

Wishing You a Happy New Year!

The Resident

Community News



The Riverside
Wine Fest
& Fall Festival

Cindy Manouilidis with Bennett Archer, Sam Wyatt, Clark LaBlond and Eileen Wilson Page 22

32nd Red Rose Ball

St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation to host Viva la Rosa!, the 32nd annual Red Rose Ball on Feb. 8, 2013 at the Jacksonville Marriott at Southpoint. Amazing excursions are up for bidding at an auction emceed by former Pro Football player Tony Boselli, including a Hunting & Fishing trip in Aspen, a VIP Kentucky Derby experience, and a Napa Valley Wine Extravaganza. This year's Red Rose Ball Chairs include Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Acosta-Rua, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Arnold, Drs. Ali and Nayla Chahlavi, and Honorary Chairs Mr. and Mrs. John Godfrey.

Proceeds from the Spanish-inspired gourmet dinner and auction will benefit St. Vincent's Spine and Brain Institute. For reservations, call (904) 308-7338.



Viva La Rosa

Dr. Nayla Chahlavi, Jill Arnold, and Brooke Acosta-Rua

Photo by Aaron Mervin, Head Shots Studio

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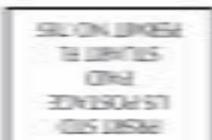
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Meet our Team



DEBRA MCGREGOR
Sales & Marketing
Consulting and
Management

Debra has been with *The Resident* since its inception in January 2007.

Although new to the newspaper business then, she has thoroughly enjoyed learning it! Her work history was in the home building industry for 12+ years. She started with a local home builder as the receptionist and over the next few years, worked her way through the

accounting department, sales assistant position, regional manager's assistant up until the company was sold to a national home builder. At that point, she was thrown into the company's land development division and became the land development manager. "I loved it! It was never the same thing every day. I was in charge of due diligence before the land was purchased, obtaining all permitting for horizontal construction, infrastructure, entranceways and roadways as well as landscaping and entry gates. It was like putting a huge puzzle together! Much like putting together ads for a newspaper." Her favorite part of working for *The Resident* is EVERYTHING! "I feel so fortunate to work for people I love and having a new adventure every day in the best neighborhoods of the city!"



KATE A. HALLOCK
Editor /
General Assignment Reporter

A newcomer to Jacksonville in late 2011, Kate has long harbored a desire to return to her journalistic roots. After graduating from the renowned University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism, Kate took a 35-year detour into public relations and marketing. She has worked for large corporations in manufacturing and banking as well as small- to medium-

size marketing agencies, most recently leaving a 24-year career as vice president with a Pittsburgh agency. To keep her skills current, Kate also published a monthly 16-page trade publication for 17 years on a strictly volunteer basis. "I knew *The Resident* was the place for me when I saw their tagline: Fiercely Local News, Fiercely Loyal Readers," said Kate. "I have a track record of loyalty to everything I undertake. Just ask my husband of 31 years!" As copyeditor and general assignment reporter, she's learning her way around Jacksonville at a fast pace.

STEVE DIMATTIA
General Assignment
Reporter / Photojournalist

Steve has lived in the same home in Riverside since 1992 so he's certainly familiar with the community. After years of receiving *The Resident* in his mailbox he began writing for the paper in 2011. His favorite stories are those that focus on solutions rather than problems and which highlight people and organizations quietly going about the business of doing great things in our community.



VICTORIA REGISTER FREEMAN
Contributing
Writer

Victoria has lived on the same Historic District street for 30 years in three different houses. A former English teacher, a nationally published author, a bike commuter, and a University of Florida Master Gardener, she and her husband Robert own the House On Cherry B&B, which is open on a limited basis. Victoria writes *The Resident's* Way We Were column and an occasional gardening column. She says, "I have been privileged to interview almost 50 individuals for WWW. Each person has given me a glimpse of the events and the people that have made this community the amazing place it is."



STEPHEN KINDLAND
General Assignment
Reporter / Photojournalist

Stephen has won several awards for writing and photography during a 20-year journalism career that began at Clay Today in Orange Park. He is considered a versatile writer and editor, having worked as a general assignment reporter, sports editor and photographer for community newspapers as well as larger publications such as the Orlando Sentinel and the Florida Times-Union. Kindland also has been a freelance writer for several years. He has been contributing to *The Resident* since 2010, and recently completed two books of children's poems that he hopes to have published sometime this year. "I've been blessed with countless opportunities to meet so many interesting people," Kindland said. "It doesn't matter to me whether I'm talking to a stranger in a diner or interviewing a homeless man, a star athlete or the CEO of a major corporation. What I've learned is that we all have the same basic concerns, and that we all feel the same emotions." A native of Jamestown, N.Y., Kindland graduated with honors from both the University of Buffalo and the University of Florida, where he majored in journalism.



JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Contributing Writer

Julie has lived in Avondale for 18 years and works as a freelance writer, editor and professional soprano sacred and classical soloist. A native Hoosier, she was accepted into the Indiana University School of Music as a voice student at age 12 and later continued to study as an operatic vocal performance major. Also a writer from a young age, she sold her first article at 15 and was then hired by the local newspaper to report on community events. She completed her degree from Indiana University in English and Journalism. Julie continued her dual careers in Tampa and Nashville before moving to Jacksonville. She has lived in Avondale 18 years where she is active in the local arts community, supports children's charities and is immediate past president of Community Nutcracker Ballet, Inc. Julie is the mother of Alex, Lily and Olivia.



LAURA JANE PITTMAN

Contributing Writer
Laura Jane has been writing for *The Resident* since the summer of 2009. She handles the monthly San Marco Way We Were column, in addition to helping out with business profiles and other feature stories. Laura Jane's two degrees in English – a BA from The University of



the South, Sewanee, TN, and an MEd from the University of Georgia (Go Bulldogs!) – have served her well in her nearly 20-year freelance career. She writes and edits for a variety of clients in journalism, PR/marketing, education and other industries. When not working, Laura Jane can be found spending time with her husband and three children, singing in the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and doing yoga. Laura Jane's favorite things about writing for *The Resident* are the wonderful people she has gotten to meet and the amazing tidbits she's learned about Jacksonville history.



We hope you're looking forward to 2013 as much as we are!

We are predicting that it will be a year of great growth for **The Resident Community News Group**. This issue marks the start of our seventh – can you believe it? – year of publication.

Some of you know our sweet little girl Sophia was born one month after our launch. We can't help but draw some parallels between giving birth to a baby and birthing a brand new newspaper.

Just as Sophia has grown from a wee infant to a kindergartner, so has the paper grown. We could not have done that without our advertisers, who wouldn't have done it without our readers! *The Resident* really is the conduit to the community and so...if you love your *Resident News*...thank an advertiser! It is because of the advertisers that you receive your paper every month and it is our pleasure to be a part of this community.

The Resident is going through another growth spurt, but we couldn't do it without a team of dedicated professionals, some who've been here since the early crazy days and some who are newcomers to the paper and to the area. If you see them out and about the community, feel free to say "Welcome" or pitch a story idea - we are all here to serve this wonderful community we call home.

Resident COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.

Seth & Pamela



ROBERT L. RODRIGUEZ
Circulation/ Distribution

"Having lived in Avondale for over 30 years, I find this area to be pedestrian friendly and it hosts numerous fine dining establishments along with many parks and small locally owned shops. Residents of Riverside and Avondale tend to stay in the neighborhood

and find it difficult to imagine living in any other part of town." Robert has been in the diesel engine business for his entire career, managing shop operations, accounting functions, international sales and all forms of administrative tasks. It was this career that brought him to Jacksonville from his hometown of Tampa.



GRANT THORNTON, *Circulation/ Distribution*

Grant, *The Resident's* distributor for the San Marco business district, is a local artist who has lived in Riverside since the late 1990s.

In his spare time he focuses on his artwork and is a freelance renovator for Riverside and Avondale homes. He grew

up in southeast Georgia, and enjoys frequent trips to his family farm. Over the past seven years he has been featured in various art shows, galleries, and even completed a 450-square-foot ceiling mural in an Avondale home. He enjoys keeping in touch with the local community by working with *The Resident* crew, and finds it adventurous to explore all of the small businesses in the San Marco area.



MARGOT STREET
Graphic Designer /Production Manager

An expert in publication and advertising design, as well as production management with a Bachelors of Art in Communications from New York University and an Associates of Art in Graphic

Design and Marketing from Indian River Community College, Margot started with *The Resident* in 2007. She has over 15 years' experience in newspaper layout and design.



JOE BAHRET, *Graphic Designer*

Joe Bahret is an Indiana native that came to Florida to get his graphic design degree at Flagler College, and moved to Jacksonville after graduation. He has lived in the Riverside/Avondale area since 1994 and cannot imagine living in any

other area. He has been working with several different publications over his 18 years of professional design and printing career and now has his own local design and printing business, Compound Graphics.

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1426 TALBOT AVE - \$219,000
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3320 LAKESHORE BLVD - \$599,000
Wonderful 3/2, 2483sf, .75ac riverfront lot, pool, gourmet kitchen, dock/lifts



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3535 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$519,000
Elegant shake shingle, 4/3, 3000sf, near the Shops of Avondale



4168 WATER OAK LN - \$325,000
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4055 MCGIRTS BLVD - \$351,000
Charming 3/2, immaculate & updated, 2160sf, 2-car garage



Ellen Walters, REALTOR®
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ellen@fredmillergroup.com



4631 ALGONQUIN AVE - \$649,000
Updated 4/5/1, over 4860sf, perfect location and great floor plan in the Terrace



1456 EDGEWOOD CIR S - \$465,000
Beautifully updated two-story Avondale 3/3, 2372sf, pool, 2-car garage w/rapt



5598 FAIR LANE DR - \$669,000
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Beverly Sleeth



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Wally Lee
President
JAX Chamber

As I retire, I find myself reflecting on the 23+ years I have served as JAX Chamber president

and what I love about our area. It has been my distinct pleasure during these years to represent the business community and help promote economic development.

Our community's success would not be possible without our thriving and unique neighborhoods – the city's first suburbs. Traditional and charming, Riverside, Avondale, San Marco, San Jose, Springfield and Ortega, among others, are a major

Appreciating our Unique Neighborhoods

asset to our city and region. In fact, if you search #ilovejax on Twitter, you will find that people most frequently cite the diversity of our neighborhoods as the number one reason they love JAX.

#ilovejax represents and promotes a conversation about all there is to love about the seven counties in the JAX Region. It is a long-term effort to further boost pride in our regional community.

Our neighborhoods help build community pride. When residents feel good about where they live, they speak positively to their friends, family and colleagues who may live here or somewhere else. The word spreads. Visitors experience the positive energy, and they go home talking about what they love about JAX.

The houses, ranging from grand mansions to newly refurbished bungalows, give our neighborhoods a unique character, diversity and beauty that is hard to find in many cities. I am proud to say that my wife Alyson and I will enjoy my retirement living in one of these beautiful neighborhoods,

San Jose, about two miles from the heart of San Marco.

It does not take one long to fall in love with the character and charm of our city's historic areas. In fact, one of my earliest observations about our city was the number, nature, diversity and quality of places to live. The Riverside and Avondale communities make up the nation's largest historic district, with 6,000 structures. This is an incredible statistic and something that should make us all proud, notwithstanding where we live in JAX.

As we revitalize Downtown, the neighborhoods are also contributing to its resurgence. For me, Downtown is and always will be a top priority. Our city's urban core should be a physical reflection of civic pride, community self-worth and confidence that is immediately seen and felt by both visitors in general and visiting business professionals.

The JAX Chamber Board of Directors identified Downtown revitalization as a major priority during the last three years.

They identified four objectives to enhance our urban core: a marketing campaign for Downtown, the creation of a Downtown Investment Authority, Downtown's New Front Door and more Downtown events and festivals. We made impressive progress toward each of these goals in 2012.

There are already many great attributes to love about our Downtown that already attract thousands of people. The Jaguars, Suns, Sharks, museums, performing arts, Art Walk, the Riverwalk, the weekly Riverside Arts Market (RAM), Community First Saturdays and annual events like the Gator Bowl Classic, the Jazz Festival and the Florida-Georgia game.

In conclusion, I want to commend and thank the residents and businesses who comprise what I consider to be one of our greatest assets – our unique neighborhoods. I take great pride in these unique, diverse regional neighborhoods, and I am happy now to be a San Jose neighbor.

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St. Johns Riverkeeper Volunteers of the Year



Roger Linville (Volunteer Coordinator), Shannon Blankinship (Outreach Director), Alicia Smith (Volunteer of the Year), Lisa Rinaman (St. Johns Riverkeeper), Jim Alabiso (St. Johns River Advocate of the Year), Jimmy Orth (Executive Director), Beth and Peter Welch (Bioswale Volunteer Service Award)

St. Johns Riverkeeper, a nonprofit advocacy organization for the St. Johns River, recently announced the recipients of its 2012 Volunteer Awards:

St. Johns River Advocate of the Year: Jim Alabiso is an outspoken advocate for the St. Johns River. Jim and his JumpingFish team have organized 6-kilometer swims across the river, a 12-mile swim up the St. Johns, and over a dozen Rebel Mile Swims through Downtown Jacksonville.

St. Johns Riverkeeper Volunteer of the Year: Alicia Smith is the 2012 Volunteer of the Year and is also one of the leaders of Rising Tides, St. Johns Riverkeeper's young professionals group.

Bioswale Volunteer Service Award: Peter and Beth Welch have helped to spearhead maintenance of the Lasalle Bioswale, hand-watering plants to get them established, pulling weeds, and keeping the swale free of trash.

Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, explains the importance of volunteers to her organization: "Volunteers are essential to our efforts to raise awareness and educate the community about the St. Johns River and to advocate for its protection and restoration. We are grateful for the dedicated service of this year's award recipients and for all of our volunteers who work so hard and contribute so much of their time to our river each year."

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*from customer survey, 05/2012

Mellow Mushroom and We Love Avondale

reach tentative agreement

Final approval awaiting January 5 LUZ meeting

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A month of hard work behind closed doors has led to a tentative New Year's agreement in the lingering battle over the opening of the Mellow Mushroom in the Shoppes of Avondale.

Representatives from both sides met several times last month with District 14 City Councilman Jim Love in an effort to find a compromise. At the end, it took a closed meeting of Mellow Mushroom representatives with the concerned groups to come up with the conditions of the agreement, which will be presented for approval to the Land Use and Zoning Committee on Jan. 5. The groups who appealed a Planning Commission decision to grant outdoor sales and service – and full sale of alcohol – include We Love Avondale LLC, Riverside Avondale Preservation, Pine Street residents and Riverside residents.

“The meetings were designed for appellants and Mellow Mushroom to work together to see where they each stood so they could reach a compromise. The goal was for them to

resolve their differences prior to the LUZ meeting, which they've accomplished,” said Love, who held the first of three meetings Dec. 7. The others were held Dec. 12 and Dec. 20, each in Love's office. “I congratulate all parties for working to come up with this compromise. No one got everything they wanted; both parties gave and got a little bit.”

Present at one or all of the meetings were: Jim Love and Kevin Kuzel (Love's assistant); Dylan Reingold (general council's office); John Valentino, Steve Diebenow, Laura Jones and Heather Reynolds (Mellow Mushroom); George Gable, Jennifer Mansfield, Alicia Grant, Tommy Donahoo, Jr., Mark Anderson, Ben Phillips, Susan Fraser and Bill Proctor (WLA and other groups); Jonathan Oliff and Carmen Godwin (RAP). Sunshine laws did not apply because Love was the only council member present, so the meetings were restricted to appellants and Mellow Mushroom representatives.

While the appeals took precedence, other familiar issues were also negotiated: parking, noise control, restaurant scale and seat count. Love described the atmosphere as “congenial but serious.”

Both parties have agreed not to share specifics until after the LUZ

meeting, but Love did provide some details. They agreed on a 204 seat overall total, with outside seating not exceeding 40. Along with also agreeing that the restaurant would average 14 employees, they will meet the parking requirement by providing 22 spaces on the property along St. Johns Avenue currently occupied by an old gas station. An additional seven spaces will be grandfathered in from the old 'town restaurant building, which Mellow Mushroom will occupy, and Love and Mellow Mushroom's attorney, Steve Diebenow, are working with the city's planning department to provide two handicapped spaces along St. Johns in front of the restaurant.

“Conditions allow the sale of alcohol and outdoor sales and service provided certain restrictions are put into place concerning hours of outside operation, live entertainment and overall impact on the neighborhood,” said WLA representative Tommy Donahoo. “In essence, our goal from the start has been to press

upon this applicant that he must meet the code and stay within the character of the Shoppes of Avondale.”

If proceedings move forward as expected, LUZ will vote to deny the appeals and approve the conditions as agreed upon by both parties. It will then go before the full City Council for a vote on Jan. 8.

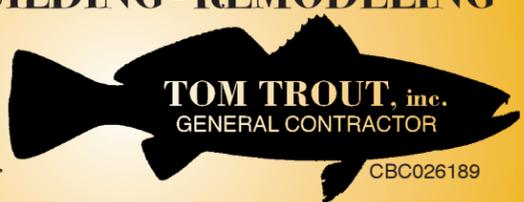
“There is still design work to be done, but we should be able to begin construction within the next six months once we get city council approval,” Diebenow said.

Mellow Mushroom developer John Valentino is looking ahead. “We look forward to bringing the best pizza in town to Avondale. I'm excited for all of our friends and supporters and thank them for their efforts throughout this process,” Valentino said.

The special LUZ meeting takes place Saturday, Jan. 5 at 9 a.m. and will have a public hearing portion, according to LUZ chairperson Lori Boyer.

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Cummer announces major changes to campus



Cummer Museum/Riverside Avenue Renderings, 2012. © Richard Skinner & Associates, Architects

keep a watchful eye on it. "We've had very little vandalism in all our years here, just a little graffiti tag here and there," she noted.

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens wants to connect dots – cultural, civic and environmental dots, that is. According to museum director Hope McMath, The Cummer's campus is undergoing a \$3.5 million restoration and landscape enhancement project that began with the first phase last September in the heretofore non-public Olmsted Garden.

"This project has been on the table for nearly a decade and made us look with fresh eyes at the entire campus from the front door on," said McMath at a press conference on Dec. 5. "We felt it was past time to put a beacon on the front lawn to show who we are."

Plans include the restoration of the historic, century-old Olmsted Garden, an outdoor space for the TreeCup Café, and integration of a sculpture garden on The Cummer's front lawn. The sidewalk along Riverside Avenue will be widened to 10 feet and the parking lots also will be refurbished.

McMath noted, "We are using this project as a demonstration of our sustainability efforts. It's important that The Cummer is a model for best practices in doing a garden in an environmentally friendly way." She also stated that their goal is to be more open and accessible by removing the hedges and creating a promenade along Riverside Avenue, and the front lawn sculpture garden will be free and open to the public.

"We want to take a role in connect-

ing the dots along Riverside, starting with Memorial Park, then The Cummer, the new dog park, the Riverside Arts Market and the Brooklyn District," McMath said. "It's an extremely important zone for the city, to celebrate its sustainability, beauty and pedestrian-friendly environment, connecting the city, nonprofit and corporate sectors."

John Donahoo, III, chairman of the board of directors for The Cummer, kicked off the press event by sharing why these renovations are so important. "First, the project is in keeping with our mission to engage and inspire through the arts, gardens and education. Second, it's historically significant and third, it will have a positive impact on the community."

Plans are to complete the project in fall of 2013. Work is currently in progress on the Olmsted Garden with construction of a new bulkhead; this phase will be finished for a public opening on Apr. 12, 2013.

Holly Keris, chief curator, said that the Cummer Gardens, including the Olmsted Garden, were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. "The Olmsted Garden has never been open to the public," she said. "The addition of this historically accurate garden nearly doubles The Cummer's current riverfront footage, and provides the Museum with another platform to

discuss art, design, history, and environmental conservation, all through the use of our landscape." Keris plans to give a free lecture on the Olmsted Garden on Apr. 23 at 7 p.m.

The campus renovation phase will begin with reconstruction of the Museum's parking lots, which were closed in December for this work, slat-



ed to be finished by March 2013. Following completion of the parking lots, The Cummer will open up the front lawn to the public, with all work finished by Sept. 2013. Outdoor seating will be added for the TreeCup Café and a sculpture garden will be created in front of the Art Connections Building, featuring traveling exhibits as well as two permanent installations – William Zorach's Spirit of the Dance and Takashi Soga's Sea of the Ear Rings.

Bringing art outside may also bring the potential for vandalism, but the Museum has security cameras and all-night lighting in the plan. Although that may not deter a determined graffiti artist, McMath is hopeful that the community will be respectful of the art and

In just a little over a year, The Cummer has raised 97% of the construction costs plus an additional \$1 million endowment for maintenance from individuals, national foundations, and state fund grants. The Museum is asking the public to provide the remaining 3% – \$135,000 – by purchasing \$500 brick pavers for the gathering plaza across from the Museum's

entrance. "I am extremely excited about what's happening here," said District 14 Councilman Jim Love. "I want to buy the first brick!"

Love also noted that when the project is complete The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will rival other massive gardens in the country.

The project team includes Elkins Constructors Inc.;

CMS Group LLC; Connelly & Wicker Inc.; Atlantic Engineering Services; Sunscapes Landscape Design Inc.; Francois Goffinet Limited; and Richard Skinner & Associates, Architects.

Also situated on the campus is the Edward W. Lane, Jr. Building (formerly the Woman's Club of Jacksonville), for which the Museum has plans to incorporate with The Cummer. Those plans are currently paused, according to McMath, as it will have a much higher price tag. She hopes to use the momentum from the Olmsted Garden Restoration project to jumpstart the Lane Building renovation.

For information about the Dedicate a Brick Campaign, contact Director of Development Kenyon Merritt at (904) 899-6025 or visit www.cummer.org.

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LOCAL REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Happy New Year Everyone!

May 2013 bring you and your loved ones an abundance of goodness. As the calendar turns, we wish for each of you the ability to cherish the wonder of what 2013 holds ahead.

Although we were presented with difficult challenges in real estate sales in 2012, our Avondale office had amazing journeys with you. We faced reality, we overcame hardship and we made great strides in turning our local market around. We see our historic district returning to the stable neighborhood we've always relied upon...the confident, self-perpetuating marketplace that provides unique homes to families who will not live anywhere else but here. Our commitment to this community gives each of us a sense of belonging to each other. Coldwell Banker Vanguard's good fortune is to be in the heart of our community where we are able to assist you with your real estate needs. Our reward is your friendship. Thank you.

Many of you have asked us about our prediction for sales in 2013 in our historic district. Slow steady and solid. Don't count on much appreciation, but count on some. With the scarcity of homes to sell, prices will creep up throughout the year. Sellers who understand the scarcity early will see some bidding war action which always translates into prices increasing.

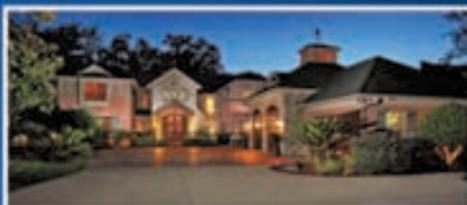
We want you to allow 2013 to open new doors and we want you to know we will be here to help you walk through them. In the end, at closing, we want you to recall how nice it was to pass your home on to a new family who loves it the way you did. That is our goal.

Thank you for continuing to stop by our office! Your commitment and your success is what drives us to be your allies in real estate. Whether it is buying, selling or property management, Coldwell Banker Vanguard is your local resource in real estate. Happy New Year from all of us at CBV Avondale!

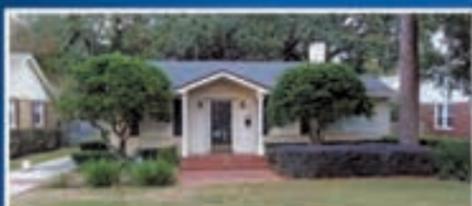
— Anne Rain



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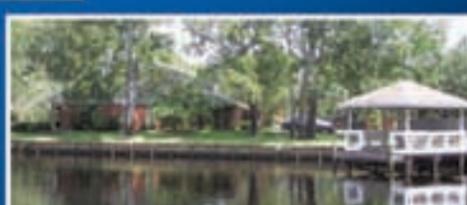
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Legislation will revitalize Brooklyn neighborhood

*New jobs, new housing,
more retail opportunities*

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



Mayor Alvin Brown signs the legislation in support of the Brooklyn redevelopment as members of the business community, civic leaders and administration officials look on.

Christmas came early for developer Pope & Land Jax Riverside LP. And the signed legislation authorizing the city to move forward with public investment will be a gift that keeps on giving for the temporary and permanent jobs to be created, the aging public infrastructure to be revamped and the estimated \$10 million in ad valorem (tax imposed on the value of real estate) revenues for the next 20 years.

The developer has plans to erase the blight that exists in the 11-acre

plot between Riverside Avenue and Park Street by creating 300 housing units and 65,000 square feet of retail space in the city's Brooklyn neighborhood. Riverside Park, as it is called, would become a neighbor to the 220 Riverside project at Riverside Avenue and Jackson Street, and would provide attractive housing options for people who

work in the Riverside Avenue corridor.

Per the legislation signed by Mayor Alvin Brown on Dec. 19, the city would contribute \$1.8 million to

improve infrastructure near the project site and would authorize \$5.15 million in Recapture Enhanced Value (Rev) Grant tax reimbursements. Also, private investment in the project ranges up to \$50.5 million.

In addition to tax revenue, the development will increase property values, and enhance the urban core. And, in addition to the anticipated 247 jobs at the housing and retail complexes, numerous other temporary contracting jobs will be created through project construction. Storm

water infrastructure improvements are expected to prevent flooding and pollution into McCoy's Creek and the St. Johns River from the project area, and that's a nice present for the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

"Beyond creating jobs and developing high-end real estate, this project will refine a major city corridor to give future investors yet another reason to feel confident about Jacksonville," said Mayor Brown. "It's great public-private partnership. When we work together, everyone wins."

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Jaguars owner visits St. Vincent's Riverside

St. Vincent's HealthCare welcomed Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shahid Khan and President Mark Lamping to St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside on Dec. 22. Khan and Lamping visited with physicians and staff members and toured the Gary and Nancy Chartrand Heart & Vascular Center, the Winston Family Orthopedic Center of Excellence and a St. Vincent's HealthCare mobile health unit.



Bob Shircliff and Shahid Khan



St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation Board Member Richard A. Mullaney, Jacksonville Jaguars President Mark Lamping, Attorney & Lobbyist Paul Harden, Jacksonville Jaguars Owner Shahid Khan, St. Vincent's HealthCare CEO & President Moody Chisholm and St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation President & Chief Development Officer Jane R. Lanier

Do public schools make the grade?

New website provides School Facts JAX

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) recently released school statistics on their website which indicates that there is both good news and not-so-good news about the public schools in the area.

The JPEF is an independent non-profit organization that believes informed and active citizens together with attentive and aligned community leaders will move the public schools in a positive direction to prepare their students with success-oriented skills.

The recent launch of the website www.schoolfactsjax.org presents information about public school performance through easy-to-use, interactive charts and visualizations.

A glance through School Facts Jax shows that while many elementary, middle and high schools have passing to acceptable "grades", there are a few that aren't quite making the grade.

Five of the six elementary schools in the Riverside/Avondale /Ortega/Murray Hill area have current school grades of A, but a look back at the previous five years often tells a different story. Both John Stockton and Ruth Upson Elementary Schools

are "straight A" schools for the 2008-2012 period, but their school reading and math scores tell different stories: mid-90s in both for Stockton, while Upson's scores are 83 in reading and 71 in math. Both Venetia Elementary and Fishweir Elementary pulled their 2011 C grades up to As in 2012, Central Riverside Elementary went up one grade to an A, and Ortega Elementary's report card hold a B. Only West Riverside Elementary had a disappointing year with a D, falling one grade level.

Students attending Lakeshore Middle School need to do a bit more homework. The overall grade for the

school is a C for the fifth year in a row, and both reading and math scores are dismally low, 48 and 46, indicating there's a lot of work to be done.

Moving into high school, the 2012 grade is pending for Robert E. Lee High School, but if the reading and math scores are any indication, Lee won't make the grade. With just one B out of the past four years (in 2011), and disappointingly low scores in reading (37) and math (69), students preparing to graduate this spring have a lot of catching up to do.

To see the grades for yourself, go to www.schoolfactsjax.org.

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Riverside, other urban neighborhoods play key roles in Downtown redevelopment

BY STEPHEN KINDLAND
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Sustained commercial growth in Riverside and a flurry of legislation passed in December by the Jacksonville City Council are serving as fuel to keep the Downtown revitalization engine running, local business leaders say.

Redeveloping Downtown – which has been a priority for Mayor Alvin Brown since he took office 18 months ago – will depend on a symbiotic relationship between a relatively small but densely populated Downtown area and larger, more established neighborhoods such as Riverside, Avondale and San Marco, according to local planners.

Revitalization also will depend on the Jacksonville City Council's continued support of initiatives spearheaded by the mayor and his administration. That support was evidenced in December, when the council unanimously confirmed all nine members of the Downtown

Investment Authority, which was formed in August and serves as the lead planning and implementation agency for Downtown redevelopment.

Mayor Brown considers the DIA to be a "major step to usher in a new era" for the city. "My administration is proud to partner with the business community and work closely with [the city council] to help keep the momentum and make smart investments in Jacksonville's future," he said.

DIA member Melody Bishop, an architect with Akel, Logan & Shafer PA in Riverside, says the new board's responsibilities are multifaceted, and that its main priority is to interpret and implement a Downtown redevelopment plan that was written in 1981. The plan, she says, eventually will include key elements of other plans that have emerged over the years.

"We've got quite a task at hand," Bishop said. "The redevelopment plan is key."

New legislation, new construction help to kick start the New Year

Formation of the DIA, along with new legislation that streamlines the city's economic development process by reducing the amount of time required for companies to work with the city to create local jobs, have business leaders looking forward to a busy 2013. Through the new streamlining law, proposed job creation packages with a local financial impact of less than \$300,000 may be approved by the city council after one public hearing; proposed packages with an impact of more than \$300,000 will require two public hearings.

The council also passed a bill that authorizes development of Riverside Park through two economic development agreements between the city and Pope & Land

Jax Riverside LP. According to information provided by the mayor's office, the public-private partnership will redevelop a portion of the Brooklyn neighborhood while generating 247 jobs, improving infrastructure and increasing property tax revenue by \$10 million over the next two decades.

"I commend the council for passing these bills, which will help to boost our economy and revitalize Downtown," Mayor Brown said in a prepared statement.

Reinvent might be a more accurate term than revitalize, given several major development projects that either have begun or will be getting under way this year on both sides of the St. Johns River. The projects include:

220 Riverside – With the help of a \$4.9 million Recapture Enhanced Value grant, developer Hallmark Partners has begun construction of a \$30 million, seven-story housing



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► project that includes 294 apartments ranging from 600 to 1,200 square feet with onsite amenities; 16,500 square feet of retail space and an adjacent community park that can hold year-round, festival-style programming and special events. “We expect our 220 Riverside project and adjacent public plaza to serve as a catalyst for continued development in Brooklyn along the Riverside corridor,” said Alex Coley, president of Hallmark Partners.

Brooklyn Community Development – Through a public-private partnership between the city and Pope & Land Jax Riverside LP, a proposed development would create about 300 housing units in a community fronting Park Street in Brooklyn, as well as 65,000 square feet of retail space along Riverside Avenue. The planned residential area would be in addition to improvements to the area’s infrastructure, including flood and pollution prevention for McCoy’s Creek and the St. Johns River.

Riverside Dog Park – Plans are set for the city to build a dog park and related amenities using property beneath I-95 in Riverside. The proposed project has been backed financially by the Five Points Merchants Association and fundraisers sponsored by the Riverside Avondale Preservation, according to RAP executive director Carmen Godwin. She said the 2-acre dog park will be an extension of Riverside Park’s northwest corner, and that the merchants association has agreed to put up \$25,000 toward the initial estimated cost of \$45,000. The proposed park would be built through a matching bond program with the city. Other RAP-sponsored fundraisers will be held, according to Godwin.

New YMCA Building – Groundbreaking is expected to take place during the second or third quarter of 2013 for a new, glass-fronted, 80,000-square-foot Yates Family YMCA building on the St. Johns riverfront. The building, estimated to cost \$21 million, eventually will replace the existing YMCA facility on Riverside Avenue. The current building will be demolished for a surface parking lot. The new building also will accommodate YMCA of Florida’s First Coast’s corporate headquarters. Eric Mann, the Y’s president and CEO, said the new construction “opens up the door for us to reach so many more goals” that target residents in Riverside and Downtown neighborhoods.

Museum Makeover – Work has begun on an elaborate, \$4.5 million project – which includes \$1 million being placed in an endowment fund – at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens on Riverside Avenue. Plans call for the creation of a signature front lawn area and expanded riverfront gardens. Also, the museum’s popular riverfront gardens will double in size, and its three parking lots along Riverside Avenue will be converted into a single, paved lot with trees and landscaping. A deck that will accommodate up to 40 visitors is planned to be built under the protection of two live oaks, along with a sculpture garden at the north end of the museum property. Other planned improvements will make the museum more open and accessible, according to museum officials. About 97 percent of the project’s cost reportedly has been raised.

Mayor Brown said the combined activity can only help to build a sense of teamwork between the city, the private sector and residents in

living in urban neighborhoods. “I’m excited to see so much energy and enthusiasm going into projects throughout our city’s center,” he said. “Each represents an opportuni-

ty to deepen the discussion about the value of a vibrant Downtown to make Jacksonville more competitive, create jobs and refine the brand of our city.”

Progress, momentum keys to success in 2013

City Councilman Jim Love, whose District 14 includes Riverside, says he is ecstatic over the progress being made, and that he expects the momentum to continue throughout the new year.

“These different projects will all be moving forward at one time,” Love said. “That’s pretty remarkable – pretty exciting.

“It’s going to change Riverside and having people downtown,” he added. “The momentum is starting to turn and will last for years. It’s going to be vibrant and wonderful.”

“Vibrant” and “wonderful” fit into the results of what Jacksonville residents say they want most, according to preliminary results of a survey called Jax2025. The in-depth survey, conducted recently by the not-for-profit Jacksonville Community Council Inc., indicates that Downtown revitalization ranks as the top concern among the first 5,000 respondents.

With other good news such as a declining unemployment rate in Northeast Florida and the Florida Legislature entering this year’s legislative session with a \$456 million budget surplus, it appears that Downtown revitalization isn’t a

pipe dream.

Terry Lorince, executive director of Downtown Vision Inc., a not-for-profit organization charged with promoting Downtown and increasing its services, said her agency hopes that revitalization will result in 10,000 people living within the area’s 2.5-square-mile boundaries. She said redevelopment plans being discussed would allow Downtown residents to walk to work and frequent nearby shops.

She also said that 3,300 people are living in 2,365 units Downtown and that further redevelopment will depend on consumer support from the 100,000 people living in the fringe areas.

“The success of Downtown is related to the success of the surrounding urban neighborhoods,” Lorince said.

Bishop, who chairs the DIA’s redevelopment plan committee, says she can feel momentum building. “I believe we’re right there, ready to bust loose,” she said. “If you look at Brooklyn and [220 Riverside] and the Pope & Land projects, Riverside is going to be igniting what can happen in Downtown.”

“Those areas have really taken off, and it justifies things to the developers when they can see that much success just blocks away,” Bishop added. “Those areas are causing this to happen.”



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Annie Lytle clean up efforts moving inside during the New Year



Volunteers help keep historic building alive

BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

On a recent Saturday morning a lone figure was in the lot behind the Annie Lytle School at 1011 Gilmore St. cutting through thick overgrowth with lawn shears. At the ready were a chainsaw and a white van full of shovels, rakes, hoes and other equipment that might be needed in the battle to bring the old school back to life.

"I come out as often as I can," said Ralph Wicklund, a general contractor who is one of about 15 regular volunteers who have worked on and off over the past six years, mostly on weekends, to clear the neglected land around the school of weeds, roots, trash and nuisance trees. There was a time when you would not have seen Wicklund from the road for the heavy vine growth that covered the chain-link fence surrounding the property, but that changed due to the stubborn efforts

of a few dedicated individuals and at least one local business, Lewis Tree Service. "There's usually others here, but today it's just me."

Normally one of those "others" is Tim Kinnear, who spearheads the volunteer efforts. While Wicklund has been involved since June, Kinnear first "adopted" the school in 2006. For Kinnear, it is one of those inexplicable obsessions, a driving passion by one person that turns out to have great benefits for the community.

"I have always loved that building. I think it's magnificent even in its current condition," Kinnear said.

Boxed in by I-95, the 44,000 square-foot structure has seen better days. First constructed out of wood in 1891 and called Riverside Park School, it was redesigned using steel and concrete into the current two-story building for \$252,000 in 1918. Known as Public School Number Four, it was later named after long-time principal Annie Lytle Housh. It closed in 1960 and was condemned in 1971. The Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission granted landmark status in 2000, but by that time it had endured at least two

major fires and endless destructive acts of trespassing and vandalism that persists today. Another significant fire occurred January 2011.

News stories about the school's deteriorating state and the constant threat of demolition inspired Kinnear's grassroots effort to clean up and hopefully find a new purpose for the building.

"I just thought it was a crime to let it be destroyed. There's so much history there. I never attended the school, but I found out about a year after I started the clean up that my mom went there as a third grader in the 1940's. That fueled my passion even more," Kinnear said.

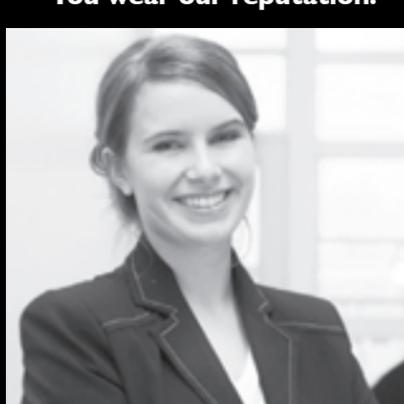
Others who hope to bring the building back to life share that passion.

Jacksonville-based Foundation Holding purchased the entire property in 1980, but now owns only the land around the building. Tarpon IV LLC (Gulf Group Holdings, located in Miami) purchased the building itself for an \$86,600 tax deed in 2010. While the two organizations do not communicate regarding the site, Foundation nonetheless has a say in what becomes of the building.

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Vision is priceless

Giving the gift of sight for 17 years

As if Santa hadn't brought enough cheer at the holidays, one local non-profit organization – with the help of local physicians and the generous use of a local surgical center– gave the gift of sight to ten First Coast residents with cataracts, Dec. 28 in Riverside.

Dr. Jeffrey H. Levenson, a local ophthalmologist and board member with the local nonprofit, Vision is Priceless Council (VIP), continues to deliver on the promise to help qualified recipients who are legally blind in one or both eyes with the restoration of sight. The program, under the auspices of Gift of Sight, a cooperative venture of VIP and area surgery centers, has been in existence for 17 years

and has helped restore sight to over 200 First Coast residents.

This year, the Riverside Park Surgicenter generously donated the use of its state-of-the-art facilities and with help from North Florida Anesthesia Consultants, patients were provided topical anesthetics. Dr. Levenson completed ten, 15-minute, pain-free procedures and follows each patient through their post-operative consulting.

The Gift of Sight program seeks to insure that no First Coast resident remains needlessly blind from correctable disease for lack of funds. Dr. Levenson, who practices with Levenson Eye Associates, has participated for all 17 years. "These are people who have been slowly going blind from cataracts, and are unable to afford the care they need to restore

their sight," Dr. Levenson said. "I'm so proud to be a part of the community of caring that will restore their sight, and in doing so, restore their ability to live life fully again."

In prior years the program has been supported by Baptist Health.

Vision is Priceless Council is a non-profit that provides vision screenings for 31,000 children and 3,000 adults annually. It offers free clinics and services for those who qualify based on income criteria.

"Vision Is Priceless Council is proud to sponsor a program that restores the sight of those who need our help the most," said Susan Mattox, Chief Executive Officer, Vision is Priceless. "It is a privilege for us to assist these clients in becoming more self-reliant, and we know each is humbled by the generosity of the Gift of Sight program."

For more information about Vision Is Priceless Council's program,



Dr. Jeffrey Levenson consults with a patient in the pre-op area prior to surgery

services, volunteer opportunities or special events, call (904) 308-2020 or visit their website at www.visionispriceless.org.

► "Some say tear it down, but that's the last thing we want to see happen," said Foundation spokesperson and Avondale resident Doug Milne. "Since we own all of the land, it can't be destroyed without our consent, because you can't get to it. We struggled for years to preserve the building at great expense and this was a way to have a say in what happens to it without spending enormous amounts more. There's a lot of interesting dreamlike potential for the building; there's just a chasm between dream and reality, mostly in

the form of dollar signs."

Some of the "dreams" considered over the years have included a residential facility for seniors, museums, music and entertainment facilities, a movie production center and a multi-agency non-profit community center.

Paul Bremer, another of the volunteer stalwarts, would like to see it turned back into a private or charter school. "Since it wouldn't have to be re-purposed, it would likely be cheaper to renovate," Bremer theorized.

To that end, he approached Palmer

Bell, Headmaster of Riverside Presbyterian Day School, about purchasing the building in March 2012. While the RPDS Board of Trustees felt it unnecessary to expand their school, Bell has shared the plan with other area headmasters of independent schools. So far, none have responded.

Meanwhile, Kinnear, Wicklund and other friends of Annie Lytle plan to move the clean up effort inside for the New Year.

"It is going to be a monumental task that will require many hands

and a lot of money," Kinnear said. "I would like to create a 501(c)(3) so that we can collect donations to help us get the building to a point that it is reasonably ready for a total overhaul. We constantly brainstorm ways to prevent further vandalism, but the only thing that will work long-term is for the building to be put back into use."

To volunteer, contact Tim Kinnear: On Facebook at [Timmycanofjacksonville](https://www.facebook.com/Timmycanofjacksonville); email: Timmycan@yahoo.com or 904.762.8034

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Five graffiti vandals who targeted Historic District arrested

JSO and state's attorney's office sending message: vandalism is not art

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One man's art is another man's vandalism and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office recently laid down the law on the distinction between the two.

Five men were arrested and charged with multiple felony counts for criminal mischief, burglary, interfering with a railroad train and other offenses for widespread graffiti vandalism. The five-man crew, who went by the name, "Bastard Sons of Vandalism" or BSOV, was the subject of an eight-month investigation that tracked their criminal activities throughout Riverside, Five Points and into the CSX train yards.

They racked up more than 70 charges in 11 cases, according to JSO arrest records. The third-degree felonies can carry penalties of \$5,000 and up to five years in prison.

"Our premise in our community is that it's [graffiti] damage," said Officer

Mike Duckworth who, along with Officer Shannon Padilla, executed the investigation. "If you're not doing your artwork on your own stuff; if you do it on somebody else's property, it's a crime and the city won't stand for it."

Arrested were Hugo Eduardo Granada, 36, of Orange Park on three charges; Steven Allan Obester, 23, of Jacksonville on 24 charges; Shawn Christopher Perkins, 26, of Jacksonville on five charges; Michael Frederick Slayton, 32, of Jacksonville on 16 charges; and Ethan Michael Terry, 22, of Jacksonville on 26 charges. They were all released on bonds ranging from \$100,000 to \$415,000, according to court records.

The investigation was aided by inside tips that led to online sites that post photographs of graffiti, according to Jason Kelley, the assistant state's attorney who prosecutes all graffiti vandalism cases for the city. Some locations, such as the abandoned Annie



Lytle School, are regular targets.

"They [graffiti vandals] want their stuff to be seen so they post it online. Once the sites were discovered the investigators were able to track the pictures to specific individuals," Kelley

said. "The thing these graffiti vandals have to worry about is all of our advance surveillance techniques. Technology is their friend, but law enforcement can use it, too."

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Photo not retouched

WARNING: ANN IS NOT A SUPERMODEL. The picture to the left is of her - no airbrushing, no tricks, no gimmicks, and straightforward honest photos. **SEE RESULTS FOR YOURSELF!** These photos of her are in the classroom and not offering classes.

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► Kelly said successful prosecution hinges on four pieces of information: an identifiable victim, a timeline, a damage amount, and a perpetrator.

“The police did a great job getting all of the information needed for these cases,” Kelley said. “The state’s attorney’s office is very serious about seeing that individuals convicted of graffiti vandalism receive some jail time and have to pay some sort of restitution. It’s also important for citizens to know that we need their help reporting instances of graffiti vandalism. Apathy is the graffiti vandal’s friend and we need to constantly be vigilant. A lot of these guys have artistic talent, they just don’t have respect for private property.”

That line between art and vandalism is something that strikes a chord for Dolf James, one of the visionary artists behind Riverside’s CoRK Arts District. The CoRK buildings are identifiable by their graffiti.

“I like street art. If I see a piece of art that is good, my first impression is, ‘Do I like it or not?’ James said. “If it’s in a place where it shouldn’t be, I still like it but I don’t like where it is and I wish it was in another place. Basically, if it’s beneficial to the neighborhood and building, then great; but if it’s detrimental, then it’s



Granada



Obester



Slayton



Terry

wrong.”

James pointed locally to the Cultural Council’s Art in Public Places program, which actively seeks mural artists to enhance Downtown, and also to Wynwood Walls in Miami where artists have changed the character of the neighborhood through their legal graffiti art. “There’s a difference between just ‘tagging’ one’s name on somebody else’s property and creating large scale, vibrant, legal street art. We definitely encourage the latter. You can go from destructive vandalism to actually changing a neighborhood for the better.”

In that vein, CoRK allows artists to paint on its buildings and, in fact, one of the arrested BSOV members, Hugo Granada, is represented. James noted that illegal graffiti in the area around CoRK has decreased since the art district opened.

“Why did it decrease? I don’t know. Potentially out of respect – if you’re going to throw up some

Mickey Mouse tag, it better look better than what’s up at CoRK,” James theorized.

Channeling graffiti vandals into legal venues would certainly save the city and property owners money: Officer Duckworth estimated over \$200,000 in graffiti related damage citywide in the past two years and said removing a train car from its tracks for repainting and refurbishing is \$3,000. He added that removing graffiti from buildings, particularly those with historic bricks, could cost upward of \$150 per square foot.

Kimberly Scott, chief of the city’s code enforcement division, said there were 197 graffiti citations citywide in the past year with eight in Riverside, one in Avondale, one in Murray Hill and four in San Marco. The city allows property owners 18 days after being cited to correct a violation, and then they hire a contractor to remove the graffiti and charge the property owner cleaning and administrative costs. If the fee is not paid within 180

days, a lien is placed on the property for the cost of cleaning, associated fees and fines.

The city currently has no fund to reimburse or help offset the costs of graffiti vandalism for property owners or businesses. Assistant State’s Attorney Kelley sees community service and

retribution as part of the solution.

“It seems draconian. The law victimizes victims in that they have to pay twice – once when their building is vandalized and then again to restore it. It would be nice if we could get the vandals to pay for and repair the damage.”

District 14 Councilman Jim Love, whose King Street insurance business has been the target of graffiti in the past, said he would support legislation that offered relief to property owners.

“I keep a can of paint handy and whenever my building gets tagged, I immediately paint over it. But I know that some buildings are much harder to fix,” Love acknowledged. “I would favor a restitution program for those cases.”

Meanwhile, Officer Duckworth has a stark warning for graffiti vandals: “We are not going to stop. When I go, somebody else is going to pick up where I left off. The community has taken a stance that they are not going to accept it.”



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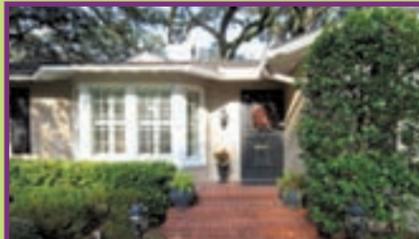
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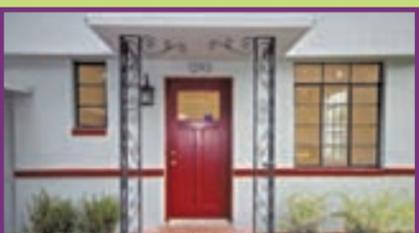
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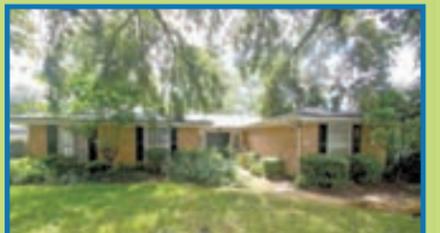
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Feral cats, debris test patience of Ortega neighborhood residents

BY STEPHEN KINDLAND
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Frustration has been building for more than a decade in an otherwise well-kept Ortega neighborhood where residents are coping with scores of feral cats and the sight of trash accumulating on both sides of a dilapidated privacy fence along a neighbor's property.

Unfortunately for the concerned residents, there are no clear-cut answers.

Though they don't want to appear to be "ganging up" on Brett and Barbara Railey, whose home at the corner of Country Club Road and Fairway Drive in Ortega Terrace has been a haven for feral cats and piles of junk, neighbors say they're at wit's end in their attempts to resolve the problem.

"There's so much cat feces on our lawn that our own property is off limits to our own kids," said Arlene



Pinaud, who lives across the street from the Raileys with her husband, Don. "But the health department can't do anything unless someone gets sick."

Judy Davis, whose house on Country Club Road faces the Railey residence, is equally upset.

"The neighborhood's covered with fleas," she said. "I've got them in my bedroom – and I don't own a pet."

Davis said she first began calling Jacksonville's Division of Animal Care and Protective Services 12 years ago.

"I've known all the heads of animal

control since then," she said. "Barbara [Railey] claims they're feral cats and she doesn't own them – but she feeds them."

The Pinauds say they have joined other neighbors in working with ACPS staff to capture more than 50 feral cats before taking them to be spayed and neutered by First Coast No More Homeless Pets, a not-for-profit animal advocacy group based in Jacksonville.

But, Don Pinaud said, their efforts have been futile because the entire colony has to be captured in order for the plan to work.

"We caught 27 cats one weekend," he said. "But they could multiply faster than we could catch them."

Once the animals have been spayed or neutered, state law requires that they be returned to the area where they were captured. A No More Homeless Pets spokeswoman said feral cats will move to new areas within four days if they no longer receive food from humans.

Attrition will cause the cat population to decrease and eventually disperse, but only if the neighbors comply by not feeding them, according to ACPS chief Scott Trebatoski.

However, there is little the city can do about noncompliant residents who continue to feed feral cats, said Trebatoski, who has made visits to the Raileys' home and has sent certified letters citing them with civic violations that carry fines ranging from \$250 to \$500.

The Raileys have been unresponsive to Trebatoski's attempts to contact them, he says. No one answered the door during his last visit, and the certified mail has been ignored. Unfortunately, Trebatoski says, the city's only recourse is to place a lien on the Raileys' home until the fines are paid.

And therein lies one of the many problems associated with feral cat colonies. While Trebatoski says he sympathizes with the Ortega Terrace residents, state law restricts what his division can do to get homeowners to comply.

"We can only go so far," he said. "If [the homeowners] don't ever plan to sell their house, nothing further will happen."

And then there is the issue of numerous piles of items – some stuffed in plastic trash cans – that city workers came across when the city responded to neighbors' complaints in early December.

Mrs. Pinaud said that after the workers cleared trim tree limbs,

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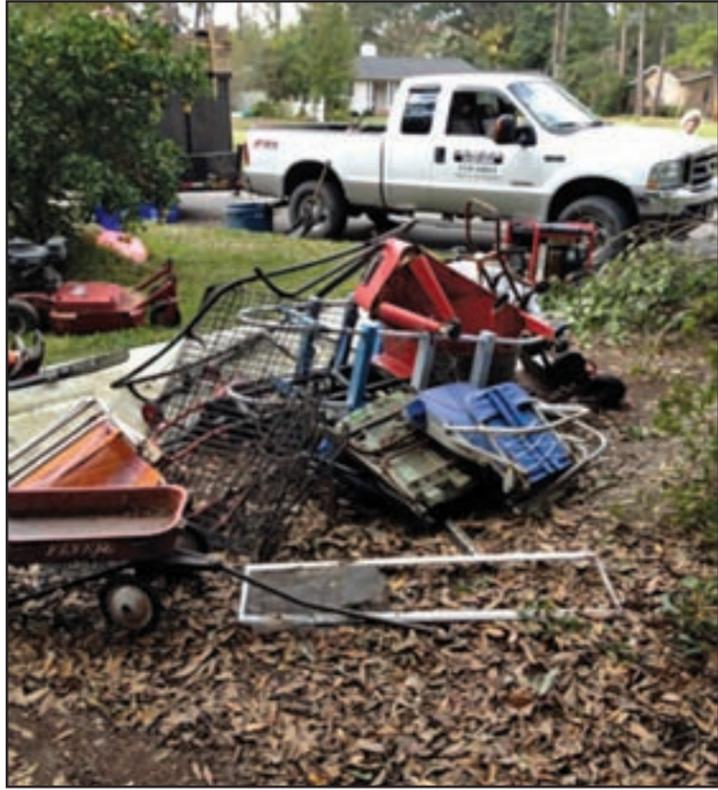
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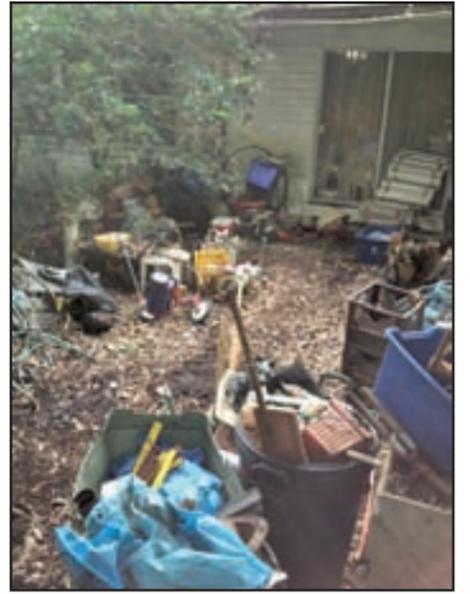
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And then there is the issue of numerous piles of items – some stuffed in plastic trash cans – that city workers came across when the city responded to neighbors' complaints in early December.



shrubs and other vegetation on city right-of-way bordering the Raileys' property, the eyesore of two vehicles covered by tarps, children's toys, a basketball goal hanging from a rotting wood backboard, an old surfboard, unused lawn chairs and other items became more visible.

"[The vegetation] was so overgrown you couldn't see the house, so it wasn't a problem," she said. "But now it is. I keep my blinds shut so I don't have to look at it."

Photos taken by neighbors show other items strewn across the Raileys' back yard, including a broken window frame, chicken wire, plastic trash cans, a children's wagon and an old

lawnmower.

"I'm beside myself," Mrs. Pinaud said. "I don't know what to do next."

Mrs. Railey says she thinks her neighbors are making a big fuss over nothing. She said she has lived in her home for more than 40 years, and while she "appreciates" her neighbors, the many objects piled in front of – and behind – her fence aren't harming anyone.

"It really shouldn't have bothered anybody," Mrs. Railey said as more than a dozen cats roamed around her front yard. "But people like to put their business in other peoples' business.

"I've had enough invasion of priva-

cy," she added, holding up an arm to display a scratch she received from one of the cats. "It's the government. Big Brother is watching all of us."

Newly elected City Councilman Jim Love, whose District 14 includes Ortega, said in mid-December that he has submitted a request to the city to look into the problem and is "waiting to see what happens" before he takes further action.

"There are certain things we can and cannot do," Love said. "There's a prob-

lem and it needs to work through in a legal, proper way."

Until then, neighbors will continue having their patience tested.

"Over the years I've laughed about a lot of this, but now it isn't funny anymore," Judy Davis said.

Resolutions for 2013

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- ✦ Support: my neighborhood's locally owned & operated businesses
- ✦ Share: special times with family & friends when dining out

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2012 in Review

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Overall, below the surface, 2012 appeared to be a slow, lackluster economic grind that revealed that we're still on the brink – but you couldn't tell by the pace of business growth, zoning challenges and infrastructure improvements in our neighborhoods. But dig below the surface (in some cases, literally) and you'll find plenty of events, celebrations and activities in 2012 that continue to provide our neighborhoods with a positive momentum into 2013.

Infrastructure, rebuilding and repairs – from bridges to bicycle lanes, pipelines to parks and parking – all suggest neighborhood improvements. The long-delayed re-opening of the Ortega Bridge in late May saw sighs of relief from parents with children at St. Mark's

Episcopal Day School and the Ortega Elementary museum magnet school, and from the many new and established businesses along Herschel and St. Johns avenues. The Roosevelt Boulevard construction wrapped up two months early to the joy of downtown commuters, and "sharrows" – Shared Lane Pavement Markings – were added for bicyclists on Riverside Avenue. Water main replacements along Riverside beginning this month will soon bring increases in water pressure and repaved roads, and the JEA is considerably tackling it in short block increments to alleviate road detours. Early season tropical storms Beryl and Debby wreaked some havoc along neighborhood streets but Avondale residents saw improvements in drainage issues with the summer overhaul on Ingleside Avenue.

Speaking of new businesses,

Good news retrospective: 2013 promises to grow upon best laid plans

Riverside/Avondale and Murray Hill welcomed more than a dozen new shops and restaurants in 2012, including Ruby Star Salon, Pele's Wood Fire, International Grille, Americana Antique Gallery, The Black Sheep, Jimmy Johns Gourmet Sandwiches, Tapa That, Tres Leches Bakery and Café, SassyFrass Gift Boutique, Beau Outfitters, Bagel Love, Yoga Zensation, and Love of Cake, plus other established businesses like Hugo's Interiors, Kickbacks' Gastropub, the Sun-Ray Cinema formerly the 5 Points Theatre, Bonne Nuit, SNAP Fitness and The Derby on Park began or completed renovations.

The neighborhoods have been so popular that discussions have emerged on how to handle the growth- as the boom in popularity of the districts corridors hit a fever pitch. There is continued debate on the best way to move forward with local parking issues but lessons can be learned from several recent openings and negotiations during Goozlepipe and Gutyworks, The Black Sheep, The Salty Fig and Pele's and the daunting challenges to the Mellow Mushroom debate. Although apprehension still exists regarding the proposed plans for Mellow Mushroom in the Shoppes of Avondale, interested parties for both sides will ultimately work to find a balance between revenue-generation and neighborhood preservation and quality of life issues.

Community efforts continue for preservation of the natural resources in our many parks and the St. Johns River and its waterways, while individuals and organizations promote outdoor lifestyles. Plans were offered for public scrutiny of the Big Fishweir Creek dredging project to restore a healthy aquatic habitat. Ortega resident Lisa Rinaman was named the new St. Johns Riverkeeper and Jennie Busey was named education director. The

Memorial Park Association in Riverside is planning a park restoration and renovation, and the Riverside Dog Park got a wag of approval from the city, funding to be determined. Riverside resident Genora Crain-Orth received approval for her "green roof" from the Historic Preservation Committee, the first of hopefully more urban sustainability approvals.

When it comes to being good stewards of our planet, many organizations contributed last year with fundraising efforts, like the Late Bloomers Garden Circle Root Ball to benefit Greenscape of Jacksonville, while many individuals volunteered for clean-up efforts, participating in the 17th annual St. Johns River cleanup. Members of the Memorial Park Association continue to lovingly maintain that landmark Riverside park- with updates on the campaign to restore and foster a new era in its history. Ortega residents and commuters on Roosevelt Boulevard now enjoy new trees in the median islands from the Ortega River south to Timuquana Road, thanks to the efforts of late philanthropist Ann Baker, through Greenscape of Jacksonville.

Greens are good, and the more fresh produce we enjoy, the healthier we'll be, thanks to enterprises like the Riverside Arts Market, The Farmer's Market on King Street, Farmers market in Avondale, entrepreneurs at the Veggie Bin- home delivery, the Farmer's Market on Beaver Street, and many community gardens, like the Gardens at Jackson Square in San Marco partnering with the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, the employee garden at Nemours Children's Clinic, gardens for the needy maintained by St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside and Ortega Elementary School, and an "edible forest" community garden near Lake Shore Middle School,

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Image Credit: Jim Draper, Large Passion, 2012, oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches. © Jim Draper.

► constructed by volunteers from Lakeshore Preservation Society and Anyone Can Plant a Seed.

Healthy, happy children often approach education more positively and we're seeing many positive improvements in area schools. Robert E. Lee High School saw a grade improvement (from a D to a B), ended the 2011-2012 school year with a new cafeteria and then opened the new school year with renovations for up-to-date classrooms, state-of-the-art science labs, a new TV production studio and an updated auditorium with performer dressing rooms. Bishop John Snyder High School fielded its first boys' lacrosse team last spring and then added girls' lacrosse in the fall, then landed the Kiwanis Wrestling tournament in mid-December. Track and field improvements were proposed for the John Stockton Elementary School with help from the Westside Rotarians. Riverside Presbyterian Day School introduced the Fit-4-Life program for the whole family. Venetia Elementary School was named an "A" school (fourth time in 10 years) and the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts was named a 2012 National Grammy Signature School (the second time in three years), and opened the Ann Baker Gallery in May. KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) VOICE Elementary opened for the 2012-2013 school year with an inaugural kindergarten class, while KIPP Impact Middle School added a new 5th grade class.

From the young to the old, quality healthcare ranks right up there with education and an improving economy. The community is blessed to have sev-

eral prestigious medical centers and hospitals that continue to bring in new and exciting technologies in the medical field and receive awards and accreditations:

- The joint Mayo Clinic/Nemours Children's Clinic/Wolfson Children's Hospital Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program was the first in Florida (and one of only 15 nationally) to earn national accreditation in cellular therapy for its autologous and allogenic blood and marrow transplants.

- Baptist Medical Center on the Southbank was the first North American health system to install real-time imaging for neurosurgeons as they perform adult and pediatric brain procedures. And in November they opened a new \$200 million, 11-story adult/pediatric tower with intra-operative iMRI and iCT technology, two adult neurosurgery suites, an adult neurology/neurosurgery intensive care unit, a pediatric inpatient behavioral health unit, cardiovascular operating suite, neurosurgery operating suite and both pediatric and adult hematology/oncology units.

- Near St. Nicholas/Spring Park, Memorial Hospital expanded its minimally-invasive technology to include robotic heart and lung surgery.

- St. Vincent's Medical Center added two new CT scanners, improved its emergency department, expanded its primary care network, doubled beds in the Skilled Nursing Unit, expanded the mobile unit with help from the Rotary Club; launched a home health network, an Occupation Health program and unveiled a website for Kids Together

Against Cancer; has northeast Florida's only state-of-the art single-room Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at its Southside location, plans to open a 10-bed hospice inpatient unit in Riverside and is the first in the region to offer trans-catheter aortic valve replacement therapy. If that isn't enough, St. Vincent's is underway with the construction of their newest hospital in 2013 for residents in nearby Clay County.

Major construction projects will give the local community an economic boost in 2013 as plans move forward

for the new \$21 million YMCA facility in Riverside, and the mixed-use 220 Riverside development begins to come to life. With such projects come potential boosts in real estate sales, which are on the rebound. Homes in Riverside/Avondale sold more quickly in 2012, on the market almost 20% fewer days than in the previous year.

Keep your eye on *The Resident News* in 2013 as we continue to share the good news and silver linings of change in the Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill communities we serve!

A gift to celebrate the season given in Avondale



It was a holiday to remember for the leadership of Sanctuary on 8th Street Dec. 28 as Diane Garcia, president of the Avondale Merchants Association, presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to Sanctuary Executive Directory Vicky Watkins and SHINDIG Chair and race coordinator Janet Reagor alongside Michelle Rieves of Biscottis. The donation arrived just in time for the New Year.

"It's a real pleasure to partner with the Avondale Merchants Association on an event that benefits so many children and it's [Avondale 5K] fun for the entire community," said Watkins. The run will be held next year in the a.m. hours of Sept. 21, according to organizers.

(Karin Tucker, Chair of the Avondale 5K, not pictured)

Low Cost Community Classes Riverside Park United Methodist Church 819 Park Street in Five Points • 355-5491 Wednesday Evening Classes - Winter Term

• Registration Night

Jan. 9th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

• Seven Week Session

Jan. 16th through March 6th
(no classes on Ash Wed., Feb. 13th)

• Classes meet weekly

Wednesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Life Center

Adventures in Learning for Seniors 55+
Friday, Winter Session • Jan. 4 - Feb. 22

- 9-10:15 a.m. - Exercise - Low impact, guaranteed to make you feel fit the rest of the day.
- 10-10:55 a.m. - Technology for Everyone - Intro to Kindle/Nook, Skype, Cell phones, etc.
- T'ai Chi - A structured exercise with slow, connected movements.
- Conversational Spanish - Learn some basic, everyday expressions.
- 11-11:55 a.m. - Line Dancing - Join the fun!
- Current Events - An open discussion of current news events
- Arts & Crafts - Great craft projects available (if you have a personal project, you may bring that too)
- 12-1 p.m. - Lunch (\$6) & Program or Activity

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WINTER CLASSES:

- Yoga - Professional Instructor, Tess Yackshaw. Provides fitness, relaxation and opportunity for meditation. - \$35.00
- Line Dancing - Professional Instructor, Joy Bellemare. Great exercise and fun for all ages. A variety of dances taught. \$35.00
- Zumba - Certified Zumba Instructor, Tina Parke Treloar. A rigorous workout. The latest craze! \$35.00
- Acrylic Painting - Professional Instructor, Nancy Floyd. Small group and individual instruction. Minimum class size - 6, maximum 12. Materials list provided at registration. \$50.00
- Beginning Spanish - Professional Instructor, Diego Aragona, Expert Linguist. For those right at the beginning and those with limited Spanish knowledge. Everyone learns together. \$25.00
- Gardening - Facilitator Joanne Lipp. General Gardening, including container gardening. Guest speakers from the Master Gardener program, how to compost, and hands on planting and tending. \$20.00
- Basic Christian Beliefs - Rev. Rafael Vigil. What does the Christian church believe and why? Discussion class for everyone, including the curious, the skeptical and the firm believer. A time of learning and fellowship. No Charge

CHILDREN'S CLASSES - Ages K-8th Grades. \$30.00 for 1st child.
\$15.00 for other children in the same family

- Christian Karate - Instruction provided by United Martial Arts. Self Defense moves and character and confidence building. Each session ends with a "share and prayer" time.
- Art - Young artists are encouraged to discover various mediums (sketching, painting and multi-media). The class helps develop and strengthen creativity and self-expression.

EARLY BIRD CLASSES - 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Yoga - \$35.00

Handbells for 3rd-5th Graders - No charge

We Provide - On site JSO security each week
Free nursery care for children 4 yrs. & younger for participants

'TOTALLY AWESOME' – '80s THEME FUNDRAISER BENEFITS NEMOURS

The Michael Jackson, Tiffany and Debbie Gibson tunes were in full effect as the fashion, dance and music of the '80s made its way to the River City Brewing Company Nov. 17. The evening, presented by ruckus. advertising + public relations, was dubbed a "Party with a Purpose" as partygoers understand their dollars directly support the mission of Nemours – to provide leadership, institutions, and services to restore and improve the health of children through care and programs not readily available, with one high standard of quality and distinction, regardless of the recipient's financial status.



J.R. Blaze



Jim and Kim Beardsley, Arlene Weaver, Nate and Karen Woods with DeeDee and Larry Hanagriff



Terri Wilsie, Karen Kent, Jill Newhouse, Ron and Susan Masucci and Susan Masucci



Denise Dancull with Sonny and Amy Thomas and Catherine Swanson



Megan and Lori Counts



Derby on Park represented by Michael Williams and Eddie Ruiz

WINE, TASTINGS AND GOOD TIMES IN 5POINTS

The Riverside WineFest & Fall Festival rolled out the merlot carpet, as wine and dining options continue to grow during the annual fundraiser. Over 300 wine varieties rounded out the evening, with many vineyard representatives on hand to discuss firsthand knowledge of their varieties. Funds raised by the benefit will help Riverside Avondale Preservation as well as Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Northeast Florida. The event took place Nov. 17 in historic 5 Points on Park Street in Riverside.



Patty Crick and Mimi Chapman



John Shelton, George Leath and Johnny Long



Chris Wood, Michael Kelly and Clarence Houston



Bill Kirill, Dick Cassidy and Baker Berg

DUCKS UNLIMITED GAINS LOCAL SUPPORT, RESURGENCE

The local Jacksonville chapter of Ducks Unlimited brought out the big guns, drawing corporate and other business support for the annual banquet in Riverside. The event, held at the Firefighter's Hall on Stockton Street, drew hundreds of hunting, fishing and wetlands enthusiasts for one common goal- the preservation and protection of future wetlands. Since 1937, DU has conserved more than 12 million acres of waterfowl habitat across North America. While DU works in all 50 states, the organization focuses its efforts and resources on the habitats most beneficial to waterfowl. More information can be found at www.ducksunlimited.org.

WOMEN CELEBRATE NOMINATIONS, DISTINCTION



2013 Women of Distinction Nominees- Rita Perry, Jill Langford Dame, Estelle W. McKissick, Isabelle Owen Spence and Cindy M. Sanborn (nominee Shannon Miller, not present)

The Haskell Corporation headquarters on Riverside Avenue played host to a ceremony in honor of nominees for the latest round of Women of Distinction in Jacksonville. The evening of camaraderie was a precursor in preparation for the upcoming celebration of achievement. Girl Scouts of Gateway Council's annual Women of Distinction luncheon honors local women whose accomplishments in their career and community service exemplify the values of Girl Scouting. Proceeds from the fundraising event, slated for April 11, 2013, are dedicated to providing the Girl Scout program to girls in North Florida. For further information visit www.girlscouts-gateway.org or call 904-388-4653 for sponsorship details.



2013 Luncheon Co-Chair Susan Hamilton, Executive Director Sam Tysver and Luncheon Co-Chair Cheryl Riddick



Alumnae Martha Barrett and Kathryn Pearson Peyton



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Bonnie Brady



Hugh Mattox



Vicki Flannery



Sandra Bryant



Bahman Nakhai



Melanie Taylor



Janet Mette



Susan Hopkins



Margie Scarborough



Deborah Travis



Winona Viverette



Vickie Douglas



Mary McPherson



Josiah Murdaugh



Debbie Sapp



Clark LaBlond



Sharon Jacobs



Leah Rentzell



Heather Rohn

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Chef changes at Bistro AIX



Mears



Gray

Granada resident Tom Gray, founding executive chef and operating partner at San Marco's Bistro AIX, is stepping down from the position he's held since the restaurant opened in 1999.

Zeke Mears, a Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park graduate who has worked as a key member of the Bistro AIX team since 2002, will fill the role as executive chef. Formerly, Mears was executive sous chef at Bistro Aix.

Gray is focusing his energies on a new local restaurant that will open in 2013.

"As I embark on the newest chapter of my professional career and look forward to the exciting new challenges I have ahead of me, I know that Bistro AIX will always hold a very special place in my heart," he said in Bistro AIX's newsletter announcing the change.

Bistro AIX Partner Mike Schneider said he looks forward to the restaurant's next culinary chapter. He said the restaurant is proud of Gray and wished him success in his new endeavor.

"We know that in Zeke we have the perfect blend of talent and experience to lead our culinary team," he said.

Along with restaurant partner Ann Riley, Schneider said they are thankful for their 13 years with Gray and his wife Sarah Marie, and are preparing for other physical changes to the restaurant and menu: "They've been good friends as well as partners. As sad as we are to see them go, we're just as excited about the future of Bistro AIX! We have some delicious and exciting changes coming to our menu and dining rooms that will be introduced in the New Year."

Sweet Theory Baking opens on King, naturally

Up and continually coming King Street in Riverside welcomed an all-natural, organic bakery in early November. Owner Katie Riehm handcrafts the baked goods, which are egg free, dairy free, soy free, peanut free and sometimes gluten free. Everything from doughnuts to cupcakes and cookie sandwiches, muffins, bars, custom cakes and more are sweetened with organic agave nectar, whole cane sugar and coconut palm sugar at the shop at 1243 King Street. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call (904) 387-1001 for more information or visit on Facebook: SweetRevolutionBakingCo.



Katie Riehm, owner, and Rachel Robertson, manager of Sweet Theory Baking Co.

5 Points welcomes Spot 5 on Park

Despite a lack of signage and little advertising, Spot 5 on Park, a new restaurant in historic 5 Points, is enjoying a good lunch crowd. Open Monday-Saturday at 11 a.m. and into the evening, manager Debra Simmons serves up tasty salads, sandwiches and signature hot



Debra Simmons, manager of Spot 5 on Park

dogs while patrons enjoy free wi-fi and handy outlets with USB ports at the dine-in counter. Homemade brownies and banana pudding are best-sellers; they also serve bottled and draught beer. Phone: (904) 327-6766.

Beer:30 emporium outshines beer chains

Business is good and the beer is great at Beer:30, the craft beer emporium in Riverside. Open daily since June 2012, the new venture by co-owners Justen Mann and Warren Fryefield is filling a niche on King Street with a much wider selection of American craft beers and imports than typical beer outlets and liquor stores may sell. For details on the nearly 600 brands, call (904) 388-0033 or visit the store at 1271 King Street.



Justen Mann, co-owner of Beer:30 on King Street

Paperwhite Salon adds to number of local businesses at Park and King

Open just a little over four months, the Paperwhite Salon at 2706 Park in Riverside is steadily building its hair and makeup clientele. Owner Emily Fletcher enjoys the area for its foot traffic and lack of franchises businesses. "I like Park and King [streets]



for the large number of locally-owned businesses," she said. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed Sunday-Monday). Call (904) 388-1993 or visit the salon's Facebook page PaperWhiteSalon.

Kids' boutique and party planner opens in Avondale

JAX Couture Events and Boutique will bring the party to you or open its doors to themed parties for the delight of your child. Hilda Anderson offers custom children's parties at the 4201 St. Johns Avenue location, as well as Kids' Night Out, Ladies' Night Out, Pin Parties (based on Pinterest crafts) or just about anything your child wants. Call (904) 683-1256 or visit the shop's Facebook page at Jax Couture Events.



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Growing Tree eases growing pains

Kids grow so fast that keeping them cute and stylish can be a strain on tight budgets. The Growing Tree offers quality gently worn clothing in current styles at affordable prices. The resale shop, located at 1080 St. Edgewood Avenue in Murray Hill, also sells pre-owned toys and children's furniture in good condition, as well as new locally made accessories and artwork. Owner Lara



Facebook page The Growing Tree Resale.

McFall just opened her door early last month in a renovated strip mall and her hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Any items that don't meet the gently used criteria are donated to the River City Church Share Shop in Hollybrook. For more information, call Lara at (904) 379-3912 or visit her

Holshouser 'Best Lawyer' in employment law

Eric J. Holshouser, of Fowler White Boggs, has been named Jacksonville's 2013 Employment Law - Management Lawyer of the Year by the national publication Best Lawyers. Holshouser, a resident of Ortega and a graduate of the Duke University School of Law, practices all aspects of labor and employment law, including equal

employment opportunity, wage and hour, health and safety, employee benefits, non-compete, trade secret and wrongful discharge law, as well as legal matters involving union-company relations. Holshouser is also Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by The Florida Bar and he is AV peer review rated by Martindale-Hubbell.



Tres Leches hosts neighborhood meet and greet

Tres Leches rolled out a new catering menu at a holiday neighborhood meet and greet. Old customers, and new residents of The John Gorrie Condominium, mingled with Eddie and Irene Sweda and staff, and enjoyed live music provided by the praise band from Christ the King Catholic Church, Arlington.



Lee Elmore (Prudential Network Realty), Kathleen Langford (TL Home and Design), Jordan Bock, Tom Madison (Tres Leches bakery chef), Eddie Sweda (owner, Tres Leches

Local resident publishes Microsoft book

Bayer White, resident of Avondale and president of FlowFocus Solutions, authored a book on Microsoft technology called Windows Workflow Foundation. Pro WF 4.5 provides insight and direction for understanding how to build workflows using WF 4.5 and host them as



long-running services using Microsoft's Windows Server or Azure AppFabric. Primarily geared toward developers and architects interested in building healthy, long-running services, either on-premise or in the cloud, White, as the developer, walks the user through the steps and explains the concepts.

Leighton Tesche joins Prudential Network Realty



Leighton Tesche has joined the award-winning Avondale/Ortega office sales team of Prudential Network Realty. As a long-time resident of Jacksonville, Leighton's 10 years of real estate experience shine through within the community and with her clients. Her ability to expertly stage a home is among the many talents she offers her clients. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from North Carolina State University and

enjoys meeting new people and helping them fulfill their dream of home ownership.

"Leighton is a well-respected real estate professional. Her community connections, service and professional skills align with the power of Prudential Network Realty's business model of service," said Sheron Willson, broker/manager of the Avondale/Ortega office.

Blood Alliance announces new board officers

The Blood Alliance, a non-profit community blood center headquartered in Jacksonville since 1942, named W. Hamilton Traylor, Ortega resident, its Chairman of the Board for the upcoming 2012-13 term. The company also welcomes Tracee Holzendorf to its Board of Directors. Holzendorf joins 19 other members on the Board and will serve a three-year term.



Traylor



Holzendorf

Jacksonville will bring a positive impact to our Board," said Valerie Collins, President and CEO of The Blood Alliance. "I also look forward to our Board's continued guidance and leadership under its new Chairman, Ham Traylor."

San Marco resident Daniel Brock serves as treasurer for the Blood Alliance. For information about The Blood Alliance, contact Odette Struys at (904) 707-9301 or via email: ostruys@thebloodalliance.org.

"We are fortunate to have Tracee join our Board of Directors. Her extensive background in health care and nursing at Shands

Taylor named WGA president

Riverside resident Julia Taylor, and founding member of the Women's Giving Alliance, was named that organization's new president. Her two-year term follows a two-year president-elect term. "When I joined the WGA in 2000, I had long been interested



in women and girls' issues; since that was its focus it had terrific appeal," said Taylor. "Plus, when you can bring smaller philanthropic efforts into a larger pool under a focus, you can make a huge difference."

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Former student returns as staff member



Bronwen Keyes Krause, former student at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, has returned to the school in the position of Director of Physical Education. She was recently employed as a director of the Yates Family YMCA, responsible for youth summer programs, after school programs and physical education.

"A careful search was conducted last fall with a talented interview team," said Cathy Hardage, Head of School. "All of us were most impressed with Bronwen's confidence, assertiveness and her knowledge of physical education, as well as her love of children." Krause will transition into directing the After School Sports Program.

Raymond James Financial makes good move

Calls former St. Joe Co. building new home

JOE was a landmark for residents of downtown Jacksonville and Riverside since 2003. The building at 245 Riverside was the headquarters for the St. Joe Co. (formerly St. Joe Paper Company) until 2011, when it moved to Panama City, FL.

Now the building formerly known as JOE has a new, longer moniker: Raymond James. As in Raymond James Financial, which leases about 75% (or 19,000 sq. ft.) of the top floor for 48 financial advisors and employees. The facelift occurred just a few weeks prior to the move-in in mid Sept. 2012 and the new tenants couldn't be happier.

"Raymond James has been in Jacksonville since the 1970s, but for the past nine years we've been located in the former Gulf Life Tower on the Southbank," said Galvin, senior vice president and director of the Coastal Region. "We expanded three times during those years and when this opportunity arose, it was one of our absolute top choices." It makes sense as one-fourth of the employees live in the Riverside/Avondale/Ortega area, and the



company has another 20 employees in offices in Tapestry Park and Ponte Vedra.

The financial services firm is significantly involved with the community, participating in and contributing to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Wolfson Children's Hospital, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the St. Vincent's Foundation, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation and has been the First Coast Business Hall of Fame title sponsor since 1999.

Haskell Company president named new JCCI chair



Steve Halverson, president and CEO of the Riverside-based Haskell Company was appointed as the new president/chairman of the Jacksonville Civic Council. He will serve a

two-year term for the 60-member group. Halverson has been an active Board member of the Civic Council since its inception in 2010 and also served on the Northbank Redevelopment Task Force chaired by Preston Haskell.

"Steve is the perfect choice to lead the Civic Council for the next two years," said former chairman Peter Rummell. "He is a proven leader, cares deeply about the city, and has the total respect of his peers and the community. The Civic Council has developed a tight agenda over the past three years and Steve has been an integral part of that effort. He will continue these efforts and will also mine new opportunities."

JCCI executive director Shea resigns

The Jacksonville Civic Council announced in late December that Donald A. Shea will leave his post as the first executive director, effective late January 2013.

"We will miss Don and appreciate all the work that he has accomplished since coming to Jacksonville to join the Civic Council in September 2010," said Peter Rummell, at that time chairman of the Jacksonville Civic Council Board of Directors.

That sentiment was echoed by Steve Halverson, who succeeded Rummell as chairman effective Jan. 1. Halverson said, "On behalf of the entire Civic Council membership, we are sad to see Don and Dianne Shea leave our community, but we understand that a unique opportunity has been presented to them to return to the New Orleans area, where most of their family resides."

Halverson went on to say that the Civic



Council regrets his departure but supports Shea's decision which is of a purely personal and family nature. Shea, who was an "executive on loan" with the JCC for \$1 per year, has been named the first director of economic development for St. Tammany Parish, a fast-growing area of the New Orleans region, located just across Lake Pontchartrain from the City of New Orleans.

Halverson said the Civic Council will immediately begin a search process for a new executive director. John Delaney, president of the University of North Florida, will chair a search committee.

"The Civic Council will move forward, continuing to engage the toughest issues facing our community and do so with a renewed sense of commitment and engagement by the entire membership. The best days for Jacksonville, and the Civic Council, are ahead," stated Halverson.

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Vietnam Vets chapter honors fallen soldier



VV of A Chapter 1046 renamed for Nicholas J. Cutinha

Former Yulee resident Nicholas J. Cutinha, killed in action with serving in the U.S. Army in 1968 in South Vietnam, was honored again for his act of bravery. In 1970 then President Richard Nixon posthumously awarded Cutinha the Medal of Honor for saving at least nine company members while eliminating 15 enemy soldiers. Nicholas Cutinha and 48 others died in an ambush by the North Vietnamese. There is also

a road in Yulee named after SP4C Cutinha and then in November, the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 1046 was renamed in Cutinha's honor.

Ron Price, a former member of the same Company and Regiment as Cutinha, stated he didn't serve alongside Cutinha, but served one year later. Price said that when he served other soldiers viewed Cutinha as a paragon of American military service. "Although we didn't know him, we knew of him and we knew we had to stand as tall," he said.

The hour-long dedication included all the usual activities for a military event – a gun salute, singing of the national anthem and presenting of the colors – as well as a special flag-folding ceremony by the Philippine American veterans. Florida State Vietnam Veterans' president Ben Humphries said, "After hearing the story of Specialist Cutinha, it brought back a lot of memories. I probably fought in the same area he was in."

The Jacksonville chapter, which meets at the Elks Lodge at 1855 West Road in the Southside area, provides community outreach for veterans and for volunteers. Check out the sidebar or contact Les Bertrand, director of public relations (director-pr@vva1046.com or (904) 248-9453), for more information.

How to get or give help

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps application & scholarship information: JR ROTC, Doug Jones, Djones4426@comcast.net, (904) 745-0376

Incarcerated Veterans Re-entry Program: The JREC Mentor Program is a volunteer program open to any VVA member who wants to work with recently released, previously incarcerated veterans. Call Rebecca Zigler (904) 301-2400 or Blane Wilson (904) 551-2922, or email atboard1@vva1046.com.

Wreaths Across America: Coordinates the annual laying of wreaths at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Contact Les Bertrand, (904) 248-9453, honorguardcaptain@vva1046.com

Missing in America Project: To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes. Contact Les Bertrand, director of public relations (director-pr@vva1046.com or (904) 248-9453).

General Donations, Veterans Memory Honor Wall or In Memory Donations: VVA Chapter 1046 is a 501(C)19 charity and all donations are tax deductible. To make a donation, please send a check or money order (made payable to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046) to: Treasurer, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046, P.O. Box 331322, Atlantic Beach, FL 32213 or donate online at <https://sites.google.com/a/vva1046.com/vietnam-veterans-of-america-inc/donations/general-donations>.

Clothing & Household Item Donations: Pick Up Please is the Vietnam Veterans of America's online site that offers one of the most convenient donation pickup services in the country. This service is available in Duval County by scheduling a pickup online using the "Schedule A Pickup" icon at <https://sites.google.com/a/vva1046.com/vietnam-veterans-of-america-inc/donations/clothing-household-items> or by calling 800-775-Vets or (904) 778-9220. You can also send an email to info@pickup-please.org.

Sponsors: Help our veterans and community by becoming a sponsor of VVA 1046. A one-year sponsorship is \$25 for a business card display on the website (for link to your website or Facebook page, add \$10) and a mention in monthly membership minutes. Send business card along with check or money order payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046 to Treasurer (see Donations above).

Volunteer Opportunities: You do not need to be a VVA or AVVA member to participate in our community events or community service efforts. For information on membership in Vietnam Veterans of America or in Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, go to <https://sites.google.com/a/vva1046.com/vietnam-veterans-of-america-inc/home/membership>. To help out in one of the Community Outreach programs, call (904) 419-8821 or send an email to information@vva1046.com.

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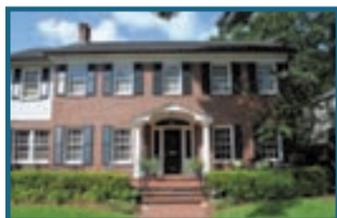
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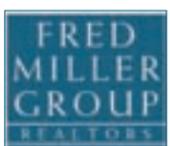
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SBA Tours Avondale Shops



SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns; Sandi White, owner of Green Alligator; District 14 Councilman Jim Love, and Wilfred Gonzalez, Director of the SBA North Florida District

es are the backbone of our economy, creating two out of every three new private sector jobs. "When you buy something at a local small business, like the ones here in Avondale, it's an investment in the community," she said.

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One Friday in December, Washington came to town. SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns toured – and shopped at – three small businesses in historic Avondale to highlight the importance of supporting small businesses during the holiday season. Her visits to Design Additions, the Green Alligator and the Florida Creamery underscored the important role small businesses play in growing local economies.

According to Johns, small business-

Design Additions, 3569 St. Johns Avenue, was the recipient of an SBA guaranteed loan and was visited by Deputy Administrator Johns as well as staff from the SBA's North Florida District Office and Jim Love, District 14 Councilman. Owner Chris Hardison noted, "As a small business owner, I was thrilled not only that the Deputy Administrator for the Small Business Administration would visit our store, but it also made me feel like small businesses really do matter."

Angela Wilcox, owner of the Florida Creamery at 3566 St. Johns Avenue, received business advice from

Kevin Monahan, Special Projects Director of the UNF Small Business Development Center. "He suggested I create a presence in the community and get involved with a nonprofit," said Wilcox. "I have a love of nostalgic Florida and want to see its waterways restored." The Florida Creamery is a site for collecting signatures for Florida's Water and Land Legacy Amendment Campaign.

The SBDC network provides a wide array of technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs and is made up of a unique collaboration of SBA, state and local governments, and private sector fund-

ing resource.

While The Green Alligator does not currently have a formal relationship with SBA or its partners, touring the unique toy shop at 3581 St. Johns Avenue was an opportunity for Sandi White to learn about SBA programs and services. White will be able to reach out to the SBA or the SBDC as an additional source of support for her business.

Wilfredo Gonzalez, District Director of the SBA North Florida District Office is positive about the future for small businesses and shares his thoughts in a letter to our readers.

Local SBA director encourages small businesses

Dear Readers:

Small businesses continue to be the job creators and champions of local economies, and small business owners face multiple challenges. The one most often heard is access to capital. In a recent survey by the National Small Business Association, nearly 70 percent of small businesses report that the credit crunch has impacted their businesses in some way.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers programs to support the diverse needs of small business owners, including a variety of loan programs for specific purposes. In the San Marco/Mandarin area of Jacksonville, SBA guaranteed approximately \$4.8 million for small businesses in Fiscal Year 2012. These loans were made to business owners in various industries including transportation/warehousing, manufacturing, professional services, and arts/entertainment/recreation.

SBA loans in this area contributed to creating 64 jobs and helped business owners retain 99 jobs.

As a new year is launched, business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs are encouraged to give themselves an edge by turning to the SBA or our many resource and community partners for guidance and assistance. We work closely with the Small Business Development Center located at the University of North Florida, the Jacksonville SCORE Chapter, and the Jacksonville Women's Business Center to provide counseling, training, and technical assistance to entrepreneurs.

I invite everyone who is interested in starting or growing a business in North Florida to visit our website at www.sba.gov/fl/north or call the District Office at (904) 443-1900. To stay informed about SBA programs and services in your area, sign up for our local district office newsletter and email updates on our district website.

With Regards,
Wilfredo Gonzalez
District Director

SBA North Florida District Office

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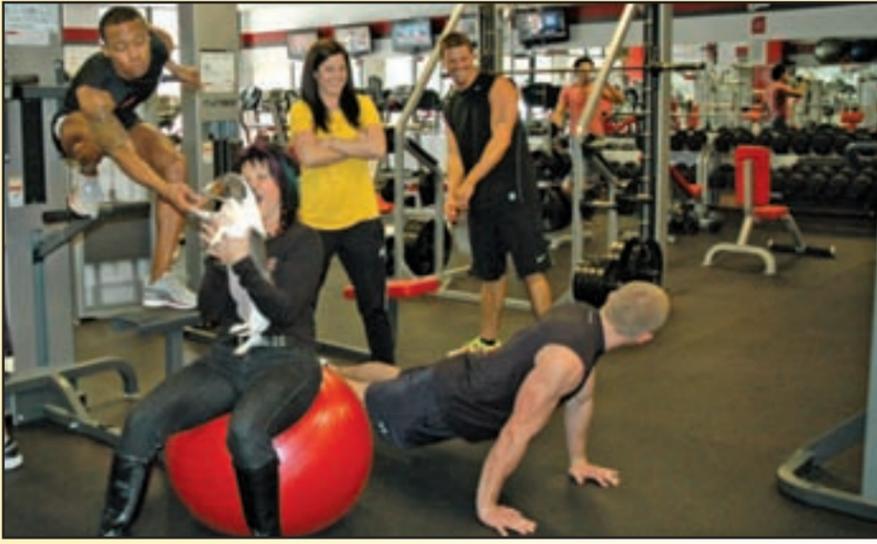
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Take everything you know or think you know about gyms and fitness clubs and get it out of your head. When it comes to Snap Fitness in Riverside, this all-wellness gym is probably like no other.

Start with the historic building – formerly a Deluxe Cleaner – sporting photos of the old cleaning establishment on the brick walls inside, then merge that with loads of hi-tech equipment in 6,000 square feet of space and you’ll soon see why this franchise is not cookie-cutter.

Owner Judy Peek said the club had started to outgrow its current 2,500 sq. ft. location on Margaret Street several years ago and she had started eyeing the former cleaner as a potential relocation. “I think we’ve been in Riverside long enough [since 2007] that people know who we are and where we are,” she explained. “We finally got the go-ahead in January 2012 and began a long process of getting plans and approvals completed before we were able to begin renovations last fall.”

The new 24/7 fitness center is geared to meet the needs of the individual, whether you prefer to work out alone, in a class or desire one-on-one training with one of five

personal trainers. In addition to the current Cybex machines, treadmills, Arc Trainers, stationary bicycles and free weights, the new location can boast of separate spaces for:

Fitness on Demand – Touch-screen and large format technology will create a virtual classroom for up to 10 people for yoga, dance aerobics, weight-free workouts and spinning classes at three levels. “Great for those who don’t need a personal trainer or instructor and for those who enjoy non-peak workout times,” Peek noted. There will be some scheduled classes during peak times for people who like to work out in a group.

Functional Training – An area will be set aside for members who like to work with bags, bells, balls, bands and ropes. From punching bags to kettle bells, BOSU balls to TRX bands, you can develop a fitness regimen to get a total workout either on your own or in a circuit class.

Hydraulic Resistance Equipment – A separate room will contain hydraulics-based equipment for beginners or seniors who need a little assist in their workouts. The 12-station timed circuit will include low step boards for cardio conditioning between muscle toning.

In addition, the Snap Fitness franchise program offers members a free online personalized plan for wellness. MySnapFitness sets up a specific workout and meal plan depending on the member’s goals, and tracks the club visits, workouts and nutrition levels.

Step it up a notch by getting into MyZone, a program that syncs workout stats to the member’s MySnapFitness account with the use of a \$55 heart rate belt. When worn in the gym, the member’s heart rate, aerobic level and calories burned will be projected on each of four monitors around the club. After each workout the stats are posted automatically to MySnapFitness. When worn outside the gym, the belt continues to monitor and then syncs up at the next visit to the club. Runners can purchase a \$30 wrist monitor for similar post-run sync-ups.

“MyZone and MySnapFitness provide accountability for training and weight loss,” said Peek. “And, since the monitors display several members’ stats at a time, it offers a competitive component, too.”

Snap Fitness has keycard entry and security monitors for both early birds and night owls when the club is not staffed. Members will also enjoy increased facilities with two restrooms, two shower rooms and a full bathroom for handicapped individuals as well as lots of parking.

“We want to be – and are – all about results,” said Peek. “That’s what gets people in and keeps them coming back.”



A grand opening is planned in the near future for the 2214 Oak Street location. For more information, call manager Craig Alan at (904) 738-8325.

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MOCA Jacksonville Receives \$75,000 Grant from Warhol Foundation

Funding to Support Project Atrium Series for Next Two Years

The Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, a cultural resource of the University of North Florida, has received a \$75,000 grant for the next two years from pre-eminent contemporary art grant-maker The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts to support MOCA's acclaimed Project Atrium series.

The primary focus of the Warhol Foundation's grant-making activity has been to support the creation, presentation and documentation of contemporary visual art, particularly work that is experimental, under-recognized, or challenging in nature. The program has been both pro-active in its approach to the field of cultural philanthropy and responsive to the changing needs of artists.

"Receiving this recognition from the Warhol Foundation speaks to the caliber of artists and art exhibited in the Museum's Project Atrium series and of MOCA's nascent national reputation," said Marcelle Polednik, director of MOCA Jacksonville. "The series embodies Andy Warhol's inventive, open-minded spirit and desire for the visual arts to have a profound impact for generations to come."

Project Atrium features site-specific and site-sensitive installations by emerging and mid-career artists. The unique placement, dimensions and scale of MOCA's Atrium Gallery provide a compelling challenge to the chosen artist—a call to reinvention and active collaboration with the architecture of the museum on a monumental scale. For more information about Project Atrium and its related activities, visit www.mocajacksonville.org or call MOCA at (904) 366-6911.



Ian Bogost's "Simony" for Project Atrium, photo by Douglas J. Eng Photography

PROJECT Atrium

APP Talk held at MOCA for Bogost's interactive work

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and the Art in Public Places (APP) Committee held informational meeting one evening in December at the Museum for Contemporary Art. The presentation called, "APP Talk," familiarized artists with the Art in Public Place program and the Request for Proposal process that will begin for new mural projects in 2013. The first mural, in a series of projects, is slated for

completion in spring, 2013 to coincide with the One Spark festival.

Attendees viewed the latest installation of MOCA Jacksonville's Project Atrium series featuring the work of artist, academic and video game designer Ian Bogost. His site-specific, interactive work for MOCA is titled, "Simony." For more information on the Cultural Council and its programs, visit www.culturalcouncil.org.

Nominations deadline Jan. 15 for annual arts awards

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is seeking nominations for the 37th Annual Arts Awards, to be made in the categories of corporate, individual, educator and innovator. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 15.

Awards are made by the selection committee of local arts and business leaders, educators, past recipients and Cultural Council board members. Winners will be

announced at the Arts Awards on Apr. 12 at the Main Library.

The committee will review nominations based on criteria including: community outreach, service to the underserved, and the development of innovative programs and collaborations.

For a complete set of criteria or a nomination form, please visit www.culturalcouncil.org.

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BY NATHAN &
TED MILLER

Commit to do something new: fish with fly

been centered more around site casting to fish than letting bait soak on the bottom. Fishing flood tides for tailing redfish or a dead-low tide around oyster beds during the early morning or late afternoon bite can both offer great opportunities for fishing on fly.

Tailing redfish are evident and offer a great target by their large tails waving above the surface while they comb the bottom. And fish moving and feeding around exposed oysters during a dead-low tide during the early morning or early evening bite (just before sunset) offer great targets as well.

"Flood tide fishing for tailing redfish, low tide fishing for backing redfish, sea trout fishing at night under the docks, and bream and bass fishing in our rivers and lakes are just a few of the great fly fishing opportunities that we have," says Piper.

Fishing on fly around our First Coast will also offer great practice in the event you are traveling to another fishing destination. Due to the proximity of the Bahamas to Florida, many Jacksonville residents will schedule family trips to cross the gulfstream, and try their luck with fishing on fly for bonefish in the Abacos.

Piper says this practice is important to fly fishing success. "Casting a fly with a fly rod is unlike other any fishing you've ever done. For one, you will need to incorporate a back cast along with the forward cast, which takes some getting used to. The fly is usually so light you will need to use your rod to form loops in a heavier fly line to

carry the fly and leader along with it, thus making the cast."

He adds, "The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is an international organization dedicated to the sport of fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and conservation. Years ago dedicated fly casters with the FFF set forth five principles for a good fly cast. They determined that many casters would have different styles of casting but in order to make a good cast they all would incorporate the same five principles. San Marco, Avondale, Riverside and Ortega communities offer excellent park space where you can practice your fly casting. Use a piece of yarn as your fly and practice your casting on grass so that when you get out on the water you'll be ready to catch some fish!"

Principle Number 1: Keep slack out of your fly line.

As you accelerate your rod the weight of the fly line is going to put a bend in the rod causing it to load with energy. When you stop your cast that rod is going to unbend or unload and propel the line forward on a forward cast (or backward on a back cast). If slack is introduced, the rod will not get its maximum load and the result will be a poor cast.

One of the most common errors is starting the back cast when the rod tip is held too high off of the water – slack is between the rod tip and the water. Always remove any slack between the rod tip and the water. You can do this by holding your rod tip down towards the water and stripping in any excess

slack. Or you can perform a roll cast to get the line straightened out.

Begin the back cast with the rod tip down towards the water and you will see that the rod immediately begins to load (with pressure) as you accelerate back.

Another common error that introduces slack is called Creep. After making the stop on the back cast, some casters will "creep" forward before the fly line has a chance to fully unroll, then begin their actual forward cast. This introduces slack line in the cast and the rod will not get its maximum load and the cast will be poor.

If you feel like you are creeping forward you may want to consciously insert a technique called drift. Watch your back cast and after you have made your stop, "drift" your hand holding the rod back even further until the fly line unrolls. You should begin to feel the rod getting heavier which indicates a good load.

Now you're ready to accelerate on your forward cast...which we'll cover in next month's principle!

Capt. Lawrence Piper is a San Marco resident who fishes out of Amelia Island. He is a FFF Certified Casting Instructor and a member of the First Coast Fly Fishers. The FCF meet the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Southpoint Marriott Hotel. Capt. Piper can be reached at www.TheAnglersMark.com.

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Go GIVERS

Volunteering is life's work for Fran Lee

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One of the most committed, caring volunteers the Children's Home Society of Florida - Buckner Division/Jacksonville has ever had knows firsthand its priceless value to homeless children in our midst. Fran Lee, 77, of Ortega was one of the orphaned children lovingly cared for by the organization. The Children's Home Society has been finding homes and helping children and teens heal since 1902.

"I was born at St. Vincent's Hospital and taken straight to the Children's Home, from what I know about my birth," Lee said. "I was blessed to be adopted at six weeks old by Francis and Miranda (Yerkes) Childress, and was their only child."

In the late 1960s Lee was active with the Junior League of Jacksonville when the Children's Home contacted the league to ask for volunteer help. Not only did Lee volunteer and become a board member, eventually she served as president of the board. Lee also volunteered as a trustee of the Buckner Foundation, which at the time assisted unwed mothers. The foundation, then housed on the same campus as the Children's Home, later merged with and became a division of the society. Lee, who

declares she never had any career but her devotion to her four children, said that volunteering has truly been her life's work. Her personal commitment and volunteerism in so many capacities for the Children's Home has endured for over 44 years.

"My husband Lewis and I raised four children of our own and he also worked as a volunteer for the society. He served on the board of the North Eastern Division of the Children's Home Society, then became president of the society for the entire state of Florida," she said. Lewis is a retired Jacksonville attorney.

The Lee family tradition of volunteering and helping orphaned children has been passed down to the next generations and to their extended family. Daughter-in-law Alison (Howe) Lee, married to Fran's son Lewis, Jr., has served on the Children's Home Society Board - Buckner Division. Alison also volunteers as a docent at The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Jacksonville, for the Bolles School Parents Education Committee and on the WJCT Board of Directors. Lewis, Jr. is a volunteer for the board of the Jacksonville Zoological Gardens and has served on the board of the Bolles School.

Anne (Grace) Lee, another of Fran's daughters-in-law (married to her son Childress) has followed in her

mother-in-law's footsteps and serves on the Children's Home Society Board of Directors. Anne has been a volunteer for St. Vincent's Red Rose Ball and St. Mark's Episcopal Day School and church. Her husband Childress is a volunteer with The Blood Alliance of Jacksonville. Their daughters, Mary Dudley, Catherine and Laurel, all in high school or college now, have volunteered with St. Vincent's Hospital and with Angels for Allison. Anne works as president of her family's local commercial real estate business, Grace & Company, Inc.

A third daughter-in-law, Marian Lee of Gainesville (married to son Val) is an attorney and serves as a volunteer for the Child Advocacy Center located there.

Fran's daughter Ann and her husband John Webb lived in Tampa where Ann served as president of the Gulf Coast Children's Home Society prior to their move to Dallas. She now volunteers as a teacher for the disadvantaged, including many hurricane evacuees and those who speak little English, according to Fran.

Fran at various times volunteered for and served on the boards of what is now the Daniel Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America based in New York City, the St. Luke's Hospital Board of Directors and the Florence Crittenton Homes for Unwed Mothers (prior to its merger with the Child Welfare League). Her husband Lewis, along with his volunteerism at the Children's Home, also volunteered for the Mental Health Clinic of Jacksonville and with many other organizations over the years.

"My adoptive parents were a great influence in my life when it came to volunteering to help others," Lee said. "They taught me that what you have, you must share and give to others, whether it be time or donations. Mother volunteered on the Daniel



Fran & Anne Lee

Foundation Board, the Visiting Nurse Association Board and I remember her, like so many others, endlessly rolling bandages and knitting socks during World War II. She was unusual in that she took me with her to many of her board meetings and other volunteer activities, so I saw firsthand her work on behalf of others in need. My father was an investment banker who served on the Children's Home Society Board for many years. He also volunteered on the board of the original organization that became United Way of Northeast Florida."

These days, Fran and Lewis, who always traveled and hiked, (Lewis is also artistic and has done many drawings and paintings), now stay closer to home. They thoroughly enjoy their children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. Fran happily noted that having the whole family, and definitely at least twelve or more of them, all gathered around her dining room table is a joy.

"We would travel to wherever we could go, here and in Europe. Egypt is really the only place we'd like to see, but I think we won't be taking that trip now! Florida, and being close to the family, is home for us," Fran said. "I would also like to encourage people to consider foster care or adoption of children from our community. There are so many children, especially older children, teens and sibling groups that dream of having a family. It is simple to get information directly from the society or on their website where you can see the children waiting for homes and learn more about them, including foster or adoption options."

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How can you help?

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

Organization: WeGive.org, a project of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida

Mission: The Nonprofit Center connects, strengthens, and advocates for nonprofits to create a more vibrant Northeast Florida. Launched by the Nonprofit Center in 2008, WeGive.org is an online giving platform. The site

connects local residents with giving opportunities in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. From children's museums to senior services, job training to animal protection, members of the community can contribute to causes that match their passions. Any 501(c)(3) within the five-county area can post a project for free, and donations (\$10 and up) are immediate and secure. Gift cards are also available for purchase. To date, WeGive.org has raised nearly \$55,000 for local nonprofits.

Opportunities to help: Visit www.WeGive.org to support a cause you care about, or purchase gift cards for family and friends.

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Chartrand Foundation moves to The Community Foundation

Beginning this spring, The Chartrand Foundation will conduct all grantmaking through The Community Foundation, located at 245 Riverside Avenue. The private family foundation focuses on early childhood and K-12 public education reform in Duval County and, according to Gary Chartrand, that mission will not change.

The Community Foundation will handle procedural and operational aspects of grantmaking and all existing commitments will be fulfilled. The move is a reflection of what Jacksonville has accomplished in public education reform since The Chartrand Foundation was established in 2006, according to Ashley Smith Juarez, executive director.

Realtors make holidays special for children affected by HIV/AIDS



Prudential Network Realty is as serious about giving back to the community as it is dedicated to supporting the real estate needs of communities across the First Coast. As part of this mission, the team at the Avondale and San Marco branch offices lent their support to Holiday Helpers, a nonprofit organization committed to making the holidays special for children directly affected by or infected with HIV or AIDS. Prudential Network Realty purchased holiday gifts for several children attending the organization's holiday party.

"The charitable outreach performed by Holiday Helpers is truly inspirational," said Prudential Network Realty

Broker/Manager Sheron Willson. "Last year, Holiday Helpers served more than 400 children. The organization's mission to make the holidays special for all children resonates with us and we are honored to support their efforts."

The team members of the Avondale and San Marco branch offices are well known for supporting charitable events and activities in the community. They have provided ongoing, twice a week donations of nonperishable food items to Jacksonville community food banks throughout 2011 and 2012, contributing thousands of dollars of food to help the less fortunate.



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The Way we Were

Lillian Marie Hefinger Walker

BY VICTORIA FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In a recent article on positive aging, an expert said, "Engage in life as much as you can. It takes energy. But if you don't find your center point, you'll end up drifting through life sideways." Lillian Walker could have authored that article.

Celebrating her 100th birthday on November 22, 2012, Walker was surrounded by her family, her friends and her caregivers, who reminisced about her century of quiet, compassionate engagement.

Daughter Chris Magrega, a speech therapist in Vancouver, B.C., remembers her mother's teaching career. Walker returned to Jacksonville University as an adult student. She taught at St. Paul's Catholic, Riverside Presbyterian, and West Riverside. She received the Teacher/Student Humanitarian award at West Riverside in 1972.

"Mom did not start teaching until I went to school. My older brothers

David, Stephen and John were already in school. Mom and I could walk to school because our house was on College Street where we moved in 1952.

"Walker was a really good name for us. My mother and Cobourn Walker, my father, loved to walk the neighborhood. Frequently, they could be seen walking down to 5 Points, to the Banner Foods on Oak, or to First Guaranty Bank. They were usually holding hands.

"One of their favorite stops was Berg's Bistro at St. Vincent's hospital. The cashiers and the custodians would leave their stations to hug my parents. This also happened as we walked the hospital halls. Everyone told me how much they loved seeing my parents smiling and holding hands. Dennis Magrega, my husband who is a therapist, used to comment that the light of Christ seemed to shine through my folks.

"Down the street from the hospital, was First Guaranty. As a pair of



the bank's first depositors, my parents were treated as royalty when they entered for even a minor transaction. Officers came out from behind their desks to talk to them. They became friends with the founder, Hickory Fant."

John Walker, a financial planner in Longwood, Florida, recalls his mother's extensive involvement in civic organizations, many of which supported community musical events.

"Mom was one of RAP's original members. She loved Luminary and helped with that. She was also an active member of the Delius Society, WOJAM, St. Vincent's and St. Catherine Laboure's volunteers. She and my father were founding members of St. Michael the Archangel Traditional Catholic Church on the Southside.

"We were all encouraged to be

musical. The entire family attended the concerts at the Prudential Auditorium. Mom played the piano; my sister took piano lessons from Genevieve McMurray on Belvedere. I was in the Jacksonville Junior Symphony and majored in Music therapy at Florida State."

Elaine Walker, a daughter-in-law, brings a stack of small, brightly colored books to the birthday table. "That," says Elaine "is only one year." The stack consists of journals that Lillian Walker has kept for most of her adult life. Each day is meticulously recorded to honor the day's challenges and its blessings. In this way, she managed to turn events into experience.

Walker's caregivers include son David, Adela Mejia and Glenda Atkins. David told the family when their father died in 2003 that he would coordinate health care for his mother for a short period of time. That period has now expanded to almost a decade and David is still positive and patient. "I wouldn't have traded this time with Mom for the world."

In the year of the anniversary of Florida's discovery, authorities on conscious aging are saying that the modern Fountain of Youth is fed by the streams of faith, physical activity, individual connection, and commitment to community. Historic District dweller Lillian Walker exudes her own authority. In her century in the District, she has never drifted sideways, even for a moment.

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Riverside 'renaissance' man Andrew Clarke retiring

BY VICTORIA FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In a recent article on positive Andrew Clarke, organist, choirmaster and Renaissance man, is retiring after three decades at Riverside Presbyterian church. Noted for his ability to improvise on well-known hymns, as well as his ability to play excellent liturgical and sacred music, Clarke is equally at home playing the Sasavant organ in Jacoby Hall or the piano at downtown Rotary meetings.

A native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Clarke is a graduate of Yale University and the New England Conservatory of Music. He pursued advanced organ studies in the Netherlands and has been on the faculties of local colleges and universities. As a recitalist, he has played throughout the United States and Canada, including performances at Tanglewood and the Spoleto Festival.

Commercially, he has released three CDs and has improvised on piano live on NPR affiliate in Jacksonville as well conducted the Friday Musicale Chorus in 1990 at the White House.

Clarke's sense of humor comes through when he tells the story of his White House experience. "I was the choral director of The Friday Musicale chorus when it was celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding. Someone sent that information to the White House and we were invited to sing as part of the Christmas festivities. We were set up in the East Wing of the White House and we sang to an almost empty room for the first forty-five minutes of our one hour concert. I was making sly comments on how good we sounded, but how sad there was no one to hear. Suddenly, the big doors burst open and the President [George W.H. Bush] came in with Barbara Bush and their dog Millie. They were followed by a large group of officials. Our last fifteen minutes was certainly our best."

Married to Sandy who also sings in the Riverside choir and is a member of the Symphony Chorus, Clark has two daughters Susannah and Elizabeth. The entire family has heard him play many Sundays and

quite possibly never heard him play the same postlude, which is always a spontaneous improvisation on one of the hymns sung during the formal service.

Improvisation is one of Clarke's great talents. He is quick to admit that he can't repeat many of his improvisational pieces. A piece, or a portion of the hymn, speaks to him and he simply goes with the flow, a flow that delights his audience.

Indeed, much about him delights others. As Pastor Steve Goyer says, "Andy is a joyful, curmudgeonly, no drama savant whose passion and love for excellent liturgical and sacred music has not only driven his own life but infected the lives of many of us in Jacksonville." And Goyer goes on to say that Clarke can locate almost any hymn in the entire hymnal in seconds because he knows that material so well.

Clarke is quick to say that his 30 year stint at Riverside has been ful-

filling. He has had a chance to create concert programs – Wednesday Happenings and Sunday Series, to play Sunday services, day school chapels, as well as marriages and funerals. In addition, he has taught a number of youngsters and older stu-

dents how to play piano. When asked how someone of his musical skill could deal with folks who are just learning Middle C, he smiles and says, "I can be impatient, but not with students who are just learning how things work."

He is quick to dis-

claim credit for the total creation of the church's outstanding music program. "Riverside, with its strong interest in missions, has been a good church for me. I built on the program that was here. The choir understands commitment. It is a special group and I will miss the camaraderie we have together. There is little artistic dissension. We really support one another."

Asked how Riverside will cope with Clarke's retirement, Pastor Goyer says, "Our hope is that it is just such a vacuum that gives God room to work in bringing new things to bear." An interim choirmaster will take over in January and the search for a permanent replacement will begin.

When he is not playing hymns, Clarke might be found playing what he calls cocktail piano pieces for Rotary. These pieces are Gershwin or Cole Porter tunes from what he calls America's Song Book. A concert that he is particularly fond of is Riverside's June Patriotic concert. "It is a sing along. People like to sing the old favorites and they have the opportunity to do that at this concert. We have individuals stand up to show the service branch they were in and we sing that branch's song. It is powerful."

On Jan. 27, Clarke's last Sunday on the job, the church is planning a special performance of his music at 3 p.m. In addition, there will be a little Bach, Clarke's favorite composer, thrown in. Clarke will be conducting the music. Nancy Reister, a former student of Clarke's will be returning to play, along with members of the Jacksonville Symphony, and Shannon Gallier from Good Shepherd.

Andrew Clarke's 30 years will close on a high note indeed.



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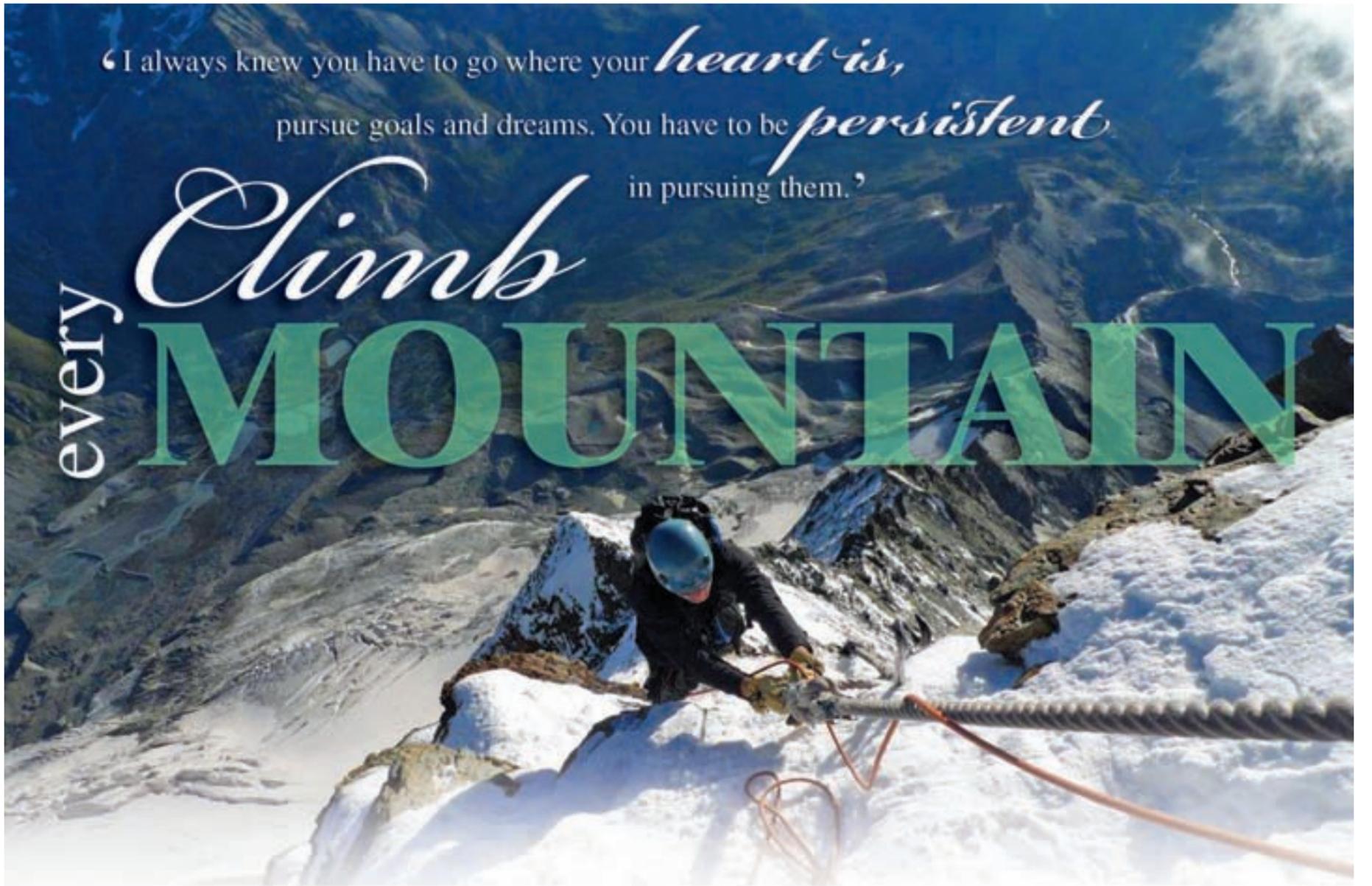
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Ortega resident ascends the Matterhorn

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BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Michael Bredehoeft has a healthy respect for heights, particularly mountain heights. As a young lad growing up in Germany, he and his seven brothers and sisters were sent to the mountains each summer for a month at a time.

Although the summer camps consisted primarily of hiking and climbing rocks, it was nothing that would prepare him for serious mountain climbing.

Living in Europe, you can't help but be aware of the Matterhorn. "It's an iconic, classic mountain," said Dr. Bredehoeft, a local veterinarian. "It's beautiful and majestic, whether you view it in pictures, from a train or at a distance."

At age 14, Michael happened to read a book about the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865 by an Englishman, and he was hooked. "For many years it had a very special place in my heart, but I didn't consider climbing it," he said. "Then six years ago I decided I had to do something about my 'respect' for heights. Vacationing in Jackson Hole, WY I saw people climbing rocks and thought 'I have to do that', even though it scared the living daylights out of me."

So, fast forward through several

years of training – a lot of running, including a few marathons; road biking; a lot of pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups ... for years and years – to August 2012.

"For the first time I saw the mountain in its beauty (no cloud cover) and I knew we would crack it



this time. We had seven days to do it. We did a couple of training climbs and then clouds moved in for the next five days," Bredehoeft reminisced.

Friday Bredehoeft and his guide climbed two and a half hours to

Solvai Hut through snow and ice, then went back down to the base of the mountain. The weather was forecast to break on Saturday, their last day to make the attempt, so they went back up to Solvai Hut and spent the night, getting up very, very early to make the four-hour ascent to the peak. "That we did the ascent on our last day makes it all the sweeter," he noted. "It took a weight off my shoulders."

During the nine-hour descent the weather turned and they experienced snow, clouds and lightning – the real danger. Although at 14,690 feet the Matterhorn is not the highest, it is the sixth most dangerous climb due to weather. During some climbing seasons there can be close to 150 people trying to make the ascent on any given day, creating bottlenecks and accidents. On the day that Bredehoeft achieved his goal there were only seven groups of two.

What's next for the 54-year-old doctor? "I don't know. Always thought I would do Matterhorn first, followed by Mont Blanc, and Eiger," but Michael and his 17-year-old daughter had already scaled Mont Blanc. "I signed up for Eiger in 2013." He always thought Everest would have to be next, but has to give it some more thought: "It's the crowds that really bother me; they leave a lot of trash behind; it's disconcerting. Before I decide, I will do a triathlon. I have six more years to do the Everest."

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Some things just run in the family. For Amy Beardsley, it's St. Vincent's Medical Center. Four generations of her family were born there. When Amy was pregnant with her first child, she learned her grandmother had advanced lung cancer. When she went into labor at St. Vincent's, her Grandma Lois was there too—as a patient. One of Lois' greatest wishes was to meet her great granddaughter. Knowing this, nurses and doctors stopped what they were doing and rushed Lois to the maternity unit. Amy says she will never forget the moment her grandmother came in and saw her newborn daughter. They had the same bright blue eyes. Grandma Lois passed away that night. The look of joy on her face when she saw her great granddaughter, however, will live in Amy's mind forever. This is more than a job for our doctors and nurses. At St. Vincent's we go out of our way to treat all of our patients like family.

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Protecting your Child from the Flu

It's that time of year when people start getting the sniffles, and maybe a few aches and pains -- cold and flu season is upon us. How can you tell if your child simply has a cold, or if it's the flu? It can be difficult to discern, but it's important to act quickly in the case of flu since complications can be serious.

Children younger than 5 years of age are especially at risk. A simple test can rule out or confirm the presence of the influenza virus.

Symptoms for both cold and flu can include a sore throat, cough, chest congestion, and fatigue. However, if your child starts experiencing headaches, a prolonged fever, severe muscle aches, and extreme exhaustion, those symptoms are more typical of flu than a cold. Vomiting and diarrhea are also common flu symptoms in children. If your child develops flu symptoms, consult a medical professional and make sure our child gets plenty of rest and fluids. However, it's important to note that even children who have always been healthy or have had the flu in the past can still develop a severe case of flu. Call for emergency care if a child at any age exhibits any of the following warning signs: fast or labored breathing, bluish or gray skin color, not drinking enough fluids (take note if they're not going to the bathroom or

producing as much urine as normal), severe or persistent vomiting, not waking up or not interacting, being so irritable that he/she does not want to be held, flu-like symptoms improving then returning with fever and worsened cough, or the presence of other conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes, or asthma) with flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough.

How do you protect your child? It's always important to keep children's hands clean since the flu virus can be spread by touching contaminated surfaces -- even common surfaces. However, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the flu vaccine is the best way to lessen the odds of getting the flu. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older be vaccinated yearly unless they are severely allergic to eggs, have a fever at time of vaccination, have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, or if they have had a previous adverse reaction to a flu shot. If any of these are the case, a physician should first be consulted.

Visit CareSpot to get your child's flu vaccine today! Located at 4498 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida, the Hendricks location is open Monday -- Friday from 7 a.m. to p.m., and Saturday -- Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check the approximate wait time, save a spot in line, and make an appointment at CareSpot.com.

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Jr. Residents

Ortega Eagle Scout a driven achiever

Carrison Hager holds a record, at least locally. The Eagle Scout with BSA Troop #522 at Ortega United Methodist Church has earned 129 merit badges, all that were possible at the time. Hager has been working on earning merit badges as soon as he became a Boy Scout at the end of the fifth grade.

Merit badges are earned by meeting the requirements as they are stated – no more and no less. Carrison reached out to a variety of organizations to help him achieve the goal of earning all. To earn his Welding badge he contacted the local Welders Union. For Insect Study, Hager worked with the University of Florida Extension Office. Scuba Diving, a relatively new merit badge and Carrison's favorite, was earned by making dives at the chilly Blue Grotto and Rainbow Springs.

The Veterinary Medicine badge he earned while working with the San Juan Animal Hospital sparked an interest in animal care, as did the Medicine merit badge. Carrison hopes to become a pediatrician one day and is a senior at Stanton College Preparatory School where he plays Varsity football, Varsity lacrosse, will run track in the spring, is the treasurer of the Senior Men's Club, and was selected by the faculty for Stanton's Leadership Class. Hager also volunteers and is very active in his Youth



Carrison Hager and Scoutmaster Craig Jones of BSA Troop #522

Group at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Hager was recently awarded the \$5,000 Boselli Award of Excellence Scholar-Athlete College Scholarship, which was presented at the Gator Bowl Hall of Fame Coaches Luncheon at the Prime Osborn Center on Dec. 31.

Carrison's Eagle Scout rank was achieved at the very early age of 13 with a project of hosting a team of Scouts that planned and implemented the installation of whole new garden areas in both the front and the back of the Ortega Elementary School, as well as built several new sitting bench areas for the After-School Extended Day Program faculty and children.



Service-minded RPDS students give back by helping to make 500 sandwiches for homeless at Sulzbacher Center

Sandwiches for Sulzbacher

Forty-six 6th graders from three homeroom classes at Riverside Presbyterian Day School got together on the last day of school before the holiday break to assemble 500 ham sandwiches. Clad in sanitary gloves, the boys and girls handled 1000 slices of bread and ham, 500 slices of cheese, and 250 oranges and granola bars to create 250 lunch bags for distribution to the homeless at the Sulzbacher Center.

The activity was one of many service projects undertaken by students at the school through the year to nurture a sense of responsible citizenship. Charlotte Reeder said, "We love to help people in the community."

If you do something nice for someone, they will do something nice back." Classmate Colton Champion echoed her thoughts, "What goes around, comes around. It doesn't matter if you can't meet the people you help, it still helps the community."

San Marco resident Suzanne Enoch and mother of 6th grader Davis observed, "It's really awesome to harness all this power and excitement!" She helped collect the food needed and gave a shout-out to Restaurant Depot, which donated a \$40 case of ham for the sandwiches.

Kindergarten donates 630 lbs. of fruit to Second Harvest Food Bank



Kindergarteners at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School have been studying how fruits and vegetables grow, while learning valuable lessons about need and hunger. For three days in December students and parent volunteers collected donations of citrus fruit to be sorted, counted and weighed as part of a math lesson.

The children filled a truck bed with more than 1,000 oranges, lemons, grapefruit and other fruits to deliver 630 lbs. to Second Harvest Food Bank. The service project helped them learn the importance of giving to hunger relief. If you missed this drive and have excess citrus fruit, Second Harvest is holding a Citrus Gleaning Day on Jan. 26, 2013.

Sixth grader has shot at Duval County Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the returning 2011-2012 Champion, Will K., for his second win! After 22 rounds, the sixth grader's winning word was "disingenuous." Fifth grader Chloe S. was the runner up. Will now advances to take the written exam to qualify for the Duval County Bee.



Will K. and Chloe S. with Cathy Hardage, Head of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School

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Jr. Residents

Youngsters to make 90-mile swim for charities

Swimmers donate to other causes too

Aidan Galpin, a 10-year-old St. Mark's Episcopal student, is part of a group of kids being coached by Kerry Wick Swimming at Good Shepherd. Galpin and 20 others are swimming the Key West to Cuba book this winter and Aidan has decided to use his 90-mile swim to help others. He has collected over \$1,500 in pledges for Angels for Allison, Refugee Swim Lessons and Soles for Souls.



Aidan Galpin

lect swim suits, goggles, and towels to contribute to refugee children who learn to swim in a program which is partnered through

Lutheran Social Services, Kerry Wick Swim School and Episcopal Amberjax Swimmers. Lauren and her sisters Anna and Maria also collected 175 pairs of new socks for Lutheran Social Services.

Other young swimmers brought food donations for people and pets at a Party for the People, Party for the Pets event sponsored by Kerry

Wick Swim School and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Boxes were overflowing with items for the Changing Hearts Food



Lauren Conners (left), Haynes Grant, Hannah Goldfield, Payton Lear

Mission on San Juan Avenue and for Lucky Cat and First Coast No More Homeless Pets. And Stockton Elementary 5th grader Emily Merton is raising money through cupcake sales to support a child in Africa.

Kerry Wick Swim School was established in 1994. The purpose of the program is to offer summer league swimmers an opportunity to learn advanced stroke technique, as well as to teach kids who have never been on a swim team how to swim efficiently and correctly. To inquire, contact kwickswim@aol.com.

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Stockton Elementary girl wins 3rd place in essay contest

Emily Gnida, a John Stockton Elementary 4th grader, took home a 3rd place \$200 Visa gift card prize in the inaugural Mayor Brown Essay Contest. The 2012 essay contest theme, "With a College Degree I can..." prompted 827 entries from elementary, middle and high school students throughout Duval County. First place winners received iPads and second place winners took home Nexus Tablets.



Mayor Alvin Brown presents a prize to Emily Gnida; photo by Tonya Austin

Magnet school open house and tours

Central Riverside Elementary School will launch the first of several open houses for enrollment in the Magnet program for the 2013-2014 school year beginning on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. Additional open houses will be held Jan. 24 (10-11 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m.) and Fridays from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. starting Jan. 25 through Feb. 22, 2013. Central Riverside offers the EDGE program for academically talented children, a gifted program and before/after school programs for grades K-4 at 2555 Gilmore Street. Contact Beryl White-Bing at (904) 381-7495 for more information.

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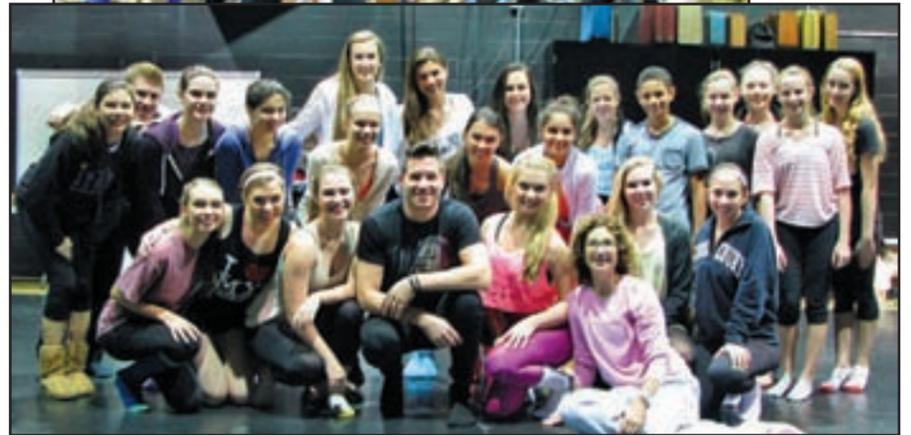
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Meeting Santa for Breakfast

Audrey Brice meets Santa Jim Wells, both of Avondale, at the 9th annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Silent Auction by the Avondale United Methodist Child's Day Out Preschool. Students enjoyed getting photos with Santa Claus and a Christmas concert by the VPK-4 classes.

Local Students Take Cues From International Choreographer



New York-based choreographer Derek Mitchell has arranged dance moves for international television shows, NBA basketball entertainers and viral Internet moments during his career. But in recent weeks, Mitchell hit the Jacksonville scene to help build the

dance experiences of 26 student dancers at The Bolles School.

Mitchell came to the Bolles Upper School San Jose campus December 15-16 as part of the school dance program's artist weekend initiative.

Snyder wrestlers host tourney, add MPACT-ADC to training

It was win-win-win for the Cardinal wrestling team at Bishop Snyder High School last year. Channel 4 recognized the team as its Dec. 18 Team of the Week; Florida Wrestles awarded the program a grant of \$1,000 for their innovative work with strength and conditioning coach Joe Hanson of MPACT-ADC, and the annual Westside Kiwanis Christmas Invitational was hosted for the first time in 28 years at Bishop Snyder. The Cardinals finished sixth out of 16 teams – their best finish ever – at the tournament. Additionally, junior Brandon Marshall was named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler by the officials who refereed the matches.

forces to improve the level of training available to their student athletes by bringing Coach Joe Hanson to the school to accommodate more athletes and their busy schedules. The long-term athletic development program offers athletes many benefits, including physical literacy, athletic development and personal development.

Bishop Snyder High School plans to expand this program to teach fitness as a lifestyle, including community outreach programs for middle school students by incorporating the training program into their youth development camps in 2013. For more information, contact Rusty Kellum, (904) 908-8969.

Bishop Snyder High School and MPACT-ADC (Athletic Development Center) joined

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