



Memorial Park Association plans renovation to historic Olmstead landmark

Through an Adopt-a-Park agreement with the City of Jacksonville, the Memorial Park Association plans to give Riverside's historic Memorial Park the "spit-shine it rightfully deserves."

The nonprofit group that has been preserving and protecting the Olmstead Brothers-designed park for the past 30 years aims to mobilize and engage the community during its planning process. The undertaking is one of the first major refurbishments to the park in many years, and organizers are looking for input from all park users. Project designers also hope to incorporate more of the original design vision, established by



Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.

"Despite the combined efforts of the City of Jacksonville and The Memorial Park Association, the years have taken their toll on the park," said Jake Ingram, MPA president. "So our group is recommitting efforts to upgrade and enhance one of the city's true historical treasures."

Construction and renovations timelines for the park refurbishment are still unknown at this stage, according to Ingram. He said several variables would affect the timing, namely fundraising efforts and thorough research of the park's historical context.

"It would be nice if we could get it all done at once,"

See **OLMSTEAD** on page 32

Mobility fee moratorium may spur development, debate

With the fee moratorium deadline looming, it depends upon perspective

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

With the Mobility Plan fee moratorium scheduled to end October 19, there are two pressing questions: First, did the moratorium spur development? Second, will the moratorium be extended?

But beyond those are more philosophical inquiries about the design of the city moving forward. Will there be a strategic change away from an automobile-centric metropolis or will the current building standards and status quo prevail? Then there is the question of how we will put Jacksonville back to work.

The Mobility Plan and the sometimes-complicated ensuing debate over the moratorium encompass all of this and more.

The plan reduces vehicle miles traveled and encourages alternate modes of transportation by "incentivizing" development in the urban core where infrastructure already exists to support growth. It integrates land development with transportation planning and has an impact fee system that funnels money from development back into the same area

where the development took place to be used for capital projects.

One month after the plan was approved in September 2011, city council – urged by developers, many who supported and participated in the plan's development – voted for a one year mobility fee moratorium (Ordinance 2011-617) to stimulate the local economy.

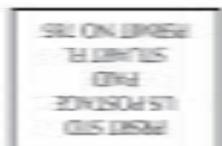
The question is, did it succeed?

Finding the answer should be a simple matter of gathering data on: the number and type of new development projects, the money invested in those projects, and the mobility fee amount that would have been collected without a moratorium. The city's planning department maintains such a list. Problem is not everyone agrees on its validity.

Under the moratorium all mobility fees are waived, but the developer still must submit an application to the planning department and sign the waiver. The mobility fee is calculated and then the developer determines whether to proceed to permit.

"We only list projects that we have reviewed and approved for permitting since that's when the timing starts

See **MOBILITY** on page 14



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Editor: Susanna P Barton
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Phone: (904) 388-8839

Mail: 1650 Margaret Street # 310
Jacksonville, FL 32204

FAX: (904) 388-2209

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In Memoriam Tom Rubel

BY DOUG MILNE, JR.

In 1979, I was an awkward 11-year-old trying to find his way in a world where what I saw was what there was. Nothing existed beyond that. But then one day, I met Tom Rubel. That world changed.

I was in the back yard of the Grant's home in Ortega. To the best of my recollection, the battalion of saints present that day included Richard and John Adams, Ted Miller, Mark Marvin, Perry Walthour, my brother Joey, and myself. I was taking a break from the trampoline — Richard and John Adams' mother, Flo, had encouraged me to craft a poem. I don't remember the words I wrote, but do recall the reaction she gave.

"Dogie," Flo said. "This is beautiful. There's someone I'd like to share this with, someone I'd like you to meet. Dogie, say hello to Tom — We're going to be married."

Tom read my words and looked at me for a long time. Finally, he made a convoluted reference to poets and one's world. The concept crossed so far over my head that the echoes were a blur. I never did, however, forget the words "poets" and "world." Soon, I came to realize mine was a world in which Tom was not a typical part. I believe it was a realization everyone came to embrace.

Over the years, Tom became as

much of us as we were of us. With an inimitable way about him, Tom taught people to take care of themselves because, as he often stressed, "you're necessary." Into his world came a wife, mother-in-law, niece, the wives of Richard and John Adams, followed by three grandchildren from each couple.

As kids we grew, though Tom

seemed to change and age with the pace of a great oak. With roots buried deep in reliability, the depth of love and support he brought to Flo and her family remains immeasurable. Flo never endured a down day on his watch. A simple appreciation for each new, dew-swept morning became an effective lifestyle embraced

by all. Tom's ubiquitous and unconditional love transcended into the spirits and attitudes of Richard and John Adams. Tom's mark on people was that of an unexpected memory, which reminds us all, that love will never lose its flare.

Tom was a runner, a runner who I credit largely for my unabashed addiction to the sport. I watched him run a lot. Some days, his pace was medal-worthy. Other days, it seemed an uphill challenge. But, what it never appeared to be was a challenge. Nothing about life appeared to be a challenge for Tom, even in death. He wasn't one you tried to better a time on. The best you could hope for was to draft him and catch some of the pixie dust left in his path. That's how so many followed Tom through life. He helped unhinge the bolts from this kid's narrow little world. If I were a betting man, I'd lay money across the notion he did that for most everyone who knew him.

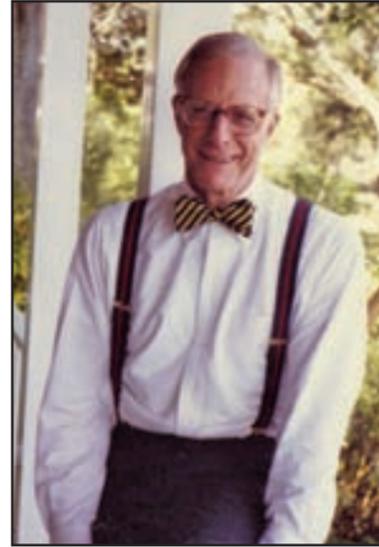
I can't say for sure, but I always felt Tom liked a challenge. What I can say for sure, however, is that Tom liked TO challenge. His approach in doing so was brilliant. He had a way to challenge and encourage us without us even knowing. Sometimes, it was as slight as minor head turn and tweak at the mouth.

Tom died peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, Sep. 18 in his Ortega home two doors down from mine.

His passing came as no surprise. At 10:30 p.m. the night before, I was walking our dog around the block. To the west, an elegant display of silent lightning ballooned on its flanks into the sky for minutes at a go.

"Tom," I said to myself. "Your party's about to begin, my friend." True enough, heaven's angels claimed one of their own the next morning. They chased a good man down, but they'll never catch that good man. His is a run without end.

At that moment, I'd remembered a piece from a book I'd recently finished. In it, was a line that read, "A poet is the soul of his world." Tom was right. The echoes, the slight head nods, they all became clear to me in that moment watching the pregnant lightening. But, he wasn't just a poet



to his world. He was a poem to our world. He was the inscribed word in our hearts, the lyrics to our actions. He was an unforgettable part of a world he alone made both bigger and better.

Tom Rubel was anything but a typical part of this world. If you didn't know Tom, get to know one who did. Your world will be better for it.

Thomas Jones Rubel was born in Louisville, KY in 1928 and died in his home Sep. 18, 2012. A longtime financial advisor for Merrill Lynch in Jacksonville, Rubel was an enthusiastic member of Timuquana Country Club, Outward Bound and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Rubel is survived by his wife, Flo; their son Richard, his wife Darden and their children Porter, Peyton and Clay of Dallas, TX; their son, John Adams, his wife, Amy and their children Haynes, Reagan and Sam of Jacksonville, FL; and nieces and nephews including Liza Barnett of Jacksonville, Pat Hirsch, Henry Harrison, Larry Harris, Marti Tabereaux and John Harrison of Louisville; and by his mother-in-law, Betty Adams of Jacksonville. Rubel was predeceased by his parents, Dr. Henry M. and Mina A. Rubel, his brother, Albert Rubel, and his sister, Henry Harrison. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts in his memory be given to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4129 Oxford Ave., Jacksonville FL 32210.

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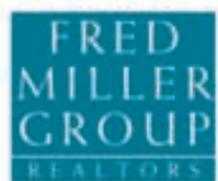


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Mellow movement: Commissions say yes to restaurant applications

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Mellow Mushroom restaurant developers can move forward with plans for an Avondale restaurant following key approvals last month from two city agencies.

The Jacksonville Historic Commission approved plans for the restaurant at a mid-September meeting. On Sep. 27, the Jacksonville Planning Commission reviewed the designs and approved a rezoning exception that would allow for alcohol sales at the site. The ownership group is listed as Emly Benham Investments LLC and MM Avondale, which was represented by Avondale resident and attorney, Steve Diebenow. The planning commission approved deferred item, E-12-35, but did not hear its companion legislation, AD-12-27 — an administrative deviation request to reduce required off-street parking for the restaurant. Mellow Mushroom officials withdrew the request.

"We are good to go ahead with build-out," said Simon Keymer, a public affairs specialist with Keymer Inc.

who has been assisting Mellow Mushroom owner and Fairfax Manor resident, John Valentino, in his bid to open a restaurant in the Shoppes of Avondale.

He said the commission was expected to approve the designs "on the basis that we have met the requirement for parking under the overlay by establishing a new parking lot and bringing the number of seats in the restaurant down to 206," Keymer explained. He said because of lot at the rear of the building, Mellow Mushroom will be "somewhat unique in Avondale in that we will not require an administrative deviation for parking."

A thumbs up from area regulatory boards has been a long time coming for Mellow Mushroom, which has been at the center of neighborhood debate over its size, contribution to parking challenges and noise issues, among other concerns. Soon after Valentino announced plans this spring to purchase the vacant gas station property in the Shoppes for an adaptive reuse that would include retail space in the adjacent building, many neighbors and business owners in the area stood



in protest. They were concerned about the restaurant's size and its impact on neighborhood safety, parking and noise. A group called We Love Avondale LLC formed in late spring to bring a collective voice for area opposition to the project.

Throughout the summer, We Love Avondale LLC representatives met with Mellow Mushroom officials to hammer out issues and determine other design alternatives. By August, the groups settled on a plan that would create on-site parking and slightly lessen Mellow Mushroom's seating capacity from 220 to 206. Under this scenario, the restaurant scrapped plans to incorporate the vacant gas station property into the design — opting to raze the building and build a new structure on the site.

Still, We Love Avondale representatives expressed concern over the restaurant's size and scope.

Tommy Donahoo, an Avondale resident and local attorney who has been at the forefront of We Love Avondale's

message, said the conditions placed on Mellow Mushroom at the hearing by We Love Avondale and Riverside Avondale Preservation "were certainly appropriate and helpful."

"However the overall size is still at issue," Donahoo said, adding the group is in discussion about an appeal.

Donahoo said the group is disappointed by the planning commission's late-September decision. But he was pleased the commission heard area residents concerns.

"We were very pleased and thankful they provided 76 residents, all of whom live within close proximity to the Shoppes, the opportunity to speak to the issues that we face with such a large regional sized restaurant wanting to be in the area," he said.

Donahoo hopes dialogue continues with Mellow Mushroom owners.

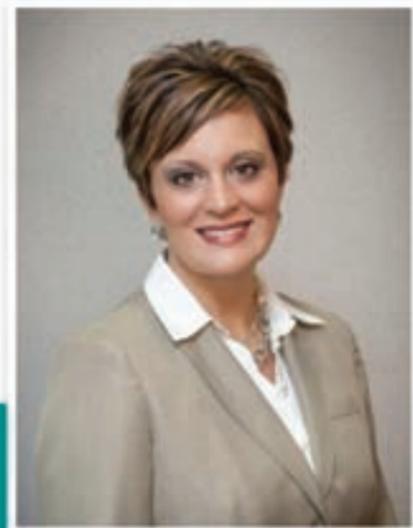
"I know Councilman Love, as well as LUZ committee members, would encourage us to keep the conversations going with John and that's what we intend to do," Donahoo said.

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Council approves parking, rezoning plans for The Salty Fig

The Jacksonville City Council approved plans for alleyway parking in the King Street area that paves the way for The Salty Fig, a 151-seat gastropub planned for 901 King St.

The council passed two separate bills during its late September meeting — 2012-542 and 2012-504. Both bills affected The Salty Fig's ability to provide parking in the space-starved area of King Street. The rezoning applications were filed by Mark Rubin of San Marco-based AccuBuild Development Co.

Bill 2012-542, introduced Aug. 28 by District 14 City Councilman Jim Love, required a right-of-way closure and ordinance code waiver. The ordinance proposed the closure of part of an alley between King, College, Acosta and Post streets behind The Salty Fig's new location. The ordinance would enable the applicant, King Street LLC, to create a parking lot to serve King Street businesses.

"The purpose of this ordinance is to enable the applicant to re-align the alley in order to construct a parking

lot behind the applicant's property located on King Street," reads the bill's summary. "The applicant will construct a restaurant on his property and the parking lot is a component of the project."

The bill summary indicated there had been no negative responses from other agencies, and no response from the state Department of Transportation.

The other bill, Bill 202-504, was a request to rezone the property from residential medium density to PUD, or planned unit development.

The Salty Fig is described as "a southern gastropub offering an eclectic ambiance in a polished casual setting with great food and a big city bar promoting the best local ingredients." The executive chef is Jeff Stanford. Until now, the company has been sharing its culinary delights with area residents through its food truck, which has visited many locations throughout the city — including the King Street market and the corner of Stockton and Oak streets.

City Council passes budget

In a unanimous late September vote, the Jacksonville City Council approved Mayor Alvin Brown's \$945 million budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The vote sealed the fate of the Jacksonville Public Library system, which now is expected to close all but five facilities on Sundays and reduce hours during the week in order to operate in its \$3.5 million budget loss. Library staff also faces cuts.

The Main Library, Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, Pablo Creek Regional Library, Southeast Regional Library and Highlands Branch Library will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Most locations will be closed on Mondays.

"It could have been worse," said Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library President Harry Reagan shared in a response following the vote. "The mayor's original budget proposal — a \$4.6 million cut — was much worse. And next year may be just as bad as this year — maybe worse."

He said volunteers with FJPL are gathering petition signatures for a straw vote on creating a special tax district for the library, "something that would

give us sustainable, reliable funding for our libraries." The group aims to have those petitions gathered by Nov. 6, Election Day.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office will be slashing positions based on the leaner budget parameters. The JSO's \$12.5 million budgetary deficiencies resulted in the loss of more than 240 positions. All of the JSO's community service officers were trimmed from the force.

District 14 City Councilman Jim Love said the city's finance committee and Councilman John Crescimbinidid a great job of allocating assets "the best way possible," he said.

"Certainly we wish we had more money to work with," Love said. "Just about everyone took a hit. I don't like getting rid of the CSOs, but in lieu of the tax dollars we had to work with, it's something that had to be done."

Love said he did not like to see cuts for libraries either.

"But we all had to share in the pain due to reduced income," Love said.

"Overall, the finance committee did a good job getting things balanced in fair way. And hopefully next year we'll have more money to work with."

New superintendent for DCPS

After a nationwide search, the Duval County School board tapped Dr. Nikolai Vitti for the position of Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools. Board members, who voted for Vitti 5-2, shared their

announcement in late September.

"I am honored by the school board's decision and deeply respect the transparent process by which I was selected," Vitti said in a statement. "I look forward to moving through the negoti-

ation process so we can begin the collective work of taking our district to a national model of excellence for students."

Harvard-educated Vitti most recently served public education as chief academic officer for Miami-Dade school district.

Vitti was one of three finalists for

the job. He replaces Ed Pratt-Dannals, who retires at the end of 2012.

Pratt-Dannals will host a "State of the Schools: Five Years of Progress" updating residents on the status of area schools on Oct. 2. The event begins at 6 p.m. will be held at Cline Auditorium in the school board building at 1701 Prudential Dr.

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Society plans historic purchase

Group seeks to replenish funds through membership, fund push

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Jacksonville Historical Society, which warehouses many archived collections from the city's Historic District, is under contract to purchase two 19th century buildings near Everbank Field. The group's acquisition of the old St. Luke's Hospital and the Florida Casket Factory building is expected to close by mid-October, according to board member and Avondale resident Bill Leuthold.

JHS's board of directors has been considering purchase of the buildings for the past two years but decided to move forward now because of favorable purchase circumstances.

"It's exciting but it's also a bold step," said Emily Lisska, JHS executive director, of the board's purchase-

now-fundraise-later game plan. She said the seller is willing to give JHS a significant discount for the properties now. "It behooves them to sell and it means a great savings to us be getting things in order and closing. It is an opportunity in this unusual real estate market that we'd like to move on and take."

The Florida Arthritis Foundation currently owns both the 15,000-square-foot Florida Casket Factory and the 5,000-square-foot St. Luke's Hospital property. The buildings are located just down the way from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the James E. Merrill House, both used by the society for various functions. JHS now occupies space in the hospital and casket buildings for exhibits, storage, research and archives, and pays the foundation all property expenses and repairs.

A \$250,000 matching grant from the city of Jacksonville's historic preservation trust fund will finance half of the property purchase. Lisska, however, does not think the entire amount will be necessary for the



Florida Casket Co. building

acquisition. The lower purchase price — likely \$400,000 or so for both buildings, according to Leuthold — potentially means hefty cost savings for both the city trust fund and JHS, which will fund its half of the purchase through reserves. But JHS also is facing building rehabilitation costs for the Casket Factory building that could tack another \$200,000 to \$1 million on to the expenses costs.

Despite the savings, JHS' investment will siphon off a significant amount of money from the organization's pockets. "It's frightening because we've had some rough years lately where we've had to dip into reserves for routine things," Lisska said. "As we do this, we would have enough to dip into reserves that would last about 1.5 years if things went poorly once the purchase is made."

She said the historic group is jumping right into fund-building mode to "replace money we'd be using." While JHS has not hosted any major fundraisers in the past, a significant event is planned in coming months, she said. The group also is making a push for new members and financial support.



This is the oldest known photograph of St. Luke's Hospital at its Palmetto Street location. The photograph was probably taken shortly after the building was opened.

Leuthold helped launch the group's new focus on fundraising with a personal letter to friends and associates that helped net many new members for the JHS — including a \$5,000-level membership.

"It's a great organization that needed a little boost at the moment," said Leuthold, who is helping raise awareness of the society's financial needs. "The push has just started. With the downturn in the economy, things changed for us — trying to purchase the buildings is a bit of a strain, but it's all going to a wonderful cause."

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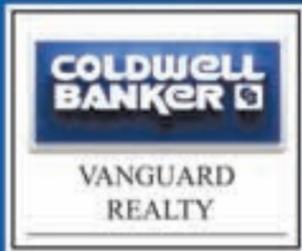
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Meet Christy Hilpert

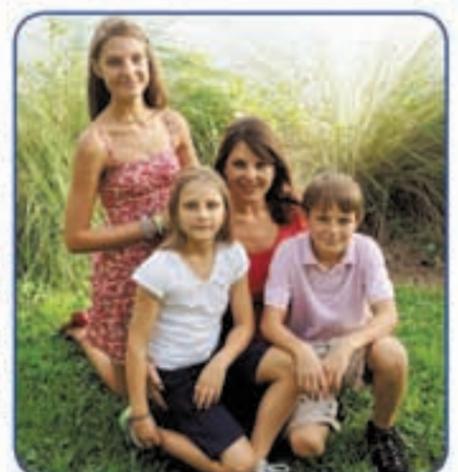
Christy Hilpert is a Jacksonville native. She grew up in Venetia and didn't go far when she decided to purchase her home. Christy lives in Ortega with her three children Emma, Walker and Barley. She is involved in the community through different volunteer organizations and her children's schools.

Christy worked for her Dad, an architect, after she left her 10 year career in banking. "I became very interested in homes and design. I enjoy helping people realize and achieve

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TED coming to Riverside

The Riverside-Avondale area received a nod from thinkers across the globe. TED, a nonprofit and international conference that aims to share "Ideas Worth Spreading," has branched into Northeast Florida with the upcoming TEDxRiversideAvondale event — a first for the area.

The daylong event will be held at Riverside's Friday Musicale venue on Oct. 20. The theme is "Collective Genius."

"Jacksonville has been emerging as a center of innovation and creativity," said Jeffrey Spear, event spokesperson.

"TEDxRiversideAvondale will provide inspiration for our city to think even more ambitiously about our future."

TED is an acronym that stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design — the three subject areas of the

group's first conference in 1984. The nonprofit now stages two annual conferences in Long Beach, CA and Palm Springs, the TEDGlobal conference in Scotland, the TEDTalks video site, projects, conversations and fellows programs, in addition to the TEDx programs.

TEDxRiversideAvondale is the first time the group has established a presence locally.

Doug Coleman, an Avondale resident, is organizing the event and has gathered a team of neighborhood specialists to help with the production — a group that includes local artists and photographers, event planners, AV specialists and representatives from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

The group recently released the speaker lineup — a diverse selection of presenters talking about wide variety of topics. The speakers were chosen from a large "amazing" pool of submissions, organizers said. The speakers include:

- Parvez Ahmed, director of the newly established Center for Sustainable Business Practices at the University of North Florida. Ahmed's

presentation is about the roots of sustainability, "what it means in terms of both education and business best-practices and what we can expect in the future."

- Jon Cowart, rocket scientist and longstanding NASA space exploration team member. Cowart will share his "unique perspective, anticipating the future of technology and space exploration by looking back at what's been accomplished and where we've been."

- Bert Herring, M.D. Herring will discuss his medical treatment experiences in the Marine Corps, his cancer treatment work at the National Institute of Health, study of global obesity and his research that sparked a weight loss tool that has helped many people.

- Al Letson, acclaimed poet, performer and National Public Radio host. Letson will share "How I Learned to Fly," a mix of multimedia, performance and story telling, that highlights his journey from nerdy comic book aficionado to renowned poet and radio host.

- William Miller, a 25-year international expert on values-centered corporate innovation. Miller will be sharing ideas about innovation, raising questions relating the guiding

forces behind innovation.

- Roger Nierenberg, national orchestra director. Nierenberg will take the audience inside a symphony orchestra, showing guests where to look, how to listen and reveal much more than music.

- Jonah Reynold, earthship expert. Reynold's talk will discuss Earthship Biotecture.

- Kevin Songer, urban environment development. Songer will share his vision and advances with sustainable, nature-irrigated green roof systems, explaining their critical importance to the future of our communities.

- Wayne Wood, local historian. Wood will explore the dynamics of historic preservation from both a national and local perspective.

The event includes the nine live presentations, four musical groups and four recorded TED talks. While the gathering is open to the public, attendees must apply to participate in the event in order to meet organizers' goal of creating a "diverse audience from a broad spectrum of industries, philosophies, arts and sciences."

Admission price is \$100 per person. Audience applications are available at www.TEDxRiversideAvondale.com.

Making amends

Candidates aren't the only ones who will be on the 2012 General Election ballot Nov. 6. Voters will be addressing a handful of important Constitutional amendments when they go to the polls.

Some of the proposed amendments include critical issues that residents need to weigh in on. Among them — property tax limitations, public funding of abortions and additional homestead exemptions for low-income seniors.

The Resident will post the proposed amendments in their entirety on its website, www.residentnews.net. Visit the site and stay informed before heading to the polls next month.

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Dames' museum receives high state designation



Former Dames presidents Jane Still, Norma Lockwood, Susan Caven, Marcy Moody, Linda Moseley, Jerry Chappell and Margaret Foerster

Local ladies from the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida were on-hand in St. Augustine last month to celebrate a special award from the Florida State Bureau of Historic Preservation.

The Colonial Dames own and maintain the historic Ximenez-Fatio House Museum on Aviles Street in St. Augustine's city center. The museum, which receives visitors from many neighborhood schools and youth organizations throughout the year, received a Florida Heritage Marker from the state's preservation bureau. The distinction gives the museum prominence as a national landmark, according to event organizers.

Ortega resident and museum properties committee chair Ellie Slade helped lead the special award presentation in early September. Other organizers included Julie Gatlin, executive director of the museum, and Maggie Ouelette, chairman of the St. Augustine committee sponsoring the museum. Current Florida President Susan Caven and group state past-president Marcy Moody performed the honors of marking the museum's new status.

The event closed with a private celebration in the museum's courtyard. The festivities served a dual purpose — guest and longtime dame Betty Skinner celebrated her 90th birthday during the gathering.



Edna Dickinson, Bob Harper, Norma Lockwood, Catherine Davis, Linda Moseley, Barry Myers

Local developments up for ULI awards

Urban Land Institute is considering nominations of several neighborhood development projects for awards at its inaugural Awards for Excellence program in early October.

Awards will be given in the downtown, private sector and public sector categories.

Among those local projects up for awards are: The EverBank headquarters relocation from Brooklyn to downtown Jacksonville; San Marco Place; Kings Avenue Station; the Friendship Park and fountain renovation; and the Riverside Arts Market.

Through the awards program, ULI hopes to identify and promote best real estate development practices.

The winners will be announced and recognized Oct. 4 at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Local and national judges included Don Shea, Jacksonville Civic Council; Dave Hammers, retired developer in London and U.S.; ULI Senior Fellow and former Mayor of Pittsburgh Tom Murphy; Tim Becker, Director of the Bergstrom Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Florida; and Ellen Dunham-Jones, author and professor of architecture at Georgia Tech.

"It is important for us to honor those who work hard to make a difference in our community," said Bruce Johnson, chair of ULI North Florida. "ULI recognizes distinguished leaders and distinctive projects worldwide, and we are looking forward to honoring those here in North Florida."



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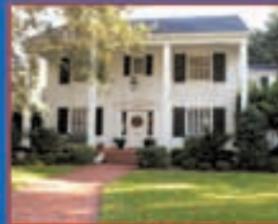
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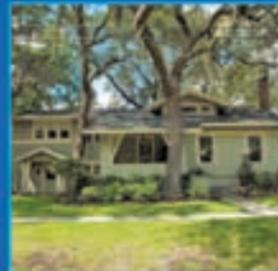
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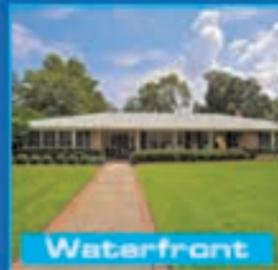
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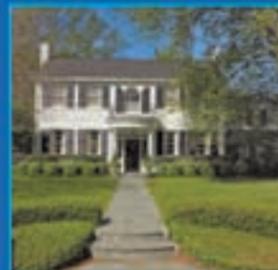
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Local church members raise the roof(s) in Honduras



The mountains of western Honduras are both literally and figuratively far from Jacksonville's Riverside-Avondale-Murray Hill-Ortega neighborhoods. But they are close by in the hearts of members at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

Seven members of Holy Trinity, located at the corner of Eloise and Glendale, traveled to Gracias, Honduras in early August to install roofs on two churches there and help fix up an orphanage. With them were members from Anglican churches in Macclenny, Fleming Island and Orlando.

"Several church members had participated in mission trips to this area of Honduras a few years ago and we agreed Holy Trinity should send a team there," said Rev. Dave Austell, Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican. "The needs are so great there and the poverty is just incredible, but the Gospel is being preached and accepted there and it's our joy to help in their physical and spiritual needs."

Working with Orlando-based Missionary Ventures International (MVI), the team coordinated with Allen Sowers, an American who is based in Gracias and assists pastors of hundreds of small churches in the mountainous western half of the Central American nation. Sowers, whose parents had been missionaries in Southeast Asia, had been a custom homebuilder in Maryland before entering the mission field and moving his family to Honduras ten years ago. Sowers and his family help oversee construction projects such as churches, roads, and bridges and assist with 300 food centers and

orphanages in Honduras.

"It was an amazing, strenuous, unforgettable week," said Eric Linden, who was joined on the mission trip by his wife Jan and son Kendall. "So much of what we did

"So much of what we did was way outside our comfort zones, but everyone pulled together and got so much work done. And, we are ready to go right back."

Eric Linden

Member of the mission to Honduras

was way outside our comfort zones, but everyone pulled together and got so much work done. And, we are ready to go right back."

Linden, who was an electrician in the Navy, oversaw the wiring of a church on which the team also

installed a metal roof. While Linden and others were wiring and roofing the church outside Gracias, part of the team travelled two hours away to a small adobe brick church in a rural area to replace the leaking tile roof with a metal one with plexi-glass skylights. It was ready for worship before they returned home.

Most of the team also spent three days making repairs and painting at a girls' orphanage in the town of Santa Rosa de Copan about an hour away. The three dozen children age 5 to 20 sang several Honduran folk songs to their American guests as a thank you and farewell for their work.

"It wasn't all about the work, establishing relationships with the people was even more important," said Ortega Forest resident Patrick McSweeney, who was making his second trip to Honduras. "Beyond our construction effort, it was by playing soccer or teaching kids how to throw a Frisbee, skip rope or blow bubbles, that we were able to communicate that God loves them and He sent us from the U.S. to help them."

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Latest Pop-Up History uncovers city's bawdy past

Second series event serves up raucous performance at Dos Gatos

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

"1915 Jacksonville mayoral candidate J.E.T Bowden came back to life last month — rolling into Downtown's Dos Gatos cocktail lounge on Sep. 19 and loudly proclaimed his support of prostitution to a more than receptive crowd of nearly 200 rowdy backers.

"...This 'social evil' is not such a terrible evil after all. These poor unfortunates are the greatest safety valves to our society... Let us not persecute these women to conduct their business in the secret of the night under dangerous conditions and circumstances but instead embrace a culture of merciful toleration and respect..."

The candidate was not alone. Wheelchair-bound, he relied on the kindness of one of society's "safety valves," a woman who remained nameless but certainly not quiet. Together their argument, if not their charms, were plenty



Mayor J.E.T. Bowden (in the wheelchair portrayed by Matt Shuman of Mad Cowford Improv) and his delightful lady friend Rachel Stromberg have the audience cheering for the Mayor's 1915 re-election

persuasive enough to bring Bowden the election win — both on this recent night of Pop Up History Book and back in 1915.

"Bowden" was actually Matt Shuman and his lively companion was Rachel Stromberg, each from the Mad Cowford Improv players. Wearing period costumes and staging the second of the Jax Pop Up History events around "Bawdy Behavior — The Naughty History of Houston Street," they took the covers off of one of Jacksonville's more colorful eras.

Inviting the crowd to raise their glasses in a toast to "debauchery, treachery, booze

and all manner of inequity in the name of history," Wayne Wood, Riverside Avondale Preservation founder and one of Pop Up History's organizers set the tone for a raucous presentation of the facts surrounding a time when bordellos flourished along Houston Street (then called Ward) in LaVilla.

J.E.T. "Just Easy Times" Bowden had been mayor of LaVilla before it was annexed and again 1899-1901 of the greater city. His tenure most notably included the time of the Great Fire that destroyed 140 acres of the city on May 3, 1901. But by 1913 conservative mayor Van Swearingen had shut down the brothels,

much to the consternation of the city's good 'ol boys. The stage was set for Bowden's return and he swept back into office in 1915, winning by the still biggest margin of victory in Jacksonville's history, and reopening the bordellos.

Another Pop Up History "instigator," Fairfax resident Mike Field, adapted Bowden's campaign speech as the script

that was used at the Dos Gatos event.

"The concept of Pop Up History is to bring together the elements of mystery, surprise, and social media to educate young people about important but unknown facts in Jacksonville's history," said Field, who, as with the first Pop Up commemorating the July 20, 1944 plane crash in Riverside, let the event be known via cryptic emails and postings on Facebook.

According to Field's script, by 1916, Jacksonville boasted more than 30 movie studios and became hailed as the movie industry's winter filming capital. But economics and local backlash to the



industry's presence took its toll, and Bowden lost his re-election bid to an anti-movie candidate. By 1920, most movie companies had fled the city to relocate to a place called "Hollywood"... and the rest is, as they say, history.

As for future Pop Up History events, all Field would disclose is that they will "have a silver lining and the possibility of seeing stars." Follow Jax Pop Up History on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jax-popuphistory> or at the Jacksonville Historical Society: <http://www.jaxhistory.com/>

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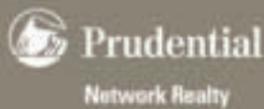
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JEA's Riverside project launches January 2013

Water main work promises construction crews for Riverside Avenue

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

JEA is gearing up for one of its biggest neighborhood undertakings. Set to begin in early January, the Riverside Avenue Water Main Improvement Project will bring better water pressure to many homes and businesses and includes the replacement of deteriorating pipes. But along with the improvement comes potential headaches, as local commuters brace for detours and traffic snafus — and local businesses gear up for planned water outages.

JEA Project Outreach Coordinator Greg Corcoran said a community meeting would be held prior to the January constructions start date. The community will be notified at least two weeks prior to the meeting, he said.

The work involves replacement of 6-inch pipes with 8-inch pipes in some areas and exchange 8-inch pipes in other sections along Riverside Avenue between San Juan and Edison avenues. The pipes will be replaced through a process called “pipe bursting,” which was implemented during the Avondale Town Center utilities work two years ago. The replacement occurs in sections and does not require digging up the

entire street. JEA intends to tackle the project in short block increments, so road detours will be abbreviated and ever changing throughout the project.

JEA officials are doing what they can to minimize traffic and logistical issues for Riverside/Avondale businesses, commuters and residents. The early January start time is part of that planning — JEA wanted to ensure easy access to the Shoppes of Avondale and other nearby shopping areas during the vendors' biggest selling season. Representatives from JEA have been meeting with officials at St. Vincent's Hospital Riverside and nearby business owners for the past few months to work out specific details.

“Our engineers have been meeting over the past few months with St. Vincent's to determine the best way to set up a temporary bypass line to serve the hospital,” Corcoran share. “We have also been determining the (water) needs of many of the businesses along the project route. There may be cases where it is better to schedule some water outages during the day while others in the evenings when possible.”

Upfront planning needs have pushed the project design out a few months, he said. The project is expected to be complete in September 2013. JEA has begun advertising the project and expects to award bids to contractors in December.

When it rains...

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Neighborhood flooding was an issue of concern last month on both sides of the river following brutal, persistent rainstorms during the summer months that have left streets and homes soaked.

A large group of residents and business owners poured into a City Hall conference room to discuss area flooding issues with District 14 City Councilman Jim Love. Nearly 30 local business leaders, city managers and public works officials attended the late August meeting.

Speakers were asked to state their name, location of residence and storm drainage or flooding issues. The concerns were similar and pervasive — and had reached a point of seriousness that demanded action.

Residents from Algonquin Avenue — including Denise Hudmon, builder Rick Morales and executive Jane Pomar — described the flooding that occurred recently from Robert Gordon to Chippewa avenues.

Hudmon said her husband Scott and other neighbors had to wade through floodwaters to unstop drains near their home at Robert Gordon and Algonquin avenues. At-Large Councilman Greg Anderson, also a resident, said he was very concerned about the flooding and promised to work with Love and public works engineers to fix the problems.

Linda Strickland, a San Marco resident, rents her Boone Park residence and suspected a blockage under the bridge at Herschel Street may be causing some of the flooding on her property.

Bill Joyce, chief engineer with the city's public works department, outlined the situation. He said there was about 30 inches of rain that fell in the neighborhood during a three-month period. The drainage system was designed to handle about four inches per hour and described the recent rains as the greatest rain event in the 18 years he's been working with city drainage issues. After too much rain, the ground becomes saturated and increases runoff.

Joyce told the group there was \$19 million allocated for maintenance and he would discuss the affected areas with engineers.

During a recent community meeting, District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer underscored her concern about flooding and drainage issues across the city — particularly in the San Marco area, which has been prone to flooding for many years.

She said a significant number of storm drains are clogged and she is working with public works to remedy that situation.

“We've had a lot of rain and high tides that didn't drain out,” Boyer said. “To all those who are concerned about flooding, I hear you.”



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BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Pressed pants are about to give way to bench presses at the old Deluxe Cleaners. Six years after starching its last shirt, owner Anthony Saleeba has rented part of the location to Snap Fitness and the site is currently undergoing a total build-out. All that is left standing of the original Deluxe Cleaners, which opened in 1920 at 2215 Oak Street, are its four historic walls.

"The brick is in intact, in tremendously good shape, and we are not altering the outside at all," Saleeba said. "The storefront has been removed and will be restored right down to the win-

dow muttons. The fitness center will have interior brick finish that will give it that historic feel."

The brick from the original chimney was also salvaged and will be used in the build back, according to Danny West, who supervised the demolition for Lockwood Quality Demolition, Inc.

Both Saleeba and West also verified that the property has undergone asbestos and lead paint abatement and passed all hazardous material and toxic substances tests. Of particular concern

with dry cleaners is the organic solvent Perchloroethylene (also called PERC) that is a carcinogen of known human toxicity that contaminates soil.

"We never used PERC. We used petroleum and mineral spirits from the start and operated under a grandfather clause for petroleum," Saleeba said. "Petroleum is not a carcinogen and is nontoxic. We also never had a spill."

Saleeba's grandfather started Deluxe, which Saleeba said became the largest dry cleaners in North Florida, and he took over in 1992. After selling the business and name in 2006, the building sat empty.

"We never used PERC. We used petroleum and mineral spirits from the start and operated under a grandfather clause for petroleum. Petroleum is not a carcinogen and is nontoxic"

-Anthony Saleeba

The new owners opened across the street under the same name.

"I wasn't ready to develop it. I never even marketed the property because I was waiting on the economy," said Saleeba, who owns Mojo4 and 13 other properties in the Shoppes of Avondale. "Then Judy Peek, owner of Snap Fitness, contacted me and said she was looking for a larger space."

Snap currently is located just up the street at the 1661 Riverside building in a 2,500 square foot store. The Deluxe building is 6,000 square feet.

Saleeba said Snap is expected to open in January 2013 and that it is just phase one of his redevelopment plans. There is an additional 7,000 square feet on the same property he expects to build out next year, though he does not currently have tenants lined up. He said he is open to renting the entire space or splitting it into two.

MOBILITY cont. from 1

for the mobility fee waiver," said Stephen Smith from the Concurrency and Mobility Management Office.

Councilman John Crescimbeni said he asked the planning department to track the data. "I thought it prudent to get a list to compare what actually happens to what the developers were promising. The waiver was sold as a vehicle to spawn a bunch of development that would not otherwise be initiated."

Of 100 total mobility fee applications equaling just over \$16 million, developers chose to move forward on 26 waivers as of September 12, total-

ing \$2.6 million (16.25 percent).

"Based on what we were told, I would expect the data to reveal that there was a mini-spurt in development. What I've seen so far does not match what they said," Crescimbeni noted.

Mike Herzberg, Director of Development for Sleiman Enterprises, disputes the accuracy of the city's data. He believes projects should be counted prior to final permitting at engineering plan review instead. Mike Sands, whose department is responsible for that review, estimated that 98 percent of the projects that pass go through to permit.

"The list is not an adequate depiction of what the moratorium has brought to the city. Permits can be pulled six months after October 19, so one needs to look at all projects in the system," Herzberg contended. "The moratorium ordinance does not make reference to tracking data, so it is misrepresentative of the planning department to wait until final permit."

Herzberg also argued that an increase in jobs, tax fees and property values due to new moratorium-spurred development was good for the city. "These far outweigh the nominal collection of mobility fees during these economic times."

But San Marco-based developer Doug Skiles, who opposes a moratorium extension, suggested that the city might not view the fees as nominal. "After the pain and suffering trying to

balance the budget, it's a mystery how we can even consider giving up revenue."

Ryan Schmitt, a local civil contractor who contributed to the reconstruction of San Marco Boulevard, acknowledged that tax fees and property values can generate long term revenue, but noted that capital improvement work not only creates jobs but also builds better roads, sidewalks and other infrastructure that contribute to quality of life and ease of transportation.

It is a question that city council will likely address in the form of a moratorium fee extension debate. However, there is no pending moratorium legislation before council. While Skiles has officially met with Councilwoman Lori Boyer and Riverside Avondale Preservation will submit a letter from its board opposing an extension, council members Bill Bishop, Jim Love, Boyer and Crescimbeni each report that developers have not yet lobbied them directly. Each also said that they would need to see conclusive data in order to extend the moratorium.

"First off, you have to ask if the moratorium actually stimulated projects that would not have otherwise been built. Then, you have to realize that the mobility fee is the main source that we currently have to fund capital projects, for which there is a great demand," Schmitt said. "A lot of it comes down to what kind of city we want to live in."

It is a question that city council will likely address in the form of a moratorium fee extension debate. However, there is no pending moratorium legislation before council. While Skiles has officially met with Boyer and Riverside Avondale Preservation will submit a letter from its board opposing an extension, council members Bill Bishop, Jim Love, Lori Boyer and Crescimbeni each report

that developers have not yet lobbied them directly. Each also said that they would need to see conclusive data in order to extend the moratorium.

"The Proof should be in the pudding. We have to be careful of getting into a permanent moratorium cycle," Crescimbeni said.

He noted that, since there is only one council meeting between now and the October 19 sunset date, the ordinance would have to be introduced and taken up as an emergency during that meeting (October 9). Public hearing would occur at that time.

Herzberg said he recently had discussions with "higher level staff of the city" and suggested, "the mayor himself may introduce the ordinance; maybe the administration will see the value of increasing jobs." Aleizha Batson, the mayor's Deputy Director of Communications, said initial inquiries to identify any meeting between developers and anyone in the mayor's office came up empty.

"No one who would normally be involved in such meetings knew anything about it. It is a legislative issue; the mayor's office does not get involved until after city council takes action."

Doug Skiles feels that action will greatly impact Jacksonville's future.

"My fear is that we are getting lost in the details and that we are forgetting why we need the Mobility Plan in the first place; what its value is to the city. We need to focus on what we want Jacksonville to be. The plan not only lays out a clear vision, but it provides a funding mechanism to reach that vision. The only question is: How do we want to move forward?"

Mobility Plan information: <http://www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/community-planning-division/transportation-planning/mobility-plan.aspx>



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New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup:

Local fans, preparation move FYC sailing team from dark horse to prominence



FYC Sailing Team at the awards ceremony, including Will Newton, Andy Culver, Dave De Camp, Greg Griffin

BY KATE HALLOCK
RESIDNET COMMUNITY NEWS

At a Florida Yacht Club reception given for the team that competed in the U.S. Qualifying Series (USQS) for the New York Yacht Club (NYYC) Invitational Cup last month, team skipper Greg Griffin said it was the strength of the local supporters and volunteers who got the team into the USQS — and they didn't stop there.

"[Ortega resident] Tim Monahan was instrumental in making it happen; he had the vision; he completed the application in less than a week," said Griffin. "I was amazed at the upwelling of support from the very beginning. Almost 100 showed up at our first fundraiser in February to support us financially as well as logistically."

The FYC Sailing Team, composed of Griffin, David De Camp, Andy Culver and Will Newton, also had the largest support group five-fold at the event, which was held Sep. 4-8 at the NYYC's Harbour Court clubhouse in Newport, RI. Almost 50 FYC mem-

bers and friends made the trip to cheer on the FYC team, astounding the other 23 teams with the huge show of support. Back home, "the kids were screaming" as they watched the replays, Griffin shared.

According to Newton, after the races that put the team into first place going into the Championship Series, the NYYC Commodore told him, "Your club must be so proud!"

The challenge began in early February when the FYC was among 24 clubs invited to participate in the New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup U.S. Qualifying Series (USQS). The Cup, held biennially, is the penultimate amateur team sailing contest.

The selection process was based on member representation, the club's involvement in and outreach to the sport of sailing, as well as U.S. Sailing regional designations. The top three U.S. yacht-club teams from the USQS will join some of the most prestigious yacht clubs in the world to compete for the 2013 NYYC Invitational Cup presented by Rolex next Sep. 7-14.

After winning the Blue Fleet in the Qualifying Series, the team made it to the Championship Fleet and was in 6th place before falling one place on the final day. Still, the team was only four places lower than the top three positions won for the NYYC Invitational Cup.

Culver noted "Coming from a dark horse position into one of prominence has everything to do with Greg's leadership and preparation and planning. We probably far exceeded other yacht clubs' expectations." And, for a first-time participation in this prestigious event, the team's showing "put us [FYC] on the radar" according to Newton.

Griffin indicated that their goals to have fun, raise awareness of sailing within the

club, and raise awareness of FYC on the national scene were indeed well met.

"The USQS gave the club a stage for that exposure," Griffin said. "We wanted to make the Championship Fleet and we did that. We wanted to finish in the top half and we did that."

The Florida Yacht Club hopes to leverage this success by encouraging younger sailors and to get local support for the upcoming J/24 North American Championship, which will be hosted by FYC Nov. 14-18. With 40 clubs competing, there's a need for housing, spectator boats, race day volunteers, etc. If you're interested, contact event chairman Tim Monahan at 904-703-7188 or tvmonahan@comcast.net.

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The Great Pumpkin

Ortega United Methodist Church's patch celebrates 20th year

BY OLGA BAYER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The vernal equinox may signal the official transition from summer to fall, but nothing puts residents in the mood for autumn fun and festivities quite like the Pumpkin Patch. When the parking lot at Ortega United Methodist Church transforms into a sea of orange, families come out in droves to stroll through rows of seasonal orbs, snap Halloween photos, and pick out plump pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns and decorations.

Fall has arrived.

Located at 4807 Roosevelt Blvd., OUMC will celebrate its 20th annual Pumpkin Patch when it opens Saturday, Oct. 6. The patch, a major fundraiser for the youth group, is also a major undertaking that requires yearlong planning and plenty of manpower from set up to break down. By all accounts the event has been a huge success, and last year sold out completely after earning \$14,000 for youth mission trips.

Barring inclement weather, the pumpkin patch process runs smoothly, almost down to a science. The pump-

kins are contracted through a North Carolina-based company, and hauled from a Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico. They arrive in two separate deliveries, the first week of October, and a reload at mid-month.

Getting pumpkins from farm to patch starts with workers picking, then loading pumpkins onto long conveyor belts that feed into semitrailers parked out the fields. When drivers reach their final destination at church, the youth and parents form their own human chain to unload the trucks.

Shannon Jennings, OUMC's youth director for more than 15 years, said it takes a team effort to unload a big rig filled with 3,000-some-odd pumpkins.

"It just crazy when you see it," said Jennings. "The whole semi is packed floor to ceiling, front to back. On a good day, it takes about two hours for 50 youth to unload the semi. One time we didn't have enough people and we were unloading in the dark using car headlights. Since then, youth are required to participate at both deliveries."

Pumpkins are priced according to



It's a group effort, and there may be a few sore backs in the pack, but youth and adults are all smiles after unloading the semi

Photo by Olga Bayer

sizes and range from 50 cents for small pumpkins to \$30 for mammoth ones. Youth and parents man the patch, taking shifts the entire month. Volunteers set up tents, lights, tables, decorations and pallets to keep pumpkins dry and off the ground. Youth help customers pick out pumpkins, carry them to their cars, and keep the patch looking fresh.

The precious pumpkin cargo remains unknown until arrival, but generally includes a variety of minis, decorative gourds, Indian corn, cornstalks and more. With all kinds of activities for children, the Pumpkin Patch has become a highly anticipated family event for the neighborhood. Jennings is thankful for the community support, and is "amazed" by the turnout each year.

"When the weather turns cool, it's [Pumpkin Patch] a tradition. People come out for the Pumpkin Patch experience. It's just plain fun," Jennings said.

Ortega United Methodist Church Pumpkin Patch Hours

M-F: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sat.: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sun.: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

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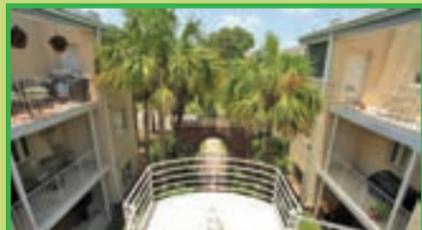


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Variety of gifts, affordable prices

Ortega resident Nicole Smith opened SassyFrass, A Gift Boutique recently at 4278 Herschel St.

Smith, who has a retail merchandising degree from Florida State University, has an eye for "unique and affordable" gift items and showcases her distinctive finds throughout the store. Most items in the store are priced between \$20 and \$30. Her "one-stop-shop" inventory includes everything from baby gifts to bath and body products, jewelry, home accessories and stationery.

"I came into this business thinking about the economy and what kinds of stores we have — and which ones we needed," Smith said, indicating that her target demographics are buyers in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Smith herself fits this category and has a six-year-old and a three-year-old at home. "This is a social group, we like to go out and celebrate birthdays for children and parents — we're constantly needing to get presents. I want people to walk in and like it, love what they see and then see the prices and say, 'oh my gosh,' and feel comfortable about shopping here."

Smith staged a soft opening for the store in early September. SassyFrass is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tres Leches sweetens Stockton

Springfield's Tres Leches bakery and cafe is moving to 869 Stockton Street next to The John Gorrie condominiums, Bold Bean Coffee Roasters and 13 Gypsies.

The small business, which has been selling its culinary creations at the Riverside Arts Market every week for the past year, expected to be open Oct. 1, when a grand opening celebration is planned.

"The majority of our customers are from Riverside — we always loved coming over here and walking on the river and dreamed of retiring there," said owner Eddie Sweda.

Eddie and business partner wife, Irene, began attending church at St. Paul's Catholic this summer. "We just felt something pulling us."

When Bakery Moderne announced it was closing its Riverside retail space, Eddie said a move felt like it was "definitely meant to be."

"Everything in the neighborhood, everything about the people in Riverside is very laid back — it's a very comfortable feeling in Riverside," Eddie said. "That's what we're about, customer service and a love of being around people."

Tres Leches offers dine-in, take-out, catering, cakes and dessert stations. Some of its specialties are quiches, empanadas, arepas, Spanish tortillas, homemade soups, salads, meringue cake and, of course, Tres Leches Cake.

The store is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is closed on Sundays.



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Autrey named 2012 JU distinguished alumni



Ron Autrey, president of Riverside-based Miller Electric Co., was named Jacksonville University's Distinguished Alumni for 2012. Autrey is in his fourth and final year as chairman of JU's Board of Trustees. He also is chair of the school's presidential search committee, which is looking for a successor to JU President Kerry Romesburg, who retires in 2013.

Autrey is credited for helping grow Miller Electric Co. from a 650-employee business with \$311 million in revenue to a 1,650-employee, \$311 million business within five years of taking over as president in 2003. "Ron's ability to know when it's time to take a breath and when it's time to take bold action has served this institution well," Romesburg said. "I'm not sure we could have had a steadier hand on the keel during the past several years of daunting challenges and magnificent opportunities." The Distinguished Alumni Award is given to a JU graduate demonstrating significant professional accomplishments, community and philanthropic efforts and continued support of JU. Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown '85/'89 was the 2011 recipient.

New director for RAM

Riverside Avondale Preservation named Krysten Bennett director of the Riverside Arts Market in late August.

Bennett formerly was director of The Women's Board at Wolfson Children's Hospital. She is a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the arts and received her bachelor's degree



from Emory University in Atlanta. Bennett also has worked with the Atlanta Ballet, the Georgia Shakespeare Festival and the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. "Krysten's passion for the arts and her broad experience in the nonprofit world both in Jacksonville and beyond make her the ideal candidate for this role," said Carmen Godwin, executive director of RAP. Bennett's first day with the arts market was in early September.

Avondale resident takes starring role at Florida Theatre

Avondale resident Numa C. Saisselin is the Florida Theatre's new president. He replaces Erik Hart, the 25-year veteran of the Florida Theatre who is planning to retire next year. Erik remains with the organization as program director during an extended transition period.

The theatre's Board of Directors selected Saisselin for the position after an extensive national search.

"We are thrilled to have Mr. Saisselin join the Florida Theatre," said Dave Henry, chairman of the Florida Theatre's Board of Directors.

From 2002 until 2012 Saisselin was CEO of the Count Basie Theatre, a 1,500 seat circa 1926 historic theatre in Red Bank, NJ. During his tenure the theatre grew from a \$1.5 million

a year organization with an ongoing annual deficit to an \$8.5 million a year organization with 9 consecutive years of cash surpluses. In 2002 the theatre hosted about 50 performances a year, mostly all rentals, and by 2012 it was hosting almost 200 performances a year, about half promoted or produced by the theatre itself.

"We are all just temporary caretakers of this historic theatre, and I am very pleased to be able to play a part in the very first transition of the Florida Theatre's leadership during its life as a nonprofit arts organization," said Saisselin, who relocated from Asbury Park, NJ to Avondale with wife Laurie, two Great Danes and cat last month.



Derby on Park plans October opening



Zack Nettles anticipates an early October opening date for his renovated 5 Points restaurant Derby on Park.

The eatery, located next door to the old 5 Points Newsstand which now houses its restaurant bar, has been under refurbishment for a long while. Owners completed a teardown and rebuild of the entire property. Nettles said they left only

the original walls and windows. A covered patio now connects the restaurant and adjacent bar.

"We wanted to keep dishes that reflected nostalgia for the neighborhood and the Derby's history, but give them a new edgy flavor profile," Nettles said of the restaurant, which has been a culinary icon in the neighborhood for decades.

Franklin new president of Friday Musicale



Pam Franklin is the new president of Riverside-based nonprofit, Friday Musicale.

An active member of Friday Musicale for 14 years, Franklin succeeds Henson Markham and has served as the group's chairman of social and programming committees. Markham recently concluded his two-year term.

Franklin is a graduate of the University of Florida and taught music in public schools for nine years. Presently, she is a piano teacher.

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October marks fall flounder fishing



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

The month of October is one of my favorite times of the year. Football season (both college and the Jaguars) are in full swing and the weather begins to shift towards cooler temperatures.

It also brings a little excitement for kids with the much-anticipated trip to the pumpkin patch and the roasting of pumpkin seeds — not to mention the treating that comes towards the end of the month.

This anticipation can be coupled with great inshore action.

October marks the beginning of the fall flounder (aka: 'flatty') migration, and action in recent years has been called 'epic'.

Flounder will begin moving towards inlets and the offshore waters, and can be targeted in certain areas along the St. Johns River, the Intracoastal Waterway and up into



Amelia Island.

San Marco resident and guide Captain Lawrence Piper spends plenty of time helping people target flounder.

"I do all 'backwater' and have found flounder frequent creek mouths,

marsh run outs, sandy banks, and on the edges of jetty rocks. I like the last few hours of the outgoing tide when the 'edge' of the marsh grass or oyster beds are beginning to show," Piper said.

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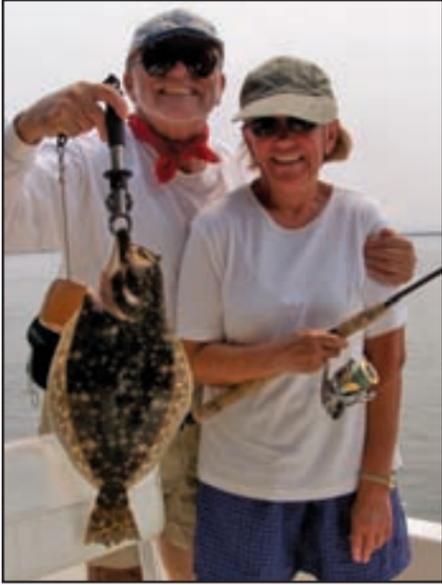
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Island, so finding live mud minnows or shrimp should not be too difficult. Any of the helpful folks at these camps can also point you in the direction of effective artificial baits they sell if you prefer more of a challenge. The presentation of your bait is very important when targeting this



He shared some tricks that only a professional would know.

"Sometimes when I'm fishing an area at dead-low tide and notice Flounder have wallowed out some sandy areas, I'll make a point to fish those spots later on a falling tide," Piper said.

There are several different baits to use when fishing for flounder. Some prefer live, and some prefer artificial.

"If I am fishing with live bait, I like to use a 1/4oz jig head and mud minnows (some people call them bull minnows)," Piper said. "But I have caught plenty of flounder on the live shrimp/jig combination as well."

He added, "If I am fishing artificial, white plastic grubs and Gulp Shrimp are good to use on a jig, too. Toss them up near the edge of the oysters, marsh grass or into a marsh run out. Let it go to the bottom."

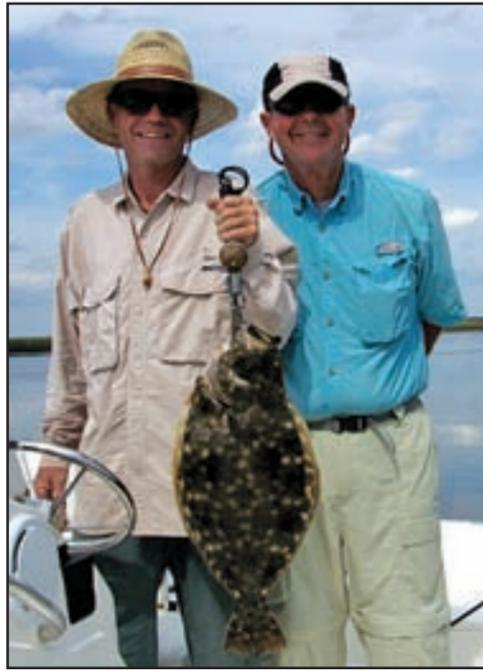
There are many fish camps along Hecksher Drive and up into Amelia

species. "Many make the mistake of closing the bail immediately when the bait hits the water", says Piper. "This draws the bait away from the grass or oysters and back towards you. Let it sink to the bottom before closing the bail."

Whether you are using live or artificial bait, the presentation should be the same.

"I lower my rod and begin to lift it slowly, allowing the jig and minnow to bump along the bottom. When my rod gets up to around a 45 degree angle from the surface I'll lower the rod, reeling in the slack as I drop the rod down and start over again", Piper explained.

Flounder are very temperamental



hours and is also very kid-friendly. Watching a beautiful sunrise over the spartina grass flats with the backdrop of hardwoods is a great way to start your day. Or fishing the late afternoon bite for a few hours while the sun is setting can be just as therapeutic.

The size limit on flounder is 12 inches from nose tip to tail and 10 per angler. All anglers between the ages of 16 and 64 must have a salt-water fishing license. For additional exemptions please visit www.myfwc.com/license/recreational/do-i-need-a-license/

One large flounder (aka: door-mat) can almost feed an entire family. Get your kids involved in the harvesting and preparation.

Flounder are a lot of fun to catch. And fresh flounder with stuffed blue-crab meat can be almost as much fun to eat.

Piper added, "When targeting flounder, you'll catch plenty of red-fish, trout, and drum as well. I've had a number of customer's hookup and swear they've got an oyster clump. And when they get it about half way up, their line begins to rip out! Fishing the backwater, you never know what you're going to reel up."

San Marco resident Captain Lawrence Piper can be reached at (904) 557-1027 or visit the website at www.theanglersmark.com. Send your pictures, stories and favorite destinations to Nathan@FredMillerGroup.com or Ted@FredMillerGroup.com.

Flounder fishing is a great way to get outdoors if you only have a few

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DELICIOUS DESTINATIONS SERVES UP GOOD TIME, FUNDS FOR ST. VINCENT'S

The 11th Annual Delicious Destinations, held last month at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, raised much needed funds for the community outreach programs of Riverside's St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. The 2012 event showcased the culinary talents of world renowned restaurateur, Tony May and his executive chef, Matteo Bergamini of New York City restaurant, SD26 — in addition to an illustrious lineup of chefs from all over the country.

Many guests from the neighborhood made a weekend getaway out of the multiday event, an event which also has been attracting a growing number of guests from around the Southeast.

Flavel and John Godfrey



Tracey and Robert Mason



MERRYMAKER



Amy McGeorge with Kendra McCrary

'TRANSFORMING' DOWNTOWN EVENT INTO SULZBACHER AWARENESS

Many area business leaders and local residents were unhand for the annual Transformations event, celebrating the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. Guests heard stories from local homeless families and individuals and were inspired to help the center lift up the local homeless. Held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville riverfront, the event included a reception, an hour-long program and a dessert reception.



Marsha Oliver, Misty Skipper, and Kerri Stewart



Doug Orange, Peggy Scheu and Bill Scheu



Chip Wickenden, Gail Wickenden, and Maxine Engram



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CIRCLE TOASTS TO RONALD MCDONALD

Beth Haizlip, Susan Britt-Macon, Linda Olsen and Myra Schick pose with their creations

Photos by Aaron Mervin



stie and Close

Melissa Evans with Deena Wallace

Caitlin O'Donnell and Laura Galley

RS MAKE SHINDIG PLACE TO BE



Trudie Lockwood, Rebecca McNeal and Daisy Davidson

Photos by Aaron Mervin

The Garden Club of Jacksonville was the place to be last month when local guests celebrated 20 years of The Sanctuary on 8th Street. The non-profit organization's annual fundraiser, SHINDIG, gathered hundreds of local guests. Biscottis, b the bakery and Bono's catered the gathering, and Grandpa's Cough Medicine supplied the music. Honorary chairs were Dr. Jim Crooks and Leslie B. Jones.



Pete Helow, Jim Folds, Chris Folds and Charles Edwards



GUILD GATHERS ARTISTS FOR FUNDRAISER

Local artists brought music to the eyes of local symphony patrons during the recent Music for Your Eyes event at the Times-Union Center — an annual fundraising event hosted by the Jacksonville Symphony Guild.

Local artists, who painted violins and a cello for the gathering, included: John Bunker, Louise Freshman Brown, Eileen Corse, Ellen Diamond, Mary Simonson Doppel, Beth Haizlip, Susan Britt Macon, Linda Olsen, Myra Schick, William Schmidt and Anthony Whiting.



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Florida Mining Gallery adds staff



Florida Mining Gallery, a division of Harbinger, has expanded with the addition of gallery manager, Riverside/Avondale resident Aaron Garvey, and Cabeth Cornelius as gallery marketing director.

Garvey and Cornelius both are based out of the Jacksonville Harbinger headquarters



Aaron Garvey



Cabeth Cornelius

Garvey comes to Florida Mining from the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, where he was the museum's assistant curator and collections manager. He also was gallery assistant and inventory manager at J. Johnson Gallery. Cornelius, who also works as the independent public art program administrator for the Jacksonville Aviation Authority, is a graduate of Parsons School of Design and brings more than two decades of arts and marketing experience to the gallery.

Florida Mining Gallery presents contemporary works in its space. This fall the gallery will present two artists. Betsy Cain, a Savannah painter with an abstract expressionist bent, will show through October. Ke Francis, a mas-

ter artist, printmaker and bookbinder from Orlando, will showcase his works in November and December.

"I have always loved this city. Jacksonville has so much to offer and is on the verge of becoming the truly successful city we all know we can be," says Harbinger president and gallery owner, Steve Williams, a Granada resident. "Harbinger has been in business for five decades and has an exciting future ahead; we hope that through Florida Mining we are able to promote a vibrant fine arts and cultural scene, something that is vital to a city's economic growth and makes the statement that we as a company are 'ALL IN'."

Merchants: Calling all artists!

The Avondale Merchants Association is hosting its third annual St. Vincent's Healthcare Jacksonville Fine Arts Festival 2013 on April 20 and 21 in Boone Park — but the group is looking for artists to help get the annual masterpiece into gear.

The event's poster contest already has opened. Group organizers are looking for a winning image to feature on all promotional materials, billboards, T-shirts, banners and program covers. Artists who want to make a free entry can enter any kind of medium, but the entry must be submitted to cookieD2ix.netcom.com no later than Nov. 2. The winning artist will receive booth space during the April festival.

Of course, participating artists are at the heart of the April event, which hosts 150 local,

regional and national artists in a variety of mediums. Organizers also have issued a call for artists to participate in the festival, which last year drew about 8,000 families to Avondale. Entry deadline for participating artists is Jan. 19, and notification of acceptance will be Jan. 26. Applications are available at www.ShoppesOfAvondale.com.

The Avondale Merchants Association, St. Vincent's Healthcare and neighborhood volunteer support the community-based festival. In addition to artist booths, the event also features a kid zone sponsored by the Duval County Art Teacher's Association. Ronan School of Music provides live entertainment by students and professional musicians.

The Fine Arts Festival is free and open to the public.

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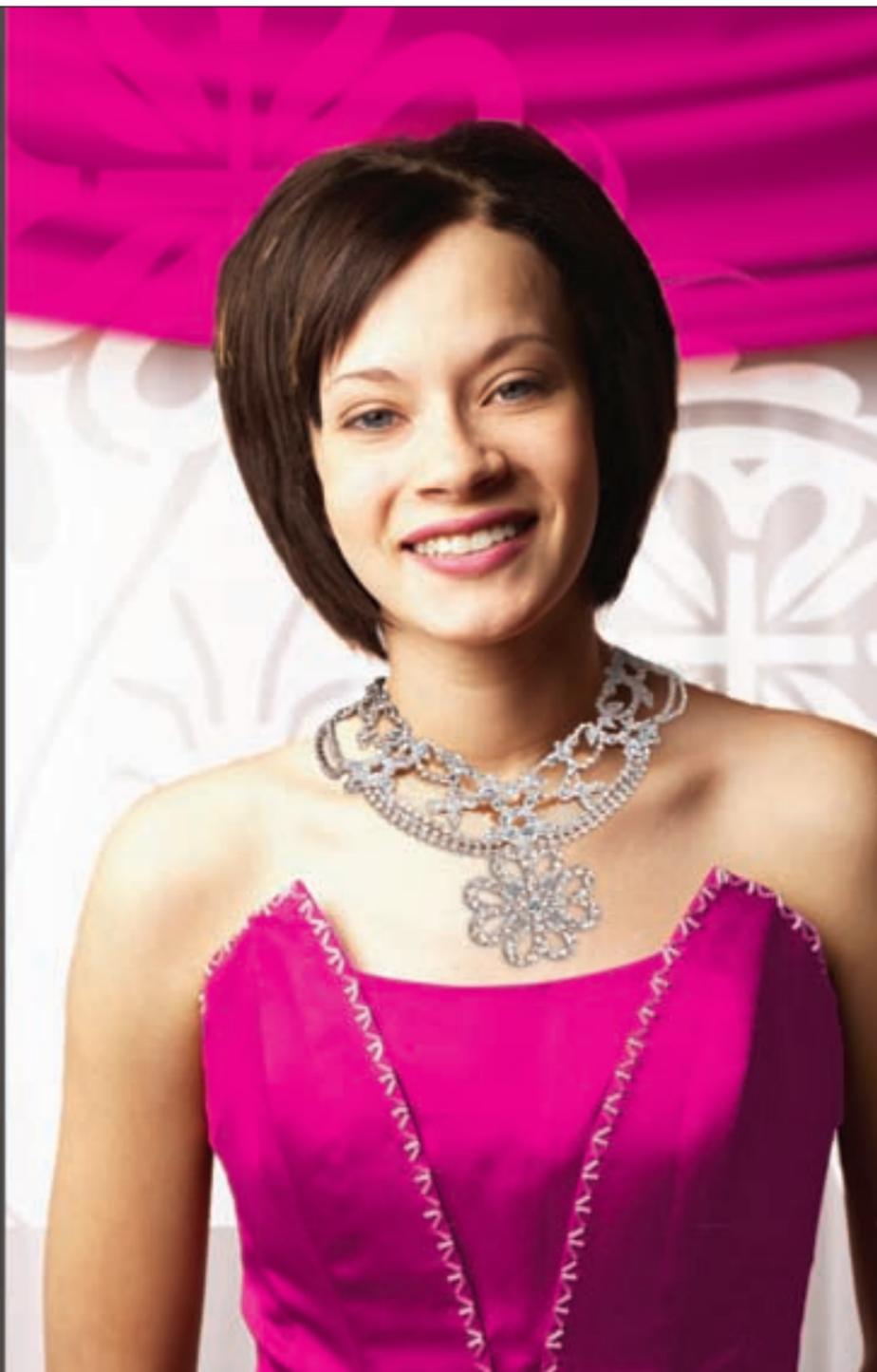
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ARTscene

MOCA event revives 80s flair



MOCA Director Marcelle Polednik with her husband David Kammerman, Exhibition Sponsors Julie and Michael McKenny with Board Chair Alan Howard



A patrons party at MOCA kicked off the museum's latest exhibit, *ReFocus: Art of the 1980s*.

Guests were living in a "material world," enjoying some of the decade's most distinguished pieces of art. Exhibition sponsors were Maria Cox, Julie and Michael McKenny, Dr. Barbara Sharp and Dr. Todd Sack. Contributing sponsors were Agility Press, Brunet-Garcia Advertising, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the City of Jacksonville Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, PRI Productions, Sunshine Frames Inc., Waterproofing Specialists and WJCT Public Broadcasting.

Some of the artists featured in the exhibit included Alex Katz, Ed Paschke, Eric Fischl and Frank Stella.

Artist holds annual opening at Crosby Designs

Local artist Megan Cosby held her annual opening at Crosby Designs, Hugo's Interiors' newest Avondale showroom late last month. Guests admired Cosby's figurative paintings, which have been influenced by the intersection of fashion design and art. Her newer abstract series explores the subject of contemporary lifestyles and design. Cosby partnered with designer Jennie Hugo to incorporate art with interior design. The new 5,000 square foot showroom exhibited Cosby's 25 newest paintings. Guests were served refreshments and enjoyed the musical entertainment of Canary in the Coalmine



Jennie Crosby Hugo and Megan Cosby

Gallery open house benefits KTAC

The Framing Establishment is hosting an open house in October to benefit the St. Vincent's Shircliff Society and Kids Together Against Cancer. The benefit will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 19. Proceeds from the raffle and art sales will benefit KTAC. W90, Avondale's wine ship, is providing a wine tasting. The Framing Establishment is located at 4216 Herschel St.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

TL Home Design

Holiday trunk show unveils distinctive gifts from around the world

If you like to get holiday shopping crossed off the list early — and are a gift-giver who delights in unique offerings for the special people in your life — TL Home and Design's Holiday Gift Show is an early November must-do. A Riverside trunk show featuring unique home decor and accessories from all over the world, the event is best described as a shopping celebration and gives the "buy local" movement a distinctive holiday flair.

Kathleen Langford, partial owner and a newcomer to the Riverside neighborhood, is thrilled to be hosting the annual trunk show.

"I love them because they are also social events — guests can bring a friend, have some wine and enjoy appetizers while they shop," said Langford, who owns TL Home and Design with her daughter, Tiffany Thompson. "People love it that these exquisitely made, one-of-a-kind items are created by women in Colombia."

Most of the items include signature details that make them distinct in their appearance.

Langford and Thompson put TL Home and Design together a few years ago to bring Colombian-made products to the Miami market. Langford moved to Jacksonville in January, and relocated her home business to the neighborhood. During the past 10 months, she has been on several buying trips to



Colombia to stock up for the first Jacksonville show. She said it will fill a void for shoppers seeking high-end, luxury venues to purchase unique gift items.

Langford describes some pieces as works of art.

"I buy mostly usable items like trays, La Chamba black clay pottery, Guatemalan pillows and table runners, and Mochila handbags directly from the Wayuu Indian women of Colombia," said Langford. "Some items, like the Werregue baskets made by the Wauanana Indians, are purely for decoration; they are works of art."

The trunk show offers residents the opportunity to shop locally for luxury items that are usually found at high-end national retail stores. Williams-Sonoma, for example, also carries the La Chamba pottery, but at a much higher price.

"And the crocodile and python skin handbags are of a far superior quality than those sold at Saks and Neiman-Marcus," Langford said.

Langford's Spanish is smooth and lilting. Her mother is Colombian and Langford has traveled extensively to the country her whole life. This intimate connection to Colombia has helped Langford establish many connections for her buying trips. A cousin in Bogota helps customize some of the native pieces and ships them to Langford for her local



clients.

"We attend the annual Christmas Fair in Bogotá where all the Colombian vendors bring their wares; it's a good time to find items to bring or ship back to the States for our next show in the spring," she said.

The trunk show had a large following in Miami, and Langford is confident the distinctive gift pieces and home decor will intrigue Jacksonville women — connecting with their sense of style and fashion.

As many residents in the neighborhood do, Langford will help others through her show's success. At the end of the show, she will make a donation to the Women's Giving Alliance, a local philanthropic organization she supports wholeheartedly.

The local grant-making group is celebrating its 10th year.

Langford is grateful that the artistry and hard work of Colombian women can appeal to local women — and also appeal to their philanthropy.

"I am so impressed by the caliber and commitment of these women who are focused on making life better for women and children," Langford said.

You can follow them on their Facebook page at Facebook.com/TLhomeanddesign to see many products showcased. With site input, TL Home and Design will receive valuable feedback for another show in the spring.



The Holiday Gift Show will be held on Friday, Nov. 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Framing Establishment/Fairfax Gallery at 4216 Herschel St. Both shows will include food and beverages in a relaxed atmosphere. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.



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If you are a woman over age 60 with early-stage breast cancer, ask your physician if you could be a candidate for INTRABEAM, available only at Baptist. For more information, call 904.202.CARE (2273).



ARTscene

Creativity, craft and commerce intersect at the corner of Rosselle and King

CoRK: Bold City and Intuition are redefining Riverside's warehouse district

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The torso had been pulled from the garbage and left outside of Crystal Floyd's studio door in the CoRK Arts District. When she saw it, she let out a loud gasp. She could not have been happier.

"Oh my God! Did you do that?" she asked Jim Draper, longtime mentor and fellow CoRK artist. "It's just perfect. I don't know what I'm going to do with it yet, but I love it."

It was a fine specimen – what in med-student circles is called the "visible man" – plastic, life sized anatomical study model with pullout organs, many of them still in place.

"I saw it and knew you had to have it," said Draper, as he received an appreciative hug from Floyd. "We keep our eye on garbage for each other." One man's junk is another woman's treasure.

It was a snapshot of the daily collegiality that takes place among the more than 50 artists who share a portion of the overall 200,000 square feet of ware-

house space at the corner of Roselle and King streets that makes up the CoRK Arts District.

That same collaborative atmosphere has turned what, only a year ago, seemed like a risky proposition into one of Riverside's most successful business ventures. Along the way, the neighborhood has become redefined and revitalized.

To me it's fascinating how few people have understood what tremendous economic potential there is in bringing artists together in one spot," said Draper, a Riverside resident and 20 year veteran of the local art scene.

It was potential that was not lost on Mac Easton of Pine Street/RPS, a Jacksonville commercial real estate firm. Pine Street not only owns the four warehouses that encompass CoRK, but also Bold City Brewery, which opened on Roselle in 2008, and it brokered the 2010 placement of Intuition Ale Works just around the corner on King. Together they laid the groundwork for the area's rebirth.

Less than a mile up the road from the revitalized King Street corridor, the two districts are in many ways worlds apart. Whereas Kickbacks and other bars and restaurants that followed in its success are housed in historic structures along well lit streets with manicured



medians near gentrified neighborhoods, Bold City, Intuition and CoRK wear their warehouse roots like a badge of honor. Overgrown lots, cracked streets and the shrill train whistle from a nearby track that regularly punctuates the scenery masks the inspired growth that is taking place. And CoRK has put it into a new gear.

"They are great neighbors that have enhanced the whole area," said Bold City's co-founder, Susan Miller. "They've also put more people on the streets, which makes it safer."

Intuition's Ben Davis agrees. "The energy has really picked up. It's a nice compliment to the breweries and a lot of their tenants are our customers." Both brewers noted that they regularly contribute to CoRK events and Davis said that Intuition is currently working on a signature beer for an upcoming Jim Draper exhibition called, Feast of Flowers.

It is the type of energy for which Mac Easton hoped.

"Everyone is excited and amazed that something like this exists in

Jacksonville. It's a great use for that space that brings positive elements to the neighborhood and is financially self-sustaining," said Easton, who purchased the 1920's era CoRK warehouses – previously a canning factory, electric supply company, beer distributor and wholesale grocery – at a cheap enough price to rent most of the studio spaces for about \$500.

The first of those spaces – an 8,000 square foot artist's dream studio with 22-foot high ceilings – went to sculptor Dolf James. He was asked by Easton to create a vision that would attract other artists.

"From the beginning I wanted this to be an economically sustainable project that benefited the developer, the community and the artists," James said. "I have this real desire to show that art has an economic impact and is financially important; that it creates jobs and opportunities."

While it took a little adjustment on Easton's part – "I'm use to writing a financial formula instead of, 'build it

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Paul Ladnier

and they will come” – both he and James see the collaborations that naturally develop between artists sharing space as the key to CoRK stepping up to the next level.

Artists are normally fragmented out, especially in Jacksonville, so it’s hard to see their economic impact,” said Easton, whose “soft spot” for artists comes from his artistic mother. “That changes when they’re all under one roof.”

James points to creative cooperation that leads to economic opportunities.

“There’s a synergy that comes from a group of diverse artists – sculptors, photographers, painters, street artists, even performance artists, writers and film makers – all mixing. A painter may learn print and then be able to sell multiple copies of his work; someone asks for help on a project she can’t do alone, everyone learns together and it expands access into jobs they may not otherwise get.”

CoRK provides a unique setting for

such synergy: It is not normally open to the public and artists have 24/7 studio access. There is no association, co-op, meetings, committees, branding or official logo of any sort.

“Rule number one is, we don’t have any rules. Rule number two is, see rule number one,” James said. “It will sustain success because it provides studio space for real artwork to be done without intrusion.”

Artists do frequently show their work in CoRK’s galleries and CoRK does rent out space for special events, all of which are approved by the artists. It has hosted upwards of 1,000 people.

“We want to keep it really simple,” said Crystal Floyd, a Riverside resident who recently took over as event coordinator. “We want to keep the quality of the events up and we want to have them be relevant to what CoRK is about. And that’s visual and performance art.”

Floyd’s new job is indication that CoRK is growing. “Nobody expected

to be taking on these roles,” she said. But the two original studio spaces (East and West Galleries) filled up quickly and a North Gallery, poised to open by October, is already full. There is a waiting list for future space that provides even larger facilities across Roselle from the current building. Floyd, along with glass artist and Murray Hill resident Helen Cowart, is developing a new website to handle the expanding interest.

Future plans include a live music venue and a space dedicated to performance art. Craft brewers Miller and Davis would like to see the gap between their district and the King Street corridor fill up with restaurants, bars and other viable businesses. But in the meantime, the graffiti art that distinguishes the outside of CoRK’s studios stand as a symbol of the local economic and creative revolution taking place inside.

“The act of making art is eternal optimism. You do it with the idea that it’s important and with no concept of being awarded for it; so you are eternally optimistic about getting paid for it,” Jim Draper said.

With the type of collaboration that has artists digging through the garbage for one another as Draper did for Floyd’s new torso, CoRK is validating that optimism.

To learn more about CoRK and its artists: CoRkartsdistrict.tumblr.com or Facebook,

www.facebook.com/Corkartsdistrict

To schedule an event, contact Crystal Floyd at corkdistrictevents@gmail.com



Upcoming Events & Artist Events

- **October 4, 6-9 p.m.**, East Gallery: North Florida Chapter of the International Interior Design Association
- **October 6, 12-3 p.m.**: Cardboard Challenge in support of the Imagination Foundation
- **October 13, 6 p.m.**, West Gallery: “femme” Art Exhibition. Mixed Media works by Caroline Daley and Sharla Valeski
- **October 17 and November 14**: Jim Draper Feast of Flowers Conversations
- **October 30, 6-9 p.m.**, FSCJ Kent Campus: Crystal Floyd, Eric Gillyard & Thony Aiuppy exhibit their latest work
- **December 2012 – April 2013**, Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens: Jim Draper’s Feast of Flowers exhibit
- **April 17-21, 2013**: One Spark, featuring contributions of Dolf James and other CoRK artists

One Spark

The number “one” has overtaken Dolf James’ CoRK Arts District studio. He has spent considerable time lately fashioning the number from a variety of materials and in all sizes. They are bold numbers, robust and sturdy regardless of whether they are a few inches or seven feet, as are the ones in front of the Cummer Museum or the Jacksonville Landing during Art Walk. They also all have a unique “spark” protruding from their top.

“They’re for the One Spark contest,” explained James. One Spark organizers have named James’ creations, “Sparkasaurus Rex.” “It’s taking the place of the Epoch Project.” Epoch, which was being put together by James, and Riverside Arts Market founders Wayne Wood and Doug Coleman, was geared toward nurturing and awarding innovative talent but ran into funding problems.

One Spark 2013 is a “5 day event where creators get resources they need to launch amazing things: connectivity, collaboration & funding,” according to its Kickstarter page. It is a contest where \$250,000 will be distributed based on public vote to winning artist, inventors, artists, entrepreneurs, scientists, musicians, technologists, culinary innovators or anyone else with an innovative idea.

One Spark is being organized by a team of local artists and entrepreneurs lead by Elton Rivas and will take place April 17-21, 2013.

For more information:

- **Kickstarter:** www.kickstarter.com/projects/onespark/one-spark-2013
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Residents revving up for fall fitness

BY OLGA BAYER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

With the weather turning cooler, local athletes are ramping up their routines — preparing for upcoming fall and winter athletic challenges. All motivated by different goals, these local fitness gurus are committed — inspiring their neighbors to lace up and hit the pavement, gym or playing field.

For Riverside resident Tim Boswell, running is the cure for stress. A nurse at Baptist Medical Center downtown, Boswell said the exercise helps him function during the day.

“The stress level is a big deal with my job,” Boswell said. “I get a good runner’s high when I exercise. I run to stay healthy.”

Boswell is preparing for the Jacksonville Bank Marathon in December. For training, he suggests working up to the distance of the event by increasing mileage gradually.

Ditto that for 60-year-old Jeff

Pruitt of St. Nicholas, who’s planning for his eighth New York marathon in November. He said the main reason runners become frustrated or injured is because they try to go “too far, too fast, too soon.”

Cindy Pearson, a mother of three who lives in Granada, never considered tackling a half marathon until now. Taking friends’ advice to heart, she signed up for the Savannah half marathon in November.

“Running with friends who are better than I am motivated me to push myself a little harder,” said Pearson. “They encouraged me, and when I broke it [half marathon] down it seemed more doable. I did the River Run and that was nine miles. A half marathon is just four more miles.”

While running is the exercise of

choice for many local residents, others prefer the pace and peace of cycling. Like many local cyclists, 68-year-old Gunnel Humphreys likes her exercise a little higher off the ground.

Humphreys, who owns Edge City in 5 Points, loves the cooler weather, but typically bikes 10 miles in the morning and 10 miles in the evening year round.

On Sundays she rides in the “Tour de Gunnel,” a 24-mile route she has mapped out through town. Other favorite trails include the 32-mile Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail and the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail.

“We ride as fast as we can, about 19 miles an hour,” Gunnel said. “It’s fun. There’s nothing like riding your bicycle. It feels good for your whole body.”

Other fitness enthusiasts are eyeing goals that include running, biking — and swimming (and not in that order).

Boswell



The mixing of the three disciplines keeps Ortega resident Steve Matson pumped. A five-year triathlon veteran, Matson is gearing up for the Ironman Lake Tahoe in mid-2013.

The half Ironman is Matson’s triathlon of choice, but he competes in the other distances including the sprint, Olympic and Ironman.

For someone thinking about his or her first triathlon, Matson advised, “You’ve got to jump in there with two



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feet and sign up for a race. Fear is a powerful motivator. If you sign up for the race, you're going to do it."

Talk about follow-through, Marshall Butler of Fairfax Manor is a pacer. He helps runners with their desired times, so must be committed to help others meet their goals. A "streaker", or every year participant, of the 26.2 with Donna marathon, Butler said he enjoys a variety of cross-training activities. Cycling is his favorite. He still competes in triathlons, but spaces them out because of the training commitment, which he says is akin to a part-time job. He also volunteers at local schools, mentoring young kids and helping them train to run, and compete in triathlons.

"I want to help kids get active," Butler said. "If you get them excited about exercising young, it becomes a lifelong choice."

Avondale 5K brings out area runners, families

A sunny September Saturday provided the perfect backdrop for the Avondale 5K Classic and 1 Mile Fun Run. Sponsored by the merchants of the Shoppes of Avondale, more than 550 runners participated in either or both of the runs. The event benefited Sanctuary on 8th Street, an after school and summer camp for inner city children. The race was conducted by 1st Place Sports, owned by Doug and Jane Allred



Moms and strollers were a common sight at the Shoppes of Avondale merchant-sponsored 5k Fun Run



Avondale residents Chris and Emily Calloway ran with daughters Parrish (23 months) and Evie (6 months)



JJ and Sarah Conners (Avondale) ran the 1K Fun Run with daughters Lauren (10), Maria (8) and Anna (6) and family dog Rose



Diane Garcia (owner, J. Ashley Boutique), Vicky Watkins (executive director, Sanctuary on 8th Street) and Karin Tucker (owner, Biscotti's) happy with the turnout on a sunny Sep. 22 Saturday morning.

Local doctors, friends on mission to hike Appalachian Trail

BY BETH MIXSON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After reading Bill Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods; Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail", two St. Vincent's physicians began a journey that has lasted more than 10 years — encompassing 450 miles of hiking with a multitude of friends.

Drs. Bo Tucker and Bill Mentz have been tackling the challenge of hiking the trail, an endeavor both men agree has been richly rewarding.

"After reading the book, we were talking about hiking the trail in 30 to 40 miles stretches," Tucker said. "I suggested that we plan to do it the next summer. Instead Bill said if we don't do it now, we won't ever."

So in May 2000, the two Ortega residents found themselves in Springer Mountain, Georgia, the southernmost point of the trail, or AT, is it often called. It was the start of a long hiking



Bo Tucker, Jay Virtue, Tom Virtue, Bill Mentz and Dean Shaw

adventure — the 2,184 mile-long trail passes through Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire and has northern terminus in Maine.

"I didn't know much," Tucker confessed. "I just knew you put on a backpack and hiked. We didn't know how to dress. And we had too much weight

to carry."

Over the years, the hikers have greatly improved their planning and packing. Today, they carry a Bunsen burner and propane for cooking, and use walking poles for speed and balance. Both agree that the most important items are good hiking shoes and socks.

The Appalachian hiking group has expanded along the way. The group now includes Ortega Forest resident Dr. Tom Virtue and sometimes Virtue's brother and nephews, his son Grant, and other friends of the core group. The men agree that the cooperation and camaraderie makes the trail an extraordinary place.

During most of trips the men have hiked in sequence, trying to pick up close to where they left off. In 2011 they finished in Roan Mountain,

Tennessee. However, in 2012 they changed the plan for one season. Flying to Maine, Mentz, along with Virtue and Virtue's son Grant, hiked Mount Katahdin, the highest point in Maine and the northern end of the trail.

The beauty and solitude of the trail is part of its appeal, according to Mentz.

"There are amazing mountains in north Georgia", said Mentz, "It's a corridor of God's creation that has been preserved."

Virtue feels hiking is a wonderful way to get back to nature and has actually found himself praying as he hikes.

The group isn't sure if they will ever hike the entire trail but it's clear they aren't anxious about that.

"It's the process — going through the adventure is the important thing. It's a great way to gain insight and build fellowship," said Virtue.

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OLMSTEAD cont. from 1
said Ingram, when asked about phases of the project. He said funding would become a major project focus.

The group hired a landscape architecture firm specializing in historic park and open space design to manage the project. David Sacks RLA Landscape Architecture, based in Avondale Estates, Ga., will lead the planning process and develop a master plan for the park. The firm has worked on Bok Tower Gardens, the Ringling Estate and Museum, the McKee Botanical Garden and many others during its 24-year history.

The MPA held a kick-off meeting at the Community Foundation in Jacksonville's Riverside Avenue headquarters last month to launch community conversation about the park. Included in the meeting were representatives from the City of Jacksonville Parks Department, longtime MPA

board members, Riverside Avondale Preservation representatives — as well as Holly Keris, curator of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

The mid-September meeting marked the beginning of Sacks' information-gathering stage of design that includes historical research, stakeholder input and an understanding of the park's relevance to the Riverside area.

One of the gaps in the group's archives is the period of time between 1924 and 1960s as the group is actively working on a compilation of historic treasures. A community meeting is slated for Monday, Oct. 22, 5:30 pm. For further questions and information, contact info@memparkjax.org.

To help link the park's historical record...
The Resident is asking readers to submit photos or memories of the park — particularly records from 1924-1960. Submissions can be mailed to The Resident Community News Group at 1650-302 Margaret Street, Suite 310, Jacksonville, FL 32205 or via email to editor@residentnews.net.

Park history and design

With the encouragement of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, the city purchased land for the park in 1919.

Designed by the illustrious Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, MA, the park is today recognized by scholars as the finest Olmsted-designed public park of its size and scale in the country.

Critical to the classic formal design of the park is the 'Life' sculpture by Charles Adrian Pillars, the centerpiece of the riverfront plaza on the park's main central axis. Installed in the early 1920's, it has been an enduring symbol of the Riverside Historic District which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The Park memorializes the 1,200 Floridians who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in World War I. The names of those citizens are buried beneath a brass plaque in the plaza at the base of the 'Life' sculpture.

The Memorial Park Association, Inc. is local non-profit founded in 1986 by Mrs. Anne Wright Freeman, and organized to preserve, restore and enhance Memorial Park.

Festival promotes neighborhood cycling

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

District 14 City Councilman Jim Love is looking to the local cycling community to help him promote neighborhood bicycle use as one solution to the Historic District's multifaceted and growing parking dilemma.

This summer, he tapped several local business people — including real estate executive Bob Gittings and local attorneys Steve and Michael Pajcic — to help get things into gear.

Now the neighborhood's first-ever bicycle festival is on the October calendar. Organizers hope it will highlight the benefits of cycling and how to stay safe on the local streets.

Gittings said there is a real need for people to get out on their bicycles — both for the sake of health and exercise, and to help alleviate vehicular traffic on the road.

"This will be the first bicycle festival in our neighborhood's history," Gittings said. He also hopes the event will get more businesses interested in

sponsoring bicycle racks around the neighborhood.

The Riverside Avondale Bicycle Festival will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 13 in Willowbranch Park. The event includes games, food vendors, bicycle safety classes and a bicycle rodeo for kids and an adult bicycle scavenger hunt. Vendors also are expected to be on site.

Gittings said Pajcic, who is great entertaining the kids and is an avid cyclist (see story below), would provide expert instruction and a lively show during the bicycle rodeo portion of the festival. The event will be held throughout the park and may extend into the Willowbranch Library, Gittings said.

Pajcic's son, Michael, also is a committed cyclist. Both Pajcics are an example of local residents lessening their carbon footprints. The father and son personal injury attorneys at Pajcic & Pajcic are also Avondale neighbors who ride their bicycles to work nearly every day. The Resident reached out to Michael Pajcic about their routine:

To what destination do you bike every day, and what is the mileage?

We bike to work almost every day, rain or shine. It's about 4 1/2 miles to our office downtown. I go in before my dad, but we usually get to bike

See page 33

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When did you start using the bicycle for your daily commute, and what was the impetus?

After lots of urging from my sister and me, my dad started when they finished the Northbank Riverwalk, and I started as soon as I moved back in 2010. It began as a way to make exercise part of the daily routine. Now, it doesn't even feel like exercise. We look forward to it. You start recognizing people along the route and become more familiar with the neighborhood. My dad sometimes says embarrassingly that, at his age, it is often the most fun part of the day. He sometimes embarrasses me with the frequent ding-a-ling of his bell.

How have you been treated by drivers? Any message for motorists out there?

Very well. We ride defensively and try to keep out of traffic as much as possible. However, we really appreciate it when motorists slow and respect our space. I have two pet peeves: when motorists pass me as I am approaching a stop sign and when

anyone, motorist/biker/runner, is distracted either by a cell phone or an iPod.

Are the neighborhood and your route manageable for cyclists?

Yes, though we stay off the busiest roads. We take the sidewalk and Boone Park along the St. Johns "S" curve, and then we bike along Oak Street over the pedestrian bridge on Willowbranch Creek to the Riverwalk rather than St. Johns Avenue to Riverside Avenue. I think that it would be great if we designated a few roads like Oak Street as "bike roads" and lowered the speed limit to 20 mph.

What are the biggest challenges to cycling to work?

Showers and out-of-office meetings. Fortunately, we have showers in the office and coworkers willing to share their cars. Getting clothes to and from work is a nuisance for my dad, but not for me since I'm not as much of a clotheshorse as he.

Best benefits?

Mental and physical health.



Running into friends in the neighborhood; enjoying the beauty of the neighborhood and river.

Greater awareness for neighborhood biking and some new bike racks.

Any cycling events on the calendar?

No. One year we need to try the MS 150.

What do you hope the festival will achieve for biking in Jacksonville?



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GOGIVERS

Matson-Quattrone shirks luxury work for higher note

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Marla Matson-Quattrone clearly recalls when she came to the realization that instead of working for luxury projects and companies in Phoenix/Scottsdale to sell, sell, sell and make even more money it was time for a major life change. Matson-Quattrone accepted the director of development position with Jacksonville's Cathedral Arts Project and moved here to begin work in August 2011. Husband Michael, a senior architect/project manager specializing in design and real estate entitlements with expertise in sustainability and interior design, supported her decision, made the move and is currently seeking a position in Jacksonville.

"I was born in Melbourne but lived in Phoenix where I was a self-employed branding consultant. That means I assisted corporations and non-profits to identify their core values, personality and successfully express those in their graphics and public messages. Basically I helped streamline who they are and what they do," she said. "I began to realize that I wanted to use my talents and God-given gifts in a way that would

be of service to the world and help others. I felt driven to re-direct my energy for the greater good."

Jacksonville's good fortune came through Matson-Quattrone's Internet search for Episcopal churches and programs in Florida. That search led her to St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and its Cathedral Arts Project. The non-profit project began in 1993 with the goal of introducing arts, music and dance instruction to underserved children in the downtown area. This past school and summer season the program had grown to include 1,775 children from 27 Title I schools in Jacksonville. Soon the program will add three more schools, thanks to the generosity of donors. There are 20 schools still on the waiting list, according to Matson-Quattrone.

"I immediately recognized that CA held themselves to the highest standard of excellence, from the class curricula to the twice-weekly instruction, to their financial transparency...I found it to be unique in the United States. Based on my personal experience, I knew how tapping into creativity as a child yields lifelong benefits. I just thought what in the world could be better than teaching young children — who would otherwise probably



changed. We see their parents' perception of them change too, so the whole family is involved and benefits. We see the families support their child or children, encouraging regular attendance and daily practice, and everyone comes to see the students perform. As a result, the families begin to attend other cultural events, like Free Tuesdays at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens."

never have the opportunity — to sing, dance, act or play a musical instrument?" she said.

Matson-Quattrone was the perfect person, available at the perfect time for the Cathedral Arts Project, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2013. Herself a performer, she sings soprano, dances and acts. She attended a performing arts high school in Atlanta and was a musical theatre major at the University of Georgia. She is a product of music from both sides of her family; one grandmother was a coloratura soprano.

Matson-Quattrone has already secured major gifts for the project: a \$100,000 grant from the Neviaser Charitable Foundation and \$150,000 from an anonymous donor. Her dream for the future is to take the arts project programs onto a national stage by partnering with other Episcopal churches to exponentially multiply the numbers of underprivileged children who can participate.

"We launched a new website, have been working with Brunet-Garcia Advertising to re-brand the project and plan a year-long celebration of the 20th anniversary in 2013, to be called Twenty Years of Extraordinary. A traveling juried show will highlight student artwork displayed in public spaces, corporations, libraries and hospitals," she said. "Jacksonville and the Cathedral Arts Project are truly unique and offer so much. The children who participate may have the trajectory of their lives completely

Kimberly Hyatt, Cathedral Arts Project Executive Director for the past ten years, said the program is devoted to nurturing creative thinking. She noted that Marla is a special person who loves people, loves the program's work with children and is always thinking creatively.

"She impresses me every single day and she has so quickly become such an important part of the Cathedral Arts Project," Hyatt said.

Marla and Michael like to bike, swim, play tennis and enjoy all sports. Marla is into yoga and wryly predicted she is very certain that the couple will own a boat long before they buy a home. Michael is currently a volunteer three times each week at Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC), and also with Volunteers in Medicine and Cathedral Arts Project. The couple helps out at St. Mark's Episcopal Church whenever needed.

"When we decided to change our lives and move here, we found the perfect place to lease in Ortega. Everyone has been so welcoming and warmly took us in. It just feels great to be back home in Florida. We both have found the people here to be genuine, fun-loving and wonderfully Southern," she said. "Plus I have family outside of Atlanta and all along the East Coast, including near Washington, D.C.; we feel like we have come home."

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Moosehaven counts 90 years

Moosehaven, a 72-acre senior living and retirement community in Orange Park for members of the Loyal Order of the Moose, will celebrate its 90th anniversary in early October.

Organizers are planning an all-day event on Oct. 6 for Moosehaven residents and members of the Loyal Order of the Moose.

During its 90 years Moosehaven has become one of Orange Park's largest employers and supports the community through events like the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and the American Pie 4th of July Celebration. The community also hosts a chili cook-off, classic car shows and community weddings.

In recent years Moosehaven developed a new senior living community on



Brandon Place at Moosehaven residents, Nick and Carolee Mehrstens and their dog

the campus called Brandon Place, an independent living area where residents can transition from villa homes to various levels of healthcare.



Moosehaven residents Emma Pearson and Reggie Parkhouse

Say cheese! New ACPS photo studio needs support

A new photo studio located at the Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) shelter is now up and running thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

The photo studio already is helping enhance adoption photographs for local dogs and cats. But there still is a need for photographers to help capture the animals' best sides. While many local photographers and professional studios are donating their time and some additional items to help ensure the studio is a success, the ACPS staff also is interested in hearing from any local photographers who wish to donate their services for adoption pictures.

"This new tool enables potential



adopters to view these wonderful pets in a better fashion than before. ACPS is now phasing out the snapshots of adoptable animals in cages and on trucks. We believe a picture speaks a thousand words, but we would like our pictures to say just two: 'ADOPT ME,'" said Scott Trebatoski, division chief of Animal Care & Protective Services.

The photo studio is located in the stray pet holding area of the ACPS main facility. It features several interchangeable backdrops, photography studio lamps, props and other special items to enhance the images.



support it. It is our sincerest hope that by creating awareness of local needs, we can all help generate positive solutions, funds and help for those in our community who deserve it most.

How can you help?

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

Organization: Women's Center of Jacksonville

Mission: The mission of the Women's Center of Jacksonville is to support and empower women and to nurture

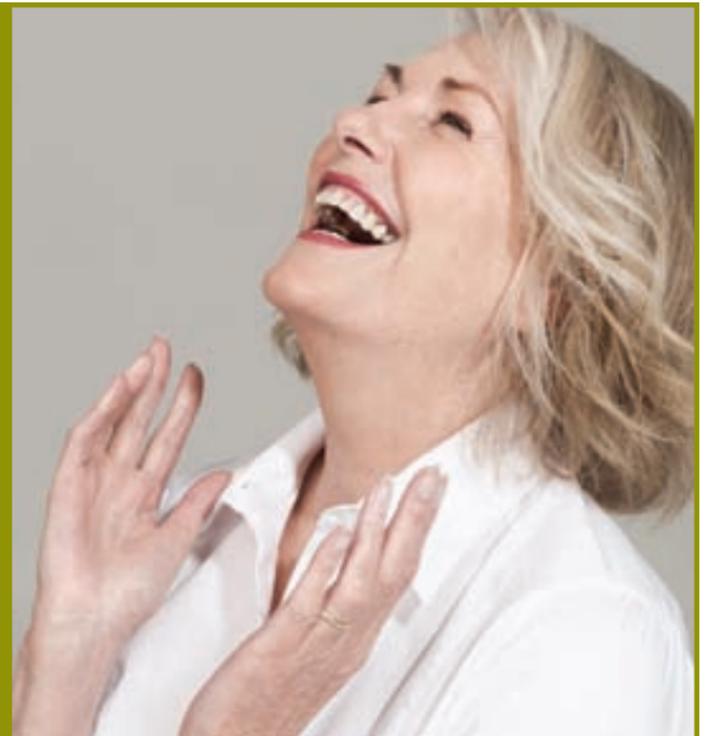
mind, body and spirit.

Opportunities to help: The Bosom Buddies program at the Women's Center is looking for breast cancer survivors interested in being trained to serve as volunteer Survivor Advocates for newly diagnosed women. Training is provided in the role of an advocate and in cultural competency in cancer care. Advocates will attend medical appointments, act as a "second set of

ears" by taking notes during appointments and helping newly diagnosed women through the medical maze. More than anything, they will offer hope and support. And, if you are a patient in need of an advocate, please call us as well.

How to raise your hand: Contact Bosom Buddies at 904-722-3000 ext. 224 or email mail@womenscenterofjax.org.

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The Way we Were

Jack Hines

BY VICTORIA
REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In her almost 50 years working in A Walt Disney VP once said, "We're all just cavemen with briefcases, hungry for a wise person to tell us stories." Jack Hines, age 81, serves up stories that satisfy the hunger for connection with the Historic District's past, its people and its places.

Born in Riverside Hospital, Hines smiles devilishly when he remembers the Halloween trick or treat experiences of his youth.

"We weren't too concerned about the treats. It was the tricks that we put our energy into. One of our favorite tricks involved washtubs of sand that we heaved onto porches. Another trick involved the production of a giant scarecrow that we created out of old clothes. We positioned it on the yard of folks who were mean to kids who tried to cross their property.

"The Depression hit everyone hard. My father John P. Hines ran the J.G. Christopher Company downtown. He called all of his employees into a meet-

ing one day and told them, 'As of today everyone, including me, makes \$50 per week. If that doesn't suit you, there's the door.' Later, my family moved in with the Williams, my mother Nancy's parents, who lived on Powell Place, but came originally from Fernandina.

"Mrs. Williams baked incredible cakes and sold them to help pay med school expenses for Ash Williams, my mom's baby brother and the person who taught me how to whistle. At one point Grandma went to N.Y. to take a cake decorating class and when Cookie, her servant, was asked about the experience she said, 'Mrs. Williams ended up TEACHING that class.' We weren't surprised.

"A third grade memory that stands out is when I accompanied my mother on a field trip with my sister's fifth grade class to the Yerkes Laboratory in Orange Park. Out front the chimp show was very civilized. Chimps in dresses were acting as if they were human babies. I got bored and went around back to the adult chimp area. There, a big old male spit water into my face. I rose to the challenge, filled my mouth up with water from the fountain and spit a stream in his face. He went bananas. The white coats



boiled out to subdue him and I got in lots of trouble.

"Our family's Fernandina connection grew stronger over the years. My mother's sisters lived up there and they were great users of the Ouija board and tellers of great ghost stories. Dad wanted to build a beach cottage on the ocean, but couldn't find a realtor. The County Appraiser told him to put a white rag on a stick and the appraiser would locate the owner. The beach was wild then. There was no Amelia Island Plantation, no real road. When the tide was low, we could go to the end of the island past puddles containing big fish and look across Nassau Sound to see the bears sometimes roaming Big Talbot.

"On the south end of the island was Franklin Town which was a town populated by blacks who had stayed there after the Civil War. My dad would buy stone crabs from a man named Hayes. When dad asked Hayes how to find the crabs, he said, 'When the tide goes out, wade out and feel with your feet. Be careful or they will feed on you.'

"Hayes made me a boy-sized cast net and taught me how to throw it to get shrimp. I brought it back in town

and shrimped off the Shands' dock at the end of Montgomery Place. I got an entire bucket and ran to tell Mr. Shands to come and see it. My sister Cotton walked by the bucket while I was gone and dumped it. I had caught too many small catfish to suit her. Mr. Shands never thought I was worth a thing after that.

"We kids were almost always on the river. Our boats were wood because it was the time before fiberglass and since it was wartime everything else was rationed. I had a pair of oarlocks and they were my pride and joy. We couldn't venture too far out into the river near NAS because the Marine Patrol would run us back. The big PBY float planes and the smaller Kingfisher floatplanes were always landing around us. We were fairly safe on the water because most of us had been given swimming lessons by Crystal Scarbough, a terrific teacher whose daughter Esther Williams became a movie star.

"Our big desire was to get a sleeve target, which was a practice target for the Navy pilots. Most of the targets were towed back to the base to see who got the hits. Johnny Dent and Bill Goodman actually got a target and it was huge. Then the FBI came to Johnny's house to reclaim it.

"After a credit miscount prevented me from a 1949 Bolles graduation, I spent a year at Lee where I met some of my lifelong friends—Billy Ketchum, Donnie Boling, Charlie Coleman and others. Later, at the University of Florida I met Betsy Broome and managed to charm her mother because I could play 'Who do you know?' fairly well. Betsy and I married in 1956. There was a sojourn in the Navy during Korea. We have two children, a daughter Helen and a son Jonathan.

"Life has been good. I have been in sales, which is where my talents have always been. Somehow, I have always enjoyed knocking over obstacles. I've watched so many of them melt away."

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No wallflowers at the Senior Prom

Senior swag took over the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center last month at the city's 30th Annual Senior Prom. The "Glitz & Glitter" theme helped shine a bright light on the local over-60 crowd, which hit the dance floor until 10 p.m.

Organizers crowned a king and queen to act as yearlong ambassadors for the city's senior center programs. This year's king and queen are Ed Chariotti and Linda Feedham, members of the Jim Fortuna Senior Center.

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City to host senior games in October

More than 20 competitive events planned

The City of Jacksonville Senior Services Division will host the annual Forever Fit 50 & Beyond: 2012 Jacksonville Senior Games at various venues around the city in October. A tennis tournament, slated for Oct. 6, will be held at the Boone Park tennis complex in Avondale.

This senior games are held to pro-

mote and encourage healthy and active lifestyles for men and women 50 years of age and over. The games are designed for seasoned athletes to take part in various sports on a competitive level and for novice athletes to take part in various sports for their own enjoyment.

The Forever Fit 50 & Beyond : 2012 Jacksonville Senior Games is sanctioned by the Florida Sports Foundation and is a qualifier for this year's Florida Senior Games State

Championships. It is also a qualifier for the National Senior Games in 2013. There are brackets for different age groups starting at 50 and opportunities to win gold, silver and bronze medals.

For more information about the events and venues, visit <http://www.makeascenedowntown.com/Events/Forever-Fit-50---Beyond--Jacksonville-Senior-Games.aspx>.

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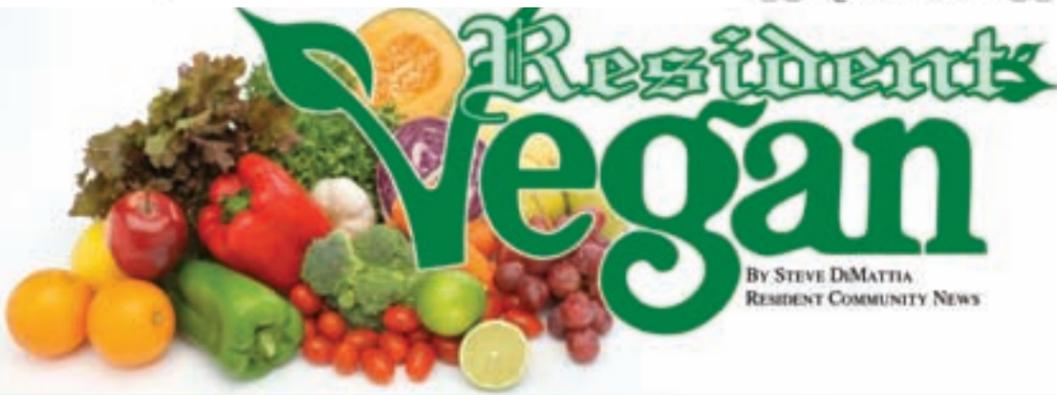
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BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

(Note: Welcome to the Resident's new vegan/vegetarian column! Our goal is to provide a monthly resource for all things vegan/vegetarian throughout Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill and San Marco: restaurants, recipes, profiles, helpful hints, vegan kids and events. It is a growing dietary and lifestyle trend in the historic neighborhoods that offers many great stories and an increasing amount of information, so we eagerly invite your feedback and suggestions.)



What better way to kick off our column than with the Third Annual Northeast Florida Veg Fest? Not only is it Jacksonville's most ambitious vegan/vegetarian event, but also it proudly takes place in the heart of Historic Five Points at Riverside Park (753 Park Street). This year's Fest is Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be a pre-festival party and fundraiser at Intuition Ale Works, Oct. 20 from 7 to 10 p.m.

As in years past, Veg Fest is presented by The Girls Gone Green and the Northeast Florida Vegetarian Society and will offer animal rights, nutrition and envi-

ronmentally oriented speakers, films, booths and vendors as well as kids' activities, live music and celebrity contests. And, of course, there's plenty of delicious vegan/vegetarian food.

"There's going to be more food vendors than ever before, and a wider variety," said Julie Watkins, the festival's founder. "There are no dedicated vegan or vegetarian restaurants in Jacksonville, so people are looking for options. Vendors and restaurants that do have some vegan/vegetarian offerings find that Veg Fest provides the perfect place to introduce themselves to those potential customers seeking meatless alternatives."

One of those vendors will be Katie Riehm, Ortega resident and owner of Riverside's new alternative bakery, Sugar Theory, which plans an early November opening at 1243 King Street. She assisted her friend, vegan caterer and Riverside resident Sean Sigmon from Dig Foods, with his booth last year and this year will offer her own vegan and allergy friendly doughnuts, cookies, whoopie pies, Italian sodas and, if the weather is cool enough, cupcakes. "I think people want something healthier

whether they are vegan or have allergies or not," said Riehm, an allergy sufferer and vegetarian/vegan for eight years. "Everybody likes their sweets and wants to indulge from time to time. If you can take a little bit of the guilt out of it, all the better."

Reaching beyond just the vegan/vegetarian community is also important for Julie Watkins.

"We want to raise awareness to the benefits of a meatless diet and help build a conscientious community of eaters," said Watkins, who first became a vegetarian in 1997 after watching the documentary, To Love or Kill: Man vs Animals, and has been a vegan since 2000. "Not enough people know where their food – not just meat, but all food – comes from and the impact that it has on their health, the environment, animals and beyond."

There is a lot of room for growth: Only 5 percent of American adults identified themselves as vegetarian and 2 percent as vegan in a July 2012 Gallup Poll. And while vegetarian/vegan alternatives seem much more commonplace and accessible in recent years, Watkins still worries that the conversation has not changed.

"A lot of the same misconceptions that were out there when I first became a vegetarian still exist today: That you can't get enough protein, calcium or iron on a

vegan diet — that vegans are less healthy," Watkins said. "We need to shift to a deeper level of awareness because there's plenty of research out there now to refute those fallacies."

Beyond the educational component of Veg Fest, Watkins is eager to help showcase some of the local nonprofits that are doing great things for animals.

"Aside from the fact that we felt that Riverside was the most veg friendly area of town, we chose Riverside Park because it's so beautiful and shady," said Watkins, who expects 7,000 people at this year's event. "It's just a great place to come and hang out. So, if nothing else, people can spend a few hours outside, have some good, healthy food and, hopefully, a great time."

Northeast Florida Veg Fest website: <http://www.nfvegfest.org/About> our Resident Vegan: Steve DiMattia stopped eating meat in 1975 at the age of 16, motivated by a love of animals and spurred by the book, Animal Liberation by Peter Singer. He's spent half of that time as a vegetarian, not eating beef, fowl or seafood, and the other half, vegan – additionally forgoing eggs, dairy and honey and not using products derived from animals such as leather or fur as well as products that are tested on animals.

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- Chloro Steak** - Crispy fried steak with sautéed mushrooms & cheddar cheese. \$12.99

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- The Buntz** - Crispy fried buntz with sautéed mushrooms & cheddar cheese. \$12.99
- Chicken Quasaila** - Crispy fried chicken with sautéed mushrooms & cheddar cheese. \$12.99
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- Fish Tacos** - Crispy fried fish in tortillas with sautéed mushrooms & cheddar cheese. \$12.99

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Vegan Culinary Treats from Elaine Wheeler

There are also plenty of great vegan Halloween baking recipes to satisfy even the unfriendliness of zombies. Elaine Wheeler, long time Riverside resident and former chef/owner of one of Jacksonville's original vegetarian restaurants, Heart Works Café in Five Points, provided these great pumpkin cookie and coconut yumm cake bones and ghosts recipes. Elaine found her ghost molds at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Store and the bone molds at Target. They cost \$7 to \$10

More recipes on the web:
www.residentnews.net

Vegan Coconut Yumm Cake for Spooky Ghost and Bones Molds

Makes 12-18 cupcakes, depending on the mold size

- 3/4 c. Smart Balance or Earth Balance butter substitute
- 1 c. sugar or preferred sweetener
- 1/4 c. canola oil
- 1c. coconut milk (not sweetened)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. unbleached organic flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tbsp. rice vinegar or apple cider vinegar

It is not necessary to do wet and then dry ingredients. This is a one-bowl mix, however be sure to whip it on high speed for 2 minutes. This recipe can be doubled to make a three-layer, 9- or 10-inch cake. Or, pour into spooky Halloween molds like bones or ghosts to really set the Trick or Treat mood!

Bake at 350° for 16-18 min. depending on your oven (check frequently to avoid burning).

Icing:

- 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons orange juice or a tbsp. lemon juice + two tbsp. of water for a different twist and mix with a wooden spoon. Use water instead if you don't want the orange flavor. Drizzle over ghosts and bones.

NOTE: Be sure to spray your molds and then dust with flour or confectioners so they don't stick. Add a couple of thin strips of parchment paper before spraying, going crosswise and lengthwise so that they will release the cupcake easily. Bake bones until golden so they won't break, using a knife around the edges to loosen.

Icing:

- 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons orange juice or a tbsp. lemon juice + two tbsp. of water for a different twist and mix with a wooden spoon. Use water instead if you don't want the orange flavor. Drizzle over cookies.

Three cheers for Oktoberfest — vegan style

Not all beers are vegan, but there are many great alternatives

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Oktoberfest is upon us, but if you are vegan, you might want to do a little research before you reach for your favorite brew. Little known fact: many breweries use gelatin, egg whites, seashells and parts of fish in their filtering process. Who knew?

These products grab onto the impurities and make it easier to catch them in the filters, according to the website, Barnivore. Some beers also include honey, dairy or even a whole chicken.

Fortunately, there are plenty of animal-free alternatives, and two of the best are brewed right here in Riverside at Intuition Ale Works and Bold City Brewery. Ben Davis, from Intuition Ale, and Brian Miller from Bold City, both guarantee that all of their beers are vegan friendly.

(Just to be clear, I'm defining "vegan" as no animal products or by-products regardless of whether an animal was killed in the process).

Here are a few other vegan alternatives that are normally readily available at Grassroots, in Five Points, which has a wide selection of great vegan brew, as well as other grocery stores.

- Becks
- Black Oak Brewing Company: All of their beers are vegan, which includes Black Oak Double Chocolate Stout
- Budweiser

- Pabst Brewing Company: All of their beers are vegan. These include Lone Star, Falstaff, King's Berry, Pabst Blue Ribbon, Stroh's, and even Colt 45.

- Samuel Adams: All of their beers are vegan EXCEPT Samuel Adams Cherry Wheat, which contains honey. Be sure to check out Barnivore before you kick into Oktoberfest or, better yet, just stick to the hometown brews. Cheers, vegan style!

For complete lists, check out the following websites:

- **Barnivore:** www.barnivore.com
- **VeganVanguard.com:** www.veganvanguard.com/vegism/beer



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Episcopal continues search for new Head of School

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Episcopal School of Jacksonville leaders have started a national search for a Head of School. The search committee expects the chosen candidate to be in place and ready to serve before the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

Rob Clements, Chairman and CEO of EverBank and Episcopal board chair, sent a letter to Episcopal families this summer outlining the progress. The school seeks to replace longtime Head of School Dale Regan, who died tragically during a campus shooting last spring. Former Head of School Charley Zimmer has been filling in temporarily

until a permanent replacement can be found.

Rick Jones, former Episcopal board chair, is heading the search committee. Other trustees on the committee include Clements, Jim Bailey, Steve Busey, Sue Jangro, Dean Kate Moorehead, Lon Walton and Claudia Amlie. The search committee also is in the process of forming an advisory committee made up of parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students. That group will share input that will help guide the search.

Clements said the search committee also is working with the Association of Episcopal schools and has received guidance and support from the organization, "as well as nominations of spe-

cific potential candidates," Clements added.

"The school was founded in the Episcopal tradition and any potential candidate must fully appreciate and understand the nuances and expectations at an Episcopal school," he explained.

Clements said Regan's legacy would be an important part of the search process as the school looks into the future.

"The Board of Trustees' search committee is looking for a strong, inspiring, and experienced educational leader who will appreciate and respect the history, mission and culture of the school," Clements said. "Dale's legacy is an important one and the new head will build on the wonderful traditions and innovations that she brought and sustained, while helping to prepare the school for its next 50 years."

In mid-May the search committee hired national search firm, Princeton, N.J.-based Wickenden Associates to

help find potential candidates for the school's top spot. Wickenden was responsible for the search bringing Zimmer to the school in 1997.

The search firm has been fielding candidates this summer and the search committee plans to select a group of semi-finalists by mid-October. In November, Clements said the finalists would come to the Episcopal campus for two days to meet with members of the community. The announcement of a new Head of School is expected in early-2013, Clements said in his letter.

Clements said there are many upcoming opportunities and changes the new Head of School will face in the school's new era — including the school's upcoming 50th anniversary.

"A new head will be integral in setting the tone for the school's next 50 years," Clements said. "The school is also looking to improve its athletic facilities, and the new head will be involved in this exciting endeavor as well. We expect all of our finalists will see any challenges as opportunities."



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Sadowski named National Merit Semifinalist

Avondale resident student Will Sadowski is one of four Episcopal School of Jacksonville seniors to be named a National Merit Semifinalist. Sadowski joins classmates Matt Engle, Alex Forsyth and Nathan Rowicki in the national honor.

In addition, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation named ESJ students Michelle Bahri, Colin Basham, Caroline Crook, Sarah Mahajan, William McCall-Parker, Cutler Renard and Virginia Smith National Merit Commended Students. Commended students represent the top four

percent of all students taking the exam.

Only 16,000 high school seniors are honored in this program out of the 1.5 million students who enter. Semifinalist selection is based on performance on the PSAT/NMSQT exam, which is administered during the Fall of their junior year. Only 28 high school seniors in Jacksonville were honored this year, according to officials from ESJ.

Sadowski and his classmates will move on to compete to become National Merit Finalists.




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BUSINESS PROFILE

Lindamood-Bell helps motivate struggling students, boost learning efficiencies

MOTIVATION



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Personalized, positive and powerful — that is the Lindamood-Bell learning experience!

Founded in 1986 by Nanci Bell and Patricia Lindamood, the Lindamood-Bell Learning Centers are now in 28 states and opened in Jacksonville in May of 2011. Stephanie Taylor, Center Director, and her team of energetic instructors have jumped right in to the local education scene — changing children's lives by helping them overcome learning challenges and paving the way for success in school.

"Many students are feeling downtrodden about school," Taylor explained. "They are often confident about other parts of their lives but are struggling academically."

She said some of the more common challenges they see are dyslexia, central auditory processing or autism. Many of the students, however, do not have a diagnosis, Taylor said. They are sent to the specialists by teachers or parents who have concerns about their progress in school.

"We have had students who are making A's and B's in school but homework is taking three to five hours each night," said Taylor, who added the center also works with adults who struggle with reading or comprehension.

When a client visits Lindamood-Bell for the first time, the specialists assess the student's learning strengths and weaknesses. The first step is a nationally-normed diagnostic evaluation, focusing on phonemic awareness, symbol imagery, language processing, and concept imagery.

"Concept imagery is making a movie in your mind, which is essential for reading comprehension," explained Taylor.

Next, the Lindamood-Bell professionals offer parents and caregivers a consultation outlining a personalized plan to address the learning challenges. Once the assessment and plan have been determined, the exciting work of learning begins.

Typically, students enter intensive one-on-one instruction for four hours each day, five-days a week for several weeks. Parents receive a weekly update and students enjoy the self-esteem boost from the program's "Show off Day." Parents are invited on this special day to observe instruction and witness their student's progress.

The center shows students that learning can be fun. Even the educational games played during instruction are designed to engage each child's individual interests. A child who loves trains, for example, will be motivated by a "train" of word cards specifically designed by the instructor.

"We work hard to keep children motivated," said Taylor.

"For children with learning challenges, we are asking them to do what is most difficult for them five days a week. Anyone doing a challenging activity needs encouragement."

There are many other ways staff encourages students to find success. The entire place erupts in applause when a child rings the "Magical Learning Moment" bell rewarding effort, achievement and accomplishment.

The result? Most students' improvement takes off like a skyrocket during the weeks of

instruction. Many see years of growth in reading and comprehension, quickly moving up to grade level. After they have completed their personalized program, parents and students often continue to see steady improvement for years.

This program works because it is based on years of research-based study — which makes Lindamood-Bell different from other reading centers. Lindamood-Bell's practices have been validated. The company is known nationally for its partnerships with psychological, neurological and cognitive process research and its application to reading, spelling and comprehension.

When students complete their study at Lindamood-Bell, their educational growth does not end.

Professionals know learning and improvement continues at home. That's why every family gets a one-on-one "Parent Practice Workshop" at the conclusion of every student's program. The workshop gives parents the tools and techniques to support their child at home and at school. Every year students return for complimentary evaluations with a review of the recommendations. Often, former students may schedule a week of instruction to boost skills.



Went from a nonreader to reading and comprehending at the 3rd grade level

Tyler
9 years old



The community is invited to the Open House on Thursday, October 25 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at 7645 Gate Parkway, Suite 104 In the Shoppes At Village Walk. For more information, call 642-1917, email at Jacksonville.center@lindamoodbell.com or visit the website www.lindamoodbell.com.



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Join us for an open house to see for yourself all the possibilities a Bolles education can provide. This open house is for parents of students entering Grade 6; these students will be invited to visit the campus and to shadow a Bolles student at a later date.

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 6 — Bartram Campus
Open house for the parents of students entering Grade 6.

For more information on a Bolles education and to reserve your space at our open house, please visit www.BollesSuccessKit.org or call (904) 256-5030.



Jr. Residents

Brand new fun!

Students at St. Johns Presbyterian Pre Kindergarten returned to school last month to discover a wonderful surprise. New playground equipment was recently installed, providing the children with fun new venues for play.



Local gym observes National Gymnastics Day



Paula Falls, owner of Gymnators, helps an aspiring gymnast up and over the bar



Demont Peyton, Gymnator staff, with his cadre of tumblers

Paula Falls makes a big deal out of an unknown "national" day. For the past 10 years at the 4603 Shirley Avenue location Falls has opened the doors of Gymnators with a "free" for all morning session of gymnastics and fun every National Gymnastics Day. "I see this as a way to show appreciation to the parents of my students and to provide an opportunity for other small businesses in the area," said Falls. The parking lot was full of tents and tables, and a bounce castle, as mall shop owners and small home-based vendors set up temporary shop at the Riverside Village Shopping Center on Sep. 22.

Five-Star recognition for Stockton

The Duval County School Board recognized John Stockton Elementary School, along with 12 other local schools, for being named a Five Star school for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Florida Department of Education awards the designation to schools that earn a C grade or above. The school also must meet specific requirements showing it has met the requirement of full engagement in business partnerships, family involvement, volunteerism, student community service and school advisory councils.



Fourth graders, who were tasked with reading more than 2,500 pages during the summer, are recognized by the Head of School Cathy Hardage.)

Reading right along

Area students hit the books this summer, including 53 St. Mark's Episcopal Day School third- through sixth-graders who logged more than 101,000 pages of summer reading.

Head of School Cathy Hardage rewarded the 53 students who met or surpassed a summer reading goal last month. Students enjoyed a special lunch courtesy of Hardage.



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- Jennifer Malhotra, Mom to Bella and Luke



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Star of the week

Mrs. Mahoney's kindergarten class at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School was visited by a very special guest.

Linda Palin ("Ya Ya" to Sophia Williams) showed the class how she teaches Yoga



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Octoberfest takes to St. Matthews field

St. Matthews Catholic Church will hold its Octoberfest from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 14. The community event will be on the church soccer field, where a "closet to the hole" competition will be staged. Other activities include games, inflatable activities for all ages, indoor entertainment and plenty of food. The event also includes the raffle of two Apple iPads, two Kindle Fires and two Apple iPods. For more information, visit www.stmatthewsjax.com.

Fall festival coming up at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School invites the community to a fall festival at the campus from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 2. The free event features face painting, rides, bounce houses, and carnival-style games for all kids. Come for a fun Friday evening with the family — food (chili) and drinks will be for sale.

Halloween fun, fitness

On Oct. 19, it's runners take your mark for the Monster Mash Dash 5K. A one-mile fun run starts at 6 p.m., and the 5K begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are a hotspot of local fun. On Oct. 20, the Halloween Doors & More event will be wowing local families from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Both events support Community PedsCare. For more information visit www.supportcommunityhospice.com.

Piggin' & Peddlin' part of church's 100th anniversary

Ortega United Methodist Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and is marking the occasion with its annual "Piggin' & Peddlin'" event on Oct. 13.

The barbecue and craft festival aims to raise funds in support of the church's many missions, including Family Promise, WestJax Outreach, The Inn Ministry and DLC Nurse & Learn.

Described by organizers as "the best smoked BBQ you will find on the west side of Jacksonville," the "piggin'" portion of the festival will feature barbecue chicken, pulled pork and combination meals from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eat-in and take-out options are available. The "peddlin'", or arts and crafts show part of the event, will be ongoing at the church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The craft fair will feature many local artists selling everything from handcrafted jewelry and original artwork to edible items.

Music, face painting and other activities for all ages will be part of the fun. The church also will have its famed Pumpkin Patch open for visitors. The patch, which is a fundraiser for the Ortega UMC youth, is located in the church parking lot and will be open from Oct. 6 until Halloween.

Autumn in the Park brings farm to table

The Autumn in the Park Farm to Table Dinner, sponsored by Prudential Network Realty Realtor Anita Vining and presented by Empty Nest Boutique Events Inc., will be "A Tuscan Evening" on Nov. 11 at Davin Park in San Marco. The culinary event begins at 2 p.m. and costs \$150 per person. Local chefs Kathy Collins of Cafe Nola, Sam Efron of Taverna and Tom Gray of Bistro Aix will prepare the menu. Seating is limited and tickets go on sale in early October at www.smpsjax.com.



An Evening on the Pink Carpet

Oct. 5 — The Donna Foundation and Parkway Plastic Surgery present a special fashion show and reception at The Florida Theatre. Private VIP reception begins at 6 p.m., presentation and fashion show begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets on sale through the Florida Theatre. For more information, email info@thedonnafoundation.org

Remission Rocks

Oct. 5 — Second Annual Remission Rocks event will raise awareness and funds for Bosom Buddies. The local nonprofit provides support to breast cancer patients and survivors. Area physicians will be performing music onstage at River City Brewing Co., 835 Museum Circle. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Cost covers light appetizers, a beverage and musical entertainment.

Fifth Annual Pink Ribbon Symposium

Oct. 6 — The free breast cancer symposium will be held at the Hyatt-Jacksonville from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event, presented by Cancer Specialists of North Florida and Florida Radiation Oncology Group, will present up-to-date information about breast cancer prevention, early detection and treatment options, the side effects of treatment, survivorship and health and wellness topics. This year's special guest is Olympic gold medal winner Peggy Fleming, a breast cancer survivor.

Baptist Health Jaguars Game

Oct. 7 — Come see the Jags in their pink during the 4 p.m. home game. There will be a Buddy Check awareness event during the third quarter.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Oct. 13 — Walks begin at 9 a.m. at San Marco's Treaty Oak in Duval County and Best Bet in Clay County. The American Cancer Society event is sponsored by St. Vincent's HealthCare. Women are encouraged to "put on their pink bra to fight cancer" for the event. The bra is a symbol of how personal the fight against cancer is and how women can fight the disease.

Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day

Oct. 17 — Come see the Jags in their pink during the 4 p.m. home game. There will be a Buddy Check awareness event during the third quarter.

Victory in Pink

Oct. 20 — Celebration of women who have fought breast cancer is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Johns Town Center (between Pottery Barn Kids and Ted's Montana Grill). Activities include breast cancer survivor fashion shows and education and live entertainment for adults and kids.

Komen North FL Race for the Cure

Oct. 20 — The 18th Annual Susan G. Komen North Florida Race for the Cure includes a 5K race that begins at 9 a.m. and a 2K fun run and walk which begins at 9:45 a.m. The festivities will be at Metropolitan Park. For more information, visit www.komennorthflorida.org.

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