

**Smooth sailing**  
San Jose to be repaved  
.....see page 8

**Floundering around**  
Great fishing on October line  
.....see page 18

**Get set...go!**  
Financial Fitness 5K ignites local running community  
.....see page 21



**Let the pickin' begin...**  
Pumpkins takeover the Point!  
.....see page 31

These guys are all smiles after helping unload a truck full of pumpkins: Frank Cooper, Doug Sasser, Connor Green, Thomas Stringfellow, Josh Thiele, Peter Frank Pitocchi, Alec Gallagher, Will Richardson, Davis Shaw, Patrick Cordek and Jon Singleton

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS - FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

SAN JOSE — San Marco — ST. NICHOLAS

# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

**All in!**  
community support key for breast cancer triumphs  
...page 30





## MOCA event revives 80s flair

Some of the artists featured in the exhibit included Alex Katz, Ed Paschke, Eric Fischl and Frank Stella. Pictured: MOCA Director Marcelle Polednik with her husband David Kammerman, Exhibition Sponsors Julie and Michael McKenny with Board Chair Alan Howard.

## Overland Bridge work set to begin in January

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Officials with the Florida Department of Transportation confirmed that construction on the I-95 Overland Bridge project will commence in January — beginning what could be more than two years of roadway work along the Fuller Warren Bridge in San Marco and St. Nicholas. Archer Western Contractors, the firm that completed the Interstate 10 and 95 project for the FDOT, will oversee the \$384 million Overland Bridge work.

she and others preferred the work begin after the holidays to ensure uninhibited customer access for local merchants during their busiest season. Goldman, however, confirmed with an FDOT project engineer that construction “with dirt turned” is still slated for January.

Boyer said the roadwork's biggest impact on the community would be in the Atlantic Boulevard area near I-95.

“There will be a new entrance and exit to I-95; there will be direct access,” she said.

FDOT officials said the agency would host a series of public meetings about the work and its impact on local traffic. FDOT Spokesman Mike Goldman said recently the first public meeting would be in November or December and that mailers would go out prior to the meeting.

The Overland Bridge spans Hendricks Avenue, Kings Avenue and Montana Avenue and is being replaced because it is deteriorating and needs frequent repairs, according to the project's website at [www.i95overlandbridge.com](http://www.i95overlandbridge.com). Several weeks ago the bridge caused significant traffic delays because of a hole that presented in the road. The reconstruction, Goldman said, would remedy such issues.

District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer told a group of citizens that there was a chance the FDOT would start in November, but

## Square traffic, Balis Park redesign makes debut

*Local groups promise support for ongoing maintenance*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Designs for a "new and improved" San Marco Square

were released last month during a community meeting hosted by District 5 City Councilwoman, Lori Boyer. Local groups also have come forward with their support of the plans, announcing new initiatives to raise funds for project maintenance and beautification.

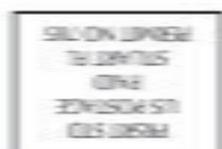
Boyer presented the designs, drawn by San Marco engineer and San Marco Preservation Society past-president Doug Skiles, during the early September meeting. A rendering shows how the square's three-lion statue would be connected to Balis

See **SQUARE** on page 6

## SJCC Ladies Celebrate 50th

The San Jose Country Club Ladies Golf Association invitational tournament reached a milestone, inviting past champions to help round out the festivities. The tournament was played over a two-day, 96-player field on Sept. 26 and 27.....See page 17

Myrna Stokely and Betty Gurney dressed for the occasion



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## Where the sidewalk ends

What would you do if you were driving down a city street, and the street just ended? Worse yet, what if that street dumped you on to a railroad track, facing an on-coming train?

This is what faces school kids in San Marco wherever the sidewalk ends. They are forced to walk in the streets against car and truck traffic, clearly at a risk to their lives.

This is why it's so important to connect the gaps in our sidewalks, and complete the routes

that pedestrians need to walk places. It's a matter of public confidence, and public safety.

And the good news is San Marco has a fully funded plan in place to get this done.

Safe Routes to School is a federal program that improves sidewalks and intersections to make it easier and safer for our kids to walk to school. Students at Landon Middle School have partnered with the Healthy Jacksonville's Obesity Coalition, The Blue Foundation and the Health Planning Council of North East Florida and identified their walking routes, and obstacles that block their paths. Many of the sidewalk, crosswalk and signage recommendations were approved for construction. These improvements will be funded through the State's Safe Routes to School program and will significantly improve safety for neighborhood children.

Missing sidewalks are clearly the biggest obstacles.

One segment is missing at Arbor Lane between Largo Road and Hendricks Avenue. Completing this gap would have several benefits:

- First, it would protect present and future students who live near Arbor Lane and attend Landon Middle School.

- Second, it would create a safe footpath at the blind intersection at Arbor Lane and

Hendricks Avenue. Pedestrians daily take their lives in their hands walking this curve.

- Third, it would complete the only missing piece in a sidewalk loop that consists of San Marco Boulevard, Landon Avenue, River Road and Arbor Lane. This is an established route for runners, dog walkers, and school children. Completing this segment will benefit everyone who walks and runs in San Marco.

Furthermore, the DOT is considering changing the Arbor/Hendricks intersection in order to avoid disrupting landscaping. This change would also eliminate the dangerous high-speed right turns.

So at the end of the day, the sidewalk segment on Arbor Lane will complete a gap in much bigger loop. It will eliminate dangerous conditions, and serve all kinds of pedestrians, at a minimal impact to property. Once installed, it will seem as if it's always been there.

Most of all, it will give our students a safe route to school.

Now, if this plan sounds reasonable and good to you, please let City Councilwoman Lori Boyer know that you support completing this sidewalk segment on Arbor Lane.

— Andrew Dickson  
Father, teacher, and San Marco resident

## Hendricks memories

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Hendricks Avenue Elementary, I take stock of all the memories made at this sweet, little schoolhouse. You see, as a Hendricks alumna and now a parent, I have the rare perspective of seeing our school through a child's eye as well as an adult's eye. Like all children, when I entered Kindergarten in the mid 70s, my world was changed forever. I made lifelong friends from Hendricks and have fond memories of teachers who have had a lasting impact on my life. The "Hendricks Experience" was hard to live up to by any other school I attended.

At a time when the student body was smaller, Hendricks was a place "where everybody knew your name" and there were opportunities that are uncommon in schools today. We had all-school plays. (My halo got tangled with a kindergarten classmate's when I was a Christmas angel and I played Betsy Ross in the 4th grade American Heritage play.) We cele-

brated our carnival in the fall where we enjoyed hayrides, bobbing for apples and a "haunted house" booth. In the 4th grade, the highest grade at that time, students got to know all the teachers because of the rotation between them. Each of the four teachers taught a different subject - math, science, social studies and language arts. Since my student days at Hendricks, a kindergarten wing and a new media center have been added to accommodate an ever-growing population. Today, Hendricks is a bit larger but has managed to retain that same camaraderie between students, faculty, staff and parents. And there is still a plethora of programs, special events and activities to enjoy.

Much of that sense of belonging can be attributed to the involvement of my parents. In addition to being in the classroom as much as she could, my mom was in charge of the paper drive. I can remember helping her tie bundles of newspapers together. And my dad was president of the very active Dad's Club. The dads did all kinds of projects around the school but mostly; I recall mine cooking for the annual

Dad's Club Spaghetti Dinner. Today, I serve as Hendricks' PTA President and am doing my best to recreate that same love of school community for my boys as well as every child at Hendricks. With the longest running record in the state of Florida, Hendricks is celebrating the 42nd year of 100% PTA membership participation. When my children and their classmates look back and reminisce, I'm certain they too will credit the adults involved in their everyday lives with helping to shape who they have become.

Although Hendricks' blue-green walls and shiny hardwood floors will continue to be the school's trademark, all our schools are, and will persist to be, challenged by today's educational fiscal uncertainty. At Hendricks, we are extremely fortunate to have the extra strength and support that comes with the fellowship we have developed over the past 70 years. The closer we near to a century of academic excellence, we can be assured that Hendricks will persevere in whatever its future may hold.

— Stephanie Atkins Helton  
Hendricks Avenue Elementary PTA

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**CORRECTION**

- In a September Resident residential real estate story, a quote from RiverPoint Real Estate Broker-Owner Barbara Swindell should have read, "I have been in the business for 32 years, and our general area usually recovers quicker than other areas," she said. "When I started, interest rates were 16.5 percent. I can't imagine that they will be any less than they are right now."
- Assistant Chief/Zone Commander Bobby Deal is Deal's full rank/title.

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# City identifies two kayak launch sites

*Lake Marco location could involve more infrastructure work*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

City officials are considering two San Marco sites as kayak launches: the Brookwood Road side of Craig Creek and Lake Marco at Largo Road. While the Brookwood Road location requires little more than signage, the Lake Marco project might require the construction of a floating dock or ramp that would help get kayakers off the shoreline and into the water.

Tara Meeks, chief of waterfront management and programming for the City of Jacksonville, said that Lake Marco has “unique features” that make it of interest for local water access. It is one of the only lakes near downtown Jacksonville that provides direct river access.

“It gives people the opportunity to get into their kayak before they get out on the river where they might tip over,” Meeks said. The city has been trying to promote better water access for citizens across the city. The kayak launch initiative is a low-cost way to create awareness of local access points, and most sites require only signage.

Such is the case with the Craig Creek site. Originally planned for the River Oaks side, the kayak launch would simply involve a sign indicating a kayak logo. Although some residents say the creek launch is too tidal, and would not be an ideal venue for local boaters. Parking also is an issue city planners and residents have in their sights.

Parking is one of the primary concerns residents have voiced about the Lake Marco plans, which city officials say are still at least a year out in the planning stages.

Meeks said the city still in research mode.

“It’s an initial phase where we’re

saying, ‘this is a unique feature, let’s get input on the plan,’” Meeks said, indicating it would take six to nine months for design and required permitting.

When the kayak topic came up during District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer’s recent community meeting, some Largo Road residents expressed their frustration.

“The Largo area is continually being asked to be more public — if you’re hearing frustration, it’s that we feel that surely there can be other places — it doesn’t always have to be Largo,” said a resident, who was upset with the continued parking overflow from San Marco Square.

Meeks encouraged residents to contact her and promised more dialogue and research on the city’s plans.

# Residents see kink in sidewalk plans

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Some residents of Arbor Lane in San Marco are concerned about the state Department of Transportation’s plans to connect a sidewalk segment on their street.

The one-block stretch, which will connect a short sidewalk from River Road to Hendricks Avenue, is one of several projects the FDOT is eyeing in the San Marco area. The work is being financed by federal dollars funneled to the state. The program mission is to better connect sidewalks and roadways for children to have safer passage to school, and promote walkability in neighborhoods across the country. Locally, Julia Landon College Preparatory School students helped study a two-mile radius of their school to help the FDOT determine where infrastructure might be improved.

At issue for some Arbor Lane residents is whether the project is necessary — and if students even use

Arbor Lane for passage to school.

Several residents voiced their concerns during a mid-September community meeting hosted by District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer.

“Why has there been so much money spent already on this and you’re not talking to residents about it yet?” said Greer Wells, a local attorney who lives on Arbor Lane. “You’re building something that’s not needed, or wanted, and is not addressing a problem.”

Another neighbor said she has never seen any students using the street as a way to get to school, and like Wells, questioned why the sidewalk was needed.

The FDOT’s Chris Ledew said his department is in the “very beginning stages” of determining the sidewalk designs and would be working through conflicts with concerned residents. He also said the department would be sending a mailer out to residents in the area and planned to solicit additional input. If there are “an overwhelming number of questions,” the department could

host public meetings, Ledew said. The planned construction start date is Dec. 2013.

Arbor Lane is not the only street in San Marco that could see sidewalk changes in the coming year. Other sites being considered are LaSalle Street, Thacker Road, Landon Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard, Mitchell Avenue and Arcadia Place, said Ledew during the meeting. The sidewalks would be built on public right-of-ways in front of homes throughout the neighborhood. More visible crosswalks also are in the works for the Atlantic Avenue/Hendricks Avenue intersection and Hendricks

Avenue/Landon Avenue crossing.

“When you put in infrastructure, you hope it’s to increase the number of children walking to school,” Ledew explained. “The added benefit is that it can reduce [car] congestion around schools.”

But the ancillary benefit of better connecting sidewalks, he said, is for the enjoyment and safety of the entire community. School-age children, he indicated in response to a community meeting attendee’s comment, are not the only ones who use sidewalks in a neighborhood.

“Why has there been so much money spent already on this and you’re not talking to residents about it yet? You’re building something that’s not needed, or wanted, and is not addressing a problem”

**Greer Wells**  
Local attorney & Arbor Lane resident



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## Solantic changes name to CareSpot

Solantic Urgent Care centers recently transitioned to a new brand: CareSpot.

A broad variety of walk-in and scheduled medical services are available, including urgent care, well care, and occupational health. Over the past few weeks, significant changes have been underway with remodeling and other cosmetic upgrades. However, CareSpot is more than a new name, logo, or a fresh coat of paint – it's a company with a new leadership team and a new direction that's been in the works for months.

Dawn Salas, center manager at the San Marco CareSpot, explained more about the new moniker and brand.

"Our new name leads off with 'Care,' and that refers to our commitment to delivering outstanding care with exemplary service. For quite some time, we've been working to make significant improvements in compassionate care," Santos said. "We're excited about the name

change and all it means for us as a team – important training and procedures have been put into place to improve our level of care, and our new name reflects that."

Regional Marketing Manager Linda Creamons said the 'Spot' part of the name is a "nod to providing optimal convenience for our customers."

"With 12 centers in North Florida and another coming soon in Yulee, we have many locations close to your home and work," Creamons said.

"Plus, our new website CareSpot.com allows customers to compare wait times, save a spot in line, or make a future appointment."

New online and mobile tools allow customers to check wait times and save a spot for a same-day visit, complete forms to save time at the center or schedule an appointment for a later time or date.

CareSpot also has extended hours on nights and weekends plus onsite pharmacy, lab work, X-ray services and other diagnostics.

## Time to vote!

*Early voting begins Oct. 27*

In just a few short weeks, local residents will head to the polls to elect the 45th President of the United States — as well as new leaders in many critical local and state races.

Duval County Supervisor of Elections Jerry Holland said for the first time in local voting history, area residents will be issued a four-page ballot. In addition to races for various elected positions, the ballots also will include 11 proposed amendments to the state Constitution. (see front page link to amendments, printed in full at [www.residentnews.net](http://www.residentnews.net))

Holland urges voters to research the amendments and suggested visiting the website of The Collins Center at [www.collinscenter.org](http://www.collinscenter.org), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization providing a deeper, objective exploration of the amendments and issues.

Early voting for the Nov. 6 election begins on Oct. 27 and lasts for eight consecutive days, ending Nov. 3. Voters who are considering a vote

by mail ballot, which is available to all registered voters, must request a ballot by Oct. 31. Holland said voting by mail is ideal for residents who are unable to stand for long periods of time or are under time constraints from work or school. Voters can request a ballot through [www.duval-elections.com](http://www.duval-elections.com) or by calling (904) 630-1414.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 6. Prior to that date, Holland encourages voters to study the sample ballots mailed out two weeks prior to the election.

"Doing homework and marking your sample ballot will save time at the polls as you simply transcribe your choices to your official Election Day ballot," he said.

Whether it's at the polls Nov. 6 or during early voting, the elections office reminds residents to bring a photo and signature identification. A list of acceptable forms of ID is available on the elections office website, which also includes information about early voting locations, hours and wait times.

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**BREAKING NEWS**

**Internet Updates!**

## 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 limita-

tions, 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](http://www.residentnews.net).

Visit the site and stay informed before heading to the polls next month.

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# Troubled waters

## Artificial reefs coming to San Marco riverfront

*Residents concerned about impact on 'San Marco Beach' fishing, already problematic*

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Two artificial reefs are expected to be installed in the St. Johns River as a way to promote better fishing in the area. But not everyone's hooked on the idea.

At least two residents who live in homes bordering Riverfront Park, or "San Marco Beach," said the reefs could exacerbate a longstanding problem with some shore fishermen's persistent bad behavior in the city park. The residents said they have spent more than two decades combating "filthy" and sometimes illegal activities by fishing enthusiasts — including public urination, trash, fowl language, illegal drinking and drug use and other unsavory activities. The artificial reefs, they said, could bring more of the same issues and don't help correct issues that have been ongoing for years.

"The effects of the fishing has been tumultuous, to say the least," said one property owner near San Marco Beach at River Road and Landon Avenue. "You can't take your family out there without hearing the lan-

guage, or safely. It's disgusting. These reefs would bring more people there."

According to a report from Boyer's office, the artificial reefs have been "under consideration for some time." The first reef is planned 483 feet off the Riverfront Park shore. A second reef would be located in the river about 1,384 feet off Greenscape Celebration Park at the end of LaSalle Street. The city of Jacksonville, through its Housing and Neighborhoods department, applied for the permits to construction the artificial reefs. The application said the reefs expected usage were for boats and shore-based fishing. The reefs would help "4-6 boats utilize the site at any one time" and "enhance shore-based angling at Riverfront Park located in the San Marco area of Jacksonville."

District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer said word of the two artificial reefs' installation was new to her in recent months.

"I just found out about this — I was recently appointed to the Waterways Commission and at a

meeting they were talking about the reefs for San Marco. I said, 'where?'"

Boyer said. "When I got the information I was very concerned because there has been a lot of concern already about fishing from our riverfront parks and the lack of public bathrooms and the behavior of some of the fishermen has not been what it should be."

Boyer said she planned to coordinate with city parks director Kelly Boree to see what to do about the situation at this point.

"This is a case of the right hand doing one thing and the left hand doing another and no one's communicating," Boyer said.

During a recent community meeting, Boyer shared as much information as she had with area residents and listened to their concerns.

An artificial reef contractor in the audience said the reef construction might actually deter shore-based fisherman because the fish could migrate closer to new habitat in the reef

Other residents raised suggestions for alternative reef sites including the old JEA power plant site on the Southbank.

The first reef is planned 483 feet off the Riverfront Park shore. A second reef would be located in the river about 1,384 feet off Greenscape Celebration Park at the end of LaSalle Street.

## Interfaith forum addresses faith, politics

"Faith's Role in Politics" is the timely topic of discussion for the upcoming "Promoting Peace Through Understanding Interfaith Forum" at All Saints Episcopal Church.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 in the sanctuary. The forum brings together a diverse, politically experienced panel of local lay people from the Anglican, Muslim, Jewish, Episcopal, Shia Ismaili and Mormon faith traditions exploring faith's role in politics. Panelists for the church's fourth interfaith forum event include: Dr. Parvez Ahmed, UNF Associate Professor of Finance; Warda Ali, Florida Coastal School of Law student/law clerk; District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer; Dr. Sol Brotman, Sol G. Brotman DDS; Dr. Matthew T. Corrigan, UNF Political Science & Public Administration Chair; Rev. Tom Deppe, All Saints Episcopal Church; and Kathleen Thomas, former candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois

The panel will be moderated by blogger and longtime local journalist, Tricia Booker. A short reception will follow in the church hall. Questions will only be accepted prior to the event and can be emailed to hcitrano@allsaintsjax.org.

"Interfaith dialogue is critical as our world becomes more diverse and interrelated. We are pleased to help promote civil conversation in such a anxious, fractious world," said Fr. Tom Deppe, rector of All Saints Episcopal Church.

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**SQUARE** cont. from 1

Park by removing the traffic signal at the intersection of San Marco and Atlantic Boulevards. The result is increased "green space" for the square. The design also aims to improve traffic flow and pedestrian access following completion of a new roundabout at San Marco Boulevard and Naldo Avenue.

"This will provide a more continuous green space between Balis and the fountain and make a narrower access for pedestrians to cross," Boyer said. "The idea is to better connect one side of the street to the other for pedestrian and help eliminate traffic backups on the roundabout."

The roundabout, and other improvements along a 1.4-mile stretch



meeting remarked on the potential problems the new design might cause drivers coming through the square.

"This is not a final decision but it's definitely in the works and under consideration," Boyer said.

In terms of maintenance, several groups have indicated they will help keep the new green space looking its best. Among those who have shared an interest are the San Marco Merchants Association, Greenscape of Jacksonville and the San Marco Preservation Society.

Anita Morrill, a San Marco resident who owns Empty Nest Events,

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of San Marco Boulevard, is part of the ongoing San Marco Streetscape project — a \$15 million city initiative started in 2007 to beautify and "create an enhanced sense of destination to the San Marco corridor." While the city initially projected an Oct. 2012 end date, construction delays and scheduling have pushed the completion date into 2013. The city will freeze Streetscape work between Thanksgiving and Jan. 2 to allow unobstructed shopping access to local stores and restaurants.

She said city Public Works Director Jim Robinson and Bill Joyce, chief of the city's engineering and construction management division, both vetted the new square traffic plan and are "fairly comfortable that it works and solves a problem."

One of the most controversial parts of the revised square traffic design, however, is a new "dog-leg" intersection on Balis Place for vehicles accessing eastbound Atlantic Boulevard or the continued northbound lane of San Marco Boulevard. In the redesign, northbound San Marco Boulevard traffic would have to turn right at Balis Place and curve to the left again after the new park extension to continue a northbound route. The plan could snarl early morning commuter traffic, some residents said during the community meeting.

Several residents attending the

announced the upcoming Autumn in the Park Farm to Table Dinner will be an annual fundraiser for Balis Park. The dinner, sponsored by Prudential Network Realty's Anita Vining and several other local companies, is a Tuscan-themed event featuring the culinary talents of local chefs, Kathy Collins of Cafe Nola, Sam Efron of Taverna and Tom Gray of Bistro Aix. The Grape & Grain's Bob Smith will pour a signature drink and new brewery, Aardwolf, also will showcase beer during the gathering. The event will be held Nov. 11 at Davin Park — just a short walk from the square's Balis Park.

"Last year, the event raised money for a preservation society and merchants' association fund for ongoing beautification of the square," Morrill said. "This year, however, we're hoping to raise a bit more money and create a fund for the new San Marco Square project. We hope to make this event a kick-off for this new project — all of the funds will be going toward it, and hopefully we'll be able to show a design of what the park will look like from preliminary designs."

She said organizers were looking at several fundraising ideas, including the purchase of trees and bricks for Balis Park.

"We are thrilled to have so many sponsors this year so more money can go back to the square," Morrill said.

## City Council approves 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 Crescimmini did 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."

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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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# Smooth sailing: San Jose Boulevard to be resurfaced

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The state Department of Transportation is planning to smooth things over on San Jose Boulevard. Bids on the resurfacing project were expected to be received by Sep. 13, according to FDOT officials.

Work could begin as early as 2014. "It is strictly a resurfacing job with no widening," said Mike Goldman, FDOT spokesman in an email. "That means no property will be taken which would impact the canopy trees which line the roadway."

The work would occur on a 4.73-

mile stretch of San Jose Boulevard from just north of University Boulevard south to Sunbeam Road. FDOT officials expect the resurfacing to be complete by Summer 2013. The project will certainly not be the worst roadwork the neighborhood has experienced in recent years. FDOT does not expect to close lanes during the day. Much of the work will be done at night, Goldman said.

"The impact on daytime and rush hour traffic will be minimal," he said.

Construction on a sidewalk project along San Jose Boulevard is expected to begin on Oct. 8. The installation of a sidewalk along San Jose from Sunbeam Road to the Goodby's Creek Bridge, a .7-mile stretch of roadway, had long been requested by local walkers and joggers, Goldman said.

CDM Contracting Inc. will build the sidewalk at a cost of \$328,572 and finish by the end of the year.



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## 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 sum-

mer 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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# Boyer heads committee researching 'context sensitive' streets

*Guidelines support goals of 2030 Mobility Plan*

BY STEVE DiMATTIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Imagine Jacksonville as a city where traffic is managed through extensive use of affordable, reliable mass transit and smart, eco-friendly street design that encourages walking and biking with safe, continuous sidewalks and bike paths.

That was the vision put forth a year ago by the city's Planning and Development Department in a handbook, Context Sensitive Streets: Street Design Guidelines. A special committee has formed to review those guidelines and, as charged by Council President Bill Bishop, "...determine the appropriateness of these guidelines, investigate any other information pertinent to this issue, and make recommendations for and/or draft legislation as appropriate to address this issue."

The committee, chaired by Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman, had its first meeting on September 12. It also includes council members Greg Anderson, Doyle Carter, Kimberly Daniels and Don Redman.

"We will be looking at the guidelines – which are only recommendations and not standards – and see what we need to do to implement them from a design and engineering viewpoint," said Boyer in a pre-meeting interview.

As defined in the guidelines, "Context Sensitive Street Design (CSSD) is an approach to roadway planning, design and street operation, to meet regional transportation goals while enhancing neighborhoods and considering the adjacent uses of land. CSSD respects traditional street design objectives for safety, efficiency, capacity, and maintenance, while integrating community objectives and values relating to compatibility, livability, sense of place, urban design, cost and environmental impacts."

The guidelines support the goals

of citywide vision plans and link to the 2030 Mobility Plan through "multi-modal street function [design], community livability and economic vitality."

"The vision plans followed through into the mobility plan itself. It went from the very broad topic of the Mobility Plan and now we're getting right down to the very specific topic of context sensitive streets," said

Laurie Kattreh, transportation specialist with the city who briefed the committee on the guidelines.

Kattreh noted that the Mobility Plan has four strategies: funding through a mobility fee, a multi-modal transportation approach, connecting land use and transportation, and "incentivizing" quality growth and

development through the mobility fee process.

"The connection between land use and transportation is the context," said Kattreh. "When we say 'context sensitive,' we're talking about the land use." Rural areas have separate requirements from suburban areas as does the busy central business district.

In addition to Kattreh, Melody Bishop and Lauren Husband from

the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition also gave a presentation on the positive effects of context sensitive streets on health and the economy.

About 20 interested citizens attended the meeting, one of whom voiced support for both CSSD and the Mobility Plan, which is currently nearing the end of a yearlong fee moratorium.

"I look forward to October when the fee moratorium expires and we have an opportunity to really start to fund some of these initiatives that we're talking about," San Marco resident Doug Skiles said.

Kattreh ended her presentation with words that may have reflected the sentiments of most in the room: "When you see it [CSSD] already in place, it's beautiful."

To see a video of the meeting go to the City of Jacksonville's CSSD webpage:

<http://www.coj.net/city-council/council-committees-boards-commissions/context-sensitive-streets-special-committee.aspx>

*(Editor's note: A second meeting was planned for September 26, after this edition of the Resident went to press, in which Boyer invited members of the public works and planning departments to talk about what guidelines currently exist that might conflict with the context sensitive street recommendations. A third meeting is scheduled for October 11 at 4 p.m. to which special interests groups that may be impacted by a change in these regulations will be invited to speak.)*



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# Has the Mobility Plan fee moratorium spurred development?

*With the fee moratorium deadline looming, it depends who you ask*

BY STEVE DiMATTIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

With the Mobility Plan fee moratorium scheduled to end Oct. 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. The 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 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 Sep. 12, totaling \$2.6 million, or 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 moratorium ordinance does not make reference to tracking data, so it is

misrepresentative of the planning department to wait until final permit," Herzberg said.

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," he said.

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.

"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 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.

"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 Oct. 19 sunset date, the ordinance would have to be introduced and taken up as an emergency during that meeting (Oct. 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."

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," Skiles said. "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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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 lilted. 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.

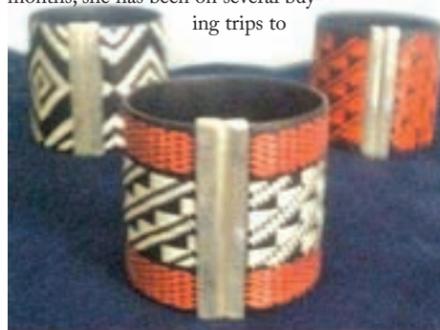
As many residents in the neighborhood do, Langford will help others through her show's success. At the end of the show, she will make a donation to the Women's Giving Alliance, a local philanthropic organization she supports wholeheartedly.

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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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## San Marco Rotary supports local nonprofits



Melanie Jensen, North Florida School of Special Education; JoAnn Kucklick, Books-A-Go Go; Dr. Courtney Hackney, UNF Dept. of Biology; Vicky Watkins, Sanctuary on 8th Street; Isabelle Owen Spence, Leadership Jacksonville; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; Alexis Woods, Angelwood; Ashley Strickland, MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation; and Steve Ramsey, Immediate Past President, Rotary Club of San Marco

Several local nonprofits were the recipients of The Rotary Club of San Marco's 2012 Charitable Grants. The club awarded the grants during a special meeting at the University Club.

Grant recipients included: Angelwood, Books-A-Go Go, JASMYN, Youth Leadership Jacksonville, MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation, North Florida School of Special Education, Sanctuary on 8th Street and UNF's Department of Biology.

During the meeting, representatives from each agency provided club members with an update on the projects the grants will fund.

The Rotary Club of San Marco supports other local initiatives in addition to the grant recipients. The group's signature project is Safe Sleep, an infant mortality prevention program. Additionally, Rotary Club of San Marco members provide volunteer support for area service projects.

## St. Nicholas agency names Exec. Director

Neighbor to Family Inc.'s leadership appointed Aida Seeraj executive director of the agency's sibling foster care program in Jacksonville. Neighbor to Family's Jacksonville offices are located in St. Nicholas.

Seeraj has 14 years management experience in the Florida child welfare system including work at the Department of Children and Families. Most recently, Seeraj was the



women and families program director at the Sulzbacher Center.

"Our goal is to serve families and afford siblings the opportunity to remain together while building healthier families and stronger communities," Seeraj said in the release.

Neighbor to Family is in partnership with St. Nicholas-based Family Support Services of North Florida and DCF that has been providing sibling foster care to the community since mid-2010.

## Ossi helping parents plan summer camp

San Marco resident Danielle Ossi has been named vice president of business development for PlanSummer.com, a self-service web application for working parents navigating the logistics of summer childcare and camps.

The business and website, developed by Lynn Layfield, offers "a consolidated and standardized format for viewing camps to give you an 'apples to apples' comparison. The site also provides filtering tools so you can sort camps according to your child's age, interest, length/time of camp and cost," Ossi explained in an email.

Ossi and Layfield presented the business to

Ossi



Layfield



the Society of Human Resource Managers at the group's mid-September meeting.

Ossi's role is to introduce the product to local business owners and human resource managers before the 2013 summer camp-planning season.

## Brewery raises funds for Riverkeeper

Atlanta-based SweetWater Brewing Co. made a big splash in the neighborhood recently with its staging of a "Save the St. Johns River Campaign." The group donated \$10,000 in proceeds to the St. Johns Riverkeeper in a ceremony last month.

Stuart Brown, SweetWater's local hops dealer, presented the check to St. Johns Riverkeeper Executive Director Jimmy Orth during the recent gathering at Friendship Fountain Park. Following the presentation, the brewery hosted a river cruise for more than 50 area bartenders and servers who helped the SweetWater raise money for the campaign.

The summer campaign asked servers and bartenders from participating SweetWater



establishments to raise money and awareness for the Riverkeeper. Patrons could buy \$1, \$5 or \$10 paper fish that were displayed on the walls of local bars and restaurants.

"This campaign really opened my eyes to how many people in our area care about the river. The amount of fish hanging on the walls at area restaurants and bars was humbling and very exciting," said Shannon Blankinship, outreach director for St. Johns Riverkeeper.

## Ricchini heads JOI

San Marco-based Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute has a new executive director, according to a recent release from the Baptist Health affiliate.

JOI Chairman Stephen Lucie announced the appointment of John James Ricchini to the position last month. Ricchini will work with the group's executive committee and JOI physicians and staff, as well as with Baptist Health officials.

Prior to his move to Jacksonville and JOI, Ricchini was CEO of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgeons PA in Austin for the past three years.



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# Delegal, Daniel present employment law course

San Jose attorney Tad Delegal and the Honorable James H. Daniel presented an employment law survey course to the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges in Marco Island recently. Delegal and Daniel conducted the seminar at the conference's 2012 Annual Education Program, which features courses for judges taught by experts in different areas of the law.

"The invitation was a huge honor for me, as was sharing my knowledge of employment law with our judiciary," Delegal said.



# Resident's work finds its home



The artistic work of Colonial Manor resident and artist Dennis Campay now has a permanent home in the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

Campay's piece, "Passed Over," was acquired by the museum recently as part of its permanent collection. The ink drawing is a remembrance of the 122 members of the Atlanta Art Association who died in a 1962 airline crash in Paris.



# Developer picks New Leaf for Old San Jose

New Leaf Construction homebuilders, owned by Lee Arsenault, is building homes in Old San Jose on the River, according to a company release. The company will construct new single-family and multifamily homes in the San Marco area riverfront community.

The company recently completed a single-family model home and an inventory home at Old San Jose on the River. The company features four single-family designs, each with different elevation options "in keeping with the heritage of historic San Jose and San Marco." Single family home pricing starts at \$395,000 and riverfront lots with options for private docks start at \$550,000.



# Residents appointed to Downtown board

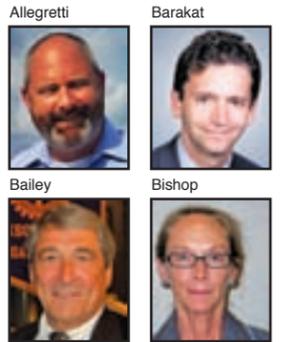
Several neighborhood residents were among nine business leaders appointed to the newly created Downtown Investment Authority.

Mayor Alvin Bishop and City Council President Bill Bishop selected the directors for demonstrating a vested interest in the revitalization and continued success of Downtown. The group has been confirmed by the Jacksonville City Council and will guide DIA projects in an open-to-the-public forum on an unpaid, volunteer basis, according to a city release.

Mayor Brown's board nominees included: Melody Bishop, a Clifton resident and architect with Akel Logan & Shafer; Ortega resident Robert M. Clements, chairman and CEO of Everbank; Harper Law Firm attorney Kamaria Kay Harper; Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel general manager Donald Harris; and Paul Perez, former U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida.

Bishop's nominations for the DIA board included: Southbank resident and Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce Downtown Engagement Director

Antonio Allegretti; James F. Bailey, Jr., San Jose resident and president of Bailey Publishing and Communications; Granada resident Oliver Barakat, senior vice president for CBRE who represented EverBank in the company's recent move Downtown; and Donald A. Shea, executive director of the Jacksonville Civic Council.



# Sweet talk...

Chocolate covered sources tell The Resident that Sweet Pete's candy company is eyeing a San Marco store location. The store would be the all natural sweet company's second Jacksonville store. Sweet Pete's currently is located in its brightly painted signature storefront and factory in Springfield.

Could Miramar be the place? Storeowners say they're sniffing it out.

Peter Behringer, whose mom is Peterbrooke Chocolatier founder Phyllis Geiger, owns Sweet Pete's. The company aims to make "pure, simple, sweets made the traditional way with real cane sugar, while using natural flavors and colors."



The company's cheerful Springfield store

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# You **asked** for it!

## Is there a state law protecting pedestrians in marked crosswalks?

From time to time, readers ask us to help get important questions answered. Last month, a reader posed an important question regarding pedestrians — and what the state laws are mandating their protection in marked crosswalks.

The reader's question and an answer from the state Department of Transportation are below. Do you have a question we can address in an upcoming issue of The Resident? Let us know by sending an email to editor@residentnews.net.

"A recent article published in Resident Community News regarding redesign of San Marco Square quoted Doug Skiles "These same individuals do not seem to be aware of the state law that mandates stopping for pedestrians in marked crosswalks."

In the interest of journalistic integrity can you ask Mr. Skiles to cite the statute to which he refers? I would like to use it in a safety meeting at my place of employment. Also, if the statutes do not support Mr. Skiles' statement perhaps pedestrian safety in San Marco Square would be increased if a redesign were based upon statutes and not a belief.

On several occasions in the past I have attempted to find a Florida Statute that required cars to stop when pedestrians are in a crosswalk. I have heard that is law in other states. I have found several Florida Statutes explaining that drivers are not allowed to hit pedestrians. However, I have not found one that would give a reasonable pedestrian confidence they would be safe if they stepped into a street in front of a moving car as long as they are in a designated crosswalk.

I have many times watched individuals step off a curb into traffic in a manner that suggested they did not need to be concerned because they have the right of way and drivers will stop their vehicles."

The Resident sent the question to the state Department of Transportation for some clarification. The FDOT's response was a copy of the state rules, noted below. The

mandates specifically relating to the reader's question is bold:

### 316.130 Pedestrians; traffic regulations.—

(1) A pedestrian shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device specifically applicable to the pedestrian unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic control signals at intersections as provided in s.316.075, but at all other places pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and be subject to the restrictions stated in this chapter.

(3) Where sidewalks are provided, no pedestrian shall, unless required by other circumstances, walk along and upon the portion of a roadway paved for vehicular traffic.

(4) Where sidewalks are not provided, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the shoulder on the left side of the roadway in relation to the pedestrian's direction of travel, facing traffic, which may approach from the opposite direction.

(5) No person shall stand in the portion of a roadway paved for vehicular traffic for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle.

(6) No person shall stand on or in proximity to a street or highway for the purpose of soliciting the watching or guarding of any vehicle while parked or about to be parked on a street or highway.

**(7)(a) The driver of a vehicle at an intersection that has a traffic control signal in place shall stop before entering the crosswalk and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian, with a permitted signal, to cross a roadway when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk and is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.**

**(b) The driver of a vehicle at any crosswalk where signage so indicates shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross a roadway when the**

**pedestrian is in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk and is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.**

**(c) When traffic control signals are not in place or in operation and there is no signage indicating otherwise, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.**

(8) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

(9) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

(10) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(11) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

(12) No pedestrian shall, except in a marked crosswalk, cross a roadway at any other place than by a route at right angles to the curb or by the shortest route to the opposite curb.

(13) Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

(14) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices, and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

(15) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any person propelling a human-powered vehicle and give warning when necessary and exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any obviously confused or incapacitated person.

(16) No pedestrian shall enter or remain upon any bridge or approach thereto beyond the bridge signal, gate, or barrier after a bridge operation signal indication has been given. No pedestrian shall pass through, around, over, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

(17) No pedestrian may jump or dive from a publicly owned bridge. Nothing in this provision requires the state or any political subdivision of the state to post signs notifying the public of this provision. The failure to post a sign may not be construed by any court to create liability on the part of the state or any of its political subdivisions for injuries sustained as a result of jumping or diving from a bridge in violation of this subsection.

(18) No pedestrian shall walk upon a limited access facility or a ramp connecting a limited access facility to any other street or highway; however, this subsection does not apply to maintenance personnel of any governmental subdivision.

(19) A violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infraction, punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as either a pedestrian violation or, if the infraction resulted from the operation of a vehicle, as a moving violation.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-135; ss. 1, 8, ch. 76-31; s. 2, ch. 83-68; ss. 1, 2, ch. 83-74; s. 3, ch. 84-309; s. 306, ch. 95-148; s. 123, ch. 99-248; s. 2, ch. 2008-33.

## Safe crossing: JSO cites jaywalkers in San Marco Square

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Why did the residents cross San Marco Square? To get to the other side, of course. But how they do it has become the recent focus of local Jacksonville Sheriff's Office leaders seeking to enforce safer pedestrian practices citywide.

Last month a reader wrote in notifying The Resident about the increase of local police writing tickets for jaywalking in San Marco Square.

"I went to get ice cream with my son tonight and ended up with the

police waiving me down and giving me a ticket — they said that soon they will be issuing real tickets, which I think is ridiculous," the reader shared. "There are not enough crosswalks — when you're parked all the way at the end toward the paint store you have to cross in front of the San Marco Theatre."

Diane Martin, president of the San Marco Preservation Society, said her husband recently received a ticket for jaywalking near Square One.

"He said the two officers were very nice and told him several people had been injured in the square jaywalk-

ing," Martin said. "I would prefer the police ticket motorists who do not stop at a crosswalk when a pedestrian is attempting to cross the street. It is a state law and I would love to see better signage in our city's shopping districts to remind drivers they must stop for pedestrians waiting to cross the street in a crosswalk."

Officer Melissa Bujeda, public information officer for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, shared the Florida State Statute that governs the rules for pedestrians in Florida. It is located at [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfmApp\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&RL=0300-0399/0316/Sections/0316.130.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfmApp_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&RL=0300-0399/0316/Sections/0316.130.html)

She said the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is taking a proactive approach citywide with education and enforcement due to the 100% increase year to date in traffic fatalities between 2012

and 2011 involving vehicle versus pedestrian accidents. She said in 2012 there were 11 pedestrians struck and killed by vehicles. In 2012, there have been 22 pedestrians struck and killed by vehicles with the majority determined to be the fault of the pedestrian, Bujeda said.

"This concerns us and we are doing everything we can to be proactive and educate the citizens about pedestrian safety and the laws," she said.

JSO officers are targeting areas where pedestrian crossing is prohibited to raise public awareness about the dangers facing pedestrians and to reduce future fatalities, Bujeda added.

"One fatality is one too many," Bujeda said. "The more we can reach and educate in the community about this issue helps raise awareness and hopefully we can prevent a future fatality."



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[www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org)

# MERRYMAKERS MAKE SHINDIG PLACE TO BE

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 nonprofit organization's annual fundraiser, SHINDIG, gathered hundreds of local guests. Biscottis, 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.

Photos by Aaron Mervin



Jeff Burns, Brian Burns and Susan Burns



David Barksdale, Judy Claussen, Natalie Rosenberg and Vicky Watkins



Julie Howard, Tamara Bogen, Cindy Berzseny, Jane Courtney Davis, Marc Davis and Jeff Bogen



Photos by Aaron Mervin

# 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.

# DISCOVERY CIRCLE TOASTS TO RONALD MCDONALD

The city's aspiring young professionals came out to taste wine and pair with an unlikely combo- fast food favorites. The clever combinations of merlot and a double cheeseburger, pinot grigio and chicken nuggets, who knew?

The night, titled 'Fries With that Wine' took place Sept. 13 at the Garden Club in Riverside, with support from local artists, great music and the expertise of Riverside Liquors- it was a night that helps to raise the bar for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.



Emily Dostie and Caroline Close

Above: Bill Van Zante, Joy Hardaker, Deena and John Wallace with Bryan Russell  
Left: Lanny and Dorrie Felder

Left: Ab Deshmukh, Sne Patel and Daniel Gilham

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Kelly Madden with Hilah Autry



John and Molly Roberts



### SAN JOSE LADY GOLFERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

Connie Turner, Anita Colson, Sue Ottenstroer, Ruth Wilcox, Anita Colson, Rachelle Cusick, Mary Cusick, Ruth Wilcox, Mary Alice Massey, Eleanor Colson, Karen Tuttwiler, Edie Palmer, Lisa Obringer, Maura Kelly and Judy DuBose

Lady golfers from all over the Southeast were invited to join in the celebration of a milestone, as the San Jose Country Club Ladies Golf Association Invitational tournament hit it's 50th year. The group invited past winners and hailed to history with the Zambetti trophy presented to this year's winner.



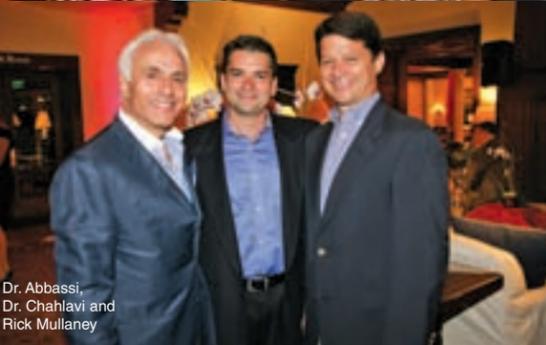
Susan Towler with Greg and Ginny Smith

### GUESTS, STORIES 'TRANSFORM' DOWNTOWN EVENT INTO SULZBACHER AWARENESS

Many area business leaders and local residents were on-hand 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.



Above: Ashley Smith Juarez, Jeneen Sanders, Latresa Hampton, and Julia Talyor



Dr. Abbassi, Dr. Chahavi and Rick Mullaney



Left: Lanny and Dorrie Felder

Right: Marsha Oliver, Misty Skipper, and Kerri Stewart



## GOLD IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

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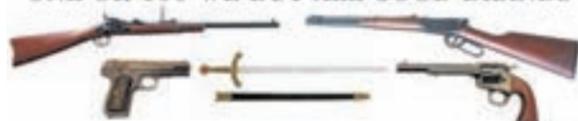
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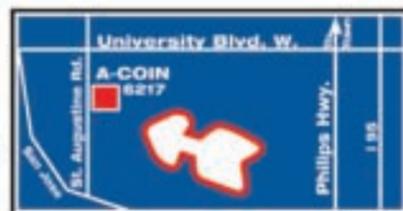


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# October marks fall flounder fishing



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.

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 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 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

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pm, or later.

Flounder fishing is a great way to get outdoors if you only have a few 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 saltwater fishing license. For additional exemptions please visit [www.myfwc.com/license/recreational/do-i-need-a-license/](http://www.myfwc.com/license/recreational/do-i-need-a-license/)

One large flounder (aka: doormat) 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](http://www.theanglersmark.com).

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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 eaters. When you feel them consuming your bait, give them a few seconds to eat to better your chance for a successful hook set.

"Many times a Flounder will latch on to the minnow but not get it all the way in its mouth," Piper said. "You'll sometimes notice just a heavy weight on the line. Try to be patient and even lower the rod - letting some slack in the line for about 3-4 seconds, then set the hook! FISH ON!"

Fishing the backcountry for flounder can be a nice break from fishing offshore. Offshore anglers haul hundreds of pounds of gear and heavy tackle 60 plus miles offshore. These blue water days usually start around 3:30 am and won't end until 10:00




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# Resident's 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.

Granada's Cindy Pearson is training for a half marathon in Savannah in November. She already has an impressive number of shorter races under her belt, but never considered tackling a half marathon until now.

"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."

To get into running, Pearson said you have to "just start," and each time

you run, go a little farther.

That's good advice, said 60-year-old Jeff Pruitt of St. Nicholas, who's planning for his eighth New York marathon in November, and also advocates increasing distance gradually. He said the main reason runners become frustrated or injured is because they try to go "too far, too fast, too soon."

Pruitt believes a strong core helps with running. He goes to the gym several times a week to work upper body, abs and back muscles, and uses strength training to prevent leg imbalance.

A busy mother of three, Pearson said running solo gives her time for reflection, but she also enjoys the social aspect of running with friends. She changes it up with "interesting" races, but believes nothing keeps you on track like a set schedule. Pruitt

agrees that runners need to keep a log and set a goal such as a race.

"It helps you be more consistent," Pruitt said. "Just like a goal in life, if you have a goal in running, it will help you run a little longer, a little better and enjoy it more."

Steve Osorio, owner of Monograms and More in Miramar, prefers cycling to running. He sees himself cycling until the day he dies, and calls it more of a "lifestyle than a diet."

"I like being on two wheels, enjoying the air," Osorio said. "I'm not much of a runner. I tried that ... but cycling fits like a glove for me. It feels natural. It's low impact."

Having completed two races last month, Osorio is working toward a November race, the Horrible 100,



Jeff Pruitt of St. Nicholas finished his seventh New York Marathon last year

which winds through the hills of central Florida. To get fit and build up distance, he trains with a group from Open Road Bicycles.

When Osorio's not racing, he's on his "Dad" bike, taking his kids on a leisure ride through the neighborhood. And come winter,

he moves his workouts into the gym for spinning classes, weight lifting, cardio and core training.

For 5-year triathlon veteran Steve Matson of Ortega, it's the "mixing" of three disciplines — swimming, biking and running — that keeps him pumped.

Matson recently participated in HOT, the Hammerhead Olympic Triathlon, at Camp Blanding, and the Six Gap Century, a cycling event with 11,000 feet of climbing, in north Georgia. To train for the bike race, he made a lot of trips across the Acosta Bridge.

The half Ironman is Matson's triathlon of choice, but he competes in the sprint, Olympic and Ironman as well. He's already gearing up for the

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# Financial Fitness 5K ignites local running community

Local runners took their mark and got set for the fall fitness season at the Financial Fitness 5K in San Marco. The race, which began at Fletcher Park at 8 a.m., benefitted the United Way initiative RealSense and Family Foundations. The race also included two 30-minute yoga sessions from MBody Yoga in San Marco. A beautiful hot air balloon flew over the festivities courtesy of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty.



Steve Osorio prefers the low impact exercise of cycling, and sees himself doing it until the day he dies

► Ironman Lake Tahoe to be held a year from now.

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

To find out about upcoming events, go to:

[www.1stplacesports.com](http://www.1stplacesports.com), [www.jtcrunning.com](http://www.jtcrunning.com), [www.nfbc.us](http://www.nfbc.us), and [www.hammerheadtriathlonclub.com](http://www.hammerheadtriathlonclub.com).



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Racers lining up for start of the race with hot air balloon in the background.



San Marco finishers Amanda Mason, Todd Pye and Glenn Howell. Pye and Mason ran by their River Oaks home where their 7-month-old son cheered them on from the window



L to R: Shannon Italia of Lakewood; Shatara Francis of Southside; and Larissa Bodniowycz of Atlantic Beach



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# The Way we Were

## David Gum

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jacksonville resident David Gum was born and raised “on the curve” at the end of South Shores Road and Old Hickory Road. His mother Bonnie, who is now 97, still lives in the home his parents built. He has many funny and interesting memories of the area known as South Shores.

He shared with *The Resident*, in his own words, some of his stories from early childhood:

“Built in the 1930s, South Shores is wedged between the Bishop Kenny High School property, the old Southside Generating Station land, and the river off Atlantic Blvd. Growing up there was a special thing. We had endless woods and unused riverfront to explore and call our own. It is impossible to recall all of the tree houses and ‘forts’ the kids built. In those days Bishop Kenny was a small school, and what is now the sprawling athletic complex then existed as a boy’s wonderland. The property had been the Merrill-Stevens shipbuilding yards in WWI. Two long inlets remained that were home to moth-

balled WWI Navy ships. To us, nothing was off limits, the ships, old dry dock, and old abandoned buildings. I remember it being more fun, and getting more wasp stings, than I knew possible.

“Twice in my childhood these inlets became focal points, drawing people like magnets. The first time was when the Navy sent letters to South Shores and St. Nicholas residents stating that on certain days WWI helmet liners and, even better, unused gas masks would be thrown to parents from an anchored ship. For quite a while after

that kids attired with helmets and masks were spotted all over Southside.

“The second great cause for gathering at the inlets came shortly after a dredging that resulted in a two-foot thick ‘muck’ along the banks. Some man of vision saw fit to scatter turnip seeds, which flourished in the muck. Once again, kids swarmed, equipped with paper grocery bags to fill with turnips to bring to their parents.



1950s and 1960s was dining at the neighborhood restaurants. We felt truly privileged to have not one but two of Jacksonville’s iconic eateries of the day. It was well worth the short half-mile walk down Old Hickory Road or South Shores because then you could reward yourself with all the 10 cent Krystal burgers you could hold. How many of us of certain ages remember hanging out as teens at this place in our cars? It was Southside’s answer to Arnold’s Drive In from Happy Days.

“Two blocks west on Atlantic Blvd. was Pizza Joe’s Sorrento Pizza Patio. It was incredible! Imagine, a cheese pizza for just 55 cents or a spaghetti dinner for 85 cents. Too bad it closed in 1968!

“Wandering down memory lane wouldn’t be complete without the retelling of the South Shores neighborhood’s most notorious incident of the era. In 1961, the Southgate Plaza hosted a traveling carnival, complete with animals in

“Speaking with my grown-up neighborhood counterparts, I was reminded of two other pastimes that we often indulged in on that seemingly magical turf. In back of Bishop Kenny, the white sands were inundated with fossilized sharks’ teeth from the original inlet dredging. We excavated these by the jarful. And in the summer, blackberries covered the sand. Picking and door-to-door blackberry selling became quite the cottage business for young entrepreneurs.

“Possibly the best part about growing up in South Shores during the

cages. A full grown black bear escaped and made its way along the river to Old Hickory Road, robbing trashcans along the way and terrifying housewives. The police gunned down the marauding devil. The bear’s paw was in the Bishop Kenny trophy case for years and may still be there today.”

Gum is a graduate of Wolfson High School and University of North Florida, and he is currently a piano bar entertainer in Jacksonville. Look out for Part II of Gum’s reminiscences in next month’s Resident.

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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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## L'Arche Harbor House: Building relationships, transforming lives

BY OLGA BAYER  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Located on a beautiful oak-laden campus in Arlington is a thriving community, fostered by love and born out of acceptance. L'Arche Harbor House, founded in 1985, provides a family-centered environment where core members — adult residents with intellectual disabilities — actively participate in the community and share their gifts with others.

Riverside resident Amy Finn-Schultz has served as the Executive Director of the nonprofit L'Arche Harbor House for six years, and said its goal is to “identify and nurture the gifts of every person,” bringing dignity and hope to those who might otherwise be labeled as different or marginalized by society.

Families with loved ones living at L'Arche Harbor House consider it a “godsend,” said Maripat Meide, soon-to-be resident of Old San Jose on the River. Her older brother Tommy has “blossomed” since moving to the community nine years ago.

“It’s a burning question for parents who have a child with a disability: Who’s going to take care of them when I’m gone,” she said. “Our family couldn’t be happier and Tommy couldn’t be happier. At L'Arche Harbor House, the core members are No. 1.”

As the only L'Arche community in Florida, L'Arche Harbor House is under the auspices of L'Arche International, with 140 communities across the world, and 18 in the United States. L'Arche assistants, many fresh out of college, flock to the group from all over the world to share in daily life with core members.

While L'Arche Harbor House empowers core members, it never fails to touch the heart and soul of everyone involved with its mission. Finn-Schultz refers to this as the L'Arche philosophy of “mutually transforming relationships.”

“People initially come here to help out and change lives, but learn quickly that they are gaining a new understanding of love and patience,” she said. “The same thing happens with the assistants. They come thinking they are going to help, but then they are transformed.”

Board member Shannon Henderson came to L'Arche Harbor House seven years ago with little knowledge of people with developmental disabilities. “It’s been transformational,” she said. “To get to know these 20 core members as individuals with amazing gifts and very individual personalities has been so enlightening.”

Core members are encouraged to do as much as they are capable of, partici-



Development director Lori Rush, executive director Amy Finn-Schultz and board member Shannon Henderson of L'Arche Harbor House

pating in the life of the home and daily chores. They develop their hobbies and talents as artists and musicians. Like everyone else, they set life goals — whether it’s losing weight or learning to make dinner.

The holistic program ensures basic needs for health and safety, but challenges core members to grow, and offers a spiritual component. Diverse in their faith, core members attend various services and Bible studies around town. Many go off to jobs each day — some at Publix and Pizza Hut — or participate in day programs such as L'Arche’s Rainbow Workshop, where they create arts and crafts to sell to the public.

Volunteers are welcomed, and needed for everything from reading to helping with crafts. Mary Malone, co-owner of European Street Cafe, found her niche serving L'Arche Harbor House years ago, and treats core members to monthly dinners at her restaurants.

“The core members are just amazingly loving and beautiful people,” Malone said. “It’s a warm, family

atmosphere. By volunteering, you get so much more out of it than you are ever giving.”

Development Director Lori Rush invites the public to visit L'Arche Harbor House’s Community Night open house on the first Thursday of each month. Seeing the organization as merely a potential job opportunity at first, she was surprised by the unconditional love she experienced, and believes people should “witness” it firsthand.

“I was welcomed in such a manner that I wish everyone could be welcomed,” Rush said. “When I left, I was determined that I would do whatever was necessary to obtain this job because that’s the kind of environment I wanted to work in. I’ve learned from the core members and I’m continuing to learn from them.”

### Mark your calendar for a good time and a good cause...

**Through Nov. 10:**  
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**Oct. 10:** Wine-Down at JJ’s Bistro,  
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**Oct. 15 - 21:** Winn-Dixie Jacksonville  
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**Nov. 9:** Cocktails for a Cause,  
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**March 11, 2013:** 23rd Annual Golf  
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# GOGIVERS

## Robinson fights cancer through volunteer efforts

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Valerie Robinson, 51, followed a path from Toronto to Manhattan then to Jacksonville, largely due to meeting her husband William, 67, a Jacksonville native, while on vacation in Key West. The couple met at the Margaritaville Bar at exactly 5 p.m. on May 19, 1995 – a date William has romantically commemorated on his license plate. Dates and times are a recurring theme with Robinson, who has perfect recall when it comes to the important milestones, good and bad, in her life.

“I moved to Jacksonville in December 1995 before our wedding, and by January 10, 1996 I was at the local Northeast Florida Cancer Society asking if they needed volunteers,” she said. “I was a cancer society volunteer in Canada because the disease invaded my own family and it had a big impact on my personal life. I come from a family that believes in volunteering. I remember going door to door

with my mom asking for donations when I was about five years old.”

The toll cancer has taken on Robinson’s family is dramatic. Three of her four grandparents died of cancer or a related illness. A dear friend’s young daughter was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer in 1986 that had not been seen in a child under age two prior to that time. Her father, Doug Clarkson, was diagnosed with melanoma in 1998 and fortunately he is doing well at age 86. On February 12, 2002 Robinson was diagnosed with melanoma and on September 10, 2002 her sister, Janie, was diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2010 Robinson’s mother Florence Nightingale “Nancy” Clarkson, 85, was diagnosed with lung cancer.

“I am thankful that I and my immediate family are doing well but cancer has been a big part of our lives,” she said. “...and yes, my mother was actually named for the famous Florence Nightingale, which makes our volunteering streak even more interesting. My given name is Florence



Valerie Clarkson, after my mother and the famous nurse.” Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910, was a famous English nurse, writer and statistician who tirelessly tended wounded soldiers and laid the foundation for professional nursing. The Nightingale Pledge taken by new nurses is named in her honor and her birthday is celebrated each year on May 12 as International Nurses Day.

Robinson believes that her mother’s volunteer work with the American Cancer Society and many other charitable causes greatly inspired her own life. She said that her life would not be the same if she had never volunteered and that her two sisters and brother are also active volunteers in their communities. During her upcoming visits home to Canada, Robinson plans to volunteer alongside her parents.

“I believe that you are taught to give back to the community and if you are not taught to do this it may never occur to you,” she said.

Robinson’s own volunteer work has included the Cowford Ball, chairman, operations and executive boards, and the Road to Recovery Program. That program enlists volunteers to transport cancer patients who might otherwise miss their medical appointments.

“Many cancer patients have difficulty getting to their appointments, which may be frequent and are crucial to their treatment and recovery. If you are elderly, too ill or not strong enough to drive, you may miss appointments – this just cannot happen during chemotherapy or radiation treatments. Family members may want to help, but often cannot take off work,” she

said. “It takes an army of volunteer drivers, who pick up patients, take them to appointments, then return to drive them back home. It is so rewarding because they deeply appreciate the help and we meet so many sweet, sweet people during such a vulnerable time in their lives. It is a wonderful community service. We always need more drivers, especially for the Northside.”

She also helps her many friends by volunteering behind the scenes with them for The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens events; the Art and Antique Show put on by The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital; and The Diabetes Association Cure Ball.

“I always encourage people to volunteer for many different reasons. My volunteer work truly changed my life. When I

See **GG** on page 26




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## How can you help?

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

*ing awareness of local needs, we can all help generate positive solutions, funds and help for those in our community who deserve it most*

### 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 dur-

ing appointments and helping newly diagnosed women through the medical maze. More than anything, they will offer hope and support. If you are a patient in need of an advocate, call us as well.

**How to raise your hand:** Contact Bosom Buddies at 904-722-3000 ext. 224 or email [mail@womenscenterofjax.org](mailto:mail@womenscenterofjax.org).

## GG cont. from 25

first moved here I knew no one but William and through volunteering I met so many dear friends," she said. "Most volunteer organizations offer training and always need volunteers. These are perfect opportunities for mothers and young retirees or anyone with some time and energy on their hands."

The Robinsons helped found the Riding Into History charity for motorcyclists who collect and restore historical vintage bikes. All proceeds from their events go to fund The Wounded Warrior Project.

"The 13th Annual Riding Into History Motorcycle Concours event held in May 2012 drew 300 to 400 antique and vintage motorcycle owners to World Golf Village to showcase their unique motorcycles. The theme was 'The Landmark Motorcycles of Japan,'" she said.

The Robinsons stay busy. Valerie is a medical marketing consultant and William is a partly retired business marketing consultant. His daughter Lisa, son-in-law Chuck Alessandro and grandson Charlie, 5, live nearby in San

Marco. In their spare time the Robinsons enjoy riding their seven motorcycles and one scooter, far fewer than the 14 they once owned. The couple have ridden and explored 43 countries. They will soon leave Simba, their indoor rescue kitty at home, as they embark on a long-planned six-week motorcycling trip through Africa.

"William was riding by the age of 14, and I rode behind my older siblings. Then on our honeymoon in Italy we saw wonderful bikes and when we got back we joined the BMW Motorcycle Club of Northeast Florida," she said. "...and we volunteer with that organization too."

The final event Robinson likes to publicize is one she helped develop and supports, along with local physicians Linda Sylvester, M.D. and Cynthia Anderson, M.D. The Pink Ribbon Symposium is held each October to provide free information and expert speakers in a public forum. The 2012 symposium will be held Oct. 6 at the Hyatt Regency from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature speaker Peggy Fleming, Olympic Gold Medalist and breast cancer survivor.

## Catholic Charities makes new treaty for Festival d'Vine

Catholic Charities' annual Festival d'Vine has outgrown its San Marco Square venue and is putting down new roots on the Southbank. This year, the Nov. 3 wine-tasting fundraiser will be held under the shade of the neighborhood's largest tree at Treaty Oak Park.

The 9th Annual Festival D'vine will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the park, 1123 Prudential Drive. The Grotto Wine & Tapas Bar, which has been an event partner every year, is coordinating with local wine distributors to provide samples of more than 200 wines.

Debbie Moore, development director for Catholic Charities, said the party needed a new home because it needed more room to spread out — and curb some of the costs associated with street closures and police presence on the square.

"We also felt parking would be a little easier as there are a few big parking lots that are available on the weekends around Treaty Oak Park," Moore said. She added Suddath Cos. already had agreed to let patrons use its parking lot. "Also it was expensive to close the

streets down around the square and have to pay for police supervision for the entire day."

Moore said the group was determined to keep the event in the San Marco area so that the event's many local restaurant supporters and patrons could still participate.

Neighborhood restaurants participating in Festival d'Vine include Akel's Deli, Athen's Café, bb's, Biscottis, Bistro Aix, Burrito Gallery, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Chardonnay's Catering, Havana Jax, Indochine, Matthew's Restaurant and Catering, Mojo BBQ, Orsay, Pizza Palace, Sivada's Cupcakery, Stonewood Grill & Tavern, Sweet Pete's, Taverna, The Grotto Wine and Tapas Bar, The Loop, The Wine Cellar and Uptown Market.

Freudian Slip will perform live music at the event. The event costs \$75 per person or \$50 per person for patrons age 21-35, which includes all wine and food samples. Tickets for the event can be purchased by going to Catholic Charities website at [www.ccbjax.org](http://www.ccbjax.org).

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# Paddling for healing

The recent Paddle for HEAL was a "huge success," according to local organizers.

Alan Pickert, St. Nicholas resident and president of the nonprofit, Healing Every Autistic Life, said HEAL's focus is helping local children on the autistic spectrum, as well as their parents. Money raised for the organization is used for local camps and programs in North Florida. This summer, for example, HEAL had 18 camps that helped more than 350 autistic children in Jacksonville.

More than 400 people attended the Paddle for HEAL event, which took

place on the shoreline and in the waves at Ponte Vedra Beach. Participants and organizers — many from the St. Nicholas, San Marco and San Jose areas — helped raise more than \$30,000 during the event.

Pickert said a personal highlight for him was teaching a 12-year-old autistic boy how to ride a stand-up paddleboard.

"He did great, in fact he eventually stood up and paddled for a distance," shared Picket, whose wife and daughters also participated in the paddle event.



# Patrons of the Hearts gala moves to St. Nicholas

Patrons of the Hearts, a local nonprofit offering heart care to children from underdeveloped countries, has selected a new venue for its annual Artscapade fundraising gala. For the past six years, the party has been held at Riverside's Daryl Bunn Studio with only one exception. This year, the fundraiser crosses the river to St. Nicholas and The Museum facility on Boulevard Center Drive.

Event organizers also announced judges for the event's art competition. Several neighborhood luminaries are part of the lineup.

The venue and entertainment announcement came from University of Florida Pediatric Cardiovascular Center Medical Director Jose Ettegui, M.D. and his wife Hilda Ettegui, Patrons co-founder. Jose Ettegui is a pediatric cardiologist who has personally performed many of the heart surgery patients that Patrons of the Hearts brings to Jacksonville. Since 2005, the group has coordinated travel and heart care for 59 children from 10 countries. A number of other UF pediatric cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and nurses as well as Wolfson Children's Hospital specialists have assisted with this mission.

The Swing-Big Band-themed event will be at 7 p.m. on Oct. 19. It is the group's largest fundraising event and incorporates artists from the North Florida and South Georgia region, and local art patrons, volun-

teers and supporters. The organization also uses the event as an opportunity to recognize Patrons of the Hearts supporters.

This year's art competition will be judged by a group of local art enthusiasts and supporters that includes: Ortega resident Preston Haskell, chairman of The Haskell Co.; Wally Lee, president of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce; Cinda Sherman, publisher of Arbus magazine; Keith Faver and Jim Gray, FaverGray; Ginny Myrick, lobbyist and attorney; and Lisa Marston, head healthcare designer with Gresham-Smith.

# New website helps businesses manage volunteer efforts

A new website launched by Synovus Bank, Client Focused Media and HandsOn Jacksonville aims to help local companies and service organizations be better volunteers.

Called It'sTimeWeDonate.com, the website allows nonprofit organizations to register their needs for volunteers and one-time projects — as well as other continuing needs for goods and services. The site is designed to help companies seeking to meet volunteer goals link up with and fulfill local nonprofit needs.

The site also is open to individuals who want to donate their time and service.

In a release, HandsOn Jacksonville referenced Bailey's Powerhouse Gyms in Northeast Florida as an example of a local company utilizing

the new online system. The company has 11 locations in the area and established a partnership with HandsOn Jacksonville through the new website. The company pledged 5,000 volunteer hours for the upcoming year.

"It'sTimeWeDonate made sense for us because it gives our gym employees and members across the Jacksonville community a variety of opportunities and options to get involved by giving back," said gym owner David Bailey, in the release.

Volunteer pledges for each company are tracked on the website and Synovus Bank presents a volunteer of the month award to the company whose employees have logged the most hours. The winners receive recognition in trade publications.



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### Preservation society to host general meeting

The San Marco Preservation Society will host its Fall General Meeting at Preservation Hall, 1652 Atlantic Blvd., on Oct. 15. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and includes a presentation from JAX2025. For more information on JAX2025, visit [www.jax20205.org](http://www.jax20205.org). SMPS leaders also will present beautification awards and introduce the group's new board members.

### 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](http://www.smpsjax.com).

### 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](http://www.supportcommunityhospice.com).

# Pink happenings

### First Coast News "Buddy Check 12"

**Oct. 1** – Check out First Coast News anchor and San Marco Resident Jeanne Blaylock's Buddy Check 12 series, which begins Oct. 1 on the local television station. A 30-minute special on First Coast News debuts Oct. 5.

### 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](mailto:info@thedonnafoundation.org)

### Remission Rocks

**Oct. 5** – Second Annual Remission Rocks event will raise awareness and funds for Bosom Buddies. The local non-profit 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 free samplings from Ted's Montana Grill and Smoothie King, massages from Natural Body Spa and Shop, 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.komenorthflorida.org](http://www.komenorthflorida.org).

### Students Who Care essay contest

**Oct. 30** – That's the deadline for local students to submit their essays to First Coast Oncology. The Fourth Annual First Coast Oncology Students Who Care Essay Contest focuses on the power of "doing good." Contest organizers ask high school students to write essays about "doing good" and how that affects them and those around them. To submit essays visit [firstcoastoncology.com](http://firstcoastoncology.com).

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# Pink Ribbon Symposium meeting local needs



Drs. Cynthia Anderson and Linda Sylvester

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Before physicians Linda Sylvester and Cynthia Anderson met at Orange Park Cancer Center in 2006, both had admired and worked with a Philadelphia charity called Living Beyond Breast Cancer. Founded in 1991 by radiation oncologist Marisa C. Weiss, M.D., that program was created in response to the public need for information, education, connection, support and Weiss' desire to empower breast cancer patients. Drs. Sylvester and Anderson got a big idea; the Pink Ribbon Symposium was born.

"Jacksonville needed a program," Dr. Sylvester said. "It started as a grassroots organization to promote the idea to local healthcare and wellness experts including physicians, nurses, psychia-

trists, nutritionists, sleep therapists, yoga and exercise instructors, cancer patients, survivors, their families and friends." Board certified in medical oncology/internal medicine, Dr. Sylvester practices with Cancer Specialists of North Florida in Orange Park.

Valerie Robinson — a San Jose resident, breast cancer survivor and medical marketing specialist — is a long-time cancer society volunteer. She joined forces with the physicians to help create and successfully launch Jacksonville's first Pink Ribbon Symposium in 2008.

"These physicians had a vision. From my own personal experience, family and friends who have battled cancer, I wanted the symposium to succeed. It needed to reach as many caregivers, patients and supporters as possi-

ble; be a great forum for information, education, and it just keeps growing every year," Robinson said.

According to Drs. Sylvester and Anderson, a cancer diagnosis is so stressful for the patient, they often hear nothing else the physician says. Health issues that affect cancer patients and survivors are equally important to the public — but become critical to the cancer patient's outcome and recovery.

"I spend time building a personal relationship with each patient, writing everything down so they are fully informed about the diagnosis and options...they often feel they have lost control of their health and life.

Education can return that feeling of some control," Dr. Anderson said. "What I love about the Pink Ribbon Symposium is that it's also a way to interact with patients outside the clinic and is a powerful tool to spread information far beyond what I can do alone. It's also a great way for me to give back to my community." Dr. Anderson is a radiation oncologist with Florida Radiation Oncology Group at Memorial Hospital.

The goal of the symposium is to publicize updates in breast cancer research, treatment, health and quality of life issues: exercise, nutrition, stress, obesity, neuropathy, lipidemia, sexuality, osteoporosis and maintaining wellness. Dr. Sylvester noted that the latest molecular and genetic information not only applies to breast cancer, but to all cancers.

Stacy Jordan, mammography tech-

nologist/supervisor at Orange Park Medical Center, eight-year volunteer and vice president of operations for the cancer society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer annual fundraiser, called the symposium and Making Strides important for Northeast Florida.

"This combination of events...the cooperation between passionate physicians, organizers, volunteers and supporters spreads awareness of resources all over the area. Patients need not travel long distances to receive care, education, information and support services they need...they can stay close to home. And every year more participate, raising awareness and thousands of dollars for breast cancer research," Jordan said.

The free fifth Pink Ribbon Symposium will be held Saturday, Oct. 6, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. Guest speaker Peggy Fleming is a breast cancer survivor, former Olympian and U.S. Figure Skating Champion. The symposium will also include a panel of Spanish speakers, a session on hereditary breast cancers and men diagnosed with breast cancer.

There will be approximately 70 exhibitors and a silent auction. Immediately following the symposium attendees will join Jeannie Blaylock of Buddy Check 12 to celebrate its 20th anniversary with a Ta Ta Cha Cha across the Main Street Bridge. The public is invited to participate along with symposium attendees. Aerial photos will be taken and the Main Street Bridge will be closed from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information and free classes in the Ta Ta Cha Cha, visit the Pink Ribbon Symposium website.

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# Breast cancer patients' best medicine – Friends, family, community

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As critical to a breast cancer patient's treatment and recovery, is the commitment and support of a passionate team of health care providers, family, friends and caring strangers.

Bonnie Verlander, Helen Ghezai Miller and Gail Gibson are deeply, forever grateful to those who stood beside them through their breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

New Point La Vista resident Bonnie Verlander — along with her husband Alan and four daughters, ages nine to 15 — were shocked to receive the news that Verlander, then 38, had breast cancer. She underwent a double mastectomy and four rounds of chemotherapy. But the family was bolstered by a

the family. Husband Alan updated a website that included news of Verlander's progress. Other friends cleaned the refrigerator, planted flowers at her house or stayed with Verlander during chemo treatment.

ent experience than it would have been," Verlander said.

Vodenicker's breast cancer scare came just before Verlander was diagnosed, but her biopsies were benign. She remembered the morning she

several Buds for Bonnie friends. At the end of October Verlander will complete the final phase of her treatment.

Gail Gibson, a breast cancer survivor, found a way to help others learn as much as they can about the disease. She volunteers to distribute information for the Pink Ribbon Symposium (table at Riverside Arts Market) and for Brides Against Breast Cancer. Gibson, an accounting clerk currently job hunting, is also a community volunteer for the Presidential Election Campaign.

"In 2010 a lump I found was diagnosed with Acute Stage 3 breast cancer that had spread to lymph nodes, but not my bloodstream. Dr. Linda Sylvester, medical oncologist, gave me such confidence; I knew she was going to take care of me. She did not sugarcoat anything. 'Gail', she said, 'this will be a very difficult year for you.' My parents, friends, pastor, church and other churches helped me with rides, phone calls, encouragement and prayers," she said. "In 2011 when I got my strength back, I began to volunteer at events to help other women like me."

Sylvester is a founder of the Pink Ribbon Symposium.

Helen Ghezai Miller, patient of Dr. Cynthia Anderson, is a breast cancer survivor, single mother of three children ages 13, 16 and 18 and math teacher for Duval County homebound students all over Jacksonville — many in Riverside/Avondale and Murray Hill neighborhoods.

Miller's breast cancer was found during a regular mammogram in 2010. She said help from neighbors and friends kept her going through her mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

"My family came from all over the U.S. to help — their love and support eased my physical and mental pain — it never occurred to me that I would not make it," she said.

The commitment and support from others has inspired Miller to do the same for other breast cancer patients. Since completing treatment in 2011, she has been a volunteer for The Donna Foundation and Bosom Buddies at the Women's Center. She also plans to attend the Pink Ribbon Symposium this month.



large group of friends who helped her beat it. Verlander's support group included friends, neighbors, co-workers, church leaders and community contacts from both sides of the river. Her vigilant team called themselves "Buds for Bonnie."

The group mobilized quickly and efficiently. Each friend claimed a task that would support Verlander. Avondale resident and friend Katie Elksnis, for example, handled the assignment of scheduling meals for

Alan Verlander's mother, Karen, managed carpool for the family.

"It meant so much to me — I couldn't stand long or lift anything," Verlander said, recalling how one friend helped her pick out flowers and let her sit and watch while she planted them. "It was wonderful, those little things kept life normal."

Verlander said friend and San Marco resident Kathi Vodenicker was her "chief cheerleader."

"They all made this a very differ-

happened to phone right after Verlander had gotten the cancer diagnosis.

"Bonnie and I already had such a heart connection. Our friendship was based on a foundation of grace and faith and I had just gone through my own scare — I knew some of what she was feeling," Vodenicker said. "I wanted to help keep her life happy and normal. She's such a gift — she's an amazing woman, wife and mother."

San Marco resident Kelly Murphy helped Verlander by getting groceries for the family and organizing school lunches. On some occasions she spent the night with the family when Alan was out of town. Murphy, a mother of boys, said she felt blessed to help Bonnie and her daughters.

"Bonnie is brave and courageous — she's such an example of how to survive hard times with utmost grace and dignity," Murphy said. "Everyone cooperating to help her simply shows we can each help someone in need in ways that really matter."

With the hard work behind her, Verlander plans to run The 26.2 with Donna half-marathon in February 2013 with her 71-year-old father and



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# Southside United Methodist Church's Pumpkin Patch adds up for youth

BY OLGA BAYER  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The vernal equinox may signal the official transition from summer to fall, but nothing puts us in the mood for autumn fun and festivities quite like the Pumpkin Patch. When the north lawn or "point" of Southside 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.

SUMC's Pumpkin Patch at 3120 Hendricks Ave. has been a favorite spot for little ghosts and goblins for more than 15 years. The patch, a major fundraiser for the youth group, also is a major undertaking that requires year-long planning and plenty of manpower from set up to break down.

By all accounts, the event has been a huge success, and typically earns \$10,000 to \$15,000 for youth mission trips such as the annual Guatemala trip.

Barring inclement weather, the pumpkin patch process runs smoothly, almost down to a science. The pumpkins are contracted through a North Carolina-based company, and hauled from a Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico. They arrive in two separate deliveries, one at the end of September, and a reload in mid-October.

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.

It's an "all-church" effort and Steve Dickson, SUMC's youth director, said people of all ages participate to unload the big rig filled with 3,000-some-odd pumpkins.

"There's usually about 100 people involved," Dickson said. "We start about 9 a.m. and it's a good three hours. It's a pretty cool system. We line up shoulder to shoulder and pass the pumpkins down the line to wherever they need to go...they snake through the patch. We set up one row, and go down the next row. It's a really cool effort. We always give the little kids the little pumpkins to put in a certain area."

Pumpkins are priced according to 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 and youth set up tents, lights, tables and decorations as well as 200 pallets to keep pumpkins dry and off the ground. Youth help customers pick out pump-

kins, 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 event for the neighborhood.

"Some families come year after year to get family pictures taken on the same bench," Dickson said. "It's a family tradition. We even have birthday parties held at the patch."

Youth parent Cecile Rider said her kids have "grown up" at the patch, and it's something they look forward to



Outfitted in Pumpkin Patch aprons, youth member Bailey Rider and youth parent Jen Harbin show off small pumpkins for sale

each year.

"We enjoy everything about it," Rider said. "It's a great way to know our church family better and meet wonderful people from our neighborhood. One of the best parts is we have all this fun while working for such a great cause — youth ministry and missions."

## The Great, er, Greek pumpkin

The local Methodist churches have long hosted the neighborhood's only pumpkin patch. But this year, there's a new patch n town.

St. Nicholas-based St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, located near University Boulevard at 3850 Atlantic Boulevard, is hosting its 1st Annual Pumpkin Patch and Greek Bake Sale. The new fundraising event will be selling pumpkins and locally made Greek deserts, including baklava, Oct. 1-31. The patch will be open from noon to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, from

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and from noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

Funds raised from the patch and baked goods support Wolfson Children's Hospital and the parish's new church home.

Guests seeking more seasonal sports-related fun from the patch are in luck. Former Jaguar Mike Hollis will promote the church event from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 13. Shannon Miller, the most decorated American Olympic gymnast in history, will be at the patch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 20.

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# New Bolles Head of School moves into San Marco

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Brian Johnson and his wife Cindy were looking for a neighborhood with a sense of community and place that was convenient to the Bartram, San Jose and Ponte Vedra campuses of The Bolles School, where Brian recently was hired as head of school.

They found it in San Marco. This summer, the Johnsons moved from Colorado into a beautiful, understated home on Holly Lane. Brian said it's just the place to raise their three children, Kyle, (ninth grade), Luke (seventh grade) and Quinn (third grade) — and, of course, their large greyhound, Cruz.

The Resident sat down with Johnson last month in his Bolles School office to reflect on his new communities, and what kind of impact he hopes to make there.

## What was your Jacksonville connection prior to coming to Bolles?

I had no connection to Jacksonville. But I've long known Bolles — it's a fairly small world of independent schools, and Bolles has a tremendous reputation nationally. I had run into Bolles graduates, I hired one when I was working at a school in Kentucky. Bolles also fit our family's desires for a school. It was a great match for us professionally, but it was also a great opportunity for our kids.

## Tell me a little about the opportunity, what was your family looking for in terms of a "next move?"

We wanted to have a community that had a city but also had a small town feel. That's why we settled in San Marco, frankly. It has that sense of place that you don't often get in a major city. Jacksonville has those opportunities and that's what was most attractive to us about San Marco.

## Where else did you look?

We looked all over the city. The location being so close to Downtown but also being seven or eight minutes from two of the campuses where I'll spend most of my time, was a real selling point. We loved Julington Creek, but at the end of the day it was the combination of the location and the feel of the place that drew us to San Marco Square.



## What attracted you to your house?

It's very understated and removed from the road, it's a very livable house. It was built in the 1930s but has some of the amenities of a house that has been redone.

## Who's under your roof now?

My wife Cindy and I have Kyle, Luke and Quinn. They're on all three campuses of the school. We have a greyhound, a rescue greyhound named Cruz that we love. He is a giant greyhound. He's about as big a greyhound as you're ever going to see.

## What have the kids enjoyed about neighborhood?

They enjoy the feel of the neighborhood — there are lots of kids around. My daughter has a piano teacher who lives three or four houses down the street. We have a side lot and there are some lacrosse nets around. My boys love football and lacrosse.

## Any interests you can pursue in the neighborhood?

I workout six days a week but I don't do that all outside, partially

because I'm still melting in Florida. I do run twice a week on the elliptical and swim two days a week.

## Bolles has an emphasis on volunteerism and doing for the community, how do you plan to put yourself out there in the Jacksonville community?

We want to do whatever we can do as a school to reach out to the community. As a school we want to be a place that serves the public good. Being so new to the community, it's difficult know what I'll be doing to reach out personally. In my previous schools, I've been very active with Urban League, youth ministry, working with the I Have a Dream Foundation, which works with underserved families, and I'm engaged at the Lincoln Foundation in Louisville. Diversity is a real passion for me in terms of school. We're looking at opportunities here, and as a family we've typically volunteered at our church.

## Do you have plans to worship anywhere locally?

It's a good question. So we've visited some wonderful churches. We seek

out Bible-believing churches that have a focus on mission. And there are a lot of them here in Jacksonville. We are having a family conversation about the specifics of worship and youth programming with the kids. I think we'll have a final decision within the next two or three sees. Church is very important to our family.

## Have you found places you like to go to go around San Marco?

We liked all the restaurants there in San Marco, from bb's to European Street Cafe and Pizza Palace — we're big fans of Pizza Palace — the whole area has been great. We've done a fair amount of recreation. But the school is a pretty comprehensive place for that. Our kids are very busy. My older son plays football, and there's a significant commitment to football here. Even relative to other high school football teams, this commitment is significant at Bolles. Then, academically, Bolles does not shy away from saying it will be a challenge. They are very busy.

## How does your parenting parlay into your new role as head of school?

I'm told I'm the first head of school that has had children attending the school. Part of it is to take the big picture with my own kids. Their experience isn't everyone's experience. I've also learned not to react to what a 15-year-old might say in a weak moment of being frustrated — I try to take that in context. I spend a lot of time with the kids here, I eat lunch with them, I go listen in on classes, and I'll sit with kids in foyer. Those things give me a sense of what the kids are experiencing.

## What is your goal for your children, and is the same for these students?

I always say — and it's not very elegant the way I say it — but I say it's our job is to help families help their children become better people. That's what I want. I want my children to be good people. I want them to use the talents God's given them in positive ways for others. We believe very strongly in service at Bolles. That's who we are. That's what I want for my kids. I want them to serve others and to be good people.



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BUSINESS PROFILE

Lindamood-Bell helps motivate struggling students, boost learning efficiencies

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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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# Jr. Residents

## Southbank's littlest Jags 'all in' on Fridays



Children attending Chappell Child Development Centers across Jacksonville — including the Southbank center shown in the photos — don their teal each game day Friday in support of the home team. Last month students at the Southbank center showed their Jags pride alongside staff and assistants.

## Local preschoolers celebrate firsts

Local preschoolers across the neighborhood have been enjoying their first few weeks of school — trying new things and experiencing fun challenges for the first time. At Southside United Methodist Preschool, students have enjoyed the thrill of new friendships and their first few weeks of chapel. In September, Lucy and Cindy Pearson were the school's very first acolytes of the year.



Lucy Pearson and mom Cindy led a recent preschool service last month as the first acolytes of the year



Ava Salmon and Gabby Stapleton

# Local gym observes National Gymnastics Day

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 Gyminators 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.



Paula Falls, owner of Gyminators at 4603 Shirley Avenue, helps an aspiring gymnast up and over the bar



Demont Peyton, Gyminator staff, with his cadre of tumblers

Gyminator Staffer Heidi Kirkham assists a young gymnast along the balance beam.



Success for Kids Academy owner Patricia Green, along with Sierra Frazier, Walisha Green, Earla Watts, Shayla Green and Rhema Jackson, participated with a booth on National Gymnastics Day

# JCA to host early childhood education symposium

The Jewish Community Alliance will host its 4th Annual Early Childhood Education Symposium at the San Jose center Oct. 16.

The symposium aims to help adults “take a step back and see “Through a Child’s Eyes” to “better provide the materials, activities and intentional teaching needed to foster children’s learning as well as better understand

their behaviors and actions.”

Keynote speaker and developmental psychologist Cindy Rzasz Bess, Ph.D., will discuss “I’m Not Being Difficult, I’m Being Me!” on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Parents and educators from Northeast Florida will come together from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the JCA’s 4th annual early childhood

symposium and enjoy breakout sessions on positivism, respect, and kindness; creating science spaces; bullying; and effective storytelling.

Tickets are \$30 per person and \$40 per person after Oct. 11. A kosher dinner will be served, and Jewish educators can attend for a special reduced rate.

For more information, call

Rochelle Golomb at 730-2100 ext. 259.

Looking ahead, the JCA will further enlighten local parents on the experiences of children with the Feb. 21 visit of New York Times best-selling author, Madeline Levine. She will discuss her books, “Teach Your Children Well” and “The Price of Privilege.”

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## 70 years for Hendricks Elementary School

October marks 70 years of Hendricks Elementary School and local community leaders are coming together for a celebration.

Friends of Hendricks, a local non-profit helping generate private funds for the neighborhood school, is planning a special flag-raising ceremony at the campus on Oct. 5. The event, which begins at 8:30 a.m., will include the presentation of an American flag that flew over Washington, D.C.'s U.S. Capitol Building on Aug. 20 in Hendricks' honor.

Several local school board and city leaders are expected to be at the flag-pole for the event including District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer, school board representative W.C. Gentry and Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown.

In addition to the 70 years, the school also is celebrating a rare milestone — 42 years of 100 percent PTA membership participation, according to PTA President Stephanie Helton.

"Since the school opened its doors in the 1940s, families have evolved from the traditional one working parent and stay-at-home mom to single-parent families and dually employed partners. In all this time, one thing that has not waived is parental involvement," Helton said. "Parents and volunteers are what truly makes Hendricks special — without them we would not be able to orchestrate the much-loved activities, special events and programs that bring our students and families the enjoyment and security of our close-knit family."

No birthday party would be complete without food and cake, and local businesses have stepped up to make sure no one escapes the day hungry.

Jersey Mike's Subs, which recently opened a restaurant on Hendricks Avenue, is donating food for the school's faculty and staff. Students will get birthday cupcakes during their lunch period — and each child receives one free homework assignment pass.

## Walk to School Day

Keep your eyes open for neighborhood children walking and riding their bikes to school Oct. 3.

Hendricks Avenue Elementary School joins other schools around the city and country in their celebration of International Walk to School Day.

Event promoters say while many families walk and ride to school every day, an emphasis on biking and walking helps

put safety and health in focus. Parents and caregivers are asked to park at the homes of friends who live nearby and let their children get to school on their own steam. Organizers will have water stations and greeters along the way. Children must walk with a responsible adult.

For more information about the event, visit <http://www.walktoschool.org/>.

## 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 negotiation 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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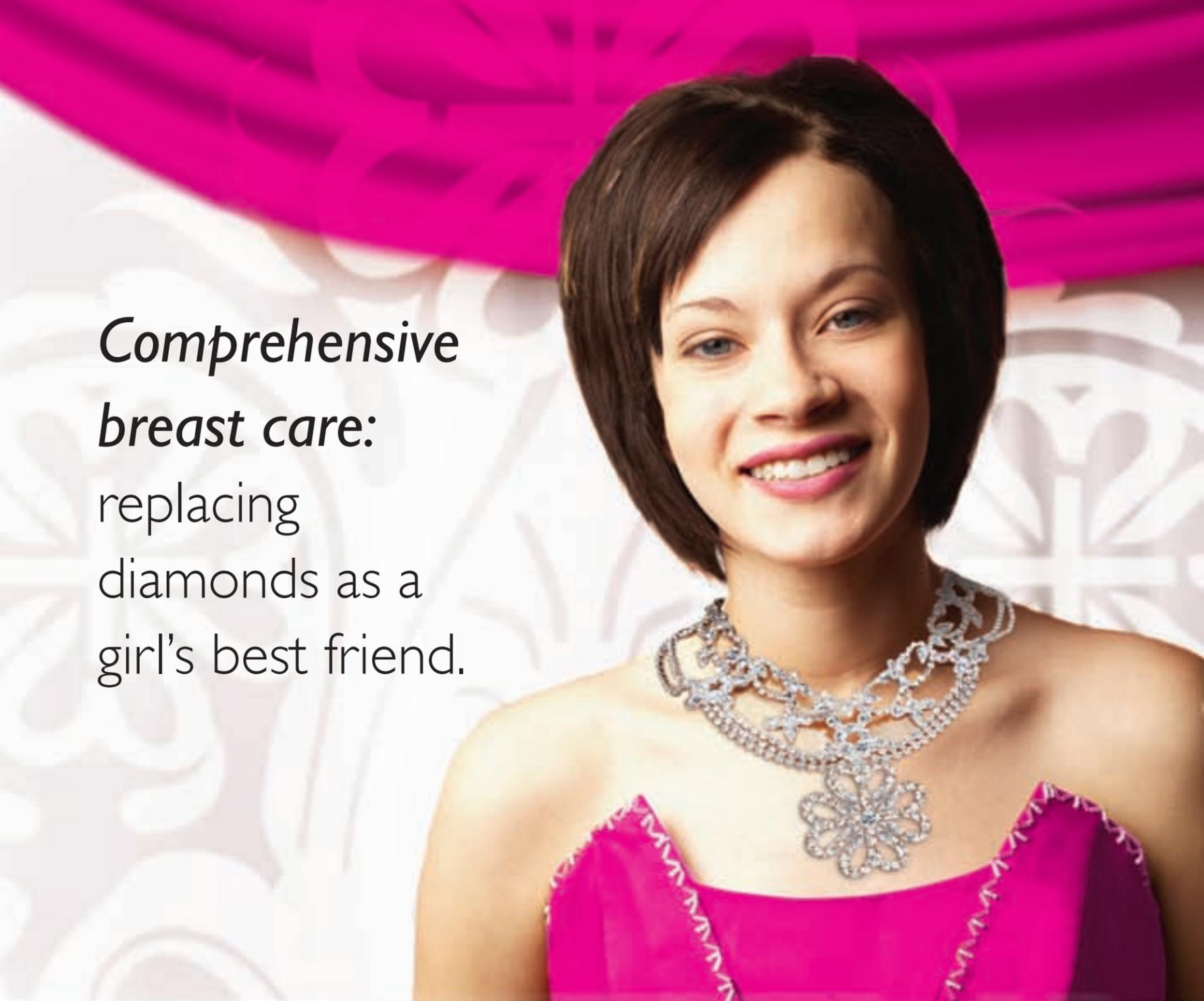
Let's face it. Some schools simply aren't what you think they should be. At Bolles, everything you want and need in a school is possible: smaller class sizes with exceptional teachers; an advanced curriculum, coupled with some of the best arts and sports programs in the nation; and state of the art classrooms in a positive, safe environment. All of these combined create what we call **THE BOLLES KNOWLEDGE**. It's the advantage you need to make your dreams for the future possible.

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](http://www.BollesSuccessKit.org) or call (904) 256-5030.**





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