

Either oar: City studies kayak options

*Lake Marco being
considered as launch site*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The city continues to weigh its options for a kayak launch in the San Marco/San Jose area. The most recent idea to surface designating a site at Lake Marco, where kayakers and boaters could enter in still waters and

See OAR on page 3



Nice night for a drive

Epping Forest Yacht Club hosted a special monthly member happy hour last month. July's "Friday Nighter" was hosted with Bill Warner and the Concours d'Elegance. Members of all ages came out to enjoy the club's waterfront setting and the beautiful cars showcased on the grounds.

Roundabouts, safety spur talk of Square redesign

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As the last phases of the San Marco Boulevard road project take shape, District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer, San Marco Preservation Society and the San Marco Merchants Association representatives have been investigating how long term improvements to square traffic can be implemented while streetscape construction is still underway.

Doug Skiles, an engineer with Envision Design & Engineering and immediate past-president of SMPS, and Boyer met with city Public

Works Director Jim Robinson last month to discuss several ideas relating to traffic problems in the square — and how they could be curtailed.

The first issue was how to prevent traffic backing up in the southbound lanes of San Marco Boulevard from the traffic signal in the square to beyond the new Naldo roundabout — slated to be installed in late 2012 or early 2013 at the northernmost edge of the square. The second issue concerned pedestrian safety and the number of lanes going through the square (two lanes in all directions) compared to the number of lanes entering

and exiting the square (one lane in all directions), according to Skiles.

"Even though the second lane is supposed to be for cars backing out of angled spaces, we have noticed that many drivers use this lane for passing," Skiles explained. "These same individuals also do not seem to be aware of the state law that mandates stopping for pedestrians in marked crosswalks."

The groups presented several solutions to these issues during the meeting with Robinson last month. Skiles explained how several proposed plans

See REDESIGN on page 14

Community to launch San Marco by Design

The Duval County Health Department and the Health Planning Council NE Florida are hosting a community presentation to officially release the details of the San Marco by Design (SMBD) project. With the help of the community, the project will work to shape the future looks of the neighborhoods.

Keynote speaker Dan Burden, executive director the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, and students participating in the Safe Routes to School program will be in attendance.

The celebration is scheduled to take place Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Southside Baptist Church.

District 3 school board candidate files suit

*Smith-Juarez, Cordek
petitions at question*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

District 3 School Board candidate Jack Daniels has filed a lawsuit against Jerry Holland, supervisor of elections for Duval County, alleging signatures on the petitions of fellow candidates Ashley Smith-Juarez and Andrew Cordek were not properly verified.

When reached by phone in mid-July, Holland said the city filed a motion to dismiss the case on July 12. He did not know whether a hearing date had been set. When asked if

such lawsuits were common, he said it was "not a frequent thing." But part of Daniel's lawsuit was about petitions relative to redistricting, which only occurs every 10 years.

In an emergency complaint and amendment filed last month, Daniels alleged Holland "failed to perform his ministerial duty to duly check the petition signatures submitted for Ashley Juarez and Andrew Cordek and to verify their status as electors of both Duval County and district 3. Instead, performing his duty as prescribed for a year of re-apportionment, defendant checked them to verify their status as electors of only Duval County."

See CANDIDATE on page 14

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Look who's reading!

(Editor's note: This summer, the staff of MAC Hair Studio in San Marco hosted a group of young Afghan girls for a day of beauty at the salon. The girls were part of a group visiting Jacksonville through Solace for the Children of Jacksonville, which helped them get much needed health and dental care. The trip to a beauty salon was a first for many of the young girls. This was the third summer MAC has opened the salon for the children. The San Marco Resident shared two photos from this year's visit in the July issue.)

In advertising, you never know who's going to read your latest news. It just so happens that this time, Mayor Alvin Brown decided to respond to our San Marco Resident page.

We'd like to offer thanks to our diligent staff, Tiffney Williams, Courtney Hodges, Jenna Morgan, Casey Himes and Mindy Samaroo for taking the time to give back! We can't wait until next year.

— Margaret Misenar, Owner
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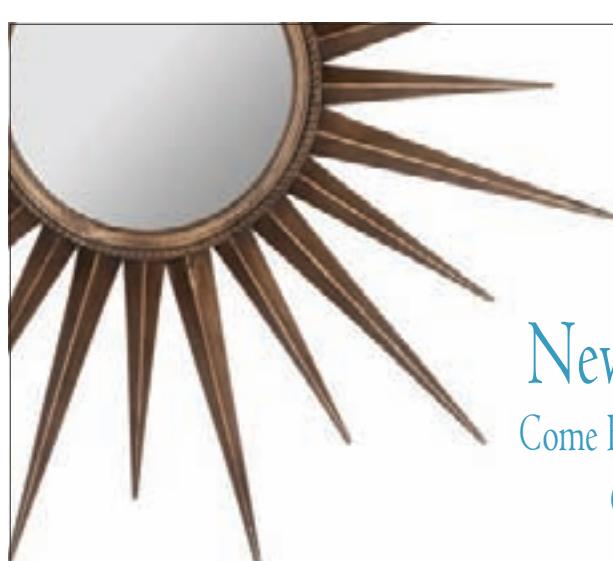
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Neighborhood survey targets area communities to rid streets of visual pollution

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A dead tree. A rusted fire hydrant. A cracked sidewalk. Graffiti on a road sign.

You may travel areas like Riverside/Avondale and San Marco daily and not necessarily notice these signs of degradation among all of the otherwise historic beauty of the neighborhood – “we get used to ugly,” the saying goes.

But for 70 City Beautiful Jax and Riverside Avondale Preservation volunteers who came out recently to conduct a Neighborhood Inventory of Visual Pollution survey, they were hard to miss. So too will be the visual blight in San Marco if a local group continues to expand its mission.

“It’s amazing how much you see when you’re in tuned

“It’s a lot more work than I thought it was going to be, but it’s well worth the effort”

Sally Robson

11-year Riverside resident, and chair of RAP’s Green Team

to it and you actually get out of your car and walk an area,” said Bill Brinton, the president of City Beautiful Jax and a long time beautification advocate.

The volunteers gathered at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Riverside early in the morning to get their marching orders. Then, armed with only a clipboard, a pencil, a survey, a

map of the targeted survey area and a camera, they enthusiastically set out in groups of two, three or four to cover the three-mile neighborhood – divided into eight areas, each with six zones – determined to identify and record every manifestation of blight in public spaces.

They diligently filled out one survey sheet for each offense, marking the location and nature, and snapping a photo with a digital camera provided by City Beautiful Jax.

“It’s a lot more work than I thought it was going to be, but it’s well worth the effort,” said Sally Robson, an 11-year Riverside resident, chair of RAP’s Green Team and an area leader in charge of organizing other volunteers. “I did it because I care about Riverside/Avondale. This is my community and where I

choose to live. I’ve lived in another neighborhood that went down hill and it was very sad. I’m willing to do whatever it takes to keep Riverside/Avondale looking great.”

That matches the goal of City Beautiful Jax, which has been conducting NIVP surveys for about 15 years, then under its original name, JaxPride. The organization collates the data and then passes it on to the proper agency.

That might mean sending a list of defaced U.S. Mail Boxes to the U.S. Postal Service, a list of defaced city traffic signs to the City of Jacksonville’s Traffic Engineering Department or a list of defaced state traffic signs or utility boxes to the Florida Department of Transportation.

“We have a long history of doing this and have good results in getting responses from the appropriate agen-

cies,” Brinton said. “It’s hard for one person to get things done, but a group can really make a difference.”

A difference was made in Springfield in June with a survey that identified 600 items. Surveys covering San Marco, Downtown, Arlington and Mandarin are planned in coming months. City Beautiful Jax also plans to put a guide online so that any group can organize an NIVP survey. They are also ramping up an NIVP Junior Program for elementary and middle/high school students.

“Our volunteers range in age, background and ethnic group,” Brinton said. “That’s the great thing about this: Anyone can get involved and help to keep their neighborhood beautiful.”

City Beautiful Jax website: <http://citybeautifuljax.org/>

OAR, continued from 1

paddle out to the St. Johns via the small channel under River Road.

“There has been more discussion, ideas are still being studied,” said Dave Roman, senior policy advisory to Mayor Alvin Brown who has been working on the initiative. “There are a number of sites we’re looking at in the San Marco — San Jose and San Marco are areas where we need water access.”

Other San Marco sites up for consideration are River Oaks Park and Brookwood Road.

Plans for a launch at River Oaks Road raised community concern last spring when city park officials shared plans during a public meeting at Alfred I. duPont Middle School hosted by District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer. Some residents were trou-

bled over the creation of street side parking and how heightened activity at the park might affect an already tricky intersection at River and River Oaks roads. Developing plans for a launch site on Brookwood Road might alleviate those concerns, but no formal plans are in place.

The Lake Marco idea could share similar parking concerns, Roman said, but would be a calm launch for area kayakers. “The lake, if that was possible, would be nice because it’s calm waters and you could paddle out to that channel,” Roman said. “But nothing’s been decided.”

Doug Skiles, immediate past-president of the San Marco Preservation Society, said Roman had brought up the Lake Marco idea in earlier discussions. He said the city plans to present its ideas at the group’s August board

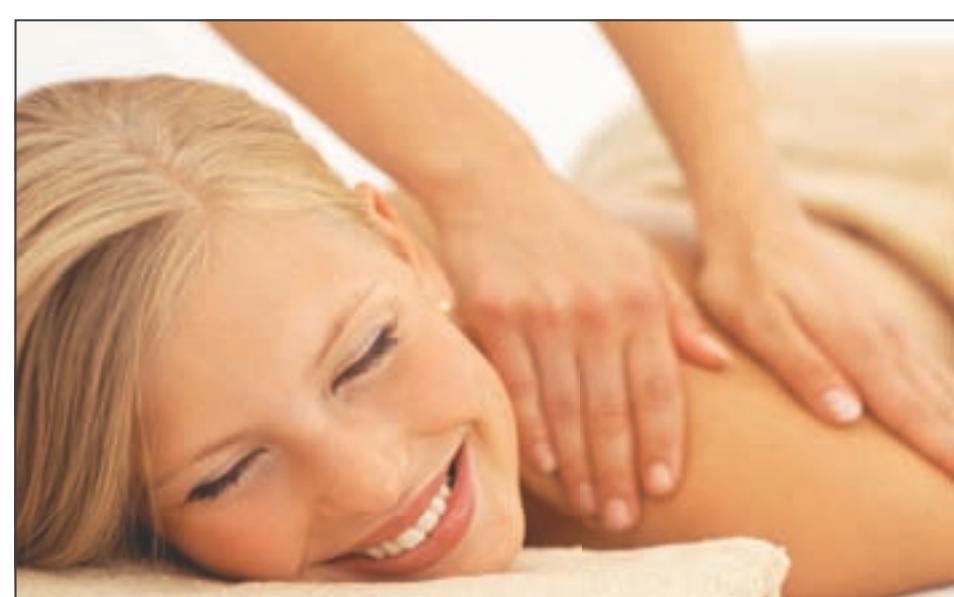
meeting. He said SMPS could not give a comment about the idea yet because the group has not yet voted, nor has it seen the city’s proposal for Lake Marco.

Skiles did say he spoke with Chris Hand, the mayor’s chief of staff, and Hand assured him “there would be a community meeting before doing anything.”

Roman underscored the city is only

looking for sites that would require minimal improvements such as signage, landscaping or clearing access — all low cost enhancements. The kayaks are part of a widespread mayoral initiative to increase water and park access across the city.

“We’re going to try and meet with the San Marco Preservation group and there will be some other public meetings after that,” Roman said.



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Sidewalk proposed for Arbor Lane

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Through a Safe Routes to School program, the state Department of Transportation seeks to install a sidewalk on Arbor Lane that could provide more secure neighborhood passage for children heading back to school this fall.

But lack of community outreach has some local residents calling for a curb to the plans.

"There wasn't any outreach conducted with neighbors whose yards would be traversed by the new sidewalk," explained District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer. "Some of the neighbors are concerned."

She said an FDOT representative planned to hold a meeting with neighbors and explain the process. "FDOT representative Chris Ledew indicated FDOT would meet with property owners to try and resolve any conflicts."

"People are just concerned when they don't know what's going on — when you involve people early on enough, usually things work out," she said.

The proposed sidewalk would connect an existing sidewalk that currently ends where River Road and Arbor Lane split. The sidewalk extension would connect the River Road sidewalk down Arbor Lane to Hendricks Avenue, where it would join the Hendricks walkway.

Valerie Feinberg, a San Marco resident and San Marco Preservation Society member who has been active in the Safe Routes to School grant and the San Marco by Design study, said the need for a fully connected sidewalk on Arbor Lane came out of research and discussions with students walking or riding their bikes to school.

"We wanted to know how they came to school and what things they were encountering — and we found out a lot of good stuff," Feinberg said. The study

was part of a Safe Routes to School program grant Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School has been working on for nearly two years. "What we learned was there were some kids coming from the neighborhood in the Arbor Lane River Road area who couldn't stay on the sidewalk because it stops on Arbor Lane to Hendricks."

The National Safe Routes to School program was signed into law in 2005 and dedicates \$612 million toward Safe Routes to School. The Federal Highway Administration administers the program funds and provides guidance and regulations. The state DOT manages it locally and the city of Jacksonville provides maintenance. The funds are used for both infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities. The Landon study included bike and walking routes to school within a two-mile radius of the campus.

"What people don't realize is that

part of their yard is the city right-of-way many times," Feinberg said. "And they're upset because they've incorporated that property into their landscaping and have spent time and money on it."

Feinberg said there was "some disconnect between what we wanted to do, the FDOT and public outreach." She added that the Safe Routes to School representatives are the applicants, but are not the decision-makers when it comes to infrastructure projects.

In addition to the Arbor Lane sidewalk, several other ideas have come out of the Safe Routes to School initiative at Landon. They are looking at connecting sidewalks on LaSalle Street from Hendricks Avenue to San Marco Boulevard and on Mitchell Street. Another key area will be creating signage and crosswalks from Landon to the San Marco Public Library.

"Even though it's just a short segment, during carpool times there are lots of cars and congestion — we're trying to help rectify those areas," Feinberg said.

Lakewood concert series continues

Lakewood Presbyterian Church will be hosting a benefit concert Aug. 19 to support United Community Outreach Ministry as part of its Lakewood Concert Series.

The concert will feature LPC's Minister of Music, Rodney Cleveland, performing organ works by Albrecht, Bach, Locklair, Mendelssohn, and

Walton.

The concert is free, but monetary gifts or donations of non-perishable food items are requested to help fill UCOM's food bank.

LPC is located at 2001 University Blvd. West. More information is available at www.lakewoodconcertseries.org or by calling 733-8055.

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attend the seminar and all women are welcome. An optional light salad dinner is available with advanced reservations on a first come first serve basis in the Family Life Center at 6 p.m. Reservations can be taken until 12 p.m. on Aug. 6. For more information, call (904) 396-2676, Ext. 116 or visit www.southsidemethodist.org.

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Mobility fees: Moratorium ordinance up for review this fall

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While City Council member Jim Love's proposed moratorium restricting certain types of development has been a hotly debated topic in Riverside/Avondale, there is another moratorium that has been in effect for almost a year that has had a much further-reaching impact on both sides of the river.

"Right now, Love's moratorium is only a proposal on paper that has no legal standing," said Mike Field, a local banker, Fairfax resident and neighborhood renovation advocate. "But the Mobility Plan fee moratorium is an ordinance that has been in effect since October. That means that mobility fees from new development that has taken place in that time have not been collected. That's money that could have gone toward specific capital improvement projects throughout the city. One of those projects is streetcars connecting Riverside to Downtown."

The mobility fee moratorium (Ordinance 2011-617) expires October 10, 2012 unless city council grants an extension. It was originally imposed to offset the effects of the recession but whether it has spurred development remains to be seen.

"Our intent is to gather data before October to see if the waiver created jobs," said Curtis Hart, a developer with Hart Resources and Government Affairs Chairman for the Northeast Florida Builders Association. "The council will want proof that it worked. If it did, then

we will make our case for an extension; if not, then we will let the moratorium deadline pass."

So far, the case is not great: Of 110 mobility fee applications totaling nearly \$16 million, only 10 were waived as of July 16 for a total of \$911,233. Riverside comprised just over \$2 million of the total, waiving \$323,571 for construction of a 7-Eleven and San Marco comprised just over \$1 million of the total, waiving \$62,446 for a CenterState Bank, said Laurie Kattreh, a transportation specialist in the planning department who oversees the Mobility Plan.

Hart pointed out that most developers did not apply for a waiver for the first few months while waiting for legal details to be worked out in Tallahassee. "In reality, the waiver will have only been in effect about nine months," he said. "I expect a rush on applications as the deadline approaches."

Riverside/Avondale District 14 councilman Love and San Marco District 5 councilwoman Lori Boyer, each of whom voted for the moratorium, agreed that they would need to see overwhelming proof to justify an extension.

"I was willing to try it for a year to see if it stimulated the economy," Love said. "You can't really say without all of the data, but I'd like to avoid an extension."

Boyer also said she needed to see data to support an extension, but conceded the waiver did not have a full year, so may be willing to extend it to that point. "I would not be receptive to any extension beyond the year time

frame," she said. "There was an implementation delay, so I may be open to another three months so that it can have its full year."

In contrast, Council President Bill Bishop, who originally sponsored the moratorium ordinance, said that he "suspects an extension would stand a good chance of passing. I'm not aware that the first effort did much and construction is still at depression era levels. One problem is that banks are not granting loans. My gut feeling says it would be extended."

The 2030 Mobility Plan was only in effect for about two months before the fee moratorium was enacted, but there has never been any doubt as to the benefits of the award-winning plan.

"The Mobility Plan was ahead of its time," said Hart, a member of the Mobility Plan Task Force.

The Mobility Plan was originally crafted over a two-year period beginning in 2009 and adopted in 2011. It was a response to revisions in Florida's Growth Management laws and coincided with other city plans that promoted modes of transportation other than automobiles. There was also a general consensus among local developers, city planners and legislators that the concurrency or "fair share" plan then in place was not working.

"The Mobility Plan integrates land development with transportation planning in unique ways and has a tiered mobility fee system that does not burden taxpayers," said Bill Killingsworth, the plan's main architect and Planning and Development Director during its

creation. "It was good timing for this kind of approach."

"It's probably the first time in the history of mankind when developers and the Sierra Club agreed on the same proposal," Field joked.

The reason for such wide acceptance is that it puts the cost of capital improvement projects on the end-user rather than taxpayers and offers strategies and incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy-efficient land use patterns that may substantially lower those costs.

"It is predictable, fair and efficient for developers and taxpayers alike," said Ortega resident T.R. Hainline, chair of the Mobility Plan Task Force.

"The plan encourages infill versus greenfield development – reducing sprawl and automobile dependency by 'incentivizing' development closer to the city core rather than in less populated areas; it promotes pedestrians, bicycles and mass transit over automobiles," Killingsworth explained. "We wanted it to affect policy as well as facility."

Under the plan the city is arranged into 10 Mobility Zones (Riverside/Avondale is Zone 7; San Marco Zone 8) and any new development that takes place within a particular zone is charged a fee based on a calculated sum that measures vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in relation to specified Development Areas. That fee can then be adjusted down if developers apply mobility-friendly land development patterns.

"The fee goes back into prioritized projects within the zone where the development takes place, so there is a direct connection between the development, the fee and the projects," said Ennis Davis, a former associate with planning and engineering firm Ghyabi & Associates who determined the fee formula. "If developers design projects that use sustainable strategies, then they can lower their cost."

Some of those strategies include: developing within the city core; incorporating bike paths, sidewalks and mass transit; locating parking behind buildings; mixed use developments; employing larger numbers of people; and building close to retail establishments.

They all go toward meeting the plan's five objectives: support a variety of transportation modes; reduce vehicle miles traveled; reduce greenhouse gas



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► emissions; promote a compact and interconnected land development form; and improve the health and quality of life for Jacksonville residents.

"We already have the groundwork set to meet all of the plan's objectives," said Doug Skiles from Envision Design Engineering in San Marco who advocates ending the moratorium. "The great thing is that community members have a say on what projects the mobility fees go toward in their neighborhoods and it is evaluated every five years so that projects can be reassessed."

Projects include: roadway capacity and Intelligent Transportation System improvements; Bus Rapid Transit, commuter rail, and streetcar; Facilities to improve bicycle network connectivity; and Pedestrian improvements design to achieve sidewalk connectivity. Eleven percent of all fees collected in any zone goes toward pedestrian and bicycle projects.

TOP 3 PRIORITIES—Riverside's Mobility Zone 7 – Totaling \$81 million

- 1) A streetcar connecting Downtown to Riverside – \$50 million
- 2) Commuter rail from Downtown to I-295 – \$29 million
(25 percent local match from mobility fees and 75 percent federal/state dollars)
- 3) Widening of Harlow Boulevard from Lane Avenue to 103rd Street – \$1.75 million.

TOP 3 PRIORITIES—San Marco's Mobility Zone 8 – Totaling \$149 million

(includes a large section of Southside)

- 1) Widening of Philips Highway – \$54 million
- 2) Widening of Southside Boulevard – \$40 million;
- 3) Commuter rail from Downtown to the Avenues Mall – \$20 million (25 percent local match for 75 percent federal/state dollars)

Short-term Riverside bike projects include bike lanes on Edgewood, Riverside, and St. Johns Avenues. Long-term bike projects include multi-use paths paralleling the CSX A line between Forest Street and the Clay County line and the FEC (starting in San Marco) between the Southbank Riverwalk and Southside Boulevard.

SOURCE: Ennis Davis, Ghyabi & Associates

In Riverside's Zone 7, the top priority project is a streetcar connecting Downtown to Riverside, which some, like Mike Field, feel might relieve some of the parking issues that Love's moratorium – as well as his proposed ordinance to amend the Riverside/Avondale Overlay – are designed to address. Field believes that beyond providing funding, the Mobility Plan also offers a ready-made philosophical blueprint for moving forward.

"Rather than going for short term parking solutions, it's important to align all of the area's transportation goals with the Mobility Plan," Field said. "It not only provides great short and long term road maps in terms of ideas but also provides the funding to get there. It's just a matter of us getting it back into place."

www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/community-planning-division/transportation-planning/mobility-plan.aspx

Rotary Club honors Drewa



The Rotary Club of South Jacksonville awarded its annual Frank Sherman Award to longtime Jacksonville healthcare executive and Rotarian, Marcus Drewa.

The award was established to honor Frank Sherman who founded the Southside Rotary Club in 1955. Sherman was a pioneering businessman who started American Bank in his south bank grocery store and who was instrumental in creating both Memorial Hospital and Friendship Fountain. Annual award winners are Rotarians in the greater Jacksonville area who have demonstrated service to Rotary, business or profession and to the community at large. Past recipients have included Walter Bussells, I. M. Sulzbacher and Ashley Verlander. Drewa has clearly demonstrated the "Service Above Self" approach to his life that the Frank Sherman Award

was established to recognize. This quiet man has truly had a major impact on the Jacksonville Community.

Drewa seems to be cut from the same cloth as the award's namesake. During the past 46 years, Drewa has made a meaningful impact on the city's health-care community.

In 1966, a young Drewa with his

Masters degree in Hospital Administration was appointed administrator of the then 65 year-old Brewster Hospital. Drewa quickly transformed this modest hospital into the Methodist Medical Center. He created a successful transplant program and introduced Florida's first hospice. In 1988, Methodist Medical Center became a key part of Shands and Drewa continued his CEO role for eight more years before retiring. During those years and since retirement, Drewa has played an important role in an extensive array of community and charitable projects and groups ranging from Rotary to Children's Home Society. Possibly most notable in those activities is the tremendous role he has played in the Ronald McDonald House providing leadership as well as providing and driving financial support.

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Dragon Boat events could breathe cultural fire into riverfront

A breast cancer nonprofit in Jacksonville is introducing Dragon Boat racing to the Northeast Florida landscape. It's an endeavor that could result in a first-ever Dragon Boat event on the St. Johns riverfront.

In the Pink, a local nonprofit boutique and salon in Jacksonville Beach helping women with breast cancer, recently purchased two dragon boats and has established a team that currently practices out of Boat Marine, where the boats are stored. The group has attracted several large sponsors and is looking for more. Current sponsors include San Marco-based Baptist Health, Cypress Property & Casualty Insurance Company — the group's premier sponsor — and Beach Marine.



Save or Sisters, a dragon boat team from Miami, sent In the Pink a large donation to help the group get started as well.

The teams have been practicing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings since May.



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Organizers say about 75 people practice regularly.

Dragon boating is a major fundraising initiative in breast cancer circles. The ancient Chinese tradition is part of festivals held all over the world. The International Dragon Boating Association adopted breast cancer as its cause, according to In the Pink founder, Jeri Millard.

If the concept is new to Jacksonville residents, it should come as no surprise: Jacksonville is one of the only large cities in Florida that does not host a dragon boat festival.

In the Pink and other supporters like local architect, Melody Bishop, hope to change that.

Millard said she and bishop have been meeting with the mayor's office to "begin working on this venture." Currently, a festival is planned for the fall of 2013. At this point, the group hopes to utilize the St. Johns River and stage a festival at Metropolitan Park in downtown Jacksonville.

"This would be a great venture for Jacksonville — it is another opportunity to expose the country and the world to our beautiful city," Millard said.

Plans already are falling into place. The group has formed the First Coast Dragon Boat Association and has registered two teams — the Mammoglambs and the Fire Dragons. A third team, the Saltwater Slayers, also is in the works.

The Northeast Florida teams plan to compete in the annual festival in Orlando this fall at Disney.

Millard said the group is still looking for more sponsors to help outfit the Mammoglambs with PFDs and matching paddles. For more information, visit www.inthepinkdragonboats.com.

What is a Dragon Boat?

A dragon boat is about 40 feet in length and weighs 550 pounds empty. The standard crew for a boat is 22 people, comprised of twenty paddlers in pairs facing the bow, one drummer at the bow facing the paddlers, and one steerer at the rear of the boat.

What is Dragon Boat racing?

Dragon boating is a 2,000-year-old Chinese tradition. While competition has taken place for more than 20 centuries as part of folk ritual, it emerged as an international sport in 1976. Today, dragon boating is taking place all over the world, with several dragon boat festivals held right here in Florida.

Dragon boat racing is broken into many competitive divisions. There is a division for everyone, allowing almost everyone to participate. At a typical dragon boat festival, you will find teams of students, young professionals, medical staff, tradesmen, mothers, and many other groups. Today dragon boating has become an urban phenomenon. Over 100 festivals take place throughout the United States. Paddlers from every walk of life are drawn to the sport because it is easy to learn, greatly enjoyed, and allows them to participate in a healthy activity.

Source: www.inthepinkdragonboats.com

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Exceptions to the rules: How PUDs, administrative deviations change landscape

By STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The triangular structure quickly taking shape on the corners of Margaret and Oak streets in Five Points made extensive use of one. Goozlepipe & Guttyworks on King Street in Riverside did not. Mellow Mushroom in Avondale was going to, but decided against it. Without it, San Marco Station may have taken a completely different form. And the one from 1661 Riverside has people confused.

The Planned Unit Development (PUD) is one tool developers can access when they seek modifications to regular zoning laws and the Riverside/Avondale Overlay. Administrative Deviations (AD), Waivers, Variances and Exceptions are also at their disposal.

"The PUD format sometimes makes it a lot easier to make better use of a unique space," said Allan DeVault, co-developer of the "triangle," now, officially, the Black Sheep Restaurant. "Some restrictions of the Overlay would have made it challenging to develop that property without a PUD. It provides you a lot more give-and-take than an AD."

But that give-and-take is something that Riverside Avondale Preservation often sees as simply ways to get around the Overlay and other citywide zoning restrictions.

"PUDs are not good for our city," said Carmen Godwin, executive director of RAP. "The kind of spot zoning where you write your own story overrides the planned zoning for the area. The Overlay should have eliminated the need for devi-

tions. They shouldn't be granted unless there's a good reason. They really should be the exception to the rule and not something common throughout the district."

A PUD is a type of rezoning that provides flexibility in planning, design, development and innovative approaches to the design of community environments, said Bruce Lewis, city planning supervisor. This often goes down to very specific details, such as dogs being prohibited in the Villas of St. Johns in Riverside.

"Their purpose is to allow for a mix of uses that you can't find in a conventional zoning district. For example, residential and commercial adjacent to each other," Lewis said. They are specific to a particular property and stay with that property even through an ownership change. Unlike ADs, Waivers, Exceptions and Variances – all of which target one specific rezoning request – PUDs cover multiple deviations and categories and they are all vetted through the City Council rather than just the planning commission.

The perfectly developed PUD is actually a collaborative effort. "The PUD is an opportunity for all stakeholders – city, neighborhood, preservationists and developer – to get together and write specific zoning rules for that property for a specific use that meets everyone's needs," said Doug Skiles from Envision Design and Engineering in San Marco.

In Black Sheep's case, one collaborative example is the PUD's restricting amplified music on the roof top terrace to no later than 10 p.m. Sunday through

Thursday and after midnight Friday and Saturday. "That was a condition the residents wanted," Godwin noted.

Other conditions were not as easy to come by. "We didn't want as big a building and we wanted more set back," Godwin said, though she acknowledged that, because Five Points is in an Urban Transitional zoning area, the 45-foot building height complies with standards and the restaurant did not have to provide any set back. "We also wanted their building to lineup with Mossfire [the adjacent restaurant] to make it more pedestrian friendly. We would have liked to have seen a five foot setback instead of the one foot that the PUD allowed."

Black Sheep nonetheless made many provisions for the Overlay, said the planning department's Lewis. "The footprint stayed the same, but they modified a number of architectural designs such as window moldings, cornices and decorative trim."

Be that as it may, Godwin feels that the planning department often works against the best interest of the Overlay. "It starts with the planning staff and they take their cue from the government leadership. We feel they sometimes 'give away the farm.'"

Regardless of the planning department's role, another notable sign of collaboration from Blacksheep involved parking. The Urban Traditional parking requirement for a 45-foot or less building is 25 percent of regular zoning, so, in their case, 21 spots. They have met that requirement and have elected to include an additional 11 that is not actually in the PUD. They will also provide three bike

racks (two public, one employee).

"They proved that they could be trusted outside of the scope of the PUD," Godwin said. "We still would have liked to have seen it as a condition of the PUD, but it was a good faith effort. They are a great restaurant group and are going to be good neighbors and positive for the neighborhood."

Godwin feels that what would also be good for the neighborhood is developers using ADs, Waivers, Exceptions and Variances rather than PUDs.

"With PUDs sometimes it feels like it's, 'give me the world, then we will negotiate down from there,'" Godwin said. "The AD makes it easier for the community to understand what is being requested. They're just far less confusing."

That was the case with Goozlepipe & Guttyworks, which used an AD to allow off-site parking, an Exception for outside sale of alcohol and a Variance for landscaping.

"A PUD just wasn't appropriate in our case because we weren't using mixed zoning categories," said Ed Salem, Goozlepipe's co-developer.

That was the conclusion recently reached by developer John Valentino regarding Mellow Mushroom. They recently withdrew their submission for a PUD and will instead proceed via ADs and Exceptions.

"We are optimistic that we can address the neighbors' concerns regarding parking or anything else without having to do a PUD," said Mellow Mushroom's attorney, Steve Diebenow.



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School supporters re-launch nonprofit

A group of parents, alumni and faculty has relaunched The Friends of Hendricks, a non-profit organization that helps support the school's efforts.

The group's mission is to increase the available funding to provide for additional resources required to ensure exemplary education for the students of Hendricks Avenue Elementary School. It differs from the PTA in both how funds are generated and allocated. The PTA leverages family dues and gift sales to fund enrichment programs, such as Family Fitness Night, Reading with the Starts, and an Ice Cream Social. The Friends of Hendricks seeks financial commitments to fund academic enhancement projects at the class-

room, grade, department and school-wide levels.

Thanks to the help of parents, the nonprofit also has a new logo and tagline, "Standing Strong for our School." The logo was designed by iDrive Marketing who worked with board president Jane Courtney Davis on the message. Organizers hope the new marketing mantra will help better express and market the group's efforts.

Board officers in addition to Davis are Joy Shakib, vice president; Tamara Bogan, treasurer; and Laura Ferguson, secretary. Board members include Mark Maclean, Jim Towler and Don St. Denis.

While the nonprofit is not new, its focus has changed with the

re-launch in response to a continued need for support. The Friends of Hendricks was originally organized to bridge the ongoing shortfall of the Duval County School budget crisis. But the goal of the organization has broadened to also significantly increase discretionary funds to provide for technology, books, staffing, equipment, supplies and other projects beyond what traditional funding sources would provide.

The organization is scheduling a variety of events throughout the year, including a gala-type event this fall and a walk-a-thon in the spring.



Back row Tala Woods, Lee Stine, Cindy Pearson, Jim Towler, Jane Courtney Davis, Mark MacLean, Tracy Langley, Tamara Bogan
Front row Tracy Morgan, Lynne Murphy, Laura Ferguson, Mary-Kay Venus, Sam Synder, Pam Ellis. Photo by Heather Stine.

Additionally, plans are in place to launch a business partners program in hopes of partnering with the community, alumni and local businesses.

For more information, visit the Friends of Hendricks Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FriendsofHendricks. The website, www.FriendsofHendricks.org will be live August 1.

► Parking concerns are one thing that 1661 Riverside thought it had addressed in its PUD, but the wording has some people confused.

The issue is with their garage parking and whether it is open to the public or just to customers or tenants of the mixed-use development. Currently, only customers or tenants are permitted to park in the garage; others receive a note on their windshield indicating that it is a private lot. There are clearly marked signs in the garage prohibiting non-customers.

The PUD states, in part, "The parking garage will be open to the public and on street parking...will be available. Free parking will be available to commercial tenants and customers on the ground floor of the parking garage." Some interpret this as being open to the public regardless of whether you are a customer

or tenant. Godwin and others' interpretation is that the garage is open to the public, but they can charge; if you are doing business in the building, it is free. But a visit to the site provided proof that 1661 does not charge. City planning's Lewis has concluded that the development is in compliance by allowing only customers and tenants to use the garage, but said that the city could send out investigators if they receive complaints.

Another 1661 PUD issue revolves around a pedestrian throughway from Margaret to May streets. As per the PUD, it is identified with a sign, but it is too small to see from the street. Also, the gate, which should only be locked from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., is often secured at other times. These are easy fixes, but they do lead to confusion and accusations of non-compliance.

"This is exactly why PUDs are so

dicey," Godwin said.

Even without the Overlay, the PUD process can present challenges that may need cooperation to overcome.

"The San Marco Station/Panera project is an example where we were able to use the PUD process to trade off items with the developer," Doug Skiles said. Code permitted a parking lot in front of a historic building, but preservationists sold the developer on the idea of a public plaza instead. Parking still had to be found behind the building. After some "intense negotiations" the city relaxed the buffer and interior landscape requirements. "Thankfully we were able to reach an agreement that worked for everyone and will result in a much desired development in that part of our neighborhood," Skiles said.

A solution around PUDs that San Marco is trying to implement is form-

based code.

"The premise is that we should be more concerned with the shape and placement of the building than what happens inside," Skiles explained. "The market does a good job of encouraging complimentary uses if we would just get out of the way. Conventional zoning leads to isolated uses, which we now realize to be the enemy of good urban neighborhoods. Of course, what comes along with that for the neighborhood is they need to give up some control. It is hard to do, but can lead to better long term results in many cases."

And ultimately, that is what the Overlay, City Code and various deviations are attempting to accomplish. Link to City of Jacksonville deviations application page: <http://www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/applications.aspx>

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The Way we Were

Joyce Thomas Jones — Part II

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Last month, retired UNF educator Joyce Thomas Jones shared her earliest memories of growing up in the city of South Jacksonville in last month's column. This month, we follow Jones through her elementary and high school years, in a charming glimpse of the way things were.

Joyce Thomas Jones was a very good little girl. She kept busy in the afternoons by taking piano from a lady in a two story house near her own and dance lessons from a studio where Reddi Arts is located today.

The youngest of two girls by eight and a half years, she nearly always did what her Momma told her. But there was one exception.

"When I was about four or five, Momma would give my sister and me money to take the bus to downtown with our boy cousins. Well, the older kids figured out they could walk across the Main Street Bridge instead of riding the bus and use the bus fare to buy things at Woolworth's," she recalled with a chuckle. "So, of course, I had to go along with them. I remember being terrified when we had to walk over the grating on the bridge."

Jones' family moved to a house on

Nira Street (near where the Ronald McDonald House is today) when she was about five years old. Her father and mother both worked, which was difficult in those days because there was no day care available outside the home. The family's maid Rebecca came every day to pick Jones up from her first grade classroom, an unusual circumstance, she remembers, because the other children were picked up by their mothers.

After a few years at Service Drugs, Jones' mother had taken a job at Lakewood Pharmacy, and she subsequently managed the store for 19 years. Jones would often hang out there after school, and she was sometimes put in charge of discreetly watching the "bigger boys" to make sure they weren't poking holes in things or messing with the comics.

Lakewood was "Jacksonville's Most Beautiful Pharmacy," according to the postcards the store sold. And it had everything, including a lunch counter and a lending library. Jones remembers helping her mother price jewelry for the store by writing on little string tags— "Figure out the price and mark it up 250 percent," her mother taught her.

The Thomas family had one of the first TV sets of any of the families on Nira Street, so the neighborhood kids would come over to watch it.

Although she hated to see the radio go (her father turned it into a bar), Jones

loved watching "Tom Corbett-Space Cadet" and "Hopalong Cassidy." Her sister Jean would bring her Methodist youth group over on Wednesday nights to make popcorn and watch TV.

By the time Jones was six years old, she would walk down the street to Clark's Supermarket by herself to buy items for dinner.

"My sister often cooked for us because my mom wasn't home from work yet, and she had three dishes she could make. I would take \$1 and buy a half pound of ground beef, spaghetti, and sauce – and I would still have change left over," recalled Jones. "We would sometimes walk down to Keith's Sundaes, where European Street is now, and get ice cream sandwiches for dessert."

The Thomas girls and their cousins entertained themselves by playing on the family's big front porch. Games included hospital (sister Jean was the nurse who operated on dolls with needle and thread, and Jones was the orderly putting the patient in bed), flying to Mars on the porch swing, and pirates with hats made of newspaper. The kids would also watch the golfers across the river at the driving range that was located where Baptist Hospital is today, and they would watch the bottles travel the conveyor belt at the Pepsi bottling plant.

Jones attended Landon High School, where she was a majorette. In the summers, she would clean the house each morning, take her mother to work, and then have the rest of the day free to hang out with her



majorette friends.

"I got my license the day I turned 16, and I've lived in my car ever since," she laughed. "We would drive farther than we wanted our parents to know, and one of my friends told me that if you back up the car, the mileage didn't register. I found out that doesn't work!"

The kids at Landon in those days entertained themselves with sock hops in each other's garages. They would spin the 45rpm records that they bought for 49 cents each at Abe Livert Record Store in San Marco [located where Subway is now].

Today, Jones lives on Northwood Road, and she still teaches an occasional class at UNF. She attended her 50th Landon High School reunion last summer, and she loved reconnecting with old friends.

"We had so much fun in those days, and we all knew each other so well because most of us had started in first grade together at Southside Grammar School," smiled Jones. "I have great memories of childhood and of growing up in Jacksonville."

Know a neighborhood resident who has a rich history in the area? Have an idea of someone who can share stories of the neighborhood's past? We're always looking for potential subjects for our popular The Way We Were column. Please send any suggestions to editor@residentnews.net.

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San Jose woman keeps songs, Psalms in her heart



BY AMANDA FORD
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Usually once someone has lived to be 80 years old, they are about ready to settle down and enjoy their golden years.

Anne Coyle had made those plans for herself, and relished in them as she blew out the candles on her special day.

"On my birthday I said to the Lord 'well, I guess I've done it all,'" Coyle said.

But the Lord had other plans for her. "He spoke to me and said 'the best

is yet to come,'" she remembered.

It came almost two years later in April 2011. Coyle suddenly was inspired to write all of the Psalms in the Bible into her own words and compose music to match.

"I took a tape recorder and set the Bible up on my music stand and said 'okay, Lord, let's start with Psalm 1,'" she said.

Each day she wrote one Psalm, and after 150 days her collection was complete. Although the task seems daunting, Coyle enjoyed every minute—never skipping a day. She explained that despite the days when she came to a blank wall, she would just move on to the next Psalm. After a few days had passed, she would go back, and the one that she skipped would just come to her.

Her creative pursuits follow a lifetime of musical involvement. Coyle started playing the piano at age seven. She also learned to play the guitar and began singing in various choirs, including her current choir at San Jose

Catholic Church.

Her Christian faith also has been a major part of Coyle's life. She has always loved going to church and interacting with the people she meets there. When she turned 40, she said God gave her the gift of writing her own music. While she used to perform the works of others, Coyle began composing custom works and has since written hundreds of inspirational scripture songs and children's plays and musicals. It all has led up to her most recent accomplishment.

"God has prepared me for this," she said. "I'm 82 years old, so he prepared me by doing all of those other things to build me up to come to this point."

Coyle has developed some of the Psalms into a concert highlighting the life of King David. The production contains a narration, including an introductory prayer spoken in Hebrew delivered by her granddaughter, Meghan Green.

Green sees her grandmother frequently and is always anxious to hear

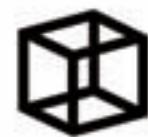
what Coyle has up her sleeve.

"I can't wait to see her everyday, and see what she's going to come up with," she said. "She's just such a great motivator and a creative engine behind a lot of the family."

Coyle's dream is to perform the concert in Rome one day, but for now, she will continue to inspire those who are able to experience her gift.

"This concert is to give glory to God, and inspire other people to think nothing is too difficult with Him," she said. "Nothing is impossible."

To hear Anne's Psalms, visit <http://psalmbird.net>. She will be performing Aug. 4th at Santa Maria Del Mar in Flagler Beach at 7:30 p.m.



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Staying safe as a senior driver

The Florida Safe Mobility for Life Coalition has created a new guide designed specifically for senior drivers. The Florida Guide for Aging Drivers aims to help aging drivers strike a balance between safety and the need for independence.

Inside the book, users will find safe driving tips, licensing information, lists of resources and community contacts for every county in the state.

"It is important for everyone to understand the impact that aging can have on their driving and learn the warning signs and resources that are available to them so they can make the transition when driving may no longer be a safe option," said Gail Holley, FDOT's Safe Mobility for Life program and research manager.

This proactive approach follows the increasing age of Florida drivers.

According to an announcement from

the FDOT, Florida leads the nation with 18 percent of its population age 65 and older. By the year 2030, over 27 percent will be over age 65, with half of those 75 or older. Currently, nearly 3 million drivers in Florida are over age 65. The book complements the website www.SafeandMobileSeniors.org and is available at no cost to senior drivers. To obtain a copy send an email to safe-mobility-for-life@fsu.edu or write to:

Safe Mobility for Life Resource Center
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CANDIDATE, continued from 1

At issue is whether the candidates' petition-signers live in District 3. Daniels said that in the re-apportionment, or redistricting, year of 2011, candidates could gather signatures from non-district residents. But in 2012, a non-re-apportionment year, candidates' petition-signers must show a District 3 residency, which would be vetted by the elections office. To qualify for an elected race, candidates must either pay a fee or gather petition signatures. Daniels' suit alleges some of the gathered signatures of the other candidates should not have been validated.

"Instead, again performing his duty as prescribed for a year of re-apportionment, defendant determined that the required number of verified petition signatures of electors of Duval County submitted for Juarez and Cordek equaled at least 1 percent of the total number of electors of Duval County divided by the number of school district in Duval County, 7, as shown by the compilation by the department of state for the last preceding general election

(Exhibit B)," the suit reads. "In 2012 defendant failed to perform his ministerial duty to duly determine whether the required number of verified petition signatures of electors of only district 3 had been submitted for Juarez and Cordek for their names to be placed on the ballot. Instead, once again performing his duty as prescribed for a year of re-apportionment, defendant unduly determined that the required number of verified petition signatures of electors of Duval County had been submitted for Juarez and Cordek for their names to be placed on the ballot for the election. Defendant unduly used verified petition signatures of electors not of district 3 to make his determination."

Daniel's suit demands a "preemptory writ of mandamus compelling defendant to duly check the petition signatures on the petitions submitted to him for Ashely Juarez and Andrew Cordek to verify their status as electors of Duval County and the geographic area represented by their office sought; and to determine whether the required number of petition signatures submitted to

defendant for Juarez and Cordek are of electors of district 3 and are equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of electors of district 3, as shown by the compilation by the department of state for the preceding general election."

Daniels said in late-July that two judges already had recused from the case. "It's far easier for people to go to Gateway Mall or Town Center and have people say 'will you sign this petition?' and people say OK — It's so easy — you can get 100 a day like that," Daniels said. "If you gather them from district, you'll have to go door to door. Knowing that a lot of candidates like to cut corners, I checked petitions submitted by Ashley and Cordek and they'd come from all over the county — yet the supervisor of elections counted them as coming from the district."

Carol Mirando, assistant general counsel with the city of Jacksonville, said the case will get reassigned. But she said it is the general counsel office's belief that there is no basis to Daniels' lawsuit.

"His complaint says what it says, but

it is our position it doesn't have any legal merit — which is why we have filed a motion to dismiss," she said.

When reached by email, Smith-Juarez said she is "proud to have qualified by petition."

"My campaign followed the outlined procedures and requirements for qualification and I have every confidence that the supervisor of elections office did their due diligence and properly requested and verified the petitions," she wrote.

Cordek said he continues to move forward with his campaign despite his rival's suit against Holland and the supervisor of election's office. "I spend every spare minute out there spreading the word about how I am the best candidate for the job, and ideas that I think can make a real positive difference in our public schools," he said.

Former District 4 City Councilwoman Suzanne Jenkins, the fourth candidate in the District 3 school board race, was not mentioned in Daniels' suit. The election will be held Aug. 14.

REDESIGN, continued from 1

could potentially bring an exciting new look and function to San Marco Square.

"A conceptual solution has been proposed that would remove the traffic signal at the San Marco Boulevard and Atlantic Boulevard intersection (between the Lions and Balis Park). The pavement currently within the intersection would be removed and turned into green space. Balis Place would be turned into a one-way street northbound and used by traffic going

north through the Square (from Hendricks Avenue to San Marco Boulevard) and east through the Square (from San Marco Boulevard to Atlantic Boulevard). Southbound traffic from San Marco Boulevard to Hendricks Avenue and westbound traffic from Atlantic Boulevard to San Marco Boulevard would remain as it is currently."

He said a nice byproduct of this solution would be a central green space that would "significantly improve the pedestrian experience in the Square."

"No longer would patrons crossing from one side to the next have to worry about three separate road crossings and figure out whether the light is red or not. Larger community activities would be possible that wouldn't require shutting down traffic," he indicated. "Additional public parking would be created."

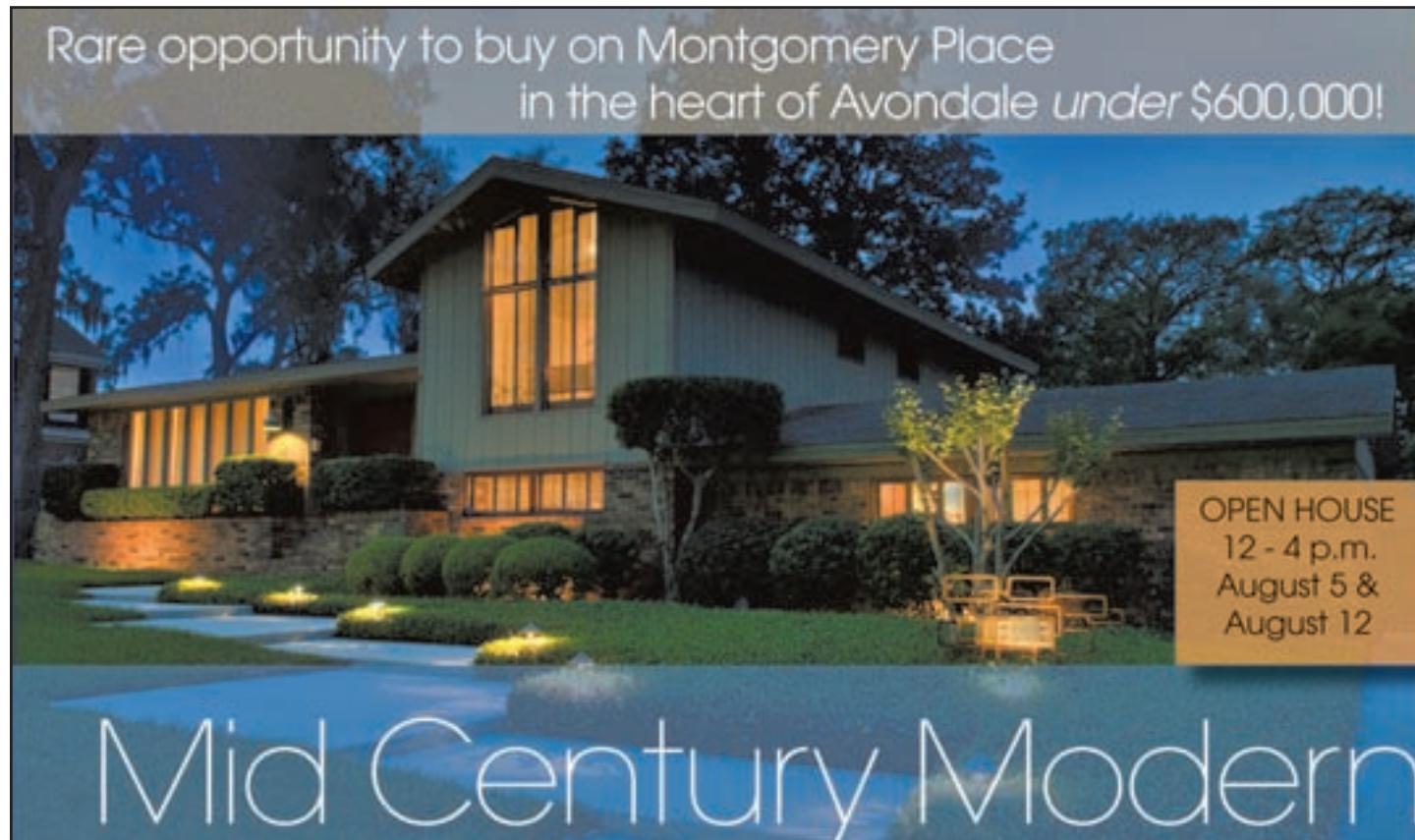
Boyer's office staff confirmed Boyer met with Robinson last month and made a presentation regarding Skiles' suggested improvements. The councilwoman believed the ideas were well

received, but he would be reviewing it with his staff.

Both San Marco Preservation Society and San Marco Merchants Association support the solution.

The goal is to see the work completed within the time frame planned for the remainder of the San Marco Boulevard construction project, Skiles added. Any residents interested in finding out more about the project and to help in its development can contact the SMPS office at (904)396-0081 or info@smpsjax.com

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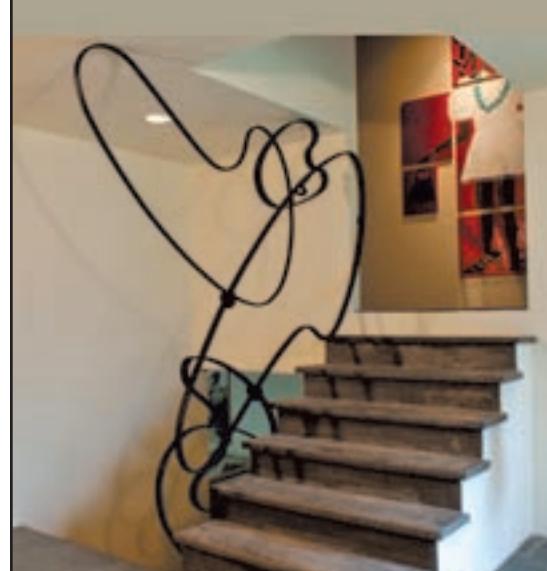


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City named top arts destination



*Neighborhoods,
Downtown nucleus
of city's creative
offerings*



Residents here have known this for a long time, but now the rest of the country is clued in: Jacksonville is a pretty incredible arts destination. Readers of AmericanStyle magazine ranked Jacksonville 15th on its list of top arts destinations in the country among big cities with populations of

500,000 or greater. Jacksonville was also the only Florida city named in the big-cities category — a list that includes such global arts destinations as New York, Washington and Chicago.

The magazine named 75 winning cities, divided into small, mid-size and large population categories.

Such accolades were well received by art promoting groups like Downtown Vision, which has been coordinating the popular monthly Art Walks through downtown galleries and buildings. It also organized Off the Grid with the Jacksonville Cultural Council.

"When we launched Art Walk in 2003, we had less than 10 venues and a few hundred patrons," said Terry Lorince, executive director of Downtown Vision Inc., in an announcement. "Today, more

than 40 venues participate each month, attracting thousands of people Downtown."

Certainly, the historic neighborhoods in Riverside, Avondale and San Marco have anchored the city's artistic environment — and have been hotbeds for continued growth in this area. The Riverside Arts Market in Riverside has become an artistic mainstay and both the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and the many smaller galleries in Riverside's CoRK district and 5 Points have grown in their offerings and facilities over the years. While plans a major art endeavor called The Epoch Project faded this year, interest in an art event on a smaller scale still looms large. Downtown's contemporary art museum, MOCA, continues to be at the heart of the city's art and culture scene.

San Marco, San Jose and Ortega also have been promoting artistic experiences through art shows, art and garden parties and other art-related events.

"A healthy arts scene improves a city's livability and its tourism, and many of the winning cities recognize that," said Wendy Rosen, publisher of AmericanStyle. "The arts are proven catalysts for economic development and recovery, creating jobs and making opportunities for entrepreneurs."

Neighborhood art and history has branched out to one of the places where visitors begin to formulate their opinions of Northeast Florida: the Jacksonville International Airport.

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority is presenting a look back in time at the historic neighborhoods of Riverside and Avondale in the recently opened Sky Gallery located in the central courtyard of JAX Airport, to the left of the Haskell Gallery.

The Sky Gallery originally opened with the exhibition "1940 – 2010, 70 Years of Naval Aviation Excellence, Naval Air Station Jacksonville." The current exhibit features the neighborhood, its unique architecture, cultural scene, and local iconic shopkeepers with images and artifacts, many provided by Dr. Wayne Wood, an active history and culture advocate and Avondale resident.

AmericanStyle Top 25 Arts Destinations – BIG CITIES

(Populations of more than 500,000)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. New York City | 14. Denver, Colo. |
| 2. Washington, D.C. | 15. Jacksonville, Fla. |
| 3. Chicago | 16. Nashville, Tenn. |
| 4. San Francisco, Calif. | 17. San Diego, Calif. |
| 5. Boston, Mass. | 18. Charlotte, N.C. |
| 6. Philadelphia, Pa. | 19. Dallas, Texas |
| 7. Albuquerque, N.M. | 20. Las Vegas, Nev. |
| 8. Seattle, Wash. | 21. San Antonio, Texas |
| 9. Austin, Texas | 22. Houston, Texas |
| 10. Baltimore, Md. | 23. Louisville, Ky. |
| 11. Los Angeles, Calif. | 24. Tucson, Ariz. |
| 12. Portland, Ore. | 25. Phoenix, Ariz. |
| 13. Columbus, Ohio | |

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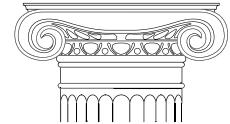
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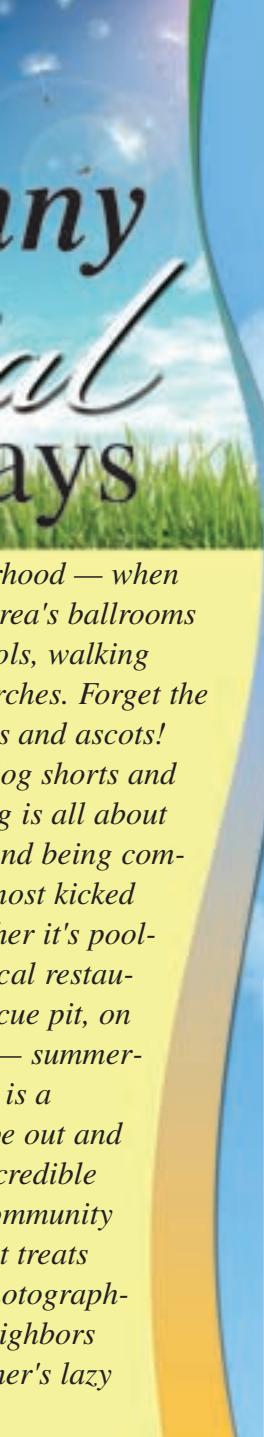
Sun Soci Da

It's summertime in the neighborhood! Social interludes move from the air-conditioned event halls to community pools, paths, playgrounds and front porches. No tuxes and ball gowns, high heels. Think flip flops, bathing suits, jeans and sundresses. Summer socializing is all about keeping cool, staying active and comfortable during the hottest, most relaxing time of the year. Whether you're at the beach or on the courts, at local restaurants or around the barbecue pit, on the greens or at the park - it's a great time in the neighborhood to just sit back and enjoy healthy, relaxed time to be with family and friends about enjoying all the incredible amenities this historic community has to offer. The Resident Association is excited to share with you this month with a photographic spread of how your neighborhood has been enjoying summertime fun and days!

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10.07.12
4:05 p.m.



11.04.12
1:00 p.m.



11.08.12
8:20 p.m.



11.25.12
1:00 p.m.

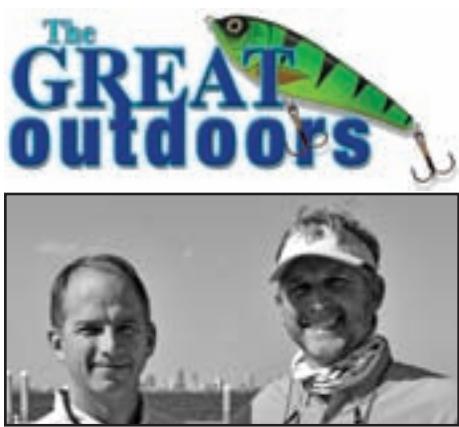


12.09.12
1:00 p.m.



12.23.12
1:00 p.m.





BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

When I think of fishing our coastal waterways, and the tradition of generations of anglers exposing their sons and daughters to the battle of majestic giants vs. rod and reel, I think of the elusive silver king. Many of our coastal towns and municipalities along the west coast of Florida were built on the ritual of landing one of these beasts, an achievement that could simply be defined as a rite of passage.

From Homosassa, Tarpon Springs, Pineland, FL near Boca Grande and into the Florida Keys, we see tarpon lodges near every inlet hosting large porches, rocking chairs, and great southern architecture. When you walk into one of these Florida cracker-style

Get out on the river for...

buildings, you will always see old and worn-out tarpon mounts hanging over doorways and behind friendly bartenders. I catch myself wondering who caught it, how much fun they had and where are they now?

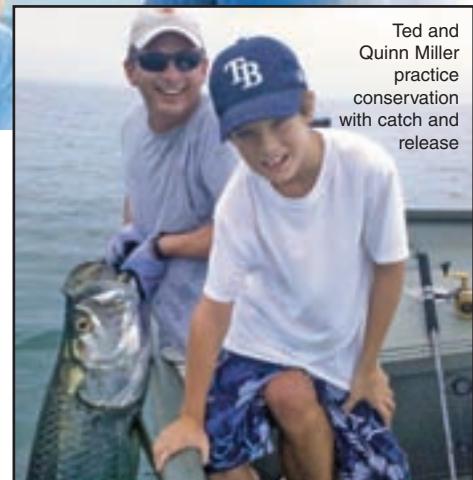
Tarpon fishing has changed a lot over the years. In the past, tarpon were caught and drug over the transom where they met their fate. The sole purpose of the angler was to haul their trophy home. There was something magical about harvesting one of these giants.

Today is different. During the past few decades, conservation has become a large part of our culture and has had a positive impact on tarpon numbers. Today, the reward for tarpon fishing is not a kill, but a successful release.

The tackle we use is important in the conservation and successful fighting and releasing of tarpon. Tackle too small will not hold up. The line capacity in small reels will be insufficient for the long runs they make in open water, and the rods will not have enough backbone to effectively apply pressure against the fish's strength and will to live.

TARPON FISHING FUN

Ford and Joey Milne



Ted and Quinn Miller practice conservation with catch and release

Tackle too large will take a lot of the fun out of the fight. Fighting these fish can sometimes take an hour or more, and holding heavy conventional tackle can be very clumsy and cumbersome.

Large spinning reels have become popular for this type of fishing with the ability to effectively cast to feeding fish. And these reels can be purchased along with a good 30 lb class rod that will hold up to the fight.

Anyone who has spent a good bit of time chasing tarpon knows the frustration associated with their feeding habits. They can be very finicky. Tarpon live and feed in many different environments along our coastlines, saltwater marshes, and throughout the St. Johns and Ortega Rivers. Their eating habits and sensitivity to tackle seem to change based on their surroundings. It is common to see a good number of fish, only to be shut out. You have to be prepared to try different tactics.

Tarpon busting the surface through large numbers of baitfish will seem to hit anything. Large baits (either live or artificial) with larger hooks and leader will not discourage them from striking.

Tarpon feeding in currents around bridges, docks and jetties seem to be more sensitive to tackle. Their feeding in this environment seems to be more of a 'wait and see what comes to me' approach. Changing your tactic with smaller tackle (hooks and leader) and smaller baits (small shrimp or crabs) may help induce a strike. Also, casting up current and letting it drift back with the current can offer a more natural presentation making a difference.

Tarpon will hide in the shadows of docks during moving tides busting the surface when unsuspecting bait comes by, then go back in the shadows and wait again. One would think drifting live bait by this dock would guarantee a strike. Often times with this behavior, tackle hanging from the bait is readily seen by your target species, and is passed on. This is a great time to scale back on hook size and leader. You may lose more fish from break offs, but you will increase your chances to jump a few.

Tarpon fishing can be a lot of fun for kids. The best time runs in the heat of the summer when they are out of school. Any boat size will work. My

boat of choice is an aluminum boat with a trolling motor. Once you hook up and the acrobatics begin, the child's anticipation turns to excitement, and their time will surely be spent resting their palms on the transom leaning over in hopes to catch a glimpse of the massive fish.

I remember my first tarpon fishing experience. I was 7. I was with my father and another father / son combo. The day started out like any other day, fishing for several hours with no action. Our father's friends were fishing near by, and motored up about mid-day. There we were, two boats tied together, adrift in the ocean, socializing. It was a hot August day off Ponte Vedra Beach, so the dads enjoyed something cold to drink. My friend and I cracked open a Country Time lemonade. We were all busy chatting, and forgot about the lines we had in the water. That's when the fun began.

I remember hearing the high-pitch whine as line peeled off the old Penn Senator 4/O reel while being mesmerized with acrobatic jump after jump. I recall the humming and drumming vibration of the tarpon's gill plates slapping together violently as she tried to break free. My dad leaped from boat to boat, grabbed the rod and the fight was on. After an hour or so and dozens of jumps, the fish was landed and many laughs and high-fives exchanged.

Last summer my brother and I on separate occasions were fortunate enough to give his son and my youngest daughter the experience of watching their fathers hook, fight and release a silver king. I can remember being their age and the pride I felt the day I watched my father hook and land his tarpon. I truly hope our kids feel the same.

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

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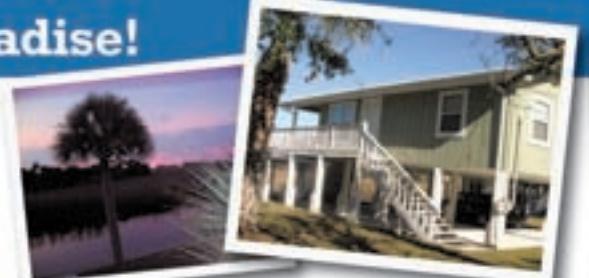
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A community without comparison in the Jacksonville market

Marina AT ORTEGA LANDING



If you enjoy the lifestyle you lead when you are on vacation, why not try your best to accomplish it right where you live. There's an opportunity that awaits, especially if a resort-style property with an active boating community, a safe harbor and a social environment are on your radar- you need to visit the Marina and River Homes at Ortega Landing.

The impeccably maintained property, located at 4238 Lakeside Drive, 32210, features River Homes and a Marina, a truly unique setting that affords both boaters and residents an amazing place to live life to the fullest. The Marina Homes are one of the safest, most secure and maintenance-free properties available on the market



today and the marina is a unique, state of the art property with countless amenities.

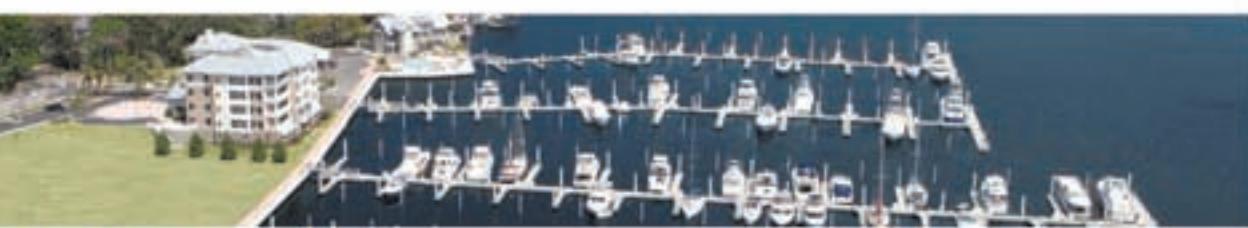
Waking up in the morning to the placid, still waters on the Ortega River with the sunrise is breathtaking and the views are captivating from anywhere on the property. One thing that sets this community apart is that it's so close to all of the amenities that the area has become known for such as top notch dining, excellent retail shopping, large local parks in which to play, museums to explore and other marquis events on the city calendar.

Ortega Landing is in close proximity to the essentials, as the Publix grocery store and shopping center at

River Homes AT ORTEGA LANDING



Roosevelt Square are four blocks away. The Shoppes of Avondale are down the road for a fantastic shopping and dining experience. One can't forget about the lineup of downtown sporting events like the NFL's roaring Jacksonville Jaguars, The Florida-Georgia weekend festivities, the Gator Bowl and many other annual events that are a hit with visitors and residents alike. The docks downtown become a floating party for many of the games, as tailgating takes on a whole new meaning. There's a lot to like about living and boating from this little corner of the river, where the life is good and the river life is teeming with activity.



River Home Highlights

For the homeowner, each of the newly constructed units boast 2,650 sq. ft. of spacious air conditioned living, with 280 sq. ft. of outdoor patio space overlooking the Marina. The units are all three bedrooms with three beautifully appointed baths and stainless GE Monogram appliances outfitting the open kitchens. The layouts of the units are designed for entertaining and maximizing the views of the river. Living spaces engage families and guests in the expansive square footage of the living room, kitchen and dining areas. Two sets of triple sliding paneled glass doors open up to the views of sailboats, yachts, powerboats and the island of Ortega, a fantastic design element.

With fully-integrated security in the building, residents have the ability to travel and leave their property, feeling safe, secure and worry-free. Unlike owning a home and relying on a security system, the River Homes are looked after by the management with 24-hour monitoring on numerous cameras throughout the building, offering peace of mind. Doors to the building are key coded and your private elevator entrance is also on a coded entry. All of the upgrades make for 'state of the art' living for those who choose to live a life of travel, or just enjoy the safety and security for their family and investments.

Parking is never a problem either as there is a private, gated space with your name on it under the building. This is one amenity that you won't soon take for granted in a downpour while taking in the groceries. It adds a secure, dry place to come in from the elements- straight to the elevators. Storage facilities are also paired with each parking space, offering an oversized space for boating supplies, tools and any other storage needs. With no lawn to mow and maintain, no worries of intrusion and the knowledge that your community is active and full of safety features just adds to the appeal of this unique river community.

The Marina Highlights

From an owner's perspective, Ortega Landing is a place full of entertaining space outside your unit, with the ability to relax in the summer sun on your own boat or perhaps the opportunity to sit poolside any day of the week. A full schedule of events planned by the management has helped to promote community and is growing to rival those of local yacht clubs, so there's never a shortage of good times. The 2,300 sq. ft. Club House on the property boasts 'endless hot water' showers, washer and dryer, ice machine, a library and an upstairs (elevator accessible) entertaining space- ideal for gatherings and events. It's the perfect place to recharge your sea legs, as a sparkling pool and hot tub are all part of the gated, riverfront amenity center. Don't overlook the grill by the river, as you can cook out the family dinner and eat poolside or bring it back to your yacht.

From a boater's perspective it's the ideal place to rest, relax and know your investment is safe, secure and that close attention is paid to your vessel. The harbor is also safe in the Hurricane Season and this has been a traditional spot to dock a boat in the case of poor weather. Boaters from all over the Eastern seaboard understand the importance of their prized possessions remaining buoyant and the Marina is in demand for this very reason.

The 'Bellingham Marine' built docks are keypad secured and completely lit up at night and the entire distance of the dock is loaded with dock boxes (one per slip), shore power, water and pump out capabilities. The concrete construction has been built to last and the staff capabilities ensure a concierge-style visit to the marina. The crew is always ready to welcome you with a smile, stellar service, knowledge and extreme care is taken in regard to all your questions and marine based needs. Recommendations for boat work are offered by the marina, as the riverfront "Marina Mile", as it's commonly referred to, is known for its resources for the boating community.

2012 Ortega Landing Docking Rates

Slip Length	Monthly	6-Months	12-Months	Active Military Monthly	Retired Military Monthly	Hurricane Special 5-Month
35'	\$355.95	\$2028.92	\$3844.26	\$302.66	\$320.36	\$1779.25
45'	\$457.65	\$2608.61	\$4942.62	\$389.00	\$411.89	\$2288.25
50'	\$508.50	\$2898.45	\$5491.80	\$432.23	\$457.65	\$2542.50
55'	\$559.35	\$3188.30	\$6040.98	\$475.45	\$503.42	\$2796.75
60'	\$610.20	\$3478.14	\$6590.16	\$518.67	\$549.18	\$3051.00
65'	\$661.05	\$3767.99	\$7139.34	\$561.89	\$594.95	\$3305.25
70'	\$711.90	\$4057.83	\$7688.52	\$605.12	\$640.71	\$3559.50

Must have proper insurance on vessel. Vessels over 10 years old must present a recent survey. Must be paid in advance with applicable deposit. Marina lease rules apply. No procon or refunds.



A Place to Relax and Call Home

Whether you lead the boating lifestyle or you would just like to find the best opportunity to remain in Jacksonville with a sound investment in a waterfront property, there's no comparison to the value of the real estate found here. Call and make an arrangement to visit the Marina Homes at Ortega Landing, call Warren Hickernell at 387-5538 today to experience the best of what the area has to offer in a waterfront, boating community. For other boating inquiries, see the charts and listings of available price points for the boat slips and marina amenities and Hurricane Specials. The club facilities at Ortega Landing are also open for special events and boat clubs to enjoy- book your weekend today by calling the clubhouse at 387-5538. You can also check out the Marina and floor plans at www.ortegalanding.com for further information or send an email to office@ortegalanding.com.



River
LIFE

Getting out on the water — San Jose style

special section

Boaters of all ages have been exploring all the St. Johns River has to offer — this summer and throughout the year.

One of San Marco and San Jose's only large private marinas is Epping Forest Yacht Club, which has been busy this summer accommodating the boating needs of its members and guests.

The club also has hosted several sailing camps for local youth.

Other local boating outlets include River City Brewing Company's dock on the Jacksonville Southbank and Goodby's Creek —where boaters can trailer their vessels and put in at the water's edge for a day on the river.



From the Riverkeeper

By Lisa Rinaman



I have only served as your St. Johns Riverkeeper for a short time, but my relationship with the St. Johns goes way back.

In 1978, I discovered the magic that is Florida riding in a glass bottom boat on the iconic Silver Springs, an important source of fresh water for the St. Johns River system. Twenty years later, I experienced the awe of the mighty St. Johns the first time I saw her flowing through our great city. Six months later, I made Jacksonville my home.

Ever since, I have had a love affair with the St. Johns. My first date with my husband was in a kayak on the St. Johns paddling into a moon beam. Now we encounter the river with our young boys and see her wonder through their eyes.

For our oldest son's second birthday, we celebrated on a boat where Julington Creek meets the St. Johns. The

next day, on the way to the supermarket, he caught a glimpse of the river from Riverside Avenue. At that moment he shared his first two sentences with us, "I don't want to go shopping. I want to go to the river."

That is why I take the responsibility of being your St. Johns Riverkeeper so seriously. We must protect this natural gift with all of our might for our children and their children. We have to ensure that the magic of Florida and all of our waters continues to live on for generations to come.

We all have our work cut out for us.

In March of this year, I took my boys on the same glass-bottom boat ride that introduced me to Florida years ago. When I was eight, the boats of Silver Springs opened a window to waters teaming with thousands of colorful fish. This time, we

had to search for fish during our tour. We saw more brown algae-coated vegetation than wildlife.

The decisions we make today will either protect these natural resources for future generations or our inaction will burden our children with sick, dying waterways. The choice is ours to make.

As your St. Johns Riverkeeper, I pledge to continue to hold regulators and industry accountable, to advocate for the most protective policies and practical solutions, and to fight for a clean and healthy St. Johns.

You can help by creating a River Friendly Yard, conserving water, using clean boating practices, and getting involved in the decisions that impact the future of our river.

By joining together and each of us doing our part, we can protect the magic of the St. Johns!

Learn more about us, River Friendly tips, and how to become a member at www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

Eco-heritage boat trips launch in October

Boating opportunities are endless along the St. Johns River and its waterways. And who better to act as a guide than the St. Johns Riverkeeper, which is planning a pair of two-day Eco-Heritage Boat Trips this fall.

They are two of many river adventures the local organization has planned over the years. The Oct 11-12 trip will showcase some of the scenic beauty along the St. Johns River between Palatka and Sanford.

The boat leaves at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 11 from the Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka and arrives at Monroe Harbour Marina in Sanford at about 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 12. Guests and passengers will spend the night at Blair's Jungle Den.

An Oct 13-14 trip begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe Harbour Marina and arrives back at the Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka on Oct. 14 at 4:30 p.m. As before, guests will spend the evening at Blair's Jungle Den. For more information about reservations and cost, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/boat-trips.

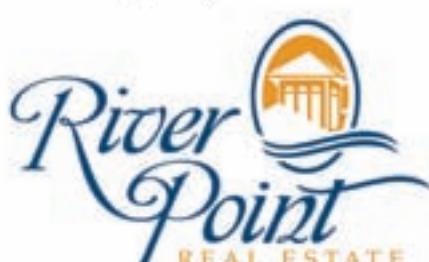
Fine day for a boat ride

"The Art of Boating" was the theme of a midsummer morning's Riverside Arts Market on the St. Johns River last month. A selection of boats was on display at the market's dock, along with nautical accessories and displays from local boating clubs. Many boaters arrived at the market by boat to tie up and have lunch under the bridge. As part of the seaworthy adventure, pirates also were spotted lurking around the dock — looking for artistic treasure and food to plunder!



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special section

Riverfront Real Estate

BY LAURA JANE PITMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you've ever dreamed of owning a residence on the St. Johns River, watching beautiful sunsets from your back patio, and crabbing and fishing from your very own dock, area real estate professionals will point out that you are a couple of dollars closer to that dream coming true than you were a few years ago. But they will also tell you that time is of the essence.

While inventory is still decently high – with nearly a dozen waterfront listings in our readership area alone – it has dropped

from what it was a year or so ago, due to prices and interest rates becoming increasingly buyer-favorable.

"First of all, we have interest rates that we haven't seen in decades," said San Marco resident and realtor Kristin Nimnicht of Keller Williams Atlantic Partners. "And the range of prices is still really good, starting with waterfront condominiums for around \$500,000 or a waterfront single-family home from just over one million."

In late July, mortgage interest rates hovered at around a historically low three percent. The 30-year fixed rate was 3.75 percent, with a 5/1 ARM coming in at 2.89. Translating from market language, buyers right now can get a lot of bang for their bucks.

But waterfront sales have been increasing, cautions Josh Nugent of Prudential

Network Realty's Historic District office, which will further deplete listings and increase competition among buyers.

June statistics from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors showed that overall inventory of homes for sale dropped 30.7 percent from this same time last year and closings for the month were the highest so far in 2012. The region of the city that includes San Marco, St. Nicholas, and San Jose showed a drop in the time houses are on the market before a sale and an increase in the median sale price from June of last year – meaning they are selling a bit faster and for more.

"Keep in mind that waterfront homes and condominiums in our area, both new and resale, are limited. For example, inventory condos at the Peninsula recently sold out," said Nugent. "Prices are so low

RiverLIFE

that there will likely not be any new construction of condominiums or homes for a while – probably several more years. So inventory is likely to remain limited, and these homes will not be on the market forever."

In addition, Nugent pointed out, sales of non-waterfront homes have also increased so buyers have a good chance of turning right around and selling their existing homes.

Most area realtors agree that an investment in historic neighborhoods like ours – particularly choice waterfront property – can literally be a great move, especially in a buyer-friendly environment. As Nimnicht likes to remind her clients, "It's still location, location, location!"

What's in a name?

Call them curious, creative, captivating or cryptic — but boat names are important identifiers with plenty of meaning behind them.

The Resident went out to area marinas to get a little background on some of the monikers of neighborhood vessels. Have a good boat story to share? Let us know with an email to editor@residentnews.net.



Never Again IV

52-foot Hatteras Motor yacht
Owner – Paul Remsen

As most boat owners agree, buying the 'next' boat isn't always something we'll do. Doing it again often means twice, three times, or in this case a fourth- as the namesake falls right in line with the ultimate goal, swearing off another boat purchase. Mr. Remsen was sure to make a point that, "I'm older, but not always smarter- as I keep making the same mistake."



Let's Dance

38 Sabre Hardtop
Owner – Bruce Homeyer

Bruce Homeyer and his wife were shopping for a boat; the hunt for the perfect boat became the least of their challenges as cancer took hold of his wife and temporarily changed the course. With diagnosis and treatment underway, the shopping ensued for the boat. Upon discovering their Sabre, the Homeyers, instead of cursing cancer and throwing up their hands in defeat simply came up with a better way to look at their experience. Homeyer, who loves to dance with his wife jokingly stated, "Well, we figured it was better than, you know 'What the hell' or another choice phrase," so it became "Let's Dance".



Little Mermaid II

32-foot Sea Ray
Owner – Dr. Sal Goodwin

With a passion for the Disney experience, Dr. Sal Goodwin had some help from his daughters when it came time to buy their boat. The entire family, starting with the elder daughter Amanda, fell in love with the Little Mermaid movies, enough so, that they named their second daughter Casey "Ariel" Goodwin. When Dr. Goodwin speaks about his wife, he talks about her eyes and compared them to the eyes of Ariel, the main character in the famous Disney movie. As a pediatric anesthesiologist, Dr. Goodwin oftentimes helps little patients to sleep by singing favorite Disney tunes, how sweet!



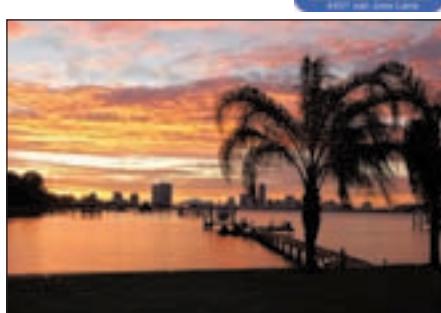
Goober's Retreat

44 Carver
Owner – Red Keith

Red Keith and his wife Linda love their grandchildren; the boat name itself is a pure reflection of the priorities of the family. Having never been a boater, upon retirement at the age of 60, Red wanted to get out on the water and decided to buy a boat. "The name is not as glamorous as you might expect," said Red. He continued to tell the story about a goofy song that lends to the reference to grandchildren as "goobers", so when the goobers kept adding up, they now have a place to have fun onboard "Goober's Retreat I".



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Ashley Smith Juarez

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Ashley has the experience we need on our school board!

AN EDUCATOR I know education. I was a classroom teacher, athletic coach and student mentor. **I have worked in both public and private schools.** An excellent education is the key to unlocking a child's potential. I understand firsthand that teachers need support, resources, empowerment and accountability to create effective learning environments.

STUDENT CHAMPION Schools must be inspiring places for all children. **I served as a dropout prevention specialist in 13 Duval County Public Schools.** I worked closely with students, parents, guidance counselors, teachers, principals and volunteer mentors to help students graduate and reach their potential.

LEADER IN EDUCATION REFORM I work continuously to improve education through policy change, best practice and community engagement. As Executive Director of The Chartrand Foundation, I travel the country learning about innovations in education. **I collaborate with Duval County Public Schools and community partners to apply policies and practices that work.**

"I know from experience that each child is capable of great things. I am determined to deliver an education system that encourages all children to dream big dreams and teaches them the skills they need to achieve them."

Vote for Ashley Smith Juarez for School Board on August 14th!

To learn more about Ashley Smith Juarez:



www.AshleySmithJuarez.com
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MOVERS & SHAKERS



Chappell welcomes new interim director

Chappell Child Development Center has named Kay Hawkins as interim director and quality assurance director of the company's Riverplace location.

Hawkins, who has an AA in early childhood development, previously was director at the

Beaches preschool and served as director for Chappell Deerwood. She serves on the leadership committee for Duval Early Learning Director's Network and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in early childhood development.

New 'dry eye' treatment comes to San Marco

San Marco-based Chokshi & Coluccelli Eye Institute announced it is one of the first in the region to introduce a new treatment for patients who suffer from Evaporative Dry Eye disease, also known as dry eyes. This disease stems from a deficiency in the oily lipid layer of the eye's natural tear film.

"This treatment is intended to treat patients with blocked meibomian glands, called meibomian gland dysfunction, by heating and massaging the glands and allowing them to resume the secretion of oily lipids needed for a healthy tear film," said ophthalmologist Dr. Amit Chokshi. Dry eye disease affects more than 100 million people worldwide. "This new LipiFlow treatment can help patients who are frustrated with this chronic disease, especially when they must continue to deal with the negative impact it has on their lives. LipiFlow helps patients enjoy immediate relief from symptoms."



Avondale, San Marco real estate offices win national award



Prudential Network Realty's Avondale and San Marco office achieved a national award for top gross commission income in the southeastern region. The team of Realtors has won the national company award during the past three quarters.

"I am very proud of the team, they work extremely hard to provide exceptional service and the results show," said Sheron Willson, broker manager of the Avondale/San Marco metro offices.

Local meat shoppe carries on tradition

In 1966, Smitty Shuman opened the original Carroll's Meat Shoppe on Pearl Street. Since then, other locations have opened, but none except the original remain — until now.

John Rose, who calls Shuman his granddad, has opened another location of the meat shoppe at 6925 St. Augustine Rd.

Although Shuman is his wife's grandfather, he has certainly influenced Rose since they met 17 years ago.

Rose decided that his love of meat and working with the public would make the perfect qualities to run the new store. "I just love dealing with people every day and serving them in the best way I can," he said.

Rose grew up in San Jose and knew that it was the perfect part of town for his shoppe.

"I'm comfortable over here, and the people in this area are just great," he said. "I think it's the nicest area in Jacksonville."



Shuman and Rose

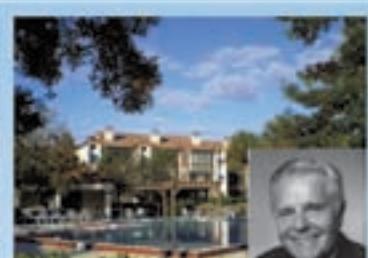
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Event organizers announce guest chefs

Delicious destinations benefits St. Vincent's community outreach

Plans for the 11th Annual Delicious Destinations, an event that has become one of the region's most regaled culinary events, are coming together in true gourmet fashion. Organizers recently announced the featured chefs for this year's event, which raises important funds for the community outreach programs of Riverside-based St. Vincent's Health.

If the caliber of the 2012 guest chefs are any indication, it is no wonder a growing number of guests make a getaway weekend out of the Ponte Vedra benefit. This year the event will be September 6-8, 2012 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

This year's guest chefs include...

- **Tony May and Matteo Bergamini**, SD26 — New York City, New York
- **Olivier de Busschere**, Executive Chef, Nikolai's Roof, Atlanta Hilton — Atlanta Georgia
- **Karl Edlbauer**, Corporate Executive Chef, Peabody Hotel — Orlando, Florida
- **Aaron Fuller**, Banquet Chef, Mar-a-Lago/Trump International — Palm Beach, Florida
- **Dusty Grove**, Executive Chef Marshwood Clubhouse, The Landings Club — Savannah, Georgia
- **Steve Mengel**, Executive Sous Chef, The Greenbrier — White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

- **Hermann Muller**, Executive Chef, Ponte Vedra Inn and Club — Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
- **Mitchell J. Pagan**, Executive Sous Chef, Mariner Sands Country Club — Stuart, Florida
- **Darin Sehnert**, Culinary Director, 700 Kitchen Cooking School at Mansion on Forsyth Park — Savannah, Georgia
- **Thomas Tolxdorf**, Executive Chef, The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, — Amelia Island, Florida
- **Elmar Wolf**, Executive Pastry Chef, The Breakers—Palm Beach, Florida

Many of the celebrity chefs have supported the annual event particularly because it benefits the migrant farm workers, who are providing local produce for our area, and their children.

The stars of the gourmet food and wine event are world renowned restaurateur, Tony May and his executive chef, Matteo Bergamini of New York City restaurant, SD26. The chefs will prepare a fine dining experience at the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Champagne Reception and Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Sep. 6 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

May, Matteo and the other chef line-up will showcase their talents on Sep. 8 at Delicious Destinations — Jacksonville's Premier Food and Wine Event. Each of the chef's presentations will be paired with a variety of exceptional wines selected by Southern Wine & Spirits of North Florida. Reservations for the Saturday food and wine event are available for \$250 per person. For more information, visit www.DeliciousDestinationsJax.com

Get ready to Eat Up Downtown!



Don't ruin your appetite — save room to support the many restaurants in Downtown Jacksonville next month during Eat Up Downtown. And why not, since Downtown is a key area to the success of the historic neighborhoods to its south.

Organizers announced 23 restaurants in Downtown Jacksonville — and several in the San Marco/Southbank area — will offer three-course, prix-fixe menus at \$15, \$25 or \$25 price points Aug 13-26. Participating restaurants include: Basil Thai & Sushi, bb's, Big Pete's Pizzeria, Brew House Lounge @ River City

Brewing Co., Café Nola @ MOCA, Casa Dora, Chart House, Chicago Pizza Sports Bar & Grille, Chomp Chomp, Cinco de Mayo, Fionn MacCool's Irish Restaurant & Pub, Indochine, Juliette's Bistro, KOJA Sushi, Northstar "The Pizza Bar," Olio, River City Brewing Company, Sake House, Underbelly, The University Club, Vito's Italian Café, Wine Cellar, and Zodiac Bar & Grill.

Downtown Vision is organizing the event in partnership with the Office of Economic Development, Jacksonville Magazine, 904 and The Core.



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GOGIVERS

Mary Swart

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



After retirement from Bellsouth's Human Resources department in 2003, Mary Swart's years of volunteering meant that her charities just moved higher on her priority list. She refers to husband Michael, a retired colonel of the U.S. Army Reserves who also worked for the U.S. Department of Labor, as her dependable sidekick for all her activities.

"I've been a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church for more than thirty years and was recently elected to the church council. I served on the board of trustees for their ARK Child Development Center for years, but stepped down for 2012. I am still very involved behind the scenes in vacation Bible School (VBS)!" Swart said.

Swart is well known in San Marco for her dedicated and enthusiastic work with the VBS program, which she is quick to mention will be themed SonRise National Parks VBS, August 6-10 for kids ages 4-13.

"I still also help a lot with the preschool and I love working with the children. I am excited about our National Parks theme and will be combining my love for the parks, nature and plants into a learning program for VBS. We will use photo-

graphs of plants associated with Biblical references for the children to identify. Some examples are the Angel Wing Begonia, Crown of Thorns, Christmas cactus and there are many others," she said. "I enjoy gardening and flowers, anything that will attract the butterflies which I consider as my own personal good luck charms. Butterflies just make me feel so good."

One of her goals after retirement was to use some of that hard-earned free time to enroll in the Duval County Extension Office's Master Gardener classes. In 2003 Swart completed the program and earned her Master Gardener designation, yet another way to volunteer and share her passion and knowledge of plants and flowers with the community. She has also been a dedicated member of the Jacksonville Garden Club since 2003.

An added pleasure for Swart will be the arrival of her two great-nephews, Thomas, 10 and David Crego, 11 of Fairfax, VA who will be visiting and joining her at VBS this summer. Michael will also be on hand

to help out wherever needed, especially with the cooking.

"Michael always helps me with whatever I am doing although his favorite pastime is 'exercising' his cars around the neighborhood as he calls it! He loves his classic automobiles: a silver 1983 Porsche 944, and his pride and joy, a 1959 Crown Sapphire (turquoise) Corvette. He also has a 2004 Magnetic Red Corvette," she said. This car-loving couple also enjoys drives in their Lexus SUV and Mini Cooper.

Since 2003 Mary has volunteered at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Wolfson Children's Hospital. She said it is her privilege to assist the families of hospitalized children by offering any type of assistance that may be needed, whether it is talking, listening, simple comfort or caring support.

She just left the board of Jacksonville's Ethics Commission where she served four years. Swart applied her human resources experience and expertise to labor relations issues to address and resolve ethical concerns and complaints.

The Swart family also includes a newly adopted beautiful calico cat, Callie, who was abandoned in nearby Granada Park. Callie was brought home by the Swart's only child, Dr. Meredith Anne Swart. Dr. Swart is a small animal veterinarian in her first year of practice in the Gainesville/Ocala area.

The Swarts have lived in their Mediterranean-style, Granada home since 1978. By chance during a bridge game, Swart met an elderly gentleman

who asked where she lived and upon hearing the location stated that he would like to see the home. During that visit he told the couple that he had once owned the home, where he lived with his wife, the daughter of the French Ambassador to the United States.

"He kindly told us that the house had been photographed in a 1933 edition of The American Home magazine and that he believed he still had a copy somewhere he would like to give to us — which he later did and we framed it as a very special part of our home's history. The price of the magazine was on the cover — 10 cents!" she said.

The couple enjoys travel and has focused on visiting U.S. National Parks for the past few years, which they plan to continue. A Spring 2012 cruise to the Southern Caribbean was in celebration of their 36th wedding anniversary and next up is exploration of the West Coast, California to Washington State. When not off on a travel adventure with Michael, Swart said that she plans to continue to volunteer and described it as a fulfilling and important part of her life.

"I volunteer because it actually gives me energy and I feel so good at the end of the day if I have helped someone in some way. I also want to improve our environment in any way I can and hope to be able to continue to make a meaningful contribution to my community and our world. I also want to encourage others to volunteer as I try to share whatever I can with others as part of my faith and gratitude to our Lord," she said.

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GoLO

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Historic neighborhoods can be sustained in many ways, from preservation to legislation. One of the easiest and most accessible is to "GoLO" or Go Local – patronize locally owned, locally operated businesses.

"When you shop in historic neighborhoods you not only support the local economy but you also promote sustainability because many of these businesses operate out of older buildings that might otherwise have been torn down," said Sarah Marie Johnston, marketing director at Bistro AIX and member of GoLO Jacksonville, an initiative designed to support locally owned, locally operated businesses (called LOLOs) by informing and educating consumers. "Shopping locally

historic neighborhoods alive in so many ways."

Neighborhoods like Riverside, Avondale, San Marco, Murray Hill and Springfield virtually challenge you not to GoLO because they offer so many unique shopping and dining experiences within walking distance from each other. The Riverside Arts Market, King Street Farmers Market and Jacksonville Farmers Market on Beaver Street offer a variety of local food and retail vendors in one spot. Throw in The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and Sun Ray Cinema in Riverside or the San Marco Theatre and Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco and it is easy to build a day trip around entirely LOLO businesses.

"Our historic neighborhoods' business districts have really grown to have a nice mix of interesting retail shops, special entertainment and great watering holes," said Mike Field, local banker, Fairfax res-

ident and neighborhood renovation advocate. "I think once people get out to the different areas they are not only pleasantly surprised but it also instills some city pride."

To help spread that pride and financially support local businesses, Field, along with his girlfriend, Caron Streibich, co-founded a dynamic series of



Mike Field markets the Cash Mob Today sign.
Photo by Caron Streibich.

monthly events called Jax Cash Mob. Modeled after a growing national phenomenon that began in Buffalo, NY in August 2011, the Jax Cash Mob is based on three simple steps:

1. Learn about the Cash Mob event via Facebook or word-of-mouth and then bring friends and meet the organizers at a specified LOLO restaurant.

2. Once there, a nearby LOLO retail business will be identified and all participants walk together as a peaceful mob where each person spends \$10 to \$20.

3. After shopping, everyone returns to the restaurant for good food, drink and socializing – and more spending to support a second LOLO.

"The call to action is what sets the Cash Mob apart," said GoLO's Johnston at the June Cash Mob event at The Write Touch and Pizza Palace on San Marco Square. 80 other participants who spent \$2,200 at the store and an additional \$470 at the restaurant joined her.

"It provides a nice economic boost for the businesses and is just a great social event," said San Marco Merchants' Association President

George Foote. "I will definitely encourage people to participate in other Cash Mobs in other neighborhoods."

Locally owned businesses reinvest about 65 percent of their revenues back into the community compared to 33 percent by chain stores, according to Field. He and Streibich have also organized mobs Downtown at Chamblin's Uptown/Burrito Gallery, in Avondale at Green

Man Gourmet/Mojo4 and at King Street Farmers Market attracting over 200 people for a total input of well over \$5,000 since April. The mob will visit Springfield on August 4. The events cost nothing to put on because they are promoted strictly through Facebook and word-of-mouth.

"A lot of stores, like the Green Man Gourmet in Avondale, carry locally produced products, so the impact is multiplied – not only are you helping the retailer, but you're also supporting other local businesses," said Streibich. "Also, surrounding stores often offer discounts the day of the event. It all sort of feeds on itself to keep the neighborhoods strong, vital and relevant."

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/jaxcashmob> for more information, updates and to offer suggestions about where future Jax Cash Mob events should occur. For a video of Mike Field talking about the benefits of Go Lo at The Write Touch/Pizza Palace event, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYtfwPoeVo&feature=player_embedded. Visit the GoLO website at www.golojax.com or their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/GoLO-Jacksonville/177419488939518>

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Jr. Residents

Local poets honored

Local students were honored at the winner's ceremony of the 2012 Deputy Superintendent's Published Poets Contest this summer.

Taylor T., a second-grader at Spring Park Elementary School, and Dwight J., an eighth-grader at Alfred I. duPont Middle School, were among 12 students selected as winners.

The contest, which encourages students to both read and write poetry, was created in an effort to celebrate "National Poetry Month." Each participating school submitted a winning entry from among the entries received at the school level

that best represented the theme and creative expression. This year's theme was "Reading Takes Me."

"It is extremely rewarding to see such talent and creativity exude from our students," said DCPS' Deputy Superintendent Patricia Willis. "It is important that we teach students that expressive writing such as poetry is key to developing great literacy skills."

The winning poems will be published in a book to be housed in the libraries of Duval County public schools and Jacksonville Public Library locations.

San Marco student wins crown

Jennifer Stehlin, a rising Stanton College Preparatory High School senior who lives in San Marco, was crowned Miss Florida Outstanding Teen 2012 last month in St. Petersburg.

During the pageant, Stehlin performed a musical theater jazz routine to The 20th Century Fox Mambo. Her platform was the March of Dimes: Working Together for Stronger, Healthier Babies.

Stehlin is the daughter of David and Ginger Stehlin. She will compete in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen contest Aug. 14-18 in Orlando.



Summer VBS continues at St. Mark's

It's not too late to sign the kids up for VBS this summer! St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is planning to hold the activities August 6-10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Children ages 4 to 13 are invited to attend.

Registration is \$15 per child or \$35 for a family of three or more. Call Wendi at St. Mark's church office (904-396-9608) to register or with questions.

Story and Stretch in San Marco

Story and Stretch:
Narrative Yoga for Kids is a new class beginning at Bliss Yoga Shala this month.

The small business' founder is Michel Le Gribble-Dates, a certified elementary teacher and outdoorswoman who became a certified Storytime Yoga instructor.

Story and Stretch aims to help children "develop into healthy, peaceful and literate individuals through a body-centered life education and yoga play therapy program." Gribble-Dates combines the ancient art of oral storytelling, the practice of yoga, geography, foreign language vocabulary, discussions of healthy habits and the exploration of music and visual arts. She opens each class with breathing and concentration



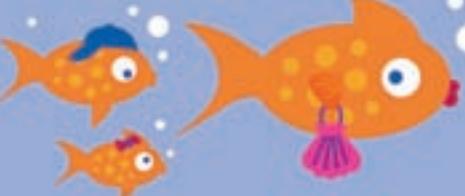
techniques and introduces students to puppets who assist her in a variety of ways. A physical warm-up of yoga poses is accomplished against the backdrop of poetry. The class also includes an oral story and a recreation of the story through yoga poses.

Centering, relaxation and discussion wraps up the class. Some classes include a small activity.

Classes begin on Aug. 14. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for three- to six-year-olds and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for seven- to 12-year-olds. Additional classes will be offered at schools, churches, after school programs, community events and birthday parties.



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Local students participate in cross-culture exchange

A group of 11 students from San Marco, Riverside, and Ortega is participating in CISV Jacksonville this summer.

CISV is a global community of dedicated volunteers, creating opportunities for all ages to experience the excitement of cultural diversity through educational programs. CISV was founded on the belief that peace is possible through friendship – and that the real difference can be made by starting with children.

Several students are involved in a Brazil interchange including: Jack Barksdale, Bryce Bongiovanni, Whit Hutto, Mac Lyerly, Caroline Taylor,

and Ann Maris Walton. The Interchange engages the whole family — not just the student delegate. As part of the program, seven delegates from Brazil and their team leader visited Jacksonville for two weeks. Then the Jacksonville students will travel to Brazil, where families there will reciprocate hosting.

While in Jacksonville, the U.S./Brazil group participated in a variety of activities. One of the most engaging events included a meeting with children from the Sanctuary on 8th Street. The day started with energizers to help the kids get to know each other and get excited for their activities.



Front: Delaney McClure; Holding Flag (from left): Diogo Bueno, Cissa Braune, Caroline Taylor, Hayla Duarte; Middle Row (from left): Ann-Maris Walton, Pepe Lima, Luca Drummond, Bryce Bongiovanni, Jack Barksdale, Whit Hutto, Kenya Smith, Courtney Dalmida, and Jada Kirkland; Last Row (from left) C'Nae King, Kerry McClure, Connor McClure, Mac Lyerly, Desiree Wright, Joe Kolb-Lugo, Timiquana Williams, Caio Braggio, Joao Moraes, Darielle Pates, and Sarah Davis

The interchange led the first few energizers, but as the Sanctuary on 8th Street girls felt more comfortable they jumped right in. When everyone felt more acquainted, the first activity started, where three groups used team-building skills to raise a rolled newspaper (like a stick) from the floor to the ceiling as a group. The catch? Each person could only use one finger! No grabbing or holding was allowed.

After 10-15 minutes, the delegates gathered for a debriefing.

"The debrief is the most important

part," said João Moraes, Brazil Delegation Leader. "That's where you try to understand the lesson."

The second activity focused on cultural understandings. Riverside Presbyterian Church hosted the activity.

Several other neighborhood residents are participating in CISV this summer including: Paige Charron (Norway Village), Eric Chiotti (Faroe Islands Summer Camp), Emily Evans (Austria Village), Xander Magevney (Austria Village), and Will Taylor (Faroe Islands Summer Camp).



Eagle Scouts celebrate 100th anniversary

North Florida Council holds Eagle Scout alumni BBQ

Eagle Scouts, get out your badges and wear them proudly at work, school or play to celebrate National Eagle Scout Day on Aug. 1. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the first achievement of the Eagle Scout Award, the North Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America will host an Eagle Scout Alumni Bar-B-Q and gathering of Eagle Scouts at the Council's Camp Echocottee, located on Doctors Lake in Orange Park. The event begins 6:30. \$10 admission fee. Reservations required: 904-265-3813 or www.nfcscouting.org.

Gymniators hosts annual event

Gymniators Gymnastics is hosting its annual National Gymnastics Day event on Sep. 22. Due to the Olympic games, organizers expect this year's gathering to be the biggest yet. For more information, contact Jessica Peyton at (904) 388-5533 or jessica@gymniators.com.



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Called to the office... Meet your new principal!

This summer, the principal leadership changed at three of the neighborhood's largest public middle and elementary schools — including Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, Alfred I. duPont Middle School and Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School.

We touched base with the new heads of these fine community schools

and learned how excited they are about their new school roles — and most importantly, about the students, teachers and community they'll be serving come late August.

Please enjoy meeting these exemplary academic leaders! And consider ways you could play a role supporting their success educating the neighborhood's youngest residents.



Name: Lacy Healy, Principal of Hendricks Elementary School

Hometown: Born and raised in Cherokee, Iowa and have lived in Florida for the past fourteen years.

Neighborhood or residence: Oakleaf Plantation in Orange Park

Family: Husband, James Healy, and a five-year-old English springer spaniel named Chase.

Teaching/administration experience: I Have taught 3rd, 5th, and 6th grade, was a school-based Standards Coach for two years; was assistant principal at

Lake Shore Middle School for three years; and was principal of John N.C. Stockton Elementary for 4 years.

Why are you excited about this new leadership opportunity? This new leadership experience will provide me with the opportunity to develop more relationships with people in the Jacksonville community (specifically the San Marco area). Hendricks Avenue Elementary is known for their rich traditions and strong community involvement and I plan to build upon what has previously been established at this school. In addition, I am excited to bring new ideas that will positively impact student achievement as well as the "whole child."

What are some of the plans you have in store for the 2012-2013 school year? One of my priorities is to continue to meet and get to know my students, staff, parents, and community members. My plan is to build upon all of the great teaching and learning that is already happening at Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

What kind of roles should teachers, students, staff, parents and the com-

munity play in the education of your school's students? As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." I believe that everyone must join together to work toward the common goal of educating our children.

What should students, teachers, parents know about your leadership style? When it comes to the type of leader that I am, I want everyone to know that I have an open-door policy. Students, teachers, parents, and community members should feel comfortable in coming to me to discuss any celebrations, feedback, comments, or questions that they have. Not only am I excited to be actively engaged in instruction and activities during the school day, I look forward to participating in extracurricular activities and events at the school and in the community.

What might your students find you doing when you're not behind the principal's desk — in your free time? In my free time I enjoy running, outside activities, gardening, traveling, reading, and spending time with my family.



Name: Sara Bravo, Principal of Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School

Hometown: DeLand, Florida — although I have been a resident of Jacksonville since 1994 and now consider this city my long-term home.

Neighborhood or residence: Arlington

Family: I have been married to my husband, Toma, for nine years. He runs a personal training business and is an amazingly supportive husband. We have seven-year-old twins, Ben and Maggie. They attend Pine Forest Elementary School and are our reason for everything. I am also very close to my mom, a San Marco resident. She is a phenomenal grandmother and mother in every sense of the word. I must also mention that we are an animal-loving family and our cats do count as members of the Bravo household.

Teaching/administration experience: I graduated from UNF in 1999 and began my teaching career at Landon Middle School as a 7th grade Geography teacher. I clearly remember walking up Landon's front steps to interview for that position and often reflect on that memory as I walk up those same steps now. Life certainly does come full circle.

After my first year of teaching I was given the opportunity to join the faculty at LaVilla School of the Arts, then a brand new school and magnet program in Jacksonville. I gained so much experience and insight being part of the beginning of

See BRAVO, page 31

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Name: Marilyn M. Barnwell, Principal of Alfred I. duPont Middle School

Hometown: Jacksonville, FL

Neighborhood of residence: Argyle

Family: Husband, Eugene B. Barnwell, Jr. and daughter, Kayla Genae Barnwell
Teaching/administration experience: Prior to beginning my career in education I worked for eight years at Merrill Lynch Funds Processing Group and Merrill Lynch Credit Corporation as an Assistant Supervisor in Loan

Administration Research. In August 2000, I began my teaching career as a Social Studies instructor for Horizons Unlimited Academy Charter School. In 2004, I taught US History at Landon Middle School and remained there until October 2005 when I was promoted to Assistant



Principal of Student Services at Mandarin Middle School. At Mandarin Middle School I served as Assistant Principal of Student Services for four years and Assistant Principal of Curriculum for the past three years. I have completed Duval County Public School's Leadership Development I & II Programs as well as the Assistant Principal Academy.

Why are you excited about this new leadership opportunity? I'm excited about the opportunity to prepare all of our students for post secondary education. As the first in my generation to graduate college, I know the importance of creating a learning environment that fosters the belief that all students can attend college and compete in a growing global economy. In addition, I look forward to showing students by example what they can achieve if they

BRAVO, from 30

that tremendous program and enjoyed five years of teaching and three years as the school instructional coach at LaVilla. During that time I attended Jacksonville University earning my master's degree in Educational Leadership, got married, started a family and developed lasting professional and personal relationships that I cherish to this day. LaVilla's current principal, Mrs. Janelle Wagner, remains a strong mentor and guide in my work and in my life. In 2007 I crossed paths with Dr. Kelly Coker-Daniel and was intrigued to learn of a new magnet program she was charged with creating at Landon Middle School. I am not quite certain whether she pursued me or I pursued the opportunity, both perhaps, but in the spring of 2007 I joined the faculty at what is now Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School. I have proudly served as an Assistant Principal at Julia Landon for the past four years and was recently appointed as the school's new principal.

Why are you excited about this new leadership opportunity? I remember my elementary school principal, Mrs. Joan Kinsey. She was a tiny woman full of spunk and she had a great deal of patience for an inquisitive and often active little girl named Sara. As she and I grew older over my years in elementary school, I vividly remember thinking that I would like to do her job. I loved the notion of being a school leader, a teacher of teachers, a person who walks down the hall and knows students' names. I never lost that dream and through my years of teaching and serving in other capacities, I made every effort to surround myself with strong leaders, particularly strong principals. I am excited to take every lesson I've ever learned and apply them to my work in this new position.

What are some of the plans you have in store for the 2012-2013 school year? I would first like to note that Julia Landon is a tremendously successful middle school due in great part to the leadership of Dr. Coker-Daniel. Her vision for the program and daily work to make that vision a reality has created a truly unique and positive environment for our students. My immediate plan is to create a transition that is seamless for each child, parent and teacher returning to and entering our school. My plans also include continuing the tradition of high academic and behavioral expectations for each and every student while nurturing the creative and unique gifts within each child. I also believe strongly in the necessity of consistent communication between teachers and parents and plan to continue and strengthen those channels over the coming school year.

What kind of roles should teachers, students, staff, parents and the community play in the education of your school's students? Julia Landon, formerly Landon Middle School and Landon High School, is a school steeped in tradition and history. The San Marco community has embraced our magnet program from early on and we are grateful and fortunate to be centrally located in such a warm and generous community. Through an ongoing partnership with Southside Baptist Church, parishioners positively impact our school by mentoring our students and serving our teachers. The Julia Landon School Advisory Council and PTSA are incredibly highly functioning groups of individuals who choose to take additional time from their already busy lives to serve the children in our school in a purposeful and selfless manner. Julia Landon teachers simply exude professionalism, knowledge and the belief in the ability for each and every child to succeed and grow. Most importantly, the students of Julia Landon, under my leadership, will remain the focus and reason for the work we do each day.

work hard and dedicate themselves to a rigorous course of study.

What are some of the plans you have in store for the 2012-2013 school year? I will continue to build upon the programs and initiatives that were established by my predecessor Teresa Mowbray. We are looking forward to our Fidelity Transformation Day slated for August 11, 2012 in which employees from Fidelity Investments and volunteers from HandsOn Jacksonville will work to complete improvements to our campus. It is also my goal to establish relationships with local colleges and business leaders to create a mentoring program that will help students to build leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills.

What kind of roles should teachers, students, staff, parents and the community play in the education of your school's students? It is my philosophy that learning outcomes for students are reached when all resources including parents, school,

business, and community come together to achieve optimal results for raising academic performance. The role of all stakeholders is to be an active participant in the shaping of our school culture and to promote overall community engagement. I encourage the community to join our School Advisory Council and to become active participants in our PTSA organization.

What should students, teachers, parents know about your leadership style? Most people describe my leadership style as firm but fair. When making decisions I always put the best interest of the child first.

What might your students find you doing when you're not behind the principal's desk — in your free time? I love to spend my free time with my family and friends attending church, visiting the beach, theme parks, and bookstores. Most of all I enjoy spending quality family time at home.

What might your students find you doing when you're not behind the principal's desk — in your free time? I told my husband recently that he might not see as much of me this school year. He responded that he and our children would have to attend more school events! While I do not deny the reality of the demands of the principalship, I also firmly believe that every individual must put their family first and I love spending time with mine. My children love to be outdoors and we can often be found swimming, riding bikes and going to parks on days off. I very much enjoy long runs on the weekends (and shorter ones during the week if that can be managed). I live near the river and my favorite escape is on the riverbank at dawn taking very amateur pictures of the egrets, herons, ibis and anhingas. My second favorite escape would be in books, as I consider myself an avid reader.

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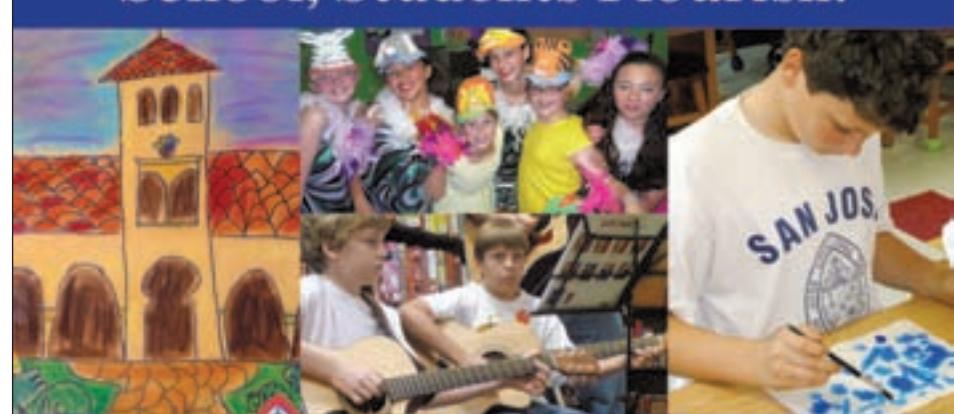
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