

San Jose

San Marco

St. Nicholas

Religious diversity celebrated with gratitude

Congregation Ahavath Chesed – The Temple hosted the 95th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Gratitude Service, co-sponsored by OneJax, on Nov. 21.

For the last 95 years the Jacksonville community has gathered to offer thanks and promote religious diversity. This year, 17 clergy members from throughout the

community dressed in their vestments to offer thanksgiving in the style of their faith traditions. Rabbi Joshua Lief of The Temple offered the sermon and Native Americans, dressed in their tribal attire, participated through music and dance. Canned goods and dry foods were collected for Second Harvest Food Bank.

THE PRESENT

December Highlights

Anchors aweigh: getting closer to getting a new Downtown attraction..... 7

Gator Bowl transcends time and place..... 12

Local woodworkers club spreads holiday cheer..... 18

SPECIAL - SECTION - INSIDE

Make charitable giving a family tradition SS page 3

Seasonal reflections from local clergy SS page 6

Holiday Gift Guide SS page 16





Lilo and Harry Frisch were honored for their gracious nature and leadership as compassionate supporters of Jewish communal agencies in Jacksonville at the twenty-first River Garden Gala. The event, held at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village, took place Nov. 16.

..... page 10

Children draw red caps on kittens as some of their favorite things..... SS page 22

Eagle Scout project beautifies River Oaks Park



Troop 35 Boy Scouts, which meet at Southside United Methodist Church, completed an Eagle Scout project Nov. 9 in River Oaks Park. Under the guidance of Eagle Scout Brad Bailey, a senior at Paxon High School, 12 young men planted trees, cleaned the riverbank, trimmed and staked sick and damaged trees, and spruced up the park.

"I obtained necessary approvals through Jacksonville City Parks and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful (special thanks to John Shellhorn and Dan Durbec, Chief and Executive Coordinator, for meeting with me about the project and approvals)," said Bailey. "Keep Jacksonville Beautiful staff would like to help other groups coordinate community improvement projects, especially Scouts."

A car wash raised over \$400 for trees (Magnolia, Weeping Willow, Holy, Japanese Plum, and 20 Ligustrums) and supplies. The Scouts will maintain the trees, looking after them until they are healthy and well rooted.

Bailey also noted that River Oaks Park neighbor Robert Campbell assisted with tree trimming.



Wishing You
and Yours a
Happy Holiday
and a splendid
New Year!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Concerns about hens are same about dogs and cats

I am responding to a recent 'Letter to the Editor' that expressed concerns regarding potential noise and odor problems associated with negligent chicken owners.

Unfortunately, a situation like this is possible with any pet, especially dogs and cats, if an owner is irresponsible.

In crafting the ordinance that was recently approved by the Jacksonville City Council, great care was taken to

ensure that the rights of adjacent property owners would not be adversely impacted by potential chicken owners. The legislation establishes a two-year pilot program that will allow 300 residents to apply and pay a fee to keep up to five hens (female chickens only) in residential backyards. In addition, each prospective chicken owner must complete a Duval County Agricultural Extension educational seminar to learn basic best management practices and how to properly care for their chickens. Also, the ordinance outlines specific requirements for coop construction to deter predators, coop placement, and proper maintenance in order to avoid potential issues with odor. Similar requirements do not exist for cats, dogs, or

any other type of household pet.

If a permit holder violates these requirements or proves to be negligent in caring for their backyard flock, a neighbor has the right to lodge a complaint and seek corrective action.

For those that would say chickens are a farm animal, look at the historical record. Chickens were kept in the backyards of many homes up until the '50s and '60s when ordinances were updated to ban their existence, relegating chickens to the countryside or a factory setting. Interestingly, just a few short decades before, Americans were encouraged to plant Victory gardens and keep backyard hens as a means to support the war effort and feed themselves and neighbors.

By passing this ordinance,

Jacksonville joins a long and growing list of cities large and small throughout the state and country that recognize this right to allow residents to keep a limited number of backyard hens. The ordinance provides a sensible framework to allow residents who want to exercise this right, while also including provisions to protect the rights of adjacent homeowners.

Backyard chickens enrich our gardens, can teach responsibility and about where food really comes from, entertain us and provide fresh eggs. This is not something a dog, cat or other pet can do.

Genora Crain-Orth

Hens in Jax, Riverside

DON'T GET JUST ANY MORTGAGE, GET A PERFECT FIT

CONTACT ME AT
904.233.7717 TO LEARN MORE



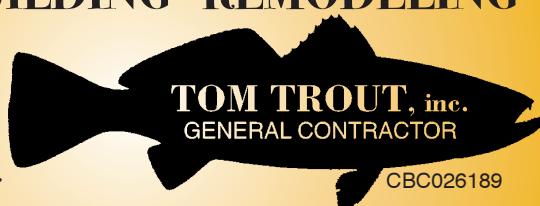
Jill Moore
VP, Mortgage Originator
jill.moore@everbank.com
everbank.com/jmoore
NMLS ID: 648916

EverBank®

13ERM0318.9
NMLS ID: 399805
© 2013 EverBank. All rights reserved.

CUSTOM BUILDING - REMODELING

Celebrating 51 Years
as Jacksonville's
Premier Custom
Builder & Remodeler



TOM TROUT, inc.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

CBC026189

(904) 737-5412 • tomtroutinc.com • Contact us for a FREE consultation!



Something magical always happens this time of year. Maybe it's family popping into town to love us or maybe it's decorating our homes to offer gleeful transformation to the neighborhood, but the magic is real.

Happy Holidays!

We always feel it happen, no matter how tired we are. Holiday magic evokes our inner child who, without doubt, is ready to appear after the long year of being an adult.

May everyone be gifted with the joys holiday magic brings, may

we all find each other smiling and may the magic of the season allow us to be children if only for one night. Thank you for the year you gave me and I anticipate beautiful new doors to open with you in 2014. Ho Ho Ho and Tidings of Great Joy!

—Anne Rain



Today's market needs an experienced agent.
I Would Love the Opportunity to Help You.

Anne Burpee Rain

Director of Coldwell Banker Vanguard
Previews International, Historic District

904.472.9809

annerain@vanguardcb.com

www.VanguardColdwellBanker.com



**Resident
COMMUNITY NEWS
GROUP, INC.**

The Resident Community News Group, Inc. is a publishing company that is independent of the Jacksonville Journal-American, The Florida Times-Union and the St. Augustine Record. The Resident Community News Group, Inc. does not publish the Jacksonville Journal-American, The Florida Times-Union or the St. Augustine Record. The Resident Community News Group, Inc. does not publish the Jacksonville Journal-American, The Florida Times-Union or the St. Augustine Record.

Publishers

Seth Williams
seth@residentnews.net

Pamela Bradford Williams
pamela@residentnews.net

Advertise!

Call (904) 388-8839 or e-mail:

Debra McGregor
debra@residentnews.net

Current Media Rate card online
www.residentnews.net

Send us news!

Email: editor@residentnews.net

Phone: (904) 388-8839

Mail: 1650 Margaret Street # 310

Jacksonville, FL 32204

FAX: (904) 388-2209

Editor
Kate A. Hallock

Editorial

Steve DiMatta

Victoria Register-Freeman

Julie Kerna Gammie

Nathan Miller

Laura Jane Pittman

Production
Margot Street

Joe Behret

PRINTED WITH
SOY INK

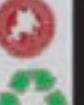
Nancy Lee Bethea

Lorie DeFrank

Peggy Hamm Jennings

Lara Patangan

Robin Robinson



City Council passes pilot program for backyard hens

Some neighborhoods opt out of ordinance

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The issue of backyard hens has finally been sent home to roost, as Jacksonville City Council narrowly passed an ordinance last month that will allow a two-year pilot program for 300 homeowners to own up to five hens.

Ordinance 2013-415 passed, but not without last-minute opt-outs by select neighborhoods who asked to be excluded from the legislation.

District 4 Councilman Don Redman, who represents the St. Nicholas neighborhood and was one of the bill's co-sponsors, said he was happy that the ordinance was approved despite the restrictions.

"It's more restrictive than what I would have liked and a little more complicated than necessary," Redman said. "The most disappointing thing I saw was the addition of the opt-out."

Before going in for the Council vote, there were only four neighborhoods, located in Arlington, that were on the opt-out list and ineligible to participate in the pilot program. As the ordinance was debated prior to the vote, another 15 additional areas were added to the list. Neighborhoods bound by homeowners associations and deed restrictions will not be

affected by the legislation.

Neighborhoods included in the opt-out in *The Resident's* readership area are Point La Vista off of Old San Jose and Grosvenor Square off of San Jose Boulevard, along with North Riverside, which is described as the areas bordered by Beaver Street to the North, Stockton Street to the East, Interstate 10 to the South and McDuff Avenue to the West.

Redman attributes the bill passing by such a narrow margin of nine to seven votes to the last-minute addition of the opt-outs.

"Up until the vote, [At-Large Councilman] Robin Lumb was the only one against us," Redman explained. "I think some of the councilmembers were turned off with the restrictions and didn't want anything to do with it."

Lauren Trad, a San Jose resident and founder of Hens in Jax, a grassroots organization lobbying for the right to own backyard hens, said that overall she is happy with the ordinance.

"I wanted the legislation to be city-wide," Trad explained when talking about the addition of the opt-outs. "But from the beginning I said we had to take baby steps and this is just a part of that."

Trad questions whether some councilmembers elected neighborhoods for opt-outs "following the loudest voice and not the majority."

Genora Crain-Orth, a Riverside

resident who was active in getting the ordinance passed, agrees that while she is happy with the outcome she is disappointed in the addition of opt-outs as well as the limited number of permits that can be issued.

"While we got the vote in support of hen ownership, there are so many 'ifs, ands and buts' about it, that it took some of that victory away," Crain-Orth explained. "But for someone who's never been involved in politics to navigate the process, to figure it all out and educate people – from that perspective, it's a huge victory."

Redman credits the passing of the pilot program to Trad and Crain-Orth.

"It's been interesting. We had some hardworking ladies, who were very well-organized and talked to every single council person," Redman said. "Nobody gets everything they want, but everybody gets something they want."

Trad acknowledged that the process was often frustrating. "There were some council members who never returned calls, some of them we called six times. That's what really upset me was how they distance themselves from the citizens. They are so personally biased. But then there were some councilmembers who were spectacular. I just tried not to get discouraged and do my due diligence."

Ultimately, Redman thinks that most of the people who want hens have them anyway.

"I can guarantee that you already

have 300 families owning hens," Trad said. "Now there is the issue of how they are going to get the limited-number of permits."

The Planning and Development Department has 60 days to create the application for the permit, establish administrative procedures for issuing the permits and collecting the one-time \$25 registration fee.

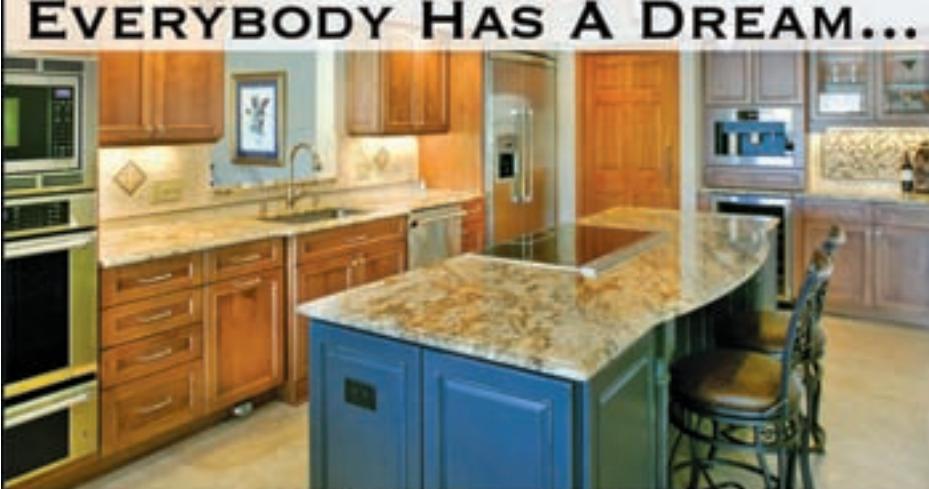
As part of the process, potential hen owners will have to take a chicken-keeping seminar from the Duval County Agricultural Extension Office. If they have taken one in the past, as Trad has, they have to be able to document their attendance, which might be impossible since there is no known recordkeeping of attendees.

In 18 months, the Municipal Code Compliance Division will evaluate the program, along with input from Animal Care and Protective Services and the Planning and Development Department as to the program's success.

Trad said she is going to do everything she can to get one of those 300 permits to have the chance to own backyard hens once again.

"After that, I am going to lay low. The whole goal of Hens in Jax was to legalize hens. So the next time you see me on the hen-front will be in a year and a half when the report on the pilot program comes out," Trad said. "Then, we will push for it to go community wide. At the end of that, yeah, I'm done."

EVERYBODY HAS A DREAM...

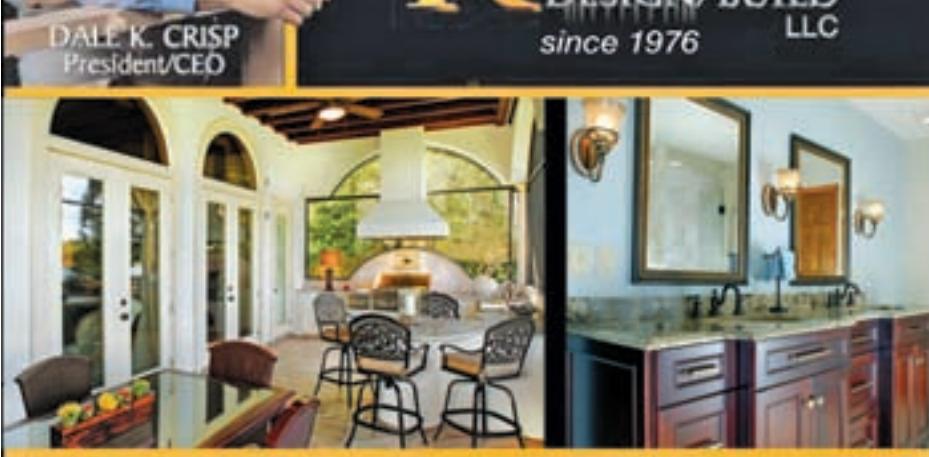


We design & build them.

From Conception to Completion—
On Time & On Budget.
We Guarantee It!

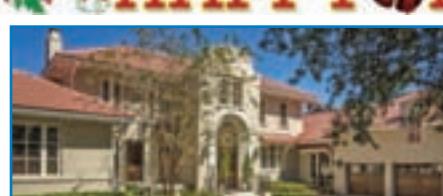
KENDALE
DESIGN/BUILD LLC
since 1976

DALE K. CRISP
President/CEO



Kendale Design Build, LLC | 4501 Beverly Ave. | Jacksonville, FL 32210
Ph: 904.384.8611 | Fax: 904.388.7646 | www.kendale.net
*Call us for complete guarantee details. I.D. #CG045522

Anita Vining REALTOR®
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



**4593 Ortega Blvd.
Ortega Riverfront**
MLS#691851 \$3,850,000



**14101 Mandarin Oaks Lane
Mandarin**
MLS#686913 \$650,000



**8282 Riding Club Road
Deerwood**
MLS#690811 \$695,000



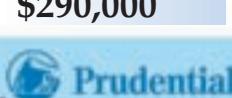
**7841 James Island Trail
Deerwood Estates**
MLS#675202 \$1,675,000



UNDER CONTRACT
**3804 Millpoint Drive
Mandarin**
MLS#691798 \$125,000



REDUCED
**1431 Riverplace Blvd., Unit 1501
San Marco (The Peninsula)**
MLS#668531 \$290,000

www.ANITAVINING.COM 
Selling the Best of Jacksonville... RIVERFRONT TO OCEANFRONT!
Cell: 904-923-1511 | Office: 904-739-1626 | Email: anita@anitavining.com
Visit us at 1983 San Marco Blvd, Jacksonville, FL

©2012 BRER Affiliates Inc. An independently owned and operated broker member of BRER Affiliates Inc. Prudential, the Prudential logo and the Rock symbol are service marks of Prudential Financial, Inc. and its related entities, registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Two Jacksonville advocate groups extol its virtues

Bring visitors to Jacksonville, get residents Downtown

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Last month there was an interesting juxtaposition of annual meetings by two groups that have, ostensibly, the same goal: to promote Jacksonville – either the metropolitan area at large or Downtown – as a desirable destination.

First, Downtown Vision, Inc. (DVI) held its annual meeting on Nov. 6 at the Museum of Contemporary Art. At that meeting, several people gave presentations, including board chair Chris Flagg, executive director Terry Lorince, Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) CEO Aundra Wallace, *State of the Re:Union* radio host Al Letson, and Brunet-García vice president and partner Diane Brunet-García.

It was Brunet-García's presentation that provides a bit of drama to these back-to-back meetings. But first, the backstory.

Over 18 months ago, about six months prior to the January 2013 hiring of Paul Astleford as CEO of Visit Jacksonville, Brunet-García (the agency) indicated there was possibly a conflict of interest in the process of awarding a City of Jacksonville \$20 million marketing bid to Visit

Jacksonville (formerly the Jacksonville & the Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau).

Brunet-García took issue with the procurement process, stating that two Tourism Development Council subcommittee members who scored the proposals, M.G. Orender and Fred Pozin, are past chairmen of Visit Jacksonville.

During the 2013 DVI annual meeting, Diane Brunet-García unveiled a branding for Downtown that, on the surface, seems to justify Astleford's concerns about organizations battling for supremacy in guiding Jacksonville's place on the world map.

Earlier this fall, Astleford was quoted as stating that "if the city wants to attract more tourists, it's time for a major philosophical overhaul from community leaders."

He was also noted as having said that "some of the major players supporting Jacksonville may be the city's unintentional worst enemies, stunting the city's progress in breaking out into a major destination for tourism, commercial conventions and other events."

On Nov. 13 Visit Jacksonville held an awards ceremony and celebration titled *Destination: Celebration* at the Prime Osborne Convention Center. At that event, Astleford said "Jacksonville is unlike any other destination I've ever experienced and has among its many attributes an incredible variety of



DVI board members Pamela Smith, El-Ad Florida, LLC; Bill Prescott, Heritage Capital Group; Numa Saisselein, Florida Theatre, Vince McCormack, Perdue, Inc.

unique geographic areas to explore."

Brunet-García has taken one of those geographic areas – Downtown – and christened part of it Spark District. The agency even went so far as to have a custom font designed and has proposed "tagging" buildings and other structures with the Spark District logo.

This new Downtown brand was rolled out informally during the 10th anniversary celebration of Art Walk on Nov. 6.

"It's not just a region; it's an attitude," said Brunet-García. "It's not just about art or dining outside at a café. It's about the activities that will go on in this area."

One week later, at Visit Jacksonville's annual awards ceremony, Bill Gulliford, City of Jacksonville City Council president and Tourism Development Council chair, noted "I'm excited to see where the leadership of Visit Jacksonville, under Paul, is taking us and his progressive, out-front vision of where we need to go and how we need to get there. We need better community-wide focus, support and collaboration in this important economic arena and community benefit. From the trends I'm seeing, we're clearly headed in the right direction."

"Collaboration" was bandied about at the DVI annual meeting as well.

Said Chris Flagg, current chair of Downtown Vision, Inc., "Developing collaboratives...we want to be a horizontal agency, reaching out to make all of us stronger. It's been wonderful to become transparent and all-embracing of the other organizations that are focused on Downtown and other

communities as well."

Terry Lorince, DVI's executive director stated that the [DVI] board has identified five goals. They include developing strategic partnerships; continuing place making in the public realm (making the street environment look better); continuing to tell the story of Downtown; providing value to stakeholders; and working on sustainability, which includes diversify funding sources.

In the end, the two organizations need each other. In order to increase convention and meeting business in Jacksonville, the city needs to present an attractive face downtown. Nonprofit groups like DVI, DIA and the Cultural Council, among others, work to improve the Downtown streetscape and provide the type of events that draw in residents and visitors.

"Knowing that visual arts, performing arts and cultural activities create the necessary vitality that will drive our downtown economy, we've become very deliberate about that and we've joined forces to spark change," said Brunet-García.

In a panel discussion at *Destination: Celebration*, State Representative and JAX Chamber CEO Daniel Davis, head of the Tourism Development Council in 2007-2008, said "People have no idea what Jacksonville is or where it is; these are opportunities for us to bring people here and show them the hospitality, the natural resources, the diverse economy and quality of life. Once people come here, they don't leave."

SELLING THE LION'S SHARE

with knowledge, integrity and experience.

Selby Kaiser
REALTOR®
904-626-8800
selbykaiser@bellsouth.net

Linda McMorrow
REALTOR®
904-626-9900
florida_legends@msn.com

Karen Zambetti
REALTOR®
904-537-4744
zambettisellsjax@gmail.com

June Nix
REALTOR®
904-635-5100
june.nix@comcast.net

Selby Kaiser
REALTOR®
904-626-8800
selbykaiser@bellsouth.net

Linda McMorrow
REALTOR®
904-626-9900
florida_legends@msn.com

7708 Rondeau Drive East – Wonderful home on large manicured corner lot with in-ground pool! Updated kitchen with sunny breakfast room, adjacent large family room with brick fireplace. Formal living and dining rooms, screened porch. Gleaming wood floors in kitchen, breakfast room and family room, newer carpet in all bedrooms, closet organizers. This is a great house for entertaining! **\$230,000**

2374 Segovia Avenue – This San Jose Forest home offers incredible square footage, FIVE bedrooms and TWO full and TWO half baths. Close to private and public schools, clubs, restaurants and shopping, this POOL home is perfect for you. It has a fantastic floor plan with family room leading into a game room with a wet bar. These lead out onto the patio, pool, gazebo and back yard. The kitchen is large and allows for a breakfast table. **\$339,000**

8641 West San Servera Drive – Beautiful and spacious home for entertaining or just family fun! 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Master bedroom and 3 bedrooms on first floor. Second floor has office and 1 bedroom and bath. Formal living room and dining room. Lots of closets, three attic storage spaces and huge storage space with heat and air conditioning. Family room has 17 ft. ceilings with Travertine fireplace overlooks pool. Heated and air conditioned dog house! **\$429,000**

3418 Lands End Drive – Camachee Island, a small gated (at night) community with exceptional views both East and West. This low-country style home is built on three levels with three bedrooms, five full and one half baths, elevator, "aqua-swim" pool and spa, verandahs on two levels to enjoy sunrise and sunset! This home has great design, but needs finishing touches to make it yours. **\$2,000,000**

904.739.7100 (Office) | 904.425.3989 (Fax) | info@sellinglegends.com | TheLegendsOfRealEstate.com

Early Piety
Certified Arborist
904-733-4455

SPECIALTY
TREE SURGEONS

COMPLETE
TREE CARE

www.specialtytree.info
treesrus@att.net

Decorating the Square

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While the three kings brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, a group of neighborhood volunteers bring the gift of adornment to the trio of bronze lions that sit regally in the center of San Marco Square.

The beloved lions that gaze at passersby and attract children and their pennies to its fountain, puts on its holiday best to celebrate the season's festivities. This year they will shine even brighter thanks to recent renovations that illuminate the Square's majestic centerpiece.

Suzanne Perritt, a member of The San Marco Garden Circle, which has donated the Christmas tree and decorations in Balis Park since 1990, is looking forward to the "delightful challenge" of bringing the spirit of the holidays to the newly enhanced park.



While the garden circle has been responsible for the towering tree in Balis Park that has been the backdrops of many a holiday card, Karen McCombs and Benita Boyd focus their attention and talents on the beautiful bronze sculpture.

Perritt describes them as "talented women who love San Marco and take pleasure in decorating the lions for Christmas."

St. Nicholas resident Boyd, along with her brother, donated one of the three lions in memory of their parents. She called McCombs "the curator of all things that go on the lions."

The decorations change every year, but McCombs and the other volunteers are particularly excited about the changes to the Square that will certainly enhance their efforts.

"We are looking forward to this year's project, especially since we will have spotlights to show off our handiwork...the Square is going to look amazing," said McCombs.

Boyd said the decorations are a holiday highlight.

"People love it; they bring their children to be photographed in front of it. It makes the Square festive. The lions should be adorned – they should be beautiful."

Councilman proposes "No Peddling Neighborhoods"

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Door-to-door solicitations can be an aggravation and cause homeowners to be sharply alert to strangers possibly canvassing neighborhoods for future unwanted visits when residents are not home.

Now comes what one would think would be good news to neighborhoods – an amendment to Ordinance Code Chapter 250: Miscellaneous Business Regulations.

Introduced by District 2 Councilman William Bishop on Nov. 12, the proposed bill 2013-713 will allow communities to post signs warning against peddling and soliciting within an entire neighborhood.

The bill would provide for signs at

the entrance to a neighborhood to constitute sufficient legal notice that peddling or soliciting is not permitted anywhere in the neighborhood. A neighborhood interested in such designation would be required to define specific neighborhood boundaries and to submit to the Neighborhoods Department a petition with the signatures representing at least 60% of the total property ownership within the defined neighborhood.

The Ordinance Code currently provides that individual property owners may post their property with No Solicitors or No Peddlers signs to prevent soliciting or peddling activity, but does not provide a mechanism for entire neighborhoods to post a single notice at the entrance to the neighborhood that would be effective for all

properties located within.

What is unclear, though, is whether such an amendment would prohibit all door-to-door sales, including those by Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and local church and school groups, who often depend on those solicitations for fundraising efforts.

One resident, who wished to remain anonymous, feel that such an ordinance is the "wrong approach to a different problem." A door-to-door salesman in his earlier years, the homeowner said that the ordinance is over-kill, especially if it extends to youth groups. "Selling door-to-door for fundraising encourages the development of self-confidence," he noted.

A resident who works at home, and also did not wish to be identified, said he had mixed feelings about the

proposed amendment, stating that he didn't see that it was a problem in his neighborhood even though "we get our fair share of knocks on the door."

Some residents said the bill should apply only to unauthorized peddlers and would support efforts by legitimate fundraising groups.

The ordinance puts the responsibility on the solicitor to seek out posted signs and then to contact the City of Jacksonville to verify the geographic boundaries to which the restriction applies. Should the peddler ignore the signs and is observed in the neighborhood, the uninvited individual must immediately and peacefully depart the area at any resident's request.

The bill is scheduled to be considered in the Rules Committee meeting on Monday, Dec. 2 at 8:30 a.m. and the Recreational and Community Development (RCD) Committee meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 1:30 p.m.

Yeah, he said he never gets the flu either.

Flu shots just \$30*

Get your flu shot today.

- Open 7 days a week with extended hours
- Convenient locations
- Urgent care and well care services:
on-site X-rays, vaccinations, lab testing, and more.

Visit [CareSpot.com](#) to find locations. You can walk in anytime, or use our online scheduling tools:



Save your spot in line now before walking in



Make an appointment for a future day or time

To find one of the 13 convenient Jacksonville locations nearest you, visit [CareSpot.com](#).

HENDRICKS | 904.854.1730

4498 Hendricks Ave
Corner of Hendricks and San Jose
Mon-Fri, 7am - 8pm | Sat-Sun, 8am - 5pm

Care+Spot®
Affiliated with Baptist Health

*High dose vaccine available at additional cost.
Valid only at NFL centers. One per customer.
Self-pay only, not redeemable for cash.

BISTRO AIX
RESTAURANT AND BAR

Adjacent to the restaurant is the new bar. Le Bar is a beautifully lit space that glows with a solid onyx bar. Comfortable lounge seating, boho chic decor, delicious cocktails and an extensive wine list make it the perfect place to meet friends or take a date before and after dinner. Small plates of French-inspired food and live acoustical music make Le Bar a destination in of its own in historical San Marco.

Give the gift of good taste
Bistro AIX Gift Cards



For reservations call or reserve on-line.

[www.bistrox.com](#)



Bistro AIX



@bistroaix

1440 San Marco Blvd.
(904) 398-1949

Congressman comes to town

Young professionals enjoy elder statesman's remarks

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Perhaps it was his folksy charm or maybe a respect for the office, but Congressman Ander Crenshaw, U.S. House of Representatives, held the rapt attention of 30 or more young professionals who attended a cross-network event on Nov. 5 at JAX Chamber.

As a young man, the six-term U.S. congressman was not at all interested in politics. "At college [the University of Georgia] I was involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes," Crenshaw said. "But I went to law school [at the University of Florida] and my roommates were involved in campus politics. Pretty soon everything I realized that everything I did was impacted by politics."

When he was 28 years old, Crenshaw decided to run for the Florida State Legislature as a Republican in a district that was 80 percent Democratic. He thought it would be an uphill battle, but he won the race, beating the Democratic incumbent,

and served six years for the 24th District.

After leaving politics, Crenshaw did a bit of lawyering and investment banking, then was encouraged to run for the Florida Senate in a special election in 1986. He became the first Republican in the state to be named president of the Florida Senate in 118 years, serving until 1992 for the 8th district. He was state senator for the 6th district from 1992 to 1994, and then returned to politics on the national level in 2000, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Florida's 4th district.



The event was coordinated by Bobby Siddell, a member of both ImpactJAX and the Shircliff Society, to bring the two groups together for an evening of networking and discussion.

Siddell noted, "I received positive comments from both sides of the political parties. I thought we had a good turnout for the cross-networking event; there were a lot of young professionals here and I hope to schedule more like this in the future."

Crenshaw sits on the House Appropriations Committee, serving on several subcommittees, including Defense subcommittee,

the one thing the government oughta do. That's the number one responsibility, to protect American lives.") and the proposed deepening of the Jacksonville Harbor on the local level, to the Affordable Care Act, the Water Resources Development Act, tax reform ("The tax code manual is thicker than the Bible but it doesn't have any good news in it."), and the future of Social Security.

It was clear, though, that he engaged the crowd with humor, sometimes self-deprecating.

"My favorite story of that night was when Congressman Crenshaw talked about the President's State of the Union address [in 2009] when Congressman Joe Wilson yelled out 'You lie!' said Siddell. "Politics aside, why I think so many people found humor in this is the way he told it, describing how Senator John McCain turned around and looked at him, then the Congressman turned around and looked at the guy behind him [Wilson]."

Crenshaw told the young men and women, "You don't have to be involved in politics to bring about change in society. When you are involved, you touch the lives of a lot of people, especially when you are involved in the community."

After taking a few questions, the congressman thanked the members of ImpactJAX and the Shircliff Society for their interest.

"It's great to see you all here tonight, that you care enough to take an hour or two of your life once a week or once a month to see what's going on in the community, to see how you can plug in and be involved, whether it's in politics or in the community. I encourage you to keep on," he concluded.



Janie Boyd
Janie Boyd & Associates
Real Estate Services
www.janieboyd.com

Linda
Strickland
REALTOR®

904-881-4811
lindastrickland@comcast.net

Your San Marco
Resident and Realtor!



2803 Village Grove
Drive North
\$1,275,000



913 Saratoga Dr.
\$699,000

Financial Services and General Government
(of which he is the Chairman), and the subcommittee of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs.

The elder statesman touched on subjects ranging from the arrival of the USS New York at Mayport, new P-8 reconnaissance planes at NAS JAX ("National defense is probably

Happy Holidays!

- Expert Repairs & Repiping
- Backflows Installed
- Water Heater Service & Installation

State Cert. #CFC056489

- TV/Video Sewer Line Inspections
- Under Slab Leaks
- Sewer & Drain Service

- Bath & Kitchen Remodeling
- Shower Pan & Tile Work

**\$10
OFF**

Any Service Call.

Valid for new service calls only.
Expires 12/31/13

Residential & Commercial • FREE ESTIMATES

T P TOUCHTON C PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

416 Ryan Ave. • Jacksonville • touchtonplumbing.com • (904) 389-9299

Secure your valuables, just in time for Christmas!

SAFE SALE!

Our Products & Services:

- Home Safes
- Office Safes
- Gun Safes
- Depository Safes
- Floor Safes
- Fire Safes
- High Security Locks & Businesses
- Lock Re-keying
- Lock Service
- Safe Repair
- Master Key Locks
- Upgrade Locks/Safes
- We Unlock Homes

**KNOWELL'S
LOCK & SAFE, INC.**
904.387.0042
www.thesafedepot.com

Family Owned and Operated for over 35 Years!

*Certain restrictions apply, inquire within

Q: Why do you never see bicycles in Santa's sleigh?

A: The bicycles are hand-picked at a quaint little neighborhood bike shop known as Open Road Bicycles. The bikes are ordered, assembled and then held in a secret location. Santa conveniently picks them up anytime before 3pm on Christmas Eve. Layaway now!



10% Off All Bikes

Must Present Coupon. Hendricks Location Only. Expires 12/31/13.

OpenRoad
BICYCLES

4460 Hendricks Avenue | 904.636.7772
OPEN SUNDAYS 12-5 'TIL CHRISTMAS.
openroadbicycles.com

City closer to adding a unique tourist attraction



Financing the remaining hurdle to bring the USS Charles Adams home

BY KATE A. HALLOCK – RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Another hurdle has been leaped.

Earlier this year *The Resident* reported that the success of bringing the guided missile destroyer USS Charles F. Adams to Jacksonville was dependent on jumping several hurdles, including financing, an exit strategy and the approval of City Council to relocate the proposed permanent berth from the Southbank to the Northbank.

An exit strategy was completed and approved in late 2012 to guarantee removal of the ship from Jacksonville at no cost to taxpayers if it did not live up to expectations.

On Aug. 13, 2013, City Council unanimously approved the proposed

modification to City Ordinance 2010-675-E, which will allow the use of approximately three of the 23 total acres at the former Jacksonville Shipyards property for a long-term berth. This location is south of East Bay Street across from the Maxwell House Coffee plant.

Thus remains the single most critical hurdle: financing.

"We have approximately \$1.5 million in guarantees toward a line of credit and are working on securing the remaining \$3.4 million in funding to guarantee the ship repairs and berth preparations," said Daniel Bean, president of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA).

The nonprofit group driving this effort was formed in 2008 and is made up of volunteers; Bean's "day job" is executive partner with the law firm Holland & Knight. So far they've been able to raise over half a million dollars in cash, but need approximately \$3.4 million to bring the revenue-generating tourist attraction back to Jacksonville, where she was home ported for 21 years.

"We're hoping to find investors," Bean stated. "I know it's a lot to ask a company or an individual to make that initial investment, but I'm very confident that the return on the investment will be there."

Bringing the USS Adams to Jacksonville will excite, inspire, educate and entertain the general public, and create a venue dedicated to the mission, memory and sailors of the Adams Class destroyers, according to the JHNSA mission statement.

"Jacksonville gets 25,000 visitors for military reunions every year. We think we can triple that number because the Adams is one of 23 ships in that class and each ship has a reunion group; there are over 300,000 Adams sailors and we'll be able to draw a lot of those folks to Jacksonville," he said.

Bean believes that the project could create 28 jobs and bring 150,000 visitors to the city each year. With an average expenditure of \$26 per person, the economic impact would amount to close to \$4 million. "We believe it will be self-sustaining and operate in the black in year two, making over \$500,000, and then making over a million in years three and four."

The dream was to have the USS Adams open to the public this past Veterans Day.

"Our target now is to have the ship here and open November 2014," Bean said. "People needed to feel comfortable that the ship will be here and now we're beyond that; they know it's coming."

The JHNSA looks forward to working with anyone who can help "Bring Home the USS Adams." For more information on the project or make an online donation, visit www.adams2jax.org.

Schultz Center announces new initiative with One Spark

Education component to inspire educators, students

At a news conference held last month, the Schultz Center announced the launch of EdSpark, an umbrella under which Creators with education-related projects will participate in 2014 One Spark, The World's Crowdfunding Festival, scheduled for Apr. 9-13, 2014. The Schultz Center is dedicated to raising student achievement through professional development services for educators in Northeast Florida and beyond.

"We couldn't be more excited to become a part of this creative festival," said Deborah Gianoulis Heald, President and CEO of the Schultz Center. "One Spark is an ideal environment for teachers, parents and others interested in innovation in education to bring their ideas, projects, concepts and products to life. In addition, it opens One Spark to students under 18 and provides them with a platform to dream big and out of the box on anything in which they have an interest."

Students must work with an adult mentor on their projects or be a part of a team that includes adults in order to participate in EdSpark curated creator projects.

Creator registration for One Spark, including EdSpark, runs through Jan. 31, 2014. To encourage EdSpark projects and answer questions from teachers, parents, students and others, the Schultz Center will hold an EdSpark Open House on Friday, Jan. 7, 2014, 5-7 p.m.



Fresh Ideas
Teamed with
Extensive
Experience.

Thankful for
25 Years in
Business!

TURNAGE Co.

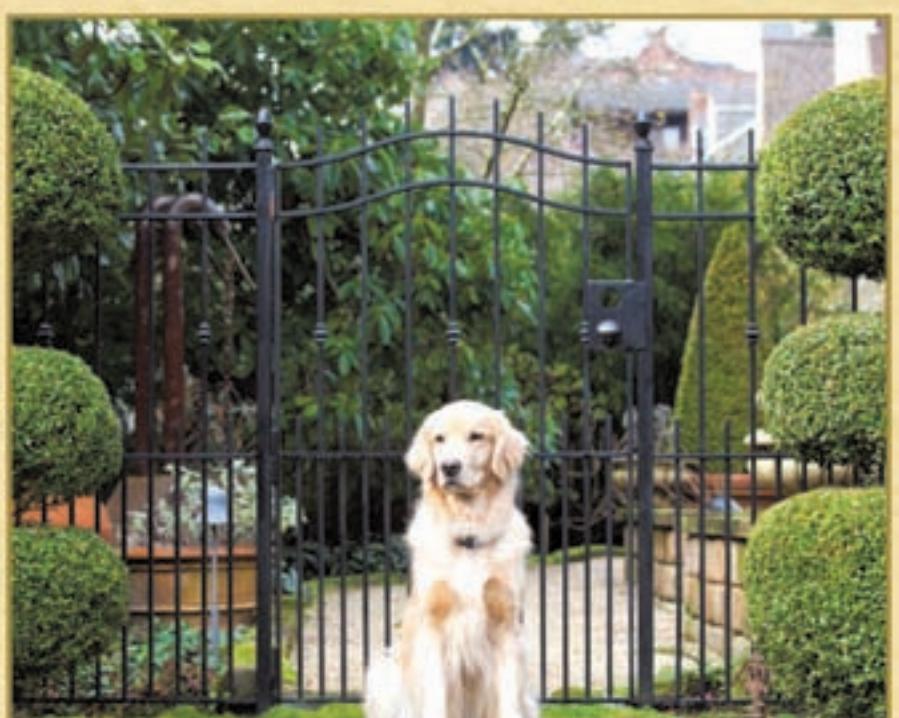
Design • Construction • Remodeling

Award-winning Design/Builders
• Renovations • New Construction • Commercial & Residential

904.387.0770 www.TurnageCo.com
4114 Herschel Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32210

CBC #057150

River Point
REAL ESTATE



works with Buyers and Sellers in all price ranges

***Is it your time-* to Buy or Sell?**

We can sell your home. If you want a candid, professional opinion, call today to discuss your options.

San Marco Real Estate Specialists Since 1983

(904) 396-6456

The Windsor

Opening
Spring
2014

TWO JACKSONVILLE LOCATIONS!

5939 Roosevelt Boulevard

4000 San Pablo Parkway

AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPT IN ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

Tired of Average? Look to us for Extraordinary!

Built on years of successful industry experience, *The Windsor* is custom designed with spacious, private apartments and beautifully appointed common areas. We offer the most innovative, proven health care and personal services in senior living, in the environment that best meets your individual needs.

Look to our strength and experience for the highest quality of care, life enrichment programs, chef-prepared meals, and associates who are truly committed to excellence.

Why settle for average? You deserve *extraordinary*!



*The Best of Life Awaits You –
Choose your apartment today!*

CALL OUR WELCOME CENTER TO LEARN MORE

(904) 353-9500



GOOD FOOD GOOD WILL

Harvested at the Garden at Jackson Square

"Empty" lot continues to be field of dreams for diverse group of gardeners

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jackson Square at San Marco will one day be a 20-acre mixed-use transit-oriented development with 750 apartments and 350,000 combined square feet of office and retail space.

But for the past few years, it has arguably been something much more.

When construction on the site was delayed in 2009, developer Steve Cissel set aside five acres and planted wildflowers rather than allow the land to sit dormant. He then provided free plots, irrigation and access to master gardeners and it blossomed into a diverse community garden.

"The story of the development of the property will go on for several more years, but what's happening with the gardens is having a real impact on peoples' lives right now," said Cissel, founder of FirstStar Development, who manages the site locally for Cypress Real Estate Advisors. "Those gardens are a microcosm of our community."

Cissel's observation is routinely personified by representatives from a local non-profit, San Marco residents, and refugee families all working side-by-side in the gardens.

Megan Riggs is there most Friday mornings with residents from the Sulzbacher Center homeless shelter, where she serves as education and career training coordinator.

"We use the garden's produce in our kitchen, but it's as much about the educational and therapeutic benefits as it is the food. The residents love to get outside and clear their minds; working in the dirt helps them keep things in perspective," said Riggs, who recently became the Garden at Jackson Square's overall coordinator.

Sulzbacher gardener Anthony Rigdon agreed.

"Coming to the garden is like going to church. The garden is a different type of study. It can be good for the mind, but it's also good for the soul. You're seeing the world from another view; you're not looking up, you're looking down," said Rigdon, 24, who has kicked alcohol addiction and begun studying materials engineering with Sulzbacher's support.

San Marco resident Patsy Moore shares the same reverence for digging in the dirt as her Sulzbacher garden neighbors.

"You can't be out here in the morning and then have a bad day. I just wish more people would give it a try," said Moore, whose love for the gardens routinely sprouts into enthusiastic efforts to recruit other gardeners. While those occasionally include her attorney husband Terry and two young grandchildren, her true mission is to have a gardener for every plot. To that end, she clears overgrown, vacant plots to make them more inviting and brainstorms with Riggs ways to increase the gardens' visibility.

While the location at 2554 Philips Highway may not seem the obvious place for a garden — Cissel noted some

call the blighted area "Hooker Highway" — it nonetheless stands true to the tradition of the urban community food park: it is near the heart of the city; a variety of people and organizations are responsible for its existence, making it a true community builder; and it serves as a necessary food source for several low income households.

"The garden is more than a middle class hobby for a lot of people, it's a working class necessity," said Carol Kartsonis, a master gardener instrumental in establishing Garden at Jackson Square.

Chief among those are five Burmese refugee families. Victims of socio-political persecution in their homeland of Burma (now called Myanmar), the families found safe passage to America with the assistance of Lutheran Social Services in Jacksonville.

Mu Dah, her husband Pah Kyar and their five children immigrated here in 2010 after spending 15 years in a Thailand refugee camp (all five children were born in the camp). Working with LSS, Friends of Northeast Florida Community Gardens and a small group of volunteers, they were the first Burmese to garden at Jackson Square.

"We like the garden very much," Mu Dah said, using limited English, interpreted with the help of a cousin, Bleh Da. "We use the food to feed our family."

Mu Dah's garden is lush with a variety of herbs and vegetables, many used in Thai cooking. It is clearly the work of a skilled farmer, a gift that she freely shares with other Jackson

Square gardeners.

"Their English may be poor, but they come from a farming culture and sure know how to grow things," said Cathy Guedarra, a master gardener who maintains a demonstration plot at Jackson Square.

Guedarra and Jeff Viau were among the volunteers who supported Mu Dah's family when they first arrived, connecting them with the garden and helping them navigate social services, find jobs and communicate basic information.

"Language is definitely their biggest barrier," said Viau. "Aside from the food benefits, which are huge, the garden is essential in giving them something familiar to help with integration into the community."

Garden at Jackson Square as a support system and community builder is something that instills Steve Cissel with a sense of pride that will linger long after the gardens give way to apartments.

"Mixed-use projects like 220 Riverside, East San Marco and The Strand high-rises are all great investments for Jacksonville and will only help my development," Cissel said. "I can't say when Jackson Square at San Marco will happen; I'll know when the time is right. The farmers know the garden is a temporary thing. But for now, it serves an invaluable role in our community. I only wish there were more of them around town."

For information contact Megan Riggs, (904) 394-1357 or MeganRiggs@tscjax.org.

Coming to the garden is like going to church



Thank you to all of my customers for their valued business. From my family to yours - it has been my pleasure serving you in 2013, and to continue to do so in the upcoming year.

Jane Slater
Realtor® GRI

Prudential
Network Realty

Wishing you a happy, healthy-holiday-season.



Let me help you find the home of your dreams for the holidays!

3627 St. Johns Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32205
cell (904) 333-3883 | office (904) 388-5005
www.NeighborhoodsofJax.com

Social
REGISTER

RIVER GARDENS *Gala*

draws a crowd to Renaissance



Ed and Anne Grenadier with
Bruce and Carol Greenspan



Nina Roth, Wendy and Barry Efron with Michele Myers

Arlene and Dr. Tony Adelson and Diane and Dr. Mitchell Rothstein combined forces to co-chair the 21st River Garden Gala, honoring Lilo and Harry Frisch. The Nov. 16 event, held at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Hall of Fame property, is the foundation's major annual fundraising event in support of River Garden's mission to serve the entire community, rich and poor alike, with caring and excellence.

ANGELS OF THE ARTS TREATED TO SONG AND DANCE



Gary Norcross, Amy Norcross, M'Lissa Gravelle and CAP board member DiAnne Scanlon



CAP Board President Charlie Margiotta, board member Heather Geraghty and past board president Darnell Smith



Honorary Chairs Marisa and Frank Martire with CAP Executive Director Kimberly Hyatt

The Cathedral Arts Project hosted its Angels of the Arts reception on Oct. 16 at the beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach home of Frank and Marisa Martire. The annual event recognizes the generous contributions made to Cathedral Arts Project's mission by its major donors and supporters.

SIPPIN' THE REDS AND ENJOYIN' THE BLUES

Supporters of the North Florida School of Special Education packed Daryl Bunn Studios in Riverside on Nov. 8 to enjoy live music, student artwork and cuisine from Biscottis, Designed Events, Inc., Liz Grenamyer Catering, and the NFSSE Culinary Team. Wines from Kenwood Vineyards, Trinchero Family Estates, and Republic National Distributing Company were served to patrons who support the organization that improve the lives of students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities through the achievement of academic, vocational, and social skills.



Lee and Lynn Bledsoe



DAVID YURMAN

MIKIMO

BREITLING
1884

HENRI DAUSSIN

MARCO BICEGO

BALL
OFFICIAL RR STANDARD
Since 1891

William H.
STUDIOS

MICHAEL KORS

AMERICAN
GEM
SOCIETY®
Consumer Protection Since 1933

10281 Midtown Parkway, Suite 191 • Jacksonville,



Above: Betsy Tilis and Sid Gefen

Left: Rebecca Rosenwasser and Keith Goldfadden

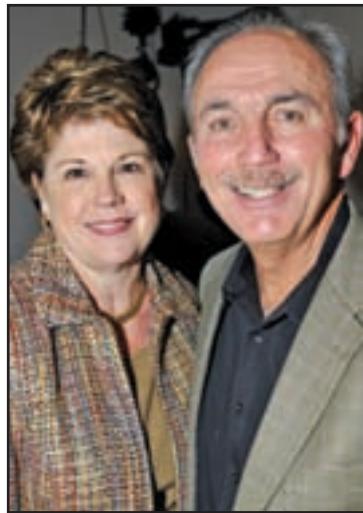
A DIVINE LOCATION FOR A CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Michelle and Ricky Bedoya, Catholic Charities Jacksonville Chair Emeritus, Richard and Ida Gropper, Catholic Charities Workforce Development Program Manager, Board member Patrick and Lara Patangan

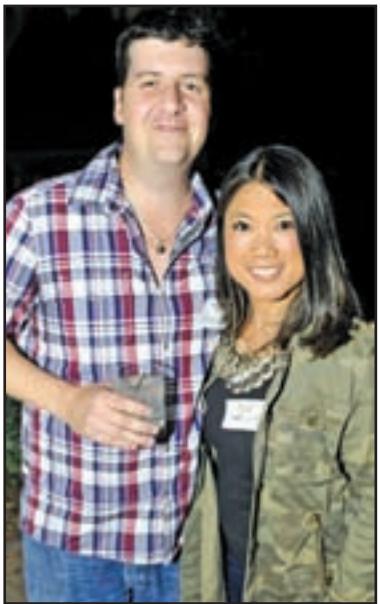
Treaty Oak Park, in all its majesty, was the venue for the 10th annual Festival d'Vine. Patrons of the outdoor event contributed to the Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Program through purchases of wine. "Our Festival d'Vine is a wonderful, fun event that grows every year. Most importantly, it enables Catholic Charities to help families who are at risk of becoming homeless," said Jennifer Garizio, Executive Director Catholic Charities. "We are grateful to the many sponsors, donors, volunteers, wine vendors and fabulous restaurants that make our ability to help others possible."

D WHITES, FOR NFSSE



Ginny and Richard Dostie

OYSTERS ABOUND FOR ANNUAL ROAST



Bob and Debbie Smith

The annual Riverkeeper Oyster Roast – known as one of the best parties of the season – was held Nov. 22 at the Garden Club. Supporters know this is one of the most important fundraising events to help continue the St. Johns Riverkeeper's advocacy, outreach and education programs in support of the area's greatest natural resource. Jacksonville artist Henry Von Genk III donated an original oil painting, River Day, worth an estimated \$7,500 for the special drawing.



Karen McCombs with Mike and Susie Miller

RMAN

TO

NG

USSI

CEGO

DARD

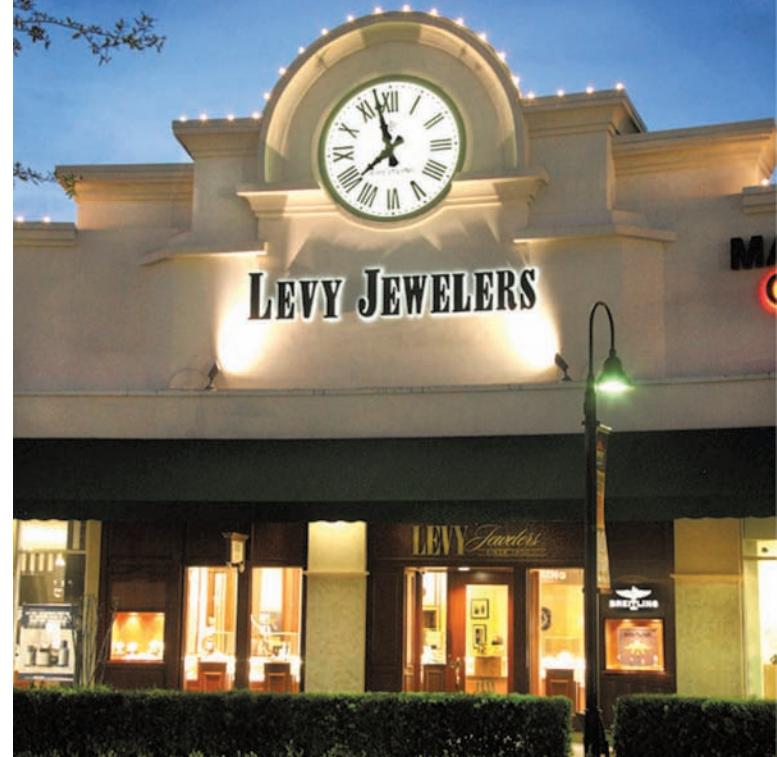
Henry

ORS

EM

Levy Jewelers at the St. Johns Town Center is a fourth-generation, family-owned jewelry business. They are proud to carry many luxury brands including: Breitling, David Yurman, Mikimoto, Henri Daussi, Marco Bicego, Ball Watch, William Henry Studio, and Michael Kors. If you like unique and one-of-a-kind pieces, Levy Jewelers also has Jacksonville's best collection of estate and antique jewelry. Their staff includes graduate gemologists, expert watchmakers, master jewelers, bridal and gift consultants, and diamond specialists. As a member of the American Gem Society, Levy Jewelers personally selects every diamond and ensures that it meets the highest possible standards.

Levy Jewelers is currently celebrating their 113th year of continuous operation. Based in Savannah, Georgia, they carry on Levy's family tradition of building lasting relationships with their clients. Stop in and see why they are Jacksonville's premier jeweler. You can be confident that you will receive personal and professional service from any of their well-trained associates. They are fortunate to have been included in so many of their customers' important family events and occasions. For this they are truly grateful!



LEVY Jewelers
SINCE 1900

St. Johns Town Center

GATOR BOWL

A City staple approaches 70 great years

Residents recall favorite games through the years

BY DOUGLAS MILNE

"Do you have any affiliation with the Gator Bowl Association?" As the question popped in random passing and straight out of left field, a pause would have certainly been warranted. The inquiry, however, failed to yield the expected response. Instead, it came quick and deliberate, driven almost by a sense of pride. "Of course I do," Ortega's Fred Seely said. "Don't you?"

In the fall of 1945, Jacksonville businessman Charles Hiltz, Sr. noticed the lack of activity between Christmas and the New Year and the economic slump at year's end. Not liking what he saw, Hiltz appealed to others in the community with an idea. To bring an annual Bowl game to Jacksonville, he explained, was precisely the shot in the arm the city needed. With \$10,000 put up to support it, the idea sold big. So big was it that on Jan. 1, 1946, the first Gator Bowl Game was contested between a victorious Wake Forest and South Carolina. It was just the sixth Bowl game in history, but first to be televised nationally.

Since then, the Gator Bowl

Association has been a staple in Jacksonville and become as synonymous with the city's steeped history and tradition as Lynard Skynyrd. As the Association's slogan points out, however, the difference with the GBA is that "Everyone's a player."

And to Seely's point, you'd be hard-pressed to find folks who weren't in some way associated with the Gator Bowl Game.

"I first got involved years ago when I was a sports writer at the Florida Times-Union, when George Olsen was the GBA director (1975, Emeritus)," Seely said. "Back then, the Gator Bowl rivaled the Georgia-Florida game as the biggest football event here."

Seely first attended a Gator Bowl Game as a senior at the University of North Carolina in 1963, when he and friends took a train from Delray Beach to Jacksonville to witness his Tar Heels' routing of Air Force 35-0.

Memories, it turns out, are as significant to the Gator Bowl's success as vision.

"My first Gator Bowl memory was the 1982 game between FSU and West Virginia," recalled Curt Pajcic. "We had seats in the upper deck. It was so foggy that there were times when we couldn't even see the players on the field and had to rely on the crowd's

response below to know which team was doing well."

Much to Pajcic's elation, the Seminoles won the game 31-12. That, however, wasn't the game Pajcic looks back on with the most fondness.

In front of a Gator Bowl record crowd of more than 84,000 in 2010, the Seminoles again beat the Mountaineers, this time 33-21. Outcome aside, the personal experience that one year provided the Pajcic family memories to transcend an entire lifetime.

As a sophomore at Florida State in 1966, Gary Pajcic took the team's starting position as quarterback. As fate would have it, Pajcic and the Seminoles played in the 1967 Gator Bowl Game, tying Penn State at 17. At the time, Bobby Bowden was the receivers' coach. The 2010 Gator Bowl Game was Bowden's last as coach. It was also when Gary Pajcic became posthumously inducted into the GBA Hall Of Fame.

"Early in the week, I had the honor to speak and accept on his behalf at the Hall Of Fame luncheon," Curt recalled. "It was very cool that my dad's induction into the Hall Of Fame coincided with Bowden's last game."

Dan Murphy, an Avondale neighbor to Pajcic, was the sitting Gator Bowl Chairman during that special game.

"Because of the significance of that game, the trophy presentation was carried on national TV and when my name was on the screen as I presented

After the game, Dan Murphy presents the trophy



that trophy to Coach Bowden, my email and phone blew up with messages from Jacksonville to California and everywhere in-between," said Murphy.

Murphy joined the Association in 2004 and remains today involved as a Trustee of the Board and Past Chairman.

John Donahoo Sr. remembers that 2010 game well. It marked the 28th consecutive year of his service on the committee.

After three decades as a committee member, the 2013 game between Northwestern (34) and Mississippi State (20), Donahoo called it his last in that role.

To complement Donahoo's remarks was a dining room table enshrined by Gator Bowl memorabilia. Ties, pins, posters, programs lay strewn across the surface. A hat signed by Sam Kouvaris and Sam Snead proved to be another story for another time.

The Rev. Edward "Monk" Malloy served, among other things, as Notre Dame's president from 1987-2005. In 2003, the 20-year anniversary of Donahoo's



Jessica Calinao
Banking Center Manager
Southpoint Branch

Jacksonville's new CENTER for business banking

CenterState Bank is now in Jacksonville, with a new and better approach to business banking. We specialize in commercial and small business lending, offering high-tech treasury management services with our high touch personalized service. We are excited about earning your business and we'll make your success the center of our focus and attention.

 **CenterState**
BANK
We Believe In You.



 Equal Housing Lender

Ortega Branch
2922 Corinthian Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32210
(904) 301-2250

CenterStateBank.com

King Street Branch
1234 King Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 301-2144
Trust Services (904) 301-2222

Southpoint Branch
7077 Bonneval Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 345-4802
Commercial Banking (904) 301-2077
Residential Mortgage (904) 345-4808

tenure as a committee member, Notre Dame competed in its third Gator Bowl Game. A 28-6 loss to NC State wasn't even a blip on the radar when Donahoo, a devout Fighting Irish fan, slipped back in time 10 years.

"We were asked to host Monk and his family for the week," Donahoo said humbly. "I remember calling his office and asking his secretary when he'd be arriving. We wanted to make sure we were all buttoned up and ready. 'He'll get there when he wants to get there' was what she said."

"He flew into the St. Augustine airport," he said, surprised, almost as if he had just received the news again. "We were instructed to drive out onto the runway and pull up next to the plane. I'll never forget him getting off that plane and into our car right there on the tarmac."

That's the thing about Gator Bowl stories. No one seems to forget them. They tie a forever-illuminated time with place.

While the Gator Bowl Game and Association has helped build a fine reservoir of memories since its inception nearly 70 years ago, the prospect for which it was crafted lends to equal remark. Every story driven by nostalgia is matched by one of economic success.

"On average, \$14 million is directly spent into the local economy as a result of the Gator Bowl which has an average overall economic impact of \$30 million," said Rick Catlett, GBA President and CEO. "In addition, the Gator Bowl Association contributes an average of \$300,000 annually to local

charities."

Each year, the Gator Bowl Game draws upwards of 30,000 out of town visitors for an average stay of two to three nights. What that translates to is roughly \$15 million in direct spending for the local economy.

"As the sixth oldest college football game, we like to think we have had a huge financial impact on our community over the nearly 70 years the game has been presented,"

Murphy said. "I think the charitable contributions we are able to make to children and education can only improve the

quality of life in Northeast Florida. We are proud to be a small part of helping positively shape the future of our community."

A part of that future now rests in the hands of incoming Chairman Vince McCormack. A Jacksonville native, McCormack's future is on solid ground thanks to a healthy past.

"I was approached by a local business leader several years ago to get involved with the Gator Bowl Association," McCormack recalled. "The individuals and companies connected to the Association reinforced my desire to join. I have now chaired and served in almost all areas of the Association including Hospitality,

Events, Game Day Operations and the Parade."

With the Gator Bowl having signed a new, six-year contract with the Southeastern Conference, the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big Ten Conference to play in the Gator Bowl following the 2014 regular season, things look good for McCormack. In addition, the Gator Bowl reached a six-year agreement with its title sponsor

(TaxSlayer.com) and ESPN for exclusive game coverage.

Once again, the Gator Bowl transcends both time and place.

"The GBA and its Past Chairs is a history of some of the community's best leaders, and so I will

be connected to this organization for the rest of my life," McCormack said. "It is sort of a Civic Fraternity where each of the members shares the same passion to continue the great tradition of the Gator Bowl."

"Since the Gator Bowl was established 69 years ago, this organization has been extremely fortunate to have had top leaders in our community serve as Chairman, including several from the Ortega, Avondale and San Marco," Catlett said. "Their impact on our success is apparent and their personal involvement is what makes the Gator Bowl Association continue to have the maximum positive impact on our community."

The positive impact of the Gator

Bowl is defined by a lot. It's a school's post-season victory and this community's pride. It's our image on a national level and a \$30 million reflection of improved and saved lives on a local level. It's the "no vacancy" sign and the extended hours of operation. The Gator Bowl is a reminder of where we've been, who we are and where we can go.

"The Gator Bowl is an institution in this town," noted Murphy. "As we succeed on the field, our local economy continues to benefit in a meaningful way. When that works, we're able to be very supportive of local charitable causes that support children and education. It's thrilling to think that one football game can have such a meaningful economic impact and a profound influence on the potential quality of life for all of Northeast Florida."

With history and potential as the residue of its design, The Gator Bowl's ubiquitous presence in and around the city lends favorably to the mantra that, indeed, "Everyone's a player."

"When I travel around the country, including many Chamber leadership trips, the Gator Bowl is always one of the first things I hear about relating to Jacksonville," McCormack said. "Our brand has certainly helped grow and strengthen the city."

As he so matter-of-factly opened the story, Seely fittingly closes it in equally-as-few words.

"When you say 'Gator Bowl' to any college football fan, people think of Jacksonville."



Curt Pajcic and Bobby Bowden

NOW THE CHALLENGE COMES TO YOU!

with trainer Julianne Klemm

AFAA Certified Biggest Loser® Pro Personal Trainer

Registered at BiggestLoserPro.com



The only place in Jacksonville offering the official

BIGGEST LOSER CHALLENGE

Starting January 6, 2014, come in for details.

5613 San Jose Blvd. Jax., FL 32207 • 904-731-7900 • www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/609

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Two nonprofit executive directors selected for national program



Two local nonprofit executive directors have been selected to participate in the National Arts Strategies' The Chief Executive Program.

Avondale resident Maria Hane, executive director of the Museum of Science & History, and Mandarin resident Tony Vecchio, executive director of the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, are among 50 cultural leaders selected from around the world.

"I am honored to have been selected to be a part of this innovative program and am excited to embark on this experience with my friend and colleague, Tony Vecchio," said Hane. "We will be able to explore new perspectives, learn new skill sets and share our experience with Jacksonville leaders to ultimately benefit the entire cultural community."



National Arts Strategies brings together cultural leaders from around the world to explore new ways to tackle the most complex and critical challenges facing the field. The Chief Executive Program includes three in-person educational events at Harvard Business School, the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, and Sundance Resort, as well as a variety of "at-work" activities designed to help leaders move forward on their own unique objectives and goals.

"The Culture and Arts organizations in Jacksonville create such a tight-knit community," said Vecchio. "As much as I look forward to the things I will learn through this program, I am especially excited about the discussions Maria and I will have with the other cultural leaders in town when we return."

Participants in The Chief Executive Program were selected from a pool of over 250 open applications and nominations from industry stakeholders following a highly competitive recruitment process to identify 50 of the top executive cultural leaders from around the world with an aptitude to tackle the intractable issues presented by the curriculum.

Empire Point resident writes mystery



Former forensic psychologist and UNF psychology professor Linda Foley just added another credential to her résumé. Although retired five years after teaching for 34, Foley couldn't resist taking up the pen and churning out "A Taste of Vengeance," a mystery novel about the murder of a University of Florida professor and Tori Vincent, the fictional forensic psychologist who investigates it. The Empire Point author has assisted the Gainesville Police Department with suspicious deaths and spent time interviewing inmates at the Florida State Prison at Raiford. For more information, visit www.lafoley.com.

Episcopal School of Jacksonville names Tritt as Alumnus of Year

Arnold (Arnie) Tritt, Jr., managing partner of Tritt & Associates, P.A., was named Alumnus of the Year during The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's annual Reunion Weekend celebrations.

This award is given to an alumnus who has consistently provided exemplary service to Episcopal by enhancing the mission, success, stature and well-being of the school. Tritt graduated from Episcopal in 1981 and has served on the Episcopal Alumni Board for over five years. Tritt & Associates participates in Episcopal's Corporate Partners Program and Tritt serves as a leadership donor.



Arnie Tritt with his wife Danielle at the Episcopal Reunion Weekend

Chase Bank expands into local Lakewood branch

San Marco, San Jose and Lakewood-area residents now have a new banking option, as Chase Bank opened up its doors for business on Oct. 17 at 6012 San Jose Blvd. Manager Audrey North welcomed bank customers, Chamber representatives and introduced regional market leader Steve Vachon.

"Chase is excited to be in Jacksonville and we've got well over 4,000 employees here already," said Vachon, as he greeted visitors and media. With the addition of several branches in the Jacksonville market, Chase has now expanded its footprint with other area locations on Southside Blvd. and another location at Margaret Street and Riverside Avenue.

The new banking locations feature interactive kiosks and after hours, secure use of ATMs unique to the new tech savvy locations. Engineered to make the customer experience a more interactive tech environment, the branches are the latest in the change from a teller experience to more of a boutique approach to personal banking.

San Marco residents will soon have a second Chase Bank in the area. A permit was recently granted for a tenant build-out for JP Morgan Chase Bank at 1515 Atlantic Blvd where Wilson & Wilson Optical has an office. A Georgia-based firm, D.C. Ecker Construction, will manage the 1,650 square foot, \$180,000 project which will begin first quarter 2014 after the eyeglass boutique relocates to the end of the building nearest Thacker Street next February.



Ruth Wilson, owner, stressed that Wilson & Wilson Optical will remain open for business at its current location during the build-out of the shop's new space. "We have enjoyed doing business at this location for over 25 years, and would not have sold if Chase had not been able to put together a partnership where we could stay in the building and continue to service our great customers in the area."

SAVE GREEN

with **Terry Vereen**
PLUMBING INC.

STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR
CFCO 25597

At Terry Vereen Plumbing, our goal is to give you the best possible plumbing service at the most competitive rates. **Our primary services include:**

- Expert Repairs & Repiping
- Water Heater Service & Installation
- Sewer & Drain Service
- Under Slab Leaks
- Complete Bath & Kitchen Remodeling
- Shower Pan & Tile Work
- Back Flow Testing & Installation
- Video Sewer Line Inspection
- High Pressure Jetting
- City Sewer Hook-ups
- Lift Station Service & Installation
- Dock Water Lines
- Insurance Claims – ADA Remodeling

\$25 OFF

Get \$25 Off your service call every weekday in December.

Clip this coupon and schedule your appointment. Saving money has never been this easy! Call Us Today. Terry Vereen Plumbing, Inc. 904-384-5661

Some restrictions apply. Offer valid only during regular business hours Mon.-Fri. (8am-5pm). Does not include installation of fixtures or appliances. Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Limit One per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on quoted jobs. Payments must be made at time of service to receive discount. Offer expires 12-31-13.

**Residential or Commercial
PERSONALIZED SERVICE**

2934 Post Street • Jacksonville, FL 32205 • TerryVereenPlumbing.com • 904-384-5661



Colleen Rodriguez (Executive Director of JFCS), Stephen Goldman (JFCS Board Member), Martha Barrett (Bank of America Senior Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility), Francine Trager Kempner (President of the Board of Directors for JFCS)

Bank of America gives once, then gives again

Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) of Jacksonville was recently awarded a prestigious and highly competitive grant from Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders® program.

Last month, executives at JFCS received a check for \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding and leadership development for its executive directors and emerging leaders.

"Jewish Family & Community Services is very grateful for this generous contribution from Bank of America," said Colleen Rodriguez,

CEO, JFCS. "The Bank of America grant accomplishes two things: it furthers Bank of America's mission of making the community a better place to live and thrive, and it greatly enhances Jewish Family & Community Services' ability to fulfill its mission of helping people help themselves."

Earlier in November, JFCS received a \$10,000 grant, from The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, to support the organization's Emergency Food Pantry, a lifeline for nearly 8,000 people a year in crisis situations.

Carroll's Meat Shoppe
SEAFOOD & PRODUCE MARKET

For your Holiday Table

Standing Rib	Pork Crown Roast	Beef Tenderloin
\$7.99 per lb.	\$4.99 per lb.	\$8.99 per lb.

Turkey

Fresh \$2.49 per lb.	Fried \$5.99 per lb.	Smoked \$4.49 per lb.
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Ham

Carroll's Honey Crusted \$5.99 per lb.	Spiral \$2.99 per lb.	Smoked by DL Lee \$4.99 per lb.	Whole \$1.99 per lb.
---	------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

Monday - Saturday | 10 am - 6 pm
6861 St. Augustine Road
CarrollsMarket.com

To place your order, call 904-733-3375

Heather Cissel elected sorority parliamentarian



Heather Cissel was elected as Parliamentarian of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The sorority has been recognized at the top for first place in academics for all sororities and fraternities at the University. Cissel is a senior studying Psychology and Forensic Criminology. She is the daughter of San Marco resident Steve Cissel and the granddaughter of Judy Cissel of Atlantic Beach; both are proud.

Microsoft recognizes Bolles' educator as innovator

San Jose resident Gloria Wood, Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus technology integrator and computer teacher, was one of 27 American educators to be named a Microsoft Expert Educator, and will participate in the "Microsoft in Education Global Forum" in Barcelona, Spain this March. There were just 250 educators from around the world named to the prestigious opportunity for their leadership in classroom technology use.

Educators like Wood "set an outstanding example for their peers," said Anthony Salcito, vice president of worldwide education for Microsoft Corp. "Not only are they doing innovative work in the classroom, but they are actively mentoring others and creating change within their own education systems."

Microsoft selected Wood for her use of technology to drive student attainment, particularly through the Robotics Jousting Tournament, a lesson teaching project based



learning using robot design, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and communications.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have been selected as one of Microsoft's Expert Educators," Wood said. "Being a Microsoft Expert Educator will help me to increase learning outcomes for my students, as well as drive technology in education on a global stage."

Genuine Handmade Rugs from Every Weaving Center of the World



*Serving You
for over 36 YEARS.*

Please come see why we are sought after globally and locally.

* Professional *
Cleaning & Repair

3571 ST JOHNS AVE. • (904) 384-7111

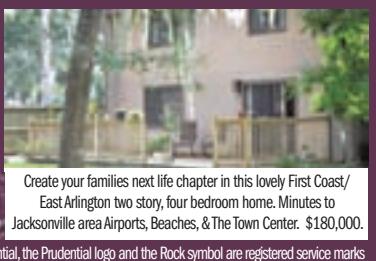
Like us on Facebook.com/hooshangrugs
www.hooshang-rugs.com

Buying or Selling Your Home Can Bee Exciting



Laura Wesson
Your Local Realtor

305-331-6518
3627 St. Johns Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205
laura.wesson@prunet.com



Create your family's next life chapter in this lovely First Coast/East Arlington two story, four bedroom home. Minutes to Jacksonville area Airports, Beaches, & The Town Center. \$180,000.

SAN MARCO DENTISTRY
William L Patterson, DDS | John F Howard, Jr. DDS

Creating Healthy Smiles with a... Gentle Touch

We love making people smile – that's why we are accepting new patients!

(904) 398-1247 • www.sanmarcodentistry.com

Please call or visit us online today to schedule an appointment.

1925 Hendricks Ave. • Jacksonville, FL 32207

Located in the heart of San Marco, minutes from downtown.

OFFERING SAME DAY
EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS
ACCEPTING MOST DENTAL PPO PLANS

Ronald McDonald House – a 25 year blessing



Board Chair Ryan Schwartz with his godson Camp at the 25th anniversary celebration of Ronald McDonald House

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A crisp but sunny fall day was just right to kick off the start of a year-long celebration of 25 years for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, located in San Marco.

Guests were encouraged to warm up with a three-mile awareness walk that began and ended at the campus. High school students were on hand to collect pop tabs for the Pop Tab Palooza; the goal was 25,000 lbs. – more than 33 million tabs.

It wasn't clear who the bigger hit was: Ronald McDonald or Reed the

therapy dog, who patiently accepted the hugs and kisses of patients and other visitors. Reed is a new addition to the facility, having joined the staff in September. Shelli Martin, family operations manager, laughed when she saw folks deposit money into Reed's bucket. "That wasn't the intent," she said.

Ronald McDonald House Board Chair Ryan Schwartz of San Marco has been involved with the organization for 12 years. "I took a tour and I was hooked the minute I walked through the doors," he said. Schwartz started working with Discovery Circle, a group of young philanthropists who help raise funds, organize networking socials and spread the word about the mission.

Fundraising will soon begin for a multi-million dollar expansion that is slated for completion in late 2014. In 2012, Ronald McDonald House served 1,100 families (7,465 individuals) with an average seven nights' length of stay. Families came from 28 states and 16 countries seeking medical help from nearby Nemours and Wolfson Children's Hospital for diagnoses in oncology/hematology, cardiac and premature births.

The first Jacksonville House was opened November 1988 with 10 bedrooms on Jefferson Street near UF Shands. The new House opened with 20 bedrooms in November 2001. Over 31,500 families have been served in the succeeding 25 years.



Reed, the
Ronald
McDonald
House therapy
dog, collected
donations

Last year volunteers gave over 21,000 hours of service to Ronald McDonald House – the equivalent of 10 unpaid staff positions. Volunteers help prepare meals, work at fundraising events, clean rooms, answer phones, do office work and spend time with the visiting families. To find out about ways to get involved, call (904) 807-4663. Donations may be made online at www.rmhjax.org.

SAN JOSE EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL
Now touring for the 2014-2015 school year.
7423 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32217
904-733-0352 | www.sjeds.org

We wish you and your family a most blessed and joyous Christmas!
Artwork by Annie Loebel, 4th grade student

SJEDS welcomes qualified applicants in grades PK-12 regardless of race, sex, creed, religion or national origin. Accredited by FPC, SACI and the Board of Regents of the University of Florida.



BEAUCLERC 2500 sq.ft. condo, 2/2 + den (or 3rd BR), ground floor unit, 2 fireplaces and hardwood floors. \$185,000. #678987 Susan Slagle & Walter Thompson 904-718-0008.



LUXURY NEW HOMES from the \$300's. La Terrazza, a gated community, Epping Forest membership included. Suzanne Cash 904-962-7477



WHY RENT? Affordable 3/2 condo on the Southside, kitchen has rich cabinetry & solid surface countertops, balcony, like new. \$104,900. #685283 Anil Pathak 904-477-0629



FABULOUS LOCATION! Executive 4/3 Home, office/den (5th BR), gourmet kitchen, lake-front & preserve lot. \$380,000. #692774 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



CHARMING RIVERSIDE 4/4, grand entry, open kitchen, formal living & dining room, family room, backyard courtyard. \$475,000. #690565 Juliette Vaughn 904-421-6642



VERY PRIVATE RIVERFRONT 3/1, family room overlooks the water, 1.75 acres, huge fenced yard. \$329,900. #691514 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

WWW.WATSONSBEST.COM

5443 SAN JOSE BLVD.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

Merry
Christmas!

LEADING
REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD



FIREPLACE, Immaculate brick 4/2.5 on pond & preserve lot, eat-in kitchen, spacious master bedroom with sitting area. \$279,000. #674688 Walter Thompson 904-710-2670



TRADITIONAL 2-STORY 4/2.5 brick home, plus adorable 1/1 guest house, San Marco near the duck pond. \$540,750. #689470 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



OCEANFRONT CONDO 3/2, beautifully furnished and recently remodeled, gated community. \$494,000. #680900 Liz Reiman & Bruce Homeyer 904-535-8686



WATERFRONT 3/3 nestled among tall majestic trees, great room, Florida room, open kitchen, dock & boat lift. \$370,000. #690862 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



A+ RATED SCHOOLS, 2/2, lots of mid-century retro charm, walk to the duck pond, just minutes from San Marco Square. \$179,900. #692495 Amanda Everett 904-415-2711



BEAUTIFUL HOME 3/2.5, high ceilings, first floor master bedroom, wood floors, nice wooded lot on a quiet cul-de-sac. \$142,900. #691016 Martha Aiken 904-703-1638



FREE CAREER TRAINING & COACHING

Steve Light, VP/Broker
(904)731-5800 Office

www.RealEstateCareersFlorida.com

BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE?

I can help save you from foreclosure.

Call me today! STEVEN LIGHT,
Certified Distressed Property Expert. • 904-421-6920



Tim and Diane Martin, Anita and Steve Morrill at The Grape & Grain Exchange

Smiles stretched from block to block around the Square



Doug Skiles gets comfy in his "new" 1997 Porsche 911



Paige and Kyle Solether with friend Gracyn Lackey



BY KATE A. HALLOCK – RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

San Marco Square just can't keep quiet these days. And area merchants can't keep the smiles off their faces.

Not a month goes by that there isn't something happening in the Square and the weekend of Nov. 16-17 was no exception. The 2nd annual San Marco Arts Festival – the fall version – drew in crowds to browse and to buy, and it wasn't just the vendors who rang up purchases.

Along with brisk trade going on at area restaurants, bars and coffee shops, cars on display courtesy of Florida Crown Region PCA, North Florida Car Club Council, Golden Era Motors, Jerry Hamm Chevrolet and Brumos Porsche, brought admirers.

Doug Skiles, San Marco resident and business owner, took a minute to talk about his two-week-old acquisition, a 1997 Porsche 911 in Zenith Metallic Blue. With just 52,000 miles on it, Skiles bought it in Houston and drove 15 hours straight with his father back to Jacksonville. "It was on my bucket list," he laughed.

San Marco Merchants Association president George Foote also displayed his 2007 Porsche Cayman. "This was the 2nd annual Art & Autos event," he said. "It's intended to add another dimension to the festival experience."

For Avondale resident Pamela Crafts and Jeff Wilson, a Downtown resident, the art festivals in San Marco are tradition. "It's on my calendar every year," said Crafts.

The Square will again be the place to be on Friday, Dec. 6 for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 7 for Holiday Magic, 5-9 p.m., and the Jingle Bell Run, 6 p.m.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

Florida Network Realty

A member of the Franchise system of BHHS Affiliates, LLC

Start Looking For The Signs

Beginning January 29th,
Prudential Network Realty will be
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Same Local Ownership. Same Local Commitment.

Virginia Miller with daughter Pamela Crafts (rear) and Jeff Wilson

Saws, shapers and sanders get put to good use

Woodworkers Club holds annual toy fair

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The 24th annual Jacksonville Woodworkers Club Toy Fair on Nov. 16 was the culmination of ten and a half months of cutting, gluing, shaping and sanding and resulted in 4,460 wooden toys. Or, as club president Margaret Miller noted, "over 10,000 wheels."

Chet Davis, project coordinator, said the club will take a rest now until the end of the year, then members will start back up in January, meeting monthly and making toys for next year.

The woodworkers, numbering between 40 and 60, have made well over 40,000 toys in over two decades.



Each of the 21 charities received a miniature rocking horse in their boxes of wooden toys



Doll cradles and beds complete with quilts, and miniature ironing boards with irons were among the 200-plus toys distributed to each charity

Plans are posted on the website (www.jaxwoodworkers.org) and include a variety of toys: race cars and dune buggies, airplanes, bulldozers, dump trucks, doll beds, animal puzzles, tractors, fire trucks and wagons, among others.

Laura Rose Ashley has been making toy cars and "whatever suits my fancy" for 25 years. She wrote a poem in 2003 about why the woodworkers put so much time – and love – into this annual project. "To see a smile on children's faces, to get a hug, a warm embrace..."

Twenty-one local nonprofits – some new, most repeat recipients – were there to explain what the gift meant to them. Rosa Heard, of the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center's Board of

Directors, said "It's amazing. I had no idea it would be this much. This is what Santa's workshop must look like."

Heard shared that the speech pathologists at the Center use the toys in therapy and also send them home with the children.

"What a blessing this is," she said. Two ministries with home bases at Southside Baptist Church were grateful as well for the toys. Laura Miller, representing the Karen Ministries which works with Burmese and Thai refugees, said "I am awestruck by the creativity and generosity here. It's a privilege and an honor to be included in this event."

The other ministry served through Southside Baptist is the Larsen Ministry, which assists the residents in that neighborhood who have no water due to failing, contaminated wells and lack of city water lines. "It's extraordinarily expensive to get hooked up to



Rosa Heard, board member for Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, holds a handcrafted helicopter, which will be used at the Center

city water," said Rebecca Williams. "The Larsen Ministry provides water and food through its 4x4x4 Box of Love and the toys will be included."

The toy giveaway was held for the first time at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, 4758 Shelby Avenue, whose youth group helped set up the toys. The club had lost its long-time venue, The Piccadilly, earlier this year when it closed.

Jane survived cancer. Three times.

To live through a cancer diagnosis once is more than enough, but three times? That takes courage — and a top, coordinated team of specialists. In Jane's case, it took the team at Hill Breast Center in San Marco to find her breast cancer, and the surgeons at her nearby Baptist South to make it go away — with a care coordinator, named Marcelle, to walk with her every step of the way. At Baptist, we're bringing together the right expertise and technology, when and how you need it. That's changing health care for good.

Visit baptistjax.com to hear Jane's story.



Changing
Health Care
for Good.

ROBIN ROBINSON, PRESIDENT,
JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Flashbacks

There was a time when shopping, especially Christmas shopping, took place in the department store-laden area in downtown Jacksonville. It wasn't until the 1980s that San Marco Square came into its own with specialty shops, gift shops, book stores and boutiques.



Edwards Pipe & Tobacco Shop with its signature gigantic pipe storefront sold gifts as well as tobacco. It was especially popular with cigar smokers.

Long-time shops which are now gone, but not forgotten, are Geisenhof Gifts, Howell Men's Shop, The Bath & Linen Shoppe, The Emporium and White's Bookstore.

In addition to the Ward Room, familiar shops which have been in the Square since its early 1980s makeover are Impressions, The Write Touch, Peterbrooke Chocolatier and the San Marco Book Store. The granddaddy of them all is Underwood Jewelers, which has offered exquisite jewelry and china to its customers since it opened in the Square in 1954.

Christmas Past IN SAN MARCO SQUARE



The Ward Room opened in 1980 and proudly displayed its upscale Christmas window that first year. San Marco had never had such an elaborate display.



Peterson's 5 & 10 was the place to start your holidays right by selecting Christmas wreaths and decorations designed to your specification. Peterson's had greenery, silk flowers and ribbons of all types from which to choose.

UNCLE DAVEY'S AMERICANA



FREE LAYAWAY

Visit Florida's Largest Variety of Civil War Memorabilia for Sale

- Photographic Images
- Stamps & Covers
- Slave Documents
- Confederate Currency
- Guns
- Knives
- Swords
- Prints
- Books
- Maps
- Coins
- Relics
- Black History
- Newspapers
- Soldier's Letters
- Veterans Reunions
- Autographs
- Confederate Bonds



Thousands of Items
Online at UncleDaveys.com

6140 St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32217
904-730-8932

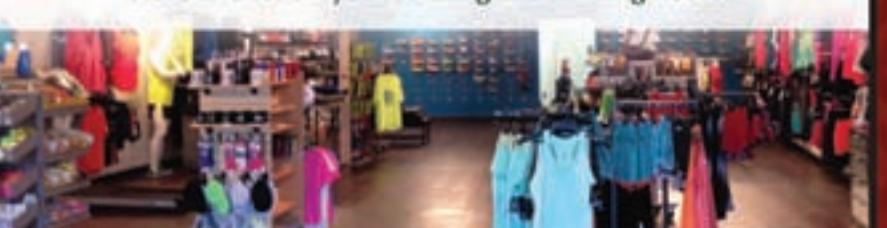
eBay UncleDaveys on eBay
Facebook Facebook.com/uncledaveys

2018 San Marco Blvd.

1ST PLACE
SPORTS

(904) 399-8880

Our San Marco store has moved right next door to our old store location in San Marco Square! Come by to see the new store and for all your running and walking needs!



Five Convenient Store Locations:
Baymeadows • San Marco • St. John's Town Center
Jacksonville Beach • Orange Park

www.1stplacesports.com



JUST LISTED

3325 Via de la Reina

JUST LISTED

132B Ingleside Avenue

JUST LISTED

1124 Oriental Gardens

JUST LISTED

JON
SINGLETTON
When Character Counts

- 11+ years in Real Estate
- \$50M+ in sales
- 300+ homes sold
- Retired Navy Pilot

WATSON
Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL
LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

www.JonSingleton.com
Office: 904-421-3580 • Cell: 904-226-3480



S T . V I N C E N T ' S F I R S T C A R E

Walk-In Express Clinic

St. Vincent's First Care offers patients urgent care services without expensive urgent care co-pays.

INJURIES

- Abrasions
- Back Pain
- Broken Bones
- Burns
- Foreign Object/Splinter Removal
- Fractures and Dislocations
- Hand and Foot Injuries
- Lacerations and Open Wounds
- Minor Concussions
- Sprains and Strains

ILLNESSES

- Allergies
- Asthma
- Bronchitis and
- Pneumonia
- Cold, Cough and Flu
- Dehydration
- Ear and Eye Infections
- Migraines and Headaches
- Nausea, Vomiting and Diarrhea
- Rashes and Poison Ivy
- Sinus Infections
- Urinary Tract and Bladder Infections

PHYSICAL EXAMS

- Pre-surgical
- School/Sports
- Wellness

LAB TESTS

- Blood Glucose
- Complete Metabolic Panel (CMP)
- Mono
- Pregnancy
- Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)
- Rapid Influenza (Flu)
- Rapid Strep
- Total Cholesterol
- Urinalysis
- Digital X-ray System

IMMUNIZATIONS

- Hepatitis A and B
- Influenza (Flu)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Pneumonia
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

LOCATIONS

Ortega

St. Vincent's First Care

5501 Roosevelt Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32244
Ph (904) 450-8100 • Fax (904) 981-0051
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7am - 7pm
Sat. 9am - 6pm • Sun. 10am - 4pm

Southside

St. Vincent's First Care

5600 Spring Park Road Ste 200
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Ph (904) 379-1203 • Fax (904) 379-9282
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm

Normandy

St. Vincent's First Care

Coming Soon
7963 Normandy Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32221
Ph (904) 786-0440 • Fax (904) 786-0485
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7am - 7pm
Sat. 9am - 6pm • Sun. 10am - 4pm

Call us or visit

www.firstcareexpress.com

to learn more. You can also access our website with your smartphone via this

qr code.



Occupational Health services for employers:

- Drug & Alcohol Screenings
- Workers' Compensation Injury Treatment
- DOT & Employment Physicals
- Audiometric Screening
- Pulmonary Function Testing
- OSHA Surveillance Exams
- Digital X-ray System
- Executive Physicals
- IME's
- Return to Work
- Fit for Duty
- Respiratory Clearance
- Pre-op Clearance
- Disability Exams

Charitable giving

Making it a family

tradition **3**

Holiday celebrations

Holiday spirit alive
and well in San Marco

Garden Circle tradition continues

The ladies of the San Marco Garden Circle continue the rich tradition that has spanned over 20 years, as the Christmas tree in the Square comes to life with décor and special holiday touches. The shared commitment has become a community affair with the tree storage at OES, and the watchful eye of the Fire Station 13 Crew of JFRD.

The tree lighting takes place Dec. 7 on a Saturday night. More holiday festivities can be found on page 10.



Cynthia Murray, Catherine Grigas; (middle row, standing l to r) Garden Circle President Paula Joyner, Suzanne Perritt, Karen Franklin, Shelly Boynton, Shemill Mullens and Ashley Hall; (kneeling l to r) Lynda Erwin, Lynne Murphy, Shari Thanner and Cathy Watkins.

Religious Reflections

Local clergy give their insights on the Reason for the Season

6

'Tis better to give

For Him , for Her or
anyone with Fur...
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

16

Diamond Solitaire Necklaces Ear Studs & Pendants Save 15%



For a limited time our entire selection of regular Underwood quality diamond ear studs and pendants has been reduced 15%.

Ear Studs Savings Examples

	Reg.	Sale
¼ carat*	\$ 375.00	\$ 318.75
½ carat*	\$ 895.00	\$ 760.00
1 carat*	\$ 2800.00	\$ 2360.00

Pendant Savings Examples

(Includes 14 karat rope chains)

	Reg.	Sale
¼ carat*	\$ 450.00	\$ 382.00
½ carat*	\$ 1550.00	\$ 1317.50
¾ carat*	\$ 2975.00	\$ 2528.75

*Total weight may vary by 5%.

- Interest Free Terms Available.
- Trade-Ins Accepted.

 **UNDERWOOD'S**

*Serving Excellence Since 1928
Member American Gem Society*

Avenues Mall (904) 394-1390
The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

www.underwoodjewelers.com



Opportunities for seasonal charitable giving abound

BY LORRIE DEFRAK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

City Rescue Mission: *The faith-based organization provides a multitude of rehabilitative, emergency and other services to transform the lives of the homeless and needy.*

As temperatures drop and folks stay overnight, costs to take care of them increase at City Rescue Mission in Jacksonville. Programs such as the Penny Project and Shoeboxes of Love help to ensure that vital services continue.

During the holidays, the mission is accepting shoeboxes that are filled with hygiene items and rolled in a blanket. Donations of clothing and non-perishable food items are appreciated, too.

"We encourage not giving money directly to people on the street. We want to keep them safe," said Amy Christus, volunteer and communication coordinator. "The best way is to anticipate those opportunities and refer them to the mission." A sample referral letter is available by contacting the mission.

To help: Donations may be taken to the mission's 426 S. McDuff Ave. location. More info: (904) 421-5157 or www.crmjax.org.

Clara White Mission: *Provides feeding, job training, shelter and other services for at-risk individuals.*

The nearly 110-year-old mission feeds up to 500 people seven days a week, including the 36 veterans in its housing program, according to Ju'Coby Pittman, chief executive officer and president. "Families can serve and purchase a meal for a day," she said. At \$2 per meal, contributors are invited to purchase multiple meals to be donated in their names for the homeless.

Food baskets with non-perishable items and grocery gift cards are appreciated. Needs also include new or gently used bookbags and work boots with steel toes, hygiene items, fast-food gift cards and blankets.

To help: Items may be dropped off at the mission, 613 W. Ashley St., or at its security guard station on Broad Street after hours. More info: www.clarawhitemission.org or (904) 354-4162.

Family Support Services of North Florida: *Lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties.*

Family Support Services' Be an Angel program provides two ways to give to local foster children this holiday season. Donors may select a child to shop for or contribute new, unwrapped toys, books or gifts to be given to children. Gifts cards and other age-appropriate gifts for teens are particularly requested.

The agency also collects personal and household items for young adults who have aged out of foster care and are living on their own, according to Roberta Zipperer, senior director of community development.

To help: Gifts may be dropped off at 4057 Carmichael Ave., Suite 101, or deposited in a Toys for Tots box at any local fire station with a note earmarking them for FSS. To receive a child's name and wish list, contact holidaygifts2013@fssnf.org or (904) 432-2756. More info: www.ffsjax.org.

Hubbard House: *Provides housing and other assistance to victims of domestic violence.*

Groups or individuals may adopt families who are spending their first holiday on their own or donate items to be given as gifts for children and women in the shelter.

"We really want the holidays to be as special for the people we help as they are for everyone else with gifts that make them feel good about themselves," said Siler. Other times of the year are better for donating used clothing or toys in need of repair for the center's thrift store. Most appreciated at Christmas are smaller new items that mothers and children may pick out to give each other. Gifts for teens, such as gift cards, are particularly needed.

To help: A wish list is at www.hubbardhouse.org. Gifts may be taken to the thrift store at 6629 Beach Blvd. More info: (904) 354-0076, Ext. 301

Throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season, local missions and social service agencies depend heavily on community generosity to care for those less fortunate. From stuffing stockings to collecting pennies, opportunities to help are numerous.

"A lot of people who are in need never envision they would need help from someone else," said Ellen Siler, chief executive officer of Hubbard House.

Lately, social workers are seeing economic and personal crises turn unsuspecting givers into receivers.

"We're seeing people who always donated or volunteered come through our lines now," said Jill Black, public relations and marketing coordinator, Salvation Army. "These are well-deserving and appreciative people. Our clientele is changing; everyone is affected."

To help donors make the most impact of their contributions, many agencies have special programs dur-

ing the holidays to meet specific needs of their clients.

For example, City Rescue Mission launched its CRM Penny Project with a goal of collecting a million pennies — \$10,000 — by Christmas to help serve the homeless and needy in Jacksonville. The mission encourages businesses, schools, churches and families to decorate containers and engage in friendly competition to make the pennies pile up.

And at Sulzbacher Center, people may donate items and help stuff stockings to give to homeless men, women and children who live or show up at the shelter on Christmas Day.

In addition to tax advantages of making monetary and other donations, the emotional rewards of helping those less fortunate are significant, particularly during this season of good will.

Following are a few of the many worthy causes that would appreciate your help, financial or otherwise, this holiday season:

Salvation Army: *The Christian ministry provides a variety of rehabilitative and emergency services.*

Although its bell-ringing Red Kettle Campaign may be its most familiar holiday fund drive, Salvation Army offers various ways to help underprivileged people at Christmas.

Duval County's Angel Tree program provides new clothing and toys to thousands of needy children. People who do not have access to the trees, which have tags designating specific children and their ages, may donate unwrapped items for children up to age 12 to any Salvation Army location or thrift store.

Gifts also may be donated for delivery to nursing homes and prisons. "Our need grows every year," said Black. "It's okay to earmark gifts with a note, such as, 'I want this to go to a mom in prison'."

To help: To volunteer, call the volunteer hotline at (904) 301-4846. To ring bells, call (904) 353-6303 or 6304. More info: (904) 356-8641 or www.salvation-armynefl.org.

Sulzbacher Center: *Provides shelter, health, counseling and other services for homeless families and individuals.*

The center's Stocking Stuffer Drive provides Christmas stockings for the 340 people who live at the shelter as well as for anyone who goes there for meals on Dec. 25. People may donate items such as playing cards, pocket calendars, toiletries, hats, gloves and candy canes. Blankets, as well as volunteers to help stuff stockings needed.

In addition to monetary donations to purchase gifts for homeless children or veterans, new toys for boys and girls up to age 18 are accepted, said Allison Vega, public relations and marketing manager.

If approached on the street by a homeless person, people are advised to direct him or her to the shelter — which provides free lunches and dinners 365 days a year — instead of giving money.

To help: Stocking donations may be dropped off by Dec. 18 at the center at 611 E. Adams St. More info: (904) 394-8082 or www.sulzbachercenter.org.

USO (United Services Organization): *Provides services to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families.*

"Service members sacrifice so much for our country and freedom. The least we can do is provide for them and their families during the holidays," said Lisabeth Quinn, USO Center director, Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Shoppers at the Navy Exchanges on base are encouraged to pick tags from a holiday giving tree to assist active duty families in need of support. Each tag contains a child's wish list. Unwrapped toys and gift cards with no specific child in mind also are appreciated, as are packages of personal care items with holiday touches and phone cards, Quinn said.

To help: Gifts may be delivered to the USO Center in Building 1050 in the parking lot before crossing the main gate security checkpoint at NAS Jacksonville. More info: (904) 778-2821.

Wounded Warrior Project®: *Provides unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.*

Wounded Warrior Project® serves veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness, or wound, co-incident to their military service on or after September 11, 2001 and their families. Most veterans face challenges as they transition back into civilian life, and today's wounded veterans are meeting extraordinary obstacles including the physical injuries as well as invisible ones, like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The vision of the Wounded Warrior Project is to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in the nation's history.

To help: A tax-deductible donation can be made online at www.woundedwarriorproject.org. More info: (904) 296-7350.

Faith brings together what culture might keep apart



Burmese community enjoy gingerbread house fellowship

BY LARA PATANGAN, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Cultures bond among gingerbread walls, icing roofs and sugary gumdrop adornments at an event that has become a sweet tradition for neighborhood children.

Burmese refugees get a taste of the beloved holiday custom of building gingerbread houses when a service group of mothers and their children bring all of the delectable ingredients necessary to construct the confection creations.

Members of Assumption Catholic Church's Saint Gianna Circle look forward to the annual gingerbread house-making event, held at the Burmese mission house in Ortega.

According to Maureen Lawrence, the Circle's founder, the group's mission is to help other mothers while teaching their own children the importance of serving others.

"Our circle chose the Burmese Community to be our outreach project because they were a new part of the Assumption Community," Lawrence explained. "We heard about the large number of refugees that had joined our parish and the tremendous needs they had."

Refugees routinely congregate for meals, schooling and fellowship at their mission house where they strive to maintain elements of their heritage,

including cooking on an open fire and growing their own food.

Jeannette Townsend, an Avondale resident and member of Saint Gianna, said it was important for her children to see other kids from a different culture and financial situation.

"My kids saw the work and responsibility that went into their daily lives, as well as the differences in our living conditions. We talked about how the Burmese cook by an open fire and transform their land into gardens...and why none of the children had their own rooms and shared with a number of other

children," Townsend said. "I hope my children are a little more global and a little more selfless after the experience."

The Circle, named after the patron saint of mothers, physicians and unborn children, does fundraisers and projects for the Burmese throughout the year, but look forward to the gingerbread making event because it gives members' children a chance to be involved.

"It's a good experience for the Burmese and American children," said St. Nicholas resident and Saint Gianna President Ashley Robinson. "I don't think the Burmese children had ever seen so much candy in their lives. It's a fun day."

Lawrence said the members' children enjoyed playing outside at the mission house and exploring the grounds, while the Burmese children were enjoying a little competitive spirit with their house making.

"The older Burmese kids were super into it," said Lawrence. "It was a morning of fellowship, and with the gingerbread house kits the language wasn't a barrier. They showed each other how to do it."

Lawrence's daughter, Emma, age eight, said "Even though we did not totally understand each other, I knew they were happy because they were smiling."

Robinson said it's more than just a fun day for both cultures.

"We share a Catholic faith. They have had to flee their country because of religious persecution," explained Robinson. "It is good to connect with them through our faith."

BY A WOMAN, FOR A WOMAN

Exclusively at:

JRoberts
FINE JEWELRY

3200 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207
904.396.7100 • jrobertsjewelry.com

Open 7 days a week for the holidays.

sylviecollection.com



Empty Bowls Luncheon is annual tradition for many

What has become an annual Thanksgiving tradition for some area residents is coming up on three decades for one woman. Marie Friedsan, of San Jose, is a member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Avenue, and one of the founding members of Lutheran Social Services, the nonprofit that manages Second Harvest North Florida.

"Lutheran Social Services was started in 1979," Friedsan noted. "Empty Bowls began in 1984 and St. Mark's has attended ever since."

Rev. Robert Kinley, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, 1415 S. McDuff Ave., said that he's been



Mark and Lynette Weber, Ruth Voss, Lutheran Social Services board member Alan Voss, Marie Friedsan, members of St. Mark's Lutheran, San Marco

Empty Bowls Luncheon on Nov. 19 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

"The event brings the community together in a common cause to address hunger in Northeast Florida," said Kinley. Member Tom Culverwell,

who runs the Food Pantry at the church, added, "This event means that Second Harvest will survive to serve the needy. We serve a lot of working poor, grandparents raising grandkids, people with disabilities."

This year's event was expected to raise \$80,000, providing 560,000 meals for those who are food-insecure. Local celebrities served a light lunch provided by

Chick-fil-A and BJ's Wholesale Club; attendees also enjoyed live music from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts students.



Byron and Mary Bollingberg, Rev. Robert Kinley, pastor of Trinity Lutheran and Lutheran Social Services board member, Linda and Tom Culverwell, Jennifer Culpepper, Joyce and John Caltrider, members of Trinity Lutheran, Avondale

participating for the 12 years he's been at Trinity. He's also a member of the LSS board of directors and gave the invocation at the 29th annual

Purple

The Color of Advent
Calling us to live out Christ's message through our rich diversity.

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m.: Children & Family Service
8:30 p.m.: Candlelight Service & Communion



Psalm 1:3
Sunday School at 9:30 Worship at 8:30 and 11:00
849 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904)355-4585 rpcjax.org



HUGOS FINE FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES

**GREAT GIFTS FOR EVERYONE
on your list —**

Shop Online Now! We Gift Wrap
www.shopcrosbydesigns.com



Seasonal Reflections

In the midst of the holiday hype, the grab for gifts and the stress associated with putting on the perfect holiday dinner, pause a moment for some seasonal reflections from area clergy.

The Day of Midian

"For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian." (Isaiah 9:4)

The portion of the prophet Isaiah quoted above is read in most Christian churches at Christmastime. The reference to the "day of Midian" is not widely understood, though it is clearly a compelling precursor to what is celebrated during the anniversary of the nativity of Jesus of Nazareth.

The day of Midian refers to a remarkable military victory recorded in the book of Judges (see chapter 7) during which Gideon, an unlikely warrior, wins a battle against a much larger army of Midian, a neighboring country to Israel, by literally scaring them to death with torches and trumpets. Gideon routes the vastly superior fighting force without recourse to violence.

So, the biblical writers are reminding us that the birth of the Messiah was the beginning of a large and protracted battle against those who abuse power and seek to enslave others. Jesus comes to wage war against oppression, not with weapons of mass destruction, but rather with a greater or higher power of righteous faith and resolute compassion. Nothing, not even death, can stand against these powers of subversion and liberation!

The Rev. Jonathan B. Coffey

Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Home Loans

FHA loans and low down payments
Great rates
Local office/broker

**THINKING OF BUYING?
RATES ARE STILL LOW!**

Now is a great time for government loans through FHA and VA.
**HOLIDAY SPECIAL
FREE APPRAISAL ON COMPLETED LOAN**

Oak Street Financial, Inc.
www.oakstreetfin.com

904-381-1199
2330 Oak St • Jacksonville, FL 32204

Light One Candle

"Light one candle for the Maccabee children, give thanks that their light didn't die."

These words, from the eponymous Peter Yarrow song, remind us that our actions define our self-worth. The Maccabees knew that they had to fight to keep the spiritual fire of Judaism burning against the idolatrous Hellenistic culture that demanded all alternative ideas be extinguished.

Fortunately, we do not need to rise up in rebellion against tyranny. We are blessed to live here in these United States of America, where our right to religious freedom was ensured by our Founding Fathers and enshrined in our Constitution.

Nevertheless, we must make use of our freedom. We must rekindle the menorah, retell the story, and remind ourselves and our children of why it was important to fight for freedom, why it was important to keep our faith alive.

The danger of comfort is complacency: if we feel ourselves so free that we no longer need to participate in our faith, there could come a time when we would no longer be able to celebrate it. We find meaning in the moments of our lives by transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary, by making holy that which would otherwise be profane. That could mean decorating our homes, saying blessings, lighting the menorah, and even eating fried foods with an official religiously issued permission slip!

Hanukkah is a model for people of all religions that action keeps faith viable and responsive to the needs of our modern lives, for the light will go out if we don't keep it burning bright.



Rabbi Joshua Lief

The Temple, Congregation Ahavath Chesed

Family Owned & Operated!

LakeShore BICYCLES

Shop at your Local Christmas Headquarters!

www.LakeShoreBicycles.com
OPEN: Monday-Friday 9-7
Saturday 9-5:30 • Sunday 12-5
2108 Blanding Blvd (SR-21)
Jacksonville, FL • 904-388-0612

Now Available in Jacksonville!

Raneri's Gourmet
All Natural - No Sugar
BBQ Sauce
Steak Sauce

www.ranerisgourmet.com

So Delicious Meat is Optional

Currently Featured at:
-Pine Grove Market & Deli
-Richards Sandwich Shop

Raneri's Gourmet has local delivery and tiered pricing. Local food businesses or restaurants, call Dan today @904-860-3412 for a free sample kit. Like us on Facebook to keep track of our next event where you can buy direct!

Feather Your Nest

From their Nest to yours... at prices to sing about.

- Designer furniture, home decor, artwork, rugs and lighting
- Upscale Consignment Services
- Interior design services available

Follow us on **FeatherYourNestNow**

In the Shoppes of San Jose (Behind Publix)
2777 University Blvd. West • Jacksonville, FL 32217

(904) 733-2111
featheryournestnow@aol.com

Secure your valuables, just in time for Christmas!

Free Local Delivery*

SAFE SALE!

Our Products & Services:

- Home Safes
- Office Safes
- Gun Safes
- Depository Safes
- Floor Safes
- Fire Safes
- High Security Locks & Businesses
- Lock Re-keying
- Lock Service
- Safe Repair
- Master Key Locks
- Upgrade Locks/Safes
- We Unlock Homes

KNOWELL'S
LOCK & SAFE, INC.
904.387.0042
www.thesafedept.com

Family Owned and Operated for over 35 Years!

*Certain restrictions apply, inquire within

The New Hope of Advent

In many ways, ironically, there's no institution more counter-cultural than the church during the Christmas season. At Riverside, instead of singing Christmas carols starting after Halloween, we celebrate the season of Advent beginning four weeks before Christmas with hymns like "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus." Instead of decorating with the red and green of Christmas, purple serves as our color scheme.

The season of Advent also changes our calendar. Instead of beginning the New Year on January 1st, Advent (which means "coming") marks the beginning of our new year, paradoxically focusing on the end of things when God will finally fulfill and redeem all of creation.

As I write this the world is grieving the loss of untold numbers in the Philippines after a massive typhoon swept through their country. This event reminds us once again that we must face the tragic and painful truth that life is full of both joy and deep suffering. The new hope of Advent promises that in God's time "all will be well, all manner of things will be well."

Starting the year trusting that the end of things is in God's hands, (and not just our own) liberates us to live each day more fully present and awake to the coming of God into our world. Or, as T.S. Eliot penned in Four Quartets, "In our beginning is our end."



W. Stephen Goyer

Pastor, Riverside Presbyterian Church

*Jacksonville's
diamond source
for four generations*



Harby Jewelers

1301 Riverplace Blvd. • Suite 2552
346-0641
www.harbyjewelers.com

Seeing the Face of God

In 1995 a song by Joan Osborne asked the question, "What if God was one of us?" The song was an instant hit, reaching Billboard's Top 40 by November of that year. Its fame was not due to the popularity of the singer (Joan Osborne is now listed among music's "One Hit Wonders"), nor did it have a particularly great or singable melody. The reason for the song's popularity is that it taps into deeply held, universal questions about God:

"If God had a name, what would it be?"
"What would you ask if you had just one question?"
"If God had a face, what would it look like?"

While I'm sure the song's producers never intended it to be a holiday hit, "What If God Was One of Us" always makes me think of Christmas nonetheless. After all, Christmas tells us that God did, in fact, become one of us. One day while driving my then 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter home, my son asked, "Daddy, what does God look like?"

As a trained seminarian and ordained minister of the Gospel, I took a moment to contemplate how I could explain the attributes of God, the complexities of the Trinity and the intricacies of the incarnation to a four-year-old. This was a great teachable moment and I didn't want to blow it! Before I could deliver my answer, however, my 2-year-old daughter said, "He looks like Jesus!"

My daughter was right. With all the simplicity of a child, she expressed the truth of Christmas perfectly: Jesus shows us what God is like. The Bible says, "*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we beheld His glory.*"

Jesus is God "with skin on." And because He was willing to come to earth and live among us, He understands the struggles and trials we face. God is aware of our pain and is willing to bear our grief and carry our sorrows. Had there been busses in first-century Palestine, Jesus would have been "just a stranger on the bus trying to make his way home." But better yet, He would have been a stranger helping you find your way home, too.

Gary Lee Webber

Pastor, Southside Baptist Church



SAINT FRANCIS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

A not-for-profit animal hospital providing affordable veterinary care to all owned pets in the surrounding Jacksonville area.

Holiday Wrapping in San Marco

1996 San Marco Blvd. (in front of the San Marco Theater)

Saturday, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21: 11am-5pm
Sunday, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22: 1-5pm

Santa Paws
Photos with Santa
Sunday Dec. 15: 1-5pm
St. Francis Animal Hospital
2107 Mango Place
One block east of Matthew's Restaurant

Bring your pets and/or your kids for photos with Santa. \$10 donation includes printed photo and digital image. Proceeds raised will help St. Francis Animal Hospital provide veterinary care to pets in need.

**Happy Healthy Holiday Special:
1/2 OFF ANNUAL VACCINE VISIT
\$75.00 (reg price \$150.00)**

For details visit: www.saintfrancisanimalhospital.org
Valid Dec. 1 – Dec. 31, 2013



904.674.7223
2107 Mango Place ★ Jacksonville, FL 32207
Centrally located in San Marco

www.SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org

Resident

2 Cocktails of Christmas

If you're looking for the perfect holiday cocktail to serve at your soirees- local bars and restaurants are sharing their recipes. These drink recipes are best when served in the establishments by the tenders of the bar, the experts and mixologists who shared their masterpieces.

Some are perfectly seasonal with hints of spices, flavorful bitter accents and other barrel aged notes, others are refreshing any time of the year. If you're in the mood to celebrate the holidays with a twist, check out the offerings of many locales from San Marco to Avondale, one side of the river to the other, there is a cocktail for all tastes and styles. Enjoy, and sip responsibly this holiday season!



Terra Hibiscus

Terra

- Flute of Mumm Brut Rose, Napa Valley 2012
- Splash of Cranberry Juice



Strawberry Lemonade Cooler

The Grotto

- KLIR RED Orange Spirits
- Homemade simple syrup



The Cure

Restaurant Orsay



- 1 oz. Fernet-Branca Italian liqueur
- 1 oz. Carpano Antica sweet vermouth
- 1 oz. 10 year Tawny Port
- .5 oz. Demerara syrup
- 1 whole egg

Add all ingredients to mixing tin, dry shake, add ice, shake vigorously. Double strain into coupe. Garnish with fresh grated nutmeg.

O'Brother's Irish Coffee

O'Brothers Irish Pub

- 1 cup of coffee
- 3/4 oz. Bailey's Irish Cream
- 3/4 oz. Jameson Irish Whisky

Garnished with marachino cherry, grenadine, chocolate drizzle over whipped cream.



Miss Claus' Apple Cider

The Mossfire Grill

- Brown Sugar Rim
- Apple, cinnamon and vanilla bean infused house vodka
- Shake, strain and garnish with apple wedge



Let us Help You Celebrate the Holidays!

*...we have everything
to make the meal
amazing!*

*Grassroots
Gift Cards
make great
stocking
stuffers!*

**We have everything to make
your holiday meals and
parties memorable!**

- Fresh, Local & Certified Organic Produce
 - Featuring a full selection of Natural & Organic Groceries & Gluten Free Foods
 - Juice Bar with Fresh Organic Juices & Smoothies
 - Organic Sandwiches, Wraps, Salads and Desserts
 - Gourmet Cheese Selection
 - Vitamins & Nutrition Products
 - Large Organic Wine and Craft Beer Departments
- Now Accepting EBT

grassroots
NATURAL MARKET

Twitter.com/Grassroots5Pts
 Facebook.com/Grassroots5Pts
www.TheGrassrootsMarket.com

Located in Historic 5 Points
2007 Park Street • 904-384-4474

Cucumber and Ginger Martini



Blue Fish Restaurant and Oyster Bar

- Muddled cucumber and ginger
- Splash of simple syrup
- 1 1/2 oz. Pinnacle Citrus Vodka

Shake, strain, garnish with cucumber and top with a splash of soda

Taverna Old Fashioned

Taverna

- Florida Cane Sugar
 - 2 dashes Jerry Thomas "Own Decanter" Bitters • -Muddle-
 - 3 1/2-4 oz. Rittenhouse Rye Whiskey
- stir- then swirl with fresh cinnamon stick garnish with twist of lemon, orange, and a fresh cherry



Holiday Shrub

Black Sheep

- 1 1/2 oz. Rittenhouse Rye 100 Proof
- 1 oz. Winter Shrub
- .25 oz. cinnamon & clove syrup
- 2-3 dashes Angostura Bitters

Shake, strain, pour then garnish with an apple slice.

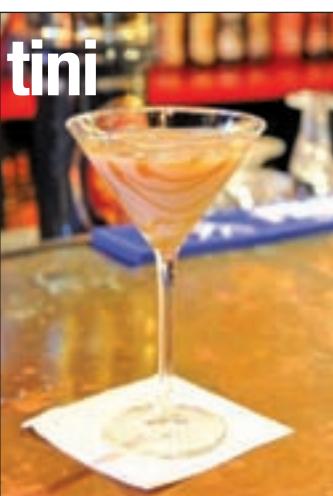


Caramel Flantini

Lola's Burrito Joint

- 1/2 oz. Butterscotch Schnapps
- 1/2 oz. Creme de Cacao
- 1/2 oz. Bailey's Irish Creme
- 1/2 oz. Fireball Whisky

Caramel drizzle on the glass, shake, strain and pour.



Cinnamon Sangria

Espeto Brazilian Steak House

- 1 bottle of lighter red wine (Pinot Noir)
- 1/4 cup Goldschlager
- 1/4 cup of Grand Marnier
- 1/2 cup of orange juice
- Handful of cherries; one orange, sliced



The Whiskey L'Orange

The Grape & Grain Exchange

- 1 oz. Noah's Mill Bourbon from Bardstown, KY
- 1/2 oz. Hayman and Hill Old Tom Gin
- 1/4 oz. B-sha Snaps (sipping bitters)
- 3/4 oz. lemon juice
- 1/2 oz. orange juice
- 1 oz. orange cinnamon simple syrup made with Orange Tea from 'All Spiced Up'



Shake and strain then pour over ice and top with soda water and Fee Brothers whiskey barrel-aged bitters

Hot Buttered Pisco

Le Bar at Bistro Aix

- 2 oz. Spiced Pisco
- 6 oz. Hot Water
- 2 barspoons of vanilla butter



Stir, then top off with whipped cream and fresh nutmeg

An unexpected twist on the classic sangria – Into a pitcher pour a bottle of lighter red wine, like a Pinot Noir, 1/4 a cup of Goldschlager, 1/4 a cup of Grand Marnier, 1/2 cup of orange juice, a handful of cherries, and one orange, sliced.

and top with sprite or soda. If you would like to garnish use a cinnamon stick.

The Goldschlager adds a sweet cinnamon taste that is surprising in the otherwise warm-weather wine cocktail!

It can also be made well in advance.

The Avondale Gallery



Babies are only born once.

Make your memories last forever, frame your favorites- come in for a consultation today!



Grandma isn't always in town.

25% OFF

All Custom Framing

Clip this coupon and bring it with you. We specialize in custom museum quality framing. One coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid through December 31, 2013

3545 St. Johns Ave., Jacksonville, FL • 904.389.6712

www.theavondalegallery.com

Located next to the Blue Fish Restaurant



**ROLEX • CARTIER •
PATEK PHILIPPE • BREITLING**

BUY • SELL • TRADE • SERVICE

2002 San Marco Blvd., Suite 204, Jacksonville, FL 32207

904.993.1339 • 904.683.3875

CrownJewelersJax.com

HAPPENINGS

Seniors on the Go at MOSH

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 9:45 a.m.,
The Art of Scrapbooking
Advanced registration is required. For more information, call 904.396.MOSH (6674), ext. 225.

37th Annual Art & Antiques Show

presented by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital
Friday-Sunday, Dec. 6-8, opens 11 a.m.
Prime Osborne Convention Center
Event features antiques, art objects, furniture, jewelry,

glass-ware and textiles sold by notable dealers representing various regions of the United States

San Marco Square Holiday

Friday, Dec. 6
Christmas Tree Lighting, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7
Holiday Magic, 5-9 p.m.,
Jingle Bell Run, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14 – Live Nativity & Luminaria, 6-9 p.m., Arbor and Laurel Streets

Christmas in Avondale

Saturday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Carriage rides, sleigh rides, Santa photo ops, face painting and more for the kids; wine tastings, belly dancers, a Flash Dance, food and more for the adults

Gingerbread House Workshop

Saturday, Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.
Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd. W – Email info@LPCjax.com for reservations; limited to 25.

Gingerbread Extravaganza

Opens Wednesday, Dec. 4,
Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Old St. Andrews Church, 317 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard next to the Jacksonville Baseball Grounds. Sponsored by the Jacksonville Historical Society and is open to the public. Suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3 and up. For more information call (904) 665-0064 or email info@jaxhistory.com.



Saturday with Santa at MOSH

Friday, Dec. 14, Noon to 4 p.m. Photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Holidazzle at RAM

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Riverside Arts Market
(under the Fuller Warren Bridge)
Holiday shopping, lights and classic Christmas movies



Train Display at MOSH

Begins Sunday, Dec. 8 through Dec. 29
Toy Train Collectors of Jacksonville to host holiday train display in the lobby.

Women's Christmas Brunch

Monday, Dec. 9, 9:30 a.m.
Southside United Methodist Family Life Center, 3120 Hendricks Avenue
Speaker: Annie Pajcic, founder of ThouArtExhalted: Creating Art through God's Word – Contact j.yates@southsidemethodist.org or (904) 396-2676 to pre-register.

Holiday Pops

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m. & 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.
Performed by the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus, conducted by Michael Butterman Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall, Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts

'Tis the Season

Champagne & Shopping at The Cummer Store

Thursday, December 5, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Friday, December 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Cummer Store presents our annual shopping event with complimentary champagne, appetizers and holiday music.

Enjoy lunch or dinner at The Café. For reservations, please call The Café at 904.899.6022.

Proceeds from The Cummer Store support programs at the Museum.

For more information on all these holiday events, please call 904.899.6035.



Holiday Shopping to Support

The Cummer
MUSEUM of ART & GARDENS

829 Riverside Avenue • Jacksonville, FL 32204
904.356.6857 • cummer.org

SUPER BOWL XLVIII
WIN TICKETS

Two (2) Tickets to Super Bowl XLVIII
and
Three (3) Night Hotel Accommodations

ONLY \$100 PER CHANCE TO WIN!
Call (904) 396-4435 or
Visit www.bgcnf.org
Ends January 3, 2014

Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

A JACKSONVILLE TRADITION

Gingerbread EXTRAVAGANZA

Open December 4th through December 21st

Open to the public
Monday-Friday
11 am - 5 pm
Saturdays
10am - 5 pm

Builders of all ages and skill levels create everything from Historical Buildings to Fantasy Creations.

Suggested donation
\$5 ADULTS • \$3 CHILDREN
Sponsored by the Jacksonville Historical Society

Old St. Andrews Church • 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.
For information call 904-665-0064 or email info@jaxhistory.com

North Florida's favorite outdoor holiday shopping experience for the entire family!

HoliDazzle!

Featuring 150 artists & artisans with unique holiday gift ideas

Classic holiday movies on the River Stage from 6-9pm
Winter brews & holiday cocktails
Festive lights & decor
Extensive dining options
Live entertainment all day

Support your local economy
BUY LOCAL, SHOP SMALL!

December 14th
10am-9pm
Under the Fuller Warren Bridge at 715 Riverside Avenue

www.riversideartsmarket.com/upcoming-events
www.facebook.com/riversideartsmarket

Resident

HAPPENINGS

Christmas in the Village

Sunday, Dec. 15, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Corinthian Avenue
The Ortega Village Merchants Association will host a holiday event with a bounce house, games, basket raffles, puppet show, hay rides, photos with Santa Claus at CenterState Bank and more.

Riverside Avondale Luminaria

Sunday, Dec. 15, at dusk
Bike ride begins at 6 p.m. in the Park & King retail corridor. Luminaries purchased at the Buckland House, 2623 Herschel Street, will support Riverside Avondale Preservation. Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. from Dec. 3 to Dec. 15.

Christmas Oratorio

Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Lakewood Presbyterian Church,
2001 University Blvd. W
Email info@LPCjax.com for information.
Christmas Oratorio by Camile Saint-Saens presented by LPC Chancel Choir, guest instrumentalists and vocalists.

Ken Medema in Concert

Sunday-Monday, Dec. 15-16, 7 p.m.
Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church,
4001 Hendricks Avenue
For four decades, Ken Medema has inspired people through storytelling and music. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind, custom designing every musical moment of his performance with brilliant improvisation that defies description. Call (904) 396-7745 for tickets and information.

Blue Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
Avondale United Methodist Church, 1651 Talbot Avenue
The Blue Christmas Service is a special quiet time to share the hope of Christmas, even when you may feel sad or exhausted!

MOSH Winter Discovery Camps

Dec. 19-20, 30-31, Jan. 2-3
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For kindergartners through fifth graders. Camp topics are Under the Sea, Winter Wonderland, Wacky Weather, Space Rocks!, Body Works, and Under the Big Top. Cost is \$55 per day; Members receive a 20% discount. Register at www.themosh.org.

Handel's Messiah

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
Performed by the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus, conducted by Donald McCullough Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall, Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m.
Ortega Methodist Church,
4807 Roosevelt Blvd.

Chairs, sponsors selected for 33rd Annual Red Rose Ball



What better day to hold the 33rd Annual Red Rose Ball than on Feb. 14, 2014. The Casablanca-themed event hosted by St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation will be held at the Jacksonville Marriott at Southpoint starting at 7 p.m.

Title sponsor of the 2014 Red Rose Ball is CSX and presenting sponsors are Bacardi and Premier Beverage. The ball chairs are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gooden of San Marco, Dr. and Mrs. Gasper Lazzara of Ponte Vedra Beach, and Dr. and Mrs. Stan Longenecker of Ortega. Honorary chairs are Mr. and Mrs. Gary Chartrand of PonteVedra Beach, and Mr. and Mrs. Mel Gottlieb of Beauclerc Gardens.

The Red Rose Ball is community's oldest charity ball, attended by many local leaders in the Jacksonville area. Guests can look forward to an elegant evening of fine dining and dancing to local favorites by the KTG band.

Proceeds from next year's Red Rose Ball will benefit HeartSmart, a new heart wellness program brought to the community by St. Vincent's. This new program offers a multi-disciplined approach to living a "heart healthy lifestyle" by providing program participants with tools for the mind, body and soul that will help reduce risk factors and prevent heart disease.

Buying or Selling Your Home Can Bee Exciting



Laura Wesson
Your Local Realtor



Prudential
Network Realty



Create your family's next life chapter in this lovely First Coast/East Arlington two story, four bedroom home. Minutes to Jacksonville area Airports, Beaches, & The Town Center. \$180,000.

305-331-6518
3627 St. Johns Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205
laura.wesson@prunet.com

© 2013 BRERAffiliates Inc. An independently owned and operated broker member of BRERAffiliates Inc. Prudential, the Prudential logo and the Rock symbol are registered service marks of Prudential Financial, Inc. and its related entities, registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Used under license with no other affiliation with Prudential. Equal Housing Opportunity.



The Northeast Florida Building Industry Presents:



Thursday, December 12, 2013 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
The Haskell Building 111 Riverside Ave. Jacksonville

Feel the Decadence:

Art • Music • Cigar Station • Casino • Photo Stations • Silent Auction • Hors d'Oeuvres • Cash Bar

Admission:

"Flapper or Flyboy" (Individual Ticket): \$35
"Putting on the Ritz" (Couple): \$50
"The Fuzz" (Government Rate): \$15

Register today at:
www.ngfatsoygala.com

Sponsorships Available:

Tycoon - \$2,000
Titan - \$1,500
Magnate - \$1,000
Mogul - \$500
Baron - \$250

Contact brett.manzie@ch2m.com

WISHING YOUR HOLIDAYS ARE MERRY & BRIGHT!



HOLIDAY HOURS:

CHRISTMAS EVE 9 AM-NOON
CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED
NEW YEAR'S EVE 9 AM-2 PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Linda Cunningham



1049 Kings Avenue, 32207 399-4864

M-F 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

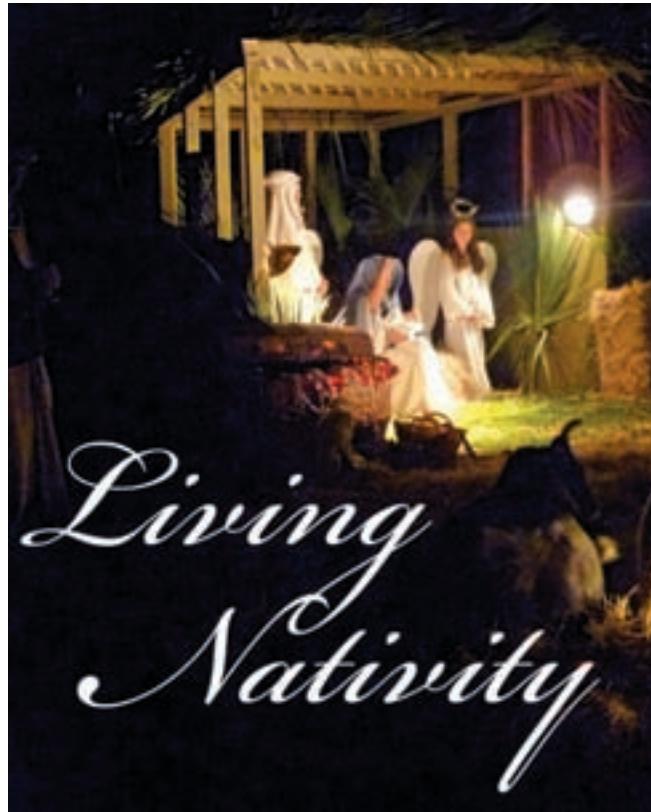
Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

www.lindacunningham.com



One Block East of Hendricks Avenue At Prudential Drive

Corkie and Clarence Gooden,
Dr. Gasper and Irene Lazzara,
Dr. Stan and Susie Longenecker,
2014 Red Rose Ball Chairs



Living Nativity

A neighborhood gift to greater community

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The hustle and bustle that comes with holiday cheer is hushed into a silent night as neighborhood residents in San Marco host a live nativity as their gift to the community. The beloved tradition coincides with the San Marco luminaries, which will be held this year on Dec. 14, 6- 9 p.m.

The live nativity, on the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Arbor Lane, is

one of the community's oldest continuous holiday events not held at a church. Other than a few years where it migrated to a neighbor's house, pediatrician Mary Soha has almost continuously hosted the live farm animals, shepherds, three wise men, angels and of course Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

She said the previous owners started the tradition and joked when she purchased the home 20 years ago, that according to the property deed she was required to transform her front yard into Bethlehem every year.

Residents help coordinate the bales of hay, farm animals, music and cast of volunteers who bring the portrayal of the birth of Jesus to life. Even the costumes that were handmade by a neighbor are dry-cleaned and carefully stored every year.

Alejandra Cole, who lives across the street from Dr. Soha, is co-chairing this year's nativity along with neighbor Jill Whipple.

Cole, who has two daughters, said there are about 30 families that are involved in coordinating the event.

"All the neighborhood kids participate. They look forward to it every year," Cole explained. "It is important for my girls to know that this is part of our family's tradition."

Dr. Soha, whose six boys are now grown, agrees.

"We've so enjoyed it," said Dr. Soha. "It's a great family tradition. What better way to show kids that you live what you truly believe?"

According to Dr. Soha, over the years there have been talks with churches about taking over the event, but come to the conclusion that it's the neighborhood's gift to the community.

"I think what is so beautiful about it is that it's neighbors who come

together who say, 'this is what we believe.' It's just a happy gift that we can give."

Cole estimates that the live nativity attracts 200-300 people and helps connect families with the spirit of Christmas.

"It's easy to get sucked into all the presents. It's such a hectic time - this is the real meaning of it all," said Cole. "It joins people in goodness."

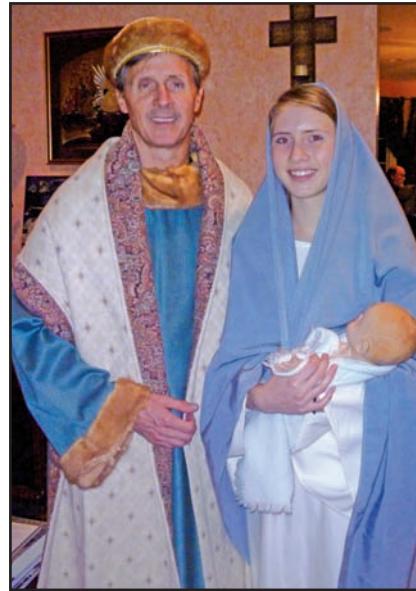
The event is also a way to help children visualize what the holiday is all about and get reverence

back into the season, according to Dr. Soha,

"The last few years we have been graced with baby sheep and baby lambs, and they have to look hard to see the baby Jesus in the manger. It introduces children to the concept of new life and especially when it's cold outside it creates a more tangible empathy for what happened that night."

More than anything, the live nativity is meant to bring reverence back to the hustle and bustle that has become synonymous with the holidays.

"It is a beautiful expression of the season," Dr. Soha said. "It is a beautiful reminder of what we are doing all of this rushing around for."



Richard Mullens portrays one of the wise men, while daughter Jordan plays Mary, mother of Jesus

Hope Jewelers

FINE JEWELRY, GIFTS AND ACCESSORIES



Make Her Day Special...

receive a gift certificate to The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club,
on purchases totaling \$1,000 or more*

SPECIALIZING IN
Fine Diamonds • Designer & Custom Jewelry
Pearls and Colored Gem Stones

3582 St. Johns Avenue • Shoppes of Avondale • Jacksonville, FL
904-387-6339

*Offer valid 12/1/13 through 12/24/13

VOTED #1 AGAIN... 20 YEARS IN A ROW!

Best Plastic Surgeon!



SPECIALIZING IN:

Breast Enlargements - Face Lifts - Eyelids
 Liposuction - Rhinoplasty - Tummy Tucks
 Botox® - Juvéderm™ - Laser Hair Removal
 Chemical Peels - Asian Double Eyelids
 Medical Spa

**HARVARD EDUCATED
BOARD CERTIFIED
PLASTIC SURGEONS**

Be a Wrinkle Free VIP!

BOTOX
\$300

Botox... Any Two Areas!
 (Both Crows Feet = One Area)
 1st Time Clients Receive
 99% Glycolic Facial Peel
 Now You're a Wrinkle Free VIP!
YOU GET ALL 3!

Check Your VIP Account
 for Coupons!

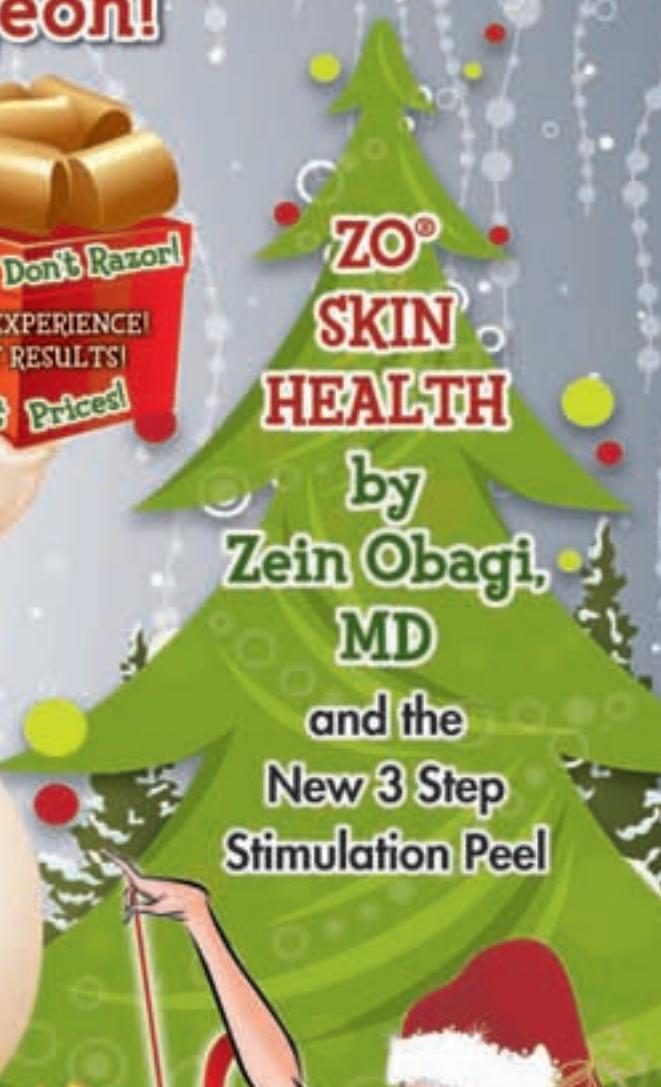


Lighten,
 Brighten
 & Tighten!

SKINMEDICA PEEL

\$250 \$400 Value Includes:

Vitalize Peel &
 SkinMedica System with Lytera



and the
 New 3 Step
 Stimulation Peel



Dr. Clayman's Miracle Spa

coolsculpting
 Non-Invasive! No Down Time!



Juvéderm
\$500
 All Injectables Done by Dr. Clayman

\$100 SPECIALS

Vitalize Facial Peel
 Micro-Dermabrasion
 Body Wrap with Facial
 Glycolic Facial Peel (2)
 Hot Stone Massage
 Endermologie (2)
 Cellulite Solution
 Hyperbaric Chamber (2)
 Liquid & Wow Smile

Clarisonic
 Mia **\$115**
 Pro **\$175**
 Both **\$250**

"BEST OF JAX" SPECIALS

Includes
 Brunch at
 Metro Diner,
 Lunch at Bistro-Aix,
 2 Premiere Movie Tickets,
 and... A Very Special Gift!

Fabulous Escape \$200

4 Hours of Luxury Aromatherapy Facial, Swedish Massage
 Classic Spa Manicure & Spa Pedicure

Couples Getaway \$195

Relaxing Swedish Message for Two

Relaxation Retreat \$129

1 Hour Message (or Facial) & Pedicure

Woman's Special..... \$129

Facial, Message & Manicure... OR Micro-Dermabrasion & Manicure

Bye Bye Eye Bags

Instant Results with
 2 Great Products

\$85

LATISSE

\$85 3ml
\$150 5ml
 RX Included

Dr. Clayman's
 Plastic Surgery Center
 and
 Miracle Spa

904.208.2727

2 Shircliff Way, Suites 200-220

DePaul Professional Bldg.

Jacksonville, FL 32204



Board Certified by
 American Board of Plastic Surgery



Call... or Visit Us Online
ClaymanPlasticSurgery.com
MyMiracleSpa.com



MM14170

A little gem under the tree will bring a smile

Customers looking for quality pendants, engagement rings and gemstones this Christmas won't be disappointed if they visit Harby Jewelers. An elevator ride to the 25th floor of Riverplace Tower will take them to dazzling displays of necklaces, rings and other jewelry sure to bring smiles this holiday season.

"We have the best selection of necklace pendants that we have had in the past couple of years," said Brad Harby, vice president.

Praising the pieces' remarkable attention to detail, he noted that antique-inspired pendants with a vintage feel, many with scroll and bead work, are still very popular. Another hot style is the diamond halo, which features a circle of diamonds around a center diamond. Harby Jewelers carries variations of that design.

"Men are comfortable buying a diamond solitaire necklace," Harby said. "It can be worn with jeans but at the same time you can wear them for more formal affairs." Historically, engagement rings are big sellers during the holidays. "Christmas is a popular time to get engaged and engagement rings are very important sales," he said. "We really try to get it right."

Going the extra mile often means going beyond the store's display cases.



"A lot of times our customers are very specific and knowledgeable in what they want," Harby said. "We are willing to go out on the market to find what they want, rather than limiting them to what we have in stock. We really listen to what is important to them. If we don't have it, we're not afraid to get a grouping of diamonds to give them a choice. We are experts at finding diamonds that our customers will find to be the best value."

The Harbys also specialize in diamond upgrades, which are popular at Christmas. This can include stud earrings, solitaires or pendants.

An excellent selection of jewelry with exceptional colored stones also brightens the holidays at Harby Jewelers.

"We have several designers who buy loose color then make designs for each individual piece," Harby said.

Right-hand rings, particularly sapphires, are especially popular during the holidays. Harby Jewelers boasts a large selection of sapphires, as well as rubies and emeralds. They also carry high quality jewelry with colored stones such as tourmaline, tanzanite and tsavorite. "Even though they are less expensive, we don't sacrifice on quality and we make sure they are exceptional," Harby said.

Because Brad and his father Hugh Harby, president, are graduate gemologists, customers can feel as confident about their product knowledge as they can about expecting superior customer service. "Being up on the 25th floor of a bank building, we live and die with our service," Harby said.

Especially during the holiday season, the Harbys enjoy serving loyal customers they have had through the decades as well as welcoming new ones. Busy with holiday shoppers the past few weeks, Harby said he is optimistic about good sales this Christmas.



Harby Jewelers is in Suite 2552 of Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd. Extended hours through Christmas are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. More information is available by calling (904) 346-0642 or at www.harbyjewelers.com.

December at Southside Baptist

We invite you and your family to join us
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Friday, Dec 13 | Saturday, Dec 14
7 pm nightly**

*Come experience the music of Christmas
no tickets necessary*

NO ROOM AT THE INN

Nativity Display

**Friday, Dec 6 - Friday, Dec 20
at Stellaris Art Gallery in San Marco
Mon-Sat, 10 am-8 pm | Sun, 2 pm-4 pm**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, Dec 24, 6 pm

Candlelight Communion Service

for God so loved the . . .



Holiday Gingerbread



Showcasing historic landmarks

Ellie Klavon shows off the "trimmings" for the Klavon family gingerbread house.



BY EMILY LISSKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread House Extravaganza, a holiday tradition, opens for a nearly three-week run on Dec. 4, showcasing dozens of confection creations made by area professional chefs and residents.

Joining the Extravaganza this year are students from St. Mark's Episcopal Day School who plan a gingerbread creation of one of the area's most historic, although long-lost, sites, and a group of first-time San Marco bakers and neighborhood friends.

The third grade students of Drew Haramis selected Ft. Caroline as their subject. The 450th anniversary of the Ft. Caroline Colony will be celebrated in 2014. The third graders are studying Jacksonville history which helps with the entry's planning and execution.

The Klavon family of Ortgea, including Brent, Pam, Max and Ellie, are first-time builders. Their gingerbread house recreates the Sanctuary on 8th Street.

San Marco residents Jennifer Pochurek, Molly Curry, Heidi Harris, Francine Shell, Heather Hodgett, Kat Davis and Kristen Allen are collaborating on a "Whoville" exhibit. "It's our first attempt with gingerbread, but we're having great fun," said Jennifer Pochurek. The group involves neighborhood friends near the duck pond. "We selected a theme that spoke

to the season while allowing for houses that appropriately appear a little less than upright," she said.

The Extravaganza, located at the National Register Site, Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard, across from the Veterans Memorial Arena, is often referred to as "the most creative art show in town."

"The event showcases varied themes including storybook, fantasy, historic and traditional holiday gingerbread houses," said Joann Ferguson Purdie, Riverside resident and Extravaganza Chair. "The Extravaganza also includes the definitive Riverside landmark that historically relates to the Christmas season. I hope that's a sufficient hint and will get our residents excited about attending the show."

The Gingerbread Extravaganza



Heidi Harris, Kristen Allen, Heather Hodgett, Kat Davis, Jennifer Pochurek, Molly Curry, Francine Shell

runs Dec. 4-21, except Sundays, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. A charity event, a donation of \$5 per adult and \$3 for children over three is suggested. Parking is free.

Special Gingerbread Extravaganza activities and fieldtrips are also available to schools, seniors and other groups. For more information, call (904) 665-0064 or email gingerbread@jaxhistory.com.

Unleashed

Thank you for 20 great years!

I will be retiring at the end of December so stop in for our **BIG SALE!**

4204 HERSCHEL STREET 384-9922

TAYLOR RESIDENCES
www.taylor-residences.org

Offering Independent Living, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing for seniors 62 & over.

Assisted living low monthly service package starting at **\$2000.**

Call today for more information or to schedule a tour.

Taylor Home
3937 Spring Park Road
904-737-6777

ALF Lic # 5926

We can help navigate the never ending programs, and save you money!

OPEN ENROLLMENT DATES:
Now through December 7, 2013

If you have MEDICARE and want to make a change - call me to review your options.

ARE YOU: Turning 65? Under 65 & on disability? Medicare & Medicaid eligible? Unhappy with your current plan?

Valentina Brant, Brant Consulting, Inc.
904-610-4884

"The M Group" 800-917-9580 x3035

Cruisers Grill
EST. 1996

KIDS EAT FREE ON SATURDAYS! 5pm to Close
(one free kids meal per adult meal purchased)

FRESH FOOD - FABULOUS PRICES
BURGERS • CHICKEN • NACHOS
QUESADILLAS • SALADS & MORE

5613 San Jose Blvd. • 904-737-2874
Corner of San Jose & University

Willie's custom silk
holiday dress featured
in candy cane stripe.



Willie's for kids

Jacksonville's Premier Dress Shop for Children

The Shoppes of Avondale
384-3664 • williesforkids.com
Open Monday - Saturday • 10-6

Sweet pete's

Sweet treats – on everyone's list

1922 Pearl Street • Historic Springfield
904-376-7161 • www.sweetpetes.com



come visit your neighborhood toy store for unique and special gifts. Some of our lines include: PLAYMOBIL, BRIO, LEGO, LE TOY VAN, PAPO, KICKBOARD U.S.A., MELISSA & DOUG, and many more.

M-F: 10a.m. - 6p.m. • Sat: 9a.m. - 6p.m. • Sun: 11a.m. - 4p.m.
In the Shoppes of Historic Avondale 3581 St. Johns Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205

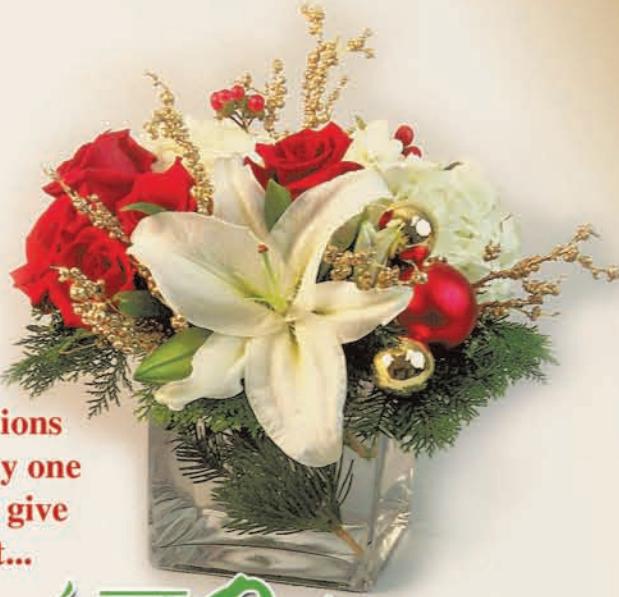
All SPICED Up

Be a Legendary
Chef at Home



Merry Christmas and plan to cook healthy in 2014! Grab the VitaChef Steamer and pair it with unique Rubs & Blends, Vinegar & Oils...and more! Find these treasures at All Spiced Up in San Marco Square...great gifts for those you love!

1972 San Marco Boulevard • 904.524.8377
www.AllSpicedUp.net • allspicedup@inbox.com



Holiday creations
of beauty – buy one
for yourself or give
one as a gift...

Gardner's of Ortega

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS • SPECIAL EVENTS • & MORE

4208 Oxford Ave. • Jacksonville • 904.387.7002
Visit our gallery online – www.gardnersfloristjacksonville.com

Reclaiming the
art of civilized
communication.



the WRITE TOUCH

Stationery • Invitations • Pens • Fine Leather • Gifts

1967 San Marco Blvd. • 904.398.2009 • thewritetouch.com



design

ADDITIONS

Nest Fragrances Classic
Candles & Room Diffuser
for the Holidays Original
Holiday and Birchwood
& Pine starting at \$15.00

3569 St. Johns Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205
904-387-9077 • www.designadditionsinc.com

Naughty or Nice

Tales of Christmas past and present

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Claus – that “right jolly old elf” – must have been looking the other way when Wallace and John Allen were growing up in Venetia. Now 92- and 88-year-old respectable gentlemen, fond Christmas memories include shooting the ornaments off the tree in the living room with a bb pistol. John laughingly says in a pointed understatement, “Mama was pretty upset.” He doesn’t remember the punishment saying, “Daddy was a trickster and had a good sense of humor; one time he put waxed paper on Mama’s piano strings and when she tried to play Christmas carols it sounded like a bar room honky tonk.” A line from Eugene Field’s “Jest ‘Fore Christmas” comes to mind: “But father, havin’ been a boy hisself, suspicions me when jest ‘fore Christmas, I’m as good as I kin be!”

That trickster gene dominated since John, Junior and sister Barbara Allen recall waking up on a frosty Christmas morning and finding “sleigh” tracks all over the yard which they found out years later were carefully placed by their dad.

Wallace recalls a lovely Christmas afternoon pastime, Mumblety-peg, where a group of boys stand in a circle and flip Barlow knives at a peg to see who has to get the knife out of the grass with his teeth! Wallace’s favorite Christmas gift when he was seven years old was “high lace up hunting boots with a pocket on the outside” in which, of course, was a knife. No wonder these guys were always anxiously awaiting Santa!

Brother John’s favorite gift at age nine or 10 from Mr. Claus was a shotgun. “Back then (1930s) you could buy a box of 410 shotgun shells for about 75 cents.” Of course, some of these shenanigans took place at their grandparents’ home in Quincy where the family spent holidays hunting and fishing. Wallace relates that there were always fireworks at Christmas time too. “Sparklers were too calm for us. I liked those 3-inch and 5-inch



Uncle Wallace and Big John Allen, circa 1929



You are invited to visit during this season and enjoy our themed, decorated Christmas trees and Christmas lighted villages.

Riverside Presbyterian Apartments

(904) 353-6111

TDD 1-800-545-1833 ext 424

Some residential restrictions apply.

1045 Oak Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204

The subsidy waiting list has been closed until further notice.

- 62 or Older or Disabled
- High Rise with beautiful river and town views
- Financial assistance available to qualified applicants



SENIOR COUNSEL

Attorneys at Law

Accurate, Timely Action for Your Transitional Years



Mike Jorgensen, LL.M.

Senior Counsel will assist you with making informed decisions and with evaluating the many alternatives available to you as you plan for your financial and healthcare future. With over 25 years of experience, we are dedicated to assisting you regarding your estate, whether the estate is for tax purposes, Medicaid, probate, bankruptcy, etc. Asset preservation in any estate will concern matters related to your finances, as well as your personal wishes. We will commit to assist you with your planning needs and to make you aware of different possibilities and alternatives.

2318 Park St., Jacksonville, Florida 32204 • 904-619-8890

MJorgensen@SeniorCounselLaw.com • www.SeniorCounselLaw.com

Yes...
River Garden does Rehab

Our Short-Stay Programs Include

Post-surgical conditions
Orthopedic joint replacement
Orthotic and prosthetic training
Stroke and neurological conditions
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
MS and Guillain-Barré Syndrome
Back pain / spinal procedures
Swallowing disorders

Special Programs Include

Parkinson's Specialty Care
Dysphagia management
The Wheelchair Clinic
Osteoporosis management



Get Back
to what you enjoy most...
Your Life

Complimentary Transportation
to and from your referring physician follow-up appointments

RIVERGARDEN |Rehab
PERSONALIZED CARE WITH EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS
11401 Old St. Augustine Road • Jacksonville, FL 32258
904-260-1818 • www.rivergarden.org/rehab

cannon crackers. We couldn't wait to get a can and light up a cannon under it. Those things would go up high as a pine tree."

How has Christmas changed in the past 80 years? John says "Speed and technology have taken over. Kids are entertained by TV, texting, video games – we sat in the living room with our parents listening to the radio or we were outside from the time we got home from school until dark." Wallace sums up Christmas in one word, "Commercialized! Starting in October!"

Plenty of good food and family time with their grown children are now part of the Allen's festivities. Wallace is fond of wife Cookie's scalloped oysters and says laughingly that he loved everything that was prepared by their cook when he was growing up, "I ate it all and turned out to be quite plump."

John, Junior and wife Donna Allen (the Aunt Bea of Ortega) host Barbara Allen and the senior Allens for a Christmas dinner which includes prime rib, corn casserole, carrot soufflé, mashed potatoes, red velvet cake and Betty Allen's traditional colorful Christmas salad.

- Suzanne Scollard Tomlinson of Avondale and former headmistress of Riverside Presbyterian Day School jokes that, unlike the Allen boys, as a little girl and an only child there were no shotguns under her tree. "My absolute favorite time was Christmas Eve when I got to sleep upstairs in a guest room with a big window which overlooked the sloping roof. My uncle

and father would throw gravel on the roof and it would roll down sounding like reindeer hooves. My father said not to look out the window because I'd scare Santa away. It was such fun!"

ambrosia."

One tradition she continues is putting up a village vignette on the mantel of tiny hand painted lead figurines of skaters, musicians, a horse and buggy

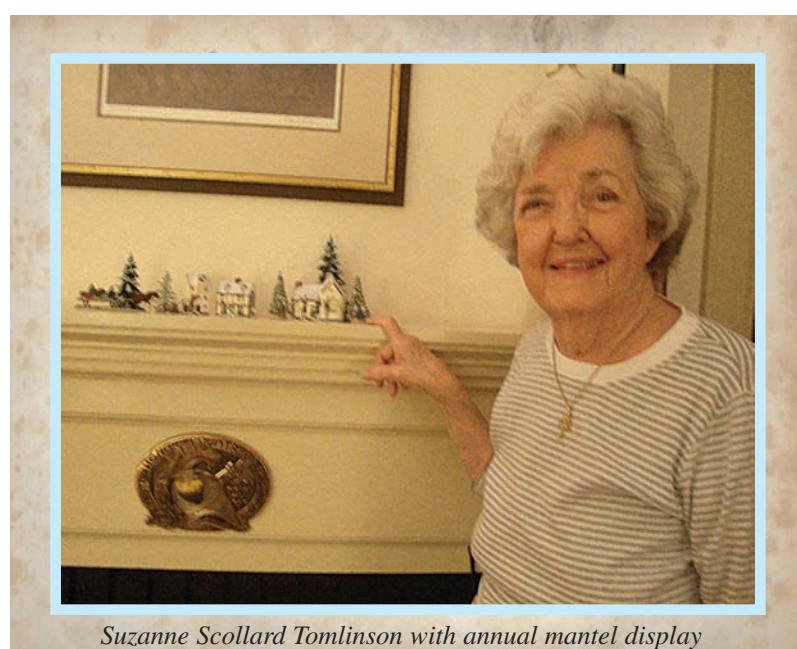
Suzanne memorized in the 5th grade and still recites in her expressive manner.

- S.M. Morgan of Riverside remembers fondly a little glass car with candy in it which he hid under the steps of the Governor Drew house in Ellaville where his family lived. He says he went back years later looking for it but it was gone. His mother reading the Christmas story from the Bible is a cherished tradition which has carried over to his children and grand children.

- Dawne Sutton of Murray Hill says that she and her husband are one of the few who still put up lights in their neighborhood. "The young people who have moved in don't seem to have time to decorate but people come by our house with their dogs and kids to see all these big old lights we put up – it's kind of a Charlie Brown yard."

- Maurine Vandergriff of San Marco remembers making sugar (pronounced sugah) cookies for Santa, which of course she found out later were nibbled on by her dad. Now she celebrates Christmas at her son and daughter in law's house. She quips, "With two kids, four grands and a partridge in a pear tree."

Whatever your traditions, no matter whether you've been naughty or nice, take some advice and remember – "Thinkin' of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree, jest 'fore Christmas be as good as yer kin be!"



Suzanne Scollard Tomlinson with annual mantel display

"Christmas morning Mother would get me up, I'd put on my robe and slippers, fix my hair and sit on the top step until Daddy said I could come down. There were always wonderful things from Santa and a fire in the fireplace no matter what the weather. I had such a happy childhood."

Special memories include reading "The Night Before Christmas", going to St. John's Cathedral for the midnight service, and her mother's divinity fudge. "We always had my favorite food – roast leg of lamb and gravy, mint jelly, canned la Seur peas and grandmother's shortbread with

and tiny trees which Suzanne's godmother brought back from Germany. Years later in York, England, Suzanne found ceramic houses to add to the display which fit the diminutive scale. Favorite childhood gifts include a Schaeffer pen and pencil set in an ivory colored box, a real typewriter with the keys in primary colors and a black velvet coat with a white fur collar and buttons given to her by her grandmother. "Of course that first bicycle is always a favorite for any child." Another tradition was having her daughters and grandchildren memorize the poem "Jest 'fore Christmas" which

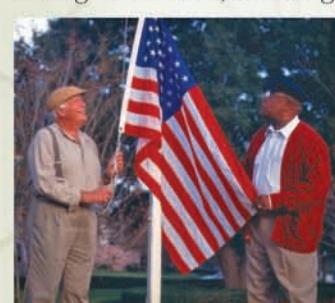
Arbor Terrace Ortega

Arbor Terrace Ortega is open and prime apartments are going fast. This is engaged living at its best, offering state-of-the-art quality living for seniors coping with

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

- Dementia-friendly, one level design, including three distinct neighborhoods.
- Neighborhood dining rooms and living spaces, sun room, patio and courtyard offer a variety of environments.
- Rehabilitation services on site.
- Gem level programming at its best. Let us tell you more.

The luxury of amenities, the confidence of care. When it comes to your loved one, we know nothing but the best will do.



Now Open

We listen. We respond. We care.
It's what sets us apart from the rest.

Arbor Terrace®
O R T E G A

The New Signature of Memory Care
An Arbor Company Community

5760 Timuquana Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32210
Telephone: 904/701-7227

Visit us at www.at-ortega.com

Veterans aide and attendance program is available.

Happy Holidays
from our family to yours...

The Way we Were

Let It Snow



BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Since I've lived in Jacksonville for only 19 years, I am too "young" a resident to have seen one of this area's rare snowfalls. Apparently, there were a couple of light snowfalls reported in 2010, one in January and one in December. They must not have been very memorable because I don't remember them. And there was an undocumented period of roughly 2 1/2 minutes last winter on a particularly cold day when...I swear!...a few flakes came out of the sky.

Our usual definition of a white Christmas, however, has more to do with white sand than with anything cold and wet. But I bet the majority of

the people reading this column recall the time not long ago when Jacksonville had its own really and truly White Christmas. I've heard the story many times, but more details about that later.

First, since this is a column that celebrates our city's history, I'd like to wind the clock back a few hundred years to some notably white moments. Maybe penning these snow stories will encourage some substantial snowflakes to find their way to our area – sort of like, "if you write it, they will come." I bet a lot of Jacksonville children would be awfully glad if it works!

The first recorded snowstorm on record was in 1774, when the Florida territory experienced what residents called an "extraordinary white rain." At that time, there were just a few thousand people living in East Florida and West Florida, which were then colonies of Great Britain.

In January of 1800, a land surveyor recorded in notes from his observatory near the mouth of the St. Mary's River "snow and hail the whole day." On January 11th, there was an accumulation of five inches, the highest recorded snowfall for the area.

In 1879, there was an ice storm in Jacksonville when it sleeted for about an hour and a half. The main damage was to the local orange crop, when



scores of branches broke off trees under the weight of the ice.

Then in February 1899, the Great Blizzard of 1899 dumped snow on the state of Florida for about eight hours. The storm was a result of the Great Arctic Outbreak, a cold wave that pushed Canadian arctic air down all the way to Florida. The Great Blizzard caused accumulations of several inches and a temperature of -2 degrees in Tallahassee, which remains to this day the state's only recorded sub-zero temperature. Jacksonville got a couple inches of snow, which stayed on the ground for several days.

In February of 1958, an inch and a half of snow was reported in Jacksonville when rain changed to snow. And then, about 25 years ago, the same thing happened again.

Cold and rainy weather on December 23, 1989, suddenly turned into near-blizzard (for Florida, anyway) conditions – a "freak" snowstorm, it was called. All the bridges in town,

save the Acosta, were closed. It was two days before Christmas, and traffic became a nightmare as everyone tried to creep around slippery roads and finish everything they needed to do for the holidays.

Friends of mine who lived here at the time remember kids everywhere turning out into driveways and streets, wearing makeshift snow boots and sledding on anything they could get find – boxes, cookie sheets, plastic lids. Holiday snowmen and yard ornaments looked even more festive with a dusting of the real thing. Ice drips hung from palm trees. The quiet of the traffic-less streets and soft snow falling was accented by the sounds of snowball fights and the crunching of people tromping around streets and yards.

The snow actually stuck around through December 25th, resulting in the most recent White Christmas in history. And then, just as quickly as it had come, it melted and was gone.

Affordable Home Care Services



Granny Nannies is a quality in-home healthcare nursing agency that serves all areas in and around Jacksonville, FL. Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) and Home Health Aides (HHA) specialize in providing the following services.

- Senior Care
- Elderly Assistance
- Surgery Recovery Care
- Respite Care Relief
- Care for New Parents
- Special Needs Care
- Disabled Child Care
- Alzheimer's Care



Granny Nannies - Jacksonville
9471 Baymeadows Rd., Suite 403, Jacksonville, FL 32256
Phone: 904-731-2100 • NR#30211078
E-mail: Jacksonville@grannynannies.com

Aw Shucks

9743 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257
904.240.0368 • F:904.329.1514
www.AwShucksJax.com

Gift Cards Make Great Stocking Stuffers!

FULL ARCADE • "Come for the Food, Stay for the Fun!"

Monday: Kids Eat FREE 4pm-CL, Star the Clown from 5pm-8pm with Face Painting and Balloons. Prime Rib is back 4-close \$13.99

Tuesday: Taco Tuesday - 2 Tacos for \$8 (Mahi-Mahi or Chicken)
\$2 Pints, \$2 Tequila, and \$3 Margaritas

Wednesday: Open Mic 7pm-11pm - Hosted by Diamond Dave

Thursday: Bar BINGO 8pm-10pm - \$100 Prize

Friday: Live Music on the Patio 7pm-11pm

Saturday: Brunch & Bottomless Bloody Marys & Mimosas

Sunday: Brunch & Bottomless Bloody Marys & Mimosas for \$10, 10am-2pm

\$6.99 Lunch Special M-F, 11:30AM - 4pm
Bring in your Church Flyer & get 20% off Brunch
Inquire about our Carolina Oyster Roast

ROBERTS' SOUTH BANK PHARMACY

Thank you to all of our customers for a great 2013!

Happy Holidays
to you and yours.

DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS!
WWW.SOUTHBANKRX.COM • 904.398.9660
1625 ATLANTIC BLVD. • CORNER OF ATLANTIC & ARCADIA

Whether you've been
NAUGHTY
or whether you're
NICE

You can drive a new **VOLVO** at a great price...

Sign & Drive this holiday with O'Steen Volvo.

Lease a New 2014 Volvo with absolutely nothing due at signing.

NEW 2014 VOLVO S60



\$379
Only PER MONTH!
SIGN & DRIVE

36 MONTH LEASE, 10,000 MILES PER YEAR
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING

No Security Deposit required. Price does not include tax, tag, title & \$549.50 dealer fee. Offer expires 12/31/13.
See dealer for details.

NEW 2014 VOLVO XC60

\$499
Only PER MONTH!
SIGN & DRIVE

36 MONTH LEASE, 10,000 MILES PER YEAR
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING

No Security Deposit required. Price does not include tax, tag, title & \$549.50 dealer fee. Offer expires 12/31/13.
See dealer for details.



**\$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT | DUE AT SIGNING
PAYMENT UNTIL FEBRUARY 2014**

Bring in your quality trade-in and we'll offer you top dollar – even if you don't buy ours!

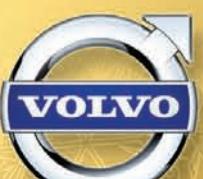
See why so many of your neighbors are turning to O'Steen Volvo.

OSteenVolvo.com

904-396-5486

2525 PHILIPS HWY – SAN MARCO

O'STEEN



Making friends around the world

BY MADISON STEPHENSON (SACRED HEART 6TH) &
KRISTIN TAYLOR (RPDS 6TH)

This summer when we were 11 years old, we went to a CISV Village in Trento, Italy. We spent four weeks in a camp with kids from 11 different countries along with two 16-year-olds from two other countries who were Junior Counselors. We went with our fun adult leader and another girl from Gainesville. We made life-long friends and had an unforgettable experience.

During Village we did many things, such as energizers and exciting activities. Energizers were done before every activity to pump us up whether we were running or making friends and getting to know our fellow CISVers. Most energizers were about silly things, such as a moose drinking juice, how man-goes make your bodies go relax, and getting down to the beat.

We did activities that taught us about world peace, trusting and working together, and understanding each other's cultures. These included 10 Steps to Peace, The Train of Trust, Peace War Peace, and Human Caterpillar. ,

In the first two weeks, we did stuff like *Capture the Flag, The Survival Game, and Dream City*. After the first two weeks, it started to get more intense. We did activities that taught us about world peace, trusting and working together, and understanding each other's cultures. These included *10 Steps to Peace, The Train of Trust, Peace War Peace, and Human Caterpillar*.

In the seemingly short time we were there we grew really close to almost everyone. We didn't have contact to anybody outside the camp except in



Madison Stephenson, Elianna Arola, Sam Padgett and Kristin Taylor

letters, which allowed us to grow even closer to one another. It made one day with a new friend seem like two weeks with them. At the end of camp, you felt like you'd known them your entire life, but yet you hadn't spent enough time with them.

In this Village, we learned many valuable lessons, such as that everyone isn't so different after all even if they speak a different language and live in a different way in a different culture. The best part was these lessons were learned from entertaining games such as Peace War Peace, which taught that two wrongs don't make a right. So many things can be taken away from CISV that is hard to name them all like friends for life, life lessons, and many other things.

In conclusion CISV is a wonderful nonprofit organization of volunteers who believe world peace can happen and want to pass it on to generations to come. It has many different programs for kids who are willing to do it and they certainly will enjoy it. It gives you a wonderful, almost magical, experience that we both will certainly never forget for the rest of our lives.

Parents and youth, ages 11 to 18, who would like to make friends with kids from around the world and have a memorable summer should apply for these programs by Jan. 11, 2014. This summer CISV Jacksonville will send 11-year-olds to Villages in Dallas, Denmark and Egypt as well as here in Jacksonville and will be sending 12- and 13-year-olds to Switzerland and Italy, 14-year-olds to Sweden and Pennsylvania, and 16- to 18-year-olds to Norway, Michigan and Illinois. CISV Jacksonville also has opportunities for adults to lead these programs. Visit www.cisvjax.org for more information and attend one of the upcoming information sessions.

Smiles WITH Holiday Cheer

Providing the best in gentle dental care for...

- infants
- children
- teens
- patients with special needs

Dr. Jila J. Mahajan
Specialist in Pediatric Dentistry

Call today for your personalized appointment. (904) 423-1377

Conveniently Located in the Roosevelt Square Shopping Center

4495 Roosevelt Blvd. Suite 111

Most insurances and creditcare accepted

kids1dentistry.com

Treat your **ADD/ADHD**
WITHOUT MEDICATION
using **Neurofeedback**

QEEG/Brain Mapping
QEEG/Brain Mapping provides a definitive and objective method of diagnosing and treating ADD/HD. It can also identify and treat a variety of other conditions, such as Asperger's syndrome, autism, anxiety, PTSD, OCD, and depression. **Neurofeedback is a non-drug approach to treating all of these conditions.**

Imagine your child's life with increased self-control, more focus, more concentration, and better grades.

How much happier would your life be if you were less anxious, less stressed, and had more control over your emotions?

Call us today for your first appointment and find out how neurofeedback changes lives for the better.

BIOFEEDBACK ASSOCIATES OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA INC.
904.646.0054 • Biofeedbackassociates.com • Most Insurances Accepted
And many more benefits!

Cub Scouts lift spirits of elderly with traditional holiday carols

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Christmas caroling dates back to the fourth century in Rome – before mega-malls, Black Fridays or Cyber Mondays – and a group of local Cub Scouts are continuing the tradition by using their robust voices to spread holiday cheer into the new millennium.

Cub Scouts in Pack 106 gather every December at Taylor Residences located in St. Nicholas dressed in their navy Class A uniforms and donning furry red hats like skinnier, younger versions of the real St. Nick. But, there is no imitating the authenticity of the joyous holiday spirit as they sing to a packed room of seniors who delight in the merriment of the young, enthusiastic voices.

Marcia Merritt, who coordinates the visit for the pack every year, has been told that they are the only all-boy group that visits the nursing home.

"It means so much to the residents to not be forgotten in all the hype and technology of this current generation," Merritt explained. "Things as simple as a song sung from the heart and a shared smile or hug go so far with both the young and the old."

Jacob Soulby, a nine-year-old St. Nicholas resident, said it means a lot to him because residents don't get to see their families all the time. "It shows we care about them especially near Christmas time."

His younger brother, seven-year-old Lucas, thinks the carols bring the most joy. "I like singing Christmas songs and it makes me happy to see them happy."

Cub Scouts bring the residents candy as a small gift that results in big smiles from seniors.

"No one there seems to be watching their weight, and so they love to get them," said Merritt. "It is nice for Scout parents to see firsthand that their boys have respect and compassion. This is one of those special things that I hope they will carry in their memory forever."



Scouts Alex Patangan, Nicholas Solomon, and Clayton Moulder

When holiday boredom sets in, consider outdoor recreation

When the kids need to get rid of excess holiday energy or beat post-holiday boredom, take a hike or take in a concert, sponsored by The Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN).

Programs on the calendar in December include a "full moon" hike at the Crowley Natural and Cultural History Center, an introduction to archery, the third annual Winterfair concert in Clermont, FL, and a one-day aqua camp in Tampa.



experiences closest to children in their daily lives. Visit www.fyccn.org for details.

A statewide network of conservation centers, the FYCCN is designed to encourage and empower kids to participate in traditional outdoor recreation. Experts teach them how to safely enjoy the outdoor heritage we have worked so hard to maintain. The FYCCN includes Wild Outdoor Hubs offering deep-woods experiences that connect to Near Outdoor Centers offering

outdoor heritage we have worked so hard to maintain. The FYCCN includes Wild Outdoor Hubs offering deep-woods experiences that connect to Near Outdoor Centers offering

A life of purpose starts with perspective.

Moral sensibility, work ethic, curiosity and self-discovery lead students at Episcopal to become not only successful, but solid — thinking for themselves with a larger view in mind. This is what Episcopal's broad and balanced experience is all about.



EPISCOPAL
SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

Experience the Difference®

Grades 6 -12

www.esj.org

Maria's Dolls

The Perfect Christmas gift for the imagination!

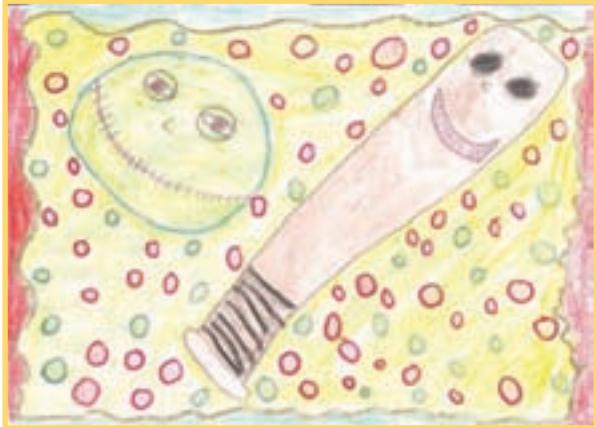


- Antique and Collectible Dolls including Madame Alexander & American Girl
- Doll clothing and accessories
- Doll Houses and Furniture

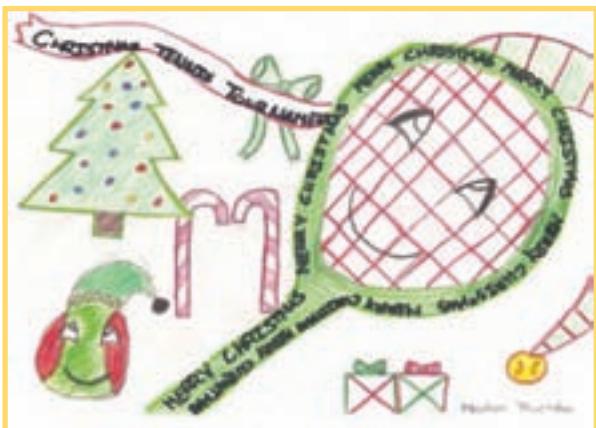
4252 St. Johns Ave.
904-388-3992



St. Matthews Catholic School



Madison Lambert, 5th, baseball



Meghan Thornton, 5th, tennis



Riverside
Presbyterian
Day School

- From left to right:
- Mia, 5th, yellow tabby w/Santa cap
 - Andrew, 5th, brown/black cat w/ornament
 - JP, 4th, colorful dog w/cap
 - Ian, 4th, brown dog w/Santa cap

Boys & Girls – Walking-Age 17

GYMINATORS

GYMNASTICS
CHEER • TUMBLE • DANCE

Upcoming Winter Camps

- FRI & SAT, DEC 20TH & 21ST
- MON, DEC 23RD • THURS & FRI, DEC 26TH & 27TH
- MON, DEC 30TH • THURS & FRI, JAN 2ND & 3RD

**REGISTRATION
50% OFF**

FIRST TIME STUDENTS
Expires 12/31/13 • Gyminators

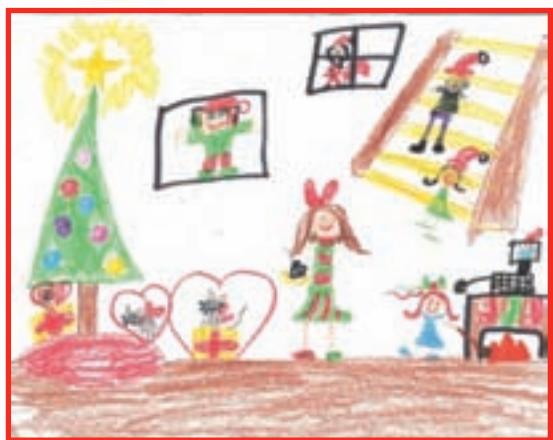
Scan Us!

Visit us online at ...
www.gyminators.com

4603 SHIRLEY AVE.
(CORNER OF BLANDING & SHIRLEY) 638-3712

Parents and grandparents of elementary age students may remember the song "My Favorite Things" from the 1960s movie Sound of Music. The Resident challenged area school students to enter a drawing contest depicting their favorite thing with a holiday twist. Entries were submitted from children at four schools, from grades 3 through 6. Some of the students favorite things included pets – dogs, cats, horses and turtles, other favs were activities – baseball/softball, tennis, soccer, basketball, art, music and video games. Thank you to the students at St. Matthew's Catholic School, St. Paul's Catholic School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School and San Jose Catholic School for sharing their talent – they are all winners in The Resident's book!

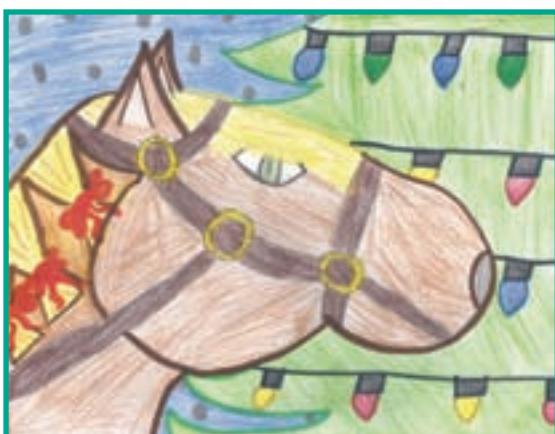
Bright copper kettles... and warm woolen mittens...



St Pauls Catholic School

From left to right:

- Charleigh Kahler, 3rd, Family
- Eve Holtzaur, 5th, Art/Painting
- Maddie Wood, 6th, Music
- Meagan Danese, 6th, Softball, Mountains
- Mia Narducci, 4th, Soccer
- Murphy Lally, 3rd, Minecraft



San Jose Catholic School

From left to right:

- Adam Dzergowski, 6th, Lego Santa
- Grace McCormick, 6th, Horse, tree
- Angela Naddaf, 6th, girl, tree, iPhone



Come experience the start of something **wonderful.**

Spend the day at Bolles, and discover a wonderful place for your child. Bolles provides the education, experiences and connections for your child to achieve amazing accomplishments in life. Join us for an **Open House**, and see for yourself the smaller class sizes with exceptional teachers, the state of the art classrooms and an advanced curriculum, and the positive learning environment with grade-specific campuses. Bolles is a world leading to great opportunities.

Join us for an **Open House**, and start something wonderful for your child... only at Bolles.

**9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Monday, January 13
Lower School Whitehurst Campus
San Jose
Pre-K—Grade 5**

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

Four Unique Campuses
Ponte Vedra Beach | Whitehurst | Bartram | San Jose
Day and Boarding School from Pre-K through Grade 12.

Resident

Ditch the electronic devices, pick up a good book

Students can maintain edge by reading during holidays

BY LORRIE DEFRAK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Fun advice for kids on holiday break: To avoid boredom and regression, unplug those electronic devices – except Nooks and Kindles – and read books.

Librarians at Willowbranch, San Marco and Murray Hill public libraries concur that students risk going backward in school if they don't read during breaks.

"Reading books maintains their levels of readiness and preparedness," said Kathleen Brunner, Willowbranch branch manager.

"It is of the utmost importance to encourage children and teens to continue reading during the holidays so

that they keep their momentum going and don't struggle when they get back to school in January," agreed Chiquita Powell, Murray Hill assistant branch manager/children's librarian.

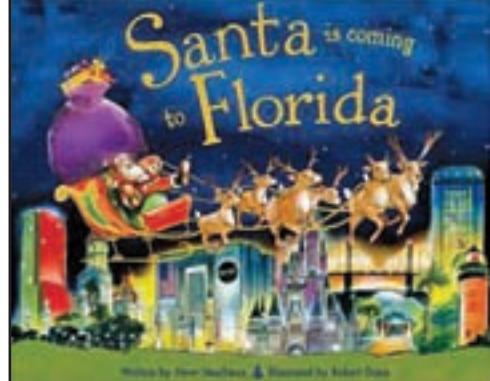
"With reading, they can travel to other places and experience different things without actually doing it," said Kristi Dorney, teen librarian at San Marco, noting reading's fun factors. "So much is available if they read rather than play video games."

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) is sponsoring a Winter Break Reading Program with incentives for participation. Details are available at all library branches and at www.jaxpubliclibrary.org.

Librarians at the three historic district libraries collaborated on the following lists of suggested holiday reading. All books are available at JPL.

Children's Picture Books

- *Daddy Christmas and Hanukkah Mama* by Selina Alko. A girl describes how she celebrates two holidays at the same time.
- *Jeremy's Dreidel* by Ellie Gellman. Jeremy creates a special dreidel for his father.
- *Hanukkah Bear* by Eric Kimmel. A bear follows his nose and ends up celebrating Hanukkah.
- *Gifts of the Heart* by Patricia Polacco. Two children learn that handmade gifts are often the best kind.
- *Santa is Coming to Florida* by Steve Smallman. Join Santa as he travels across Florida at Christmas.
- *Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa* by Donna Washington. Li'l Rabbit tries to find a way to help his Granna celebrate Kwanzaa.
- *How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah* by Jane Yolen. Dinosaurs get into mischief celebrating Chanukah.
- *How Do Dinosaurs Say Merry Christmas* by Jane Yolen. Dinosaurs get ready for Christmas with unexpected results.
- *Snowmen at Christmas* by Caralyn Buehner. Snow families celebrate Christmas.
- *Happy Christmas, Honey!* by Laura Godwin. Lovable pets bring Christmas adventures.
- *Latkes, Latkes, Good to Eat: a Chanukah Story* by Naomi Howland. A story of mischievous boys and a magic frying pan.
- *My First Kwanzaa* by Karen Katz. A simple way to celebrate Kwanzaa.
- *Runaway Dreidel!* by Leslea Newman. An adventure through modern times and history.



- *Big Bob and the Winter Holiday Potato* by Daniel Pinkwater. A young girl creeped out by Santa Claus invents her own holiday gift-giver, Potato Claus.
- *How Santa Really Works* by Alan Snow. The real scoop on how Santa does what he does so well.
- *Santa's Kwanzaa* by Garen Eileen Thomas. After Christmas, Santa and his family delight in the Kwanzaa tradition.

Children's Fiction Books

- *Deck the Halls, We're Off the Walls!* by Dan Gutman. What could go wrong when a famous kid rapper and Santa visit the mall at the same time?
- *Dragon at the North Pole* by Kate Klimo. Jesse and David go to the North Pole to retrieve their dragon.
- *Elijah's Angel: A Story for Chanukah and Christmas* by Michael Rosen. A story that tenderly bridges the boundaries of age, race and religion.

Teen Books

- *Last Christmas: The Private Prequel* by Kate Brian. Arianna is stranded at her boarding school and someone is watching her.
- *Ghosts for Christmas* by Richard Dalby. Christmas ghost stories
- *The Greek Who Stole Christmas* by Anthony Horowitz. Two brothers try to prevent a murder.
- *Christmas with Tucker* by Greg Kincaid. Prequel to bestseller *A Dog Named Christmas*.
- *The Dead of Winter* by Chris Priestley. A Christmas horror story.
- *Holiday Princess* by Meg Cabot. Princess Mia presents a guide to the winter holidays.
- *Liberty's Christmas* by Randall Platt. A story of a 16-year-old girl living on a Christmas tree farm in Depression-era Texas.
- *Carvel, the Christmas Cat* by John Littell. Having dreamed that Santa would bring her a kitten for Christmas, a girl discovers an abandoned kitten in a milkshake container.
- *The Twelve Days of Christmas* by Catherine Hapka. A girl bored with her boyfriend sets him up with another girl, then wants him back.



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Parent Preview Days

Two mornings for parents to observe Pre-K II to 6th Grade classrooms and learn about enrollment for 2014-2015.

Wednesday | Thursday
January 8 | January 9

Call or visit our website for details.



age 1 to grade 6
904.388.2632
stmarksdayschool.org

A Peek at Pre-Kindergarten I
(For children 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2014)
Wednesday, January 15
8:30 AM – Chapel with your child
9 AM – Presentation followed by classroom visits and tours

Early Learning Program Open House
(For children 1 or 2 years old by Sept. 1, 2014)
Tuesday, February 4
8 AM – Presentation followed by classroom visits and tours

Call or visit our website to learn more. Childcare provided at these events with a reservation.



Grade CHANGER

ACE THE NEXT REPORT CARD WITH SYLVAN

Our personal learning approach will really connect with your child, combining engaging technology with amazing teachers, raising grades and confidence.

Act now to take control of this school year.

SAVE \$75 OFF a Skills Assessment & up to 20% off a Sylvan Program.

DON'T WAIT: Call today to schedule a Sylvan Skills Assessment!

Offer Expires 12/26/13. May not be combined with other offers, promotions or coupons. Some restrictions apply. [restrictions](#)

Sylvan of Avondale
800-838-7131
SylvanLearning.com

READING, MATH, WRITING, STUDY SKILLS, ACT/SAT PREP, ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY

Teaching kids to give back, pay it forward

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It could be as simple as washing a neighbor's car, helping a teacher lug supplies from her car into school or buying a buddy a Gatorade after football practice. It's the Golden Rule, and kids all over the First Coast put it into practice every day by meeting the needs of others before their own.

Often, kids learn to serve others from their families. Growing up in homes where service and philanthropy are part of life, it's a natural for kids to become givers.

Other times, students may give of their time to meet school community service hour requirements. Once they start, though, they learn the fulfillment of donating time and talent.

Still others learn the concept of service from their churches or synagogues. Whether it's teaching inner-city kids to read, playing an instrument in a nursing home, or traveling overseas on missions trips, many kids learn the concept of service through their spiritual training.

Cultivating philanthropy •

Like a crop of corn, philanthropy needs to be cultivated. In many families, the concept of giving back is intentionally taught. Whether it's showing children to donate their gently used toys and clothes to others or letting them watch while checks to churches or charities are written, philanthropy can be a regular part of raising caring

kids.

Carol Pitman, a resident of Empire Point, and her husband, Don, trained their five children to give back to their

Like a crop of corn, philanthropy needs to be cultivated. In many families, the concept of giving back is intentionally taught. Whether it's showing children to donate their gently used toys and clothes to others or letting them watch while checks to churches or charities are written, philanthropy can be a regular part of raising caring kids.

community. Now, with 15 grandchildren, the couple sees strong return on investment. "It makes me feel so good to see our children and grandchildren take strong roles in their churches and different organizations to help others," Carol said.

• Helping others •

Helping others is part of family life for Ortega Forest resident, Virginia Smith, too. The 2013 Episcopal High School graduate joined Young Life, a non-profit organization, after seeing her older brother and her parents volunteer with the group.

Smith served as a childcare worker at a YoungLives camp out of state over the summer. Part of Young Life, YoungLives helps meet the needs of

underprivileged teenage mothers.

"During the camp, I not only got to spend time with the babies, but I also was able to spend some time with the YoungLives leaders, as well as the teen moms who were attending the camp," Smith shared.

Through caring for the babies, Smith enabled the young mothers to enjoy some downtime. "I loved building trust with the moms and then being able to hold and care for their children in order to give them some time to relax and have some fun," Smith said, "but I also loved seeing the teens being loved by their leaders."

"I loved being one of their leaders and seeing the joy that they had because of all the new opportunities and fun they were given through the whole YoungLives program," she added.

• 'No one ever became poor by giving.' •

Whether it is demonstrating knit and purl stitches at a community center or teaching soccer drills at a sports camp, opportunities for young people to serve others are widespread. Religious, educational and community organizations need the time and talents young people offer.

Many families across the First Coast model giving back to their communities. When kids learn the joy of giving at home, they contribute not only to the quality of their community, but to their own well-being, too.

As 15-year-old Anne Frank said, "No one ever became poor by giving."

Know a Kid Who Wants to Give Back?

Jayne G. Evans, Communications Coordinator with the Non-profit Center of Northeast Florida, offered the following resources for anyone interested in researching service opportunities with local nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit resources

<http://www.nonprofitctr.org/categories/moving-forward-together/the-link/>

Called "The Link," the site offers a comprehensive list of nonprofit organizations in Jacksonville. <http://wegive.org/>

Listing nonprofits vetted by the Internal Revenue Service, this site gives specialized information about organizations in the area. For example, if your son wants to work with animals while your daughter wants to volunteer to help the environment, he or she can find information on this site.

<http://www.nonprofitctr.org/>

For anyone wanting to investigate area organizations, this is another good site to search, according to Evans. The site spotlights various local nonprofit organizations.

<http://www.handsonjacksonville.org/>

This site lists numerous local volunteer opportunities, according to Evans. With tabs labeled "Find an Opportunity" and "Browse Organizations," parents and children alike can research multiple philanthropic opportunities.

Community Service Opportunities

For students looking to complete community service hours, choices abound. A few organizations needing help are the Food Bank of Jacksonville, the public library system, the Jacksonville Humane Society and the American Red Cross.

More information on earning community service hours is located on the Duval County Public Schools web site.

Celebrate Beloved Traditions — and Make New Ones! Christmas at Gaylord Palms® Resort



It's the most wonderful time of the year in sunny Florida!

Now – January 5, 2014

Make it a Christmas to remember at Gaylord Palms, where two million twinkling lights, lavish decor and an amazing 54-foot majestic Christmas tree create a holiday atmosphere like no other. Delight in fine dining, eclectic shopping and festive entertainment, including ICE! — more than two million pounds of colorful, hand-carved ice slides and sculptures featuring Frosty the Snowman. It's a holiday celebration you'll never forget.

Book your holiday getaway today!
ChristmasAtGaylordPalms.com

or call (407) 586-2000



Shrek, Madagascar, Kung Fu Panda and all related characters and properties © 2013 DreamWorks Animation LLC. Frosty the Snowman TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. & Classic Media, LLC. Based on the musical composition FROSTY THE SNOWMAN © Warner/Chappell. Pepsi and Pepsi Globe are registered trademarks of PepsiCo, Inc.



GO GIVER

Getting to know Ken Baker & Robert Meek, Rotarians

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary Clubs are known for fostering high personal and business ethics with commitment to global/regional humanitarian service and strong focus on local community service.

Q. Are these missions what led you, Ken, to join the Westside Rotary in 1982?

A. I have had lifelong examples of community service from my father, Henry Baker, now 95 and a Rotarian

since the 1950s, and also from my father-in-law, the late Hugh Crosson of Avondale. Hugh served the community through Kiwanis for at least 50 years. It's very special to be able to volunteer alongside my dad, continuing a wonderful family tradition of volunteering to help our local charities.

Q. Robert, is Rotary community service also a family tradition for the Meeks?

A. Yes, my father, Emory Meek, joined Rotary in 1963. I joined Interact at Wolfson High School 28 years ago. Rotary-sponsored Interact Clubs are in

perfect attendance for 50 years and with my 28 years of perfect attendance I hope to follow in his footsteps!

I have had lifelong examples of community service from my father, Henry Baker, now 95 and a Rotarian since the 1950s

Q. Both of your clubs have special annual holiday outreach projects in Jacksonville, but what are some ways they connect with and help local charities year-round?

A. Ken: Westside Rotary offers members many choices to serve others. Members work with and mentor youth through classroom presentations about the importance of education, career options and community service. We sponsor an Early Act Club for elementary students and a high school Interact Club. We donate dictionaries to third graders. At Lee High School our members started the Marathon High running program. Every Saturday they prepare students to run in a spring marathon. We hold blood drives, adopt a highway mile to maintain, participate in park cleanups and the St. Johns River Celebration Cleanup. Volunteers help several local charities, including preparing and serving meals to the homeless and needy at the Sulzbacher Center.

Literacy is one of Rotary's worldwide missions; we are re-starting the Read Right From the Start infant book and gift giveaway to newborns when they leave local hospitals.

A. Robert: South Jax Rotary assists approximately 10-15 local charities year-round and each year designates one nonprofit as beneficiary of a large fundraiser. We've helped Meals on Wheels, Hubbard House, Ronald McDonald House, Webb Center at Hope Haven (formerly Webb Center for Independent Living – serving developmentally/physically disabled, ages 5-30), Children's Home Society, P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transport Vehicles) and HabiJax. Members recently collected 500 pounds of food for Second Harvest Food Bank, with the help of River City Brewery staff (their meeting location) and donated dictionaries to third graders. The South

Jax Club Speech Competition encourages students to demonstrate their public speaking, an essential leadership skill. Six high schools closest to the club (Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Bishop Kenny High School, The Bolles School, Douglas Anderson School for the Performing Arts, Wolfson High School, Stanton College Preparatory School) each hold competitions to select their student finalist. The January 21, 2014 Finals round awards college scholarships: first prize \$2,000, second \$1,000, each remaining finalist receives \$500. At press time Synovus and Ameris Bank were scholarship sponsors.

Q. Ken, as president of Western Natural Gas, with your wife Fran and two children, you have limited free time, and Robert as a Foley & Lardner attorney, with two grown children, you also stay busy. How do you make time to volunteer? Final thoughts for readers interested in Rotary or in volunteering?

A. Ken: It's common to think, how do you find time to volunteer? But we can find time to enjoy fellowship and great friendships while working together for the same purpose, to give back and help our community. When a student tells us the dictionary we gave him is the only book he has...that makes a true impact.

A. Robert: Whether it's hands-on help or a donation, whatever we can do helps, really matters and has an accumulative effect over time...public service enhances our community for everyone and adds up to a real difference.



My father, Emory Meek, joined Rotary in 1963. I joined Interact at Wolfson High School 28 years ago.

Robert Meek

schools for students ages 12-18. Rotary is definitely a family tradition. It's also one of the few service clubs with attendance requirements. My dad has

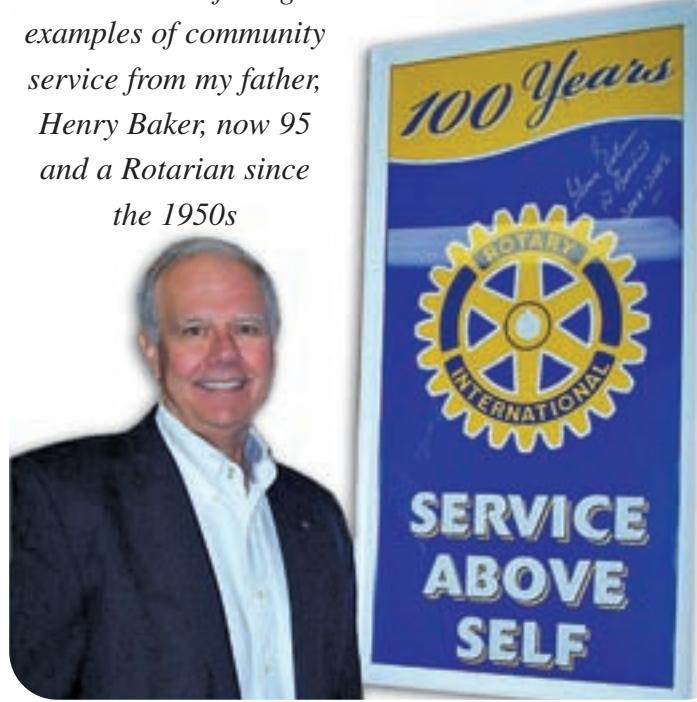
Wish. Laugh. Celebrate.

Women's Apparel and Accessories
for every season of the coastal lifestyle.

2006 SAN MARCO BLVD | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
NEXT DOOR TO THE GROTTO

904-503-3884

Ken Baker



ICED TEA ITALIANO

Tin
Prosecco
Fresh Lemon
Gin

TAVERNA SAN MARCO

SAN MARCO SQ. 904.398.3005 TAVERNASANMARCO.COM

TAVERNA

Rotarians help community during the holidays

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotarian Club members who reside in The Resident readership area have many community service projects planned for the holiday season: Rotary Club of Riverside, Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, Rotary Club of San Jose, Rotary Club of San Marco and Rotary Club of South Jacksonville. Each club meets weekly and maintains a website with contact and event information.

Rotary is an international service organization that brings together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian aid worldwide and foster community service to those in need. They seek to encourage high ethical standards in business, personal and community life, and to help build goodwill and peace globally. The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self."

Riverside Rotary members will serve as volunteer Salvation Army Bell Ringers and provide Comfort Bears to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Police officers carry the bears in their vehicles to give to children involved in traumatic situations.

San Jose Rotary hosted an End

Hunger Now food packaging event for 5,000 needy recipients. They support Catholic Charities of Jacksonville by providing Christmas gifts for children in need. Members will serve as volunteer Salvation Bell

ROTARY
is an international service organization that brings together business and professional leaders to **provide humanitarian aid worldwide** and foster community service to those in need.

Ringers. Members will host a luncheon for residents of Pine Castle, including a visit from St. Nick and his elves who will deliver gifts from residents' wish lists. Pine Castle serves those with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

San Marco Rotary members recently held a food collection and

delivery event. Members volunteer as Salvation Army Bell Ringers during the holidays. They support the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation through the Holiday Angel Program. Members "adopt" children from needy families and provide them with Christmas gifts.

South Jacksonville Rotary members hold a holiday food drive, are volunteer Salvation Army Bell Ringers and oversee their South Jax Rotary Club Speech Competition. Six high schools located closest to the club hold intramural speech competitions to select a school winner. Those finalists compete for college scholarships at the Final Competition, Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Members support the 12th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, December 4-21 at Old St. Andrew's Church across from Veterans Memorial Arena. Proceeds benefit children's programs of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

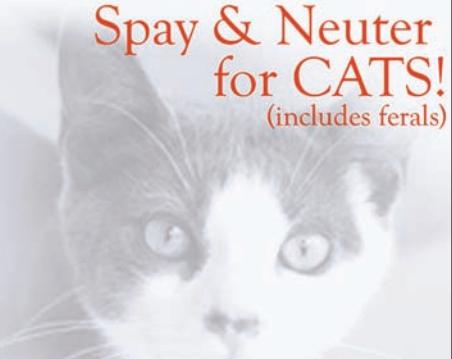
West Jacksonville Rotary members serve as volunteer Salvation Army Bell Ringers, hold a food collection and blood drive. They plan a special Christmas holiday visit to the Sulzbacher Center, one of a few centers nationwide offering comprehensive services to the homeless 24/7.



Fusion Sushi
Sushi & Grill

1550 University Blvd W,
Jax FL 32217
904-636-8688
FusionSushiFL.com
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
* All major credit cards accepted

FREE
Spay & Neuter
for CATS!
(includes ferals)



CALL NOW
for Appointments
(904) 276-SPAY

www.clayhumane.org



PICTURE FRAMING
EXPERT QUALITY | AFFORDABLE PRICES

- Ready-Made Frames
- Framed Mirrors
- Conservation Framing
- Shadow Boxes
- Needlepoint Framing
- Prints / Posters

Orders by December 16th
Guaranteed for Christmas

904-733-6544
www.rspictureframing.com

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1974 - OPEN M-F 8-5, SAT 9-4
5923 ST. AUGUSTINE ROAD • JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

SELLING & SERVING Craft Spirits, Beers, & Small Production Wines



Grape & Grain Exchange
Gourmet Package Store

NOW SERVING WINE ON TAP!

2000 San Marco Blvd. | 904.396.4455 | grapeandgrainexchange.com
SAN MARCO SQUARE



mary airheart
a private salon

1450 FLAGLER AVE, #14

\$85 (6-week period)
(4) Dermalogica microzone treatments

Buy a Dermalogica Bioactive 5-Peel Package
(as seen in InStyle Magazine)
Get the 6th **FREE!**

Ask about our Dermalogica loyalty program!

Stock up for the Holidays!
Gift Certificates & Baskets
Now Available

904-434-9664
maryairheartsalon@gmail.com

BY APPT ONLY

Resident

Annual philanthropy awards a list of who's who in Jacksonville

Jacksonville is a better, healthier place, thanks to the dedication and big hearts of area philanthropists and volunteers, who were honored Nov. 5 at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon. The Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront hotel set the stage as the Association of Fundraising Professionals North Florida Chapter rolled out the accolades. Harry Frisch of Beaver Street Fisheries was given the Legacy Award. Outstanding Philanthropists named were Gary and Nancy Chartrand, Gary is the executive chairman of Acosta and chairman of The Chartrand Foundation, respectively. Other honors went to Medtronic, named Outstanding Foundation for their work with the underserved in our medical community suffering with chronic disease.



Honoree Matthew Taylor, with his parents Glenn and Kim, grandparents Sakin and Vincent Taylor



Tourea Robinson, Iris Simmons with Michael Barker of Medtronic, Gary Galligher and Nicole Kirkpatrick



Gary and Nancy Chartrand



Former Senator Stephen Wise with Ed Nimnicht

CUBE SMART
self storage + logistics

storage + simplicity

At CubeSmart, we have the options and the know-how to make your next move a simple one.

Reserve your space today and get your **FIRST MONTH + FREE MOVE**

We take the guess work out of the storage process.

(904) 353-7778 • cubesmart.com

Pizza Palace
RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

Your Neighborhood's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant

\$6 Lunch Special - 13 Choices
Daily 11am-4pm

Holiday Gift Cards Available!
Get \$20 FREE for Every \$100 Gift Card Purchased!

\$3 OFF Any Pizza
Expires 12/31/2013

San Marco • 1959 San Marco Blvd. • 399-8815
Baymeadows • 3928 Baymeadows Rd. • 527-8649
Julington Creek • 116 Bartram Oaks Walk • 230-2171

Terry Vereen PLUMBING INC.

\$25 OFF

Get \$25 Off your service call every weekday in December! Clip this coupon and schedule your appointment. Saving money has never been this easy! Call Us Today 384-5661

Some restrictions apply. Offer valid only during regular business hours, Mon.-Fri. (8am-5pm). Does not include installation of fixtures or appliances. Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Limit one per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on quoted jobs. Payments must be made at time of service to receive discount. Offer Expires 12-31-13

Residential or Commercial PERSONALIZED SERVICE
384-5661
2934 Post Street • Jax, FL 32205
STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR
CFCO 25597
TerryVereenPlumbing.com

Christmas in the Park Luminaria Kickoff Event

December 15 at 3 p.m.

- Live Band at 4 p.m.!
- Hot chocolate, hot apple cider and cookies
- Free Blinkies
- Fun Hayride
- Child Identification Program by the Masons – Protect your Child
- Children's Crafts and Activities Tent

Christmas Cantata “A World of Christmas”

December 22 at 10:30 a.m.

- Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Instrumentalists & Pipe Organ

Christmas Eve Service “Carols, Candlelight & Communion”

December 24 at 7 p.m.



819 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204 • (904) 355-5491 • riversideparkumc.com



A chill in the air for...

Willie's WINTER FASHION SHOW

Despite a cold snap, models strutted their best stuff for the sensational Willie's for Kids Winter Fashion Show Nov. 24. The Avondale children's boutique rolled out the season's best brands and styles for the discerning shopper. From Lilly Pulitzer to the new Betsey Johnson children's line, the styles are a fit for all occasions- from formal to casual, you can find it at Willie's for Kids.



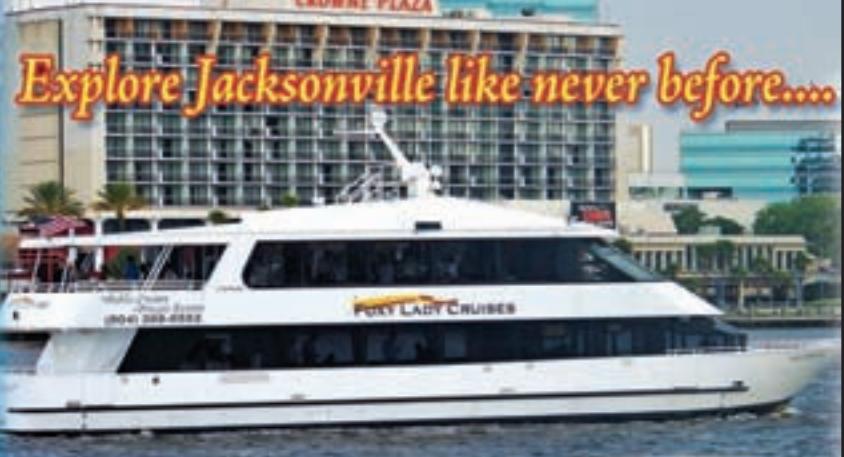


FOXY LADY CRUISES JACKSONVILLE

HOLIDAY PARTIES, CORP. EVENTS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES,
RETIREMENT PARTIES, WEDDINGS & REHEARSAL DINNERS
DATES FILLING FAST - CALL NOW! 398-9553 X 3

Now booking...
PRIVATE PARTIES & CELEBRATIONS
Groups up to 149

Explore Jacksonville like never before....



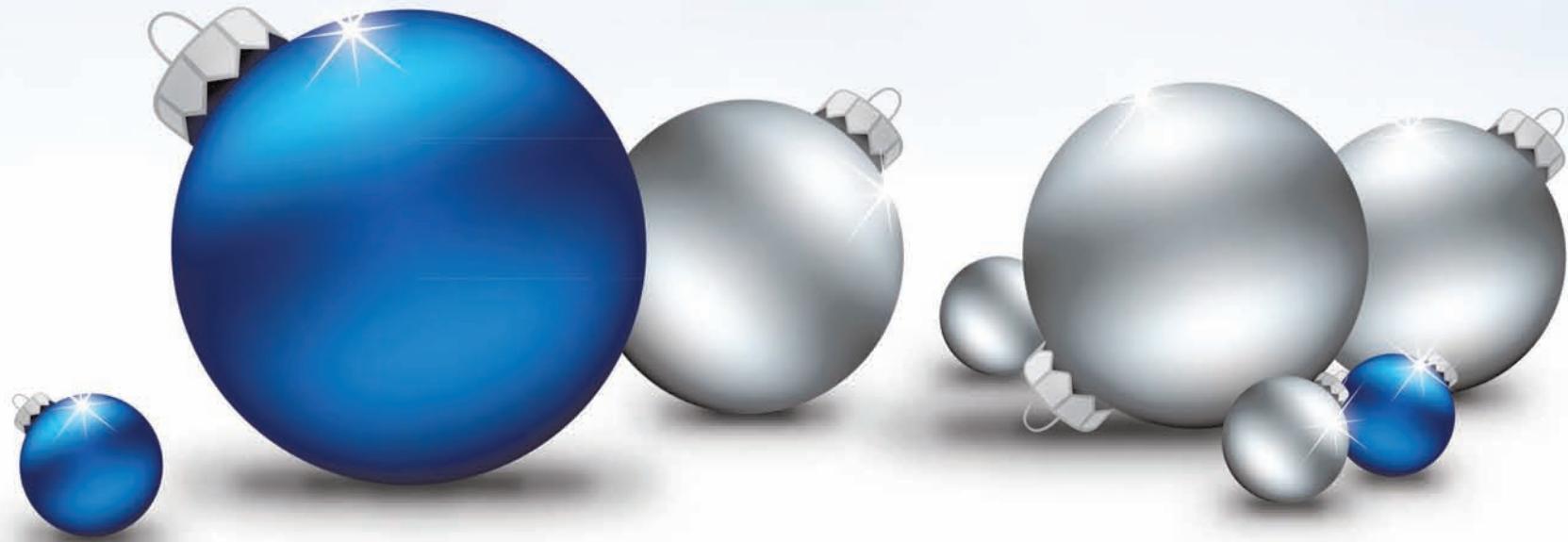
Public Cruises • Thursday – Sunday
DINNER • LUNCH • COCKTAIL • BRUNCH

Book online at www.foxyladcruises.com
or call 904.398.9553

Everything is better in a Brumos.

From Mercedes-Benz to Porsche, Lexus, smart and now Sprinter, The Brumos Companies have driven Jacksonville for over 50 years. The Brumos heritage is reflected in its incredible line of luxury vehicles and dealerships with a dedication to customers and employees.

- Every vehicle we service gets a Lifetime Warranty Guarantee on repairs.
- Online appointment scheduling 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year.
- Factory trained technicians who have the most up-to-date certifications from the manufacturer.
- State-of-the-art factory diagnostic equipment.
- A match (or better) on any competitor's mechanical repair price with a written estimate, whether the estimate is for factory or non-factory parts.
- Complimentary Classic Car Club Membership with special discounts for older vehicles.
- A match (or better) on any competitor's tire price with a written estimate for identical tires including a Free National Road Hazard Warranty
- Convenient Saturday hours.
- Complimentary vehicle inspection.
- Complimentary car wash.
- Complimentary loaner car.
- Complimentary valet/shuttle service, plus pick-up and delivery within 200 miles.



The **Brumos**
COMPANIES

Find out more about our guaranteed repairs for life on...

Brumos.com
Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

Brumos
MOTOR CARS Mercedes-Benz SPRINTER

10231 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32225 • 877.363.5434

Mercedes-Benz of Orange Park smart

7018 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32244 • 866.421.6228

Brumos
Porsche



10100 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32225 • 888.871.5910

Brumos LEXUS
OF JACKSONVILLE

10259 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32225 • 866.979.9252

Brumos LEXUS
OF ORANGE PARK

7040 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32244 • 888.767.4053

Brumos
COLLISION CENTERS

56 Jackson Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225 • 888.379.1563