

# Riverside

COMMUNITY NEWS

## Students meet a hero



Students at St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten received a special visit last month from Senior Airman Franklin of the United States Air Force. School leaders said Franklin taught the children how important it is to respect our country and our flag. Students said the pledge with Franklin and enjoyed shaking the hand of a real, live hero. For more JR Residents ..... see page 44

## Brownie 'Points'

Residents got their hands dirty for a good cause, including Gunnell Humphreys, who joined in others who spent time at 5 Points cleaning up streetscape ..... see page 14

## 5 Points Village rezoning application draws ire

*Developer's opponents seek community support for Nov. meetings*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A bid to rezone the 5 Points Village shopping center in Riverside has gotten intense push back from local residents and neighborhood enthusiasts who want to see the building's developer be a better neighbor.

November will be a pivotal month for the rezoning debate, as city council representatives weigh critical issues in the case. But the community dialogue on the project has been ongoing since summer.

5 Points Village property owner, Retail Properties Inc. — run by longtime retail developer Peter Sleiman — seeks to rezone 2030 Post Street from its current Residential Medium Density-B and Commercial Community/General-1 classification to a Planned Unit Development, or PUD, status. The developer wants to renovate the property and repair

damage from a June 18 fire that gutted the Wasabi restaurant and Firehouse Subs store.

Molly Hansen, a flight attendant and married mother of two, is one of the project's most outspoken opponents. She lives adjacent to 5 Points Village on Forbes Street house. The back wall and corner of 5 Points Village are two feet from the side of her home. Hansen's property also abuts 2030 Post St., a parcel now used for retail center parking and garbage collection that has been a source of foul odor and a haven for dumpster diving, neighbors said. Hansen asked that the council not allow the PUD to be approved in its current state and questioned why a property "not compliant" would be given leeway for so long.

"Every business in Riverside-Avondale has to comply with the overlay," she stated. "In the PUD they are ignoring buffers, setbacks, signage and landscaping. They are ignoring recommendations of both RAP and Historical

See **5 POINTS** on page 12

## Residents, RAP appeal restaurant plan approvals

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Two local groups have appealed the city planning commission's Sep. 27 approval of Mellow Mushroom's exception application.

Those groups include We Love Avondale LLC — known as "the opposition" to Mellow Mushroom's Avondale restaurant plans — as well as Riverside Avondale Preservation, according to WLA organizer and Avondale

attorney, Thomas M. Donahoo, Jr. RAP Executive Director Carmen Godwin said RAP filed an appeal of the commission's approval on Oct. 22. WLA filed its appeal on Oct. 18.

The groups are appealing the exception E-12-35, Mellow Mushroom's application for outdoor sales and service and full sale of alcohol.

WLA and its appeal interests are being represented by local attorneys George Gable

See **APPEAL** on page 38

## Jump right in!

*Once slated for closure, historic Good Shepherd pool now making waves*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Several years ago, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd pool was nearly drained. But a push for new membership and other key changes to pool management have helped the

See **POOL** on page 11

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**CORRECTION:** In a recent piece on Mellow Mushroom the story seemed to indicate that a Mellow Mushroom spokesperson had greeted the Planning Commission's approval of the restaurants plans with the words "we are good to go with the build out". In fact, the spokesperson had said, in an email written days before the planning commission met, "If we pass [planning commission] and there are no appeals, we are good to go ahead with the build out."

# In a Word Faith

## Live by faith and not by sight

BY STEVE GOYER, PASTOR  
RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As a preacher, being asked to write a short article on faith is like asking Neil Armstrong to sum up what it was like to go to the moon in a paragraph or two. Regardless, I said yes, which was, in itself a leap of faith.

Mostly when we talk about faith, we really mean belief. For my money they are as different as sitting and flying. Belief provides answers to our questions, faith opens us up to the questions themselves. Belief talks and talks and talks, faith listens. We believe in order to find assurance, provide comfort, or

maintain conformity in the community or congregation. Belief keeps us joined together. Faith is more personal and more mysterious. Faith does not comfort as much as compel, coax, call. Faith separates us and sends us on a journey and in the Bible to be separate is to be Holy.

Belief is about doctrine; faith is about trust. Belief comes from the mind; faith comes from the heart. Belief is intellectual; faith is relational. Belief is about how we understand God; faith is about how God understands us. Belief tries to prove itself; faith understands you cannot proof text love or trust or friendship.

I think it was the great theologian Paul Tillich who said "the opposite of doubt isn't faith, but belief." Belief cannot tolerate doubt any more than the Taliban can tolerate women being educated or the Koran being interpreted differently than they believe. Radical belief demands, is rigid, and insists on total orthodoxy. It's as serious as a rattlesnake.

Faith however is more playful and it is always mixed with doubt. Doubt and faith even feed on each other – if doubt doesn't overpower it. As Fred Buechner said, "Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep us awake and moving." Doubts fuel our scratching the

*(Editor's note: The Resident is asking local pastors and faith leaders to sound off on three words during the holiday season over the next three months: faith, peace and love. This month, we address faith.)*

deep itch of meaning, purpose, and understanding. In fact, faith often blows away our beliefs, frees us from previous ideas and sends us searching for the Ultimate Truth. While belief may build mountains; faith moves them.

Have you noticed that most of the things we fight and bicker about in politics or religion are about belief rather than faith? Churches, congregations and communities too often split over tiny differences of belief that cannot stand up in the presence of the Ultimate Truth. Faith on the other hand gives itself over to the mysteries of the Ultimate Truth without insisting on its own way.

When Abraham, the ancestral patriarch of the three great religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam, heard God call him to leave his father's house to an unknown land, part of what he was called to leave were his beliefs formed and forged in the culture of his family. It was not belief but faith that strengthened him. Trusting God, he journeyed forth with no clear destination. All the while his beliefs were being reformed along the way.

It seems to me that for those who call ourselves faithful we might want to ask ourselves whether it's really faith we have or belief. After all there are still a whole lot of people who believe that the landing on the moon was a giant hoax. The point is that belief alone will never get us off the ground. Instead it takes an act of faith to get us to take the leap.

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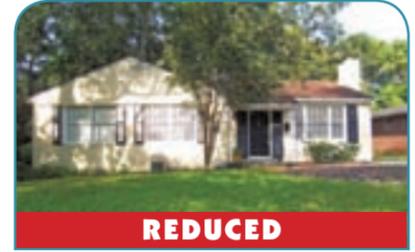
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*Publisher's Note*

# Top 10

reasons to be *Thankful* for our neighborhood

It's that time of the year when giving thanks takes priority in our lives. With Thanksgiving, Christmas and Chanukah just around the corner, we join other residents in being grateful for the family and friends who bring us joy and the circumstances that create new opportunities and bounty.

From where we sit, however, we see many more reasons to be thankful this holiday season. As publishers of your community newspaper, we are privileged to showcase news each month about

the people, projects and businesses that make our neighborhoods distinctive. It's a special place to be! If you feel like you're reading a lot of "positive news" each month, you are right. Wonderful things are happening in our community week in and week out, and for that — we are thankful.

To put our gratitude in focus, we came up with a short list — a Top 10 List of sorts — about the many neighborhood attributes for which we are thankful for this year. We hope you agree with us!

**1 A relatively insulated residential real estate market** – While other communities around Northeast Florida have been bumping along the bottom of the market during tougher economic times, homes in the historic districts have been maintaining their value at higher levels. Owning a home in the historic neighborhoods of Jacksonville can be a wise investment!

**2 Community diversity** – Our neighborhoods are home to people of many different faiths, backgrounds, political beliefs, ethnicities, education levels and heritages. On Hendricks Avenue/San Jose Boulevard, for example, commuters pass a slew of varying worship centers between Congregation Ahveth Chesed to the south and Swaim Memorial United Methodist Church to the north. Our residents are vibrant because of this mix of color, creed and character.

**3 Local entrepreneurship and business** – We haven't counted, but by all perspectives local businesses have the run on our area retail scene. With few "big box" stores in the neighborhood and a commitment from local residents to shop local, Jacksonville-owned and operated businesses thrive here. So maybe there are some parking issues to work through and maybe not everyone's happy with the fallout, but businesses want to be a part of this hopping scene!

**4 Riverside Arts Market and the local farmer's markets** – Not everyone in Jacksonville enjoys the kind of access we have to fresh fruits, vegetables and artisan craft that we do. Successful local markets like the Riverside Arts Market, the Farmer's Market on Beaver Street and the smaller fresh produce markets available to residents in San Marco and Riverside are making us a healthier community.

**6 Trees!** We are so grateful for the beautiful canopy that help clean our neighborhood air, offer our homes and businesses shade and give our community a mature, distinctive appeal. And what a blessing it is there are so many residents here who support the protection, replanting and proper pruning of trees through out the neighborhood.

**8 Top-rated local schools** – A high percentage of the city's top schools — both public and private — are located in our neighborhoods.



**5 (Speaking of health) Children in the neighborhood live in a place that promotes walkability, bike-riding and physical activity** – Whether it's children riding their bikes to school or walking to nearby parks and libraries, the scale of our neighborhoods provide ample opportunities for people of all ages to get physical — and keep epidemics like obesity, diabetes and other related issues that plague many communities around the country at bay.

**7 The St. Johns River and its waterways** – Whether it's outwardly through organizations like The St. Johns Riverkeeper or through personal adventures like Jim Alabiso's (and company) river swims, residents appreciate the river and its ecology — and work hard to protect it.

**9 City and school representatives who are involved and effective** – It is a blessing to have people like District 14 City Councilman Jim Love and District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer representing the neighborhood's interest in government matters. They are committed to making our community desirable places to live and work, their heart is in the game.

**10 A community newspaper** – We are here for our readers. We are grateful to be a conduit through which residents share their news with the neighborhood. It is our sincerest desire to build a strong sense of community through the humble act of information-sharing.

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# Mobility Plan fee moratorium ended Oct. 19

BY STEVE DIMATTIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The sun officially set on the 2030 Mobility Plan fee moratorium Oct. 19, but developer Toney Sleiman continues to advocate for a new moratorium bill, leaving the plan's proponents on guard.

The one-year moratorium was adopted to stimulate growth by lifting impact fees on new development. But not everyone thinks it has been effective enough to warrant an extension.

Motivated by rumors the Oct. 9 city council meeting agenda might include an extension bill, 40 individuals came in support of ending the moratorium. Their biggest concern: Without a mobility fee, there is limited funding for capital improvements. Many spoke on behalf of citizens' groups, including Riverside Avondale Preservation, San Marco Preservation Society, Springfield Preservation and Restoration, Urban Core CPAC (Citizen Planning Advisory Committee), Greater Arlington/Beaches CPAC and the Bicycle Pedestrian Action Committee.

"Anything can still happen with this bill and we wanted to make sure the council knows there is opposition to an extension both on economic and philosophical terms," said San Marco-based developer Doug Skiles, who spearheads the opposition.

No one has advocated for an extension during council meetings, the mobility fee was not addressed at the

Oct. 23 meeting and, as of press time, no bill had been filed. But Sleiman has been clear in his intention to seek an extension.

"Another year moratorium is the smart thing to do in this economy," Sleiman said. "It makes no sense letting it die, or extending it for less than a year, or just having a reduction in the impact fee; those are half-way measures."

"Anything can still happen with this bill and we wanted to make sure the council knows there is opposition to an extension both on economic and philosophical terms,"

**Doug Skiles**

*San Marco-based developer*

Proponents for both sides have lobbied council and the Mayor's office since there is a possibility that a new bill could be introduced. However, neither the administration nor any council member has declared a willingness to sponsor new fee moratorium legislation.

"The administration would not initiate an extension of the moratorium at this time, as it is a council matter," said Jessica Deal, Mayor Brown's city council liaison.

At a recent Southeast CPAC meeting, Brown stated, "We always knew it [the moratorium] was a one year plan." That aligns with feedback from council members Jim Love, Lori

Boyer, John Crescimbeni, Warren Jones, Bill Bishop, Bill Gulliford and Stephen Joost. They, in addition to Greg Anderson, Ray Holt, Clay Yarborough and Matt Schellenberg emphasized that, if a bill is taken up, they would carefully weigh the data before deciding (other council had not been contacted by press time).

The data does not strongly support an extension. Of 124 mobility fee applications totaling \$17.5 million, only 27 have been permitted (21 percent). Fees waived equal \$3.1 million.

However, 17 waiver applications were filed within the first 11 days of October compared to 15 in September, according to Stephen Smith, who compiles this data for the city.

Some council members suggested this last minute rush might indicate the moratorium was not used effectively. But Mike Herzberg, Director of Development for Sleiman Enterprises, noted that projects are not counted in the waiver figures until they are issued a permit, which can be up to six months after the moratorium ended. Therefore, these October projects could possibly increase the moratorium waiver totals.

Additionally, Sleiman argued that mobility fees dissuade some national developers.

"There are companies that are only building new stores in areas where impact fees are waived," said Sleiman, pointing to RaceTrac Petroleum. Trey Spivey, RaceTrac's real estate manag-

er, confirmed that an impact fee would likely limit the number of stores they would build in Jacksonville.

"We've got to focus our capital on where we can get the most bang for the buck," said Spivey. It is noteworthy that RaceTrac has built only one store locally during the moratorium period and it was not eligible for a waiver.

While some developers may not embrace the mobility fee, its return will help fund capital improvement projects throughout the city. For Riverside/Avondale, that means a streetcar connecting to Downtown. San Marco would see the widening of Philips Highway. But proponents are aware these projects could be in jeopardy again if the council can be convinced to revisit the issue.

"We're happy to see the moratorium end and will be paying close attention to make sure the community will have an opportunity to respond if another bill is introduced," Skiles said.

**Note:** Southeast CPAC has invited Herzberg and Skiles to present the issues on November 26 at 6:30 p.m., St. Vincent's Southside Hospital, 4201 Belfort Road. Contact Rosemary Wesolowski at 904-255-8261 or rosemary@coj.net for information. To learn more about the Mobility Plan: <http://www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/community-planning-division/transportation-planning/mobility-plan.aspx>



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# YMCA announces plans for \$21 million facility

*Project one of several simmering in Brooklyn area*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Exercising on the Northbank Riverwalk took on new meaning last month. Officials with YMCA of Florida's First Coast announced plans for a new glass-fronted, 80,000-square-foot Yates Family YMCA building on the St. Johns riverfront during a private mid-October luncheon.

The building, expected to cost nearly \$21 million to construct, eventually will replace the existing Y facility on Riverside Avenue – which will be demolished for a surface parking lot once the new building is complete. The building also will accommodate YMCA of Florida's First Coast's corporate headquarters.

Y officials said the original facility would remain open throughout construction of the new building.

The Haskell Co., a nearby business neighbor, will provide construction services for the project while RS&H was listed as the architect of record. England-Thims & Miller Inc. is the project civil engineering firm tapped for the work.

A groundbreaking is slated for the second or third quarter of 2013,

according to Y officials. A start date is dependent on the success of a Y capital campaign spearheaded by a committee of local residents. The capital campaign group is co-chaired by Russell Newton III and John Anderson and includes Ron Autrey, Dog Baer, John D. Baker, Billy Ball, J.F. and Peggy Bryan, Carl Cannon, G. John Carey, Ceree Harden, Leerie Jenkins, Percy Rosenbloom and James Winston.

"We are excited about the team that has stepped up to help us reach our goal," said Eric Mann, YMCA president and CEO. "Reaching that goal, to build in Riverside, opens up the door for us to reach so many more goals that will change the lives of the people growing up, living and working in communities all around it."

The new Yates YMCA facility isn't the only project to be announced in recent months. The 220 Riverside project also is taking shape in the area. Leaders with the development company envision an exciting future for the area, often described as a "gateway" to downtown Jacksonville.

"We expect our 220 Riverside project and adjacent public plaza to serve as a catalyst for continued development in Brooklyn along the Riverside corridor," said Alex Coley, president of Hallmark Partners. "The Y project will be an outstanding



resource to the entire community and we have already had conversations about synergies between our respective facilities and efforts."

220 Riverside is a seven-story multifamily residential development with retail space and an urban park. In a recently created comprehensive development plan, Hallmark Partners outlined specifics for the project including an elevated central courtyard and amenity deck. The development will feature 294 units ranging in size from 615 square feet to 1,200 square feet. Other features will include a pool, interactive leasing center, central mail area, clubhouse with fitness center and an Internet café. The development will also

include 15,000 square feet of retail space. The development will be adjacent to an urban public park. In a public-private partnership with the city, Hallmark Partners will donate the land for the park. The facilities can accommodate more than 1,500 people.

Dave Aughter, executive vice president of Hallmark, said the company expects to break ground on the project in November. The work has a delivery timetable of about 20 months, he said.

In other news, there has been recent speculation that a small, upscale grocery store was considering Brooklyn as the location of its next Jacksonville store.



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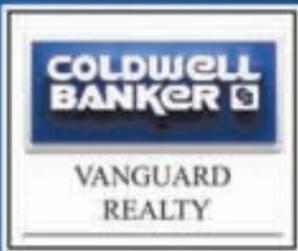
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## Group raising funds to bring ship to Northbank

Last month was a celebratory one for the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, which held its fourth annual gala last month in downtown Jacksonville. The group is seeking to bring the retired USS Charles F. Adams home as an interactive attraction on the Northbank of the St. Johns River.

The group held a reception at The Jacksonville Landing and a gala and silent auction at the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel. Attendees included W.W. "Bill" Gay, Sr., who was expected to be honored for his longtime support

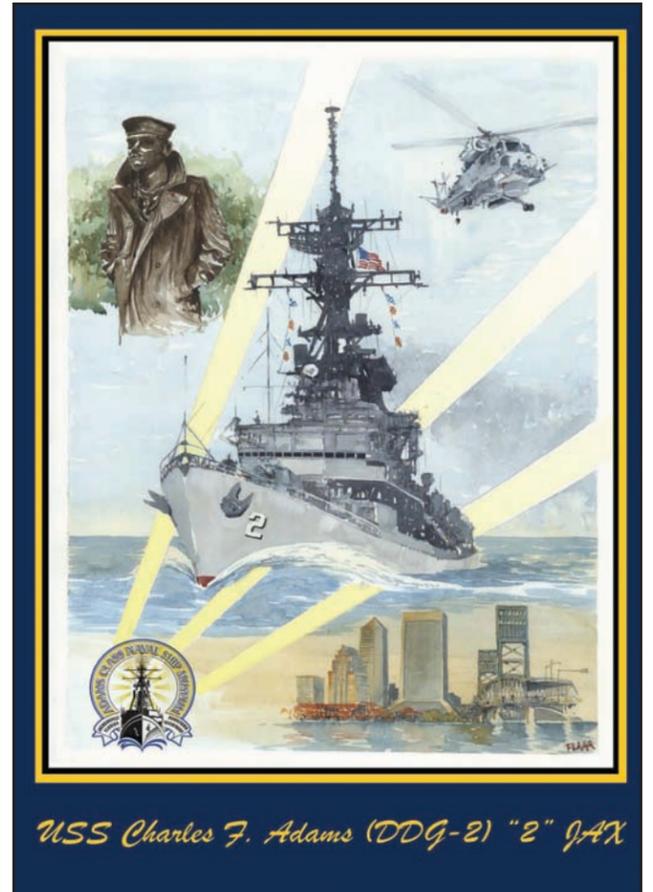
of city and country and his efforts to bring the Adams to the Jacksonville riverfront. During the event, the group presented Gay with the JHNSA Meritorious Service Award.

Also in attendance was Charles F. "Chas" Adams, a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserves who is a direct descendant of the John Adams family and was named after the ship's namesake.

The JHNSA wants to establish a Navy pier by placing the USS Adams at the Shipyards site along the Northbank in downtown Jacksonville. The

site is adjacent to the city's sports complex along Bay Street. The JHNSA Visitor Center is located in The Jacksonville Landing.

The group is raising funds for the project. One of the fundraising initiatives is the sale of a special poster created by local artist Chris Flagg. The framed 24 by 36-inch prints are selling for \$75 and the unframed versions for \$20. All prints are signed and numbered by the artist. Prints that did not sell during the gala are available for sale in the USS Adams shop in The Landing.



## MPA hosts first community meeting on park restoration

Following a September project announcement, the Memorial Park Association hosted its first community meeting to share its vision for the park's historic renovation.

The group's primary intent was to introduce David Sacks, an experienced landscape architect based on Avondale Estates, Ga. David Sacks RLA Landscape Architecture, which has worked on such historically significant parks and gardens as the Bok Tower Gardens and the McKee Botanical Garden during its 24 years, is

the firm hired by MPA to manage the major renovation effort for the Olmsted Brothers-designed Memorial Park.

Sacks has been meeting with local government officials to gather historical information about the park, as well as details safety and public works issues, according to a meeting report. He discussed the purpose of the restoration and the park's historical significance of the Olmsted Brothers' firm.

The meeting was held at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in

Riverside. Organizer Jake Ingram said about 60 people attended. Guests shared their email addresses to be informed of park progress.

Ingram said the next step in the park renovation process will be the submission of a schematic design to the MPA Board in mid-November. Ingram expected that would happen before Christmas. The master plan presentation will include a color-rendered plan for the park, as well as booklets and narrative details — and estimated costs — for the park improvements.

A capital funding campaign is in the works.

The group continues to seek historic photographs, documents and reminisces of the park. One of the gaps in the group's archives is 1924-1960. To help link the park's historical record, The Resident is asking readers to submit photos or memories of the park from this time.

Submissions can be mailed to The Resident Community News Group at PO Box 1650-302, Jacksonville, FL 32205 or email them to editor@residentnews.net.

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# Riverside Dog Park gets city nod

*But funding dollars needed before maintenance agreement will be signed*



BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Riverside Avondale Preservation Executive Director Carmen Godwin said she spent an entire day last month at City Hall advocating for the neighborhood's four-legged residents. The group's efforts were successful – both the city finance and recreation committees unanimously passed a bill (2012-461) calling for “a memorandum of understanding between the city and the state Department of Transportation for the city to utilize and maintain a parcel under I-95 in Riverside as an extension of Riverside Park for the installation of a dog park and other amenities.” The Jacksonville City Council passed the legislation at its late October meeting.

The project's future, however, is leashed to one critical caveat: money.

“They passed a bill that says the city will sign a maintenance agreement under these conditions – that RAP will raise the

money in advance and cover our portion of the expense and that we can pay for the first five years of grounds maintenance,” Godwin said. “They want to make sure we have the money before they sign and construction begins.”

RAP and the Five Points Merchants Association already have dedicated \$25,000 for the design and engineering phase of the project. Designs are in the works for the two-acre site in the park's northwest corner. Eric Lycke, a landscape architect with The Haskell Co., helped design a plan that includes several different areas for different size dogs. According to plans outlined on the RAP website, the park will include space for large and active dogs and another for small or passive breeds. The larger dog area ground cover will be made of decomposed granite. A walking path and shade pavilion are also part of the more than one-acre section. The small dog section, also just over an acre in size, includes tree coverage and bench seating.

Godwin said RAP has tried to mitigate financial concerns about the project

by agreeing to a 50/50, dollar-for-dollar match for the park expenses with District 14 bond funds.

“We let them know we have \$25,000 already for engineering and design and this doesn't cost the taxpayers any extra money,” Godwin said. “Then we'll match District 14 bond funds dollar for dollar – that's money already dedicated for projects in District 14.”

Initially, RAP's dog park committee had considered the option of making the off-leash park a paid-access park – a plan that would require users to pay an annual fee. However, the cost to build an entry gate and other associated infrastructure outweighed the anticipated \$2,000 annual maintenance fee to mow, edge and facilitate waste disposal at the park.

“The system itself ended up costing \$45,000,” Godwin said. “Ultimately, we'd really like the park to be the public's no matter what people's means are. That's our goal – if we can raise the money on the front end, we'd like for this park to be open to the public.”

During the past year, RAP has been working behind the scenes to lay the groundwork for a Riverside Park dog park. The state Department of Transportation had to release a maintenance agreement for a portion of the park and RAP has been working on fundraising for the project. With city approvals in hand, the group can now begin pursuing designs and fundraising efforts more rigorously. The group plans to sell bricks for the park as a fundraising effort and hopes to attract corporate sponsorships for name recognition at the park.

## Warehouse sale to benefit library friends

The last Book Warehouse Sale of the year, organized by the Friends of Jacksonville Public Library, will be held No. 9 at the FJPL's Book Warehouse.

The book warehouse is located at 3435 University Blvd. N. in the University Park Library.

Organizers said the sale will be one of the group's largest.

“We've expanded our shelving space and we have lots of books to sell,” said Harry Reagan, president of FJPL. “Our sale opens with a members-only night and we'll be offering our \$10 bag special several days.”

The special is all the books that can be stuffed into a brown grocery bag for \$10. Book prices are \$2 for hardcover and \$1 for softcover and 50 cents for paperbacks. DVDs and CDs are \$3. Children's books are \$1 for hardcover and 50 cents for softcover. “Better books” are individually priced, mostly \$4 to \$8.

Reagan said FJPL will be asking shoppers to sign petitions supporting a straw vote on establishing a special tax district for the library. The tax district was the proposal that came out of a special JCCI (Jacksonville Community Council Inc.) study to find a way to stabilize library funding. The library budget has been cut several times in recent years.

Reagan said FJPL also is helping organize petition circulators to work at voting places during early voting and on Election Day.

For more information on days and hours of the sale, visit [www.fjpl.org](http://www.fjpl.org) or call (904) 630-2304.



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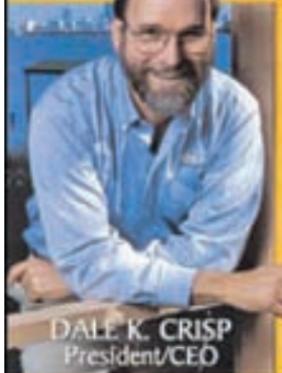


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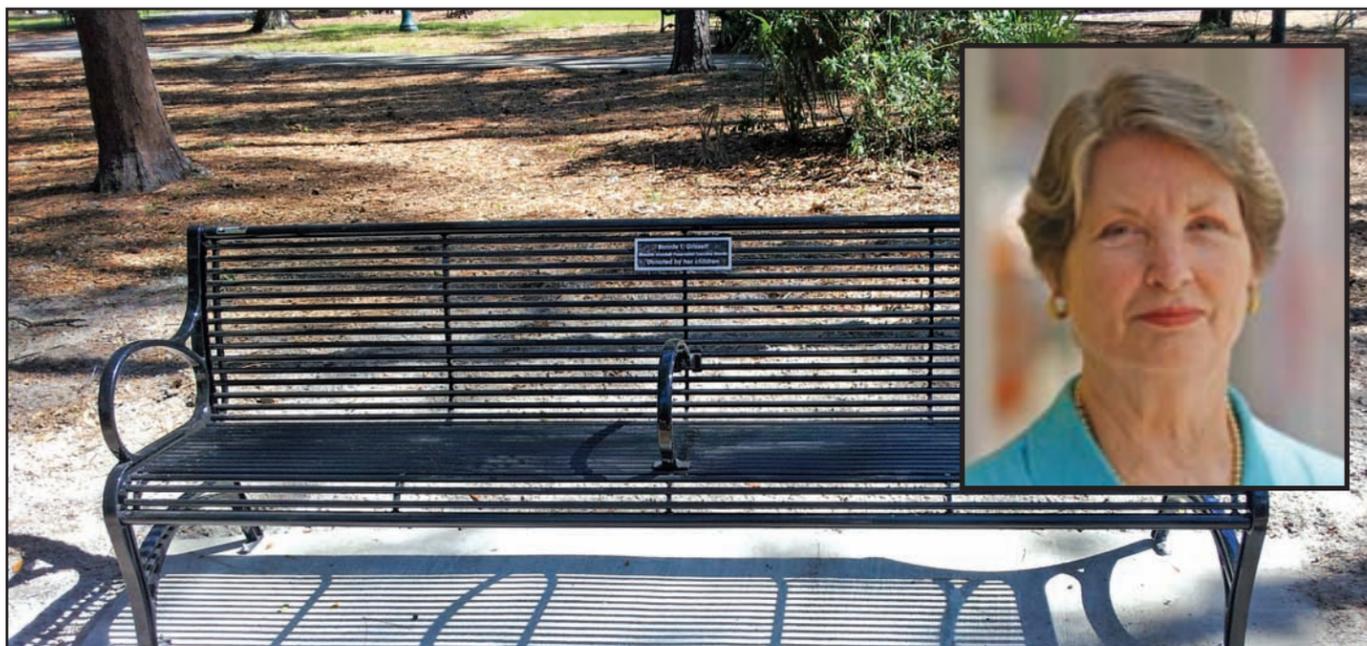
# Grissett's family donates park bench

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

With little public fanfare but with great love, the family of former Riverside Avondale Preservation Director Bonnie Grissett donated a Boone Park bench in her name last month.

The park bench is located on the pathway near the playground at the St. Johns Avenue side of Boone Park.

Bonnie, who passed away December 2010 after a long battle with breast cancer, grew up near and played in Boone Park as a child, according to son David. She also was instrumental



in planning and placing the new playground equipment in Boone Park, giving the bench's placement particular meaning. He and siblings Stephen

Grissett and Elizabeth Grissett Ray donated the park bench in mid-October. The family hopes to host family and friends for a small dedication at the park once a date can be established, David said.

The park was the backdrop for many events in Bonnie's life, David shared. She camped at Boone Park as a Girl Scout and much later took his son Wallace to play at Boone Park. Bonnie's achievements, however, were further-reaching in the Riverside-Avondale area. During her life, Bonnie helped establish the Riverside Avondale

neighborhood as a historic district and was instrumental in many local events – Luminaria, the Riverside Arts Festival and RAP's Spring Tour of Homes to name a few, according to a memorial on the RAP website. She was the executive director of RAP for more than 16 years.

A February 2008 story in The Florida Times-Union announcing Grissett's retirement added negotiations with St. Vincent's Medical Center and the 5 Points Publix-anchored shopping center to her list of professional accomplishments. The article underscored her "quiet, non-confrontational approach that built consensus among people" as one of her leadership strengths.

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## Revelers celebrate Clean Water Act's 40th

St. Johns River supporters gathered at Sadler Point Marina last month for a fete honoring the 40th birthday of the Clean Water Act. The event, which attracted guests of all ages, included trivia, kids' activities, music and local brew from SweetWater Brewing and food from Super Food Truck. The St. Johns Riverkeeper played host for the evening festivities, which put the Clean Water Act in the spotlight. The act, passed by Congress in 1972, played a major role in the protection and restoration of the St. Johns River and gave regulatory agencies the authority to hold polluters accountable for their actions, regulate the discharge of pollution and establish water quality standards.

### POOL continued from 1

90-year-old neighborhood amenity stay afloat.

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being closed, despite the fact that it has served the community for so many years," said Alina Martinez, parish administrator at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Early Jacksonville philanthropist Ninah Cummer sponsored the construction of the pool to be a place of community recreation. "Since then we have come a long way and the circumstances are improving continuously."

Martinez referenced the appointment of Dave Cullen as the church's new pool director and the joint effort of pool members, volunteers and church staff.

"Each person involved is gifted with various skills – some mechanical, some organizational, some have good business sense and some have the financial means — but they all have the willingness to support this unique ministry," Martinez said. "When combined, all these attributes and mind make for a great result."

The church made other improve-

ments that have helped attract new users to the pool.

Cullen said the turnaround has resulted from aggressive follow ups on requests for new memberships and pursuing renewals from previous and existing members – coupled with getting to know members individually and accommodating special needs.

"The heart of good salesmanship is sincerity and a determination to deliver and continuously improve," he said.

The church also has adjusted water temperatures to a slightly warmer 81-83-degree range that has helped make the waters more comfortable for younger children and toddlers, water therapy clients and older swimmers. Lockers also were converted to day use so members can utilize them during their visits. In addition, swim coach Kerry Wick gifted the pool with new lane markers and another pool member offered a \$4,500 grant for the installation of a handicapped chair lift. The lift is expected to be installed

this fall.

More improvements are upcoming. A local Eagle Scout candidate is planning a makeover for the church pool locker room. Church leaders also are evaluating the possibility of installing solar panels on the rooftop to heat the pool – perhaps also supplying electricity for the entire parish, Cullen said.

"The dramatic turnaround in the pool and the parish in general can be attributed to the insightful and dynamic leadership of our new vicar, Father Jeff Reichmann, whose uncanny ability to spot talent led to the hiring of a new and equally dynamic pool director, Dave Callen," said Matt Wolfe, chairman of the church's pool committee.

This fall, the pool will enjoy a wave of new activity with the arrival of a competitive swim team. The Piranha Swimming team meets three days a week at 7 p.m. (See page 26 of this issue)

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**5 POINTS** continued from 1

Planning and ignoring the communities' concern."

Steve Diebenow, attorney for Retail Properties Inc., said 2030 Post Street has split zoning — part is zone for land use commercial, the other for medium density residential. He said the property is directly across the street from 2030 Park street is zoned for commercial use.

"We believe we're correcting a map error," Diebenow said of the rezoning application. "We're lining up with the commercial use across the street. This project is going to be a dramatic improvement over what is there today."

Neighbors, however, say more issues are in play. Riverside Avondale Preservation and other neighborhood groups would like to see Retail Properties Inc. pursue a more "neighborhood friendly" design for the center that fit into the parameters of the overlay and the historic setting of 5 Points.

This summer, RAP volunteer and architect Fred Pope drew two potential redesigns for the center and shared them with developer representatives. Those options included landscaped, 10-foot buffers and the idea of building 11,000 square feet of retail space on the Margaret Street side, with parking located between the new building and the existing structure. About 30 neighborhood residents from Post and Forbes streets also signed a letter to the developer in late July. It asked the developer to consider the neighborhood in the center redesign.

A plan later submitted by Retail Properties Inc., however, did not

include the changes or designs suggested by RAP. Instead, opponents said, the plans also include outdoor seating on public right-of-way — within feet of Hansen's property line. Hansen said the PUD the developer submitted "ignores all of our concerns and completely disregards the Riverside-Avondale Overlay."

The Jacksonville Historical Commission reviewed the plans for a Certificate of Appropriateness and released a report on the design Oct. 24.

The commission recommended Retail Properties Inc.'s plans for approval — but listed nearly 30 recommended conditions. Many are very specific in nature and address issues like transoms and knee walls, and consistency of roof heights. The list of conditions also forbids the developer to expand sidewalks on Forbes and Post streets for cafe seating and asks the developer to eliminate any freestanding ATMs on the site. Other recommendations include a 10-foot buffer on the south and west property lines of the Post Street lot and the installation of site lighting "of a pedestrian scale and have a historic appearance."

The report does not recommend internally illuminated signage and asks that any restaurant tenants be limited to the units in the middle of the building to the Post Street end. Other suggestions include the addition of "historic details such as terra-cotta scuppers, decorative metal grills or cast stone vents...to provide architectural interest."

Diebenow said the next step is to review the final order from the historic commission and figure out what to do

with it.

"There were a couple of things in there regarding signage and specific uses that we really don't agree with," Diebenow said. "But we're going to wait and look at it before we decide what to do."

Diebenow said his client is being a good neighbor and has made several changes to the plans that will benefit the community. In addition to including new fire sprinklers in the building renovation plans, the developer is completely re-skinning the building and adding new landscaping so it "fits with the character of the neighborhood." The developer also is addressing the neighbors' garbage concerns, he said.

"The neighbors have made a bunch of specific requests regarding the dumpster," he said. "We're prepared to address those very specific concerns in a lot of ways. Probably the primary way is that the landlord has agreed to take ownership of the dumpsters and grease traps. The owner will control those rather than each individual tenant."

One of the biggest concessions the developer has made, Diebenow said, is reducing the overall footprint of the building by 4,000 square feet. The proposed plan is 17,000 square feet, where the center was 21,000 square feet prior to the Wasabi fire.

Residents, RAP representatives and others in the 5 Points community said they would rather see the developer knock down some of the existing structure and move retail space closer to the street.

Allan DeVault, who recently opened Black Sheep restaurant at Margaret and Oak streets in a new infill mixed-use development called 1534 Oak Street, is the president of the 5 Points Merchants Association. He said, "personally I would like to see the building brought to the sidewalk to integrate it more into the neighborhood, create a better pedestrian experience and buffer the building and its associated 'back doors' from the neighbors behind," he said.

But Diebenow said that scenario, and other plans RAP has presented are simply not feasible.

"As far as the plans they've asked us to consider, they've asked us to tear it down and move it forward — we just can't do that," Diebenow said. "We have tenants right now with leases. It's not possible to buy them out of leases and tear it down and move it forward. And tearing down a portion of the building and reconfiguring it?"

Unfortunately that won't work either — we have gone out to the market to see if tenants would rent space with a building in front of it, it's just not marketable. This is a retail center with small, individual users and as a result they all want visibility, frontage and signage. Putting one building in front the other would render the back building unusable."

The rezoning application will be heard by the City Council at 5 p.m. on Nov. 13, by the Planning Commission at 1 p.m. on Nov. 15 and by the City Council's Land Use and Zoning committee at 5 p.m. on Nov. 20. There has been some discussion about arranging for a later meeting time on Nov. 15 so more residents would have the ability to attend. RAP officials said the most effective way for residents to participate at this point is to show up at the meetings with their concerns.

"Email and call planning commission members and city council members — especially those members on the LUZ, and of course, Jim Love," said Kay Ehas, an active RAP member. "Then show up at the planning commission and LUZ hearings. They take notice of how the community residents feel about a project. If they don't show up, and if there appears to be no opposition, it's a slam dunk."

She said RAP's concerns at this point are how to "mitigate any quality of life issues for residents." That would include a 10-foot compatibility buffer, dumpsters being by the building, having an odor control system in place and "trying to make the project look as good possible considering it doesn't fit within the historic district at all."

RAP Executive Director Carmen Godwin also urged residents to be present and heard during the upcoming public meetings.

"When you have 50 to 75 people speaking up, that means a lot," she said.

District 14 City Councilman Jim Love said he has seen the plans and has met with city Planning Director Calvin Burney and city Current Planning Division Chief Sean Kelly about the issue. He also has visited the site with several representatives from RAP.

"I've listened to as many sides as possible," Love said. "And hopefully we'll come up with a good resolution that makes everyone happy. That's what I'm looking for — a resolution that makes everyone happy. Before we jump up and down, we have to see what [Retail Properties Inc.] is allowed to do."



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Lois Mailou Jones, Street Vendors, Port au Prince, Haiti, 1978. Acrylic. Courtesy of the Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noël Trust. Lois Mailou Jones: A Life in Vibrant Color is organized by the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC, in collaboration with the Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noël Trust, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC. The exhibition is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The Maz Brotherhood, Omo Valley, Ethiopia, 2005, silver gelatin photographic print, 26 1/4 x 40 in. © Elizabeth Gilbert.

## Merchants group hosts 5 Points cleanup

Members of the 5 Points Merchants Association and friends got their hands dirty last month during a neighborhood



Linda and Paul Bremer lend a hand

cleanup event.

The group began the first phase of the re-landscaping of 5 Points between Post Street and the 5 Points intersection. Volunteers removed weeds and old mulch from the various beds along the street, trimmed Crepe Myrtles, replaced the mulch, planted and cleaned the sidewalks and parking areas.

The group's hard work creates a freshened look for the upcoming 10th Annual Riverside WineFest, slated for Nov. 17. The event showcases more than 300 wines, food vendors and live entertainment. Held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the festival is spon-

sored by Riverside Liquors, Royal Palm Village Wine & Tapas, Riverside Avondale Preservation, the 5 Points Merchants Association and Regions Bank. Tickets can be purchased with a \$30 donation online at [www.riversidewinefest.com](http://www.riversidewinefest.com) or beginning Nov. 1 at Riverside Liquors at 1035 Park Street. Online sales close at 3 p.m. on Nov. 17 but tickets are available at the festival. Free one-way transportation will be provided from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Proceeds from the event benefit RAP and Big Brothers & Big Sisters of North Florida.

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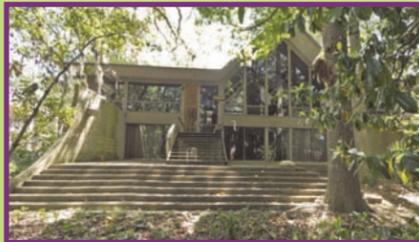
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**4336 Venetia Boulevard - \$260,000**  
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**4214 Ortega Forest Drive - \$650,000**  
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**1405 Challen Avenue - \$579,000**  
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**SOLD**

**1722 Edgewood Avenue S**  
 3/2-2,670 sqft. Gorgeous 1924 Avondale brick two-story traditional home offers wonderful setting on tree-lined street just 2 blocks from the Shops of Avondale.



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**4732 Algonquin Avenue**  
 4/4.5-3,201 sqft. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! Beautifully Updated Clyde Harris home on one of the largest lots in Ortega Terrace.



**2358 Riverside Ave. #1203 - \$2,095,000**  
 4/4-3,725 sqft. Fabulous one of a kind VillaRiva two story penthouse with a rooftop terrace and 3 balconies. Many custom finishes!



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**2512 Dellwood Avenue - \$225,000**  
 3/2-1,743 sqft. Charming restored home with a great front porch, a new kitchen, gleaming hardwoods, and lots of sunny spaces.



**2912 Olga Place - \$245,000**  
 4/3-1,752 sqft. Wonderful brick bungalow filled with charm and character. Gorgeous built-ins, fireplace, and large kitchen.

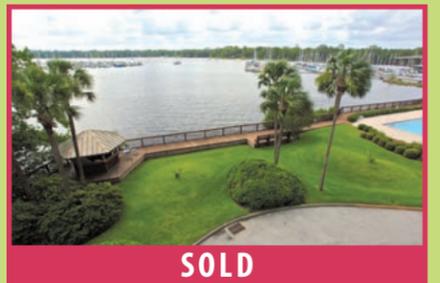


**4165 Roma Boulevard - \$395,000**  
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**3781 Ortega Boulevard**  
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**4401 Lakeside Drive #302**  
 3/2.5-2,124 sqft. This beautiful and spacious direct waterfront condominium is perfectly positioned on the Ortega River. Great floor plan and low fees!



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**4282 Venetia Boulevard**  
 4/2.5-2,308 sqft. Wonderfully well kept traditional two story home in Venetia. Beautiful formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room and large paneled family room.



**5102 Yacht Club Road - \$1,250,000**  
 4/3.5-4,622 sqft. Everything you have been looking for in an Ortega waterfront home. Huge master suite, summer kitchen, pool and dock!



**4853 Long Bow Road - \$997,000**  
 4/4-4,658 sqft. MAJOR price reduction makes this an unbeatable WATERFRONT value! Magazine quality renovations! Major updates done in 08/09 have turned this home into a showplace!



**4981 Ortega Boulevard - \$375,000**  
 3/3-2,421 sqft. Classic Ortega home located in one of the Great Neighborhoods of Jacksonville. Beautiful hardwood floors, great layout and plenty of room for entertaining.



**1560 Lancaster Ter #802 - \$329,000**  
 2/2-1,615 sqft. Convenient to shops, restaurants, downtown and hospitals. Unbelievable Panoramic downtown views from this riverfront condo.



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**4260 Oristano Road - \$210,000**  
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**3205 St Johns Avenue**  
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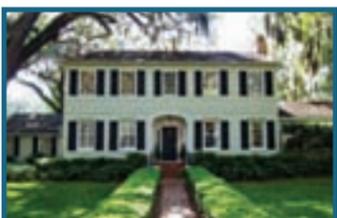
**1832 SEMINOLE AVENUE**  
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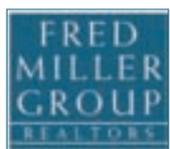
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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## All the right moves for local resident, dancer

Riverside resident Kerry Speckman danced away with the mirror ball trophy in the 2012 Jacksonville's Dancing With the Stars event held in September at the Times-Union Center.

Speckman, a freelance writer and "social media-lite", and her professional partner, Zeljko "Jake" Lukic of "Z" Ballroom Dance Studio, performed a routine featuring the cha-cha, fox-trot and hip-hop dance called the WOP.

In addition, she raised nearly \$14,000 for Special Olympics of Duval County. The annual event, which featured nine other couples, raised more than \$60,000 for the charity.



## UNF hall named for Hicks of Ortega

The University of North Florida dedicated UNF Hall as Hicks Hall last month, honoring Ortega residents Ann and David Hicks for their leadership and support.

The couple has a rich history influencing Jacksonville business and civic circles, and has long supported UNF.

David founded Riverside-based Computer Power Inc. and served as its chairman and CEO for 25 years, growing the firm to a point where it was processing 43 percent of all U.S. mortgages. In 1992, the firm was sold to ALLTEL Corp. and Hicks retired from the company in 1995. Other local startups David has chaired include Alliance Mortgage Co. – now EverBank – as well as Enterprise National Bank and a United Kingdom-based self-storage business. David also served as chairman of the Jacksonville Housing Authority and the local Habitat for Humanity, and serves on the board for



HabiJax, Habitat for Humanity International and The United Way.

Ann has contributed to UNF as a member of the university's first Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board. She also has been involved in providing scholarship assistance. Ann established the Gray Scholarship Program in honor of Rev. Neil Gray, an Episcopal priest and UNF adjunct instructor who made a deep impression on her while studying for her second bachelor's degree

from UNF.

Together, David and Ann originated the idea of the Pathways to Success Scholarship program. This program, which the Hicks funded, provides a way for students in HabiJax and public housing to attend UNF. The program's initial goal was a \$10 million endowment to fund scholarships. With the Hicks' leadership, it succeeded in securing more than \$15 million in donations from over 30 donors in Florida.



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4260 Orlando Road UNDER CONTRACT IN 26 DAYS  
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## Riverside therapist publishes book

Riverside resident Taylor Freeman has dedicated her life to helping troubled children express their emotions through art. Inspired by her work as an art therapist at Daniel (Florida's oldest child-service agency), Freeman decided it was time to express her own emotions by writing and illustrating a children's book called Popcorn's Story.



Popcorn's Story follows a giraffe named Popcorn who leaves his home in the jungle to find his purpose in life. Popcorn travels to Jacksonville, where he meets an eight-year-old girl named Elizabeth who has lost her family. Popcorn reunites Elizabeth with her mother and continues his journey to help other children find their way back home.

Freeman, 27, said it's not an accident that Popcorn's Story mirrors her journey of becoming an art therapist at Daniel. The book is inspired by her work at Daniel as well as a fateful afternoon with the real-life Elizabeth, for whom the child in the book is named.

Elizabeth, Freeman said she decided to write Popcorn's Story for her to show that one little girl can make a big impact. Freeman read the rough draft of her story to Elizabeth, and the pair discussed ideas for the illustrations together on the very dock they met just a month prior.

"Sitting on that dock and going through the story with Elizabeth was one of the most memorable moments of my life," Freeman said. "I wrote this story for her in hopes that she would realize just how special she is."

To purchase Popcorn's Story, visit [www.danielkids.org](http://www.danielkids.org).

## Hazouri honorary chair for 2012 Caring Awards

Former Mayor and area school board representative Tommy Hazouri was named honorary chairman of the 2012 Caring Awards.

The awards event, slated for 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 15, honors We Care Jacksonville founder Dr. George Trotter, and recognizes the volunteer primary care clinics across the city that partner with We Care for patient treatment. The clinics that will be recognized include: Christ the King Medical Clinic, City Rescue Mission, Healing Hands Medical & Dental Ministry, I.M. Sulzbacher Health Center & Beaches

Community Healthcare Clinic, Legacy of Care Health Center, Inc., Mission House Medical Clinic, Muslim Care Clinic of Jacksonville, River City Health Clinic, Spring Field Medical Clinic, St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, Trinity Rescue Mission and Volunteers in Medicine.

The event will be held at the Jacksonville Southpoint Marriott. Tickets are \$35 per person; visit [www.wecarejacksonville.org](http://www.wecarejacksonville.org) for more information.

## Riverside officer, wife stir up sauce biz

Florida Swamp Sauces is a new product spicing up local restaurants and kitchens across the neighborhood.

Formed by Marcia and T.C. Edwards in April, Florida Swamp Sauce's signature barbecue/sipping sauce is "Pootie Mae's Butt-Kickin' Mustard Sauce." It is the couple's first sauce to go into production.

Currently, it is for sale at Richard's Sandwich Shoppe, Whiteway Deli, Catering by Liz, Carmine's Pie House,



Pinegrove Deli and Lakeshore Produce.

The couple currently is working on the production of a sweet red sauce and an apple-cinnamon sauce.

Edwards has been employed by the JSO for 24 years and will be retiring in September 2015. He has been assigned to the Riverside area for six years of his tenure. Currently, Edwards patrols the Riverwalk Northbank, 5 Points, Park & King and the Shoppes of Avondale on foot or in the JSO golf cart.

## Traditions adds Realtor

Riverside-based Traditions Realty welcomed A.K. Cobreiro to the agency.

Cobreiro, a licensed real estate sales associate, has worked in the industry for the past 10 years. She began her career in Miami at Century 21 Dorar Realty and Choice One GMAC Real Estate. She also currently works with Larkspur Management LLC as the onsite property manager at Cobblestone at Eagle Harbor in Clay County and at The Palms Club in Orlando.



## Howard launches furniture collection



Phoebe Howard, interior designer and owner of Avondale retail stores Mrs. Howard and Max & Company, has recently launched a furniture collection called Mr. and Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture.

The collection is a collaboration with her husband and business partner Jim Howard. The couple worked with Sherrill Furniture to develop a full line of furniture including upholstery, tables, chairs and case goods. The collection debuted this year at High Point market.

## Local attorneys ranked by Chambers USA



Six attorneys with Jacksonville law firm Smith Hulsey & Busey were recognized as "Leaders in their Field" by international legal research organization Chambers and Partners. These rankings are listed in the 2012 edition of Chambers USA.

Neighborhood residents Richard Lewis and Annika Wallace were among those Smith Hulsey & Busey attorneys named 2012

Chambers USA "Leaders in their Field." This list includes:

- Stephen D. Busey, chairman of the firm – Bankruptcy/Restructuring; Litigation: General Commercial
  - Jeanne Helton – Healthcare
  - Cynthia Jackson – Bankruptcy/Restructuring
  - M. Richard Lewis Jr., chair of the firm's business law department and health care practice – Corporate/M&A & Private Equity; Healthcare
  - Annika Wallace – Healthcare
  - Harry M. Wilson III, chair of the firm's real estate department – Real Estate
- In addition, the firm was ranked highly in four practice areas: Bankruptcy/Restructuring, Corporate/M&A & Private Equity, Healthcare and Real Estate.

2012

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# Christmas In Avondale

—A Family Holiday Festival—

# Saturday December 1st 6-9pm

The Historic Shoppes of Avondale are rolling out the red carpet this Holiday season with a celebration of events, special promotions and holiday magic. Saturday, December 1st from 6-9 pm is our annual holiday street festival "Christmas In Avondale". It will be the kick off party to a month full of Avondale Holiday Happenings.

Join us, Santa, our elves and make the most of this festive time of year. Visit [www.shoppesofavondale.com](http://www.shoppesofavondale.com) or check us out on facebook [shoppesofavondale](http://shoppesofavondale) for a full listing of Avondale Holiday Happenings! In addition to our listing of events, most merchants have extended holiday hours & promotions lasting all month long! See You There!

Sponsored by the Avondale Merchants Association Members

ARTscene

# Contemporary artists shine at gallery open house



Artist Ellen Diamond and Jack Slaughter

Local contemporary artists Ellen Diamond, Ande Lister, Casey Matthews, Christina Foard, Kathleen Wobie, Susan Dennis Gordon, Sally Powell, Meridith Tousey, Vanessa Bowers, John Bunker, Tom Hager and Donald Dussenberry were the stars of the show last month during a fundraising open house last month at Framing Establishment/Fairfax Gallery. Portions of art sales and raffle tickets benefitted the St. Vincent's Shircliff Society and Kids Together Against Cancer.



Jody Bryan, Maxine Kroll and Courtney Stoner



Justin and Bridget Markley with Allison Ortega and Paul Grainger

## Study shows financial impact of nonprofit arts, culture

A recent study by the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives at the University of North Florida found that in 2011, Jacksonville's nonprofit arts and culture industry contributed more than \$66 million to the local economy.

The research study measured the economic contributions of 22 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations that received funding from the City of Jacksonville's Cultural Service Grant program (CSG). The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville commissioned the report.

The report summarizes data from cultural organizations representing music, dance, visual arts, theater, history, and arts education. For 2011, these groups reported total expenditures of over \$33 million.

Expenditures were reported primarily in the areas of personnel, rent, advertising and artistic fees. Using a multiplier developed by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the economic impact of the arts and culture industry was determined to be more than \$66 million.

In 2011, nonprofit arts organizations in Jacksonville supported 238 full-time jobs, 339 part-time jobs, and 365 independent contract positions. Additionally, more than 11,654 community volunteers who donated 171,869 hours assisted the industry.

Organizations reported contributing more than \$1.7 million in payroll, sales and proper-

ty taxes. Surveyed organizations reported 739,688 admissions to cultural events with 50 percent offered at free and reduced rates.

"If jobs and expenditures were the sole measurements of our work, we would have a compelling story to tell," said Robert Arleigh White, executive director of the Cultural Council. "But the importance of arts and culture are not fully measured in those terms. In fact, there is no challenge that faces our city - from education enhancement to crime mitigation, downtown revitalization, tourism and more - that doesn't have a cultural component as a part of the answer. Our CSG partners entertainment, enjoyment and enrichment - and all for a per capita investment of \$3.27."

"We began compiling data on the nonprofit arts industry in 2001 when the reported economic impact of Cultural Service Grant recipients was \$58 million," said Jeffrey Will, Ph.D., director of the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives. "Indeed, since 2001 CSG agencies have yielded an economic impact of over \$710 million for Jacksonville. Through the years, the industry has supported thousands of jobs and attendance is robust, demonstrating that the arts serve as an essential local activity. Clearly, the arts provide a strong return on the public dollar."

## Studio plans exhibition event

Riverside-based Clay & Canvas Studio will host its biannual Open Studio Night Exhibition on Nov. 30 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event features new works by studio owners Tiffany Whitfield Leach and Lily Kuonen, and guest artists Kenneth Eric

Adams and Jessie Gilmartin. WJCT Lost in the Stacks DJs Matthew Moyer and Andrew Coulon will provide musical entertainment and Intuition Ale Works will offer drink refreshments.

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**5-8 pm Wednesday, 11/7**  
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**Thursday 11/8**  
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Above: Steve Williams; photo by Tiffany Manning  
Left: Joanelle Mulrain; photo by Jensen Hande



Amy Crane,  
Cultural Council

## in the business of their trade

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Ask artists about the business of art: observe rolling eyes and sighs of pure exasperation. A necessary evil often is the response, followed by frustration at the lack of universal standards to value artwork. Then add the need to master targeting, marketing and selling artwork in cyclical, unpredictable economic times and general confusion is the only certainty.

Steve Williams, Dolf James and Joanelle Mulrain, successful local artists, used business experience to bolster their marketing savvy. Williams, artist/gallerist and president of his fami-

ly's 50-year-old business, Harbinger Sign, started as a graphic artist. Later, at various times, he painted large abstracts, worked for Harbinger, opened local galleries and sold out an exhibit in New York City's SOHO area.

"From business to art and back, I learned you build your market yourself – everything: create art, market/PR, sell, accounting, ship. Agents, galleries do these things for artists but usually at 50% cost," he said. "The bottom line is most artists don't do enough: stick to one theme, paint for a year, understand why/what you are creating. Create from the heart, from passion... learn where your work will be most successful...not just one gallery or market."

Dolf James, lifelong artist and corporate executive, calls the business of art, "a 3D chess game with no rules, laws or government oversight". That lets anyone create art in different ways at various levels: from creating at home/selling locally, to big-time shows

at galleries.

"How do we value art? Should it be based on where we train, how much sold...the cost of materials? I learned by being in the business, just doing it...but first of all the art has to be good. Artists must be prolific, build a body of work and public awareness, then galleries will take them seriously. You can't be a one-hit wonder," James said. "The great thing is you don't need to sell art to make a living as an artist...explore grants, fellowships, sponsorships, corporate deals, museum and installation jobs."

Joanelle Mulrain spent 30 years on the "corporate train" as she calls her careers: Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute Marketing Director, corporate vice president at Baptist Health, ran Senator Bill Nelson's Washington office and published author.

"I had waited so long, started painting in 2005 and it just took off," she said. "My corporate background set me

up to be able to take advantage of opportunities. Artists must operate as a business, be licensed to sell, work full-time, pay quarterly taxes, understand rights, keep every receipt, share your do's and don'ts, learn from others, be open to ideas and collaborate!"

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville recently brought Creative Capital, a national nonprofit providing financial and advisory support for artists, to host free seminars for the third time. Participants applied to attend, according to Amy Crane, deputy director of the council.

"We wanted a variety of artists to benefit as much as possible from valuable direction on business aspects they could apply to their own marketing and funding," Crane said. "Our individual artists create an economic impact for a more vibrant Jacksonville and these types of educational opportunities support their success."

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# Riverside resident awarded distinction for selfless efforts

BY CLAYTON LEVINS

When she was a little girl, Ashley Cupaiuolo, 26, knew that one day she would grow up to help others and reach out into the community.

For her efforts to give others a lift up, which even landed her on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, the 2008 Jacksonville University graduate has been named the 2012 Scott Amos Recent Alumni of Distinction.

"The award means a lot to me because it's not just about money,"

said Cupaiuolo, who now lives in Riverside and once even had trouble putting food on the table for herself. "It's about doing what's right and helping others."

The award is given to alumni who have graduated from JU in the last decade and is based on professional accomplishments, community involvement/philanthropic efforts and engagement and support of JU. It was presented at this year's President's Reception on Sept. 28, as part of JU Homecoming Weekend events. She was also honored at halftime of the Dolphins' football game against Marist College at D.B. Milne Field the next day.

Cupaiuolo graduated with a double major in psychology and sociology.

"Ashley was an excellent student and is a very passionate person," said Jacksonville University Associate Professor of Humanities Dr. Joana Owens. "She's bright, she's outgoing, she's the total

package."

After graduating, Cupaiuolo stayed with the JU family and worked through AmeriCorps to start the Campus Kitchen Project, devoted to feeding those in need. It fed more than 400 children and 200 adults of the Caroline Arms subsidized housing complex near JU.

"This really opened students' eyes to what is going on around them and helped many families that couldn't even feed themselves," Cupaiuolo said.

Cupaiuolo stayed with AmeriCorps for three years before moving on to work as a high school and adult education teacher in San Diego and Chicago. While working for AmeriCorps, she lived at the poverty line and sometimes could not even put food on the table for herself.

"I always had people helping me during those difficult times," she said. "Everything comes with stressors, but if you feel it's where you are supposed to be, then nothing can stop you. It was all worth it; I would definitely go back and do it again if I could."

Cupaiuolo not only has had an impact on her communities, she's also had an impact on her family. After Ashley's sister, a single mom of two,



survived a horrific car crash in which her truck rolled five times, Ashley decided to give her own car to her.

"We're big on family; we've always been there for each other," she said. "I knew this was important because she worked a lot to provide for my two nephews. I saw it as an opportunity because I knew she needed it more than I did."

Cupaiuolo was invited to attend The Ellen DeGeneres Show in May 2011 after her parents and sister wrote in about her various deeds. On the show, Ellen presented her with a new Chevy Cruze.

"They completely misled me until Ellen called my name to come forward," said Cupaiuolo, who admits she got "pretty excited" being interviewed by Ellen and getting the car. "The experience was incredible."

For the future, Cupaiuolo is planning to find work that again involves helping in the community. She has faith everything will work out and knows she will be happy as long as she is "working with people."



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# Bracing for impact: 'Miracle on the Hudson' survivor plans turkey drive

Casey Jones aims to buy more than 160 turkeys for homeless

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Casey Jones was the last person to evacuate the icy left wing of submerged U.S. Airways Flight 1549, which landed in the Hudson River in early 2009. He lost his footing on the listing plane and slipped into the river before being delivered — in donated clothing — to the warm safety of a New York City hotel room. Jones had a life-changing moment when he looked at his post-crash reflection in the bathroom mirror.

"My hair was going everywhere and I felt for the first time a cut on my head — the shirt I was wearing was too small and my pants were six sizes too big," said Jones, a Fruit Cove area resident and local technology manager. "In that moment, I had this realization about what it must be like to be homeless. I was nowhere near homelessness, but every single thing I'd depended upon to get me to my destination was gone. The only phone numbers I knew were the ones I remembered. Complete strangers gave me my clothes. In that moment I went from being judgmental about

why someone's homeless to 'holy cow, we need to do something.'"

Since then, Jones has shared his story with groups across Northeast Florida — including the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Assumption Catholic Church.

The part of Jones' story that really resonates with people is what he did after that realization. His own personal "call to action" came via radio. He heard the Salvation Army needed 200 turkeys to feed need families in the area — but only had 25 to share. Jones describes it best in a letter he wrote to five of his friends just before Thanksgiving 2010:

"It broke my heart to think how many families won't be able to put a turkey on the table Thanksgiving day," he wrote in an email to his friends. "Publix has turkeys on sale this week and every \$25 will buy three turkeys. I am going to Publix around lunch time tomorrow to buy some turkeys and deliver them to the donation center downtown. I am writing to you to see if you would like to donate to this cause. I'll handle all of the logistics. I'll buy and deliver the turkeys and I'll make sure you have a receipt for the donation. If you feel so called to donate, simply let me know how much and I'll take care of everything else."

That email generated enough



Stan Boschert, Michael Greene, Connor Jones, Casey Jones

money for Jones to buy 140 turkeys for the Salvation Army — in less than 24 hours.

In 2011, Jones typed another email request — this time to 10 friends. His request was the same: "I just spoke with Holly at the Salvation Army and this year the need is even greater. They need 850 turkeys and have not received any yet. They are distributing to the families next Tuesday. Please read the email below and let me know if you would like to make a contribution. Thank you for considering my request."

The result? He helped raise enough funds to cover the purchase of 160 turkeys for the Salvation Army.

This year, Jones is going at it again. He plans to ask 15 friends — and all 15,000 readers of *The Resident* — to see if he can break last year's record, and help the Salvation Army at an even bigger level.

"That experience," said Jones of his airplane crash experience, "has led me to continue to seek ways to help the homeless and less fortunate in our communities. And to do so with love and compassion in a way that does not, at any time, pass judgement."

For more information on how to help Jones with his annual turkey drive, contact him at [cjonesjax@gmail.com](mailto:cjonesjax@gmail.com) or by phone at (904) 599-6125.



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# Nonprofit Center maps local veterans' services thanks to Jags' grant

The Jaguars Foundation scored with local veterans last month when it provided a \$20,000 grant to the Southbank-based Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida. The center is using the grant funding to create an online platform to identify and map all of the veterans' services in Northeast Florida.

"We are honored to be able to help support and assist members of the military upon their return," said Jaguars owner Shahid Khan. "We owe them a debt of gratitude for their loyal and selfless service to protect us and our freedoms, and we hope this commitment will benefit many veterans in their pursuit of training, jobs, housing and quality of life with their families."

The grant was announced last month during the 2012 Collaboration Summit and Workshop at the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership in St. Nicholas. Rena Coughlin, CEO of the Nonprofit Center, stated that the

recently created online Nonprofit LINK platform at [www.TheNonprofitLink.org](http://www.TheNonprofitLink.org) will be used to map and catalogue services in northeast Florida that are available to veterans. The program goals are to:

- Identify community-wide re-integration services to veterans returning from service;
- Provide government agencies a tool for locating and contacting resources for veterans;
- Provide nonprofits with a map of services and interrelated programs that will improve efficiency in service delivery and coordination of care;
- Provide nonprofits with the foundational information they need to work together to gather information, promote collective action and describe impact; and,
- Provide the philanthropic community with a comprehensive picture of veterans' needs and services, and a method of contacting the providers.



Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Color Guard at the Oct. 7 Jaguars game with Shahid Khan, Jaguars team owner, and Mayor Alvin Brown

"These veterans will have one-stop access to critical resources including skills development, job transition counseling, and assistance transitioning into housing," said Rear Admiral

V. Guillory (U.S. Navy/ret.), Director of the City of Jacksonville's Department of Military Affairs, Veterans & Disabled Services.



## How can you help?

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

*funds and help for those in our community who deserve it most.*

**Organization:** Second Harvest North Florida

**Mission:** The mission of Second Harvest North Florida is to distribute food and grocery products to 450 member organizations feeding hungry people living in 17 north Florida counties and to educate the public about the causes and possible solutions to problems of domestic hunger.

**Opportunities to help:** Second Harvest North Florida relies on thousands of volunteers every year to supplement the work of our small staff. Our year-round projects offer rewarding ways for individuals and groups of all kinds to contribute their time, talents and resources. Volunteers are needed to help us sort, bag and stock food in the warehouse; tend community gardens and gather fresh food in fields to help feed families; and perform office and administrative work

that keep the food bank running efficiently. In addition, volunteers help with special events, community-wide food drives and other urgent needs. Food and/or fund drives help ensure that the food bank always has food available to help those in need.

**How to raise your hand:** Contact Toni Williams, manager of community outreach, (904) 517-5560, [twilliams@WeNourishHope.org](mailto:twilliams@WeNourishHope.org) for more information.



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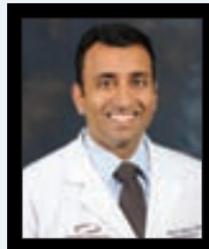
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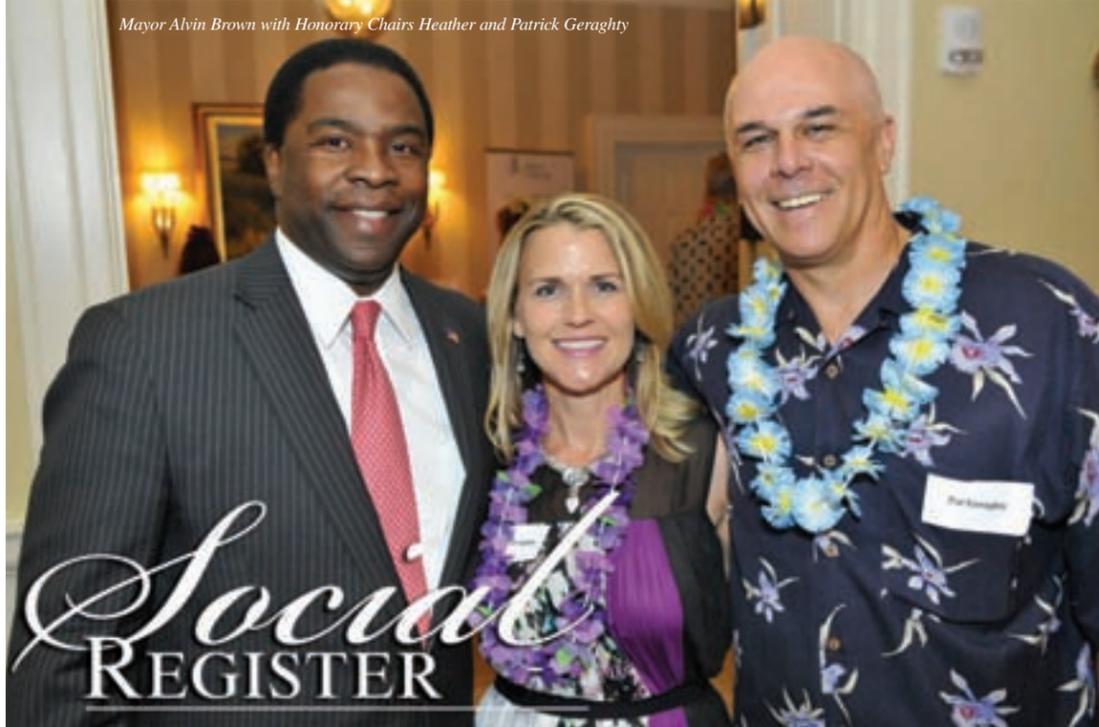
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Mayor Alvin Brown with Honorary Chairs Heather and Patrick Geraghty



Sue and Bill McQuilkin



Jensen and Sarah Hande



Denise Merlot, Jodi Leafer and Amanda Isaacs



Co-Chairs Heather King and Jennifer Trednick



Jim and Susan Towler with Natali and Moody Chisholm

### FINFEST DRAWS SUPPORT, HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR

Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center held its FinFest on the River event in the newly redesigned Timuquana Country Club ballroom Oct. 13. The fundraiser broke through a prior record nearly tripling the previous efforts, according to executive director William "Bill" McQuilkin, Jr.

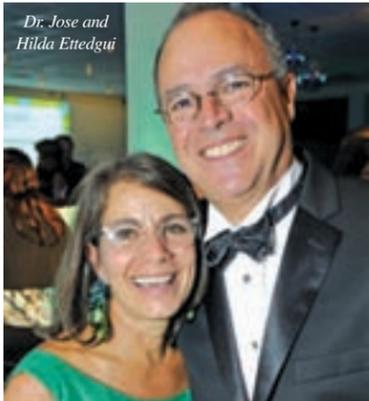
Special thanks went out to the Presenting Sponsor, Florida Blue and the Honorary Chairs Heather and Pat Geraghty.

### OFF TO THE RACES FOR JDRF FUNDRAISER

Patrons helped raise money and mint juleps glasses for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation North Florida Chapter last month at the 12th Annual Miracles Gala. Held at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach, the part's "Derby After Dark" theme helped draw an enthusiastic crowd to the seated dinner and silent auction gala. Organizers hoped to raise more than \$265,000 at the gathering. Proceeds benefit the organization's Artificial Pancreas Project. Co-chairs of the Miracles Gala were Heather King of Jacksonville Beach and Jennifer Trednick of San Marco.

### ARTSCAPADE GUESTS HAVE HEARTS FOR KIDS

Patrons of the Hearts held its annual Artscapade gala last month at The Museum, a St. Nicholas event facility in Midtown Center. The theme was Big Band Swing and artists from around the Northeast Florida/Georgia area were featured. The gala raised money for Patrons of the Hearts, a local nonprofit offering heart care to children from underdeveloped countries.



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Will and Vicki Schaer, Michael Byrd and Jim Gray



Lisa Teel and Kerrie Slattery

Diane and John Bunker



Melody Van Zant, Aria Todd and Judy Van Zant



Christine Auger and Mindy Lytle

### VINTAGE VEGAS INSPIRES COWFORD BALL PLANNING

Cowford Ball 2013 organizers held "A Taste of Vintage Vegas" event last month at Five Fillies Farms to introduce the event to past and prospective supporters. This year's honorary chairs are Hilah and Ron Autrey. Event Chairs Susan and Jay Williams and Vice Chairs Francy and Matt Robertson welcomed everyone to the gathering. The event featured a buffet by Executive Food Service and entertainment by Lorna Greenwood on the fiddle.



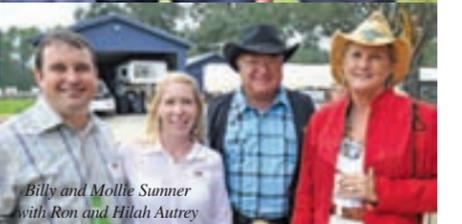
Lindsey Williams, Mandy Allen, Cherie Graham and Emily Felkner



Julianne and Michael Kelly with Sheila Collier



Robin Love, Anne Meyer and Randall Marchman



Billy and Mollie Sumner with Ron and Hilah Autrey

### ANGELS TAKE FLIGHT IN PARK

Angels took over Memorial Park Sunday, September 30th for the 2nd annual Angels for Allison Festival of Flight! The Festival of Flight, presented by FIS, welcomed all to enjoy the live music, food, games, merchandise and art throughout the park. Memorial Park was hopping with Bay Street Band jamming out on stage, children bouncing away in the giant bounce houses and parents enjoying the local food and vendors.





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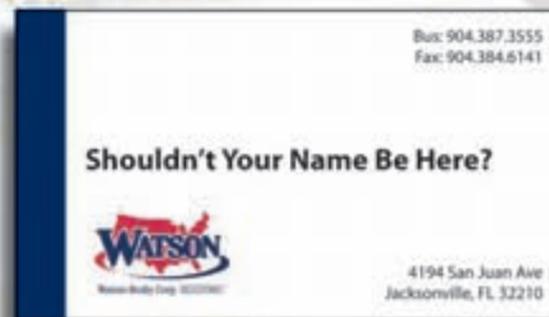
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# Revellers have a ball on the courts

Ye Mystic Revellers netters held an ace of a gathering recently at the Florida Yacht Club.

The group's annual tennis tournament included mixed doubles and regular doubles play. Organizers served up courtside wings and beer, including Doc Weldon's famous "Double Fault" drink.



Alan and Polly Weldon

Carson Skinner, Trey Martin, Stockton Eller and Thompson Taylor (Captain)



Above: Thompson Taylor (Captain) and Robert Vanclave

Right: Will Allen, Carson Skinner and Conor O'Leary



# Shircliff named Trustee of the Year

Resident and St. Vincent's philanthropist Robert Shircliff was named the Florida Hospital Association's Trustee of the Year during the organization's recent meeting.

The award honors a board member of a hospital or health system who has contributed significantly to the health of the community by providing leadership and guidance to the hospital or system board.

It was one of 12 awards presented during the association's 2012 Celebration of Achievement in Quality and Service Awards on Oct. 12



# Church dives in with new swim team

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is making good on the intentions of donation made by neighborhood philanthropist Ninah Cummer more than 90 years ago. She funded the church's construction of a church pool — with the thought it would always be a place of recreation for the entire community.

This fall, the pool is returning to an old tradition. The church is starting a neighborhood competitive swim team.

Called Piranha Swimming, the swim program is for youth in grades K through 12. Participants must be able to swim 25 feet unaided. The team meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of every week at 7 p.m.

Pool lifeguard Eric Wendorf is the team coach. Colin Hardy also coaches the team. Both instructors are certified swimming



coaches under the USAA system.

The church is registering youth — and adults — to participate. Registration is open Monday through Friday at the pool office, which is located off the Park Street parking lot of the Church of the Good Shepherd, at the corner of Park and Stockton. For more information, call the pool office at (904) 387-4298 or Eric Wendorf at (206) 350-8076.

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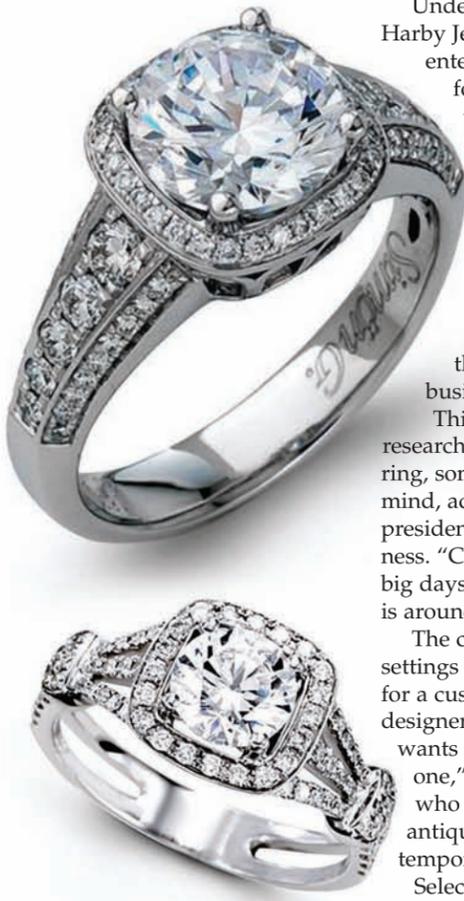
<p><b>Nov. 5 ★ 11:30 a.m.</b> Military Appreciation Luncheon at the Prime Osborn Convention Center</p> <p><b>Nov. 7 ★ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</b> Veterans Summit University of North Florida University Center</p> <p><b>Nov. 8 ★ 8:20 p.m.</b> Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Indianapolis Colts Military Appreciation Game</p> <p><b>Nov. 9 ★ 8:30 a.m.</b> Veterans Job Fair at the Prime Osborn Convention Center</p>	<p><b>Nov. 9 ★ 4:30 p.m.</b> Mayport Music Concert at Naval Station Mayport</p> <p><b>Nov. 9 ★ 9 p.m.</b> Navy-Marine Corps Classic Florida vs. Georgetown at Naval Station Mayport</p> <p><b>Nov. 12 ★ 9 a.m.</b> Veterans Recognition Breakfast at Times Union Center</p> <p><b>Nov. 12 ★ 11:01 a.m.</b> Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Jacksonville</p>
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"Engagement rings have always been our primary focus," said Hugh Harby, president and third generation owner. "We consider the engagement or wedding ring to be the most important sale that will, usually, generate future business."

This time of year many couples are researching the purchase of an engagement ring, sometimes with a holiday proposal in mind, according to son Brad Harby, vice president and fourth generation in the business. "Christmas and New Year's Eve are big days to propose, especially when family is around to celebrate," Hugh noted.

The couples will find a hundred or more settings from which to choose, or can opt for a custom setting designed by any of 10 designers. "At least one in ten couples wants to change a setting or create a new one," said Hugh. "We have designers who specialize in traditional, others in antique settings and still others in contemporary lines."

Selecting the setting is just one of the steps in the process of getting the engagement ring at the best value; choosing the

stone is the other step. Clients may want to see a variety of diamonds first and are shown different qualities under a microscope. "Our sales style is unique," said Brad. "It's always a sit-down presentation. We remove the barrier of the jewelry display." Hugh added, "Our presentation is informative and instructional. We teach our clients about the characteristics of the diamond, and then determine their preferences by showing examples of each quality of stone."

If the client doesn't see exactly the stone they have in mind, the Harbys can search the diamond market worldwide to locate the right diamond. "We're looking for the best value for the customer," Brad explained.

Prospective buyers shouldn't be intimidated by the location and both Harby father and son are quick to make their clients feel at ease. "Most people come here for happy occasions," Hugh said. "I love both the science and sales part of this changing industry. We continually educate ourselves about new technologies, styles and synthetics."

He also noted that if Harby Jewelers wasn't the first in the area to put up a website, they were probably the second. "We do a tremendous amount of business online, and are unique in that we list our prices," stated Hugh. "We also keep in touch with our customers via email and catalog mailings."

Some clients don't re-engage with the jewelers for years, but always remember the place where they bought their engagement ring and return for other occasions. Recently, a long-time customer called from Tibet to place an order. "He wanted to make sure it would be ready when he returned from his trip," said Hugh.



*Harby Jewelers is located at 1301 Riverplace Boulevard, the 25th floor of Riverplace Tower. Visit Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or preview the diamond and jewelry selection at [www.harbyjewelers.com](http://www.harbyjewelers.com). Appointments not required, but accepted: (904) 346-0641*

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# FYC to host J24 North American Championship Regatta

By KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The choppy waters of the St. Johns River will hold a fleet of sailboats Nov. 13-17 when the Florida Yacht Club and J/24 Fleet 55 host the 2012 Merrill Lynch-Bank of America J/24 North American Championship Regatta. Some of the sport's top talent from the U.S., Canada and Mexico will race against seven local sailors, including five members of FYC and one San Marco area resident.

As of press time, 28 boats were registered, including 14 entrants from Florida. Ten states are represented in the group, which also includes teams from Canada and Mexico. Locally, Ortega resident Tim Monahan, Avondale resident Greg Griffin, Bill Derr of Orange Park, Robert Gibbs of Atlantic Beach, and Downing Nightingale III of Ortega will represent FYC. Other local skippers include Michael Pentaleri of



Downing Nightingale III (Lamb's Yacht Center / Ortega resident), David DeCamp (Venetia), Piper Shad (Ortega), and Brooks Busey (Sadler Point Marina / Avondale resident) round a mark during a practice run on the St. Johns River. Photo credit: Deb Fewell

Ortega and Peter Bream, a resident of San Marco's Granada neighborhood. Some of the competitors are winners of past championships so the competition will be fierce for the home teams.

The J/24 North American is an annual continental-level championship, which rotates north to south (Canada hosted 2011; Mexico will host 2013) and then alternates within the United States. The East Coast hosts every four years so it's a significant honor for the Florida Yacht Club and

Jacksonville to be selected to host this event.

"The club tries to host an event of this caliber roughly every three years," noted event chairman Tim Monahan. "FYC previously hosted the 2007 J/24 U.S. National Championship and the Snipe Women's National Championship in 2006 and 2010."

A J/24 is typically raced with five crewmembers with a maximum weight of 882 pounds.

The regatta schedule begins

with registration and sail measurements on Nov. 13, practice races on Nov. 14 and the first of the three-day races begins at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 15. Winners of this regatta will qualify for the 2013 World Championship at Howth Yacht Club in Dublin, Ireland next August.

For more information about the J/24 N.A. Championship Regatta visit [www.j24northamericans2012.com](http://www.j24northamericans2012.com) or contact event chairman Tim Monahan at [tvmonahan@comcast.net](mailto:tvmonahan@comcast.net).

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BUSINESS PROFILE



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Tres Leches has a corner location at 869 Stockton Street, across from The John Gorrie Condos, next to Bold Bean Coffee and 13 Gypsies. Open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Check out the deliciousness on the website ([www.treslechesdesserts.com](http://www.treslechesdesserts.com)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/lechestres](http://www.facebook.com/lechestres)) and call (904) 551-4375 for catering.

# Tres Leches delivers a specialty bakery, fit for a unique neighborhood

Diners can be treated to breakfast, lunch and dinner

With the opening of the newest dining treasure in the neighborhood, Tres Leches Bakery & Café brings culture, traditional Venezuelan recipes and a passionate, family-owned business to the Stockton Street corridor. Formerly located in Springfield on Pearl Street, Eddie and Irene Sweda knew they would eventually outgrow their old location and seek a new spot after experiencing a successful following at the Riverside Arts Market (RAM).

They discovered that sense of 'place' in Riverside as demand grew. With its bustling business corridors and hunger for independently owned and operated unique offerings, the area was determined to be their future home. The new location at 869 Stockton Street boasts high ceilings, historic design accents and sidewalk seating throughout the day, it was a perfect fit.

"We've always had a fondness for the area and had a good feeling about Riverside, long before we moved our business here," said Eddie. The feeling they describe is not uncommon to people looking for a unique blend of historic charm and contemporary updates, as the John Gorrie redevelopment and Merrybuilt Building rehabilitation has shown. They know their bakery will offer another great addition to the landscape of independent businesses and the location suits all of their needs. For Irene, the connection to the St. Johns River was big, as she described her love of the water.

"I grew up in Caracas, Venezuela and I've always been near the water. For me, it's something that I love and we're quite close to it [St. Johns], just a few blocks away," she said, pointing eastward down Stockton.

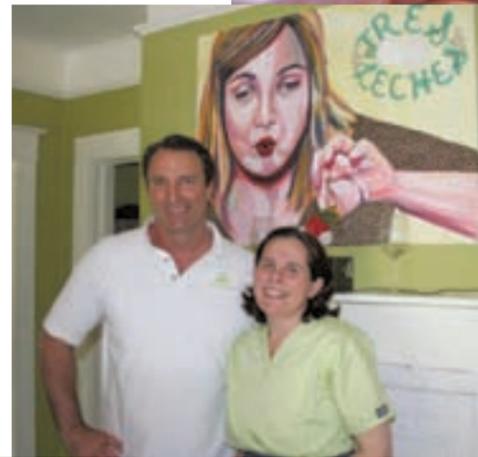
The pair has a unique story, one they hope to share with customers as they become friends- they believe strongly in the fabric of a community and share the love of food. Irene likens her passion for food and cooking to her Grandmother, the family matriarch.

"We had a huge family back home where I grew up, with many cousins, sisters, brothers

and grandchildren running around. She [her grandmother] was always prepared for anyone in the family- as some like something sweet, some want soup, some want savory- it was always ready, just in case someone stopped by. You never knew who would walk up to the house hungry. I really aspire to be like my grandmother for my family- my customers, they should find something for everyone, no matter what they desire," said Irene. "I can't stand the thought of not providing something to eat for everyone."

It is evident that small batch, homemade recipes arrive daily in the case, fresh from the kitchen, as creations of all kinds line the bakery cases and all of them are unique recipes. Irene insists on the handmade, traditional preparations and uses recipes and ingredients not often discovered in our local food offerings. Eddie pointed to the case. "See that pie? It's not your traditional 'key lime', as most would think. It's a Persian lime pie with a cookie crust, not graham cracker, and the top is not whipped cream but a homemade meringue, it has a totally different flavor, it's amazing."

Passion (and an amazing scent) emanates from the little bakery on the corner and it's a place you have to visit. Come in to try Strawberry Magnolia Cake, Caribbean Lime Pie, Chocolate Ganache Spiderweb Cake, Southern Pecan Carrot Cake and, of course, Tres Leches Cake. That's just a small sampling and the offerings change daily in the dessert case, not including baked goods. Come in and introduce yourself today- you'll be glad you came.



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# Merritt Island in November



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is a major migratory destination for wintering ducks along our Atlantic flyway. It consists of 140,000

acres of saltwater estuaries and marshes, and freshwater impoundments, and is roughly a two-hour drive from Jacksonville.

My father introduced my brothers and me to Merritt Island at early ages, and we have really enjoyed the beauty of this part of Florida over the years. And with the inshore fishing opportunities down along the Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon, you can always grab a rod and go inshore fishing in pursuit of trout or redfish if the hunting is slow. The kids have fun either way.

We would typically head down Friday after school (or once kids were finished with after-school sports) and

arrive sometime around dinner. There are great places to eat around the Space Coast. Paul's Smokehouse along South Washington Avenue overlooking the Indian River offers great food with a waterfront setting.

One of our favorite restaurants was Dixie Crossroads located along Garden Street, just off Interstate 95. It offers great seafood and a fun setting. It was — and still is — probably one of the more popular dining spots in the area and attracts many people from around the state. It's always had a wait.

Many of the hotels in Merritt Island were hunter-friendly and allowed dogs in the rooms — and did not back-charge us for damp gear that may have been thrown on the floors or beds while we rested. But it is important to ask before the reservation is made. And in the unfortunate event that a dog had the urge to swim in their pool, many did not say anything. Just try not to make this a habit.

After dinner, we'd spread refuge maps out on the beds and discuss projected wind direction, shared scouting reports and potential hunting destina-

tions for the following morning.

Wake up calls were set usually for around 3 a.m. with the front desk, and then we'd be off to bed in an attempt to get a decent night's sleep. Tossing and turning in anticipation of the morning hunt usually consumed much of the late-evening hours, and very little sleep was achieved.

The early morning always started a little hazy as the loud ring from the front desk wake-up call overtook the low humming of the AC compressor. We'd take a quick glance into the parking lot to see how many rigs had already left, and evaluate who was still sleeping. Kids would race around the room gathering gear in anticipation of being the first to our spot while the fathers seemed to take more time. The first detour was always to the all-night convenient store for the cup of coffee and some food for the blind. Then we were off to the refuge.

Once reaching the boat ramp, the kids by shining Q-beams into the darkness for sleepy fathers backing boats into the water. These ramps are not your typical ramps poured in



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Mae & Chris Creed, Peter Moore

concrete. They are bald areas free from vegetation in the middle of nowhere where others have backed boats in on previous mornings. The assistance with the q-beams helps ensure boats launch on the first attempt. Once in the water, we load gear into the boat and race to the right spots.

One of my favorite times of the morning is running the channels along the dike systems — and seeing potential ponds to hunt. I remember wondering if there were birds working those areas the evening before and thinking, "Are we passing good spots, or is our intended destination better?"

As dawn approaches and waterfowl begins to move around, the dark silhouettes and the whistling of wings overhead magnified the anticipation and assured us a great morning was in ahead.

But the reality was that the experience of being with friends, family and the dogs up to this point had already made the morning great.

If fishing is more appealing, there are fish camps along the north end of the Mosquito Lagoon offering boat rentals and slips where you and your kids can go stay a night or two. These

are fun places for kids and you can be fishing within minutes after rolling out of bed and eating a quick breakfast.

These weekends are great with kids, and it is fun go with a few other friends and their kids. Kids enjoy the company of their peers, and it is always a smart idea to have other adults around in the event there is a problem.

Due to the increased popularity and pressure of waterfowl hunting over the years, Merritt Island has instituted a quota or lottery system for areas 1 and 4 to ensure a limited number of hunters can hunt in these areas. Areas 2 and 3 do not require a quota permit.

To download the mandatory brochure describing lottery rules for areas 1 and 4, time and days of hunting and other rules and regulations for Merritt Island National Refuge, visit [www.fws.gov/merrittisland/2013Hunting.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/2013Hunting.pdf).

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

# Bragging Board

The hunting season got off by a bow, rod and soon a bang this fall — and many residents have the photos to prove it. This month's bragging board features some recent tales of hunting and angling from local sportsman. If you have photos or stories to share, please send them to [editor@resident-news.net](mailto:editor@resident-news.net).

## Mega moose hunt

"After five years of applying, I finally received a moose hunting permit in Zone 3 in northern Maine. I was hunting with a good friend of mine, Keith Cote, owner of "Sportsman's Pride Outfitters" of Madawaska Maine.

"Madawaska is a very small community on the Canadian border in northern Maine. We began scouting for a bull on the morning of Oct. 6. We located a nice bull feeding with two cows and a calf and we decided that he was the bull we wanted. We went back the next morning to see if he was still in the area and once again we spotted the bull with the two cows and calf. We figured it would be a slam-dunk.

"The season started the next morning on Oct. 8. We were at that location well before daylight, anticipating that my hunt would be over in a matter of minutes. However, after several hours of hunting we were unable to locate the bull. We were unable to locate him all that day and half of the next day.

"We thought, 'well maybe he had a calendar and knew when hunting season started!' We decided at that point to pursue another bull. After hours of stalking a very large Spruce Pine Plantation, we located a very nice bull and began our stalk. We were able to close in on the bull to about 90 yards and I was able to harvest the bull with about 20 minutes of legal shooting time left.

"The bull weighed 940 pounds and had a 50-inch antler spread with 11 points on each side. I never expected to harvest such a fine representation of the Canadian Moose!"

— Hugh Gunter



## Reelin' it in

Gusty winds and swift tides greeted this year's Creek Wars Triple Challenge Tournament. The conditions made for a challenging and exciting proving ground for our tournament anglers.

The Creek Wars 4th Annual Triple Challenge Tournament, held Oct. 13 at the Jim King Park and Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek, grew to a 76-boat turnout with 38 anglers weighing catch for their chance to win one of 12 opportunities for cash prizes.

Among the participants was the team of Braxton Gillam and Nathan Miller from the Ortega area. Last year Mr. Gillam won the redfish category! This year his team weighed a 4.19-pound redfish, but did not place. Other local anglers include Darren and Jenny Murray weighing a 4.28-pound redfish, Scott Ludden weighing a 3.57-pound trout and Jeremy Roberts who seemed to not find any fish worth the trouble.

First place winners included: Luis DeSooza with a 19.02-pound aggregate, Jim Price, Ron Schurr and Otis Chauncey. For those who may not know, a 19.02-pound slam aggregate is a record setting achievement! Last year's slam winner only weighed a total of 12.98 lbs.

The Northeast Chapter of The Florida Irrigation Society presented the annual fundraising tournament. The event supports Wolfson Children's Hospital and the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation.

— Ladd Roberts

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# November is NATIONAL adoption MONTH

It does take a village!

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While one should never consider it "good" to be a child in need of a loving home, a boy or girl in northeast Florida can feel very fortunate indeed to be taken under the temporary arms of Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc., the St. Nicholas-based agency serving Duval and Nassau counties in foster care, adoptions and family preservation since 2002.

It's not just the statistics that extol the high number of placements that would make a child of any age feel hopeful about finding a forever home, because FSS is ranked first in the state for the number of children adopted from foster care in fiscal year 2011-12 having successfully placed 318 children in permanent homes through adoption. With 3,252 foster children adopted statewide last year, one in ten children adopted from foster care in Florida in fiscal year 2011-2012 were adopted through FSS.

Underneath those gratifying numbers is an inspiring story of the people and the work behind the scenes of every successful adoption. It does take a community of agencies, businesses, schools, judiciaries, volunteers and most of all, adoptive families, to make it happen. Said Lee Kaywork, chief executive officer of FSS, "It's a community effort and I'm very impressed with the Jacksonville communities; they work with us, get behind us and are always there

for us and for the children."

For example, this month local celebrities will participate in Wild Reading Safari at the Jacksonville Zoo, which benefits Episcopal Children's Services. At that event, the David Garrard Foundation sponsors admission for about 100 foster children and parents. Ortega residents Shannon Miller and Betsy Lovett, along with ECS chairman Bill Adams, will be among the celebrity readers on Nov. 3.

Kaywork went on to say, "We have a great judicial process; Judge [David] Gooding (of Miramar) keeps everything on track. Michelle Weisheit [FSS Director of Services] manages a great [adoptive family] recruiting operation. Local photographers volunteer time and talent to create the Heart Gallery and Dawn Lopez (CBS affiliate WTEV 47) provides the community access to children waiting for adoptive families through Jacksonville's Children. All rally together to help us stay focused on adoptions."

He also stated that FSS has very creative employees who are continually looking for ways to touch the children who are hardest to reach. Sometimes a traditional educational environment doesn't work for the child or teen who is dealing with trauma. Places such as The Performers Academy in St. Nicholas open their doors to give the boys and girls a way to express themselves through dance, video, music and visual arts and to build self-esteem. "That goes a long way in helping them

become more receptive to adoption," Kaywork said.

According to Kaywork, one of the reasons behind the impressive adoption statistics is Duval County 4th Circuit Court Judge David Gooding, whose single most important question at bi-weekly status hearings and at adoption hearings is "What prevents us from finalizing this adoption?" Case managers, attorneys and the Guardian ad litem Office are challenged to remove all barriers from successfully effecting the adoption.

Judge Gooding is noted for his record number of adoptions in a single day, many of which occur during November, which is National Adoption Month, and again right before Christmas. In 2005, Gooding granted 52 adoptions at his annual Home for the Holidays hearing, then broke that record two years later at the 2007 mass adoption event with 69 adoptions, the last performed in a hospital where the adoptive mother was being treated for low blood sugar.

This year Home for the Holidays will be held on Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. in Courtroom 406; the event is one of celebration and designed to cut the red tape that would prevent children from going to their new homes for the holidays.

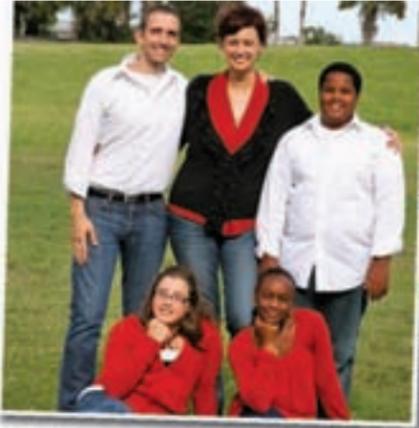
Adoptive families are among what's needed most to keep adoptions moving. "We always have challenges; part of the focus is the hard-to-adopt teenager, sibling

groups, special needs children," said Kaywork. "We work hard to give them the same opportunities. All children need a loving home."

Ben Smith and his family are marking the first anniversary this month of adoption day for siblings. The Westside family knew they wanted to give daughter Christina a brother or sister, but when they met Jordan and Shirley at the first of several "meet-and-greets" at Children's Home Society in Spring Park, they "fell in love with them then and there, went home and prayed about it, and decided to get to know more about them," according to Smith. Neither race nor age was an issue to Smith, his wife Rhonda Smith-Woody or daughter Christina Woody, and the black siblings were enthusiastic about being adopted into a white family.

Ortega newcomer Christiana Hawn recently joined the Guardian ad litem Office as a volunteer and just received her first case. A recent transplant from Coast Guard duty in San Francisco, Hawn tried to volunteer for a similar agency out there and never got a call back. "I'm so impressed with the Guardian ad litem Office here; they called me the day we moved here [with husband Ryan] and wanted to know how soon I could start training," said Hawn.

If you have a heart for children and would like to volunteer in one of the many programs or agencies, or would like to become a foster parent or adoptive family, contact Family Support Services at (904) 421-5800 or visit [www.fssjax.org](http://www.fssjax.org).



Ben and Rhonda Woody and daughter Christina of Westside adopted brother and sister Jordan and Shirley Smith



Is Matthew the little boy you've always wanted?



Help find Jimmy his home for the holidays

Siblings Ma'Kya and Josephine are looking for a home that will welcome them both.

## Does Your Child Get Enough Sleep?



Sleep problems can occur at any age, but when a toddler, child or teen is suffering, it can impact the entire family. It can lead to:

- Poor school performance
- Mood and behavioral problems
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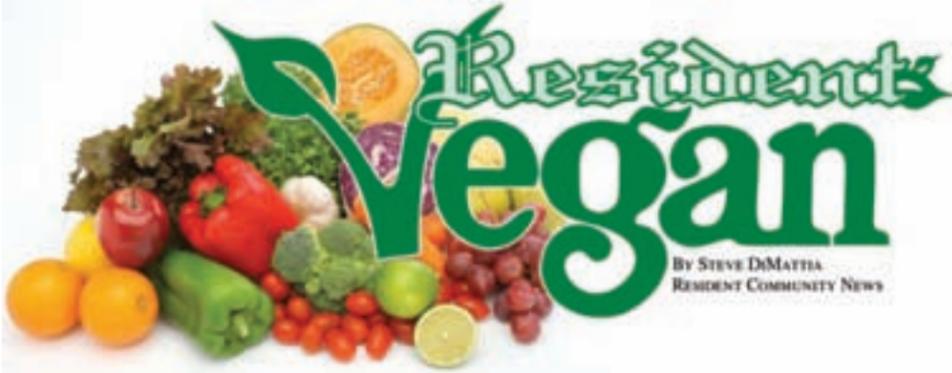
If your child is having sleep issues, ask your child's doctor if he or she may benefit from a pediatric sleep study. The **Wolfson Children's Sleep Disorders Center** is the only local facility offering interpretation and treatment by Nemours Children's Clinic physicians specializing in sleep disorders in children.

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**Wolfson Children's Hospital**

[wolfsonchildrens.org/sleep](http://wolfsonchildrens.org/sleep)



## Giving thanks for a vegan-style Thanksgiving

Everyone came to Thanksgiving dinner last year ready to gobble turkey. It didn't quite work out that way. Good thing for them that I arrived with a full course vegan meal.

In short, the fowl killed two ovens and only made it half way through the cooking process, and not the good half. With Cracker Barrel being the only other option, my carnivorous friends (I was the lone vegan) had little choice but to embrace the opportunity to go — cold-turkey-vegan.

Fortunately, I'm a big fan of leftovers, so always make far more Thanksgiving food than any one — or, as it turned out, five specific — people can eat in a single meal. My longtime signature vegetarian Thanksgiving turkey replacement had been eggplant Parmesan (you know, just like the pilgrims had at the first Thanksgiving...), but I've been seek-

ing an equally delicious new go-to vegan alternative (I'm still experimenting with vegan eggplant Parmesan recipes, but haven't gotten there yet). So, I may have gone perhaps a little over board in the kitchen last year to fill the void, which turned out to be a really fortuitous and welcomed thing.

I'm not saying that any of the meat eaters switched teams that day; I'm certain they will make darned sure the ovens work this year. But they didn't go hungry in spectacular fashion and still talk about how scrumptious their "Turkey-less" Thanksgiving was.

In the end, the real meaning of the holiday — which, as it turned out, doesn't really have much to do with turkeys — came shining through: Family and friends joining together to share a fine meal and give thanks for each other and for all of the many

gifts in our lives. Also, for those surprisingly frequent times when things don't seem to work out, but then they do.

Here's my vegan menu from last year. Some of the recipes are just something I've made for a long time, maybe passed down from mom, others I got from the Internet, and the pumpkin pie I picked up at Whole Foods. I'm sure that this year won't be exactly the same, but I know I'll make more than enough of whatever it is, just in case.

The menu consisted of: Hearty Vegetable Pot Pie; Lentil and Mushroom Shepard's Pie; Nuthin' Fancy Mashed Potatoes; Easy Mushroom Gravy; Mom's Roasted Sweet Potatoes; Extreme Fried Kale & Peppers; Sourdough Stuffing with Pine Nuts and Raisins; From the Package Cranberry Sauce; Green Chili Corn Bread; Pumpkin Pie and Soy and Coconut Ice Cream (Whole Foods). This month, we'll share a few of the recipes.

*This month we'll share one of the recipes.*

### Easy Mushroom Gravy



Makes 2 cups

- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 8 ounces mushrooms, any small variety, or a mixture, cleaned, stemmed, and sliced (try combining shiitakes with baby bella or crimini)
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon dried basil
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast

Combine the broth and soy sauce in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer. Add the mushrooms and simmer gently for 10 minutes, or until done to your liking. Combine the cornstarch with just enough water to dissolve in a cup or small container. When the water and soy sauce mixture is at a steady simmer, slowly whisk in the cornstarch, stirring constantly until the liquid is thickened. Remove from the heat and whisk in the basil and nutritional yeast. Use at once.

SOURCE: Veg Kitchen with Nava Atlas <http://www.vegkitchen.com/tips/vegetarian-thanksgiving/>

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# Bible study group takes ministry to park, riverfront



Melissa and Haley Cooper

A weekly Bible study group from Riverside Park United Methodist Church took God's work to the riverfront last month.

A group of 12 church worshippers picked up trash along the Haskell Co. riverfront on a Sunday afternoon in late September.

Group member Tina Parke explained how they wanted to move their ministry outside of the church walls and "reach out to our community."

"We really were not sure what to do or where to start and then someone suggested we start in 'our own backyard,'" Parke said. The group's initial projects involved a monthly cleanup of nearby Riverside Park on the fourth Sunday of each month. The park cleanups gave the group an opportunity to move out of the church and into the

outdoors.

The St. Johns River soon came into focus. Church member Brian Allen helped establish a connection with The Haskell Building and the group got permission to clean up a section of the river. On Sep. 30 the 12 volunteers came out for an afternoon of trash pick-up along the banks of the St. Johns.

"After only a little over an hour we were able to fill up the bed of a pick-up truck with our bags of trash," Parke recalled.

While the river cleanup was a "nice change of scenery," she said the group still considers Riverside Park its home base.

"Park-goers really seem to appreciate a cleaner and safer park, especially for their kids," she said.

# Empty Bowls event to benefit Second Harvest

The 28th annual Empty Bowls Luncheon to benefit Second Harvest North Florida is set for Nov. 13 at noon at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

Bank of America is the presenting sponsor and this year's theme is "Take the Pledge to End Hunger One Bowl at a Time."

"Empty Bowls allows us to combine the tradition of children and adults creating artwork with a benefit to those who are hungry," said Bruce Ganger, Second Harvest North Florida executive director. "This year we will emphasize that everyone can take the pledge to end hunger. It can be through the purchase of a bowl, the donation of money or food, or volunteer-

ing. We need everyone's help to make sure that no one in north Florida goes hungry."

The annual Empty Bowls Luncheon has come to symbolize the beginning of Thanksgiving and the holiday season by demonstrating community support for those who are coping with hunger in north Florida. Local celebrities act as servers for the event. In addition to helping fight hunger, the luncheon presents a diverse program for all.

Area students and senior citizen groups have created original, handcrafted ceramic bowl for each guest. Luncheon attendees are able to select just the right bowl to take home. Local potters and ceramic artists have also donated their time and talents to create unique bowls. For more information or to purchase tickets for Empty Bowls, visit [WeNourishHope.org](http://WeNourishHope.org) or call (904) 730-8284.

# Garden club, Haskell to host talk from top nature photographer

One of Florida's premier nature photographers, John Moran, will speak and show a selection of his photographs on Nov. 13. The event is free, and will take place from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Jacksonville Downtown Library's Hicks Auditorium.

Moran has spent 30 years photographing the natural beauty that is Florida and, in so doing, he has captured the history of change.

Since leaving the world of daily journalism in 2003, he has become a featured speaker with the Florida Humanities Council as well as an in-demand keynote speaker for the Florida convention industry. In March 2013

Moran will open an exhibition at the Florida Museum of Natural History entitled Springs Eternal: Florida's Fragile Fountains of Youth.

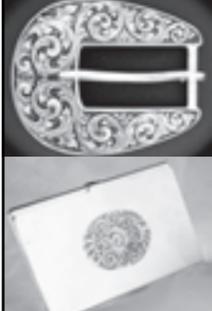
The Late Bloomers Garden Club, the Jacksonville chapter of the Garden Club of America, will host the program, with the sponsorship of the Haskell Company and in partnerships with 12 Northeast Florida nature conservation groups.

The program is open and free to the public but registration is requested, as seating is limited in the auditorium. Online registration is available at <http://bit.ly/N64aDA> or [latebloomers-gc@gmail.com](mailto:latebloomers-gc@gmail.com), or by phone at (904) 285-7020.



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Recently, a breathy voice on my answering machine left a short message, "Victoria, third house on Oak Street. Totally excellent stuff." It sounded a little like a possible illicit drug connection, but it wasn't. Or, maybe at some limbic level it was, because the "excellent stuff" mentioned by a knowing neighbor really is

addictive. I love getting it and I love using it. I am truly thankful my neighbors take time to alert me when they spot a pile of it.

What is it? It's urbanite, a newly minted term referring to antique sidewalk hexagons and concrete rubble. I call it Legos for Ladies because most of the folks I see designing with this particular medium seem to be female. My network knows that I am picky when it comes to concrete chunks. They have to be about the size of a bread loaf and made with the wonderful brown pebbles that were so popular in 1930s Historic District driveways.

Embedded, the chunks make slip-proof garden paths worthy of Martha Stewart. Stacked to create low walls,

they provide landscape accents whose color and texture fit the neighborhood aesthetic perfectly.

The antique hexagons themselves have almost unlimited uses. Whole ones click together into perfect patios, or stretch out into paths. Stacked, even the pieces make wonderful raised garden beds. Hex shards also make great paths. Many times the shard paths replicate a nearby sidewalk that has held its dignity by not yet being stamped into faux hexagons.

A most serious warning though: NEVER remove even a shard or a loose hexagon from an existing sidewalk. Broken paths are frequently rehabbed by property owners who have

a dim view of someone removing the various pieces.

A truly wonderful part of the process for the lazy gardener is that the shards and wholes do not have to be dug in. Left awhile, they will drop into the earth and form a stable path. Earthworms, who require no Gatorade or workman's comp, are the engineers for this phenomenon.

And, of course, when garden visitors notice the obvious repurposing in the landscape, the gardener gets wash-tubs of eco-credit. Rightfully so. Repurposed concrete doesn't occupy any of the increasingly limited space in our Duval landfill. No T-Rex carbon footprint stomps on the ozone as it does in the manufacture of new concrete items. And the actual moving of the concrete from its place of origin to the project serves the same sweat creating, muscle building function as hefting those silver cross-training barbells.

Now this is a true win/win...a historically appropriate path or garden wall that doesn't budge my landscaping budget into red ink. Plus, a bonus of truly toned biceps. Who could not be thankful for this?



### Concrete Gratitude

BY VICTORIA REGISTER FREEMAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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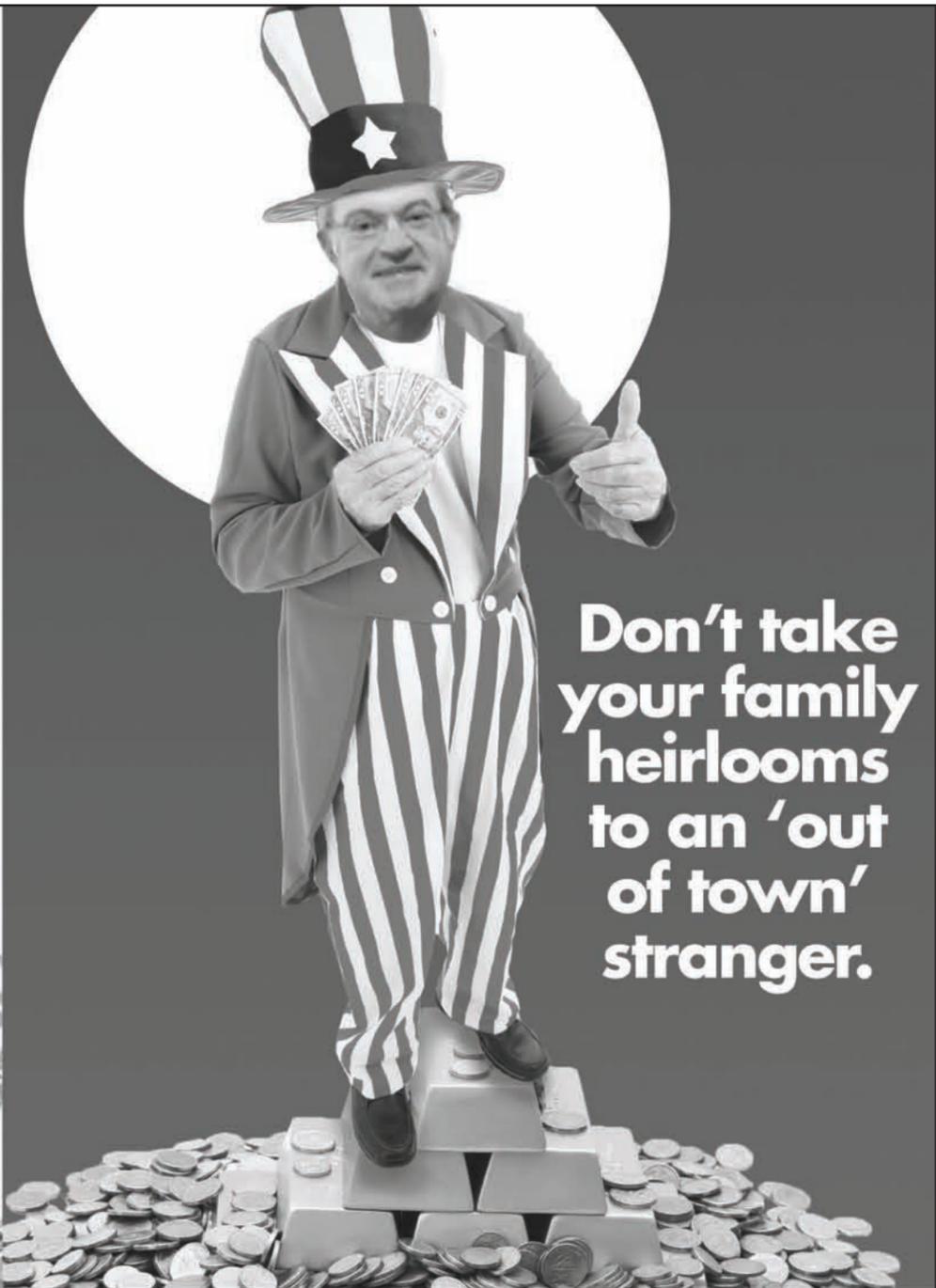
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# GOGIVERS

## John "Jack" Kopp

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Not many 90-year-olds are able to celebrate that milestone birthday with co-workers on the job, but St. Vincent's volunteer John "Jack" Kopp recently did just that.

Kopp first retired to Sarasota in 1980 after working in the family manufacturing business, Kopp Clay Company in Ohio. The company was founded in 1919 and manufactures flue linings for chimneys. After many years in Sarasota, Kopp moved to Ortega in 2003 to be near his daughter Marme Kopp, her husband Mike Nolan and grandson Gannon, 12, who live in Avondale.

"I started volunteering at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in the gift shop as cashier and served as treasurer and president of their auxiliary. I computerized the gift shop and worked almost fulltime," he said. "Even before I moved to Jacksonville I walked into St. Vincent's to volunteer

and also volunteered at the Mayo Clinic. I've worked at St. Vincent's gift shop and as a liaison between the staff and families of patients waiting outside the Coronary Care Unit."

Phyllis Benitez, St. Vincent's Riverside volunteer coordinator, said Kopp is beloved by the hospital staff and has been a fixture there for years. He has logged a total of 30,686 volunteer hours.

"Jack has served in a variety of jobs, wherever needed," Benitez said. "He is always so cheerful and happy and has given so much to our staff and families of patients."

Kopp has lived a full life, and an important part of it has been his life-long love of travel, the arts and live theatre. He used to regularly fly to New York City to see the Broadway plays, and attended concerts wherever and whenever he could. He continues to enjoy attending performances at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre and at Players By the Sea (where he also has volunteered). He enjoys playing card games with his companion/cook/driver, David Shaffer. The two men share a dry wit, non-stop sense of humor and spar like comedians; they obviously enjoy every day to the fullest.

"We like to play Cribbage, Kings, Gin Rummy and Dominoes, although David usually beats me! (not true at



all according to David)," Kopp said.

There are several beautiful large decorative rugs in Kopp's home and therein lies one of his other, more unusual and artistic interests. Kopp learned to make latch hook rugs when his sister-in-law got him a simple starter latch hook kit during a particularly stressful time in his life. That simple kit started a hobby that has yielded over 100 rugs and brought him great satisfaction and relaxation.

"I only keep a few of them and the rest I give away," Kopp said.

Kopp may have celebrated his 90th birthday but he sees no reason to slow down or stop the activities he loves and that includes volunteering.

"I'm going to make it to my 100th birthday and St. Vincent's is going to have to throw me another big party because I intend to be right over there still volunteering," Kopp said. "I think anybody can volunteer and live a good long life if they don't drink or smoke. Just go to church and you will have a great life."

### APPEAL continued from 1

and Jennifer Mansfield of Holland & Knight. WLA's appeal was filed by Donahoo, Mark Anderson and Alicia Grant on behalf of an attached list of

more than 100 people who felt the commission did not apply the criteria and standards of review when it approved Mellow Mushroom's plans in September. In its appeal, the group listed 13 errors the commission committed in its approval.

"The staff report did not provide adequate detailed support of the application or the conditions of approval," wrote Donahoo in an email last month. "Ultimately, the residents do not believe their concerns were heard."

An appeals hearing is expected to be heard by the city's land use and zoning committee on Dec. 4. Depending on the outcome, the committee could make a recommendation to the City Council which could possibly hear the concerns by year's end or early 2013, Donahoo said.

Mellow Mushroom spokesman Simon Keymer said the group was "disappointed and a little surprised at the appeals filed regarding the planning commission's decision."

"In this newspaper in July, a spokesman for WLA, LLC clearly stated that all he wanted was for Mellow Mushroom '...to follow the law.' As WLA, LLC knows, Mellow has met or exceeded the letter of every applicable law and, as a result of community input, radically changed its re-development plans to the point where it now actually exceeds parking requirements," Keymer shared. "What's more, both the planning commission and the historic commission have pronounced themselves satisfied. Unfortunately, it seems that just 'following the law' is not enough for WLA, LLC after all."

"We hope that WLA, LLC will soon refocus on meaningful efforts to address existing challenges in the neighborhood, rather than continuing its mean-spirited crusade against a family-friendly restaurant that the overwhelming majority of people in Avondale cannot wait to see open," Keymer stated.

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Members of the Martha Reid Chapter 19 holding the weapon of their choice which was used in the War Between the States. Seated: Sonya Eason, Joan Pulliam, Pinkie Flannery, Jackie McKenzie, Faye Castile Standing: Linda Moffitt, Lois Marshall, Nancy Solomon, Becky O'Malley, Davine Roberts, Dianne Boren, Maria Miller, Mary Sue Grinnan, Becky Bathen, Natalie Hill, and Judi Adams

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Sam Paterson visits Daughters of the Confederate

Members of the Martha Reid Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederate met Oct. 20 for their October meeting. The guest speaker was Sam Paterson from Douglas, GA, who is a brother of member Becky Bathen.

Paterson is an avid collector of War Between the States weapons and has many to prove it. He brought some of his collection to the meeting and gave information as to the names and dates of manufacturers of the weapons and when and how the

weapons were used in combat.

Paterson shared his knowledge about the history of the War Between the States, and related this to the various weapons. He brought many buttons to show members the different types worn on uniforms during this time frame. At the conclusion of the program each member was given a button from Paterson's collection.

The Martha Reid Chapter 19 UDC has nine meetings each year.

Anyone who thinks they have a Confederate ancestor, and would be interested in attending one of the meetings, please contact Davine Roberts at (904) 766- 6182.

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# The Way we Were

## William Boling

BY VICTORIA  
REGISTER-FREEMAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony might serve as a suitable soundtrack for a film on William 'Bill' Boling's life. The piece is known for its quiet melodies punctuated by moments of energy and excitement.

Boling comes from a family of action-oriented individuals. In 1939 when he was five, his parents moved from Atlanta to Jacksonville with him and his sister Barbara. His father began working as office manager for an outdoor advertising company owned by Ed Ball and his mother became the founding director of King Edward Cigar's industrial nursery, the first industrial nursery in the United States. "During World War II It was open 24 hours a day for the workers' children," recalls Boling, "and it housed up to 130 children."

Another family member, May Pynchon, Boling's aunt, was the second woman pilot to get her wings in Jacksonville. A reporter for the

Jacksonville Journal, she wrote stories on her experiences while learning to fly. As president of Pilot Club International, she helped restore a French church that was bombed in World War II where there is a window dedicated to her. She would often join the family for Thanksgiving dinner. Like many folks in Jacksonville, Thanksgiving Day was partially spent at the annual Lee vs. Jackson football game always held in the Municipal Stadium, now EverBank Field. "That was the big Thanksgiving event," Boling reminisces.

Music infused his life. He took piano lessons from Rosa Coniff in 1940. According to him, the program for a recital they gave had a definite code. "The pianists were always listed on the program in the order of their musical skill. Those presented first were the least skilled and those who played later were much better. "In one recital program I was first and Minerva Rogers Mason and Ann Stiefel Brewster were much farther down the program as they were really talented."

Vocal music was also important. Boling sang in the Church of the Good Shepherd's boys' choir, which was modeled on the English version. "For participation at numerous rehearsals



and on Sundays, we received 55 cents per month which was just enough to pay for a haircut. Larry Moshell sang most of the solos because he had the best voice."

Later at John Gorrie, Boling switched to the trumpet and performed in the Gorrie band. "It was at Gorrie that I had Mrs. Ruth McCalla who taught both Latin and English. She was the best teacher I ever had. She expected us to do our best and we did. No one wanted to disappoint Mrs. McCalla."

At Lee the trumpet remained his instrument. There were band trips to Miami for contests. Boling also became involved in plays with his membership on the Stage Crew. "I took over as props chairman from Sarah Towers van Cleve." Bob Smith and Phoebe Jackson Smith, Robert Johnson, Joan Goodman Bessent, and Neese Ostner Goodling were also

involved in drama. "I remember we put on 'A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court' where Lewis Lee ran around the stage with my grandfather's 32 caliber pistol firing blanks. Don't know if you could do that now."

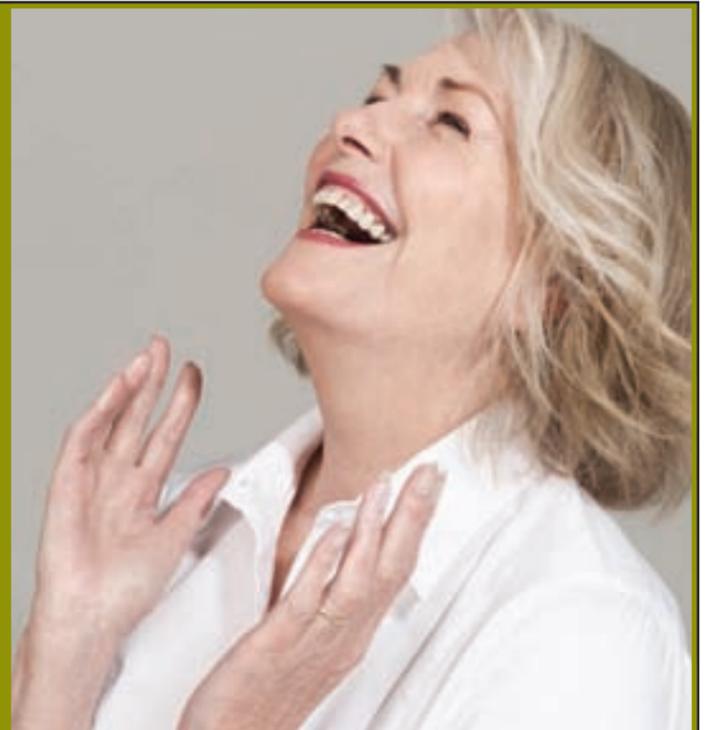
After Lee it was on to Sewanee, and then Columbia for an MBA followed by a stint in the Army. Having worked in the file room at Stockton, Whatley, Davin & Company as a summer job, he returned to that firm after graduation and eventually was sent to head the Miami office.

Miami served as his launching pad for a European trip where he met his wife, Annette Kjaer, in Denmark. They have two daughters, Carol Chaffin and Angelica Rose.

Later, Boling became President and CEO of SWD and speaks warmly of the mentoring he received in that firm from the senior partners. As a result of sales and mergers, Boling completed his career by working at the helm of two other home mortgage companies. Now, retired, he remains involved in music via the St. Mark's choir and Riverside Fine Arts. Among other areas that receive the benefit of his career knowledge and personal passion are the Kanuga Conference Center, Sewanee, and the Phi Beta Kappa alumni chapter. And, of course, there is time spent with the three grandchildren who range in age from 13 to 2.

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# Historic Moments

Thanks to the camera skills of local residents over the years, big moments in neighborhood history have been immortalized for future generations to enjoy.

The Resident looks forward to sharing photos from the neighborhood's past. A new feature called "Historic Moments" will publish images from the lenses of yesteryear with a little perspective of the event.

This month, we'll launch the feature with a photo sent to the paper by

the Blood Alliance. The group is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year and shared a picture of its humble beginnings. This milestone makes the Blood Alliance the oldest blood bank in the country.

Have an old photo to share that tells a good story? Send it our way, and we'll put it out there. Email photos and information to editor@residentnews.net.

Enjoy this month's installment of Historic Moments!



The Blood Alliance, then called The Blood Bank, got its start in 1942 in a little house at 2208 Otto Street – it was strategically located at 10th and Otto streets next to the Duval County Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital and Brewster Hospital. Spokeswoman Odette Struys reported the organization purchased the building for \$3,600.

## Retirement community to host car show, open house

Cecil Pines Adult Living Community, an affordable retirement community at Cecil Commerce Center for adults 55-plus, is roaring into fall with a 10-year anniversary open house and classic car show.

The event will be held at Cecil Commerce Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 10. Organizers are planning a fun-filled day that includes food, music, drawings and a fun house for children. Complimentary shredding services courtesy of UltraShred Technologies, Inc. also will be available to guests. Admission is free, but donations benefit the Northeast Florida Alzheimer's Association.

Cecil Pines is a Front Porch community located at 6008 Lake Cove Avenue. In 2000, Front Porch made an agreement with the city of Jacksonville to lease the property through a base re-use program and start an affordable community for seniors. Cecil Pines is a nonprofit community.

## Local exhibit highlights 100 years of architectural history

The Museum of Science & History has partnered with the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to present for a historic architecture exhibit.

"Jacksonville by Design: AIA Celebrates 100 Years of Architecture" opens Nov. 3 at the Southbank museum.

The exhibit is a journey through the past 100 years of architecture in Jacksonville. It illustrates how the city rose from the ashes of the Great Fire in the early 1900s and features architectural examples from the Great Depression, World Wars, mid-century development and sunburn expansion.

Jacksonville by Design will be on display in MOSH's Loft Gallery on the third floor.

## Baptist honors pastoral care community

Last month, Baptist Health celebrated Pastoral Care Week – lifting up those in the hospital community who provide spiritual counseling to others. It's a group that receives little public attention or accolades.

"Pastoral Care at Baptist Health is a tremendous resource for our employees, patients, fam-

ilies, volunteers and community. Meeting spiritual needs is valued as an integral part of providing care," said Larry Wagoner, director of Pastoral Care for Baptist Health.

Baptist Health's Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), developed by Wagoner in 1980, has trained hundreds of people with various faiths

from North Florida, South Georgia and throughout the world.

"Students of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism have trained with us. At Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital, current chaplains and students represent at least 13 different denominations and many nations, speaking multiple languages," Wagoner said. "We are also fortunate to have chaplain assistants, volunteers who

have completed at least 400 hours of clinical, supervised training in our program."

Pastoral caregivers counsel patients who may not feel comfortable expressing anxiety, fear or loneliness with their family or spiritual advisors. They also serve as liaisons between patients and physicians, staff and family.

"When people come here to our hospitals, they think their life is interrupted. But really, this is just part of life," Wagoner says.



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# The quest for love: A hometown love story

BY APRIL YOUNG  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“Those that go searching for love, only manifest their own lovelessness. And the loveless never find love, only the loving find love. And they never have to seek for it.” - D. H. Lawrence

Many of us have heard the old English adage, “Good things come to those who wait” and several times that phrase is advised to those who are in the hunt for The One. But sometimes true love is the result of happenstance; one stumbles upon love when it is least expected. These are the tales and mystery of circumstances and coincidence that make up the best of love stories.

We begin this story in the late 1940s at Lake Shore Middle School in Jacksonville. That’s where Gene Harvey and Trudy Ralston (nee Foyt) were both attending school when he gave her a ride on his bicycle handlebars one afternoon. They were active in the Glee Club; Gene served as the

president and Trudy, an officer. The two classmates continued to know each other as teenagers and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in the class of 1953.

Life then carried them on in different paths and they went on to marry their spouses – and to start their own families. Gene and Trudy both enjoyed their separate lives with their own children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. But after many decades of married life, both Trudy and Gene experienced loss in the passing of their spouses.

It was in 2010 when the sliding doors shifted and opened a conversation between Trudy and Pam Howard, owner of The Village Ladybug, in the Historic Ortega Village. Pam was having a sidewalk sale on Corinthian Avenue when she met Trudy. It was with the realization that Pam was Gene Harvey’s daughter, that Trudy kindly asked Pam to tell her father and old classmate hello, for it had been many

years since she had seen him.

Within a short timeframe, Gene returned to Jacksonville from a vacation in North Carolina and heard about the exchange. He called Trudy up to ask her out on a date.

Friendship developed into a romantic relationship. After a two-year courtship, Gene proposed to Trudy while dining at The Florida Yacht Club.

Family and close friends – including Gene’s children and their spouses, Pam Howard and Mark Harvey, and Trudy’s two sons Bert and Foyt Ralston with their wives and children – joined the couple on Oct. 6 for their wedding.

Pam and Paul Howard, at their home in Confederate Point, hosted the rehearsal dinner. Gardner’s Florist of Ortega provided floral arrangements. Frazier’s Jewelers custom designed both wedding rings from a combination of inherited pieces and family heirlooms. The wedding ceremony took place at Faith Lutheran Church. A



reception followed with family and friends at The Florida Yacht Club.

The couple honeymooned at The Greystone Inn in North Carolina and will reside at their home in Ortega.

As we hear stories such as the one between Trudy and Gene, both now 76, we are reminded by the Apostle Paul’s words in Corinthians that love is patient, after all. One can continuously search for love, but never find it. One can find love over and over again throughout one lifetime. But what Mr. Lawrence observed is that if we keep our hearts open by the act of selflessly loving others, we may discover the possibility that love will find its way to us through an old hello.

## Forever Fit 50 & Beyond: Jacksonville Senior Games

The clay courts at Avondale’s Boone Park served as the venue for the singles and doubles tennis matches of The Forever Fit 50 & Beyond: Jacksonville Senior Games on Oct. 6. Although turnout was disappointingly light and many entrants won by default, the tennis competition rounded off a week of events at other locations including men-

tal challenges in bridge and mahjong, singles and doubles in table tennis, bowling and pickle ball, and other competitions in power lifting, golf, line dancing, cycling, racquetball, croquet, horseshoes, swimming and basketball.

The Olympic-style event series designed for seasoned athletes to participate on a competitive level and novice



athletes to participate for their own enjoyment is sanctioned by the Florida Sports Foundation and is a qualifier for the Florida Senior Games State Championships to be held in Lakeland in December.



Left: Martha Poitevent registers for women’s singles tennis with Alice Checorski  
Above: Lindy Green and Sandy Wedge won women’s doubles tennis

## Study Volunteers Needed! Do you have Actinic Keratosis on your face or scalp?

The Jacksonville Center for Clinical Research is seeking volunteers for a 14-week clinical trial to evaluate a new investigational topical cream for Actinic Keratosis (AK) of the face or balding scalp.

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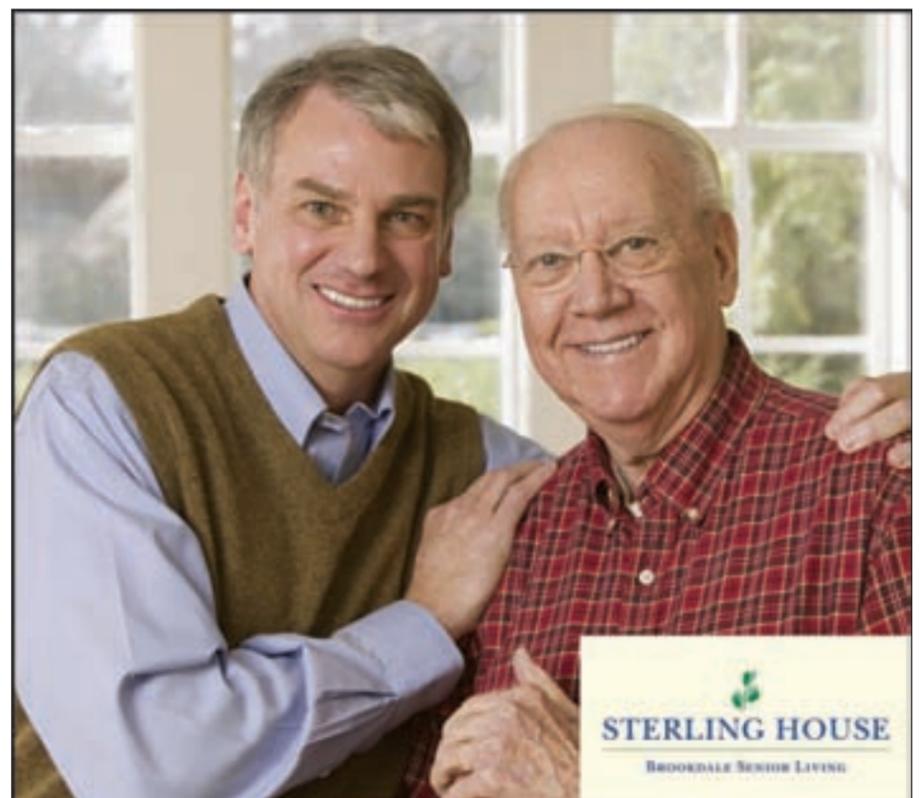


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# Jr. Residents

## A real magnet: Ortega Elementary has waiting list

Ortega Elementary School has gotten off to a successful start in 2012 with a full slate of activities – and a full student roster. The museum magnet school has a waiting list and more than 60 new magnet students enrolled in the 2012-2013 school year.

The neighborhood magnet school is making good use of the partnerships it has established during the past two years with area museums and galleries. In mid-October the school hosted a Science Night that exhibited 15 ecology-themed stations from the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona. The school also is hosting arts integration students from the University of North Florida to practice teaching strategies and help students build exhibits. UNF and Ortega students had their first major interaction this year at the Museum of Science

and History, where Ortega students evaluated MOSH exhibits. The exercise helped students with designs of their own exhibitions.

The next student exhibition at Ortega Elementary School will be Nov. 8. Additional exhibitions are scheduled for Feb. 21 and May 30. The shows begin at 6 p.m., and are located in the school hallways.

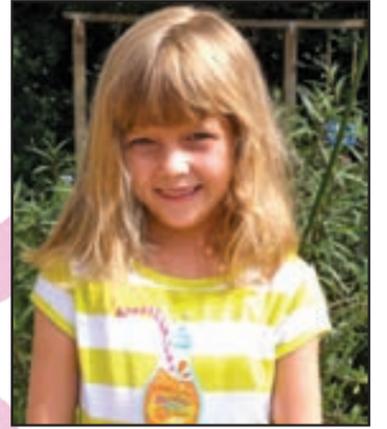
Ortega Elementary School fifth-graders are in the process of raising more than \$50,000 to fund a class trip to Washington, D.C. The trip will include a visit to the Smithsonian Museum of American History and Natural History, Ford's Theater, the Capitol, Mount Vernon, Jamestown Settlement, and Library of Congress. Students have already started a letter writing campaign to local businesses in the hopes of finding sponsors.



During Collection Night students shared their personal collections with their families and friends. Here Coral Day, an Ortega Museum Magnet 3rd grader, shares her medal collection, complete with a museum quality label. This event coincided with the schools' Museum 101 unit taught in grades K-5.



4th graders work with UNF Arts Integration students to research for an upcoming exhibit on Florida snakes. Photos courtesy of Ortega Elementary School



## Student rewarded for kindness

Ava Grace Elsner, a 7-year-old student at Venetia Elementary School, was recognized recently for her acts of kindness.

Elsner has been a big help to a special needs student in her class and was the only child at Venetia to receive the award.

Elsner was referred to Venetia leadership for her acts – a contrast to the reason most students are “referred” to the principal. This year, the school’s guidance counselor implemented a positive referral program with the goal of outweighing discipline referrals with positive ones. The recognized students become role models for their peers.

Elsner was one of the first students to receive a positive referral.

## St. Matthew students launch into new odysseys

The 2012-2013 school year has been full of new adventures and academic fun at St. Matthew Catholic School. And like every morning should be, the school year started off with a good, warm breakfast. Students enjoyed breakfast in the cafeteria during the school’s first annual principal-student event. Students explored science with the recent “Odyssey of the Mind” program while others hooped it up on the court

An attention-getting invitation for middle school students to become involved with the exploration of the “Odyssey of the Mind” science program. Olivia Schueth, Cassidy Suggs, Walker Hentschel



St. Matthew’s Boys Basketball team enjoys a little time off from practice with their coach Joey Kanobroski and assistant coach Randy Kalka.

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# Venetia named 'A' school

It's another A-letter grade for Venetia Elementary School, which received an 'A' status for 2012.

This isn't the first time the school, located at Diaz and Timuquana roads, has won the coveted ranking. The school also earned a top grade between 2002 and 2006, and then again in 2009.

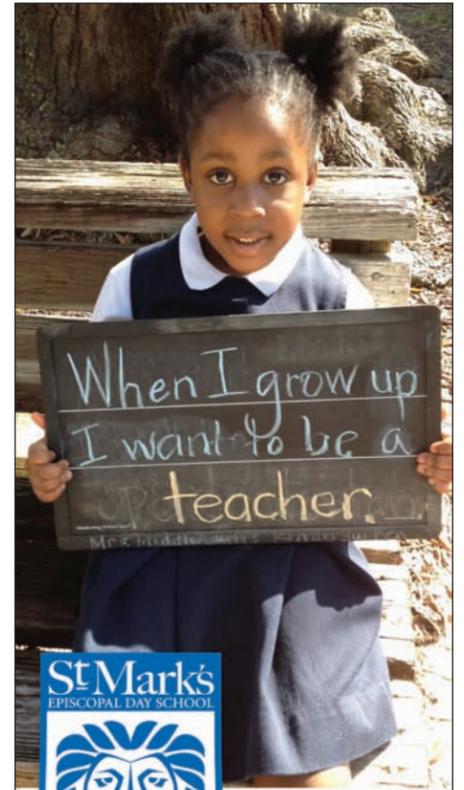
School parents referenced the community's emphasis on education, volunteerism and parent involvement as reasons for its success while others described the school staff as "like family."



Ashley and Baker Eller enjoy a game of "Gone Fishing" at the carnival

## St. Paul's students enjoy Fall Festival

St. Paul's Catholic school in Riverside celebrated its annual fall festival on Oct. 20. The event is run by the parents of students in grades Prek 3 through 8. St. Paul's prides itself on its sense of community and the fall festival is an opportunity for the school, parish and surrounding neighborhoods and restaurants to come together, according to school officials.



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## Friends, neighbors step up to help struggling family

*Avondale mother thankful for community support in wake of daughter's illness*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Michelle Smith became a widower 12 years ago, but is facing one of the biggest hurdles of her life this fall. Smith, an Avondale contract nurse and mother of three, received news in early October that her 14-year-old daughter Gracey has Type D acute lymphoma leukemia.

The diagnosis has put Michelle on

a new track. Days once filled by sporting events, school and a daily nursing job, are now replaced by aggressive chemotherapy treatments, blood tests and hospital visits.

But she and her family are not fighting alone. In an incredible show of support and solidarity, a slew of friends and family from the neighborhood, athletic community and school have stepped in to bolster the Smith family through this difficult time. Venetia Athletic Club Director Sara Brackin has helped guide residents to a special fund that has been set up in the family's name at Florida Bank on San Juan Avenue. Other friends have scheduled a meal delivery system for the days when Michelle and Gracey

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are at chemotherapy treatments. More help, however, is needed to sustain the family through the illness.

“People have been wonderful – they have helped us in so many ways, I couldn’t begin to tell you about all of them,” Michelle said. “When Gracey became sick, my whole devotion turned toward making her better. After 28 days the doctors will decide what the course of treatment will be and then maybe I can go to work part time.”

Michelle described Gracey’s illness. In early October Gracey became sick with flu-like symptoms. The athletic 14-year-old, who was attending Sandalwood High School but had been the main pitcher for her school at Lakeshore Middle School, was becoming tired and lightheaded and complained of body aches. Doctors first suggested to Michelle that a few days rest was all Gracey needed to recover. But when jaundice set in, Michelle rushed Gracey to the emergency room. And several hours later, the doctors at Wolfson Children’s Hospital made the grim diagnosis. Because Gracey is over the age of 10, she is at a higher risk – so ensuing

chemotherapy treatments have been aggressive and persistent. Twice a week she goes in for treatment.

Michelle said while she is responding well to treatment and is not nauseous like many patients, she has side effects of low blood sugar and has received numerous platelet transfusions. Michelle said she finds solace texting her friends, but cannot have many visitors because they want to keep any additional germs at bay.

The Smith family’s story has resonated deeply with the local athletic community. Both Gracey and her brother “Bubba” have been active in Navy Ortega League Baseball, Riverside Presbyterian Church basketball and have attended Lakeshore Middle School.

“Many families have already helped, but many others have asked what they could do or how they can help,” said Venetia Athletic Club’s Brackin in an email that has been forwarded to residents throughout the neighborhood in recent weeks. “The family is in need of funds to pay for living from day to day. They have applied for the Jay Fund but until then, they need our help.”

*A donation/savings account for Gracey Smith has been established at Florida Bank, located at 4211 San Juan Avenue. The direct phone number for making donations or asking questions is (904) 562-6000. The family also is in the process of setting up an account in Gracey’s name at the local blood bank.*

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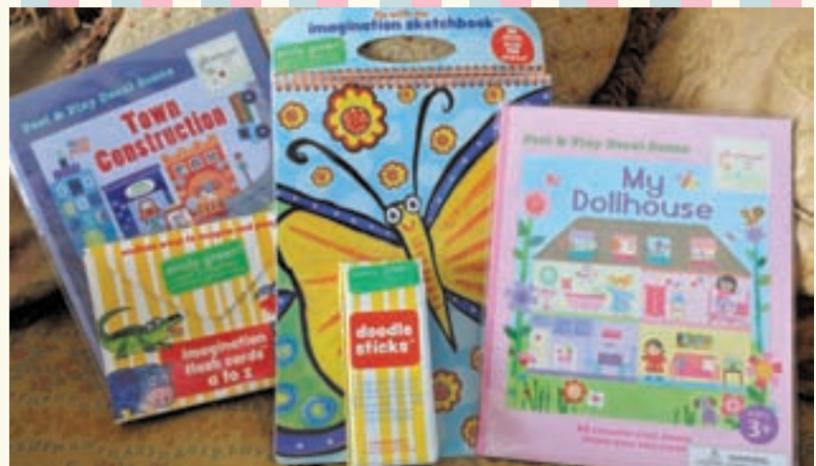
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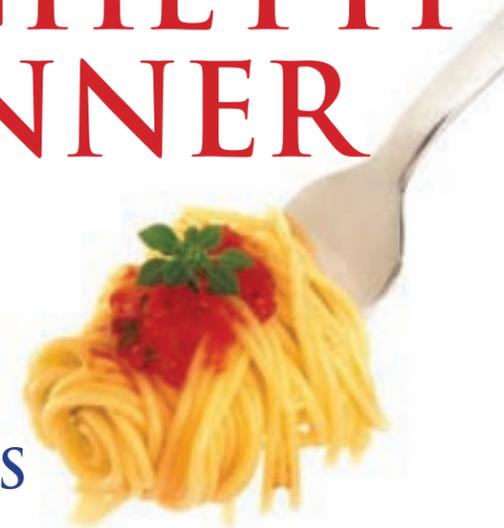
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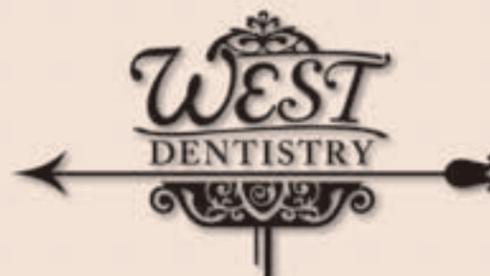
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