

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

RIVERSIDE • ORTEGA • AVONDALE • MURRAY HILL

Residents turn out to offer ideas for improving 5 Points traffic flow

BY STEPHEN KINDLAND
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

More than 80 people came up with a litany of suggestions on how to improve traffic flow in the 5 Points area and how to make the busy commercial district safer for pedestrians and bicyclists during a recent public forum.

The forum – held Sept. 17 at Sun-Ray Cinema in the heart of 5 Points – was part of a concept study being conducted by Stephen Tocknell of Tocknell Planning Services. Tocknell said he plans to incorporate the feedback into his study, which should be completed within the next several weeks.

“When we’re done, I promise you are going to see the results of your own efforts,” he told his audience.

The forum focused on possible ways to lessen motorist confusion –

and the risk of injury to pedestrians – at the 5 Points intersection where Park, Margaret, Post and Lomax streets converge; as well as possible improvements to several other intersections, including Post at Park and



Architect Doug Skiles (second from right) talks to a group of local residents during a recently held public forum on ways to improve traffic flow and bicycle and pedestrian safety in the 5 Points commercial district

Margaret streets.

The iconic 5 Points intersection has long been a source of confusion for pedestrians and drivers – especially motorists unfamiliar with the area. A suggestion to turn Lomax into a one-way-street from Margaret

to Oak streets seemed to go over well, but would need further consideration before it becomes a recommendation.

Other suggestions included installation of street-level warning signs for motorists at the mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Park Street in front of Sun-Ray Cinema; and aesthetic improvements, such as flower baskets being attached to new lamp posts and murals being painted on some outside walls.

Someone also suggested that a centralized dumpster area be introduced as a way to eliminate the “alley way” look along Margaret Street, between Park and Post streets.

Improvements to other areas are being considered as well, including the crosswalks at Park and Margaret

.....SEE 5 POINTS ON PAGE 14

Cummer patrons celebrate art in the open

J.F. and Peggy Bryan



A beautiful evening welcomed guests as they celebrated opening of the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Community Sculpture Garden & Plaza Sept. 20 at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Inn & Club draws a crowd for Delicious Destinations



The St. Vincent’s Foundation Gala Chairs Jean Grimsley, Kristina Abbassi and Michelle Rawls celebrated fine food and wine, complete with cooking classes. The three-day gourmet food and wine event culminated with a gala at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on the evening of Sept. 7.

Five months later, Commander redevelopment on round three of site plan

Mass and scale still a huge issue for nearby homeowners

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Residents on DuPont Circle may – after 50 years – see more of the light of day.

The shadow cast from the 170-foot-tall Commander Tower Apartments would be significantly smaller according to the most recent plans offered by Chase Properties developer Michael Balanky at a closed-door meeting at City Hall last month.

Acceding to earlier demands by nearby residents and members of Riverside Avondale Preservation, the architect

.....SEE COMMANDER ON PAGE 20



MOCA delivers on latest exhibit



Baptist Health CEO and President Hugh Greene, Cultural Council Executive Director Dr. Robert Arleigh White, MOCA Director Dr. Marcelle Polednik and MOCA Board Chairman Alan Howard were in attendance as *Abstraction Over Time – The paintings of Michael Goldberg* took center stage.

Sanctuary on 8th Riverside celebration



Elizabeth Evans, Alyson Hudson and Laura Jacqmein joined in on a night of thanks and praise to donors and supporters of the mission – to encourage and empower Jacksonville youth and families in need.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Resident concerned about hens in residential areas

I have been reading reports in the news regarding a proposal to allow chickens or hens on residential property in Jacksonville neighborhoods.

For all the people who have an opinion but have never actually endured the problems with a neighbor who decided to raise chickens, let me give you a firsthand analysis.

We live in a St Nicholas neighborhood near a neighbor who built and housed a number of chickens in 2012. They were cute at first. As they grew, they became a nuisance. The growing noise and stench became unbearable. Everyone visiting our home upon stepping outside immediately noticed the smell and commented on the

“zoo” nearby. After a few attempts by the neighbor to clean the pen the smell would subside for a while but quickly came back. The animals lost their feathers, developed wounds and open festering sores. The flies attracted to the food and waste kept us from being able to use our back porch. The flies would swarm any time we went outside and especially if we had food. We finally had to call Code Enforcement to have the animals removed.

We were at peace for about 10 months until recently another batch of chickens has showed up. Guess what, the noise and the smell are back.

Anyone who is naive enough to believe these animals are not a nuisance only needs to live next to some for a short period of time. Chickens are fine in areas where they live outside of a cage and are free to roam with plenty of room. The September article in “The Resident” quotes Councilman Redman as saying “I was raised on a farm” in support of chickens. He is exactly right. Chickens belong on a farm with other farm animals. This is

where the term “fowl” comes from.

They do not belong in residential neighborhoods where their squalor affects other neighbors.

I would be glad to discuss this further if Councilwoman Boyer would like.

– **Geoffrey Galant**
St. Nicholas

Local loves the news

Dear Editor,

Just had to let you know...your newspaper keeps getting better and better! I love reading all the local news and especially love the piece on Ben's Place [the story about miniature therapy horses in the August edition]. As a twin to a one of a kind wonderful guy who was born with Down's syndrome, I appreciate your bringing this special place into the limelight.

– **Noreen Young**
Ortega

West Dentistry trades movie for your Halloween sweets

West Dentistry will buy back Halloween candy from children on Nov. 4-5 during the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. office hours. Each child, in exchange for the candy, will receive a child's movie ticket (valued at \$5.00). Last year West Dentistry collected 57 pounds of candy; this is the third year of participation in Operation Gratitude's Halloween Candy Buy Back.

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Beacon Riverside sales office opens Oct. 7

Rendering briefly unveiled at NEFAR Historic Area Council meeting

BY STEVE DIMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Beacon Riverside luxury condominiums' sales gallery officially opens for business Oct. 7, announced Hallmark Partners' Bryan Weber at the September meeting of the newly revived Northeast Florida Association of Realtors Historic Area Council.

The sales gallery is across from The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens at 806 Riverside Ave., two blocks from the Beacon site, located at 500 Bishopgate Lane. Yvonne Saint-Laurent is sales administrator and Veronica O'Brien and Debbie Riley, sales associates.

Beacon will be 14 floors above two parking levels with 55 units ranging from \$600,000 to \$2 million. It will sit at the St. Johns River on 1.4 acres between Lomax Street and Bishopgate Lane.

"Residents will enter on Lomax, exit on Bishopgate. That will control some of the neighborhood traffic concerns," Weber told the 72 NEFAR members squeezed into the Harden Training Room of Riverside's EverBank building.

Weber briefly showed a slide of a rendering of the Beacon, just long enough for the audience to get a glimpse of the gleaming glass and concrete structure, then quickly took it down. He declined to provide a copy for publication.

"That's the first public unveiling. Just a sneak peek before it goes on display Oct. 7," Weber said, laughing

as people took photos of the slide.

Prior to Weber's Beacon presentation, Hallmark co-founder Alex Coley gave a brief overview of 220 Riverside and Unity Plaza, Hallmarks' 294-unit apartment and two-acre public park project in Brooklyn.

Coley was particularly enthusiastic about the 300 annual events planned for Unity Plaza. Examples include everything from six yearly concerts in the plaza's amphitheatre featuring well known musicians, to

"Sumo Sushi" – an event where patrons watch sumo wrestlers while enjoying sushi, presented by LivingSocial, the online deal-of-the-day website. He also noted that he plans to favor local vendors and businesses over national chains.

"What we saw tonight was evidence of what's happening with the overall zeitgeist," said Historic Area Council Chair Jon Singleton. "There's a change in interest in the historic quarter that taps into adaptive reuse: living in a community that's already established.

Taking a beautiful historic house and making it better, updating it so it works for today's lifestyle. Doing things to help eliminate your drive time to work, school, church, family, friends and activities. I think that's fantastic and that's what's happening here with 220 Riverside and Beacon."

Singleton said that he plans to have representatives from the area's historic neighborhood preservation societies speak at the next Historic Area Council meeting in order to further heighten the awareness of adaptive reuse among NEFAR members.

The council's meetings will take place every other month on the third Thursday, with the next one Nov. 21. The venue will be announced.

The sales gallery is across from The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens at 806 Riverside Ave., two blocks from the Beacon site, located at 500 Bishopgate Lane.

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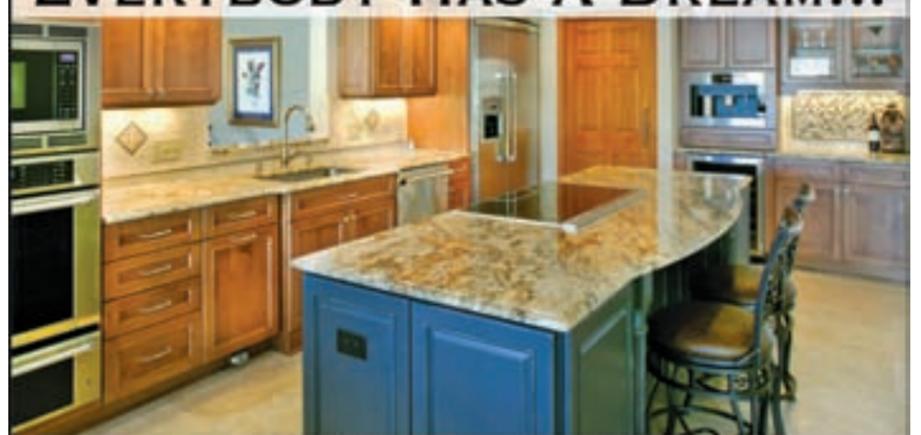
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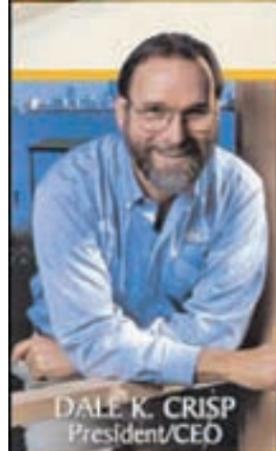
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Lee High School celebrates renovation with ribbon cutting

Called "oldest newest high school in City"

One of Duval County's oldest schools, Robert E. Lee High, 1200 McDuff Ave. S., celebrated the completion of its \$35 million renovation project with a ribbon cutting on Sept. 23.

Renovation of the 110,000 square-foot, three-story, historic classroom building originally built in 1927 was performed by Ajax Building Corporation and Danis Construction. The project include the addition of a two-story cafeteria, music suite, and field house with concession area; conversion of existing girls locker room to the boys locker and weight

room; new 2,400 square-foot girls locker room; new central energy plant; improved storm drainage; refurbished football field and resurfaced track.

In addition, Robert E. Lee's campus was brought up to current DCPS technological standards with the addition of multiple computer and science labs and state-of-the art theater lighting and sound.

All students were kept on campus by creating a "modular campus" on the old football field during the renovations. This allowed the school to maintain 100 percent occupancy throughout the project.

The school was dedicated to Robert E. Lee on his birthday, January 19, 1928.



Cutting the ribbon: Tommy Hazouri, former Duval County Public Schools board member; Dr. Denise Hall, former principal; Dr. Nikolai Vitti, DCPS superintendent; Becki Couch, DCPS board vice chair and District 6 representative; Paul Soares, chief operating officer, and Dean Ledford, principal of Lee High School



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Alumni hold 65th reunion

Coming from California, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, Florida and Washington, DC, the 1948 graduating class of Robert E. Lee High School gathered to celebrate its 65th reunion, Aug. 23-24 at the Holiday Inn, Orange Park. On Friday evening, 28 classmates, with spouses and guests, renewed old friendships, shared happenings in their lives and dined on delicious hors d'oeuvres. Saturday morning many classmates enjoyed a luncheon river cruise on board the Foxy Lady, expressing amazement at the changes in downtown Jacksonville, especially the condominiums and EverBank Field. That evening classmates attended a festive party, including cocktails, dinner, photographs and music from their World War II and post-war era. According to Betsy Smith, the class of 1948 looks forward to gathering for a 70th reunion.



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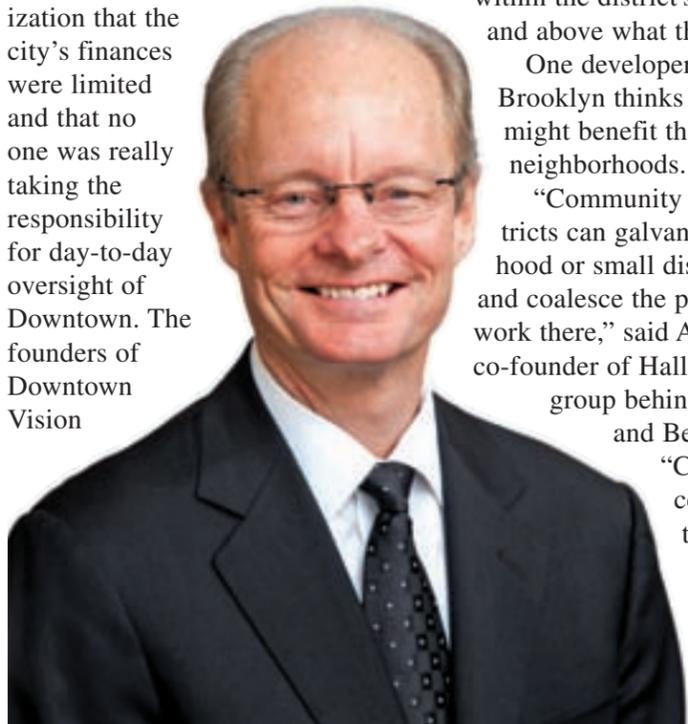
Time for community improvement district in Riverside?

Hallmark Partners' Alex Coley thinks so

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Downtown Vision, Inc. was created in 2000 as Jacksonville's only business improvement district it stemmed from that old adage, "If you want something done right, do it yourself."

"There was a realization that the city's finances were limited and that no one was really taking the responsibility for day-to-day oversight of Downtown. The founders of Downtown Vision



felt that if they wanted things done to a higher standard they would have to take responsibility and figure out other ways to find funding," said Terry Lorince, DVI's executive director.

That "other way" was a downtown improvement district. According to DVI's website, "A Downtown Improvement District (DID) is a variation of a Business Improvement District (BID), where commercial property owners...pay a self-assessed, non-ad valorem tax based on property values to fund a formal organization which provides revitalization services and improvements within the district's boundaries, over and above what the city provides..."

One developer in Riverside and Brooklyn thinks a similar concept might benefit these historic neighborhoods.

"Community improvement districts can galvanize a neighborhood or small district into action and coalesce the people who live and work there," said Alex Coley,

co-founder of Hallmark Partners, the group behind 220 Riverside and Beacon Riverside.

"CIDs set in place certain infrastructure to fund activities at the grassroots level."

The community improvement district is

another variation of a BID, with the significant difference being that its boundaries include residential and commercial properties. All BIDs must have city council approval and funding may come from public and private sources, including ad valorem taxes or non-ad valorem assessments, donations, in-kind contributions, and federal, state and local grants.

While Coley is leaning toward an increase in ad valorem taxes, Hallmark's legal team is currently researching CID legislation around the country.

"The underlying element is that residents be actively involved and set the priorities," Coley said. "The concept is democratic in nature."

That is vital for Riverside Avondale Preservation Executive Director Carmen Godwin.

"Certainly if there's going to be a tax increase you have to reach out to the community. So, let's go to residents first, then to city council. Also, I'd want to know who sets the priorities on how money is spent; residents should have a big say there," Godwin emphasized.

Those priorities might include anything from crime prevention, parking, and tree canopy issues to extending the Riverwalk. District 14 Councilman Jim Love suggested burying utility lines or improving parts of 5 Points, possibly constructing a roundabout or installing sidewalks along Lomax Street.

"Details of how to raise and spend the money, timeframe and boundaries of the district itself would need to be worked out with residents," Love said. "It also may be challenging getting city council approval because some council members might be reluctant to approve CID legislation that will effectively take money out of the city's general fund."

Some think getting community buy-in will be equally difficult.

"Residential owners are 100 percent opposed to seeing increases in taxes unless they can see demonstrable results" said DVI founding member Mike Harrell. "Especially since RAP has done a great job assisting in Riverside/Avondale marketing and place-making. Residents will look at that and ask, 'What can a CID do that isn't already being done?'"

Coley not only believes that CIDs are an ideal structure for RAP's "amazing, galvanized and enlightened leadership" to play a continuing role in producing significant results, but he also sees CIDs as fulfilling a larger social purpose.

"We have to do our research and then build consensus within the community. But it seems axiomatic. CIDs are about local people making local decisions on what is good for their neighborhood. They fulfill the ideological and spiritual intention upon which this country was founded."

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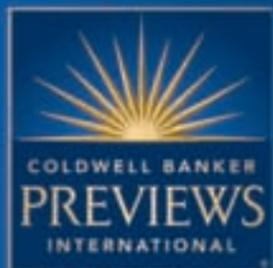
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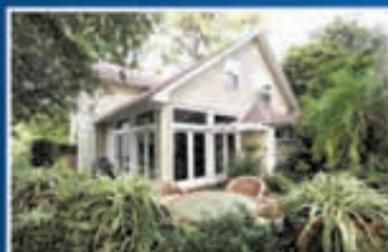
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Meet Carrie Rowe



Carrie has worked in Real Estate sales in various capacities since 2003. She is a Broker Associate and a Graduate of the Real Estate Institute. She is also a Cartus Relocation Certified Realtor helping folks move into Jacksonville from all over the country. Carrie worked as an on-site agent for several years with a national home builder helping customers realize their dreams of new home ownerships. As a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Vanguard Avondale, Carrie is

realizing her own personal dream of being able to help Buyers and Sellers.

Carrie was a Navy kid first "stationed" in Jacksonville in the mid-70's. She graduated from Orange Park High School in the 80's and attended FJC. She and her husband live in Historic Riverside and love the community. They are members of a church in Mandarin where they are in their third year teaching Sunday School to the same group of kids since they were in

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Parking study data presented; public comment encouraged

The good news is crime is down

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

With just days to go on the clock, the Parking Study Steering Committee squeezed two town hall meetings in under the wire. The goal to finish the study, as stated in the May 2 committee meeting, was Sept. 30.

On Monday, Sept. 23 the Steering Committee, chaired by Kay Ehas, presented its findings to a small crowd of merchants and residents in the Park and King Streets corridor and then again on Tuesday, Sept. 24 to a similar group concerned with parking issues in The Shoppes of Avondale. Of the 50 or so who attended each night, approximately one-fourth included committee members and city representatives.

District 14 Councilman Jim Love kicked off the Park and King public meeting.

“Parking is not an easy problem and it all has to do with safety and it has to do with business,” he said. “We’re going to talk about data today; you can’t make a good decision without good data.”

That data was presented by Ehas, Susan Fraser, a land use consultant on the committee, Zone 4 Commander Assistant Chief Patrick Ivey, and

Ghyabi and Associates’ project consultant Martha Moore.

According to Ehas, the parking study began with Avondale residents and merchants concerned about Mellow Mushroom coming to The Shoppes of Avondale and the parking demand it would need when there wasn’t enough parking already. Said Ehas, “To Jim Love’s credit, he said ‘If we’re going to do a parking study we need to include Park and King because they’re expressing the same issues as The Shoppes of Avondale.’”

The goal of the study was to “establish a parking program that manages existing demand and anticipates future demand to maintain a vibrant neighborhood commercial district while addressing the existing negative impact of non-residential parking on the quality of life of residents in the study areas.”

Fraser described the problems which were identified during a series

of meetings all summer long. They include vehicles parking off the pavement, on the grass, blocking the sidewalk; limited sight visibility at intersections; vehicles blocking driveways; emergency vehicle access blocked; no enforcement of signs that limit parking; trash; cars circling and speeding through neighborhoods in search of parking; cars abruptly stopping traffic

waiting for a parking spot to become available; disrupting the peace after 10 p.m. with loud talking, arguments; fights in residential front yards; and not enough parking for residents, their visitors and patrons at the nearby shops, restaurants and bars.

DATA AND MORE DATA

Moore presented the data which identified the supply, both on- and off-street. In the

Park and King corridor, there are 246 marked commercial spaces and 977 unmarked spaces on street, with 800 private lot spaces off street and 44 spaces in nearby alleys.

In Avondale, the street survey found 167 marked spaces and 687 unmarked on street, with 81 spaces in private lots and 112 in alleys.

As it was noted that access for emergency vehicles was a problem, requiring a 15-foot wide clearance to open doors and bays, there were nine streets in each study area that were thought to be potentially in jeopardy of having the required clearance. On Park and King, those streets included portions of Acosta, Barrs, College, Downing, Frederica, Green, James, Sydney and West, while in Avondale they included Dancy, Edgewood, Hedrick, Ingleside, Oak, Pine, Riverside, Talbot and Van Wert.

As one astute meeting attendee noted, if so determined in the solution phase, those streets may lose one or

both sides of on-street parking to allow emergency vehicle access, which could be bad news for residents who park on the street.

Surveys of occupancy of marked commercial spaces were conducted on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during lunch (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), dinner (5:30 to 8:30 p.m.) and late night (10 p.m. to 1 a.m.) hours. Consultants walked the study areas in 30-minute increments, taking note of the length of time vehicles occupied a space.

In both study areas, the committee found that on Fridays and Saturdays, approximately one third of the spaces were occupied by the same car from dinner through the late night hours. Though not proven, it was stated that those vehicles may have belonged to employees of the nearby businesses.

During the lunch hours along Park and King, designated parking was always available, however not always right at the front door of the business. During the dinner hour, parking was busiest from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Friday was busier than Saturday night. Saturday was busiest for late night hours, especially along King Street. It was also determined that 60 percent of patrons frequenting the businesses lived outside of the Park and King area; of the 40 percent who did live within the area, only 10 percent of those walked to a retail shop, restaurant or bar.

In the Shoppes corridor on St. Johns Avenue, on-street parking was heaviest during lunch (noon – 1 p.m.) and dinner (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.) hours. Late night parking was determined to not be a problem except on weekends near the West Inn Cantina and Casbah Café.

Crime statistics were provided by Officer Ivey. He noted that in the Park and King corridor crime has decreased and changed during a 12-month period of August 2012 to August 2013, when measured against statistics from the same period in 2005-2006.

The number of calls decreased by 34% (from 4600 in 2005-2006 to 3040 in 2012-2013); the peaks changed from Wednesdays to Fridays and from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. According to Ivey, the change in the Park and King neighborhood has impacted the number and type of calls to the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.



The goal of the study was to “establish a parking program that manages existing demand and anticipates future demand to maintain a vibrant neighborhood commercial district while addressing the existing negative impact of non-residential parking on the quality of life of residents in the study areas.”

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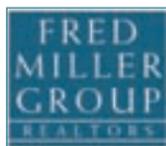
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Michael Goldberg: Chic Web, 1979. Bronze powder and pigment with alkyd spray on canvas, 96 x 54 inches. Estate of Michael Goldberg. Photograph by Bill Orcutt.

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There are more nuisance issue calls than for burglaries (less than 2 percent of the calls), robberies and other violent crimes.

In Avondale, the number of incident calls had decreased by 22% (from 858 in 2005-2006 to 670 in 2012-2013).

The most prevalent type of call is burglary alarm incidents and the peaks of incident calls changed from Tuesdays to Sundays, with 4 p.m. the peak time for calls in 2012-2013.

NEXT STEPS

The steering committee's next step is to determine possible solutions that will improve enforcement of parking laws on residential streets; educate business patrons about available parking or valet services; maximize use of existing spaces; address inappropriate behavior on residential streets, and improve other forms of access by bicycle, pedestrian and mass transit.

Residents and business owners were encouraged to share additional concerns and any solutions they might have to ensure that emergency access is maintained; owner and service access is protected; residential quality of life is respected; business demand is managed to provide safe, adequate parking options; and enhanced access and increased mobility options to commercial districts is provided for customers, visitors and residents.

The presentations for each study can be found at www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/community-planning-division/transportation-planning/riverside-avondale-area-parking-steering-committee.aspx.

Trolley trial considered successful



Patrons board the trolley in support of the night service trial

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Even as several concept studies are underway to address transportation and parking in the popular and crowded Historic District, some groups have taken the ball and run with it.

Riverside Avondale Preservation sponsored a Trolley Night on Sept. 14, floating a trial balloon that would help the Jacksonville Transit Authority determine if it could be part of the parking solution.

In an email to *The Resident*, RAP Executive Director Carmen Godwin wrote, "We are thrilled with the turnout for the Night Trolley. We counted over 1,100 trips and that was with it raining outside, a lot of people out of town at a weekend concert in St. Augustine, and with two trolleys breaking

down (they were quickly replaced, but I am sure it had an impact)."

She stated that if JTA was willing to open a new route that would service the Riverside Avondale area on weekends in the evening hours it would add a piece to the puzzle to relieve parking problems in the area. "The ridership and interest shown on this evening trial run proves that this would be a highly successful JTA route," Godwin commented.

One of the best features was the real-time location service created by RAP board member Dylan Phillips. With some simple technology and programming he was able to create a mobile-optimized website that eliminated wait times by allowing riders to see real time where the trolleys were on the route.

Valet Service Now Running in Avondale

In the meantime, the Avondale Merchants Association is sponsoring a valet service for The Shoppes of Avondale that is staged at the Prudential Network Realty office on St. Johns Avenue. According to Chavet Constable, owner of Starlight Valet service, the service hasn't really caught on yet, but feels that "it's a no-brainer, a drop-and-go situation."

The valet service is taking a pause until mid-October when everything, Constable hopes, will get busier. She believes that the valet service is an addition to the parking solutions in Avondale but needs the merchants to jump on board and promote it.

The cost of the valet service is \$5 per vehicle, but if the concept is successful in bringing more patrons to the shops, perhaps the merchants will subsidize a portion of the cost.

John Valentino, of Mellow Mushroom, has pledged his support to Constable. "He's 100 percent on board," she said. Until Mellow Mushroom opens, patrons of The Brick seem to be the biggest user of the service so far.

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Plans for Downtown include restaurants, hotels and more



Commercial developer shares positive economic impact

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA
THE RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Like brittle bones, the Laura Street Trio – the Marble Bank Building, the Florida Life Building and the Bisbee Building – plus the old Barnett Bank Building, now has hope of receiving a marrow transplant.

On Thursday, Sept. 26, Stephen Atkins, Principal and Managing Director of the SouthEast Group, shared a bright future for the buildings at the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors meeting held at EverBank on Riverside Avenue.

Earlier this year, Atkins' company, SouthEast Group, purchased the buildings with backing from Jaguars owner Shad Khan. Two of the historic edifices – Bisbee and Florida Life – were built by Jacksonville architect Henry John Klutho, who helped rebuild the city after the 1901 fire.

Atkins will pursue registering the buildings with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The organization has labeled them the most important non-reconditioned buildings in the Southeastern United States.

Bisbee, Florida Life and a new structure not yet built will become part of a Courtyard by Marriott hotel. The ground floor of the Bisbee will house one restaurant while the iconic Marble Bank Building will become an upscale restaurant on ground level with wine vaults and private dining rooms below ground, according to Atkins.

As the official hotel sponsor for the National Football League, Courtyard by Marriott will cater to football fans and offer sports-themed programming, Atkins said. The hotel chain has refurbished

historic buildings in other cities, such as Boston and San Diego. The Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Tulsa, OK, is housed in the Atlas Life Building, a structure similar to

“These types of projects are challenging for everybody because of the costs associated.”

The City of Jacksonville is helping, though, and being able to bring in companies like Marriott helps.”

Stephen Atkins
Principal and Managing Director,
SouthEast Group



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► Jacksonville's Florida Life Building, Atkins added.

In addition to housing a portion of the hotel, the new structure located on the corner of Adams and Laura streets will include a commercial bank and a rooftop bar to help revitalize the area. To provide parking, a 140-space garage will be constructed between Forsyth to Adams streets.

The Barnett Bank Building will be transformed into a center for higher education, according to Atkins, housing well-known universities with classrooms and dormitories. "It will be a whole new central hub for downtown," he added.

After spending four years on the project, Atkins is optimistic about its economic impact. He foresees a boost

of almost \$100 million dollars for Jacksonville and the regional economy.

Even so, revitalization efforts can be difficult. "These types of projects are challenging for everybody because of the costs associated," Atkins said. "The City of Jacksonville is helping, though, and being able to bring in companies like Marriott helps."

Currently, Atkins is working through regulatory processes with the City of Jacksonville. Plans are under-way to start construction during the first quarter of 2014. Atkins hopes the hotel will be in service by early 2016.

"It's exciting to see this kind of change in Jacksonville," Atkins said. "I was born and raised here.

Jacksonville has all the potential in the world."

The Economic Impact

Presented by Stephen Atkins, SouthEast Group

During Construction

- \$44.2 million in new investment to Downtown Jacksonville
- Annual construction payroll of \$6.6 million for construction jobs
- \$1.2 million in public revenues from additional sales from construction through Operations
- \$16.9 million in new retail sales annually
- 127 new permanent jobs with annual payroll of \$2.6 million
- \$900,000 annually in additional local government revenues from real estate, sales and hotel taxes

- Equates to \$9.7 million over 10 years to City of Jacksonville and Duval County Public Schools

Total Economic Impact (direct and indirect)

- \$94.6 million to Jacksonville and regional economy
- \$14.1 million in annual regional spending
- 223 new jobs in the regional economy with \$5 million in annual payroll impact

Second 7-11 comes to Riverside



Construction crews remove awnings from a former Pizza Palace location at the corner of Margaret and Post Streets. Contractors are preparing the 2,532-square-foot building for a newly renovated 7-11.

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Balancing progress with historical preservation at “Miss Margie’s” house

Hallmark Partners’ Bishopgate Lane development under RAP’s scrutiny

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

How do you move forward without demolishing the past?

That dilemma often sparks debate in historic districts and may face Hallmark Partners in their development of a notable Riverside street.

Bishopgate Lane runs into the St. Johns River off Riverside Avenue a block from The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. The river-end of the street is quiet with little traffic beyond those capitalizing on river access to fish or enjoy the idyllic view and those visiting either The Robin Shepherd Group or the Duval County Medical Society, which anchor Bishopgate Lane.

Both buildings go back a ways – Shepherd to 1947 and DCMS even further to 1926 – offering a glimpse into the street’s diminished history. As Hallmark moves forward with the development of a 16-story, 55-unit luxury condominium called Beacon Riverside on the Shepherd site, and a rumored 12-unit multi-family development on the DCMS site, that history is

at risk of vanishing altogether.

And this street does have history.

It was named “Bishop Gate Lane” in 1910 to honor Bishop Edwin

Gardner Weed, according to Interesting Facts About Leading People and Families of Duval County.

Weed was the third Episcopal Bishop of Florida (1886-1892) and lived in a mansion at Riverside Avenue and Bishopgate Lane from 1910 until his death in 1924. He was a revered man who, a June 11, 2005 Florida Times-Union article noted, was worthy of a “funeral of grand proportions...with many visiting church and government dignitaries. He was buried at Evergreen Cemetery with a 75-voice choir accompaniment.”

Weed’s daughter, Margaret “Miss Margie” Weed is listed in city directories as living with him in the mansion. While never attaining the public

stature of her father, she was nonetheless “active in community, religious and patriotic affairs,” most notably serving 12 years with Duval County Board of Public Instruction and as president of Episcopal Women’s

Now, an ownership change might mean the end of Miss Margie’s home.

Hallmark’s Alex Coley verified Hallmark has the property under contract planning an October closing, and DCMS is scheduled to move to

Riverplace Tower on the Southbank Oct. 15, according to Brian Campbell, DCMS executive director.

An Aug. 14 Jacksonville Business Journal article by Ashley Gurbal Kritzer reported, “There are no plans for the land, other than use as a staging area during the construction of Beacon [Riverside].” However, City Planning Division Chief Folks Huxford thinks Hallmark is planning a 12-unit multi-family building on the site, based upon an August meeting he

Bishop Weed's mansion at 1128 Riverside Ave (re-addressed to 1035 in 1929) on the corner of Bishopgate Lane



Auxiliary of the Diocese of Florida, according to her Aug. 12, 1961 Times-Union obituary.

After Weed’s death, Miss Margie built a house on the river, which is the current DCMS building at 555 Bishopgate Lane. She lived there from 1929 until her death in 1961, selling it to DCMS that same year for \$25,000, according to Florida’s Pioneer Medical Society: A History of the Duval County Medical Society & Medicine in Northeast Florida. They have owned it since, renovating the two-story, 5,500-square-foot residence into office space in 1985.

had with Hallmark Senior Vice President Coen Purvis. He understood the building would be demolished, though Huxford has seen no renderings or plans for the project.

“We do not have our thoughts formulated on that process yet,” Coley said, deferring discussion of Hallmark’s intentions for the site until after the purchase is finalized. The building, located within the urban transition area, falls outside the Riverside/Avondale Historic District and can be demolished without review by the Jacksonville Historic

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Miss Margie's house at 555 Bishopgate Lane (addressed 565 from 1929-1961)

► Preservation Commission. "Hallmark Partners would like to proceed under the current rules and regulations, thus avoiding a rezoning," Huxford said.

Talk of demolition raises red flags for Riverside Avondale Preservation.

"How could the city support tearing down historic homes in the urban core, whether in the historic district or not, especially with no clear understanding of the intended use after demolition?" asked RAP Executive Director Carmen Godwin. "At the very least Hallmark should be encouraged to move the home to another location." Godwin hopes to soon meet with Hallmark's partners.

Joel McEachin, City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department supervisor of historic preservation, said placement on the National Register of Historic Places might be an alternative to moving the building and would prompt a demolition delay while under review by the preservation commission. A building has to have architectural, historical or archaeological significance to be designated a local landmark.

"This building does relate in terms of age, style and placement," McEachin said.

Whether Miss Margie's home would qualify for landmark status or relocation remains to be seen. A walk through shows no obvious deterioration, but Campbell said the driving factor in the medical society's decision to move is the poor condition, noting a leaking roof, structural gaps and possible termites. Wayne Wood, RAP's

founder, said he is not certain of the house's architectural significance and noted that Miss Margie "was not a terribly historical person." Nonetheless Godwin said she thinks landmark status or relocation is worth exploring.

Beyond Miss Margie's house lie two bigger issues for Wood.

"My biggest concern with two developments is too much density at the end of a dead end street. Also, the neighborhood would want to preserve access to the river, so they would have a heated fight on their hands if their plans include closing the street," Wood said. "We just hope they'll be good neighbors."



Bishopgate Lane was named after Bishop Edwin Gardner Weed

Across the street from Miss Margie's house the Shepherd building is slated for demolition to make room for Beacon Riverside. Bishop Weed's mansion changed hands several times over the years – including ownership by Wayne Wood's grandparents, 1937-1961, when it was a boarding house – until ultimately succumbing to demolition in the late 1960s.

"The historic fabric of that corner of the neighborhood is decimated, overtaken by modern buildings," Wood said.

Hallmark's potential decision to either demolish Miss Margie's house – furthering that decimation and breaking the final thread connecting Bishopgate Lane to a piece of Jacksonville's past – or save it places them at the crossroads of balancing progress with preservation.

Catherine Currier, Jacksonville Public Library associate, provided invaluable research assistance for this article.

Helene Kamps-Stewart receives library award



Helene Kamps-Stewart with Brad Ward, executive director of NEFLIN

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Murray Hill resident Helene Kamps-Stewart is a champion. Last month she was recognized as such at a special dinner held at the University Club where she received the prestigious Library Champion Award given by the North East Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN) at their annual meeting.

The Library Champion Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional support for a NEFLIN library. She joins the ranks of other notable award winners including Harry Reagan and Kevin Hyde.

Kamps-Stewart, who serves as president of the Friends of the Murray Hill Library, was thrilled to win the award. "It feels great to be recognized on behalf of all our wonderful Murray Hill supporters," said Kamps-Stewart. "I am really incredibly honored to receive it. I know it's because of our entire group who prioritizes libraries for our city."

In addition to her considerable volunteer work for the Murray Hill Branch Library that she relies on to homeschool her son, Kamps-Stewart has been involved for the past four years in advocacy efforts to restore funding to all Jacksonville libraries. She has also been instrumental in the campaign to collect petitions that would let voters decide through a straw ballot initiative whether they want the opportunity to consider an independent tax district for local libraries.

Bill Brinton, co-founder of Save Our Public Libraries, Inc. which is spearheading the petition campaign, is grateful for her efforts. "I applaud the leadership of Helene Kamps-Stewart in the library support efforts," Brinton said. "She has been among a core group of volunteers who has been making a difference every day."

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Yesterdays closed after three decades in Avondale

Taps Bar & Grill moving into neighborhood landmark

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Steve Irvine passed in May his obituary noted, "Steve had a larger than life personality, often turning strangers into friends."

Three campaigns for Jacksonville mayor routinely brought out both characteristics, but never like when he was at Yesterdays, the Avondale bar he owned for 30 years. The self-described "middle-aged hippie" with a

passion for education and crime prevention and an iconoclastic approach to civil duty served court and beer with aplomb until cancer took him at 60.

Now, the bar Irvine called "Papa Louie's Orphanage" and was second home for many thirsty souls will adopt a new persona.

Irvine's daughters, Heather Yongue, and Olivia and Audra Irvine, sold the 9,000-square-foot, 63-year-old building to Taps Bar & Grill in September.

"They were big shoes to fill. We felt it best to let the bar go with him," said Yongue.

Taps will attempt to fill those shoes with a "casual atmosphere for...people of all ages who love fresh food, cold beer, sports and live music," according to their website (messages left for Taps' owners were not returned).

Jason Motley and Steve Smith began Taps in St. Johns in 2008 and expanded to Fleming Island in 2011. They offer 52 beers on tap, with 42 of those on regular rotation. Their menu ranges from burgers and tacos to prime rib and pasta and includes a kids' section.

"I'm excited to have them in the

neighborhood. They'll fit in well," Yongue said.

Neighbors at Restaurant Orsay agree.

"The concept makes sense for the neighborhood. It will fill a void of family casual dining," said Orsay's Brian Siebenschuh. "But Yesterdays, and certainly Steve, will be missed. They were neighborhood institutions."

That sentiment resonates with Yongue.

"Dad was very passionate about his business and it was a tough decision, but I think we did the right thing," Yongue said.

5 POINTS FROM 1



Stephen Tocknell, who was hired by the 5 Points Merchants Association to develop a concept plan to improve traffic flow and bicycle and pedestrian safety in the Five Points commercial district, talks to 5 Points property owner Mike Shad during a recent public forum.

streets; Lomax from Park to Oak Street; and Margaret from Post to Park, and from Park to Herschel Street.

Riverside residents Tracey Moore and Troy Lukkarilla said they were impressed with the attentiveness of breakout session leaders who listened to dozens of suggestions from local merchants and private citizens.

"It sounds like a major overhaul for 5 Points," Moore said. "It's long overdue, and this is a coordinated effort."

Lukkarilla said he thinks completion of whatever is recommended in the concept plan would benefit the entire city.

"5 Points could be the 'must see' area of Jacksonville," he said.

The 5 Points Merchants Association and Riverside Avondale Preservation are paying Tocknell \$36,000 to complete the study, which will be shared with city planners and engineers – and possibly be used as a blueprint for the city to implement proposed improvements.

City Councilman Jim Love has pledged his support, and will be seeking as much as \$750,000 to make the improvements starting in fiscal year 2014-2015.

The need for more efficient traffic flow while creating bicycle and pedestrian safety will become even more pressing in the near future, when residential complex construction projects are completed. The projects include 220 Riverside, a 294-unit apartment complex being built in nearby Brooklyn.

Tocknell said the forum exceeded his expectations.

"I was very pleased with the number of people who showed up – and the fact that they were all so engaged," he said. "We did in two hours what would have taken me 12 hours to do."

Save the date for honey bee festival

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Bee Friends Farm will hold the first annual North Florida Honeybee Festival on Sunday, Nov. 11 at The Garden Club of Jacksonville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The festival will include honey sampling, fun activities for children, a variety of food and craft vendors and a series of entertaining and informative bee seminars.

The back story

According to Bill Robinson, friend and Bee Friends Farm business partner, Michael Leach's journey into beekeeping was an unusual one. As Robinson is fond of saying, "Michael is a woodworking genius."

When the real estate market tanked, his cabinet firm was hit hard. Leach was approached by some beekeepers to build bee boxes and panels. Word got out that he was producing excellent beekeeping equipment and orders began to pour in.

Leach began to study beekeeping and eventually put out a few hives. Soon David Nussbaum appeared on the scene because Leach was renting one of Nussbaum's warehouses.

Nussbaum was fascinated by the process and told Stew Irwin and Robinson about it.

"As a group, the four of us formed Bee Friends Farm, LLC to encourage the production of really excellent honey," said Robinson. "We are businessmen with the necessary branding and marketing skills. Plus, we have a wonderful product. Our honey is local and raw. So much honey now is brought from offshore with very little quality control. Sometimes it is cut with corn syrup."

"It has been interesting to watch Michael develop as a beekeeper. His honey won best of show at the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair. Folks come from miles around to listen to him."

"As a culture, we are losing beekeepers. I am one to encourage backyard hives because they help build the population. An expert like Michael Leach can build population much faster than an amateur, but everyone can help a little," concluded Robinson.

For more information about the honeybee festival or Bee Friends Farm, contact Bill Robinson at bill@beefriendsfarm.com.



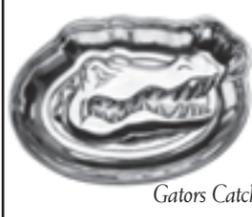
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Ordinance calls for bicycle traffic accommodations

5 Points concept study could be the blueprint

BY STEPHEN KINDLAND
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

An ordinance championed by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer should help to create safer travel for bicyclists living in a city that ranks among the nation's worst for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

The ordinance – passed by the city council in March – calls for the formation of a 13-member “context sensitive streets” committee that will be charged with rewriting the city's street design standards for all new road construction and reconstruction by March of next year. The revised standards will require new roads to “appropriately accommodate” bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

The ordinance also calls for the committee to review and revise the standards when necessary. Though the committee has yet to be named, its members likely will borrow from recommendations contained in a “concept study” being conducted in Riverside's 5 Points commercial district, according to Boyer, whose District 5 includes San Marco.

“They may actually set the standards,” she said of 5 Points Merchants Association members who have hired Stephen Tocknell of Tocknell Planning Services to complete the study. “They know where we're heading.

“Safety is a serious issue for Jacksonville,” she added. “I think there should be corridors and routes to get bicyclists to the suburbs.”

The 5 Points study seeks to improve traffic flow in the highly condensed business area of Park, Post, Margaret and Lomax streets while providing safe and easily accessible travel for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Tocknell, an Avondale resident who is active in three different bicycle

advocacy groups, says the recommendations made in the study will be presented to city planners and engineers. Hopefully, the concept plan will serve as a blueprint for making improvements starting in the city's 2014-2015 budget year, he said.

“I would think the committee would mine this study for all it's worth,” Tocknell said. “We're in a good spot right now. No one knows what the new standards are, so we want to use this [concept study] as a prototype.”

The committee will comprise six members appointed by the mayor; six others appointed by the city council president; and the director of mass transit for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

Denise Chaplick, who recently was hired as Jacksonville's first full-time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator, will be among five city workers who serve as staff members to the committee.

Chaplick, a senior planner with a bicycle and pedestrian program in Newark, NJ, begins her duties in early October. Her position will be within the city's Development Services Division of the Planning and Development Department

The new ordinance and the hiring of Chaplick are seen as significant steps forward for people using alternative forms of transportation – especially residents who walk and pedal through older, established neighborhoods with narrow streets, such as Riverside, Avondale and San Marco.

Len Burroughs, vice president of the Murray Hill Preservation Association and board member of the 1,200-member North Florida Bicycle Club, says he's delighted to see such progress.

“Jacksonville has been way too one-sided [in favor of motorists] for years and years,” he said. “We have a hideous reputation for safety. We kill

people regularly.”

Burroughs was referring to a study conducted by the national Alliance for Biking and Walking, a coalition of 200 state and local bicycle and pedestrian organizations that promote bike riding and walking as alternative forms of transportation.

The alliance's latest biennial benchmarking report ranks Jacksonville as the third worst among 51 U.S. cities in annual traffic deaths for bicyclists, and the second worst in pedestrian deaths. The ranking was based on a per capita rating as well as other survey elements.

In addition, Bicycling magazine listed Jacksonville as one of the three worst biking cities in its May 2010 edition, behind Birmingham, AL, and Memphis, TN.

But there is some good news for Jacksonville bicyclists and pedestrians. There was an 18 percent decrease in the number of reported pedestrian crashes – from 305 to 220 – between Jan. 1 and Aug. 15 of 2013 and the same time period in 2012, according to statistics provided by Chief Adam Brown of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

However, the 220 crashes included 20 pedestrian deaths, a drop of only 5 percent – from 21 to 20 – over the same period in 2012.

Brown, who presented the information during a recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Task Force meeting sponsored by Jacksonville Community Council Inc., said there

was a 22 percent decrease in the number of reported bicycle crashes – from 156 to 122 – during the same time frames; and that there were six bicycle fatalities during each period.

Despite the decreases, longtime bicycle advocate Bert Shaw says the city needs to pick up the pace in providing bicycle and pedestrian safety. He said Jacksonville is “woefully behind” other Florida cities, and that Florida legislators lag behind most other states in providing alternative transportation leadership – and funding.

“They don't concern themselves with it,” Shaw said.

Task force members also agree that Jacksonville would need to undergo a “complete culture change” if the city is to shake its dubious reputation.

Shaw said he has visited other cities that have succeeded in changing motorist's minds toward bicyclists by implementing public information campaigns and passing ordinances such as the one the Jacksonville City Council passed in March.

“That is possible,” he said. “I've seen it happen.”

Carmen Godwin, executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation, agrees.

“Most certainly there needs to be a change in the mindset and attitude motorists have toward bicyclists and sharing the road,” she said. “There definitely needs to be some kind of cultural changes about sharing the roadways.”

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Library to stay open, but future remains unwritten

Independent tax district for libraries would help

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Now that the chapter on library closings has been written for fiscal year 2014, advocates of the straw ballot initiative hope that the story for Jacksonville Public Libraries takes a new twist by moving forward to become an independent tax district.

Originally six City libraries were slated to close, including the neighborhood branches of Willowbranch and San Marco, in order to comply with Mayor Alvin Brown's proposed budget.

Last month, the City Council Finance Committee agreed to reverse some of the proposed funding cuts, sparing all six libraries from an unhappy ending.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer said she has gotten some pushback about the increase in the millage rate that made it possible for branches to be spared, but that many neighborhood residents are pleased with the outcome. "I have gotten a lot of people saying 'thank you for supporting it and keeping services up,'" Boyer explained.

Budget cuts have occurred annually since 2005 and advocates say it's taking its toll on neighborhood

libraries already impacted by full-day closures, reduced hours and a diminishing materials budget.

One long-term solution to preserve Jacksonville libraries is to designate them as independent tax districts, funded by a property tax of no more than one mill which could only be spent on libraries. According to Bill Brinton, co-founder of Save Our Public Libraries, Inc., the library professionals believe this would be sufficient to ensure a quality library system. The annual millage between 0 and 1 would be set by five elected officials under this proposed district which is similar to successful independent districts in Alachua County and Orange County, Florida.

Save Our Public Libraries is spearheading the campaign to collect petitions that would let voters decide through a straw ballot initiative whether they want the opportunity to consider the independent tax district for local libraries.

"While the San Marco Branch Library and several other branch libraries have escaped total closure this year, there is still an ongoing degradation of the overall system with more cuts added on to the cuts from the year before, and the year before that," said Brinton. "The library straw ballot petition campaign is critical to our future, and we need to transition to an independent library district soon."

Efforts are ongoing to collect the 26,000 signatures needed to get the proposal on the 2014 ballot. To date, 19,862 petitions have been accepted by the Supervisor of Elections Office. The campaign has the support of the governing boards of Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, Inc. and Jacksonville Libraries Foundation, Inc.

Helene Kamps-Stewart, a Murray Hill resident who volunteers for Save Our Public Libraries, thinks this year's budget is a temporary fix.

"This is just a Band-Aid. Each year we are faced with these budget cuts," Kamps-Stewart explained. "The libraries are such a complicated department for the city. It keeps getting cut and rearranged through the political world, and the trustees are never allowed to make pro-active long-term decisions."

She thinks the structure of the independent library district allows for long-range planning and "keeps monies from being raided by other arms of the government." Kamps-Stewart believes libraries are an integral part of the fabric of a historical neighborhood.

While the history of city libraries began in 1878 with the Jacksonville Library and Literary Association which was successful in creating a free public reading room, it wasn't until 1927 that the city got its first branch, the Wilder Park Library on the corner of Lee and Third Streets.

Before that, there was only the main library which was located on Adams Street until it was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1901. Andrew Carnegie offered \$50,000 to rebuild the library if the city would pledge at least \$5,000 a year for its support. It narrowly passed a citywide referendum and in 1905, the library known officially as the Jacksonville Free Public Library opened as the first tax-supported library in Florida.

Over the years, 16 branches have grown from the Main Library to make up our current library system.

Suzanne Broadhurst, a Murray Hill Resident who relied on the Willowbranch Library to homeschool her two children believes in the importance of branch libraries.

"It's really been through my neighborhood library and its librarians that I found a sense of community here," said Broadhurst. "I could not have done it (homeschool) as well as I did without the library. They watched my kids grow up. I am so thrilled the libraries are still there and I hope that continues."

San Marco author and resident Bud Baker feels so grateful for his neighborhood library that he hosted a book signing there last month donating proceeds from the sales of his book to the San Marco branch.

Pam Thompson, senior librarian for the San Marco branch, said that because of the libraries financial situation they do not have Baker's book, "The Earthling/Alien Chatroom," in their collection, but she is grateful for his support. "It's such a generous offer. He's a really good writer," Thompson said.

Baker relied on the San Marco branch to do research for his book. "Libraries are such a trove of treasure. Of all the places to cut, libraries are so cool," said Baker. "The difference between humans and nature is that we have the ability to tell stories."

The story on the funding of Jacksonville libraries is onto another chapter. Citing again the need for the independent district, Kamps-Stewart said "the entire unpredictability of it all is the problem. Onward we march with our petition gathering!"

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B U S I N E S S P R O F I L E

JIMERSON & COBB ADDS NEW PARTNER TO CONSTRUCTION LAW TEAM

Paraphrasing the old adage "success breeds success," the law firm of Jimerson & Cobb, P.A. is a case of "success attracting success."

Founders Christopher Cobb and Charles Jimerson, both Florida Bar Board Certified in Construction Law and Martindale-Hubbell AV-rated lawyers, recently welcomed Brent T. Zimmerman, also similarly certified and rated, as a partner at the firm.

"We want to work with like-minded professionals, and as a Board Certified Construction Lawyer, Brent has demonstrated his commitment to his personal development as a lawyer," said founding partner Cobb.

A 1994 graduate of The Bolles School, Zimmerman, 37, started his college education in architecture but after a few years switched his major to finance, then immediately started law school after graduating from the University of Florida.

"From an early age, my mom said I argued all the time and I would make a great lawyer," shared Zimmerman. "I don't necessarily accept positions put out by people just on face value; I always wanted to explore the reason behind the conclusions they came to, to understand how they arrived at those conclusions. I think it's connected to the law from a logic standpoint and how all things come together to arrive at an ideal conclusion."

Zimmerman clerked for a

construction law boutique while attending Florida State University's College of Law and then took a position with the Tallahassee firm right out of law school.

"I had the background knowledge from architecture and a base of understanding of what construction's all about so it made a lot of sense; but I always was anxious to get back to Jacksonville," he said. For the past six years, prior to joining Jimerson & Cobb, Zimmerman practiced as an associate and then a partner with a local construction litigation boutique firm after working as an associate with a large, full-service international law firm.

Based in Riverside, Jimerson & Cobb has a primary emphasis on construction law and business litigation. Zimmerman thought the firm was a good fit.

"I've known Chris [Cobb] and Charlie [Jimerson] for pretty much the time I've been practicing in Jacksonville; I knew Joby Birr as well," said Zimmerman.

"I've always liked all those guys personally, so I thought it might work out professionally. My practice focus has been a lot of construction, but it's grown and morphed into a lot of commercial litigation as well."

The 6'5" lawyer isn't intimidated by the idea of trial and while he spends less time arguing in court than he would like to, his philosophy and approach to litigation is to prepare as if the case will go to trial even if it does not.

"I think that positions the client best for the best outcome; even if we don't go to trial, the other side knows that you're ready and willing to try the case at all times. So it's not just a bluff,"

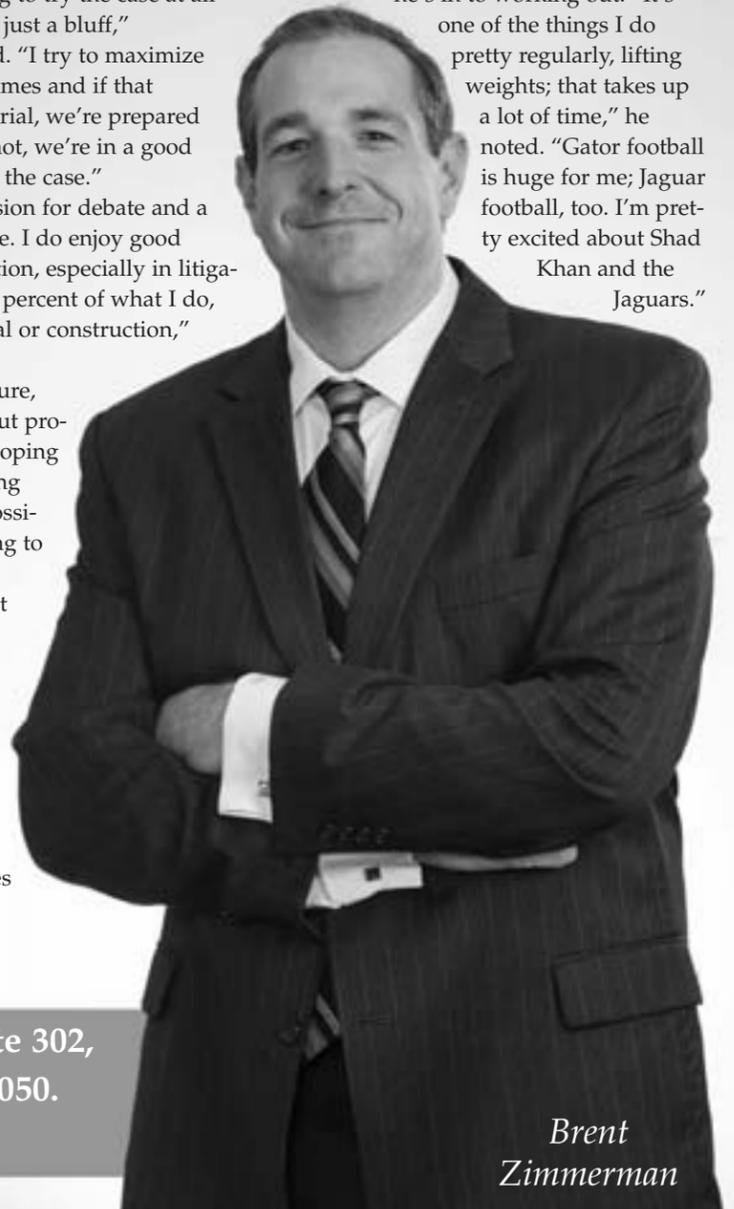
Zimmerman said. "I try to maximize the value at all times and if that means going to trial, we're prepared to go to trial. If not, we're in a good position to settle the case."

"I have a passion for debate and a competitive drive. I do enjoy good healthy competition, especially in litigation, which is 90 percent of what I do, either commercial or construction," he continued.

As for the future, "I'm excited about professionally developing the firm into being the best it can possibly be. I'm adding to what they've already started at this firm," Zimmerman shared. "We all have our own wealth of experience and holistically bring it together so it encompasses the full realm of business law."

Zimmerman resides in the Southside with Kona, a four-year-old, 200-pound English Mastiff. In his limited free time,

he's in to working out. "It's one of the things I do pretty regularly, lifting weights; that takes up a lot of time," he noted. "Gator football is huge for me; Jaguar football, too. I'm pretty excited about Shad Khan and the Jaguars."



Brent
Zimmerman

Jimerson & Cobb P.A. is located at 701 Riverside Park Place, Suite 302, Jacksonville, FL 32204. The firm's phone number is (904) 389-0050. For more information visit www.jimersoncobb.com

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Fun and creative or affront to respect of those who served?

A reader asked, "Is it illegal to dress public statuary in clothing?" The reader is referring to a recent trend in "yarn bombing" of various bronze statues around the city, as well as trees, bicycle racks, trash receptacles and more. Yarn bombing has been conducted openly by Yarn Bomb Jax, a group of knitters who meet weekly at A Stitch in Time on University Boulevard.



According to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, if the property owner calls police, files a police report, and it is determined that criminal mischief has taken place (which means they have willfully injured or damaged the property), it would at that point be determined as illegal.

When a resident complained about the pink knitted tutu on the Winged Victory statue in Memorial Park in August, the Parks & Recreation Department promptly removed the offending clothing.

Some, however, would argue that soft knitted costumes do not "injure, damage or deface" the items which they adorn. Found on Yarn Bomb Jax's Facebook page was this defense of the tutu: "Five days isn't too bad in the life of a yarn bomb...impermanent,



nondestructive, joyful art. Not everyone gets it. 'Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.'"

The recourse for defacing property in a public park comes under City Ordinance 2007-839-E, Sec. 28.708:

"It shall be unlawful for any person, other than authorized personnel, to cut, mark, remove, break or climb upon or in any way injure, damage or deface the trees, shrubs, plants, turf or any of the buildings, fences, bridges, monuments, fountains, back stops, goal posts, coin meters or other structures or property within or upon any park, beach, dock, marina or other recreational facility."

"If a person is arrested based upon probable cause to believe that the person has committed any of the offenses enumerated in Florida Statute Chapter 806 (Arson and Criminal Mischief) within a City park, beach, dock, marina or other recreational area or facility, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office shall exclude for a period of one year that person from the particular City park, beach, dock, marina or other recreational area or facility where the offense occurred. Every person excluded shall be provided a trespass warning upon arrest."



Over-size trash cans defeat their purpose; get replaced

Early last month a resident asked "What's up with the trash cans in Seminole Park [on McGirts Boulevard in Ortega]?" The Resident investigated and found that the trash cans are not re-inserted properly into the permanent receptacles after trash is picked up, resting on top of the concrete bin, too high for children to deposit trash. In some cases, the plastic can

was set on the ground next to the permanent receptacle, leaving it susceptible to high winds.

Within a week after speaking with Pam Roman, Parks & Recreation Department, it was noticed that the over-sized plastic trash cans had been removed and plastic trash bags had been fitted into the permanent receptacles.



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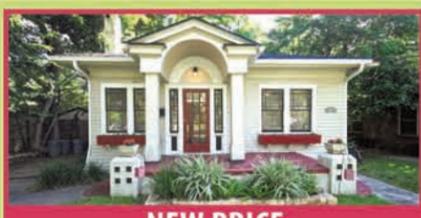
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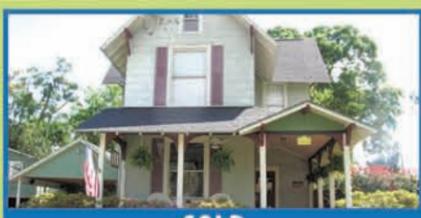
SOLD

4165 Timuquana Rd.
3/2/1-2,170 sqft. You'll love this beautiful home in Venetia! It's walking distance to Timuquana Country Club and Venetia A rated Elementary School.



NEW PRICE

1283 Hollywood Ave. - \$200,000
3/1/1-1,400 sqft. Must see bungalow in Avondale! Updated kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors, inside laundry. Wood burning fireplace.



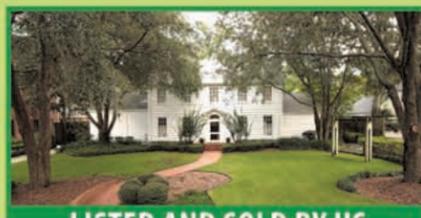
SOLD

4236 Melrose Ave
3/1/1-1,650 sqft. Absolutely charming one-of-a-kind historic home lovingly updated with a sparkling pool. Built in an era of true craftsmen and attention to detail!



UNDER CONTRACT

1661 Riverside Ave, #403 - \$175,000
2/2-1,033 sqft. The best of urban living at your door step. Top floor loft unit has views of downtown Jacksonville, Memorial Park, the St. Johns River and the cobblestones of May Street. Awesome open floor plan with no wasted space.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

4823 Apache Ave
5/4/1-3,867 sqft. Traditional Ortega home with beautiful entry and gorgeous updated kitchen that opens to family room. Large living room and dining room and cozy sun porch. Master suite upstairs and downstairs.

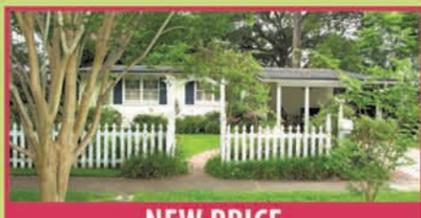


UNDER CONTRACT

2912 St. Johns Ave, #21 - \$80,000
2/1-882 sqft. Great Location!! Walking distance to St. Vincent's, Park and King District, the Shoppes of Avondale and the river. Third Floor Condo which provides quiet and privacy. There is an elevator in the building for ease of access.



2705 Riverside Ave. - \$650,000
8/6/1-8,344 sqft. Great opportunity to own one of Riverside/Avondale's historic landmarks. Built in 1909 and zoned CRO, this property includes a main house and carriage house with five units, 4 which are currently leased.



NEW PRICE

4338 Davinci Ave. - \$215,000
3/2-1,608 sqft. Looking for a great home in a great area? This is it! Location and charm combine in this sweet gem. Great curb appeal and a lovely landscaped front yard replete with picket fence and arbor entrance greets your guest.



3026 St Johns Ave - \$1.275M
3/3/1-3,344 sqft. Gracious 1920s Mediterranean riverfront home situated on a storybook setting at the end of a quite Avondale street. Beautiful and alluring, this historic home is filled with charming details and offers breathtaking views of the St. Johns River from almost every spacious & airy room!



NEW PRICE

5598 Fair Lane Dr. - \$525,000
3/3/1-3,414 sqft. Wonderful opportunity to live in a special neighborhood with a view of Timuquana Country Club golf course. Over 3400 square feet with formal living and dining Rooms, a spacious family room with French doors leading to large deck perfect for entertaining or relaxing.



1691 Woodmere Dr. - \$1.150M
5/3/1-3,772 sqft. Maybe you can have it all...Historic grace, modern luxuries and waterfront living all within walking distance of the Shoppes of Avondale. This completely renovated home features original hardwood floors, chefs kitchen, 5 bedrooms and expansive river views.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

4238 Lakeside Dr., #202
3/3-2,659 sqft. This beautiful 2nd floor unit was the second to last available. Only unit 102 remains in The River homes @ Ortega Landing. Call today to grab one of the last and best condo values in our neighborhood!



NEW PRICE

4645 Baden Ln. - \$335,000
4/3-2,661 sqft. WOW! PRICE REDUCED \$15K! Are you looking for a spacious home within walking distance of one of Jacksonville's A+ rated schools? This is your new home - updated kitchen with gas cooktop, hardwood floors in the living areas, formal living and dining rooms plus a cozy family room with brick fireplace.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

1849 Challen Ave
4/3/2-4,109 sqft. JUST LISTED! Walk to the Shoppes of Avondale from this fantastic home east of St. John's Avenue just two houses in from the River. Elegant and romantic Mediterranean style architecture, barrel tile roof, pecky cypress ceilings, large private garden with lush landscaping and fountain.



NEW PRICE

1843 Challen Ave. - \$925,000
4/3/1-3,968 sqft. Not many houses like this one in Avondale! Four huge bedrooms w/walk in closets, 3.5 fully updated bathrooms on high-demand Challen Avenue in historic Avondale, just 3 houses from river. SO much storage & living space.



UNDER CONTRACT

3238 Dellwood Ave. - \$67,400
3/1-1,170 sqft. Totally renovated with permits, 3 bedroom, 1 bath concrete block house. New A/C, new hot water heater, new plumbing, new roof, new backyard fence, new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, new carpet, new paint, new landscaping.



UNDER CONTRACT

2522 Herschel St. - \$390,000
3/2-2,140 sqft. Looking for historic charm and modern amenities? Welcome home to 2522 Herschel! Within walking distance of the Shoppes of Avondale, the restaurants of Park & King and Historic 5 Points, this is what neighborhood living is all about.



2623 Forbes St. - \$319,000
4/2-2,070 sqft. Beautiful two story home in the heart of Riverside. Enjoy historic charm with all the modern conveniences. This home features hardwood floors throughout, updated kitchen with granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances.



UNDER CONTRACT

3728 McGirts Blvd. - \$1.6M
4/3/1-4,623 sqft. This elegant Riverfront home is located in the prestigious Ortega Point neighborhood. The park like setting of the sloping backyard is one of the prettiest in the area. The large vaulted ceiling Family Room has a picture window that captures this beautiful view.



NEW PRICE

3029 Riverside Ave. - \$559,000
4/4/1-3,354 sqft. Looking for the best of the old and the new? Wonderful old world details abound from the huge wrap porch, coffered ceilings in living and dining rooms beautiful wood floors and lots of original moldings and wood work throughout.

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COMMANDER FROM 1

for the developer unveiled shorter structures in the third – but probably not final – go-round of plans to redevelop the property at 3946-4000 St. Johns Avenue, which includes two parcels.

Russ Ervin, of Ervin Lovett Miller (ELM), showed the group of 21 attendees a site plan that includes four buildings, of which the tallest would not exceed 80 feet. The five-story residential building will also include three stories for parking on top of the fifth floor and the architect is reserving the option to add a peaked roof for esthetic compliance with the overall design of the site plan. Situated roughly where the Commander Tower currently stands, the new building will reduce the potential for obstruction of the sun by nearly 100 feet – or 55 percent of the existing building.

“While any height reduction is welcome, of course, what people are failing to recognize is how much more building there would be on the site,” said Jean Grimsley in a subsequent interview. “We have been asked to trade the significant vertical mass of the Commander for even more substantial horizontal mass. When you consider that the main spine of Building 300 as it fronts Fishweir Creek is 360 feet – that’s the length of a football field – it really puts the massive footprint into perspective.”



The most recent proposed site plan incorporates four buildings, parking, courtyards and a pool

Issues, concerns continue to rear heads

While shorter structures are pleasing news to some of the nearby residents, it’s by far not the only issue that all parties are trying to address in this version of the game Whack-a-Mole.

First and foremost are concerns about the density of the building that would replace the Commander, which has 90 units. The new residen-

tial building would have 178 apartments, with a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units. That is in addition to two four-story buildings which together would offer 82 more units and a one-story building planned for 10,000 square feet of retail shops.

The combined total of 260 units is nearly 60% larger than the 166 planned unit development first introduced in 2006. Residents had a problem with the mass and scale then

and they still do, including Gayle Granger, whose home has been under the Commander’s shadow for 50 years.

“The proposed development has the potential to more than triple the number of people using this tiny property, which is situated adjacent to low density historic residential homes,” said Granger. “This is a significant increase in population. We appreciate that the developer is



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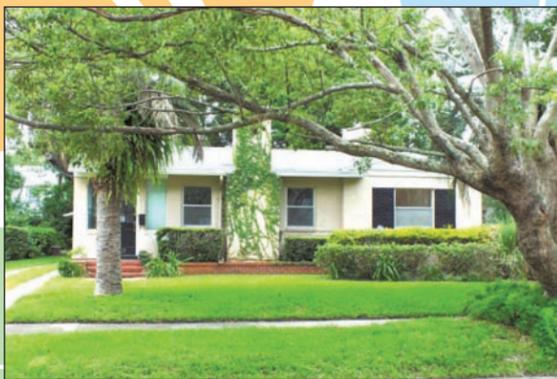
1463 Ingleside Avenue

Completely remodeled 3.2.5 in the main house and a separate efficiency apt over 2 car garage. Wood deck off back of house with totally fenced in yard. \$316,000



2229 Park Street

4BR/2.5BA, 2277 sq ft Craftsman style built in 1917 and zoned CRO. Private parking in back. Lots of style and charm. \$339,000



4222 Demedici Avenue

Fabulous 3BR/2BA home located on a beautiful lot with plenty of shade. Beautiful hardwood floors, sun room or office, approx 1310 sq. ft. and separate garage \$195,000



4634 French Street

Beautiful Craftsman bungalow in the heart of historic Murray Hill. 1588 sq ft, 3BR/2BA, tastefully renovated kitchen with solid wood cabinetry. \$155,000

drawn to the charm of our neighborhood, but his proposal is simply too intense for this area of Avondale.”

The other “moles” that have consistently popped up during the two town hall meetings and other smaller, private meetings held since late April include concerns about an increase in traffic, safety, the potential for overcapacity at Fishweir Elementary School, fears about property values, setbacks for the property line abutting the DuPont Circle homes as well as the setbacks from Fishweir Creek, and the restoration of Fishweir Creek.

The traffic analysis – not a study – that was conducted on behalf of the developer indicated that the redevelopment would not owe a mobility fee. Steve Diebenow, attorney representing Chase Properties, said that the traffic analysis did not show an increase in traffic under the new plan. “The City says nothing was owed for mobility under the new plan because it would generate less traffic,” he stated. “By any measure, this development generates less traffic than what it does today.”

Residents dismissed the analysis saying that common sense would indicate an increase in traffic queuing at certain times of day along St. Johns Avenue, most notably in the morning when rush hour and school openings coincide and again during

the evening rush hour as residents attempt to make a left turn off of St. Johns Avenue into either of two access points for the development.

Balanky challenged the group to have their own traffic study done and show him any issues they find. “We’re never going to ask for something that’s illegal and the city is not going to grant something illegal.”

Fairfax, Fishweir residents weigh in

Fairfax residents who live on Woodmere on the other side of Fishweir Creek expressed unhappiness with the proximity of the buildings to the creek. The setback ranges from a minimal eight feet to 13 feet according to the site plan, which does indicate landscaping along the entire waterfront, but that still appeared to be too close for comfort across the narrow creek.

Concerns about Fishweir Creek itself were also noted and the developer was asked if he had addressed it with the Corps of Engineers. “It was premature at this point, but that’s something we will have to do,” he acknowledged.

Another area that the developer has not looked into yet is that of the potential for overcapacity at the nearby magnet school.

According to Mike Fisher, parent of a Fishweir Elementary School

student and former member of the School Advisory Council, it appeared that no one from Chase Properties had contacted Becki Couch, District 6 representative for the Duval County School Board, to discuss the implication of overcrowding or safety. “I wouldn’t mind seeing more retail, because traffic is at its peak and the most critical danger is at the morning hours when students are coming,” said Fisher in the small group meeting. “The infrastructure at Fishweir [School] cannot handle any more students. The school is at 100 percent capacity.”

Developer feels plan fits

While several of the neighborhood representatives complimented Balanky and Ervin on the design, it was still very clear that its mass and scale was too much for the size of the property and the overall fit within the area. The developer disagreed.

“We think it fits within the [Riverside/Avondale] Overlay, we think it fits within Code, we think it’s good infill development, we think it’s a lot safer than what’s there today, even with the additional density, because of all the other changes we’ve made,” Balanky said. “Are we going to get everybody to say kumbaya? No, that’s not going to happen, it rarely ever does.”

“At the end of the day, what we have to try to be as sensitive to the

neighbors as we can, to make as many compromises as we can without destroying the project and then we have to allow the process to take effect and we have to go forward and ask ‘does this fall within guidelines?’ If it doesn’t, they [City of Jacksonville Planning Department] tell us and we’ll have to make modifications,” he continued.

“There’s enough of the neighbors that are very excited about what we’re doing, that want to see a high quality development here,” Balanky said, to some outright skepticism. Wayne Wood stated that 95 percent of the people [who attended the first public meeting downtown and the two town hall meetings at Florida State College Jacksonville’s Kent Campus] are opposed to the development.

A third town hall meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of FSCJ’s Kent Campus. Residents can voice their views, pro, con or otherwise about the proposed redevelopment.

*Editor’s Note: In full disclosure, this story was primarily written from transcription of the recorded Sept. 19 meeting, of which **The Resident** was made aware and attempted to attend, but was subsequently asked to leave at the request of some community representatives.*



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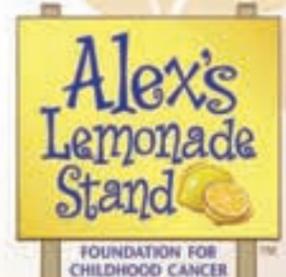
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2525 PHILIPS HWY – SAN MARCO

Local artist to create sculpture for Shoppes of Avondale



The sculpture is Ponsler's interpretation of an oak tree, and mimics the tree canopy of Avondale.

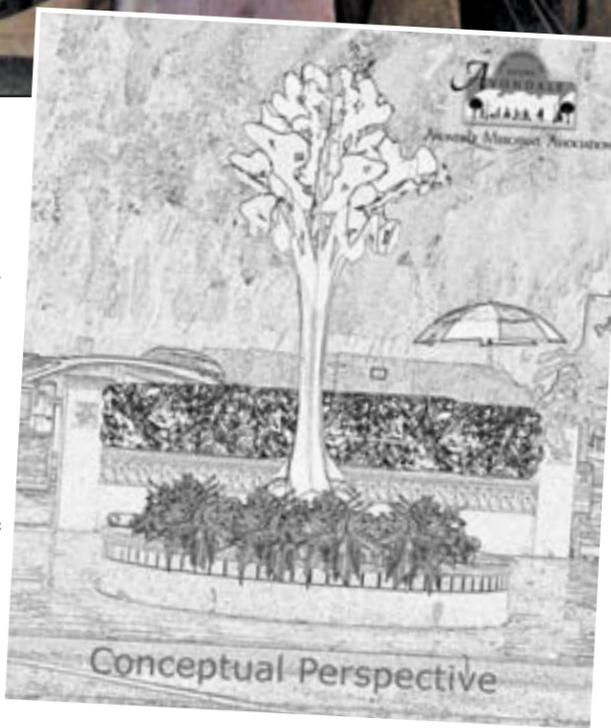
Riverside resident and metalworker David Ponsler was chosen through a call to artists for the creation and installation of a unique sculpture for the Shoppes of Avondale.

Funded by the Avondale Merchants Association, the new eight-foot-tall metal sculpture will sit atop the planter created during the town center improvements in the Shoppes of Avondale. Construction is underway and expected to be completed by mid-October.

The sculpture is Ponsler's interpretation of an oak tree, and mimics the tree canopy of Avondale.

Ponsler is a Jacksonville native and second generation metal worker. One of his most recognizable creations is the entry arch for Stockton Park in Ortega. Locally, his work has been featured in the Haskell Gallery at Jacksonville International Airport, Daryl Bunn Studios, Prudential Insurance, and Florida State College at Jacksonville.

He has instructed at University of North Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, the Penland School of Crafts, and Peters Valley School of Crafts.



Allison Says...

Sales in the Avondale, Ortega and Riverside area are SOARING. There was a 100% jump in the number of homes sold over \$1M from 2012 to 2013, a 94% jump in the number sold priced from \$500,000 - \$1M, and a 58% jump in homes priced from \$250,000 - \$500,000. How's that for a confidence boost? It's time to put your home on the market - *call us!*

Home Price	# of Sales 2012	# of Sales 2013	Percentage Change
Below \$100,000	49	65	↑ 32%
\$101,000 - \$250,000	105	137	↑ 30%
\$251,000 - \$500,000	56	89	↑ 58%
\$501,000 - \$1 Million	17	33	↑ 94%
Over \$1 Million	4	8	↑ 100%

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Two new agents join Prudential Network Realty's Avondale office

The Avondale office of Prudential Network Realty has recently added Leslie Fraleigh and Joy Walker to its roster.

Fraleigh, manager of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church Bookstore, is an Ortega resident and has two Bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education.

"We are extremely excited to have Leslie as a new addition to our PNR family and feel confident she will be invaluable to our team," said managing broker Sheron Willson.

Walker, an Avondale resident who worked for 11 years with a local real estate firm, has a vast knowledge of the historic neighborhoods in Jacksonville. She is certified in Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource (SFR) and is an expert in the field. Walker also has a degree in elementary education and is a member of the Kappa Delta Sorority.

"Joy's wealth of experience and industry knowledge makes her a key addition to the Avondale/San Marco Prudential Network Realty family," said Willson.



Florida Forum chairs Poppy Clements and Rosa Maria Morales King

photo by Tom Hager

Florida Forum chair hails from Ortega

Ortega resident Poppy Clements, a member of the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital for 15 years, has been named co-chair (with Rosa Maria Morales King) for the 2013-2014 Florida Forum Lecture Series.

"I have always loved the Florida Forum and hoped that I would chair it one day," Clements said. She also serves on the boards for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and City Year Jacksonville.

The forum was started 22 years ago by Polly Stein as a fundraiser for The Women's Board. Originally presented in the Florida Theatre, it was moved to the Times-Union Center about four years ago to accommodate a growing audience and high profile speakers.

"You name a major mover and shaker on the planet and we have probably had them as a speaker," said Clements. "People from all surrounding communities attend the Florida Forum and we have many levels of support."

This year's speaker lineup includes Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of Great Britain (Oct. 16); bestselling political author Michael Lewis (Nov. 12) and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush (Jan. 16).

The speakers will tour Wolfson Children's Hospital and give a signed copy of their favorite children's book to the patients with whom they visit.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit their website at www.thefloridaforum.com.

Traditions Realty welcomes Gillis, Fosmire



Fosmire



Gillis

Former Bolles School student and Jacksonville University graduate Tot Gillis has joined Traditions Realty as a Realtor®. Gillis, an Avondale resident for the past 15 years, has worked for the last 10 years in some facet of the real estate industry, beginning on the financial side of the business.

Gillis worked with local banks on both commercial and residential mortgages, home equity loans, equity lines of credit, and portfolio loans, which gives him an insight that has been beneficial to his customers. He has served as a financial specialist for Wachovia Bank and then served as Vice President of Personal Banking for Regions Bank's wealth management division before becoming a Realtor®.

The agency also welcomed Dan Fosmire, a recently licensed realtor who made the switch to the real estate industry at the urging of a Traditions Managing Partner. Although reluctant at first, Fosmire said he is glad he took the advice because he is enjoying it immensely.

The Riverside resident moved to Jacksonville in 2008 and spent the last five years working for First Coast Testing Services. Fosmire is originally from upstate New York and says the houses in Riverside remind him of home.

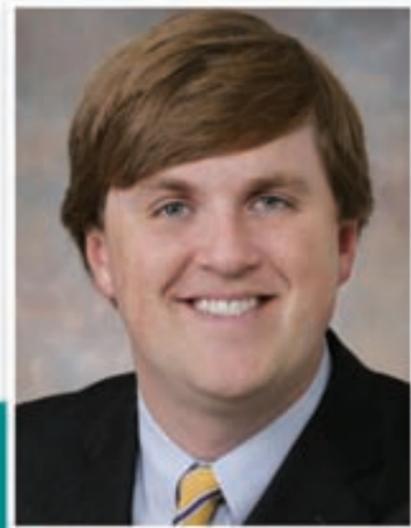
Rain Dogs a cool, laid back place for late night gatherings

Three months ago singer, songwriter, bartender and 15-year Riverside resident Christina Wagner, together with partners Ian Ranne and Will Greene, opened the doors to Rain Dogs at 1045 Park Street in 5 Points.

The late night (4 p.m. to 2 a.m.) bistro offers local beers and wines, café food, live music, a community bookshelf and rotating art shows. Everything about the bistro invites the patron to sit and converse, from the multi-angled bar to the comfy sofa and outdoor café style seating.

"I look at this place as Riverside's 'living room'," said Wagner of her first business venture. "I want this to be a celebration of local entrepreneurs."

Rain Dogs offer beer or wine tastings each Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. Follow Rain Dogs on Facebook to see what Wagner will offer on tasting nights or call (904) 555-1234.



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Revolve Vintage & Modern offers new and old treasures

Revolve Vintage & Modern, 4201 St. Johns Avenue, is Ana Dodds-Rowley's first business, but she's not a stranger to design and antiques. Her husband supported her desire to go it on her own.

"We knew we wanted to be in this area of town because it's an eclectic mix of people here and I wanted to have an eclectic shop, but we're also renovating a home in Riverside," said Dodds-Rowley.

"Vintage & Modern is a combination of old stuff, new stuff. We get a variety of things,

mid-century, more modern stuff, antiques, silver...you name it, it's probably in here and it changes on a daily basis," Dodds-Rowley explained. "I have 22 dealers who rent booth space and they change stuff every day."

The proprietor also features a local artist each month in a corner near the front door, displaying pieces for sale at no charge to the artist.

"The neighborhood here has been so supportive and people are so excited that there are retail spaces coming in the area," raved Dodds-Rowley.

Revolve is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays Noon to 5 p.m.

More information: call (904) 232-8924 or visit on Facebook.



Melanie Jensen of North Florida School of Special Education and Karen Taylor, Uptown Civitan president

Uptown Civitan women award grants

Uptown Civitan president Karen Taylor concluded her term last month with the

distribution of several grants and special recognition of the women who helped make her leadership a success.

At the September meeting, Renee McQueen of PACE Center for Girls accepted a flagship donation of nearly \$6,000. Betty Winstead received a gift of \$1,000 for Horse Sense and Sensitivity, which supports the developmentally disabled. Bonnie Patterson, a Riverside resident, also serves on the board of Horse Sense and Sensitivity. Taylor also presented a check for \$1,000 to Melanie Jensen for the North Florida School of Special Education.

Taylor acknowledged the officers and directors, as well as individual members who made the organization's various fundraisers so successful last year, especially Laura Ward Crooks of Riverside who provided outstanding support during Taylor's term.

\$8 million Arbor Terrace Ortega holds grand opening



Front: Shirley Paulk, vice president of marketing, The Arbor Company; Teepa Snow, national Alzheimer's and dementia care expert and consultant for Arbor Terrace Ortega; Joy Roberts, executive director, Arbor Terrace Ortega; back: G. John Carey, of Whitehall Realty Partners, the Arbor Terrace Ortega developer and partner; Judd Harper, chief operating officer, The Arbor Company; Laura Ellen McAvoy, director of engagement, The Arbor Company

Jacksonville developer Whitehall Realty Partners and Atlanta-based senior living management group The Arbor Company opened Arbor Terrace Ortega, an \$8 million development, just seven short months after beginning construction in February 2013. The 48-apartment, 54-bed memory care assisted living community focuses solely on caring for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia.

The project, constructed by local contractor Dana B. Kenyon, is the first of its kind in Jacksonville that is locally owned and will employ 40 people.

G. John Carey, a founding partner at Whitehall Realty Partners who initiated the development of Arbor Terrace Ortega, said that this facility is designed to meet demand for specialized senior and memory care that is expected to escalate in Jacksonville over the next several years.

Twice As Nice says customers best in town

Sisters Kristin Quigley Adams and Kelly Zarle recently opened the doors to a new consignment boutique in the Fishweir section of Avondale and are making things "twice as nice" for local families.

"This neighborhood has completely embraced our store and our customers are the best in town! We often hear that our prices can't be beat and our playroom has been a hit with the kids," enthused Zarle. "Moms come in to do a little shopping and stay for a cup of coffee while their child plays, giving them

Kelly Zarle and Kristin Adams



a chance to regroup before setting out for more errands. With the addition of music and story hours as well as future events we hope that the community sees us as not just a store but a destination!"

The boutique offers kids clothing sizes 0-10, maternity clothes, baby gear, toys and more.

"Whether you are buying brand new or pre-loved items you are spending your hard earned money and shopping should be fun and fulfilling. That's the type of experience we try to offer our customers" explains Adams.

Twice As Nice, Pre-loved Children's & Maternity Boutique is located at 4070 Herschel Street, Suite 4 and is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and on Saturday's from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information visit www.facebook.com/twiceasnicekids.

Park Street the "right location" for newly opened Café Freda

During Café Freda's first week after opening, the tofu was gone while burgers languished. The new restaurant at 7282 Park Street appeals to all palates and diets, but that night it was the olive and parmesan crusted Tofu Nicoise that stole the show. "We're so honored and humbled by the response from the community," said owner Mary Ellen Freda.

The lunch and dinner place offers everything

from beef, lamb and pork to chicken and fish, as well as vegan and vegetarian dishes, Tuesday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday brunch, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"The menu was designed for how we eat," Freda explained. "I raised my kids as vegetarians so it's always been a part of our diet. That's where

a good portion of our target market comes from."

Café Freda serves a nice selection of wine and beer, has outside seating and a private dining room that will seat 35 for special events, and offers offsite catering.

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David Taylor



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Social REGISTER



Candace Will and Kendra Roberts

Festive Luau Welcomes Guests to Jax Speech & Hearing Event

It was a casual affair complete with Hawaiian-theme décor as FinFest on the River drew a crowd for the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center's annual fundraiser. The event, headlined by sponsor Acosta Sales & Marketing, was held at the Timuquana Country Club Sept. 28. The mission of the center is to benefit the children, adults and seniors in Northeast Florida who are in need of speech, language and/or hearing needs. The evening was highlighted by the unveiling of plans to remodel the Springfield-based headquarters, giving it improved spaces and a more inviting exterior façade.



(In back row) Richard and Cindy Hamilton, John Moran, (front row l to r) Lorraine and Pierre Allaire and Audrey Moran

Bellying up to the bar for Best Buddies



Fred Levinson, Elise Greenbaum, Best Buddies® Advisory Committee, and Carrie Smith, Business Buddies member, took time to enjoy the inaugural Best Buddies Cocktails for a Cause on Sept. 13 at the University Club. Best Buddies is dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Remission Rocked the Riverfront, River City Brewing

Bosom Buddies, a local Jacksonville advocacy group that helps raise money and awareness for local breast cancer patients threw a party full of pink. The advocacy group helps defray expenses from beginning to the end of treatment for breast cancer patients. The medical community rallies around the cause and several local bands, made up of local docs- Dr. Chris Rathburn, Dr. William Gorospe and Dr. David Swain to name a few. The fundraiser helps fill in the budget gaps, giving women a fighting chance to change the course of their managed care and reach remission, healing.



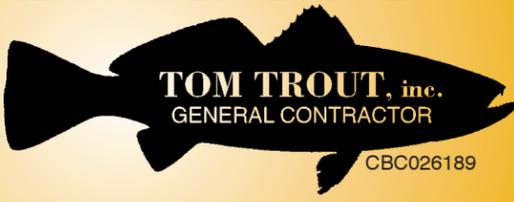
Right: Ellen and Steve Birthisel

Below: Melissa Bartley, Melinda Ingle, Charlene Ennis, Tracy Deken, Sara Dewitt, Margery Flannagan, Rosemary McSwain and Andy Gadd Remission3-Event Sponsor Dr. Ankit Desai and wife Mittal



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GOLDBERG EXHIBIT OPENS, INSPIRES LEARNING

The opening of Abstraction Over Time-The paintings of Michael Goldberg to patrons and distinguished guests allowed the audience to share in the accomplishments of all involved. The length to which MOCA staff worked to curate this most recent exhibit makes it a 'must see', as a compilation of scholarly work took shape in a book of Goldberg's works. This piece of history now provides students and art educators with a unique perspective on the impact and history of abstract art in America through Goldberg's years of undertakings.



Carolyn Hawthorne with Charles and Elli Zimmerman



Sondra and Charles Gilman

VALLEY OF DREAMS PUTS IPADS IN HANDS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN



Left to right: Patty Crosby, HEAL Founders Bobby and Leslie Weed, Alan Pickert HEAL President with Linda Pickert and Lisa and Vic Johnson

The HEAL ("Healing Every Autistic Life") Valley of Dreams fundraiser last month had a goal to put an iPad in every Exceptional Student Education Classroom on the First Coast. In addition to the 18 summer camps HEAL provided this year for over 450 children, teens, and adults with autism and the 40-plus grants HEAL provided to local special needs classrooms, after school programs, team sports leagues and parent support groups, HEAL launched the initiative iHEAL—iPads for Helping Enrich Autistic Lives in North Florida.



Barrett Bottomley and Christina Thorson

Social REGISTER Blue Jeans... Black Ties... & Young Professionals

It was another successful Black Tie and Blue Jeans Gala for The First Coast Rotaract Club, complete with overalls and denim galore. The young professional group got together with their mentors to socialize, make connections with other Rotaract members and raise money for worthy nonprofits. The group danced the night away downtown at EverBank Center Sept. 7 and helped drive dollars and awareness to the JLG Brain Cancer Foundation.



Mark Edmonston and Sabrie Arnold

A MILESTONE FOR THE NEWLY CRAFTED CUMMER CAMPUS

Capital campaign spurs change, improvements

With the completion of the Landscape Enhancement Project and Olmsted Garden Restoration, the time to unveil the public sculpture garden had arrived. Patrons, staff and distinguished guests were on hand to view The Human Figure: Sculptures by Enzo Torcoletti, the first exhibition of the newly minted Riverside Avenue 'promenade'. The project, funded in part by a 10-year capital campaign, has created a more inviting, amenity rich environment that welcomes visitors and guests alike to take in more of what the Museum has to offer.



Wayne Weaver and Delores Barr Weaver



Richard Skinner and Patty Houlihan

SHINDIG BY THE SEA CELEBRATES SANCTUARY ON 8TH

Thanks to generous patrons, volunteers on the 'Dream Team' and other in-kind sponsors, children in after school programming at The Sanctuary on 8th Street will continue to grow, learn and expand their experience. What started with a dozen children has grown to over 100 children in three programs which now includes summer camp and a home school. The Sanctuary on 8th Street encourages and empowers Jacksonville youth and families in need by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual needs. Shindig by the Sea was held Sept. 20 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville in Riverside.



Deana Green and Rebecca McNeil



Robin and Jim Love with Jeff and Kathy Graf, Ann and Keith

A FOODIE DELIGHT AT DELICIOUS DESTINATIONS 2014



Dr. Chris and Rayhana Goll with Dr. Kenneth and Andrea C



Drs. Nina and Samer Garas with Dr. Stanton and Susie Long

It was an evening of fantastic food, wine and libations as Delicious Destinations once again proved to be the premier food and wine gala of the season. The fundraising event, which provides essential support to the St. Vincent's Mobile Outreach Programs, help fund free medical care to under-served children and families in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Many celebrity chefs throughout the South participate in Delicious Destinations, as it benefits migrant farm workers, an essential component to the food chain in this region.



Jim Schwarz and Trish Meili with Carol and Bob Shircliff



Joan Van Vleck and Lindsay Helms



Sanctuary Executive Director Vicky Watkins with Tim and J



Vance and Allison Walker



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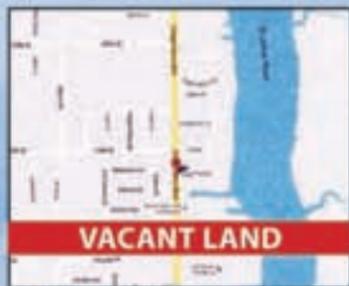
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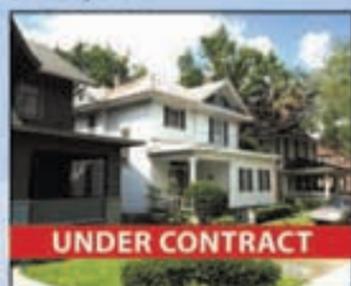
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Church art ministry presents juried exhibit

Jacksonville Artist Guild at Hendricks Avenue Baptist

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Continuing the Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church tradition of building community partnerships, its Art Ministry team has joined forces with the Jacksonville Artist Guild to present a juried exhibition in the Transitional Gallery.

for working artists and educational programming for public. Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church is delighted to collaborate with this non-profit organization, which includes some of Jacksonville's most accomplished artists.

"The ongoing Art Ministry program offered by our church has been an active venue for the visual arts since 2010," said Nancy Felton, Art Ministry Chair. "We offer rotating exhibitions in our Transitional Gallery throughout the year."

Reimagining the Word challenges the artist and the viewer to consider how the life of Jesus, "the Word made Flesh," might be manifesting itself today.

The public is cordially invited to the opening of the art exhibit *Reimagining the Word: Manifestations of "the Word made Flesh" through Time and Space* on Wednesday, Oct. 16, with a reception in the sanctuary narthex, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Since its formation in 2009, the Jacksonville Artist Guild (JAG) has brought together artists, community volunteers, gallery owners and art enthusiasts to promote awareness of the wealth of artistic talent in the city. JAG's community-based art festivals, charity auctions, gallery tours and annual juried exhibitions have provided both a venue

The Art Ministry team began discussions with JAG this past spring to develop a theme in keeping with the liturgical calendar, yet sufficiently open-ended to invite a range of artistic expression. *Reimagining the Word* challenges the artist and the viewer to consider how the life of Jesus, "the Word made Flesh," might be manifesting itself today.

For this juried exhibit, Guild members were invited to submit up to three digital images of their art accompanied by an artist's statement, relating the exhibit theme to their art. Last month



And the awards go to... Beth Haizlip (Honorable Mention, Secret Messages from the Sea); Beth Robison (Honorable Mention, Color Splashed Marsh); John Bunker (Best in Show, Diverse); Jim Pearce (Honorable Mention, Generations)

guest juror and watercolorist Robert Leedy conducted a blind-select of 28 works of art which most successfully convey thematic concept and visual imagery.

According to Ortega artist John Bunker, whose piece was awarded Best of Show, the show's theme fit right in line with his work. "I love the concept of this because it not just covers the Christian religion, it can relate to any number of spiritual movements," he said. "I'm very intrigued by many religions and how they interrelate to each other and basically realized that my art over these 45 years deals with our freedom and the glory of God, not necessarily just in the Christian religion but in any religion."

The art on display from 22 local artists provides an exceptional opportu-

nity for original Christmas gifts. Each piece is available for purchase and is described in a brochure (including pricing and artist contact information) placed on the consoles in the Transitional Gallery, open Wednesday, 5-7 p.m., (excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays); Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to noon; and by appointment by calling the church office, (904) 396-7745, ext. 333.

"Our Art Ministry is a community resource and we welcome everyone to participate," Felton said.

Jim Pearce, a watercolor artist from San Marco, said of his painting of a red cedar that is hundreds of years old, "This great old tree is a symbol and example of the enduring strength of The Word and God's love of us through His marvelous gifts of nature."

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Blessed by unusual summer vacation

Virginia Smith, of Ortega Forest, and Avondale resident Sally Van Cleve, both 2013 graduates of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, gave up their summer – willingly. *The Resident* caught up with the girls after they came back from serving in mission fields where there may be no electricity, drinkable water from a tap or the comforts we take for granted.

Virginia Smith in the mission field in Alajuelita, Costa Rica



Resident: First, describe your mission trips. Where did you go, for how long, and what were your roles there?

Van Cleve: I have gone on the Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) service trip to the Dominican Republic for four years now. We go to Hogar De Ninos, a boys' orphanage in San Cristobal (a province outside of Santo Domingo) with scorching heat and rare to no electricity and no drinkable running water. Most of the boys there actually have parents, but either they are unwanted, or their parents do not have the means to provide for their children. I was there for three weeks and served as a chaperone and head translator for the ESJ mission teams.

Smith: This summer I spent six weeks working with 6:8 Ministries, a local mission organization in Alajuelita, the most impoverished area in Costa Rica. As a staff intern I led U.S.-based church groups ranging from 10 to 50 high school students, college-aged students, or adults each week. I have built bathrooms, bedrooms, entire houses, painted buildings and schools, taught English, translated for groups, directed feeding centers, assisted with medical visits to different barrios, led

Sally VanCleve with orphans at Hogar de Ninos in San Cristobal



vacation Bible schools for children, led social outreach and led prayer ministry in homes and churches with different staff members and groups.

Resident: What motivated you to spend part of your summer vacation in service to others and specifically how did you come to select this particular trip?

Smith: For the last six years, I have been spending parts of my vacation time serving with 6:8 Ministries in Alajuelita. So, when this summer came along, it was not much of a challenge to decide where I wanted to spend my time once again. I was motivated once again to spend part of another summer serving others there because of my desire to help where there is need, to feed those that are hungry, to love those who are without love, and to continue building relationships with people who I have met in the past.

Van Cleve: I believe that once you find a passion, that passion drives your life. I went on the ESJ mission trip my freshman year because my aunt [Sis Van Cleve-Miller] was the community service program director and trip leader. After that first trip, my life was changed. I wanted to give my life to service. I wanted to live a life for Jesus Christ, serving His "least of these."

Resident: At what age did you first start making mission trips and do you have plans for more in the future?

Van Cleve: I went on my first international mission trip when I was 14, but I have grown up volunteering locally at Sulzbacher, Corner Street ministry with Virginia [Smith]. This past summer was my fifth mission trip, but my fourth to the D.R. (I went to Costa Rica with Virginia). I will continue to do international mission trips throughout my life, primarily to share the Lord's Word with people around the world but also for a selfish reason. I am happiest when I am living solely for others. Someday, I wish to have an orphanage for young girls where they are loved, taught to value themselves, and most importantly pour Jesus' love into each of them.

Smith: This was my eighth mission trip to Costa Rica, and I have made two other mission trips; my first was when I went to Cuba at age eleven, and just last summer I went to Haiti on a mission trip right before going to Costa Rica for six weeks. This most recent trip is definitely not the conclusion to my mission trips. I wait impatiently for whenever my return to serve in Costa Rica will come again, and I also look forward to other opportunities I may have in the future to go on mission trips to other locations.

Resident: What advice would you give to young people who are on the fence about committing themselves to a mission trip?

Smith: For young people who are on the fence about committing to a mission trip, all I can say is that spending a period amount of time focusing every moment of your day, every action, and every word in attempt to serve others is an eye opening, life changing experience that I'm pretty sure could teach more than I could learn in a lifetime. I believe that my first mission trip changed me in ways I could not have imagined – the culture differences, the poverty, the help you can give, the love you see all around – and every trip after has continued to be even more revealing than the last.

Van Cleve: Upon my return home after staying my first week in the Dominican, I valued everything at a whole new level, from the clean running water in the faucet, to medicine, clothing and shoes, to life itself. I feel that everyone needs to experience how more than

half of the world lives, poverty-stricken. I don't think that anyone can make excuses for not going on a mission trip. Funds can be raised with fundraisers and mission letters and savings can be taken out, because the benefit, outcome, and happiness that you will gain will be much more than you could ever imagine.

With passionate young women like Smith and Van Cleve, it's no wonder that Jacksonville ranks high in volunteerism. According to the Federal Agency for Service and Volunteering, in 2011 Jacksonville ranked fifth among the 51 largest metropolitan service areas in the country, thanks to 32.2 percent of residents who volunteer.

In late March, the Jacksonville Community Council Inc. reported that according to local opinion poll research, 27 percent of Jacksonville respondents volunteered more than seven hours each week on average in 2012, up from 19 percent in 2011.

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A community framework for change on national level



Eva Jenkins, research analyst; Delores Barr Weaver, Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, president and CEO, and Bonnie Rose, director of model programming, at Sept. 10 open house for the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center grounded in research

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Right in the heart of 5 Points you will find many hearts for troubled girls. Three floors above Park Street, dozens of women at the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center advocate for change in a punitive justice system against girls who end up behind razor wire for exhibiting out-of-bounds behavior.

“Everything that we do here is through the lens and the lived experiences of the girls and young women who are in the juvenile justice or foster care system,” said Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, president and CEO of the Policy Center.

“Our work is about giving voice to what’s happening to girls and helping people to really understand, and lifting the story of girls and young women who are in the juvenile justice and foster care system,” said the long-time Riverside resident and national expert, author, researcher and trainer on issues specific to justice-involved girls.

Dr. Ravoira explained that those girls’ stories are typically one of exploitation, sexual violence, victimization and abuse. “The things that happen to girls really fade into the background when they bump into these systems and

then there is a focus on their behavior and not the trauma, violence or victimization that pushes girls into those systems. So our work is about giving voice to that and changing policies and processes and the responses that are inappropriate so that we can give girls a safe place to go and flourish, and to have the opportunity for education and employment, the very same things we want for the girls that are important in our lives.”

– Girls matter –

Research conducted by Dr. Ravoira under the Justice for Girls Campaign showed that every year in Duval County 850 elementary school age girls kindergarten through third grade are suspended out of school. She noted that school failure is the number one risk factor for later involvement in the juvenile justice system, but the response to suspend a child when she is acting out in school is typically to focus on the behavior and not what’s behind the behavior of a child in crisis.

According to Dr. Ravoira, the First Coast actually incarcerates more girls than Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa combined. “It’s not because our girls are committing more crimes, or are more violent; it is how the system is responding to those girls who are exhibiting out-of-bounds behavior. We know the majority of these girls have histories of violence, of trauma, of

victimization and we’re not wrapping our arms around the girls and providing them with the intervention they need,” she said.

The Policy Center has four primary tasks, the first of which is research. “Everything we do is grounded in the research so we understand the pathway of the girl, her needs, her resiliency and all of the strength she brings as well as her family,” noted Dr. Ravoira. “Our research also focuses on those systems that girls encounter; we want to understand the perspective of the police officer, her teacher, her probation officer, the judge so that we can move from research to providing training for those individuals, that’s the second thing we do.”

The third task is to develop model programs to provide services and Dr. Ravoira wants the First Coast to be the model for the nation in terms of how the community will respond effectively to giving girls the opportunity they deserve. The fourth thing the Center does is advocacy, to change the policies and the processes that result in the disparate and unequal treatment of these girls.

“So, thanks to Delores Barr Weaver, and her wisdom and her vision, and also her belief in girls and women,” said the Policy Center’s executive director, “we have this extraordinary opportunity right here in 5 Points to be the resource for our First Coast to lift the story of girls and give voice to what’s happening to them.”

After visiting 68 cities all over the country, Dr. Ravoira found that “there’s not one state in the country that is getting it right for girls, so we’re seeing an increase of girls entering the system, more violence and victimization, not what we want to seeing happening with our girls.”

Based on her findings, she concluded that “we have to have a national model and our community can be that model. Jacksonville is really an incubator for the girls’ work.

PACE Center for Girls started here; we’ve had girls’ think tanks here; we’ve had the Justice for Girls’ Leadership Council, which is the model for the state; Georgetown has been writing about us for years. A lot of work has been happening in this community.”

– Putting her dream out there –

When it came time to elevate the discussion for that national model, Dr. Ravoira turned to philanthropist Delores Barr Weaver.

“When Mrs. Weaver provided this extraordinary opportunity to come to her with a proposal, it was an incredible risk to put my dream out there and you have a great fear of rejection, however, she didn’t,” said Dr. Ravoira. “Not only did she support the work, she let us use her name. For many of the girls we care about, these are often girls left out of the conversation; for Mrs. Weaver to embrace them in such an extraordinary way with the Policy Center it just elevates the dialogue. She has encouraged us and supported us to give voice to issues that make people uncomfortable and that we know needs to change.”

The Policy Center currently has about 18 interns, young women who are involved in every aspect of the research and the training, helping develop the curriculums for the girls and working directly with the girls.

The Center is working in five counties and begins by going to that community and listening to the girls, the parents, the caregivers, as well as the professionals working with the girls, to understand what’s happening in that community so it can develop a strategic plan to create a holistic approach to girls and the community’s response. Each community is different, so the response, still grounded in research, is based on the needs of that community in partnership with that community, according to Dr. Ravoira.

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New Ronald McDonald House staff are amazing

Job description to 'serve and be helpful'

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Diane Boyle says there was a great deal of excitement in the air when she arrived a few months ago as the new executive director of Ronald McDonald House, located at 824 Childrens Way in San Marco.

Everyone was anticipating the arrival of Reed, a recent graduate of Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), and the newest addition to the staff of the House.

Shelli Martin, RMH Family Operations Manager and CCI facilitator, now brings Reed, a carefully bred and trained golden retriever/labrador mix to his job Monday through Friday.

Thriving in his new position, Reed responds to 40 commands.

Martin relates that she and Reed bonded immediately. She worked with other dogs at the training facility but Reed was the one who pulled her heart strings; she felt his temperament was just right for the multitude of duties his job at RMH requires.

Foremost in his job description is "to serve and be helpful." Sometimes that means being a warm, fluffy pillow for a sick child or a companion for family members by adding a sense of normalcy to their day.

Recently, a child who came for a procedure and knew she would be returning for an extended stay, said about the dedicated pooch, "It will be nice to have a friend when I come back."

Reed's amazingly calm disposition, intuition and sensitivity give him doggie insight into whether a child wants to play catch, chase or just snuggle. Martin explains laughingly, "even though they are ill they are still kids – they need fun and silliness."

Boyle reiterates that the goal of the House is to keep families together as their children go through medical processes. Reed takes care of the caregivers, too.

Cat McConnell, event and marketing manager, emphasizes that having Reed will add to the festivities of this year's 25th Anniversary Celebration of Ronald McDonald House. Reed may need to trade in his cape for a tuxedo!



Shelli Martin, left, Family Operations Manager and Diane Boyle, right, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House, with Reed the dog

Murray Hill residents turn out for community celebration

The culmination of a month-long trip down Murray Hill's memory lane was a community dinner and silent auction hosted by the Murray Hill Preservation Association (MHPA) last month.

The "Little Slice of History" dinner, attended by 135 people, was sponsored by local merchants Moon River Pizza, Crazy Egg, Fringe Café & Eatery and the Edgewood Bakery, served at the Murray Hill Library.

The retrospective, sponsored by The Friends of the Murray Hill Library (FMHL), began early in September with presentations, photo displays and personal reminiscences by long-time Murray Hill residents.

After the dinner on Sept. 25, Stephen Dare and Ennis Davis of Metro Jacksonville gave a presentation on Murray Hill: Past, Present and Future.



Murray Hill Library Community Relations Specialists Cindy Johnson and Olga Bayer with Suzanne Hudson-Smith, executive director of the Library Foundation



Mark Stewart and son Demetri; Missy and Jerod Jackson with son Sawyer, Helene Kamps-Stewart, Stephen Dare

Murray Hill was created in 1907 as a replat from the Edgewood subdivision, then incorporated in 1915 with its own mayor. The City of Jacksonville annexed the town in 1925.

According to Helene Kamps-Stewart, president of FMHL, the events were well received.

"The attendance of Memories of Old Murray Hill (put together by FMHL program chair Judy Klein) has been very successful," said Kamps-Stewart. "The previous Wednesday nights' presentations were both standing room only in our little Murray Hill Library meeting room – nearly 50 attendees each time. Tonight we more than doubled that attendance with 106!" The month-long events were a collaborative endeavor with MHPA, Jacksonville Public Library and Metro Jacksonville.

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GO GIVER

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Q. Your volunteer work for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida is a family tradition?

My father, Arnold Tritt, Sr., 79, was a longtime volunteer and board member for the Clubs. The organization was an important part of his life growing up in Brentwood subsidized housing, where he and his siblings were raised by his mother. He holds the Clubs near to his heart because the staff accepted him, nurtured and helped him grow during his formative years. He credits them with helping him overcome difficult circumstances to become a successful adult.

Q. Dr. Shannon Perry, Ph.D., and president of the Clubs, calls you a dynamo who has guided the organization, building THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club in St. Augustine and expanding the NFL Youth Education Town Boys & Girls Club here. How would you describe your volunteer contributions to the Clubs?

I'm a board member and as an attorney can provide legal counsel. As a contractor I coordinate construction projects and facilities maintenance. I am now managing construction on their new corporate office in Brentwood - right where my father lived. I volunteer to honor my father and his commitment to his community as well as repayment of a debt to those folks who watched over my dad when he needed help most.

Q. You have good childhood memories of the Clubs too...

My father would take me with him...I remember playing bumper pool for the first time at the Lee Club in Springfield. I thought it was the greatest place and such fun. My dad helped me understand how important the Clubs were to those kids; that was their whole world.

The Clubs are located right in the line of fire where they are most needed by the kids they serve...in the toughest neighborhoods, housing projects, near inner city schools.

Q. What is the Mission of the Clubs?

Their mission is to inspire and enable youth, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring adults. We strive to help them toward academic success, to develop good character, citizenship and a healthy lifestyle.

Q. Who can join the Clubs?

Youth ages 5-18 who are enrolled in school. There are more than 3,600 kids served daily at 14 Club locations in Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties.

Q. What are some important statistics about the youth in Northeast Florida's Boys & Girls Clubs?

- * 82% of members are on free or reduced lunches
- * 79% are from households under \$28,000 annual income
- * Only 33% of members live with both parents
- * 94% are promoted to the next grade level before summer school
- * 100% of our middle and high school members have not become teen mothers
- * 95% of members have not entered the juvenile justice system

Q. What would you tell readers interested in supporting or volunteering for the Clubs?

There are many ways to help. Visit the website (bgcnf.org) for information about upcoming fundraising events, write a check, become a volunteer in the Clubs or just help with events.

Q. Can you introduce us to the Tritt family?

My wife Danielle is a mental health

counselor and our children are Lillie, 12, an Episcopal middle school cheerleader who loves dance, and son Lee, 10, attends Riverside Presbyterian Day School and enjoys all sports. I'm an attorney in private law practice, Tritt & Associates. We're fortunate to have both sets of grandparents in Jacksonville, healthy and active. My youngest brother John lives in Riverside with his wife Heather and my nephews Noah, 5, and Nathaniel, 2. My other brother Lee is a professor at UF Law School in Gainesville. We also have furry family members: Wheaten Terrier Daisy and Danielle's elderly cat, Carmen, also called Miss Moomie.

Q. Family activities?

Danielle and I center our free time around our children's activities. Every spring we enjoy snow skiing in Aspen where Danielle's sister and family live. During summers we like to escape the heat by traveling to the Northeast: Maine, Boston or Cape Cod.

Q. Any other volunteer activities?

Danielle is very active helping in

many capacities at both of our children's schools. I serve on the Episcopal School of Jacksonville Alumni Board and am also active in ACE Mentor Program (introduces high school students to careers in architecture, construction and engineering).

Q. Final words about your volunteer activities?

Working to help youth is so rewarding. I'm lucky to be able to serve on the Boys & Girls Club Board, because I know that we impact young lives and make an immediate difference in their futures. I get to do things I love and help kids at the same time...charitable organizations need our help and they will find volunteers work to do that they enjoy and want to continue. Through the ACE Mentor Program, which offers scholarship support to college students, I saw one young lady receive \$1,000 and she just broke down...she was the first one in her entire family to ever attend college. We are following her progress, to support her and mentor her as she builds her life and she is

just one example of how we can help youth through volunteering and supporting organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs.



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2014 Women of Distinction honorees named



Clockwise from left: Women of Distinction Honoree Nancy Soderburg, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council CEO Mary Anne Jacobs, Women of Distinction Co-chair Cheryl Riddick, Women of Distinction Honorees Marsha Oliver and Pamela Chally

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Six women in leadership were named as honorees for the 2014 Girl Scouts Women of Distinction and will be attending the 25th Annual Women of Distinction luncheon on Mar. 12, 2014.

Those named are Jennifer Chapman, a director with Fidelity Investments, entrepreneur and community advocate; Dr. Pamela Chally, Dean of Brooks College of Health at

UNF; Allison Korman Shelton, vice president of the Stellar Foundation and member on several nonprofit boards; Marsha Oliver, DCPS Chief of Public Relations and Communications; Nancy Soderburg, a foreign policy expert and Visiting Distinguished Scholar at UNF; and Carmen Townsend, founder of the J.T. Townsend Foundation.

With this 25th class of honorees the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council will have honored 150 women in leadership since 1989.

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Top Salon in Jacksonville is in Riverside

Oscar and Lula Salon, located on the corner of Park and King Street in Riverside, has been implementing some changes since the business' recent acquisition. With new ownership in place, and the maintenance of its original integrity, the salon's relationship with John Paul Mitchell Systems sets it apart from others in the area. As the only Paul Mitchell Focus Salon in Jacksonville, the unique partnership raises the bar for professional hair care in Jacksonville.

Most of us are familiar with the Paul Mitchell name, which represents a high standard of quality for products and services, but you may be wondering what makes the salon a "Focus Salon." Many salons do not sell or represent some or all of the products they use. Within an exclusive Paul Mitchell Focus Salon, every product and chemical used is produced by John Paul Mitchell Systems. The client can purchase all styling products used on their hair; the consistency in this regimen produces better short-term hair care, and long-term results. This is only one advantage of visiting Oscar and Lula, as the quality and authenticity of the product is unparalleled.

Upon entering Oscar and Lula, you will notice many changes since the salon changed hands earlier this year. The salon epitomizes historic Riverside with high loft ceilings, stained concrete flooring, and a warm rustic atmosphere. Being that the owners were born and raised in Jacksonville, it is of paramount concern to embrace the character and attitude of historic Riverside. We invite you to experience the comfort and welcoming environment that boasts two client waiting

areas, changing rooms for color clients, a waxing and cosmetics bar, and a designer restroom. The Oscar and Lula team takes great pride in all areas of the salon, and in the comfort of their clients.

The stylists on our team have over

25 years of experience and engage in continuing education with nationally certified John Paul Mitchell Systems educators. The stylists are not only up-to-date on trending styles and cuts, but are also color specialists. The team at

Oscar and Lula prides themselves in their ability to create dimensional color, and to create a look that is unique to you. They also specialize in color blocking, and are experienced with unconventional methods of creating one-of-a-kind results.

One of the greatest concerns to the client outside of the ability and skillset of their stylist, is the cost of services. When you read about the attributes of Oscar and Lula, your impression might be that the price point may be out of reach. Despite the accolades of Oscar and Lula Salon, they are very conscious of the client experience. They realize that if a client doesn't feel as though they received a fair value, it may tarnish their salon experience. The business model is based upon satisfied clients and the attention to detail they deserve, as opposed to cutting cost and quality. The stylists at Oscar and Lula wish to provide you with world-class service, and deliver the results that you desire. Visit oscarandlula.com

for pricing, or come in and see us for a free consultation, and you will be pleasantly surprised. Oscar and Lula is located at 2663 Park Street, directly next door to Pele's Wood Fire Grill at the corner of Park and King Street.



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Sisterhood of Hope and Faith

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It's malignant. Who can possibly understand the questions and fears this dreaded diagnosis evokes? A staggering number of women who pledge this wretched sorority can.

Criteria for initiation? Breast cancer. Four Ortega "sorority sisters" share their experiences – Pearl Allen (89), Melodie Brunson (63), Peggy Harrell Jennings (65) and Nancy Liane (54).

Q. When were you diagnosed?

Pearl: Well, I have to stop and think...it seems like a long time...at least six or eight years ago when I had my regular mammogram.

Melodie: In 2002 – I had a little pain – which was weird because there's not usually any pain involved. I confess I didn't usually do those self checks – my gynecologist said if a lump feels like a hard pea and stays in the same place, well, that's not good.

Nancy: I discovered a lump after seeing a Buddy Check12 infomercial and being inspired to be more vigilant. With no family history of breast cancer, I just thought it was a swollen gland.

Peggy: I really didn't think much about it when I first found the lump...boy, was I surprised. The cancer returned in 2000...now that was devastating.

Q. What were your first thoughts or reactions?

Pearl: My doctor said I had the "good kind of cancer" – whatever that is. My daughter Robin had been diagnosed with the "bad" kind 20 years ago when she was in her 30s. That was a shock – it was like God was telling her she had a lump. Being so young she'd never had a mammogram or anything. She had two little boys – one only a baby. I saw her go through radiation and chemo. I thought, well,

if she can go through all that I can sure get through this.

Melodie: Buddy, I was all over that Internet...just armed myself with information. Some women, it just lays them flat but I was like "let's just get on with it and get over it!" You absolutely have to be your own advocate. The word thrive stayed in my thoughts and prayers.

Nancy: That diagnosis just rocked us all – our girls, our parents – telling them was the hardest thing to do; my husband Pete and I just cried. You worry about your caregivers; everyone struggles so much.

Peggy: Well, it wasn't my most sterling moment. Mama and my husband Jon were with me when the doctor said the C word – I looked at their stricken faces and kind of lost it – I kicked a trash can across the room and said, "I don't have time for this nonsense." The nurses didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Q. What kept you going through your diagnosis and treatments?

Pearl: I had a lot of faith in my doctor and everyone at church (Ortega UMC) was so good to me. I have a lot of faith in God so I didn't worry too much.

Melodie: When I was really down I'd go sit by the river – one time I stayed out there for hours – I sang and sang – all the hymns I could think of. There was a really weird incident at the hospital – this bright light engulfed my room, I could feel it in me – I believe with all my heart that it was God's healing. My husband Bob and my boys were wonderful.

Nancy: I never felt like this was the end – as awful as it was I would not take the experience away – we grew even closer as a family and to God. Pete took me on a wonderful trip to



"Sorority sisters"
Peggy Harrell Jennings,
Pearl Allen, Nancy Liane;
Melodie Brunson,
not pictured

Italy to celebrate finishing my treatment – I didn't have to take any hair products – all I had on my head was some fuzz!

Peggy: Well, my mother's prayers, my husband, kids and friends (even though they kept feeding me Frosties). I thought I'd lose a few pounds during chemo – but no, I gained weight! Rev. Sidney Hardy anointed me and we prayed so I just had to do my part and The Lord did His.

Q. Do you have advice to share?

Pearl: Get a mammogram every year, pray and have faith.

Melodie: Knowledge is power – learn all you can. Surround yourself with positive people; we are moved along by the love of family and friends.

Nancy: Don't shy away from self checks – follow up – it's not going to just go away; find doctors you trust and feel comfortable with – they are your new best friends; lots of prayer

Peggy: Definitely, stay away from negative people; don't focus on statistics or let a diagnosis define you; try to keep a sense of humor! Help other "sisters" keep hope.

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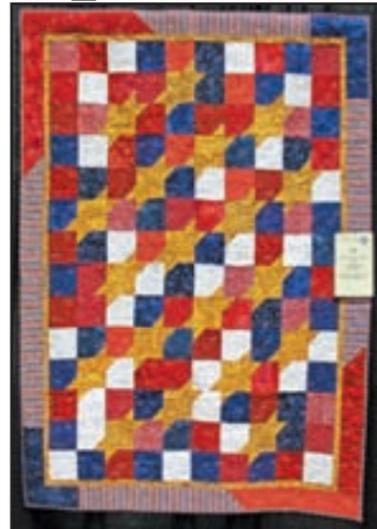


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Clay County

Quilts for a cause are labors of love for quilters

Gay Montgomery, of Ortega, with Dinosaurs at Home, one of her three quilts hanging in the show



Gay Montgomery's Quilt of Valor will be donated to someone in the service.

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The ticket sales line snaked through the lobby of the Prime Osborn Convention Center last month when quilters from all over the country converged on Jacksonville to ooh and ah over more than 400 "works of art."

Quilts of all shapes, sizes and yes, dimension, were on display during the three-day show. Many of the quilts sported jewelry, buttons, padded appliqué,

feathers and even Scrabble tiles, creating works of art more suited for hanging on the wall than covering a bed.

Local quilters from each of the seven guilds comprising Quiltfest, Inc. took turns at guild booths which displayed their benefit quilts. The All Star Quilters Guild will donate proceeds from the raffle of "Stars All Around" to benefit Camp Amigo, the Children's Burn Camp of North Florida. Approximately 25 to 35 women worked on the quilt and said they stopped counting hours after 60.

Gay Montgomery, a former quilt teacher and member of the Seven Sisters Guild that meets at Riverside Presbyterian Church, submitted three quilts for the show. Her favorite, Dinosaurs at Home, took about 10 days to create and then it was sent to Cathy Roark to quilt on a long-arm quilting machine. "It makes me happy," Montgomery said of her quilt. "I might just give it to my eight-month-old grandson."

Montgomery's Galaxy Stars quilt will be sent with other Quilts of Valor to Georgia to be distributed to servicemen and women. "I made it large enough to keep the nose and the toes warm," she noted.

Seven Sisters Guild supports nearly 30 charities in the greater Jacksonville area, including Daniel Foundation, Sulzbacher Homeless Center, and St. Catherine Labouré Manor.



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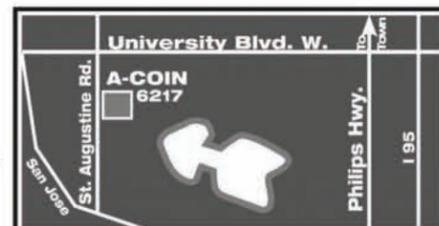


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Gardens life-affirming for cancer patients

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When I became the accidental B&B owner, one of my earliest guests traveled with her spouse from Pensacola for monthly breast cancer chemo in Jacksonville.

I could always tell when V. had arrived because the B&B would vibrate with music from the black piano. She was an accomplished musician who could play Bach to Beatles, and she did play because the music soothed her.

The B&B garden soothed her also, especially the rosemary bushes. At least once a visit I would see her out in the garden walking the tiny labyrinth or rubbing her hands along the rough brown branches and inhaling the piney scent of the leaves.

Because she took such delight in the rosemary, I began to make tussy mussies for her to carry when she went for treatment. These are Victorian era bouquets that earlier folks carried to inhale when the castle air went stale because baths were yearly rather than daily. I gave her the first bouquet a bit timidly because I wasn't sure she would want to be encumbered. Heading to treatment she

usually had a full armload of audio-books, stationery and several sweaters.

Turns out she loved the tiny bouquets because they helped her deal with the medical smells that were an inevitable part of treatment.

Another guest, an author from Washington State, stayed in one of my apartments while he experienced weeks of Proton Therapy at UF Health. He seemed to enjoy working in the tiny herb garden at the foot of the apartment stairs. As a result of these experiences, I began to research the connection between gardens and cancer.

There are lots of connections. The most well-known garden center dealing specifically with cancer treatment is the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, Harvard, MA. This center was created by Bill Thurston in memory of his wife, a gardener and a cancer victim.

The Thurston garden is an Asian-themed one with benches and pools of water. There is a gazebo and quiet corners that encourage individuals to

gardens for breast cancer patients. Hershon felt helpless when her best friend was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. "I wanted to make it all

O.K., but I couldn't. But I could make sure she had flowers in her house all winter. In the spring, I made sure her garden looked great."

A nationwide study found more than 50 percent of patients use gardening as a form of outdoor therapy. Dr. Kathy Hezlsouer, who practices at Mercy Medical in Baltimore, found that gardening helped boost survivor stamina by 40 percent.

Closer to home, Mary Ellen Freda's green thumb gave her the green light to continue her life after extensive cancer



Mary Ellen Freda and grandson Julian

meditate alone or in groups. Alternative therapies are offered in the center's main building.

Also in Massachusetts, Roberta Hershon has created Hope in Bloom, an organization that provides free

cer treatment. "I believe in the power of good fresh food. I try to grow some of the herbs I use at my restaurant and at home. Both taste and texture are life giving, at least they seem that way to me."

Fairfax Gallery art show to benefit Greenscape

Rather than merely imitating life, art will provide the means for "green life" through a fundraiser at The Fairfax Gallery – Framing Establishment.

The third annual Art of Trees show, featuring work on paper and canvas depicting the natural beauty of northeast Florida, will be shown Oct. 15-31 at the gallery at 4216 Herschel Street. In addition to an outstanding gathering of premier local artists, young artists representing San Jose Episcopal Day School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Ortega Elementary and Fishweir Elementary school will display their talent.

A "tree-view" party – artists' reception, underwritten by Ortega resident Helen Lane – will take place on Thursday, Oct. 24, 5–8 p.m., with many of the artists in attendance. Proceeds from the show benefit Greenscape of Jacksonville, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Jacksonville by planting, protecting and promoting trees. For more information, call (904) 398-5757 or visit www.greenscapeofjacksonville.org. Greenscape is located in San Marco at 1468 Hendricks Avenue.

Weekend for the Cure

A "Think Pink Pajama Party" to benefit In the Pink's Cami Fund will kick off Weekend for the Cure at Revolve Vintage and Modern, 4201 St. Johns Avenue, on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. Antique dealers at the shop will donate items for a raffle and portions of proceeds from certain jewelry items benefit the Cami Fund, which provides post-surgical camisoles to breast cancer patients. Food and beverages will be served; party lasts until 9 p.m.

In the Pink is a non-profit boutique and salon dedicated to helping women heal, cope and survive the effects of cancer...physically and emotionally.

The annual Victory in Pink celebration of women who have fought breast cancer will again be held this year at The St. Johns Town Center. The evening event will be on Saturday, Oct. 12, 6-9 p.m. and is sponsored by St. Vincent's HealthCare.

On Sunday, Oct. 13, women can pamper themselves at Beauty for the Cure, where a \$25 donation for services including haircuts, styles and waxing will help fund the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Sponsored by Daniel James Salon Avondale, the event runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3574 St. Johns Avenue. Call (904) 389-6221 for a reservation or RSVP on Facebook.

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Inshore Habitat Project

BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Anglers who spend time looking at depth monitors while running around the ocean understand that subtle to drastic changes in depths and structure along the bottom are great places to target. These areas attract and host a large variety of marine life. And in turn provides structure and food for many different species of fish.

If ledges and structure attract fish in the ocean, will this work inshore?

Payton Scheppe, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) volunteer, says an effort has been underway for several years, and that our Jacksonville waterways are moving closer to the reality of hosting artificial reefs that can be enjoyed by all.

In the fall of 2011 an initial meeting was held at the Marine Science Facility at Jacksonville University and CCA was attracted to the goal of a habitat project in the St. John's River for the purposes of enhancing the food chain and biological diversity. This habitat will provide shelter to juvenile species, increase fish populations, and provide sustainable recreational fishing opportunities.

The sites that CCA were looking for had to have specific characteristics for this effort to be effective. Of four possible sites, two were selected that are near downtown and sufficiently removed from the shoreline. They are located 3/10ths of a mile south of the Fuller Warren Bridge and east of the channel. The sites are depressions in hard bottom with adequate scour to prevent excessive sediment accumulation and are roughly

rubble has significant cost advantages over manufactured habitat, such as reef balls.

Companies are stepping in and donating valuable resources to the project. Robert Hays, North East Florida District Manager for Vulcan Materials Company has offered to donate the 50,000 cubic feet of concrete rubble that will be used for the site.

Once the project begins, the rubble will be taken to the sites. Deployment will be done by barge and will be in a manner allowing open areas within the habitat. Separation between concentrations of material would be irregular but generally in the range of several feet. Fisheries research indicates a benefit to scattered as opposed to solid material.

Initial estimates for transporting and deploying the barge load of material shows it could cost as much as \$25,000 for each site. Coastal Conservation Association National (www.joincca.org) has committed \$30,000 for the project and that money has already been received. The Jacksonville Chapter of CCA Florida (www.ccaflorida.org) has committed to raise money as well.

But the work won't stop when the construction is completed. The city of Jacksonville is committed to ensuring the project has an ongoing positive impact. They will not issue any additional permits associated with an inshore-habitat project until Jacksonville University has the opportunity to do a post-project research exercise for 3 years once the habitat is put in place. Rock samples from around the Epping Forest area will be studied and used as a baseline in the ongoing research. The funds needed for this study could run \$2,000 per year, and has been committed by the Jacksonville Chapter of CCA.

CCA is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1975 and serves as a national voice for recreational marine fishermen. CCA has 100,000 members. CCA Florida was founded in 1985 and represents 10,000 members.

Tax deductible contributions may be made to either CCA Florida (memo: Jacksonville Habitat Project), PO Box 568886, Orlando, FL 32856 or City of Jacksonville (memo: Contribution for Artificial Reef Fund), Attn. Cheryl Brown, Jacksonville City Council, 117 W. Duval St., Ste. 425, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

"Before construction could begin, several other government agencies had to do their due diligence and approve the project. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard have completed reviews to their satisfaction. The last issue is endangered species protection."

Present at the meeting were representatives of the City of Jacksonville, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club, TISIRI, JU Marine Science, and Jacksonville Chapter CCA. Jacksonville had pioneered offshore reefs beginning in the 1950s but no project of scale had ever been done inshore locally.

The meeting had a positive impact on the City of Jacksonville. Jody McDaniel, Jacksonville planning and grant coordinator, and the administration of COJ were supportive of the concept and took on the responsibility of permitting from the State of Florida regarding the identified submerged lands. The City of Jacksonville has received this permit along with the necessary Federal permits.

Before construction could begin, several other government agencies had to do their due diligence and approve the project. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard have completed reviews to their satisfaction. The last issue is endangered species protection.

40,000 square feet each, or 200' x 200'. The City of Jacksonville has mapped the locations with the Sheriff's Department sonar and JU has taken bottom samples.

The Jacksonville Chapter of CCA has disclosed the site locations as the following: Latitude: 30.17973N Longitude: 81.40.290W and Latitude: 30.18.484N Longitude 81.40.026.

Many large vessels use these waterways too, and the committee and city have taken steps to ensure there is no risk of running aground on one of these sites. The habitat material will have an average elevation of four feet or less which is comfortably less than the increased depths of the depressions. Rubble will be distributed in a low as opposed to a stacked profile.

Other research has been taken into account to ensure the strategic placement of the artificial reef will be done correctly and cost effective. In May 2013 a meeting was held to discuss habitat design and deployment. The conclusion was that broken concrete with dimensions between two to four feet would provide an advantageous habitat in regards to gross surface volume. Concrete



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THE CCA BANQUET

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is holding its 23rd Annual Banquet and Live Auction on Nov. 7 at The Garden Club in Riverside. Tickets are \$85 per person, or \$150 per couple and include open bar, dinner and one year CCA membership. Silent auction and raffle begin at 6 p.m. and dinner and the live auction at 7:30 p.m.

CCA is a grass-roots organization that is committed to conserving and protecting Florida's marine resources and serves as voice for recreational fisherman. Locally, they were a driving force behind the new inshore habitat project near San Marco, south of the Fuller Warren Bridge. This habitat will enhance the food chain and biological diversity, give shelter to juvenile species, increase fish populations, and provide sustainable recreational fishing opportunities. For more info visit www.CCAFlorida.org or call Greg Craddock at (904) 982-6104.



CREEK WARS TOURNAMENT



The Creek Wars Triple Challenge Fishing Tournament, presented by Firehouse Subs, will be held on Oct. 19 at Beach Marine. Proceeds will benefit the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation. The Public Safety Foundation supports first responders with life-saving equipment, funding, training and resources while the Ocean Foundation supports programs to encourage conservation and best management practices for marine environments. A mandatory Captains Meeting will be held at Strike-Zone Fishing (courtyard) on Oct. 18, 6-8:30 p.m. Early register by Oct. 11 for \$125 per boat and you earn a chance to win a Yeti 35 quart Tundra Cooler. The tournament pays out over \$9,000 in winnings and prizes. For more information, registration and sponsorship opportunities contact Kirk Wurster, (904) 483-6212 or visit www.creekwars.com.

Local park offers off-road biking fun

By STEPHEN KINDLAND
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Charlie Mendez of Murray Hill rides through one of numerous mountain bike trails he and other SORBA Jax club members helped to build in an undeveloped section of Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park in Ortega. SORBA Jax, an acronym for Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, has nearly 350 members of all ages. Information about the club can be found online at sorbajax.org, or by searching the club name on Facebook. Volunteers are needed to help maintain and build new trails, according to Jonathan Powell, president of the club. Some power tools and other equipment are provided.)

Members of a local mountain bike club



are taking advantage of nearly three miles of trails they helped build in an undeveloped section of Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park at the end of 120th Street off U.S. Highway 17 in Ortega.

Jonathan Powell, president of SORBA Jax, said club members have worked closely with the city's recreation department to double the length of a 3-mile network of trails that wind through underbrush and feature "ladder bridges" and other manageable obstacles. The work would not have been possible without a \$10,000 grant awarded earlier this year to SORBA Jax by REI Jacksonville, an outdoor sports and bicycling store, according to Powell.

He said the club is open to riders of all ages, and that volunteers are always needed to help maintain trails and build new obstacles. Most tools are provided. More information can be found at the club's website at sorbajax.org, or by searching SORBA Jax on Facebook.

Swim team raises \$1,500 for the Special Olympics

Community event shows viability of waterway

By KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

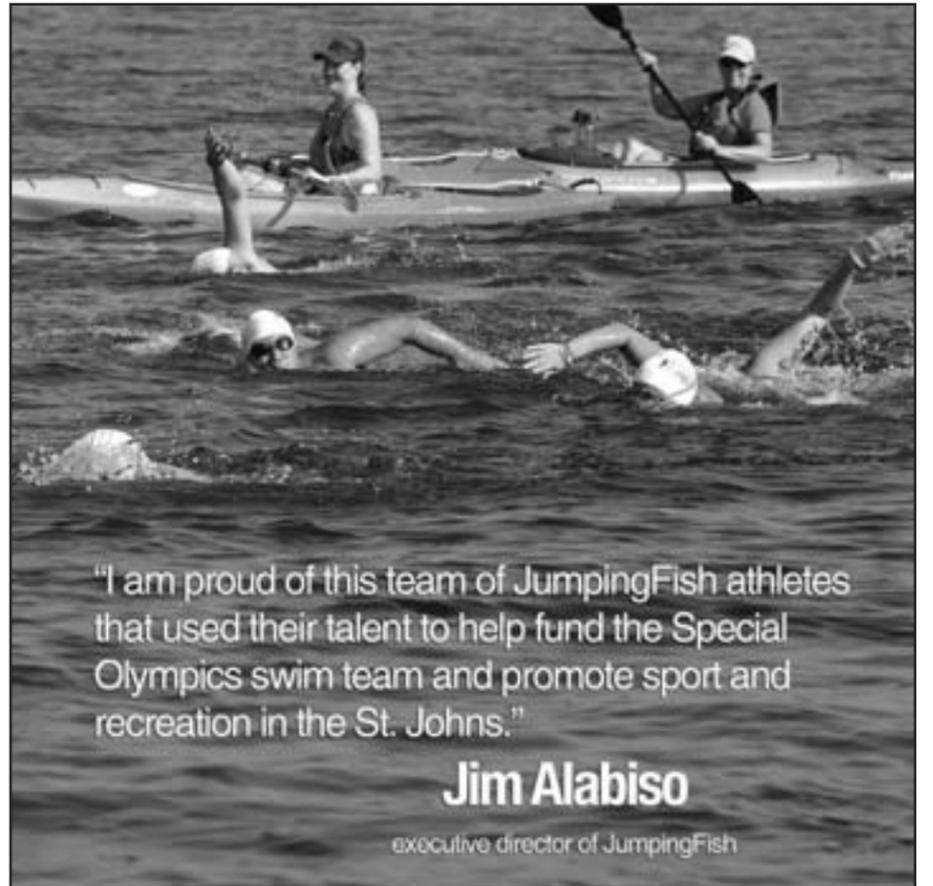
JumpingFish, a local advocacy organization for the Jacksonville waterways through athletics, hosted the second annual Up the River Downtown 10K swim and paddle on Sept. 7. They raised \$1,500 to benefit the Special Olympics of Duval and Clay counties.

The event began with a launch from the St. Johns Riverkeeper headquarters at Jacksonville University, with swimmers, kayakers, canoers and standup paddleboarders escorted by the Riverkeeper, the Jacksonville Fire Boat and Jacksonville Fire Dragons. The six men and four women swam non-stop for just under two and a half hours.

Jim Alabiso, executive director of JumpingFish, said "I am proud of this team of JumpingFish athletes that used their talent to help fund the Special Olympics swim team and promote sport and recreation in the St. Johns. It is nothing less than moving, the number of people, businesses and non-profits that have come together in this wonderful way. It has a life of its own. It's magic. It's community."

The swimmers and their flotilla stroked past Metro Park Marina, Jacksonville Landing, Friendship Park and the Northbank Riverwalk, culminating at Riverside Arts Market.

For more information, visit jumpingfish.net or send an email to Alicia Smith, Director, JumpingFish, alicia@jumpingfish.net



"I am proud of this team of JumpingFish athletes that used their talent to help fund the Special Olympics swim team and promote sport and recreation in the St. Johns."

Jim Alabiso

executive director of JumpingFish

Ten men and women swam the St. Johns River from Jacksonville University to Riverside Arts Market, accompanied by a flotilla of kayaks, paddleboarders and boats

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Nonagenarian remains friend to music

Pfohl dedicated life to 'universal language' of music

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Music is the universal language of mankind." Educators who teach rhythms, melodies and harmonies to young people may agree.

One of Jacksonville's foremost music educators, Carolyn Day Pfohl, has successfully lobbied for music instruction in schools, overseen the loaning of instruments to children and volunteered with local organizations to help music become more accessible for all.

The high notes

Born Martha Carolyn Day on Sept. 28, 1919 in Nixburg, AL, young Carolyn spent her childhood in Alexander City, halfway between Montgomery and Birmingham near Lake Martin.

Day earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and piano from the Alabama College for Women (now the University of Montevallo) and a Master's in Music Administration from Columbia University in New York City.

After working as a Music Supervisor in Florida and Alabama, Day accepted the position as

Supervisor of Music Education for Duval County Public Schools in 1953. For 15 years, Day implemented musical programs and initiatives still in practice today.

In 1968, Carolyn Day moved from Jacksonville to the outskirts of Washington, DC to marry a symphony conductor named Dr. James Christian Pfohl. He founded and served as music director of both the Transylvania Music Camp and the Brevard Music Festival in Brevard, NC. At the time, Dr. Pfohl served as conductor of both the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and the Charlotte (NC) Symphony.

The couple then moved to Pennsylvania where they lived until Dr. Pfohl retired in 1983. The Pfohls returned to Jacksonville, settling in Venetia where Carolyn Day Pfohl still lives.

In 1997, Dr. James Christian Pfohl passed away.

Jacksonville votes

Before 1960, many Duval County middle and high schools had little in the way of musical resources. Crucial to changing the situation, Pfohl's leadership led to a bond issue allowing Jacksonville voters to approve funds to enlarge and improve music instruction in the public schools.

Specifically, the bond proposed increasing taxes to build air-conditioned music suites in every junior and senior high school, 33 in all. Each suite would be made up of a band room, an orchestra room and a chorus room, for a total of three music rooms per school. Rooms were also equipped with basic instruments for student use.

Thanks to Pfohl's efforts and the work of music teachers and parent groups, the bond passed with more than 70 percent of registered voters casting votes.



The Magic of Music

According to a profile published in Music Educator, Pfohl's tenure as Music Supervisor raised the number of music teachers in Duval County from 52 in 1953 to 150 fifteen years later. "Over 15 percent of the secondary school students participated in chorus, band, orchestra or another form of musical performing arts. There were 17 full-time orchestra teachers," the publication noted.

Pfohl helped develop a 13-week television series, "The Magic of Music," broadcast on educational television in 1959 and 1960. The programs were produced at WTLV Channel 12 with the help of Rusty Brewton, program director, and Jesse Cripe, general manager.

Sponsored by the Junior League of Jacksonville, "The Magic of Music" provided Duval County fourth, fifth and sixth graders exposure to instruments, composers and knowledge of how music is composed and performed. Programs were selected by Dr. Pfohl, a League Committee and Carolyn Day Pfohl.

Mary L'Engle Trust

Since 1950, the Mary Evelyn L'Engle Fund, associated with the Friday Musicale, has provided instruments and scholarship monies to

Jacksonville's young musicians. The Fund has financed a library of orchestra scores and the formation of the Jacksonville String Orchestra and the Jacksonville Youth Orchestra. In addition, Fund monies have paid for consultants, clinics and concerts by nationally known musical groups, such as the Juilliard Quartet.

For more than a decade, Pfohl has been a trustee for the L'Engle Trust Orchestra Fund. In 1997, the Friday Musicale established a music educator's award for service and leadership which is now named in Pfohl's honor.

Still involved

At 94 years of age, Pfohl still helps students find instruments or funding to further their musical instruction.

In 2011, when Pfohl learned a young violinist named Hannah Barrow needed a new instrument, she helped Barrow connect with Claire Givens Violins, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN. Thanks to Pfohl, Barrow and family members were able to fly to Minnesota and select a violin made by famous luthier Tetsuo Matsuda.

Pfohl also matches Jacksonville's school children with string instruments from the Mary L'Engle Trust inventory, now housed at Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology on Jacksonville's Westside. Current inventory includes more than 900 orchestral string instruments and sheet music belonging to both the L'Engle Fund and Duval County Public Schools.

In addition, Pfohl coordinates scholarship monies for deserving students to attend her late husband's brainchild, the Brevard Summer Music Camp.

Pfohl's legacy is one of exposing generations of young people to the universal language of music.

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Jacksonville's own William the Fifth

The British royalty has nothing on Jacksonville. Bonny Prince George, who will become King William V when he inherits the crown, was born just a few weeks before Riverside/Avondale's own William the Fifth – E. William Nash V, that is.

William the Fifth was born Aug. 13 at 2:44 a.m. at St. Vincent's Hospital, weighing 8 lb. 7 oz., coincidentally the same birth weight as dad William the Fourth, also born at St. Vincent's. The newborn joins a family that has roots in the area since shortly after World War I.

Great-great grandpa E.W. Nash Senior was a Yorkshire lad who served in the British Army, met his wife in Mansfield, OH where E. William Junior was born during the Depression. Junior met a belle from Atlanta and eventually retired as president of Prudential's home office in Jacksonville, where Nash III (Grandpa) grew up, in the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's first graduating class.

It was Five's Grandpa Nash who started E.W. Nash & Son, an antique restoration, conservation and appraisal company, approaching its 30th anniversary in 2014. "Son" is William IV, proud father of the fifth-generation E. William Nash. Four is married to his RPDS pre-kindergarten sweetheart, Leanna, and they have a daughter, Laurie Frances (5), named after her grandmother Laurie (Nash III) and great-grandmother Frances (Nash Jr).



Avondale woman new SoaM director of development

When Phyllis Andruszkiewicz moved here from Boston 21 years ago she was firmly entrenched in the banking industry. But after the turmoil of industry in the last decade, the



Avondale resident of 21 years wanted something else. First working for HabiJax for two years, then as director of development for the Thomas G. Carpenter Library at the University of North Florida, Andruszkiewicz said, "I felt a calling to get into some kind of ministry."

Searching for jobs on the Internet in June, she found the website for Seniors on a Mission and saw a posting for a development director, then immediately applied. "I had to go on a 'mission trip' before founder and executive director Joanne Hickox would seriously consider me for the position," said Andruszkiewicz. Even then, she started her new job just one week after applying. "I am very excited to be a part of the Seniors on a Mission team," she said. "It's a unique organization that exists to serve senior citizens and help improve their lives, while the seniors are serving our community."

Andruszkiewicz is responsible for obtaining critical funding to keep the nonprofit viable now that its four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has ended. For more information visit SeniorsonaMission.org.

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Sweet Tomato Queens return to entertain

SUBMITTED BY
LEIGHTON HOLMES TESCHE

Many years ago my college suitemates (who all live in North Carolina) and I decided that life was too short not to keep up the fun we had in college.

Of the group, like so many other small groups of close friends, we have been through breast cancer, loss of children, divorce, surgeries, etc. So in 1990, 20 years after graduation from NC State, we started getting together once a year (mostly for therapy and laughter purposes!) and surprising each other in crazy costumes (bag lady, cone-heads, farmers, cows, bikers, Blues Sisters, etc.) upon arrivals. Until one day I decided we should settle on a persona of something more suitable and glamorous. So, after much research, we became self-appointed "Sweet Tomato Queens" and have been so ever since.

The girls and I return to the beaches of Jacksonville most every summer where we used to spend our college Spring Break. Wearing our red or black (NC State colors are red and white) cocktail dresses, red boas, crowns, long gloves, red wigs and "go-go" boots, we go out at night to the local pubs, dance clubs and eating

establishments and are inevitably asked to perform.

For this (as past college cheerleaders), we are prepared to sing and perform a choreographed number or two. We make many, many friends doing this and have a blast in the meantime. Most everyone asks who we are and just why we do this. Our answer is

always the same: We are old college buddies and "Why not"?

Last month, my girlfriends (Barbara Biedenbach of Wrightsville Beach, NC, Susan Archer of Morrisville, NC, Lindy Anderson and Peggy Seymore, both of Raleigh, NC) and I, Leighton Tesche of Venetia, entertained the beaches performing at Seasons 52 (with Murray Goff at the piano), Medure's, BoneFish, and Aqua Grill.

We got facials in the beach condo from Hila Head of Riverside, and went to The Alhambra to see a play written (it seems) just for us called "The Dixie Swim Club" (about five college friends who were on the swim team and who get together once a year). In the time in-between these activities we managed long walks on the beach, lots of guacamole dip, much girl-talk and a whole lot of laughing! The theme (and we always have one) for the weekend was "65 (oops, 55) and Still Alive!" Never underestimate the power of friendship and laughter.



The Sweet Tomato Queens in full costume, left to right: Peggy Seymore, Leighton Tesche, Susan Archer, Lindy Anderson and Barbara Biedenbach

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Celebrate independence as long as possible; enjoy assistance as needed

It's an optimistic time to be aging in America. Compared to the limited choices your parents or grandparents had, your sunset years can be as fun and fulfilling as you desire.

Imagine a future when you're no longer weighed down with the increasingly difficult task of maintaining a home and yard, only to leave that burden to your children and grandchildren. Dream, instead, about the freedom of closing the door securely behind you for the day or for the duration of a trip, and then returning to peace and serenity.

There are many options today between wearing yourself out maintaining a home and living in a stereotypical "old folks home." If the thought of leaving your home feels like you are giving up independence, it's time to revisit that idea. It's time to explore a lifestyle that allows you to enjoy as much independence as you want and need, while providing you with the best choices in healthy living.

Medical research has shown that a full and stimulating social life, along with proper rest, exercise and nutrition, is critical to living longer and living well. But when you're struggling alone to maintain a home, your time may be consumed with chores you're no longer able to do well, your meals are more convenient than nutritious, and you often find yourself longing for companionship. While this is certainly living independently, it is not living well.

Senior living communities, such as The Windsor, which opens Spring 2014 on Roosevelt Boulevard, offer seniors a single-move environment for later transition to assisted living. Come in fully independent and enjoy routine activities as long as you are able, then transition easily to getting assistance with daily activities.

The Windsor provides a range of services, available 24 hours a day, for support of your independence in a residential setting, and promotes self-direction and participation in decisions that emphasize choice, dignity, privacy, individuality, independence and home-like surroundings.

Spending your sunset years maintaining a house and a yard can be a drain on your investments and, more importantly, your health. As Americans now live decades after retirement, it's no longer satisfying to spend those precious years resting after working all day to keep the homestead up to neighborhood expectations. Moving into an assisted living community can keep you much more independent to live a longer, healthier, more exciting lifestyle.

Explore a lifestyle that allows you to enjoy as much independence as you want and need.



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The Way we Were



Mort
and Vera
Benjamin

Vera Boyle Benjamin

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Vera Boyle Benjamin is a lifelong resident of the historic district. Born in the early 1930s, she grew up on Lydia Street, a short distance away from her school, St. Paul's Catholic.

After high school, she went to Florida Community College-Jacksonville (FCCJ) and Jacksonville University and then became the administrative assistant to Dr. Merrill Anderson, the founder of St. Vincent's Family Practice Center. Remembering the legendary doctor, she is quick to say, "He was such a gentleman as well as a fine doctor."

Growing up, Benjamin's family lived in a red brick bungalow on Lydia Street, the last house standing behind Walgreens Drug Store.

Benjamin recalls, "My family, six of

us, moved to Jacksonville from Chicago in 1936. I was four years old and the youngest of four children, Mary Etta, Ellen, Jimmy and Vera. My parents were Jim and Vera Boyle.

"After renting for two years, we bought our home on Lydia St. in 1938 for \$3,600. The house was quite large compared to others in the area. It had many features other homes did not have at that time.

"Our home had an oil-burning furnace that provided steam heat in radiators throughout the house. We had a fully tiled bath and half-bath. Having more than one bath was quite nice for a family of six which would grow to eight as the years passed.

"Almost all of the rooms opened into a very wide hallway. There was an attic door which pulled down to disclose a ladder leading to a floored-in attic.

"This very wide hallway served us well during WWII when there were air raid warnings and blackouts. Yes, they happened. We could shut all the doors and have an inner room where we could stay. In the built-in bookcase in this hallway we kept water, food, flashlights and candles for such an emergency.

"We had cedar-lined closets in all bedrooms, and a spacious breakfast room with built-in sideboard and china closet. Our father built a table for the breakfast room that would seat eight comfortably. He was a finish carpenter and mechanic extraordinaire. My mother was the homemaker and a terrific financial manager.

"Unbeknownst to my father, my mother doubled up on house payments and paid off the mortgage for their 25th

anniversary in 1945. I remember we had a scavenger hunt for my father to find the deed and it was hidden under the sofa cushions. It was one of the few times I ever saw my father cry.

"We had a formal dining room and large living room with an ornate fireplace and hardwood floors throughout. We would cover our floors with area rugs in the winter and then when summer arrived we would send them to be cleaned and then store them in our attic.

"The house originally had an open front porch and wide steps anchored by two large cedar trees. My brother, Jimmy, and his friends would make 'rubber guns' and take the berries off the cedar tree for ammunition.

"My two older sisters, Mary Etta and Ellen, were married at St. Paul's Catholic Church, but their wedding receptions were held in our home. Both weddings were in the 1940s and since it was war time, weddings were simpler and receptions were held at home. We decorated the fireplace in our living room with magnolias and other flowers.

"My brother Jimmy suffered from asthma and was not able to participate in sports (as they said in those days) so he had many hobbies. One of his hobbies was constructing model airplanes. He would often do this up in our attic where he had his own workspace and also we did not have to be exposed to the smell of his airplane glue. To this day he maintains an avid interest in flying as well as being a licensed nautical Captain who spends most of his days on the water.

"My treasured memories are many: having an ice man and milkman; being

able to leave our doors unlocked until our Dad shut them for the night; playing hopscotch and dodge ball in front of our house.

"When I was a teenager, I enjoyed watching the boys on the football team from St. Paul's march by my house on the way to practice in Willowbranch Park. Of course, other girls from St. Paul's joined in the watch. The boys would be quite spry on their trip to the park but coming back was another story after hours of practice.

"My two younger brothers were born in 1941 and 1943 and my sister Ellen and I delighted in helping our mother with childcare.

"Of course, with the advent of two new arrivals, we had to re-arrange bedroom occupancy and make room for all. At this time, my father built the side glassed-in room off our living room to make a bedroom for one of my brothers.

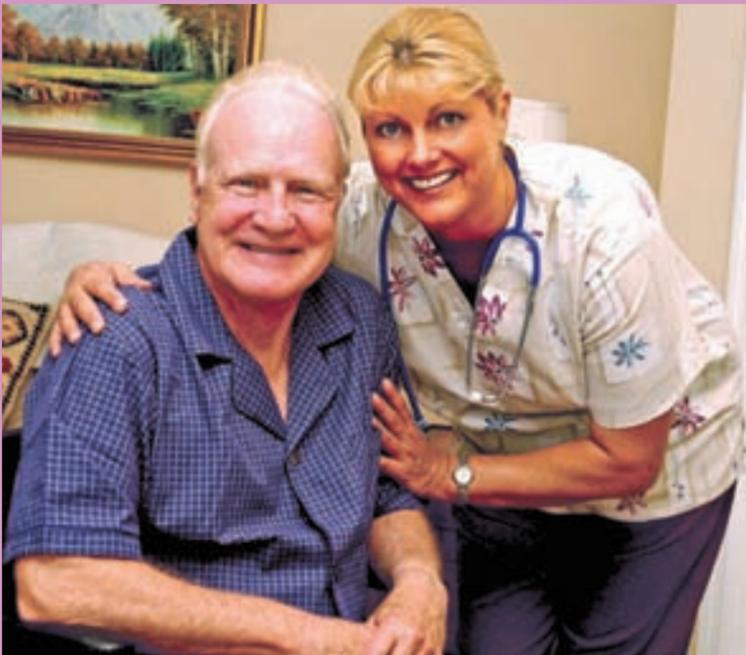
"My two younger brothers, John and Jerry, born in 1941 and 1943 enjoyed climbing in the Japanese Plum tree we had in our back yard and climbing the huge camphor tree in our side yard.

"After the war, my father converted our double garage into an apartment for rental income. All of my brothers helped him with this project. We were a family that worked together well.

"I moved from our home in 1952 when I married, but still drive by often to think of "The House We Lived In" a home filled with laughter, love, joy, sharing and experimenting.

"If I won the lottery today, I would buy it and move back into that house full of memories."

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Blessed with disease, minister still making contributions to mankind

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

"I hope that when I die they have to beat my brain to death," said the Rev. Dr. Charles Williams, of Ortega.

Williams, who "made news" 10 years ago by earning his seventh degree – a doctorate in church consultation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – at age 73, is in end stage renal failure. He's making news again, despite his condition.

"I think it [my brain] is still going to be functioning," he continued. "Here's where the Lord has blessed me. I have a condition in the kidneys, called amyloidosis."

According to Williams, only eight in one million

people have this condition and it's a rare cause of kidney failure. Amyloid, a beta protein, can either manifest in the brain, causing Alzheimer's disease, or in Williams' case, in an organ such as the heart or the kidneys.

"Fortunately, as far as my intellect is concerned, it went to my kidneys and not to my brain. Although I'm basically homebound, I can write," said the former pastor, teacher, seminary dean, and current founder and president of Southern Baptist School. "As long as I can produce creatively and make some kind of contribution to mankind, as limited as it may be, that is my desire. Job one is to care for my wife, Georgia. Number two is this writing and if I don't put what I know in writing, it's gone when I die. It's a matter of preservation; that's what's driving me."

Peritoneal dialysis allows Williams to be alive and productive, remain at home and do the nightly 10-hour dialysis himself. "It means we live here, have a clinic here and an office here," he mused.

Dr. Williams and his family have lived in Ortega since 1978, arriving in Jacksonville in 1964 to pastor Venetia Terrace Baptist Church, one of nine he's served over the past 50 years.

The 10 years since the 2003 article about

his educational achievement have been significant. Williams has published books, sermons and articles; he took to the road in an RV visiting smaller Baptist congregations; he's mentored a young minister at South Jacksonville Baptist Church and helped him start a contemporary new church, Epoch Church, which is attractive to younger worshippers and seekers. And, as pastor emeritus, Williams gets to preach from the pulpit on occasion.

Born during the Depression as one of seven children in the family, Williams first served as an army paratrooper during the Korean Conflict, then went into his father-in-law's grocery business managing the meat market. He was 31 years old "when the Lord called me to the ministry."

Thirteen years after graduating high school, Williams began at Georgetown College, commuting 65 miles three days a week for two years and while pastoring a church in Sparta, KY. Then, when Georgia's rheumatic fever recurred, they moved with two small children to Toombsboro, GA (near Macon) and were there for a year at a small church before moving to Jacksonville.

Williams attended six different colleges, universities and seminaries over a 40-year-plus period in pursuit of his seven degrees in general studies, education, theology and divinity. He also taught and served on staff at Luther Rice Seminary during many of those years.

"The Lord prepared us in advance for each step. While in administration

for Luther Rice, I realized I needed a degree in education. I took classes through Pepperdine University at the Naval Air Station," Williams said. "But, after 18 years, I still had the dream of attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, so I enrolled in the program at 70 years of age."

The minister has also been a pastor, a student and on seminary staff all at the same time – a self-proclaimed multi-tasker. "This is why retirement drives me crazy," he claimed. "I'm restless."

Williams is currently working on another book, his third to be self-published, but he plans to move away from the printed page and go into eBooks even though "I tried Kindle, but I'm old school and like a book." He laughed, "Computers are fine, but they've got demons in them!"

"If there's anything you can say that's unique about me, it is my recognition of the inevitability of change, and you either change or you die," he said.

Williams' story isn't quite over but he wanted to give credit where credit is due. "I have a wonderful wife, the most precious, godly influence; she and God took a wild paratrooper and here I am, at almost 84 years of age, just rejoicing in the Lord. I was born during the Depression – to an alcoholic father and a mother, who raised seven of us under the most adverse circumstances, kept us in church, kept us together, and kept us out of jail – and I'm going to die in one [a Depression]. But it's been a great ride."



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Jr. Residents 90th anniversary carnival drew the crowds



First grade student Patrick Walker was a winner at the Treasure Chest game

The finale for a week of celebration for its 90th anniversary saw a great turnout at St. Paul's Catholic School carnival on Sept. 21. Each school grade had a game booth in Kiddy Land, manned by parents and students; sponsors for the carnival included St. Vincent's, Black Sheep, Most Holy Redeemer, and Immaculate Conception.

Both school and church have been an integral part of the Riverside community since 1923, drawing on a rich history and tradition while providing students with cutting-edge, values-based education. The school boasts an outstanding faculty and upgraded facilities, preparing graduates to pursue higher education through its rigorous curriculum and nurturing environment.



Austin, 7, with mom Kim Shepard manning the ring toss booth sponsored by the Second Grade Class



Carolyne Corrigan enjoyed Bingo



Eighth Grade student Ana Hale paints the face of Ortega resident Emma Tatum



Knights of Columbus made sure visitors to the carnival were hydrated: Fred Fiore, Robert Hutto, Ben Parker, John Holzbaur and Mark Prive had bottles of ice cold water available

RIVERSIDE Presbyterian Day School Now accepting PreK 3 - 6th Grade applications for 2014 - 15



Share in the Wonder
of a Riverside Education

Local students to spend Thanksgiving in Haiti

Avondale teen Chloe Starmer, a student at Stanton College Preparatory School, let her passion for the poor and illiterate blossom into a nonprofit called OpportuniTree, Inc. Because of her desire to seed literacy programs where they currently don't exist, six local high school seniors will fly to Gonaïves, Haiti during their short Thanksgiving break. While there, they will work with 250 children entering school this year (many for the first time ever). The Jacksonville teens will stock the school and the library with basic needs such as books, pencils, paper, toddler shoes and hopefully fund the school to help pay the teacher's salaries.



San Marco resident Kaila Menard, Jose Cuevas, and Chloe Starmer of Avondale getting ready to take literacy program to Haiti

"The need for student supplies, teaching tools and classroom supplies is enormous. The government of Haiti supplies very little for the education for the people of Central Haiti," said Starmer.

While the students are there, they will also put on a "Thanks for Literacy" mini-camp, gathering video footage and photos to use in a presentation back in the States. According to Starmer, the video will show where fundraising dollars go and how students here can assist in the bright future of another student in an economically developing nation.

With less than 60 days to raise over

\$15,000, the students have kicked into fundraising gear. All donations will go directly to the school, transportation for the trip, a Thanksgiving feast for the kids and their parents during camp, school supplies and teacher salaries. Corporate and private funding is welcomed and can be done via www.MyOpportuniTree.com. The site also has a list of needed supplies and where to drop off. Each student has set up their own GoFundME online accounts which also allows for donations.



St. Mark's completes new raised-bed gardens

A new school garden will enhance several aspects of the mission of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School by providing a hands-on opportunity for cross curricular academic study, a place of cooperation and sharing between grade levels, and a way to serve others.

The Walton Garden, named in memory and honor of Elizabeth S. Walton and William H. Walton, Jr., parents of Raymur Rachels '79, and grandparents of current students Alston, Lucy, Ford and William, was made possible by funds donated by Karen and Ned Becker.

The goals of the garden program are to educate children to make healthy choices about their food, to make sustainable and pesticide-free choices for the environment, and to serve others.

The campus will become a classroom without walls, providing opportunities for the exploration of plant life cycles and a place to apply and practice horticultural science. This living classroom will involve all grade levels collaborating with St. Mark's volunteers, teachers, and various community partners.

For example, the 6th grade class will collaborate with the children of the North Florida School for Special Education who will provide "veggie starts" for a portion of the garden. The 6th grade and NFSSE will work together as part of their partnership, in planting and caring for the St. Mark's Garden, sharing information about healthy eating practices.

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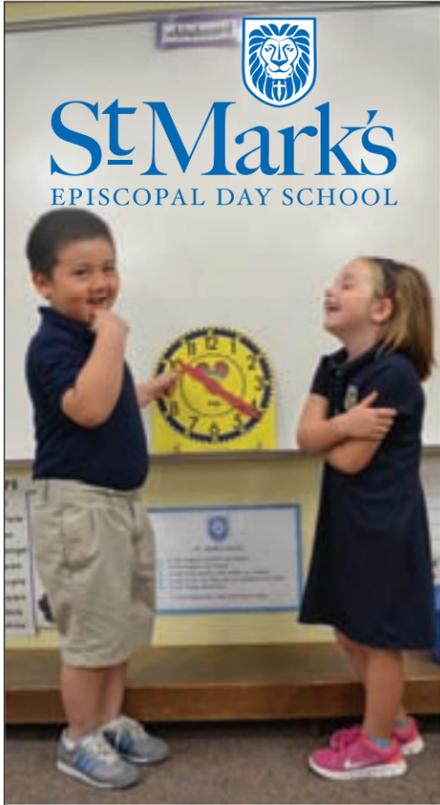
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Adam Lynch and Wallace Grissett, 2nd place winners in the 2013 USTA Bobby Curtis Juniors Doubles State (Tennis) Championships, Boys 10 & Under Division

Local boys place 2nd in tennis championship

Wallace Grissett, Ortega Forest resident and 5th grader at John Stockton, and Adam Lynch, Ortega resident and 4th grader at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, placed 2nd in the 2013 USTA Bobby Curtis Juniors Doubles State (Tennis) Championships, Boys 10 & Under Division. They also competed in the 10 & Under Mixed Doubles, which was called due to weather.

Both boys have been playing competitive tennis for several years in local Grand Prix events and in USTA tournaments in and out of the state of Florida in both singles and as a doubles team. Grissett and Lynch play tennis year round, Select Soccer at Westside Soccer and basketball in the RPDS league.

The top junior tennis players in the state of Florida took to the courts to determine the year's state doubles champions

when the 65th USTA Florida Bobby Curtis Junior State Doubles Championships was held on Sept. 21-23 at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs (18s-16s age divisions), and at the Florida Tennis Center in Daytona Beach (14s-10s divisions).

The USTA Florida Bobby Curtis Junior State Doubles Championships represents some of the best junior tennis players in the strongest of the 17 USTA sections across the country. It is one of the few major tournaments in the country that combine boys, girls, and mixed doubles in the same event.

Previously known as the USTA Florida Jr. State Closed. Florida's top event was renamed to honor the legendary Florida junior tennis organizer Bobby Curtis in 2012. The tournament is annually a launching pad for future college stars and pros.

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Avondale 5K brings out crowds for Sanctuary on 8th

The 5th annual Avondale 5K Classic, benefiting Sanctuary on 8th Street, enjoyed a terrific turnout on Sept. 21. Shopkeepers and other groups created a street-fair atmosphere, with tents and tables offering cool drinks, treats or information.

Located in the Springfield community, Sanctuary on 8th Street provides an After School Program and Summer Camp for inner city children and youth, offering a wide variety of enriching and creative programs and activities designed to help them develop into healthy, productive adults. The Sanctuary also offers a small Home School for elementary students, where each student receives scholastic support and enrichment activities.

Coming from the other side of the river to run, sisters Emily and Sarah Davis with Rachel Sowell



Avondale Sherwin-Williams manager Tom Saxton with son Tyler and their minion buddy; Tyler trained for three months to run his first race



Riverside Presbyterian Day School was out in full force for the benefit run. Over 100 teachers, students and parents participated for Team RPDS. In the back: Michael Sullivan, RPDS teacher; Chris Whipple; Gabe Clark, RPDS teacher; Josie Summa, Jonathan Wright



The Baggetts of Fairfax: Jason and Ali, with sons Ryan and Kyle and daughter Emma



Riverside Presbyterian Day School was out in full force for the benefit run. Over 100 teachers, students and parents participated for Team RPDS. In the back: Michael Sullivan, RPDS teacher; Chris Whipple; Gabe Clark, RPDS teacher; Josie Summa, Jonathan Wright



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Join us for an Open House, and start something amazing...only at Bolles. This **Open House** is for parents of students entering Grade 6; their child will be invited to visit the campus and to shadow a Bolles student at a later date.

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Avondale teen interns for Parliament



BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Emily Lawrence, a Senior International Affairs major at Florida State University, was accepted for a fall internship in London at Parliament with Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, Tom Brake. He represents the towns of Carshalton

and Wallington, both about ten miles from London. "I'll meet with constituents, answer correspondence, observe meetings and sessions with Prime Minister David Cameron. It's also a perfect opportunity to tour graduate schools and explore Europe on weekends and holidays," Lawrence said.

While studying at FSU's London campus in the spring of 2012, Lawrence, who was already interested in world affairs, diplomacy and other cultures, found Europe's long history fascinating.

"FSU's London campus is next to the British Museum. I visited all the typical tourist spots and traveled to Cornwall – the most beautiful spot I've ever seen and my favorite. England is a magical place," she said. "They have preserved so many original documents and artifacts from some of the most important events in world history. I was struck most by The Churchill War Rooms with the underground wartime bunker that sheltered Prime Minister Winston Churchill's government during the Second World War and the Blitz. I saw his chair with marks where he dug his nails into it...that brings history to life."

After LaVilla and Douglas Anderson (theatre major), her

Advanced Placement (AP) courses earned Lawrence entrance into FSU as a sophomore. Classes in International Relations Theory, Comparative Politics,

The Lawrence family has varied interests: mom Cindy directs the preschool and dad Mike is a newly retired engineer. Her sister Bret is social media coordinator for Hollis Wilder,

Two-time winner of Food Network's Cupcake Wars who has a shop at St. Johns Town Center, SweetByHolly.

Emily enjoys 5K runs like The Color Run 5K in Jacksonville and the Red Shoes Run to benefit Ronald McDonald House in Tallahassee. She fenced in high school and at Fioretto Fencing Academy in

Jacksonville. Another interest is Glow Poi, commonly called "fire swinging" but without the fire! She learned Poi from the Starfish Circus while at Douglas Anderson and then performed it as part of a theatrical show.

"I'd like a diplomatic career, working in a federal position perhaps in a major U.S. city or Washington, D.C. I'd also like to continue volunteering after I finish my studies," she said. "I have been supported and encouraged every step of the way to follow my dreams by my parents, even when I threw crazy ideas at them...they are my inspiration," she said.

"FSU's London campus is next to the British Museum. I visited all the typical tourist spots and traveled to Cornwall – the most beautiful spot I've ever seen and my favorite. England is a magical place."



Macroeconomics, Financial Institutions & Banking and the European Union honed her interest in world events. She also believes she benefitted from years of volunteer work.

"As a Red Cross Volunteer I assisted with CPR classes, clerical work and Scrubby Bear hygiene presentations to children. I helped my mom as a volunteer at the Avondale United Methodist preschool where she is director, creating power point presentations or helping with children's activities. I know that I learned leadership skills and responsibility," Lawrence said.

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Flashbacks

Germ of an idea becomes museum for all ages *How MOSH grew from the Children's Museum*

ROBIN ROBINSON, PRESIDENT,
JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Children's Museum of Jacksonville grew from the seed planted by Madge Wallace, a teacher at the New Riverside School in 1910.

Wallace began by exhibiting a small naturalist collection for her students which came from her backyard. As her classroom presentation and displays grew in popularity, so did the ideas for developing the concept which eventually became the Jacksonville Children's Museum. Two other teachers, Miss Mary Frei and Mrs. Caroline Stout of the Fishweir School, joined her in this endeavor.



Children are shown here enjoying an aquarium on display. In late 1969, the museum reopened in a new building on Southside next to the Main Street Bridge, retaining the motto first created by its founding teachers, "Curiosity is the Beginning of Wisdom." With its expanded display space and growing popularity it became renowned and attracted visitors from the entire region, including those from Georgia.



By 1948, with the support of community funding, the museum expanded and was housed in the Victorian house located at 1061 Riverside Avenue shown in the picture above. As can be seen from the entryway, it was open to the public and admission was free. It remained in this building for over 20 years.

Photos from the State of Florida Archives, Florida Memory project



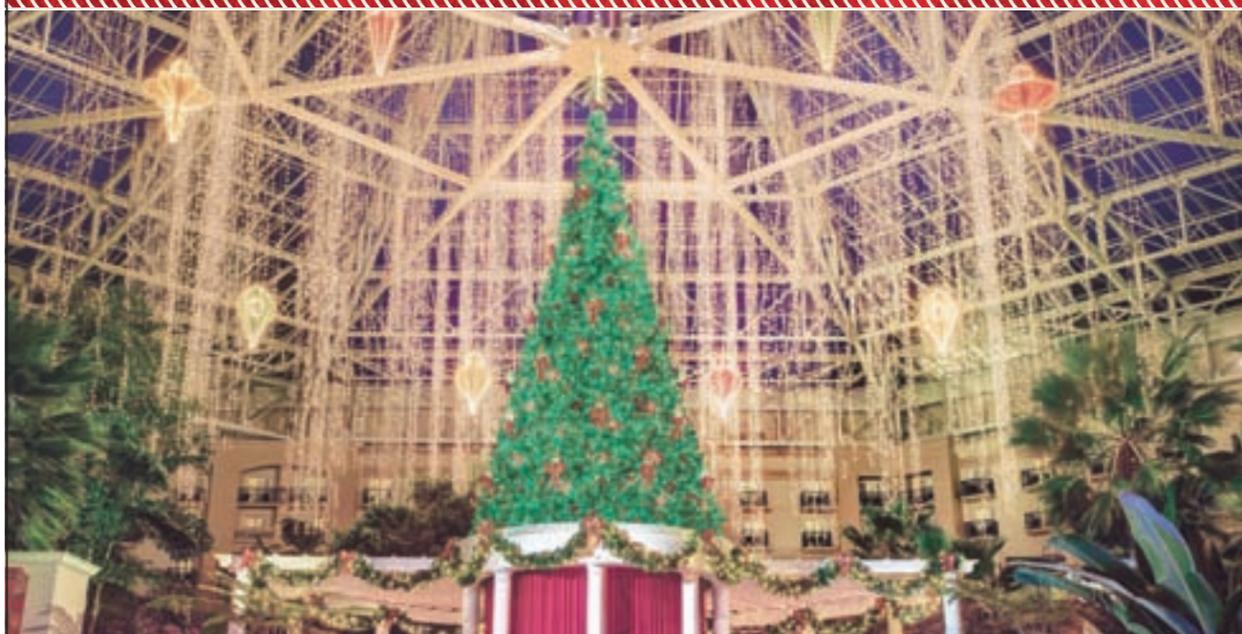
Displays at this time included representations of body parts such as an ear or heart which children could crawl through to see the inner workings of the body for a visual and tactile experience.

In 1988 the scope of the museum expanded with the addition of the Alexander Brest Planetarium. At the same time the name was changed to the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) to better encompass the essence of what the museum had become. No longer a museum simply for children, MOSH's mission today is "to inspire the joy of lifelong learning by bringing to life the sciences and regional history."



A photo from 1972 shows the entrance to the new Jacksonville Children's Museum.

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