

Celebrating Heroes



Alex Hepler, Holly Reed, John Blinn, Megan O'Steen and Ruby O'Steen

Honoring the lifesaving efforts of the best and brightest

It was a night was full of amazing tales of recovery from trauma, including miracle filled moments and triumphant efforts to help patients – against all odds. The annual black tie gala celebrated the contributions of first responders, University of Florida physicians, Shands nursing staff and technicians, TraumaOne flight crew and families during times of trial. Funds raised from the event help to supplement the costs of TraumaOne and Shands Jacksonville operations, improving patient outcomes and saving lives in Northeast Florida. See more photos

.....page 22

Resident

Community News

A Day for Dad

Ahmad and Amare Thomas enjoy themselves with a smile and a sketch for the Celebration of Fathers at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School



INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
What you need to know about One Spark.....	p. 8-9
JAX2025 Vision Report Number 2.....	p. 11
Finally! Real estate market back on track.....	p. 12-13
Meet RAM's new director, Krysten Bennett.....	p. 14
Healthy cooperation will go a long way.....	p. 24-25
By mayoral proclamation, March is St. Johns River Month.....	p. 29



Jay and Vernon Townsend, John and Patty Otterson with Jim and Maruchi Schumacher

Water Main upgrade work begins on busy Historic District streets

JEA goes to great lengths to communicate construction plans

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A 2.3 mile stretch of St. Johns and Riverside avenues, including the King Street dog-leg, will soon be the site of an eight-month construction project to replace and upgrade Potable Water mains, according to the JEA. While 2.3 miles is just a drop in the more than 4,200-mile bucket of water lines managed by the JEA, this particular stretch of road is a busy link to

See **WATER MAIN** on page 38

Viva La Rosa

St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation celebrated 32 years of patron generosity at the Red Rose Ball. See more photos

.....page 22



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trees Speak Out

To Whom It May Concern (which is all of us),
 We have been residents of Riverside /Avondale for more than the hundred years or so you have been calling it "Our Town". Growing roots strong, pushing down into the cradle of the St. Johns River, anchoring us against the pull of modernization and global warming. We have endured hurricanes, car accidents, litter in our leaves and countless "waterings" by local canines.
 We nourish thousands of residents with our seeds and nuts, bark and berries, leaves and shoots. Our crowns sparkle with wings of global travelers resting along their pilgrimages home.

I have witnessed bursts of red as spring rises in the maples down the creek. I am home base for grey squirrels in their endless games of tag. Playing hide and seek in dappled light, barely escaping the hard line of 7 a.m. cars streaming downtown. Like the ants that climb my furrowed skin you are constant in your industry, only paying attention to what lies immediately ahead. Then at 5 o'clock, I welcome you back to our neighborhood with promises of leisure. While shading your daydreams and guarding your night dreams, we cushion the sound of sirens, substituting rattle with rustle and birdsong.

We have lived together for so long in our balancing act, exchanging our most intimate details – our breath, our beauty, our moisture, our grace. But, last week, these promises of renewal were met by a

deliberate buzz as somebody took it upon themselves to clear the edge of the wood. The only problem was it wasn't their wood to begin with. It was ours – all of ours. Not just public property owned by the city of Jacksonville, but land that provided a critical urban habitat. A break from the monotony of lawns and manicured minds. A place that provided an authentic backdrop for family picnics, Frisbee tag and dreams.

We have upheld our part of the bargain by providing clean air, soil stabilization, temperature control and habitat for all. What about yours? Clear cutting not only levels the land but like the open wound that it invites colonization by invasive species, further compromising the health of our system.

Now, some people say that this private

citizen was doing us all a favor by eliminating a hangout for vagrants. Even if it did provide cover for a few people, once in a while, that's not the way to end homelessness. Education, equal pay, fair housing are farther reaching methods that benefit all of us, not just the property owner next door who wants to clean up his view.

Fear based actions against nature, rooted in ignorance and selfishness must be stopped. Like the white egrets and ibis that come to Riverside Park seeking a safe place to dream, we are all on this shrinking island together.

– Sincerely,
 The Trees of
 Willowbranch Creek
 & Sarah Crooks Claire

Riverside cleanup event March 16th needs your support

The St. Johns River is one of Florida's most important natural resources and federally designated as an American Heritage River. As a result of its importance, Mayor Alvin Brown has issued a proclamation that March is St. Johns River Month.

Riverside Avondale is a Nationally Designated Historic District that has garnered recognition as one of America's

Top Ten Great Neighborhoods.

On March 16, Riverside Avondale Preservation, Keep Jacksonville Beautiful, City of Jacksonville and St. Johns Riverkeeper are joining forces for the Riverside Cleanup. This event is being held in conjunction with the annual citywide St. Johns River Celebration to raise awareness and to engage residents in cleaning up two of our community's most precious assets – the St. Johns River and the neighborhood in which we live.

Cleaning up the St. Johns doesn't just include picking up trash along the shoreline of the river and its tributaries. Protecting our river begins at our homes

and businesses by preventing trash and pollution from reaching our waterways in the first place.

Stormwater that runs off rooftops, driveways, parking lots, and streets picks up litter, debris, motor oil, fertilizers, chemicals, and pet waste along the way. Storm drains transport this polluted water directly into our river and its tributaries untreated. Fortunately, there are many ways to minimize our impact and help protect our river and wildlife and enhance and beautify our community.

By planting native and drought-tolerant plants; using water, fertilizers and chemicals sparingly and responsibly; removing litter and debris from our streets and storm drains, and implementing other River Friendly practices, we can each make a difference.

During River Month, we will also be partnering with The Cummer Museum of

Art & Gardens and Philips Garden Store, and Native and Uncommon Plants to provide information and workshops about River Friendly yard products and practices.

Please, join us as we clean up and protect the St. Johns and demonstrate our pride in our river and in our neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org and www.riversideavondale.org.

– Sincerely,
 James C. Orth
 Executive Director, St. Johns
 Riverkeeper

Carmen Godwin
 Executive Director, Riverside
 Avondale Preservation

ARTICLE CORRECTION: The phone numbers to contact Piranhas Swim Team coaches are: Colin Hardy at (904) 349-0972 or coach Eric Wendorf at (904) 416-4275, and the monthly membership fee is \$80.



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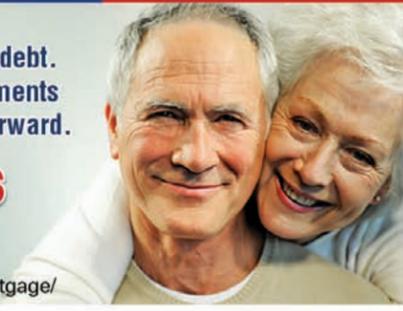


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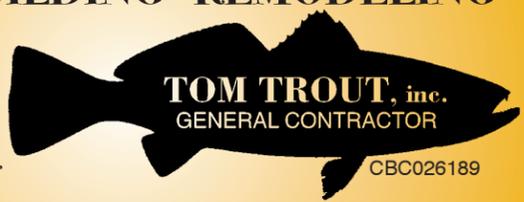


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Spring is Here - and so are Great Home Values!



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4134 CHURCHWELL RD - \$325,000
Lovely brick 3/2/1 in Ortega Forest,
2394sf, 95' x 140' deep lot



UNDER CONTRACT

3629 RICHMOND ST - \$275,000
Renovate or build on this 73' x 130'
lot on Avondale's premier street!



UNDER CONTRACT

5107 CHARLEMAGNE RD
Gorgeous waterfront 4/3, Pine
Cottage kitchen, 3175sf, dock



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SOLD

1426 TALBOT AVE - \$219,000
Charming 3/1.5 bungalow in Avondale,
wood floors, 9' ceilings, 1767sf



FOR RENT

4417 SAN JUAN AVE - Rental
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WATERFRONT

3320 LAKESHORE BLVD - \$599,000
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1230 PALMER TERR - \$799,000
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1846 MALLORY ST #5 - \$119,000
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Ridge, quiet Avondale riverfront complex



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



JUST LISTED

1820 WOODMERE DR - \$499,000
Beautifully updated, distinctive brick 4/2/1
in Fairfax Manor; 2731, pool, det garage



1822 EDGEWOOD AVE - \$1,495,000
One-of-a-kind historic home fully
restored, pool, guest house, garage



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4932 ROBERT GORDON RD - \$219,000
Charming 3/1.5 on a beautifully
landscaped lot in Ortega Terrace



JUST LISTED

4560 RAMONA BLVD - \$172,500
Brick bungalow in Murray Hill, 3/1, 1474sf,
renovated kitchen, loaded w/charm!



UNDER CONTRACT

4260 MCGIRTS BLVD - \$799,000
Rustic one-owner 4/2/1, 2495sf, on
a spectacular 85' x 275' riverfront lot



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JUST REDUCED

4055 MCGIRTS BLVD - \$326,000
Immaculate 3/2, updated and
move-in ready, 2160sf, 2-car garage



4168 WATER OAK LN - \$325,000
Spacious, light-filled 3/2/1, 1950sf
one-story home w/huge fenced yard



COMING SOON

Brick 2-story in Historic Avondale,
4/2/1, pool, 2200sf



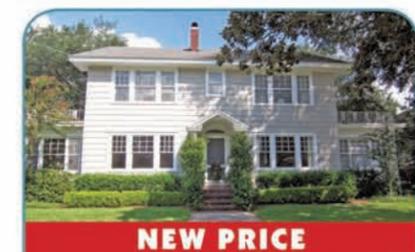
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4322 BALTIC ST - \$593,000
Classic newer shake shingle
in Old Ortega, 4/3, 100' x 125' lot



2397 S PONTEVEDRA BLVD - \$2,250,000
Contemporary oceanfront 4/4, custom
design, immaculate, perfectly located



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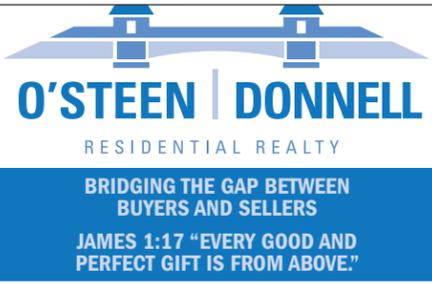
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In Memoriam

Reflection on Robert W. Schlageter

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Robert W. Schlageter, or Bob as his friends called him, gave Jacksonville an enormous gift. He planted the seeds that enabled the Cummer Museum to flower into its current internationally respected status. Wes Denham, former columnist for The Washington Times, has written about numerous museums. He believes, "The Cummer is a gem, definitely one of the nation's best small museums." Schlageter, The Cummer's Director from 1976 to 1992, cultivated international awareness of the museum's Meissen porcelain collection and was responsible for adding a number of high quality paintings to The Cummer's collection.

Hope McMath, Museum Director recalls, "He was a fine art historian, a brilliant teacher and a good friend to many." Vance Shrum, who was hired by Schlageter and is now in his 35th year at The Cummer, remembers Schlageter as, "a perfectionist—very stern, very demanding. His focus made the institution flourish."

Schlageter was open to suggestions from the museum's stakeholders. When arts patron Ann Hicks proposed a fundraising benefit ball to shore up



Museum finances, he agreed with her idea, but directed that all ball proceeds be used for the Acquisitions Fund to buy high quality art for the collection.

The Cummer's Associate Director of Marketing, Amy Chamberlin relates, "His collecting included works by world class artists that had a connection with Jacksonville or Florida or the Southeast. Some of his important purchases included The Holy Family with the Infant, St. John the Baptist by Giorgio Vasari, Before Her Appearance by Frederick Frieseke, The Awakening of Venus by Charles Joseph Natoire and the Egyptian Stela of Iku and Mer-imat. He operated on the philosophy of, 'for every dollar spent on operations a dollar will be spent on acquisitions.' He said that a museum's importance is built on its collections, after which, care, learning and teaching are developed."

Schlageter's commitment to education was evident when he supported an idea brought to him by Jean Dodd,

a volunteer. Known to the community as Art Connections and directed by Ms. Dodd, the program earned a national Institute of Museum Services award. In an era of declining dollars for art education, the program is increasingly valuable to the extended community.

As Chamberlin says, "With the development of Art Connections came the first capital campaign in the Museum's history. The campaign raised more than 17 million dollars. These funds were used for the expansion of the Museum which included Schlageter's brilliant vision of the creation of the two semicircular riverfront galleries that embraced The Cummer Oak and tied Mrs. Cummer's gardens and the building into a harmonious entity. Also, the funds were used to purchase the adjacent Barnett Bank Trust building and to install there the Art Connections program and interactive floor."

Before he was appointed Cummer Director, Schlageter was at the Ackland Museum, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. In the 1950s, he was director of the Mint Museum in Charlotte and in between he worked at the Downtown Gallery in New York City.

Robert W. Schlageter, age 88, passed away Saturday, Feb. 2 in Clearwater, FL with his son by his side. A memorial reception was held at The Cummer on Feb. 24, a time when the Cummer Garden was ablaze with early spring flowers. The flowers provided a fitting backdrop for remembering a man who had planted the seeds of so many programs vital to the Museum itself.

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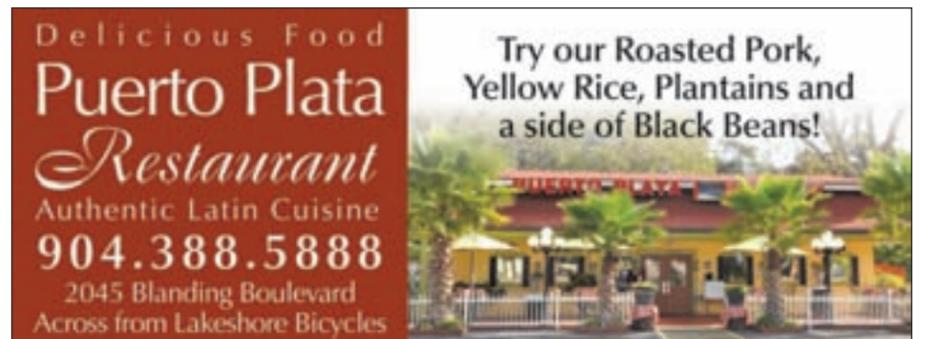
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YMCA announces \$2 million gift for the new Riverside facility

To be named Luther and Blanche Coggin Healthy Living Center

More than 500 were in attendance on Feb. 5 when the YMCA of Florida's First Coast announced the Healthy Living Center at the new Riverside YMCA will be named the Luther and Blanche Coggin Healthy Living Center, in honor of a \$2 million donation from the Coggin family. The Luther and Blanche Coggin Healthy Living Center will offer a comprehensive range of programs and services designed to create and encourage a more active and healthier community.

"This is a highly visible show of support for the YMCA's mission to transform the well-being of the children, families and adults in the neighborhoods we serve," said Eric Mann, President and CEO. "We're proud to

partner with the Coggin family in building a healthier future."

"I have been a member of the Y since I was a little boy," said Luther Coggin. "It offered me the opportunity to work out, swim, play basketball, run and many other things too numerous to list. Blanche and I feel the new Healthy Living Center will be an outstanding addition working in corroboration with many healthcare providers."

Through partnerships with members of the medical community, the Luther and Blanche Coggin Healthy Living Center at the new Riverside Y

will target and tackle serious health concerns of its youth and adult neighbors in Duval County's Health Zone 1. This collaboration is designed to



Eric Mann & Luther Coggin

address major risk factors associated with the area's leading causes of death, including various forms of cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke and diabetes.

Programs and services offered will

span four areas of wellness: preventative, reclaiming health, rehabilitation and recovery, and corporate wellness to support the productivity of the First Coast work force. The Y expects to reach an additional 25,000 people with much-needed health education, support and resources.

Groundbreaking for the new Riverside Y is expected to begin later this year.

Yacht Basin Park gazebo to get mosaic facelift

Local artist receives TCF grant

Thanks to a grant awarded last November by The Community Foundation, local art teacher Kate Garcia Rouh will be able to continue the beautification and maintenance efforts of a small

Avondale park, affectionately known as "Mom's Park". Rouh and her husband Ken have been taking care of the park for four years, building arbors, planting many flowering plants, and trimming trees and bushes.

After painting over a graffiti-covered gazebo, the Rouhs came up with the idea to cover the floor

and walls with mosaic tiles. Now Riverside/Avondale residents are being given an opportunity to help with the project, mortaring tiles into the bird-and-landscape design. The Rouhs can typically be found at the park most Saturdays and Sunday afternoons, but you can also contact Kate Rouh at (904) 465-4591.

Ortega area rabies alert

Discovery of a rabid bat in the Ortega area has officials cautioning residents to maintain control of their pets at all times and make sure that each has received current rabies immunization shots from a licensed veterinarian. The alert, in which human exposure was involved, is for the area bordered on the north by Lancelot Lane at Water Oak Lane, on the south by St. Johns Avenue at Herschel Street, on the west by Lakeshore Blvd. at Freemont St., and east at the St. Johns River. It will remain in effect through May 6. Report stray animals to Animal Care and Protective Services at (904) 630-2489 and report animal bites to Rabies Control at (904) 253-1280.

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Mobility fee moratorium debate heats up

Groups from both sides taking their arguments to city council

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Opposing sides of the Mobility Plan fee moratorium debate squared off during the public hearing portion of the Feb. 26 city council meeting. At the heart of the matter: jobs.

"This is all about jobs. These are tough times. When I hear nails being hammered or see a crane in the sky that means someone is putting food on their table. This [the fee moratorium] will expand the economy in the city of Jacksonville," said Daniel Davis, Florida House Representative (R) District 15, former city council member and Executive Director of Northeast Florida Builders Association.

Many opposed to the moratorium also put forth the jobs argument.

"This mobility fee is about jobs: It will fund transportation jobs; it will encourage downtown revitalization adding more jobs, it will encourage fee development in the urban core and other areas of the city adding home building jobs. Other advantages of the mobility fee is that it integrates land use and transportation infrastructure, it encourages quality growth and development...it provides funding for transportation all over the city and

aligns with the recent JAX2025 survey...it doesn't kill development," Debbie Thompson said.

Others in opposition emphasized the safety impact of mobility fees, which would pay for construction of bike and pedestrian pathways.

"Pedestrians and bicyclists depend on infrastructure to get around safely... [Daniel Davis] mentioned that this bill is about jobs, and I fully agree with that. However, it's also about the life and death of the most vulnerable users of our public roadways systems," said Jeff Hohlstein, First Coast Chapter Director of the Florida Bicycle Association.

Hohlstein and Bert Shaw from North Florida Bicycle Club noted that Jacksonville ranks a dismal 48 out of 51 among the nation's largest cities in most bicycle fatalities and dead last for most pedestrian fatalities, according to the Alliance for Biking & Walking.

In response, Tom Ingram, a land use attorney in support of the moratorium, suggested separate bicycle studies.

"If there's this much enthusiasm for cycling, forget about mobility fees, let's have some hearings and talk about where there are suitable projects to do bicycling improvements and go there rather than talking about doing a mobility fee," he said. "I urge you to pass the bill and also to reconvene a task force to look again at the assumptions and methodologies that went into the mobility fee...let's look at how we can fund [bicycling]."

The moratorium is largely supported by developers and builders and opposed by bicycle/pedestrian

associations, Citizen Planning Advisory Committees, health organizations, transportation advocacy organizations and merchants associations. A recent poll conducted by the Jacksonville Business Journal showed that, out of 500 respondents, 82 percent were opposed to the moratorium.

"One intent of the mobility fee is to encourage infill urban development and adaptive reuse of existing properties in neighborhoods like Historic 5 Points. Placing a moratorium or optional waiver on that fee is not in the best interest of the merchant's goal to continue the revitalization of our neighborhood. Further, the revenue that would be paid for new projects in our zone that are subject to those fees would be a useful tool in our effort to upgrade and enhance an already existing infrastructure," said Allan DeVault, president of the 5 Points Merchants Association, in an email.

District 3 Councilman Richard Clark sponsored Bill 2013-94, which would place a three-year moratorium on fees collected on new development required under the 2030 Mobility Plan, essentially extending a previous yearlong moratorium that ended Oct. 19.

The rest of the council seemed somewhat divided on the issue. Robin Lumb repeatedly asked clarifying questions of the developers that strongly suggested he favored the moratorium. Jim Love, in a separate interview, said that he has not seen strong evidence that the moratorium has been effective enough to warrant an extension. Stephen Joost enquired about possible compromise in the fee amount.

"My concern is that we already did zero and so if it doesn't work out, next time you'll just ask for another moratorium and not take us seriously. Is there room for compromise where we're not completely at zero but we're not at 100 percent?" Joost asked.

Love noted the \$900,000 in fees that would have been collected in his Mobility Zone 7, which includes Riverside/Avondale/Ortega/Murray Hill, during the past year's moratorium.

"That could have been used for streets, bike paths or sidewalks and added to the quality of life. I don't think we can afford three more years in lost revenue of roads and sidewalks," Love said. "When I voted for the first moratorium, I wasn't well versed in the Mobility Plan. I've since educated myself and looked at all of the data. It discourages urban sprawl, which I didn't take into account before. If you look at it superficially the moratorium might make sense. But it's a complicated issue and taking all of the facts into account, I think it's time to let the Mobility Plan work the way it was designed."

Data provided by the city's Concurrency and Mobility Management Office shows that the previous one year moratorium waived \$4.8 million for 38 projects and possibly as much as \$27.5 million in mobility fees.

Bill 2013-94 goes to committee the first week of March and could possibly go to vote at the Mar. 12 city council meeting.

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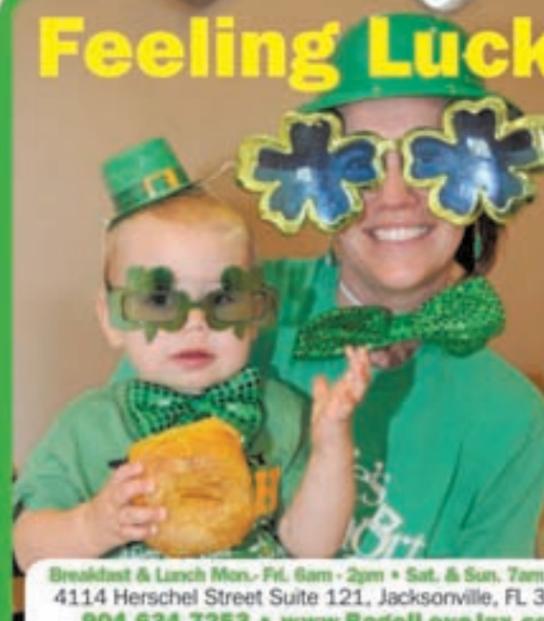
Zimmer to remain as Episcopal head until 2015



Charles F. Zimmer will remain as Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Head of School through June 2015 as the Board of Trustees continues to build for the future and the celebration of its 50th anniversary and the Search Committee resumes in Spring 2014 to identify a very select group of candidates for the position.

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Left to right: The Rotary Club of Jacksonville's Steve Bacalis (past president), Bill Mason (president elect), Tommy Grimes (past governor Rotary District 6970), and Percy Rosenbloom (past president) with Jane Lanier, CFRE President & System Chief Development Officer of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Dick Mueller (past president) and David Pringle (EVP, Mission Integration, St. Vincent's HealthCare) at check presentation on Feb. 12 at Lake Shore Baptist Church, 2363 Blanding Blvd. The donation helps fund expenses, such as keeping the generators in service, for the new Mobile Health Clinic unit purchased late last year. Photo by Aaron Mervin.

Big Fishweir Creek project receives funds to move into design phase

Next step to negotiate partnership agreement with the city

BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed Big Fishweir Creek Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project recently received \$100,000 in Design and Implementation funds to begin design, draft and negotiation of the Project Partnership Agreement with the City of Jacksonville.

"The next step will be to execute the PPA, which is contingent on Corps' headquarters approval to execute and the city being prepared to provide their cost share," said Amanda Ellison, local public affairs specialist for the Corps.

Ellison said that the funding source is a Congressional appropriation, not COJ funds. The PPA is only a small part of the \$100,000 with the majority being used to begin design of the project.

A PPA is a legally binding agreement between the government and a non-federal sponsor (in this case, COJ) for construction of a water resources project. It describes the

project and the responsibilities of the government and the non-federal sponsor in the cost sharing and execution of work, according to the USACE website.

Ellison said the execution date of the PPA is to be determined. The Corps drafts the PPA and then negotiates with the city.

The Big Fishweir Creek Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project's goal

The Big Fishweir Creek Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project's goal is to restore a healthy aquatic habitat in the Big Fishweir Creek ecosystem. Dredging will also create two converging channels and deepen the creek.

is to restore a healthy aquatic habitat in the Big Fishweir Creek ecosystem. USACE wants to dredge the creek, reusing 32,000 cubic yards of sediment for the restoration and recreation of a 2.3-acre manmade marsh island that defined the area decades ago. Dredging will also create two converging channels and deepen the creek.

Total estimated project cost is \$4.8 million (\$3 million federal share, \$1.8 non-federal).

The Corps held a well-attended community meeting about the project in March 2012, but there has been limited information to report as it has moved through the local and federal process, until now.

"This is good news for residents. This means we can begin design of the project, which will hopefully allow the project to move to construction sooner," Ellison said.

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with **One Spark's Elton Rivas**

The Resident News recently snagged a one-on-one with One Spark co-founder and executive director Elton Rivas. He shares knowledge and insight on this great event and how you can get involved too!

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Q What is One Spark – The World's Crowdfunding Festival, April 17-21, 2013?

A It's the world's first crowd-funding festival to focus on science, technology plus arts...a non-profit event to bring 500+ local, national and international creators to showcase their work inside one square mile downtown. Venues (restaurants, businesses, parks, shops, museums) will host approximately 100,000 visitors who may interact with creators and donate to any project instantly. A percentage of a \$250,000 crowd fund will be distributed to participants after public vote by attendees, plus \$1million in potential capital investments is available; many private investors will also attend.

Q What sparked this festival, if you'll excuse the pun?

A Local artist/entrepreneurs Dennis Eusebio and Varick Rosete and I know the talent and creativity here in Jacksonville, but also the lack of immediate, ongoing funding to connect ideas with resources and nurture homegrown artists. Someone just needed to do the legwork to make a change. We looked at other successful national festivals with similar goals, merged our ideas and One Spark resulted.

Q How will the world know about One Spark?

A Our in-house team and The Dalton Agency use traditional publicity and social media, plus the creators from 16 states and 15 countries are publicizing.

Q Other plans?

A There will be many free events, music and entertainment, plus great food and JTA shuttles. The Creator Zone downtown is the daytime focus, then Bay Street Corridor becomes the heart of the Entertainment District and nighttime activity.

Q Is the city involved?

A We've had great participation from the chamber and JAXUSA, the Mayor's office, cultural council, Jaguar's owner Shad Khan, local artists, museums and groups including MOSH, MOCA, The Cummer and J. Johnson Gallery among others.

Q Exciting aspects of One Spark?

A Kick-starting immediate connection between financial supporters and creative talent, nurturing passionate leaders to support and cultivate creators...and the chance to discover the next Mark Zuckerberg.

Q You volunteer for One Spark – what else should we know about Elton Rivas?

A I'm a Coast Guard kid, lived all over...born in New Smyrna Beach, FL; 1999 Daytona high school graduate, then followed a girl to college

at UNF. Jacksonville is my home. Worked in a corporate marketing management position, then my own consulting agency launching businesses, brands, developing strategy. I've come a long way from selling mangos on street corners in Miami when I was seven. That went well until police asked where the mangos came from. First lesson in business ethics – know your partners well! The kid bringing me mangos was swiping them out of yards.

Patrick Murphy, customer service/administration for One Spark, lives in Avondale, as do many volunteers. *The Resident News* asked his thoughts about One Spark...

"One Spark is an incredible way to showcase a variety of local talent while giving local residents and visitors the chance to help fund or support their favorite creations and projects. Prior to this position I was a sports director at YMCA Fleming Island, where I also volunteered to coach more than 20 different youth teams in all sports. I am now completing my certification to become a volunteer Big Brother for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida."

Q What's left to do?

A Contributions and/or we need 800 volunteers (there are some perks)! Visit the website or email us at volunteer@beonespark.com. For more info or questions, email info@beonespark.com or call (904) 250-0070.

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Citizen tip on attempted home burglary

Editor's Note: When Avondale resident Warren Trojanosky alerted *The Resident News* late last month about an attempted home invasion on Lechlade Street, our February issue had already gone to press. Since receiving that tip, we've taken a look at burglaries reported on the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office website of crime listings during the last week of January in the Avondale and Murray Hill areas.

The Lechlade Street incident was one of 10 residential burglaries that occurred between Friday, Jan. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 31. Here are the known details of each incident:

Two burglaries at unoccupied homes on Friday, Jan. 25: case not cleared in the 7:40 a.m. incident in the 3000 block of Gilmore Street; case suspended in the 9 p.m. incident in the 3500 block of Ernest Street.

One burglary on Saturday, Jan. 26 at an unoccupied home at noon in the 4500 block of Attleboro Street was cleared by arrest.

One burglary on Sunday, Jan. 27 at an occupied home at 11 p.m. in the 1200 block of Menna Street has been cleared by arrest.

Two burglaries on Monday, Jan. 28: case not cleared on the 3:45 a.m. burglary at an occupied home in the

1200 block of Rensselaer; case cleared by arrest on the burglary at an unoccupied home at 8:30 a.m. in the 900 block of Talbot Avenue.

Also, that same Monday night, the homeowner in the 1300 block of Lechlade Street answered a knock on the door from a young boy, at which time another boy in a ski mask and holding a handgun began pushing against the door. The homeowner was able to shut and lock the door and the perpetrators ran away. Although the homeowner called the police, who responded very quickly, this particular incident did not appear on the JSO's crime listings website.

On Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 8:20 a.m. there was a burglary at an unoccupied home in the 4600 block of Kingsbury and that case has been cleared by arrest.

Wednesday, Jan. 30, a burglar robbed an unoccupied home on the 1200 block of S. Edgewood Avenue at 11:45 a.m. and that case has not been cleared.

Finally, on Thursday, Jan. 31, a burglary was committed at an occupied home in the 1100 block of Randolph Street at 9 a.m. and that case has not been cleared either.

The Resident News thanks concerned readers for sharing such incidents in our neighborhoods as we want all to be aware and watchful.

Libraries may need tax district to survive

BY ABIGAIL WRIGHT
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Nearly 26,000 signatures are needed on a petition by Fall 2013 to put a straw ballot for an independent library district on the polls in 2014. According to Dr. Laura Lane of the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI), the purpose of the poll is to allow residents the opportunity on a future ballot to choose a tax district for libraries in Duval County.

Dr. Lane spoke at the annual Friends of the Murray Hill Library meeting at the Edgewood Bakery on Feb. 19, to share the JCCI's belief that the Jacksonville Public Library must have operational control and contends that the best way to accomplish that is to follow the example of Alachua and Orange counties which have proven attainable structure in stability and momentum within their districts.

Missy Jackson, Vice President of FMHL, shared a history of the Jacksonville Public Library. "Lifelong enrichment starts here," said Jackson, who expressed a love for reading and encouraged more use of the library system. Her presentation showed that more than 165,000 children and teens attended a program sponsored by the Jacksonville Public Library; that's nearly all the youth in Duval County. Enthusiasm like that for the library and



Friends of the Murray Hill Library Missy Jackson, vice president, and Helen Kamps-Stewart, president

learning in general are essential to keeping the library alive and operational.

Still, efforts to sustain the system need to be made. Dr. Lane suggested that a library district is able to provide better stability in local libraries through an independent tax district. "The goal is to establish independent funding and governance within an independent tax district without increasing the millage cap," she said.

Petitions can be picked up now at the Murray Hill Library and signed petitions will be collected in Fall 2013 at early-voting library locations and at polling locations on Election Day, Nov. 6, 2013.

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JAX2025 “Transportation Vision” key to achieving others?

Is “smart parking app” first step?

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One thing that many who attended the second of five JAX2025 participatory events agreed upon was that “fixing” transportation was key to achieving the vision for the other nine categories. As the U.S. city with the largest landmass, Jacksonville is a lot of ground to cover with an unconnected transportation system.

Granted, while most of the daily rush hour traffic is likely coming from within a 10-mile radius of the city – according to a December 2012 report of the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study Commission, less than 8% of Duval County residents work outside of the county – there’s still a feeling that our region’s methods of transportation are not connected. The percentage of people working outside of six other northeast Florida counties is four to seven times higher, with many commuting from Nassau, Baker, Clay and St. Johns counties to downtown Jacksonville.

During one of the two 45-minute brainstorming segments at the February 2nd event, participants

working on the vision statement for transportation at one table were adamant about implementing solutions such as a 24/7 Skyway schedule, a light rail system that extends beyond the 2.5 miles served by the Skyway, covered and paved bus stops, more park-and-ride lots in areas where day care centers and retail shops can serve commuters, and, above all, the use of smart technology.

One resident coming in from the Beaches noted that he was stopped at every traffic signal at 8:30 on a Saturday morning with no cross traffic at the lights. “This is a city of restrictions, not movement,” he said. “The technology exists to recognize when a light needs to change for traffic.” Another participant added, “Why aren’t there mobile apps that provide the bus

schedule and let you know when they’re running behind?”

Coincidentally, speaking of transportation apps, three days later Mayor Alvin Brown unveiled a new partnership with a leading provider of innovative parking solutions to implement a smart parking system in certain sections of Downtown. By early March visitors with smart-phones or laptops will be able to find on-street parking spaces in real time, as well as the locations of parking garages and lots, by using the app Parker™ by Streetline.

Installation of 99 parking sensors began early last month along Laura Street from Monroe Street to

Independent Drive and spanning several blocks of road intersecting Laura Street, including Adams,

...solutions [include] 24/7 Skyway schedule, a light rail system that extends beyond the 2.5 miles served by the Skyway, covered and paved bus stops, more park-and-ride lots in areas where day care centers and retail shops can serve commuters, and, above all, the use of smart technology.

Forsyth and Bay Streets. In addition to providing the location and availability of parking spaces, the app can be used as a timer to track remaining meter time and as a walking guide with directions back to the parking spot. And, along with search and mapping functionality, Parker includes a hands-free option with audible cue when available parking is nearby.

Back at the Prime Osborn on that early February Saturday, one table struggling to come up with a bold, clear and compelling vision statement on transportation unanimously agreed that when this issue is successfully resolved, other categories – such as Distinctive Neighborhoods/Vibrant Downtown, Education, a Vibrant Economy, Arts and Entertainment, a Clean and Green City, and a Healthy Community – will be positively impacted. To see the participatory vision statements for each category visit www.facebook.com/Jax2025/photos_stream.

It’s never too late to join the visioning process. The next JAX2025 meeting will be Tuesday, Mar. 19, 6-8 p.m. at the Prime Osborn. Parking is free; light refreshments will be served. Register online at www.JAX2025.org.

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Buying or selling, the real estate market is back on track

Low interest rates for buyers, low inventory for sellers make for a balanced market

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After years of languishing in the basement, the Historic District's real estate market has moved back upstairs and flung open the doors and windows to welcome in the sunshine of recovery. The best news is that, at the moment, both buyers and sellers are living happily together under one roof.

"Right now, it's good for everyone," said Anne Rain, of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty in Avondale. "For buyers, there are low interest rates and low prices. For sellers, the inventory is low so there's not as much competition; homes are selling quickly and for good prices – many above asking price. If you're both a buyer and a seller, then it's better to sell low and buy low than to sell high and buy high, and now's the time to do that."

The numbers bear her out: According to Multiple Listing Service, which tracks real estate transactions nationwide, Riverside/Avondale/Ortega saw a 5.7 percent increase in average sales price in houses compared to last year. Sold properties jumped 34 percent (many in the \$100,00, \$200,000, \$750,000 and million dollar plus ranges), pending sales rose 44 percent while listings dipped to 18.4 percent. Average days on market dropped from 135 to 120. The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors' January 2013 report (which includes condominiums along with houses in its MLS data) shows area sellers have received 90.8 percent of original list price compared to 83.2 percent last year, and 14.3 percent of properties sold over list price, compared to zero in January 2012.

Murray Hill has likewise demonstrated recovery, with 26 percent improvement in average sales price. Sold properties increased 50 percent (mostly in the \$20,000-30,000 range), pending sales climbed 137.5

percent and listings are down 39.2 percent. Average days on market, however, increased from 176 to 216.

"The transition has taken place from a buyer's to a seller's market, but there are still pretty good deals for buyers based on what homes were selling for two to five years ago," said Wade Griffin, Rain's colleague at Coldwell who was their 2012 top producer. "It's definitely balancing out and sellers are not as desperate to find buyers now. Buyers have to act quickly and they can't expect to find the same deals that were available even last year."

Sheron Willson, broker/manager at Prudential Network Realty in Avondale, agreed.

"The best time to buy is when the market starts to turn. As this trend continues opportunities are narrowed and when a property is properly positioned in market, buyers are met by competition including multiple offers. It appears this is a consistent healthy trend, not a spike or catastrophic movement in the market. Therefore it is a balance for both buyers and sellers to take advantage of this current market to make the move that they have been waiting for," said Willson, whose office had 2012's top market share in the Riverside/Avondale/Ortega area.

The current buyer/seller balance is reflected in the absorption rate – the rate at which homes are selling in a specific area. It is currently 5.7 months, with a balanced market being six months; below moves to sellers, above to buyers.

Low interest rates are strongly contributing to that balanced market – currently between 3.5 to 4 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage. People are still getting a lot of house for their money because of these low rates, but all realtors agree that it is essential to act quickly.

"Inventory is low and sellers are getting multiple offers," said Beverly Brooke, Prudential's top producer for Riverside/Avondale/Ortega. "Because of the way it's been the past few years, buyers haven't had much sense of urgency. But now they're finding that if they wait, they miss out. Once they miss a few, they get that the market's changing, but

by then, they've already passed on some great deals. 'If you snooze, you lose,' so my advice is, if you see something you like, act on it."

To offset the challenge of low inventory, Brooke sometimes approaches owners whose homes are not on the market.

"I drive through neighborhoods with my clients and when they spot a house they like, I'll contact the owners to see if they are interested in selling," said Brooke. "Even if my buyer doesn't end up in the house, the owner may decide to put their home on the market because they see the potential for a sale. Whatever it takes to bring buyers and sellers together."

Creative strategies aside, most buyers are going to face the hurdle of multiple bids, but there are ways to maximize their chances of getting the house they want.

Gil Pomar, banking veteran and president of CenterState Bank, said that buyers with pre-approved loans increase their likelihood of winning a bidding war. "I think the key is the buyer needs to produce a pre-approval letter from a bank with a short (less than 30 day) closing date, Pomar recommended. "No seller wants to take the risk of waiting and then having to start over. A bird in the hand..."

Lorri Reynolds, vice president/broker with Watson Realty's Avondale-Ortega office, strongly concurred with the advantages of pre-approved loans.

"Loan approval must be submitted

"For buyers, there are low interest rates and low prices. For sellers, the inventory is low so there's not as much competition..."

Anne Rain

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Avondale

"The transition has taken place from a buyer's to a seller's market, but there are still pretty good deals for buyers based on what homes were selling for two to five years ago,"

Wade Griffin

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Avondale

"The best time to buy is when the market starts to turn...when a property is properly positioned in market, buyers are met by competition including multiple offers."

Sheron Willson

Broker/manager at Prudential Network Realty, Avondale

"Inventory is low and sellers are getting multiple offers. 'If you snooze, you lose,' so my advice is, if you see something you like, act on it."

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Top producer, Prudential Network Realty, Riverside/Avondale/Ortega

"I think the key is the buyer needs... a pre-approval letter...with a short closing date.. A bird in the hand..."

Gil Pomar

President, CenterState Bank

with contract. The market is too hot to not have that insurance. Any agent that doesn't send a pre-approval letter with an offer is putting the buyer at a disadvantage," Reynolds emphasized.

Those buyers with limited resources or damaged credit might consider visiting a mortgage broker who has relationships with a variety of lenders.

"I marry 'need' to 'supply'. Different lenders specialize in different niches of the market and credit scores and I can help people find the best deal for them," said Alec Boriss, owner of Oak Street Financial in Riverside. "It's a myth that it's difficult to get a mortgage. Conventional, FHA, USDA and VA all offer viable

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In addition to low interest rates,

“Loan approval must be submitted with contract. The market is too hot to not have that insurance. Any agent that doesn't send a [mortgage] pre-approval letter with an offer is putting the buyer at a disadvantage”

Lorri Reynolds

Vice president/broker, Watson Realty, Avondale-Ortega

“We are a mid-sized company but we've sold 30 homes since January. That's more than we've sold in any seven-week period for the past five years.”

Fred Miller

Owner / Founder, The Fred Miller Group

“We have a good market of all price ranges to offer and the interest rate is wonderful, so it's definitely a great time to buy.”

Maxine Kelley

Top producer, Watson Realty, Avondale-Ortega

“The realtors, appraisers, mortgage brokers and lenders that are left standing have all been ‘battle tested’ so they survived some difficult circumstances and are very capable,”

Jon Singleton

Top producer, Watson Realty, Avondale-Ortega

realtors also cite decreased unemployment numbers as well as the resolution of the 2012 presidential election as reasons why the real estate market is recovering.

“Although we haven't seen any huge increases in local employment figures yet, people are slowly getting back to work, so there's more money available. Also, regardless of your political views, the fact that a decision was made in the presidential election

brings more certainty,” Reynolds observed. “Buyers are more relaxed about home ownership, so sellers are responding.”

Appraisals is one area that realtors feel is still lagging. “Appraisal figures are still six months behind. Since the new seller's market is only a few months old, they are still operating off of old comparable prices. Also, short sales or foreclosures on the block can lower appraisal figures so they are not reflective of the current market value,” Reynolds explained.

Coldwell's Rain added that historic districts present difficulties because of the uniqueness of the homes. “The homes are not ‘cookie-cutter,’ so you can have one not remodeled since 1940 and another entirely gutted and redone.”

Regardless, veteran real estate agents mark this as a watershed time in their profession.

“It's as good as I've seen for 20 years,” said Fred Miller, who founded the Fred Miller Group, along with his wife, Carol, in 1995. “We are a mid-sized company but we've sold 30 homes since January. That's more than we've sold in any seven-week period for the past five years. We're up 35 percent over last year. It's not just us; all agencies are up.”

Maxine Kelley, an Ortega Farms resident and 28-year veteran top producer with Watson, still sees it as a unique buyer's market.

“We have a good market of all price ranges to offer and the interest rate is wonderful, so it's definitely a great time to buy. If they qualify for \$150,000 I can get them into a nice home,” Kelley said.

Jon Singleton, another Watson top seller, noted that those in the real estate business that made it through the recession are now armed with extensive tools to succeed.

“The realtors, appraisers, mortgage brokers and lenders that are left standing have all been ‘battle tested’ so they survived some difficult circumstances and are very capable,” he said.

Prudential's Willson put it another way: “People that learned to dance in the rain are the ones who succeeded.”

A large part of sustaining that success involves marketing and the use of technology.

“Fast-paced, hi-tech marketing tools have become vital to real estate sales. Marketing over the next decade is going to make companies or break them,” Rain predicted. “We must compete not only in our community but also on the World Wide Web using social networking, nationally recognized branding and innovative tools to direct buyers from anywhere to our local homes.”

Beyond marketing, technology, interest rates or even the conditions of the market, all of the top realtors agreed that the key to successful transactions still rests in relationships.

“Those of us who did make it through the recession did so in part because we truly valued our customers and understood that, whether it's a \$20,000 home or an \$8 million home, it's a big deal to that buyer. When you do it wrong the results can be devastating but when you do it right the rewards are phenomenal,” Watson's Singleton said.

Both buyers and sellers are poised in the current balanced market to reap many phenomenal rewards – as long as they act fast.



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with RAM's Krysten Bennett

The opening of the Riverside Arts Market's 5th season on Mar. 2 launches the first full season under the direction of Krysten Bennett, Jacksonville native and currently a resident of Murray Hill. *The Resident* wanted to know what the new director has up her long sleeve for 2013 and recently met up with Bennett under the Fuller-Warren Bridge for a few questions:

Q What will be RAM's biggest asset / attraction this year? What's new and exciting?

A RAM is all about community, but it's the fact that RAM embraces its role as a gathering place for all of the best that Jacksonville has to offer that's its biggest asset. We're implementing a second signature event this summer in partnership with St. Johns Riverkeeper and highlighting the connectivity of the neighborhoods that make up the Urban Core, promoting the idea of the Downtown Day Trip – starting at RAM and taking the Water Taxi to explore the Southbank, walking the Main Street Bridge to visit all of the cultural resources that Downtown provides, then taking the Riverside Trolley back over to RAM. We've just accepted more than 30 new vendors so there lots of new

energy in the Market for our 5th anniversary season.

Q What will be RAM's biggest challenge, and how will you overcome it?

A When you produce an event 43 weeks out of the year, you run the risk of being taken for granted, so we have to find ways to constantly infuse the Market with new energy and communicate that to our visitors. I'm working to get to a point where we are less focused on what is happening next week at the Market and thinking more long term so that our visitors start thinking long term as well.

Q How are you embracing your new role and getting to know the community?

A I'm a Jacksonville native, and there was a time when I couldn't get out of this city fast enough, but I've watched it change dramatically over the last several years and am so inspired by watching my peers move into leadership positions and advocacy roles and really digging their heels in to make this city a better place to live. I meet new people all the time who acknowledge what an asset the Market is for Jacksonville and tell me how much they value the role it plays in connecting people to everything happening throughout the community.

Q How can area residents participate more? Are there volunteer opportunities?

A Absolutely! Our Volunteer Coordinator, Torrie Parette (volunteers@riversideartsmarket.com), is always looking for fresh faces to get involved. We have between 15-20 volunteers on site each week helping with things like set up, merchandise sales and booth sitting for our vendors when they need breaks. We're always looking for new organizations to host the Children's Creativity Corner and performers looking to share their talents. I think the best thing that residents can do for the Market is to simply visit on a regular basis, bring friends who have perhaps never been to RAM, and to purchase things from our vendors. All of our vendors are local, small business owners and supporting them only helps to stabilize Northeast Florida's economy. As I said earlier, it's all about community.



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4814 Apache Ave
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4906 King Richard Rd - \$295,000
 4/2/1-2,093 sqft. Great floor plan with 4 bedrooms or 3 bedrooms and an office, formal living, formal dining and a wonderful large family room.



4760 Ortega Blvd - \$325,000
 3/2-2,381 sqft. Warm, wonderful and welcoming home in the heart of Ortega! Traditional one story brick fronting Ortega Boulevard, with driveway and backyard access on Choctaw for ease.



5013 Ortega Forest Dr - \$450,000
 7/3/2-4,309 sqft. Wonderful home in Ortega Forest with room to roam - inside and out! Warm and welcoming from the moment you step onto the front porch area. Large rooms throughout with plenty of space to entertain.



1460 Avondale Ave - \$435,000
 4/2/1-2,200 sqft. Beautiful Avondale home filled with charm and character offers 4 bedrooms, 2 and a half baths, wood floors, gas fireplace and updated kitchen with stainless appliances and granite countertops.



3524 St. Johns Ave
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4155 Venetia Blvd - \$1,500,000
 3/3/1-3,916 sqft. Looking for the perfect ten? Stop here! Located on the St. Johns river, this 1995 custom home has it all. Step into the gracious foyer, see the dramatic downtown skyline view & your search will be over.



4165 Roma Boulevard
 4/3/1-2,839 sqft. Incredible BUY! Rich with architectural detail and located just minutes from Timuquana Country Club and the Naval Air Station, this fabulous home is loaded with charm. Situated on a very large parcel.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Seasoned restaurateur back in action

Chef Michael Thomas, made famous for his creation of restaurants 24 Miramar, Sterling's Café and Sliders, has unveiled his newest restaurant, Terra, at the former home of Pastiche on Herschel Street in the Fairfax area.

The chef and entrepreneur is poised to serve some of the freshest ingredients from around the world, including the best of local produce from Twin Bridges farms; eggs, chicken and pork from Black Hog farms and 'Buckhead' beef, along with fresh seafood. Local breweries will be served on tap, in bottles and in cans alongside 40 bottles of wine and 20 by the glass.

When asked about a local connection to the area, Thomas spoke of the former restaurant at the current location. "I was an admirer of Pastiche's food," he continued, "I've missed it [restaurant business] and I love to see people coming together and smiling."

Thomas was raised in a home on Edgewood Circle and hails from the neighborhood. "I've always loved these neighbor-



hoods, from Avondale to San Marco, and I'm now glad to be calling Avondale home."

Handmade delectables coming to Ortega Village

Fresh ingredients plus family recipes made daily by Chef Ben equals good old-fashioned comfort food at Simply Sara's in Ortega Village. Intimate seating inside and out, beer and wine, both a fixed and a set menu will be available Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 .m. and until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays at James and Sally Mangham's new location at 2902 Corinthian Avenue. Take-out, catering and limited delivery to serve older residents in the area round out the goodness at Simply Sara's, opening in March. Visit www.simplysarasnet or follow on Facebook.



Blanding Jazzercise top fundraiser for Donna Foundation



On Feb. 10, 160 Jazzercise members packed the University of North Florida with energy in a three-hour Jazzerthon to benefit women and families battling breast cancer. A professional choreographer/dancer from Washington, DC led an hour-long, fun-filled workout. Jacksonville Jazzercise on Blanding Avenue was the top fundraising center among all in Jacksonville, raising \$13,000 for the Donna Foundation. "It was very exciting," said Donette Snyder. "Donna Deegan was blown away [by the total amount of \$35,000 raised]."

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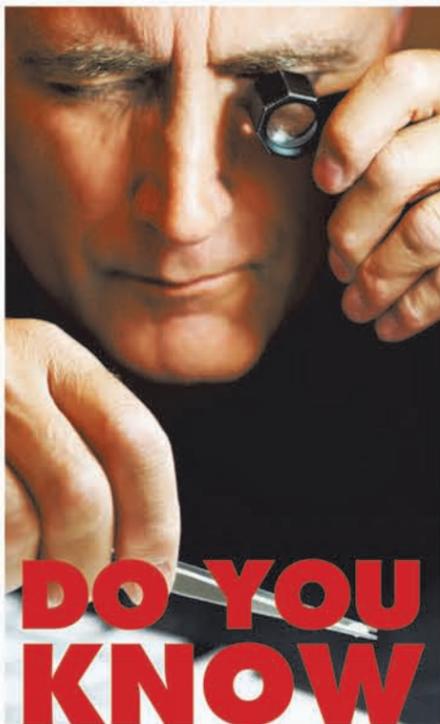
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With this passion has come the longstanding ability of A-Coin to make top dollar offers if there is an interest in discovering what your valuables are worth. Whether you consider yourself a collector or you've been entrusted to care for rare family heirlooms, you could be sitting on a pile of cash- it's worth bringing them in to be appraised. Some of these valuable bank notes, even some coins, jewelry and antiques have been gifted from generation to generation and they are incredibly valuable. Often times, they may be one of a kind or they are the only one known to have been found, most of whom own them don't know their true value- you must trust a professional.

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Bill's credentials cannot be denied: He is a 35-year member of the Antique Appraisal Association of America, a 20-year member of the International Watch & Jewelry Guild the ANA or American Numismatic Association, and a life member of the several state and national numismatists (study or collection of currency) societies. He is a PCGS (grading of coins) and NGC or Numismatic Guaranty Corporation authorized dealer and is licensed and bonded in several states. A-Coin is accredited by the Better Business Bureau.

That expertise has brought him to testify as a rare coin expert witness in a number of local, state and federal court cases. The clients that he has represented have never lost a case.

Bill's enthusiasm for rare and valuable collectibles is contagious and his knowledge is encyclopedic. His most recent focus has been on extremely rare currency that was issued from local banks under

the National Banking Act. Those monies ceased issuance in 1935 and have become part of Jacksonville's and the nation's monetary history.

"The money was called National Currency and of the nine banks in Jacksonville that issued notes, no note has ever been discovered from the First National Bank of Jacksonville. Meaning, out of the nine banks- eight have had currency notes discovered by collectors on record. Currency was issued in Jacksonville, Fernandina, St. Augustine, Deland, Palatka, Live Oak and other towns. It is generally believed that most notes were probably destroyed in the 1901 Great Fire of Jacksonville."

Bill said that no notes have surfaced in more than 100 years and that one in good condition could be worth up to \$100,000. This First Bank of Jacksonville currency mystery is just the story that fuels Bill's passion and drives him to share that passion with others.

"It's like a treasure hunt and highlights an important part of history. It's my quest to find these rare items and help owners reap the gain from their value."



"Our business model is simple: We pay the most and sell for the least. We have been doing business in Jacksonville for over forty years. Our buying power, coupled with the many relationships that we have with collectors all over the world, enables us to give you top dollar for your valuables"

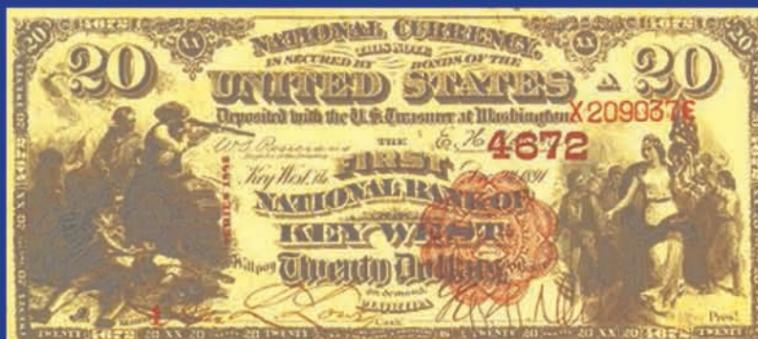
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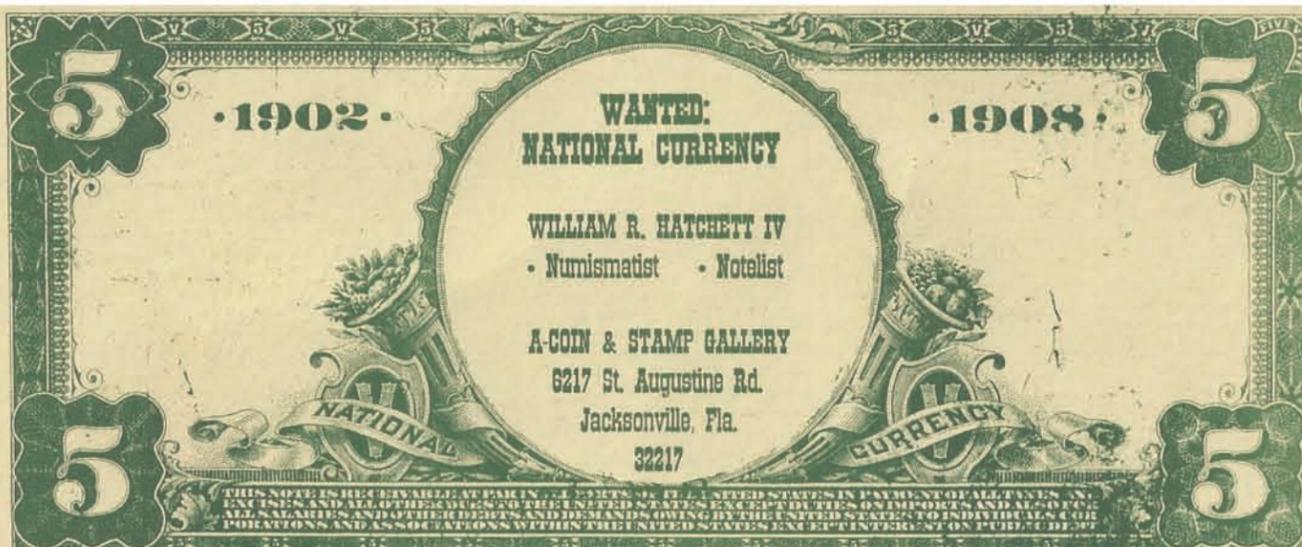


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Frederick's Bank Building. Constructed in 1876, this building housed the First National Bank 1870 to 1873, the First National Bank of Florida 1874 to 1876, and the National Bank of Jacksonville 1877 to 1890. The building was destroyed in the fire of 1891.

Source-The Illustrated History of FLORIDA PAPER MONEY Copyright 1980 by Daniel G. Cassidy

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Punxsutawney Phil makes guest appearance at local firm

Did the groundhog see his shadow at Tritt & Associate's 8th Annual Groundhog Day Party? Only the law firm's friends, colleagues and clients who attended the Feb. 7 event would know, but shadow or not, a good time resulted, as guests mingled throughout the evening. The firm, specializing in construction law, rolled out a fine party in the parking lot at their Peninsular Place office space in Riverside to thank their colleagues, clients and guests for their continued support throughout the year.



Bob Fleckenstein and Michael Balanky



Danielle and Arnold Tritt with Mark and Patty Stilwell

Carr gives blood to win a new car

An accountant with The Doctor Company in Riverside is the winner of The Blood Alliance's car promotion giveaway.

Steven Carr, 43, is a regular donor who has almost 5 gallons donated with The Blood Alliance. He was presented with the keys to his 2013 Buick Verano at Nimnicht Buick GMC after winning the prize from among more than 42,000 other donors who participated in the car giveaway promotion August through January.



Dr. Marsha Berthoff, Medical Director, The Blood Alliance; Jennifer and Steven Carr; Jackie Lynch, General Manager, Nimnicht Buick GMC

Carr lives in St. Augustine with his wife, Jennifer, and their 3 children (ages 7, 3 and 1). He drives 45 minutes each way to Jacksonville

every day for work and was delighted to win so that he can retire the 1999 car that has been giving him endless trouble.

Student job shadows local realtors

Prudential Avondale San Marco Office

The real estate professionals at Prudential Network Realty love their jobs and the real estate profession. Case in point - the team recently welcomed a student from St. Johns Country Day School for the "Career Shadowing for Seniors" event. Student Nick Mougey spent a day shadowing the team, experiencing some of the many facets of a career in real estate.



"All of us at Prudential Network Realty describe real estate as our dream jobs," said Prudential Network Realty Broker/Manager Sheron Willson. "We were thrilled to welcome Nick for the job shadowing experience and have him invest the time to find out what a real estate career entails."

The day started at Prudential Network Realty's corporate office, where the student toured the headquarters and spent time meeting with representatives from each department. He also attended a Realtor educational training seminar before departing for the Avondale branch office, where he spent time with several

of the company's sales associates and previewed some of the company's premier listings. He also spent time with members of the firm's mortgage and financing partners, who provide vital support services to the team and their clients.

"Job shadowing is a marvelous learning experience for everyone - the professionals as well as the students," Willson said. "The best way to choose a career path is to invest the time and find out what the job entails. We congratulate Nick for participating as a job shadow and hope his experience at Prudential Network Realty will benefit his future career pursuits."

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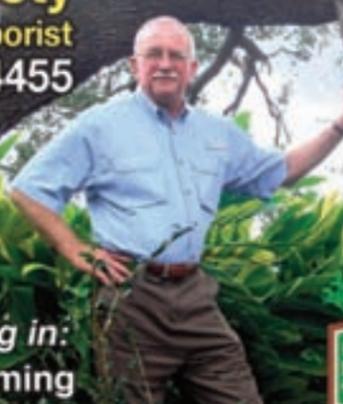


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Clough launches 'backyard fitness'



Ortega resident Amy Clough wants to help you get fit. The 20-year fitness expert and certified personal trainer recently launched Backyard Fitness, which offers one-on-one training, nutritional support and motivational coaching – just what's needed after breaking those New Year's exercise resolutions. Contact Amy at (904) 635-1968 or visit www.backyardfitnessllc.com for information about a consultation and the variety of programs offered.

Law firm moves into Atkinson Building

After sitting vacant for several years, the nearly 50-year-old Atkinson Real Estate office building is the new home for the award-winning law firm of John M. Phillips, LLC. Phillips and his staff of five are pleased to be in the heart of Old Ortega even while serving clients in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. The building located at 4230 Ortega Blvd. began as a convenience store in the late 1960s then was developed into a small retail center. "We still get four or five different electric bills because the individual offices were never consolidated, even under Atkinson," said Phillips. The firm specializes in personal injury and wrongful death cases, and is a supporter of the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville.



Marsha Oliver new DCPS media contact

Public relations and communications expert Marsha Oliver, an Ortega resident, was recently named Chief Officer, Public Relations & Marketing for Duval County Public Schools (DCPS). Oliver spent more than a decade leading the communications and development efforts for DCPS, where she achieved a 98% success rate in funded grant proposals for more than \$32



million. In 2007 she launched her own public relations firm specializing in strategic marketing communications, media relations, community outreach, grant development and crisis management services. Oliver also serves on numerous nonprofit organizations, including the JCCI, the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, the Women's Giving Alliance and the Children's Home Society, among many others.

Avondale interior design shop celebrates one year

Crosby Designs for Hugo's Interiors celebrated the New Year with its first year at the Avondale location at 4000-4 St. Johns Ave. The boutique-style store carries on the tradition of Hugo's Interiors' Southside location with tailor-made upholstery, drapery and custom cabinets but adds gift items to its eclectic arrangement of modern to traditional furniture and home furnishings. Visit Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. or call (904) 683-8683 for after-hours appointments. Also, coming soon is the J. Crosby Collection, a line of upholstery and designer pillows for the trade only. Check out the website, www.shopcrosbydesigns.com, to browse, shop and view the blog



Susan Britt Macon, Jennie Crosby Hugo (seated), Mary Marth Timmons

RAP honors outstanding members

The Riverside Avondale Preservation Society's annual meeting on Feb. 21 recognized outstanding members of the historic districts. Douglas Coleman, Jennifer Mansfield, Sally Robson, and Erin O'Brien were recognized for their service on the RAP Board. Robson, who served the board by establishing a community garden currently in the planning process, also won the award for Best River Friendly Yard for her home on Remington Street.



Jimmy Orth presents Sally Robson with Best River Friendly Yard award

architect, owns a home built in 1905 on Challen Street; home owner John Summerlin and contractor Sean Larkin led a six-month project on Oak Street for their renovations on a house built in 1917, and Courtney McEwan and husband Peyton Rogers took home the honor for their home on Pine Street, built in 1920.

David Case received the award for Outstanding Historically Compatible New Construction for the home on Richmond Street. Dolf James represented CoRK Arts District for Outstanding Neighborhood Contributing Business sharing the honor with Riverside Dental.



Outstanding Home Renovation: Mark Major with Carmen Godwin

Awards for Outstanding Neighborhood Advocates included Tommy Donahoo, Mark Anderson, Alicia Grant, Susan Fraser, Tom and Ida Rae Merten. RAP honored volunteers Judy Bristol and Rhonda Bryant, and Luminaria Committee chair Malcolm Jones won Outstanding Board Member.

Michael Williams, Cheryl Corrado and Zack Nettles accepted the Outstanding Business Renovation award for Derby on Park in 5 Points for their exceptional transformation of the building on Park Street. The Outstanding Home Renovation Award went to three residences: Julia Starr Sanford, an

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Sara McMillan and Will Inman

INTUITION HOSTS 'MARDI GRAS' TO HELP RAISE FUNDS



Hosts Ben and Diana Davis

It was a night full of suds and duds, as a well-dressed Community Connection crew-alongside a crowd of supporters, raised a glass and some much needed funding for families in need. The event took place Feb. 7 at the home of Intuition Ale Works on King Street. The mission of Community Connections is to help foster strength and support for homeless and poverty stricken families by providing many needed programs to give them a leg up, including summer camp programs, child development, homeless housing, after school resources and much more. To learn how you can help donate your time and/or resources, visit www.communityconnectionsjax.org today.



Lou Vaccaro and daughter Lauren

FOR THE LOVE OF PETS – ESPETO HOSTS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



Rosane and Breno Verlangieri opened their restaurant for the 4th Annual Espeto Brazilian Dinner & Silent Auction, including live entertainment, to benefit First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP) in its mission to make Jacksonville a no-kill community. The shelter, established in 2001 by Rick DuCharme, was recently commended by Mayor Alvin Brown for their collaboration with other local pet agencies and shelters, when Animal Care and Protective Services recently hit capacity. The facility is located at 6817 Norwood Avenue; visit www.fcnmhp.org, follow on Facebook or call (904) 425-0005 to adopt a pet.



Jack Davis, member of MDAs Board of Directors and Terra owner Michael Thomas



Gregory Taggart and Craig Miller

NEW FAIRFAX RESTAURANT OPENS DOORS WITH BENEFIT

The Terra Restaurant's pre-opening debut made a difference for the Muscular Dystrophy Association last month. The new restaurant at 4260 Herschel St. hosted a classy drinks-and-hors d'oeuvres fundraiser for MDA, where patrons enjoyed live music indoors or a beautiful moon-lit night on the patio.

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FASHIONS FULL SWING FOR SPRING, RAISE BAR FOR LIBRARY

It was a day to shine for the models, as spring fashion for men from Beau Outfitters made its debut alongside women's fashions by Coldwater Creek in the JU Kinne Center. Patrons, alumni and Friends of the Jacksonville University Library enjoyed a luncheon, complete with an opening operatic set of songs and silent auction items fit for any fine occasion. Models included Santhea Hicks (Mrs. Alvin Brown), WJXT Meteorologist Rebecca Barry, JU Athletic Director Brad Edwards, JU Advancement VP Michael Howland and 2012-13 Miss Dolphina Brittany Nickell.



Library Director David Jones with JU President Tim Cost



Rita Baumgarten, Dr. Frances Kinne, Stephanie Cost and Laverne Boeing



Julia Howard, Ryan Switzer of Beau Outfitters, Samantha Hayes of Coldwater Creek, Chase O'Steen of Beau Outfitters, Kellie Perkins and Event Chair Michelle Miller



Celia Clayton and Cathy Sullivan

A BIG NIGHT FOR ARTS CENTER COOPERATIVE

The Arts Center Cooperative held its annual fundraiser Feb. 16 in the Haskell Building on Riverside Avenue. The theme, "An Evening in Paris", brought out the cultural excellence of all who were in attendance. The evening consisted of live music, dancing, a silent art auction, a tour of the Haskell art collection, French hors d'oeuvres, wine and more.



Paco Gutierrez and Alicia Burst



Laura Monahan and Jef Taylor



Paula Foster and Andrew Ham



Founding member and Past-President Lora Davis Henningsen, Vice President TAC Ed Malesky, President and founding member Annelies Dykgraaf



Anne Brinton, Sally Garlington with Rachel and Greg Cook

GARDEN CLUB TRANSFORMED, THEATRICALS IN FULL SWING

The flapper dresses and zoot suits were out in full swing on Jan. 31 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville's Murder at the Juice Joint dinner theatre event. The night of mayhem at the swanky speakeasy featured catering by Biscottis and desserts by Garden Club members, the annual theatrical performance has been growing by leaps and bounds- raising funds for the club.



Ingrid and Ron Hughes



Kim and Jean Lott with Phyllis Gilbert

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Robin and Nancy Doering

HEROES HONORED AT 'THE GOLDEN HOUR' GALA

Roy and Delorise Thomas with Dr. Mike and Loretta Cotton

A Night for Heroes was one to remember as the annual black tie gala held Feb. 16 at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel celebrated triumph over tragedy when seconds count in life's most traumatic moments.

Acknowledging first responders, University of Florida physicians, Shands Jacksonville nurses and technicians, the TraumaOne flight crew and countless others, the night was full of recognition and thankful, heavy hearts. With an intangible energy, the tales of triumph during miraculous moments help compel patrons to better understand the impact TraumaOne and the Shands Jacksonville campus has on our quality of life in Northeast Florida.



Joe and Amy Barrow



Mark Meatte, Corrine and Erik Sharpe with Stephen Reinel



Lisa and Robert Utzi with Sister Utzi



Karen Aldrich, Joe and Mary Thompson



Bob and Carol Shircliff, Mary Pat Kulik, Pat and Gayle Thornton

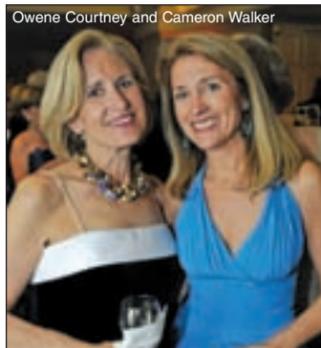


Ron and Pat Timonere with Mark Anderson

IT'S COMING UP ROSES FOR ST. VINCENT'S HEALTHCARE

Patrons were 'living the life', as they came out to support the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation with a resolute effort to raise assets for the Spine and Brain Institute. The theme 'Viva La Rosa' exemplifies the tireless work and efforts of the physicians, staff and affiliates that illustrate the mission of the hospital - to offer patients the ability to live life to the fullest.

The 2013 Red Rose Ball marks the 32nd annual event for the Foundation; this year's affair was held at the Jacksonville Marriott at Southpoint on Feb. 8.



Owene Courtney and Cameron Walker



Ginger Kurias and Seana McAfee



Paul and Denise DeVita, Ward Lariscy and Anna Dooley



Co-Chairs Vicky Commander and Linda Alexander



Moody and Natali Chisholm with Samer and Nina Garas



Susan Smathers with Randy and Jane Lanier



Paula Skitsko and Robin Albaneze



David and Claire Heekin with Marcia and Dick Morales

A LAID BACK AFFAIR FOR GREENSCAPE

While celebrating the green proceeds from the 26th Annual Flowering Tree Sale earlier in the day, the nonprofit Greenscape of Jacksonville patrons, friends and board members enjoyed good company at The Museum in St. Nicholas. The blue jean clad crowd relaxed with great music, drinks, food and friendship - all the while supporting a greener vision for the city.

Greenscape helps make projects possible by re-establishing the 'right tree in the right place' initiatives and works to keep the city's landscapes full of healthy, appropriate growth and beautification. This year marks the sixth anniversary of the Root Ball.

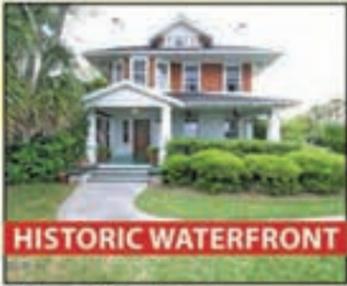


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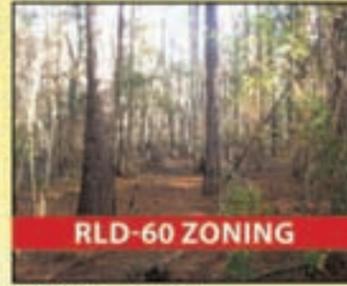
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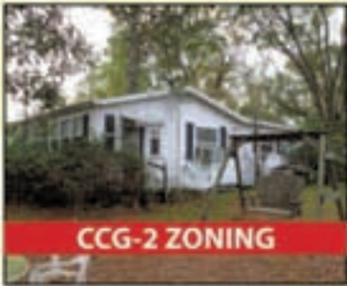
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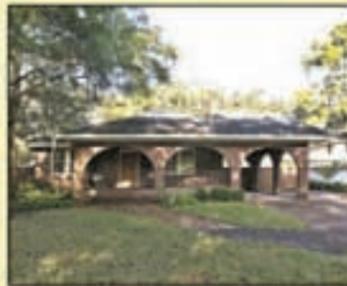
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– **Richard W.**

Local health care providers cooperate on needs assessment

Access to health care single most important issue

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



Moody Chisholm, President and CEO, St. Vincent's HealthCare shares information about the Community Health Needs Assessment Report as Dawn Emerick, President and CEO, Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, looks on

Northeast Florida's "single most important issue."

The Jacksonville Metropolitan Community Benefit Partnership under the direction of the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida conducted the 2012 Health Needs Assessment, which is required under the Affordable Care Act.

The partnership includes St. Vincent's HealthCare, Baptist Health, Wolfson Children's Hospital, Brooks Rehabilitation, Shands Jacksonville Medical Center and Mayo Clinic, in addition to Duval, Clay, Nassau and Putnam county health departments.

While the federal government mandates that non-profit hospitals conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years, it does not require local competing hospitals to form partnerships to do so. But that is exactly what the area's health providers did in an unprecedented display of efficiency, collegiality and a shared desire to address the area's health challenges.

"The Partnership is a great exam-

ple of what can be accomplished when the health care sector commits to leveraging their assets, identifying priorities together, and developing collective impact strategies to improve health outcomes.

Conducting this assessment using a collaborative model also saved the hospitals over \$500,000 in total expenses because of the economies of scale," said Dawn Emerick, CEO of the Health Planning Council.

The result of this collaboration is a wide ranging 190-page report that addresses two broad categories: socioeconomic indicators, which include, in part, economics, poverty, education, homelessness and access to food; and health-related indicators, which include topics such as nutrition, dental care, chronic disease, health economics and the aforementioned health care access.

The "single most important issue" was on full display in the form of countless homeless people during the press conference in Hemming Plaza Feb. 12 for the unveiling of the assessment results and did not escape the notice of St. Vincent's CEO Moody Chisholm.

"When I walked in this morning I



Media and health care providers look on during the Feb. 12 press conference announcing the release of a Multi-County Community Health Needs Assessment Report and Progress Tracking Web Platform Demo

thought, 'Isn't this ironic that we're doing this here [Hemming Plaza], where there are all of these people that I'm sure don't have normal access to health care.' I think that speaks to the need in this community. That's one of the reasons we put our local health ministry van right out here on the street on a local basis so that people that are disenfranchised and don't have homes to go to know where they can get primary care on a regular basis to help prevent the illnesses that can lead to more expensive hospitalizations."

Beyond access to care, the assessment findings also document the need for improvement in social determinants of health, health status and built environment elements across the five counties. The five-county area is worse than state and national statistics in many areas.

If you are limited in your access to health care then you may be happy to know that your issue is on the radar of the area's top health care providers.

A year-long health care needs assessment conducted by a uniquely cooperative partnership of local hospitals and health departments identified lack of access to health care – whether it be because people are underinsured, uninsured or simply lack transportation – as being



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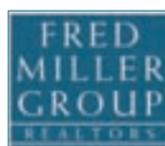
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Left to right: Moody Chisholm, President and CEO, St. Vincent's HealthCare; Michelle Leak, Administrator, Community Relations, Mayo Clinic Florida, and Hugh Greene, President and CEO, Baptist Health. Photos provided by Health Planning Council of NE Florida

temic issue. The data shows very large differences between adjoining counties, major disparities in geographic areas and socioeconomic areas – why is that? That's something we need to address moving forward.”

In the end, each hospital identified and agreed upon two to five strategic health needs as their highest priority and worthy of inclusion in their respective Strategic Implementation Plans. Each hospital then engaged and/or developed employee/staff/community “implementation teams” to vet and accept the selected priorities.

For example, St. Vincent's and/or Baptist will target infant mortality,

heart disease, diabetes, childhood and adult immunizations, KidCare, mammogram, Type II diabetes screening, access to food, childhood obesity, stroke, nutrition, infant mortality, behavioral health, smoking cessation, and physical activity. Each groups' success at meeting their respective goals will affect its compensation from government programs.

“What we're doing is taking it a more metric-driven kind of way,” said Hugh Greene, CEO of Baptist Health. “In the past we've been very program-driven, but I think what this takes us to is a much more measurable outcome so we can assess at the end of the year — what did we do individually? Did we do what we said we were going to do? And then what

was the collective result of what we said we were going to do collaboratively?”

The community needs assessment report is accessible by way of Northeast Florida Counts at www.nefloridacounts.org and the Community Health Needs Assessment web-based platform located on each hospital's website:

St. Vincent's: <http://www.jaxhealth.com/about-us/community-health-needs-assessment/>

Baptist Health: <http://www.baptistjax.com/about-us/social-responsibility/assessing-community-health-needs>

Wolfson Children's: <http://wolfsonchildrens.org/about-us/cha/Pages/default.aspx>

“Disparities in access and preventive care, as well as food access, demonstrate the need for concerted action in order to achieve health equity and overall health improvement for the entire population,” Emerick said. “The same focus areas are present everywhere you go. That should tell you there's a sys-



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Tips for fishing the finicky cobia



BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

With the vernal equinox, the month of March marks the beginning of spring. Days will become longer and sea surface temperatures will begin to increase as we move away from the colder winter months.

March offers great offshore action as pelagic species migrate along the edge of the Gulf Stream. But March also offers great action closer to home.

When March arrives, it is time to go look for cobia.

Cobia will begin to move in from the offshore reefs and wrecks and migrate northward up the coast of Florida following the bait pods when the water temperature along the coast reaches around 68 degrees.

The sea temperature is very important to know. Inlets to our north (St. Marys River) will tend to hold colder temperatures a bit longer (mid 60s) making the decision to fish out of Mayport – or south to St. Augustine,

Matanzas or even further south to warmer temperatures – a good call.

As the weeks pass, the warmer water will make its way north allowing all the inlets at some point to produce fish this time of year.

As sea temperatures rise, large schools of bait (pogies) will begin to show up. These large pods can be in a wide range of depths. They can be found just outside the breakers in 15 feet of water, or two to three miles offshore in 45 to 55 feet. If you hear reports that bait is showing up but not sure exactly where, a good method is to run north or south (depending on where the best sea temperature is) in zigzag patterns ranging in depths of 15 to 55 feet until you find the bait.

While you are running in search of bait, always be on the lookout. Cobia can be found free-swimming along the surface either by themselves or with others.

When you spot one, your first instinct may be that you are looking at a shark. Their large brown bodies with flattened heads have fooled many anglers. With a closer look you will see their lower protruded jaw and large-fan tail gives away their identity.

Cobia can be very curious. With a motor in neutral or turned off, you may find that cobia will come along boat side just below the surface to check you out. This is a perfect time to introduce your bait.

Cobia can be extremely finicky and



Seth Williams poses with a Cobia that snuck up on a trolled bait

often times will play around with your bait without consuming, or may even swim off without showing any interest. This can be very frustrating for any angler.

Anglers who have spent some time chasing cobia have tried different presentations and baits. Artificial eel tails on jigs, lures, live bait such as pilchards, catfish, crabs and even live eels have all been used. They can all be very effective, but can all strike out just as easily. I have found whatever bait you prefer, cobia like a challenge.

Moving your bait close to the fish until it is seen or the scent is picked up and then allowing your bait to fall toward the bottom can be just enough of a challenge for your bait to be chased. If you are fishing 8” to 10” eel tails, allow the bait to be consumed for a few seconds. Many anglers have pulled these baits from the mouth of a cobia as the hook never made it to the jaw.

If you miss the first strike, don’t give up. Their curiosity will often times entice them to come back and strike again.

Cobia found swimming around bait pods can be very unpredictable. They can be seen just below the surface circling the pods slowly. Or they may sit motionless on top of the pod. In either case, presenting baits will produce different results. Either they will act disinterested and slowly swim off. Or they will jump on and consume whatever you throw at them. If it is the latter, you are in for a real fight.

They can also be targeted around many different types of structures. It is always good practice to check buoys and other floating debris you see. Cobia

will also tag along with other sea creatures like sea turtles, sharks or manta rays in hopes of picking up an easy meal left behind.

Fishing for cobia is a lot like stalking. And because fish can be hooked in close proximity to the boat, often times the fish are brought along boat side

While you are running in search of bait, always be on the lookout. Cobia can be found free-swimming along the surface either by themselves or with others.

Cobia can be very curious. With a motor in neutral or turned off, you may find that cobia will come along boat side just below the surface to check you out. This is a perfect time to introduce your bait.

within seconds of the hook set before they really know they are hooked. This is no time to bring a fish on board unless you have a large fish box open and ready to receive your prize, and another angler ready to slam the fish box door closed. Cobia can act very lethargic

in the water. But when boated too soon, they can do as much damage to gear as any fish. Their large tails and broad bodies can be impossible to control and is best to wear them down before bringing on board.

In my opinion, cobia is some of the best fish to eat. The white flaky meat is easy to cook and does not dry out on the grill like other table-fare fish can.

Because visibility is so important in finding these fish, it is best to wait until the sun is at its highest to eliminate as much glare on the surface as possible. A good pair of polarized and UV protected sunglasses is also good to have.

For visibility, I have found the best time to be on the water is from around 10:30 a.m. until around 3 p.m. This mid-day fishing makes it easy and enjoyable for everyone.

And who knows? Maybe there will be fresh cobia for dinner.

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FWC Bass Regulations Open House

Here’s your chance to tell the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) what you think about freshwater bass regulations. Should they stay the same? Should changes be made? Attend an open house on Apr. 1, 5-8

p.m. at Gander Mountain, 13075 City Square Drive to make your views know. For more information, go to the Largemouth Bass Regulations Review at MyFWC.com/Fishing.

Warm winter increases the fish action

Alan Peirce, writer of the Gone Coastal column for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, says that a limited recreational harvest season is making a huge difference in the fishing – for the better.

“With water temperatures in the mid-60s, which is probably 8 to 10 degrees above normal for February, out-of-season and out-of-place gag grouper were hungry on the limestone “grouper” ledges in 28 to 44 feet of water,” he noted. “This time of year, gag grouper are usually in deeper and warmer water, and many popular pelagic species such as king mackerel, cobia and Spanish mackerel have moved to sunny south Florida. Gag grouper is closed to harvest right now to give the overfished species time to rebuild, but can still be caught and released.”

The 2013 season for gag grouper in most state waters will be open from July 1 through Dec 3. State waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties will be open to gag grouper harvest April 1 through June

30, but will not be open during the July 1-through-Dec. 3 season. Monroe County state waters are also excluded from this opening because they are managed the same as Atlantic state waters.

The redfish were also active in February due to warm water and weather, making some wonder, when looking at thousands and thousands of beautiful, mature fish, why they cannot ever be harvested for the remainder of their lives. According to Peirce, “The 18- to 27-inch slot limit is a management strategy that is designed to protect juvenile fish, which predominantly inhabit freshwater or brackish creeks, rivers and bays. It also helps red drum populations by ensuring plenty of fish survive through the slot and become part of the protected older brood stock. This conservative management strategy provides assurance that future generations will enjoy an abundant supply of red drum.”

Share your photos, video and fishing tales with the FWC by emailing them to Alan.Peirce@MyFWC.com.

Fly Casting 101

By Capt. Lawrence Piper

We’ve covered the first two principles to a good fly cast – eliminate slack line and have the proper amount of smooth acceleration. Once the cast is up and going fly fishers need to consider the third principle: The rod tip must travel in a straight line path (SLP).

Principle Number 3:

Straight Line Path. The fly line is always going to follow the rod tip. The next time you’re out in the yard practicing, get 10 to 15 feet of line out of the rod tip and then just wave it around, making figure eights and such. You’ll see the fly line goes everywhere the rod tip goes. The best way to get nice narrow loops with your fly line is to make your cast with your rod hand traveling in a straight line path to the target and from the target. If the rod tip follows a domed or convex path the fly line will travel in a large arc and you will have wide loops. Wide

loops are not ideal if you’re looking for accuracy or distance.

On the other hand, if the rod tip dips or follows a concave path there is a good chance the end of the fly line will fall down and cross itself, creating what we call a tailing loop. A crossing or tailing loop will cause the cast to fail and may also tie an overhand knot in your leader! In addition to the paths of the rod tip, good loops are formed by keeping the rod tip traveling in the same plane and not swing out and in when traveling away from the target and back. Depending on how much line you have out and how far you want to cast will help determine the length of your casting stroke, which is 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 FCFF meet the first Monday of the month at 7p.m. at the Southpoint Marriott Hotel. Capt. Piper can be reached at www.TheAnglersMark.com, (904) 557-1027 or lwpipe@comcast.net.



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An Easter Truth



BY REV. DAVID AUSTELL
RECTOR, HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN
CHURCH

(Editor's Note: The Resident asked a local pastor to share an Easter message of hope and grace.)

Easter Sunday is, for most of us, a time to get together with family. Most of us go to church, even if has become customary to go only on Easter and Christmas. It is also a time we put together the Easter dinner. You know, who brings what, and "Oh, you must bring the potato salad, it is so good." Or, "I'll bake the desserts." Who decides to cook the ham, etc. You know who the great cooks are in your family and folks just love to eat and talk. Easter is especially nice as it also comes on the heels of Spring, with flowers blooming, trees exploding with a fresh coat of paint, and naturally, pollen is in the air.

We know how it is. It is a coming together for a unique day for the remembrance of an extraordinary event. It is the one day that changed the world. One day, one single day, in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago, the world was changed forever.

Easter is simply a day that proved

Jesus is the Son of God, just in case you weren't moved to that conclusion by His life and works as well as Holy Scripture. Jesus was fully human and is fully God. Sometimes that's hard for us to figure out, but this truth is what makes it so essential in understanding that God could love each of us this much, to give us His Son, to live as us and to die for us.

Just as the prophets foretold, Jesus was taken, severely and cruelly beaten, and then executed. He was dead. He was buried. Three days later He is alive. As alive today as He was 2,000 years ago. His death destroyed death for us. His life offers us life eternal. After His triumphant emergence from the grave, He stuck around for a few weeks meeting with His disciples and teaching them more things.

Then, He was lifted up into heaven where He waits for us. That is the Easter story in a nutshell. But Easter is not the culmination of events, it is the beginning of events. It is the beginning a new life, new hope, and grace. Abundant grace.

Yet, what does it really mean for us? I mean, what's the point? How does that change the way I live my life? The answer lies in your own heart. What impact has Jesus had on your life up to now? How much

thought do you give to His life, death, and resurrection? Is thinking about Jesus or praying an everyday thing or just a couple of times a year? Or maybe not even that often.

God clearly knows that you and I can't go our entire life without committing some kind of wrongdoing. Not possible. So, He offers us a chance to come clean with Him by confession and repentance, and He then says, "Okay, you are forgiven." Now, where did all those wrongdoings go? Where did all the sins I've committed in my life go? Well, Jesus decided He would take them from me and give me a chance to live with Him, forever. He took them and paid the consequence for them even though He didn't do any of them. A completely innocent man took upon himself the judgment and punishment for what I actually did. And, I've done a bunch of stuff wrong, many times over. He not only bailed me out, He saved my life. He gave me a peaceful life, and an eternal life.

The truth is, we experience Jesus in our lives as much and as often as we want to. His word says, "Draw near to me and I'll draw near to you." He is there. How often do we reach out to Him? How often do we "call Him up" in prayer and talk to him? How often do we draw near to Him?

Jesus gave up His life for you? Does that make a difference in your life?

Jesus is alive today. He is not a

man of ancient times. He is not just a great counselor or philosopher or teacher. He is God. He was God before all time. He was God while He was on earth.

So, this Easter, this Holy Week, give some thought to what Easter actually is; what it means for you and your family today. Is it the life-changing experience that believers know is the day that they started a different life, a new life, a new birth? Our life changed, our eternity changed, too.

Hope. That is the other part of Easter. Hope is grounded in faith. You can't have much hope unless you have some evidence that your hope is substantiated by something. Hope is confidence in a future event. Our hope is grounded on the fact that Jesus is the one True Messiah. So we now have hope that we, too, will join him in the eternal life He planned for us, in heaven, with Him. Face to face, every day. Well, maybe not every day since we don't think there are days in heaven. But, for eternity.

Our joy is not just in a future event. Our joy is in our day-to-day earthly living as well. Each day holds the promise of God's hand reaching out to us in love, in compassion, in guidance, in forgiveness, and in strength. Easter is the time we remember the new hope, the promise made directly from God that He will never leave us nor desert us. That is the real joy of earthly living and our "forever" life as well.

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Students learn it's their river to protect

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Despite the chilly start to the early February morning, 44 excited students from S.P. Livingston Elementary gathered at Friendship Fountain Park for instructions from the St. Johns Riverkeeper's Education Director, Jennie Busey. "When I ask 'Whose river is this?' what are you going to tell me?" she

St. Johns Riverkeeper and EverBank team up to educate

asked. "It's our river!" they yelled. Thanks to a generous grant from EverBank, these 3rd through 5th grade students enjoyed a day learning about one of the region's most important natural resources. After a leisurely boat ride, they docked at Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Institute for outdoor activities, classroom programs and lunch. The field trip was the first time many of the children experienced the St. Johns River by boat and the first time to visit a college campus.

Also along for the ride were members of the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association. Avondale resident Douglas Coleman, EVP, and Secretary Tina Daniels of Arlington, were capturing the moments to share the experience through social media with a school in the Jacksonville Sister City of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, South Africa.



First Mate Ray gives safety instructions to S.P. Livingston Elementary students and their chaperones

Jacksonville Sister Cities Association, in conjunction with S.P. Livingston Elementary School, is taking steps to participate in a "ConnectAllSchools" initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of

Education. For more information about St. Johns Riverkeeper, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org and for the JSCA, visit www.jzca.org.

March officially proclaimed St. Johns River Month by Mayor Brown

Protecting the river begins at home

It's officially St. Johns River Month, as proclaimed by Mayor Alvin Brown and the 18th annual St. Johns River Cleanup & Celebration on Saturday, Mar. 16, is Jacksonville's kick-off event for the Florida Great American Cleanup. Even if you're not a swimmer, boater or otherwise lover of our waterways, cleaning up the St. Johns doesn't just include picking up trash along the shoreline of the river and its tributaries.

Protecting our river begins at our homes and businesses and involves preventing trash and pollution from reaching our waterways in the first place.

Stormwater that runs off rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and streets picks up litter, debris, motor oil, lawn chemicals and pet waste along the way, before entering storm drains and our river and its tributaries – untreated. Fortunately, there are many ways to be River Friendly to prevent stormwater, protect our river and enhance our community.

• **Create a River Friendly Yard.** Use less fertilizer and chemicals and plant native or drought-tolerant plants to reduce runoff and help prevent algal blooms and fish kills in the St. Johns.

• **Allow only rain down the drain.** Keep gutters and storm drains free of litter, lawn clippings, leaves, fertilizers, and chemicals. Storm drains lead directly to the river. Clogged drains can also contribute to problems with flooding.

• **Slow it down.** Redirect downspouts to discharge water onto grassy areas, gardens or beds where it can soak into the ground instead of running off of driveways and sidewalks into storm drains.

• **Install a rain barrel.** Rain barrels conserve water and help prevent runoff that can wash fertilizers and chemicals down storm drains and into our waterways.

• **Avoid toxic chemicals.** Chemicals can enter our river or groundwater when they leak, are poured or flushed down the drain or toilet, or are discarded into a landfill. In Jacksonville, take household hazardous waste and e-waste to the city's Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2675 Commonwealth Ave. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call (904) 387-8847.

• **Scoop the poop.** Our pets' waste can wash into waterways and contribute to the fecal bacteria pollu-

tion problem in our creeks.

• **Maintain vehicles.** Leaking fluids can wash into our waterways. Keep your vehicles running efficiently to reduce air pollution and prevent leaks.

• **Use water wisely.** Install low-flow fixtures in our houses or businesses, fix leaks, and water lawns and plants only when needed.

• **Plant a tree.** Trees reduce stormwater runoff by capturing and storing rainfall, improve air quality, reduce heating and cooling costs, provide wildlife habitat, increase property values and beautify the neighborhood.

Learn more River Friendly tips by visiting www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/river-friendly.

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Take a river-friendly bike tour

See some great examples of local residents living the river-friendly life. On Saturday, Mar. 30, the tour starts at Riverside Avondale Preservation (2623 Herschel Street) at 9:15 a.m., with the first stop at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens for an exclusive behind-the-scenes garden tour of the new installation of native plants and organic gardening practices. Then, tour some of Riverside's best river-friendly yards and gardens. Cost is \$10 with your own bike or \$40 to rent. You must register with e2ride Bike Tours to attend: www.e2ride.com or call (904) 945-1571. For more information, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/river-friendly-bike-tour/.

April 1 deadline for student Earth Day poster contest

Jacksonville students K-12 are encouraged to submit their creative efforts for the Environmental Protection Board's 2013 Earth Day Poster Contest "Shades of Green". Monetary awards in five categories are sponsored by CSX Transportation. For specific rules and more information regarding the poster contest, contact James Richardson, Environmental Protection Board, at (904) 255-7213 or email at jrichard@coj.net.

Riverside/Avondale street cleanup to benefit St. Johns River

While dozens of cleanup sites will be located throughout the city during the 18th annual St. Johns River Cleanup & Celebration 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Mar. 16, the St. Johns Riverkeeper and Riverside Avondale Preservation will be in Riverside, helping neighbors and communities clean up the streets that lead directly to the river. No registration needed and community service hour slips are available. Learn more online at www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/st-johns-river-celebration/

In preparation for street cleanup in the Riverside/Avondale, District 14 Councilman Jim Love installed a Bait Tank – a cigarette disposal receptacle – on his State Farm Insurance building on College Street. According to Jimmy Orth, Executive Director of the St. Johns Riverkeeper, "Cigarette butts are a huge litter and pollution problem."

You can pick up trash bags and gloves at any of these check-in sites or at Memorial Park, Willowbranch Park, Boone Park and Riverside Park:

- Derby on Park Street, 1068 Park Street in 5 Points
- Kickback's Gastropub, 910 King Street in the Park & King District
- Bold Bean Coffee, 869 Stockton Street in Riverside
- Open Road Bicycles, 3544 Saint Johns Avenue in Avondale



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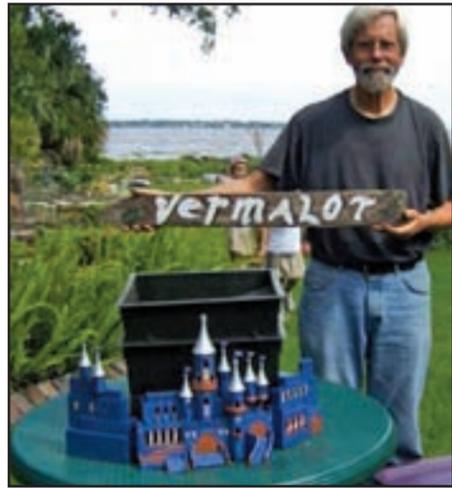
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Vermi-composting

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

My three-year-old grandson is already a gardener. He knows that plants need water when their leaves curl and that carrots should not be pulled up hourly to monitor their growth. He knows the tiny red tomatoes he loves to pop into his mouth come from Publishers Clearing House.

Setting up the Kids Spring Garden

How? Harry has seen me drop the ubiquitous Clearing House Sweepstakes forms and assorted other junk mail into my home paper shredder, a device he calls Vivi's dragon. The dragon makes a wonderful grinding noise as it viciously shreds its captives. If smoke would only come out of its insertion slit, it would be perfect.

Some time ago, to prepare for our Spring garden, we opened the dragon's belly and removed the paper shreds and took them to the Castle Vermalot, our worm bin. There we moistened shredded paper, mixed it with a cup of leftover compost and plopped in a cup of worms. Every few weeks, we have emptied the worm bin's high quality fertilizer into the Earth Box that holds seedlings of Harry's favorite edible, the Juliet tomato. Sweepstakes to sweetness is what Harry sees happening.

Worm bins support recycling at the kitchen level. Crushed egg shells, coffee grounds, banana peels, veggie scraps, dryer lint, some soy inked junk

mail – items that would normally go into the landfill – go into the bin. Rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, the black castings (aka worm poop) come out of the bin to be spread around the plants or mixed 1 part castings to 5 parts water to make a worm tea, a non-burning fertilizer for flowers and veggies.

For adults, making a worm bin is much easier than producing most science fair projects. Classes on worm bin creation are held periodically at UF Extension on McDuff Avenue. Videos abound on YouTube.

The simplest worm bin is merely a plastic dish pan with a piece of weed cloth draped over the top of it. Moistened shredded paper is placed in the pan along with a little starter compost and a cup of worms. These worms are NOT garden worms or those who crawl out onto the sidewalk to be turned into stiffened vermiculites. Compost worms are red wigglers (*Eisina foetida*) that can sometimes be begged from fellow gar-

deners, purchased at bait shops or ordered online by searching "Find Worms".

After the worms have turned the paper shreds into gardeners' gold, all food is placed in one corner of the bin and the worms migrate toward the food and leave the rest of the casting pile for use. It couldn't be easier. And, quite frankly, finding a use for junk mail is a huge bonus.

Florida Park Service has an app for that!

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Park Service has released a new, free smartphone app, an interactive guide gives users access to Florida's 171 state parks, trails and historic sites. The app is complete with detailed information about campgrounds, amenities, facility maps, directions and so much more.

The Florida State Parks Pocket Ranger® app is available now on iTunes and Android Market by searching "Official Florida State Parks" and is identified under ParksByNature Network. It is also available on PocketRanger.com and is formatted as a Mobile Website: <http://fl.pocketranger.com>.

New features such as GeoChallenge games and a photo share option will be added in the coming months. Follow FLStateParks on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates.

Get green at The Cummer for Garden Month

What do artists and authors, musicians and historians, and beekeepers and riverkeepers have in common?

During March, they're all part of Garden Month at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. In addition to classes, concerts, lectures and lessons, area residents will have the opportunity to enjoy garden bounty at The Cummer's first Farm to Table dining experience (Mar. 27, 6-9 p.m.) or take tea with Chief Curator Holly Keris (Mar. 20-21 at 1:30 p.m.) while learning about Italian and English Gardens. For event reservations, call (904) 899-6038. For class reservations, call (904) 355-0630.

There will be plenty of free events, open to the public and held in Hixon Auditorium, including lectures on "Native Plants in Garden Design" (Mar. 5, 6:30 p.m.), "The Art of Gardening Within the Natural Order" (Mar. 12, 7 p.m.), "The Olmsted Garden" (Mar. 19, 7 p.m.) and "Living the River Friendly Life" (Mar. 26, 6:30 p.m.).

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Go GIVERS Tony Nasrallah



BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Tony Nasrallah, founder and president of Murray Hill Concert Theatre & Café, a music and arts venue and 501(c)3 charity, was intrigued when he first heard about Project SOS, Inc. Like his theatre, Project SOS is also a charity aimed to positively impact youth; it strives to strengthen families by empowering parents and educating teens to make healthy life choices. Project SOS also offers programs for couples and youth and celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

“I’m around young people at the theatre all the time and I heard them talking about SOS It sounded like a great concept...presenting large school assemblies where young adults close to their age would talk to kids about life choices, options, the influences of pop culture and the impact of their choices,” he said. “I decided to go check out a presentation for myself, which happened to be at Orange Park High School. I was impressed. My organization and SOS really have a similar message...reaching kids with positive choices and alternatives.”

Nasrallah met Project SOS founder Pam Mullarkey and became a long-time supporter, volunteer and six-year board member for Project SOS He is a firm believer in their message of outreach to as many youth as possible and the value of their varied programs.

The Murray Hill Theatre, which Nasrallah refers to as his “passion” in life, opened in 1995 in the historic old theatre located on Edgewood Avenue. It is considered the oldest faith-based nightclub in the U.S. The venue showcases live music and artistic performances and is alcohol, drug and smoke-free for all ages. It features a state-of-the-art sound and light system and Fringe Café. The Café offers lunch Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner Tuesday to Sunday 6 p.m. to midnight. Nasrallah’s goal was to create a safe alternative to typical nightclubs and to present faith-based entertainment in a positive atmosphere open to all.

Tony, a native of Jacksonville, and his wife Anne have been married 28 years. They lived in Avondale before moving to Ortega Forest and are the parents of two sons, Ben, 22 and

Jonathan, 20. The boys both show every sign of carrying on the family tradition of caring for others. Jonathan is a junior at Florida State University where he participates in Young Life activities. Ben receives a living stipend to work with City Year Jacksonville at Andrew Jackson High School. City Year, a national charitable organization, partners with public schools to support at-risk students so they will stay in school and complete their educations. Ben has also been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and the Sanctuary on 8th Street.

Anne and Tony are a team when it comes to the theatre, hosting visiting band members and supporting the mission. Tony’s main focus is on the theatre, but he also owns a business, First Coast A & A Enterprises. He plays on a men’s over-forty soccer league and is a member of the Jacksonville Ultimate Frisbee League. Anne, who holds a degree in genetics, plays piano and viola. She has tutored elementary children her entire life and is currently a volunteer tutor at Andrew Jackson High School.

The Nasrallahs support Hosannah House Christian Home for Teenage Girls, where Tony serves on the board and Anne is a volunteer tutor in their homeschool. The couple support St. Mary’s Episcopal Outreach and Contemporary Arts & Mission Project (CAMP). They are heavily involved with their church, St. Johns Presbyterian, where Tony works with the youth program and Anne assists with music. Anne is also a volunteer musician for other churches.

Tony is on the Westside Business Leaders Association Board and is past president of the Murray Hill Preservation Association. He is an at-large board member for the Friends of Murray Hill Library.

Project SOS will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year by holding a comedy and dining fundraiser, Twenty Years of Growing Great Generations of Youth, Mar. 16 at 6 p.m. at Sawgrass Marriott Hotel. The evening will also include entertainment with a silent and live auction in support of Project SOS programs. For tickets, group reservations or more information visit the website at projectsos.com or call (904) 296-9950.

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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:
Project SOS, Inc.

Mission: Project SOS, Inc. is committed to strengthening families by empowering parents and educating youth to make healthy life choices.

Project SOS provides youth programs throughout Jacksonville area schools. The programs include youth development and edutainment in areas such as bullying, teen pregnancy, healthy choices, goal setting and boundaries. Project SOS also offers healthy relationship skills by providing relationship workshops to at-risk families. The workshops teach communication, financial and parenting skills in order to help individuals, couples and families learn how to happy successful and healthy relationships.

Opportunities to Help: Project SOS has a variety of opportunities for partners and parents to learn more about youth culture, as well as opportunities to volunteer, serve and invest in future generations. To learn how you can be a part, call (904) 296-9950. To donate, visit <http://projectsos.com/donate-now-project-sos/>



Another graduating class from the "Why Knot" program offered by Project SOS with instructors Coy and Michelle Malone (fourth couple from the left)

Making sure the knot stays tied

Project SOS invests in healthy marriages

As a nonprofit celebrating 20 years, Project SOS is thrilled when couples from its "Why Knot" marriage communications program reach an anniversary milestone one year at a time.

Learning solid communication skills is what's behind the "Why Knot" program and, contrary to the early days of a couple's relationship, the program does come with an instruction manual, which provides examples and exercises in communication.

The program began six years ago with a federal grant and celebrates a graduating class every month. Structured either one weeknight for eight weeks or four

Saturdays in a row, low income couples attend for free, receive a meal and enjoy free childcare at the program's venue.

Founder and CEO Pam Mullarkey, Ph.D., can't stress enough how strengthening marriages is what will eventually reduce the economic burden of single-parent welfare. That's why they make a big deal out of each course completion. "Every graduating class is celebrated," she said. "And couples are mentored for another six months."

The "Why Knot" program is held at various locations around Jacksonville to make it convenient for the couples, who can also attend monthly booster sessions following graduation. The Project SOS office is located at 745 Baymeadows Way; call (904) 296-9950 for information.

Bestselling author captivates Women For Christ

Angela Thomas, bestselling Christian author, captivated a crowd of 550 women who converged upon the Prime Osborn on Feb. 12 for the 28th annual Women For Christ luncheon. Past speaker (2010) Pam Tebow shared the speaker's table with Thomas, who spoke of the beautiful life to be enjoyed as a woman for Christ. Jacksonville Women For Christ have provided the community with opportunities to hear outstanding Christian speakers for nearly three decades.



Board Members: Gael Coleman, Anis Daley, Broward Milam, Vickie Yong, Roseanne Ennis, Becky Mentz, Christine Hughes, Kim Joel, Dudley Grace, Carrie Harper



Pam Tebow, Anne Tyre, president of Women For Christ, guest speaker Angela Thomas, and Annie Pajic

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Courthouse doors challenging for disabled

BY CAREN BURMEISTER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Duval County Courthouse's tall, heavy doors can be challenging to open, even for an abled-bodied person. But for someone who uses a wheelchair or walker, it can seem insurmountable.

"Due to their [the doors] size and weight, they're very difficult to open," said Sharon Hoffmeyer, a member of the Mayor's Disability Council. An elderly person or someone who uses a wheelchair would probably have to wait for a kind person to come by and open it for you, she said.

The doors appear to meet the American with Disabilities Act building codes in that exterior doors don't exceed more than 8.5 pounds of force to open and interior doors don't exceed more than 5 pounds of force.

But they still leave a lot of room for improvement, Hoffmeyer said.

That's why she and other people with disabilities applaud a recent deci-

sion by Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown to install automatic or power-assisted doors to improve courthouse access.

"As members of the Mayor's Disability Council we commend your unwavering commitment to the disability community," the council said in a recent letter to the mayor. "It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that we are able to work alongside your administration on a common vision to make Jacksonville a great place to live."

Brown has authorized the city to pay to improve access to 112 courthouse doors and seek any repayment that could be due from the courthouse contractor.

[Mayor] Brown has authorized the city to pay to improve access to 112 courthouse doors and seek any repayment that could be due from the courthouse contractor. "Public buildings must be accessible to all people who need them."

Mayor Alvin Brown

The \$350 million courthouse opened in June 2012.

"Public buildings must be accessible to all people who need them," Brown said. "The public expects its elected leaders to step forward, solve problems and do what's right for all people."

Hoffmeyer, a Westside resident who recently evaluated the new courthouse and made recommendations to the mayor, said, "It's a great step forward for anyone with a disability. For us, it makes sure that every resident in Duval County has access to the courthouse."

There are roughly 92,000 people in Duval County who have physical or mental disabilities that make it difficult to live independently, according to data from the 2008-2010 American

Community Survey.

They are represented by Mayor's Disability Council, which has 13 members appointed to help improve the quality of life for the full spectrum of individuals with disabilities. The council met in early February and unanimously voted to endorse the courthouse door solution.

Presently, the courthouse's only automatic doors are the two sets at either side of the front entrance. Making all the courthouse doors automatic or power-assisted goes above and beyond meeting the code, said Beth Meyer, Jacksonville's coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It costs roughly \$3,000 to install a complete automatic door. So, if every door in the building were to be automated the bill could come to \$366,000. But the city doesn't expect it to cost that much because some of the doors have been wired for automation, Meyer said. In addition, some of the doors entering bathrooms and judges' chambers won't become automated.

The Mayor's Disability Council observed the courthouse over a two-week period and came up with a game plan, Meyer said. The process was more hands-on than is typical for the council, but she has always wanted the group to be more engaged in the process.

"Our council was used the way they were supposed to be used," Meyer said. "It was a great opportunity for everybody."

Free tax service from AARP is available for seniors

When you don't have hundreds of dollars to pay to get your taxes filed, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide may be able to help. The organization provides free tax filing services for people with low and moderate income, and while special attention is given to those who are age 60 and older, you do not need to be a member of AARP to take advantage of this service. With a team of trained, certified volunteers working at 13 sites in the Jacksonville area, Tax-Aide will help you with your 1040 tax return as well as most IRS forms and schedules.

Be sure to bring Social Security cards for you and all dependents, photo IDs, and all relevant tax forms and receipts (W-2, SSA-1099, etc.) as well as your 2011 tax return. If you would like your refund deposited directly into your checking account, you will also need to bring a blank check.

To find a location nearest you, and the hours of operation, call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669) or go to www.aarp.org/taxaide.

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The Way we Were

Julia Isaac Lapinski

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“On some days I bet my mother drank 20 cups of coffee because she had a cup with everyone who dropped by,” says a smiling Julia Isaac Lapinski as she remembers her extended family childhood on Dellwood Avenue in Riverside. “Aunts, uncles, neighbors all dropped by on a regular basis.

“In many ways my parents were living examples of the American Dream. My father came from Lebanon as a young man. He became a butcher and by the time he met my mother, he owned his own home and a business. One of his businesses was Joe Isaac’s Grocery on Oak Street.

“He met my mother when he was visiting a relative in the Dominican Republic. Mother was from Haiti and spoke a Creole dialect. They were married in Port Au Prince and then came to the U.S. to live in a fairly crowded house. My father’s sister, his brother and two boys lived in the house already.

“Eventually, everyone moved out except my parents and my brother and I, but family stories remained. I had been baptized in Haiti; the upstairs of our house became an apartment; Amelia Isaac, my third cousin, and her



Julia, age 5, and Eddie, age 2

brother were helped into one of the Titanic’s lifeboats by John Jacob Astor. The stories were the fabric of family.

“My earliest memory of the neighborhood was a candy store on the corner of Dellwood and Margaret Street. It was run by a man named Victor who was kind to all of the neighborhood’s children. And there were lots of us. I remember being friends with an Italian family who lived near my house. I loved Italian food. They loved Lebanese food. We ate at each other’s table. Indeed, we were multi-cultural before the term was popular. In addition to the Italian neighbors, I had Jewish neighbors and some neighbors with German heritage.

“When I think of food, I am reminded of the “Boom Boom Man.” This was a black man who used to drive around

in a truck that somehow made a booming noise. He would come into the neighborhood and sell veggies out of the back of the truck. And, of course, milk came to our door in glass bottles. Home delivery was taken for granted.

“As far as education, I started at Annie Lytle then on to John Gorrie and finally graduated from Robert E. Lee, carrying a rose and wearing a long white dress. I-95 was being constructed while I was at Lytle. My friends and I had to go through a tunnel to get to Riverside Park which was right in front of the school.

“A teacher at Lytle made a huge difference in my life. Her name was Mrs. Jeanette Jones and she saw immediately that I was very shy. To overcome my shyness, Mrs. Jones made me the nurse’s helper. This job made me step out of my comfort zone a little. I was pleased she had such faith in me. Years later when I was enrolled at Jacksonville University, she helped me once more when I was having some difficulty with an assignment.

“At Robert E. Lee I was in the National Honor Society and Y-Teens, a national service organization. The Y-Teen meetings were a wonderful way to visit lovely homes in the area. Today when I go by the Crenshaws, I remember Jennie Crenshaw. Another friend of mine was Marlo Marcus. We danced at the Henson School of Ballet on Edgewood Ave.

“One particularly memorable moment happened downtown when a cousin and I talked to Johnny Tillotson, a recording star. We were so excited that we got on the bus to go home, dizzy over the incredible conversation, and missed our stop. The concerned bus driver drove back down the route to our stop to let us off.

“Getting a driver’s license was a big deal made even more important because my mother and my aunt did not drive. My mother depended on me for transportation. My father gave me driving instruction on the almost deserted River Road in Orange Park. Indeed, going off in the car was a special event. Sunday drives were special. The family would drive and park near the river. Then my brother and I would get out and throw rocks into the water.

“For a little more excitement there were mother-daughter shopping trips downtown, and movies at the 5 Points Theater and the Edgewood. During the summer, there were trips to Kingsley Lake and Strickland’s. An uncle of mine from Haiti used to come to the U.S. with my cousins. When there got to be too many of us to pile into the family car, he purchased us a station wagon.

“When it came time for college, I remained a homebody and majored in education at Jacksonville University. I became a teacher, married Vincent Lapinski and had three boys—Paul, David, and Brian. We have 11 grandchildren. Through the magic of Facebook, I am reconnecting with folks from 40 years ago. It is amazing.”



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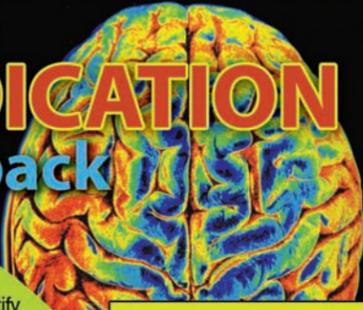
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Susan Ponder-Stansel, President & CEO, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Moody Chisholm, CEO, St. Vincent's HealthCare, The Most Reverend Felipe J. Estevez, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Jane R. Lanier, President and Chief Development Officer, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Fernando Acosta-Rua, Chief Operating Officer, Pet Paradise Resorts and Chair, Community Hospice Board of Directors

Less than a year to the March 2012 announcement of the plans to build a 10-bed inpatient hospice unit, the ribbon was cut on Feb. 20 for the Community Hospice Center at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside following a dedication and blessing ceremony.

The 34-year-old nonprofit hospice provider serves residents in five counties, at home, in long term care and

assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at its now six inpatient care centers. "I often hear from family members whose lives we've touched, and I'm humbled by their words," states Susan Ponder-Stansel, president and CEO of Community Hospice. "It is an amazing thing we do - helping people during a most important time in their lives."

Senior royalty at Sundale Manor



By nearly unanimous vote, the residents of Avondale's Sundale Manor agreed that the Valentine's Day's crown belonged to 101-year-old Walter Feuer and Ora McLendon, 100 years old. Submitted by Billie Sue Ellis, Sundale Social Committee.

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It isn't an easy decision, full of variables and what-ifs, and that's why people like Jason Judge and Chris Jackson of The Carpet Man are here to help. Jackson, owner of The Carpet Man, has been in the flooring business for more than 29 years. With locations on Beach



Boulevard, Philips Highway and Wells Road, the company can offer a wide range of diverse flooring options, from carpeting, hardwood, tiling, and vinyl to area rugs. Jackson boasts a 24,000-square-foot showroom at the Wells Road location; it's the largest single facility for carpet and carpet cleaning in all of

Florida. Jackson offers some friendly advice for first-time flooring buyers: Educate yourselves on the product and shop around. He urges customers to learn more about the investment they are making for their home and to visit his showrooms to expand their knowledge of the possibilities. The impressive warehouse is neatly organized and is easily maneuverable, making it less intimidating for the consumer than other constructed carpet showrooms.

The Carpet Man stocks various grades of carpet and flooring options, ranging from wool — the Rolls Royce of carpet material, — to more economical choices, such as polyester and nylon, which are colorful and durable.

Jason Judge, The Carpet Man cleaning supervisor, has helped thousands of area homes sparkle. If his money-back guarantee isn't motivation enough to visit him at one of the three locations, his no-gimmick and honest policy will get you to contact him for all your floor-cleaning needs. The team at The Carpet Man has an infectious enthusiasm for what they do; it's apparent they have a lot of pride in building customer relationships. They're even gracious enough to share some helpful tips on how to maintain your carpet after the patina may have worn off: Always take off your shoes, wear socks, and try not to

over-use what they refer to as 'box store' cleaning products — a simple white cloth and good old-fashioned water does the trick most of the time. When in doubt, give Jason a call to come save the day!

Jason Judge sports a three-quarter-ton Ford van for his carpet cleaning adventures and has been in the business for more than 16 years, serving the greater Jacksonville area, including Resident territories of San Marco and Riverside. He offers free cleaning options for Realtors and the best in quality removal of dirt, pet stains and grime. Using steam and hot water-extraction, The Carpet Man is able to renew most any type of flooring, making it appear brand-new, without the brand-new price.



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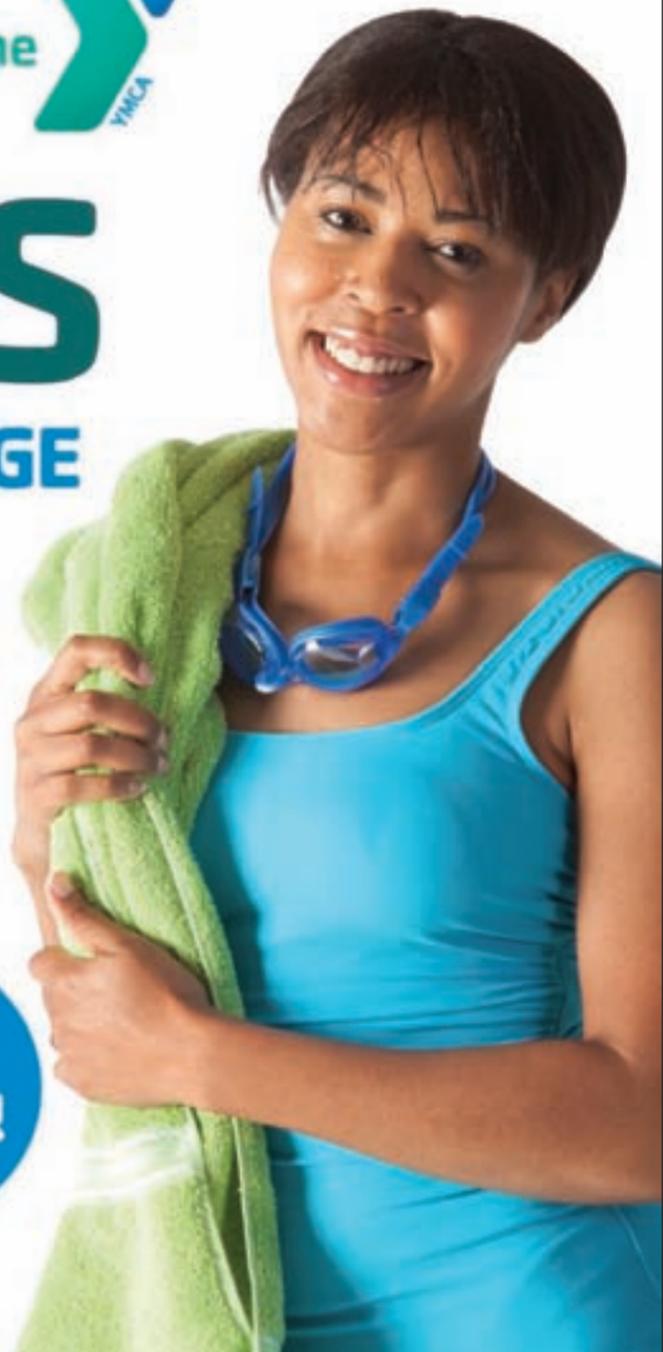
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WATER MAIN, from 1

Downtown and could slow traffic from time to time.

The \$3.8 million project will be done by Murphy Pipeline, a contractor working for JEA, along St. Johns Avenue from Avondale Circle to King Street, King Street from St. Johns Avenue to Riverside Avenue, and Riverside Avenue from King Street to Edison Street.

This project, anticipated to begin Mar. 4, will provide better reliability and water pressure to the surrounding area, according to Gregory Corcoran, JEA Project Outreach Coordinator. At this time it is not known at which end the project will begin. Asphalt within the project limits will be milled and resurfaced (curb to curb) following the pipe installation, and managed by JEA for Florida DOT.

JEA plans to close and detour only a few blocks at a time along the project route, and the contractor will have specific work hour restrictions to limit construction during high traffic periods. According to information shared at the meeting, daytime hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Avondale Circle to Powell Place, Osceola to May, Lancaster Street to Post Street. Nighttime and Sunday hours will occur on Powell Place to Osceola Street Monday through Friday from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. and Sundays from 4 p.m. to midnight leading to Monday at 5 a.m. Night operation on May

Street to Lancaster Street and Riverside Park to Peninsular Avenue will be Sunday through Thursday 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. only. Daytime operation on Mondays only will occur from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, and Post Street to Riverside Park.

“The new water line will be replaced using the pipe bursting installation method which substantially decreases construction duration and is less disruptive to the community,” said Corcoran. “This type of installation requires very little excavation work and will be similar to the “pilot” pipe bursting water project which the same contractor completed near The Shoppes of Avondale in 2010.”

Once pipe bursting operations are underway, it may be necessary for the contractor to work extended hours until the work is complete. During construction, JEA customers will experience minor interruptions to their water service and will be notified 24-48 hours prior to any planned outages. Residents and businesses along the construction route may also experience a brief (10 to 15 minutes) outage while crews transfer buildings from the old water service to the new water service. The contractor will be required to work some evenings and weekends to accommodate local medical offices and businesses along the project corridor or in specific areas that have been identified as unsafe for workers during high traffic periods.

Restoration of the project area will begin after the new Water Main has been installed, tested and cleared for

use. Upon completion of the project, any existing pavement, grass, curb, gutter, driveways or sidewalks affected during construction will be returned to its pre-construction condition.

Last month The Resident News reported about a drainage improvement project in front of a home on the S-curve of St. Johns Avenue that was scheduled to be completed by the end of February. As anticipated, stretches of rainy weather have slowed down this project, which is unrelated to the JEA Water Main Improvement Project.

The JEA notified area residents of the water main improvement project through a variety of methods: by mailing to 1,900 homes and businesses in an area from Oak Street to the St. Johns River between Challen Avenue and I-95, by posting information on its website, by notifying Riverside/Avondale Preservation (which posted information on its Facebook page), by tweeting about a town meeting and, finally, by holding an open house at the Q-and-A meeting on Feb. 28 at the Kent Campus of Florida State College. In addition, project signage with contact numbers will be posted at the work sites, including a 24-hour hotline number for noise-related issues.

For additional information regarding this and other JEA projects, contact Project Outreach at (904) 665-7500 or email projectoutreach@jea.com. For noise-related concerns, contact Murphy Pipeline at (904) 392-6732.



35th Annual Ortega River Run

Overcast skies gave way to sun minutes before 1,503 runners, joggers, walkers and strollers left the starting line in the 35th annual Ortega River Run, sponsored by Daily's and raising over \$68,000 for St. Mark's Episcopal Day School financial aid and scholarship fund.



The Speedy Banana crosses the Ortega River Bridge in the 5-mile Ortega River Run, which included 759 female and 744 male finishers in the race.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

THE JOHN GORRIE

a condominium

WELCOMES THE PITTER PATT OF LITTLE FOOTSTEPS



The couple's residence features exposed brick walls



Brent and Becca Campbell in the restored courtyard awaiting the birth of their daughter Claire

The pitter patter of little feet has made its debut at The John Gorrie, Jacksonville's premier condominium community, located in the heart of historic Riverside Avondale. Brent and Becca Campbell moved into the former junior high school in 2011, and recently welcomed the newest addition of the Campbell clan, Claire Elizabeth.

The John Gorrie, conveniently located within walking distance to local shops and restaurants, as well as the St. John's River, provides residents with the opportunity to enjoy the cultural charm that the area is known for.

"We absolutely love the Riverside Avondale area and knew this would be the perfect neighborhood for us," said Becca. "Thoughts of expanding our family were brewing and we wanted to make sure we chose a place that was safe and family-oriented. When we first laid eyes on the John Gorrie, I had a good feeling. Seeing so many parents walking their children in strollers along the sidewalks brought a smile to my face. I knew this was home."

Unlike any other condominium community in Jacksonville, The John Gorrie mixes the historic and architectural aspects of the former junior high

school with modern-day conveniences, making it the perfect blend for couples and families like the Campbells.

"We love that no two units are alike. Our place is so spacious, and all of Claire's things fit perfectly," said Brent. "The nook in our bedroom provides the perfect place for her crib and dresser."

The couple's residence also features painted brick walls, a large kitchen with center island and upgraded appliances, high ceilings, expansive windows and a doorway that leads to the community's courtyard.

"We sit in the courtyard often and just think about how different life is now," said Becca. "We are so excited for this new chapter in our lives and can't think of a better place for our new family of three to call home."

The John Gorrie a condominium boasts contemporary amenities for residents to enjoy including a custom-designed fitness center, elevators, private gated parking and a resident reading room with Wi-Fi internet access.

Make an appointment today and see why so many have chosen to call The John Gorrie home.

For more information or to schedule a sales appointment with Prudential Network Realty representative Lee Elmore, call (904) 383-3688 or visit www.TheJohnGorrie.com.

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Helping Hand Update on Avondale's Gracey Smith

Cards, letters and donations greatly appreciated

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

You may recall the November story about Avondale residents Michelle and Gracey Smith. Gracey was diagnosed with Type D acute lymphoma leukemia at age 14 and immediately underwent aggressive twice-a-week chemotherapy treatments and then radiation.

Friends, neighbors and complete – but compassionate – strangers rallied ‘round to support the struggling family. A savings account was established at Florida Bank and an account at The Blood Alliance. Friends schedule meal deliveries for the family while

Gracey underwent her chemotherapy treatments.

On Feb. 12 Gracey, now 15 years old, received a stem cell transplant and her mother shared this, “Gracey is having a hard time dealing with all this and is scared. Support is needed to help her through this and if anyone would like to send her cards or letters, the doctors said it will help. Right now she’s very sick and not eating.”

The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation approved the family’s application for funds to cover one of Gracey’s treatments and Wolfson Children’s Hospital covered the second one. Michelle Smith has been unable to work during this time of nonstop doctor visits, treatments, hospitalizations and surgeries, and she is grateful for all the support.

“The Jay Fund Foundation is awesome. They have been here for us in so many ways,” she said. Between the foundation and the hospital, “they have helped my daughter have another chance at life.”

If you desire to help the Smith family, please donate to the Gracey Smith Savings Account, Florida Bank, 4211 San Juan Avenue, or call (904) 562-6000 for details. When donating blood, provide Gracey Smith’s name and your donation will be applied to her account.

Gracey will be at Wolfson Children’s Hospital for 30 days after the stem cell transplant. You can help cheer her up by sending cards and letters to: Gracey Smith, Stem Cell Transplant Unit, Wolfson Children’s Hospital, 800 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Jr. Residents

Depending on your perspective, opening day of school can be welcomed or dreaded. Imagine having two opening days in the same school year! But for Dr. Denise Hall, principal, the staff and the 1800 or so students at Robert E. Lee High School, re-opening day on Feb. 4 was a gusty sigh of relief.

After three years of construction, the building which began as a gymnasium, then morphed into a cafeteria now sports a pristine new lobby with new classrooms on the upper floors. “Originally the project was just for renovation of the Engineering Building,” said Dr. Hall. “But then a special bond was issued for a much larger, multi-phase project.”

During the three-year ordeal, some stu-

Opening day all over again at Lee High School

Auditorium under renovation



dents coped with classes split in half by a lunch period while most had classes in portables for the past two years. Now the cafeteria includes outdoor seating and lunch is offered in two periods. Other renovations include a new library and media center, renovation of the auditorium – still underway – and a courtyard which will feature a round knee-wall fountain to be funded through the sale of commemorative pavers.

All the common areas are on the ground floor, accessible for community use while ensuring the safety of the students in the upper floor classrooms. During class changes, there’s a minimal amount of student traffic through the new lobby, but all can see the Welcome Home banners hanging on the walls,

which soon will have trophy cases and closed-circuit televisions for announcements.

“We’re proud of our kids and I’m real proud of the teachers who made this a flawless transition,” concluded Dr. Hall. “We’re proud to be Lee Generals.”



ST. COMFORTING

Everything the doctor said was a blur after one patient with a heart condition found out she might also have breast cancer. That was until she met Breast Health Advocate Elizabeth J. Frketic who went above and beyond to turn fear into hope. This patient wrote to tell us “the most comforting and caring person was holding my arm” and “a cloud was lifted from my mind.” At St. Vincent’s, Elizabeth is more than a Breast Health Advocate. She’s a hand holder, a shoulder to lean on, a tear wiper and, most of all, a friend. This patient referred to her as an angel. We couldn’t agree more.

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Jr. Residents

Severe Weather Awareness contest winner

Stuart McAfee, a fourth grade student at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, was a regional poster winner in the Severe Weather Awareness Week contest, sponsored by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. More than 1,000 students in the state participated in the opportunity to learn what they can do to be prepared for hazards that affect their communities.

Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll presented Stuart with a certificate and an iPod on Feb. 12 and was joined by FDEM Director Bryan Koon, FDEM meteorologists, the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service and special

guest Professor Nimbus Tinkermeister, who engaged the class in weather games.



Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll and the McAfee family



Maria Shelor's fourth grade class - Stuart McAfee, center, with Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll and FDEM Director Bryan Koon

Scout Troop celebrates 90 years



Boy Scout Troop 26 was founded 90 years ago at St. Mark's Episcopal Church the same year that the church was founded in 1923. The Scouts, consisting of a Tiger Den of first graders, a Cub Pack for second through fifth grade, Troop 26 for sixth grade through age 18, and the Venture Crew, a co-ed high adventure group for 14 to 21 year olds, celebrated National Scout

Sunday last month. Scouts were honored on Feb. 11 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church during the worship service, along with Cub Pack leader Jim Heck, Barbara Stevenson, Charter Organization representative, Troop Scoutmaster Matt Morgan. Other leaders not pictured include Cub Pack leader James Holyer and Venture Crew leaders Jeff and Leann Lewis.

Fishweir Elementary School loves Fire Station No. 14

Drew Hardaker presented handmade Valentines and other goodies from his classmates in Rachel Sandlin's kindergarten class to Robert Hane and Robert Stroud to thank the members of Fire Station No. 14 for all they do in the neighborhood. During the presentation, the fire alarms rang and the crew was out the door in less than a minute - just another day at the fire station.



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Girl Scouts about more than just yummy cookies



Cadettes from Troop 849 represented Sweden at World Thinking Day, selling Swedish meatballs, loganberry juice and ginger cookies, making Swedish heart baskets and playing Kubb, a cross between bowling and horseshoes

How would you like to count and wrap 4,068 dimes and then cart that 20-lb. sack to the bank? That may be what Girl Scout leaders of Cadette Troop 849 and Daisy Troop 133 found themselves doing the day following celebration of World Thinking Day at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church.

The Round River Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council hosted an interna-

tional market last month, with exhibits representing the 17 countries which are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts. Admission to the event was a canned good for the Food Bank at St. Catherine's.

"Juliette Gordon Low (Founder of Girl Scouts/Guides) believed that, when girls travel internationally, they have an unparalleled opportunity to foster cultural understanding," said event chair Denise Cavin, who is also the Daisy Troop 133 leader. In 1927, the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was formed to support Girl Scouts and Girl Guides as they travel, connect and take action globally.

Items sold at the booths were a dime each and the \$406.80 collected was donated to the World Friendship Fund.

"Our organization is all about girls leading other girls," said Cadette Troop leader Tammy Sellers. "It was very exciting to see the older girls teaching crafts, teaching a dance and sharing Girl Scouting with the young girls. And it was wonderful to see the little girls - even the kindergartners - explain what they learned about the country they represented."



St. Johns Presbyterian students share love with seniors

In the spirit of practicing random acts of kindness, students Piper Lynch and Emmeline Johnson, from St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool, visited St. Catherine Laboure Manor to share handmade valentine cards with residents.

Bishop Snyder HS displays life-size Stations of Cross



Art students in Helen McClernon's art class at Bishop John J. Snyder High School share their faith through the Lenten season with life-size Stations of the Cross made from adhesive tape using student models.

Ortega Girl Scout in Colonial Dames re-enactment

Taylor Gleaton of Ortega, a 7th grader from the Girl Scouts' Round River Service Unit, will portray Sarah Faith Pitkin the Doctor's daughter at this year's Colonial Dames 4th Annual "Living History Day" at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in Old St. Augustine on Saturday, Apr. 6.



Taylor Gleaton sits on the lap of her re-enactment mother, Rachel Arsenault, during practice for the Apr. 6 event.



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PreK students on day trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, St. Augustine.

Trip back in time for St. Matthew's students



Mass celebrated by Fr. Jose Kulathinal for the middle school students of St. Matthew's Catholic School at Rustic Altar of the Mission of Nombre de Dios and the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine.

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Jr. Residents



Circus comes to town at St. Johns Presbyterian

The 48th St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten & Preschool Circus amazed the audience with stunning strong men, beautiful tight rope walkers, singing elephants, roaring lions, terrific tigers and, of course, the funniest clowns ever. The performance began with a parade led by the marching band and after the show everyone enjoyed pizza donated by Trey Kirwin from The Loop.



Got talent? St. Paul's Catholic students sure do!

Riverside 7th grade students Albert Chung and Francis Burgos showed off their pop-and-lock dancing at the annual St. Paul's Catholic School (2609 Park Street) Talent Show early last month.

St. Mark's dedicates basketball court to former teacher



Father Coffey blesses the Patty Gordon Basketball Court



Wearing parrot heads in honor of Patty Gordon, St. Mark's resource staff waits for the first tip-off from Cassidy Schiefer

Former director of physical education Patty Gordon was memorialized at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School on Feb. 22 with the dedication of, and first tip-off on, the Patty Gordon Basketball Court, one of her dreams for the school. Gordon had served 22 years at the school when she died unexpectedly on July 26, 2012.

Gordon's sister Jill Lefave said, "Family and the school were the most important things in

Patty's life; she lived and breathed St. Mark's and the children and was thrilled that work was beginning on the new field [two years ago]. This is a fitting tribute that school and community came together to create this legacy for Patty."

The early morning ceremony included a ceremonial lap around newly paved Durkee Track led by bagpiper Will Wheeler, and the re-dedication of the newly renovated Berg Family playground.

Bolles sends record number of science projects to state

Seven students from the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus, including Avondale resident and junior Patrick Glover, will be taking their science and engineering fair projects to the State Science Fair in Lakeland, FL on Mar. 26. It is the first time in school history so many students have achieved a shot at the state level in a single year. In the Engineering Division, Glover also received a medallion and certificate from the ASM Material Education International Foundation and a certificate from the Ricoh Americans Corporation Intel ISEF Regional Award.



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