMITED HOLDS SPONSOR 'STEAK AND SKEET'

Ducks Unlimited held a shotgun social last month in St. Augustine and tallied 40 members and guests at the evening shoot, which included skeet shooting and a "cook your own" steak dinner at the gun club's facilities. Organizers held the event to thank sponsors of the fall Ducks Unlimited event last October. Those in leadership encouraged commitments for the 2012 fall banquet.

During the recent gathering, held at the St. Augustine Rod and Gun Club, guests enjoyed views of the marsh and bid on a few guns and artwork. Money raised during the event went to Ducks Unlimited national's mission to protect and preserve wetlands and waterfowl.



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The GREAT outdoors

Lobster season: Catch the family fun in the Keys



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Everyone loves to eat fresh lobster tail, and there are several different ways in Florida to harvest your own.

One way is to become a certified diver, and head out 30+ miles off the First Coast into 100+ feet of water. If you are bold enough, you can dive down and find some of the largest lobsters you have ever seen living in and around the ocean floor ledges.

But this is not the most family-friendly method. A more kid-friendly method may be to go to your local lobster seafood restaurant and allow your child to select their living meal from the several-hundred-gallon aquarium in the front lobby. Or, you could pay a few bucks and watch him or her try to grab the 15 lb. crawfish with 'the claw' that has been in there for decades.

There's a better way.

Every year, thousands of people head south to the Florida Keys in late summer to participate in the state's lobster seasons. There are two lobster seasons with which to become familiar: The "sport" and the "regular" season. The sport season is always the last Wednesday and Thursday of each July and only runs for two days. The regular season begins several days later, and runs for several months.

There are many great places

to stay in the Keys and you can usually find what you are looking for to fit any budget.

Lobsters can be found on both the Gulf and Atlantic side. With a typical afternoon sea breeze coming from the East, and the sun setting in the West, which side you stay on really depends on what scenery you most desire at the end of a great day on the water.

Driving south down A1A you travel roughly 100 miles from Key Largo down to Key west, traveling over some 32 bridges and waterways. These waterways connect the Gulf waters to the Atlantic, and host thousands of acres of shallow grass and rock flats. Many of these flats have rocks and ledges along the bottom where lobsters like to take shelter.

When determining where you will be spending your time looking, it is important to know tides and be respectful of the currents. The further away from the inlets and bridges you are, the less affected you will be by this fast-moving water. The bridges may have good bottom conducive to lobster habitat. However, if the tide is either moving in or out, the current can be very difficult to overcome.

Many of the ledges run along both sides of the channels where the current is the strongest. So it is not uncommon to see a lobster in this area, and before you have time to make a plan to successfully harvest, you have drifted past. This can be very tiresome for adults, and virtually impossible for small children.

The shallows away from the bridges can be a good area to



The Frank Surface family



Gary Danciger and David Barton

start looking, especially if you have kids who are interested in participating. But it is important to find the good habitat lobsters look for. If you have several adults on board, it can be a good idea to pull one adult behind the boat slowly and carefully to look for ledges, rocks and holes in the bottom. This process can minimize the risk of losing valuable daylight by dropping anchor, only to find you have anchored in an area of sandy bottom with no structure.

The weather is very important and can make the difference between sweet lobster tail or steak dinner. High winds will produce larger waves and currents which will decrease water clarity, making this activity a little more difficult,

especially for kids. Overcast days will also hamper visibility. The lobsters are still there during these less-than-ideal-conditions, but it just becomes a little more of a challenge to search. Jacksonville is a full day's travel

from the Keys, so we don't have the luxury of planning this activity around the weather. Plan your vacation, and make the best of what Mother Nature gives you.

If you happen to be sitting on a dock after the sun has set while toasting to a great day on the water, you may see lights flashing around the dark horizon by other anglers.

Lobsters like to move at night, so this can be a great time to go out and look for them. They will come from their secure ledges and move along the ocean floor, which can make them easy pickin's. Nighttime harvesting is permitted in the regular season, but not the sport season. Other rules and regulations vary slightly

between the seasons so it is important to know them both.

Before you enter the water, you will need a few things with you. Make sure you are wearing gloves. These crustaceans are called 'spiny lobsters' for good reason. Use a stick designed to 'tickle' them forward and out from their hiding spot. Simply (and slowly) slide the stick behind them and carefully touch their tail. This will entice them to walk forward. Once they walk out, have a net ready to drop down over them. Then reach in with your gloved hand and grab them.

You will need your measuring device to measure the carapace in the water (it's the law). Another recommendation is to use a dive belt. The sea is more buoyant than fresh water, so it takes more energy to stay on the bottom. A dive belt with 2- to 8-pound weights (for an adult) can help you remain on the bottom while you entice the lobster from their hiding spot. Without the added weight, you may find yourself floating upward which exerts more energy and oxygen to stay down, losing precise bottom time.

This truly is a fun family activity as you can team up and search together. When you see a pair of long-feeler antennas sticking out from a ledge, you will know their location. Don't be surprised if you see multiple. Now the fun starts of planning your maneuvers. Once you have a game plan in place, it is time to execute. Share the different tasks mentioned above with your kids. Some may like to use the stick, or some may prefer the net. Either way, take your time with it and have fun.

As for your preparation, it is hard to beat a grilled Florida lobster tail. But don't be afraid to throw a few tails in a fryer! Happy exploring.

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Mitchell Donahoo

Play by the rules during sport, regular lobster seasons

The rules and regulations for the two seasons are as follows:

'Sport' Spiny Lobster Season

- July 25 – 26, 2012
- Harvesting at night is not permitted
- 6 per person per day
- Possession limit on boat: equal to daily bag limit
- Carapace 3" or larger, measured in the water
- Possession and use of a measuring device is required at all times
- All persons between the age of 16 to 65 will need a saltwater fishing license

'Regular' Spiny Lobster Season

- August 6, 2012 – March 31, 2013
- Harvesting at night is permitted
- 6 per person per day
- Possession limit on boat: equal to daily bag limit
- Carapace 3" or larger, measured in the water
- Possession and use of a measuring device is required at all times
- All persons between the age of 16 to 65 will need a saltwater fishing license

No person shall harvest or attempt to harvest spiny lobster using any device which will or could puncture, penetrate or crush the exoskeleton (shell) or the flesh of the lobster

For more information, including a list of all the rules and regulations, legal and illegal methods of harvesting, prohibited areas, etc. can all be found on the website at http://myfwc.com/media/1483464/Lobster_Brochure.pdf



SUMMER IS HERE THE SURF IS UP!

Time for a beach safari

BY JESSICA BASHAM THERRIAULT
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Not everyone has a green backyard with bushes and trees. Florida is a peninsula, with the longest coastline of all states in the continental United States. Most of Florida's nearly 19 million residents live less than 60 miles from the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, making the beach, sand and salt water their "backyards."

So let's go on a summer backyard beach safari! Begin your treasure hunt by shelling. Take a walk along the water's edge, and you'll discover hundreds of varieties of shells hurled onto the beach by waves that roll or crash onto the shore.

Seashells were once living organisms. The shell is the hard, protective outer part of an animal, usually a mollusk. Mollusks are animals like scallops, snails, clams and oysters. These creatures make their own shell. When the animal dies or gets eaten by another

creature, the empty shell stays empty or becomes a home to other sea critters like hermit crabs.

Shelling provides hours of fun while looking for that one-of-a-kind, colorful treasure. Before you keep a shell, make sure there is nothing living in it. Otherwise you need a special license to keep it.

Another activity is digging in the sand for coquinas ("Ko-KEE-nahs") and mole crabs. It's easy to spend hours getting lost in the color and movement of coquinas and the squirms of mole crabs. Coquinas are tiny clams that live just below the surface of the sand where the waves roll in. Tides carry and deposit them along the shoreline, where they feed on microscopic organisms in the sand. They are a dazzling sight with wonderful colors, like tiny jewels. Sometimes you don't need to dig because incoming waves will unearth them. Watch as they furiously dig, seeking cover and food as each wave rolls back out to sea.

Mole crabs are small and do not look like a typical crab, nor do they look like a mole. They are fast and will bury themselves quickly in an effort

to hide. To find one, dig gently in sand near the water, just as if you are looking for coquinas. As you dig, they may bury deeper into the sand but if you can get underneath one, then you can scoop it up. They may tickle you but don't worry; they do not bite. Be gentle, because they are soft and fragile. When you are finished observing the crab gently place it back into the soft, wet sand.

Bird-watching is another fun activity. Gulls live on the beach and are known to swoop in to steal your food! Pesky as they might be, they are still fun to watch. Other birds to watch at the beach are pelicans. Pelicans glide just above the water's surface, and then SPLOOSH! They dive into the water head-first to grab a fishy meal.

It's also fun to look for bird tracks in the wet sand. Can you identify the tracks you find? Do not chase the birds to make them fly. Simply watch and admire their behavior.

While on your safari, be sure to wear sunscreen so you can avoid sunburn, and have fun this summer!

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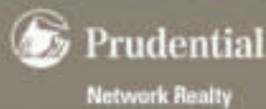
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Splash Jax Swim School is founded by two of Florida's most successful swimming coaches, Nancy Hennessy and Chris Oliver. They helped turn

the Bolles School Sharks Age Group program into a national model for success, and with more than 40 years of combined coaching experience they have taught and coached swimmers of all ages and abilities. Recently, the pair bought Spalsh Jax Swim School's facility from John Carraway to share their proven expertise with local swimmers in the community.

"We are taking our passion for swimming to a new level now," said Hennessy. "We just have such a love for teaching the community this valuable skill."

Splash Jax Swim School has classes for all levels of swimmers. A student can be six months old and just getting started, a child that wants to improve their technique, a developmentally delayed child, or an adult that wants to learn or improve their swimming. They offer "Parent and Me" classes for those from six months to 3 years old. These classes teach

the parents how to work with their children in the water, while at the same time giving the child an added level of comfort.

Hennessy and Oliver have developed an excellent program for pre schoolers and grade schoolers learning to swim. The program has been recognized for its dedication to safety and its ability to get kids to really learn how to swim. This program is unique — it teaches students how to swim with a focus on competitive strokes. This goal naturally teaches efficiency in the water, which allows a young child to learn how to swim more quickly. Further, these classes are kept small, including no more than four students to one instructor.

The lessons don't have to be just for initially learning how to swim," said Hennessy. "We focus on continuous improvement, and the lessons can really last a lifetime." The stroke school is designed for those athletes who can swim

competitive strokes and want to become better swimmers. After spending the last 20 years with three of the top USA Swimming Clubs in the country and developing many athletes that will compete in the US Olympic Trials and the Olympics, this part of Splash Jax Swim School is a natural for Hennessy and Oliver.

Hennessy and Oliver also have experience working with special needs children. The couple saw a need for professional instructors to address the specific needs of these children after having special needs children of their own.

"No matter what the skill level, swimmers of all ages can find the important skills they need to enjoy the pool at Splash Jax Swim School," Hennessy said. "With all of the water activities and opportunities there are in Northeast Florida, knowing proper swimming skills and embracing a love of water is more than just important — it's critical."



The Splash Jax Swim School is located at 1856 Davidson Street in San Marco. For full class descriptions, schedules and prices visit <http://www.splashjaxswimschool.com> or call 904-608-4775.



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Symphony sets sights, sounds on upcoming year

BY AMANDA FORD
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Jacksonville Symphony Association invited the media to attend its annual meeting in late June. Held at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, the meeting included reflections on the symphony's successes and a discussion of upcoming plans to improve operations.

Dick Pierpont, board chair, welcomed guests and introduced many speakers who discussed the changes and new performances that were implemented by the symphony during the past year. Those programs included Pirates of the Caribbean, Ballroom with a Twist and a Ben Folds concert, which drew audiences of all ages.



Scholarship winner Brandon Mosley plays an interlude on the clarinet, unaccompanied

Symphony leaders also introduced new chorus director, Donald McCullough.

A discussion of the symphony's youth programs was a meeting highlight. The youth orchestra enrolled nearly 40 more students this season than last year, according to symphony executives. Jump Start Strings, an after-school music training program, added a sixth school and expanded its enrollment to more than 100 elementary school students. Bass player Sam Casseday and clarinet player

Brandon Mosley were also announced as the winners of the Young Artists Competition. Mosley, currently attending the University of North Florida, performed a musical interlude for meeting attendees.



Board Chair, Dick Pierpont, raises the mock check presented by Guild President Pat Borowy

Several key businesses and members of the community — including Riverside residents J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver and Florida Blue — were recognized for their generous contributions to the organization during the past year. Volunteers also received special accolades as the Symphony Guild created a mock check and presented \$73,648 in “Mechetti Bucks”, the amount saved in compensation had the JSO paid an hourly rate to the volunteer staff.

Despite the gifts of time and dollars, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra projected a \$450,000 deficit

for its \$8.6 million operating budget.

Still, symphony association leadership is focused on future growth — hoping to correct the deficit with new plans. Some events on next season's drawing board include performances by world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman and jazz trumpeter Chris Botti. There also are partnerships in place with such groups as Riverside Fine Arts and Cultural Fusion. Association leaders want to partner with the symphony board, musicians, staff and the community to implement effective sustainability solutions for the orchestra.

A+ retirement celebration for West Riverside teacher

Family, friends and faculty gathered at West Riverside Elementary School last month to celebrate the retirement of Meta Parkinson.

Parkinson began as a student at West Riverside and pursued many paths before returning to her alma mater to teach for more than 10 years at the school.

The surprise retirement party fea-

tured tributes to the longtime teacher, including a presentation of farewell messages from staff and students.

In return, Parkinson saluted her fellow teachers. She highlighted the important role that they play in the lives of students, and spoke of how rewarding the job was to her.

“Every day has been a treasure,” she said.



Stewart Parkinson, Meta Parkinson, Archie Parkinson, Marian Carroll, Adrienne Carroll, Mike Carroll

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New practice gives children, caregivers tools to thrive

A new child and adolescent counseling practice has opened in our neighborhood. The Center for School Age Kids with Cognitive and Behavioral Disorders is the private practice of Dr. William L. Scott.

The practice is devoted to children and adolescents who struggle with Affective Disorders, Compulsive Overeating/Obesity, Bullying, and Attention Deficit Disorder, to name a few. Scott uses small psycho-educational groups to educate kids about their symptoms and facilitate change in their thinking and behavior. Scott believes insight does not necessarily lead to change, but in most cases helps the patient to make

better choices.

After a thorough evaluation is conducted and a diagnosis is made, the patient is moved into a small group setting. These psycho-educational groups are held at convenient times following school hours. Individual counseling also is another option for those who are better suited to a one-on-one approach. Individual sessions also may be needed for family members or caregivers to support the child.

The small groups generally consist of up to six, age appropriate members and last 12 weeks. During group process, members are encouraged to discuss current problems and the skills they have used to get past them. Members receive workbooks and are assigned weekly reading that reinforces what they see and hear in group. Group members get to see what is working and not working for their peers. Therapeutic peer pressure is used as necessary to reach and motivate the patient.

Scott believes the psycho-educational group approach is the fastest and most effective way to educate kids about their particular disorder, teach them the skills to cope with their problems, and in some cases,

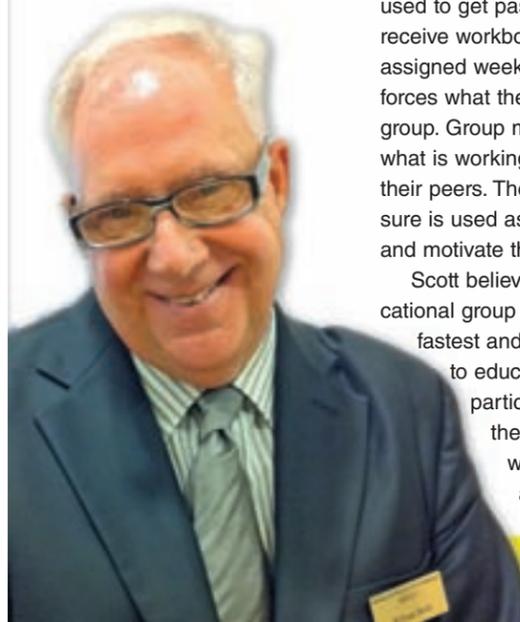
overcome their symptoms. Finally, unlike individual counseling, small groups send the curative message that the member is not alone. In group, kids have the unique opportunity to see their peers learn to cope and overcome clinical symptoms. This is "visual hope" patients do not get from individual sessions.

Statistics show what kind of mental health challenges American children face today. According to the National Institute of Mental Health: 20 percent of school age children are obese; 2 percent of children and 8 percent of adolescents will suffer depression; 8 percent of adolescents will suffer from some type of anxiety disorder (obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, social phobia, specific phobia, separation anxiety and generalized anxiety disorder); 5 percent of

children will suffer from attention deficit disorder; 75 percent of kids report being bullied at least once before the age of 18.

These problems can cause a wide variety of symptoms for the child and can dramatically affect them at school and at home. But there are solutions that can minimize the impact of these statistics. In our neighborhood, there is help just around the corner at The Center for School Age Kids with Cognitive and Behavioral Disorders. Scott had been a therapist in Florida for 25 years. He is a Certified Exceptional Student Educator, a Supreme Court Certified Family

Mediator and Qualified Parenting Coordinator, a Certified Clinical Supervisor and Nationally Board Certified in Counseling and Addictions. Over the course of his career, he has worked with families, children, adolescents and adults.



Dr. William L. Scott

The office is located in the Ortega Village Shopping in the Fred Miller Group Building, Suite 5, at 2905 Corinthian Avenue. For more information about group, individual or family counseling, call 904-465-4664.

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Entertaining in the neighborhood: *The Betty Adams singalong*

BY DIANE TILL
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you're fortunate enough to have a conversation with Betty Adams, you will almost immediately feel better about yourself. She has a way of making you feel as if she had been waiting days, months, possibly years to hear any wonderful thing you might have to say. That is how Betty Adams listens, and it is just one of the many, many reasons people love her.

On Aug. 4, Betty will celebrate her 97th birthday. But on Sun., May 20, about 80 people celebrated her at the Ortega Boulevard home of her daughter and son-in-law, Flo and Tom Rubel. It wasn't a birthday celebration, but it was a celebration of a remarkable woman's life. The event was billed as "A Sing for Betty Adams".

Betty was seated near the

piano where Flo played. People shared song books made for the occasion, and Neely Towe directed as they sang Betty's favorite hymns. Soon even the shy and those who feared an inability to carry a tune were singing in full voice.

The group was multi-generational, actually spanning four generations. There were families who had gone to elementary school with each other and their children's children who are currently going to elementary school together. There were also newer friends of Betty, who had found themselves moving joyfully in her orbit.

It wasn't all hymns though. There were also three selections from Betty's favorite musical, Annie. And that too has a story. Several of the younger parents in the group had gone to St. Marks School, and when they were in the 6th

grade, they performed the musical Annie.

Neely Towe and Peggy Bryan, then better known as the Paul sisters, grew up down the street from Flo. Their mother was housebound with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), so Flo arranged a reprise of the St. Marks performance, and the children performed for Mrs. Paul. As Flo says, "it was wonderful because the children got to experience the joy of doing something for someone else." At "The Sing for Betty Adams," the children of those children had a similar experience as they performed for Betty, singing the same songs their parents had sung long ago. The last song, Betty's favorite from Annie, was You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile. By that description, everyone at the gathering was fully dressed indeed.



Neely Towe, Peggy Bryan, Betty Adams and Flo Rubel



Betty's favorite hymns:

Lead me, Lord; In the Garden; Lift High the Cross; Amazing Grace; Holy Holy Holy; Let There Be Peace On Earth; Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee; Now Thank We All Our God; Trust and Obey; When I Survey The Wondrous Cross; And from Annie, Tomorrow; Maybe; and You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile.

Church Ladies



Name: Lillian R. Brewer

Place of worship: Avondale Baptist Church and Lake Shore Baptist Church

God-given strength: Piano and music

How her gift/ministry is shared: Brewer has played piano for Avondale Baptist Church for many years. She is also retired from the Baptist Bookstore.

Most memorable blessing/accomplishment:

She brought into the world a daughter, two grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Retired from the Baptist Bookstore, no Lifeway Christian Resources.

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The Way we Were

Malcom & Kathryn Fortson

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Malcolm Fortson took the biblical command "Love thy neighbor," literally. Growing up next door to Kathryn Register, he would often see her playing records on the family porch. Her sister, Beverly — known to everyone as Wookie — would occasionally repeat the well know biblical phrase.

As Kathryn recalls, "He was a year older than I was, but we went to the same schools — West Riverside, John Gorrie, and Robert E. Lee. Then he went away to the Naval Academy and returned home for visits. On one of the visits he asked me if I would consider becoming a Navy wife. I said yes. Then he was sent overseas and we wrote back and forth. He asked my folks for permission to marry via letter.

Before I was married, like many women, I volunteered in the war effort. Several of my friends and I were in the Red Cross Motor Corps. We went to the Naval Hospital and drove a city bus with some of the patients to Ponte Vedra. There was a cabana there and the Red Cross fixed lunch. I usually drove the bus down and someone else drove it back.

On Christmas day in 1944, I was called next door to find my present under the Fortson family tree. While Malcolm's siblings looked on, I opened a small box to find a miniature Naval Academy ring which was the engagement ring of choice at that time. Malcolm's own father had sworn him into the Navy on his 17th birth-



Malcolm Fortson, Wilson Baldwin, Dan Storm, George Gibbs Jr. and friends receive trophies after the sailing race.)

day. Malcolm's mother took me down to the courthouse to get the marriage license.

The war made the making of wedding plans complicated. We printed the initial wedding invitations without dates because we didn't know exactly when Malcolm would be home. He was in the Pacific on a destroyer. He received a Bronze Star because the ship he was on tried to assist a friendly destroyer in distress and was hit by a Kamikaze fighter plane. The citation read, "When one of the attacking planes crashed into his ship he maintained rigid control of his battery despite numerous casualties and coolly directed the control of damage." He came home right before the war ended. We were married by Reverend Cleveland on August 17, 1945 in Riverside Presbyterian Church."

Malcolm smiles when he remembers the wedding day, "There were lots of bridesmaids. Kathryn's mother, Mrs. Register (nee Anna Vail), cut the greenery from her yard. Her father, Mr. Alvin Register, provided his friends as the groomsmen because most of the young men were at war."

Malcolm's memories of growing up in Riverside and Ortega are equally vivid.

"When I lived in Riverside during

elementary school, I remember rowing out into the river with my brother and Wilson Baldwin. We would stick an oar in the mud, strip down and swim without clothes because we thought folks couldn't see us. My sister told the housekeeper what we were doing and she told our fathers. That stopped that type of swimming.

Our Boy Scout troop met at the Riverside Christian Church and we had a drum and bugle corps. I remember marching around the block making lots of noise. When we weren't marching or boating, we played Kick the Can like everyone else.

Like lots of kids we also did lots of trolley jerking and putting pennies on the trolley rails to flatten them. Some times we put small nails on the rails and the weight of the trolley turned them into great small swords.

After my family moved to Ortega, we were on the river a lot more. I think my father started the St. Johns Sailing Association which had 12 boats. There were lots of youngster in my neighborhood who boated. When we weren't on the river, we rode the trolley or the five cent bus downtown to the movies."

Kathryn remembers another trolley ride.

"Once I won a Screen-O prize at the Florida Theater. The prize was a live chicken and that was fun bringing it home on the bus. I put the bird in our family's coop.

After the wedding we were off on the great naval adventure which included being stationed in San Francisco, D.C., Corpus Christi, Norfolk, Key West, Japan and points beyond. We had three children, Malcolm, Alvin, Richard, and now they have children of their own. It is good to have returned to the familiar neighborhood. It is good to know that near my house is the road that once

led from a dock onto Ortega Island where the pirate McGirts is supposed to have hidden his treasure under a tree."

It is obvious too that the Fortsons have found their own treasure — family, friends, a fine marriage, volunteer opportunities — on Ortega Island. Once again, loving one's neighbor is advice that seems to be both timeless and true.

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GO GIVERS

BY JULIA KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Melissa Bartley

Volunteers commit to charities for a variety of reasons. In Melissa Bartley's case, it was her grandfather. Henry Solomon's rapid diagnosis and death from brain cancer led Bartley to the Northeast Florida American Cancer Society. After a difficult experience with hospice and Bartley's personal feelings of loss and grief, she found solace helping other patients, families and caregivers touched by cancer. Now, Bartley has found her calling as volunteer chair for the cancer society's Riverside Relay for Life.

"I believe that my grandfather needlessly suffered at the end of his life and it was over so quickly I struggled with what happened," Bartley said. "Through my volunteer work with the American Cancer Society and Riverside Relay for Life I have turned that pain into something positive. I know that my grandpa would be pleased."

As executive director for APEX Home Healthcare Services Bartley is already deeply involved in community and healthcare issues. During her free time, she committed to coordinate the Riverside Relay for Life as vice chair the first year and chairman for the past two years. Relays take place in several locations throughout Clay and Duval counties. Coordination and planning for the relay is a year-round responsibility requiring many hours. But Bartley said the relays are successful on many fronts. Not only are they great for the charity, but they're also a win for the neighborhoods and communities in which the relays are held.

She described the scene. Teams form and do their own fundraising for the 18-hour relay where they take turns walking the riverfront track at the Yates YMCA. Survivors attend and many participants decorate lumi-



naria bags in memory of loved ones to line the track. At exactly 9 p.m., the luminaria are lit and everyone walks in silence as each name is read aloud.

"It means so much," she said. "Student volunteers from James Weldon Johnson and Stanton help at the events and many also serve on the board. Not only are they the life of the party as the hours go by and everyone else is exhausted - they are the volunteer leaders of the future setting an example for other youth and spreading awareness."

Bartley's own two children, Brandon, 18, and Ashley, 14, also volunteer with their mother at holiday events and art fairs held at local assisted and independent living facilities.

"My kids have gotten so much out of their volunteer experiences and it is always a great time for us to be together as a family, working together for a charity or the community. We have helped Dreams Come True and also do a lot of 5K runs to help raise money for local non-profits. My kids especially enjoy those 5K events because they always beat me to the finish line!" she said.

Melissa's brother Mark Solomon, his wife Ann and their four year old daughter Savannah also live in Jacksonville. The families enjoy watching their children's activities, attending Ashley's volleyball games and Savannah's dance performances. The Bartleys also enjoy jogging (Melissa and Ashley) and running (Brandon) together in their neighborhood. Brandon is a serious Ultimate Frisbee competitor who will soon leave to begin his Navy training.

In preparation for Brandon's departure for the military, this summer will be devoted to the trio spending as much time as possible together. The Bartleys are looking forward to a week-long vacation at Disney in Orlando.

PAY IT FORWARD

Editor's note: This month, we continue a new feature at *The Resident* that we hope inspires residents to be change-makers for community good. "How can you help?" will profile a local nonprofit organization and showcase ways to support it. It is our sincerest hope that by creating awareness of local needs, we can all help generate positive solutions, funds and help for those in our community who deserve it most.

How can you help? Gabriel House of Care

Mission: Gabriel House of Care provides hope and compassionate support to cancer and organ transplant patients as well as their caregivers by providing an affordable "home away from home" while they receive life-saving medical care in the Northeast Florida area. The 28-bed, extended-stay hospital hospitality house, operated by the non-profit St. Andrew's Lighthouse, Inc. and located on the Mayo Clinic Florida campus, offers families requiring long-term medical care all the comforts and conveniences of home. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are committed to providing friendship, compassion and support to help patients and families during these difficult times.

Opportunities to help: We are always looking for volunteers willing to lend a helping hand. The following opportunities are available seven days a week, in convenient time frames to complement the needs of the House, our patient guests and volunteers' schedules:

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Sweet time for inaugural Speech and Hearing Center social

Members of the community gathered at Sweet Pete's candy store in Springfield to participate in the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center's first Young Professionals event. Attendees enjoyed an array of chocolate covered fondue treats and wine, while getting the chance to mingle and network with fellow professionals. The event also raised more than \$150 for JSHC thanks to the participants. Sweet Pete's donated a percentage of proceeds from the night's purchases to the organization.



San Marco resident Patty Heard with Director of Development of Development Melanie Messer



Avondale resident Kristina Nelson with Cherry Shaw



Kari Zerrahn and Christina Cummings with San Marco resident Patty Heard

Local kids' cancer support group launches site

A free program offered by St. Vincent's HealthCare has a new online presence that will help local kids find the support they need when a family member battles cancer.

Kids Together Against Cancer, a program offered by St. Vincent's through a grant from the Rice Family Foundation and the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, recently unveiled its new website ktacjax.com.

The site helps families start the conversation regarding their cancer journey. The website features information about the various programs, resources for families, a photo gallery and a link to the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation for donations. The site also gives families the chance to sign up for newsletters or follow the organization on Facebook.

"We are excited about the new website," said Cynthia Farah, Director of Cancer Services for St. Vincent's HealthCare. "It does a great job of explaining how KTAC helps families on their cancer journey and gives them pointers on how to start the conversation with children. It is also important for families to see others who have gone through the process and how KTAC has helped parents and children communicate their feelings about the diagnosis."

Families interested in signing up for the next workshop which starts July 10 should contact Jennifer Maggiore at 904-308-5822 or email her at info@ktacjax.com. The workshop's six sessions serve children ages 5 to 17 and their parents. Parents do not have to be a patient at St. Vincent's Healthcare for this free program. KTAC is

offered at Riverside Presbyterian Day School and starts at 5:30p.m. Dinner is served.

The program uses art therapy to help children and parents communicate their concerns about the cancer journey. Art therapists from the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens work with the group on a variety of projects during the six-week sessions. Some of the projects include development of a keepsake journal, creating a self-portrait, and making a heart out of clay. During the program, children focus on identifying coping skills to assist with their feelings of fear and anxiety. The program was developed by clinical social workers experienced with oncology and is modeled after the CLIMB program (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery).

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BIRDDOG cont. from 1

haters," but had legitimate concerns about how the project would further complicate a growing frustration with parking, traffic and safety in the Avondale neighborhood. Along with other friends and neighbors, Donahoo and Anderson began having door-to-door conversations with local residents and merchants and later convened for an initial meeting. About 40 people attended that gathering, Donahoo said.

Simon Keymer, lead consultant in the Keymer public relations, said he has not heard of the group's formation.

"Nobody from this new LLC has approached us as yet but we have been speaking to some of the folks we understand to be its organizers since before the applications were filed and have expressed our willingness to meet with them anytime and any-

where to discuss this matter," said Keymer in an email. Keymer is handling the public relations and marketing needs for Mellow Mushroom's Avondale plans. He said Mellow Mushroom officials are open to meeting with anyone about the project and plan to continue reaching out to local residents and merchants through public meetings. Keymer added most non-restaurant merchants in the Shoppes of Avondale "overwhelmingly" support what Mellow Mushroom is planning. "We have tried very hard to put two-way communication with the community at the center of what we are doing."

He indicated Mellow Mushroom organizers use a blog, www.igetmellow.com to share information about the project with anyone who is interested.

Keymer said the Avondale Mellow Mushroom site will accommodate 285

seats. The restaurant ownership initially intended to file for 250 seats, but decided to file for 220 seats following discussions with residents and RAP.

Regardless of the reduction, the capacity and scope of the restaurant's plans continue to be problematic for a retail area with limited parking options, We Love Avondale organizers explained. Describing Avondale's parking and safety concerns as "beyond the tipping point," Anderson said residents and merchants have united with a common voice during recent We Love Avondale meetings.

Several subsequent meetings of We Love Avondale have drawn crowds of equal size, but each composed of different residents, Anderson said. Banning together has created a new sense of community and friendship that both say has been refreshing.

But there is more than camaraderie

at stake. In addition to watching and communicating Mellow Mushroom's plans, the group also seeks to address the neighborhood's big picture and long term issues. Following the initial neighborhood meeting, Donahoo and Anderson met with District 14 City Councilman Jim Love and encouraged him to write a May letter to Planning Director Calvin Burney asking for a six-month moratorium on new development that required zoning deviations in several key commercial areas.

The group hopes to encourage and potentially sponsor planning studies that might reveal solutions for the neighborhood's parking, traffic and safety issues.

"We have put our lives into Avondale and we want it to succeed and continue to be one of the best neighborhoods in Jacksonville," Anderson said. "It's a tightrope — we have to have the right balance."

LOVE cont. from 1

agrees that there should be discussions, but questions the wisdom of a moratorium.

"Councilman Love is doing his job as a legislator by echoing the voices of his constituents and addressing their issues," Rubin said. "But a moratorium could have serious consequences, particularly in these economic times. Before any moratorium is put into effect, I would hope there

would be in depth public discussion about its impact."

According to his letter, Love sees the moratorium as a way to provide time for a study "to identify the best ways to address and mitigate issues related to public safety, parking, traffic and the appropriate scale and mix of commercial development." The letter, however, is not enforceable by law. "It was meant to be a 'gentleman's agreement' between builders and me," Love noted.

Burney verified that his office could not enforce a moratorium unless Love chose to pursue it as a city ordinance. As for the suggested study, Burney said that he would first have to know the study's scope of services before he could speculate on the city's involvement.

"The planning department is willing to assist in every way possible, but a framework for the study has to be worked out by all parties," Burney said. "Funding will be a concern."

"A more immediate concern for some stakeholders is Ordinance 2012-339, which would amend the Riverside/Avondale Overlay to require all nightclubs and bars, regardless of size, and restaurants larger than 100 seats and 2,500 square feet to provide 50 percent of the standard Zoning Code parking requirement. The Overlay currently requires 50 percent parking for non-contributing structures but allows for zero parking for historically contributing structures that are not expanded. Ordinance 2012-339 would also require developers to bring street parking landscaping up to compliance.

The originally filed ordinance did not have a size stipulation, but Love felt it was unfair to smaller restaurants. He met with Riverside Avondale Preservation Board Chairman Jonathan Oliff, General Council Dylan Reingold and the planning department's Sean Kelly to arrive at the 100-seat/2,500 square foot limit.

This did not go over well with residents at the June 19 Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting. Although there were 25 people in favor of the ordinance and only one in opposition, several speakers expressed that even 100 seats was too many and that all restaurants, regardless of size, should contribute 50 percent parking.

Love said the impetus for the ordinance came from three recent cases that some feel have created a tipping point in terms of parking and/or scale: Mojo4 and Mellow Mushroom in the Shoppes of Avondale and Goozlepipe & Gutyworks at King and Park streets. Mellow Mushroom

and Goozlepipe & Gutyworks are in development and each is projected to have a capacity of about 250; neither would be impacted by the ordinance (or moratorium). Mellow Mushroom is still working through the application process and Goozlepipe has secured a lot to meet its parking requirements.

Mojo4 co-owner Todd Ward said that if the ordinance had been in place in April 2011 when he opened his 160-seat restaurant he would have had to carefully weigh all options.

"We love the area and definitely would have tried to make it work, but where would we have come up with parking?" Ward asked. "That's the problem: the more pressure to find parking options without any real solutions, the less people will want to open businesses in the area."

Some merchants in the area have mixed feelings.

"I don't want to stop business growth, but the parking issues have to be addressed," said Dianne Garcia, co-owner of J. Ashley Boutique and president of the Shoppes of Avondale Merchants Association. "We need to find a balance."

About 20 residents and business owners who spoke in support of Love's ordinance at a recent city council meeting echoed the call for "balance."

Karin Tucker and Barbara Bredehoeft, co-owners of Biscottis Restaurant in Avondale for the past 19 years, were among them.

"The businesses need to reflect the diverse needs of the neighborhood through mixed usage," said Tucker, who resides in Avondale. "We also need to consider the quality of life of the residents. Unbridled free market can put things out of balance. We need to think about the scale of the area and work within that."

For Jim Love, it is a matter of slowing things down long enough to get a good plan in place.

"The great thing about this process is that everyone has a chance to voice their opinion, then, in the end, we hopefully come out with something great," Love said.

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The New Green

Sustainable renovations and urban agriculture news

Dances with rainwater

BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Big time rainwater recycling for Tom Merten began about three years ago when he came home to find that his wife, Ila Rae, had bookmarked a number of water collection systems on their computer.

"I clicked on them and said, 'I think I have a project to do,'" laughed Tom, who along with Ila Rae has run the eco-friendly Jenks House Bed and Breakfast in Riverside for seven years.

Several months, \$800 and much intensive labor (by Tom) later, the Mertens had a 1,100-gallon above ground rainwater storage system that no doubt helped them win the 2011 St. Johns Riverkeeper/Riverside Avondale Preservation River Friendly Yard Award.

"It was a lot of work, but we get really excited whenever it rains. We sometimes go out and watch the water level rise in the cisterns," said Tom, who designed the system himself using four, 275 gallon storage tanks and a lot of pvc

pipe.

Rainwater is caught off of the roof of the house and transported into the tanks in the garage about 30 yards away via a strategic network of gutters, piping and filtration systems. Water is accessed via a pressurized pump or simply through gravity and is not attached to any irrigation system.

Tom estimates that about two inches of rainfall fills the 1,100-gallon tank and said they rarely run out of water, saving them 1,200 to 1,400 gallons a year. He figures it will take three to five years to regain their investment.

The system is separate from the city's water source and they do not use it for any domestic purposes. The main use is to water their garden and yard.

"I'm actually uncomfortable using city water to water the garden any more because of the environmental commitment," Ila Rae said.

Be that as it may, the Mertens are quick to point out that in reality, two engineered, low flow showerheads costing \$8-10 will save as much water in a year as their 1,100 gallon system.

"I'm glad that we put in the system because it does make some difference, but

there are better ways to conserve water," said Tom, also noting that if he had to do it again, he might opt for an underground cistern system that he feels would be easier to install and manage (though not necessarily cheaper).

If you are looking for a less expensive and labor-intensive way to recycle rainwater, then water barrels are the answer. They range from about \$23 for those that you put together to over \$100 for some store bought models and normally hold about 55 gallons.

Riverside resident Sally Robson obtained her first barrel from the St. John's Riverkeeper four years ago and has since added another.

"I use the water to water my plants," said Robson, whose yard is populated with native plants that do not require much watering. She put her second barrel to use in a low spot in her back yard that had previously flooded.

"It took care of that spot, which is something that many people don't think to use them for," Robson noted.

Regardless of whether you go big, like the Mertens or keep your rainwater recycling modest through the use of rain barrels, every little bit can make a difference.

"You don't really have to do anything extraordinary," Robson said. "Things like cutting down on shower time or using native plants can have an affect. Everybody just needs to focus on one little niche at a time. One mosquito doesn't bother much, but a whole swarm will get the job done!"

Your comments and suggestions for future columns are encouraged. Contact Steve DiMattia at steve@residentnews.net.

For a more technical description of the Merten's system, check out their blog, from which I stole the title for this New Green segment: <http://thejenkshouse.wordpress.com/>

To see a video of the Merten's system go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlpbSm0nsMo&feature=plcp>

For information about water barrels visit the St. Johns Riverkeeper, visit: www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/river-friendly/rain-barrel-project/

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In the GARDEN




St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool growing green

BY VICTORIA FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Kay Hazelhurst, director of St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool, believes in seed crop protection. In this case, however, the seed crop is not wheat, barley or rice—it's the connection of youthful human beings to the earth that supports them.

"So many little ones — the two and three year olds — don't understand that all food comes from the earth," said Hazelhurst. "They've seen videos, but not the real thing."

To make certain her students experience the real thing, Hazelhurst has organized a number of garden projects: planting sunflowers, learning about composting, sprouting basil and creating a box garden.

"The sunflower border, which is on the St. Johns Avenue side of the school's playground, is our gift to the community," Hazelhurst explained. "Each child plants a sunflower and waters it. We discuss how important water is, where it comes from and how we must use it carefully. I am a firm believer in the old saying, 'right plant, right place,' and the sunflowers do well in that particular spot. Plants on the west side of the playground are chosen for their drought tolerance.

Having lived in the Keys where all water is piped in, I am very conscious of water usage. The children now know that water is important. We talk about that. They water carefully when their box garden is in pro-

duction. Our three new fence boxes will also have low water requirements."

While gardening is always a part of the curriculum at St. Johns, June 4 to June 8 is set aside for special week called Growing Green.

A new child-sized cedar box garden has arrived for class planting. Hazelhurst has filled 100 cups with potting soil and punched a drainage hole in each cup's bottom. Basil is planted in the cups.

Lifting one of them, she reflected, "Gardening teaches deferred gratification which is crucial for all kinds of success, but the basil seed sprouts quickly, and I want each child to have some immediate success too. We will also root begonias and coleus. They root and grow quickly.

The students are young, but they are smart. When Patrick Lynch, one of the fathers, gave the composting lesson, some of the students' questions were excellent. Now they can put snack time leftovers in our compost bin and watch the items transform into gardeners' gold."

Hazelhurst is keen on the idea of transformation. She helped transform the inner courtyard of the church from a sun seared space into a leafy bower suitable for prayer and meditation. She encourages her students to plant and weed in the courtyard under her careful supervision.

"It is important for us to touch the earth," she said in total agreement with Harvard professor E.O.Wilson. "It is also important for the students to start young and develop pride of ownership—very, very important indeed."

Kids get head start on nutrition



Early Head Start parents, teachers, children and other volunteers gathered at Episcopal Children's Services' new Early Learning Center to begin planting an organic garden in June.

Children will be able to help plant, water and harvest the yield. Families will also be able to take home the food that is grown in the garden.

According to ECS CEO Connie Stophel, the project will help students both in and out of the classroom.

"The goal of the garden project is to promote healthy eating habits among our children and use the garden as a teaching tool to supplement classroom activities," said Stophel.

The garden is made possible through a \$10,000 grant from the Healthy Jacksonville Childhood Obesity Coalition and in-kind support from the neighboring Coca-Cola bottling plant. Grant dollars will be used to fund the construction of garden beds and will support operation of the garden into 2013.



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Yacht Club youth netters honored during banquet



The club's junior players have made FYC one of Northeast Florida's top learning programs and proving ground for young players

The Florida Yacht Club's annual Junior Tennis Awards Banquet was held in the club's ballroom last month.

Tennis Director Louis Ballantyne welcomed the players and their parents who have made FYC one of Northeast Florida's top learning programs and proving grounds for young players.

"We are very proud of our program and the kids who have gone on to have great junior, adult and college careers," said Ballantyne.

Awards were presented by Danny Colon, Casey Kelley and Susan Kirby.

In the Grand Prix beginner and intermediate groups, Lillian Bodin and Reed Hanigan were recognized as the Most Dedicated Players. Meagan

Donovan and Grady Gillam as Most Improved and Isabelle Blanton was named Zone Team Winner.

In the Junior Training more advanced group, Ashton Hanigan and Andrew Culver were awarded Most Dedicated. Elise Ballantyne, Ross Clements and Cade Glasgow were named Most Improved, while Lilly Whitner and Davey Crouch were Zone Team Winners.

Senior Awards went to John Kirby, Butler Braren, Paul Cuffe and Katherine Jones. Deb Taylor was spotlighted as Parent of the Year.

Junior tennis camps began on June 5 and run through the second week of August.

Avondale resident named USTA Florida tennis volunteer of the month



The U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) Florida named Avondale's Charlie Parker as the May 2012 Volunteer of the Month for the state of Florida, for his service to elementary school and public parks tennis youth. He is volunteer director of 10 and Under Tennis at Boone Park

BY MICHAEL BONTS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Charlie Parker's memories of junior tennis include father-son events, trips with other kids to weekend tournaments, and group tennis drills and games that ended with exhausted smiles and laughter.

Now with a son and daughter, the elementary school physical education teacher is introducing his own children to the game through 10 and Under Tennis as volunteer director of 10 and Under Tennis at Boone Park. His affection for the sport has not gone unnoticed. The U.S. Tennis Association Florida recently named Parker the May 2012 Volunteer of the Month for the state of Florida for his service to elementary school and public parks tennis youth.

"It's particularly rewarding to volunteer in the 10 and Under Tennis program," Parker said, "because the majority of the young players have little to no prior tennis involvement. The real progress they often make in a short period can be exciting to experience. I specifically enjoy volunteering in 10 and Under Tennis because I agree strongly with the philosophy of making learning 'fun' to keep more children interested in the game so many of us love."

The Avondale resident is experienced in tennis and development through his physical education background and has knowledge of small-child development. Parker's former junior competitive playing history

also is a complement to his expertise.

"I remember watching my dad play tennis on the red clay public courts at Bayview in Pensacola and wanting desperately to play," Parker said. "Now I hear the joyful anticipation from my children as they ask once again if it is tennis day yet."

At Boone Park, Parker assists programs run by the Jax Youth Tennis Association, which partners with the City of Jacksonville for 10 and Under Tennis and USTA Jr. Team Tennis leagues. Celia Rehm founded the JYTA and recruited Parker when the program started.

"Charlie has contributed in so many ways as a volunteer to our 10 and Under Tennis program at Boone Park since the onset of the program in 2010," Rehm said. "His service to our organization, to JaxParks, and his commitment to the 10 and Under Tennis program at Boone Park has been outstanding. We have run the program for three seasons, and each season he has generously given of his time and skill as the lead instructor for the 8-and-under groups coming out twice a week for seven weeks each season. The children love him, and I have received nothing but praise from parents and the Boone staff on the job that he does."

Parker also has secured 10 and Under Tennis school equipment through USTA Florida grants, including child-sized racquets, lower-bouncing balls and smaller nets and court sizes, for use in his elementary classes.



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This place we call HOME

BY GIL POMAR IV
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As a special addition to the July editorial lineup, The Resident shares a special feature called "This Place We Call Home." Written by Ortega native and University of Florida student, Gil Pomar IV, this story highlights some of the summer activities, interests and perspectives of neighborhood students back in town for the holiday.

Pomar is a summer intern at The Resident Community News. A graduate of Riverside Presbyterian Day School and The Bolles School, Pomar has been trying his hand at writing, distribution and other newspaper responsibilities during his summer vacation.



James Griffin III

- Ortega Farms resident
- Graduate of Riverside Presbyterian Day School, University Christian School
- Currently studying business at UNF

Jamie Griffin is a happy and hardworking 21-year-old whose life is lining up to be a hole-in-one. When he is not taking business classes at UNF during the school year, Griffin works fulltime for his family's business, Weather Engineers — an air conditioning/heating/and refrigeration company in operation under the Griffin name since 1963. During the summer, Griffin works five days a week, Monday thru Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. as an A/C technician. Recently promoted to the role, Griffin now has his own truck and travels to local residences and businesses to fix problems or service systems. During the summer, Griffin also has time for fun. On off hours, he enjoys being with friends on the boat and fishing around the Ortega area. Cooking is another specialty — Griffin's favorite meal to prepare is steak, baked potatoes and steamed vegetables. A member of Timuquana Country Club, Griffin can be found on the course. His lower round of golf recorded? An astonishing 76!



Caroline Ruffin

- Ortega resident
- Graduate of Ortega Elementary School, Baylor School in Chattanooga, TN
- Currently studying retail merchandising and product development at Florida State University

Caroline Ruffin has many plans for the summer that are keeping her busy — and focused on a future in retail merchandising. While she enjoys visiting family and friends in Jacksonville periodically, most of her work and study are concentrated in Tallahassee. She is taking one class at Florida State University and also is working at a Tallahassee law firm. Her career aspirations are to be a buyer for men's clothing stores.

Ruffin said she gets home "whenever she can" to visit some of her favorite local destinations. While in Jacksonville, Ruffin enjoys going to the Timuquana Country Club golf range with friends, hanging out on the boar and going to the beach. Her favorite local place to eat dinner is The Brick, although she enjoys grabbing a snack at Zoe's Kitchen in Riverside.



Crocket Farnell

- Ortega resident
- Graduate of John Stockton Elementary School and Paxon School for Advanced Studies
- Currently studying international affairs and political science at Florida State University

Farnell is currently taking Spanish classes at FSU for the summer semester, but he also works at the On the Rocks catering company each weekend in Tallahassee. In his work, Farnell helps with everything from bar tending to doing dishes.

An international affairs and political science major, Farnell hopes to explore the world and work as an international business consultant.

Unfortunately, his busy summer itinerary means he won't be in Jacksonville much this season. But he has fond memories of his youth in Ortega, where he grew up playing baseball at Navy Ortega Lakeshore. When he can squeeze in a visit, Farnell enjoys visiting The Fox in Avondale and the St. Johns River for a little fishing and boating.



Katie Sawyer

- Ortega resident
- Graduate of Hyde Park Elementary School and Baldwin High School
- Enrolled at FSCJ this summer

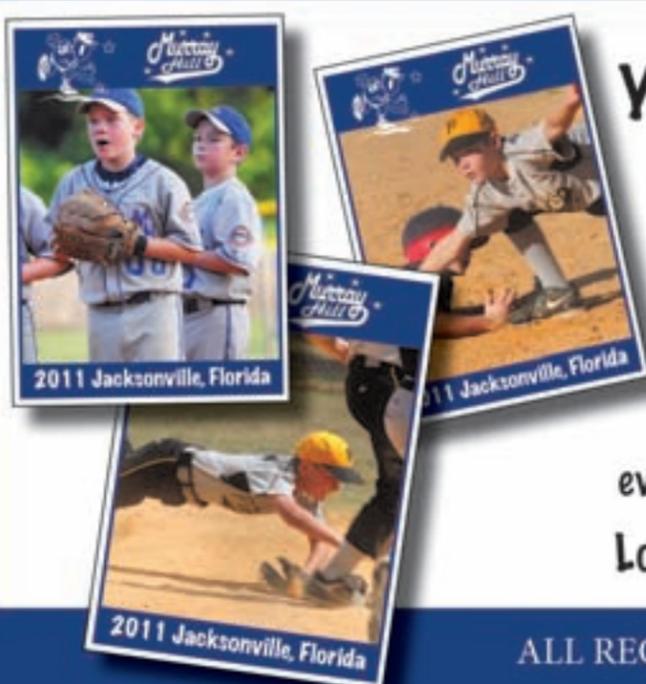
Sawyer sat down to share some of her plans for a summer back in the neighborhood. After attending Sante Fe Community College for a year, Sawyer is enrolled at FSCJ this summer and hopes to transfer to the University of Florida. Several days of each week, Sawyer is enrolled in classes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. She is studying to become a physical therapist. Sawyer also is cheering and stunting with a group of girls at 1st Class Athletics to form a cheering squad for the Jacksonville Sharks. To replenish her energy, Sawyer enjoys eating at the Loop in Ortega.



Allison Cheek

- Ortega resident
- Graduate of RPDS, Paxon School for Advance Studies
- Studying history, political science at the University of North Carolina

Cheek is back in Jacksonville after her first year at UNC where she is studying political science and history. She hopes to attend law school after her undergraduate education, preferably at the University of Florida or Florida State University. While she said she wants to enjoy a "stress-free" summer, Cheek is still keeping busy during her visit home. She is babysitting three days a week for six hours each day and stays active by running and practicing yoga. A former Village Dance Center student, Cheek also enjoys returning to worship at Ortega United Methodist Church.



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Jr. Residents

The sun has come out! Local actress takes school lead in "Annie"

Students help stop spread of malaria



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Sunday School students learned an important life lesson recently: you are never too young, or far away, to make a difference in the world. The children, all Godly Play students between the age of three and eight, learned about how malaria is spread by mosquitoes in Africa. They were determined to help, making the issue a focus of their Lenten discipline this spring. The students made boxes from recycled milk cartons and began collecting coins — some children performed extra chores

around the house while others reached out to friends and neighbors for help filling their boxes. Their fundraising initiative netted \$550 and will have far reaching effects in Africa. Recently, the children presented a check to Episcopal Relief and Development's Nets for Life Inspiration Fund, a project providing mosquito bed nets and education to those in need in sub-Saharan Africa. Through a matching grant from an anonymous donor, the children's efforts resulted in 92 nets to help stop the spread of malaria.



Fishweir Elementary School student, Jetti Godwin, scored one of the biggest roles of her acting career last month when she was asked to play Annie in the school's end-of-the-year production.

Godwin, a starlet in the making who began working on her lines in early January, said she was nervous when she came on stage. But she pressed on with

encouragement from friends and family in the audience. This summer, Godwin is taking her talents on the road — learning new performance skills at such venues as the University of North Florida's Camp Broadway.

Godwin shared a little bit about her neighborhood stage debut with *The Resident*:

What do you admire about Annie, the character? I admire that she is expressive who she really is and that she is so positive and strong even though she is an orphan. She has such a big heart.

How did you bring her to life on stage for your classmates? I just closed my eyes and imagined something good and then I went on stage and when I saw my family in the audience I pretended I was performing for my family like I usually do at home. From the start of the play I tried to act really tough and courageous.

What is your stage experience, and will we be seeing you in any lead roles again soon?

Well I was in the *Jungle Book*, *Dr. Seuss and High School Musical II* at the JCA. I had a small role in *The Wizard of Oz* last year at Fishweir but this was my first lead. I've also performed singing at the Riverside Arts Market, the Jacksonville Arts Festival and Christmas in Avondale. Maybe you'll see me on Broadway one day that is what people have been telling me.

What does it feel like to be up there in front of all your friends and family?

It feels kind of awkward and a little scary but it's really hard to describe how great it felt too.

What did your experience teach you?

To never give up and always keep going and follow your dreams no matter what.

Alumni return for reunion party

Graduates from the St. Mark's Episcopal Day School's Class of 2006 returned to their Ortega alma mater for a reunion party.

The gathering commemorated the students' recent graduation from high school.

Held in the school's new Lori Schiavone Commons, the reunion gathered former teachers and students — many council leaders and team



captains at their respective high schools. It marked the first time many students had been back to the campus in many years. Some had difficulty recognizing their old campus with all of the recently completed physical improvements.

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Rotary Club salutes seniors

The Rotary Club of West Jacksonville presented scholarships to graduating seniors from seven Jacksonville schools during the club's annual Youth Awards. After consulting with the schools' guidance counselors and teachers, club leadership determined winners and distributed awards to the top students in math, science and the arts.

Students honored included Hunter Lampp, Robert E. Lee High School, math; Marvin Williams, Robert E. Lee High School, science; and Samantha Campos, Robert E. Lee High School, arts; Arthur McCloskey, Jr., Bishop John J. Snyder High School, arts.



High School, math; Elaine Del Rosario, Bishop John J. Snyder High School, science; and Wes Riley, Bishop John J. Snyder High School, arts.



Above: Marvin Williams with Marshall M. Butler and parents
Left: President of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville Marshall M. Butler with Hunter Lampp and parents Dianne and Gene



Samantha Campos with mother Theresa and Education Outreach Chair Randy Thornton

Attorneys help Lee students learn real-life driving lessons



More than 200 teenage students at Robert E. Lee High School in Riverside received some real-life lessons about the dangers of distracted driving from local attorneys Wayne Hogan and Leslie A. Goller of the Terrell Hogan Law Firm.

The school presentation was part of the firm's End Distracted Driving Student Awareness Initiative.

"Our goal isn't to tell kids what to do, but to give them the facts, to show them the faces of distracted driving and its tragic consequences, so that it sinks in and they can make smarter choices to be safer on the road," Hogan said.

As part of the presentation, teens watched a video of a girl whose sister died after responding to her text. Her truck hit a median, flipped over and she died. Students also heard a remorseful teenage boy talk about how he responded to a text with the phrase "lol", didn't

see a bicyclist and killed him. That one, unnecessary text ruined the boy's life and stole someone else's.

The teens also discussed the potential consequences of killing someone by driving distracted including: living with the burden of taking a life, the ripple effect it has on the people in the victim's life, losing their driver's license and putting their parent's financial security at risk if they're held liable for the crash.

"We all know not to drink and drive — talking on your cell phone carries the same risk as drunk driving: both increase your crash risk four times and texting increases it 23 times," Hogan said.

Hogan predicted to the students that it won't be long before prosecutors will bring manslaughter charges when texting while driving causes a death. While Florida is one of a handful of states that does not ban handheld cell phone usage or texting while driving, safety advocates recommend drivers not wait on legislation to make good decisions.

"Our goal in doing this is to encourage kids to look out for themselves and others, making the roads safer for everyone," Goller said.

The End Distracted Driving Student Awareness Initiative is an educational program created by the Casey Feldman Foundation to honor her legacy after she was killed by a distracted driver. The program has reached more than 35,000 students nationwide this year.

Hanigan wins poster contest



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School third grader, Reed Hanigan, won the Florida state level for third grade in The National Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

Carol Waters and Debbie Byrd, both of The Garden Club of Jacksonville, presented Hanigan with certificates from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Jacksonville in front of his classmates in late May.

Hanigan also received a check for \$20

from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

"We are so proud of him and happy that we could be a part of the excitement of him winning The Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest for the State of Florida" said Byrd said.

Inspired by his grandmother to enter the contest, Reed's poster promotes the Woodsy Owl slogan of "Lend a Hand - Care for the Land," and features the character sitting on an old tree branch.

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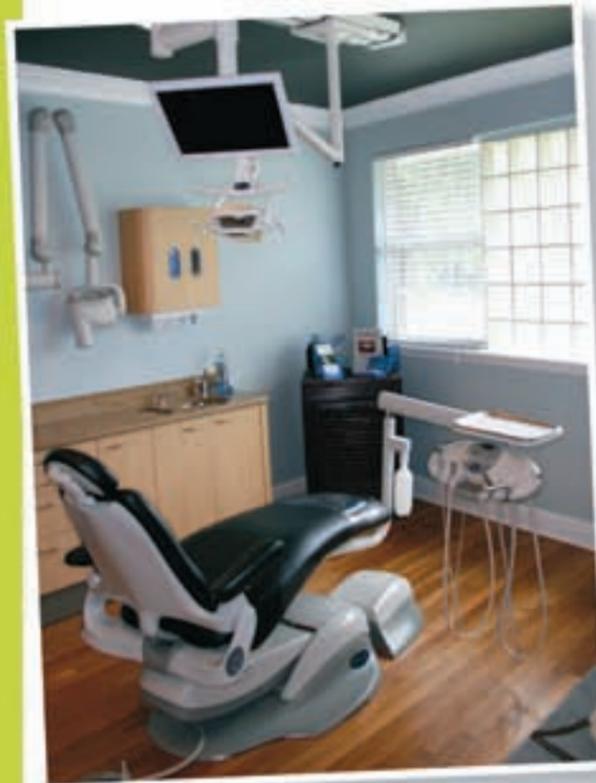
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